

# Students learn safety, kindness, health

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Grant County fourth- through sixth-grade students took time away from their desks to gain knowledge at the Youth Life Skills and Safety Fair held Thursday, May 12, at Humbolt Elementary School in Canyon City.

The fair, which is held every two years, included some stations on new topics, including Animal Safety, taught by Colleen Robertson of John Day River Veterinary Center, and Cyber Safety and Social Media, taught by Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson.

There were 186 students taking part from Humbolt, Seneca, Prairie City, Dayville and Monument schools.

“The kids were great, and I believe they have a great time and learned about things that are relevant to their age group,” said organizer Debi Hueckman.

Hueckman is a member of Grant County Safe Communities Coalition, which sponsored the event, and is the volunteer coordinator at the Department of Human Services.

Students rotated through six stations, including Fitness with PE teacher Samantha Gerry, Nutrition with OSU extension agent Shanna Northway, Seat Belt Safety with Haley Hueckman, How to Handle Peer Pressure with Lisa Weigum and Russ Comer, and Kindness Matters with Debi Hueckman.



Shanna Northway, Grant County OSU Extension agent, leads elementary students in a “Family Feud” style game, testing their knowledge of nutritious foods.



Haley Hueckman teaches elementary students about the importance of seat belt safety.



Sixth-graders Audrey Walker, left, and Lauren Pettyjohn, right, role play peer pressure situations with a group led by Russ Comer and Lisa Weigum of Grant County Safe Community Coalition.



Elementary students role play peer pressure situations at the safety fair with Grant County Safe Communities Coalition program coordinator Russ Comer.

## ‘Backyard’ events are a success

Good crowd turns out for food, bazaar, live music

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A good crowd turned out for the “Backyard” activities on May 14 at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

Fair manager Mary Weaver said the event, which included a barbecue cook-off, live music by Patsy Cline impersonator Jeanne Coady, horseshoe tournament, dessert auction, children’s games and bazaar, “was a success on many levels.”

Competition winners were:

- 50/50 drawing: Kathy Stoddard.

- Horseshoes: Brandi and John Girvin, first place; Stephanie Williams and Toby Thomas, second place.

- Barbecue cook-off: Apple Flat Catering in the tri tip category; Chester’s Thriftway in the ribs and chicken category; Mike Sanders for best kitchen set-up; and Chester’s in the overall category.

Judges for the barbecue were Dusty Williams and Greg Armstrong. The fair fed 125 people attending the event.

Weaver said she looks forward to holding another similar event with live music for the younger crowd and an early set for those who like to go home early.

“We want to keep creating events that families can come to and enjoy,” she said.

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Humbolt Elementary PE teacher Samantha Gerry teaches students at the safety fair about fitness.

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### STUDENTS LEARN GIVING A STITCH AT A TIME



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Humbolt Elementary third-graders in Joan Walczyk’s class show a quilt they helped tie on Monday, which will be sent to a 7-year-old boy awaiting a heart transplant. The students have been learning how they can each make a difference in the world, and how their compassion can have a ripple effect. The quilt was one of several projects they’ve worked on this school year.

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This Memorial Day, we salute the heroes of our Armed Forces past and present for their courage and dedication to our country.

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