

WEDNESDAY
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Blue Mountain Eagle
Grant County Life
SPORTS • OUTDOORS • CLASSIFIEDS

GU alum's daughter picked for USA Softball team

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

UCLA freshman Paige Halstead, the daughter of Grant Union alum Mari (Thompson) Halstead, earned a spot as catcher on the 2016 USA Softball Women's National Team this year, after spending the 2015 season on the USA Junior team.

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Softball All-League selections announced.
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Paige is a centerfielder for the UCLA Bruins.

The No. 14 Bruins earned a trip to the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where they competed last week.

Their season ended Saturday with an 8-4 loss to No. 8 Florida State.

Mari Halstead is a former Seneca resident and 1980 graduate of Grant Union High School. She and her husband, Ed, live in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Mari said the recruiting process for her daughter was "unbelievable," beginning when she was in eighth grade.

She said, while growing up, her daughter would practice baseball with her brother and his friends.

"The boys would taunt her and say, 'You hit like a girl,'" Mari said, adding her daughter would then show them up. "That was probably the driving force."

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Contributed photo

Paige Halstead, who plays for the UCLA Bruins softball team, is the daughter of Mari (Thompson) Halstead, a 1980 Grant Union High School graduate and former resident of Seneca. Paige was invited to the 2016 Team USA Selection Camp and named to the USA Softball Elite Team. The Bruins also competed in the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City last week.

Iron Man Shoot winners announced

Third annual event draws 40 competitors

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — Last Saturday's third annual Iron Man Shoot brought out beginners and experts for a day of competition at the Bear Creek Shooting Range near Prairie City.

"We had a good time," said organizer Mike Springer. "It was beautiful weather, and it was fun and safe."

There were 40 shooters competing in three disciplines, archery, .22 and shot gun.

The winners of the adult team were father and son duo Joe and Jordan Hitz of Prairie City. Bowtec of Baker City earned second place and \$50, and Ben Klein of Bend placed third, winning \$25.

Individual adult winners were Andy Day of John Day for first and \$100; Jeb Bowling of Canyon City for second and \$50; and Mike Springer of Prairie City for third and \$25.

Youth individual winners were Ethan Jensen of Baker City, first, \$100; Dominic Myers of Bend, second, \$50; and Zack Christman of Bend, third, \$25.

Springer, who is secretary of the Canyon Creek Bowhunters club that sponsors the event, said people from the club helped with the bow shoot at the event, and they participated.

"I'd like to give special thanks to Bill Sproul who helped out with the shot gun portion of the event and Carol Walton who helped with the .22 event," Springer said.

"Almost everybody is a return shooter," he added. "They like it, and they keep coming back."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Craig Pittenger, aka "Kid Cregar," draws his gun in the Cowboy Fast Draw Association's competition held in Canyon City on Friday.

Fast Draw shootists gather for showdown

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Oregon and Idaho shootists competed in the Cowboy Fast Draw in Canyon City on Friday and Saturday.

The community joined in, watching the showdown from the Canyon City Park.

Using single-action .45-caliber guns with wax bullets and primer as propellant, competitors line up side by side, as many as eight at a time.

When a red light flashes on, shooters grab their guns, aiming at metal targets that record the shooters' times.

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GONE FISHIN'

Youths net rainbows at McHaley Pond

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — There were 90 kids casting lines into McHaley Pond, hoping for the big one, at Saturday's free fishing event in Prairie City.

"It's almost double what we had last year," said Amy Charette, watershed coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Parents, grandparents and others were also on standby to lend a helping hand.

"We had great cooperation with all the partners putting this on," said Emily Davis, who spearheaded the event. "Everybody stepped up to make it a success, and I think that helped with the general turnout and made it run smoothly."

Davis is a biologist with the Tribes, which sponsored the event with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Malheur National Forest.

"I would like to encourage the community to come out and fish anytime," she said. "The public is welcome on the property, not just the pond. We're always happy to answer questions."

Prairie City resident Addison Saul, 9, caught the whopper of the day: an 18 1/2-inch rainbow trout. Gus McDaniel of John Day was close behind, catching a 16 1/2-inch fish.

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Eagle photos /Angel Carpenter

Amy Charette of John Day and her daughters Emma, 2, and Kaitlyn, 4, enjoy Saturday's Free Fishing Event at McHaley Pond in Prairie City.



ABOVE: One-year-old Mikey Thunell (in stroller) takes his fish to the measuring station at the fishing derby with his mom. From left: Mikey's sister Olive Hensley, mom Katie Hensley (back), friend Gus McDaniel, Mikey, friend Lucas Wolf, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs staff member Nick Smith and volunteer Lindsey Weymouth. RIGHT: Wendy Ballou of John Day assists her son Caden, 6, at the free fishing event at McHaley Pond in Prairie City.



"Everybody stepped up to make it a success, and I think that helped with the general turnout and made it run smoothly."

Emily Davis
Event organizer



Good fishing, scenic views, games and a barbecue all added to the fun of Saturday's fishing derby in Prairie City at McHaley Pond.