

## New rock and gem club to host first meeting

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Rockhounds can join in for the first meeting of the Dayville Rock and Gem Club.

Organizers Gena Armantrout and Lori Smith said the gathering starts with a potluck at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Dayville School cafeteria.

Smith said people attending can bring one or two rocks to share for a show and tell. Novices and experts are welcome, and Smith said they hope to discuss everything from where to find rocks to learning about the geology of the area.

The club is not affiliated with the school, but meetings will be held there.

"This is something I think people would like to join when they know it's available," Smith said.

Armantrout said she and her daughter participated in a rock club in Newport, Washington, before moving to Dayville last month. She said it gave her daughter, whom she said has special needs, an opportunity to participate in a club.

Geologists and local experts would join them in their club to help identify rocks and read old mine maps, Armantrout said.

She hopes to have mini classes with topics ranging from how to polish rocks and painting pet rocks to gold panning and traveling on field trips. She and Smith said they are open to ideas for the classes.

"Although it says 'Dayville' - we're hoping to be countywide," Armantrout said. "Any and all rockhounds are welcome, from students to senior citizens."

For more information, call Smith at 541-987-2109 or Armantrout at 541-987-2410.

# Grant County EOU students earn science foundation scholarships

Blue Mountain Eagle

Eastern Oregon University students from John Day and Dayville are among eight undergraduates who received a new scholarship funded by the National Science Foundation.

Jamie Waltenburg of Dayville, a biology major, and Michael Luttrell of John Day, a mathematics major, received Advancing Science and Technology in Eastern Oregon scholarships. The program was established with a grant from the National Science Foundation's S-STEM program.

"I applied to become an ASTEO Scholar because it is an amazing opportunity to launch a career in the sciences," Waltenburg said.

EOU faculty regularly involve undergraduates in their research, giving them the opportunity to contribute to larger projects and become comfortable using state-of-the-art equipment in the university science center.

"I am encouraged by the relationships that I will build, and my hope is that these connections will present opportunities to gain experience in the field of biology, as well as expand my horizons into



Contributed photo  
**Jamie Waltenburg of Dayville is one of the scholarship recipients. She is majoring in biology.**

other fields of science," Waltenburg added. "These collaborations will broaden my perspective while teaching me new ways to think about problems and solutions."

Luttrell, a senior, previously attended Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University before transferring to EOU. He graduated from Grant Union Junior/Senior High School.

"I applied because I have a strong interest in mathematics, and working full-time while attending school full-time was a challenge," Luttrell said. "The ASTEO scholarship made it so I don't have to work full-time anymore."

Faculty advisors also



Contributed photo  
**Michael Luttrell of John Day is one of the scholarship recipients. He is majoring in mathematics.**

work closely with ASTEO Scholars, serving as mentors in career preparation and facilitating seminar courses and field trips. These and other efforts align with the National Science Foundation's goal to support students intending to join industry or enter graduate school after completing their undergraduate degrees.

"I am really looking forward to Math Club, as well as my capstone project throughout the year," Luttrell added. "I love the small class sizes and how much interest the math professors show in the success of their students."

Eligible ASTEO Scholars may receive up to \$7,500 annually for tuition and fees, depending on their unmet

need. Preference is given to applicants demonstrating both academic potential or ability and financial need.

Students may also combine awards from the federal Pell program, Oregon Opportunity Grant, university fee remissions and other funding sources for additional financial assistance.

Scholarship applications are being accepted now through Feb. 1, 2017, for the coming academic year. For more information visit [eou.edu/asteo](http://eou.edu/asteo).

**EOU recognized as a top online college**  
Affordable Colleges Online named Eastern Oregon University as one of the top

five best online colleges in the state.

EOU also stands nationally among the top 25 online colleges for bachelor's degrees in the 2017 guide published by SR Education Group.

"These rankings acknowledge not only EOU's flexibility, which our students value so much, but also the academic quality, personal attention, and career guidance they receive from faculty and their regional advisers," said Donald Wolff, vice provost who oversees the university's distance education program.

According to a recent study by the Babson Survey Research Group, the online student population in the country is now over 7 million, including 14 percent of undergraduate students in Oregon who are enrolled in at least one online class.

EOU's student population reflects this trend, with 80 percent of its 2016 graduates taking online classes and more than 2,000 enrolled exclusively online. The university offers 17 majors and 15 minors entirely at a distance with additional endorsements, certificates and graduate degrees available.

## Prairie City Students of the Month – November

Prairie City sophomore Dylan Clark was chosen as student of the month by teacher Louanne Zweygardt, who said, "Dylan is a conscientious student with an

ability to laugh at his mistakes, learn from them and move on. Dylan is a pleasure to have as a student in class."

Sophomore Paige Moore

was nominated by teacher Nicole Merchant, who said, "Paige is a respectful and kind young lady who has worked hard in her food science class and FFA."



Dylan Clark



Paige Moore

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**JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL/GRANT COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION IS SEEKING GRANT PROPOSALS FOR OREGON CULTURAL TRUST GRANT AWARDS**

The coalition has \$6,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust to distribute in Grant County to organizations for projects relating to culture. Projects may be related to the visual or performing arts, heritage, and/or humanities.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish, 131 W. Main Street, John Day or call Kris Beal at 541-932-4892 for more information or an application.

Grant applications will be accepted until January 13, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

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