

SPORTS  
SCHEDULEWednesday,  
March 29Grant Union softball @  
Irrigon, 1 p.m.Grant Union softball @  
Willamina in Boardman,  
3:30 p.m.Thursday, March  
30Grant Union baseball vs.  
Joseph/Enterprise/Wal-  
lowa, 2 p.m.

Friday, March 31

Grant Union baseball vs.  
Sheridan, 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 1

Monument track and field  
@ Columbia River Invita-  
tional in Boardman, 11:30  
a.m.Grant Union baseball vs.  
Oakland, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4

Grant Union Small  
School Meet, 3:30 p.m.  
(GU, Prairie City, Dayville,  
Monument, Long Creek)Athletes shine as  
Special Olympics  
hoops season endsNext up, track and field  
season starts in MayBy Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Special Olympics team closed out their basketball season on a positive note Saturday, March 18, at the regional basketball tournament in Grants Pass.

Among the Grant County competitors, Katie Shockley earned second place in the Individual Skills competition for her division. She was coached by Michael Shockley with Lauri Shockley assisting.

The 3-on-3 basketball team, coached by Kathy Sherwood, received bronze medals, including Katie Latham, Elizabeth Swarthout, Josiah Hoeffner and Rodney Bronson.

The 5-on-5 team, coached by Deronda Lallatin, received bronze medals, including Charley Fronapel, Crystal Wimberley, Bri-

an McKrola and Caleb Madsen.

Unified partners were also a part of the 5-on-5 teams this year. For Grant County, this included Special Olympics volunteers David Gill of Step Forward and Chester's Thiftway and Eddie Humbird, executive director of Value Added.

Lallatin said the games were tough, but the team enjoyed the competition.

Other volunteers at the event were Sarah Lallatin, Janet Hoeffner, and Jessica Carter, who helped throughout the season as she worked on her Grant Union senior project.

Coach Deronda Lallatin, who is also the local Special Olympics co-coordinator with Kathy Jo Gill, said the athletes had a good experience.

"It was fun," she said. "We all got to root for each other."

She said track and field season starts the first part of May.

The 2017 Summer State Games will be held July 8-9 at the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis.



Contributed photo

**Grant County Special Olympian Katie Shockley wins a silver medal in Individual Skills competition at the Grants Pass regional basketball tournament.**

Grant Union track and field  
team aims for return to stateGrant Union will  
host first meet  
Tuesday, April 4By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union track and field head coach Sonna Smith said her team is picking up where they left off last year.

After seeing the team's performance at the March 16 Prineville Icebreaker, the first event of the season, Smith said she's hopeful for their future.

"Almost everyone improved, which is extremely encouraging," she said.

The girls team placed third in Prineville, and the boys had some strong individual performances, she said.

Last season, the girls team earned the 2A state championship title and were district champions.

Five on the roster are returning athletes who went to state last year, including Chelsie Kodesh, Jozie Rude, Kaylee Wright, Sydney Brockway and Duane Stokes.

Smith, leading a team of 31 this season, has coached Grant Union track and field for 22 years. She said she's seeing strengths in several events this year.

"We're really strong in the girls javelin," she said. "We have four that are throwing close to 100 feet right now, and we can only take three to district."

Three athletes from each school can go to state in each event.

"We're strong in high jump," she added. "Kaylee (Wright) jumped 5'1" in Prineville, ran 13.06 in the 100 and 28.22 in the 200. She's starting right where she left off."

Wright won the 100 at state last year with a time of 13.18, making the dash at Prineville .12 seconds faster.

Prospector Jozie Rude, taking up discus this year, finished third at the Prineville meet in the event. She won first in shot put and javelin at state last year and second in pole vault.

"She has come back really strong," Smith said.

Smith said she's seeing the same thing from Kodesh, who was in the top eight in shot put, discus and javelin in Prineville.

The are seven girls new to



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**The Grant Union track and field team, including, from left, Braden Spencer, Ellie Justice, Nick Springer and Bo Olsen, warm up at the start of their Monday, March 20, practice.**

Chelsie  
KodeshTrejan  
SpethNick  
SpringerReitta  
Wyllie

## Grant Union track schedule

Tuesday, April 4: Grant Union Small School Meet, 3:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 8: @ Prairie City Invitational, 12 p.m.  
Saturday, April 15: @ Burns Lions Invitational, 12 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 18: Grant Union Small School Meet, 3:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 22: @ Pepsi Invitational in Union, 11 a.m.  
Saturday, April 29: @ Meet of Champions at Willamette University, 11 a.m.  
Tuesday, May 2: Grant Union Small School Meet, 3:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 5: @ Baker Invitational, 10 a.m.  
Friday, April 12: @ district track meet in Union, 11 a.m.  
Thursday, April 18: @ state track meet, TBD  
Friday, April 18: @ state track meet, TBD

the team this season, including six freshmen who all have junior high track experience and one junior new to the sport.

"We are just waiting to see how they do," Smith said.

She noted the boys team is in a building season due to the number of underclassmen, including six of the seven freshmen boys on the roster who were on the junior high team last year.

"We have a huge contingent of freshmen throwers," she said. "We've set some long-term goals, looking down the road for the next two to three years. Last year, we took two boys to state, hopefully more this year."

The 2A-6 Wapiti League

includes Elgin, Enterprise/Wallowa, Grant Union, Imbler and Union.

This year's competition is slightly lighter with Burns moving up to the 3A class and Cove moving down to 1A.

Smith is aided by six assistant coaches who help train athletes in the various events, including Ken Boethin, hurdles; John Houk, long jump and triple jump; Kelsy Wright, javelin; Angie Lusko, discus and shot put; Buz Gilmore, pole vault; and new assistant coach Emma Robertson, high jump. Smith trains athletes for sprints, distance and relay.

This year's seniors include returning athletes Kodesh, Nick Springer, Reitta Wyllie

and Trejan Speth.

Springer, who competes in high jump, javelin, shot put and discus said this year's team is strong.

"It's a great group of people," he said. "I'm looking forward to going to districts."

Kodesh, whose events are javelin, shot put and discus, said she's encouraged by how the girls team is performing this year.

"The girls have a good chance to be district champs again this year," she said.

"Track's my favorite sport," Wyllie said. She competes in the shot put, discus and 800 meter run.

"I'm looking forward to my throwing events," she said.

Speth said he's looking forward to his events, the 1,500 and 800, and is aiming for personal records.

"We already have a great team out this year," he said. "We have a lot of good incoming freshmen as well. I'm looking forward to helping the team out and getting PRs."

Smith said their first home meet will be the Tuesday, April 4, Grant Union Small Schools Meet.

"We have 13 teams coming, so it could be a pretty good-sized meet," she said.

Those interested in volunteering to assist with field events and as timers that day can call Smith at the school, 541-575-1799, ext. 42.

GRANT COUNTY  
SPORTS ROUNDUP

## TRACK

Monument athletes gain season,  
personal records at Buck Track Classic

Several members of the Monument Tiger track and field team improved their marks at their second competition of the season at the Buck Track Classic in Pendleton.



Up against 26 teams, including the 5A class Hermiston and Pendleton, the Monument girls team earned 10th place.

Six girls and three boys on the Tiger teams competed at the meet.

Sophie Pettit finished second in the 100- and 200-meter dash, with improved times in both events, 13.22 in the 100 and 27.83 in the 200. She also finished fifth in the triple jump with a leap of 29-07.00.

Also improving her marks for the girls team was Kyla Emerson in the 100, 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles and discus.

Faythe Schafer placed seventh in the 400 with an improved time of 1:06.93.

Aubrey Bowlus improved her mark in the shot put by nearly two feet with a throw of 27-06.50.

Dinorha Vidrio Landin also showed improvement in the triple jump, landing at 26-00.75. She also shaved off time in the 100 and 800 meter races.

Miranda Cook also competed in the 100 and 300 hurdle events.

For the boys, Monument's John Ramirez had a personal record in the 100, placing 12th with a time of 12.02.

Jess Hoodenpyl shaved off seconds in the 800 and 3000. Hayden Schafer improved his throw in the shot put with a mark of 35-09.00.

Next up, the team will compete at the Columbia River Invitational at Riverside Junior-Senior High School at 11:30 a.m. in Boardman. On Tuesday, April 4, at 3:30 p.m., they'll join 12 other teams for the Grant Union Small School Meet in John Day.

## SOFTBALL

## Lady Pros shut out Bulldogs in Culver

The Grant Union Lady Prospectors won a 34-0 shut-out on the road Friday over the Culver Bulldogs in Game One.

Game Two was a similar story, the Lady Pros winning 22-1.

"The games at culver were not as competitive as we would have liked but we were able to work on the little things that will pay off in future games," coach DeAnna Nash said. "Our younger athletes also got varsity experience which also will be beneficial."

Everyone had multiple hits, she said, with Grant Union racking up 40 in the first game and 20 in the second.

The Grant Union girls were scheduled to face Riverside/Arlington and Knappa on Tuesday, March 28, past press time, in Boardman at the Riverside/Irrigon Round Robin.

On Wednesday, March 29, Grant Union will face Irrigon at 1 p.m. at the Irrigon Tourney and Willamina at 3:30 p.m. at the Riverside Round Robin.

## BASEBALL

Grant Union team defeats  
Honkers in 5-2 victory in Lakeview

The Grant Union Prospector boys took down the Honkers in Lakeview in a low-scoring game, winning the contest 5-2.

The Prospectors will host the Les Schwab Invitational Spring Break Tournament Thursday through Saturday at Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

Grant Union is scheduled to face Joseph/Enterprise/Wallowa at 2 p.m. Thursday.

On Friday, the Prospectors will meet up with Sheridan at 2 p.m., facing Oakland on Saturday at 2 p.m.



## DEVIN PACKARD

School: Prairie City

Grade: 12

Parents: Tish and David Packard

Sport: Track and field

Events: Shot put, discus &amp; javelin

**What I like best about my sport:** "I like hanging out with everyone on my team. They're a great bunch of people."

**Coach's Comment:** "Devin did a really good job at our last track meet, and was consistent in his events and placed well. He has been working hard in practice, helps his teammates, and is a positive voice at practice. He is always there to cheer on his teammates."

-Coach Nate Barber

PROUD SPONSOR OF GRANT COUNTY ATHLETES

100 E. Main • Stoplight in John Day  
541-792-0425