

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Monument/Dayville volleyball vs. Grant Union JV in Dayville at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5

Prairie City volleyball vs. Grant Union JV/JVII in Prairie City at 5 p.m.

Prairie City football @ Arlington/Condon in Condon at 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6

Long Creek/Ukiah volleyball vs. Spray in Long Creek at 4:30 p.m.

Prairie City volleyball vs. Jordan Valley in Prairie City at 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union football @ Culver in Culver at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7

Grant Union cross country @ La Grande Tigers Invitational at Buffalo Peak Golf Course in Union at 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union volleyball @ Enterprise and Elgin at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Monument/Dayville football vs. Adrian/Jordan Valley in Monument at 1 p.m.

Monument/Dayville volleyball vs. Adrian in Monument at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Long Creek/Ukiah volleyball vs. Monument/Dayville in Long Creek at 5:30 p.m.

Author finds humor in everyday farm life

Brianna Walker writes 'High Heels & Tractor Wheels'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Whether she's writing about bipolar balers, zucchini advice or country road etiquette, Brianna Renée Walker has a knack for making people laugh out loud.

Walker, who writes the weekly column "Farmer's Fate" — occasionally featured in the Blue Mountain Eagle — has published a new book titled "High Heels & Tractor Wheels."

"One of my college professors said to write what you know best, and for me that is farm life," Walker said. "I like to think that my writing is like the 'farm version' of Erma Bombeck — just a humorous look at regular, everyday-life experiences that hopefully people can relate to."

Walker lives in the Walla Walla Valley with her husband and their two boys, and they farm 600 acres of corn, wheat and alfalfa.

She grew up in Hermiston where her parents have been growing watermelons since 1934.

"It keeps me busy running between the two farms, but I love it," Walker said. "We also have a few sheep and goats — basically just enough to qualify for old McDonald's farm!"

Writing stories since she was little, her grandma gave her an opportunity to publish her first book when she was a teen.

Walker said she was thrilled when she received it, "so thrilled that my teenage self got into my car to go show the book to friends and family, and I backed right into my grandparents' car!"

She said writing the "Farmer's Fate" column has been a type of therapy for her.

"Ripping the hydraulic hoses off the tractor, or blow-



Brianna Walker and her husband, A.J. Wentland, in their wedding photo.



Brianna Walker

ing a tire with a full load of melons is never fun, but by having a column to write, I am forced to ask myself, 'Is this a bad day? Or is this a bad five minutes?' and 'Will this be funny later? And if it will be, let's see what we can do to make it funny now,'" she said.

She said thinking this way helps her adjust her attitude. "No one wants to read about toil, misery and despair all the time," she said.

Walker offered an example. "So, instead of 'Honey, the hydraulic hoses just blew,

looks like we're gonna be out \$500 and half a day of work,' my phone call is more like 'Honey, want to go out for lunch today? Maybe do a little shopping afterward? Like maybe some new hydraulic

hoses for the rake? I know I'm an expensive date, but I'm worth it."

She added, "Because of this constant change in thought, I really do value it as my therapy, which makes me especially thankful for my readers, because without them, I might not be writing so much."

Walker said her grandma, who could quote a poem for nearly any situation, had a big influence on her.

"I included several of her poems in my book with topics ranging from zucchinis from the garden," she said.

Walker's own advice for an overabundance of zucchini from the garden?

Just look up "The Ford Zucchini 350" in her book.

"Go to a busy feed store. Drive around until you find a pickup without a dog. Put the zucchini in the back and drive away fast!" she writes.

Most of Walker's stories are about a page and a half long, the same length as her columns, and the book is available at some local stores, and can be ordered at bookstores and through amazon.com.



The deadline for What's Happening items is 5 p.m. Friday. Call the Eagle, 541-575-0710, or email editor@bmeagle.com. For meetings this week, see our list in the classifieds.

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

First Friday

• 6-9 p.m., Downtown John Day
Residents are invited to join A Flower Shop & More, 1188 Brewing Co., etc. and House to Home in enjoying a pumpkin hunt, prizes, special offers, tasty treats and more.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

John Day Farmers Market

• 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — SW Brent St., John Day.
Crafts, baked goods, produce, kids activities, entertainment, information booths. For more information, call 541-792-0958 or email johndayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

Harvest bazaar

• 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Unity Community Hall
Local vendors will have wares to sell and 4-H and FFA members will provide coffee, muffins and lunch.

TUESDAY, OCT. 10

Entrepreneurs meeting

• 10 a.m., Outpost Restaurant
Local entrepreneurs and startups are encouraged to attend. For more information, email David at david@envme.com.

MONDAY, OCT. 16

Malheur National Forest workshop

• 5-7 p.m., Grant County Regional Airport
The workshop will provide opportunities for public engagement with the Forest, including volunteer opportunities. Vernita Ediger, Ph.D., will facilitate the conversation, and Forest Service personnel and others who have successfully worked with the Forest will attend to provide insight to the discussions. Workshop attendees are invited to bring Malheur National Forest project examples they are interested in learning more about. RSVP to Sasha Fertig at 541-575-3061 or sashafertig@fs.fed.us.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

Annual Christmas bazaar

• 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mt. Vernon Grange #659, across from Clyde Holliday State Park
Local vendors will have a variety of wares to sell for Christmas gifts. Homemade stew, rolls, pies, cakes and cookies will also be available to purchase.

Long Creek/Ukiah JV returns 5 starters

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Long Creek/Ukiah has a junior varsity volleyball team of 10 this season, including five returning starters.

Some of the new girls on the team are having their first experience playing the sport.

Foreign exchange students Juana Wagner of Germany and Joe Nun of South Korea said this is their first time on a volleyball team.

"It's my first sports team," said Nun. "It's hard, but exciting. It feels friendly."

Wagner said she was nervous in their first matches, but she's looking forward to their future games.

Coached by Linda Studtmann and Reagan Enriquez, the team kicked off its season Sept. 9 with a second-place finish at the Harper Tournament.

Studtmann said the athletes are starting to get to know one another and picking up the game.

"They are doing well, learning quickly how to play and to work together as a team," Studtmann said. "We are looking forward to a great year."

GRANT SCHOOL DISTRICT #3 Board of Director Vacancy

Grant School District #3 is accepting applications for a board of director vacancy. Applicants must reside within District 3's Zone 3 boundaries and be a registered voter for one year. A zone map is available online at <http://www.grantesd.k12.or.us/District-3/board-members.html>. Term will run through June 30, 2019. Those interested in applying may pick up an application from Superintendent Curt Shelley, 401 N. Canyon City Blvd., Canyon City. Application deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 11.

Your Rural Family Health Clinic

Grant County HEALTH Department
528 E. Main, St. E., John Day

Monday - Thursday
7am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 5pm
Mendy Sharpe FNP
Appointments available

Call and schedule your appointment today!
TOLL FREE
888-443-9104
or 541-575-0429

Services Provided:

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- Immunizations
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- Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing & Referrals
- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Cocoon
- WIC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

Grant County Health Department does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

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Photo of Fields Peak area in Grant County courtesy of Sherri Giffin, John Day branch.

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HOT SHOT

OF THE WEEK

CASSIE HIRE
School: Prairie City
Grade: 12
Parents: Lori and Raymond Hire
Sport: Volleyball
Position: Middle Hitter

What I like best about my sport: "I like playing with my team and having the drive to win. I think each year it gets harder, but we still push through and learn new things, that's probably the best part."

Coach's Comment: "She has matured as a team leader and has accepted the challenges that have been given to her this season to improve herself and the team. She has a very good serve, continues to push herself to improve her hitting, and has taken the team's serve-recvie to a higher level."
-Coach Louanne and Lance Zweygardt

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