

STRONGER

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start clicking, and what they're practicing starts making sense."

She said they are focused on the track experience more than results right now, but the athletes say they are working to hone their skills.

Sophomore James Kreamier is the only returning varsity team member, and freshman Lucchese Douglas has middle school experience at her previous school. Kreamier's events include the high jump, long jump and 4x100-meter relay.

"I'm enjoying being with my friends, and I think we're doing better this year than last," he said. "Overall, we have more athletic kids, and they started off naturally running faster and jumping higher."

He said his favorite events are the high jump and long jump. He improved his mark in both events, and the 4x100, in Prairie City.

Rafael Gumerato is the only senior for Long Creek this year.

"I'm starting off never doing it before, and every time I learn more and improve," he said. "I'm enjoying being with my friends and seeing improvement."

He said he hopes to better his mark in the high jump, and that their 4x100 team improves their time.

Freshman Dorothea Johnson competes in the long jump, high jump and 4x100 with Ximena Millan, Jenny Kim and Douglas. She said her teammates are fun to be around, especially her relay



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Long Creek's Luka Pesic, left, receives the handoff from Jaime Ballesteros, as they compete in the 4x100 at Friday's invitational in Prairie City.

team which placed fourth in Harper. She said competing on a paved track helps.

"It was really nice," she said. "Out here, it's just dirt."

Millan said she's enjoyed learning to throw javelin. She also likes jogging and enjoys her relay team.

"We are really close to each other, and we have fun," she said. "We help each other know what to do, and we are a good team."

Studtmann oversees discus, shot put and long jump. She has help from two volunteer assistants, including Peter Case, who went to state in the 800-meter run and coaches javelin, and Patch Freeman, who teaches drills and starts the athletes out in high jump.

Studtmann said she's pleased with the positive mindset she sees in the team members.

"They are teachable, and they get along well together so there is that camaraderie," she said. "They laugh, they enjoy being together and it makes it easier for me as a coach to have those good at-

Track & field schedule

April 13: @ Rancher's Invitational in Crane at 11 a.m.

April 17: @ Grant Union Small Schools Meet in John Day at 3:30 p.m.

April 20: @ Condon/Wheeler Invitational in Condon at 11 a.m.

April 27: @ Don Walker Invitational in Nyssa at 1 p.m.

May 3: @ High Desert League Meet in Prairie City at 4 p.m.

May 4: @ Grant Union Invitational at 11 a.m.

May 17-19: OSAA 1A Track and Field State Championships in Eugene

titudes."

The coach added, "When you see them improve and you see their pleasure at what they've done, that makes you feel good as a coach — that their accomplishments are meaning something to them too."

Monument/Dayville ready to compete with the best

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Monument/Dayville track and field has just six team members but is already showing a readiness to compete.

Four are returning varsity members, and two competed well at the middle school level.

On the girls side, junior Kyla Emerson placed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles at state last year, as well as sixth in the 300 hurdles and fourth in the 4x100-meter relay with her team, which included Fayette Schafer.

Schafer, a junior, and sophomore Aubrey Bowlus are also on the team.

For the boys, junior Gabe Walker is returning for his third year of track and field.

Freshmen Mark Thomas and Donovan Schafer have middle school experience and showed their competitive side at the Oregon Middle School Statewide Championships.

Head coach Jeff Schafer, who co-coaches with Peter Bogardus, said their goal is to "go out and have fun and compete well."

Bogardus said Walker, who competes in hurdles, sprints and jumps, is moving steadily toward his goals.

"He's come a long way over the years, and he has a goal to aim for state in the sprints, in the 100," Bogardus said. "Based on his progress in the past, I think he can do it."

Monument and Dayville teams, which had been competing independently, combined this year.

Walker said he is happy to have more teammates, as this



Malheur Enterprise/John Braese

Monument/Dayville's Kyla Emerson, left, competes Friday in the 100-meter hurdles at Vale's Oregon Trail Invitational.

year he is the only track athlete competing from Dayville School.

He said his goal is to "push the limits" in his events.

"I realize that I'm not as fast as I was at the peak of last year, but I'm going to work hard to be even faster," he said.

Thomas, who is competitive in distance running, has taken on the 1,500, 800 and 400 this year.

"He's been doing good with that and keeping up with endurance, also working on technique," coach Schafer said.

Donovan Schafer competes in discus, javelin and triple jump.

"He had an excellent career in middle school," the coach said. "He threw 104 in discus."

Hayden Schafer, who graduated last year, is a volunteer assistant coach for throwing events.

"Kyla, Aubrey and Fayette are also looking pretty promising for the year," Jeff Schafer said.

Fayette Schafer, who competes in the 400, discus and shot put said she enjoys spending

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April 13: @ Ranchers Invitational in Crane at 11 a.m.

April 17: @ Grant Union Small Schools Meet in John Day at 3:30 p.m.

April 20: @ Condon/Wheeler Invitational in Condon at 11 a.m.

April 28: @ Sherman Invitational in Moro at 11 a.m.

May 3: @ High Desert League Meet in Prairie City at 4 p.m.

May 17-19: OSAA 1A Track and Field State Championships in Eugene

time with the team.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how everyone progresses throughout the season," she said. "My goal for the 400 right now is to make it to state, hopefully dropping my time into the 1:03 zone."

Emerson said she is optimistic about the season.

"For our team, I'm hoping we're all super successful this year and reach our goals," she said. "I'm just hoping to exceed on both my hurdles, and especially with the 300 hurdles to work on keeping my time low."

The coach said the teams' training regimen is more specific to the athletes' events this season with endurance for the runners and strength building for the throwers. He said the team members are good kids and with a strong work ethic.

"I love being around them," he said. "You see them working hard to accomplish bigger and better things all the time."

SPORTS ROUNDUP**Grant Union golfers take swing at Pendleton Invitational**

On Friday, April 6, the Grant Union golf team traveled to Pendleton Country Club for the 2A/1A invitational.

On the boys side, Burns came out on top with a 401, followed by Enterprise 416, Heppner 428 and Grant Union 433.

Bryen Locke of Enterprise and Riley Lankford of Nixyaawii were the boys winners shooting 82, followed by Duane Stokes of Grant Union who shot a 90 and Reno Ferguson of Heppner with 91.

Grant Union's Kellen Shelley shot a 99, Devon Stokes 103 and Parker Manitsas 141.

On the girls side, Heppner came out on top with a 430, followed by La Grande with 460, Vale 515 and Grant Union 519. The ladies winner was Tori Suto of Wallowa with 78, with Nicole Prophetor of Heppner in second with 92, Amber Treat of Echo 95 and Sasha Keown of Heppner 101.

Grant Union's scoring for the girls was Kaytlyn Wells 112, Makenna Culley 127, Emily Springer 137 and Maddie Way 143.

"I was proud of the way our kids handled today's match," said Grant Union head coach Ron Lundbom. "Duane Stokes placed third, and both teams placed fourth, and we were only a few strokes from the top three. There are a couple of places on the course where it can be challenging, and the scores showed that. But overall, the scores from this year were

better than our district scores last year."

There were 76 boys and girls representing nine teams competing.

Grant Union boys turn tables on Burns, drop two to Culver

The Grant Union Prospector baseball team made a big comeback against Burns on April 3.

Grant Union lost to the Hillanders 9-2 in their first game of the season on March 13. Last week, the Prospectors turned it around for a 16-2 victory.

After the Burns game, Grant Union's season batting average was .268, and player Roen Langum had the best batting average at .500.

Ty McDaniel, with a .333 batting average, has nine RBIs on the season.

Prospector Zack Deiter, with a .345 batting average, has scored 16 runs. As a leading pitcher, Deiter has 26 strikeouts on the season, followed by Warner Robertson with 13.

Grant Union lost close games to the Culver Bulldogs on the road Saturday. They lost the first game 7-6 and the second 7-5.

Grant Union, Monument/Dayville track team compete

Track and field athletes from 2A Grant Union and 1A Monument/Dayville teams hit



Contributed photo

Girls compete in Friday's Pendleton Invitational at the Pendleton Country Club, including Grant Union's Kaytlyn Wells, at right.

the ground running at Friday's Oregon Trail Invitational in Vale.

The Prospector girls finished second behind 3A Burns. Twelve teams competed, including four 3A schools.

"Kaylee Wright won javelin with a huge throw of 137, and Jozie Rude placed second with a season's best of 117 — she had season's bests in all of her throws," said Grant Union head coach Sonna Smith.

Rude placed first in shot put, followed by Prospector Abby Lusco in second. Rude also placed second in pole vault, and she was second in discus, with Lusco in sixth. Sarah Barker placed sixth in pole vault.

"Our girls 4x100-meter relay has the best 2A time in the state with a 51.7," Smith said. "The relay consists of Sydney Brockway, Trinity Hutchison, Sierra Cates and Kaylee Wright."

The relay team placed sec-

nders or throwers from bigger schools.

Donovan Schafer was seventh in discus, also behind just one 1A athlete.

In the 300 hurdles, Gabe Walker was eighth behind just one 1A athlete.

Fayette Schafer said she was happy with her second-place finish in the 400.

"It felt really great because (Mckenzi Hoyt of Burns) has always been a tough competitor, and to be just a half a second behind her was a big accomplishment to me," she said.

Tiger Kyla Emerson finished seventh in the 100 hurdles. She was behind athletes from larger schools and behind one other 1A athlete.

"I know the Vale track meet wasn't my best, but just to get the first-track-meet jitters out was good, and I hope I'll progress in the next few track meets before districts," Emerson said.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care • Acute Care • Women's Health Exams • Men and Children Exams • Immunizations • Family Planning • Contraception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy Testing & Referrals • HIV Testing & Referrals • Cacocon • WIC • High Risk Infants • Maternity Case Management 	

The High Desert League would like to give a special thanks to the following for their donations and support on behalf of the district 8-1A basketball tournament.

Grant Union High School
 Les Schwab
 Grant County Chamber of Commerce
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Subway
 Gardner Enterprise
 Grubsteak Mining Company
 Figaro's
 Grant County Building Supply
 1188 Brewing Company
 Grumpy's
 The Blue Mountain Eagle

And to all the other businesses and volunteers around the county that make it a great weekend for all the players and fans.

Kevin Purnell, District 8-1A Chairman
 Billy Colson and Tonia Humbert, Tournament Directors



50208

Grant SWCD Weed Control Dept. Working for You in 2018

Thanks to the Grant County Court and Northeast Oregon Forests Resource Advisory Committee, Grant Weed Control is able to offer a **25% Cost share program for Noxious Weed Control on Private Grazing Lands**, through a Title II funded Grant Project. This program will provide a maximum \$5,000 of noxious weed control services with a \$1,250 maximum landowner contribution to qualifying participants. To be eligible for participation, the treatment property must not be actively irrigated and must be primarily managed for livestock grazing, minimum of 20 acres in size, located within Grant County, and must contain priority noxious weed species. Applications for this limited weed control assistance opportunity will be ranked and funded according to a priority noxious weed list..

Contact the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District Office at (541) 575-1554 or visit 721 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845 for applications and additional information.

The application deadline for this program is May 4th, 2018.

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