



Contributed photos

Prairie City students in Meghan Tremblay's class stop for a photo in the 'jaws' of a shark at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport.

Prairie City students visit Oregon Coast

Oregon Coast Aquarium visits Prairie City

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City teacher Meghan Tremblay and her fifth- and sixth-grade students "unplugged" and enjoyed a trip April 21-23 to the Oregon Coast.

Earlier, on April 11, staff members from Newport's Oregon Coast Aquarium visited Prairie City School, and all the students learned characteristics of various sea life.

"The little kids enjoyed getting to touch the anemone," Tremblay said.

Some students dressed up as an anemone, star fish and other creatures during the presentations. Sixth-grader Brooke Teel dressed as an octopus.

"I thought it was really fun, touching all the animals and knowing their names," she said.

Teel said she'd never been to the coast and was looking forward to the trip to Newport to learn more about the animals she would see there.

While in Newport, the students visited the Oregon Coast Aquarium and attended an outdoor school through OMSI at Camp Gray, Tremblay said.

"The whole idea behind outdoor school is to get the kids outside, because kids only spend an average of seven minutes outside," she said. "If the kids don't learn anything else about the Oregon Coast, I just want them to appreciate the outdoors and disconnect and realize there is a whole different world out there besides just screens and technology."



Prairie City fifth- and sixth-graders touch sea anemone and star fish at the Oregon Coast Aquarium during their trip to Newport.

Ag mechanics students test skills at Grant Union

20 students from seven schools participate

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union senior Ty McDaniel was the top-scoring advanced student at the April 19 Strawberry Mountain FFA District Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event hosted by Grant Union in John Day.

McDaniel was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship option to Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario.

The college normally hosts the CDE, but is undergoing some renovations, and Grant Union school officials, including FFA adviser Adam Ineck, offered their shop as a space for the event.

Students from seven schools participated, including 10 students in the advanced group and 10 in the beginning group.

The areas of competition for advanced students included MIG welding, plasma cutting, tractor equipment identification, practical measuring and basic household wiring/electrical.

Grant Union was the top-scoring team in the advanced CDE, followed by Crane in second, Prairie City in third and Burnt River in fourth.

For individuals, following McDaniel was Joel Otley of Crane in second, Noah Ray of Burnt River in third and Daniel Carpenter of Grant Union in fourth.

Beginners tested their abilities in arc welding, tool identification, tractor and equipment, basic measuring and household wiring/electrical.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Looking over the welds made by students are, from left, Dayville's Austin Walker and FFA adviser Jim Latshaw, Prairie City volunteer Wendell Black and Grant Union students Ty McDaniel and Opie McDaniel.



Sebastian Johnson of Burns competes in the electric section of the April 19 contest.

identify parts of a tractor.

Prairie City FFA adviser Lindy Cruise said the agricultural mechanics CDE is a favorite for her students.

"In a nutshell, it's a lot of specialty areas thrown into the event," she said. "Mr. Ineck did a wonderful job getting everything together."

The event is student run and is considered an intercurricular opportunity for practical application of what the students learn in class.

Other FFA advisers and volunteers helped at the event, and Ineck said a lot of work went into hosting it.

"There is a high probability that we'll host the next couple years," he said. "It went extremely well, and we had some quality students."

"A big thank you to Robbins Equipment in Burns for donating the tractor — they hauled it here and hauled it back," Ineck said. "And a big thank you to all of the advisers and volunteers that made today a fantastic success."

Ineck drove five Grant Union students by bus to Ontario Friday, April 27, to take the welding qualification test at Treasure Valley Community College, which is the American Welding Society basic test for entry-level welders.



A few competitors stand near the Robbins Farm Equipment tractor, which was used for an identification contest, including, from left, Prairie City's Bladen Burril, Jayden Winegar, Declan Zwegardt, Carson McKay, in tractor seat Lucas McKinley, Burns' Cooper Trindle and Crane FFA members Jacob Dunn, Casey Otley, Brian Clark and Joel Otley. There were also students from Dayville, Burnt River (Unity) and Mitchell.

Grant Union was the top-scoring team, with Prairie City in second, Crane in third and Mitchell in fourth.

Placing first was Casey Otley of Crane, with Declan Zwegardt of Prairie City in second, Ben Henry of Grant Union in third and Jayden Winegar of Prairie City in fourth.

"It was pretty fun, and I had a good time at it," said

Winegar. "I like the welding part best."

Grant Union freshman Sophie Brockway said this was her first time participating in the CDE.

"It's fun to come here and actually test the skills that you've learned in shop class," she said.

Prairie City freshman Bladen Burril said he learned to do wiring and learned to

Dayville students shine in 'World Life Experience'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Dayville students took the spotlight at the school Thursday, April 26, in a theatrical performance, "World Life Experience," using puppetry and black lights to bring a colorful array of animals to life through movement and music.

All the Dayville students, kindergarten through 12th grade, learned performing arts skills with artist-in-residence Lawrence Adrian, who is the artistic director of The Oregon Coast Children's Theatre based in Toledo.

The production included information on various animals, their characteristics and how they contribute to the earth.

Fourth-grader Sierra Jenks and several other students said they

liked how the colors glow under the black lights.

"I liked the bright colors and all the cool puppets," she said.

Fifth-grader Riley Gregg also enjoyed the black lights and the music. Adrian said, because the school is so small, everyone participates, and some operate four or five puppets.

"We're all about blending the arts with educational benchmarks, in this case natural sciences, also the experience of learning the performing arts," Adrian said.

Kerri Latshaw, who teaches grades 6-8, said the students took their parts seriously.

"I've been impressed with their engagement," she said. "I like that they're starting to learn some theater from this."



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Lighting up their bird by the black light are, from left, fourth-grader Preston Fretwell, fifth-grader Riley Gregg and third-grader Cooper Holly.



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