



Happy trails at the Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo



Sam McCracken competes in intermediate figure eight at the June 16 Cinnabar Mountain Playdays rodeo.

Patriot Days theme celebrated

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

More than 40 youths were back in the swing of things, competing at last weekend's Cinnabar Mountain Playdays youth rodeo series at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

"We were happy with the participation," said CMP board president Didgette McCracken.

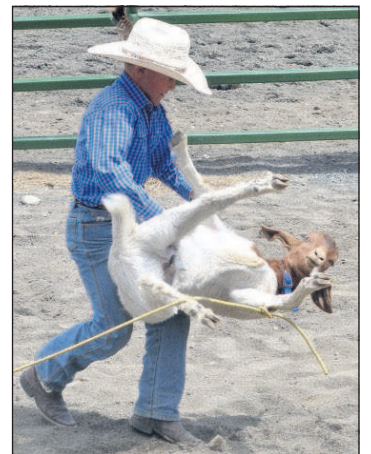
"I always like that it's families that are coming together — grandparents, parents, cousins, brothers and sisters — that's the fun part," she said. "Everybody is coming together and supporting their kids having fun and competing."

Kids up to 18 years of age can participate in seven events: barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying, dummy roping, key-hole race, flag race and figure eight.

The youngest are in the lead line group, then pee wee and juniors, up to intermediate and seniors.

Several were decked out in red, white and blue to celebrate the "Patriot Days" theme June 16-17.

Goat flanking for the juniors and goat tying for the intermediates are new events this year. McCracken said those events help



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Jerret Waddel competes in the goat flanking event.

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Parks and Rec activities set

Blue Mountain Eagle

The John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District is holding events to keep people active this summer.

A basketball tournament for all ages is planned Friday and Saturday, June 22-23.

Youth activities for three different age groups take place from late June through early August.

'Pick & Roll' 3-on-3 basketball tournament

The district is holding a two-day 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Seventh Street Complex.

Day one of the tournament starts at 5 p.m. Friday, June 22, and day two begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 23.

Men, women and children ages 9 and up are invited to join in, and there will be prizes in three divisions, including youth for grades 8 and younger, high school for incoming freshmen to incoming seniors and adults for graduated high school seniors and older.

Registration forms and rules are available at <https://jdccparksandrec.weebly.com>, and the registration deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 20. Forms may be dropped off at the Parks and Rec office or Gleason Pool.

Fees per team are: youth,

\$25 in district, \$30 out of district; high school, \$40 in district, \$45 out of district; adult, \$50 in district, \$55 out of district.

For more information, call program manager Bobbee Hueckman at 541-575-0110.

PE in the Park

Parks and Rec will also hold PE in the Park with fun activities for kids in different age groups.

Activities for ages 5-8 will be 1-3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, July 9 through Aug. 2. The cost is \$15 a week or \$50 for all four weeks.

Ages 9-12 will meet 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays July 9

through Aug. 2. The cost is \$15 a week or \$50 for all four weeks.

Summer activities for ages 13-15 will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Monday through Friday June 25-29 and Aug. 6-10. The cost is \$15 per week or \$25 for two weeks.

Youth must participate in a full week — no daily drop ins — and all pick up and drop offs will be at Seventh Street's main parking lot.

The Gordon Mitchell Scholarship Fund is available upon request.

Registration forms are available at the Parks and Rec website.

For more information, call Hueckman.



Eagle file photo

Children play soccer at Seventh Street Complex.

Spikers will compete on national stage at AAU championships

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

A group of seven Grant Union Prospector volleyball players who have been participating in club sports will compete at the AAU Junior Girls National Volleyball Championships June 25-28 in Orlando, Florida.

The opportunity came after the 18U team, dubbed the Gold Diggers, won the June 8-9 regional tournament, the RIVAL AZ

Gold Diggers' regional win a 'Cinderella' story

Championships, in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

Led by AAU coach Kristi Moore, who is a Grant Union English teacher and will be the new dean of students this fall, the team came together after spring sports ended, with just a week of practice before the regional competition.

Moore said there was only one

day when all seven could attend practice.

"Some are still playing summer softball," she said. "We're just trying to fit it in without denying them anything else."

She said their best practice day was in pool play during the first day of the tournament, where they won two and lost two games.

Moving on to bracket play on Saturday, the girls faced Arizona Desert Valley in the final game, which was a team they had fallen to in pool play.

"They were the team we had to beat to win the gold," Moore said. "It was high stakes, and they played amazing and did a great job."

She said audience members

seemed to enjoy watching their team and cheered them on.

All but one of the Gold Diggers play three seasons of sports, while other teams at the tournament had been involved in AAU volleyball since last November, Moore said.

"They were kind of the Cinderella team of the tournament because they came in with no ranking," she said. "No one knew what to expect."

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Grant Union Gold Diggers won gold at an 18U AAU volleyball tournament in Lake Havasu, Arizona. The team will play at AAU Nationals June 25-28 in Orlando, Florida. The team members, left to right, are Hailie Wright, McKeely Miller, Kaylee Wright, Baylee Combs, Kaytlyn Wells, Alcie Moore and Mariah Moulton.

Contributed photo

