



# 4-H Sharpshooters share love of the sport

Club ready for fair after state competition

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Three 4-H Sharpshooters, Cody Bowden, Logan Namitz and Trevor Gabbard, are still meeting for weekly shooting practice after competing at the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports State Contest in Albany earlier this summer.

This was the first year the Sharpshooter club members have competed at the state level.

"The boys put in a lot of time training for the state shoot and much of that was in pretty harsh weather conditions," said Steve Namitz, who coaches the team with his wife, Brenda. "The state competition went well, and I was very pleased with the boys' performance."

The event had 309 participants competing in 390 courses of fire, and each of the local boys earned at least one blue ribbon.



Contributed photo

**Cody Bowden, left, and Logan Namitz take aim during the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports State Contest in Albany last June. Trevor Gabbard also competed at the event. The boys are members of the 4-H Sharpshooters club.**

Bowden, 16, is the squad captain and competed in the advanced division. Logan Namitz, 14, and Gabbard, 12, are in the intermediate division.

"It was my first time going to state," said Bowden, who was chosen to represent Grant County as a 4-H shooting sports ambassador. "It was really exciting to go and see how they put it together. They have an outdoor and indoor

range, and an archery course throughout the back area."

Bowden enjoys target shooting and said the sport has helped him learn skills such as being a better listener.

"It requires discipline and patience, because you have to think of a lot of things at once," he said, adding it's also helped him in school. "I've learned to slow down and take my time with things."



Contributed photo

**Grant County 4-H sharpshooters, from left, Trevor Gabbard, Cody Bowden and Logan Namitz. The club will compete in archery, rifle, pistol and shotgun contests for the Grant County Fair.**

As a shooting sports ambassador, Bowden will speak at various events, such as benefit auctions.

"I'll go and tell people what it's really about and how they can get their kids involved in it," he said. "I need to represent the 4-H shooting sports in the best way possible."

Both Bowden and Logan Namitz competed in the Na-

tional Championships Qualification Track Hunting Skills Contest, Small Bore Rifle and Small Bore Pistol.

Their favorite event was the Five-Stand Hunter's Course, which included clay pigeons launched at random angles, including some called "rabbits," which skipped across the ground.

In the 3-D archery shoot portion of the event, the two

released arrows at a velociraptor target.

Gabbard, who is in his first year with the program, competed in the entry-level track for small bore rifle and small bore pistol and said he hopes to compete in the hunting skills contest next year.

Logan Namitz, who's been in the 4-H program for five years, said the club is fun and teaches useful skills.

"It improves my shooting skills, and I like the guys in the group," he said.

He first learned to shoot at age 6 or 7 and has enjoyed hunting elk, deer, turkey and grouse since age 11.

"I enjoy hunting — the hunt itself, spending time with my dad and bringing home food," he said.

The state competitors are now joined by a couple more members of the Sharpshooters as the Grant County Fair approaches on Aug. 15-18.

That group and other clubs and their leaders are preparing for competitions.

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# Golfers swing in support of Blue Mountain Hospital

Funds go toward new nurse call system

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Seasoned golfers and those new to the sport had an enjoyable day on the John Day Golf Club course Saturday at the 12th Annual Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation Fundraiser Golf Scramble.

All funds raised this year will benefit a new nurse call system at the hospital. A total of \$9,000 has been raised so far.

"This call system is going to cost over \$100,000, so we have a big goal ahead of us for the year," said Foundation Director Jena Knowles.

"The Foundation board is made up of community members, local business owners, and hospital employees who are all passionate about healthcare in Grant County," she said, adding the funds raised go to the hospital district, usually to purchase something that is needed but that may not be included in the budget for the year.

Knowles joined 60 other golfers and played on a team with family members, including her mother-in-law Sally Knowles.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

**Gaylene Moyers drives the ball at the start of Saturday's golf scramble, her daughter Shae Voigt looking on. Moyers' daughter Cecylee Bruce and Rebekah Rand were also on the team, and all work for the Blue Mountain Hospital District.**

"We're just so happy to be out here on a beautiful day in support of the hospital with family," Sally said.

There were 16 teams in all, with some representing businesses, and at least one group represented a town.

Torin Foster said his teammates Lucas Moore, Shane Koppel and Reuben Harvey talked him into joining in.

"We're here to support the hospital and represent Seneca," Foster said.

Their team finished in second place gross.

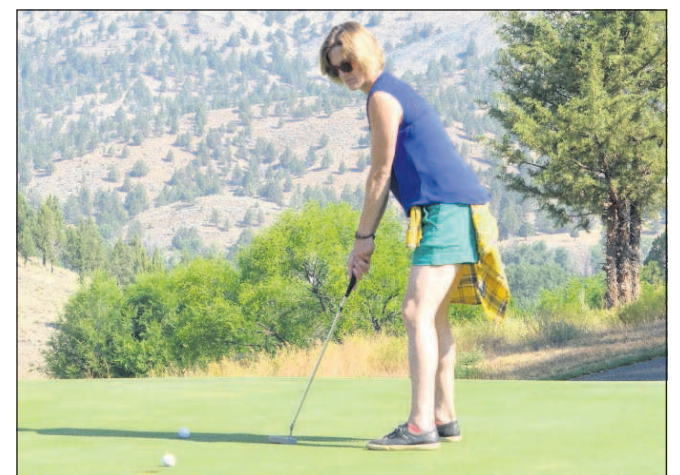
Winning first gross were Brad Smith, Matt Wenick, Jay Kenyon and Billy Colson.

Smith said because it was a fundraiser, the team donated their winnings back — so did all the other teams — and

they also donated their 50/50 raffle winnings back.

Jena Knowles called the event a success.

"A huge thank you to everyone that came out to play, all the businesses and individuals that sponsored our event, and the John Day Golf Club for allowing us to use their great course," she said.



**Jessica Knowles participates in Saturday's Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation golf scramble at the John Day Golf Club.**



**From left, the team of Torin Foster, Lucas Moore, Reuben Harvey and Shane Koppel enjoy competing at Saturday's scramble at the John Day golf club.**

**Results**

First gross: Brad Smith, Matt Wenick, Jay Kenyon and Billy Colson  
 Second gross: Lucas Moore, Reuben Harvey, Shane Koppel and Torin Foster  
 First net: Lucas Moore, Reuben Harvey, Shane Koppel and Torin Foster  
 Second net: Keith Thomas, Bob Houser, Greg Jennings and Brandon Sickler  
 Highest gross: Brenda Mosier, Carmen

Gardner, Denise Houser and Rayne Houser  
 Highest net: Brenda Mosier, Carmen Gardner, Denise Houser and Rayne Houser  
 Long drive, men: Matt Wenick  
 Long drive, women: Lacy Avera  
 KP, men: John Avera  
 KP, women: Lacy Avera  
 Men's winners: Brad Smith, Jay Kenyon, Matt Wenick

# John Day swimmers finish 3rd at district competition

Hodge wins high-point award at meet

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

"It was a fantastic way to finish the season," said John Day swim team head coach Stephanie LeQuieu of last weekend's East Cascade District Finals held in Prineville.

Justin Hodge won the high-point award for the meet, with Hodge and Rhea Mead winning high-point awards at the meet for the team.

Prineville's team won the meet with 915 points, Lakeview finished second with 562, John Day was third with 388 and Hi-Desert (Burns) came in fourth with 211.

LeQuieu said her team, ranging in age from 5-17, performed well considering the hot weather and the longer days, competing in preliminary and final events.

"They supported one another well," she said. "Most of our swimmers placed in the top six of their events."

In addition to Hodge and Mead, Sierra May, Silas Hansler, Thomas LeQuieu, Jack Strong and Andrew Hung placed first in events.



Eagle file photo

**John Day swimmer Justin Hodge races ahead to the finish line, in first, during an event July 21 at the home meet at Gleason Pool.**

One especially thrilling moment was seeing a 9-year-old fill in for one of their boys relay teams competing in the 18 and under 200-meter freestyle relay, LeQuieu said.

Grant LeQuieu (18), Brady Wyllie

(13), Ryan Coalwell (12) and Rowdy Wilson (9) finished third in the event.

"It was a strategy that worked," LeQuieu said.

Five-year-old Annabelle Raschio, new to the team, was nervous at the

start of the competition but won her first event, LeQuieu said.

"Swimming every day is different than getting up on the blocks and competing," the coach said. "To me, the highlights are when they go into something thinking they can't do it and come out knowing they can — any of those moments that build self-confidence."

Thomas LeQuieu placed third in the backstroke preliminaries, then won the race in the finals.

"It was cool to see him dig in and draw from what little he had left," the coach said.

She said Grant and Thomas are her sons, but each of the swimmers feel like her own.

"When you work with kids in any capacity, you connect with them," she said. "I was thrilled to be a part of their lives over the season."

She said involvement in the sport of swimming not only gives kids something to do in the summer, but keeps their bodies and minds fit.

"It's a team they can call a family," she said. "It's uplifting and encouraging for them to be a part of something."

She added, "It's inspiring to me to be around them to see their determination."

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# Grant Union plays at Knappa on Aug. 31

Blue Mountain Eagle

A youth football camp for grades 3-8 will be held at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 6-9. There is a \$30 registration fee that includes a T-shirt.

The Grant Union football conditioning camp for high school athletes will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 6-9.

Daily doubles will be held Aug. 13-17 with practices from 6-9 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 5-7 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday.

Afternoon practices are set for 4-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 20-24, and Monday through Thursday, Aug. 27-30.

The Prospectors will travel to Knappa on Thursday for their first game of the season against the Knappa Loggers at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31.