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Hunter going for record books

Getting ram tag took 48 years

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Walt Kight has been hunting since he was a child, and he's long had a special interest in sheep. He now can claim bagging three of the four sheep subspecies in the North American Wild Sheep Grand Slam and possibly a new state record for California bighorn sheep.

Kight moved to Grant County in

1972 after serving in the Marines. He typically hunts elk, deer, antelope and upland birds, but he's traveled to Alaska five times for hunts, four of them without guides. He's also worked for a British Columbia outfitter as a guide for elk hunters and hunted moose in British Columbia.

After leaving the Marines, Kight worked nine years for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife running a fish-screening crew.

During that time, he talked his way onto a sheep-trapping crew, netting sheep on the ground or from a helicopter. He left ODFW and went to work for a private contractor helicopter-netting sheep across the Northern Rockies.

Grand slam

There are six subspecies of wild sheep in North America — Dall, stone, Fannin, Rocky Mountain,

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Walt Kight shot this bighorn sheep Nov. 10, opening day of the East John Day River hunt, after 48 years of applying for a tag. The ram is the pending state record with a green score of 185 2/8.



Contributed photos

This young boy and his brother received a fun surprise last week as volunteers from the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization delivered new beds and bedding to their home.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE delights local children with new beds

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Some area children are receiving a special Christmas gift — new beds and bedding — thanks to the Grant County nonprofit chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Volunteers with the organization render a unique service, utilizing elbow grease to build twin-size beds for kids in need in Grant, Harney, Baker and Malheur counties.

Their motto is “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town.”

On Dec. 1, a total of 34 volunteers, 22 adults and 12 children, joined in to build 10 bunk beds at the late Henry “Butch” Goslin’s shop in Prairie City, in his honor.

Chapter president Susie Brown of John Day said she was overwhelmed at the sight of so many gathered to help.

“I immediately got emotional when I started to thank the group for coming,” she said. “Several times I was fighting

back tears.”

The helpers kept busy that morning to early afternoon working in different stations, in a production line, to complete the various stages of the building process.

Chelsey McDaniel, who was Goslin’s girlfriend, said the event was amazing to see.

“It was mind blowing the amount of people that showed up — kids and people from everywhere,” she said. “They busted out 20 beds in three hours — 10 sets of bunk beds.”

She added, “Butch would have been incredibly proud because he was a carpenter. He would have been a part of it no matter what.”

From sanding and staining boards to assembling headboards and side rails, many hands made light work.

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Clockwise from left: Mason Rigney, Bryant Baker, Connor McLeod and Tracker McLeod work on a project to help make the Sleep in Heavenly Peace beds.

Free bus service to start in January

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Free bus service in the John Day Valley will start in mid-January, with one route circulating through John Day and Canyon City and another running from Prairie City to Mt. Vernon.

The exact location of stops will be refined as the Grant County Transportation District looks at ridership numbers in the coming months, District Manager Angie Jones said. The new bus service will operate Mondays through Fridays, with other People Mover services continuing as before.

As currently planned, a People Mover bus will loop through John Day and Canyon City about every 45 minutes with 57 stops. The east-west



Angie Jones

bus will run three times a day linking Prairie City and Mt. Vernon with 37 stops. Bus stop signs could be set up by March depending on Oregon Department of Transportation approval, Jones said.

People with difficulty getting to scheduled stop locations can call 24 hours in advance, and the bus will come to their homes. People can flag down the bus at unscheduled locations, but Jones advised they call ahead to let the People Mover staff know.

While many businesses and public agencies have approved use of parking lots and highway pullouts for bus stops, people shouldn't expect to be able to park their vehicles at a stop to

ride the bus, Jones said.

Riders can board the buses fare-free. Funding will come from a provision in the 2017 Transportation Bill that passed the Senate by 22-7 and the House by 39-20.

The bill provided for a payroll tax of less than 0.1 percent to fund public transit. Grant County will receive \$100,000 per year, the minimum amount available for counties, Jones said.

The public transportation provision specified criteria that transportation districts should consider when spending that funding. Jones said the new bus service will address both access and lower rates. The provision also required that 1 percent of the funding be used to provide transportation for students in grades 9-12.

The new bus service will provide

stops at Prairie City School and Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, as well as Humbolt Elementary School, Jones said. Departure times should be early enough for students in John Day to travel to the Prairie City School or the reverse, she said.

The Canyon City-John Day route extends from Bridge Street on Highway 395 south of the courthouse, west on Highway 26 to Apple Road and north several blocks on North Canyon Boulevard with a stop at the People Mover barn.

The east-west valley route includes a small loop with eight stops in Prairie City, more than a dozen stops in John Day and three stops in Mt. Vernon. The bus will also stop at Clyde Holliday State Park, which could be popular with tourists in summer time.

