

## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

## Enhanced accuracy

Every sportsman or woman should be interested in improving their accuracy to become a more ethical hunter. Gallons of ink have been spilled on the subject so I might as well add my two cents.

Modern firearms have come a long way. Modern techniques have allowed manufacturers to make claims of rifles capable of sub-1-inch groups at 100 yards. The one component they still struggle with, thanks to the legal minds among us, is the trigger. The trigger on a hunting rifle should be set to a crisp, clean let off around 2.5-3 pounds of pull for good accuracy. While many rifles today say they are adjustable, I have not found that to be the case. The little adjustment screw goes in and out, but the trigger pull hardly changes at all.

I know, I know, you get great accuracy with the trigger that you have gotten used to. You can get used to driving a GMC Gremlin, and it will get you to work most days, but a Dodge

Viper does it a whole lot better. Get a good gunsmith to do a trigger job, or if you are smart enough to change a tire, get an aftermarket trigger to drop in. Either costs less than \$150, and you will be amazed at the change it makes in your shooting.

The second important thing you can do is to tighten up the nut behind the trigger. Yes, the nut is you. Contrary to popular belief, good marksmen are not born, they are made. Let me crush yet another dream. You can't buy your way to superior marksmanship with new gear and gadgets any more than you can buy a pair of Air Jordans and become the next MVP of the NBA. Yes, some folks have better eyesight and reflexes, and quality gear does help, but practice is what brings home the bacon.

There is no substitute for practice. It doesn't even have to be expensive. You can dry fire practice by making absolutely sure the rifle is unloaded and



Contributed photo

Adjusting trigger pull to 2.5-3 pounds can improve accuracy.

then practice aiming, squeezing the trigger and cycling the action from different field positions. It is amazingly effective. Larry Bassham won the Olympics back in the '80s without firing a shot within four months of competition because of consistent dry fire practice. It doesn't harm centerfire bolt, pump or semi-auto firearms. It will damage rimfires or guns with exposed hammers like revolvers or lever guns. Dry firing is a good way to expose and treat flinching. Balance a dime on the end of your barrel. When you can squeeze the trig-

ger without the dime falling off, you are doing well.

Follow through is just as important in shooting as it is in basketball. Don't jerk your head off the stock to look at the results of the shot. At the shot, your finger should remain on the trigger, ride the recoil impulse and return the rifle to target. Only after you are again aiming at the target should you move to cycle the action.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.



Rod Carpenter

## Softball

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Jordyn Young went 1 for 2 with a home run and three RBIs.

Wright was 2 for 3, and Kori Jo Girvin was 1 for 2.

Grant Union also faced Rainier that day, a 3A team ranked No. 2 in the state, the Prospectors battling for a 3-2 win.

Strong threw seven innings, giving up four hits and one walk.

"Macy threw a great game," Williams said. "She threw strikes, located pitches and let her defense work. The defense was very good and made routine plays routine."

Wright went 3 for 4, and Tiler Voigt was 1 for 3 with a solo home run.

Two Prospector grand slams were the highlight of Grant Union's final game on March 27, the Prospectors taking a 21-4 victory over 3A Sutherlin, ranked No. 14.

Allen pitched all five innings with seven strikeouts, giving up eight walks and four hits.

Wright and Baylee Combs each hit a grand slam home run.

Wright was 4 for 4 with a 2-run home run and a grand slam for a total of 6 RBIs, and Combs was 2 for 2.

McKrola was 3 for 4, Marissa Smith was 3 for 4, Allen was 2 for 3 and Strong was 3 for 4.

"The season is going great so far," Williams said. "The girls have bought in to working hard and being great teammates. They get along well and enjoy playing together."

## Track

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practice, and he's looking forward to competing with and beating opponents.

"I love running," he said. "You get lots of time to think and just relax and run."

Freshman Jaydon Hoffman said he's looking forward to their first meet of the season on Friday, the fourth annual Prairie City Invitational.

Hoffman competed last year on the middle school team, trying out several events. He said his favorite is the 100.

"I like the short burst of speed," he said.

At the invitational, Dayville will meet up with a few of their District 4 competitors, a district with a total of 15 teams. All Grant County teams will also



Dayville Tigers Gabe Walker-Hopkins, left, and Zach Ferguson practice their handoff for the 4x100 relay in practice March 21.

compete, including Prairie City, Grant Union, Monument and Long Creek.

Dayville sophomore Haylee Collins is new to track and field but said

she's hoping for a fun season and seeing everyone improve.

"I look forward to helping people if they need support, if they're

having a bad day," she said.

Molly oversaw the six middle school athletes at a recent practice and noted that eighth-grader Hannah Hand is a strong thrower. Hand was showing others the techniques for launching the shot put from the cement throw circle.

Josh said he's especially excited about the boys 4x100 relay.

"I think we have some guys with some speed," he said. "The team has some good runners."

He said he wants his team members to shoot for improvement and setting personal records.

"I want them coming out of here with more knowledge about the different events and learning to push their body mentally and physically," he said.

## High hopes for the big one: ODFW trout stocking schedule

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Those fishing for a "big one" on the line will be happy to hear the John Day District is adding 1,000 additional trophy-sized trout to their stocking program this year. The trophies will be distributed throughout the area's stocked lakes and ponds.

"We are hoping this will increase angler satisfaction," said Assistant John Day District Fish Biologist Brent Smith.

Lakes, ponds and reservoirs stocked in the county include:

**April 8-13**  
Long Creek Pond: 500 legal, 100 trophy

**April 15-20**  
McHaley Pond: 500 legal  
Seventh Street Pond: 1,000 legal, 100 trophy  
Holliday Park Pond:

1,000 legal, 100 trophy  
**May 13-17**

Rowe Creek Reservoir: 1,000 legal  
Trout Farm Pond: 1,000 legal

Bull Prairie Reservoir: 1,000 legal  
Holliday Park Pond: 500 legal, 100 trophy

Magone Lake: 1,250 legal  
McHaley Pond: 500 legal  
**May 20-24**

Aldrich Ponds: 300 legal, 150 trophy  
Long Creek Pond: 1,000 legal

Wildcat Pond: 150 legal  
Brandon's Pond (John Day Screen Shop Pond): 1,050 legal, 100 trophy

Umatilla Forest Ponds south: 2,600 legal, 200 trophy

Cavendar Pond: 1,000 legal, 200 trophy  
Twin Ponds: 500 legal, 100 trophy  
Morrow County OHV

Park Pond 1: 500 legal  
Morrow County OHV

Park Pond 2: 700 legal  
**May 27-June 1**

Twin Ponds: 1,000 legal, 150 trophy  
**May 27-June 7**

Holliday Park Pond: 500 legal  
Trout Farm Pond: 500 legal, 200 trophy  
McHaley Pond: 1,000 legal, 100 trophy

**June 3-8**  
Anson Wright Pond: 1,000 legal, 100 trophy  
Bull Prairie Reservoir: 1,000 legal, 250 trophy

**June 10-15**  
Olive Lake: 2,225 legal, 1,000 trophy

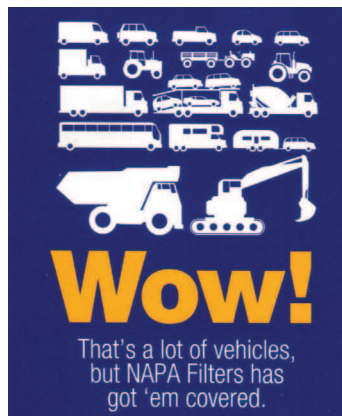
**June 10-21**  
Magone Lake: 1,000 trophy

**June 17-21**  
Magone Lake: 1,000 legal  
Umatilla Forest Ponds south: 1,850 legal, 100 trophy



Contributed photo

Children fish at McHaley Pond in Prairie City, which will be stocked with 500 legal-size trout April 15-20 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



**NAPA Filters'**  
**Spring Sale!**  
**April 15-22, 2019**

Spring forward into NAPA Filters' Spring Sale. You'll save big on all NAPAGold oil, air, hydraulic, fuel and cabin filters you desire. And our unique NAPA Filters' Program manages your inventory so that all your vehicles stay on the move and not stuck in the garage on a lift.



721 W Main St., John Day  
541-575-1850  
Mon - Fri 7 am to 6 pm  
Sat 8am-5pm, Closed Sun

Grant SWCD Weed Control Dept. Working for You in 2019

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 April 12th, 2019.