

Mighty Youth Track Meet gives youngsters a day to shine

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

all the sports they have the opportunity to do.”

She added, “Track provides a great opportunity for lifelong enjoyment.”

There are organized teams for several other sports for this age group, such as softball, baseball, basketball and swimming, but not for track and field. One exception is the Oregon East Track Club headed up by Jenny Jacobs at Prairie City School.

For more information about Oregon East Track Club, visit tracktownyouth-league.com and click on “Resources,” then “Track clubs” and then “USATF Oregon — Clubs.”

This team will hold a qualifier meet at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Prairie City School’s athletic field for youth to advance to the TrackTown Youth League Championship in Eugene.

Eighteen boys and girls in grades 3-6 were in the spotlight April 6, competing in the Mighty Youth Track Meet in John Day.

Grant Union student Kaylee Wright organized the event, held at the school’s athletic field, for her senior project.

Children from the John Day area and neighboring towns were invited to compete.

Several volunteers assisted Wright with taking down times for the sprint races and marks for the long jump and softball throw. Others helped walk the athletes through the events, including Grant Union senior Trinity Hutchison for the long jump.

“I love little kids, and I just want to get them involved in track,” Wright said. “I want them to enjoy



Nine-year-old Silvie Holliday competes in long jump at the Mighty Youth Track Meet April 6.
Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter



Taylor Parsons, 11, of John Day competes in the softball throw at the April 6 Mighty Youth Track Meet.



Kaylee Wright, right, oversees the Mighty Youth Track Meet, which she organized for her senior project with help from her father, Kelsy Wright, who is measuring a softball throw.

Americanism essayists tackle veteran homelessness

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Americanism Essay Chairman Sherry Feiger said the entries in this year’s writing contest were thoughtful as students in grades 3-12 answered the question: “How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?”

The local contest is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77.

Feiger said this year’s theme was different from any over the past couple years.

“(It’s) a social issue that affects us all and so many communities,” she said.

There were 113 entries in all, and Feiger said she was grateful that teachers took the time to include the essay contest as part of their class instruction.

Students winning first, second or third place in their divisions were invited to read their essays for friends and family at a potluck dinner in March at Alec Gay Hall in John Day.

She said she was impressed by the empathy the students had for the veterans’ situation and the wide range of ideas on how to assist them.

“Some were eager to help with food and money,” she said. “Others wanted to find a way to give them life skills and means to heal any illness they had.”

“Veterans served our country so now we should serve and help them, just as they did for us,” wrote Humboldt Elementary fourth-grader Keira Stiner.

Humboldt sixth-grader Madelyn Bailey said, “Sometimes everyone needs encouragement. ... We could promote this



Winners of the Americanism essay contest gathered at the American Legion Auxiliary’s Ellis Tracy Unit #77 for a potluck dinner with family and friends. This year’s winners are: front, left to right, Samuel Smith, Keira Stiner, Eliza Bailey and Mason Bengé; middle row, Money Anderson, Sarah Smith, Amelia Hall, Madelyn Bailey and Jueun Park; back row, Max Bailey, Mason Morris, Maverick Miller, Taylor Springer, Taylor Allen and Mya Kilby. Alici Archibald, not pictured, was also among winners.

by having successful veterans mentor those that struggle” to “show them ways to overcome obstacles.”

Mya Kilby in the grade 11-12 division said, “War will always be one of those things that nobody really wants to do, but some brave people do it to keep us safe and they should be able to rely on us to help them when they get back.”

The first-place winning essays have advanced to state for judging.

2019 essay contest winners
Division I (grades 3-4)
First, Keira Stiner, Humbolt,

teacher Joan Walczyk
Second, Samuel Smith, Seneca, Andrea Ashley
Third, Eliza Bailey, Humbolt, Joan Walczyk

Division II (grades 5-6)
First, Madelyn Bailey, Humbolt, Georgia Boethin
Second, Monel Anderson, Seneca, Andrea Ashley
Second, Sarah Smith, Seneca, Andrea Ashley
Third, Mason Bengé, Humbolt, Georgia Boethin

Division III (grades 7-8)
First, Max Bailey, Grant Union, Angela Smith
Second, Amelia Hall, Grant Union, Angela Smith

Third, Alici Archibald, Grant Union, Angela Smith

Division IV (grades 9-10)
First, Mason Morris, Grant Union, Angela Smith
Second, Soren Caudill, Grant Union, Jessica Lane
Third, Maverick Miller, Grant Union, Angela Smith

Division V (grades 11-12)
First, Mya Kilby, Grant Union, Jessica Lane
Second, Taylor Allen, Grant Union, Jessica Lane
Third, Emily Springer, Grant Union, Jessica Lane

Special recognition
Jueun Park, GU Jr/Sr High, Angela Smith

PRAIRIE CITY HONOR ROLL — THIRD QUARTER

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Deja Amsden and Josiah Hoeffner.

Honor roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Levi Burke and Haley Pfefferkorn.

Honorable mention (3.0-3.49 GPA): Jonathan Lawrence, Lane Williams, Brett Copenhaver, Raven Maloy, Paige Moore and Kyla Winton.

Juniors

4.0 GPA: JoLynne Ashley, Shaelynn Bice, Cole Deiter and Johna Long.

Honor roll: Aleah Johns, Jessica Reames, Madalyn Way, Shaine Madden, Carson McKay, Rilee Emmel and Abby Winegar.

Honorable mention: Opie McDaniel, Lucas McKinley, Kaden Madden and Emily Ennis.

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Aries Bice, Brandon Horrell, Caitlin Willet and Declan Zweygardt.

Honor roll: Katie Hire, Mikiah Kimble, Jayden Winegar and Samantha Workman.

Honorable mention: Abbey Pfefferkorn.

Freshman

4.0 GPA: Riley Reames and Isaac Koopman.

Honor roll: Marcus Judd.

Honorable mention: Seth Moore, John Titus and Hannah Wall.

Eighth-graders

4.0 GPA: Kaitlynn Ashley and Janie Koopman.

Honor roll: Laken McKay, Leif Rausch and Cole Teel.

Honorable mention: BettyAnn Wilson, Paige Shaw and Caitlin Titus.

Seventh-graders

4.0 GPA: Cayden Howard.

Honor roll: Cliff Bice and Jaycee Winegar.

Honorable Mention: Brianna Kimble, Porsche Kite, Brooke Teel, Wes Voigt, McKenzie Lawrence, Cody Reagan and Tristen Gibson.

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