

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

Grant Union cross country hosts Gold Rush at Seventh Street Complex in John Day, junior varsity 4 p.m., varsity 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

Ukiah/Long Creek soccer @ Irrigon, 5 p.m.

Grant Union football vs. Heppner, 7 p.m.

Dayville/Monument football @ 1A six-man classic vs. Echo at Sherman High School in Moro, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 26

2A Blue Mountain Conference Volleyball Tournament in Union, TBD

Prairie City and Dayville/Monument volleyball @ 1A High Desert League Tournament in John Day, 9 a.m.

Prairie City/Burnt River football @ 1A six-man semifinals vs. Joseph at Sherman High School in Moro, 3 p.m.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

A young'un's first rifle

I still remember the day we spent perusing all the major sporting goods stores in Bend and Redmond. It was 1994, and my folks had decided it was time to graduate from the BB gun. Finally I was to have my very own first .22 rifle. It was something that had seemed like an eternity to wait for.



Dale Valade

Excited as I was to have my air rifle, and a good trainer it was, I lost sleep waiting for the day I would get to bring home a .22 to call my own. All that day in the big city we looked at various .22 rifles. Lever action seemed to be the style I preferred, no doubt due to a steady diet of John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, et. al., westerns and the fact that my old man carried a lever-action rifle to the hills for big game each fall. But we looked at bolt actions and pump actions that day as well. The only style my Dad forbade me was a semi-auto. While he had nothing against them, he didn't want me



Contributed photo

This Rossi model 62A pump-action .22 was columnist Dale Valade's first rifle.

to turn into some "spray and pray" kind of shooter.

I'm not sure how many stores we visited that day all told, but the cycle of anticipation and delay had me near tears all day. The last store we entered, a Rossi model 62A (Brazilian knock-off of the Winchester 62) on the shelf had a

price tag that my parents thought was reasonable. Though the folks used diversionary tactics to try to sneak it home without me knowing, I found out. It was everything I had wanted in a .22. It had an external hammer, basic open sights and a 14-shot tube magazine. I was elated.

The first targets I slew were soda cans. I perforated them over and over again with the Winchester 40-grain Wildcat ammunition. Gradually I moved them farther and farther out to test my reach at long (for a .22) distance. Dad would gather the spent 12 gauge hulls left behind by skeet and clay shooters and set them up as targets. Squinting down the sights and squeezing off each shot with care was excellent practice. From this training and more like it, I learned the principle of "aim small, miss small." Finally I had my own real gun to begin my hunting career.

With it I was able to learn and regularly practice the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship such as sight picture, breath control and trigger squeeze. Being as it was a

takedown model, it was relatively easy to disassemble for cleaning and then reassemble for use.

As the years went by we spent countless hours afield and thousands of rounds of ammunition informally plinking and shooting small game. The one drawback to this rifle was its inability to easily mount a scope. A scope doesn't enhance your effective distance substantially with a .22 long rifle, but it does make tougher targets much easier to hit. A wise man knows "you can only shoot as good as you can see."

Today, years later, I still take her out occasionally for the odd-ball soda can, ground squirrel, grouse or rabbit. I own many other .22s and will likely buy more yet, but this one was and always will be the first. There is nothing that compares with the practice a young'un gets from his or her "trainer rifle."

What was your first .22? Write us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com and tell us all about it.

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a deep love for hand-loading, hunting and shooting.

2019 FOOTBALL CONTEST

WEEK 7 OF 13

Winners each week receive a \$25 cash prize and \$25 gift certificate to one of the sponsors on this page.

- IT'S EASY
- IT'S FREE
- IT'S FUN!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Touchdown! Cheryl Hoefler scores with 13 correct picks! Eric Rausch was a close second with 12 correct picks.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Game	Advertiser	Winner
No. 1		
No. 2		
No. 3		
No. 4		
No. 5		
No. 6		
No. 7		
No. 8		
No. 9		
No. 10		
No. 11		
No. 12		
No. 13		
No. 14		
No. 15		
Tie Breaker		Score

RULES:

1. Displayed in this advertisement are 20 sports-minded businesses. In 15 of these ads you'll find listed an important game scheduled for this weekend.
2. Each game is numbered. Clip the original blank entry and write, in numerical order, the advertiser's name and the team you think will win the game listed in the ad.
3. Game No. 15 will be the tiebreaker every week. Simply write in what you think the final score will be for each team. When the tiebreaker is necessary to determine a winner, the closest point spread will be the deciding factor.
4. Only one entry per person permitted - but all members of the family may enter provided they use the blank entry. Must be 10 years old to enter. Entries must be brought to the Blue Mountain Eagle in John Day, no later than 5 p.m. FRIDAY. Or you can mail your entry to: Football Editor, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR, 97845 but make sure it is postmarked no later than Friday and received by the Blue Mountain Eagle by noon Monday. OR you can fax your original entry to (541) 575-1244, Attn: Football Editor.
5. Employees of the Blue Mountain Eagle or members of their immediate families are not eligible for prize money.
6. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday paper following the games. \$50 in cash and prizes will be awarded to the winner. In case of a tie, the prize will be split. Contest ends in 13 weeks.

SNAPPLE BIT DINNER HOUSE
Thank you for choosing us!
Reservations Recommended

830 S. Canyon Blvd.,
John Day
541-575-2426
13.Jets vs Jaguars

JOHN DAY LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTER

551 W Main St., John Day, OR.
(541) 575-1346

2. Prairie City/Burnt River vs Joeshp

Tires LES SCHWAB

Grant County Automotive

For all your automotive needs!
541-575-0211

Automotive & ATV:
Repair • Service • Parts

12. Cardinals vs Saints

200 E. Main St., John Day

Blue Mountain EAGLE

11. Seahawks vs Falcons

195 N. Canyon Blvd. • John Day
541-575-0710 • Fax 541-575-1244
advertising@bluemountaineagle.com
www.MyEagleNews.com

5. Notre Dame vs Michigan

Bare Bones

Largest Selection of tobacco and flavored beverages in Grant County

541-575-2857
671 W. Main, John Day

Ferguson Surveying Engineering

4. Washington St. vs Oregon

"Proudly Surveying & Engineering in Grant County Since 1974"

210 E. Main • Mt. Vernon • 541-932-4520
E-mail: dfse@ortelco.net

Mobile Glass

ccbf175517

- Windows
- Screens
- Glass, Plexiglass & Mirrors-Doors
- Auto Glass Replacement & Repair

9. Indiana vs Nebraska

27825 Wilderness Lane • 541-575-1055

The Ugly Truth Bar & Grill

6. Boston College vs Clemson

Broasted Chicken, Pizza & Burgers

145 E. Main St., John Day
541-575-1310

7. Auburn vs LSU

ACE Hardware

The helpful place.

652 W. Main, John Day
541-575-0549

15. Packers vs Chiefs

16 oz. Latte with 1 flavor \$3.25

Log Cabin Espresso

John Day Polaris
821 W. Hwy, John Day • 541-575-5778

NAPA AUTO PARTS

Quality Parts, Service & People

8. Oklahoma St. vs Iowa St.

721 W Main St., John Day
541-575-1850

DOUG'S MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR

- Honesty
- Integrity • Quality

130 S Canyon Blvd., John Day
541-575-0544

1 CHOICE AUTO BODY

Complete Auto Body & Paint

Car & Truck Accessories
Auto Glass Repair & Replacement

FREE INSURANCE ESTIMATES • FREE LOANER CAR

541-575-1786
700 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

JOHN DAY HARDWARE

10. Penn St. vs Michigan St.

OIL HEATING

541-575-0632
161 E. Main St., John Day

Mills Building Supply & Sporting Goods

- Hardware
- Lumber
- Danner Boots

3. Dayville/Monument vs. Echo

751 W. Main • John Day • 541-575-1021