



## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

# Next-level reloading tools

For the first 20 years of my reloading career, I got by with just the basics. A reloading press, beam scale and powder measure worked just fine. However, in the pursuit of better accuracy, I began to acquire more tools to refine my reloading process. Here are five tools that will raise the accuracy of your reloads to the next level.

The first new toy I picked up was a digital caliper. A decent caliper runs about \$20 and will last forever. I thought I would rarely use it, but as it turns out, I use it all the time. I frequently check my cases for stretch and monitor my overall bullet length every time I reload. Thousandths of an inch can make a difference in accuracy so I am constantly checking to make sure everything is right.

I have mentioned in other articles that changing bullet jump to the rifling can really affect accuracy. Because bullet tips can be easily bent or deformed, even polymer tips, measuring the overall length of the bullet to determine jump is very inaccurate. The most accurate way to determine bullet jump is by measuring off of the ogive (shoulder of bullet that engages rifling) to the base of the bullet. To do that you need a bullet comparator. Hornady makes a great one for about \$40 that attaches to the jaws of a caliper.

The third tool I recommend is a case trimmer of some kind. As cases are repeatedly reloaded and fired, they stretch. Over time, they can become longer than the chamber and can cause problems. A good case trimmer can trim them back to recommended spec.

I have a hand-crank Foster trimmer that I have had for years. When you're shopping I recommend you take a look at power trimmers. Trimming 100 pieces of brass by hand gets old fast.

You will need to pick up a case mouth chamfering tool along with your trimmer. The trimmer will cut the case mouths square and often leave burrs around the mouth. A chamfering tool will clean up the mouth of the cases as well as impart a small bevel to the mouth. This makes it easier to seat flat-based bullets and decreases the chances of scraping of bullet jacket material when you seat it. I use a Lee hand chamfering tool that costs about \$20. My remarks about trimming by hand also apply here.

The last tool I recommend is a chronograph. I'm not saying that reloading manuals are lying liars that lie, but my velocities have never matched theirs. A good chronograph can help you maximize your firearm's potential by helping you reach good velocities. It can also help you avoid dangerous overloads when velocities get to high. If you are trying to shoot long range, a velocity variation of only 30 feet per second can mess you up. A good chrony can help measure the consistency of your loads.

There are a lot of tools out there, but with these five, you can turn out quality hand loads with the best of them.

What reloading tool do you think is a must have? Share it with us at shootingthebreeze@gmail.com.

*Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.*



**Rod Carpenter**



Contributed photo

Columnist Rod Carpenter recommends five reloading tools to make high-quality hand loads.



Prairie City boys basketball head coach Bo Workman said the panthers need to stay hungry and play hard to keep the winning streak alive.

## Prairie City boys basketball team wins nine straight

By Steven Mitchell  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Fresh off a 57-34 shellacking of Mitchell/Spray the week before, the Prairie City boys basketball team put on a show Friday for a packed gym, steamrolling over Echo 58-27.

The Panthers have won nine straight games with an overall record of 9-1 heading into the latter half of the season.

The Panthers jumped out ahead early. In his third game back, junior guard Jojari Field drained a 3-point basket and nailed a couple of field goals to get the offense in gear. The team never looked back.

By halftime, the Panthers had a 57-28 lead and continued the onslaught into the third period with 14 points. They put a lid on the game with 12 more points in the final quarter.

The Panthers put together an offensive attack that saw three players score in double digits. Field led the team with 17 points, senior Cole Dieter had 16 points including a steal followed by a slam dunk and sophomore Marcus Judd picked up 12 points.

Head coach Bo Workman said having Field back made the difference in the game.

"He has been a huge help," the coach said. "He's quick, he shoots well and he plays good defense."

Midway through the season and as the playoffs loom, the team cannot afford to be overconfident, Workman said.

"We can't come out and just think we are going to just win," he said.

Prairie City hosts Dayville/Monument Friday at 7:30 p.m.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, JAN. 17

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, TBA  
 Prairie City basketball vs. Dayville/Monument, 6 p.m.  
 Grant Union basketball @ Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.  
 Ukiah/Long Creek basketball @ Four Rivers, 6 p.m. (MT)

### SATURDAY, JAN. 18

Grant Union wrestling @ Oregon Classic in Redmond, TBA  
 Prairie City basketball vs. Ukiah/Long Creek, 2 p.m.  
 Dayville/Monument basketball @ Harper, 3 p.m. (MT)  
 Grant Union basketball vs. Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### Grant Union boys basketball team wins two more on the road

The Grant Union boys basketball team bagged its fourth straight win Saturday, taking-down Union 49-46.

It was the Prospector's ninth overall win and fourth straight win in league play.

"It was a dog fight the whole game, and both teams played hard," said Prospectors head coach RC Huerta.

The team beat Heppner, 61-47, Friday.

Midway through the season, Huerta said the team is going to ride this wave of momentum to the playoffs.

The Prospectors will face Pilot Rock at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at Pilot Rock High School. The Rockets have an overall record of 11-2 and are 1-2 in league play.

### Grant Union girls basketball beat Heppner by a point

The Grant Union girls basketball team pulled out a victory Friday, besting Heppner 31-30 in their third win of the season.

"They came to play," said Prospectors head coach Kristi Moore.

Moore said sophomore Paige Gerry played a good physical game and great defense. Senior Tyler Blood played well offensively, Moore added.

After Friday's nail-biter, the

## Grant Union Wrestling team places first in Echo

By Steven Mitchell  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union won the Echo Tournament Jan. 11 with 119.5 points.

Justin Hodge placed first in the 160 weight class and scored 28 points. Drew Lusco took first in his weight division and scored 13.5 points. Russell Hodge placed second and scored 18 points. Frank Douglass placed second and scored 16 points. Dan Henry, Dylan Clark, Bob Henry, Riddick Hutchison, Isaac Koopman and Tucker Carpenter scored team points to help Grant Union take first place.

For the girls, Samantha Floyd and Abby Lusco placed first in their weight classes. Amelia Hall, Ashley Henry, Sophie Brockway and Kristin Cantrell placed second. Sierra Tipton and Fallen Bolman placed third. Ashleigh Ostberg placed fourth. Kyllie Holden placed fifth.

Prospectors (3-10, 1-3 league) lost to Union 48-28 Saturday.

The Prospectors will play Pilot Rock at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 at Pilot Rock High School.

Dayville/Monument boys basketball team picks up a win-The Dayville/Monument boys basketball team picked up a second win, beating Four Rivers 39-21 Friday.

"My team played this week after coming off of a long break," said Dayville/Monument head coach Jeff Schafer.

Junior JT Hand, Schafer

added, was vital on offense for the Tigers and played with a lot of energy and excitement.

Schafer said offensive movement and teamwork are what he wants the team to work on as they move into the latter half of the season.

"My boys do amazing things when they are working as a team and encouraging one another," Schafer said.

The Tigers (2-8) go on the road to face Prairie City (9-1) Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

### Riverside Duals

At the Riverside Duals, Grant Union won four matchups but lost to Hermiston, 57-24. Jack Strong, Damion Young and Drew Lusco won their matches and scored team points in the effort.

The Prospectors beat Irrigon, 42-17. Jack Strong, Damian Young, Sam McCracken, Damion Young, Tucker Carpenter, Quintin Halgarth and Drew Lusco won their matches. The team took down Weston-McEwen, 42-36. Ezra Beam, Sam McCracken, Damion Young and Drew Lusco won their matches.

The team beat Pendleton, 36-24. Dylan Clark, Riddick Hutchison and Rylan Cox won their matches.

The Prospectors beat Riverview, 30-21. Damion, Young, Quinten Halgarth and Tucker Carpenter won their matches.

Next up, the Prospectors travel to Redmond Jan. 17 for the Oregon Classic.

### Dayville/Monument girls basketball team wins big and ends four-game skid

The Dayville/Monument girls basketball team ended their four-game losing streak, defeating Four Rivers 44-26 Friday.

The Tigers (3-7) play Prairie City Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. Coach Cheyenne Perkins could not be reached for comment.

### Ukiah/Long Creek boys basketball team wins sixth straight game

The Ukiah/Long Creek boys

basketball team won their sixth straight game Friday, defeating Burnt River 86-23. The team faces Four Rivers Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Coach TC Conner could not be reached for comment.

### Ukiah/Long Creek girls set to hit the road

The Ukiah/Long Creek girls basketball team is set to go on the road in hopes to earn their first win of the season. The team will take on Four Rivers Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. and Prairie City Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.

"They'll both be competitive, tough games, but the team chemistry has been great," said head coach Amos Studtmann.

### Prairie City girls win at home

The Prairie City girls basketball team has been playing with more intensity on defense, and it is paying off, according to head coach Bo Workman.

The Panthers have won their last three games. The Panthers beat Imbler 47-29, Mitchell/Spray 45-16 and Echo 49-37.

"The whole team played with a lot more energy and held Echo to very few points, which is hard to do, because they (Echo) have a great offense," Workman said.

Prairie City hosts Dayville/Monument Jan. 17. The girls tip off at 6 p.m., and the boys tip off at 7:30 p.m.