



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

The Dayville/Monument girls volleyball team gets into position Friday against Wheeler County.

Lady Tigers top Mitchell/Wheeler/Spray in season opener

Team faces Prairie City/Burnt River at 5 p.m. Thursday

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle



Sophomore Aubreianna Osborne, team co-captain.

The Dayville/Monument volleyball team kicked off their season Friday, besting Wheeler County 4-1 in front of socially distanced hometown fans.

The Lady Tigers won with scores 25-9, 25-17, 23-25 and 25-12.

In the first set, the Lady Tigers dominated right out of the gate. According to Lady Tigers head coach Triela Smith, the team played “strategically” and was particularly effective with strong, “all-position” serves and overall great teamwork.

She said unity, positivity and resilience were what allowed them to come back from the 25-23 loss in the third set.

Smith said the team’s precision, particularly in the night’s final set, where the Lady Tigers won by the most significant margin,

25-12, was a great example of how the team consistently scored points in the win.

Team co-captain Katelyn Barker, a junior, said the team members are all friends off the court, which made a difference in Friday’s matchup.

Barker said the camaraderie has been instrumental with new players this season as well.

Aubreianna Osborne, sophomore and team co-captain, said it felt good to finally play together at home in front of a hometown crowd.

Barker said winning made the first matchup that much sweeter.

“We did not give up,” she said. “We came together, played together and stuck together.”

Next up, the Lady Tigers will host the Prairie City/Burnt River Lady Panthers in league play at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 11.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Lady Tigers head coach Triela Smith.



Junior Katelyn Barker, team co-captain.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

SILVER SCREEN SAVVY

From quite early on in my lifetime, I noticed the disdain that Hollywood and many of our urban friends and family have for hunting and by extension hunters. It’s understandable, if your only exposure to hunting was through movies or television that inaccurately portray the hunting community, you may have negative or indifferent feelings. It is not very often that Hollywood gets it right, but if you’re looking to find something on that order, there do exist a few films sympathetic to hunters.

First off, however, some misunderstandings need to be dispelled; hunters are not blood-thirsty simpletons who wander around shooting everything that moves and leaving it to rot. Secondly, hunters and poachers are two different things. To address the first, hunting is no free for all. Wildlife biologists establish hunting seasons, bag limits and other rules and restrictions based upon the populations and well-being of each species. For example, hunters are required to take home all the edible portions of meat from their kill or face fines and penalties.

To address the second, hunters follow these rules, while poachers do not. The tags and licenses hunters pay for each year amount to several billion dollars, a goodly portion of which goes to conservation efforts. Hikers, bird watchers and bicyclists enjoy the effects of these funds with parks, bird refuges, trails and wilderness areas. Poachers don’t follow these rules nor pay into the system. Their motivation is primarily commercial but sometimes egotistical; they may or may not even take the meat from their kill. If we are ever to positively change hearts regarding the public point of view, we must be willing to speak up for our traditions and invite those who know nothing of them to find out for themselves.

To get back to Hollywood, there are a few



Dale Valade

films which I feel “get it right.” Certainly everyone has their own taste for what is quality entertainment, but these four films to me are family friendly.

“Hatari!” (1962) — The Duke employs his hand at catching wild African plains game and winning the heart

of a lady photographer, a great supporting cast. My favorite John Wayne movie, in fact.

“Jeremiah Johnson” (1972) — Robert Redford’s historic portrayal of mountain man life leaves little to be desired. I can probably quote this movie line for line.

“Dances with Wolves” (1990) — Although primarily a look at life with the Sioux in the 1860s, Kevin Costner does a good job of showing the difference between hunters taking what they need versus the wastefulness of the buffalo hide hunters.

“The Ghost and the Darkness” (1996) — Based upon the story of Tsavo man-eating lions in 1899 Africa, Val Kilmer and Michael Douglas team up for this hunt.

There are others I could not doubt add to the list, but suffice it to say, they may or may not be entirely family friendly or may only focus certain scenes upon hunting while the premise of the movie itself goes elsewhere.

Do whatever you can to educate others about our hunting traditions. Those who are ignorant or indifferent not only deserve to have an accurate portrayal of our hunting community, but the future of our community depends upon that education.

What are your favorite movies? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

\$1,000 reward linked to deer killed with blow gun darts in Burns

EO Media Group

A second mule deer has died and at least three more were injured after being struck with blow gun darts within the Burns city limits over the last four months, according to a press release from the Oregon State Police.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife troopers responded to a citizen report of an injured deer in Burns on Feb. 13. Police found a mule deer doe in failing health with a blow dart lodged in her side. Unable to save her life, troopers euthanized the doe where they found her.

Troopers found the carcass of a mule deer fawn in the same area with a similar blow dart lodged in its neck in November 2020.

Blow gun darts, which are illegal to use for hunting deer in Oregon, are effective at killing small animals like rabbits and squirrels. When used on larger animals, the darts cause damage that may be mortal over time. Injuring an animal with a nonlethal weapon and leaving it to suffer and likely die is extremely cruel, according to ODFW biologist Rod Klus, who assisted in saving the three wounded deer.

“Either the wound will lead to an infection, or if the stomach or intestines are punctured, the deer will die, but it will take a while, and it will be painful,” he said. “It takes a deer anywhere from days to weeks to die from infection.”

Between November 2020 and February 2021, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists and OSP troopers found three additional mule deer in the area with blow gun darts lodged in their bodies. In all three cases, biologists sedated the animals, surgically remove the darts and released the deer. They expect the deer to recover.

The Oregon Hunters Association is offer-



Contributed photo/Oregon State Police

A second mule deer has died and at least three more were injured after being struck with blow gun darts within the Burns city limits over the last four months.

ing \$1,000 in reward money for information leading to a citation.

The city-dwelling deer, acclimated to humans, are an easy target for poachers, according to Ken Hand, regional director for the Mule Deer Foundation.

“Using a dart is an inhumane way to kill a deer. It would take a while for them to die,” he said. “Poaching is one of the factors behind declines in mule deer across the state. Aside from being cruel, this is illegal, and it is wanton waste of the animals.”

OUTPATIENT EAR AND FOOT CLINIC

Open Mon. - Thurs. 8AM - 4PM
422 West Main John Day OR, 97845

Regular and High Risk Foot Care done by specially trained RN or CNA.

Ears are examined and cleaned by Registered Nurses.

Call to make an appointment today!
541-575-1648

PRAIRIE AMERICAN LEGION 0106 WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF OUR SPRING FUNDRAISING EVENT.

★ **1st:** Pam Howard - \$300.00 gift certificate to Better Blooms and Gardens

★ **2nd:** Kathy Gillam - Wheelbarrow & accessories from John Day, True Value Hardware

★ **3rd:** Diane Holthouse - Ruger 10/22 Rifle from Nydam's Ace Hardware

We thank our Sponsors and Participants and Congratulate the winners!

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 11
Prairie City/Burnt River volleyball @ Dayville/Monument, 5 p.m.
Grant Union volleyball vs. Burns, 5 p.m.
Grant Union Cross Country @ Stanfield Fun Country, TBA

FRIDAY, MARCH 12
Grant Union football vs. McLoughlin, 4 p.m.
Prairie City football @ Harper Charter, 4 p.m. (MST)
Dayville/Monument football @ Joseph, 4 p.m.
Grant Union dance virtual performance, TBA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Grant Union volleyball vs. Pilot Rock, noon
Home games can be viewed via live stream contests on the NFHS network. For more information on streaming, visit nfhsnetwork.com/pixellott.