

# Hodge, Cox place at state tourney to end wrestling season

Team finishes in 22nd with three wrestlers competing

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Coming off more than a year of filled restrictions on gatherings, sporting events and overall uncertainty, Grant Union's wrestlers played the hand they were dealt with grit and determination and brought home two state trophies in a year that was anything but typical.

The Pros, who sent three wrestlers to the state tourney, walked away with third- and fourth-place trophies.

Jack Strong (2-3), wrestling in the 145 weight division, received a bye in one of his first two matches in the first round, and lost by pin in the second matchup against Colton's Roger Moore (13-6). Colton's Shade Starr (16-8) then pinned Strong in a three-and-a-half-minute match.

The Eagle was unable to reach Strong for comment before press time.

Junior Justin Hodge (4-2) scored 15 team points by placing third in the tourney in the 160 weight division.

In the championship round, the two-time state champion received a bye. Hodge, fresh off a state track win in relays, pinned Glendale's William Furia in a minute and a half in the quarterfinal round.

He lost by a technical fall in the semifinal to Oakland's Kaleb Oliver (18-0), but in a consecutive semifinal matchup, he won by major decision over Lucas Bischoff (22-4) of Kennedy, then bested Central Linn's Cole Goracke by decision in the third-place match.



Contributed photo/Erin Hodge  
**Grant Union's Rylan Cox takes an opponent to the mat at the June 19 state tournament in Sweet Home.**

Given the shutdowns, pauses and overall uncertainty that the pandemic restrictions had on Oregon sporting events, Hodge said he did not expect the team would have a district or state tournament this year.

"I did not think we would have one this year," he said in a phone call on June 27. "But I am glad we came out, and I am proud of the kids that made it to state."

In the 285 weight division, sophomore Rylan Cox placed fourth and scored 11 team points for Grant Union, who finished 22nd out of 29 schools.

The Eagle was unable to get in touch with Cox before deadline.

Cox won by decision over Kenne-

dy's Briggs Snell (5-6) with a score of 5-3. In the quarterfinal, Toledo's Kenneth Johnson pinned Cox in just under three minutes.

In a roughly three and a half minute match, Cox bounced back in the third round, pinned Oakland's Brayden Tackett, and then dropped Culver's Wylie Johnson by pin in the semifinal match a little over three minutes.

Cox fell to Coquille's Tommy Vigue in the third-place match by pin to finish fourth overall in the best outing of his high school career so far.

Tye Parsons, longtime Grant Union assistant wrestling coach, said the grapplers did great with the narrow time window to prepare and condition.



Contributed photo/Erin Hodge  
**From left, William Furia of Glendale, Kennedy's Lucas Bischoff, Kaleb Oliver of Oakland and Grant Union's Justin Hodge at the state tournament June 19 in Sweet Home. Hodge took third overall in the 160 weight division at the Oregon 2A state tournament.**

"Wrestling is a sport that you spend months getting in shape for," Parsons said. "So, to try to get in shape in two weeks and expect great things is not probable."

Andy Lusco, Grant Union wrestling team head coach, did not respond to the Eagle's before press time.

Hodge concurred on both the short time to practice and the challenges of wrestling in June.

"It was hot," he said. "Everything was just off."

Nonetheless, Parsons said he was "super proud" to see the team compete and told the Eagle he is looking forward to next season.

"They stepped up in a season that is usually a winter sport and saw some success," he said.

## SHOOTING

### THE BREEZE

# Packing your pistol

Handguns are only as useful as they are available. This is true for some rifles as well; dangerous game rifles come to mind. Unlike your favorite varmint, target or sporting rifle, a handgun doesn't need to be able to make hits from several football fields away to be useful, but the speed at which they can be presented for up-close shots could be the difference between life and death.

There are many different styles

of handguns out there, and each has merit in its design, cartridge and intended purpose. Single- and double-action revolvers are still widely used for their accuracy and simplicity, and the ability to house the more popular of the powerful rounds. Semi-automatic pistols can come in single action or double action as well, though their merits lie mostly in greater firepower and a flatter profile, which makes for easier concealed carry. Just like with rifle cartridges there are several great choices in handgun calibers ranging from the underestimated .22 all the way up to the Brobdingnagian .50 calibers. Your skill level and intended application should be the deciding factors on caliber. Barrel length should be taken into consideration for best performance without sacrificing accessibility.

Many still to this day choose to carry a handgun on their hip for what is known as a strong side draw. Saddle pommel holsters were the earliest known method for carrying "horse pistols," but somewhere along the line it was discovered that if a horse was to go down, it was preferable for the weapons to be attached to the rider instead of the mount. Crossdraw rigs were popular with cowboys and cavalymen as thereby one could access their hog leg with either hand in a fracas. Shoulder holsters were around in the Old West but were made most popular by G-men and detectives as well as tankers and paratroopers. Not the quickest draw but fast enough with practice. Some merely tuck a handgun in their waistband. Then there are specialty holsters available for everywhere between your armpits and ankles.

Wherever you do carry your pistola, make sure you practice wearing it there for comfort's sake but also spend time learning to draw it out. This should be done in a controlled environment and always with an unloaded weapon. Practice at the range should also include accessing your weapon and firing it at silhouette-type targets. While plinking reactionary targets can be good practice for accuracy's sake, this is not effective for the more "real world" situations one will encounter. Keep in practice and carry that pistol, and it will be there when you need it most.

Do you carry a handgun daily? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

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



Dale Valade

# Thadd's Place Golf and Gala raises over \$10,000

Event benefits grief center in John Day

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Over 20 golf teams braved the scorching heat to compete and raise money for a local grief center on June 19 for the second year.

Named in honor of Thaddeus Cowan Thompson, who died of cancer in 2019 at the age of 39, the four-person scramble alone raised upwards of \$10,000 for the growing center, Jan Curtis, organizer of the golf tournament, said.

She said that does not consider what the gala, held in Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds following the tournament, took in, which drew more than 100 people.

The tri-tip dinner, which was by donation, featured an auction, live music and a raffle for a gun and safe.

Michelle Gibson, a licensed clinical social worker who has been involved with the grief center since it was established over a year ago, told the Eagle during its June 26 open house the center offers grief counseling for all ages.

Bob Cowan Thomas, the owner of Chester's Thriftway, said his reasons for opening Thadd's Place were twofold. Not only did he, as a grieving parent, want to honor his son's mem-



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Michelle Gibson, a licensed clinical social worker with Thadd's Place, during the grief support center's June 26 open house.**

ory, he also, as a grandfather, wanted his grandson to have a supportive outlet and a place to grieve.

"(Thadd's Place) is about having a place for people to go so they don't have to grieve alone," Cowan Thompson said during the June 26 gala.

He said the quality of mental health in the country is lacking and that people need somewhere to go.

Gibson said addressing grief could help with certain mental health disorders. She said grief support is in no way a substitute for treatment for mental illness, but it is nonetheless a supportive outlet for those suffering from mental health issues.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell  
**Billy Radinovich, left, and Paige Weaver decorate cupcakes with frosting on June 26 during the Thadd's Place Gala fundraiser in Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds.**

"When we don't heal from grief, and when we don't have a place from that grief, it can become complicated, and it can contribute to things like depression or anxiety," she said.

Thadd's Place, Gibson said, has a team of 17 volunteers trained to offer individual support to grieving adults and have some connection to grief on a personal level, which allows them to better relate to those who are suffering.

She said they plan to add more rooms and usable spaces to work with different age groups of kids. Gibson said that would include 5 to 9 and then 10 to 13 and then 14 to 18.

## GOLF SCORES

First place: 56 — Jake Logsdon, Wayne Heffner, Kyle Nelson

Second place: 57 — Solutions Certified Public Accountants, Mitch Saul, Brad Armstrong, Alex Finlayson, Colt Carpenter

Third place, tie: 58 — Western Box Meat, Terry Spencer, Tim Bordenkircher, Adam Goss, Justin Moorejohn; Ken Ellison, Boe Ellison, Andy Ellison, Andy Radinovich

Curtis, who lost her husband three years ago, said grief is a journey that people deal with individually, in their own way and on their timeline.

She said well-meaning people from her generation feel they are helping when they say things like, "He's in a better place," or "It's time to get on with your life."

At a grief support center like Thadd's Place, she said it's OK if you cry, and it does not matter how long ago the loved one someone is grieving over has been gone.

"Our culture needs a big shift in how we understand grief and healing," she said. "Healing is possible in grief. It will never go away. You'll never get over the person you're craving, but grief changes, and you can still have a meaningful life even after grief."

# Quinton takes second at PGA-sponsored golf tourney in Redmond

Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant County junior golfer took second in his age bracket in the Drive, Chip & Putt competition at the Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond on June 28, qualifying for the sub-regional competition next month at Meriwether National Golf Club in Hillsboro.

Sawyer Quinton, 13, of

Canyon City competed in the Professional Golf Association-sponsored event in the 14 to 15 category based on how old he will be during the finals held in April of 2022.

The event, sponsored by the Professional Golfers Association, the United States Golfers Association and the Masters Tournament, judges players on the three disciplines of putts, chips and

drives. Each player gets three putts, three drives and three chips, earning points based on how close they get to the hole. Maximum points go to any shot that makes it into the hole.

The top two finishers in their respective age groups at the sub-regional competition in Hillsboro will move on to the regional qualifying event at the Pebble Beach Golf Links regional in Pebble Beach, California.

From there, the national finals will be at the Augusta National Golf Club ahead of the 2022 Masters Tournament.



Eagle file photo

**Sawyer Quinton of Canyon City makes a mid-range shot during the junior golf tournament in 2019 at the John Day Golf Club. Quinton took second overall at the Drive, Chip & Putt competition in Redmond on June 28.**

**A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.**

He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE.

*Then it's too late.*

**AND THEY SAY ADVERTISING DOESN'T WORK? DON'T MAKE THIS SAME MISTAKE**

Advertising is an investment, not an expense. Think about it!

**Blue Mountain Eagle**  
MyEagleNews.com

Don't get left behind, call today! Kim Kell 541-575-0710

S252071-1

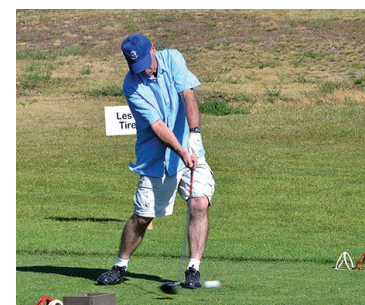
**Thank you, log truck driver Doug Lovell, for watching out for cyclists on the road.**

Your new friends,  
**Denine, Kati, and Leslie**

S252452-1

## Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation scramble planned July 17

Blue Mountain Eagle



Eagle file photo

**Scott Myers takes a swing during the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation Golf Scramble in 2019 at the John Day Golf Club.**

The Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation fundraiser golf scramble is planned for Saturday, July 17.

The scramble kicks off at 8 a.m. at the John Day Golf Club.

Entry forms are available at bluemountainhospital.org, downstairs at the check-in desk at the hospital and at the golf club.