



WITH THE HELP of her mom, Kala, Nakita Bose (above) shot her gun Saturday afternoon at the Black Powder Shoot at Sappa Park, despite having a broken arm. Haley Schiessler (below) threw a small ax at a wood target.

Ancient skills tested at shoot

The wind blew gently, rustling the new leaves in the trees as the buckskin-clad man placed the gun in his shoulder, aimed and fired with a puff of smoke.

Slowly, he lowered the gun, reloaded, and the process started again.

Around 40 people took their shot at paper targets placed in the black-powder field at Sappa Park for the annual spring shoot hosted by the Beaver Creek Muzzleloaders.

The men and women shot black-

powder guns almost all day Saturday taking their turn with hitting targets moving in the breeze.

Tom Ewing, a long-time member of the group, said they had about 30 to 40 percent more shooters this year compared to the event last spring.

Some set up camp on Friday night and stayed through Sunday, he said, while others come Saturday morning. With all the activities this time of year, said Mr. Ewing, some people come Sunday morning and just take their turn shooting.

The top shooters, he said, win medallions designed and made by one of the members. At the group's fall shoot, said Mr. Ewing, they give other prizes.

"This is a shooting sport," said Mr. Ewing. "but it also gravitates into history. We use primitive firearms and keep in touch with our heritage."

The youngest member at the shoot, he said, was Simon Salcido, a 2-month-old from Colby. His parents are members.



DAVE BOSE got his gun ready to shoot at paper targets Saturday at the park.

**Herald staff photos
by Kimberly Davis and Jim Merriott**