



Olivia Corbett, of Pendleton High School, plays Baker's Sarah Plummer on Thursday, March 31, 2022. Corbett won 6-2, as Pendleton cruised to a 6-1 victory over Baker in the nonleague tennis match.

Photos by Kathy Aney/East Oregonian



Nora Yoshioka, of Pendleton High School, plays Baker's Isabel Cunningham on Thursday, March 31, 2022. She won at No. 2 doubles in the nonleague tennis match.

# SPORTS SHOTS



Gage Hill, of Pilot Rock, fields a long fly ball Tuesday, March 29, 2022, while playing Heppner. The Pilot Rock Rockets lost to Heppner Mustangs 15-3.



Heppner's Toby Nation slides into to home plate under the Pilot Rock catcher on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Heppner won 15-3.



Heppner's Ryan Lindsey sprints to home plate while playing Pilot Rock on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Heppner prevailed 15-3.

## Memories:

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is the creel has fallen into disrepair. It's not so much I ignore it when I pack my fly rod and vest, but why strap on a bulky creel in a catch-and-release world? Not to mention the occasional raised eyebrow when someone senses my goal is to fill a frying pan with a brace of trout. And, if and when I decide to keep a small trout for breakfast, it's easy to slip the fish into the inside pocket of my fly vest.

The metal catch to the creel's lid is missing and a "rolled" strip of leather designed to secure the shoulder strap has worn in two. There's a small gap across the front where strands of willow have worked loose. A quick inventory of required components shows the need for 6 inches of leather to replace the worn handle,



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

Grandpa Harry's restored fish box, wading stick, and fly rod are ready for action by the front steps of the family cabin.

12 inches of half-inch wide strapping for buckling the shoulder harness, and 2 feet of strap leather to secure the creel around my waist. The brass buckles have patina and can be reused.

I've fashioned several personal objects from leather: cowhide belts, deer skin moccasins, and

a leather scabbard for an 8-inch hunting knife — to name a few. I once built a western-style coffee table covered with cowhide scraps; each piece carefully cut to match. Restoring Grandpa's creel to good working condition is a welcome challenge. Cut leather to proper width and



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

Brother Dusty casts into the tongue of the river's current, hoping to hook a trout that he can slip into his willow creel.

length, punch holes, attach snaps and rivets. That I can do.

The first order of business is to rub a liberal amount of Neatsfoot oil into badly cracked leather trim. I order a replacement shoulder strap with correct dimensions (\$35 plus \$10 shipping) from a fly shop in Wyoming. The

brass buckle and tongue piece are salvaged from the original shoulder strap and a rear handle is fashioned from a short piece of rolled cowhide. The circa 1940 metal studs still function as if new. While not museum-quality, Grandpa's creel is ready for action.

The old fish basket is

a basket of memories, a keeper of faith, a vessel of my hopes and dreams. With stream trout season soon in my headlights, I long to hike up a fern-shrouded trail, inhale the honey sweet fragrance of mock orange and watch butterflies flutter around a trail-side seep. I want to place a Royal Coachman Bucktail (Grandpa Harry's favorite pattern) where moss-covered boulders split the rush of swift current, set the hook on a pan-size "keeper," and shove it through the square opening of the creel's lid. The steady beat of the trout's tail against the inside willow weave is sure to leave a sweet fragrance as a reminder of days gone by.

Dennis Dauble is the author of "Bury Me with My Fly Rod" and the recently released, "Chasing Ghost Trout." Contact him via his website at [DennisDauble-Books.com](http://DennisDauble-Books.com).

## Anderson:

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"I'm really glad we have a full season this year," Anderson said. "It's the first normal season since my freshman year. I like that we had the opportunity to have a full season."

While it's track season right now, Anderson admitted that cross-country is his favorite of the two sports.

"You get a whole summer of training before your season," Anderson said of cross-country. "You are working toward something. You have the same race over and over so you can compare your times. On the track, it's harder to see how you have improved and how you can improve in the next meet. And, I like training in the summer more than in the winter. It's too cold."

Anderson experienced that cold when he and his older brother Greg celebrated the new year in January by running in the Resolution Run in Hermiston.

"It was like negative-10 and my eyelashes were frozen," Anderson said. "It's fun to run with my brother. He's back for spring break

right now. It's fun to run with him even though he's still a little faster than me."

Greg Anderson is a sophomore at Whitworth University in Spokane. He runs the steeple chase and 5K for the Pirates' track team.

This past fall, Hermiston won the Mid-Columbia Conference 3A district cross-country title. Anderson finished 11th at the MCC district meet, and 42nd at the 3A District 8 Championships in a time of 18:08.10.

"There are always kids better than me," Anderson said. "I challenge myself and go after them. There is always room to improve. This past summer I ran a little over 500 miles. I'm chasing after (teammates) Jaysen (Rodriguez) and Logan (Springstead)."

His personal best over 5,000 meters is 17:38.80, which he ran as a junior at MCC championships.

"He had a down fall and we were trying to figure things out," Blackburn said. "At the beginning of the season, he was right up where we expected him to be. He went into a lifting class and we think his legs were tired. He wasn't used to running and lifting. Runners aren't heavy lifters like football players."

Now that track season has rolled around, Anderson has found a balance between running and lifting, and his times are evident of that.

"He is figuring it out in track, he already got a PR in the 1,600 (4:58.05)," Blackburn said. "We are excited and hopeful he will keep on getting better. He's still doing the weights, it's about finding a balance. He's doing some lighter squats. We work our legs a lot."

While getting out of District 8 (Mid-Columbia Conference and Greater Spokane League) to get to state is no easy task, Anderson said he is working toward that goal.

"If I can, that would be awesome," Anderson said. "I don't think I will get to state, but however far I get, that will be great. I'm just trying to see how good I can do this season. One step at a time."

Rodriguez and Springstead have been at the top of the pack for the Bulldogs on the cross-country course and on the track, but Anderson brings a quality that can't be coached.

"He has been one of our leaders," Blackburn said. "We will miss him. It will be hard to fill that leadership role."



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