

VET

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husky who completed the last leg of the famous 674-mile “Great Race of Mercy.”

One dog also traces back to dogs raced by four-time Iditarod winner Jeff King. It’s a well-bred team, but “just because your ancestors ran the Iditarod doesn’t mean you can,” Rice noted.

Nevertheless, the dogs had just put in 100 miles over the weekend of Dec. 16-17 and were stoked for more.

Rice has been dreaming of racing dogs for more than 20 years. If he races this year, it will be his first race.

“When I first got started with Tide and Brock, I thought I’d do skijoring with them,” Rice said. “Then I thought, well, if I had four dogs I could run a sled. And it turns out with four or even three I can run the cart with the kids (Jonathan, 9, and Kaitlyn, 7) with me and have a lot of fun.”

Fun with the dogs. Check. Fun with the kids. Check.

He’s got seven dogs now and has run a 100-mile conditioning race in advance of the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Races.

Clearly, he wants to race. Will he borrow an eighth dog and enter?



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain
Veterinarian Jereld Rice of Enterprise Veterinary Clinic stops in Joseph to give his sled dogs some love as he completes 100 miles of training over the weekend of Dec. 16-17. Rice and his team are set to compete in their maiden race at the 2018 Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Races Jan 17-20. Pictured with Rice are his leaders, Odesyus and Zap.

“I guess getting dogs and getting into this, the purpose is to have fun — so, my chances (the chances of having fun) are great,” he said.

Realistically, he’s keeping his options open. He also can run the Pot Race (31 miles per day for two days) with just six dogs.

“It will depend on the con-

dition of the dogs,” he said. “I’ll have to make a decision soon.”

He said he doesn’t have unreasonable expectations for himself and his dogs.

“I have a lot to learn,” he said. “I learn things about animal health from mushers. In veterinarian school, we don’t talk about managing dogs for races. The majority of dogs we see in practice are obese couch potatoes that would have a hard time covering a mile or two.”

Fortunately, the mushers who come to Wallowa County, and who have befriended Rice, are all top-notch. Which means they’ve got humility as well as skill.

“We just all try to learn and in general the mushing community is a community that supports one another,” Rice said. “Mushers, I think, do it more for the joy of doing, than the glory of racing. Of course there is the competition of the race ... and they all have their secrets.”

Rice will be gathering secrets of his own to pass on to son Jonathan.

“Jonathan is interested in being the youngest Iditarod winner,” Rice said.

Jonathan will qualify to run the ECX 20-mile Junior Race with six dogs in around five more years.

Here comes Eagle Cap Extreme

This year’s Eagle Cap Extreme begins with the popular “meet the dogs” vet checks at 9 a.m. in Joseph and 1 p.m. in Enterprise on Jan. 17, 2018. Races start at noon Thursday at Ferguson Ski Ridge.

Races include the 200-mile, 12-dog main event, an Iditarod and Yukon Quest qualifier; the 100-mile, eight-dog race; the 31-mile, six-dog pot race (run in two stages Thursday and Friday); and the 22-mile Juniors race Thursday.

The following mushers have already sent in their early registration:

- 200-mile race: Jake McCowan, Clayton Perry, Josi Thyrr, Brett Bruggeman.

- 100-mile race: Hugo Antonucci; April Cox; Christina Gibson; Connie Star and Bino Fowler.

- Pot Race: Dina Lund and Wallowa County resident Morgan Anderson.

RAPE

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she was incapable of consent because of physical helplessness caused by medication she was taking at the time.

The defendant’s attorney, Jared Boyd, said that during an interview with law enforcement, the alleged victim’s doctor had stated the medication in question could not have caused the incapacitation alluded to in the original charges. Boyd said that the state had not even reviewed the evidence in its possession before charging his juvenile client as an adult with a minimum 100-month prison sentence hanging over his head.

The attorney also said he had not received notice of the evidence until Dec. 4, nearly three weeks after his client had been arrested while at school and placed into custody. Boyd also asked that the release agreement, which included the payment of \$5,000 bail, the wearing of a GPS bracelet and curfew be rescinded. He also asked for a complete dismissal of the case in the interest of justice.

“This is a situation in which there is direct evidence in the state’s possession ... contradicting the credibility of this witness and what she claims of how this medication affected her, which was their entire case, and that’s why the Rape 1 is being dismissed.”

Judge West said he would not consider an oral motion to dismiss at the hearing, but told Boyd to file a written dismissal motion. Boyd then asked the court to have the state explain why the original charge was dismissed and replaced with the sex abuse charge.

Frolander said that she had received an audio copy of an interview that a Wallowa County deputy sheriff conducted with the alleged victim’s physician. She said the interview was done “some time ago” and the deputy had locked the recording into evidence.

She said she asked for it several times, but did not receive it, although Frolander did not explain why. She stated the recording was taken out of evidence on Friday, Dec. 1, but it was not given to her and no one was available to make copies. The evidence was given to another employee of the sheriff’s office for safekeeping over the weekend and she did not receive it until Dec. 4.

Frolander said that the physician indicated the sleep medication he prescribed to the underage female would not have totally incapacitated her, and she also said the defendant admitted to the victim that he had raped her. The DA then stated that with many persons who undergo trauma, the more they talk and think about the

incident, the more information they remember.

Frolander said that it became apparent in subsequent interviews with the girl that the original charges needed to be reduced, but that her credibility was still intact, and that the incident still constituted an illegal act as it was an issue of nonconsent rather than physical helplessness or incapacitation. She stated she gave the interview evidence to Boyd as soon as she received it.

The DA further asked that the defendant’s juvenile release agreement include mandates from the adult release agreement that included the wearing of a GPS bracelet and a mandate not to be within 500 feet of the girl’s home as she still greatly feared him. Upon further questioning from West, Frolander said she did not agree with Boyd’s oral request to dismiss the entire case in the interest of justice.

In regards to the release agreement, Boyd argued that as this was no longer a Measure 11 case, it was entirely different than the original charges. He also said the DA’s office wouldn’t or shouldn’t have filed the Measure 11 charges if they had examined all of the evidence beforehand.


“This is not the same case, these are not the same allegations, so why should they get the same conditions?” Boyd said. He said he specifically objected to his client being removed from school, from having to wear the GPS bracelet and the bail. He added he did not object to the no-contact order or his client having to do a weekly report to law enforcement.

Frolander argued the defendant should still be kept from school because the girl’s home was within 500 feet of it. She also stated she wanted the GPS bracelet in place because the essence of the case remained the same: The defendant had sex with the alleged victim against her will. Frolander said the girl did not feel safe without someone monitoring the defendant. She added she did not object to most of the bail money being returned to the defendant’s family.

In order to bolster his case, Boyd offered three pieces of evidence that included screen shots of the alleged victim’s Facebook page after the incident that he said indicated the girl was not having problems with the defendant’s presence.

Judge West ordered the removal of the GPS bracelet and the 500 feet order and noted the defendant’s parents appeared to closely monitor their son.

On Dec. 20, the defendant entered a denial plea at an admit or deny juvenile hearing. Boyd later filed a 17-page written motion to dismiss the case in the interests of justice. It is expected to be ruled on shortly.



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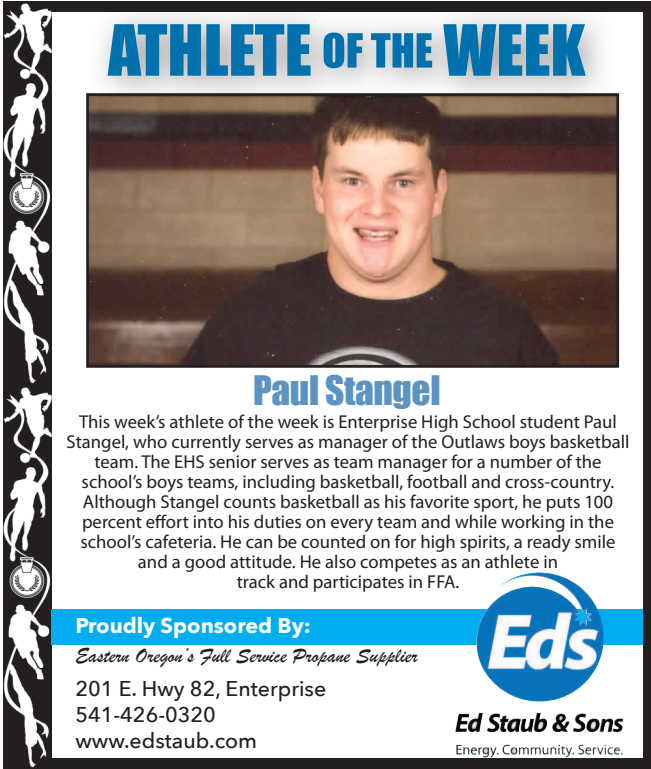


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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Paul Stangel

This week’s athlete of the week is Enterprise High School student Paul Stangel, who currently serves as manager of the Outlaws boys basketball team. The EHS senior serves as team manager for a number of the school’s boys teams, including basketball, football and cross-country. Although Stangel counts basketball as his favorite sport, he puts 100 percent effort into his duties on every team and while working in the school’s cafeteria. He can be counted on for high spirits, a ready smile and a good attitude. He also competes as an athlete in track and participates in FFA.

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