

ELKS *from B1*

gravitated towards throwing events. Competing in discus, shot put and javelin, she was the beneficiary of a past senior project at Elkton that saw the completion of a discus cage in addition to having a shot put deck and javelin runway.

Because her head coach, Maxwell, is not an expert in throws, Olson relied on tips from her mom – who held the Elkton school record in discus until Sadie broke it last month – and instructional videos online.

“Between YouTube and just asking people questions and observing other girls at meets, I slowly got a little better with the discus technique,” said Olson who has also attempted to eavesdrop on coaches instructing their athletes while at meets.

In her sophomore year, Olson took off in discus where she recorded a 40-foot personal record from the season before being on her way to finishing second in state. In shot put, she threw five feet farther and placed ninth at the state meet. Now as a junior, she is currently ranked third in shot put and ninth in discus. She has also added the 1500 to her list of events.

“I want to go to the US Coast Guard Academy so I have to be a little better at

running if I’m going to pass their physical fitness test so I thought I would just improve my running by doing the 1500,” said Olson, adding, “And I think it’s fun, it’s like NASCAR but with people.”

For Olson’s teammate Margaret Byle, it was a more straightforward journey to track. In fifth grade Byle started running and hasn’t

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-Elkton sophomore, Margaret Byle

stopped since. The sophomore sprinter found success throughout middle school and as an eighth grader won the 200 by over a second.

Guiding her to victory was, as anyone who talks about her will tell you, her will to work hard.

“She is never satisfied with what she is currently doing. She’s always like, ‘I can go faster.’ We’ll be, ‘Good job Margaret!’ and she’s like, ‘No, I can go faster. I can get a second off of that.’ She’s like obsessed with getting faster and faster so that’s really cool,” said Olson.

It was a succinct, similar sentiment from Maxwell.

“Just flat out refuses to fail,” he said of his top runner.

Byle sees it in a simpler light.

“I hate not working hard. I feel like if I don’t work hard, I’ve failed,” she said last week. “I just have a goal and I’m going to push it and I’m just going to do my best.”

Competing in the 100, 200 and 400 last year as a freshman, Byle was up with the best in 1A and made it to the

state finals in each event. She finished fifth in the 100, seventh in the 200 and sixth in the 400. While pleased with her success, she also felt a pang of guilt.

“It felt great and I also felt sorry because I was just like, these seniors have been doing it for four years and this little freshman comes up and beats them. I’m one of those people that’s really sympathetic so I felt really bad,” she said.

This season, Byle has racked up first place finishes winning 12 of the 16 races that she has been in. But while Olson and Yeane both push her during practice, they are not at the same level as the top sprinters in the

state. This lack of competition at practice and in small meets has left Byle searching for a personal best this season.

“It’s nice winning but if I don’t have any competition there’s not any joy in winning,” she said. “It’s hard because I (often) don’t have anyone to run against, it’s just running by myself. I know, I don’t push myself, I know I could do better sometimes. When it’s just about me, I don’t do as well as I would if I was focused on someone else and beating them.”

Byle will have plenty of competition this Saturday at districts when she heads to the start line. While she currently holds the 11th fastest 100 time in 1A, the defending district champion will face five athletes with faster times in the event at the district meet. Byle holds the fourth fastest times in both the 200 and 400.

While the competition is exciting, no matter if she is racing against the top athletes in the state or her three teammates, Byle has the same attitude.

“I’m just going to do my best,” she says. “Every race I tell myself I’m going to do my best. And that’s all one can do, is go do their best.”

Middlefield Men's Club Game: 2M Points 5/2/2019	Fourth Place (tie): 96 Gary Welch, Mel Gowing, Phil Hamilton, John Kallbrier	Gary Ingram 73 Bob Martindale 75 Gary Rider 76
First Place: 99 Bill Avery, Gary Rider, Jack Strickland, Dick Winters	Fourth Place (tie): 96 Mark Kurzhal, Bruce Dorman, Gary Ackley, Adrian Chatigny	Low Net: Jim Wamsley 58 Ron Warner 60 Dave Tooker 61 Joe Rehm 62 John Kallbrier 62 Adrian Chatigny 63 Dick Winters 63 Don Perkins 63 Frank Gates 63
Second Place (tie): 98 Gary Culp, Darrell Lee, Don Perkins, Dave Tooker	Fourth Place (tie): 96 Ron Ackerman, Tom Arney, Tom Lemmon, Dan Pearson	Closest to Pin: #5 Ron Warner #7 Bruce Dorman #14 Ron Ackerman
Second Place (tie): 98 Bill Medin, Jerry Pennington, Ron Warner, Jim Wamsley	Low Gross: Bruce Dorman 69 Tim Martin 71	

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Are you ready?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Wildfire awareness month puts spotlight on making homes safe from wildfire

May is Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon, and federal, state and firefighting agencies are encouraging homeowners to make sure their homes are protected from wildfire.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and Keep Oregon Green, in collaboration with Oregon forest protective associations, the Office of Emergency Management and federal wildland agencies, are taking this opportunity to promote defensible space around homes before fire strikes this summer.

“The roof is the most critical part of the house when it comes to wildfire protection,” says Oregon State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. “Embers can collect and ignite on the roof, in gutters and enter unscreened openings around the house. Although non-combustible roofing material is preferred, regardless of the construction, keep roofs, gutters and eaves clear of all leaves, pine needles and other flammable debris.”

To reduce the risk, fire officials suggest removing dead vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around your house and other structures. In most cases, trees and healthy plants do not need to be removed. However, trees should be pruned and grass kept short and green to keep fire on the ground and more manageable by fire crews. Maintain a five-foot fire-free area closest to the home using nonflammable landscaping material and fire resistant plants.

“Defensible space is a property’s first line of defense against wildfire,” says Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Prevention Coordinator Tom Fields. “Creating and maintaining defensible space around homes can improve your property’s likelihood of surviving a wildfire. Having defensible space also makes it safer for firefighters who may have to defend someone’s home.”

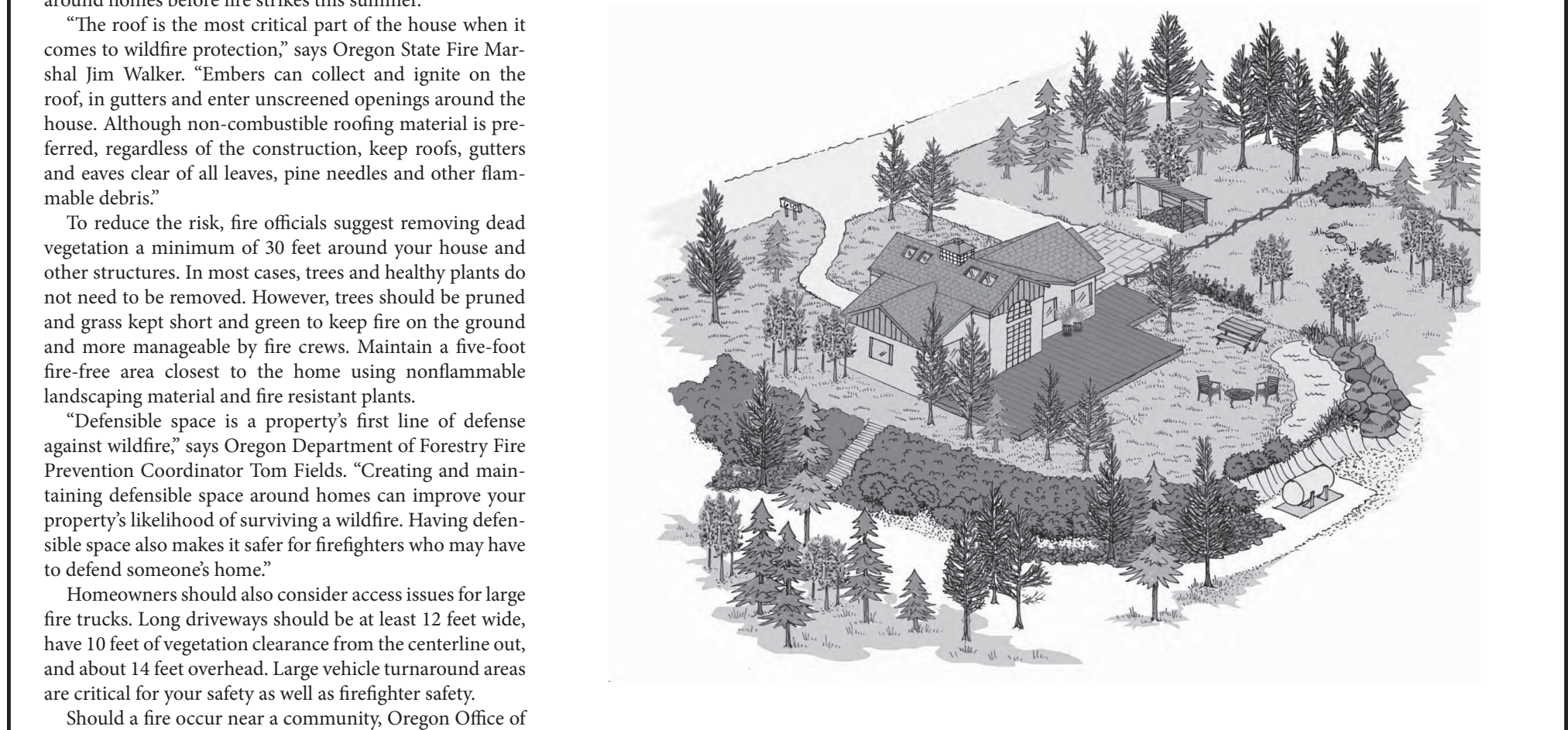
Homeowners should also consider access issues for large fire trucks. Long driveways should be at least 12 feet wide, have 10 feet of vegetation clearance from the centerline out, and about 14 feet overhead. Large vehicle turnaround areas are critical for your safety as well as firefighter safety.

Should a fire occur near a community, Oregon Office of

Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps encourages residents to be prepared if an evacuation is necessary. “Wildfires can come without warning and move quickly, so residents need to prepare now in case they have to leave their home,” Phelps said. “Make sure to put together a ‘Go Kit,’ register for emergency notification systems in your community, and make a plan where your family will go and how you will stay in contact if evacuated.”

It is the homeowner’s responsibility to protect their homes by building defensible space. For more information, visit the websites for the [Office of State Fire Marshal](#), the [Office of Emergency Management](#), [Keep Oregon Green](#) and the [Oregon Department of Forestry](#), or call your nearest [ODF or forest protective association office](#).

Additional information on preparing for wildfires can be found on the [Ready.gov website](#).



PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.
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