

Tucker Wright bulldogs at CNFR

GU grad steer wrestler to 7th in nation

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CASPER, WYO. — Steer wrestler Tucker Wright finished seventh in the nation at the June 14-20 College National Finals Rodeo.

Riding for Walla Walla Community College, Wright placed eighth in the first round with a 5.5 and missed his second steer. He was seventh in the third go-round with a 5.9 and fourth in the short round with a 7.7.

"It was a good experience," Wright said. "Just being able to finish seventh in the nation as a freshman was an accomplishment."

He spent the season practicing with his WWCC team twice a week, and he plans to return this fall.

His pickup man at the



Contributed photo/Dan Hubbell

Steer wrestler Tucker Wright goes for the takedown at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. The Canyon City resident, riding for Walla Walla Community College, placed seventh in the standings.

CNFR was teammate Taylor Doby.

Wright, the son of Trent and Jamie Wright of Canyon City, is a 2014 graduate of Grant Union High School in John Day.

He started steer wrestling

when he became involved in the Grant County High School Rodeo Club.

He says he hopes to become a professional steer wrestler.

"It's fun, and I just enjoy doing it," he said.

Ready, set, go! Grant County Fair and Rodeo is around the corner

Entrants encouraged to prep for fair

By Angel Carpenter
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JOHN DAY — The Grant County Fair and Rodeo is coming up Aug. 5-8.

Talent search coordinators would like to get the word out to interested folks to tune their guitar strings, practice their singing and dance routines, and polish comedy acts in preparation for the big day.

This year's talent

competition will be held Wednesday, Aug. 5, and the event will return this year to the rodeo arena with the audience in the grandstands.

Fair manager Mary Weaver said there is a big push for more exhibits this year, and they're hoping to fill the pavilion.

Entrants can pick up labels at the fairgrounds, and those with photography or drawings and paintings should remember to have their artwork matted.

Note a correction from the Fair Guide: fruits, vegetables and flower open class entries

are only excepted Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"The community is welcome to this year's Grant County Fair and Rodeo at new, lower gate prices," Weaver said.

Wednesday admission is free, and all three days, Thursday-Saturday, costs \$10. Seniors 65 and over, and children 5 and under, are admitted free.

"The carnival is back for the second year, we have some varied food concessions," she said.

For more information, call the fair office at 541-575-1900.

New laws will help turn environmental crisis into economic opportunity

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM — Governor Brown signed two bills that recognize Western Juniper management effort is a win-win for eastern Oregon environment and job creation. Two complementary bills aimed at controlling the spread of native invasive Western Juniper and supporting new jobs and commercial markets for the wood became Oregon law on July 1.

The Western Juniper Alliance (WJA) proposed the package of legislative requests which became House Bills 2997 and 2998. Together the bills encourage sustainable harvest and utilization of Western Juniper for ecological benefit and economic development and job creation in rural Oregon communities, as well as provide sustainable and locally produced wood products to the urban marketplace and green building sector. Both bills are funded with lottery funds.

"According to the state's own economists, every new job created in Oregon's hard-hit eastern counties is equivalent to 240 new jobs in the Portland area," says Dylan Kruse, Policy

Director for Sustainable Northwest, a non-profit based in Portland, Oregon that manages the Western Juniper Alliance and wrote and advocated for the bills. Sustainable Northwest restores forests, rivers, and rangelands for healthier habitat and clean air and water.

HB 2997 provides \$250,000 in funds for cooperative efforts between businesses, agencies, and NGOs to improve the Juniper supply chain and conduct market development to grow the industry. This will introduce larger volumes of Juniper in green building markets and agricultural operations.

HB 2998 provides \$900,000 total for:

- Working capital in the form of loans and grants for Juniper sawmills and entrepreneurs to strengthen and expand their businesses and maintain and create jobs in rural communities. (\$500,000)

- Technical and business assistance to Juniper businesses to improve their financial viability, create strong operating plans, and maintain a durable and efficient presence in the marketplace. (\$200,000)

- Training programs for

workforce development to ensure that jobs in the Juniper industry benefit rural communities suffering from high unemployment and poverty. (\$100,000)

- Funds for mapping analysis to make sure we have an identified and sustainable supply of Juniper that balances industry needs and environmental benefit, as well as inform future public and private land management needs. (\$100,000)

Dan Nichols, Harney County Commissioner, says he has seen the benefits that a financial leg-up from the government can provide to struggling timber businesses in his county. "It's been almost impossible for some of these juniper harvesters and millers to get any sort of financial assistance to grow their businesses. If they could have access to capital for buying additional equipment, they can hire more workers, which improves the economy across the region."

Western Juniper is impervious to rot and disease, thus making it an ideal building alternative to cedars and redwood.

65 mph speed limit to return if governor signs bill

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM — The Oregon Senate joined the Oregon House of Representatives and passed House Bill 3402, which, if signed by the governor, will increase the legal speed limit from 65 to 70 on Oregon Interstate 84 from the Idaho border west to The Dalles, (excluding highway work

zones) and increases the 55 mph speed limit to 65 on selected Eastern Oregon state highways. (The speed limit on Highway 95 from Jordan Valley to McDermitt will be 70 mph).

"Oregon currently has the slowest highway (55 mph) and interstate (65 mph) speed limits in the western United States," Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) said. "The im-

provements in safety features now required on automobiles, the improvement in road systems and in braking and lighting technology, combine to make driving safer and this supports use of higher speed limits on selected open roads in Eastern Oregon."

Rep. Bentz joined Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove) in working this bill through the legislature.

CEO

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these components — it's very rarely found in a hospital of this size," he said.

Developments he hopes to see in the future include a chemotherapy infusion center and continuing improvements to respiratory therapy services.

Doctors Andrew and Andrea Janssen of Strawberry Mountain Community Clinic are moving their family to Ethiopia later this summer to

practice and teach family medicine through the Christian SIM (Serving In Mission) organization.

Mee said he expects the Janssens will be out of the country for two to three years — perhaps, as many as 10 years.

Filling the vacancy will be Dr. Robert Bomengen who starts full time July 6.

Mee's wife Mercedes has been a neonatal nurse for 30 years, and she may work at BMH in some capacity in the future; her experience includes work at Beth Israel Medical Center in Boston, Mass.

The couple have two grown daughters, one in Oregon and the other back East, and three grandchildren.

In their free time, the couple enjoy hiking, kayaking and golfing.

Randall said he's looking forward to his work at BMH.

"I'm impressed with the level of compassion and competence — and it's a fun staff to work with," he said. "Their desire to provide the premiere services to Grant County is commendable, and makes this an enjoyable position."

FIRES

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The management of the Corner Creek Fire was transferred to Albuquerque Zone Type 3 Incident Management team

Tuesday morning.

The South Fork Road/County Road 42 has been reopened for public use. An area closure remains in effect around the fire on National Forest land.

West Fork Fire update

Portions of the 770-acre West

Fork Fire area received at least a 1/2 - inch of rain Sunday and, as a result, minimal fire activity occurred. The wet conditions, however, have delayed the repair work on the contingency lines. As conditions allowed, fire crews continued to mop up along the fire lines and patrolled the area.

While fire behavior was very limited due to moist and cool conditions over the weekend, the wet conditions on the fire delayed the repair work on the contingency lines earlier this week. Firefighters will continue to patrol and monitor the fire.

At present the fire poses no immediate threat but as seasonal weather returns and unburned fuels between the fire and the containment lines dry the fire will need to be monitored closely.



TREAT YOUR FEET

Our Services by a registered nurse include:

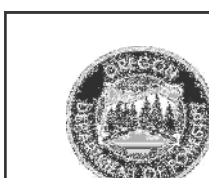
- Pedi-Spa treatment for your feet
- Particular attention to Diabetic Foot
- Multifunctional massage chair
- Skin Inspection • Callus Removal • Nail Cutting

We also check your blood pressure, blood sugar level and oxygen saturation.

Call **541-575-1648** for an appointment
\$35⁰⁰ fee

Blue Mountain Hospital FOOT CLINIC
www.bluemountainhospital.org

Services available at the **Home Health Office, 422 W. Main, John Day.**



PUBLIC HEARING ON WC RANCHES RANGELAND FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

WHAT: Public hearing on proposal to include certain lands in the Oregon Wildfire Protection System.

WHEN: 2:00 p.m., July 21, 2015.

WHERE: Spray Grange, 807 Winlock St., Spray OR 97874

WHY: The area currently is covered by Wheeler Co. Fire & Rescue for fire protection, but the landowners have chosen to provide their own fire protection.

WHO: Interested members of the public are invited to attend and give testimony.

MORE INFO: Public comment is sought on the proposal to: 1) include the WC Ranches Rangeland Fire Protection Association area into the Oregon Wildfire Protection System, and, 2) develop an agreement with the WC Ranches Rangeland Fire Protection Association to provide fire protection to rangelands in portions of Wheeler County. The Association would operate in cooperation with the Oregon Board of Forestry.

Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) staff will provide background on the proposal and answer questions. A report of the public testimony will then be provided to the Board for review prior to its consideration of the WC Ranches Rangeland Fire Protection Association proposal at its next meeting.

If the proposal is ultimately approved by the Board, the new fire protection association would be directed and managed by local rangeland owners. Associations prepare annual budgets for review by the Board. Operating funds for Association activities typically are derived from annual dues assessed by an association on its members. Grants provided through ODF may provide supplemental funding.

Rangeland fire protection associations were authorized by the Oregon Legislature in 1963 to fill a gap in protection for portions of the state that do not lie within a rural fire protection district or a forest protection district. There are currently 19 active Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

To ensure the broadest range of services to individuals with disabilities, lead-time is needed to make necessary arrangements. If special materials, services or assistance is required, please contact Marvin Vetter at the Oregon Department of Forestry office in Prineville at least 48 hours in advance, (541) 447-5658 extension 237, text telephone (TTY) (800) 467-4490 (outside Salem) and (503) 945-7213 (in Salem).

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:



Did you know Grant County Veterans Services Officer is available to assist YOU in applying for all VA benefits you may be entitled to?

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 4 pm, Appointment available at other times
Call 541-575-1631

GRANT COUNTY FAIR & RODEO GUIDE IS HERE!

Pick up a copy from any of these local businesses:

- Blue Mountain Eagle
- Pioneer Feed
- Fair Office
- OSU Extension Office
- Gibco
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