

College football

Friday, Nov. 27
Civil War



Oregon Ducks vs. Oregon State Beavers, Eugene, 1 p.m.



High school Basketball

Friday, Dec. 4



Dayville/Monument @ Echo at Fossil Tourney, girls varsity 3 p.m./boys varsity 4:30 p.m.

Prairie City vs. Redmond JV in Prairie City, girls varsity 5 p.m./boys varsity 6:30 p.m.



Saturday, Dec. 5

Dayville/Monument @ Pilot Rock at Fossil Tourney, girls 1 p.m./boys 2:30 p.m.

Prairie City vs. Burnt River in Prairie City, girls 2 p.m./boys 3:30 p.m.

Grant Union vs. Redmond JV in John Day, girls varsity 2 p.m./boys varsity 3:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Grant Union @ Irrigon Duals in Irrigon, TBA



Dance

Grant Union presents Holiday Showcase in John Day, 6:30 p.m.

“We’re trying to build a winning attitude in everybody this season, and we expect nothing less than a state championship.”

Ethan Camarena
Prairie City senior



Word on the Street

The Eagle asked people in Grant County: Who do you think will win the Civil War game, and what will the score be?



Beavers, 42-0
Paige Shaw, 11
Prairie City



Ducks, 28-24
Dorran Wilson
Prairie City



Ducks, 32-7
Tahnee Helms
John Day



Ducks, 56-24
Jay Colson
John Day



Ducks, 43-16
Santa Claus
North Pole

Panthers plan to blaze nets

Optimistic team works on ‘no-quit attitude’

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY – The Prairie City Panthers boys basketball team is fired up and hoping their hard work and attitude take them far this season.

The 1A-8 High Desert League team is led by new head coach Jonathon Gill, with assistant coaches Bob Hassmiller and Charles Lawrence.

The squad includes four freshmen, one sophomore, one junior and three seniors. “Everyone is playing varsity,” Gill said. “The JV are being thrown into the fire, and in the long run, we’ll get a better product – I’m excited about our four freshmen.”

Hassmiller said they’re training the team to work as a unit.

“We’re trying to build a foundation with fundamentals – solid passing and dribbling and everyone knowing their role and place on the team,” he said. “We are really glad to have Dorran Wilson back. He balances the team and creates offense, not just for himself, but open shots for his teammates as well.”

Wilson, a sophomore, was out early last year with an injury.

The team’s seasoned seniors include Ethan Camarena, Garrett Hitz and Brandon Gillihan.

Each has played basketball since sixth grade, and they all said they’re optimistic about the team this year.

“We’re trying to build a winning attitude in everybody this season, and we expect nothing less than a state championship,” said Camarena. “We have a great



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City Panther Lane Williams works the ball in practice last Friday. Players in back are Jonathon Lawrence, left, Dorran Wilson, Garrett Hitz, Wyatt Williams and Levi Burke, with coach Jonathon Gill on the sideline.

group of kids, and we get along great. It helps a lot as a team when you’re like brothers – like family.”

Hitz said the team is developing a “no-quit attitude.”

“I look forward to playing with the younger kids – they have a lot of grit,” he said.

“I think we’re headed to be great this season and think we’ll do really well,” said Gillihan. “We have a great team, and I’m happy to be with all the players.”

Gill said the Panthers are working on ball movement, reducing turnovers and defense.

“We’re going to be the aggressor and bring the action to the opponent,” he said.

He added that they also work to have fun and said sportsmanship is one of their core principles.

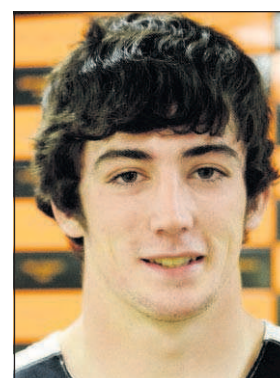
“It’s all about discipline in how you carry yourself on and off the court,” Gill said.

Hassmiller added, “Our kids are so humble, we almost have to get some fire out of them.”

All the coaches agreed they’d like to see the fans in the stands for the girls and boys basketball games.

Gill said although the boys team has had some down years, they are competitive this year and believe in themselves.

“The league will be competitive, and we want to be one of the top three teams,” he said.



Ethan Camarena



Garrett Hitz



Brandon Gillihan

Deer, elk serve as buffer to livestock attacks

By Eric Mortenson
Capital Press

They weren’t on the agenda when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted Nov. 9 to take wolves off the state’s endangered species list, but Oregon’s elk and deer population likely will be key factors in wolf management decisions in the years ahead.

Mark Henjum, a retired wildlife biologist who was ODFW’s original wolf program coordinator, said healthy deer and elk populations are a buffer between livestock and the state’s increasing number of predators.

Oregon has 25,000 to 30,000 black bears, an estimated 6,200 cougars and a minimum of 82 wolves, according to ODFW.

Biologists fully expect the state’s wolf population to continue grow-

ing. Wolves occupy only 12 percent of their potential range in the state, and continued dispersal from Northeast Oregon will put them in contact with elk and deer and possibly in competition with other predators. Bears and cougars are much more widely dispersed in the state.

Sharp, localized drops in ungulate prey, as deer and elk are known, could drive predators to attack sheep, cattle or other domestic animals, Henjum and other biologists say.

Bears are primarily omnivorous but will take young deer and elk, especially in the spring. Cougars, meanwhile, are solitary ambush hunters and can take just about any animal at will, Henjum said. “They’re amazingly good at what they do,” he said.

Wolves travel in packs and chase down prey. They can kill solitary adult cougars, or females and kit-

tens, and chase cougars off carcasses. Pressure from wolves can force cougars into steeper, brushier terrain. The competition for ungulate prey could produce a bad turn for livestock.

Biologists say wolves prefer elk, but attacks on livestock are what anger cattle and sheep producers and gain media attention. From 2009 through June 2015, Oregon’s confirmed losses to wolves stood at 79 sheep, 37 cattle, two goats and two herd protection dogs. Ranchers believe wolves are responsible for much more damage, saying livestock often disappear in wolf country. In addition, many livestock attacks are written off as “probable” or “possible” wolf depredations.

“This buffer thing is one of the main reasons we haven’t seen so high a rate of loss of livestock,” Henjum said. “I think down the

road, trying to maintain the ungulate populations is something that’s going to be more important as we move on.”

Although wolves were taken off the state endangered species list, their existence in Oregon is still governed by a wolf management plan. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, and there’s no sport season for wolves. The plan does allow “controlled take” of wolves in cases of chronic livestock attacks or decreases in prey.

Phase 3 of the wolf plan, the next step after delisting, calls for wolves to be managed “in concert with its wild prey base,” a move strongly supported by groups such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. “Oregon’s wolf population is rapidly approaching the point where human tolerance and unacceptable impacts upon the wolf’s deer and elk prey

base must be addressed,” the foundation said in a letter to the ODFW Commission.

Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said his organization’s members report seeing fewer deer and elk in some areas, and more in others.

What’s ahead for wolves might be found in Oregon’s cougar management plan, which allows for targeted killings to address problems. In October, the ODFW Commission authorized killing 95 cougars in four wildlife management units during 2016. One area was chosen because of human, livestock and pet safety concerns, and three were selected to help mule deer recover. The kills, to be done by ODFW employees, federal wildlife service agents or contractors, are in addition to whatever other cougar deaths occur.



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