



CUTTING DOWN THE COMPETITION



Contributed photo/Kaemyn Meagher

Kate Page competes at the 77th Conclave at Fort Missoula last year in Missoula, Montana.

Former Grant Union athlete to compete in pro timbersports in Upstate New York

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

Former John Day resident Kate Page has gone pro in timbersports, competitions that test athletes' abilities to chop, cut and chainsaw.

Page, who resides in Missoula, Montana, will compete at the June 16-18 Stihl Northeast Professional Qualifier in Cherry Valley, New York.

Local residents may remember Page, a 2009 Grant Union High School graduate, who was on the Grant Union Prospector volleyball and track and field teams. She also was a member of the Mt. Vernon Middle School football team.

Page graduated from University of Montana last year, earning a bachelor's degree in forestry with a minor in fire ecology.

She combined her love of the woods with her competitive spirit when she discovered and joined the university's Woodsman Team, later becoming the team's co-captain.

She had never heard of the sport before attending school in Montana.

"I got to college and found out they had a team, and I thought ... I'm doing this," she said.

Page found she enjoyed the sport because it relates to her line of work, and it's intimidating.

"I'm glad that I get to be a part of it," she said. "This is one really aggressive sport, and I'm likely not going to break any bones doing it — if I do, it's my fault."

Page said she's especially happy with the connections and friendships she's made since becoming involved in timbersports.

"I thoroughly enjoy it," she said.

Her first paycheck as a professional was earned after recent competitions in Canada.

This month's Stihl event includes the first women's division in the U.S. with a total of 38 female competitors, she said.

At the event, Page will go head to head with a world champion competitor from Washington state.



Contributed photo/Shannon Harris

Kate Page competes in the vertical (standing) speed chop at an April 2017 home show in Missoula, Montana.



Contributed photo/Shannon Harris

Kate Page competes in the choker course at last year's 77th Conclave at Fort Missoula in Missoula, Montana. Each arena in the competition has a different course, and her team's included giant bunk logs and a water obstacle course.

Page said there are three events and three points can be earned per event, including single buck, cross-cut saw with a Stihl chainsaw and underhand chop.

The top 16 advance to the next round, and the top eight move on from there.

She said eight of the athletes are from west of the Mississippi River, and the rest are from the East Coast.

When asked what type of edge she may have, being from the West, she said, "Over here, we chop on frozen wood eight to nine months out of the year."

Page said she's looking forward to the drive to New York,

noting it's on her bucket list to travel to all the states in the nation.

She said, since graduation, she's been working as a conservation technician for Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks. She's also a writer and sales representative for "Montana Woods n Water," and she works for a flower and vegetable nursery called the Pink Zeniths.

Working seven days a week hasn't allowed her to practice as much as she'd like, but she's excited for this month's competition.

"I'm definitely nervous, but excited for the opportunity," she said.

RUNNING FOR GOLD

Annual race begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday

By Hugh Snook
 To the Blue Mountain Eagle

Come stroll (or race) down memory lane at this year's Gold Rush Run and Walk event, part of the annual '62 Days Celebration.

At the "clink" of a gold nugget dropped in an old miner's pan, runners and walkers will hit the road at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 10, for the 5,000-meter (3.1-mile) event. The course begins and ends in front of Sel's Brewery, taking a route north on the Three Flags Highway, south on Humboldt Street, up to the Rebel Hill schoolhouse and winding through the downtown area. Participants are invited to hear the echoes of Canyon City's golden past on the still morning air as they wind through the streets.

The event attracts runners and walkers of all ages and speeds, some with happy dogs in tow. In the 2016 running, the first finisher was 23-year-old Nick Smith. Smith ran the 3.1-mile course in 18 minutes, 49 seconds, turning in the sixth fastest finish time in the 18 years the race has run

the current route. The fastest women's division finisher was Canyon City's own Sheila Comer, with a time of 25 minutes, 16 seconds.

The Gold Rush Run also pays tribute to Canyon City's golden past with this year's prizes: prospector figurines featuring a globe of gold flakes. These will be awarded to the overall men's and women's winners in two age divisions, 39 years and under and 40 and over. The top two finishers in each 10-year age division will be awarded ribbons.

All finishers under the age of 12 will be awarded medals. Hung on red, white and blue ribbons, these medals will provide bragging rights for months to come. Young participants will also enjoy the gold nugget bubble gum, a tradition at the event.

Homebaked cookies and pastries from Stephanie Coleman will be served after the event, as well as fruit and energy drinks.

The Strawberry Striders and the Whiskey Gulch Gang sponsor the event. Registration forms are available from Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 281 W. Main St., John Day. Participants may also register just before the race, from 6-6:45 a.m. at the start/finish line in front of Sel's. Registration costs \$10.00.

GRANT COUNTY FAIR COURT ATTENDS SPRAY RODEO



Contributed photo/LindseyWyllie.com

Grant County Fair and Rodeo Princess Trinity Hutchison of John Day, left, and Queen Jessica Carter of Seneca ride in the Saturday, May 27, Spray Rodeo Parade.

the corner's
HOT SHOT
 OF THE WEEK

KRISTINA HUMPHREYS

School: Dayville School
Grade: Sophomore
Parents: Tony & Mary Humphreys
Sport: Track and Field
Events: Javelin and Shot Put



What I like best about my sport: "I enjoy competing with my teammate and seeing him train for his events. I look forward to adding triple jump to shot and javelin next year. I appreciate my parents supporting me at the events this year."

Coach's Comment: "Kristina went to state for the javelin. Despite throwing into a headwind, she took second place and fully expects to return next year. She will also be heading to Australia this summer to compete in the javelin (at a Down Under Sports track and field meet)."

-Coach Peter Bogardus



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