

## SHOOTING THE BREEZE Hunting for firewood

As the days are getting longer and warmer. Haven't had to build a fire in a couple of weeks, so you know what that means: time to start cutting firewood for next winter. Now is the best time. By the end of June, it will be too hot, and they will probably close or severely restrict wood cutting. In the fall, you are going to be too busy hunting. Yep, now is the time.



Rod Carpenter

can't take a steady diet of the smell. Some poplar is nice every now and then to clean out the stove and chimney, but it leaves a lot of ash. I burn quite a bit of pine just because it is easy and accessible, but I don't turn down red fir or tamarack if I stumble across it. The last time I cut firewood with my dad, he said that he knew just the tree. When we drove up to it, I almost dropped my dentures. The darn thing was four feet through! I was sure somebody was going to have a heart attack or at least pop a hernia before we were through. Luckily we all survived, but now I am a lot pickier about the size than I am the species of tree I'm chopping up.

Cutting firewood on a national forest requires that you buy wood permits. They can be purchased at the local Forest Service office for \$5 per half cord. The minimum purchase is four cords, and the maximum per household is 16. If you need 16 per year, you may want to invest in some insulation. Technically, a cord is a stack of wood 4-by-4-by-8 feet. For reference, a half cord is about all you can safely load in the back of a full-size pickup without the use of racks.

When you go in to buy your permits, the Forest Service will provide you with a map of where wood cutting is allowed on the forest along with other regulations. Some include the distance from the road you are allowed to cut, size and species of trees and when certain trees can be cut. Any tree that is dead and down is fair game. Most standing trees that are dead are also, but remember that tamarack shed their needles and may look dead but are not. That is why the Forest Service specifies dates that tamarack can be harvested.

I know folks that are tree snobs. Some only cut red fir, others only tamarack. I'm more of a generalist. I like the way juniper burns but

Take the time to sharpen your saws and make sure your equipment is in good shape. It is a real bummer to drive all the way out to the woods and then not be able to start your saw. It is even less fun to blow a tire with a full load of wood on. Fire cutters are required to carry a shovel and chemical fire extinguisher and provide a one-hour fire watch after the saws are shut off. That gives you just enough time to load up and have a cold beverage before you head home.

Most importantly, be safe out there. I don't really want to get to know you while we put you back together in the ER.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

*Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and hunting fool.*

## State 1A basketball honors go to Levi Burke and Syd Holman

Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City Panther senior Levi Burke has been named Oregon's 1A state basketball Player of the Year.

Panther Syd Holman, also a senior, received an All-State honorable mention.

Prairie City placed fifth on March 2 at the OSAA 1A State Basketball Championships in Baker City.

Last year, Prairie City's Dorrin Wilson was named 1A Player of the Year.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter  
**Prairie City's Syd Holman (23) scores in the Panthers' second round state playoff game against the Dufur Rangers at Prairie City School.**

## Track

Continued from Page B1

from those events to give hurdles a try.

McMahan got up to speed with help from volunteer coach Garrett Hitz, who placed second in the event at the 2016 state championships — he was also a champion pole vaulter.

"Garrett Hitz was a huge help with me in the hurdles," McMahan said, adding that being at state was "quite the experience."

Prairie City was one of 55 class 1A teams competing.

"I've never felt that before, being around so many people, and it felt nice placing well," McMahan said. "The pressure with state helped me compete better and helped me fit the situation better. I felt like I could adapt."

The sophomore placed fourth at the district meet

and went to state on a wild card with a time good enough to qualify for finals.

"Tristan had one of those fairy tale track meets," Barber said. "When it came to the finals race, he was 'lights out.'"

McMahan placed eighth in the preliminaries with a time of 17.14, then came back in the finals, clocking in with a personal best of 16.49.

He was just .07 behind Jacob McClatchey, who placed second, and Ryan Talbot of Harper won the event with a time of 15.91.

"Next year, I feel as if I'll be able to compete in two or three events at state," McMahan said.

Barber said it was awesome to see his athletes "dig deep" for a successful outcome.

"Levi was consistent with being the dominant high jumper in the state, and Tristan focused and was a pleasant surprise in the 110 hurdles," he said.

## Reitta Wyllie is All-Academic team member for NNU track and field

Blue Mountain Eagle

Reitta Wyllie, a 2017 Grant Union graduate, was one of 15 athletes on the Northwest Nazarene women's track and field team to be named an All-Academic team on May 17.

Wyllie, in her sophomore year at NNU, is in her second year competing with the track team.

She was named to the Nampa, Idaho, university's dean's list on Jan. 30 for fall 2018. Students are required to have a cumulative GPA of 3.50-3.99 to make the list.

Wyllie placed 12th



Reitta Wyllie

in discus at the May 11 Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships (NCAA division II) with a mark of 109-01.



Eagle file photo  
**Prairie City Panther Tristan McMahan.**

This was Barber's second and final year as Prairie City's head track and field coach, as he is taking a teaching position at Culver High School, where he will also coach.

### Monument Tigers

Competing for his second time at state, Thomas set a personal record in the 1,500-meter event at the state championships.

He shaved 3 seconds off his previous time, placing seventh with a time of 4:18.34. Last year, he had a fifth-place finish with a time of 4:23.37.

He said the competi-

tion was stronger this year. Tim Stevens of Cove won the event with a time of 4:01.26.

Thomas also placed 10th in the 800 with a time of 2:10.74.

"I am so proud of Mark," coach Jeff Schafer said. "He ran so well on Saturday, which was two very hard runs in a very short time."

Involved in track competitions for six years, Thomas has been a top runner in the 1,500 and 800 since fifth grade.

He said, even though his placement at state wasn't as good as last season, being at state was a good experience.

"I'm going to stick with track and hopefully get faster and hopefully get a scholarship in the future," he said.

Schafer said Thomas is a great competitor that pushes himself.

"I truly enjoy coaching Mark and am excited to see where track and field can take him," Schafer said.

## State

Continued from Page B1

Wright said she was happy to break her own record "one last time."

Signed on to compete with the WOU track and field team, Wright said she knows she's capable of improving in javelin. Some of her throws at previous events and practices landed in the 140s.

Wright said she met with her WOU coach while at the state championships.

"I already have plans for workouts this summer," she said. "I'm super excited for it to start."

Senior Sydney Brockway placed in her four events, including fourth in

pole vault with a mark of 8-09, seventh in long jump, eighth in triple jump and eighth in the 100-meter hurdles.

"We had an hour lightning delay where we had to leave the field in the middle of the meet," Smith said. "This affected Sydney in pole vault. She was nursing a pulled hamstring."

The delay caused her muscle to tighten up, preventing her from competing at a higher bar in her event.

Brockway said she enjoyed experiencing a new track at WOU, as previously they had only competed at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field, which is undergoing renovation.

"It was pretty cool hav-

ing a new track to experience," she said. "The competition was pretty stiff, but it was still fun to compete and make some new PRs in my pole vaulting."

This was Brockway's first year competing in pole vault with assistant coach Buzz Gilmore.

Although she was working through an injury, Brockway improved her previous mark by 3 inches.

Brockway reached the same height as Johanna Simonsen of Oakland, who placed third. Julia Ketcham of Lakeview placed second with 9-03, and Jessica Lai of Portland Christian captured first with 9-09.

Like many on the team, Hutchison has been involved in multiple sports, and said she's enjoyed

competing in track.

"Track was always my favorite sport throughout high school," she said. "I really enjoy the atmosphere and the kids I got to compete against and my teammates."

She said the weather was a big factor in the outcomes she and some of her teammates experienced, and she said, like Brockway, she was also nursing an injury.

"We competed to the best of our abilities and tried to take in as much critique from our coaches as we could," she said.

Hutchison placed in all three of her events.

She finished fifth in long jump, increasing her mark there by 3.6 inches. She also placed seventh in triple jump.

Cates placed third in the 100-meter dash, clocking in with a personal record of 13.06. She also placed fifth in the 200 and ninth on the 4x400 relay team with Weaver, Shanniyah Hall and Kate Hughes.

Sophomore Abby Lusco had a sixth-place finish in discus (103-01).

Her brother Drew Lusco,

a junior, finished fifth in discus (125-07) and eighth in shot put (44-02.75).

Dillon Towne of Glide won the discus event with a throw of 158-00, 21 feet farther than the next closest competitor.

This is Drew Lusco's second year competing in discus, although he didn't advance to the finals.

"I'm a little disappointed that I didn't make my PR, but pleased with where I placed in discus," he said.

When Drew competed at the 2A district championships held at Grant Union on May 10, there almost wasn't enough room in the shot put pit for his for his throw of 46-10.75, a personal best.

"I hope by next year I run out of sand," he said. "It was good to be able to come back this season and do better than last year. I'm looking forward to improving more next season."

The boys 4x100 team of sophomore Jordan Hall, sophomore Quaid Brandon, freshman Mason Morris and freshman Justin Hodge placed sixth with a time of 45.84.

Hall also placed 10th in the 110 hurdles, and Hodge finished 11th in the 100. Morris placed 11th in triple jump, and Mason Gerry, a junior, finished 11th in javelin.

Senior Tanner Elliott placed 11th in the 800.

This season, Smith is saying farewell to seven seniors.

"They will be missed by all of us," she said.

Although the team will lose a lot of talent in the seniors, a new crop of freshmen are expected to move up to the high school level next season, possibly filling those shoes.

There are 46 athletes on the middle school team, and among the several who may join the high school ranks are Eli Wright, Kaylee's younger brother, who is excelling in several events, including javelin.

He recently placed first in javelin with a throw of 146 at the May 7 Crane Middle School Meet. He was also first in high jump, clearing the bar at 5-04 and first in the 200 hurdles with a time of 29.04. All three events were personal bests for the eighth-grader.

# PROGRESS

Celebrating our communities and showcasing achievements, industries and tourism

**Progress, a special publication of the Blue Mountain Eagle, highlights developments that enhance the economy and livability of Grant County.**

**Show us YOUR progress by highlighting YOUR business!**

**SALES DEADLINE 10AM June 12, 2019**    **PUBLISHES June 26, 2019**    **CONTACT KIM TODAY! 541-575-0710 kim@bmeagle.com**

195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR • MyEagleNews.com

## Thank you for your valiant service!

Remember to wear red on Friday!  
R.E.D. - Remember Everyone Deployed

Blue Mountain Chiropractic • 541-575-1063

# SALUTE to Service