

Kate Page hopes to make the cut for STIHL Timbersports Series

John Day native hopes to make top five at U.S. Championships

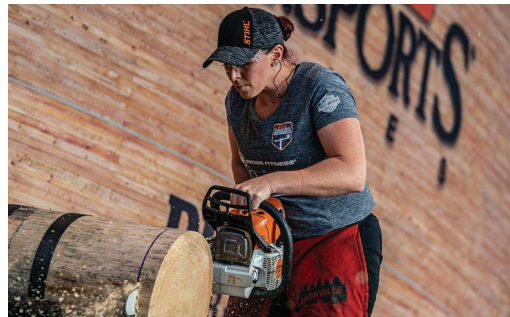
By Annie Fowler
EO Media Group

Kate Page is no Paul Bunyan, but the Oregon woman can swing an ax and use a saw with the best of them.

A native of John Day, Page has been competing in lumberjack sports since 2014, and competed in the West Coast qualifier June 6 in Centralia, Washington, ahead of the STIHL Timbersports Series July 23-25 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"This year was different because of COVID," Page said. "We have to apply to get into the STIHL series. Normally, the women have three qualifiers and one wild card that qualifies. On paper, they created pools. We compete at our nearest qualifier. There were five at our qualifier."

With four qualifier competitions throughout



Contributed photo/Kate Page

Timbersports Series competitor Kate Page uses a STIHL MS 661 chainsaw during a stock saw event at a competition in this undated photo.

the country, Page still is waiting to hear if her time gets her to the U.S. Championships in Arkansas. She should know by the end of the month.

"The anticipation is killing me," Page said. "I set a personal record in one of my events (single buck, with a cross-cut saw), so that was a positive."

The first year women were included in the Timbersports Series was 2017, and they went to Cherry Valley, New York. In 2018, the qualifier for the women was in Cherry Valley, and those who advanced competed alongside the men in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Page finished eighth that year.

In 2019, Page finished seventh at the U.S. Championships.

"This year, I want to be in the top five," Page said.

Page and her husband, Camron Tack, returned to Eastern Oregon in April to be closer to her parents. She works in the Heppner Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service.

"I'm on a fire crew right now," Page said. "We live at the Tupper Guard Station."

Tack works construction in Hermiston and is in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The U.S. Championships will be livestreamed on Facebook, and all of the competitions will air on CBS Sports in the fall.



Contributed photo/Kate Page

STIHL Timbersports Series competitor Kate Page of Heppner saws through a white pine log with a cross-cut saw during the single buck event at a competition in this undated photo.



EOMG file photo

Justin Hodge's hand is raised in victory in 2020 after winning his final match in overtime to take first in his weight class. He placed third this year in the 160 weight division.

Grant Union wrestlers bring home third and fourth place state trophies

Hodge, Cox place in top four in respective weight divisions

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Two Grant Union wrestlers brought home trophies from the state tournament.

Junior Justin Hodge, who won last year's state title, took third in the 160 weight division, while sophomore Rylan Cox took fourth in the 285 division.

Coach Andy Lusco could not be reached for comment by deadline.

Jack Strong also represented the Prospectors in Sweet Home.

Lusco said last week the Prospectors had seven wrestlers that could make the district tournament June 19 in Culver and, unfortunately, several who had schedules that conflicted.

Overall, he said, the team wrestled well at districts.

Strong took third place in the 145 weight division, while Hodge took second in the 160 weight class, and Cox took second in the 285 weight division.

Riddick Hutchison took fifth in the 170 weight class, and Sam McCracken placed fourth in the 182 weight division. Zach Ostberg took fifth. Rolondo Moreno finished fourth in the 285 weight class.



Eagle file photo

Sawyer Quinton drives the ball during a 2019 junior golf scramble at the John Day Golf Club.

Junior golf begins July 6

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Junior Golf program will kick off next month, July 6-8, and July 14-18.

Grant Union head coach and organizer Ron Lundbom said the price is \$30 per golfer.

According to the press release, there is no need to preregister. Those interested can sign up the first day of either week.

There will be an ice cream party and scramble on the final Thursday of the season.

Those seeking more information can call the John Day Golf Course at 541-575-0170 or Lundbom at 541-575-1850 or 541-620-0427.

Harney wins second annual Grant vs. Harney golf tournament

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Harney County bested Grant County while raising \$11,000 for their respective high school golf programs in the second annual Grant/Harney Battle June 19 at the Retreat and Links at Silvies Valley Ranch.

For Harney County, the team included Doug Casad, Gary Grigg, Vern Millican and Norm Mallonee, while Grant County's team consisted of Grant Union High School's golf coach Ron Lundbom, Greg Grant, Kyle Crawford and Mike Crawford.

R.J. McDannell hit closest to hole no. 2, and Jay Mangum sank the best put in the putting contest.

Overall, Harney beat Grant County on the low gross 58 to 55.



Contributed photo

From left, Kyle Crawford, Greg Grant, Ron Lundbom and Mike Crawford pose at the Grant/Harney Battle June 19 at Silvies Valley Ranch.

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