



Steven Mitchell/Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City junior Cole Teel carries the ball in the team's playoff game against Alsea on Saturday, Oct. 30. The Panthers fell to the visiting Wolverines, 51-48.

Prairie City's strong season ends in playoff loss

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — The Prairie City football team's playoff run ended in a 51-48 loss to Alsea on Saturday, Oct. 30, closing the books on a strong season that saw the Panthers dominate the High Desert League with a 6-1 record.

Heading into postseason play Saturday, Prairie City and Alsea had both won five games in a row, and both teams won each of those by double digits.

The Panthers started out flat on Saturday but clawed their way back from an 18-point deficit to make it close at the end, Prairie City coach Nick Thompson told the Eagle in a Monday interview.

Late in the game, Alsea returned a Panthers kick to roughly the 50-yard line. The referee called pass interference on the Panthers' safety, which led to a 20-yard penalty and better field position for Alsea, Thompson said. Junior safety Doyal Lawrence, in a heads-up defensive play, swatted away a pass in midair, but the ball ricocheted off a couple of his teammates and ultimately dropped into the hands of Alsea's center in the end zone.

After Alsea's touchdown, the Panthers found themselves eight seconds from elimination. They put the ball in the hands of Cole Teel, the team's top offensive threat and the Offensive Player of the Year in the High Desert League. Thompson said Teel made a good run but came up short of a game-winning touchdown.

Thompson, in his second year at the helm of Prairie



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Prairie City's Eli Wright, a junior, scores a touchdown Saturday, Oct. 30, in front of a hometown crowd during the Panthers' playoff game against Alsea.

City's football team, was named the league's Coach of the Year but tried to keep the award a secret when the honor was announced. While the coaches and players were happy when they heard about the award, he told them the Panthers' success was a collective effort, from the assistant coaches to his players, the school superintendent, the athletic director and the community.

In a Monday conference call, Teel, who dominated on yards rushed in the league, shared Thompson's sentiment, pointing out that the offensive line and the entire team made it possible for him to have a stellar season.

Panther football is a group effort, according to Thompson.

"Unfortunately," Thompson said, "one name gets put on an (award), but it's a group effort always here."

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The princess and the buck

Once upon a time (actually, just a couple weeks ago), in a land pretty darn near here, there lived a princess.

A few years ago she went on a deer hunt with her queen mum and the court jester and loved it. Ever since, the court jester had been scheming to get the princess her very own deer.

Sadly, the political events of the kingdom and life in general had conspired against him. However, he was persistent and was determined to make it happen this year.

With just a little luck, the golden ticket appeared in the post and planning began.

The jester wanted the princess to use the same model 98 7x57 Mauser that he, his father, and his sons had all used to take their first deer. To that end, he loaded some reduced-recoil bullets using TrailBoss for her to practice with. The range sessions went well, and some 140 grain Nosler Partitions were created for hunting.

The week before season, a picture of a deer was posted on the stable wall and the princess did some dry fire practice every day after school.

Finally the big day arrived. After making sure they had rifle, bullets, hunter orange and a knife, they were off.

The plan was to catch the deer as they came out to feed. When they snuck up on the field, no deer were to be seen, so they settled down in the tall grass to wait. The princess was very patient (mostly), and didn't fidget (too much) as they waited.

After two lifetimes (or was it 45 minutes?), the jester saw a deer appear at the far edge of the field. He quickly determined that it was a good buck. Unfortunately, they had no shot from their perch.



Rod Carpenter

They slowly belly crawled to a better position without being spotted, and the princess got set up on her bipod. In

an amazing display of calm, the jester told her to take her time and only shoot if she was comfortable.

The jester was sure he was going to have a stroke and a heart attack before the buck finally turned broadside and she pulled the trigger. The princess made a beautiful 150-yard shot and the buck dropped in his tracks.

The jester and princess were overjoyed and congratulated each other on their success.

When they looked up, there stood a buck! The jester was beyond puzzled. Surely that couldn't be their buck. Should he have her shoot again? No, he had heard the bullet strike and saw the buck fall.

They watched the buck leave and went to look for her deer. Panic set in when no buck was found in the initial search. There was much rejoicing when further searching found a beautiful 4x3 buck lying in the tall grass.

The Partition had taken him through both front shoulders and kept on going. The princess may need to work on different shot placement to decrease meat damage.

The jester was overjoyed, and the princess announced that it had been a wonderful experience. The jester is already scheming on an elk hunt.

Have a great hunting story? Drop us a line at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com.

Rod Carpenter is a husband, father and huntin' fool.



Blue Mountain Hospital District

Community Health Beat



What's new at BMHD?

COVID-19 Boosters Now Available

Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic now has all 3 COVID-19 boosters available. (Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson) Boosters are available by appointment - please call 541-575-0404 to schedule.

According to the CDC:

People who should get a booster dose due to increased risk for hospitalization and severe disease:

- 65 years and older
- 18+ living in long-term care facilities
- 50+ who have underlying medical conditions, increased risk of social inequities, or disabilities (including intellectual and developmental disabilities)

People who may get a booster dose:

- 18+ who have underlying medical conditions, increased risk of social inequities, or disabilities (including intellectual and developmental disabilities)
- 18+ who live or work in high-risk settings

• Calendar •

November 6th - Light Up a Life 5:00pm (Thadd's Place)

November 20th - Walk with a Doc 8:00am (GUHS Gym)

November 25th & 26th - Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 3rd - Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Day

December 4th - Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar 9am - 3pm (Grant County Fairgrounds)

Flu Shots now available!
Call for an appointment:
541-575-0404

We're Hiring!

Billing & Collection Specialist - Business Office (Full Time)

Claims & Billing Specialist - Business Office (Full Time)

Clerical Assistant - Rehabilitation Services (Full Time)

Community Health Worker - SWCC (Full Time)

Dietary Services Cook w/CDM Duties - Nutrition Services (Full Time)

Many other full-time, part-time & casual positions available, visit our website for more information & to apply.

Outstanding Trauma Survey



BMHD recently had a deficiency-free Trauma Survey from the Oregon Health Authority, recertifying as a Level IV Trauma Center. Surveyors were very complementary of BMHD's Trauma Program and the staff performing trauma care.

www.bluemountainhospital.org