



Ronald Bond/Observer file photo

Cove High School senior Jack Silveira has signed with the Eastern Oregon University track and cross country teams.

## Silveira joining EOU

■ Cove senior to run with the Mountaineers after considering a wide range of schools, from NAIA to Division I level

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Three years ago, Cove senior Jack Silveira considered distance running “evil.” Now, he’s going to college for it.

Silveira will be running cross country and track and field for Eastern Oregon University after signing his letter of intent to join the Mountaineers Feb. 4.

“I got the chance to look at a lot of different campuses and meet the teams. What stuck out to me was the coaching staff and the culture (at Eastern),” Silveira said. “Seeing how hungry (the athletes) are to get better was good to see. Coach (Ben) Welch, I could talk for an hour about his accolades, but he’s someone I trust to get me to where I want to get and get me there healthy.”

And where does Silveira hope to be? “The ultimate goal is to bring a national championship back to Eastern Oregon,” he said. “I think they’ve got something special brewing there, and I’m excited to

be a part of it.”

Silveira chose EOU after considering an uncommon breadth of schools, from the NAIA level — including EOU and College of Idaho — all the way to the NCAA Division I level — Portland State and Utah State. He also checked out D-II Western Oregon.

“I had a wide range, which was awesome,” he said. “To have any opportunity was great. EOU was just the right place.”

Silveira said the decision was based on what would be a good fit, even though his competitive side wanted to look at one of the D-I programs — Utah State was his second pick.

“I wanted to go to D-I just to prove myself,” he said. “Ultimately I had to look at what the big goal is and make the right decision, not one based solely on my pride.”

Silveira has been involved in track since middle school, but said he took the sport

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## Tigers take seventh in Mountain Home

Observer staff

Cruz Gallegos shot a score of 80 to take seventh place and lead the La Grande Tigers boys golf team to a seventh-place finish at Mountain Home, Idaho, Thursday.

“(The) greens were a

little tricky, especially for the younger kids,” Head Coach Ron Evans said. “All in all, I’m happy with the way we played. Cruz had a good day.”

Braden Bell and Tristen Shepherd both followed with scores of 91 for La Grande.

Jack Seydel added a 97, and Anton Evans shot a 110.

As a team, the Tigers carded a score of 359. Fruitland, Idaho, won the team title with 315.

La Grande is back in action Monday at Lewiston, Idaho. ■

## SPORTS BRIEFS

From staff reports

### EOU volleyball hosting clinic

The Eastern Oregon volleyball team will be hosting a volleyball academy for third- through 12th-grade athletes from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each of the next four Mondays — April 8, 15, 22 and 29 — at Quinn Coliseum. Cost is \$30 per session or \$100 for all four sessions.

For more information

or for questions, contact EOU Head Coach Kaki McLean-Morehead at [kaki.mclean@eou.edu](mailto:kaki.mclean@eou.edu).

### Eastern track hosting jumps, vault clinic

The Eastern Oregon track and field team will be putting on a jumps and vault clinic from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 at the EOU track facility.

EOU coaches Re-

becca Rhodes and Bob Heitstuman will lead the clinic, which is for eighth- through 12th-grade athletes. There are sessions for high jump (9-11 a.m.), long jump (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and triple jump (2-4 p.m.), and there will be two pole vault sessions (9 a.m.-noon, 12:30-3:30 p.m.).

For more information, visit [www.eousports.com](http://www.eousports.com).

## Rough seventh inning sends Tiger softball team to first loss

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

The La Grande Tigers softball team was three outs away from an eighth straight victory to start the 2019 season.

But four errors in the top of the seventh led the visiting Pendleton Buckaroos to score four runs to storm back and knock off La Grande, 4-3, Wednesday at Eastern Oregon University.

“(We played) six good innings of ball,” LHS Head Coach Woody Wright said. “We missed a few signs scattered throughout, but it’s seven innings of ball (you have to play). We didn’t complete the game, but it’s a great opportunity to learn from our mistakes.”

The loss also ended what was a 22-game winning streak for the Tigers dating back to last season.

Allie Brock hit a two-run home run for the Tigers that, through six innings, was the only offense generated by either team. Brock had also been solid in the pitcher’s circle, striking out nine batters through the first six innings and allowing just four hits.

“Allie pitched a great game. She did her job,” Wright said.

But the game took a turn in the seventh. Carissa Cooley singled to open the frame and wound up



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Allie Brock struck out 10 batters for La Grande in Wednesday’s game against Pendleton.

on third base after a pair of errors on the play. Maria Lillienthal followed with an infield single, and one out later DeLaney Duchek hit an RBI single to make it 2-1.

Elli Nirschl then reached on a bunt, which briefly left Lillienthal caught in a rundown between third and home. But an error allowed her to score the tying run, and a second error on the play resulted in both Duchek and Nirschl scoring for a 4-2 Pendleton lead, and

marked the first time all season La Grande had trailed.

The Tigers threatened in the bottom of the seventh with a final attempt to pull even or steal back the win. Jaiden Hafer singled with one out and scored on a two-out single by Lexee Gomes. Pinch-hitter Felicity Houston walked later to keep the inning alive, but Pendleton collected the final out to secure the win.

“A loss is all in

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## Julie Gregory Benefit Fundraiser April 6th

4-H Building @Union County Fairgrounds

Silent Auction • 4-8pm  
Live Dessert Auction starting at 6:30 pm

Over 40 Silent Auction Items including, Gift Certificates, Half of Beef, Custom Fire Ring, Recliner and much more!



## Spaghetti Dinner

Served from 4-9pm

\$12 Adults  
\$7 Children (under 10)

\*\*All proceeds go to the Gregory Family\*\*