

Turkey hunting with the fastest gun in the West

Redmond's Chance Koch an 11-time world champ

BY GARY LEWIS

For The Spokesman

Last Chance Morales turned toward me and flicked a question with his eyes. He wanted me to tell him whether or not to shoot the jake.

We had called our way down the long hill, through the fir trees and out into this meadow under the oaks. It was opening day and Troy Rodakowski was the boss caller. I had hunted here before. The only thing I had succeeded in getting was poison oak and a tick bite.

We let our guard down and then Rodakowski made a series of yelps with his mouth call. Four or five gobblers fired back and it sounded like they were on the other side of the small hummock. We scrambled. Troy sat on my right, up-slope, I plopped down in the shade of a tree trunk, Trevor Barclay sat with his camera behind me, and Chance with a tree trunk and a shrub for cover on my left.

A hundred yards down-slope two gobblers fanned out along the fence line while another gobbled and walked away up the opposite hill. From the corner of my eye, a black and shiny jake strutted into view this side of the fence. His gobble was sharper, juvenile, but he was legal. In a few moments he was in front of Chance, eager to find the hen we were advertising, but afraid to commit.

With a sideways glance at Chance, I could see the bird was in range, but I wasn't going to tell him to take it. The 28-year-old had invested 10 days last spring calling turkeys in eastern Oregon and spent eight days in the fall season and had yet to get a gobbler in his sights. After 18 days he had earned the shot at this jake,



Gary Lewis/For The Bulletin

The next day was Easter, and Last Chance Morales (a.k.a. Chance Koch) already had it planned out, visualized. After the festivities, he would pluck the bird, cut it down to its component parts and seek to harvest as much meat as he could from his trophy.

but if he held out he might get a bigger one. I gave him a shrug. Your call Chance.

In the Single Action Shooting Society and in Wild Bunch 3-gun competition, they call him Last Chance Morales. They also call him Chance Koch, of Redmond, and they call him world champion with 11 titles between 2009 and 2020. Sometimes you can find him shooting with fellow Wild Bunch members or in USPSA competition at the COSSA Park east of Bend, but it would be hard to find a more enthusiastic turkey hunter. You might call him the fastest gun in the West, but he let the jake walk. And I smiled. They don't call him Last Chance Morales for nothing. I knew right then Chance would get his turkey but probably not till the last

hour of the hunt.

We were pulling for him now. Troy, Trevor and I really wanted Chance to get his bird and we were going to do what it took to put him in the best spot.

We returned to camp that afternoon where there were turkeys in the yard and big beard-dragging toms too. Chance could have filled his tag the easy way. But it wasn't the way he had visualized it. This is what you learn talking to a world champion — they visualize every part of every stage of the game, playing it in their minds over and over.

We met up with Troy the next day at first light and after a quick vote headed back to where we had the close encounter with the jake the morning before. This time

we had good luck with us in the form of Troy's 5-year-old daughter Reese, head to toe in camo, wearing face paint like her daddy.

We called our way down the slope as we had the day before, but the gobblers refused to commit. After four hours of calling we hiked back and sat out a squall under the roof at Junkyard Extreme, a burger joint in Junction City.

When the sun broke through the clouds, we pointed the trucks at a nearby farm.

Time was running out. Five hundred yards from the truck we sat with our backs to a fence. It was all or nothing time. Rodakowski put his hand up to cup the sound and yelped and a gobbler fired back. Close, back in the brush, down in the canyon. And the next time he gobbled he was behind us.

This time Troy and Reese sat down in the middle, their backs to the fence, to the brush. I gambled on the birds coming from the mouth of the canyon, while Chance backed up next to a green cattle gate.

Every time Troy yelped, the gobbler fired back and then we heard him light on top of the gate and hop down. Chance picked him up out of the corner of his eye at 12 yards, put the red dot sight on its head and squeezed. At the shot, the bird tumbled and somersaulted and Chance sprinted to get his hands on his first turkey, a 2-year-old tom we reckoned weighed 14 pounds.

I made my play an hour later and missed a running right-to-left shot through the blackberries. The fastest bird in the West, my gobbler sailed unscathed out across the valley.

Gary Lewis is the host of "Frontier Unlimited TV" and author of "Fishing Central Oregon," "Fishing Mount Hood Country" and other titles. Contact Gary at www.garylewisoutdoors.com.

Fly-tying corner

Small but fierce, this fly design turns a traditional mayfly pattern into a more buoyant and visible trout morsel. The foam makes the fly not only float better, but also gives the angler a better visual target out on the water.

Mason's Mighty Morsel Mayfly is available in six different colors: Adams, BWO, PMD, Purple, March Brown, and Callibaetis. The poly wing gives the illusion of an emerging insect simulating multiple mayfly stages.

Use this one when fish are feeding on mayflies. Trout may cruise along the bank to sip dries in calm water. Use a long, light leader tapered to 5X. Keep the shadow of the rod off the water.

For the tail/shuck, use grizzly hackle fibers and a few short pieces of white poly. Build a slight taper to the gray floss body, ribbed with a stripped quill. Use thin gray foam for the underwing/head then finish with brown/badger hackle and a white poly wing.

—Gary Lewis, for The Bulletin

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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100 NOTICES

102 Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF DESCHUTES
In the Matter of the Estate of DWAYNE CLARK ROSEBROOK
Deceased CASE NO: 22PB02923
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jason Rosebrook, whose post office address is 14221 SW Miller Trail; Powell Butte, Oregon 97753 and whose telephone number is (541)408-1350, has been appointed Personal Representative of the above entitled Estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative c/o Paul F. Sumner, P.O. Box 16, Madras, Oregon 97741, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative or the lawyer for the personal representative. Dated and first published April 26, 2022.

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
S/ PAUL F. SUMNER
PAUL F. SUMNER
OSB # 780913
P.O. Box 16/185 NW "B" Street
Madras, Oregon 97741
(541) 475-7277



Courtesy photo

Ryan Gibler, of Redmond, earned the rank of Eagle Scout after finishing an honor wall for Redmond veterans.

Teen earns Eagle Scout rank with local project

Spokesman staff

Redmond's Ryan Gibler, a member of Boy Scouts Troop 9027, has earned their Eagle Scout rank by finishing a community service project.

Gibler planned, coordinated, and built an honor wall for Redmond veterans, which is located at the VFW Post.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank. A dedication and Court of Honor ceremony was held Saturday, May 7 at VFW Post 4108, 491 SW Veterans Way.

SOLUTION

Sudoku on A2

9	2	4	5	8	7	3	1	6
5	1	6	2	4	3	8	9	7
8	7	3	9	6	1	4	2	5
2	4	7	6	1	5	9	3	8
3	5	9	8	7	4	1	6	2
1	6	8	3	9	2	7	5	4
6	9	2	4	3	8	5	7	1
4	3	1	7	5	6	2	8	9
7	8	5	1	2	9	6	4	3



Partners In Care

Community Education — A Virtual Presentation

Peaceful Closure for Veterans and their Families

During this workshop, you will: Learn how to best support aging veterans, especially those who have experienced trauma, understand how trauma from military experience can resurface at end of life, both for veterans and their families, learn how clinicians, family, and friends can better understand what may cause trauma to resurface at end-of-life, and how to support them and honor their service.

May 20
Friday
noon-1pm

Open to the community at no cost.
Register at: <https://bit.ly/3EgpkdY>
Or RSVP at communityevents@partnersbend.org, and a Zoom registration will be emailed to you.

(541) 382-5882 PartnersBend.org

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Attention Parents of 2022 Grads!

Help make some memories!

The Bulletin is publishing a special Class of 2022 Graduation section on June 5 to celebrate graduating Central Oregon high school students.

Enter a congratulatory message or a short biography along with a photo for just \$25. Your messages will be grouped together by school and published in full color. To be included go to: bendbulletin.com/graduations

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