



Courtesy photo

Western Oregon University freshman David Ribich, a 2014 graduate of Enterprise HS, crossed the finish line first among 29 runners March 21 while setting a personal best time of 3:55.3 in the 1500-meter run.

## Ribich first in 1500 meters

David Ribich, the multi-sport state champion who graduated from Enterprise High School in 2014, continued his winning ways March 21 when he crossed the finish line first at an approximately 20-team track meet held at Mt. Hood Community College, in Gresham.

In only his third or fourth race of the season while running for Western Oregon University, Ribich ran a personal best time of 3:55.3 to best 28 other runners and win that Portland State University-sponsored 1500-meter race held in 60-degree weather under immaculate skies.

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# OFF THE HOOK

## LOCAL STEELHEAD SEASON ENDS APRIL 15



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Cooper Simmons, 10, of Pendleton, fished for steelhead in the Thorn Creek Hole on the Imnaha River Friday morning, March 27. Cooper was spending the last few days of spring break fishing with his dad Craig and his brother Sam. Cooper's dad grew up in Wallowa County and the Coopers like to come here as often as they can.

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

With steelhead season to close in two weeks and many of those anadromous fish still in the Wallowa and Imnaha rivers, the variables to fishing success before steelhead achieve their life mission of spawning and fertilizing roe to propagate the species remain as great as ever.

Even creel counts taken when Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff learn relative success rates by checking certain fishermen along rivers provide mere "snapshots" of whether the coveted sport fish will be caught that day or even the next, says 15-year fish biologist Jeff

Yanke, now ODFW's District Fish Biologist, based in Enterprise.

Yanke repeats that this year's steelhead run is the second largest run within the past five years with just under 12,000 of the fish having returned from the Pacific Ocean and scaled the last big hurdle, the Lower Granite Dam, before heading into the Grande Ronde/Wallowa and Imnaha rivers. He adds that a large push of about 1,000 steelhead came into the Wallowa Hatchery, near Enterprise, "really, really early," and about 60 to 65 percent of total returnees expected at that hatchery already have arrived.

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## Fish given away

By Rocky Wilson  
Wallowa County Chieftain

In a program designed to continue avoiding a practice in effect as recently as 10 years ago when excess steelhead returning to hatcheries in Wallowa County were buried and disposed of, more than 300 steelhead have been given away for consumption purposes to willing recipients through Community Connection since late February.

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# Outlaws track squad biggest yet

By Rob Ruth  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — "This has been the biggest crew I've ever had — ever," declared Dan Moody, longtime Enterprise High School track coach and athletic director, during his team's March 19 practice, its final practice before spring break.

Although only around half the squad's athletes were able to attend the Thursday practice (Moody informed them there'd also be a couple of opportunities to practice during the break, however), the coach was ebullient about the roster's size: in all, 52 athletes, seven of them from Wallowa High.

The EHS-WHS co-op

THIS HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CREW I'VE EVER HAD — EVER.

Coach Moody

track and field team competes under the EHS Outlaws banner.

This year's record-breaking participation level follows 2014's then-record turnout of 43 student athletes.

And Moody's 2015 lineup should again be good for ample representation at May's state meet in Eugene. In 2014, the Outlaws qualified 13 for the trip — nine boys and four girls — and about half of that group is returning. The list includes Dawn Mist Movich-Fields (fifth in 800m at state), Sarah Madsen (sixth in high jump), Chandler Burns (on first-place 4 x 400 relay

team), Nathan Perren (second in high jump and fourth in 300m hurdles), Trent Bales (4 x 400 relay), Daniel Kohlhepp (discus, second at district), and Kaden Lathrop (second in 300m hurdles, third in 110m hurdles, fourth in triple jump, and member of winning 4 x 400 relay team). Another 2014 qualifier, javelin thrower Nikolai Christoffersen (third at state), is currently recovering from a back injury and Moody doesn't yet know if Christoffersen will be participating in 2015.

Team strengths Moody cites in 2015's early going include boys' sprinting and

girls' distance running. In the latter category, returning junior Movich-Fields is the natural leader, but Moody observes that freshman Eliza Irish "runs right with her in practice."

In field events, the Ent/Wal girls lost a state-placing discus thrower and shot-putter in the person of Hannah Schaafsma, who graduated, but Moody sounds optimistic about senior Jolene Ginter's prospects for success throwing the javelin. "Jolene throws the javelin real well," the coach said.

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Rob Ruth/Chieftain  
Rocky Davidson, a senior, practices a long jump while Outlaw teammates and track and field coach Dan Moody (on bench) look on.

### Wallowa County sunrise and sunset April 2 - April 8 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Thursday, April 2	Friday, April 3	Saturday, April 4	Sunday, April 5	Monday, April 6	Tuesday, April 7	Wednesday, April 8
Rise ..... 6:28	Rise ..... 6:26	Rise ..... 6:24	Rise ..... 6:22	Rise ..... 6:20	Rise ..... 6:19	Rise ..... 6:17
Set ..... 7:18	Set ..... 7:20	Set ..... 7:21	Set ..... 7:22	Set ..... 7:23	Set ..... 7:25	Set ..... 7:26

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