

SILVER: Team USA comes back to take second

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The practice paid off, but Olsen will be the first to admit there is always a bit of luck required in a competition. At the championship event, fishermen are assigned “beats” (sections) along the river or in the lakes and have three hours to fish that spot. They are judged solely on the number of fish they catch. In Bosnia, competitors fished four rivers (Pliva River,

Sana River, Vrbas River and Sanica River) and one lake (Pliva Lake). The way the competition works is that competitors rotate through four or five bodies of water and fish against people who are fishing the same water body at the same time. “It was pretty cool the way it (the winning moment) happened,” Olsen recalls. “In my last session I had six fish out of a poor section of river. I knew I had to fish well enough to keep

a medal. With four minutes left I had six fish on the board and I knew it would come down to my last fish. I sprinted back, doing my best Usain Bolt impression, and with two minutes left started fishing the best spot on my beat. I made half a dozen casts using an ant dry fly. “In the last 30 seconds, I had a brown trout rise to my fly. My seventh fish ended up being my bronze medal fish. He was only about nine or 10 inches, but it was enough.”

How does one feel when one wins a world championship medal? A lot of ways, Olsen said. “It was my seventh world championship,” he said. “I’ve fished against all these amazing anglers from around the world, some of them have been at this 15 years and still haven’t had the chance to get a medal — to get one for myself was pretty humbling and pretty exciting.” He’s hoping to recreate that

heady mix of emotions in 2016 (Sept. 11–17), in Vale, Colorado when the World Championship returns to the USA for the first time since the Wyoming debacle. If ever there was a time for Team USA to fish like pros — and get lucky in their beat assignment, this will be it. Olsen is doing his part to prepare; he’s fishing. The good thing about Wallowa County, he said, is “there is a lot of variety here. I can do anything from fishing the

Grande Ronde to hiking into a tiny little lake; it keeps it interesting.” Since he’s a married man with a 19-month-old child, he often fishes with wife, Julia, and son, Levi, in tandem. “We absolutely love it here,” he said. And his game strategy for next year in Vale? “You can never stop learning,” he said. “The more you’re on the water the better off you’re going to be.”

GOLF: Suto Siblings ones to watch for

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In answer to a question, she said it’s possible that Gibbs saw her golfing when she was on the course at the same time his team was practicing early this year, but at that time “my golf game was pretty rusty,” she recalls, adding: “Now I’ve got my golf swing back.” If Victoria fares as well

as she plans to on the high school circuit, it could mark the start of a very long run of Suto golfing stardom at JCS — eight years’ worth, considering Blade is four years Victoria’s junior. Blade says competing in tournaments is what he enjoys most about golf. “He likes winning,” sister Victoria puts in.

It’s not all about the ephemeral thrill of youthful victory, though, as the 10-year-old eyes at least one meaningful goal. “One day I want to be better than my dad because he has a better swing than me,” Blade says. And how does he think he stacks up against sister Victoria? “I think I have a better swing than her, but she still hits farther than me,” Blade responds. He and Victoria have an older sister, Johnelle, who

just completed her sophomore year at JCS, but Johnelle’s more a track athlete than a golfer — a member of the school’s 4x400 relay team that finished sixth at state in May.

Dad John Suto isn’t bashful about stating some goals for daughter Victoria’s golf game during her first year of high school. “I’d like to get her into the low 90s by next fall and maybe the 80s by the end of the season,” he says.

HUNT: Raffle part of school fundraiser

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A kill is guaranteed, provided the hunter can come back several weekends if necessary. No hunting tags or licenses are required. Lodging is available on the ranch for out-of-town winners. Up to three people may ride with the guide. Water Canyon Ranch is donating the buffalo, a young bull suitable for meat, to Friends of

the Wallowa School District. To purchase a raffle ticket for this once-in-a-lifetime hunt, phone 541-886-3023 and you will be contacted back. Alternatively, you can mail a check along with necessary information — name, phone number, address, and e-mail address if you have one — to Buffalo Hunt, Box 229, Wallowa, OR 97885. No more than 250 tickets will be sold.

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The **Wallowa County Chieftain**

Golfing at sunset a pleasant option

No doubt everyone made a whole lot of memories over this past Fourth weekend. There’s certainly no prettier place to celebrate our independence than right here in the county. Many folks, who were camped at Wallowa Lake for the July holiday, took a few hours of their vacation to play golf at Alpine Meadows. Phil Caldwell, who works part-time in the clubhouse, reported many tourist families on the course. He also mentioned he’d had the pleasure of meeting one of those visitors. She was Leslie Lowe, from KHQ Channel 6 Weather in Spokane. She and husband, Brent Lowe, were visiting relatives in the area. Caldwell says Lowe’s even prettier in person, and has an outgoing personality. For as hot as the days have been, sunset on the course is a perfectly pleasant time to play. Friday evening, scotch ball

couples found relief from the heat as they golfed in the deepening shadows across the fairways. Terry and Cheri Lamb won gross. Ray and Dayle Harmon, net. To beat the heat, ten members of ladies golf met Tuesday ready to play at 7 a.m. The game-of-the-day called Las Vegas Scramble was a roll of the dice. Laidee Ann Wolfe, Ruby Zollman, Beth Hough and Kathy Reynolds golfed 89; Judy Ables, Tammy Crawford and Rochelle Danielson, 85; and Cheri Lamb, Ernestine Kilgore and Carol Marr, a winning jackpot score of 77. Alpine Meadows is looking good these

days. The berms, designed from excess dirt from the pond project, blend well into the fairway scene. The work of leveling and seeding two raised tee boxes — forward #1 and middle #2 — is finished, and will be ready for use in August. Freshly potted flowers and hanging baskets give needed color to the front entry, and the deck on the clubhouse west-side. The baskets were arranged by Oveson Greenhouse in Wallowa, by Eva and daughter, Lynique. Lady golfers used their green thumb technique at tee boxes and planters. Remember to sign up and play in the first annual Two-Person Best Ball tournament Saturday and Sunday, July 11 and 12. A prime rib dinner is scheduled Saturday night. Teams will be auctioned off to compete in a Calcutta event for Sunday’s round.

made it a part of their running vacation. The two women had already participated in multiple runs or bikes races. “I tell you,” Bauer said, “I have no more work stress.” The two women had just completed the Wallowa-to-Minam trip in a Rail-rider pedicar. During the ride they had encountered a cinnamon-colored bear. “We got it all on GoPro,” Bauer said. The vacation destination and beauty of the Lostine River Run has contributed to its success. The run has been held every year since 1982 and is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Wallowa County. Funds are contributed to the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

RACE: River Run draws families, walkers

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The oldest male racer in the 5K was Herbert Ovestrud, 87, racing for his fifth year at the Lostine River Run. Ovestrud ran a 51:42 race for an overall 67th place. “We Type

O blood types are the cave-man type and I have to keep in shape,” Ovestrud joked. The oldest female racer was Gay Gallagher, 62, of Kaufman, Texas, with a time of 35:51 and a very respectful overall 38th place. Another 17 folks signed up to walk the 5K with three Enterprise walkers taking the top honors. Fred Barston, 67, won the event with a time of 40:11; Holly Akenson, 57, took second with a time of 40:33; and Randi Jandt, 55, lost the tie-breaker and came in third with her time of 40:33. Glenn Brown, 72, of Enterprise, was the oldest male walker and turned in a time

of 53:00. The oldest female walker was Suzi Brown, of Enterprise, with a time of 49:32. A keen bunch of youngsters lined up for the mile sprint and when the gun went off 19 runners competed and another handful of adults came along for the exercise and companionship. Foster Hobbs, 13, of Lostine, won with a time of 5:59. Alisa Fox, 13, of La Grande, took second, Taylor Fox, 10, of La Grande, took third, and Caleb Sheahan, 10, of Enterprise, finished fourth. Many runners made the event part of their extended vacation. Lynn Lary and Therese Bauer, of Eugene,

made it a part of their running vacation. The two women had already participated in multiple runs or bikes races. “I tell you,” Bauer said, “I have no more work stress.” The two women had just completed the Wallowa-to-Minam trip in a Rail-rider pedicar. During the ride they had encountered a cinnamon-colored bear. “We got it all on GoPro,” Bauer said. The vacation destination and beauty of the Lostine River Run has contributed to its success. The run has been held every year since 1982 and is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Wallowa County. Funds are contributed to the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

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