

STAR

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Though he was the youngest competitor in his division, he earned first prize, which included a trophy, belt buckle and a spot in the Buckmasters event. He also was the youngest competitor at Buckmasters event, where he placed third and earned a \$1,200 Mathews bow and a plaque.

"It's pretty convenient the way it all worked out," Gomes said. "A piece of my hunting bow broke off and I had to borrow a bow for this hunting season."

As a bonus, he also met and posed for pictures with Jackie Bushman, a Gomes family favorite and renowned bow hunter who hosts his own show on the Outdoor Channel. The competition aired on the Outdoor Channel as well.

The Bushman connection paid off in other ways.

"Jackie Bushman went out of his way to help kids," Julie Gomes said. "It's the first time he let kids be on the show, and he devoted about four hours to us. He also gave all the (competitors) tickets to the Kentucky Headhunters concert. He just did that out of the kindness of his heart."

Cole Gomes said the two tournaments were quite different. "4-H had its specific guidelines, and it was a stationary target shoot. The 4-H is great; it's what brought me to Alabama and to the Buckmasters, which is a whole different thing. It had pop-up targets, and it was nice — a cool indoor range where you're surrounded by people, and we shot off of a pedestal."

The most challenging part

of the competitions for Gomes was trying to hold up under pressure.

"That and the weather," he said. "For the 4-H, it was 100-degree weather and 100 percent humidity."

"He wore his cowboy boots and his jeans just like he does every day," his mom said. "People looked at him like he was nuts."

Gomes wasn't born with a bow in his hand. Because of a childhood birth defect called tethered spine allowed Cole only limited involvement in contact sports. His sister and brother-in-law got him started shooting around age 9, and he quickly excelled at the sport. His parents also took up the sport and now function as leaders of the White Tail Legends 4-H Archery Club.

Gomes' fame as an archer is spreading outside of Wallowa County. He recently was featured with a photo in National Field Archery Association magazine and a feature story in Oregon Bow Hunter magazine. However, the new-found fame doesn't leave Gomes much time to rest on his laurels. Upon his return from Alabama, he hustled off to elk camp for the season and bagged a 7x7 elk just two days before the end of the season. The White Tail Legends club is starting up again in November.

Already, he is preparing to attend 4-H nationals in Nebraska in June. He currently is raising funding for the trip by collecting aluminum cans while also planning a future bow-hunting seminar with other well-respected archers from the region.

The trip left Gomes with a profound sense of achievement and an extra appreciation for 4-H.

"The experience of being able to go that far and compete at that level while meeting Jackie and appearing on television means a lot, but 4-H is what brought me there," he said.

ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR CEMETERY



Kathleen Elynn/Chieftain

Director of the Enterprise Cemetery Board Perry Davis (left) and board member Jim Butner (right) accept a Pacific Power Foundation check for \$3,500 from Pacific Power Regional Business Manager Bill Clemens. Davis holds the remote control for the water sprinklers that allows him to turn on any one of the 43 watering zones (235 heads) from within a two-mile range. It's the second check that the Pacific Power Foundation has contributed to the cemetery project. "We love to support our communities and this will support the entire community over time," Clemens said. The sprinkler running behind the men is one in the zone that waters the lower old section of the cemetery. "It's been remarkable how fast we got this done," Davis marveled. Not pictured, but attending the event, were supporters Sondra Lozier, Pat Willis of the Cemetery Board and Betty Butner, who also stood in for her hard-working cemetery project partner Judy Wortman.

Popular evangelist plans stop in Athena

By Kathy Aney
East Oregonian

Evangelist Luis Palau, dubbed by some as the Latin Billy Graham, travels around the world, attracting millions of believers and non-believers alike with his enthusiastic, personal style. Last summer, the popular Argentina-born pastor, radio host and author drew 60,000 people to a festi-

val in Central Park.

For about 40 years, Athena farmer Bob Johns has been pestering Palau to preach in his tiny Northeast Oregon town. Next month, Johns will get his wish when Palau appears in the Weston-McEwen High School gym. When Johns tells people about this, he gets looks of incredulity.

"They say, 'You've gotta be kidding. Luis Palau in Athena, Oregon? No way,'" Johns said, grinning broadly.

The idea of Palau coming to Athena struck Johns in 1978 when he attended a leadership conference at Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington, where he first heard Palau speak.

"The Lord leaned on my heart right then that Luis Palau was to come to Athena," Johns recalled.

He phoned Palau's Beaverton headquarters and requested an appearance. When they offered to send another evangelist, Johns insisted, "No, it's got to be Luis."

God, he insists, put the idea

solidly into his mind and he was simply following the lead. The farmer waited patiently. When he wasn't tending his wheat and pea crops, he often had his nose in one of Palau's books.

Johns, a member of the Athena Christian Church, loves Palau's preaching. You don't get a lot of flowery proselytizing with Palau, Johns said.

"His message is simple and direct," Johns said. "It sinks into your heart."

In 1998, Johns found himself sitting beside Palau during a prayer breakfast in Washington, D.C. Eventually, Johns got around to sharing his vision of Palau coming to Athena.

"I told Luis 'You're supposed to come to Athena, Oregon,'" Johns said. "He just looked at me."

Over the next 18 years, Johns continued to call and email the Palau organization with the message that "Luis is supposed to come to Athena."

"Bob Johns has known Luis and the team for years," said Colin James, a vice-president for the Palau organization. "He's always kidded Luis that 'someday you're coming to Athena.' Recently, he invited us again and this time it just kind of clicked with us."

Finally, in January, Johns finally got the official thumbs up. Palau will speak at 2 p.m., Oct. 15 at Weston-McEwen High School. A BMX bike

demo will precede the evangelist's message, starting at noon. The day before, Palau will meet with area pastors at a gathering in Walla Walla.

Palau's executive assistant, Jane Stradley, has known Palau for 50 years and worked for the organization for the last 27. She said the idea of the mega-evangelist going to Athena wasn't outlandish.

"It doesn't matter the size," Stradley said. "Whether its Central Park or Athena, it doesn't matter."

She said the visit to such a tiny town isn't the first for Palau. The evangelist downsizes occasionally and has spoken in Lakeview, Parkdale and other small places in the region as part of Operation Pacific Northwest.

"We wanted not to neglect our own backyard," James said.

Doing things on a smaller scale means some change in the model, but the message is the same.

"Whether its New York City or Athena, Weston, Helix or Adams, it's the same dynamics," James said.

Johns can't wait. He's like the proverbial little kid on Christmas morning. Luis Palau was meant to come to Athena and now he is.

"I ask, 'Why not?'" he said. "Why not Athena?"

He hopes people will fill the gym, which seats 800. However, he said he's not worried about the minutia.

"It's the Lord's work," Johns said. "I'll trust him to do what he's going to do."

The free event is sponsored by the churches of Athena, Helix, Weston and Adams and the Luis Palau Association.

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Introduction of State Candidates:
Oregon State Legislative, Guest

- Representative Greg Bareto, District 058
- Oregon State Senate District 029 Candidates
- Senator William Hansell
- Barbara Dickerson

Introduction: Invited local uncontested candidates:

- Todd Nash, Candidate for Wallowa County Commissioner
- Steve Rogers, Candidate for Wallowa County Sheriff
- Shonelle Dutcher, Candidate for Wallowa County Treasurer
- All candidates for mayors and councilor city positions

Introduction: Enterprise Mayor Candidates

- William Coffin • George Hill
- Stacy Karvoski • Daniel Sticka