



Wallowa County teen tops in 4-H nationals



Courtesy Photo/Julie Gomes

Enterprise High School sophomore Cole Gomes and his trusty Rossi .22 long rifle competes at the 2017 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, Neb. Gomes placed first in combined shooting and hunting/decision making skills at the championships.

He competes in archery, shotgun and rifle contests

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Sharpshooter Cole Gomes is acquiring a reputation as a pirate. He goes off to take long journeys and comes home bearing gold treasure. His latest adventure saw the 15-year-old heading to Grand Island, Neb., to compete in the 2017 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships. He competed against 58 other archers in the event June 25-30 at University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Competitors from each state were grouped into teams of four. Although more than four Oregon shooting sports competitors qualified for the event, only one other Oregon shooter chose to compete, meaning both Gomes and he were forced to compete as individuals. The setback didn't keep Gomes from showing his usual prowess in all things shooting. Gomes won the combined shooting in the hunting skills and decision-making

category of the competition. The combined shooting saw Gomes competing in archery, shotgun and rifle skills, which included a 3-D archery course, a sporting clay shotgun course and a paper silhouette small-bore rifle course. He excelled in all three, shooting with his own equipment. "I was pretty high-scoring in all of them," Gomes said. "I almost shot the same score all the way across. The wind on the archery course set me back a little bit, but I still ended up winning the archery." Gomes showed his worth as a hunting partner through his decision-making skills test, which featured shoot or don't shoot situations on a video screen. The event also had portions pertaining to hunter ethics, something he also easily passed. The most challenging part of the competition for Gomes were the shotgun and animal identification tests. Although he enjoyed competing, Gomes said his favorite part wasn't the win itself. "It was more about watching other people and seeing how they did things and learning from them," Gomes said. "I helped other people by sharing my technique. It was making great memories and knowing that 4-H was making all this possible." He also said he enjoyed competing

in compass and map reading, something he doesn't do much of locally as he knows the territory well. "I actually enjoyed it," Gomes said. "Looking at a piece of paper and compass and having them tell me which way I needed to go was pretty cool. It's something I don't do often." Getting to meet new people from all over the country and reconnecting with others he hadn't seen in some time proved to be Gomes' favorite overall part of the event. Even if Gomes qualifies for the event next year, he will not be able to attend as the state qualifying contest overlaps the national championships. "I should get to go the year after," he said. Gomes didn't take the credit for his competition success. "I want to thank all my sponsors, those that donated and those who attended my seminar. I'd also like to thank the 4-H leaders and the 4-H office that allowed us to drive their van there all the way and back," he said. Gomes is a member of the White Tail Legends 4-H shooting club, which is coached by his parents, Ed and Julie Gomes.

Forest Service proposes a boater fee on Snake River

It would pay for improvements on Wild and Scenic part

As part of a continued effort to provide quality recreation opportunities, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is proposing a Special Recreation Permit boater fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River. If enacted, the fee would provide for a sustainable funding source for maintenance and enhancement of the river, river corridor and facilities. Fee revenue could be used to address deferred maintenance at developed facilities and historic sites, provide for expanded public education and interpretation, address health and human safety concerns and expand law enforcement efforts. The public would have a say in determining where the fee revenue would be used. **What is proposed?** The Special Recreation Permit Fee would range from \$5 to \$10 per user of any powerboat or float boat watercraft per trip on the Snake River within the boundaries of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area upriver from Cache Creek Ranch (the Wild and Scenic portion of the river). Employees of outfitters and guides would not be subject to the fee during working hours, nor would travel by private, noncommercial boat to any private land inholding; or any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provisions of treaty or law. **Why a Special Recreation Permit Fee?** To establish a sustainable funding source for the facilities, amenities, and experiences offered along the Wild and Scenic Snake River. In the past, a variety of resources have been used to manage the Wild and Scenic Snake River. This has included using congressional funds; outfitter and guide permit fees, partnerships with Idaho Power, boating organizations, numerous public service and educational organizations, and grants from Oregon State Marine Board. There is, however, a significant amount of infrastructure maintenance and efforts to maintain the river's outstandingly remarkable values. Similar fee permits are found on the John Day and Rogue Rivers and the adjacent Middle Fork and main Salmon Rivers in Idaho. **What is the Wild and Scenic Snake River?** The Wild and Scenic Snake River winds through Hells Canyon National Recreation Area for 71.5 miles. The river is recognized for having outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, fisheries, vegetation/botanical, ecological and cultural values. The Forest Service tries to provide the best experience for visitors while protecting the environment that has been cherished for generations. Personal and commercial visitors, in motorized or nonmotorized watercraft is the primary use of the Wild and Scenic Snake River. Private boat use is managed through a reservation permit system, which limits the number of boats during the popular summer season. **What can special recreation permit fees be used for?** A minimum of 95 percent of the fees collected will go back to the river corridor. These funds can be used to protect and interpret the values associated with the Wild and Scenic River designation. Here are some examples of how the funding could be used to address the following needs: Reconstruction of Hells Canyon Creek Boat Launch and the Pittsburg Landing water system. Continued levels of visitor contacts and services with uniformed employees at the Hells Canyon Creek Boat Launch and Pittsburg Landing. Increased law enforcement presence with Forest Service or cooperative agreements with state and other entities. Year-round presence of volunteers and staff at the historic Kirkwood and cache Creek ranches to assist with visitor information and interpretation.

Tournament was time of learning, friendship and fun

After a sweltering day of golf at Clarkston, Wash., frosty blackberry, butterscotch and caramel milkshakes at Boggan's on the Grande Ronde were just the ticket for Cindy Parks, Panky Hauxwell, Kathy Reynolds, Carol Marr and Rochelle Danielson. The tired golfers, with shakes in hand, left the cafe, the river and Rattlesnake Grade behind and continued their journey home in silence. As the car wound up the switchbacks of Buford Grade, and southward on the North Highway, the only sound to be heard above the engine's hum was the sipping, slurping of the thick, creamy mass through a straw. It had been a long but rewarding day.

tee time

Rochelle Danielson

To accept the invitation from the Quail Ridge Ladies Golf group, five AMGC gals committed themselves to arise early on Thursday morning, meet at the golf course at 5:30 a.m., commute two hours over mountainous terrain to the Evergreen State's hillside destination in time for registration at 7:30 a.m., to be teamed up with strangers and play 18 holes of golf on an unfamiliar course. You might ask why torture

yourself? The answer is it is only torture if you let it be. In the Pacific Northwest Golfer magazine, in an article, "Make Time, Take Time for Tournaments," written by Cheri Brennan, she states, "Invariably when women golfers are asked why they don't play in tournaments, a common response is, 'I'm not good enough.' But they're missing a great opportunity to network, build relationships, support worthy causes and make new friends. Also in the piece, a tip comes from Peggy Conley, PPGA Hall of Famer, who wrote: "80 percent of the other golfers don't watch you, and the other 20 percent wish you'd do worse. Just hit the ball and giggle."

The Alpine Meadow gals agreed that playing in the Quail Ridge Invitational built new relationships and made new friends. In team play, Carol Marr and Cindy Parks played in the same foursome and won with a score of 41. Reynolds, Hauxwell and Danielson played with gals from different clubs making friends of strangers. The course proved a challenge, but local gals helped explain the layout. The most memorable advice: Stay out of the rough because of rattlesnakes. Needless to say, we listened. No need to get rattled. Rochelle Danielson writes an occasional golf column throughout the summer.



Chief Joseph Days Junior Parade Reminder!

All kids under age 16 are invited to enter the Junior Parade. Grand Prize is a Coca-Cola Portable Basketball Hoop, plus cash prizes for best in these categories: costumes, wheels, floats, marching groups, and riding

Register at 9:00am behind the Indian Lodge Motel on Friday, July 28th! OR register online by Wed. July 26th (all entries must be at Motel by 9:00am)

All entries receive a certificate for ice cream at R&R, and a photo with the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo Court!

Parade is at 10 am
Friday, July 28th
See You There!

Questions:
Contact Diane Witherrite 541-263-0628
or at Community Bank 541-432-9050



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