

TAKING THE LEAD



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Bayden Menton, right, runs during the Catherine Creek Scamper Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. Menton coordinated the upcoming Wallowa County Invitational as his senior project.

Wallowa Valley kicks off season at Catherine Creek Scamper

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

UNION — Zac Knapp posted the winning time and Bayden Menton took third as the two-time defending champion Wallowa County boys cross-country team began the season at the Catherine Creek Scamper Friday, Sept. 10.

Knapp won by nearly 24 seconds over Union/Cove's Taylor Fox, as the Outlaws' senior turned in a time of 17:22. Menton, the only other runner to break 18 minutes, was close behind in 17:53.6.

Ian Goodrich, third for Wallowa Valley, was 13th in 19:38.6.

The three were the top Outlaw runners in the fastest flight of two boys races, and took second as a team in the race with 14 points, just behind Union/Cove with 11 points.

In the second flight, Chase Homan was eighth in 20:48.2, and Weston Wolfe was ninth in 20:50.8. Andrew Hurley was 16th in 21:43.6, and Andrew Nordtvedt was 19th in 21:46.5.

Wallowa Valley's second-flight runners took third with 40 points.

On the girls side, which had just one flight, the Outlaws were fourth with 100 points. Wallowa Valley was led by Iona McDonald who had a time of 24:02.2, good for 14th. Nevaeh James, in a time of 25:10, was 23rd. Maddie Nordtvedt was 31st in 25:27.9, Michalia Caine placed 36th in 26:52.4, and Isabella Brann took 41st in 27:17.6. Lannie Stonebrink rounded out the Outlaws in 45th in 27:44.3.

"I thought they ran OK, but we got a lot of work to do," head coach Dan Moody said, "as always this time of year. (I'm) not up on the first of the year meets, but we had some kids that are first-time runners that ran. That's a difficult course, and they ran OK."

The Outlaws were on the course for the first time since the boys team claimed the state title in the spring season in April.

See Scamper, Page A10



Alex Wittwer/The Observer

Zac Knapp took first place at the Catherine Creek Scamper Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, to lead the Wallowa Valley effort.

Senior project brings XC meet back to Wallowa County

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Wallowa County is going to be the site of a cross-country meet for the first time in several years thanks to the efforts of a Joseph High School student.

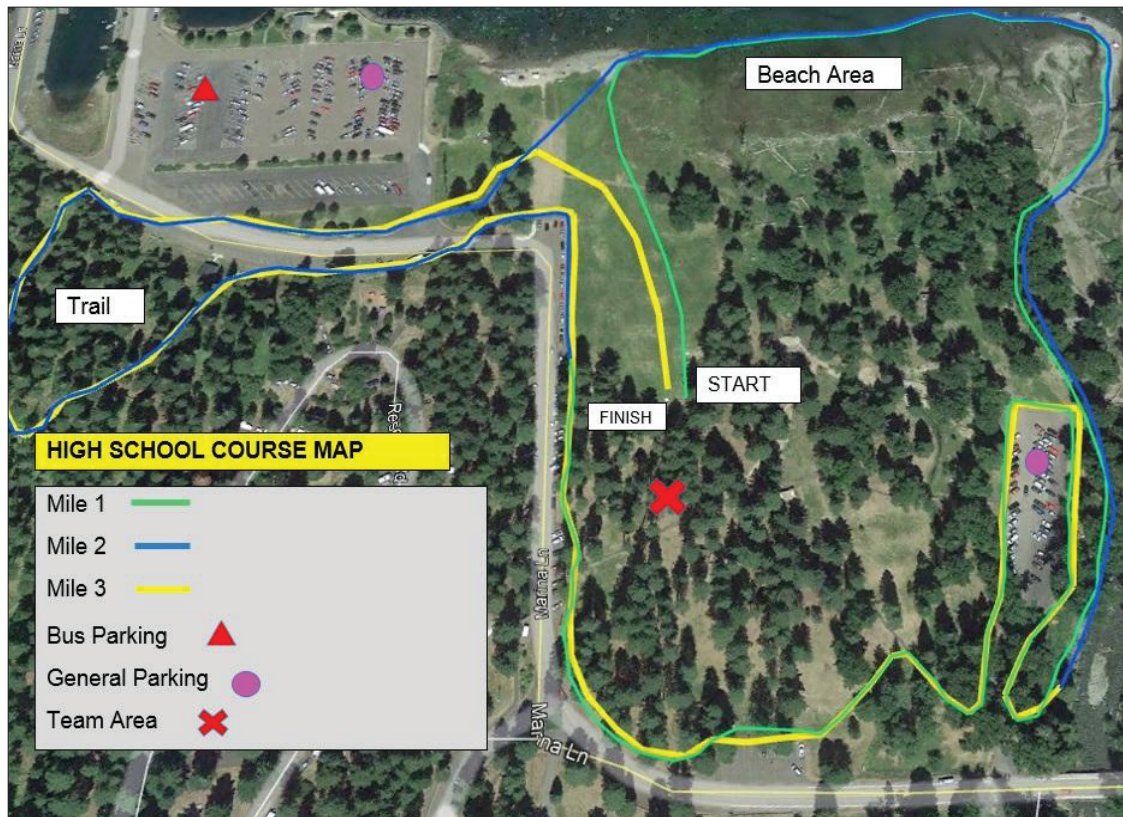
Bayden Menton, a senior who runs for the Wallowa Valley cross-country squad, did the legwork that resulted in the Wallowa County Invitational, which will be run Friday, Sept. 17, at Wallowa Lake State Park at the south end of Wallowa Lake.

"It can pretty much be anything you want that you're interested in," Menton said. "I've always wanted to have a meet up at the head of the lake. With this senior project I (said), 'Oh, that is what I should do.'"

The last race hosted by the Wallowa County schools was in 2016, due in part to other races getting scheduled that same weekend and teams not traveling up to a race, head coach Dan Moody said.

"Everyone was putting meets on at the same time, and they stopped coming," he said.

Menton said the scenery Wallowa Lake offers, in addition to what the course itself will con-



Jenny Reinhardt and Bayden Menton/Contributed Map

Shown is the route of the Wallowa County Invitational, a cross-country race Wallowa Valley runner Bayden Menton orchestrated for his senior project. The race, run at Wallowa Lake State Park, takes place Friday, Sept. 17, 2021.

tain, should make for an appealing race.

"The fact that it's a scenic place is definitely part of it," he

said. "Also the course itself, in the park, it has a lot of different elements. You can make the course go down onto the beach,

along the river, grassy areas, and also add in some trails."

See Project, Page A10



Ellen Morris Bishop/For the Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa's Zoe Hermens goes up for a block during the Cougars' home match against Pilot Rock Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021. Wallowa won the match in five sets.

Cougars get into win column with two victories

Chieftain staff

WALLOWA — The Wallowa Cougars picked up their first wins of the fall last week as they bounce back from a slow start to the season, one impacted by having players out due to COVID-19.

After a tough 25-10, 25-16, 25-18 road loss to Imbler on Tuesday, Sept. 7, The Cougars got into the win column in a home thriller against Pilot Rock Thursday, Sept. 9, winning 25-19, 23-25, 21-25, 25-23, 16-14. They followed with a win Saturday, Sept. 11, against Elgin, dropping the

Huskies at home in four sets, 25-15, 25-27, 25-13, 25-11.

"We are starting to get our team back," head coach Janae Hulse said. "We have had up to seven in quarantine since the beginning of school. We had one practice with a few of them back before our game against Elgin. We are still working through kinks, but they are looking more and more promising. The upperclassmen are trying to pull the team together and bond as much as possible. I love to see the interaction and the growth of these girls. It takes leadership to improve a team

and they are working hard at that. The girls stayed aggressive in the game but couldn't gain the intensity that I would have liked to have seen. Then again, this was the first time in a rotation with everyone back (against Elgin). They are all still figuring each other out."

Against Elgin, Libby Fisher had 22 digs and six kills. Zoe Hermens had 28 digs and four kills. Haley Brockamp had five kills, five blocks and 18 digs and Sophie Moeller had 29 digs.

The Cougars (2-2 overall, 1-1 Old Oregon League)

hosted Joseph Tuesday, Sept. 14, and are at the East/West Classic in North Powder Friday and Saturday, where they are slated for six contests.

Outlaws take down competition

The Enterprise volleyball team is finding a rhythm.

The Outlaws took two more matches last week, dropping Cove on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 17-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-23, and taking down Prairie City/Burnt River in four sets Saturday, Sept. 11, 25-22, 19-25, 25-13, 25-19.

See Volleyball, Page A10

Anniversary Sale
September 23rd, 24th & 25th

SEE OUR FULL AD ON PAGE A17

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

800 S. River St., Enterprise, OR 97828 541-426-9228