

## Community spirit takes center stage at 67th annual rodeo

*Two-day attendance of 3,000+ is a recent high for the rodeo*

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Scott Ferguson was pretty sore when he lined up to run the Cow Hyde Race for the second time on Saturday night at the 67th annual Cottage

Grove Rodeo. Having tied with another team with the fastest run of the evening, Ferguson and partner Lisa Laroe had to win a race-off to claim the \$1,600 cash prize.

"I've been going to the Cottage Grove Rodeo for my entire life, and I've never seen a tie in Cow Hyde Race," said Ferguson, 43. "I'm certainly paying for it today."

But instead of putting his winnings toward a well needed massage, Ferguson donated the \$800 to Tim Hedrick

and Colin Baker — two Cottage Grove residents who are battling through life-threatening conditions.

"I was hoping people would match my contribution and help raise money for a very good cause," said Ferguson.

This past May, Baker was diagnosed with Willson's disease, a rare genetic disorder which often leads to liver failure. The disease, however, has not

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photo by Matt Hollander

Lisa Laroe pulls partner Scott Ferguson across the finish line to win the Cow Hyde Race Saturday at the Cottage Grove Rodeo.

## A Golden Rerun

*Former 5K race to be held Friday night*

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

After a six-year hiatus, the Gold Rush 5K will once again roll through the streets of Cottage Grove. The 3.1 mile race will be held July 17 at 9 p.m.

The course starts and finishes near the Brewstation at 5th Street and Washington in downtown Cottage Grove. The course loops through Main Street and then River Road, along the Willamette Coast Fork River.

Registration is \$30 (or \$20 without a t-shirt) and includes a drink ticket for the Brewstation.

Jon Stinnett led the inaugural effort in 2008, which coincided with the staging of the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene. Stinnett called the first year a major success with 80-90 entrants, but numbers declined in the following year.

"I had the notion of, 'Hey, we should really have a race while all of these fitness minded people are in town for the trials,'" explained Stinnett. "That first year we had Dyrol Burleson as our starter. It's always a plus to have an Olympian involved. But the second year was not as great, and then I just got busy with other things."

Stinnett is once again involved with organizing the Gold Rush, along with Jim and Joyce Settelmeyer and other members of the Cottage Grove jogging club, which meets on Friday nights.

For some time, local running enthusiasts have been attempting to fill the void left by the Bohemia Half Marathon. Last year, for example, Jim Settelmeyer organized an informal half-marathon relay at the high school. Stinnett hopes that this reboot of the Gold Rush will be lasting.

"The Half Marathon was both huge and legendary. A variety of other races have been staged in its absence, and I'm not exactly sure why none of them have taken hold, but I know it's time for one to do so," he said.

In addition to the Gold Rush on Friday night, the Gold Dash, a 500-meter race for kids, will be held on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. There is no registration required for the Gold Dash, which starts at 14th and Main streets and runs along part of the Grand Miner's Day Parade route.

Additional information for the Gold Rush, including registration, can be found at goldrushcg.com. Online registration closes July 16.



## Running down potential

*After two years at LCC, CGHS grad Kristine Dunn will continue her track career at Southern Oregon*

BY MATT HOLLANDER  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Kristine Dunn graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 2013 as the school's all-time leader in the 400 meters, but it was her potential to move up to the middle distances that had college coaches so excited for her future.

In two years at Lane Community College, Dunn struggled to stay healthy while adding mileage to her training regiment. Her fastest time in the 800 meters — a 2:15.89 this past spring — was just a split second faster than her high-school best.

With two years of eligibility remaining, Dunn still has time to fulfill her immense promise. But while she will be attempting to do so in a new setting — at Southern Oregon University — the strategy will feel a lot closer to home.

Dunn began running track as a sixth grader at Lincoln Middle School, but she did not race a 400 until her freshman year at Cottage Grove. As with many first-timers, her debut in the one-lapper was memorably painful.

"It was a pretty horrible time, probably something in the 70s. It definitely wasn't something I thought I wanted to keep doing, but by the end of the season I was getting the hang of it," she said.

Dunn ultimately set a PR of 61.61 in a third-place finish at the Sky-Em district meet, and a trip to the state meet as a member of the 4x100 meter relay team left her hungry for more.

Heading into the championship weeks of her sophomore season, Dunn had yet to break the 60-second barrier. However, she had a stunning breakthrough at the district meet. She dipped under 60 seconds in the prelims (59.97) and ran 57.78 in the finals to win her first league title and set a new school record.

The following week at the state meet, Dunn was the number-one ranked entrant.

"It was kind of scary, but it was also fun because I didn't have anything to live up to," she recalled. "Coach Bruce (Vogel) told me that I had to run my own race. We had a pretty good idea of how fit I was, so the plan was to go out hard and hold on as best as I could."

file photo

Kristine Dunn, the 400 meter-school record holder at Cottage Grove, was considered a promising middle-distance recruit. But injuries have delayed her progress.

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## Williamson wins extreme late model event at CG Speedway

BY BEN DEATHERAGE

The Northwest Extreme Late Model Series (NELMS) took to the Cottage Grove Speedway on Friday, July 10. A total of 23 entrants representing the states of Oregon and Washington were on hand. There was very exciting with action all over the race track.

Britton Donahoo from Salem was really fast in the opening stages. He stayed in front until lap 11 when Jesse Williamson of Eugene made the pass to the front.

Williamson cruised right along and managed to develop a massive lead over the rest of the pack. It was his first NELMS win of 2015 and the second of his career. It was second his victory in a Late Model competition at CGS this year.

Preston Luckman of Coos Bay was second, and Vancouver, Wash.'s Jerry Schram was a close third. The rest of the top five consisted of Collen Winebarger out of Corbett in fourth and Donahoo placed fifth.

Winebarger was fast time of the night, and Cottage Grove's Curtis Towns won the trophy dash.

Heat races winners were Kye Frick of Sweet Home, Towns and Williamson. Ron Brewster from Redmond won the consolation feature.

Towns wins night one of Mark Howard Memorial

Friday was the opening night of the 2015 Mark Howard Memorial Cottage Grove Speedway Modified Nationals. The race is named in honor of the late Mark Howard, who was a champion on the track and a mentor to countless drivers off the track. A total of 30 IMCA Modifieds were in the pit area from the states of Oregon and Washington.

Jeremy Richey from Phoenix was in control of the top spot for a good part of the main event. He briefly lost the lead only for the caution to come out just in time for him to get it back. On lap 14, Richey had contact with another car, which brought him to a halt. That gave an opening for Medford's Tom Berry, Jr. to take the lead.

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*Athlete of the Week:*  
**Jesse Williamson**

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