

## QUICK HITS

### Cross Creek men's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek's men's club results for June 20:

Low gross/low net  
Gross: 1, Kevin Moen, 40; 2 (tie), Rocky Kygar, Lee Gamaney and Jim Schroeder 41.

Net: 1 Jack Duncan, 34; 2 (tie), Larry Hatcher and Larry Kuhns, 36; 4, Eldon Rivers, Bob Bennett, Roy Speelman and Steve Albin, 37.

### Cross Creek women's club results

DALLAS — Cross Creek Women's Club results for June 19.

Modified stableford  
Nine holes: 1, Mary Jane Ferrin, 17; 2, Meri McLeod, 13; 3, Susan Austermler, 12; 4, Vera Flaming, 11; 5, Laurilee Hatcher, 10.

18 holes: 1, Vera Flaming, 21; 2, Laurilee Hatcher, 19; 3, Suzy Deschler, 17.

### Willamina to host arm wrestling tournament

WILLAMINA — Willamina will host the arm wrestling championships Monday and Tuesday at Garden Spot Park.

Early weigh-in will be held Monday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Registration and weigh-in will be held Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There are multiple divisions ranging from kids to men's and women's. Classifications are available by gender, weight and right or left handed.

Cash prizes will be available in the men's open division.

Cost is \$20 for the open divisions, \$15 for novice, women's and teen divisions and \$5 for kids.

For more information: Herman and Barba McCoy, 503-560-1371.

### Mechals earns weekly honor

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon sophomore-to-be pitcher Kade Mechals was named the West Coast League's pitcher of the week for June 12-18.

Mechals, who plays for the Kelowna Falcons, threw eight scoreless innings against Yakima Valley

on June 18. Mechals had five strikeouts during the game.

As a freshman at WOU, Mechals led the Wolves in ERA (1.59), appearances (15) and saves (seven).

### Holstad records three hits during all-star series

CORVALLIS — Jackson Holstad, a 2017 Central High graduate, took part in the 5A/6A All-Star baseball series on Saturday

and Sunday at Oregon State University.

Holstad was part of the south squad, which won a three-game series over the north squad 2-1.

Holstad went 3-for-10 with two singles and a double. He also drew four walks. Holstad will play baseball at Chemeketa Community College next year.

# School board votes to fund new track

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School Board voted to build a new track at Dallas High School in conjunction with a project to raise private money to install a turf football field.

The project is estimated to cost \$237,000, and would be contingent on the Dallas Booster Club's success in raising the \$850,000 necessary to build the new field.

Without installing the new track, the football field must be raised on one side to provide for proper drainage, leaving a drop off of 2 or 3 feet on one end of the field between the turf and track.

Board Chairman Mike Bollman said Monday that is less than ideal.

"I had this picture of one of our players or the other team going into catch a touchdown pass and trying

to get both feet in, coming right to the edge and dropping off this 3-foot wall," he said at the board's regular meeting. "I thought, that's not good. Our track life is nearing the end within a couple of years. It just seems like it might be time to discuss an option for the future."

Superintendent Michelle Johnstone said the district has money set aside for long-term facility improvements available.

"That leaves us sufficient funds to be able to cover that cost," she said. "We do have the money to do it."

Bill McNutt, the consultant working with the booster club on the field project, said having the district support the track replacement makes the field an easier sell to the public.

"What I've seen as we've talked to the community, they would love to see this



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

The Dallas School Board voted to build a new track at Dallas High School.

phase done by the school district," he said Monday. "I think it's critical for us, in

our fundraising process, to be able to tell your community that you are com-

mitted to doing the track as long as we can get the inside portion done."

## MONMOUTH-INDEPENDENCE MINI-MARATHON

# Race offers big thrills

*Annual tradition takes runners fun route filled with fans*



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer file

The Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon takes runners on a 2.6-mile course along the parade route.

By Lukas Eggen  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH-INDEPENDENCE — When runners set off on the 47th annual Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon, they take part in a unique event.

Sure, there are plenty of races to run throughout the year. But few, if any, offer the chance to run in front of thousands of cheering fans — without having to be a world-class athlete.

"I think it's the fact that it's a relatively short race," organizer Terry Cable said. "With all the festivities around, it makes it real attractive. It leaves people plenty of time for other things. It helps people embrace exercise and recreation, and you can view the parade route from a unique perspective."

The mini-marathon, held Tuesday at 11:30 a.m., follows the grand parade route beginning in Monmouth and ending in downtown Independence.

The 2.6-mile race is mostly downhill — making it appealing to runners of all fitness levels. There will be water stations and sprinklers throughout the race and fans lining the streets to show support.

"It's just a perfect setting," Cable said. "The crowds are already there. ... They make it a truly unique and memorable run."

Registration is available online at [www.runsignup.com/Race/OR/Monmouth/4thofJulyMini-Marathon](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/OR/Monmouth/4thofJulyMini-Marathon).

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# Ribich named Male Athlete of the Year

By Lukas Eggen  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon junior cross-country and track runner David Ribich had a stellar 2016-17 school year.

Ribich won a pair of national championships in track and field, and set numerous conference and school records.

He can add one more accolade. The Great Northwest Athletic Conference's athletic directors voted Ribich as the GNAC Male Athlete of the Year.

"I think it's pretty cool," Ribich said. "Throughout the GNAC there are a lot of high-caliber athletes and



Ribich

professional-caliber athletes that could have easily received this award. I was fortunate enough to get it. It's crazy. We tend not to work for these things. We work for our own personal goals, but this is really cool to see the recognition. It's an incredible honor to receive this award."

Ribich's success during the cross-country, and track and field seasons helped him stand out.

"Conference Athlete of the Year is a great honor," WOU

cross-country and track and field coach Mike Johnson said. "David is so consistent, not just in running but in all that he does. He is very intentional. We are all so pleased that David has received this truly special recognition."

Ribich's cross-country season was capped off with a 15th-place finish in the NCAA Division II West Region Championships in Billings, Mont., last November.

During the indoor track season, Ribich was part of the distance medley relay team that won a national title at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

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LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

David Ribich is the Great Northwest Athletic Conference's Male Athlete of the Year.