



## Dayville alumnus is NCAA All-American

WOU junior sets school record in field event

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

ALLENDALE, Mich. – Justin Larson's javelin is on fire.

The Dayville School alumnus, who is a junior at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, has surpassed his lifetime best in javelin, while earning All-American when he finished sixth overall in

the event at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

The May 21-23 event was held at Grand Valley State University in Allentown, Mich.

Larson, who has qualified for the national championships three times, placed ninth last year.

He threw a lifetime best of 218-9 on May 23, breaking WOU's school record by 6 feet 8 inches.



Justin Larson, a Dayville School alumnus, competes in the javelin event earlier this season for Western Oregon University's team.

Contributed photo



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter  
Challenge of Champions Bullriding Tour is returning to the Grant County Fairgrounds this weekend.

# RACERS STRIKE GOLD IN CANYON CITY

Walkers also take on '62 Days 5K event

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Tanner Elliott, age 15, of John Day returned to take the overall winner title in this year's Gold Rush Run Saturday in Canyon City.

He covered the 3.1 mile course in 19 minutes, 33 seconds. He was trailed closely by Barry Dew, 50, of Baker City, who took the honor of first male finisher in the age-40 and over division.

Sarah Bush of Canyon City was the first female finisher, clocking in at 24:56.

Elliott and Bush both earned commemorative prospector mementos as the first male and female finishers.

Madelyn Bailey of Canyon City was the first female finisher under age 40 – well under that age, in fact. The 8-year-old finished 16th overall.

A field of 35 runners and walkers tackled the course in an event that kicked off Saturday's '62 Days activities.

Conditions for the race were nearly perfect

with sunny skies and cool morning air, however, participation was much lower than recent years with about half the 2014 turnout.

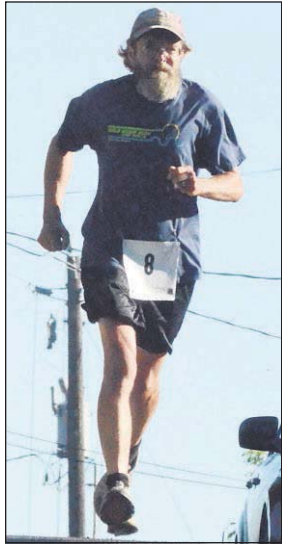
Anna Jacobs, 5, of Prairie City was the youngest finisher. She completed the course with her parents Justin and Jenny Jacobs in 44:46. Anna is already a seasoned runner, having completed the race last year.

The Bailey family, of Canyon City, comprised a veritable team consisting of father Zac pushing his son Sam in a jog stroller, mother Heather, daughters Eliza and Madelyn, and son Max.

Richard Thompson, 68, of Mt. Vernon, was the most senior runner of the day, and one of the fastest, finishing sixth overall with an age-defying time of 26:30. Thompson won the event 10 years ago at age 58.

The event was sponsored by the Whiskey Gulch Gang and the Strawberry Striders running group with volunteer help from Doug Smith, Melanie Leckenby, Mike and Sophie Cosgrove, Sarah Bush, and Greg and Tammy Bremner.

– Hugh Snook contributed this article.



Richard Thompson crests the Washington Street hill en route to the Gold Rush finish line.



Runners get their start in the Gold Rush Run 5K, kicking off Saturday's '62 Days activities.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Gold Rush runner Tanner Elliott, a Grant Union eighth-grader, rounds the bend at Rebel Hill on his way to a first-place finish in Saturday's 5K event. Below: Runners in the Gold Rush 5K take off after the traditional drop of the golden nugget in the gold pan by organizer Hugh Snook.



## Taking a shot at Ironman competition

Challengers test skills in three events

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY – Several competitors turned out for a test of skill at the May 30 Ironman Shoot at the Bear Creek Shooting Sports Range.

All were vying for best all-around in three shooting disciplines: .22 silhouette, clay target shotgun and 3-D archery.

Each round included 25 targets.

"We had between 25 and 30 participants from all over Grant County, Burns and Baker City," said Mike Springer, a

member of the Canyon Creek Bowhunters club which sponsored the event.

The Ironman competition is in its second year, and Springer says they plan to make it an annual event.

"The Canyon Creek Bowhunters would like to thank everyone who showed up to shoot with us, and a special thanks to everyone who helped out with the event," he said.

**2015 Ironman Shoot results:**  
**Adult Individual**  
1st place, Mike Slinkard; 2nd, Andy Day; 3rd, Ty Higgins  
**Youth Individual**  
1st, Dallon Higgins; 2nd, Ethan Jensen; 3rd, Chase Jensen

**Adult Team**  
1st, Andy Day, Mike Slinkard, Bobby Slinkard; 2nd, Les Percy, Jeb Bowling, Mike Springer; 3rd Place, Baker City Bow Tech team  
**Youth Team**  
Danner Davis and Wyatt Williams

## GU alumni trio shine as BMCC baseball starters

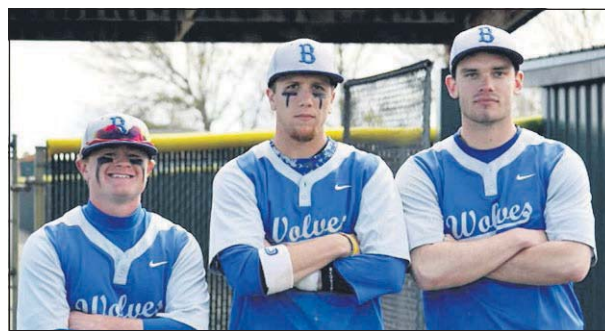
Each plan further higher ed pursuits

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

PENDLETON – Three Grant Union alumni spent this season starting for the Blue Mountain Community College Timberwolves baseball team.

Dillon Porter is a 2010 Grant Union graduate and played second base and short stop; Kyler Deiter-Knieriem, 2012, was a pitcher; and Jordan Ackerman, 2013, played center field.

Ackerman said that although they came up short



Contributed photo

Three Grant Union alumni have wrapped up a successful season as starters for the Blue Mountain Community College baseball program. From left: Jordan Ackerman (center fielder), Dillon Porter (second baseman) and Kyler Deiter-Knieriem (pitcher).

of their goal to make it to the playoffs, the team improved their season by 13 games.

"It was a great team

environment, and we had great team chemistry," he said.

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## Bulls vs. cowboys compete, entertain

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Challenge of Champions Bullriding Tour is bucking into Grant County this weekend.

The competition is set for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, with gates open at 5:30, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

A whopping 1,000-plus fans attended last year to see 35 cowboys riding cantankerous bulls for cash and prizes.

Tickets may be purchased at the fairgrounds, call 541-575-1900, or at the gate.

Pre-sale general admission is \$8, and \$10 at the gate.

Pre-sale VIP tickets, for a closer view from the arena area, are \$15, and \$20 at the gate.

This year, the after party will be held in the arena area, where fans can take pictures and ask for autographs.

Fairgrounds manager Mary Weaver said Jason Mattox, president of PUSH Enterprises Inc., told her he and the bull riders are excited to make a return to John Day.

"It was such a huge success, and everyone had fun last year," Weaver said. "It was a great event for Grant County, and we'd love to have everyone come back and enjoy the event."

## Gleason Pool set to open next week

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Swimming season is here and Gleason Pool opens June 15.

Recreational swim time is 1-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and the cost is \$3 a day for residents living within the taxing district and \$4 for those who live out of district.

Family passes are \$130, in district, and \$160, out of district, and individual passes are \$80, in district, and \$95, out of district.

Passes include lap swim and family swim night.

Other activities include:  
7:00-10:00 a.m. Monday-Friday – swim team practice.

10:00-11:00 a.m. Monday-Friday – in-service/cleaning/private lessons.

11:00-1:00 p.m. Monday-Friday – swim lessons. Sign ups start June 15, lessons begin June 22.

4:30-5:25 p.m. Monday-Thursday – swim team practice.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday – adult lap swim.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday – water aerobics.

6:30-8:00 p.m. Wednesday – family swim night.

Call the pool office, 541-575-9930, or the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation office, 541-575-0110, for more information on pricing or other questions. Information is also at [www.jdcccparcsandrec.weebly.com](http://www.jdcccparcsandrec.weebly.com) online.