

Long-running rodeo on tap in Spray

The 69th annual Spray Rodeo will be May 28 and 29

Blue Mountain Eagle

SPRAY — Runners and rodeo riders will gather in Spray this coming weekend for two long-running events — the 69th annual Spray Rodeo and the annual Eastern Oregon Half-Marathon.

The rodeo is set for Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29. Activities begin with slack at 11 a.m. Friday. Admission is free that day, and concessions will be available.

Saturday is “Tough Enough to Wear Pink Day” with all proceeds going to St. Charles Medical Center for Breast Cancer Research.

Here’s the schedule for Saturday:

- Half-marathon: The 13.2-mile run from Service Creek to Spray starts at 8 a.m. The event is touted as the longest running in Oregon.

- Buckaroo Breakfast: From early morning to 11 a.m. in the Spray School cafeteria, prepared by members of Spray High School

athletic programs.

- Parade: 11 a.m., starting at the Spray General Store, led by Queen Bella Yanez from Corvallis. Grand marshals will be the Ellen Geisel family. Spectators will enjoy a new treat this year — a band, from Sandstone Middle School in Hermiston.

- Rodeo: Starts at 12:15 p.m. with mutton busting, followed by the grand entry at 1 p.m. A new grandstand has been built to accommodate wheelchair seating. In addition to the major rodeo events and ranch bronc riding, there will be kids’, women’s and men’s 1/4-mile races each day.

On Sunday, a cowboy church service will be held at 9 a.m. in the grandstand. The final rodeo performance will be at 12:15 p.m. with mutton busting and the grand entry at 1 p.m.

Stock this year will be provided by the 2015 stock contractor of the year, B-D Rodeos; the 2015 Announcer of the Year, Scott Allen; and 2015 contact act of the year and barrel man JJ Harrison.

For more information, call 541-468-2442. Learn more at www.sprayrodeo.com or visit Spray Rodeo and Half Marathon on Facebook.

Long Creek athlete jumps into state track competition

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

EUGENE — Long Creek track and field athlete Fernando Rodriguez made an exciting, and surprising, run at state.

Rodriguez, a foreign exchange student from Spain, finished sixth at state in 1A high jump, clearing the bar at 5-10 and achieving a personal record.

This is the first time in about 10 years a Long Creek athlete made it to state.

Competing with a wild card, Rodriguez found out just two days before the May 19-20 OSAA Track and Field State Championships that he would be included in the event.

He said, at the beginning of the season, he wasn’t sure he liked track and field.

“The coach and team said set some goals and practice with us,” he said. “I tried the events

— long jump, triple jump, high jump.”

He said he enjoyed the state championship experience.

“It was really cool, and big and very professional,” he said. “I’m very glad I went there.”

Head coach Linda Studtmann said she had a learning curve as first-time head coach.

“I learned right along with the kids,” she said. “I appreciate all the effort they put into their events, and am proud of how well they all did. Every week we would have several kids PR in at least one event. They all showed steady progress in learning and improving their techniques.”

Studtmann said she knew how much Rodriguez wanted to make it to state.

“I count it a privilege to have been his coach — and host mom — this year and accompany him to his sixth-place finish at state,” she said.



Long Creek track and field athlete Fernando Rodriguez stands with coach, and host mom, Linda Studtmann at the OSAA Track and Field State Championships in Eugene.

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GW Clark of Long Creek competes in team roping at the Burns High School Rodeo, riding for the Harney County High School Rodeo Club.

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GW Clark heads to State Finals rodeo

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

MONUMENT — Monument School junior GW Clark of Long Creek will compete at the Wednesday through Saturday June 8-11 State Finals High

School Rodeo in Prineville.

Clark, who competes with the Harney County High School Rodeo Club, said he’s glad to have the chance.

He’s eighth in the state standings for steer wrestling, 17th in tie down roping and 30th in team

roping. He ropes with Corrie Hirschbock of Klamath Falls.

“We’re happy to make it in all three events,” he said.

“This year didn’t start off the best,” he said. “My bulldogging horse is pretty green, so I’m trying to get him going and

give him more experience. This year’s progress will help out for next year.”

Clark said his goal is to make it to the Silver State International Rodeo, which is held June 27 through July 3 in Winnemucca, Nevada.

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Upper John Day River open for spring Chinook fishing

Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day — Nearly 50 miles of the Upper John Day River opened for spring Chinook salmon fishing on May 10 and will close on June 5.

Anglers can keep two adult Chinook salmon and

five jack salmon per day, but have to stop fishing once they’ve caught two adult Chinook salmon. A Columbia River Endorsement and a combined angling tag is required for this fishery which starts at the Highway 207 bridge (located .5 miles downstream

of Service Creek) and ends upstream at the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek near the south end of Picture Gorge.

According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district fish biologist Trevor Watson, the fishery is a result of work to protect and enhance fish habitats, as well as the removal of fish passage barriers throughout the John Day River basin.

“The high numbers of salmon returning are in large part due to the great cooperation we’ve received from private landowners in helping with the many restoration efforts,” Watson said.

ODFW fish biologists will conduct random creel-efforts throughout the fishery area with periodic check stations at Picture Gorge and Service Creek for angler information.

‘62 DAYS CELEBRATION
Canyon City, Oregon
June 10 & 11, 2016
Romancing the West - Friday, 6 p.m.
Saturday Events

Breakfast - 6 a.m.
Gold Rush Walk/Run - 7 a.m.
Parade - 11 a.m.
(Theme: Tell Me About the Good Old Days)
Grand Marshal - Mary Ellen Brooks
Barbecue & Pie/Ice Cream Social - 12 to 3 p.m.
Hanging - 1 p.m.
Voices from the Past - 2 p.m. at Canyon City Hall
Kids games in the park
Friday & Saturday evening
Vendors & live music at Sel’s Brewery
Free People Mover transportation from Sel’s on Fri & Sat.

the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK

WADE REIMERS
School: Grant Union
Grade: 10
Parents: Russ and Jennifer Reimers
Sport: Baseball

What I like best about my sport: “It’s definitely my favorite sport. I put all my heart into it. Game time, I just come out with confidence and try to do my best.”
Coach’s Comment: “He has a good work ethic. He expects the best from himself and he’s a fun kid to coach. He stepped up and threw the ball well against Elgin (May 12).”
- Coach Brian Delaney

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HUMPHREYS

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A team of fans to cheer on Humphreys attended the event included the coaches, athletic director Tiffnie Schmedeka and her husband, Taylor, and their son, Grayson, as well as Superintendent/Principal Kathryn Hedrick.

Dayville’s high school track and field team this year included only three athletes, and Bogardus hopes to see more out for the team next year.

“The more the merrier,” he said.