



JD Swim Team competes for third at finals

Hunt, Coalwell earn awards at banquet

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle



Torie Coalwell



Taylor Hunt

The John Day Swim Team placed third at the July 29-31 Cascade East Finals in Lakeview.

"It was a huge success," said head coach Sabrina Howard. "We might have been small in numbers, but we came out large with our ambition and drive to finish strong."

She said the John Day relay teams contributed many of the

points earned.

"Once they hit the water, there was no stopping them," she said.

Lakeview won the meet with 54 swimmers and 664 points, Prineville placed second with 36 swimmers and 552 points and John Day earned third with 18 swimmers and 503 points. The Hi-Desert team from Burns came in

Cascade East Finals Results

See full results at MyEagleNews.com.

fourth, earning 280 points with 18 swimmers.

During the team banquet Monday evening, Taylor Hunt and Torie Coalwell were awarded trophies as the team's overall high-point winners for the season.

"This is my favorite sport, and I enjoy it a lot," Coalwell said. "It's an individual sport, yet a team sport."

She said she likes making friends with her competitors on the other teams and racing them at the meets.

Hunt said he moved up to the 15-18 division this year and was surprised at his success.

"It's more of a challenge," he said. "I like the fact that I can have more friends from all the other teams."

Coalwell said this was also her first year in the 15-18 division.

"I did way better than I thought I would," she said.

Her most memorable moment at the meet was beating an "unbeatable" Lakeview op-

ponent in the finals.

Taylor said he most enjoyed winning his first high-point award at the finals.

First-year swimmer Ritter Rookstool, 7, was one of several John Day swimmers awarded at the banquet for their readiness to learn at practice. He also won second place in all his events at the finals in Lakeview. Rookstool said he set goals for the swim season: "Kick hard, win a medal and don't get upset."

Howard's eyes filled with tears as she handed out several awards to the swimmers.

"To watch you grow this summer meant more than anything," she said, later adding,

"Thank you for waking up to the sunrise with me every morning."

Swim team officers were voted in for the 2017 season, including: Haley Walker, president; Julie Larson, first vice president (meet director); Heather Rookstool, second vice president (fundraising); Gary Nicodemus, secretary; Erin Beil, treasurer; and board of directors Katie Thunell, Mitch Wilson, Casey Hallgarth, Erin Hodge, Mytchell Mead, Shana Hunt and Terry Coalwell.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Sept. 14, at the Corner Cup in John Day.

NEW AT THE GRANT COUNTY FAIR FREESTYLE BULLFIGHTING



Contributed photos/Dale Miller of Miller Photo

Organizers, including committee chairman Jim Hamsher, said the bullfighting event will be an evening of action-packed entertainment for the whole family. In the photo, Aaron Hargo faces a fierce-looking bull in Woodlake, California. Aaron is the son of Dwayne Hargo who is a bullfighter of note.

Trevor Hamsher:
 Expect "action packed" event

By Angel Carpenter
 Blue Mountain Eagle

A new twist of fun is coming to this year's Fair — Grant County Freestyle Bullfighting.

The action starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, at the Grant County Fairgrounds rodeo arena, and it's free with admission to the Fair.

Organizers of the bullfighting event said the crowd can expect an evening of "nonstop thrills, spills and family entertainment" as cowboys face off with bulls.

The winner of the event will take home \$1,500 in prize money and a custom buckle.

Trevor Hamsher of Prairie City was a bullfighter for 15 years, working six years professionally.

He's now retired from the sport, but offered his perspective as one who's been in the ring.

"Freestyle bullfighting is 60 seconds of the most intense extreme sport you will ever see," Hamsher said. "It's exciting western entertainment."

"Bullfights" may cause a person to think of traditional bullfighting in Spain and Mexico, but Hamsher said this event is different.

"The bulls in this event are not harmed, whatsoever," he said. "There are no capes or swords, just the moves the rodeo bullfighter has."

The event will consist of three rounds with two bullfighters in each round going head to head with what Hamsher says are some of the meanest bulls in the country.

Bullfighters competing at the event come from Oregon, Washington and as far away as Louisiana.

The winner of each round will advance to the championship round where a winner is decided.

In judging, there are 100 points possible for the bullfighters and 100 points for the bulls.

The bullfighters are judged on control, aggression, style, difficulty and creativity, and the purebred Spanish fighting bulls are judged on aggression, speed, difficulty and agility.

A bullfighter has one minute to earn up to 100 points with the option to stop the fight at anytime after the first 40 seconds without risking point deductions.

If the bullfighter does not make it to the 40 second mark, he will be disqualified.

Between rounds, fans will be treated to clown acts and a drill team performance. They'll also hold a rifle raffle.

"I hope people enjoy the new event," Hamsher said. "It should be action packed, and I hope to see everyone there."



Trevor Hamsher bullfighting in Las Vegas during the National Finals Rodeo at Benny Binion's Bucking Horse and Bull Sale. Hamsher is now retired after 15 years in the sport, working six years professionally.

Knowles ties arena record at Chief Joseph Days Rodeo

Blue Mountain Eagle

Rodeo fans who attended the 71st Chief Joseph Days Rodeo final performance on Saturday night got their money's worth and then some with some spectacular performances by both the athletes and animals.

Mt. Vernon bulldogger Trevor Knowles matched the arena record, posting a steer-wrestling time of 3.7 seconds last Wednesday to match Nik Hamm's record set in 2011.



Trevor Knowles

Knowles placed first in the second go-round with his record-matching time, earning \$1,090. In the first go-round, he placed sixth with a time of 4.9 seconds, earning \$188.

Knowles finished second in the final aggregate standings, with a combined time of 8.6, earning another \$1,353, behind Nevada cowboy Dakota Eldridge, who had a combined time of 8.2 after winning the first go-round with a time of 3.9 seconds.

Area youth sports camps coming up

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Grant Union coaches will host youth sports camps for volleyball and football this month, and daily doubles are also on the schedule.

Youth volleyball camp for grades 6-8 will be held at Grant Union from 9 a.m. to noon, Thursday and Friday, Aug. 4-5. The camp is led by head coach Shae Speth and coaching staff.

Volleyball camp for grade 3-5 is at Grant Union from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4.

The football camp, led by head coach Jason Miller, coaching staff and high school players, will run from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Aug. 8-11, for grades 3 through 8. The cost for the camp is \$35, and registration begins at 3:30 p.m. on Monday. The camp fee includes a T-shirt.

High school volleyball players will have a Gold Med-

al Squared Volleyball Camp on Aug. 8-11, and daily doubles begin Aug. 15.

High school football players have conditioning camp from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 8-11, and daily doubles begin Aug. 15 with practice at 6-9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays and 4-6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Single football practices are from 4-6 p.m., starting Aug. 22, for high schoolers.

Middle school practice is from 4-5:30 p.m. on Aug. 22.

For more information, call the school at 541-575-1799 and leave a message for Miller at extension 22 or Speth at extension 31.

In other sports news, Grant Union golf coach Ron Lundbom will hold junior golf nights at 5 p.m. each Wednesday in August for youth ages 8-18. The group will play nine holes at the John Day Golf Club, and the activity is free.

Grant Union grad an alternate for Shrine All-Star game

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Garrett McConnell, a 2016 Grant Union graduate, was chosen as an alternate for Saturday's East West Shrine

All-Star Football Game in Baker City.

The game kicks off at 7 p.m. at the Baker High School field. A parade will be held at 11 a.m. that morning.



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