



# Clark wrestles his way to the top

## Steer wrestler finishes third at state finals

By Angel Carpenter  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

GW Clark of Long Creek earned his ticket to the National High School Rodeo Finals after placing third in the steer wrestling average at the June 8-10 State Finals in Prineville.

Clark, who recently graduated from Monument High School, rides for the Harney County High School Rodeo Club.

"I came into the finals tied

for fifth-sixth," he said. "The top seven kids were only separated by like 25 points, so I knew I needed to throw every steer to make nationals."

Eleven steer wrestlers competed at the Oregon High School Rodeo Association event.

In Prineville, Clark finished in fifth place on day one and two with times of 55.00 and 17.52, respectively. He won second place on the final day with a time of 11.95.

"We had a good pen of steers, so all the doggers had an even chance at them," he said. "My goal was to get all three down, and I did."

Clark was the only cowboy

to obtain a time on all three days and won the average for the weekend. By winning the average, he advanced to third in the state on points for the year and will move on to the national finals.

The National High School Rodeo Finals will take place July 16-22 in Gillette, Wyoming.

When he's not working on the ranch, fencing and riding, Clark said he'll practice for the big event and exercise his horse.

"I'm excited for nationals," he said. "There's a really good bunch of contestants going from Oregon, so it will be a lot of fun."



**GW Clark of Long Creek steer wrestles for third place at the Oregon High School Rodeo Association State Finals Rodeo in Prineville. Clark, who is a recent graduate of Monument High School, rides for the Harney County High School Rodeo Club. Clark will compete at the July 16-22 National High School Rodeo Finals in Gillette, Wyoming.**

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# After the Gold Rush



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter  
**Runners take their start in Saturday morning's Gold Rush Run in Canyon City, including front runners, from left, Brent Labhart, Mark Kerstens and Tanner Elliott.**

## RUNNERS RACE THROUGH HISTORIC MINING TOWN

By Angel Carpenter  
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Runner Brent Labhart of Portland posted a time of 18:01 for the win in Saturday's Gold Rush Run and Walk 5K in Canyon City.

It was just 2 seconds shy of the 17:59 record he set a few years ago.

The event, which is a part of the '62 Days celebration commemorating the discovery of gold in Canyon City, had 24 runners and walkers participating.

The athletes took a route through the historic town, including up the steep incline of Rebel Hill Road and past the old schoolhouse, which is now a private home, ending at the starting point in front of Sels Brewery.

"The elevation is difficult," said Labhart, who grew up in the area. "It was a bit of a brutal run for me, but I'll take the time."



**Four-year-old Noxi Long and Kelsey Long of Seneca take their start.**

Mark Kerstens of Massachusetts, who worked in the area last summer, returned for the race, finishing 16 seconds behind Labhart.

"It was a good race," he said. "(Brent) was really pushing the pace. I couldn't miss this race."

"This is a tradition," Labhart said. "It's a fun race."

### Gold Rush Run and Walk 5K

1. Brent Labhart, 18:01
2. Mark Kerstens, 18:17
3. Tanner Elliott, 20:10
4. Kevin Nelson, 22:02
5. Grant Hall, 22:20
6. "Pre" McDonald, 22:44
7. Austin Cates, 22:54
8. David Hall, 22:55
9. Brandon Sickler, 23:55
9. Levi Manitsas, 23:55
11. Janessa Sickler, 24:33

Eleven-year-old Grant Hall of John Day, who finished fifth, also ran a half marathon the weekend before in Newport.

"It was pretty fun," he said of the Gold Rush Run. "I passed up a teenager."

The first-place finisher in the women's division was Dr. Janessa

Sickler of Canyon City, posting a time of 24:33.

The youngest competitor, 3-year-old Sam Bailey, finished the race in 28:22, and he had a grin on his face as he reached the finish line with his father, Dr. Zac Bailey.

"I can run so fast because I'm this many years old," he said, holding up three fingers.

Hardly out of breath, the youngster ran back up Washington Street to meet his mom, then ran with her to the finish line as she pushed his baby sister in a jogging stroller.

Hugh Snook, who has organized the race for 18 years, said it was a bigger race in the '70s and '80s, but he was happy with the turnout on what was a rainy weekend.

He said he tries to keep the traditions going, including dropping a "golden nugget" into a gold pan to give runners their start.

"I have a soft spot in my heart for this race," he said.

### SOFTBALL HONORS



**Brianna Zweygardt**



**Mariah Moulton**



**Whitney McClellan**



**Cody Jo Madden**



**Ravyn Walker**



**Haillie Wright**



**Marissa Smith**



**Natalie Stearns**



**Tressa Ranft**

Contributed photos  
 Tanni Wenger  
 Photography

### 3A All-Oregon Teams

• Brianna Zweygardt, catcher, Prairie City junior, First Team

• Mariah Moulton, infield, Grant Union junior, honorable mention

### 3A-Special District 2 honors

#### CO-PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

• Brianna Zweygardt, catcher, junior (Grant Union/Prairie City)

• Hannah Mizuta, infielder, senior (Vale)

#### FIRST TEAM

• Brianna Zweygardt, catcher, junior (Grant Union/Prairie City)

• Mariah Moulton, infielder, junior (Grant Union)

• Whitney McClellan, outfielder, junior (Grant Union)

• Marissa Smith, designated player, sophomore (Grant Union)

#### SECOND TEAM

• Cody Jo Madden, pitcher, junior (Grant Union)

• Ravyn Walker, infielder, senior (Grant Union/Dayville)

• Haillie Wright, outfielder, sophomore (Grant Union)

#### HONORABLE MENTION

• Natalie Stearns, infielder, senior (Grant Union)

• Tressa Ranft, outfielder, junior (Grant Union)

## Youth golf lessons offer intro to sport

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Junior Golf will teach youth the basics of the sport with instruction from coach Ron Lundbom.

The lessons will be held 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 26-30, at the John Day Golf Course.

Boys and girls ages 8 to 18 in all areas of Grant County are invited to sign up.

Golf clubs are available to borrow through the program.

The camp ends with a golf scramble and ice cream party on Friday, June 30. The cost is \$30 per person.

To sign up, or for more information, call the John Day Golf Club at 541-575-

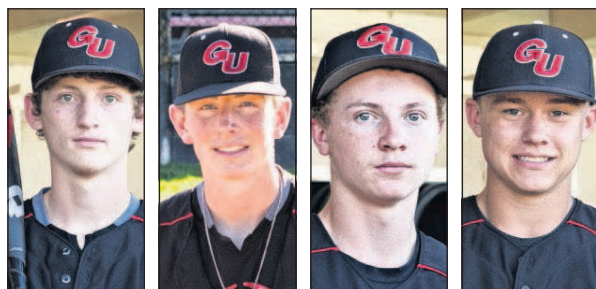


The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

**Madelyn, left, and Max Bailey warm up for a golf scramble during last year's Grant County Junior Golf Club. This year's week of lessons begin June 26.**

0170 or Ron Lundbom at 575-2692 (evenings) or 541-541-575-1850 (days), 541-620-0427.

### BASEBALL HONORS



**Zack Deiter**   **Wade Reimers**   **Jesse Paulsen**   **Cauly Weaver**

#### Special District 6 All-League selections

- Zack Deiter, pitcher, second team, Grant Union
- Wade Reimers, infield, honorable mention, Grant Union
- Jesse Paulsen, infield, honorable mention, Grant Union
- Cauly Weaver, outfield, honorable mention, Grant Union