



# Going for gold

## 44 participate in Gold Rush Run & Walk

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Mark Kerstens was the first male to cross the finish line in Saturday's Gold Rush Run & Walk, which kicked off day two of the '62 Days Celebration in Canyon City.

"It's so fun coming to '62 Days and running in this race," said Kerstens, who lived in the area three years ago and now resides in Coos Bay. He finished the 5k race with a time of 20:23.

"It was a great introduction to the area, and it was a really fun course," said Audrey Wheatcraft of Corvallis, who ran the race for the first time, and was the first female to finish. Her recorded time was 24:15.

Twelve-year-old Grant Hall, who has been racing in the Gold Rush Run since age 5, was third to cross the finish line, after his dad, Dr. Dave Hall.

"It was fun," Grant said. "I like how uneven it is and how hard it is to do it."

Organizer Hugh Snook of Salem said it was the 20th running on the course, which takes participants from Washington Street to Highway 395 and to Humbolt Street. Runners and walkers then face the steep incline of Rebel Hill Road before finishing at the start.

"I was impressed that we had a good turnout race morning in spite of the rain," Snook said.

Heavy rain held off until noon. The fastest woman over age 40 was Sheila Comer of Canyon City. The fastest man over age 40 was Dr. Zac Bailey of John Day.

The youngest participants were Noxi Long and Sam Bailey.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Gold Rush Run & Walk participants make their start on Washington Street in Canyon City.

### 2018 Gold Rush Run & Walk top 10

| NAME              | CITY        | TIME  | PLACE | AGE GROUP |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Mark Kerstens     | Coos Bay    | 20:23 | 1     | M20-29    |
| David Hall        | John Day    | 21:17 | 2     | M30-39    |
| Grant Hall        | John Day    | 22:19 | 3     | M10-14    |
| Kevin Nelson      | John Day    | 22:20 | 4     | M50-59    |
| Jeff Nelson       | John Day    | 23:30 | 5     | M30-39    |
| Logan Breshears   | Canyon City | 23:38 | 6     | M20-29    |
| Sinu Cletus       | Salem       | 23:49 | 7     | M20-29    |
| Audrey Wheatcraft | Coos Bay    | 24:15 | 8     | W20-29    |
| Katie Nicolato    | John Day    | 25:11 | 9     | W20-29    |
| Sheila Comer      | Canyon City | 26:08 | 10    | W40-49    |



Tammy Bremner of Canyon City removes Mt. Vernon resident Tammy McKenna's racing information after she crosses the finish line. Jim Soupir of Prairie City is in back.



Mark Kerstens, center, gives Audrey Wheatcraft a high-five after the Gold Rush Run & Walk. Kerstens was the first male finisher, and Wheatcraft was the first female finisher.



A dog named Baby finished the race with owner Morgan Randleas of Canyon City.

## Prospector softball players receive state recognition

Blue Mountain Eagle

Three Grant Union Prospector softball players were selected for 3A All-Oregon honors.

Prospector senior catcher Brianna Zwegardt, a Prairie City student athlete, was named to the First Team. Grant Union senior Mariah Moulton, pitcher/infielder, was named to the Second Team. Grant Union senior Cody Jo Madden, pitcher, was given honorable mention.

The teams were voted on

by league representatives on June 1 at the State meeting.

The 3A Oregon Softball State Chair Tracy Cleaver said only First Team All-League/Conference winners are considered at the State meeting.

Three Prospectors, Brianna Zwegardt, Whitney McClellan and Cody Jo Madden, also played in the 3A Senior All-Star Games on June 3 at the Oregon State University softball complex. There were 27 girls from five different leagues/conferences playing.



Brianna Zwegardt



Mariah Moulton



Cody Jo Madden

Contributed photos/Tanni Wenger Photography



Contributed photo

A group of 3A senior All-Stars gather after their game June 3 at the Oregon State Softball Complex in Corvallis. Grant Union Prospectors in the photo are Brianna Zwegardt, third from left in the middle row, and Cody Jo Madden and Whitney McClellan, front row, second and third from left. Prospector assistant coach Lance Zwegardt is second from left in the back row with head coach Zach Williams to his right.

## 4-H sharpshooters will head to state competition

### Boys seeking donations for trip

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A group of three 4-H sharpshooters, Logan Namitz, Cody Bowden and Trevor Gabbard, will compete at the state level on Monday through Wednesday, June 18-20, in Albany.

They are seeking donations for their three-day trip. Bowden, who was named a 4-H ambassador, will be in Albany for five days for training in that role.

After participating in three months of qualifying rounds in a mail-in tournament, with a different course of fire each month, the group was invited to the state competition.

The boys shoot using a .22 rifle and a pistol for the competition. Their coaches are Steve and Brenda Namitz.

Steve said the boys were troopers during the winter months of shooting at the Bear Creek Range in harsh weather conditions.

"We had to call practice a couple of times due to white-



Contributed photo

Grant County 4-H sharpshooters, from left, Trevor Gabbard, Cody Bowden and Logan Namitz have qualified for the state-level 4-H shooting competition in Albany.

outs, but for the most part, we were able to get our shoots in," he said, adding they often had a bonfire to warm up between shoots.

Some of their competitors on the west side, by contrast, practice at indoor shooting ranges.

Bowden, 16, is the squad captain, and is in the advanced division. Logan Namitz, 14, and Gabbard, 12, are in the intermediate division.

Namitz and Bowden will add a hunting competition, which includes rifle, pistol and archery, to their events at state.

"Cody has been shooting with the 4-H program now

for approximately six years and helps provide leadership and mentoring to the younger shooters," Steve Namitz said. "Over the years, Cody has received several champion and reserve champion placements for his age bracket at the county level."

Reid and Brady Dole-Wyllie have also been a part of the group and won ribbons in the qualifying rounds, and more youths join during the summer months.

Steve Namitz said Gabbard has been impressive as a first-year shooter and is the most-improved shooter over the course of the mail-in tournament.

Gabbard said he enjoys

that the program allows him to be with his friends to shoot.

"It's going to be fun to go and compete with other people from different places," he said. "I'm proud of my team."

Steve Namitz said there are excellent leaders making a difference with the youth of the community.

"I believe the 4-H shooting sports program is a great educational tool that teaches life skills and safe firearm behavior," he said. "The county has a great shooting sports program whether your interest is rifle, pistol, archery or shotgun."

He lauded the members of the Bear Creek Range who allow them to use their facility.

"I'm really proud of what these boys have accomplished and look forward to moving on to the state competition," he said.

To sponsor the team with a donation, call Brenda Namitz at 541-620-2803 or Teri Bowden at 541-575-2112. Donations may also be dropped off at A Flower Shop N More in John Day.



Eagle file photo

Junior golfer Clyde Holliday chips the ball onto the green at last year's Grant County Junior Golf clinic at the John Day Golf Club, as instructor Ron Lundbom, left, claps and Madelyn, Eliza and Max Bailey and Riddick Hutchison look on. The lessons begin June 18 this year.

## Grant County Junior Golf starts June 18

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Grant County Junior Golf will be offered three days a week starting Monday, June 18, at the John Day Golf Course.

Coach Ron Lundbom announced the lessons for boys and girls ages 8-18 will be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for

two weeks. Clubs are available, and the cost is \$30 per person.

A golf scramble and ice cream party will be held on June 19, the final day.

For more information, call Lundbom at 541-575-1850 (at John Day NAPA) or 541-620-0427. The John Day Golf Club number is 541-575-0170.