

Dayville teen chasing Elgin rodeo crown

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

ELGIN — After being crowned Oregon High School Rodeo Queen last week, Dayville's Rowdy Israel is hoping to represent Grant County July 6-9 at the Elgin Stampede as she looks to be named queen of the stampede.

Israel, 16, said that in addition to representing the county, she also wants to honor the memory of former Elgin Stampede President Ty Hallgarth, who died earlier this year. She said Hallgarth, who had been president of the Elgin rodeo for five years, was a friend and supporter.

On the back of a horse as far back as she can remember, Israel told the Eagle that most weekends, she is gone riding horses and competing in rodeos. Her events are break-away roping, goat tying and pole bending. Israel said she tried out for the Elgin Stampede rodeo queen nomination in August and has been competing for the crown since May.

Israel is one of three contestants vying for the Stampede Queen title. The Elgin

Stampede judges evaluate candidates in three categories: horsemanship, public speaking and ticket sales. Each candidate must perform a riding pattern, give a speech and sell tickets to the Stampede. The categories are scored individually.

Having been named Little Miss Grant County in 2014 and Little Miss National Professional Rodeo in 2017, Israel said she has always been proud to represent Grant County.

With aspirations of one day being crowned Miss Rodeo America, Israel said she always hopes to have the county's support behind her.

"I've been representing Grant County for quite some time now," she said. "Dayville is my home, so I am part of the county."

The 75th annual Elgin Stampede Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo will feature four days of entertainment and activities, including a parade and dance.

The coronation is Thursday, July 7. Those looking to throw their support behind Israel can purchase tickets from her by calling 541-620-3272.



Contributed Photo
Dayville's Rowdy Israel, 16, is hoping to be crowned Elgin Stampede Rodeo Queen next month after being named Oregon High School Rodeo Queen last week in Prineville.

Lady Pros named to all-league squad

By STEVEN MITCHELL
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JOHN DAY — The 2A/1A Special District 6 all-league selections for softball were announced last month, and eight Grant Union/Prairie City players made the cut.

Senior Riley Robertson was named to the first team at catcher and was selected Special District 6 Player of the Year.

Sophomore Drew Williams was chosen for the first team at pitcher and named Pitcher of the Year.

Other Lady Prospectors named to the all-league team were:

- Paige Gerry, senior, first team first base
- Savannah Watterson, sophomore, first team infield
- Raney Anderson, junior, first team utility/DP

- Addy Northway, sophomore, first team outfield
 - Paige Weaver, senior, second team outfield
 - Halle Parsons, sophomore, second team infield
- The Lady Pros went 26-2 on the season and finished second in the state.

Grant County Junior Golf Program starts July 5

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Junior Golf Program will take place next month at the John Day Golf Club.

Led by Grant Union High School golf coach Ron Lundbom, the two-week program teaches all the basics of the sport, including rules, etiquette, grip, stance and swing.

The program is open to boys and girls aged 7-18, with classes running from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday-Thursday, July 5-7 and 12-14, at the John Day Golf Club, 27631 Golf Club Road.

The program concludes with an ice cream party and scramble tournament on the final day.

The cost is \$30 per person, with no pre-registration required. Clubs are available for anyone who needs them.

For more information, call the club at 541-575-0170 or call Lundbom at 541-575-1850 or 541-620-0427.



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle
Grant Union's Audry Walker lines up a putt as her competitors look on during the Grant Union Golf Invite on Friday, April 29, 2022.

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SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The 8mm Mauser

When people refer to the .30-06 as the "grandfather" of modern cartridges, they are both right and wrong. While the .30-06 has sired an impressive family tree, it cannot be referred to as the family patriarch anymore than Edison can be credited with inventing electricity. No, there are others to thank in general, but one predecessor in particular deserves recognition.

In 1888, the German military adopted a cartridge that required a few revisions before arriving at the final product, which came to be called the 8x57mm Mauser. To put that in perspective, our own .45-70 had been adopted for official use in 1873, only 15 years before. To say this cartridge was way ahead of its time is a major understatement.

Originally loaded with a .318-caliber, 226-grain roundnose full metal jacket bullet, the 8x57 J had a muzzle velocity of between 2,000 and 2,100 feet per second. In those days, that was burning rubber.

After adopting the stronger 1898 Mauser rifle design, the German brain trust began to experiment with lighter-weight Spitzer bullets at much higher velocities. In 1905, the 8x57 JS was born; using the same .473-inch rimless case as the J version, it featured a .323-caliber, 154-grain bullet traveling 2,700-2,800 feet per second.

To differentiate, the ammunition for the original 1888 version became known as J Patrone and the newer 1905 version was called S Patrone. Confusing, isn't it?

In World War I, the Kaiser's riflemen fought with the S Patrone 154-grain ammunition. Later, during World War II, the Third

Reich, again opting for scientifically superior bullet design, switched to an even heavier bullet of .323-caliber, 198-grain boattail FMJ design. In addition to these world conflicts, the 8mm Mauser, 8x57mm JS or 7.92x57mm, as it sometimes is called, saw action in many smaller conflicts in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Today it has been largely relegated to "has been" status. This is a shame, as it is still a good cartridge. In power it lands somewhere between the .308 Winchester and .30-06 Springfield when loaded to modern pressure levels, as seen in European ammunition. In both Europe and Africa it still sees mixed use for big game hunting. In deference to the potentially confusing variations in bore dimensions, most American ammunition makers load the 8mm to something more of the power level of a .30-30 Winchester.

A hunting client the Antone when I was there used to bring an old Sporterized Mauser rifle chambered for 8x57mm. He handloaded 180-grain Nosler Ballistic tips to around 2,650 fps. Aside from that one hunter, I've had good experiences with a handful of mil-surp Mausers over the years.

Personally, I think it's about as likely that we will see 8-track tapes make a comeback as any resurgence in popularity for the old 8mm Mauser. But if you have one, or plan to get one, enjoy it. And you can tell everyone that it's the granddaddy of a host of modern cartridges.

Do you shoot an 8mm Mauser? Write to us at shootingthebreezeme@gmail.com and check us out on Facebook!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.



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