Sprinter's legacy gains momentum

Running event honoring former Heritage, Clark track star has its best turnout six years after his death

BY DAVE KERN
Columbian staff writer

Former teammates, friends and coaches braved driving rain Sunday morning to honor Kalani Rodrigues in the sixth run memorializing his life.

And proceeds are benefiting Clark College students today.

“We don’t have the best weather but we have the best turnout,” said Lori Jimerson, Kalani’s mother. Partier par ties numbered 361 people Sunday.

The 25-year-old track star was stricken down by brain cancer in 2004. So far, more than $14,000 has been raised from the events — the Kalani Rodrigues Memorial Scholarship 10K/5K. Sunday’s event is expected to net another $8,000.

“If Kalani were here today, he would be pretty stunned. He’s very humbled,” Jimerson said.

The race/walk started on the Clark campus near the west tennis courts and ended at the iconic Climie Tower. Rain was so heavy that a few runners put umbrellas in garbage bags for a makeshift running shirt.

“I knew Kalani, he was a buddy of mine,” said Jason Lewrick, 25, of Vancouver, winner of the 5K race. “I didn’t track with him here.

Kalani was a sprinter and held records at both Heritage High School and Clark College. His mother said Kalani was being recruited to be a sprinter at the University of Washington.

“We all run with Kalani,” said Mike Khakhubian, 25, of Vancouver, nodding to several friends. “We were all sprinters. So it was a good time to remember Kalani and feel some pain from the 5K, because sprinters don’t like to run in the rain.”

Vancouver in National Spotlight

Local officials say city’s image will survive Storro, Harris stories

Lawmakers will not address key issues

Punt by Congress draws penalty from

we want to make friends, talk more closely

Marjorie Cole

Punishment for business

how to make friends, talk more closely

Marjorie Cole

News, A1-6

Sports, B1-6
September just a stepping stone

High Schools: Top runner builds for later meets.

Clark County, C1-6
Speeders beware

Two state troopers honored for their diligence in ticketing speeders.

Life, D1-6
Wireless devices give deal options

Texting emerges as major communication tool.

Business, E1-5
Rethinking Holiday Inn

One of world’s oldest hotel franchises spruces up image.

Weather, D6
High: 83
Low: 61

Watch out! Washington attorney general warns of scams arriving in the mail. Clark County

Sprinters: A legacy lives on

Kalani Rodrigues, who died six years ago of brain cancer, was memorialized with a track meet.

The Columbian
Image:
From Page A1
cable news outlet, MSNBC, has also brought the subject up in a broadcast.
When the news broke, Mayor Tim Leavitt said there was "definitely a pause and a grouch" on his part. "I can think of many more productive and positive reasons why the city council, the mayor and the community should be on the map across the country."
The mayor has asked at least one family to question coming here. In a note sent to Leavitt, the city council and copied to The Columbian, Ken Goodwin said that he is researching moving his family of five and businesses to Vancouver. But the Harris incident led "us to pause and ask if this is where we want our children to be raised," he wrote.
In a followup e-mail, Goodwin said he was appalled by the outburst, and is looking for the council to take appropriate action.
"By the way, I won't let one incident or person taint my overall impression of your lovely community," Goodwin said. "It just caused me to pause, that's all.
Two episodes — unrelated except for the time frame in which they happened — aren't a true picture of Vancouver, Fort Vancouver National Trust President Edson Shraman said.
He listed the city's schools, livability, parks and public safety (and, of course, the Fort Vancouver National Site) as real indicators of the community's spirit.
He, like many others, said he doesn't think the news will have a long-lasting impact on the area's reputation.
"The public has a short memory," Shraman said. "Those things will fade ... and we'll move on from here. Both things will play themselves out." The last time Vancouver hit the national news was in the run-up to the 2010 Winter Olympics, and several years ago.
Outlets did stories about the connection between Canada's Vancouver and America's Vancouver.
That was some good press," Metcalf said. "It was fun, it was curious, and I think the way it was handled certainly added a degree of levity to what could be construed by some as being a nightmarish issue.
Clark College President1 Bob Knight said that he hadn't heard of the news having any negative impact at Clark College.
"I looked at them separately, not as as, here's Vancouver's reputation going down," he said in Storror's case, she has just some issues to deal with. In councilwoman Harris' case, there are stressors going on and personal issues going on.
"I think a lot more positive things will be coming out, Knight said.
Andrea Damswood 360-735-8543 or andrea.damswood@ columbia.com
Kalani:
From Page A1
distances.
Brittany Anderson, 27, of Ridgefield said she also runs with Kalani. She said she was at the event for Kalani and for her family. We are all such a close team. She is a good teammate.
Chris McClung, 29, came from Port Angeles to run. He, too, ran with Clark and Kalani. "He was a funny guy," he said of Kalani. "Good to be around. A hard worker."
McClung was wearing an Erik Anderson T-shirt from a memorial run for the former Clark College track and cross country coach who died in 2005.
He met the Clark soccer coach Brian Arens who represented college coaches in last year's 10k. Basketball coach Mike Arnold and Nancy Boone and baseball coach Don Freeman worked as volunteers.
Clark's president, Bob Knight, ran the 10k. He said he's regular at the run.
Several Heritage High grads ran and walked at the event, including former Heritage coach Mike Burdick and Mike Smith. Kalani is in Heritage's athletic hall of fame.
And Rick Garcia was proof that the run is helping young people with their lives. Garcia, 19, of Vancouver, Orcas and he's received $2,600 in scholarships from the endowment. He's studying engineering at Clark.
"Amazing people," he said of the Rodríguez-Jimerson family. They have helped me out with my schooling. So far, 15 students involved in Clark athletics have been awarded a scholarship. The Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club are the main sponsors of the event.
This event is the hearts and minds of Clark College, because he is one of ours," Lisa Gilbert of the college's foundation said of Kalani.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
Mideast:
they will quit the negotiations if Israel resumes building, though President Mahmoud Abbas said in an interview Sunday in the West Bank that the deadlocks and the objections of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made it "a complicated process." The Israeli government has said it will not resume negotiations with the PLO unless the talks are "meaningful." The talks have been suspended since last November, when the Israelis announced a new plan to build more settlements in the West Bank.
According to the Israeli government, the new plan would include about 2,000 new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank. The Palestinians say the plan is illegal and discriminatory.
"I am very concerned about the recent increase in settlement activity," Palestinian foreign minister Fouad Twal said in a statement.
"What it takes:"
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.
WHAT IT TAKES:
Wandering what it takes to put on a community run? Lori Jimerson has become an expert after six years of holding the Kalani Rodríguez Memorial Scholarship event. She generally starts planning for the event seven months early.
There are discussions to have and permits to get.
"This race would not have happened without Nutter Corporation," she said. The company provided two dozen runners who showed up at Clark College at 6 a.m. for the 8 a.m. event.
There were safety and street concerns and plenty of logistics. Two city street workers were at the event.
Jimerson said sponsors were Alpha Graphics; Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grill; Clark County Amateur Radio Club; Fishhead screen printer; 4th Street Northwest Running; and Vancouver Hawaiian Cafe; Tommy's O's Pacific Rim Bistro and The Columbian.
Main sponsors were the Clark College Foundation and the Penguin Athletic Club. There were also about 60 volunteers.