

# 79th annual Butte American Legion Veterans' Day Race



Friday, 11 November 2016 – Carlie Kearney steals show

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40 year old Helena runner Jesse Zentz (red shorts) pulled away for a 1:09 margin of victory with a time of 29:09.



Finishers	2.5 M	5.2 M	Total
Female	6	8	14
Male	2	31	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>

Jesse Zentz and Joby Rosenleaf ran to victory on a picture perfect

Friday morning in the Mining City.

The day, however, belonged to 5-year-old Carlie Kearney. The young girl, whose family now lives in Missoula, carried on a Butte family tradition and then some at the 79<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Race.

Carlie ran the 2.5-mile race with her father, 2004 Butte Central graduate Ryan Kearney, as the Kearney family reached its fourth generation of runners in Montana's oldest road race. "I'm not super tired," Carlie said moments after the race. "I had fun."

Carlie finished the race in 35 minutes, 11 seconds. She placed second in the female division behind Sheila Franey, who finished in 32:39. Carlie, though, clearly was the winner of her age group, if there was one that low.

"I never had a race before," Carlie said. "This was my first race, but I made it."

Carlie finished the race waiving to a crowd of supporters and sporting a wide smile. She was even more excited when she was awarded her second-place trophy. "She was so tough," Ryan said. "I would say she ran about 70 percent. She didn't take many breaks."

Carlie's mother, Ashleigh (Franklin), also a BC grad, completed the race while pushing Carlie's two younger siblings in a stroller.

Butte High Senior Joby Rosenleaf claimed the female overall title with a time of 37:09.



Ryan Kearney and daughter Carlie represented the third and fourth generations of the Kearney family who have completed the Veterans' Day race.



Ryan Kearney is a past champion of the 5.2-mile race. His uncle Bill Kearney also won the race. So did his grandfather, Marty Kearney. Ryan's uncle, Pat Kearney, was the long-time organizer of the race, who passed away in October of 2014, but his spirit was very much alive at Friday's race, which came on possibly the nicest Veterans Day Butte has ever seen. Ryan Kearney wore his uncle's old shoes while running with his daughter. "Pat Kearney is still running," he said.

Zentz, 40, from Helena, won the men's title in the 5.2-mile race with a blistering time of 29:09. Fellow Helena runner Evan Eck, the 2015 champion, placed second in 30:18. Michael LaForest placed third in 32:40.

Rosenleaf, who just finished her senior season on the Butte High cross country team, won the women's title in 37:09. Long-time Butte competitive runner Susie Kaluza, who won the 50-59 age group, placed second in 39:39. Butte Central senior Abby McGee took third in 40:33.

**2.5 Mile Females:** 1, Sheila Franey, 32:39; 2, Carlie Kearney, 35:11; 3, Ashleigh Kearney, 41:44; 4, Kay Newman, 50:06; 5, Cheryl Peterslie, 50:08; 6, Debbie Seitz, 50:14.

**2.5 Mile Males:** 1, Tim Near, 23:01; 2, Ryan Kearney, 35:12.

**5.2 Mile Females Overall:** 1, Joby Rosenleaf, Butte, 37:09; 2, Susie Kaluza, Butte, 39:59; 3, Abby McGee, Butte, 40:33.

**0-14:** 1, Ida Real, 44:18.

**High School:** 1, Joby Rosenleaf, 37:09; 2, Abby McGee, 40:33; 3, Rosie Real, 41:19.

**20-29:** None.

**30-39:** None.

**40-49:** 1, Cyndie Lockett, 42:02.

**50-59:** 1, Susie Kaluza, 39:59; 2, Traci Merzlak, 1:00:06.

**60-69:** 1, Eddie Walker, 51:45.

**5.2 Mile Males Overall:** 1, Jesse Zentz, Helena, 29:09; 2, Evan Eck, Helena, 30:18; 3, Michael LaForest, Missoula, 32:40.

**High School:** 1, Kasey Krzan, 34:44; 2, Sean Foley, 38:12.

**20-29:** 1, Chad Neu, 36:19; 2, Trevor Fuhrman, 36:27; 3, Justin Penner, 1:00:38.

**30-39:** 1, Evan Eck, 30:18; 2, Michael LaForest, 32:40; 3, Phillip K, 35:13; 4, Brandon Bradley, 38:04; 5, Seth Salusso, 1:05:48; 6, Conan Moore, 1:05:49.

**40-49:** 1, Jesse Zentz, 29:09; 2, Don Foley, 33:48; 3, Dan McGee, 38:07; 4, Kelly Ferriter, 38:55; 5, Bob Whelan, 44:06.

**50-59:** 1, Jeff Braun, 33:16; 2, Bill Kearney, 39:22; 3, Scott Craige, 43:22; 4, Mike Real, 45:56; 5, Mike McCaughey 54:18.

**60-69:** 1, Howard Morris, 45:06; 2, Tim Johnston, 51:02; 3, Mike Patterson, 51:45; 4, Joe Griffin, 51:46; 5, Dave Mueller, 51:59; 6, Vern Roberts, 52:03; 7, Chris Wareham, 52:09; 8, Bob Foley, 56:11; 9, Tom McGuire, 59:54.

**70-79:** 1, Leon Sherman, 1:00:41