

People & Places

For the love of county fairs

Ryann Newman develops new events for fairgrounds

By TIM HEARDEN
Capital Press

ORLAND, Calif. — Ryann Newman grew up at fairs, and her passion for them is helping one county fair turn the corner after a rough patch. She spent her springs and summers as a child going from fair to fair as her family operated the pony ride concession they started in 1961. At 18, she started taking ponies to fairs on her own, and at 21 she bought her own pony ride business.

Now Newman, 41, breeds and raises ponies with her husband, Mike, on 50 acres near Glenn, Calif., and she takes her concession — Ryann’s Happy Day Pony Ride — to the Washington State Fair, the Alameda County Fair and nine other festivals.

She often thought of managing a fair when she retired, but two years ago supporters of the struggling Glenn County Fair asked her to take over. “I’ve always loved fairs. I’ve supported fairs all my life,” Newman said.

New events

As fair manager, Newman has come up with new ways of getting people to the fairgrounds and generating revenue. In November, the fairgrounds hosted its inaugural North State Precision Ag Expo and Farm Business Forum, a two-day event featuring workshops and panel discussions on the newest of precision agriculture equipment as well as best business practices.



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

Ryann Newman feeds ponies at her ranch near Glenn, Calif. A pony ride concessionaire for fairs, Newman was hired two years ago to manage the struggling Glenn County Fair and has sought new ways to get people to the fairgrounds, including by hosting the inaugural Precision Ag Expo in November.

She started the event to provide more educational opportunities for Northern California farmers and ranchers, she said, and this year’s expo and forum will consist of a single “track” rather than two so every attendee can be at every session.

On Saturday, the fairgrounds will host a “Barn Beautification,” bringing in community volunteers and using donated paint and other materials to prepare the barns for the upcoming fair in May.

“We wanted to have the whole community come out and spruce up our auction facilities,” Newman said. “We just don’t have the means to keep up with our maintenance. ... My goal is to get the community to have some ownership of their fair again.”

Fairs in California have been hard-hit by state budget cuts. The 2015-16 state bud-

get included \$10 million for fairs, most of which went for overdue repairs and upgrades to facilities. Local fairs have sought innovative ways to bring in money, including the Shasta District Fair in Anderson, Calif., where a boosters’ club was formed to sell raffle tickets, operate a beer booth at the fair and do other fundraisers.

At the Glenn County Fair, the community was “disengaged” when the fairgrounds had an opening for a manager in 2015, and Newman’s goal has been to get the fairgrounds to be self-supporting “as a viable business,” she said.

“It’s such a bad business model to run a 55-acre facility based on a four-day event and some side events,” Newman said. “Back in the day, fairgrounds would get between \$175,000 and \$250,000 (a year) for maintenance. In the

last year, we got \$45,000.

“We’re running this close all the time,” she said, holding her thumb and forefinger close together.

Emergency shelter

One of Newman’s efforts has been to get local residents to recognize the importance of the fairgrounds. The site is available for private fundraisers and other events, and when the Oroville Dam’s spillway problems forced evacuations in February, the fairgrounds provided shelter and meals for 150 people.

“Our community just super-stepped up,” Newman said. Local Boy Scouts volunteered and businesses donated water and other goods. “We can take livestock, RVs and a large number of people. On our fairgrounds we have five kitchens and 28 showers. That’s every fair in every county.”



Western Innovator

Ryann Newman
Occupation: Glenn County Fair manager
Hometown: Glenn, Calif.
Age: 41
Family: Husband, Mike

Another way she’s trying to re-engage local residents is to host “Glenn County’s largest all-class reunion” during the fair May 18-21, featuring competitions between schools and classes, she said.

She’s also bringing back a series of mini-stock car races this summer, and has been working on putting in a soccer field to boost rentals.

Newman has also become involved with Western Fairs Association and is working on animal welfare issues. She says animal activists are targeting fairs.

“If this industry dies, we’ve got thousands of people who are out of work,” Newman said. “It’s amazing the commerce that exists off the fair industry.”

Newman says her career as a concessionaire has given her the unique perspective of seeing fair management “from both sides.”

“It’s a very challenging job,” she said. “It’s not like they’re just throwing a big party with unlimited funds.”

Newman appreciates the community support she gets.

“I want people to be proud of the fair,” she said.

Capital Press

Established 1928
Board of directors
Mike Forrester
Steve Forrester
Kathryn Brown
Susan Rana
Mike Omeg

Capital Press Managers
John Perry Publisher
Joe Beach Editor
Elizabeth Yutzie Sell Advertising Director
Carl Sampson Managing Editor
Barbara Nipp Production Manager
Samantha McLaren Circulation Manager

Entire contents copyright © 2017
EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is published weekly by EO Media Group, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem OR 97301.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048.

To Reach Us
Circulation 800-882-6789
Email Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line 503-364-4431
Fax 503-370-4383
Advertising Fax 503-364-2692

News Staff
N. California
Tim Hearden 530-605-3072

E Idaho
John O’Connell 208-421-4347

Idaho
Carol Ryan Dumas 208-860-3898

Boise
Sean Ellis 208-914-8264

Central Washington
Dan Wheat 509-699-9099

E Washington
Matthew Weaver 509-688-9923

Oregon
Eric Mortenson 503-412-8846
Mateusz Perkowski 800-882-6789

Graphic artist
Alan Kenaga 800-882-6789

To Place Classified Ads
Ad fax 503-364-2692
or 503-370-4383
Telephone (toll free) 866-435-2965
Online www.capitalpress.com/classifieds

Subscriptions
Mail rates paid in advance
Easy Pay U.S. \$3.75/month (direct withdrawal from bank or credit card account)
1 year U.S. \$49.99
2 years U.S. \$89.99
1 year Canada \$275
1 year other countries call for quote
1 year Internet only \$49.99
1 year 4-H, FFA students & teachers \$30
9 months 4-H, FFA students & teachers \$25
Visa and Mastercard accepted

To get information published
Mailing address:
Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office or news staff member closest to you, send the information to newsroom@capitalpress.com or mail it to “Newsroom,” c/o Capital Press. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Letters to the Editor: Send your comments on agriculture-related public issues to opinions@capitalpress.com, or mail your letter to “Opinion,” c/o Capital Press. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Capital Press ag media
www.capitalpress.com
www.FarmSeller.com
marketplace.capitalpress.com
www.facebook.com/capitalpress
www.facebook.com/farmseller
twitter.com/capitalpress
www.youtube.com/capitalpressvideo

Index

California	11
Idaho	9
Markets	13
Opinion	6
Oregon	8
Washington	10
Water	7

Correction
In the March 3 edition, the location the Washington State Department of Agriculture would secure hemp seeds was incorrectly listed as Yakima. They will be stored in Spokane if the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration issues the state a permit to import the federally controlled substance.

The Capital Press regrets the error.

Correction policy
Accuracy is important to Capital Press staff and to our readers. If you see a misstatement, omission or factual error in a headline, story or photo caption, please call the Capital Press news department at 503-364-4431, or send email to newsroom@capitalpress.com. We want to publish corrections to set the record straight.

Former capitol pillar lives on as flagpole monument

Capital Press

SUBLIMITY, Ore. — More than eight decades after the Oregon state capitol burned down, a recovered piece of one of its pillars serves as a monument to U.S. veterans at a Sublimity, Ore., farm.

G&M Scott Farm owners Guy and Mary Ann Scott built a tribute to honor past and present U.S. veterans from a pillar a relative took from the Capitol site after it burned down in 1935. The pillar, which now serves as a base for their flagpole, sits outside their home.

They plan to dedicate the monument this spring “as soon as the weather gets better,” Mary Ann said.

After a fire that started in the basement of the capitol left it decimated in 1935, all of the pillars that stood at the



front of the building were broken. Crews threw out most of them, but the uncle of Guy’s cousin picked up one of the pieces before it could be disposed of.

The piece of pillar went to their cousin. Mary Ann Scott purchased it for \$10 at the cousin’s auction five years ago.



Capital Press

Guy and Mary Ann Scott converted a column a family member recovered from the 1935 State Capitol fire into a flag pole outside their home in Sublimity, Ore.

“It’s just such a unique piece of history and no one else I know has one, so I had to get it,” she said. “I kind of thought from the beginning I wanted to make a

flag pole out of it.”

Originally, she said she wanted to restore the pillar, but her daughters talked her into keeping it in its original state.

The task of turning a bro-

ken piece of an old capitol pillar into the base of a flag pole became a family project when Mary Ann recruited the help of her grandson, daughters and a friend to help.

“It’s really quite beautiful with the angled brick inside,” she said.

Guy and Mary Ann are the sixth generation of Scotts to live on the family’s 400-acre farm. They rent out some of the land for grass seed and Christmas trees and tend the forested portions, Mary Ann said.

Guy’s great grandmother’s husband originally homesteaded the land in 1849 and the Scotts bought it in 1852.

The couple has lived there since they married in 1951.

They said they decided to dedicate the flagpole monument to U.S. veterans because of Guy’s experience in the Army in 1953 and 1954.

Calendar

Sponsored by:



GASES / WELDING / SAFETY / FIRE
www.oxarc.com
20 Northwest Locations
1-800-765-9055

To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at www.capitalpress.com and click on “Submit an Event.” Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or emailed to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

**Through Sunday
March 12**

Natural Products Expo West, Anaheim Convention Center, Marriott and Hilton hotels, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim, Calif. www.expowest.com

Saturday, March 11

Northwest Bison Association annual meeting. 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Forest Grove Senior Center, 2037 Douglas St., Forest Grove, Ore. The NWBA annual meeting will focus on small-scale bison ranching and facility setup and lots of stories from ranchers that have seen everything from tires as a fence to our setups and everything with veterinary. Richard Vee-man with Veterinary Services of Oregon will speak on his experience with bison along with Pat Fitzgerald with Fitzgerald Corral. A ranch tour of the L Bar T Bison Ranch is included. Pre-registration is preferred but not required.

www.nwbisonassociation.com

Wednesday, March 15

Pudding River Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. Seven Brides Brewing Co., 990 N. First St., Silverton, Ore. Meet the Pudding River Watershed Council Board and hear a presentation by Susan Barnes, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife region wildlife biologist. Sponsored by the watershed council, ODFW, and the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

Agricultural Biodiversity on Farms: Conservation Practices Working for Western Farmers. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 SW Halsey St. Troutdale, Ore. A first-of-its-kind conference on the benefits of agricultural biodiversity in Western farming systems and the practices that support it. Sponsored by the Oregon State University Integrated Plant Protection Center, the Xerces Society and Oregon Tilth. http://bit.ly/2kpWRsK

Thursday, March 16

Small Farms and Community Food Systems Workshop Series. 6-8:30 p.m. University of Idaho Extension, 2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, Idaho. This

is the second of three Thursday evening workshops. Topic is beekeeping, honey production, pollination and bee biology featuring Pat Ball of Ball Honey Co. Please mail registrations with payment to UI Extension Workshop Fund, 2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, ID 83544 prior to the workshop. Sign-in will begin at 5:30 each evening. Seating is limited to 25 people. Cost: \$5 per workshop or \$10 for all three.

Building Family Business Value from the Inside Out. 7:30 to 9 a.m. BridgePort BrewPub, 1313 NW Marshall St., Portland. Much can be done to build the value of the business from inside the enterprise, and the earlier the process begins, the more sustainable the results will be. In addition to building value, most businesses become more efficient and profitable along the way. Presented by Francis Brown, Key Private Bank and the Austin Family Business Program, Oregon State University. 800-859-7609, http://bit.ly/2gR3KCO

Sunday, March 19

Home Orchard Society 42nd

Fruit Propagation Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Clackamas County Fairgrounds Main Pavilion, 694 NE Fourth Ave., Canby, Ore. Hundreds of varieties of free scions and cuttings. If you graft this is paradise, or you can choose custom grafting by experts for \$5. Free with your admission are hundreds of varieties of apple, pear, cherry, plum and persimmon scions; cuttings of grapes, kiwis, and figs to root; and experts to answer fruit growing questions. Cost: \$7 per person (family \$12) www.homeorchard-society.org/events

**Tuesday-Thursday
March 21-23**

LEAP Logger Education. University of Idaho Extension Kootenai County Office, 1808 North Third St., Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. LEAP, or Logger Education to Advance Professionalism, is a national extension program started at the request of loggers who wanted to improve their skills and market their services more effectively to forest owners and managers. The course features two days indoors and one day with field exercises on forest biology, forest ecology, silviculture and forest water quality. It is taught by University of Idaho faculty and Idaho Department

of Lands personnel. Cost: \$75, or \$79 online registration. www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/calendar

Thursday, March 23

Small Farms and Community Food Systems Workshop Series. 6-8:30 p.m. University of Idaho Extension, 2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, Idaho. This is the last of three Thursday evening workshops. Topic is marketing ag products in Northern Idaho featuring Iris Mayes, UI Extension. Please mail registrations with payment to UI Extension Workshop Fund, 2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, ID 83544 prior to the workshop. Sign-in will begin at 5:30 each evening. Seating is limited to 25 people. Cost: \$5 per workshop or \$10 for all three.

**Friday-Sunday
March 24-26**

18th Annual Northwest Horse Fair and Expo. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road, Albany, Ore. Three days of clinics, seminars and performances for horse enthusiasts. Cost: Adults \$12 a day, children ages 6-12 \$6 a day. Parking \$4. www.equinepromotions.net