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MayDay holds vigil against domestic violence

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR
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Tuesday, October 18, MayDay Inc. hosted their annual celebration of the human spirit and candle-light vigil in observation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

MayDay is a nonprofit organization that helps victims of domestic violence, abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse. They also provide services for trafficking, bullying, and stalking. The event provided an opportunity for people to

tell their stories of domestic violence, share in their experiences, and to remember silent victims, those who had died due to domestic violence.

This year, they recognized three silent victims with dark cutouts. The names on the cutouts were Sid Stratos, Karen Bass, and Christina.

Between the poems and stories, Rick Anderson performed on drums and guitar for listeners.

Due to the weather this year, the luminarias they planned to place for the vigil were not displayed

to keep them from damage—they were made by students from MayDay classes and past survivors.

"It's good for them to get their story out," said Cassie Martin, the Program Coordinator and PRIA Advocate. "It's a growing experience."

Lynette Perry, a survivor of domestic violence, shared her story for the third time at this event.

"Don't despair, you can be your own person," Perry said to listeners.

Perry and Martin focused on reminding attending listeners to be hopeful

and strong.

Attending the event were clients from the Baker House, who shared poems they had written describing their experiences with domestic violence and shared their stories.

Helping with the event were Tammy Cornelius and Heidi Stark, who are Victim's Advocates for sexual assault, domestic abuse, elder abuse, trafficking, and stalking.

"It's nice, we don't usually get a huge crowd, but it's just kind of nice to celebrate surviving," said Cornelius.



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Rick Anderson (in the tent) with Lynette Perry in the white scarf, Cassie Martin and others attended the vigil.

Here kitty, kitty!



Submitted Photo

Kristina Koontz poses with the cougar she downed with one shot as it stalked her during a hunting trip.

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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"I'll never forget it," said local hunter Kristina Koontz, as she spoke about the harrowing experience of being surprised by a hovering, 150-pound male cougar in the Ukiah Wildlife Management Unit—which she dropped, with one shot from eight yards away using a Remington Model 700 rifle in .270 caliber.

Koontz, 40, from La Grande, actually began her solo adventure on Tuesday, October 11, by looking to fill her deer rifle tag—she had a cougar tag, too—which she thought she had accomplished, by shooting at a buck, around 1 p.m., she said. The buck took off, and she tracked it for about three and a half hours (and about seven miles—there were tracks, but no blood), but she couldn't locate it ultimately. "I never drew blood on that buck, so, I'm pretty sure I missed it," she said.

She called her boyfriend, Chris Cannon, a couple of times, when she had cell phone service, and said, "I think I'm getting closer (getting back to her vehicle), but I might be spending the night out here."

SEE COUGAR PAGE 9



Submitted Photo.

The cougar weighed in at a whopping 150 lbs.

Baker County's 'Gold Rush' season debuts



Submitted by Suzan Ellis Jones

The camera crew films a mid-season segment of 'Gold Rush' up Clark's Creek.

• SEASON FILMED IN HEREFORD AND BRIDGEPORT AIRS AT LAST

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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The season debut of the Discovery Channel's 'Gold Rush' aired last Friday, October 14, featuring several shots of southern Baker County where the Hoffman crew arrived last summer for filming on the High Bar Mine, owned by the Wirth family, in Hereford. The crew also mined—utilizing the famed Monster Red wash plant—at a separate location up Clark's Creek near Bridgeport.

The first episode of the season showed a caravan including the stars of the show and a British camera crew arriving at the Durkee end of Burnt River Canyon—and due to the magic of television appearing rather quickly in Hereford a half hour away. That segment was filmed in May, and attended by County Commissioner Mark Bennett.

The initial plot hints at a disappointing lack of gold, resulting in production moving elsewhere for next season.

Friday Partly sunny, seasonable. Highs in the lower 60s. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with showers. Chance of precipitation, lows in the high 30s.

Saturday Partly sunny with a stray chance of showers. Chance of precipitation is 20%, highs near 60. Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a stray chance for showers. Lows near 40.

Sunday Partly sunny with a chance for showers. Highs in the lower 60s. Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with a stray chance for showers. Lows near 40.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Taste of Baker held	Page 3
OTEC gets new manager	Page 3
Letters to the Editor, Editorial	Pages 4-5,7
Classified	Page 6
Fugitive's twin brother arrested	Page 9
Central Park's new interactive art	Page 10

7 01748 74383 8