



115 years in Baker County

# Record-Courier

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Intensely local news

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## Teddy Roosevelt Historical Tribute to Visit Haines May 9

Teddy Roosevelt's Oregon Roadshow, a live performance by historical recreator Joe Wiegand, will visit Haines for a special event at the Eastern Oregon Museum (610 Third Street) at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 9 as part of a week-long tour of schools and museums sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society and Wells Fargo. This event is co-hosted by the Eastern Oregon Museum and the Rock Creek-Muddy Creek Mutual Improvement Club. The event is free and open to the public, and donations to the Eastern Oregon Museum are appreciated. Tea and cookies will be served at this afternoon performance.

For the past four years, Wiegand has entertained and educated people of all ages as he traversed more than 5,000 miles across Oregon. This year, in his fifth annual visit to Oregon, he will travel to Ontario, Eugene, Hood River, Portland, and more. Visit [www.ohs.org/events](http://www.ohs.org/events) to view the complete schedule.

"I have personally seen 'Teddy' perform over 75 times, yet each time I am blown away by his energy and how he truly embodies our 26th President," said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk.

"OHS is thrilled to again partner with Wells Fargo to bring this educational experience to schools and historical organizations throughout the region."

Wiegand has been bringing T.R. to life for years with his unparalleled grasp of history and uncanny resemblance to the famed Rough Rider.

## John Osborn Honored for Dedication to Scouting

By Gina Perkins



From left: Drew, Marci, Joyce, Brandi and Mark Osborn were presented with the James E. West Fellowship Award to honor the late John Osborn.

"Time is the most precious commodity we have," said keynote speaker Randy Guyer at Friday's Boy Scout breakfast honoring the late John Osborn. "John gave of his time," added Guyer.

Osborn's family was presented the James E. West Fellowship Award in recognition of decades dedicated to Boy Scouts.

Other special speakers addressed the early morning crowd including Matt Hibbard, an Eagle Scout and John Gaarsland, District Eagle Scout Board Chairman. Porter Cline, a senior at Baker High School and an Eagle Scout, also had a display of his project at the event.

The event which was held at the Elk's Club and organized by Emily Braswell of the Eastern Oregon District, will be held annually. The breakfast was also used to raise funds for Scouting.

If you were unable to attend, but would like to make a financial donation, please make your check to Blue Mountain Council and mail to P.O. Box 866 in La Grande, OR 97850.

## Burnt River Students Learn Welding

Story / photos by Gina Perkins

This week students at Burnt River School learned how to weld. Rodd Isham of Behlen Manufacturing and Dan Koopman, Director of Blue Mountain Community College, spent four days in Unity.

"Starting next year, we will be bringing a new CTE (Career Technical Education) program to Burnt River each quarter," said Koopman.

See WELDING on page 11

## MAIL ORDER BRIDE'S TRUNK DONATED

Story and photos by Gina Perkins

A few weeks ago, I wrote a story about Jennie Bennett, a mail order bride who answered an ad for a wife from George Rollins, a homesteader and rancher in Rye Valley.

This past Sunday, her great-granddaughter Patti Jester, donated to the Haines museum Jennie's trunk. This steamer carried her belongings during her 1884 trek by train from Indianapolis, Indiana to Weiser, Idaho. Jester, who is from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho also donated a very old wooden, handmade tool chest complete with antique tools belonging to Jennie's husband, George Rollins. Some of the tools also belonged to their youngest son, Percy.

Jester shared additional information about Jennie including a copy of their 1884 wedding license. Her legal name was Nancy Jennie Bennett. Jester stated her great grandparents corresponded several times by mail before Jennie decided to board the train to Weiser. George drove his horse and buggy from Rye Valley to Weiser, crossed the Snake River by ferry, and put her up in a hotel for four days prior to their wedding.

"I've always wondered whether or not she bought a one-way ticket," mused Jester.

In addition, Jester shared the name of the orphanage where Jennie's mentally disabled (perhaps mentally ill) brother had lived following the death of their parents. Their father died as a result of an infection from a head injury received in battle during the Civil War. Their mother remarried, but then died a short time after. The name of the orphanage was the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home, which was founded in 1865 and closed in 2009.

George Rollins, husband to Jennie, was born in Farmington, Minnesota on July 19, 1860. When he was 13, he moved with his parents to San Francisco and later to Sherman County where his father, a doctor, platted the town of Grass Valley. In 1882, Rollins took up a homestead in Baker County at Rye Valley.

See TRUNK on page 2



Mail order bride, Jennie Bennett's trunk which held her belongings on the train when she arrived from Indianapolis, Indiana in 1884. She married George Rollins from Rye Valley.

## Upcoming Events

### Kick Off Wildfire Prevention Month

Greater Bowen Valley Rural Fire Protection District would like to invite the community to attend their open house May 7, 2016 from 10-2 p.m. The event will be held at the at the fire station on Hwy-7 at mile post 41 to help kick off wildfire community preparedness month. For more information, call the fire station at 541-523-3688 or visit our website.

### Who is the Oldest Subscriber to the Record-Courier?

One of our favorite readers, Lucille Verbeck of Redmond, is about to turn 100.... perhaps she is the oldest subscriber to the Record-Courier?

Or is she? Drop us a note or give us a call (send us a picture!) before our Open House on May 1 and let us know if you're the oldest! We will have special prizes for our oldest Baker County, regional (Union, Grant, and Wallowa County), and out of area subscribers. Need not be present to win.

### Sumpter Valley Railroad Depot Eligibility for Listing

By Gina Perkins

On March 25 a letter was received by the County from Diana J. Painter, PhD, architectural historian, and National Register Program Coordinator in response to a request from Shawn Peterson regarding the eligibility of the Sumpter Valley Railroad Depot located in Baker City for listing in the National Register. Currently, the building houses the Baker County Parks Department.

The letter outlines several criterion in which the Depot may qualify for listing including: its association with the railroad and the railroad's importance to Baker City and the region's history; it's the only building of its type in Baker City; and the Depot is a good example of its type that also retains good integrity.



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**Powder Basin Watershed Sprint Clean Up**  
April 23, 2016  
10-1 p.m.  
Meet at Geiser Pollman Park  
541-523-7288

**AAUW Candidate Forum**  
April 26 at 6 p.m.

Baker High School Commons

**Remember Mom! Mother's Day Sunday, May 8**



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