



Two cyclists pedal along Despain Gulch Road on Saturday during an event called Ann’s Next Ride in honor of Ann Wyatt, who died in June after being hit by a car as she biked to work.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Ride honors fallen cyclist

Ann’s spirit goes along for the ride on Echo loop

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Ride on, Ann Wyatt.

Wyatt died in June after a car hit her as she cycled to work. On Saturday, a spirited group of friends and co-workers pedaled the 56-mile Echo loop as a way to honor the 62-year-old cyclist. The route wasn’t selected by chance.

Wyatt, a member of the Pendleton on Wheels bike club, bought a road bike about a year ago and slowly worked her way up in mileage. After a 50-mile ride on Memorial Day, she looked ahead to the club’s next trek — a 56-mile loop to Echo along Rieth Road, through Stanfield and back to Pendleton via Despain Gulch Road. She never got a chance. So Saturday, her friends did it for her, taking Wyatt along in spirit.

Some wore florescent pink, orange or green shirts which proclaimed “In Memory of Ann Share the Road.”

Wyatt’s daughter, Rebecca Camalez, addressed the cyclists at the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce before the group shoved off.

“I can’t think of a better way to celebrate my mom’s life than this ride,” said Camalez, who choked up momentarily. “It means the world to me and my family.”

She said her mother acted with



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Rebecca Camalez reminisces about her mother, Ann Wyatt, who died in June after being hit by a car as she biked to work. Camalez and her brother spoke prior to a memorial ride in Wyatt’s honor.

kindness to everyone around her.

“I’m still trying to learn how to cope with this huge piece of my heart that is going to be gone forever,” Camalez said. “I know she would want me to do something positive and cherish every day of life like she did.”

Wyatt’s son, Michael Barz, took the mike to say a few words to the cyclists.

“My mom will be riding with each of you today,” he said.

Friend Deb Gutierrez worked with Wyatt at the U.S. Forest Service in Pendleton where Wyatt had been

going that awful morning in June. Gutierrez described Wyatt as a peaceful adventurer.

“She had an amazing light about her,” Gutierrez said. “You could see it in her eyes and her smile. When I needed calming, I would go stand in Ann’s office.”

Wyatt’s husband, Oran, stood on the fringes of the group, his dog Piper laying by his feet. He listened quietly, emotions playing on his face. After the cyclists headed out, Wyatt said he was bowled over by the support of those who knew his wife. Ann, he said, would have been astonished.

“She wouldn’t have believed it,” Oran said.

They had met about 20 years ago on a Forest Service trail crew in San Bernadino, California, which Ann supervised. They married a couple of years later. Her death destroyed him, he said, but he doesn’t regret any of the time they spent together.

“I was so lucky,” he said.

After Saturday’s ride, Oran rejoined the group at the Prodigal Son, where the cyclists refueled on beer and food and shared stories of their adventure. Except for a cyclist who fell while crossing the railroad tracks near Rieth and had been taken away by ambulance, the day had been near perfect.

Ann would have loved it.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0810.

PENDLETON

Haupt hired as EO news editor

East Oregonian

Wyatt Haupt Jr., a veteran editor with experience in newsrooms in several western states, joined the *East Oregonian* team on Monday.

He will assume the role of news editor, working with reporters and photographers toward the daily production of the *EO*, both in print and online.



Haupt

Haupt was most recently the news editor of *The Daily Courier* in Prescott Valley, Arizona and had previously held editorial positions at the *News-Times* in Newport, *Daily Courier* in Grants Pass and *News-Review* in Roseburg. He has also worked at newspapers in Colorado and California.

“Wyatt knows newspapers inside and out,” said managing editor Daniel Wattenburger. “He’s

worked at papers large and small and has led teams to great local coverage. I couldn’t be happier to have him on board.”

Haupt is an avid outdoorsman, with interests ranging from surfing to ping-pong, snowboarding to pinball, and is excited to be in Pendleton.

“I dig the downtown,” Haupt said. “There’s plenty of outdoor activities ... it’s the perfect spot for me.”

Two other new faces have joined the *EO* sports department this fall.

Annie Fowler, a former Tri-City Herald sports reporter who grew up in Helix, will cover high school athletics in the greater Hermiston area, while Brett Kane, a University of Oregon graduate who grew up in Hermiston, will cover Pendleton-area sports.

Gun rights measure qualifies for Umatilla County ballot

Umatilla County voters in November will decide if they want to prevent county resources from being used to enforce state or federal laws that could infringe on gun rights.

County elections director Kim Lindell said the measure, known as the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance, qualified for the ballot. Petitioners Jesse Bonifer of Athena and Kevin Pettey of Hermiston submitted 1,695 signatures to the county’s election office in July.

Lindell said her department verified 1,183 signatures, 52 more than the minimum required to make the ballot.

She also said this is the only Umatilla County measure on the ballot.

The initiative would

restrict Umatilla County from using any resources to enforce state or federal laws infringing on the right to keep and bear arms. The initiative also designates the county sheriff as the authority to decide which of those laws would cross the infringement line.

Voters or county commissioners in Wallowa, Coos, Curry and Wheeler counties have passed identical local laws. The proposal also goes to the voters in Columbia and Douglas counties. The election is Nov. 6.

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Delay keeps De La Paz in county jail

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Attempted murder defendant Silvestre Sanguino De La Paz of Hermiston has to wait until next week for a jail release hearing.

De La Paz, 23, has been in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, since his arrest on Sept. 4. He appeared Monday afternoon via video in the Pendleton courtroom of Circuit Judge Jon Lieuallen for a release

hearing. But defense attorney Michael Breiling of Pendleton told the court he received reports and other information about the case earlier in the day and had yet to talk to De La Paz.

“A number of things that were alleged frankly don’t add up,” Breiling said, and he needed time to thoroughly review the information.

Still, the lawyer said, De La Paz was the one in jail and his mother and other

relatives were present and ready to testify. De La Paz told Breiling to do what he thought was best. With that, the court reset the release hearing for Monday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m.

The court also pushed back a hearing to consider a civil restraining order against De La Paz to Oct. 16. Breiling said that had to do with the custody of a child.

Hermiston police arrested De La Paz fol-

lowing an investigation into an attack of a 20-year-old woman. Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston described the attack as “vicious” and reported a 2-year-old child was present.

De La Paz has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder, second-degree assault, second-degree kidnapping, unlawful use of a weapon, strangulation, coercion and menacing.

Umatilla County bans semitrailers on Butler Grade Road

Umatilla County put the brakes on big rigs using Butler Grade Road.

Semitrailers sometimes get stuck trying to navigate the road’s steep gravel switchbacks in the northern part of the county, and a recent snarl blocked traffic and damaged the road.

Katie Harlow of the Helix area wrote to the

county about the problem, according to county records.

She reported she has been living along the road for more than 11 years, and now has as many as three or four semis a month get stuck on the road.

Matt Kenney, with the county’s public works department, presented a

plan Wednesday to the county board of commissioners to place signs at the north and south entrances to the road and install barriers to prevent larger trucks

from using the road. The plan still allows local cars, pickups and smaller trucks to use the road.

The county board voted 3-0 in favor of the plan.

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