

Cycle Oregon preparing to ride through Grant County

By **JUSTIN DAVIS**
Blue Mountain Eagle

The length of the ride will vary, with riders having the choice of a short route of 272 miles with no ride day options, an alternate paved route of 352 miles and a route with all optional routes (including traveling on gravel) that is 443 miles. The longest trek of the event will be a more than 70-mile ride from Mitchell to Dayville on the event's sixth day.

The appearance of Cycle Oregon in Grant County provides opportunities for local organizations to raise money through signing up for paid tasks like serving dinner and manning rest stops for the riders. Tammy Bremner of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce said people are still needed to serve dinner to the riders on Friday, Sept. 16, in John Day. A number of jobs still

JOHN DAY — Around 1,000 cyclists are preparing to descend on Grant and Wheeler counties for a weeklong ride that will start and end in John Day while passing through Monument, Fossil, Mitchell and Dayville.

Riders will arrive in John Day on Saturday, Sept. 10, and spend the night in town before starting their ride on Sunday. Setup crews for the event will arrive in town on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Also coming with the riders will be an array of services and support personnel for event participants, including a beer tent, food trucks, a coffee wagon, showers, bike technicians, live music and even a massage service.



Contributed Photo/Cycle Oregon

Cycle Oregon is coming to Grant and Wheeler counties Sept. 10-17, 2022. Around 1,000 cyclists will ride through Monument, Fossil, Mitchell and Dayville before ending where they started in John Day.

remain to be filled in Monument, Spray, Mitchell and Dayville from Sunday, Sept. 11, to Friday, Sept. 16. Cycle Oregon will pay \$500 to any organization willing

Bremner said there are 14 different groups from around the county that have elected to raise money through signing up for jobs during the Cycle Oregon ride.

With so many cyclists coming into town, Bremner said it is important to be aware that cyclists will be riding on Highway 26 and other local roads, meaning motorists will have to drive with caution to prevent accidents.

"Just be aware that on Sunday morning they're going to be leaving here," she said. "There's no set time. Everybody is on their own schedule. ... They'll be leaving here probably anywhere from 7:30 (a.m.) to 9 (a.m.)."

Bremner also wants to remind everyone that there will be 1,000 participants in the ride this year. "They're not all going to be together. Most of them have done this before and Cycle Oregon is very safety conscious. That doesn't mean that something isn't going to happen, just be aware that there is going to be a lot of cyclists," Bremner said.

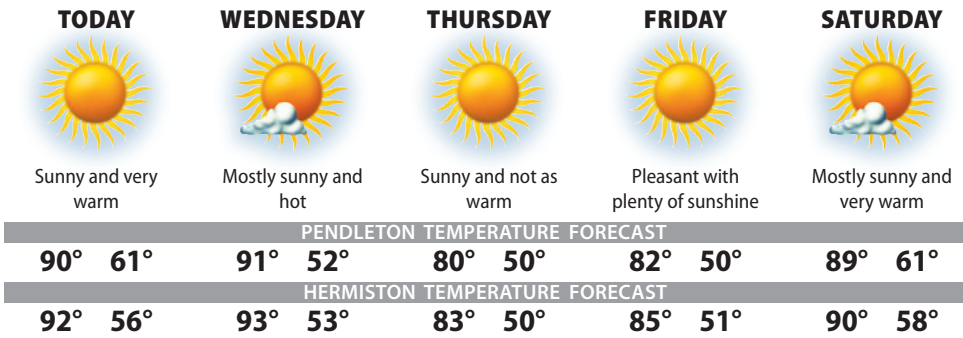
Bremner said she expects Cycle Oregon to donate over \$20,000 to various local groups and organizations for the work they have signed up to do in support of the group's 2022 ride through Grant County.

Participants can also be expected to spend money at area bars, restaurants, grocery stores, retail shops and other local businesses.

"It's a big deal," Bremner added. "They do this somewhere every year. ... They've picked this area because it is beautiful."

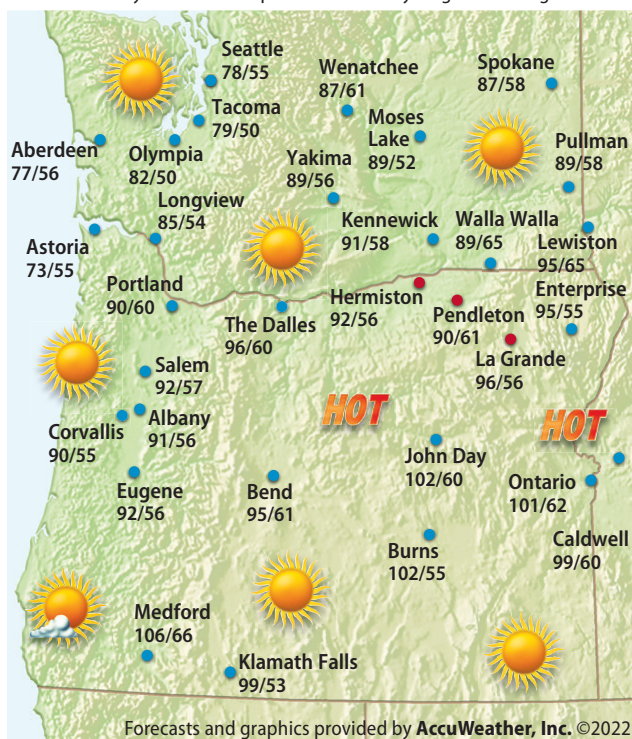
to be a green team/cleanup crew, \$1,000 to conduct a site teardown and cleaning sweep and \$1,200 to staff a rest stop or provide a baggage unloading crew.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Mon.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Monday	84°	60°
Normals	83°	53°
Records	99° (1932)	36° (1892)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.07"
Year to date	11.17"
Last year to date	4.35"
Normal year to date	8.72"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Mon.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Monday	84°	62°
Normals	85°	51°
Records	97° (2003)	37° (1956)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.05"
Year to date	7.52"
Last year to date	2.46"
Normal year to date	5.36"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	NE 4-8	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	N 6-12	W 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:22 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:24 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:52 p.m.
Moonset today	1:08 a.m.

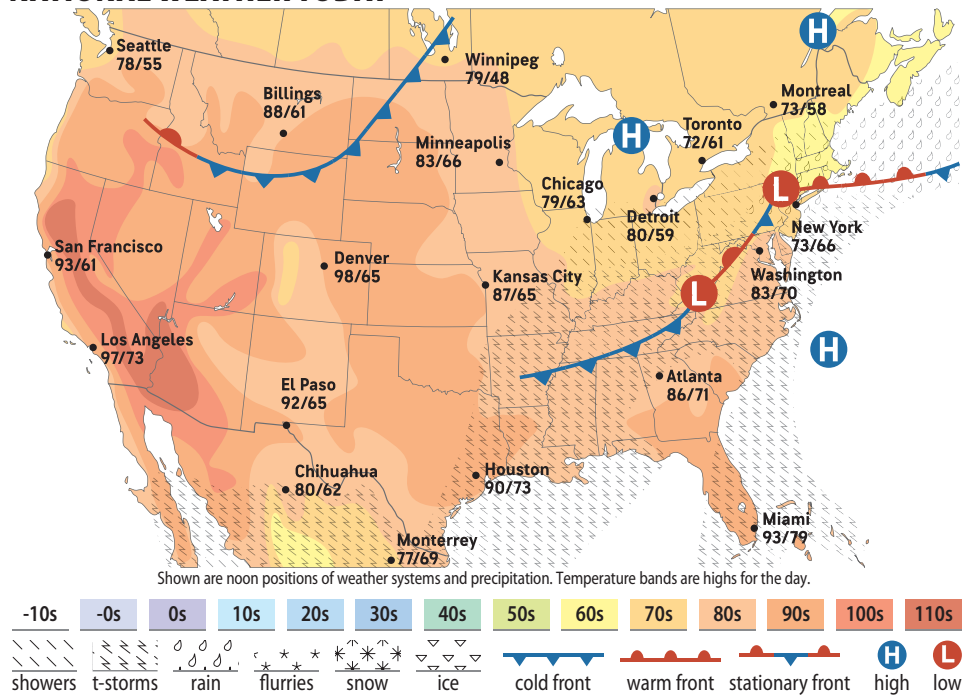
Full Sep 10, Last Sep 17, New Sep 25, First Oct 2

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 116° in Fairfield, Calif. Low 32° in Baraga, Mich.

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Racing to finish a horse barn

Project builds barn in time for Baker County Fair

By **LISA BRITTON**
Baker City Herald

HALFWAY — Lynda Bird clipped the ribbon to officially dedicate the new horse barn at the Pine Valley Fairgrounds on Thursday, Sept. 1 — just one day before the 101st annual Baker County Fair.

"We want to thank everybody for coming, and for all your donations," Bird said to those gathered in the mid-day sunshine.

This was a project of the Friends of the Pine Valley Fairgrounds.

"We've talked about this for years," Bird said.

The new barn is 12 feet wide and 120 feet long. It is divided into 10 horse stalls, each 12 feet by 12 feet.

According to Bird's research, horse racing in Halfway dates to the early 1900s.

The Baker County Fair started in 1921, and the original race horse barns were built in 1935.

"They'd race during the rodeo," Bird said.

A 1936 program lists Buck, owned by Chas. Whiteley and ridden by C. Summers, and Blue, owned by Vera Jones and ridden by D. Summers.

Horse owners and racers in 1946 included Benita Smelcher, Jane Smelcher, Ralph Cook, Don Rock, Ve Makinson, Percy Laird, Ray Harding, Wayne Curtis, Doc Summers and Dorothy Summers.

In the 1950s, local racers were joined by Native Americans from Warm Springs. By that time, all 20 stalls in the horse barn were filled, with overflow into the cow barns.



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Lynda Bird handles the scissors during a ribbon cutting to dedicate the new horse barn at the Pine Valley Fairgrounds in Halfway on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022. An effort to raise money for a new barn started in 2019. In all, 85 donors contributed \$95,000.

HALFWAY HORSE RACING

Danny Summers, who grew up in Halfway, became a professional horse jockey and rode at major racetracks on the West Coast and Canada.

He died in 1937 at the age of 22 when his horse fell during a race at San Mateo, California.

He is buried at the Pine Valley Cemetery in Halfway.

In 2007, the horse races were replaced by mule races, which are still held during the Panhandle Rodeo, a mainstay of fair weekend.

The horse barn — one of three original buildings at the fairgrounds — fell into disrepair.

(The other original structures are the grandstand, which was reconstructed in 2012, and exhibit hall, which was rebuilt after suffering snow damage during the winter of 2016-17.)

In 2019, a fundraising effort began to build a new horse barn, kick-started by a grant from the Leo Adler Community Foundation.

In all, 85 donors contributed \$95,000 to build the new barn. Much of the money

came from individual donations, in addition to contributions from Baker County and the county Transient Lodging Tax.

Each horse stall features a Dutch door — the top and bottom open independently — and the exterior is built with blue-stained pine.

Smokey Creek Barn Company, owned by Donnie Higgins, handled the construction.

It's not quite finished — an addition of 16 feet is planned for storage with a six-foot sliding door.

"It'll make it convenient," Higgins said.

The 101st Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo was Saturday through Monday, Sept. 3-5.

IN BRIEF

Crews making significant progress on Mount Emily Fire outside La Grande

LA GRANDE — Fire crews are making progress on the 5.4 acre Mount Emily Fire, approximately 5 miles north-northwest of La Grande.

"The forward progress has been stopped," said Hunter Pretucci, of the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center, at about 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4.

Union County Emergency Manager Nick Vora said firefighters are now in a mop-up phase of putting out the fire.

The fire, which was first reported around 11 p.m. by a member of the public on Friday, Sept. 2, is still 0% contained but this is not expected to be an issue because a hand dug

line has been dug around it, Pretucci said.

Crews from the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry are working at the fire, which is about 5 miles north of Interstate 84. A helicopter was used to help fight the fire on Sept. 3 but no air support is being utilized on Sept. 4.

No structures are threatened by the fire, Pretucci said. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Smoke from the fire may be highly visible on the south slope for days while the crews continue to work. Union County Emergency Services is requesting people not call 911 for fire information or to report the fire. If there are any new fires, those should be reported immediately to 911 or the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center.

—EO Media group

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