

SUN SHINES UPON 2015 FLORA SCHOOL DAYS



Leela Andrew, left, 12, of La Grande, grinds wheat flour while her friend, Mary Thiel, 10, of Joseph, busies herself in making butter during the 2015 Flora School Days celebration.

Rob Ruth/Chieftain

HUNT: Bikes will be hidden in Oregon's 7 Wonders

Continued from Page A1

The seat is a leather Brooks model with intricate carved designs, the handlebar grips are leather, and the paint is olive green with black accents and mountain-style graphics. Its estimated value is somewhere north of \$10,000. "To buy a custom bike from these bike builders, you'd be looking at about \$10,000 — these bikes are the best of the best," said Travel Oregon Director of Global Communications Judiaann Woo. "The Wonder bikes are priceless. They're not only custom, they have special features based on the geography and beauty of their theme locations."

Other bike-builders for other Wonders include Ahearn Cycles building for the Oregon Coast, Argonaut Cycles for the Columbia River Gorge, Ingleheart Custom Frames &

Forks for The Painted Hills, Mike DeSalvo for Crater Lake, Vulture Cycles for Smith Rock and Wolfhound Cycles for Mt. Hood.

Two representatives from Travel Oregon will be guarding the bikes in their hidden locations, ready to formally hand them over to the intrepid explorer who finds them. Ownership documents will be signed and the winner will be photographed.

Oregon is considered among the innovators in bicycle tourism in the U.S. In 2010, a collaboration between Travel Oregon, Cycle Oregon, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department produced the nation's first Scenic Bikeways program that, five years later, boasts 12 "best of the best" routes around the state. Additionally, in 2014 Travel Oregon developed the Oregon Bike Friendly Business program geared to travelers.

The program provides local businesses with tips and tools on how to be bike-friendly and cater to the growing contingent of cyclist tourists — from in and out of the state.

Expect competition for these extraordinary custom bikes to be stiff. If the 7 Bikes 7 Wonders campaign has anything near the tourism-boosting success that the 7 Wonders of Oregon campaign saw, Wallowa County's only bicycle shop, the Bike Shop at Joseph Hardware, may be swamped. Head mechanic Andy Osborn currently keeps hours two days a week and offers bike repair and custom orders for Raleigh Bikes. "We're set up to make any repair," Osborn said.

Travel Oregon-sponsored studies have found that bicycle-related tourism currently contributes about \$400 million to the state's \$10.3 billion tourism economy.

CRAWFORD: Teacher retires after 27 years

Continued from Page A1

"He said, 'Computer science and business education aren't that far apart, and if you turn in the direction of business education, I'll hire you as soon as you graduate,' and that's what I did. It was a life-changing deal," Crawford said.

True to his word, the man hired Crawford, and he taught business education and coached multiple sports for five years.

The couple wanted to return to the Wallowa Valley, and in 1986, Tammy Crawford

obtained a job at Enterprise Elementary School, while Mike Crawford began four years as a substitute teacher and football coach. He started coaching basketball in 1989 as well as becoming a driver education teacher for the education service district. Crawford started teaching full-time at EHS in 1993, and coaching golf in 1998.

In the recently concluded school year Crawford taught upper-level math, starting with geometry up to pre-calculus. He also taught a senior semi-

nar class, which is essentially a college preparation class, along with his coaching duties.

Crawford felt fortunate to remain at the same school district for over 20 years. "Both of my boys graduated from this school," he said. He said his 1998-2007 tenure as athletic director was a highlight of his career.

Crawford is also proud of his math teaching skills. "I've had a student who went to a military academy, and another one accepted to Stanford. When you've got kids who score very high on the SATs and are capable of taking collegiate mathematics, they're learning something."

Crawford's years of coaching also included some major highlights. "I've had a state title in basketball, four state titles in golf and just a lot of state-level competitive teams in basketball and golf. I was also part of the coaching staff in football in the late '80s and early '90s when the program was really successful. I've been pretty fortunate my whole career, actually," Crawford said.

Among the biggest changes Crawford saw in his years as an educator were the effects of technology. "I think technology

has big-time changed kids in general, especially in communication. I always wanted my teams to be teams and communicate with each other. To be successful, you have to know people, and you can't do that by texting and social media. It's been a major challenge," Crawford said.

A big change he witnessed in teaching was the evolution from common curriculum goals to common core standards. "We're pretty reliant on test scores these days and I don't know that's better for education, but it's where we are," Crawford said.

Continuing as a substitute teacher and coaching both basketball and golf for EHS are in Crawford's plans. "When I get my complete 30 years I'm going to move on into other things. I really like archery hunting and I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time out in the woods," Crawford said. He also works for the Full-Draw film tour, which puts on film festivals on the subject of archery hunting. The tour started with five cities and now encompasses 27 cities around the nation. Crawford attended 10 of the 27 shows last year and hopes to attend more this year.



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On June 18, 2015, American Public Transportation Association (APTA), and public transportation systems across the country will celebrate the 10th Annual National Dump the Pump Day.

With the continued fluctuation of gas prices, everyone is looking for a way to save money. National Dump the Pump Day encourages people to ride public transportation (instead of driving) and save money.

However, public transportation doesn't just help people save money, it also helps communities grow and prosper. For example, for every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$4 is returned in economic returns.

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Paint Drop-Off Event

It's Free!

Saturday, June 20
9 am - 2 pm
Enterprise Recycling Center
 207 Fish Hatchery Lane
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Bring your old leftover paint for recycling

This event is open to households and businesses from any place in Oregon. Households may bring any amount of latex or oil-based paint. Businesses can bring in unlimited amounts of latex paint, but there are restrictions on oil-based paint. Contact PaintCare for details.

PaintCare also has over 150 permanent drop-off sites throughout the state (most are paint stores that volunteer to take back paint). For details on what we accept and the amount of oil-based paint accepted from businesses, visit www.paintcare.org/or or call (855) 724-6809.

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