

2nd Thunder Run a smoky one

By Steve Tool

Wallowa County Chieftain

Scores of motorcycles shinning with chrome and sporting custom paint jobs spent the weekend at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds for the second annual Wallowa County Thunder Run, which took place from Aug. 20-23. Event organizer, Gary Bethscheider, said that although smoke deterred some participants, hardy souls enjoyed a weekend of music, food, games and events.

Without figures tallied, Bethscheider estimated some 700-800 motorcycles participated in the event. "The fire didn't help us. My phone was ringing off the hook with people asking about the fires and smoke conditions. That kept a lot of people away," he said.

The Bronze Bike Tribute



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The band Blue Tattoo offered up a tasty serving of classic rock 'n' roll during the Thunder Run on the evening of Aug. 22 at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds.

Parade through Joseph and to the fairgrounds took place on Aug. 21 with about 85 motorcycles participating in the run.

Highlights for the event included the parade and biker

games and several bands performing live music. "Quick Throttle," a motorcycle-oriented magazine, covered the event for a future article.

Lari Rutherford won the

Small Bronze Bike raffle, and local resident Steve Wolfe won the raffle for the Springfield 911 .45 pistol. Wolfe promptly donated the piece back to the event to raise more money.

Bethscheider said all the participants had a great time and many planned to come back for next year's event. "Last year the rain got us, and this year it was the fire and smoke. We're going to give it hell next year and try to keep it growing," Bethscheider said.

Biker Game winners: Weenie Bite, David Colvin and Karry Cathy; Ring Toss, Geoff Nohr and Summer; Slow Drag, Gary Bethscheider; Barrell Race, Carson Meyer; Potato in the Haystack, David Colvin and Karry Cathy; Hot Rod Harley Drag Race, Carson Meyer.

OBITUARIES

Donald Wilson

Feb. 5, 1922 – Aug. 14, 2015

Long time Wallowa resident Donald Wilson was born Feb. 5, 1922 in Oregon City, Oregon, and died peacefully August 14, 2015 at Kadlec Hospital, Richland, Wash. in the presence of family.

The son of Floyd B. Wilson Sr. and Emma Meryl Bruce was preceded in death by two brothers, Floyd B. Wilson Jr. and Russell Wilson. Older brother Floyd Jr. passed away at age 80 in Salem, while younger brother Russell died at age 3 in 1926 from Spinal Meningitis.

When he was 5 years old Donald's mother passed away due to tuberculosis. Donald's beloved wife of nearly 57 years, Eileen Mitby Wilson, passed away May 17, 2002 at Wallowa Memorial Hospital, Enterprise.

Immediate survivors of Donald Wilson include Chris Chandler, daughter, of Gig Harbor, Wash. and husband Mike; Rocky Wilson, son, of Wallowa and wife Megan; granddaughter Becky King, of Wallowa; grandson Seth King, of Cartersville, Georgia; Adam King, of New York City; and two great granddaughters, Belle and Luci King.

Other near-family survivors include two daughters of Donald's brother Floyd Jr.: Shirley Starr, plus husband Dick of Albany, Ore.; and Karen Mason, plus husband Mark of Joseph.

In 1949, Floyd Sr. remarried Virginia "Ginnie" Faust of Portland and had a second family younger than Donald's son and daughter. From that union, half-brother DeWayne Wilson of Hubbard, Ore. and half-sister Mary Alice Zastoupil of Leaburg, Ore. were born.

After the death of their mother, Floyd Jr. and Donald were raised by grandparents Hoyt and Eliza Wilson near Oregon City for six years. While growing up, the Wilson brothers lived in poor conditions in rural Oregon locales near West Linn, Beaver Creek, Oregon City, and McMinnville.

During those years, in addition to performing chores on family farms, Donald earned money by picking peaches and hops, delivering newspapers, and working on a dairy.

Although remembered for his love and involvement with sports, Donald was not allowed to participate in organized sports until his sophomore year in high school when he played basketball. His favorite sport became track where he was a natural. Finally allowed to join the McMinnville track team the final week of his junior year, Donald practiced four days and lettered at the district track meet. The following year, Donald set a state record while winning the mile at the all-schools Oregon state track meet. He next attended the University of Oregon where he ran two years for his lifetime mentor, the legendary Coach Bill Hayward. At the U of O, Donald set an Oregon/Oregon State dual meet record when he recorded his personal best mile time of 4:19.3 and was told by Coach Hayward that Donald had the potential to become the world's first 4-minute miler.

Enter World War II and then bronchitis.

Donald joined the Marine Corps in June 1942 and honorably was discharged in June 1944 for health reasons.

On June 4, 1945, one day after they graduated from Linfield College, Donald and Eileen were married.

"Coach" Don Wilson coached multiple sports over a total span of 35 years at McMinnville, Molalla, Sherwood, and Scappoose high schools plus the University of British Columbia before moving to Wallowa and coaching there for 25 years.

An oft-repeated praise given to "Coach" Wilson was his innate ability to treat all athletes and students equally and fairly.



OBITUARIES

Laura Jean Locke

June 16, 1930 – March 20, 2015

Laura Jean Locke was born June 16, 1930 in Enterprise, Ore., and passed away on March 20, 2015 in Ogden, Utah. She was married to her high school sweet heart, Wayne Locke, for 56 years. Wayne and her grandson, Cody, preceded her in passing. Laura Jean spent the majority of her years working for the Wallowa County Court as a police dispatcher, DMV, Tax Collector and the county Accountant. She was involved in many activities over the years and had a wide circle of friends. The most important priority in her life was her family and she was the calm for all of them in the storm of life. She was always there for them and her family was blessed by her love. She will be greatly missed, but will be carried in their hearts forever. She is survived by her daughter, Terry Earsley, her son, Kirk Locke, and four wonderful grandchildren, and seven great-grandsons. Laura Jean Locke is now with her loved ones on the other side, but we will all see her again.

Memorial services for Laura Jean Locke will be held at the Enterprise Christian Church on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m. with David Bruce officiating. Laura would like any donations to be given to Community Connection.

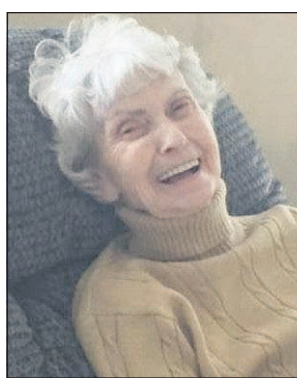
Edna Inez "Eddy" Prince

May 24, 1935 – July 26, 2015

Edna Inez "Eddy" Prince, 80, of La Grande and formerly of Juneau, Alaska, died July 26, 2015 at her home. A funeral service was held on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015, at Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center, in La Grande. Those who wish may make contributions in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, FL. 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633.

Edna was born on May 24, 1935, the daughter of Gordon and Grace (Salisbury) Martin in Springfield, Colo. The family moved to Island City when she was a very young girl. In September of 1959 she married Earl Richard Prince in Goldendale, Wash. She was a homemaker and also did the bookkeeping for her husband's gas station, Atlantic-Richfield in Island City. In 1964 they moved to Juneau, Alaska. She worked for the Department of Revenue and upon her retirement she worked with her husband on his commercial fishing boat. They returned to Union County in 1992. He preceded her in death in that year. She was an avid fisherwoman and enjoyed photography, painting and gardening.

Survivors include her children, Stanlyn Nelson of Prosser, Wash., Bruce Macgregor of Bozeman, Mont., Randy Prince of San Jose, Calif., and Tammie Hanson of Wallowa; sister, Clista Hasse of La Grande; brother, Gordon Martin of Cove; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her sister, Viola D. Fager and brother, Cecil Lee Martin.



DEATH NOTICE

Verna C. Slane

Verna C. Slane, 88, of Joseph, died Aug. 20, 2015, at her home. A Celebration of Life will be held Sept. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. at her Depot Gardens, 83490 Joseph Highway. Please bring a dish to share as well as your favorite memories. An obituary will appear in next week's issue.

About Obituaries

News obituaries are a free service of the Wallowa County Chieftain. The paper accepts obituaries from the family or funeral home.

Information submitted is subject to editing. Send obituaries by e-mail, obits@wallowa.com; fax, 541-426-3921; or mail, PO Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828. The deadline to submit an obituary is 2 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, or to inquire about a paid memorial, call 541-426-4567.

Chinook season on Snake opens Sept. 1

ODFW biologist expects fewer fish for this year's run

The upper Snake River will open to hatchery fall Chinook fishing on Monday, Sept. 1, Oregon fishery managers announced.

The river will be open from the Oregon/Washington border to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam and will remain open until Oct. 31, or until a closure is announced. In addition, the reach from Cliff Mountain Rapid (at river mile 246.7) upstream to the deadline at Hells Canyon Dam will be open from Nov. 1-17.


The daily bag limit will be six adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon. Anglers can also keep an unlimited number of fin-clipped jack Chinook. Chinook jacks are salmon between 15 and 24 inches long.

"Fall Chinook runs in the Snake River have been impressive in recent years," said Kyle Bratcher, ODFW fish biologist in Enterprise. "We expect fewer fish than last year, however we're still projecting a very strong run topping 35,000 fish into the Snake River Basin."

In recent years, more and more Oregon anglers have discovered this productive fishery thanks to liberal bag limits and a long season. "With strong runs, this fishery has provided some fantastic opportunities for Northeast Oregon anglers to take home a cooler full of hatchery fish," Bratcher said.

Only barbless hooks may be used on this stretch of the Snake River, and anglers should consult the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for other rules that may apply.


Snake River fall Chinook migrate over 800 miles and pass eight mainstream dams to reach Hells Canyon, the farthest any salmon will travel in Oregon.



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94th Annual Baker County Fair & Panhandle Rodeo

September 5, 6 & 7 2015

ICA & Pro West Rodeo Saturday,

Sunday Pre-Rodeo Starts 6:30PM & Monday Pre-Rodeo Starts 1:30 PM

Mule Races during each rodeo Performance & Cowgirl Mafia Performs

Entertainment on the midway Saturday & Sunday at 8PM

Frank Carlson a great voice to listen to and stomp your feet

Cowboy Church Sunday 9AM on the stage, God's word with music

Parade downtown Halfway starting at noon on Monday

In the pavillion the Grand Ch. Round Robin, Sunday 6pm

Youth Livestock Auction starts at 9AM Monday

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK




FIREFIIGHTERS

This week our featured athletes of the week are the multitudes of firefighters working day and night while firefighting on multiple fronts to protect our forests, pastures and residences during one of the worst fire seasons in recent memory. Hundreds of firefighters are on scene with more on the way. Fire season ain't over yet.

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