



Jack Parry/Wallowa County Chieftain  
Jay Kruckman and his cousin stopped at Paul's Service Station in Joseph during the Wallowa County Thunder Run on Friday, June 24, 2022.

# Wallowa County Thunder Run revved up in Joseph

By JACK PARRY  
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — The afternoon sun pierced down on Main Street in Joseph as summer finally began to rear its head on Northeastern Oregon.

Sitting under the awning of the Stubborn Mule, right behind one of Joseph's shiny Bronze Bike statues, Scott Reinhardt awaited people to register for the eighth annual Wallowa County Thunder Run, a charity motorcycle ride throughout the county which brings bikers together for a cause.

But this year, he noticed that even in the morning, the turnout for the event had been one of the lowest he'd seen.

"They used to have 40 people together doing these rides," he said.

Reinhardt only registered four bikers at that point in the day, and the memories of town being flooded with bikes seemed to be a thing of the past.

Biker Jay Kruckman recalled the flurry of bikers in years past, and thinks that the lack of turnout during the pandemic could have affected this year's event for event organizer Gary Bethscheider.

"I think he (Gary) spent so much money on it the last few years, and not a lot of people showed up," Kruckman said.

However, Reinhardt described the Thunder Run as a destination for these riders to take their "hogs" on a beautiful trip around the area to places such as Wallowa Lake.

Kruckman and his cousin have been riding together for 54 years, and they have been coming to do the Thunder Run since 2017. They even rode out to Joseph when the event was canceled during 2020.

He added, "2020 we were here too, came up (and) did our own thing."

But it's not just about the scenic routes. Giving back to the community is a big priority for riders. While the Thunder Run is a competition to see who can reach all of the spots on their card first for a cash prize, 50% of the donated pot goes to charity.

This year, Creating Memories for Disabled Children was the organization chosen to receive the donations from the event. Based in Joseph, the not-for-profit's mission is to create memories for special needs children and their families.

Despite the lower turnout than usual, the Bronze Bike, sculpted by Dick Cross, continues to stand by as bikers from far and wide descend upon Wallowa County to connect, give back and take in the breathtaking sights that the ride has to offer.

# Health insurers not following Oregon law requiring free reproductive health care

By LYNNE TERRY  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — Oregon's governor, lawmakers and state agency officials have often touted the state's reproductive rights law as one of the most comprehensive and equitable in the country.

But there's a problem: Many insurers providing coverage to more than 1 million Oregonians are not following the regulations.

That is one of the findings of an audit ordered by the state Department of Consumer and Business Services, which regulates the insurance industry. Released Tuesday, June 21, the report said investigators found widespread evidence of violations of the Reproductive Health Equity Act, passed by the Legislature in 2017 and effective in 2019. The law requires insurers to provide free coverage for reproductive health care, including screenings, abortions and contraceptives — even to undocumented immigrants.

The violations mean that Oregonians have been paying, at least in part, for reproductive services that are supposed to be free. The

report did not say how many Oregonians were affected.

The act applies to commercial insurers, including individual and large and small group plans. The only exceptions to the law are religious-based insurers, such as Providence Health Plan, which are exempted from the law.

**"IT'S INCREDIBLY DISAPPOINTING AND INCREDIBLY UNSURPRISING."**

— Oregon Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Portland and a physician at Oregon Health & Science University

The audit examined claims from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2020. The department initiated the audit when its work on a legislative report in June 2020 found that the requirements were not being fully followed.

The agency found "variations in coverage and indications of potential widespread noncompliance with the law," specifically the failure to

fully pay for certain services, the report said.

Reproductive rights supporters were angered but not shocked by the report.

"It's incredibly disappointing and incredibly unsurprising," state Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Portland and a physician at Oregon Health & Science University, told the Capital Chronicle. While acknowledging that "it is tough to revamp when new requirements go into place," she said insurers have had almost three years to adapt to the law.

"What baffles me is this: All those things are things that ultimately save insurance companies money," Steiner Hayward said. "It is cheaper to provide contraception than to care for someone when she's pregnant. It's also smarter because people who get pregnant when they're planning to are more likely to have healthy babies."

Under the law, insurers must cover abortions, anemia screenings, contraception, pregnancy screening, sterilization and screening for sexually transmitted diseases for free. The law also requires coverage for undocumented immigrants.

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

# Fire season begins in Northeast Oregon District

The Observer

LA GRANDE — Warming temperatures and changing fuel conditions are prompting the Oregon Department of Forestry to begin fire season on private forest lands in Northeast Oregon.

Fire season will be at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 1, for forest and range lands protected by ODF Northeast Oregon District, according to an announcement from the department.

"We've seen a little reprieve this spring and early summer. Fire sea-

son has been announced in June for the past few years, so it's been good to have some delay this year," Matt Howard, an ODF district forester, said.

The fire season declaration places fire prevention restrictions on landowners and the public. Additionally, fire prevention regulations on industrial logging and forest management activities are put into place. Lands affected include private, state, county, municipal and tribal lands in Union, Baker, Wallowa and Umatilla counties along

with small portions of Malheur, Morrow and Grant counties within the Northeast Oregon Forest Protection District. This area encompasses approximately 2 million acres of protected lands.

"Those spring storms have provided some much-needed moisture. However, this moisture has caused a lot of growth in our fine fuels, such as grasses, small brush and shrubs," Howard said. "These are often our carrier fuels and are more susceptible to quickly drying and becoming ready-to-burn faster."

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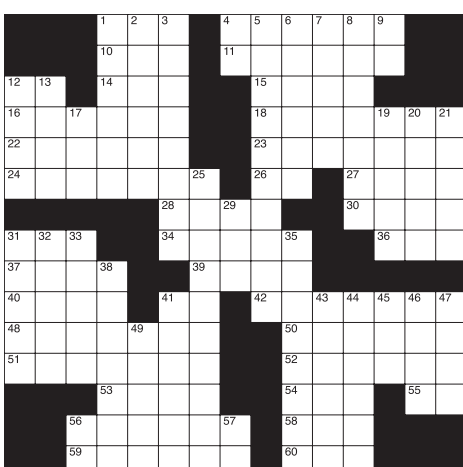
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# Coffee Break!



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Basics
  - In a new way
  - \_\_\_ Paulo, city
  - Jailhouse
  - Trigraph
  - A small stream
  - Dissimilar
  - Promote
  - Gives a boost
  - Lawmaker
  - Orthodox Jews
  - Actor Harris
  - Wild cherry
  - Participate in democracy
  - Opposite of begins
  - A Brit's mother
  - Set of moral principles
  - Very fast airplane
  - Czech river
  - Private school in New York
  - Israeli dance
  - Electron volt
  - Adjusting
  - Duct by the bladder
  - Small burger
  - Begin again
  - Unstuck
  - Jai \_\_\_ sport
  - Get free of
  - For instance

- Hotel chain
- A team's best pitcher
- Extracts from various sources
- Indefinite period of time
- St. Francis of \_\_\_
- Supported
- United in working
- It cools your home
- Irritated
- Popular talk show host
- Fabric edge
- A resource for employees
- Broadway's Jackman
- Small water buffalo
- German city
- One hundred grams (abbr.)
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- German expressionist painter
- What drives you
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Gold coin used in British India
- Have deep affection for
- Ponds
- Breaks between words
- Hairstyle
- Print errors
- Family of iron alloys
- Sideline in bed
- Many couples say it
- Brazilian hoopster
- Allman Brothers late frontman
- German city
- One hundred grams (abbr.)
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to roller coasters.

**TKRCA**

### SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku! This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

2	1						3	
4			8	6				2
			8					
	2	7	1	9				
5					4			
6		7	9	2			5	
							8	
			3			9		

Level: Advanced

### Guess Who?

I am a reality star and entrepreneur born in California on June 27, 1984. Together with my sisters, I am part of a famous family. My father was a prominent attorney, and my mother was once married to a legendary Olympic athlete.

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = D)

**A. 12 6 1 16**  
*Clue: Fall vertically*

**B. 9 16 14 14 12**  
*Clue: Velocity*

**C. 17 10 6 25 19 19 9**  
*Clue: Exciting experiences*

**D. 6 25 12 14**  
*Clue: Amusement structure*

### ROLLER COASTER WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

I	A	G	T	U	D	G	M	K	F	N	U	R	E	K	A	R	B	T	D	
B	K	R	C	B	S	H	T	E	I	O	S	N	D	I	L	T	T	H	L	
I	S	S	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	M	G	E	R	A	I	L	
C	D	N	E	C	S	A	W	B	A	R	R	E	L	R	E	F	A	H	E	
U	E	E	P	D	L	P	B	N	S	I	U	E	R	A	T	T	D	B	D	
T	A	M	H	A	R	A	V	N	M	H	F	T	C	M	S	D	S	N	O	
B	C	L	I	C	A	R	P	W	E	G	W	I	M	D	A	A	R	P		
A	M	E	V	T	O	C	E	B	R	D	N	T	I	U	C	R	I	C	V	
C	L	C	I	P	R	R	C	S	A	M	O	A	C	H	A	I	N	R	H	
K	D	P	P	I	A	I	K	E	T	R	O	F	O	R	V	A	G	I	K	D
T	M	D	G	N	N	P	A	S	L	R	I	E	W	E	F	R	C	M	V	
S	R	R	V	D	T	V	K	C	C	E	A	T	P	F	M	A	N	O	U	
E	O	S	C	B	S	P	E	V	F	R	R	I	I	V	R	O	W	L	H	
R	F	S	K	P	P	O	B	R	V	W	E	A	N	T	L	G	O	W	H	
D	T	A	H	V	E	D	U	A	S	M	F	W	L	T	I	H	L	V	B	
A	A	C	B	S	L	O	O	P	O	I	V	L	O	T	P	H	D	I	M	G
E	L	P	R	S	T	N	E	B	H	C	O	L	O	P	O	H	T	I	O	
H	P	R	E	S	E	O	I	M	M	R	G	N	F	C	H	N	L	C	B	
L	S	R	E	P	V	D	E	S	O	L	C	N	E	C	T	E	H	O	H	
H	M	S	C	M	D	G	T	E	K	K	E	N	S	F	G	O	T	D	I	

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