

Family fun at the Union Grassroots Festival and Car Show

By Trish Yerges

Go! Magazine

UNION — The Union Grassroots Festival and Car Show is Saturday, Aug. 13, with a line up of family fun organized in downtown Union.

Donna Beverage, president of the Union Chamber of Commerce, is involved in organizing the annual event.

"It's free family fun. We just want people to come out and enjoy the day in historic Union," she said.

The day starts at 7 a.m. with more than 30 yard sales city-wide. Find a list of on Union's Facebook page or the Chamber website, or check flyers in town.

The Color Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. at the Union High School athletic complex on Dearborn Street. Organizer Kasey Bliesner said it is a fundraiser for the Union High School's Philly group. Entry is \$15. To sign up, call 541-805-0537.

"It's a 3K family run, walk, scooter event hosted by the Bobcat Booster Club," she said. "It's a fun color run where runners (in white t-shirts) run and get colored with powdered chalk that is thrown at them. By the time the runners are done running, they will look like they have a tied-dyed shirt on," Bliesner laughed.

Carleigh Radke, 13, will sing the National Anthem in front of the Post Office at 9 a.m.

Six blocks of Main Street will be blocked off and lined with carnival food vendors from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At the same time, the Friends of the Union Library will have a book and bake sale at the library.

A Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest returns, organized through Falk's Mini Mart with prizes for first, second and third place.

"Last year was our first year with this event, and it was amazing to see these families drawing with their kids on the sidewalk the night before the festival," Beverage said.

The open car show runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and is expected to draw classic car owners from throughout Northeast Oregon.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Alex Watson, left, Eli Zakel and Ken Hutchings compete in a pie-eating contest at the 2021 Grassroots Festival in Union.



Alex Wittwer/The Observer, File

Children beam as they are loaded into the Union Lions Club's train at the 2021 Grassroots Festival in Union.

"The first 60 people who come will receive a goodie bag, including a dash plaque," Beverage said.

At the end of the day, one participant will win a "Star of the Show" trophy. In addition, 35 businesses will donate plaques

IF YOU GO

Color Fun Run: 8 a.m., Union High School, \$15

Lions Club duck train: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chicken Bingo: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., park

Kiddy Carnival: Noon-2 p.m.

Live music: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pie eating contest: 1:30 p.m.

Duck races: 2 p.m.

Lawn mower races: 5:30 p.m.

Street Dance: 7-10 p.m.

to other winners.

Car show entrants and the public can join the poker walk for \$2, with a chance to win \$100.

Chicken Bingo will be played at the park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and a Kiddy

Carnival runs from noon-2 p.m.

"All of the Union churches worked together to put on the Kiddy Carnival, and they give away prizes and stuffed animals," Beverage said.

Live music happens from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. with Old West Gazebo, Toobamboo, Terry La Mont, Cory Peterson and Jeff Minnick.

The afternoon line up includes a puppet show at the Union Library and the duck races down Catherine Creek at 2 p.m. (Buy a duck from the Union High School senior class.)

The lawn mower races follow at 5:30 p.m. in the park and the street dance starts at 7 p.m.

"We really want this to be a regional event and car show, so come out and enjoy the festival," Beverage said.