

# Rodeo for veterans hits the Cottage Grove ring



PHOTO BY KYLE MCGOWEN

The Rebel Rally Rodeo looks to add to its \$20,000 fundraising effort at the 2017 event which began on Friday, August 25 and ran through Sunday, August 27 at the Cottage Grove Rodeo Grounds.

**By Kyle McGowen**  
For The Sentinel

As hundreds of bikers and motorcycle fans rolled into Cottage Grove over the weekend, they did so with a great cause in mind. The third annual 'Rebel Rally Rodeo' was held Friday and Saturday at the Cottage Grove rodeo grounds. The event features sixty camping spots, twenty-six vendors, fifteen bands that play throughout the weekend, a bike show, a bike Rodeo, and a beer garden. All proceeds go to benefit veterans and in the past has raised as much as \$20,000 and everybody volunteers.

"We started this three years ago, we were just going to throw a party and have a good time. We decided let's do it for a cause. So we picked 'Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Northwest' to raise money for and did it with a friend in a field. It was a huge success, everybody had a great time and appreciated it. It felt really good" said president of the event, Jeremy Hunsaker. "The first one was about 300 people. Last year we came out here (to the Cottage Grove Rodeo grounds) and there was 600 or 700 people."

Event organizers planned for nearly 1,000 people for this year. While it's not the typical rodeo many might think of off the top of their minds, it has its similarities.

"It's just like a horse rodeo but on Harley Davidsons" said Zack McLaren, vice president of the event. "We race barrels and have different fun games. It's almost identical to a horse rodeo. Minus the bucking off and landing, sometimes. It's barrel racing, plank races, slow races, among other stuff. We spread it out throughout the day with live music between everything."

"My big thing is telling people, you don't have to own a horse to go to a rodeo" said Hunsaker. "You don't have to own a bike to come to a bike rodeo. Just come, it's entertaining, we have a lot of good times."

While Hunsaker was never in the military himself, he and McLaren wanted to find a way to help veterans in need.

"My grandad was in the navy, my dad was in the navy, and I should have. I was going to but I made some bad choices when I was eighteen so this is my opportunity to give back. I can't go back to eighteen to change that, so going forward I can help out" said Hunsaker.

While many funds for the Cottage Grove event are raised through individual ticket buyers and small donations, it also had over 30 businesses and organizations that donate towards the cause.

"Primarily our money comes in from our sponsor's. We got a lot of big sponsor's this year that help us put this together. We also try to keep the cost down so people will donate a little bit" said McLaren.

McLaren and Hunsaker also held a poker run during 'Rhody Fest' back in May starting at Three Rivers Casino and going to several local bars in Florence to raise funds and bring awareness to the rodeo held in Cottage Grove. They had 275 bikes participate.

"We are gathering anyone and everyone. There is a huge group from Coos County here as well as Bend, Portland, Roseburg. We hit pretty far" said Hunsaker. "We try and focus on people who have about a two hour from out of town out ride in. It's a good range. It's a good ride in and a good ride home."

The rodeo closed Saturday night around 1:30 am with one of the many live music performances that occurred over the weekend. They then held a benefit breakfast Sunday morning. But while there is much to enjoy about the Rodeo, Hunsaker has a particular favorite moment.

"My favorite part of this is the ride in. Saturday at noon we have the police and fire department escort the motorcycle ride in from Bohemia park. We do the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance. We then talk about who we are supporting with this. It's very touching."



## Worship Directory

- DRAIN:**  
**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm
- COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine  
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey  
Service: 10am,  
Sunday School: 9am for all ages  
Christian Education  
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade  
www.6thandgibbs.com
- Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm
- Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**  
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)  
541-942-6842  
Pastor: Jeff Smith  
Two Services on Sun:  
9am & 10:45am  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Child Care 10:45am Service Only  
www.cgcalvary.org
- Center for Spiritual Living**  
Cottage Grove  
700 Gibbs Ave.  
(Community Center)  
Rev. Bobby Lee  
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
cslcottagegrove@gmail.com
- Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am
- Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org
- Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Prueff  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children's Ministry available  
Service: 10:00am
- Delight Valley Church of Christ**  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711  
Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium
- First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Pastor: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
www.cgpresbynews.com
- Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshipupc.com  
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"
- Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Pastor Rulon Combs  
Worship & Children's Church 10:00 am  
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm
- Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Penoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.penoyeravecoc.com
- Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
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- Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches**  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712  
Father: Joseph Hung Nguyen  
Holy Mass:  
Tue-Thu: 8:30am; Sat: 5:30pm  
Sun: 10:30am  
Confession: After daily mass,  
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome
- Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm
- Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups tlccg.com
- United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)  
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm cottagegroveumc.org
- "VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"

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