



COWBOYS RIDE HIGH AT BULL RIDING TOUR



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Grant County fans enjoyed an electric show put on by 35 Challenge of Champions Bullriding Tour cowboys and the cantankerous bucking bulls.

Challenge of Champions returns for thrills

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Seven of 35 bull riders bucked to the buzzer in Saturday's Challenge of Champions Bullriding Tour.

Cowboys were fighting for a purse of about \$6,000 at the Grant County Fairgrounds event.

Cain Smith of Hermiston, riding on the DuraFlap mudflap high-point bull Double Deuce, won the top spot with an 88.5.

"The guys were really good, and the bulls bucked hard," said organizer Jason Mattox, president of PUSH Enterprises Inc. "The crowd was so involved and excited to be there."

The event began with a few fireworks, the national anthem sung by Jaime Cernazanu and a tribute to local veteran Dick Ray.

The cowboys and bulls brought plenty of thrills, with rodeo clowns Sean Peterson and Ryan Wilson working to keep the bull riders safe.

Pickup men Chase Ricker, Zane Ford and Bubba Bullock cleared bull after cantankerous bull from the arena with their roping skills.

Announcer, Bryan Frye of Surprise, Ariz., also helped keep things exciting.

Bucking hard for the cheering audience were bulls such as the infamous Tickle Me Elmo and Teardrop.

Smith earned a ride on the bounty bull Watermelon for a chance at winning an extra \$1,000, but the bull's vertical bucks proved tough.

Four contestants joined in a dance contest – which was actually an entertaining prank – won by Jack Strong.

After the event, fans met up with the cowboys for photos and autographs at the after party.

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Challenge of Champions rodeo clown Sean Peterson visits with Makenna Forrester, left, and her cousins Tayler and Trenten Carpenter after the show.



The rodeo clowns Ryan Wilson, back left, and Sean Peterson work to keep riders safe at the Challenge of Champions.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Mary Jane Lanier, left, her mom, Jody Tuttle, and Lanier's son, Riley, along with Molly the dog, sit outside the Grant County Chamber of Commerce in John Day ready to set out on their geocache hunt. Tuttle and her husband, Mark, from Bend, call themselves "Kestrel Ridge" and the Laniers, from Eugene, are the "Ducky Five."

Geocachers set coordinates for Grant County

Geocoin event attracts 44 searchers

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – About 44 geocachers flocked to the Grant County Chamber of Commerce for Saturday's Geocoin Challenge.

Geocaching is a hiking scavenger hunt sport where people use coordinates on GPS units or smartphones to find hidden caches.

The event was organized by the Grant County Geocachers Club, including Tammy Bremner, Jim Spell, Rex Kamsstra, Carl and Ronda Metler, Karla Teague and Kimberly Teague.

"This is our second big event," Bremner said. "We work together really well."

Seekers were ready to head out Saturday for a hunt that would take them south on Highway 395 and through Logan Valley.

Gladys Biglor of Bend, who goes by the geocaching name "Bulldog," said she and her husband Jack "Mad Jack" have been geocaching since its early days in 2001.

They had hoped to find all 20 caches on Saturday.

"If not, we'll be back," she said.

She said the event would have a positive economic effect for the community, and that



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Tammy Bremner of Canyon City, left, who is one of the organizers, hands out prizes at the start of the Geocoin Challenge.

most of those attending the event would stay at local motels or campgrounds.

"We're spending money, and not just in restaurants," she said. "These things grow, and it's a good thing for the community and the cachers."

If the adventurers find 15 of the 20 caches, they receive a commemorative coin.

The first 19 searchers who find all 20 were promised this year's and last year's coins.

The event was funded by a grant from the Grant County room tax fund, Spell said.

For more information about the Geocoin Challenge or the Grant County Geocachers, call the Chamber 541-575-0547 or Spell at 541-620-4163.

OUTDOORS

Humbolt anglers make a splash

Students have fun options for last day

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – The Humbolt Elementary student body had several fun activities to choose from last Wednesday, on their final day of school, including fishing, a movie, art project, field games, animal science/petting zoo, bike safety and cooking. The activities were organized by PE teacher Sami Gerry, and several community sponsors volunteered their time.

"It was the effort of all the teachers and staff at Humbolt that allowed the day to go as well as it did," Gerry said.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Humbolt Elementary first-grader Zeke Rookstool, left, reels in a catch of four rainbow trout at Trafton Pond with help from his mom Heather.



Humbolt second-grader Zerri Janssen enjoys the fishing activity with his schoolmates.

Youth golf starts June 23

Six lessons teach golfing basics, fun

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Grant County Junior Golf lessons for boys and girls ages 8-18 will begin later this month at the John Day Golf Course.

Lessons are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon June 23-25 and June 30, and July 1-2.

Coach Ron Lundbom said the lessons are an opportunity for youth to learn golfing basics – and to have fun.

Golf clubs will be available, and on the last day, the group will have a team



Eagle file photo

Chase Wilcox putts the ball at last year's Junior Golf Camp.

scramble and ice cream party.

The cost is \$25 a person.

For more information, call the John Day Golf Club, 541-575-0170, or Lundbom at 541-575-1850 (days), 541-575-2692 (evenings) or 541-620-0427.

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Official Drop-off. No Questions Asked.
FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH
6 am - Noon
Grant County Health Fair - GUHS



For more information contact Grant County Safe Communities Coalition at 541-575-1799 ext. 29