

OCA: Meeting in JD a success

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Wolves, water and international trade were just a few of the topics at the Oregon Cattlemen's Association's 2015 Midyear event. Over 130 ranchers from across the state attended the conference earlier this month at the Grant County Fairgrounds.

It featured more than 15 speakers and an array of vendors.

The lineup impressed past association president and current water resources chair Curtis Martin. He felt each session was packed full of information.

This year, OCA was able to bring in National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Vice President of Government Affairs, Colin Woodall.

"Colin is diligent in working for the cattle industry in Washington, D.C.," said Keith Nantz, chair for both NCBA Young Beef Leaders program and Oregon's Young Cattlemen's Committee. "It was our privilege to have him speak at Midyear." Woodall covered several topics the association is paying close attention to in D.C. including TPA and TPP, the international trade bills.

"Our attendance was great. We feel this was largely due to Colin's excellent presentation at our Midyear event," said Jerome Rosa, OCA executive director.

The event wrapped up June 12 with a barbecue hosted by Prairie City FFA and meat donated by Country Natural Beef.

Ranchers urged to tell their story

By Scotta Callister
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – A Grant County natural resources consultant says private landowners should tout their part in the John Day River Basin fishery's success.

"If you don't step up and take credit for what you've done, somebody else will," Shaun Robertson warned in a talk at the Oregon Cattlemen's Association conference June 10-12. His session was one of several that packed the Sale Barn at the Grant County Fairgrounds during the three-day event.

Robertson, founder of the John Day Resource Center, said the John Day River Basin is a powerful draw for groups that want "to save us from ourselves."

He recounted how one group called it "the last best place," but then described it as a place destroyed by logging, grazing, mining and other traditional activities. It was a pitch, he said, to get money "to save it." He said the reality is that

long-term landowners have been good stewards, and were so for a century without the involvement of federal and state regulators.

He said to be wary when groups talk about "legacy effects," which he called code for "we need lots of money to fix what happened a long time ago."

In fact, he said, the John Day River's improving fishery resource is a bright spot in the Columbia Basin, and he credits private landowners and local programs for the gains.

"Elsewhere in the Columbia Basin, it's all gloom and doom," he said.

He said stronger fish runs and habitat gains have come about because landowners and local agencies, such as Grant Soil and Water Conservation District, are working together on shared goals and commitments.

At the same time, Robertson sees an influx of non-government organizations ready to take credit for benefits forged on the private lands. And he said there's a need

for honesty in the discussions about natural resources.

For example, he showed a photo that had been used by one group as evidence of grazing mismanagement, noting that something was missing from the image: cowpies. Puzzled, he researched the source of the photo, and found it had been taken after a massive grasshopper infestation – and the result shown in the picture had nothing to do with grazing.

Robertson said some resource damage blamed on landowner practices really reflects post-World War II changes on a national scale, when the focus of government shifted from the war effort to one of reforming the local landscape. What ensued was an era of land clearing, dam building and waterway control.

Today, he said, government agencies are trying to fix the damage from those activities, but often without accepting responsibility for their role in creating the problem.

Robertson got a chuckle from the audience when he said Oregon ranchers could take a lesson from French farmers.

He showed a photo of a convoy of French farm equipment clogging a highway in a parade to draw attention to the needs of agriculture.

"They get on their tractors and dump manure in the streets ... and pretty soon, they've got an audience," Robertson said.

He said he's not advocating anarchy, but he urged ranchers to stop complaining in the coffee shops and take their cases instead to the centers of power, where decisions get made.

He said agriculture's slogans from recent years – "We feed the world" or "Every day is Earth Day for the American cattleman" – no longer cut it. He said ranchers instead need to tell the whole story of rural Oregon, and the strong schools, families and communities that agriculture has fostered and built.


EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
Dayville School District 16J

Sealed bids are being accepted by Dayville School District 16J for the following items:
Commercial Cafeteria Appliances:

- Pass Through Low Temp Dish Sanitizer, minimum bid: \$200
- Silverking Mild Dispenser Cooler, minimum bid: \$100
- Imperial Commercial Range, Minimum bid \$350
- Cooling Unit (condenser & fans) for Walk-in Freezer, minimum bid \$200. Buyer must carefully dismantle and remove from old unit.

For information or to view, call (541) 987-2412

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EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
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ONGOING
Grant County Library is open 1-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-noon and 1-7 p.m. Tuesday; and 7-9 p.m. Thursday. The library is located at 507 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day.

Canyon Mountain Center offers meditation sittings from 5:30 to 6:10 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 511 Hillcrest, John Day. Call ahead, 541-932-2725.

Burns-Hines VA Clinic – Services for Grant County veterans. Immunizations, minor surgical procedures, blood pressure and diabetes monitoring, group therapy for combat PTSD, sobriety and other issues. Lab draws



Grant County Forestry

At Grant County Forestry our Core Values are to be united in the highest calling of "people helping people" – a lesson that is "others centered," willing to serve rather than be served. It is better to give than to receive.

"Let each esteem others better than himself."
Phil 2:3

GRANT COUNTY MEETINGS

on Wednesdays. Nursing staff and therapy Monday through Friday. 541-573-3339.

Grant County Genealogical Society Research Center – Open 1-4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Parsonage building behind Historic Advent Church, West Main Street in John Day. 541-932-4718 or 541-575-2757.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weigh-in, meeting. United Methodist Church library, 126 N.W. Canton St., John Day. 541-575-3812, 541-932-4592.

12 p.m. – Seniors Meal Program at the Strawberry Grange Hall, Prairie City.

12 p.m. – Women's Support, by Heart of Grant County, for domestic violence survivors. Free lunch. 541-575-4335.

12-1:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Council, Grant County Regional Airport, John Day. Open to the public, call 541-620-0444.

6 p.m. – Long Creek Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall.

6:30-8:30 p.m. – Family History Center open, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, John Day. Also open by appointment. 541-656-8069.

7:30 p.m. – Let Go Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Elizabeth Catholic Parish Hall, John Day. 541-575-0114.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Family History Center open, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, John Day. Also open by appointment. 541-656-8069.

Noon – Seniors Meal Program and bingo, John Day Senior Center, 142 N.E. Dayton St. 541-575-1825.

5:30-7:15 p.m. – Youth Connection, Living Word Christian Center, Mt. Vernon. Kid-friendly dinner and Bible activities. Van rides available. 541-932-4910.

6 p.m. – "The Girlfriends" Women's 12-step Recovery,

John Day Church of the Nazarene. 541-620-0065.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26
4 p.m. – Long Creek Historical Society, Long Creek City Hall, 541-421-3621.

7 p.m. – Whiskey Gulch Gang, Sels Brewery, Canyon City. 541-575-0329.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
8:30 a.m.-noon – John Day Farmers Market, SW Brent St., John Day. Crafts, baked goods, produce, kids activities, entertainment, information booths. 541-932-2725.

7 p.m. – Bingo, Monument Senior Center. Potluck dinner at halftime.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28
Fun Jam, musicians and listeners welcome for bluegrass, gospel and traditional country western music, Call for time and location, 541-575-1927.

MONDAY, JUNE 29
Noon – Seniors Meal Program, John Day Senior Center, 142 N.E. Dayton St. 541-575-1825.

6 p.m. – Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, 541-932-4688.

7 p.m. – John Day Valley Bass Club, Outpost Restaurant. All are welcome. William Gibbs, 541-575-2050.

7:30 p.m. – Outlaw Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, Presbyterian Church in Mt. Vernon. 541-932-4844.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30
10-11 a.m. – Story Hour and craft project, Grant County Library, for preschoolers 0-6 years old. 541-575-1992.

12 p.m. – Seniors Meal Program at the Monument Senior Center.

12 p.m. – Transient Room Tax Committee, Grant County Chamber of Commerce, 301 W. Main St., John Day.

6:30 p.m. – New Beginnings Recovery Group, Living Word Christian Center, Mt. Vernon. 541-932-4910.

7:15 p.m. – Boy Scout Troop 898, John Day Elks Lodge, John Day. 541-575-2531.

7 p.m. – Grant County Genealogical Society, old parsonage building behind the Historic Advent Church, John Day. 541-575-2757, 541-932-4718.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
7 a.m. – Ministerial Association of Grant County, Outpost Restaurant, John Day.

9 a.m. – Grant County Court, courthouse, Canyon City.

9 a.m. – Shepherd's Closet, open, with free clothing for all ages and coffee, at Prairie City Assembly of God. 541-820-3682.

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. – Veterans/families services, John Day Elks Lodge. Topics include PTSD services and individual needs.

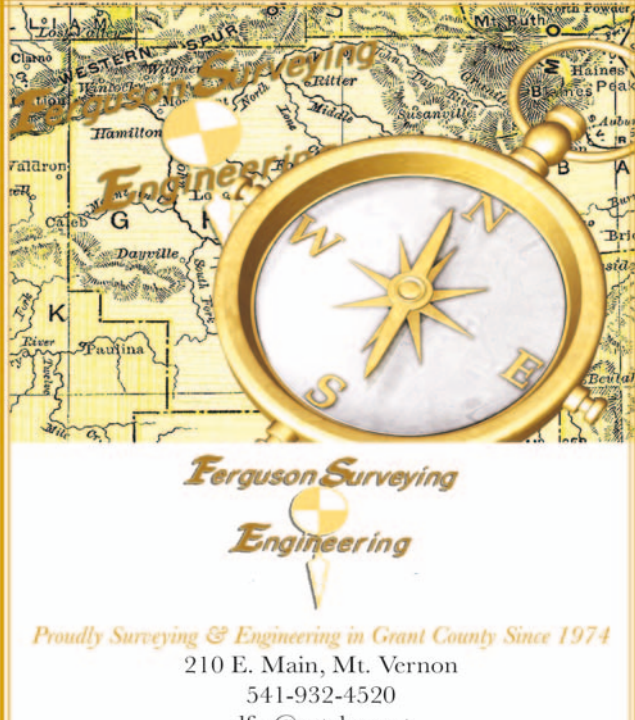
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Best Fireworks in Grant County

MONUMENT
4TH of JULY
JUBILEE
Saturday July 4, 2015


7:00-9:00 am	Monumental Breakfast - Senior Center
7:00 am	*Top Road Challenge 10K Run**
9:00 am	*3 on 3 Basketball Contest**
9:30 am	Booths Open
10:00 am	Parade**
10:30 am	*Horseshoe Contest**
11:00 am	Pie Baking Contest**
12:30 pm	Water Game
1:00 pm	Family Games Begin
1:30 pm	Pie and Watermelon Eating Contests**
3:00 pm	Talent Show
4:00 pm	Auction
7:00 pm	Bingo - Senior Center
10:00 pm	Fireworks over the River

*Entry fee - **Prizes
If you have questions, please call Lonnie: 541-934-2696,
Lorna: 541-934-9871 or Jamie: 541-934-2876



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