



Derby dad gets Wildcat ready to ride

JD demolition derby set for Saturday at 7

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON – Wayne Saul of Mt. Vernon has a good handle on a wild ride.

He and several other drivers are getting their mean machines in top-notch condition for Saturday's 26th Annual Whiskey Gulch Gang Demolition Derby.

The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Presale admission is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under – at-the-gate prices are \$2 more.

Saul has been preparing for the event for two months, working on a '69 Buick Wildcat with a 430 V8, which his uncle George Hamsher acquired for him.

Older cars like this one are hard to find because they're so often sold for the metal, Saul said.

He's worked, welding and chaining parts of the Wildcat, at his uncle's T&H Automotive shop, and recently painted it at Clark's Disposal with help from friends and co-workers.

His wife Jessie and their two children, Mayley, age 6, and Emmie, 4, also lend a hand in the shop at times.

Saul started derby contests 12 years ago.

"I watched Hal Gilliam and Walt Osborne when I was little," and later decided to give it a try, he said.

He's won a few main events in John Day and Baker City.

What's to love about it? "The rush of it – the excitement," he said. "You get sore – I rolled one time, but was never injured."

For more information about the John Day derby, call organizer Hugh Farrell at 541-575-0329 or email farrellhugh@yahoo.com.



Wayne Saul of Mt. Vernon works under the hood of his '69 Buick Wildcat, prepping it for Saturday's demolition derby in John Day.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Derby driver Wayne Saul has help from his young pit crew, 6-year-old daughter Mayley, left, and 4-year-old daughter Emmie.

Volunteers take on creek restoration at Silvies Valley Ranch

Blue Mountain Eagle

For the fourth year in a row, volunteers for the Oregon Natural Desert Association took part in a weekend-long creek restoration project at Silvies Valley Ranch. Though the group and the ranch don't agree on every topic, "working together doing activities that both groups embrace such as stream restoration, broadens understanding on both sides of the creek," joked Colby Marshall, Vice President/Foreman at Silvies.

The weekend started June 19. The following morning, after an early breakfast, the ranch and ONDA groups worked together to install 56 bird and duck houses, and



Contributed photos

Oregon Natural Desert Association members with 56 bird and duck houses the group installed in mid-June during a restoration project at Silvies Valley Ranch.

then planted several hundred Red Twig Dogwood, Black Cottonwood and Hawthorn trees. The trees were then protected by deer nets and elk fencing.

"Getting native trees and

others back along our restored creeks is one of our big goals at Silvies," said Colby Marshall in a press release.

According to a study by an Oregon State University master's student, the ranch's

riparian areas are home to more than 150 different species of birds.

Many of the volunteers stayed an additional day and spent the time on the ranch birdwatching, fishing, or wandering around the ranch to see the elk, deer and antelope and their calves and fawns, which are numerous in the spring.

"None of our other restoration trips are quite like the experience at Silvies Valley Ranch," said Sam Frank, wilderness stewardship coordinator at ONDA. "What is happening on Silvies Valley Ranch is really quite unique in Oregon, and ONDA is glad to have the opportunity to be part of this one-of-a-kind experiment."



Contributed photo

Kayla Webb of Bend is the lucky winner of the 7 Wonders of Oregon bicycle created for and hidden in the Painted Hills area by Travel Oregon.

7 Wonders Painted Hills bicycle found

Blue Mountain Eagle

It took all of 23 minutes for the Painted Hills bike hidden by Travel Oregon to be found. Kayla Webb of Bend found the Painted Hills bike Saturday, July 11, at 5:50 a.m. The bicycle, hidden at 5:27 a.m., was discovered behind a tree on Gird's Creek Road.

To celebrate the 7 Wonders of Oregon, Travel Oregon asked seven of the best bike builders in the state to build one-of-a-kind bicycles for each of the Wonders, one of which is the Painted Hills near Fossil.

Clues provided by Travel Oregon aided Webb, who camped near the site the night before, in her search.

This Painted Hills bike was built by Portland-based bike builder Christopher Igleheart.

Two bikes, one hidden at Smith Rock and the other on Mt. Hood, have also been found. This week another bike will be hidden in the Wallows, followed by the Columbia River Gorge the week of July 20, Oregon Coast the week of July 27, and, finally, Crater Lake the week of August 3.

Sea Dragons shave time in Lakeview

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

LAKEVIEW – The John Day Sea Dragons swim team traveled July 10-12 to the Lakeview Swim Meet with 21 swimmers participating.

Swimmers included: Madelyn Bailey, Max Bailey, Mickayla Coalwell, Ryan Coalwell, Tori Coalwell, Trevyn Coalwell, Cole Graven, Justin Hodge, Russell Hodge, Sivanna Hodge, Cayden Howard, Colbie Howard, Andrew Hunt, Taylor Hunt, Reece Jacobs, Quinn Larson, Grant LeQuieu, Thomas LeQuieu, Sierra May, Logan Namitz and Auna Waldner.

The team was in third place Saturday, and finished in fifth place on Sunday.

"It was a good meet," said head coach Crista Waldner.

Several athletes improved, shaving time off their finishes, one of which was Quinn Larson, who took off a lot of time on several of his events, Waldner added.

The team will travel July 17-19 for the Burns Swim Meet.

Lakeview Swim Meet, Top 5:

Ryan Coalwell
Male 9-10 50 Free, 1
Male 9-10 50 Fly, 2
Male 9-10 50 Back, 5
Male 9-10 100 IM, 3
Male 9-10 50 Breast, 3
Male 9-10 50 Free, 2
Tori Coalwell
Female 13-14 200 Free, 2
Female 13-14 100 Fly, 2
Female 13-14 100 Back, 4

Female 13-14 200 IM, 2
Female 13-14 100 Breast, 3
Female 13-14 50 Free, 1

Trevyn Coalwell

Male 11-12 100 Free, 4
Male 11-12 100 IM, 4
Male 11-12 50 Breast, 4
Male 11-12 50 Free, 4
Cole Graven
Male 8 & Under 50 Free, 5
Male 8 & Under 25 Free, 5

Justin Hodge

Male 11-12 100 Free, 3
Male 11-12 50 Fly, 2
Male 11-12 50 Back, 5
Male 11-12 100 IM, 3
Male 11-12 50 Breast, 3
Male 11-12 50 Free, 2

Russell Hodge

Male 13-14 200 Free, 4
Male 13-14 100 Back, 4
Male 13-14 200 IM, 5
Male 13-14 50 Free, 2
Cayden Howard
Male 8 & Under 50 Free, 3
Male 8 & Under 25 Back, 1
Male 8 & Under 25 Free, 2

Colbie Howard

Female 6 & Under 25 Free, 4

Andrew Hunt

Male 9-10 50 Fly, 5
Male 9-10 100 IM, 4

Taylor Hunt

Male 13-14 100 Fly, 3
Male 13-14 100 Back, 2
Male 13-14 50 Free, 4

Quinn Larson

Male 9-10 50 Free, 5
Male 9-10 50 Back, 3

Grant LeQuieu

Male 13-14 100 Back, 5

Thomas LeQuieu

Male 11-12 100 Free, 5
Male 11-12 50 Back, 3

Sierra May

Female 8 & Under 25 Free, 4

Auna Waldner

Female 15-18 200 Free, 4
Female 15-18 100 Fly, 5
Female 15-18 100 Back, 4
Female 15-18 200 IM, 5
Female 15-18 50 Free, 3

Wildfire team plays for championship title

Blue Mountain Eagle

PILOT ROCK – The Grant County Wildfire softball team advanced to the state championship game Tuesday, July 14, in

Pilot Rock after defeating Warm Springs 12-5 in the semifinal round. The team is coached by Zach Williams, Mike Strong and Lance Zweggardt. The game was played past press time.

Old Photos
Kids - Family - Trophy
Wildlife - Etc.

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