

# Fair days ahead for Mindy Winegar

Former volunteer turns staff member at the county fairgrounds

By Nancy McCarthy  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – When it's time for the Grant County Fair and Rodeo, the phone never stops ringing, and people always pop in at Trowbridge Pavilion on the county fairgrounds.

They want parking passes, or they need to fill out entry forms. Callers ask about reservations at the county's RV park or inquire about setting up their booths at the fairgrounds.

For Mindy Winegar, who started in May as administrative assistant for the fairgrounds and RV park, the pace is quicker than what she experienced as a volunteer for the fair.

"It's a lot different than being a volunteer," Winegar said.

From the time she was a child, Winegar, who was born and raised in Grant County, attended the fair. She became



The Eagle/Nancy McCarthy

**Mary Weaver, left, manager of the Grant County Fair, works with new staff member Mindy Winegar, right, to organize the myriad tasks involving the fair. Winegar joined the three-member fair staff in May.**

a fair volunteer when her daughter, Abby, started participating in 4-H three years ago.

"I was at Len's Drug for 16 years before coming down here to the fair," Winegar said. Although she said she enjoyed her work at the drugstore, she thought the fairgrounds "would be a great place to work."

"I really like it here," she said. "It's a great team."

Winegar works with fair manager Mary Weaver and groundskeeper Dusty Williams. Weaver has known Winegar pretty much forev-

er: Winegar's mother used to babysit Weaver's daughter.

"Her personality was the key from the very beginning," said Weaver about hiring Winegar after longtime staffer Vickie Mullin retired. "Her work with the community was phenomenal. I knew she was very professional and her head was in the right direction. She is a great asset here."

While the Grant County Fair may be the largest event staged at the fairgrounds, it isn't the only one. At least 25 events a year – ranging from yard sales to bull riding and a

BMW rally – are held on the 13-acre site.

But for the fair, Weaver and Winegar stay busy organizing vendors, gathering sponsors, reviewing contracts, collecting entries for the open class competitions and seeking volunteers.

"It's not boring, that's for sure," Winegar said. "It's pretty fun."

A week before the fair, Winegar counted 45 volunteers, "and we're still looking for more," she said.

"We always need volunteers. We have to cover four days, and we need to cover those shifts. With three paid employees, we can't cover the fair ourselves."

"We appreciate the volunteers and sponsors," Winegar added. "The fair would not be possible without volunteers and sponsorship."

To put on a quality county fair, the team concept goes beyond the three paid employees, noted Weaver and Winegar. It extends to the Oregon State University Extension Service, 4-H and Future Farmers of America, as well.

"We all need each other. The community needs us, and we need the community," Winegar said.

# Art winners brush the Fossil Beds landscape

Two Grant County artists win prizes

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

KIMBERLY – Two Grant County residents are winners of the Fossil Beds National Monument's art contest.

Patricia Baehr-Ross, of Mt. Vernon, won the grand prize and \$500. Her painting of a fossil beds landscape was made into a poster that is being distributed at the Thomas Condon Paleontol-



Contributed photo

**Grant County residents Laurie Hueckman, left, and Patricia Baehr-Ross stand next to their paintings at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center after winning prizes in the anniversary art contest. Baehr-Ross was the grand-prize winner.**

ogy Center. Laurie Hueckman of Prairie City won honorable

mention and \$100. Other honorable mention winners, also awarded \$100, were

Ray DeBaun of Mitchell and Kay Larkin of Terrebonne. Their works of art are featured on postcards, available at the center.

The winners were announced during the monument's 40th birthday party July 25.

The birthday celebration held at the monument commemorated the establishment of the fossil beds as a national monument 40 years ago; the discovery of the first fossils in the John Day Basin 150 years ago; and the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center.

## OBITUARY

**Dorothy E. Beason**  
Oct. 29, 1926 – July 24, 2015



HERMISTON – Dorothy E. Beason, 88, formerly of Mt. Vernon, died July 24 in Hermiston. A celebration of life was held July 30 at First Christian Church in Hermiston.

Mrs. Beason was born Oct. 29, 1926, in Ivy, Ark., to John and Annie Newton James. The second of six children, she was raised in Leola and Booneville, Ark.

Her father worked in construction on the Works Progress Administration, and her mother was a homemaker.

When she was 14, her parents moved most of the family to the Okanagan Valley in Washington to pick apples. She attended Okanagan High School.

She married a timber faller, William John Stolz, with whom she had three children, Gary, Cathy and Troy. After his service in the U. S. Air Force and World War II ended, they lived in the Omak, Wash., area.

They moved to John Day for better logging work, and settled in Mt. Vernon, where the children attended elementary and high school. Weekends were filled with hunting, fishing, waterskiing, camping and picnics.

The couple divorced in 1967. Two months later, she married Duane Beason, who worked as a chef.

They moved to Pendleton, where they worked at the Tapadera Lounge, her first job with a paycheck. Several months later, they moved to Pilot Rock, where they managed the RoundUp Room. They opened and operated Beason's Pantry in downtown Pilot Rock until the mill closed.

They moved back to Pendleton, where they managed the Husky Truck Stop. In 1969, they moved to Hermiston where they worked at McCabes Restaurant before opening the Chuckwagon Drive-in in 1970. When the building burned, they relocated up the street to the current site of The Nickel. They kept the Chuckwagon name, and fed locals and travelers for eight years.

They bought a motorhome and traveled throughout the United States before returning to Hermiston and building Beason's Chuckwagon Cafe in 1979.

She operated the restaurant until she retired in 2007. She was a member of the Mt. Vernon PTA and the American Legion Auxiliary, where she was active in Girls State. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, sewing, cooking, fishing, hunting, and supporting and encouraging her children.

She spent the last six years in her "happy home" at Sun Terrace. Survivors include her children, Gary (Marilyn) Stolz, Cathy Stolz and Troy Stolz, all of Hermiston; sister, Evelyn Jaquish of Wenatchee, Wash., Marjorie Munsell-Forsythe of Hermiston and Bonette Carey of White Rock, British Columbia; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane Beason; brother, Harold James; sister, Catheline Hardin; and William J. Stolz.

Memorial contributions may be made to Vange John Memorial Hospice's education fund, 645 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston, OR 97838, or to a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the care of Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

## Charles "Chuck" Amling

Charles "Chuck" Amling, 73, of John Day, died July 30 at Blue Mountain Hospital.

Services are pending. Arrangements are under the care of Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd.

## WEDDINGS

### Matthew and Jill Curtis

Matthew and Jill Curtis were married July 18 at Lake Creek Camp in Logan Valley.

Brook Williams officiated. Attendants included Janelle Martens, Kristy Lyons, Jenny Keith, Kayln Burril, Lauren Andreassen, Brinley McMullen, Jessica Mercado, Bransen Keith, Dominik Sagaser, Shane Schiemer, Chance Cruickshank, James Keith, Devin Burril and Chris Holsclaw.

The couple will live in John Day.



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## WEATHER FORECAST

Sunny		<b>Wednesday</b> 83/49
Sunny		<b>Thursday</b> 83/50
Partly sunny		<b>Friday</b> 87/59
Cloudy		<b>Saturday</b> 81/54
Partly sunny		<b>Sunday</b> 81/57
Chance of showers		<b>Monday</b> 86/46
Sunny		<b>Tuesday</b> 84/46

### LAST WEEK

	<b>JULY 28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>AUG. 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
John Day	81/NA	90/52	99/57	100/60	101/62	100/64	85/70

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; WWW.TRIPCHECK.COM  
WWW.BLUEMOUNTAINEAGLE.COM/INFO

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY — 162.500 MHZ