

HAY FEVER rolls into town

Eight big rigs and 3 pickups add to hay stacks

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – Eight semi-trucks rolled into John Day Sept. 2, each loaded with 25 to 30 tons of hay to be donated to local ranchers with livestock displaced by the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

Behind the big rigs were three additional pickups pulling trailers filled with hay to add to the stacks at the “Hay for John Day” site at the old Grant Western Lumber Company.

Jim Hamsher of Prairie City and others were there to help unload the contributions, coming mostly from Central Oregon farms and ranches.

Hamsher said they currently have 500 tons of hay in the barn.

“It sounds like a lot of hay,” Hamsher said. “But just for the horses down at the fairgrounds, they needed 60 tons to get those horses by.”

He didn’t know the number of displaced livestock, but said the need is great, and one cow or horse would need as much as three tons of hay, from now through winter.

One rancher he knows will need 165 tons of hay to fill the stop gap until November.

And that’s just the beginning, because pastures and grazing allotments have burned.

Mark McKinnon of McKinnon Family Farm in Powell Butte was one of several farmers and ranchers with a truck in line to be unloaded.



Jim Hamsher of Prairie City unloads hay at the old Grant Western Lumber Company site in John Day as Shane Smith of Culver looks on.

“We’re just happy to be in a position to help,” he said.

Other drivers brought donations from Terrebonne, Alfalfa and Culver.

Kristin Currin has also been assisting in the effort from La Grande, arranging for hay loads and helping manage the “Hay for John Day” Facebook page.

“That page is what has been driving a lot of these hay loads,” Hamsher said.

Mike Williams and his friends in Baker have also been a big help, recently bringing in 130 tons of hay, with Gary Smith Trucking making the haul for free.

Hamsher is now working on insuring the donations.

The task is proving a challenge at the moment because the fire isn’t completely contained – a stipulation the insurance companies he’s spoken with are requiring.

As mayor of Prairie City – which was threatened by the Canyon Creek fire when the blaze came within a mile and a half of homes – Hamsher is handling quite a balancing act.

Hamsher expressed appreciation for all the firefighters, including the local volunteers, as well as law enforcement and local contract engines and CAT drivers who came to the rescue.

“We’re so lucky we didn’t have any houses in town burn,” he said.

His “irons in the fire” include making sure the city’s water supply maintains a sustainable level.

He lauded Prairie City residents who’ve conserved water at their homes. City workers had to monitor the pumphouse around the clock because the

low water table combined with the higher water-use rate was taxing the supply and caused the computer system to shutoff the water supply at times.

Along with the Hay for John Day calls he takes, Hamsher is also fielding other calls for donations to help livestock owners, including \$30,000 of vet supplies, such as vaccinations. Now he’s on the hunt for a refrigerated space.

He said the pace has been “hectic,” but he’s also grateful – especially for the hay trucks that came in.

“It’s been quite the blessing,” he said. “Thank God for bringing all these generous people.”

For more information, visit Hay for John Day on Facebook or call Hamsher at 541-620-2861.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Mark McKinnon, center, of Whittaker Farms in Culver speaks with Jim Hamsher of Prairie City as a young helper waits. Whittaker was one of several truck drivers bringing loads of hay to the collection site in John Day and Hamsher has been coordinating the local effort.

Our thanks and gratitude cannot be expressed enough for the fire fighters who saved our homes on Aspen Lane. We also want to thank all the community volunteers, OTEC, ODOT and CenturyLink for their long hours to restore our services and make our lives more normal. God Bless you all!

*Ron & Sally Greb
Justin & Jonna Bishop*

Our thanks to the many who assisted in keeping our homes safe from the fire when it blew up on Pine Creek. The firefighters from off forest and on, our county sheriff, his deputies and Search and Rescue Posse that secured our roads, the people who filled the pumps and kept them running when some folks couldn’t get home.

We would also like to thank my neighbors for helping to make things happen and get things of consequence prioritized when the need arose. Many thanks to the dozer operators, cat bosses and all.

Sincerely,
Michael & Marsha Christensen

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:

Did you know Grant County Veterans Services Officer is available to assist YOU in applying for all VA benefits you may be entitled to? See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 4 pm, by appointment.
Call 541-575-1631

Congratulations to the Winners in the Sept 8th Chamber Drawing!
Thanks to our Local Businesses and those who purchased Raffle Tickets, we presented a check for \$7,200 to Benefit Fire Victims

DONOR	DONATION	VALUE	WINNER
Chester's Thriftway	3 Minute Shopping Spree	\$300-500	David Frazier
John Day True Value Hardware	Quality Weber BBQ	\$400.00	Pat Carter
Malheur Lumber	Your Choice 1 Pallet Bricks or Pellets	\$225.00	Jim Officer
Tidewater Contractors Inc.	10 yds Driveway Rock	\$160.00	Bob Buckhaults
Life Flight	1 yr Membership, Hat, Hoody, Mug	\$100.00	Karen Hinton
Bob Baggett	1/2 hr Airplane Ride	\$120.00	Jan O'Rorke
Greg & Melody Jackson	Grant County Greenbacks	\$50.00	Michal Madden
Radio Shack	2 Video Game Units	\$180.00	Chuck Cason
Nydram Ace Hardware	Ruger 10/22 w/ Simmon Scope	\$310.00	Larry Bennett
Len's Drug	Gift Card	\$50.00	Justin May
Prairie Hardware & Gifts	Gift Basket	\$87.00	Chris Labhart
Andy's Plumbing & Sports	5 Day Survival Backpack	\$80.00	Wanda Voigt
McKinley Logging	1 Cord Juniper Fire Wood	\$160.00	Carol Beck
Mosier's Home Furnishings	Gift Certificate	\$200.00	Billie Bullard
Pat & Hedi Voigt Ranch	GIBCO Gift Certificate	\$250.00	Jim Sullens
Les Schwab Tire Center	Emergency Road Kit	\$35.00	Sharon Rayner
John Day Eye Center	Exam	\$164.00	Dr. Doucette
John Day Auto Parts	Black & Decker Lithium Drill & Tool Set	\$150.00	Tris
Driskill Memorial Chapel	2 Nights Wapati Cabin on Powder River	\$300.00	Chris Cronin
1st Choice Auto Body	Credit to New Windshield	\$100.00	Dr. Doucette
MD Enterprizes	Residential Service Call	\$50.00	Susie Snyder
Gardner Enterprises	2 Cases Beverage	\$60.00	Sandy Brown
John Day Golf Course	2 Rounds Golf + Cart	\$84.00	Stacie Klusmier
Darrell McKrola Construction	1 Window and Installation	\$400.00	Michal Madden
Voigt Chevron	Oil Change	\$49.00	Randy Horner
Good Deals	Gift Certificate	\$25.00	Jim Sullens
Silver Spur	Dinner for 2	\$40.00	Steve Patterson
Maria's Mexican Restaurant	Gift Certificate	\$20.00	Jay Taramusson
Bear Valley Roadhouse	Gift Card	\$25.00	Greg Kling
Grumpy's Embroidery	2 Hooded Sweatshirts	\$40.00	Pennie Miller
America's Best Value Inn	1 Night's Lodging	\$84.00	Pam Durr
Cloud 9 Salon	1 Cut & Style	\$25.00	Reba Smith
Dairy Queen	Gift Card	\$50.00	Leslie Bennett
King's Dept. Store	Cast Iron Cookware	\$49.00	Sue Holliday
Hoffman's Yes We Do Cleaning	Gift Certificate	\$50.00	Cindy Streeter
Body Fitness & Dance	Gift Certificate	\$40.00	Eloise Boren
JD Rents	Gift Certificate	\$75.00	Tyler Davis
John Day River Veterinary Clinic	1 Spay or Neuter Dog or Cat	\$180.00	Walt Kight
Historic Hotel Prairie	1 Nights Lodging & Drinks	\$119.00	Jack Sweek
North River Electric	Gift Card to Dayville Cafe	\$50.00	Chris Rowe
Newport Tradewinds Pkg.	5 Hour Fishing Trip *Goes with Golf	*	Larry Bennett
Bed and Breakfast by the River	Gift Basket	\$50.00	Jim Klum
Wright Chevrolet	Lube, Oil & Filter	\$40.00	Sherry Shultz
Len's Drug	Gift Card	\$50.00	Chris Wenzel
McDonald's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	\$100.00	Liz Smarr
Dreamer's Lodge	1 Room From 10/15 to 3/15/16	\$75.00	Kathy Prophet Harms
Jim's Antiques	Vacuum or Sewing Machine Repair	\$38.00	Tom Bridges
Sherry Fieger	Homemade Snack Basket	\$40.00	Tammy Burdick
Andy's Plumbing & Sports	Zombie Bear Target	\$30.00	Garry Miller
Doug's Motor Vehicle Repair	Lube, Oil & Filter	\$40.00	Tom Ware
Mary Miles Massage	30 Minute Session	\$30.00	Stacie Klusmier
Long Creek Lodge	Room for 2	\$60.00	Barbara Byant
Pioneer Feed	Gift Certificate	\$25.00	Ellen Carlson
Prime Time Video	15 Movie Star Card	\$30.00	Christy Keffer
Duke Warner Realty	Gift Certificate to Dayville Cafe	\$35.00	Janet Lee
Outpost Pizza, Pub & Grill	Gift Card	\$25.00	Ron Ballard
Shiny Thimble Quilt Studio	Quilt Book & Gift Certificate	\$60.00	Terry Williams
John Day Polaris & Eberhard's Dairy	ATV Tool Bag & Tub Ice Cream	\$29.00	Lori Azbill
GIBCO & Gardner Enterprises	Birdseed & 2 Cases Pop	\$30.00	Riley Pettyjohn
Spoiled Rotten Botique	Camo Hat & Necklace	\$30.00	Greg Vantassle
Figaro's Pizza	Gift Certificate & Basket	\$40.00	Andrew DeGrande
Triangle Oil	Two Pizza and Movie Nights	\$40.00	Amanda
Mossy Oak Properties/ Cupper Creek Land Co.	12 Quarts of Oil	\$26.00	Shah Afshah
Austin House	Gift Certificate	\$50.00	Dave Driscoll
Tracey Raymond	Handmade Quilt	Priceless	Wendy Ballou
Arrow Appliance	Gift Certificate	\$100.00	Jim Sullens
Arrow Appliance	Gift Certificate	\$100.00	Kathy Smith
Lands Inn	One Nights Stay	\$95.00	Karin Barntish
Wild Horse Casino & Resort	1 Night & Dinner Buffet	\$189.00	Cynthia Jackson
Sylvies Valley Ranch	Hooded Sweatshirt	\$85.00	Garnet Shank
Gardner Enterprises	Coke Sweatshirt	\$36.00	Sharon Rayner
Silvies Valley Ranch	Gray Fleece Vest	\$35.00	Eloise Boren
Silvies Valley Ranch	Pink Vest and Carhart Shirt	\$55.00	Craig Lough
Dayville Merc	Tshirt	\$20.00	Greg Bremner
Bio Smile	Denta Exam Pkg or Bleach Trays	\$200.00	Lori Anderson
High Desert Office Equipment	Gift Certificate	\$45.00	Katie Duncan
Russells Custom Meats	Gift Certificate	\$40.00	Chris Labhart
ER Printing & Graphics	1,000 Business Cards	\$125.00	Chris Cozart
Grant County Automotive	5 Gallon Fuel Container	\$30.00	Reba Smith
The Afghan Elf	Handmade Afghan	Priceless	Christy Moothart

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOCATIONS THAT SOLD THE MOST RAFFLE TICKETS:

1st: Ace Hardware,
2: John Day True Value Hardware
3rd: Bear Valley Store

THANKS TO THE OTHER LOCATIONS:
Bear Valley Road House, Chamber of Commerce, Dayville Cafe, Dayville Merc, JD Rents, John Day Napa Auto Parts, Len's Drug, Nydrams Ace Hardware, Prairie Hardware & Gifts, Silver Spur, Squeeze Inn, Stampede Cafe

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED CASH:
Oster Professional Group, Oregon Telephone Corp., Country Preferred Realtors, Norco Medical Supplies, Eastern Oregon Realty, KJDY, The Blue Mountain Eagle

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED FOR THE FIRST DRAWING:

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| Becker Consulting | Mobile Glass |
| Better Blooms & Gardens | Ne-Hi Enterprises-Baker City |
| Blue Mountain Chiropractic | One Guy & A Wrench |
| Chuck's Little Diner | Oxbow Restaurant |
| Cindy's Dog Grooming | Oxbow Trade, Museum & Antiques |
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| Doug's Vehicle Repair | Prairie Hardware & Gifts |
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| John Day Polaris | Triangle Oil |
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| Land Title Company | Virginia McMillan DDS |
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| Les Schwab Tire Center | |
| Lou's Heartfelt Quilting | |

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO THIS DRAWING (PLEASE SEE LIST ON LEFT COLUMN)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED WITH THE RAFFLE

Our profuse apology if we failed to acknowledge Anyone!

Trucking available on partial loads... call and consign early to organize shipping. 541-325-3662

Rancher Appreciation Day
Feeder Sale
September 28th
11am Butchers Noon Feeders

Making it easier on you... we accept cattle at the auction yard on Saturday & Sunday

Next Feeder Sale
October 12th

Central Oregon Livestock Auction, inc.
S. Hwy 97, Madras toll free 877-475-3851

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