

BUDDY

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district wildlife biologist Ryan Torland said Buddy, who is about 3 years old, was moved to Grant County from the Prineville area last month.

Torland speculates the elk was possibly raised as a calf by someone who decided it was something they didn't want to keep. The elk had become habituated to people and started hanging out in town there.

"He thinks he's a person," Torland said.

But ODFW was concerned he would become more aggressive during

rutting season, so they placed him in the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area in the Murderers Creek Basin, far from people, with the hopes that he would stay there and become acclimated to other elk.

That didn't work, however.

Buddy soon made his way down and had been hanging out at a local ranch, which is where he saw and was apparently attracted to, the activity of the 5K racers on Saturday.

Torland said Buddy was moved on Tuesday this week over to Wildlife Safari in Winston.

This was the third year for the Bunny Hop 5K but the first time an Easter elk has made an appearance at the event.



The Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

ABOVE: Buddy strolls along the South Fork of the John Day River during Dayville's Bunny Hop 5K on March 26. It was the final Grant County excursion for Buddy, who was taken to Wildlife Safari in Winston this week. BELOW: Human runners share the road with Buddy, who kept pace during the entire 5K, and completed the course all the way to Dayville City Park. The energetic elk was re-directed back out to the South Fork area before the Easter egg hunt at the park.

Bunny Hop 5K results

Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE — This year's Dayville Bunny Hop 5K drew 54 contestants of all ages, who enjoyed the scenery along the South Fork route last Saturday morning — in addition to the once-in-a-lifetime experience of running with an elk.

Here are the winning times:

Ages 0-13

- **First place:** Benjamin Henry, 25:21
- **Second place:** Daniel Henry, 29:51

Ages 14-26

- **First place:** Katie Nicolato, 29:10
- **Second place:** Treiquella Osborne, 42:10

Ages 27-49

- **First place:** Jeff Nelson, 29:03
- **Second place:** Peter Bogardus, 29:36

Ages 50 and older

- **First place:** Bob Hathaway, 30:56
- **Second place:** Cheryl Hubbard, 31:06



Greater Prairie City Community Association

Our Vision: In 2014, the Greater Prairie City Community Association (GPCCA) successfully negotiated a historic donation of this church property from the Oregon-Idaho Conference United Methodist Church. The old church currently hosts family events, entertainment, classes and workshops. Now it's time to renew the facility for our new community center – an anchor for our social, cultural, entertainment and educational activities.

Our Project & Urgency: GPCCA plans to raise \$1.26 million from 2015 to 2020 to remodel and upgrade the existing church building to meet our community's needs.

During the summer of 2015 Grant County had a terrible fire, during which residents of Prairie City had to travel to Mt. Vernon for shelter. Had the church building been properly upgraded, our families could have stayed in town for shelter during the evacuations.

We cannot serve as an emergency site until we add a bathroom and shower, build the kitchen and add the electrical upgrades. GPCCA has launched a more aggressive campaign with the goal of having these improvements completed by the next fire season.

Who We Are: The GPCCA is a group of local business owners and community members who work to enhance the livability and economic well-being for the residents of Prairie City. We sponsor events and activities that enhance livability, visual presentation, economic well-being, participation of volunteers and development of community leaders in Prairie City.

How You Can Help:

- Become a GPCCA Volunteer
- Donate to the GPCCA

Please send your gift to:
Greater Prairie City Community Association
 PO Box 758, Prairie City, OR 97869
 Kathy Smith: 541-620-0343

Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Please make checks payable to GPCCA. Our Tax ID number is 93-1252624.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR MORE INFORMATION

