

# Monument comes together for Buckaroo Festival

Event revives 60-year-old supper tradition

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The community came together in and around the senior center in Monument to celebrate the Buckaroo Festival and Harvest Auction on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The festival is a revival of a local gathering called the Buckaroo Supper that took place annually roughly 60 years ago, according to event organizer and fundraiser chair for the senior center Judy Harris.

Donated items, ranging from cords of wood to a pair of Nigerian dwarf goats, were auctioned off with the proceeds going to help support the senior center. A number of prizes were also auctioned off via a silent auction as well as a rifle that was raffled away.

Local musicians entertained festival goers under the supervision of Darrin Dailey, a local teacher. A beer garden kept those of age content with a variety of cold beers, while horseshoes, cornhole and other yard games were available.

Bruce Hansen caught and donated over 90 pounds of salmon and over 100 ears of corn to the festival to ensure that everyone was fed.

"I'm happy to help the community," Hansen said.

Harris described Hansen as a "real pillar of the community."

Harris, who was born in Monument and recently moved back, described the festival as a community effort.



Cody Hewgley plays horseshoes during the Buckaroo Festival in Monument on Saturday, Sept. 24.



Darrin Dailey plays his guitar and sings during the Buckaroo Festival in Monument.



Judy Cavender, left, and Cara Dailey prepare over 90 pounds of salmon donated by Bruce Hansen for the community dinner.



Judy Harris, left, and Bruce Hansen pose for a photo during the Buckaroo Festival in Monument Saturday, Sept. 24.

"I have quite a troupe that helps," Harris said. "I couldn't do it without them."

In charge of cooking dinner were Jan Ensign, Cara Dailey and Judy and Sue Cavender, who cooked donated elk, salmon and corn. Though they didn't know how many

people would be coming for the festival, they planned to cook for 200.

"We'll feed 'em till the food runs out," Cavender said.

The event is a revival of the Buckaroo Supper, which had been a gathering of the community to come together and raise money for the senior center in Monument was erected in 1992, replacing the Grange Hall as a meeting place.

would put on the "Buckaroo Supper." Now there is only one remaining member, the 96-year-old Grand Marshal Jack Cavender.

The supper had been a fundraising event for the Grange Hall, which was the town's community center at the time. The senior center in Monument was erected in 1992, replacing the Grange Hall as a meeting place.

# Nelson appointed to state OYCC board

By Rylan Boggs  
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Long-time Grant County resident Katy Nelson has been appointed to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps advisory board.

Nelson worked extensively with the OYCC when she was with the Grant County Center for Human Development.

Nelson has worked as a family support specialist, community mental health counselor and instructor at the University of Maine, Augusta and Quinnipiac College.

The OYCC provides high schoolers with job experience, interviewing skills and employment that helps shape the communities they live in. As the 30th birthday of the OYCC approaches, they are looking for a new name, something that rolls off the tongue a little better, Nelson says.

The program has shrunk due to lack of funding since Nelson last worked with it some seven years ago, something she wants to remedy by finding more funding options. Nelson said kids in the program are usually 16, and this is typically their first job. Part of the draw for kids is having a job to return to if they are good workers, Nelson said.



Katy Nelson is the newest appointee to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

She said she often runs into kids who had been in the program who say how they took pride in their work and have something to mark their passage through the community.

Nelson cites statistics gathered from the program, stating over 90 percent of participants have an interest in furthering their education, spending more time outdoors, taking more responsibility for their actions and demonstrating better work habits because

of the program.

"These are the things you want when you work with kids: to feel better about their future and further their education," Nelson said. "It's a beautiful symmetry. They're getting fixed and fixing the environment."

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