FEATURE STORY OF THE YEAR

Year in Review

Buddy, the Easter elk, joins Bunny Hop 5K

By Cheryl Hoefler Blue Mountain Eagle

Dayville's Bunny Hop 5K in March picked up an unexpected participant — an elk, known as "Buddy" to locals.

Buddy ran the entire race, alongside the 54 human runners, on South Fork Road from south of town to the Dayville City Park. He stopped at least twice and headed off the route, but returned again each time to rejoin the other 5K racers.

He did have a number, but it was just an ear tag and not a sanctioned race bib. Buddy also didn't pay any entry fees, nor did he technically finish the race, instead meandering through the crowd at the park instead of crossing the finish line.

Buddy also didn't take part in the Easter egg hunt at the park afterward; human help guided him back up South Fork so young egg hunters could have the park to themselves.

Though Buddy is well-known by people in Dayville, this was his first trip to town, according to city recorder Ruthie Moore.

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 from 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.







Church Services In Grant County

GRACE CHAPEL

Evangelical Methodist 154 E. Williams St.,

Prairie City • 541-820-4437 gracechpl@ortelco.net Pastor Michael Harvey

Early Worship 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

SATURDAY SERVICES JOHN DAY

110 Valley View Dr. - 541-575-1216 Head Elder......541-575-2914 Bible Classes (all ages)......9:30 am

LONG CREEK

E. Main Street - 541-421-3033

Tune into

3 ANGELS BROADCASTING KSPL 98.1 FM Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2

Antenna; Digital Channel 15 & UHF Channel 8

Cornerstone Christian 5 **Fellowship**

139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY 541-575-2180

10 am **Pastor Levi Manitsas** cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service

John Day Valley Mennonite Church

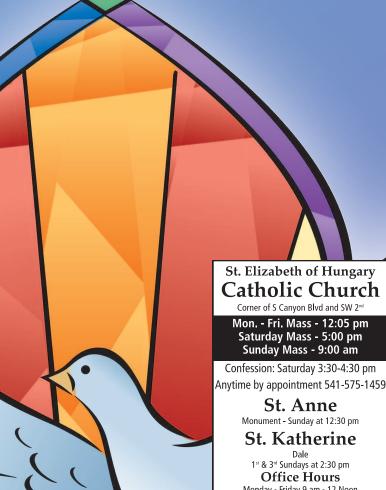
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall Sunday School..... Sunday Morning Worship...10:50 a.m. Pastor Leland Smucker Everyone Welcome • 541-575-5507

St. Thomas **Episcopal** Church

Morning Prayer......10 am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays) Eucharist & Sunday School......10 am (2nd & 4th Sundays) 139 S. Washington, Canyon City **541-620-1436**







Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

Living Word
Christian Center Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon

Celebration of Worship Sundays 5:30pm Youth: 0-6th grade

Midweek Bible Study Thursdays 6:30pm Youth: 0-6th grade

Overcomer's Outreach Saturday's 8:00am House on the Lawn A Christ Centered, 12 Step **Recovery Support Group**

Pastor Sharon Miller 541-932-4910 www.livingwordcc.com

541-620-0340 Redeemer Lutheran Church

Historic Remnant

Church \

Preparing for

Jesus to come

Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange

Sabbath School......9:30 am Church Services.....11:00 am

Come Worship with us at 627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

* & 3rd Sunday Worship & Communion ...

2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship10 am Wednesday Evening Bible Study......6 pm For information: 541-575-2348

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School...... 10 am Church.....11 am Afternoon Service...... 1 pm No Mid-week Services

Visiting Pastors 300 W. Main, John Day 541-575-1355

Strawberry Mountain CHRISTIAN **FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday Services10 am Midweek Services also available

170 SE Dayton, John Day 2nd & Ave. D, Seneca 541-620-0976

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am

Sunday morning worship 10:30 am

Independent Fundamental • Premillennial

Terence K. Crabb, Pastor A Bible-believing Church "He that hath the Son hath life ..." I John 5:12 Sunday School 9:45 am • Sunday Preaching 11:00 am Junior Church 11:00 am • Sunday Evenings 3:30 pm Wednesday Bible Study & Master Club 7:00 pm Saturday Men's Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

108 S. Washington Street, Canyon City 541-575-2688 or 541-575-0844



JOHN DAY UNITED **METHODIST CHURCH**

Sunday Worship • 9AM (541) 575-1326 johndayUMC@gmail.com 126 NW Canton, John Day

Like us on Facebook!

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday School.....9:30 am Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 am Sunday Evening Service......6:00 pm Children & Teen Activities SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO

Weekdays: Sonshine Christian School 521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895 wwww.johndaynazarene.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN **CHURCH**

Sunday School.....9:45 am Sunday Worship.....11 am Sunday Evening Bible talk.....6:30 pm Saturday Men's Study......7 pm

Full Gospel-Come Grow With Lis 541-575-1202 Church 311 NE Dayton St, John Day Pastor Al Altnow www.fcciohndav.com