

FEATURE STORY OF THE YEAR

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.



Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler
An elk joined the fun at Dayville's March 26 Bunny Hop 5K. He completed the course on South Fork Road, keeping pace with the other participants, all the way into Dayville City Park but stopped just short of crossing the finish line.



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
Prayer 8 a.m.
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
Worship.....11 am
LONG CREEK
E. Main Street - 541-421-3033
Head Elder.....421-3468
Bible Classes (all ages).....2 pm
Worship.....3 pm
Tune into
3 ANGELS BROADCASTING
KSPL 98.1 FM
Blue Mountain Cable, Channel 2
Antenna; Digital Channel 15
& UHF Channel 8

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship
139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY
541-575-2180
Sunday Worship Service
10 am
Pastor Levi Manitsas
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com

John Day Valley Mennonite Church
Meeting every Sunday
at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
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

New Life Bible Church
2 Corinthians 5:17
Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center
(Corner of Second & Allen)
Contact Pastor Ed Studtmann at
541-421-3888 • Begins at 3:00pm

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church
SUNDAY SERVICE.....9 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9 am
541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

Prairie Baptist Church
238 N. McHaley St.
Prairie City
Pastor David Hoeffner
541-820-3696
www.prairie-baptist-church.com
Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am
Sunday morning worship 10:30 am
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) 3:00 pm
Youth Group 5:30 pm

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
KJV Independent
Fundamental • Premillennial
Terence K. Crabb, Pastor
A Bible-believing Church
"He that hath the Son hath life ..." / 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!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2nd
Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am
Confession: Saturday 3:30-4:30 pm
Anytime by appointment 541-575-1459

St. Anne
Monument - Sunday at 12:30 pm
St. Katherine
Dale
1st & 3rd Sundays at 2:30 pm
Office Hours
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

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: Sunshine Christian School
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

Historic Remnant Church
Preparing for Jesus to come
Meets Saturday at Mt. Vernon Grange
Sabbath School.....9:30 am
Church Services.....11:00 am
541-620-0340

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day
1st & 3rd Sunday Worship
& Communion10 am
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
Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship
Sunday Services10 am
Midweek Services also available
170 SE Dayton, John Day
2nd & Ave. D, Seneca
541-620-0976

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 Us
541-575-1202 Church
311 NE Dayton St, John Day
Pastor Al Altnow
www.fcjohnday.com