

BMW motorcyclists ride again



Photos by The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Doug and Joyce Knights of Salem prepare for the day's ride Friday during the BMW Riders of Oregon Chief Joseph Rally held at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

450 riders join the BMW Chief Joseph Rally

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Motorcyclists have banded together since the year 2000 for the Chief Joseph Rally in John Day.

Riders from as far away as New Zealand gathered at the Grant County Fairgrounds June 23-25 for the annual event, sponsored by BMW Riders of Oregon.

There were 450 in attendance at the rally.

"We get quite a diverse group. Last year's youngest rider was 17, and the oldest was 82," said rally master Linda Tewksbury, who shares

the title with her husband, Doug.

She added some attendees have been members since the organization started 41 years ago.

Tewksbury was pleased to show visitors this year's event program, which features an art logo designed by Grant Union Junior-Senior High School student Paige Gerry of John Day.

"There is a wall with the entries, so people can see the brilliant artwork the students did," she said. "We were thrilled with the response."

A total of 108 entries from Grant Union and Prairie City schools were on display at the fairgrounds pavilion.

John Fiedor of Dayville doesn't ride a motorcycle, but the retired John Day Fossil Beds park ranger led a group

of riders through the scenic Sheep Rock Unit Friday, which included a stop at the Thomas Condon Paleontology and Visitor Center. Another guided tour was planned for Saturday.

Fiedor donates the money he receives from the "Geology Rocks! Tour" to the local Juniper Arts Council.

Other organizations raise funds, including Friends of the Fair and a 4-H group, both groups providing breakfast for the riders.

Doug and Joyce Knights of Salem arrived at the rally Thursday and reviewed their map as they donned helmets for a morning ride on Friday.

"It's just gorgeous," Doug said. "Everything between Salem and here was just perfect, and the community is great."



Linda Tewksbury of Eugene holds the BMW Riders of Oregon Chief Joseph Rally program. She and her husband Doug are this year's rally masters. The program art was designed by Grant Union Junior-Senior High School art student Paige Gerry.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Dayville Assistant Fire Chief Tim Briggs, right, chats with Chet Day about the previously owned fire engine the department recently acquired. Briggs brought the engine to the DMV in John Day for registration.

Dayville Fire volunteers ready with new engine

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Dayville Volunteer Fire Department is even more prepared for its next call out to a fire.

The department recently bought a 1991 Cummins 300 Big Cam fire engine from a private seller in Salem. Fire Chief Brandon Thompson said their other newest truck is 43 years old.

"Our truck was pretty worn out," he said. "We'd been having problems with it overheating and decided to look for a new one."

Assistant Chief Tim Briggs and firefighter Cody Clausen drove to Salem to take the Cummins 300 for a test drive, and they looked

it over with the Salem Fire Department.

Because the truck had a problem with the pump, they were able to knock \$2,000 off the asking price, purchasing the truck for \$16,500, Thompson said.

Briggs fixed the pump in his shop, and brought the fire engine to the John Day DMV May 24 for registration.

"We're absolutely stoked," Briggs said.

Thompson said the truck, which came with ladders, hoses and other equipment, is all stocked and ready to go.

"It should hold us for another 30 years," he said. "It's going to be our first truck out the door."

Phillips honored for 40 years in the Grange

Blue Mountain Eagle

Mt. Vernon Grange recently honored longtime members.

Loyce Phillips was awarded a certificate for 40 years of service at an event in May that also served as her birthday party. Mary Ellen Brooks was awarded a certificate for 25 years of service.

The Grange, which started in 1925, is a casual group that meets the second Friday of each month at the hall across from Clyde Holliday State Park on Highway 26 just east of Mt. Vernon. A potluck begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining can attend the potluck as a guest, and young people are encouraged to join.

Members host two annual fundraisers: a pancake feed in January or February and a bazaar the second Saturday in November. The Grange sponsors a candidate night during election year and provides awards at the county fair. The group



Contributed photo

Loyce Phillips was honored for her birthday and 40 years of membership in the Mt. Vernon Grange in May.

donates to a variety of local causes and supplies dictionaries for third-graders in Long Creek, Monument and Dayville and assists the American Legion in giving dictionaries to Humbolt and Seneca elementary students.

For more information, call Harold Preston at 541-820-4463, secretary Jean Sagert at 541-575-1007 or Scott Farmer at 541-876-7770.

Diverse groups restore upper Camp Creek

Blue Mountain Eagle

June 1-4, 20 volunteers for the Oregon Natural Desert Association performed riparian restoration work as part of an ongoing project on upper Camp Creek, a Middle Fork of the John Day tributary in the Malheur National Forest.

The project is a cooperative effort led by the national forest involving many interest groups including ONDA and local ranchers. For two days, ONDA volunteers from around the state helped repair wildlife exclosures, rebuild pasture boundary fences and repair in-stream structures. The improvements in stream habitat have already shown payoffs for the anadromous Mid-Columbia River steelhead that use the creek for spawning and rearing habitat. It has also benefited nearby vegetation as showcased by the new green carpet of sedges and rushes along the creek.

"The vegetation has already started to change. This area was just dry, sparse grass last year. The structures we installed and high water from a big snow year has allowed Camp Creek to access its floodplain again," Jeff Nelson, a fisheries technician with the Malheur National Forest, said.

ONDA volunteers are providing labor for several similar projects throughout the forest in 2017. Registering early is advised, as trips typically fill up fast.

Interagency assessments for fish habitat delay ranchers' access

Grazing allotments conflict with steelhead and bull trout habitat

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

Delayed Forest Service biological assessments are preventing some Grant County ranchers from turning out their cattle on public lands.

Grant County Commissioner Boyd Britton expressed frustration and dismay at the issue and said local grazing permit holders were seriously affected. Britton said turnout dates are typically May 15, June 1 and June 15.

Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin said ranchers were typically able to turn out their cattle about the middle of June. He said some ranchers had already been able to turn out their cattle and others would be able to at the beginning of July. In the interim, ranchers had been grazing their cattle on private lands or other pastures, he said.

Beverlin said the assessments affect a majority of ranchers in the community.

The biological assessments are consultations with the National Marine Fisheries for steelhead and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for bull trout.

Grant County Stock Growers Association President Alec Oliver estimated some ranchers missed out on roughly 20 percent of summer grazing on their allotted land. He said they had compensated by turning out onto fall pastures and feeding cattle hay typically used later in the season.

Oliver said they were fortunate it was a good year for grass, but that ranchers had still taken a hit.

Commission seeks bike, pedestrian advocate

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Southeast Area Commission on Transportation is seeking a new member to provide input and insight regarding transportation related bicyclist and pedestrian concerns in the Malheur, Grant and Harney county area of Eastern Oregon, according to an Oregon Department of Transportation press release.

The SEACT is hoping someone with a background or interest in this field, plus an interest in improving the state's transportation's system will apply for the open volunteer position. More information about these opportunities is available by contacting Sean Maloney at 541-823-4025 or by email at sean.maloney@odot.state.or.us. To fill out an application please contact

Judy Moore at 541-276-6745, or by email at Judy.Moore@geodc.net. The SEACT is hoping to have applications in hand by July 11, 2015.

"The South East Area Commission on Transportation is a very engaged group that helps address all aspects of transportation, including surface, marine, air, and transportation safety," Maloney said. "We currently have numerous representatives from city, county and state agencies within the Malheur, Harney and Grant County area and are looking for a new member who can help represent the interests of bicyclist and pe-

destrians in this three-county section of eastern Oregon."

Ideally, the new SEACT member will live or work within the tri-county district, but it is not a requirement of the volunteer positions.

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:
 Did you know there may be VA benefits available for you as a result of your spouses' military service?
 See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House. 
 Jeff Wilcox
 Call 541-620-8057 for an appointment
 Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10am-4pm by appointment. 

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 1809 First Street • Baker City • (541)523-5439
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 ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY
 MOVIE SCHEDULE JUNE 30 - JULY 6

DESPICABLE ME 3 PG
 Gru meets his long-long charming, cheerful, and more successful twin brother Gru who wants to team up with him for one last criminal heist.
 FRI - THURS (4:20) 7:20 9:30
 * No 9:30 show on July 4th

BABY DRIVER R
 After being coerced into working for a crime boss, a young getaway driver finds himself taking part in a heist doomed to fail.
 FRI - THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:35
 * No 9:30 show on July 4th

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT PG-13
 The key to saving our future lies buried in the secrets of the past, in the hidden history of Transformers on Earth.
 FRI - THURS 4:00 7:30

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth 

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4th of July Movie and Game Rental Special
 Friday 6/30/17 until Wednesday 7/5/17
 2 Games \$8.00 • 5 New Release Movies \$15.00
 Don't forget our 7-day rentals!

Blue Mountain Eagle
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For July 5th Edition
Ad, Classified & Legal Deadline
Thursday, June 29th by 5p.m.

Office will be Closed July 4th

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