



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Prairie City's American Legion float included veterans, from left, Merritt Woodley (Navy), Chip Wood (Navy), Clayton Curtis (Army), Del Lake (Army) and Juan Rubio (Army). See more photos on Page A18 and at [myeaglenews.com](http://myeaglenews.com).

# Celebrating the Fourth

Locals enjoy a variety of festivities

By Angel Carpenter and Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Four local cities celebrated the country's independence on the Fourth of July.

The events went off with a bang in Prairie City, Dayville, Monument and Long Creek.

See more photos on Page A18.

## Prairie City

Prairie City's "Celebrate the Spirit of 1776" parade kicked off a day of Fourth of July fun.

It started with a bang of the Whiskey Gulch Gang's cannon.

"People went all out this year," said City Recorder Taci Philbrook.

Parade coordinator Anna Smith agreed.

"I think the floats have really gotten better," she said, adding it made the judging that much harder this year.

"My theme is 'go big, or go home,'" she said.

Rose Coombs sang the national anthem as members of the American Legion posted the colors, and parade announcer was Logan Baggett.

Sweepstakes winner was 4-year-old Hayla Reilly who was dressed as a rodeo princess, riding Rooster the horse, who was also patriotically "dressed."

Parade-goers were encouraged to wear a red hat in honor of military servicemen and women.

A red-hat contest and log sawing competition were two new events in Prairie City this year.

The festivities were capped by a fireworks display at the Oxbow Ranch, where glow sticks were given out to children.

"Someone purchases 500 glow sticks each year, and they don't even live here," Philbrook said.

The fireworks display is paid for by the city.

"We want to thank the pyrotechnician team headed by Boyd Britton and all the fire services," she said. "We couldn't have done it without them."

## Dayville

The Dayville parade featured fire trucks, horses and more candy than the kids could handle.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Color guard for the Prairie City Fourth of July Parade include, front to back, Bob VanVoorhis, Ted Thompson, Dick Theide and Terry Williams.

Post-parade, the Dayville Fire Department served up Jakeburgers, hamburgers with a special relish, outside city hall. A horseshoe competition and car show kept everyone entertained as well.

The Jake Stretter Memorial Classic Car Show began last year in memory of Jake Stretter, who died in 2016.

"He loved classic old cars," said Cindy Stretter.

The Stretter family is trying to keep it going for as long as they can, though there were fewer entries because it fell on a Tuesday, Cindy said.

She described the event as an "informal car show" and said last year they even had a tractor enter.

## Monument

Festivities in Monument drew hundreds from across the region, according to Lonnie Lawrence.

This is Lawrence's seventh year helping with the Monument Fourth of July Jubilee. She said it began as a family gathering and has grown every year.

"It was started seven years ago as a spur of the moment idea to offer something positive to our community and help the people come together," Lawrence said.

## Long Creek

Long Creek residents and

others gathered for old-fashioned fun at the eighth annual Founder's Day celebration.

The Long Creek Historical Society, which sponsors the event, provided hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks for a potluck lunch.

About 50 attended the picnic outside Long Creek Community Center.

Rhoda DuFresne, the great-great granddaughter of the Keeneys who were prominent pioneers to the area, spoke about her family history.

Reiba Carter Smith, secretary for the historical society, said the Keeneys immigrated to America in the 1600s, migrating west after some fought in the Revolutionary War.

In Long Creek, the Keeneys owned a ranch, race horses, saloons and a store.

The historical society is working toward restoring Long Creek's Fort Townsend, which was built in the 1870s in seven days, with the help of Civil War veteran Billy Townsend.

"We're trying to preserve it and build a museum," said Gaylene Pruitt, a member of the historical society.

## Prairie City parade and contests

Grand marshal: Lyn McDonald  
Sweepstakes winner: Little Miss Hayla LeeAnn Reilly  
Classic cars: First place, 2 Cow Cattle Company of Prairie City; Second place, Farrel Clark

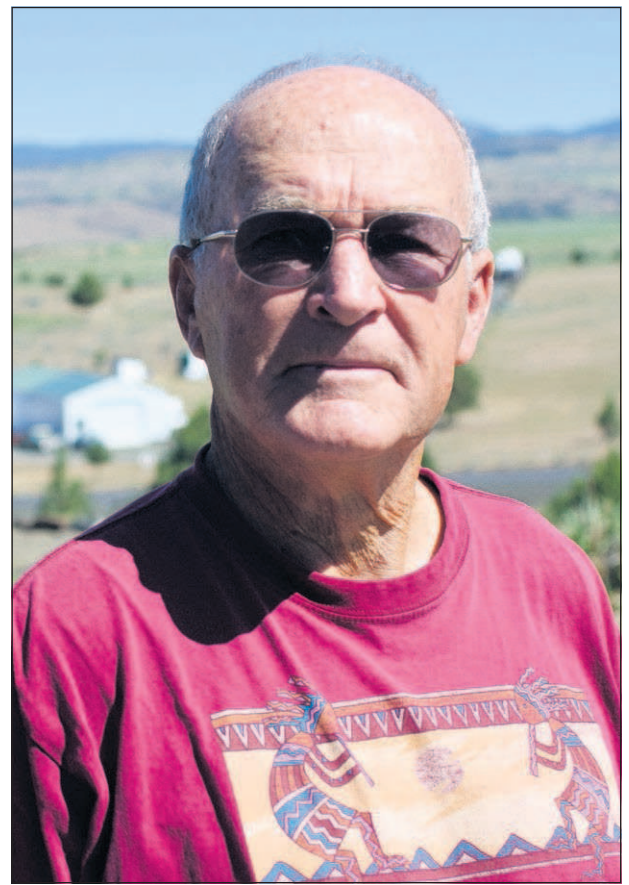
- Third place, Trever Hamsher
- Floats**
- First place, DeWitt Museum
- Second place, Chester's Thriftway
- Third place, City Hall Prairie City
- Non-motorized vehicles**
- First place, Skylar McKay/Ava Gerry
- Walking groups**
- First place, Prairie Post 106 American Legion
- Second place, Blue Mountain Care Center
- Third place, PCHS cheerleaders and cheer camp girls
- Horse drawn**
- First place, Del Raymond
- Mounted individuals**
- First place, Little Miss Hayla LeeAnn Reilly
- Second place, Rowdy Israel, Lil Miss NPR
- Mounted group**
- First, Grant County Fair Court
- Second, Carson McKay and Jaden Winegar
- Third place, Bryan Martin and Ketterly
- Decorated vehicle**
- First place, Prairie City Baptist Church
- Second place, JoAnne Cordis-Phippen
- Third place, Prairie City football team
- ATV/Dir bikes/motor**
- First place, Trenton Winegar
- Second place, Gabriel and Emma
- Third place, Jack Strong
- Derby cars**
- First place, Tyler Nodine
- Second place, Eddy Hicks
- Third place, Steve Patterson
- Emergency vehicles**
- First place, Blue Mountain Hospital Ambulance
- Second place, John Day Fire Department
- Log sawing competition**
- First place, Trever Hamsher and Daniel DesJardin
- Second place, Ed Guzman and Rose Guzman
- Third place, Taci Philbrook and Amanda Rockhill

## Monument parade

Best float: Jeanne Strange  
Best classic vehicle: Jimmy Mael  
Best adult costume: Mary Cade  
Best kid costume: Taylor Hamilton on horseback  
Winner of the 4-H Color Run: Dakota Emerson

## Dayville parade and contests

Grand marshals: Merle and Ralph Metcalf  
**Best of Parade**  
Grand marshal entry by the Metcalf family  
**Horse division**  
First place, Amy and Keira Stiner  
Second place, Jarrett and Sydney Smith  
Third place, Strawberry Riders 4-H  
**Kids and non-motorized division**  
First place, Jake Stretter Memorial Car Show, Tanner and Piper Swagger and Zach, Nate and Kiah Nichols  
Second place, John Deere Fun, Grayson and Everleigh Schmadeka  
Third place, Barbie Jeep, Carson and McKenzie Thompson  
**Motorized division**  
First place, Old Gypsy Cowgirl  
Second place, Dayville Mercantile  
Third place, 4-H Community Club  
**Horseshoe tournament**  
First place, Larry Powell and Casey Fretwell  
Second place, Toby Thomas and Mani Martin  
**Repurposed cowboy boot contest**  
First place, Simmie Waddel  
Second place, Tiffnie Schmadeka  
Jake Stretter Memorial Car Show Event  
**Favorite car award**  
First place, Frank Schrier  
Second place, Larry Wall  
Third place, Dayville Merc  
The Tanner Award: Jerry Ray  
The Zach Award: Frank Schrier  
The Nate Award: Jerry Ray  
The Kiah Award: Dayville Merc  
The Piper Award: Larry Wall



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Local author Don Jones stands for a photo at his home Thursday, June 22.

# Local author pens western

'Quintana' tells story of a post-civil war hero

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Local author Don Jones just released his first book.

Writing under the name D.L. Jones, he penned the historical fiction "Quintana," the story of Carlos Quintana, a civil war veteran, who gains national attention after saving President Andrew Johnson from an assassination attempt. The book follows Quintana as he and his men hunt down the Quantrill Gang, put down a Mexican rebellion in Texas and escort wagon trains of Mormons through hostile territory, all while hounded by a U.S. Marshal determined to bring Quintana in for a double murder.

The book is largely set in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

"The last part of the 1800s is one of my favorite parts of history because so much is going on in the country," Jones said.

He taught 31 years of history, 27 at Grant Union High School, and said he has always been drawn to western history. He had the idea for the story in his head for years and finally had the time to write it.

"It's been an adventure into the dark," he said. "Spittin' into the wind, I had no idea what would happen."

He wrote the novel in



The cover of Don Jones' new novel, "Quintana."

short chapters, reminiscent of James Patterson's books. Those who enjoyed the novel "Lonesome Dove," by Larry McMurtry, would also find "Quintana" interesting, Jones said.

He based some of the characters in his first book on his colorful relatives and friends.

Jones graduated from the University of Montana in 1961 with degrees in history and political science. He went to school on the GI Bill after serving in the Army from 1954-1956.

The book is currently available on Amazon, or directly from Jones. He is currently halfway through a sequel to "Quintana" and has his fingers crossed he will be able to get his books in larger retailers like Barnes & Noble.

"Quintana" was published by Dorrance Publishing, who also provided the cover art.

Jones hopes to have a book signing in the future.

**JOHN DAY VIDEO & ELECTRONICS**  
Clearance Sale on all SONY 1080p TVs, Audio Systems, Blu-ray Players and Cameras.  
Located in the West Main Plaza

## THANK YOU

The Grant County Family Heritage Foundation, a private non-profit dedicated to supporting youth in agriculture in Grant County, wishes to thank its partners in its first Mother's and Father's Day basket drawing. Thanks to these partners, "Bench Made" Knives, Ace Hardware, Adoni's Pine, Better Blooms and Gardens, Flower Shop & More, Leupold Stevens, The Snaffle Bit Dinner House, and ZPT Silver; Jessica Wilson and Jake Reynolds received a combined \$1,518 retail value of prizes.

The Foundation additionally wishes to thank those who purchased the 240 tickets for this drawing.

These events kicked off the Foundation's efforts to raise funds necessary to bring a cooling system and electrical upgrades to the Heritage Barn at the Grant County Fairgrounds. The project is designed to bring cooling comfort to the animals, 4-H & FFA participants and attendees alike.

**Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow**  
No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

**Debbie Ausmus**  
245 South Canyon Blvd.  
John Day, OR 97845  
**OPEN WED. & THUR.**  
9 am - 5 pm  
**541-575-1113**  
24 hrs/7 days wk

[debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com](mailto:debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com)

**COUNTRY FINANCIAL**

**ADVANTAGE DENTAL CLINICS**  
Advantage Dental Group PC

**DO YOU NEED A CROWN?**  
**\$59 DOWN & \$59 A MONTH**  
Call to schedule your appointment with Advantage Dental today. Some restrictions may apply.

**750 West Main John Day, OR 97845**  
**888-468-0022**

Emergencies, most Insurance Plans and Oregon Health Plan Patients are all welcome.

**COMMERCIAL AUTO ELECTRIC**

Heavy Equipment Mobile Repair  
Industrial Starter & Alternator Repair/ Rebuilding  
6am-6pm Monday thru Saturday  
Visa and MasterCard accepted  
Clell (541) 792-0529  
George (541) 792-0230

**L.B. Mobile Welding Service LLC.**

- Veteran Owned
- Competitive Pricing
- Serving Central & Eastern Oregon

**541-620-1405 [Burklevi@yahoo.com](mailto:Burklevi@yahoo.com)**