



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs
Etc. owner Sherrie Rininger dishes up cups of pavlova during First Friday on Aug. 4. The dish was part of a dessert crawl including stops at Etc., 1188 and House to Home. Rininger said she and other business owners started the event to get people out and about after work on Friday.

First Friday features flavorful fare

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

First Friday's debut in John Day brought new customers into local businesses with the lure of tasty treats. The event Friday was centered around a dessert crawl between three local businesses.

Those participating could sample pavlova at Etc., brownies and blondies at 1188 and Jello parfaits with fresh fruit at House to Home free of charge.

House to Home owner Kattie Piazza said the event was a success. She had people in her shop who had never been in before and saw a spike in sales during the event.

Etc. owner Sherrie Rininger said she also had newcomers in her business and was looking forward to the next First Friday on Sept. 1. Rininger anticipates having live music and said other local businesses expressed interest in participating.

"Kattie and I are spearheading this because we want to see some life come back into downtown," Rininger said.

The event will occur monthly through November and pick back up in the spring.

Participants rated the desserts and selected 1188's brownies and blondies as the most delectable followed by House to Home's parfaits and Etc.'s pavlova.

Prairie City graduate joins Walden's La Grande office

Blue Mountain Eagle

An Eastern Oregon native has joined U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's La Grande office.

Tucker Billman, a Prairie City High School and University of Oregon graduate, became a field representative for Walden in June.

"I'm excited to get out and meet with folks on behalf of Greg and work on the issues important for communities in Eastern Oregon," Billman said. "This is an incredible opportunity."

An outdoorsman at heart, he grew up hunting and fishing and is an avid bowhunter, when he can find the time.

The son of Mike Billman, a veteran of the timber industry in Eastern Oregon, he was raised in the family business. His earliest memories include traveling to logging jobs and lumber mills with his father, giving him an understanding of natural resource issues impacting Eastern Oregon from a young age.

While he is new to politics, Billman is not new to public service. He fought fires for



Tucker Billman

three years on a hand crew for the Forest Service out of Prairie City and recently finished a summer working for the Northwest Interagency Fire Support Cache in Redmond.

At the University of Oregon, Billman fueled his passion for public service by earning a degree in political science. His belief in public service, and desire to help Eastern Oregon prosper, drove him to work for Walden, where he can help and serve the community that raised him.

"From a young age, I've had an interest in politics," he said. "I value the opportunities presented by the political atmosphere to reach people and change lives. Working for Greg out of La Grande is the perfect chance to seize on that opportunity."

Walden's La Grande office is located at 1211 Washington Ave. The office phone number is 541-624-2400.

Cruise-In draws 31 entries



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter
At the Grant County Kruzers Cruise-In Saturday, the winners of the Best of Show trophy, honoring Mike Greear, were Gale and Linda Miller of Newberg with their '37 Ford.

Millers' '37 Ford wins best of show

Blue Mountain Eagle

Remnants of the past were on display Saturday in Prairie City for the Grant County Kruzers Cruise-In.

Gale and Linda Miller of Newberg won the best of show trophy, honoring Mike Greear, with their '37 Ford. There were 31 entries.

Tony Johns, club president, said he didn't expect more than 10, but there were 10 already there when he showed up an hour early to set up. Vehicles ranged from the 1920s to a 2005 Corvette.

Member Claudia Greear said the club welcomes more to join, no matter what kinds of cars they enjoy.

For more information, call Johns at 541-820-3745.



Attendees enjoy the Grant County Kruzers' summer Cruise-In Saturday at Prairie City Park.



The interior of Jerry Franklin's pickup at the Grant County Kruzers Cruise-In Saturday in Prairie City.

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Cheryl Hoefler

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Ad, Classified & Legal Deadline
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Office will be closed
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