

Flying the friendly skies of Grant County

Eighty kids and adults enjoy bird's-eye view

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Children took to the skies with volunteer pilots Saturday for a bird's-eye view of the area during the Grant County Fly-In.

The annual event is sponsored by the Grant County Regional Airport with help from the county air search volunteers.

Seven-year-old twins Nathan and Stephan Miller of Bear Valley, who were in line for their first-ever flight, said they were looking forward to it.

They went up with pilot Doug Ferguson in his Cessna 182.

Other pilots were Charles McKenna, Barbara Smith, Bob Baggett and Robert Watt.

Colter Handley, age 7, of Canyon City stepped off Ferguson's plane as the Miller brothers prepared to hop in.

"It was really fun because I got to fly it for a little bit, in the air and landing," Handley said.

Eleven-year-old Zack Ostberg of John Day flew with Watt.

"It's my fourth or fifth time flying," he said. "I can



Stephan Miller, 7, of Bear Valley gives a thumbs up, ready to fly with pilot Doug Ferguson. Stephan's twin brother, Nathan, and their dad were also along for the ride. It was Stephan's and Nathan's first time flying.

see the world in a different view."

Air search president Ron Lundbom said the event was rescheduled to Sept. 30 because of poor air quality from fires earlier in the month.

Other events, including the opening day of hunting season, gave the event some competition, Lundbom said.

Attendance was down by about half, he said, but they still gave 80 people, mainly children, free flights.

Some parents flew with their younger children.

Snafflebit Dinner House offered a hearty breakfast menu.

Lundbom provided a candy drop for the kids, flying over the airport in his ultra lite.

Dave Traylor also passed over in his powered parachute with the U.S. flag, as the national anthem played during the event.

Lundbom said they hope to have more activities for children next year, including a rappelling demonstration.

"I'd like to thank everybody for showing up, and I look forward to next year," he said. "All in all everybody had fun, and it was a success."



Ron Lundbom, president of Grant County Air Search, flies above the airport for a special "candy-drop" delivery for the children below during the Fly-In.

Poll: Half have unfavorable view of Brown, but would re-elect her

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Half of Oregonians view Gov. Kate Brown unfavorably yet would re-elect her by a narrow margin if the election was conducted now, according to an online survey by Nashville-based pollster icitizen.

Forty percent said they would vote for Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, to unseat the first-term governor, the survey shows.

The survey of 645 respondents, paid for by icitizen, is the first glimpse into the mindset of Oregonians more than a year before the November 2018 gubernatorial election.

Jim Moore, director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University, said the responses to Brown are unsurprising.

"While she is a fairly popular governor, she hasn't really done anything to put her name on," Moore said.

"Clearly, this is a message for her campaign to communicate what she has done that makes her worthy to be governor again."

The respondents — part of a "convenience panel" of Oregonians icitizen uses for on-line polls — were not confirmed as registered voters, said Cynthia Villacis, the company's polling director.

Favorable opinions for Brown were stronger in the Portland Metro area and the Willamette Valley, 45 percent and 55 percent, respectively. In the rest of the state, only 37 percent of respondents said they had a favorable opinion

of her, while 62 percent gave unfavorable feedback.

Out of all respondents, 341 were members of the GOP. In Oregon, only 26.7 percent of registered voters are Republican, 29.5 percent are unaffiliated and 36.7 percent are Democrat, according to the most recent statistics from the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

"That sounds to me as if (icitizen) oversampled Republicans," Moore said.

Leslie Rich, a senior vice president of client services, said the results are weighted to reflect the state's electorate makeup of different party affiliations.

Political pundits see the results as a bad sign for the Republican challenger, an orthopedic surgeon who was elected as a state representative in 2014. Buehler also challenged Brown in 2012 for her then position as Oregon secretary of state.

When Oregonians were asked their preferred Republican to face off with Brown, a majority chose a Republican who hasn't even filed as a candidate and has had no media attention.

About 31 percent of respondents said Greg Wooldrige, a former commander of the Navy's Blue Angels, is their preferred GOP candidate. Meanwhile, only 28 percent identified Buehler as their preferred choice.

Wooldrige is familiar to conservative circles, where he has served as a delegate to the National Republican Convention, but is lesser known outside his party.

Wooldrige is considering

a bid for the Republican nomination and has met with several former gubernatorial candidates and political consultants. He would run as a conservative alternative to Buehler's more moderate platform, said one political strategist.

Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez DeRemer, who is still exploring a gubernatorial bid, was named by 8 percent of respondents. Another 6 percent gave names of "other" candidates, and 26 percent said they are undecided.

"It means simply, people don't know who these candidates are," Moore said. "We know they don't know who Knute Buehler is because somebody who is nobody is polling better than him."

Buehler's mistake may have come from failing to tour the state and introduce himself

and he came out ahead of Knute Buehler," Wheatley said. "The question is — Who paid for it, and why are they trying to show Buehler is vulnerable in a Republican primary? That is the most intriguing thing here."

The survey was funded by icitizen, which regularly takes the pulse of residents on political and policy issues, Rich said.

DeRemer said she plans to make an announcement on her intention to run for the position later this month.

"My internal polling

Bentz sets series of town hall meetings

Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, will hold a series of town hall meetings across District 60 over the next three months, including one in Dayville.

At each meeting, Bentz will review the 2017 legislative session and the state-wide Transportation Package and will preview issues such as water measurement and fees, carbon cap and trade, wildlife management, Department of Environmental Quality rules regarding cleaner air and storm water discharge, tax reform, the public employee retirement system and other issues that are likely to come up in the future, according to a press release.

"It is important to share what has happened and is likely to happen in Salem, and these meetings also provide an opportunity for people to share their concerns with me," Bentz said.

"Although I have already met with and reported to each of my five county courts (Malheur, Baker, Grant, Harney, and Lake counties) and

several of the area chambers of commerce, these meetings have been held during the middle of the day when most ranchers and farmers cannot attend.

These next six meetings are scheduled in the evenings and in smaller towns so that people who live far from the county seats and work during the day have a better chance of being able to attend."

Dayville: Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., Dayville School, 285 School House Drive.

Jordan Valley: Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. (MST), Lions Hall, 902 US 95/Bassett St.

Crane: Thursday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m., Crane Union High School, 43277 Crane Venator Lane.

Haines: Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m., Haines School, 400 School St.

Adel: Monday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., Adel School, 18286 Twenty Mile Road.

Halfway: Date and time to be determined, Pine Eagle High School, 375 N. Main St.

Contact Bentz's District Office in Ontario with any questions at 541-889-8866 or via email at rep.cliffbentz@oregonlegislature.gov.



Rep. Cliff Bentz

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