

Grant County Health Fair marks 24th year

Fair offers shots, tests and talks

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

Attendance was light this year at the Grant County Health Fair held at the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School gym on June 15.

This was the 24th year for the health fair, said Chris Yriarte, the volunteer coordinator for the Grant County Health Fair Committee, which organizes the event.

"People began trickling in around 6 a.m. because they had to fast," Yriarte said.

Attendance at the health fair has been declining slightly for the past few years despite efforts to promote the event in print and social media, she said. The fair typically attracts a diverse group of young and old residents who seek information on various medical and safety services.

Vaccines were offered for tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Norco manager Darla Carpenter watches as Grant County Veteran Services Officer Katee Hoffman attends to her service dog at the Grant County Health Fair in the Grant Union Junior-Senior High School on June 15.

and pneumococcal pneumonia, and blood tests were offered for hemoglobin, glucose and iron levels. Talks were provided on hepatitis C and sleep hygiene. Yriarte noted that scholarships were available for blood draws when needed.

Three booths set up by the St. Charles Medical Center in Bend offered information on balance, strokes and oncology. An inflatable display nicknamed "Nolan the Colon" demonstrated polyps found in the colon.

Other booths were

manned by Advantage Dental in John Day, Bend-based chiropractor Jeremy Boethin, the Oregon Health and Science University's Lending Library in Bend, Blue Mountain Hospital's Home Health and Hospice services and local staff from Community Counseling Solutions.

Government agencies on hand included Grant County Veteran Services Officer Katee Hoffman and the Forest Service, which provided safety tips for homes and information about defensible spaces.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Ten-year-old Bella Fitch putts the ball at the Len's Drug booth during the Family Fun Day event.

Family Fun Day is a hit for young and old

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

It was fun for all at Saturday's 11th annual Family Fun Day at the John Day city park.

The Ninja Warrior Wipe-out inflatable obstacle course was a popular new activity at the event, sponsored by Families First Parent Resource Center. And a bouncy house and water slide made a comeback.

The event was well attended, and hot dog and hamburger sales were selling like "hot cakes" — for \$1 each.

A total of 135 hot dogs and 240 hamburgers were sold, 143 youths played on the inflatables and 67 swam at the adjacent Gleason Pool for free.

Of the 15 activity booths, 10-year-old Bella Bate of Prairie City said making giant bubbles was her favorite.

"I liked that you could make a super humongous bubble, and that they might last," she said.

Her sister, 8-year-old CeCe Bate, said she enjoyed the Ninja inflatable.

"It's fun to just try," she said.

CASA Executive Director Hannah Hinman, who was overseeing the bubble-making booth all day, said the turnout at the event was impressive.

"Everyone that has come by our booth is having a super great time," she said. "I think it's fun to have something like this in the community."

Other booths included free dental screenings, a helmet exchange and crafts.

A golf putting station by Len's Drug and animal-shaped balloons by Tina Shorts of Blue Mountain Hospital were also among the



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Ten-year-old Bella Bate of Prairie City is amazed at the humongous bubble she created at the CASA booth during Family Fun Day at the John Day city park.

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Brianna Majors makes a snow cone for Malachi Bogardus at Family Fun Day with help from Leah Comer, right.

16 booths. Free snow cones were popular.

Families First Executive Director Teresa Aasness said the attendance was great this year, despite the day turning rainy by midafternoon. She noted the purpose of the event is not to make money but to allow families to have a fun

activity together.

"It's to celebrate families, and we try really hard to make sure the event is low cost for families," she said. "It costs us a lot of money to do it, but it's something that I think is really valuable for the community. We hope to continue in the future."

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Photo Courtesy of Central Oregonian

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Main Event Starts @ 7:00

Sat., July 7th Gates Open @ 3:00

Local Stock Trucks & Tractors start @ 4:00

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