

Rain is no damper on Buckaroo Festival

Elk and salmon dinner followed lively auction

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

People traveled from across Oregon and Washington to attend the third annual Buckaroo Festival & Fall Harvest Auction in Monument on Sept. 22. Early afternoon drizzle forced the games, live music and live auction out of the park and into the Monument Senior Center and Community Center.

The event raised \$18,500, fundraising chairwoman Judy Harris said. The event raised \$12,000 in its first year. Funds raised from the dinner and auction will benefit the senior center, which now boasts a new deck in back built with funds from the Joyce Miller Owens Charitable Foundation.

An elk and salmon dinner was served, complete with wild rice and fruit pies for dessert. The elk steaks were provided by Judy and Aaron Harris of Monument, and the salmon was provided by Bruce Hanson of Sauvie Island.

Live music was performed by Nestle Williams of Leavenworth, Washington, on accordion and her son Tom Erhardt of Salem on guitar. They were



Nestle Williams of Leavenworth, Washington, plays the accordion with her son Tom Erhardt of Salem during the Buckaroo Festival and Fall Harvest Auction in Monument Sept. 22.

related to dozens of people at the event, from children to seniors.

Ed Falls headed up the live auction, with assistance from Dennis Davis. A load of gravel went for nearly \$200 more than the asking price. Bidders

competed for art quilts, horse-shoe metalwork and tools.

The winner of the gun raffle was Rich Johnson of Oregon City. Cheri Hewgley of Portland won the quilt raffle. Will Adams of Monument won the \$100 cash drawing.

Grand marshals chosen for the event were Bill and Mary Ella Neal, whose family roots in the area go back to the 1850s. Bill attended, but Mary Ella passed away in August.



Diners lined up for elk steaks, ocean-caught salmon, wild rice and homemade pies at the Monument Buckaroo Festival and Fall Harvest Auction.



Four young helpers await their turn to assist during the live auction at the Buckaroo Festival and Fall Harvest Auction.

BMW riders donate \$20,000 to organizations

Nine local groups will receive money

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

The BMW Riders of Oregon raised \$20,000 for nine organizations in Grant County during their 41st Chief Joseph Rally in John Day this summer.

About 475 riders showed up in John Day for the June 29 through July 1 rally. Many stayed at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Riders took organized tours to a ranch near Izee and the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

The rally is the main

fundraiser for the nonprofit organization. Ideas for how to disburse the funds were solicited from members and community leaders, club president Robert Metzger told the Eagle.

The club's executive committee met in September to make its determination. The recipients this year are:

- Grant County Fairgrounds, \$2,000
- Grant County Food Bank, \$2,000
- Prairie City Food Bank, \$1,500
- Monument Food Bank, \$1,500
- Grant-Harney County Court Appointed Special Advocate program, \$5,000
- Grant School District 3 arts, music and sports pro-

grams, \$3,000

- John Day Senior Center, \$3,000
- John Day Police Department, \$1,000
- John Day Fire Department, \$1,000

Other groups benefited from the annual rally. About \$1,000 was raised through a geology tour at the Fossil Beds for the Juniper Arts Council. A group that served breakfast to the riders at the fairgrounds raised money for the Grant Union eighth-graders' field trip and the Juniper Ridge 4-H Club.

Three generations of the Johnson family performed bluegrass music for the riders and raised about \$1,000 for Katie Johnson's Calvary Horse Camp.

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Gordon Larson

for Grant County Commissioner

A Vote For Grant County's Future

Gordon is a local rancher, businessman, community volunteer and retired Oregon State Police Lieutenant. He served for 12 years on the Grant County School District #3 Board of Directors. Let him put that experience to work for Grant County.

Meet the Candidate Nights

Thursday, September 27th, 6:30 p.m.
Dayville Church, 170 E Franklin Ave, Dayville, OR

Thursday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m.,
Long Creek Community Center, (Next to City Hall)

Thursday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m.
Seneca City Hall

Facebook: Gordon Larson for Grant County Commissioner
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