

Rally For a Cure Tournament raises awareness for breast cancer

\$3,000 raised for Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day Golf Course hosted its annual Rally For a Cure Golf Tournament, raising nearly \$3,000 for the Blue Mountain Healthcare Foundation to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Tournament organizer Kathleen Lee said the 36 golfers and nine teams from as far as Prineville, Pendleton and Burns came to support support the cause as many of them do every year. "All in all, it was a fun-filled day," Lee said.

Outside of the clubhouse, to give the event a "festive flair," organizers set up a dart board game with prizes and a popcorn machine inside, Lee said.

Before teeing off, she said, there was a champagne toast to remember those who have lost their battle to cancer and the survivors as well.

Lee said golfers at the fourth hole, which sits on a pond, enjoyed complimentary hot dogs, karaoke and a 50/50 raffle.

At the ribbon, she said the participants held a balloon ceremony, releasing them to the sky with a brief prayer to remember cancer victims, those fighting the battle and the survivors.

Two teams from Harney County tied for the top spot.

"They showed up with winning on their mind and showed us how it's done," Lee said. "Plus, had a great time."

The two teams were Mandi Dowell, Terri Smith, Stacey Radinovich and Vickie Clemens, and Vicki Johnson, Cat Nonnenmacher, Debbie Raney and Debbie Bentz.

Cat Nonnenmacher won the closest to pin chip-up contest.

Lee said the tournament is held annually on the first Saturday of October.



Contributed photo

Golfers release balloons Oct. 3 during the Rally For a Cure Golf Tournament at the John Day Golf Course.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The .25-06 Remington ... again

I know what you're thinking. Didn't he already write about this one? Truth be told: Yes I did, but more of an overview leaning toward the merits of this fast .25 as a deer and antelope rifle. The .25-06 Remington, like so many other .24- and .25-caliber rifles, is also an excellent varmint round in its own right.

Now when I say varmint, that could mean many things to many people. If setting up on a bipod or bench rest and blasting several hundred ground squirrels in a sitting comes to your mind, this is not the round for that. If you were to attempt such a quinnella, you would be going to the gunsmith in short order for a new barrel. No, what I mean here with "varmint" is the garden variety coyotes, badgers, skunks, rockchucks and the like. A rifle for such critters that, as my late friend Frank Cecil put it, "shoots for a mile" is what the .25-06 loaded with lightweight bullets does perfectly.



Dale Valade

Of course it comes with a cost: greater recoil and muzzle blast than a .223 or .22-250 but yet greater power and reach in the trade off. And who doesn't love versatility? A rifle that can be loaded with 75-90-grain bullets for coyote hunting that can be rezeroed with 115-120-grain bullets for deer hunting in the fall.

Among my favorite bullets in the lighter range are the 85-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip and the 87-grain Sierra Varminter. Winchester's 90-grain Positive Expanding Point is my favorite econ-



Contributed photo

The .25-06 with lightweight bullets is great for varmint hunting at close range.

omy priced factory load for use with varmints. I've not gotten to try the 75-grain Hornady V-Max nor the 90-grain Sierra Blitzking, but I have no doubt they deliver.

The detractors of such business cry that the relatively low ballistic coefficient of such bullets arbitrarily precludes them from employ as long-range anything bullets. And I suppose I will concede that if you shoot out past 500 yards more often than not, they have a point. Lightweight bullets lose velocity fast at

longer ranges, but for the lion's share of the aforementioned varmints that I've taken, most without a doubt were inside of 200 yards. I'm not trying to pontificate what distances you do or should choose to consider ethical for flinging lead, just that not everyone needs a rifle and setup capable of shooting 1,000-plus yards to be a successful hunter. Frequently coyotes are spied on the move so there isn't time for rangefinders, deploying bipod legs, dialing elevation and windage nor kissing

the bullet for good luck. For shooting at a time-sensitive target at a vaguely guessed distance you want something shooting fast and flat. That, folks, is the .25-06 with lightweight bullets.

Everyone's tastes differ, but in the end, anything that gets us out to go shooting is a worthy endeavor. What's your favorite varmint rifle? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.



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Bailey McCracken took the best average time in barrel racing over the weekend at the Oregon High School Rodeo in Condon.

McCracken finishes out fall rodeo season on top

Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant Union High School student continued to dominate in barrel racing this weekend at the Oregon High School Rodeo in Condon.

Bailey McCracken, a freshman, took first in average time in barrel racing. She finished with an 18.30 in her first go-round and a 17.99 in her second.

McCracken is ranked third in the girls rookie category in her first season with an average score of 27.

Her brother, Sam McCracken, competes in fall

cutting Oct. 17-18 in North Powder at the Williams Ranch.

Sam McCracken brought home the state title in cow cutting at the Oregon State High School Rodeo State Finals in Prineville in June and took third in reined cow at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

The fall cutting competition wraps up the fall rodeo season. In total, three Grant Union High School students participated in a season modified and cut short by the pandemic.

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