

'62 Days Celebration commemorates 100th year

The 'spirit of 1862' lives on in Canyon City

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County's '62 Days Celebration commemorated its 100th year over the weekend when the two-day festival kicked off on June 11 at Sels Brewery in Canyon City.

Roughly 1,500 people turned out for the event marking the discovery of gold in Canyon Creek in 1862, according to Colby Farrell from the Whiskey Gulch Gang, which organizes the event.

The celebration — both kid and adult-friendly — had something for everyone. People gathered in the downtown park for live music, vendor booths and a wide array of other events to celebrate the "spirit of 1862."

The parade kicked off at 11 a.m., starting from Humbolt Elementary, and meandered its way down the highway past Canyon City Park, where emcee Mark Baggett introduced each float.

The floats included the Whiskey Gulch Gang can-can girls performing their high-kick dance routine in their frilly saloon dresses, taekwondo students, Jack Young, the 2021 parade grand marshal, and many more.

A mock fight spilled out of Sels Brewery, escalating into a gunfight in the middle of town. After a hail of gunfire, a cowboy surrendered his weapon. Moments later, the townspeople led the outlaw to the gallows and charged him with rioting and looting.

Children had no shortage of activities. They panned for gold with Bud Irwin, competed in a watermelon eating contest, dug for treasure in a wood shavings pit and got their faces painted.

With temperatures upwards of 90 degrees, the Canyon City Fire Department shot a fire hose up into the air to cool things down.

Longtime Grant County resident Beth Spell, whose family goes back three generations, said she appreciates what the Whiskey Gulch Gang does in putting on the festival each year. She said it was good to see so many young families with kids at the celebration.

Kenny Clement, who grew up in Long Creek, said he had never been to '62 Days. He said he brought his family with him to enter chili in the cook-off on behalf of 1188, where he works as a cook. Clement said he thought it would be a great place to bring his two kids, Kianne and Dawson, 8 and 10, because of the kid-friendly activities.

Grant County resident Heather Swank said she is glad the community holds the event each year. She said the history and discovery of gold in Canyon City are both essential to remember.

"History," she said, "is what made us who we are today."



From left, Allison Field, Jamie Vandehay, Morgan Randleas and Kim Randleas pose at the 100th '62 Days Celebration in Canyon City Saturday.



The Whiskey Gulch Gang gets ready for the 100th '62 Days Celebration Saturday: from left, Colby Farrell, Mike Farrell, Hugh Farrell and Bill Sproul.

PARADE RESULTS

Mounted individual	Newman driving for Jeremy Newman
First: Jessie Sealy	
Second: Shirley Daniel	
Mounted group	Group entry
Julie Bowling, Nicole Lexson and Genevieve Perdue	First: Kim's Tae Kwan Do
	Second: Grant Union Class Reunions of 2000 and 2001
Classic car (over 20 years old)	Third: Grant County Republican Precinct Committee
First: Emma Carniglia	
Second: Traci Robertson	
Antique car (over 45 years old)	Individual
First: Ralph Goodwin	First: Chad Law
Second: Jeanette	Business
	First: Painted Sky
	Second: John Day
	Polaris and Byron's Excavating
	Third: Thunderbolt

Eagle photos/Steven Mitchell



Brenda Coley, owner of the Snaffle Bit Diner House in John Day, shows off the \$100 she won Saturday after in the chili cookoff at the '62 Days Celebration in Canyon City.



Lavana James, left, and Phillip James of the James Gang play a set at the '62 Days Celebration Saturday in the downtown park in Canyon City.



From left, Dawson and Kianne Clement, 8 and 10, check out their first booth Saturday at the '62 Days Celebration in Canyon City.



The Whiskey Gulch Gang's 1929 Model AA truck.



Bill Sproul, left, ties a noose around Colby Farrell's neck as Alex Finlayson looks on during Saturday's mock hanging.

Golf

Grant vs Harney Battle Fundraiser

(annual fundraiser for the high school golf teams)

Saturday, June 19th

For more information, contact:
Burns golf coach, Scott, 541-589-1849
Grant Union golf coach, Ron, 541-620-0427

4-person scramble, one person must live in Harney or Grant County.

Eastern Oregon Sunday Slam

Every Sunday open to players of all skill levels.

Team Awards paid weekly!

For complete details and to reserve your spot, call (541) 573-5150.

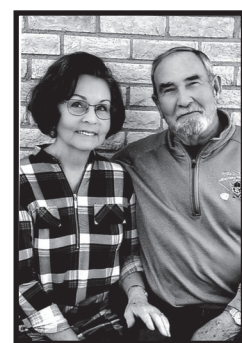
Contact dave.lewis@silvies.us with questions about golf events and tournaments.

Come play in the Slam for Father's Day!

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Don & Jennifer Mooney
Will be celebrating their
55th Wedding Anniversary
June 18th.



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2021

EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

Official Rules:

Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.

Only photographers from Oregon may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.



Submit all photos online at:

bluemountaineagle.com/photocontest

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