

Family Fun Day returns June 26

Event features bouncy house, mechanical bull, dunk tank, water slide, rock wall and more

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Fairgrounds will host Family Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 26.

The 14th annual gathering will feature a bouncy house, mechanical bull, train rides, dunk tank, water slide, rock wall and health information booths with many community organizations, according to an event flyer. The event is free and open to the public.

The organizers will also offer a bike helmet exchange. Those interested can bring an old helmet and \$6 to purchase a new, inexpensive helmet for their child.

The event will offer \$1 hot dogs and hamburgers along with free snow cones.

Organizer Rhiannon Bauman of Families First said that the Grant County Fairgrounds, Local Community Advisory Council and the Frontier Early Learning Hub are this year's sponsors.

Bauman said events like Family Fun Day are important for communities in that they are inclusive to all families in Grant County.

"It's a time for families to just have fun locally," Bauman said.

Event organizers, Bauman said, are excited the event will happen this year after COVID-19 canceled last year's festivities.

"We are excited that we are able to continue this event this year to bring back some normalcy for our community," she said.

Bauman said the event will showcase 20 health care booths with information on activities for kids. In addition, she said some community organizations that would have been at the Grant County Health Fair decided to participate in Family Fun Day this year instead.

She said wristbands for children to play on inflatables such as the bouncy house are free this year.

However, she said organizers ask that families drop by the Families First booth to sign a waiver first.

Bauman said they encourage those in the community to attend the event and enjoy a "great affordable time" with family.



Contributed file photo

Children receive a free helmet and fitting from Debi Hueckman at the Grant County Safe Communities Coalition's booth at a previous Family Fun Day event.



Eagle file photo

Onlookers cheer and clap for Freidrick Maurer, 2, of John Day who created an impressive bubble at the CASA booth during Family Fun Day in 2018.



Contributed photo/Teresa Aasness

Beau Clingman hops from one spot to the next at the Ninja Warrior obstacle course inflatable during Saturday's Family Fun Day event at the John Day city park in 2019.

Farmers Market kicks off with positive vibes

Event continues every Saturday through the fall in John Day

By Steven Mitchell
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The John Day Farmers Market kicked off Saturday with a steady stream of customers and new vendors offering a wide array of products from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The weekly event continues every Saturday through the fall.

Manager Stephanie LeQuieu said the Farmers Market would have a few more vendors selling produce and that the John Day Greenhouse would be at the market later in the summer as well.

LeQuieu said this year they added a shopping feature to the John Day Farmers Market website.

She said she received a grant to help cover the cost for professional photography of vendor products, and it doesn't cost the vendors anything to have their products available online.

"This is a very low-barrier way to get some of our Grant County products available to be sold all over," LeQuieu said. "It's very cool."

She said she should have had roughly five more vendors, but many had last-minute emergencies or other matters that kept them from setting up shop this week.

Nonetheless, new vendor Susan Marahrens, a John Day resident who makes homemade dog treats, said business was "not too bad" and that the Farmers Market gives her a way to get feedback from people about her product.

Marahrens said she is on disability and could not "sit and do nothing." She said the vendor booth is something she can do independently. Plus, she said, everybody loves their dog.

For his part, Antonio Roberts, a retired firefighter, said



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Customers peruse the offerings at the John Day Farmers Market Saturday.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Vendor Susan Marahrens stands next to her booth "All 4 the Bones" Saturday at the John Day Farmers Market.

he loves the social aspect of the Farmers Market.

"I spent a lot of time in the woods, so it's been nice being able to get out and talk to people," Roberts said.

He said the randomness of the conversations cannot be found anywhere else.

Michelle McManama, who is in her fourth year selling wood engravings at the Farmers Market, said that the market had given her a big boost of confidence over the years, enough to open a booth at

the Salem Farmers Market.

"We all need compliments," she said. "That's just part of human nature. We want to know we do well. I think that's just super, super important, especially in today's world when everything around us is so negative."

SPECIAL EVENT FRIDAY EVENING

What: The John Day City Celebration and Street Fair

When: 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 25

Where: First Street and in the Flowers and More parking lot

Free hamburgers will be served from 6-8 p.m.

Mtn. View Mini-Mart 211 Front St., Prairie City 541-820-4477
Weekly Specials
Sunday - Family Style Joy's Choice | Thursday - Asian | Saturday - Sushi



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Antonio Roberts talks to customers at the Farmers Market Saturday in John Day.

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LEARN A HANDFUL ROUTINES AS WELL AS IMPROVING TECHNIQUE AND KNOWLEDGE

FORMS NEED TO BE TURNED IN TO CARLI BREMNER AT SOLUTIONS OR VIA EMAIL CARLIGARDNER2015@GMAIL.COM BY JULY 9TH - ANY LATER AND NO GUARANTEE FOR SHIRT ON TIME

RELEASE FORMS WILL NEED TO BE SIGNED AT THE DOOR BEFORE YOUR ATHLETE CAN PARTICIPATE AS WELL AS CASH/CHECK - WE WILL BE FOLLOWING ALL SCHOOL GUIDELINES RELATED TO COVID

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