



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Grant County Fair grand marshal Bonnie Nance stands next to a tractor on her hay field in Prairie City.

The 112th Grant County Fair kicks off today

Grand marshal Bonnie Nance has only missed one county fair — last year during the pandemic

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Fair grand marshal Bonnie Nance of Prairie City said it is an honor to be recognized for the 112th Grant County Fair Parade.

Born and raised in the county, she told the Eagle she had not missed a Grant County Fair until last year due to COVID-19.

Nance said, when she was growing up, the fair was the place to meet new people from all over the county and catch up with old and new acquaintances.

She said, in the fair's early years, around 1915, her father Alfred Coombs would ride to

the fairgrounds on horseback.

"It was the grand meeting for the county," Nance said.

Nance, 85, who runs a ranch in Prairie City that has been in her family for more than 60 years, said she was on a horse at 4 years old.

Growing up, Nance said she loved working the family ranch and especially working with horses. Over the years, Nance has raised, ridden and trained countless horses, she said. She said her favorite breeds are paint and appaloosa.

"A lot of problems get solved on the back of a horse," she said.

These days, though, Nance said she usually rides a four-wheeler to get around.

Nance was on the Fair Court in 1951 as a rodeo princess and was queen in 1952. She was riding "Laddie," a horse that, at first, had initially been stubborn.

But, recognizing the potential in the paint horse, she said, over time, they forged a bond.

"He was a challenge for me, and I was a challenge for him," Nance said.

In addition riding rodeo competitions, Nance said as a kid she took livestock to the fair.

Over the years, Nance said she has participated in 4-H and helped kids in the community with their animals. Nance said kids learn a lot of essential skills in 4-H.

Nance said the fair has evolved. She said kids are raising smaller animals, such as rabbits, goats and sheep. Overall, she said the fair had more of an emphasis on livestock than it does today.

The activities that have replaced them, she said, are clothing, woodworking and cooking.

In the parade, Nance said she would ride with the fair board in a cattle truck.

She said she is looking forward to promoting the fair, and given everything the county has been through with hardships brought on by the pandemic, the fair will bring an opportunity for the county to come together.

"In this day and age, we need to be kind, and do the best we can," Nance said. "Let's get in there and help everybody."

THE 112TH GRANT COUNTY FAIR

Wednesday-Saturday, Aug. 11-14, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Gates open at 8 a.m. daily. Pavilion open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 1-8 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is free Wednesday. Admission other days costs \$6 or \$3 for seniors and children 6-11. Children under 5 get in free.

Thursday, Aug. 12
8 p.m.: Jesse Leigh concert — center stage

Friday, Aug. 13
7-9 a.m.: Ranch Breakfast east of the pavilion

10 a.m.: Kids Day Parade — meet on Southwest First Street near the Catholic Church (from there, kids walk north on Canyon Boulevard to Dayton Street, then Main Street to Dairy Queen)

6:15 p.m.: John Michael Montgomery and Colt Ford concert with Jessie Leigh opening — arena gates open at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 14
11 a.m.: Grant County Fair Parade — starts at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School, north on Canyon Boulevard to Dayton Street, then Main Street

2 p.m.: Champion Pie Baker contest — outside east door of Pavilion

4 p.m.: 4-H/FFA livestock auction

8 p.m.: Freestyle Bullfighting — free at the arena with fair admission.

9:30 p.m.: Live music — center stage

For more information, pick up a fair book at the fair office at 411 NW Bridge St. or visit grant-countyoregon.net.

Rep. Cliff Bentz to hold town hall in Mt. Vernon Thursday

Blue Mountain Eagle

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, will update Grant County residents of the work he has been doing since voters sent him to Washington, D.C., in November.

Bentz will hold a town hall from 10-11 a.m. Thursday at the Mount Vernon Community Hall, at 640 Ingle St.

The in-person, indoor event format will kick off with brief remarks, and a constituent question and answer session.

The press release notes that Oregon recommends wearing masks in public and indoor settings regardless of vaccination status.



Contributed photo
Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, will hold his first in-person town hall meeting with voters in Grant County Thursday at Mt. Vernon's Community Hall.



Eagle file photo

Kimberly Lindsay, Grant County Public Health Administrator.

Only seven intensive care units available in region

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County has had a total of 567 reported cases since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the New York Times COVID-19 data tracker.

About 1 in 13 people in Grant County have been infected with the virus, according to the data tracker. While case counts remain low, the risk of the unvaccinated people contracting the virus is high, the data tracker reported, as cases in Baker, Malheur, Union and Umatilla counties are surging.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 44 hospi-

talizations Monday in Grant County's region seven, which it shares with Deschutes, Harney, Klamath, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, and Wheeler counties.

OHA reports that there are seven available intensive care unit beds in the region.

Kimberly Lindsay, Grant County's public health administrator, said state-wide hospital numbers were as high as last fall in a Saturday email. Additionally, she said, the state is seeing the highest number of patients in the ICU at any point in the pandemic, and hospitalizations are increasing rapidly.

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou McCleary

Sept. 6, 1928 – July 28, 2021

Mary Lou McCleary, age 92, of John Day passed away July 28, 2021, at Valley View Assisted Living. A private family service is scheduled for a later date.

Mary Lou was born Sept. 6, 1928, in Tacoma, Washington, to Earl and Frieda Shelley. She spent her high school years in Gresham, Oregon. Mary Lou married John Bill McCleary on Sept. 25, 1947, in Gresham, Oregon, and they welcomed four children.

Mary Lou worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Beaverton, Oregon, as a switch board operator, Tektronix Inc. in Beaverton, along with Electro Scientific Industries and was also a car hop.

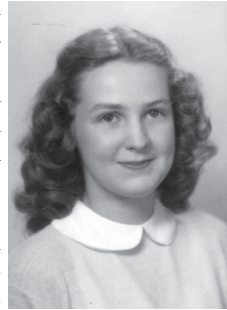
Mary Lou enjoyed reading, car rides and she made the best lemon meringue, chocolate cream and coconut cream pies anyone has ever tasted. She was a loving and caring mother and grandmother; she was unselfish and giving and was always there to help and volunteer her time to those not as fortunate as herself.

She was a member of the Catholic Church in Waldport, Oregon, and a member of St. Andrews Catholic Church in John Day.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her husband, John Bill McCleary, and her son, Christopher McCleary.

Survivors include her daughter Marsha (Mike) Christensen of John Day, Oregon; daughter Patricia Blount of La Grande, Oregon; daughter Jeanette (Robert) Zink of Wallowa, Oregon; son Matt McCleary of Hermiston, Oregon; and seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to Blue Mountain Hospice through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family, visit driskillmemorialchapel.com.



William "Bill" Allen Richards

October 31, 1949 - July 28, 2021

William (Bill) Allen Richards, age 71, of Monument passed away on July 28th, 2021 at his residence. A graveside service was held Friday, August 6th at 11:00 AM at the Monument Cemetery.

Bill was born to Van and Betty Richards on October 31, 1949 in Prairie City, Oregon. He was the second of 4 children. He spent the first six years of his life in Spray, Oregon before the family moved to Monument, Oregon. Bill attended Monument School and graduated in 1967. Monument School is where he met the love of his life, Dorothy Miller. They were married January 23, 1968. They were married for 33 years before Dorothy passed away in 2001. Bill and Dorothy had two daughters, Carrie Jewell and Teri Hamilton. Bill passed away July 28, 2021 at his home in Monument, Oregon.

Bill spent most of his working years in the Timber Industry. He spent the early years falling timber and driving log truck. In later years he worked at the Long Creek Mill working his way up to night foreman. When that mill closed, he moved to the Blue Mountain Forest Products Mill in Reith, Oregon where he became a well-known saw filer. He worked there until he retired in 2015 and moved back to his full-time residence in Monument, Oregon. Through retirement he stayed busy baling hay at the Hidden Acres Ranch in Kimberly, Oregon.

Bill spent his free time with his family. He loved hunting the big bucks and elk with his family. He could be found fishing the banks of the river, or local lakes. Bill enjoyed watching his grandkids play sports. Anytime someone needed a helping hand, he was always there to lend one.

Bill is survived by his daughters, Carrie Jewell of Kimberly, OR; Teri (Josh) Hamilton of Monument, OR; mother, Betty Richards of Monument, OR; sisters, Elaine Thomas of Pendleton, OR; and Barbara Mahon of Gardnerville, NV; grandchildren, William (Marianne) Jewell, Jack (Teawna) Jewell of Kimberly, OR; Taylor Hamilton and Weston Hamilton of Monument, OR; one great grandchild, Paul Jewell of Kimberly, OR.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Richards, father Van Richards, brother Earl Richards, granddaughter Hayden Hamilton, and son-in-law Arlot Jewell.

Memorial contributions can be made to a charity of one's choice through Driskill Memorial Chapel at 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family please visit, www.driskillmemorialchapel.com. Paid for by the family of Bill Richards.



S256612-1

A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.

He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE. *Then it's too late.*

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Blue Mountain Eagle
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Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	100/61
Wednesday	97/62
Thursday.....	94/64
Friday.....	85/58
Saturday.....	93/56
Sunday.....	78/56
Monday.....	86/45

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 11-17

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Hazy	Hazy	Hazy	Hazy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
99	102	101	100	94	87	86
64	64	65	65	58	39	43