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Contributed Photo/Cycle Oregon
Cycle Oregon is coming to Grant and Wheeler counties Sept. 10-17.

Cycle Oregon rolling into Grant County

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Around 1,000 cyclists are preparing to descend on Grant and Wheeler counties for a weeklong ride that will start and end in John Day while passing through Monument, Fossil, Mitchell and Dayville.

Riders will arrive in John Day on Saturday, Sept. 10, and spend the night in town before starting their ride on Sunday. Setup crews for the event will arrive in town on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Also coming with the riders will be an array of services and support personnel for event participants, including a beer tent, food trucks, a coffee wagon, showers, bike technicians, live music and even a massage service.

The length of the ride will vary, with riders having the choice of a short route of 272 miles with no ride day options, an alternate paved route of 352 miles and a route with all optional routes (including traveling on gravel) that is 443 miles. The longest trek of the event will be a more than 70-mile ride from Mitchell to Dayville on the event's sixth day.

The appearance of Cycle Oregon in Grant County provides opportunities for local organizations to raise money through signing up for paid tasks like serving dinner and manning rest stops for the riders. Tammy Bremner of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce said people are still needed to serve dinner to the riders on Friday, Sept. 16, in John Day.

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Candidates for governor: Republican Christine Drazan, left, Democrat Tina Kotek and non-affiliated Betsy Johnson.

Oregon Capital Bureau

A HISTORIC RACE

Q&A with Oregon's three leading candidates for governor

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN
Capital Press

Editor's note: See the full version of this Q&A on our website at MyEagleNews.com

On Nov. 8, Oregonians will elect a new governor. Several factors make this race unique and explain why it's garnering national attention.

First, many Oregonians are disenchanted with the state's current leadership. Outgoing Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, is America's least popular governor, according to a 2022 poll from the data firm Morning Consult.

The race is also capturing national interest because it's a tight contest. Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, a nonpartisan newsletter with a high rate of accuracy in predicting election results, labeled Oregon's outcome as a "toss-up."

Oregon is hosting an unusual race led by a trio of women who are all recent members of the state Legislature: former state House Speaker Tina Kotek, running as a Democrat; former House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, running as a Republican; and former state Sen. Betsy Johnson, running as unaffiliated, formerly a moderate Democrat.

If Kotek wins, she will be America's first out lesbian governor. If Drazan wins, she will be the first Republican to win an Oregon gubernatorial race since 1982. If Johnson wins, she will be the first independent governor to win since 1930.

The Capital Press sat down with each of the candidates to talk about issues that matter to rural Oregonians. Each candidate answered the same set of questions.

The candidates' answers have been

shortened for readability. Words in parenthesis are written by the Capital Press to add context and clarity. Follow-up questions are indicated in italics.

Capital Press: If you are elected, how do you plan to bridge the political divide between Oregon's urban and rural communities?

Johnson: "Well, show up is the first one. We've just come back from a trip to Eastern Oregon. I think being there is important and understanding that whether you're making silicon chips, or wood chips, or potato chips out in Boardman, or fish and chips in Astoria, that we have throughout Oregon different micro-economies, and the governor needs to understand that."

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The Oregon Capitol

Elections take shape for Grant County voters

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

GRANT COUNTY — Local and statewide elections are starting to come into focus roughly two months out from the November midterms.

Here in Grant County, voters will elect numerous city councilors, mayors and conservation district board members. They will also decide a hotly debated pool bond measure.

In John Day, five people are running for three available city council seats, and there are contested mayoral races in John Day, Prairie City and Granite.

Grant County Clerk Brenda Percy is running unopposed for reelection.

Statewide, Oregonians will elect a new governor following the end of Kate Brown's two-term limit. Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden is running for election to his fifth term in the U.S. Senate, facing a challenge from Republican nominee Jo Rae Perkins.

In the Oregon Legislature, all 60 seats in the House of Representatives will be up for election in November, along with half of the 30 Senate seats.

Four statewide ballot measures will go before the voters in November as well.

Measure 111 is a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would ensure every resident of Oregon

has access to cost-effective and clinically appropriate health care as a fundamental right.

Measure 112 would repeal language that allows slavery or involuntary servitude as punishments and would authorize a court, probation or parole agency to order alternatives to incarceration for convicted individuals.

Measure 113 would exclude state legislators from seeking re-election if they had unexcused absences from legislative sessions.

Finally, Measure 114 would outline a procedure to apply for a permit to purchase a firearm and would ban magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Locally, the most well-known and divisive ballot measure before the voters this November is the John Day/Canyon City Parks & Recreation District pool bond. The \$4 million bond measure failed in May with a count of 802-802 and was recently put back on the November ballot following a push by a local pro-pool political action committee.

Another pair of county ballot measures will let voters decide whether to allow medical use of psilocybin mushrooms within the unincorporated county. A separate vote on medical psilocybin mushrooms will also be on the ballot in Prairie City.

A LOOK AT COUNTY RACES

John Day: Mayor; two-year term: Ron Lundbom Heather Rookstool City council; three openings, four-year term: Shannon Adair Richard "Richie" Colbeth Ron Phillips Katrina Randleas Sherrie Rininger	Long Creek: Mayor; two-year term: Don Porter City council; two openings, four-year term: Position 3: Brent Near Position 4: Denise Porter	Seneca: City council; one opening, four-year term: Barbara Northington
Canyon City: City council; three openings, four-year term: Jim Johnston Les Percy	Monument: City council; three positions open, four-year term: Position 4: Kegan Forrester Position 5: Sherry Carpenter Position 6: Ron Ford	Grant County Soil and Water District: Zone 1; one opening, four-year term: At large Position 2; one opening, four-year term: Roger Ediger
Dayville: Mayor; two-year term: Valli Hettinga City council; three openings, four-year term: Position 2: David P. Billar Position 3: Robert Waltenberg Position 4: Ilah Bennett	Mount Vernon: Mayor; two-year term: Kenny Delano City council; two openings, four-year term: Lori Kerr Justin Deming	Monument Soil and Water District: Zone 1; one opening, four-year term: No candidate filed Zone 3; one opening, four-year term: Lisa Atkin At large Position 2; one opening, four-year term: No candidate filed
Granite:	Prairie City:	

