

A supplement to the Nisqually Valley News

A glimpse into Oregon Trail Days history

Oregon Trail Days isn't celebrated in Tenino because the city was part of the Oregon Trail, but it does have a historical marker placed by Oregon Trail memorializer Ezra Meeker.

Tenino historian Norm Montgomery explains that Tenino had ties to Oregon Trail settlers, and that is why the town received a marker.

Tenino was an essential resting town for Oregon Trail settlers who traveled days from their southern Washington farm to Tumwater's grain mill.

"When I host (the museum) I try to tell people the way things were," Montgomery said last year.

In the days when Oregon Trail settlers moved farm goods through Tenino, Montgomery said Tenino was the hub for mining and manufacturing sandstone.

The historic Train Depot, now the city's museum, is made completely out of local sandstone mined from the local quarry.

Built in 1914, the depot served passengers until the early 1950s.

The train station was moved from its original location to where it currently resides on Labor Day 1975.

Also during the Oregon Trail period, Tenino had one-room schoolhouses.

The Ticknor country schoolhouse is one of the one-room schools that wasn't destroyed by fire over the years. Still, it is a replacement for the original and built circa 1932.

It was moved from the Skookumchuck Valley to the museum grounds for preservation.

"I went to a country school myself out on the prairie, and I had the time of my life," Montgomery said last year. "It was really something."

One of the best ways to learn about the history behind Tenino's Oregon Trail Days is to visit the Tenino Depot Museum.

The museum hosts not only allow guests to wander through an array of antique tools and memorabilia of yesteryear, they can often think up a few historical stories. Stories similar to Montgomery's.

One of the museum's biggest attractions is its wooden money and wooden money press. The local chamber of commerce created the currency during the Great Depression to help boost Tenino's economy.

Other attractions include old farming equipment, an antique coffee grinder and a mural highlighting Tenino's Oregon Trail history.

The museum is owned by the city, but the artifacts are owned by the local historical society.

The historical society tries to open the museum doors for tours during Oregon Trail Days, but tours can also be arranged by appointment.

The museum is located at 399 Park Ave. W., Tenino and can be reached at 360-264-4637.

Trail Days offers jam-packed weekend

By Kelly Stonum

Nisqually Valley News

Tenino's Oregon Trail Days is a weekend jam-packed with fun for the whole family. This year's event starts Friday, July 24 and ends Sunday, July 26.

Oregon Trail Days Chair and Chamber Vice President Ronna Barnes said the best part of the weekend is the entire program.

"I just enjoy the whole thing," she said. "I like all of it."

"Just come check us out, it is a good time and everyone enjoys it."

Though Barnes can't pinpoint her favorite part, she said her mother enjoys the craft vendors, her husband enjoys the

black gun powder graders and together, Barnes and her husband enjoy the music and wine festival.

This year's attractions won't be growing, but Barnes wants to see the crowd grow.

"If it's bigger, great," Barnes said.

Some of the returning attractions include the craft stations, parade, food vendors, pool, motorcycle drill team, black powder shooters, the music and wine festival.

The biggest change to the lineup of activities is the music, Barnes said. Instead of having a few live performances, music by DJ Kana will play all day Saturday and Sunday on the

park's stage.

The inflatable jumping toys for children, which made their appearance for the first time last year, will not be returning this year.

Most of the activities are located in Tenino City Park. The car show Friday, the Rock and Gem Show and the downtown parade are exceptions to the rule.

The car show will be at Scotty B's diner. The Rock and Gem will be just across the street from the park at Tenino Elementary School.

Oregon Trail Days started years ago by the local Lions club.

"Everybody knows about the Oregon Trail days, it's been going on for years," Barnes said.

To keep it going, Barnes works with a group of about 20 volunteers.

"It just takes a lot of work getting it going," she said.



NVN File Photo/2008

A girl rides a pony during last year's Oregon Trail Days, which has many attractions and vendors.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Friday, July 24

5 p.m. - midnight

Tenino Wine and Music Festival at Tenino City Park
Benefit for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5878
Headliner: Telluride
Silent Auction at the Wine and Music Festival
Proceeds will be used to purchase new holiday decorations for the city

6 p.m.

Scotty B's Classic Car Show at Scotty B's 50s Diner

8:30 p.m.

Car Show judging

Saturday, July 26

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Puget Sound Free Trappers at Tenino City Park

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Traders Row at Tenino City Park

9:30 a.m.

Judging begins for parade entries

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Break for parade in downtown (Sussex Avenue)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friends of the Library book sale at Tenino Timberland Library

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Music by Kana, Mitch Broadbent on Quarry Stage at city park

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Food and craft vendors at city park
Rock and Gem show on Stage Street, next to Parkside

Elementary

10:45 a.m.

Tenino Motorcycle Drill Team pre-parade show

11 a.m.

Main parade starts on Sussex Avenue, awards presented during parade

1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kids Zone at city park
Games, prizes and fun

5 p.m. - midnight

Tenino Wine and Music Festival continues in city park
Benefit for VFW Post 5878
Headliner: Telluride

Sunday July 27

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Puget Sound Free Trappers at city park

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Break for church

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Music by Kana, Mitch Broadbent on Quarry Stage at city park
Rock and Gem Show on Stage Street
Traders Row at city park
Food Vendors at city park
Craft Vendors at city park

2 p.m.

Puget Sound Free Trappers at city park
Blanket and certificate awards

3 p.m.

Traders Row breakdown

■ Events made possible by volunteers and dedicated citizens who attend each year to support. Next year's Oregon Trail days, organized by the Tenino Chamber of Commerce, will be July 23, 24, 25.

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Classic Car Show brings variety of rides

By Kelly Stonum

Nisqually Valley News

They're oldies but goodies at the Scotty B's 14th Annual Classic Car Show.

The car show signals the beginning of Oregon Trail Days with more than 80 cars on display at Scotty B's 50s Style Diner Friday, July 24.

Diner owner Scotty Hine-line organizes the show as a fundraiser for Tenino area sports.

"The car show is kind of the kicker that kicks off Oregon Trail Days," Hine-line said.

Nowadays, any car can enter. In the past, it was strictly a classic car show.

Each participant gets a dash plaque.

Winners of specific categories receive a trophy. About 20 trophies are award each year.

Participants pay \$10 to enter. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and judging is at 8:30 p.m.

Those who register earliest

get the best parking spaces.

The back parking lot to the diner fills first. Additional space is available across the street in Hine-line's gravel lot.

Hine-line says the car show draws people from as far away as Oregon and Seattle, but most of the cars are locals.

Hine-line doesn't enter a car himself because he has a restaurant to maintain.

"I've got the restaurant, not cars," Hine-line said.

However, if maintaining a car wasn't so costly, Hine-line said he would like to have one.

Besides his admiration for fine cars, Hine-line started the Scotty B's Classic Car Show by request.

The chamber and local car clubs requested he host one near Oregon Trail Days to help build the attractions.

Don Prater, member of the local T-9-O Quarryman Car Club, regularly enters his car in the Scotty B's Classic Car



Photo provided

Some of the cars entered in the Classic Car Show will also be featured in the parade Saturday.

Show.

He said the show is fun because it is local and has such a wide variety of cars.

"Attendance all depends on the weather," Prater said. "A lot of people don't like to get their car wet."

"You'll see everything at the show, all the way from rat rods up to the fanciest ones."

Festival offers romping good time

By Megan Hansen

Nisqually Valley News

For the fourth year, the Tenino Wine and Music Festival will offer just that – wine and music.

Separate, but still part of the Oregon Trail Days festivities, the wine and music festival offers an area for people to relax, have a few drinks and listen to music.

The festival runs 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. A one-night pass is \$15 or a weekend pass is \$20.

Passes do not include the purchase of alcohol, said event coordinator Dave Jekel.

Wines from all over Washington will be served, including two local wineries, Scatter Creek in Tenino and Heymann Winery in Centralia.

Attendees can purchase just tastes or wine by the glass.

Beer will also be available.

While the drink selection features local talents, so does the entertainment.

Opening acts the Kim Archer Band and Funk Factory are from the Olympia and Rochester areas.

Headlining band TelluRide will take the stage 9 p.m. both nights.

Some members of TelluRide are from Tenino and Toledo.

Each year the event holds a silent auction to raise money for the Tenino Chamber of Commerce.

This year's auction is 5 p.m.

Friday.


Proceeds from the auction will go to purchase new holiday decorations for the city, Jekel said.

Items up for auction range from a one-night stay at the

Great Wolf Lodge to various gift certificates.

Tickets are available at Dave's Thriftway, I-5 Uhlmann RV and Obee Credit Unions.

Attendees must be 21 years old to enter.



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Rockhounds gather to share love of geology July 25 and 26

Rockhounds gather for the fifteenth annual Rock and Gem Rendez-Vous to buy, sell and share their livelihood.

The show is held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Parkside Elementary School on Stage Street.

The event is held by the Washington Agate and Mineral Society.

People can find everything from rocks for their garden to gems for making jewelry, said show chairman Dan DeVore.

For a small price, some vendors even have thunder eggs, which are broken in half to reveal various treasures.

Each year the show brings in 15-20 vendors. Vendors come from all over, sharing their finds.

Some travel the world searching for rocks and gems, DeVore said.

His favorite part of the show is the variety of material people bring. He said he also enjoys the camaraderie all the rockhounds bring to the show, sharing stories, tips and educating the public.


Inside the school, demonstrations are conducted to teach children about the value of rocks.

"They're very good with kids," DeVore said. "They're happy to help kids learn about rocks."


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Parade brings young and old together

Young and old alike will soon swarm the streets of Tenino for the annual Oregon Trail Days parade 11 a.m. Saturday, July 25.

The parade normally lasts an hour and runs from Custer Street throughout the city, said Chamber of Commerce Vice President Ronna Barnes.

This year there are two grand marshals, Dave and Barbara Jekel, founders of Dave's Thriftway.

About 30 entries have committed so far. Some of the current entrants include: Sussex Avenue Salon, Thurston County Coffee, Cowlitz Prairie Grange, Dave's Thriftway, Tenino Cub Scouts, Tenino Assembly of God, Mix 96.1, Tenino High School cheerlead-

ers, Keith Phillips Band and Kidding Around Child Care and Preschool.

"Hopefully we'll get more entries," Barnes said. "It's not as busy as last year."

Many participants, however, sign up the day of the parade.

And whether or not parade entrants are advertising a business, they always converse with the crowd and bring a smile to everyone's face.

"Some people throw candy and others hand out pamphlets," she said. "Dave's usually has Twinkies and things like that."

Barnes' overall message is the parade's objective is the same each year — to get people into the community to support local businesses.



The T90 Motorcycle Drill Team is the pre-parade entertainment during Oregon Trail Days.

NVN File Photo/2008

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