

Mitchell Sentinel

A Community Monthly
Issue # 2 December 21, 2022



Wheeler County Trading Company

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Proprietors

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Mitchell Christmas Tree Lighting December 11, 2022

Photos by Pat Farrell

Christmas Tree Lighting & Sleigh Races

Sleigh Race Report:

Throughout Mitchell's colorful history, Main Street has been the home to many showdowns.

On December 11th, at 4pm, Ross Ryno and Lilly Cannon faced off in one of the most unique showdowns of all, the annual Christmas Sleigh Races.

The gravity powered races are held 3 times a year; Sleigh races at Christmas, Water Trough races at the Painted Hills Festival, and Coffin races at Halloween.

Contestants craft a vehicle that works with no assistive power other than a running push from team members for the first 50 feet. Each vehicle must be able to turn, stop and roll.

Starting at Wheeler County Trading, contestants roll West on Main Street to the finish line at the Post Office.

Officially there's no prize other than bragging rights, and generally the third place contestant is crowned winner. With only two contestants on this cold evening, the field was fiercely competitive.

Ross Ryno's 3 wheeled sleigh looked to be an impressive challenger with it's massive Boone and Crockett grille sporting red flashing lights and antlers for days.

Lilly Cannon posed a serious threat though with her modified 4 wheeler frame bejeweled with gold tinsel garland and a rack from an unsuspecting "Mulie".

With the track cleared and the competitors set for the throwdown, Lilly and Ross received a hard shove from their teams and headed down the street with much fanfare from the sidewalks. First heet went to Ross Ryno and his bullish board-sided contraption.

Then, with all the intensity of a 5th grader waiting for Christmas Morning, Lilly Cannon rode to a finish ahead of Ryno Express in the second heet.

Now, down to the final heet, the 1-1 standings had everyone at the edge of the curb to see who would take this year's golden bragging

rights. Like two shots out of Dan Cannon's cannon, the competitors shot down Main Street toward the finish at an alarmingly fast 2.6 MPH.

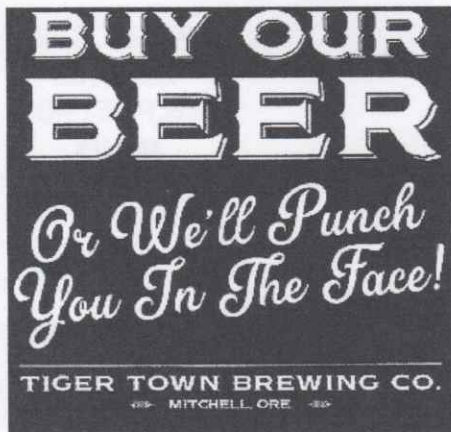
In the end it was Lilly Cannon 2 to Ross Ryno 1. Each was awarded a fine gift from Wheeler County Trading for their excellence in competition, style, and sportsmanship.

Submitted by Patrick Farrell



Thanks to *all* who attended the Races and the Christmas Tree Lighting! What a festive crowd! It was a fun time for all! Thanks to *everyone* who helped to make this community event happen! When each person gives a little, the outcome is a "lottle!"

(Cont'd on page 2)



Mitchell WEATHER

Dec 22-31 - Snowy periods; cold, then milder; December average temperature 37° (4° above avg.), precipitation 2.5" (1" above avg.)

Jan 1-15 - Rain and snow, mild; Jan 16-19 - Flurries north, snowstorm south; cold; Jan 20-31 - Periods of rain and snow, warm; January average temperature 40° (6° above avg.), precipitation 2.5" (1" above avg.)

[Source: The Farmer's Almanac]

Winter Solstice ❄️ (Dec. 21, 2022)

The first day of Winter is also known as the Winter Solstice. It is when the sun is at its southernmost position and shines directly down on the Tropic of Capricorn.

The word "solstice" can be translated from Latin and means "sun stand still." It is the shortest day and longest night of the year. The days will now grow longer each and every day! 🌟

Grinch Trivia

Where does the Grinch live?
MOUNT CRUMPIT

Cannon's Corner



We are running low on oil again. No one was watching the oil gauge. Someone was asleep at the wheel. I think I have figured this problem out - it was simple, no big deal. Checking it is a geographical logistic thing, as you will see. All the oil is in Texas, Oklahoma and Alaska - and all the dip sticks are in Washington D. C.

Dan Cannon 09/20/2021

Halloween Neighborhood Night

I know it's a little late to report, but we didn't get this into our first issue and it is *extremely* important!

Halloween night was an incredibly wonderful family night on Main Street in Mitchell! We wish to thank *everyone* for attending and for the generous donations to our Grinch Busters' Christmas Decorating Fund. A BIG Thanks to Gordon Tolton for providing the Hay Ride! As usual, the Coffin Races gathered a huge crowd - thanks goes to Pat Ferrel! Thanks to ALL who donated, contributed and attended this fabulous family community event!

Who are the Grinch Busters?



The "Grinch Busters" are a small group of local community members that came together to ensure that Mitchell's Main Street and City Park would be decorated for Christmas this year. Our goal is to keep the Christmas spirit alive in Mitchell all year 'round.

The Grinch Busters also sponsor The Mitchell *Sentinel*, a community monthly newsletter. Our newsletter will provide local news, events and announcements, serve as an advertising medium and also to preserve Mitchell's history a little bit at a time.

The Mitchell *Sentinel* is published on the 3rd Wednesday each month. Any and all donations, big or small, are greatly appreciated! All donations go first towards the cost to publish and distribute the Newsletter to each and every Mitchell resident in the 97750 zip code. What's left over goes towards the Grinch Buster's Decorating Fund.

Please make checks payable to Dajuana Dodd. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 312, Mitchell, OR 97750 or dropped off at the Little Pine, 100 E. Main Street, Mitchell. For News Submissions/Advertising: please contact Dajuana Dodd 541-462-3532. Thank you for your support! Merry Christmas from the Grinch Busters!

Christmas Coloring Contest

Thanks to all who entered this year's Christmas Coloring Contest sponsored by the Grinch Busters!

And the Winners were...SAM SALVAGE 1st Place \$25.00 CASH - 2nd Place CORA SALVAGE \$20.00 CASH - 3rd Place ADASIN (Sandra Davis' Class) \$15.00 CASH - There were five Honorable Mentions each taking home a \$10.00 Little Pine Souvenir Shop Gift Certificate... JALET FARRELL, ROYANNE ROBERTS, JOSIAH SALVAGE, GIO (Sandra Davis' Class) and MEGAN SALVAGE

Mitchell History: The Mitchell Sentinel

The first Mitchell *Sentinel* was published in March 1904 by W.P. Gillenwater and Anthony Helms, Jr. as a six-column paper to be devoted to the interests and advancement of Southern Wheeler county. It was filled with interesting local news and also served as an advertising medium.

In July 1904, the *Sentinel* plant was washed away by a waterspout (cloudburst), but was soon replaced with an entirely new outfit. Mr. Helms eventually bought out his partner and carried on as editor and owner until his death in 1923. Lallah L. Gage took up the editorship until the paper was suspended in 1925. [History of Central Oregon; p.1068 F. A. Shaver]

Announcements & Events

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM Mitchell City Park
All are welcome! A brief reading of the Christmas Story from the Bible, some fellowship, sing Silent Night, head home. See you there!

Tiger Town Holiday Hours:
Christmas Eve - Closing @ 3:30pm
Christmas Day - Closed
New Year's Eve - Closing @ midnight
New Year's Day - Open

**Wheeler County Trading Co
Holiday Hours**
Christmas Eve- Closing @ 4pm
Christmas Day - Closed
New Year's Eve - Closing @ 6pm
New Year's Day - Open