



Marion County OREGON

For immediate release: June 3, 2009

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Oregon 150 Relay Kicks Off in the Canyon

Saturday, June 13 will be the kick-off of Marion County's relay event to salute Oregon's 150th birthday. The 150-mile trek begins in Idanha at 10:30 a.m.

Local wildlife artist Ken Schaffner created the unique baton being used. Schaffner is a native Oregonian, residing in the Santiam Canyon off the North Fork River. The baton he is creating will be passed from community to community, along the 150-mile trek. The baton, made from a forty to fifty year old white pine tree from Schaffner's Lyon's property, is 14 inches in length and sports an engraved salmon, covered bridge, river and trees.

"I wanted to put a covered bridge in there to represent the canyon," Schaffner explained. "Then I carved in other visuals that represent Marion County, the very beautiful natural images we have, more than just pavement and buildings," he said.

Everyone who attends a relay event anywhere in Marion County gets a free ticket to the fair for the Saturday evening, July 11 celebration. Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson invites residents to come out and cheer on the relay teams as they transport the baton on Saturday, June 13. She will be along the route handing out fair passes and commemorative coins.

Here is the schedule for the Canyon area:

Idanha: Marion County's sesquicentennial relay begins in the City of Idanha. People gather at Idanha City Hall at 10:30 a.m. to send off Sheriff Russ Isham, Commissioner Janet Carlson, RoadKill Kruzers car club out of Stayton and other local residents as they travel in a car caravan down Santiam Highway 22.

Detroit: Detroit Mayor Margaret Scott, Sheriff Russ Isham and the car caravan proceed through Detroit's business district.

Detroit Ranger Station: The caravan continues west on Highway 22, making a stop at the Detroit Ranger Station, under the direction of District Ranger Paul Matter.

Gates: The caravan proceeds, stopping at the new gazebo in Gates where Mayor Mike Higgs joins in.

Mill City: The caravan travels to the historic home of Mrs. Josephine Reid. Relay participants and the public are invited to tour the Canyon Life Museum. A community lunch in Kimmel Park at noon is hosted by the North Santiam Canyon Economic Development Corporation and Marion County.

Stayton: The caravan continues west on Highway 22 to Stayton, concluding the day at Stayton's Community Center Park, 400 West Virginia Street.

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