

Alpenfest relocates to Wallowa Lake State Park

JOSEPH — Oregon's Alpenfest, the only Oktoberfest season festival in the West that incorporates a serious Swiss twist, is moving from its traditional home, the historic Edelweiss Inn at Wallowa Lake in northeast Oregon.

The festival's new venue is nearby Wallowa Lake State Park, where musical and culinary festivities will take place in a large tent erected at the expansive Wallowa Lake Marina.

"Because of its deteriorating condition, the Edelweiss was declared unusable for public events," said Chuck Anderson, president and alpenmeister of the festival. "It's a hundred years old, and we are relieved to stay at Wallowa Lake thanks to the hospitality of Wallowa Lake State Park's management."

The festival celebrates the area's reputation as Oregon's Little Switzerland, in recognition of its setting with glacial Wallowa Lake and the towering Wallowa Mountains that reminds many visitors of the Swiss Alps. Started in 1975, the festival always had taken place at the Edelweiss, a big log building owned by the Wallowa Lake Tramway.

The original festival ran for 33 years, then discontinued due to faltering attendance. But after three years of inquiries from disappointed visitors, business leaders resurrected it as Oregon's Alpenfest in a new three-town format.



The annual Alpenfest celebration is Sept. 26-29.

This year, it's scheduled for Sept. 26-29 and will feature The Polkatones dance band, the Tirolean Dancers folk dance troupe, Swiss yodeler Shelby Imholt, alphorn player Bruce Coutant and accordion virtuoso Alicia Baker. Schedule details and tickets are available at oregonalpenfest.com.

The festival will feature locally crafted bratwurst and beer on tap. The sausages come from a family-owned butcher shop, Hines Meat Co. in La Grande.

"Hines' brats are the best we've ever offered," Anderson said. "That's what our customers have told us."

As usual, Terminal Gravity Brewery in Enterprise will make a special Alpenfest beer for the festival as well as a second brew. Barley

Brown's in Baker City will provide two more beers. Additionally, food, craft and beer vendors will sell wares at the Alpine Fair.

Information on local lodging and other attractions is available at josephoregon.com and wallowacounty-chamber.com. For a schedule, see below or visit oregonalpenfest.com.

SEPT. 26

4 p.m.: Main Street Procession

SEPT 20-26

ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER

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THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON
PG-13
FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:10, 9:20
SUN: (4:00) 7:10 MON-TH: 7:10

HUSTLERS R
FRI & SAT: (3:45) 6:45, 9:15
SUN: (3:45) 6:45 MON-TH: 6:45

IT CHAPTER TWO R
FRI-SUN: (3:30) 7:00
MON-THURS: 7:00

() Bargain Matinee
Show Times: 541-523-2522
Office: 541-523-5439

followed by opening ceremony at 4:10 p.m., Enterprise

5:30 p.m.: Ceremonial tapping of the first keg of Terminal Gravity's Alpenfest Ale with tastes (\$5 donation)

6-9 p.m.: Accordions at Alpenfest, Terminal Gravity, Enterprise

SEPT. 27

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Accordions at Alpenfest, downtown Joseph

Noon-6 p.m.: Alpine Fair, Wallowa Lake Marina

5-9 p.m.: Performances (\$20 adults/\$10 kids), Wallowa Lake Marina

SEPT. 28

10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Accordions at Alpenfest, downtown Joseph

8 a.m.-noon: Alpine breakfast, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Alpine Fair, Wallowa Lake Marina

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Performances

(\$18 adults, \$9 kids), Wallowa Lake Marina

6-10 p.m.: Performances (\$20 adults, \$10 kids), Wallowa Lake Marina

SEPT. 29

8 a.m.-noon: Alpine breakfast, Wallowa Lake Marina

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Alpine Fair, Wallowa Lake Marina

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