

WHITE GOLD

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Last winter in the midst of the pandemic, Anthony Lakes saw a major rise in skiers, while most indoor activities were closed off. Judy noted that the absences of winter sports also contributed to a rise in individuals looking for a different athletic outlet to take part in.

“With no winter sports and people being eager to get outside, throughout the Northwest and even the nation, the ski industry was very busy,” Judy said.

One skier noted that she was surprised by the more standard turnout this year, noting that last year at this time she sometimes had to wait up to 20 minutes to

board the ski lift. Another skier at Anthony Lakes’ opening day said they were a bit rusty since last ski season, but that the conditions were ideal for getting back in the swing of things. While the turnout on opening day saw a slight decline this year, those in the industry expected it after such a unique ski season in 2020.

Judy emphasized that skiing in general has seen a rise in newcomers in recent years, which was only furthered during the pandemic. While those at Anthony Lakes were happy to see an increase in visitors, the resort underwent a series of precautions.

Anthony Lakes opened its lodge again this year

after closing it off last winter due to COVID-19 restrictions. More skiers are also allowed to park and congregate in closer confines than last season. Masks are required inside of any indoor areas at the resort as the pandemic persists.

Perfect timing

The storms from the weekend of Dec. 11 brought in a high enough volume of snow for the ski area to open for the season. While this year’s opening date was a bit delayed compared to last year’s opening right after Thanksgiving, those at Anthony Lakes are not too concerned — as long as the resort opened before schools let out for winter break. “We really try to get

open by at least that Saturday going into the holiday break,” Judy said. Judy noted that the rush of skiers on opening weekend makes a big impact on the resort’s overall revenue for the ski season. “It’s supposed to keep snowing, so that’s a bonus,” Judy said. “It looks like we’re going to see some awesome conditions for quite a while.”

Revamped skiing experience

As the resort continues to adjust to COVID-19 and work to create an enjoyable skiing experience, Anthony Lakes has started several new programs and ramped up its beginner education. The resort has rebranded its learning center area

as “Alice’s Wonderland,” with numerous slopes and training areas for beginners and young skiers. The carpet lift was remodeled with a covered conveyor and renamed the “Caterpillar,” while the handle tow is now called “Mad Hatter.” “It’ll be a really fun learning experience this year,” Judy said. Another new feature will be an emphasis on supporting local businesses in Union, Wallowa, Baker and Grant counties. Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort will be promoting “Support Local Thursdays,” in which visitors can show a \$40 receipt from a local business in the area to receive a \$25 lift ticket on Thursdays. “We’re just trying to

encourage local spending in the area,” Judy said. In addition to promoting local businesses in surrounding areas, Anthony Lake has also seen a boost from being a more locally-based ski resort. This recent trend along with a rise in outdoor activities during the pandemic have both helped Anthony Lakes. “People are really escaping the larger ski areas and traveling to the smaller ones,” Judy said. “That is an industry trend that is benefiting us, and we’ll see a lot of locals and visitors.” Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort will close at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve and remain closed on Christmas Day. Otherwise, the slopes are set to stay open daily through Jan. 2, 2022.

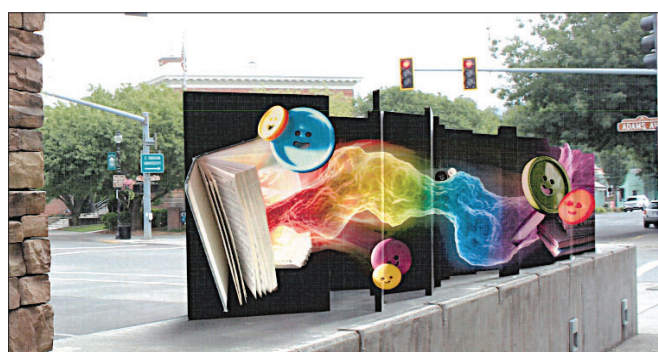
ARTIST

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The last mural, the most surreal and colorful of the four, speaks to the future and may include a hidden image for children to find.

Northeastern Oregonians who don’t recognize Hogge’s name might have seen his art without knowing it. He painted the huge wolf that adorns the gymnasium wall at Blue Mountain Community College. He created art and logos on display at numerous local venues, including one that honors veterans at Helix School and two in the hallways of Sunridge Middle School.

Hogge doesn’t remember a time when he didn’t want to be an artist. He spent his boyhood in Pendleton drawing and inventing things and studying with artist Antoinette Kennedy, who taught art privately. He

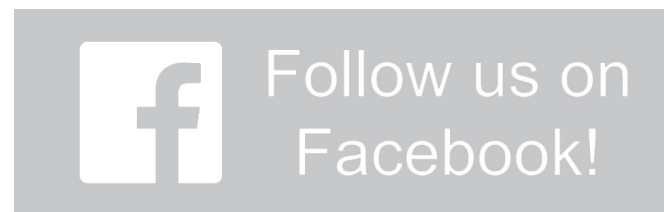


City of La Grande/Contributed Photo
A rendering shows a potential new public art piece by artist Jason Hogge outside Cook Memorial Library in downtown La Grande. The city council approved a memorandum of understanding between Hogge and Parks and Recreation Director Stu Spence at its regular session on Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021.

dreamed of a career as an artist. “As a kid, my family wasn’t really fond of the idea of me jumping into art to make a living,” Hogge said, grinning. “But while I wasn’t as encouraged to go into art as a profession, they always entertained my ideas. They let me dream.” Hogge hung on to his

ambition of being a full-time artist as he grew up, married and started a family. He established a fine art/graphic design business, but took other jobs to pay the bills. Hogge, now 50, is a patient man. He did custodial and maintenance work while building his artistic resume over the years. Early on, he favored watercolor

painting, but these days prefers oils and the interesting way the colors blend. He also sculpts and carves. With his personal projects, Hogge can be painstaking and indefatigable. He started one painting 15 years ago that he is still perfecting. The piece features a Celtic knot made from one line that weaves in and out. In 2017, Hogge enrolled at Pacific Northwest College of Art and later finished his degree at Blue Mountain. He continues to take classes at Eastern Oregon University. These days, Hogge is finally the full-time artist he dreamed of being in his boyhood. He said he looks forward to turning his mockups of the La Grande art installation into reality. The artist said after funding comes in he expects the work to take four to six months and to be in place by the end of next summer.



Billy Darrell Doty
October 2, 1935 - December 13, 2021

Billy Darrell Doty, born October 2, 1935 in Dayton, Ohio, passed away December 13, 2021 in Beaverton, Oregon. Bill owned and operated the Doty Bros. Circus. Bill traveled far and wide showing and displaying his collection of wild animals and beautiful circus wagons that he made and his wife, Nancy, beautifully painted. Bill is a member of the Circus Historical Society, and the Circus Model Builders Club. Bill is also a member of Ducks Unlimited and an approved member of the NRA. Bill was a member of the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo for several years. Bill is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His passion was the circus, hunting, fishing, and being a grandpa and great-grandpa. Bill and Nancy had Pam’s Country Inn Restaurant in Joseph, Oregon, and they lived in Joseph for 21 years. They had three children, 10 grandchildren and at last count 21 great-grandchildren. His wife Nancy Lee Doty preceded him in death in March 2014, as well as his son Randy Doty. Bill and Nancy have three living children; a son, Bill Doty Jr. of Eagle Mountain, Utah, daughter, Pam Zundel of Astoria, Oregon, and son, Jody Doty of Glide, Oregon. Grandchildren; Jeremy Zundel of Beaverton, Oregon, Kristy Veenker of Payson, Utah, Darren Doty of Provo, Utah, Jessica Harker of Enterprise, Oregon, Andy Doty of Vancouver, Washington, Josh Zundel of Bend, Oregon, Tyler Doty of Seattle, Washington, Dustin Doty of Pine City, Minnesota, Justin Doty of Lubbock, Texas, and Jennifer Doty of Glide, Oregon; as well as several great-grandchildren. Memorial service will be held December 31st, at 10:30am, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located in Enterprise, Oregon. Graveside service will be immediately following located at the Prairie Creek Cemetery in Joseph, Oregon.

CHRISTMAS

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on Dec. 23, and 34 degrees on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. The low La Grande temperatures are forecast to be 29 degrees on Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 26 degrees on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, and 24 degrees on Dec. 15. The National Weather Service is projecting highs in Enterprise of 38 degrees on Dec. 21, 36 degrees on Dec. 22, 35 degrees on Dec. 23, 32 degrees on Dec. 24, and 31 degrees on Dec. 25. The lows in Enterprise are expected to be 21 degrees on Dec. 21, 23 degrees on Dec. 22, 18 degrees on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24, and 13 degrees on Dec. 25.

Drivers should be on high alert

Oregon Department of Transportation spokesperson Tom Strandberg is encouraging drivers traveling through Northeastern Oregon to be prepared for poor driving conditions. As drivers head out during the holiday week, Strandberg said part of their preparation process should involve checking road conditions on ODOT’s Trip Check website. Strandberg encourages motorists to check images of Interstate 84 to see if there is snow and ice on the portions of the interstate they will be traveling on. He said travelers should not be fooled

if they see a clear stretch of road on the website’s camera since it may be sandwiched between long stretches of freeways covered with snow and ice. Motorists who see long stretches of bad driving conditions are encouraged to stay home if at all possible, Strandberg said. The ODOT spokesperson also encourages drivers on Interstate 84 to be very careful when looking for detours if there are closures or bad conditions. Drivers should be careful not to be fooled by alternate routes, which on GPS units can appear tempting. “Don’t blindly follow GPS detour routes,” he said. Strandberg said many are county roads not as well maintained as I-84. Strandberg is also warning drivers to be on alert for drivers who may be operating carelessly. “They should be mindful that a lot of drivers are anxious and in a hurry,” he said. He also urges motorists to be patient if they get behind snowplows and do not attempt to pass them. He said snowplow operators are aware of traffic behind them. “They will pull over,” he said. Strandberg also said drivers should stay at least four car lengths behind snowplows to avoid being hit by the snow and rocks they kick up.

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