

# Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally canceled for 3rd straight year

By JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — For the third straight summer one of Baker City's signature events, the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, will not happen. Mark Dukas, a partner in High Desert Harley-Davidson of Meridian, Idaho, the dealership that organizes the rally, said in an interview Wednesday, Feb. 16, that multiple factors contributed to his decision to cancel the event.

And unlike the cancellations in 2021 and 2020, the pandemic isn't the lone issue.

Two other concerns this year, Dukas said, are a major construction project to build more than 300 wheelchair-accessible curb cuts, including on Main Street, a focal point for the rally, and a shortage of employees at his motorcycle dealership.

Dukas said he doesn't have enough workers to organize the rally in Baker City and operate the dealership.

"I don't want to go up there and not have a great rally," he said.

Although the omicron wave of COVID-19 has passed, and infection rates are plummeting, Dukas said there still is an element of uncertainty that matters with an event such as the rally, which takes at least six months to plan.

Dukas said the prospect of partnering with other organizations to coordinate the rally isn't feasible in his view, because they would



Kathy Orr/Baker City Herald, File

**The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, one of Baker City's major summer events, won't happen in 2022, the third straight year it's been canceled. The organizer hopes to resume the event in 2023.**

need to be familiar with motorcycles and the motorcycle industry. Dukas said his goal is to revive the rally in 2023.

Shelly Cutler, executive director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, said although she's disappointed the

rally is canceled again, she's optimistic it will return in 2023.

"It's a hit to our summer tourism for sure," Cutler said. "It's an incredible event that brings a lot of revenue to the county and businesses. I do not expect another summer to go by without the rally."

She said she understands Dukas' concerns.

Cutler also pointed out that even without the rally, the roads that brought the event to Baker County more than 15 years ago remain an attraction for riders, and she expects many motorcyclists will visit the county this spring and summer.

That happened last summer despite the rally being canceled, she said.

"They still come to Baker, just not in the masses that we would see with the official rally," Cutler said.

Also on the positive side of the ledger, Cutler said all other major summer events are slated to happen as usual, including the Baker City Cycling Classic in June, Miners Jubilee and the Bronc and Bull Riding competition in July, the Shrine All-Star Football Game and Baker County Fair in August and the Sumpter flea markets during Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

Moreover, an event that also was canceled in 2020 and 2021 — the Baker City Memory Cruise car show — is back on the schedule for Aug. 20 in Geiser-Pollman Park.

A new event planned for the weekend of May 20 is the Chautauqua Music Festival in Richland. The event will include a variety of live music at the Eagle Valley Grange Community Park, as well as artisans selling handcrafted items and specialty foods.

"I think we still have a lot of

good things going on," Cutler said.

## Ready for influx of visitors

Cutler is optimistic the 2022 spring and summer tourist season will be a busy one in Baker County, as people from across the nation, as well as foreign travelers, take advantage of the waning pandemic.

That was the case during spring break 2021, she said.

"Last spring break was the busiest traffic I've seen in the six, almost seven, years I've been here," Cutler said. "People were so ready to get out, and I expect that trend to continue, as people are feeling safer."

Among travelers visiting the county this winter, Cutler said about 40% were from the East Coast.

"People are still taking road trips," she said.

Cutler said very few people who call the Chamber's Visitor Center ask about mask or vaccine mandates. But she's still pleased Oregon's indoor mask mandate will end no later than March 31, according to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

The Oregon Health & Science University last week forecast the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals would drop below the 400-person threshold for ending the mask mandate by March 20.

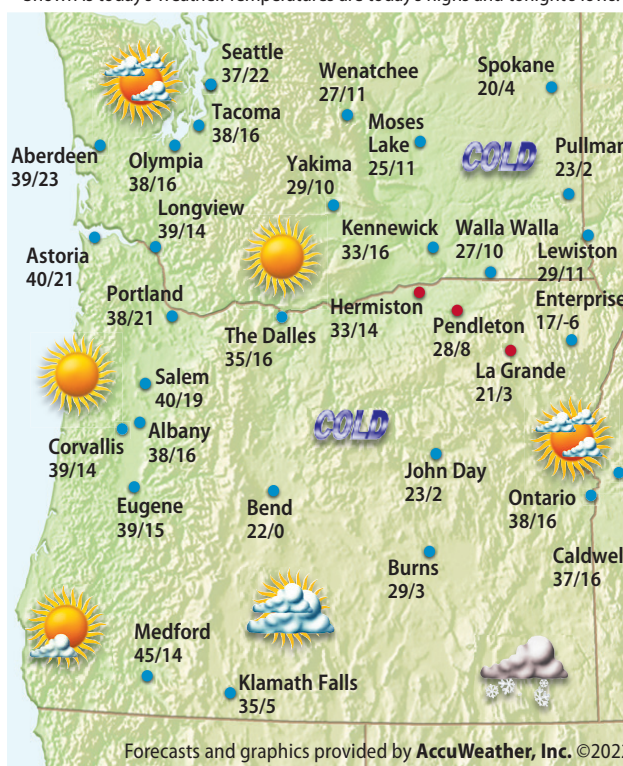
"We always impress upon people who call that Baker County is open for business and we're excited to have them back," Cutler said. "I think we're all excited to get back to normal."

## Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Very cold with plenty of sun	Mostly sunny and quite cold	Cold with clouds and sun	Cold with abundant sunshine	Mostly cloudy and chilly
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
28° 8°	26° 16°	30° 13°	41° 13°	44° 25°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
33° 14°	31° 21°	36° 16°	44° 13°	45° 23°

## OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



## ALMANAC

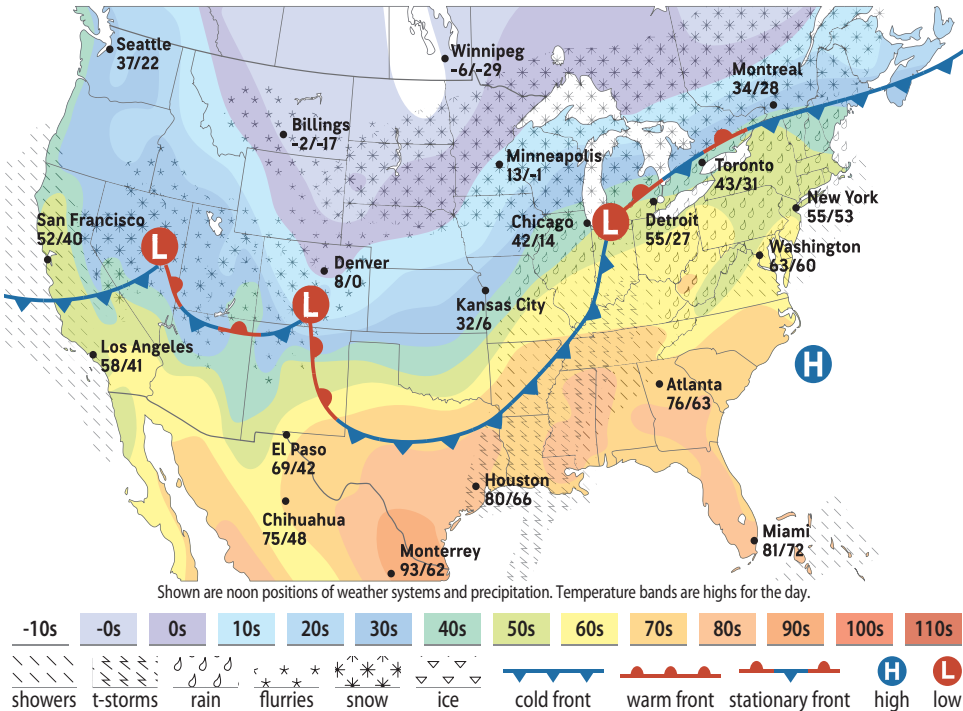
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	40°	32°		
Normals	49°	31°		
Records	69° (1988)	2° (1894)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.05"			
Month to date	0.36"			
Normal month to date	0.87"			
Year to date	1.89"			
Last year to date	2.92"			
Normal year to date	2.41"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	47°	30°		
Normals	52°	29°		
Records	75° (1995)	9° (1957)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace			
Month to date	0.03"			
Normal month to date	0.67"			
Year to date	0.96"			
Last year to date	1.08"			
Normal year to date	1.81"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Wed.		
Boardman	NNE 8-16	N 4-8		
Pendleton	NNW 7-14	W 6-12		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	6:46 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	5:32 p.m.			
Moonrise today	none			
Moonset today	9:38 a.m.			
	Last	New	First	Full
	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 17

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 96° in Del Rio, Texas Low -17° in Rolla, N.D.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Summerville woman receives prestigious Helen Keller award

By DICK MASON  
The Observer

ELGIN — Kathy Oliver has a limited amount of free time, which is understandable because she has a lot on her plate — including virtually all of Eastern Oregon.

Oliver, a member of the Elgin Lions Club, is serving as governor for Lions Clubs International's District G in Oregon. The district, which has 30 clubs, encompasses almost all of Eastern Oregon.



Oliver

The Summerville resident, who is about three months from completing her one-year term as governor, has handled her responsibilities as District G governor masterfully, according to Gerald Hopkins, a member of the Elgin Lions Club.

"She is doing a wonderful job," he said.

Hopkins credited Oliver with making many connections and getting Lions clubs in the district to work together despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Elgin Lions Club on

Feb. 14 presented Oliver with the Helen Keller award, one of the most prestigious a Lions Club member can receive, Hopkins said. Clubs are able to present the Helen Keller award only if they make a \$1,000 donation to the Oregon Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Elgin Lions Club members voted to give Oliver the award in an election where ballots were cast secretly. Oliver was caught off guard when told she had won the award.

"It had not entered my mind. It was a total surprise," said Oliver, whose husband, Steve, also is a member of the Elgin Lions Club and a past District G governor.

Hopkins said the award is one Oliver richly deserves.

"She is a great person. Everyone in the club really loves her," said Hopkins, also a former District G governor.

Oliver has been a member of the Elgin Lions Club for 15 years, including several years as its president. She has helped lead a number of club events, many of which raise money for

the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

"She is working on projects all the time. Whenever we have an event she is always there," Hopkins said.

Lions Clubs International has a 97-year connection to Keller, who although blind and deaf, was a tireless advocate for those with disabilities. Keller spoke at the the International Lions Clubs Convention in Ohio on June 30, 1925. She challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." The Lions accepted the challenge and today has many internationally recognized programs aimed at preventing blindness.

Oliver said the award is especially meaningful to her because it is named in honor of the woman who inspired the Lions Clubs International to become what it is today.

"It means a lot to me," she said. "I feel very honored."

Oliver hopes to help her club continue reaching out to people in need around North-eastern Oregon after she steps down as governor.

"There are so many people here who need help," she said.

## IN BRIEF

### Sheriff's sergeant finds body of missing Baker City man

BAKER CITY — Baker County Sheriff's Office on the afternoon of Feb. 15 found the body of a Baker City man about two days after the man's brother reported him missing.

The body of Andrew Levi Myers, 44, was in a grassy area near the eastbound on-ramp at the North Baker City Interstate 84 interchange.

There is no indication of foul play, Sheriff Travis Ash said, and the death doesn't appear suspicious.

Myers' brother had reported him missing about 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 13, said Sgt. Wayne Chastain of the Baker City Police Department. Myers' brother hadn't seen Andrew for

about three days, which was an unusually long period, and when he went to Andrew's apartment to check on him, Andrew wasn't there.

Two days earlier, on the afternoon of Feb. 11, Sgt. Eric Colton of the sheriff's office had seen Myers walking on North Cedar Road near the A Frame trailer park and the freeway, Ash said.

Chastain said at least one other person also saw a man, who they believed was Myers, in that area about an hour after Colton did.

Ash said a possible ping from Myers' cellphone on Feb. 14, gave a location in an area that included the North Baker freeway interchange.

Colton was driving in that area the next day when he found Myers' body, Ash said.

— EO Media Group

**CORRECTION:** The Feb. 12 front page article, "Units in Eastern Oregon prisons still quarantined," misspelled Tara Herivel's last name in one instance and inaccurately stated her role in litigation against the Oregon Department of Corrections. She led a legal campaign that resulted in hundreds of lawsuits against DOC since the start of the pandemic.

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