

From Bulgaria to Baker City spreading love of education

By CLAYTON FRANKE
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — This summer, some parents of young children in Baker City will smile and wave to a tall young man dressed in a light-colored polo tucked into his shorts and carrying a binder of educational pamphlets.

The man is Stoyan “Tony” Ivanov, Baker City’s newest peddler.

He traveled a great distance to offer his wares, coming to Baker City from Bulgaria.

“I see my clients around a lot,” Ivanov, 28, said recently, waving at a woman as she passed through the drive-thru window while he paid for a drink at the Little Pig restaurant on 10th Street.

About a month ago, Ivanov moved from Bulgaria to Baker City for the summer with a cultural exchange visa, and his work has already fostered ties to the community. He recently received his official peddler’s license from the city, allowing him to do his job — go door to door each day selling educational materials to families.

Ivanov said his goal is to provide educational resources to people in rural towns who might not have access to these resources otherwise.

“In the countryside, nobody will knock on your door and try to show you some educational books,” he said.

That’s why he decided to travel from Bulgaria, a country of about 7 million residents in the Balkan region of the southeastern European country, to Baker City.

“I like the area, I like the mountains, I like the people,” Ivanov said.

His passion for education, he said, comes from his own family.

“I come from a very educated family in Bulgaria,” Ivanov said. “Education is a priority for me.”

In his hometown of Pazardzhik, his grandmother taught kindergarten for 10 years and was a librarian for another 20, while his mother has been teaching for 28 years.

And Ivanov is quite educated himself.

He has two bachelor’s degrees — one in business administration and one in tourism — from two Bulgarian universities, and he’s working on his master’s degree in marketing and management from a third university.

To pay for all those degrees, he sells the books.

It’s his sixth summer working with Southwestern Advantage, a Nash-



Tony Ivanov poses with members of the Phipps family in Baker City, one of his customers as a door-to-door peddler of educational books.

Tony Ivanov/Contributed Photo

ville, Tennessee, publishing company that employs college students from more than 200 campuses around the world to visit American towns to sell educational materials. And in his six years, Ivanov has been around — he has peddlers permits in about 40 American towns — from Colorado to Iowa to Washington to Idaho to Oregon.

This is his third summer

working in the Beaver state. “Oregon is the best place I’ve worked so far,” Ivanov said. “I love Oregon.”

He said he also loves his job, though it’s not always easy.

“Believe it or not, it’s a hard job,” he said. “A lot of rejection, hot weather, rain, even snow last year.”

He said he works 12 to 13 hours every day except Sundays, and meets with 20

to 30 families per day. His gratification, he said, comes from interaction with clients.

“Seeing those people have something that would save them time on homework, help them go to college and get good scholarships, that’s the main reason I’ve been doing the job for six summers,” Ivanov said.

Those families that do talk with Ivanov have the chance to interact with a

student of relative status in Bulgaria. Ivanov represents his university on the national student council in Sofia, the nation’s capital. He’s one of 11 students on an executive team that works with officials like the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Minister of Economics and education and other social issues.

What makes Ivanov’s presence even more unique is that another book salesman from the program won’t be back for at least 10 to 15 years.

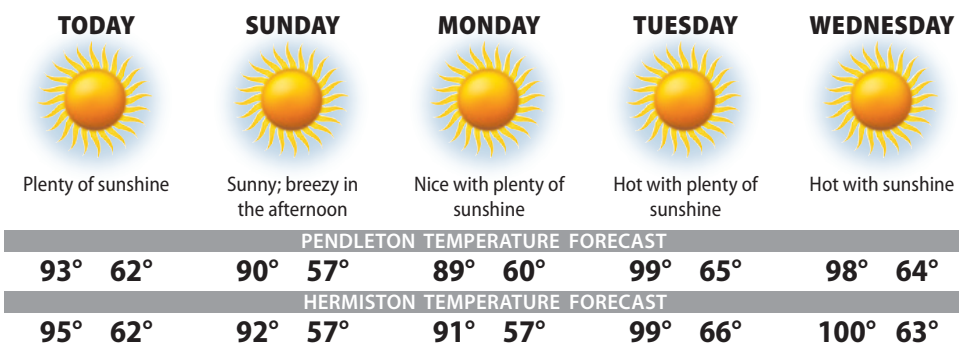
And people in Baker City who buy Ivanov’s books have another connection in Bulgaria to look forward to: he plants a tree back home for each one of his clients. He’s planted 3,105 trees so far.

Ivanov will leave Baker City in mid-August to work in Burns for a month before heading back to Bulgaria. He said he doesn’t know if he’ll work selling books for the seventh straight summer next year.

But he does plan to become even more educated — with another master’s in marketing and eventually a doctorate, so he can become a college professor.

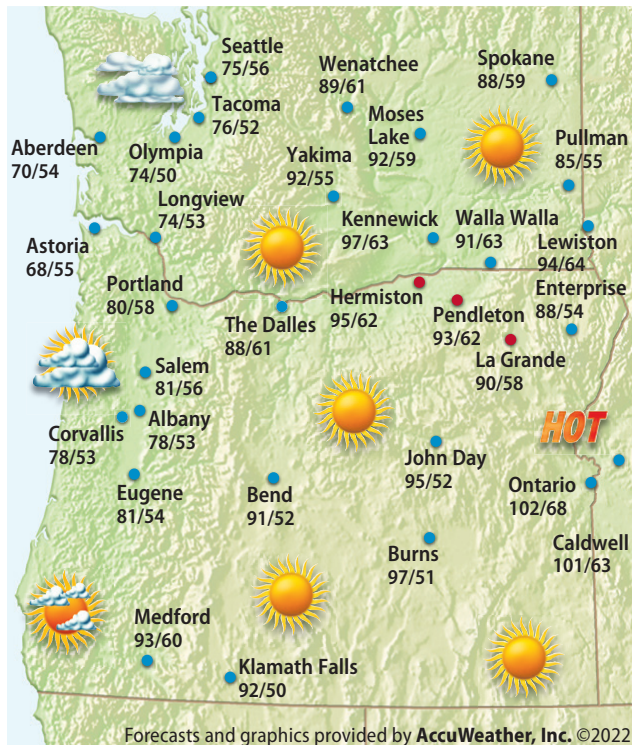
“I love education,” Ivanov said. “Education can get you from one state to another or from one country to another.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. Fri.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Friday	93°	60°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	112° (1911)	44° (1905)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.31"
Normal month to date	0.20"
Year to date	11.13"
Last year to date	4.32"
Normal year to date	8.15"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. Fri.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Friday	94°	71°
Normals	93°	59°
Records	107° (1938)	43° (2000)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.03"
Normal month to date	0.06"
Year to date	7.48"
Last year to date	2.46"
Normal year to date	5.08"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	W 7-14	W 8-16

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:21 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:41 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:07 p.m.
Moonsset today	8:49 a.m.



New time capsule placed within an Oregon Trail marker in La Grande

By DICK MASON
The Observer

LA GRANDE — A piece of paper currency may be the talk of La Grande a century from now.

A \$1 bill was placed in a new time capsule at 110 Walnut St. on Thursday, June 30, with other items in the time capsule space of the stone marker first installed by Oregon Trail pioneer Ezra Meeker in 1906.

The marker is the same one opened on June 23 and found to be empty before a crowd of about 150 people. Many had thought the time capsule space in the marker would have contents dating back to 1906 because Meeker mentioned it in his journals.

The \$1 bill was put in the marker’s time capsule space along with an Oregon Trail brochure, a copy of the Overland Journal (a quarterly publication of the Oregon-California Association) plus items that are or recently have been integral parts of our daily lives, including two face masks, a COVID-19 home test kit and an iPhone.

Most of the new materials in the time capsule were placed in a protective bag. Now they must withstand the touch of Father Time’s corrosive hand.

“We do not want it opened



Ronnie Allen/Contributed Photo

A \$1 bill is one of the items included in the time capsule of a 1906 Oregon Trail marker June 30, 2022, in La Grande.

for 100 years,” said Ronnie Allen, of La Grande, an Oregon Trail historian who helped lead the effort to have the new time capsule items placed within the stone marker.

Dale Counsell, of La Grande, who also helped Allen set up the new time capsule project, said a sealant was applied to the area where the stone marker was attached to its foundation. The sealant should help protect the contents of the time capsule.

The stone marker is among at least 35 Meeker set up along the Oregon Trail during the three journeys he made across the United States to promote efforts to preserve the overland route. It was one of three Meeker put up in Union County. The two

others were installed at lower and upper Ladd Canyon.

Allen says he now has evidence indicating that the Walnut Street marker was made from lava flows underlying the north flank of Sugarloaf Mountain, about 9 miles northwest of La Grande. An analysis of the stone marker was made from was completed by the Baker City field office of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

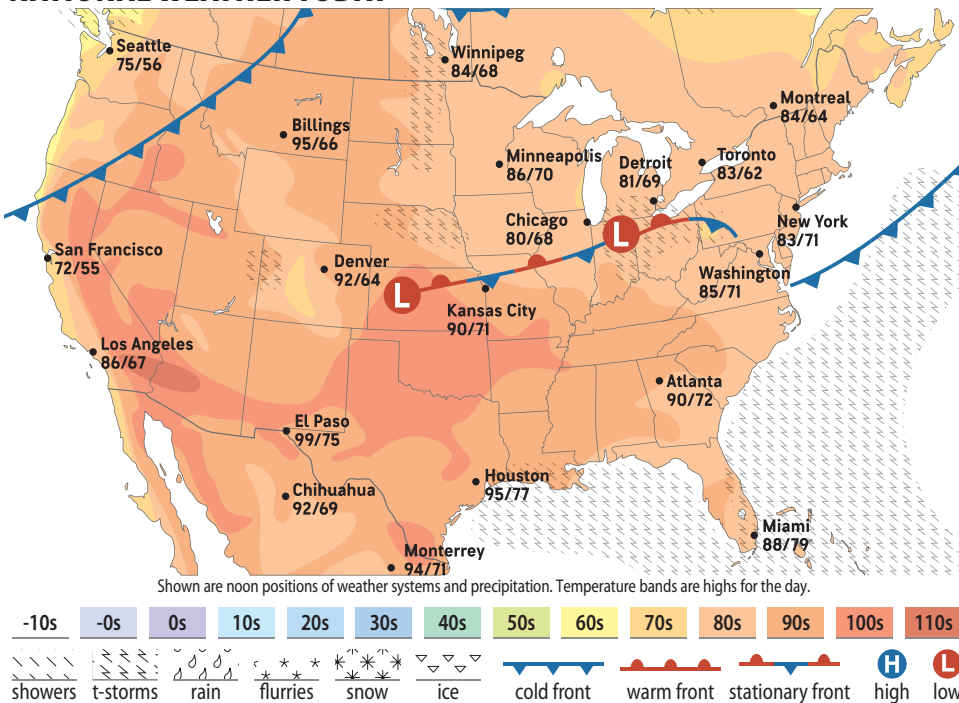
The testing conducted in June indicates that the marker was made from rock that is identical to the stone one at lower Ladd Canyon was made from. Allen earlier had the stone from the lower Ladd Canyon marker tested by the same office, which determined it likely came from Sugarloaf Mountain.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 112° in Thermal, Calif. Low 39° in Truckee, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



IN BRIEF

Bear dies in collision with car on Interstate 84

UNION COUNTY — A driver and his passenger were not injured when their vehicle hit and killed a bear about 15 miles west of La Grande on Interstate 84, according to the Oregon State Police.

The incident occurred just before midnight in an east-bound lane of I-84 on Saturday, July 9, when a gray Toyota Tacoma driven by Zach Lee Deiter, 23, collided

with a bear that had run onto the roadway near milepost 246.

The crash caused extensive damage to the front right side of the vehicle, which was towed from the scene.

Bridge replacement begins soon in Wallowa County

WALLOWA — A contractor will be installing erosion-control measures in advance of drilling foundations for a bridge replacement,

which began last week near Wallowa on Highway 82.

A temporary traffic signal is in place. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers or the temporary traffic signal during working hours, and by the temporary traffic signal during nonworking hours. Up to 20-minute delays can be expected at all times. The signal is expected to remain in place until both travel lanes are available again early this fall.

—EO Media Group

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