# 'From where you can see the mountains'

Hundreds gather in Wallowa County for Tamkaliks Celebration

By BILL BRADSHAW Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — After a hiatus of two years because of the pandemic, area American Indian tribes gathered last weekend for the 30th annual Tamkaliks Celebration at the Nez Perce Tribal Homeland Project just outside of Wallowa.

An estimated 450 people from numerous tribes all across the West, as well as non-Indians, were served at the friendship feast that concluded the three-day event, said Nancy Crenshaw, one of the organizers. Many others came just to enjoy the dancing by tribal members in their colorful regalia, as well as the sound of the drums and accompanying songs in native languages. Stories of the Nez Perce and other tribes also abounded.

About 26 vendors also were on site, offering food, crafts and various displays, Crenshaw said.

### Conferring a name

Most events opened with a prayer. One of the more spir-



The grand entry led by the whip man, the eagle staff and the American flag serves as a prelude to the dance contests as the various dancers follow Saturday, July 23, 2022, during the 30th annual Tamkaliks Celebration in Wallowa.

itual ceremonies was when a native name was conferred on a tribal member.

Armand Minthorn, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, who is in charge of the longhouse at the Homeland Project, emphasized the Creator brought those in attendance together for a reason. That was exemplified in the presence of a woman from South Korea — Mystic Voice and a man from Africa — Jonathan Azis.

The ceremony may have been spiritual, but it was far from dour.

In introducing and welcoming Mystic Voice, Minthorn said, "That's what she wants to be called by, but in Indian humor we can call her anything we want."

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The room erupted with laughter.

"We have to welcome one another," he said. "The Creator made a plan for her to be here and she's here. ... Maybe she'll come again and bring some of her family maybe she'll pay for all of us to go to South Korea."

That sparked another round of laughter.

She said she was glad to

be there and emphasized some similarities between her people and the Nez Perce. She told how she lived on an island off the Korean coast that once was independent. Her people — like the Nimiipuu — had become known as horse breeders. In the Korean case, they bred horses for the Mongol Empire. Also like the Nez Perce, her people's land had become occupied.

"You're the people of the Wallowas and of horses," she said to the crowd. "We like you to share your wisdom with our nation and the world to live in harmony with nations."

### **Competitions**

Although Tamkaliks isn't intended as a big fundraiser, Crenshaw said, it does bring in some money that's generally given out right away.

Two main memorial scholarships honor Taz Conner and Terry Crenshaw.

This year, the winners of the two primary \$1,000 scholarships awarded were Teresa Leighton of Lapwai, Idaho, who won the Taz Conner Scholarship and Adalyn Bennett Deal of Wallowa, who won the Terry Crenshaw Scholarship.

In addition to the scholarships, the dancers competed for a chance to win money in a variety of categories. First prize earned \$500, second was awarded \$300, third earned \$200 and fourth got \$100.

### The past

Tamkaliks — which in Nimiipuu means "from where you can see the mountains" has been going on since 1990 when Taz Conner and Terry and Nancy Crenshaw organized the first such event. According to the Homeland website, in 1989, Conner, a descendant of Old Chief Joseph, Tuekakas, was invited by the city of Wallowa to help them plan some kind of Native American festival in Wallowa. It was decided that a friendship potluck and powwow would be the most appropriate event.

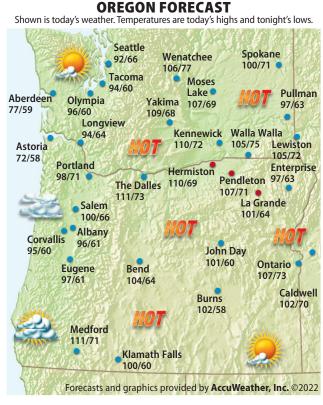
The first Tamkaliks took place in 1990 in the Wallowa High School gymnasium. Once the tribe purchased the 160-acres site where the Homeland Project now is in 1997 — the powwow and potluck was renamed Tamkaliks.

Now, Tamkaliks takes place (usually) on the third weekend of July, the weekend before Chief Joseph Days in Joseph.

"Part of the reason we do that is some people like to come and camp through both," Crenshaw said.

Next year's Tamkaliks is scheduled for July 21-23, 2023.

### **Forecast for Pendleton Area** AccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com **TODAY FRIDAY SUNDAY MONDAY** Near-record Near-record Record-breaking Partly sunny and Not as hot; a temperatures shower in the p.m PENDLETO TEMPERATURE FO 108° 72° 107° 71° 104° **92°** 64° 109° 73° 67° I TEMPERATUR 110° 69° 64° 110° 73° 108° **71°** 103° 66°



### NATIONAL EXTREMES

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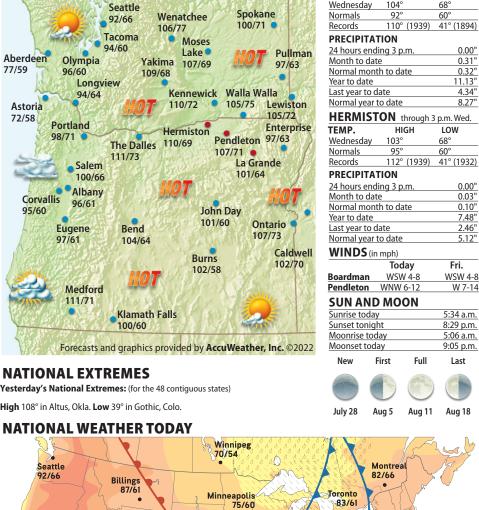
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Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 108° in Altus, Okla. Low 39° in Gothic, Colo.



## Baker County Cultural Coalition grant to bring arts to new eyes

By IAN CRAWFORD Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — The Baker County Cultural Coalition Access Grant is a new program designed to bring art experiences to disabled, elderly and special needs residents as well as and low income families of Baker County.

A recent press release from Crossroads Carnegie Art Center noted that the program resulted from a \$5,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, which has given that amount to each of Oregon's 36 counties and to federally recognized tribal coalitions.

In Baker County, the Cultural Coalition is offering \$500 grants to nonprofits, social service agencies, community-based organizations, governmental agencies, and artisans or guilds.

"I am so appreciative of the work put in by the Baker County Cultural Coalition to work through the details of this new program," said Ginger Savage, Crossroads director and chair of the Cultural Coalition.

'We're really hoping that

something like a senior center group can be formed who can do cultural activities, such as a veteran's group who needed to rent a van to bring them to a play. The Eastern

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- Ginger Savage, Crossroads director and chair of the Cultural Coalition.

Oregon Film Festival could apply, artists' guilds can apply. The Oregon Community Foundation didn't put many restrictions on it, but emphasized accessing art."

Grant money could be used to offer free tour days at museums marketing to young families, to supplement events with sign language interpreters, or even expand disabled bathrooms access, according to the press release.

The ultimate goal with the new program is to make local art and culture experiences possible for those who can't conveniently connect to them.

Approval also hinges on certain trackable points, be it new visitors to a museum, positive experiences from participants or other data.

Savage hopes the grants can be issued with some stances.

"How do we get more people out and about if COVID gets crazier?" she said. "How do we make it happen given financial restraints? We want to get some ideas on where we could meet (in the middle)."

In addition to the new grant program, the Baker County Cultural Coalition continues to offer grants through its traditional grant program, funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust.

### IN BRIEF

### Ceremony remembers the life of La Grande's Doug Trice

LA GRANDE — A celebration of life ceremony for Doug Trice will be conducted Saturday, July 30, at Pioneer Park, La Grande. The ceremony will start at 1 p.m. and will

include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the field the La Grande City Council last year named in Trice's honor.

Trice, an award-winning Special Olympics coach and a hall of fame athlete, died in his sleep at his La Grande residence May 6, 2020, at age 68.

Trice's contributions as a Special Olympics

coach were far from overlooked during his life.

He was named an assistant coach for Team USA at the World Games in Shanghai, China, in 2007. That same year he received a Governor's Gold Award from then Gov. Ted Kulongoski for his work in Special Olympics. Four years later, Trice was selected as a Special Olympics coach for Team USA in Athens, Greece.

Six months before his passing, Trice was inducted into the La Grande High School Tiger Booster Hall of Fame. He was recognized for his Special Olympics work and his athletic accomplishments.

- EO Media Group

**CORRECTIONS**: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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