

Oregon's Alpenfest to mark 40th year



Submitted photo

Alicia Baker was such a hit at the 2017 version of Oregon's Alpenfest that she has been invited back for 2018.

Oregon's Alpenfest will rely on entertainers that evoke memories of the past as it plans its 40th anniversary festival in 2018.

Longtime favorite acts have been invited to return as it launches its theme, "Forty Years of Alpenfest Memories."

The Alpenfest board of directors, meeting Nov. 1, decided to feature The Polkatones, the nine-member polka band that has appeared here more often than any other, and the Tirolean Dancers of Oregon, the folk dance company that has performed here most often, at the festival Sept. 27-30.

"It was no contest," said Alpenmeister Chuck Anderson. "Even if we looked at new talent, The Polkatones and the Tiroleans are the best we possibly could find."

While both groups have expressed interest in returning, final details depend on contract negotiations, he noted.

The festival also will invite Swiss yodeler Art Brogli and Enterprise alphonist Bruce Coutant to return. Both have been favorites since the

festival was revived in 2012 after a four-year hiatus.

Brogli began to sing at the festival after the death of popular Swiss yodeler Lisa Ward.

Oregon's Alpenfest's performances will take place in the Edelweiss Inn at Wallowa Lake. For many, the century-old structure elicits memories of its past as a dance hall and roller-skating rink.

Now owned by the next-door Wallowa Lake Tramway, the Edelweiss always has been the home of the festival.

The one newcomer that the board said it wants back is accordion virtuoso Alicia Baker. She garnered huge applause this year as the new star of "Accordions at Alpenfest" at Terminal Gravity Brewery on the Thursday before the main festival shows. An international champion of competitions, Baker is 26 and has been playing accordion since age 6.

Traditional free polka and waltz lessons will again be provided by competitive polka dancers Randy and Ashley Thull from Wisconsin.

The Polkatones have been performing since Swiss immigrant Al Schwend formed the band in 1971 in Tillamook, in time for the first Alpenfest four years later. Now the band includes Schwend's daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters.

The energetic Tirolean Dancers also were formed in the '70s. Although members have come and gone, the troupe is in demand to perform Alpine folk dances throughout the Pacific Northwest. Members have said they anticipate Alpenfest weekend as their favorite gig, Anderson said.

The festival ran for 33 years in its Wallowa Lake-only format until it was discontinued in 2008. Three years later, a group of merchants in Joseph formed to revive it. The result is its current format, with events in Joseph and Enterprise as well as the Wallowa Lake performances.

Details and advance tickets are available at oregonalpenfest.com.

Oregon's Alpenfest contributes an estimated \$150,000 to the economy late in the tourist season when there is little else to bring visitors to the area.

Joseph blues, brews organizers sound a low note

The future of the Bronze, Blues and Brews Festival held annually in Joseph is in jeopardy, according to organizers.

Since 1996, the event has transformed Joseph's city park into a hip shakin' good time the second weekend in August. Winner of the Cascade Blues Association "Best Blues Event" award in 2015 and nominated again in 2017, the festival has attracted concert-goers and musicians from across the country.

The all volunteer nonprofit consisting of 6-10 board members and close to 100 annual volunteers is

stretched thin. Thousands of hours are required each year to produce the event.

"It's been great fun and a great honor to work with the musicians who have stood on the stages of Bronze, Blues and Brews throughout the years," said founder Chuck Garrett.

A number of board members are moving on to other chapters of their lives, leaving the 2018 version at a crossroads.

Additionally, expenses are going up and things like tents to rent are getting more difficult to find, noted

Garrett.

"At this time, the event is not planned to occur in 2018, though the organization will remain extant in case some group or individual commits to its continuation into the future," Garrett said.

The loss will impact the county's tourism revenue.

The event typically attracts 1,500-1,800 people annually, and even conservative estimates value the economic impact at well over \$100,000 a year.

In addition, Bronze, Blues and Brews as part of its charitable mis-

sion, has donated tens of thousands of dollars back to the community to local school art and music departments, and the city of Joseph.

This year's donations are slated for the Joseph Library Expansion Project, the Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph school music and art programs and to maintenance funds for the Joseph park.

In addition to Garrett, the board includes Michael Straw, Dan Davidson, Pete Beaudoin, Don Otten, Stephanie Williams, Pearl Sturm, Richelle Chitwood, Jeri Davis-Paletta and Kim and Julie Lamb.

Historian to read at Fishtrap Fireside

The December edition of Fishtrap Fireside celebrates writers and stories from across Wallowa County and the world. Featured readers are poet Daniel Jacob, Caiti Leo and historian David Weaver. An open mic follows where audience members have a chance to share their stories.

Fireside is a free event the first Friday of the month at Fishtrap, 400 East Grant St., Enterprise. The community is encouraged to attend these events, enjoy light refreshments and hear new work by their friends and neighbors.

Daniel Jacob was born in Romania in 1988, one year before the Romanian Revolution and collapse of the dictator regime. His family moved to the U.S. when he was nine and lived in New York City for a year before moving to Seattle, then Springfield, Mo.

Jacob has a master's degree in poetry. His work has been published in Nowhere Magazine and Moon City Review. His long prose poem "Lost in America" was a Top 10 Finalist in a national writing contest.

Caiti Leo grew up anywhere and everywhere between the steep slopes and cold coasts of Alaska, and the nuclear-blue of the of the Nevada desert. Martian-like landscapes and surreal skylines inspired the imagery and imagination in many of her words.

Her work reaches out to the undeniably human element in everyone.

David Weaver was born and has lived mostly in Wallowa County his entire life. He has worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry as for the past 33 years.

More a reader than a writer, Weaver is making an attempt at the craft in order to share some of the things he's learned researching the history of early Wallowa County photographers.

As an amateur historian, he is primarily interested in the relationship between nature and the people who have lived in Wallowa County.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Holds candles
- In possession of
- Rodents
- Type of cofactor (Brit. sp.)
- Hard candy on a stick
- Animal of the weasel family
- Things that should not be overlooked
- "Silence" author
- Dried, split lentils
- People native to Ghana
- Barros and Gasteyer are two
- British thermal unit
- Large oblong hall
- Ethnic group in Asia
- Holiday decoration
- Milliliter
- Open
- Health physics concept (abbr.)
- Tantric meditation
- Where golf games begin
- Birth swine
- Rip
- Remove
- Puts together in time
- Rotary engines
- Skeletal structure
- Member of a labor organization
- Japanese classical theater
- Undergarments

CLUES DOWN

- "Snake Tales" cartoonist
- Religious group
- Singer Redding
- ___ and tuck
- Head honcho
- Second sight
- Composer
- About aviation
- Senior officer
- Forecasts weather
- Seasoned Hungarian soup
- Town in Hesse, Germany
- Thought to derive from meteorites
- Hit lightly
- Seemingly bottomless chasm
- Title of respect
- Warms up
- Man and Wight are two
- Type of scan
- Atomic mass unit
- Article
- Incriminate
- Passes by
- Most nerve-inducing
- David Alan Grier sitcom
- Achieve
- Freshwater fish
- Beginner
- Dark brown or black
- A newlywed wears one
- DiFranco and Vardanyan are two
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Ancient Egyptian King
- Old name (abbr.)
- Brazilian city (slang)

Church Directory

Wallowa United Methodist Church
 Kaye Garver - Pastor
 102 West 1st Street, P.O. Box 53
 Wallowa, Or 97885
 Leave Message at 541-432-9029
 Worship at 9:00am
 Bible Study Mondays at 1:00pm at Senior Center, Wallowa, OR

Church of Christ
 502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa
 541-398-2509
 Worship at 11 a.m.
 Mid-week
 Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
 100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
 NE 3rd & Main St
 541-426-3439
 Worship Service
 Sunday 9:30am

St. Katherine's Catholic Church
 Fr. Francis Akano
 301 E. Garfield Enterprise
Mass Schedule
 Tues-Fri 8:00 am
 Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am
 (541)426-4008
stkatherineenterprise.org
 St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am
 All are welcome

Summit Church
 Gospel Centered Community
 Service time: 10:30 am
 Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
 541-426-2150
www.summitchurchoregon.org

Joseph United Methodist Church
 3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
 Pastor Cherie Dearth
 Phone: 541-432-3102
Sunday Worship Service
 10:00 am
JosephUMC.org

Faith Lutheran Church
 409 W. Main
 Enterprise, Oregon
Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm
Bible Study
2nd & 4th Thursdays - 11 am
 LCMS
 (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Enterprise Christian Church
 85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449
 Worship at 9 a.m.
 Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
 Evening Worship at 6 p.m.
 (nursery at A.M. services)
 "Loving God & One Another"
 David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

Christ Covenant Church
 Pastor Terry Tollefson
 Church Office: 541-263-0505
Family Prayer: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:00 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am
 723 College Street
 Lostine

Lostine Presbyterian Church
 Discussion Group 9:30 AM
 Worship Service 11:00 AM
Childrens program during service
 Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com
 541.398.0597
 Hwy 82, Lostine
 Stephen Kliever, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church
The Big Brown Church with an open door
 Pastor Archie Hook
 Sunday Worship 11am
 Bible Study 9:30am
 Ark Angels Children's Program
 Ages 4-6th grade, 11am
 Nursery for children 3 & under
 301 NE First St. • Enterprise, OR
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Wallowa Assembly of God
 606 West Hwy 82
 Wallowa, Oregon
 541-886-8445
Sunday School • 9:30
Worship Service • 10:45
 Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School
 305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
 P.O. Box N. Enterprise, OR 97828
 541-426-3751 Church
 541-426-8339 School
Worship Services
 Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
 Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
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