

Alpenfest gets official alphorn

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — It's not new, but Oregon's Alpenfest has a new, 50-year-old alphorn as the official instrument of the festival, held each fall in Oregon's "Little Switzerland."

The half-century-old horn was on display Tuesday, July 5, when University of Idaho student Grace Hanning donned a traditional Swiss dirndl dress to show how the horn is played.

She was at Wallowa State Park at the marina where the state Parks and Recreation Department plans to construct an events center. Plans are for the center to be the new permanent home of Alpenfest, said Alpenmeister Chuck Anderson.

He said the horn may be old, but it's like new because it was hardly ever played.

The horn was donated to Alpenfest by Cathy Leitch, whose father, Gordon Leitch, bought it from an alphorn maker in Lucerne, Switzerland. It arrived in the United States in 1975 when it was shipped to Portland, Anderson said.

The 12-foot-long horn consists of a long tube that goes down to a bell-shaped end is made largely of spruce with a birch rattan wrapping, Anderson said.

According to the Swiss Observer, which bills itself as the official organ of the Swiss



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Grace Hanning of Centerville, Washington, demonstrates while clad in a traditional Swiss dirndl dress how the new official alphorn of Oregon's Alpenfest is played Tuesday, July 5, 2022. She's at what will become the new home of Alpenfest once the events center is constructed at Wallowa State Park Marina.

colony in Great Britain, the alphorn is closely identified with Swiss culture. However, it's not exclusively Swiss, as Alpine areas of Germany and Austria have long had the horns, as have Norway, Hungary, Romania and even some countries of Asia.

The earliest records of the alphorns used in what is now

Switzerland date from the 16th century.

Alpenfest was held at the old Edelweiss Inn for 43 years, but the building's owners deemed it to be too dangerous for future public events after the 2018 festival. This year's festival, scheduled for Sept. 29-Oct. 2, will be at the Har-

ley Tucker Memorial Rodeo Grounds in Joseph.

Anderson, who has long headed the Alpenfest, was eager to bring the festival back after being canceled for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're going to hold it this year no matter what," he said.

"We do," Roberts said. "There aren't very many acres in Wallowa County and they're located in spots that are more conducive to private ownership, if we can get that — or county ownership — so if you need to dispose of parcels, the county would like to offer."

Roberts and Monger agreed they would keep in touch over possible transfer

County may get BLM land

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners heard a brief presentation from Wayne Monger of the federal Bureau of Land Management in Vale who discussed possibly divesting the BLM of its minimal holdings in the county.

Monger, who is relatively new to the position, said he wished to become known to the board. He said he will be implementing a quarterly report from his district.

He emphasized that fire season has started, mentioning a 4,000-acre blaze that burned north of Vale.

"Just be aware, it is coming," he said of the fire season.

Monger said his district covers about 5.1 million acres and Commissioner Todd Nash said the BLM holds less than 30,000 acres in Wallowa County.

However, several parcels are in key places and Commissioner Chairwoman Susan Roberts asked Monger that if the BLM wishes to divest itself of some of its holdings in the county, the county or private landowners might be interested in purchasing it or accepting a donation of the land.

"We'll have to look at parcels we'd consider for disposal, so if you have any suggestions, by all means," Monger said.

"There aren't very many acres in Wallowa County and they're located in spots that are more conducive to private ownership, if we can get that — or county ownership — so if you need to dispose of parcels, the county would like to offer."

Roberts and Monger agreed they would keep in touch over possible transfer

of ownership.

Nash said his main concern is along the Minam River down to Troy.

"The use of it has ramped up considerably," he said, "that being a wild and scenic river and everything reverts back to BLM, but there really isn't a presence of BLM here in the county. I'm like Commissioner Roberts in that either you need to have a presence and help us through some of the concerns that arise or wash your hands of it."

Roberts said the county has a permanent easement with BLM for Wildcat Road that the agency has land along.

Commissioner John Hillcock agreed, saying county access is crucial.

"The last time there was a flash flood, we couldn't get in to do work on the road," he said.

Roberts said the easement that has since been arranged is the solution to that access.

The commissioners also:

- Approved a resolution to declare certain property surplus and sell it at a minimum cost.

- "It also prohibits us from selling dangerous things, hazardous things and prevents us from purchasing them ourselves or getting our best friend to buy it and then give it to us," Roberts laughed.

- Initiated the process to obtain a \$20,000 grant from the Wildhorse Foundation for a therapy K9 for Community Corrections.

- Hired Gavin Collier as a juvenile tracker — sort of a modern-day truant officer — with the county's Department of Youth Services and accepted the resignation of Brooke Langerman as a 911 dispatcher because she took another position and the retirement of William Moore as a custodian.

Stabbing leaves Hermiston man dead

Parking lot fight at Hells Canyon Overlook led to death

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

HELLS CANYON OVERLOOK — A 64-year-old Hermiston man was stabbed to death at the Hells Canyon Overlook in south-

eastern Wallowa County on Friday, July 8, according to a press release from the Wallowa County Sheriff's Office.

Dan Ridling got into an altercation with an Albany man and was stabbed in the torso, Sheriff Joel Fish said Monday. He died at the scene.

"They got in an altercation in the parking lot," Fish said. "It was a fight between two guys and he ended up stabbed."

He said the weapon used

was a fixed-blade sheathed knife similar to a hunting knife.

The Oregon State Police Major Crimes Unit was requested and responded to assist with the investigation, the release stated. The 911 call requesting medical assistance was made at 11:36 a.m.

The man who is believed to have done the stabbing cooperated with the investigation, Fish said. Ridling's wife also was interviewed.

No charges have yet been filed. Officials are awaiting the results of an autopsy before making any decision on charges.

"Once we get it all done, it'll go to the grand jury," Fish said. "He's not been charged with anything."

As a result, Fish declined to identify the Albany man.

Fish stated in the release that there are no known threats to the public following the incident.

IN BRIEF

Wrestling camp to honor Maben

ENTERPRISE — The Northeast Oregon Wrestling Club will host a wrestling camp Aug. 4-6 in Enterprise with the Eastern Oregon Mountaineer as clinicians. The camp is in memory of Gary Maben who started the Northeast Oregon Wrestling Club and was a major part of Wallowa County wrestling for 15 years. He passed away a year ago.

Check-in begins at noon on Aug. 4 with two technique sessions starting at 1 and 3 p.m. The technique sessions continue at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Aug. 5 with a takedown tournament starting at 3 p.m. On Aug. 6, there is technique sessions at

9 a.m. and 1 p.m. followed by a bracketed tournament at 3 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$75 with checks made payable to Northeast Oregon Wrestling Club. Camp T-shirts will go to everyone who registers by July 22. For more information, contact Troy Farwell at 541-263-1555.

Bridge replacement to begin soon

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.

Tamkaliks work day is July 16

WALLOWA — Tamkaliks prep volunteer work day is Saturday, July 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Arbor, 70956 Whiskey Creek Road in Wallowa. Bring work gloves, a water bottle, a weed wacker, weeding tools, a wheelbarrow, wrenches and drills if you have them. Lunch will be provided.

To sign up go to https://wallowanez-perce.kindful.com/register/2022-tamkaliks-volunteer-sign-up-2022?utm_

source=Nez+Perce+Wallowa+Homeland&utm_campaign=a561aa15e6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_07_11_11_38&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d4a3a215c6-a561aa15e6-15935705.

Locals earn academic honor

PENDLETON — Wallowa County's Eryn Britton and Hunter Weaver were named to the President's List with GPA's between 3.75 and 4.0 for the 2021-22 winter term at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

— Chieftain staff

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Births
A daughter, Findley Kay Stangel, was born June 26, 2022 in Enterprise to Lucas Stangel and Beth McClaran of Enterprise. Grandparents are Vicki McClaran, Scott McClaran, and Dick & Nancy Stangel.
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