

# Local

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

### 50 YEARS AGO from the Democrat-Herald August 30, 1971

The six and a half mile stretch of Elkhorn Drive leading to Anthony Lakes was finished last week and final inspection of the paving project was completed by Forest Service inspectors and officials Friday.

The project which laid down thirty feet of asphalt and sealed coat topping cost \$260,000 to complete.

### 25 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 30, 1996

**BALDY CREEK TRAILHEAD** — The normally transparent water of the North Fork John Day River resembles chocolate milk this Tuesday morning as it flows beneath the halved log that bridges the river here.

Rain is falling, a constant, cold drizzle that belies the calendar.

The water is dark brown because it is carrying ash and scorched dirt from forests burned in the Sloans Ridge fire earlier this month.

Where the flames burned hottest, there is no grass and there are no shrubs to hold the soil or to slow the rain as it trickles down the slopes and into the river channel.

### 10 YEARS AGO from the Baker City Herald August 31, 2011

The smoke that settled in Baker Valley on Tuesday traveled halfway across Oregon to get here.

Although lightning sparked more than 20 fires in Northeastern Oregon on Sunday, most of those blazes were put out before they had burned more than half an acre.

Meanwhile a complex of blazes on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation near Madras has spread over more than 60,000 acres, producing clouds of smoke that were pushed eastward by westerly winds.

### ONE YEAR AGO from the Baker City Herald August 29, 2020

Their career was selling books, but it's the people — their loyal customers — who Carolyn and Tom Kulog mention most.

"Meeting and serving our customers has been the biggest reward of bookselling for us," they said.

After 32 years at Betty's Books, the Kulogs sold the business in July to Jeana Phillips.

"We're very happy that Jeana was ready to step up to pursue a longtime dream of hers to own the bookstore just at the time we were ready to step down," Carolyn said. "It was truly time for us to see what the next chapter might hold for us."

Phillips is a Baker City native. She graduated from Baker High School in 1997, earned a degree at Oregon State University, and returned to Eastern Oregon to "work in the helping professions providing casework, counseling and advocacy."

She said owning Betty's Books combines her two favorite things: people and books.

"I love connecting with people, making recommendations as to what they may or may not like, what will challenge them a bit and having that in return," she said. "It is a gift that I hope to never take for granted."

Phillips, an avid reader, is just 9 months younger than the bookstore.

## OREGON LOTTERY

### MEGABUCKS, Aug. 28

8 — 9 — 13 — 15 — 26 — 41

Next jackpot: \$204 million

### POWERBALL, Aug. 28

12 — 22 — 26 — 46 — 59 PB 26

Next jackpot: \$332 million

### MEGA MILLIONS, Aug. 27

1 — 10 — 44 — 47 — 56 Mega 23

Next jackpot: \$306 million

### WIN FOR LIFE, Aug. 28

32 — 36 — 51 — 60

### PICK 4, Aug. 29

• 1 p.m.: 3 — 4 — 7 — 1

• 4 p.m.: 8 — 5 — 3 — 2

• 7 p.m.: 0 — 7 — 2 — 0

• 10 p.m.: 4 — 1 — 2 — 6

### LUCKY LINES, Aug. 29

1-8-11-13-18-24-28-29

Next jackpot: \$74,000

## SENIOR MENUS

- **WEDNESDAY:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, rolls, Jell-O with fruit, bread pudding
- **THURSDAY:** Prime rib, baked potatoes, green beans, rolls, broccoli and bacon salad, ice cream
- **FRIDAY:** Pork roast, red potatoes, baby carrots, rolls, ambrosia pudding
- **MONDAY (Sept. 6):** CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- **TUESDAY (Sept. 7):** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, biscuits, cottage cheese and Jell-O salad, brownies

Public luncheon at the Senior Center, 2810 Cedar St., from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; \$5 donation (60 and older), \$7.50 for those under 60.

## CONTACT THE HERALD

2005 Washington Ave., Suite 101  
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# County sets virtual meeting on COVID, hospitals

## Baker City Herald

Baker County officials have scheduled a virtual town hall for Thursday, Sept. 2 to discuss the current surge in COVID-19 cases and concerns regarding hospital capacity.

Residents can participate by phone or by Zoom.

The panel will include:

- Dr. Eric Lamb, Baker

## County public health officer

- Dr. Lily Wittich of St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical Associates
- Priscilla Lynn, president and chief nursing officer for Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City
- Nancy Staten, Baker County Health Department director
- Mark Bennett, Baker

County commissioner and the county's incident commander during the pandemic

The town hall will run from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Residents can submit questions in advance by emailing them to [pio@bakercounty.org](mailto:pio@bakercounty.org), or during the meeting through Zoom.

Options for participating:

## By phone

Call 1-877-853-5247 (toll free), enter meeting ID 839 6510 8083, and passcode 559535

## By computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965108083?pwd=RVA2UTlQblcyM3JudEVxOGtSTWF-hZz09>  
Passcode: 559535

# Oregon's Alpenfest, Juniper Jam canceled due to COVID-19

## The (La Grande) Observer

**JOSEPH** — For the second year in a row, Oregon's Alpenfest has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Directors of Oregon's Alpenfest, a Swiss-Bavarian variation on the typical Oktoberfest, have canceled the festival for the second straight year because of the dramatic increase in COVID-19 case counts in Wallowa County and statewide.

The festival was to have featured Mollie B & SqueezeBox, one of the most in-demand bands in the polka industry, Sept. 23-26 at the Harley Tucker Rodeo Grounds in Joseph. Since 1975, Alpenfest has been the last major Wallowa County event of the tourist season.

Advance ticket holders will receive refunds, according to Chuck Anderson, Alpenmeister of the festival and president of its nonprofit organization, Alpenfest.

"We regret having to do this, but we were anticipating record attendance because of Mollie B and that would have meant hundreds of guests gathered in an enclosed space," Anderson said. "Even with face masks, we couldn't risk the health any of our loyal fans, volunteers or performers."

The festival has endured ups and downs during its 46-year history. In its first incarnation, "Alpenfest," it ran from

1975 to 2008, when it was discontinued due to declining attendance.

A new organization revived it as Oregon's Alpenfest in 2012. Then it was threatened financially in 2019 when it lost its longtime home at the Wallowa Lake Tramway and a giant rented tent proved to be burdensome due to weather, logistical problems and the tent's rental cost. The setback was averted thanks to assistance from Community Bank.

The 2020 festival had been canceled because Oregon banned large gatherings during an earlier stage of the pandemic. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown hadn't yet taken that step during the current surge in cases, but Anderson said Alpenfest's board of directors concluded that the risk to attendees was too great.

"There's no question that we will survive," Anderson said. "In the early 20th century, despite tough odds, Swiss and German immigrants helped settle Oregon. We aren't any different."

The 2022 festival is scheduled for Sept. 22-25.

The recent coronavirus spike also claimed another event, as Juniper Jam was canceled, organizers announced Wednesday, Aug. 18.

"The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in our region has led us to this heart-



Oregon's Alpenfest/Contributed Photo

Directors of Oregon's Alpenfest, a Swiss-Bavarian variation on the typical Oktoberfest, have canceled the festival for the second straight year.

breaking decision, and we urge folks to get vaccinated and help stop the spread of this awful virus," the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance said.

Online ticket sales will be refunded, and those who purchased tickets from local outlets are encouraged to return to those locations for their refund.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 3, 2022.

Hells Canyon Mule Days, planned for Sept. 10-12, has also been cancelled — with the exception of the Dave Stamey concert at 5 p.m. Sept. 12 at the fairgrounds in Enterprise.

# Baker County Fair results

## Baker City Herald

Results from the Baker County Fair

## Market

- Rabbits: Grand Champion, Tyler Myatt; Reserve Gr. Champion, Chase Myatt
- Swine: Grand Champion, Henry Hester; Reserve Gr. Champion, Jake Eskew
- Steer: Grand Champion,

Sydney Keller; Reserve Gr. Champion, Kate Norton

- Lamb: Grand Champion, Maggie Stanbro; Reserve Gr. Champion, Tessa Garrick
- Goat: Grand Champion, Colton Luschen; Reserve Gr. Champion, Taylor Johnson

## Showmanship

- Poultry: Grand Champion, Julianna Sandberg;

Reserve Gr. Champion; Kathleen Nilsen

- Cavy: Grand Champion, Alexander (Xander) Johnson; Reserve Gr. Champion, none
- Rabbits: Grand Champion, Alexis Rupel; Reserve Gr. Champion, Tyler Myatt
- Swine: Grand Champion, Cody Eskew; Reserve Gr. Champion, Jake Eskew

- Steer: Grand Champion, Angelina Tennent; Reserve Gr. Champion, Sydney Keller

- Lamb: Grand Champion, Maggie Stanbro; Reserve Gr. Champion, Logan Neff
- Goat: Grand Champion, Taylor Johnson; Reserve Gr. Champion, Ashtyn Cowan
- Horse: Grand Champion, Kodi Miller; Reserve Gr. Champion, Zack Morrison

## OBITUARY

### John Neske

Baker City, 1957-2021

John Anton Neske, 64, of Baker City, died from a heart attack on Aug. 22, 2021, at his home.

A memorial service will take place on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Baker City Church of the Nazarene, 1250 Hughes Lane.

John was born on April 22, 1957, at Corona, California, to John "Jack" and Beverly Neske. He graduated from Baker High School in 1975. After graduation he worked for Kenny and Delma Miles on their ranch. He bought a bale wagon and started his own custom stacking business. He married Marcella Dallimore on

Oct. 24, 1980, at the Medical Springs Grange. They settled on a farm in the Baker Valley where they raised their children. He and his brother started Neske Bros., a custom haying and farming business, which they operated with their wives and children. His dedication to farming led him to serve as a board member of the Baker Valley Irrigation District for many years.

Family was important to him and he is survived by his wife, Marcella Neske of Baker City; his son and daughter-in-law, Joshua and Angeline Neske of Anthony, Kansas; his daughter and son-in-law, JoLynn and Jimmy Lunders of Nampa, Idaho; six grandchildren Xavier, Liam,

Isaiah, Jaxson, JD (James) and Evelyn; his mom, Beverly Schaefer (Neske) of Baker City; his sister, Patty Rowe and her husband, Richard, of Haines; his brother, Martin, and his wife, Mary Neske of Baker City; and his sister, Dana Robinson and her husband, Mark, of Springfield, Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Evelyn Neske, and Anton and Margaret Swenson; his father, Jack Neske; his sister, Kathy Smetana; and his stepfather, Duane Schaefer.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Northeast Oregon Compassion Center through Coles Tribute Center, 1950 Place St., Baker City, OR 97814.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### FUNERALS PENDING

**Tharrell Tigler:** Graveside service with military honors will take place Thursday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com).

**Donna Weir:** Graveside service will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Online condolences can be made at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneral-home.com).

**David Coughlin:** Celebration of life, Sunday, Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Quail Ridge Golf Course, 2801 Indiana Ave. in Baker City.

### POLICE LOG

**Baker City Police Arrests, citations**  
CONTEMPT OF COURT (2 Baker County Justice Court warrants): Kyle Ryan Bork, 21, Baker City, 11:04 a.m. Friday, Aug. 27 in the 3400 block of 13th Street; cited and released.

**Oregon State Police Arrests, citations**  
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS, RECKLESS DRIVING: Logan Gabriel Thumm, 37, Meridian, Idaho, 8:24 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27 on Interstate 84, Milepost 320 westbound; cited and released.

**Accident report**  
A motorcyclist rider, Gary Wayne Hodgin, 74, of Milwaukie, was injured when he failed to negotiate a banked turn on Highway 26 near Milepost 209, about three miles northwest of Unity, on Friday, Aug. 27,

according to an OSP report. Hodgin, who was riding with a group of motorcyclists, was taken by Life Flight helicopter to Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, where he was in fair condition Monday, morning, Aug. 30.

**Accident report**  
Two women spent the night in their car after it went off Highway 7 near Milepost 13, about 37 miles southwest of Baker City, on the night of Wednesday, Aug. 25, according to an OSP report. Sr. Trooper David Aydelotte wrote in a report that the driver, Eileen Helen Scott, 67, of Lebanon, told him the accident happened about 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 25 when she steered to avoid a deer. The Chevrolet Malibu went down a steep embankment, and with no cell service, Scott and her passenger, Tina Marie Lester, 55, of Sweet Home, spent the night in their vehicle. On the morning of

Aug. 26 a passer-by saw the car and reported it to police. Neither the driver nor the passenger was hurt.



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