

# Couple cooks up barbecue contest win

Tri-tip recipe perfected by cooking for high school football team

By SEAN HART  
Staff Writer

Cooking for the Hermiston High School football team paid off for a local grilling team.

Mike and Deannie Simon, from team Smokin' Hot & Saucy, placed in all four divisions at the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Aug. 12 and took home the top prize of a new grill.

Competing against more than 10 other teams, the couple won the beef division with a tri-tip recipe Mike Simon has had many opportunities to perfect. He said he cooked meals of roughly 100 tri-tips multiple times last year: for several Hermiston football games in the regular season and all of the postseason games.

"I use Spade L seasoning. You can get it basically at any grocery store," he said. "I just a tenderizer and then I smoke it really heavy for about two hours at 225 (degrees), and it just comes out perfect every time."

Simon said the key to grilling is simplicity. The type of grill used isn't particularly important either, he said. Although he now has several grills, including a four-rack trailer that can cook about 85 tri-tips



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Mike Simon cuts up the tri-tip that won the beef division and helped propel team Smokin' Hot & Saucy to the overall victory in the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Wednesday. He has had a lot of practice cooking the dish, grilling hundreds of tri-tips for the Hermiston High School football team.

at once, he said the best he ever cooked was on a cheaper, basic grill.

Deannie Simon said the fact that she and her husband both enjoy eating helped propel them to victory. She said they started developing the recipe for their lamb meatballs about a week earlier.

"We've been eating lamb all week long," she said.

The Simons placed third in the lamb division, third in the onion division and second in the potato division.

All of the contestants were provided with a cut of tri-tip, a lamb sirloin

roast, 10 potatoes and four onions. First place in each division was awarded \$300, with second and third places receiving \$200 and \$100, respectively.

Jeff and Denise Marks, from team Conestoga, also placed in all four divisions but finished six points behind. The Marks team placed first in the lamb division, third in the beef division, second in the onion division and third in the potato division.

Die Hard BBQ, comprised of Tim Watts, Bob Crow and Corey Ashbeck, placed first in both the onion and potato divisions.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Fairgoers sample the entries in the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Wednesday. Hermiston residents Mike and Deannie Simon, team Smokin' Hot & Saucy, won the overall competition.



STAFF PHOTO BY SEAN HART

Jeff Marks checks on his lamb kabobs that won the lamb division at the Umatilla County Fair Backyard BBQ Contest Wednesday. Team Conestoga, comprised of Jeff and Denise Marks, placed in all four divisions in the contest but came in six points behind overall winners Mike and Deannie Simon.

## Winning grill entries

**Overall and beef division winner: Smokin' Hot & Saucy (Mike and Deannie Simon)**

Mike's Tri-tip  
Ingredients: tri-tip, Spade L Ranch Beef Marinade & Seasoning. Trim fat from tri-tip. Rub with seasoning. Smoke at 225 degrees for two hours.

**Grilled Lamb Meatballs**

Ingredients: one pound ground lamb, two tablespoons dry bulgur, two cloves minced garlic, one small onion grated and drained, one tablespoon kosher salt, one-half teaspoon pepper, one egg beaten, one teaspoon cumin, one teaspoon paprika, two tablespoons chopped parsley, two tablespoons olive oil.  
Mix everything but olive oil. Make into patties and coat with olive oil. Grill on medium high five minutes per side.  
Sauce: one-half cup Greek yogurt, one teaspoon cumin, one-half teaspoon cayenne pepper, one-eighth teaspoon sea salt.  
Mix and chill.

**Bacon Cheddar Potato Tart**

Ingredients: bacon, thin sliced potatoes, whipping cream, shredded sharp cheddar cheese, sliced provolone cheese, salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder.  
Line pan with bacon. Layer potatoes, cheeses and a bit of cream. Sprinkle each layer with salt, pepper, garlic powder and onion powder. Wrap bacon over top. Bake at 375 degrees for two to three hours until potatoes are soft. Slice and serve.

**BBQ Onion**

Ingredients: onion, slice of bacon, barbecue sauce.  
Cut top off onion. Peel and cut out core. Wrap strip of bacon around onion and secure with a toothpick. Fill onion with barbecue sauce. Bake at 375 degrees for two hours. Continue to coat with barbecue sauce. Cover with foil for last hour.

**Lamb division winner: Conestoga (Jeff and Denise Marks)**

Lamb Kabob  
Ingredients: lamb, Greek yogurt, red onion, green peppers, yellow peppers, red peppers.  
Marinate lamb in Greek yogurt. Skewer lamb, onion and peppers. Grill kabob.

**Potato division and onion division winner: Die Hard BBQ (Tim Watts, Bob Crow and Corey Ashbeck)**

Scalloped Potatoes with Bacon and Chipotle Cream  
Copyrighted recipe available at [www.traegergrills.com/recipes/print/270](http://www.traegergrills.com/recipes/print/270).

**Smoked Bacon Wrapped Onion Rings**

Copyrighted recipe available at [grilling24x7.com/smoked-bacon-wrapped-onion-rings](http://grilling24x7.com/smoked-bacon-wrapped-onion-rings).

## Irrigon woman sews up Morrow County Fair quilting award



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Cara Osmin, co-superintendent of the Morrow County Fair's quilts and comforters department, shows off the judges choice. The quilt was entered by Cheryl Hobbs of Irrigon. The fair kicks off today and runs through Saturday in Heppner. Admission is \$3 or \$1 for youths ages 6-12. For a complete schedule, visit [www.morrowcountyoregon.com](http://www.morrowcountyoregon.com).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Echo School District registration planned Aug. 20-21

Registration for the Echo School District will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 20-21.

The first day of school for the district is Aug. 24. School hours for kindergarten through the third grade are 8:10 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

For grades four and five, hours are from 8 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. For grades six through 12, hours are from 7:45 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.

### Food bank seeks focus group participants

The Oregon Food

Bank is seeking input from people who have received emergency food during the past year in Oregon.

The focus group is limited to 15 people. The gathering is Monday, Sept. 14 from 1-3 p.m. at Agape House, 500 Harper

Road, Hermiston. Snacks and refreshments will be provided to participants.

For more information or to register, call Dave Hughes at 541-567-8774.

**Murray's 19th Annual Beer & Wine Tasting**  
Thurs., Aug. 20, 2015  
6-10:30pm  
Morrow County Fairgrounds  
Fair admission required

- Live entertainment
- Joe Lindsay Family/Friends
- Lake Basile and Dakota Brown
- BBQ beef dinner

Featuring award winning wines from all over the world!  
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Worship.....11:00 am  
Evening Service.....7:00 pm  
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm  
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."  
1 Pet. 5:7

**First United Methodist Church Of Hermiston**  
Rev. Dr. James T. Pierce, Pastor  
Open Hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
191 E. Gladys Ave.  
Sunday Worship at 11am  
(541) 567-3002

**Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church**  
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.  
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday  
.....English 7:00 am  
THURSDAY.....Spanish 6:00 pm  
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm  
.....Spanish 7:00 pm  
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am  
.....Bilingual 11:00 am  
OFFICE.....Spanish 1:00 pm  
.....567-5812

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
567-9497  
Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 pm  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
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**NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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"People Making A Difference"  
Sunday Worship Services  
9:00 am, 10:45 am  
Classes for kids during both  
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Dave Andrus, Pastor  
For more information call  
567-8441

**THE COUNTRY CHURCH**  
Pastor James Becker  
32742 Diagonal RD  
Hermiston OR 97838  
Sunday School 10 am  
Worship 7 am  
Evening Service 7 pm  
Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm  
Firestarter Youth Ministry  
(Ages 12-17)  
Monday @ 6 pm

**NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Pastor J.C. Barnett  
Children's Church & Nursery Available  
700 West Orchard Avenue  
P.O. Box 933  
Hermiston, Oregon  
541-289-4774

**Echo Community Church**  
21 N Bonanza Street  
Echo, OR  
Phone: (541) 376-8108  
Sunday School.....9:30 am  
Worship.....10:45 am  
Children's Church.....11:15 am  
Potluck & Communion ~  
First Sunday of the Month

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Saturdays  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
Allan Payne, Pastor  
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oasisvineyard.us  
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"come as you are"

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**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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Pastor David Dever  
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Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am  
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm  
[www.hermistonlmbc.com](http://www.hermistonlmbc.com)

**To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs**  
541-278-2683