

100th Anniversary Baker County Fair-Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo Is This Weekend

Fair Association President Recalls Fairs Through the Years

by Gail Kimberling  
of the Hells Canyon Journal

The Baker County Fair - Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo is celebrating its 100th year in 2021. As part of the preparations for the centennial event, the HELLS CANYON JOURNAL is pleased to offer this series highlighting the history of the fair with information gleaned from fair board minutes, premium books, newspaper stories, personal recollections from the PINE VALLEY VIGNETTES and other sources.

Part VIII

It is only fitting Melody Huff is president of the Pine Valley Fair Association for the 100th anniversary of the Baker County Fair - Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo.

"My granddad, Perk Ritter, helped start it," Huff said. "He rode bucking horses for many years but eventually decided he was too old for that. But he still did a lot of cowboying and he always came to the fair and rodeo."

In one of the fair's early years Ritter won first prize of \$75 in a bucking contest and bought a Hamley saddle. Ritter later gave the saddle to Huff, and she will proudly use it while riding in this year's Grand Entry and parade.

"When I grew up we never missed a rodeo or fair," Huff said. "When my grandad couldn't come any more because of his emphysema my grandma and my dad and I always came, and after my dad died my grandma and I never missed it."

"Then I grew up and got married and I still never missed a fair. I liked to take in everything and go out at night and see everyone. I always brought stuff to the Exhibit Hall - baked goods and fancy work and flowers and artwork, back when I used to have time to paint."

Schedule and Royalty

A schedule of events for the 2021 Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo appears on page 14 of this issue. This year's rodeo royalty appears on page 13

Huff's involvement deepened when her daughter, Jade, became old enough to be a princess in the Junior Rodeo and, a few years later, in the Baker County Fair - Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo.

"I didn't know so much work went into getting it going," Huff recalled. "All those years, until I was about 30, I thought people just showed up and it happened. I was just amazed at how many months of planning went into it."

Preparing the Program

Huff began helping Deania Corrigan with the program for the Junior Rodeo in 1996, "and then I got the fair program put in my lap, too," she said.

Learning as she went, Huff "stuck to the basics" at first but decided to change things up when Jade became Fair Queen in 2000.

"I put an old photo on the front and more photos inside. We went from hardly being able to give them away to people buying them, and within a few years we were picking them up in the stands because we'd run short and needed extras to sell," Huff said. "I enjoyed that and had a lot of pride in my daughter being royalty."

"Then there was some controversy, and I quit for a few years," Huff continued. "They did away with the program and that was a sad thing. That program could bring in up to \$4,000 from just the advertising alone, not to mention the buckles and purse money and arena signs."

But Huff couldn't stay away for long and she returned to



Photo by Gail Kimberling

MELODY HUFF, PRESIDENT OF THE PINE VALLEY FAIR ASSOCIATION, will be using her grandad Perk Ritter's saddle while riding in the parade and Grand Entry during the 100th Baker County Fair - Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo. Ritter, who won money for the saddle in a bucking contest, was among the founders of the fair and rodeo.

work on the program once again.

"When there was a shakeup [on the board] Dale Taylor asked me to take over as president," Huff said. "I told him I couldn't do it that year because we had a big family reunion happening at my house and I couldn't devote time to both."

"So Dale was president for one more year and I was elected in 2018. I was president in 2019, the last time we had a fair and rodeo, since we didn't have one last year due to COVID."

The fair association currently has about 31 members, although not all are active.

"A lot of members are over 65 and a lot of those are the active ones," Huff said with amazement.

Serving on the board with Huff are vice president Bob Taylor, secretary Lynda Bird, treasurer Phyllis Thomas and directors John Duggan, Krischele Whitnah, Rusti Lattin, Derral Thomas and Liz McCullough.

Huff said, "I try to make sure everyone gets along. I try to bring donuts and cookies or whatever to meetings since not everyone has time for dinner. I try to keep everything kind of light."

"We can always use more help. It takes a lot of people

to put on the fair, not just fair members but also volunteers."

Fair Traditions

"I just love the fair; I've always loved the fair," Huff said. "When they thought we were going to lose the grounds and never have a fair again I was devastated - that's part of my life!"

"I love all of it," she continued. "I like coming down here and seeing everybody. I like the rodeo, I like my job doing the program, I like my job of helping the announcer and sitting up there [in the announcer's booth] and seeing everything."

Continued on page 7

Grand Marshals Ken and Sandra Wheeler Recall Years of Active Fair Involvement

The Wheeler family, Ken, Sandra and their three children - Mark, Dairy and Matthew - came to Pine Valley in the fall of 1974 following Ken's retirement from the Air Force.

With much appreciated help from a long time friend, the Wheelers located a small parcel of land and began the construction of a home and future for their family.

Ken and Sandra had some experience in 4-H projects but not with show animals due to Ken's career. They purchased some sheep and had a horse and a couple of calves from the auction yard in Baker City at the time.

In 1975, with their interest piqued in the goings on at the county fair, Ken and Sandra went to view the livestock housed at the fair's livestock buildings.

"We found only a very small number at that time," Ken said. "We immediately took it upon ourselves to help fill the pens so home we went, where we gathered some ewes with lambs at their side and a sow with an abundant litter of piglets and we filled the remaining pens."

Around 1976, the Wheelers' daughter Dairy had a lamb she wanted to show; however, it got out on the road one Sunday afternoon and was accidentally hit and killed by Roy Smelcer.

Ken said, "Finding out it was our daughter's show animal, he kindly and generously gave her a Hereford heifer which she showed a number of years, winning many ribbons with her."

At some point in late '70s or early '80s some folks involved with the Junior Livestock Show in Baker (no City in the title at the time) approached Sandra - who had become



Photo by Steve Backstrom

KEN AND SANDY WHEELER, Grand Marshals for the 2021 Baker County Fair-Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo.

pretty much the go-to leader of the livestock part of the fair in Halfway - about promoting a market animal auction for the kids showing here.

This became a reality with the auction of a few market lambs in the rodeo arena and soon became a great success to the point it was interfering with the start of the rodeo.

"Thus, the whole of the livestock show and auction was forced into the crowded space of the original livestock building until later when all was moved into the new pavilion in about 1999," Ken recalled.

The Wheelers left the area in 1986 seeking work elsewhere but returned in 1998, again taking the reins of the livestock portion of the fair.

Ken said, "When the move was made to house the livestock show and sale in the new pavilion there was much new materials for pens, and panels were needed to house and show the animals as the whole of it had grown tremendously in our absence. Sandra worked tirelessly seeking donations,

materials and craftsmen willing to help bring things together. We hauled considerable amount of materials back and forth during that period.

"There are many to thank for the success of what we have today," Ken continued. "To those who took over when we moved in '86 and to those who committed with us after we returned until we gave it up in 2006. Much credit is also due to the Pine Eagle Charter School Ag Dept toward the building, erecting and takedown of facilities for the livestock show and sale, also to Behlen Manufacturing of Baker City goes credit for materials, painting and product donation. Countless hours of those hands helped with every aspect of the livestock division."

After being activity involved in the fair for a total of 19 years and still involved to this day, Ken and Sandra offer their thanks to the Pine Valley Fair Association for recognizing their part in the success everyone now enjoys.

First Day of School



Photo by Gail Kimberling

PINE EAGLE CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS returned to the classroom Monday, August 30 for the 2021-22 school year, which meant everyone was busy organizing school supplies and becoming familiar with new schedules and policies. Here, second grade assistant Julie Zaccone helps Koy Martin arrange his desk.



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HELLS CANYON JOURNAL  
PO Box 646  
Halfway, OR 97834  
541-742-7900



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Wednesday, September 1**

**Community Bus to Baker City, 8:30 a.m.** Call 742-RIDE (742-7433) by Tuesday night.  
**Crafters and Quilters, New Bridge Grange, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**Pine Valley Recycling Center Open, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, September 2**

**Senior Meals-To-Go at New Bridge Grange, 12:00 noon.**  
**Senior Meals-To-Go at Old Pine Market parking lot, 1:00 p.m.**

**Friday, September 3**

**PEHS Football at South Wasco County, 3:00 p.m.**  
**PEHS Volleyball vs. Cove, here, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Exhibit Hall Open for exhibits, PV Fairgrounds, 3:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Livestock Show Registration, Hells Canyon Arena, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 4**

**Free Fair Breakfast, sponsored by Safeway, Fairgrounds Cook Shack, 7:00-10:00 a.m.**  
**Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo, see page 12 for complete schedule of events.**  
**Farmers Market at Halfway Whimsical, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.**

**Sunday, September 5**

**Halfway Lions Club's Let 'R Buck Breakfast, Halfway Lions Hall, 7:00-10:00 a.m.**  
**Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo, see page 12 for complete schedule of events.**

**Monday, September 6**

**Halfway Lions Club's Let 'R Buck Breakfast, 7:00-10:00 a.m.**  
**Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo, see page 12 for complete schedule of events.**

**Tuesday, September 7**

**Pine Valley Fire District Board, Halfway Fire Hall, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, September 8**

**Community Bus to Baker City, 8:30 a.m.** Call 742-RIDE (742-7433) by Tuesday night.  
**Crafters and Quilters, New Bridge Grange, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**Pine Valley Recycling Center Open, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

# EV Grange Steak Feed This Saturday

by Sherrie Kvamme  
of the Hells Canyon Journal

It's time! The Eagle Valley Grange Annual Steak Feed is this weekend! The guys have been upgrading the grilling area at the pavilion and getting ready to put out some of the best Painted Hills Natural Beef steaks ever. Krista Dennis is baking homemade French bread, there will be baked potatoes and fresh corn on the cob with a generous choice of beverages and ice cream cups for dessert all for \$20. For the kids or smaller appetites, there are hot dog meals for \$5.

The raffles are going to be fun. D&B in Baker City has donated one of their "What's in my Bucket?" for the raffle. You'll have to come and see what, in addition to a \$50 gift certificate, is included! Jerry and Lynn Clark of the Redneck Table Company out of Keating donated a beautiful blue pine welcome sign that came from a tree that was across from the fairgrounds in Halfway. The sign took 10 hours to create, start to finish.

Each steak dinner, comes with a raffle ticket and you do not need to be present to win. You can purchase additional tickets for \$1 and six tickets for \$5. Proceeds from the raffle will be used for projects and maintenance at the park.

The ever-popular Silver-smiths – Birdie, Shelly and D.J. – will be back with all of your favorite songs, and their toe-tapping, get-up-and-dance music!



Photo by Sherrie Kvamme

**KRISTA DENNIS** displays the prizes that will be raffled off at the 45th annual Eagle Valley Grange Steak Feed, this Saturday, September 3 at the Eagle Valley Grange Park.

This year's donation jar has been designated for sweet little Naomi Bechtold, the 18-month-old daughter of Ben and Emily Bechtold of Baker City and granddaughter of Eagle Valley's Stan and Dollie Bechtold, who was diagnosed last month with a rare form of leukemia.

Enjoy the fair in Halfway, then be sure to come to the

Eagle Valley Grange Community Park for a great steak dinner with all of the fixings. The gates will be wide open and the grills will be going from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 4.

Bring your friends and family and a good appetite. You won't want to miss the 45th annual Eagle Valley Grange Steak Feed.

# Pine Fest Follows the Fair on September 11

Pine Fest, the annual music festival in Halfway, is scheduled for the Saturday after the Baker County Fair, September 11 from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Performers will include Coyote Willow, Steve Fulton Music, Never Come Down and Kris Deelane and the Hurt. More information about Never Come Down, one of the headliners scheduled to perform at 6:00 p.m. appears on page 9.

Food vendors from the Hells Canyon Inn and MC Taco Bus will be on hand to satisfy hungry music lovers. Beer from Barley Brown's in Baker City will be flowing the VFW beer booth, and Halfway Sober will offer wine in a booth nearby. An assortment of craft vendors will also offer their wares at this year's festival.

A selection of Pine Fest-related merchandise – baseball

caps, beer glasses, bandanas, stickers and temporary tattoos – will be available. No new t-shirts were made this year due to the uncertainty around the COVID situation.

Tickets are \$25 each and are available at brownpapertickets.com. Attendees can also pay the \$25 admission at the gate. Camping spots are available for \$20 for RV camping and \$10 for tent sites.



# Join the Parade!

September 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Halfway  
Theme ~  
**A CENTURY OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

Decorate your wagon, horse, dog, bike, truck, or yourself, and come march in the  
**Labor Day Parade!**

Line-up at Halfway Elementary School  
starting at 11AM ~ Parade starts at 12:30

No pre-registration necessary!  
Questions? Call Andrea at 541-742-4366 or  
email [paradeinhalfway@gmail.com](mailto:paradeinhalfway@gmail.com)

**FREE**  
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**DAILY**  
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**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
**After the Rodeo -**  
**Cowboy Dinners by 3Rs**  
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**RODEO ADMISSION:**  
**Reserved Seating \$12**  
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**CENTENNIAL**

# BAKER COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

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# FAIR NOTES



Submitted by Rusti Lattin  
Brandi Sangster  
and Lynne Smith

We are counting down the days until the 100th anniversary of the Halfway Fair and Panhandle Rodeo will begin this Friday. That just leaves this week to start thinking about what you might want to enter in the Exhibit Hall.

To repeat from last week, do remember that there are premium books, copies of the entry forms and exhibit tags available at two locations: outside under the roof eaves at the *Hells Canyon Journal* office in Halfway and at the Hitching Post in Richland. Also, all of the necessary paperwork will be available on Friday at the Exhibit Hall.

Again, a reminder from last week on the Exhibit Hall hours:

Friday (9/3) the Exhibit Hall will be open from 3:00 to 7:00 pm.

Saturday (9/4) we will be accepting exhibits from 7:00 to 11:00 am.

Monday (9/6) pick up exhibits from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Tuesday (9/7) pick up exhibits from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

As you all are probably aware, masks are once again required for being indoors, so do keep that in mind with your participation in the Exhibit

Hall. However, we won't be actively enforcing that policy. Please keep your safety and others' in mind.

The premium book provides guidance for exhibits in each of the exhibit hall departments. Be sure to review those guidelines as you are selecting and preparing your exhibits.

Here are a few tips to help with your entries:

**Arts and Crafts:** Do remember that all paintings and drawings must be matted and/or framed and have a sturdy device on the back for display on the walls. Also, if you have an art or craft item that doesn't seem to fit in a category, the department superintendent will be happy to help you find where it fits or make a new category.

**Floriculture Entries:** It is important that you start to look at your flower beds now! Try to decide what will be in bloom at fair time and start to make your plan as to what to enter. The premium book provides guidance for each species (i.e. how many blooms or sprays are required for an entry). It is important to display your entries with their foliage and try to pick foliage that is free of damage from bugs or weather. We know that it has been a challenging year with such a hot summer. If you have any

questions about entering various flowers, be sure to give the department superintendent a phone call.

**Land Products:** We believe the biggest thing the judges look for is that your entries come into the exhibit hall free of dirt, bugs, dead leaves or other damage. So, be sure to spend some time in your garden looking for your best specimens and then allow time to clean them up for their best presentation.

**Fresh Foods:** Besides the taste test provided by the judge, all entries are judged on their visual appearance. This includes being presented on a clean, sturdy plate. Enclosing the plated entry inside a clear Ziploc bag is ideal. Do keep in mind that there is no refrigeration provided.

To get a head start on all you need to know about the fair this year, you can go online to our website at [www.halfwayfairandrodeo.com](http://www.halfwayfairandrodeo.com). This website has guidelines on entering in the Exhibit Hall as well as information on the entire weekend of events. It provides names and phone numbers for you to call with your questions.

Thanks and let's have an awesome 100th year celebration of the Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo!

## Public Use Restrictions Reduced to Phase B on Area National Forests

Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forest officials reduced Public Use Restrictions to Phase B Saturday, August 28. Phase B allows use of campfires only in designated sites and areas. Restrictions pertaining to the use of chainsaws, internal combustion engines, generators and smoking remain in effect.

As of last Saturday, campfires are only allowed in designated campfire rings within developed campgrounds and recreation sites, or within the boundaries of the Eagle Cap Wilderness subject to the guidelines on the back of the wilderness permit. (A list of designated recreation sites is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla](http://www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla) and [www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman).)

Liquefied or bottled gas stoves and heaters are allowed for cooking and heating, as are wood-burning stoves that meet the following specifications: equipped with a chimney at least five feet in length and a spark arresting screen consisting of ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth, and all flammable vegetation within a three-foot radius is cleared, including overhanging material.

Generators are allowed in the center of an area at least 10

feet in diameter cleared of all flammable material, or when fully contained within a pickup truck bed that is devoid of all flammable material, or when factory installed in a recreational vehicle and the generator exhaust discharge is located in the center of an area at least 10 feet in diameter cleared of all flammable material.

Smoking is only allowed within enclosed vehicles, buildings, and developed recreation sites, or when stopped in an area cleared of all flammable material.

As a reminder, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest prohibits possession or use of any motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway. On the Umatilla National Forest, travel restrictions prohibit motor vehicles traveling off designated Forest roads and trails, except for the purposes of going to or from campsites located within 300 feet of an open road. Motorized travel on segments of a road where access is blocked by gate, barricade, log, boulder, or earthen berm is also prohibited. Vehicles must still abide by all laws and regulations pertaining to the area of travel.

With the exception of motor vehicles, operating an internal combustion engine, such as a chainsaw, is prohibited without a valid permit. Commercial and personal use firewood permits are regulated by the conditions of the permit and separate from restrictions under this public use restriction.

Regulated closures may be in effect on state and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast and central Oregon. Please check with your local ODF office for PURs on lands protected by ODF. For more complete information, contact a local Oregon Department of Forestry office or visit one of the interagency dispatch center's webpages:

Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch webpage: [www.bmidc.org](http://www.bmidc.org)

John Day Interagency Dispatch webpage: <http://bicc-jdcdc.org/index.shtml>

Similar restrictions may also be in effect on State and private lands protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA-DNR). More information can be found on the WA-DNR website at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov>.

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PRIZE DRAWING 3PM Mon, Sept 6  
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### Friday Night Dinner

September 3 - Reservations Suggested

Visit our Facebook Page For Friday Dinner menu & other info

Closed Wed & Sat, Sept 15 & 18  
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Weekly Weather Roundup											
Pine Creek <small>(recorded by Forest Garrigus)</small>				New Bridge <small>(recorded by Peg Coffin)</small>				Halfway <small>(recorded at HCJ office)</small>			
August	High	Low	Precip.	August	High	Low	Precip.	August	High	Low	Precip.
24	85	47	0.00	24	84	47	0.00	24	79	39	0.00
25	88	49	0.00	25	85	50	0.00	25	85	42	0.00
26	87	57	0.00	26	83	60	0.00	26	83	51	0.00
27	86	53	0.00	27	82	58	0.00	27	83	49	0.00
28	89	51	0.00	28	88	51	0.00	28	83	43	0.00
29	95	49	0.00	29	94	49	0.00	29	88	42	0.00
30	94	51	0.00	30	91	55	0.00	30	88	44	0.00

84-Year Records for Halfway <small>for the same dates 1936-2020 Year in ( )</small>											
Avg.	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Max.	Min.
High	High	(Yr)	High	(Yr)	Low	Low	Low	(Yr)	Low	(Yr)	(Yr)
85	100	(66)	57	(89)	45	59	(99)	28	(92)		
85	99	(58)	63	(54)	44	60	(11)	30	(92)		
85	100	(01)	65	(41)	44	57	(40)	30	(92)		
86	100	(09)	65	(41)	45	64	(96)	30	(60)		
85	99	(11)	62	(42)	44	62	(99)	28	(60)		
85	100	(17)	64	(51)	45	62	(72)	31	(80)		
84	99	(55)	58	(43)	44	70	(38)	31	(65)		



# Letters

Fire Hall Funding

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, to close the gap for a new fire hall into acceptable territory may be the necessity to float a bond measure to pay for it. This necessitates property taxes increasing. The good thing is we have a volunteer fire department which prevents a bond from going higher.

In Manzanita on the coast, a new firehall was needed, but also a professional crew. Because the population was aging and so many homes were non-owner occupied, there were not enough locals to man the hall. The result was our taxes went up \$550 per year.

The other issue is that it is difficult to get workers. I have tried to get a plumber out to the clinic from Baker City. They are having problems getting workers. Action Plumbing will only do new work as much of the plumbing for new construction is now non technical.

For our landscaping project at the clinic we found many contractors had gone under because of the pandemic or they would not even return our calls.

Hate to say it, but we are just going to have to pay for it if we want that fire hall. I believe Richland already found this out.

Tom Nash  
Halfway, Oregon

City of Richland – Part Time Employment Maintenance Substitute

Job duties include: Weekend and holiday testing, monthly meter readings, assist Maintenance Supervisor with weed spraying, chlorine handling as needed. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Plow sidewalks in winter, as necessary. Cover for Maintenance Supervisor when he is off. Other duties will also be required, as needed.

Salary: \$12.75 to \$14.00 per hour, depending on skill level and experience. Background check and pre-employment drug test will be required.

Applications are available at Richland City Hall. City Hall is open from 8-12, Monday through Friday. Return completed application with a resumé to City Hall at 89 Main Street, or PO Box 266, Richland, OR 97870. Applications and resumé must be returned by September 15, 2021.

The City of Richland does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation or national origin, in admission to access to its hiring or employment practices.

Jacob's Dream will Close at Noon  
Saturday, September 4



So that our staff  
can volunteer  
at the Fairgrounds.  
  
See You There!


JACOB'S DREAM  
THRIFT SHOP

OPEN LABOR DAY  
Monday, September 5

Cornucopia Coffee House

Sleepy Monk Coffee ~ Smoothies ~ Baked Goods  
Pine Valley Clocks ~ Lamps ~ Decor ~ More  
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On this Labor Day Weekend, please...  
Don't Text and Drive, Have a Designated Driver,  
and Buckle Up for Safety.  
The Life You Save May Be Your Own.



Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home  
and Cremation Services 541-742-6435

Hells Canyon Journal

145 North Main St. P.O. Box 646 Halfway, OR 97834  
Phone: 541-742-7900 Fax: 541-742-7933  
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## Baker County Hosts Virtual Town Hall To Discuss Hospital Capacity

Baker County will host a virtual town hall meeting on Thursday, September 2, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., to discuss the current state of COVID-19 and critical concerns regarding hospital capacity.

The event will be held by phone and through the online conferencing service Zoom. A panel including Commissioner Mark Bennett, Baker County's Health Officer Dr. Eric Lamb, Dr. Lily Wittich of St. Luke's Eastern Oregon Medical As-

sociates and Medical Staff Liaison for Saint Alphonsus, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Baker City President and Chief Nursing Officer Priscilla Lynn, and Baker County Health Department Director Nancy Staten will discuss hospital capacity and answer questions from the community.

Questions can be submitted in advance of the meeting by emailing them to [pio@bakercounty.org](mailto:pio@bakercounty.org) or during the meeting through the Zoom

conferencing service.

To join the meeting by phone dial 1-877-853-5247 (toll free), and enter meeting ID 839 6510 8083, passcode 559535 To join by computer, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83965108083?pwd=RVh2UTlQb1cyM3JudEVxOGtSTWFnZz09> Passcode for the Zoom version of the meeting is 559535.

To ask a question before the meeting, email your question to [pio@bakercounty.org](mailto:pio@bakercounty.org).

Recycling Center Needs Cardboard Balers



Photo by Gail Kimberling

The Pine Valley Recycling Center is overflowing with cardboard and in need of organizations or individuals to bale the material for transport. The work takes about six to eight man hours to complete and pays \$90 per bale. Here, Pine Eagle High School students Caleb Brown and Cooper Gover feed the baling machine to earn money for cross country warm-ups. They volunteered for the work through the Pine Eagle United Youth Fund. For more information about cardboard baling call Linda Collier, 541-742-2790, and to learn about other fundraising opportunity projects available through the PEUYF call Kay Young, 541-742-2428.

## Pine Valley Firewise Application Approved

The fledgling Pine Valley Firewise Community has been officially recognized by the National Firewise USA® Program.

Organizers Debi Lorence, Pam Conley and Ruai Gregory have been working since mid-summer to meet official Firewise criteria and become the third approved Firewise community in Baker County, joining East Eagle Creek north of Richland and Pine Creek/Spring Creek northwest of Baker City.

The Pine Valley Firewise Community includes the Wild-

land Urban Interface (WUI) surrounding the City of Halfway; however, all landowners in Pine Valley are welcome to avail themselves of Firewise information and resources.

The goal of the nationwide program is to "assist neighbors to get organized and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities to wildfire."

The Pine Valley Firewise group held a community meeting August 11 where various fire agency officials shared their expertise about defensible spaces, communication,

evacuations and more.

Local Firewise members plan to be at this weekend's Baker County Fair - Halfway to provide information about the organization and tips on creating fire-safe communities.

For more information contact Lorence at 541-604-1151 or send an email to Pam Conley at [pamc.fire@gmail.com](mailto:pamc.fire@gmail.com).

Additional information about the Firewise program can be found at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wild-fire/Firewise-USA>.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF BAKER

IN THE MATTER OF )  
AN ORDER DIRECTING THE BAKER ) ORDER NO. 2021-148  
COUNTY SHERIFF TO MAKE SALE )  
OF COUNTY PROPERTY; FIXING THE )  
MINIMUM PRICE AND PROVIDING A )  
PORTION OF THE CONDITIONS AND )  
TERMS OF SALE )

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with ORS 275.320, designated two parcels acquired through delinquent tax foreclosure as County Parks, commonly known as East Pine, per Order No. 2017-164; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing was published weekly for two consecutive weeks per ORS 275.330(3); and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on July 21, 2021 and August 4, 2021 to obtain testimony on the proposed sale of the property as described below; and

WHEREAS, the Baker County Board of Commissioners finds the sale of such property to be in the best interest of the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Baker County Board of Commissioners ORDERS the sale of the following properties:

Section A.

Reference #	Description	Assessed Value	Minimum Bid
12135	East Pine: Approx. 40 Acres located at Township 7S, Range 46 E, W.M., Section 21 NW ¼ NE ¼ Tax Lot 1000	Market Value Timber \$50,670	\$59,500
12126	East Pine: Approx. 60 acres located at Township 7S, Range 46 E, W.M., Section 15 W ½ SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 16 SE ¼ SE ¼ Tax Lot 600	Market Value Timber \$57,000	\$89,500

Section B. The following conditions and terms of sale are required for all properties sold:

- Each purchaser will be issued a Quit Claim Deed, recorded at the expense of the purchaser. The purchaser will receive only such interest in the property as is owned by the County. The County makes no warranty or guaranty regarding liens or encumbrances. Any title or lien search is the sole responsibility of the purchaser.
- Cash or Cashier's Check payment of property shall be made within 15 business days of the date of purchase.

Section C. Sale of listed properties shall take place on the 21st day of September, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on the steps of the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, Oregon.

Done and Dated this 4th day of August, 2021.

BAKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William "Bill" Harvey, Commission Chair

Mark E. Bennett, Commissioner

Bruce A. Nichols, Commissioner



# P · E · O · P · L · E

## Crowd Pleasers



Photo by Steve Backstrom

**THE GOOD TOGETHER BAND** entertained a crowd of about 75 people on the Main Street Stage last Saturday, August 28, playing a couple of sets of favorites and eclectic tunes. Band member Sarah Greenman explained the group's name this way. "We don't practice much, but when we do play, we're good together, so we're the Good Together Band." The band is composed of (left to right) Jack Greenman, Sarah Greenman, Curt Terrall and Greg Plano.

### Funeral Notice

A graveside service honoring the memory of Donna Weir, who died Tuesday, August 24, 2021 in Green Valley, Arizona, will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland, Oregon. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

### Funeral Notice

Tharrell Tilgner, 91, formerly of Richland, Oregon died Tuesday, August 24, 2021 in Winchester, Oregon. A graveside service with military honors will be held Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland, Oregon. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences may be shared at [www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).

## Retirement Alaska-Style



Photo courtesy of David Baker

**ARTHUR AND EVE BAKER** taking a quick dip in the Arctic Ocean at Deadhorse, Alaska. Arthur recently retired after 20 years in the Marine Corps, and now lives with his family in Fairbanks, Alaska. Arthur is the son of David and Marjorie Baker of Halfway and a 1994 graduate of Pine Eagle High School.

### Museum Meeting Change

Pine Valley Museum Committee's monthly meetings are now being held in the meeting room of the Halfway Library. The meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of each month at 1:15 p.m.

### Correction

An article in last week's *H CJ* stated the Community Development Block Grant for a new fire hall in Halfway had been awarded to Pine Valley Rural Fire Protection District. The grant was actually awarded to the City of Halfway on behalf of the fire district.

### Thank You

The board of Pine Valley Recycling would like to thank Jacob's Dream for their generous donation. We appreciate their support.

We would also like to thank Dave, Whitey, and Mike for hauling recyclables to Baker City, Rick for scheduling Saturday recyclers, and all the people who work to make recycling work.

Cardboard collection for recycling is very successful at present, so if you would like to volunteer for cardboard baling, please call 541-742-2790 or 541-742-2428. Baling is easy and fun and training is available for first time balers.

## OBITUARY

### Bill Rathke

Wilburt "Bill" Robert Rathke of Halfway, Oregon and Hailey, Idaho passed away on Monday August 22, 2021 at the Shoshone Care Center in Shoshone, Idaho. He was 98 years old.

Bill was born September 27, 1922 in Hailey, Idaho to Charles and Hilda Rathke. He grew up in Hailey hunting, fishing, and skiing. In the winter you could find Bill on the ski slopes. He couldn't afford a ski ticket so he and his friend, Lonnie Linderman, built a ski lift between Green Horn and Timber Gulch where they and many friends spent countless hours skiing. Bill won the downhill at the Harriman Cup Race in Sun Valley in 1947.

Bill graduated from Hailey High School as valedictorian of his class. He was in the Engineering program at the University of Idaho when he was drafted for World War II. He served three years in the 85th Mountain Infantry, 10th Mountain Division and was an expert infantryman. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, American Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and a European African Middle Eastern Service Medal.

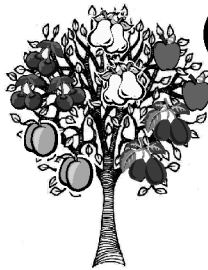
After returning from the war, he married his high



**BILL RATHKE**

school sweetheart, Louise Barr, and continued the family business, Rathke Plumbing, in Hailey. He and Louise had three children together. After their divorce Bill married Faye Hurt and moved to Halfway, Oregon. He worked for Idaho Power as the pump foreman building Brownlee Reservoir, along with two other reservoirs in Hells Canyon. Bill loved working as the owner of Rathke Plumbing in Halfway, where he worked almost every day until he was 96 years old.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Faye; his son, Steven Rathke; two siblings, George and Hilda, and his parents. He is survived by son, Bruce Rathke of Carey, Idaho; daughter, Susan (Don) McCoy of Weiser, Idaho; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



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# Eagle Creek Vineyards’ Grapes Reach Distant New Markets

by Sherrie Kvamme  
of the Hells Canyon Journal

The first wine grapes were planted at Eagle Creek Vineyards on July 4, 2013. It was a remarkable and most memorable day. What had been a vision just eight years ago, coupled with a tremendous amount of work, has transformed the landscape into a beautiful expanse of healthy grapevines laden with bountiful clusters of grapes.

“That was a crazy time and so much work,” said Lance Adams, vigneron of the vineyard. “This year the vineyard has reached another milestone. Last year a winery down in the [Willamette] valley purchased some of our grapes. Travis [Cook] called them to see if they wanted more this year. They said yes and he asked how much they wanted. They said we want it all. Travis asked them to tell him how much they wanted and then he would let them know if we have enough. We are excited that a winery in the valley wants our grapes. To know the quality of our fruit is good enough that they wanted more is pretty exciting. This was a big step. The vineyard is moving forward.”

Lance explained that for the first years, they worked through the vineyard as they could resulting in nothing ever being done at the same time. Some of the processes would take most of a month to complete, so by the time a task such as pruning was accomplished, they would have to go back and start again.

“We now have a labor contractor with a crew that comes out of Hermiston. All of the vines are kept at the same stage. Everything gets done when it is supposed to be done, and everything gets done at the same time. Never before has the vineyard been more uniform,” said Lance. “We have been able to water and

fertilize all at the same time. The vines have responded well to this method. We have been very pleased with this. We now have more clusters and bigger clusters as well.”

The extremely hot weather presented a challenge, and Lance said they won’t know until after harvest what the impact has been. With the recent cooler temperatures the last couple of weeks and the forecast of about 10 more days of cooler weather, he has noticed that the Chardonnay and the Gewurztraminer are responding, gaining in moisture and growing in size.

“We have never been without water, but the heat had stressed the vines enough that the water was going to the vines. With the cooling off we may see enough of an increase in the size of the grapes and the weight of the clusters and find they have not suffered that much.”

Harvest is scheduled almost two weeks earlier this year than it has been in the last few years. Lance is optimistic that should give them a break from the birds.

“We are hoping the birds are otherwise engaged, and we’ll have harvest completed before they even realize the grapes are ripe,” he said with a smile. “Another thing we are not doing this year is putting nets on the vines to keep the birds out. We found the nets were useful to the birds in that they used them to perch and hang from while they ate the grapes. Or they would get inside and use the nets to their benefit in being able to stay safe from predators. Last year, we did a little experiment and netted about three or four rows, and those we netted took the biggest yield loss from the birds,” he said. “Even after this many years, we are still learning something new with each season.

“Travis has arranged for the crew to come over on Sunday, and there will be from 12 to 24



Photo by Sherrie Kvamme

**LANCE AND JACKI ADAMS** with their two sons, Oliver and Ezra and canine companion Maggie on a hillside full of their Eagle Creek Vineyards grapes.

people in the vineyard. They are a crew that works extremely well and most of them already understand vineyard work. To choose an optimal picking for the grape and align with a pre-scheduled crew is a science. The last few years Travis has taken historical data, what stage the grapes are currently at and typical changes in the acidity and the sugar content and has estimated what should function for an appropriate harvest date,” explained Lance.

However, that harvest date can be subject to change, and the crew shifted to Anderson Hill Vineyards on the fifth and back to Eagle Creek Vineyards on the 12th. With two vineyards, that flexibility exists. Lance noted the sugars appear to be on track at this point, so they will be ready to harvest on schedule.

“It’s pretty scientific. In the past we have been more flexible with harvest, but this way we should be pretty close to where the grapes need to be for maximum quality. Travis is also trying to pick the grapes a little younger this year. The grapes mature at a different rate. We’ll harvest the Gewurztraminer and the Chardonnay with the plan of completing those in one day. Then the crew will come back in probably two weeks and harvest the Riesling, which is in the middle, and the Merlot on the far side. The Cabernet will be last. There is a chance that they could harvest the Cabernet at the same time they harvest the Merlot depending on how it ripens.”

As to future growth at the vineyard, Lance estimated they have about 12 more acres that can be planted.

“Maybe a little more but there’s a solid 12 at least. We haven’t planted those acres yet because we have been talking about how to plant. The upper

side where the reds are was tremendously difficult to farm and get ready to plant so we are looking at some alternatives on how to plant and balance the reds as opposed to farming the whole section. We are looking at how we get the plants in and the infrastructure and farm the land the way we need to, and make it less costly at the front end and still allow us to grow quality grapes. Down below it will depend more on the variety that we want to expand to. We may look at the Syrah.”

The vineyard shows consistent health and vigor. Currently, the vines have one fruiting wire, a thicker wire that the vines are tied to which holds the fruit about 30 inches off the ground. When the clusters ripen they are at a comfortable harvest level. Lance said they are considering possibly putting in vines with two sets of fruiting wires. There would then be one wire at 30 inches off the ground and one wire 48 inches above ground, so the vines would grow two sets.

“If it took away from the quality of the plant, we definitely wouldn’t do it. Down on the lower side where the soil is a little richer, we could probably do that successfully.”

When the soil is tested at the vineyard it consistently tests well and is a naturally balanced soil for grapes. It does not need to be tested for different varieties, but in specific areas they do keep samples separate for comparison. Weeds are a battle every year, but this year, due to the lack of water, they have had fewer weeds than ever before.

“Aesthetically, the vineyard is everything we could hope for,” said Lance. “Like most things in life, it has taken more effort than we ever dreamed it would. But it is extremely rewarding and has been at every one of those milestones. Every

year when we get the harvest done and something different happens, we always have something that is positive. We always find a piece or something that turned out better than we expected. We always find a solution for something that went wrong. Sometimes, we found a solution before we realized we had a problem. It does not happen often but occasionally it does,” he smiled.

“Travis and Michael [Cook] manage the vineyard and how it is cared for. They are learning exponentially about the area and what it brings. We learned this year quite by accident that we had a cold spot. It was just a fluke. We realized there was a certain area that had a little frost activity to it so we looked at the other temperatures and realized that we had cold air in that spot,” said Lance. “We are changing where we will put our smudge pots and frost protection. Again, every year, we learn more pieces and parts about the vineyard. A lot of it goes back to the change in the labor and having the vines treated systematically.

“Every year we seem to reach an ‘aha’ moment. When we started, we hadn’t realized there would be so many ‘aha’ moments. All of them are important as we move forward to the next one,” said Lance. “When we look at the history of wines in different places and how many years – sometimes 25 years – it takes to make an impact, we are discovering with another 10 years here we should be able to reach a quality or increased quality that some of the other regions have learned over the years. So, from a longevity thought process, it is about quality in grapes and long-term prosperity, but it’s the quantity that brings the dollars. So we walk that fine line, wanting to make sure we produce enough and that we have the quality. It’s a tradeoff, much like the birds,” he furthered. “We needed to have those grapes mature a little longer on the vine before we harvested so we had to lose a little more fruit to the birds, which is hard, but we still have to wait a few more days.

“Every year we see an improvement in something. We have not hit that sweet spot yet, but every year we are getting closer. It’s hard to understand or explain the experience until you have been through it. When you are on your hands and knees with that clipper in your hands harvesting your own fruit, it puts everything in a different perspective. There are parts of vineyard ownership that are not so easily grasped until you have worked through all the nuances, bits and pieces in the experience of learning.”

Lance smiled, “We are anticipating getting a bottle or two of the wine the vineyard in the valley produced. That in itself is a big step – to have other wineries using our grapes. When we picked the varieties we would raise for our vineyard, [we thought] it would provide enough variety to make different options as opposed to planting just one or two grapes, for the sole purpose of making money. Ours was designed to provide a stable platform for Travis and Copper Belt.”

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# Fair Association President Recalls Fairs Through the Years

Continued from page 1

“I like helping people straighten things out when there’s crises and making sure everyone has their ticket for their food.

“I love the night life, where you get to see so many people ... You see people you haven’t seen in a year to two because people come home for the fair. I just like it all.

“I like going through the Exhibit Hall, going through and looking at the animals, although I liked it better when they were across [Fairgrounds Road] on the field,” Huff commented. “We used to not have trees on the grounds, and growing up they had the roping steers graze it off and didn’t have to mow it. Then they turned it into a park and it’s nice, but it added a lot more work and money that we have to come up with.”

Huff also remembered the grandstands before the addition of separate cook shacks, when the ladies auxiliary would sell hamburgers and cotton candy and sno cones on one end and the VFW members sold bottled beer on the other.

“Kids would get under the grandstands get the bottles and cash them in,” she said. “They were worth two cents each back then and you could make a fortune all day long.”

Huff said it wasn’t until she was about 10 or 11 years old that she was allowed to go to the fair on her own “and run around like all the other little wild Indians.”

She recalled taking her bottle return money and joining people in the stands as they bet quarters on the horse races.

“That was when Indians came and they would put five- and six-year-olds on the horses,” Huff said.

It didn’t take long for Huff to figure out the youngsters weighed less than older riders and she started winning most of the money.

“And I paid attention to how each horse was doing,” Huff said, adding, “It was exciting when Indians brought their horses.”

Huff also enjoyed the Pony Express races, saying, “Of course, horses didn’t cost as much then so a lot of people got in on the Pony Express race. The Indians had teams, too.”

Huff said the chariot races were another exciting event as riders would go around the track two or three times in “chariots” made from 55-gallon barrels.

One of the participants was Huff’s former neighbor, Walt Blacker, and she said, “He was a big horseman, he’d had horses and chariot raced a lot. My grandma remembered him from when she grew up in Union and she said he always had fine horses and raced them. He had a long beard and longish white hair and looked like a guy you would see in chariot races.”

Even though modern-day races mostly involve mules instead of horses and aren’t quite as exciting, Huff said, “It’s always been fun, and I always come to the fair.”

## COVID Interruption

Huff has only missed one fair in her lifetime.

“That was when my daughter had a brain injury wreck and that was 19 years ago,” Huff said. “She had it the week before fair and I had to stay with her in intensive care in Boise. I kept begging her to wake up.”

Then, last year, the entire event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It was really tough to call it off,” Huff admitted. “That was our 99th year and we had some big plans.”

As fair association president Huff checked in with the Baker County Commissioners and took her cue from other events, including the Pendleton Round-Up, which was canceled, and the Haines Stampede, which was still held but with an abundance of safety measures.

“They were using extra people at the gate and during the fair to go around and take temperatures and get people’s names and phone numbers [for contact tracing],” Huff said. “They probably had a dozen or more extra volunteers – and we were going to lose that many because a lot of our volunteers were over 60 and they didn’t want to be down here and be exposed.”

So Huff told the association, “I just didn’t know how we could do it. What if someone got sick and they sued us? We just got this back a few years ago, and I would hate for that to happen.”

The board ultimately voted to cancel the entire event, although the livestock show and sale went ahead as usual but at an alternate location.

“We said they could not have it on our grounds and they were not very happy with us, but we did the best we could do,” Huff said.

“It was kind of disappointing but my [Pine Eagle High School] class had already decided they would go ahead with their 40-year reunion so it wasn’t a total loss. I actually saw more of them than if we had had the fair so it wasn’t a total letdown and I didn’t have a total broken heart,” Huff added.

## Centennial Celebration

Planning for the 100th anniversary of the fair and rodeo began almost immediately following the 2020 cancellation.

Huff once again took over as royalty advisor and has mentored Queen Majestic Grove, a 17-year-old from Baker City, and Princess Margie Rich of Halfway as they sold advertising and sponsorships and promoted the fair and rodeo at other events throughout the Northwest.

“These girls did a really good job,” Huff said. “Majestic, being from Baker, had a lot of contacts and saved me a lot of trips. Margie’s mother, Konia Rich, is past royalty and also my cousin. Her grandma and my granddad Perk were cousins.”

Huff also coordinated publication of the centennial fair program, which is sure to be

a keepsake with its historical photos and theme of “A Century of Fun for Everyone.”

“It’s not just a booklet it’s more like a magazine,” Huff said of the full-color 54-page program. “We ordered 300 ... and to think in the past we couldn’t give them away.”

Huff’s daughter-in-law, Yvonne Huff, is organizing a “huge flag event” for the Grand Entry and parade and Huff commented, “I used to do that, too, and it’s nice to hand it off to someone else.”

There will be commemorative T-shirts and sweatshirts for sale in the fair booth, along with DVDs featuring historical footage of old rodeos, horse shows and parades taken with one of the first home movie cameras in the valley.

“And we have three commemorative buckles similar to the trophy buckles,” Huff added. “We’ll raffle one, have a silent auction for one out of our booth and auction the other one at the pie auction.”

With local restaurants and bars closing early during fair weekend, Huff arranged for evening entertainment, saying, “If we don’t have nightlife people won’t come back.”

Halfway Sober will sell mixed drinks from a booth, the 3Rs – the Rich family – will sell a cowboy dinner of pulled pork, baked beans and coleslaw from the concession stand, and an adult cowboy dance will be held on the midway with music provided by Frank Carlson.

“I think people will be happy and have a good time,” Huff said.

Some plans, like a big screen Jumbotron, didn’t come to fruition due to cost and/or time, but Huff said there will still be plenty of special offerings for fairgoers such as photos of past royalty displayed in the Exhibit Hall and even a stick horse race between fair board members.

“That was Lynda Bird’s idea,” Huff laughed.

Even with the recent surge in COVID cases Huff said it’s full steam ahead for the 100th

Baker County Fair - Halfway and Panhandle Rodeo.

“Most of us feel there are not any more people sick than there were last year,” she commented. “I am going to have masks available in the ticket booth and concession stands and people can wear masks if they want and, if not, I’m not going to be the mask police. It’s their choice.

“We’ve got way too much money out at this point to back out so we’re just going to go with it. I think unless something really extreme happens it’s going to be a great fair and really exciting.”

## Counting Down

With just days until fair time, Huff is fielding endless phones calls, texts and emails about dozens of details.

There are still sponsor signs to paint, banners and netting to hang, memorial stars to update, reserve tickets to prepare and grandstand seating to arrange. There are also grounds to beautify, decorations and displays to set out and the parade and Queen’s breakfast to organize, not to mention last-minute preparations for the rodeo and races, exhibits and livestock show, and concessions and entertainment.

Thankfully, Huff has a dedicated cadre of volunteers including Derral Thomas (arena director and chute boss), Jacob Huff (chute boss), Linda Miller (rodeo secretary), Judy Taylor (rodeo ticket manager), Becky Kaaen (fair booth and marketing), Phyllis Thomas (treasurer) and Dave and Lynda Bird (photo display, grounds and much, much more).

Also providing assistance are Andrea Bryan Shields (parade coordinator); Robb Stacey (race director); Rusti Lattin, Brandi Sangster and Lynne Smith (Exhibit Hall managers); and Krischele Whitnah Livestock superintendent).

Huff’s husband, Tom, is involved, as well, although she admitted, “Fair time is a little hard on him. He’s not real social, but he’s down here

a lot and helps me with a lot of things and reminds me about things that need to be done. Our anniversary is the second of September and it’s almost always at fair but, for 27 years through thick and thin, he’s been there. He just says, ‘I’ll never get married at fair time again ... I never see you!’”

Asked how long she will serve as president of the fair association, Huff responded, “I will probably stick around until somebody else comes along. Not as many people are active and willing to participate like they used to, so it might take some time.

“I know about the Queen’s Court and the program and most aspects of the rodeo, and if I don’t know it, I know who to ask.

“I have a lot of great people I work with and I’m happy to do this. I really love it.”

## Best Fair Ever

“I hope this is the best fair ever,” Huff continued. “I hope it all goes smooth and we’re good for another 100 years so my grandchildren can enjoy it someday, too.”

Based on the wall-to-wall crowds that showed up for the fair board’s first-ever car show, a Memorial Day fundraising concert and the Fourth of July parade and fireworks, Huff thinks there will be good attendance for the fair and rodeo.

Huff noted rodeos elsewhere have all sold out this summer and said she has been getting a lot of inquiries about the Halfway event.

“I’ve had people calling me that aren’t from here and I’ve had people that grew up here and haven’t been here in years call, too,” Huff said. “One lady called from La Pine last week and said she has never been here, but she wants to come here with her husband and two kids. They want to get out and do something and experience that ‘little’ fair and rodeo feeling.

“Wouldn’t it be something to look across the arena and see the grandstands packed full?”



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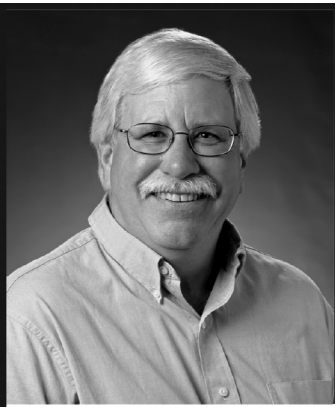
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Weed of the Week:

# Myrtle Spurge: An Agressive, Hard-To-Eradicate Invader

Submitted by Jeffrey Pettingill  
Baker County Weed Supervisor

**The Enemy:** Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)

**Strategy:** This listed noxious weed (thus prohibited to have) is a perennial plant and is one of the most aggressive plants one can still obtain and plant into a landscape. Although most people are warned about planting it, it continues to be bought, planted, spread to unwanted areas, and then eventually an attempt to control/eradicate takes place.

This plant develops a great taproot and spreads by seeds, which are launched from the seed pod to a distance of 15 feet. The flowers are inconspicuous, green, and surrounded by yellowish bracts that give the entire plant a yellow-green appearance. The leaves are large and clasp around the stem spirally. It is spreading beyond the landscape in the Richland area.

**Attack:** Like its relative, leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) it produces a milky white sap that can

cause severe eye damage as well as rashes. It is toxic to most animals.

As spread occurs mostly by its roots, it has the ability to spread into lawns, pastures, and under structures, allowing it to show up in most unwanted areas.

If it gets too close to water it will spread rapidly and take up all the water and nutrients that are needed for desirable plants to grow.

**Defense:** Don't plant it! Once this plant is established you can try to remove it by digging up the top 12 inches of the soil where it exists, every few months. Generally, attacking it in your landscape with a combination of Roundup and 2,4D amine is best. Keep after it. When the regrowth gets to about six inches, retreat.

If it starts spreading in your rangeland and pastures, going after it with Tordon 22K is best when it is flowering (late June – early July). There are no biological controls available, although I am sure goats will seek it out, as well as all other forbs on the property.

If you do have it and need to control it contact the Baker County Weed Department, and we will help.



Photo courtesy of the National Gardening Association

**MYRTLE SPURGE** is an unusually aggressive perennial that's hard to eradicate. Cost-sharing for control of myrtle spurge is available from the Baker County Weed Department.

## Beavers Are Well Established and Moving through Oregon's Coast Range

By Sean Nealon  
Oregon State University

Beavers are often translocated to restore populations in areas, reduce their conflicts with humans and to take advantage of their ability to improve ecosystems.

However, few studies have accessed the impacts of dispersing beavers, making it difficult to determine best practices for translocations. A new study from scientists at Oregon State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center begins to change that.

The scientists, who collected genetic samples from almost 300 beavers in the Coast Range of western Oregon, sought to understand whether landscape features, such as slope and distance to water, influenced gene flow among beavers.

They detected relatively strong genetic differentiation of beavers, which they believe is shaped by watershed boundaries and past relocations of the rodents. This led them to recommend that relocation efforts of beavers in topographically complex landscapes, like the Coast Range, occur within watersheds when possible.

"We wanted to see if there were things that are limiting beaver dispersal in western Oregon, whether they are not able to disperse because of geography or some physical limits," said Jimmy Taylor, a research wildlife biologist with the USDA's National Wildlife Research Center in Corvallis and a courtesy faculty member at Oregon State. "Our findings indicate that doesn't seem to be the case. They seem to be moving freely within watersheds, with at least occasional movements between watersheds."

The overharvest of beavers during the 16th to 19th centuries in North America is well documented. This legacy, however, sometimes overshadows the restoration of beaver populations throughout North America in the 20th century.

Spurred by the population restoration, there has been growing interest in the western United States in using beavers for stream restoration projects that can restore floodplain connectivity, improve grazing opportunities for livestock, mitigate increasing aridity and provide habitat for threatened species, such as Oregon Coast coho salmon.

In the recently published paper, the researchers focused on beavers in the Coast Range of Oregon, a region characterized by multiple watersheds, dense forests and steep hillside slopes.

The team reviewed the limited scientific literature

and historical documents about beavers in the region and concluded not much is known about beaver history or ecology in the area. They did, however, find records showing more than 700 beavers were released in the area between 1939 and 1951 by the state to provide optimal distribution of the species.

"Beavers are a really storied part of this landscape, and they are an iconic species for Oregon," said Clint Epps, a wildlife biologist at Oregon State and co-author of the paper. "For me, it was kind of a mystery of how beavers have persisted in this Coast Range landscape. How much of that was influenced by translocation? How much of it was just beavers persisting on their own? I can't say we directly tested this. But from looking at the translocation records and the genetic structure it looks to me like they hung on

in this landscape."

The researchers collected genetic samples from 292 beavers from 12 counties along the Oregon Coast. They live-trapped 232. The remainder were either road kill or supplied by trappers.

They then mapped records of beaver translocations during the 20th century to consider the effect of those movements on the genetic structure of beavers.

They concluded that slope and distance to water did not strongly limit dispersal and gene flow by beavers in this system, but that dispersal is more common within watersheds, as opposed to between watersheds.

"This is a native species" Taylor said. "I'm pleased we see gene flow. This is an animal that's well established and dispersing in its native ecosystem."

**Continued on page 9**

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## Baker County Library District Launches On-Demand Online Tutoring for All Learners and Job Seekers

Baker County Library District has launched two new online services, both from Brainfuse: HelpNow and JobNow. Both services offer vetted, professional, live tutoring for either education or vocation, and both services are available free of charge to library patrons.

These resources are available thanks to a generous grant from the State Library of Oregon and coordination by Libraries of Eastern Oregon.

HelpNow is an educational resource for students of varying ages, including adult learners seeking to advance

their education. The service includes skills tests, college prep and multiple live tutoring options, as well as a writing lab and a portal to submit detailed questions for reference help.

Some of these tools include practice tests for the GED, the ACT and SAT, the ASVAB and other professional entrance exams, English as a Second Language and many more.

The other new service, JobNow, offers similar live help for job seekers or people looking to improve their career skills.

The service includes live Interview training from professional interview coaches, live resumé review and the ability to submit resumé and cover letters for more in-depth review. It also incorporates content and methods from the popular "What Color is Your Parachute?" series; eParachute helps users discover college majors and careers to match their skills and interests.

The two services share a similar platform and have similar functionality, so it is easy to move back and forth between them.

Both of these new services, and more premium content, can be found via the library website on the Online Library list of resources, [www.bakerlib.org/online-library](http://www.bakerlib.org/online-library). Access requires a library card number from Baker County Library District.

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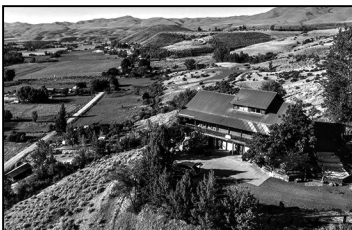
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2019 Rockygrass Band Competition Winners

# Never Come Down – One of the Headliners at Pine Fest 2021

One of the headliners at this year's Pine Fest music festival in Halfway is Never Come Down, a five piece modern bluegrass band from Portland, Oregon. Never Come Down is scheduled to perform at 6:00 p.m. at the one-day festival slated for Saturday, September 11.

Weaving together modern and traditional styles of bluegrass and americana, Never Come Down is composed of Joe Suskind (guitar), Crystal Lariza (vocals), Brian Alley (banjo), Kaden Hurst (mandolin), and Ben Ticknor (bass).

Their dedication to thoughtful songwriting and dynamic arrangements highlight polished technical skills and a commitment to listening to each other.

Formed in 2018, the band released their self-titled first album that year and second album, Better Late Than Never, in 2021. They've toured internationally and have found acclaim at festivals and venues such as Iceland Airwaves, John Hartford Memorial Fest, Americanafest, FreshGrass and RockyGrass, where they won the 2019 band competition.

Philip Graham of Ear Trumpet Labs, the Portland-based company that manufactures a range of condenser microphones popular with string bands, said this about Never Come Down: "The Portland bluegrass scene got a huge shot in the arm with the advent of Never Come Down. Top-notch players combined with great original songwriting make for an always-fantastic show

whenever they play. They're also deeply involved in the musical community—sweethearts building a scene!"

After Never Come Down's appearance in Iceland, Arnar Freyr of KEX Hostel commented, "Bluegrass bands are a rare sight in Iceland so when Never Come Down visited us at Kex Hostel over the Iceland Airwaves festival we got excited. And boy, did they deliver! Their high spirit performance moved everyone and left us wanting more. They were a stand-out act in an amazing line-up over the festival".

In addition to Never Come Down, this Year's Pine Fest features Kris Deelane and the Hurt, Coyote Willow and Steve Fulton Music.



NEVER COME DOWN, a five piece modern bluegrass/Americana band from Portland, will be one of the headliners at this year's Pine Fest music festival in Halfway.

# Baker City Man Injured in ATV Accident

The Baker County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called out Saturday afternoon to assist a Baker City man who had been injured in an all terrain vehicle accident off Forest Service Road 67 near Boulder Park.

A call reporting the accident came into Baker County Dispatch around 2:34 p.m. Saturday, August 28. The reporting party notified dispatch the terrain was steep, only accessible by ATV, and would most likely require a technical rope rescue team.

The SAR Team was activated at approximately 2:44 p.m. and five SAR volunteers deployed to the area along with Baker County Sheriff's Office deputies. Upon arrival, deputies

determined 67-year-old Verle Cote had been operating a 2021 Can-Am ATV along Phillips Ditch when it rolled down the side of the bank.

Search and Rescue volunteers set up a technical rope system and were able to pull Cote up the bank where he was tended to by medics. SAR members transported him in a side-by-side to the ambulance, which was approximately three miles from the accident site.

Cote was transported to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City.

Baker County Sheriff's Office was assisted in the rescue by the U.S. Forest Service, Eagle Valley Ambulance and Baker County Search and Rescue.



Submitted Photo

MEMBERS OF THE BAKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM rescued a Baker City man who was injured in an ATV accident off Forest Service Road 67 near Boulder Park on Saturday, August 28. Verle Cote, 67, was apparently driving a late-model ATV along Phillips Ditch when it rolled down the side of the bank. In the photo above, Search and Rescue Team members are shown driving through Phillips Ditch on their way to the crash site.

# Beavers in Oregon's Coast Range

Continued from page 8

Taylor is also hopeful this research will lead to a greater appreciation of beavers in the Coast Range, where they are not as visible because they don't tend to build dams or lodges in that landscape.

"There are a lot of beavers on the landscape, but people don't know that because they don't see the classic signs that they learned in children's books," he said. "Part of what

I'm trying to do is politely, respectfully educate people that there are a lot more on the landscape out there, and they are not all providing the cascading series of dams that people are looking for, but they still contribute to ecosystem services."

Other authors of the paper are Vanessa Petro, a senior faculty research assistant in Oregon State's College of Forestry, who did most of the

trapping; Rachel Crowhurst, a senior faculty research assistant in Oregon State's College of Agricultural Sciences, who did the genetic analysis; Tyler Creech, who worked with Epps at Oregon State and is now at the Center for Large Landscape Conservation in Bozeman, Montana; and Matthew Weldy, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Forestry, Ecosystems, and Society at Oregon State.



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# Larry Hendrick: From Irrigation Specialist to Cowboy Fast Draw National Champion to The Locals

by Sherrie Kvamme  
*of the Hells Canyon Journal*

Before Larry Hendrick picked up his guitar again in 2016, he had lead an eventful life full of travel and work and fast draw competition. Most recently, he is entertaining local crowds as part of “The Locals” band. He sat down recently to recall his varied experiences.

Hendrick was born in Baker City. His dad owned a shoe repair business in Richland with the shop located at the north end of First Street. His mother is Beverly Simonis Hendrick. Larry’s family moved to Lakeview, Oregon when he was five years old. He finished high school there and went on to Walla Walla Community College where he earned an Associate of Arts and Science degree in Irrigation Technology, graduating in 1982 with a 3.98 GPA. Soon after, he was recruited to go to Saudi Arabia by Ed Burns, a private contractor out of Sunnyside, Washington.

“It was kind of a scary thought, but there were a lot of irrigation projects and it was big money at that time,” said Larry. “There were some radical people who lived there. I was married and we had a baby on the way, so [my wife] stayed in Walla Walla.”

Larry was gone for six months before he could come home for a visit, and then he went back for another six months.

### Saudi Arabia

“The people who owned the farm that we installed the irrigation system on were very nice people. They were Arabs and you could not have asked for nicer people to work for. But there were a lot of people who did not like westerners, and it had the potential for being dangerous,” he explained. “They had the Ramadan [the ninth month of the Islamic calendar is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community]. “We were on the main route to Medina, which is one of the cities they would pilgrimage to, and they came from all over the Middle East. We stayed in the complex during Ramadan. We were told that we really do not need to be out on the highways during that time.”

Larry said the men did not treat women very well. They would see a man driving a pickup with nobody in the cab but the goats and the women would be in the back end. They were not allowed to ride in the cab and they could not talk to the women. If he went to the grocery store, it was important to avoid them and avoid eye contact.

“I could still be there if I had wanted to but it was too strange of a place to me. I had the option of bringing my family with me but decided it was best that they stay home. The hospitals and medical facilities were mostly for royalty. We had a first aid station in the middle of the field. I never had to go, but it was there if need be. There was another guy who was working there who happened to be from Pasco. He had a toothache so he went to the first-aid station and they pulled the wrong tooth. I had a sense that they did it on purpose.”

Larry said the crew lived on the farm. The house had a big kitchen, and the crew had a cook who made three meals a day for them. Most meals included chicken and sometimes lamb. There were about 15 Americans and a crew of Filipinos. The Filipinos lived in tents and had to go out and get their own food. Larry noted there was a slave mentality, and they seldom saw an Arab working. They owned the farms and stores but they hired people to do the work.

“We always were treated well by the people on the farm where we worked. They were good to us. But every once in a while, we would go with the purchasing agent when he went to buy food just to

break the monotony, and you had to be careful where you went and who you talked to. They had prayer five times a day and you had to stop and bow to the east or wherever Mecca was,” explained Larry. “There was this little guy with a cane who would come around and whack you with it, if you weren’t bowing. I got tapped on the leg a couple of times. The neighboring farms didn’t have a center pivot person but had a breakdown every so often, and so I would go over and fix it. A couple of times I went over during prayer time and so I would sit down and wait. I didn’t bow; I would just sit and wait and they seemed to appreciate that.”

### Navajo Reservation

When Larry’s contract ended, he went back to Walla Walla and then got a job in New Mexico working on a Navajo Reservation.

“It was an interesting time, and I was there for three years. I took my family with me that time and we lived off of the reservation in Farmington. I did get invited to some of their events like a big pow-wow festivity one time, and I took my camera but was not allowed to take pictures. Another time I attended a Navajo wedding, and that was very interesting and beautiful.”

Larry’s next job was in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he worked for Tumac Industries, a company that builds center pivots. His job was as a service representative and in the off-season he worked in their research and development department. He liked the work, but it was an 80-hours-a-week, year-round job, and he said it just got to be too much.

“There was no time for family, so we moved back to Lakeview and I worked in the sawmill. I started in the molding plant and then moved into the planer mill, and then I worked in the sawmill and pulled green chain. It’s heavy, hard work.”

He worked there for about 10 years and then he changed jobs to work for the City of Lakeview for the public works department for about 13 years.

Larry had all of his certifications so thought when he moved to Boise he could easily pick up a good job.

“But it wasn’t as easy as I thought,” said Larry. “So, I worked a few contract jobs and then worked for a guitar top manufacturing plant.”

Larry’s career had taken a toll on his back so he retired, and about seven or eight years ago, he moved back to Richland for a while and then moved to Deer Park, Washington where his daughter lived

“When COVID hit, Ashley moved back to her mom’s in Lakeview and I moved home to my mom’s,” laughed Larry. “I have a grandson named Henry. He’s eight years old. They named him after the Henry rifle. They thought they were going to have a girl and if so, they were going to name her Benelli,” he smiled.

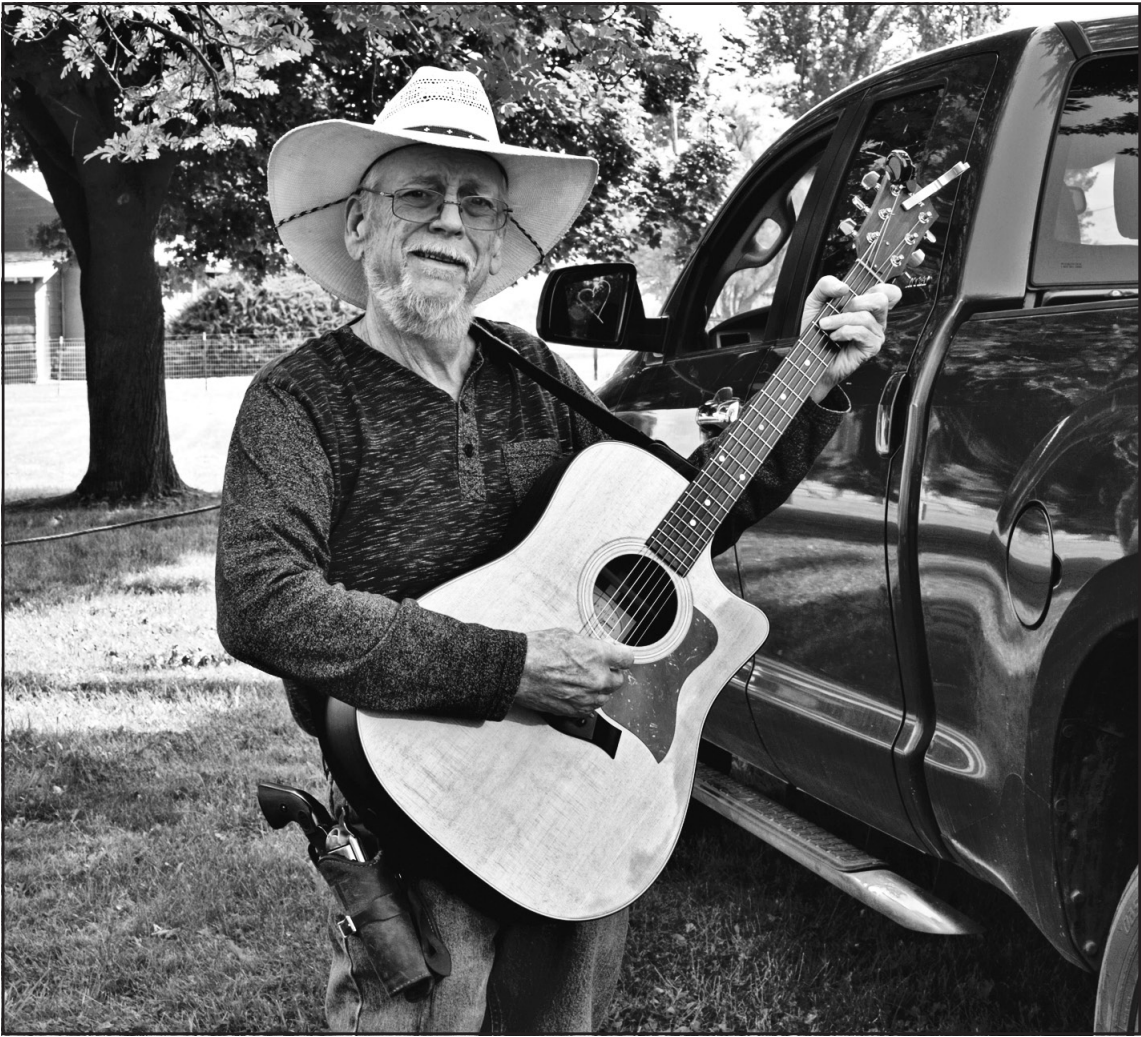
### Fast Draw Champion

There was a part of Larry’s life during his time in the Boise area that he didn’t mention right away in sharing his story, so he digressed.

“When I was working in Boise, we lived on Highway 21 between Boise and Idaho City. It was pretty there. We had a beautiful view of the mountains. Anyway, there was a big pullout nearby and one day, we saw some people setting up some backstops. We were curious so we jumped on the four-wheeler and went to find out what was going on.

“As it turned out, they were doing a fast-draw demonstration. One of the guys strapped a gun on me and told me to try it. A beginner is lucky to do the draw in a second. The more experienced fast draw competitors shoot in the 0.800 of a second. I was shooting 0.500 of a second. I fell in love with it. That was in about 2006.”

“I would watch what they were doing and try to imitate



Photos by Sherrie Kvamme

### GUITAR-SLINGING LARRY HENDRICK of Richland has been a national fast draw champion.

it. The first match I went to was the National Championship in Idaho City. I had been shooting for about three weeks. When you shoot yourself out of a match, they have a second match, and I won first place in the consolation match.”

Larry has participated in matches all over the United States including a big match at the Jesse James Farm in Missouri that included an interesting tour of the property. He’s been to matches in Colorado and at Tombstone, Arizona at the original OK Corral, as well as matches in California and Idaho.

“We even had shoot-offs on Main Street during Wild Bill Hickok Days in Deadwood, South Dakota. I have shot guns all of my life but never fast draw. It’s been kind of exciting!”

In 2013, Larry won first place at the nationals and he was considered the best in the world at that time. The nationals are held once a year in Mitchell, South Dakota.

“My fastest time ever shot was 325 thousandths of a second in actual competition. I have shot in the twos before, but it was not in a recognized match. If it had counted, it would have been a world record on speed. Even if it didn’t count for anything, it was kind of fun,” he smiled.

He has won first place in fast draw competitions in Oregon, Wyoming and Colorado.

Larry explained the competition. “The target is set up at exactly 21 feet. In the center of the target there is a small green light and the targets are

set up with a computer. You shoot wax, not lead. Both of those bullets have the same speed but if someone gets shot with the wax they aren’t dead, but it does hurt,” he noted having seen the results of someone firing before they got their gun from the holster.

“When the light comes on it is your cue to draw and shoot. When your bullet hits the center, it turns off the light and the target at the same time, so it’s super accurate timing.”

“At the start of the match, the announcer says, ‘shooter on the line’ and then he says, ‘shooter set.’

“Then there is a random time between two and five seconds in which the light will come on. You don’t know when during those seconds that it will come on. You can’t anticipate that. At the same time, there is also someone who is watching your hand to make sure that you do not move your hand at all before the light comes on. If you do you are disqualified.”

“It takes less than a blink from the time the light comes on until a fast shooter has put his light out. The average blink is 380 thousandths of a second. I can shoot 330 thousandths of a second. You have to keep your eye on the center of the target and when the green light comes on, the brain instantly signals your arm and the rest is just muscle memory. You don’t think about it, you just pull, cock and shoot.”

“There was a time that I was heavy into competition, and I was shooting a thousand rounds a week. We all used

the Peacemaker—the Colt 45 six-shot revolver. My preference was to lean back when I shoot. Some people draw and pull their gun out, but I was one who leans back and then shoots down by my holster.

“You have to draw, cock the gun and hit the target all in one motion and then, of course, do it the fastest,” he smiled. “The first person to score three winning shots, wins the match and you go on to the next round, and if you keep shooting accurately and fast, you win the match.”

Larry said when he was headed into 2014 and was thinking he was going to do well that year, he met Marshall Cooper.

“He was from Fresno, California, and he won first place in every match in 2014 and I took second. We ended up being really good friends and started traveling together. We would show up at a match in the same car and the competitors would groan,” he laughed. “They were pretty sure that first and second had just shown up.”

[Google “Cowboy Fast Draw Caleb and Marshall Cooper.” Watch Larry’s draw on YouTube. You will be challenged to see his hand pull the gun out of the holster and fire it. If you can see it, let him know. Caleb is Larry’s competition name.]

In 2016, Larry quit competing. “Around then, I picked up my guitar again. I hadn’t spent a lot of time playing since I was part of a garage band in high school. I wish I had taken formal lessons of some kind. The shooting competition had become, I felt, too much of an obsession. It was time for a change. When I moved back here, I played in the Shorthorn by myself.

### The Locals

“Some liked the way I played, and there were a couple of guys who said they liked the way I played okay but they wanted me to play a different type of music. They wanted the old Conway Twitty-type stuff.

“Someone asked me if I had heard Riata Brown sing and told me that she was really good. I hadn’t met her, but I asked around, got hold of her. I talked her into jamming a little bit. It was the same with Aline Murray. We got her to do some jamming with us, too. I didn’t know Jeff yet, either, but we got him into the band. The four of us just clicked. We all seemed to play well together, and we got along very well and had a good time.

“Then we picked up a couple of gigs and it just grew for us, so we figured out that “The Locals” would be a good name. We all really enjoy playing and the feedback we get is pretty good,” he smiled. “It’s pretty amazing how that all went together. We’re good friends. None of us wants to be a star, we just enjoy playing together and what we do works.”



LARRY LEANS BACK when shooting in fast draw competitions and fires his Colt 45 from near holster level.



# Wildlife Officials Extend Kill Permit for Lookout Mountain Wolves

by Gail Kimberling  
of the Hells Canyon Journal

A permit authorizing the lethal take of wolves from the Lookout Mountain Pack has been extended after yet another depredation was confirmed.

On August 19, a three-month-old calf was found dead on a 1,000-acre private-land pasture in the Manning Creek area of Baker County, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials were called to investigate. They determined the death had been caused by wolves earlier that same morning or late the prior day.

The Lookout Mountain Pack had previously killed or injured five cows in five separate incidents over a two-week period in July despite documented non-lethal measures taken by local ranchers to avoid depredations to their livestock.

ODFW issued a permit on July 29 for lethal removal of up to four uncollared wolves from the pack, and several days later ODFW personnel shot and killed two, three-and-a-half-month old pups from an aircraft.

That permit expired August 21 but has now been extended through September 14 following the most recent depredation.

The new permit will allow the three producers who have experienced depredations on their family-run cattle operations on public and private land to kill up to two uncollared wolves. It does not increase the number of Lookout Mountain wolves that may be killed, as the original permit allowed for up to four uncollared wolves to be taken. The permit is also limited to land the producers own or where they legally graze cattle.

The Lookout Mountain Pack includes an adult male and adult female breeding pair, two yearlings born in 2020 and seven more pups born in April 2021.

"Killing pups is not something we want to be doing," Michelle Dennehy, an ODFW

spokesperson, stated when the initial kill permit was issued. "But in this case, despite non-lethal measures, depredation continues which ODFW has a responsibility to address. Incremental lethal control is a tool to reduce chronic depredation by reducing the pack's food needs and disrupting the pack's behavior."

The Defenders of Wildlife, a group known to for their efforts to promote coexistence between producers and predators, was quick to condemn the original kill permit as well as the second.

Sristi Kamal, the senior representative for the Defenders' Northwest Program, stated last week, "Going after the Lookout Mountain Pack again after ODFW killed two pups but failed to make a difference in depredation only drives home the point that lethal control is not a long-term solution. Instead of killing wolves ODFW should be prioritizing coexistence tools and methods, especially as our vulnerable wolf population is already facing threats from the ongoing drought and water crisis. Nobody is immune from the impacts of climate change, including our state's wolves."

However, Dennehy stressed the permits were structured to avoid killing the breeding male and female to ensure the pack persists and the remaining pups still have two experienced hunters to provide food.

"Killing the breeding male or female increases the chance that the pack will break up. The working collars are also important for monitoring the pack," Dennehy had said.

Dennehy also mentioned late summer is a lean time for wolves and with two pups removed there would be less need for meat for the remaining pups. She added while pups are not a direct threat to livestock, should depredations continue the pups will learn to kill livestock as they grow and this could lead to even more depredation problems in the future.

## Halfway City Council Considers Parking Ordinance

by Gail Kimberling  
of the Hells Canyon Journal

A new parking ordinance will be up for consideration at the September 9 meeting of the Halfway City Council.

Updates to the city's utility ordinances will also be discussed.

"We don't have a parking ordinance currently; that will be an entirely new ordinance," Salli Hysell, city manager/recorder, said during a brief work session held August 26.

Hysell added she and public works operator Todd Robinette have also been going through the water ordinance to make corrections but they haven't had time yet to address the sewer ordinance.

"It's the same ordinance, we're just making some changes as the city no longer has a water bond," Hysell added.

Unfortunately, council president Rose Darting was the only person besides

Hysell present at last week's session.

Due to the lack of turnout, Darting asked Hysell to highlight any changes to the water ordinance – and the sewer ordinance, if there is time – and have the utility ordinances and the new parking ordinance available for council and public review prior to the September 9 council meeting.

Hysell told the *Hells Canyon Journal* that changes to the water and sewer ordinances involve mainly wording, and she said, "The council wants to try to keep the ordinances up-to-date rather than wait for years to fix them."

The new parking ordinance, on the other hand, replaces the parking section currently included in the street ordinance.

"Back in 2016 and 2017 the city was having issues with people leaving vehicles and trailers illegally parked on streets, especially Main Street and Record Street," Hysell said. "The street ordinance allowed vehicles to be parked up to two weeks and the new ordinance reduces the time

and increases our ability for enforcement."

The new ordinance states, "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to leave, park, or store any vehicles, in running order or not in running order and being used for transportation or general use upon any street, alley or public right of way for a period of more than 72 hours within a commercial residential zone."

The ordinance further reduces parking in any zone within city limits during winter months to eight hours.

The fine for initial violations will range from \$50 to \$100 in addition to \$50 for the cost of removing the vehicle.

A second violation can result in a fine of \$100 to \$250 plus \$50 for city costs.

The September 9 regular council meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

For information about the ordinances or how to access the meeting, contact City Hall at 541-742-4741.

## Grants Available through County's Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Baker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (consisting of Baker Valley, Burnt River, Eagle Valley and Keating SWCDs) are currently writing grant applications for conservation projects across the county.

Potential projects should aim to improve water quality and quantity; and include on-farm irrigation efficiency projects, livestock watering, ditch-to-pipe conversions, fish passage improvements, bank restoration, plantings, diversion replacements and other related projects.

Opportunities include large grant conservation projects (projects that are estimated to cost over \$15,000) as well as small grant projects (estimated to cost \$15,000 or less). Contact the Baker County SWCD office at 541-519-2496 for further details regarding the grant program, or to set up a site visit for a potential project on your property.



Submitted photo

**THAD LEEP DIVERSION REPLACEMENT PROJECT:**  
A large grant project located in Eagle Valley.

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# The Outdoor Report

by John Garrigus



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Many were quite surprised that the first of the archery big game hunts opened this weekend past with only the usual late summer restrictions on fires and travel in the woods. Most are well aware and possibly rather tired of the continued warnings of the high fire danger here in Oregon and elsewhere in the West and across the globe. Nevertheless, such reminders are warranted, given the extreme fire danger. Please take all due caution and more.

ODFW does not close hunting seasons due to fire danger. But hunters may face fire restrictions and be unable to access certain areas that are closed due to active fires, firefighting activity or post-fire cleanup. Hunters who cannot access a certain area should hunt somewhere else in their unit or hunt area instead—or if they have a controlled hunt tag and there is no reasonable access to their unit, ODFW may provide the option for a point reinstatement/tag refund (more information below).

Currently, major public land closures are in effect due to wildfire and firefighting activity in areas throughout the state. In additional, areas are still closed due to Oregon's extensive fires last year.

However, other areas that were closed earlier this summer due to extreme fire danger have reopened, including the Umatilla National Forest and Hancock A&H properties in northeast Oregon (reopened for day use only).

It's a hunter's responsibility to find out access restrictions before hunting. Some helpful links to find this information are available at [myodfw.com/articles/hunting-and-fire-danger-oregon](http://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-and-fire-danger-oregon).

National Forests in Oregon—U.S. Forest Service for national forestland closures, [www.fs.usda.gov/visit/forests-and-grasslands?state=42](http://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/forests-and-grasslands?state=42).

- Bureau of Land Management—Bureau of Land Management closures, [www.blm.gov/orwafire](http://www.blm.gov/orwafire).

- Inciweb—Current fires and fire-related closures in Oregon, <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov>.

- Oregon Department of Forestry fire restrictions, <https://gisapps.odf.oregon.gov/Firerestrictions/PFR.html>.

- Private forestland closure information—Corporate timberland closures and restrictions, <https://ofic.com/private-forestland-closures>.

- <https://wildfire.oregon.gov/Pages/Recreation-Im>

[pacts.aspx](#) - Oregon inter-agency recreation site map.

Access and Habitat property closures and closures at wildlife areas are typically announced by ODFW via press release available at [www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2021/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2021/index.asp) or contact your local district office. Currently private lands in Coos Mountain Access Area are closed and Hancock Forest Management A&H properties in NE Oregon are open to day use only.

Fire restrictions will also be in effect in most areas; check with the land manager where you are headed for details. Some of the most common restrictions are:

Campfires may be either prohibited or only allowed in approved campgrounds.

Smoking and off-road driving (including motorcycles and ATVs) may also be prohibited in most areas.

You must have in your vehicle either 1) a gallon of water, or 2) a fully charged and operational 2½-pound fire extinguisher and shovel (except when travelling on state or county roads).

ATVs must have a charged and operational 2½ pound fire extinguisher.

New for 2021, eastern Oregon archery deer seasons are all controlled. Archery deer hunters for the Silver Lake and Interstate units (controlled units that are mostly inaccessible due to fire right now) have already been offered point reinstatement and a tag refund due to lack of access. ODFW has a policy in place to restore preference

points and refund tags when no reasonable access is available the entire season and will contact those hunters who drew the tag directly with the process.

Fall Chinook season opened in Hells Canyon on August 26 from Washington state line to the boundary below Hells Canyon Dam.

Snake River fall Chinook are currently migrating up the main stem Columbia River and will be arriving in the Oregon section of the Snake in the upcoming weeks.

"This has been one of our most consistent opportunities for salmon anglers in northeast Oregon," said Kyle Bratcher, district fish biologist in Enterprise. "With the strong runs of fall Chinook, we'll be able to offer this fishery as a permanent opportunity starting in 2022," said Bratcher.

Managers with ODFW and Idaho Fish and Game expect nearly 25,000 fall Chinook to return to the Snake River above Lower Granite Dam. Snake River fall Chinook have rebounded in recent years from less than 1,000 fish annually in the 1990s to more than 20,000 fish annually thanks in part to well-managed hatchery supplementation.

"This rebound in abundance has allowed us to offer annual fisheries since 2009," said Bratcher. "We're excited to be able to offer this opportunity into the future," he added.

The fall Chinook fishery will be open from August 26 to October 31 or until further notice. The daily bag limit is three adult Chinook per day

over 24 inches and no limit on jacks. Anglers must cease fishing for all salmon once they have retained a limit of adult Chinook. Barbless hooks and a Columbia Basin Endorsement are required when angling for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon in the Snake River. All other 2021 sport fishing regulations apply.

**Steelhead Closures:** By now there should be little surprise in learning this year's steelhead run, whether hatchery or wild, will be closed until the end of the 2021 calendar year at a minimum along the Columbia River.

This past Friday the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced a number of emergency closures on a number of Columbia River tributaries.

Starting September 1, steelhead fisheries will be closed on large stretches of the Deschutes, Umatilla, John Day and Walla Walla rivers until the end of the year.

The closures are the result of too late action for the endangered Columbia River steelhead currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act..

Numbers of steelhead passing through Bonneville Dam are only half of the already-too-low five-year average.

ODFW made the announcement after a meeting between Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife commissioners.

Washington had not announced additional closures as of Saturday, but it should be hoped they will agree with the need to address this dire situation.

Coast: Recreational ocean salmon angling closed Monday, August 30 within the Columbia River Ocean Salmon Management Area (Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon).

Through August 22, an estimated 34,080 marked coho had already been landed in this area, and fishery managers expected harvest to approach the 42,400 quota by the end of the day Sunday, August 29.

This in-season closure decision was made by NOAA Fisheries in consultation with ODFW, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, representatives from the recreational and commercial ocean troll salmon fisheries, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

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# Royal Welcome from Queen Majestic and Princess Margie

Submitted by Majestic Grove  
2021 Baker County Fair  
and Rodeo Queen

2,476 miles traveled, 12 rodeos and parades attended, so many smiles, a few tears and a never-ending supply of memories. My year as the Baker County Fair and Rodeo Queen flew by faster than I could have imagined. It has been a true honor to represent such a wonderful community throughout the last year.

Just a little bit about the girl behind the crown: My name is Majestic Grove. I am 17 years old and headed into my senior year at Baker High School. When not in the arena, you will often find me wearing that legendary blue corduroy jacket, serving the Baker FFA Chapter. This year I get to serve not only my school as Chapter President, but also the entire Eastern Oregon District as Vice-President! My future plans include running for State FFA Office this coming spring (fingers crossed), and I hope to eventually find my way to Oregon State University. At OSU, I want to work towards becoming an Ag Educator and FFA Advisor! My biggest goal in life is to make a positive impact on our younger generations. I truly believe, from a firsthand experience, that one person can completely change the course of your life for the better, and I want to be that person for others!

We've all heard that saying, "it takes a village." Well, my village this year was better than I could have ever imagined! I genuinely cannot put into words how thankful I am to each and every individual who touched my heart throughout this year. Thank you to my family, Chad, Chelsea and the girls for being my biggest supporters and never hesitating to give me an extra push when needed. Thank you to my advisor, Melody Huff, for your time and dedication to both myself and my Princess. I appreciate you more than you know! Thank you, Margie,



Submitted photo

**MAJESTIC GROVE**, Queen of the 100th Anniversary Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo

for all of the laughs and for keeping me on my toes; there is never a dull moment when you're around! Thank you to my buckle sponsor, Melody Huff, I wish you could have heard all of the compliments about that flashy red color! Thank you to the gal behind the camera, Dallas Hardesty, you captured some gorgeous photos of Tuff and I! Thank you to my chap sponsor, Mary Jo Grove with The Grove Team; my chaps quickly became a staple in my attire and I have you to thank for it. Lastly, thank you, readers, for making the trip out to see our great rodeo in small town Halfway, Oregon. Without each of you our rodeo would not have been possible!

As my year comes to a close, I've realized that it is a bittersweet ending to a new and exciting beginning. I am overwhelmingly happy that

serving the Baker County Fair and Rodeo was a checkpoint on my crazy, beautiful journey in life. I have met some incredible individuals when wearing my crown, and created friendships that I'm convinced will last a lifetime! As I remove my crown for the final time and hang up my chaps permanently, my heart is overflowing with joy because I know that even though these items will begin to collect dust, they will forever hold the memories of my year. So, here's to my final performances, and a year I will always hold close to my heart. Thank you again for joining me to celebrate our 100th year and a century of fun for everyone! Now kick up your boots, find a snack and enjoy the rodeo!

Endlessly grateful,  
Majestic Grove  
The 100th Anniversary  
Baker County Fair and Rodeo  
Queen

Submitted by Margie Rich  
2021 Baker County Fair and  
Rodeo Princess

Hey y'all, and welcome to the 100th year of Baker County Fair and Rodeo!

My name is Margie Rich, and I am your 2021 Baker County Fair and Rodeo Princess. I am 15, soon to be 16 in November, and I just started my sophomore year at Pine Eagle Charter School here in your very own Halfway, Oregon. My parents are David and Konia Rich and are here to support me and this amazing rodeo. My family has always been a part of this rodeo from helping behind the chutes to being a part of the Queen's Court.

My mom (Konia Rich) was Princess in 1981 and Queen in 1983, and I carry on the legacy as being a part of this year's

court with my bay appendix register gelding, Vegas. My horse Vegas and I have been through a lot together, from being a part of a PRCA bare-back drill team to me being Princess of this very rodeo, and traveling to rodeos and parades all over Oregon and Idaho.

But being a princess and riding my horse aren't my only hobbies. I love to study for my dream job as a behavioral analyst for the FBI, too, as well as working towards my other dream and passion as a breakaway roper.

I would like to say that I'm thankful for the rodeo fans, contestants, sponsors, and board members to help make our 100th year possible without COVID getting in the way!

Sincerely,  
Princess Margie Rich



Submitted photo

**MARGIE RICH**, Princess of the 100th Anniversary Baker County Fair and Panhandle Rodeo

## Branch Library Hours

**Halfway - 541-742-5279**

Tuesday: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Thursday: 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Richland - 541-893-6088**

Monday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Baker County Library website: [www.bakerlib.org](http://www.bakerlib.org)**

# CENTENNIAL

# BAKER COUNTY

# FAIR

**SEPT.  
4, 5 & 6  
2021**

**PINE  
VALLEY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
HALFWAY, OR**

## A CENTURY OF FUN FOR EVERYONE

**FREE ADMISSION** to Fair & Exhibits

**VENDORS** on the Midway

**FOOD** on the Midway

**SATURDAY 7-10AM Free Breakfast** sponsored by Safeway ~ Exhibit Hall opens at 3:30PM

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9PM Dance** at the Grange Hall

**SUNDAY & MONDAY 7-10:30AM Breakfast** at the Lions Hall ~ Exhibit Hall opens at 8AM

**SUNDAY 3-6PM The Eagle Valley Locals perform** ~ 6PM Pie Auction

**MONDAY 9AM Youth Livestock Auction** ~ 12:30PM Parade on Main Street

[www.halfwayfairandrodeo.com](http://www.halfwayfairandrodeo.com)



BAKER COUNTY FAIR &  
RODEO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
2021

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> ★ ★ ★

3:30PM - 7:30pm

Exhibits For Exhibit Hall Accepted

5:00PM - 8:00pm

Livestock Registration In Hells Canyon Arena

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> ★ ★ ★

7:00am - 10:00am

Fair Breakfast At The Fairgrounds (Sponsored By Safeway); Free Of Charge

7:30am - 10:00am

Exhibits Accepted In New Exhibit Hall

8:15am

Judging Begins: Swine, Beef, Dairy Cattle & Sportsmanship

1:30pm

Livestock Confirmations

5:00pm

Pack horse race in Pine Valley Arena

6:30pm

Pre-Rodeo Events including Mutton Bustin' at the Rodeo Arena

Faith Riders

7:00pm

ICA & Pro West Panhandle Rodeo at Pine Valley Arena

9:00pm

Kids' Cowboy Dance at the Grange Hall

After the Rodeo

Cowboy Dinners by 3Rs

Adult Cowboy Dance on the Midway

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> ★ ★ ★

7:00am - 10:00am

Let 'R Buck Breakfast At Halfway Lions Hall

8:00am - 6:00pm

Exhibit Hall Open In Pine Valley Grange

8:15am

Livestock Show & Small Animal Judging In Livestock Arena

9:00am

Queen's Court Tryouts

10:00am

Cowboy Church Service At The Fairgrounds Stage

10:00am

Jackpot Team Roping (Call Linda Miller For Info)

3:00pm - 6:00pm

The EV Locals perform On The Midway

6:00pm

Pie Auction On The Stage

5:00pm

Grand Champion Round Robin

6:30pm

Pre-rodeo Events Including Mutton Bustin' at the Rodeo Arena

Faith Riders

7:00pm

ICA & Pro West Panhandle Rodeo at the Rodeo Arena

9:00pm

Kids' Cowboy Dance at the Grange Hall

After the Rodeo

Cowboy Dinners by 3Rs

Adult Cowboy Dance on the Midway

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> ★ ★ ★

7:00am - 10:00am

Let 'R Buck Breakfast At Halfway Lions Hall

8:00am - 4:30pm

Exhibit Hall Open In Pine Valley Grange

8:00am

Doughnuts & Coffee For Livestock Buyers In The Arena

8:30am

Livestock Awards Presented

9:00am

Youth Livestock Auction, Everyone Is Welcome!

11:30am

Parade Lineup

12:30pm

Parade Starts

2:00pm

Pre-rodeo Events Including Mutton Bustin' at the Rodeo Arena

2:30pm

ICA & Pro West Panhandle Rodeo at the Rodeo Arena

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Exhibit Clean-up

THREE  
COMMEMORATIVE  
BUCKLES UP  
FOR AUCTION  
AND RAFFLE

MULE  
RACES  
EVERYDAY  
DURING  
RODEO!

The Hells Canyon Journal is grateful to Mallory McKim for use of the above schedule.

*This page made possible by the following generous businesses*

A Cut Above Tree Service	Baker City	541-519-3313	Hells Canyon Shuttle	Oxbow	800-785-3358
Animal Clinic of Baker	Baker City	541-523-3611	Hells Canyon Storage	Richland	541-403-1960
Appliances & More	Baker City	541-523-6284	Hitching Post Grocery, Liquor, & Motel	Richland	541-893-6175
Baker City Realty	Baker City	541-523-5871	Idaho Power <i>Serving the Community for over a century!</i>		800-488-6151
Baker Dental Group	Baker City	541-523-6012	Intermountain Law PC	Baker City	541-523-6535
Baker Vision Clinic	Baker City	541-523-5858	Jacob's Dream	Halfway	541-742-2167
Baker Welding	Baker City	541-523-5324	Jimtown Repair	Halfway	541-742-5753
Betty's Books	Baker City	541-523-7551	Kicks Sportswear & Embroidery	Baker City	541-523-7463
Bingham, Bingham, & Watt, CPAs	Baker City	541-523-7763	LaRue Sanitary Service	Halfway	541-742-6857
Bisnett Insurance	Baker City	541-523-4267	The Main Place	Halfway	541-742-2130
Canyon Outfitters	Halfway	541-742-4110	Memory Lane Homes, LLC	Baker City	541-523-1150
Carpet One Floor & Home	Baker City	541-523-1533	Milligan Motors Inc.	Enterprise	800-421-3128
Clarke & Clarke Insurance	Baker City	541-523-7761	MMW Electric Motor & Pump Repair	Baker City	541-523-2859
Cliff's Saws and Cycles	Baker City	541-523-2412	MR Equipment Works	Richland	541-893-6266
Comco Construction	Richland	541-893-6116	Noah's Angus Ranch	Cambridge	208-257-3727
Cook's Radiator Service	Baker City	541-523-3822	Northwest Farm Credit Services	Baker City	800-443-9314
Cornucopia Coffee House	Halfway	541-540-4414	Oak Tree Ranch	Halfway	541-742-4071
Cornucopia Lodge	Halfway	541-742-4500	Old Pine Market	Halfway	541-742-4366
Dirty Yeti Laundromat	Halfway	541-239-7948	Old West Federal Credit Union	Baker City	541-523-5535
Donna's Groom & Board LTD	Baker City	541-523-6080	OTC Connections	Halfway	541-932-4411
Eagle Cap Sanitation	Richland	541-893-6527	Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.	La Grande	541-963-7166
Eagle Creek Orchards	Richland	541-893-6790	Pine Eagle Physical Therapy	Halfway	541-523-8889
Eagle Optical	Baker City	541-523-2020	Pine Valley Lodge	Halfway	541-742-2027
Eagle Telephone System	Richland	541-893-6115	Precision Auto Repair	Baker City	541-523-2945
Eagle Valley RV Park	Richland	541-893-6161	Richland & Halfway Feed & Seed	Richland	541-893-6136
Eastern Oregon University	La Grande	800-452-8639	Richland & Halfway Real Estate	Richland	541-893-3115
Granite View Foot & Ankle	La Grande	541-963-0265	Rush Hour Pizza	Halfway	541-742-4020
Gregg Hinrichsen State Farm	Baker City	800-792-3276	Sara's Richland Cafe	Richland	541-893-6167
Guyer & Associates CPAs	Baker City	541-523-4471	Scotty's Hells Canyon Outdoor Supply	Oxbow	541-785-3367
H & R Block	Baker City	541-523-3282	Second Mile Electric	Baker City	541-540-3223
Halfway Beauty & Barber	Halfway	541-742-4247	Shorthorn Bar & Grill	Richland	541-893-3117
Halfway Carriage Autobody Repair	Halfway	541-742-2063	Snake River PCS	Richland	541-893-6115
Halfway Mercantile	Halfway	541-742-6174	Sunfire Real Estate	Baker City	541-523-7727
Halfway Motel & RV Park	Halfway	541-742-5722	Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home	Halfway	541-742-6435
Halfway Towing & Repair	Halfway	541-540-5553	U.S. Bank	Halfway	541-742-7411
Hells Canyon Adventures	Oxbow	208-257-4564	Wallowa Llamas	Halfway	541-742-2961
Hells Canyon Chamber of Commerce		541-742-4222	Whitnah Law, LLC	Baker City	541-523-1007
Hells Canyon Computers	Halfway	541-249-9942	Wild Bill's	Halfway	541-742-5833
Hells Canyon Journal	Halfway	541-742-7900			