

Museum displays scat and tracks

As animals move through the region, they leave sign of their activity. Learning to recognize and understand these signs is a way to enrich any outdoor experience, whether it's in a backyard or on a remote wilderness trail.

Visitors can discover the world of animal communication and wildlife tracking in the High Desert Museum's Scat & Tracks exhibition, which opened Saturday, May 6.

"We strive to bring natural history components closer to our visitors, so when they are out enjoying our scenic region, they will know more about what they might encounter," said the Museum's Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "Scat and Tracks is another way for us to bring some elusive animals closer to us."

The exhibition features interactive stations for visitors to make paw prints, create track rubbings and test their knowledge matching animals with the appropriate scat. All ages can use what they learn to discover more while they are outdoors.

The art of tracking wildlife evolved over thousands of years, from early humans hunting game to modern-day biologists following wild animals through the use of radio collars and satellite telemetry. Scientists are also able to collect and analyze animal scat to determine an individual animal's health.

Scat & Tracks tells a more complete story about the messages animals leave in the wild and how biologists can use this data to characterize and monitor behavior, habitat use and population dynamics.

For more information about this exhibition, visit www.highdesertmuseum.org or call 541-382-4754 ext. 241.

Location set for city manager finalists meet-and-greet

The community will have a chance to meet the four finalists for the position of city manager — Brant Kucera, Martha Meeker, David Miller, and Bruce St. Denis — at a special meet-and-greet event on Monday, May 22, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at FivePine Lodge, 1021 Desperado Trail.

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss topics of interest with the finalists in an informal setting. Light refreshments will be served.

Final interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, May 23; the City Council expects to make its selection by Wednesday, May 24.

Commentary... Bull by Bull

By Judy Bull
Columnist

• I rewrote my obituary awhile back when I realized I know a lot more about my life than I did 10 years ago when Vernon and I first wrote our obituaries. Firstly, Vernon has died. That changed everything. Secondly, I wouldn't have yet discovered "The Big Bang Theory" or "Little Big Shots." And thirdly, I now know what it feels like to be 74 years old.

• Someone once asked me how Vernon and I settled our spats. Most times we saddled our horses in silence, rode out the front gate, and let the connection to our horses reconnect us to one another.

• Any number of times every winter, the weather conditions are such that when I go out to feed my critters, I can hear a clinking sound coming from the horses as they come in to be fed. Riddle and Riley are tough old Kiger mustangs who grow thick, heat-trapping winter coats, covered by long guard

hairs which collect runoff which then freezes into clinking icicles dangling off their sides. Amazing.

• I was sorry to see Bruno's Deli close, its iconic 7-Up sign on Revere in Bend gone. Vernon and I often stopped there on hot summer days to get us a Magnum Ice Cream Bar to split. Talking Vernon, the old gentleman in the Les Schwab TV ad who says, "Who does that anymore?" is a perfect Vernon.

• Having eaten eggs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for most of my adult life, I am ever-aware of just how many ways people have to cook hard-boiled eggs. There are as many ways as there are people.

• It took me forever to stop looking at the clock on the stove after it quit working. Trouble was the digits were still lit up where the clock had quit. I finally had to put black electrician's tape over the dial, which I have also put over the "airbag off" light on Pepper's side of both the pickup and the Bronco.

• One year I spent Thanksgiving Day home alone. On purpose. It was something I had wanted to try and I'm glad I did it. I bought \$15 worth of ham and scalloped potatoes, Ken Follett's newest book ... in hardback ... and a pumpkin pie of which I had eaten 50% by Thanksgiving morning. My dog and kitties loved the ham and it was all good.

• It's very comforting knowing that when I open my cupboards years from now, everything will be the way it's always been. Even more than disliking change, "what is, is what was" suits me just fine.

• As I grow older, I realize there are some things I don't ever have to try or re-try: bungee jumping, getting married, going out on the ocean on anything smaller than a cargo ship, buying a new car, starting another colt. I just don't need to do 'em.

• Sign of aging: I went to a party the other night with a bottle of wine, bread and spread, and bright pink POLST forms for everyone.

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