

WIND

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Cornices can crack surprisingly far back of their overhang, and fresh-laid snow layers can hide a rotten and precarious foundation beneath. Collapsing cornices are also notorious triggers of avalanches. The buildup of cornices along ridgcrests and rims and their periodic shattering on the steep slopes beneath: one of those ancient routines our alpine mountains have been practicing for ages. Meantime, the lee slopes below cornices, plus other downwind traps in the mountains, tend to build up with “wind slabs” that are, cornice collapse or not, significant avalanche-makers. All else being equal, the wind-beaten side of a ridge of mountain in winter is the safer one. Wind-moved and molded snow isn’t just about transient winter sculptures: It has real ecological effects, and not only on account of avalanche ravages. Less dramatically, where wind rakes away snow on the shoulder of a ridge around here, the resulting moisture deficit can prohibit tree establishment and result in an open “bald” below the climatic timberline. (Intense sun exposure is another important factor promoting balds on the high-standing west- or south-facing ridges exposed to such winds.) In turn, the wind-heaped snow on the opposite shoulder of the ridge may nourish a

snowdrift forest — maybe one of those ridge-brow stands of subalpine fir where the snow, sheltered by an easterly aspect and the evergreen canopy, lingers long into summer. Too deep and too persistent a snowdrift, though, may prohibit vegetation on account of the abbreviated growing season. Indeed, wind is partly to thank for the distribution of those snow patches that manage to last all year through: perennial snowfields, such as cling to the shadiest headwalls and cliff bases — snowflakes fallen out of wind eddies and preserved by the shadows. Those permanent snowfields in their remote recesses call to mind the once-great ice bodies that armored the high

country of the Wallowa and the Elkhorns (and, to a lesser extent, the Greenhorns and Strawberries). When those glaciers prevailed, they greatly impacted the mountain breath: We can imagine the cold winds that poured off the ice field in the high Wallowa core or in the Anthony Lakes amphitheater, and the ceaseless breezes wafting down the long glacier streams of the upper mountain valleys. In a stable atmosphere, winds aloft passing over mountains are roughened by them and often develop waves above and downwind of the uplift. If the air’s moist enough, these undulations may be revealed by wave clouds that form in their crests. These include saucer-

shaped lenticular clouds that hang and sometimes stack above peaks, and trains of standing-wave clouds in the mountain lee — sculpted by the surge of winds through them, yet themselves motionless, pinned in the sky sometimes for hours, or fading and reforming in roughly the same spots. They look utterly calm, but pilots know the turbulence they betray, and their appearance and proliferation can signal increasing moisture and potentially significant incoming weather. Another clear-cut sign of strong winds on high are the snow-banners (as John Muir called them in the Sierra Nevada) pluming off prominent peaks. Such a sight doesn’t suggest very friendly

conditions up in the heights, but interestingly, as Tremper notes, the mountain gales that a snow-banner indicates are sometimes less sinister from an avalanche-danger perspective as more moderate winds. That’s because they often spray snow too widely to form the kind of heaped snowdrift slabs prone to sliding. The power and potency of wind: as ephemeral as a thing can be in this world, yet capable of organizing everything from plant communities to human habitation; and as invisible as can be, except when wave clouds and cornices and snow-banners — oh, and flagged timberline trees, raging wildfire fronts, golden eagles floating along the rims — embody it.

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1st FRIDAY (every month)
Ceramics with Donna
9:00am to Noon
(prices starting at \$3)

SUNDAY
Church Services
3:00pm

MONDAY NIGHTS
Nail Care
5:15pm (FREE)

LAST TUESDAY (every month)
Poker Night (FREE)
6:00pm

WEDNESDAY
Public Bingo, 1:30pm
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114 Self-Help Group Meetings

UNION COUNTY AA MEETINGS LA GRANDE

MONDAYS
Primary Purpose Group
12 - 1:00pm
2620 Bearco Loop

TUESDAYS
Into Action Group
12 - 1:00 pm
Presbyterian Church
1308 Washington Ave.
(entry 6th & Spring St.)

Surrender Group
7 - 8:00 pm
2620 Bearco Loop

City of Elgin
Greater Elgin Group
7- 8 :00 pm
St. Mary's Catholic Church
93 S 12 St., Elgin

WEDNESDAYS
Primary Purpose Group
12 - 1:00 pm
2620 Bearco Loop

Surrender Group
7 - 8:00 pm
2620 Bearco Loop

Island City
Soul Sister's
5:30 p.m.
10801 Walton Rd.
Blue Springs Apartments
Community Room

Turning Point Group
7 - 8:15 pm
63161 Gekeler Lane
Fort Union Grange Hall
(Corner of McAllister & Gekeler)

THURSDAYS
Surrender Group
7 - 8:00 pm
2620 Bearco Loop

City of Cove
Cove Group
7 - 8:00 pm
Baptist Church
707 Main St.

FRIDAYS
Primary Purpose Group
12 - 1:00 pm
2620 Bearco Loop

City of Elgin
Elgin Group
(Winter only)
6:00 PM
70564 Valley View Rd
(in shop)

SATURDAYS
Surrender Group
10 - 11:00 am
2620 Bearco Loop

Grande Ronde Valley Group
7 - 8:00 pm
Presbyterian Church
1308 Washington Ave.
(entry 6th & Spring St.)

SUNDAYS
Miracles Meeting
10 - 11:00 am
2620 Bearco Loop

Questions call
AA Hotline: 541-624-5117
www.oregonaadistrict29.org

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
Meets Thursdays at 6:15pm
Calvary Baptist Church
3rd and Broadway

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Goin' Straight Group Meetings
Mon., Thurs., & Fri.,; 8 PM
Episcopal Church Basement
2177 1st Street • Baker City

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
Change Eating Habits
Friday 8:45 A.M.
Call: (541) 523-5128

BAKER COUNTY AA MEETINGS BAKER CITY

MONDAYS
Survivor's Group
12 -1:00 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

TUESDAYS
K.I.S.S.
(Keep it Simple Sister)
12 - 1:00 pm
1645 Eldon St. Eldon Court
Apts Community Room

WEDNESDAYS
Survivor's Group
12:05 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

THURSDAYS
Survivor's Group
12:05 pm
Baker Presbyterian Church
1995 4th St.
(4th & Court, Side Door)

FRIDAYS
Been There Done That (Grapevine Meeting)
5:30 -6:30 pm 2970 Walnut
(Corner of "D" & Grove St.)
Grove Apts. Community Rm

SATURDAYS
As Bill Sees it Group
10:00 am 2970 Walnut
(Corner of "D" & Grove St.)
Grove Apts. Community Rm

SUNDAYS
Been There Done That
5:30 pm 2970 Walnut
(Corner of "D" & Grove St.)
Grove Apts. Community Rm

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Corner of Church St. /Gover Ln.
Halfway, OR
(541) 540-5326

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Calvary Baptist Church
2130 4th Street
Baker City, OR
Every Thursday
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
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Harvest Church
3720 Birch St. Baker City
Thurs., 6:30 - 8:30 PM

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
Tues., Noon - 1 PM
Baker County Library
(Archive Room)
2400 Resort St
541-540-5326

ALZHEIMERS-DEMENTIA
Support Group meeting
2nd Friday of every mo.
11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
1250 Hughes Lane Baker City
Church of the Nazarene
(In the Fellowship Hall)
541-523-9845

WALLOWA COUNTY AA MEETINGS

Enterprise
MONDAYS
Enterprise Group
7:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

TUESDAYS
Enterprise Group
12 - 1:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

Enterprise Group
7 - 8:00 pm
(Big Bk Study)
113.5 E Main St.

WEDNESDAYS
Enterprise Group
7:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

THURSDAYS
Enterprise Group
12 - 1:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

All Saints (Mens Mtg)
7:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

FRIDAYS
Enterprise Group
7:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

SATURDAYS
Enterprise Group
7:00 pm
113.5 E Main St.

City of Joseph
MONDAYS
Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg)
6:00 pm
Joseph United Methodist Church
301 S. Lake St,
Corner 3rd & Lake
Side Stairs on Lake St.

WEDNESDAYS
Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) 12 pm
301 S. Lake St.,
Church Basement

City of Wallowa
SUNDAYS
Assembly of God Church
7pm

Questions call
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