

**TRAIL**

Continued from Page B1

The trail in places more resembled a gap between hedgerows — the sort of place where G.I.'s would creep through in June 1944, M1s at ready, listening for the clattering of German tanks.

Then we saw Victoria herself, chopping away at what seemed a Sisyphean task.

We stopped for a few minutes to chat, and to thank her for making the hike possible. I didn't understand the actual scale of the endeavor until a few days later, when I saw a photo of the trail before Victoria started beating back the snowbrush. But even without photographic proof it was obvious, from a brief glance at the dozens of freshly cut limbs scattered beside the trail as we hiked, that prior to the

pruning, walking this way would have been an exercise in frustration.

But now it was just exercise.

And strenuous exercise, given the grade of the Cunningham Cove trail, which varies from moderately steep to an incline that might give you reason to wonder whether a person designed the route or whether it just follows the paths made by elk and other animals that are much more agile than we are.

Besides battling snowbrush, Victoria had sawed through more than 40 trees that had tumbled across the trail.

This, too, is an inevitable effect following a major fire. The dead trees, deprived of their former roothold, are easy prey for winter winds.

Victoria told us she had cleared about a mile and a half of the trail.

And indeed the

boundary was blatant — we went rather suddenly from an obvious path to a route much less distinct due to the fallen trees and encroaching vegetation (lodgpoles, mainly; fortunately the snowbrush is mainly confined to the lower sections of the trail).

We had to pause a few times to find the way. Some previous hiker or trail worker built several rock cairns, but there aren't enough to serve as guides in places where the tread becomes all but indistinguishable.

Another useful tactic is to stop and look for logs that have been sawed through. These are usually reliable evidence that the trail is near.

We kept at it, though, and eventually made it to the Elkhorn Crest Trail. It was worth the toil to hike a hundred feet or so north on the Crest Trail for the view down to Crawfish Meadow

with its inimitable shade of sylvan green. The breeze was fresh and the air pleasantly cool in the shade of the whitebark pines.

We had another brief conversation with Victoria on the way down, where she was having a go at the juvenile lodgpoles that crowd the trail in places.

It was an illuminating experience. We hadn't hiked Cunningham Cove since the early autumn of 2012, when Max, just a toddler, made the trip riding on my shoulders in a backpack carrier.

I was not a little dismayed by how terribly the trail had deteriorated in a little less than nine years. Had the route been then as it is now we certainly wouldn't have made it to the end.

But I was simultaneously gratified that something's being done to improve the situation, that

Victoria is on the job, resurrecting, as it were, a public path that might well have been lost to the ravages of wildfire and the unrelenting alpine climate. She has quite a lot yet to do.

Based on what we saw on June 26, I wouldn't recommend the Cunningham Cove trail for hikers who

aren't accustomed to difficult terrain and confident in their route-finding abilities.

But the improvements Victoria has made are noteworthy.

Updates about her progress, and the Trailhead Stewardship Project, are available online at [www.thetrailheadbakercity.com](http://www.thetrailheadbakercity.com).

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110 Announcements

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- Ryder Bros
- VFW
- Baker Elk's Lodge
- Main Event
- Lefty's Tap House
- Little Bagel Shop
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

**AA MEETINGS**  
Wednesday Nights, 7-8:15pm. Fort Union Grange Hall, corner of McAllister & Gekeler Lanes. For more info, call 541-786-1222

**AL-ANON** Attitude of Gratitude. Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm. Faith Lutheran Church. 12th & Gekeler, La Grande. 541-786-2051

**Drug Problem? We can help!**  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Phone: 541-805-2229  
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Meets every Tuesday Morning 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.  
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Harvest Church  
3720 Birch St. Baker City  
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**LA GRANDE NOW HAS A GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS MEETING!**  
Every Friday Night @5pm, 2107 Gekeler Ln, LG, Church of Christ basement. For more info please call 971-219-8411

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
Goin' Straight Group Meetings:  
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri.  
Start at 8 PM  
Episcopal Church Basement  
2177 1st Street, Baker City

**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  
12970 Walnut St.  
Grove Apartments  
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)

**New AA Meeting**  
7:00 pm  
Grove Apartments  
Community Room  
2970 Walnut Street

**NEW MEETING**  
**Huntington Christian Center**  
Thursday's 7pm  
595 E Monroe Street  
Huntington, OR

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

**A.A. Book Study**  
6:00 - 7:00 pm

**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

Questions call AA Hotline: 541-624-5117  
[www.oregonaadistrict29.org](http://www.oregonaadistrict29.org)

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

**Someone's drinking a problem? AL-ANON**  
Meetings available by phone Info for Baker City Meetings  
Call: 541-523-5851 or 541-239-7323

**UNION COUNTY AA MEETINGS LA GRANDE**

**MONDAYS**  
**Brown Baggers**  
12:00 PM  
First Christian Church  
901 Penn Ave  
South Door downstairs.

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

**Brown Baggers**  
6:00 PM  
First Christian Church  
901 Penn Ave  
South Door downstairs.

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

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

**FRIDAYS**  
**Brown Baggers**  
12:00 PM  
First Christian Church  
901 Penn Ave  
South Door downstairs.

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

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

**BEARCO LOCATION HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY CLOSED.**

**Virtual Zoom AA Meeting Everyday at 7:00 PM**  
To link to meetings, go to: [www.oregonaadistrict29.org](http://www.oregonaadistrict29.org)

Questions call AA Hotline: 541-624-5117

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**HOROSCOPES** by Stella Wilder

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021  
YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder  
Born today, you are something of a fire-brand, one able to effect change and do the kinds of things that other people praise and admire. You are passionate, excitable and always on the lookout for the next important cause to which you can lend your invaluable support. Indeed, you often get so charged up about an idea, movement or cause that you quickly and easily inspire those around you to take action as well, so that you never have to engage in any kind of fight on your own.

SUNDAY, JULY 4  
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You may not be willing to tell someone what you have to say until you are sure the reaction will be temperate. Can that be guaranteed?  
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- A stylish approach to a certain situation doesn't preclude the possibility that you will also get a great deal done as well. You can do both!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You must not take things personally today, especially when what you hear involves criticism of any kind. This is all just a matter of taste.  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- What you choose today is likely a matter of preference, not necessity -- but that doesn't mean the choice shouldn't be carefully considered.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- You may find that not everyone is willing to follow you at this time -- and this tells you something no one has been able to say directly.  
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- What begins in the shadows today is likely to take into the light tomorrow as an inopportune moment, so you must prepare yourself!  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You're likely to receive explicit instructions today that you simply cannot follow for reasons that are yours alone. Should you explain?  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- A past episode is worth some study today as you try to determine just how, exactly, you got where you are. A friend lends solid perspective.  
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You're not likely to agree with those who have the authority to make the rules today, but going your own way will surely light a dangerous fire.  
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You can attract a large and appreciative audience today, but it's not those already on your side that you must sway -- it's everyone else!  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- What you hear by chance today is sure to affect how you look at your own work -- and you're likely to make changes that affect others in turn.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You are set in your ways, certainly -- or so you thought, until a chance encounter today has you making changes that seem out of character.

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