



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

A small fly tipped with a Berkley maggot can be an irresistible temptation for hungry panfish below the ice.

PERCH

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Although the fish were small, I seized my one opportunity of the year for perch tacos, icing down about a dozen, as well as a few of the better rain-bows. Arriving home the next afternoon, I fileted the little perch, rolled them in cornmeal, and pan-fried them crunchy before placing them on a flour tortilla, sprinkling them with Cajun seasoning, a

little cayenne, and topping them with cheese, cabbage, and a dab of salsa. My wife and I savored every bite, and just like that, our bounty was gone. Like Christmas Day, we must wait another year to put more yellow perch on ice.

Brad Trumbo is a fish and wildlife biologist and outdoor writer in Waitsburg, Washington. For tips and tales of outdoor pursuits and conservation, visit www.bradtrumbo.com.

WILDLIFE

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Interstate 84: Meacham

This potential project focuses on the bridge near Milepost 238 at Meacham.

According to the coalition's report, studies done by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation show that elk fitted with tracking collars try to cross the freeway in this area, and there have been multiple collisions with vehicles.

Reducing the frequency of collisions would require building fencing and possibly other structures, including making some underpasses larger to accommodate elk, according to the report.

Highway 26: Dayville

This project could be the start of a wider effort to address collisions with mule deer and pronghorn antelope along Highway 26 through the John Day Valley.

The coalition is pro-

posing fencing and retrofitting bridges for wildlife passage. The estimated cost is \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. The project also would require cooperation from landowners.

Highway 20: Juntura to Harper Valley

This proposed project covers a 27-mile stretch of the highway, and is designed to reduce collisions with mule deer and elk.

The area encompasses winter range for mule deer that winter along the highway and the Malheur River and cross the highway frequently, according to the coalition's report.

The report lists a variety of projects, including creating unobstructed wildlife routes under existing bridges, removing dilapidated fencing and installing new fencing, along with a possible wildlife overpass (there are no such structures in Oregon now).

The estimated cost for a basic retrofitting of five bridges is \$1,215,000. A more complex retrofit



Oregon Department of Transportation/Contributed Photo, File

Mule deer pass beneath U.S. Highway 97 near Sunriver via a wildlife underpass.

"It's not a question of whether these crossing structures work. It's really just a financial hurdle."

— Tyler Dungannon, conservation coordinator, Oregon Hunters Association

would cost an estimated \$2.29 million per bridge, for a total cost of \$11.45 million.

The estimated cost for an overpass ranges from \$3.96 million to almost \$7.1 million.

Published by The Observer & Baker City Herald - Serving Wallowa, Union and Baker Counties



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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 Jump 5 Hit some ice 9 Music or dance 12 The younger Guthrie 13 Burrowing animal 14 Sidelines cry 15 Powerful perfume 17 2,001, to Augustus 18 Small barrel 19 Huffs and puffs 21 Dock supports 24 Psychology pioneer 26 Stolen goods 27 Move jauntily 28 Tony's cousin 32 Pained cries 33 Umpire's yell 34 Over and over 35 Drive contents 37 GI entertainers 38 Leaning Tower site 39 Mongrel 41 Round buildings 42 Overnight visits 45 Charge 46 Tall vase 47 Modulated 53 Harness part 54 Renoir subject 55 Gutter locale 56 Help letters 57 What mice do 58 Slumgullion DOWN 1 Lick up 2 Time span 3 Mi. above sea level 4 Trouser feature 5 Metro haze 6 Reed or Ferrigno 7 Down with the flu 8 Condescend 9 Upper limbs 10 Stair alternative 11 "— means war" 16 Guys and fellows 20 Way back when 21 Grind away 22 Missouri neighbor 23 Off course 24 Knight's combat 25 Game for (2 wds.) 27 Wrestling match 29 Get steamed up 30 In that case (2 wds.) 31 LGA postings 36 Pop singer — Grant 38 Slices 40 Taking advantage of 41 Visit 42 Pinch hitters 43 Three musicians 44 Cookout intruders 45 Zipped by 48 Cloister dweller 49 Watchdog org. 50 Make lacework 51 First lady? 52 Beads on grass

Answer to Previous Puzzle. COMB A W L G N A T O D O R B A A L O G O L E N O E N S E V E N O A T S T E A D Y M O M M Y O A F A X E E H S J U M P S R E A D I R K L A I T E N T E R I S T S K I B I N U S H E R V I S A G E Q T Y E D I T P C T R A J A E L L E A R I I C O N P E T S L O P A T E N

HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder. Born today, you always seem to have more at stake than most other people, and you tend to live your entire life as though you have bet the farm on your success -- and, in a sense, you have, for when it comes to your daily affairs, you are "all in" and never one to shrink from a challenge or difficulty. You are also, as it happens, quite a big-hearted and generous individual, and just as hard as you work for your own gain, you will work for the benefit of others as well. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder. Born today, you are not always as calm, thoughtful or cautious as many others born under your sign, and, in fact, you can be quite irrational at times, especially when your opinions or beliefs are challenged. That's when your temper can really flare, and your "hair trigger" reveals itself. You can afford to be a little more discriminating at times about the things that throw you into a fit -- for not everything is worth that, as you well know! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You'll want to guard against seeing things from an overly emotional point of view today. You may need some help remaining objective. ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- It's time to step up and do your part to protect something that you feel may be threatened at this time. You do have an effect. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Someone's