

FISH

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Experiment

If you want to try something just for the sake of being contrary, join one of the two major political parties. If you want to try something different while fishing, consider using small lures for crappie or suspending a worm or minnow below a bobber. Crappie will crush these in low light, and you tend to catch larger fish with this method.

Despite their lackluster effort once hooked, crappie will surprise you with their ferocity. I’ve caught 8-inch crappie on large, jointed Rapalas, spoons, Keitech swimbaits and even large live baits down South where that’s allowed.

What I love most about

crappie is the minimal level of commitment they require to pursue. You can go out and fish for two hours after work with virtually no gear. You won’t need a net, probably won’t need bait or extra lures, and you can still crush it. The casual freedom of the crappie angler makes this fish a perfect mascot for the month of July, so go out and celebrate.

McKay Reservoir is a great place to start.

■ *For similar stories, read the author's book "Fishing Across America," which is available for preorder now at <https://bit.ly/3MKuclp>. Sign up for every single CaughtOvgard column at www.patreon.com/CaughtOvgard. Read more for free at caughtovgard.com; contact luke.ovgard@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of local journalism.*



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Boaters on June 2, 2021, recreate on McKay Reservoir outside of Pendleton. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Umatilla River Basin Storage and Flow Diagram, McKay Reservoir is 42% full.



File Photo

The 2002 Biscuit Fire and 2017's Checto Bar Fire, left the Illinois River Trail impenetrable, with downed trees and asphyxiating brush. The trail has impressive views like York Creek flowing down the mountains and into the Illinois River.

TRAIL

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After fires, backwoods trails like this are marred by burned snags falling on the trail. Later, the open areas typically get run over by ceanothus, tan oak and other brush that can block access for years.

The Siskiyou Mountain Club, in a joint venture with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, began opening short swaths of the trail in 2013. By then, the undergrowth was so thick club members had to shed their packs and crawl along the trail, using pruning shears and saws to claim centimeters of the trail at a time.

“They were literally opening up the trail inch by inch,” Howe says.

The crew includes interns from around the country, many of whom have had no wilderness experience but bring a zest for adventure.

They end up finding an ordeal that can define a lifetime.

“We jokingly say on the trail

that we go through the five stages of grief every day,” Frison says. “Acceptance is usually where you end. The pack’s heavy. Your back’s breaking. Then you put your pack down at the end of the day, and you think, ‘Well, that wasn’t so bad.’”

For years, club crews worked down the trail and into the remote Kalmiopsis. But it wasn’t until two weeks ago that crews plowed through the last of the choking brush on the Curry County side to finally reopen this iconic trail.

“It was like a Golden Spike moment, after 20 years,” Howe says.

But that moment likely will be fleeting.

The Whac-A-Mole never really goes away. It just surfaces somewhere else on the trail.

“We’ll have to go in next year and clear brush in some of these same areas of trail,” Howe says. “Maybe in five years, when the brush grows up and shades the actual trail, you’ll get some stability.”

“Well, stability until the next fire,” he says.

VISITORS

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So, with that said, I struggled with whether I should take Tim and Shayla down to see the Owyhees or up north and see the mountains or even run over to Hells Canyon. Wow, too many great options to choose from. Since they’re

ranchers I finally decided to run them down to the Owyhees to show them the big ranch country. I used to work with Simplot so I knew the ranching side of their operations. But after talking further, they told me what they’d really like to do is to go check out the mountains so we went up and hit them.

Like I say, I think some-

times we take for granted what beautiful country we live in. So, when your relatives or friends from out of state come to visit, take them out and show them the beauty of what you’re living right in the middle of even if it’s something as simple as hiking up a trail.

Of course the outdoors revolves around seasons, so do what is in season.

Here’s what I mean by that. If it is January-March, take them to see the elk/deer in their wintering grounds. If it’s September/October, take them to see the aspens turning colors, if it’s spring, take them mushroom hunting. August? Take them berry picking. You get my drift, take them to do what you’d be doing if they weren’t there.

Another fun activity would be to go up at dusk and glass for bears, elk or deer coming out to feed. Something really fun would be to rent four-wheelers and go hit the trails. One time we rented a jet ski and had a big cookout up on a lake. Everyone took turns riding the jet-ski.

Notice, most of the activities listed above cost no

more than the gas to get there. That’s the good thing about the outdoors, whether prince or pauper, everyone can afford to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Don’t sit at home and be a little urban yuppie deadbeat. Take your visitors out into the wilds and enjoy your outdoors.

Gee, I ought to be a tour guide!



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HOROSCOPES

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

Born today, you are almost always the first in your crowd to do a thing; if you are all standing on a cliff considering a leap into a lake far below, you can be counted on to throw caution to the wind and just heave yourself into the abyss -- confident that you'll have something to show for your effort when your head breaks water again after the plunge. This is likely the pattern your entire life will follow: a leap of faith followed by triumph and celebration.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You may have trouble convincing others today that your idea is the one with the greatest chance of success. Some criticism is sound.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Keeping a secret is going to challenge you today, but you have every reason to keep this certain tidbit to yourself for a while longer yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Plans made today are likely to be changed before they are implemented, so you can be a little more daring as you put together your ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Communication is the key to success today, and yet you may have trouble determining exactly when to deliver your most important message.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- A beginning and an ending converge today, leaving you in a rather emotional state as you progress from the past into the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You have business to complete today, but a personal issue is likely to take up more of your time than expected. You must pick up the pace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- You may have to act quickly today in order to avoid what comes at you, courtesy of a certain someone who knows your weak spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Watch what others are doing today very closely, and you'll understand why you have to stick to your methods, different though they may be.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You may be ready to move on to something else today, but someone in charge is eager to have you go back and fix what may be an error.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- A bad habit attracts attention today, but unless you really want to break it, you're not likely to, even if you put in some small effort.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You are eager to be recognized for something you consider unusual -- but others may only see it as you having simply done your job.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Information you receive today may be misleading unless you put it together with what you learned yesterday. Try to see the whole picture.

103 Announcements



PULL TABS ACCEPTED

AT THE FOLLOWING BAKER CITY LOCATIONS

- Baker City Herald
- Dollar Tree
- Black's Distributing
- Ryder Bros
- VFW
- Baker Elk's Lodge
- Main Event
- Lefty's Tap House
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

Call 541-963-3161 or 541-523-3673 to place your ad.

CRUISE THROUGH classified when you're in the market for a new or used car.

104 Community Calendar

VFW POST 460

Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Corner of Main at Birch in Union

LA GRANDE LIONS CLUB

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday of each month @ 12 PM

Union County Senior Center

1504 N. Albany St., La Grande

PINOCHLE

Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Senior Center

2810 Cedar St., Baker City

Public is welcome

Baker County United "freedom rallies"

3rd Thursday each month 6 p.m. at the Sunridge

1 Sunridge Lane.

The public is invited

ROTARY CLUB of Baker City

Meets every Monday Noon - 1 PM

Baker Towers Meeting Room

POWDER RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

Meets 1st Tuesday of every month

8th & Broadway, Baker City

6 PM - Pistolettes

7 PM - Regular Membership

114 Group Meetings

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

541-805-2229

neo-na.org

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Monday, Thursday, & Friday at 8pm. Episcopal Church

2177 First St., Baker City

AL-ANON

Keep Coming Back Family Group

Mondays, 7 pm

at NKWest, 1208 Adams, La Grande, OR

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Calvary Baptist Church

Third & Broadway

Baker City, OR

EVERY THURSDAY

6:15 - 8:00 PM

DO YOU HAVE.....HURTS, HABITS and/or HANG UPS?

12 Step Biblical Support

Harvest Church

3720 Birch St. Baker City

Thurs., 6:30 - 8:30 PM

LA GRANDE GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

Every Friday Night @ 5pm, 2107

Gekeler Ln, LG, Church of Christ

basement. For more info please call 971-219-8411

Someone's drinking a problem?

AL-ANON Meetings are available by phone

Info for Baker City Meetings

Call: 541-239-7323

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