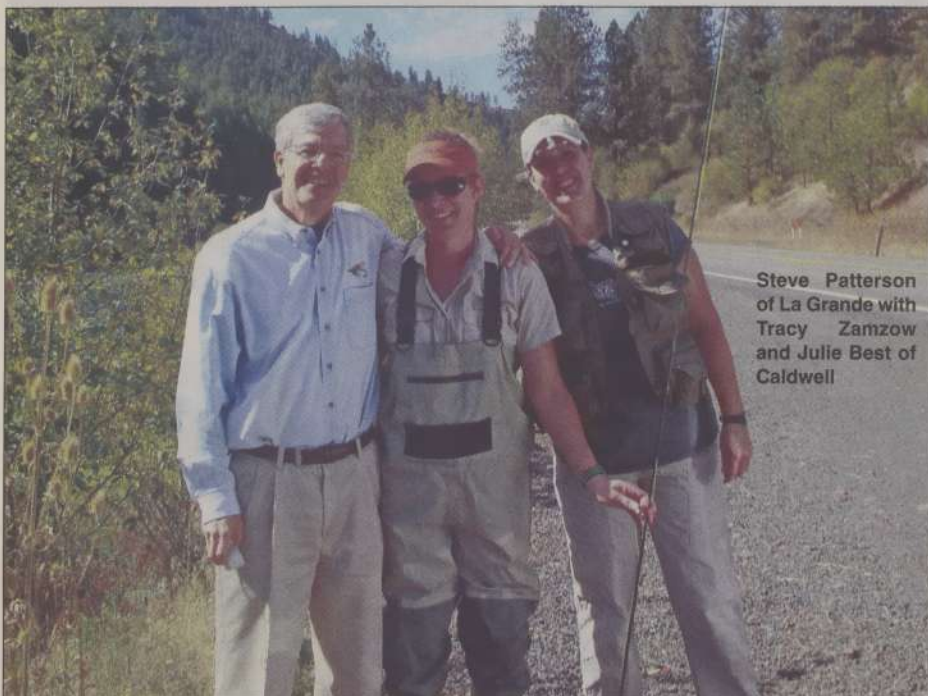


Rendezvous at Mile Post 37

Story / photos by Gina Perkins



Steve Patterson of La Grande with Tracy Zamzow and Julie Best of Caldwell

For several years, Tracy Zamzow and Julie Best of Caldwell have been meeting Julie's dad, Steve Patterson of La Grande, at Mile Post 37 on Hwy. 82 in Wallowa County.

The purpose of this Sept. rendezvous? Trout fishing.

On Friday of last week, I took advantage of the beautiful fall day and decided to visit one of my very favorite places in northeast Oregon - Wallowa County. Fall colors are beginning to arrive and the bright blue sky and warm temperatures made it a simply spectacular drive. I never know when a story might introduce itself, but something about the two young women stopped along side the road in the canyon with their fishing gear, appealed to me.



They were quite friendly and happy to share what they anticipated to be another fun adventure with Best's Dad.

"Steelhead fishing started in Sept., but I can't imagine knowing what to do with a fish that big, so we fish for trout," said Best as she continued to assemble her pole.

"We're waiting for Dad to show up with new flies," she added.

Sure enough, Dad did show, with new flies in hand. Giving a quick explanation, Patterson readily shared all of the tips and information he'd received from Rob Lamb, owner of Joseph Fly Shoppe. He held a little cup, something similar to what one might have received filled with fry sauce, instead, with beautifully colored flies meant to attract the unsuspecting trout.

After getting their instruction, the ladies waded into the water looking for the best spot. I visited a bit more with Patterson and was reminded again what a small world it is. He mentioned he had been a good friend of the Haines Methodist Church pastor's brother, Mark Brownnton, during high school. Something about his smile and the twinkle in his eye suggested perhaps the two likely had experienced a great deal of fun during those teen years, some of which Mark's father, Judge Brownnton, perhaps may have frowned upon.

Patterson said as he headed to his car to get his fishing gear, "I really don't care if I catch a fish. The reason I come is because of all this, pointing to the gorgeous river and scenery."

I suspect getting to spend time with his beautiful daughter and her friend on a spectacular fall day, just might be the biggest reason for the annual rendezvous at Mile Post 37.

Continuing my drive up the canyon, I went into Joseph Fly Shoppe and shared with Rob my encounter with his customers. He said he was delighted I'd talked to them, describing them as the "sweetest family." He mentioned they often came in when staying at Wallowa Lake. He also said he'd spent quite a bit of time fixing Patterson's reel during

this latest visit.

"It was really jammed and I had to work with it quite a little bit to get it fixed. There's no way he could have fished with it the way it was," Lamb said.

"I really don't care if I catch a fish. The reason I come is because of all this, pointing to the gorgeous river and scenery."

- Steve Patterson

I let him in on the little secret Patterson had shared about the scenery and likely the time with his daughter and friend being his priority. He smiled and said, "Probably so."

We both wondered just how long his reel hadn't been working....and how much it really mattered to him that it was fixed.

Joseph Fly Shoppe is located at 203 N. Main Street in Joseph. It is a full service destination shop which specializes in a large selection of high performance fly equipment and is dedicated to the graceful art of fly angling. More information can be found on their website at www.josephflyshoppe.com or by calling (541) 432-4343.



Above, friends fishing in the Wallowa River.



(Below) Rob Lamb, has owned Joseph Fly Shoppe in Joseph, Oregon for 24 years.



Rep. Cliff Bentz Comments on Sage Grouse

In a press release late last week, Rep. Cliff Bentz said, "The decision not to list the Grouse under the ESA means that protection of the bird on private, and to a certain extent, federal land in Eastern Oregon will be regulated by Salem and not Washington, D. C. This means that when a land owner wants to change the use of his or her land, in a way that might affect core grouse habitat, they will be able to address the issue with Oregon, and not federal, people. Although change of regulation or arguing about the application of rules at the state level is difficult, it is not impossible. Changing regulations at the federal level is extraordinarily difficult and expensive, so avoiding a listing under the ESA and the massive wall of federal regulations that would have accompanied the listing, is a huge victory for Oregon."

"It is impossible to thank all of those who worked so hard for this hugely positive result, but I want to specifically thank Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, Oregon Cattlemen's Association Vice President John O'Keeffe, Drewsey rancher Carol Dunten, and from the Governor's office, Richard Whitman, (Senior Natural Resources Advisor), for the enormous amount of work, and time, and in many cases, unbelievable patience they devoted to the effort," said Rep. Bentz.

Oregon Veterinarians: Keep Dogs Safe from Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious gastrointestinal disease that is preventable through vaccination. Puppies less than 6 months old and unvaccinated dogs are most at risk to contract a serious case of the disease, which can be fatal.

Transmission

Parvovirus is transmitted primarily through exposure to infected feces. Don't let your dog or puppy sniff other dogs' waste. Parvo cannot be killed with general household cleaners and can persist in the environment for months to years if not killed with bleach. Dogs infected with parvovirus require veterinary care and should be isolated from other dogs.

Symptoms

According to Dr. Jacque Harter with the Willamette Humane Society, "Symptoms include: vomiting, lethargy, severe and/or bloody diarrhea, lack of appetite, and dehydration. If your dog shows these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately."

Prevention

Vaccinations should begin when puppies are 6 to 8 weeks of age, with follow-up booster shots.

"A single vaccine is not adequate protection," says Dr. Harter.

"Puppies should receive a series of booster vaccines between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks and adult dogs should receive a booster shot regularly at your veterinarian's direction."

Until your puppy receives its complete series of shots, or if your adult dog is not current on its booster, you should be cautious when socializing your pet at kennels, pet shops, parks, obedience classes, daycare, and the groomer.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association is a nonprofit organization of veterinarians who are dedicated to helping people give their animals a high quality of life. For more pet health care tips, visit oregonvma.org or talk to your veterinarian.

Livestock Association's Annual Meeting

The Baker County Livestock Association's annual meeting will be held Oct. 17 and will begin with a 1 p.m. meeting at the Sunridge Inn in Baker City. A social will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and program speakers to follow at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per plate. Denzil Robbins of Robbins Equipment will be doing a presentation on drones. Those wanting more information can contact BCLA President, Jake Bingham at 541-403-1735.

First Friday with the Commissioner Begins at 8 a.m.

First Friday with Commissioner Harvey is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2, 2015 from 8-9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse located at 1995 Third Street, in Baker City. Please note the time has changed from its normally scheduled 9 a.m. meeting time to 8 a.m. in order to accommodate another meeting.

This time will be used to allow the citizens to visit with the Commissioner about issues impacting Baker County.

Adopt a Friend!

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is **Jim** (aka Porter). I am a 4 year old Boxer/Great Dane mix. My mother was a purebred Boxer and the breeder thinks that my father was a Great Dane. Anyway, I belonged to a high school student who no longer has time for me so I'm looking for a new home. I currently live in the country with my family of two adults and one very old Border Collie. I do not chase livestock, cars or chickens, but just being loose could get me in trouble. I would love to find a forever home and family that is active with walking, hiking, camping and perhaps swimming. I am an indoor/outdoor dog and want to continue that lifestyle. I am used to having a door to go outside so a doggie door would be nice. When I'm inside, I am very calm and well-behaved and do not chew up or destroy things. I am very friendly and well-socialized. I like cats, big and small dogs and people. I have not had much training on a leash as I have always walked free in the country or run on the trail when my family rode their horses. I am neutered and current on all my vaccinations. Please call Carmen at 541-519-4530 or Best Friends of Baker, Inc. for more information about adopting me.

Best Friends of Baker, Inc.

541-519-7387