

# Citizen-scientists to help swimmers ID bacteria-filled lakes

By MARK FREEMAN  
Mail Tribune

MEDFORD — A small army of citizen-scientists will help Rogue Valley residents learn whether the creek or swimming hole they hit this summer is a good place to cool off or might be a staph infection in the making.

The Rogue Riverkeeper organization is amassing a group of volunteers to regularly collect water samples from area creeks, lakes and rivers this spring and summer for tests to determine whether these popular swimming and wading waters have unhealthful levels of bacteria.

The information will be posted

online at [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org) and accessible via a free smartphone app called "Waterkeeper Swim Guide" so anyone can get up-to-date information on the quality of the water in which they intend to swim or wade.

With studies showing that most area streams often exceed water-quality standards for bacteria at different times each summer, swimmers deserve to know whether their choices for cooling off are safe ones, organizers say.

"There's a lot of agreement among people that water-contact safety is a good thing," says Frances Oyung, Rogue Riverkeeper's volunteer and water-quality monitoring coordinator. "This

makes for a real handy tool for people to access this information, and it can become a regular part of their lives."

To make that happen, Rogue Riverkeeper and the state Department of Environmental Quality will hold a training session for potential volunteers Tuesday at Bear Creek Park in Medford.

The volunteers will collect water samples at various locations and take them to collection points. Oyung will process the samples in a mini laboratory at the organization's Ashland office.

Some, but not all, of the volunteers will get tools to also test for water temperature and turbidity, Oyung says.

The tests are planned from June through October at Emigrant, Applegate and Lost Creek lakes, the Rogue River at Gold Hill and Grants Pass, Bear Creek in Ashland, Wagner Creek in Talent, Baby Bear Creek in Medford and the Applegate River at Cantrall-Buckley County Park.

Unhealthful levels of bacteria such as E.coli are chronic problems throughout the Rogue River Basin, especially in late summer when low flows offer less dilution, says Bill Meyers, the Rogue Basin coordinator for DEQ.

"When it's 100 degrees out there, we should be able to let our kids play in the creeks," Meyers says. "But it's very common late in

the summer that we're not meeting water-quality standards."

Sources can vary widely, but irrigation water flowing over fields with manure piles on them are common sources of bacteria, Meyers says. Other common sources are rain events that flush raccoon excrement out of storm drains, illegal dumping of RV waste, not cleaning up after pets and throwing pet waste in creeks or irrigation canals, he says.

Meyers says DEQ adds these volunteer collections into its databases and that they are valuable assets.

He says it will take a "cultural shift" to reduce bacteria loads in area creeks, but awareness through efforts such as this will help.

## Convicted criminals go free due to crowded Crook County jail

BEND (AP) — Dozens of convicted offenders in Crook County have been set free because of a lack of jail space.

Crook County's Public Safety Advisory Committee is recommending the county build a new jail as a study found 70 to 90 people convicted of misdemeanors in any given month are either released early or avoid incarceration entirely, *The Bulletin* reported. The committee, created last year, is a group of 21 county residents, none of whom are public officials.

"Early on, we decided it'd be best if we were a committee of citizens," committee co-chairman Mike O'Herron said. "That way it's bottom-up as opposed to top-down. At the same time, we realized we're not pros — we're not experienced law enforcement or with working in the courts."

Based on the study, the committee is recommending a new jail with at least 70 beds.

Currently, the county jail has 16 beds and rents an additional 25 beds for prisoners in the Jefferson County jail. On average, 103 people per

month were sentenced to jail time in Crook County between 2014 and 2015, according to the committee's report.

Crook County Sheriff Joe Gautney said the public safety issue that's created by convicted offenders going free might encourage voters to support a bond measure in November. Previous efforts to pay for a new facility have been unsuccessful.

"We're in a crisis stage," Gautney said Friday. "It's costing us too much money, and we have too many people walking the streets who are waiting to do jail time."

About 440 inmates were released early in 2015 based on a matrix system that helps determine which inmate can be released if needed, according to the committee report. The matrix is a composite score based on the offender's criminal history and the seriousness of the crime committed.

"We had a guy who was arrested for stealing an antique car, and he was convicted and put in jail. We had no space for him — and he got released and then he got arrested again for setting a fire in an alley," Gautney said. "It's a revolving door."

## Umatilla Co. opens some roads to ATVs

By PHIL WRIGHT  
East Oregonian

Umatilla County is planning a one-year experiment to allow recreational all-terrain vehicles on certain gravel roads.

Commissioner Bill Elfering said Jessie Shaw of Milton-Free-water approached him last fall to ask if the county could provide an area for ATV riders to enjoy their vehicles.

"We talked about it for a while and then talked with the county sheriff and our legal department and determined it was possible to do that," Elfering said. "The proposal has gone through a lot of process."

The proposal would allow the vehicles in the north part of the county on certain two-lane gravel county roads east of Highway 11 and north of Wildhorse Road (county roads 685, 675W and 652) and Abel Road (County Road 654). Elfering said that section made sense because the riders wanted to be able to take some county roads into national forest land.

The new county law would not

apply to other public roads within the area.

The public can give input on the new local law when the board of commissioners holds the first reading during a meeting Wednesday at 9 a.m. in room 130 at the county courthouse, 216 S.E. Fourth St., Pendleton.

Sheriff Terry Rowan said state law allows for farm use of ATVs, but expanding the use of the vehicles means more rules for safety. He said the county would require ATV drivers to be 16 or older, have a valid driver's license, a valid Oregon ATV permit or other state-issued permit and a Umatilla County ATV permit, as well as an Oregon ATV safety education card. And adults must accompany ATV drivers younger than 18.

Riders will have to carry insurance, and drivers and passengers must wear helmets. And the ATVs must have rear-view mirrors, lights, a minimum of 150 cc engine capability and meet other requirements for safe operation.

The county also would limit the use of ATVs to daylight hours, according to the proposal, from "one-half hour after sunrise to

one-half hour before sunset." And the law has an expiration date of June 30, 2017.

"If it works well, it will be continued, and if it does not, it won't," Elfering said. "But why not give it a try?"

Rowan also said the county would encourage riders to police themselves and let the county know when someone misuses an ATV or drives one that is unsafe. The county can revoke an ATV permit if an operator violates the new local law or state laws.

The board of commissioners also will consider renewing LifeWise Health Plan of Oregon to provide insurance to county employees for 2016-17 and will reclassify certain jobs as part of the public health and human services departments merger to form the new Health and Human Services Department.

### Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake, please call 541-966-0818.

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Production Manager: Mike Jensen  
541-215-0824 • [mjensen@eastoregonian.com](mailto:mjensen@eastoregonian.com)

**AccuWeather.com Forecast**

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny and very warm	Not as warm	Mostly cloudy with a t-storm	Pleasant with sunny intervals	Partly sunny and pleasant

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

85°	55°	77°	54°	72°	50°	77°	52°	81°	50°
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**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

88°	57°	80°	56°	77°	52°	82°	57°	86°	52°
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**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	83°	44°
Normals	67°	43°
Records	91° (1900)	27° (2006)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m.: 0.00"  
Month to date: 0.00"  
Normal month to date: 0.06"  
Year to date: 4.40"  
Last year to date: 3.13"  
Normal year to date: 5.21"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	86°	41°
Normals	69°	43°
Records	92° (1937)	25° (1954)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m.: 0.00"  
Month to date: 0.00"  
Normal month to date: 0.08"  
Year to date: 2.98"  
Last year to date: 1.79"  
Normal year to date: 4.10"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	5:39 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:05 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:04 a.m.
Moonset today	4:24 p.m.

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

**Coastal Oregon:** Rather cloudy today with a shower in places; cooler. Cloudy tonight with showers.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Partly sunny and warm today; a thunderstorm in spots near the Cascades.

**Western Washington:** Times of clouds and sun today with a stray shower. A couple of showers tonight.

**Eastern Washington:** Brilliant sunshine today, but some clouds toward the Cascades.

**Cascades:** Mild thunder with clouds and sun; an afternoon thunderstorm. A couple of showers tonight.

**Northern California:** Mostly cloudy today; a thunderstorm in spots in the interior mountains.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	61	48	sh	60	47	sh
Baker City	79	42	s	78	48	sh
Bend	74	47	pc	63	44	t
Brookings	59	51	c	62	49	c
Burns	77	43	pc	72	42	t
Enterprise	75	47	s	73	49	c
Eugene	69	51	pc	62	47	sh
Heppner	82	52	pc	74	50	t
Hermiston	88	57	pc	80	56	c
John Day	81	52	pc	75	50	c
Klamath Falls	69	46	pc	60	38	t
La Grande	80	50	s	77	51	c
Meacham	79	47	s	74	49	c
Medford	74	54	pc	66	48	sh
Newport	58	47	c	57	46	sh
North Bend	59	51	c	58	49	sh
Ontario	83	49	s	83	54	c
Pasco	88	56	s	83	54	c
Pendleton	85	55	s	77	54	c
Portland	73	53	pc	65	50	sh
Redmond	76	46	pc	67	43	t
Salem	72	51	pc	64	48	sh
Spokane	81	55	s	78	55	c
Ukiah	78	46	pc	72	47	c
Vancouver	72	52	pc	64	48	sh
Walla Walla	84	58	s	79	57	c
Yakima	86	56	pc	80	53	c

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	78	47	s	83	54	pc
Hong Kong	83	76	c	84	77	sh
Jerusalem	87	59	pc	69	54	c
London	60	41	pc	63	45	pc
Mexico City	85	54	pc	83	54	t
Moscow	67	43	c	66	40	sh
Paris	61	39	pc	63	42	pc
Rome	72	52	s	72	51	t
Seoul	64	50	r	68	49	s
Sydney	75	57	s	74	56	s
Tokyo	72	63	pc	74	63	r

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
<b>Boardman</b>	WSW 3-6	WNW 4-8
<b>Pendleton</b>	SE 4-8	N 4-8

**UV INDEX TODAY**

1 4 6 6 4 1

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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**NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY**

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Showers and storms will extend from the Gulf Coast to much of the Atlantic Seaboard today. Showers will dot the Ohio Valley, Upper Midwest and coastal Northwest. Storms will affect the Four Corners.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 94° in Zephyrhills, Fla. Low 12° in Aspen Springs, Colo.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	70	47	s	77	51	s
Atlanta	78	57	t	73	52	pc
Atlanta City	59	50	r	56	49	sh
Baltimore	66	50	r	68	50	pc
Birmingham	75	49	s	81	54	s
Billing	76	53	c	75	50	s
Boise	82	57	s	85	57	c
Boston	51	44	sh	54	47	c
Charleston, SC	83	66	t	82	58	pc
Chicago, IL	68	49	c	64	45	t
Chicago	66	46	pc	53	38	c
Cleveland	58	45	pc	62	44	t
Dallas	74	57	s	80	56	s
Denver	64	39	pc	73	46	s
Detroit	64	49	pc	56	44	sh
El Paso	83	59	s	85	63	s
Fairbanks	56	36	sh	59	33	pc
Fargo	70	39	pc	68	46	s
Honolulu	85	73	s	85	73	pc
Houston	76	53	pc	81	56	s
Indianapolis	62	47	pc	59	40	t
Jacksonville	86	66	t	83	57	t
Kansas City	67	49	pc	68	43	s
Las Vegas	84	66	s	90	64	pc
Little Rock	72	51	c	80	52	s
Los Angeles	76	59	pc	72	58	pc
Louisville	67	52	pc	64	46	t
Memphis	72	53	c	76	53	s
Miami	88	75	t	87	68	t
Millwaukee	65	43	pc	51	38	pc
Minneapolis	68	44	pc	63	44	s
Nashville	72	50	c	73	47	pc
New Orleans	80	64	t	79	63	s
New York City	60	50	r	59	50	c
Oklahoma City	72	48	pc	77	50	s
Omaha	70	47	pc	69	43	s
Philadelphia	64	52	r	63	50	sh
Phoenix	92	70	s	98	70	s
Portland, ME	56	41	pc	53	41	c
Providence	54	43	r	58	46	c
Raleigh	77	59	t	74	52	t
Rapid City	70	42	s	74	46	s
Reno	74	51	pc	69	47	c
Sacramento	82	56	pc	74	51	c
St. Louis	68	54	pc	69	46	pc
Salt Lake City	73	51	s	80	59	pc
San Diego	70	60	pc	68	60	pc
San Francisco	66	53	pc	64		