

Where'd that word come from? The origin of 'oops!'

CORVALLIS — While researching a book on the cultural history of animal diseases, Ray Malewitz encountered a reference to the Great Epizootic of 1872, the most widespread and destructive horse flu epidemic in North American history.

During the same research, Malewitz, an associate professor in the School of Writing, Literature, and Film at Oregon State University, came across the word "ooperzootics," which he came to learn means a fit of craziness in humans.

This led him to wonder: Are these two words related to the word "oops?"

He consulted the Oxford English Dictionary. The editors note that oops may be a shortened version of "up-a-daisy and later "upsidaisy," which adults since at least the 18th century have cooed when prodding small children in the air. The first known use of the word "oops," dictionary editors recorded, occurred in a humorous horse racing column in the Washington Post in 1921.

"A horse racing column," Malewitz remembered thinking. "I thought that was strange. Horses keep coming up."

He dug deeper. Working with Anne Bahde at the Special Collections & Archives Research Center at Oregon State, Malewitz searched



The word "oops" likely originated from "ooperzootics" a word that is aligned with a serious horse disease of the late 19th century.

digitized newspaper collections for all references to the word "oops" beginning in 1872.

That search revealed the gradual shortening of the word "ooperzootics" to "oops" between 1872 and 1921. In keeping with equine history, Malewitz also uncovered a cartoon from 1909 that depicted a disoriented horse shouting "Wheel-Oop" after ingesting locoweeds, which produce a toxin harmful to the animals.

In a recent paper "On the Origin of 'Oops!': The Language and Literature of Animal Disease," which was published in the journal Critical Inquiry, Malewitz argues that the horse's exclamation connects to newly coined viral phrases of the time, including "ooperzootics" and the related "oopazooty."

Both phrases, he shows, are variants of the veterinary terms "epizooty," a widespread disease affecting ani-

mals, and "epizootic," an adjective that describes the disease, which were popularized by the Great Epizootic of 1872. Because this epizootic ground horse-driven transportation to a halt, humans were often thrust into positions of animals—pushing carts and dragging trams around American cities.

This cross-over of animal and human worlds led to a great deal of surprise and laughter on the streets, and, he argues, a new world to express this surprise. Given the long-standing association between horses and epizootics or ooperzootics, Malewitz argues it is reasonable to assume that oops entered the English language by way of this animal disease before migrating to its current usage as a marker of human foibles.

He plans to let the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary know of his findings

with hopes they will update their dictionary entry for oops.

Malewitz's ongoing research brings together his interests in the creative intersection of the liberal arts and natural sciences. His forthcoming book will offer a historical framework for understanding current disease outbreaks in animals, including avian flu, white nose syndrome in bats and chronic wasting disease, which impacts deer, elk and moose.

In an era of rapidly changing climate, these epizootic outbreaks are expected to increase as animals respond to changing geological conditions by changing their migration patterns and in the process encountering new kinds of illnesses. According to Malewitz, these changes are leading many people to rethink our ethical responsibilities towards the animals in our communities.

Malewitz understands the "oops" story is also about the goofiness of word origins. But, he hopes it will make people think about the enduring, often surprising, connections between the lives of humans and the lives of animals.

"I don't believe this will change the world, but I hope this strange story of an everyday word will get people to consider how animal diseases have shaped and will continue to shape our culture," he said.

OBITUARIES

Gordon Martin Osborn

January 18, 1935–June 22, 2019

Gordon M. Osborn passed away June 22, 2019, at Wallowa Memorial Hospital. He grew up in Wallowa, and he was part of the Wallowa 1951 and 1952 championship football teams. (They even played the Washington champions and beat them.) He later graduated from Wallowa High School.

After graduation from high school he attended Eastern Oregon State College for two years, and then graduated with a Bachelor Science in biology from University of Oregon. He received a Master Science at Montana (Missoula) in human physiology. And then earned a teaching degree from the University of Oregon.

Gordon worked many summers with the Forest Service in Wallowa County.

He married Lorene A Grant on June 19, 1960 at Community Church.

He was a science teacher and coach at Mercer Island High School for 30 years.

He coached track and soccer. Taught summer camp with some of the

original Seattle Sounders professional soccer team at Fort Warden Washington. He was summer coordinator working with Seattle Parks. He enjoyed scuba diving in Puget Sound and working with kids at camps and parks. He refereed summer youth baseball, where his instant replay memory proved useful.

He is survived by his wife Lorene Osborn of Enterprise, daughter Penney Reed of Union, Oregon, son Gordon L. Osborn of Mill Creek, Washington, son Edward J. Osborn of Snohomish, Washington, and five grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, J. Elmer and Mabel Osborn, his aunt, Marjorie Martin, and his half brother, Jack Osborn. His great-grandparents, Alonso and Issabella Wagner were among the founders of the City of Enterprise.

Memorial service will be held at Community Connection at 1 p.m., Sunday July 21. Potluck following.

Memorial donations to Wallowa Memorial Hospital.



Leo Vernon Gorbett

August 10, 1933–June 15, 2019

Leo Vernon Gorbett, age 85, of Cove, died June 15, 2019 at his home. A celebration of life will be held on July 27, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Red Bridge Park followed by a potluck.

Arrangements are entrusted to Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center in La Grande.

Leo was born on August 10, 1933, the son of Rolin and Elna (Henderson) Gorbett in Promise, Oregon. He attended a one room school house in Promise through the 3rd grade then moved to another one room school house in Lone Pine through the 6th grade. The rest of his education was at Wallowa where he graduated from high school in 1951. He served his country with the United States Army from 1954 until 1956. In 1959 he married Bonnie Pullen. She preceded him in death in 1972. In 1973 he

married Susan Courtney in Wallowa. He was a rancher in Wallowa County until 1991 when they moved to

Cove to ranch there. He loved horses and the outdoors, enjoying hunting, fishing, camping and mountain trips. He enjoyed guns and shooting and was a member of the NRA.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Gorbett of Cove; children, Wes Gorbett of Cove, Randy Gorbett of Bonney Lake, Washington, June McElhane of Cove and Don Gorbett of Halfway; brother, Homer Gorbett of Cove; sister, Darlene Stubblefield of Baker City; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by brothers, Wayne and Verl.

In lieu of flowers those who wish may make contributions in his memory to Cove FFA Chapter.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

SEE THE EXPANDED ONLINE CALENDAR AT EASTERNOREGONEVENTS.COM

THURSDAY, JULY 18

KICKBOXING FITNESS CLASS: 5:15 a.m. The Vault in Enterprise. Hurricane Point Fitness. No experience necessary. Certified instructors. 541-398-2131.

PILATES IN WALLOWA: 9 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center. Sponsored by Community Connection.

TAI CHI: 9 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center.

LEGAL AID SERVICES: Starting at 9 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center. Free legal advice for low-income and senior citizens. For appointment, call 1-800-843-1115, ext. 201.

WINE GLASS PAINTING: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Josephy Center. Free wine glass painting lesson with Kodi McCleary. All materials provided and the result is donated to the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts opening night festivities.

LIBRARY STORY TIMES: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Enterprise City Library. Parents and children 0-5. Circle time, story-time and activity at the Library.

FREE SUMMER LUNCH IN THE PARK: Noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For children 0-18. At Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph parks. Sponsored by Building Healthy Families.

WALLOWA COUNTY CHESS CLUB: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Josephy Center, Joseph. Free. Tourists and players of all levels are welcome.

THIRD THURSDAY FARMERS MARKET: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Next to the Courthouse Concert Series. WIC, SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks & Veggie Rx vouchers accepted.

COURTHOUSE CONCERT SERIES: 5:30 p.m. Courthouse gazebo, Enterprise. Free out-

door musical gathering.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

ZUMBA: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

PARENT/CHILD PLAY-GROUPS: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Building Healthy Families. Targeting parents and children 0-5. Songs, stories, snacks and activities focusing on developing kindergarten readiness skills.

RESTORATIVE YOGA: 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Above the Lostine Tavern in Lostine. A gentle style of yoga. Instructor: Esther Petrocine. salutations-studio.com

FOOD GIVEAWAY: 11:30 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center in Wallowa, 11 a.m. Enterprise Senior Center and noon at The Place in Joseph. Sponsored by Wallowa Fresh Food Alliance. Perishable food available.

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: Noon to 6 p.m. Held indoors, on Main Street, across from Wallowa Food City in Wallowa. Produce, eggs, grass fed beef, handcrafted items.

DISCOVERY WALK: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Leave from Wallowology. Family friendly! Free.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wallowa Lake State Park, campground program area.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

WALLOWA COUNTY FARMERS MARKET: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Next to Stein Distillery in Joseph. Fresh local food, handmade arts & crafts, live music and community. WIC, SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks & Veggie Rx vouchers accepted.

ZUMBA GOLD: 9 a.m. 30 minute seated class; 9:30 a.m. standing class. Enterprise Senior Center. A fitness class

for seniors that combines Latin dance music with fitness moves. A doctor's note releasing you to participate in Zumba Gold is required. Call Becky McAuliffe for info at 541-263-0224.

ART ON THE MORAINES: Join artists Jakob Hasslacher and Chris Antemann on a tour of the LH Project and Lola Hasslacher Preserve on Wallowa Lake's East Moraine. Free. Presented by Wallowa Land Trust. For more info: info@wallowalandscape.org or 541-426-2042.

DISCOVERY WALK: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Leave from Wallowa Lake Lodge. Family friendly! Free. Sponsored by Wallowology.

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held indoors, on Main Street, across from Wallowa Food City in Wallowa. Produce, eggs, grass fed beef, handcrafted items.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

LOWER VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held indoors, on Main Street, across from Wallowa Food City in Wallowa. Produce, eggs, grass fed beef, handcrafted items.

BINGO: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. VFW Hall, Enterprise.

MONDAY, JULY 22

ZUMBA: 6:30 a.m. The Place, Joseph. No experience needed. Instructor: Tammi Chapman.

FREE SUMMER LUNCH IN THE PARK: Noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. For children 0-18. At Wallowa, Enterprise and Joseph parks. Sponsored by Building Healthy Families.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

PILATES IN WALLOWA: 9 a.m. Wallowa Senior Center.

SEWING GROUP: 10 a.m.

Brought to you by, **MAIN STREET Motors** Old Fashioned Values Sales & Service

Meet Bonnie & Clyde

Siblings, born May 1, 2019. Bonnie, a black and white female. Clyde, an orange and white male. Both lovable and very friendly. Bonnie is more outgoing and playful while Clyde is quiet and laid back. Both are up-to-date on vaccinations, de-worming and litter box trained. Ready for loving homes.

Available for Adoption
Contact Elaine at 541-263-1148
\$45 adoption fee
Includes a free spay or neuter

WALLOWA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
<http://www.wallowacountyhumaneociety.org/>

Do you have a passion to care for older adults and people with disabilities?

Care for adults in your home or as a separate business.

Lisa Barlow,
541-889-7553 Ext 655
or Tony Boyd
541-963-7276 Ext 342
Adult Foster Home
Licensors



DHS Oregon Department of Human Services

Weather Forecast

Courtesy of Weather Underground • wunderground.com

	High	Low	Conditions
July 18	75	41	Partly Cloudy
July 19	72	43	Sunny
July 20	77	48	Sunny
July 21	85	53	Sunny
July 22	89	56	Mostly sunny
July 23	88	57	Partly cloudy
July 24	87	56	Mostly sunny

Phases of the moon

July 24	July 31	Aug. 7	Aug. 15
Last Quarter	New Moon	1st Quarter	Full Moon

WALLOWA COUNTY SUNRISE & SUNSET JULY 18-24
(from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
5:17 8:33	5:18 8:32	5:19 8:31	5:20 8:31	5:21 8:30	5:23 8:29	5:24 8:28