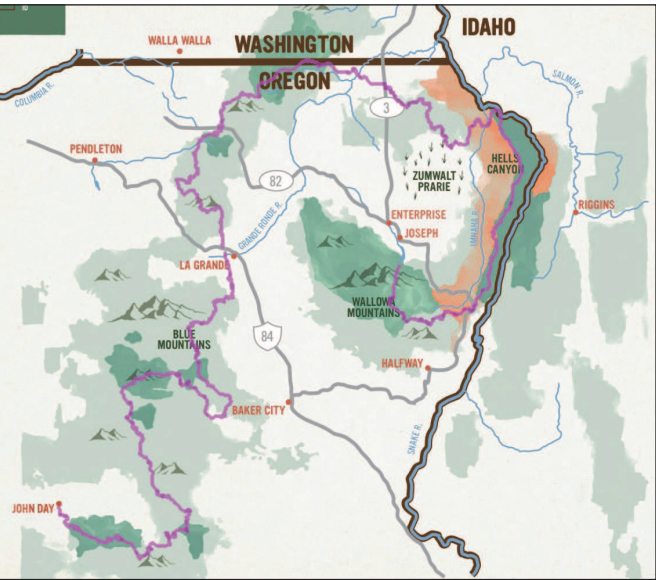




This widescale map is from the Greater Hells Canyon Council’s website for the Blue Mountains Trail. The site is www.hellscanyon.org/blue-mountains-trail



Renee Patrick/Contributed Photo

The Elkhorn Mountains on the horizon from Crown Point, northwest of Sumpter.

TRAIL

Continued from Page 1B

“People need to be realistic about the challenges,” Patrick said. “It’s a great trail for section hiking, as a way to build your skills.”

Higgins, who helped La Ruffa, Hudetz and Unger during their thru-hike by meeting them at trailheads with boxes of food and other supplies, pointed out that the Blue Mountains Trail, because it is made up of so many existing trails and roads, has a multitude of access points.

And it features some sections that are easier to hike than others, such as the Elkhorn Crest National Recreation Trail west of Baker City.

“You can select sections that match your skill level,” Higgins said.

Regardless of where you hike, though, you’ll be surrounded by some of Oregon’s most spectacular scenery, Patrick said.

Among the sections that especially entranced her is through the Eagle Cap Wilderness south of Wallowa Lake. That’s where she started her second and final stint on the trail, in early October.

The Blue Mountains Trail

follows the West Fork of the Wallowa River to Frazier Lake, then crosses Hawkins Pass and descends to the headwaters of the South Fork of the Imnaha River.

“I absolutely loved hiking in the Eagle Cap,” Patrick said. “That’s really an awesome section.”

She also appreciated that the route allowed her to trace a major river — the Imnaha — nearly from its headwaters below Hawkins Pass to its mouth at the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

The Blue Mountains Trail affords the hiker a similar experience with the Grande Ronde River.

“When you see it from the start to where it ends you almost have a relationship with the river,” Patrick said. “I really enjoyed that.”

The Blue Mountains Trail is also enticing for both its geology, which includes rocks more than 200 million years old, as well as considerably more recent cultural history.

Patrick said that while she hiked through the ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce tribe, including a section of the Nee-Me-Poo National Historic Trail, she listened to an audio version of “Thunder in the Mountains,” a historical

account chronicling the Nez Perce being driven from the area in 1877 as white settlers moved into Wallowa County.

Patrick said the hike into and out of Joseph Canyon, named for Nez Perce Chief Joseph, was probably the hardest section of the Blue Mountains Trail.

Among the other difficult sections were those where wildfires have burned in the past decade or so. That includes what was otherwise one of Patrick’s favorite areas, the Wenaha River Canyon, which she describes as “amazing” and “beautiful.”

“Fire has affected a lot of the trails,” she said. “Every year more trees fall. It’s on ongoing maintenance issue.”

Nor is fire the only threat to some of the trail sections that make up the Blue Mountains Trail, Kennedy said.

“There are many, many sections of trail that are way behind in terms of maintenance,” he said.

Not long before Patrick finished her thru-hike in late October, she hiked the Elkhorn Crest Trail during an early preview of winter when temperatures plummeted into the single digits.

She wasn’t deterred — “I do a lot of cold weather and winter camping,” she said — but Patrick said the range of experiences, from her sweltering start to the frigid conclusion, was appropriate for a trail with so many moods.

Patrick, along with Kennedy and Higgins, hopes this newest addition to the West’s long-distance treks will not only enchant hikers, but also bring an economic benefit to the region.

The route comes close to several towns, including Baker City, La Grande and Enterprise, and Kennedy said local residents and businesses could earn extra money shuttling hikers between trailheads and providing other supplies and services that hikers would need.

Ultimately, though, she said the Blue Mountains Trail is a treasure for people who want to follow in her footsteps.

“It’s a great opportunity for hikers,” Patrick said.





La Grande's Certified Master Arborist

Upgraded certification striving to deliver the best care

Thanks for Your Support
Have room for some
Dormant Season
Pruning

MICHAEL

Master Certified Tree Care
Planting • Pruning • Removal
M. Curtiss PN-7077A

541-786-8463 CCB# 200613
michaeltcurtiss@yahoo.com



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

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACING YOUR AD IS EASY...Union, Wallowa, and Baker Counties

Phone La Grande - 541-963-3161 • Baker City - 541-523-3673

On-Line:
www.lagrandeobserver.com
www.bakercityherald.com

Email:
Classifieds@lagrandeobserver.com
Classifieds@bakercityherald.com

DEADLINES:

LINE ADS:

Tuesday: 8:30am Monday
Thursday: 8:30 am Wednesday
Saturday: 8:30 am Friday

DISPLAY ADS:
2 Days Prior to
Publication Date



SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
- 1 Tack

6 Yellow vehicle

9 Smattering

12 — and aahed

13 Sugarloaf locale

14 Impress deeply

15 New on the job

16 Flew the shuttle

18 Hot time in Paris

19 Admittance

21 Barks shrilly

23 Authorizes

24 Meatloaf serving

28 Big party nights

30 Handbook

31 Glued down

34 Ready for the laundry

35 Steal the scene
- 36 Bridge section

37 Category

38 Expert

39 Hair goos

43 Arm joints

46 Large New Zealand parrot

47 Account

50 Thai or Vietnamese

52 El Dorado loot

53 Floor tile material

54 Stressed out

55 Crumple up

56 Witness

57 Kind of beaver
- DOWN
- 1 Par plus one

2 Heart outlet

3 Rams and lambs

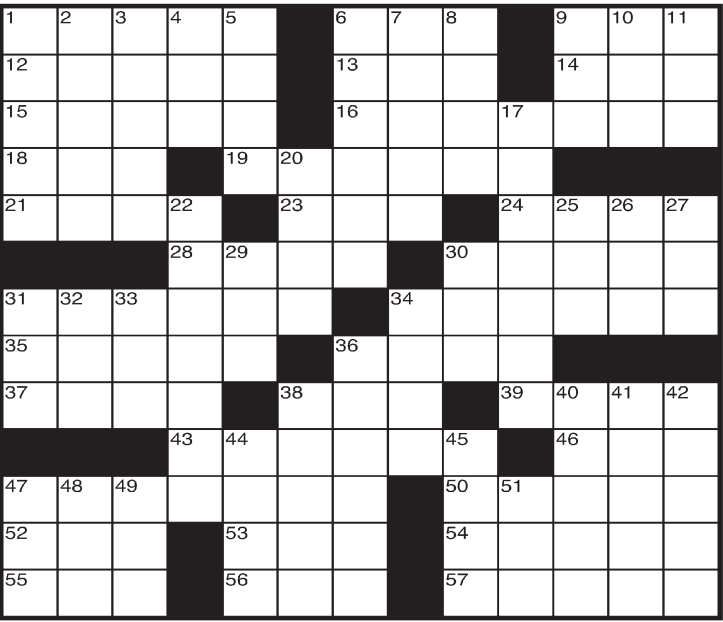
4 Tie-dyed garment

5 Ms. Ferber

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-23-21 © 2021 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS



- 6 Earthen jars

7 Buenos —, Argentina

8 Short hairdos

9 Blubbery
- 10 Wool producer

11 Marry

17 Flowing out

20 Type of dorm

22 Parlor pieces

25 Dogpatch's — Abner

26 Fruit cooler

27 — -and-breakfast

29 Notch shape

30 — — step further

31 Dog or cat

32 Irving or Grant

33 Bribe

34 Emulate Etna

36 Candle holder

38 In the sky

40 Being very thrifty

41 Auto option

42 More balanced

44 Cup edges

45 Overindulge

47 Solemn promise

48 Age

49 Pole

51 Deep water

110 Announcements

110 Announcements

To Place a Classified Ad

Please email your contact information and the content to be included in the ad to:

classifieds@bakercityherald.com

If you are unable to to email please call:
(541) 523-3673

Deadline for Classified Ads
8:30 AM one day prior to publication

House need new paint? The Service Directory is the place to look.

110 Announcements

110 Announcements

★ ★ ★ ★

THE DEADLINE for placing a **CLASSIFIED AD** is **8:30 A.M.** **ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE PUBLICATION**
Publication Days: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

SUBSCRIBERS!

TAKE US ON YOUR PHONE and LEAVE YOUR PAPER AT HOME!

FULL editions of the **Baker City Herald** -AND- **La Grande Observer** are now available online!

3 EASY STEPS

1. Register your account before you leave
2. Call to stop your print paper
3. Log in wherever you are at and enjoy!

Call Now to Subscribe!
(541) 963-3161



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
- Little Bagel Shop
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

A yard sale is a great way to get people to pay you to move all the items you no longer need. And an ad in The Observer classifieds is a great way to get yard sale shoppers to your address. Call us today at 541-963-3161!

GET QUICK CASH WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Sell your unwanted car, property and household items more quickly and affordably with the classifieds. Just call us today to place your ad and get ready to start counting your cash. The Observer 541-963-3161. The Baker City Herald 541-523-3673

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

AA MEETINGS
Wednesday Nights, 7-8:15pm. Fort Union Grange Hall, corner of McAlister & Gekeler Lanes. For more info, call 541-786-1222

AL-ANON Attitude of Gratitude. Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm. Faith Lutheran Church. 12th & Gekeler, La Grande. 541-786-2051

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Monday, Thursday, & Friday at 8pm. Episcopal Church 2177 First St. Baker City

Drug Problem? We can help!

Narcotics Anonymous
Phone: 541-805-2229
www.neo-na.org

EVERYONE READS CLASSIFIED ADS — you're reading one now.

T.O.P.S.
Meets every Tuesday Morning 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. LDS Church in Island City. *Fragrance Free Group*