

FOG

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According to a June 1993 document from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the Lodgepole trail, parts of which are inside the Eagle Cap Wilderness, was formally closed to motor vehicles in that month.

The document doesn't explain why the trail wasn't previously closed, given that motor vehicles are prohibited in wilderness areas.

The trail climbs for the first quarter mile or so, crossing a couple of small openings that have the characteristic look of the western Wallows. The most notable part of this wardrobe is the rock — the brown basalt that is so distinct from the white granitic rock, and limestone, that are the predominant formations in most of the range.

Although the Lodgepole trail's namesake tree is well-represented in the forests through which it passes, my attention was diverted by another, and much less common, conifer.

You won't often come across mountain hemlocks in Northeastern Oregon. The species, with its dis-



Jayson Jacoby/Baker City Herald

The Lodgepole trail in the Wallowa Mountains is well-maintained by the Blue Mountain Back Country Riders volunteer group.

tinctive needles, of even length and arranged in a spiral around the twigs, generally grows only in higher-elevation forests where snow lingers long in the spring.

This typically means north- or east-facing slopes. Along the Lodgepole trail we saw hemlocks on those aspects, but also, in a few places, near the top of a ridge that had more of a westerly aspect. This must be a snowy spot. It makes sense that it would be, as this ridge is the first rampart that moisture-laden winter storms slam into as they ride the

jet stream from the Pacific across the Northwest, off-loading some of their rain and snow on each of the ranges between the Cascades and the Great Plains.

Hemlocks are easy to recognize because their tops droop in a way that no other conifer does, a gentle curve rather like the form of a diver at the apex of a leap.

Hemlocks are not, however, easy to recognize when fog obscures the tops of even juvenile trees.

We had another engagement scheduled so we turned back before I was satisfied, perhaps my

commonest complaint on mountain trails.

I inevitably wish to hike just far enough to find out where a climb ends, whether the trail veers into a draw directly or bypasses it by ascending a divide.

This compulsion nags me on clear days, when the prospect of a sweeping view pulls me along, like the mechanical rabbit at a dog-racing track.

I might have predicted that I wouldn't feel compelled to keep hiking on a foggy day, when visibility was measured in feet rather than in miles.

But this was not so.

If anything, I felt a stronger urge to continue, since the fog prevented me from guessing at where the path might lead even a few hundred feet ahead.

This heightened the sense of anticipation, of mystery, that attends any journey along a route that is unfamiliar.

I rarely need to invent reasons to return to a trail.

As we retraced our steps through the clammy air, weaving between the occasional clump of grass to keep from soaking our shoes, I appreciated that the fog had given me an especially compelling excuse to come back this way on another, brighter day.



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

Where good holding water exists, a pan-size trout or two can be found.

TROUT

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until spring snowmelt and associated rising flow hastens their journey to the Columbia River and eventually the Pacific Ocean. A larger fly is favored so as to not hook these 3-inch foretellers of a 12-pound adult.

More than one trout nosed my fly and did not return. Others ignored offerings when a tiny ball of algae clung to the head of the fly. You could say they were hungry, but not desperate. Small stream fly fishing is rarely a case of match-the-hatch or observing the nature of a rise form. You start with

a pattern that has worked well in the past and use it until it no longer attracts, gets chewed up, or is lost because of an errant cast.

Journal notes show 32 trout hooked and released in two hours of fishing. On a fine summer morning with no other angler in sight. Without a care in the world. I guess that's why I revel in the wonder of trout.

Dennis Dauble is a retired fishery scientist, outdoor writer, presenter and educator who lives in Richland, Washington. For more stories about outdoor adventure, including fish and fishing in area waters, see DennisDaubleBooks.com.

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HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder
Born today, you have a very natural way of setting yourself apart, being different, behaving in ways that are eschewed by others and generally dancing through life to the beat of a very different drummer -- and that's all without really trying! Indeed, what others call odd, unusual or even strange is what you call normal and routine, and it suits you perfectly, inside and out. But being "different" isn't really unique, is it? True!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You will be occupied by home affairs throughout much of the day -- and it will be worse if you cannot be where the work is being done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Take care today that your overall approach isn't one that turns people away from you. You cannot afford to be losing money right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- You've been paying attention to what's going on around you, and today you must immerse yourself in an exploration of "why."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Your view of the future may be affected somewhat by a chance encounter that has you thinking that nothing is certain at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You can devise a plan that involves everyone you like to work with, but take care that you're not actually making things unmanageable!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- You can enjoy some quiet time today with a friend or loved one who understands what you need -- and how to give it. Set work concerns aside.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- It's better to start at the beginning, and today you'll understand more than before just where that is. A recent struggle comes to an end.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- A memory

sends you on the hunt for something that will give you a great deal of satisfaction when you are finally able to call it your own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- You cannot be so eager to make a profit today that you sacrifice your principles or turn your back on a friend. You must remain centered!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Your own expectations are actually putting you under greater pressure than anything another is asking you to do. Give yourself a break!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Information comes to you today that compels you to examine your reasons for doing certain things. Your alliances may be shifting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Doing something familiar in a new and challenging way can raise your enjoyment level exponentially today -- as long as self-awareness is keen.

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110 Announcements

110 Announcements

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Cambridge univ.
- 4 Take hastily
- 8 Clobber
- 12 Caviar
- 13 Mercedes rival
- 14 Fix apples
- 15 Amateur
- 17 Na+, for one
- 18 Late spring flower
- 19 Ceiling fixtures
- 21 Fields of study
- 22 Pub orders
- 25 What, in Seville
- 26 Somber evergreens
- 27 Huff and puff
- 30 Spanish "that"
- 31 Tibet's capital
- 33 Junior reporter
- 35 Mogul
- 37 Only
- 38 Female principle
- 39 Make clear

- 41 DEA agents
- 44 Semester ender
- 45 Fall birthstone
- 46 CPA's sum
- 47 Healing succulent
- 51 Only
- 52 The skinny
- 54 Mare's tidbit
- 55 Ballot marks
- 56 Marshal's badge
- 57 Luau instr.

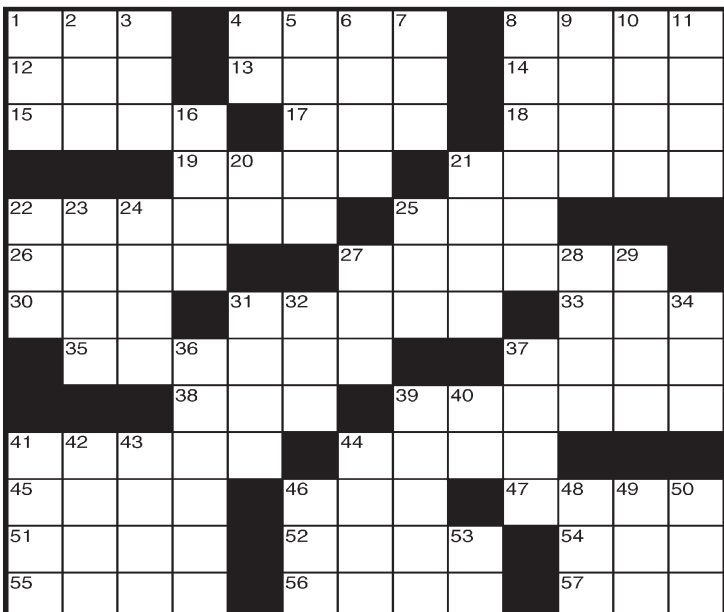
DOWN

- 1 Bon — (witticism)
- 2 Dorm coverer
- 3 Roadworker's goo
- 4 Dixie st.
- 5 Impoverishes
- 6 Commotions
- 7 Grain holder
- 8 Flowering shrub
- 9 Pottery

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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- 10 Met highlight
- 11 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
- 16 Switch positions
- 20 "Look — that!"
- 21 Faint glow
- 22 Pigment
- 23 Take it easy
- 24 Not home
- 25 Gal. fourths
- 27 — Diego Chargers Desktop symbol
- 29 Now, to Caesar
- 31 Ms. Lane of comics
- 32 Term of endearment
- 34 Flower visitor
- 36 Dishwasher phases
- 37 Butterbean
- 39 Bit player
- 40 N.C. neighbor
- 41 Iditarod terminus
- 42 Summit
- 43 Unusual
- 44 Send forth
- 46 Website clutter
- 48 "Iron Man" — Gehrig
- 49 Acorn bearer
- 50 Riviera summer
- 53 Musical warble, briefly

110 Announcements

★ ★ ★ ★

THE DEADLINE for placing a **CLASSIFIED AD** is **4:00 P.M.** **TWO BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE PUBLICATION**
Publication Days: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Heart 'n Home HOSPICE
Hospice & Palliative Care, LLC
"Affirming life.....every day, every time"

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Volunteering is so rewarding and a great way to contribute to your community. If you would like to volunteer a little, a lot, or once in awhile, go to www.gohospice.com and fill out a volunteer application. If you need assistance contact: Lori at 541.524.7688

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- Little Bagel Shop
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- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
541-805-2229
neo-na.org

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,
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541-786-2051

AL-ANON
Keep Coming Back Family Group
Mondays, 7 pm
at NKWest, 1208 Adams,
La Grande, OR

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

Drug Problem? We can help!
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Phone: 541-805-2229
www.neo-na.org

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

LA GRANDE NOW HAS A GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS MEETING!
Every Friday Night @5pm, 2107 Gekeler Ln, LG, Church of Christ basement. For more info please call 971-219-8411

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Goin' Straight Group Meetings:
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Start at 8 PM
Episcopal Church Basement
2177 1st Street, Baker City

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For Information Call 541-523-5128
Leave a Message
Email: ecapoa@live.com

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Info for Baker City Meetings
Call: 541-523-5851 or 541-239-7323

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Fragrance Free Group

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Calvary Baptist Church
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EVERY THURSDAY
6:15 - 8:00 PM

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EVERY THURSDAY
6:15 - 8:00 PM

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Joseph Methodist Church (basement on northside)
Joseph, OR
6-7pm. Contact 541-398-1398

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS
Tues., Noon - 1 PM
Baker County Library
Archive Room
2400 Resort St., Baker City
Call: 541-540-5326
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