



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

A small fly tipped with a Berkley maggot can be an irresistible temptation for hungry panfish below the ice.

PERCH

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Although the fish were small, I seized my one opportunity of the year for perch tacos, icing down about a dozen, as well as a few of the better rain-bows. Arriving home the next afternoon, I fileted the little perch, rolled them in cornmeal, and pan-fried them crunchy before placing them on a flour tortilla, sprinkling them with Cajun seasoning, a

little cayenne, and topping them with cheese, cabbage, and a dab of salsa. My wife and I savored every bite, and just like that, our bounty was gone. Like Christmas Day, we must wait another year to put more yellow perch on ice.

Brad Trumbo is a fish and wildlife biologist and outdoor writer in Waitsburg, Washington. For tips and tales of outdoor pursuits and conservation, visit www.bradtrumbo.com.

WILDLIFE

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Interstate 84: Meacham

This potential project focuses on the bridge near Milepost 238 at Meacham.

According to the coalition's report, studies done by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation show that elk fitted with tracking collars try to cross the freeway in this area, and there have been multiple collisions with vehicles.

Reducing the frequency of collisions would require building fencing and possibly other structures, including making some underpasses larger to accommodate elk, according to the report.

Highway 26: Dayville

This project could be the start of a wider effort to address collisions with mule deer and pronghorn antelope along Highway 26 through the John Day Valley.

The coalition is pro-

posing fencing and retrofitting bridges for wildlife passage. The estimated cost is \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. The project also would require cooperation from landowners.

Highway 20: Juntura to Harper Valley

This proposed project covers a 27-mile stretch of the highway, and is designed to reduce collisions with mule deer and elk.

The area encompasses winter range for mule deer that winter along the highway and the Malheur River and cross the highway frequently, according to the coalition's report.

The report lists a variety of projects, including creating unobstructed wildlife routes under existing bridges, removing dilapidated fencing and installing new fencing, along with a possible wildlife overpass (there are no such structures in Oregon now).

The estimated cost for a basic retrofitting of five bridges is \$1,215,000. A more complex retrofit



Oregon Department of Transportation/Contributed Photo, File

Mule deer pass beneath U.S. Highway 97 near Sunriver via a wildlife underpass.

"It's not a question of whether these crossing structures work. It's really just a financial hurdle."

— Tyler Dungannon, conservation coordinator, Oregon Hunters Association

would cost an estimated \$2.29 million per bridge, for a total cost of \$11.45 million.

The estimated cost for an overpass ranges from \$3.96 million to almost \$7.1 million.

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HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder. Born today, you are likely to enjoy a good deal of success even when quite young, and though you may not score any real career advances until adulthood, you will surely be able to lay the foundations for professional accomplishment when merely exploring what the world might have available to you -- and this you will do enthusiastically during your first years. This, of course, counts as success! For how many people do you know who are able to step into a professional role with all the pieces squarely in place on the first day? SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You may not have to get everything done in one fell swoop today, but the more you accomplish now, the more you'll be able to plan ahead. ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- You're eager to show how well you can navigate some tricky terrain. It's not about perfection, but

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Jump, 5 Hit some ice, 9 Music or dance, 12 The younger Guthrie, 13 Burrowing animal, 14 Sidelines cry, 15 Powerful perfume, 17 2,001, to Augustus, 18 Small barrel, 19 Huffs and puffs, 21 Dock supports, 24 Psychology pioneer, 26 Stolen goods, 27 Move jauntily, 28 Tony's cousin, 32 Pained cries, 33 Umpire's yell, 34 Over and over, 35 Drive contents, 37 GI entertainers, 38 Leaning Tower site. DOWN: 1 Lick up, 2 Time span, 3 Mi. above sea level, 4 Trouser feature, 5 Metro haze, 6 Reed or Ferrigno, 7 Down with the flu, 8 Condescend, 9 Upper limbs, 10 Stair alternative, 11 "— means war", 16 Guys and fellows, 20 Way back when, 21 Grind away, 22 Missouri neighbor, 23 Off course, 24 Knight's combat, 25 Game for (2 wds.), 27 Wrestling match, 29 Get steamed up, 30 In that case (2 wds.), 31 LGA postings, 36 Pop singer — Grant, 38 Slices, 40 Taking advantage of, 41 Visit, 42 Pinch hitters, 43 Three musicians, 44 Cookout intruders, 45 Zipped by, 48 Cloister dweller, 49 Watchdog org., 50 Make lacework, 51 First lady? Beads on grass.

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HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder. Born today, you always seem to have more at stake than most other people, and you tend to live your entire life as though you have bet the farm on your success -- and, in a sense, you have, for when it comes to your daily affairs, you are "all in" and never one to shrink from a challenge or difficulty. You are also, as it happens, quite a big-hearted and generous individual, and just as hard as you work for your own gain, you will work for the benefit of others as well. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder. Born today, you are not always as calm, thoughtful or cautious as many others born under your sign, and, in fact, you can be quite irrational at times, especially when your opinions or beliefs are challenged. That's when your temper can really flare, and your "hair trigger" reveals itself. You can afford to be a little more discriminating at times about the things that throw you into a fit -- for not everything is worth that, as you well know! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You'll want to guard against seeing things from an overly emotional point of view today. You may need some help remaining objective. ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- It's time to step up and do your part to protect something that you feel may be threatened at this time. You do have an effect. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Someone's