

**HARES**

Continued from Page B1

A gated road sliced through the middle of the cover, which made much of the walking and cover inspection easy, but passing the one-hour mark with no hare sign led to complacency. The camera came out and my careful scrutiny of the landscape for the brilliant white furballs became ancillary to the beauty of golden sun streaming through dark timber and loosening the morning's frosty grip on the forest.

Emerald moss and low-growing bunchgrasses covered crumpling basalt slopes in a smooth blanket beneath the shade of drooping serviceberry and firs. As I marveled over the soft greens and textures of early spring, I stepped into the brush to inspect a snowy patch for hare tracks. Starbursts of sunlight glistened through water droplets which had formed on the branches of a downed, decaying hawthorn. The water droplets hung delicately from the most intricate seafoam-tinted lichens I had ever seen. The stunning colors held my attention and camera focus as Doug and Bob move on.

A short distance ahead, Bob stepped into the brush,



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

Thick shrubbery, ferns, and briars beneath scattered firs offers good opportunity to pursue snowshoe hares.

walking a line through the thicket where raspberry, rose and ferns created a dense ground covering. As I stopped to photograph an intriguing wetland pool, the faint "click" of a gun safety and quiet profanity drifted back from Bob's position. Simultaneously, a snow-white hare bounced

across the trail directly between Doug and I, who were left staring at one another in disbelief.

The hare slipped neatly into the brush and disappeared from my view with Doug immediately sliding into the cover between firs. I back-tracked to find an opening to flank the hare

and parallel Doug, which may have spurred the hare to turn in Doug's direction. The bark of his Ithaca .410 single-shot was louder than I expected within the tight fir canopy, and with my ears ringing, I spied him emerge from the undergrowth with the exquisite young hare. "It took me a moment

to figure out why the snow was moving," Bob said with a laugh as he emerged from the briars and ferns. Had the hare not run between Doug and I, it may have been Bob's bunny.

We marveled over the silky softness of the hare's winter coat, and poked fun at its comically large hind feet. A critter well equipped to thrive in deep snow and evade predators like Canada lynx, bobcats, and coyotes.

"Your turn to flush 'em out," Bob said to Doug, who happily jumped into the next brushy patch.

Doug moved quickly to the toe of the slope to his left and the sudden discharge of his shotgun followed. The second hare sat conspicuously beneath a fir just above head height on the slope as Doug approached, rewarding him for being at the right place and time. This hare was larger and more striking than the first.

The farther we hiked, the better the habitat looked, but to our surprise we encountered no more hares. I found it ironic that we were surprised by not finding hares in the better habitat, given our earlier surprise in finding hares at all. But experienced hunters have a keen sense for knowing when an area "looks good," and if only

subconsciously, we expect to find our prey where it belongs.

The hike back to the truck was less about hunting and more about savoring the moment and setting. We rode the high of a beautiful mountain morning, good company, a successful hunt, and the increasingly high sun angle tickling our natural senses to the fact that we were on the forefront of spring. Lighthearted conversation included the possible meals the hares would serve Doug and his lady Angela later that evening, and tentative plans were made for hunting the last Sunday of the season.

As we parted ways to return to our individual realities, I took a moment to give thanks for the camaraderie, a new hunting experience, and the public lands that made it possible. I left my pursuits of furry small game in my Appalachian youth, but this morning reinvigorated my interest in the challenge and delectable table fare of hunting Blue Mountain hares.

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](http://www.bradtrumbo.com).

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**HOROSCOPES** by Stella Wilder

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

Born today, you are likely to make something of a splash when you are young, attracting attention to yourself through the repeated demonstration of certain highly regarded skills -- and the trick, for the rest of your life, will be matching your early successes and notoriety later on, when other people, and even you, have gotten used to your accomplishments and you struggle to prove that you're capable of reaching farther and doing more than ever before.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Someone close to you may be swept up in your journey of discovery today. Together, you can make a routine moment something special.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- The "little things" make a big difference to you today, but you may not be aware of all the effects until a surprise encounter opens your eyes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Use your time as you would under normal circumstances today, but know that the circumstances will be anything but normal -- for a while.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You mustn't let a past bout of uncertainty keep you from reaching for what you want today. That gold ring is there for you to claim!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Slow and steady may not win the race today, but it allows you to see things for what they are and enjoy the progress you make step by step.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- That which comes to you through unexpected channels may have to be checked and double-checked before you include it in your routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You have asked for a great deal, and you're not expecting everything to come your way today, but what you do get your hands on excites you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- What you

need is not yet available to you, but you mustn't lose sight of it in your mind's eye as you get busy with today's many tasks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- How you interpret the day's events will make a big difference today -- not only to you, but also to those who have allied themselves with you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- The way you've done things in the past can be combined with one or two exciting new methods -- and the results may surprise even you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Cast your mind back and you'll come upon a time that figures prominently in your affairs right now, but in a subtle and unusual way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- You can serve others well today without doing anything to threaten your progress. You have enough time and resources to do it all for now.

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110 Announcements

110 Announcements

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

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110 Announcements

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

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- Black's Distributing
- Ryder Bros
- VFW
- Baker Elk's Lodge
- Main Event
- Lefty's Tap House
- Baker City Fire Dept.
- Haines Sell-Rite
- Idle Hour
- Salvation Army

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
541-805-2229  
[neo-na.org](http://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**  
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

Check out our classified ads.

**DO YOU HAVE....HURTS, HABITS and/or HANG UPS?**  
12 Step Biblical Support  
Harvest Church  
3720 Birch St. Baker City  
Thurs., 6:30 - 8:30 PM

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

**Someone's drinking a problem?**  
AL-ANON Meetings are available by phone  
Info for Baker City Meetings  
Call: 541-239-7323

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Third & Broadway  
Baker City, OR  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
6:15 - 8:00 PM

**AL-ANON** Attitude of Gratitude.  
Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm.  
Faith Lutheran Church.  
12th & Gekeler, La Grande  
Please wear a mask & practice social distancing  
541-786-2051

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
Goin' Straight Group  
Meetings:  
Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri.  
Start at 8 PM  
Episcopal Church Basement  
2177 1st Street, Baker City

**Drug Problem? We can help!**  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Phone: 541-805-2229  
[www.neo-na.org](http://www.neo-na.org)

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**  
Would you like to stop compulsive eating?  
For Information Call 541-523-5128  
Leave a Message  
Email: [ecapoa@live.com](mailto:ecapoa@live.com)

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP**  
Support for family & friends of Alcoholics  
Tuesday evenings: 6-7pm  
Joseph Methodist Church (basement on northside) Joseph, OR  
Contact 541-398-1398

**WALLOWA COUNTY AA MEETINGS**

**Enterprise**  
MONDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

TUESDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7 - 8:00 pm  
(Big Bk Study)  
113.5 E Main St.

WEDNESDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

THURSDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
113.5 E Main St.

FRIDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
Closed Meeting  
113.5 E Main St.

SATURDAYS  
• Enterprise Group  
7:00 pm  
113.5 E Main St.

**City of Joseph**  
WEDNESDAYS  
• Buck Stops Here  
Joseph United  
Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

THURSDAYS  
• Grace and Dignity \*(WM)  
Joseph United  
Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

SATURDAYS  
• Buck Stops Here  
Joseph United  
Methodist Church, 12 pm  
301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

Questions call  
AA Hotline:  
541-624-5117  
[www.oregonadistrict29.org](http://www.oregonadistrict29.org)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022  
**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Nautilus locale
- 4 — donna
- 9 Border
- 12 Rover's greeting
- 13 Shoestrings
- 14 Mean, briefly
- 15 Liquid metal
- 17 Witch-hunt locale
- 19 Candle count
- 20 To the top
- 21 Nonflying birds
- 24 Had a setback
- 28 London elevators
- 30 Comedian's stock
- 31 Clock numeral
- 32 Kind of system
- 33 Rich cake
- 35 Hush-hush org.
- 36 Acct. entry
- 37 Feint
- 38 Petite
- 40 Put up with

**DOWN**

- 1 Actor — Shepard
- 2 Opposite of post-
- 3 Kenya's loc.
- 4 Advertisement
- 5 More unusual
- 6 Aloof
- 7 Yours truly
- 8 Relieves

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

O	F	F	R	I	O	T	M	A	C	E		
L	I	L	E	S	T	A	I	V	A	N		
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	C	L	E	W	D	
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E	R	S	U	S	E	R	I	N	N	S		
S	N	O	U	T	R	E	X					
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