

KLAMATH

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only a matter of time before trout populations collapse.

Unite

So much of the narrative in my lifetime has been one of polarized, opposing sides. Farmers and ranchers on one side and Native Americans on the other. It's time for this to stop. Despite differences, everyone will benefit from a healthier Klamath.

The Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Tribes are not alone in their victimization by United States policy and past actions. There is no denying the mistreatment and genocide of tribes across the country; however, past sins are not an excuse for continued marginalization. Society has evolved and can continue to do so. We can respect the legacy of the people who were here first without completely eliminating agriculture.

A healthy Klamath Basin is a healthy Klamath Falls, a healthy Klamath County and a healthy public at large. We do not have to choose between agriculture and ecology. At least, not yet. Water availability is its own discussion, but we have no control over the rainfall. We absolutely have control over habitat loss.

It's time to buy back and rewild vacant land where possible then open it to regulated public use. Create new wetlands. Limit erosion. Rebuild banks where possible. The first step is to keep cattle out of the water with fences and begin to replant shoreline vegetation to keep the banks from eroding further.

Many ranchers have already taken these steps, including



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo
Local guide Tim Cleland (rear) motors in the boat for the author and videographer Nick Mitchell (front), who is working on a documentary of his own centered in the Klamath Basin.

a close friend and successful rancher in the area who has already fencing his properties on Lost River where waterfowl benefit just as much as fish from the natural, healthy habitat untrampled by hooves.

Fencing is a solution neither prohibitively expensive nor overwhelmingly complex. Cattle ranching can persist even as we restore the Klamath and its tributaries to its former glory. This isn't controversial; it's common sense.

■ For similar stories, read the author's book "Fishing Across America," which is available for preorder now at <https://bit.ly/3MKuclp>. Sign up for every single CaughtOvgard column at www.patreon.com/CaughtOvgard. Read more for free at caughtovgard.com; contact [luke.ovgard@gmail.com](mailto:ovgard@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support of local journalism.

BACKYARD

Continued from Page B1

I've often daydreamed, while hiking in the woods, about how fine it would be to take a rest on a stump or log and munch a savory slice, grease pooled in the pepperoni and molten cheese dripping from the crust. But these episodes, which I suspect plague most hikers at some point, inevitably end with salivation rather than salvation. A handful of trail mix satisfies the body, but the brain, after such episodes, reacts with disdain to peanuts and dried fruit.

I scarcely had time to ponder the pizza delivery scenario before we got to the parking lot. I suspect that if I lived around Riverside Park I could make the trip in about as much time as it takes to drive from my house to the grocery store. Which in Baker City, with its tidy dimensions, is not long at all.

We applied bug spray for the first time in many blissfully insect-deficient months, and started hiking on the Red Apple trail.

The bugs, happily, weren't numerous enough — or voracious enough, anyway — to constitute even a minor annoyance. Although when we paused for more than 10 seconds or so I noticed that every mosquito in the vicinity veered over to have a look at the rich sources of carbon dioxide that had suddenly appeared, although they were strangely apathetic. Perhaps they were satiated and sluggish after assaulting previous hikers or mountain bikers.

It was the sort of evening that it seems to me is exclusive to June.

We started hiking around 7 o'clock. I donned a fleece jacket but this was for protection against

mosquitoes rather than insulation. The temperature, according to the thermometer in our car, was 65. If mild can be defined precisely, I think 65 degrees would do nicely.

The air had the fresh clean quality that disappears along about the middle of July, when the heat and the dust — and more so in recent years the wildfire smoke — make outdoor endeavors sweaty and sometimes unpleasantly congestive.

Patches of lupine perfumed the air.

There was little wind, and the occasional breezes seemed perfectly timed to cool our brows during an uphill stretch or when the trail found a patch of waning but still potent sunlight. It was as if MERA had sent along an aid with a portable fan to ensure we were never even slightly too warm.

We sampled just a small section of MERA, having limited time and being on foot besides.

(Our own feet, that is. We saw plenty of evidence that equestrians had enjoyed portions of our route as well.)

We had so much fun, though, that we returned two nights later, on June 22.

This time we hiked farther north, on the MERA Loop and a few other sections of trail.

It was noticeably warmer — the hottest day in more than 9 months, in fact, in Baker City — but the basalt ramparts of Mount Emily block the sun pretty early, and we were in shade almost the whole way.

We swatted at a few more mosquitoes than we did two evenings earlier.

And we had to rush the last mile or so to get back to LHS to pick up Olivia.

But otherwise it was again an altogether enjoyable visit — the

sort of hike I usually have to wait until the weekends for.

Unlike our previous visit, when we saw only one person on the trails, we came across about a dozen mountain bike riders, all of them courteous and appreciative when we stepped aside as they grinded up a series of switchbacks above the Upper Igo trailhead.

We also passed a pair of hikers, each of whom was accompanied by a friendly dog.

MERA, which is managed by the Union County Parks Department and has an advisory committee, is renowned for its mountain bike trails and its network of paths for ATVs.

I've never pedaled at the place but I'm sure I would have fun — albeit not the same variety of high-flying fun that a couple of riders were indulging in as they navigated a downhill section of trail amply endowed with jumps and smoothly banked corners.

MERA is no wilderness, to be sure.

But it's a pretty fair approximation, with its patches of forest and its meadows and its occasional streams, the latter lined with thick vegetation and spanned in places by simple but quaint wooden bridges.

As we walked along on the two evenings it occurred to me, now and again, about how close we actually were to the bustling city, and the busy freeway, yet we could neither see nor hear the commotion. They might as well have been a hundred miles away instead of a handful.

I was also consumed, as it were, with the nagging reality that a hot pizza was mere minutes away.

■ Jayson Jacoby is the editor of the Baker City Herald.

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WORK FOR YOU

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Fish-eating mammal
- 6 Fake it
- 9 Foot-pound relative
- 12 — and repeat
- 13 Cultural Revolution figure
- 14 Postal Creed word
- 15 Pub. prosecutor
- 16 Tin, in the lab
- 17 More liberal
- 19 Notable time
- 21 Appetite
- 23 Hindu prince
- 25 Hardened
- 26 Queen's quarters
- 30 Piped up
- 32 Woody or Steve
- 33 Swamp gases
- 36 Makes steel
- 37 Vast assortment

- 38 Golf stroke
- 39 Asian royalty
- 40 Paving material
- 41 Spot
- 45 Food storage place
- 48 Ziegfeld nickname
- 49 Flustered
- 52 Lead-in to 4-Down
- 54 Gold Rush st.
- 55 Demure
- 56 Blvd.
- 57 Try a bite
- 59 Long time
- 60 Contractor's figure
- 61 Fixed a seam

DOWN

- 1 Command
- 2 Headpiece
- 3 Opry's st.
- 4 Curvy letter
- 5 Ripped apart
- 6 Moseyed along
- 7 Insert mark

Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	O	A	S	A	D	H	A	U	L
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- 8 Tweety or Sylvester
- 9 Goal
- 10 Beluga product
- 11 Watchdog's warning
- 18 Jock
- 20 Foyt's initials
- 22 Where Japan is
- 24 Falls upon
- 27 Sick
- 28 Zoo staffer
- 29 USN officer
- 31 Jo's sister
- 32 Qty.
- 33 Scratch or dent
- 34 Nest-egg letters
- 35 Prince Valiant's son
- 36 "You bet!"
- 38 Soft and cushiony
- 40 Fountain in Rome
- 42 W. Coast metropolis
- 43 Piece of china
- 44 Harnessed
- 46 Melville captain
- 47 "Phoey!"
- 49 Unreturnable serve
- 50 Show disapproval
- 51 Rand of "Atlas Shrugged"
- 53 "The Facts of Life" star
- 58 Compass pt.

103 Announcements

Construction Auction
Saturday June 25th.
11:00 am Start time,
Preview will be from 12-6pm on Friday before the sale.
Location: NE Johns Pl Pendleton, OR 97801.
Items for sale: Liftall forklift, Lincoln 225 arc welder, Miller welder, 2n fordson tractor, trailers, wackers, Tannewitz saw, concrete saws, John deere tractor, backhoe buckets, Pvc pipe, lumber, and way too many items to list Check.
Check for pictures and a full list on our Facebook page Fords Auction. All items are sold as is. Buyer's premium 10%. Pickup and pay the sale day.
Contact us for estate sales and consignments. Licensed and bonded in Washington. 541-561-5798 Ford or 541-314-3153 Colby

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Checking the classified ads before you shop can save time and bucks.

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

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104 Community Calendar

- VFW POST 460**
Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm.
Corner of Main at Birch in Union
- LA GRANDE LIONS CLUB**
Meets 2nd & 4th Monday of each month @ 12 PM
Union County Senior Center
1504 N. Albany St., La Grande
- PINOCHLE**
Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
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HOROSCOPES by Stella Wilder

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022
YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder
Born today, you tend to see things as they really are, without the distortion of personal feelings or aspiration; you don't let your hope about a given topic -- or about the world at large -- color your view of daily life. This does not mean, however, that you do not dream -- for dreaming is as natural to you as breathing, and when you dream, you see things not as they are but as they should be or could be.
SUNDAY, JUNE 26
CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- You may be tempted to disguise yourself in order to insert yourself into a situation in which you don't belong. This is not wise.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You expect to be treated fairly today, and so you must treat others fairly as well. Now is no time to assume your authority is greater.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A threat is

easily avoided today simply by following your instincts and staying close to those who share with you an awareness of the situation.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Now is no time for you to overindulge in anything that might prove dangerous to you in copious amounts. Moderation will keep you safe today.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- You will know immediately when you are stepping outside of your comfort zone and into a new situation that can prove dangerous. Watch your step!
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Your behavior has been somewhat baffling to others recently, but today you should be able to explain yourself to those who will listen.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- You may find yourself at a disadvantage today simply because you haven't done your homework recently. You can and must commit to catching up.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Just when

you think you have a moment to breathe and take stock today, you're likely to be slammed with several new and time-sensitive tasks.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- You may not be looking forward to a conversation that you know you need to have, but if you raise the issue today, all should go well indeed.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Your usual lines of communication may not be available to you today, for whatever reason; you must take an old-fashioned approach.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- When you have to say something more than once to the same people today, you're sure to be frustrated. Be clear the first time.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You are likely to admire the skill displayed by someone much younger than you today. This shouldn't prove frustrating, but inspiring.

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