

Orthopedic services return to area

Dr. Jacobson to travel from Bend to John Day

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle



Dr. Scott Jacobson

Regular orthopedic services will be returning to Blue Mountain Hospital after several years' absence.

Dr. Scott Jacobson, who is trained in orthopedic sports medicine and specializes in shoulder and knee injuries, traveled from The Center Orthopedic & Neurosurgical & Research facility in Bend to John Day for his first clinic day on Nov. 9.

"He'll start out with a one-day clinic every other month," Jenny King, the marketing and communications director at The Center, said. "You can do a lot in one day. If there's more demand, then he could come to John Day every month."

Jacobson said he stopped coming to John Day several years ago when he lost his charter plane. He said the type of orthopedic needs found in John Day would be typical, if not for the distance to care centers.

"It's a long way to drive to Bend, so people sometimes wait too long to see a doctor," he said. "Part of that is the independent nature of people in John Day, but a doctor will often see more advanced problems."

Lynne Combs, the clinic manager at the Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic in John Day, said she was "very much looking forward to seeing this service restored."

"We're a very active community, so there is a higher risk for strain, fractures and bruised bones," she said.

In addition to the area's hunters, outdoor recreationists, timber workers and ranchers, there's a growing elderly pop-

ulation in Grant County.

"These types of injuries can occur at any age, even children, but definitely our community has an older segment with approaching needs for knees and hips," she said.

Combs noted that avoiding the lengthy drive times to medical services in Bend can be helpful, but it would also be easier on people with mobility issues.

King said Jacobson would provide pre-op and post-op evaluation and diagnosis, but procedures would need to be performed in Bend or other locations. She said Jacobson planned to fly to Grant County Regional Airport each time with Korena Larsen-Farris, a physician's assistant who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation and has been seeing patients at Blue Mountain Hospital since 2010.

Jacobson has more than two decades of experience in orthopedic medicine. He earned his medical degree at UCLA and completed his residency at Duke University and his sports medicine fellowship at Southern California Center for Sports Medicine. He started working at The Center in Bend in 1995 and treats patients of all ages and diverse backgrounds.

Outside of medical work, Jacobson has placed in the top three as a national physique competitor in open and master's men's divisions, is a multi-engine, instrument-rated private pilot and enjoys playing the piano, fishing, traveling and spending time with his family.

"I'm looking forward to returning to John Day," Jacobson said. "I enjoyed my time in John Day, and I'm sure the patients will enjoy seeing me here, too."

Grant County paleontologist wins international honor

Ted Fremd earns Morris F. Skinner Award

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

When paleontologist Ted Fremd of Mt. Vernon moved to Grant County in 1984, he'd planned to stay a short time, find a few fossils, write a few papers, then move on.

Fremd went from working with a collection of 120 fossils in a small laboratory to becoming the first chief of paleontology at the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument to establishing the world-renowned Thomas Condon Paleontology Center where he was project manager.

His achievements since then have been remarkable, but his latest accomplishment possibly tops them all.

Fremd received the prestigious Morris F. Skinner Award from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in recognition of his many scientific contributions, including creating important collections of fossil vertebrates.

"This is something like the Nobel Prize for paleontologists, and it's kind of cool that a Grant County person was chosen from an international pool," Fremd said.

He said award committee members were from as far away as Beijing, China, and Paris, France.

Fremd also credits the two previous superintendents of the national monument, both of whom still reside in Grant County, for the award.

"Ben Ladd, first superintendent of the park, was a huge supporter of paleontology, and Jim Hammett insured that the visitor center would be built and tolerated



Contributed photo/Ray Troll

Paleontologist Ted Fremd was awarded the Morris F. Skinner Award from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

many of my insubordinations," he said.

Fremd said his wife of 45 years, Skylar Rickabaugh, was instrumental for his success.

He quipped, she's the reason I'm "not one of the entombed biota we paleontologists study."

Fremd spends half his time in Eugene, where he is a researcher at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the Department of Earth Sciences.

He also lives on Laycock Creek Road in Mt. Vernon, where he enjoys the solitude, and he still occasionally volunteers at the monument.

Fremd is the only paleontologist to serve as a regional science advisor to the National Park Service.

He has five fossil species named in his honor, includ-

ing Plesiosminthus fremdi (Korth and Samuels, 2015), an important rodent to biostratigraphers. Biostratigraphy focuses on correlating and assigning relative ages of rock strata by using the fossil assemblages contained within them.

Fremd has published and coauthored numerous papers and reports in his field, and is now looking forward to completing a book, with two other authors, about the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.

"I don't think most people have a good idea of just how significant the monument is," he said. "Everyone in Australia and China knows it. The main reason I won the award was the resources themselves are so significant."

He added, "The nation-

al monument is almost not enough — it's incredibly important."

The fossils preserved at the monument span more than 40 million years, and Fremd said they are always finding something new and interesting.

"We thought we had a really good handle on what was there," he said. "We're now realizing we've just scratched the surface of discoveries."

He said the upcoming book, coauthored by Joshua Samuels (his successor at the monument) and Regan Dunn, will go to print in about one year, published by Indiana University Press.

"We're excited about that, to put it together once and for all," he said.

As a boy, Fremd collected cereal box dinosaurs, and as early as he can remember was interested in a variety of scientific disciplines, including astronomy, paleontology and cactus plants.

He said it was fortunate he had a high school physics teacher, who was also a Ph.D. researcher, spurring his interest in astronomy.

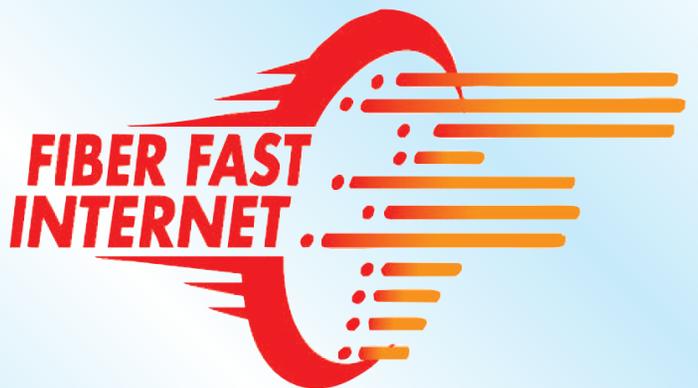
Fremd said life as a paleontologist never becomes dull, and he's getting paid to do what he wanted to do when he was a child.

"It's uplifting to encounter, discover, exhume, objects that no human being has ever seen — ever," he said. "It's entirely unexpected, undiscovered."

To the untrained eye, the fossils may look like "dusty, dried rocks with bone-shaped things," he said, but a paleontologist sees more.

"In this field, you can imagine them as living, breathing things and analyze what they did while living," he said.

FIBER FAST INTERNET existing service areas in Grant County:



- Available today!
- Fiber fast internet speeds 1G and beyond
- Home & Business, Broadband & Telephone service
- Experts in the High Speed Internet industry
- Affordable start up costs



OREGON TELEPHONE CORPORATION

CONNECTIONS

One Telephone Drive, Mt. Vernon
541-932-4411 or 1-800-848-7969

155 West Main Street, John Day
541-932-4411 or 1-800-848-7969