

Open season on Morel mushrooms

The upcoming Memorial Day weekend may provide the last opportunity of the year for aspiring Euell Gibbons types to gather wild morel mushrooms from the upper slopes of the Blue Mountains.

Morels could still be found in abundance near the snow level on Arbuckle Mountain last weekend. A half-hour's search along the edges of a small runoff creek produced a medium sized supermarket sack full of the wrinkled morsels.

Most of the mushrooms were found on the thick forest duff layer near fir thickets that rose from the edge of the stream. Morels could not be found in saturated ground along the creek.

Beginning mushroom hunters should have no trouble distinguishing the wrinkled, brainlike morel from other species. The difficulty lies in finding the morel at all, since



Spongy Morel mushrooms blend in with the landscape, making them hard to spot, but the search is worth it to those who appreciate good eating.

its texture and coloration blends in with the forest floor—a kind of horticultural camouflage.

But the search is worth it to those who appreciate one of the finest tasting natural foods on the planet—without having to pay for it. East Coast gourmet restaurants have been known to pay as much as \$20 a pound for morels.

Hunting morels in the Blue Mountains may not be as exciting as stalking an elk. Morel hunters cannot tie the results of a day's pickings to their car roofs in order to impress friends. And a paper bag is certainly not as glamorous a hunting implement as an expensive, high-powered rifle.

But morels are much less of a hassle to clean, a thousand times easier to pack out, and just as tasty to eat.

There are probably as many

ways to prepare morels as there are people who stalk them. One method is to simply sautee them in butter until they just start to brown, then serve them as a side dish—ideally to fresh trout.

Appalachian morel hunters like to bread the morels in flour or corn meal, then deep fry them in oil or lard. Another method is to gently brown them in bacon fat, then stir them into frying eggs.

In addition to washing the mushrooms, it is recommended that they be split lengthwise in half and soaked for a couple of hours in salt water. You'd be surprised what can crawl out of mushrooms during the soaking period. Splitting gives the morels a better frying surface.

As the upper mountain reaches begin to dry, and the temperatures rise to summer-time level, the morel will

begin its seasonal demise. Those interested in stalking the springtime palate pleasers are urged to hasten into the mountains.

Next spring is a long time away.

Hospital Notes

Between Tuesday, May 16, and Tuesday, May 23, seven patients were admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Remaining patients on Tuesday were Charlie Conley, Fossil; Vernon Gilman, Heppner; and Tim Cheney, Ione. Admitted and discharged during the week were Terry Cutsforth, Andy Gorman, and Bill Lynch, all of Heppner; and Mike Parker, Condon.

BIRTH

The Morrow County stork made one delivery stop at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in the past week.

The Reverend and Mrs. Steven Albert Tollefson became the parents of a son named Theodore Steven on Sunday, May 21, at 3:40 a.m. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and joins two big brothers in the Tollefson household.

Ted's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clay Tollefson, Nampa, Ida.; and Judge Charles Shaw and Murva Sliman, both of Gooding, Idaho. George Tollefson of Nampa is his great-grandfather.

Grand Squares entertain in Condon Sunday

Fourteen members of the lone Grand Squares dance club traveled to Condon last Sunday, to entertain residents of the Condon Nursing Home.

Ledington, activities director at the nursing home.

After an hour of dancing, the group was served ice cream, cookies and orange juice.

Darrel Wilson was the caller, relieved by Ron Davis.



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Heppner Jr. High



Fifty-four eighth-graders graduate from Heppner Junior High this year. Posing in dinner-dance night finery last Friday are: Front row (l to r), Pat Parker, Doug Garrett, Mike Walsingham, Jeff Sumner, Andy Gorman, Brad Marlin, Harry Groshens, Wayne Wilson, Darrel Miles, Angie Hutchinson, Sheridan Sweek, John Breidenbach; second row, Steve Groce, Janet Plocharsky, Jody Turpenning, Sarena Panter, Cindi Hudson, Becky Smith, Cindy Frederick, Cindi Bergstrom, Lea Rush, Polly Fortenberry, Tami Schoonover, Donna Munkers, Vicki Smith, Ann Lindsay; third row, Dawna Devin, Pam Marquardt, Cliff Dougherty, Mike Nolan, Don Loti, Duane Epping, Terry Gray, Rick Klaus, Lee Rice, Kelly Crewse, Jody Van Cleave, Lisa Nix, Karen Kenny, Elizabeth Zita; back row, Sandra Ward, Darcy Hollomon, Mark Launer, Robert Bier, Earl Hammond, Doug Holland, Joe Struthers, Dorian Forrar, James Howell, Mike Roth, Stephani Sams, Patti Devine, Sheri McMilln, and Cindy Gochbauer.

Ione Jr. High

Ione eighth-graders will see the end of their junior high school days on Friday, June 2. Honored at a graduation banquet and dance last Saturday were: back row, (l to r): Vickie Buchanan, Diann Morter, John Murray, Jeff Adams, Tina McBride; middle row, Laurie Marick, Cathy Cheney, Tammy Holtz, Kris Pettyjohn, Michelle LaRue; front row, Mary Kincaid, Margaret Doherty, Anita Palmer, Janice Johnson and Liz McElligott. Not pictured in the photograph taken during a school day this week were Chris Rietmann, Sandra Thompson and Corby Sullivan.



Good News Club sponsors film, program

All interested persons are invited to bring their children to a free film and a special program planned for this Saturday, May 27, from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall in Ione.

The film, entitled "Two Thieves" is suitable for all ages and will be shown by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thorne of Condon, local directors of the Child Evangelism Fellowship.

The Ione Good News Club will co-sponsor the afternoon's program, which will include songs and presentations of certificates to children who attended the group's school-release Christian education program this year.

Refreshments will be served.

CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

CLOSING
MAY 27
TO
AUG. 21

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