

JULY

The Community Breeze

2026

Serving the North Lake Communities of Christmas Valley, Fort Rock, Silver Lake, Summer Lake & Paisley & Southern Deschutes County

Published by Precision Mail Services

Visit us on-line thecommunitybreeze.com

terryonitswayhome@gmail.com

Comings and Goings

By Terry Crawford

Summer is here, maybe? Just when I think the warm weather has arrived and I can pack my turtle necks and under armor away for a few months it gets cold, windy and rainy. It seems that when haying kicks into full tilt, the weather presents a multitude of challenges. Farming, for me, would be much to stressful - I like a bit more predictability in my day to day and month to month life. I hope that the forecasters are right about the next few weeks - warm, sunny, and moderate wind. However, if it is warm I call the wind a breeze.

Christmas Valley is growing with new construction of homes and setting in newer double and triple wide manufactured homes. Growth happens - at first slowly but as an area develops growth speeds up. I don't expect to see our area become a boom town, but I do expect that to accommodate this influx there are going to be more and more new businesses.



The Homesteader which occupies what was once known as Jack Rabbit Junction. The owners have been hard at work upgrading all the structures, improving the RV Park, completely remodeling the long-closed Laundromat. The space features new flooring, walls and a large stainless steal folding table. All that is missing are the machines and they are due to arrive any day. There is a new Upscale Resale shop setting up in part of the street front building that will also host some of our area's crafters.

Further west on the highway is the just opened PNW Machinery - Sales, Parts & Service. I haven't had a chance to meet them yet, but I say "welcome."

Of course the fourth of July weekend is fast approaching and the town will be filling up with family, friends and visitors. Christmas Valley has earned its reputation as having great July 4th activities. *See Page 10*





Generations of Fathers Page 2

Marie Lee

Bee-cuzz You Asked JUNE and the Bees Page 6

By Gary Brain

July 3rd & 4th Events

Music at the Park Golf Tournament

Bands and Car Show at the Lodge

Parade Through Town Pages 8 & 9

Annual Paisley Mosquito Festival Page 10



Activities

Boxing Music BINGO FREE
Ping Pong Pickleball Lunches Game Afternoon Community Meal
& Evening Page 12

Overland in a Covered Wagon Page 13

New Serialized Book



MONTHLY CROSSWORD Page 15



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Generations of Fathers

By Marie Lee



Marie Lee

Booze, gambling and commodities traveled up and down the Mississippi River. No doubt it has always been so, but my thoughts of Father's Day turned to the late 1800s. While listening to talks in church that Sunday I began to think about my father, my grandfather and my great-

ranch throughout the Great Depression and World War II.

Lytle, in turn, passed his livestock skills on to his son, my father, Donald Simms. And so, it has gone for several generations until our present day.

In the end, life was good to Will Simms and his wife, Rachel.



My grandfather eventually brought them from Missouri to the ranch at

to ten years. He worked the sheep, he hayed, and he plowed may acres of fallow ground to raise more grain.



grandfather. It was my great-grandfather, Will Simms, who mad his money as a livestock broker along the Mississippi river. It was the booze and gambling, that also ruined his opportunity for financial success.

Valley Falls where Will lived sober and Rachel no longer had need for daily worry.

When Dad popped into my mind on Father's Day, I thought about how he was little more than a kid when I

However, while playing his trade, Will Simms found himself eye to eye with livestock, studying them and observing until he knew them. He knew



how to treat them, he knew when cattle, sheep and hogs had been raised correctly, and he knew how much they were worth. It makes me wonder if he was taught by his father. I don't know the answer, but I know that Will passed his knowledge on to my grandfather, Lytle Simms, who worked hard to make the ranch beneath the Abert Rim a viable

was born. It was in the midst of World War II and he had quickly been discharged from the Army because he was considered more valuable working the ranch than on the front line. I have always wondered if my father was somewhat disappointed when it was all over.

Dad put his entire energy as well as his soul to the ranch.

father. He watched as my grandfather doted on me. In memory, my grandfather has always been my hero. Much later in life it occurred to me that when I married my beloved Fred Lee, I married a man very much like my grandfather.

By the time my brother came into my father's life, Dad had mastered the art of fatherhood. When grandpa passed into Heaven shortly after my first brother was born, Dad was well accomplished at ranching and fatherhood.

Dad was a good man. When he finally looked up from the ranch, he helped organize Valley Falls Grange. He became master of Lake County Pomona Grange. It was during that time when our family began to see and appreciate the whole of Lake County. He was on the board of directors for the Interstate Cooperative in Lakeview.

For a while he was on the board of directors for Lake County Chamber of Commerce. In short, he did the best he could for Lake County.

Because we had such a dad, my two brothers and I learned to do whatever we could for our families, and for our community.

His example is one reason that I write. In writing and preserving history to the best of my knowledge I can return a small payment to my family and to Lake County.



And when most of the sheep were sold in 1949, he began to build a cattle herd. Cattle made fences necessary, and so he worked at building mile after mile of fence.

Dad, I believe, learned to become a father from his



Photos: Author's Dad, Center B&W Top to Bottom: Donald Simms, Lytle Simms and the author; Donald Simms, Lytle Simms overlooking sheep; Will & Rachel Simms with family; Donald Simms on the Farmall Tractor

Happy Foster Endings

By Kathy Allen



Fostering isn't just a temporary solution; It's a cornerstone of building a healthier, more compassionate community for all the pets that share our homes.

When you open your home, you're not only giving an animal a second chance, but you're also directly easing the burden on our Humane Society allowing them to help other animals. Best of all, the Humane Society of North Lake County provides all the food and medical care your foster animal needs, so your only job is to provide love and a safe space.

Consider the story of a local couple who recently welcomed an eight-week-old puppy into their lives. What began as a temporary foster placement quickly became something permanent as they fell in love with her and realized she had already found her forever home with them.



Then there's the heartwarming experience of a local man who decided to foster a dog after when her beloved owner passed away. The dog was in rough shape, but with patience, love and plenty of exercise, she blossomed. The man realized he couldn't

let her go, and she became a permanent member of his pack, getting along wonderfully with his other dogs.

If you would like to learn more about joining this wonderful program, you can call the Humane Society 831-601-9769. You can also attend an upcoming meeting about fostering at the Community Hall in Christmas Valley to be held in the coming weeks. *(No date set yet)*

Fun With Horses Play Days

July 11,
August 8 ~ September 18

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\$10 for the day!

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August 8th



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Sit a Buck

PRIZES!

Simon Says

Water in Cup

Sign-up @ 9:30am
Games start at 10 am

This is not a buckle series and is not intended to put cash into rider's pockets but it is rather for riders to just enjoy some fun competition and comradely with fellow riders.

ANN'S STYLING SALON

Greetings to all my valued customers and friends. I have decided to Semi-Retire and want to thank you all for your support over the past Ten years! I will be working at my home two days a week. It's out east, so when you call for an appointment I will give you directions.

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Fort Rock Livestock

By Raelea Leehmann
Reporter for Fort Rock Livestock

Fort Rock Livestock has a busy year ahead! This year our club has been very active. All the kids are doing a great job of working with their animals in preparation for Fair.

This year, our club set up American flags for Memorial Day along the road in Fort Rock which was a great opportunity for our younger members to help out the community alongside the older members.

During Easter, Fort Rock Livestock also stuffed Easter eggs for the big Easter egg hunt at the church. Our annual Mother's Day bouquet club fundraiser was another huge success.

The club will be helping with the Cascade Lakes Relay, along with putting flags out for 4th of July.

These opportunities have been great for our club and we can't wait to continue helping our community.



Bouquets, left to right: Kimber Fivecoat, Gavin Forman, Paisley Quinn, Callie Greiner, Makayla Quinn, Aubrey Church, Kane Fivecoat, Gage Forman, Tanner Leehmann



Flags; left to right: Gavin Forman, Makayla Quinn, Paisley Quinn, Lane Starr, Beau Ashley, Carter Lucas, Wyatt Greiner, Gage Forman, Tanner Leehmann, Raelea Leehmann, Madison Fivecoat, Maya Fivecoat, Callie Greiner, Melanie Thornton, Everly Thornton, Evelyn Fivecoat, Kane Fivecoat, Kimber Fivecoat

Residents Want Answers

Will the Silver Lake Library open again?

The Silver lake Branch of the Lake County Library District opened fifty years ago in 1976. It closed in early September of 2025 due to a failed septic system.

After decades of use by the library district it was unclear who was responsible for the property. It was determined that it is owned by the county.

Lake County and the Lake County Library District are two separate entities. The future of the library building was left to the county commissioners. After inspections the commissioners are seeking the best option to restore the property for continued public use. If, and when the repairs are made, the building will be available for the library district.

Small rural towns have little public services. A library is such a service and would be a loss to Silver Lake residents.

The Lake County Library District and the library board will determine the future of our library services.

A community meeting, in Silver Lake, has been requested of the library board. Silver Lake residents want information regarding when library services will be restored. No date has been set by the board yet.

Questions or comments" Go to: Lakecountylibrary.org for contact information, Or call the main branch in Lakeview at 541 947 6019

Dorcas Depot

Dorcas Depot is a volunteer-run secondhand store in Christmas Valley and is sponsored by the Christmas Valley Community Church. It's located on Aspen, just off Rainbow.

Dorcas offers mostly clothing as well as a variety of household items. The prices are hard to beat, especially during our popular One-Dollar Bag sales. All proceeds go directly back into the community for emergency needs.

We would appreciate all donations be dropped off only during the days we are open: Wednesday and Saturday from noon to 4pm. This will ensure your donation is put to good use in our community.

The Community Breeze

Deadline: The 20th

We are working hard to have the Breeze to readers as close to the first of the month as printing schedules allow. There are always variables..

At times printing schedules, holidays and weather may cause a late mailing, that is why it is important to have advertising information , especially new advertising or changes in as early as possible

THANK YOU

Letters to the Editor

Editorial commentary is welcome and all letters to the editor that are clearly signed with the writer's full legal signature and also include the writer's phone number will be considered for publication.

The following criteria will be applied equally to all submissions in determining a letter's appropriateness for publication: Letters may not include personal attacks, inappropriate language, libelous content, negativity which serves no other purpose than to harm or unverifiable facts. Letters are limited to 300-600 words. Letters may not promote businesses - to do so is considered advertising.

The Community Breeze neither supports or condemns any ideas, creeds, religions, customs, attitudes or beliefs and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of its editor or its advertisers.

Please mail Letters to the Editor to *The Community Breeze* ATTN: Terry Crawford, 85450 Christmas Valley Highway, Silver Lake, OR 97638.

The Community Breeze

Is published monthly reaches 1000 households through set-out and mail - in Oregon's northern Lake County's communities. The Publisher is Precision Mail Services. Our mailing address is 85450 Christmas Valley Hwy., Silver Lake, Oregon 97638. Readers may also read the *Breeze* on line by going to thecommunitybreeze.com

Editor: Terry Crawford 541-480-0753 - terryonitswayhome@gmail.com

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Every year, as the garden wakes up, I become a slave to my Asparagus, trying to keep up with picking as it shoots up overnight! Asparagus soup has become a favorite with us. And green salads benefit from some fresh crisp chopped Asparagus additions as well. This recipe is a main dish that comes together in a few minutes for a quick meal anytime . A lemony Alfredo Sauce and Bacon add pizzazz to this dish. Serves 4-6.

Ingredients:

Fettuccini Alfredo with Asparagus and Bacon

- 4 slices Bacon, chopped
- 1 pound Fettuccini
- 12 oz Asparagus Spears,(ends trimmed),
chopped into 2 inch pieces
- 1 Cup Heavy Cream
- 1/4 - 1/2 Cup Cream Cheese
- 1/2 Cup Butter
- 1/2 tsp Sea Salt + more for Pasta water
- 1/2 tsp Fresh Ground Pepper
- 2 Cups Grated Parmesan Cheese,
divided plus more for garnish
- 1/2 tsp Lemon Zest
- 1 TBSP Lemon Juice



- Add 1 Cup Parmesan, Lemon Zest and Lemon Juice continuing to stir over medium to melt the cheeses and keep from scorching the Sauce.

- Drain Pasta & Asparagus and place in a serving bowl. Toss with hot Alfredo Sauce, garnish with the rest of the Parmesan and Bacon bits.

Serve hot with Crusty Bread and a crisp Green Salad

Putting it all together:

Cook Bacon til crispy, drain on paper towel

- Cook Pasta in Boiling, salted water til almost done according to package directions. Add Asparagus pieces the last 2 minutes of cooking. Reserve 1/2 C of pasta water

- While Pasta cooks, heat Butter, Cream and Cream Cheese over medium heat til hot, stirring to blend all.

Thank You Marie

Month after month and year after year Marie Brain shares one of her vast collection of recipes with our readers.

It is not as if she has a bunch of spare time, because I know she doesn't, especially during the growing season.

Marie has hoop houses and green houses which produce great quantities of vegetables, and there are several high-producing fruit trees too.

So, in addition to caring for the garden, she also preserves the harvest through canning and freezing.

She also gifts some of fruits of her hard work with others.

Salute'

June; rain, hail, thunder to 90 degree temperatures. Hopefully Ma Nature has settled down to a more normal pattern. My gals are happily gathering the bountiful crop of Russian Olive nectar.

One thing to mind during the heat of June is to make sure that your colonies have a source of water. As mentioned in previous articles, even though they are gathering lots of liquid gold they still need the basis of life, water. During HOT days the girls will bring in water to the hive and some will fan their wings to

what we process found that the water tray filled with small rocks works well. Also remember to have good ventilation in your hives to help keep the girls cool and dry. I offset the top cover on the inner cover just about 1/4 inch.



create a mini swamp cooler, just like use to keep our homes cool; same just in a much smaller scale. I have a simple red poultry waterer with



June 20 was the Summer Solstice and now the Queen Mother senses that she needs to start scaling back on her brood production. How does she know that ??? Eons of evolution, I would surmise. The girls this month are gathering as much nectar as possible in preparation for the upcoming dearth and winter.

Do a weekly check if you have the time. But if not, make sure to be aware of any changes. So what changes might you notice? If you look at your hives each day or two, you might see a decline in activity around the entrance. Take the time to investigate; the colony might have swarmed out and thereby taken more that half of the girls with the old queen. Not to worry too much but just make sure in a week or two you check to see if you still see new eggs and brood.

Some common mistakes to avoid:

•One mistake Beekeepers tend to make is opening the hives too often. This may make the girls abscond or, just get angry, especially toward the later months of Summer and into Fall. Bee vigilant, but not overly curious.

•Some new beekeepers may think if sugar water is good, then real honey will be even better yet. This may be a serious mistake. Honey from other hives, fed to your girls, may bring in unwanted diseases. Some of the worst diseases can be spread by tainted honey. Better to feed sugar water that to risk introducing such diseases as foul brood.

•Another big OOPS from your (my) standpoint is skimping on protective gear and/or not making sure you are zipped up! I may have already told you this story but ...personal experience:

Bee-Cuzz You Asked

JUNE and the Bees

By Gary A. Brain Summer Lake Apiaries

JUNE: CHECKLIST
Feed: Liquid Feed every 10 days until they quit feeding.
Check: Queen for brood pattern.
Check: bee hive for health.
Provide: a fresh water supply (daily).
Add: honey supers as needed.

I got in a hurry to work bees and did not zip up my suit. In short order my stomach and chest were on fire with multiple stings! You see experienced beekeepers work their bees with just a veil - more power to them. I have tried it a few times but...stings HURT! Bee sensible; suit up.

•Not using your smoker is a biggie. I first thought, "Why torture the girls with smoke?" Bee cuzz it Calms them and distracts them! Isn't it better to work your girls with a little smoke rather than being bombarded by angry bees? The smoke distracts them and blocks chemical signals the girls send to one another which could help them better organize a defense against you. Just use a few puffs of smoke into the hive and wait a minute or so and you will be surprised how little it really takes to settle the girls down.

•Another mistake some new beekeepers make is to hurry through an inspection. The girls will pick up on that and may get agitated. As Woody said in an episode of Cheers, "No Sudden Movements!"

I have learned that the Internet has a wealth of knowledge just waiting for you. Expand your horizons! Just when you think you know what is going on, you might just be surprised by the Queen Mother and her girls.

Bee Safe this summer!



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- Be on time
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- No smoking in any vehicles
- Cleanliness of both your body and the vehicle
- Be courteous
- Let us know if there is a caregiver/support person traveling with you
- Be safe!



2026 July 4th Parade Entry

- AUTOMOBILES** \$ 10 each
- CHILDREN**\$ 1 per child
- COMMERCIAL** \$ 10
- FARM** \$ 10
- GOV/EMERGENCY VEHICLE** \$ 10 each
- INDIVIDUAL** \$ 5 each
- NON-PROFIT** \$ 10
- HORSES/MULES** \$5 per under saddle \$10 per team
.....\$10 Per Team

JUDGES CHOICE CATEGORIES: BEST COSTUME ~ FUNNIEST ~ CUTEST ~ MOST ORIGINAL ~ MOST CREATIVE ~ MOST COLORFUL ~ BEST ANIMAL

Parade starts down Highway at 11am

NAME or NAME of ORGANIZATION _____

Address

Sponsored by Christmas Valley Park and Recreation District and Managed by the Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber of Commerce

Annual Independence Day
Friday, July 3rd
GOLF Tournament at
The Christmas Valley Golf Course
Friday - JULY 3rd

Sign-up at 8am at the first tee
Play begins at 9am
9 hole - 4-Man best ball format
\$20 Members and \$35 Non Members

Long Putt 50/50 Contest
At the Practice Green

BBQ to Follow at the
Rondeau House (on hole 6)
Burgers, Dogs, lots of Sides

Awards and Raffle Prizes

541-740 3955
or
541 576 2216



Christmas Valley Lodge: Live Music - Car Show & More



Come celebrate the Fourth and enjoy FREE live music on the Lodge's back lawn. Three bands on Friday the 3rd and Three bands on Saturday the 4th!

And we will be hosting a car show featuring many great cars from throughout the area!

July 4th Layered Drink

- 1 Cup Red CranApple juice
- 1 Cup White Sobe
- Pina Colada flavored drink
- 1 Cup Blue G2 Gatorade
- Ice

Fill your glass 1/3 of the way with CranApple juice - Then fill to the top with ice. Next slowly pour the remaining drinks directly on top of a piece of ice.



Patriotic Rice Cereal Treats



Prepare pan: Line a 9x9 inch pan with aluminum foil or parchment paper and grease with butter or nonstick cooking spray.

Make melted marshmallow mixture: You'll need 3 medium microwave-safe bowls. Add 2 cups of mini marshmallows, 1 tablespoon of butter, and 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla extract to one of the bowls.

Heat in 30 second intervals until marshmallows start to bubble and look puffy. Stir well until the marshmallows melt and are smooth.

Add food gel and cereal: Add a few drops of red food coloring to the melted marshmallows (I usually add about 5-7 drops). Then add 2 cups of rice cereal to the mixture and stir until evenly coated in the marshmallow mixture.

Press into pan: Add the cereal mixture to the prepared baking dish or pan and gently press the mixture into the pan. Make sure you don't press too hard otherwise your treats will be too dense and hard.

Repeat: Repeat without using any food coloring (for the white layer). Then repeat using blue food coloring. It doesn't matter if you add the blue layer or red layer on the bottom of the pan first.

Cut into squares: Let rest for 30-60 minutes and slice into squares. Enjoy!

Colorful Fruit Plate

Nestle on a layer of soften cream cheese or whipped cream sliced Strawberries, Blueberries and Raspberries in a colorful patriotic pattern. You get healthy and delicious all on one plate!



Come Celebrate! July 4th, 2026

Fabulous Family Fun

Annual "Luck of the Draw" Golf Tournament July 3rd

North Lake Park and Recreation hosts its *Two-Person Best Ball* with a BBQ to follow at Greg Rhondo's on Friday July 3rd Sign up at 8:30am near the first tee ~ There will be a 50/50 Long-Putt contest at the practice green. Play starts at 9 am. Long Putt 50/50 contest at the practice green.

The Parade!

July 4th Parade~ 11am~through the middle of town

Floats - Classic Cars - Fire Engines - Ambulances - Horses - Old-time equipment - ATVs and more!

Line-up in front of Gifts n More on Park Rd. Judging will begin at 10:30 am with trophies being presented to winning entries as they enter the highway. The parade travels east on the highway for nearly a mile.



Later in the Day
Live Music at Flowerree
Memorial Park



Refreshments, Food and Family Fun



CV
Pyrotechs
Light Up
the Sky
10 PM



Paisley's Annual Mosquito Festival



July 24-26

The Paisley Mosquito Festival will take place the last full weekend of July, from July 24–26, 2026. The annual event is a quirky, beloved high-desert tradition in Paisley, Oregon, featuring a fun run, parade, car and quilt shows, a barbecue lunch, live music, and a beer garden.

Key Festival Highlights: Dates: July 24–26, 2026.



Main Events (Saturday): Starts with early morning Fun Run distances (1-mile, 5k, 10k), followed by the Parade (10 a.m.), a Classic Car show, and a Community Barbecue.

Entertainment:

Rodeo events are hosted at the City Arena throughout the weekend, and the evening features a community dance and beer garden.

Sunday: The weekend traditionally concludes with a community pancake breakfast

Rodeo Events: Horse roping contests, team branding, and dally calf roping held throughout the weekend at the City Arena/Rodeo Grounds.

Mid-summer, the last weekend in July is a perfect time to venture out to Paisley for a really good time.

There are always great vendors, good food, fun games in the street and a super

fun ranch type rodeo with cow people from throughout the area showing off the skills they use working and caring for their cattle.

So mark your calendar, put a reminder on your phone - don't miss out on this fun, community event.



Another New Business



Grand Opening Set for JULY 1st



Here it is guys and gals...my next location. Store will be located on Christmas Valley Highway next to Sagewood in the front building at the Homesreader! We are planning to host our Grand Opening on July 1, starting at 10:15 am. In addition to upscale resale items we will have some crafters and vendors in the store too.

Comings and Goings

Continued

Check out all the happenings on pages eight and nine. There will be no shortage of things enjoy!

OUTBACK STRONG is in the process of renovating the large white triple-wide on the corner of Park Road and the highway. Their presence is currently at the North Lake Clinic, where they provide services and counseling for residents experiencing mental health issues and addiction. The new facility will provide much needed space and will allow for an expansion of the help they will be able to provide.

Something else I want to remind people of is how much work the Christmas Valley Park and Recreation District, with several new board members, is accomplishing. The Rodeo Grounds are being managed and improved upon - a slow process but the work is getting done. The arena footing is being maintained and the District is offering several Play Days throughout the summer.

It is also of note that the District sponsors pickle ball at the community hall, the Community Meal at the hall, and Bingo at the hall.

OregonCountry



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PREMIUM FIREWOOD

SEASONED LODGEPOLE / FIR MIX
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\$250 FOR LOCAL DELIVERIES



SERVING: Lake, Deschutes, Klamath, and Harney counties.

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- ✓ Bi-Weekly Cleaning
- ✓ Monthly Maintenance Cleaning
- ✓ Deep Cleans
- ✓ Move-In / Move-Out Cleans
- ✓ Airbnb / Vacation Rental Turnovers
- ✓ One-Time Refresh Cleans

Customized cleaning to fit your home and your needs.



FREE HOME CONSULTATION & ESTIMATE

Every home is unique. We provide upfront pricing based on:


Home Size


Condition


Level of Cleaning Needed


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CV JAMMERS

Bring your instrument, singing voice, or just come to listen.

Its free, so come join the fun!

We Meet up
1st and 3rd Sat, every month @
CV Community Hall
from Noon-3pm.



Contact info, 541.536.3476
FB page, CV JAMMERS



PICKLEBALL

at the
COMMUNITY HALL



CURRENTLY WE ARE PLAYING AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 1PM & AT NORTH LAKE SCHOOL IN THE SMALL GYM ON SUNDAYS AT 1PM

BENEFITS OF PLAYING:
GETTING SOME EXERCISE - MEETING NEW PEOPLE
HAVING A GOOD TIME

PING PONG

THERE IS NOW A FULL SIZED, VERY NICE PING PONG TABLE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL



SPONSORED BY:
Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber with the support of Christmas Valley Park and Recreation District and North lake School

BINGO

Every
First & Third Thursday
6pm
At the Christmas Valley
Community Hall

There will be prizes, food, and for sure, good times!


Christmas Valley Boxing

Owned by long time boxing enthusiast, trainer and coach Rod Smith, *Christmas Valley Boxing* is new to our area but not to Oregon. Boxing truly is his passion, and he is a great coach and trainer.

Boxing is a great physical activity for everyone - including people with mobility issues. It isn't about getting in a ring and sparing or competing, albeit, it can be. Rather boxing can be seen as a path to improved health.

BENEFITS OF BOXING FOR FITNESS:

Boosts Cardiovascular Health - Aids in Weight Management - Improves Balance and Coordination - Develops Stamina and Endurance - Reduces Stress and Releases Tension - Enhances Focus and Concentration and Boosts Self-Confidence & Discipline



You can reach Rod at the gym: 541-350-6515 or at the welding shop 541-385-8916

FREE Community Meal

Tuesdays, 11am
Followed by an
afternoon of games
and snacks.




DONATIONS APPRECIATED
DUSTYFLATSOREGON@GMAIL.COM

Everyone is Welcome!
At the Christmas Valley Community Hall

SENIOR LUNCHES

The Silver Lake Cafe senior lunch on Mondays is back! The Watering Hole in Fort Rock is hosting senior lunches every, Friday and Saturday. Both establishments begin serving at noon. Call special transportation if you need a ride.



OVERLAND In A COVERED WAGON

An autobiography
By Joaquin Miller
First published in 1909



The Steam Surged up from the Sugar Kettles

At last there was a breath of spring in the tossing tops of the maple trees and gray black and fox squirrels (common to the Midwest), began to leap from branch to branch overhead and chatter and quirk their *tossy* tails, the crows cawed and cawed from the tallest tree tops, the blue day jawed us from the spice and hazel bush as we passed and the school was dismissed, for it was "sugar making time."

Papa and mother made their sugar camp half a mile from the cabin in the middle of a great gray maple tree grove and hung up three big iron kettles on a cross beam and against these they rolled great logs on either side, filling in the space under the kettles with kindling wood and chunks. Papa had worked continually every spare hour, except Sunday when he had a Bible class at the school house, making sugar toughs and spiles.

The troughs were made by splitting short basswood logs in twain and then cutting out the inside, making a little trough about three feet long and six inches deep. The spiles (taps) were driven into auger holes, piercing at an upward angle a little notch chipped into the soft gray side of the generous maple tree. Then there were little grooves, leading down to the spiles. All the trees had been tapped from time immemorial by the Indians as a shelter in sugar time, and there we little boys were very happy, waking up now and then and looking through the natural door or window to see the steam surging up from the kettles out of the great cracking heaps of logs and to look and wonder at our toiling parents with love and silent reverence.

After awhile Grandpapa Witt came, with a little more dowry for mother, and with his practical good sense had plans perfected to move the family to the Miami Reservation" half of which was about to be opened to settlement. With what money he had brought and my parents had made, a good team, a cow and six sheep

were got together and again we "moved."

The covered wagon proceeded in the narrow rough road and we three little old, very old, prematurely old boys brought up behind with the cow and six fat and docile sheep.

Happy? Very, very happy, but we had heard mother crying in the night so many times during the last year, had seen papa so sad all the time in his hard and continual toil that we were like old men now, even in childhood. Instead of toys and games we took to the stock for diversion, loved the cow, rode her, "petted her" and named the sheep pet names, and taught each one to stop, turn about and even to come back to us at call, as we slowly made our exodus from the sugar camp to the Miami Reservation.

The rush of settlers for the newly opened half of the old Miami reservation on the Massassinewa River, a broad, clear and most beautiful stream, populous with fish and banked by groves of wild flowers and ancient apple trees, was so great that we had to go about three miles down from the "settlements," as the older part of Grant County was called,

before finding vacant land. This three miles was a solid wood, dense, dark and full of wonder; not a cabin, nor a "clearing," only little camps, a covered wagon and a tent or so here and there.

Papa got a good claim on the banks of Cart Creek and also a mile from the sought bank of the beautiful river. The woods were dense indeed and a road had to be cut for the wagon. But the generous neighbors came from far about and opened a road, cut down trees, hewed logs with broad axes and, as I remember it now, a house was built and covered with "Shakes" held in place by weight poles, for there were no nails, and a flat floor of puncheons laid, as if we had an Aladdin's lamp - so suddenly and so gently was it all done.

Bed quilts and coverlets which mother's own hand had pieced or woven, were hung up for doors, greased paper was pasted up for windows, a fireplace of stones from the creek, with broad flat rocks from the river for a hearth, and we were at home in "our own house."

We two elder boys, four and six had been given tomahawks

by the kindly Indians on setting out for this new home and now we hacked and heaped brush all about, clearing, clearing, clearing. It is very wonderful what a boy can do with a hatchet. papa told us over and over all about George Washington; and I remember feeling very sorry that he never had such opportunities to be happy.

A great elm, not the popular Eastern shade tree, but the rare slippery elm, the bark of which is "good medicine." stood near the house, a menace in storms, and this papa felled. What a crash! And then he measured off the first ten feet for a rail-cut and proceeded to split it. Mother was busy making Jimmy his first pants and she, wanting to surprise him with his new dignify, had us older boys with our industrious hatchets take him out to papa.

"Splits like a ribbon," shouted papa as we came to where he, with his maul and iron wedge, had opened the great elm trunk. I never knew a rail-cut to split so beautifully. It was as easy as if the log had been a mighty watermelon. He turned out rails almost as fast as we could count them, fragrant, perfect in fashion, as if cut with a saw and so light in weight that we two boys, one at each end, could easily lift them out of his way, while he kept on with maul and iron wedge and ax till he had more than 200. Then he hurriedly put up a fence, a beautiful, fragrant, red and yellow fence.

Then he caught up Jimmy, kissed and hugged and set him down in the corner of his fence.

"Run in and tell mother Jimmy is in a fence corner, " "Where?" Where is Jimmy did you say?" "Why out there in the fence corner. Come and see."

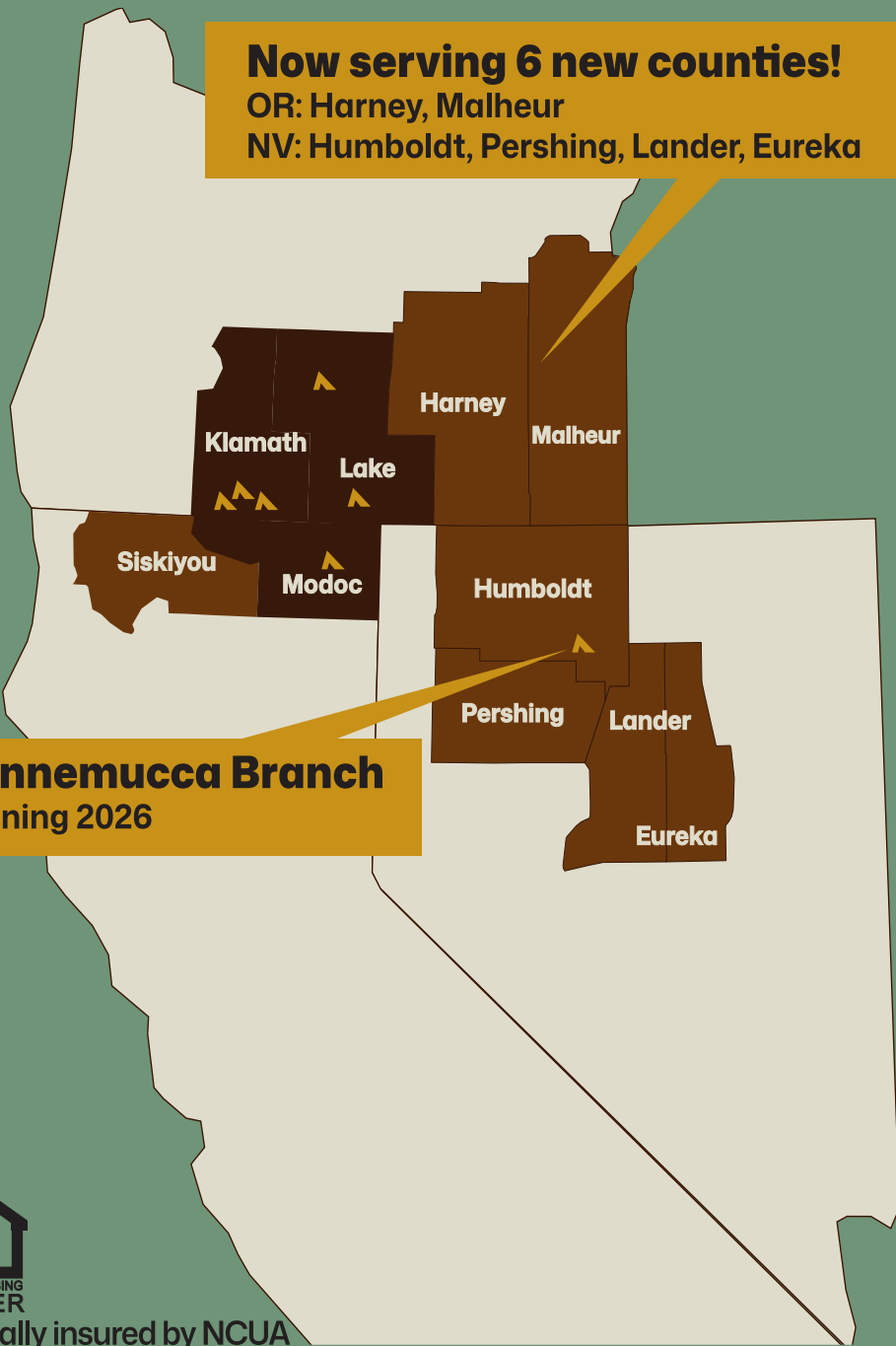
She hastened out the new pants in her hand, and there she found Jimmy, a lord and emperor in his own right, in a fence corner which papa had fashioned with his own untried and not *overstrong* had that hour.



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opening 2026

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Sage Credit Union (previously Pacific Crest FCU) was founded in 1936, originally serving timber industry employees and their families. Over time, we've grown alongside the communities we serve, updated the technology, and stayed focused on what matters most: providing trusted, local financial support.

Today, we're expanding across our region. The Lakeview branch is moving into a larger location, and we're excited to open a branch in **Winnemucca in 2026!**



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DAN'S TRACTOR SERVICE

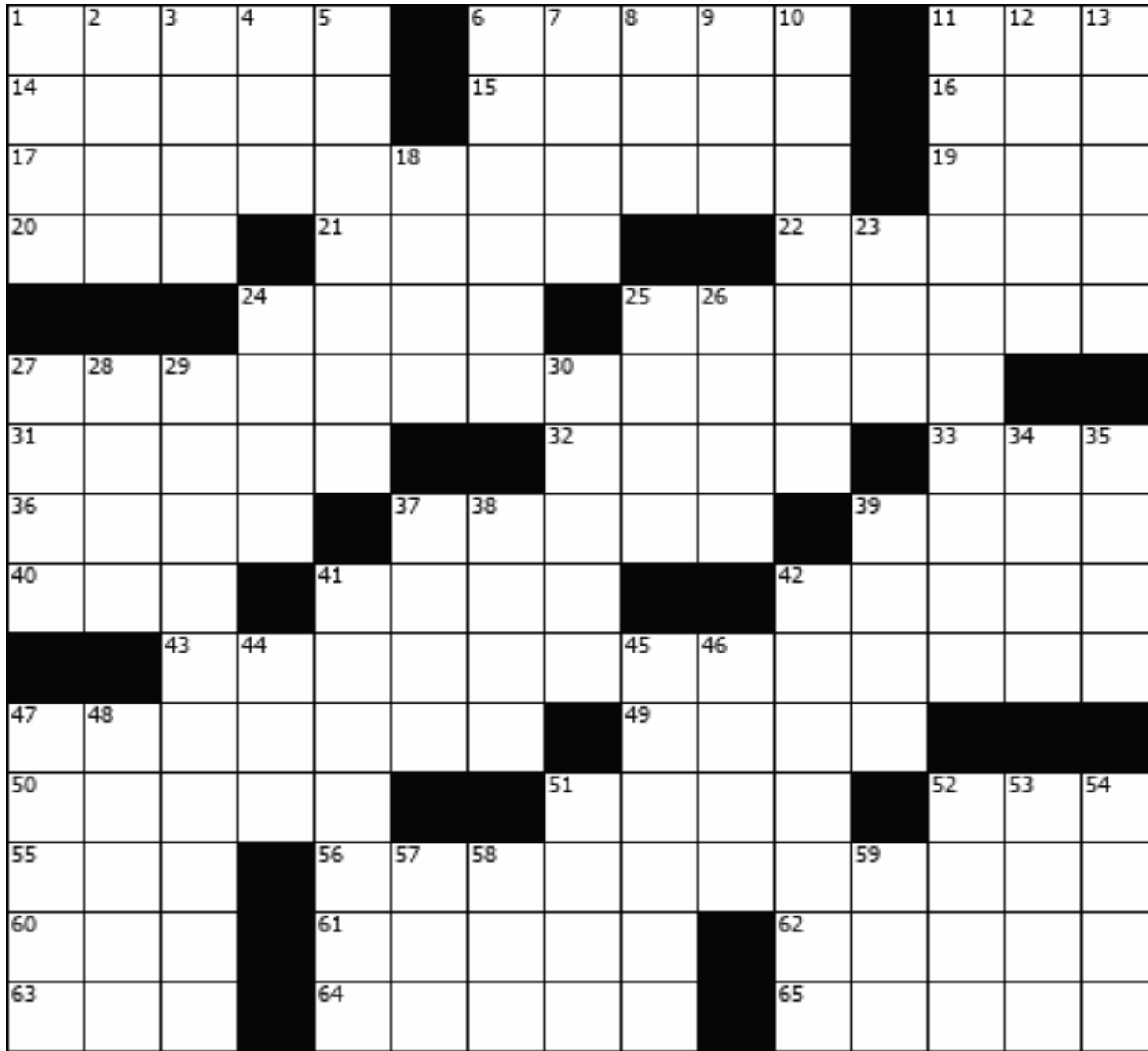


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- Box Blade**
- Angle Blade**
- Landscape Rake**
- Fork Lift**
- Attachment**
- Front End Loader**
- Post Hole Auger**
- Rototiller**

Sometimes You Need More than a Shovel, Rake or Hoe

JULY CROSSWORD



- 3. Hardly a gentleman
- 4. Overhead trains
- 5. More airheaded
- 6. Culled
- 7. Lummoxes
- 8. ___ Fáil: Irish coronation stone
- 9. Giant of a Giant
- 10. Big name in ratings
- 11. Educator Maria
- 12. Corporate raider Carl
- 13. Acted with fury
- 18. Poi, essentially
- 23. Addams family cousin
- 24. New York City cardinal
- 25. Salinger title girl
- 26. Not yet risen
- 27. Witches
- 28. Suffix with smack
- 29. Bear's prediction
- 30. Perform with great skill
- 34. Bait holder
- 35. "If all ___ fails ..."
- 37. Pouty face
- 38. "Ah, me!"
- 39. Ester opening
- 41. Wasp's weapon
- 42. Audibly indicates disapproval
- 44. Israeli weapon
- 45. Tried to lose weight
- 46. Go at a snail's pace
- 47. Ride with ease
- 48. Train stop: Abbr.
- 51. Popeye's ___ ' Pea
- 52. Word that can follow the first word of 17-, 27-, 43- and 56-Across
- 53. Prado hangings
- 54. Gang suffix
- 57. Cape Town's land: Abbr.
- 58. Not Rx
- 59. Easy as ___

Across

- 1. Was visibly afraid
- 6. Ratio punctuation
- 11. Fallen space station
- 14. Serious bacteria
- 15. Port-au-Prince's country
- 16. Andean tuber
- 17. Hope (something) turns out well
- 19. Scraggly horse
- 20. Heal, as a bone
- 21. Get snippy with
- 22. Willowy and graceful
- 24. The Auld Sod
- 25. London area north of the Thames
- 27. Make a counterbalancing wager
- 31. Like a loud crowd
- 32. Magneto's superhero enemies
- 33. Seashell seller, in a tongue twister
- 36. Miss Universe pageant attire
- 37. Stopped a mugger, in a way
- 39. Game on felt
- 40. Heir, often
- 41. Foot bottom
- 42. Chargers in corridas
- 43. Aversion that goes both ways
- 47. Oddballs
- 49. Blacker than black
- 50. Utah's Senator Hatch

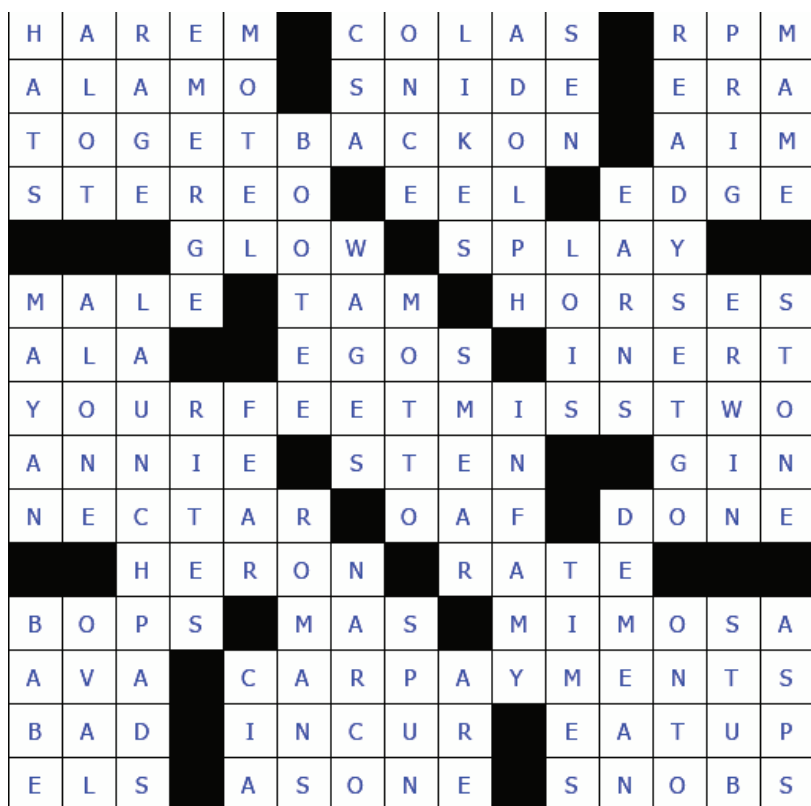
Down

- 1. Teacher's faves
- 2. Part of a plot, perhaps
- 51. Anabaptists, e.g.
- 52. Notes before sols
- 55. "Shoot!"
- 56. Shooting-up period
- 60. Jeanne d'Arc, for one
- 61. Cosmetician Lauder
- 62. Kunta of "Roots"
- 63. Sylvester, to Tweety
- 64. Put the pedal to the metal
- 65. Exodus commemoration

Public Meetings

- CV Boosters - 2nd Mon at 7pm at Booster Building
- CV/NL Chamber of Commerce - quarterly (watch for posters)
- CV Fire Board - 2nd Tuesday at 6pm at The CV Fire Hall**
- NL Park & Rec - 2nd Tues at 9am at The Community Hall
- CV Water Board - 2nd Wednesday at 6 pm at District office**
- NLEMS - 1st Tuesday of the month at 7pm**
- FT Rock Grange - 2nd Wed at 6:30pm at Grange
- Ft Rock Historical Society - 2nd Tues-10am at the Museum
- NL Health District - 1st Mon at 5:30 pm at the Clinic**
- North lake School dist: - 2nd Monday at School Library

NO-TOUCH-ION



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33⁹⁹ /ea.
~~49⁹⁹~~

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OF THE MONTH**



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~~5⁵⁹~~

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5⁶⁹

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