

PLEASE DON'T TELL  
EVERYONE ABOUT

**EASTERN  
OREGON**

THANK YOU

## Eastern Oregon Visitors Association

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## Eastern Oregon Story Kit ~ 2012

### 150 Year Celebrations:

#### The Town of Umatilla Turns 150

The little town of Umatilla, Oregon, located on the banks of the Columbia River will be celebrating their 150 birthday in June of 2012. With their heritage roots running deep into the history of the region's Native Americans, followed by Lewis & Clark and the Oregon Trail, Umatilla has quite a story to tell. It truly is a narrative of the river and it's influence on the land, the people, and the characters found within.

Umatilla Landing Days is a celebration of Umatilla's long heritage along the Columbia River. In 2012, the city will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with a three day celebration starting June 22 and ending on June 24. Because Umatilla was the first community in Eastern Oregon and Umatilla County's first county seat, it has a unique spot in Oregon's history. Travelers from the Portland area traveled by boat up the Columbia River east, making a stop at Umatilla Landing. Until the bridge was built in the 1950s, anyone traveling from Oregon to Washington did so on the ferry. One of the first ferries was powered by mules or horses. By walking in a circle, the horses turned the propeller, which in turn propelled the ferry across the river. In 1967-68, when the John Day Dam was built, Umatilla was moved up from the river's edge to higher ground in anticipation of the flooding that the dam would create.

**Contact:** Karen at the Umatilla Chamber: 541-922-4825; Fax: 541-922-9551; email: [Karen@umatillachamber.net](mailto:Karen@umatillachamber.net); Website: <http://www.umatillaoregonchamber.org/>



## 150 Year Celebrations:



### 150 Year of Gold Mining History ~ Sumpter, Oregon

Return back to the days of 1860's gold rush, where little towns appeared overnight to service the gold-hungry miners. Mercantiles, saloons, banks, and yes, even houses of ill repute, made for a wild atmosphere...one of legends and lore. In 2012, the little town of Sumpter, Oregon will celebrate 150 years of this type of history, with much of the town looking very similar to the lawless days of the wild west. The Sumpter Dredge Oregon State Park fills in the list of attractions to see, along with the Sumpter Valley Railroad. It's hard not to feel as if you were in an old western movie as you chug along the narrow-gauge tracks, being pulled by a steam engine, and ending up in the gold mining monster....the Sumpter Valley Dredge.

**Contact:** Baker County Tourism (Timothy) at (541) 523-1589 [www.basecampbaker.com](http://www.basecampbaker.com); Baker County Visitors Center (Debi) at (541)523-1235 [www.visitbaker.com](http://www.visitbaker.com); Historic Sumpter at <http://historicsumpter.com/>

### 150 Years of Serving the Environment ~ The Bureau of Land Management & Homestead Act

**Contact:** Sarah at the National Historic Oregon Trail Center: 541-523-1843; Email: [slecompt@blm.gov](mailto:slecompt@blm.gov)

### **What's New in Eastern Oregon?**

### SAGE Center ~ Learning & Experience the Agriculture of Eastern Oregon

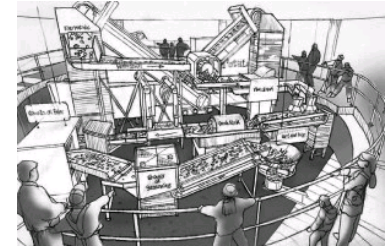
Have you ever wondered where that French fry comes from...How is it that it comes out of the ground looking like a potato and ends up on your plate in a curly fry? In 2012 a visit to Boardman, Oregon will clue you in on this and many other great stories regarding today's amazing farming practices. The Sustainable Agriculture & Energy Center (SAGE) will provide an inside look at the variety of activities that are required to get farm products from the field to the table. The Center will provide a glimpse into the economic engine of the broader region, from farms and dairies to a diversity of food-processing facilities and state-of-the-art energy projects.



“Exhibits will feature the sophisticated technologies used by growers and the related industries at the Port of Morrow,” Carlson said, “and will communicate the passion and knowledge of the people who work for these businesses.”

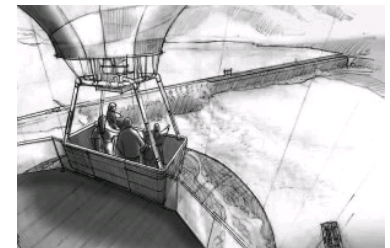
The exhibits Formations is designing have seven primary themes:

- Processing: A Kinetic Centerpiece Sculpture — Entering the exhibit hall, visitors will see a large sculpture with moving parts they can explore and interact with. It will offer a stylized representation of a processing plant visitors can walk through as they ascend a few steps to a circular metal catwalk and amble through a spiraling rush of sounds, smells, and motion.



- A River Through Time: History of the Boardman Area — The introductory floor exhibit provides area history, including photos, illustrations, quotes, and objects that tell the story of human settlement in the region and the Columbia River’s influence.

- The Big Picture: A Hot Air Balloon Ride — In one corner of the exhibit hall, visitors will find an oversized basket that appears to be suspended from a hot air balloon. By walking up ramp, a group of about 10 can enter the basket. Closing the basket door triggers a 3-minute video that takes visitors on an aerial tour focusing on the regional resources. The experience will include the sounds of a gas jet roaring into the balloon above and a basket that rocks gently as the video projects on the wall.



- Agriculture Today — Next are exhibits on contemporary agriculture. Visitors will find a display on how farming technology and techniques have evolved. An associated exhibit will treat visitors to stories of longtime, multigenerational Morrow County farm families. Nearby, a segment of center pivot irrigation equipment will introduce a discussion of modern farming, while a floor-to-ceiling mound of agricultural products will reflect the volume and diversity of regional crops. And the cab of a modern tractor will form the centerpiece of a cluster of hands-on exhibits that explore high-tech farming techniques and technologies.

- Behind the Scenes in Boardman — Visitors next will discover how workers in Port of Morrow plants and mills process crops. A map will indicate the sites of the businesses while changeable flip-book offers overviews of each. Another part of the display will tell the stories of selected port industries. An accompanying video will present a series of interviews by local children who talk to their parents and neighbors about the jobs in Boardman processing industries.

- Sustainable solutions — Next will be a group of highly interactive exhibits, Carlson said, that explore the science and technology behind the region’s sustainable resources and energy projects. Included will be water recycling, the use of steam, growing trees in the desert, biofuels, wind farms, and the feeding of processing food scraps to dairy cows.

- From the Port of Morrow to the World — The last exhibit will feature an interactive cluster that explores transportation options available through the Port of Morrow, including hands-on models of different barges. An interactive computer program will challenge children and adults to operate cranes to load containers, or to navigate a barge up or down the river and through a lock. Visitors will be able to interact with a large map that shows where local products are shipped throughout the world.

**Contact:** Diane at the Boardman Chamber of Commerce: 541-481-3014; Website:

<http://www.boardmanchamber.org>

## What's New in Eastern Oregon?

### Own the Mountain for a Day ~ Anthony Lakes Ski Area



*North Powder, Oregon...* Any skier or snowboarder's dream is gliding down a pristine mountain slope, through crystal powder snow, with no one in sight. The feeling like you owned the mountain...it was all yours! In 2012 Anthony Lakes Ski Area, located in the far northeastern corner of Oregon, will offer a rare opportunity to do just that...own the mountain. With a base elevation of 7,100 feet, and surrounded by peaks that top over 9,000 feet, there is no other ski area in Oregon that has better snow quality. It could all be

yours, along with a few of your chosen friends!

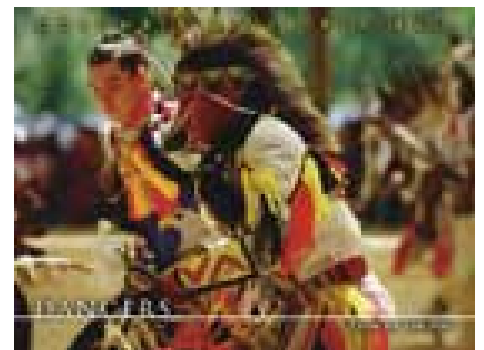
Contact: Peter Johnson at: (541) 856-3277; email: [pjohnson@anthonylakes.com](mailto:pjohnson@anthonylakes.com); website: <http://www.anthonylakes.com/>

### Wildhorse Resort Opens New Luxury Hotel

*Pendleton, Oregon...* From I-84, you can easily see 10-stories shoot up into the sky from the wheat fields at the base of the Blue Mountains. Upon arriving to Wildhorse Resort and Casino, it is clear that there is more than meets the eye. The design of everything in the hotel, from the rooms to the lobby, play off the culture of the local tribes. Many of the ideas were garnered while the architects and designers visited Tamastlikt Cultural Center. The headboards in the rooms and the lighting in the lobby were made to resemble a patchwork leather robe, lighting in the lobby was made to resemble native drums, tiles and textiles used throughout represent natural materials used by the tribes.

The 10-story hotel is chalked full of upscale amenities selected for guests' comfort. "Every detail of this hotel was carefully selected and designed with our guests in mind," said Roy Jones, Director of Lodging for Wildhorse Resort and Casino. "For example, four different styles of beds were set up in our events center and volunteers were asked to test the mattresses and vote for their favorite. A Serta Prestige Double Sided Plush mattress was selected and that is what we placed in every room in the tower." Each room has Keurig coffee makers, media docking stations, 42-inch flat screen TVs, microwaves and air cooled refrigerators. In the hotel lobby, guests will find a business center, three meeting rooms, two retail spaces, a fitness room, a pool and spa and the Wild Roast Deli which is an upscale coffee bar serving fresh deli sandwiches, coffee, ice cream, pastries and more; all of which flows right into the new casino slot floor.

**Contact:** Tiah DeGrofft, Community Relations, Wildhorse Resort and Casino at (541) 966-1628; email: [tiah.degrofft@wildhorseresort.com](mailto:tiah.degrofft@wildhorseresort.com); website: <http://www.wildhorseresort.com>



## Eastern Oregon's "Just Don't Tell" for the Adventure Seeker...

### Hells Canyon Relay ~ We Named it that to Scare People Away!

*Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, Northeast Oregon...* Oregon has long been home to several great running events. As example, the Hood to Coast Run is known internationally as one the most challenging, group runs through the beautiful coastal mountain range. In Central Oregon the Smith Rock Run. In 2012 perhaps the most challenging course through definitely the most beautiful terrain will have its inaugural event. The Hells Canyon Rely will take place September 21-22, 2012. Gather 11 other friends, 2 vans, 2 volunteers and get ready for a scenic, challenging adventure! The Hells Canyon Relay runs through the day and night as teams complete 24 to 36 continuous legs varying in length from 2.5 - 8.7 miles on some of the most diverse terrain Oregon can muster on one of the most scenic Oregon Byways in Eastern Oregon. **Contact:** Email:

[info@hellscanyonrally.com](mailto:info@hellscanyonrally.com);

Website: <http://www.hellscanyonrelay.com>



### Red to Red Cycle Race ~

#### Through the Vineyards & Over the Hills

*Echo, Oregon...* This is truly a unique race for mountain bike enthusiasts. Starting and finishing in downtown Echo, 70% of the course is single track. A pilot car leads the neutral rollout then mountain bike racers will travel paved and gravel roads, experience the challenging terrain through the Echo West Ranch & Vineyard/Sno Road Winery mountain bike trail system and finally return to the highway, and finish on Main Street in Echo. 2012 marks the Fourth year of the event, and it will take place on March 3, 2012. Along with the Red to Red, supporters can check out the 'Creative Echoes' art show in the city hall. **Red to Red Cycle Race City web page:** <http://echo-oregon.com/r2r.html>. **Contact:** For the race is Shayne Myers: [shaynemyers@mac.com](mailto:shaynemyers@mac.com). Gallery for the cycle race: [http://www.echohillstrailbuilders.com/Echo\\_Red\\_2\\_Red\\_XC\\_MTB\\_Race/Home.html](http://www.echohillstrailbuilders.com/Echo_Red_2_Red_XC_MTB_Race/Home.html).



We also have a large number of photos on the City of Echo's Facebook Page.

### Speaking of Adventurous Activities in Echo ~ How about the best little Skatepark?

You may not think of Eastern Oregon, and at the very least, the little town of Echo, as a mecca for skateboard enthusiasts...but it is! Diane Berry, Echo City Manger tells us, "There are people who will plan small vacations and weekend get aways around skateparks. They have websites where they rate the park and discuss them, and consistently our little skatepart here in Echo rates very high". Here is one: "Just did an Eastern Oregon Trek last weekend and hit this as well as Irrigon, Pendleton, and Walla Walla.....It is super similar to Gabriel, but much BETTER IMO..... smooth as butta" One of them even posted his Hood River to Walla Walla tour on you tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nO8GnuNOK3I>.



## Eastern Oregon's "Just Don't Tell" for the Adventure Seeker...

### Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally ~ The Oregon Sturgis

*Baker City, Oregon...* For 72 years motorcyclists have been gathering in Sturgis, South Dakota to ride, play, listen to great music, and share stories. But riders tell us, it really doesn't compare to the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally, to be held on June 8-11, 2012. Here's what Pam C. had to say about the 2011 Rally...

"This will be my 4th trip to the Rally dreamed up by the infamous Folkestad brothers, Steve & Eric, and I can't wait to ride the Devil's Tail again! I love the people of Baker City and the people who come to the rally. I find the different routes challenging and they feed that free spirit inside that wakes saying "it's time to make some miles!" The conversations with other riders are easy whether I'm at the Geiser Grand Hotel or standing under a tree waiting out a rain shower. I've gone to the rally by myself and with others and each time I found friends and cohorts who were there to ride. The real riders. We talk about the curves that pull you in like a bear hug and the farmers who stand on their driveways waving while their cows line the fence wondering how we gained our freedom as we ride by. The conditions vary from year to year, the scenery is soul stirring and the fun is what you make for yourself. You have to have it inside you and here, at this rally, it comes out with the ride! I look forward to meeting those of you willing to take on the adventure." Discover the scenery, history and breathtaking geography of northeast Oregon by day and the friendly folks that make Baker City a famous oasis for road weary bikers by night. *If you don't have fun here, Give Up!*

**Contact:** Timothy with Baker County Tourism at: (541) 523-1589; Debi with Visit Baker at (541) 523-1235; Website: <http://www.hellscanyonrally.com/>

### Snowshoeing in Sumpter, at Anthony Lakes, others?

## Eastern Oregon ~ The Way the West was Once ~ Arts & Cultural Stories...

### Little Towns Revitalizing the Oregon Dream

*Historic Echo, Oregon...* You have witnessed it in other Oregon towns...An individual or group of people fall in love with a place, see a vision of what it might be to bring back a building or block or town to its original glory, and somehow they make that dream come true. In the little town of Echo, located just off Interstate 84, tucked along the Umatilla River on the Oregon Trail, two people are doing just that...bringing a town back to life. Lois & Lloyd Piercy, owners of Sno Road Winery (Read More about the Piercy's at: <http://www.piercyfamilyvineyards.com/aboutus.sc>) are using

the success of their wines, coupled with their love for history and renovation to revitalize this little Oregon Trail oasis. The Piercy's now own much of Main Street in Echo, which the entire community sees as a good thing. Starting with the Echo Meat Market, in which their daughter has a restaurant, moving on to the building they are currently occupying for the Sno Road Winery tasting room and gallery, which was originally the Teel School House. They have added



a courtyard using historic wrought iron fencing from Europe where they have Friday night music along with their wine tasting. Link: <http://echo-oregon.com/pub/trail.pdf>.

In the summer of 2011, the Piercy's finished renovating the 1910 Echo Mercantile Building on Main across from the winery. Again they totally renovated the building, but kept an historic ambience. An antique shop is in one, a bike/skateboard shop will be opening soon in another. The Piercy's incorporated the region's farm heritage by using a metal equipment wheel on top of the building & mural of an antique steam tractor on the side. They are currently restoring the Koontz Building & the Arlington House (Echo Hotel) building on Main Street. Both of these are on the National register.

Since 2006 Echo has been awarded the prestigious "American in Bloom" recognition. Find out more at: <http://echo-oregon.com/pub/aib.pdf> Since 2001, America in Bloom has encouraged and helped over 130 communities from across the United States, improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. America In Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nation-wide beautification programs and both personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements, and to providing educational programs and resources to that end.



The vision the Piercy's have for Echo is intimately related to their story about developing Sno Road Ranches and Winery. For more information on the Winery/Vineyards and the awards they have won, the attempt to establish an Echo AVA, and their vision for Echo, contact Llody at (541)376-0421: [lpiercy@centurytel.net](mailto:lpiercy@centurytel.net); **Contact:** Diane Berry, City of Echo – Manager at: [ecpl@centurytel.net](mailto:ecpl@centurytel.net)



## Little Towns Revitalizing the Oregon Dream

**Mitchell, Oregon...** Revitalizing a town whose history goes back millions of years might seem like a challenge, but not to the residents of Mitchell, Oregon. Tagging themselves as "The Gateway to the Painted Hills" of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is the jumping off point for how this town envisions recreating themselves. Efforts such as a new website ([www.paintedhillsvacation.com](http://www.paintedhillsvacation.com)) and renovation projects including the new Sidewalk Café, are helping to bring this little town located in eastern Oregon back to life. Mitchell's city park has been remodeld with a newly painted Gazebo, along with new restrooms, picnic benches and playground equipment all make for a perfect break while fossil hunting for families.

**What's the story on the Painted Hills Vacation Rentals?** The Painted Hills Vacation Rentals is family owned and operated by a mother and daughter team. Arina's family is originally from Germany but they have lived in the States since almost 25 years now. After running a successful restaurant in Seattle for ten years they were seeking a change, and after much traveling fell in love with Eastern Oregon. It is a family of artists. The Mother, is a writer and master gardener, and has created the beautiful garden that connects the two properties. The Father painted many of the pictures adorning the walls of the rooms in both the houses. After studying herbal medicine at Bastyr University in Seattle, Arina came to Eastern Oregon to build this business.

**Contact:** Arina at: [info@paintedhillsvacation.com](mailto:info@paintedhillsvacation.com); (541) 462-3921

# The Plesiosaur Directory

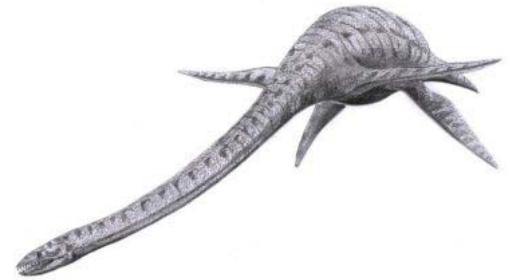


## Mitchell's Monster – The Plesiosaur (Plee-see-uh-sawr)

by Aruna Jacobi

Once upon a time, (80 -90 million years ago) all of Eastern Oregon including the area around Mitchell, was on the bottom of an ocean called the Cretaceous Sea. There, below the surface, a giant 25 -40 foot monster was swimming and hunting in an underwater world – **the Plesiosaur**, also called the Tiger of the Cretaceous Sea.

The Plesiosaur was a carnivorous aquatic reptile – a swimming Dinosaur - with a large body, long neck, shorter tail, and four flippers that it used like blades to cut through the water and propel itself forward. Recent studies of Plesiosaur paddles have shown that, instead of being pulled back and forth like oars on a rowboat, they were 'flapped' up and down much like the wings of a bird or the paddles of a marine turtle. The plesiosaur seemed to have „ flown through the water like a penguin“. It had a U shaped jaw with ferocious backward curving teeth, each at least one inch in size perfect for attacking its prey. Its tail was probably used to stabilize the body and help navigate. With these anatomic features the Plesiosaur was well adapted for life in the ocean and was one of the most powerful predators of its times.



From the recent finding of a fossilized Plesiosaur with an intact 6 foot fetus inside it could be concluded that these giant sea creatures gave birth to one live offspring just like whales or dolphins, instead of laying eggs like other reptiles.

In 2003 evidence for the existence of the monster in this particular area of Eastern Oregon, a fossilized lower jaw-bone, was found a few miles out of Mitchell by two amateur paleontologists.

Fossils of different types of Plesiosaurs have been found on all continents making it a large and varied group with two distinct species, the longer necked small-headed plesiosaur and the shorter necked large-headed plesiosaur. The Mitchell Monster was one of the latter which was determined from the dug up fossil.

In 2009 a 12 foot sized replica of the Plesiosaur was build by metal artist Larry William together with students of the Mitchell High School in a special project coordinated and funded by the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute (OPLI) thru different grants. This remarkable sculpture is still exhibited in the OPLI in the city of Fossil, about 40 miles from Mitchell. At this time Mitchell's chamber is planning to raise funds to create Mitch, a 6 foot cement replica of a Plesiosaur for their city park.

If you want to know more about the Plesiosaur you can go to [www.plesiosauria.com](http://www.plesiosauria.com)

**Contact:** Aruna Jacobi at: (541) 462-3921; Email: [arunajacobi@hotmail.com](mailto:arunajacobi@hotmail.com);

Website: [www.paintedhillsvacation.com](http://www.paintedhillsvacation.com)

## Little Towns Revitalizing the Oregon Dream

*50 Years of Pharmacy History in Condon & Heppner...* It's not everyday that you walk into an old-fashioned merchantile that has everything from soup to nuts. A place to purchase local art right next to tube socks. A store that serves up a great healthy wrap, all your pharmacy needs, and just in case, has liquor (for medicinal purposes, I am sure!). But in 2012 Murry Pharmacy, which has stores in both Condon and Heppner, will be celebrating 50 years as part of these small eastern Oregon communities. The Condon store is actually the first registered liquor store in the state of Oregon. Murry Drug Stores are family owned, and have been for the past 50 years, and have produced three generations of pharmacists. **Contact:** Michelle Colby at: Or Murry Drug Store at: (541) 384-2801



## Montana Peaks Hats ~ Made in Pendleton & Worn in the Movies

*Pendleton, Oregon...* From the ranches of Montana and Texas to the streets of California and Connecticut, hundreds of cowboys and 'want-to-be' cowboys wearing Montana Peaks hats made in Pendleton, Oregon. Mountana Peaks Hats have appeared in western wear stores, galleries, and publications across the country. They are currently being featured in the world-renowned [C. M. Russell Museum](#) in Great Falls, MT. The Walt Disney-Paris reenactment of [Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show](#) uses our hats exclusively, and some of their creations have found their way to Hollywood. Many professional rodeo cowboys and cowgirls wear Montana Peaks hats.

In fact, several of our hats will most likely be seen at the [National Finals Rodeo](#) each December. Even President George W. Bush has been presented with a Montana Peaks Hat Company hat as a gift from the Treasure State.

**Contact:** Yolanda with Travel Pendleton at: (541) 276-7411; Email: [yolanda@pendletonchamber.com](mailto:yolanda@pendletonchamber.com); website: <http://www.montanapeaks.net>



## It's a Printing History ~ The Newspapers of the early West

*Moro, Oregon...* In May of 2012, the Sherman County Museum ([www.shermanmuseum.org](http://www.shermanmuseum.org)) opens a new exhibit, as part of the 'Sherman County Journal' – A History of the Press. This exhibit will tell the story of how people received information long before cell phones, email, and even telephones. Items will include: A Kluge job press, a Miehle flat bed press, and a Linotype with Self-Quadder. This collection is part of the *Sherman County Journal* and is being assembled by the Sherman County Historical Society's Museum Team. "It's time to get the collection out of storage and on public view", comment Sherry Kaseberg, Museum Coordinator. The Team will develop the narrative and design of the print shop for the exhibit in coordination with Mac Stinchfield, publisher and editor of the *Times-Journal*. In addition, the C.C. Stern Type Foundry volunteers from Portland provided technical assistance. A web page just for the *Journal* will soon launch at: [www.shermanmuseum.org](http://www.shermanmuseum.org). **Contact:** Sherry Kaseberg at: (541) 565-3232



The Museum comprises 16,000 square feet and over 15,000 artifacts used in Native American families, Oregon Trail migration, rural households, churches, schools, businesses, livestock production, dry-land wheat farming and conservation, military units and patriotic efforts.

## Wallowa Land Trust ~ Into the Wallowas Telling the Land's Story

*Enterprise & Joseph, Oregon...* Northeast Oregon is a special place, and it has been so since the beginning of human history. It is difficult to visit or live here, and not be affected by the beauty, the heritage, and the people. The Wallowa Land Trust offers a unique avenue for getting to know these characteristics. *Into The Wallowa* outings are half-day guided tours of significant lands throughout the Wallowa Country. All outings are led by local experts, free of charge, and open to the public.



**Contact:** [Julia Lakes](mailto:julialakes@wallowalands.com) at: (541) 426-204; Website: <http://wallowalands.com/> or the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce (Vicki) at: (541) 426-4622; Email: [vicki@wallowacountychamber.com](mailto:vicki@wallowacountychamber.com); Website: [www.wallowacountychamber.com](http://www.wallowacountychamber.com)

## Preserving Music on the Oregon Trail

*Baker City, Oregon...* Historic preservation conjures images of landmark buildings and significant sites. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon takes a further step by preserving historic culture of the pioneers who settled Oregon, including frontier music. Music of the Oregon Trail pioneers is featured in presentations in the Leo Adler Theater each summer. The Theater, located inside the Interpretive Center, has 90-100 scheduled presentations monthly including films, lectures, dramas, and live music. Performers include historians who meticulously research historic sheet music, written accounts and instruments of decades past to try to recreate the sounds of an era before recorded and amplified music. Folk musicians carry on the oral tradition of storytelling through song. Contemporary singer-songwriters preserve the pioneer spirit through modern compositions about historic times. Native American musicians share traditional music on recreated instruments. The annual Oregon Trail Music Festival, a daylong concert of traditional American acoustic music, is in early October each year.



## The Great Salt Lick ~ Animals Making Art for a Great Cause

### **Baker City... Art Takes A Licking**

By Debby Schoeningh (Exerpts)

Some people see beauty in paintings, drawings, sculptures, and prose. Whit Deschner of Sparta, Ore., sees it in salt blocks. However the true beauty within a salt block becomes visible only after it has been licked by the artists — cattle, goats, horses, sheep, deer or elk.

Whit says he began to see the potential for art in salt blocks, which are a mineral supplement given to livestock and wildlife, while he was sitting on the porch of a friend's cabin admiring the shape of a block the deer had worked on.

"I began thinking that salt licks sure beat some of the sculptures in parks and in front of buildings," he says. "You know the ones — they look like misplaced boulders that really are misplaced boulders, but that some artist has gotten large sums of money to put there and call art. Somewhere the thought struck me that salt licks were far more aesthetically pleasing to look at than abused rocks going under the disguise of art. Of course there may have been a beer or two involved..." Whit is partial to salt blocks licked by cows because of their broad-brush (tongue) approach. "There is no such thing as a mad cow," he says. "They're really just frustrated artists. Heck, look at Van Gogh." Goats, he says, are very detailed. Horses don't seem to have as much imagination when it comes to design, and Whit says they tend to bite the blocks.

In order to showcase the work of these artisans, Whit started the "Great Salt Lick Contest," an annual event since 2007, held in Baker City. This year's contest will be held Sept. 25 at Crossroads Carnegie Art Center with \$800 in prize money given for first, second and third places as well as the best block accompanied by a poem. Some of the more impressive blocks last year included "Hoof Arted," and Honed on the Range." In 2008 Whit gave an award to the contestant who produced a block that most closely resembled Janet Reno, former U.S. attorney general. Reno contacted him and asked for a photograph of the winning block. "I just Fed-exed the whole block to her, and I never did hear back from her," he chuckles. The blocks submitted for the contest have come from as far away as Las Vegas, and Whit even received one from Germany (submitted in photographic form).

Blocks licked by humans are not permitted. "Licks may be subject to DNA testing," says Whit. "Blocks with human DNA will be eliminated and offenders banned from future contests." Also, cows caught using steroids will be canned. After the entries are judged, Whit auctions off the salt blocks as a fundraiser for Parkinson's, a disease he shares with more than 1.5 million people. The proceeds, which have averaged around \$4,000 a year go to the Parkinson Center of Oregon at Oregon Health and Science University.

The contest is held in Baker City, Oregon at the Crossroads Arts Center. The fundraising auctions, he says, have been "a heroic effort from the small-but-great community of Baker County, Oregon."

Whit is the author of several books including "Travels With A Kayak", as well as an accomplished photographer. He sells his work locally and online. For more information on the contest contact Whit at 541-893-6403, email at [whit@whitdeschner.com](mailto:whit@whitdeschner.com). His work can also viewed at [www.whitdeschner.com](http://www.whitdeschner.com).

**Contact:** Ginger Savage at Crossroads Arts Center in Baker City at: (541) 523-5369; Email: [xrds@q.com](mailto:xrds@q.com); Website: <http://www.crossroads-arts.org/>

Video of the Salt Lick Contests can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA9AOoeGVq8> and <http://www.opb.org/programs/artbeat/segments/view/917>



# Eastern Oregon ~ The Way the West was Once ~ Arts & Cultural Stories...

## Pendleton Arts Center ~ A Place for Art of All Ages

*Pendleton, Oregon...* The Pendleton Center for the Arts is located in the historic 1915 Carnegie Library building on the banks of the Umatilla River in downtown Pendleton, Oregon. This beautiful Italian Renaissance Revival style building was one of the thousands funded by steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie in the early 1900's. After serving for more than 80 years, not only as a library, but as a community gathering place, the building was renovated by the Arts Council of Pendleton into a multi-venue arts facility. Today the Pendleton Center for the Arts is still a gathering place, bringing together community members and visitors from far and wide to view, buy and make art.



The Center's flagship program Art Rocks Teens (A.R.T.) allows young people 13 – 18 years old to attend classes after school and all summer long and absolutely FREE. Designed by teens for teens, class schedules feature a wide range of visual and performing arts, including garage band, film making, costume and jewelry design and more. Information on class schedules, live music events and upcoming exhibits is always available at the Center's website: [www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)

**Contact:** Roberta Lavadour at: (541) 278-9201; Email: [director@pendletonarts.org](mailto:director@pendletonarts.org)

## Missoula Art Show Travels to Eastern Oregon

*Baker City, Oregon...* While many regions of the country are known for their mastery of other mediums, in Montana, the ceramic arts are the touchstone of art and culture. This exhibition serves as a snap shot of the world-class activity that is happening today in the state, and now traveling to limited exhibitions throughout the Northwest. Baker City's Crossroads Art Center is excited to play host in the summer of 2012. The exhibition coincides with the Archie Bray Foundation's 60th birthday and is

intended to celebrate not only this milestone birthday, but the long-lived strength of the clay medium in the state of Montana. For potters and ceramic art-lovers, this is a rare opportunity to view, learn from these exceptional artisans, and purchase limited edition works. Visit the website:

<http://www.missoulaartmuseum.org>

**Contact:** Ginger Savage at Crossroads Arts Center in Baker City at: (541) 523-5369; Email: [xrds@q.com](mailto:xrds@q.com);

Website: <http://www.crossroads-arts.org/>

persistence in clay  
CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS IN MONTANA  
OPENING JUNE 3 // 19 ARTISTS // 3 VENUES

MISSOULA  
ART  
MUSEUM

Shanna Fliegel ▶

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## Train Robberies a Thing of the Past...Guess We Didn't Get the Memo!

*Elgin & Sumpter, Oregon...* While the rest of the world is worrying about cell phone coverage, Tweeting, racing to respond to emails, here in Eastern Oregon we are concerned about the high crime rate with our historic trains! The Sumpter Valley Railroad, located near Baker City offers a unique setting, traveling through the gold dredge tailings, to the little town of Sumpter. Often times, it is robbed by local bandits. Equally serious, is the crime rate on the Eagle Cap Excursion Train, operating from the town of Elgin, Oregon. It has been rumored that the culprits are a group of local cowboys and cowgirls in desperate need of tapping the tourist's pocketbook, but local officials seem to be quite closed-lip about the possible identities of the robbers.

**Contacts:** Eagle Cap Excursion Train – Alegre Travel at: (541) 963-9000; Email: [travel@alegretravel.com](mailto:travel@alegretravel.com); Website: <http://eaglecaptrain.com/>

Sumpter Valley Railroad – Debi at Baker Visitors Center: (541) 523-1235; Email: [info@visitbaker.com](mailto:info@visitbaker.com); Website: <http://www.svry.com/>



## Hamley's ~ Cowboy Traditions Preserved by Local Artisans

*Pendleton, Oregon...* In Eastern Oregon our cowboy heritage is something we live each and everyday. Here you will still find men and women who make their living on the back of a horse. You'll find the horsemanship principles of such Master Horsemen as the Dorrance Brothers still practiced, honored, and shared with aspiring horsemen and women. In Pendleton, Oregon, these traditions are being carried on at Hamley's & Company by their saddlemakers, in the rawhide work, and quality pieces of art. Alan Dewey is one of those saddlemakers. Alan has been building saddles for more than 30 years. He has been building saddles for Hamley's since 2005. Although Alan is a renowned carver, he believes there is more to a saddle than fancy embellishments. Alan's years of practice and his attention to detail has earned him notoriety as a craftsman. He has worked with saddle making legends Ray Holes and Keith Seidel. Hamley's saddle making tradition is about producing functional tack for working cowboys. Alan embodies these attributes.

**Tim George-Rawhide Braider** ~ Tim has been braiding leather for over 30 years. He practices his intricate work and is passionate about keeping his work traditional. He works in his Hamley studio and has sold some of his pieces to working cowboys and collectors alike. Rawhide is the Cadillac of fine horse tack and Tim's work is recognized as some of the finest available. Tim has a good understanding of what makes a fine piece of rawhide work, partly because he is meticulous and patient but mostly because he spent several years working on a large ranch and working with horses.

**Contact:** Hamley's at: (541) 278-1100; Website: <http://www.hamleyco.com/>



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## The Ghost Stories of Skeleton Creek ~ Are They Really "Stories"?

*Sumpter, Oregon...* There is sometime paranormal happening in this little town of Sumpter, where whispers of ghosts, perhaps gold miners, still walk the halls of the huge old gold eating machine of the Sumpter Valley Dredge. Author Patrick Carman's book, *Skeleton Creek*, is set here, and the book/video followers can't wait to visit to see if the stories are true! Here's a bit of the story...



Strange things are happening in Skeleton Creek and Ryan and Sarah are trying to get to the heart of it. But after an eerie accident leaves Ryan housebound and forbidden to see Sarah, their investigation takes two tracks: Ryan records everything in his journal, while Sarah uses her videocam to search things out ... and then emails the clips for Ryan to see.



In a new, groundbreaking format, the story is broken into two parts -- Ryan's text in the book, and Sarah's videos on a special website, with links and passwords given throughout the book.

**Contact:** Timothy at Baker County Tourism: (541) 523-1589; Email: [info@basecampbaker.com](mailto:info@basecampbaker.com); Website: <http://www.patrickcarman.com> or [www.basecampbaker.com](http://www.basecampbaker.com)

## Eastern Oregon's Flea Markets ~ Barter Your Way to Treasures

*Sumpter, Pendleton, Ontario, Oregon...* The origins of the term "Flea Market" are disputed, but according to one theory the 'Fly Market' in 18th century New York City began the association. It was located near the Manhattan River, in a marshy bottom, and people came to the 'swamp' to trade. By the early 1800's the "Fly Market" was the principal market in New York City. How "fleas" got involved, no one seems to know, as it is much more than a place, as our French friends would tell us, "marché aux puces" ("market where one acquires fleas")!



Today, through out Eastern Oregon you can find these hidden little gems of events, designed to bring out the trader, antiquer, and rebel in all of us. A flea market or swap meet is a type of bazaar where inexpensive or secondhand goods are sold or bartered.

The Sumpter Flea Market is truly one of biggest in all of the Pacific Northwest. Running over the weekends of Memorial Day (May), 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day (September), this market is the place to find the perfect treasure, enjoy the local culture, and taste the market fare. Dealers in antiques & collectibles, along with handicrafts, new & used merchandise, and fresh produce can all be discovered.

**Contact:** Julie in Sumpter at (541) 894-2354; Website: <http://www.sumpter.org> or Timothy at: (541) 523-1589; Email: [info@basecampbaker.com](mailto:info@basecampbaker.com); Website: [www.basecampbaker.com](http://www.basecampbaker.com)

# Whiskey for My Friends & Beer for My Horses ~ Eastern Oregon's Culinary Surprises

## The Eastern Oregon 'Beer Tag' ~ Hand-Crafted Breweries Help Wet Your Whistle

*Pendleton, La Grande, Enterprise, Joseph, Baker City, & Ontario, Oregon...*

Some places have 'Ale Trails'. Other places have 'Beer Passports'. In Eastern Oregon, we have a 'Beer Tag'! Eastern Oregon has an amazing array of micro-breweries, and in

2012 they are declaring open season for hand-crafted beer in the eastern portion of the state of Oregon. This is a "Controlled Hunt", and hunters, also known as tasters, are asked to procure a 'Beer Tag' in order to participate in this rare hunt. The Eastern Oregon 'Beer Tag' can be found at any of the six hand-crafted breweries participating: Beer Valley located in Ontario; Barley Brown's - Baker City; Mutiny - Joseph; Terminal Gravity - Enterprise; Mt. Emily Ale House - La Grande; and Prodigal Son in Pendleton. Once a 'Beer Tag' is procured at one of the participating breweries or by downloading from the EOVA website (eova.com), hunters (aka Beer Tasters) are invited to hunt at any of six Eastern Oregon micro-breweries. After tasting is completed, the brew master will stamp the 'Beer Tag' with the official Eastern Oregon stamp. Upon visiting at least four of the six hunting locations, the hunter (aka Taster) will be awarded a fabulous koozie for keeping his or her Eastern Oregon beer cool, in preparation for future hunts.

**Contact:** Alice at: (541) 856-3356 Email: [eova@eoni.com](mailto:eova@eoni.com) Website: [www.eova.com](http://www.eova.com)

## Cultural Diversity ~ The People, The Heritage, & the Foods of Eastern Oregon

*Ontario, Oregon....* On the far eastern side of Oregon, huddled up next to Idaho is the town of Ontario. This is where Oregon begins! For millenniums this has been a crossroads, a meeting place, of environments, rivers, and people. The cultural diversity of the area residents is influenced by Native Americans, Basque shepherders, Japanese and Mexican farmers, and European merchants and ranchers. In 2011 as new culture was added to this mix with the introduction of *Mai*, a Vietnamese restaurant. Specializing in Pho, which is considered Vietnam's national dish. Making a pot of pho is a 24-hour process. Who would have thought that out here on the edge of Oregon you'd find some of the best Vietnamese food in the state!

**Contact:** Jen at: (541) 889-7771; Email: [restaurantphomai@yahoo.com](mailto:restaurantphomai@yahoo.com)



# Whiskey for My Friends & Beer for My Horses ~ Eastern Oregon's Culinary Surprises

## Bull Ridge Brewpub ~ Maybe it's 'Whiskey' for my Horses & Beer for my Friends!

*Baker City, Oregon...* Historic Baker City is home to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, the Geiser Grand Hotel, and Barley Brown's Brew Pub. Now, adding to the mix of great places to sample the best beer Oregon has to offer is Bull Ridge Brewpub. The pub has an outdoor and sports theme and is now open with guest taps from other parts of Eastern Oregon, such as Pendleton's Prodigal Son. The next step in Bull Ridge's business plan involves building their own brewhouse within the two-story historic building with Historic Baker City. Owner Julie Blank reports that a brewmaster has already been lined up for the job. The final phase of the development is to create themed rooms in the upper level of the building.

**Contact:** Julie at: (541) 523-5833; Website: <http://www.letseat.at/bullridgebrewpub>



## Speaking of Elk ~ Oregon's Only Elk-Viewing Tours Get to the Point

*North Powder, Oregon...* Watching wildlife has become one of Oregon's greatest visitor attractions. From the whale-watching on the coast to the birding in southeastern portion of the state, Oregon has much to offer. However, often times the animals and the humans change their patterns during the winter months, and visitors don't think of watchable wildlife when planning vacations. Except in eastern Oregon.

For the past 21 years, T&T Wildlife Tours have been attracting people from all over the world to see the magnificent Rocky Mountain Elk. Located near the little town of North Powder, and not far from Baker City or La Grande, visitors can get to within five feet of over 150 head.

Traveling into the herd via horse-drawn wagon is a visual treat for all ages. The narrative provided by owners Alice Trindle and Susan Triplett help to bring the full picture of why the elk are being fed, colored with some pretty incredible stories that have been gathered over the past 21 years. Triplett commented, "It is amazing the amount and origination of the people we get to meet every year during the elk-feeding season. Folks from the United Kingdom will be sitting with someone from Boise, Idaho on one side, Portland on the other, and a couple from Germany behind them."

The horse-drawn wagon, which is equipped with a wheelchair lift, takes people through a winter wonderland, located at the base of the Elkhorn Mountain range in northeastern Oregon. Other common wildlife to the site include wild turkeys, many raptors such as Red Tail and Rough-legged hawks, and bald eagles, coyotes, fox, and bobcats. "Of course Jed and Waylan, the two black Percheron horses that pull the wagons, are a pretty big attraction too", commented Trindle. She continued, "Weighing-in at about 2,000 each, they are BIG, and in today's world, most people have never been close to draft horses".



The tours will begin December 10, 2011 and run weekends through the end of February. Special holiday tour dates are scheduled for the day after Christmas through January 1, 2012. Call 541-856-3356 or the Union County Chamber office at 1-800-848-9969 or Baker County Visitor Information at 1-800-523-1235. (Photos available in jpeg format.)

Website: [www.tnthorsemanship.com/wildlifetours/](http://www.tnthorsemanship.com/wildlifetours/)