

Come Visit, Play, Stay and Enjoy the Wonders of Oregon's Northern Lake County  
Christmas Valley ~ Fort Rock ~ Silver Lake ~ Summer Lake ~ Paisley

# North Lake County

## 2023



Christmas Valley/North Lake  
Chamber of Commerce  
[www.christmasvalleychamber.org](http://www.christmasvalleychamber.org)  
[info@christmasvalleychamber.org](mailto:info@christmasvalleychamber.org)  
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Photo by Amanda Schmidt



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# Welcome To Lake County's North End

Welcome to Lake County! Lake County encompasses a vast area of high desert at the edge of the Great Basin. The Northern end of the county (often referred to as North Lake) is home to the communities of Christmas Valley, Fort Rock, Silver Lake, Summer Lake and the small incorporated town of Paisley. Each community is distinctive with its own history and traditions, yet together they celebrate life on the High Desert with unity. 'North Lake County' is diverse and beautiful in its extremes.

Recreational opportunities abound - the area offers something for everyone. Hiking, Mt. Biking, Hunting and Fishing, an 8900 acre Sandbox to ride and explore on your ATV, a challenging 3,000 yard links-style golf course and a host of fascinating geological sites that take visitors back through time. There are reservoirs, rivers, mountain trails, horse camps, wildlife sanctuaries and amazing birding. It is a great place to visit and a great place to live!

This guide is designed to enhance your visit by providing information to help ensure your experience is the best it can be and to introduce you to the many businesses that support our primarily agrarian economy and to provide information on the many available services travelers may need along the way: Motels, Restaurants, RV parks and some great surprises when it comes to shopping.

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+ Fuel

\* OLCC licensed liquor Store

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## Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber of Commerce

### Business & Individual Memberships

Serving the Communities of Christmas Valley, Fort Rock, Paisley,  
Silver Lake and Summer Lake

541-576-3838

[www.christmasvalleychamber.org](http://www.christmasvalleychamber.org)

[Info@christmasvalleychamber.org](mailto:Info@christmasvalleychamber.org)

Follow us on Facebook @ Christmas Valley North Lake Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 65  
Christmas Valley, OR 97641



**Come See What's Happening in Lake County's North End!**



## “Outback” land with a natural ruggedness

It is, “a star-spangled landscape of marsh and mountain, of reflection and rim rock, of seamless vistas and sage-scented dreams.”

*Jonathan Nicholas, publisher of the Oregonian*



Christmas Valley Back Country Byway

Lakeview to Steens Mt. Back Country Byway

**Plan time in your vacation or outing to explore -- add the Back Country Byways and all they offer!**

The Basin and Range is the result of the North American plate being stretched as the smaller plates to its west were subducted and broken up during the Miocene Epoch (23 to 5 million years ago). The hot lower crust stretched in a plastic fashion while the brittle upper crust tore into rocky strips that foundered in the soft rock below, tilting into widely spaced ranges with basins between. This activity was accompanied by ferocious volcanism and the emplacement of widespread metal deposits. During wet times the basins became lakes; in dry times like today most basins dried into dusty *playas*. Most of these events are visible in the rocks and landforms along the Outback Scenic Byway.



# EXPLORING OREGON'S OUTBACK

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## *The Lake County Board of Commissioners*

*Welcome you to Beautiful  
Lake County*



*James Williams*



*Barry Shullanberger*



*Mark Albertson*

Greetings and welcome,

Lake County Oregon provides an amazing array of adventures that range from quiet sightseeing road trips to thru-hiking. Geologically the county is, in the scheme of things quite young and has many interesting features to explore. It is a great place for families, travelers and tourists.



## History and General Information

Lake County was created from Jackson and Wasco Counties by the 1874 Legislature. At that time, it included what is today, Klamath County and all of the present Lake County, with the exception of Warner Valley. In 1882, Klamath was removed and, in 1885 the Warner area from Grant County was added.

In area, Lake County is 8359 square miles, making it the third largest county in Oregon, conversely, the County's population is averaged at just slightly less than one person per square mile.

The County's cities and towns are: Lakeview, an incorporated town that serves as the county seat; the tiny communities of Adel and Plush; Paisley, an incorporated city of about 250 residents; Summer Lake, a tiny hub for surrounding ranchers and farmers; Christmas Valley, an unincorporated town which serves as the commercial center for communities located in the county's northern end; and the small towns of Silver Lake and Fort Rock, each serving wide ranging area ranches and farms.

Lake County is a kaleidoscope of large cattle ranches, and hay farms with a couple of large sheep operations thrown in the mix. Recreational opportunities are found throughout the county. Visitors will not only enjoy the amazing landscapes, but the lakes, rivers, geologic sites and camping.

Hunters love the area where there is a good deal of big game: Elk, Mule Deer and Antelope and some very good bird hunting as well. Those who love to fish will find that the high desert offers some great fly fishing as well and a chance to land a trophy bass.

Hiking and wildlife viewing - photography - hang gliding. You name it and Lake County has it. There are also several camps and trail systems that are great for folks who enjoy trail riding.

Lastly there is the giant sand box not far from Christmas Valley where OHV riders come to play.



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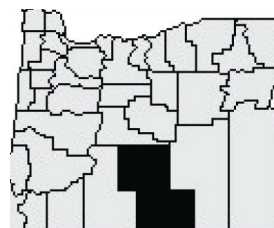
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541-947-3378 • [www.lakecountyexam.com](http://www.lakecountyexam.com)

## Points of Interest

Abert Rim  
Christmas Valley Sand Dunes  
Crack in the Ground  
Ft. Rock State Park  
Gearhart Wilderness  
Hart Mt. Antelope Refuge  
Hole in the Ground  
Hunter's Hot Springs  
Lost Forest  
Old Perpetual Geyser  
Sheldon Nat. Wildlife Refuge  
Summer Lake Hot Springs  
Summer Lake Wildlife Area  
Sunstone Gathering near Plush  
Warner Canyon Refuge  
Warner Wetlands

## Museums

Ft Rock Homestead  
Village Museum  
Lake County Museum  
Lake County Round-Up  
Schminck Memorial Museum



| Real Market Value  
\$1,198,406,596  
Annual Precipitation:  
15.80"  
Economy: Livestock,  
forest products,  
agriculture, recreation

## Contact Information/ County Seat

Courthouse, 513 Center St.  
Lakeview, OR 97631  
Phone: 541-947-6051  
[www.lakecountyor.org](http://www.lakecountyor.org)

## Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber of Commerce

The Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber of Commerce serves the businesses and the communities of the northern end of Lake County, Oregon. Why, because Lake County is so large that one chamber simply can't provide for the north and south ends - they are 100 miles apart.

We are a small organization. The board members are volunteers, and we have no paid staff but as with many chambers in rural areas we get things done.

Every year the chamber produces this guide, manages the July 4th parade, including the purchase of the awards, hosts the annual Christmas lighting contest, places American flags along the highway through town in celebration of major federal holidays, and maintains a 24 hour, accessible Tourist Information center that is located at a front corner of J.W. Kerns parking lot.

The Chamber plans to host the annual Awards banquet at which individuals and businesses are recognized now that virus issues have past.

The Chamber's Pocket Garden development offers travelers as well as locals a cool peace-

ful space to enjoy a snack, read publications available at the Tourist Information building or simply enjoy the pleasures of our fragrant little garden..



Thanks especially to J.W. Kerns for housing the building. And for helping us keep the pocket garden watered and blooming.



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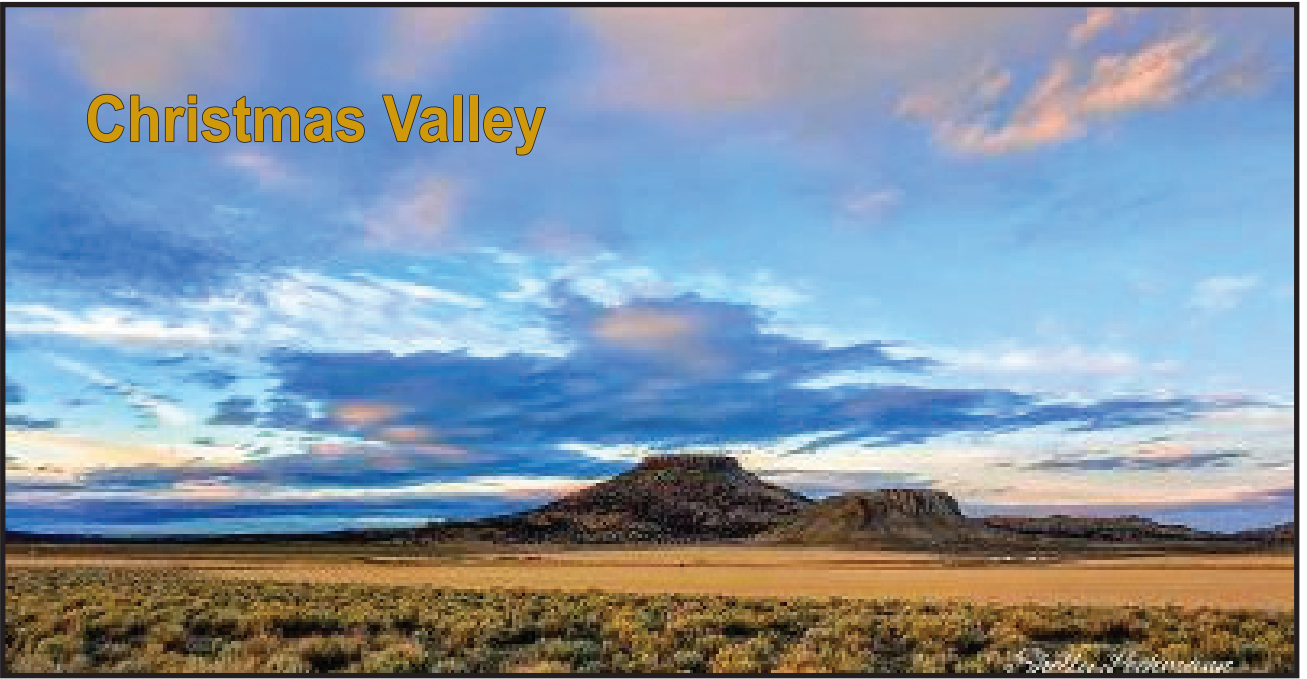
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## Christmas Valley



### *Greetings from Christmas Valley*

Christmas Valley is all about contrasts. When traveling through the area visitors will at one moment be surrounded by an endless ocean of desert brushes and bunch grass and in the twinkle of an eye, by vast circular fields of emerald green alfalfa and pastures filled with grazing cattle.

You are driving through what was once an ancient inland sea. The surrounding buttes, mountains and other elevated geologic features comprised its perimeter and the resulting landscape is what we see today.

The little unincorporated township of Christmas Valley serves as the economic hub for the county's northern end with businesses ranging from suppliers of massive farming equipment and auto parts to a drive-through coffee stand.

Visitors will discover that an exceptional shopping opportunity awaits them at The Willows. There are three markets, a produce stand and several restaurants two bars and also a full-service deli at one of the markets.

There are two motels, and three RV parks providing full hook-ups and bath-houses. Tent camping sites are also available.

Should one need a tire repaired there is a full-service tire shop too. Traveling in an RV, folks at times need repairs and they will find such services here too

A small general store near the town's center offers a variety of items travelers often find themselves in need of from - socks to frying pans and everything in between.

What visitors and residents alike find so alluring in this often harsh high-altitude area are the spectacular sunrises and sunsets, and a vast expanse of sky that pleases the eye and the heart.

Night skies are spectacular. With little ambient light, one is treated to clear views of stars, planets and constellations; many of which are undetectable in city scapes.

Indeed, Lake County has been identified as having some of the darkest skies, not just in Oregon or the United States, but in the World! Drive any direction into the desert and gaze upon the Milky Way and a star-filled night sky.

Walking on the desert or in the surrounding hills, hikers may see tiny groups of desert lilies and other wild flowers or a nest full of quail eggs.

Wildlife is everywhere, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, coyotes, jack rabbits and cottontails, and if you're lucky you might spot an elk or two.



*Iconic Table Rock  
photo by Shelly Leehman*

## High Desert Golfing at Its Best: **Christmas Valley Golf Course**

Golfers are in for a rare treat when in Christmas Valley, as this small remote town in Eastern Oregon is home to the challenging Christmas Valley Golf Course. Built back in 1964, this 9-hole, high desert, links style golf course is surprisingly long at 3,321 yards from the back tees; in addition, the extremely narrow fairways, small greens, and hard blowing winds combine to make this a tough test for any level golfer.

Rated by the Oregon Golf Association for all tees for both men and women golfers. The course is located in the middle of the town next to the old Christmas Valley Lodge, the library, and Baert Lake. When golfers show up, they'll find a modest sized practice green, a driving range practice field (around 300 yards), and a lot of geese in between. They'll also see a kiosk near the Parks and Rec building (by the library) where they can find

### **Condensed Article By Robbie Newport**

scorecards, pencils, and a sign in sheet with instructions on how to pay.

With no tee times and, generally, no wait times, golfers will begin to appreciate the one of a kind attributes Christmas Valley Golf Course offers when it comes to tranquility and peacefulness.

At only a few hundred dollars a year for a membership, \$20 for 9-holes, and \$25 for 18-holes, affordable golf rates is another unique attribute the Christmas Valley Golf Course offers.

Both serious and not so serious golfers alike should experience playing the Christmas Valley Golf Course at least once

in their lifetime, if not regularly. If they play the ball as it lies, this high desert gem will rival any challenge they've faced before. As for the peaceful surroundings and laid back atmosphere, they'll find this pure golfing experience second to none.



### **Golf Christmas Valley**

**Christmas Valley Park and Recreation  
Golf Course, Community Hall, Airport,  
Rodeo Grounds & Baert Lake  
[www.cvparkandrec.com](http://www.cvparkandrec.com)**

**Office 541-576-2216 Fax 541-576-2272  
57334 Christmas Tree Road - P.O. Box 181  
Christmas Valley, Oregon 97641**



### **Three Great Golf Tournaments**

**JULY 2nd ~ Annual 4th of July weekend**

**Nine Hole Four Person Best Ball**

**All are welcome**

**\$20 members**

**\$40 Non-members**

**Potluck Lunch at # 6 Fairway**

**SEPTEMBER 30**

**HARVEST TOURNAMENT**

**Eighteen Hole Four Person Best Ball**

**Team Sponsorship \$500**

**Auction & Catered Dinner after golf**

**TWO CLUBS AND A PUTTER**

**Nine hole stroke play**

**August Date to be determined**

**Greens fees plus \$20 entry**



## The Willows

The Willows Antiques has been serving Christmas Valley and surrounding communities for nearly twelve years.

Laura Parks, with her love of the new, the old, and the unexpected began this venture in a small building at the east end of town.

Since opening she has added onto the building twice in order to expand the offerings from antiques and gifts and much more.

Large antique furniture pieces are incorporated throughout the shop to display the incredible variety of items to be found

throughout the shop.

In one section shop a delightful selection of



kitchen items, including specialty spices, honey, teas and other culinary treats.

The "Kitchen Store" is well stocked with hard to find kitchen tools and gadgets, serving dishes, table runners, place mats

and much, much more. It is a cooks delight.

Round another corner and you discover



unique home decor items and some fabulous antique furniture pieces.

The Willows also hosts a "Knitting Store" where locals and visitors alike will find beautiful top quality yarns and

knitting supplies. The shop offers group and individual knitting lessons.

Willows offers a refreshing opportunity to shop at

er one of a kind pieces of jewelry.

When you venture into the east room you will feast your eyes on

a brick and mortar store with down-home hospitality. You can count on a friendly greeting and helpful assistance.

*Among the many fine reasons  
to visit North Lake County  
is this quirky little shop in  
Christmas Valley*

*Wander in  
Say Hello*

**10 am to 5 pm - Tues thru Sat**

**The Willows**  
*Antiques & Vintage & Gifts*

**Laura Parks**  
*owner*

**87531 Christmas Valley Hwy | Christmas Valley, OR 97641 | 541-576-2199**

## Coyotes: Icons of the West

From the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife article, "Living with Wildlife: Coyotes"

The coyote may be iconic to the American West where they are widely distributed, but this amazing animal is found throughout the United States in wild, rural and urban settings. He is an adaptor and a survivor.



These predators are skillful with tremendous speed, agility strength and endurance and will eat just about anything, including fall grasses, fruits and berries. They are opportunistic so they are more than happy to eat pet food, garbage, gar-

den crops and poultry. They are wily and at times conflict with human activity but in general they are wary of humans, which is why they are hard to spot.

Once they know they have been spotted, they usually won't stick around. The best chance of seeing and observing these beautiful animals is to look for them in open pastures and hay fields. When you do get a sighting, be very still. You may even get a chance to photograph one.

Their preferred habitats include: patchworks of agricultural, but they are ever adaptable. Coyotes are considered "edge" users because this is where their primary prey is most abundant.

Coyotes play an important role in the food chain by controlling mice, rats and other rodents as well as scavenging dead wildlife. Indeed rodents make up the bulk of their diet regardless the setting in which they live. In northern Lake County they help with the control of the Pocket Gopher and Sage Rat populations, both of which do tremendous damage in the hay fields.

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# Christmas Valley Sand Dunes

Welcome to the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes, the largest inland shifting sand dune system in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The complex covers 11,000 acres of which approximately 8,900 acres are open to vehicles. These dunes, often up to 60 feet high, are composed primarily of ash and pumice from the eruption of Mt. Mazama, that formed Crater Lake, 7,000 years ago.

The area offers a variety of activities including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, sightseeing, photography, and camping and are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Since these activities often conflict, users are encouraged to respect the rights of other visitors as they enjoy their visit.



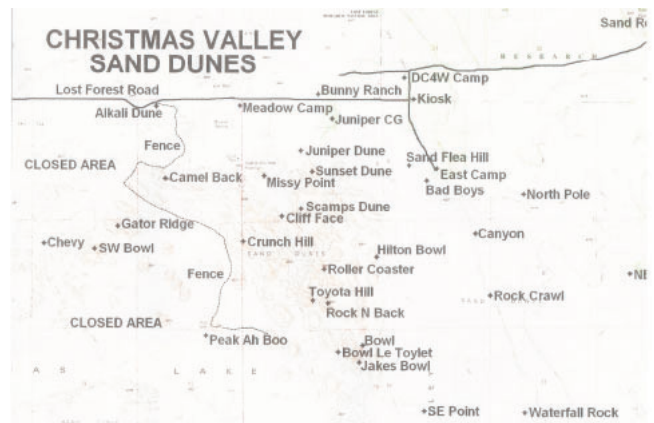
All Oregon state laws and regulations pertaining to off-highway vehicles apply. Vehicle operators must have a valid driver's license, state-issued all-terrain vehicle operator's permit or be accompanied by someone 18 or older with a valid driver's license. In addition all off-road vehicles must have a red or orange flag on an extended antenna while driving on the dunes.

State alcohol and drug laws also apply to all vehicle operators and passengers. A \$10 Oregon ATV operator permit may be required. Riders under age 18 are required to wear a DOT helmet.

## Christmas Valley Sand Dunes

www.deschutescounty4wheelers.com

Landmark	Latitude	Longitude
ALKALI DUNE	43°21'17"N	120°25'8"W
BAD BOYS CAMP	43°20'41"N	120°22'4"W
BOWL	43°19'20"N	120°22'48"W
BOWL LE TOILET	43°19'18"N	120°23'04"W
BUNNY RANCH	43°21'22"N	120°23'18"W
CAMEL BACK DUNE	43°20'42"N	120°25'01"W
CANYON	43°20'15"N	120°21'31"W
CHEVY TRUCK	43°20'10"N	120°26'24"W
CLIFF FACE	43°20'23"N	120°23'42"W
CRUNCH HILL	43°20'11"N	120°24'08"W
EAST CAMP	43°20'47"N	120°21'57"W
GATOR RIDGE	43°20'18"N	120°26'34"W
HILTON BOWL	43°20'04"N	120°22'38"W
JAKES BOWL	43°19'13"N	120°22'50"W
JUNIPER CAMPGROUND	43°21'10"N	120°23'08"W
JUNIPER DUNE	43°20'55"N	120°23'29"W
KIOSK	43°21'20"N	120°22'14"W
MEADOW CAMP	43°21'17"N	120°24'11"W
MISSY POINT	43°20'43"N	120°23'54"W
NORTH POLE	43°20'34"N	120°20'58"W
NORTHEAST CORNER	43°19'56"N	120°19'46"W
PEAK AH BOO	43°19'25"N	120°24'34"W
ROCK CRAWL	43°19'45"N	120°21'21"W
ROCK N BAC	43°19'41"N	120°23'11"W
ROLLER COASTER	43°19'58"N	120°23'13"W
SAND FLEA HILL	43°20'46"N	120°22'16"W
SCAMPS DUNE	43°20'27"N	120°23'29"W
SOUTHWEST POINT	43°18'49"N	120°22'08"W
SOUTHWEST BOWL	43°20'07"N	120°25'50"W
SUNSET DUNE	43°20'45"N	120°23'22"W
TOYOTA HILL	43°18'42"N	120°23'21"W
WATERFALL ROCK	43°18'49"N	120°20'57"W



## THE RULES

The Christmas Valley Sand Dunes are no secret to ATV enthusiasts. On major holidays such as Memorial Day and the 4th of July it is not unusual to see several thousand visitors camping at and riding the dunes.

- Whip flag that extends 8 ft from the ground**
- Stay on designated routes** Any trails without an "Open Road" sign is closed.
- No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle in a manner likely to cause environmental damage.** Do not run over vegetation.
- Do not collect firewood from the Lost Forest**
- Do not bring in, dispose of or possess any firewood containing nails, screws, or other metal hardware.**
- Spark arresters are required on all OHVs**
- Fossil Lake ACEC is closed to vehicles**
- Lost Forest RNA - stay on designated trails only.**
- Respect private property in the area.**

## FINDING YOUR WAY TO THE DUNES



## A Forum for Community Happenings, Writers and News

The Breeze is mailed to 1265 households and businesses in the northern communities of Lake County

541-480-0753

# The Community Breeze

Published  
Monthly

READ THE BREEZE ON-LINE  
[thecommunitybreeze.com](http://thecommunitybreeze.com)

Owner/Editor  
Terry Crawford

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

Eleven years ago a void was created when a local publication closed its doors. Enter Terry Crawford a recent resident with a love of writing, graphic design and layout. Crawford made a snap decision to fill that empty space with a new publication - one geared toward a little news, and a lot of content.

The first issue was just eight pages. Amazingly before Crawford reached home, after delivering the papers to local post offices, she had received calls from two area writers who wanted to regularly contribute to the publication. And so the

paper grew. First to 12 pages then to 16.

"The goal" says Crawford, "is to offer the communities of the North end of Lake County a enjoyable read each month as well as a publication that guarantees advertiser's messages will reach readers."

Without local writers like Toni Bailie, Marie Lee, The Prospector, Marie and Gary Brain, Laura Parks and several guest contributors, *The Community Breeze* would not be the welcome addition it has become.

The Breeze is online at [thecommunitybreeze.com](http://thecommunitybreeze.com)

## Crack-in-the-Ground: A great family adventure!

Crack-in-the-Ground is the result of tectonic and volcanic activity and is fairly new at only about 1,000 years. Viewed from the air its name is self explanatory.

Over all the feature is more than two miles long, however most is not accessible. The entrance is to the right as you reach the hiker log box. A little scramble down and over some large boulders

and you're on your way to a cool (even in summer you may need a light jacket or sweater) adventure through time. Much of the trail is unobstructed; there are a few rock-falls to negotiate and one choke stone to go under.

Wherever your gaze lands you will find

interesting cracks, crevices and intriguing formations. At one point there is a narrow vertical gash that reveals a section of a parallel space that

has not caved in. Look up and you see an expanse of deep blue sky.

This is a great, multi-generational outing as other than the scramble in, the difficulty is moderate. The kids are delighted with the adventure and the adults take pleasure in the more subtle aspects

of the hike. And as hikers return through the crack they soon discover new and interesting perspectives around each bend.

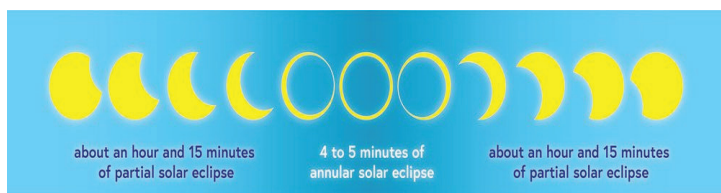
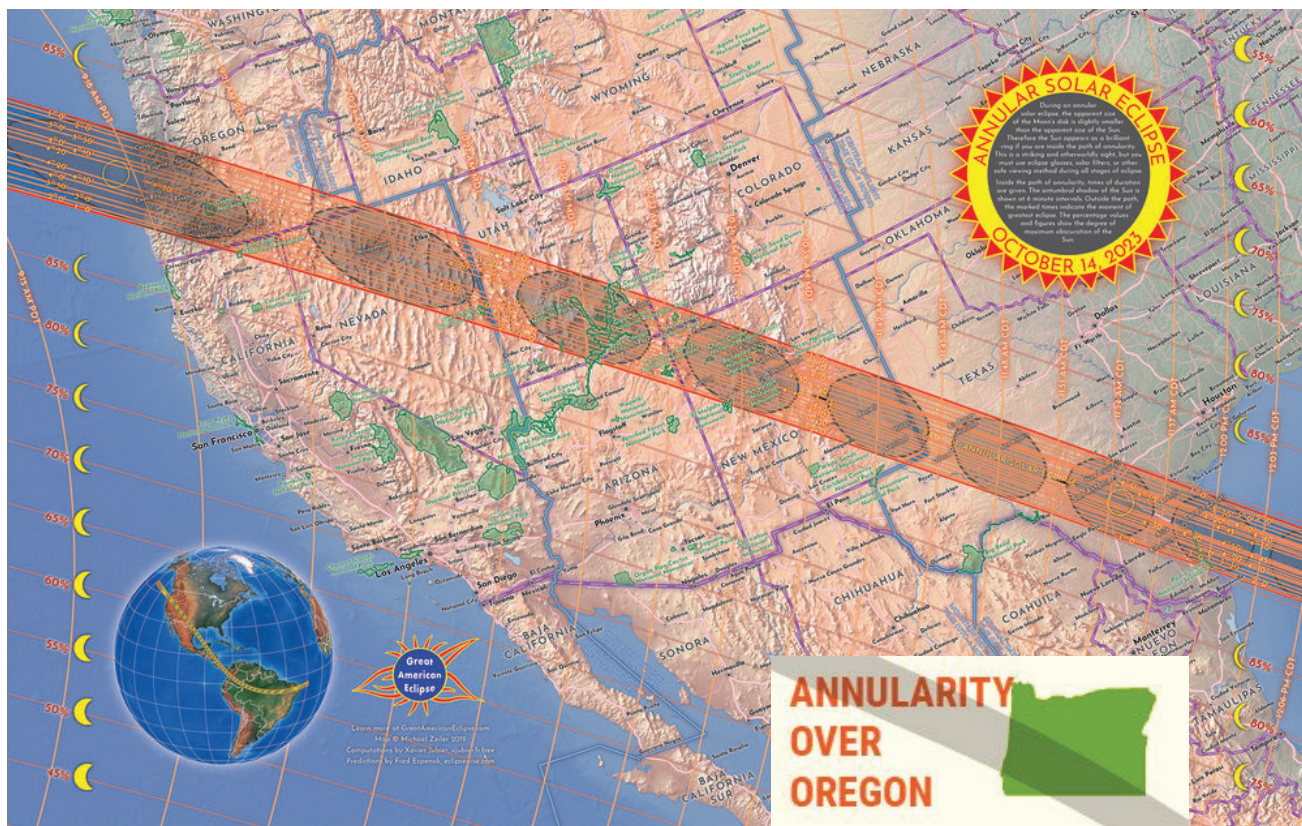
The trail parking lot is just a short drive from Christmas Valley with a 1/4 mile walk in to the trail's beginning.

Coordinates:  
43.332436, -120.671017





## October 14<sup>th</sup> Annular Solar Eclipse Viewing in North Lake County



During an annular solar eclipse, the apparent size of the Moon's disk is slightly smaller than the apparent size of the Sun's disk. Therefore, only the outer edge of the Sun remains visible and the Sun appears as a brilliant ring if you are inside the path of annular solar eclipse. This is an otherworldly sight often called a "ring of fire". There are instructions for safely viewing solar eclipses posted on line by the American Astronomical Society and several other professional organizations.

This eclipse will be a warm-up act for the spectacle of the total solar eclipse crossing the United States just 177 days later on April 8, 2024. While not as dramatic as a total solar eclipse, an annular solar eclipse promises a spectacular vision featuring the striking sight of the Sun as a ring. We recommend solar binoculars for viewing the dynamic Baily's Beads, sparkling points of brilliant sunlight as the Moon's limb rolls over the Sun's edge.

### Time-line for Christmas Valley

**Annular solar eclipse visible (89.03% coverage of Sun)**

**Magnitude: 0.9508**

**Duration:**

**2 hours, 37 minutes, 6 seconds**

**Duration of annularity:**

**3 minutes, 7 seconds**

**Partial begins:**

**Oct 14 at 8:05:58 am**

**Full begins:**

**Oct 14 at 9:19:08 am**

**Maximum:**

**Oct 14 at 9:20:41 am**

**Full ends:**

**Oct 14 at 9:22:15 am**

**Partial ends:**

**Oct 14 at 10:43:04 am**



## Anthropological & Archeological Discoveries

### The Oldest Dated Footwear In the World

The year was 1938. Anthropologist Luther Cressman, from the University of Oregon was on a dig at the Fort Rock Cave (located about one mile from Ft. Rock) when he unearthed weapons, tools, scrapers, drills awls, baskets and most memorably more that 70 pairs of sagebrush sandals.

Cressman was convinced that these artifacts were at least 9000 years old. His expectation was not validated until 1951 when fibers from the sandals were dated to more than 9000 years old.

Footwear of the same structure has also been found in six other sites in Southeastern Oregon and North-western Nevada. They are all called Fort Sandals.



### Importance of Paisley Caves in the Archeological Record

Paisley's 5 Mile Point Caves are listed by the National Park Service as one of the nations most important archeological and historic sites.

The caves have been of archaeological interest since the late 1930s, but only since the turn of the century have truly significant discoveries been made.

Archeologist, Dr. Dennis Jenkins of University of Oregon, along with other researchers used chemical analysis along with radiocarbon dating on fossilized human feces to date ancient human occupation of the caves to more than 1000 years pre Clovis or roughly 14,300 years in the past. The caves are not open to the public.



Archeological field work at Paisley Caves



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**Sunlit Table Rock**

Table Rock is an erosional remnant of a tuff cone, which at present is a symmetrical cone about 5,020 feet (1,530 m) in diameter at the base, tapering to a diameter of about 1,180 feet (360 m) at a height of 1,180 feet (360 m) above the surrounding plain.

The cone is capped with flat-lying basalt which once filled the crater. But erosion has modified the original cone, exposing the once ponded basalt lava lake. Dikes extend north and south of the crater's lava lake.

On the lower flanks of the cone, the rocks are mostly palagonite lapilli-tuff. Near the summit, the uppermost palagonites are overlain by massive cinders and bombs from fire-fountaining that preceded the filling of the crater with lava.

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# Hiking the Oregon Outback

By Toni Bailie

Moving to Paisley from Southwest Washington in 1994, we were delighted to find a system of trails that are not heavily used. I often head out on a trail with my dog Shasta and never meet another hiker. I can enjoy the beauty of the stately ponderosa pines and solitude punctuated by a soaring hawk or a chattering squirrel.

Some of my favorite hikes are along the middle segment of Fremont National Recreation Trail #160. The road that follows the Chewaucan River leads me to the Chewaucan Crossing trail head, just six miles from Paisley. Here, a foot bridge crosses the river and the trail goes for 10 miles along the hillside, crossing a stream at Cougar Canyon, winding through the pines and reaching Morgan Butte summit where a fire lookout provides panoramic vistas, 150 miles in all directions.

Across the road from the foot bridge, the Bear Creek trail ascends a steep slope in a series of switch-backs, unfolding a sweeping view of the Chewaucan River valley. The trail then skirts the rim of Bear Creek canyon and eventually intersects with Forest Road #3315.

Another one of my favorite hikes begins at Moss Pass Trail head (elevation 6,250 feet) on Forest Road 3510. The trail

skirts the shoulder of the mountain, providing unsurpassed views of the Chewaucan Valley and Gearhart Mountain,

leading to Morgan Butte fire lookout and continuing on another 10 miles to the Chewaucan Crossing trail head.

Late June is the prime time for hiking Gearhart Mountain Trail #100, situated within the Gearhart Wilderness. It's a delightful trip in early summer, with lush meadows strewn with colorful wild flowers, stands of aspen and majestic



Photos by  
Toni Bailie

*Chewaucan River Valley from Bear Creek Trail*



*Moss Pass Trail offers amazing views.*



*View from the Palisades*

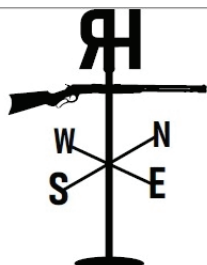
ponderosa, white bark pine and white fir. The Lookout Rock Trail head is one mile past Corral Creek Campground. The trail winds through the Palisades, 10 acres of convoluted rock formations standing like sentinels above the forest, then up toward the volcanic dome, 8,347 feet in elevation. From there, the trail descends

past Blue Lake and terminates at Lee Thomas Meadows, with a 13 mile total distance.

For more details, consult the Fremont National Recreation Trail website.

**Enjoy!**

## **JULY 4th Weekend AT THE RANCH HAND**



### **Saturday July 1st**

Poker Tournament - 12pm  
Tables - 32 people max  
\$50 buy-in 1st hour re-buy, \$50 add on  
20 min. blinds  
Pays top 6 with 32 players



Live Music - Bobby Lindstrom & Band 7pm  
[bobbylindstrom.com](http://bobbylindstrom.com)

### **Sunday July 2nd**

Dart Tournament - 12pm

Live Music - Whip Wilson & Band 7pm  
[whipwilsonmusic.com](http://whipwilsonmusic.com)



### **Monday July 3rd**

Corn Hole Tournament - 12pm

Live Music - Copper Ridge  
[copperridgecountry.com](http://copperridgecountry.com)



### **Tuesday July 4th**

Kids Carnival - Hosted in the grass behind the Ranch Hand 12-4pm  
Petting Zoo ~ Games ~ Prizes ~ Water slide

Mechanical Bull - Hosted by Oregon Mechanical Bull Company

Chicken Poop Bingo - \$1 a square ~ 1-100 (50/50 pot win)

Live Music - Cheyenne West & Band 7pm  
[youtube@cheyennewestmusic](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCheyennewestmusic)



Fireworks can be viewed perfectly from our courtyard!

## **July 4th T-Shirts**

A limited number of our high-quality 4th of July T-shirts will be available at local businesses, at parade sign up, and at Music in the Park





# *Come Celebrate! July 4th, 2023*

## *Fabulous Family Fun*

### **Annual "Luck of the Draw" Golf Tournament July 2nd**

North Lake Park and Recreation hosts its *Two-Person Best Ball* with a BBQ to follow at the 6th fairway, Sunday, July 2nd. Sign up at 8:30 am near the first tee ~ Play starts at 9 am. Entry fee \$20 plus greens fee. This is a shotgun start.

### **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 El Gallo Loco on Park Rd. Judging will begin at 10:30 am with trophies being presented to winning entries as they move onto the highway. The parade travels east on the highway for nearly a mile.*

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**the Sky**  
**10 PM**

## J.W. Kerns

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The spring of 2023 is seeing yet another need being served with the addition of a yard and garden section - with soil amendments, seeds, a nice selection of annual and perennial flowers, and a few trees and shrubs.

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## Geological Adventures

### Devil's Garden



Latitude: 43.512 N  
Longitude: 120.861 W

*The Blowouts, the spatter vents in the foreground, are some of the source vents of the voluminous Devil's Garden lava field.*

Devil's Garden Volcanic Field is located southeast of Newberry Caldera in Oregon and consists of several flows of pahoehoe lava (thick slow flowing) that erupted from fissure vents in the northeast part of the Devil's Garden.

The main vent on the north end of the fissure fed two large gutter/tube systems.

Several small vents to the south produced The Blowouts (two large spatter cones), several small spatter cones, and flows. Several older hills and higher areas were completely surrounded by the flows to form kiputas. The distal ends of the flows show excellent examples of inflated lava.

The flows cover an area of 45 square miles and are most likely between 50,000 and 10,000 years old. It is older than the formation of Crater Lake as ash from the eruption of Mount Mazama overlays the Devil's Garden lava flows.

### Derrick Cave

Derrick Cave's entrance looks like a broken-face hole in the ground, but once inside you are in a wide lava tube that runs in two directions. The north cave is small. It is the main southern section of the cave that is fun to explore. It slopes downward, its floor covered in fine volcanic sand. Several areas of ceiling have collapsed allowing light to filter in.

Once past the last of these light sources you will need artificial light. A short walk will bring you to a large room that is 80 feet wide with a ceiling height of 46 feet. There is more to explore beyond the *Big Room*. You will see signs of the actual lava flow such as *lava-cicles* hanging from the ceiling, etched walls, and overhanging rounded shelves. The cave is at 4,960 feet, its length is 1,134 feet long and ranges from 14.5 to 53 feet below ground level.

Derrick Cave is located at the northeast corner of Devil's Garden about 22 miles from the community of



Fort Rock. The road taken to reach the cave is very rough and there are no facilities at the site. Visitors are advised to plan carefully for the trip and also to plan on wearing a jacket, even in summer, as cave temperatures are quite cool. Be sure to bring along reliable illumination.

### Abert Rim

Abert Rim is the largest exposed fault scarp in North America and, from the top, you will have a view of Lake Abert, Oregon's



most saline lake. Keep an eye out for bighorn sheep along this hike. A herd was introduced in 1974 to help perpetuate the species. Other wildlife you might see includes prairie falcons, golden

eagles, great-horned owls, red-tailed hawks, deer, antelope, cougar, bobcat, coyotes, badger, lizards, snakes and songbirds.

Abert Rim can be difficult to access, but, for the determined and hardy, there is a cross-country option up the Juniper Creek drainage off of Highway 395. From the pullout, hike up the drainage, but be aware the last 300 feet involve some intense bushwacking through trees and climbing over boulders. This hike is not for the faint of heart. Once at the top, you are a short distance from the intersection with the Oregon Desert Trail route and the start of Section nine.

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## WHO IS KCC?

**At Klamath Community College (KCC),** we're all about providing accessible, high-quality education and services that cater to the diverse needs of our students, businesses, and the community. We firmly believe in making education affordable and inclusive, while fostering innovation and offering a wide range of programs. Our ultimate goal is to empower our students to thrive, focusing on their success, job attainment, and the overall improvement of the local economy.

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[WWW.KLAMATHCC.EDU](http://WWW.KLAMATHCC.EDU)





# North Lake School: A diamond in the Desert

North Lake School is a K-12 school serving approximately 230 students who reside in the communities of Fort Rock, Silver Lake and Christmas Valley, Oregon. The school is centrally located between these communities, and is designed to meet the needs of all of the students in our attendance area.

North Lake operates on a four-day school week with students attending from 7:45am to 3:44pm. Our K-12 staff is outstanding, and very committed to delivering a high quality education to all students. Be-



cause of our small size, we know our students well and it is our goal to provide the individual attention each student needs to be successful.

North Lake Elementary students gain a solid academic foundation, and learn valuable social skills. Our K-6 staff genuinely cares for the academic and social

development of their students, and

regularly collaborates to enhance the success of school wide programs. With the addition of an elementary gym, our sports programs for younger students continue to grow, offering athletic and social skill



development.

For students in grades 7-12, we have an outstanding agriculture and Future Farmers of America (FFA) program, which is vital for preparing students for college, vocational experiences or

the workforce. Our FFA program relies on the Ag. Advisory Council, which is comprised of a group of local farmers, ranchers, and businessmen and women who guide the FFA in current

**See North Lake, page 27.**

## KLAMATH Community College

Klamath Community College (KCC) was founded in 1996 in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Over its more than 25 years the campus has grown exponentially for both on-campus and online instruction, offering 29 degree programs and many more certifications and specialty courses. Services and its reach incorporate northern Lake County and much of

Klamath County. KCC also collaborates closely with Lake Health District in Lakeview for rural nursing.

Now with over 10 modern buildings on its Klamath Falls campus (and plans for more soon!).

KCC's strong connections with military bases around the world has earned a gold star rating as a Military-Friendly School

The latest addition to KCC is its new Apprenticeship Center – opened in May 2023 – which houses four-year skilled trade apprenticeship programs such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, welding, manufacturing, cement mason, painting, and more. The facility even includes fire fighting and EMT training, and provides classroom space for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP).

With degree programs as varied as aviation and education, to community education courses ranging from driver's ed and CPR to dance and knitting – there is a little something for everyone at KCC whether seeking a new career or simply a new hobby.

To get started on the path to your new life, contact KCC at 541-882-3521 or visit [www.klamathcc.edu](http://www.klamathcc.edu).

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## North Lake School

economic issues, needs and opportunities.

With the addition of a second agriculture teacher, we are now able to offer Ag. in the Classroom to elementary students. Thus, we technically have a K-12 agriculture program. We also offer a comprehensive selection of classes and supplement those choices with on-line course opportunities, many at the college level.

Extracurricular activities for middle and high school students include football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, wrestling, baseball and track. Being the second largest geographic athletic district in the state of Oregon results in significant travel time commitments which demand students balance their athletic interests with their academic responsibilities.

The results are a consistently high graduation rate, acceptance at community colleges and universities, and positive citizenship in our halls.

We attend to the well-being of our students by providing for mental health needs, and now have a full time behavior specialist who sees students individually and in small groups. She also coordinates the Sources of Strength and Girls' Circle groups.

North Lake has a licensed school counselor who meets with whole class groups and individuals, and teaches the Character Strong program. We also have a qualified mental health professional who is on campus twice per month.

In recent years we have increased opportunities in leadership and student government to enable students to learn soft and organizational skills essential for college or the workforce.

We offer our school facilities for use by outside organizations who provide enriching activities for our students. We offer a regular meeting place for 4-H groups, and parents help organize the Santa's Secret Shop, Scholastic Book

Fairs and the Clothes Closet. Occasionally we host community meetings such as the County Commissioners, Klamath Community College outreach events, and Lake County Stock Growers.

Our active parent group supports the school by preparing and serving meals for school events, and fund-raising to provide school supplies for all students.

North Lake School is a diamond in the desert. We love our students, staff and community. Every day is a great day to be a Cowboy or Cowgirl!



Indian Paintbrush is just one of the many stunning wildflowers you will discover as you hike forest trails throughout Lake County. It's vibrant red color makes it nearly impossible to miss. Some of our other wild flowers are much more subtle and a bit harder to spot. But, each patch of color is a treat.



*Photo by Ralph Paull*

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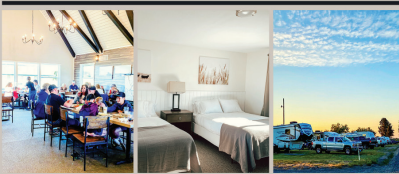
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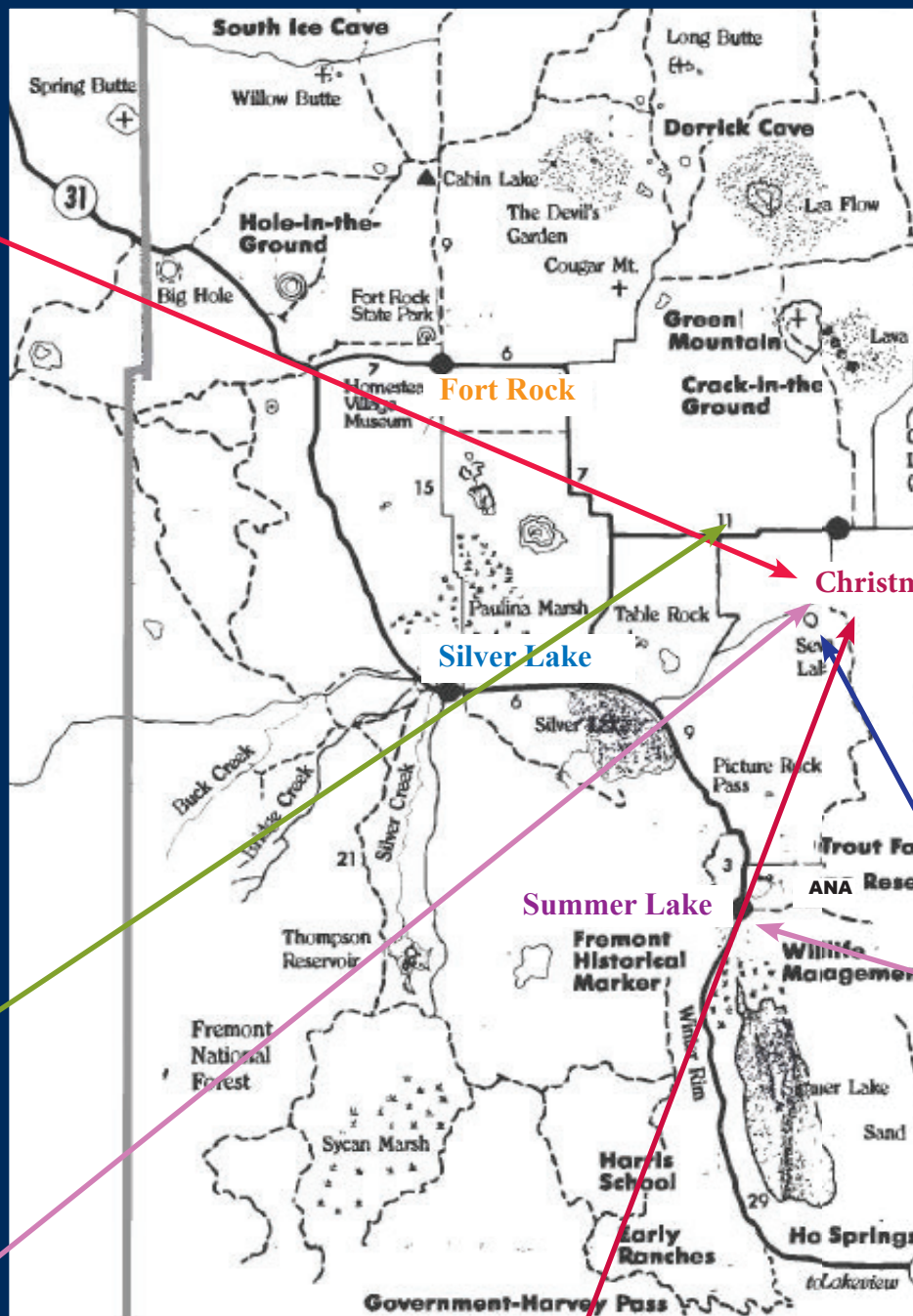
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See Page 22



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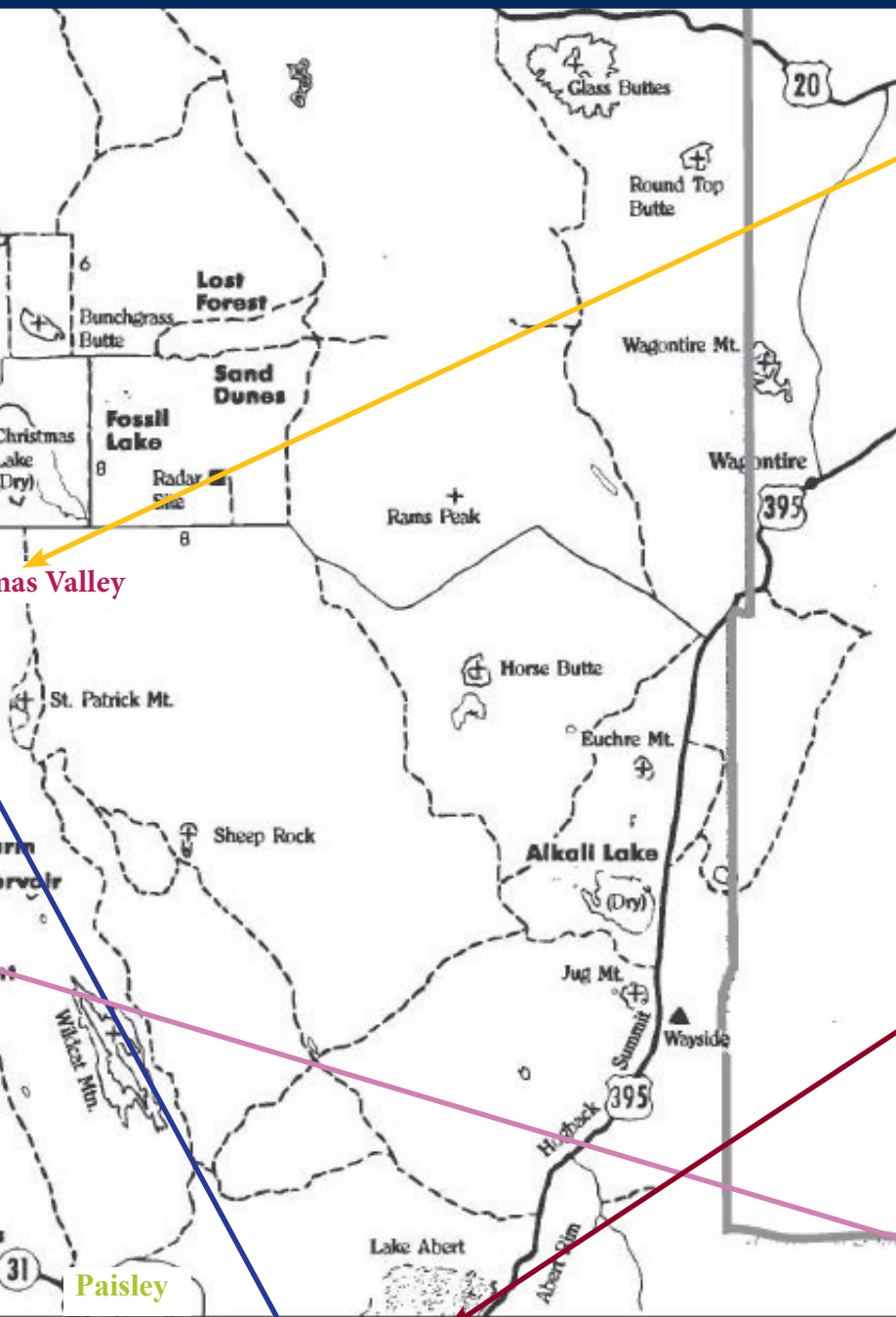
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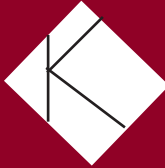
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 **Klamath**

**Community College**

See Page 24

See Page 47




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See back cover

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New Life Fellowship is a small friendly church in the high desert community of Christmas Valley, Oregon!

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**Christmas Valley, OR 97641**

**Sunday School 9:30 am**  
**Sunday Service 11:00 am**  
**Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Night 7:00 pm**

<https://www.facebook.com/newlifefellowshipcv>

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**Pastor : Jeff Coleman**

**Elder: Gene Porter 541-480-1443**

**Elder: Wayne Gladden 503-949-9536**

**60508 Old Lake Rd.**  
**Christmas Valley OR 97641**

## *Well In the Wilderness Church*

*Pastors*

*Kerry Cardwell*

*Bon Puckett*

*Sunday School*  
*10:00 A.M.*

*Sunday Worship*  
*Service 11:00 A.M.*

*Mid-Week Evening Gathering*

*6:00 PM Finger Food*

*6:30 PM Bible Study*

*541-977-5296*

**60506 Old Lake Road**  
**PO Box 178**  
**Christmas Valley, OR 97641**

## Hole-In-The-Ground: A great side trip



Hole-in-the-Ground is really huge! And, it is well worth a side trip while enjoying and exploring Oregon's Outback.

The floor of the crater is about 490 feet below the surrounding ground level with its rim rising 110-210 feet. The distance across the crater is about one mile.

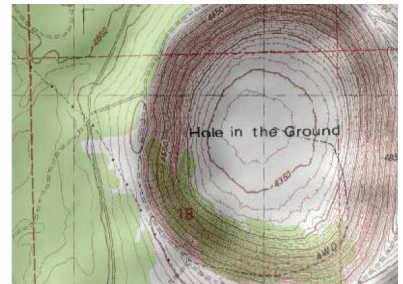
Hole-in-the-Ground is between 13,500 and 18,000 years old and was once quite near the shore of the Fort Rock Basin's ancient lake.

The 'Hole' is volcanic in origin and was caused when Basaltic magma intruded near the surface ground water and turned it to steam which then blew out overlaying rock and soil.

A huge hole was formed and over time material slid into the crater covering the vent. This process occurred many times. During these events blocks of basalt as large as 26 feet were flung as far as 2.3 miles from the crater.

There is a trail around the crater's rim as well as a trail that takes hikers down the rim's side, across the crater floor and up an

**Un-drivable** jeep road.



Coordinates: 43°24'10"N 121°11'54"W  
/ 43.4029089°N 121.1983457°W  
Coordinates: 43°24'10"N 121°11'54"W  
/ 43.4029089°N 121.1983457°W

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Silver Lake, Oregon

## VAQUEROS VIEW

audreyarballo@gmail.com

541-219 0222

**Vaqueros View is a privately owned arena west of Silver Lake, Oregon that seasonally offers riding lessons and also leases the arena for equine training clinics and events.**



Gary and Audrey Arballo own and operate Vaqueros View which is available by appointment for lessons from April to Octo-

gearing up for competitions and everything in between.”

With their new covered arena, the Arballo's are able to offer even more opportunities to clients. A major addition is room for a limited



ber. Audrey is a Certified instructor of English and Western disciplines and says, “Lessons are customized to each horse and rider, and focus on developing and educating them for their chosen discipline or event. All riders, of any level are welcome for goal-oriented training -- be the goal gaining confidence and improving skills,



number of boarders for training.

For more information or to schedule lessons please call Audrey at 541 219 0222 or email her at [audreyarballo@gmail.com](mailto:audreyarballo@gmail.com).

## Disk Golf : Coming Soon to Christmas Valley

Local resident, Michael Chug, in conjunction with the Christmas Valley Park and Recreation District is developing a nine-hole Disk Golf Course. The course will be known as Goose Landing and will access safe visible playing areas crossing the Christmas Valley Golf Course and incorporating what is commonly called the Peninsula - a long narrow land mass that extends into Baret Lake (as seen in the accompanying photo. The estimated time of completion is August, 2023.

In addition to being a fun activity, Disk Golf has many benefits such as: low-impact exercise, heart health, weight loss, better sleep, boosted energy & mood, fresh air and vitamin D, getting in touch with nature and stress relief, which is good for the brain.

Disk Golf is also great for connecting with family and friends and for making new friends. It is a great way to have fun and not spend a lot of money. BTW: Goose Landing is free.



# Fishing Oregon's Outback

Condensed from an article by Dave Banks of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

North Lake County is full of excellent fishing opportunities. Whether you are a novice, or an expert fisherman, you can find many challenging and rewarding fishing experiences nearby.



Many small streams flow from the East slope of Yamsay Mountain: **Silver Creek, Buck Creek, Long Creek, Coyote Creek and Bridge Creek**, and they all provide good fishing for pan sized Redband and Brook trout. There is an 8-inch minimum length and two-trout per day limit on the Redbands. There is no size or catch restriction for the Brook trout.

The above creeks are open to artificial lures and fly-fishing year round, but access is severely limited during the winter due to snow and ice. The best time to fish these creeks is in the late

## Fishing the ANA River

Did you know that the Ana river is the shortest spring-fed river in Oregon? This little river is a fantastic spot to escape to in the both winter and summer. For such a little river, Ana can produce large trout in excess of 20 inches and a good number of smaller fish.

Flies, lures and bait are all productive.

The river flows out of Ana Reservoir and then through Summer Lake Wildlife Area where it empties into Summer Lake.

Most stocked trout fishing occurs in the stretch of the river between the Reservoir and River Ranch Campground which is located on the wildlife area.



spring when high flows from winter run-off start to recede and the water clears.

**Duncan Reservoir**, located south of Hwy. 31 and about five miles east of the town of Silver Lake, is a 33 acre reservoir stocked with fingerling (3-4") and trophy (> 12") Rainbow trout. A boat ramp is available for launching boats up to 18 feet, but smaller boats are advisable.

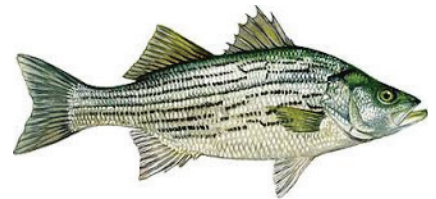
Pontoon boats or float tubes are an excellent way to fish this body of water and bank angling is very productive. The reservoir has a maximum depth of 15 feet.

Duncan's elevation is 4,832 feet. There are four single campsites on the west side and a group site below the dam. Duncan is fantastic for taking out small boats, canoes, and is very peaceful and quiet. Ice fishing is also possible when the weather is cold enough.

## Fishing ANA Reservoir

**Ana Reservoir** is a 62 acre reservoir located near the town of Summer Lake. The water temperature remains around 60 F year round due to warm geothermal springs. The reservoir is stocked with fingerling rainbow trout.

Hybrid bass, or 'wipers' are available in the reservoir as well and can grow to in excess of 20 pounds. Many anglers target Hybrid bass in late winter and early spring, although they can be caught throughout the year.



Hybrid Bass

These bass are a schooling fish and work as a group to capture prey. Casting or trolling **crankbaits** (fish-looking lures that dive) or vertical jigging lures are both effective methods for catching the Hybrids.

Anglers are reminded that they may keep only one Hybrid bass (at least 16" in length) in a 24 hour period.



## Thompson Valley Reservoir

### FISH - CAMP - EXPLORE

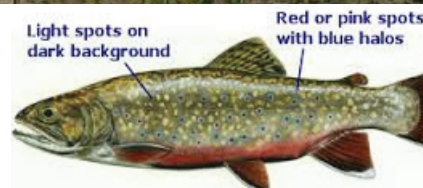
Thompson Valley Reservoir is one of Lake county's most popular fishing destinations. This large reservoir provides ample opportunity for boat and bank anglers alike. The average size of Rainbow trout is 14 inches and trout in excess of 18 inches are often landed. Thompson is stocked during May and June. The reservoir is also home to Large Mouth Bass. There is no size or number limit on the bass fishery.

There are two forest service campgrounds found along the shore with 18 camp sites having a hand pump for water, picnic tables, metal fire-rings with BBQ grills and outhouses. Also of note is that several spur roads leading down to the reservoir have great unimproved campsites.

There is one boat ramp at Thompson but there is no moorage.



**Brook Trout**



The current Oregon sport-fishing regulations can be found at: <https://www.eregulations.com/oregon/fishing/> Anglers are urged to consult these regulations for up-to-date seasons and limit restrictions

## The Chewaucan River: A great place to fly fish

The Chewaucan River is formed by the confluence of Elder Creek and Dairy Creeks in the Gearhart Mountains. Small streams that flow together in an almost flat meadow, then through a forest and a canyon and into more high desert meadows in its lower section.

The River flows through a combination of Fremont-Winema National Forest, Bureau of Land Management public property and private property. The majority of access is through public lands.

Fish population consists of Red Band Rainbow trout and Brown trout.

The river's Red Band Rainbows average about eight to ten inches but grow as large as 16 inches and sometime even larger.



*Foot Bridge across the Chewaucan River*

This river has become a good quality trout stream since stocking ceased in 1996 along with many improvements that have improved trout habitat.

The Marstars Springs Campground is on the stream not far from Paisley. There are back-country sites all along the river on public property.

Above the Coffee Pot Creek confluence the river flows through private ranch land.

The best section to fish is the twelve mile canyon stretch from Coffee Pot Campground to Paisley.



# FORT ROCK



## Explore - Be Surprised

Fort Rock is an unincorporated township not far off Highway 31. Named for the prominent volcanic feature that dominates one's view, the surrounding area boasts large cattle and hay growing operations as well as some substantial solar farms.

The hub of the town includes two full-service restaurants and bars, a small grocery that also has fuel, an RV park and the local Grange.

The Fort Rock Natural Area and State Park are only a mile off the highway as is the historic Fort Rock Cemetery where many homesteaders lay at rest along with more recent residents who have passed.

Also near the tiny town's center is the Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum where visitors can immerse themselves in the history of Oregon's high desert.

Fort Rock is a space in time worth exploring. Drive the back roads (if your vehicle has good tires, clearance and plenty of fuel) and discover vistas, canyons and grottoes you never imagined were hidden in the oceans of the desert's brush-covered floor.

## Fort Rock Community Church



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## Ft. Rock's Geological History

What might you get when basaltic magma rises to a surface that is a mud covered lake-bottom? You may get what is called a **tuff ring**. Such geologic events create an incredibly powerful jet of steam that blows molten basalt into the air which then become



a fountain of hot particles and frothy ash. These come to rest around the vent and form a ring. If the event is significant enough the resulting tuff may be an island in the lake. In the case of the ancient Fort Rock Lake it is notable that the valley floor beneath was comprised of layers of red and black lava rock. Some of this material was also dislodged and was incorporated in the resulting tuff ring.

Over many thousands of years the wave action of the ancient and receding Fort Rock Lake eroded and cut terraces into the tuff ring. This wave action along with strong prevailing southerly winds eventually took out a section of the tuff wall. (Fort Rock Lake was the largest pluvial lake in Oregon and covered over 1260 square miles to a depth of 320 feet.)

Current scientific thought on the age of Fort Rock have it as 50,000 to 100,000 years old. The highest lake level in the tuff's history is based on the ramifications of wave action and occurred about 21,000 years ago.

Fort Rock is without a doubt one of the most recognizable geologic features in Oregon. Jutting up over 200 feet, Fort Rock today truly represents a major story in the geologic diary of the edge of the Great Basin. Its iconic fort-like appearance offers an ever-changing array of color, texture and shadow. Interestingly, Fort Rock tuff ring is one of approximately 40 such features in the Brothers Fault Zone of the Fort Rock basin.

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## Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum



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**11 am ~ 5 pm**

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*No pets, handbags, or backpacks please.*

**Admission: \$6 adult, \$4 Children 12 and under, five and under FREE**

## Step Back in Time at the Museum

*By Jana Kittredge*

Come see what's new and step back in time and experience Oregon's homestead era of the early 1900s at the **Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum**.

The **Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum** is a display of preserved and protected homestead-era structures that have been moved from their original locations to the museum site just west of the town of Fort Rock. The buildings and structures have been renovated for entry and furnished in early 1900s decor so visitors can experience what life was like in eastern Oregon before electricity arrived.

The village has been created and includes period homes, a school, a church, a store, a garden and more. Vintage farm equipment and a blacksmith shop give visitors a glimpse of how difficult and exhausting the hard labor of the time was.

A self-guided tour offers visitors a leisurely exploration of this unique setting. Some dub it a ghost town. Museum supporters describe the village as rich and alive with Oregon's homestead era - one that provides a great way to relive history.

Our specialty gift shop offers souvenirs, gift items and unique books of history and the area. Open Memorial Day weekend through 2nd weekend in September, Thursdays through Sundays, 11:00-5:00,

last tour 4:30pm. Children and adults alike can learn from this special experience!

The museum is managed strictly by volunteers and the reviews are extraordinary. Admission: \$6. Adults; \$4 children 12



& under; 5 and under free! Credit cards accepted. Now offering Senior and Veteran's discount with ID.

Tours are offered for school groups and large groups with advance reservations. The historic church is available for rent for small groups. Photographers and filmmakers rental opportunities are also available. Visit our website for more information [www.fortrock-oregon.com](http://www.fortrock-oregon.com) Like us on Facebook and Instagram! Search Fort Rock Homestead Museum.

Fort Rock is located 70 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon, and 45 miles southeast of La Pine, Oregon just off highway 31. It is a fascinating place to visit!



## Bird Watching Throughout Lake County

Condensed from an article By Mary Jo Hedrick ~ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

A wide variety of habitats from forest to desert shrub, from marsh to meadows can be found in Lake County and diverse habitats attract a wide array of birds. Even more fun for watchers is that with each season the variety of birds too will change.

Many species of raptors (hawks and eagles) can be observed throughout Lake County. Often they will sit atop power poles, pivots and fence posts.

Sandhill Cranes visit during the spring and summer breeding season and can be seen in the agricultural fields around Silver Lake, Summer Lake and Paisley. Viewers are urged to use binoculars or spotting scopes, and watch the Cranes from a distance.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area is one of best water-

fowl viewing sites in Oregon during spring and fall migrations. The area consists of a large marsh with associated uplands that also support shorebirds, songbirds and mammals. Enjoy the eight-mile tour route between February and September. ***Please be aware, occasionally the Viewing Loop may be temporarily closed due to habitat management activities.***

March through April, see migrating waterfowl flocks: ducks in their best breeding plumage, geese and swans. April through May see migrant waterbirds and songbirds. Fall migration picks up in August. Bird checklists and maps are available at the check station.

The Southern Oregon Basin & Range Birding Trail is a winding auto route that highlights specific sites for stopping and viewing birds among vast inland valleys, alkali flats, ethereal marshes, and forested slopes. Maps and recommended routes can be found on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife web site.

### *Sandhill Cranes: A tie to pre history*

Sandhill cranes have one of the longest fossil histories of any extant bird. A 10 million year old crane fossil from



Nebraska is said to be of this species, but this could be from a prehistoric relative or the direct ancestor of sandhill cranes and not belong in the genus *Grus*.

The oldest unequivocal Sandhill crane fossil is 2.5 million years old, older by half than the earliest re-

mains of most living species of birds, primarily found from after the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary some 1.8 million years ago.

As you travel along the shoreline of Summer Lake and along through Paisley and into Lakeview, keep an eye out for these amazing birds. You may get to see the pairs reconnecting by performing their elaborate courtship mating dance. Sandhills pair for life. Later in spring the doting parents can be seen tending their young colts - yes that is what the young Sandhills are called - as they feed along the lake's edge and in flood irrigated pastures.



Photos by  
Fawn Newport



The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Recreation Report birding information is updated weekly and can be found at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/viewing/birdwatching.asp>



## American Pronghorn

### Faster than...everything!

Able to run up to 60 miles-per-hour, pronghorn are the fastest land animal in North America. Their incredible speed evolved thousands of years ago at a time when two species of cheetahs hunted in North America. Fast predators like the cheetahs, short-faced bears and dire wolves became extinct many thousands of years ago—but the pronghorn survived.

Perhaps as amazing as their speed is the distance a pronghorn can run. Pronghorn have been seen running 35 miles per hour more than two miles without stopping. About the size of a large house cat at birth, pronghorn grow to over 100 pounds. Most of this weight is amassed in their thick bodies with extremely large heart and lungs necessary for distance running. Instead of being heavy and muscular, a pronghorn's slender light legs can move much more quickly. Specially padded hooves work like a car's shock absorbers for rough and rocky terrain.

### Bionic binocular vision

Pronghorn rely not only on speed but also keen vision for protection. Their eyes, as big as an elephant's, see the world as you would if using binoculars with 8 power magnification. With eyes set far apart, a pronghorn's field of view is much wider than you see even with the naked eye.

## Mule Deer Range Throughout the County

**Mule Deer** gained their name from the size of their ears - they are big and are about 3/4 the length of their head. Their coats change with the season and are tannish brown in the summer brownish grey in winter. They have white rump patches and small white tails with black tips. They do not flash their tails in alarm.



Mule deer are browsers and are selective feeders. Rather than eating a lot of low quality feed they select the most nutritious plants and parts of plants.

The spotted fawns are born over several weeks in summer and weigh only about five and half pounds. They stay down and hidden for about 10 days until they are strong enough to keep up with the doe.

When running, deer bound in a motion called "stotting," in which all four hooves push off the ground at the same time.

## Antilocapra americana



### Facts About American Pronghorn

Origin: western North America (Canada, United States, Mexico), 20 million years ago  
Population: 30-40 million (1700s); 20,000 (1924); nearly 1 million (present day)  
Weight: 7-9 lbs (3.5-4 kg) at birth; 75-130 lbs (34-59 kg) adult  
Horns: Bony interior covered by keratinous (horn-like) sheath shed annually (like antlers)  
Top Speed: 60 mph (100 kph)  
Migration: 100 + miles  
Age: 7-10 yrs

**Western Pocket Gophers** love alfalfa roots and they love to dig. The results are huge mounds of equipment damaging dirt and weakened plants. They are solitary and are seldom seen above ground so shooting them is not an option. Many hay ranches contract with locals to trap their fields, not to eradicate the gophers but to manage them. Just one of these tiny mighty creatures can move 3000 pounds of dirt in a year.



**Belding Ground Squirrels** (Sage Rats) are highly destructive to alfalfa fields and their burrows on rangeland often cause a leg break in cattle and horses. Managing them is difficult and many hay farmers allow "ratters" to shoot the rats. It is not a free for all as hunters are expected to gain the landowner's permission to shoot on a field. Sage Rats; left unchecked can eat nearly half of a crop.



## Silver Lake Oregon



**Silver Lake** is an unincorporated community on Route 31 in Lake County's north end. The town is sparsely populated yet quite lively and boasts many services and recreational opportunities.

There is a mercantile, filling station and convenience store with a full service deli, a cafe & bar and a few miles from town - The Cowboy Dinner Tree. Travelers will also find a six unit motel, two RV parks a laundromat and a US Post Office.

Wildlife is abundant throughout the area and it is not unusual to see mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, coyotes, badgers, and a multitude of raptors. The area has multiple camp grounds, fishing opportunities and numerous trails to hike or ride.

Silver Lake is home to several large cattle operations so don't be surprised to find yourself driving through a herd of cattle on its way to a new grazing site -- after all you are visiting  
Oregon's Outback!

### Silver Lake Mercantile

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# Traveling with Horses?

Looking for Great  
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Fremont National Recreation Trail #160, starts at the top of the 8,196' Yamsay Mountain and ends at Government Harvey Pass. You will need to go online to map this trail.

On the summit of Yamsay Mountain, the views are spectacular. It is best to start your adventure from **Antler Horse Camp** out of Silver Lake from which you can ride west to Yamsay or east to Silver Creek Marsh and beyond.

**Antler Horse Camp** is lovely but quite rocky with only a few corrals. There is a water hydrant for your horse's water needs but be sure to bring water for yourself. The trail from Antler to Yam-

say is frequently blocked with blow-downs but the trail leading west to Silver Creek Marsh Horse Camp is usually open. The entire section may not be open (especially early on).

**Silver Creek Marsh.** In a forest setting, this facility has 17 tent and trailer sites, picnic tables and fire grates. Drinking water is available for both humans and horses. The horse corrals are plentiful, spacious and secure.

Ride west toward Antler or head east toward Farm Well and beyond. Some sections of this trail can be hard to identify. You will come to a FS road where the trail crosses and continues

upward then branches to **Farm Well** or to a final up and down to the top of Hager Mt.

**Farm Well Horse Camp** and campground has numerous campsites suitable for trucks with trailers as well as motor homes. The corrals are solid and well maintained. The trail that heads east toward Fremont Point is extremely rocky and with few markers. The trail section heading west has stretches that become overgrown easily so it's important to make some mental notes along the way.

It is a good idea to bring plenty of drinking water and water for the horses if possible.

## A Great Place to Stay!

Whether you are just passing through or planning an extended stay, Silver Lake Mobile Home and RV Park is a choice you won't regret.

Our park is quiet and peaceful with large level sites and plenty of grass and trees. We also provide a large lawn area for your dogs.

Silver Lake is a great jumping off point for your Oregon Outback adventures. We are near an excellent forest service hiking trail as well as only a short drive to several excellent fishing opportunities. We provide full hookups and a 24 hour laundromat.

**We invite you to come enjoy a peaceful stay.**

**65364 Highway 31  
Silver Lake, OR 97638**



## Picture Rock Pass - Divide or Intersection?

In northwest Lake County a low tilted-fault-block ridge divides the Summer Lake basin (a remnant of Lake Chewaucan) from the Fort Rock/Silver Lake basin. Even during the high stands of the late glacial maximum, about 18,000 years ago, the pluvial lakes were never joined.

This dynamic geologic and hydrologic intersection became an important cultural intersection. To the south the Paisley Five-Mile caves and to the north the Fort Rock region, both studied by Luther Cressman in the 1930s, are now known to have been occupied by early peoples over 12,000 years ago.

Petroglyphs in this region are diverse and distinctive, ranging from archaic (early Anthropocene) to later Anthropocene (the last 3000 years.) The ridge divide is now called Picture Rock Pass. There are many varieties of petroglyphs on sub-ridges and low basalt rims and boulders within a mile of the Highway 31 road cut and within six miles, along the south edge of Silver Lake, to the north; and south of the divide along the northern periphery of the Summer Lake basin near Ana Springs, now a reservoir.

*From Rock Art Oregon - Blog: To Become Visible*



### Exploring off the beaten track requires planning

Many travelers in today's world of technology place great trust in GPS information. "Just Google it," is a common thought. And for the most part, in



more urban settings, that process works just fine. Not so much in the High Desert.

Every year our local Search and Rescue teams are called upon to locate and bring back to safety folks that became lost or stranded because their device opted for the *'most direct route'* rather than one on maintained gravel or paved roads.

The result is that folks find themselves on roads that have no signs - roads that have deep ruts from winter and spring thaws and run-off and frequently no place to even turn around. They may encounter boggy areas with soil so slick that traction is lost.

The long and the short of it is what may have begun as an adventure ended up a journey that came to a frightening halt.



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## Summer Lake: Nature's Beauty in Every Direction

One of the largest lakes in Oregon at over 20 miles long, Summer Lake is home to great historical ranches and properties as well as wildlife, hot springs, stunning landscapes and a few creature-comforts too.

As you drop into the basin in the morning, geothermal vents send plumes of steam high into cool air - offering some spectacular visuals. The Summer Lake Basin is a landscape abundant with desert and forest flora and fauna. The area is also host to rich geological and archaeological sites and has a long homesteading history. Summer Lake is truly a land of diversity as well as beauty.

The landscape you saw one year may be much different the next. This large shallow alkali lake may be wet one season and dry the next, nevertheless, it is the area's major feature. It separates the wide-open sagebrush step of eastern Oregon and the rocky, forested mountains of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The area is a mecca for lovers of the great outdoors offering a wide variety of hiking, biking and riding opportunities as well as access to the Summer Lake Wildlife Area where visitors can enjoy over 300 species of fish and wildlife (primarily

birds) as they explore nearly 18,000 acres of wetland and habitat. So bring your binoculars, hiking boots, and camera.

Travelers and visitors have a nice range of lodging choices, from primitive tent camping to cozy cabins overlooking the lovely bass pond at The Lodge at Summer Lake. Further south along Hwy. 31, is the Summer Lake Hot Springs which offers a variety of accommodations including dry-camping. You will need to make reservations for two nights. The hot springs is not open for day use.

Summer Lake is home to the Summer Lake Store where visitors and locals can grab a forgotten item, fill up on gasoline or diesel, purchase propane, and even post a letter.

A favorite side-trip is the drive through the Summer Lake Wildlife Area on an 8.3 mile tour route. The road is well maintained but is closed during hunting seasons (early October through late January) to provide refuge for waterfowl.

The best time to visit for viewing migrating flocks of waterfowl, including plumaged ducks, geese and swans is March - April. April to May is a good time for viewing migrant waterbirds and songbirds.

## Ana Reservoir RV Park

If you are looking to get away and enjoy some peace and quiet, Ana Reservoir RV Park is the location to come to. Our Park is a great Base Camp to start your day trips and adventures. From here you will have access to Ana Reservoir and Ana River, the Fremont National Forest, the Summer Lake Basin, and much more...

You will enjoy catching record setting hybrid Bass at the reservoir and great trout fishing at Ana River.

Summer Lake Basin is best known for its excellent bird watching, and duck and goose hunting.

There are other reservoirs and streams in the area which are always well stocked.

Nearby Picture Rock Pass offers ancient petroglyphs. This is a great area to come and enjoy nature at its finest.

For more details about the park and area, please visit our web page at [www.anareservoirrvpark.com](http://www.anareservoirrvpark.com)

## Oregon Airstream Club Rally



### *Airstreams at Ana Reservoir RV Park*

Seventeen Airstream trailers from Oregon and Washington Rallied at the Ana Reservoir RV Park in Summer Lake.

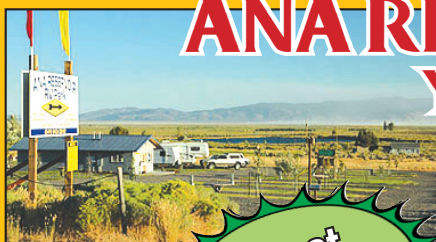
While enjoying the beauty of the park's setting, rally participants also ventured out to neighboring communities to shop and dine. The group love supporting the communities they visit.

Ana Park owners, hosted a silent auction to benefit the High Desert Range Land Fire Protection Association. Thanks to the Airstream folks the auction generated a generous donation.

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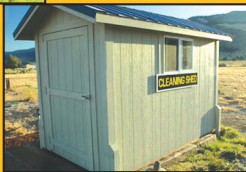
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## The Lodge at Summer Lake



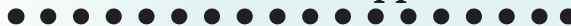
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*Housemade soups, breads & desserts*

## The Lodge at Summer Lake: Serenity in a Breathtaking Landscape

In the midst of one of the area's most amazing and beautiful landscapes is The Lodge at Summer Lake. This lovely small resort features four self-contained cabins, seven hotel rooms, a full service restaurant, an event room, a gift shop, and a private pond stocked with trophy bass. The Lodge is located on Highway 31 between Silver Lake and Paisley, and just across the road from the 18,941 acre Summer Lake Wildlife Area.

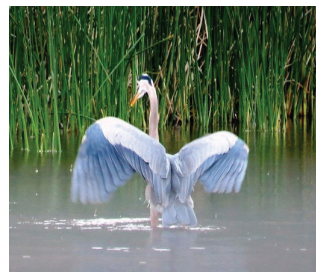
With the Winter Ridge as the backdrop and the Summer Lake Wildlife Area in the forefront, visitors will enjoy picturesque settings as they contemplate the day's adventure. A favorite outing is driving through the wildlife refuge to observe some of the 280 species of birds that use the area. Other nearby attractions include: fishing or swimming at Ana Reservoir and Ana River, fishing in the private pond right outside the Lodge's cabins, hunting birds and deer in season, hiking, horseback riding, and more.

While fishing and bird watching/hunting are some of the main attractions to this unique area, The Lodge's serenity, great food, and comfortable environment are universally appealing for all visitors - many simply stay at the facility and enjoy the solitude.

The Lodge's Flyway Restaurant, compliments the

fine views and quality accommodations with home-made and fresh menu items for both casual and fine dining experiences. The top quality chefs and staff will delight patrons with hand-cut steaks, Angus burgers, batter dipped chicken tenders, fresh dinner bread and biscuits, clam chowder, delicious desserts made from scratch and all at an affordable price.

The wide open spaces give nature lovers multiple opportunities to observe Sandhill Cranes, Ibises, Egrets, White Pelicans, and Tundra Swans and many other fascinating birds and animals native to the area.



The Lodge at Summer Lake is an oasis of serenity and natural beauty; it gives both visitors and residents alike a great place to stay and eat while they enjoy this unique area tucked away in Southeastern Oregon. With the Summer Lake Hot Springs and PLAYA also nearby, visitors have even more compelling reasons to make their way to this special destination throughout the year.



## Paisley: A Walk Through History

Story and Photos by Toni Bailie

A walking tour through Paisley is a step back into history. The hamlet of 250 people hasn't changed much since it was established in 1878. In 1905, the Illustrated History of Central Oregon featured this description: "Approaching the town from the north, the road ascends a small prominence, revealing a scene of beauty. The town sits beside the sparkling Chewaucan River. To the west, rise mountains relieved by canyons and high cliffs, to the south lies an expansive valley."

Several historic buildings are situated along the main street. The Pioneer Saloon has been in continuous operations since 1883, except during prohibition when it was operated as a pool hall. The back bar was built in Boston in 1905 and shipped around the Horn to Portland. It was freighted from Arlington to Paisley by a six-horse wagon. In the early years, Paisley had a reputation as a brawling town. The saloon was the site of two hangings and a fatal stabbing. Claude, the resident ghost, is friendly, but sometimes likes to change television channels. A photo gallery of cowboys and ranch

life line the walls. House smoked meats are a specialty and the menu includes burgers, sandwiches, salads and pizza. Take-out too.

The Paisley Mercantile dates back to the Chewaucan Mercantile, established in 1878. Ralph and DeeAnn McAllister have been proprietors since 1976, offering groceries, hardware items, pharmaceuticals, a liquor store and a hot food case. Just up the street is the old Winter Ridge Market. Now a private residence, it was built by Virgil Conn who also constructed a flour mill on the river in the 1800s.

The two-story Paisley school with imposing pillars was constructed in 1917. The school offers classes for K-12 students from Summer Lake, Paisley and the Chewaucan Valley. International students live in a dormitory and attend high school here.

Before the new school was built, students were instructed in a school house that boasted a bell tower. The old school building was moved to a lot along Green Street. During the move, a lo-



cal contractor was electrocuted by a live wire over the street. Once situated on the new lot, the building became the home of the Catholic Church until 1959 when a new church was constructed. The old church house was purchased in the 1980s and renovated as a summer home for the O'Sullivan family.

Near the school is a small white church with steeple and stained glass windows. Paisley was a missionary town of the Methodist Church who erected the building in 1900. The church bell was installed in 1914.



In 2016, the congregation became an inter-denominational community church. The bell rings every Sunday summoning worshipers to the service.

On the hill above town, the Paisley Pioneer Cemetery offers another glimpse into the past. Head stones tell the tale of children who died young, and early settlers of the valley. Among the graves are Ed Lamb, shot by his wife in 1918, Lambert Jones, shot by a jealous husband and Troy Lawson, killed while trying to stop a post office robbery in 1957. A view from the cemetery reveals the Chewaucan Valley, where local ranchers graze their cattle.



Blue Street leads to Highway 31. Across the highway, a gravel road extends out into the valley. A walk along this road offers glimpses of Sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, redwing and yellow-headed blackbirds.



Buildings at the Paisley Ranger Station were constructed in 1938 by young men from the Civilian Conservation Corps. Displayed outside is a dug-out canoe fashioned from a pine log by the young men for outings at Campbell and Dead Horse Lakes, a few miles from town. Visitors can obtain maps and brochures of hiking trails

and camp sites along the river. In September 2020, the Brattain Fire burned much of the area for 10 miles up the Chewaucan River, but some of the trails and camp grounds are still in use.

The Sage Rooms, a modern motel, rents four units with Western décor. Three units have two queen size beds and one unit has a king size bed.

Each room has a private bath, microwave and mini-fridge. To reserve a room, call 541-943-3145.

Mechanics at the Chewaucan Garage repair



vehicles and pump gas. Fuel can also be obtained at the Pacific Pride card-lock pumps.

Paisley Volunteer Fire Department and Disaster Car with EMTs are

on call. A Community Center was constructed in the 1980s with donated material and labor. The Center houses city hall and a large communal room with kitchen. People gather here for memorial services, parties and community pot lucks. The Inner Court Family Center occupies a donated modular office building. The non-profit center organizes public transportation, sponsors Food Share and the school lunch program. Office services include copying, faxes and notary public, as well as meet-

ing space for AA and other groups.

Take a stroll through the quiet streets of Paisley and imagine life

here back in the pioneer days. It's not that hard to do. If you come in the spring or fall, you might see a cattle drive through town, as ranchers push their herds up into the high country.

## Summer Lake Hot Springs

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## Add Summer Lake Hot Springs to Your Travel Plans

When Duane Graham purchased Summer Lake Hot Springs in 1996 the 145 acre property became a work in progress and has seen many additions and improvements. Graham, visiting the springs since 1988 always found healing properties in the hot springs and in the land's serenity of place - of the land.

Prior to relocating to the hot springs, Graham refurbished vintage houses in Portland and Eugene. Graham has incorporated his love of history and vintage into the design of the many new cabins and duplexes now dotting the property. Massive timbers from long gone local mills, recycled materials and natural pigments all combined in the construction of a variety of welcoming, comfortable units that are environmentally green and thermally heated. Each unit is rustic, artistic and has its own unique personality

Enjoy outdoor pools with incredible vistas, or float and swim in the bath house pool. And honestly there is nothing quite like sinking into the healing waters of an outdoor pool, late at night and taking in the brilliance of the night sky unadulterated by ambient light.

At the 2017 Chamber Awards Banquet, Graham was honored as the Business of the Year in recognition of how he has, over the years, implemented his philosophy of balance and creativity into the development of a wonderful hot spring destination that is enjoyed by patrons from near and far.

Summer Lake Hot Springs, also offers sites for dry tent camping, recreational vehicles, campers and trailers.

Please schedule your visit to the Summer Lake Hot Springs in advance and remember that there is a two day minimum stay. Summer Lake Hot Springs does not offer day use options.





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The advertisement for The Sage Rooms Motel features a photograph of the building's exterior. The building has a blue metal roof and dark wood siding. A wooden sign on the roof reads "SAGE ROOMS". A large, dark brown text box on the right side of the image contains the text "paisley Oregon" in a stylized font. In the bottom left corner, there is a white sign with a yellow border that reads "THE SAGE ROOMS MASTER SUITES FOR RATES AND AVAILABILITY CALL 541-943-3145". On the right side of the building, a vertical sign reads "MOTEL".

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Starting in La Pine you can take the **first loop** – **The High Lakes Loop**- into the mountains to the Central Oregon Lake Region. (West of the Newberry Crater). Take Hwy 97 to the Cascade Lakes Hwy and Hwy 58. You will visit Sunriver Resort, 30 famous fishing lakes, Crescent Lake Junction and Odell Lake, back to Crescent-a Railway town and Gilchrist a logging town on Hwy 97. You can camp, hike, bike, fish and enjoy summer and winter. Mount Bachelor Skiing is on loop one.

The **second loop** is **The Crater Lake Loop** that goes south from Chiloquin on Hwy 97 (home of Train Mountain) past Fort Klamath to Crater Lake National Park on Hwy 62, then over to Union Creek, Shady Cove and back north to the Crown Jewel of the Cascades- Diamond Lake on

Hwy 138, returning to Hwy 97. There are some world famous fishing spots, camping and activities galore!

The Desert sunsets, geology and history are featured in **loop three- The High Desert Oregon Outback Loop**! You will turn southeast off Hwy 97 to Hwy 31 and head to Fort Rock, the State Park and Heritage Village Museum in the first little farm community. From there drive to Christmas Valley- a farming and ranching community and home to many sights such as Crack-in the-Ground and the Black Hills, back to Silver Lake, home of the Cowboy Dinner Tree and on to Summer Lake and Paisley on Hwy 31.

### Just a few of La Pine's Annual Events!

La Pine Rhubarb Festival	June '24
Fairy Home & Garden Art Tour	June '24
High Lakes Car Club Vintage Car Show	June '24
La Pine Frontier Days	July '24
La Pine Rodeo	July '24
Trunk 'R Treat & Treat Tour	Oct. 31 '24
Christmas Lights Parade	Dec. '24
All You Can Eat Crab Feed	March '23
Red, White & Blue-grass Festival	Aug. '23
Chamber Awards Banquet	April '23

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
ALL OF THE EVENTS IN LA  
PINE - Call the La Pine Chamber of  
Commerce at 541 536 9771 - or check  
out the calendar at [www.lapine.org](http://www.lapine.org)**

### Largest Volcano in the Cascade Range

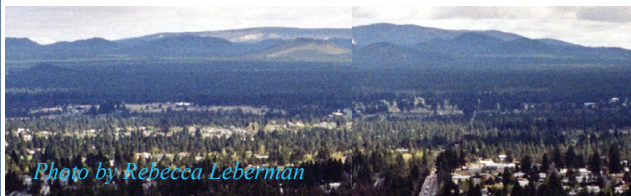


Photo by Rebecca Leberman

### Newberry Volcano

Newberry Volcano is the largest volcano in the Cascades volcanic arc as can be seen in the photo above. Just its central caldera encompasses a four by five mile depression that was formed about 75,000 years ago. The caldera's two lakes, Paulina and East are fed in part by active hot springs heated by magma deep beneath the caldera. The lakes are separated by a large pumice cone.

Big Obsidian Flow, 1,300 years old is the youngest flow on the volcano.

The volcano's highest point, Paulina Peak (7,984 feet) can be reached by car and offers amazing views in every direction.



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