Christmas Valley MARKET

Great Service & A Great Selection of Groceries, Meats, Beverages, Deli - Including Pizza's

87497 Christmas Valley Hwy.
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541-576-2200

Store Manager
Carrie Mace

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Fuel
Lubes
Propane
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53327 3rd Street
Silver Lake, Oregon
541-576-2111
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 80,000 acre Sand Box 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 make your experience the best it can be and to introduce you to the many businesses that support our primarily agrarian economy while at the same time provide information on the many services travelers may need along the way: Motels, Restaurants, RV parks and some great surprises when it comes to shopping.
“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

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.
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 city 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.

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 National Wildlife Refuge
- Summer Lake Hot Springs
- Summer Lake Wildlife Area
- Sunstone Gathering near Plush
- Warner Canyon Refuge
- Warner Wetlands

Museums

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

Contact Information/County Seat

Courthouse, 513 Center St.
Lakeview, OR 97631
Phone: 541-947-6051
www.lakecountyor.org

Real Market Value: $1,198,406,596
Annual Precipitation: 15.80”
Economy: Livestock, forest products, agriculture, recreation
Oregon’s Basin and Range

As you travel through and explore Oregon’s Outback and its scenic byways, it soon becomes apparent that geologically there is a lot going on. You see a flat-topped mountain, a massive cliff that runs for more than 20 miles, vast oceans of sagebrush, rabbit brush and bunchgrass, isolated islands of lava flow, buttes and tuffs. Some of the features found throughout the region are so massive they may not register as a single entity. Throughout this Guide we have highlighted some geological features as well as offering a simplified overview of the geological events that lead to the landscape we see today.

Oregon’s basin range lands are the northwestern most extent of America’s Great Basin. The geology and topography of this region is the result of fragmentation of the continental crust in Southern Oregon as a result of Western Oregon being pulled away from the eastern half of the state. The fragmentation causes the earth’s crust to break into massive blocks which may lift into isolated ranges such as Hart Mountain, plunge leaving deep flat valleys such as the Alvord Desert, or tilt (because they sunk unevenly) creating soaring cliffs on one side and a gradually descending slope on the other.

Hager Mountain

Hager Mountain is one of the gems of the Silver Lake Ranger District. The fire lookout, at 7200 feet, is occupied during the wildfire season to keep watch over the surrounding flat lands for any sign of smoke. During the winter, it becomes a rarely attempted peak that offers one of the best snowshoeing climbs available in Southern Oregon. The four mile strenuous hike up the West side leads to a panoramic view of the landscape from Mt. Shasta to Mt. Hood.

In summer and fall hikers and trail riders will find the trail from road 28 to the peak quite stunning as well as challenging with the last half mile out in the open and traversed with switchbacks. Farm Wells, which can be reached off of road 28 has very nice camping facilities including solid, well constructed horse corrals. There is no drinking water at this site and campers with horses may find it difficult to coax their mounts down the banks of the holding ponds to drink.

Abert Rim

Visualize a 2500 foot basalt-capped cliff with a 1500 foot drop in elevation over the course of 20 miles. This describes just one part of Lake County’s famous geologic feature - Abert Rim. Abert Rim is North America’s longest fault escarpment.

This giant fault block tops out at 7543 feet and stretches non-directly over 40 miles from the Sherman Valley near Drake Peak far north to the Christmas Valley - Wagontire Cutoff Road.

Inland Seas

Before the rise of the Cascade Range, which now blocks Pacific air masses, precipitation was much more prevalent in this region, meaning greater erosion rates creating canyons such as those cutting deeply across the west face of Hart Mountain. The eventual rise of the Cascades and a warming planet meant the end of glacial snowpacks in the Oregon High Desert and brought about massive accumulations of meltwater in the desert basins. Inland seas accumulated in low laying basins, in many cases reaching depths great enough to overflow into drainage systems that reached the sea. Malheur Lake overflowed into the Malheur River, Fort Rock Lake into the Deschutes, and even in this present era Goose Lake sometimes reaches depths great enough to drain into the Pit River in Northern California.
Fort Rock is without a doubt one of the most recognizable geologic features in the northern end of Lake County. A massive volcanic tuff ring, ‘The Rock’ draws travelers from near and far to view, to photograph and to explore.

Affected by the ever-changing high desert sky, Ft. Rock’s appearance can be at one moment a bright rust color and in the next a mixture of well defined layers of color and sculpted shadows. Whatever the lighting, the ‘Rock’ is always awe inspiring and magnificent. Its fort-like shape is the basis for its name: Fort Rock.

The creation of a “tuff ring,” is described by geologists as occurring when a volcanic vent is located in a lake or other area of abundant ground water. In the case of Ft. Rock the magma rose to the surface of the vent and encountered the muddy lake bottom. This volcanic activity saw the molten basalt explode from the ground as the steam pressure became too great from within the earth. The hot lava and ash eventually settled around the vent, in a ring formation, and cooled in the lake waters.

Fort Rock is one of approximately 40 tuff rings in the Brothers Fault Zone of the Fort Rock Basin. It is estimated to have been created 50,000 - 100,000 years ago. In prehistoric times it is believed to have been an island surrounded by the waters of Fort Rock Lake.

The wave-cut terraces on the south side of the ring mark former lake levels of this now-dry lake bed. Southerly winds, which are still predominant in the region, apparently drove waves against the south side of the ring, eroding the soft ash layers, breaching it, and creating a large opening on the south side.

Did You Know? Fort Rock Lake was the largest pluvial lake in Oregon. It covered over 1260 square miles to a depth of 320 feet in Fort Rock and Christmas Valleys.

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.

See Ft Rock Sandals Pg. 14
Discover the Past at Ft Rock’s Homestead Village Museum
Open May ~ September
Thursday ~ Friday ~ Saturday ~ Sunday ~ Holidays & by Special Request
11 am ~ 5 pm
Last Tour - 4:30 pm
541-576-2251
frmuseum@centurylink.net
www.fortrockoregon.com
Admission: $5 adult, $3 Children 12 and under, five and under FREE

Explore the Homestead Era at the Museum

Step back in time to Oregon’s homestead era of the early 1900’s at the Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum! Here you will find 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 1900’s decor so visitors can experience what life was like in eastern Oregon before electricity arrived.

Thirteen structures are included in a village that has been created: a school, church, store, period homes and more. Vintage farm equipment and a blacksmith shop along with a heritage garden create a sense of how much hard labor was a part of everyday life in those times.

Visitors enjoy a self-guided tour of this unique setting as they experience Oregon’s homestead era as they step back in time.

In addition to its buildings the museum displays a small but significant collection of artifacts as well as housing many archival items and documents behind the scenes.

The museum is open May - September, Thursdays through Sundays. Children and adults alike can learn from this special experience! The museum is managed strictly by volunteers. Its reviews are extraordinary.

Admission: $5 Adults; $3 Children 12 & under with the under five set being Free. Tours are offered for school groups and large groups with advanced reservations. Additionally the historic church is available for rent to small groups. Photographers and film makers rental opportunities are also available. Visit our website for more information: www//fortrockoregon.com. Like us on Facebook!
When you enter the Fort Rock Basin from any corner, you enter into a strikingly beautiful agricultural community. Much of the beauty of this area directly stems from farm production and cattle grazing.

Over 100 years ago, people came from all over the United States to seek fertile farm land and a better life. Because of the Homestead Act of 1864, many were granted 160 acre parcels to homestead.

Much to their surprise, the homesteaders found it to be a very difficult way of life. They had to develop wells for water, build homes from materials found throughout the area, and plant crops they hoped would grow in arid areas.

Had not these farmers and ranchers succeeded, today’s wildlife habitat would not exist. Natural resources are continually renewed by local farmers and ranchers. Our arid desert has very limited ground water and most water here is obtained from wells.

Cattle grazing enhances the success of all types of regional wildlife, creates fire suppression and helps protect all our natural resources. Big game benefit from new grass growth. If it weren’t for cattle grazing, the grasses would become “wolly,” and unpalatable to big game. Without cattle on the arid range, there would be no water available for wildlife. Local ranchers responsibly provide this resource not only for their herds but also for the wildlife such as mule deer, antelope, elk, sage grouse, cougar, coyotes, bobcats, many raptors including bald and golden eagles, hawks, falcons and owls and an abundance of quail and turtledoves.

During your visit to the area, think about the dedication, devotion and affection local landowners give to this territory. Farmers and ranchers are the current stewards of the land, continually caring for it in the best way possible. They are educated, dedicated, hardworking individuals with a mission: To make a living and produce a safe, abundant and affordable food supply, while being extraordinary stewards of the land!

Their lifestyle is about being here, being with family, and continuing the tradition.
American Pronghorn

Antilocapra Americana

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.

Pronghorn conservation

Even with super speed and vision, pronghorn could not escape over hunting and the threat of extinction following settlement and development of the western United States. But with refuges and other protections the pronghorn were saved. Today the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues to ensure all Americans can visit their refuges to see pronghorn run wild and free.

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

This page’s information gleaned from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Hart Mountain National Refuge Oregon site.
Outback Station has it All!

If you’re looking for great riding opportunities and accommodations designed by horse people for horse people - plan a stop at Outback Station.

Located on the high desert 25.5 miles southeast of the Highway 31/97 junction. The long driveway in is just across from the Station’s mailbox and sign.

Bordered by the Deschutes, Winema and Freemont National Forests and BLM lands to the east, as well as being within walking distance of Hole-in-the-Ground, the main meadow and camping facilities provide visitors with awe inspiring old-growth Ponderosa Pine, amazing vistas and peaceful forested and desert trails.

Back at camp, riders and visitors can clean up in the Station’s spacious showers and then have a full on barbecue or just kick back and roast weiners for dinner.

Each year owners Dennis and Linda Tribby expand on the property’s improvements. Recently they acquired additional water rights so they can provide more pasture grass. The core camping and pasture areas are completely fenced - not with wire but with posts and rails. And there is no need to worry about room for the biggest of motor home/trailer rigs. The property is set up to make negotiation easy and straight forward.

The original ranch name is Gibhard Wells. The well water is icy cold and pristine. It is considered to be one of the best wells in the area.

The Station’s rates are affordable and the amenities are fabulous: Water only or full hook-up sites for your RV and 16 x 16 corrals for your ponies range in cost from $25-$35 per night with discounts for guests staying more than one day.

Outback Station is only about 11 miles from the small town of Fort Rock where visitors can enjoy side trips to Fort Rock State Park and The Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum. They will also find a small country store (they have fuel too).

The Fort Rock Pub (lounge and restaurant) and The Watern’ Hole tavern offer full service bars a lot of menu choices. Children are welcome.
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’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.

Find Big Hole by driving Oregon 31 for 19.6 miles southeast from U.S. 97 (just south of La Pine). The turnoff for Big Hole comes 1.4 miles east of the signed county line.

Leave the pavement and drive .3 miles south on a dirt forest road to signed road 2451-400. Take this road and you will soon be driving a 3.5 mile circle around Big Hole.

Big Hole is such a large volcanic crater (about 6,000 feet in diameter) that this feature often goes unnoticed when viewing a topographical map. The rim walls are 300 to 425 feet high.

Over time native Ponderosa Pines have established themselves on the crater’s floor.
Seen in a small photograph, it is difficult to gain a sense of just how enormous this geological feature is. 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.

It was thought that the ‘Hole’ was the result of a meteoric impact, however, more study has shown it to be of volcanic origin 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
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 as distance.

Summer Lake Wildlife Area is one of best waterfowl 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 at www.basinrangebirdingtrail.com.

### Sandhill Cranes: Ties 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 remains 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 parents and their young colts - yes that is what the young Sandhills are called - as they feed along the lake’s edge.
Fort Rock Sandals and Fort Rock State Natural Area

Cressman was convinced that these artifacts were at least 9000 years old. Of course there was no way Cressman could validate the age of the sandals, radio carbon dating was still more than ten years off.

Finally in 1951 Fibers from the sandals were dated to more than 9000 years old. Cressman had it right.

The sty of sandal Cressman uncovered are know as The Fort Rock Sandals. Footwear of the same structure has also been found in six other sites in Southeastern Oregon and Northwestern Nevada. They are all called Fort Rock Sandals.

“The Sandals are made of shredded sagebrush bark. They are twined, with pairs of fiber wefts twisted around passive warps . . . The foundation of the flat sole is five thick wraps, consisting of two long ropes folded into a . . . U-shape at the heal and a single central warp. Construction begins at the heal by twining pairs of fibers back and forth across the sole. Each weft row is packed tightly against the previous row to completely cover the warp and add strength to the sole.” Thomas J Connolly explained.

This process continued from the heel to toe until the desired length was reached. Then fibers at the toe were separated and brought over to create a toe flap. There is much more to the process and much infor-

mation is available online about the history of sandals discovery as well as other archeological discoveries in Oregon’s High Desert.

Fort Rock Natural Area and State Park

Fort Rock, a National Natural Landmark, is located in the Oregon desert about 70 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon and about one mile north of the town of Fort Rock.

Part of the northern Great Basin, the Fort Rock Valley is part of an ancient dried lake. Fort Rock is an old tuff ring created by volcanic action in what was a shallow sea in prehistoric times.

Looking like a huge fort from forgotten times, its rugged rock walls rise 325 feet above the plain. When you take the trail around the interior of the ‘Fort’ you realize just how huge this geological feature is.

On your way to visit the ‘Rock’ take a few minutes to wander through the Fort Rock Cemetery which, by the way, continues to be the final resting place for many local residents. The Fort Rock Cave is only about 1.2 mile west of Ft. Rock. It is famous as the site where Archaeologist Luther Cressman discovered sage-bark sandals dating back 9-10,000 years.

If you plan ahead you can schedule a tour of the Ft. Rock Cave by contacting Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Exploring off the beaten track requires research and planning

Many travelers in today’s world of technology place great trust in GPS information from a variety of sources. “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 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 without getting thoroughly stuck. 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.
Welcome to 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 we see today.

You won’t see Christmas tree farms; we grow HAY - lots of hay - some of the best Alfalfa Hay in the world. Most fields are watered by pivotal delivery systems that some describe as Agricultural Sculptures.

The little unincorporated town 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 three wonderful, yet very different, gift shops, two groceries, a produce stand and several restaurants plus a full-service deli at one of the two markets.

There are two motels, and an RV park with full hook ups and a bath-house. Tent camping sites are also available. And, 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 are available.

A small general store near the town’s center offers a variety of items travelers often find themselves in need of - 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 which in city scapes are undetectable.

Walking on the desert floor 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.
One can see this towering feature from every direction. It is a landmark and iconic to the area.

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.
Crack-in-the-Ground: Fun for the Whole Family

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.

The sky as seen from the Crack’s bottom

Crack-in-the-Ground

Stay with us and Enjoy our Desert Playground

Crack in the Ground ~ Sand Dunes
Golf Course ~ Hunting
Fishing ~ Hiking and More!

Mitzy Maple, Owner
541-576-2262

87217 Christmas Valley Hwy ~ Christmas Valley

Reasonable Rates
Good eats in a relaxing, fun atmosphere - at The Farmhouse

Centrally located, The Farmhouse Cafe & Bakery offers an extensive and varied menu that includes daily specials and some great dinner options. Patrons order at the counter and serve their own coffee, tea and water - all of which helps keep overhead down and prices well within the range of affordable. The restaurant features a fun, casual atmosphere that affords customers a relaxing dining experience. For those with an affinity for baked goods, The Farmhouse offers pies, pastries and other baked goodies that are just short of decadent. Yumm. The restaurant also has several menu choices for the lighter eater. So whether you are just passing through, checking the area out as a possible place to move, or are here to recreate and sight see, be sure to include a meal at the Farmhouse - you won’t be disappointed.
There are new visitors in the high desert these days, and they come to town with bulging backpacks, sun-scorched legs, and ravenous appetites. A 750 mile long-distance hiking route, the Oregon Desert Trail (ODT), ties together some of the most stunning mountains, canyons and hot springs in southeastern Oregon, and in between the miles of trails, two-track roads and sections of cross-country hiking, are the communities that play an important role in this remote and challenging journey.

Long-distance hiking is gaining in popularity these days, and the much longer Pacific Crest Trail, just over the Cascade Mountains, is bringing throngs of backpackers to the trails. Much of this can be traced back to a popular book you may have heard of, titled *Wild* by Oregon author Cheryl Strayed. Cheryl actually finished writing her book in the Oregon Outback. Inside a small cabin tucked away in the Plush valley, she put the finishing touches on the story that would mobilize a whole new generation of hikers to hit the trail and try their hand at walking for months on end in the wilderness of the western United States.

The Oregon Desert Trail couldn’t be more different from the Pacific Crest Trail. Most of the Oregon Desert Trail isn’t trail, but a “virtual route” which means you won’t find any trail markers indicating the way. Instead the ODT exists as an idea, and only the maps, GPS way-points and navigational skills of the hikers who set out to spend a month or two in the desert, can tell you where it is. Because much of Oregon’s high desert is public land and unencumbered by trees and dense underbrush that you will find in the western part of the state, hiking cross-country is not only doable, but an exhilarating challenge for those hikers who want to experience our expansive landscapes.

And there are plenty of hikers looking for that kind of experience. Even Oregonians are discovering a whole new side of the state they didn’t know existed. As Logan Boyles, a 2018 ODT thru-hiker from Junction City commented, “The picture I had in my mind of the Oregon desert before starting my hike was of barren wastelands and sagebrush. Hiking the ODT has shown me that it is much more than that. The desert is much greener and more alive than I originally thought. I show people my pictures and they say, ‘That’s in Oregon?’ There are places along the trail that I want to come back to and I want to bring friends and family along to share the amazing places I found along the way.”

One of the great aspects of a route like the Oregon Desert Trail is that there is no ‘one way’. Hikers are encouraged to make the route their own, and as long as they are on public land (the maps and materials clearly mark private land), they are encouraged to explore and embrace the sense of discovery that might take them to an ancient petroglyph, a cool canyon or stunning viewpoint. In fact, the route is for more than just hikers. There are sections people can bike, ride on horseback, or even ski or snowshoe in the winter.
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See related article page 39

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And the towns along the way make all the difference. The ODT passes through or near Christmas Valley, Summer Lake, Paisley, Valley Falls, Lakeview, Plush, Adel, Frenchglen, Fields, Denio, McDermitt, Rome and ends near Adrian, Vale and Ontario. Hikers tired from the miles and parched from the sun come to town looking for showers, laundry, a bed for the night and as many calories as they can stuff in their face. The people in eastern Oregon have been meeting these hikers with curiosity and offers of cold water, extra food and stories about their favorite places to explore in the desert.

Access can be difficult in some areas in the high desert. Roads can be impassable with a little rain, and fire danger in the summer can make getting to a remote location for a day hike impossible, so we have started developing a series of loop hike options so that hikers can start and finish their adventures in towns like Christmas Valley, Lakeview and McDermitt. The Christmas Valley loop hike offers a 107-mile option that routes hikers through iconic places near town like Crack in the Ground, Green Mountain, the Lost Forest, Burma Rim and the Black Hills.

The Oregon Desert Trail maps, guidebook, water chart and town guide all help hikers figure out where to go, and more importantly, how to be safe out there in the high desert, which is important because it’s a very challenging experience! Thunderstorms with no tree-cover, early or late snowfall, and even strong winds that can push you off a cliff are all hurdles that hikers will have to overcome.

Thru-hiker Vernon Winters traveled the whole Oregon Desert Trail with his little dog Ari, and had a difficult experience during a thunderstorm on Diablo Peak, just south of Christmas Valley:

“My dog Ari trembled during the thunder, and traveled the day in fear. Later in the afternoon I had to carry my little companion three miles across a thorny cross-country section before Diablo Peak. That evening as I was descending Diablo Rim, a beautiful sunset appeared with golden light and soft shadows over a vast range of sagebrush and rolling hills. I stopped to admire the solitude and glowing landscape and shifted my thoughts away from the negative and focused on the external beauty around me. The sunset reminded me: “If circumstances change, identify things that truly count: The beauty of mother nature, the smell of fresh air, the sounds of the wild and finishing what you started.”

Hikers have discovered that the space and solitude found in eastern Oregon to be one of the highlights of their experience, and something that is in short supply on the more crowded trails on the west side of the Cascades. So as the next tired and hungry hiker appears from the sagebrush sea, they are sure to have stories to tell about their wild and difficult journey, and you will have a friend for life if you offer them a cold beer or a fresh baked cookie.

Information about how to hike the Oregon Desert Trail can be found on the website: www.onda.org/OregonDesertTrail. A full range of materials can help you plan your trip, including maps, a guidebook, water chart, town guide and more.
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 that are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Since these activities may conflict, users are encouraged to respect the rights of others 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 diving 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 in addition to a valid driver’s license. Additionally, an Oregon DOT helmet for persons under age 18 is required.
Photographers love digitally morphing images of the dunes and attaining results such as the photo above.

Christmas Valley Sand Dunes
www.deschutescounty4wheelers.com

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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.

**The Rules**

- Whip flag that extends 8 ft. from the ground
- Stay on designated routes. Any trail 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.
- Bring in, dispose of or possess any firewood containing nails, screws, or other metal hardware.
- Spark arresters are required on all OHV’s.
- Fossil Lake ACEC is closed to vehicles.
- Lost Forest RNA - stay on designated trails only.
- Respect private property in the area.
North Lake School

Mission Statement: North Lake School District remains committed and dedicated to an educational foundation providing the tools, motivation, and discipline to encourage the development of students, staff, and community and to provide a personal, consistent, and caring education that will prepare all students to become well-rounded individuals and to realize their maximum potential.

About North Lake: We have a dedicated staff that serves children in a one building K-12 setting. Award winning programs such as Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) continue to perform and be recognized as top programs regionally and statewide. We offer a comprehensive selection of classes and supplement those choices with on-line course opportunities.

North Lake operates on a four-day school week with students attending from 7:45 am to 3:45 pm. We offer football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, wrestling, baseball and track and our student athletes compete well every year for district and state honors.

We are the second largest geographic athletic district in the state of Oregon and the resulting travel and time commitments demand that students balance their athletic interests with their academic responsibilities. The results are a consistently high graduation rate, acceptance at community colleges and universities statewide and positive citizenship in our halls.

North Lake School is a great place to be and perhaps the best kept secret in Central Oregon!

Gentry Strong, Christmas Valley
Structural Fire Science

Firefighting has a way of stirring fascination from an early age—the trucks, the camaraderie, the helping of others. So it was with Gentry Strong, 20, of Christmas Valley. “Growing up, my father was a volunteer firefighter at the local station,” he recalls. “My fondest memories were going down to the station and getting to be ‘one of the guys.’”

It’s also a path of perseverance, of leaning in when adversity rises up. That’s something that Strong knows a bit about. With an upbringing that included some challenges—a low-income household in a single-parent home—he found

See, “Outside the Expected” Page 39

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CENTRAL OREGON
Community College
What is The Christmas Valley Music Festival?

The Christmas Valley Music Festival, or (CVMF), is a day-long celebration at the RE Flowerree Memorial Park in Christmas Valley, OR. It is held the second Saturday in August, and runs from 2:00 to 10:00 PM. Gates open at 1:00 PM.

This year will mark the eighth consecutive year the festival has been held. Starting six years ago the CVMF became an official 501-C3, non–profit organization. This means that all donations and admissions are completely tax deductible.

Musicians and bands come from as far away as New Orleans to participate in the day’s festivities to support our North Lake Community. As part of the experience they also stay at a nearby ranch for the entire weekend where they jam, collaborate, and enjoy each other’s company in the high desert.

The expressed mission of the CVMF is to support the arts, and the children of North Lake County. This is all made possible with the generous support of our local businesses and ranchers and a spring fund-raiser in Portland, OR. Many of our musicians once again donate their talents for this event. All proceeds from the CVMF itself including vendor donations and our $10.00 recommended admission cost go directly to the causes we support. They include:

The North Lake County Brain Food Program. This charity assures that every child during the school year who needs it takes home a backpack of food so they will not go hungry over the weekend.

The North Lake School’s student drama club. These kids put on a dynamite public performance once a year. This year’s effort was attended by more than 125 community members, all who came away with rave reviews.

The Children’s Art Sale Auction is held during the CVMF for each grade 1-6 corroboratively created canvas which were displayed at the Christmas Valley Market throughout the year. The funds raised are used entirely to purchase supplies for the following year’s projects.

A Scholarship for one graduating senior from the North Lake School District. Additionally any miscellaneous requests for art/music related projects we receive from the community over the course of the year are funded if adequate funds are available.

So, join us this year at the Christmas Valley Music Festival for great music, food, drink, and fun in the sun. Come see what everyone is talking about. There are plenty of motels, and RV spots in town available, but be sure to make your reservations early. If you are interested in making a donation to the Christmas Valley Music Festival, feel free to call Earl Diment, (503)819-2417.

Hope we see you there!!!
Willows and Willows-West: Shopping for all Reasons

What happens when you have a love of the new, the old and the unexpected and decide that your busy life really needs to get even busier?

Well, if you’re Laura Parks you purchase a building and immediately fill it with antique pieces, large and small, collectibles from near and far, an array of kitchen goodies, original art work and one-of-a-kind wall decor and you call it The Willows.

Will it work? You bet. In fact the business outgrew its space in 18 months. That is when Laura added on, nearly tripling the space which of course needed to be filled with countless gift items, gourmet food and unique jewelry.

When another property became available, Parks, and her daughter Allison Rudolf decided to open a second shop. The duo added a yarn store and a full-service, licensed floral shop and called it Willows-West.

The West houses not only flowers and yarn, but the larger pieces of furniture that The Willows couldn’t accommodate, as well as jewelry and many other gift items. The West offers weekly knitting classes and a wide selection of fine yarns and great patterns.

There truly is something for everyone, an oasis, if you will, in the desert.
Come Celebrate! July 4th, 2019
Fabulous Family Fun

Annual “Luck of the Draw” Golf Tournament July 6th

North Lake Park and Recreation hosts its Two-Person Best Ball with a BBQ to follow at Greg Rhondo’s on Sunday the 1st. Sign up at 8:30 am near the first tee. Play starts at 9 am. Entry fee $25

July 4th Parade through the middle of town
Line-up in front of Gifts n More on Park Rd. Judging will begin at 10:40 am with trophies being presented to winning entries as they enter the highway.

The Parade!

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

Children’s Carnival

In front of Park and Rec Building after Parade
Games, Prizes, Mini peddle tractor races. Fun for everyone.

Giant Water Slide at Park and Rec Building
July 4th, from noon to 4 pm. Remember to bring dry clothes, towels, and lots of sunscreen - Money generated helps support our fireworks.

Music in the Park
July 4th 2019

At the sound stage at
R.E. Flowerree Memorial Park

Music Starts at 1:pm

Beer Garden
Food
Vendors
About eight 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. She made a snap decision to fill that empty space with a new publication - one geared more 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 two calls from area writers who wanted to regularly contribute to the publication. And so the paper grew. First to 12 pages then to 16. And from 50/50 color to full color and great visual appeal.

“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 advertisers a copy will reach every deliverable address in these communities.”

With out writers like Toni Bailie, Gloria Heglar, The Prospector, Rachel Wilson, Marie and Gary Brain, Laura Parks and several guest contributors The Community Breeze would not be the welcome addition it has become.

Books ~ Camaraderie ~ On-line Services ~ Computers ~ Presentations

Serving a vast geographical area is no easy task for a County Library. Just getting materials to and from the branches takes coordination and the help of many volunteers.

Of course books and all types of reading materials are the Library’s main function but much more is provided to residents. Desk and laptop computers, Internet and WI FI access, get-togethers with authors and book signing, audio books, and workshops geared to providing useful information regarding estate planning, writing an advanced directive, and so on are regularly provided.

Another important element of our library system is its Friends organizations. In Christmas Valley the Friends host numerous fund raising activities that are directed to the building of a new Christmas Valley branch facility.

The rural branches also act as social hubs for the communities they serve. Many locals enjoy a quiet visit with fellow reading enthusiasts and friends in the cozy atmosphere of these little spaces.

The Lake County Library District provides excellent selections of new publications and the staff always find time to help library visitors find just what they are looking for.
THE 7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL
BENEFIT CONCERT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

Come have a day of fun in the sun! Enjoy over eight hours of enthusiastic music by a host of talented and diverse NW performers, in a celebration of community and goodwill!

With wonderful locally owned Food Booths, Craft Booths, Beer Garden and activities for children of all ages!

Your $10.00 (suggested donation) supports the Health, Education & Welfare of the Children of North Lake County

R.E. Flowerree Memorial Park,
Christmas Valley Hwy, Christmas Valley, Oregon

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CCB#99769
DEQ #38347
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, golfers can also add their final score to their handicap index. Here are the rating/slope numbers for each tee: Blue 70/118 (men), White 67.4/115 (men), Red (women) 67/113.

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 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 unique attributes that Christmas Valley Golf Course offers when it comes to tranquility and peacefulness; on the other hand, once they experience how hard the wind blows, how small the greens are, and how quickly the fairways go straight to sagebrush and sand, they’ll realize how hard it plays as well.

Whether in the fairways or not, both hackers and scratch golfers alike can enjoy the journey, specifically, by enjoying the hot sun, the beautiful views of distant mountains and hills, and the fleeting company of deer, jackrabbits, geese, sage rats, quail, various birds, lizards, and the occasional coyote. And, whether golfers are in the sagebrush to look for a stray ball, go down a dirt cart path, or take a scenic break, the smell of sagebrush and the high desert surroundings will leave an indelible imprint upon their golfing memories.

Essentially, the Christmas Valley Golf Course combines a unique blend of style and design. For instance, the near absence of trees, the abundance of wind, and its flatness makes it seem remarkably like a links style course, yet the absence of bunkers, a nearby ocean, and its small greens makes it different than a fundamental links course. The end result is a unique golf course unlike any other in the world.

And, 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.
Oregon Outback Scenic Byway & Scenic Tour Routes

Christmas Valley

Silver Lake

Fort Rock

Summer Lake

Lakeside Terrace Motel
RV Park/Restaurant
Meeting Your Vacation & Travel Needs in Christmas Valley
541-576-2309

See Page 30

Christmas Valley Market
87497 Christmas Valley Hwy
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Great Service
Groceries, Beverages, Deli and More

Christmas Valley Market’s upgrades and expansions mean more choices for our customers!

See Inside Front Cover

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass Every Sunday - 3:30 pm

See Page 42

Outback Station
RV Park ~ Horse Camp Retreat

See Page 10

Ed’s Fast Break Convenience Stores

Christmas Valley Market
87497 Christmas Valley Hwy
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Great Service
Groceries, Beverages, Deli and More

Christmas Valley Market’s upgrades and expansions mean more choices for our customers!

See Inside Front Cover

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Closed Sunday

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Saturday 9:00-1:00
Closed Sunday
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 that pays out in cash prizes, places American flags along the highway through town in celebration of major federal holidays (the flags are renewed regularly,) maintains a 24 hour, accessible Tourist Information center that is located at a front corner of J.W. Kerns parking lot. The Chamber also hosts an annual Awards banquet at which individuals and businesses are recognized.

When applicable the Chamber hosts political forums where candidates and citizens interact through a facilitator.

Our 2018/19 project was the completion of the pocket garden next to the information center. This little space with benches, tables and many plants, serves as a shaded respite for tourists and locals alike. During the coming year chamber members and volunteers will continue improving the garden and upgrading the landscaping surrounding the Tourist Information Building.

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

Having this space also means that any size vehicle has ample room to park and have plenty of room to turn around.
The 2019 Awards Banquet was so much fun. The theme, Viva Italia set the tone for a culinary venture into Italian Cuisine at its best.

Hosted by the Christmas Valley/North Lake Chamber of Commerce and held at The Flyway Restaurant at the Lodge at Summer Lake, the event is a time to honor businesses and extraordinary citizens from the northern communities of Lake County.

The Flyway, a wonderful venue, provided a meal to remember. Chef Jason Houck put a great deal of thought into creating a menu that would please the most discerning palate - starting with several large trays of antipasto (Italian hors d’oeuvres) during the social hour.

Served buffet style, the main course featured Chicken Parmigiana, linguine and gamberetti (shrimps), grilled artichokes, complemented with fresh baked bread and Caesar Salad. Dessert was Cannoli.

The Flyway’s owners, Gil and Jan Foust and Gary and Marie Brain, along with staff and chamber members worked together to transform the restaurant’s homey dining room into a banquet venue - which translated to moving a lot of tables out and others in, and of course finding additional chairs and then decorating.

Throughout dinner tickets for all the raffle gifts were drawn. The donated gifts were great and each winner was delighted.

Guest speakers spoke and then it was on to the awards presentations. This is always the fun part - especially when presenting to people who have no clue they were to be honored.

North Lake School superintendent and principal David Kerr presented the Educator of the Year award to science teacher Shelley Spurgeon, of whom he said, “was the best science teacher he had ever worked with.”

The Emergency Responder of the year was awarded to sheriff’s Deputy Jason Rains who was unable to attend and was certainly missed.

Doug Polhans, owner of North Lake Towing was honored as the Volunteer of the Year. He has for years helped folks out, often with no compensation because he could and because he cares. His family worked out a medley of strategies to get him to the banquet while keeping the secret that he would be receiving an award.

The Chamber honored two businesses of the year. Ana Reservoir RV Park and Silver Lake Mercantile. Both of these businesses are family owned and each provides great services to locals and visitors alike.

Jana Kittredge knew that the Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum was getting an award, but what she didn’t know was that she would be receiving the Lifetime Volunteer honer. This woman has served and continues to serve her community in many capacities, always promoting local organizations, sitting on a variety of boards and naturally digging in with both hands to ensure things get done.

This Year’s Chamber’s Choice was, as mentioned above, The Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum, a greatly enjoyed visitor experience due to years of diligent effort.
The Lost Forest

Remote Fascinating Beautiful

One of the places the desert sand has been blown for many thousands of years is the Lost Forest, a protected relic stand of genetically distinct trees. The ancient dune system in which the Ponderosa pines grow acts as a natural mulch, trapping moisture near their roots.

Off road travel in the Lost Forest is strictly prohibited because it destroys the undergrowth that the tree seedlings need to become established in their otherwise harsh environment.

Pictured right is just one of many unforgettable sunrises you will experience in the vast high desert. The photo at left is one of the oldest junipers in Oregon.

Coordinates: 43°23′N 120°20′W / 43.38°N 120.33°W

Santa’s Hardware
Christmas Valley’s Biggest - Little General Store

DEWALT
GLOVES
TOOLS
L.E.D Bulbs

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87038 Christmas Valley Hwy

Your Northern Lake County Real Estate Specialists

541-576-2772

Oregon Country REALTY INC

Shara Shumway
Principal Real Estate Broker

visit us @ www.oregoncountryrealty.com

86872 Christmas Valley Hwy. In the heart of Christmas Valley
Many citizens in our communities prefer to shop locally - away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Visitors are happy when that one thing they forgot can be purchased without a long journey. They want to enjoy being here. So, in addition to Valley Pivots and other irrigation supplies that their store is founded on, J.W. Kerns Inc. "Kerns" strives to provide the necessities of a rural community.

Kerns offers an ODFW point of sale location along with some ammunition, fishing tackle, bow hunting and camping supplies. They also have wood pellets, BBQ pellets and firewood bricks, (especially handy for campers.)

Plumbing, electrical and hardware supplies - livestock and pet feed, and animal health products - fencing and gates, and stock tanks are available and visitors working on their vacation property will find Kerns has an extensive choice of tools.

Since adding the covered lumber and gardening area, Kerns has a wider selection of dimensional lumber and plywood, and a greater variety of gardening tools and supplies.

So stop by Kerns when you are in Christmas Valley. Jake, Shelly, Rhonda and Dan will be happy to see you. They just might have exactly what you need.
Your Christmas Valley Health Center!

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
X-Ray | Tuesday & Thursday

Family Medical Care ◆ Women’s Health ◆ Men’s Health ◆ Pediatric Care
Preventative Services ◆ Digital X-Ray ◆ Lab ◆ Referrals to Specialists
Transportation Assistance ◆ Dental Vouchers ◆ Assistance Applying for Medicaid/OHP
And More!

North Lake Health District Medical Center
87520 Bay Rd | Christmas Valley, OR 97641
(541) 536-3435
www.lapinehealth.org

Dedicated to Protect & Serve the Citizens of Lake County

Keeping the County, our Children, and Families Safe

- Sheriff Michael Taylor
& the Lake County Sheriff’s Office

Don’t Drink and Drive.
Be vigilant in your community and report suspicious activity to 541-947-6027
Emergencies call 9-1-1
Outback Volunteerism

Volunteers are the engine behind much of the services in rural communities. Volunteers are paramount in Oregon’s Outback.

Our Emergency Medical Services, Our Volunteer Fire Departments, Our Health, School, Fire, Park and Recreation and Water districts are all managed by elected volunteer board members. They could not function without them.

The Music Festival, The Car Show, The Grange, The Museum, The Rodeo Club Play Days, The Fireworks Over the Lake, The Free Holiday Pot Lucks, The Tree of Joy, Food Share, Dorcas Depot, Special Transportation Program and the Chamber’s Annual Awards Banquet is just an abbreviated list of volunteer activities in the Outback. Our volunteers, as with most volunteers, work diligently behind the scenes and are critical to the survival of our many small communities. We thank them all.

Pacific Crest: They’re a Great Fit

Pacific Crest Federal Credit Union’s branch in Christmas Valley has been received with open arms by North End residents.

About the choice to locate here, Pacific Crest’s President and CEO Chad Olney says, “People in Christmas Valley and surrounding communities are our kind of people.”

When asked, Why a Credit Union in today’s world? Onley explains that unlike a bank which has stockholders who expect bank proceeds to benefit them, a Credit Union is user owned. Every account holder has one share and one vote.

What this translates to is Pacific Crest Federal Credit Union, is able to provide members with lower interest and fees on loans and higher interest paid into their savings accounts.

It’s a Win ~ Win for everyone.
Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass every Sunday at 3:30PM
Father Paul Antao
Located at 11-mile corner near Christmas Valley

Contact: Mike & Laura House (541) 576-2415
Parish: Donna Pigman (541) 536-3571

“We are a church family, centered on the Eucharist, living and sharing our faith, and God-given talents and gifts.”

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
OF CHRISTMAS VALLEY

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

We hope you will come and visit!
87218 Glitter Lane
Christmas Valley, OR 97641

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Service 10:45 am
Sunday Night Service 6:00 pm
Pastor Doug Polhans
Associate Pastor Darrell Anderson
541-591-4067

CHRISTMAS VALLEY
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Preparing for Heaven as We Share God’s Love

Saturday Sabbath School: 9:15 am
Church: 10:50 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

Local Digital Television Channel 17 or 68
On-Line bible Information: bibleinfo.com
Pastor: John Glass
Elders: Gene Wayne
541-576-2174
503-949-9536
60508 Old Lake Road
Christmas Valley, Oregon 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
P.O. Box 178
Christmas Valley, OR 97641
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.

The area 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!
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 Yamsay 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 there are not a lot of 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.

**Thompson Valley Reservoir**

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.

The current Oregon sport-fishing regulations can be found at: [www.eregulatons.com/oregon/fishing/](http://www.eregulatons.com/oregon/fishing/) Anglers are urged to consult these regulations for up-to-date seasons and limit restrictions.
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 spring when high flows from winter runoff 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.

Duncan Reservoir_map.pdf (format PDF / 176 KB)
Experience Lake County's Wildlife Heritage

Summer Lake Wildlife Area

Visit Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Summer Lake Wildlife Area

Come and enjoy over 300 species of fish and wildlife (primarily birds) that can be found on nearly 19,000 acres of wetland and associated habitats.

A wide array of recreational opportunities are available, including:

- **Wildlife Viewing**
  - 8.5 mile Driving Loop
  - Over 10 miles of Walking Trails/Road

- **Fishing**
  - Trout and Bass

- **Camping**
  - 4 Primitive Sites

- **Photography**
  - Excellent Opportunities

Year round access to most areas by vehicle, foot or other means. Full services nearby in the community of Summer Lake, and only 75 miles from Lakeview and 100 miles from Bend on Highway 31.

"Cooperative funding and management of this Wildlife Area is made possible through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid Wildlife Restoration Program."

**For additional information, contact:**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Summer Lake Wildlife Area
53447 Hwy. 31, Summer Lake, OR 97640
Phone: (541) 943-3152; Fax: (541) 943-3204
email: martin.j.stlouis@state.or.us
Summer Lake: A Mecca for Lovers of the Great Outdoors

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 rich in 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, never-the-less, 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.

South along Hwy 31, is the Summer Lake Hot Springs. Stop just for a fabulous soak or stay the night - they have several levels of accommodations.

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.
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.

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.

Hybrid Bass
The Lodge at Summer Lake

Fabulous Accommodations ~ Fabulous Food ~
Limitless Recreational Opportunities

Be Sure to Include The Lodge at Summer Lake in Your Oregon Outback Adventure

The Lodge at Summer Lake: An Oasis of Serenity and Natural Beauty

Located off Hwy 31 between Silver Lake and Paisley, visitors and residents of Lake County will find the Lodge at Summer Lake in the midst of the area’s most amazing natural beauty. Specifically, they’ll find a small resort with 4 cabins, 7 hotel rooms, a restaurant, an event room, a gift shop, and a private pond stocked with trophy bass, right across 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 the picturesque settings as they contemplate the day’s adventure. This may include traveling through the wildlife refuge in their vehicles to view over 280 species of birds, fishing or swimming at Ana Reservoir and River, fishing in the private pond right outside the 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 serenity, great food, and comfortable environment are universally appealing for all visitors.

The Flyway Restaurant compliments the fine views and quality accommodations with homemade 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 much more from their extensive menu. The quality food, large portions, and friendly service all come at an affordable price as well.

While the Lodge is surrounded by large, beautiful deciduous trees and bushes, the flat desert landscape dominating the area gives visitors a great chance to see many miles in the distance. This is especially beautiful as the sun rises and sets on the horizon, creating magnificent colors to gaze upon with awe. It also gives bird watchers a chance to use their binoculars to see unique birds such as Sandhill Cranes, Ibises, Egrets, White Pelicans, and Tundra Swans among 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.
One of the most unique, picturesque landscapes in the Pacific Northwest, Lake County, Oregon, is among the few truly unspoiled places on earth. Part of the Great Basin region of the United States, Lake County is home to numerous large alkali lakes. At the south end of one of these, Summer Lake, lies ancient artesian hot mineral springs. After a short two-hour drive from Bend, Oregon, you arrive at this magical destination.

Welcome to Summer Lake Hot Springs

In an area known as the Oregon Outback

One of the most unique, picturesque landscapes in the Pacific Northwest, Lake County, Oregon, is among the few truly unspoiled places on earth. Part of the Great Basin region of the United States, Lake County is home to numerous large alkali lakes. At the south end of one of these, Summer Lake, lies ancient artesian hot mineral springs.

After a short two-hour drive from Bend, Oregon, you arrive at this magical destination.

A sacred place for serenity, healing and renewal
Where stars dance across the sky
While eco-friendly geothermal cabins warm your soul. Couples find time for one another while soaking in outdoor rock pools and Families gather to create lifelong memories.

Come discover the magic of Summer Lake Hot Springs!

541-943-3931

Sign up to receive emails

Online Reservations

Summer Lake Hot Springs ~
41777 Highway 31 ~
Paisley, OR 97636
duane@summerlakehotsprings.com

Take a Break at Summer Lake Hot Springs

It is no surprise that since Duane Graham purchased Summer Lake Hot Springs in 1996 the 145 acre property has seen many additions and improvements. Graham had been visiting the springs since 1988 and had always found healing properties not only in the springs but in the serenity of place - of the land.

Having refurbished vintage houses in Portland and Eugene, Graham incorporated his love of history and vintage into his designs. Massive timbers from long gone local mills, recycled materials and natural pigments have all been combined in the construction of a variety of welcoming, comfortable houses and cabins, two of which have recently been completed. Graham also upgraded the existing structures.

Graham’s designs are environmentally green and thermally heated with a rustic, artistic, eclectic feel.

Of course the iconic barn enclosed hot spring fed pool has been held as close to original as is realistic. There are also outdoor pools from which visitors can soak in and enjoy the incredible vistas that Summer Lake offers.

Even more fun is sinking into the healing waters in an outdoor pool, late at night and taking in the brilliance of a night sky unadulterated by ambient light.

The facility offers sites for tent camping, for recreational vehicles, campers and trailers. Additionally there are venues for weddings and other gatherings.

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 regular patrons from throughout the northwest, travelers and of course by locals.

By the way if you are passing through and have no swim suit or towels, they have a nice selection in the office to rent for a small fee.
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.

PLAYA: A Gift of Space

PLAYA is a non-profit art and science residency program that supports innovative thinking in the arts, literature, natural sciences and other fields of creative inquiry that provides individuals with the gift of space, solitude and community in the stunning landscape of Summer Lake, Oregon. A residency of two, four or eight weeks includes lodging, studio space and twice-weekly meals at no charge.

Away from the pressures of daily life, residents can focus on their projects, immerse themselves in the basin and rangeland desert landscape, and find inspiration through self-directed inquiry.

PLAYA’s notoriety is growing rapidly as seen by the rising numbers of artist and scientist applicants from around the United States and the world. PLAYA is supported exclusively by individual donations, grants and partnerships with arts and science organizations. PLAYA has received recognition and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Humanities and Oregon Cultural Trust to name a select few.

PLAYA invites the public to monthly PLAYA Presents, afternoons of open studios, readings and performances.

2019 Playa Presents Schedule

Please join us for open studio, performances, and reception with the artists and scientists. We’re located between milepost 81 & 82 on Hwy 31.

Day & Time
Saturdays
3 pm - 5 pm ( March - Sept )
1 pm - 3 pm ( Nov - Feb )

December 7  April 6
February 23  August 31
March 23     September 21

Visit our event page for more information - playasummerlake.org

Owners Janice & Ken Hamlington

Paisley Fabric & Quilt
Wide Selection of Fabric and Quilting Supplies
Classes, Workshops & More
Gifts - Antiques
Montana Silversmith Jewelry
Oregon Sunstone Jewelry
Open:
Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 5pm
541-219-6700
janhamlington@gmail.com
515 Mill Street - Paisley - Oregon

Please join us for open studio, performances, and reception with the artists and scientists. We’re located between milepost 81 & 82 on Hwy 31.

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541-219-6700
janhamlington@gmail.com
515 Mill Street - Paisley - Oregon
Driving into the small town of Paisley is like stepping into the past. The hamlet of 250 people hasn’t changed a lot since it was established in 1878. The Chewaucan River flows through town into an expansive valley where cattle graze on the ZX Ranch, one of the largest in the country. Paisley is the gateway to outdoor recreation, with camping spots along the river, and inviting pools for fishermen to try their luck hooking the native red band trout. Numerous hiking trails wind into the surrounding hills. Maps and brochures of the back country are available at the Paisley Ranger Station.

In November, a fire burned the Homestead Restaurant, built by John and Ellen Withers in 1983 to replace the original hotel and café built by T.J. Brattain in 1878. Visitors to Paisley can still get a meal at the Pioneer Saloon, established in 1883. In that era, Paisley had a reputation as a rowdy place when thirsty cowboys often got in fist fight; once there were five fights in one afternoon. The Pioneer retains the old west ambiance with its ornately carved bar that was shipped from Boston in 1905, sailed around the Horn and brought to town by a six-horse freight wagon. 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.

Next door, the Paisley Mercantile stocks a variety of grocery, hardware and outdoor recreation items. Since the loss of the Homestead Restaurant, the Mercantile has expanded to include a lunch counter and coffee bar. Espresso lovers can satisfy their craving at the Paisley Perk, a coffee kiosk on the corner.

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.

At Paisley Charter School, about 70 students attend classes from kindergarten through grade 12. Foreign exchange students reside in a dormitory supervised by house parents. See Glimpse, Pg.53
A Glimpse Into the Past

These students from many countries add diversity to the high school student body. The Broncos athletic teams include cross country, track, volleyball and basketball.

In many ways, Paisley is like a big extended family, with volunteers staffing the city fire department and transporting people with medical needs to the Lake District Hospital, 45 miles south. 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 potlucks. The Volunteers in Paisley host annual Fiesta Dinner, Halloween Party and Holiday Fair. 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 and provides office space for a Veterans Services Officer, a physical therapist and physicians assistance who come each week from Lakeview.

In August 2018, the town of Paisley was threatened by the Watson Creek Fire which consumed 58,330 acres to the west. An Incident Command Team set up camp in the Murphy’s pasture, with 1,068 fire fighting personnel and three helicopters based at the Paisley airport. Thanks to their efforts, the town was spared and the spirit of the old west lives on.

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-Winena 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.

Foot Bridge across the Chewaucan River

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

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

Marstars 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.
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 ponderosa, white bark pine and white fir. The Lookout Rock Trail head is one mile past Coral 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!

Photos by Toni Bailie

Chewaucan River Valley from Bear Creek Trail

Moss Pass Trail offers amazing views.

View from the Palisades

Enjoy!
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Photo Courtesy Tammy Lesieur
Crater to Crater on the Newberry Country Trail... Lakes, Desert and National Parks

Originally starting as a three-hour car tour around the Newberry Crater, the trail has morphed into a **three-loop tour** of the region: the High Lakes, the High Desert (Oregon Outback) and the Crater Lake area to the south of the Newberry National Monument in La Pine, Oregon- the trailhead for the Newberry Country Trail.

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 recreation 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.

**Have fun!**

**Largest Volcano in the Cascade Range: The Newberry Volcano**

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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ABOUT OUR CITY

Established in 1876, the town of Lakeview is the county seat of Lake County Oregon. It is often referred to as the “Tallest Town in Oregon” with its elevation of 4798 feet.

Originally the town was known as Bullard’s Ranch or Bullard’s Creek but the name gave way to Lakeview because of its outstanding views of Goose Lake at that time.

Lakeview grew into a commercial center for area sheep and cattle ranchers, with primary industry gradually moving more toward lumber and a variety of agricultural businesses.

Now, 140 years later, the town continues to thrive with an active business community, excellent schools, a hospital and full range of medical and dental services and is home to the main branch of the Lake County Library.

Some of the things to do in and around the city of Lakeview: Visit Old Perpetual Geyser, Ski Warner Canyon, Visit Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge or Check out Schminck Memorial Museum.

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