

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES - DIAL 911

Fossil: Asher Medical Center, 541-763-2725

Mitchell: Asher Medical Clinic, 541-462-3313

Prineville: St. Charles Hospital, 541-447-6254

John Day: Blue Mountain Hospital, 541-575-1311

RESTAURANTS, COFFEE SHOPS

Fossil: Kountry Kafe, 541-763-3333

Home on the Road, 541-763-4766

RJ's Restaurant, 541-763-3335

Service Creek: Stage Stop Café, 541-468-3331

Spray: Lone Elk Market & Deli, 541-468-2443

Dayville: Dayville Café, 541-987-2122

Condon: Round-Up Bar & Kitchen, 541-384-5100

Country Flowers, Sandwiches, Espresso, 541-384-4120

The Drive-In, 541-384-3922

2 Country Girls Bistro, Espresso & Catering 541-256-0702

Mitchell: Sidewalk Café, 541-462-3800

Little Pine Café, 541-462-3532

The Place on Bridge Creek, 541-462-3434

Tiger Town Brewing Co. 541-462-3663

LODGING

Condon: Condon Motel, 541-384-2181

Historic Condon Hotel, 541-384-4624,

www.hotelcondon.com

Mitchell: The Oregon Hotel, 541-462-3027

Sky Hook Motel, 541-462-3569

Painted Hills Vacation Rentals, 541-462-3921

Off Grid Ranch Air B&B, www.airbnb.com

Fossil: Fossil Motel, 541-763-4075, www.fossilmotel.com

Wilson Ranches Retreat Bed & Breakfast, 541-763-2227,

www.wilsonranchesretreat.com

Service Creek: Service Creek Stage Stop 541-468-3331,

www.servicecreekstagestop.com

Antelope: Morelli's Bed & Breakfast, 541-489-3324

Spray: River Bend Retreat, 541-468-3113,

www.riverbendretreat.com

The River Bend Motel, 541-468-2053

Monument: Monument Motel & RV Park, 541-934-2242,

www.monumentmotel.com

Kimberly: Lands Inn Bed & Breakfast, 541-934-2333,

www.landsinn.net

Dayville: Fish House Inn Bed & Breakfast & RV Park,

541-987-2124, www.fishhouseinn.com

Dayville South Fork RV Park & Tent Spaces,

541-987-2454

FUEL AND/OR AUTO REPAIR

Fossil: Fossil Fill-Up, 541-763-3333

Spray: Lone Elk Market, open 7 days, 541-468-2443

Mitchell: Little Pine Truck Stop, 541-462-3103

Dayville: South Fork Gas & Mini-mart, 541-987-2106

High Desert Towing & Repair, 541-987-2150

Fossil: Wright Chevrolet Repair & Towing, 541-763-4175

Spray: Ordway Garage, auto repair, 541-468-3200

Condon: Hatt's Fuel Stop & Mart, 541-384-2646

Bennett's Tire & Auto, 541-384-2131

Kimberly: John Day River Trading Post, 541-934-2060.

OUTFITTERS/RAFTS

Mah Hah Outfitters (fishing/float), 888-624-9424

Service Creek Stage Stop (rents rafts), 541-468-3331

MUSEUMS/EXPLORATION

Fossil: Fossil Museum, (Wheeler County Museum)

Wheeler Fossil Beds, High School, dig fossils. 541-763-4303

Oregon Paleo Lands Visitor Center, 541-763-4480

www.paleolands.org

Spray: Spray Museum, Hwy 19

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Hwy 19,

541-987-2333

FUN PLACES/ACTIVITIES/SHOPPING/GROCERIES

Fossil: Paleo Lands Visitors' Center, books, art and exhibits.

Fossil Clothes Closet & More, 541-993-4160

Fossil Historic Walking Tour (brochures at Fossil Museum and OPLI Visitors' Center).

Fossil Findings, visitor information, gifts, local art.

541-763-4766

Fossil Mercantile, 541-763-4617

Pony Espresso, espresso

Mitchell: Judy's Place, 541-462-3000

Mitchell Trading Post and More, old-fashioned grocery store. 541-462-3585

The Attic, used clothing and more. 541-462-3585

Lucky Strike Mine and Museum

Hwy 26 Coffee, espresso

Spray: Spray General Store, 541-468-2254

Dayville: Dayville Merc, 541-987-2133

Condon: Powell's Books-in Country Flowers.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, 541-987-2333

Cottonwood Canyon State Park, 503-360-1021

Wheeler County News, online: www.wheelercountynews.com

The Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, a 501c3 educational non-profit, based in Fossil, Oregon, has a Visitors' Center staffed by volunteers to help plan your visit to the area; recommend places to explore (which might include camping, cycling, fishing hunting or rafting), help connect you with eastern Oregon's ancient past, present landscapes, and vital communities or answer your questions on local attractions.



BROCHURE PROVIDED BY

Oregon Paleo
Lands Institute

P.O. Box 104

333 Fourth Street

Fossil, Oregon 97830

541-763-4480

www.paleolands.org

paleolands@gmail.com

[f:Oregon Paleo Lands Institute](https://www.facebook.com/OregonPaleoLandsInstitute)

FIND TIME!

A VISITORS GUIDE TO
North Central Oregon
and the
Mid-John Day Basin



HISTORY, GEOLOGY, NATURE
and ADVENTURE

Explore
ancient volcanoes and fossil beds.
Float
the Wild and Scenic John Day River.
Discover
the historic Dalles Military Road.

Visit us, and
FIND TIME!

OREGON PALEO LANDS INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 104, 333 Fourth Street

Fossil, Oregon 97830

541-763-4480

www.paleolands.org • paleolands@gmail.com

DISCOVERING THE LANDSCAPE:

Geology and Rock Formations

The **John Day Basin** is a geologic wonderland that records much of Oregon's ancient history. Here are some of the scenic places on public lands you'll want to explore!



SUTTON MOUNTAIN: Just east of the Painted Hills, the rugged landscape of Sutton Mountain Wilderness Study Area displays deposits of volcanic ash from 30 to 20 million years ago, capped by 16-million-year-old Columbia River basalt—enormous lava flows that covered parts of eastern Oregon and north central Washington..



FOSSIL BEDS: Wheeler High School, Fossil. The bed of a 33-million-year-old lake, the fossil beds are open for public collecting. Leaves of oaks, maple, and Oregon's state fossil—Metasequoia, are frequent finds.



PAINTED HILLS: While a cooling trend began 35 million years ago, in the Painted Hills, darker red bands represent soils deposited during wetter warmer times. One of Oregon's seven wonders: John Day Fossil Beds.

CLARNO PALISADES: Almost 50 million years ago, a sub-tropical forest of ancestral palms, bananas, citrus, and Cyprus grew here. Volcanoes towered above the trees. The ancient volcanic mudflows preserved leaves and other fossils.



THOMAS CONDON PALEONTOLOGY CENTER, SHEEP ROCK, BLUE BASIN:

Panoramas of the last 55 million years of change in the John Day Basin and the earth's best record of the Age of Mammals. Hikes, displays, ranger talks and tours, books. John Day Fossil Beds.

PINE CREEK RANCH: Owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, this Preserve 15 miles west of Fossil is open to hiking. Several old trails wind among ancient volcanoes.



WHEELER COUNTY COURTHOUSE: Built in 1901, this fully restored and functioning structure is the second oldest county courthouse in Oregon. The adjacent city park hosts in Fossil a 3-day-long Bluegrass Festival in July each year.



EXPLORING THE JOHN DAY BASIN:

Hiking, Cycling and Rafting

Wheeler County and the John Day Basin rank among the most sparsely populated and wild places in Oregon. OPLI can help you plan your adventures!



HIKING: Some trails—Blue Basin, Painted Hills, and Carroll Rim—lead you on short hikes in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. You can also explore public lands without needing a trail on the Sutton Mountain WSA and Spring Basin Wilderness Areas on BLM land, and the canyons of the Pine Creek Ranch near Fossil.



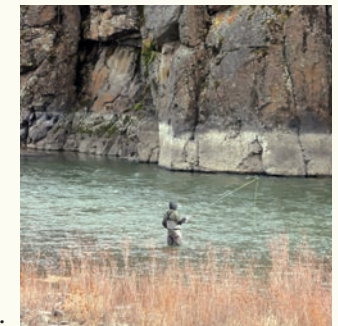
CYCLING: The rural roads of the John Day Basin are outstanding places to cycle. County gravel roads are lightly traveled, and make excellent mountain bike routes. Paved County and State highways, offer challenging hilly rides, or scenic cruising along the John Day River. Services include restaurants in local communities and rest areas along roads.

FLOATING THE JOHN DAY RIVER: The Wild and Scenic John Day River offers an endless variety of geology, wildflowers and wildlife during rafting season, usually April-June. Rent your own rafts at Service Creek Stage Stop, or take a trip with outfitters in the basin. Put-in at Kimberly, Spray, Service Creek, Twickenham, Burnt Ranch, and Clarno.

FISHING:

Bass and Channel Catfish: on the main stream of the John Day River (Catfish any time of day or night. 2 lbs to 30 lbs.)

Trout: upper sections of the John Day River above Monument or Dayville. (Rainbow, Brook, and Brown.) *Bring your Fly Rod.*



CAMPING in the John Day Basin

FEES VARY

FOSSIL AREA:

1. **Cottonwood Canyon State Park:** 21 primitive campsites, 34 miles northwest of Condon on Hwy 206. *Web link:* **OregonStateParks.org**.
2. **Fossil Motel and Trailer Park:** Full hook ups for RV and travel trailers in a park. Limited tent camping. 105 First Street, Fossil **541-496-4075** (www.FossilMotelandRVPark.com).
3. **Wheeler County Fairgrounds RV Park:** Fossil, Showers. **541-763-4560**.
4. **Shelton Wayside County Park:** 14 miles south of Fossil on OR Hwy 19. Campsites, pit toilets, no showers, water. **541-763-2010**.
5. **Bear Hollow County Park:** 7 miles south of Fossil on OR Hwy 19. Pit toilets, no showers, water at campsites. **541-763-2010**.
6. **Big Service Corral: Campsites and cabins** OR Hwy 19, 3 miles north of Service Creek. Hwy 207 Jct. **541-468-2121**.
7. **Donnelly-Service Creek Put-In Area:** Undeveloped BLM site on OR Hwy 207, just south of junction of OR Hwy 19/207 at Service Creek. Pit toilets, no water. Room for six tents. **541-416-6700**.

SPRAY AREA:

8. **Muleshoe Recreation Area:** Undeveloped BLM site 10 miles west of Spray next to John Day River. Ten tent spaces and trailer parking. Primitive, pit toilet, no water. **541-416-6700**.
9. **Spray Riverfront Park:** Grassy, shaded site along the John Day River just outside of Spray. Picnic tables, toilets, water and boat launch. **541-468-2069**.

MITCHELL AREA AND OCHOCO MOUNTAINS:

11. **Ochoco Divide:** A USFS campground at Ochoco Pass on US Hwy 26, 16 miles west of Mitchell; 31 miles east of Prineville. Toilets, water and showers. Services for trailers. 28 sites. Open May-October.
12. **Walton Lake:** A USFS Campground on Walton Lake, on FS Road 22 between Prineville and Mitchell; 32 miles east of Prineville. 30 plus sites, 2 group sites. Boat launch, swimming, fishing. No motorized craft on lake.
13. **Barnhouse USFS Camp:** 6 miles south of US Hwy 26 on FS Road 12, 16 miles east of Mitchell. Pit toilets, no water, undeveloped.
14. **Twickenham Put-In,** BLM put-in point on John Day River, 12 miles south of OR Hwy 19 on Rowe Creek Road. Pit toilet. No camping.
15. **Byrd Rock Put-In,** BLM put-in point on John Day River, Follow Burnt Ranch Road north past Painted Hills, Primitive, pit toilet, no water.

KIMBERLY, MONUMENT AND NORTH FORK, JOHN DAY RIVER:

16. **Lone Pine Camping Area:** Undeveloped BLM site 1.5 miles north of Kimberly on Hwy 402 next to North Fork of John Day River. Five tent spaces, primitive, pit toilet, no water. **541-416-6700**.
17. **Big Bend Camping Area:** Undeveloped BLM site 5 miles north of Kimberly on Hwy 402 next to the North Fork of John Day River. 4 tent spaces, primitive, pit toilet, no water. **541-416-6700**.
18. **Lands Inn: Scenic Bed and Breakfast,** areas for tenting. Solar power, small airstrip. **541-934-2333** (www.landsinn.net).
19. **Clyde Holliday State Park,** 8 miles west of John Day. 31 campsites, showers. **541-932-4463**.
20. **Bates State Park,** Historic mill site. 3 miles east of Austin Junction, 16 miles east of Prairie City. 28 campsites, vault toilets, water. **541-932-4463**.

More camping:

www.nps.gov/joda/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm

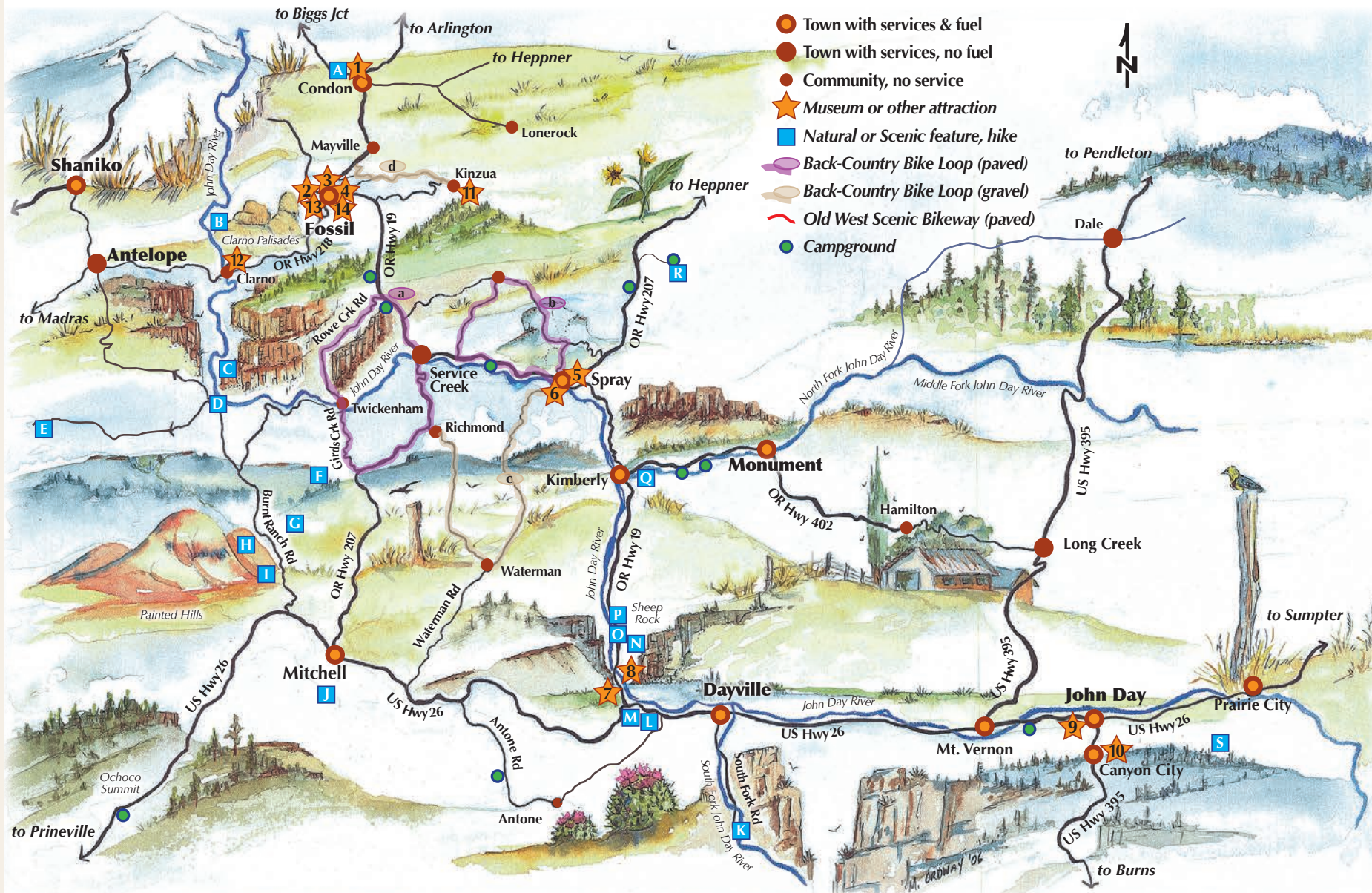
★ MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

1. Condon Railroad Museum & Gilliam Co. Museum/Fairground, **Condon**
2. Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, **Fossil**
3. Fossil Museum (Historical), **Fossil**
4. Wheeler Fossil Beds, **High School Fossil**
5. Spray Museum, **Spray**
6. Spray General Store, **Spray**
7. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument: Condon Center
8. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument: Sheep Rock Unit
9. Kam Wah Chung Museum, **John Day**
10. Grant County Museum, **John Day**
11. Kinzua Golf Course, **Fossil**
12. Camp Hancock (OMSI), **Fossil**
13. Pine Creek School House (1870s), **Fossil**
14. Wheeler County Courthouse (1901), **Fossil**

■ NATURAL & SCENIC FEATURES

- A: SeaWest Wind Farm (*Private with roadside viewpoints*)
- B: Clarno Unit, John Day Fossil Beds
- C: Spring Basin Wilderness Area
- D: Burnt Ranch (*private*) & The Dalles Military Road
- E: Horse Heaven Mine (*private*)
- F: Black Canyon (*BLM*)
- G: Sutton Mountain Wilderness Study Area, **Mitchell**
- H: Painted Hills, John Day Fossil Beds–Leaf Hill and Painted Cove walks
- I: Painted Hills, John Day Fossil Beds–Carroll Rim Hike and Overlook, **Mitchell**
- J: Bridge Creek Wilderness (*fire, 2006*)

- K: Black Canyon Wilderness, USFS
- L: Mascall Overlook, John Day Fossil Beds, **Dayville**
- M: Picture Gorge (US Hwy 26 and OR Hwy 19)
- N: Sheep Rock and John Day River (OR Hwy 19)
- O: Blue Basin Hike, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
- P: Foree Basin Hike, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument
- Q: Thomas Orchards, **Kimberly**
- R: Bull Prairie Lake and Trailhead, **Spray**
- S: Strawberry Wilderness Area, **Prairie City**



Brochure and map produced and published by the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute, 333 Fourth Street • Fossil, Oregon (www.paleolands.org); Ph: (541) 763-4480 with support from the Shelk Foundation (shelkfoundation.org) and John Day River Territory (www.visiteasternoregon.com/explore/places/john-day-river-territory/)

BIKE LOOPS

- a. **Service Creek-Richmond-Twickenham:** 40 miles.
- b. **Spray-Winlock:** 25 miles.
- c. **Spray-Waterman-Richmond-Service Creek return to Spray.**
- d. **Fossil-Kinzua:** 18 miles.

More trips on the **Painted Hills and Old West Scenic Bikeways** can be found at www.oregon.gov/oprd/BIKE/Pages/index.aspx.

Please check locally, and use more detailed maps to ensure a safe trip!

PLEASE NOTE:
The information presented was accurate at the time of printing. Please check on-line or with visitors centers on the status of any of these places. Some attractions may have limited or seasonal hours.

Fun Facts: Natural History

Did You Know?

- The colors in the Painted Hills are related to ancient climates. Deep reds indicates tropical climates and high rainfall some 55-40 million years ago. Light blue-green and tan are times of cool, dry conditions 40-20 million years ago.
- Oregon's state fossil, the *Metasequoia*, is a tree that was abundant in the John Day Basin 35 to 16 million years ago. Today this deciduous conifer is native only to China—though transplanted trees grow well in Portland, Oregon.
- Some of Oregon's oldest rocks—dated at 225 to 300 million years—are found in the John Day Basin near Turtle Cove, at Canyon Mountain, and north of Mitchell.
- The bright yellow flower, *Golden Bee Cleome*, grows only in the Painted Hills.
- The *Hackberry Tree* is one of the oldest living tree species that still grows here. Its ancestry goes back to the Eocene, some 50 million years ago.
- The oldest known human habitations date to 6,000 years ago, based upon rock shelters and pit houses near the John Day River.
- Several Native American peoples hunted and fished here—Warm Springs, Bannock, Northern Paiute, Cayuse and Umatilla Peoples.
- After gold was discovered in Canyon City, in 1862, several forts were established, including Fort Watson on the Antone Ranch Road near Mitchell, where several US cavalry soldiers were killed by Chief Paulina's Northern Paiute band in 1864.
- In 1871, soldiers traveling from Boise to The Dalles along *The Dalles Military Road* discovered abundant fossils near the Blue Basin. The finds drew famous paleontologists Marsh and Edward Cope here, along with Thomas Condon, in 1876-1890.
- Rancher Thomas Hoover established the town of Fossil in 1876, naming it for the fossils on his ranch.
- In 1927, *Kinzua Pine Mills Company* established the town of Kinzua, 8 miles east of Fossil, and built a rail line to Condon. The mill closed in 1976: fire destroyed the Town in 1978, but the classic 6-hole public golf course still operates there today.