Serving the McKenzie River Valley ... And Subscriber Nadine Scott of Leaburg

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021 Volume 43, Issue 39





### Sheriff's Reports

Occupant(s) observed throwing lit cigarettes out of the window

PAGE 3



### **Home Country**

Ol bears'll be out and wrasslin' around somethin' to eat

PAGE 4



### Free Traveler's Guide

The annual reference source information about the McKenzie River Valley.

**Inside This Issue** 

## Reflections launches new website

### **Updates include better search functions**

Since 1978 McKenzie River Reflections has been focused on serving the McKenzie River Valley's nine unincorporated communities - for local news and information on area activities, recreation resources and history. Originally produced using a typewriter to set copy that was then waxed onto layout sheets, production methods advanced to Compugraphic typesetters in the following decade and computer/laser output soon after.

In 2013 the newspaper's first website was created as an expanded platform option for readers. It offered thousands of pages photos, notes, stories and archives.

Much of that content has been transferred to a new site that debuted this week. Visitors there will find they have a number of top screen choices including news, sports, opinions, history and police/fire reports. All were designed to help readers continue to make the McKenzie Connection via River Reflections.



The Home Page at mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com includes Breaking News

## Fire-related theft suspects won't be going to trial

### Surveillance video deemed insufficient evidence

It was greeted as good news locally when the Lane County deputies assigned to the McKenzie Valley arrested two suspects connected to thefts on fireimpacted properties in

"The McKenzie District deputies serve the community members in the McKenzie River Valley using a community policing model, which allows deputies to provide enhancpolice services in addition to the services they

already receive as Lane County residents," Lane County Sheriff's Sergeant Carrie Carver said at that time. She added, "This theft was able to be investigated because the McKenzie River Valley has district deputies dedicated to respond to and investigate crimes in that area."

One of the crimes she referred to involved a safe owned by Jim "Cowboy" Watts of Finn Rock, whose house was destroyed in the Holiday Farm Fire. He reported someone had been tampering with the safe and several items in his workshop had been stolen.

When Deputy Sheriff Tom Speldrich went to the scene, he found several tools and crowbars were still stuck in the upper right hand corner of the safe's door but it hadn't been opened. Watts gave the deputy the license plate number for a black Chevy pickup a neighbor had seen in his driveway and authorized police to install two cameras on the

property.

Later, an image from one camera showed a match for the plate the neighbor wrote down. The other camera took images of a man and woman who appeared to walk directly up to the safe, look at it and then leave.

During follow-up interviews another woman told Speldrich she recognized the man from the surveillance camera, which led to a follow-up with 50-year-old Patrick Parvin of Eugene. During questioning, he confessed to being on the property and trying to pry open the safe with another man. He also told police the other man, 42-yearold Gerald Poundstone II, removed some tools and sockets from the property.

Both men were charged with both theft and criminal mischief as well as criminal trespass for what deputies said they believed would be a solid case.

That's probably what other people who have been

Fire related theft - Page 2

## Road maintenance

### County crews keeping busy



Lane County's Bridge Crew wa busy last week replacing about 80 damaged deck boards throughout the Goodpasture Covered Bridge. Increased traffic there had caused accelerated wear and tear. THe work was done to help protect the stringers underneath (which support the bridge deck) and help keep the structure in good repair.



The other part of the Bridge Crew was busy replacing guardrails along Blue River Road, leading to the Blue River Dam. Existing guardrails there were fire-damaged as well as hit by falling trees. Drivers will notice the new guardrails are higher and closer to the road than the previous decades-old guardrail to meet current safety standards.

## Wildfire Awareness Month: OR prepares for Fire Season 2021 could be active year

Eric Tegethoff Oregon News Service

May is Wildfire Awareness Month, and the western United States is preparing for an active year.

Coming off a severe wildfire season where nine Oregonians were killed and 40,000 were displaced, preventing fires is on the minds of many in the state.

Kristin Babbs, president and CEO of Keep Oregon Green, said prevention is

"Over 70% of Oregon's wildfires are started by people, and that places the power of prevention squarely in our hands," Babbs contended. "Public lands saw large crowds last summer, and land managers expect to see those same high numbers again this year."

Babbs urged people to keep fire restrictions in mind before heading out. Near their homes, she advised people to keep close watch on debris burns and be careful when using machinery such as lawnmowers that

could overheat and spark dry grasses.

Nearly the entire state is abnormally dry and more than three-quarters is experiencing moderate drought or higher.

Babbs pointed out there already have been fires. At the end of March, for instance, nearly 200 homes in Bend were evacuated because of a brush fire.

She added fire restrictions may be in effect depending on where folks are in the

"Whether folks are at home or on the job, or they're out having fun, predict the outcome of any outdoor activity that could possibly spark a wildfire," Babbs stressed. "Predictable is preventable."

Keep Oregon Green has a map on its website of current fire conditions and restrictions across the state.

Climate scientists note droughts and severe wildfire seasons are becoming more frequent as temperatures rise from climate change.



## **Local for Gov?**

### Harbick says he's readying a run

RAINBOW: "Being born and raised here I've seen a lot of things in the last year and a half that I can't just sit back and watch without stepping up and trying to carve a new path." Those words, Darin Harbick says, are key to his decision to announce plans to become the next governor of Oregon.

Some things that triggered his decision include restrictions imposed for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. "I just feel we're losing more and more of our freedoms," Harbick feels. "There are mandates and laws that are not a choice anymore. I think we're getting away from having choices. It's not people making these decisions - it's top down leadership."

And, it's at the top where he sees the need for change. "The governor has made all the choices right now to shut down businesses, to allow

lawlessness to happen in Portland and Eugene. A lot of those businesses won't be coming back," he feels.

qualifications Harbick points to his past 14 years on the McKenzie School Board, 15 on the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce board and another three with Travel Lane County. He's also operated five businesses, coached a girls' high school basketball team to a state championship, and a women's basketball at a private college in Eugene.

While some people Local for Gov? - Page 2



**Darin Harbick** 

## **Letters to the Editor**

## Spring cleaning The McKenzie Community

Track and Field in Blue River is making an appeal for people power to help with a spring clean up at the Blue River facility. The track was fortunate and received only minimal damage during the wildfire. The track was a sheltering location and the valiant efforts by firefighters spared the building and possibly several lives were saved. Grants and insurance coverage provided the track with needed repairs for the electrical damage to the septic system controls and inside cleanup from smoke damage. A grant has made it possible for the AMJ Building to be equipped with a propane powered generator to enhance it's capability to serve as a shelter during any future emergencies. Although the track saw very little sporting activity over the last year, the McKenzie Community School did have limited team practice sessions and a running group from the Portland

area used the track for a qualifying event. Our high quality track surface continues to serve as an ideal walking, jogging and running location for all wishing to use it. We also provide on site toilet facilities and water fountain for community use. The expenses to maintain our non-profit facility can be quite high and thanks to a very generous community we have managed to meet most needs. One important aspect of our continuing success has been the reliance on volunteers responding to our call for help. Our spring clean-up event is planned for this Saturday, May 15 with a goal of clearing the grounds of weeds, blackberries and some fire debris. We also will be moving pole vault and high jump mats and hurdles for storage. The activity will all be outdoors and safety protocols will be followed. We are needing folks with weed eater equipment to spend a few hours Saturday morning helping us tidy up our grounds before some planned summer events.

Group will be using our facility once again this year as an overnight camping site in June. The runners from Portland may be interested in returning to our track this summer and we hope to welcome these groups to a well maintained facility. The track is also looking forward to hosting the Locals Helping Locals people for a commemorative event to be held over Labor Day. Another planned event is the dedication of a memorial plaza surrounding the flagpole. Donors have been purchasing engraved paver blocks which will create a suitable location for ceremonies such as the dedication on Veteran's Day, Nov 11. The Board of Directors of the MCTF is determined to continue providing our community with an outstanding public use facility and hope those in our community will become stakeholders and help us meet this goal.

The McKenzie Community Track Spring Clean-up....Sat. May 15 ....9am... Blue River.



**Continued From Page 1** 

installing security cameras after a rash of thefts in the McKenzie area think too. But it's not that simple.

According to evaluations by the Lane County District Attorney's Office, a case against Poundstone wasn't filed because there was "insufficient evidence to prove charges beyond a reasonable doubt."

In his opinion, Assistant DA David Mintz concluded there was prosecutors wouldn't be able to prove the charges. He added that, "Given that the alleged stolen property was not recovered and there was no witness (aside from the co-suspect) to the alleged criminal acts, the case cannot be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

In evaluating Parvin, the other

suspect in the investigation, the DA's office also decided not to file a case but said held open the option they might at a later time if any additional information is submitted. Without that happening, their decision was based on the stolen property not being recovered or its value determined as well as, "Nobody witnessed these two suspects commit the alleged criminal acts."

Those sort of conclusions fall far short of what Watts was hoping for and add to his disappointment with trying to deal with thieves. Besides the value connected with the loss of his home in the fire, he says somebody has made off with close to \$50,000 of his possessions. Several break-ins at his property had started before the fire and included one instance

when robbers arrived with a moving van that they loaded up before making their getaway. Although he filed a report on what was going on, he said no one has been held accountable.

"Recovering stolen property is often important in theft prosecutions to determine what was stolen, its value, and who stole it," Minx points out. In the video in this case, he noted, "Did not capture the alleged criminal mischief, theft, or attempted

Watts says he's afraid he isn't the only person who won't be able to make robbers accountable. "If the District Attorney is doing nothing that sends a very clear message to thieves," he says. "I hope other people will tell them to prosecute these crimes."

## **Local for Gov?**

### **Continued From Page 1**

might ask if a governor candidate should first have prior county or state level leadership experience, Harbick discounts that approach. My reason for running is that I'm not a politician. A lot of those positions are very political and require law and rules. I think I'm more of a leader and a coach. The governor needs to be that."

Harbick points to his business background, combined coaching his team to a state championship as strong points. "I look at it as being more of a leader. Senators, lawmakers and politicians are people who do what their job is. I don't feel that's my expertise."

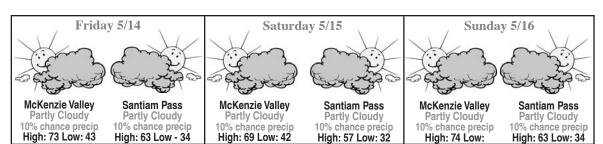
With over 53 percent of land federally owned in Oregon, some issues ranging from possible hydro dam breaching to timber harvest levels are likely to continue to be contentious. Harbick admits up to now he hasn't been involved with those sort of issues, and has focused, "On helping the community - like fire victims and moving logs and trees so people can rebuild their homes. I will have an awesome team to get the pros and cons of issues, and then as a group we'll make the decisions. I want the peoples' voice heard."

He announced his decision on Facebook last week, but official campaigning can't get off the ground until filings are made with Oregon's Secretary of State on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Selling his Takoda's Restaurant to his daughter and son-in-law, "frees up time for me to take on this pursuit," Harbick

Getting started at this early date wasn't something he'd anticipated. "I was called to do this on a higher level and I'm answering the call," Harbick says. "I'm going to go for it."

Over the next year he plans to tour the state and meet with entrepreneurs, educators, and mental health leaders.

"I love this state but it's going in a direction right now that I can't just sit back," Harbick said. "I'm the type of person that if I see something I think I can fix then I'm going to go for it and throw my hat in the ring with everything I've got. When I do that I usually succeed. I've got a track record at







### **McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week**

The McKenzie Varsity Girls and Boys Track and Field teams travel to North Lake High School this Friday, May 14 to compete in the Outback Invitational. Field events start at 11:00 am and track events will start at 12:30 pm.

#### **Levi Lockart Throws For Second Place At Mapleton**

McKenzie freshman Levi Lockart took second place in the Discus event last Wednesday, May 5, at the Mapleton May Meet. Lockart led his Eagle teammates to a 5th place finish in the six-team Boys meet. Triangle Lake won the day with 139 points scored and easily outdistanced the rest of the field. Mohawk finished second with 99 pts. followed by Crow with 64.5 pts., Mapleton with 56 pts., McKenzie at 41.5 pts. and Riddle sixth with 15 pts.

Triangle Lake also won the Girls meet, also easily outpacing the rest of the competition. The Laker girls amassed 163 points and Mohawk finished far back in second place with 47 pts. Crow finished a close third at 45 pts. followed by Mapleton with 43.5 pts., Elkton at 40 pts., Siletz Valley with 34 pts., Riddle with 25.5 pts., and McKenzie in eighth place at

Lockart's second place throw in the Discus was measured at 93 ft. 2.5 in. and Josh Esty of Triangle Lake won the event with a throw of 93 ft. 7.5 in. Eagle teammate, sophomore Cody Moralas finished sixth with a mark of 59 ft. 2.5 in. Lockart also placed fifth in the Shot Put, putting the iron implement 30 ft. 2 in. Mapleton's JJ Neece won the Shot with a throw of 38 ft. 5.5

McKenzie sophomore Trent Peek took home fourth in the Long Jump with a leap of 13 ft. 9 in. He was followed by Eagle teammates, freshman Thomas Hayes in fifth place at 11 ft. 6 in., and Moralas in sixth place at 6 ft. 0 in. DayKotae McAvoy from Riddle won the Long Jump with a leap of 14 ft. 4 in. Peek threw a fifth place mark in the Javelin, sticking the spear at 93 ft. 4 in. Lockart threw for a 90 ft. 8 in mark and seventh place, Hayes finished ninth at 79 ft. 1 in., and Moralas took thirteenth place at 33 ft. 11 in. The Javelin winner was Neece of Mapleton with a long throw of 158 ft. 3 in.

Aiden O'Dea of Mohawk won the 100-meter event in a time of 11:90 seconds. Eagle Peek ran to a sixth place finish, timed in 13.59 sec. (a personal record) and Hayes finished eleventh in 15.17 sec. (personal record). The McKenzie 4x100 meter Relay team finished third out of three teams running, timing out at 1:08.49 min. That Eagle team consisted of Thomas Hayes, Levi Lockart, Trent Peek, and Cody Moralas. Mohawk won the 4X100 in a time of 49.34 sec.

McKenzie sophomore Hailey Prater brought home a second place finish in the Javelin event, with a good stick measured at 59 ft. 7 in., a personal record. Junior sister teammate Hannah Prater finished eleventh in the Javelin with a mark of 27 ft. 7 in. and Clara Simonsen of Crow won with a mark of 72 ft. 8 in. Hailey tied for seventh in the Long Jump with Brier Shird of Mapleton, both girls jumping 8 ft. 5 in. Kiele Riggs representing Triangle Lake won the Long Jump with a leap of 13 ft. 8 in.

Hailey earned another seventh place finish, this one in the Discus. Her throw of 45 ft. 4 in., a personal record, and Hannah's twelfth place finish mark of 40 ft. 8 inches followed the winning toss of Shay Robertson from Siletz Valley, who measured at 74 ft. 1 in. Robertson was a dual winner in the field events, also taking the Shot Put with a throw of 32 ft. 5 in. Hailey placed tenth at 18 ft. 7 in. and Hannah eleventh at 17 ft. 6 in.



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#### REPORT WEATHER READINGS TAKEN AT THE READINGS TAKEN AT **US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE** <u>High</u> <u>Rain Releases</u> Riverflow <u>Date</u> Low <u>Date</u> <u> High</u> Low Rain 5/4 77 53 0 470 cfs 5/4 43 0.05 3,460 cfs 70 5/5 91 480 cfs 47 0 5/5 72 44 0 3,460 cfs 5/6 76 46 0.07 470 cfs 45 3,640 cfs 5/6 80 0 5/7 51 42 470 cfs 5/7 43 0.15 3,650 cfs 0.16 68 5/8 58 38 0 470 cfs 5/8 60 35 0.05 3,500 cfs 5/9 61 45 0 470 cfs 5/9 62 3,220 cfs 480 cfs 5/10 0.01 3,100 cfs

## Sheriff's Report

May 3: 7:02 a.m: Assist, Information - 55400 block, McK. River Dr.

11:02 a.m: Citizen Contact -Horse Creek Rd. & McK. Hwy.

12:32 p.m: Assist Oregon State Police – McK. Hwy. Milepost 46.

4:12 p.m: Reckless Driving - Donna Rd. & McGowan Creek Rd. A white Dodge sedan was observed speeding and attempting to pass unsafely on Marcola Rd. It was last observed pulling into the Mohawk General Store.

**4:20 p.m:** Vandalism, Criminal Mischief - 43600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:28 p.m:** Narcotics, Drug Information - Caddis Ln. & McK. River Dr.

5:12 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - N. Gate Creek Rd. & McK. Hwy. A black Mercedes C class was unable to maintain its lane or speed while driving. The occupant(s) were also observed throwing lit cigarettes out of the window.

5:13 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - 38700 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

NewsArk

155555555

**6:18 p.m:** Burglary - 91200 blk, Donna Rd.

7:09 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver -McGowan overlook. 7:59 p.m: Repossessed Vehicle

92000 blk, Marcola Rd. **9:16 p.m:** Illegal Burn - 47300

blk, McK. Hwy. 9:24 p.m: Illegal Burn - 46100 blk, McK. Hwy.

May 4: 11:21 a.m: Theft From Vehicle - 36500 blk, Pico St.

12:53 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 51400 blk, Blue River Dr.

2:15 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 42100 blk, McK. Hwy. Domestic dispute between family members. Deputies responded and determined there were no injuries or prosecution desired.

2:22 p.m: Reckless Driving -McK. Hwy. Mp. 27.

2:52 p.m: Civil Service - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**6:01 p.m:** Vehicle Fire - McK. Hwy. & Aufderheide Dr.

May 5: 12:02 a.m: Alarm -38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.

7:01 a.m: Drug Info, Narcotics Caddis Ln. & McK. River.

12:28 p.m: Drug Info, Narcotics Caddis Ln. & McK. River.

4:04 p.m: Speeding Vehicle -Millican Rd. & McK. Hwy.

...saving stories

from the rising

tide of time.

Couple Survive

Crushed Car Wreck

Disposal Site Questioned

From February 7, 1992 edition of McKenzie River Reflections

River Reflections

A Winning Day At Great Race

Annual Event Raises Funds For Community Lions Group

Jolin, Dominy Attend Town Hall

5:43 p.m: Vandalism, Criminal

Mischief - 43600 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reported that an unknown person(s) damaged the caller's mailbox.

7:33 p.m: Eluding - Cedar Flat Rd. & McK. Hwy.

7:41 p.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 87400 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

May 6: 9:32 a.m: Civil Service - 91100 blk, Marcola Rd.

9:40 p.m: Assault - 36700 blk, Keller Ln.

9:48 a.m: Disabled Vehicle -Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**10:01 a.m:** Vehicle Stop - 91100 blk, Marcola Rd.

11:00 a.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy. 1:59 p.m: Truck Inspection

– Leaburg Dam Rd. & Fish Hatchery Rd.

3:25 p.m: Fire, Down Line -54700 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:59 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:10 p.m: Citizen Contact -45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

May 7: 6:24 a.m: Threat, Harassment - 47800 blk, McK.

**6:57 a.m:** Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

8:00 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - Cedar Flat Rd. & McK. Hwy.

10:53 a.m: Trespassing, Illegal Camping - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4. 11:13 a.m: Theft - 45600 blk,

McK. Hwy. 11:54 a.m: Location of Stolen Property - 92000 blk, Marcola

2:33 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle

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- Cedar Flat Rd. & McK. Hwy. 2:40 p.m: Reckless Driving -McK. Hwy. Mp. 15.

4:25 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

7:55 p.m: Vehicle Stop Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**8:00 p.m:** Medical Call - 44000 blk, Canal Ln. **8:34 p.m:** Vehicle Stop – Hwy.

126 & Thurston Rd. 8:38 p.m: Traffic Hazard -Cedar Flat Rd. & Boscage Ln.

May 8: 12:17 a.m: Hit & Run -87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A male driving a late 80's / early 90's blue four door dually pickup crashed into the victim's vehicle. The suspect threatened the victim and eventually left in the described pickup. The suspect and victim are known to each other and deputies are working to contact the suspect.

**1:11 p.m:** Assist, Citizen Contact - Thomson Ln. & McK.

1:50 p.m: Theft From Vehicle - 92100 blk, Whitmore St.

**Continued On Page 8** 

### State Police Report

May 7: 07:52: Warrant Arrest - Marcola Rd. Observed two vehicles parked on Marcola Rd. near Milepost 4 with garbage around their vehicles. Conducted a field interview and a male subject was found to have a warrant for his arrest. He was transported to the Lane County Jail where he was lodged. Involved: Mercury Sable, 28-year-old male from Eugene. Failure To Appear, Bench Warrant cleared by arrest.

### McKenzie Fire & Rescue

May 3: 0:10: 88000 block, Millican Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**10:43:** Milepost 14, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**17:27:** 88000 blk, Keola Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**21:08:** 47000 blk, McK. Hwy. Illegal Burning. Burn pile extinguished.

21:24: 46000 blk, McK. Hwy. Illegal Burning. Burn pile extinguished.

May 4: 18:43: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Pt. Refusal.

May 5: 3:01: 90000 blk, Thomson Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Pt. Refusal.

May 5: 3:51: 41000 blk, **Continued On Page 8** 

### **Upper McKenzie** Fire/Rescue

May 4: 10:00: Vehicle Fire -McK. Hwy./Aufderheide Dr. Fire below the engine & catching on wood chips.

**01:39:** Fire Alarm - 57600 McK. Hwy. North smoke.

May 8: 19:44: Medical -91806 Mill Creek Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District board of directors will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 19stth, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge, at 7 p.m.



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By Slim Randles

It was sure nice, Windy thought. Just sitting out here in Mamie's yard with my dog, Ramses, and some refreshments Mamie brought out that did not include raw meat or vegetables no one could pronounce.

"Don't that there sun feel good, Mamie?'

She smiled and nodded and drank more tea.

"Afore you know it, them ol' bears'll be out and wrasslin' around fer somethin' to eat. Gotta be careful in the woods, ya know. Take a rifle along. What? Oh, a thirty-ought six should be plenty, I'm thinkin'. 'Course ya hafta place yer shot right. Nothin' worse than a wounded bear."

Mamie thought something less than killing the bear should work right.

"Well, Mamie," said Windy, "there's two schoolers of thought on that one and one of 'em's wrong. Ya see, the hippy dippy folks carry a spray 'em can of pepper juice with 'em in the woods. And they wear these here little bells on their belt loops."

Mamie smiled and nodded.

"The idear bein' that little bell a dingie-dongin' 'round will tell the bear, hey, thass a hooman bein' and you better watch out cuz he's smarter'n vou are. But les' jest say that ol' bear's got hisself a hearin' problem and that bell don't mean nothin' to him. Wellsir, thass where that danged pepper spray comes in handy. Yep, ol' Organtic Woodsman hisself pulls out that can and jest lets her rip right in the bear's face. I'll jest bet that smarts somethin' awful, too.

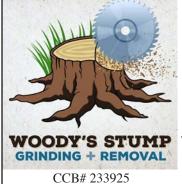
"But later, you know, when they're trackin' that bear down, he makes hisself easy to tell from other bears, cuz his poop smells like pepper and its got little bells

"Yep. Thirty-ought six should be enough."

Brought to you by Sweetgrass Mornings, by Slim Randles. See it at www.unmpress.com.

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## Citizens hired world-champ boxer to humiliate town bully

By Finn J.D. John

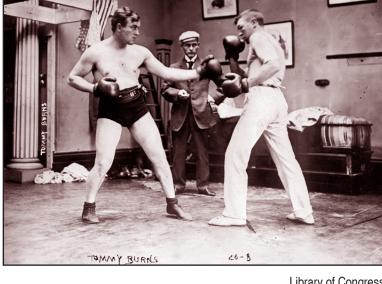
All through the summer of 1973, there was one song on the radio everywhere that you just couldn't get away from: Jim Croce's smash hit, "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown."

Come to think of it, it's been very difficult to get away from that song ever since Croce wrote it. You probably are humming it to yourself right now: "Bad, bad Leroy Brown, baddest man in the whole damn town. Badder than old King Kong, meaner than a junkyard dog."

The little Cascade-foothills town of Boring once had its own Bad, Bad Leroy Brown — although when the song came out, very few people then alive were old enough to remember him. His name was Free Coldwell — or at least, that was what he called himself. Like Leroy Brown, he a proud, strutting tough guy who got a humiliating comeuppance. But his downfall didn't come from making a pass at "the wife of a jealous man" in a Boring nightclub or bar. No; Free Coldwell was taken down by the citizens of Boring, who basically played an elaborate practical joke on him — with the help of a professional prizefighter.

Free Coldwell blew into boring sometime in late 1904, probably to work at one of the local sawmills. To judge from descriptions in newspaper stories, he was a bit like Bluto from the old Popeye cartoons — a big, burly man with massive, muscular arms and a hot temper. Unlike Bluto, though, Coldwell had bright red hair. And he claimed he was, or had been, a professional prizefighter.

He quickly made a name for himself as a bar-room brawler. Then, according to an article in the Sunday Oregonian, having successfully "walloped dreamland" all the other aspirants to the title of Baddest Man In Town, he proceeded to make an absolute pest of himself. He swaggered around like - well, like Bad, Bad Leroy Brown on



Library of Congress

Tommy Burns (Noah Brusso) spars with a friend, circa 1905.

the south side of Chicago. If there had been such a thing as a custom Continental or an El Dorado in 1905, he doubtless would have had one.

Well, like most little timberand-farming towns in pre-war Oregon, Boring had its share of tavern tough guys. But the vast majority of Boring residents were regular folks just trying to do their jobs and raise their families. Getting constantly lorded over by some cocky sorrel-topped gorilla was humiliating and frustrating. Something had to be done.

And that's when someone opened a copy of the Portland Morning Oregonian and learned that Tommy Burns was in town.

Tommy Burns was a professional prizefighter from Canada, and if you were into boxing in 1905, you definitely knew his name. He was the up-and-coming heavyweight fighter, even though at 5 feet 7 and 175 pounds he was technically a

light-heavyweight boxer. His nickname was "The Little Giant of Hanover." He wasn't the World Champion yet, but two years later he would be, and he'd hang onto the title, defending it against all comers, for two whole years.

Burns had a match coming up with Jack "Twin" Sullivan, and was doing some training for it in a local Portland gym. And it occurred to some of the citizens of Boring that perhaps Tommy Burns could be induced to come to their town for a little extracurricular boxing match, and teach the town bully some humility. And so a delegation from Boring hopped on the inter-urban train for the one-hour journey to Portland to make the pitch.

They didn't have much of a purse to offer; after they'd passed the kitty around, there was only \$4.90 in it — worth about \$120 in 2021 currency. But the opportunity to help the townspeople dispense

**Thursday, May 13, 2021** poetic justice to a swaggering small-town bully must have appealed to Tommy. He agreed to come out to Boring and take on Free Coldwell.

According to the Sunday Oregonian's subsequent article about the fight, the good people of Boring placed only one restriction on Burns: He was not to risk killing Coldwell in the fight. Funerals, after all, were expensive.

Now, Tommy Burns' real name was Noah Brusso, so that was the name he used when he came to Boring. The townsfolk staging the show were worried that if Free Coldwell learned who he was battling with, he'd figure out a way to back out.

They might have been right. In any case, Coldwell took the bait in one gulp. He took one look at "Noah Brusso" - who was considerably shorter and a good 40 pounds lighter than he — and, as the Oregonian put it, "fell for it as easy as did Farmer Vance when he was gold-bricked out of \$10,000." Following a brief, truculent negotiation over who would cover the 75-cent venue rental fee — which he did not want deducted from the winner's pot, which he confidently expected to win - he was eager and ready to

A boxing ring was put together in the local opera house, and the townspeople hired a professional boxing referee: Tommy Tracey, an almost-retired prizefighter originally from Australia.

On the big day, more than 100 Portlanders came out to see the show. It's not clear how many of them thought they were going to see a real fight, and how many were in on the gag. Plenty of the residents of Boring knew, and it is possible that their success in keeping the secret from Coldwell was because they were unusually

Town bully - Page 8



## **VOTE YES! MEASURE 20-321**

MCKENZIE RIVER SCHOOL BOND



-YES FOR OUR CHILDREN



- YES FOR THE MCKENZIE VALLEY



YES FOR OUR FUTURE

Paid for by: Elaine Bryson



### Gardening **Tips**

By Kym Pokorny



### Choose a lawn mower to fit your needs

Considering the 80 million home lawns in the country, there are a lot of people buying lawn mowers.

How you choose between rotary, reel and electric models has to do with your situation and preferences, said Alec Kowalewski, Oregon State University Extension turfgrass specialist. All three have their pros and cons.

Rotary and electric mowers, which have one blade, cut like weed wackers with the blade spinning in a circle. Reel (push) mowers, on the other hand, are designed with two blades that slide across each other and cut like scissors. Both do a good job, Kowalewski said.

"The reel mower is going to be a cleaner cut," he said. "But that doesn't have that big of an effect on grass. It takes a really dull rotary mower to make much of a difference. A sharp rotary mower will produce just as good of grass as a reel mower."

The lesson is to keep mower blades sharp, no matter the type. Rotary blades are easier to maintain because the blades detach. Reel

mowers, on the other hand, don't have removable blades so they have to be taken to a professional for sharpening.

Mulching mowers, which tend to be more expensive than others, are also on the market. They cut grass into smaller pieces than other mowers, which makes leaving clippings behind an easy task. But any mower will do the same if the lawn is cut often and left tall (21/2 to 3 inches).

"Instead of bagging up clippings, consider leaving them where they fall," Kowalewski said. "They break down quickly and resupply much-needed nitrogen. The more often you mow, the easier this is to do. Don't, however, leave clumps of clippings sitting on the lawn."

When you buy a mower, he recommends doing some research and buying the best you can afford. Check to see if the brand you're considering has a commercial version. That quality translates to the homeowner models. There are many on the market, but a few recommended brands are Toro, Honda and Jacobsen.

It's clear there are a lot of choices when it comes to lawn mowers.

Kowalewski breaks down some of the pros and cons of each type.

Rotary mower

Pros: Sturdy machines that last a long time. Goes right over the top of leaves and small twigs. Can mow quickly, especially the selfpropelled models. Easier to use in large areas.

Cons: Noisy. Produces some amount of carbon dioxide. Can't get down to a low mowing height. However, Kowalewski notes that perennial ryegrass and fescue, the two most common grasses in western Oregon, should not be cut low. Keeping them 2 to 3 inches tall is optimum for healthy growth, which means fewer weeds. Older lawns that have transitioned to colonial or creeping bentgrass can be mowed lower, so a reel mower would be good for those types of grasses.

#### Reel mower

Pros: Quiet. If you're concerned mowers are the way to go. However. Kowalewski carbon dioxide that is produced carbon dioxide from the air and matter and fix carbon in the soil.

Cons: Harder to push, though newer models are much lighter and easier to handle than older ones. Doesn't go over twigs and leaves very well. Not good for uneven terrain. Not effective for large lawns.

Electric mower

need to deal with gas and oil.

before battery dies on batteryoperated models. Must deal with cords on plug-in models, though Kowalewski points out, "My grandfather had an electric mower for years and years and years and he never ran over a cord."

about carbon emissions, reel recent studies that show grass has the potential to sequester up to four times the amount of by mowing. All plants remove use it for new growth, including roots that decompose into organic

Pros: Moderately quiet. No

Cons: Only operates so long

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### OREGON UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER



# Country Kitchen By Mary Emma Allen



### MEMORIES OF VICTORY GARDENS

In the days of my childhood, during World War II, Victory Gardens were the height of popularity and patriotism. Victory gardens, where Americans raised their own fruit and vegetables, often the first time for many, were commonplace during those war years. If they didn't have a house with a yard, then families might plant some vegetables in boxes on a porch or windowsill.

Some also planted flowers for cheer in an uncertain world of blackouts and food shortages and rationing.

Our Victory Garden Although I grew up on a farm where we always had a large garden every year, my mom planted a garden with flowers she called our Victory garden. She painted a large tub red and blue with large white V's on either side. This, filled with geraniums, she positioned in the center of the small plot in the front yard of our farmhouse.

I still have a black and white photo of my sister and me, dressed in our Sunday best, standing in front of this garden.

You found Victory gardens in city and country. They were planted in any space one could utilize, if you didn't have a traditional garden space. You might see vegetables in window boxes, front yard, back yard, or side yard.

We had our usual garden, a

large one at the south side of the house. Often, when it came to planting and weeding, I thought it too large. However, my brothers and sister usually joined me in these tasks.

World War II Foods

The recipes of the war years often had to be altered to reflect the scarcity of butter, eggs, milk and other items. That's when margarine or oleo came into use (the type we had to mix with yellow coloring so it didn't look like lard).

ONE EGG CAKE - Although we had plenty of eggs on our farm, many people didn't. So recipes using fewer eggs or no eggs were devised. Also, less sugar and shortening often were called for.

Cream 2/3-cup sugar and 1/4 cup shortening; add 1 egg and mix well. Sift dry ingredients (1 1/2 cups flour, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons baking powder). Add these to shortening mixture alternately with 1/2-cup milk with 1/2-teaspoon vanilla added. Beat well.

Bake in 8-inch square or round pan at 350 degrees F. for 25 to 30 minutes until tests done. Frost with desired icing. Instead of icing, we sometimes put jam or jelly on the cake.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen writes from her NH home; e-mail: me.allen@ iuno.com)





This Could Be Your Ad Contact rivref@wildblue.net

Page 6 McKenzie River Reflections Thursday, May 13, 2021

## **McKenzie Watershed Council**



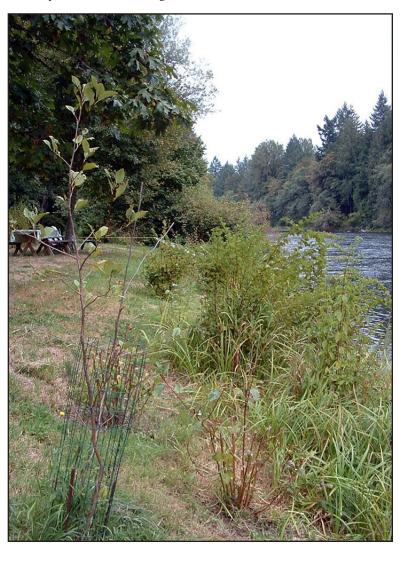
Pure Water Partners (PWP) is a collaborative group of volunteer agencies/organizations who are dedicated to promoting the health and vitality of the McKenzie Watershed. The McKenzie community members who call this special place home benefit from the cooperative approach and efforts of the PWP program.

The McKenzie Watershed Council has been a part of the PWP since its inception in 2012. The Council was formed in 1993 to help address watershed management issues in the McKenzie Watershed and provide a framework for voluntary coordination and cooperation among key interests. A primary purpose of the Council is to work collaboratively with communities, landowners, and public land managers to develop and carry out a wide range of voluntary watershed protection, education restoration, and activities. Our recent work has focused on Holiday Farm Fire restoration and recovery with the PWP and on large-scale floodplain restoration projects with the U.S. Forest Service and McKenzie River Trust.

The Council is made up of 28 official partners who ideally represent a broad range of geographic and natural resource interests in the watershed, as well as public and private interests. Partners include public agencies (USFS, BLM, Army Corps, ODFW), local government (Lane

County, Eugene, and Springfield), utilities (EWEB), interest groups (McKenzie Guides, McKenzie Flyfishers), natural resource interests (Rice Farms, Wildish, Weyerhaeuser, IP), and eight resident partners. The Council holds monthly meetings (currently virtually) on a wide range of

topics. To learn more, contact us at administration@mckenziewc. org or you can find us on the web at www.mckenziewc.org. We are humbled and filled with gratitude to be part of the collaborative efforts to protect the McKenzie River. The river links us all.



## **VOTE YES!**

### **School Bond Measure 20-321**

McKenzie School District has referred to voters a \$15,215,000 school bond

If approved, the bond money will be used to:

- Construct a new elementary school (more cost effective than repairing the old)
- Make crucial SECURITY upgrades to entries, access control gates, fire alarm, intercom and camera systems
- Repair or replace roofing, siding and flooring, including the avm
  - Install a large generator for emergencies
- Repair aging systems, including HVAC, plumbing and electrical

If approved, the district will receive a \$4 million matching grant from the state

Endorsed by:
Tim Halloran
Kent Roberts
Melissa Norlund
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Patence Winningham
Elaine Bryson
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Education Foundation
Meyer's General Store
Melanie Stanley

Darin Harbick
Kathy Keable
Steve Keable
Cliff Richardson
George Letchworth
Josh Cloke
Tim Laue
Brent Caulley
George Beverly

Paid for by: Elaine Bryson

## **Community Notes**

### **Boaters Be Careful**

The Eugene Water & Electric Board, at the request of the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, is spilling water through Rollgate #3 of Leaburg Dam to help attract hatchery-raised salmon to the left bank fish ladder. In June, ODFW will begin trapping operations to collect brood stock and to deterhatchery salmon from traveling upstream of the dam and spawning with wild Spring Chinook. Boaters should be cautious, scout the area and launch only if conditions are favorable. The high flow hazard should be less as ribver flows decrease.

### **Firewise Grants**

Financial grants are available to rural Lane County residents interested in making landscaping and structural improvements to their properties, which can increase the survivability of their home in the event of a wildfire. Residents may qualify for up to \$15,500 in financial assistance. Applications will be a lottery-styled system with priority for first-time applicants as well as high risk vulnerabilities such as wood shake roofs. Homeowners can submit a maximum of two properties per grant cycle year for funding. All online and paper applications must be received by Friday, May 28th, in order to be entered into the lottery-system. Go to: shorturl.at/uDIL8

### **Rockslide on Rd 19**

A rockslide is blocking Forest Service Road 19 (Aufderheide Drive) in the same area as a December 2017 slide that blocked the road and access to Terwilliger Hot Springs for months. Damage assessments are currently underway and officials said the road will be open as soon as possible.

### **Deer Creek**

Forest Road 2654 (Deer Creek Rd) will be closed to the 2655 junction from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> due to heavy equipment operations. No vehicle or foot traffic is permitted at any time. The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) is relocating powerlines near Deer Creek onto the hillside west of the road to improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish and wildlife, particularly Endangered Species

Act-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout.

### Broadband Subsidies

People affected by the coronavirus pandemic and need assistance paying broadband bills could qualify for a \$50 a month broadband subsidy. The money is part of the COVID-19 relief package Congress passed in December for low-income individuals. People can begin applying for the Emergency Broadband Benefit on May 12th, In addition to broadband, a onetime discount to poor households of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet can also be applied for. Conrtact Emergency Broadband Support Center, P.O. Box 7081, London, KY 40742, or go to https://getemergencybroadband.org.

### Rebuilding Help

The Northwest Rebuild Project is still accepting applications for assistance for everyone effected by the wildfires. The project is a 100% volunteer group of designers, drafters, architects, and engineers from all over the northwest that helps people rebuild their homes after natural disasters free of charge.

NW Rebuild first provides a list of resources useful to the homeowner throughout the rebuilding process. Then, for qualified residential applicants, they provide pro bono design and drafting services. Qualifying small businesses can access low cost design and drafting services for commercial buildings needing to be rebuilt.

Applications for assistance is available at www.nwrebuild.org.

## MEF Wildfire Relief Fund

The McKenzie Education Foundation (MEF) is a small non-profit group dedicated to inspiring learning and enhancing educational opportunities in the McKenzie School District #68 and the McKenzie Community School. Recently the group has received generous donations to assist students and whose lives have been disrupted by the Holi-

day Farm Wildfire.

Donations are still being accepted at MEF, PO Box 274, Blue River, OR 97413 or online at www.mckedfound.org. If you like the mission of MEF and want to learn more, please contact them at mckedfound@gmail.com

# An Invitation to Worship

### McKenzie Bible Fellowship

45061 McKenzie Hwy – Vida, Oregon Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m. Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's & Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information www.mckenziebible.com Living Water Family Fellowship 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 Just east of Blue River 541-822-3820 Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service & Children's Church 6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth Thurs. 6 pm - Celebrate Recovery (12-Step Program

### **Catholic Church**

St. Benedict Lodge Chapel
1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on
North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge
Sat. Eve. 5:00pm
Sun. Morn. 9:30am;
web page: sblodge.opwest.org

### McKenzie Bridge Christian Church

56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Nursery Need a ride? Call 541-822-3289

### McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church

Worship is live-streamed, every Sunday at 10:30 am, on the Facebook page for McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Comments on Facebook are appreciated! You may also contact the church for prayer requests, to request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin, and other information. Phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person!

Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

**Emergency? Call 911** 



## **Direct Answers**

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

#### Generous to a Fault

I have been living with my boyfriend for a year and a half and consider myself lucky to have such a great man in my life. However, we cannot see eye to eye on one subject!

We both grew up 1000 miles away, and my boyfriend's friends and family insist on staying with us for up to weeks at a time. We live in a vacation destination, just minutes away from a million beautiful and interesting places, but every guest is reluctant to spend a dime.

So far this spring, I've had houseguests for a total of three weeks. I really don't mind entertaining, but these people invite themselves and have no other plans than to hang out at our house every moment.

So despite working all day, I come home to a house full of hungry, messy guests to cook and clean for. Also, I feel sensitive to anyone's comments about me, my house, and my domestic skills. His mother, for example, reorganizes my cabinets while I'm at work.

Recently, I decided to stop taking an anxiety medication to see how I fare without it, but these weeks of pressure are really getting to me!

My boyfriend is generous and

kind to everyone, which I admire, but how can I get him to understand this is too much for me?

Elise Elise, a farmer views rain from one perspective and a city dweller from another. Each may be right, but only from their own perspective.

You see your boyfriend's friends as spongers who make work for you, and his mother as a woman who doesn't understand proper

He may think his mother only wants to help. He may see his friends as attentive and caring people who want to spend time with him. From his perspective, they don't want to sightsee because the purpose of the visit is to be with him. In addition, he may appreciate that they incurred an expense to visit.

On a superficial level, your letter is about setting boundaries and negotiating a settlement. But below the surface, there is a more important issue.

He has a generous nature. Though you might force or threaten him into a partial change, in a short time he will revert to his normal way of acting. It is who he is. That may explain, at least in part, why you are with him.

Why do you date someone? To

find out who they are and to learn if you can live with who they are. Can you or can't you live with a man who you think is a soft touch to his family and friends? That matters because, if you say "I do" to him, you will also be saying "I do" to his friends and his mother.

You love him...but for his accommodating nature...but for his friends and family...but for the fact you can't live this way.

Then again, maybe it is not his friends or his family. Maybe he is not right for you.

You have anxiety issues, so it is important to be with someone you mesh with. Those issues don't give you the right to make others change for you. Those issues should make you more mindful of what you need.

If you force him to stop acting as he does, his friends and family will blame you. You might get your way and stop resenting him, only to have him start resenting

When a man wants to cut a woman off from her friends or family, we call him controlling and manipulative. If you want the same, what should we call you?

A farmer views rain from one perspective and a city dweller from another. Each may be right, but only from their own perspective.

Wayne & Tamara

Directanswers@ write: WavneAndTamara.com

### American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Tracy K. Smith, former poet Laureate, has a wonderful way with strange and haunting images, that still manage to tell a resonant story. I think of the old story she tells here—how future generations must contend with the grand absence that comes with the passing of time. Yet, there is hope, there is hope in art, in song, and one imagines, in this poem. "An Old Story" is a beautiful anthem to the singing.

#### An Old Story

By Tracy K. Smith

We were made to understand it

Terrible. Every small want, every niggling urge,

Every hate swollen to a kind of epic wind,

Livid, the land, and ravaged, like a rageful Dream. The worst in us having

taken over And broken the rest utterly down.

A long age Passed. When at last we knew how

Would survive us—how little we had mended

Or built that was not now lostsomething

Large and old awoke. And then our singing

Brought on a different manner of weather.

Then animals long believed gone crept down

From trees. We took new stock of one another.

We wept to be reminded of such color.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www. poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.Poemcopyright ©2018 by Tracy K. Smith, "An Old Story" from Wade in the Water, (Graywolf Press, 2018). Poem reprinted by permission of Permissions Company, LLC and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.

### Social Services - Administrative Aide at LCOG (Spanish bilingual preferred)

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) seeks an Administrative Aide for its Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) Division. Provides administrative support to various programs. Greets and assists the public, staff, and others by phone or in person, providing information of a general nature as authorized. Spanish bilingual preferred. Full time, with full benefits package. This position is expected to start on June 28, 2021. Full job description and required application are available online at www.lcog.org or by calling LCOG at (541) 682-4283.

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) seeks a Contracts 4283. DEADLINE: May 18, 2021 at 4 p.m. EOE/AA

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) seeks a Case

DEADLINE: May 18, 2021 at 4 p.m. EOE/AA

### Social Services – Contracts Manager at LCOG

Manager for its Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) Division. This position will support and develop Older Americans Act (OAA) programs, Oregon Project Independence (OPI), and other Senior & Disability Services community programs. This includes development and monitoring of related contract agreements and requests for proposals, new program and service implementation, and supervision of program staff as assigned. Full time, with full benefits package. This position is expected to start on June 28, 2021. Full job description and required application are available online at www.lcog.org or by calling LCOG at (541) 682-

### Social Services – Case Manager at LCOG

Manager for the Senior & Disability Services (S&DS) Division. This position manages a caseload comprised of adults with disabilities 18-64 years of age and/or senior citizens. The caseload includes clients newly admitted to service, as well as clients who have been receiving services from S&DS for a period of time (i.e., on-going clients). Full time, with full benefits package. This position is expected to start on June 28, 2021. Full job description and required application are available online at www.lcog.org or by calling LCOG at (541) 682-4283. DEADLINE: May 18, 2021 at 4 p.m. EOE/AA

### Did you know...

The local newspaper is the No. 1 source for community news, beating TV by 3 times and the Internet by 6 times the





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### **Personal**

The Leaburg Sew & So's will meet again on Monday afternoons when the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Center re-opens for community activities. Call Sara at 541-896-3059 for more infor-

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. AA Group meets Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Sunday 5:00-6:00pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, 88393 Walterville Loop, a block from the Walterville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

### Piano Lessons

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A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber (www.ricksteber.com)

May 13 - Charity Lamb is notoriously known as Oregon's first murderess. She killed her husband with an ax on May 13, 1854, was brought to trial at Oregon City, convicted of murder and committed to a life sentence of hard labor at the Oregon State Penitentiary. But Oregon did not yet have a state penitentiary and Charity was held at the City of Portland jail where one of her many jobs was to wash the warden's laundry. In the 1860s she was transferred to an asylum for the criminally insane where she in on the gag with delight, and

those who still thought this was

a legitimate boxing match with

astonishment. They could see that

Coldwell was a terrible boxer. Was

the great Tommy Burns losing his

of the fourth round, "Brusso"

decided that it was time to spring

the trap. Accordingly, he put a hard

straight right past Coldwell's guard

with proper professional snap. It

exploded on Coldwell's nose and,

as the boxing press of the day often

put it, "started the claret." And this

appears to have been the moment

when Coldwell realized he was in

The gong sounded, the round

ended, and Coldwell got a little

time to think about things while

he dealt with his nosebleed. In

light of subsequent events, there's

certainly a decent chance that one

of the thoughts that passed through

his mind was the possibility that

he might end the match by faking

Round Five. Right away, "Brusso"

clinched and then broke away with

a body blow to Coldwell's midriff.

It wasn't a hard hit, but Coldwell

wasn't expecting it and was not

"Just as soon as the red-headed

piker could get his breath, he

howled, 'It's no fair to hit a man

in the stomach," the Oregonian

reported. "'That's a foul!""

All too quickly, it was time for

some serious trouble.

No. No, he was not. At the end

touch?

## Sheriff's Report

#### **Continued From Page 3**

2:11 p.m: Assist, Citizen Contact - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy. 3:08 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 42.

Hwy. Mp. 43.

**3:46 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK.

**3:57 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK.

Hwy. Mp. 43. **4:11 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK.

Hwy. Mp. 44. **4:19 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK.

Hwy. Mp. 45. 4:32 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK.

Hwy. Mp. 42.

4:35 p.m: Foot Patrol - Cascade View Staging area.

5:38 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Lat: 44.175694 Long: -122.177689. A male was observed at the McKenzie Bridge Campground boat ramp hitting and kicking his own vehicle. LCSO and OSP responded and contacted the male. The male was cooperative and had experienced some sort of crisis. He was transported home and released to

**6:49 p.m:** Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. Mp. 50. Caller reported through OSP that a brown Chevrolet S10 pickup was

observing passing in a no passing

7:27 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 34.

8:42 p.m: Speeding Vehicle -91400 blk, Marbrook Ln.

9:31 p.m: Citizen Contact -92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**10:02 p.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 47900 blk, McK. Hwy.

May 9: 4:02 a.m: Disturbance, **3:26 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Dispute - 92200 blk, Murdoch St. 6:37 a.m: Threat, Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

> **10:13 a.m:** Dog Bite - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

> 11:28 a.m: Assist Public -37200 blk, Conley Rd.

> **4:32 p.m:** Speeding Vehicle - 38500 blk, Upper Camp Creek

May 10: 2:38 a.m: Assault -91400 blk, Donna Rd.

4:11 a.m: Assist, Information -Marcola Rd. & Paschelke Rd.

1:07 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Horse Creek Rd. & McK.

**1:45 p.m:** Civil Service - 87700 blk, Collins Ln.

2:56 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

**6:10 p.m:** Illegal Burn - 46000 blk, McK. Hwy.

Comments as reported may not be complete or accurate. If further information is required contact the Lane County **Sheriffs Office.** 

### **8:40:** Mp. 34, McK. Hwy. Medical,

May 7: 19:56: 44000 blk, Canal

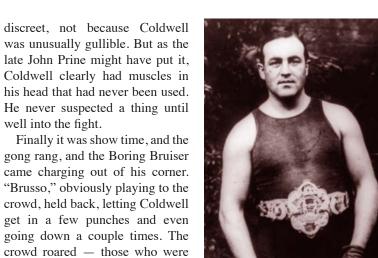
McKenzie Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting the Monday; May 17th, at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK.

"How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?"

Steven Wright

# **Town bully**

**Continued From Page 4** 



Library of Congress Tommy Burns in 1910, wearing his World Heavyweight Champion belt.

Coldwell jumped out of the ring to stop the fight while he pressed his suit. Nobody was impressed, least of all the referee: "Tommy Tracey almost threw a fit," the Oregonian reported.

Tracey told Coldwell to shut up and that if he wasn't back in the ring in two minutes, "Brusso" would be declared the winner.

"The clock was started, and the crowd waited with anticipation," author Bruce Haney writes in his new book, Eccentric Tales of Boring, Oregon. "The townsfolk had put a lot of effort into this fight. They did not want Free Coldwell dead, but they did want him maimed. A bloody nose and a punch to the stomach did not live up to the beating they had plotted for him. But the clock ran out, and Free Coldwell did not get back in the ring."

So Tracey raised Burns' arm and declared him the victor.

It was pretty obvious to everyone what had happened: After figuring out how severely outclassed he was, Coldwell was trying to use this "foul" as a pretext for withdrawing from the field. They probably all assumed he knew perfectly well that body

blows were not fouls, and figured he was pretending ignorance because he'd become desperate for an excuse to disengage.

If so, it sure didn't work very well. Unlike Bad, Bad Leroy Brown, Free Coldwell did not look "like a jigsaw puzzle with a couple pieces gone" after this fight; but his reputation sure did.

"Today and for many days to come the good citizens of Boring will congratulate themselves," the Oregonian's reporter wrote. "They have rid themselves of the town pest. Their only regret is that Coldwell did not get the beating they had mapped out for him."

Their regret was probably shortlived. The article about the fight appeared in the Sunday Oregonian the very next morning, at the very top of the front page, under a giant headline reading, "JUST A QUITTER: Boring's Town-Terror Done by Prize Fighter."

"When He Gets a Blow in the Stomach, Free Coldwell Screams 'No Fair,' and Quits for Good," one of the sub-headlines added.

After that, there was no way Free Coldwell could stay in town and face the people he'd been lording over for the previous few months. It's not clear how long he stayed in Boring after this humiliation, but it was probably a matter of hours. And as author Haney puts it, "there are no references to Free Coldwell harassing the town of Boring again."

(Sources: Eccentric Tales of Boring, Oregon, a book by Bruce Haney published in 2021 by The History Press; Portland Sunday Oregonian, 26 Feb 1905)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His book, Heroes and Rascals of Old Oregon, was recently published by Ouragan House Publishers. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

### McKenzie Fire & Rescue

### **Continued From Page 3**

Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Pt. Refusal.

9:10: 88000 blk, Ross Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**12:55:** 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, private vehicle to urgent

16:26: 39000 blk, McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident, Non-Injury. Controlled traffic for towing.

**May 6: 5:54:** 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. Lift Assist. Lifting Assistance Provided.

General. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, No Transport.

### **Quote of the Week**



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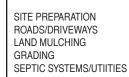
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