



Delivering targeted news for Oregon's McKenzie River communities since 1978

JP Doodles

Ever get the feeling things the treadmill doesn't have an end point?

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Oregon's own - Tater Tots

What food historian Heather Arndt Anderson calls "Oregon's prodigal spud"



PAGE 4

County takes on waste

Integrated Materials & Energy Recovery Facility to target trash

EUGENE: The Lane County Board of County Commissioners has voted 3-2 to begin the process to build an Integrated Materials & Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF) in Goshen.

The facility is described as potentially the most technologically advanced waste processing facility in the country and will be designed and built by a local manufacturer, Bulk Handling Systems (BHS). The new process will in-

volve gathering residential garbage, commingled recycling, and organic waste to produce marketable recycling commodities and biogas for transportation.

The IMERF is expected to divert over 80,000 tons of material annually from the nearby county landfill and expand its life for at least 20 years past its current 70-year life expectancy.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our community," said Public Works

Director Dan Hurley. "Not only will this project help us reduce the amount of material that ends up in the landfill, increase the amount we can recycle, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions (to the tune of taking 30,000 cars off the road), it will also create local jobs. We expect the two-year construction period to create 190 jobs and to have 65 ongoing family-wage positions to operate the IMERF after it opens."

Officials say the IMERF will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill while diverting recyclable materials from waste that would otherwise be landfilled. It should create local, sustainable economic development and jobs while using proven recycling processing systems. Other expected benefits include leveraging public-private partnerships and constructing and operating at an affordable cost.

"There are no other sorting facilities like this in Lane County," said Hurley. **Targeting trash - Page 10**



Operations at the 103-acre Short Mountain Landfill are expected to become more efficient when a new recovery facility is built and operating.

Rafting into Christmas



A whitewater fleet took part in the 3rd annual Christmas boat parade organized by the Horse Creek Lodge. Lights, Christmas trees, and background tunes all added to the festive scene that was greeted with cheers from bankside viewers.

Grinch made a showing



Despite a reputation for being ill-natured and mean-tempered, the Grinch didn't dampen holiday cheer when he visited McKenzie Feed and Tackle over the weekend. The two-day Christmas Party proved to be popular with plenty of shoppers and families.

Could Hwy. 126 be safer?

Study identifies 9 "hot spot" areas for improvement

A newly released report contains several measures a transportation consulting firm says could improve safety along the Hwy. 126 corridor. Using crash data from 2016 to 2020, DKS Associates of Salem identified nine safety focus areas, primarily from Vida to the west. They include the Waltherville canal bridge, the area near the Leaburg hydro electric spillway, and at Ben and Kay Dorris Park, as well as four intersections with Hwy. 126 - at Deerhorn Road, Ross Lane, Holden Creek (east and west), Johnson Creek Road, and Goodpasture Road.

Besides an in-person open house in February, public comments were collected online two months. Other data came from highway crash rates, locations of fatal and serious injury accidents, and other Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) studies.

Many people indicated they supported constructing new slow-vehicle turnouts. ODOT, however, advised they are no longer allowed, saying they increase the risk of crashes when slow-moving vehicles enter or exit a highway without adequate space for decelerating and accelerating. However, several larger scale projects were identified including constructing a roundabout at the Deerhorn Road intersection and widening shoulders near Ben and Kay.

The DKS report noted "longer-term projects will need to be re-evaluated in the future as the safety performance of the highway evolves due to changes in travel patterns, regional population growth, and land development along the corridor."

The area with the most recorded accidents was the Deerhorn Road/Hwy. 126 intersection at Milepost 11.32. There were twenty-one crashes there from 2016 - 2020 resulting in two fatalities and two serious injuries. People who commented on the intersection noted its westbound rear end accident history and suggested a lowered speed zone, creating a protected area for left hand turns, and upgrades to visibility could increase safety there.

Eleven wrecks had occurred near the Ben and Kay Dorris park in an area extending from Mp. 29.15 to 30.05 - which includes a curve. Although no fatalities were involved, two people had been seriously injured. The consultants recommended a dozen countermeasures for this stretch, taking into account the narrow width of the roadway and a steep dropoff along the eastbound shoulder.

More problems were identified near the Leaburg powerhouse and the Johnson Creek Road junction. Seven crashes involving **Could 126 be safer? - Page 9**

VMCC site gets some TLC



Habitat for Humanity, the Late Bloomers Garden Club, and other volunteers were busy last week on the grounds of the Vida McKenzie Community Center. Their work will help stabilize areas along the center's driveway entrance and slopes below the south bank retaining wall.

Letters to the Editor

A Holiday Letter from Upper McKenzie Community Center

The Upper McKenzie Community Center again hosted the Annual Belknap Bridge Lighting Ceremony where friends and neighbors came together to enjoy the season. There was a short walk from the UMCC to the bridge where we celebrated the lighting of the bridge while some sang their favorite Christmas carols. One of our newest river traditions, a flotilla of river rafts decorated with a Christmas tree and sparkling with lights, floated by with Santa and his many helpers. A special thanks to Horse Creek Lodge for the “floats” in the river parade.

Back at the UMCC we warmed back up with hot cocoa, cider and coffee as well as potluck treats brought by all for sharing. Local historian Margaret Beilharz hosted the wonderfully informative history video and display. The Thankful Flag was displayed for all of the first responders and helpers that did so much during the fire. Santa showed up for fun pictures with the kids, and a few adults, too. All in all it was another great time of gathering for our wonderful and diverse river community.

Over the past year, the first phase of our remodel project,

which included new restrooms and a new kitchen, was completed. The next phases of upgrades will include a new roof and siding along with accessibility ramps to ease the entry for all. We received grants to help us make the needed phase one upgrades but we still need your help to pay the bills and “keep the lights on” while we gather funds to complete the project.

Some examples of ways your donation can help:

\$5000 helps replace our siding
\$1000 helps toward the roof

\$500 helps with new windows and doors

\$100 helps with a ramp at the entryway

\$50 helps replace old kitchen cookware

\$20 helps with coffee, tea and hot chocolate

Our status as a 501(c)3 non-profit means that your donations are tax deductible. If you can help us with a donation to get us through the winter, we’d be most grateful. You can donate to the UMCC here or send a check if you prefer. MAIL: P.O. Box 2073, Blue River, OR 97413. EMAIL: umccevents@gmail.com

I have attached a poem for you to enjoy with many blessings to you, your family and our beloved community this holiday season!

John Carlile

Your UMCC Board President



McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams travel to Yoncalla on Thursday, December 14. Both games are currently scheduled for a 7:00 start, however, fans should check with McKenzie School District to confirm game times.

Cougars Claw Eagles In Prospect

The Prospect Charter Cougars entertained the visiting McKenzie Eagles last Tuesday, December 5, in a non-league boys and girls varsity basketball game. The Cougars are members of the Mt. Valley League. The Eagle girls team improved offensively, scoring their highest game points(up to this game), 23. That wasn’t enough to overcome the Cougar attack, however, as the hosts dropped in 37 pts., handing McKenzie its fourth loss of the early season. There were no game stats available for this game at press time. McKenzie’s Varsity Boys team didn’t find much better fortune in Prospect as they battled hard but finished behind the Cougars, 50-32. McKenzie’s Griffin Withalm led his team with 14 points, 3 rebounds, and 4 steals. However, the Eagle senior committed 7 turnovers as well. Turnovers plagued McKenzie this game; the team committed 38 total, a stat that Eagle Head Coach Neil Barrett will most assuredly address when his team regroups in practice. Sophomore Will Meister added 8 points, 4 rebounds, and 3 steals but committed a team-high 9 turnovers. Eagle freshman Rhys Hamlow finished with 4 points, 3 rebounds, a steal, and 8 turnovers. Junior Aytan Brown scored 2

points, grabbed 4 rebounds, had 3 steals and 4 turnovers, Thomas Hayes, a soph, added 2 points, 2 rebounds, 3 steals, and 4 turnovers, and freshman Masonn Burton scored 2 points, hauled down 6 rebounds and committed 3 turnovers. Eagle sophomore Jacob Peek finished with a pair of rebounds and turnovers alike, and sophomore Noah Borden added a turnover.

Eagle Girls Compete At Cow Creek Classic

The McKenzie Varsity Girls Basketball team traveled to Riddle, last Friday/Saturday, December 8 and 9 to compete in the Cow Creek Classic, which was hosted by Riddle High School. Friday, the Eagles tipped off versus the host Irish and lost a close battle, 33-26. Saturday, McKenzie played the Camas Valley Hornets and were stung 49-27. The loss dropped the young Eagle squad to its sixth loss of the season. Liliana Jones led her Eagle teammates with 13 points. No other game stats were available at press time.

McKenzie Boys Corral First Victory At Cow Creek Classic

The Eagle Boys rolled down the I-5 to Riddle and earned a victory last Saturday, December 9. The win, a 44-36 finish over Glendale, came in the second game of the Cow Creek Classic hosted by Riddle. Earlier, on Friday, McKenzie lost its first tournament game to Camas Valley, by a score of 60-32. The Hornets are currently the 7th-ranked Class 1A team in the State. With the loss (and subsequent win) the Eagles are now 1-5 on the season. Against Camas Valley, McKenzie’s

Rhys Hamlow led the Eagles with 13 points, 4 rebounds, a steal, and 4 turnovers. Masonn Burton dropped in 9 points, 3 boards, a steal, and 3 turnovers. Will Meister added 4 points, a rebound, and 5 turnovers, and Griffin Withalm finished with 3 points, a board, a steal, and 4 turnovers. Hayden Kimle finished his game with 2 points and 2 rebounds. Aytan Brown sunk a free throw, grabbed 3 rebounds, and had a steal and a turnover, Thomas Hayes hauled down one board and stole the ball once and Jacob Peek finished with a rebound and a turnover. On Saturday, when the Eagles stole a game from the Glendale Pirates, McKenzie overcame a team total of 25 turnovers and earned its first victory of the 23-24 season. The Eagles were led by Griffin Withalm, who scored 17 points, grabbed 6 boards, dished an assist, and had 6 steals and 5 turnovers. Aytan Brown supported the cause with 8 points scored, a team-high 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, and a couple of turnovers. Will Meister added 7 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals, and committed 5 turnovers. Thomas Hayes scored 6 points, grabbed 9 boards, finished with 1 assist, 2 steals, and a turnover and Rhys Hamlow added 5 points, 6 rebounds, an assist, 3 steals, and 5 turnovers. Jacob Peek finished his game with 3 boards, one steal, and a turnover and Hayden Kumle secured 1 rebound, steals, and turned the ball over once. Masonn Burton finished with 5 turnovers. Eagle freshman Rhys Hamlow was selected to the All-Tournament team.

To prevent drug shortages, protect generic drug manufacturers

By Ted Love

Nearly 250 generic drugs are in critically short supply. These drugs range from cancer treatments to antibiotics to drugs that treat ADHD or irregular heartbeats.

To end this crisis we must fix the structural issues that have long burdened the generic drug market. And we must also address the little-known new burdens that last year’s Inflation Reduction Act placed on generic manufacturing.

Since the 1960s, pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, have served as middlemen between drug manufacturers and the pharmacies where patients fill prescriptions.

As the PBMs prospered with the boom in prescription drug spending, consolidation occurred, leaving 3 companies -- CVS Caremark, Optum Rx, and Express Scripts -- with 80% of the prescription drug market. Nine in ten prescriptions are filled with generics.

This market dominance provides the PBMs enormous buying power. They use it to demand steep discounts from manufacturers for favorable inclusion of their products on insurance policy formularies. This ability to extract

discounts works especially well with generic manufacturers and brand-name drugs with one or more generic competitors.

With PBMs driving hard bargains on price, production of generics migrates toward manufacturers who can deliver the goods at the lowest cost. Those who can’t compete go out of business. Over time, prices get pushed lower and lower, and margins are compressed further until only a few remain.

That’s when shortages start. A sudden demand increase, natural disaster, or corporate mismanagement can lead to an immediate shortage, with no other drug makers able to fill the gap.

The IRA is about to inflict collateral damage on the generic drug market similar to that introduced by the rising buying power of PBMs. Medicare, which accounts for 30% of domestic prescription drug spending, will begin setting price ceilings on certain widely used brand-name drugs.

What does controlling prices on brand-name drugs have to do with generic production? The delta between the price of manufacturing a pill and the price one can charge on the marketplace for a brand-name medicine constitutes the incentive for companies to go into the business of making generics.

Guest Opinion - Page 10

Guest Opinion

Friday 12/15		Saturday 12/16		Sunday 12/17	
McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 50 Low: 36	Saniam Pass Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 40 Low: 30	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 51 Low: 36	Saniam Pass Mostly Sunny 5% chance precip High: 46 Low: 29	McKenzie Valley Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 48 Low: 41	Saniam Pass Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 41 Low: 31

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WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/5	55	49	0	380 cfs	12/5	58	51	0.02	10,190 cfs
12/6	52	43	1.45	395 cfs	12/6	58	50	0.49	7,750 cfs
12/7	43	37	1.20	NA	12/7	52	41	1.23	7,760 cfs
12/8	40	31	0.17	1,999 cfs	12/8	43	38	0.77	10,030 cfs
12/9	39	31	0.29	1,971 cfs	12/9	46	32	0.01	8,970 cfs
12/10	43	38	2.23	1,944 cfs	12/10	45	37	0.21	8,500 cfs
12/11	49	42	0.15	1,985 cfs	12/11	49	37	2.06	15,040 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Nov. 30::15 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 17-1-4.3 Rd. off Upper Camp Creek Rd. Reported as possible timber theft. Determined to be a logging operation conducted by the property owner.

7:13 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St. Dispute with tenants in an eviction process. no crime articulated.

10:09 p.m: Welfare Check - Aufderheide Dr. & Cougar Dam Rd.

Dec. 1: 11:12 a.m: Livestock at Large - 36300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:11 p.m: Subpoena Service - 700 blk, Laksonen Lp.

Dec. 2: 2:01 a.m: Welfare Check - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

2:09 p.m: Mental Subject - 90400 blk, Sunderman Rd.

8:38 p.m: Disorderly Subject -

45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 2: 8:38 p.m: Disorderly Subject - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy. An elderly male with possible mental health issues arrived at an area business.

Dec. 3: 6:31 a.m: Tree Down - Marcola Rd. & Old Marcola Rd.

11:00 a.m: Stranded Vehicle - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

11:15 a.m: Traffic Hazard - McK. View Dr. Mp. 4.15.

12:50 p.m: Theft - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A caller reported that someone towed a vehicle from a neighboring property. The caller believed that no one was supposed to be on the involved property.

1:06 p.m: Welfare Check - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.

1:43 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - Lat: 44.177149. Long: -122.179534.

2:48 p.m: Flooding - 56800 blk, N. Bank Rd.

8:19 p.m: Road Closed - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

10:23 p.m: Tree Down - 41100 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

Dec. 4: 9:44 a.m: Alarm - 35800 blk, Ellington Dr.

12:02 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

4:03 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 8600 blk, McK. Hwy. Two utility vehicles based out-of-state were observed in the caller's driveway. Caller believed the occupants were possibly casing properties.

Dec. 5: 10:08 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Lat: 44.177334. Long: -123.005118.

11:31 a.m: Information - 88600 blk, McK. Acres Dr.

11:32 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 91000 blk, Hill Rd. A caller reported that a tenant tried to attack the caller over electricity being turned off.

11:33 a.m: Information - Camp Creek Rd. & McK. Acres Dr.

11:43 a.m: Restraining Order Service - 55500 blk, Drury Dr.

1:44 p.m: Illegal Burn - 92200 blk, Carson St.

1:59 p.m: Civil Problem - 55500 blk, Drury Dr.

2:18 p.m: Harassment - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln. A caller reported that another tenant on the property spit on the caller and attempted to start fights with other tenants.

3:58 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.179907. Long: -123.00051.

5:05 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Gate Creek Rd. Milepost 1.5.

5:06 p.m: Citizen Contact -

Continued On Page 9

State Police Report

Dec. 7: 19:34: Crash, Hit & Run - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 11. Troopers responded to a two-vehicle collision. A Honda Civic traveling eastbound at a high rate of speed lost control on a corner, spinning clockwise before sideswiping a Chevrolet Suburban with its rear fender. The Honda driver then fled the scene on foot. The driver of the Chevrolet sustained a suspected broken hand, and his passenger was uninjured. The Honda was towed from the scene as a hazard. The Chevrolet owner arranged her own tow. The Honda driver was later located at the McKenzie Willamette Hospital where he was exhibiting signs of impairment and voluntarily provided a blood sample. Charges of DUII - Alcohol, Reckless Endangering, Failure to Perform Duties of Driver, Criminal Mischief II, and Assault III-DUII were referred to the Lane County District Attorney's Office for consideration. Involved: 23-year-old male from Springfield, 18-year-old male from Vida.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Dec. 5: 9:35: 37770 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Fire Alarm. Accidental Alarm Activation, Alarm Reset.

13:01: 36780 Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

20:56: McK. Hwy./Leaburg Dam Rd. Smoke Scare. Prescribed Burn.

Dec. 6: 5:40: 88260 Millican Rd. Medical, Heart. Disregarded En Route by Patient, Per Dispatch.

Dec. 7: 19:29: McK. Hwy./Cedar Flat Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/Blocking.

Dec. 8: 8:51: McK. Hwy./Milepost 14. Subject Down. Vehicle Waiting for a Tow Truck.

Continued On Page 9

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Dec. 1: 06:30: Motor Vehicle Accident - McK. Hwy./Milepost 49. Nissan pickup flipped into trees, Caller sees a lot of blood inside but unknown where the passengers are.

Dec. 2: 17:13: Medical - 54000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.




Dec. 4: 09:11: Medical - 54000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 8: 18:32: Medical - 51000 blk, Dexter St. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 9: 09:22: Medical - 54000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Not Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 10: 10:21: Medical - 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history -
in the back issues of this newspaper. Go to: tinyurl.com/2rkpxsen

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Iconic food items invented in Oregon

Continued From Last Week

By Finn J.D. John
The Tater Tot (1953)

As we turn our attention to what food historian Heather Arndt Anderson calls “Oregon’s prodigal spud,” we are straying into distinctly non-Christmassy territory. And yet, in the few dozen short years since brothers Golden and Neef Grigg invented it, the Tater Tot has become as much a part of American comfort food as the Velveeta-drenched macaroni noodle.

It all got started just after the Second World War, when Golden and Neef rented a flash-freezing plant in Ontario (the town in Oregon, not the province in Canada). They were in the frozen vegetable business, specializing in sweet corn.

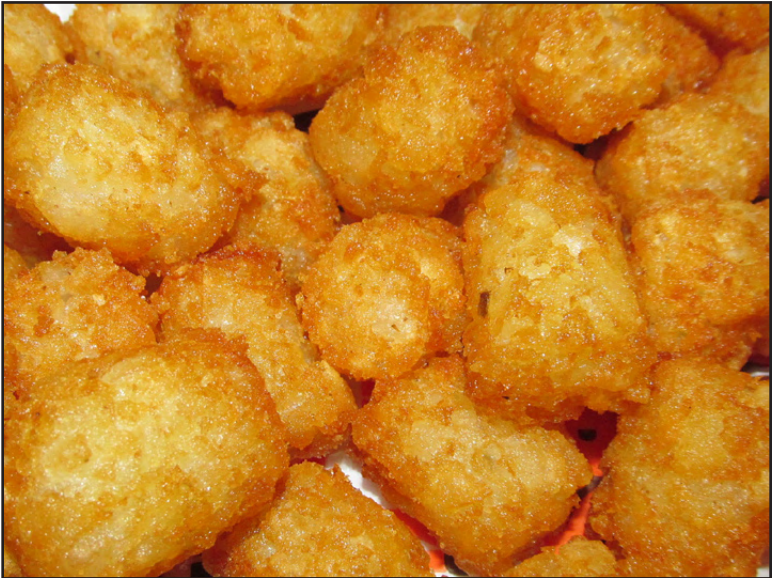
A few years later, their landlord went bankrupt, and the brothers bought the plant out of foreclosure and expanded their corn hustle into a full-blown frozen-foods company, planning to add frozen French fries to their offerings. Ontario being right on the Idaho border, the brothers — who actually lived on the Idaho side of the line — named their new company Ore-Ida.

By 1953 Ore-Ida was the biggest producer of frozen corn in the country. But the real money was in French fries. Another famous Idaho resident, J.R. Simplot, had figured out how to freeze potatoes without them turning black. Now the brothers wanted to use his system to create frozen, ready-to-cook fries; but this was turning out to be a bigger headache than they’d thought it would be.

The problem was, when a potato was cut up into fries, they needed a way to get rid of the irregular pieces and cut-off ends. They were having a hard time coming up with a mechanical solution to this, and customers were really not into buying a bag of French fries that was mostly half-inch-long slivers.

Then one day, a very confused salesman showed up to try to sell the brothers a prune-sorting machine. Of course, everyone got a good laugh when the salesman realized his error; but instead of hitting the road in search of the nearest actual fruit processor, he stuck around and visited for a bit. One thing led to another, and pretty soon the salesman was showing off his fruit sorter ... and the brothers were thinking hard. The machine looked like it would, with the right modifications, do a pretty good job on potatoes as well.

To his probable surprise, when the salesman left the Griggs’ shop,



Willis Lam

A close-up of deep fried Tater Tots reveals their texture.

he had an order in his pocket. And with the modifications the brothers had specified, it turned out to be just what they needed.

But now they had another problem — a good problem, but a problem nonetheless: Lots and lots of ends and bits of potatoes left over from the French fry cutting process.

They started out by feeding them to livestock. But the brothers hated this. There was nothing wrong with the potato bits they were getting; they were fit for human consumption. Feeding them to animals seemed like a waste.

So they tried a few things — ways to turn tiny chunks of potato into something people would want to eat. And one of the first things they tried was chopping the potatoes up fine, compressing them into a long, thin log like a giant pepperoni stick, and cutting the stick into segments.

Very quickly they figured out that they were onto something big.

The Tater Tots had their table debut the following year, when Golden and Neef brought a 15-pound bag of tots to the 1954 National Potato Convention. Neef persuaded the chef at the convention dinner to cook up the tots and serve a few of them on small saucers next to each diner’s plate.

“These were all gobbled up faster than a dead cat could wag its tail,” Neef wrote, 35 years later.

The Corn Dog (1939)

On Labor Day in 1939, George Boyington, a Rockaway Beach entrepreneur who ran a hot dog stand downtown, was sitting in his kitchen glumly contemplating a huge pile of hot-dog buns. The buns were too stale to sell; he had

ordered too many, and now was going to have to throw them out.

Remember, this was 1939 — plastic bread bags would not be invented for almost 20 years. For Boyington, throwing a bag or two in the freezer was not an option; buns had to come in from the bakery the same day they went out wrapped around a hot dog. That meant he had to estimate how many he thought he’d need the day before, place the order, and hope for the best. And usually, he’d order more than he thought he’d need — it was better to have to feed a few stale buns to the seagulls than to turn away customers because he’d run out of them.

So he threw away a lot of buns. And it always bothered him.

As he moped there, glaring at the unsaleable pile, Boyington started thinking about how awesome it would be if he could make the bun and the hot dog at the same instant, just before handing it all over to the customer.

That’s when it hit him: He could do that! Just, it couldn’t be a bun. But what he could do, is dip a hot dog in batter the way you do a piece of fish for fish-and-chips, and deep fry it, on the spot.

Boyington went home and started experimenting with recipes. Soon he nailed down what he thought was the perfect blend of flavors and textures to complement a hot dog ... and then he went into business, marketing

Pronto Pup Batter Mix in stores nationwide. The mix was made in Portland, to which Boyington moved to be closer to distribution networks.

Very quickly it became clear that Boyington had invented something special. He trademarked the name “Pronto Pup” and launched his hot-dog stand business as a franchise.

Pronto Pups (the franchise stores) are still all over the country and are super popular in the Midwest. Pronto Pups (the brand of corn dog) also have become synonymous with county and state fairs over the years, and are big crowd pleasers at any kind of summer outdoor event.

You don’t see much of them during the holiday season, of course.

There is, by the way, a special Pronto Pup stand in Rockaway, “The Original Pronto Pup,” to commemorate the town’s role in the invention of the world’s most iconic state-fair fare. People who are fans of their corn dogs sometimes make pilgrimages, or at least make a point of stopping by on their Oregon Coast vacations. (*Sources: “The Fruit that Made Oregon Famous,” an article by Inara Verzemnieks published in the April 16, 2007, issue of the Portland Oregonian; “The Tater Tot is American Ingenuity at its Finest,” an article by Kelsey McKinney published in the Aug. 28, 2017, issue of Eater magazine; “How Two Oregon Brothers’ Efforts to Mitigate Food Waste Created the Tater Tot,” an article by Heather Arndt Anderson published by Oregon Public Broadcasting on Feb. 2, 2022; “A Classic American Concession was First Fried in Oregon,” an article by Meagan Cuthill published by Oregon Public Broadcasting on July 16, 2022*)

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.



By Slim Randles

When one of our neighbors is sly enough, or funny enough, or even ... cruel enough to pull one over on the whole neighborhood, that’s something that should deserve a yee-haw or a “get ‘em sis!”

Well, we’ve got one of them right here in Home Country. Sarah McKinley is a shy woman. No one knows much about her, even down at the hairdresser’s. And that seems to be okey-doke with Sarah. She’s like that.

Sarah owns the Read Me Now bookstore, the very finest bookstore in town. Well, the only bookstore, actually. The big question on readers’ minds, however, is the sign she hung on one particular section that says, “Love, and Other Fiction.”

This was the equivalent of slapping a literary glove across the moosh of every curious person in town, by which we mean all of us. It is a blessing when someone brings a new gossip subject into our consciousness and Sarah’s contribution was a dandy.

“Sarah,” said Windy Wilson, “now you take in there that there sign ...”

“Yes, Windy.”

“Well me and the boys was wonderin’ kinda needle sharp like if you could use some fellers to hunt and guy down and move his nose around a bit on his face.”

“Not this week, Windy,” she said, “but thanks for the offer.”

“Any time at all, Hon.” Windy said. “We all know there ain’t no heartbreakin’ situation like unrequested love.”

We have a lot of fun here.

You think you have problems finding a date? Check this out. Parents Without Papers. <https://www.amazon.com>.

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Gardening
Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State
University

OSU Extension Service

Set seeds on the right path



While you're battling the winter blues, make your own seed-starting mix and plan for the gardening days ahead. Home gardeners can start vegetable and flower seedlings indoors from four to 12 weeks before the last average spring frost in their area, which means it's time to get started. Making homemade planting medium can be more economical than buying a sterile mix at the store, said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. A good germinating mix must be fine and uniform, yet well-aerated,

loose, and free of pests, diseases, and weed seeds, Edmunds said. It also should be low in fertility and total soluble salts, yet capable of holding and moving moisture. But beware, she warned. Soil straight from your backyard just won't do the job. Typical backyard soil is too compacted, full of weed seeds and it is not pasteurized, causing seedling diseases and death. Native soil often does not drain as well as seedling mixes. And it can develop a crust that prevents seedlings from pushing through. Edmund's recipe for a good basic pasteurized medium for

growing seedlings is a mixture of one-third pasteurized soil or compost, one-third sand, vermiculite or perlite, and one-third coconut coir or peat moss. "Many people just use half peat moss and half perlite, vermiculite, or sand, and this combination seems to work well, too," she said. To pasteurize a small quantity of soil or compost in an oven, put the slightly moist soil or compost in a heat-resistant container or pan. Cover with a lid or foil. Place in a 250-degree oven; check the temperature periodically using a candy or meat thermometer. When the mix reaches 180 degrees, cook for an additional 30 minutes. Avoid overheating it, as the structure of the soil may be damaged, rendering it useless as a seedling soil ingredient. Mix pasteurized soil or compost with peat moss. Add sand, vermiculite or perlite. All ingredients are available at most nurseries and garden stores. Another task to complete before the start of seed-sowing is to clean your pots, trays, and flats. After washing, rinse the containers in a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 9 parts water to kill remaining plant disease microorganisms that could weaken or kill your tender young seedlings. For information about starting seeds, see Extension's publication Propagating Plants from Seeds.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



CHRISTMAS TREE
BUBBLE LIGHTS

Do you remember Bubble Lights on your Christmas tree of childhood says? They fascinated my sister, brothers and me each Christmas and were a favorite with my father, too. I'd been reminiscing about these lights to my daughter, describing the tiny bubbles that cascaded upward through the candle shaped lights. She surprised me with an early Christmas gift to decorate our home. Bubble Lights! I didn't know they still made these Christmas decorations. This is a set of five bubble bulbs set in a stand we placed on a window sill where we can watch them inside and outside the house. This gives me present joy and memories of Christmas on our farm so many years ago. A girlhood friend told me she found a set to put on their tree this year. She wanted to make memories for her daughter and grandchildren.

APPLESAUCE CAKE was a recipe my Aunt Freda made. (She lived in Dover, NH and married my uncle who went there from New York State to establish a veterinary practice.) Cream thoroughly 1/2 cup shortening and 1 cup sugar; add 2 beaten eggs and mix well. Add 1-cup thick, unsweetened applesauce, then the sifted dry ingredients (2 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon). Beat smooth and fold in 1-cup raisins. (You can add 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, if desired.) Bake in greased 8-inch square pan at 350 degrees F. for 45-50 minutes, until tests done. Serve plain or with frosting or whipped topping.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen, who grew up on a farm, often writes about nostalgic and Inspirational topics.)

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- 02 Gift a legacy paver to a loved one! \$100 will buy an 8"x8" Legacy Paver to honor your family, friends and/or neighbors (to be installed Spring 2024)
- 03 Gift our largest paver! \$200 will buy an 8"x12" Legacy Paver to honor your family, friends and/or neighbors (to be installed Spring 2024)
- 04 Support the Vida McKenzie Community Center by making a gift donation

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Community Notes

December 14 Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council’s mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, function, and use. Location varies, please contact Melanie Giangreco, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Assistant. Meetings are from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Contact: Melanie Giangreco (458-201-8150) melanie@mckenziawc.org

December 18 McKenzie Fire & Rescue

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center from noon to 1 p.m.

December 19 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

December 19 Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

December 17 Christmas Choir

The Camp Creek Church Christmas will perform from 10 to 11 a.m., Upper Camp Creek Road, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Come join friends and neighbors as they sing beautiful Christmas music together. The choir will perform at the Christmas Service following a 9 a.m. brunch.

Dec. 18 - Jan. 3 No School

Winter Break for the Waltherville Elementary School, 40589 McKenzie Hwy.

December 20 Watershed Wednesday

Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the Mckenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/ tree establishment.

December 20 Free Produce

Come by Orchid Health McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Hwy, every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month for free fruits and vegetables!

Who can get produce plus? Households residing in Lane County and all McKenzie River Community members who sign up can be served, as long as they are under the income guidelines.

For more information or to sign up please call: (541) 822-3341

December 20 Upper McK Fire Board

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board meets from 7 to 8 pm at 56578 McKenzie Hwy, in McKenzie Bridge, 541-822-3479

December 20 Wacky Wed. BINGO

Craig’s Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry’s Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Cards go on sale at 6 pm, Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning - spots fill up quickly. Burger and brew special all day!

December 21 Leaburg Food Pantry

Leaburg Food Pantry. Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 3 - 6 p.m. Behind the McKenzie Bible Fellowship Church, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

December 23 Dime At A Time

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

December 21 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

December 26 McK Food Pantry

Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 11 am - 1 pm, every 2nd & 4th Friday, McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge.

December 26 Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

December 27 Watershed Wednesday

Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the Mckenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/ tree establishment.

December 27 Lane Electric Coop

Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. at 787 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene.

Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly.

If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend. <https://laneelectric.com/attend-a-board-meeting>.

December 27 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

December 27 Wacky Wed. BINGO

Craig’s Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry’s Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Cards go on sale at 6 pm, Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning - spots fill up quickly. Burger and brew special all day!

December 29 Sprgfield Schools Budget

The SPS accepting applications for the District’s budget committee

Springfield Public Schools is seeking applicants to be on the District’s budget committee! The committee plays an integral role in the approval process every year.

Typically starting in January, the budget committee members attend a monthly work session where District staff present budget-relevant information. The Superintendent presents the proposed budget in May for consideration by the budget committee which reviews the budget proposal to ensure the District is fiscally responsible in allocating resources that are in line with District goals. It examines the proposed budget, listens to community comments, and then approves the budget and property tax rates. The budget is then forwarded to the school board for adoption.

The budget committee consists of 10 members - five school board members and five citizen volunteers appointed by the board. There are currently four open seats for the appointed citizen seats.

Applicants must reside within SPS boundaries and must be registered to vote. Budget committee members cannot be district employees. They are not compensated for their time or service.

Anyone interested in serving on the budget committee can apply in several ways:

- * Complete and submit the on-line application form

- * Printed applications are available at the District office at 640 A Street

The deadline to apply is December 29. The Board will interview finalists for the positions and vote during its Business Meeting on January 8.

December 30 Dime At A Time

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

December 31 Hoodoo New Year’s

New Year’s Eve Celebration, presented by Bigfoot Beverages and Pepsi, is an all-day party on the mountain at Hoodoo Ski & Recreation, 27400 Big Lk Rd. Lifts run from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.,

special dinner menu, live music in the lodge until midnight and a professional fireworks show on the mountain shortly after 9 p.m. It’s a great family-friendly atmosphere for New Year’s and non-skiing guests are welcome to come hang out in the lodge and enjoy the free live music.

January 2 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

January 2 Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

Paver Sales Remain Open

The Vida McKenzie Community Center will continue to offer opportunities to buy engraved pavers for their patio. As a fundraiser, continuing sales will support the completed work and provide for additional enhancements. As batches of new paver purchases are made, the engraver will furnish and install the newly etched pavers. Call 541-953-3440 or willmarlys@gmail.com.



News Sports Opinion History

Community Events Calendar



Click here and stay in touch with events online
[McKenzie Community Events Calendar.](#)



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Men's & Women's Bible Studies
Call 896-3829 for information
www.mckenziebible.com

Living Water Family Fellowship
Pastor - Doug Fairington
52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42
541-822-3820
Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM,
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Come early for a meet and greet continental
breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM.
Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery
(12 Step Program)

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1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on
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Sat. Eve. 5:00pm
Sun. Morn. 9:30am;
web page: sblodge.opwest.org

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Waltherville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Christmas Wish



My sister is a woman now beginning her thirties. She has had few friends and her boyfriends have never been good for her. Now she has finally found a man who adores her.

They had an affair nine years back when he was twice her age and still married. My sister ended the affair, and he separated from his wife. When my sister contacted him this spring, he finalized the divorce and they became a couple. His marriage, which was arranged by his church, was never happy.

His parents and his children are upset he divorced. His children don't want to meet his new girlfriend, and he hasn't dared to tell his parents about her. The other issue is children. She wants; he doesn't. I tell my sister they both know each other's stand on this and neither has the right to impose on the other, but neither of

them wants to leave.

My whole family visited them on my sister's last birthday. It felt so nice to see them together and to see my sister get love and warmth at last. But to know at some point they will have a crash landing feels awful. She has a man who loves her, but he is entangled in a constricting family and church. Besides, there is a conflict of dreams between them.

What should I say to my sister? We try to get an equal relationship, but we are in such different circumstances. I am married with two children, a professional with friends, and all things that she wants. I cannot possibly tell her, after seeing their cozy home and how they care for each other, that this is another no-go.

Who am I to know? Maybe he will come around, or maybe she will think he is more important than fulfilling her dream of children. Maybe I should just keep my "superior knowledge" to myself.

Noel

Noel, Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" is one of our favorite stories, but this tale is so familiar most of us forget the moral. Even in our old age, it is not too late to change. Even in our old age, it is not too late to live

the life which is our birthright. But we must want to change and then follow through.

In Dickens' tale, Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his old business partner Jacob Marley. Marley warns Scrooge where the patterns of his life are taking him, and even though Marley wants Scrooge to change, he is powerless to make him change. Scrooge must go through a journey of discovery before he is ready.

You would like to play Jacob Marley for your sister, but even Marley couldn't change Scrooge. Three spirits had to show Scrooge his past, his present, and if he did not change, his dismal future. Until Scrooge made this journey he was not ready.

That is the wisdom of the story. We must examine the past for its lessons, search the present for its patterns, and project where those patterns will lead us in the future. If those patterns lead to sadness, they must be altered to lead us to fulfillment. As Scrooge says, "Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead. But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change."

Whether our life is sad, an abused life, or simply a flat life, we can use this simple story as a guide to breaking the patterns that lead to bad ends.

You may possess the life you wish for your sister, but you do not have the power to give it to her. She will not change until

she is ready. Keep your superior knowledge to yourself. If you wish to do something, give your sister a copy of "A Christmas Carol" and make a silent wish for her happiness.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of *Cheating in a Nutshell* and *The Young Woman's Guide to Older Men*—available from Amazon, Apple, and booksellers everywhere.

American Life in Poetry

In Jerusalem

By Mahmoud Darwish
Translated by Fady Joudah

In Jerusalem, and I mean within the ancient walls,
I walk from one epoch to another without a memory to guide me. The prophets over there are sharing the history of the holy ... ascending to heaven and returning less discouraged and melancholy, because love and peace are holy and are coming to town.

I was walking down a slope and thinking to myself: How do the narrators disagree over what light said about a stone? Is it from a dimly lit stone that wars flare up?

I walk in my sleep. I stare in my sleep. I see no one behind me. I see no one ahead of me.

All this light is for me. I walk. I become lighter. I fly then I become another. Transfigured. Words sprout like grass from Isaiah's messenger mouth: "If you don't believe you won't be safe."

I walk as if I were another. And my

wound a white biblical rose. And my hands like two doves on the cross hovering and carrying the earth.

I don't walk, I fly, I become another, transfigured. No place and no time. So who am I? I am no I in ascension's presence. But I think to myself: Alone, the prophet Muhammad spoke classical Arabic. "And then what?"

Then what? A woman soldier shouted: Is that you again? Didn't I kill you? I said: You killed me ... and I forgot, like you, to die.

Mahmoud Darwish, "In Jerusalem" from *The Butterfly's Burden*. Copyright © 2008 by Mahmoud Darwish, English translation by Fady Joudah. Reprinted by permission of Copper Canyon Press. www.coppercanyonpress.org. Source: *The Butterfly's Burden* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007)

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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

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Quilters/Needle Crafters
The Leaburg Sew & So's are meeting most Friday afternoons at the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Training Center. Please call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

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CROSSWORD

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YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

1. *Herald, Idalia or Ophelia
6. Do this in the bud
9. Parts of play
13. Cocoon dwellers
14. Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.
15. Alexandre Duma's "The Black ____"
16. Concerning, archaic
17. Talking Heads' "And She ____"
18. Give a speech
19. *2023 World Series winners
21. *Imploded submersible's

- destination
23. *Kali Uchis' "I Wish ____ Roses"
24. Don't step on it twice!
25. *Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role
28. Winter window picture
30. Imprisons
35. Aphrodite's son
37. Hindu serpent deity
39. Toughness
40. Angler's hope
41. Stephen Curry, e.g.
43. Opposed to

Solution on Page 9

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution on Page 9

44. Tastes like lemon
46. Seven-year desire
47. Turf alternative
48. *Highest-grossing 2023 movie to-date
50. Chris Hemsworth's repeating role
52. Auction batch
53. Cheese on Peloponnese
55. Kombucha, e.g.
57. *Retired media magnate
61. *King Charles III's Royal House
65. On the radio (2 words)
66. *Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up
68. 1000 kilograms
69. "Beat it!"
70. Lake, in France
71. Manila hemp
72. Foot digits
73. Freudian topic
74. Runner

DOWN

1. Joust verbally
2. Cat food flavor
3. Word before sesame
4. Gangly
5. Type of shower
6. *Company from which #57
- Across retired, ____ Corp
7. Nest egg, acr.
8. Trattoria staple
9. Sign of a saint
10. Kin group
11. South American monkey
12. Design detail, for short
15. Sacred objects on a pole
20. Bitterly regretting
22. Dwight D. Eisenhower
24. Boat race
25. Meat on a stick
26. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
27. Post-it user
29. *Site of tragic wildfires
31. Objectivity preventer
32. Declare invalid
33. Like 1950s style, today
34. *"The Eras Tour" star
36. Balkan native
38. St. Louis attraction
42. Hindu garment
45. Combining two forms
49. What kneecap and leech have in common
51. Airbnb offering
54. Northernmost land, to the ancients
56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d'alhos
57. Lion's share
58. Beyond natural, in U.K.
59. Steak preference
60. Days, in Havana
61. *Showtime's "____: The Aftermath"
62. Certain social media message
63. A third of thrice
64. Infantry's last rows
67. *____-AFTRA

Stay in touch with what's happening - open the McKenzie Community Calendar!

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Dec 14th

LANE ELECTRIC

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Mon Nov 27th - Fri Dec 22nd

Lane Electric Survey

Contractors working with Lane Electric Cooperative will conduct survey work in the McKenzie and Blue River areas from November 27

MCKENZIE RIVER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Wed Dec 13th 5:30pm - Wed 20th 7:30pm

McKenzie School District board meeting

"Guiding the next generation of our community in learning about themselves, their communities and the world." The meeting will be ...

LEADING STORE

WEEK LONGS

FRI NOV 17 - SAT DEC 2

Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10 noon. Donations can be dropped

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Sun Dec 17th 10:00am - 11:00am

Christmas Choir

Come join friends and neighbors as they sing beautiful Christmas music together. The Camp Creek Church Christmas Choir will

NO SCHOOL DAYS

Mon Dec 18th - Wed Jan 3rd 2024

No School - Winter Break

MCKENZIE FIRE RESCUE

Mon Dec 18th 12:00pm - 1:00pm

McKenzie Fire District Board

McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. 541-896-3311.

Tue Dec 19th 10:00am - 11:00am

Family Story Time

Some special FUN at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship!

WED DEC 20TH 9:00AM - 11:30AM

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the

WED DEC 20TH 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Upper McKenzie Fire

BINGO!



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Emergency

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Ski Report

December 12, 2022

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 27 degrees at the base and 22 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 26 inches. Beautiful weather was starting out a day that features prime skiing and boarding surfaces thanks to the freezing temperatures last night. Temperatures should rise during the day, with clear skies overhead. 39 of 122 trails were open, along with 5 of 15 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

More snow is needed before the Hoodoo Ski Resort will open for this season.



A Moment
in Oregon
History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 14 - Henry J. Kaiser rarely visited Oregon, but he had a major influence on the state. Kaiser was born in New York and came to Spokane, Washington when he was 24. He founded a road paving company, and during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Kaiser’s companies were given lucrative federal contracts on Hoover, Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams. During the Second World War Kaiser owned three shipyards in Portland and employed more than 130,000 workers. Although Kaiser built an industrial empire in the Northwest he is most known for his work in the field of health care. He founded Kaiser Permanente, a national health care program, and when he died in 1967 he left the bulk of his enormous fortune to the Kaiser Family Foundation for health-related research.

Quote of the Week

“We don’t seem to be able to check crime, so why not legalize it and then tax it out of business?”
Will Rogers

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

45900 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.
5:15 p.m: Civil Problem - 92200 blk, Carson St.
9:50 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - McK. Hwy. Mp. 35.
10:32 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, DUII - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd.
Dec. 6: 5:48 a.m: Dead Animal - 36300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
8:23 a.m: Drug Overdose - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.
10:08 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.
11:45 a.m: Subpoena Service - 2000 blk, Marcola Rd.
3:07 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 88000 blk, Heather Dr.
Dec. 7: 11:03 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 89000 blk, Bridge St.
11:59 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy. Dispute between family members at a residence.
1:45 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Old Mohawk Rd. & Marcola Rd.
3:35 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - McK. Hwy. & Horse Creek Rd. A caller believed she saw people on a bus that may have been involved in recent fires.
4:23 p.m: Harassment - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln. Verbal Disturbance, Dispute between tenants.
8:58 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.
Dec. 8: 8:56 a.m: Tree Down - 41800 blk, Deerhorn Rd.
9:48 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 38200 blk, McK. Hwy.
12:12 p.m: Water Patrol - Bellinger Landing.
12:50 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.
12:53 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.
1:48 p.m: Civil Problem - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.
2:17 p.m: Reckless Driving - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.
2:32 p.m: Citizen Contact - 90700 blk, Fish Hatchery Rd.
4:18 p.m: Reckless Driving - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.
5:13 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
5:46 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.
6:29 p.m: Theft - 92800 blk, Fir Ridge Rd.
8:20 p.m: Welfare Check - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.
9:18 p.m: Welfare Check - 41500 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 9: 10:54 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.
12:14 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 42900 blk, Leaburg Dr.
2:34 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St.
5:38 p.m: Mental Subject - 90400 blk, Sunderman Rd.
8:50 p.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 35000 blk, McK. View Dr.
9:42 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 38400 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
11:30 p.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 89700 blk, Upper Johnson Creek Rd.
Dec. 10: 12:57 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 90900 blk, Sunderman Rd.
4:15 p.m: Citizen Contact - 55500 blk, Drury Dr.
6:18 p.m: Assist Public - Lat: 44.2295. Long: -122.
Dec. 11: 12:14 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - McGowan Creek Rd. Mp. 5.
2:08 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - McGowan Creek Rd. Mp. 6.
4:02 p.m: harassment - 89900 blk, Hill Rd.
6:53 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - Goodpasture Rd. & McK. Hwy.
7:24 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.
Comments, as reported, may not be complete or accurate. If further information is required contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

18:10: 39049 Easton Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.
18:34: 51745 Dexter St. Mutual Aid. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
Dec. 9: 05:53: Deerhorn Rd./Madrone St. Lines Down. Refer to EWEB, Standby.
Dec. 10: 20:00: McK. Hwy./Mp. 23 MVA. Non-Blocking/Non-Injury.
McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, December 18th at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

New grants can help small forestland owners improve stream habitat

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is accepting grant applications for the new Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program.

“Our goal is to improve fish habitat and water quality, while helping small forestland owners fix their roads which are essential for the management of their forestlands,” said SFISH program coordinator Josh Hanson.



The Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program is now taking applications for projects, like the 50X15 foot culvert above, to help improve fish passage. SFISH grants can fund up to 100 percent of the cost of projects for owners of small forestland parcels.

The SFISH Program is a grant program established to help small forestland owners (SFOs) with road improvement projects that increase fish habitat connectivity or minimize sediment delivery to streams.

“The grant program will provide more than \$6M to fund the replacement of culverts or fords in fish streams, repair abandoned roads, and fix roads with perched fill that pose a significant hazard to fish-bearing streams,” said Hanson. “The program can fund 100 percent of the cost of a project, including project design and construction.”

SFISH is just one of the incentive programs developed and funded to help support landowners with the many changes to the Forest Practices Act brought about by the landmark Private Forest Accord (PFA). The PFA provides better protection for aquatic wildlife and regulatory certainty for forestland owners. The legislation accompanying the PFA included establishing the Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Office to provide technical assistance, supporting services, and the management of

incentives programs for SFOs. One of the programs managed by ODF’s SFO Office is the SFISH program.

The application process includes filling out an application form and completing a Road Condition Assessment.

“There is no deadline for applications,” said Hanson. “But to have your project considered for the first round of funding that is anticipated to occur in Spring 2024, applications should be submitted as soon as possible.”

Visit ODF’s SFISH Program webpage to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply to have your project assessed and placed on a ranking list for funding. You can also reach out to your local ODF forester to learn more about the SFISH Program at: tinyurl.com/f6y24acr.

Could 126 be safer?

Continued From Page 1

a fatality and a serious injury happened near the dam’s spillway At the Johnson Creek intersection six wrecks included one that resulted in a serious injury.

In the other study zones, crashes ranged from four at Holden Creek to three at Ross Lane. Luckily, no fatalities occurred at either but there two serious injury accidents at the Ross/Hwy. 126 intersection.

DKS didn’t conduct any speed limit evaluation studies but noted that ODOT had done some preliminary speed checks over the last five years. None, the agency felt, indicated the need for a full speed evaluation (which is a more robust study to evaluate the need for a speed limit change).

The consultants reported that

the existing speed limits through the area’s unincorporated small communities aren’t consistent. Vida’s speed limit is 40 mph while Leaburg and McKenzie Bridge have 45 mph speed limits. The other communities along the McKenzie River have 55 mph speed limits.

“This may be confusing to some drivers and discourage them from slowing down, because they weren’t required to slow down through other communities,” DKS noted. Making the case for more continuity they advised that “if the speed limits were consistent, drivers would have consistent expectations and (hopefully) adjust their speed accordingly – slowing down as they pass through each community.”

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Emergency?
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Targeting trash

Continued From Page 1

“Currently, there is limited processing to extract cardboard and metals locally, but the majority of materials are transported all the way to the Portland area for processing.”

The total expected cost of the project is \$150 million. Bulk Handling Systems will pay for \$100 million (building and installing the sorting equipment). Lane County will be responsible for the remaining \$50 million; however,

a \$15-million-tax credit will reduce the local cost to \$35 million. Additional grants and outside funding may reduce the local cost further.

Lane County will increase solid waste disposal fees to help fund a portion of the project. For the average residential customer, the total increase in cost related to this facility would be approximately \$2.30 per month phased in over a four-year period.

Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 2

Generic drug manufacturers move in to offer an equivalent product at a lower price, which generally also forces the price of the name-brand down as well.

With Medicare imposing price controls on brand-name drugs that are still protected by patents, the government is effectively capturing much of the spread between the production cost and the market price. So suddenly, the incentive for a generic company to enter the marketplace is gone.

The point here is two-fold. Before the dramatic rise of the buying power of PBMs, drug shortages were fewer because enough generic manufacturers could stay profitable to overcome disruptions on the supply or demand side. That’s no longer true.

And the problem may soon extend to brand-name drugs, whose patents may expire without a

competitor entering the market. This problem won’t be limited to drugs under price controls, but any drug that might be subject to them down the line. The very possibility of price controls will keep generic manufacturers out. And brand-name drug makers will have limited incentive, due to price controls, to foot the bill to maintain excess capacity.

The reality of PBM consolidation and IRA price controls is that when coercive power keeps prices down, shortages emerge. Until this is fixed, more shortages are inevitable.

Dr. Ted W. Love is Chair of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization’s Board of Directors, and former President and CEO of Global Blood Therapeutics. This piece originally ran in RealClear-Health.

Habitat plan could cost counties \$18 million a year

Lane County faces an \$640,000 reduction in timber revenue

By Alex Baumhardt

Oregon Capital Chronicle

To avoid major lawsuits under the federal Endangered Species Act, state and federal agencies have crafted a plan to reduce the amount of timber logged from Oregon’s western state-owned forests annually by up to 40%. Officials in some counties that have relied on those timber revenues for the past 80 years are angry and worried about the impact that could have on their budgets and social services.

Last week, the Oregon Department of Forestry released its long-awaited projections showing how much timber revenue each of 14 western Oregon counties would get a year for the next 70 years following the adoption of a landmark proposal that’s expected to be adopted next year. The Western Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan would govern logging and conservation on about 630,000 thousand acres of state forests to protect 17 threatened or endangered species. The plan awaits approval from the Oregon Board of Forestry and the federal government.

If the habitat plan passes as expected next year, total annual timber revenues to eight counties could decline by as much as \$18 million compared to the past decade’s averages, according to the forestry department’s latest figures. Six counties stand to earn thousands of dollars more in annual revenue under the plan, but eight could lose up to several hundred thousand dollars each year. Clatsop and Washington counties appear to be staring down multi-million dollar losses.

Projected changes to timber revenue for the 14 counties under the Western Forests Habitat Conservation Plan

County	Average annual revenue distribution over last decade	Minimum projected distribution of annual revenue under plan	Difference in dollars
Benton	\$785,579	\$800,000	\$14,421
Clackamas	\$287,036	\$500,000	\$212,964
Clatsop	\$21,171,466	\$13,600,000	-\$7,571,466
Columbia	\$1,075,663	\$1,100,000	\$24,337
Coos	\$37,264	\$30,000	-\$7,264
Douglas	\$352,261	\$200,000	-\$152,261
Josephine	\$84,887	\$300,000	\$215,113
Lane	\$3,141,411	\$2,500,000	-\$641,411
Lincoln	\$1,672,038	\$1,800,000	\$127,962
Linn	\$3,804,619	\$2,200,000	-\$1,604,619
Marion	\$2,521,353	\$900,000	-\$1,621,353
Polk	\$195,918	\$700,000	\$504,082
Tillamook	\$17,187,922	\$16,500,000	-\$687,922
Washington	\$10,370,291	\$4,700,000	-\$5,670,291

cut to the amount of forest that can be logged.

“Any reach into our pocket has a pretty long-lasting and extreme response,” she said.

For Tillamook County Commission Chair Erin Skaar, any revenue loss is too much.

“No loss is acceptable,” she said.

Timber losses

On average, 252 million board feet of wood, or enough to build about 16,000 average homes, has been harvested from Oregon’s western state forests each year for the past 10 years. As part of an 80-year-old deal between the state and the counties where the forests are located, 65% of the revenue from those harvests each year goes back to the counties and smaller “taxing districts” within them – an average of nearly \$64 million each year during the last decade. Klamath County state forest land is not covered under the habitat conservation plan and is thus omitted from the projections.

Former Tillamook County Commissioner David Yamamoto had told reporters months ago that the state timber revenue accounted for almost 25% of Tillamook County’s general fund budget and that cuts would be difficult. Under the latest projections, Tillamook County and its taxing districts would lose a maximum of about \$688,000 per year. The county’s operating budget for 2023 was more than \$145 million.

Skaar in Tillamook County is concerned that the forestry department’s numbers aren’t accurate and that they don’t take into account other potential financial losses from reduced logging. But she acknowledged that the impact appears to be far less than anticipated for her county.

“We are probably one of the least damaged in this,” she said Wednesday.

Still, Skaar said she stands with her colleagues in other timber communities who are concerned about losing timber revenue.

“Every dollar we lose is a service that somebody could lose,” she said.

The Board of Forestry is scheduled to discuss the projections next Thursday. Its chair, Jim Kelly, was unavailable to discuss the findings by Thursday evening, and Mike Wilson, the forestry department’s state forests division chief, declined to comment before the meeting.

Habitat gains

For conservationists, the latest figures show that the forests can still offer plentiful financial benefits to the counties as well as better protection for critical habitat. On average, the counties have received a combined \$63.9 million each year during the last decade from logging. Under the new plan, they stand to receive between \$46 million and \$51 million.

Michael Lang, Oregon policy manager of the nonprofit Wild Salmon Center, said Oregon’s western state forests have been over-logged for decades, especially during the past 20 years. About 11% of them are considered “complex” or “layered” forests suitable for myriad species, and less than 10% of the original old growth in those forests remains, according to data from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

“We hope they push forward and finalize this habitat conservation plan and the new forest management plan,” Lang said. “It’s looking to the future and not in the past, which is unsustainable.”

However, some county leaders say the costs to their budgets under the habitat plan are too high. Courtney Banks, chair of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, said timber revenues fund positions for police, firefighters, and teachers. She also worries about jobs in nearby timber mills going away following a dramatic

The state has given Clatsop County about \$21 million and Tillamook County an average of \$17 million in timber revenues each year during that time. These two counties encompass the largest share of western state forests that are logged, and leaders from both have been the most outspoken against the habitat conservation plan.

While most counties could lose several hundred thousand dollars each year, Clatsop County and its smaller taxing district losses would be the highest – a maximum of \$7.6 million per year.

Clatsop County’s operating budget this year is \$98 million. Clatsop County Commissioner Courtney Bangs said the \$7.6 million cut would likely curtail the county’s public services, including schools and police.

As an example, she pointed to the Jewell School District, which serves 133 students in Seaside. It runs entirely on about \$5 million a year in county timber revenues, rather than the state school fund. Bangs said the school would be gutted.

The Oregon Department of Education, however, said it would step in to fund the school if it lost its timber revenue.

“The funding formula for the State School Fund is designed to take into account changes in local revenue. So, a loss of timber sales would mean that the district would start receiving State School Funds,” Peter Rudy, an education department spokesperson, said in an email.

Most of the counties appear to be facing a smaller impact from lost revenues than previously antici-

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