



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



Meteorite may be from space

Aufderheide Drive blocked by debris? It doesn't surprise anyone anymore but an examination of what was first thought to be a boulder did.

PAGE 2 Annual April 1st edition **PAGE 4**

"Softwalk" to take on trails

Vern Johnson, Leaburg, inventor of the Softwalk urban bicycle says he's increasing production with the introduction of a new off-road model.



Fish on drugs more likely to drop out of schools



Bull Trout were amount specimens collected by the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife that were quickly identified as "acting strangely."

CARMEN SMITH RESERVOIR: This month, an inventory of local fish populations took a turn for the extraordinary at the eastern end of the McKenzie Valley. Researchers from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's fish health lab had noticed strange behaviors and increased mortality in several rainbow trout. Anglers had found the live fish floating in the Carmen Smith Reservoir.

Initial tests didn't detect any typical

pathogens. By chance, one researcher forwarded their samples to the Oregon State Police's Springfield crime lab. There, a Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) instrument was used to confirm high concentrations of methylenedioxymethamphetamine.

In humans, MDMA can act as both a stimulant and a psychedelic, sometimes distorting perceptions of time or tactile **Fish on drugs - Page 12**

Tortoise theft leaves hatchery shell-shocked

LEABURG: "Waldo," a key attraction on the grounds of the Leaburg Fish Hatchery, has gone missing. Long thought to be one of the offspring of specimens brought back by naturalist Charles Darwin's historic voyage

to the Galápagos Islands, Waldo's long legs helped him climb some small hills at the Leaburg Hatchery when searching out areas to stretch his neck to eat from shrubs and bushes.

On one of those hills, hatchery staff discovered tracks from a vehicle. They led away from a spot where Waldo liked to rest, submerged in brush to keep warm during springtime's cool evenings.

At an estimated weight of 650 pounds, the thieves probably couldn't have carried him very far from the site when nocturnal **Tortoise theft - Page 13**



Dominic Wunderlich/Pixabay

McKenzie district signs "Split-Load" deal with loggers

Move expected to cut student dropouts in half



A new type of hybrid has taken to Hwy. 126 as part of an innovative program to overcome the challenges of providing bus service to McKenzie Community School students on an ongoing basis.

FINN ROCK: One solution to the challenge of hiring and retaining bus drivers - locally and regionally - got underway this month. Dubbed "Split-Load," the new program has more than doubled the number of district vehicles on the road and provided a new income source for school financing.

"In addition, it has created a new training program for students," according to a press release from the district, "as well as taking some of the stigma away from those who are seen riding a 'short bus.'"

On routes extending from the canal in **Lessons learned - Page 14**

Anti-apathy rally draws small crowd

National group had plans to add venue to their agenda



People found that nobody cares about apathy when only the organizers of a free Chili Feed showed up at the Hendricks Park Wayside last Monday morning.

WALTERVILLE: Community involvement has exhibited low interest with an ongoing downward trend. A list of recent disappointments has included:

The Vida Fortune Tellers Group canceled this month due to unforeseen circumstances. An Act of God forced the cancellation of the Nimrod Atheists Club's March meeting. The Solipsist Society scheduled an April 1st meeting at 7 p.m., but attendance would neither be taken nor known.

And, the Time Travelers Rally will be held in Finn Rock last Wednesday at 6 a.m.

Anti-apathy - Page 13

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Track and Field teams will participate in the Aaron and Marie Jones Invitational track meet on Saturday, April 6. The AMJ Invite will be held at the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Track with field events starting at 10:00 am and track events beginning at 11:00 am. McKenzie Community Track and Field host the AMJ Invite.

McKenzie Track

Opens Season At Reedsport

McKenzie's Varsity Track and Field teams opened their 2024 season down South on the Oregon Coast in last Thursday, March 14. Reedsport High hosted the Ice Breaker (season opener) at Ruppe Field and eighteen Western Oregon teams signed on for the competition.

The Oakland Boys team finished first with 83.53 points scored followed by Gold Beach in second with 68.03 points and Oakridge finished in third with 67 points. McKenzie Boys finished fourteenth with 16 points scored.

Coquille Girls scored big on the day, taking first with 177 points. South Coast neighbor Bandon also showed up strong with a second place 149.5 points. The McKenzie Girls placed twelfth with 11.5 points scored.

The McKenzie Boys 4x100 Relay team out ran the Mapleton Ice Breaker field of 11 teams

Eagle Boys 4 X 100 Relay Sprints First At Ice Breaker Becka Short and Liliana Jones Notch Third Place Marks

The McKenzie Boys 4x100 Relay team out ran the Mapleton Ice Breaker field of 11 teams, posting the winning time of 47.6 seconds. Oakland placed 2nd with a finish time of 48.5 seconds.

The time posted by the Eagle quartet of Allen Acevedo, Salomon Acevedo, Atom Fetterhoff, and Griffin Withalm was the fastest time posted by an Eagle team in several seasons. Fetterhoff, an Eagle freshman, placed tied for 11th in the 100 meters race with a time of 12.3 seconds. Rowan Files, a senior out of Lowell, with a time of 11.6 seconds, won the event.

Other Eagles placing in the 100 meters were Allen Acevedo (soph.) in tie for 35th with a time of 13.1 seconds, Hayden Harbick (soph.) tied for 42nd in a time of 13.4 seconds, Coulter Lyons (fresh.) tied for 67th in a time of

14.3 seconds, and Auden Vailes (fresh.) 77th in a time of 15.0 seconds. Eagle freshman William Valtinson finished 23rd in the 200 meters with a time of 27.6 seconds and that event was also won by Files, who finished in 23.3 seconds. McKenzie sophomore Will Meister finished 15th in the 1500 meters, running the distance in 5:19.0 minutes. The 1500 m. winner was Clayton Wilson of Reedsport, who was timed in 4:20.1 minutes.

In the Boys field events, Eagle senior Levi Lockard threw the shot put 36 ft. 1.25 in., good for a 5th place finish. Mason Detzler of Myrtle Point won the shot with a toss of 48 ft. 8.25 in. McKenzie sophomore Jacob Peek finished 20th in the shot with a throw of 30 ft. 5.25 in. (a Personal Record). Eagle freshman Noah Borden threw the shot 20 ft. 4.5 in., a 45th place finish.

Lockard took home a 7th place mark in the discus event with a throw of 108 ft. 8 in. Peek finished in 23rd place with a mark of 82 ft. 5 in. (Personal Record), and Borden finished in 55th place at 45 ft. 5 in. The discus winner was Detzler, who threw the plate 153 ft. 9.5 in.

Nelson Wilstead of Gold Beach won the javelin throw, sticking the implement at 161 ft. 6 in. Lockard got a stick at 102 ft. 9 in., which placed him in 16th place. Eagle freshman Rhys Hamlow placed 35th at 84 ft. 1 in., Peek finished 45th at 74 ft. 4 in., and Borden came in at 54th with a toss of 57 ft. 9 in.

Hamlow also finished 10th in the long jump with a leap of 15 ft. 7.25 in. Teammate Vailes finished 28th with a 11 ft. 8 in. jump and the event was won by Lowell's Jaden Julof, who leaped 19 ft. 8

in.

The McKenzie Girls team had a couple of 3rd place finishes to pace the Eagles efforts. In the 100 meters, freshman Liliana Jones tied for 3rd with a posted time of 14.4 seconds. Eagle junior Beckah Short finished in 19th place with a time of 17.1 seconds and freshman teammate Sapana Mitchell-Chavez tied for 24th with a time of 18.6 sec. Coquille's Ada Millet won the 100 meters in 13.3 seconds. Short had the other Eagle 3rd place finish, in the triple jump, leaping 26 ft. 5 inches (Personal Record).

Coquille's Emelia Wirebaugh, who cleared 32 ft. even, won the triple jump. McKenzie sophomore Paiten Clevenger jumped 15 ft. 6.5 in., good for 8th place and Mitchell-Chavez finished 9th with a leap of 13 ft. 0 in.

McKenzie's Myra Dion took home a 10th place finish in the 1500 meter run with a time of 6:39.6 minutes and that event was won by Bryleigh Mead of Coquille



in 5:25.7 minutes.

The Eagle 4x100 meter relay quartet of Jane Dillenger, Dion, Jones and Short, ran the distance in 1:03.0 minutes, a 10th place finish behind winner Myrtle Point, which posted a time of 54.2 seconds.

McKenzie freshman Rachel Karch had the highest Eagle finish in the shot put, throwing the iron ball 22 ft. 9.5 in., which was a tie for 14th. Freshman teammate Lyla Boydston finished with a toss of 22 ft. 5.75 in., good for 16th, and senior Riley Morales established a new Personal Record, with a 33rd place toss of 16 ft. 0 in. Reedsport's Hannah Hill won the shot at 28 ft. 4.5 in. Boydston finished the discus in 18th place with a mark of 56 ft. 10 in. and Karch took home 25th place at 50 ft. 1 inch.

The discus winner was from Coquille, Halli Vigue, who had a toss of 114 ft. 4 in. In the javelin, Dion threw the spear 51 ft. 3 in., a 20th place finish, Karch finished behind in 24th place at 48 ft. 7 in., Boydston came in at 28th place with a toss of 41 ft. 5 in., and Morales established a personal record toss of 28 ft. 0 in., a 37th place finish. Callie Millet of Coquille, who got a good stick at 116 ft. 10 in, won the event.

Eagle Short jumped 10 ft. 1 in. to grab a 10th place finish in the long jump and she was followed by teammates Clevenger in 28th place, 8 ft. 9.5 in., and Mitchell-Chavez in 34th place, 6 ft. 3.5 in. Brooke McHaffie of North Douglas won the long jump event with a leap of 14 ft. 5 in.

Eagle Boys Second At Sundstrom Invitational McKenzie Girls Third

Sheridan High School easily won the Boys competition at Mapleton's Johnny Sundstrom Invitational, last Thursday, March 21. Sheridan, a Class 3A team, scored 176 points on the day and the Eagles of McKenzie finished in second with 83.5 points, defeating all other Class 1A

Guest Opinion - Page 10

Briefs...

Dental care

Continued From Page 1

people can call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800. The program provides services to members of the Oregon Health Plan, working with the State of Oregon and Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations.

Fair Lady

Continued From Page 1

as a flower seller before being discovered by linguistics professor Henry Higgins. Tickets are on sale now for a show that addresses "who is teaching who."

CWD

Continued From Page 1

lected samples were sent to labs outside the state, results were

sometimes delayed by up to a month.

First detected in northern Idaho in 2021, CWD is always fatal to deer and elk. There is no vaccine or cure, and herds are devastating in other states, where prevalence rates among tested animals have exceeded 50 percent in some areas.

If the disease is detected, ODFW can implement a response to contain the spread of CWD, so a timely discovery is crucial.

Securing additional funding to fight CWD was a two-year process led by Amy Patrick, the Oregon Hunter Association's (OHA) policy director.

"This is a huge win," said Patrick, for the OHA, the sportsmen and women of Oregon, and most importantly, our wildlife."

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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
3/19	72	41	0	981 cfs	3/19	74	40	0	5,900 cfs
3/20	59	42	0	1,055 cfs	3/20	68	45	0	6,080 cfs
3/21	61	45	0.01	963 cfs	3/21	58	45	0	5,830 cfs
3/22	57	44	0.03	1,329 cfs	3/22	65	44	0	5,770 cfs
3/23	52	42	0.08	1,619 cfs	3/23	55	42	0.19	6,000 cfs
3/24	48	39	0.04	1,558 cfs	3/24	51	40	0.20	5,790 cfs
3/25	1,499 cfs				3/25	51	42	0.70	5,480 cfs

Friday 3/29		Saturday 3/30		Sunday 3/31	
McKenzie Valley Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 60 Low: 38	Santiam Pass PM Showers 40% chance precip High: 43 Low: 26	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 62 Low: 38	Santiam Pass PM Showers 30% chance precip High: 45 Low: 27	McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 20% chance precip High: 63 Low: 39	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 48 Low: 27

Sheriff's Report

March 16: 9:43 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln. A deputy contacted a neighbor who had questions regarding their property line dispute, which was determined to be a civil issue.

March 17: 10:38 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 90700 blk, Hill Rd.

10:50 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

2:00 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 89100 blk, Marcola Rd.

4:16 p.m: Assist Oregon State Police - 42800 blk, Leaburg Dr.

5:48 p.m: Stranded Boater - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy. Fire personnel responded to a stranded boat on Leaburg Reservoir.

7:40 p.m: Warrant Service - 92200 blk, Carson St.

March 18: 1:17 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 54400 blk, W. King Rd. A black sedan with loud muffler drove onto the caller's property, turned around several times, and then left.

4:44 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Horse Creek Rd.

5:28 p.m: Dog Bite - 89000 blk, Marcola Rd.

7:22 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & N. Bank Rd.

March 19: 3:53 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

12:11 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Marcola Rd. & Nadeau Rd.

2:56 p.m: Traffic Complaint - Marcola Rd. & Wendling Rd.

2:57 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - 92200 blk, Carson St.

3:07 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Milepost 46.

3:38 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 44.

6:03 p.m: Dispute - 55400 blk, McK. River Dr. A deputy discussed with a complainant about a neighborhood dispute that has been ongoing.

6:45 p.m: Harassment - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln. Citizen Self Report regarding ongoing trespass issues.

10:17 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 8600 blk, Thurston Rd.

March 20: 3:26 p.m: Suspicious Subject - Marcola Rd. & Howard Rd. A male walking in the area picking up cans was also seen opening mailboxes. A deputy contacted the male and determined nothing was stolen.

4:01 p.m: Civil Problem - 37800 blk, MJ Chase Rd.

4:11 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd. Two drivers engaged in a road rage dispute. A deputy contacted one of the drivers in the dispute.

4:38 p.m: Dead Animal - Hill Rd. & Marcola Rd.

4:49 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 88900 blk, Easy Ln.

7:34 p.m: Restraining Order Service - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.

8:54 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

9:35 p.m: Found Property -

91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

9:52 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 37900 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A white Chevy crew cab pickup stopped at a locked gate to a property and attempted to open it before driving off. A deputy searched for the vehicle, but did not locate it.

March 21: 5:20 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Parsons Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

2:23 p.m: Harassment - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln.

March 22: 4:34 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 88900 blk, Easy Ln.

4:38 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:46 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & mp 16.

10:32 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

March 23: 4:38 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 50900 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:52 a.m: Alarm - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:27 a.m: Criminal Trespass - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:45 p.m: Open Gate - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.

10:37 p.m: Vehicle in Ditch - McGowan Quarry.

10:40 a.m: Traffic Hazard - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

10:49 a.m: Warrant Service - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

11:56 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.

March 24: 7:52 a.m: Alarm - **Continued On Page 9**

State Police Report

March 22: 21:14: Assault, Domestic - Hwy. 126 E, Milepost 36. Troopers received a report of a domestic disturbance with possible kidnapping. One involved party called in screaming on the phone and indicated they were in distress. A third party also called in reporting similar concerns. After a multi-agency alert and investigation, the involved parties were located, an investigation was conducted, and the original allegations were unfounded. Complainant: 36-year-old female from Sherwood.

March 25: 19:19: Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Alcohol - 39317 McK. Hwy. Dispatched to a driving complaint near Milepost 14. According to multiple complainants a dark colored Chevy pickup was driving east when they were unable to maintain their lane and were driving anywhere from 30 - 55 in a 55 mph zone. Both reporting parties stated the vehicle pulled into the Dollar General parking lot. Another trooper arrived at the same time and observed the pickup parked on the east side of the lot. Contacted the driver and they immediately displayed indicators of impairment. The driver consented to standardized Field Sobriety Tests. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Lane County Jail where they consented to provide a breath sample. That sample yielded a BAC of .20. The driver was cited and released at the Express Motel. Involved: blue Chevy Silverado, Juan Jimenez-Viera, 50-years-old, from Springfield.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

March 18: 13:05: 37000 block, Worth Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

13:29: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

March 20: 14:05: 900 blk, 63rd St. Medical, General. Cancelled On Scene.

14:16: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd Medical, General. Cancelled On Scene.

19:48: 88000 blk, Miller Ave Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

March 21: 15:19: 9000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

March 22: 2:22: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Deceased.

March 24: 12:52: 38000 blk, Kickbush Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

March 25: 6:03: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

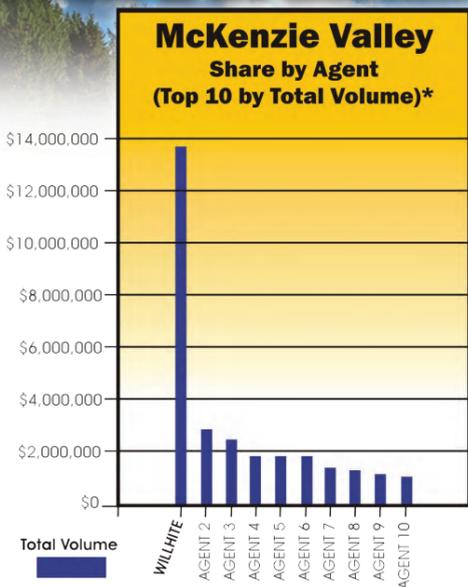
6:22: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

8:16: McK. Hwy./Milepost 13. Mistaken Alarm. Unable To Locate.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

March 18: 05:02: Medical - 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

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Oregon's range wars were all about shooting sheep

Continued From Last Week

By Finn J.D. John

Signs and threats like the "COMITEE" warnings in the Klickitat Valley showed that this threat was being taken very seriously. Fortunately, though, the worst-case scenario was very rare. There were a few sheepherders who insisted on their right to plunder the public domain regardless of how the neighbors felt about it; but on the Western frontier, disagreements like this had a tendency to get worked out with fists and sometimes pistols. Overall, everyone grumbled, but they all managed to coexist.

But then, something else happened to push the situation into full-blown crisis.

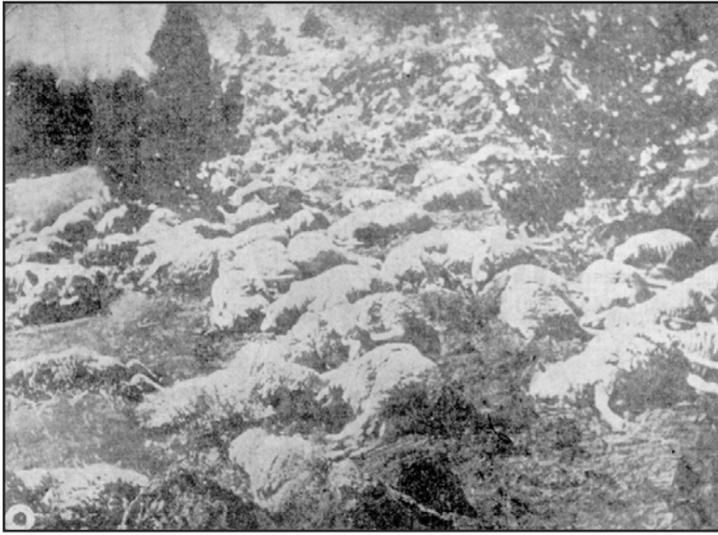
Actually, three somethings happened, all in the early 1890s.

The first was, the Northern Pacific Railroad figured out that it was under no obligation to let sheepherders graze on its undeveloped lands. Railroad lands, of course, tended to be prime country, close by the rivers where railroad construction was practicable. Suddenly, after 1892 or so, those lands were made off-limits to sheep.

This meant that thousands of sheep that had gotten used to fattening up on riverside pastures owned by the railroad had to find other sources.

The second event happened in 1891, but wasn't really felt until 1894: The federal government created the National Forest Reserves system, which would shortly morph into the U.S. National Forests. Many of the sheepherders' prime grazing lands were inside these new zones, which in 1894 were declared off-limits to sheep. When sheepmen ignored the limitation, federal marshals showed up and arrested them. So, the sheepherders' rangeland shrank even more.

And while all this was going on, the Panic of 1893 broke out. Beef and wool prices crashed hard, and



This photograph of hundreds of dead sheep near the town of Heppner ran in the Dec. 13, 1904, edition of *The Morning Oregonian*.

so did wheat prices. Desperation drove everyone out onto the public lands to try to get by, and for hard-pressed sodbusters that "worst case scenario" involving fluffy white locust swarms became less uncommon.

In the battle between the "tramp sheepmen" and the stationary settlers and cattle ranchers, the advantage lay with the sheepherders — they could move on to greener pastures any time they wanted, whereas the settlers and farmers, tied as they were to their land, had to just hang on as best they could.

In about 1895, settlers and cattlemen in the area of the little community of Izee, just northwest of Burns, decided to do something to turn that situation around. They got together and formed a little vigilance committee calling itself the "Izee Sheep Shooters." Their plan was to basically post the rangeland around their place with "sheepmen take notice" signs warning them away, and take turns patrolling it for sheep sign. Then, any time a sheepherder was found inside their "dead line" bringing a flock of "meadow maggots" their way, they'd sneak up on his camp, capture him and tie him to a tree,

and slaughter his entire flock with gun, knife or club.

Members of the Sheep Shooters were sworn to secrecy. They all agreed to try as hard as they could not to kill or injure any sheepman, but if that happened, they'd bury him on the spot and nothing would be said.

Word about the Izee Sheep Shooters got around very quickly. Not surprisingly, lots of other homesteaders and cattlemen thought it was a fine idea. Another gang of range-enforcement vigilantes sprang up in Crook County, and another in Lake County. Soon they were everywhere.

By the early 1900s it was clear that a crisis was at hand. There were few places now that a sheepherder could bring his flock to that were not protected by a "comitee" of sheep shooters. So, sheep started to die, first by dozens, then by hundreds and even thousands.

In 1903, 2,400 sheep were slaughtered at Benjamin Lake, north of Christmas Valley, as well as 5,300 in two separate massacres in the Silver Lake area.

In 1906 a gang of masked riders galloped into a sheep camp in Lake County, drove most of the stock over a cliff in a "buffalo jump," and massacred as many of the rest as they could catch before

galloping away. In that attack, 1,800 sheep out of a herd of 2,200 were killed.

Estimates of the total death toll range from 12,000 to 25,000 sheep over the roughly 10-year period when Sheep Shooters' associations were active. Most of these were small bands of sheep, just one or two hundred, which the vigilantes tracked and pounced upon.

So far as is officially known, no human was killed in the range wars. There are a couple of disappearances that may have been connected with them — especially Shorty Davis, a farmer who ran sheep on his own land who vanished in 1900. There are also anecdotes about gunfights and shallow graves in the Ochoco Mountains, some of which may actually be true.

That lack of human victims probably has a lot to do with the fact that the sheepmen didn't try taking any vigilante action themselves. They must have been acutely aware that they were much more vulnerable than the farmers and ranchers who were attacking them. The sheepherders lived alone with their flocks and maybe a couple dogs in specially built camp wagons — the precursors of the modern camp trailer — that were pulled from place to place by horses. Sneaking up on them was often easy to do, and for sheepmen who had good guard dogs, all that was necessary was to turn out in force. No sheepherder could do much to defend himself against 15 or 20 masked riders with Winchesters at the ready. Farms and ranches were much more well defended; for the sheepmen, trying to fight fire with fire would have led to disaster, and they knew it well.

They complained to authorities, asking county officials to take action; the sheep shooters responded by urging county authorities to mind their own business and not get involved. For the most part, local governments took that advice.

Range wars - Page 9



By Slim Randles

You have to hand it to Windy. When Alphonse "Windy" Wilson chooses to speak, it is a bombastic sampling of creativity. Windy has yet to find a word he can't make better through his own unique methods.

Well, what got him fired up the other day was a meeting of the ladies of the garden club down at the nursery. Windy's been helping Dewey with his manure business on the one day a week he spends helping others. Today wasn't a helper day, but he couldn't pass up the audience.

They hadn't gotten through old business when Windy stood, smiled, and spoke.

"Dear ladies," he said, "what an opera-tune moment this is, finding you all coagulated here in an effort to beatify the yards of our fair town. And what, you may ask, brings me to this conflagration? It's the latest thing in gardening. Our chairman of the board refers to it as 'cow pasture tea' and it nutritionalizes plants right down to bedrock. As Dewey says, the only way to improve on cow manure is to liquidize it. Well, he hasn't said it yet, but he will.

"Now what exactly is cow pasture tea you're undoubtedly asking yourselves at this moment. It's a varietal combination of composted cow manure, water, and some acid we put in there to matriculate it properly into the life-giving succulence we require. Then we put it in a drum and pull the drum behind a tractor-like conveyance that looks an awful lot like an old riding lawn mower. We spray this on your lawn, and in ninja-seconds, this liquor of life perambulates deep into the rootiness of the grass and makes it want to grow."

He smiled at the group and noticed a lot of them were giggling in appreciation of his talk. He puffed up and continued.

"And what does the Dewey Decker Manure Combine charge for this incompartmental service? A mere \$10 for an average-sized lawn. Think about that, ladies. Ten dollars. Twenty fifty-cent pieces. Why you'd spend more than that on a wedding dress or a trip to the Bermudas!"

A number of the ladies clapped at that, thinking that might satisfy him, and it did. He smiled and sat.

He could get used to this corporate life. Maybe it wasn't too late to climb the ladder to success.

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CORRECTION

The "Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare" (P.R.E.P.) meetings are sponsored by the McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals (MRLHL) - not the McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group (MVLTRG),

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Gardening Tips



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

With care, asparagus beds will last decades



By Kym Pokorny

Growing asparagus requires patience—from planting to harvest, it takes two to three years—but the wait is well worth the reward.

Homegrown asparagus is one of the earliest vegetables of spring. Its quality is much better than store-bought spears and less expensive. Once established, this vegetable is easy to grow. And asparagus is beautiful. A member of the lily family, its fern-like foliage turns from green to gold in fall and can be a backdrop to chrysanthemums or other late-season flowers.

Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturists say preparing an asparagus bed properly will reward you for decades.

Asparagus is a hardy perennial and should be planted as soon as the soil can be prepared correctly in the spring. Usually, asparagus is started from 1-year-old plants rather than from seed. The plants you purchase in early spring have dormant crowns (no leaves) and look like an octopus, with long fleshy roots extending from the

crown. Avoid buying crowns that are dried out or have rotten areas. If you can't plant the crowns immediately, keep them cool and moist until you can get them in the ground.

Choose a site for the asparagus in full sun. Foliage will reach 5 to 6 feet during the summer, so place your asparagus bed where it won't shade out smaller plants. Good soil preparation is a key to success. Digging deeply to remove weeds and amend the soil with plenty of organic matter is important. Asparagus will not grow well in heavy, poorly drained soils and doesn't compete well with weeds. Prepare the growing site to a depth of at least 12 inches and add a general slow-release fertilizer. Check the pH with a do-it-yourself test from a garden center or a laboratory, and add lime if your soil is acidic.

Plant your asparagus crowns into the prepared bed about three to four weeks before the last frost date. After amending the soil, dig a trench about 6 inches deep and place the crowns at the bottom about 12 inches apart. Place

the bud pointing up, spread the roots, and cover the crowns with 2 inches of the soil from the bed. As the spears lengthen through the spring, fill the trench with soil, exposing the tips. Keep the soil moisture consistent through the first year to establish the asparagus crowns.

Starting from seed is less common but can be a less expensive way to make an asparagus bed. Seed-started asparagus will take an extra year (four rather than three) to reach a harvestable stage. For information on growing seeds, we have a video and an article. Search the OSU Extension publications catalog or news feed for more resources.

Do not harvest the spears the first spring of planting. They should be left to form "ferns," which provide food for the plant. A few shoots can be harvested the second spring after planting, but only for a week or two. Leave the rest to feed developing roots. The third spring, after that, harvests spears until mid-June, then allows the fern to grow and keeps the root crown healthy.

Asparagus should be fertilized in the spring as spears emerge and again right after the last harvest in June for older plantings.

To harvest, grasp 5- to 8-inch-long spears at the base and bend them toward the ground. The spear will snap where it is free of fiber. Spears may also be cut with a knife, but do not damage the emerging spears. Quality deteriorates rapidly after harvest. If you can't eat your asparagus immediately, refrigerate or process it.

Information on how to pickle asparagus is in the online OSU publication, PNW 355, "Pickling Vegetables."

OSU recommends the following asparagus varieties for Oregon: Mary Washington, Jersey Knight, Jersey Giant, UC 157, Purple Passion, Sweet Purple, and Millennium.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



A BLIZZARD FOR SPRING

We thought spring was here and stormy weather would consist of spring showers. However, today, a few days after official spring, we were hit with the biggest snowstorm of the year...at least 15 inches and it hasn't stopped yet. It's been a fairly mild winter with more rain in New Hampshire than snow, even some flooding.

However, our temperatures in the 50s earlier this week were just a teaser, giving way for one last wintry blast. Some ski areas had closed early, others had shut down many trails. The ground was too bare for cross-country skiing. The ice castle display had shut down due to melting.

But today we had a taste of truly wintry weather to round out the week.

Blizzard of '88

This reminds me of my grandfather's stories of the Blizzard of '88...that was March 11, 1888, which he and Grandma experienced. He told of shoveling a tunnel so he could get from the house to the barn. The wind was so strong that snow blew in between cracks in the walls.

That was a blizzard that hit the

northeastern part of the U.S. very hard, as well as the northern Great Plains. There are stories and books written about it. But we weren't expecting we'd have our Blizzard of '24!

Blizzard time is a good time for cooking. Today my daughter made apple cake, then roast pork and stuffing for our supper meal.

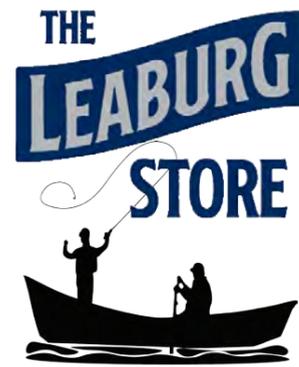
Here is a pork chop meal that's tasty.

PORK CHOP CASSEROLE – Place 3 lean pork chops in casserole; sprinkle over them 4 tablespoons raw rice, ½ sliced onion, salt and pepper as desired. Place 3 more lean chops over this; and sprinkle with another half an onion, salt and pepper and 1 finely chopped green pepper. Pour 1 large can stewed tomatoes over all.

Bake 1½ hour at 350 degrees F. If pork chops are not very lean, you may want to brown them lightly in a skillet first and drain off the excess fat before placing in casserole.

(c)Mary Emma Allen

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



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Community Notes

March - April 25 "Write your life"

The Leaburg Library is delighted to announce that Duane Noriyuki is back with a third "Write Your Life" workshop. This six-week memoir workshop - on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. - will run through Thursday, April 25th. The program is free, and will meet in the library's Annex Room, at 42888 McKenzie Hwy.

People who participated in the first or second workshop can just pick up where they left off. If you are new, you can start fresh. All are welcome.

To sign up, please contact the Library Director, Marty Mealey, at 541-896-3817, or stop in at the library - right next to the McKenzie Fire and Rescue building in Leaburg.

March 30 Grange Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt will begin right at 10 a.m. so don't be late (they go fast). Be sure the kids bring their own baskets to put the eggs they find in. There will be some special eggs with special prizes in them. Every egg will have a surprise in it. There are three age groups: 4 and under; 5 and 6; and 7 and above. There is no charge, and all are welcome. We are still collecting donations for the new siding and windows on the west side of the building if you care to donate.

March 30 Easter Egg Hunt

Younglife is sponsoring a community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 30th at the McKenzie Community Track. We will have candy stuffed egg hunts in 2 areas where different age groups will be able to participate. The hunt will start at 11 am promptly. Several games will be going on for the youth to participate in. Coffee, cocoa, and

apple fritters will be available.

And, there will be a free drawing available for some prizes

YoungLife will have an Information Table where participants can get their ticket (for prize drawing) and receive some free information about the McKenzie Valley Young Life activities. We look forward to seeing you all there.

March 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.

April 1 Kids Eat Free

Kids eat free every Monday (with adult meal purchase) at Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry's Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Takeout, Dine-in, Outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

April 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.

April 2

Coffee With Locals

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) from 10 to 11 a.m. at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd. Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

April 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.

April 2 EWEB Meeting

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed. The President will announce the speaking time at the start of the Public Input session. Alternatively, you may submit written testimony to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

April 3

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.

April 3

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.

April 3

Cornhole League

The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at 54745 McKenzie River Dr. Join in for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. Bag tossings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Bring some snacks to share.

April 3

BR Water Board

The Blue River Water Board will meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com

April 3

BR Park Board

The Blue River Park Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com.

April 6

VMCC Grand Opening

After three and 1/2 years of planning and fundraising, Vida McKenzie Community Center is opening its doors to the public on April 6th at 2 p.m. for a Grand Opening Celebration. There will be wines to taste, offered by McKenzie Crest Winery; non-alcoholic beverages; delicious appetizers; live music played by Kimberly Reeves Parker on VMCC's beautiful baby grand piano; and at 3 p.m. there will a drawing of the winning ticket for a \$1,000 Jerry's Home Improvement Shopping Spree.

Mark your calendars so you do not miss this pivotal event. For more information, go to vidacommunitycenter.com

April 8

Parks Advisory Committee

The Parks Advisory Committee meets 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy. in Eugene. It advises the Board of County Commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects - including financial and operational development and acquisition. The committee also provides recommendations regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and serves as a liaison group

April 8 Spfd School Bd

The Springfield School Board meets twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A St. Agendas, meeting materials, and approved minutes are posted on the Agenda & Meetings page.

April 9

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.

April 9

Tiny Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Hwy, every second Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning.

April 9

Mck Tourism Committee

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every Second Tuesday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m. Please join us even if you are not a Chamber member. The committee strives to strengthen the support of locals interested in improving tourism and the economic vitality of the entire McKenzie River Valley. Email the Tourism Chair to get on the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com



News Sports Opinion History

Community Events Calendar



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Upper McKenzie RFPD is seeking a Fire Chief to replace our esteemed Christiana Rainbow Plews, who is retiring. The call for candidates and job description is posted on our website, at <https://www.uppermckenziefire.com>. Applications are due at 56578 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge OR 97413-0388 by 5 PM, April 9th, 2023.

Jean Michiger
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Sun. Morn. 9:30am
web page: sbldodge.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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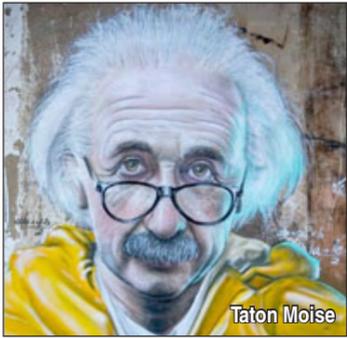
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Time Enough



Taton Moise

Frankly, I don't know how much slower I can take it. I am not insinuating marriage or even living together. I would like to know if he is committed to the possibility of a life together. What is a reasonable period for someone to know if they are willing to commit to the level I described?

I understand everyone works on a different time clock, but when does time run out? He will only share that he loves me if I ask him. I am a patient, caring, loving, smart woman with much to offer. I love this man, but I am realistic and will not wait forever.

Sara

Sara, Einstein explained relativity to his long-time secretary by saying that sitting with a pretty girl passes like a minute while sitting on a hot stove passes like an hour. Einstein's relative time

is unlike clock time, which passes in regular, unvarying beats.

But no matter how one measures time, you and your boyfriend have been together long enough for him to know what he feels. He wants to slow time to a stop. He is satisfied with what he has. You are trying to move time forward to a wedding.

There is a third kind of time, psychological time. In psychological time, the time is always now. If your boyfriend truly loved you, his feelings would always bubble to the surface. He couldn't help himself. He would tell you he loves you and always wants to be with you.

If you approach the subject directly, you are afraid he will say no. But approaching the topic roundabout will likely cause him to take advantage of you. He gets the point, even if he pretends not to.

Say where you want your relationship to go and insist on his answer. It is better to get a no now than to wait one, three, or five years for the same answer.

Wayne & Tamara

A Bird In Hand

Your answers to people's problems make interesting reading and seem quite sensible. You will probably think that my question is not so sensible, though. But it is

my problem, so here goes.

I am 63 years old. I have met a 32-year-old lesbian. I am heterosexual. She is lovely, and we get on so well. She says she loves me. I know I love her. We haven't dated beyond having dinner at a restaurant several times. Should I take a step to encourage her or give up?

I take rejection personally. If she rejects me, we might not be friends anymore, and I will lose the "love of my life."

Andrew

Andrew, often, when friends are of the opposite sex, one party wants to make the relationship more than friendship.

It's a little like the song "Love the One You're With." It would be inconceivable for you to go trolling for a date in a lesbian bar, but because this woman is your friend and you have a relationship, it's conceivable that you could want more. She's here. I want someone, so why can't I love the one I'm with? Your feelings aren't unusual, but she has a different orientation.

If you are truly friends, you will know whether or not you should say something. As with any friendship, you don't say or do anything to hurt a friend. That's a measure of your love for her.

Wayne & Tamara

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

To Our Land

By Mahmoud Darwish
Translated by Fady Joudah

To our land,
and it is the one near the word of god,
a ceiling of clouds
To our land,
and it is the one far from the adjectives of nouns,
the map of absence
To our land,
and it is the one tiny as a sesame seed,
a heavenly horizon ... and a hidden chasm
To our land,
and it is the one poor as a grouse's wings,
holy books ... and an identity wound
To our land,
and it is the one surrounded with torn hills,
the ambush of a new past
To our land, and it is a prize of war,
the freedom to die from longing and burning
and our land, in its bloodied night,
is a jewel that glimmers for the far upon the far
and illuminates what's outside it ...
As for us, inside,
we suffocate more!

Mahmoud Darwish, "To Our Land" 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

Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish was born in al-Birwa in Galilee, a village that was occupied and later razed by the Israeli army. Because they had missed the official Israeli census, Darwish and his family were considered "internal refugees" or "present-absent aliens." Darwish lived for many years in exile in Beirut and Paris. He is the author of over 30 books of poetry and eight books of prose, and earned the Lannan Cultural Freedom Prize from the Lannan Foundation, the Lenin Peace Prize, and the Knight of Arts and Belles Lettres Medal from France.

In the 1960s Darwish was imprisoned for reciting poetry and traveling between villages without a permit. Considered a "resistance poet," he was placed under house arrest when his poem "Identity Card" was turned into a protest song. After spending a year at a university of Moscow in 1970, Darwish worked at the newspaper Al-Ahram in Cairo. He subsequently lived in Beirut, where he edited the journal Palestinian Affairs from 1973 to 1982. In 1981 he founded and edited the journal Al-Karmel. Darwish served from 1987 to 1993 on the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Mahmoud Darwish died in 2008 in Houston, Texas.

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Personal

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 Watterville Loop, a block from the Watterville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

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For Skip Cospers

The family of Kenward "Skip" Cospers invite you to a Celebration of Life for their Husband, Father and Friend. This celebration will be in the form of an old-time music jam held at the Upper McKenzie Community Center on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from

12:00 - 4:30 PM. Music, time for memory sharing, and light fare and refreshments will be provided.

This is a dry event. The family respectfully asks that you do not bring alcohol to this event.

PLEASE RSVP TO KATHY COSPER at skipnkathy@gmail.com BY SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2024.

Any logistical questions regarding this event should be directed to Elora Cospers at elorasilene@me.com

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Ski Report

March 26, 2023

The Hoodoo Ski Resort is now open for 13 days straight during Spring Break, wrapping up with an Easter celebration on March 31st. The Tuesday report from the mountain reported another 1 to 3 inches were expected to add to the power tilled base of 77 inches, which grew by 9 inches in 24 hours. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 24 degrees at the base and 17 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. 3 inches of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 105 inches. Snow was continuing to fall but winds had decreased allowing all lifts but the Summit to open. 110 of 125 trails were open, along with 10 of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:28 a.m: Vehicle in Ditch - McGowan Quarry.

11:36 a.m: Dead Animal - Lat: 44.178444. Long: -123.002880.

5:27 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

5:37 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

March 25: 6:00 a.m: Alarm - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy..

6:06 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

Comments, as reported, may not be complete or accurate. If further information is required contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

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7	4	2	5	9	8	3	1	6
5	9	3	6	8	4	7	2	1
2	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	4
4	7	1	3	5	2	6	9	8
1	5	4	7	2	9	8	6	3
6	3	9	8	4	5	1	7	2
8	2	7	1	3	6	9	4	5



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

March 30 - Joel Palmer came west by covered wagon in 1845. The following year, he doubled-back and brought his family to the Willamette Valley. His diary, published as *Travels Over the Rocky Mountains*, served as a guide for Oregon Trail pioneers. During the Cayuse War Palmer served as the general of volunteer forces and as a peace emissary. He was appointed the Oregon Superintendent of Indian Affairs and negotiated treaties with most of the major Indian tribes of the region. But in 1857 he was removed from office because of his determined stance of refusing to allow the settlers to encroach on reservation lands, and his insistence that the federal government live up to its treaty promises. In 1870 he ran for governor on the republican ticket but lost the election. He died in 1881.

Sheepmen from Antelope tried to set up a meeting with cattle ranchers from Crook County to work out a peace treaty. Probably sensing they had the upper hand, the ranchers turned them down.

Sheepmen offered a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the Sheep Shooters. But, nobody wanted the money badly enough to turn rat for it.

Everything was clearly building to some sort of horrible conclusion. But then, probably just in time, the U.S. Government stepped in and stopped the whole thing in its tracks.

In a move surely at least partly inspired by the violence and damage to land that the old system had caused, the federal government took action in 1906. The Department of the Interior ordered the rangeland supervisor to divide the public land into grazing allotments and give each one exclusively to one operator, for a lease payment.

Not only did this stop the

Range wars

Continued From Page 4

wars, it also went a long way toward solving the tragedy of the commons. A herder who let his stock damage the land would be back again in the same spot the next year, reaping the bitter harvest of his bad decision.

And with the public rangeland now suddenly off-limits to all but one cattle or sheep operation, there was no longer anything to fight over. If one operator was caught grazing on another's leased land, it was clear to all who was in the wrong.

By 1908, these changes had been fully implemented and started being vigorously enforced. And Central Oregon's range war just faded into memory.

By the time it did, more than 15,000 sheep had been killed, and at least one shepherd had been wounded by a stray bullet.

Not a single "Sheep Shooter" was prosecuted, or even publicly identified.

(Sources: *Counting Sheep*, a book by Alexander Campbell

McGregor published in 1982 by the Univ. of Wash. Press; "From Oregon's Range War to Nevada's Sagebrush Rebellion," an article by William R. Lindley published in the Jan. 1999 issue of *Journal of the West*; "Central Oregon Range Wars," an article by Tor Hanson published July 7, 2018, by *The Bend Bulletin*; "The Central Oregon Range Wars," an article by Melinda Jette published in 2004 by *Oregon History Project*.)

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

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

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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

Continued From Page 2

teams and Class 5A Central in the competition. Host Mapleton Boys finished third with 76.5 points, Siletz Valley was fourth with 73 pts., Eddyville Charter was fifth at 28 pts., Mohawk finished sixth at 21 pts., and Central was seventh with 20 pts.

The Sheridan girls won the Girls competition as well, tallying 123 points in the victory. Mapleton gave the visitors a battle however, the Sailor girls scoring 107 points to finish second. The Eagles of McKenzie were third with 90 points, Eddyville Charter was fourth with 51 points, Siletz Valley finished fifth at 40 pts., Mohawk wrapped up their day at the office in a tie for 6th with Mannahouse Academy (Eugene), both teams finishing with 20 points.

Withalm, Lockard, Eagle 4x100 Relay Take Firsts At Sundstrom Invitational Eagle Girls Post Personal Records

McKenzie senior Griffin Withalm ran a Personal Record, 24.34 seconds 1st place time in the 200 meters, last Thursday, March 21, at Mapleton's Johnny Sundstrom Invitational. Eagle

teammate, senior Salomon Acevedo finished in 3rd place with a 25.23 second timing and freshman Atom Fetterhoff placed 5th, with a Personal Record time of 26.02 seconds.

McKenzie senior Levi Lockard established his own new Personal Record mark of 120 ft. 6 in. to win the javelin competition. Noah Borden, an Eagle freshman, placed 10th with a Personal Record toss of 64 ft. 0 in. And the McKenzie 4x100 meter relay team remained undefeated this early track season by winning that race in a time of 46.55 seconds, shaving a second+ off their season's previous time.

The Eagle 4x100 m. relay team consisted of sophomore Allen Acevedo, S. Acevedo, Withalm, and Fetterhoff. Fetterhoff ran a Personal Record time of 12.15 seconds to lead his Eagle teammates in the 100 meters and freshman Coulter Lyons finished 18th in 14.74 seconds.

Siletz Valley's Zion Fantroy won the 100 m. race in a Personal Record time of 12.15 seconds. Not to be outdone, McKenzie distance runner Will Meister finished his 1500-meter run with a Personal Record, 3rd place finish, time of 5:16.00 minutes. Central's Ty Cirino took the blue ribbon 1st place finish with a Personal Record of 4:04.80 min. Cirino won the 3000 m. run in 8:42.87 minutes and Meister finished 2nd in 11:40.20 minutes, both times were Personal Records.

The McKenzie 4x400 m. relay team of A. Acevedo, S. Acevedo, Fetterhoff, and sophomore Hayden Harbick posted a 2nd place time of

4:09.12 minutes, behind winning Sheridan, which won with a time of 4:08.77 minutes.

Back to the field events, Lockard threw the shot put 35 ft. 5 inches for a 2nd place finish behind the winning throw of 37 ft. 0 in. by Brady Wofford of Sheridan (Personal Record). Eagle teammate Borden finished 12th with a Personal Record toss of 21 ft. 0 in. Lockard also took home a 2nd place finish in the discus throw, tossing the implement 97 ft. 1 in. Hayden Nailley of Sheridan won the event with a Personal Record mark of 102 ft. 3 in. Borden threw another PR, 50 ft. 4 in., to place 8th. And in the high jump, Harbick jumped a Personal Record mark of 4 ft. 10 in., a tie for 5th place and Dom Stewart of Mapleton won that event with a clear of 5 ft. 6 in.

In the Girls Competition at the Johnny Sundstrom Invitational, freshman Liliana Jones set a new Personal Record in the 100 m. race, finishing 2nd in a time of 14.22 seconds. Teammate, freshman Sapana Mitchell-Chavez also set a Personal Record, finishing the race in 17.37 seconds, a 7th place finish. Sheridan's Chloe Ayala won the 100 m. race in 13.34 seconds.

McKenzie's Beckah Short finished 3rd in the 200 m. race with a time of 37.42 seconds and Ayala produced her second win of the day with a fastest time of 29.26 sec. Myra Dion set a new Personal Record in the 1500 m. run, the Eagle sophomore finishing the race in 6:37.02 minutes and 4th place. Natalie Stevens of Mapleton won

the 1500 m. in a Personal Record time of 6:11.96 minutes.

The McKenzie 4x100 m. relay quarter of Paiten Clevenger, Dion, Jones, and Short took 2nd place honors in the race with a finish time of 1:01.68 min. Sheridan's team won the race in 59.13 seconds.

In the field events, McKenzie

Houck of Eddyville Charter won with a leap of 12 ft. 1 in. Weiss, Clevenger, and Mitchell-Chavez finished 5th, 6th, and 7th, all three Eagle athletes establishing Personal Records with jumps of 9 ft. 8 in., 9 ft. 4 in., and 6 ft. 7.75 in. respectively.

McKenzie Middle School's Jacob Norlund

Norlund unleashed a monster throw, 158 ft. 0 in., which ranks second this season

swept the top four places in the triple jump, Short winning the event with a leap of 21 ft. 9 in. Grace Weiss, an Eagle freshman, took 2nd with 21 ft. 05 in., Clevenger, a sophomore, finished 3rd at 20 ft. 6 in. and Mitchell-Chavez earned 4th with a leap of 15 ft. 5 in. Weiss, Clevenger, and Mitchell-Chavez all set new Personal Records in the event. Dion placed 2nd in the javelin with a Personal Record throw of 59 ft. 1 in. and she was followed by freshman teammate Lyla Boydston in 7th place, who threw her own Personal Record mark of 44 ft. 9 in. Siletz Valley's Safiya Reed won the javelin with a throw of 73 ft. 8 in. Boydston tied for second place in the shotput with a PR mark of 23 ft. 0 in and Maddie Goodell of Siletz Valley won that event with a toss of 25 ft. 8 in.

Goodell also won the discus with a 66 ft. 9 in. throw and Boydston finished 11th at 42 ft. 4 in. Beckah Short took third in the long jump at 10 ft. 10 in. and Angelica

Unleashes Javelin For 2024 Oregon Second Best Mark

McKenzie Eighth grade student/athlete Jacob Norlund has found the javelin event much to his liking. In the Eagle middle school student's initial track meet this season at Mapleton, Norlund unleashed a monster throw, 158 ft. 0 in., which ranks second this season, in the State of Oregon, thus far behind leader Aaron Hart of North Middle School out of Grants Pass, who has thrown the implement an astonishing 182 ft. 0 in.

Teammate Liam Acevedo has run the 7th best middle school 100 m. time this season, 12.62 seconds, and the Eagles MS 4x100 m. relay team also holds the 7th best time, 50.13 seconds. That 4x100 m. relay team consists of Owen Acevedo, Fen Willis, L. Acevedo, and Norlund. Norlund also is sitting on the 5th best high jump mark in the State this season, 5 ft. 2 in.

Quote of the Week

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

Mark Twain



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Behind the scenes

There are a lot of colorful displays that play out every Easter, but it's worth a look to behind the commotion to see how it all came about

PAGE 2

Or

As Dewey says, the only way to improve on cow manure is to liquidize it.

PAGE 4



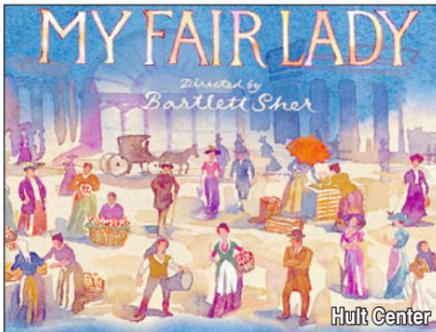
Briefs...



People in Veneta, Mapleton, Junction City, Cottage Grove, Florence, Creswell, Dexter, and the McKenzie area have benefitted from an outreach program for oral health care. Every second Tuesday of the month, the Tiny Dental Van stops in at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic in Rain-bow.

Sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, a first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-rays. To schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning,

Dental care - Page 2



"I Could Have Danced All Night," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely," and "The Rain in Spain" will be among the memories being rekindled from August 11th to the 14th in Eugene. That's when Lerner & Loewe's My Fair Lady will take to the stage at the Hult Center,

Director Bartlett Sher's production has been praised by the New York Times for bringing to life the tale of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney girl who earns a living

Fair Lady - Page 2



The 2024 state legislative session supported an additional \$1.9 million to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for monitoring and testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) also received \$795,000 for more staffing in the Wildlife Laboratory and several seasonal positions to increase sample collection.

Previously, when suspected hunter-col-

CWD - Page 2

McKenzie Pass is getting an upgrade

Route won't open while \$4.1 million in construction work is underway

OLD MCKENZIE PASS: Crews have already begun working on a project to improve conditions for drivers and cyclists using Hwy. 242. The resurfacing work extends between the Dee Wright Observatory and U.S. Route 20. It will include rebuilding degraded or substandard shoulders and bike lanes, removing safety hazards, updating some ADA curb ramps, and replacing or repairing signs and warning systems throughout the corridor.

The project also involves the installation of more accessible bathrooms at Cold Springs Camp-ground and Picnic Site and, at the Dee Wright Observatory, bicycle parking at Dee Wright, plus pullouts and interpretive panels throughout the corridor.

Some funds for the \$4.1 million project came from a Federal Lands Access Program grant. "Improvement grants like this are critical to low-traffic volume roads like McKenzie Pass," according to Mindy McCart, a Public Information Officer with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Without sustainable funding, many low-volume roads will deteriorate," she noted.

"We will remind people that when this road is closed, it is closed to everyone. Do not pass the closed gates, and never enter a work zone," McCart said. "This is especially important to remember this year as crews work behind the closed gates of OR 242 to make this route smoother and safer for everyone."

Since crews will be working in a blocked-off area, they may work any day of the week, and heavy equipment will be on the road. "After a long winter, we know everyone is anxious to head out and start recreating along this highway," according to an ODOT press release. During the closure, officials say it is essential to remember that while crews are upgrading the Old McKenzie Pass Scenic Byway, "they may work any day of the week, and heavy equipment will be on the road through the project's duration."



A snow blower clearing the Old McKenzie Pass in 2023.

Workers from Knife River are already busy in the project's early stages, and travelers will notice that the work is happening first in Sisters before progressing west up Hwy. 242.

ODOT announced earlier this year that it would need to reduce maintenance activities due to structural revenue issues. The 2024 short legislative session approved \$19 million of additional funding for winter maintenance activities. It was assigned to repair potholes, resume striping fog lines on lower-volume roads, and purchase additional snowplows.

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) was established to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands. Funds are allocated based on road mileage, number of bridges, land area, and visitation numbers.

ODOT says they hope to have all of the paving - between Milepost 77.3 and 92.2 - complete before the earliest possible opening date for the pass - usually the third Monday in June. "Paving and project work is always weather dependent, and schedules may change," a spokesman noted. Up-to-date information is available on ODOT's project website at tinyurl.com/45ub27v8

2023: A historic year of U.S. billion-dollar weather Events were prior to Oregon's \$48 million damages during an "Iceathon"

Following January's "Iceathon" winter storm Governor Tina Kotek requested as much as \$48 million in federal major disaster relief for Benton, Clackamas, Coos, Hood River, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Sherman, Tillamook, and Wasco counties, along with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. That figure pales in comparison to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric's 2023 Billion-dollar disaster report, confirming a historic year in the number of costly disasters and extremes throughout much of the country.

Last year, there were 28 weather and climate disasters, surpassing the previous record of 22 in 2020, tallying a price tag of at least \$92.9 billion. According to the NOAA's Adam Smith, "this total annual cost may rise by several billion when we've fully accounted for the costs of the December 16-18 East Coast storm and flooding event that impacted states from Florida to Maine."

In 2023, the U.S. experienced 28 separate weather and climate disasters costing at least 1 billion dollars. That number puts 2023 into first place for the highest number of billion-dollar disasters in a calendar year, Smith noted.

2023 was also deadly, causing at least 492 direct or indirect fatalities—the 8th most disaster-related fatalities for the contiguous U.S. since 1980.



Burned cars, signs, and other structures in Lahaina, on Maui Island, following a deadly fire on August 8, 2023. The X means the car in the foreground was searched and cleared. This photo cropped from original in the State Farm Flickr album 2023 Maui Wildfires. Used under a Creative Commons license.