McKENZIE BRIDGE: The 40-year operating license at Carmen Smith, issued in 2019, includes 10 natural resource and recreation management plans and over 300 individual commitments.

Part of the Eugene Water and Electric Board’s license agreement calls for providing passage for federally protected fish so they can pass the Trail Bridge Dam. In that area, populations of native trout are being monitored, along with a focus on returning historic fish spawning and feeding areas to a more natural environment.

Controlling how fast and how much water moves through the hydropower project can support the survival of fish at different life stages, in addition to other aquatic life that live in the nearby waterways. In addition, monitoring water quality throughout the project calls for including dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, and total dissolved gas as a way to help understand and protect the aquatic environment.

Other issues identified in the license include terrestrial wildlife, recreation facilities, public education, vegetation management, historic and cultural resources, along with transmission line management, roads, waste areas, staging areas, fire response, and suppression.

The analysis arrives at a time of increasing awareness of the disruptive impact dams can have on ecosystems, while thousands of dams are increasingly being removed because they are aging, unsafe, no longer serving their original purpose, or in need of costly repairs and maintenance.

"We are transitioning from a period of building dams to one that includes removing dams," said Jeffrey Duda, a research ecologist with U.S. Geological Survey’s Western Fisheries Research Center. "But estimating costs of removing dams is a challenge, which makes it difficult to weigh when dam removal may be a viable alternative.”

Duda and scientists from the USGS, Oregon State University, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the University of Georgia, begin to unravel those challenges in a paper just published in Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution.

### Predicting dam removal costs

Tool analyzes 55 years of decommissionings

Scientists analyzed more than 650 dam removal projects over 55 years in the United States totaling $1.52 billion inflation-adjusted dollars to develop a tool to better estimate the cost of future dam removals.

The analysis arrives at a time of increasing awareness of the disruptive impact dams can have on ecosystems, while thousands of dams are increasingly being removed because they are aging, unsafe, no longer serving their original purpose, or in need of costly repairs and maintenance.

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### Bedrock Fire is causing concerns

Cause of blaze near Fall Creek under investigation

Fire investigators with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service are seeking the public’s assistance with any tips or information pertinent to the start of the Bedrock Fire. Reported on July 22nd, the wildfire is located in the Willamette National Forest’s Middle Fork Ranger District, approximately 36 miles east of Springfield.

The fire started near the Bedrock Campground, off of Forest Road 18 in the Fall Creek Area. This week over 720 emergency responders have supported suppression efforts on the fire, along with nine aircraft.

Officials report 3% of the fire perimeter has been designated as “contained,” which designates a section of the line where there is little to no probability of re-ignition. The contained section is located south of Big Fall Creek Road on the west edge of the fire zone.

Details of the abatement actions taken include a combination of mechanical methods like masticators and work by crews with chainsaws and hand tools cutting vegetation. That process prepares an area for burning off residual fuels along the line to consume them. “This prevents the fire from burning intensely along the line, reducing the chance of fire crossing the containment line,” according to a fire official. “Firefighters then extinguish all heat near the fire line to complete the work needed to achieve containment.”

Temperatures have been averaging in the 80-degree range and minimum relative humidity is expected to be in the upper 30 percent range. Slightly warmer weather is expected later this week. Although cloud cover is forecast to increase, any rain remains unlikely.

Smoke from the Bedrock Fire will continue to spread into central Oregon, causing continued concern.

### Worried about ash borers?

Since the emerald ash bud bores were detected in Oregon, questions have been pouring in about what to do if an ash tree becomes infested.

### Sheriff’s Report

A caller reported that their neighbor punched and knocked over the caller’s security camera that was on the property line.

### Work continues at Carmen Smith

EWB’s upriver project was renewed in 2019

Crews from Wildish Construction built a temporary pipeline/dewatering project at the Carmen Smith Hydroelectric Project as part of a trap and haul project.

### Bottle Boys add to Park rebound

BLUE RIVER: The Bottle Boys have stepped up to provide a generous donation to support the much-needed maintenance and mowing of the Blue River Park grounds. As soon as the fire restrictions ease up, the park will be mowed and weeded, thanks to the kind contribution from the Bottle Boys.

Over the past year, the Park rebound - Page 10

Bottle Boys Pete Petty and Monty WIlson, center and right, presented a check to park treasurer Tony Casad.
The executive director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, told The New York Times, “It can’t be that the government violates the First Amendment simply by engaging with the platforms about their content-moderation decisions and policies.... That’s what the court is saying here, it’s a pretty radical proposition that isn’t supported by the case law.” The language is broad and would seem to bar government speech that attempts to “discourage” the posting or publication of content protected under the First Amendment.

The First Amendment protects us from government actions, not those of private companies. The plaintiffs are claiming that government pressure makes any removal of posts unconstitutional, even though an independent decision by a social media company would not be actionable. The judge has apparently already made up his mind. Although this case is at an early stage and there is a trial ahead, Judge Doughty made a point of issuing the order, which noted that evidence produced thus far depicts an almost dystopian scenario. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a period perhaps best characterized by widespread doubt and uncertainty, the United States Government has but to have assumed to an Orwellian “Ministry of Truth.”

A judge citing George Orwell’s novel 1984 before even testing the testimony is not in line with the government in rejecting a request on July 10 to place his order on hold. Doughty also said he believed the government would lose the case.

The government’s order is far-reaching and in some respects unprecedented. As Jameel Jaffer, a newspaper editor for many years, I know firsthand how often government officials call news media to urge them not to publish constitutionally protected articles, either because they have a self-interest or claim to have a government interest. Were my free-press rights violated? I always had the right to ignore the calls, just as social media companies do. If the government ordered Facebook to take down posts, that would be a clear violation of the First Amendment, but where do expressions of concern fall?

Government lawyers have characterized the judge’s injunction as a gag order on the federal government officials who call news media to request an emergency stay with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. (UPDATE: The Associated Press reported that the 5th Circuit on July 14 temporarily paused Doughty’s order.)

Ken Paulson is director of the Free Speech Center at the College of Media and Entertainment at Middle Tennessee State University and former dean of the College of Media and Entertainment at MTSU.

**Letters to the Editor**

Letters To The Editor should contain no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 pm.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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**EDITING PUBLISHER*** Kent Engstrom

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**DEADLINE**

For all advertising, photos, notices and articles is 5 pm every Monday.

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**Weather Report**

**EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE**

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**Feeding the需要**

**EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE**

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**READER REPORT**

**McKenzie River Reflections**

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An independent newspaper, McKenzie River Reflections is dedicated to publishing items of interest to the McKenzie River Valley. McKenzie River Reflections is available by subscription in digital form or on the news stands in the following communities: Camp Creek, Cedar Flat, Waltville, Leaburg, Vida, Blue River, Rainbow, and McKenzie Bridge.
July 19: 8:23 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A caller advised that someone had covered up the security cameras attached to the caller’s residence. The caller also heard a scraping sound.

July 20: 10:37 a.m: Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Wendling Rd. A dump truck was observed speeding through the school zone.

July 22: 9:11 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 44300 blk, McK. Hwy. A dispute was reported between former spouses.

Dispute - 44300 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported a dispute between former spouses.

July 23: 12:20 p.m: Burglary - 51600 blk, Blue River Dr. An area business reported that a female driving an early ‘90’s red sedan stole some property from a carport. Most of the property was recovered when it was found abandoned at another location.

July 24: 2:09 a.m: Alarm, Audible - 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. A silent Buick Century was parked in the area for over 30 minutes.

July 25: 2:47 a.m: Illegal Dump - Lat. 44.06059, Long. -122.96533.

July 26: 15:10: Disturbance, Dispute - 39000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A verbal dispute between neighbors.

Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Marcola Rd. mp 15.

July 27: 1:32 a.m: Suspicious Subject - Whitmore St. & A St. He was described as being bald and wearing glasses, a button up shirt, board shorts, and carrying a satchel.


10:59 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, no injury - Queen St. & Marcola Rd.

July 29: 12:25 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 7900 blk, Thurston Rd.

July 30: 17:33: 88000 blk, Millier Ave Medical, Heart. Patient Refusal.

Disturbance, Dispute - 91800 blk, Horse Creek Rd.

Assisted by Dispatch.

July 31: 6:06: 896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

Upper McKenzie Fire & Rescue


20:29: 42000 blk, Leaburg Dr. False Alarm. Investigated, No Fire Found.


Upper McKenzie Fire District’s board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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The Upper McKenzie Fire

Bridge.


The McKenzie River

Immediate

The McKenzie River Fire

District’s board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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Step four in a dream - A true public library

Blue town reminiscences

By Jacqueline Long

From a few stacks of books in her living room to shelves in a small brown shack, and finally to a large two-room collection, Mrs. O’Brien’s Blue River Library continues to grow, and is now known nationally. Mrs. O’Brien and her husband, Orel, saw the need for a library in the McKenzie River area more than a decade ago. They began their dream of building one in 1970. After Mr. O’Brien’s death in 1971, Mrs. O’Brien continued working on that dream alone.

She called the library’s present stage, with the recent addition to the building, “the fourth step of my dream.” The first three steps of the dream were: previous stages, in her home, in the brown shack, and then in a new building before the new addition.

Mrs. O’Brien hopes to add a fifth step to her dream some day. “Oh, that’s as far as I go!” she laughs.

The Blue River Library is operated in a unique way. There are no late fees, no due dates, no membership fees.

“I tell people just to bring the books back when they've finished, and it works very well,” said Mrs. O’Brien.

“And the library is always open, whether I'm around or not,” she added.

Without money from such things as late fines the library exists solely through donations. Mrs. O’Brien said the library has received books from all over the United States, and even one box from Hanoi.

“The books continue to come in,” she said, “and I’m getting second and third boxes from people who have contributed earlier.”

“Then there’s more publicity about the library, and so other people send in books, which brings more publicity. It’s really a growing thing. As the number of books increases, so does the interest,” she said.

The library includes some very unusual, rare and often expensive books. Mrs. O’Brien keeps these books with all the others, on the shelves, rather than in an enclosed case.

People should be able to read these books: that’s why they were donated to the library,” she said, “and it’s gratifying to me that people are willing to put them here for others to use.”

“Once I saw a man coming down the library steps, and I nev- er saw anyone smiling any more than he did.”

He said he was so excited people are willing to put them here for others to use.”

Attention Leaburg Lake and McKenzie River homeowners.

We need to show EWEB we want the Leaburg Dam and Lake saved and need ingress/egress to our homes without spending millions of dollars rerouting, widening and blasting mountains in order to make a new road. EWEB voted to decommission the Leaburg canals, which makes no sense as they had an article in the Register Guard 7-18-2023 stating they need to find a way to generate more power. There is no reason to dismantle the dam and drain Leaburg Lake, it does not generate power. They recently spent 5.2 million dollars building the roll gates on the dam and 7.6 million dollars building a substi- tution in Leaburg. Thousands of people use this lake every year for recreation. These families cannot afford to hire a guide to take them on the river every week. We gathered 1100 signatures on a petition to “Save the Lake” last fall in just 3 weeks from folks using the lake.

If this tourist attraction goes away, businesses are going to suffer and tourism is the main economy for the McKenzie River area more than a decade ago. They began their dream of building one in 1970. After Mr. O’Brien’s death in 1971, Mrs. O’Brien continued working on that dream alone.

“Save Leaburg Lake” members meet at 6 p.m., the second Tues- day of each month at the Vida Windermere Office in Vida. For more information you can call Nadine Scott 541-915-0007 or email na- dine@windermere.com to join our email list.

We need support and bodies at these meetings. See you there!
Oregon won't see full effect of emerald ash borer for years

By Kym Pokorny

In the year since the emerald ash bud borer was detected in Oregon, questions have been pouring in about what to do if an ash tree becomes infested.

Currently, the emerald ash borer has been found in trees only in Washington County, where a quarantine prohibits moving ash (Fraxinus) or fringe tree (Chionanthus) wood in or out of the area. Dave Shaw, a forest health specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, encourages homeowners to not take down their ash trees before they are infested or unless the insect has been detected nearby.

It could be years before emerald ash borers find your tree, Shaw said; which then takes several years to die after being infested. Observations from the eastern United States, where the beetle was first detected in 2002, suggest that trees in areas where the infestation has started take longer to die in an area where the insect is well-established. When the emerald ash borer is confirmed, though, the tree needs to be removed before it becomes a hazard.

Homeowners have the option of using a systemic pesticide to keep the insects at bay, but once the beetles arrive, pesticides won’t kill them, Shaw said. And applications are expensive and must be repeated every two to three years, he said, comparing the use of chemicals to using a Band-Aid.

“If you just have one tree and can afford it and don’t mind the pesticides, they are available, but the most effective treatments must be applied by licensed professionals, and both the product and the labor add up quickly,” he said. “There also is the issue of pollinator health. Once a systemic pesticide is applied it travels through the entire tree and pollinators can take it up.”

If a homeowner or woodland owner chooses to use a pesticide, a list can be found in the Extension article “What to do about emerald ash borer: Recommendations for tree protection in EAB-infested areas.”

Symptoms of an emerald ash borer infestation are a dying crown, sucker shoots growing from the trunk or base of the tree, D-shaped holes in the bark, splitting back, and S-shaped areas underneath the bark. Often, you’ll notice holes in the trunk made by sap suckers trying to get to the insects’ larvae. Many other pests cause the same symptoms, but in summer, adult insects will be visible for identification.

Public agencies and landowners are determining what trees can be planted to replace native trees. Homeowners can start to prepare by researching what tree to plant in a replacement.

Heather Stoven, OSU Extension horticulturist, said the first thing to think about is “right tree, right place.” Choose wisely by considering your site’s sun exposure, soil, nearby structures, and overhead power lines. Ask nursery professionals or the Master Gardeners in your area for recommendations. If you’re planting in a parking strip, it’s important to obtain a permit from the city where you live, Stoven said.

Many trees would be a fine replacement for ash, Stoven said. Her top 10 concentrate on mid-size shade trees.

Dogwood (Cornus): For its stunning pink, white, or red flowers that cover the tree in spring. Some, like Japanese dogwood (Cornus kousa), have nice fall color. Oregon’s native Pacific dogwood is an understory tree and native shade so won’t be appropriate in many situations. Hardy to Zone 5.

Ginkgo: For its fan-shaped leaves and drought tolerance. Hardy to Zone 3.

Heaven (Carpinus): For its blazing fall colors in orange and red, drought tolerance, and attractiveness to wildlife. Hardy to Zone 5.

Magnolia: For its beautiful, flat flowers in white, pink or yellow. Some are evergreen and some have attractive fall colors. Hardy to Zone 5.

Maple (Acer): For its brilliant fall color, distinctive foliage and some are drought tolerant. Native vine maple and Rocky Mountain maple are small, picturesque trees and may not work as an ash alternative. Hardy to Zone 4.

Oak (Quercus): For its lobed leaves, vivid fall color, wildlife value and some are drought tolerant. Native Oregon white oak and California black oak are two possibilities, though they can get up to 80 feet so be sure you have the room. Hardy to Zone 5 or 6, depending on the species.

Snowbell (Styrax): For its graceful pendulous bell-shaped white flowers that cover the tree in May and June. Hardy to Zone 5.

Tupelo (Nyssa): For its striking red fall color, bird habitat, and tough demeanor that tolerates pollution, salt, and poor soils. Hardy to Zone 4.

Yellowwood (Cladrastis): For its early fragrant, white or pink flowers and clear yellow fall color. Hardy to Zone 4.

Quilting Bees, OLD & NEW

As I read my grandfather’s writings, Fifty Years Ago, Rural Life from 1876, I was delighted to realize he’d included information about his mother’s quilting at Trails End Farm. I knew, from reading that my quilting heritage definitely traced back to my great-grandmother, Mary Barker Coon.

Papa Coon, as our family referred to Burton Barker Coon, writer and farmer, mentioned the women getting together for afternoon tea and cutting out pieces for quilt blocks. “They would take their sewing along and have a very pleasant time. All the girls were brought up to piece quilts, bake bread and do all kinds of housework, he related.

Quilting Bees of Grandpa’s Childhood

Then he mentioned “quilting bees” that were common in his childhood. “The quilting frames would be brought down from the garret, the middle of the sitting room cleared, the frames put up pleasantly with clamps, and the corners laid on the backs of four chairs. Then the quilt, pieced perhaps by a daughter in the family, would be stretched on the frame, the cotton batting inserted, and all would be ready for the bee.”

He told how four or five neighborhood ladies came to help. “Needles and tongues would be thrown to each other in making bed spreads and history,” he wrote.

Souvenir Quilts

Papa Coon called each quilt a “sort of souvenir piece” of discarded clothing in the family.

He described the quilts: “I could see them all in stately array. There were no loud patterns. The figures were small and the colors very bright and lasting.”

From my mother’s tales of sewing get-togethers when she was a child and Mary Barker Coon an elderly lady, I imagined my great grandmother stitching quilts in her younger days.

Modern Quilting Bees

My daughter Beth and a group of friends have been getting together for quilting and fabric arts. Some of them have moved to other areas of the country so they get together via Zoom and have periodic chats and “show and tell” of their projects.

The few who live locally get together for outings visiting a quilting exhibit at a regional gallery and having lunch at a favorite restaurant.

Grandmother’s Molasses Cookies

This was a recipe found in my aunt’s cooking notebook and was her grandmother’s recipe. Cream together 1 cup shortening with 1/4-


green Pacific dogwood, eastern white pine, and Pacific Madrone. Native Oregon white oak and California black oak are small, picturesque trees and may not work as an ash alternative. Hardy to Zone 4.

Oak (Quercus): For its familiar size shade trees.

Maple (Acer): For its brilliant fall color, distinctive foliage and some are drought tolerant. Native vine maple and Rocky Mountain maple are small, picturesque trees and may not work as an ash alternative. Hardy to Zone 4.

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August 3

Community Notes

August 8

Board of Commissioners
Lane County Board of Commissioners
1155 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioners 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.

August 9

Board of Commissioners
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August 10

Squad School Camp
7 p.m - 8:30 p.m. The Board of Directors meet in the first floor, indoor, at the meeting room, 640 A St, Springfield.

August 11

McK, Tourism Committee
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every second Tuesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The committee strives to strengthen the support of local businesses, improve tourism and the economic vitality of the entire McKenzie River Valley. Email the Tourism Chair to get the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com.

August 12

Tun, Family Camp
The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchard School in McKenzie City every second Tuesday of the month in Rainbow Community from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to provide free dental screenings, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-499-9500 or 800-755-6001 to make an appointment or teeth cleaning.

August 13

Family Story Time
From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp McKenzie River Bridge Camp, 37529 Upper Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

August 14

Board of Commissioners
Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioners 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.

Living Water Family Fellowship
1000 Sunset Lane, Springfield, OR 97478
541-689-2126
www.livingwaterfamilyfellowship.org

August 15

Family Story Time
From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp McKenzie River Bridge Camp, 37529 Upper Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

August 16

McK Food Pantry
The McKenzie Food Pantry is open Tuesday, 4 to 7 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 37529 Upper Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

August 17

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August 18

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August 19

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August 20

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August 21

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August 22

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August 23

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August 24

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August 25

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August 26

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August 27

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August 28

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August 29

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My wife of 35 years has fallen in love again with her other college boyfriend. I am 61, and she is 38. We have been happily married, with two grown children. Her boyfriend is 59, married, with two young children.

They had not communicated since college; a year ago, they met at a class reunion. Since then, they have constantly talked on the phone. I know about their communication because my wife told me. However, last December my wife became secretive. One night I heard her saying “I love you” to him. When I confronted my wife, she admitted she loved him, but she still loves me, too. She said she’s not going to leave me and break up the family. She begged me not to leave or stop loving her.

As a compromise, we agreed she could call her once in a while if he has important news about their classmates. She wouldn’t call him, as she reiterated to her that she would be a violation of trust. However, a month later I overheard them talking. Again, she begged me not to give it up on her.

I told him my wife’s boyfriend, and he assured me he was not trying to break up our family. He wants to wait until she is free, meaning of me. If that happens, then they can pursue their dreams together. If not, then it’s not meant to be. I love my wife and trust her with anything but her long-distance love affair. He lives halfway across the country. They haven’t had physical involvement yet, but despite its absence, I am deeply hurt. Shall I leave her, give up on her, or wait and see?

Harry, your wife has shattered your world and your relationship with her. Even if she stays, you will wonder about her reasons. She didn’t wake up the day of the reunion a different person. She was already at a point where there was room for this to occur. When a wife talks to her boyfriend you are not there. She and her unrequited feelings are there. Related to that can become a habit, like putting your hat in the same place each time you come home. That does not reflect some deep emotion. It’s just a habit.

Habits can mask many feelings, the lack of feeling, or the longing for something else. That is why if you may not feel you saw this coming because she was maintaining most of her habits as your wife. Love like a marriage, you have all want to finish yourself. You cannot be forced into second place and feel good about that. The longer you are passive, the worse you will feel because you will be letting other two other decide what your life will be like.

You must decide how much contact, if any, you can accept. You must decide if certain boundaries are crossed, and what you will do. You must decide what the best course for you is that boundary has already been crossed from which there is no return.

Tama Simple Answers
I have been seeing this fellow the last year. He says he has love for me and feels comfortable with me.

Harry, he mentioned when he is around me, he thinks of someone dear to his heart. I asked, “Who?” He said, “My mother.” I asked, “Is that the only one with sex with me because you see your mother?” He said, “Yes.” Where does that leave me?

Zora, more than a century ago, William James talked about the psychologist’s fallacy. What he meant was that people are inclined to view everything as some sort of psychological problem to be solved.

Things are often a lot simpler than that. He loves you like he loves his mother. You want someone who loves and desires you as a wife. Where does that leave you? In need of a cold shower.

Wayne
Wayne & Tama are the authors of This Young Woman’s Guide to Old Age: The Friendship Solution, and Cheating in a Nestheld—available from Amazon, Apple, and booksellers everywhere.

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McKenzie River Reflections
Thursday, August 3, 2023
Page 7
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McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

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

Click here or go to:
tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Aug 3rd

Saturday, Aug 4th - Noon - The Aug 3rd 2nd Friday Art Walk
Emerald Art Center downtown Springdale

Saturday, Aug 11th - 2:00 pm - 1:00 pm - In the Garden - Story Time
Stay Time is back at Leaburg Library. We invite children of all ages and their parents to join us in the Children’s Room every Saturday at 2 pm.

Saturday, Aug 18th - 2:00 pm - Story Time
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Human-caused fires are on the rise

The Pacific Northwest has seen a significant increase in human-caused wildfires compared to the same period last year. Since June 1, there have already been 197 human-caused or undetermined caused fires start that have impacted National Forest lands in Oregon and Washington. The reasons behind this increase are unknown, but human-caused fires are preventable.

With seasonal lightning storms and gusty winds in the forecast, the risk of lighting-caused fires is also on the rise, further challenging firefighters who are already occupied with suppressing human-caused fire starts.

The ongoing drought in the region exacerbates fire danger. Drought conditions can significantly contribute to the occurrence and severity of wildfires. The combination of dry, hot, and windy weather, along with parched vegetation, creates an environment conducive to the rapid spread of fires.

To illustrate the severity of the drought, a map has been provided below, showing the number of days since the last wetting rain (defined as precipitation of more than 0.10 inches over an entire area) as of July 26. Maps depicting the drought conditions in Oregon and Washington are also included to provide a visual representation of the current situation.

“Man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time.”

Henry Ford

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Notice is hereby given that the Holiday Farm Fire Recovery PIER Funding Selection Committee will hold a public meeting with opportunity for public testimony on THURSDAY AUGUST 10TH at 3 p.m.

What is PIER funding?
Federal funding in the form of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, will soon become available to support recovery from the Holiday Farm Fire. A portion of these funds, $73 million, will be available for Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery (PIER) activities in the Holiday Farm Fire footprint. A Selection Committee is tasked with proposing priority uses for these funds to support wildlife recovery in the McKenzie River Valley.

Who makes up the Selection Committee?
The committee is made up of wildlife survivors, disaster recovery partners, and special districts and includes representatives from Rural Development Initiatives, McKenzie Community Land Trust, Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District, McKenzie Track and Field, McKenzie Fire and Rescue, McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group, McKenzie Community Partners, McKenzie Food Pantry, McKenzie School District, McKenzie Discovery Center, McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and Lane County. The group will formally vote on priorities during upcoming meetings including this one set for August 10th.

Meeting Details:
This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with in-person and remote call-in options from 3-5 p.m. Please call or email staff contact below for call-in link. The in-person meeting will be held at the McKenzie River Community School, 51187 Blue River Drive, Firr Rock, Oregon 97488.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:
Written comments should be directed to the staff contact listed below prior to the meeting or submitted at the public meeting on August 10th, 2023. Written comments will be accepted until the close of the public meeting. Oral statements and testimony must be given at the public meeting either in person or by calling in. If you are interested in providing public testimony, please contact the Selection Committee below to help plan sufficient meeting length and space to accommodate everyone. For questions or additional information, please call or email the staff contact.

Future Meetings:
Future meetings of the Holiday Farm Fire Recovery PIER Funding Selection Committee will also be open to the public, provide an opportunity for testimony and be publicly noticed. Those interested in future meetings can be added to an interested parties list by reaching out to the staff contact.

Staff contact: Megan Heurion, Senior Program Services Coordinator
Lane County Administration Policy Division
125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401
541-852-8259, megan.m.heurion@lane县政府.gov

Persons needing special accommodation (e.g. in-person accommodation, hearing impaired, language translation, chemical sensitivity needs, and large print copies of the agenda or other application materials) are instructed to submit their request at least 48 business hours prior to the meeting by calling Megan Heurion at 541-852-8259 or emailing megan.m.heurion@lane县政府.gov.

U.S. Drought Monitor: Oregon

Thank you to the subscribers and advertisers that support McKenzie area residents with local news, activities, accomplishments, and history.

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Park rebound

The McKenzie River Park district has been working on a Wildfire Recovery Master Plan, taking into account feedback gathered from surveys. The overall plan, with assistance from the National Park Service and Kerry Landford, has been completed. Details are posted on the park’s official website, Blueverpark.com, under the section “Lastest Plans.”

In addition, park officials have taken steps to enhance the site’s natural beauty and rejuvenate its environment. 1,800 new native plants have been planted along the riparian area to create a vibrant and eco-friendly atmosphere. Other work included clearing the back 4 acres of Scotch Broom and small burnt trees, while on the East side, overgrown blackberries have now been mowed.

People entering the park can use a gravel parking lot on their way to the tennis court, a cherished feature, that has been given a thorough cleaning. And there’s good news for travelers too, because a new RV rental spot has been constructed to contribute toward a dedicated maintenance fund.

To support the overall project management and funding, the Park District has been actively collaborating with Lane County. This collaboration bore fruit when the park was awarded a $70,000 grant, for the installation of much-needed restrooms in the park next spring.

Park district treasurer Tony Casad said “board is brimming with enthusiasm over the remarkable progress achieved so far, and they are eagerly looking forward to the park’s successful recovery and transformation. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support and selflessness of volunteers and donors like the Blue River Bottle Boys.

Their dedication to the welfare of the community and the park is truly commendable.”

People who share the same passion for preserving and enhancing Blue River Park may make a contribution on the park’s website, along with other opportunities to get involved.

“Together, we can continue to nurture and safeguard this cherished haven for future generations to come,” Casad said. “Let’s unite and celebrate the spirit of the McKenzie community, making Blue River Park a symbol of resilience and generosity.”

Quote of the Week

“It’s a time you’re 80 years old you’ve learned everything. You only have to remember it.”

George Burns

Bedrock Fire

Continued From Page 1

Emerald ash borer

Continued From Page 5

Continued From Page 1

Keeping work going on to control the population. They are more attracted to stressed trees.

Just recently, Shaw said, “we’ve trapped a very large adult in the area.” The insect has destroyed over 100 million ash trees in the eastern U.S. Research is underway in many areas of the country to find a biological or chemical application to halt emerald ash borer, but so far there’s no cure for a tree infected by the borer. It can take up to six years for the tree to die, but eventually, it will be killed, Shaw said.

“We have a small region where it is concentrated,” Shaw said. “ODA is trying to keep it in that zone. They’ve ringed Forest Grove with trap trees – trees you girdle to cause high stress. These beetles are more attracted to stressed trees. If they find any, they’ll destroy them. That’s one way we can try to control the population. They are also releasing parasitic wasps that feed on emerald ash borer. We hope these practices help. We’re not going to roll over.”

When emerald ash borers spread across Oregon, their effect on ash trees will be devastating, Shaw said. Based on what’s been trapped in the eastern United States, he said it’s likely that 99% of Oregon’s ash trees will disappear. That includes both the trees that enhance urban and suburban areas, but also the native ash that grows in riparian areas along waterways and cools and filters the water for fish, Shaw said.

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Bedrock Fire

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Bedrock Fire

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Bedrock Fire
A true public library

Continued From Page 4

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber (www.crickernut.com)

August 3 - During the time of white settlement, Chief Paulina was feared more than any other Indian of Central and Eastern Oregon. Paulina was thought to have been a Northern Paiute, a tribe that had inhabited the region for thousands of years. She fought the invasion of settlers and scattered ranches by the thousands, killing anyone who stood in their way. For nearly two decades Paulina evaded capture, and then one day in 1867, while driving a herd of stolen cattle, she was ambushed and killed. But the name of the renegade chief lives on in the white man’s world. Today there are eight geographic features and a town named for Chief Paulina.

McKenzie River: All hatchery rainbow trout released into the McKenzie River are marked with an adipose fin clip and anglers must release all non-fin-clipped (wild) trout in the mainstem river. The lower 11 miles of the McKenzie River below the Hayden Bridge - and the McKenzie River upstream from Forest Glen Boat Ramp at Blue River - are restricted to angling with lures and flies only, and all trout must be released.

Touted Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8” to 10” hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam - 5,166, and Leaburg Lake - 1,000.

Fishing Report

July 27, Willamette Falls

Spring Chinook - 23,018
Summer Steelhead - 930

Quote of the Week

“The service you do for others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.”

Muhammad Ali

Gosh the downtown rundown?

Tired of the confusion, the crowds, traffic, and other drivers? Feel worn out before you’ve even started? There’s an easy way to avoid the troubles caused by cockeyed street signs, no parking zones, and uninformed sales people.

Whenever you can, shop at home first. The more you can, the more you’ll save. Local downtown merchants probably know what you wanted anyway. Give yourself a break - and the time to enjoy life’s simple pleasures …

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