McKenzie River Reflections

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Volume 48, Issue 50

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

Sheriff's Reports

Caller checked on property and was met by people who were confrontational.

PAGE 3

Feed your garden

If your vegetable garden isn't growing lush and fruitful it may need a nutritional boost.

PAGE 5

CLEAR LAKE CUTOFF

It's Even Hotter Up on the Pass

Oregon Dept. of Transportation project is smoothing out the bumps

Motorists traveling on OR 126 and U.S. 20 will continue to experience night-time delays as paving progresses along the route's upriver work area.

Although the project is permitted to operate during daylight hours, the contractor has elected to do most paving work at night to minimize disruptions to daytime traffic.

According to Oregon Dept. of Transportation officials, work has also occurred at the beginning and end of night

Up on the Pass - Page 9

Making Way for Salmon: Powerhouse Goes Quiet

Trail Bridge hydro shuts down for fish passage through October

Work on improvements to Trail Bridge Reservoir is scheduled to wrap up in early November, including excavation for the left bank anchor. Officials say the replacement boom will be much more robust than the existing on, with proved effective in containing a contaminants from a nearby milk truck accident in May of this year. Total costs, including the boom and related construction, are estimated at about $2.9 million.

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) has temporarily halted pow-er generation at its Trail Bridge Powerhouse on the upper McKenzie River to help young fish safely migrate downstream during their annual journey.

From July 2 through Oct. 31, water that would normally pass through the Trail Bridge Powerhouse turbines is now being released over the dam's spillway. The seasonal change is intended to give juvenile salmon and other fish with a safer route from regions upstream of Trail Bridge Dam into the lower McKenzie River.

The Trail Bridge Powerhouse is part of

Trail Bridge - Page 10

Will Housing Programs Help Fire Survivors Move Forward?

Six years later, recovery from Holiday Farm Fire's devastation is still underway

EUGENE: Last week Lane County commissioners received updates on housing assistance for survivors of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, the ongoing redevelopment of the Lazy Days RV Park, and approved plans to continue participating in the federal Secure Rural Schools program.

During their July 15 meeting Victor Flores of the county's Human Services Division reported on the county's role in administering ReOregon Housing Support Services. The statewide program was created to assist households affected by Oregon's devastating 2020 wildfires, including the Holiday Farm Fire, which destroyed more than 500 homes along the McKenzie River corridor.

Flores said the Immediate Housing Assistance program helped 13 Lane County households since it's launch. Eight are currently receiving rental or utility assistance, two are working with housing navigators, and three have transitioned into permanent housing, he said.

Since January of 2025, the program has distributed $177,759 in rent and utility assistance. While new applications closed on June 30, people already enrolled can continue receiving assistance for up to 24 months.

The county also offers a Down Payment Assistance program. Flores said 33 households have received assistance.

Housing Programs - Page 11

Briefs...

Three Sisters Wilderness Fire Declared Out; Firefighters Remain Ready for New Starts

The U.S. Forest Service has declared Incident #241, a wildfire in the Three Sisters Wilderness on the McKenzie River Ranger District, officially out.

Following successful suppression efforts, crews based at the McKenzie Bridge Airport used a Black Hawk helicopterto backhaul equipment from the remote fire area, including hoses and other supplies used during firefighting operations.

The announcement comes as firefighters continue to respond quickly to new wildfire activity across the Willamette National Forest. Last Friday, U.S. Forest Service crews contained a new holdover fire on the Sweet Home Ranger District that was traced to lightning storms that moved through the area in mid-July. Firefighters continued mop-up operations at the site on Monday to ensure the fire was fully extinguished.

Forest officials said firefighting re-

Firefighting - Page 2

Ice Dyeing - Page 2

Athletics - Page 2

Letters to the Editor

It's Fair Time!

It is fair time in the Walterville community once again. This year the Walterville Grange will be sponsoring the 74th annual Walterville Community Fair on September 12. This is not a Grange fair; this is a community fair! We are hoping to get more community members involved in helping with the fair this year.

The annual Walterville Waddle 5K run/walk will start at 9 am. Registering is available online at Eclectic Edge Racing with the option to buy a T-shirt (last day to order T-shirts will be August 26). You can also register the day of the race starting at 8 am (no T-shirts will be available on the day of the race). For more information on the race, contact Jeff at 541-915-2163.

Fair entries will be accepted from 7:30 to 9:30 am and judging will start at 9:30. Categories for entries include canning, baking, flowers, fruits, vegetables, antiques, arts and crafts, photography, and textiles (sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.). If you want to enter something, we will find a place for it. If you would like to help take care of the entries, please call Pat at 541-953-1128. Entries can be picked up at 4 pm.

The flag raising will be at 10 am in front of the Grange hall. There will be a parade once again that will start at 11 am. The parade theme this year is "Small Town, Big Heart." We encourage you to join the parade this year; walk or ride something and bring your smile. For questions about the parade, please contact Dani at 541-520-1827. If you can help at the parade, give Dani a call.

Our famous barbecue chicken dinner will start serving at 11:30. You will get one-half chicken, salad, baked beans, corn on the cob, and a brownie for dessert; all of this yummy stuff for just $12. We will also have hot dogs with chips for $3.

During the fair, there will be a merry-go-round and also a hunt for coins in the straw for the kids. Pop and ice cream will be available all day.

There will be a big variety of vendors inside and outside throughout the event. If you are a vendor and would like a space, please contact Jeff at 541-915-2163 to reserve a space. The raffle will start at 2 pm with tickets sold up until the drawing, and a silent auction will be available to bid on throughout the day.

The fair will be held at the Walterville Grange Community Hall, located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville. There is no admission cost. For more information, call 541-521-4760 and leave a message (calls will be returned).

"See you at the fair!"

Thanks very much for your support.

Denise Bishop
Publicity Chair
Walterville Grange #416

Guest Opinion

An independent choice in our neighbor's 5th Congressional District

What can Oregon's northern neighbor tell political observers about independent viability?

By Randy Stapilus
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians have a front-row seat to watch, though not vote in, an obscure congressional race that could say much about the reshaping of partisan politics in this state and beyond.

I'm not talking about Washington's 3rd Congressional District, now held by Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, which saw the state's closest congressional elections for the past two election cycles and may again this year, though, it's certainly a race to watch.

No, the Evergreen State contest of greatest interest ahead of the Aug. 4 primary is on the east side of the state, just north of Hermiston and Milton-Freewater and Enterprise, in the 5th district stretching from Oregon to Canada.

The reason is the uncertainty thrown into the works by — wait for it — an independent candidate. And independents, whether of the same-named party or actually non-aligned, always are a big factor in Oregon.

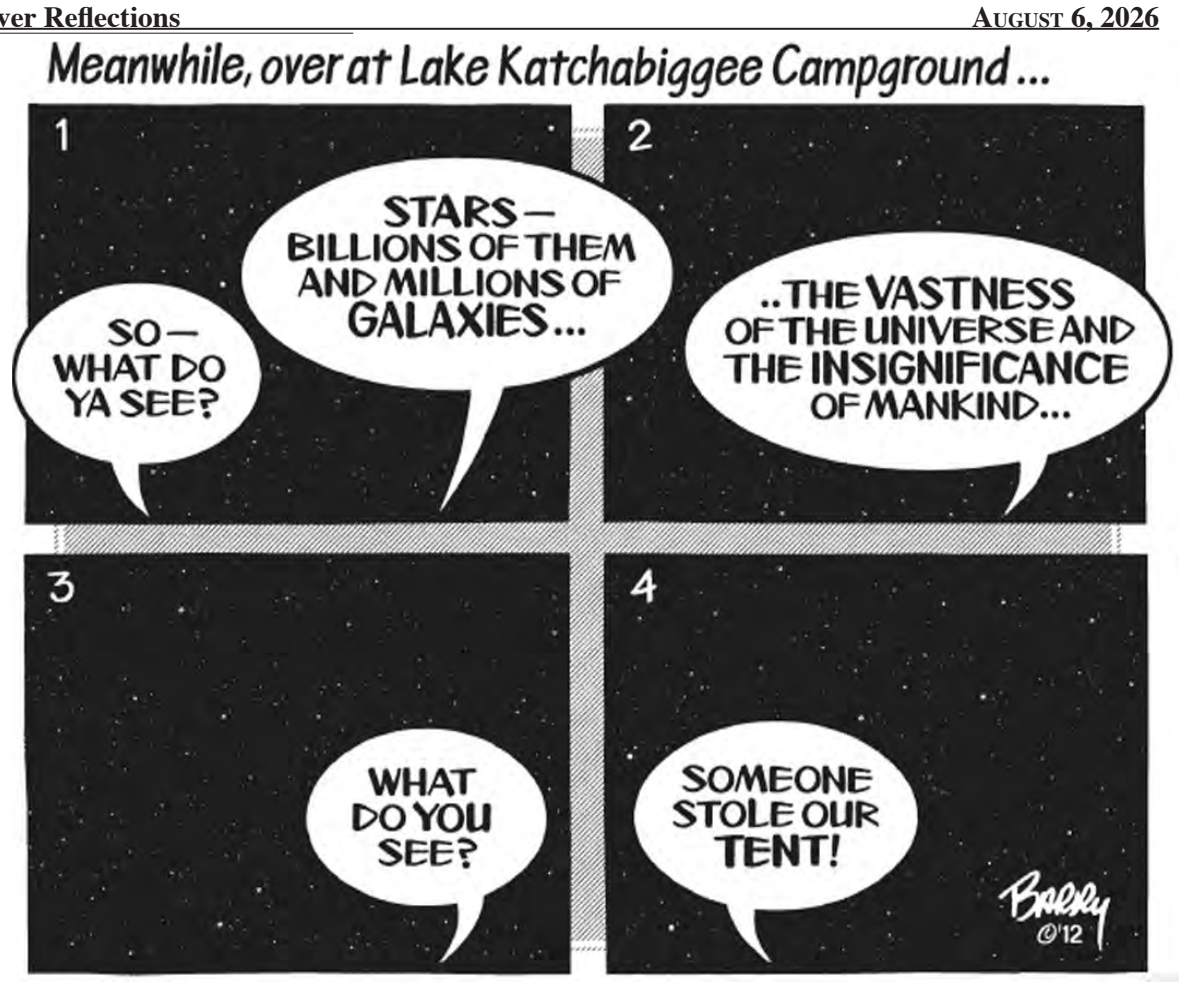
The district, mostly rural but centered around Spokane, seems an unlikely magnet for close attention because there have been no close general elections there in many years. This was the district Democrat Tom Foley, who rose to speaker of the House, represented for three decades before his loss in the Republican sweep of 1994.

Republicans have held it in the 32 years since, first George Nethercutt, then Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and since 2025, Michael Baumgartner.

None of those Republicans have had a close call in all these years. A few of the Democratic candidates have been highly capable and well positioned, but even the strongest of them – Lisa Brown, a long-time state legislator and current mayor of Spokane — could do no better than fall nearly 10 points short.

Still, while Donald Trump won this district in the last two elections, he did so both times with a blah 54% of the vote. The Cook Partisan Index gives the district a mere 5% Republican lean, sug-

Guest Opinion - Page 12



Briefs...

FIREFIGHTING

sources remain prepared to respond to any new fire starts as warm, dry weather continues across the region.

Visitors to the Willamette National Forest are urged to observe all current fire restrictions and to immediately report any signs of wildfire by calling 911.

Return to Page 1

ICE DYEING

People will have an opportunity to create colorful, one-of-a-kind fabric art during an ice dyeing workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center.

Unlike traditional tie-dyeing, ice dyeing uses ice cubes sprinkled with powdered fabric dye. Because of the unpredictable nature of the process, no two finished pieces are ever alike.

Participants are encouraged to bring a 100% cotton T-shirt, tea towel, or other cotton item to dye. T-shirts will also be available for those who do not have an item to bring. Children under 12 are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

A suggested $5 donation and/or a donation of redeemable cans and bottles will help support the Bottle Boys.

Planning to attend? RSVP to umccevents@gmail.com with the participant's age and T-shirt size.

ATHLETICS

Hayward Field at the University of Oregon will take center stage as it hosts the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships from August 5–9, welcoming the world's best

athletes under the age of 20 for five days of elite competition.

Known as "Oregon 26," the championship will bring together rising stars from around the globe to compete for world titles in one of the sport's premier developmental events. Many athletes competing this week are expected to become future Olympic and world champions.

Hayward Field is no stranger to hosting the world's top athletes. The iconic venue previously welcomed the event in 2014 and later hosted the 2022 World Athletics Championships, bringing global attention to Eugene as one of the sport's premier destinations.

McKenzie River Reflections
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Weather Report

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
7/28	81	55	0	313 cfs
7/29	82	54	0	336 cfs
7/30	82	54	0	341 cfs
7/31	90	55	0	331 cfs
8/1	76	55	0	NA
8/2	75	53	0	341 cfs
8/3	89	49	0	336 cfs
8/4	262 cfs			

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
7/28	85	51	0	1,820 cfs
7/29	85	52	0	1,810 cfs
7/30	83	55	0	1,810 cfs
7/31	83	50	0	1,820 cfs
8/1	88	50	0	1,830 cfs
8/2	77	52	0	1,830 cfs
8/3	79	51	0	1,790 cfs

Weather Forecast

Friday

McKenzie Valley: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 95 Low: 57
Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 96 Low: 55

Saturday

McKenzie Valley: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 90 Low: 54
Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 91 Low: 51

Sunday

McKenzie Valley: Sunny, 5% chance precip, High: 86 Low: 54
Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 87 Low: 49

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lane County Sheriff's Office

July 27: 8:48 a.m: 26046190 Criminal Mischief – 39300 block, McK. Hwy.

10:18 a.m: Water Rescue – 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:08 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:25 p.m: Civil Service – 40300 blk, Mohawk River Rd.

4:39 p.m: Reckless Burning - Drury Creek Rd.

4:59 p.m: Animal Complaint – Marcola Rd.

6:22 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle – 90700 blk, Marcola Rd.

8:30 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle – 88600 blk, Whitsell Ln.

July 28: 7:40 a.m: Civil Service – 40300 blk, Mohawk River Rd.

9:41 p.m: Injured Animal - Camp Creek Rd.

10:51 p.m: Illegal Burn - Wendling Rd.

July 29: 5:33 a.m: Traffic Hazard - McK. Hwy.

5:17 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd.

11:55 p.m: Tree Down - Deerhorn Rd.

6:07 a.m: Alarm - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:15 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Marcola Rd.

July 30: 12:00 a.m: Tree Down - Bridge St.

12:12 a.m: Alarm - 38300 blk, Wendling Rd.

1:03 a.m: Dispute - 37800 blk, Wallace Creek Rd.

7:28 a.m: Subpoena Service – 39400 blk, Wendling Rd.

10:01: a.m: Civil Service – 40300 blk, Mohawk River Rd.

5:02 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Deerhorn Rd.

6:27 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 89100 blk, Marcola Rd.

7:05 p.m: Water Rescue - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

7:06 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92300 blk, Carson St.

7:57 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - McKenzie Bridge area.

8:07 p.m: Towed Vehicle - Marcola Rd.

11:13 p.m: Assist Fire Department - 49100 blk, McK. Hwy.

July 31: 3:23 a.m: Assault - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

Aug. 1: 12:07 p.m: Disabled Vehicle – 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

12:31 p.m: Welfare Check – 51200 blk, Blue River Dr.

4:57 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call – 49500 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:57 p.m: Suspicious Conditions – 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

9:54 p.m: Traffic Hazard – 190000 blk, Marcola Rd.

Aug. 2: 8:51 p.m: Theft - 39000 blk, Bryant Ln. Caller reported someone stole one license plate off their vehicle. Caller was advised to contact DMV for replacement and remove the remaining plate as they were being entered as stolen.

11:17 p,m: Armed Subject - Marcola Rd. Callers reported seeing a male walking with a semiautomatic rifle along Marcola Road, headed toward Springfield. The male was not menacing anyone or acting suspiciously at the time. OSP was given the information as well and they conducted a patrol.

Aug. 3: 12:02 a.m: Burglary - 91700 blk, Horse Creek Rd. Caller was contacted by owner of the property who asked the caller to check on their cabin while they were out of state. Caller checked on property and was met by people who were confrontational. Caller reported the incident occurred days before reporting. Call was held for contact from the property

Continued On Page 11

MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

July 27: 10:15: Partridge Ln./ McK. Hwy. Water Rescue Assist with Technical Rescue up River Bank.

11:23: 9000 blk, Thurston Rd. Smoke Scare Extinguished Fire, Informed Homeowner.

13:56: McK. Hwy./Milepost 18. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Blocking, Patients Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:05: 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd. MVA. Partially Blocking, Non-Injury.

July 28: 9:10: 41600 blk, Madrone St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

12:49: 40200 blk, Storment Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

14:53: 41600 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:13: 42800 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:34: 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

17:06: 39300 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

17:08: 40200 blk, Storment Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

July 29: 19:15: 42800 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

July 30: 11:15: 89800 blk, Greenwood Dr. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:20: 42700 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:59: 38800 blk, Deerhorn Rd. MVA. Blocking, Injury, 2 Transported.

19:11: 59200 blk, Belknap Springs Rd. Water Rescue

Continued On Page 9

UPPER MCKENZIE FIRE/RESCUE

July 28: 14:56: Medical – 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

22:02: Vehicle Fire – 91000 blk, Horse Creek Rd. Old fire truck being scrapped in backyard was on fire earlier, now smoking again.

July 29: 00:34: Vehicle Fire - 91000 blk, Horse Creek Rd. Fire truck on fire again

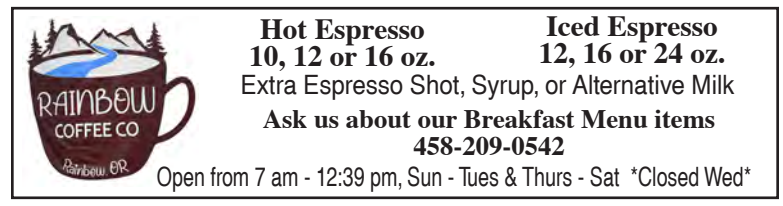
July 30: 19:02: Water Rescue – 59000 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd. Involved had been swimming and got swept away. 3 subjects, calling for help from a rock in the middle of the river.

22:54: Medical – 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Aug. 2: 03:48: Medical - Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Aug. 3: 19:13: Smoke Check - McK. Hwy./Milepost 54. Man just came to caller's door and said there was a fire at the McK. Bridge Airport, was asking for a ride.

Continued On Page 9



'Cape Foulweather Light' built on the wrong cape

By Finn J.D. John

Sometime in the late 1860s, a sailing ship hove to just off the Oregon coast, near the mouth of Yaquina Bay.

This ship was full of building materials. Its mission was to land those materials on Cape Foulweather — today known as Otter Crest — so that a new lighthouse could be built there.

It would be quite a thing, this lighthouse. Plans called for it to be 93 feet tall (it's still the tallest on the Oregon coast), equipped with a first-order Fresnel lens, painstakingly packed in molasses* and shipped halfway around the world from France. From high atop the bluff at Cape Foulweather, it would reach out some 18 miles with the light of its oil lamp, a model designed to burn ordinary lard rather than kerosene.

There was just one problem. No one had given any thought to how the supplies were to be unloaded at Foulweather. And now, staring at the hungry fangs of rocks with breakers crashing over them, the crew of the sailing ship were scratching their heads.

But, the cargo had to be delivered. And so it was: four miles farther south, on a friendlier-looking headland.

And that is how the Cape Foulweather Lighthouse ended up getting built on the wrong basaltic outcropping — at least, according to former lightkeeper John Zenor, who had the story from the son of one of the engineers assigned to the project.

"The man said he kept this secret until his father's death," writes Jim Gibbs in Lighthouses of the Pacific. "It was a number of years before the government learned that Cape Foulweather Lighthouse was really on Yaquina Head. By then it was too late to rectify."

Postcard

Yaquina Head and the lighthouse as seen from the air. The landform of the head is considerably different today, as the big grassy area in the middle of the peninsula has a large divot taken out of the right-hand (south) side from the operations of Bob Weinert's gravel quarry.

Now, keep in mind that this is a fourth-hand report — the engineer told his son, who told Zenor, who told Gibbs, who tells us. It's also true that there was some confusion in the community about the names of Yaquina Head and Cape Foulweather, stemming from the fact that Cape Foulweather is arguably not a cape, and Yaquina Head inarguably is one.

But whether by accident or by design, once the materials were landed at Yaquina Head, the die was cast. On Yaquina Head the light would go.

The location was tough — not as tough as Cape Foulweather would have been, but bad enough. There was a little niche there at the root of the headland that, in balmy weather, was protected from the surf — where the "cobble beach" is today. The crew carved a rude stairway into the side of the 80-foot bluff there — basically a stone ladder, and "worth a man's life to use in a heavy wind," as Gibbs puts it. And with that, and a derrick installed at the top of the cliff, they were able to get to work.

The light went into service on Aug. 20, 1873, seven years after President Andrew Johnson authorized its construction just after the Civil War. And for the first few years of its existence, it was still being referred to in official correspondence as the "Cape Foulweather Light."

As it turned out, the Yaquina Head location worked just fine for the lighthouse. As the 20th century dawned on the Oregon Coast, and the Roosevelt Highway (Highway 101) was platted and built, visitors from Newport and beyond started coming to see the lighthouse and to indulge in recreational activities on the government-owned headland it was built on. Some of those visitors found it to be a fantastic source of dense basalt, and a few of them brought equipment in and quarried it for various local projects.

* There is some controversy over the molasses detail, and I have been unable to confirm that this shipping technique was in fact used to transport Fresnel lenses in the mid-1800s. So far my research has yielded only assertions and counter-assertions. The story may be apocryphal. This story will be updated if

So far, so good; federal land is generally available for American citizens to use. But then, in the mid-1950s, a Newport gravel company staked a mining claim on the place.

The claim was staked under the Mining Law of 1872, and it gave the company exclusive rights to extract mineral deposits from the head. In this case, of course, the mineral deposits were the head itself.

Shortly thereafter, the federal government actually sold the head to the mining company at a price that, even then, was low enough that it probably would have sent somebody to prison if anyone had cared enough to press the case: $3 an acre.

At that point, there would have been nothing to stop the mining company from platting homesites and developing the peninsula for luxury homes, which was what many people thought was the company's game plan all along.

But it wasn't. With the added security of outright ownership, the company ramped up mining operations progressively over the following dozen years or so, until by the mid-1970s it boasted a staff of 25 people, busily hauling hundreds of tons off the head every workday.

Then, in the mid-1970s, the situation came to the attention of the state of Oregon, probably through the agitation of one of the then-nascent environmental

He woke right up! - Page 11

By Slim Randles

"Now that's the job I want," said Steve, putting down the paper. "A guy could really sink his teeth into something like that."

Doc looked up from his coffee. "Didn't know you were looking for work, Steve. Cowboying not working out for you?"

"It isn't that," said the cowboy/farrier, "it's just that a guy should always keep his eyes open so as not to miss an opportunity to better himself. That's why I'm so interested in becoming a chicken ranger."

"A what?"

"He said a chicken ranger, Doc," said Bert, "but I never heard of one."

"Scoff if you must, friends," said Steve with a flourish, "but right here in the pages of our own glorious newspaper, the Valley Weekly Miracle, comes one of the best ideas for a job I've ever heard of. It seems if your chickens run around loose, you get more money for their eggs. No. Seriously. Look at this ad. The store says they are from certified free-ranging chickens. Got it stamped right on every free-ranging egg."

"Heard about that," Doc said, nodding. "It's not that the eggs are better, but it makes you feel better about eating an egg from a happy hen, 'cause she can run around and peck on other hens and get pecked on rather than be caged."

"And therein lies my new job, gentlemen," Steve said. "Someone has to make sure those are happy, unfettered, free-ranging manufacturers of cackleberries, and I'm just the guy to get 'er done."

Bert, who takes his charter membership in the Mule Barn truck stop's philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank very seriously, said, "Doesn't sound like much work to me."

"Each egg has to be certified," Steve explained. "Gotta be a chicken ranger there to certify those hens didn't bunch up in a corner somewhere, right? So I'll be sitting there on my horse, keeping an eye on the girls…"

"On your horse?"

"Of course," Steve said. "If you can't do a job horseback it ain't worth doing. Don't you know afoot are the two saddest words in the English language?"

Brought to you by "Whimsy Castle," my most recent novel. Available online at Amazon.com.

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OSU GARDENING Tips

Oregon State University

Designing gardens everyone can enjoy

Pat Patterson, an OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer in Lane County since 1976, demonstrates how to use the lowering trellis in the Master Gardener Adaptive Garden at the Extension office in Eugene.

Gardening can be therapeutic — emotionally, mentally and physically — but for some it can feel out of reach. Good design and practices can make gardening accessible for everyone.

"We all have challenges if we live long enough," said Corinne Thomas-Kersting, an Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener volunteer and a retired speech-language pathologist. "We have different challenges. Even when you're young and healthy there are things to do to prevent future disabilities."

Thomas-Kersting advocates universal garden design — planning the landscape so anyone can access and enjoy it.

"It is my deeply held belief that we don't need to label people as having a disability versus being 'normal,'" she said. "Using universal design benefits us all."

Design for all abilities

There are many ways to design a universal garden. Knowing Americans with Disabilities Act measurements for pathways, using raised beds and selecting appropriate tools are good starting points.

A garden for someone with a visual impairment could feature water sounds, fragrant plants, ornamental grasses that rustle in the wind, and bright, contrasting colors.

"For me, I really love to touch things," Thomas-Kersting said. "Think about texture — smooth, fuzzy, lacy, sharp. Variety and mindfulness in how it's designed opens the opportunity for more people to enjoy it. And you enjoy it, as well."

New Extension guide

An OSU Extension publication, Gardens are for everyone, offers tips for creating accessible home and community gardens — including design, navigation, tools and equipment, and plant selection.

In her own garden, Thomas-Kersting replaced steps with a ramp. It allows wheelchair access and makes it easier to move a wheelbarrow. She also prefers the look of a sloping, continuous path.

Prevent strain with tools and habits

Stretching, resting and using the right tools help avoid injuries and mitigate limitations from mobility issues or medical conditions such as arthritis. Place benches and chairs throughout the garden for breaks. Keep drinking water handy. Stretch or walk briefly before and after gardening.

Ergonomic tools are available at a range of prices. Look for curved handles and finger indentations on small tools, or wrap handles with water pipe insulation, bicycle grips or golf-club tape. Ensure longer tools have handles long enough to keep your back straight. Choose lightweight materials such as aluminum; sometimes children's tools are sufficient.

Practical tips to make gardening easier

* Use a kneeler with handles to help you get up; some models flip to become a seat.

* Sit on a bucket or a seat designed for gardening.

* Use major muscle groups and keep your back straight.

* Start small to avoid overdoing it.

* Keep pruners and other tools sharp and clean; store pruners in a sheath.

Gardening Tips - Page 9

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Recipes • Traditions • Memories • Seasonal Living By Mary Emma Allen

FAMILY DINING MEMORIES

So many family happenings occur around the dining or kitchen table, leaving us with memories that shape our lives. This may be a table in a dining nook, or a large table in the center of the room where many activities take place in addition to serving and eating meals. Sometimes these tables are handed down over the generations.

Dining Tables in Your Life

Think of the kitchen or dining tables of your childhood, early married years and later days when more than one generation gathered there. These may be tables you have in your possession now or simply ones you recall in memory.

Once when asked to write a note to her grandparents about her favorite visits at their farm, my daughter mentioned gathering in their kitchen around the large table.

The dining table we had in our multigenerational household when our daughter and her family lived with us for several years was the special one my mother-in-law purchased when she finally could have a more formal dining room. This trestle table was one she dreamed of for years, one she enjoyed as she entertained family and friends.

I recall her pleasure in obtaining different tablecloths and placemats for this table, decorating it for various festive occasions and entertaining, as she hadn't done when her eight children were small. We also have some of those tablecloths to use for holidays.

Do you have a table in your life that holds memories and tells a story, whether from long ago or more recent years? Record these memories for future generations to ensure that your family heritage will survive.

FRENCH FRY CASSEROLE

Dice 1 small onion and mix with one pound of ground beef or turkey. Press into the bottom of a 9 x 9-inch pan.

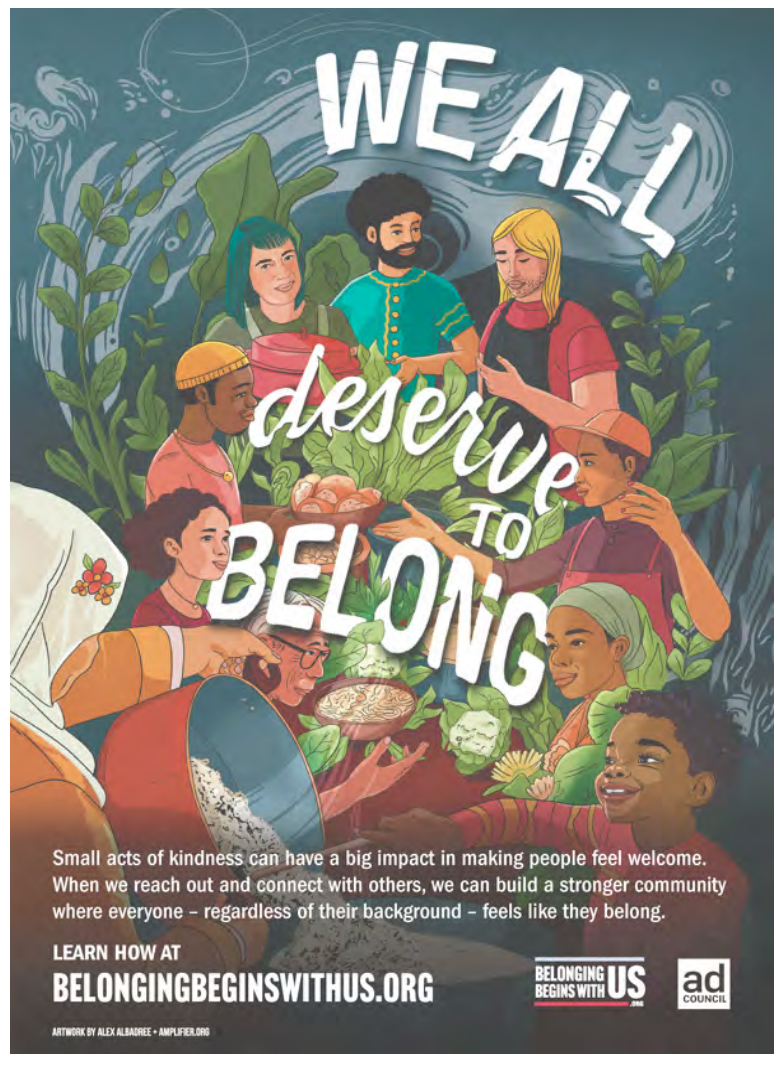
Mix together 1 can cream of cheddar soup and 1 can cream of celery soup. Spread this mixture over the ground meat. Then cover the surface generously with frozen French fries.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 40 minutes until done. The fries should be crisp and golden.

(Variation: Sprinkle lightly with shredded cheese about 15 minutes before the casserole is done.)

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen researches and writes about family history from her New Hampshire home.)



August Community Notes

August 8
Bootleg Rose
6 - 9 pm

Bootleg Rose, an indie folk duo with Hannah Rose and Tait Sarter, will perform at the McKenzie General Store & Obsidian Grill. Known for their soul stirring harmonies, acoustic driven sound, and emotive songwriting. the Eugene based pair draws influence from Americana artists like Watchhouse, The Avett Brothers, and Shovels & Rope.

August 10
Spfd School Board
7 pm

Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Springfield School District

The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 pm on the 4th Monday of the month.

August 10
Parks Advisory
6 - 7:30pm

The Parks Advisory Committee meets in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy, Eugene. on the 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August). 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 representing the concerns of the community.

August 11
Lane County
Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

August 11
Gentle Dental Van
8:30 am - 2 pm

The Gental Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of the month at 51730 Dexter St. in Blue River. 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.

August 11
Tourism Committee
9 - 10 am

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every Second Tuesday of every month. Please join in 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. To get on the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com

August 11
McKenzie Food Pantry
11 am - 1 pm

At the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge.

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

August 12
BR Park Board
7:15 - 8 pm

Blue River Water Board Monthly Board meeting in the O'Brien Memorial Library meeting room,, 51771 Blue River Dr.

August 12
AARP's Birthday
Noon - 3 pm

Social Security's 91st Birthday will be honored at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, 34901 Frank Parrish Road in Eugene. Everyone - kids included - is invited to help celebrate. Food, games, and lots of fun await. Parking is free with Lane County pass or $5 there. The event is free, but registration is required. Go to: events.aarp.org/event/91Picnic

August 13
Vida McKenzie
Community Center Board
4:30 - 5:30 pm

The Vida McKenzie Community Center board will meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

August 13
McKenzie
Watershed Council
5 - 6:30 pm

The McKenzie Watershed Council will meet on the second Thursday of the month from 5 to 6:30 p.m., location varies, please contact Chase Antonovich, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Manager, (458-201-8150) chase@mckenziewc.org

August 11
Second Friday Art Walk
4 - 7:30 pm

2nd Friday Art Walk at 500 Main Street - Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield.

August 15
River Talk
2 pm

The O'Brien Memorial Library, 51771 Blue River Drive, will welcome award-winning Oregon author Molly Gloss to discuss her award-winning novel, Jump-Off Creek. In preparation for her visit, community members have reading her novel - stop by the library to check out a copy and join the conversation.

The library's River Talks explore and celebrate our local rivers and the many ways they shape our history, culture, and community.

This program is made possible through a grant from Oregon Humanities and is part of their Consider This Conversations series.

August 17
McKenzie Fire District Board
Noon- 1 pm

McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. 541-896-3311.

Have an event to share?
Whether you're hosting a workshop, performance, or community gathering, we want to feature it!
Click here or submit your event details at tinyurl.com/3j33kkxz

Weekly Meetings

Tuesday
VMCC Senior Center
11 am

Doors at the Vida McKenzie Community Center open at 11 am at 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida for a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. They include socializing, a speaker or activity, and lunch (with a suggested donation of $5).

Wednesday
Upper McKenzie Jiu-Jitsu
7 - 8 pm

No-Gi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. For More Information email: uppermckenzie-jiujitsu@gmail.com

Tuesday
Little Poker League
6 - 9 pm

Watershed Wednesday
9 - 11:30 am
Coburg, Oregon

Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning at Green Island. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care or planting/tree establishment. Green Island is a 1,100 acre preserve.

Wednesday & Thursday
AA meetings

AA meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Walterville. plus in Blue River at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the clinic on Dexter Street.

Thursday
Dog Socialization
Pack Walks
10 am

At the Walterville Pond, meet at East end parking lot. Free weekly, For more information: email quickslyfox@duck.com

Thursday
GMRS net
6 pm

The McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group meets at 6:00 pm on 462.6750 MHz, Tone 100.0 Hz (often Radio Memory Channel 28) on the Deathball Repeater. Make it easy on McKenzie Community Communications-supplied radios and anything volunteers have programmed for you.

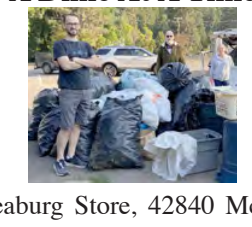
Friday
Yoga in Leaburg

42870 McKenzie Hwy, Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center, from 8 to 9 am..

Friday
SAIL Exercise Program
10 to 11 am.

Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida. Join the SAIL program on Fridays for instructor-led exercises to boost strength, independence, and confidence. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Saturday
A Dime At A Time



Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy, Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10-noon. Donations can be dropped off to us at Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers.

An Invitation to Worship

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

McKenzie Bible Fellowship
45061 McKenzie Hwy – Vida, Oregon
Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Youth Ministries
KidsFest Family Activities
Small Group Fellowships
Men's & Women's Bible Studies
Call 896-3829 for information
www.mckenziebible.com

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

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville. 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!
Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Straight talk and real advice for everyday life.

Out Of The Blue

I desperately need help ending a friendship I know I must end. For the past two years I have given advice to a friend with problems. My friend would call daily to ask for direction on handling situations she seemed unable to deal with. In my willingness to help, I gave her the best information I could, based on my experience.

Yesterday my friend phoned me, and during the conversation, mentioned she didn't feel I was being honest with myself. She insinuated my husband was probably gay, and that he was either lying to me, lying to himself, or both. This came out of the blue, and I was flabbergasted. She also said she knew her remarks might end our friendship.

I asked her to explain. She said she just "knew" my husband was using me to blend in with society. I should add that she hardly knows my husband, and I have never asked for her advice about my life or my marriage. I defended myself by saying my husband is not a knuckle-dragging, truck-pulling kind of guy, but he is definitely not gay.

She said she was just being honest. I told her honesty is not always called for. You don't tell someone if you think they are ugly! I am still quite shaken by having to defend my husband's sexuality and my honesty. I certainly cannot remain friends with such a person. Please help me end this friendship with finesse.

Sonya

Sonya, for two years your friend has been the center of attention with her problems. You tried to help, and you tried to be her friend. Now she is ready to end the relationship if she can't gain the upper hand.

Perhaps she is tired of playing the victim and wants to diminish what you have. Perhaps she wants to humiliate and hurt you. Perhaps she has other motives. It doesn't matter. What she said attacks you and your husband.

This situation doesn't call for finesse but firmness. What you need to do is more like firing a bad employee than talking with a friend. End contact with her. Don't defend yourself or give credence to what she says.

Take her comments for what they are: valueless. Give them no more thought than you would the peel of an orange. Once thrown away, it is never thought of again.

Wayne & Tamara

Judgment Call

My boyfriend and I have been together two years and known each other for seven. How can you know someone for so long but suddenly feel you don't know them at all?

A year ago he moved in but our problem only surfaced recently. We had just returned from a romantic Caribbean vacation when he began behaving secretly. When I tried to open up the lines of communication, he grew defensive and nervous. Up to that point we had shared everything.

I justified breaking into his email account to protect myself. To make a long story short, I found emails to four different women. Girl A is a woman he used to date, Girl B is a woman he currently works with, and Girl C is the mother of one of his students! Girl D is a girl from Craigslist.

When I confronted him, he swore nothing happened with any of these women. He admitted he has a problem with boundaries and knowing when flirting has gone too far. At that point I believed him. We had a long talk and decided a fresh start was in order. We got dressed up and went out to dinner to affirm our new start. It was behind us. Or was it?

A month later I logged into his email because to be honest it never left my mind. I found an intimate email to Girl B dated a day after our dinner. I also found emails answering personal ads for threesomes.

Since then I have confronted him two more times. We have had deep talks about intimacy and our own personal fantasies. I assured him that I would never judge him, but he had to let me know and not seek a relationship behind my back. At that point he said he never wanted to lose me and he wants the same things I do—marriage and kids.

I'm trying to be as understanding as possible, but I am supposed to go away for the weekend, and it appears he has plans to meet up with Girl B. Even after we talked, I still don't know who he is. Help me stop breaking into his email because I know that's not helping matters.

Tabitha

Tabitha, the Greek philosopher Pyrrho believed we can't know right from wrong, truth from fiction, or wisdom from folly. Pyrrho refused to make judgments of any kind, even whether it was safe for him to cross the street. Fortunately Pyrrho had friends who kept him from being run over by wagons or falling off cliffs. Many of us are not so lucky.

The idea that we can't judge others is rubbish. Every day we judge. We judge the depth of the water, the speed and distance of approaching cars, and what we can afford to buy. Claiming you won't judge your boyfriend is an excuse not to do what you know is right.

Your boyfriend doesn't hold intimacy as a value, and you don't want to tell him that. Every day you don't send him packing gives him another opportunity to weaken your resolve.

When people don't put their foot down, it lets others think they can push and push and push until they get what they want. What you communicate by not breaking up is that your boyfriend can have you and other women. You are showing him you don't have self-esteem and self-respect.

The one smart thing you've done is break into his email. That shows you still have enough of the mental defense mechanisms needed to protect yourself. But if you stay, you know your future. He's shown he wants to have sex with other women, and you are signing up to be part of that.

If you want intimacy that matters, if you want monogamy and love, he's not the one. There's no guesswork here. Even Pyrrho could see, he's not the one.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are also the authors of Cheating in a Nutshell, What Infidelity Does to the Victim, available from Amazon, Apple and most booksellers.

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FOR RENT

The beautiful Vida McKenzie Community Center, has everything you need for your event. Go to vidacommunitycenter.com for more info.

Shelly Pruitt 541-554-9332

Funeral Home

Major Family Funeral Home. Family Owned Since 1961. Funerals ° Burials ° Cremations ° Monuments ° Keepsakes ° Video Tributes. 541-746-9667.

Huge Annual Yard Sale

91094 Leashore Drive, Vida, Friday, Sat, and Sunday July 17, 18, & 19th 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.. Cross over the Goodpasture Bridge and you are there. Tools, Furniture and More!

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

Piano Lessons

Now accepting piano students - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced - all ages. Professional jazz pianist, classically trained with years of teaching experience. Located in Leaburg. Please call or text 408.391.3477 or email; kimberly@liquidsister.com. http://www.liquidsister.com SKP-8/16ruc

Pianists Wanted

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church aims to form a team of pianists with intermediate-advanced skills for accompanying worship services. $65 per service. To apply, call 541-747-2604 or email: marodstrom@yahoo.com.

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

Services

Natures Friend Beautifying Co. Property/rental cleanup, restoration, tree work, blackberry & ivy destruction, pressure washing, Int/ext. painting, furniture refurbishing. Free appliance removal. Call Scottish 541-913-8477. SB=JAB-2/27-3/20/14

Got a hole in your wall? Give me a call! The Wall Doctor - Serving the McKenzie River area. 541-735-2317. p-s15-n3

DIVORCE $130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

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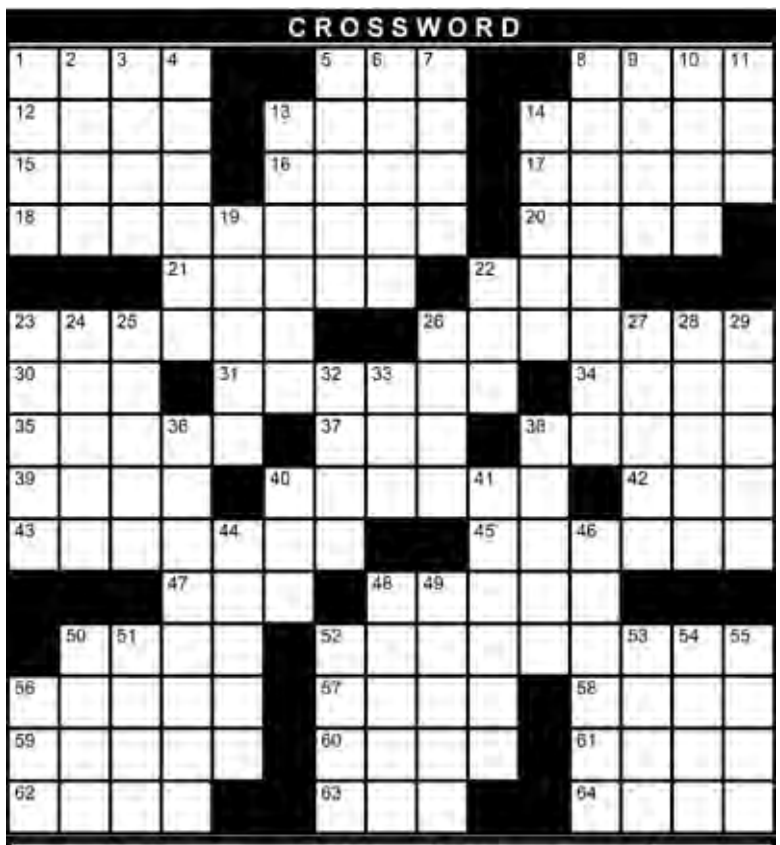
CROSSWORD



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ACROSS

1. Thanksgiving tubers
5. ____ Patrol
8. Boohoos
12. Burn soothing plant
13. "Frat Pack" member Wilson
14. ____ ligation
15. Sound an alarm
16. Marvin, Majors and Greenwood
17. O. Henry's specialty
18. *Marilyn Monroe: "Happy Birthday, Mr. ____"
20. Sporting sword
21. Blue pencil marks
22. Knight's title
23. *One for every year
26. Custodian
30. Be in debt
31. Stay clear of
34. Accompanies relief
35. #1 Down, pl.
37. Owned
38. Subway in Paris
39. Shore extension
40. Per ____
42. Even, poetic
43. City in Netherlands
45. Like voice during laryngitis
47. Barents or Laptev, e.g.
48. Noah's passengers
50. Type of code
52. *Astrological sign for those born on New Year's Eve
56. Black one and white one, for Tchaikovsky
57. Crematorium jars
58. "The Odyssey," e.g.
59. Make this, not waste
60. Let it stand, to proofreader
61. Governmental space agency, acr.
62. The windows to the soul
63. Money in Myanmar
64. Theodora or Dorothea

DOWN

1. Bark or yelp
2. Relating to armpit
3. *"...and many ____"
4. Detected
5. *Like 16
6. Hiking sandals of a certain brand
7. Of the present month
8. *Greeting to the birthday honoree, sometimes
9. Bassoon cousin
10. Misery cause
11. Canny
13. Dated tunes
14. Make a logical connection (2 words)
19. Runs without moving
22. Lumberjack's tool
23. Another word for nutria
24. Look forward to
25. Not as old
26. George Lucas' warrior-monk
27. Concentration of a solution lab test
28. Shrek and Fiona, e.g.
29. Cotes du ____, wine region
32. Online room
33. As opposed to mishap
36. *"We want your presence, not your ____"
38. New Zealandian minority
40. Cuban dance syllable
41. *Quench it with punch
44. Precedes desist
46. Antonym of descent
48. *Traditional birthday celebration
49. Sleeper's woe
50. Up, up and there
51. Level a building
52. Crescent point
53. Colorful fish
54. Greet the judge, e.g.
55. March Madness org.
56. Pronoun

Solution on Page 9

SUDOKU

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

Solution on Page 9

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Emergency? Call 911

Inviting a Friend to Supper

By Ben Jonson

Tonight, grave sir, both my poor house, and I
Do equally desire your company;
Not that we think us worthy such a guest,
But that your worth will dignify our feast
With those that come, whose grace may make that seem
Something, which else could hope for no esteem.
It is the fair acceptance, sir, creates
The entertainment perfect, not the cates.
Yet shall you have, to rectify your palate,
An olive, capers, or some better salad
Ushering the mutton; with a short-legged hen,
If we can get her, full of eggs, and then
Lemons, and wine for sauce; to these a cony
Is not to be despaired of, for our money;
And, though fowl now be scarce, yet there are clerks,
The sky not falling, think we may have larks.
I'll tell you of more, and lie, so you will come:
Of partridge, pheasant, woodcock, of which some
May yet be there, and godwit, if we can;
Knat, rail, and ruff too. Howsoe'er, my man
Shall read a piece of Virgil, Tacitus,
Livy, or of some better book to us,
Of which we'll speak our minds, amidst our meat;
And I'll profess no verses to repeat.
To this, if ought appear which I not know of,
That will the pastry, not my paper, show of.
Digestive cheese and fruit there sure will be;
But that which most doth take my Muse and me,
Is a pure cup of rich Canary wine,
Which is the Mermaid's now, but shall be mine;
Of which had Horace, or Anacreon tasted,
Their lives, as so their lines, till now had lasted.
Tobacco, nectar, or the Thespian spring,
Are all but Luther's beer to this I sing.
Of this we will sup free, but moderately,
And we will have no Pooley, or Parrot by,
Nor shall our cups make any guilty men;
But, at our parting we will be as when
We innocently met. No simple word
That shall be uttered at our mirthful board,
Shall make us sad next morning or affright
The liberty that we'll enjoy tonight.

Source: Ben Jonson and the Cavalier Poets (W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1974)

Ben Jonson is among the best-known writers and theorists of English Renaissance literature, second in reputation only to Shakespeare. A prolific dramatist and a man of letters highly learned in the classics, he profoundly influenced the Augustan age through his emphasis on the precepts of Horace, Aristotle, and other classical Greek and Latin thinkers. While he is now remembered primarily for his satirical comedies, he also distinguished himself as a poet, preeminent writer of masques, erudite defender of his work, and the originator of English literary criticism.

Jonson was born in London shortly after the death of his father, a minister who claimed descent from the Scottish gentry. Despite a poor upbringing, he was educated at Westminster School under the renowned antiquary William Camden. He apparently left his schooling unwillingly to work with his stepfather as a bricklayer. He then served as a volunteer in the Low Countries in the Dutch war against Spain, and the story is told that he defeated a challenger in single combat between the opposing armies, stripping his vanquished opponent of his arms in the classical fashion. Returning to England by 1592, Jonson married Anne Lewis in 1594. Although the union was unhappy, it produced several children, all of whom Jonson outlived.

In the years following his marriage, he became an actor and also wrote numerous "get-penny" entertainments—financially motivated and quickly composed plays.

Misfortune, however, marked Jonson's later years. A fire destroyed his library in 1623, and when James I died in 1625, Jonson lost much of his influence at court, though he was named City Chronologer in 1628. Later that year, he suffered the first of several strokes which left him bedridden. Jonson produced four plays during the reign of Charles I, and was eventually granted a new pension in 1634. None of these later plays was successful. The rest of his life, spent in retirement, he filled primarily with study and writing; at his death, on August 6, 1637, two unfinished plays were discovered among his mass of papers and manuscripts. Jonson left a financially depleted estate, but was nevertheless buried with honor in Westminster Abbey.

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Canceled En Route by UMF.

22:57: 49100 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patients Assessed, 2 Transported.

23:57: Bridge St./Omlid Dr. Down Line Notified Lane Electric, Blocked Lane and Notified Traffic.

July 31: 11:23: 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

20:02: 44900 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

August 1: 15:37: 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:48: Camp Creek Rd./ Oakshire Dr. Smoke Scare Unable To Locate.

August 1: 17:24: 42800 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

August 2: 3:48: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

11:17: 41600 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, August 17, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

Return To Page 3

SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	4	8	2	9	6	7	5	1
6	1	2	4	7	5	8	9	3
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Emergency? Call 911

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Free shipping will be applied to select package (SKU 82395). Minimum purchase of $99 per shipping address to qualify for free gift. 1 free gift per shipping address. The free gift does not apply to the purchase of Gift Cards, Certificates, Wine, Wine & Food Packs, Gift Baskets, Gourmet Salame, Caviar, and Custom Cuts. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is not valid on pending or prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 09/30/26. Omaha Steaks, LLC 26M10301

Need to talk? Call 988

Gardening Tips

* Build raised beds or tables of wood, concrete blocks or thick pavers. Make them 3 to 4 feet wide and 24 to 36 inches high. Kits are available.
* "Bring the garden to you" with containers or window boxes. They're easier to weed and water, and wheeled containers move easily.
* Make beds narrow enough to reach the center when sitting or kneeling.
* Put away tools, hoses and wheelbarrows to reduce tripping hazards.
* Use a light or expanding hose.
* Make paths intuitive so users don't need directions.
* Design wider paths with places to turn around — helpful for wheelbarrows and mobility devices.
* Replace steps with gradually sloping paths where possible.
* Keep tools close to the garden. If possible, move or build a shed adjacent to planting areas.
* Choose lower-maintenance plants that need less water, pruning, staking and deadheading; seek disease- and pest-resistant varieties.
* Want to learn more about this topic? Explore more resources from OSU Extension: Gardening techniques

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A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

August 6 - Walter and Thomas Montieth, brothers from New York, traveled to Oregon by ox team in 1847. At the confluence of the Calapooya and Willamette rivers they found an open plain and promptly bought the squatter's claim to 320 acres, giving $400 and a horse for the deed. The brothers laid out a town they name Albany, after the capital of their home state. After adding 320 acres of adjacent land, the brothers began construction of a large house, built straddling the dividing line between the two claims, thereby filling the requirement that each man sleep on his claim. The Montieth house is currently owned by the City of Albany and operated as a museum showcasing the early days of Albany.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Up on the Pass

shifts. As crews become more familiar with traffic patterns, they may begin work slightly earlier or finish somewhat later, but the project will continue to operate on a night, according to ODOT spokeswoman Mindy McCartt.

Paving normally occurs from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday evenings through Thursday mornings. Flaggers have been alternating single-lane traffic through the work zone, and motorists should expect delays of up to 20 minutes, she says.

The project includes resurfacing OR 126 from the U.S. 20 junction south to approximately milepost 11, as well as overlaying U.S. 20 from the OR 126 junction east to the OR 22 junction between mileposts 71 and 74.

In addition to traffic delays, drivers should anticipate nighttime lane and shoulder closures, temporary lane shifts, and construction noise throughout the project. The work is expected to continue through mid-August.

Travelers can find the latest road conditions and project updates through TripCheck before heading out.

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Fishing Report

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.

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish were: Leaburg Lake – 1,000, and McKenzie River below Leaburg Dam – 2,400.

Fish Counts
July 30, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook – 36,621
Summer Steelhead – 9,349

My hotel reservation disappeared. Why won't Booking.com refund me for my new room?

Stephen Stein arrives at his hotel for a family gathering only to find his reservation missing. Booking.com promises to cover the extra cost of a new room but then traps him in a cycle of endless paperwork. Is there a way out?

I reserved a two-bedroom suite at Homewood Suites by Hilton in Bonita Springs, Fla., through Booking.com. When our party of three adults arrived at the hotel, a desk agent told us he had no reservation for us, despite my providing him with the Booking.com confirmation number.

I called Booking.com, but the representative was not able to give me a quick resolution. This was critical because we were due for a family dinner in 90 minutes.

On our own, we found an alternative hotel nearby, but it only had regular rooms available, no suites. We booked two rooms directly, which cost $126 more than the original Booking.com reservation. I called Booking.com, and a representative promised to cover approximately half of the difference.

In the days following, I made many calls to Booking.com to confirm the payment. Each time, the company came up with a different excuse for not authorizing payment.

After over three hours of waiting time and talking with agents, I've given up. Can you help me get my money back?

Stephen Stein, Coral Gables, Fla.

That's no way to start a family trip. Booking.com should have secured your reservation at the Homewood Suites, or, if the hotel was overbooked, it should have immediately found you comparable accommodations.

When you book through an online travel agency like Booking.com, you are adding a middleman to the transaction. Usually, this works seamlessly. (Also, an online agency can save you money.) But sometimes, this extra layer causes your trip to come apart at the seams.

It looks like you did everything right. You had your confirmation number. When the hotel turned you away, you contacted Booking.com immediately.

It's standard industry practice for a booking agent or hotel to cover the difference in cost if they must relocate you to a different property due to an error. Booking.com agreed to this in principle but then trapped you in a bureaucratic loop.

The requests for proof of currency were particularly absurd. You were booking a hotel in Florida using a U.S. credit card; the currency was obviously U.S. dollars. Asking for an invoice that explicitly states the number of guests is a common fraud-prevention tactic, but in this context, it felt like a stall tactic. You provided credit card statements and invoices from the hotel manager, which should have been sufficient.

You can prevent this in the future by calling the hotel directly a few days before your arrival to confirm your reservation, especially when traveling during peak periods. Don't trust a confirmation from a third party. Get it directly from the hotel.

You escalated your complaint to the customer service executives using the Booking.com contacts on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. When that didn't work, my advocacy team reached out to Booking.com on your behalf.

The company reviewed your case and refunded $126, the full price difference between your original rate and the replacement hotel room, a much better resolution than the original offer.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (https://elliottadvocacy.org), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/

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Trail Bridge

the utility's Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric complex near the headwaters of the McKenzie River. When producing electricity, it generates less than 10 megawatts—only a small portion of the project's overall output. Most of the project's power comes from the nearby Carmen Powerhouse, which can generate up to 110 megawatts.

The seasonal "full spill" operation is required under EWEB's federal operating license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The requirement was reached during the relicensing process to reduce the hydroelectric project's impacts on native fish populations.

"The goal is to give young fish an easier pathway to connect to the rest of the McKenzie," according to Lisa Krentz, EWEB's chief electric operations officer. "At the same time, carbon-free hydropower is what will enable our community to meet our climate goals. We need to balance those tradeoffs."

The Trail Bridge Dam is at the uppermost point fish can naturally reach the McKenzie River. Beyond the dam, only a few miles of spawning and rearing habitat are available before Tamolitch Falls, a natural barrier that blocks further upstream passage.

EWEB is currently working with state and federal fisheries agencies to construct a permanent "trap-and-haul" facility below Trail Bridge Dam. It's designed to allow adult salmon and threatened bull trout to be captured and transported upstream, replacing the temporary fish passage system currently in use.

Once the permanent upstream passage facility becomes operational, EWEB plans to discontinue nearly all electricity generation at the Trail Bridge Powerhouse, as required under the terms of its FERC license.

The utility is also planning to invest approximately $24 million in a permanent downstream fish passage facility at Trail Bridge to further improve fish migration.

The fish passage projects are part of a broader environmental mitigation effort tied to the relicensing of the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project. EWEB says it has already invested about $45 million in fisheries-related improvements and expects to spend an additional $135 million on fish habitat and passage projects by 2032.

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Summer at McKenzie: Preparing for a New School Year The Countdown Begins

By Lane Tompkins
Superintendent
McKenzie Schools

Believe it or not, the countdown to a new school year has officially begun.

While summer is still in full swing, we're now just a few weeks away from welcoming students back to McKenzie River Community School. For many families, August marks the transition from vacation mode back to school routines. For our staff, that transition has already begun.

Preparing for the first day of school is a little like preparing to host a large family gathering. There are hundreds of details that must come together before the first guest arrives. Every classroom, bus, computer, lunch tray, lesson plan, and athletic practice depends on careful planning and coordination long before the first school bell rings.

Over the past several weeks, you've read about some of the work happening behind the scenes. Our maintenance and custodial teams have been preparing classrooms and caring for our facilities. Our Nutrition Services staff have continued serving children through the Summer Meals Program. Families have begun registering students online for the upcoming school year, helping us build class lists and staffing plans. Every department has been working toward the same goal, providing students with an outstanding first day of school.

As August approaches, the pace will continue to pick up.

Student registration will take place on August 11 and 12, providing families an opportunity to complete paperwork, ask questions, and ensure everything is in place before school begins. If you haven't yet registered your student, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Early registration helps us build class rosters, develop transportation routes, prepare instructional materials, and make sure every student is ready to learn on day one.

Just a few days later, on August 17, our high school fall sports programs officially begin practice. Athletics provide students with opportunities to build teamwork, leadership, perseverance, and school pride, and we're excited to see another season get underway.

On August 28, we'll welcome families back to campus for Meet the Teacher Night. This has become one of my favorite traditions of the year. It's an opportunity for students to meet their teachers, reconnect with classmates, become familiar with their classrooms, and begin building the relationships that are at the heart of a successful school year. We know that when students feel connected before the first day, they begin the year with greater confidence and excitement.

Finally, on Monday, August 31, we'll welcome students back for the first day of the 2026–2027 school year. There is always a special energy on that morning. Hallways that have been quiet throughout the summer suddenly come alive with conversation, laughter, and anticipation. It's a reminder that while buildings and programs are important, schools are ultimately about people and the relationships that help students grow.

As families enjoy these final weeks of summer, I encourage everyone to begin easing back into school routines. Gradually adjusting bedtimes, scheduling routine appointments on Fridays whenever possible, completing registration early, and talking positively about the upcoming school year all help create a smooth transition back to school.

Summer may be winding down, but excitement for a new year is just beginning.

On behalf of our entire staff, we're looking forward to welcoming every student back to campus and beginning another year of learning, growth, and opportunity. We can't wait to see you on August 31.

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He woke right up!

organizations concerned about the speed with which the head was being dismantled.

The state government started looking for ways to stop that process. But it quickly found that not only could the state not stop the quarrying, it also could not stop buying gravel from Yaquina Head for its area highway construction projects. The state was required by law to take the lowest bidder on such projects, and because of its location and its high yield, the Yaquina Head quarry was always the lowest bidder.

Quarry owner Bob Weinert didn't help his cause much when, in a 1982 newspaper interview, he shared his vision for the future of Yaquina Head: he intended for it to be quarried right into the sea, leaving nothing behind but a small island out on the end with the lighthouse perched on top.

Quite what the federal government's response to this plan would have been was never made clear, or if it was I was unable to find it. The fact is, though, Weinert's plan would have cost the Coast Guard millions of dollars and put its personnel's lives at risk, because suddenly instead of simply driving out onto the headland to maintain the light, a risky and complicated landing in surf would be necessary every time the place needed a fresh coat of paint.

F.J.D. John

Quarry Cove, on the side of Yaquina Head, on a calm early-spring day in 2013.

But Weinert may have intended the comment as a joke, because by the time he gave that interview, the die had been cast, and he knew very well that the quarry would soon be closed. In 1980, Sen. Mark O. Hatfield had pulled some strings in D.C. and got the head named an "Outstanding Natural Area." Thus fortified, the Bureau of Land Management then got busy trading and buying with Weinert to acquire the head.

Today, the gravel quarry is gone — but there is a huge divot in the side of the head where it used to be. Called Quarry Cove, it was, for a brief time, the scene of the nation's only wheelchair-accessible tidepools. That effort was not a success, because the ocean kept trying to silt the place in with sand. Finally, the BLM gave up and let the sea have its way, settling for keeping Quarry Cove as a wheelchair-accessible beach, as it remains today.

(Sources: Gibbs, James A. Lighthouses of the Pacific. West Chester, Penn.: Schiffer, 1986, and Sentinels of the North Pacific. Portland: Binfords, 1955; Eugene Register-Guard archives)

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

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Postcard

Yaquina Head Light as it appeared in around 1920.

Oregon first responders get schooled on working with rural seniors

Adobe Stock

Research shows although many older adults are able to function independently in normal circumstances, disruption in services such as electricity, meal delivery and access to medication can cause quick decline in health.

By Isobel Charle
Oregon News Service

A new training program is helping to prepare police, paramedics and other first responders to better support older adults in rural Oregon during disasters like wildfires or extreme weather events.

Research shows older adults are disproportionately affected by disasters, especially outside city centers.

Julia Brown, community outreach and engagement manager for the nonprofit AGE+, which helped organize the free training sessions, said most emergency response systems rely on individuals to do things like pack a go-bag and plan an evacuation route but not everyone is able to do so.

"That really doesn't account for the number of older adults that are living independently, may not have easy access to transportation, may be living with chronic illness or disability," Brown explained.

Brown pointed out there are many more older adults who face these specific challenges in rural communities, adding the training has been piloted in five counties in north-central and eastern Oregon and has been well received.

Laura Byerly, director of the Oregon Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, which helped create the training program, said it touches on how to work with people with cognitive, physical and emotional hurdles.

"How do you actually think through the moral gut punch that can happen when an older adult says, 'I'm not leaving and you can't make me'? What are the opportunities we have there for a conversation? What is the legal requirement?" Byerly outlined.

Byerly noted part of the training is a role-play so participants can experience firsthand some of the challenges older adults might be facing, which she added was more fun than expected.

"When you get to see your county fire chief with sensory impairment goggles, earplugs, and a front-wheel walker and say, 'This sucks,' and get to say, 'Yes, and why would that potentially change how your interaction with an older adult goes in the future?'" Byerly observed.

Byerly's team is working with tribal and other emergency preparedness leads in southern and coastal Oregon about bringing training sessions to their locations.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Aug. 3: 12:02 a.m: Burglary - 91700 blk, Horse 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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Emergency? Call 911

UPPER MCKENZIE FIRE/RESCUE

20:17: Medical - Sahalie Falls, Clear Lake Cutoff, Mp. 5. Female with broken ankle.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 17, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 17, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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Housing Programs

Two families, he added, have already purchased homes with the help of $300,000 in down payment assistance and an additional $6,000 in closing cost assistance.

The program's three-year goal is to provide approximately $2.1 million to 14 households buying homes.

Flores told commissioners that the greatest obstacle has been the complexity of the federal application process.

Applicants must complete a 64-page application, document property losses that occurred nearly five years ago, and undergo extensive reviews to ensure disaster benefits are not duplicated with previous FEMA assistance.

To overcome those barriers, county staff have been meeting one-on-one with applicants while coordinating referrals through organizations including the McKenzie Long-Term Recovery Group, the McKenzie Community Land Trust and Oregon Housing and Community Services.

The commissioners expressed concern about the administrative burden placed on wildfire survivors, noting that the process can be especially difficult for people already coping with the loss of their homes.

The board also got an update on the redevelopment of the Lazy Days RV Park.

The project, a partnership between Lane County, Homes for Good and Oregon Housing and Community Services, was designed to provide replacement housing for wildfire survivors.

Staff reported that all 30 homes have now been matched with tenants. The community includes nine families with children and 21 adult-only households. Ten homes are owner-occupied while 20 are occupied by renters.

In other business, commissioners approved a recommendation to continue receiving funding through the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program rather than traditional timber receipt payments.

Staff explained that while timber receipts would generate slightly more revenue for the county's General Fund, they felt the SRS program would provide substantially greater funding for county road maintenance, resulting in a larger overall benefit. Because federal rules require the county to select one option or the other, commissioners agreed to continue participating in the SRS program.

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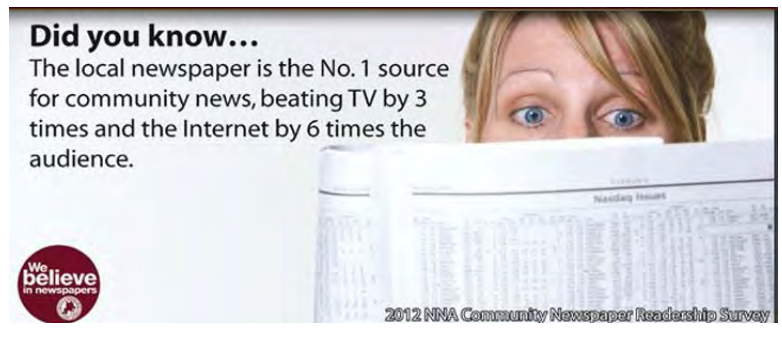

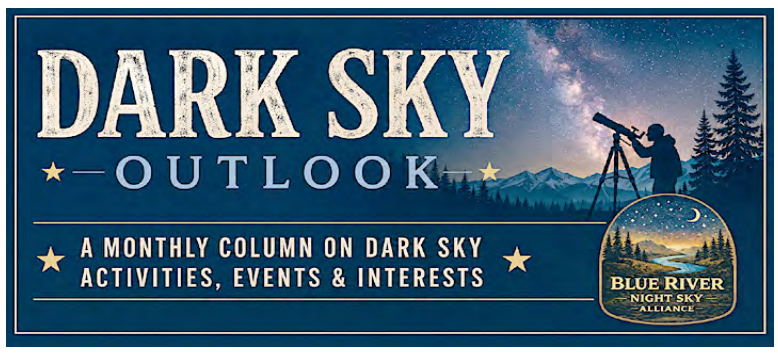

Artificial Light Is Changing the Night — and Our Health, Dark Sky Advocate Says

By Ken Engelman

For most Americans, seeing the Milky Way has become a rare experience rather than an everyday part of life.

That was one of the key messages shared by dark sky advocate Sha Spady during a recent discussion about light pollution and its growing impact on both human health and the natural environment.

According to Spady, an estimated 80 percent of Americans now live in areas where artificial lighting has become so pervasive that the Milky Way is no longer visible. Once common across the country, naturally dark skies have largely disappeared as cities and suburbs continue to expand and outdoor lighting grows brighter.

"We've lost something many people don't even realize is gone," Spady explained.

During the discussion, I noted that experiencing true darkness now often requires traveling far from populated areas. Spady agreed, observing that younger generations who have grown up surrounded by artificial lighting may never have experienced the kind of naturally dark nights their parents and grandparents once took for granted.

Protecting the Night Sky

Spady described how concern over disappearing dark skies led to the creation of the DarkSky International, an organization dedicated to reducing light pollution and preserving places where visitors can still experience natural nighttime conditions.

The organization has spent decades developing lighting guidelines and promoting the designation of Dark Sky locations around the world. Its mission focuses both on protecting pristine night skies and encouraging communities to adopt lighting practices that reduce unnecessary glare and sky glow.

Health Effects of Blue Light

While preserving views of the stars is an important goal, Spady said the more immediate concern may be the effect artificial lighting has on human health.

Modern LED lighting—particularly blue-spectrum LEDs used in many streetlights, vehicle headlights and electronic devices—can suppress the body's production of melatonin, the hormone that regulates normal sleep cycles.

Reduced melatonin production has been linked to disrupted sleep patterns, chronic sleep deprivation and elevated risks for health problems such as hypertension and other stress-related conditions.

Spady noted that these effects can occur even when people are unaware they are being exposed to blue light, such as when outdoor lighting shines through bedroom windows at night.

Simple Solutions

Spady outlined two recommendations promoted by the DarkSky International to reduce the impacts of excessive nighttime lighting.

The first is installing fully shielded fixtures that direct light downward only where it is needed rather than allowing it to spill into neighboring properties or upward into the night sky.

The second is replacing blue-spectrum lighting with warmer amber or yellow-colored lights, which have less impact on human sleep cycles.

Warmer lighting also benefits wildlife, Spady said. Unlike cooler blue-white lights, amber lighting attracts fewer insects, allowing them to remain in their natural habitats where they serve as an important food source for bats, fish and other wildlife.

Although the discussion briefly touched on the effects of light pollution on birds, mammals and insects, Spady emphasized that the conversation's primary focus was the growing body of research linking excessive artificial light to human health concerns.

As communities continue converting to LED lighting, Spady encouraged residents and local governments to consider lighting designs that balance public safety with the need to preserve healthy nighttime environments—for both people and wildlife.

Oregon wildfire smoke: Simple fixes can protect and save

Experts recommend when smoke fills the air it is best to not add to the problem when inside. That means avoiding candles, deep frying and other activities that can add particulates to the air.

By Isobel Charle
Oregon News Service

Oregonians in 13 counties are currently living under air quality advisories due to dozens of wildfires.

While it is unclear how long the smoke will last, experts said there are simple things people can do to protect themselves and their families from smoke in their homes, and the strategies can also save energy and money. Smoke can easily slip into homes, so sealing up any cracks around windows, doors and vents to keep smoke out is a good place to start.

Jami Seymore, spokesperson for the nonprofit Energy Trust of Oregon, said to be sure to double-check any air conditioners are not pulling air in from the outside.

"Make sure that the seal between your air conditioning unit and the window frame is airtight. If you use, say, a single hose portable air conditioner, try to avoid using that as they draw outdoor air indoors," Seymore recommended.

Seymore added it is a good idea to check and change air filters more often when the air is smoky, aiming for every six weeks or fewer. It can also save energy, Seymore explained, as a dirty filter forces the system to work harder.

Dr. Gopal Allada, professor of medicine at Oregon Health and Sciences University, said older adults, pregnant people and young children, along with people with conditions like asthma, need to be especially careful to avoid smoke. Allada suggested checking air filters have as high a MERV rating as an HVAC system allows, ideally in the teens, and not forgetting masks.

"If you have to be outside, wear one of those N95 masks. They'll still work for wildfire smoke, actually. That's what I'd recommend for even healthy people if they are in one of those danger zones," Allada emphasized.

Seymore noted running portable air filters in the most commonly used areas in a home is also helpful, adding the Energy Trust of Oregon offers a $75 discount on energy-efficient models.

publicnewsservice.org

Guest Opinion

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gesting it could be competitive. In this year of mid-term discontent, might Baumgartner be at some risk?

There's at least one reason to think so: Baumgartner himself has left an indicator to that effect.

His opposition heading into the primary includes 11 candidates, an unusually large field almost evenly divided between Democrats and independents (meaning, not associated with a party). Just two of these 11 seem to be well ahead of the others: Democrat Carmela Conroy and independent Nate Powell.

Conroy has been around this track once before: She ran against Baumgartner two years ago and lost to him 60.6% to 39.3%, a normal partisan result for this district in this century.

She has made the argument that she'd be a stronger and better established candidate the second time, and that Baumgartner would be weaker because of problems associated with the Trump administration. Baumgartner has been an across the board Trump loyalist in the House, including on issues like tariffs and the Iran war which are highly unpopular back home.

Powell, a Spokane firefighter, Marine veteran and first-time candidate, has a different take: Go after not only Trump but the political system. He said in one news report, "The problems we're facing are not left-right issues. They are top-bottom issues, because we have let billionaires and large corporations pay lobbyists to buy politicians to own our government, and until we fix the problem of corporations being overrepresented in our government, we will never be able to support working people."

He sounds, in other words, like many of the anti-Trump insurgents, such as fellow independent Dan Osborn in Nebraska.

At this point we need to remember, as Baumgartner clearly does, how Washington's primary system works. It's a top two, meaning that the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes in Tuesday's primary election will go on to November, regardless of which if any party they have joined. Baumgartner clearly will be one of the finalists, but who will be the other?

Here's a clue: Baumgartner is spending a good deal of money on an ad purporting to attack Conroy, in terms that make her sound appealing to Democratic primary voters.

Conroy does have, or did as of recent reports, a fundraising advantage over Powell. But Powell is getting significant funding from PACs, to the tune of at least $800,000, including one that provided critical help to Gluesenkamp Perez in 2022.

One of those high-frequency ads describes Powell as the "only candidate who will fight for Medicare for All, beat Baumgartner, and stop Trump." The race between the two of them seems highly competitive.

If Powell wins, he would not have to worry about a Democrat competing with him for anti-Baumgartner votes.

That would make a useful test — courtesy of Washington's top-two election system — for the theory that an independent running head to head against a Republican (or Democrat) in a district dominated by that opponent's party might have a shot at winning.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.

oregoncapitalchronicle.org

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