



OSP Reports

Truck was stopped, due to a school bus displaying a stop sign

PAGE 3



\$8/lb. rocks?

“Hey, look at this, I found gold!” Everyone laughed.

PAGE 4



Direct Answers

The second most important person to me should be my husband, but he's not

PAGE 7

Home for Good to rebuild RV Park

Work on Lazy Days could start in Spring of 2022

BLUE RIVER: Homes for Good (HFG), Lane County's housing agency, has purchased 7.35 acres of the former Lazy Days Mobile Home Park. Located on the north side of the

McKenzie Hwy at 52511 McKenzie River Highway, the facility was completely destroyed in September of 2020, when a wildfire ravaged the area.

Homes for Good pur-

chased the property on December 6th for \$703,800. Rebuilding of the site could start as soon as Spring of 2022 if we are able to secure financial commitments, ac-

Rebuilding RV park - P 2



The Lazy Days Mobile Home Park included 21 manufactured home spaces and 15 RV sites before it was completely destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire in the fall of 2020.

Family lost in snowstorm found

Springfield family's destination was unclear

OREGON CASCADES: The Lane County Sheriff's Office received information Monday morning that five overdue subjects, including a 6-year-old, were missing.

The group included 37-year-old Jobee and 33-year-old Renell Baumgardner, their 14-year-old son Caleb,

6-year-old Colton, and 14-year-old Thomas Blanton. The group left the Springfield area Sunday at about 10:30 a.m. to go play in the snow. They planned to return by 8 p.m.

The Baumgardners had said that they'd likely be going to the area of

HooDoo (On Hwy. 20's Santiam Pass) or the Salt Creek SnoPark (near Willamette Pass on Hwy. 58). The group was believed to be traveling in a blue/gray 2018 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. Police said they were believed to have ex-

Family found - P 2

Microplastics - an Oregon problem

Contamination found in McKenzie & Clear Lake



OSU

Lakes and rivers around the state all had levels of contamination - including the McKenzie River and Clear Lake - where samples of fiber type microplastics were collected.

Almost three Oregon dozen waterways tested this year have microplastic contamination. They include rivers that flow through the state's biggest urban centers to treasured resources like Clear Lake. The findings are outlined in a new report, released last Monday by the Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center (EORPC),

“The results of this study should set off alarms for all Oregonians who love our state's rivers and lakes,” said Celeste Meiffren-Swango, state director with EORPC. “The staggering amount of microplastics we

found likely means that no river, lake or stream is safe from this increasingly common contaminant.”

Microplastics are pieces of plastic less than 5 millimeters in diameter, which is smaller than a grain of rice. Samples from 30 waterways had at least one type of microplastic contamination. This included such popular locations as the McKenzie and John Day rivers, Lake Billy Chinook and Clear Lake.

Along with the help of volunteers across Oregon, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center staff collected water samples

as part of a citizen-science project to identify plastic pollution in local waterways.

Critics say Americans generate more than 35 million tons of plastic waste every year and less than 10% is recycled. The rest ends up as litter or gets sent to landfills or incinerators where it will release microplastics over time that can get carried by wind or rain into the environment.

Microfibers, a type of plastic found in every waterway, come from textiles and are shed through normal wear and tear or rou-

An Oregon problem - P 2

Free trees for 4th graders



U.S. Forest Service Christmas tree permits are available from local vendors, via phone from a ranger district, or via Recreation.gov. Permits are primarily being sold online at Recreation.gov. Fourth-grade students who have an

Every Kid Outdoors pass can apply for a free Christmas Tree permit through the online system with Recreation.gov by entering their voucher or pass number when prompted. Visit the Every Kid Outdoors web-

Free trees - P 7

Case of missing man remains open

BLUE RIVER: The fate of a 47-year-old Blue River man missing since November 2nd remains a mystery. An initial 911 call reported Shane Sprenger was believed to have been in the Blue River Reservoir area, possibly picking mushrooms. The next day, a family member said they'd been able to talk with him at approximately 7:30 a.m. the next day. At that time, they advised Sprenger told them he'd lost the keys to his truck and needed a ride home.

On November 4th, family members found his abandoned silver 2009 GMC

Sierra near U.S. Forest Service Rd. 15 east of Blue River Reservoir. Cellphone pings later seemed to show Sprenger had been near the reservoir, but his phone had been turned off.

New reports indicated Sprenger was working at a job site near the Blue Sky Market on the day he went missing. It's believed he went home at 10 a.m. for lunch at 51160 McKenzie Hwy. He was scheduled to meet a subcontractor at the job site after lunch but didn't return. All his tools were found still plugged in, and were outside in misting

Missing man- P 2

Holiday lights



The winner of Sunday's McKenzie Holiday Light Business Parade was Ike's Pizza in Leaburg designed by Tina, an employee. Runners-up were the Leaburg Fire Station, Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant, and the Walterville Grange.

Despite the rain and cold, about 65 people showed

up to enjoy bonfires, hot chocolate, cookies, and lots of other treats, according to McKenzie Chamber of Commerce president Nadine Scott; “The businesses all did a great job of displaying the Holiday Cheer,” she said. “And it was nice to see kiddos running around having fun.”



You’ve probably seen some pretty far-fetched online deals. Some say, “New Honda generators for \$99,” or mobile phones, video game consoles, laptops, and jewelry “that was over-ordered and has to be sold because of a lack of storage space.”

Those ads have always intrigued me so I thought I’d give this one a try and see what happened - a Canon XA50 video recorder for \$49.

When it didn’t arrive I contacted the seller who claimed it had been delivered. They even gave me a U.S. Postal Service tracking number to prove their claim. That stumped me when the Post Office confirmed the tracking info was correct and it was delivered.

What I’d forgotten was the unusual padded envelope that came in the same time frame. Inside was a cheap cloth purse suitable for holding credit cards. Newspapers often get unsolicited

samples but I couldn’t figure this one’s appeal. Luckily I hadn’t yet gone to the dump and still had the envelope. The return address was for an individual in San Francisco I didn’t know.

An online search showed the address matched a citrus fruit distributor, not a residential address.

Anticipating such shenanigans, I’d used Paypal because of their Purchase Protection service. A surprise came when they ruled that I’d received the shipment. When I sent images of what was ordered and what was delivered, Paypal said the case was closed because “This transaction is ineligible for Paypal Purchase Protection.”

People who read the “Advice” section of the River Reflections website can likely predict my next move - contact Chris Elliott, who writes the “Problem Solved” column.

Within a week he’d convinced Paypal it made better sense to honor their protection plan and issue my refund, rather than generate negative publicity.

I’ve since looked at the FBI’s “30 Common Scams & Crimes.” Yes, this was one of them.



RV Park rebuild

Continued From Page 1

According to HFG communications director, Ela Kubok.

The Homes for Good housing agency was started in 1949, doing work over the years under several names. Most recently it was known as the Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County, or HACSA. “We adopted our new name in 2018.,” Kubok said. “Homes for Good represents our intention for our work and our belief that stable, safe, and affordable housing is central to a good life.”

HFG has been collaborating with Lane County on recovery

strategies for the Holiday Farm Fire affected areas. “Over the past year, our Real Estate Development tea has been focused on feasibility and pre-development due diligence that goes into planning for building on the site,” according to a press release.

Officials say the agency’s short-term vision is, “To use the site to temporarily house people who have been displaced by the wildfire by providing a site for RVs and/or Tiny Homes while we pursue the financial resource commitments to construct a new manufactured home park or other types of new

housing on the site.”

Kubok says, “Homes for Good will be working closely with Lane County to provide preferences to individuals and families that were displaced by the Holiday Farm fire that want to move back up the McKenzie River. A priority for this project is to provide equitable access to high-quality housing in low-income rural communities and community revitalization post-disaster.”

Project updates are posted at <https://www.homesforgood.org/about/real-estate-development>.

Letters to the Editor

Rebuilding support

Our 2021 McKenzie rafting season has drawn to a close, and we’re all cleaned up and packed away.

As promised, a portion of all rafting receipts was donated to two non-profits (McKenzie Community Development Corporation and McKenzie Locals Helping Locals) working with

our valley’s residents as they continue to recover and rebuild from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. We are excited to share that each organization received a check for \$1,375!

The guides and I want to thank folks for joining us on the river or encouraging others to.

We hope to raft with you again!

Jonnie Helfrich
McKenzieRafting.com

An Oregon problem

Continued From Page 1

tine machine washing. It’s almost impossible for water treatment plants to filter out those types of pollutants.

River and beach clean-ups and conservation efforts help with much larger forms of litter and pollution, but the small size of microplastics makes it easy for them to travel from their source to waterways near and far, carrying contaminants and chemicals that work their way up the food chain through wildlife and humans.

“This work highlights the importance of working on plastic pollution solutions both in our

state through diverging from single-use plastics and at the industry and federal level through innovation and limiting plastic production,” said Charlie Plybon, Policy Manager at Surfrider Foundation. “This is more of an Oregon and U.S. pollution problem than we’d like to admit and these samples from our most iconic waterways in the state should resonate with a responsibility to act.”

The report outlines a broad range of policy solutions to tackle the problem, including phasing out single-use plastic foodware like polystyrene foam and updat-

ing the rules to allow Oregonians to bring their own reusable containers and produce bags to grocery stores and restaurants.

“There is no silver bullet solution to stop microplastics from entering our waterways,” Meiffren-Swango said. “But this should be a wake up call for local, state and national leaders that our plastic pollution problem is growing, it’s impacting even our most treasured places and we need to do everything we can to move beyond plastic before it’s too late.”

Family found

Continued From Page 1

perience in the snow but weren’t likely to stay overnight.

Searchers worked with cellular providers to narrow the search area and confirmed the group was found on a forest road between McKenzie Bridge and Oakridge around 1:30 p.m. Monday.

“Lane County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue personnel have located the missing subjects in the Box Canyon area off of Forest Service Rd. 19. All five persons are ac-

counted for and in good health,” the sheriff’s office said Monday afternoon. “The Lane County Sheriff’s Office would like to thank those that promptly provided information on this case. Tips provided by the public allowed searchers to quickly narrow the search area and find the missing persons.”

It wasn’t clear how they got lost as well as what they did to survive.

Missing man

Continued From Page 1

weather.

On the day he was reported missing, Sheriff’s Office K-9 teams, deputies, and Search and Rescue volunteers began searching areas where Sprenger was believed to be. The search included areas off of U.S. Forest Service

Road 15, as well as the Blue River Saddle Dam. They also searched extensively behind the former Lazy Days Mobile Home Park in the 52000 block of McKenzie Hwy. and at a location generated earlier by phone ping.

Sprenger’s family has offered

a \$50,000 reward leading to the missing man’s successful location and physical recovery. Anyone with information on Sprenger’s whereabouts should contact the Lane County Sheriff’s Office at 541-682-4150 and reference case number 21-6268.

McKenzie River Reflections

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Friday 12/17		Saturday 12/18		Sunday 12/19	
McKenzie Valley PM Showers 50% chance precip High: 47 Low: 41	Santiam Pass PM Snow Showers 30% chance precip High: 33 Low: 25	McKenzie Valley Rain 80% chance precip High: 47 Low: 37	Santiam Pass Rain/Snow 80% chance precip High: 35 Low: 23	McKenzie Valley Sct Showers 70% chance precip High: 46 Low: 37	Santiam Pass Sct Snow 30% chance precip High: 31 Low: 24

WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/7	53	44	0.06	449 cfs	12/7	47	43	0.85	3,380 cfs
12/8	44	36	0.28	449 cfs	12/8	61	44	0.20	3,220 cfs
12/9	38	36	0.30	449 cfs	12/9	48	36	0.06	3,450 cfs
12/10	36	33	0.21	455 cfs	12/10	40	37	0.44	3,530 cfs
12'11	NA	NA	NA	455 cfs	12/11	42	37	0.48	3,530 cfs
12/12	NA	NA	NA	455 cfs	12/12	57	39	1.11	7,570 cfs
12/13	NA	NA	NA	461 cfs	12/13	45	34	0.90	6,270 cfs

Lost Soldier’s Mine: A ledge of rocks worth \$8 a pound?

By Finn J.D. John

Early in the summer of 1853, deep in the Coquille Mountains of what’s now Douglas County, six U.S. soldiers were trudging dispiritedly through a trackless wilderness.

The wilderness wasn’t totally trackless, though, because that’s what the soldiers were there to do: scout a route through the mountains, from Port Orford to Jacksonville.

The problem was, they were lost. The track they were scouting wasn’t going anywhere until they figured out how to get un-lost. And they were almost out of supplies, so if that didn’t happen soon, they’d all starve to death.

As evening approached, Lieutenant George Stoneman called a halt. “We may as well camp here for the night,” he said.

So the men set about making their camp. Private Manley Martin was sent down to the creek for water while the others -- Sergeant Mann and Privates McKenna, Schlisk, and Schnedicker -- set about the usual tasks: fire, bivouacs, etc.

Down at the creek, Private Martin was filling the canteens when he saw a glint of yellow in a rock in the streambed. Drawing his saber, he used it to pry the rock loose, and then he picked it up. It was white, with a streak of yellow running through it.



Bureau of Land Management
A gold miner works his pan at the Cow Creek Recreational Gold Panning Area.

Martin was probably a little disappointed. He probably had hoped the gold gleam came from a nugget in the streambed. The California Gold Rush, which had broken out five years earlier in 1848, was still in full swing, and one of the many bad things about Army life in 1853 was being stationed so close to the diggings, with no opportunity to do anything about it.

It would be good for a joke anyway, he thought, and pocketed the rock and headed back to camp.

“Hey, look at this,” he told his comrades when he got there. “I found gold!”

Everyone laughed -- everyone but one fellow soldier, who stared at the rock.

“That really is gold,” he said. “That’s a piece of decomposed

quartz with a gold thread through it. Where did you find that?”

Everyone scrambled to his feet, and the soldiers followed Martin back to the creek where he’d filled the canteens. The soldier who recognized the quartz quickly started scouting uphill and upstream from the spot, and after a time found what he was looking for: the ledge of decomposed quartz, a piece of which had broken off and rolled down into the creek and washed down to where Martin had found it. It looked like the real deal -- a vast fortune in rich gold ore.

Before they moved on the next day, Lieutenant Stoneman had the men blaze four trees in a square centered on their campsite and carve their names into it. That way, they had a chance of finding the place again, after their enlistments came up and they were released from the Army. Deserting or going AWOL wasn’t really an option with Stoneman in the know; the lieutenant was a career Army man and a stickler for regulations. He would later rise through the ranks and retire as a general, later serving as governor of California.

So the men trudged on, hurrying to reach Port Orford before their supplies ran out, dreaming about the fabulous riches that awaited them after the Army released

Lost Soldier’s Mine - Page 8



By Slim Randles

It began the way most miracles do: by accident or the hand of God, take your pick.

It might have been the weather, at least partly. For winter, the day had been almost balmy and warm. You know, sweaters instead of heavy coats. No mittens in sight.

Then there were still some Christmas lights on the stores, and that little bunch of Girl Scouts out raising money in front of the Read Me Now bookstore. Jasper Blankenship was inside going through the books to fortify his cabin’s library for winter and sat, listening with a smile to the girls as they laughed and waited for customers that weren’t really coming along too briskly.

“It’s a shame there aren’t more people out today for those girls,” said Sarah McKinley, behind the counter. Jasper nodded and paid for his books, then walked out to the truck. He stopped and thought for a while, then brought out his violin, rosined the bow, and walked over to the sidewalk next to the girls.

“You girls like fiddle music?” he asked.

“Sure do.”

And Jasper began playing fiddle tunes.

Carla Martinez was driving down the street, headed for the Soup ‘R Market when she saw the Girl Scouts dancing with each

Continued On Page 8

GENERATIONS OF TREES

GENERATIONS OF FAMILY

Long ago, there was a great forest fire. The mice in the forest were unable to outrun the fierce flames but the mighty Douglas Fir offered protection. Today, if you look closely at the cones of a Douglas Fir, you can still see the tiny feet and tails of the mice peeking out from the cones’ scales.

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Get your garlic on: Planting, growing and harvesting

Fall is a time to enjoy the harvest of summer, but don't hang up your trowel and pull off your gloves just yet – September through November is the best time to plant garlic.

Garlic roots develop in the fall and winter, and by early spring they can support the rapid leaf growth that is necessary to form large bulbs, said Chip Bubl, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service.

What type of garlic should you plant? Some gardeners like to grow top-setting garlic, also called hardneck. Common hardneck types include Korean, Dujanski, Siberian, Music, Chesnock Red, German Red and Spanish Roja. These varieties produce tiny bulblets at the end of a tall flowering stalk in addition to a fat underground bulb of cloves.

Softneck garlic, on the other hand, rarely produces floral stems and tends to grow bigger bulbs because energy isn't diverted to top-set bulblets. Softneck varieties include Silverskin, Inchelium Red, California Early and California Late.

Some enthusiasts say hardneck garlic has a richer, more pungent flavor than non-flowering types, but not all gardeners agree, Bubl

said. Both can be harvested in early spring like green onions and sautéed as a side dish. Or you can allow them to mature until mid-July when they become a bulb with cloves.

Another type, elephant garlic, is actually a type of leek that produces large, mild-tasting cloves – usually fewer per bulb than the true garlics.

Bubl offers the following tips for growing garlic:

First, add lime to the soil if you haven't done so recently. Then, before planting cloves, work a couple tablespoons of 5-10-10 complete fertilizer, bone meal or fish meal into the soil several inches below where the base of the garlic will rest. Select healthy large cloves, free of disease. The larger the clove, the bigger the bulb you will get the following summer.

Plant the garlic in full sun in well-drained soil. A sandy, clay loam is best. In heavier soil, plant it in raised beds that are two to three feet wide and at least 10 to 12 inches tall. Garlic has well-developed root systems that may grow more than three feet deep in well-drained soil. Plant cloves root side down, two inches deep and two to four inches apart in rows spaced 10 to 14 inches apart. Space elephant garlic cloves about six inches apart. Garlic can be lightly mulched to improve soil structure and reduce weeds. A single 10-

foot row should yield about five pounds of the fragrant bulbs.

Fertilize garlic in the early spring by side dressing or broadcasting with blood meal, pelleted chicken manure or a synthetic source of nitrogen. Just before the bulbs begin to swell in response to lengthening daylight (usually early May), fertilize lightly one more time. Weed garlic well, as it can't stand much competition. Garlic is rarely damaged by insects. Most years, you won't need to water unless your soil is very sandy. If May and June are very dry, irrigate to a depth of two feet every eight to 10 days. As mid-June approaches, taper off the watering.

Remove the floral stems as they emerge in May or early June from hardneck varieties to increase bulb size. Small stems can be eaten like asparagus, but they get more fibrous and less edible as they mature. Don't wait for the leaves to start dying to check for maturity. Sometimes garlic bulbs will be ready to harvest when the leaves are still green. The best way to know is to pull one up and cut it open crosswise to see if the bulbs are the right size. Start checking for mature cloves about late June. Harvest garlic when the head is divided into lump cloves and the skin covering the outside of the bulbs is thick, dry and papery. If left in the ground too long, the bulbs sometimes split apart. The skin may also split, exposing the cloves and causing them not to store well.

Dig, and then dry the mature bulbs in a shady, warm, dry and well-ventilated area for a few days. Then remove the tops and roots. Brush dirt off the bulbs. To braid garlic together, harvest it a bit earlier while leaves are green and supple.

Avoid bruising the garlic, as it will not store well. Store bulbs in a dark, dry and well-ventilated place. Protect from high humidity and freezing. Do not store garlic in the refrigerator because cool temperatures combined with moisture stimulate sprouting. Properly stored garlic should last until the next crop is harvested the following summer.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



FAVORITE CHRISTMAS RECIPES

Each family has favorite Christmas recipes...some are handed down through the years and others discovered in this generation. Collecting these recipes can be fun, particularly if they have stories associated with them.

As you enjoy the holiday season, why not collect recipes for a Family Christmas Cookbook? In addition to gathering recipes from your immediate family and relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents), see if you can acquire the stories that accompany them.

- Types of Recipes
- * What did your family serve on Christmas Eve? My dad always wanted oyster stew.
 - * Did you serve special dishes for Christmas dinner? My mother-in-law liked to make a gelatin cranberry salad and green bean/mushroom soup casserole along with whatever meat she cooked.
 - * Did you have New Years Eve celebrations? Mother made a punch of ginger ale and grape juice. We toasted the New Year at midnight with it.
 - * Are there special cookies that you baked during the holiday season? Did you give them as gifts? Hang them on the tree? We always liked to make cutout cookies and decorate them with colored sugar.
 - * Did you have dinner at relatives' homes or go to parties with friends?
- Do any foods come to mind that were served then?

Aunt Pat, one of my mom's good friends, came from the South. She made sweet potato casserole and pecan pie, dishes that were new to our family.

PENUCHE FUDGE - My dad especially liked this candy. We often made it for him as a treat for Christmas and for his birthday on January 25. We also cooked this in the large black iron skillet on the


wood cook stove.

Simmer 1-pound brown sugar and 1/2-cup milk, stirring constantly. (Father liked the dark brown sugar best.) Remove from heat when the candy "spins a thread" dripped from the spoon.

Stir in butter the "size of a walnut", 1-teaspoon vanilla and 1/2 to 1 cup chopped walnuts. Beat until the fudge begins to sugar on the side of the pan. Pour into a buttered dish. We often used a glass pie plate. Mark off in squares while warm.

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(Mary Emma writes from her NH home. E-mail: me.allen@juno.com)






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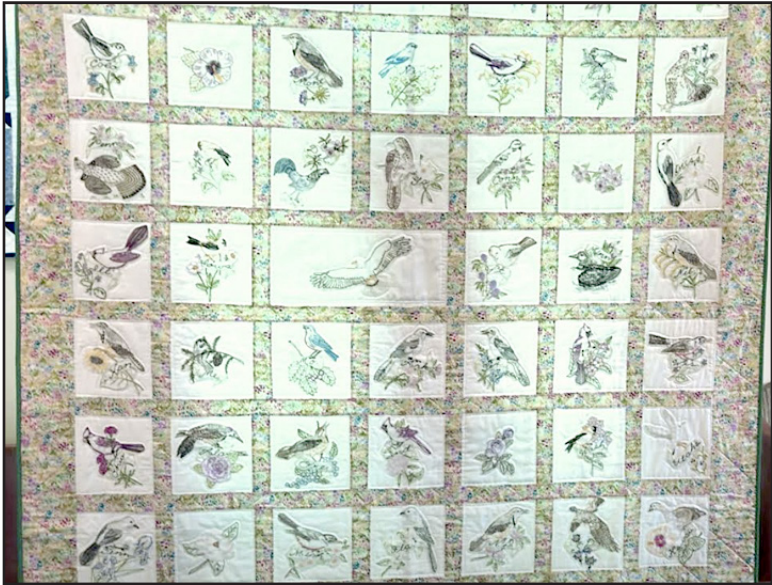
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McKenzie CDC Quilt Raffle



As winter draws in we all need to stay warm and what better way that wrapped up in a beautiful handmade quilt! This is an opportunity to show your support to a local organization that helps look after the communities of our McKenzie Valley after it was badly affected by the devastating wildfires last year.

This beautiful piece was lovingly hand-sewn over hundreds of hours by three talented friends who have collaborated to create this unique quilt featuring all fifty US state birds. It is 82" x 76" (small queen) and contains spring colors and birds on white squares. It is a truly beautiful quilt and if you win it and decide to hang it a sleeve can be supplied. Proceeds from the Raffle will go in their entirety to The McKenzie CDC to help towards their ongoing work with projects that support and build resilience in our local community.

How to Enter

Each ticket is \$10 and to enter the Raffle click the PayPal Donate button below/on this page and select Quilt Raffle in the drop-down menu. Once we receive your \$10 purchase we will contact you with your Raffle ticket number! No PayPal account is required to purchase a ticket. If you do not receive your ticket number email spencer@mckenziecommunity.org

PayPal Donate Button

Link to Quilt Raffle webpage <https://mckenzierecovery.org/mcdc-quilt-raffle/>

Link to Video of the Quilt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXDLTI5jGfo>

Tickets are selling fast. The proceeds of the Raffle will be used to meet the immediate needs of the survivors, possibly with gift cards that can be used to provide the necessary bridge to get them through the winter.



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<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p>Living Water Family Fellowship 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 Just east of Blue River 541-822-3820 Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service & Children's Church 6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth Thurs. 6 pm - Celebrate Recovery (12-Step Program)</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>McKenzie Bridge Christian Church 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Nursery Need a ride? Call 541-822-3289</p>	
<p>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church Worship is live-streamed, every Sunday at 10:30 am, on the Facebook page for McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Comments on Facebook are appreciated! You may also contact the church for prayer requests, to request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin, and other information. Phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person! Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	
<p>Every Tuesday 8:15 am, silent meditation at Leaburg Library. Bring your own practice; we set the timer for 30 minutes. No religious affiliation, sponsored by the McKenzie Valley Holiday Farm Fire Long Term Recovery Group. Just show up, or contact Sara Stanley, 530-520-8901.</p>	



facebook.com/mckenzieriverreflections

Community Notes

CORRECTION
Leaburg Food Pantry

The Leaburg Food Pantry is not open on Saturdays, The correct dates are the third Thursday of every month, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy. All are welcome!

December 18
A Dime At A Time

10 am - noon. Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy. Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers! Funds from plastic, glass, and aluminum containers go toward the rebuilding of the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, McKenzie River Clinic, and the Vida McKenzie Community Center - all destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire.

December 20
McKenzie Fire District Board

Noon to 1:00 p.m. at Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, in Leaburg. 541-896-3311.

December 27
Spfd School Board

7 to 8:30 p.m. The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

January 13
Leaburg Food Pantry



Camping, Fishing, Boating, Hiking, Mountain Biking
We are a Great 1st stop
Gasoline, Camping Supplies,
Firewood, Fishing Tackle, Bait, Cold Beverages, Ice,
Snacks To Go ° Kombucha ° CBD Drinks
MP 20 McKenzie River Hwy (541) 896-0500

Emergency?
Call 911

The Leaburg Food Pantry is open from 3 to 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy. All are welcome.!

D.C. Scholarship

Lane Electric Cooperative is offering an all-expense paid trip of a lifetime for one high school junior.

Phoenix students gifting



Communities continue to come together following the devastating Holiday Farm Fire. The Phoenix-Talent School District and some of its students planned to visit the McKenzie School District on the 15th to gift a special sculpture they made to honor and remember those impacted by The Holiday Farm Fire until icy roads intervened.

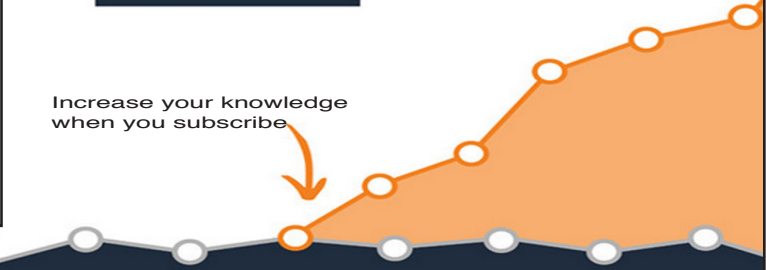
Phoenix students designed their "Manzanita project" sculpture of

manzanita branches, a fire-resistant tree, to symbolize strength and resilience. They plan to re-schedule their presentation for a date to be determined in January.

McKenzie School District superintendent Lane Tompkins said he'd like to work the sculpture into the rebuilt football stadium/concession stand. Those buildings were lost in the fire and would be a great homage to the communities' shared experience.

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\$36 outside Lane Cty

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59059 Old McKenzie Hwy
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413



RECOGNITION

2021

It's time to vote for the Reader's Choice for the McKenzie River's Man, Woman & Business of the Year

Cast your vote by December 27th
Fax, write, or email their name and an explanation of why you think they're the best in the McKenzie Valley

59059 Old McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
Fax: 541-663-4550
rivref2@gmail.com



Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

Mother Goose

I am a 31-year-old woman who has been married eight years. I have one daughter who is the most important thing in the world to me.

The second most important person to me should be my husband, but he’s not. Quite a while ago we drifted apart to the point where we were two strangers living in the same house.

At the same time, I became friends with a man at work. He is also married. We spent quite a lot of time together over the last four years, and have enjoyed each other’s company. Even though I flirted with him, I never considered he would have more than friendship feelings for me.

About two months ago we started asking more intimate questions of one another. We found we had a lot in common and began to have strong feelings for each other. However, we never even held hands or kissed because we were both aware it was not right.

At one point we sent fantasies about one another back and forth at work on a regular basis. My stomach was in knots for a month, and I thought about him almost every minute. I had problems eating and sleeping, and the relationship with my husband got progressively worse as I compared

him to this man.

My fantasy man told me he loved me and told his wife about his “strong feelings” for me. Then she kicked him out of the house. Everything felt as if it was spinning out of control, and I seriously contemplated divorce to be with this person.

But soon after she kicked him out, he realized his wife was the most important person in the world to him. He promised never to see me again and has stuck to that promise. I have respected his wish for total avoidance. It was hard at first, but I put myself in his wife’s shoes and felt terrible for what happened.

It’s been a month now. For the first three days I did nothing but cry, but then I realized it would not have worked out between us. The lovers part was just a fantasy. However, I deeply miss the friendship and camaraderie I had with him.

I am going to counseling with my husband, but have never mentioned what happened as it would hurt him pointlessly. It is getting better between us, but sexually there is no spark and I wonder if we will ever find it again.

Now I want to renew my friendship with the other man. I am asking you how to go about this. I don’t want to hear that it

can’t be done. I realize I care for him but don’t think I love him, so I can handle the friendship right now.

What do you think?

Elsbeth

Elsbeth, you aren’t looking for the right answer. You’re looking for your answer. Do you remember the nursery rhyme that begins, “There was a crooked man who walked a crooked mile.” You’re looking for a crooked answer to fit a crooked life. This isn’t said to be mean, but you know how far off-kilter your life has become.

When two people marry, they intend to be the most important person in each other’s life. Out of their love, they have children they guide and teach. In time, the children leave home and begin their own lives, repeating the cycle their parents prepared them for. But the husband and wife continue to be the most important person in each other’s life.

Your problem began when you and your husband drifted apart. To fill the gap, you found a man to be your surrogate husband, lover, and companion. Getting this man back into your life only allows you to continue to ignore the real problem: your relationship with your husband.

Only honesty will straighten out your life. Honesty with yourself. Honesty with everyone else.

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.*

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Nancy Keating has clearly recognized a fundamental human value of poetry, the capacity for art to help us cope with the memories of our guilt-inducing acts. In her poem “The Snowy Egret” the confession of a man in a magazine killing a bird in his youth, serves as a source of empathic release for the poet from her own unspoken regret. Forgetting, she says, is not realistic. This, as it happens, is a handy truth for poets whose currency is memory.

The Snowy Egret

By Nancy Keating

Give me another word for regret, something more like forget

only better, more effective,

since in fact we really don’t forget the bad things we did or caused. I read in a letter

to The Sun Magazine where a man

will always remember the egret

lying, a silent heap of cirrus clouds,

at his 12-year-old feet. It was his first

and last time shooting a gun.

His confession stabbed me

into a memory of unremembered shame

and the ache in my stomach telling me

I had joined humanity.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2021 by Nancy Keating, “The Snowy Egret” from White Chick (Elixir Press, 2021.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 16 - Wasco County, created by proclamation of the Oregon Territorial Legislature and approved by Congress in 1854, was the largest county in the history of the United States. It stretched from the Cascade Mountains, east to the Rocky Mountains and from the Columbia River, south to the border of California. It encompassed a total of 130,000 square miles of land. The county seat was at The Dalles, the only white settlement east of the Cascades. Over the years, parts of the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming were carved from this vast landmass, as well as 16 counties in Oregon. Today the present area of Wasco County has been reduced to only 2,387 square miles.

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Overwhelmed with things the kids don't want? Pare down unused items for improved well-being & safety. Call Patty Starr - Licensed, Bonded & Insured. 541-896-1569, ez2downsize@gmail.com PSyr/1/21.

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Stroke and Cardiovascular disease

are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-844-243-2890

Personal

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

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

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The Leaburg Sew and So's meet every Monday from noon to 4 pm.. If you are interested in joining us, call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more

information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

10. MVA, Non-Injury. Awaited OSP.

15:58: 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical Alarm. Lift Assist.

23:44: 37000 blk, Shenandoah Lp. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 10: 20:24: 37000 blk,

Upper Camp Creek Rd Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 11: 12:22: 41000 blk, Madrone Street Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting the Monday, December 20th, at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy.

Free trees

Continued From Page 3

site at www.everykidoutdoors.gov. Tree permits are not for sale in any ranger districts or offices.

Cutting trees in some areas of the Willamette National Forest is prohibited; tree hunters should check maps prior to selecting their tree and remain outside of any of the closed areas.

For families without fourth-graders, permits are \$5.00 each. They allow the holder to cut one tree in designated areas; each household can purchase up to a maximum of five permits. This year, trees can be as tall as 15 feet.

Update your McKenzie Phone Book listing

rivref2@gmail.com

Lost Soldier's Mine

Continued From Page 4

them.

So goes the origin story for one of Southern Oregon's most famous lost-gold-mine stories: The Lost Soldier Mine.

The soldiers, of course, returned to the field as early as they could, but that wasn't very early. The site was too far into the bush for a weekend trip, so they had to wait until they mustered out of the Army before taking up the search. By the time that happened, all of them had forgotten how to get back to the campsite.

Another soldier, Capt. William Packwood, had also mustered out of the Army at about the same time, intending to join the Gold Rush. Packwood was a good friend of Private Ross McKenna, who told him everything he knew and remembered about the ledge, and it was in Packwood's mind a great deal as he worked on his own claims. But then he hit a worthwhile pocket of gold on one of them, and for several years after that, he was busy enough with his bird-in-the-hand to not have much time to think about the bird-in-the-bush McKenna had told him about.

Years went by. Packwood's claim played out, and he moved to Enchanted Prairie to try his hand at farming. There, one day, he got talking to some prospectors, who said they'd found the soldiers' camp and their blazed trees, but no sign of the ledge.

Intrigued, Packwood set out on the 50-mile trek to the site with a neighbor to try his own luck. Like the prospectors, he found the campsite readily enough; but there was no sign of the ledge.

He and the neighbor hunted for some time, then gave up and headed home to their farms.

That August, Packwood saw a man approaching his cabin. He quickly recognized him: it was his old friend and Army comrade, Manley Martin, whom he hadn't seen since 1853.

Over supper, Martin told Packwood the reason for his visit: He'd heard about Packwood finding the old campsite. The ledge, he said, was not in the



Erik Taylor/USDOT

The Westfork Bridge, an abandoned railroad bridge built to carry logging locomotives across Cow Creek, as it appeared in 2010.

campsite; it was several miles away from it. He, Martin, could easily find the ledge, if he could find the campsite; and Packwood knew where the campsite was. Would Packwood like to team up and go make some money?

Yes, Packwood would! But Packwood, unfortunately, had a big mouth, as soldiers often do. So when, in the middle of the two men packing their kit for their journey, a neighbor named Mr. Brown dropped by and asked what they were up to, Packwood told him.

Brown then begged to be allowed to come along, and Packwood said that was fine, and off went Brown to pack up his own stuff.

This turned out to be a very expensive mistake.

The problem was, it was 1861. Pro-Confederate and pro-Union men had started killing each other in April of that year, and it was now August. Manley Martin was from Kentucky and was a committed Confederate rebel sympathizer; Brown, as it turned out, was a passionate abolitionist and zealous Union man. Packwood had his hands full keeping his two traveling companions from murdering one another. They quarreled and battled all the way to the campsite.

Finally, with what must have been a profound sigh of relief,

Packwood brought his belligerent companions into the clearing at the center of the blazed trees, where a skilled woodsman could still plainly discern the five-year-old remnants of the soldiers' encampment.

Martin promptly disappeared into the bush and was gone all day, returning just before dusk. Packwood figured he'd gone to make sure the ledge was still there.

But the following morning, Manley Martin coldly informed his companions that he'd decided not to look for the ledge, and stalked off in the direction of the Rogue River road.

Packwood was unable to persuade him to stay. Plus, he was sick of the constant bickering. So he let him go. Most likely he expected to find the ledge himself anyway -- it could only be within a few dozen yards of the creek, up a steep slope, somewhere upstream from the campsite. Now that he knew it wasn't inside the square of blazed trees, it should be easy to find, right?

But it wasn't.

Finally, out of time and out of patience, Packwood and Brown returned to their farms. And a week or two later, Packwood got a letter from Martin.

Martin wrote that he had,

as Packwood and Brown had surmised, gone to the ledge on that day, and taken some samples off of it. But he'd gotten so angry with Brown that he didn't want to share his find with him, so he'd decided to come back later. But, he added, when he got the ore samples assayed, they turned out not to be as rich as he'd thought they would be -- only \$200 a ton or so. So, he'd decided to skip it.

Whether that was true or not, Packwood never learned. A little later that year, gold was discovered on China Creek out in Eastern Oregon, and Packwood -- who knew from experience the importance of getting to the diggings early -- flew to the scene. There, he staked and worked a fruitful claim and became one of the most prominent citizens of the town of Auburn.

It wasn't until 1914 when, as an old man, William Packwood returned to the scene of the soldiers' lost ledge in the Coquille Mountains.

When he arrived, he found that a forest fire had burned through the canyon, destroying the blazed trees and all the landmarks that he'd noted.

Not that it much mattered; it had, after all, been more than 50 years since he'd last been there. It would have been transformed beyond recognition anyway.

In the end, the ledge went

undiscovered. So far as is known, somewhere in the mountains near Cow Creek that ledge still peeps through the topsoil, and many local hunters and fishermen over the years have kept an eye out for it on the off-chance of rediscovering it.

And, if Manley Martin's "\$200 a ton" estimate is correct, it would be a fabulously rich mine. \$200 would buy almost 10 ounces of gold in 1861; today, that amount of gold would fetch about \$15,725 -- per ton. That's about \$400 in every five-gallon bucket of rocks. Which might have been a fair-to-middling prospect, as mines went, during the height of the California Gold Rush; but it's pretty dazzling today.

(Sources: *Lost Mines and Treasures of the Pacific Northwest and Treasure Hunting Northwest*, two books by Ruby El Hult published by Binfords & Mort in 1957 and 1971 respectively; *Gold Dust: Stories of Oregon's Mining Years*, a book written and published by Kerby Jackson in 2011)

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



Continued From Page 4

other in front of their table to Jasper's music. Before he'd had time to finish that tune, she'd returned with her guitar and joined the fun. Jim Albertson, the local school principal, showed up with a harmonica, and he wasn't bad at it.

Dud got out his accordion and joined in the fun.

By this time, it was getting dark in the street, and several people turned headlights on the area in front of the bookstore. Older people had joined the Girl Scouts dancing in the streets, and Delbert Chin from the Chinese

restaurant across the street sent one of his girls out with a huge pot of coffee and paper cups.

The party was on. It lasted until the cars' headlights began to wear down the batteries, but during its brief lifetime, the street dance and mid-winter party cast a blessing on us all

It must have been the weather.

Brought to you by the genuine cowboy music and musings of Steve Cormier up in New Mexico's Sandia Mountains. Check him out at stevecormier.net.

Quote of the Week

"Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year."

Victor Borge

Patsy's Stage Stop Restaurant

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Join Rick & Kathy Dancer as they introduce you to The Backstories of the Pacific Northwest”

The people, the places, the food, the recreation and the heart and soul of rural Oregon.

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