



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

### Garden Tips

Nine experts from Oregon State University Extension Service stepped up to bust some common gardening myths.

**PAGE 5**

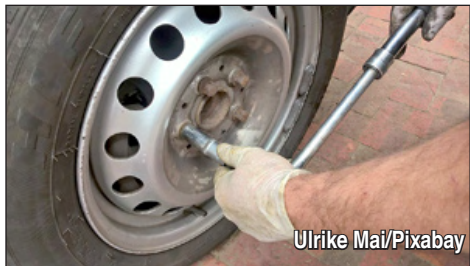
### Direct Answers

I was lost and lonely after my former fiancé was killed in an accident. I wanted to be close to someone again.

**PAGE 7**



## Briefs...



Ulrike Mai/Pixabay

Sunday, March 31st was the deadline to remove studded tires

Spring has arrived and long-term weather forecasts don't support an extension of the studded tire season. That means people who still have them on their cars need to get a more on.

Driving with studded tires after the deadline can result in a fine. Law enforcement may issue a citation, a Class C traffic violation, with a \$165 fine.

Oregon law says studded tires are okay from November 1st to March 31st. Officials encourage options like traction tires or

**Winter tires - Page 2**



Eugene's Maude Kerns Art Center will present "Of Dreams and Dragons": A David Lunney Retrospective," opening with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 5th - and on view through Friday, April 26th. The exhibit showcases over 70 artworks by Lunney, including monotypes, prints, paintings, and drawings, as well as a variety of sketchbooks and artifacts of his art making. Many of these pieces have never been exhibited before. On Saturday, April 6, from 1 - 2, the public is invited to "Connections & Conversations," a family-

**Dreams & Dragons - Page 2**



April is the Month of the Military Child. Although they don't wear uniforms, military kids serve in their way. The children of service members must be resilient, adaptable and socially intelligent as they navigate family life in the military. These kids move an average of every 2.5 years and are constantly braving new environments.

Take 9-year-old Victoria. She lives in Japan, where she's a frequent visitor to

**Military Kids - Page 2**

## Treats from a tree

There were plenty of opportunities to fill Easter baskets last Saturday



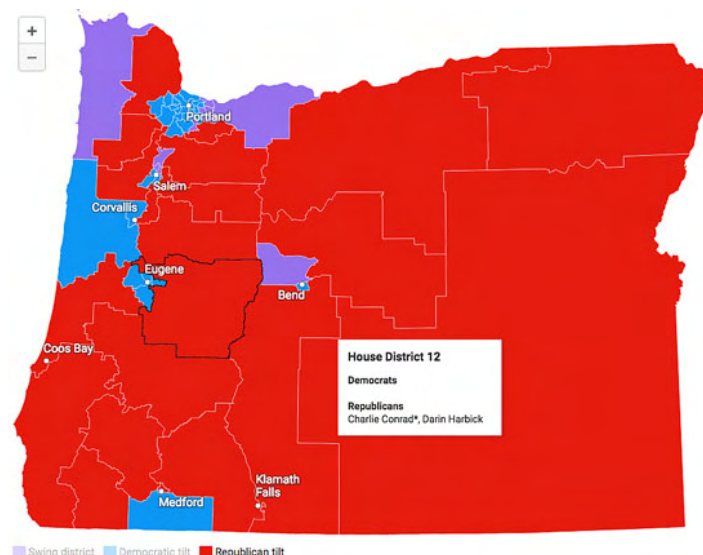
The Easter Hunt - sponsored by McKenzie Valley Young Life - brought smiles and lots of youngsters and parents to the McKenzie Community Track. Besides a huge number of Easter eggs that were quickly added to participant baskets. The day was filled out with a range of games and activities that included games and races - plus this surprise egg drop from a tree. Downriver kids were feted as well with the annual Egg Hunt held at the Walterville Grange. For a video of the hunt at the track, go to: [tinyurl.com/4z6dku46](https://tinyurl.com/4z6dku46)

## More than 120 candidates, but only a handful of races are competitive

By Julia Shumway  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

More than 120 candidates are vying for 60 seats in the state House this year, including the most recent Republican nominee for governor and a handful of candidates trying to flip control of key swing seats.

Democrats now hold 35 seats in the House, with 25 districts



represented by Republicans. The overall balance of power in the state House isn't likely to shift following November's elections, but Democratic wins could give the caucus the three-fifths majority needed to pass tax increases without Republican support.

Most incumbents are running again, and most races are in seats that are reliably Democratic or Republican. The two parties are targeting a handful of swing swing seats, four held by Republicans and five held by Democrats, while other competitive races could arise as the November election draws closer.

After Rep. Charlie Conrad, R-Dexter, broke with his party to vote for a bill that aimed to guarantee access to abortion and gender-affirming care, fellow Republicans vowed to take him out. Republican business owner Darin Harbick, who tried unsuccessfully to run first for governor and then the U.S. Senate in 2022, is challenging Conrad in 12th District in rural Lane County. No Democrats are running.

Most Oregon House districts are dominated by Republicans or Democrats. Another 22 representatives have general election opponents but are likely to win reelection because of the makeup of their districts.

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, D-Eugene, has a challenge from Republican insurance company CEO Timothy Sunderland in the 13th House District in Lane County.

**120 candidates - Page 11**

## Ridin' the Rapids

By Ken Engelman

Does your newspaper talk to you? McKenzie River Reflections does now, thanks to a project I've been working on for the past month.

I'm not talking about a replacement for text. Instead, the plan was about complementing written words and giving readers something I've been hearing they wanted: content on the go, when looking at a screen is not an option.

Some said they'd like the convenience of being informed when "too busy to read but want to know what's going on." Other people have been accessing mckenzie-riverreflectionsnewspaper.com on cell phones, which can make text reading tough on a tiny screen.

Luckily the AI-powered code added to the site is delivering some natural-sounding narration that adds a personal feel. During my search for ways to do this, I sampled text-reading offerings

that other newspapers are using (and don't sound like humans at all).

I feel this system will prove to be a great tool for conveying a variety of content - from popular weekly columns on history or gardening - to area news, and everything in between.

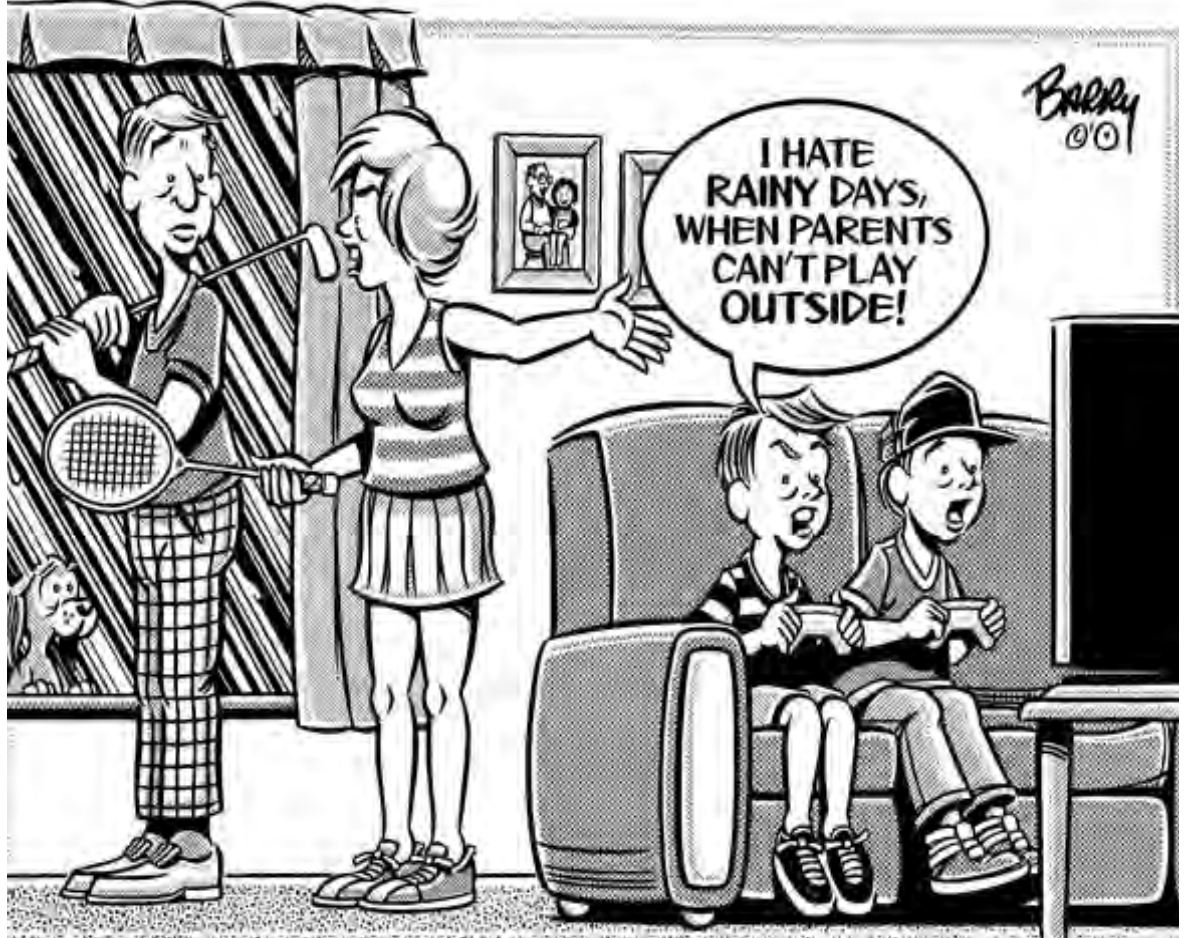
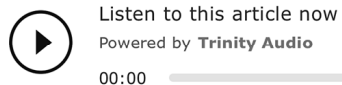
Of course, there will be some teething problems. Initially, the way "Willamette" was pronounced came out as "Will-A-Met-A." And, I haven't quite gotten "Vida" to sound right yet - but it's currently better than the "Veedee" that first came through a speaker as the code converted it to speech.

Like the going from print ed and mailed subscriptions to digital delivery, I hope people will agree that this is an improvement and adds value to their weekly newspaper.

And, for advertisers, I'm also working on way to bring more life to your ads to life as well.

Please give it a try, and let me know what you think.

Go to the stories at: [tinyurl.com/ycryjdx](https://tinyurl.com/ycryjdx) and click on:



## Guest Opinion



When was this? A sunny Easter Sunday, certainly — we wouldn't have dressed that fancy otherwise, even to go to Mass. In the back row, left to right, are Neil, me, and Sheila. In front are the cool bow tie boys, Denis and Bob, and Mary Ann, who provided the photo from her archives. It was probably 1964 or 1965, because our oldest brother, Paul, isn't in the picture. He graduated from high school in 1963 and would have been off in the Army by then, maybe even in Vietnam.

Easter was a pretty big deal, growing up in Hood River, Ore. We'd dress up especially nice for Mass at Saint Mary's, of course, and I remember frowning to myself because you'd see people at church on Easter that you never saw any other time of the year. We went to mass every damn Sunday but here were these people, strolling in all holy and high and mighty a couple times a year.

We always had a big meal af-

terward. Ham, usually, I think, and Mom's famous cinnamon rolls. Many years we went to our grandparents' place in the country outside of Mosier, five miles up the Columbia River east of Hood River. We'd do an egg hunt with real eggs, boiled, dyed and hidden outside among Grandma's garden rocks. None of this plastic eggs filled with candy shit like our own kids grew up finding. One of my cousins used to crack his eggs by

smacking them on his head, which was damn painful. Better to tap the them on a piece of petrified wood.

We've got another old black and white photo somewhere of Paul with some of the cousins when they were little, bundled up, grinning and holding the eggs they found.

Paul isn't grinning in photos any more. He died of cancer 11 years ago today, on Easter Sunday. It fell on March 31 that year, too. He was only 67, which seems younger and more of a shame and more of a loss every year. He should have had so much more time with his lovely wife, children and grandchildren, and with his legions of friends. And with his brothers and sisters.

I'd visited him that Sunday. His eyes were closed and his breathing was shallow. I cried some more as I sat beside his bed, then I drove home. He lived in a country area called Kings Valley, about an hour and half from Portland, and he died about the time I pulled off the freeway. I cried hard when I got that news, sitting in my living room, with my wife and my younger kids consoling me. "You've still got me," my youngest told me.

The thing is, it was a brilliant, blue sky day.

Because I swear the sun always came out on Easter Sunday, no matter how crappy the weather had been leading up to it. No matter the storms. No matter the loss. No matter the hurt.

Just now, no kidding, the sun finally cleared the morning clouds and flooded the basement window where I write. There he is.

Eric Mortenson is a Pacific Northwest writer who spent 37 wondrous years at Oregon newspapers. Per Eric: "I'm a husband to one wife, dad to four kids, and a useful human to two dogs and two cats." Subscribe for free at: [ericmortenson@substack.com](mailto:ericmortenson@substack.com).

## Briefs...

### Winter tires

Continued From Page 1

chains, since studded tires cause about \$8.5 million in damage to state highways each year, according to a 2014 study.

### Dreams & Dragons

Continued From Page 1

led discussion about Lunney and his work.

The Maude Kerns Art Center, located at 1910 E. 15th Avenue at the corner of 15th and Villard, is a non-profit community center for the visual arts. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday when exhibits are on display.

For more information about "Of Dreams and Dragons: A Da-

vid Lunney Retrospective," visit [www.mkartcenter.org](http://www.mkartcenter.org) or telephone 541-345-1571.

### Military kids

Continued From Page 1

our USO Yokosuka Center, but she's also lived in California, Maine and will probably move four or five more times before she graduates high school. She says she feels nervous when starting at a new school, and she sometimes gets sad when her dad is deployed with the Navy for long stretches.

Victoria, and the 1.6 million other children of service members the USO is honoring during Month of the Military Child, didn't choose the military life.

Send them a card to show your support at: [tinyurl.com/yw9ndstm](https://tinyurl.com/yw9ndstm)

Send news briefs to [rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)



McKenzie River Reflections



Phone (541) 822-3358 FAX (541) 663-4550  
MAILING ADDRESS: 59059 Old McKenzie Hwy.

McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413

[rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)

Publisher - Ken Engelman

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## Letters to the Editor

[rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com) FAX 541-663-4550

59059 Old McK. Hwy., McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

Friday 4/5		Saturday 4/6		Sunday 4/7	
McKenzie Valley PM Showers 50% chance precip High: 52 Low: 39	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 70% chance precip High: 35 Low: 25	McKenzie Valley Showers 50% Chance precip High: 52 Low: 38	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 60% chance precip High: 36 Low: 25	McKenzie Valley Showers 40% chance precip High: 56 Low: 36	Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 41 Low: 23

## WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWING LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
3/26	51	41	0.33	NA	3/26	50	42	0.60	5,810 cfs
3/27	46	41	0.28	NA	3/27	58	44	0.28	5,810 cfs
3/28	48	39	0.40	NA	3/28	48	41	0.75	7,120 cfs
3/29	48	39	0.42	1,570 cfs	3/29	50	36	0.21	6,700 cfs
3/30	63	39	0	1,329 cfs	3/30	61	36	0	6,160 cfs
3/31	58	36	0	NA	3/31	66	34	0	5,520 cfs
4/1	69	36	0	845 cfs	4/1	61	34	0	5,130 cfs

# Sheriff's Report

**March 21: 2:23 p.m:** Harassment - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln. An acquaintance of the victim had trespassed on their property. A deputy made contact and advised the trespasser they would be arrested if they returned.

**March 22: 9:46 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Milepost 16. A truck pulling an RV trailer parked near the fire station. Deputies attempted to contact the registered owner without success. It was tagged for removal.

**4:34 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 88900 blk, Easy Ln. Ongoing civil issue.

**March 23: 10:27 a.m:** Criminal Trespass - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy. A male was reportedly sleeping in the foyer of the post office. A deputy contacted him and provided him a ride the Mission in Eugene.

**March 25: 6:06 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A passerby called in a male having a medical issue. Fire personnel responded.

**March 26: 2:40 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, DUII- McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**12:52 p.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.

**2:22 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - McK. Hwy. & Thurston Rd.

**4:18 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 42000

blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**9:11 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

**9:57 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**March 27: 9:22 a.m:** Assist Outside Agency - 35900 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**11:26 a.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - Parsons Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

**1:32 p.m:** Theft - 8900 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:46 p.m:** Unattended Boat - McK. Hwy. & Blue River Reservoir Rd.

**4:49 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - Angels Flight Rd. & McK. Hwy.

**6:49 p.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - 87800 blk, Upland St.

**March 27: 12:45 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln.

**2:16 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Milepost 42.

**2:31 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 42.

**2:57 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & River St.

**3:02 p.m:** Hit & Run - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:57 p.m:** Disabled Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Howard Rd.

**5:20 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 28.

**6:49 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 45.

**7:22 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & River St.

**11:05 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**March 29: 2:55 a.m:** Assist, Information - 41800 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:21 a.m:** Shots Fired - 37600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**11:56 a.m:** Suspicious

Conditions - Marcola Rd. & Adams Rd.

**3:32 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**3:42 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 27.

**3:44 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**4:20 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**4:58 p.m:** Assist Oregon State Police - McK. Hwy. mp 13.

**5:26 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Hayden bridge Rd.

**5:41 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**5:45 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Leaburg Dam Rd.

**6:30 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Leaburg Dam Rd.

**March 30: 8:16 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - Deerhorn Rd. & McK. Hwy.

**10:55 a.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. Mp. 21.

**12:28 p.m:** Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Alder Branch Rd.

**12:29 p.m:** Unattended Children - 89200 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.

**12:49 p.m:** Traffic Hazard - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd.

**1:01 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 21.

**1:54 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 51600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:11 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 42.

**2:13 p.m:** Disorderly Subject - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

**2:54 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McGowan Creek Mp. 2.

**3:10 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, DUII - 41700 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**3:46 p.m:** Foot Patrol - McGowan overlook.

**3:56 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Brush Creek.

# State Police Report

**March 29: 16:58:** Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 13. Vehicle moved prior to law enforcement arrival. Troopers responded to a motor vehicle crash involving 5 vehicles. A silver Toyota Prius was stopped in the westbound lane waiting to make a left turn onto an adjacent street. A gray Chevy Trax, gray Chevy Pacifica, and a black Kia Optima were stopped behind the Prius, waiting for it to turn. A silver Chevy Malibu rear-ended the Kia causing a chain reaction. The Prius received rear end damage. The Chevy Trax, the Chevy Pacifica, and Kia Optima received front and rear end damage. The Chevy Malibu received front-end damage. All vehicles occupants were wearing their seatbelts. No impairments observed. All drivers arranged their own tow for their vehicles. The driver of the Chevy Malibu was cited for following too closely. Involved: 72-year-old female from Waltherville, 34-year-old female from Springfield, 32-year-old female, 22-year-old female from Bend, and a 28-year-old from Madras.

**March 30: 10:55:** Warrant Arrest - Marcola Rd., Mp. 4. Troopers stopped a driver for an observed violation. The driver was violation suspended, and had a serviceable warrant for Theft 2 from Eugene Municipal Court. The driver was cited for the violations, arrested for the warrant, and his vehicle was impounded and towed by specialized towing. Involved: 35-year-old male from Eugene.

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**March 25: 15:50:** 48000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported

**20:56:** 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**March 26: 2:33:** 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/Partially Blocking. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**14:19:** Thurston Rd. /McK. Hwy. MVA - Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**14:39:** 8900 blk, Thurston Rd. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**March 28: 2:39:** 90000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Cancelled En Route by MVFR.

**March 30: 16:59:** McK. Hwy. /Milepost 13. MVA. Patients Evaluated, Transferred to OSP, ODOT.

**15:06:** 41000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. MVA. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**16:06:** 39000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Debris in Highway, Removed.

Continued On Page 11

# Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**March 28: 07:10:** Medical - 54000 block, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**12:37:** Illegal Burn - McK. Hwy./River St. 3 subjects have a campfire under the bridge, burning garbage.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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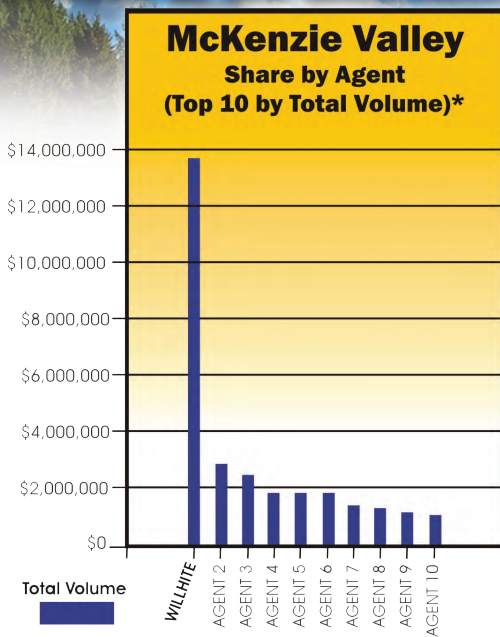
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# For 'Hermit of the Craggies,' prison was like a luxury spa resort

By Finn J.D. John

Robert Franz came to the Illinois River Valley in 1921, for his health. Suffering from a degenerative lung disease — probably tuberculosis — he had been advised that moving into the Oregon wilderness, with its clean air and healthy climate, was his best shot at staying alive.

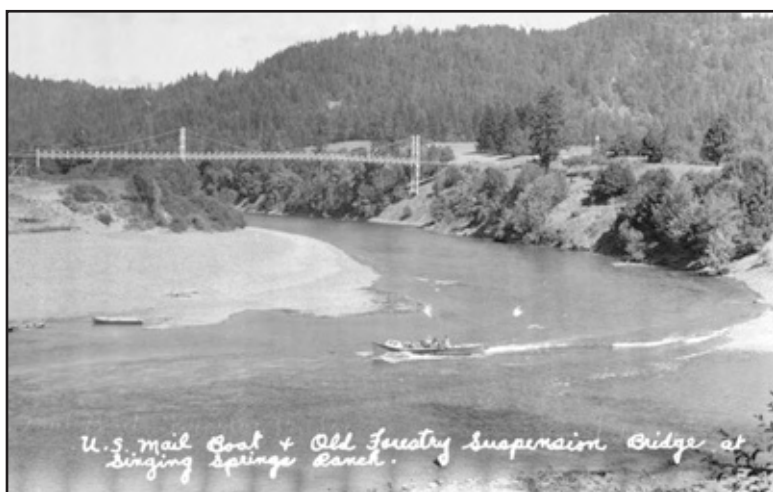
That didn't turn out to be true. To be fair, that wasn't the climate's fault — but I'm getting ahead of myself.

Robert and his wife, Annanette Bruun Fantz, bought a big 72-acre piece of land on a natural terrace overlooking the river, way out in the middle of nowhere, deep in what today is the Rogue River Wilderness Area. The Fantzes planned to run cattle on the land, which was mostly composed of a huge sun-soaked meadow and included a large but primitive cabin and barn.

Fantz got the place for a great price; he purchased it at a sheriff's sale in Grants Pass after the original owner, who had homesteaded it in 1909 and perfected title in 1916, stopped paying taxes on it. He paid just \$950 — the equivalent of about \$16,500 in modern money.

Though beautiful and productive, the Fantz family's new home was very remote. The nearest settlement was Agness, an unincorporated jumping-off place that sprang up at the end of the Rogue River mailboat line; its population was just a few dozen. Most shopping and trade had to be done at Gold Beach, several dozen miles away at the mouth of the Rogue. And the nearest neighbor — an old trapper who lived right across the river — was not entirely sane.

To be fair, old Hugo Mayer probably was not yet crazy when the Fantzes first arrived. And he and Robert got along very well at



Postcard

This old postcard image shows the suspension bridge across the Rogue River at Agness, which "Crazy Hugo" Mayer was working on when he was struck on the head by a falling wrench.

first.

Hugo Mayer was born in Suhl, Germany, in 1884. He came to the U.S. when he was 20 years old, and, with a partner, promptly plunged into the woods to do some prospecting for gold.

Deep in the wildest and most remote part of the Coast Range, the mountains known as the Craggies alongside the Rogue River, he and his pal hunted for "color."

They didn't find any, or if they did there wasn't enough to keep them going. But in 1908 Hugo did find something else: A beautiful 72-acre sun-soaked meadow tucked into a natural terrace above the Illinois River. Hugo decided to give up hunting for gold and settle down on a land claim there. So he and his partner parted ways, and Hugo came out of the wilderness into Crescent City to work for a summer, putting together the money for the filing fee.

Unfortunately, when he returned to his meadow, he found a cabin on it. Someone else had discovered it and filed a claim

while he was gone.

Disappointed, but still liking the country, Hugo staked his claim on the other side of the river from the meadow, where a prospector had already built and abandoned a little riverside shack.

Hugo moved in and cleared a little garden next to the shack, and there he lived for the next 25 years.

He was a clever man, and a resourceful one. He actually invented a technique for crossing the river that was kind of like a cross between a zipline and a pogo stick. Here's how it worked:

He secured a cable across the river, very tight and secured at each end to something very solid. Then he took a beefy plank and cut a J-shaped channel in one end, so that it would securely hook over the cable; and he secured a cross-piece through the other end. With the top hooked over the cable, Hugo would stand on the crosspiece and, holding the plank near its top, would sort of hop forward, throwing his weight ahead so that the plank would bounce along the cable. Basically,

he'd hop across the river.

Hugo had three of these cable crossings rigged to enable him to get around his claim and the surrounding wilderness where he hunted and trapped.

By the time the Fantzes arrived, Hugo was well settled into his solitary life in the wilderness, and he didn't grudge Bob Fantz the beautiful meadow he'd once coveted. He now earned his living almost entirely by running a trapline — taking bear, panther, martin, mink, ringtail cat, raccoon, fox, and even skunk.

He'd go into town about once a year, usually trekking down the river to Gold Beach to shop and trade furs, and hiking back with a backpack full of flour and coffee. For everything else, he was utterly self-reliant. Of course, he ate most of the animals he shot or trapped (with the likely exception of the skunks!) so his diet was relatively rich in proteins. In addition, he dug camas root, ground and leached the tannins out of acorns to stretch his store-bought flour, and grew a few vegetables in his cabinside garden. He also had a homemade pipe, in which he smoked laurel-tree (or maybe Pacific Madrone) bark.

It wasn't the lap of luxury, but it was a life, and Hugo must have enjoyed it because he could have left any time he wanted to, and taken a job in Gold Beach or Crescent City like a regular guy.

But then, in 1924, just a few years after the Fantzes moved in next door, came the incident that would transform Eccentric Trapper Hugo into the man all the neighbors would soon refer to as "Crazy Hugo."

The Forest Service was working on a suspension bridge across the river at Agness, where the Illinois River runs into the Rogue. Hugo **Hermit of the Craggies - Page 10**



By Slim Randles

When old Joe Gilliam began digging that hold in his front yard, out there close to the street, neighbors watched and wondered. When he got his grandson to help him carry the shade tree sapling from his pickup to the hole, people nodded.

Mystery solved. Old Joe's planting a tree.

After removing the root mass from the five-gallon pot, the grandson disappeared and Old Joe was left to care for the baby tree. He carefully spread the tiny feeder roots out and tucked them in with soil. Then he packed more dirt around the tree's base and soaked it well with the hose.

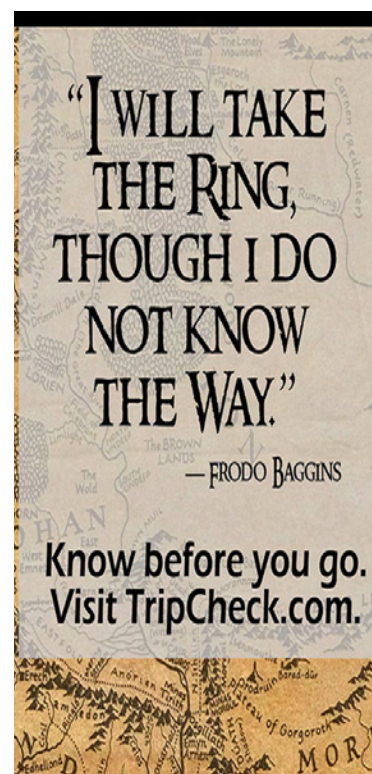
No one else saw anything odd in Joe planting that tree, either, but Joe's been retired now going on 20 years. He's old and getting more frail each year. By the time that sapling gets large enough to give homes to squirrels and birds and shade to neighbors and a resting place for dogs, Joe will have been long gone.

Planting a tree is an affirmation of faith in the future. It is a gift to those yet unborn. It is a legacy of goodness, an old man's prayer.

For a good start in the apple game, visit <https://www.temu.com/1-set-gardening>.

## Quote of the Week

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."  
Shirley Chisholm



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# Gardening Tips



## What's the real story? Garden myths debunked



By Kym Pokorny  
Reality can get skewed when there are so many sources of information – books, magazines, newspapers, nurseries, and, most of all, the internet and social media open up lots of room for contradiction. So, how do you find the right answer to gardening questions?

Nine experts from Oregon State University Extension Service stepped up to bust some common gardening myths. Read on to get some research-based answers to 10 common misconceptions.

**MYTH:** You should top a tree to control its height.

**REALITY:** Trees are programmed to attain a certain height. Topping only temporarily delays the inevitable. The resulting sucker growth, which grows rapidly in an attempt to provide food for the compromised root system, is weakly attached. This creates an even greater hazard. Additionally, the trunk is not a limb and cannot use the tree's architectural physiology to seal the wound caused by topping. This often leads to a slow death for the

tree. – Al Shay, horticulturist and site manager for OSU's Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

**MYTH:** Lime will remove moss from your lawn.

**REALITY:** Lime will not fix the problem. Moss prefers to grow in wet, shady conditions. Lawns with moss need more sunlight, i.e. trimming, pruning, and thinning trees. If you like the trees the way they are you will continue to have moss and you should think about shade-tolerant alternatives to grass. Moss also grows well in infertile soils, which includes acidic (low pH) soils, but more importantly, it also includes nitrogen-deficient soils. Lawns, like a lot of cultivated plants, prefer nitrogen-rich soils. Regular fertilizer applications (four applications per year, two in the fall and two in the spring) with products containing nitrogen, combined with improved sunlight will result in a green, dense lawn that can outcompete moss. – Alec Kowalewski, OSU Extension turf specialist

**MYTH:** Ponderosa pine needles make the soil more acidic (low

pH).

**REALITY:** The notion that pine needles change the soil pH so that nothing will grow or that it will damage plants has been out there for years. The truth is pine needles do not make the soil more acidic. Pine needles indeed have a pH of 3.2 to 3.8 (neutral is 7.0) when they drop from a tree. If you were to take the freshly fallen needles (before the needles decompose) and turn them into the soil right away, you may see a slight drop in the soil pH, but the change would not be damaging to the plants.

For those of you that leave the needles on the ground, they will begin to break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers) in the soil will neutralize them. So, you can leave them there (if you're not in a wildfire-prone area). They are a good mulching material that will keep the moisture in, suppress weeds and eventually add nutrients back to the soil. You can also add them to a compost pile; they will slowly break down over time. If you run them through a shredder they will break down faster. A general rule of thumb is not to add more than 10% of pine needles to your compost pile.

If you are having difficulty growing other plants under your pine trees it is likely because evergreen roots are numerous and shallow and compete for water and nutrients. The shady conditions under a tree can also make growing other plants a challenge. – Amy Jo Detweiler, OSU Extension horticulturist

**MYTH:** Just add more compost to the soil.

**REALITY:** Adding organic matter to soil in the form of compost helps to improve soil structure and promote long-term plant health, but adding too much compost at once or over time can lead to problems. If the soil organic matter is much higher than ideal (5 to 8%), the soil can have too much available phosphorus, which can stunt plant growth and potentially leach into the water table. Also, some composts can be high in

Garden myths - Page 11



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# Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



## BUTTON! BUTTON! WHERE'S THE BUTTON?

We used to sit at the kitchen table and play with the buttons from Mother's button jar or tin while she sewed one or two or three onto a piece of clothing. There were many colors and sizes, although most were white or black.

If you or your children haven't played with buttons, sorted them by size, color, or shape, you've missed a joy of childhood! When I operated a dressmaking and alteration business from our home during our daughter's childhood, she found buttons fascinating, too.

I had a customer, Miss Ida, who collected buttons, wrote about buttons, and had many books on the topic. She also had button art pictures she'd created. Through her, I became aware there was a history to buttons that some people collected them.

### Buttons with Food & Fruit Designs

Buttons, in a roundabout way, may have a connection with food! As I continued my research into the fascinating world of buttons, I realized that many buttons were designed to resemble some type of food or cooking implement.

I've come across some designed in the shape of various fruit-

apples, cherries, strawberries, oranges, lemons, tomatoes, bunch of grapes, pears, pumpkins, carrots, peppers, bananas, nuts, watermelon and pineapples.

Others may have fruit and food painted on them or somehow incorporated into the design. You may find them in the shape of dishes, cutlery, and other kitchen objects.

While sorting through buttons at the kitchen table, why not have some tea and cookies?

**NOBBY APPLE SQUARES** is one of my favorite apple recipes. Cream 1/4 cup shortening with 1/2-cup sugar. Add 1 beaten egg. Then mix in 3 cups peeled, diced apples with 1/4 cup chopped nuts and 1-teaspoon vanilla.

Sift together 1-cup flour, 1/2-teaspoon baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon baking powder, 1/2-teaspoon salt, 1/4-teaspoon cinnamon (more if you desire), and 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg. Stir into the apple mixture.

Bake in greased 8-inch square pan at 350 degrees F. for 45 minutes. Cut into squares when cool. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream, if you like.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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



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## Community Notes

**April 4**

### Children's Story Time

The O'Brien Memorial Library offers Story Time on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Enter the world of imagination and learning by joining staff volunteers who will read a story and lead an activity for the young ones. Connect with other parents and let the kids mingle. Held from 1:30pm - 2:30pm at the Upper McKenzie Community Center.

**April 6**

### A Dime At A Time

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

**April 6**

### VMCC Grand Opening

After three and ½ years of planning and fundraising, Vida McKenzie Community Center is opening its doors to the public on April 6th at 2 p.m. for a Grand Opening Celebration. There will be wines to taste, offered by McKenzie Crest Winery; non-alcoholic beverages; delicious appetizers; live music played by Kimberly Reeves Parker on VMCC's beautiful baby grand piano; and at 3 p.m. there will be a drawing of the winning ticket for a \$1,000 Jerry's Home Improvement Shopping Spree.

Mark your calendars so you do not miss this pivotal event. For more information, go to [vidacommunitycenter.com](http://vidacommunitycenter.com)

**April 8**

### Parks Advisory Committee

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

**April 8**

### Sprd School Bd

The Springfield School Board meets twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration

Building, 640 A St. Agendas, meeting materials, and approved minutes are posted on the Agenda & Meetings page.

**April 9**

### Board of Commissioners

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

**April 9**

### Tiny Dental Van

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

**April 9**

### McK Tourism Committee

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

**April 9**

### Family Story Time

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

**April 9**

### McK Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy. Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need, every 2nd & 4th Friday.

**April 9**

### Save Leaburg Lake

"Save Leaburg Lake" members meet on the second Tuesday

of each month at the Vida Windermere Office in Vida from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, call Nadine Scott at 541-915-0807 or email [nadine@windermere.com](mailto:nadine@windermere.com) to join the email list.

**April 10**

### Board of Commissioners

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

**April 11**

### Watershed Wednesday

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

**April 10**

### McKenzie School Board

The McKenzie School District board meeting (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) will held at 51187 Blue River Dr. It will also be live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@mckenziechooldistrict6756/streams>. Submit Public Comments to public.comment@mckenzie.org comments submitted before noon on the day prior to the meeting will be presented to the Board for review and submission to the meeting minutes.

**April 11**

### Vida Comm Center

The Vida McKenzie Community Center Board meets from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

**April 12**

### Second Friday Art Walk

The 2nd Friday Art Walk Will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. starting at the Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield, 500 Main St.

**April 12**

### Painting Class

Join a fun and relaxing art class, whether flying solo or bringing your entire squad. This is a step-by-step class; however, feel free to let your creativity wander if you don't feel like following along. Held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive.

All supplies are included; aprons, paints, 16"x20" canvases, brushes, water cups, etc. for \$25.

Sign up by emailing: [evergreencreationsor@gmail.com](mailto:evergreencreationsor@gmail.com)

**April 13**

### Living River Day

The Living River Exploration Day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at

31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene. Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds.

**April 13**

### Dime At A Time

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

**April 13**

### Sip & Shop

Sip and Shop, on Saturday, April 13th at the Vida McKenzie Community Center. The \$25 ticket includes lunch, dessert, a variety of hot tea choices, and lots of shopping. Contact Tammy Pelton for tickets, at 951-970-0176

**April 13**

### P.R.E.P.

A P.R.E.P. (Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare) meeting will be held to discuss aspects of Fire Management to be better prepared for future events, in cooperation with the McKenzie River Ranger District, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Upper McKenzie Fire District, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group, Lane Electric, EWEB, Lane County Emergency Management, Lane County Sheriff's Office, and other organizations. This event, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Leaburg Fire Station 42870 McKenzie Hwy., will cover prescribed burning and fire levels.

**April 15**

### McK Fire & Rescue Board

The McKenzie Fire District Board meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. For information call 541-896-3311.

**April 15**

### Upper McK Fire Board

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at the fire station, 56578 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, from 7 to 8 p.m. For more info call 541-822-3479.

**April 16**

### Board of Commissioners

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

**April 16**

### Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall,

37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

**April 16**

### Walterville Grange

The Grange's second monthly meeting is on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 7:30 p.m. and includes a nice dessert at 39259 Camp Creek Rd.

**April 17**

### Board of Commissioners

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

**April 17**

### Watershed Wednesday

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

**April 17**

### Cornhole League

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

**April 17**

### McK School Board

The McKenzie School District board meeting (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) will held at 51187 Blue River Dr. It will also be live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@mckenziechooldistrict6756/streams>. Submit Public Comments to public.comment@mckenzie.org comments submitted before noon on the day prior to the meeting will be presented to the Board for review and submission to the meeting minutes.

**April 17**

### Evening With Author

Join author and river advocate David James Duncan (The River Why, The Brothers K, My Story as Told by Water) and McKenzie River Trust for an inspiring and thoughtful conversation about the relationships between people and the natural world around us. Duncan will reflect on ideas from recent works, including his 2023 novel Sun House, which explores the American search for meaning and love, and a forthcoming collaborative book of essays, Going to See, inspired by Barry Lopez. Tickets are \$15, and student tickets are \$10. Purchase your tickets for Upstream online or in person at The Shedd, 868 High St, in Eugene.



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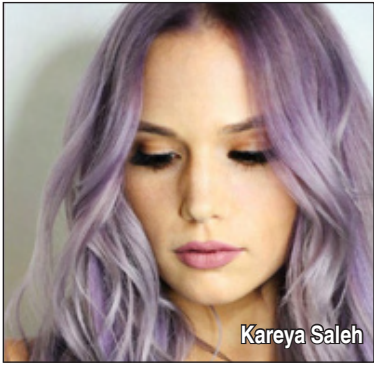
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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Stand-In



Kareya Saleh

My husband and I moved very fast to get married. On my end, I was lost and lonely after my former fiancé was killed in an accident. I wanted to be close to someone again. I dated my husband 12 months after my fiancé's death, and six months later, we were married. That was ten months ago.

I was never a "must be in a relationship" type of woman. But I was unfortunate after losing my fiancé and having to let go of the dreams I had for our life together. I believe this is why I jumped so quickly.

I love my husband and want him to be safe and happy, but I can't be married to him. He's not a bad person—he doesn't cheat, drink, or smoke. It's nothing like that. We simply do not connect intellectually or have any common

interests. Some days, I think to myself, how can I deal with this incompatibility day in and day out for the rest of my life?

I cannot continue in this marriage. I've already come to that conclusion. The painful part is leaving. I am dreading that. Five months after we married, I decided to move out and put down a deposit on an apartment. He was sad and crying, so I stayed. But I feel if I stay with someone I have so little in common with, I am cheating myself on what marriage can be.

Brooke

Brooke, you have explained what happened so clearly. It is picture-perfect and clear to us. You had all these plans in your head, and another man came along, and you applied these plans to him.

You have to sit down with your husband and explain what you explained. Admit your mistake, then act. Delay, uncertainty, and letting him argue will only prolong the pain. His refusal to accept what you say won't change the facts. Coddling another often worsens things, even though our original mistake was ours.

Wayne & Tamara

### Course Of Treatment

My husband is 45. We are

getting ready to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. He now tells me he has fun when he is out of town with a group of people, drinking, talking, and laughing. He says we don't have a "spark" anymore, but our sex life is good.

He swears he hasn't met anyone or been unfaithful. He says he can't have fun with me. He feels we are "just coasting" and is unsure where to go. Any advice?

Grace

Grace, whatever your husband says, it looks to us like the old story of the iceberg. Ten percent is visible, and 90 percent is not. You know, the 10 percent.

What has he been thinking about, planning, or flirting with for the last one, two, or three years? He may be on the progression that goes like this: I have fun drinking and laughing with others—we've grown apart—I love you, but I'm not in love with you—I need more space—I'm out the door.

It would help if you kept talking about this issue with your husband. If he believes your marriage is in a rut, it is a "we" who are in a rut, not a "you." You don't let the surgeon say, "We found a lump," and walk away from you. You have to buttonhole him and find out what the next step is.

As you discuss your husband's feelings and the future of your marriage, you must, as distasteful as it seems, keep one thought in the back of your mind. What is in my best interest?

You are approaching your 25th anniversary, and it would be

wonderful to celebrate the length of your union. That may be where you would like things to go, but it may not be where things are headed.

Wayne & Tamara

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

### Acquainted with the Night

By Robert Frost

I have been one acquainted with the night.

I have walked out in rain—and back in rain.

I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have looked down the saddest city lane.

I have passed by the watchman on his beat

And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet

When far away an interrupted cry

Came over houses from another street,

But not to call me back or say good-bye;

And further still at an unearthly height,

One luminary clock against the sky

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.

I have been one acquainted with the night.

Robert Frost, "Acquainted with the Night" from *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, edited by Edward Connery Lathem. Copyright © 1964, 1970 by Leslie Frost Ballantine. Copyright 1936, 1942 © 1956 by Robert Frost. Copyright 1923, 1928, © 1969 by Henry Holt and Co. Reprinted with the permission of Henry Holt & Company, LLC.

Robert Frost was born in San Francisco, but his family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1884 following his father's death. The move was actually a return, for Frost's ancestors were originally New Englanders, and Frost became famous for his poetry's engagement with New England locales, identities, and themes. Frost graduated from Lawrence High School, in 1892, as class poet (he also shared the honor of co-valedictorian with his wife-to-be Elinor White), and two years later, the New York Independent accepted his poem entitled "My Butterfly," launching his status as a professional poet with a check for \$15.00. Frost's first book was published around the age of 40, but he would go on to win a record four Pulitzer Prizes and become the most famous poet of his time, before his death at the age of 88.

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### Help Wanted

Looking for a capable worker for a housing project. Will pay 20 dollars an hour. Please call if interested, 541-517-2286

### 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

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### Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

### 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

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**CROSSWORD**

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	57	58	59				60			61	62	
63					64	65			66			67
68					69				70			
71									72			

- 52. Hi-\_\_\_\_\_ monitor
- 53. Toothy wheel
- 55. \*Street, in capital city in #38 Down
- 57. \*On the Danube
- 60. \*On the Thames
- 63. Virtue, in Italian
- 64. \*Street, in capital city in #25 Down
- 66. Dashboard instruments
- 68. Beside, archaic
- 69. Geological Society of America
- 70. Type of heron
- 71. Parks or Luxemburg
- 72. Pecking mother
- 73. Like oboe's sound

- DOWN**
- 1. "\_\_\_\_\_ the land of the free"
  - 2. Cold one
  - 3. Peruvian Empire
  - 4. Miss America topper
  - 5. Blood infection
  - 6. Prepare to swallow
  - 7. \*Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 8. Parallelogram, e.g.
  - 9. All excited
  - 10. Spiritual leader
  - 11. Network of nerves
  - 12. Certain something in a tray
  - 15. Rouse
  - 20. Take puppy from a pound
  - 22. "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
  - 24. Great \_\_\_\_\_ Reef
  - 25. \*On the Seine
  - 26. Not slouching
  - 27. Arabian chieftain
  - 29. Like Roman god Janus
  - 31. \*Also the most populous city in Ukraine
  - 32. More ill
  - 33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 34. Annoying tiny biters
  - 36. Arctic jaeger
  - 38. \*Located in boot-shaped country
  - 42. Sound of artillery
  - 45. Kind of hickory nut
  - 49. Jack's inferior
  - 51. Like a Grammy nominee
  - 54. Frustration, in print
  - 56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
  - 57. Source of veritas
  - 58. Wraths
  - 59. Volcano in Sicily
  - 60. Ground beef description
  - 61. Fairytale giant
  - 62. "All You \_\_\_\_\_ Is Love"
  - 63. Variable, abbr.
  - 65. Put to work
  - 67. Hog heaven

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**EUROPEAN CAPITALS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Parting words
- 6. Broadcasting acronym
- 9. Taj Mahal city
- 13. Ernest, to mommy
- 14. "Fat chance!"
- 15. Fits of shivering
- 16. Rundown
- 17. Historical period
- 18. "\_\_\_\_\_ its weight in gold"
- 19. \*Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
- 21. \*"The City of a Hundred Spires"
- 23. Financial assistance

- 24. Bird's groomer
- 25. Pod nugget
- 28. Fountain order
- 30. Duck dish a certain way
- 35. Picture on a coat
- 37. Feline vibration
- 39. Stocking fiber
- 40. Stink to high heaven
- 41. Cocoyam, pl.
- 43. Pelvic bones
- 44. Frost over (2 words)
- 46. Stew bean
- 47. Sleeveless garment
- 48. Predicament
- 50. Snakelike fish

Solution on Page 9

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

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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](http://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

**Events from Apr 4th**

**Springfield Museum closure**  
We have big news to share here at the Museum! We will be closed to the public from January 7 through July 11, 2024, while our staff and...

**Storytime**  
The Age 4-5 (3:00pm - 3:30pm)  
Children's Story Time  
The O'Brien Memorial Library offers Story Time on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Join the world of imagination and learning by...

**A Dime At A Time**  
Blue River Bull Terriers Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off.

**Kids Eat Free!**  
Kids eat free!  
Every Monday (with adult meal purchase). Takeout, Drive-in, Outdoor seating (SMT) 729-9288

**Lane County Parks Advisory Comm. Meeting**  
The Parks Advisory Committee meets 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August) to advise the Board of County Commissioners on...

**Springfield School Board Business Meeting**  
Springfield Public Schools is led by a 7-member elected school board. The Board of Directors meets twice during most months during the...

**Lane County Board of Commissioners**  
The Board of Commissioners meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board...

**Tiny Dental Van**  
The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the District McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of...

**McKenzie River Food Pantry**  
Free groceries are provided in cooperation with Oregon Food Bank and Food for Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need...

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

**McKenzie River Tourism Committee**  
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every second Tuesday of every month. Please join us even if...

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

**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
The McKenzie Watershed Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources. Get involved in...

**EMERALD ART CENTER**  
2nd Friday Art Walk  
Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield

**Sip and Shop**  
Please save the date for the WMO's upcoming fundraising event, Sip and Shop on Saturday, April 13th. The \$25 ticket includes lunch...

**Living River Exploration Day**  
Join the McKenzie River Trail and take a walk near the place the Watershed and the McKenzie River meet. Observe 13 years of tree...

**A Dime At A Time**  
Blue River Bull Terriers Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off.

**McKenzie River Local Helping Locals**  
McKenzie Locals Helping Locals will host a P.R.E.P. Plan, Reconnect, Educate and Prepare meeting to discuss aspects of Fire Management to...

**Emergency 9-1-1**

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## Ski Report

March 19, 2023

Starting next Wednesday, the Hoodoo Ski Resort will be open for 13 days straight during Spring Break, wrapping up with an Easter celebration on March 31. The last report reported the base was at 78 inches. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 34 degrees at the base and 38 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 110 inches. Another excellent day was expected, with clear skies, mild temperatures, and temperatures in the mid 40's. 83 of 104 trails were open, along with 10 of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

O	B	I	T	S	C	B	S	A	G	R	A
E	R	N	I	E	H	A	H	A	G	U	E
R	E	C	A	P	E	R	A	W	O	R	T
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## A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**April 6** - The Mount Hood Loop Highway began as the Barlow Toll Road, but after the turn of the twentieth century and completion of the Columbia Gorge Highway the road around the southern flank of Mount Hood fell into disrepair. In 1912 Portland businessman and automobile enthusiast Henry Wemme purchased the road for \$5,400. Upon his death, the road was donated to the state of Oregon. In 1919 construction began on a loop from Portland to the upper Hood River Valley. The first traffic on the new road came the summer of 1925 but the road was only used seasonally until snow removal started in 1967, allowing for year-round travel.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

**March 31: 9:42:** 90000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**16:32:** Deerhorn Rd./Booth Kelly Rd. Legal Backyard Burn. Legal Backyard Burn Found.

**McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

*Jenn Widiger*  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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**WE DON'T DO DIVISION.**

At a time when our nation seems deeply divided along political lines, we opt to take a different path. We add.

Our goal daily is to add to the collective understanding of this community through a news report that fully and fairly reflects what's happening. The more we know about our hometown and neighbors, the more likely we are to build common ground.

That's important. Local news coverage is at its best when it captures a community's successes and challenges, and generates conversations that lead to better solutions and a brighter future.

The more informed we are, the more we care. That's good for our hometown and good for America. Just do the math.



**McKenzie River Reflections**

Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history - in the back issues of this newspaper. Go to: [tinyurl.com/2rkpksen](http://tinyurl.com/2rkpksen)

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# Hermit of the Craggies

Continued From Page 4

hired onto the work crew to make a little extra money.

And he was working there one day when one of his co-workers, directly over his head in the rigging above, fumbled and dropped a wrench. In those pre-OSHA days, no one wore hard hats; so when the wrench bounced off Hugo's head, it did enough damage to require that his skull be reinforced with a steel plate.

And after that, Hugo was never quite the same man.

Over the years, suspicion started to darken Hugo's mind. His paranoid suspicions centered around Bob Fantz, whom he became increasingly convinced was trying to get rid of him so he could run his cattle on both sides of the river.

By 1933 it had gotten bad enough that Hugo was actually afraid to leave his shack for more than a day or two at a time — he'd convinced himself that Bob Fantz would, as soon as he figured out Hugo was gone, sneak across the river and burn him out.

Something, he told himself, had to be done.

So one November day that year, Hugo lurked along the trail with his ratty old .22 Special rifle. (.22 Special, a.k.a. .22 WRF, fires the same size bullet as a regular .22 LR but the cartridge is longer and contains more gunpowder.)

When Robert came into view, Hugo stood up and ordered him to stop. Later, Mayer told the cops he had planned to march Robert across the river, execute him, and bury his body there.

But Robert, who by now knew very well that he was dealing with a dangerous lunatic, put the spurs to his horse and galloped for his life.

He wasn't fast enough, though. Hugo chased him down the trail with several shots, the last of which hit him square in the back; shot through his lung, Robert fell out of the saddle and died.

Then Hugo hurried back to his cabin. The winter trapping season was just getting started, and he had things to do.

Still utterly convinced that his killing of Robert had been just, necessary, and morally defensible, Hugo hadn't bothered to cover up the crime scene in any way. He left his empty brass cartridge cases where they lay, and he'd also forgotten his homemade pipe at the scene.

Less than an hour later, Robert's horse came home without him, and Annanette, fearing the worst, went out looking for him. She soon found him, lying in the trail with blood trickling from his mouth. Because of his lung disease, she immediately assumed he'd died of a naturally occurring lung hemorrhage.

So, with appropriate grief and sadness but without any particular hurry, she started making the final arrangements for him. The body was taken up and brought down the river to Gold Beach and placed in the charge of a funeral director.

And it was that funeral director who, while preparing the body for the funeral ceremony, made the startling discovery of a bullet hole near the center of Robert Fantz's back.



Postcard

This postcard image from the 1920s shows the entrance to the Oregon State Penitentiary, which became Crazy Hugo's home for the rest of his life.

Naturally, after learning about this development, Curry County Sheriff's deputies wasted very little time getting out to Crazy Hugo's cabin to ask him a pointed question or two about his relationship with his neighbor. Unfortunately, when they arrived, they found his cabin empty. Crazy Hugo, finally rid of his dreaded enemy, was making up for lost time on his trapline. And he didn't come back home again for weeks and weeks.

Throughout that time, everyone in the Agness area was on edge. Many of them took to packing pistols with them everywhere they went, just in case Crazy Hugo should suddenly get into a homicidal mood and start a rampage.

It was a bit of an anticlimax when Mayer did reappear at his cabin, animal pelts in hand, to find police waiting there to talk to him. Calmly he told them the whole story, still with absolute confidence that he had done the right thing and that anyone would have done the same.

When they asked him to accompany them back to the sheriff's office, he went with them cheerfully, fully expecting that after his explanation was given, he'd be sent on his way with a sympathetic pat on the shoulder.

The ensuing criminal trial, of course, was quite a sensation. The newspapers called him "The Hermit of the Craggies" and "The Old Man of the Mountains," and with his wild and tangled beard he definitely looked the part.

But even after he was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in the penitentiary, Hugo remained convinced that the governor, as soon as he heard the story, would pardon him.

The gov, of course, did nothing of the kind. But if he had, would Crazy Hugo have been glad about it? Maybe not. If he was pardoned, he'd have to go back to his life in the woods. He was now 50 years old, and the hermit-trapper's life was more or less the only life he knew.

But, did he really want to go back to that life? To go back to leaching ground acorns in the river to make a few gritty, unleavened biscuits to dip in his raccoon stew? To sleeping on the hard ground in the corner of his unheated, windowless dirt-floored shack, cushioned only by a few dried-out fern fronds gathered the previous summer? To answer a late-night Call of Nature shivering

in the pouring rain squatting over a hastily-dug hole a dozen feet from his cabin in the pitch-blackness of a moonless forest night? To live that life again, all the while thinking longingly about the delicious, plentiful food and soft, luxurious bunks he'd enjoyed during his time in the Josephine County Jail?

That's right: Crazy Hugo loved the jail. It was like a spa resort compared with the crude accommodations he'd left behind in his little riverside shack.

Before being sent off to the penitentiary in Salem in early 1934, Crazy Hugo thanked the community for giving him the best Christmas of his life. So much delicious food, as much as he cared to eat! Such a soft and comfortable bed, such refined bathing and toilet facilities! It would be hard, he allowed, to go back to eating acorns and squirrels, and using thimbleberry leaves for toilet paper.

But, of course, he never had to. Crazy Hugo spent the rest of his life in Salem, in the state penitentiary. He died 26 years into his sentence, in 1961, at the age of 77. He seems to have been happy in the penitentiary, and never caused any trouble; after a few years he was given charge of the prison's pigs.

You can still see the remains of Crazy Hugo's shack, by the way, across the river from the Fantz Ranch. Both are now part of the Rogue River Wilderness Area, and you can reach them on the Illinois River Trail.

(Sources: "Biography: Hugo Mayer," an un-by-lined article published on the Curry Historical Society's Website at [curryhistory.com](http://curryhistory.com); *Hiking the Bigfoot County*, a book by John Hart published in 1975 by the Sierra Club; archives of the Grants Pass Daily Courier; "Lower Illinois River Watershed Analysis," a report published in 2000 by the USDA; and correspondence with Vivian Henderson)

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 early this year. To contact him or suggest a topic: [finn@offbeatoregon.com](mailto:finn@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.

## In Memory

### Gladys Koozer



Gladys "Swede" Koozer of Deerhorn passed away peacefully at her home on March 24, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was 99 years old.

Gladys was born on March 22, 1925, on her family's farm in Kintyre, North Dakota. She was raised by her parents, Hjalmer and Anna Sundahl, along with siblings Aldo, Mabel, Harold, Roscoe and Ruth (Nuppy). Due to the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, Gladys and her family moved to Cedar Flat, Oregon in 1936 when she was 11 years old.

Gladys graduated from Springfield High School in 1943. After graduation, Gladys and her sister Nuppy moved to Eugene where they rented a room and worked at J.J. Newberry until 1944, when Gladys left to visit her sweetheart, Rennie Dale Koozer, who was serving in the Army Air Corps. While there, the love birds decided to get married. They were married on May 19, 1944, in Salome, Arizona. They were happily married for 48 years.

During WWII, Gladys followed her husband as he was transferred to different bases state side but when he was deployed, she returned home to Deerhorn and lived with her in-laws until Dale returned home after the war in 1945. She worked at the parts counter at Montgomery Ward during that time. The couple

lived in a small cabin at the bottom of Cedar Flat Road early on, then moved to the Deerhorn area where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Together, Dale and Gladys raised three children — Ronald, Janet, and Beverly. Gladys spent her life being a devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother, and always lived life to the fullest.

Gladys was a woman of many talents. She was an amazing artist, skilled seamstress, delicious baker, green-thumbed gardener, but most of all — a fierce fisherman, especially for McKenzie River salmon! She enjoyed traveling, skiing, staying active, and was always game for anything. She loved following her family's activities, whether that be a family reunion or making sure to never miss a 4-H fair, shooting competition, ballgame, piano recital, school or church program, or a graduation. Gladys blessed her family with many fond memories, including making lefse and krumkake (Norwegian pastries) for Christmas Eve which was always well celebrated at her house.

Gladys is survived by her daughters Janet Koozer and Beverly Hansen (Will); grandchildren Randy Koozer (Lori), Ryan Koozer (Erin), Jennifer Hansen Dickson (Danny), Kara Hansen Joseph (Logan), and Amelia Hansen; 7 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Dale, son Ron, parents Hjalmer and Anna, and siblings Aldo, Mabel, Harold, Roscoe, and Nuppy.

A funeral will be held at Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service (formerly Buell Chapel) in Springfield on April 5, 2024, at 1:00 PM. A reception will immediately follow at the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center (42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg). Memorial contributions may be made to McKenzie Fire & Rescue.

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# Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

**4:39 p.m:** Accident, Vehicle/Pedestrian - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

**4:42 p.m:** Illegal Motorcycle - McGowan Creek Mp. 5.

**9:14 p.m:** Information - 88900 blk, Easy Ln.

**9:41 p.m:** Welfare Check - 38500 blk, E. Cedar Flat Rd.

**March 31: 11:15 a.m:** Burglary - 8200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:43 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 41300 blk, McK. Hwy.

**11:30 p.m:** info - McK. Hwy. & Aufderheide Dr.

**April 1: 11:34 am** Truck Inspection - McK. Hwy. Mp. 13.

**12:25 p.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - Parsons Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

**12:42 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd., Mp. 20.

**12:57 p.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - 92200 blk, Carson St.

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

# Garden myths

Continued From Page 5

salts, which can also impact plant growth. - Weston Miller, OSU Extension horticulturist

**MYTH:** Bee houses help promote and conserve bee diversity.

**REALITY:** Although some bee species nest in the cavities provided by bee houses, most bee species nest in the ground. Research from Canada shows that most cavities in bee houses are colonized by native wasps (that help control pests), and not native bees. So, bee houses still do good, but not necessarily the good that you might think. - Gail Langellotto, OSU Extension entomology specialist and state coordinator of the Master Gardener program

**MYTH:** Tree roots go only as far as the branch crown diameter or drip line (as far as the branches extend).

**REALITY:** Many trees extend many times beyond the branch crown diameter. For instance, magnolia extends 3.7 times the diameter; red maple 3 times; poplar 3; locust 2.9 and ash 1.7. - Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

**MYTH:** Epsom salts are a must for great tomatoes. Use them in every garden.

**REALITY:** If you have done a soil test and your soil lacks magnesium and your plants are not growing well, give it a try. But in most soils and gardens, it can do more damage than good. - Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

**MYTH:** When you plant a new tree or shrub, dig the hole and add an amendment to the soil before you backfill the hole.

**REALITY:** Although amending soil with organic matter is often a good idea, it should be done on an area-wide basis, not just in a planting hole for an individual plant. Adding an organic

amendment to the soil only in the planting hole will tend to reduce the growth of the plant. This happens because roots may stay within the amended soil and not grow into the native soil, creating a root-bound plant within the amended soil. If the organic amendment is not completely decomposed it may require nitrogen for further decomposition, which will compete with plant roots for minerals, resulting in reduced growth. In the case of large shrubs or trees, decomposition of the amendment will cause the plant to settle and the root collar will sink below the soil. - Neil Bell, OSU Extension horticulturist

**MYTH:** Brown recluse and hobo spiders are common in Oregon.

**REALITY:** It is commonly thought that hobo and brown recluse spiders cause necrotic bites in this state, when in fact the brown recluse is not found in Oregon and the hobo spider does not cause necrotic bites. The hobo spider was removed from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's list of venomous spiders in 2015. The black widow is the most harmful spider to humans in the state. - Heather Stoven, OSU Extension entomology specialist

**MYTH:** Watering on hot sunny days will burn the plants because the water droplets magnify the sun's rays.

**REALITY:** It rains during the summer all around the world and plants are just fine. More of an issue is that the irrigation water will evaporate and not be as effective. Note though that sensitive houseplants like African violet can show leaf damage from very cold water applied to the leaves. - Brooke Edmunds, OSU Extension horticulturist

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# River channel open again



**BLUE RIVER:** Trees that drifted into the main channel of the McKenzie River in January generated warnings for boaters to stay away from an area located about one mile below Brukart Landing. The entrance to a small side channel of the river to the south was also blocked with trees.

Since then, the Lane County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie River Guides, and other boaters have advised people to avoid the area until the hazard can be mitigated because there were no safe routes - other than portaging (exiting the river) - to bypass the hazard.




This week the McKenzie River Ranger District reported their crew, worked with the Lane County Sheriff's Marine Patrol, had cut and cleared the long-standing log jam. After multiple cuts and joint clearing attempts, the log jam washed away and is now cleared for boaters.

Officials are reminding rivergoers that snow melt in the springtime can bring increased debris flow down the river, especially in fire-burned areas. They recommend checking the Oregon Boating Obstruction web page at Boating Obstruction Reporting Tools (arcgis.com); and, always scout the route in advance.

## Letters to the Editor

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

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## 120 candidates

Continued From Page 1

Rep. Shelly Boshart David, R-Albany, will face retired Democratic engineer Terrence Virnig in the 15th House District in rural Benton, Lane and Marion counties.

Rep. John Lively, D-Springfield, has a primary with

Ryan Rhoads, a laborer for Lane County's Grassroots Garden. The winner will face Republican Cory Burket, a business development manager, in the 7th House District in Lane County.

*oregoncapitalchronicle*

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