



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

JP Doodles

Ready for winter? There's more to it than flipping pages on a calendar...

PAGE 2

The "Automo-bubble" war

A big knock-down-drag-out in which the battling crews jumped the sheriff and judge and chased their horses off into the hills

PAGE 4



## Will wells go dry?

Costs could climb into the hundreds of millions

By: Alex Baumhardt  
Oregon Capital Chronicle  
The Oregon Water Resources Department must update its 68-year-old rules for permitting new wells or double down on regulating existing ones, department officials said.

If it doesn't, the growing problem of the state's depleted groundwater reserves "is going to get very expensive," said department director Doug Woodcock.

Many of Oregon's 20 groundwater basins are being sucked dry faster than water

can naturally be replaced, according to the agency. This is an issue across the West, where drought, river diversions and groundwater depletion have left parts of seven states scrambling to ration what water is available to them from the Colorado River Basin.

Woodcock presented updates to Oregon's groundwater permitting laws at a hearing last week by the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water. The agency - with input from farmers, environ-

mental groups and well owners - has worked for more than a year on proposed rule changes that would bring Oregon water permitting laws up to date. Most importantly, the agency is attempting to define a "stable level" of groundwater and has committed to withholding new water rights in areas where the level is not deemed stable.

Not everyone is happy. Some farmers and the water districts that serve them fear it's a moratorium on all new groundwater allocations around the state. Mark Landauer, a lobbyist for the Special Districts Association of Oregon, said the state water agency's proposed changes are too broad.

"We believe that we should be looking at basin-specific rules rather than this one-size-fits-all approach," he said.

State Reps. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton, and Mark Owens, R-Crane, tried earlier this year to do just that. The lawmakers proposed a bill that would direct the state water resources department to stop issuing any new water rights until officials could provide an inventory of how much groundwater was left in each of the state's 20

**Lessons learned - Page 10**



Klamath County has struggled with persistent drought and lawmakers have directed millions to residents who have had their wells dry up. Read about a 2019 problem in Leaburg on Page 9

## County airs Rural Community options

Possible zoning changes could impact Blue River

BLUERIVER: Besides reconfiguring the way traffic passes through the community, Lane County planners have also been exploring ways changes to zoning might help Blue River area recovery efforts. At a public meeting last week people were encouraged to comment on three different community plans. Two focused on the "downtown" area from west to east along Blue River Drive up to the bridge. The third option extends from the bridge to the McKenzie Schools campus.

Under Alternative 1 (Downtown Flex) rebuilt homes and businesses would rely on individual septic systems instead of connecting to a proposed community sewer system. The flex term relates to proposed changes to Lane County's Comprehensive Plan that would allow decreased minimum lot sizes that could accommodate more affordable housing like apartments, duplexes, cottage clusters, or second-floor housing above commercial buildings. To get there, Lane County would need to establish two new zoning districts. The first "Community Flex

Use Zone," would allow denser residential and commercial development than the current code allows. A new "Community Residential Zone" calls for 1-acre lots on the rest of the residentially zoned properties.

A hotel would not be allowed because state law requires a connection to a community sewer system.

Alternative 2, called the "Blue River Drive Flex," would involve building a municipal sewer system. Surveys have shown the area's soils appear to be limited to a system capable of handling up to 2,500 gallons per day,

**Community options - Page 9**



People at the meeting were encouraged to comment on the pluses and minuses of the three different plans.

## Want to attract customers?

Course offered free of charge thanks to Lane County

McKenzie River startups, entrepreneurs, and small business owners are all invited to participate free of charge in the Destination Creation Course, a nationally-recognized program for small businesses.

The course will involve two all-day sessions in February and March with breakfast and lunch provided. Funding for the classes, valued at \$800, comes from Lane County and RAIN Catalysts.

The Destination Creation Course was developed by internationally-renowned business consultant Jon Schallert. Jon's Destination Business Strategy and has been used around the world by businesses large and small to help them capture more market share - even when larger, better-capitalized competitors seemingly have the advantage. Schallert's process examines how a business can elevate its unique qualities that a targeted customer finds most important.

In March, RAIN Cata-

lysts hosted a Destination Creation Course in Washington's Skagit and Island counties. The course was filled to capacity, and the 40 participants reported they had very positive experiences.

"This course gave me so many great detailed and concrete ideas for creative marketing for my business. As a new business owner, I also found it very inspiring and a great opportunity to network," said Megan Casad, owner of Pegasus Pie Co.

In May, another course was offered in Lane and Benton counties. Nate Conroy, RAIN Catalysts' Venture Catalyst for Linn and Benton counties said "intuitively, we all know that modern consumers are often looking for something more than just goods or services; they want to have a unique experience, as well."

Businesses that can create a unique experience tend to earn and keep more customers, Conroy said. "But how does one do that?" he

added. "The Destination Creation Course provides a concrete framework with practical steps for how to creatively market your business to new and valuable customers."

By apply Schallert's strategy, businesses can naturally attract more local consumers along with customers from outside their traditional marketplace. Businesses also begin to attract more publicity from the media, which in turn attracts more consumers.

Course topics will include: Becoming a Destination Business, Your Unique Positioning, Your Leadership Responsibility, Targeting Your Most-Profitable Customers, Capturing Consumer and Media Attention, Creating a Customer-Focused, Marketing Your Destination Business, and Collective Marketing.

Space is limited. Learn More & How to Apply Online at: melissa@raincatalysts.org.

## Green Island marks twenty of recovery

1,100 acres are at McKenzie/Willamette confluence

COBURG: Since the McKenzie River Trust acquired land from the Green family in 2003, Green Island has been evolving. The site has become recognized as the site of some of the least altered fish and wildlife habitats in the Willamette Valley.

Green Island's significance was based on research indicating that between Albany and Eugene - from 1850 to 1995 - close to 80% of islands, 41% of side channels, 80% of riparian forest, and 74% of alcoves and sloughs had been lost.

Restoring the floodplain forest is a key element in enhancing the habitat on the property for native wildlife. With work begun in 2006, the Trust converted more than 450 acres of Green Island from agriculture fields to floodplain forest or

riparian habitat, more than 65 acres to native grassland, and more than 15 acres to upland/oak forest.

To date over 650,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted on the property, and many more are yet to come. The result has been a gallery forest that provides refuge for birds, bugs, frogs, snakes, salamanders, beavers, otters, coyotes, and deer that visit and live on the restored land.

Lessons learned over the years at Green Island have allowed the Trust to take on bigger conservation opportunities throughout the region while creating opportunities for more people to participate. And as one staff member recently observed, it allowed us to "put love in the ground."





# Letters to the Editor

## Time to give thanks

The fall season, with shorter daylight hours and colder temperatures, brings a time of change and often a time of reflection; a chance to look back at what has been and an opportunity to imagine what is to come. Once again we had a hot dry summer, resulting in forest fires and smoky air and evacuations and a triggering sense of history repeating. Similar to other years, yet different.

Different because this time when a fire started there was time to react and respond. Different because the agencies and administrations in charge of keeping us safe had experience and resources. Different because there was no loss of property or life. Different because our community members stayed safe during the fire, and were able to return home when the evacuation orders were lifted.

For that we are all thankful. We invite you to join us in a “Giving Thanks” Potluck celebration to honor and thank the heroes that kept us safe and to thank our friends and neighbors who kept a watchful eye while some of us were away. Join us Saturday, November 18th at 5pm at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. Bring a dish to share and your own plate and silverware and let’s celebrate the season of “thanks” together and learn what exciting plans we have for the community center in the new year. We hope to see you there.

John Carlile, President  
Upper McKenzie  
Community Center

## Too much spin

Just saw McKenzie School Superintendent Lane Tomkins get interviewed on KEZI CH9 (aired Nov 2nd) for their story of our su-

perintendent driving a bus because of the national bus driver shortage. This is on top of his opinion piece here in Reflections on Oct 12th and it is just too much. Somebody has got to set the record straight and stand up to untruths and misdirections being presented. I am a community member and resident here in the district, and I was a bus driver for the school for the second half of the last school year. As a district resident, I root for the school to thrive and I would like to see it run in an efficient manner and be fiscally sound for the benefit of the students. As a former bus driver, I think I can give a different perspective and offer up some facts that are being inadvertently or purposely omitted. We now have the Superintendent of our school with a self-reported salary of \$112,596 (not including benefits) driving a school bus and being portrayed as the hero of the bus driver shortage crisis. It’s understandable that some may see it as commendable that Lane is willing to “step in” as a bus driver, but let’s think about this. Before the summer bus drivers asked for a modest raise to bring us closer to parity with surrounding districts. To give the three bus drivers everything they wanted would have cost the school less than \$12K per year (including benefits) and there would have been no bus driver shortage for the school. Instead, Lane goes through bus driver training, at his normal compensation I assume, and starts driving one of the bus routes. Isn’t this a little like having the captain of the ship leave the bridge to work in the engine room? Supposedly the Superintendent’s duties are the most important and demanding in the entire school and thus justify the highest pay. One way or another there is going to be an



opportunity cost to the school by having the Superintendent step away from his duties to drive a bus unless his job is so undemanding to the point that there already was enough free time to drive a bus. In that case, the position is obviously overcompensated, and the asked-for raise for all three bus drivers could be more than covered by a 10% reduction in the superintendent’s salary. What it boils down to is that the school is paying \$65/hr instead of \$23/hr for a bus driver. Lane states in the interview that he is doing it to show that anybody can drive a bus, but I would expect that as our highest-paid employee, he would be capable of learning to drive a bus. I fail to see how that attracts more bus drivers. The problem is not attracting bus drivers for \$65/hr, but finding good drivers will-

ing to work a split shift for \$19/hr. KEZI obviously did not conceive the story but was responding to a press release. What is happening is starting to seem much more like a publicity stunt designed to shame the bus drivers, rather than a sincere effort to fully staff the transportation department. In his Oct 12th letter written to try to quell growing community anxiety regarding school transportation, Lane writes that the Classified Staff, which includes bus drivers, received a “generous” 6% cost of living adjustment. This happened in June and was much appreciated. Of course, inflation was 7% in the 2021 calendar year and 6.5% in 2022. What he does not say in the letter is that by reclassifying a select group of classified staff, which includes the board chair’s son, from Educational Assistants (EA) to “Instructional Behavior EA” they were given an additional \$6/hr raise which amounted to total raises ranging from 38.33% to 47.42% based on their step level. Interesting, especially since job descriptions and qualifications remained the same for both positions. This was done through a MOA (Memorandum of Understand) which is the same mechanism that other surrounding districts, such as Lebanon, and Sisters, used to increase driver pay. What is hard to fathom is that the request to even consider an MOA to increase McKenzie bus driver pay was summarily denied even though it’s bus drivers’ pay that is out of parity with surround-

ing districts, and bus drivers that can’t be attracted and retained at the current pay scale. The funny thing is, bus drivers were asking for a modest \$3/hr raise (about a 14% increase), and because of the part-time nature of the job and the few numbers of drivers needed, the total cost would have been quite small. Making the liberal assumption that the three bus drivers clock an average of 24 hours a week for the 9-month school year, it would only have cost the school about \$8,400 per year for all three. Call it \$12K to include the extra cost of benefits. This is out of a total adopted 2023-24 budget of over 9 million (\$9,100,968). In his letter, Lane also states that the school “recently faced challenges caused by sudden staff resignations”. By this, I assume he means me. But sudden? No. He and the board were given plenty of time to act. I gave Lane and the board a letter in April regarding my concerns with the low bus driver pay and my desire to stay with McKenzie. He knew since the beginning of Spring and all Summer long of my intention to resign. The letters to the editor and TV story give the impression that the school is doing its best in circumstances beyond its control and is doing what it can to alleviate the bus driver shortage. Knowing what you know now, you be the judge. It’s your school. Hold the administration and board accountable.

Mark S Dean

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report

By Cliff Richardson

### McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Fall Sports Season has concluded. No contests currently scheduled.

### Joseph Eagles End Eddyville Eagles Season

The last standing Special District 2 North Six-man football team bit the dust in the 2023 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union 1A(6) Football State Championship. Joseph, representing the Special District 1 and 4th ranked in the final State rankings, dominated the 5th ranked and Special District 2 Champion Eddyville, 44-6. The game was played at Joseph last Friday, November 10. Joseph advances

out of the State Championship Quarterfinals to meet top ranked Prairie City / Burnt River, 47-0 winners over North Lake. That Semi-final game will be played next Saturday, November 18 at Prairie City. Tenth ranked Echo surprised 2nd ranked Powers, easily finishing off the Cruisers 46-18 and will meet 3rd ranked Elkton, 58-34 winners over 6th ranked South Wasco County, in the other Semi-final contest played next Saturday.

### Lowell Still In Hunt For Championship Title

Over in the Class 2A eleven-man football ranks, 3rd ranked Lowell advanced to the State

Semi-finals with a 48-20 victory over Gold Beach. The Red Devils will travel to Oakland next Saturday, November 18, to lock horns with the 2nd ranked Oakers, who earned a Semi-final berth with a 32-18 win over Gervais. Top ranked Weston-McEwen/Griswold defeated Illinois Valley, 59-18, and will meet 4th ranked Regis, 27-20 victors over Heppner, in the other Semi-final game. In State Semi-final eight-man action, 2nd ranked Crane will host 3rd ranked Myrtle Point and top ranked Lost River hosts 5th ranked St. Paul, with both contests played next Saturday, November 18.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters To The Editor should contain no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published upon request. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 pm.

MRR

McKenzie River Reflections

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Friday 11/17

McKenzie Valley  
Mostly Sunny  
10% chance precip  
High: 55 Low: 43

Santiam Pass  
Sunny  
20% chance precip  
High: 51 Low: 33

Saturday 11/18

McKenzie Valley  
Rain  
80% chance precip  
High: 54 Low: 42

Santiam Pass  
Rain  
30% chance precip  
High: 45 Low: 28

Sunday 11/19

McKenzie Valley  
AM Showers  
30% chance precip  
High: 50 Low: 37

Santiam Pass  
Snow Showers  
20% chance precip  
High: 35 Low: 26

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
11/7	47	41	0.49	1,103 cfs	11/7	55	45	0.42	6,980 cfs
11/8	50	39	0	1,103 cfs	11/8	53	39	0.18	6,590 cfs
11/9	48	32	0.05	1,065 cfs	11/9	55	35	0	5,670 cfs
11/10	51	43	0.02	954 cfs	11/10	52	40	0.32	4,480 cfs
11/11	50	41	0.09	778 cfs	11/11	54	41	0	4,190 cfs
11/12	50	41	0.01	417 cfs	11/12	52	41	0.18	3,640 cfs
11/13	51	44	0.55	422 cfs	11/13	57	36	0.31	3,510 cfs



Sheriff's Report

Nov. 5: 9:19 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 43900 block, McK. Hwy.

Nov. 6: 1:21 a.m: Screaming - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd. A caller reported hearing a neighbor yelling for someone to wake up.

7:39 a.m: Prowler - 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. An area resident observed two unknown people with flashlights going to a house on the north side of the river.

8:12 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

8:35 a.m: Harassment - 51400 blk, Blue River Dr.

9:25 a.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 44800 blk, McK. Hwy.

11:09 a.m: Traffic Hazard - 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

4:16 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Marcola Rd. Milepost 4.

Nov. 7: 12:43 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Goodpasture Rd. & McK. Hwy.

3:09 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 90900 blk, Angels Flight Rd.

3:18 p.m: Open Gate - McGowan Education Center.

Nov. 8: 1:50 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:36 p.m: Disorderly Subject - 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

3:50 p.m: Citizen Contact - 51400 blk, McK. River Dr.

7:12 p.m: Theft - 90600 blk, Hill Rd.

Nov. 9: 3:32 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:12 p.m: Assist Oregon State Police - McK. Hwy. & Greenwood Dr.

Nov. 10: 6:43 a.m: Speeding Motorcycle - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

8:33 a.m: Suspicious conditions - 56600 blk, N. Bank Rd.

10:53 a.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:29 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute

- 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

6:12 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Twin Firs Rd. & McK. Hwy.

Nov. 11: 5:25 a.m: Suspicious Subject - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

2:46 p.m: Welfare Check - 92200 blk, Alcorn St.

4:36 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:46 p.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 91000 blk, Angels Flight Rd.

6:12 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Johnson Rd.

7:49 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Deerhorn Rd. & McK. Hwy.

Nov. 12: 9:46 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 91900 blk, Honeybee Ln.

1:46 p.m: Illegal Dump - Lat: 44.232397. Long: -122.959338.

4:36 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

6:06 p.m: Custodial Interference - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

Nov. 13: 8:45 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Marcola Rd. Mp. 15.

1:30 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 87100 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

1:46 p.m: Elder Abuse - 51200 blk McK. Hwy.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Nov. 6: 8:10: 49000 block, McK. Hwy. Lift Assist.

11:38: 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Hazardous Situation. Removed Downed Tree From Road.

11:55: 37000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:16: Marcola Rd./Milepost 4. Auto Aid/Motor Vehicle Accident. Cancelled on Scene.

Nov. 7: 2:01: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

14:31: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Nov. 8: 8:49: 39000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:34: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

17:18: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Non-Injury/Partially Blocking.

Nov. 9: 9:30: 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient

Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:35: 90000 blk, Thomson Ln. Medical, Trauma. Patient Refusal.

23:59: 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

Nov. 10: 14:39: 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

Nov. 12: 7:26: 37000 blk, Shenandoah Lp. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:24: McK. Hwy./Camp Creek Rd. Subject Down. Unable To Locate.

13:47: 89000 blk, Rippling Way Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:33: 51000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Nov. 13: 0:27: 35000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 20<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.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Nov. 12: 14:30: Medical – 51000 block, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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

2022 August 11 Vol. 44, Issue 52	2022 August 4 Vol. 44, Issue 51	2022 July 28 Vol. 44, Issue 50	2022 July 21 Vol. 44, Issue 49	2022 July 14 Vol. 44, Issue 48	2022 July 7 Vol. 44, Issue 47
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**Did you know...**  
The local newspaper is the No. 1 source for community news, beating TV by 3 times and the Internet by 6 times the audience.

2012 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey



# "Automo-bubble" played a part in last great railroad war

**Continued From Last Week**  
By Finn J.D. John

At one point, Oregon Trunk Railroad president John Stevens (Hill's top lieutenant on the job) learned the Twohy Brothers had built a wagon road across a 230-acre parcel of private land to access the nearest water supply. Stevens promptly bought the land — actually, he just bought an option on it, but it came with some property rights, which gave him the right to fence it off and hang "No Trespassing" signs everywhere, and station armed guards.

The Twohy Brothers complained to the sheriff, who came out to the scene with a county judge and some other notables to try to negotiate peace. But some of the Porter Brothers' workers got excited and started a big knock-down-drag-out in which the battling crews jumped the sheriff and judge and chased their horses off into the hills. This, naturally, did not help their cause in court a little later; the Des Chutes crews ended up getting their access restored.

Another memorable event happened when the Porter Brothers learned that a "blind pig" (illegal saloon) had gone into business with a huge barrel of alcohol close by their workers' camp, and consequently everyone was blind drunk all the time and no work was getting done.

Johnson Porter told the subcontractor to get all his men away from the blind pig for the next few hours. Then, calling for Jim Morrell, the "bubble skinner," he asked if the bubble was ready.

It was.  
Morrell drove Porter out to a rocky outcropping just behind the blind pig, which was located



A. Savin/ Wikimedia  
**A four-cylinder Studebaker-Garford on display at the Proviant'skij Sklad museum in Moscow, Russia. This is the same model as James Morrell's "automo-bubble."**

in a tent near the canyon wall. Some distance away, they could see the tents where the moonshiners slept. Porter got three sticks of dynamite which he had tied

together, lit the fuse, and threw it into the tent with the blind pig in it. Then he hurried back to the car and they drove away. Behind them, a nice satisfying explosion



Oregon Historical Society  
**R.H. Crozier, an official with James Hill's railroad empire, looks out over the Oregon Trunk Railroad tracks near the mouth of the Deschutes River shortly after their completion in 1911. The wandering cut on the left side of the image is the Des Chutes Railroad right-of-way, no longer in use in this part of the route.**

shook the canyon walls.  
Later that day, Morrell saw the bootleggers trudging out of the canyon to the stage station, carrying their bags. The explosion had burst their barrel and spilled all the booze; they were out of business.  
The Railroad War burned hot and fierce for most of that year, but then something happened to change things:

Harriman died. He succumbed to stomach cancer at the age of 61 in mid-September of 1909.  
After that, the two crews mostly stopped feuding. They even helped each other out from time to time, and agreed to share some bits of right-of-way. With the drama out of the picture, the two crews were able to focus on their work, and passenger service to Bend on the new railroad lines started in November 1911.

(Sources: "Bubble Skinner," an article by James F. Morrell and Giles French published in the December 1968 issue of Oregon Historical Quarterly; The Deschutes River Railroad War, a book by Leon Speroff published in 2007 by Arnica Publishing; "The Deschutes Railroad War," an article by Tor Hanson published at bendmagazine.com; "Railroads into Central Oregon," an article by Ward Tonsfeldt and Paul G. Claeysens published in 2004 by the Oregon Historical Society's Oregon History Project.)

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.



By Slim Randles

There's just something about falling in love in November, thought Steve. Something ... timely. Something ... special. Steve's incredible shaving-brush-like moustache is gray now. It's lasted a long time, there at the ranch and up at Steve's cabin, and it deserves to be such an elegant gray.

Falling in love, Steve said to himself, just couldn't be all that terrific. November ... the Native American's hunger moon. The month of storms and danger, when smart outdoorsmen practiced being even smarter indoorsmen.

But Steve always thought there was a slice of flavor inside a November romance because of the month's hardships. Some of the longest lasting and happiest marriages began with a November romance. He silently recited several November bondings that appeared to be happily headed for eternity.

Women are truly wonderful, even in November. They're soft and warm and cuddly. If a guy finds himself in need of a snuggle, a woman is at the top of the list.

Oh, a dog is okay, he thought. But a woman ... when it works right ... is the best.

Maybe someday, Steve thought. Have to think about that kinda hard this winter.'

After November. Nothing serious should be planned in November.

Unless, of course, the right woman should come along .....

Brought to you by Sweetgrass Mornings, by Slim Randles. Try <https://www.betterworldbooks.com>.

## Quote of the Week

"A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain."

Robert Frost

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## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### THANKSGIVING & SARAH JOSEPHA HALE

Each season has its magic, its unique characteristics, and November's is the promise of Thanksgiving with Christmas not far away. We begin to get out the holiday recipes, plan for those days when college students will be home, and we'll enjoy endless cooking of favorite recipes.

Did you know that a lady from Newport, NH really was the person responsible for Thanksgiving becoming a national holiday?

This was Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book. She set out on a campaign to have a day in late fall set aside for us officially to give thanks for our harvests and many blessings.

From 1846 to 1863, she wrote letters to presidents, governors and any influential people she could. In her magazine, there appeared many editorials urging the recognition of this as a national holiday.

Catching President Lincoln's Attention

The man who finally listened to

Mrs. Hale was President Abraham Lincoln. It was his feeling that such a day of thanksgiving in autumn also might help create harmony in the nation in the midst of the Civil War.

So in 1863, he declared that Thanksgiving Day would be the last Thursday in November. At Mrs. Hale's insistence, he set that day as Thanksgiving again the following year. This holiday has been celebrated ever since. In 1941, Congress passed a resolution, which changed Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday of that month.

#### Thanksgiving Foods & Cranberries

From our Pilgrim ancestors come many of the foods on our menus for Thanksgiving - turkey, cranberries, pumpkin, squash, etc.

Cranberries were growing wild around Cape Cod when the first European settlers arrived. The natives taught the settlers how to cook them. One Indian recipe called for cranberries mixed with dried venison and fat. Then the mixture was pounded into a pulp and patted into cakes. These were left in the sun to dry.

The Pilgrim cooks soon developed their own methods of preparation and stewed the berries in water, adding some sweetening for a better flavor. Later cooks developed many recipes for cranberries, such as breads, muffins, puddings, pies and cookies.

CRANBERRY COOKIES is one recipe you may want to try from our modern era. Cream 1/2 cup butter, 1-cup sugar, 3/4 cup packed brown sugar. Beat in 1/4-cup milk, 2 tablespoons orange juice, and 1 egg.

Sift together 3 cups flour, 1-teaspoon baking powder, 1/4-teaspoon baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon salt. Combine with creamed mixture and blend well. Stir in 1 cup chopped nuts, 2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped cranberries. (Add more liquid if necessary so cookies will drop easily.)

Drop by teaspoonful on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F. for 10-15 minutes, until browned. Makes about 12 dozen tea-size cookies.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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## Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

### Six stellar shrubs to brighten the winter garden



In January and February, the flowers of winter arrive, blooming as cheerfully as the showoffs of spring.

"One of the coolest things about gardening in the Pacific Northwest is winter gardens," said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service. "Spring is overwhelming with flowers, but in winter it's surprising. It's nice to see something that's so unexpected. And then there's the scent; such an enjoyable thing."

One of the showiest of the cold-weather shrubs is Mahonia 'Charity,' a relative of the native Oregon grape with bountiful spikes of yellow blooms. The large evergreen leaves give the plant a tropical look and make it a standout year-round. Snow is no deterrent for this easy-care, 10-foot shrub that will take temperatures down to minus 5. A bonus is the multitude of blueberries.

For those who are only familiar with camellias that bloom in

spring, Camellia sasanqua will come as a pleasant surprise, Bell said. Blooming right smack in the middle of winter, this 8-foot camellia doesn't get the mushy, brown flowers some hybrids display. White-blooming 'Setsugekka' is easily found, as is 'Yuletide,' the most popular of the Camellia sasanqua with its Santa Claus-red flowers decorated with prominent puffs of yellow stamens that provide sustenance for overwintering Anna hummingbirds.

In the darkest part of the year - sometimes before Christmas - the vanilla perfume of sweetbox hovers in the air. The small white flowers aren't a big deal, but the scent more than makes up for that. The shiny, dark green foliage is similar to its relative boxwood and useful as a hedge or backdrop for colorful perennials and annuals in other seasons. Several species are on the market, most commonly Sarcococca ruscifolia and S. confusa, both topping out at 5 feet. They'll take temperatures

down to around 5 degrees and grow happily in shady, dry areas of the garden, where most other plants turn up their toes.

Bell mentions Grevillea victoriae one of his favorite winter-blooming plants. The 8-foot tall and wide evergreen shrub with small gray leaves and stems can bloom from September through April once it gets established. The unusual red-orange flowers emerge from rust orange buds making it a standout in the garden. It's attractive to hummingbirds and bees.

Blooming December through March, two months earlier than the Oregon native flowering currant (Ribes sanguineum), is the chaparral currant (R. malvaceum) of the California coastal ranges. The 5-foot shrub attracts hummingbirds that will sip the nectar and forage for bugs among downward-facing pink flowers. Because the foliage is aromatic, many gardeners will be happy to know that deer will typically leave chaparral currant alone.

Bell can't finish his list without mentioning the native silk tassel (Garrya elliptica). There's no missing the waterfall of catkins dangling in long chains of 6 inches or more. The large shrub can grow up to 12 feet tall and wide, has glossy green leaves with white undersides, and is drought tolerant.

These six shrubs, all of which are hardy down to about 10-15 degrees or lower, are on Bell's short-list. Others worth researching, he said, are witch hazel (Hamamelis), winter jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum), Viburnum 'Dawn', wintersweet (Chimonanthus), and Harry Lauder's walking stick (Corylus avellana 'Contorta').

"Having color in the garden in winter is not that hard to do," Bell said. "Once you're aware of the possibilities, it's just a matter of planting the right plants."



## In Memory

Brad McNutt



J. Brad McNutt formerly of the Vida area passed away September 27, 2023. He was 63. Brad was born October 22, 1959 in Roseburg, Oregon to John B. and Lois A. (Taylor) McNutt.

Brad loved being on a tractor, designing landscapes and helping others. He spent countless hours as a volunteer helping rebuild McKenzie Track. Brad especially loved cheering Anna on in anything she did, from sports at McKenzie High School to teaching her to run an excavator while working together on many projects. Brad's best times were the times he spent with Anna.

Brad is survived by the light of his life, his daughter Anna Lynn McNutt of Corvallis, OR. sisters Linda Grubb (Neil), Dinah Stanton (Doug) and Sherry Gennaro (Gabe), 1 niece, 6 nephews and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant daughter, Laura.

A celebration of Brad's life will be held at Tall Firs Café & Events, 1488 18th Street in Springfield on Sunday, November 19th from 2:00PM-4:00PM.



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## Community Notes

**November 16**  
**Leaburg Food Pantry**  
Leaburg Food Pantry. Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 3 - 6 p.m. Behind the McKenzie Bible Fellowship Church, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

**November 16**  
**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.

**November 17**  
**McKenzie Chamber Board**  
The board of directors of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce will meet via Zoom at 1 p.m. To sign up for a link to the meeting, contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

**November 18**  
**Holiday Fair**  
The Thurston Community Baptist Church, 6364 Main St, in Springfield will host a Holiday Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday. Come shop with many new and returning vendors.

**November 18**  
**Thankful Potluck**  
The Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive, is inviting people for a 5 to 7:30 p.m. potluck where all give thanks for our community and each other through sharing a meal together.  
The Center would especially like to thank our local First Responders and Firefighters who are dedicated to our community and selflessly protect our homes and health.

**November 20**  
**McKenzie Fire Board**  
The board of Directors of the McKenzie Fire District will meet

from noon to 1 p.m. at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, Call 541-896-3311 for more information.

**November 21**  
**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.

**November 21**  
**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.

**November 21**  
**Cornhole League**  
The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League will host some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive from 5 to 6:30 p.m. They'll be tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. Bring some snacks to share.

**November 22**  
**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.

**November 22**  
**LEC Board Meeting**  
The Lane Electric Coop Board of Directors meeting will be held

from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at 787 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly.

If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend. <https://laneelectric.com/attend-a-board-meeting>.

**November 22**  
**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.

**November 22**  
**Wacky Wednesday BINGO**  
Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry's Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. hosts, with cards on sale at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning spots fill up quickly. Burger and brew special all day!

**November 25**  
**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.

**November 28**  
**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.

**November 28**  
**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.

**November 28**  
**McKenzie Food Pantry**  
The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be 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.

**Paver Sales Remain Open**  
The Vida McKenzie Community Center will continue to offer opportunities to buy engraved pavers for their patio. As a fundraiser, continuing sales will support the completed work and provide for additional enhancements. As batches of new paver purchases are made, the engraver will furnish and install the newly etched pavers. Call 541-953-3440 or willmarlys@gmail.com.

## EWEB offers a smart thermostat rebate

The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) is now providing free or greatly discounted smart thermostats to residential electricity customers whose primary source of heating is from an electric forced-air furnace or a heat pump.

EWEB is partnering with General Pacific, a utility wholesale stocking distributor in the Pacific Northwest, to provide customers with a new way to reduce energy usage and save money on their utility bills – smart thermostats. The new residential rebate program includes four smart thermostat models from two manufacturers, ranging in price from \$0-\$119.00, after discount.

The rebate is available exclusively through the partnership with General Pacific. Smart thermostats can be purchased online with no additional paperwork and no application process. Customers can place their order through the website, [eweb.gpfulfillment.com](http://eweb.gpfulfillment.com), and General Pacific will ship the

thermostat directly to the customers front door.

More information is available at [eweb.org/smarthermostat](http://eweb.org/smarthermostat)

Currently EWEB is offering the following models:

- \* Google Nest Thermostat – FREE
- \* Google Nest Learning Thermostat - \$119
- \* ecobee Enhanced Smart Thermostat - \$59
- \* ecobee Premium Smart Thermostat - \$119

If you are considering getting a smart thermostat, there are a few things to consider. Smart thermostats are not recommended to control variable speed heat pumps, and are not compatible with ductless heat pumps, electrical resistance baseboard heaters, in-wall heaters or cable ceiling heat. Please refer to each device's compatibility checker before ordering.

Learn more about the program and how to purchase at [eweb.org/smarthermostat](http://eweb.org/smarthermostat).

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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Freudian Slip



Toa Heftiba

My dilemma is this. I’ve been going out with my boyfriend for five months. He is a very loving and romantic guy and would do basically anything for me. But the other night we were making love, and he said a friend’s name instead of mine.

Now this girl isn’t particularly good-looking, she’s quite small, her eyes are funny looking, and her teeth are all over her mouth. Basically, she looks like a caveman. Nonetheless, it still hurt me, and I pushed him away.

He tried to explain he had been out with friends he hadn’t seen in ages and met up with her. He said he was supposed to ask me to do something for her, and that’s why he said her name. I wouldn’t listen to him. I tried to go to sleep while he kept asking me to talk to him.

I find myself thinking more

and more about this situation. I’m not answering his phone calls or emails or anything. I do love him, but now I’m questioning whether he really loves me or if has he a thing for his unattractive friend.

Trudy  
Trudy, everyone misspeaks at times. Parents often call one child by another child’s name, and all of us stumble with a name or song title on the tip of our tongue. Ask most people what you put in a toaster, and they say toast, not bread. Ask what cows drink, and people often say milk, not water.

Sometimes, however, feelings come out in embarrassing ways. If you made cruel remarks about his friend’s appearance, that could be enough to bring her to mind. Physical beauty is not an accomplishment but an accident of nature. Being a person of interest and value, however, is an expression of self and no accident.

Men don’t take catty remarks well. They find them nasty, not amusing. It could be your boyfriend was returning an emotional injury you gave him in slighting her, but one instance means nothing. If you are adding value to this, your reaction says more about you than your boyfriend’s misspeaking.

Tamara

## Cold Heart

My ex-boyfriend and I broke up a few months ago, but we agreed to stay friends. He went away for a month soon after, and we emailed a few times. When he returned, I spoke with him on the phone once. Later I emailed him, and he said maybe we could meet as friends.

I replied it might feel awkward meeting up so soon because I still had strong feelings for him. I didn’t get a reply. Some days later I sent a text message saying if he wanted to meet for a chat, let me know. Again, I got no reply.

He replied a few days later, saying he’d been busy and both his parents were ill. A week later I emailed saying if he wanted to meet for a chat, we probably had enough space now. I didn’t get a reply for a week. I was so angry I sent him a message saying since he doesn’t want to stay in touch, so much for us being friends. Goodbye.

He replied that his dad died the previous week. However, one of my friends told me that his dad being ill and dying is no excuse for him not staying in touch. Another friend agreed that the dad dying is no excuse either. Should I expect an ex who’s now a friend to treat me no different than any other friend?

Maryanne

Maryanne, in the real world, the death of a parent is a good excuse for not keeping in touch. If you are as insensitive and callous as your friends, this might be the reason

you broke up in the first place. The truth is, your contact with him is based on a lie. You don’t want to be friends. You want him back.

Wayne

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

## American Life in Poetry

### I Am Trying to Love the Whole World

By Jenny Browne

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is such a public display of affection, a flex even, one the lone magpie staring back from the backside

of a badly shorn sheep finds suspect. I flap my arms & blink three times. Bad luck to glimpse just one.

Magpie being the only creature rumored to have refused the ark, preferring to perch high on the mast

& curse the rain. I too keep rewinding this mixtape of the plague years until I can hear it snap like a tendon

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### Free

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Missing people. Do you have a family member or friend that disappeared under strange circumstances? Is it possible an unknown animal was responsible? We may be able to provide a wider audience in helping determine what became of your loved one. Please contact us at wjevning@gmail.com serious responses only please. pwj-11/19

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.

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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

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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62						63				64			

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- CATS & DOGS
- ACROSS

1. Baby powder

5. Hundredweight, acr.

8. Same as gauge

12. S squared, e.g.

13. Actor Wyle

14. Undergraduate's field of study

15. J. Edgar Hoover's man

16. Norse capital

17. Extremely angry

18. \*Tweety chaser

20. Bob Ross' do

21. Not quite right

22. Hawaiian dish

23. Directed

26. Brought down

30. Deed

31. Rifle's backward move

34. Denim innovator

35. Like salad greens

37. Greek R

38. Read-only memory device

39. Western Samoan money

40. Oklahoma athlete

42. Tiny guitar

43. Relating to dreams

45. Like certain Debbie?

47. U.S. Marine Corps gift recipient

Solution on Page 7

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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 7

48. Gin mixer

50. Title for Turkish leader

52. \*1929 Best Actor Oscar nominee

56. Lallygags

57. Medley

58. Pineapple producer

59. Suggestions

60. \*Lassie's mark in Hollywood sidewalk

61. Arabian bigwig

62. Banana leftover

63. New York time

64. "Wanted!" state

- DOWN
1. Labels with a name, on Facebook

2. Major or general employer

3. Same as #36 Down, archaically speaking

4. Painter's surface

5. Receipt listings

6. \*Corgi's homeland

7. Marvel Comics hammer wielder

8. \*Jon Arbuckle, Odie and \_\_\_\_

9. A bit cracked

10. Kind of move, 2 words

11. Bard's before

13. End of rugby match

14. \*Cat sound

19. Manicurist's file

22. Neighbor of Ger.

23. \*Nome, AK hero

24. Continental divide

25. Like old cracker

26. \*Rhodesian Ridgeback's target

27. \*Old episodes of Eddie Crane's TV show

28. Call forth

29. Two identical molecules put together

32. Rubber sandal

33. Exclamation of surprise

36. \*Fido, in Latin

38. More than one crocus

40. \*Canine command

41. Newspaper VIP

44. \_\_\_\_ beef

46. Meandered

48. Leaves at the alter, e.g.

49. Uniate church member

50. Of the highest quality

51. Open-mouthed astonishment

52. Thorny gift

53. Large book

54. Pelvic parts

55. Smart but awkward one


56. "A stiff upper \_\_\_\_"

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

Click here or go to: [tinyurl.com/yeye92hx](https://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

Events from Nov 16th

Submit Event




COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Thu Nov 16th 3:00pm - 6:30pm

Leaburg Food Pantry

All are welcome! Please send folks!




LEABURG STORE  
WINE, GLOVES  
PRE-MIX | SAW GAS  
BLUE DEP | BAR OIL

Sat Nov 18th 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10-noon. Donations can be dropped




Holiday Fair

Sat Nov 18th 10:00am - 5:00pm

Holiday Fair

This is the 4th or 5th year we have done this event and the Thurston Community Baptist Church is right on Main Street in the Thurston area ...




Thankful Potluck

Sat Nov 18th 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Thankful Potluck

Join us for a Thankful Potluck! On November 18th at 5pm join us for a potluck where we can all give thanks for our community and each other.

thankful • potluck • thanksgiving • meal




McKENZIE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

Mon Nov 20th 12:00pm - 1:00pm

McKenzie Fire District Board


McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. 541-896-3311.



Tue Nov 21st

Lane County Board of Commissioners

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




HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

Tue Nov 21st 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Holiday Food Basket

Any family in need can receive a Food Basket. Please provide the number of immediate family members. Basket requests are due by




Family Story Time

Tue Nov 21st 10:00am - 11:00am

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!



Wed Nov 22nd

Lane County Board of Commissioners

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




HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET

Tue Nov 21st 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Holiday Food Basket


Any family in need can receive a Food Basket. Please provide the number of immediate family members. Basket requests are due by



Tue Nov 21st 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Upper McKenzie Cornhole League

Join us for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center! We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday



Wed Nov 22nd 9:00am - 11:30am

Watershed Wednesday

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

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Fishing Report

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

**Fish Counts**  
**November 12, Willamette Falls**  
Fall Chinook – 2,187  
Winter Steelhead – 17



A Moment  
in Oregon  
History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**November 16** - Cattlemen arrived in Central and Eastern Oregon to take advantage of grazing their stock on the vast tracts of open rangeland. But sheep men soon arrived, wintering their flocks in the low country, and as weather and grass permitted, driving them across the plains and into the mountains. Violence between the factions was inevitable. What became known as the Sheepshooters War was a bloody affair with thousands of sheep slaughtered by the cattleman and a number of sheep men killed or simply missing. Eventually the government stepped in, and at a meeting called in Canyon City on November 15, 1906, all stockmen were assigned individual grazing allotments to public lands. This ended the Sheepshooters War.

Will wells go dry?

Continued From Page 1

basins. The bill died in committee but set the stage for many of the changes the water resources department is proposing.

Oregon’s 1955 Groundwater Act requires the state to maintain stable levels of groundwater but does not define what a stable level is. The new rules would define stability as maintaining spring water levels year over year. The water level after a winter recharge period and before summer irrigation should return to about the level it was the year before.

“So we’ll pump down groundwater systems in the summertime, but we always want those to come back up after the wet season,” said Justin Iverson, a groundwater manager at the water agency. New wells could not be permitted if they were found to diminish the quantity of surface water and instream water needed by the senior water rights holders.

Iverson said if permitting rules don’t change, it’s possible up to 50,000 Oregon wells that are 50 feet below the water table or less could go dry, costing hundreds of millions of dollars to replace.

In the last three years, the water resources department has received more than 1,000 complaints about wells run dry. Many are in areas where aquifers have been overdrawn after years of permitting with little regard for how much water is left, Woodcock, the agency director, said.

“What we’re concerned about is with the increasing summer temperatures, increasing water uses, that 1,000 wells is going to turn into many thousands,” he told the committee.

A coalition of environmental groups called the Oregon Water Partnership expressed relief the agency is willing to practice caution in permitting. The coalition includes The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Environmental Council, WaterWatch of Oregon, Wild Salmon Center, Trout Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund and Sustainable Northwest.

“The state has historically allocated groundwater rights without knowing whether water was really available,” said Zach Freed, sustainable water program Director for The Nature Conservancy, in a statement.

oregoncapitalchronicle

Community options

Continued From Page 1

enough to treat the outflow from about eight two-bedroom homes or limited commercial hookups. Because the drain field would be sited in the Blue River Par, some uses there would be impacted since roads or structures could be placed there.

Alternative 2 calls for Flex-Use zoning on the 16-acre Three Sisters Meadow property, adjacent to the McKenzie Community Track site. It would also allow ground-floor commercial structures in the downtown area, with second or third-floor housing. If additional parking space is needed, it would have to be accommodated behind buildings.

The third alternative, “Downtown Commercial,” would give a community wastewater system some additional capacity by siting another drain field on the Three

Sisters Meadow site. Soils there seem to be limiting the capacity of another drain field to about 2,500 gallons per day.

If a Flex-Use Zone is applied to the Three Sisters Meadow, new roads might be built to serve development in a new Community Commercial Zone.

“We have been working with community stakeholders and state partners for several months to gather information and ideas to guide the creation of the draft concepts,” said Lane County’s assistant planning director, Lindsey Eichner. “We are excited to bring these ideas to the larger community and start to refine what their vision is for the future of Blue River.”

Lane County is encouraging people to participate in the planning process by logging on to a virtual workshop that will remain open until November 20. The Virtual Workshop includes access to the draft alternatives, maps, diagrams, handouts, and tools for submitting comments. To learn more, go to: [tinyurl.com/mrrka965](http://tinyurl.com/mrrka965).

More fear wells are drying up

Residents meet to air concerns

**From the August 15, 2019 edition of McKenzie River Reflections**

LEABURG: Two dozen people who live in Leaburg met last week to compare worries about their residential water wells. Some from the Greenwood Drive area are concerned their wells may dry up and if they’ll have to drill new ones.

Someone who has already met that challenge is Roger Coalwell, president of the Greenwood Village Homeowners Association, who organized the meeting at the McKenzie Fire Training Center. “About six weeks ago I dug my new well. We went to 78 feet and I’m getting 25 gallons per minute,” Coalwell said. “Then all of a sudden everybody’s starting to have issues, just on our street alone.”

Checking with other nearby homeowners, Coalwell said that in the Whitewater neighborhood, “almost all of them are having issues.”

The size of the problem may have been reflected by the number of people who showed up on short notice. Many felt the draining of the Leaburg power canal could be a contributor. Figures from the Eugene Water

& Electric Board were also cited, indicating the McKenzie River is now flowing at its lowest level in the last ten years- averaging 1,800 cubic feet per second at Leaburg Dam versus a normal late summer flow rate of around 2,300 cfs.

On the financial front, the price of replacing a well can be considerable. Coalwell said his own costs included \$5,000 for drilling plus \$6,400 for another pump and accessories.

Some people felt there might be a way to save if they rehabbed existing wells rather than replacing them. One option could be to find a driller willing to bore down through the existing well casing. Another suggestion involved changing the position of the foot valve in the bottom of a well from what is normally ten feet above the bottom to only a foot above bottom. By doing that, some felt the cost might be reduced to only around \$300.

What might happen when the canal is refilled was also brought up.

“The longer it stays unfilled, the more issues you’re going to have,” Coalwell said. “It’s like having a wooden boat. If you take it out of the water and dry it out it’s going to leak like a sieve when you put it back in the water. All that stuff is going to shrink.”

The issue came up at EWEB’s August 6th board meeting in Eugene. Referring to the Walterville canal, the utility’s generation manager Mike McCann told the board that the hot weather this June. “was a red flag for us. We know that’s not a healthy condition for the embankment. We experience a little bit of desiccation drying of the embankment soils. Then when we rewater one of the seepage areas will react to that condition with ponding. We don’t get flowing water but we do get seepage at this particular location, which is behind the grocery store.”

The solution at Walterville has been to drop canal levels another six inches and then gradually raise the canal 1/10 of a foot per week to rehydrate the soils.

“That’s something we might consider during the next April outage (for annual maintenance) and replace sensitive soils that desiccate, dry and crack with more robust soils to stop that sort of deterioration,” McCann said.

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