



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

Sheriff's Reports

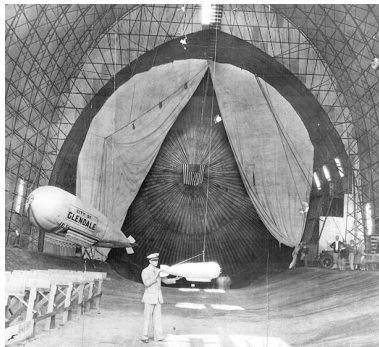
A male pulled over on the side of the road with a rifle, and left when confronted. The male had likely been shooting. No one was injured.

PAGE 3

Steam-powered Zepplin?

Oregon inventor Thomas B. Slate's dream of a business empire was built on shiny silver steam-powered airships.

PAGE 4



Briefs...

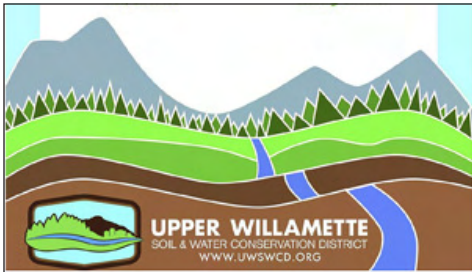


The 44th Annual Lane County Home & Garden Show will host more than 300 exhibits from March 8th to 10th at the Lane County Fairgrounds, 796 W. 13th Ave, in Eugene.

Headlining the show will be the Northwest's favorite gardener, Ciscoe Morris with OH LA LA Gardening. Discover an acre of exhibits staffed by trusted home and garden contractors, retailers, and suppliers. Shop for the latest in spas, tractors, garden equipment, building materials, and home décor.

Learn how to get your next project going at 40 home improvement, remodeling, building and gardening seminars and

Home Show - Page 2



The Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District is offering FREE Residential Home-Garden Soil Testing to McKenzie River Residents Impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire through June 1st. The home-garden soil tests will test for nutrients and Ph balance, and results will include information on soil deficiencies and recommended inputs.

Officials recommend that wildfire-impacted soil be tested for nutrients prior to planting. The tests will determine nutrient deficiencies for re-establishing productive home gardens but will not test for contaminants. For instructions for collecting

Soil tests - Page 2



House Bill 4147, which would allow school districts to add cameras to school buses to catch and ticket drivers who break state law by blowing past the stop signs and flashing red lights has passed the Oregon House on a bipartisan 49-5 vote and is headed to the Senate.

Oregon could join 24 states that have

Bus cameras - Page 2

Student launches bid for board seat

Seventeen year old tosses his hat into the 2025 election cycle

FINN ROCK: A member of McKenzie High School's junior class says he'd like to have a larger role in the education he's receiving. Devon Lawson, a student leader within the district, has decided to launch an early candidacy for School Board Position #6 in the 2025 election.

The seat is currently held by Tim Halloran, who was voted onto the board again in 2023. He's also served as board chair in the past and was recently highlighted in a School Board Appreciation Month posting that cited his "dedication to helping define the school vision for student and staff growth, along with identifying the needs of our families."

Lawson says he's committed to "high educational standards, unity across the

community, and innovative strategies to enhance learning experiences." He also says he aims to unite parents, teachers, and students "in fostering an educational



Devon Lawson is a junior at McKenzie High.

environment that excels in preparing students for the challenges ahead."

At the heart of Lawson's campaign are key commitments: raising educational standards, ensuring inclusivity while respecting diversity, and adopting innovative teaching practices to equip students for the future.

In addition, Lawson says his campaign is rallying community support for "a new vision of education - one that embraces collaboration, dedication, and innovation to inspire tomorrow's leaders today."

For further details on his campaign or to learn more go to: lawson4mckenzie@gmail.com while Lawson's official campaign website is under construction.

Owners show up for business boot strapping

Destination Creation class generated strong local turnout



It was a full house last Saturday in the newly constructed Vida McKenzie Community Center when entrepreneurs gathered to learn ways to strengthen their businesses' bottom lines.

VIDA: As she opened a business improvement class last week, Melissa Prestinario advised people to open up to ways they could effectively compete with "businesses that are bigger and better" by identifying their unique qualities to connect with customers.

Prestinario of RAIN (Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network) organized the 2-day event that features filmed sessions with Jon Schallert, a motivational speaker who developed his Destination Creation course by studying and interviewing over 10,000

independent business owners in over 500 cities and towns.

Part of Schallert's advice included examining how a business elevates its unique qualities - as well as identifying customers they can appeal to - and what they find most important. Independent business owners who apply those strategies, Schallert says, can attract more local consumers - along with others from outside their traditional marketplace.

Another Destination Creation class is scheduled for next Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VMCC.

Homeowners face soaring premiums

Major insurers in parts of Oregon have dramatically pulled back

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Nancy Matela co-owns a vacation home in a wildfire zone northwest of Bend that has a new, annual property insurance premium of \$9,000. It's more than nine times what the company Safeco charged her a year ago.

That policy remains her only option as well: Her broker couldn't find her another one.

Matela is among a growing number of homeowners in central, southern, and eastern Oregon who have faced higher annual premiums or had their policies canceled when they came up for renewal, with some insurers no longer writing new policies. That change came after the 2020 Labor Day Fires destroyed more than 4,000 homes, becoming the state's most expensive natural disaster in history, ac-

ording to state and federal emergency response agencies.

Since then, insurance markets in parts of Oregon have begun to look more like those

in California, where some of the largest insurance companies in the country are no longer renewing or writing new policies,

Soaring premiums - Page 11



Oregon Department of Forestry/Flicker

A wildfire burns close to a home near the Rogue River.

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Winter sports season has concluded. There are no contests scheduled.

Mt. West League Routed Out Of State Playoffs

Well, that didn't take long. The Mt. West League, arguably the weakest Class 1A Basketball League in the State, was a one-and-done show at the recent 2024 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union State Class 1A Basketball Championships First Round. The Boys First Round games took place around the State last Tuesday, February 20 and the Girls First Round games commenced last Wednesday, February 21.

There are eight Class 1A Basketball Leagues in the State and all but the Mt. West League qualified at least one team in the Second Round of the playoff format. This is the first season the Mt. West League has failed to advance a team out of First Round play.

On the Boy's side of the 2024 bracket, the Casco, Mt. Valley, and Big Sky Leagues advanced 3 teams each to Second Round play. The Skyline and Old Oregon League each moved 2 teams forward and although the High Desert League advanced 1 team, that team is Crane (26-1), the top-ranked team in the State.

The Boys Second Round games took place on Friday, February 23, setting the 2024 OSAA Quarterfinal field of Eight at Baker City. The Old Oregon, Mt. Valley, and Skyline Leagues will each be represented by 2 teams, and the High Desert and Casco Leagues by a single team.

Looking at the Girl's bracket, Second Round, the Old Oregon League sent 4 teams, a quarter of the Second Round of 16 teams. Not a bad representation!

The Skyline advanced 3 teams and the High Desert, Mt. Valley, Valley 10, and Casco Leagues each sent 2 teams. Following the Second Round action on Saturday, February 24, the Old Oregon League is still very well represented with 3 teams in the Quarterfinal field of Eight at Baker City.

The Valley 10 has 2 teams alive and the High Desert, Casco, and Skyline each have 1 standing. Worthy of note is that, as in the Boys Bracket, Crane (27-0) represents the last High Desert League team, but has earned the State's top ranking.

Mt. West League Dismal At State

The Mt. West League's Boys

and Girls teams were drubbed out of the First Round of the OSAA State Championships. Collectively, the MWL was 0-6.

The MWL Girls' teams lost by an average of 34 points and the Boy's teams, by 37 points. The Mapleton Boys team (23-3) fell to Bonanza (17-8) 76-44, on the Sailor's home court. Triangle Lake (13-9), the MWL second seed team, lost at Dufur (22-3) 47-73. And the third MWL seed, Crow/City Christian Academy (14-11) lost at top-ranked Crane, 25-78. Mohawk (17-9) represented the Mt. West League as this season's Champion and hosted Trout Lake/Glenwood (21-5). The Mustangs were defeated 48-16. Second seed Mapleton (15-12) followed suit at the State's second-ranked team, North Douglas (25-3), losing 30-58. And Eddyville Charter (14-11) took the long trip to top-ranked Crane and fell 30-72.

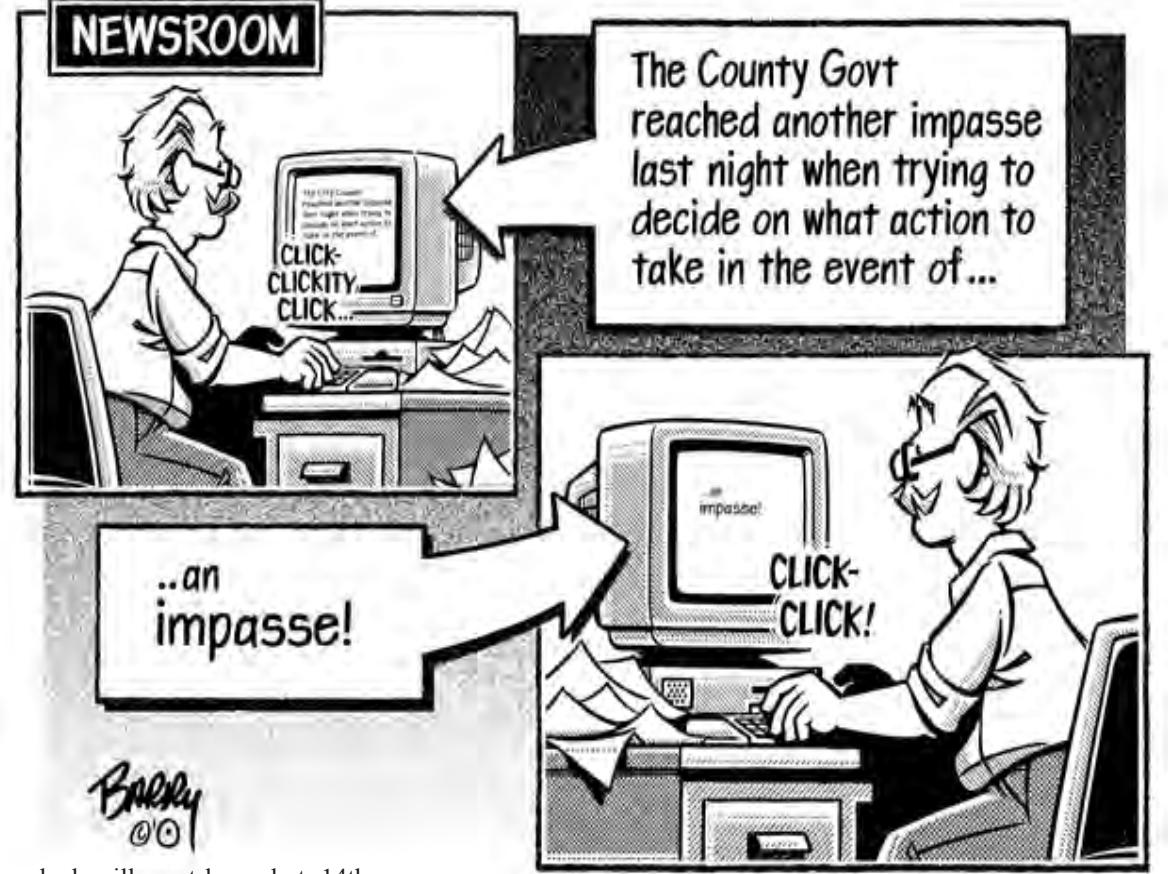
Crane Mustangs Stampeding Baker City

The State's top-ranked Class 1A basketball school, the Crane Mustangs are gearing up for a potential High Desert Celebration. Both the Mustangs Boys and Girls basketball teams are ranked number one in the State and have qualified for the State Championship Quarterfinals held at iconic Baker City.

Crane boys are defending and looking to three-peat their 2022 and 2023 State Championships and the Mustang girls took home the State's Second place trophy last year after winning the Championship in 2022. The teams have posted just one loss between them this season, the Mustang boys lost to Union, 46-58, on December 7, at the Union 1A Preview.

The Crane girls, one of two undefeated teams in the State, all Classifications (the other is Class 3A Corbett at 24-0) will 9th ranked Imbler (20-7) on Thursday, February 29, in the top half of the bracket. The Mustangs trounced the Panthers earlier in the season in non-league play, 66-27. Fourth-ranked Country Christian (21-7) will toe up to 5th-ranked St. Paul (21-6). Country Christian faced the Buckaroos earlier this season in non-league play and prevailed in a tight game, 28-23.

In the lower half of the Girl's bracket, 2nd ranked North Douglas (25-3) will tip off on Thursday, versus the Saints of North Clackamas Christian (22-4). Powder Valley (21-6) 6th



ranked, will meet long shot, 14th ranked Echo (20-8) in the other quarterfinal game.

The Quarterfinal Boys top-ranked Mustangs of Crane (26-1) will match up with the Bobcats of Union (22-7) in the top half of the bracket. As previously noted, the Mustangs are 1-0 versus the Bobcats this season. Trinity Lutheran (23-4), 4th ranked will meet 12th Crosshill Christian (21-6). The lower half of the Boy's bracket features the State's 2nd-ranked Nixyaawii Golden Eagles (21-4) playing 7th-ranked Lost River (23-4), the Raiders.

In the other lower quarterfinal match-up, two Skyline League members duke it out a third time this season. Eleventh-ranked North Douglas (23-5) tangles with 18th-ranked Elkton (19-6). The Skyline Champion Warriors of North Douglas lost 73-78, in Drain, to the Elks earlier in League games, on January 23. However, the Warriors claimed revenge with a 68-48 thumping of the Elks in the Skyline District Championship held at neutral North Bend on February 17.

Other Local Teams At State

The Oakridge Girls Basketball team qualified for the OSAA State Class 2A Quarterfinals held in Pendleton on Thursday, February 29. The Warriors will play Bandon. In Class 3A Quarterfinal action, the Harrisburg Boys will toe up to Burns on Thursday at Marshfield High in North Bend and the Creswell girls will meet Sutherlin, the same day and location.

Briefs...

Home Show

Continued From Page 1

register to win \$4,500 in KEZI-9 prizes.

Admission is free with donation of three cans of food for FOOD for Lane County, or \$5 tickets at the door. Parking is free and show hours are Friday, noon–9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information, go to EugeneHomeShow.com, email Info@EugeneHomeShow.com, or call 541-484-9247.

Soil tests

Continued From Page 1

soil samples and analysis go to: uwsacd.org/what-we-do/soil/

Allow up to four weeks from date of pick up to receive a soil analysis report. The analysis can be emailed to you or if email is not available, alternative options to receive your analysis will be provided.

Gas prices

Continued From Page 1

laws allowing the cameras, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The National Transportation Safety Board recommended every state allow the cameras after a pickup truck driver struck four children, killing three of them, in Indiana in 2018.







Oregon bus drivers have documented 1,427 incidents of drivers illegally passing them on one day, and around the U.S. bus drivers reported more than 62,000 violations in a single day.

However, funding for school districts to add cameras - or for local police to review footage and send tickets - wasn't included in the bill.

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.

Friday 3/1		Saturday 3/2		Sunday 3/3	
					
McKenzie Valley Rain/Snow 70% chance precip High: 43 Low: 32	Santiam Pass Snow 80% chance precip High: 28 Low: 18	McKenzie Valley Rain/Snow Shwrs 50% chance precip High: 43 Low: 32	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 60% chance precip High: 27 Low: 19	McKenzie Valley Rain/Snow Shwrs 50% chance precip High: 46 Low: 32	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 50% chance precip High: 31 Low: 20

WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
2/20	57	40	0.03	3,857 cfs
2/21	56	38	0	2,629 cfs
2/22	56	48	0	2,750 cfs
2/23	60	37	0	NA
2/24	59	33	0	NA
2/25	55	34	0.12	2,430 cfs
2/26	44	32	0.49	2,367 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
2/20	56	41	0.02	6,590 cfs
2/21	61	45	0.10	6,250 cfs
2/22	51	39	0.37	6,230 cfs
2/23	61	37	0	6,160 cfs
2/24	62	34	0	5,940 cfs
2/25	59	33	0	5,690 cfs
2/26	56	34	0.77	6,060 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Feb. 18: 12:55 a.m: Burglary - 91000 blk, Hill Rd. A residence was broken into while the residents were gone and items inside were stolen.

10:03 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Crooked Creek staging site.

3:05 p.m: Fraud - 88700 blk, Easy Ln. The victim's phone account was stolen and transferred to another number. A deputy is investigating.

5:56 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 87400 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A female wearing dark clothing was seen in the roadway screaming. She was not located by deputies.

Feb. 20: 9:53 a.m: Menacing - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd. A male was seen pulled over on the side of the road with a rifle, and left when confronted. Deputies determined the male had likely been shooting where he was pulled over, but no one was injured. Deputies are keeping an eye out for the vehicle, a gray Mazda sedan with California plates.

10:17 a.m: Animal Complaint - 95600 blk, Marcola Rd.

7:15p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 90800 blk, Hill Rd. The caller heard noises in her carport that sounded like a person. State police were in the area and responded. The noise was actually a family member who had stopped by to visit.

7:43 p.m: Recover Stolen Vehicle - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

9:12 p.m: Subpoena Service - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

10:29 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 37000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

Feb. 21: 9:53 a.m: Menacing - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd. A property caretaker threatened loggers working in the area. The property owner and loggers resolved the matter civilly and did not request further law enforcement assistance.

10:29 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 37000 blk, parsons Creek Rd. A vehicle parked in the area, and the driver left in a different vehicle. A deputy patrolled, and nothing else suspicious was noted.

Feb. 22: 11:00 a.m: Harassment - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

11:00 a.m: Harassment - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln.

11:09 a.m: Alarm - 89900 blk, Greenwood Dr.

12:22 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

12:43: p.m: Harassment - 3600 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Citizen self report about concerning text messages and possible stalking behavior by someone known to the complainant.

1:19 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McGowan Creek Milepost 3.

1:51 p.m: Harassment - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

3:11 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 36600 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

3:47 p.m: Harassment - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln.

A neighbor made derogatory comments while the caller was out for a walk, which has been an ongoing issue. A deputy contacted the caller.

3:53 p.m: Citizen Contact - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:33 p.m: Dispute - 40100 blk, York Ln. Residents were in a verbal dispute. They were contacted by a deputy and separated for the night.

5:21 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Leaburg Dr. & McK. Hwy.

5:46 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy & Leaburg Dr.

5:50 p.m: Fraud - 92700 blk, Paschelke Rd. The victim was contacted by a "Sgt. Scott Bishop" about a missed court appearance, and transferred \$750 from their bank account. The Lane County Sheriff's office will never ask for money or compensation of any kind by telephone, text, or email. This has been going on for a long time, but has gotten worse recently and many people in our community have lost significant amounts of money.

9:08 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

11:14 p.m: Theft - 46800 blk, McK. Hwy.

Feb. 23: 11:00 a.m: Harassment - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr. A neighbor accidentally damaged property while backing up their car. A deputy contacted both parties and the issue was resolved.

11:00 a.m: Harassment - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln.

11:09 a.m: Alarm - 89900 blk, Greenwood Dr.

12:22 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

12:34 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

12:44 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

1:19 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McGowan Creek mp 3.

3:53 p.m: Citizen Contact - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:21 p.m: Vehicle Stop -

Leaburg Dr. & McK. Hwy.

5:50 p.m: Fraud - 92700 blk, Paschelke Rd.

5:42 p.m: alarm - 36700 blk, Keller Ln.

5:46 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Leaburg Dr.

9:08 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

Continued On Page 10

State Police Report

Jan. 25: 13:55: Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, and Ross Ln. Unit 1 was westbound when it crossed eastbound traffic and left the road, striking a power pole on the south shoulder. Unit 1 came to rest in a field. Involved: black Lexus R35, 71-year-old female from Eugene.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Feb. 16: 19:52: 39297 McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

22:27: Deerhorn Rd./Dowdy Ln. False Alarm/Report of Fire. Investigate, No Fire.

Feb. 17: 2:00: 42669 McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

8:23: 40991 Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

11:52: 37593 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Feb. 18: 8:06: 38380 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:24: 38720 Natures Garden St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:47: McK. Hwy./Thurston Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/Non-Blocking.

16:48: 7916 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Deceased.

Feb. 19: 4:04: 88260 Millican Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

8:19: 44990 McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

11:16: 88690 Potter Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Feb. 20: 20:02: 89198 Alexis Ave Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

20:53: 39464 Walterville Ln. Mistaken Alarm.

Feb. 21: 11:16: 8045 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded En Route.

Feb. 22: 1:13: 43147 Deerhorn Rd. Medical, Heart. Deceased.

5:57: 42757 McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

9:23: 7715 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:12: 48485 McK. Hwy. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:12: 36668 Camp Creek Rd. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

23:13: 7080 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Cancelled prior to arrival.

Feb. 23: 9:00: 89057 Bridge St. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

23:45: 38495 McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Feb. 24: 7:50: 8557 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Refusal Obtained by E16

9:30: 41627 McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:47: 38865 E. Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Continued On Page 10

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Feb. 21: 09:08: Subject Down - 54000 block, McK. Hwy. Involved: red sedan with female occupant doubled over on the passenger side.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21st, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.



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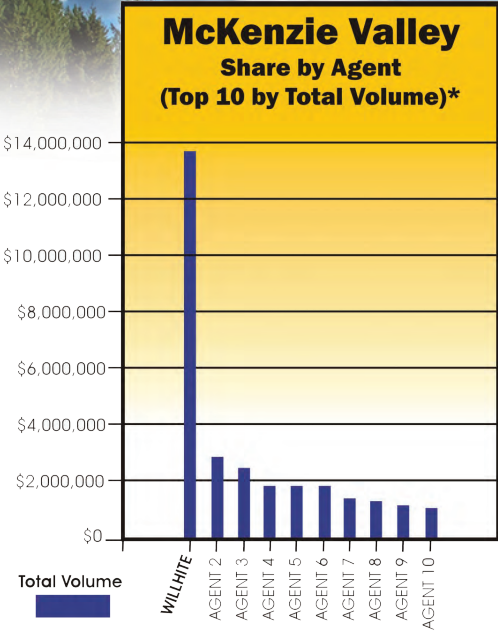
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*Per RMLS Statistics Based on Closed Home Sales in 2023

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All-metal steam-powered Zeppelin: Could it work?

By Finn J.D. John

Ironically enough, it was on the first day of winter — the winter after the 1929 stock-market crash that kicked off the Great Depression — that Oregon inventor Thomas B. Slate’s dream of a business empire built on shiny silver steam-powered airships received its death blow.

Slate had left his native state several years earlier and made a fortune by inventing and commercializing the production of “dry ice” — frozen carbon dioxide. Then he’d left, sold his company, and moved to Glendale, Calif., to launch a new venture: A nationwide line of passenger airships based on a revolutionary design he had worked out.

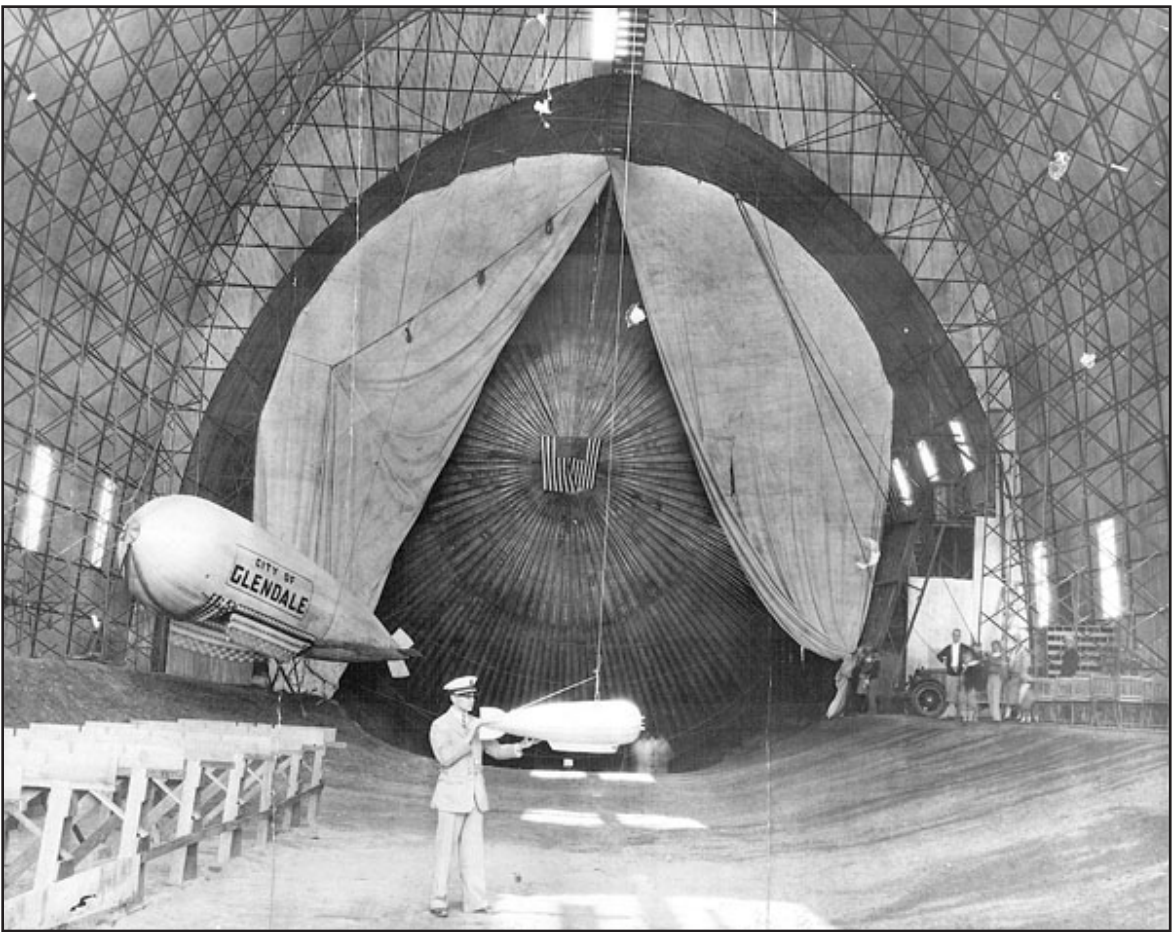
At first glance, the design looked ridiculous — like a piece of science-fiction hopefulness sketched out by an amateur without the benefit of any scientific or engineering knowledge. This initial appearance — together with the fact that Slate was best known for his innovations in dry-ice manufacture rather than for his aeronautical work during the First World War — has fooled more than one observer into assuming its inventor was just another rich guy with too much money and not enough knowledge, trying to force the laws of physics to conform to his dreams.

He wasn’t. Thomas B. Slate was the real thing. And so was his crazy airship.

The Slate dirigible was shaped like a colossal teardrop, with a big blunt front and a tapering-away tail. A long, streamlined cabin stretched along the bottom, with room for about three dozen passengers and crew to dwell in comfort and luxury during the anticipated 36-hour transcontinental journeys the airship would make.

Its hull was made entirely of aluminum, built-in strips that were folded together in a specially patented gas-tight manner and riveted in place, with deep symmetrical grooves leading from the nose back to the tail. At the front of the hull, on the tip of the nose, could be seen an improbably tiny, odd-shaped fan or propeller of sorts; at the tail, an equally improbably tiny set of control surfaces — rudder and horizontal stabilizers.

These elements were at the heart of the revolutionary design that Slate had created. The fan on the front was an impeller — a steam-powered blower that sucked great volumes of air out of the space just ahead of the airship and blasted it out to the sides in a great sheet of wind. This sheet of wind would be drawn to curve around the front of the airship by the venturi effect, creating a cushion of moving, partially-evacuated air



Slate Aircraft Co.
Thomas B. Slate inspects a couple of scale models in the hangar with the City of Glendale. The model he is handling appears to be a prototype of a more conventional design.

that would suck the hull forward even as it buffered the big airship from atmospheric turbulence. This artificial wind would have abated considerably by the time it reached the tail surfaces, but would still be quite strong enough that only very small ailerons and rudders would be needed.

Pipe-dreamy as this plan sounded, it worked fantastically well — at least, it worked fantastically well on the scale models Slate had tested in the wind tunnel at New York University. If the models scaled, Slate reckoned the full-size dirigible would require just 400 horsepower to transport 21,000 pounds of airship, passengers, crew, and luggage through the air at up to 100 miles per hour.

This propulsion system would make Slate’s design ridiculously cheap to operate. In addition, the system of offloading passengers via an elevator car traveling up and down a cable hanging beneath would make it possible to operate with complete independence of airfields and other expensive ground infrastructure — except for hangars to park the big things in when not in use.

Slate envisioned a nationwide airline network served with his big silver-teardrop airships shuttling passengers anywhere and everywhere in comfort, luxury, and profitability. The first step toward that goal was to get his prototype model into the air so that all the doubters could see that his revolutionary propulsion system would work.

So the inventor got busy in his giant blimp shed, working on the construction of the first model — which, with an eye toward public relations, he dubbed the “City of Glendale.”

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 1929, the City of Glendale took shape. City residents flocked to the airfield on each of the days when it was taken out and tested. Slate worked tirelessly to get the big airship ready for its maiden voyage.

As the ship neared its launch date, Slate made a few changes here and there; the high-pressure boiler was giving him trouble, so he left it out and purchased a big radial aircraft engine. It’s not clear whether this was a temporary measure for testing, or if he’d given up on steam as a power distribution system.

Finally, the big day came. In what would later seem a bitterly ironic twist, it was the first day of winter. But it was a warm day, and a beautiful one. Out came the City of Glendale, ready to show what it could do.

But as the Slate Aircraft Company crews busied themselves getting the big airship ready, the warm Southern California sun was beating down directly on the aluminum hull, and it was warming up. Soon the hydrogen inside was expanding ... and it soon became clear that the pressure-release valve had gotten stuck.

A sharp, explosive pop rang out. Bystanders ducked; it sounded like a gunshot. And then came another, and another. Rivets were being torn out of the big dirigible’s hull.

And then, with a sigh of escaping gas, the City of Glendale settled wearily down onto the tarmac and lay over on its side.

Slate was, of course, dismayed. But as yet he had no idea that his dream had just been destroyed. That came when the big dirigible was back in the shop, a week or two later, when he and his construction crews came to a horrible realization:

The envelope was not fixable. Because of the way each piece of aluminum interlocked with every other piece, the only way to replace the missing rivets and torn strips of aluminum would be to disassemble the whole thing, like a jigsaw puzzle, and start from scratch.

Had Slate used screws instead of rivets, that would have been doable, although hardly pleasant. But when he’d engineered the big dirigible, he hadn’t even considered the need to periodically repair pieces of the hull.

Slate got busy immediately, trying to raise the funds he’d need to build a second model. But the world had changed radically just two months before, on Oct. 29, 1929. The country was just plunging into what would become the Great Depression. Investors had stopped investing and started trying to salvage as much of their nest eggs as they could. There was no money available.

Some attempts were made to restart the project after the disaster. Nothing worked out, though. Finally, in 1931, the Slate Aircraft Company filed for bankruptcy.

Steam-powered dirigible - Page 10



By Slim Randles

This Saturday morning, an old man here in New Mexico will act just a bit silly again as he has these past 50-odd years on the first Saturday in March.

I admit to being the silly old man in this case. So what will I do on Saturday? I’ll open my closet and carefully take down my handmade gold parka that makes me look like a walking bunch of pillows stuffed in a down sleeping bag. Then I’ll walk around and remember seven sled dogs who shared a famous trail with me those many long years ago. They certainly weren’t the best sled dogs in that first Iditarod Dogsled Race from Anchorage to Nome, but they were the best I had. Well, six of them were. I had to borrow a dog to make a team of seven, which was the minimum-sized team that first year.

I didn’t win any of that prize money. In fact, I didn’t make it to Nome. I went about 350 miles and crushed an ankle under the sled runner and a couple of kids who didn’t appear to be old enough to shave flew me and the team to a hospital in Anchorage in a helicopter. The wonderful lady who made that parka for me and ran race headquarters and was my wife at that time was named Pam. She died on Christmas Eve.

For the next five years, I served as a race official. And, after that first year, the minimum-sized team was expanded to nine dogs. I was the only fool, ever, to start that race with only seven dogs.

Here, let me bow and introduce myself ... Seven-Dog Slim at your service.

I won’t be out on that trail this year because it’s warmer here in my New Mexico home with the furnace working properly. But part of me will be there when those teams leave Anchorage Saturday morning. Part of me will always be there, Wishing brave dog mushers well doesn’t get old, even if we do. Be careful, guys and gals, and have a safe and wonderful race. It’s a very long way to Nome.

Best wishes from Seven-Dog Slim.

Brought to you by the Anchorage animal shelter, who kept me in good, workable, loving dogs back in the 70s. Thank you.

Quote of the Week

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Gardening Tips



Change at nurseries is constant



By Mike Darcy

Change is inevitable. Whether we like it or not, change is constantly with us and the nurseries are no exception. Sometimes the change can be a step forward with the result either creating a better environment or perhaps the change could be keeping a business, like a garden center, alive.

We, as gardeners, have very little, if any, input into these matters and can only hope that the change will be beneficial for our gardening needs.

Several years ago, Joy Creek Nursery, a specialty nursery in Scappoose, Oregon, closed. The owners wanted to retire and there were no viable buyers. This was a sad time for many local gardeners because Joy Creek Nursery was well known in the garden community as being a source of many hard-to-find plants. They also had plant collections of hydrangeas, clematis, penstemons, and hardy fuchsias, many of which were featured in their display garden.

When a nursery like this disappears, it is a loss to the garden community because there is often

no viable alternative available.

When Dancing Oaks Nursery and Gardens opened 27 years ago in Monmouth, Oregon, owners Leonard Foltz and Fred Weisensee had a long-term vision. They wanted to create a nursery that would feature perennials, trees, and shrubs that were not readily available in many mainstream garden centers. They wanted to be known as a specialty nursery where plant collectors could find unusual plants.

Of course, they also wanted to introduce these plants to the average urban gardener, and thus, a display garden was created. Here gardeners could see and learn about new plants and see them growing in an outdoor environment. It was an instant hit, so who could envision a subsequent change?

At The Hardy Plant Society's Plant Nerd Night last year, when Fred Weisensee began his presentation, three of Fred's nieces came onto the stage and were introduced as possibly a new generation to carry on the legacy of Dancing Oaks. Fred and Leonard are not ready to retire but need to have some options when the time comes. They do not want to pressure these nieces, but it would be nice to keep Dancing Oaks in the family. So, maybe all change is not inevitable.

Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne of Northwest Garden Nursery in Eugene, Oregon, began a hellebore breeding program over 30 years ago. During the early years, they dabbled in breeding hellebores but also had a retail

nursery to run, and a 1.5-acre display garden to maintain, they participated in many plant sales throughout the area.

When Plant Nerd Night began in 2001, they were one of six presenters at the inaugural event. They have since been presenters several times.

Wanting to obtain the best hellebore stock available, they traveled abroad to get first-rate breeding stock and visited premium breeders in England, Holland, and Germany. All of this takes time, and the hellebore breeding program began to become a major focus of their business. They have created new colors and new color combinations of both single and double forms.

Through their efforts, hellebores have become widely planted in many Northwest gardens. They have been instrumental in introducing gardeners to the wide and varied selection of hellebores that we see in garden centers today.

Now, after more than 30 years of hybridizing hellebores and creating many varieties, Ernie and Marietta have come to a time in their lives when they need to pass the torch. Thus, they are exploring their options. They are very pleased and gratified to find that Little Prince of Oregon Nursery is willing to take on the breeding and sales of Winter Jewels® hellebores and continue their legacy.

In the local retail world, Lori and Richard Vollmer of Garden Fever!, have sold their very popular northeast Portland garden center to two employees, Tim and Shawna O'Neal.

Garden Fever! has been such a unique and eclectic garden center and many gardeners hope that it will retain the same good vibe that it has had. Tim and Shawna have similar thoughts and the hope is to continue the great things that the store has provided gardeners and plant enthusiasts with for the past twenty years, while also making some changes along the way to reflect their interests and creativity. Change can be innovative and creative.

Change often reflects the best of things that can happen and what customers can anticipate, but it also can stimulate gardeners to incorporate changes and explore new changes that reflect their interests. Let us hope that all of these new owners can maximize the changes and continue to provide successful garden centers that attract customers and thrive.

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Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



ONE-ROOM SCHOOL MEMORIES

As I sorted through my realm of writing research recently, I came across a map of the one-room schools that existed many years ago in the NH town where I now live. It brought back memories of my early childhood. One-room schools also form part of my family heritage since my mother and grandmother taught in these small buildings, as well as several of my mom's cousins.

The school I attended in New York State had six grades with 30-40 students total. One teacher prepared lessons, taught and disciplined these students without aides, parent volunteers, or principal. The district superintendent visited occasionally.

Now that I have taught and done substitute teaching, I marvel at these teachers who worked with so many students of different ages and learning levels.

Mother and Grandmother Teaching

I have pictures of my mother's schools and students, also two of my grandmother and students standing in front of her school. Mother enjoyed taking photos with her Brownie camera, so snapped shots of the children working and playing.

Some of her students still visited her when she was in her 80s. It seemed that those who gave the 19-year old teacher the most problems in her first year of teaching thought the most of her and visited her in her home frequently. They laughed over some of the escapades these boys tried to get away with.

My One-Room School Days

My first four years of school bring back fond memories of Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Burr. They were very different in teaching style, but I remember favorite

lessons with each of them.

As the population grew in our small town, the students were too numerous for the school. So the school board and parents began looking for other solutions. The first was having double sessions, one group of students in the morning and another in the afternoon.

The next year, our school became part of a larger district. The students in the fifth and sixth grades attended a school 15 miles away. We rode the bus for one hour over back roads to pick up youngsters in other towns. Our small school and world had become part of a larger one, expanding our experiences and horizons.

No Hot Lunches

There was no hot lunch in the one-room school. We brought our own everyday. As my sister and I grew older, we had the job of making sandwiches and packing lunches for our brothers and us. Mother often had homemade cookies and cake for our desserts.

Never Fail Chocolate Cake was a delicious snack cake, also one for lunch boxes. Mother often made it.

Place into a mixing bowl in the following order: 1 egg, 1/2 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup vegetable shortening, 1 1/2 cup sifted flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup sour milk or buttermilk, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup hot water.

Do not stir until the last ingredient has been added. Then beat together well. Bake at 350 degrees F. in layer pans or 9-inch square pan until tests done. Ice with favorite frosting or top with whipped cream.

(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

March 2

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.

March 2

Destination Creation

People who would like to turn their business into a unique destination that customers go out of their way to visit are invited to apply for the Destination Creation Course, a nationally recognized training program for small businesses to become “can’t miss” consumer destinations. A free event valued at \$800 (with breakfast & lunch provided) will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane. For more information, and to be placed on the invitation list, contact Melissa Prestinario: melissa@raincatalysts.org

March 2

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.

March 2

Emergency Planning

McKenzie Fire & Rescue is inviting district residents to attend a community meeting on Saturday, March 2nd, from 10 a.m. to noon. Discussions will include emergency planning and preparedness, agencies and organizations, and reviewing lessons learned following the recent ice storm.

The meeting will be held at McKenzie Fire & Rescue’s Training Center in Leaburg.

March 4

Kids Eat Free

Kids eat free every Monday (with adult meal purchase) at Craig’s Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry’s Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Takeout, Dine-in, Outdoor

seating (541) 726-9088.

March 5

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.

March 5

Coffee with Locals

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals from 10 to 11 a.m. at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd. (paid for by Locals Helping Locals). Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

March 5

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.

March 5

EWEB Meeting

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB’s Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed. The President will announce the speaking time at the start of the Public Input session. Alternatively, you may submit written testimony

to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

March 6

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.

March 6

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.

March 6

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 Tuesday of every month. Bring some snacks to share

March 6

BR Water Board

The Blue River Water Board will meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com

March 6

BR Park Board

The Blue River Park Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com.

March 8

Art Walk

The Second Friday Art Walk is scheduled from 4 to 7:30 p.m. It starts at the Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, in downtown

Springfield.

March 9

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.

March 9

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.

March 11

Parks Committee

The Lane County 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.

March 11

Spfd School Board

The Board of Directors of the Springfield School District 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. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street.

March 12

Tiny Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Hwy. in Rainbow 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.

March 11

Tourism Committee

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every second Tuesday of the 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

March 30

Grange Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt will begin right at 10 a.m. so don’t be late (they go fast). Be sure the kids bring their own baskets to put the eggs they find in. There will be some special eggs with special prizes in them. Every egg will have a surprise in it. There are three age groups: 4 and under; 5 and 6; and 7 and above. There is no charge, and all are welcome. We are still collecting donations for the new siding and windows on the west side of the building if you care to donate.

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 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.

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.

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Ulterior Motive



Life was not this complicated a year ago--said laughing while banging their head on the keyboard. I can make this short, but there is so much and I want to be fair.

Stage one: friends. A friend decides our relationship needs to be advanced to a sexual/dating level. This was probably his objective when we first started hanging out, however, I could not picture us together. He was not my type, the age difference was huge (15 years), and I just couldn't see an "us."

Stage two: friends plus. Imagine my surprise when I fell head over heels in love. He quickly and effortlessly became my favorite person in the whole world. Once we started sleeping together, well, he's the best I ever had, and he's said the same about

me. Regardless, it's been a huge headache.

He's got this nice little routine that works for him, and I never once worried about losing my independence because he was so dead set against losing his. It didn't take long to realize I adore this man, and we fit great together. At the beginning of the end was saying this aloud to him.

I know the rules: always hang up first, leave them wanting more, never give details, blah, blah, blah. But I decided to love him and that negated the Barbie and Ken mating ritual in my mind. Not in his. The chase was the most exciting part to him.

Stage three: stage fright. He "loves me but is not in love with me." (What does that mean, anyway?) We started the cycle of break up, just friends, get together, have sex, break up, etc. We finally stopped dating, again, two months ago. I've been heartbroken since.

Valerie, in one of P.G. Wodehouse's novels, Bertie Wooster says, "It's like Shakespeare. It sounds well enough, but it doesn't mean anything." That is what we think of "I love you, but I'm not in love with you." It sounds well enough,

but it doesn't mean anything good. What does it mean? It means "I don't love you."

One line of your note jumped out at us. "He's got this nice little routine that works for him." That's the situation in a nutshell. He's got this nice little routine that works for him. Not for both of you, but for him. And he doesn't want to change. You believed his objective from the start was to advance your friendship to a sexual level. Friendship was never his objective.

It might help you to think of this man as a confirmed bachelor who keeps women on a shelf until he needs them. Or think of him as a married man, married to himself. It is futile to pursue a confirmed bachelor or a married man.

What is in your heart? That there is a purpose to dating. There is a goal. You want someone you love, who loves you, in a mutually exclusive relationship leading to marriage. Once you realize you cannot go there with this man, you can move on.

Wayne & Tamara

Science Fiction

I recently had sex with a girl from work. It was only a bit of fun, and it only happened once, but now she says she is pregnant. I made it quite clear I do not want this baby, but she has not even considered what I have to say. She is keeping the baby.

Now, it's like I have been used in some way. My head is in bits.

Is there some way of dealing with this so she cannot come to me in the future asking for money?

Earl

Earl, if H.G Wells' time machine existed, you could go back in time and wear a condom while you are having your "bit of fun." That is no less a fantasy than believing you are not financially responsible for your child.

Wayne & Tamara

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

We Lived Happily During the War

By Ilya Kaminsky

And when they bombed other people's houses, we

protested but not enough, we opposed them but not

enough. I was in my bed, around my bed America

was falling: invisible house by invisible house by invisible house.

I took a chair outside and watched the sun.

In the sixth month of a disastrous reign in the house of money

in the street of money in the city of money in the country of money, our great country of money, we (forgive us)

lived happily during the war.

"We Lived Happily During the War" from the Poetry International website. Copyright © 2013 by Ilya Kaminsky. Reprinted by permission of Ilya Kaminsky.

Poet Ilya Kaminsky was born in the former Soviet Union city of Odessa. He lost most of his hearing at the age of four after a doctor misdiagnosed mumps as a cold, and his family was granted political asylum by the United States in 1993, settling in Rochester, New York. After his father's death in 1994, Kaminsky began to write poems in English. He explained in an interview with the Adirondack Review, "I chose English because no one in my family or friends knew it—no one I spoke to could read what I wrote. I myself did not know the language. It was a parallel reality, an insanely beautiful freedom. It still is."

Kaminsky went on to earn a BA in political science at Georgetown University and a JD at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. With Paloma Capanna, he co-founded Poets for Peace, which sponsors poetry readings across the globe to support relief work. He has also worked as a clerk for the National Immigration Law Center and for Bay Area Legal Aid.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brad Pease has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of James Richard Nakadate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at the law office of Bassinger Hoyt LLC, Attn: Thomas H. Hoyt, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401 within four months after the first date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Thomas H. Hoyt, OSB #660662, Bassinger Hoyt LLC, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401, 541-687-8700, thoyt@bassingerhoyt.com.

Date of publication 2/1/2024

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

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Solution on Page 9

29. *Golgightly of little black dress and sunglasses fame
32. Tchaikovsky's fowl
33. Bro's sib
36. *Nothing came between her and her Calvins
38. Loud noise
40. Car's unique identifier, acr.
41. Diamond on a sweater
44. Awaken
46. Rough
48. Type of juniper
49. Proclamation
50. Bluish green
51. Billy Joel's "_____ the Good Die Young"
52. Bulgarian money
53. Glory prerequisite
54. Above
55. NFL's Lamar Jackson in 1923, e.g.
58. Done with "my little eye"?

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Oregon - most entrepreneurial in the US?

New research reveals locations of startup launches

The Vida McKenzie Community Center and Jerry's Home Improvement Center are joining forces to bring a thrilling opportunity to "shop 'til you drop" while also supporting VMCC. The lucky winner will receive a gift bag containing a Jerry's tee shirt and hat plus a \$1,000 Jerry's Home Improvement gift card.

Tickets are available by contacting Gerry Aster (541-896-3001, gerryaster@gmail.com) and are priced as follows: One ticket for \$25, three tickets for \$60 and ten tickets for \$100. If you pay by

credit card, there will be a 3% fee, so the full value of your ticket purchase goes to VMCC.

The winning ticket will be drawn at VMCC's 4/6/24 Grand Opening Celebration held at the newly constructed Vida McKenzie Community Center building (90377 Thomson Lane, Vida). You do not need to be present to win but we would sure love to see you there!

Thank you for supporting VMCC! Questions? Call or email Gerry Aster

Oregon ranked top of the list with close to 20,000 new businesses opening in the state last year

Idaho and Montana share second place, each having a 10.5% increase in business openings

Washington finished last with nearly 28,000 fewer businesses opening in 2023

New research has revealed the most entrepreneurial states, with Oregon topping the list.

The study, conducted by QRFY, analyzed data from the US Bureau of Labor statistics to find the number of new businesses in 2022 compared to 2023; each state was ranked according to the difference rate.

Oregon tops the list with an increase of 10.7% (equating to 19,423) new businesses opening in 2023, meaning there are now 200,766 registered establishments in the state, rising from 181,343.

Neighboring states Idaho and Montana share second place, each having a 10.5% increase in business openings – 8,922 and 6,201 respectively. The former jumped from 85,354 to 94,276 while the

latter rose from 59,303 in 2022 to 65,504 in 2023.

Virginia is extremely close behind in third, with a 10.4% rise in new businesses, with figures growing from 323,607 in 2022 to 357,131 in 2023.

With a 9.3% increase in new businesses, equating to a difference of 7,497, Mississippi places fourth making it the highest-ranking southern state. The figure was up from 80,215 in 2022 to 87,712 last year.

Hawaii follows in fifth place as the number of businesses increased by 4,784 (9.3%) from 51,738 in 2022 to 56,522 in 2023.

At the other end of ranking, Washington is the least entrepreneurial state with 27,954 fewer businesses opening in 2023 (241,004) compared to 2022 (268,958), equating to a decrease of 10.4%.

Nebraska is next in the ranking with a 2.2% decrease, giving a figure of 1,743 and declining from 78,549 in 2022 to 76,806 in 2023.

Maryland follows behind Nebraska with a decrease of 0.5%, which meant a reduction of 890

businesses compared to the previous 12 months, with a total of 187,147 businesses in 2023.

Next is Iowa, the only other state that experienced a decline, which stands at 0.1% with 110,667 businesses in 2022 compared to 110,535 in 2023.

New Mexico rounds off the bottom five with a very marginal increase of new businesses (0.3%) equating to 223, up to 66,732 from 66,509 in 2022.

Commenting on the findings, Marc Porcar, CEO of QRFY said: "While there are a few states with negative figures, it's excellent to see the number of businesses in most areas increased, even if only slightly in some cases; most are over 5%, which indicates a healthy growth figure."

"Interestingly, the top three were all located in the Northwest and have all witnessed an increase of over 10%. While last place Washington, which is in the same location, surrounded by the top three states declined by around the same figure."



A Moment
in Oregon
History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

February 27 - Anne Shannon Monroe was an adventurous woman. Born in Missouri, she came to Portland in 1907 and fell in love with the Northwest. In pursuit of a freelance writing career she moved to New York, and later to Chicago. Her stories appeared in most of the major magazines of the time but finally, fed up with big city life, she returned to Oregon. She spent time hiking in the Cascades and lived in Central Oregon as she began writing Happy Valley, a novel depicting a family's struggles to develop a High Desert homestead. The book was published in 1916 and was followed by many other books. Today Anne Shannon Monroe is considered one of Oregon's most successful authors.

Ski Report

February 27, 2023

The Hoodoo Ski Resort reported temperatures of 30 degrees at the base and 22 degrees at mid-mountain on Tuesday. A half inch of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 70 inches. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 16 degrees at the base and 11 degrees near the summit on Tuesday. 5 inches of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 106 inches. Crews were busy working on storm recovery and assessing the wind. The Summit was closed for the day due to a storm in progress – check the resort for updates. 69 of 122 trails were open, along with 8 of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

What is?

Destination Creation

Would you like to turn your business into a unique destination that customers go out of their way to visit? McKenzie River business owners are invited to apply for our Destination Creation Course, a nationally-recognized training program for small businesses to become can't-miss consumer destinations!


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MRR McKenzie River Reflections

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

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McKenzie Fire honored its best

McKenzie Fire & Rescue recently held their 2023 Awards on Saturday, February 24th in an academy award winning event. Volunteers, staff, and their families came together, encouraged to dress as their favorite TV/Movie characters, for a night of recognition, reflection, and celebration.

In addition to the volunteers, Chief Bucich also recognized Board members, Budget Committee members, the Booster Association, and special guests for their continued commitment and dedication to the community and fire district.



The 2023 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Jeff Fox and Dale Ledyard.



15-Year Recipients: Bruce Daniel, Board of Directors, left, and Darren Bucich.

Awards handed out for the 2023 year include Service Awards for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years, Volunteer of the Year, Officer of the Year, the Chief's Awards, and a special award, the Red Blotzer award was presented.

Fire Chief Darren Bucich stated "we have an amazing family of volunteers who keep the Fire District operating successfully and without them, we wouldn't exist. We are thankful for their continued service, and for the ongoing support of their families, our

Board and Budget Committee, and the Booster Association."

The 2022 Chief's Award was given to the McKenzie Valley Long-Term Recovery Group in recognition of their continued and relentless efforts to assist the communities within the McKenzie Corridor and McKenzie Fire & Rescue following the Holiday Farm Fire in 2020.

The Red Blotzer Award is a special award presented to a member of McKenzie Fire & Rescue whose dedication to community



Safety Committee (L to R): Cody Dean, Vida Station; Jim Ellis, Leaburg Station; Bart Thompson, Safety Officer (Gru, Despicable Me); Rusty Flinders, Camp Creek Station (Fred Flintstone); and Donny Smith, Waltherville Station.

members goes above and beyond. The 2023 recipient of this prestigious award is Joel Zeni. Joel has been an integral part of the community, serving the McKenzie Corridor both during and following natural events such as wildfires, snowstorms, ice storms, and landslides, sometimes at his own expense.

Joel is a hard worker, managing his home life, personal business, professional business, and many projects, while still actively responding for both McKenzie Fire

& Rescue and Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue feels strongly that Joel is a man of the highest integrity, with the biggest heart, and is "in it for all the right reasons."

Also recognized during the evening was the Safety Committee, who meet monthly to review safety practices and processes. students currently enrolled in our Student Program were also introduced and thanked.



The 2023 Officer of the Year award was presented to Clayton Canfield.



Student Program (L to R): Kodi Wardlaw (Caesar), Maria Hernandez (Homer Simpson, The Simpsons), and Adrian Montes.



20-Year Recipient: Bart Thompson (Gru, Despicable Me).

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

11:14 p.m: Theft - 46800 blk, McK. Hwy. Unknown suspects cut a Charter Communications cable, causing a loss of \$4,000. It appears they were attempting to steal wire, but were unsuccessful.

Feb. 24: 12:32 a.m: Disorderly Subject - 39400 blk, Upper Camp Creek.

10:17 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 40100 blk, York Ln.

10:57 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - McGowan Creek near Mp. 3.

11:25 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - 88300 blk, Waltherville Lp.

12:35 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 8300 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:23 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy Mp. 42.

2:24 p.m: Welfare Check - 38300 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:35 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy Mp. 42.

6:44 p.m: Citizen Contact - Leaburg Fire Station.

Feb. 25: 10:37 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Mohawk loop Rd.

10:44 p.m: Alarm - 90800 blk, La Lone Rd.

Feb. 26: 1:18 p.m: Civil Service - 91900 blk, Marcola Rd.

1:39 p.m: Civil Service - 39400 blk, Ann Ln.

1:50 p.m: Civil Service - 91100 blk, Marcola Rd.

2:24 p.m: Civil Service - 37500 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:41 p.m: Civil Service - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:36 p.m: Civil Service - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

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

Steam-powered Zeppelin

Continued From Page 1



Slate Aircraft Co. Workers assemble the aluminum hull of the City of Glendale.

After the company failed, Slate's son Claude took the lead in trying to interest others in picking up where his father had left off, even sending a proposal to the U.S. Congress to earn a grant. Nothing came of this at the time, probably partly because of the counterintuitive nature of the engineering systems Slate developed. After 1937, reviving the idea became almost an impossibility, as the Hindenberg disaster had soured nearly everyone on the very idea of airship travel.

Eventually, Thomas Slate and

his family found their way back to Oregon and settled back into life in Slate's old hometown of Alsea. He continued to invent things, and his patent filings continued to show a Tesla-like ability to reimagine and innovate. They included a cyclone-generating device for removing smog from the air and a radically reimagined flying-boat design. He died a week before his 100th birthday, on Nov. 26, 1980.

(Sources: Slate Aircraft Co. Website, slateaircraft.com; Benton County Historical Society, bchsnow.org; Flight Magazine, Feb. 7, 1929; Radecki, Alan. "Slate's Strange Dirigible," vintageairphotos.blogspot.com, 20 Aug 2013)

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.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

19:47: 44025 Canal Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Feb. 25: 13:50: 41333 McK. Hwy. MVA. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained./Traffic Control.

Feb. 26: 7:35: 45947 N. Gate Cr. Rd.. Medical, General. Patient

Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, March 18th 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.

“Write Your Life - 3” Workshop at the Leaburg Library



The Leaburg Library is delighted to announce that Duane Noriyuki is back with a third “Write Your Life” workshop. This six-week memoir workshop will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 21st, and will run through Thursday, April 25th. The program is free, and will meet in the library’s Annex Room.

If you participated in the first or second workshop, you can just pick up where you left off. If you are new, you can start fresh. All are welcome.

“This workshop isn’t about correct grammar or spelling, or putting commas in the right places, or about getting published. It’s about examining one’s life and writing about it,” Duane said. “What

is important is finding your own voice.”

Duane is a local resident and former staff writer for the Los Angeles Times and co-founder of InsideOUT Writers, a program for detainees in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Hall system.

He is the author of “Postcard From Deerhorn,” a NextDoor series of essays about life on the McKenzie River, and a contributor to the McKenzie River Trust “On The Land” Winter Writers Series of essays.

To sign up, please contact the Library Director, Marty Mealley, at 541-896-3817, or stop in at the library - right next to the McKenzie Fire and Rescue building in Leaburg.

and where the number of people turning to a state-backed insurer of last resort has doubled in recent years.

“If you want to know what the next five years look like in Oregon, look at southern California,” said Perry Rhodes, who has sold property insurance policies for Farmers in Bend for the last two decades. “If you want to know what this looks like if things get even worse, look back east to Florida,” he added. Farmers announced last year it would limit new property insurance policies in California and no longer sell any new property policies in Florida.

Rhodes said it used to be extremely rare to find a customer whose property was at such a high risk that he had to refer them to other companies. Now, he said, he sends about half of potential customers to other insurers because Farmers won’t cover them.

“The only homes that we know for sure are going to be eligible are the ones that are, so to speak, right in the middle of town, and right next to the fire department,” he said.

Oregon’s insurance commissioner, Andrew Stolfi, told the Capital Chronicle the exodus of companies offering coverage in parts of Oregon is not as severe as in California, which has been driven by high payouts for recent wildfire losses and state consumer protection laws that previously capped annual insurance premium hikes.

Nevertheless, Oregon lawmakers are aware of the predicament. But recent laws passed by the Legislature to encourage insurance companies to reward customers for hardening their homes and communities against wildfires have had little impact so far, according to more than a dozen policyholders, agents, brokers, and industry leaders.

Democratic Sen. Jeff Golden of Ashland, who’s been behind several wildfire proposals, and industry and fire experts say investing in fire-resistant roofs, siding, and clearing out vegetation to make communities resilient and accessible to firefighters are the only

Soaring premiums

Continued From Page 1

options to bring insurers back to parts of the state and curb rising premiums.

In the current session, Golden is behind Senate Bill 1511, which would create a one-time \$5 million grant program to help Oregonians establish neighborhood protection groups focused on creating and managing defensible space around homes to help fight a wildfire and clearing yards of debris. It would also begin the process of creating a state-backed certification program for wildfire prevention for homes and neighborhoods, to encourage insurers to continue writing policies and to slow rising premiums.

“Absent that, I’m not seeing an obvious path to a viable insurance system for wildfire in the state. If somebody’s got alternatives, I’d like to hear it,” he said.

Golden helped secure over \$30 million for home hardening in 2021. But in 2023, the Legislature allocated about 10% of that.

Rising premiums

In Oregon, premiums are up an average of nearly 30% since 2020, according to the state’s Department of Consumer and Business Services. It reflects nationwide increases, according to several insurance marketplace reports. But in Bend, Ashland, Medford and Hood River, agents said premiums for most people have doubled or quadrupled due to the wildfire risk, and policies under \$1,000 per year have become extremely rare.

Agents said policies on some homes near Ashland have risen as much as 600% in the last four years.

Barbara Klein lives in Ashland within a mile of two fire stations. She said her home insurance premium with Allstate nearly tripled in the last five years, from \$556 in 2019 to more than \$1,400 in 2023. When she got a promotion in the mail from Amica, she contacted the company to see if they could offer a cheaper premium.

“They started my application, but then said that a pop-up window – or something to that effect – showed that they ‘are not taking any more customers from your

area – due to fire risks,’” she said in an email. “They said that they never drop a customer, unlike the other companies, but didn’t want further risk from this area.”

Homeowners in Jackson, Hood River, Deschutes, Umatilla, and Malheur counties also say they’ve never seen premiums so high.

“Insurers are having to reckon with the fact that there has been a dramatic increase in natural disaster-related losses,” said Kenton Brine, president of the Seattle-based nonprofit industry group NW Insurance Council.

He said this has to do with climate change and where people have chosen to build.

“Companies either have to reduce their risk exposure to reduce the threat that a major wildfire will wipe them out, or they have to increase premiums, or they have to do both,” Brine said.

He added that companies are also adjusting premiums that have been artificially low in Oregon for years and have not kept up with rising inflation. He said they are also accounting for a reluctance by reinsurance companies, which insure insurance companies, to cover those that sell high-risk home policies.

Nevertheless, executive compensation and company valuations for some of the largest insurers have not declined significantly or at all since 2020. State Farm – the company with the largest share of Oregon’s property insurance market – is worth \$131 billion today, an overall increase of \$7 billion since 2020. The company’s CEO received more than \$24 million in total compensation in 2022, including a \$22 million bonus, compared with \$10 million in 2019.

Progressive is also worth more: from nearly \$58 billion in 2020 to more than \$110 billion today. Allstate’s stock is up more than 60% over the last five years, worth nearly \$42 billion today, though its CEO’s compensation dropped from \$19 million in 2021 to \$15 million in 2022, according to the business publication Crain’s Chicago Business.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

There Are Good Things To Keep In Mind



As we deal with another challenging year, resolutions for change are a good idea. Among actions to avoid, however, would be spending your hard-earned dollars outside our local communities.

Shopping at Home will help McKenzie Valley businesses continue to be supporters of area organizations, schools, and churches that in turn have counterbalanced the adverse impacts of the Lookout Fire..

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Rosanne Cash

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