



Sheriff's Reports

Female tenant was refusing to let the power be turned back on

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Bridge scandal

The astonishingly tone-deaf commission didn't budge

PAGE 4



Read first

There's a lot of information on the seed packet,

PAGE 5

Ocean temperatures favor salmon

Population decline though, is still a concern



TyleyHulett/Adobe Stock

Salmon numbers in the Pacific Northwest could improve due to colder ocean temperatures.

Eric Tegethoff
Oregon News Service
Recent data on ocean conditions could be good news for struggling salmon in the Northwest. But advocates for the species warn this isn't enough to stop their alarming slide.
The National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration is expecting ocean waters to remain cold and more food abundant for the fish along the West Coast. However Miles Johnson, senior attorney with Columbia Riverkeeper, noted this doesn't necessarily mean better conditions for a crucial part of their lives - in the

rivers where salmon spawn. "It's good to be in a good cycle," said Johnson. "But what this is an opportunity to fix the problems that we have in the freshwater and jumpstart some kind of recovery. It's not going to get us out of the hole that we're in."
Ocean temperatures - Page 2

McKenzie is among the best

EWEB water rated "Outstanding"

EWEB water rated "Outstanding"
The Eugene Water & Electric Board has received an "Outstanding" performance rating from the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services.
To qualify for this rating, the health authority conducted a comprehensive on-site review of EWEB's drinking water source

(the McKenzie River), treatment and storage facilities, distribution system, operation and maintenance procedures, and the utility's water quality monitoring program to evaluate EWEB's capability of providing safe water to the people of Eugene
To be recognized as an Outstanding Performer, a water

Hospital workers - Page 2



The utility takes 85,000 samples each year to ensure drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

ODOT airs options for federal infrastructure investments

Public is invited to comment on decision-making process

SALEM: Last Thursday the Oregon Transportation Commission began to consider options for allocating the \$412 million of flexible funding that is part of the \$1.2 billion in new transportation funding allocated to Oregon by the federal infrastructure package.
Under consideration are investing in ADA accessibility, road repair and maintenance, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and public transportation, as well as highway enhancements. Officials say the commission will use the scenarios to seek public comment and determine the best ways to allocate funds, but is not bound to choose any specific scenario.
Last week's meeting drew hundreds of written comments along with more than an hour of public comment. Elected officials and other members of the public from across the state provided a broad range of opinions.
Many of the comments shared a few major themes: investing in public transit along with projects for biking and walking, preserving roads and bridges, and ad-

dresssing highway bottlenecks.
This was the first meeting of the commission on the question of how to allocate these funds. It will hold additional meetings on the topic on February 17th, March 10th and March 30th.
At the March 30th meeting, the commission will provide their directives to ODOT on how to allocate the funds.
About \$800 million of the \$1.2 billion infrastructure package spending is directed to specific purposes including:
• \$268 million to repair and replace aging bridges.
• \$52 million to construct new electric vehicle charging stations across Oregon.
• \$82 million to invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
• \$94 million to increase the transportation system's resilience to earthquakes, natural disasters, and climate change.
• \$45 million to invest in improving transportation safety for all users.
• \$30 million for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

• About \$200 million for local governments to invest in community priorities.
• \$200 million in additional formula funding for transit.
A total of \$412 million of the federal funds are unallocated. That means the commission can direct these funds in more flexible ways.
"We deeply appreciate that our federal delegation delivered this funding for Oregon," said Commission Chair Robert Van Brocklin. "These resources will help us make vital improvements to our transportation system. We face a \$5 billion bridge maintenance backlog. The I-205 seismic and congestion project alone will cost upward of \$700 million. We need to invest heavily in electric vehicle infrastructure."
"We can make progress on many of our goals, but we cannot solve the vast majority of our funding problems with the money from this legislation," Van Brocklin added.
For more information go to: shorturl.at/gpJP4.

After strikes, hospital workers notch a win

Eric Tegethoff
Oregon News Service
Healthcare workers at an Oregon hospital have achieved what they say is a "win" after several strikes in recent months.
Nearly 300 workers and members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 49 at McKenzie-Willamette Medical

Center in Springfield are celebrating increases in their pay, their health subsidies and education fund.
Aaron Gordon, a certified nursing assistant at McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center and a member of SEIU Local 49, was among those who went on strike in October
Hospital workers - Page 2



SEIU Local 49
Workers at McKenzie Willamette Hospital were among a wave of workers nationwide that went on strike in October.

Letters to the Editor

Orchid Heath/ McKenzie River Clinic

I read the recent article that raised a question about the future of McKenzie River Clinic with some degree of concern. Since McKenzie River Clinic is the only health provider for much of the McKenzie River Valley it would be great loss to the community if they went away. I was surprised to learn that some clients had complaints. We have been regular patients at McKenzie River Clinic since moving here in December 2021 and have always found them to be friendly, responsive, and very professional.

I am a volunteer firefighter with the Upper McKenzie Fire Department and was very active in community service following the Holiday Farm Fire. During that time I had the privilege of

assisting McKenzie River Clinic as they looked after a number of their patients and ensured they had necessary medication when they were unable to get to town to fill their prescriptions. They were clearly proactive, going well beyond what might be reasonably expected of them under the circumstances. I was also impressed by how quickly they arranged to have a mobile unit available and procured temporary facilities in the former quilt store in Rainbow to continue to provide support for area residents.

I sincerely hope the McKenzie River Clinic continues to serve our community and look forward to their new facilities that will replace those lost to the Holiday Farm Fire.

Lemont Southworth
McKenzie Bridge



McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Girls Basketball team hosts Siletz Valley on Tuesday, January 25, with a tip-off at 5:30 pm. The Eagle Varsity Boys Basketball team will follow versus Siletz Valley at 7:00 pm.

Both McKenzie Varsity basketball teams travel to Triangle Lake on Wednesday, January 26. Game time for the Eagle Varsity Girls is 5:30 pm and the McKenzie Varsity Boys is 7:00 pm.

The McKenzie Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball teams travel to Crow on Thursday, January 27. Game time for the Eagle Varsity Girls is 5:30 pm and the Varsity Boys is 7:00 pm.

Virus Grounds Eagles Last Week

Covid virus concerns put the clamp on McKenzie Varsity Basketball last week. Tuesday's (1-18-22) game with Eddyville Charter and Saturday's (1-22-22) game with Crow were both canceled. The contests were originally scheduled for play at Finn Rock. There has been no word yet on if, and when, these Mt. West League games will be rescheduled in the future.

Eagle Hoops: January 1-11 thru 1-13-22

The McKenzie Varsity Girls Basketball team lost its three games two weeks ago, dropping to 0-5 in Mt. West League play.

MWL leader Mohawk traveled up the McKenzie, Tuesday, January 11 and defeated the Eagle Girls 63-7. Mohawk currently is undefeated in the Mt. West League, posting an 8-0 record, and with a 13-4 overall record, the Mustangs are ranked 17th in OSAA Class 1A rankings.

The following night, January 12, McKenzie Head Coach Jack

Devereaux's team hosted the Triangle Lake Lakers. Triangle Lake handed the Eagle ladies a 25-40 defeat.

The Eagle Girls team hit the road down to the Siuslaw the very next evening, Thursday, January 13, to toe up to the Mapleton Sailors. The Sailors sunk any Eagle victory hopes with a 48-22 win over the Finn Rock visitors. No individual game stats were available to report at press time.

The Eagle Varsity Boys team followed each Varsity Girls game mentioned above and Head Coach Joshua Henley's team fared no better versus Mt. West League opponents.

At home against the Mohawk Mustangs, the Eagles fell 11-85. The next night versus the Lakers, also at home, McKenzie was defeated 21-58. And down on the road at Mapleton, Henley's troops returned home with a 28-50 loss.

Thus far, the Eagle Varsity Boys Mt. West League record stands at 0-5. There were no individual game stats to report on at press time.

Among the best

Continued From Page 1

system must not have any contamination violations in the last five years, and no more than one monitoring or reporting violation in the past three years. EWEB had none. A water system also must have no significant deficiencies or rule violations during the current water system survey and no waterborne disease outbreak to the water system in the last five years. Again, EWEB had none.

Most public water systems are reviewed by the OHA every three years, but Eugene's next review won't occur until 2026 due to EWEB's high performance.

"We're proud of our drinking water here in Eugene," said acting Water Operations Manager Ray Leipold. "This designation is not easy to obtain, and it represents

the high value that EWEB staff and our customers-owners place on safe, clean water."

EWEB delivers approximately 8.5 billion gallons of drinking water to Eugene homes and businesses every year using a source-to-tap model. The comprehensive approach consists of source water protection programs, a multi-step treatment process, and management 800 miles of pipe, 25 pump stations and 22 storage tanks. The utility takes 85,000 samples each year to ensure drinking water is safe and meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards.

To learn more about Eugene's drinking water, read EWEB's annual Drinking Water Quality Report at eweb.org/drinkingwater.

Ocean temperatures

Continued From Page 1

Climate change is another factor. A recent study from Columbia University's Earth Institute shows land temperatures are increasing 2.5 times faster than ocean temperatures, meaning wildlife in land and river systems are more vulnerable to the warming climate.

Johnson said the biggest impediments for endangered salmon species are the four dams on the lower Snake River. He said the dams turn the river into dangerously hot lakes for the migrating fish, and the quickest and most effective way to remedy this is by breaching them.

"This is not anything that we've arrived at quickly or rashly," said Johnson. "This is the conclusion that most of the scientific community has come to after trying basically everything else. It's just clear that Snake River fish aren't

going to recover with those four dams in place."

Opponents of dam removal say they provide irrigation, renewable energy and transportation to the region.

Johnson said the ocean will go through cycles of good and

bad years for salmon and that we should act to save them from extinction while conditions are favorable.

"And they will recover if we give them half a chance," said Johnson. "We've seen it over and over again in different contexts."

Hospital workers

Continued From Page 1

ber and again in December.

"It took a lot for us to go out twice, but it gave management the push to understand where we're coming from, and to see we're out here to support our community," Gordon asserted. "And our community came out to support us, and that helped get the message through to them."

The workers represent a wide array of professions, including emergency-room technicians, physical therapists and social workers. The average wage increase over the new three-year contract is 22% or more than \$6 an hour. A McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center spokesperson said it is pleased it was able to reach an agreement with workers.

Gordon pointed out competitive wages are a crucial part of properly caring for patients.

"What we saw happening was, we couldn't hire people, or we'd hire people, and then they would turn around and leave in a few weeks," Gordon recounted. "More competitive market wages will allow us to keep and retain staff to provide the best care for the patients that come here."

Gordon is also hopeful about the establishment of a committee between labor and management to solve problems in the hospital.

"When labor and management put their heads together, there's almost nothing we can't fix," Gordon concluded.

Friday 1/28		Saturday 1/29		Sunday 1/30	
McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 5% chance precip High: 50 Low: 35	Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy 0% chance precip High: 7 Low: -3	McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 52 Low: 40	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 7 Low: -1	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 50 Low: 41	Santiam Pass Rain/Snow 60% chance precip High: 4 Low: -2

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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
1/18	43	30	0.01	1,916 cfs	1/18	55	32	0.03	7,390 cfs
1/19	45	38	0.19	NA	1/19	45	37	0.21	7,140 cfs
1/20	48	41	0.57	1,903 cfs	1/20	48	44	0.74	7,070 cfs
1/21	48	34	0	2,305 cfs	1/21	53	37	0.15	8,090 cfs
1/22	45	30	0	2,290 cfs	1/22	50	30	0	7,390 cfs
1/23	47	32	0	2,275 cfs	1/23	50	30	0	7,640 cfs
1/24	46	29	0	2,230 cfs	1/24	52	31	0	7,180 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Jan. 14: 7:44 a.m: Disorderly Subject - 55600 block, McK. River Dr. A caller reported that a female tenant was refusing to let the power be turned back on.

12:05 p.m: Threat, Harassment - 36600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A caller reported that their neighbor had been cyber bullying and threatening to sue them.

4:26 p.m: Criminal Trespass - 93100 blk, Marcola Rd. Deputies responded to the report of a possible dispute. No parties were injured and one person was trespassed from a residence in the area.

Jan. 15: 9:56 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute- 38400 blk, Wendling Rd. Deputies responded to a landlord/tenant dispute. There was no indication of a crime.

1:52:2 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute- 95600 blk, Marcola Rd. A caller advised of a verbal dispute with her boyfriend.

Jan. 16: 9:54 p.m: Assault - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr. - An intoxicated female reported being assaulted. Deputies responded to investigate and were unable to substantiate evidence of an assault.

Jan.17:10:32a.m:Disturbance, Dispute- 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Caller reported a dispute with her boyfriend.

1:34p.m:Suspicious Conditions - 38300 blk, McK. Hwy.- A citizen reported that a silver Toyota Tacoma with Utah plates slowly pulled down the citizen's driveway and was possibly casing the area.

Jan.18:9:59a.m:Safety Hazard - 46700 block, Goodpasture Rd.

1:51 p.m: Safety Hazard - Bellinger Landing. A tree is blocking the left channel of the McKenzie River near Camp Creek Rd. and Sky High Ln. (Approximately 2.5 miles downstream of Bellinger Landing)

2:23 p.m: Dead Animal - 90300 blk, Hill Rd.

Jan. 19: 1:12 p.m: Restraining Order Service - 91000 blk, Hill

Rd.

2:21 p.m: Restraining Order Service - 95600 blk, Marcola Rd.

3:20 p.m: Restraining Order Service - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

3:37 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Chita Lp. & Tiki Ln.

6:23 p.m: Hit & Run - Holden Creek Ln. & Bridge St.

7:36 p.m: Burglary - 56900 blk, N. Bank Rd. Undisclosed personal property was taken in a residential burglary.

7:38 p.m: Theft - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd. A theft and possible fraud incident was reported an area business.

7:40 p.m: Theft - 54700 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:51 p.m: Littering - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

Jan. 20: 12:49 a.m: Assist Fire Dept. - 39600 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

8:27 a.m: Repossessed Vehicle - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:15 a.m: Assist, Information - 45100 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:39 p.m: Littering - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:50 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 91100 blk, Donna Rd.

11:21 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 89200 blk, Marcola Rd. Caller reported hearing a vehicle run off the road. Deputies responded and confirmed that one vehicle was stuck in the mud. No injuries were reported.

Jan. 21: 12:21 a.m: Prowler -

91000 blk, Leashore Dr.

10:30 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Cascade View staging area.

10:35 p.m: Person Stop - Cascade View staging area.

Jan. 23: 4:48 a.m: Alarm - 89100 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.

5:56 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 54700 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:48 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Drury Creek Rd. & Johnson Rd.

7:54 a.m: Illegal Dump - Drury Creek Rd. & Johnson Rd.

7:57 a.m: Towed Vehicle - Drury Creek.

3:43 p.m: Motor vehicle accident no injury - camp creek

Continued On Page 8

State Police Report

Jan. 20: 15:51: Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 30. Dispatched to a minor crash. It was reported that one of the drivers was impaired and after a subsequent investigation he was taken into custody for DUII and transported to the Lane County Jail where he voluntarily provided a BAC test result of .12%. He was cited and released in lieu of custody. Involved: blue Audi A4, 64-year-old male from Nimrod.

Jan. 23: 16:06: Crash, Non-injury - Hwy. 126E, Mp. 22. Dispatched to a single vehicle crash. A SUV had driven off the roadway and into an embankment. Lane County Deputies arrived and assisted with the crash. The driver exhibited signs of impairment and the Deputies arrested the driver for DUII. The vehicle was towed. Involved: white Nissan Rogue, 33-year-old male.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Jan. 17: 6:49: 87000 block, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

9:15: 87000 blk, Blk Dowdy Ln. Illegal Burning 9:15 Non-Burn Day, Owner to Extinguish

NA: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Walk-in Medical. Patient Assessed, Patient Refusal.

12:31: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:40: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Illegal Burning. Non-Burn Day,

Continued On Page 8

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Jan. 18: 14:05: Motor Vehicle Accident - Hwy. 20/Clear Lake Cutoff Intersection. U-Haul van, front end crushed, 2 people inside.

Jan. 20: 22:56: Medical - 91000 block, Dearborn Island Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Jan. 21: 12:37: Medical - 54000 blk, Rainbow Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

15:14: Assist Police Dept. - W. King Rd./Cougar Dam Rd. Report of vehicle into a tree. Deceased subject.

Jan. 22: 12:05: Medical - Blue Pool. Approximately 1 mile in from parking lot. Female slipped on ice.

10:36: Medical - 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Ineffective Breathing.

09:52: Medical - 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

NewsArk ...saving stories from the rising tide of time.

From October 12, 2006 edition of McKenzie River Reflections

McKenzie River Reflections 50¢

Volume 29, Issue 14, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006

Looking for Winter Rec?	Friday 12/31	Saturday 12/31	Sunday 12/31
Turn to Pages 2 & 4	<p>McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 46 - Low - 32</p> <p>Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 34 - Low - 17</p>	<p>McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 48 - Low - 35</p> <p>Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 34 - Low - 17</p>	<p>McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 48 - Low - 35</p> <p>Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy - 10% High - 34 - Low - 17</p>

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Bridge scandal aroused fury of Portland

By Finn J.D. John

Early Portland was a relatively corruption-friendly town. But even the best of us have our limits, as three Multnomah County Commissioners learned the hard way in 1924.

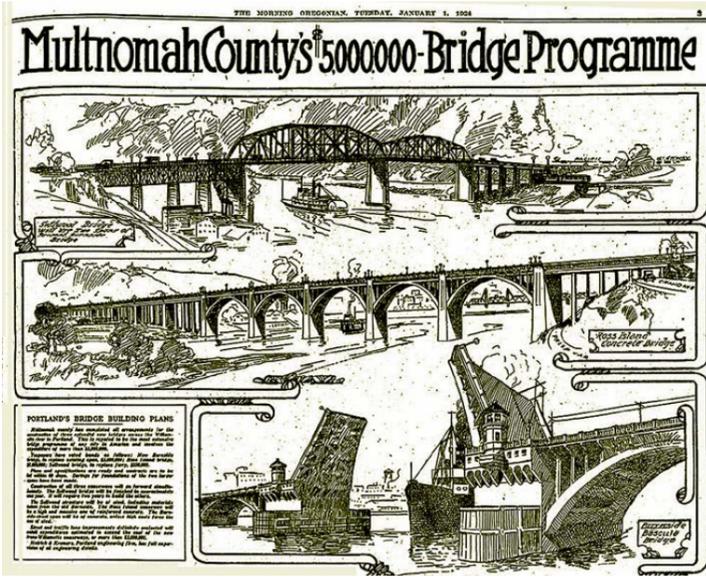
In that year, the Portland area had a serious traffic congestion problem. The main source of the trouble was the Burnside Bridge, a swing-span setup that was at the time only 30 years old. However, it had deteriorated very badly, and was no longer considered safe. A new bridge was desperately needed.

Luckily, in 1922 the three-member Multnomah County Board of Commissioners had gotten voter approval to take out almost \$5 million in bonds to build not one but three new bridges across the river. Relief was on the way: a replacement for the Burnside Bridge, plus brand new bridges that would become known as the Sellwood and Ross Island bridges.

Finally, on April Fool's Day of 1924, the Commissioners finally put the projects out for bids. Within the day, a very odd bid arrived from a consortium of contractors. They wanted to build all three bridges, and their bid was a package deal: All three bridge projects, or nothing.

The commissioners, who had until this point seemed to be in no special hurry, now sprang into action and moved with breathtaking speed. They pounced on the all-or-nothing bid, accepted it and slammed the door closed on the bidding process. The window had been open for less than 24 hours.

Unfortunately for them, they didn't move quite fast enough. Another bidder managed to slip in during this tiny window of opportunity and submit a bid for



Multnomah County
This photo spread appeared in the Morning Oregonian on Jan. 1, 1924, introducing the three proposed bridge projects. Although the Ross Island and Sellwood bridges ended up looking substantially different from these sketches, the Burnside Bridge did not.

the Burnside Bridge. And the interloper's bid was a full half-million dollars cheaper than the all-or-nothing bidders had quoted for the Burnside Bridge part of theirs. The commissioners dismissed it breezily, noting that the all-or-nothing bidders had promised a bridge in 300 days, but the interloper's cheaper bid specified 500, and Portland needed a new Burnside Bridge right away.

It's not clear what the commissioners thought was going to happen as a result of this. After all, construction contractors who have major bids rejected for illegal reasons have a tendency to ask questions. But perhaps, knowing Portland's long and storied history of graft and corruption in government, they assumed the disappointed contractor's complaints would be brushed off as so much out-crowd whining.

If so, they were in for a big surprise.

It started the very next day with a comment from former Governor Oswald West, a widely respected political reformer who had been watching the situation closely. "Those who are putting over the deal are working fast," he told an Oregon Journal reporter, "and unless something is done at once the taxpayers of the county and city are going to get a wonderful trimming."

As the unsuccessful bidder hired lawyers and complained loudly about its treatment, Portland's other newspapers soon joined in the drumbeat of condemnation.

"The Oregonian thinks that \$529,000 is a large sum to pay for 200 days' use of a bridge," the Morning Oregonian murmured with sedate disapproval, four days later.

The Oregonian's sister paper, the ever-feisty Evening Telegram, was a bit more direct. "Public indignation over the awarding of

the contract for the three trans-Willamette bridges this week is universal," the editor wrote sternly. "No official act in the history of Multnomah County ever aroused such condemnation."

The astonishingly tone-deaf commission didn't budge. The city had really needed three bridges, they explained earnestly, and if they'd accepted the Burnside contract they would have had to reject the three-bridge package, and schedule another round of bidding, which would have delayed the Ross Island and Sellwood bridge projects.

By now aroused to full suspiciousness, the public couldn't help but wonder if they might have had more bids to work with if they'd left the bidding process open for more than one day.

The Commission also tried to explain away the half-million-dollar difference in bid prices by claiming the package-deal contractors were expecting to build the Ross Island Bridge at a loss, and the inflated bid for the Burnside span was supposed to cover that loss. This explanation sounded just as implausible then as it does today.

In any case, Chairman Charles Rudeen asserted earnestly, "as all the facts regarding the contracts become known we are confident it will be seen that we acted wisely and that the people of the county will approve our action."

Unfortunately for Rudeen and his fellows, the facts that soon became known were not the ones the commissioners had in mind.

One of the first of these was the fact that five days before the bridge placement plans were announced, Rudeen and fellow commissioner Dow Walker had bought options on 18 residential lots right next to what they — but nobody else

Bridge scandal - Page 8



By Slim Randles

It wasn't like this idea just popped into his head all at once. Great notions often take time to fester, you know. It was like that with Windy Wilson a couple of weeks back.

Our semi-legendary cowboy, camp cook, and storyteller might have seen this coming on, but we missed the signs. There was that piece in the Valley Weekly Miracle about our pal, Doc, receiving that honorary associates' degree from Jerry Hat Trick Junior College, the one financed and named for that hockey player. Now we knew Doc had more degrees than a thermometer already and it puzzled us why he needed another one.

"Doc?" said Windy over coffee, "that new diploma thingie you got is shore 'nuf nice. Does it help you operate on folks?"

Doc laughed, and so did the rest of us. "Nope. Not really. All I did was make a contribution to their new gym. This was their way of thanking me, I guess."

"Well you know," said Steve, "this changes everything. Now, instead of calling our pal Doctor, we'll have to update it and call him Associate, I guess."

"That's kinda long to say, isn't it? Now if we were to shorten it to just the first three letters...."

"That's not funny, Herb!"

"Then why are you laughing, Doc?"

I guess we all were. Truth was, they couldn't trot out too many honors for Doc. Prince of a guy.

"You know," Windy whispered to Steve, "I'd like to get one of them things my ownself. How do you do it?"

"Windy, that's one of the goofy things about an honorary degree. If you think you deserve one, you don't get one."

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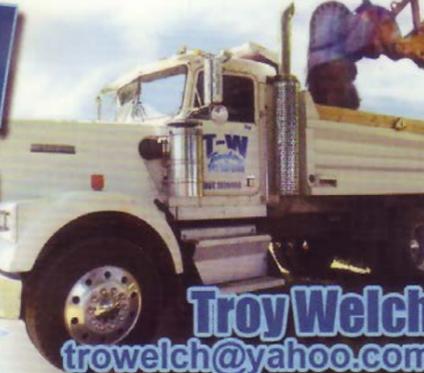
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Gardening Tips
By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University
OSU Extension Service

Purple tomato, save the seeds and plant them the following year, the new plant will be exactly the same. Many open-pollinated vegetables – often called heirlooms – have been passed down from generation to generation.

“Many people who grow vegetables are interested in heirlooms,” Miller said. “They come true every year so it will continue the lineage. That makes sense for self-pollinating crops like lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, peas and beans that have seeds that are relatively easy to save.”

Hybrids, often marked “F1,” are bred from two different varieties called parents. The offspring contain desirable traits from each parent. They may be bred to be more widely adapted to environmental stresses such as heat, cold, disease or drought. Sometimes hybrids can be made to produce earlier or higher yields, have higher germination rates or more cold tolerance.

Most cabbages, broccoli, tomato, cucumbers, melons and Brussels sprouts are hybrids. Hybrid summer squashes, cucumbers, melons, corn and carrots dominate the garden seed market.

“Unless you plan to save seed it can pay to choose hybrid varieties to get the best edible crop possible,” Miller said. “Many hybrid varieties of broccoli, cabbage, carrots, onions and corn are just better for eating than the heirloom varieties of these crops.”

“So if you’re not going to save the seed, don’t shy away from planting hybrids,” he added. “Also, supporting regional seed growers who produce hybrids is empowering.”

Miller’s last bit of advice? Limit yourself. “Who but a hardcore tomato fan would need 15 varieties of tomatoes?” he said. “It’s easy to get overwhelmed, so choose what you can manage.”



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



MEAT LOAF MEALS FOR COLD WEATHER

With temperatures very cold right now over many parts the country, meat loaf meals are right in style. We’re having below zero nights (and some days) in central New Hampshire. Friends throughout the country tell of 31 degrees in northern Florida and central Texas. Snow has been dumping on some areas, too. Our granddaughter showed pictures of 1 1/2 feet of snow outside her Ohio home.

Meat loaves, often considered one of our more inexpensive meat dishes, can become a gourmet’s delight as you work a little “magic” with the ingredients. You can make these meat dishes from a variety of ground meats, although beef is used frequently. Other meats used include ground turkey, ham, or chicken, alone or combined with pork or beef.

Many Variations

Additional variations include, instead of the usual bread or cracker crumbs to give meat loaf body, uncooked rolled oats, cooked rice, or ready-to-eat cereals such as crushed corn flakes.

Instead of milk for liquid, use canned tomato soup or sauce, canned vegetable soup, cream sauce or soup, gravy, or sour cream.

Seasonings & Additional Ingredients

A great variety of seasonings will give meat loaves a different flavor. Those such as Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, gravy seasoning, Italian seasoning, sage or poultry seasoning (especially when using ground turkey or chicken and layering it with stuffing) can vary your meat loaf recipes.

Add any of the following to your meat loaf to change the taste or add nourishment:

- * 1/2 to 1 cup shredded cheese
- * 1/2 to 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- * 1/2 to 1 cup chopped green pepper
- * 1/4 cup chopped pimento
- * 1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped celery
- * 1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped green or ripe olives
- * 1/4 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- * 1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped onion
- * Protein powder as suggested on the container

Fancy Meat Loaves

Make fancier meat loaves by baking them in a ring or mold. Also, you can cover the loaf with a crust of mashed potatoes or flaky pastry.

A tasty meat loaf once served me was made by the cook putting a layer of bread stuffing between two layers of ground beef meat loaf mixture. She baked this in a loaf pan and served with tomato sauce to spoon over it.

Meat Loaf With Potato Topping - Bake your favorite meat loaf as usual. Turn it from the pan onto a baking dish. Then cover well with approximately 2 cups seasoned mashed potatoes. Brush with butter and sprinkle lightly with shredded cheese and paprika.

Bake at 400 degrees F. about 20 minutes, until the potatoes are golden brown.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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



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Dear McKenzie Valley Neighbor,

The McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group is a non-profit organization formed after the Holiday Farm Fire that is working to recognize needs, find resources, and help you recover from disaster. Please help us identify your needs by filling out this online survey. We want to share information about which programs may be available to you. The information you provide will be used to advocate for funding and allocate resources, materials and volunteers. Together, we can help create a resilient and sustainable future for you, your family and the McKenzie Valley we call home.

Only one person per household should fill out the form. The first 500 households to submit a survey and provide contact information will receive a \$10.00 gift card. Deadline: January 31, 2022.

A link to the survey can be found on our website www.McKenzieValleyLTRG.org under the “GET HELP” tab.

If you need help filling out the survey, have questions or need an interpreter, call the helpline at (541)214-7816.

On behalf of the many community-based organizations who continue to contribute to the recovery of the McKenzie Valley, we thank you for your participation.





In Memory

Janet Isabel Larson Scofield (Janie)



Springfield, OR. Janet Isabel Larson Scofield passed away peacefully at home, on January 1, 2022. She was 92 years old. Janie was born on a cold day, January 26, 1929, on the Charlie Borche Ranch, in Harding County, South Dakota. She was raised by her parents, Arnold and Martha Olson Larson, on family ranches homesteaded by her paternal and maternal great-grandparents. Janie had an older half-sister Ruth, and five younger brothers: Jim, Bill, twins Keith and Kenton, and Pete. She graduated from Buffalo High School in 1946 and married Dale Edward Scofield on June 4, 1948 in Reva, South Dakota. Together, Dale and Janie raised four children, Carrol (Chuckie), Connie, Dallas, and Wade.

Much of Janie's early years growing up were spent helping care for her brothers at home, working on the family ranch, attending school and church. The summer following High School graduation during the War Years (WWII), Janie, at the age of 17 years, enrolled in a twelve week summer school course at Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish, South Dakota. Janie earned a Second Grade Teaching Certificate, good for two years. She taught at Olson School for her first two years. The first year she taught three students, including seventh grade brother Pete. The second year she had five students in her class, which again included Pete and a couple of Olson cousins. Janie was granted an extension to her Teaching Certificate for a third year due to a lack of teachers. Janie and Dale's first child, Chuckie, was born in 1951 in OR., followed by Connie in ND.,

1952, Dallas, 1954 in ND., and Wade, 1957 in MT. As the Scofield family grew, they moved many times, throughout South Dakota, Montana, and Oregon, following the work Dale did on ranches, truck driving and electrical lineman. Janie's job became very busy managing four young children at home and school. She found time, in 1965, to take a job setting a Linotype at a newspaper in Hinsdale, MT. Janie also worked for a J.C. Penney store in Malta, MT. When Dale hired on as a resident rural lineman on the McKenzie River with Lane Electric Cooperative out in Oregon in 1969, one of Janie's first jobs was cleaning cabins at Loloma Lodge and Caddis Fly Resort on the upper McKenzie River. Then in 1971, she once again entered the education field, hiring on at McKenzie School District in Finn Rock, serving as an educational assistant. She held this position for 19 years, retiring in 1991. From that moment going forward, Janie was fully "employed" as a Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma, affectionately called GG, by the youngsters.

Janie loved to play cards and bingo with friends and family, was an avid sewer, including making many quilts. She enjoyed attending her Church at McKenzie Valley Presbyterian. She loved following her family's activities, including family reunions in South Dakota and Oregon. Many are the memories with her on family horse packing trips in the Wilderness, raft float trips down the McKenzie, making lefse (Norwegian pastry), and Christmas eve at her house. Never enjoying the task of cooking, Janie never turned down an offer to eat out at a restaurant.

Janie is survived by her brother Pete, daughters Carrol Aanestad (Duane) of Leaburg, Connie Richardson (Cliff) of Finn Rock, sons Dallas (Tammy) of Lacombe, and Wade of Nimrod; 10 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Dale, brothers Jim, Bill, Keith, and Kenton, her half-sister Ruth, and a granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church.

Community Notes

January 28

McKenzie Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the new gym located on the McKenzie School campus.

February 7 - Springfield School Board Meeting

7:00pm - 8:30pm. The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July).

February 9

Blue River Park Board

The board will meet at 5 p.m. More info @ /www.blueriverpark.com.

February 9

Blue River Water Board

The board will meet at 7p.m. More info @ www.blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

February 11

Chili Feed

The Walterville Grange will be holding its annual Chili Feed on February 11, from 5 to 7 PM. This will be held at the Walterville Community Center, located at 39259 Camp Creek Road, in Walterville. Be sure to bring your family and enjoy our homemade chili with cornbread, salad, cookies, and beverages. We will be following state COVID-19 protocols with masks and spacing. We will also be collecting canned food for the upriver foodbank. Donations will also be accepted. Please join us for some delicious food and friendship.

February 11

McKenzie Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the new gym located on the McKenzie School campus.

February 16

Upper Mck Firer Board

The will meet at 7p.m. 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge

February 16

McKenzie School Board

The will meet at 5:30 p.m. www.mckenzie.k12.or.us.

February 13

Leaburg Food Pantry

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

February 17

Leaburg Food Pantry

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

February 21

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center,

February 22

Valentines Dinner

Valentines Dinner to benefit Vida McKenzie Community Center on Saturday, February 22nd from 6-8pm at McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. \$20/person, \$100/table of 6. Reservation suggested. Gerry Aster 552-896-3001

February - April Fuels Reduction

McKenzie Fire & Rescue, in partnership with Northwest Youth Corps, is compiling a list of residents within the fire district boundaries who are interested in participating in a fuels reduction program that will occur between 2/22 and 4/21.

The primary focus of this program will be driveway access and 30-50' around the home.

The funds for this program have been made available through the Senate Bill 762.

For more information, call McKenzie Fire & Rescue at 541-896-3311.

Quote of the Week

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Martin Luther King Jr.

An Invitation to Worship

Living Water Family Fellowship
52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42
Just east of Blue River 541-822-3820
Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am - Worship Service & Children's Church
6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth
Thurs. 6 pm - Celebrate Recovery (12-Step Program)

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

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

McKenzie Bridge Christian Church
56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service & Nursery
Need a ride? Call 541-822-3289

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Worship is live-streamed, every Sunday at 10:30 am, on the Facebook page for McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Comments on Facebook are appreciated! You may also contact the church for prayer requests, to request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin, and other information. Phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person!
Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

Every Tuesday 8:15 am, silent meditation at Leaburg Library. Bring your own practice; we set the timer for 30 minutes. No religious affiliation, sponsored by the McKenzie Valley Holiday Farm Fire Long Term Recovery Group. Just show up, or contact Sara Stanley, 530-520-8901.

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

The Heart Of The Matter

I have male friends who are just friends, but my husband is so insecure about them it is driving me crazy. A year ago Christmas he took our children to visit family out of town. I could not go because of work. While my family was gone, I invited a male friend to go to Christmas Eve service with me. I told my husband, and he had no reaction.

Six months later my spouse complained I was spending too much time with other men. He insisted I have one of the children with me to act as a chaperone. A chaperone for what I do not know, because nothing ever happens. We live in a small town with nosey neighbors who report my comings and goings to my husband. These neighbors must lead such boring and miserable lives they try to make my life as miserable as theirs.

My husband claims I disrespected him by taking a friend to church when he wasn't home. Wouldn't it have been more disrespectful if I had not told him? Nine years ago he had an affair with a woman in our home. I feel he's carrying around guilt about the affair and laying it onto me, which is not fair. I have been in therapy for a year now. My husband has gone to the last two sessions with me. I discovered he married me because he felt "obligated" since we had sex before marriage. No, I was not pregnant.

In twenty years I have never been unfaithful and I don't plan to be, but I can't go on much longer with my husband not trusting me. This has driven a big wedge between us. My therapist says everyone deserves friends, whether they be male or female. Any advice?

Sue

Sue, the wedge between you was driven nine years ago when your husband brought another woman into your home. Now he says he felt obligated to marry you, which undercuts the very basis of your marriage. True or not, he is saying love isn't the reason for your relationship and never was.

We believe you when you say you don't plan to be unfaithful. At least subconsciously, though, your contact with other men is an exquisitely slow payback for your husband's affair. It is a bit like pricking him with a pin, again and again. There is a word which starts with "d" that you have both been avoiding. It is time to stop skirmishing about superficial issues and discuss the heart of the matter.

Wayne and Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are also the authors of *Age Difference Relationships, When Is the Gap Insurmountable*, available from Amazon, Apple and most booksellers.

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Like music, one supposes, food, the memory of its procuring, preparing and consuming, leaves an indelible mark on us that is visceral and easily stirred. We all must eat, and so we all know our own private litany of foods of our childhood. Susan Nguyen calls her poem an "Ode to Hunger", reminding us that the line between satiation and need is so thin, and sometimes sits at the heart of what many of us remember about the insecurities of our food supply. Which is why her ode to hunger is a praise song to the food that defeats hunger: the simple humble foods of our sustenance.

Ode to Hunger

By Susan Nguyen

Praise SPAM fried with fish sauce and sugar jackfruit, 25lbs. of it carved on newspaper, latex sap sticking fingers
Praise Kraft mac and cheese: small

miracle of powdered cheddar pork floss in the big Tupperware
Sara Lee Praise soy sauce and rice
Shrimp Cup Noodles, 3 minutes 'til done
Praise the soft insides of baguettes
the first star fruit, pocketed and sliced
to Chef Boyardee
to durian, sweet scent of garbage to pickled mustard greens, Lean Cuisine
pizza bagels after school
Praise Women, Infants, and Children
banana blossoms, heart thinly sliced in vinegar, drained of all color

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. *American Life in Poetry* is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2021 by Susan Nguyen, "Ode to Hunger" from *Dear Diaspora*, (University of Nebraska Press, 2021). Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska.

A Moment in History

Info provided by History.com

January 27, 1888: The National Geographic Society was founded in Washington, D.C., for "the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge."

The 33 men who originally met and formed the National Geographic Society were a diverse group of geographers, explorers, teachers, lawyers, cartographers, military officers and financiers. All shared an interest in scientific and geographical knowledge, as well as an opinion that in a time of discovery, invention, change and mass communication, Americans were becoming more curious about the world around them. With this in mind, the men drafted a constitution and elected as the Society's president a lawyer and philanthropist named Gardiner Greene Hubbard. Neither a scientist nor a geographer, Hubbard represented the Society's desire to reach out to the layman.

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Personal

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

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. AA Group meets Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Sunday 5:00-6:00pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, 88393 Waltherville Loop, a block from the Waltherville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

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The Leaburg Sew and So's meet every Monday from noon to 4 pm.. If you are interested in joining us, call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

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Ski Report

January 25, 2021

The Hoodoo Ski Area reported on Tuesday that a no new snow fell overnight, leaving the base at 55 inches. Temperatures were 25 degrees mid-mountain and 31 at the base with ESE winds averaging 33 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 29 degrees at the base and 29 degrees at mid-mountain on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 64 inches at mid-mountain broken clouds. On Tuesday morning the sunny streak with chilly conditions was continuing and should last all week. 12 out of 15 lifts were open, along with 115 of the 121 trails. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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Bridge scandal

Continued From Page 4

— knew would soon be the west end of the Sellwood Bridge.

Another tidbit that soon became known — it can't be called a fact, but it was a widely believed rumor and was most likely true — was that all the insurance needs of the package-deal contractors were being handled by Commissioner Walker's insurance agency.

By April 9, a recall petition was making the rounds. It took just two weeks to swell to over 26,000 signatures, which was an astonishingly big slice of an electorate that numbered under 70,000 at the time. This meant all three commissioners would face

a recall election the very next month.

And that wasn't all they faced, either. State Attorney General Isaac Van Winkle launched an investigation on April 13 and convened a grand jury, which eventually indicted Walker and Rudeen on charges of soliciting and accepting bribes, and accused all three of them of malfeasance for not accepting the lowest bid on the Burnside Bridge.

The criminal charges didn't stick; all the commissioners went free for lack of hard evidence. But the recall election was another matter. Rudeen and Walker were

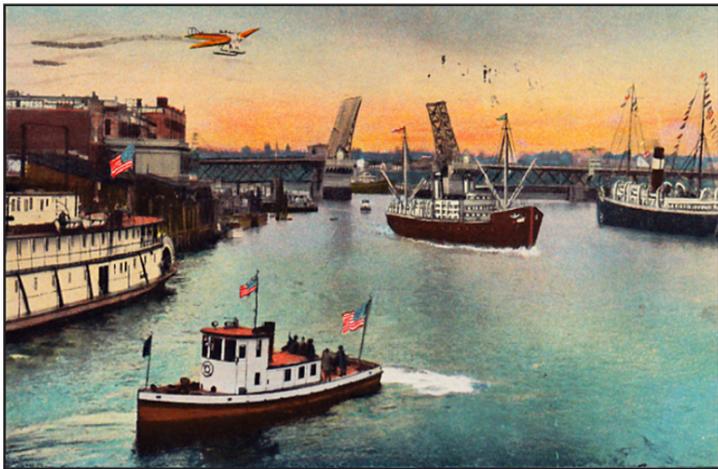
turned out of office by an 85-percent majority of voters, and the third commissioner lost to a 65-percent majority.

It was the fastest, most thorough and most emphatic "housecleaning" in Multnomah County history — before or since.

It's also worth noting that this recall was a big setback to the Ku Klux Klan, which had energetically backed two of the commissioners in the 1922 election. The Klan was a strong and growing force in Oregon politics at the time, but after the events of April Fools Day 1924, the "Invisible Empire" lost most Portland voters for good. But that's a story for another day.

(Sources: Lansing, Jewel & al. Multnomah. Corvallis: OSU Press, 2012; Portland Morning Oregonian, 31 Mar - 5 Apr 1924; www.sellwoodbridge.org (Multnomah County))

Finn J.D. John is an instructor at Oregon State University and the author of "Wicked Portland," a book about the dark side of Oregon's metropolis in the 1890s. He produces a daily podcast, reading archives from this column, at offbeatoregon.com/itunes. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com, @OffbeatOregon (on Twitter), or 541-357-2222.



This hand-tinted postcard, postmarked 1931, shows the newly built Burnside Bridge drawn for shipping to pass through.

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

Rd. & Easy Ln.

3:52 p.m.: Assist, Follow Up - 50400 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:07 p.m.: Motor Vehicle Accident, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants - McK. Hwy. & Cogswell Creek Rd. Deputies responded to the report of a single vehicle crash. Investigation revealed that the driver of the involved vehicle was intoxicated. He was arrested and charged with DUII.

5:16 p.m.: Disturbance, Dispute - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd. A caller was involved in a dispute with an unknown person in the area. Dispute was possibly over a stolen target. No injuries were reported and the parties were separated.

6:15 p.m.: Stranded Vehicle - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd. A male was observed flagging down traffic and advising that his vehicle was stuck. USFS dispatched an officer to the area.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Owner to Extinguish.

15:09: 35000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:15: 41000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury. 2 Patients Assessed, 2 Transported.

Jan. 18: 1:24: 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal

10:18: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, Trauma 10:18 Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

11:54: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

16:19: 37000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

18:10: 45000 blk, Goodpasture Rd. Flue Fire. Fire Extinguished Prior to Arrival.

Jan. 19: 8:18: 35000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Assessed, 1 Transported.

11:21: 35000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Cardiac Arrest. Deceased.

15:47: Tiki Ln./Chita Loop. MVA, Injury. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

16:06: 88000 blk, Ross Lane Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

18:21: 90000 blk, Leashore

Drive Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Jan. 20: 0:48: 39000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:12: 37000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal

15:50: McK. Hwy. Milepost 29. MVA, Non-Injury. Confirmed Non-Injury, Non-Blocking.

16:08: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lifting Assistance.

Jan. 21: 9:15: 8000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:00: 47000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Jan. 22: 8:39: 38000 blk, Hendricks Park Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:38: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Jan. 23: 5:39: 39000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:17: 39000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:45: 36000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. MVA. Non-Injury.

16:04: 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Non-Injury, Non-Blocking.

A quilt for the community



The beautiful quilt featured all state birds, hand-embroidered by Rita Stadel.

By Alice Bonasio
"To the hands that made this bird quilt and to the kind donor and everyone who participated in this raffle with the intent of supporting fire survivors, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It will hang in the stairwell of the home I am rebuilding. Thank you so much (I am a bird lover!)."

Those are the words of Lesa Henson, a Holiday Farm Fire survivor who received a very special gift in time for the holidays last year.

That gift - a hand-made quilt featuring all 50 state birds - was the result of collaboration and acts of kindness by many individuals in the #McKenzieStrong community. From the ladies who

painstakingly embroidered and sewed the quilt, those who helped to organize and promote the raffle, the people who bought tickets, to the winner who wanted to donate her prize to a fire survivor. This is their story.

Back in October 2021, MCDC volunteer Mary Sooh was contacted by the "Sew and Sews" - a group of women who get together at the Waltherville church to sew their projects, help one another, and socialize. Three of its members, Rita Stadel, Marian Alter, and Ellen Johnson had collaborated to make a beautiful quilt, which they wanted to donate so that it could benefit the survivors of the Holiday Farm Fire.

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