



### Sheriff's Report

Caller advised that a female was showering in a neighbor's yard

**PAGE 3**



### Better breeding

Begonias are booming right along with the renaissance of houseplants

**PAGE 5**



### Direct Answers

She lied to me so often that I demanded she leave the home

**PAGE 7**

## Sierra Pacific to acquire Seneca 175,000-acres and mills part of buy out

EUGENE: Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and Seneca have announced that SPI plans to acquire Seneca and affiliates, combining two complementary, family-owned forest products businesses with strong historical roots on the West Coast.

Founded in 1953, Seneca operates a 175,000-acre sustainably-managed tree farm, sawmills, and a biomass plant in Oregon. SPI, a leading lumber producer that manages over 2.1 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, as well as manufacturing millwork, windows, and renewable energy. Spokesmen for the companies said the combination of two highly complementary businesses with deep expertise in forest products will result in increased efficiency and significant benefits to employees and customers.

"Aaron Jones and Red Emmer-son are both icons of the wood products industry. They were also friends and had a deep mutual respect for each other as industry leaders," said Seneca CEO Todd Payne. "This proposed transfer makes so much sense given the companies provide complementary products, and have shared family values and company culture."

Both SPI and Seneca have a strong focus on sustainable tree

management, also managing their timberland for thriving wildlife, healthy watersheds and soils, and world-class recreation. According to Payne, "At Seneca, we grow more than we harvest annually. We have 92% more timber on our land today than we had 25 years ago. SPI also grows more than they harvest. Under their forest management plan they expect to have more large trees on their timberlands 100 years from now than they have today."

"Seneca is known for its commitment to its people and communities, sustainable forest management, innovation in manufacturing and quality wood products," said SPI President George Emmerson. "As a family-owned forest products company with similar values, SPI appreciates the opportunity to continue the legacy started by Aaron Jones and carried on by the Jones sisters. Seneca's culture and operations are a natural complement to Sierra Pacific. We look forward to bringing together our shared expertise which will result in increased efficiency and benefits to employees and customers."

The transaction is subject to continuing due diligence and customary regulatory approvals, with the sale expected to close by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

## Strikes light local fires

### Eastern portion of Valley goes to Level 1 Evacuation Warning

MCKENZIE BRIDGE: The Knoll Fire, located off Highway 126 to the north/northeast of McKenzie Bridge, was ignited by lightning around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday. By Tuesday it had grown to over 59 acres.

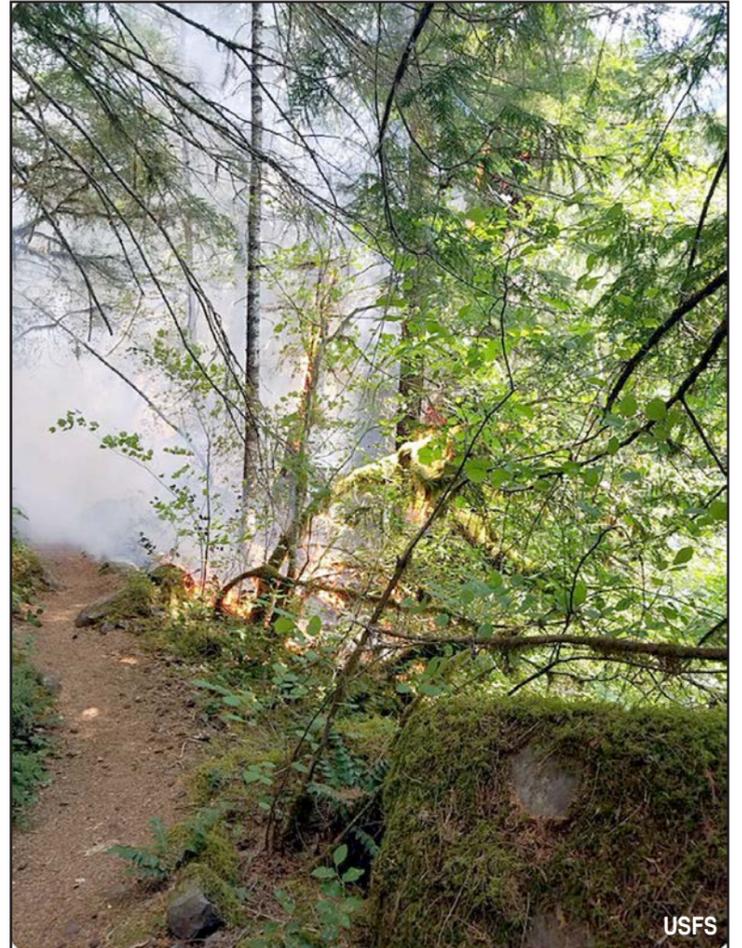
Officials report firefighters supported by aerial resources are utilizing a combination of constructed fire lines, existing roads, and natural features to limit the spread of the fire. Crews have been reinforcing containment lines by burning vegetation between the fire line and active fire.

There are numerous hazards that pose a danger to public safety in the vicinity of this fire including active fire in the McKenzie River bottom and falling trees, making river travel unsafe through the fire area. Forest visitors should also avoid Olallie Campground, Deer Creek Hot Springs, and dispersed campsites near the springs.

Out of concern for public and firefighter safety, the McKenzie River Trail (#3507) is closed from the Trail Bridge Trailhead to Frissell Boat Launch. There are numerous hazards including active spot fires in the river bottom, and falling trees.

Another lightning-caused fire is burning two miles south of Big Lake in the Mt. Washington Wilderness. Smoke from the 27-acre Washington Pond Fire is visible on the Santiam Pass.

Closures in that area include



USFS

Besides high temperatures and low humidity, firefighters at the Knoll Fire are dealing with abundant brush, small trees, and dead or down logs.

Forest Road 2690, 2676 and the Big Lake and Big Lake West campgrounds., along with the Santiam Recreation Area and the Mt. Washington Wilderness.

A Level 1 (be ready to leave) Evacuation Notice is in effect for areas including the Belknap Hot Springs Resort area and structures near Scott Creek.

## EWEB "rewaters" spawning channel

### Rebuild at Trail Bridge part of Carmen-Smith relicensing



EWEB

MCKENZIE BRIDGE: The Eugene Water & Electric Board's rebuild of the salmon spawning channel just below Trail Bridge Dam is nearly complete. On Monday utility staff began releasing water into the channel.

It was expected the rewatering process would create some minor turbidity in the upper McKenzie River that some people could be concerned it could be related to

the two sinkholes discovered at Trail Bridge Dam in June.

"That work has been completed and thankfully didn't result in a significant turbidity event," according to Adam Spencer, an EWEB Communications Specialist. "The team will be doing some clean-up work and demobilizing. We do not anticipate any noticeable turbidity resulting from that limited activity."

EWEB expects any turbidity event to be of short duration.

The spawning channel rebuild is one of the many habitat enhancement projects EWEB is conducting as part of the relicensing requirements for the Carmen-Smith hydroelectric project. The re-contoured channel, along with other improvements, was designed to make it easier for fish to enter the area and spawn.

## Danger tree decision

The Willamette National Forest has released its Danger Tree Decision Memo and will begin to implement its roadside danger tree reduction project on the McKenzie River, Detroit, and Sweet Home Ranger Districts. The project focuses on improving safety and access to Forest System roads within areas affected by the unprecedented 2020 wildfires.

The documents are available for download from the Willamette National Forest website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xFNwp>.

More information about how fires weaken and kill trees, why roads are closed after a wildfire, and answers to frequently asked questions about danger trees is available at: <https://go.usa.gov/xF5Sm>.



USFS

# Will fires become "self-limiting?"

Impacts could level off in a decade



In recent years, wildfires on the West Coast have become larger and more damaging. A combination of almost a century of fire suppression and hotter and drier conditions may have created a tinderbox ready to ignite, destroying homes and polluting the air over large areas.

New research led by the University of Washington and the University of California, Santa Barbara, looks at the longer-term future of wildfires under scenarios of increased temperature and drought, using a model that focuses on the eastern California forests of the Sierra Nevada.

The study, published July 26 in the journal *Ecosphere*, finds that there will be an initial roughly decade-long burst of wildfire activity, followed by recurring smaller fires.

"That first burst of wildfire is consistent with what we're seeing right now in the West. The build-up of fuels, in conjunction with the increasingly hot and dry conditions, leads to these very large, catastrophic fire events," said lead author Maureen Kennedy, assistant professor at the University of Washington Tacoma. "But our simulations show that if you allow fire to continue in an area, then the fire could become self-limiting, where each subsequent fire is smaller than the previous one."

How climate change, tree growth and wildfires will interact over coming decades is only beginning to be explored, Kennedy said, through experiments and

simulations. Existing models of vegetation often assume wildfires will strike at set intervals, like every 10 years, or based on past patterns of wildfire risk for that ecosystem. But those previous patterns may not be the best guide to the future.

"The big question is: What's going to happen with climate change? The relationships that we've seen between climate and wildfire over the past 30 years, is that going to continue? Or is there going to be a feedback? Because if we keep burning up these fuels, and with extreme drought that limits new growth, there will eventually be less fuel for wildfires," Kennedy said.

The new study used a model that includes those feedbacks among climate, vegetation growth, water flows and wildfire risk to simulate the Big Creek watershed outside Fresno, California, near the site of the September 2020 Creek Fire. Climate models suggest that here, as in other parts of the West, conditions will likely continue to get hotter and drier.

Results of the 60-year simulations show that under increased drought and rising temperatures, the large wildfires will continue for about a decade, followed by recurring wildfires that occur in warm and dry conditions, but are smaller over time. Even without wildfire the trees in the forest declined in number and size over time because they were less productive and more stressed in the hot and dry conditions. These



findings would likely apply to other forests that experience drought, said Kennedy, who's now using the model on other regions.

What happens with wildfires over the longer term matters now for planning. Current understanding is that communities will have to coexist with wildfire rather than exclude it entirely, Kennedy said. A combination of prescribed burns and forest thinning will likely be the future of managing forests as they contend with both wildfires and climate change.

"With such high density in the forest, the trees are pulling a lot of water out of the soil," Kennedy said. "There is growing evidence that you can relieve drought stress and make more drought-resilient forests if you thin the forests, which should also help with, for example, reducing the impact of that initial pulse of wildfire."

After thinning out smaller trees, managers could then do controlled burns to remove kindling and smaller material on the forest floor. But knowing how to manage forests in this way requires understanding how local weather conditions, plant growth and wildfire risk will play out in future decades.

"It's important to include climate change so we have an idea of the range of variability of potential outcomes in the future," Kennedy said. "For example, how often do you need to repeat the fuels treatment? Is that going to be different under climate change?"

## Residents and businesses invited to Economic/Development Meeting

McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals, in cooperation with the McKenzie School District, is hosting a community meeting with Lane County Economic and Development Manager Austin Ramirez and other county officials on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 pm. The community meeting will be held in the Pagoda facility due to floor refinishing in the School's gymnasiums.

All McKenzie residents and

businesses are urged to attend with their questions, concerns, etc., and to find out what economic and development opportunities and resources are available through Lane County and elsewhere. Austin Ramirez, who has worked with the Lane County Economic/Development team since 2018, says he has, "A passion for serving rural communities and working to create equitable economic opportunities for businesses and employees."

## Volunteers and blood donors needed for busy wildfire season

Many weather experts predict a destructive wildfire season this year. The American Red Cross needs volunteers to help on the ground and blood and platelet donors to roll up a sleeve to maintain a stable blood supply in the face of emergencies.

"This year's wildfire season is already very active and dangerous because of the severe drought and dry woodlands in our area,"

said Rebecca Marshall, Regional Disaster Officer of the American Red Cross Cascades Region. "After several years of record-breaking wildfires, the Red Cross is already responding in dozens of communities and asks you to train now to be a Red Cross volunteer and help if the need arises."

For more information go to: [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



## 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.

**McKenzie River Reflections** (541) 822-3358 FAX (541) 663-4550  
59059 Old McK. Hwy.  
McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413

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Friday 8/13		Saturday 8/14		Sunday 8/15	
<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Partly Cloudy 0% chance precip High: 101 Low: 64	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 61 Low: 44	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Partly Cloudy 0% chance precip High: 95 Low: 61	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 68 Low: 43	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Mostly Sunny 20% chance precip High: 90 Low: 69	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 72 Low: 44

### WEATHER REPORT

Date	READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM				READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
8/3	90	63	0	390 cfs	8/3	NA			
8/4	95	63	0	390 cfs	8/4	NA			
8/5	79	62	0	390 cfs	8/5	NA			
8/6	84	56	0	390 cfs	8/6	NA			
8/7	88	58	0	390 cfs	8/7	NA			
8/8	78	59	0	390 cfs	8/8	NA			
8/9	90	51	0	390 cfs	8/9	NA			

# Sheriff's Report

**July 29: 1:15 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Fatal - 90700 block, Marcola Rd. A maroon Nissan sedan was traveling southbound on Marcola Rd. when it crossed into the oncoming northbound lane and struck a pickup truck pulling a camp trailer. The driver of the sedan was pronounced deceased at the scene.

**5:44 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Caller advised that a female was showering in a neighbor's yard. The female departed in a vehicle moments later.

**July 30: 8:06 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 37000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. Caller advised that guests at the location were having a dispute. The involved departed prior to LCSO's arrival.

**July 31: 10:00 a.m:** Theft - 93900 blk, Marcola Rd. Caller reported theft of boats. Deputies made contact and determined the issue to be civil in nature.

**7:10 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute

- 88500 blk, East of Eden Rd.

**8:14 p.m:** Theft - 51500 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reports that a undisclosed value of jewelry was taken from the location.

**Aug. 1: 5:34 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39100 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. The caller had a dispute with other campers in the area. Parties were separated prior to deputy arrival. A welfare check was performed.

**9:39 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - Bellinger Landing. Caller reported 3 - 4 subjects with flashlights loading a boat onto a trailer from the water.

**Aug. 2: 10:48 a.m:** Fraud - 87100 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Caller reported that their credit card was hacked.

**11:38 a.m:** Fraud - 8800 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:43 p.m:** Stalking Order Service - 38200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**3:25 p.m:** Welfare Check - 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**4:56 p.m:** Restraining Order Service - 49600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:00 p.m:** Child Abuse - 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**5:20 p.m:** Tree Down - McK. Hwy. & Milepost 10.

**5:52 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 1500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:50 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - 46800 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**9:08 p.m:** Threat, Harassment - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln.

**10:23 p.m:** Threat, Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller found litter on his property and suspects a previous tenant is responsible

**11:38 p.m:** Disturbance, Screaming - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller heard what sounded like a crash then someone screaming. Deputies responded and checked the area. They were unable to locate anyone in distress.

**Aug. 3: 10:19 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**10:39 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39400 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller heard what sounded like a crash then someone screaming. Deputies responded and checked the area. They were unable to locate anyone in distress.

**1:54 p.m:** Assist, Information - 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**1:58 p.m:** Assist, Information - 87600 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**3:30 p.m:** Smoke - Tree Farm Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

**5:09 p.m:** Disorderly Subject - 88400 blk, Stephens Rd. Caller advised daughter suffering from drug or mental health episode.

**9:36 p.m:** Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**Aug. 4: 1:12 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 88500 blk, East of

Eden Rd.

**6:21 a.m:** Disturbance, Loud Noise - 54600 blk, McK. River Dr.

**7:31 a.m:** Theft - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd. Employees at a local business reported that a male tried to steal from the business and refused to leave. The male was located and provided a false name to deputies. He was arrested and lodged in jail.

**2:05 p.m:** Threat, Harassment - 93300 blk, Holland Ln.

**Aug. 5: 6:52 a.m:** Dead Animal - 91700 blk, Marcola Rd.

**7:29 a.m:** Mental Subject - 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**Continued On Page 8**

# State Police Report

**Aug. 7: 18:10:** Agency Assist - National Forest Road 2672-655, McKenzie Bridge. Trooper was made aware of a person who fell and sustained serious injuries at Blue Pool of Hwy. 126E. Trooper was in the area and one of the closest people able to respond. After multiple attempts at resuscitation and lengthy medical intervention, the person succumbed to their injuries. The Linn County Sheriff's Office is the lead investigating agency and the Lane County Sheriff's Office also assisted in this incident. The wife was on the scene and next of kin notifications were handled by LCSO. Deceased: Jeffrey Richard Boyd, 27, from Scotia, CA.

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Aug. 2: 4:03:** 8900 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Cancelled on scene.

**7:41:** 7700 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**12:00:** 1300 blk, 66th St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Aug. 3: 15:16:** Marcola Rd./Wendling Rd. Forest Fire. Cancelled en route, false alarm.

**Aug. 4: 16:09:** 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Fire, Brush. Extinguished upon arrival.

**16:16:** McK. Hwy. Milepost 38. Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury. Unable To Locate, cancelled by Upper McK. Fire.

**Aug. 5: 10:47:** 90000 blk, Angels  
**Continued On Page 8**

# Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Aug. 1: 11:47:** Medical - 50055 McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Aug. 4: 16:07:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy./Milepost 38. A rock hit a car.

**Aug. 5: 13:01:** Medical - 49959 McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Aug. 6: 09:10:** Fire - Mp. 19, Clear Lake Cutoff.

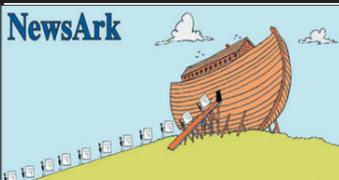
**Aug. 7: 12:10:** Brush Fire - McK. Hwy./Mp.14, Clear Lake Cutoff. Complainant only saw smoke, no flames.

**17:42:** DownLine - 91482 Horse Creek Rd. Power transformer tipped over in caller's driveway, no arching or sparking.

**17:52:** Fall Injury - Blue Pool, Tamolitch Falls. Possible broken neck.

**Aug. 8: 11:21:** Brush Fire - Old McK. Hwy./Mp. 71. Near Scott Mtn., just off Hwy. Approx. 1/4 acre.

**12:56:** Medical - 59000 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd. Male patient.



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

From September 11, 1992 edition of McKenzie River Reflections



### Local Groups And Agencies Gear Up For Cycle Oregon V

2,000 Cyclists To Arrive On Monday

The bikes are about to arrive! The riders of two thousand two-wheeled vehicles are scheduled to pull into the McKenzie Valley on Monday and sample the results of almost six months of planning by over a dozen local service groups. And what a "sampling" it will be!

Would you believe a meal of 732 pounds of meat, six thousand, six hundred loaves, 621 pounds of coffee beans along with 422 pounds of salsa? And that's only part of the dinner deal.

How about starting the next day with a hearty breakfast of 6,000 cups of coffee, 145 pounds of oatmeal and 2,200 loaves of muffins? Still hungry - like along a sack of a couple thousand apples and another 6,000 Fig Newtons.

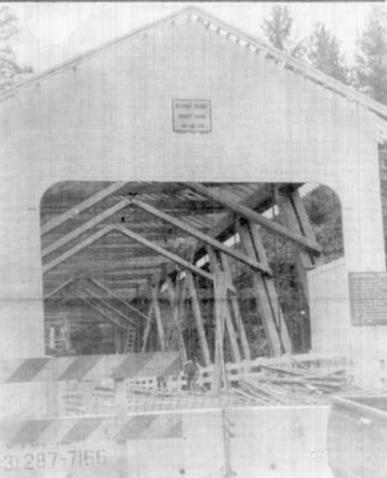
Yes, the numbers are staggering, but Cycle Oregon isn't just a traveling food line on bicycle wheels. Originally a project of the Oregon Department of Tourism, Cycle Oregon has grown to become a national attraction, drawing cyclists from 33 states and Canada in a seven day, 450 mile ride through rural portions of the state. According to event coordinator Paula Fausano, the Ride has a goal of not only providing a quality cycling experience for participants, but also benefits the communities it passes through. "Not only do service organizations earn income for their community projects," she said, "but we've also seen diverse groups in many areas really come together and learn to work with each other."

Also involved in accommodating the large numbers of riders are the Lane Transit District and the Oregon Highway Division.

On Monday, September 14, LTD will begin running an hourly free Cycle Oregon bus beginning at noon and ending at 8 pm. The shuttle service will pick riders up at the Highway 126/McK. Creek Road intersection and take them for a loop tour of the Valley from McKenzie Bridge to Nainard. Along the way they'll have an opportunity to stop and shop, dine, or even do their laundry.

The next day, the McKenzie Pass Scenic Highway will be closed for vehicular traffic between the Akley Springs snowgato and Dupont Lake Way (milepost 84.1). The closure will be in effect from 8 am to 4 pm to allow bicycle riders to cross over the Old McKenzie Pass on their way to Sisters and their next overnight stay in Redwood.

Members of the volunteer groups are encouraged to ride the shuttle to avoid congestion at the overnight campsite. For further information about the event, contact the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce at 896-3333.



### Belknap Covered Bridge Opened For Extensive Repair

Bridge Reconstruction Underway In Blue River

There's an open air look to the Belknap covered bridge these days, thanks to an extensive rehabilitation project aimed at overcoming years of moisture related problems. The landmark structure, located on McKenzie River Drive, is the newest of 18 covered bridges in Lane County. It replaced a similar structure which washed out in the 1964 flood.

People who haven't seen the bridge in a while may do a double take when the rehab project is completed. Six more windows are being added to each side of the bridge in addition to new roofing and structural repairs. The cost of the improvements is \$185,000. The project has a completion date of November 6, 1992.

### Events Fill Weekend Calendar

One hundred running feet will leave the starting line early Saturday at the beginning of this year's McKenzie River Trail Race.

Participants in both a 50 mile ultra-marathon and a 26.6 mile marathon events will spend the day on a course led out along the McKenzie River National Recreation Trail.

Racers will take off from the starting line at the trailhead (milepost 51.5 of the McKenzie Highway) at 7 am. About 3 1/2 hours later, the fastest marathon racers are expected to cross the finish line. Winners of the ultra-marathon event take about 7 hours to complete the course.

Also on Saturday, feet will be moving along another route some 40 miles to the west. Marking the start of the 42nd annual Waterville Community Fair is a parade scheduled to begin at 11 am near the Waterville Fire Station. Other features of the day long fair include exhibits of arts, crafts and hobbies as well as community group, health and safety displays.

### Preparing For A "City"

What was an empty field will be a mini city next week when Cycle Oregon V makes an overnight stop in the McKenzie Valley.

Contemplating what was to come on Tuesday were (from left) McKenzie Chamber President Lew Edmonds, Ken Engelman, Jess Stason, and Ray Tetter.

To download fully functioning 8-page digital files, with accessible text and images go to: <http://alturl.com/9yb9n>

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By Slim Randles

When the distinguished-looking elderly gentleman walked into the Iditarod Race headquarters (a room at the Roosevelt Hotel in Anchorage), I had no way of knowing this smiling man was going to lead me to my most embarrassing moment.

It was during the 1974 race, and my wife, Pam, ran race headquarters. I'd run the race in 1973, without managing to impress anyone. But hey, I was a dog musher, and here was a guy with a Boston accent, asking about the race.

His name, he said, was Norman Vaughan and he had just moved to Anchorage.

Well, I taught Norman Vaughan for the next hour how to drive a dog team. He smiled and nodded and listened patiently. Before he left, he told me we were probably going to see a lot of each other in the future and thanked me for the information.

Not 20 minutes later, the radio announcer let everyone know that the guest speaker at the mushers' banquet that evening would be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole as part of the safety plan for the Byrd Expedition.

Byrd named a mountain in Antarctica for Norman, and Col. Vaughan took some young people down there and climbed it on his 100th birthday.

Embarrassing? I suppose, but at least he learned the correct way to handle a dog team, right?

Brought to you by Dogsled: A True Tale of the North, Slim's first book. Available at Amazon.com.

Emergency? Call 911

Advertisement for ROTEX EXCAVATION-CONSTRUCTION. Services include site preparation, remodeling, new construction, project management, decks/fencing, and shops/steel buildings. Contact Gary Lee at 541-999-7280.

Advertisement for McKenzie Artists' Guild 29th Annual Art Show. September 4, 5 & 6 - 10:00 to 5:00 each day. Twelve artists will be showing their works for sale at the Leaburg Fire and Training Center.

Advertisement for Major Family Funeral Home. Devoted Caring Professional Staff. Funerals • Burials • Cremations. Monuments • Keepsakes • Video Tributes. Personalized Memorial Packages. Contact at 541-746-9667.

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# Sordid Portland slasher murder still baffling 100 years later

Sordid Portland slasher murder still baffling 100 years later

By Finn J.D. John

It was a little after 10 p.m. on a Friday evening in the summer of 1921. In their little house on Druid Street in the St. Johns neighborhood of Portland, Robert Green and his family were getting ready for bed when they heard the screams.

Rushing to the front porch, they found their neighbor, Ann Louise Agee, in her nightclothes, wild-eyed and disheveled.

"Help! Come quick! They're killing Harry!" she screamed.

Green looked across at the Agee home. From where he stood, by the light of streetlamps and the few lights inside the house, he could dimly see the front porch. The door was opening and a figure was staggering out of the front door, clutching at its throat. Then it collapsed on the porch.

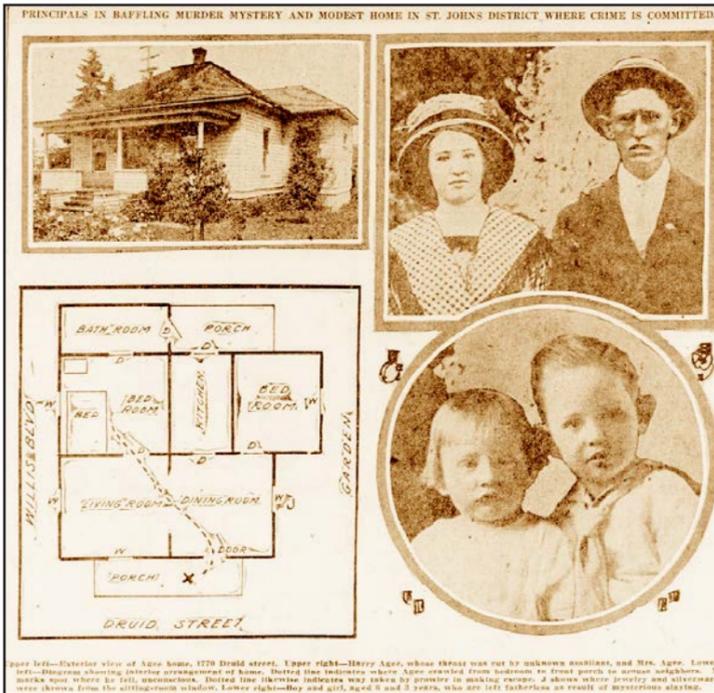
Green sprinted across and leaped onto the porch. There he found his neighbor, carpenter Harry Agee, in a pool of blood, dying.

Looking up at him, Harry opened his mouth and tried to speak. Only a ghastly gurgling resulted from the effort.

Harry's throat had been slashed open. Whoever had done it had missed the jugular vein, but had cut through his windpipe. Harry's lips were moving as if he were speaking, but no words were coming out. It was as if he were trying to tell Green who had attacked him, but could not.

And before he could figure out a way, he lapsed into unconsciousness from the blood loss. He died a few minutes later, on the way to the hospital.

This was the opening act in a murder drama that would hold



This photo spread ran in the Portland Sunday Oregonian on June 12, 1921, the day after the murder took place. It includes the Agees' modest Druid Street home, in the St. Johns neighborhood; Louise and Harry Agee; the two Agee children, ages 6 and 2; and an architectural plan of their home. The location where the jewelry was found dumped is marked with a "J" and the spot where Harry Agee collapsed is marked with an "X."

Portland spellbound throughout the summer of 1921 -- and one that would convince thousands of Portlanders to lock their doors at night.

Harry and Louise Agee appeared to be a model couple. He was 29 years old, she 26. They had been married for nine years and had two lovely, well-behaved children, ages 2 and 6. They were relative newcomers to Oregon, having grown up on adjacent farms back east in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri, but had wasted no time getting socially plugged in in Portland. They attended church each Sunday, and were active in the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Woodmen of the World lodges. In fact, Louise was taking trombone lessons to play in

the local Rebekah Lodge's brass band.

Those trombone lessons were to play a somewhat sinister role in the events of that day.

Police were soon on the scene to investigate. What they found left them initially baffled. The house was disordered, as if a burglar had ransacked it, and some jewelry and other valuables had been collected and deposited under the dining-room window as if a thief had dropped them there. But the window was locked, and the things weren't scattered as if thrown. Someone had either carried them around the house and placed them there, or locked the window after they'd been dropped.

A blood-spattered straight razor with a black handle was found in

the middle of the street, 25 feet from the front door. Louise Agee told the police she didn't recognize it, and added that Harry had only one razor, which was still in its box in the bathroom.

Looking at the bed, investigators could see that that was where Harry had been when attacked. Specifically, it looked to them like someone had stood directly behind the head of the bed and slashed with the razor, down and across.

Louise told them she'd been awakened by her husband yelling for help. Starting up, she first saw the blood, which frightened her; then she saw a man wearing a long overcoat and something white on his head, sprinting from the room and out the front door. She followed him, screaming for help. When she got to the porch, there was no sign of him; so she ran to the neighbors' house for help.

It was hard to imagine a burglar slashing the homeowner's throat on spec, as it were; and the valuables being placed on one side, with the murder weapon dropped on the other, made it seem unlikely this was a caught-in-the-act burglary. Suicide was briefly considered, but was ruled out based on how and where the cut was made.

That left the only other possibility: That it was an inside job -- that is, that Louise Agee had slashed her husband's throat as he slept peacefully in their bed.

By June 14, four days after the killing, the tone of the newspaper coverage was starting to harden against Louise Agee. That was the day the inquest was held, and Louise testified as a witness. She did not make a good impression.

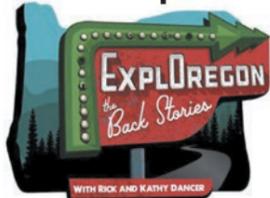
"Mrs. Agee ... said she and her husband retired Friday night at 10," the reporter writes. "She went to sleep at once and was awakened by the screams of her husband, who cried 'help.' Dr. Frank Menne, coroner's physician, who examined the body, had testified earlier that it would have been impossible, in his opinion, for a man having suffered such a wound to speak a word."

No one reading the newspapers could possibly have been surprised when, the next day, Louise Agee was arrested. She and her trombone teacher, J.H. Klecker, both were lodged in the jail as "detained witnesses."

It may not have been a surprise to newspaper readers, but it was clearly a nasty and unexpected shock to Louise.

Continued On Page 8

## Explore PNW Backstories



Join Rick & Kathy Dancer as they introduce you to The Backstories of the Pacific Northwest. The people, the places, the food, the recreation and the heart and soul of rural Oregon.

## Where To Watch

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Email: Rick@rickdancer.com



## Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



### Better breeding brings begonias back into the limelight

Thanks to zealous breeding and new hybridizing techniques, begonias are booming right along with the renaissance of houseplants.

Nicole Sanchez, horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service, knows firsthand how rewarding begonias can be for both beginners and experts. She became a convert as a teenager when she worked at a garden center. Now, her five plants reside in an east window and thrive with little input. Watering properly – not too much – and light fertilizer are all it takes to grow beautiful begonias of every kind.

The variety of begonias is stunning. The leaves, which come in many colors, can be flat, pebbled, shiny, hairy, fuzzy or spiraled. Flowers come in many colors and grow as tiny single blossoms to foot-wide clusters to giant double blossoms 10 inches or more in diameter.

Sanchez is particularly fond of the spiraled leaves of the five-plant Nautilus series from Terra Nova Nurseries in Canby, Ore. Particular favorites are ‘Ruby’ with spectacular large, ruby red foliage and ‘Lilac’ with violet-rose and ruby purple leaves outlined with a glossy black margin.

“Cocoa ‘Enchanted Sunrise’ is an example of new colors from breeding,” Sanchez said. “It has dark, dark leaves with a salmon bloom. And there are even interesting yellow-blooming varieties like Daystar ‘Primrose.’”

Sanchez credits begonia’s popularity to its exotic, tropical look and colorful, long-lasting blooms that can be brought into the home.

According to the American Begonia Society, there are 1,800



species of begonias and hundreds of cultivars. Native to tropical and sub-tropical regions in South and Central America as well as islands in the Caribbean, begonias were named after Michel Begon, a French politician and ardent plant collector. French botanist Charles Plumier discovered a begonia in Antilles in 1690 and named it after Begon.

“That shows you they’ve been interesting to people for at least 300 years as a collectible plant,” Sanchez said. “The current begonia frenzy started heating up in the early 2000s. In 2011, ‘Escargot’ was the first one to come on the market and it illustrated a new era in begonias. It’s the first one everyone got excited about with its dramatic crinkly swirling, spiral leaves that give it a lot of dimension. And it has green and silver and burgundy to its leaves. Fantastic.”

Parent to many of the new hybrids is Begonia masoniana ‘Iron Cross,’ a star in Sanchez’ eyes even if it is old-fashioned because of its super-textured, dark green leaves with a dark patch in the middle similar to a cross.

Sanchez pointed to the 1970s, another era of houseplant enthusiasm, as a brief fling with begonias. The begonias then had

average foliage but the long-blooming flowers – like orchids and African violets – took them to another level. The foliage of many new varieties is all it takes to fall in love. The beautiful flowers are a bonus.

Sanchez offers tips for growing begonias:

Begonias prefer temperatures in the high 50s into the 70s, which is compatible with most homes. They take moisture from the air so you may want to consider a humidifier, or place the plant near the shower.

Begonias are easy to overwater. Check the soil for moisture by sticking your finger in up to the first knuckle or picking up the pot. If it’s light, it’s time to water. After flowering, cut back on watering, lightly fertilize and let the plant rest for a while. Don’t let a begonia sit in water. Either drain the saucer after watering or put the pot in a saucer lined with pebbles.

Begonias like bright light, but indirect rather than hot sunlight. Sanchez has hers in a room with windows facing east. She suggests experimenting with light by moving the plant from place to place. If the plants begin to stretch, they need more light. If they are stunted and/or burning, they need to be farther from the window or moved to a window with less hot light. A good share of begonias will grow in a south window and most will grow in either an eastern or western exposure.

Begonias thrive outside in the shade when temperatures are above 55 degrees F.

Begonias should be fed with a fertilizer with a higher middle number on the label, which tells you the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium the fertilizer contains. African violet fertilizer is a good choice. Dilute it to half strength before using.

Begonias have few problems if watered correctly. When overwatered, roots will rot and the plant will die. Sometimes, aphids will find a begonia, but they aren’t hard to eradicate.



## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### TOMATO TIME

Fresh tomatoes in our gardens, farm stands and at the store! So we will be searching for ways to prepare them. Tomato time was canning time, when I was growing up. Mother, Sister and I, often with the help of a neighbor lady, picked, blanched, peeled and packed tomatoes into jars with water to cook in the canner.

We ate many of these freshly sliced with a dab of mayonnaise or salt and pepper. Father liked his sliced tomatoes sprinkled with sugar.

#### An Ancient Food

Tomatoes grew wild thousands of years ago in early civilizations of South America, particularly Equator and Peru. Then travelers took this plant, actually classified as a fruit, to Central America and Mexico. In some areas they called it the ‘tomatl’.

When the Spaniards explored this area in the 1500s, they carried the tomato back to their country. The Spanish and Italians enjoyed this food and often stewed it or made sauces.

However, when the tomato was introduced to England, it wasn’t very popular. Some people even considered it poisonous. However, this food eventually was used in soups, stews, and sauces. It’s believed the early tomato was tastier cooked than raw for the delectable varieties of today hadn’t been developed.

#### Tomatoes Come Full Cycle

Tomatoes came full cycle when the early settlers brought them to this country. They began growing tomatoes and using them in their

diets.

At first homemakers canned tomatoes in the home. Eventually a canning industry grew up and the tomato became popular year round, not just during the summer gardening season.

#### Very Versatile Food

The tomato is very versatile and can be used in many ways, both fresh and cooked. It’s a good addition to SALADS whether sliced with greens or served with various fillings.

You also can simply SLICE TOMATOES on a bed of salad greens and serve with dressing. Sometimes you may want to add sliced onions and cucumbers, either on individual plates or larger platter. You also can sprinkle with salt and pepper, olive oil and vinegar.

STUFFED TOMATOES - This is a tasty way to prepare tomatoes, which lends to great variety. Cut out the stem end of an unpeeled tomato. Slice the tomato into quarters or eighths about three fourths of the way down, but don’t cut the tomato apart entirely. Some cooks prefer to scoop out the center of the tomato and then fill it.

Use any variety of fillings: egg salad, tuna salad, chicken salad, cottage cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, three bean salad, shrimp salad, seafood salad, etc. Serve on lettuce and parsley. Accompany with pickles, olives, scallions, radishes and hot rolls or bread.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen writes from her NH home)

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For more information about these and other positions, go to [www.lcog.org/jobs](http://www.lcog.org/jobs).

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# McKenzie Resilience



As the one-year mark of the Holiday Farm Fire approaches next month, the Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program would like to acknowledge both the devastation and challenges faced by McKenzie residents and the remarkable resilience the McKenzie community has shown over this past year.

The Pure Water Partners worked with landowners immediately following the fire to move hazardous materials away the edge of the river and implement immediate erosion control measures to prevent runoff of ash and other toxic materials into the water during fall rains.

Subsequently, PWP has carried out post-fire assessments on over 270 properties within the fire perimeter and conducted riparian replanting on almost 90 properties during the winter/spring.

This summer we broadened the scope of our property assessments to include evaluation of invasive vegetation, replanting needs, fuels reduction, and additional erosion issues. We developed new field collection tools to more efficiently conduct these assessments and write recommendations reports for landowners.

If we've conducted a post-fire assessment on your property over the last year, please expect to hear

from us in the next month or two to ask whether you are interested in having a more in-depth assessment on your property. Landowners can choose to work with PWP to implement recommended practices by signing a 7-year watershed stewardship agreement. This will enable our partners to work with contractors to do work on landowner properties (free of charge) and perform maintenance over the length of the agreement.

It's not too late for landowners to sign up for our voluntary program.

For more information or to sign up, please visit: [www.purewaterpartners.org](http://www.purewaterpartners.org)

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## Art education program

Lane Arts Council is looking for rural artists with some teaching experience to participate in arts education programs in local schools. Interested? Contact Ben Minnis, Arts Education Program Coordinator, Lane Arts, 541-485-2278



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<h3>An Invitation to Worship</h3>	<p>Living Water Family Fellowship 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 Just east of Blue River 541-822-3820 Sunday: 9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages 10:30 am - Worship Service &amp; Children's Church 6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth Thurs. 6 pm - Celebrate Recovery (12-Step Program)</p>
<p><b>McKenzie Bible Fellowship</b> 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon <b>Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.</b> Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's &amp; Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information <a href="http://www.mckenziebible.com">www.mckenziebible.com</a></p>	<p><b>Catholic Church</b> <b>St. Benedict Lodge Chapel</b> 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: <a href="http://sblodge.opwest.org">sblodge.opwest.org</a></p>
<p><b>McKenzie Bridge Christian Church</b> 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages 11:00 a.m. Worship Service &amp; Nursery Need a ride? Call 541-822-3289</p>	
<p><b>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church</b> 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, <a href="mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com">nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com</a>, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person! Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	

## Community Notes

### August 14 McKenzie River Treasures Community Market



10am-3pm. A new Saturday market is meant to help local businesses and showcase all the wonderful things the McKenzie Valley has to offer. The new "McKenzie River Treasures" market will take place on alternating Saturdays - this weekend at the McKenzie Station Iron Forest, 49701 McK. Hwy. (with vendor setup starting at 8am)

### August 16 McKenzie Fire District Board



12:00pm - 1:00pm. at Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, in Leaburg. 541-896-3311.

### August 18 Upper McK Fire Board



7 - 8:00pm. 5 Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting. At the fire station, 6578 McKenzie Hwy, 541-822-3479

### August 21 McKenzie River Treasures Community Market



10am - 3pm. Saturday market is to help local businesses and showcase all the wonderful things the McKenzie Valley has to offer. The market will take place on alternating Saturdays - this weekend at the McKenzie Station PUB. (with vendor setup starting at 8am)

### August 14 BINGO is Back

On its anniversary date for the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bingo, Vida McKenzie Community Center is resuming this monthly event in a temporary venue at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church aka "the little white church in Waltherville where the canal crosses the highway." The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and games start promptly at 7 p.m. Walt Wilson will be calling the numbers and the snack bar will be open as usual. Brand new Bingo cards will need to be loosened up at this opportunity to reunite with old friends, make new friends and have some good old-fashioned VMCC fun.

### Through Aug 14 Summer Reading at Leaburg Library



10am - Noon. Leaburg Library is once again holding a summer reading program that is open to all children from preschoolers to 6th graders. Kids and their families will do this together at home, with weekly check-ins at the library. At the end of each week, the child will return to the library, post his or her project on the "Making A Difference Wall" in the hallway, record your reading goal progress, and pick up another bag with book, activity pages and project ideas for the next week. For more information call Marty at 541-896-3817.

### June 26 - A Dime At A Time



10:00am-12:00pm. Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy. Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers! Funds from plastic, glass, and aluminum containers go toward the rebuilding of the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, McKenzie River Clinic, and the Vida McKenzie Community Center - all destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire.

### September 11 Waltherville Fair

The Waltherville Grange has plans to hold the annual Waltherville Community Fair this year on September 11, including the 5K Waddle, parade, barbeque chicken dinner, and all the usual fair festivities. People can participate by planning to enter baked goods, canning, flowers, arts, crafts, and handmade creations in the fair to make up for missing last year due to COVID. Vendors tables will also be available at \$10. Contact Paula at 541-561-3407 to reserve a table space.

### How to become a financial visionary.

Finding a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball. Check out [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov) to find out more about Series I Bonds from the U.S. Treasury.

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## Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

### Raised Under the Influence

I am a divorced father of a 16-year-old son and a 21-year-old son. I have been divorced 18 months and separated for a year prior to the divorce becoming final.

My ex-wife is a recovering alcoholic and has been sober for two years. During the peak of her alcoholism, she had three different affairs. She lied to me so often that I demanded she leave the home.

At the time of the divorce, I structured an agreement that would allow her to leave debt-free on the condition of no child support. I took on a house that was upside down about \$50,000, and I took on over \$40,000 in debt, due largely to her drinking and spending sprees.

I also agreed to pay all of my sons' expenses and, in doing so, have come very close to bankruptcy. Thankfully, I was recently promoted and received a healthy raise, which gave me some financial breathing room. The problem is, I have to move.

I enjoyed equally shared custody of our younger son up to now. Due to my relocation, my son has chosen to live with his mother because he doesn't want to move. Were it not for her sobriety and the fact he is a sophomore in high school, I would have attempted to gain full custody and have him move with me.

He pleaded to stay in his hometown. Reluctantly, I agreed.

Here is the issue. My ex-wife has successfully sued me for child support. This is besides what I already do financially for both my sons, and frankly, I can't afford it.

Honestly, I'm done getting kicked around.

I will fight the ruling, and it isn't going to be cheap. I feel I must in order to continue to support my older son in college. I'm convinced my younger son will never see the money I am legally obligated to pay to his mother.

She continues to lie as she attempts to paint me as a cheapskate who doesn't want to pay for his son's way. Nothing could be further from the truth. But how do I explain all this to my younger son?

He won't move with me. He sees me as the villain, and when I suggest alternatives, like spending the summer with me, he digs in his heels. He doesn't want to give up summers with his friends, and I hate asking him to make that choice.

His older brother knows everything because, early on, he confronted me with whether she cheated and I told him the truth. My youngest thinks his mother and I divorced due to her drinking. Now, I'm not sure I want to go on living that lie.

I want him to understand why I'm so upset. I want him to know I'm there for him, regardless of what his mother tells him. I think my wish to spend as much time as possible with him should outweigh a summer with his friends. I want him to understand family is first.

The problem is my ex-wife won't support that view, and because of that, I feel I should tell him the whole truth. But that feels slimy.

A part of me says it's time for

the whole truth. Another part of me says to continue to take the high road and don't put him in the middle. What do you think?

Robert

Robert, you have every reason to be mad and every reason to let your son see how much you pay for his support. But the wiser course now is to withhold telling your son about his mother's infidelity.

The divorce should have come 10 years ago. If that had happened, today would be different. What you are dealing with now is the multiplier effect from past decisions. But woulda-coulda-shoulda is water under the bridge. As you say, it's her fault you and your boys are in this position.

None of that can be fixed now. The main concern of your younger son is his friends and high school classmates.

His life is in turmoil. If there is no abuse or no imminent harm that you can prove, how much harder and more stressful will it be on your son, if his choice is overruled? Years from now he may regret his decision, but not now.

He's not choosing his mom over you. He's choosing his friends.

The damage that has been done by staying with a woman who went through life drunk has been done. The relationship you have with your son has been built. The interplay between the two of you is established. Don't destroy it.

Make him know how much you will miss him and how much you think of him. That's your best short-, medium-, and long-term play.

Doing anything other than letting him have his way now will put a wedge between you. In time, he will learn about his mother's

## American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

In this tiny conundrum of a poem, Ross Gay, a poet who defiantly affirms the possibilities of hope and gratitude, reminds us that the capacity to make a sound, to speak, to sing, is fully connected to the capacity to breathe, to live. Gay's recent book of essays, *The Book of Delights*, is its own catalogue of such hope.

### ode to the flute

A man sings  
by opening his  
mouth a man  
sings by opening  
his lungs by  
turning himself into air  
a flute can  
be made of a man  
nothing is explained  
a flute lays  
on its side  
and prays a wind  
might enter it

*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 ©2015 by Ross Gay, "ode to the flute" from Catalogue of Unabashed Gratitude (University of Pittsburgh Press 2015.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2021 by The Poetry F*

## Fishing Report

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

**Trout Stocking Schedule:** Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River below Leaburg Dam - 2,000, and Clear Lake - 5,400 (plus 250 trophy fish).

### Fish Counts

**August 7, Willamette Falls**  
Spring Chinook - 28,507  
Summer Steelhead - 1,451



## A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber (www.rick-steber.com)

**August 12** - President Thomas Jefferson, to bolster the claim of the United States to the Oregon Country, sent out the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were co-commanders of the expedition. They entered the Oregon Country August 12, 1805, and three months later reached the mouth of the Columbia River where they established their winter camp, calling it Fort Clatsop. Early the following spring they started east on the return leg of their journey. Along the way they endured severe hardships and were in peril from Indians and the threat of starvation but finally reached St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

## Quote of the Week

"I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned."

Richard Feynman



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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 Walterville Loop, a block from the Walterville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

### Piano Lessons

Now accepting piano students - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced - all ages. Professional jazz pianist, classically trained with years of teaching experience. Located in Leaburg. Please call or text 408.391.3477 or email; kimberly@liquidsister.com. http://www.liquidsister.com SKP-8/16ruc

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### Quilters/Needle Crafters

The Sew and So's meet every Monday (except holidays) at the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center from noon to 4pm. Come join us. Call Sara at 541-896-3059 for more information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

### Rental Wanted

Senior lady, non-smoking, no pets. displaced by last September fire, is looking for a rental. Phone 541 225 8915. elliedeklerk541@gmail.com.

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# Portland slasher

Continued From Page 4

"Placed in jail in the early afternoon, Mrs. Agee was as a caged tigress," The Oregonian reported. "Asked by newspaper photographers to pose, she raged in fury when she thought her picture had been made and dared that it be run."

"Tawny, reddish hair and her quick movements in the cell gave her a tigerish look," the reporter continued. "She ... was dressed in an attractive blouse of sheer silk and a checked sport skirt of modish cut, short, as the fashion is, with neat shoes and silk stockings."

The reporter did not use the word "strumpet," but one gets the distinct impression that he wanted to!

Louise Agee's father, J.D. Swing, arrived later that same day.

After her arrest, Louise Agee stopped talking to anyone but her attorney. Her stubborn silence seems to have annoyed the reporters, because shortly after this they started calling her "The Grim Widow" in the headlines, and missed few opportunities to mention her coldness of demeanor, sometimes even in the same sentence in which they describe her shedding tears.

Klecker, her trombone teacher, had no such reticence, and soon he had talked his way into becoming the state's star witness against her. His testimony was that he and Louise had had a little affair going on in the months before the killing. He told the cops Louise had been wild for him, but he'd been uninterested, because he had a sweetheart in San Diego whom he had been urging to move to Portland and marry him. He had, however, succumbed to her seductive "Mrs. Robinson" moves once or twice in spite of himself.

"I'll never give a woman trombone lessons again," he said.

All of this, of course, was a classic boys'-locker-room story of the "panting vixen" type, and as such it's pretty suspicious; but to the investigators it sounded legit. They theorized that maybe Louise, desperate to ensnare Klecker before his girlfriend came to town to claim him and finding that her marital status bothered him, thought she'd have better luck if her boring old husband

were out of the way.

Through it all, Louise wore her stoicism like a mask, refusing to engage in any way.

"Mrs. Agee has already made a complete statement of all the facts so far as she knows them," said John Collier, her attorney, in response to questions from the press. "Her statements have been distorted and garbled in building up a fabric of circumstances that can be used against her." Therefore, he added, she had decided to say nothing at all.

She kept that silence up in the face of obviously severe temptations to break it. It probably helped her legal case, but it did her no favors in the "court of public opinion." Even some of her neighbors and acquaintances started to turn against her, and to believe in her guilt.

As Portland District Attorney Walter Evans and his team ramped up their case against Louise Agee, the tone of the newspaper coverage got darker and darker. At one point The Oregonian quotes prosecutors and investigators (anonymously, of course) as saying she was not acting like an innocent person, and even comparing her with Lady Macbeth -- she of the Shakespeare play.

"She is regarded as a woman without imagination and to whom the finer feelings are undiscovered," the Oregonian writes, describing the state's position. "It is believed she could not know remorse. Bloody scenes could be endured, for they were details and a little blood could soon be washed away, and a state official connected with the prosecution quoted Lady Macbeth briefly yesterday, believing the words fitted into the character of Louise Agee: 'The sleeping and the dead are but as pictures; 'tis the eye of childhood fears a painted devil.'"

This line, of course, was delivered in Act II of the play, just after the scene in which Lady Macbeth's husband murders King Duncan in his sleep.

Meanwhile, members of Harry Agee's family had started arriving from Missouri. The prosecutors likely expected to find in these in-laws allies who would help convict his wife of murdering

him; but if so, they were surprised and disappointed. All of them were unwavering in their support of Louise and belief in her innocence.

Although the trial was initially scheduled for September, it was moved back to July to reduce the amount of time the family members from Missouri would be stuck in town. By an odd coincidence, that change meant that this case was the last major murder case tried in Oregon before an all-male jury. The Nineteenth Amendment had passed the year before, and women were now voters; the jury system had taken an extra year to respond. Given the domestic nature of this crime, there was much speculation over whether women as jurors would be more or less sympathetic to the "Grim Widow" in court; but the question turned out to be moot.

As the jurors were interviewed, the primary question the state was asking each one was whether he would be OK with sending a woman to the gallows. Anyone who said "no" was dismissed from consideration.

(Sources: Archives of the Portland Oregonian, Portland Journal, and Oregon Statesman, June 1921-April 1922. Special thanks to the Albany Regional Museum staff for the story tip via their Facebook page @albanyregional-museum)

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

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

## Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

**7:48 a.m.:** Suspicious Conditions - 91700 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**8:15 a.m.:** Assist, Information - 54700 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:27 a.m.:** Suspicious Conditions - Marcola Rd. & Skyhigh Dr. Caller reported a chemical smell. Possibly related to vegetation spraying that was happening in the area.

**9:40 a.m.:** Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Donna Rd.

**4:30 p.m.:** Criminal Trespass - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**5:15 p.m.:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 30.

**7:22 p.m.:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 42.

**7:49 p.m.:** Incomplete 911 Call - 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd.

**Aug. 6: 12:39 p.m.:** Assist Public - Lat: 44.138936 Long: - 122.410548.

**12:50 p.m.:** Citizen Contact - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**1:11 p.m.:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & N. Gate Creek Rd.

**1:23 p.m.:** Citizen Contact - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**1:47 p.m.:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 26.

**1:57 p.m.:** Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. Mp. 22.

**4:33 p.m.:** Citizen Contact - Goodpasture Rd. Mp. 7.

**5:52 p.m.:** Disturbance, Dispute - 88500 blk, East of Eden Rd.

**7:01 p.m.:** Sign Down (Not Stop Sign) - Goodpasture Rd.

**8:34 p.m.:** Suspicious Conditions - Blue River Dr. & Rose St. McKenzie District Deputy located evidence of a break-in near the listed location.

**11:33 p.m.:** Suspicious Subject - 47900 blk, McK. Hwy.

**Aug. 8: 10:45 a.m.:** Burglary - 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd.

**12:51 p.m.:** Criminal Trespass - 47900 blk, McK. Hwy.

**1:49 p.m.:** Assist, Follow Up - 45300 blk, McK. Hwy.

**3:45 p.m.:** Assist, Follow Up - 97100 blk, Horse Creek Rd.

**5:22 p.m.:** Assist, Follow Up - 51500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**7:47 p.m.:** Custodial Interference - 49400 blk, Eagle Rock Pl.

## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Flight Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

**13:02:** 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

**14:13:** 90974 Angels Flight Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**16:20:** 90000 blk, Thomson Ln Medical, General. Patient Assessed, No Transport

**17:48:** 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Illegal Burning. Extinguished by ODF.

**Aug. 6: 16:25:** 90000 blk, Thomson Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Aug. 7: 12:12:** McK. Hwy. Mp. 14. False Alarm, Actually On Clear Lake Cutoff.

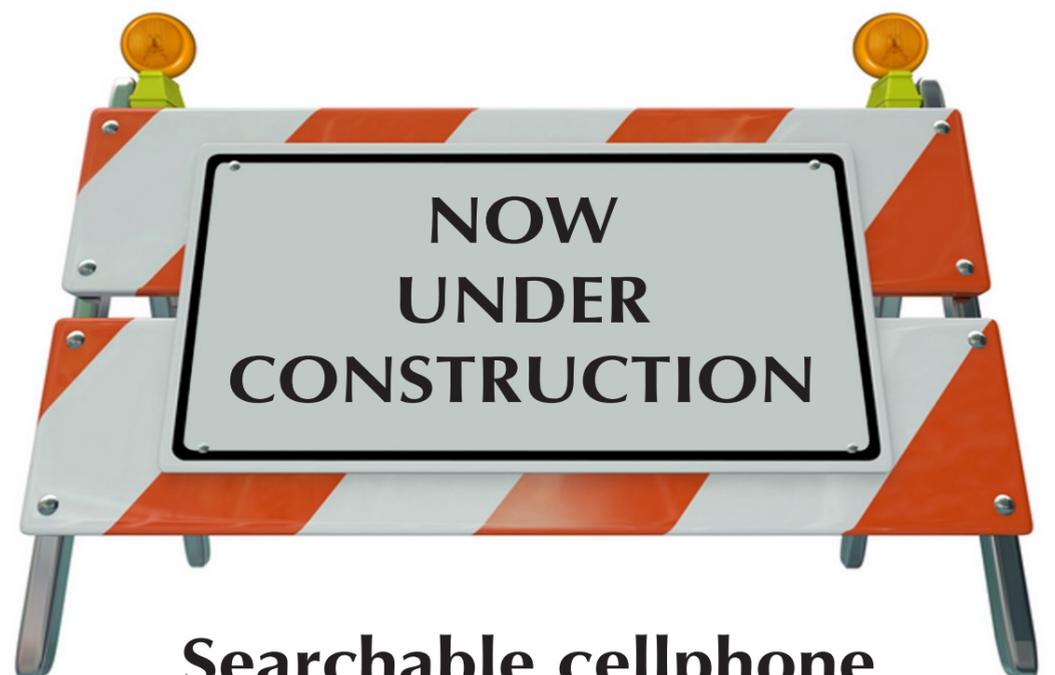
**18:32:** EWEB Park. Illegal Burning. Party extinguished fire.

**Aug. 8: 7:24:** 1300 blk, 66th St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**19:29:** 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**NA:** 36000 blk, Camp Creek Rd Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

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