



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Oregon's "Tiger King"

He'd left behind 16 lions, three tigers, and several wolves and bison, along with a small herd of elk.

PAGE 4

Country Kitchen

When my husband and I had our small Cessna 140 airplane, he did the flying while I found the navigating intriguing.

PAGE 5



Affordable housing coming
Including 6 "Rose Street Cottages"



Six new homes will be built on lots that had ben leveled in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire.

BLUE RIVER: Only 30% of area homes have been rebuilt three years after the Holiday Farm Fire scorched 173,000 acres and destroyed over 500 residences. In a step to reverse that trend, the McKenzie Community Land Trust (MCLT) has acquired 2 acres to build 6 affordable homes in Blue River.

"The Rose Street Cottages will help address a long standing community need for affordable housing," according to Lane Tompkins, McKenzie School Superintendent abd chairman of the MCLT board. The prject, he says,will ensure "a vibrant, dynamic McKenzie Community."

Organizers say working families haven't been able to afford to live and work here. "These 6 homes are a step in that

direction," Tompkins notes. "Our families help to manage our forests, provide vital services to McKenzie residents and tourists, volunteer for our fire departments, and send their children to our schools."

Founded in 2022, organizers say the MCLT's primary vision was focused on providing home ownership to people struggling to find an affordable option after the wildfire. In addition, though, the land trust model could be expanded to assist locally owned businesses, commercial development, and other public benefit projects.

6 stick-built 3 bedroom/2 bath affordable homes would be built on the Rose Street Cottages property, with a goal

Rose Street Cottages- Page 10

A great get-together

River community turned out to celebrate

By Cliff Richardson
On behalf of the McKenzie Locals Helping Locals (LHL), I would like to thank and recognize all the organizations and folks that made this past Sunday's McKenzie Community Celebration, held and organized by LHL, another outstanding success.

First and foremost, thanks to McKenzie Community Track and Field for, as always, providing the beautiful and fantastic venue, the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Track, for this year's festivities. What a treasure and asset this venue is to our Com-



Kids gave the inflatable slides and Bounce House a thorough workout all day long.

munity, in so many ways.

We so appreciate the following participating Mc-

Kenzie non-profit organizations: McKenzie Valley
Get-together - Page 6



After several matchups and multiple competitors took a toss, Scott Tant and Jerry Lincoln were the named the Corn Hole competition Champs.



Ray Merrill and the Eagle Rockers again took to center stage for a full day of live music.



Kaylin Salladay, Miss McKenzie Bridge Volunteer, helped feed the close to 600 people who attended the Celebration.



Winner of the watermelon eating contest was Travis Simonis (left). See the video at: tinyurl.com/y8mxw2p

Graffiti keeps coming back

Tags in Vida have included Skinhead slogans



Vida area residents have been busy in recent weeks removing graffiti, including the recurring anti-law enforcement "ACAB" code painted on safety barriers near the Goodpasture covered bridge. Other tags have been painted under the historic structure.

Guest Opinion

Committed to delivering the best

By Lane Tomkins

Hello to all, especially those of you who may not know me. I'm Lane Tompkins, Superintendent/Principal of McKenzie School District and McKenzie River Community School. A native of McKenzie Bridge, I'm a proud alumnus of McKenzie Schools.

Our district has seen transformative changes under my tenure. Notably:

- We evolved our school into a community-centric charter, emphasizing place-based, project-based, and service learning.
- We've inaugurated the first licensed child care center in the McKenzie corridor, a testament to our commitment to early childhood development and supporting our working families.

I've always envisioned our students and community at the heart of our initiatives. This vision guided us through challenges like the COVID pandemic and the devastating aftermath of the Holiday Farm Fire.

I wanted to use this avenue and our beloved hometown newspaper as a way to address some rumors related to the district. I believe in transparency, and if there are questions to address, I'm here to answer them.

First, I'd like to address concerns recently raised about district transparency, particularly regarding ad-

ministrative compensation. My salary this year is \$112,596, not the rumored \$212,000. My role combines the responsibilities of both a Superintendent and a K-12 Principal, making my compensation comparable to an Elementary Principal in Eugene or Springfield School Districts. I recognize the community's investment in this role, and I am committed to serving with utmost dedication.

Second, I'd like to address concerns that have been raised related to our transportation department. We recently faced challenges caused by sudden staff resignations. Thanks to a cooperative agreement with other Lane County schools, we quickly addressed these challenges to temporarily ensure the uninterrupted transportation for our students.

In moments when local solutions weren't available, we took essential steps to ensure our students' consistent transportation. Recently, even these bigger districts have had staffing level challenges that have made it difficult for them to help us any longer. We're immensely thankful for the supportive partnerships during these times.

Third, recent staff resignations coincided with discussions regarding wage adjustments, leading to some misunderstandings in our community and concerns about potential disruptions. It's worth noting that our Classified Staff, which includes our bus drivers, received a generous 6% cost



of living adjustment (COLA) recently, demonstrating the school board's commitment to fair compensation. We believe in a united mission to support our students and community, and we're always open to constructive dialogue that serves the best interests of everyone involved.

As you know, we are still working to rebuild our school system following the pandemic, the Hol-

iday Farm Fire, navigating opening school each fall with wildfire smoke impacts both near and far while supporting our students, staff, and families under varying levels of evacuation. Beyond these issues, we are seeing a very slow recovery process where only one-third of the homes lost in the fire of 2020 have been rebuilt three years later, and the state and federal government has been slow to roll out recovery programs that might be able to get folks finally back home.

Our facilities, while rich in history, urgently require upgrades. It's our responsibility to ensure they reflect the high-quality, safe, and nurturing environments our students deserve.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we face a clear crossroads: without additional legislative funding or a boost in

enrollment, the scope of our services and programs at McKenzie will need reevaluation. These challenges are significant, but we are determined to address them. With the continued support of our students, families, staff, and community, we are committed to delivering the best for our students and community.

To those I've had the pleasure of meeting over the years, I trust you see my genuine dedication to enhancing the lives of our students and community. For those new to our community or those with lingering questions, my door is always open. Let's work together for the betterment of all in McKenzie.

Please remember we are in this together, and we could use your support as we navigate the future changes.

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The Eagle Varsity Volleyball team travels to Siletz on Tuesday, October 10, for a match with Siletz Valley. The start time is 6:00 pm.

The McKenzie team hosts Triangle Lake (last home, regular season match) on Thursday, October 12, with a 6:00 pm start.

The Eagle team will travel to Alsea on Monday, October 16, 6:00 pm start, for its last regular season road trip.

The McKenzie Cross Country Teams travel to Lebanon on Wednesday, October 11, to participate in the Lebanon XC meet. The meet will be held at Seven Oak Middle School with the Varsity Girls 5,000 meters race starting at 4:00 pm and the Varsity Boys 5,000 meters contest beginning at 4:45 pm.

The Eagle Varsity Six-man football team travels to Newberg on Friday, October 13 for a 7:00

pm kickoff versus C.S. Lewis Academy. The football game will be held on the campus of George Fox University.

Eagle Teams In Action This Past Week

The McKenzie Six-man Varsity football team hosted the Mohawk Mustangs on Friday, September 28, in a non-league game. Mohawk originally intended to play eight-man football this season, but due to low player numbers, decided to drop down to six-man.

Because the Mustangs decided late to make the change, they are playing as an independent team, not affiliated with a league and are, therefore, not eligible to play post season. That doesn't mean, however, that the Mustangs can't play the game, and just to prove their point, the boys from over on the Mohawk downed their Eagle rivals, 26-14, which earned the Mustangs their first season victory.

Last week, on Friday, October 6, McKenzie welcomed the Triangle Lake Lakers to Wade Thomas Field for a Special District 2 North League game. The Lakers evidently liked where they landed and their game plan worked to perfection, as they sailed to a 45-0 victory over their Eagle hosts. Triangle Lake improved to 3-2 on the season and McKenzie dropped to 0-5.

The McKenzie Varsity Volleyball team notched its second victory of the season last Saturday, October 7, with a 3-0 match wins over Mannahouse Academy, Eugene. The Eagles took set one, 25-3, set two, 25-6, and set three, 25-12.

Later in the day at the same gym, the gals from McKenzie dropped a match to Mohawk, losing the first set 25-8, the second set 25-2 and the third set 25-15. The Eagle team is currently 2-12 on the season.

The McKenzie Varsity Cross Country teams competed in the Stayton Regis Invitational on Thursday, October 5. In the Girls 5,000 meter race, Eagle sophomore Myra Dion finished 42nd out of 64 runners, with a time of 26:27.8 minutes. Sophie Schoolmeester of Banks posted the winning time of 20:17.5 min.. McKenzie sophomore Will Meister placed 79th out of a field of 137 runners with a 5,000 meter finish time of 21:48.0 min. Amin Diani of Banks won the Boys race with a finish time of 17:17.1 min.

Later that same week, on Saturday, October 7, Dion ran a 5,000-meter race at the Paul Mariman Invitational held at Philomath. The Eagle runner finished 66th in the Girls Varsity race which featured 83 athletes. Dion's finish time was 27:33.7 min.

Letters to the Editor

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Friday 10/13		Saturday 10/14		Sunday 10/15	
					
McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 69 Low: 50	Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 57 Low: 38	McKenzie Valley Showers 40% chance precip High: 67 Low: 51	Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 54 Low: 41	McKenzie Valley PM Showers 50% chance precip High: 67 Low: 52	Santiam Pass PM Showers 50% chance precip High: 54 Low: 40

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
10/3	64	52	0.80	585 cfs	10/3	61	49	0.64	2,310 cfs
10/4	79	52	0	578 cfs	10/4	66	46	0.02	2,250 cfs
10/5	86	56	0	617 cfs	10/5	73	43	0	2,210 cfs
10/6	79	52	0	NA	10/6	73	47	0	2,190 cfs
10/7	86	56	0	NA	10/7	88	52	0	2,240 cfs
10/8	83	53	0	617 cfs	10/8	82	50	0	2,170 cfs
10/9	59	53	0.09	610 cfs	10/9	83	50	0	2,170 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Oct. 2: 10:16 a.m: Welfare Check - 48100 block, Conley Rd.
7:55 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.
10:07 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Fallin Ln. & McK. Hwy.
Oct. 3: 8:44 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 89200 blk, Marcola Rd.
10:35 a.m: Suspicious Subject - 56900 blk, N. Bank Rd.
11:08 a.m: Blocked Driveway - 39800 blk, McK. Hwy.
12:01 p.m: Welfare Check - 48100 blk, Conley Rd.
1:32 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 48500 blk, McK. Hwy.
1:59 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 91900 blk, Taylor Rd.
Oct. 4: 2:00 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:39 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK.

Hwy. & Ross Ln.
2:58 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Ross Ln.
4:27 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - Horse Creek Rd. & McK. Hwy.
4:34 p.m: Tree Down - Marcola Rd. Milepost 17.
5:30 p.m: Warrant Service - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.
7:09 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - 35600 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
Oct. 5: 3:33 p.m: Citizen Contact - Vida Fire Station.
4:15 p.m: Subpoena Service - 49700 blk, McK. Hwy.
5:01 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
6:30 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 45300 blk, McK. Hwy.
Oct. 6: 8:19:55 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Upper Camp Creek Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.
Oct. 7: 1:02 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 27.
2:27 p.m: Fraud - 92500 blk, Pioch Ln.

3:13 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Potter Ln.
5:21 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 42.
3:01 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Twin Firs Rd.
Oct. 7: 6:04 a.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd.
6:20 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd.
9:33 a.m: Assist Oregon State Police - McK. Hwy. Mp. 17.
5:09 p.m: Fraud - 92500 blk, Pioch Ln.
5:51 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 91900 blk, Marcola Rd.
10:24 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - 38900 blk, Camp Creek. Rd.
11:14 p.m: Open Gate - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.
Oct. 8: 1:34 a.m: Loud Noise - 8900 blk, Thurston Rd.
11:42 a.m: Menacing - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.
2:31 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 48500 blk, McK. Hwy.
6:28 p.m: Information - 38800 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.
6:35 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45200 blk, Goodpasture Rd
7:29 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.
7:55 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - Bigelow Hot Springs.
11:58 p.m: Suspicious
Continued On Page 9

State Police Report

Oct. 8: 05:45: Fish & Wildlife, Hunting - McGowan Creek Rd., Milepost 3. Fish & Wildlife troopers conducted a WED (Wildlife Enforcement Decoy) operation in the early morning hours prior to daylight. They observed a white Chevy pickup stop at the decoy, headlights illuminating the decoy, and a passenger firing twice with a pistol. The decoy was struck both times before the operator started to drive away. Troopers conducted a traffic stop on the Chevy and ultimately issued citations for Unlawful Take, Hunting Prohibited Hours, Discharging a Firearm from a Public Highway, and Aiding/ Counseling in a Wildlife Violation. A Kimber .45 caliber pistol was also seized and taken back to the Springfield Patrol Office where it was placed in a secure evidence locker. Arrested/Charged: 60-year-old male and a 26-year old male, both from Harrisburg.
20:16: Fish & Wildlife, Hunting. Received information that a hunter accidentally shot 2 deer in the McKenzie Unit. The hunter called and self-reported the accident. Upon arrival, trooper observed two spike bucks that looked identical. The hunter first shot the deer and then wet too retrieve it when the deer stood up. The hunter then fired a second shot, and the deer went down. When the hunter realized the second deer, phone contacts were made to Springfield Fish & Wildlife troopers. Ultimately, the hunter was issued a warning for the unlawful take and the deer was transported to Marcola where it was donated through the Helping Hands Pantry. Citation/Warning issued to 46-year-old male.

Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
Oct. 3: 17:07: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist.
1:51: 88000 blk, Millican Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Refusal Obtained.
Oct. 4: 10:46: 89198 Alexis Ave. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
19:07: Camp Creek Rd./ Milepost 1. Motor Vehicle Accident. Patients Assessed and Packaged, 3 Transported.
19:14: 88000 blk, Heritage Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
Oct. 5: 17:44: 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Smoke Alarm. Mistaken Alarm.
Oct. 6: 16:03: McK. Hwy./ Milepost 34 Public Assist 16:03 Removed Hazard From Highway
16:44: 39000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Public Assist 16:44 Lift Assist.
Oct. 8: 17:06: McK. Hwy./ Mp. 12. Area Check For Smoke. Located Fire, Legal Agriculture
Continued On Page 9

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Oct. 7: 20:20: Smoke Check - McK. Hwy./USFS 2654 Road. Caller believes an already burned down tree may have flared up.
Oct. 8: 15:12: Smoke Check - 59000 block, McK. Hwy. Caller sees smoke on the west side of the river.
Oct. 9: 14:32: Medical - 54000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.
Oct. 10: 02:59: Motor Vehicle Accident - Clear Lake Cutoff, Milepost 7. White tractor and trailer in the ditch, east of Blue Pool.
The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Oct. 2: 16:16: 41000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General.

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By Slim Randles

We didn't have the Chipper Invitational Golf Tournament this year. It wasn't a good summer for anything that takes place outdoors, for one thing. Just too danged hot.

For another, people we knew all over the world by internet or pen pals were having a tough time surviving any disaster du jour.

Thirdly, it just wasn't a good year to celebrate Doc's legendary pet squirrel. Chipper came to life several years ago when Doc placed an ad in The Valley Weekly Miracle offering a reward for finding his missing pet squirrel. Five dollars and fifty cents.

Since it's really hard to find a non-existent squirrel, even in the best squirrel habitat, the reward money went unclaimed, but our valley got a new story and legend and laugh.

The Chipper Invitational Gold Tournament came about to raise money for charity. Doc and the guys each took a shovel and a t-bar fence post and walked out onto a farm for a ways and then dug a shovel's worth of dirt, slammed in the t-post, and taped a number to it. Multiply by eighteen, and our golf course was born.

Each year "Chipper" would pick another farm, and the legend grew.

So this year we had to be content with raising our coffee mugs to the best non-existent squirrel.

For great hunting season advice and products, check out <https://www.sportsmansguide.com>.

Quote of the Week

"The future ain't what it used to be."

Yogi Berra

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McKenzie River Reflections

Oregon's own fugitive "Tiger King" became a big problem for Idaho

Continued From Last Week

By Finn J.D. John

The court also learned that Fieber had tried to slip away to a new piece of land beyond the county court's jurisdiction, which he had secretly leased in Wasco County. He had already installed 13 lions and a tiger at the new place. Police figured this out when they pulled him over for a traffic stop and found a pair of lions sitting in the truck. This was another probation violation — he'd agreed not to move any of the animals.

Finally, in March 1986, the exasperated judge simply ordered Fieber to sell the animals and close down his operation. The judge told him that yes, the animals were in better condition and no longer supported a charge of animal neglect; but the pens and fences were still super janky and posed an obvious risk to the neighbors. And the judge further explained that she was ordering the animals to be sold specifically to prevent Fieber from simply folding his tent, sneaking away, and reopening his slipshod operation somewhere else, like he had tried to do in Wasco County.

But, of course, that's exactly what he did. Metaphorically if not literally Fieber slipped away to Idaho in the middle of the night, taking as many lions and tigers with him as he could. Hearing dates came and went, warrants were issued for his arrest; but no one could find him. He had disappeared.

He'd left behind 16 lions, three tigers, and several wolves and bison, along with a small herd of elk, for the state to find homes for.

And that leads us to the third and final season of the Oregon Tiger King drama — the Ligertown part of the story. By 1990, Fieber had remarried — and this time, it seems, he'd found a soul-mate, someone as passionate about huge, dangerous apex predators as he was. Her name was Dottie Martin, and with her he launched a new project: He was going to breed ligers.

Ligers are a hybrid cat, the offspring of a lion and a tigress — like a mule is the offspring of a horse and a donkey. Like mules, they are sterile. Unlike mules, they grow up to about twice the size of either parent, topping out at or near the 1,000-pound mark.

Fieber and Martin started their Idaho adventure in the Grangeville area; but one of their lions got out and started stalking a neighbor's horse. The neighbor shot it, and Fieber and Martin, apparently taking this as a sign that they needed to move further off the beaten path, moved on to Lava



idahobeergear.com

Portneuf Valley Brewing's Ligertown Lager beer label as shown on a T-shirt sold for Portneuf by Idaho Beer Gear.

Hot Springs.

They found a place just outside town that would work for them, a several-acre parcel along Fish Creek, with a single-wide trailer on it and a few outbuildings suitable for livestock. (The place was, by the way, a quarter-mile from the local elementary school, a detail that would become important later.) They bought it with an unrecorded land-sales contract, meaning the sellers agreed to finance the sale and take monthly payments from Fieber and Martin, but would not record the arrangement with the county. Pro-tip for you real-estate owners out there: Never do this with a buyer. Especially if you are already carrying a mortgage on the property, which, yes, was the case here ... but I digress.

Ligertown started out as 13 lions and one tiger. But, of course, the cats bred and reproduced Soon there were lots more lions and several ligers. As the name of their "zoo" suggests, this was their goal — to breed a white liger.

Soon the, uh, livestock outgrew the buildings available to house them. Using old pallets, scrap lumber, scavenged fencing panels and chicken wire, Fieber built an addition to house the overflow. Then another, and another; as his menagerie grew, the ramshackle warren of outbuildings grew as well.

In Lava Hot Springs, Fieber was friendly and affable, but fiercely private. Nobody got invited to tour his facility; but, most folks wouldn't have wanted to anyway. Within a year or two the place looked like one of those "Hoovervilles" from the Great Depression, surrounded by a line of scavenged fencing of various types and quality levels. Here and there the fence-line was dotted with hand-painted signs expressing extreme libertarian and anti-authority sentiments. "Big Game Trophy Hunt," one of them read. "Open season on corrupt officials, police, game wardens, and fire chiefs. Prizes awarded for the biggest liar, thief, scalawag and jerk, the ugliest, meanest, and most brutal. Sponsored (sic) by Ligertown Citizens Against Police Harassment: 1-800-Bag-A-Pig."

"Liger: A Sovereign Alien Nation Governed by E.T. and his Alien Pride. Capitol: Ligertown," read another.

So from the outside, over the years, residents of Lava Hot Springs nervously watched Fieber's ramshackle leonine Hooverville grow and expand, one load of pallets and chicken wire at a time. The roars were getting steadily louder, and the smell was getting worse and worse — a smell like a long-neglected cat litter box topped with rotting meat. Everyone pretty much knew something was going to happen, sooner or later.

Then, near dusk on Sept. 20, 1995, something did. Lava Hot Springs Fire Chief Bruce Hansen was driving near his home when he saw a full-grown African lioness standing in the middle of the road.

He raced back to town to the nearest telephone (it was 1995, so he didn't have a cell phone) and called 911. Then he grabbed his rifle, which he apparently had with him in the truck, and raced home to protect his livestock.

When he got there, he found his mother-in-law, LaVenna Long, milking her goats. She had driven her car down to the goat pen and left the car door open, and there was a lion — a male this time — standing next to it.

"LaVenna!" Hansen shouted, and the lion spooked and charged straight at him. So, of course, he shot it.

Shortly thereafter, another call came into the 911 dispatch center ... from Robert Fieber. He needed

help quick.

Sheriff's deputy Lorin Nielsen, who had expected something like this to happen sooner or later, raced to the scene and found Fieber. He had tried to stop an escaping lion, which had slashed him up badly. Fieber was taken to the hospital.

It was late evening by now, and darkness had long since fallen; there were an unknown number of apex predators out there prowling the hills around town and they were probably hungry. Something had to be done, fast.

"We didn't want to kill these animals," Nielsen told Idaho Public Broadcasting. "But we had to protect the public ... the biggest concern we had was, school was starting in the morning, we had about four or five hours. It was in a populated area, but we didn't know how many had gotten out — we really didn't even know how many animals he had."

Police had a very busy, rather terrifying night that night. Helicopters were brought in, and heat-sensitive scanners. By morning, fifteen more escaped lions had been spotted and shot.

Then they had to go into Liger-town itself to secure the scene. Fieber, in the hospital, was in no condition to help with that even if they'd wanted him to, and Dottie Martin seems to have been away at the time.

The place was worse than they had feared.

"The 'zoo,' it turned out, was little more than a maze of chicken wire, random sheets of metal, and haphazard boards nailed together in ways that didn't make structural sense," writes Idaho Falls Post Register reporter Sally Krutzig in a 2020 article about the events of that night. "Animal feces were piled five feet high in some places, and bones covered nearly every square foot."

Also, three of the lions that had escaped from their pens had climbed up onto the roof, and were now watching the rescue operators as they moved through the compound, calling to each other with low guttural growls. They could not be lured down, so the rescuers just had to keep an eye on them and hope they weren't hungry.

Now that it was daytime and the situation was less terrifying, nobody wanted to kill any more of the lions. Police got out the tranquilizer gun they'd gotten from Idaho Fish and Game; but the darts they had were dosed for cougars, which are a third the weight of an African lion; so they had to be shot with multiple darts.

Very soon, though, zoo specialists had arrived at the scene, and all 27 surviving lions (or, rather, 27 of 28; at this time there still was the one lost in the woods, the one Woney Peters would shoot several days later) were on semi

"Tiger King" - Page 8



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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Five steps for saving tuberous begonias



Flickr, denisbin

Tuberous begonias can be kept over winter for bloom next year.

In spring garden centers stock a tempting variety of brightly colored tuberous begonias that are hard to resist. Gardeners have a tremendous choice of flower color in shades of orange, pink, yellow, white, and bi-colored.

But these lush plants don't grow over winter and must be protected. The tubers can be saved and planted again the next spring for another year of showy color. The tuberous begonias should not be confused with the low-growing wax begonias often called annual bedding begonias that don't respond to winter protection.

"There are so many choices for tuberous begonias," said Nicole Sanchez, Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist. "They come in so many colors and there are a lot of new salmon/orange varieties on the market now. In my experience, the yellow ones are always a little less vigor-

ous than other colors."

Tuberous begonias should be grown in bright shade (too much sun will burn them and too little will make them leggy) and watered only when the soil dries out completely.

"We can easily love them to death," Sanchez said. "The biggest problem with tuberous begonias is operator error in the form of overwatering. Lots of water is already stored in the tubers and stems so be careful to check moisture in the soil at least an inch in, not just on the top. But there's a fine line between letting them dry out well and Oops! it dried out too much. This is where I most often fail with begonias."

Tuberous begonias don't like potting soils that contain peat or sphagnum moss that hold lots of water, she added. All of that being said, if they are outside in hanging baskets, they will still need to

be watered every day during hot weather.

Begonias are heavy feeders and will bloom larger and longer if they get regular fertilizer, Sanchez said. She recommends slow-release fertilizers for begonias, which are easier to apply and make it harder to over-fertilize. Overfed plants often get leggy and have weak stems.

Tuberous begonias contain both male and female flowers. The male flowers are the showier blooms. Sanchez recommends removing female flowers so all the plant's energy goes into producing showier male flowers.

When winter looms, it's time to prepare and store the plants. Sanchez recommends the following five steps to save your potted tuberous begonia tubers:

- * Remove the plant from the pot before hard frosts occur. Cut back most of the top of the plant, leaving the ball of roots and soil intact.

- * Place in a dry, cool storage area (a basement or garage) and allow the tubers to cure for several weeks.

- * After curing, shake off the soil and remove the remaining stalks and roots. Any stalk or root left has the potential to rot and spread to the tuber. Put the tubers on screen trays or pack them in dry peat, sawdust, sand, or other insulating material.

- * Store tubers in a dry, dark, cool (above freezing) area.

- * In the spring, start begonia plants by placing the tubers on damp potting soil in a warm environment. When roots and tops have started, plant them in pots in rich, well-drained potting soil. Bring outdoors when all danger of frost is past and place in a shady spot.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



THE LURE OF OLD MAPS

Maps have long held a fascination for me, especially old ones. For me, road maps bring back memories of family trips, adventure, and dreams of places to explore. Nowadays we have GPS to take us where we want to go. Yet I still like to follow trails and roads on traditional maps.

I've been reading articles recently of old maps, how to make maps, and how they have lured adventurers for ages. It's amazing to look at old maps and realize what the mapmakers from centuries ago created.

When my family went for Sunday drives and on our annual vacation trip, I enjoyed following our route on road maps Father brought along...or purchased at service stations on the way. It was fascinating to learn about the countryside this way and follow the roads to adventure or imagined "could be" adventures.

Maps from the Air

When my husband and I had our small Cessna 140 airplane, he (an Air Force pilot and later an airline pilot) did the flying while I found the navigating intriguing. In the course of our adventures, we traveled back and forth from NH to Texas and later to California. It was enjoyable to follow, not always roads these times, but

contours of the lands.

One memorable time in autumn, we were flying across Pennsylvania. The mountains and forests were spectacular in their fall colors, interspersed by roads, rivers, railroads, towns and cities. Even though that was many years ago, the image has remained with me and brings back memories, especially at this time of year.

PUMPKIN BREAD handed down in our family. Beat 2 cups sugar with 1-cup vegetable oil; add 3 eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Beat until fluffy, then add 2 cups cooked pumpkin.

Sift together 3 cups flour, ½ teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon baking powder, 1-teaspoon baking soda, ½ teaspoon cloves, 1-teaspoon cinnamon, ½ - 1-teaspoon nutmeg. Mix into other ingredients at low speed.

Divide into 3 greased, floured loaf pans (approximately 7 ½ x 3 ½ x 2 ¼ inches). Bake at 325 degrees F. for 60 minutes or until inserted pick tests done. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans.

Cut and serve with whipped cream or whipped topping. Some like to put cream cheese icing on this and serve like a cake.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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



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Community Notes

Outdoor Burning Now Open

The Lane County Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) opened the fall outdoor burning season on Tuesday.

An advisory is updated daily at 7 pm for the following day. Outdoor burning is always prohibited on lots smaller than 2 acres inside the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and on lots smaller than 0.5 acre inside the City of Springfield and the Springfield UGB.

Outdoor Burning Advisory Line: (541) 726-3976

October 12 Family Story Time

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

October 12 Groundbreaking

A ground-breaking celebration for the New Clinic in Blue River will be held from 1 to 23:30 pm at the construction site, 51730 Dexter Street. Join McKenzie Valley Wellness, Orchid Health, and county commissioner Heather Buch to celebrate the official start of the rebuild project. Local contractor Dale Turnley will be building this important project in the recovery of Blue River.

October 12 Planned Outage

The Bonneville Power Administration has rescheduled its work on power equipment in the area. from 9:00 pm on Thursday, through Friday, Oct. 13th at 9 am.

October 13 Friday Art Walk

The public is invited, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, in downtown Springfield,

October 14 Dime At A Time

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

October 14 Living River Day

The Living River Exploration Day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene. Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds.

October 16 McKenzie Fire & Rescue

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center from noon to 1 p.m.

October 17 Board of Commissioners

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

October 17 Family Story Time

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

October 17 Write Your Life

The Leaburg Library is delighted to announce that Duane Noriyuki is back with a second "Write Your Life" workshop! This six-week memoir workshop will begin at 6 pm on Tuesday, August 22nd, and will run through Tuesday, September 26th. The program is free and will meet in the library's Annex Room.

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

October 17 Cornhole League

The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League is held from 5 to 6:30

p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, s54745 McKenzie River Dr. Join us for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center! We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m.! Bring some snacks to share.

October 18

McKenzie School Board

The McKenzie School District Board of Directors will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Administration building, 51187 Blue River Dr. The meeting will be livestreamed with viewing available at www.youtube.com/channel/UC14_qR6Fmaelc1Izi4UMCeQ/videos.

November 10 Spaghetti Feed

The Walterville Grange is holding its annual Spaghetti Feed on November 10 from 5 to 7 PM. Spaghetti with meat sauce is on the menu with salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverages. The Grange wishes to honor all Veterans and hope that you will join us in doing so. Their service is what makes our freedom so valuable. There will also be a raffle where you can pick the prize you want to try to win. This will be held at the Walterville Community Center/Grange Hall located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville. The Grange is fundraising to replace the windows and siding on the west side of the building, and you are encouraged to add to the fundraising (check out our thermometer to see how much we have already raised). Please come and meet with your family, friends and neighbors to have some great spaghetti and a good time. Donations are gratefully accepted. We are also collecting canned food items for the upriver food bank. Please contact 541-521-4760 for more information. Leave a message and calls will be returned.

Temporary closure for part of Forest Road 19

The Willamette National Forest issued a temporary closure order last week for a portion of Forest Service Road (FSR) 19 to complete a paving project to resurface the road and repair slope failures.

The road closure order, which covers all access from milepost 32 to 50.5, will be in place until October 19th. Access to the roadway will be open for transit on Friday through Sunday, Oct0ber 13th - 15th.

"A backlog of maintenance on roads limits our ability to respond to wildfires and offer recreation opportunities to the communities we serve," said McKenzie River District Ranger Darren Cross. "This road improvement project

will help provide visitors safe access to our public lands."

FSR 19, also known as Aufderheide Road, is part of the West Cascades National Scenic Byway and connects the McKenzie River and Middle Fork Ranger Districts.

The closure area will include Terwilliger Hot Springs south to Box Canyon. The hot springs will remain open but will only be accessible from the north on most days, and visitors should expect heavy truck traffic.

The following recreation sites will not be accessible during the closure: Cougar Crossing Campground, French Pete Trailhead, Rebel Creek Trailhead, Frissell Crossing Trailhead, Ollalie Trailhead, and Roaring River Ridge South Trailhead.

Get-together

Continued From Page 1

Long Term Recovery Group, McKenzie Community Land Trust, McKenzie Wellness/Orchid Health, Upper McKenzie Community Center, Vida-McKenzie Community Center, O'Brien Memorial Library, McKenzie Fire and Rescue, Upper McKenzie Rural Fire and Rescue, McKenzie River Community School, McKenzie Chamber of Commerce, McKenzie River Trust, Living Waters Family Fellowship. We appreciate the following businesses for helping support: Hops Valley Brewing Company, Oakshire Brewing, McKenzie Crest Wines, McKenzie Mist, Blue Sky Market, McKenzie Disposal, Everyone's Market, The Leaburg Store, McKenzie Station Restaurant and Bar, Best Pots, McKenzie River Reflections, and Elevate Communication. A special thanks go out to Dan Cates for his support. Ray Merrill and the Eagle Rockers provided an excellent music program all day long. Kent Roberts honored our Nation with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner as Miss McKenzie Bridge Volunteer Kaylin Salladay presented the American Flag up the flagpole. Guest of Honor, Eastern Lane County State Representative Charlie Conrad, spent the day with us at the Track. Special thanks go to Mary Ellen Wheeler and Brenda Baird Hamlow for all the hard work in organizing details and vendor accommodations. A huge lift to both Joel Zeni and Austin Willhite for once again firing up the BBQ's, and to Nick Kress and his amazing Corn dish, chefs extraordinaire! Pete Petty, with Bottle Boys and McKenzie Community Track and Field, as always, a Volunteer Superstar! Tim Hooten, thanks for all you do. Individual thanks go out to Melanie Stanley, Connie Richardson, Shelly Pruitt, Devin Thompson, Brandi Crawford Ferguson, Braden Ravenscraft, Lacey Joy Norman, Jack

Devereaux, Dale Turnley, Steve Severin, Steve Schaefer, Gerry Aster, Walt Wilson, and John Carlisle. For those folks, I might have missed, thank you, you are appreciated! Thanks to all our amazing local vendors: Sherri Smith (Pine Needle Art), Sam Swetland (woodworking), Joanne Walch (Artisan cookies), Carmine Ashline (mugs, soaps, shirts), Sue Hanger (crochet, quilts), Misty Gage/Creatively Misty (Journals, notebooks), Joann Auchtung (oils, soaps), Honey Paddle (honey), Jason Wickizer (woodworking), Jenn Wickizer (woodworking), Sierra Mae Hass (dried fruit and candy), Krystal Kruse (children's clothes), Kathryn Cannon (quilted art), Samantha Wunningham (cups), Horse Creek Lodge and Outfitters (guided raft trips), Kara Willhite (McKenzie Community Celebration logo), and Margaret Bielharz (History). Lastly, but not leastly (is that a word?) thank you McKenzie Community. This Celebration is for you, it is for Us. We understand the pain of the past, but we also feel the need to set aside the time to join together, sideline our differences for a moment, and celebrate our progress. The progress of recovery, rebuild and resilience is never quick enough nor without difficulty. For some, more than others, it seems like a mountain insurmountable. But together, as a Community, we can forge a new beginning, mindful of the past, but with faces looking toward a sustaining and rewarding future. We celebrate our McKenzie heritage, our dedicated, even tenacious, Community spirit, and our shared commitments to take care of our Home, the McKenzie River Valley! We are McKenzie Strong! We can reach the mountain top!

So Thank You, McKenzie folk, for making time to eat, laugh, sing, share, hug, and smile the day long, together, at this year's McKenzie Community Celebration.

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Dream Lover



I met my wife a dozen years ago and her best friend shortly thereafter. I was always fond of my wife’s friend. We all shared a good deal of time together through our college years and now into our 30s. She is married with two children as are we.

We live in the same town, our families spend a good deal of time together, and I’m good friends with her husband. My problem is I cannot stop thinking about her. I’ll go out of my way to be with her. I dream about her nearly every night.

I am physically attracted to her but no more than to any other good looking 30-year-old. My wife and I have a good relationship physically and emotionally. So what the heck is going on? What should I do?

I can’t break off all contact. Our families are much too close,

and everybody will want to know why. I think telling my wife will only get her upset. So I am stuck with feelings I can’t tell anybody about, and I can’t think of any way to correct my situation.

Robin

Robin, there are many ways to alter the course of a life. For example, you could rob a bank. You could pass a note to a teller that says, “Give me all your money.” That would change the course of your life, but it’s not a very productive method, and neither is this fantasy.

Nowhere do you state this woman has a romantic interest in you. She seems to be an innocent puppet in a play you’re staging in your mind. In fact, her reaction to an actual overture may turn your dream into a nightmare. If you tell your wife, it may change the way she looks at you forever.

A huge amount of mental energy is flowing toward this other woman. Why? What is wrong with the rest of your life that your thoughts flow there? That is where you need to look. Your wife’s best friend is a diversion from something you need to face up to.

It could be your career is not going where you want. It could be something else. But before you take any more steps down fantasy road, focus on what you really

think about your life, your job, and your family.

The dream you had for life is not turning out as you hoped, and that is why you dream of your wife’s best friend. Pulling mental energy away from her and shifting the focus to yourself, will point you toward the answer. If the answer still eludes you, individual counseling may help.

Wayne & Tamara

Not Enough

I am in a relationship that is still fairly new. He and I have things in common, but our feelings toward this relationship are not mutual. He treats me exactly like I want to be treated, but I don’t have a strong desire for him.

Not that he’s unattractive or anything like that, it’s just I feel that it’s a bit rushed. I am tired of casual dating and I want something solid, but not overnight. He also does and says everything he thinks I want to hear and not what he really feels.

My sister thinks I am selfish and unappreciative, but that’s not really the case. She tells me to keep him. He’s a good man. I already know that, but I don’t feel he’s the good man for me.

Nora

Nora, without your sister’s influence, we doubt you would have written. You have examined your own feelings and come to a reasoned conclusion. It is not enough that he is a good man.

Maybe you are wiser than your years and wiser than your sister. It

is not selfish to end a relationship which is wrong for you. To act from what you know is right takes character.

Wayne & Tamara

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

American Life in Poetry

The Poetry Foundation is now providing a Poem of the Day.

A Teacher’s Lament
By Kalli Dakos

Don’t tell me the cat ate your math sheet,
And your spelling words went down the drain,
And you couldn’t decipher your homework,
Because it was soaked in the rain.

Don’t tell me you slaved for hours
On the project that’s due today,
And you would have had it finished
If your snake hadn’t run away.

Don’t tell me you lost your eraser,
And your worksheets and pencils, too,
And your papers are stuck together
With a great big glob of glue.

I’m tired of all your excuses; They are really a terrible bore. Besides, I forgot my own work, At home in my study drawer.

An educator and poet, Kalli Dakos was born in Ottawa, Canada, and studied at institutions such as Queen’s College, the University of Nevada, the University of Alberta, and Syracuse University. Her early career as an elementary school teacher and reading specialist has influenced her later work. Dakos’s poetry is uniquely attuned to the lives of elementary school students, and her collections of poems are often considered humorous and apt depictions of life in the classroom. Her books of poetry for children include *Why Am I Blue?* (2017), *A Funeral in the Bathroom* (2011), *Put Your Eyes Up Here and Other Schools Poems* (2003), *The Bug in Teacher’s Coffee* (1999), *Don’t Read This Book, Whatever You Do!* (1993), and *If You’re Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand* (1990). Dakos has been praised for her sensitive evocations of the feelings of elementary-aged students, as well as her poems’ frequent humor and word play. Many of her books have been *Children’s Choice Selections* from the International Reading Association. Dakos has also had a successful career as a visiting author, leading poetry workshops in schools in the United States, Canada, and abroad, and presenting her poems in interactive performances designed to draw in students and teachers both.

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

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McKenzie Students of the Month

For September staff looked for students who embodied "Respectful" in our R.I.V.E.R acronym: Respectful, Initiative, Value, Excellence, and Responsibility



High School student Paiten Clevenger is always quick to greet people. She helps people feel included, and offers help if it appears someone might need it. She shows respect to staff, other students, and the school.



Middle School student Courtney Garrelts is helpful to both staff and students. She works hard, has a great attitude and makes a positive contribution to her classes. Courtney helps teachers with set-up or clean up sometimes in classrooms.

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CROSSWORD

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CHEMISTRY 101

ACROSS

1. "Planted" customer

6. Pie and mode connection (2 words)

9. *Atomic ____ unit

13. Salk's conquest

14. Beesly of "The Office"

15. Secret storage

16. CrÈme de la crÈme

17. Flow alternative

18. a.k.a. vampire

19. *Any substance in chemistry

21. *Periodic table entry

23. Douse or soak
24. Pavarotti's song

25. Between Big and Wolf

28. Mattress description

30. *Positively charged particle

35. Elevator manufacturing giant

37. Horsefly

39. Rabbit trap

40. Sure or uh-huh

41. Saintly rings

43. North Sea feeder

44. Flax flower genus

46. Shrivel, as in plant

47. Like undesirable row

48. Related on mother's side

Solution on Page 9

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution on Page 9

50. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"

52. Porky's home

53. Practice in the ring

55. Burmese neighbor

57. *Core of an atom

61. *C

64. Theater guide

65. Org. that gets parents involved in school

67. Sign up again

69. Supernatural being

70. Three, to Caesar

71. Grouchy Muppet

72. European sea eagles

73. News channel acronym

74. Liable to cry

DOWN

1. Health resort in Baden-Baden, e.g.

2. River islet

3. Hip bones

4. To-do enumerations

5. Bingo and keno

6. Imitator

7. *Chemistry classroom

8. Fly in ____, or a reminder of the past

9. Hat-tipper's word

10. Highest point

11. Splints site

12. Assigned spot

15. Rids of obstruction

20. Period in history

22. Mouth piece

24. Designer's studio

25. * ____-Mariotte Law

26. Dined at home

27. Late Princess of Wales

29. Defect

31. Two halves of two

32. Discussion intended to produce agreement

33. Galactic path

34. Demanding attention

36. Like a barred door

38. *Aurum, in English

42. Type of grave marker

45. It loves company?

49. PC "brain"

51. Limited in scope

54. Gelatin

56. Like one with high BMI

57. Artist's model, sometimes

58. Application utilizer

59. Keep it up?

60. TV classic " ____ Make a Deal"

61. Jealous biblical brother

62. Fairy-tale opening

63. Less than average tide

66. *Sn, or stannum, on periodic table

68. Like dry humor

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

BINGO!

Wed Oct 11th 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Wacky Wednesdays Bingo

Cards go on sale at 6 pm, Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning spots fill up quickly. Burger

POWER OUTAGE ALERT

Thu Oct 12th 9:00pm - Fri 13th 9:00am

Planned Power Outage

The Bonneville Power Administration has rescheduled its work on power equipment in the area.

LEASBURG STORE WORK GLOVES PRE-MIX - SAW GAS SHOE BOY - BAR OIL

Sat Oct 14th 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

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

MCKENZIE FIRE/EMS RESCUE

Est. 1959

Mon Oct 16th 12:00pm - 1:00pm

McKenzie Fire District Board

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

Tue Oct 17th 10:00am - 11:00am

Family Story Time

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

Tue Oct 17th 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Upper McKenzie Cornhole League

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

Lane County Board of Commissioners

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Wed Oct 11th 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Funding Committee Meeting

Community members and the general public are welcome to attend and provide public comment at the outset and/or conclusion

STORY TIME

Thu Oct 12th 11:00am - Sat Mar 16th 2024 1:00pm

STORY TIME

Story Time is back at Leaburg Library! We invite children of all ages and their parents to join us in the Children's Room every

Thu Oct 12th 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Ground-Breaking Celebration for the New Clinic

We are celebrating breaking ground for the new Clinic! Please join McKenzie Valley Wellness, Orchid, and county commissioner Heather Buch

clinic • celebration • wellness

Sat Oct 14th 8:00am - 4:00pm

Living River Exploration Day

Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-

Tue Oct 17th

Lane County Board of Commissioners

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

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In-stream restoration work underway



VIDA: Work is wrapping up on the Marten and Bear Creek In-stream Restoration Project where the McKenzie Watershed Council is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to enhance aquatic habitat on 1.5 miles of Marten Creek and 1.8 miles of Bear Creek. Both are important tributaries to the McKenzie River.

The project was designed to address the impacts from the Holiday Farm Fire by adding large wood to the creeks, which will help provide cover for fish, slow stream flow, and capturing sediment. Due to the remote locations the project relied on felling hundreds of dead standing trees directly into the creeks.

The project was funded by the BLM through a grant administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and managed by the Council.

In 2024, Phase 2 of the project will add additional large wood by helicopter in the upper reaches of Marten Creek. Hines Cutting was contracted to perform on-site work.

Fishing Report

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

Fish Counts
September 26, Willamette Falls
Fall Chinook – 2,135
Summer Steelhead – 1,116



A Moment in Oregon History
By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

October 12 – The last great train robbery in the United States took place October 11, 1923. The DeAutremont brothers, twins Ray and Roy and their younger brother Hugh, stopped the southbound train in tunnel number13, located in the Siskiyou Mountains above the town of Ashland. They tried to blow the door off the mail car but used too much dynamite and the car was blown apart. Four men were killed in the botched robbery and the brothers fled into the woods. For a time they were able to elude capture, but after one of the most extensive manhunts in history, they were captured, stood trial, were found guilty and sentenced to life terms in the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

Conditions - 36900 blk, Boiler Creek Rd.

Oct. 9: 6:27 a.m: Alarm - 38900 blk, Wendling Rd.

10:53 a.m: Theft - 39100 blk, Easton Ln.

11:53 a.m: Criminal Mischief - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:11 p.m: Civil, Lockout - 91300 blk, Marcola Rd.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Burn.

22:08: 90000 blk, Mountain View Ln. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

23:33: 7400 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, October 16th at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Emergency? Call 911

"Tiger King"

Continued From Page 4

trucks and on their way to other facilities. A large collection of wolf-dog hybrids also had to be re-homed from Ligertown.

After this disaster, of course, there was no suggestion of Fieber being ever allowed to do anything like this again. He and Dottie Martin tried to come back and take charge of the animals, but were told that if they appeared on the scene they would be arrested and thrown in jail. Both of them were very bitter about the whole thing, and raged in newspaper articles that what was being done to them and their animals was unconstitutional government overreach; but in the wake of a security breach this big, and after seeing what conditions in Ligertown were like, none of the authorities were willing to waste time listening.

Fieber and Martin were brought up on more than 100 misdemeanor charges of animal cruelty. That was the closest prosecutors could get to throwing the book at them — apparently terrorizing the entire town and endangering its elementary-school children at recess with wild beasts of prey were not, at the time, criminal offenses. Roughly a dozen of these charges actually stuck and resulted in convictions; but the two of them went full Bonnie and Clyde, skipping town and fleeing the state while the case was on appeal. Authorities decided not to bother with the trouble and expense of having them extradited back to the state to face a handful of misdemeanor charges. So they more or less got away clean.

As for Ligertown, the animals were taken in by various more-reputable zoos and refuges around the country; and the following

year authorities bulldozed the whole ramshackle mess into a heap and set fire to it.

Meanwhile, the owners of the property — who had sold it to Fieber and Martin on a land-sales contract which the two git-er-done zookeepers had stopped making their payments on long before — found themselves unable to keep up their mortgage, and the property was foreclosed by the bank. Today, unless you know exactly where to look, there is no remaining sign that Ligertown ever existed.

But if you go into one of the nearby pubs and bars, chances are pretty good that you'll be offered the chance to buy a pint of beer brewed by local craft brewery Portneuf Valley Brewing, called Ligertown Lager.

That, and a heavily strengthened set of laws and regulations on exotic animals, are the only remaining legacy of Ligertown today.

(Sources: "Oregon Coast Had its Own Tiger King in the 80s," an un-by-lined article published April 24, 2020, in Oregon Coast Beach Connection; "Liger King: Looking Back at Idaho's Version of the Hit Series," an article by Sally Krutzig published in the May 3, 2020, issue of the Idaho Falls Post Register; "Ligertown," an episode of Idaho Experience aired Feb. 16, 2023, by Idaho Public Broadcasting)

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.

Thinking of Christmas yet?

USFS Christmas Tree Permits are available online

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is selling Christmas Tree permits through Recreation.gov, which makes it more convenient for visitors to find and purchase permits to cut holiday trees from their favorite national forest. Permits will be available beginning on October 12, and sale dates may vary by national forest.

"Venturing into a local national forest to find that special tree is an experience that creates treasured family memories and stories," said USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "It is through these experiences that people establish important connections to the forest that can lead to a lifetime of adventures and instill a commitment to stewardship."

Marcina B. expressed their gratitude when visiting the Tahoe National Forest in California: "Our family loves getting Christmas tree permits and cutting down our own tree. Thank you for making this possible and allowing me and my family some unforgettable memories."

Recreation.gov makes it easy to purchase a permit. "Visitor feedback has been extremely positive," said Rick DeLappe, Recreation.gov Program Manager. "Of the nearly 1,200 ratings submitted by those who purchased permits on Recreation.gov during the 2022 season, 90 percent gave 4 or 5-stars ratings of their experience."

Instead of visiting a Forest Service office in person, visitors can go to Recreation.gov and search for their local national forest. Once on Recreation.gov, national forests provide important details, like cutting area maps, types of trees to cut and important planning tips on their respective permit pages.

"It is important to remember that visitors will need to print the permit and display it on the dash of their vehicle on the day of their visit to cut their trees," said DeLappe. Also keep in mind that



many national forests may continue to sell permits in person or through local vendors.

Fourth graders with an Every Kid Outdoors pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit. Kids of all ages can download, color, and decorate their tree with this Christmas tree ornament coloring page for a fun, handmade addition to their tree.

Cutting a Christmas tree improves forest health. The permit system helps to thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees and tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide food for wildlife.

Willamette National Forest
Thu, Nov 9, 2023 - Sun, Dec 31, 2023 5 \$5.00 / per tree

Where to Cut Your Tree

- * Do not cut on private land, wilderness areas, research natural areas, scenic areas, or areas with rare, threatened or endangered plants.
- * Do not cut trees within 300 feet of campgrounds or administrative sites.

- * Do not cut trees within 50 feet of trails and paved roads.
- * Do not cut trees within 200 feet of highways.
- * Do not cut trees within 100 feet of streams or lakes.
- * Do not cut in areas posted 'Christmas Tree Cutting Prohibited'.
- * Do not cut in active timber sales or areas that have been planted with new trees.
- * Do not cut in botanical areas and fenced plantations.

Selecting Your Tree

- * Each forest has limitations on the size of the tree you can cut and the species of trees that are permitted. See below to help you measure and choose a tree that meets your permit's guidelines.
- * Tree Height: 15 feet maximum
- * Stump height: 6 inches maximum
- * Take the whole tree. Do not remove the top of the tree; cut down the entire tree
- * If snow is on the ground, remove it from around the stump so you can accurately measure the stump and tree height.
- * Do not cut the following tree species: whitebark pine, pacific yew, western white pine.

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Rose Street Cottages

Continued From Page 1

of also utilizing firewise building designs.

The McKenzie Community Land Trust would sell the homes, but not the land, to buyers who are earning 80% of average median income. That process would help keep costs down for the first buyer, and anyone who might purchase that home in the future.

The large loss of housing has affected aspects of community life in the McKenzie River Valley. In addition, home and property values have increased significantly. The cost to rebuild a home after the Holiday Farm Fire is averaging around 40% higher than it was prefire. Because the McKenzie River is a tourist destination, there has also been an increase in second homes.

A review of Zillow finds that the typical Blue River home in December 2022 have increased roughly 28% over two years, putting homeownership out of reach for Blue River's low to moderate income families.



Lane Tompkins, MCLT Board Chair walks with Emily Reiman and Josh Shafer of DevNW, touring the Rose Street parcels.

The MCLT in partnership with DevNW, another non-profit with an office in Springfield, was awarded \$800,000 from Lane County, funding earmarked for Holiday Farm Fire recovery from the State. In addition, \$1,085,505 was awarded for the Rose Street CLT project through the Oregon

Housing and Community Services LIFT Program.

The MCLT is currently raising money to fund future affordable housing and economic development projects and just signed an option to purchase an additional residential property in Blue River.



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