

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

Gas tax paradise?

"You could drive your Mustang as fast as you wanted, nobody would bother you."

PAGE 4

Smart Meter backlash

EWEB says customers who obstruct smart meter installations face service disconnection

PAGE 13



Briefs...



Honey Paddle

Hive Five: Oregon's New Favorite 2024 Hobby is Beekeeping. It's not just about getting your delicious honey (though that's a big plus!), it's also about helping these little pollinators thrive, which in turn brightens up your garden.

At its core, beekeeping involves the care and management of honeybee colonies, often in man-made hives. What makes it particularly appealing is the deep connection it fosters with the natural world, allowing people to play a direct role in supporting the health and productivity of these essential pollinators. The process of inspect-

Bees - Page 2



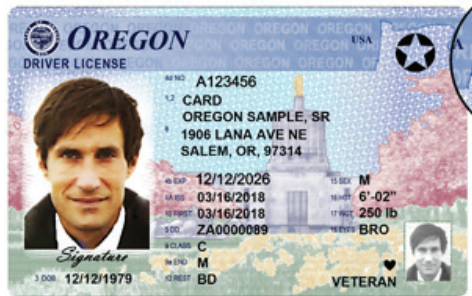
Congratulations! Your artwork has been selected for the

Walterville Elementary students are once again making people proud. Artwork from 21 students has made it into the Raptor Art Exhibition at the Cascades Raptor Center - and will be on display until May 5th at 32275 Fox Hollow Road in Eugene.

The Youth Challenge was open to Oregon residents in grades 2 to 12 from January to March. This year's theme, Osprey and Turkey Vultures encouraged students to discover the unique adaptations of these two spectacular birds of prey species. Over 300 youth artwork submissions were received.

Submitted artwork was reviewed by Raptor Center staff and judged by criteria including interpretation of the theme

Artwork - Page 2



May 7th starts the one-year countdown to the Real ID Act taking effect at airports across the country. About 25% of Oregonians have chosen the Real ID option for the driver's license or ID card, and about 40% have passports. That means hundreds of thousands of others may not have the identification they will need to fly starting next year.

The Oregon Dept. of Motor Vehicles is urging Oregonians to get ready now so that they aren't grounded at an airport in the future.

Real ID - Page 2

Wooden boats took to the center stage

Some drifted their way in to the annual gathering in Nimrod

NIMROD: The picturesque Eagle Rock Lodge was again the site for the McKenzie River Wooden Boat Festival. The annual event along the banks of this iconic river may have drifted by on April 27th but it continued as a tribute to local river history and the craft of wooden boat building—a testament to community and the spirited camaraderie shared on the river.

The event included old and new, large and small, boasting over forty boats displaying both tradition and creativity. Among them were unique representatives of the legendary McKenzie River Drift Boat, each vessel a living testament to its rich heritage. Sharp-eyed attendees could note differences that highlighted the spirit of innovation that drove boat builders and river runners to refine a craft known worldwide.

Notable newcomers to this year's festival included a trio of one-person boats specifically designed to tackle the challenging whitewater waves of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

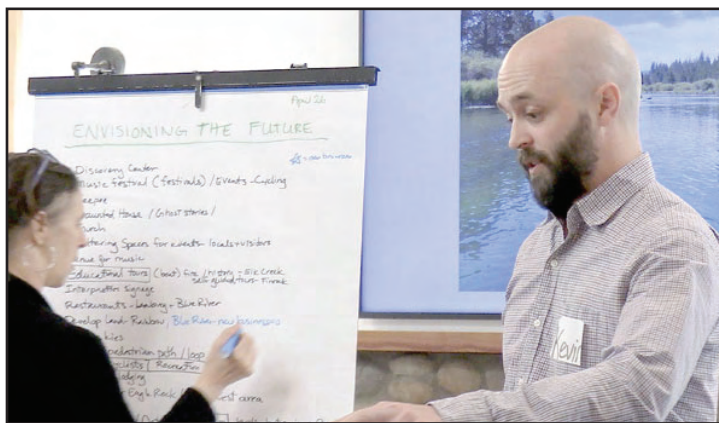
Center stage - Page 14



There's always some heave-ho action underway when boaters pull into the shoreline at the annual Wooden Boat Festival.

Is there a future along "Main Street?"

McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce sponsors listening sessions



Amy House of RDI and Kevin Teater of Streetwise led discussions about how communities along Hwy. 126 could cooperate.

VIDA: Ideas on ways local businesses could work together to improve the McKenzie area's regional economy were at the core of a meeting last Saturday. The hour-and-a-half gathering at the Vida McKenzie Community Center drew about a dozen people representing businesses ranging from resorts to river guiding.

Discussions centered on a model that's been used to revitalize communities around the United States for about

40 years. By recognizing that rural economies could benefit from a custom approach to downtown revitalization, Oregon Main Street convened a group of statewide and regional representatives to develop a concept they called the Rural Regional Main Street program.

A successful pilot launched through the Oregon Frontier Chamber of Commerce was started in Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties. Beginning

A long Main Street? - Page 14

12th District House race could hinge on abortion rights

Rainbow businessman has outraised the Republican incumbent

By Julia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle
A primary in rural Lane County will determine whether the Oregon House Republican caucus will include candidates who differ from the party line on



Darin Harbick

abortion. First-term Rep. Charlie Conrad, R-Dexter, faces a challenge from Republican business owner Darin Harbick in the 12th House District, which stretches south and east from Eugene to scoop up small rural communities including the McKenzie Valley, Creswell, Cottage Grove and Lowell.

Conrad has earned praise from colleagues and some constituents, including Democrats and nonaffiliated voters, for keeping an open mind about legislation and asking careful questions. But his decision to vote with

Democrats on a 2023 law to widen access to abortions and protect medical providers from prosecution for providing reproductive health care or gender-affirming care angered some fellow Republicans, including his opponent, and earned him an official censure from the Oregon Republican Party.

Nonaffiliated voters, who can't participate in the May primary, are the largest group in the district, with more than 19,200, compared to 16,800 Republicans and nearly 15,600 Democrats.

Conrad won a four-way

Republican primary in 2022 by just 99 votes, then went on to capture 57% of the vote in the general election. No Democrats are running this year.

Conrad, 51, sees serving

District House race - Page 10



Charlie Conrad

Letters to the Editor

Digital Voting Guide

The League of Women Voters of Lane County (LWVLC) wants to help you prepare for the primary election coming soon on May 21st. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that is dedicated to helping voters become informed about and actively participate in government.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, the League does advocate for important social policy issues but only after rigorous study and a consensus building review by members.

The League of Women Voters produces a digital voting guide called Vote411 (Vote411.org). Vote411 offers "one-stop shopping" for both candidates and issues on your ballot. Enter your address and a customized set of information relevant to your location is created. All candidates have been asked to respond to questions from the League; names and associated statements, if provided, for those running in the election will be listed. There is an exception in closed primary states, like Oregon. If you are not registered with a political party

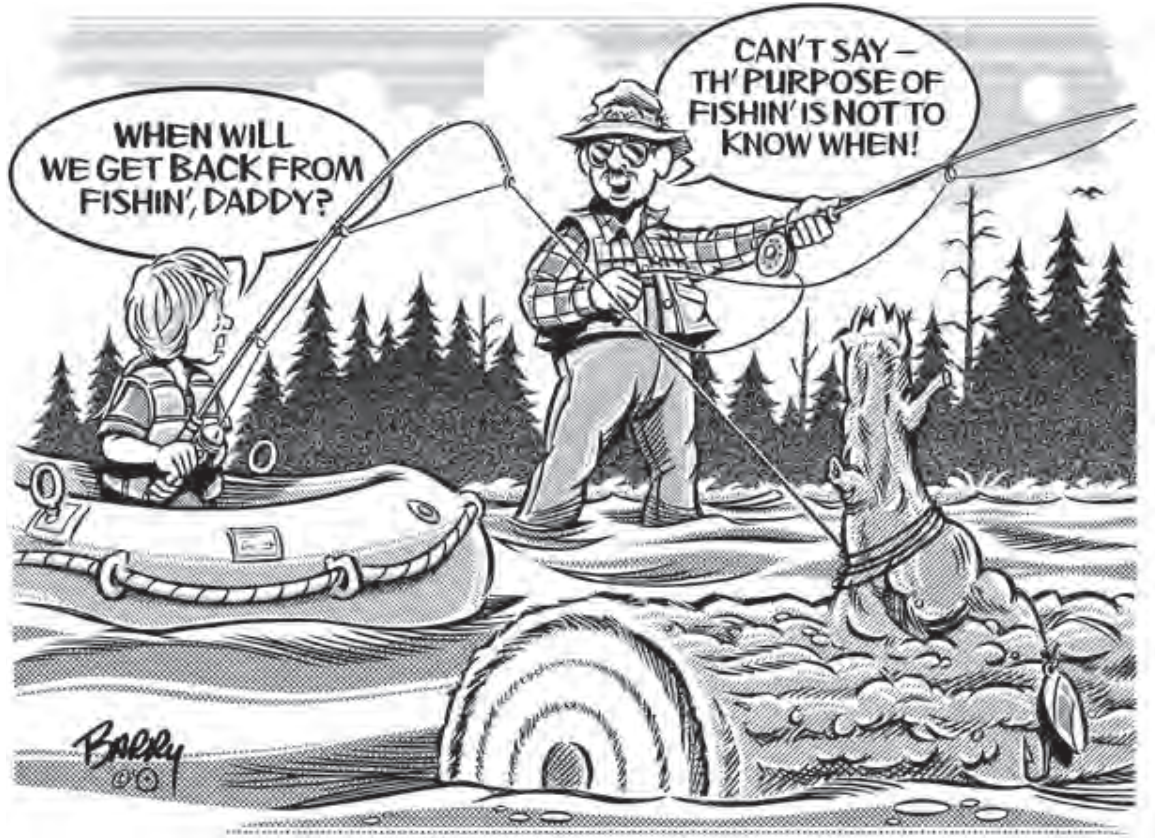
(referred to as unaffiliated) then you will not be able to participate in any of the partisan primary elections and will not receive information for those races.

Vote411 also has explanations of ballot measures, including the background of the measure, predicted cost, and statements by supporters and opponents. Candidate and ballot measure information will become available after April 15

You can register to vote online through Vote411, MyVote Oregon or with Lane County Elections. Register or re-register to vote before the April 30 at midnight deadline. You will need to re-register if you have changed your address or wish to change your political party affiliation that would allow you to vote in a primary.

Of particular interest to voters in McKenzie River area is ballot measure 20-356, which is a renewal and increase in the levy to fund McKenzie Fire and Rescue District at the current levels rather than to rely on receiving some of the support through grant funding which is less certain.

League of Women Voters
Springfield



supporters that he didn't. "Bring your guns, this time," he'll tell them. And all hell breaks loose.

Here's the movie trailer:

Yes it's just a movie. But it's a storyline that makes you grimace because it seems like a topic that shouldn't be portrayed as hollow entertainment.

The movie, as best I can summarize from three reviews, presents an America at war with itself. A trump-like figure has appointed himself to a third term as president (you only get two, remember), states have seceded and whole regions have fallen into anarchy. The president orders the military to attack American citizens, and apparently in some cases it does. It's a mess, with all sorts of free-lancing militias causing trouble as well.

The main group fighting the president is an alliance called the Western Forces, led by California and Texas. I was disappointed to read the Pacific Northwest is controlled by a bunch of Maoist hippies, or Antifa types, or whatever, so we're weird and irrelevant in addition to violent.

The main characters are journalists, led by a famous photog-

rapher, who are documenting the mayhem as the Western Forces close in on the tyrant in Washington, D.C.

As a reviewer in Politico put it, "The result is a take on wartime life that's scarier than your standard Hollywood military flick — and especially resonant in these post-Jan. 6 times, when death threats come to federal judges overseeing Donald Trump's trials, a lawmaker's spouse is bludgeoned with a hammer and a gun-toting extremist shows up at

the home of a Supreme Court justice."

You think "Civil War" couldn't happen? Why not?

The crucial, ugly elements appear to be in place, including, as a Seattle Times reviewer put it, "...committed factionalism based on demographic changes; fringe groups' capacity to organize on social media; and, above all, an overabundance of powerful firearms and enough Americans willing to use them, a volatile mixture

Guest Opinion

"Okay. What kind of American are you?"

Now there's a movie, "Civil War," that projects the trumpian breakdown of America, with breakaway regions and malignant militias.

By Eric Mortenson

I didn't go see "Civil War," even though it's an easy walk down to our charming old neighborhood theater, where they sell good beer that you can take to your seat along with a bag of decent popcorn. The \$5 Tuesday tickets are a bargain, but I still didn't go.

I'd been reading quite a bit about "Civil War," but by the time I worked up the determination to walk down to the theater and at least take a picture of the marquee, the sign had been changed for the next feature movies. That was probably for the best.

Because the premise of "Civil War" presses on a painful, potentially fatal wound in America's soul. The movie seems too real a possibility, too close to what could happen if the vile buffoon trump returns to power in the 2024 election or, maybe even more likely, if he loses again and tells his violent

and track events starting at 1:00 pm.

Eagle Boys Seventh, Girls Eighth At MVC Track Meet

The McKenzie Varsity Track and Field teams traveled down the Valley to Creswell, last Wednesday, April 24, to compete with eight other high school track and field teams in the MVC meet. The Eagle Boys team finished seventh in the team scores and the McKenzie Girls team finished eighth. Elmira easily won the Boy's team competition, scoring 160 points and Pleasant Hill finished a distant second with 86.5 points. Siuslaw was third at 66 pts. Sutherlin fourth with 62.5 pts., and host Creswell fifth with 57 points scored. Triangle Lake slipped by McKenzie, finishing sixth with 44 points to the Eagles seventh place finish with 43 pts. and Glendale and North Douglas finished eighth and ninth with

33 points and 25 points scored respectively.

The Falcons of Elmira also took home a first-place team win in the Girls standings, earning 121.5 points to nudge past second-place Creswell, which finished with 115 points. The Pleasant Hill Billies finished in third with 99 points, North Douglas took fourth at 55 points and Sutherlin was fifth with 41 points earned. Triangle Lake again finished in sixth with 34 points, Siuslaw seventh with 19 points, McKenzie earned 11 points for eighth and Glendale followed in ninth with 10.5 points earned.

Griffin Withalm Out-sprints MVC 100 m. Field - Eagle Senior Leads Relays To Two Seconds McKenzie senior Griffin Withalm out-sprinted the entire field of 43 entrants in the MVC 100 meters last Wednesday in **Sports Report - Page 12**

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report

By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Track and Field Teams return home this week, Thursday, May 2, to participate in the McKenzie End of the Season meet. The meet will be held at Aaron and Marie Jones Community Track with field events starting at 4:30 pm and track events beginning at 5:00 pm. The Eagle Varsity teams travel to Gilchrist on Saturday, May 4, with field events beginning at 11:00 am

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Briefs...

Bees

Continued From Page 1

ing hives, managing bee health, and harvesting honey provides a hands-on experience that is both educational and therapeutic. And, for those seeking only the bounty, we're lucky to have the Honey Paddle at 39920 McKenzie Hwy. in Walterville.

Artwork

Continued From Page 1

(Turkey Vulture or Osprey), creativity, originality, and the quality of the art.

"We are incredibly impressed

by the talent of the youth participants from around Oregon and their creativity promoting the environmental stewardship of these incredible species," a spokesperson said.

Real ID

Continued From Page 1

The Transportation Security Administration will start to require specific IDs at airport checkpoints on May 7, 2025. There's a concern that many people are waiting or unaware. If people wait to get the ID until they book a flight, they might miss it.

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Friday 5/3		Saturday 5/4		Sunday 5/5	
McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 68 Low: 46	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 60% chance precip High: 54 Low: 33	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% Chance precip High: 57 Low: 43	Santiam Pass Snow/Rain Shwrs 60% chance precip High: 44 Low: 30	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 58 Low: 44	Santiam Pass Rain/Snow 60% chance precip High: 44 Low: 31

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
4/23	46	73	0	4/23 990 cfs
4/24	40	65	0.13	990 cfs
4/25	50	48	0	980 cfs
4/26	45	49	0	1,046 cfs
4/27	42	49	0.28	NA
4/28	46	49	0.74	NA
4/29	40	49	0.69	999 cfs

Sheriff's Report

April 19: 9:34 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle-45200block, Goodpasture Rd. Deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle and contacted an occupant.

April 21: 2:32 p.m: Assault - 37800 blk, Shenandoah Lp. Deputies responded to a report of a physical dispute. Parties separated.

April 22: 4:45 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

7:03 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

April 23: 4:19 a.m: Alarm - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

11:40 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident Unknown Injury - Aufderheide Dr. & Cougar Dam Rd.

1:55 p.m: Theft - Carson St. & Marcola Rd. Self-report regarding a dispute regarding property.

2:08 p.m: Welfare Check - 38500 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:53 p.m: Burglary - 88900 blk, Ross Ln. The complainant's house was burglarized mid-afternoon. A deputy is investigating.

4:49 p.m: Assist Fire Department - 39000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.

6:42 p.m: Boat Complaint - 91000 blk, Leashore Dr.

10:17 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 36900 blk, boiler Creek Rd.

April 24: 4:14 a.m: Criminal Mischief - 38900 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd. A fence at the Marcola Transfer Site was damaged.

6:22 a.m: Request Cover - Marcola Rd. & Conley Rd.

11:46 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 89800 blk, Hill Rd.

12:39 p.m: Civil Enforcement - 48000 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:30 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 42600 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Deputies responded to a physical dispute. No crime was articulated and all parties calmed down.

6:00 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - 44800 blk, McK.

Hwy.
6:31 p.m: Alarm - 36700 blk, Keller Ln.

April 25: 11:46 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident Unknown Injury - 89800 blk, Hill Rd.

2:35 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

3:33 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

7:08 p.m: Welfare Check - 88000 blk, Chita Lp.

8:11 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 49200 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to a report of a dispute with shots fired and determined the victim had been transported to the hospital after being shot by a handgun. Deputies arrested Daniel Dwayne Hernandez, 42, on charges of Assault in the Second Degree, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Menacing APA, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Hernandez was lodged in the Lane County Jail on 4/25. He was arraigned while in custody on 4/26 and released by the Circuit Court on an electronic monitoring program on 4/27 after posting bail.

9:29 p.m: Hit & Run, Injury - Marcola Rd. & Moss Rd. A hit and run was reported, however the involved was not seriously injured and did not want to press charges.

9:40 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

April 26: 1:31 a.m: Shots Fired

- Conley Rd. & Marcola Rd. **12:00 p.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

3:38 p.m: Medical Info Call - 37500 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

5:24 p.m: Found Property - McK. Hwy. & Milepost 43.

8:07 p.m: Arson - 88900 blk, Easy Ln. Deputies responded to a report of multiple cars on fire. They determined it was actually a bonfire, with no damage to any property.

10:17 p.m: Disorderly Juvenile - 90700 blk, hill Rd.

April 27: 2:17 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Mp. 33.

2:25 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Mp. 41.

2:42 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Mp. 41.

3:22 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 50.

3:53 p.m: Burglary - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd. Deputies responded to a report of a burglary. It was determined to have been staff accessing the area.

4:33 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Dollar Rd. A deputy on patrol investigated a suspicious vehicle.

4:41 p.m: citizen contact - McK. Hwy. Mp. 17.

5:55 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Mp. 41.

7:05 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Mp. 41.

Continued On Page 13

State Police Report

April 25: 20:26: Agency Assist - 49000 block, Hwy. 126E. Troopers assisted Lane County Sheriff's Office with searching a residence, which was related to an ongoing domestic violence call. LCSO arrested a male for various criminal charges. Involved: 43-year-old male from Vida.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

April 22: 9:57: 7000 block, Thurston Rd. Medical, Heart. Assist, 1 Transported

April 23: 16:41: 39000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd. Fire, Brush Fire Extinguished.

19:59: 45000 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.. Medical, General. Mistaken Alarm.

April 24: 16:27: 41000 blk, Holden Creek Ln. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

16:54: 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Mistaken Alarm.

April 25: 20:16: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma.

Disregard Patient Went Via Private Vehicle Prior to Arrival.

April 26: 12:27: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Refusal.

15:35: 37000 blk, Upper Camp Cr. Rd.. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Transported.

April 26: 20:12: 88000 blk, Easy Ln. Fire, Vehicle. No Fire Found By LCSO On Scene.

April 27: 16:25: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General.

Continued On Page 12

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

April 23: 11:06: Medical - 56000 block, Engles Dr. Male collapsed.

11:33: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Aufderheide Dr./Cougar Dam Rd. Caller observed a car flipped over, two people in the vehicle, one person walking around, one was scratched up.

April 25: 20:09: Medical - 49000 blk, McK. Hwy.

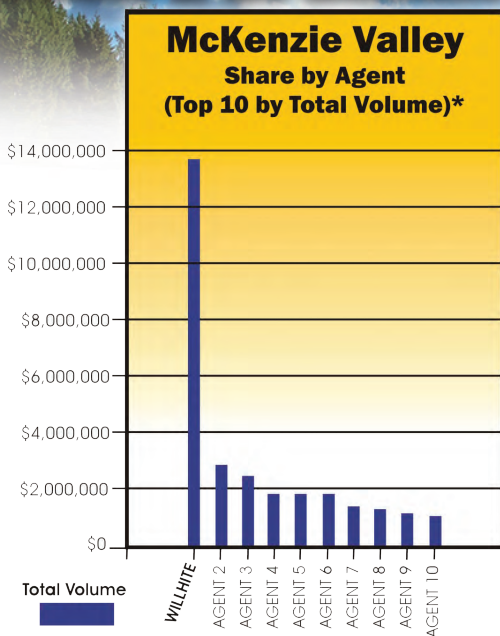
The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 20th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.



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America's first gas tax made Oregon a motorist's paradise

By Finn J.D. John

When Hasso Hering, the legendary longtime editor of the Albany Democrat-Herald, first came to Oregon in the mid-1960s, one of the things that really struck him was the quality of the roads.

"All the roads were wide and smooth and well built," he said (or words to that effect; I don't remember verbatim). "There were no potholes. You could go all day. You could drive your Mustang as fast as you wanted, nobody would bother you. I'd never seen anything like it."

Oregonians of a certain age will know what Hering was talking about, although they may have been less gobsmacked by the quality of midcentury Oregon roads since they grew up with them. (Hering is from Cologne, Germany, originally, and still speaks with a noticeable and rather charming trace of Rhenish accent.)

Today, as travelers outside the Beaver State's borders know well, Oregon's roads are merely average, or maybe slightly above average, in terms of crowdedness and quality. Certainly other states tend to have more and wider interstate freeways.

But you don't have to go too far back into the past to find a time when Oregon's highway system was something rather special.

It's a legacy that goes all the way back to the dawn of motoring; when the Good Roads movement got started, it really took off in Oregon, starting in the early 1910s with the nationally famous Columbia Gorge Highway.

But the true reason for the lion's share of credit for Oregon's transformation into a midcentury motorist's paradise is much more prosaic:

Our state was the first in the nation to levy a gasoline tax to fund its highway system.

The gasoline tax was born in a law office in Forest Grove belonging to Loyal M. Graham, a member of the state House of Representatives. Graham's good friend and fellow House member W.B. Dennis, who lived in Carlton and represented Yamhill County, had stopped by on a trip to Portland, to visit and talk a little shop. Both men were members of the House highway committee, and both were well aware that the committee had a big problem on



Postcard
Horseshoe Curve on Oregon Highway 99 near Siskiyou Pass as it appeared in the 1920s, from a postcard postmarked in 1928. The image itself looks to be at least five years older than that, though; Highway 99 was fully paved by 1923, and this roadbed appears to be unpaved.

its hands.

The problem, of course, was money. Isn't it always?

The state House had created the Highway Department in 1917. They had financed it with a \$6 million bond measure to be repaid with property taxes. Voters had approved this bond measure, but not without some grumbling. It was clear that the path to a proper highway system would be a struggle if they had to do it that way. At the time, of course, cars were still uncommon enough to frighten livestock. Everyday Oregonians were willing to spend a little to make the roads better for everyone, but clearly they would draw the line at spending vast sums to make the state a paradise for rich motorists.

And those sums would indeed have to be vast. The \$6 million was turning out to be a drop in the bucket of what was needed to set the state up with a proper highway system.

With Graham and Dennis on board, two more bond measures were shepherded through in 1918 for \$10 million each, with the stipulation that they'd be paid with highway tolls and fines, not property taxes. But obviously that was a limited source of money.

And there was another, bigger problem: There was no provision for maintenance.

Building roads was plenty expensive, but maintaining them was also not cheap. There was no revenue flowing steadily to keep them maintained, and capital bond levies obviously couldn't be used for maintenance. Something else was needed.

And that was the situation on that day in the fall of 1918 when Rep. Dennis turned to Rep. Graham and said, "Well ... couldn't we levy a tax on gasoline?"

They started out with a penny a gallon, having no real idea how much it would generate. As it turned out, it generated a lot more than they'd anticipated.

It also turned out to be a remarkably frictionless way to get tax money; it was almost painless. Nobody paid it unless they bought gasoline; it was baked into the price of the petrol (collected by the wholesalers) so nobody ever saw the money going out. It also literally saved people money: Potholes and mud-bog roads damaged cars. Motorists were happy to pay a few dozen dollars a year for roads when the alternative was hundreds of dollars in car repairs and hundreds of hours stuck by the roadside, or nursing a broken automobile back to civilization. The gas tax was as close to win-win as taxation gets.

In 1923, thanks to the gas tax, Oregon became the first state west of the Mississippi to build a paved highway from one of its borders all the way to the other — Highway 99, all 347 miles of it, completed in 1923.

In 1955, Oregon built its first freeway, again courtesy of the gas tax — a year before President Eisenhower signed the legislation getting America's interstate freeway system started. That was the Banfield Freeway, in Portland, named after a legendary state highway commissioner and now part of Interstate 84.

For all that early work, the interstates took a while to get really popular in Oregon — something you might not believe if you've been stuck on I-5 lately. At quitting time on a weekday, anywhere in the Willamette Valley, the freeway is usually bumper-to-bumper.

But it wasn't always like this. In fact, when Bill Bowerman was coaching the University of Oregon track team in the late 1960s, his runners would use the then-newish freeway for practice. They'd run onto the freeway at the north Springfield exit and run to Coburg and back, running in the fast lane going against the flow of traffic — such as there was. On any given day they'd only see a car or two, and they'd see it coming from a long way off, in plenty of time to get into the median to safety.

Many longtime residents also remember times, driving between Eugene and Salem for instance, when they were virtually alone, hurtling along, kings of the highway. Those days are gone in the valley, although a trip from The Dalles to Pendleton on I-84 can get pretty lonely sometimes.

For younger residents, the freeways seem like part of the landscape: always been here, always will be. But Oregon's freeway system is a relatively young one. Interstate 5 itself was not finished until 1966, just over 50 years ago. Interstate 205, through the east side of the Portland Metro area, is much newer; it was completed in 1982. And the most recent addition to the system, I-82 near Hermiston, was finished in 1988.

It wasn't all roses, of course. In 1966, Oregon's highway-building mojo got a little out of hand, when a scheme was dreamed up to run a high-speed highway over the top of the beach, on pilings drilled down into the sand, at Nestucca Spit. This plan fetched up with a sickening thud on the bulwark of public opinion as well as federal law, and a chastened highway department had to back down.

And one just can't bring up the Oregon Highway Department without at least mentioning the time when they used a half ton of dynamite (purchased with gas tax money, of course!) to blow up

A motorist's paradise - Page 11



By Slim Randles

"Happy May Day!" said Delbert McLain, our self-appointed, undisputed, and unpaid head of our non-existent chamber of commerce. He wears a tie. Here, in this town. 'Nuf said.

"By golly you're right," said Doc. "I have a question, Del. How are we supposed to celebrate it?"

"By starting a business, maybe," he said. "You know. And then joining the chamber of commerce."

"And paying dues?"

"Why not?"

"Well," said Dud, our budding novelist, still using small buds, "how about erecting a May pole and then dancing around it waving flowers and yelling 'hooray for May'?" They used to do that."

There's lots of ways of celebrating the beginning of May, it turns out. In some places it was a drunken orgy and actually gave us the word orgies. In some areas in ancient times, it was time to chase girls around flowering trees and be fruitful. If you were too old to do that, simply singing spring songs like they did at Walpurgis and Beltane would be on the menu. Well, to be fair, at Beltane, the Scots and Irish used to burn their fields and turn the cows out to pasture, too.

Then of course, you could pick up the microphone on the jet's dashboard and yell "Mayday!" to the tower and have them sympathize with you as you plunge downwards.

Or, of course, if you're of a communistic state of mind, you could always bump off a czar or two and start your own government.

Pretty girls, new flowers and May poles sound like more fun than dead czars and plane crashes. Orgy, anyone?

Sorry to hear May Company went broke and closed. Nice people, clean sheets ... oh where has the time gone?



MCKENZIE VALLEY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DINNER

Thursday May 23, 5:30pm-7:45pm

Walterville Community Center (39259 Camp Creek Rd.)

EWEB Commissioners and Staff invite our McKenzie Valley customers to join us for dinner and conversations about "Improving communications with the community." Seated around dinner tables together, we will discuss protecting the McKenzie River, working together through emergencies, and navigating the changes to come with the closure of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project.

An Open House for individual account questions and program updates will take place before and after dinner.

Please RSVP to Adam Spencer at adam.spencer@eweb.org or by calling 541-685-7539 by May 7 so we know how many meals to provide. All are welcome to attend.

Gardening Tips



Practical Lawn Establishment and Renovation Continued From Last Week



yourgreenpal.com

Rototilling

Assuming your existing soil is acceptable for planting your new lawn, the first step normally is rototilling (Figure 1). Rototilling serves two basic functions. First, it loosens the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Second, it breaks up the soil into smaller pieces so it can be graded.

With those two purposes in mind, it is clear that you need to go over the site only enough times to achieve the depth you want and a clod size you can grade. A common mistake is to pulverize the soil until it looks like powder. This destroys soil structure and ultimately leaves reduced infiltration and increased compaction potential. To avoid this problem, till soil when it is relatively dry, but moist enough that you don't generate a giant dust cloud. Also avoid tilling wet soil, as doing so creates structureless soil and large, amorphous clods.

If you add compost, till the area once or twice and then add the compost and spread it to a uniform depth. Till the entire area again until a uniform mix is achieved. If you fail to get a good mix, the lawn will have pockets of soil and organic matter along with uniformly mixed soil. This will leave the lawn with wet spots and dry spots, meaning more headaches for you down the road.

If you determine that lime is needed to raise the soil pH, apply it before you till the soil and then

till it in thoroughly to achieve a good mix. Remember that lime must react in the soil before it has any impact on soil pH. Applying it after the site is graded and compacted means it will affect only the surface soil and might take a long time to do anything to the rest of the root zone.

Grading

Once the soil is tilled, start grading by alternating raking and rolling. Large, lightweight grading rakes, which work better than small garden rakes, can be rented, as can water-filled rollers. Begin with a quick, rough grading aimed at knocking off high spots and filling in low spots. Then start rolling by going over the entire area with a back-and-forth pattern in one direction. As soon as you finish one direction, begin again in another direction. Meanwhile, use the rakes to continue to scratch off high spots and fill low spots.

Do a thorough job around the edges of sidewalks and driveways. It's a good idea to grade these edges flush with the concrete since they will settle slightly once the area is irrigated regularly.

How do you know when the job is done? Fatigue alters most people's sense of perception, so when they are really tired the lawn grade looks almost perfect. The goal is to grade the site smooth and have the entire area uniformly compacted so further settling does not occur during establishment. At the same time, you don't

want to pack the soil so hard that roots and water can't penetrate. Unfortunately, this process can't be quantified easily, so even if it is your first time, you will have to use your best judgment.

If you need to bring in additional soil, till and rough-grade the existing soil first. Then spread the new soil and follow with the rake-and-roll routine described above. This strategy works whether the new soil is the same as the original soil or is a sandy soil placed over the parent soil.

Selecting the best grass to plant. There are several basic mixtures that are adequate for most situations. The following examples will give you a reasonable chance of success. The percentages of mixture components are not sacred. Be flexible when shopping because every supplier's mixture is different. Look for mixtures that approximate those described below. Lists of specific cultivars are included at the end of this publication.

You often can find reasonably good seed mixtures at discount chain stores. Most of these stores sell an elite mixture, an allpurpose mixture, one for shady lawns, and an economy mixture. Most likely, the economy mix is made up predominantly of annual ryegrass, which will die out within a year or two. The all-purpose mixture and shady mix often are pretty good. The elite mixture seldom is better than the all-purpose mix. The key is to study the label and make a decision based on contents, not the price or the hype.

Some independent nurseries stock improved grass mixtures. These are easy to spot because all of the grasses are listed by name, and the purity generally is high. Unfortunately, not all nurseries sell top-quality grasses. Become familiar enough with improved grasses to know what you are

Lawn care - Page 9



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



FORSYTHIA FOR SPRING

Bright yellow flower-covered bushes and were a delight to see as I drove through town this morning on errands. The forsythia is out in full bloom, announcing that SPRING has arrived.

In addition, the sky was a pure blue and the sun was shining. Neither a storm cloud nor a raindrop around.

These spring flowers reminded me of the large forsythia bush at the south end of the long porch across the front and side of the farmhouse where I grew up in Poughquag, NY. There was never a year that I can recall, that it, then the lilac bushes in front of Grandpa's workshop and the woodhouse came into bloom.

Forsythia in Other Locations

When Father built a smaller retirement house for Mother and himself in later years, he planted a shoot from the forsythia in their front yard. It bloomed brightly each spring.

Then when Jim built us a home in NH 44 years ago, Father brought a planting from it and the lilac bush to us. I have photos of Father and Jim planting these. The forsythia bush thrived, but for some reason the lilac didn't like our soil. I assume the current owners of "the house that Jim built" are enjoying the forsythia still.

When m my daughter and son-in-law built their home 12 years

ago, we gave them a planting of the forsythia bush for their yard. I didn't realize it was still living. However, today Beth pointed it out to me...the bush with yellow flowers just beyond the yellow daffodils they had transplanted from our year as well. How amazing that forsythia from my childhood at the farmhouse is alive and blooming here.

Enjoy the flowers and spring and let them bring you cheer and memories.

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS - No matter what the season, I like Cousin Mary's recipe for these muffins.

Sift together 1 3/4 cups sifted flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder, and 3/4-teaspoon salt into a mixing bowl; make a well in the center.

Combine 1 well beaten egg, 3/4 cup milk, 1/3 cup salad oil or melted shortening. Add all at once to the dry ingredients and stir quickly only until the dry ingredients are moistened.

Stir in 1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen.

Fill greased or paper lined muffin pans 2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees F. for about 25 minutes, or until muffins test done.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen, who grew up on a farm, often writes about nostalgic and Inspirational topics.)

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Use it OR Lose it

Ever wonder why small businesses close? Without a supportive local customer base it's very hard to exist.

Economists say every dollar we spend turns over up to seven times. That means a dollar spent "in town" equals a loss of \$7 for local trade, wages, tax support, and other community benefits. Each \$100 spent in the metro area for gas, food, and shopping translates into a \$700 gain for that community, not ours. That \$700 may not seem to amount to much to them, but it does to us.

Let's keep part of the dollars we spend here, and working for us.

McKenzie River Reflections

mckenzie river reflections newspaper.com

Shop at Home, it makes \$ense

Community Notes

May 3 - 5 Skills College

This is a free opportunity for potential volunteers to learn how to maintain trails in the forest. It's also a place for experienced volunteers to pick up new skills. Classes are taught by professionals and expert volunteers. It will be held at Camp White Branch, 61500 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge. To register for this annual event go to: app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationGid=72388b2c-d3d3-48b5-9adc-2d706e2a91ef&ApplicationFormNumber=3

May 3 Play Festival

Walterville Grange will be hosting the annual play festival on Friday, May 3, starting at 7 PM. There will be three 1-act plays presented by Dorena/Row River Grange, Goldson Grange, and Walterville Grange. Walterville's play will be a comedy called "The Organ Recital." The plays will be held at the Walterville Community Grange Hall located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville. There will be delicious refreshments served after the plays. We will be collecting canned food items for the upriver food bank. There is no charge, but donations are gratefully appreciated. Come out for some great fun and visit with your friends and neighbors.

May 4 BR Cleanup Day

People are invited to the Blue River Cleanup Day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event, includes free hot dogs provided by Locals Helping Locals. Some tools will be provided; bring rakes, shovels, gloves, etc., if you have them.

May 4 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.

May 4 & 5 Guild Art Sale

Members of the McKenzie Artists' Guild will celebrate their 31st anniversary at their annual Art Show & Sale. 13 artists will display their works at the Leaburg Fire Training and Education Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 42870 McKenzie Highway, Leaburg; Kris Anderson, Janet Biles, Kathryn Cannon, Cindy Cartledge, Whitney Crane, Sandy Dunbar, Joe Frank, Ali Hennes, Joyce Hubbard, Marjorie Lewellen, Lucy Rudy, Joanne Simmons Walch & Susan Warner.

Visitors will be treated to coffee, tea and homemade cookies while viewing the works of art. The works of art included watercolor, oil, jewelry, Photography, quilling, painted glass, woodwork, ceramics, yard art, Stenciling/embroidery, and art cards.

May 7 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

May 7 Coffee with Locals

Lane Come have a cup of coffee from 10 to 11 a.m. with your neighbors (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd. Catch up with your people, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles.

Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

May 7

Family Story Time

Family Story Time will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Road. Some special FUN at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship!

May 7

EWEB

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene.

Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time at <https://tinyurl.com/EWEB-Board-Meeting-08-01-23>.

Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically starting at 5:30 p.m. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed. The President will announce the speaking time at the start of the Public Input session. Alternatively, people may submit written testimony to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Members of the public wishing to provide input are invited to do so virtually or in person. Requests to speak by phone and written testimony can be submitted any time before the requested cutoff.

Sign Up to Speak by Telephone - Requests must be received before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the board meeting. Speakers will be contacted with instructions for calling into the meeting.

Submit Written Testimony - Comments received by 2:00 pm on meeting day will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. Comments received after 2:00 pm may not be reviewed until after the meeting. Written comments will not be read during the meeting.

Please note that spoken testimonies will be included in the meeting's audio/video recording and all testimonies will be noted in the meeting minutes. Both are made available on eweb.org following the meeting.

*Start times for agenda items are approximate. Attendees wishing to provide testimony for public input or a public hearing are encouraged to be present when the meeting is called to order. Please note there are not opportunities for public comment during work sessions.

May 7

Walterville Grange

The Walterville Grange #416, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road. The Grange's first two monthly

Are you P.R.E.P.ed?

A meeting on May 7th people is targeted at helping people who live along the McKenzie River survive a wildfire. Sponsored by Locals Helping Locals the session will help explain how P.R.E.P. (Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare) can be invaluable for people who plan ahead.

Scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. the session will focus on what's involved when residents are required to evacuate and how firefighters deal with an extended fire attack.

Guest speakers from the Lane

County Sheriff's Office, Lane County Emergency Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal, US Forest Service, Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management and Deputy Incident Commander, Oregon Department of Forestry and local Fire Departments will all offer insights on the roles they play, as well as how different agencies support each other.

The P.R.E.P. meeting will be held on the McKenzie Community School campus, 51187 Blue River Drive.

meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, with a potluck dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

May 7

P.R.E.P. Meeting

Sponsored by Locals Helping Locals. You don't want to miss P.R.E.P - Plan, Resilient, Educate, Prepare for future fires on Tuesday, May 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. Discussions will include Evacuations and Extended Fire Attack. There will be guest speakers from the following agencies: Lane County Sheriff's Office, Lane County Emergency Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal, US Forest Service, Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management, and Deputy Incident Commander, Oregon Department of Forestry and Local Fire Departments. At McKenzie Community School, 51887 Blue River Dr.

May 8

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

May 8

Watershed Wednesday

Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

May 7

McK School Board

The McKenzie School District Board of Directors will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the District Administration building, 51187 Blue River Drive. The meeting will be livestreamed viewing available at www.youtube.com/channel/UC14_qR6FmaelclIzi4UMCeQ/

videos. Submit Public Comment to public.comment@mckenziesd.org

May 9

Vida/McK Community Ctr

The Vida McKenzie Community Center Board will meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

May 9

Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, function, and use. Location varies, please contact Melanie Giangreco, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Assistant. Meetings are from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Contact: Melanie Giangreco (458-201-8150) melanie@mckenziawc.org

May 10

Second Friday Art Walk

The 2nd Friday Art Walk Will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. starting at the Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield, 500 Main St.

Spring 2024

Master Gardeners

The OSU Extension Service Lane County Master Gardeners have announced their public Pruning class schedule for 2024. Lane County Master Gardeners are offering public pruning classes in the winter and spring of 2024. Class participants will learn about pruning tools and equipment, tool care, as well as techniques to prune specific types of trees and ornamentals. Master Gardeners are eager to share their knowledge and experience with participants and want their class experience to be interactive, fun, and educational. Pre-Registration is required. For a full list of classes, details, locations, and pre-registration information visit our events page: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/county/lane/events> For more information, please contact the OSU Extension Service - Lane County office, 996 Jefferson Street, Eugene (enter on 10th at the wheelchair ramp) 541-344-5859 or at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane>

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the **McKenzie School District**, Lane County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 will be held at the McKenzie High School Cafeteria. The meeting will take place on **May 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** The purpose of the meeting is the presentation of the proposed 2024-25 budget.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected on or after May 13, 2024 at the district office at 51187 Blue River Dr. Finn Rock, OR, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or view the document on the McKenzie School District website. Additional meetings, if needed, are scheduled on May 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and May 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Nathaniel Tompkins
Nathaniel Tompkins, Superintendent

4/4/2024
Date

An Invitation to Worship

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

Living Water Family Fellowship
Pastor - Doug Farrington
52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42
541-822-3820
Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM,
Children's ministry also.
Come early for a meet and greet continental
breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM.
Thursdays, 6:00 PM. Celebrate Recovery
(12 Step Program)

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

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

My Life



Ellery Sterling

My sister is 45 and has had an affair with an old boyfriend from her youth. She says she loves him, he loves her, and they wish to pursue a life together. They are both married, though he is separated. My sister has a wonderful husband who is devoted to her even after discovering the affair.

Our families are close, and we are in shock at this heartbreaking news. I believe my sister is going through a midlife crisis. Her husband is still willing to save the marriage, but he is tired of her obsession with this other man.

My sister has three children, the youngest in his late teens. She quit college when she discovered she was pregnant and got married at age 20. Her husband finished his education, while my sister worked to support them. They were on

the verge of financial security when she met up with her old boyfriend.

One thing led to another. Now she and her husband will probably divorce. When all this started, she saw a counselor. She said the counselor commented her affair sounded like "a love story." I'm sure my sister told this professional only what she wanted and left out how she and her husband raised three wonderful children.

Our whole family is distraught. We cannot figure out what went wrong. I am angry. We love our brother-in-law so much and are concerned about him and the children. She says they are doing fine and will get over it in a few years.

My sister mentioned recently she "had to get married." I believe she is using that as a tool to rationalize what she has done. I feel I am standing back and watching her make the worst mistake of her life. How do I persuade my sister to seek professional help to guide her through this life-changing decision?

Jocelyn

Jocelyn, why can't you accept that your sister got married because she was pregnant? Why is that not the truth of how she ended up married? How many women

have slept with a man they didn't love and wound up pregnant?

Your sister is finally owning up to the truth. She got married because of a child. Now that the children are grown, she feels free to leave the marriage. In her mind, having a child trapped her, and the age of the children is now setting her free.

You love your brother-in-law. But the reality in your mind is not the reality in your sister's mind. And counseling? Bah! Your sister went to a counselor to get the answer she wanted to hear, and now you want her to go to a counselor to get the answer you want to hear.

People make up their minds to divorce or not to divorce from within their breasts. Perhaps it was your parents' choice that she married. You wish it to be your choice she doesn't divorce. Perhaps she is finally making her own choice.

Will you still love your sister even though she makes decisions you don't approve of? At what point in life do we get to make our own decisions?

Wayne & Tamara

Personal Finance

I'm usually good at deciding things, but this one's got me. I recently landed a good job that pays even more than my mother makes. My mom advised that I open a bank account jointly with her. Is this necessary? I mean, I'm 24. I live at home, but I contribute

substantially.

Sophia

Sophia, in some circumstances it might be advantageous to share an account with your mother. For example, if she was elderly or infirm, adding your name to her account would allow you to bank for her. But there is no such reason here.

Whoever controls your purse controls your life. You are an adult woman fully capable of managing your own affairs. That is what you should do.

Wayne

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

Wings

By Miroslav Holub

We have

a microscopic anatomy

of the whale

this

gives

Man

assurance

William Carlos Williams

We have

a map of the universe

for microbes,

we have

a map of a microbe

for the universe.

we have

a Grand Master of chess

made of electronic circuits.

But above all

we have

the ability

to sort peas,

to cup water in our hands,

to seek

the right screw

under the sofa

for hours

This

gives us

wings.

Miroslav Holub, "Wings" from *Poems Before & After*. Reprinted with the permission of Bloodaxe Books Ltd., www.bloodaxebooks.com.

Scientist and poet Miroslav Holub was born in Plzeň, a city in modern-day Czech Republic. He earned an MD from the Charles University School of Medicine in 1953 and a PhD from the Czech Academy of Sciences Institute of Microbiology in 1958. Holub spoke English, French, and German. His many poetry collections include *Shedding Life: Disease, Politics, and Other Human Conditions*, translated by David Young with others (1997); *Intensive Care: Selected and New Poems* (1996); *The Fly*, translated by Ewald Osers with others (1987); *Notes of a Clay Pigeon* (1977); *Tak zvane srdce (The So-Called Heart)*, 1963; and *Denni sluzba (Day Duty)*, 1958. He was not published in the Czech Republic until after the fall of communism. By the 1970s, his work had been translated into over 30 languages, and he was highly regarded by critics.

From the 1960s to 1980s, Holub read his poems at many festivals, including the Spoleto Festival in Italy; the Lincoln Center Festival in New York; the Harrogate Festival in England; Poetry International in Rotterdam, Holland; the Cambridge Poetry Festival in Cambridge, England; and the International Poetry Festival in Toronto, Ontario.

Holub died in Prague in 1998.

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Personal

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

Waltherville 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 Leaburg Sew & So's are meeting most Friday afternoons at the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Training Center. Please call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more information.S=JS-2/25/10ruc

Services

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Travel

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CROSSWORD

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- 50. Whiskey straight, e.g.
- 52. Cubby hole
- 53. One-horse carriage
- 55. *#29 Down invasion co-ordinator
- 57. *TV's Tony Nelson's "dream"
- 61. *"8 1/2" and "La Dolce Vita" director
- 65. Lake scum
- 66. Toothpaste type
- 68. Baited
- 69. Thorny
- 70. Anger
- 71. Last eight in college basketball
- 72. Kill
- 73. Lamentable
- 74. Bob Marley, e.g.

DOWN

- 1. * ___ Alpert & the Tijuana Brass
- 2. Last word over walkie-talkie
- 3. Algeria's southern neighbor
- 4. Written corrections
- 5. Chef's guide
- 6. * ___ A Sketch toy, launched in 1960
- 7. * Just one of "My Three ___"

- 8. Polynesian kingdom
- 9. Prefix with trooper or legal
- 10. Resembling wings
- 11. Abominable humanoid
- 12. *#57 Across actress
- 15. Large feline (2 words)
- 20. The Obamas' daughter
- 22. *"A Man for ___ Seasons" movie
- 24. Political repression
- 25. Nordic gl hwein
- 26. * ___ Turf
- 27. Man behind Windows
- 29. *Bay of ___ Invasion
- 31. *"Turn on, tune in, ___ out"
- 32. Shockingly graphic
- 33. Fill with optimism
- 34. *"The Times They Are A-Changin'" singer-songwriter
- 36. Three on a certain sloth
- 38. It's between Ohio and Ontario
- 42. *#21 Across - first man in ___
- 45. *"Mary Poppins" producer
- 49. Not Beta or Kappa
- 51. Farm tool
- 54. Front of cuirass
- 56. Spurious wing
- 57. Kickboxing moves
- 58. Twelfth month of Jewish year
- 59. City of Taj Mahal
- 60. "___ a soul"
- 61. Ran off
- 62. Purple flower
- 63. Not gross
- 64. Brainchild
- 67. E in B.C.E.

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THE 1960s

ACROSS

- 1. "Odyssey" author
- 6. Time in NYC
- 9. Pay as you earn, acr.
- 13. Avoid paying taxes
- 14. Also
- 15. Rolled up, on a farm
- 16. From distant past
- 17. News channel acronym
- 18. Very angry
- 19. * ___ Invasion
- 21. *Vostok I pilot
- 23. Spring water resort
- 24. Talcum powder ingredient

- 25. Muted order
- 28. Sports award
- 30. Doled out, as in soup
- 35. Future atty.'s exam
- 37. Engage for service
- 39. In all sincerity
- 40. * ___ Preminger, director of "Exodus"
- 41. Petri dish jellies
- 43. DDS exam
- 44. Gordon Gekko: " ___ is good"
- 46. Barbershop sound
- 47. Bread pocket
- 48. Rumor

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

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from May 2nd

Springfield Museum closure

Mon Jan 1st - Thu Jul 1st

We have big news to share here at the Museum! We will be closed to the public from January 1 through July 11, 2024, while our staff and ...

Storytime

Thu May 2nd 2:30pm - 3:30pm

The O'Brien Memorial Library offers Story Time on the 1st Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. Enter the world of imagination and learning by ...

CASCADE VOLUNTEERS

Fri May 3rd - Sun 5th

West Coast Trails Skills College

Free opportunity for potential volunteers to learn how to maintain trails in the forest. It's also a place for experienced volunteers to ...

Walterville Grange's Play Festival

Fri May 3 & Sat 4

Come early and get a good seat or otherwise Community Grange will be holding an annual play festival on Friday May 3, starting at 7 PM. There will be three 1 act plays presented ...

Blue River Cleanup Day

Sat May 4th 9:00am - 4:00pm

BLUE RIVER town CLEAN UP DAY! Saturday, May 4th, (9 am to 4 pm) BBQ lunch provided by McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals Some tools will

LEARNING STONE

Sat May 4th 10:00am - 12:00pm

Members of the McKenzie Artists' Guild celebrate their 31st anniversary at their annual Art Show and sale. Thirteen artists will display ...

KIDS EAT FREE

Mon May 6th

Every Monday (with adult meal purchase), Tavernut Diner, Outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

Lane County Board of Commissioners

Tue May 7th 10:00am - 11:00am

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

Family Story Time

Tue May 7th 10:00am - 11:00am

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

Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners meeting

Tue May 7th 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real time at ...

COFFEE WITH THE LOCALS

Tue May 7th 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals). Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in ...

McKENZIE RIVER LOCALS HELPING LOCALS

Tue May 7th 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare

McKenzie Locals Helping Locals will host a P.R.E.P. (Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare) meeting to discuss aspects of Fire Management to ...

McKENZIE VALLEY GRANGE

Tue May 7th 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Walterville Grange #416 meeting

Our first two monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. We have a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM and our meeting at 7:30 PM.

McKenzie Valley Wellness Annual Meeting

Tue May 7th 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Annual meeting for members of McKenzie Valley Wellness. In-person only this year. Collecting donations for our own local Food ...

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wed May 8th



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

May 4, 1880 dawned with a gentle breeze fanning the flat surface of the Pacific Ocean. Conditions were ideal for commercial salmon fishing at the entrance to the Columbia River. Without warning a freak storm struck and within minutes the wind was blowing in excess of a hundred miles an hour. Within a half-hour the entire Columbia River fishing fleet was lost, including 240 boats, and the loss of life was set at 325. For weeks after the disaster, families and friends of the deceased walked the beaches searching for some sign of their loved ones. And the ocean, it showed not the slightest remorse.

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

April 26, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook - 2,174
Summer Steelhead - 2,605

Quote of the Week

“To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes, you have to pick up other people’s trash.”

Bill Nye

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Emergency? Call 911

Lawn care

Continued From Page 5

getting.

Fertilizing

Apply fertilizer just before or after seeding. If you have two spreaders, one person can put down seed while the other applies fertilizer.

For sodded lawns, incorporate fertilizer into the seedbed prior to final grading or, if planting on fertile soils, wait to apply it after the sod has put down roots. Sod often is prefertilized, so it might grow well for several weeks without preplant fertilizer.

For seeded lawns, you can use nearly any fertilizer that is relatively high in nitrogen (N). Twenty years of class planting projects have repeatedly yielded three consistent responses to fertilizer:

- * Fertilizer has no observable effect on initial emergence of the grass seed.

- * Nitrogen, either alone or in combination with phosphorus or potassium, stimulates growth after emergence and speeds establishment of the turf.

- * Starter fertilizers high in phosphorus offer no advantage over regular turf-grade fertilizers high in nitrogen. Most books emphasize phosphorus and downplay the value of nitrogen. The key to rapid establishment lies in pushing growth after the grass germinates, which is best accomplished with nitrogen.

In most situations for seeded lawns, try the following approach. Apply a complete fertilizer (N-P-K) when you plant at a rate of 1.5 to 2 lb nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft. You can use 15-15-15 if you like, but regular turf-grade fertilizers high in nitrogen and potassium and low in phosphorus (e.g., 10-2-6, 21-7-14, 24-4-12, etc.) are best. Reapply at the same rate about 4 to 6 weeks after planting to further accelerate establishment. These will be the two most important applications you will ever make to your lawn.

Sodded lawns should be fertilized 4 to 6 weeks after planting or as soon as color and growth begin to decline.

Mulching

The next step in planting a lawn usually is mulching. Mulch helps keep moisture near the seed during germination. Applied properly and under the proper conditions, mulch speeds germination and improves stand uniformity (Figure 10). It is particularly useful on areas exposed to wind and prone to rapid drying. It also is useful in preventing surface erosion. It can even prevent earthworms from moving seed around in the course of their nightly wanderings.

One key when using mulch is to apply it fairly lightly (Figure 11). Make one, or at most two, passes with a mulch roller (Figure 12). You don’t need to bury the seed under 1/2 inch of mulch; an 1/8 to 1/4 inch of mulch generally is perfect. If you apply mulch too deeply, the seed might not be able to emerge through it.

The type of mulch is relatively unimportant, although finer mulches often work better than coarser ones. Fresh sawdust, aged sawdust, fine fir bark mulch, compost, ground-up grass straw, and peat moss can work well.

People often worry that mulches might tie up nitrogen in the soil, but when applied lightly this is not a problem.

Some dark-colored mulches greatly enhance emergence in late fall. This effect might be due to the fact that the dark mulch absorbs sunlight and raises the soil temperature.

Mulch isn’t always desirable. In late spring, summer, and early fall, mulch can cause surface heating and result in dampingoff diseases or what seems to be heat scorch. In some experiments, mulched summer plantings were lost, while unmulched plantings nearby came up just fine. Summer plantings are tricky because it is hard to keep them consistently moist without mulch, but mulch may lead to disease or heat scorch that can kill seedlings. You can see why it is worth waiting to plant during optimum times.

Mulch has an impact for only a short period of time. While big differences often are observed 2 to 3 weeks after planting, 6 months later it is difficult to tell which areas were mulched and which weren’t. In fact, seed applied to a well-prepared seedbed and then lightly raked in to ensure good seed-soil contact often does just as well as seed spread on the surface and then covered with mulch.

Considering the extra work and cost involved with obtaining and applying mulch, it might not be as important as we often think. The real issue isn’t the intrinsic value of mulch but rather keeping the seedbed moist enough for rapid and uniform germination. Good seedbed preparation, followed by light raking and careful irrigation, will accomplish this goal. Since careful irrigation is not always possible, most people find that mulch is a simple insurance policy.

Irrigation

The objective when irrigating a newly seeded lawn is to keep the seed wet so it can imbibe water and begin the germination process. You can’t do this by giving the area one thorough soaking. The

best way is to irrigate two to four times each day for as long as it takes the surface soil to start to glisten. On heavy-textured soils, this might mean 5 to 15 minutes per irrigation. Generally, it takes longer the first day. By day 2 or 3, the soil glistens shortly after you start to water. If you keep the soil moist but not water logged, most grasses will germinate in 5 to 10 days at optimal temperatures.

During the germination period (about a week), you need to make sure the site gets water at the right time and in the right amount. Normally, you can’t depend on rain, so be prepared to do some babysitting. Also keep in mind that although the seedbed needs constant moisture, it makes no sense to drown the area. If the site puddles during irrigation and stays that way for more than a few minutes, you are watering too much.

After the grass germinates and green shoots are visible over most of the area, reduce the number of irrigations per day (for example from 4 to 2) and by the end of the second week to once per day. In the third week, you should be able to irrigate once every second or third day depending on the weather. By the fourth week, you often can reduce irrigation to 1 to 2 times per week. From then on, let the lawn tell you when it needs water, and irrigate accordingly.

Sod should be watered thoroughly just after planting and then at least daily for the first couple of weeks. Avoid overirrigating by randomly lifting sod corners to observe soil moisture and rooting progress. Remember to check a different piece each time you look.

Mowing

Mow the new turf as soon

as there is enough grass to cut (Figure 14). Often, if the weather is good and you have done everything properly, the lawn will need mowing about 3 weeks after planting. Mow at the height you intend to maintain the lawn. For perennial ryegrass-fine fescue lawns, mow at about 2 inches. To prevent rutting, stop irrigation a day or two before mowing. Remember, you didn’t do all that grading just so you could ruin the surface by mowing when the soil is too wet!

Aftercare

Now the lawn is up, it has been mowed once, and it soon will be ready for regular weekly mowing. At this point, many people wonder why their new lawn is turning yellow. Remember, it is time to fertilize again. Young lawns are hungry and might need fertilizer every 4 to 5 weeks the first fall and following summer. By the time they are a year old, most lawns hold color longer after each fertilizer application and begin to require less intensive fertilization.

Renovating old lawns

Renovation refers to improving existing lawns by overseeding. Optimal timing for renovation is the same as for starting a new lawn.

Renovation often involves killing the existing lawn, dethatching, minor surface grading, and reseeded. In general, renovation does not involve rototilling, so it is less disruptive and more convenient in existing landscapes. What you do will depend on the condition of your lawn and your goals for the renovated lawn. Here are three common situations where homeowners often consider renovation.



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

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District House race

Continued From Page 1

in the Legislature as a natural continuation of more than 20 years of public service as a police officer and corrections officer. He ran in 2022 when the seat opened – incumbent Rep. Marty Wilde, a Eugene Democrat, opted not to run after redistricting gave Republicans an advantage in the district – and his son graduated from high school. Conrad’s running for reelection because he feels he was successful in his first term.

He succeeded in securing more than \$10 million in investments for his district, including more than \$4 million for water and wastewater infrastructure in Lowell, Creswell and Cottage Grove, \$900,000 for emergency communications equipment in Lane County and more than \$140,000 for the Row River Fire Response.

“They don’t have a lot of money, but they still have the same needs, and so to be able to bring in resources to help them out so they can build that infrastructure, so they can be part of the solutions for housing, so that they can be part of the solutions to ensure that their citizens have safe water, that is something that I’m really proud of,” Conrad said.

It would be easy, he said, to vote no on every budget and policy bill that contains something he doesn’t like. Instead, he looks at each bill through the lens of how it could help people in his district and tries to work with other legislators, lobbyists and advocates to help others.

“We can either take some radical measures, stomp our feet, do walkouts, do a number of different things to get our point across, or we can do some different things, and my preference is to do those different things,” Conrad said. “It’s to always approach with a pragmatic open mind working on those solutions.”

Most voters he talks to aren’t focused on his vote on House Bill 2002, the controversial abortion and transgender health care law, Conrad said. They’re more concerned about emergency management, homelessness and housing. But when the issue comes up, he says he’s happy to explain his vote, as he did in an interview with the Capital Chronicle last year.

That vote led the Oregon Republican Party to vote last month to censure Conrad and vow never to financially support him in another election. The party called on the House Republican caucus to do the same, but the caucus thus far is standing behind Conrad.

In a statement endorsing Conrad, Deputy House Republican Leader Mark Owens praised him for standing up for conservative values.

“He is a thoughtful leader who stands up for the conservative values of his district,” Owens said. “Charlie works hard to understand the issues and to push back against government overreach. He brings

the voices of his district to Salem and is a Republican who deserves to be reelected.”

Conrad’s largest campaign donors are the Oregon State Firefighters Council and the Coquille Indian Tribe, both of which gave \$3,000 to Conrad’s campaign. State campaign finance records show he also received support from an eclectic group of nonaffiliated and Democratic supporters, including 2022 nonaffiliated candidate for governor Betsy Johnson; Patty Buehler, the wife of 2018 Republican gubernatorial nominee Knute Buehler, and Wilde, the district’s former Democratic state representative.

Conrad said the state Republican party, as well as the national Republican Party, is divisive and isn’t focused on actually doing work. That shows nationally with close to two dozen Republican Congress members, including several committee chairs, choosing to resign or not seek reelection this year. In Oregon, many elected Republicans have little to do with the state or local party apparatus – all House Republicans even publicly disavowed the state party’s resolution calling the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol a “false flag.”

“We don’t accomplish anything if we’re angry, yelling and engaging in demagoguery and rhetoric that just pulls people apart,” Conrad said. “I don’t approach this job with anger. I approach this job with focus on the challenges and what are the solutions to them? That keeps me grounded.”

Harbick, 55, said he was first drawn to politics in 2020 because of COVID-related restrictions on schools, businesses and churches. He announced a run for governor in 2021, then switched to running for the U.S. Senate, placing second in the Republican primary to take on incumbent Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden.

Since then, Harbick said he has paid more attention to legislative action and hasn’t been happy with what he’s seen.

“One of the laws that came through that piqued my interest was House Bill 2002, and when I found out that my state representative (was) the only Republican in Oregon who voted with the rest of the Democrats on that bill, I was outraged because I do not believe that is what House District 12 represents,” he said. “That was kind of a catalyst that put me into running a primary against Representative Conrad.”

Harbick has spent the past three months knocking on Republican voters’ doors in the district, and he says he tells everyone he

speaks to that Conrad voted for 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds to get “transgender surgeries” without parental knowledge.

Existing state law passed before Conrad was in office already allowed teenagers 15 or older to consent to medical or dental diagnoses and treatments, including gender-affirming care, without parental consent. Medical standards of care for children and teens who identify as transgender do not include surgeries, though minors have received such surgeries, and doctors who testified before the Legislature said they typically try to include parents in conversations about their children’s care.

Nevertheless, Harbick opposes the law.

“I’ve talked to people that are not in my party about that House Bill 2002 vote, and parents alike whether you’re Republican, Democrat, non-affiliated are not happy that their rights have been taken away of how they can raise their kids and and make parental decisions together, that are life-changing decisions,” Harbick said. “So regardless of who I talk to – and yes I’m going to talk to a few that will not agree with that philosophy – but the bulk and the majority are in agreement.”

Harbick said he believed the House will be controlled by Republicans in 2025. When asked where he might be able to find common ground with legislative Democrats or Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek, he said that it would be a difficult task because Democrats have “been pushing bills through.”

He said his experience as a business owner – he owns logging company Harbick’s Inc., as well as Harbick’s Country Inn and the Ark77 Recovery Center – will be valuable experience in the Legislature. He supports cutting taxes on businesses, including the corporate activity tax on business receipts that critics describe as a hidden sales tax, as well as repealing a law that took effect in 2024 that raised minimum fines for businesses that violate state workplace safety laws.

“When the Legislature makes these rules and regulations and imposes them on businesses, they don’t understand the cost and what it’s going to do,” Harbick said. “I bring that expertise into the field when they start talking about these things, and I can explain how that’s going to directly affect me and other business owners.”

Harbick has received nearly \$7,500 from the Oregon Right to Life PAC in the form of campaign literature. No current state representatives are financially supporting his campaign, though Rep. Boomer Wright, R-Coos Bay, has endorsed him.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 2

that doesn’t require much of a spark to explode.”

In “The New Yorker” magazine, movie critic Justin Chang called “Civil War” a “dystopian shocker” of “bombed out buildings, blood-soaked sidewalks” and highways strewn for miles with abandoned cars in “an America gone unsurprisingly mad.”

“But ‘Civil War’ has loftier ambitions,” Chang writes, “its parable of American infighting means to sound a note of queasy alarm, as if we were just one secessionist screed or Presidential abuse of power away from tumbling into a

comparable nightmare.”

Chang thinks the movie falls short because it doesn’t even get close to “advancing a remotely political point of view.” He said it “loses itself in a non-partisan fog.”

I don’t know. Like I said, I didn’t watch it. But I do hear that note of queasy alarm.

It seems possible to me. We could slide that way if the election this year goes wrong.

In the meantime, let’s slurp some beer, crunch some popcorn and and not think about it.

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Charlie Conrad
Party: Republican
Age: 51
Residency: Dexter
Education: Master’s in public administration from the University of Colorado, 2012; bachelor’s in wildlife science from Oregon State University, 1994
Current occupation: State representative
Prior elected experience: State representative since 2023
Family status: Married, one son
Fundraising: \$48,680 as of April 23
Cash on hand: -\$785 as of April 23

Darin Harbick
Party: Republican
Age: 55
Residency: Rainbow
Education: diploma, McKenzie High School
Current occupation: Owner of Harbick’s Inc., Harbick Country Inn and Ark77 Recovery Center
Prior elected experience: None
Family status: Married, three adult children
Fundraising: \$101,182 as of April 23
Cash on hand: -\$22,039 as of April 23

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Oregon wildfire, smoke experts weigh in on future risks and 2024 season

Experts offered generally good news about wildfire risks for the West but uncertainty for Northwest



Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

Wildfire risk in the West and in Oregon this year is not abnormally higher than in recent years Snowpack across Oregon is about average, and it's been an El Niño winter and spring, meaning conditions have been wetter-than-normal.

By: Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
Oregon's getting better at preventing and responding to wildfires, experts said Thursday, but much more still needs to be done.

A panel of University of Oregon professors who study climate change, smoke and wildfire discussed the 2024 wildfire season in an online forum with journalists as the West braces for summer fires.

Wildfire risk in the West and in Oregon this year is not abnormally higher than in recent years, said Daniel Gavin, a professor in the geography department who specializes in paleoecology – the study of climate change impacts and fires on ecosystems over time.

Snowpack across Oregon is about average, and it's been an El Niño winter and spring, meaning conditions have been wetter-than-normal. Gavin expressed concern that parts of Washington are still abnormally dry, and that snowpack is melting too fast in some parts of the Northern Rocky Mountains. With greater precipitation and snowmelt, grasses and other vegetation in open spaces can grow quickly. A stretch of hot summer months could dry it out just as fast, creating tinder for a wildfire.

"It doesn't take many weeks of dry weather to create fire hazards in more open vegetation on the east side (of the Cascades) or in previously burned areas," Gavin said.

Fortunately, the number of cameras monitoring high risk areas around the state have grown from several hundred to roughly 1,200, said geophysicist Doug Toomey, a

professor who also leads a regional partnership for wildfire prevention and monitoring called the AlertWildfire camera network.

And communities across Oregon and the West are improving communication systems for evacuations, said Amanda Stasiewicz, a social scientist focusing on policy and human impacts of wildfire, as well as forest and rangeland management.

Stasiewicz said utilities across the West are developing better plans and faster processes for deploying public safety power shutoffs, which allow them to deenergize part of the electric grid during bad weather conditions where there's a high risk electric infrastructure could start or contribute to a wildfire. Fires started by power lines and electrical equipment accounted for more than 59% of the total acres burned in California wildfires during the summers of 2017 and 2019, according to Stasiewicz.

Still, there's more to be done, she said, especially to support rural community preparedness and to prepare for wildfire refugees who will need more support under a future of longer and larger fires, fueled in part by drought and heavy winds that are predicted to increase under climate change.

The increase in wildfires started in or exacerbated by extreme wind events has grown, making electrical power shutoffs more common and making wildfires harder to

predict, Stasiewicz said. All of this means it's more difficult for state and local agencies to communicate with impacted Oregonians and to know when to order an evacuation.

"Even the risk avoided by deenergizing the grid has different impacts to different communities," she said.

Many people get evacuation notices through cell phone messages or apps. In rural communities, where many use Wi-Fi to send and receive messages due to spotty signal coverage, losing electricity could completely cut them off from life-saving alerts.

Heidi Huber-Sterns, a research professor and expert on the public health impacts of wildfire smoke, said power shutoffs can also trap people in unhealthy conditions. Keeping windows closed because of smoke while also losing the electricity needed to run air conditioners and air filtration systems can exacerbate health issues.

Huber-Sterns said there's more to be done regionally to address the threat of wildfire smoke, calling cross-state collaboration "a missing piece." Despite some efforts from state and local agencies in Oregon to alert people earlier about air quality issues, and to avoid polluting the air with smoke during prescribed burns, "smoke is a transient hazard," she said. "It doesn't take place in one location."

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

A motorist's paradise

Continued From Page 4



Oregon State Archives

A roadside sign commemorating the old historic Oregon Trail at Laurel Hill, which is on U.S. Highway 26 just west of Government Camp. Laurel Hill was on the old Barlow Road, which, like many other wagon roads from Oregon Trail days, was among the first roadbuilding projects taken on by the Oregon Highway Department after its formation in 1917.

an eight-ton dead whale that had washed ashore in Florence. From a public-relations perspective, that went even worse than the Nestucca Spit wheeze, although come to think of it the operation did get rid of the whale. (The part that was left over on the beach was small enough to be simply buried in the sand.)

But other than these few setbacks, the highway department was something Oregonians were generally supportive and proud of over the years.

That's in spite of the fact that the department raised the gas tax again several more times. By 1952, it was up to 6 cents.

And it's that level of taxation that yielded the glorious motorist's-paradise highway conditions that Hasso Hering remembers from the old days.

Today, the gas tax is 40 cents a gallon, which sounds like a big increase until you adjust that 6 cents for inflation. Six cents in 1952 was worth about 70 cents in modern money. And, of course,

the average car's fuel economy has changed pretty drastically since the 1950s as well, so there's a lot less cash flowing in per mile driven.

So the highway department — which since 1969 has been officially called the Oregon Department of Transportation — no longer has the cash flow to spend promiscuously on big ambitious highway projects like it once did.

(Sources: A letter to the editor of Oregon Historical Quarterly by Loyal M. Graham published in the March 1955 issue; History of State Highways in Oregon, an engineering manual published by ODOT (March 2020 edition); Oregon.gov/odot)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His most recent book, Bad Ideas and Horrible People of Old Oregon, published by Ouragan House early this year. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

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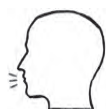
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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

Continued From Page 2

Creswell. Withalm's finish time of 11.53 seconds defeated second place Kainoa Harwood of Elmira, who was timed out in 11.94 seconds. Withalm also helped pace his Eagle teammates to a pair of second-place finishes in the 4x100 m. relay and the 4x400 m. relay races. Elmira won the 4x100 m. relay with a time of 45.53 seconds and the Eagle team of Allen Acevedo, Withalm, Rhys Hamlow, and Salomon Acevedo took second honors in a time of 47.61 seconds. Pleasant Hill was the fastest team in the 4x400 m. relay, posting a 3:45.00 minute time.

McKenzie's quartet of S. Acevedo, A. Acevedo, Will Meister, and Withalm followed in second place with a time of 3:50.43 min. Other Eagle finishers in the 100 m. race included Salomon Acevedo, who ran a sixth-place time of 12.34 sec., Allen Acevedo finished eleventh at 12.59 sec., Rhys Hamlow thirty-first at 13.48 sec., William Valtinson fortieth at 14.17 sec., and Auden Vailes forty-second at 14.42 seconds. Salomon Acevedo had another sixth-place finish, in the 200 m. race, posting a time of 25.17 sec. Teammates A. Acevedo finished fourteenth at 26.56 sec., Hayden Harbick twenty-third at 27.74 sec., and Valtinson twenty-eighth at 28.78 sec. Austyn Woolcott of Elmira had the fastest 200 m. time, finishing in 23.79 seconds and setting a new Personal Record. McKenzie's Will Meister finished his 800 m. race in sixteenth place and 2:29.00 minutes, behind Derrick Vanduch of Siuslaw, who set a Personal Record time of 2:04.4 min.

Hamlow jumped 17 ft. 6 in. in the long jump event to place fifth and he was followed by Harbick in thirteenth place at 14 ft. 8.5 in. and Vailes in twentieth place at 13 ft. 9.5 in. Elmira's Marvin Hambrick won the long jump at 18 ft. 3 in.

Hamlow did set a Personal Record in the triple jump with a 31 ft. 7 in. eighth place finish. Harbick followed in ninth place at 30 ft. 4 in. and Wyatt Humphrey of North Douglas took first with a Personal Record leap of 37 ft. 11 in. McKenzie's Levi Lockard placed fifth in the shot put, seventh in the discus, and twelfth in the javelin to lead his Eagle teammates in those events. Lockard's mark in the shot put was 35 ft. 3.75 in. Teammates Jacob Peek finished nineteenth with a throw of 29 ft. 5 in. and Noah Borden was thirty-eighth at 23 ft. 8 in. Sutherland's Rylan Bryant won the shot put at 43 ft. 10.75 in. Lockard threw the discus 94 ft. 10 in., Peek finished in fifteenth place at 79 ft. 8 in., and Borden was twenty-third at 70 ft. 6 in., a new Personal Record for the Eagle freshman.

Zane Clemmer out of Elmira earned a Personal Record of his own with his winning discus throw measured at 120 ft. 7 in. Lockard's twelfth place javelin throw was measured at 107 ft. 5 in., Peek's 81 ft. 0 in throw earned him thirtieth place, and Borden finished forty-fourth at 56 ft. 3 in. Lance Risdal out of Creswell won the javelin with a PR mark of 157 ft. 2 in.

McKenzie's Myra Dion had the highest individual finish of the day, posting a fourth-place time of 14:31.41 minutes in the 3000 m. run. Ellie Epperson of Pleasant Hill won the event in a PR time of 12:17.29 min. Dion helped her Eagle 4x100 m. relay teammates run to a third-place finish, posting a time of 1:02.86 min. Running with Dion were Liliana Jones, Beckah Short, and Grace Weiss. Elmira won the relay in 51.71 sec. Eagle freshman Jones finished her 100 m. race in sixteenth place with a time of 15.32 sec. Short finished thirtieth at 16.83 seconds and Sapana Mitchell-Chavez was thirty-first at 16.86 sec., a new Personal Record for the freshman. Jordyn Lee of Creswell took home first place in the 100 m. with a PR time of 12.8 sec.

Jones also jumped a Personal Record distance in the long jump event, leaping 13 ft. 2 in. Short tied for seventeenth with an 11 ft. 2 in. jump, Paiten Clevenger was twenty-fourth at 9 ft. 9 in., and Mitchell-Chavez was twenty-sixth with a PR 8 ft. 10 in. jump. Creswell's Vika Gabriol won the

long jump with a Personal Record of her own, 15 ft. 8 in. Gariol also won the triple jump with her second PR mark, this one measured at 34 ft. 4 in. Short finished eleventh in the triple jump at 21 ft. 3 in., Clevenger was twelfth at 18 ft. 6 in., and Mitchell-Chavez finished thirteenth at 17 ft. 5 in.

Dion threw the javelin 63 ft. 3 in., which earned her twelfth place. Triangle Lake's Feirin McConnell won the event with a 113 ft. 0 in effort. Eagles Lila Boydston finished twenty-eighth at 43 ft. 0 in. and Riley Morales finished twenty-ninth at 39 ft. 8 in. Boydston was the top McKenzie finisher in both the shot put and the discus. In the shot, Boydston took home twentieth place with a toss of 19 ft. 3.5 in. Morales finished the event with a twenty-eighth place toss of 16 ft. 6.5 in. Penelope Cordon of Elmira won the shot put with a throw of 28 ft. 0 in. Boydston's discus throw was measured at 42 ft. 2 in. and Brooke McHaffie of North Douglas won the event with a PR throw of 98 ft. 4 in.

Track Teams

Travel To Twilight

McKenzie's Varsity Track and Field teams traveled up the I-5 to Harrisburg to participate with eight other teams in the Harrisburg Twilight meet. Host Harrisburg won the boy's team competition, scoring 148 points to hold off Riverside in second with 121 pts. and Central Linn, which finished third with 118 pts. Oakland scored 80 pts for a fourth-place finish and McKenzie followed in fifth at 49 pts. Siletz Valley finished sixth at 38 pts. Mapleton was seventh at 29 pts., La Pine finished twenty-fifth at 25 pts., and Toledo was ninth at 22 pts. Central Linn easily took home the team trophy in the girl's competition, amassing 140 points while second-place Toledo finished with 81 pts. Riverside took third at 78 pts. La Pine was fourth with 74 pts., Oakland finished fifth with 50 pts., and Mapleton wrapped up the evening in sixth place at 34 pts earned. Host Harrisburg finished seventh with 24 pts. Siletz Valley right behind in eighth place with 23 points and McKenzie completed the field in ninth place with 20 pts.

Rhys Hamlow Pole Vaults To Second Place Finish

McKenzie freshman Rhys Hamlow cleared the Pole Vault

bar set at 8 ft. 6 in. at the recent Harrisburg Twilight meet, and earned a second-place finish. Senior Moses Cain of Harrisburg won the pole vault with a cleared height of 12 ft. 6 in. Hamlow also set a new Personal Record with a tenth-place mark in the long jump, measured at 17 ft. 6.75 in. Eagle sophomore teammate Hayden Harbick placed nineteenth with a jump of 14 ft. 11.5 in. and freshman Auden Vailes was twenty-third at 13 ft. 8.5 in. Jayden Holmes of Central Linn won the long jump at 19 ft. 3.75 in. Levi Lockard finished the shot put in fourth place with a 36 ft. 7 in. effort, which was won by Colton May of La Pine at 42 ft. 3.25 in.

Lockard also took home a sixth-place finish in the discus, tossing the plate 94 ft. 10 in. Cooper Clark of Harrisburg won the discus with a PR effort of 115 ft. 7 in. And Lockard's highest finish of the day came in the javelin, the Eagle senior throwing for third place with a mark of 119 ft. 1 in. Juan Medina of Riverside won the javelin with a 135 ft. 1.5 in. stick.

McKenzie's 4x100 m. relay team consisting of Allen Acevedo, Salomon Acevedo, Hamlow, and Griffin Withalm had the highest team running event finish at the meet, the quartet finishing the race in a second-place time of 46.98 sec. Central Linn won with a time of 46.74 sec. The Eagles B team in the 4x100 m relay, consisting of Harbick, Will Meister, Vailes, and William Valtinson finished the event in 54.45 sec., which placed the team seventh. Meister took home third in the 3000 m. run, running the long distance in 10:51.22 minutes, a new Personal Record for the Eagle sophomore. Ethany Beaty of Riverside won the event in 10:26.96 minutes. Salomon Acevedo posted the highest Eagle individual place at Harrisburg, running a second-place time of 54.97 seconds in the 400 m. event. That was a new PR for the McKenzie senior. Allen Acevedo followed in a PR sixth place finish time out at 56.41

seconds and the 400 m. was won by Steven Miller of La Pine in a PR time of 54.25 sec.

McKenzie was represented by Vailes in the 100 m. race and he set a PR time of 14.11 sec., good for twentieth. Siletz Valley's Zion Fantroy won with an 11.59-second finish time. Harbick and Valtinson placed twentieth and twenty-first in the 200 m. race respectively. Harbick's time was 27.70 sec., a Personal Record, and Valtinson finished in 28.24 sec. Fantroy of Siletz Valley won this race as well in a time of 23.51 sec.

McKenzie freshman Liliana Jones had the highest individual finish for the Eagles at the Twilight, finishing sixth in the 100 m. race. Jones's time was 15.24 seconds and La Pine senior Kira Dennison won that event in 13.32 seconds. McKenzie teammate Lyla Boydston set a PR in the 100 m. with a sixteenth-place time of 18.58 seconds and Sapana Mitchell-Chavez followed in seventeenth place at 18.61 sec. McKenzie's 4x100 m. relay team of Mitchell-Chavez, Jones, Beckah Short, and Grace Weiss finished fifth in the event with a time of 1:03.56 min. La Pine won the 4x100 m relay in 53.79 sec.

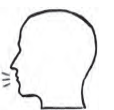
Short's shot put toss measured at 18 ft. 7 in. placed her fourteenth and Boydston followed in fifteenth place at 18 ft. 3 in. Riley Morales finished twenty-first at 15 ft. 1 in. Deveny Baze of Central Linn won the shot put with a toss of 26 ft. 7 in. Boydston led her Eagles with a seventeenth place, 44 ft. 1 in. effort in the javelin. Morales finished in twentieth with a toss of 37 ft. 3 in. and La Pine's Kira Dennison at 85 ft. 6 in won that event. Jones long jumped 12 ft. 5.5 in., which placed her fifth. Sydney Schreiber of La Pine won the event with a 15 ft. 3 in. leap. Eagle Paiten Clevenger finished eleventh at 10 ft. 10 in. Weiss finished the triple jump in fifth place, her jump marked at 22 ft. 7.5 in. Short in sixth place at 22 ft. 5.5 in. and Clevenger in seventh place at 19 ft. 11 in followed her.

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

April 28: 13:02: 90000 blk, Angels Flight Rd. Medical, General. 1 Patient Assessed, Refused Transport, Assistance Into House.

22:41: 87000 blk, Upland St. Assist Police. Disregarded En Route.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, May 20th 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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Orchid Health and Casey Eye Institute team up to bring vision and hope to rural Oregon



“I can’t express how grateful I am. This service was exactly what I needed, she added.

This Spring Break, Jane was among 106 individuals who benefited from the mobile vision clinics in Rainbow, Oakridge, and Elmira. The clinics, a partnership between Casey Eye Institute and Orchid Health, were a real lifeline for communities where healthcare services are often out of reach.

During the event, 81 of the participants received prescriptions for eyewear, dramatically improving their daily lives.

Volunteers, including three physicians and 17 non-physicians, dedicated a total of 137 hours, valued at \$29,453.40, to provide high-quality, compassionate care.

“These clinics are about more than just eye health; they’re about restoring independence and confidence to people who’ve been struggling in silence,” according to a volunteer doctor.

“The Casey Community Out-

reach Program goes beyond healthcare; it’s about touching lives with the gift of sight,” said a spokesperson from Casey Eye Institute.

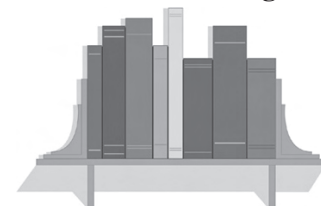
“Our partnership with Orchid Health allows us to extend OHSU’s exemplary standards of care directly to those who need it most,” they said. “Orchid Health, known for its commitment to exceptional local healthcare, particularly in rural areas, cherishes this collaboration.”

“Access to specialist services like these can be life-changing for our patients,” said another representative from Orchid Health. “We’re deeply grateful to the Casey Eye Institute and all the volunteers who share our commitment to community health.”

The initiative was part of a broader effort to address preventable blindness and improve quality of life through enhanced vision care, marking a significant investment back into the community.

RAINBOW: “My vision has deteriorated so quickly, and without insurance coverage for vision care, I felt lost and worried about my future,” according to Jane, a

McKenzie River resident. Her relief was palpable after receiving essential vision care at a mobile clinic hosted by Casey Eye Institute and Orchid Health.



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Come join us on what we hope will be a sunny spring day, find a few treasures, enjoy a cookie or two, and help us keep the lights on.

I’ll see you at the library!

Sheriff’s Report

Continued From Page 3

Hwy. & Hwy. 242.

April 28: 7:45 a.m: Traffic Hazard - Deerhorn Rd. & McK. Hwy.

9:19 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

10:56 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

10:56 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

12:42 p.m: Illegal Dirt Bikes - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.

2:20 p.m: Citizen Contact - 88900 blk, Ross Ln.

2:49 p.m: Civil Service - 40000 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:15 p.m: Alarm, Panic - 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

4:26 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 88900 blk, Easy Ln.

5:00 p.m: Reckless Driving - Camp Creek Rd. & Oakshire Dr.

7:30 p.m: Burglary - 89900 blk, Rippling Way.

9:21 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 87800 blk, Upland St.

April 29: 12:50 p.m: Illegal Dump - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

4:02 p.m: Hit & Run - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

4:40 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - McK. View Dr. & Hill Rd.

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

Emergency? Call 911

Customers could lose electrical service

EWEB is getting pushback from smart meter opponents



EUGENE: EWEB reports it is modernizing utility infrastructure to enhance efficiency, reliability, and sustainability. The initiative includes upgrading to smart meters, which commenced in 2018, as part of ongoing efforts to improve service delivery and meet evolving industry standards.

However, the utility says a small but vocal faction of smart grid opponents is obstructing EWEB’s ability to install the new meters on their properties, resorting to threats against utility workers and tactics to impede equipment maintenance. This group is advertising misleading information in the Eugene Weekly and campaigning on social media for what the Eugene Water & Electric Board calls “outdated, pre-internet solutions.”

Some individuals, EWEB says, have issued violent threats if the utility attempts to maintain or replace the meters, which are utility-owned equipment and a condition of receiving utility services.

EWEB General Manager Frank Lawson expressed disappointment at the “misinformation and threats of violence in response to

sensible policies that are industry standards.”

“As a publicly owned utility, EWEB welcomes customer input and diverse perspectives. But the utility must balance competing interests and priorities to serve the broader public good, even if it means moving forward without unanimous support.”

Lawson added that, “EWEB will disconnect electricity service if these customers continue to willfully refuse conditions of service.” Threatening behavior is also a violation of EWEB policies.

Some opponents have promoted claims that smart meters will be used for remote surveillance of customers’ intimate activities and misinformation linking them to unrelated health issues like COVID-19 vaccines.

Officials say some of the most concerning tactics encourage individuals to purchase their own electric meters online and install them independently, an act that EWEB says poses significant electrical hazards. In addition, some opponents have circulated stock

images falsely portraying EWEB security staff dressed as armed SWAT officers and equating the utility to oppressive regimes.

“Such actions are deemed reckless and endanger both the community and EWEB staff,” according to a press release from the utility.

The issues have been part of discussions at more than 20 public meetings and that included establishing an opt-out program that allows customers to request EWEB to disable the meters’ communication function.

“EWEB has honored the public process and listened to the concerns of these customers,” says Frank Lawson. “If smart grid opponents don’t want the meter to transmit and receive information, they have a choice—elect the manual meter reading option.”

EWEB emphasizes that its actions regarding smart meters align with thoroughly evaluated, approved, and legal policies. The utility’s Customer Service Policy permits customers to choose a non-communicating mode for the meter but does not extend to allowing customers to select meter types or models.

EWEB says some smart grid opponents have flooded inboxes with cherry-picked website links and dubious legal threats, demanding changes according to

their interpretation of smart grid technology.

“Inundating staff to make it difficult to thoroughly evaluate each source, selectively presenting information while downplaying contradictory evidence, and flooding policymakers to create the illusion of widespread support are common misinformation campaign tactics,” says Lawson. “That is not how good public policy decisions are made. EWEB customers rely on their utility to deliver safe, reliable, affordable power and water. That is our job and our staff are highly qualified, professional, and dedicated. Our citizen-elected board relies on the expertise of staff and rigorous analysis to inform decisions that serve the public interest.”

EWEB urges this group to cease their hazardous misinformation campaign. “We may not agree on this topic, but I hope that opponents will appreciate the manual meter reading option that EWEB provides, which is not always afforded to customers by all utilities,” says Lawson. “We value our customer relationships and appreciate cooperation with the reasonable conditions of service defined in EWEB’s customer service policy, allowing us to resolve this issue without disconnecting electric service.”

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Shop at Home, it makes \$ense

Center stage

Continued From Page 1



Cindy Lofts and her Wild Thing dory were part of the contingent of Colorado River boats in attendance.

One of those was a restored 1996 whitewater dory featuring the sealed hatches and full decks that were part of a boat built for commercial use. "It's a McKenzie-style boat so it's got a full rocker," owner Cindy Lofts of Bend pointed out. "That makes it very maneuverable, gives you a great ride, and catches a lot of air."

Those observations came from her experiences running Wild Thing on the Colorado River twice in the five years she's owned her boat and her anticipation to doing that again this August.

Besides the traditional, a special invitation was extended to the event's first-ever aluminum boat, which showcased a unique drop-down wheelchair-access adaptation.

The inspirational idea has launched plans to modify a historic wooden McKenzie River Drift Boat design to accommodate individuals with disabilities. It also proved innovation will continue to shape the future.

As people strolled the grounds they also had the chance to make

any dreams of owning a boat a reality. Several were for sale, including a very well-maintained 16-footer owned by Kelly Tower of Eugene. He was well versed in all its details, having built it from a kit in years ago. Besides pre-coating all parts with three coats of varnish, Tower also varnished the faces of all the craft's ribs before assembly.

"One of the keys for a boat to have a long life is protecting the wood as much as possible," he says. "Another key - you absolutely must keep the boat indoors to keep the sun off."

Apparently, it works because many didn't guess it had been constructed in 1988, thinking it was much newer.

"The 2024 McKenzie River Wooden Boat Festival organizers sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this year's success," according to founder Randy Dersham. "We look forward to welcoming you back next year for another memorable celebration of the McKenzie River Drift Boat."



People in the market for a beautiful McKenzie River drift boat can contact Kelly at 541-357-6757 or kptower@gmail.com

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Willamette prepares for spring prescribed burning

Fire managers make Rx burn plans, monitor conditions

Fire management officials for the Willamette National Forest expect to begin prescribed burning across approximately 500 acres in multiple Ranger Districts within the next few weeks, depending on weather, ground, and vegetation conditions.

Timing is critical when planning for prescribed burns. Spring in Oregon gives fire managers the vegetation moisture and other conditions needed to fit their specific objectives, which are often unique to each project and limited to a 24-hour permit window. For this reason, public notice of specific burn times may only come 24 hours in advance, and frequently the morning of the burn.

The safety of firefighters and the public is the most important factor considered when planning prescribed fires. Before conducting a prescribed burn, extensive planning takes place to establish proper parameters, such as weather, fuel conditions, smoke dispersion, staffing and other agency coordination. Prescribed burns will only be implemented if all parameters are in accordance with the devel-

oped burn plans.

Prescribed burning is a valuable tool to improve forest health and increase resiliency to wildfire. It involves igniting a controlled, low-intensity fire to consume undergrowth and fire fuels under specific conditions of temperature, wind, and humidity. This limits fire behavior and reduces the likelihood of heavy smoke impacting nearby communities. The benefits of treating these fuels include reducing the severity of future wildfires near communities, increasing firefighter safety in initial and extended response, and maintaining overall healthy forests.

To implement planned Rx burns, crews will lay out fire hose around the unit. Firefighters then ignite the unit in a strategic pattern, determined by slope and wind direction, while other crew members will patrol the fire's edge on foot

and spray down fuels outside the unit with water to ensure the fire stays contained within the burn area. Fire personnel will continue to patrol and monitor burned areas until the fire is declared out.

Fire managers also work with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to ensure favorable smoke management conditions, and to limit smoke impacts to roads and communities. Specific information is needed prior to each burn day as fuels specialists verify weather conditions are conducive to burning, and smoke clearance is granted.

The public is urged to be cautious and expect increased fire equipment on Forest roads.

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A long Main Street?

Continued From Page 1

each other's work."

By 4:30, people had identified some items ranging from the area's national name recognition to potential for year-round recreation as positive assets.

Opportunities for future development, they said ranged from several underutilized buildings to growing opportunities related to agriculture.

When asked to envision what the future might hold, some pointed to the future opening of the McKenzie River Discovery

Center (MRDC), as well as the large number of undeveloped lots near Rainbow.

The first listening session was focused on the area's small business economy. The next, set for May 10 at the MRDC will discuss the economics of arts and culture. The third meeting will be held at the McKenzie School District's board room on May 30th to discuss nature and the recreation economy. For more details, contact info@McKenzieChamber.com

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Letters to the Editor

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