

We Know You've  
Been Good  
...Especially To Us



# THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

December 20, 1812

By The Brothers Grimm (Jacob and Wilhelm)

There was once a shoemaker, who worked very hard and was very honest: but still he could not earn enough to live upon; and at last all he had in the world was gone, save just leather enough to make one pair of shoes.

Then he cut his leather out, all ready to make up the next day, meaning to rise early in the morning to his work. His conscience was clear and his heart light amidst all his troubles; so he went peaceably to bed, left all his cares to Heaven, and soon fell asleep. In the morning after he had said his prayers, he sat himself down to his work; when, to his great wonder, there stood the shoes all ready made, upon the table. The good man knew not what to say or think at such an odd thing happening. He looked at the workmanship; there was not one false stitch in the whole job; all was so neat and true, that it was quite a masterpiece.

The same day a customer came in, and the shoes suited him so well that he willingly paid a price higher than usual for them; and the poor shoemaker, with the money, bought leather enough to make two pairs more. In the evening he cut out the work, and went to bed early, that he might get up and begin betimes next day; but he was saved all the trouble, for when he got up in the morning the work was done ready to his hand. Soon in came buyers, who paid him handsomely for his goods, so that he bought leather enough for four pair more. He cut out the work again overnight and found it done in the morning, as before; and so it went on for some time: what was got ready in the evening was always done by daybreak, and the good man soon became thriving and well off again.

One evening, about Christmas-time, as he and his wife were sitting over the fire chatting together, he said to her, 'I should like to sit up and watch tonight, that we may see who it is that comes and does my work for me.' The wife liked the thought; so they left a light burning, and hid themselves in a corner of the room, behind a cur-

tain that was hung up there, and watched what would happen.

As soon as it was midnight, there came in two little naked dwarfs; and they sat themselves upon the shoemaker's bench, took up all the work that was cut out, and began to ply with their little fingers, stitching and rapping and tapping away at such a rate, that the shoemaker was all wonder, and could not take his eyes off them. And on they went, till the job was quite done, and the shoes stood ready for use upon the table. This was long before daybreak; and then they bustled away as quick as lightning.

The next day the wife said to the shoemaker. 'These little wights have made us rich, and we ought to be thankful to them, and do them a good turn if we can. I am quite sorry to see them run about as they do; and indeed it is not very decent, for they have nothing upon their backs to keep off the cold. I'll tell you what, I will make each of them a shirt, and a coat and waistcoat, and a pair of pantaloons into the bargain; and do you make each of them a little pair of shoes.'

The thought pleased the good cobbler very much; and one evening, when all the things were ready, they laid them on the table, instead of the work that they used to cut out, and then went and hid themselves, to watch what the little elves would do.

About midnight in they came, dancing and skipping, hopped round the room, and then went to sit down to their work as usual; but when they saw the clothes lying for them, they laughed and chuckled, and seemed mightily delighted.

Then they dressed themselves in the twinkling of an eye, and danced and capered and sprang about, as merry as could be; till at last they danced out at the door, and away over the green.

The good couple saw them no more; but everything went well with them from that time forward, as long as they lived.

Courtesy Project Gutenberg @ [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org)



McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

**McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week**

The McKenzie Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams are not scheduled for action until after the first of the New Year. Both teams return to Mt. West League play on January 3, at Finn Rock, versus Mohawk.

**Yoncalla Tops Clash Of Eagles McKenzie Hoops Pauses For Winter Break**

McKenzie Boys and Girls Basketball wrapped up their pre-season, non-league games with a trip south to the Valley of the Yoncalla Eagles. The game played last Thursday, December 14, will be the last in 2023 as McKenzie play pauses for the entire Winter Break. The Eagles of Finn Rock will pick up again after the New Year, on January 3, with Mt. West League rival, Mohawk, at McKenzie.

Against host Yoncalla, the young McKenzie Varsity Girls team played their most competitive game of the season, losing by just six points, 24-30. The team posted a 0-7 record for the 2023 pre-season and will host Mohawk in both teams Mt. West League opener. The Mustangs have earned a 3-4 pre-season mark, tops in the MWL. No MWL Girls basketball team has a winning record thus far this year, the only Class 1A League in the State with such a distinction. There were no game stats available for the McKenzie/Yoncalla Girls contest.

Griffin Withalm led his McKenzie teammates versus Yoncalla, scoring a team-high 12 points, but the visiting Eagles lost to the host Eagles 53-36. Will Meister added 11 points and Thomas Hayes grabbed a team high 9 rebounds. Sophomore forward, Jayden Churchwell, who earned a double double with a game high 21 points and 11 rebounds, led Yoncalla. Churchwell's teammate Tristan McMullin added 12 points and 7 rebounds and Ian Homes finished in double figures with 10 points.

McKenzie's Withalm also wrapped up his day on the court with 4 rebounds, 2 assists, a team-high 6 steals and 4 turnovers. Meister added a rebound, 1 steal and a single turnover and Hayes







scored 3 points and stole the ball once. Rhys Hamlow chipped in 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals and committed 4 turnovers and Hayden Kumle scored 4 points, added 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and also finished with 4 turnovers. Jacob Peek hauled in 4 boards and Noah Borden secured 1 rebound.

The McKenzie Boys team wrapped up its pre-season with a 1-6 overall record and will face a Mohawk team, which currently sits at 0-7, after the New Year. In the boys Mt. West League, only Mapleton (5-2) and Eddyville Charter (2-1) have posted winning pre-season records. Crow/City First Christian Academy sits at 3-3.

Letters to the Editor



Letters To The Editor should contain no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published upon request. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 pm.

Friday 12/22		Saturday 12/23		Sunday 12/24	
					
McKenzie Valley Rain 70% chance precip High: 45 Low: 37	Santiam Pass Snow 70% chance precip High: 34 Low: 24	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 44 Low: 32	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 31 Low: 20	McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 44 Low: 36	Santiam Pass PM Snow Showers 30% chance precip High: 35 Low: 25

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
12/12	46	36	0.01	2,230 cfs	12/12	53	37	0.04	11,960 cfs
12/13	50	36	0	NA	12/13	55	37	0.02	11,380 cfs
12/14	48	39	0	2,911 cfs	12/14	56	38	0	10,280 cfs
12/15	50	39	0	NA	12/15	55	34	0	9,720 cfs
12/16	46	31	0	2,839 cfs	12/16	47	33	0	9,200 cfs
12/17	51	34	0	2,733 cfs	12/17	54	30	0	8,600 cfs
12/18	55	44	0	1,999 cfs	12/18	41	32	0.02	7,570 cfs



# Sheriff's Report

**Dec. 7: 11:03 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 89000 blk, Bridge St. Dispute between family members at a residence. No crime articulated.

**8:58 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 91000 blk, hill Rd. Landlord/tenant dispute over water and power. Determined to be civil in nature.

**Dec. 8: 8:56 a.m:** Tree Down - 41800 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**9:48 a.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 38200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**12:12 p.m:** Water Patrol - Bellinger Landing.

**12:50 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**12:53 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92000 blk, Maple Ln. Dispute between family members over child custody.

**1:48 p.m:** Civil Problem - 91000 blk, Hill Rd.

**2:17 p.m:** Reckless Driving - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**2:32 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 90700 blk, Fish Hatchery Rd.

**4:18 p.m:** Reckless Driving - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**5:13 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**5:46 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd. A deputy patrolling the area contacted a male that was planning to walk to Idaho.

**6:29 p.m:** Theft - 92800 blk, Fir Ridge Rd. A caller reported ordering an item online and receiving simply an empty box.

**8:20 p.m:** Welfare Check - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.

**9:18 p.m:** Welfare Check - 41500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**Dec. 9: 10:54 a.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

**12:14 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 42900 blk, Leaburg Dr.

**2:34 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St. Dispute between family members over civil issue. No crime articulated.

**5:38 p.m:** Mental Subject - 90400 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**8:50 p.m:** Weapon, Shots Fired - 35000 blk, McK. View Dr.

**9:42 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 38400 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Dispute between spouses. Parties separated.

**11:30 p.m:** Weapon, Shots Fired - 89700 blk, Upper Johnson Creek Rd.

**Dec. 10: 12:57 p.m:** Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 90900 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**4:15 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 55500 blk, Drury Dr.

**6:18 p.m:** Assist Public - Lat: 44.2295. Long: -122.

**Dec. 11: 12:14 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - McGowan Creek Rd. Mp. 5. A yellow Ford Ranger was found crashed alongside the roadway.

**2:08 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - McGowan Creek Rd. Mp. 6.

**4:02 p.m:** Harassment - 89900 blk, Hill Rd. A caller reported a dispute in which one person was slapped. No injuries were reported.

**6:42 p.m:** Welfare Check - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

**6:53 p.m:** ATL Drunk Driver - Goodpasture Rd. & McK. Hwy.

**7:24 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92000 blk, Maple Ln. Dispute between family members. No injuries reported.

**Dec. 12: 12:04 p.m:** Tree Down - 37900 blk, Green Ln.

**12:04 p.m:** Stranded Vehicle - 37900 blk, Green Ln.

**1:44 p.m:** Missing Person - 49600 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported that their son was missing and experiencing mental health issues. Deputies made contact with him and learned that he was on his way to his friend's house.

**2:51 p.m:** Warrant Service - 42800 blk, Leaburg Dr.

**5:38 p.m:** Stranded Vehicle - lat: 44.25868 long: -122.84498.

**5:56 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - McK. Hwy & Ross Ln.

**Dec. 13: 12:25 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**2:25 p.m:** Reckless Driving - Honeybee Ln. & Wendling Rd.

**Dec. 14: 3:47 a.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 92200 blk, Alcorn St.

**9:17 a.m:** Disorderly Subject - 7900 blk, Thurston Rd.

**1:42 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39200 blk, Howard

**Continued On Page 4**

## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Dec. 12: 18:15:** 41000 block, Madrone St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Dec. 13: 1:26:** 89000 blk, Old Mohawk Rd. Auto Aid, Medical. Disregarded En Route.

**1:40:** McK. Hwy./Eagle Rock Dr. Motor Vehicle Accident. Confirmed Deceased.

**9:06:** 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

**Dec. 14: 8:04:** 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Non-Blocking/Injury.

**Dec. 15: 0:05:** 8100 blk, A St. Medical, Heart. 0:05 Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**16:57:** 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**18:23:** Old Mohawk/Marcola Rd. Auto Aid, Disregarded En Route.

**Dec. 16: 1:25:** 38000 blk, Boscage Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**8:17:** 39000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. MVA. Flagged Vehicle.

**11:39:** 1000 blk, Billings Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Continued On Page 7**

## State Police Report

**Dec. 13: 01:37:** Fatal Crash – Milepost 35, Hwy. 126E. Responded to a single-vehicle crash. The preliminary investigation indicated a Saturn sedan, operated by Delbert Hughes Jr. (57) of McKenzie Bridge, was traveling eastbound when it left the roadway for unknown reasons and struck a telephone pole. Hughes Jr. was declared deceased at the scene. The highway was impacted for approximately one hour during the on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by Lane County Medical Examiner's Office and ODOT.

**Dec. 14: 10:43:** Agency Assist – 37700 block, Camp Creek Rd. Trooper responded to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a K-9 search at a property. Trooper deployed K-9 on the exterior of the property and

**Continued On Page 7**

## Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Dec. 13: 01:37:** Motor Vehicle Accident – McK. Hwy./Eagle Rock Dr. Vehicle versus telephone pole. Unknown injuries, caller can't tell if anyone is still in vehicle.

**18:58:** Medical – 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Dec. 17: 05:28:** MVA, Unknown Injury – McK. Hwy./Milepost 49. Single vehicle rollover vs. tree, female driver is out.

MRR

McKenzie River Reflections

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

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# Iconic food items invented in Oregon

Continued From Last Week



By Finn JD John  
Big League Chew (1977)

Baseball players, back in the day, were somewhat famous for chewing tobacco on the field. Fans would see them pull a pouch of Red Man or Beech-Nut out of their uniform pocket, dip out a big pinch, and stuff it in “between the cheek and gum.” Sometimes it would even make a visible bulge.

Minor-league slugger Rob Nelson probably chewed the stuff too, although he played for the Portland Mavericks; in Portland, as in most of the Pacific Northwest, moist snuff products like Copenhagen and Skoal were far more popular than pouch “chaws” like Beech-Nut. But, maybe not; the pouch was, after all, a sort of informal baseball tradition.

So in 1977, while waiting in the dugout for his turn at-bat, Nelson was not surprised to see the bat boy pulling a Beech-Nut pouch out of his trousers and taking a big pinch out of it. He wasn’t surprised, but he was probably a bit alarmed; the bat boy was not old enough to be chewing tobacco.

“Oh, no,” the kid said, when challenged on his “chaw.” “It’s just a tobacco pouch that I’ve put shredded licorice in.”

This got Nelson thinking: In a world of avid baseball fans who were too young to dip or chew, might there be a market for a candy product that simulated it?

He invested a little money in a bubble-gum-making kit and started prototyping. Within just a few years, he had a finished product and a patent, which he sold almost immediately to a subsidiary of the Wrigley Company.

In its target demographic, Big League Chew was a huge and immediate hit. I myself remember how popular and ubiquitous it was on middle-school playgrounds in 1980, just three years after Rob Nelson saw that bat boy chewing what he thought was real tobacco.

The Gardenburger (1981)  
If your family is on track for



Ford Gum & Machine Co.

A promotional shot of a pouch of Big League Chew as it appears today.

a vegetarian Christmas feast, this last featured Oregon food invention might actually be on your menu in some form! Or, at least, a product derived from it.

The Gardenburger — that looks-like-a-hamburger-from-far-away food product made of rice, mushrooms, and cheese — was invented in Gresham by a vegetarian health-food gourmet named Paul Wenner.

Wenner, in 1981, had just opened a vegetarian restaurant called The Gardenhouse in Gresham. One of the meals on his menu was something he called the Garden Loaf Sandwich. Its contents — the eponymous Loaf — was a formula he had developed previously when he’d mixed some chopped mushrooms into leftover rice pilaf bound together with cheese.

The Garden Loaf Sandwich was a hit, so he added another version of it to the menu: A patty made of Garden Loaf stuff. He called this, of course, the Gardenburger.

Well, the Gardenburger was a hit, but it wasn’t a big enough hit to keep a vegetarian restaurant in business in early-1980s Gresham. By 1984 Wenner could see that the restaurant was holding back the success of his Gardenburger innovation. So he joined forces with a customer, Allyn Smaaland,

got a meeting with the CEO of Louisiana Pacific for the financing end of things, and pitched a plan to take the Gardenburger nationwide.

The CEO, Harry Merlo, made the deal, with the understanding that L-P would take over operational control after Gardenburger got off the ground. So Wenner closed his restaurant, founded Wholesome & Hearty Foods, and set about hiring the staff he would need to market Gardenburger in health-food stores as well as the increasing number of mainstream supermarkets with vegetarian sections.

The company got into some trouble by overleveraging in the 1990s, and had to take bankruptcy protection. It emerged a year later, leaner and stronger and now owned by a New York investment

firm, which later sold it to the Kellogg breakfast-cereal company, which owns it now. Kellogg took everything out of Oregon; today, the company is based in Irvine, Calif., and its production plant is in Clearfield, Utah.

But Portland vegetarians still remember when Gardenburger was a local vegetarian delicacy — although their holiday feasts probably will lean more on the offerings of Tofurky and plant-based cranberry sauce, rather than Gardenburgers.

(Sources: “The Fruit that Made Oregon Famous,” an article by Inara Verzemnieks published in the April 16, 2007, issue of the Portland Oregonian; “The Tater Tot is American Ingenuity at its Finest,” an article by Kelsey McKinney published in the Aug. 28, 2017, issue of Eater magazine; “How Two Oregon Brothers’ Efforts to Mitigate Food Waste Created the Tater Tot,” an article by Heather Arndt Anderson published by Oregon Public Broadcasting on Feb. 2, 2022; “A Classic American Concession was First Fried in Oregon,” an article by Meagan Cuthill published by Oregon Public Broadcasting on July 16, 2022)

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



The Oregon Encyclopedia

The Gardenburger as it appears in supermarkets today.

By Slim Randles

Mabel Adams was sitting in the day room at the Rest of Your Life retirement home when the children came in. She smiled and so did all the others in the room except for two who didn’t know what was going on.

The old-timers in the home knew the kids were coming and had put up Christmas decorations around in the day room and on the doors of their own small apartments and on themselves. Mabel had been reminded several times by the staff that morning that the kids were coming over, this being necessary as Mabel’s memory isn’t what it used to be. And she put a sprig of imitation holly in her hair and tied a red ribbon on the other side.

The little girl smiled and walked over to Mabel.

“Are you a grandma?” she asked.

“Why, yes dear, I am.”

“I brought you a present, Grandma,” she said, handing a box to Mabel. Mabel opened it and was delighted at the sandalwood-scented hankies inside.

“Why thank you so much, Honey!” she said. “And what is your name?”

“I’m Candice. I’m four.”

“Well, Candice, merry Christmas to you. Have you been here before?”

“Well ... no, I guess. Mom said this is where the grandmas are and we can have fun bringing presents to the grandmas.”

“I see,” Mabel said. “Well, Candice, come over here, dear and let me give you a hug. There!”

Sometimes, it isn’t the cost of the hankies, or the fun wrapping them up. Sometimes it’s just a child’s smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas.

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Are you tough? Kind? Got some free time? Use it right. <https://globalvolunteers.org/>.

## Quote of the Week

“Women represent half of the population - and gave birth to the whole world.”

Jane Champion

## Sheriff’s Report

Continued From Page 3

Rd.  
**8:32 p.m:** Traffic Hazard - Camp Creek Rd. & Whitsell Ln.  
**9:22 p.m:** Loud Noise - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.  
**10:35 p.m:** Harassment - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.  
**Dec. 15: 10:42 a.m:** Theft - 55200 blk, Delta Rd.  
**12:01 p.m:** Harassment - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.  
**12:41 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.  
**1:17 p.m:** Civil Service - 45800 blk, McK. Hwy.  
**2:10 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 56300 blk, McK. Hwy.  
**9:36 p.m:** Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Nadeau Rd.  
**Dec. 16: 2:13 a.m:** Assist Fire Dept. - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.  
**6:29 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - Camp Creek Rd. & Whitsell Ln.  
**8:18 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 39400 blk,

Upper Camp Creek Rd.  
**1:15 p.m:** Subpoena Service - 38200 blk, Boscage Ln.  
**1:46 p.m:** Assault - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.  
**1:56 p.m:** civil service - 45800 blk, McK. Hwy.  
**7:04 p.m:** Assault - 37500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.  
**9:12 p.m:** Foot Patrol - McGowan Goat Trail.  
**Dec. 17: 12:37 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.  
**5:04 p.m:** Theft - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

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



2024

RECOGNITION

It’s time to vote for the Reader’s Choice for the McKenzie River’s Man, Woman & Business of the Year

Cast your vote by December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Fax, write, or email their name and an explanation of why you think they’re the best in the McKenzie Valley

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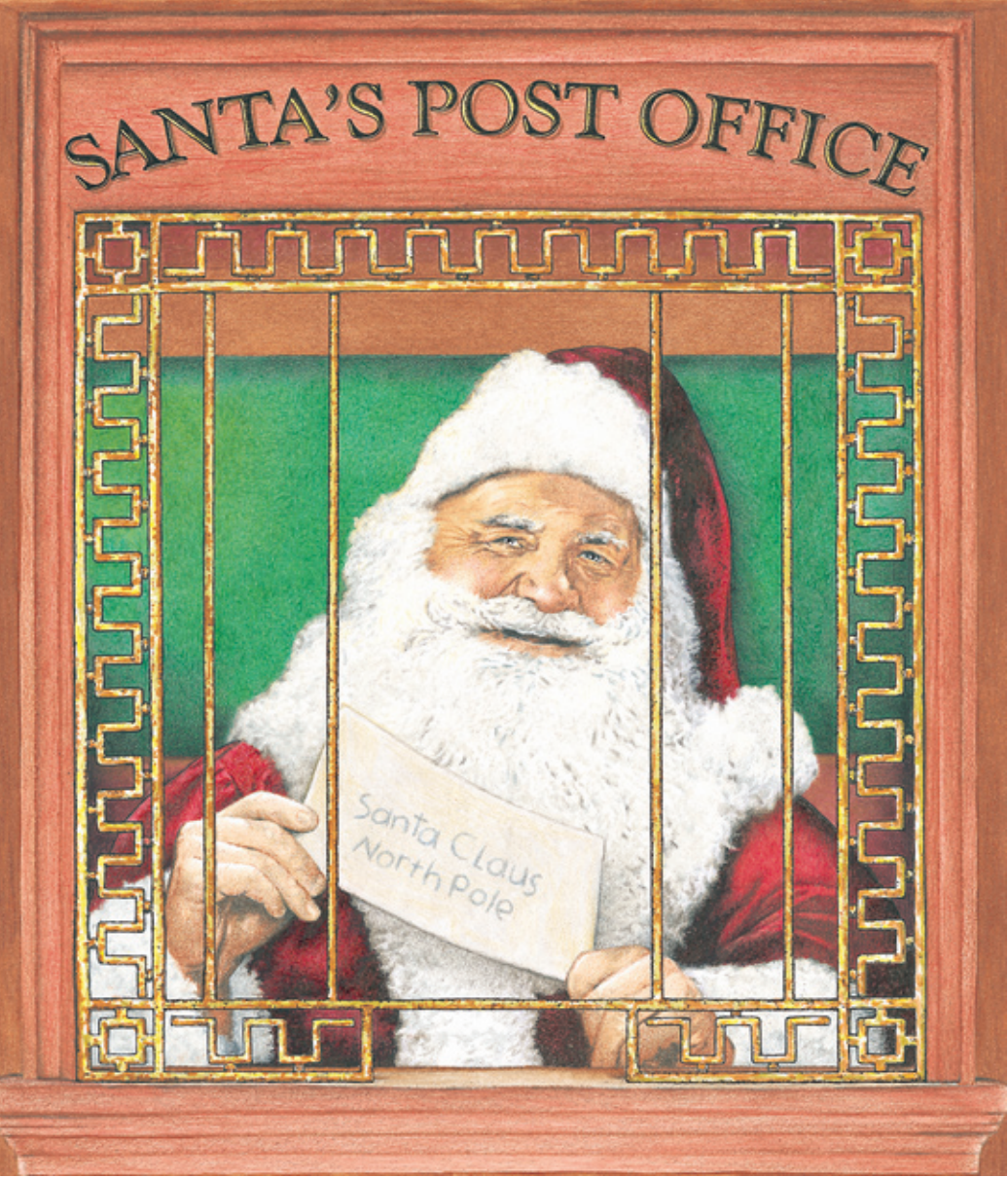


Dear Santa

Nike shoes  
a shake a baby  
tortoise  
a guitar  
a llego

from Storie

What do good boys and girls at Walterville Elementary really want for Christmas?



Dear Santa

Please can I have  
a Furbee! For  
Christmas!

Everly

Dear SANTA

I want for  
Christmas I  
want a phon. A  
rps. Pokemoh. A  
spiishi. ornamet.  
And a happe life

Dear Santa

I want for For  
Christmas is  
scwushmeiow. a  
marine castoom. to  
have lots of frends.  
to be a fary

Dear Santa

I wold like a Ro-  
Bot with pink eyes  
and it is lite blue and  
white. I wold also  
like a cat sckwish  
maio. I would also  
like a dog and its a  
real dog. ovre

From Rouah

Dear Santa

I love Christmas.  
I want a egis rug.  
Christmas is the  
best day ever

from Emmitt

Dear Santa

I want a Skishmolo  
and a reel kitin and  
a pak of bathbom

frum Graylin

Dear Santa

I want a pogostic.

From Jens

Dear Santa

I want a camera  
and a hat and a  
teddy bear new  
socks and a guitar  
and a ball

From River

Dear Santa

I want a pet cheta  
are astucechetu.  
Also want a  
basketbol a new  
sokr bol and a nets  
and a stuffe dog and  
a kitin

frum Addison

Dear Santa

I want a Brbey Drem house  
I want a baby toy  
I want a doll  
I want a dress  
I want a puppy  
I want a Teddy bear  
I want a watch  
I want a horse  
I want a goldfish  
I want a bicycle  
I want a ball  
I want a snowman

Love Taya

Deer Santa

I want a stoller  
and a Pikachu stuffy  
and I want you for  
Christmas! and I  
want an elf.

Rose

Dear Santa

from store I want  
mackup also a setuv  
a coffee set a play  
house a now bidceta  
style yacorn a dress  
govs a hamster ring  
a wotbohs





Gardening  
Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State  
University

OSU Extension Service

Stay on top of moisture  
and insect damage or pay the price



Ignoring moisture and insect damage in the home leads to serious problems down the line. An annual inspection is essential to head them off.

Whether you do it yourself or hire someone, start your inspection by checking out this article from the Oregon State University Extension Service on home moisture problems to help solve many problems you might encounter.

If you plan to inspect, maintain, or repair yourself, begin by taking a tour around the exterior of the house.

Does water wick up the foundation? This indicates a need for better soil drainage next to the foundation.

Are there plants or tree branches that touch the house? These make perfect thoroughfares for carpenter ants to enter and leave. Trim plants back at least 24 inches from the house.

Don your raincoat and go out

during a downpour or snow melt and examine the gutters and downspouts. Are there breaks or leaks? Examine the area around and under decks for rot, especially where the deck attaches to the house.

Now comes the fun part. Put on coveralls, gloves, and a stocking cap. Arm yourself with a headlamp or flashlight and a screwdriver and crawl under the house.

Is there a layer of plastic on the soil floor of your crawl space? There should be. Plastic provides an excellent vapor barrier that helps prevent the decomposition of joists and other support structures. Inspect the sill plate, (the wood between the foundation wall and the floor members) for rot and insect damage. Newer houses should have sill plates of pressure-treated wood.

Examine floor supports for rot and insect damage. Tap on the suspect wood with the screwdriver to test how solid it sounds. Is there

any sawdust on the ground or in spider webs? Note its location and brush it away so you can tell next time if damage from carpenter ants is still occurring. Remove any rodent nests, a source of mites, fleas, lice, bed bugs, and tick infestations.

Check for mud tubes on foundation walls and supports – they are a sign of termites.

When you have crawled back to the outside world, write a brief report to use for comparison next year.

You are not quite done yet. Now go indoors for an inspection.

First check the attic. Are there wet spots? These indicate a leaky roof. Check for and remove all signs of animal nests.

Next, check for rot and insect damage just like you did in the crawl space. Finally, inspect the sinks in the bathroom and the kitchen. Gaps in pipes that pass through the wall are perfect avenues for mice and rats. Seal these spaces with tin or steel wool. Check for leaks and damage.

Now write up an indoor inspection report. And then congratulate yourself. You’ve come a long way in protecting your house from insect and water damage.

What should you do if you find an infestation?

First, don’t panic. Chances are the damage has been there awhile and a few more months isn’t going to make any difference. Treat carpenter ant nests around mid-April when the nests are active. Termite and carpenter ant colonies should be treated by professional exterminators.

To eliminate rot problems, the source of the water or moisture should be eliminated before the rotten areas are replaced.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



LEGACY OF AUNT  
NELLIE’S CHRISTMAS  
CACTUS

My Christmas cactus plants have begun blooming, something I look forward to each year. Often they start blooming around Thanksgiving and continue until about Easter. These Christmas cactus plants have a history in our family and the original one came from Tennessee. Now plants from the original are scattered throughout our family because they hold memories.

My mother-in-law obtained the original from Aunt Nellie in Tennessee nearly 100 years ago, it appeared dead to her sister-in-law, who was discarding the plant. So Mum brought it home to NH where she repotted and nurtured it.

For many years it resided in an upstairs window of the farmhouse. Her sons all remember it from their “growing up” years. I recall the big cactus from when I joined the family.

About 50 years ago, daughter Beth acquired a cutting of the

plant from Mum and it has thrived and provided many cuttings for family and friends. I now have 4 Christmas cactus plants of various sizes. We thought Mum’s original plant had died but one of Jim’s brothers has revived it.

So Aunt Nellie’s legacy and Mum’s nurturing live on to bring us cheer and memories from Thanksgiving until spring!

Chocolate Marshmallow Pudding for a festive dessert - In the top portion of a double boiler, (or cooking pan) scald 2 cups of milk. Then mix: 1 ½ tablespoons cocoa, 2 tablespoons sugar and 2 tablespoons cornstarch. Add gradually to the milk and then cook, stirring occasionally, until it has thickened.

Stir in 1-cup mini marshmallows. When they’ve begun to melt, spoon the pudding into individual serving dishes to cool.

(c) 2023 Mary Emma Allen

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

McKenzie Fire  
& Rescue

Continued From Page 3

18:32: 90000 blk, Evans Ln. Carbon Monoxide Alarm. Mistaken Alarm.

23:46: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 17: 12:57: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General.

Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:02: 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Mistaken Alarm.

16:25: McK. Hwy./ MP 23 Smoke Scare. Slash Burn.

19:37: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 18: 5:46: 88000 blk, Tiki Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

State Police  
Report

Continued From Page 3

surrounding outbuildings.

Dec. 17: 05:31: Crash, Non-Injury – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 48.5. Complainant reported a vehicle crashed into the ditch after sliding on ice and the driver was complaining of neck and back pain. Upon arrival her sister who had responded to the scene was transporting her to the hospital as a precaution. Upon traveling to the hospital, a white Frontier

stopped on the shoulder in front of trooper and a female exited the vehicle from the passenger side and started walking east. Upon further investigation this was the driver involved in the crash. She and her sister had gotten into a verbal argument and she wanted to walk home. She refused a courtesy transport. The vehicle was tagged for removal after 24 hours. Involved: tan Buick Rendezvous, 41-year-old female.

13:37: Crash – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 17. Received call of a two-vehicle crash. Complainant advised he was rear-ended but they were in the process of exchanging information. Upon arrival trooper spoke with involved and assisted them in exchanging information. Unit #2 was slowing for a vehicle exiting the highway with their blinker on and Unit #1 rear ended the. There were no injuries to anyone involved and the vehicles had been moved out of the roadway. The driver of Unit #1 advised they did not have insurance on their vehicle and they were cited for Driving Uninsured. A witness, who was the driver

exiting the highway stated the same information. Unit #1 was off the roadway and advised they would arrange their own tow. Unit #2 was able to drive from the scene. Involved: green Honda Accord, gray Hyundai Kona, 41-year-old male, 21-year-old female from Springfield.

Dec. 18: 10:03: Suspicious Activity – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 43.5. Complainant advised a previously tagged abandoned vehicle was now being loaded onto a car trailer and the subjects looked like they may be stealing it. Trooper located the involved vehicle pulling the trailer with the abandoned vehicle and spoke with the occupants. The passenger advised he owns a tow company and a male, whom he had towed vehicles for before, called and requested the tow. He told him that the vehicle was not his. Trooper obtained contact information of both occupants and the location of where the vehicle was being towed in case something arises from the removal of the abandoned vehicle. Abandoned, damaged: gray Chrysler 300.

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# Community Notes

December 21

## Leaburg Food Pantry

Leaburg Food Pantry. Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 3 - 6 p.m. Behind the McKenzie Bible Fellowship Church, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

December 23

## 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.

December 21

## 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.

December 27

## Lane Electric Coop

Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. at 787 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene.

Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly.

If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend. <https://laneelectric.com/attend-a-board-meeting>.

December 27

## 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.

December 27

## Wacky Wed. BINGO

Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry's Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Cards go on sale at 6 pm. Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-726-9088 for reservations in the morning - spots fill up quickly. Burger and brew special all day!

December 29

## Sprgfield Schools Budget

The SPS accepting applications for the District's budget committee

Springfield Public Schools is seeking applicants to be on the District's budget committee! The committee plays an integral role in the approval process every year.

Typically starting in January, the budget committee members attend a monthly work session where District staff present budget-relevant information. The Superintendent presents the proposed budget in May for consideration by the budget committee which reviews the budget proposal to ensure the District is fiscally responsible in allocating resources that are in line with District goals. It examines the proposed budget, listens to community comments, and then approves the budget and property tax rates. The budget is then forwarded to the school board for adoption.

The budget committee consists of 10 members - five school board members and five citizen volunteers appointed by the board. There are currently four open seats for the appointed citizen seats.

Applicants must reside within SPS boundaries and must be registered to vote. Budget committee members cannot be district employees. They are not compensated for their time or service.

Anyone interested in serving on the budget committee can apply in several ways:

- \* Complete and submit the on-line application form
- \* Printed applications are available at the District office at 640 A

Street

The deadline to apply is December 29. The Board will interview finalists for the positions and vote during its Business Meeting on January 8.

December 30

## 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.

December 31

## Hoodoo New Year's

New Year's Eve Celebration, presented by Bigfoot Beverages and Pepsi, is an all-day party on the mountain at Hoodoo Ski & Recreation, 27400 Big Lk Rd. Lifts run from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., special dinner menu, live music in the lodge until midnight and a professional fireworks show on the mountain shortly after 9 p.m. It's a great family-friendly atmosphere for New Year's and non-skiing guests are welcome to come hang out in the lodge and enjoy the free live music.

January 2

## 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.

January 2

## Family Story Time

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

## Paver Sales Remain Open

The Vida McKenzie Community Center will continue to offer opportunities to buy engraved pavers for their patio. As a fundraiser, continuing sales will support the completed work and provide for additional enhancements. As batches of new paver purchases are made, the engraver will furnish and install the newly etched pavers. Call 541-953-3440 or [willmarlys@gmail.com](mailto:willmarlys@gmail.com).

# Listening Tour lands in Leaburg



From left - Devin Thompson, Executive Director - McKenzie Valley LTRG; Doug Grafe, Wildfire and Military Advisor - Kotek staff; Heather Buch, Lane County Commissioner; Ross Regev, Legislative Assistant - Rep Charlie Conrad; Melanie Stanley, Blue River business owner; First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson; Governor Tina Kotek; Brandi Crawford Ferguson, Interim Executive, Director - McKenzie Community Land Trust; Matt McRae, Long Term Disaster Recovery Mgr - Lane County; Lane Tompkins, Superintendent - McKenzie Community School; Cliff Richardson, Local Helping Locals; and Darren Bucich, Fire Chief - McKenzie Fire and Rescue.

As part of her campaign promise to visit every county in the state, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek stopped in at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Station last Thursday. Kotek said she was focused on listening from community to talk about their hopes, challenges, and what issues are unique to each area.

Offering insights as the owner of Meyer's General Store in Blue River, Melanie Brite said that she and others have talked a lot over the last 3 years about the lack of recovery resources for small businesses. "I brought it up to the Governor specifically during the meeting. She then said in her wrap up press conference that making sure small businesses were able to recover was going to be a focus."

For McKenzie School District Lane Tompkins, the meeting was an opportunity to provide some practical feedback on how Oregon's educators have been dealing with the challenges left behind in the wake of a wildfire.

"I was pleased to hear that our concerns regarding extending wildfire funding beyond our 2024-2025 school year for fire affected schools was already on her radar," Tompkins says. "Overall, she took the time to listen to our concerns and celebrations. She asked really great questions which left me feeling like she is making fire recovery a top priority for her administration moving forward."

Issues like limitations on funding and the ability to rebuild houses that people can afford were some points Brandi Crawford Ferguson, Interim Executive, Director of the McKenzie Community Land Trust said she felt were important to share. Part of her discussions included concerns about what could happen when even middle income come face-to-face with replacing homes at from 25 to 50 percent more than expected.

"I am cautiously optimistic," Brite felt after the hour and a half meeting. "I really felt like she heard the concerns and is going to address the issues she can and hopefully be able to help us come up with some solutions that will help both the businesses destroyed in 2020 and all other businesses faced with similar circumstances in future disasters in our state."

For her part, Kotek promised this was the only fact finding tour she has in mind. "I'll be back, and I have dedicated staff in every region of the state who are working to support you through our Regional Solutions team," she said. "We're here to help you in your most urgent needs and I look forward to seeing more of you in the coming years."

# An Invitation to Worship

**McKenzie Bible Fellowship**  
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Small Group Fellowships  
Men's & Women's Bible Studies  
Call 896-3829 for information  
[www.mckenziebible.org](http://www.mckenziebible.org)

**Living Water Family Fellowship**  
Pastor - Doug Fairington  
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](http://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 Watterville, 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](mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com), 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!  
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- 02 Gift a legacy paver to a loved one! \$100 will buy an 8"x8" Legacy Paver to honor your family, friends and/or neighbors (to be installed Spring 2024)
- 03 Gift our largest paver! \$200 will buy an 8"x12" Legacy Paver to honor your family, friends and/or neighbors (to be installed Spring 2024)
- 04 Support the Vida McKenzie Community Center by making a gift donation

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- ACROSS
1. Great divide

6. Priestly vestment

9. Took to court

13. Haile Selassie's disciple

14. 10 decibels

15. \*Applertini's \_\_\_\_ schnapps

16. Rose oil

17. Maui garland

18. Birth-related

19. \*Old Fashioned liquor op-tion

21. \*Gin+vermouth
- rosso+Campari

23. Not him

24. Bye, in Palermo

25. VA.gov beneficiary

28. Puerto follower

30. Like Ferris Bueller

35. Exclude

37. “\_\_\_\_ Your Enthusiasm”

39. Green-light

40. Tiny coffee cup, or \_\_\_\_ -tasse

41. Cut mission short

43. Not final or absolute

44. Makes a sweater

Solution on Page 9

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1					4	2	8	
		9					1	3
			4		7			
2	3						8	
	7	5	3					6
				9				
	6			1		3		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

46. Wing-shaped
47. Bird, in Latin
48. One with drug dependency
50. Do like a frog
52. A U.S. time zone
53. Dance with #17 Across
55. Anatomical duct
57. \*It usually comes in a conical glass
61. \*Popular cocktail mixer
65. Spy's other name
66. Knicks' org.
68. Give a speech
69. Clan emblem
70. Party barrel
71. Clean a spill (2 words)
72. Part of pump
73. Sargasso or Barents
74. Same as apse

DOWN

1. Sticking point, in alimentary tract
2. Possesses, archaic
3. \*Bellini with \_\_\_\_ Spumante
4. Squirrel away
5. a.k.a. felt-pen
6. Competently
7. M tley Cr e's Tommy \_\_\_\_
8. Russian pancakes
9. Practice in the ring
10. As far as (2 words)
11. Distinctive flair
12. Place for a hero
15. Fluffy sweater material
20. "All My Children" vixen \_\_\_\_ Kane
22. 2010 Movie "\_\_\_\_ Pray Love"
24. Toyota model
25. \*Moscow Mule spirit
26. Make corrections
27. Shy
29. \* \_\_\_\_ Libre
31. Forearm bone
32. Not dead
33. Honkers
34. \*Lemon or orange piece
36. South American monkey
38. Highlands hillside
42. Crossbeam
45. Religious split
49. 252-gallon wine cask
51. \*Tequila+grapefruit juice+sparkling water
54. Kind of golf course
56. Razor sharpener
57. S.A.T. section
58. Balm ingredient
59. Baptism or shiva, e.g.
60. Asian weight unit
61. John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte \_\_\_\_"
62. Nukes
63. Sewing case
64. Gym set
67. \* \_\_\_\_'s Knees

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

Click here or go to: [tinyurl.com/yeye92hx](https://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

Events from Dec 21st

Submit Event

LANE ELECTRIC

Mon Nov 27th - Fri Dec 22nd

Lane Electric Survey

Contractors working with Lane Electric Cooperative will conduct survey work in the McKenzie and Blue River areas from November 27

NO SCHOOL DAYS

Mon Dec 18th - Wed Jan 3rd 2024

No School - Winter Break

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Thu Dec 21st 3:00pm - 6:30pm

Leaburg Food Pantry

All are welcome! Please send folks!

LEABURG STORE

Sat Dec 23rd 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

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

FOOD pantry

Tue Dec 26th 11:00am - 1:00pm

McKenzie River Food Pantry

Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in

LEABURG STORE

Wed Dec 27th 9:00am - 10:30am

Lane Electric Coop Board of Directors meeting

Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member

WATERSHED WEDNESDAY

Wed Dec 27th 9:00am - 11:30am

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the

BINGO!

Wed Dec 27th 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Wacky Wednesdays Bingo

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

LEABURG STORE

Sat Dec 30th 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Sun Dec 31st 9:00am - 12:00pm

New Year's Eve Celebration

New Year's Eve Celebration, presented by Bigfoot Beverages and Pepsi, is an all-day party on the mountain. Lifts run from 9 a.m. - 9

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tue Jan 2nd 2024

Lane County Board of Commissioners

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

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Ski Report

December 19, 2022

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 36 degrees at the base and 30 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 25 inches. It also marked the first day of operations for the new Skyliner Express, the resort’s first 6-pack lift. Clouds were expected throughout the day, with a chance of precipitation. 65 of 122 trails were open, along with 10 of 15 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

More snow is needed before the Hoodoo Ski Resort will open for this season.



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 21 - The winter of 1926 a rancher from Upper Crooked River ran low on hay and decided to drive his herd to the railhead in Bend. Buckaroo Harold Baker related, “There were seven of us, counting the cook, trailing 2,150 head of two- and three-year-old steers. The morning we pulled out it turned cold and stormy, and that first night we had ten inches of wet snow dropped on us. Conditions were mighty miserable. Took seven days to complete the drive and as we were coming into the stockyard in Bend we had a steady stream of citizens coming out to take pictures. They all thought it was a pretty big deal. And when the story came out in the newspaper they called it the *Last Great Cattle Drive in Oregon*.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

C	H	A	S	M		A	L	B		S	U	E	D
R	A	S	T	A		B	E	L		A	P	P	L
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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9	7	5	3	4	8	1	2	6	
3	1	2	6	9	5	4	7	8	
8	6	4	7	1	2	3	5	9	

New grant program helps pay for projects to improve stream habitat

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is accepting grant applications for the new Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH) Program.

“Our goal is to improve fish habitat and water quality, while helping small forestland owners fix their roads which are essential for the management of their forestlands,” said SFISH program coordinator Josh Hanson.

The SFISH Program is a grant program established to help small forestland owners (SFOs) with road improvement projects that increase fish habitat connectivity or minimize sediment delivery to streams.

“The grant program will provide more than \$6M to fund the replacement of culverts or fords in fish streams, repair abandoned roads, and fix roads with perched fill that pose a significant hazard to fish-bearing streams,” said Hanson. “The program can fund 100 percent of the cost of a project, including project design and construction.”

SFISH is just one of the incentive programs developed and funded to help support landowners with the many changes to the Forest Practices Act brought about by the landmark Private Forest Accord (PFA). The PFA provides better protection for aquatic wildlife and regulatory certainty for forestland owners. The legislation accompanying the PFA included establishing the Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Office to provide technical assistance, supporting services, and the management of incentives programs for SFOs.



Juvenile coho salmon like this one benefit from properly functioning road-stream crossings and improved water quality.

One of the programs managed by ODF’s SFO Office is the SFISH program.

The application process includes filling out an application form and completing a Road Condition Assessment.

“There is no deadline for applications,” said Hanson. “But to have your project considered for the first round of funding that is anticipated to occur in Spring 2024, applications should be submitted as soon as possible.”

Visit ODF’s SFISH Program webpage to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply to have your project assessed and placed on a ranking list for funding. You can also reach out to your local ODF forester to learn more about the SFISH Program.

County looking for rural residents who need help reducing wildfire risk around homes

Rural residents who need help with fuels reduction to help make their homes less at risk from wildfire may be able to receive up to \$4,000 in work from Lane County – and, unlike other grant programs, it does not require property owners to cover any of the cost.

The focus of the grant is providing 50 feet of defensible space around homes through vegetation clearing.

“This new grant funding is going to make a big difference for at least 100 properties in our community,” said Lane County Land Management Technician Cammyrne Anderson. “Other programs that we run require property owners to cover the costs up front and then reimburse for part of the total cost depending on the project. With this funding, we will be able to provide \$4,000 in work by a County-coordinated contractor. Our residents won’t need to pro-

vide funding up front or attempt to hire their own contractor.”

Residents must live in unincorporated Lane County. Residents who are elderly, low-income, disabled or otherwise vulnerable and who live in high-risk areas will be given priority.

Lane County is collecting interest forms through February 29, 2024. The interest forms were designed to be simple and quick for people to fill out. Selected property owners will be contacted by Lane County to schedule a site visit before any work begins in spring and summer of 2024.

The funding comes from a grant awarded to Lane County by the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Interested residents can submit their interest form online at [www.LaneCountyOR.gov/CWRR](http://www.LaneCountyOR.gov/CWRR) or contact program staff at [CWRR@LaneCountyOR.gov](mailto:CWRR@LaneCountyOR.gov) or 541-682-6702.

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# Studies find nearly all salmon hatcheries hurt wild salmon populations

## More than 200 revealed programs weaken wild salmon diversity and lead to wild population declines

By Alex Baumhardt  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

For much of the last century, fish hatcheries have been built in the Northwest, across the U.S. and around the world to boost fish populations where wild numbers have gone down.

But an analysis of more than 200 studies on hatcheries programs meant to boost salmonid numbers across the globe – including salmon, trout and whitefish – shows that nearly all have had negative impacts on the wild populations of those fish. Most commonly, hatchery fish reduced the genetic diversity of wild fish, leading to poor health and reproductive outcomes.

The findings weigh into a sensitive topic with a big price tag. In the Northwest, hatcheries are supposed to be a solution to declining wild salmonid numbers, caused in large part by hydroelectric dams, overfishing, irrigation and climate change. In the Columbia River Basin alone, officials have spent billions of dollars on nearly 200 hatcheries as well as habitat restoration projects during the past 50 years to improve wild numbers, but research shows those programs are having an opposite effect.

The global studies, all undertaken between 1971 and 2021, were analyzed by scientists at the nonprofits Trout Unlimited, based in Virginia, and The Conservation Angler, out of Washington, along with the University of Washington, the University of Montana and the Université Laval, in Quebec, Canada. Their analysis was published in July in the journal



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery in Utah.

Fisheries Management and Ecology.

Of the 206 studies the team analyzed, more than 80% revealed hatcheries programs had adverse effects on wild salmonids. Of the 3% of hatcheries globally that were found to benefit wild populations, the majority were stocked with wild fish who were bred and released in small numbers to boost severely depleted wild populations.

John McMillan, science director at The Conservation Angler who worked on the analysis, said the team wanted scientists all over the world who are studying the same fish species to see the impact of hatcheries programs beyond their regions of study. He said despite an overwhelming body of research showing most hatcheries programs hurt wild fish populations, it's often controversial to criticize such programs.

"It's frustrating from a scientific point of view, because you can see what the science suggests, but it's understandable why we've been reluctant to move our position on hatcheries, because of the social implications," he said. "This is one of those things, like climate change, where we have to sit back and think about our relationship with the animal, what it means to us and how much we want to give up so these animals can truly, potentially rebuild themselves."

Effect of big hatcheries

This year the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 5509, which includes \$1 million for a third-party assessment of hatchery programs in the state, including analysis of their costs and benefits.

Hatcheries programs in the Northwest and globally that release hundreds of thousands of fish each year had the worst effect

on wild salmonid populations, according to the analysis.

"When you see really large releases of fish, they tend to swamp out the wild population," McMillan said.

An example is pink salmon released from hatcheries in Alaska. Unlike most salmon species, pink salmon spend two years rather than one in the ocean feeding before returning to their spawning grounds in rivers. They enter the ocean almost immediately after being released, and feed on vast amounts of microscopic plankton, which are the food for larger plankton that other fish species such as Chinook, coho, steelhead and sockeye eat. When hundreds of thousands of pink salmon are released from hatcheries each year, they upset the balance of food available in the ocean for all those other species.

"It's not leaving enough food for other salmon in the ocean," McMillan said. It's even negatively impacting orca populations, who feed on those other salmon species. You consume so much at the bottom of the food chain that it cascades to lower production at the top."

The best hatcheries, McMillan said, rear fish from wild stocks and release small but effective

numbers to provide a short-term boost to the population.

McMillan said the analysis shows a need for more study of fish epigenetics – the study of how the environment a fish develops in can change and affect the way its genes work, the way it behaves and its ability to survive.

"There has been research coming out in the last four to five years indicating that even though hatchery fish are representative of the population at large from which they're from, they're undergoing epigenetic changes due to the hatchery rearing process," he said.

Some of those changes are passed along to offspring. Scientists are trying to study that process and discover whether those traits are passed to wild species and whether that affects the ability of wild fish to survive, he said.

Recent studies found that some hatchery fish struggle in waters heavily affected by climate change. Wild fish have had millions of years to evolve through conditions that, at times, have resembled the present. Though they may have similar DNA, the influence of hatchery conditions on fish could make them less prepared to survive in volatile ocean conditions than wild fish.

"Many of these wild fish have the genes to deal with these changing environments. But it's unclear whether the hatchery fish do," McMillan said.

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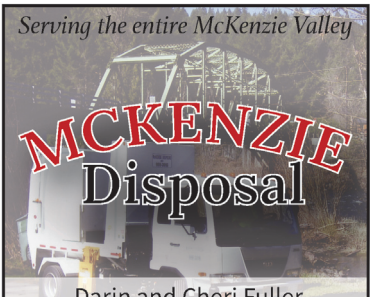
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