



Dream Big...It's Christmas!

May all your hopes and dreams come true during this magical season. Knowing folks like you has been a dream come true. Thanks for your support!

A look at risky roads

USFS to assess fire affected travel areas



The Willamette National Forest has authorized the 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Project, which aims to reduce the risks posed by fire-killed and injured trees along roads while restoring access to and through the burned area.

The work will involve cutting and falling fire-killed and damaged trees along 250 miles of important access routes within the 2020 fire-affected road system. Moderate, high, or mixed tree mortality trees likely to survive the effects of fire or don't threaten the roads will be left standing. Officials say as those killed or injured trees fall, they may block and damage Forest Service roads, making them impassable and obstructing access.

When roads are blocked by fallen trees it is considered a hazardous area unsafe for the public and causes significant impacts on road conditions.

To determine which roads to include, the Willamette National Forest considered two main fac-

tors: access needs along the route and the concentration of fire-killed and injured trees that are along segments of the road. Once trees are fallen, the project will also remove them along with fine fuels, such as brush and branches - within 100 feet of the road - to reduce hazardous fuels along roads within the areas burned by the Holiday Farm, Beachie Creek, and Lionshead fires.

A large portion of the work is expected to be accomplished in the first year, particularly high priority areas; however, project activities could continue for a few years.

Variables that could impact the duration of the project include contracts and weather conditions. Planners are developing an interactive story map. More information on the map will be available soon.

The signed Decision Notice and additional project information are available online at: tinyurl.com/3hrh6bwf.



McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

There are no McKenzie Varsity Sports scheduled for this week. The next scheduled Basketball games are set for January 4, 2023.

Eagle Girls/Boys Teams Sunk By Sailors, Swamped By Lakers, And The Saints Marched On!

The McKenzie Girls and Boys Basketball teams dropped three games apiece last week, as the Eagles finished up their 2022 part of their basketball season. The next contest for both teams is scheduled for January 4, next year. Last Monday, December 12, McKenzie welcomed the visiting Mapleton Sailors to Finn Rock.

The Eagle Girls lost the Mt. West League game, the Sailors outscoring the Eagles 40-15. On Thursday, December 15, the Triangle Lake Lakers arrived, and the outcome was much the same, the Eagles losing 49-17.

McKenzie Head Coach Jack Devereaux loaded his team on the bus, Friday, December 16, for a trip to North Clackamas Christian, where the Eagles took on the Saints JV team. McKenzie lost that game by the identical score from the previous day, 49-17.

Going into the New Year, the McKenzie Girls team is 1-2 in Mt. West League play, 1-6 overall, and tied for fifth place in the MWL with Mapleton, one game ahead of last place Siletz Valley. No stats for the Eagle Girls games were available at press time.

The McKenzie Boys Varsity Basketball team fared no better on the week, also dropping all three games. The Sailors of Mapleton upended the Eagles 49-22 on Monday. Eagle Allen Acevedo led his teammates with 6 points and a steal. Will Meister scored 5 points, had 1 rebound and a steal and Salomon Acevedo also finished with 5 points, had 2 rebounds and a steal. Trent Peek scored 4 points, grabbed a rebound and had 1 steal, Thomas Hayes finished with 2 points, hauled in 2 rebounds, dished an assist, and had 2 steals, Jamie LeClair grabbed a couple of boards, and Jovial Jordan and Noah Boredman each finished with a rebound.

Versus the Lakers from Triangle

Lake, Hayes scored 6 points, had a rebound and a couple of steals. Allen Acevedo also scored 6 points and he grabbed 4 rebounds, had a steal and an assist. Peek scored 3 points and had 4 rebounds, LeClair scored 3 points and stole the ball once, and Will Meister scored one free-throw. Griffin Withalm added a rebound and a blocked shot and Salomon Acevedo finished with 4 boards and 3 blocks.

Up in Portland, on the road trip to North Clackamas Christian, the Eagles lost 54-16 and there were no game stats available at press time. McKenzie, coached by Head Coach Neil Barrett, is currently 0-4 in Mt. West League play and 0-8 overall for the 2022-23 season.

Gardening classes coming



Lane County Master Gardeners are offering public pruning classes in the winter and spring of 2023. 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. A suggested donation of \$10 is ap-

preciated, but not required to attend.

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, contact the OSU Extension Service - Lane County office, 996 Jefferson Street, Eugene (enter on 10th at the wheelchair ramp) 541-344-5859 or at: extension.oregonstate.edu/lane

Letters to the Editor



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



McKenzie River Reflections



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WEATHER REPORT

Friday 12/23		Saturday 12/24		Sunday 12/25	
McKenzie Valley Showers 50% chance precip High: 45 Low: 41	Santiam Pass Snow 70% chance precip High: 35 Low: 32	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 55 Low: 45	Santiam Pass Showers 70% chance precip High: 43 Low: 36	McKenzie Valley Showers 50% chance precip High: 57 Low: 45	Santiam Pass Showers 60% chance precip High: 44 Low: 34

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWING LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/13	38	32	0.01	433 cfs	12/13	45	33	0.03	3,450 cfs
12/14	38	30	0	NA	12/14	44	32	0	3,240 cfs
12/15	40	29	0	360 cfs	12/15	46	28	0	3,050 cfs
12/16	41	30	0	360 cfs	12/16	40	24	0	2,770 cfs
12/17	38	25	0	360 cfs	12/17	42	24	0	2,610 cfs
12/18	38	25	0.01	360 cfs	12/18	47	26	0	2,490 cfs
12/19	42	32	0	360 cfs	12/19	42	31	0.12	2,460 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Dec. 11: 9:18 a.m: Illegal Hunting - McGowan Creek Rd. Milepost 2. Two elk carcasses were found dumped in the area.

Dec. 13: 2:45 a.m: - Suspicious Conditions - Goodpasture Rd. & McK. Hwy. The occupants of a dark colored Jeep Cherokee were observed going through mailboxes.

6:00 a.m: Alarm - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy.

12:57 p.m: Civil Service - 48100 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:02 p.m: Citizen Contact - 41100 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

Dec. 14: 10:09 a.m: Civil Service - 48100 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:21 a.m: Menacing - 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd. Ongoing dispute between landlord and tenant. Tenant claimed the landlord threatened him with a bat.

12:56 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

6:20 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. mp

4. **Dec. 15: 11:28 a.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - 8700 blk, McK. Hwy. vehicle parked on caller's property right next to the highway. Vehicle was discovered to belong to a flagger who had been working in the area.

12:22 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

1:41 p.m: Warrant Service - McK. Hwy. & Goodpasture Rd.

5:30 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 38200 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:04 p.m: Fraud. - 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Undisclosed amount of money was discovered to be missing from the caller's bank account.

Dec. 16: 6:02 a.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:03 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:18 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:54 p.m: Disoriented Subject - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:46 p.m: Assault - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. Caller reported being hit and held down by a known male.

Dec. 17: 3:26 a.m: Assault - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

5:47 a.m: Warrant Service - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:06 a.m: Misuse of 911 - 37300 blk, parsons creek Rd.

9:20 a.m: Illegal Cutting of Forest Products - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd. Deputies received the report that someone was illegally cutting down trees.

10:43 a.m: Lost Property - 44200 blk, McK. Hwy.

1:03 p.m: Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Wendling Rd.

1:11 p.m: Civil Service - 90900 blk, Angels Flight Rd.

2:02 p.m: Citizen Contact - McGowan quarry.

2:10 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Shadows Dr.

2:18 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Shadows Dr.

3:03 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Shadows Dr.

Dec. 18: 6:17 p.m: Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. & Leaburg Dam Rd.

12:53 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy. A mailbox was found lying on the ground in a parking lot.

Dec. 19: 1:01 p.m: Theft -

McGowan Creek Rd. Milepost 3.5.

1:58 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:47 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants- 89800 blk, Hill Rd.

5:10 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 46100 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

Continued On Page 6

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Dec. 12: 12:02: 45000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Signed.

Dec. 13: 2:44: 88000 blk, Chita Lp. Odor Investigation. Investigate, Nothing Found.

18:40: 39000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Mistaken Alarm. Investigate, False Alarm.

Dec. 14: 14:05: 1000 blk, Billings Rd.. Medical, General. Disregarded Prior To Arrival.

Dec. 15: 0:00: 44000 blk, Canal Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Private Transport.

18:48: 36000 blk, Camp Creek Rd.. Medical, General. Patient

Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 16: 21:12: 87000 blk, Lupe Ln Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 17: 10:28: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Brush Fire. Fire Contained by Homeowner Prior To Arrival.

Dec. 18: 10:54: 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Disregarded per Upper McKenzie Fire.

14:55: 44000 blk, McKenzie. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Signed.

17:56: 7900 blk, S.C Street Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Signed.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Dec. 16: 14:49: Medical - 91000 block, Horse Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 18: 10:54: Medical - 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Ineffective Breathing.

Dec. 19: 15:21: Medical - 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

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

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World's clumsiest drug smugglers - also its most audacious

By Finn J.D. John
Part Two

It's not clear when William Dunbar and Nat Blum, owners of the Merchant Steamship Co. in Portland, started smuggling opium on their steamships, the Wilmington and the Haytian Republic. They may have been smuggling opium all along; but the astonishing rate at which opium-related disasters started piling up after mid-1892 following at least 18 months of smooth operations suggests that before that, they were only smuggling people.

Smuggling opium was not only much more lucrative than smuggling people, it was also much more space-efficient. The steamers were making the trips anyway; an extra half-ton of opium wouldn't make any difference, and would add the modern equivalent of about half a million dollars to the profit on the journey.

To make it work, though, the opium had to be off the ship before it tied up in port. With the help of well-placed friends at Customs, a group of illegal immigrants could be passed off as legal residents returning from business trips in Canada; illegal opium, though, could only be disguised as legal cargo by forging tax stamps, a task the Blum-Dunbar gang didn't have the resources to attempt. Also, opium, legal or illegal, would draw a lot of attention, which obviously was never a good idea for a smuggler.

So the opium, packed in watertight barrels, would be rolled off the back of the steamship in a quiet, lonely part of the Columbia River as the ship steamed past, and retrieved by gang members in rented steam launches or skiffs.

This might seem like a pretty workable arrangement. But, for Blum and Dunbar the problem was, they couldn't just run down to the Kelly Temporary Services agency and hire a couple of guys for a day to fish smuggled opium out of the river. The only people they could trust with an operation like this were actual members of Portland's criminal underworld. Men like Robert Garthorn, Thomas



Passengers being rescued from the sinking S.S. Portland after it struck a hidden rock near the town of Katalia on Nov. 12, 1910.

Berg, and Joseph "Bunco" Kelley — sailors' boardinghouse runners and shanghaiers and low-level drug smugglers.

And they all turned out to be pretty bad at their jobs.

BARRELS OF OPIUM were getting away from the gang as early as July 1892. That's when Garthorn, up in Canada, loaded 300 pounds of opium on the Wilmington and returned to Portland by rail. Back in town, he met up with Berg and went down to the spot near St. Johns where the Wilmington was scheduled to make the dope drop, sometime between midnight and dawn the next day.

But the Wilmington was late arriving. So, after Garthorn and Berg had waited all night, they gave up and went back to Portland.

A few hours later, in the dim morning light, the Wilmington steamed by the rendezvous point, rolled the barrels off the back, and steamed onward to port.

When the Wilmington arrived at the Dunbar Produce wharf, Blum and Dunbar learned what had happened. Blum leaped into panicky action. Grabbing another gang member, he raced to St. Johns to rent a steam launch, picking up Garthorn on the way.

They found two of their three barrels easily enough; but the third was a little tougher. As they

worked their way down the river, they spotted it perched on an old dock.

Putting in to the dock, they introduced themselves to a man who was standing nearby, a river pilot named J.L. Caples.

Garthorn, who had an old brass star that he wore in order to implicitly impersonate a customs official, thanked Caples for picking up the barrel and offered him a dollar for his trouble.

But Caples had already opened the barrel. He didn't know what opium looked like — didn't smoke the stuff himself — but the barrel was full of tiny little tins with Chinese characters printed all over them, and it didn't take a lot of imagination to figure out what they were. (Each tin held one tael of opium; a tael was roughly one and a third ounces.)

So Caples counteroffered at \$50.

Blum accepted immediately, but he didn't have \$50 on him — just \$10, plus a couple \$100 bills that Caples thought might be counterfeit anyway. So Caples took the \$10 and an I.O.U.: He was told that he could stop by Dunbar Produce and Grocery, 52 Front Street, later in the day, and there would be \$40 waiting for him.

If Caples had any doubts as to who was doing the smuggling in Portland, that would have laid

them to rest right there.

A few months later, disaster struck again — and this time it really was disaster. The Wilmington was on its way into port with another 450 pounds of opium; but someone had gotten suspicious when it was loaded on board in Vancouver, and tipped off the feds. Dunbar learned about this while the steamer was en route, so he hastily sent Garthorn along with Bunco Kelley to Astoria to intercept the ship and warn them that they should dump the opium somewhere right away, as close to the bar as possible, so the evidence would drift out to sea.

Unfortunately, as they approached the Wilmington in their rented launch, they saw that a federal revenue cutter was already on the scene; apparently it had been waiting just inside the bar for them to arrive. They watched helplessly as the cutter hailed the Wilmington and ordered it to put into port in Astoria ... opium and all.

And that was how the Blum-Dunbar gang lost the Wilmington; it was seized by the federal officials along with its load of opium. The gang would now have to get by on just one steamship: The Haytian Republic.

It was probably about this time, or shortly thereafter, that Dunbar informally adopted a young, spunky Japanese teenager to be a companion for his son, Lambert — like Dr. Benton Quest did with Hadji in Jonny Quest. This, of course, was Yosuke Matsuoka, who would graduate from the University of Oregon and go on

Drug smugglers - Page 5



By Slim Randles

Alphonse Wilson verbosifyin' here, once again. Need to talk a bit 'bout names. Some of you might know me by my nickname, Windy.

Now you might think at first that I come about that name 'cause I've been known to verbulate quite a bit, and I have to remit here that I thought so at first, my ownself. But nossir ... not the case. Years ago, ol' Doc set me up to meet this nice lady from the county health depot and told her I was called Windy 'cause my emolument of the English language zifted like a heifer of realism through our mundaniety. Perked up the circumloquasion, I can tell ya. Fact.

But that's just on them nicknames, of course. On the birth certificate aspirations, there's a little scientificals in them. You memorate how mom used to call you by all three of your names? Yes she did. But she did it only when you was in trouble. She'd holler something like "Jeremy Pixilated Johnson, you get in here this minute!" And when you heard all three of your names, you knew you was in a pickle fer shore.

You see, appertraining to the use of a middle name? Wellsir, we need them for murderers, burglars and assassinator. You know an assassinator gets to be famous after the deed, right? And ever' body knows his name. You just take in there that Lee Harvey Oswald fella. The newspaper guys had to throw the Harvey part in so's folks wouldn't ask themselves "I wonder if that's the Lee Oswald works down at the Gulf station."

Of course, some folks are just nominatin'ly deprived, of course. You just take my ol' grandpap for example. His middle name was nimmin. I seen it on them papers they give you for your obitulary after you die. Said right there "Constantine nmn Wilson." I had to go ask someone why they didn't capitulate the n in nmn, and the lady said it means no middle name. No middle name? Wellsir, then I memorialized that ol' Grandpap was the thirteenth kid in the family and I suppose they just ran out of middle names about then.

So the outcome of all this is, if you don't have a middle name, go get one. It'll come in handy if you take up criminal actuarials or if you die.

Slim Randles's middle name is Victor, but he was NOT named for a mouse trap.

Quote of the Week

"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not included"

Unknown

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Drug smugglers

Continued From Page 4

to become Foreign Minister in Imperial Japan just before the Second World War.

Another several months later, on Sept. 2, the smugglers brought in a big shipment on the Haytian Republic — 1,400 pounds of opium, which was dumped overboard in the Columbia and retrieved by Dunbar himself. Garthorn and Berg took charge of part of it and hauled it off to Berg's house, where they planned to stage it for later distribution to customers in the Portland and San Francisco Chinatowns.

But there was a problem. It seems a day or two earlier, Berg's wife had gotten into a fight with one of the neighbors, and the neighbor — who clearly suspected something criminal was going on — had started keeping an eagle eye on the Berg home. As soon as she saw this big flurry of late-night loading activity, she picked up the telephone (very few people had them in 1892, but she did) to get her revenge by calling the police.

The timing couldn't have been worse, as there was already more than half a ton of opium in the house in addition to the new stuff being unloaded. But the phone call seems to have been fielded by a friend of Nat Blum's, because instead of the police responding to the scene, Nat himself appeared, knocking on the neighbor's door and introducing himself as a police detective.

While "Detective Blum" was taking her statement, the two of them watched Garthorn and Berg through a window as they hauled the opium out of Berg's house and wheeled it down the street on a cart — getting away with the goods! But Blum smoothly told the neighbor lady not to worry — the two smugglers were walking right into a trap, he assured her. He told the woman, according to the Portland Evening Telegram, "that he had two policemen stationed down the road, who would catch them with the opium and place them under arrest, thus securing her silence until after the opium had been removed to his own house."

Perhaps Blum was too busy congratulating himself on this smooth play to realize that it meant Berg's house was no longer a safe place to stash contraband. This would prove to be an expensive oversight two months later, when another big load came in. Half a ton of it was taken straight to Berg's pad again. Then Dunbar sent over another 400 pounds.

The gang then packed 600 pounds of the dope into steamer trunks, 100 pounds to a trunk, and Blum, along with two other members of the gang, headed to San Francisco, each with two trunks to hand over to contacts in Chinatown there. One of the three "mules" got busted upon arrival,

and so there went 200 pounds of the goods.

When they got back to Portland, they found worse news waiting: The remaining 800 pounds of opium had been stolen from Berg's house while they were all gone. It's tempting to wonder if that suspicious neighbor lady, who obviously kept a close eye on the Berg house, had anything to do with it. Maybe she concluded that, if the police were going to be so cavalier about opium smuggling, she might as well get a slice of it herself!

A few months later, Dunbar made a trip to San Francisco with two trunks and lost one of the claim checks on the way. Blum found the claim check but was afraid to claim the trunk himself, so he paid another man \$300 (nearly \$8,000 today) to go get it.

Another attempt to service customers in San Francisco turned into an even bigger fiasco. Dunbar packed several hundred pounds in boxes marked "Playing Cards" and shipped them southward unattended, as freight. But the two draymen he hired to load the boxes — who were not members of the gang, just regular workers — thought it was really weird to be shipping thousands and thousands of boxes of playing cards to a city that was perfectly capable of supplying itself with gambling accouterments, and the next day they told Police Chief Spencer about it. Spencer telegraphed San Francisco, the shipment was stopped and inspected, and the Dunbar-Blum gang was busted again. This time, there was a bill of lading with Dunbar Produce and Grocery's name and address on it.

In all, the gang lost at least half a ton of opium in official seizures. It lost at least twice that much to theft. They also managed to lose a \$30,000 steamer. Regardless of how lucrative opium smuggling was, it's hard to imagine how this all could possibly have penciled out.

(Sources: *Agony of Choice: Matsuoka Yosuke and the Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire, 1880-1946, a book by David J. Lu published in 2002 by Lexington Books; "Yosuke Matsuoka: The Far-Western Roots of a World-Political Vision," an article by Masaharu Ano published in the Summer 1997 issue of Oregon Historical Quarterly; Wicked Portland, a book by Finn J.D. John published in 2012 by The History Press)*

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

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK



Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Control moss in the lawn - keep grass healthy



Many homeowners struggle with moss that invades lawns as winter rains provide just the right conditions for its growth.

"The most frequent wintertime question I receive regarding lawn maintenance is, 'How do I get rid of moss?'" said Alec Kowalewski, turf grass specialist for Oregon State University Extension Service.

To answer that question, Kowalewski and Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Extension, developed a publication and video on Managing Moss in the Landscape in Western Oregon. The new resources dive into the three steps to rid your lawn of moss, a frustrating process since it first involves dealing with the conditions that encourage moss.

"Some people want the quick fix," said Edmunds. "They don't want to think that it might be too difficult to have a lawn in the shade. But grass doesn't grow

well in wet, shady areas and won't outcompete moss."

Moss is like a lot of weeds, Kowalewski added. It will do well in tough situations and doesn't need as many nutrients as a lawn does.

Don't just put a Band-Aid on it with chemicals, Edmunds said. Instead, keep the lawn healthy by reducing shade and moisture and following good cultural practices. That includes keeping pH between 6.0 and 6.5 by adding lime if necessary. Fertilize twice in spring and twice in fall. Mow and irrigate appropriately. Details on lawn care are provided within the video and publication, as well as these resources:

- ° Fertilizing Lawns
- ° Practical Lawn Care for Western Oregon
- ° Retail Lawn Seed Mixtures for Western Oregon and Western Washington
- ° Practical Lawn Establishment



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS LETTERS

Do you write and send annual Christmas letters to friends and family? I've been doing it for years and enjoy receiving these letters, too. I copy them onto decorative Christmas writing/photocopy paper. Some I send by email, but most I enclose with a Christmas card and mail the "old-fashioned" way.

Several years ago, a friend mentioned that she saves a copy of the ones she writes each year and compiles them in a notebook or scrapbook. This creates a mini family history you can look back upon. Since then, I've been doing this, too, and also try to keep family letters I receive to add to the family history.

Photos - You can incorporate photos into these Christmas letters. One of my friends usually

does this so I get an additional glimpse into her family and their life. These photos are a brief recap of our lives of the past year and are fun

Scrapbooks - You may want to place the letters in a scrapbook, along with photo and sketches and even some mementos to look at years after. You also can include Christmas cards family members have sent, with and without letters.

Holiday Recipes - Also add a favorite recipe to the letter and in your scrapbook.

and Renovation
 ° Efficient Lawn Irrigation in the Intermountain West (video)
 ° Integrated Pest Management for Turfgrass (video)

To maintain a healthy lawn, Edmunds recommends pruning trees to let in more sunlight and dealing with excessive water with French drains or tiles.

If that doesn't bring the desired results, Edmunds recommends treating the moss with appropriate chemicals. Another option is to dethatch the lawn with a rake or rented dethatcher to pull up the moss and then reseed bare spots. If all else fails, you'll need to do a full renovation.

If you choose to use a product to control moss, there are several available. Kowalewski recommends sulfate products such as ferrous sulfate, iron sulfate, and ammonium sulfate. These are environmentally friendly options, he said. Apply by spot treating as soon as moss appears.

Sulfur products such as these will lower the soil pH, making conditions acidic. An occasional application of lime, which will raise the pH, is recommended when you are making frequent sulfur applications. Before applying lime, test soil pH with a gauge available at garden centers and home improvement stores.

If you decide to use a chemical herbicide, Kowalewski recommended that gardeners choose products with soap of fatty acid or carfentrazone as an active ingredient. Read labels and follow all safety precautions when using pesticides. Remember, though, even using herbicides to kill moss won't keep it from returning.

When using herbicides, be sure to use protective gear and follow all of the label's recommendations.

Some people like moss. For them, Edmunds said, "If you're OK with it, carry on."

Toasted Oatmeal Cookies - Beat 1 egg white with 1/4 teaspoon salt until stiff and dry; add 1 cup packed brown sugar gradually and beat until blended. Add 1/2-teaspoon vanilla and 1/2 cup toasted quick cooking rolled oats, along with 1/2 cup chopped walnuts. You can add raisins and/or candied fruit if desired.

Drop by teaspoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325-degree F. about 40 minutes, until done. Remove cookies to cake rack to cool.

(c) 2019 Mary Emma Allen

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

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Community Notes

Hoodoo Is Open

The Hoodoo Ski Area opened its 2022-23 season last Saturday, December 3rd. Hours are subject to change depending on weather, road conditions, etc.

The schedule is: Dec. 25: 9 am to 4 pm; Dec. 21-24, 26-31: 9 am to 9 pm. The regular schedule (starts Jan. 1st): Sunday: 9 am to 4 pm, Monday – Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday – Saturday: 9 am to 9 pm. The resort's daily operating schedule is posted at skihoodoo.com/events. The Autobahn Tubing Park is currently closed until further notice.

Hoodoo is still hiring for various positions. Those interested can apply at skihoodoo.com/employment.

December 23

McKenzie Food Pantry

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2nd & 4th Friday, at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

December 31

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.

Through Dec. 31 Ornament Search

Ornaments have been placed on three non-wilderness trails in the McKenzie Ranger District. People should take only take one ornament per household so other families can enjoy the same thrill. Every ornament on a given trail features the same design. Eagle-eyed hikers and visitors can hit the trail to track down an ornament; once they've found one, they can register to win the grand prize - and put the ornament on their tree in their home. Ornaments have been placed on the Tamolitch Falls (Blue Pool) #3507, Waterfalls Loop Trail #3503, and the King-Castle Trail #4326. More details at: tinyurl.com/39nc5nn9.

January 9

Springfield School Board

7 pm - 8:30 pm. The Board of Directors meet in the Administration Building, 640 A

January 13

McKenzie Food Pantry

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2nd & 4th Friday, at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

January 4

Blue River Park Board

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

January 4

Blue River Water Board

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

January 16

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

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

January 18

Upper McK Fire Board

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

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

6:08 p.m: Assault - 49500 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:45 p.m: Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

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

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

Emergency? Call 911

Timing needed for electricity usage



By Molly Rosbach

A new study published in Nature Energy found that electricity customers often lack awareness of their daily energy-use patterns at home, which could have a serious financial impact as utility companies move toward time-of-use energy pricing models.

If utilities change their pricing structures, consumers need to understand how and when they're using electricity so they can make informed decisions about billing choices, the study's authors say.

"Energy systems and the grid are undergoing drastic changes right now, and we need to update the way we talk to people about their energy use," said study co-author Hilary Boudet, an associate professor of sociology and public policy in Oregon State University's College of Liberal Arts. "From this work, it seems that people are not aware that when you use energy may be just as important as how much energy you use."

Incorporating renewable energy sources into the electricity system means the timing of electricity generation often conflicts with the timing of consumers' energy use, Boudet explained. This mismatch causes problems for the electrical grid because options for storing electricity are limited, so utilities are moving toward rate plans that charge higher prices during peak hours.

The study, conducted by researchers from OSU and Stanford University, analyzed energy-usage patterns from 186 California residents who were granted access to their households' smart meter data, which tracks hourly variation as well as overall energy use. Study participants also completed questionnaires about what they believed their daily energy-use patterns looked like, which researchers then compared to their households' actual energy-use patterns.

Researchers wanted to know if participants could accurately describe their home's dominant "load shape," the curve on a graph reflecting what period of the day had the highest amount of energy use. The study examined participants' energy data and load shape awareness before and during California's shelter-in-place orders in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most homes had an "evening peak" load shape, with roughly two-thirds of households exhibiting this shape before and during shelter-in-place. Only a small percentage of households exhibited a "morning peak" during either period. The remainder were split

between "midday peak" and "dual peak," with midday peak increasing during shelter-in-place and dual peak becoming slightly less common.

During the pre-shelter-in-place period, 51.1% of participants correctly identified their load shape, compared with 30.6% for the shelter-in-place period.

Evening peak is the most common load shape primarily because that's when people working a 9-to-5 schedule return home and start cooking, cleaning, and running heat and air conditioning, Boudet said. Heating and cooling, especially heating water, are some of a home's biggest energy users.

These peak hours are also when many forms of renewable energy, such as solar power, are less available, leading utilities to turn to "peaker plants" that kick on to address the evening surge in demand and often rely on dirtier fuel sources, Boudet said. As utility companies start implementing "demand response" programs like time-of-use pricing, which charges higher rates during peak hours, evening usage will cost customers more.

"You're asking customers to respond to a price signal without real information about how they're using energy," said Chad Zanocco, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University. "We need to incorporate this consideration of time into our conversations around energy use, so that people understand that it matters when energy is being produced, in terms of emissions."

Boudet recommends that people learn about their energy use by looking at their smart meter reports, if available through their utility, to look for ways to shift their usage patterns out of late afternoon and evening hours. For instance, cleaning or running laundry earlier in the day would reduce energy use during evening peak hours. Boudet said residents can also look into more energy-efficient appliances so their overall energy use is lower.

However, she said this kind of intervention can place an undue burden on lower-income households, pushing them to adjust their behavior to keep their bills affordable, while more affluent customers may purchase things like smart-home appliances that automatically adjust temperature settings or improve energy efficiency.

Co-authors included Gregory Stelmach from OSU and Tao Sun, June Flora, and Ram Rajagopal from Stanford University.

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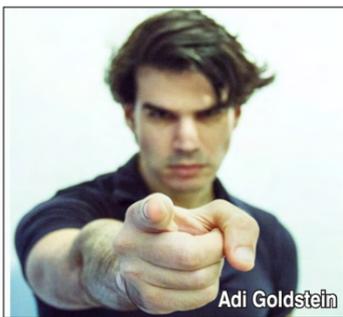
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirthell

Love And Money



Adi Goldstein

I have been in a relationship for two years. Early on, my boyfriend became angry about picking up the tab, even though I offered many times and he turned me down. We worked through that and I try to be aware of equality.

Recently we were driving to a party for a coworker. I also consider her a friend. My boyfriend drove, as he always turns down my invitation to drive. In route to the party, he glanced down at me programming my phone, and we heard a big bump. The car had hit something.

We could not determine what it was and thought perhaps he had scraped a mailbox close to the road. Later, we realized that a deer hit the car. Two days later, he was parked and someone backed into the other side of his car.

He took the car in and his

insurance company is making him pay the deductible. My dilemma is that he thinks I should pay half because we were going to my friend's party. I am appalled. What do you think?

Cammie

Cammie, when most people read "A Christmas Carol," they identify with someone who feels the joy of the season, like Bob Cratchit. Your boyfriend identifies with Ebenezer Scrooge.

In Dickens' tale, the Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge how he lost his chance for love. Scrooge sees the woman who once promised herself to him saying, "Another idol has replaced me... a golden one." Your boyfriend's miserly approach to love may lead him to the same fate.

Driving carries a responsibility which cannot be assigned to another, and with a second accident, chances are your boyfriend would still be out the deductible. The measure of love is generosity, and yet there is a paradox. In a successful relationship, each party should feel they receive more than they give.

Wayne & Tamara

Put To The Sword

My girlfriend has an aggressive sense of humor. She teases and

likes to parry put-downs. She says it is all in fun, and it is very important that she can joke with her partner. She thinks I am thin-skinned and overly sensitive.

Indeed, I know I am sensitive, but this is a vicious circle which makes me more and more sensitive. No doubt this kind of dialogue is very common amongst some people. I witness it almost daily with friends or certain colleagues.

To me, there are limits, and obviously my limits are different than hers. I'm working on being less sensitive, but the only way to do that is to numb myself, which doesn't give her the participation she wants. She says she will try to do it less, but it always comes back.

I do not think she believes there is a problem on her side. She's said she wants this in a relationship, and if I can't handle it, maybe we aren't right for each other. Other parts of our relationship are great, but I don't understand why a clearly negative behavior is so important, especially for an intelligent person.

Albert

Albert, your girlfriend is good at swordplay, but she can't fence by herself. She wants you to play so she can feel good about herself. She has a fondness for something hurtful. That says more about her character than you realize.

There is a difference between humor and wit. Humor puts us in the same boat as the other person, while wit throws us out of the boat

and into the water with the sharks. That is why humorists are often loved, while wits are often quoted but seldom loved.

Your girlfriend is a wit. She is not too thick-skinned to realize she hurts others. Most likely, she simply doesn't care. Making you wince is part of her nature. Look for a girlfriend who wants to row the boat with you, not feed you to the fishes.

Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are also the authors of **Cheating in a Nutshell, What Infidelity Does to the Victim**, available from Amazon, Apple and most booksellers.



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 22 - David Thompson was born in London, and upon the death of his father was entered in a London charity school. At age

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Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the Blue River Fire Station will be received by the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District (UMRFPD) at UMRFPD Station 1, 56578 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, until The Bid Closing Time of 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The Bid Opening time will be immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. Bids will be opened at the above location. B. The Project consists of the general construction services for the Blue River Fire Station, located at 51742 Dexter Street, Blue River Oregon for the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District (UMRFPD), including all site work, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical services. The building consists of approximately 2,800 total square feet of wood frame construction on one floor. C. Bids are required for the entire work described in the Bidding Documents. Each bid must be submitted on the required form and be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bid bond, irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution as defined in ORS 706.008, cashier's check, or certified check, payable to Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District in an amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid including additive alternates if any. D. Bid Documents may be accessed electronically through the OregonBuys procurement system at www.OregonBuys.gov. E. It is the responsibility of the bidder to check OregonBuys regularly for addenda that may be issued during the bid period. F. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held Tuesday January 10, 2023, at 2:00 pm, at the Project Site, 51742 Dexter Street, Blue River, to tour the site and answer questions regarding the Project. G. Prevailing wage rates for public works contracts in Oregon are required for this project. No bid will be received or considered by UMRFPD unless the bid contains a statement that the Bidder will comply with the provisions of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.840 regarding the payment of prevailing rates of wage. H. All bidders must be "Equal Opportunity Employers" and comply with the appropriate provisions of state and federal law. In regards to Worker's Compensation, all bidders shall be required to comply with ORS 656.017 or are exempt under ORS 656.126. I. Each bid must include a statement by the bidder as to whether the bidder is a resident bidder under ORS 279A.120. J. The Owner may reject any bid that does not comply with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements, including the requirements to demonstrate the bidder's responsibility under ORS 279C.375(3)(b). K. The Owner reserves the right to waive informalities, and for good cause to reject any and all bids after finding that doing so is in the public interest. L. No bid will be received or considered unless the bidder is licensed by the Construction Contractors Board or the State Landscape Contractors Board for the work of the project. M. Each bidder must submit a disclosure of first-tier subcontractors supplying labor or labor and materials within two hours after the date and time of the deadline when bids are due, in accordance with ORS 279C.370. N. All envelopes must be sealed and plainly marked on the outside showing the name of the bidder, name of project, and the date and the hour of opening. O. Questions regarding technical matters shall be directed to the project architect, PIVOT Architecture at (541) 342-7291. By: PIVOT Architecture P. Date: December 16, 2022 Q. Published in Eugene Register Guard, Portland Daily Journal of Commerce, and McKenzie River Reflections

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CROSSWORD

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65						66	67			68				
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72						73				74				

- 61. *Broadway state
- 65. Loaded
- 66. Marbled bread
- 68. Bad car
- 69. South Pacific sailboats
- 70. “___ Milk?”
- 71. Related on mother’s side
- 72. Unload on eBay
- 73. Gilligan’s home
- 74. Tap, e.g.

- DOWN**
- 1. Spike, as in punch
 - 2. Iraq’s neighbor
 - 3. Like a maxi skirt
 - 4. Soap plant
 - 5. *One of two countries to see Niagara Falls
 - 6. Mail a package
 - 7. Agha, alt. sp.
 - 8. Gloria Estefan’s hit
 - 9. Disease-causing organism
 - 10. One of algae
 - 11. Diagnostic test
 - 12. One-trick ungulate?
 - 15. Sluggish
 - 20. ___-canceling earbuds
 - 22. Ambulance squad, acr.
 - 24. RE/MAX agent, e.g.
 - 25. *Amalfi Coast country
 - 26. Kenyan tribesman
 - 27. Amazon “club”
 - 29. Vegas cube
 - 31. Cone-shaped quarters
 - 32. Throat dangler
 - 33. *Mona Lisa city

- 34. Go stealthily
- 36. Nervous biting victim
- 38. *Haleakal., island
- 42. Accent mark
- 45. Software plug-ins
- 49. Barack Obama, pre-pres.
- 51. Wailed
- 54. Frustration, in a comic book
- 56. Laughing African predator
- 57. *Swiss or Italian skiing destination
- 58. Steak option
- 59. “White Wedding” Billy
- 60. Eagerness
- 61. Post-deductions amount
- 62. Yemen’s neighbor
- 63. College cadet program
- 64. ACL location
- 67. Uncle Sam wanted this

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes
 In this moving elegy to his infant daughter, Sadiq Dzukogi, reminds us of how complex grief can be. The body’s responses to grief offer a way for us to cope with its deep pain. Here, the poem, “So Much Memory”, is a tender performance in which the poet, beautifully and hopefully, seeks to capture the lingering song of his daughter’s memory.

So Much Memory
 By Sadiq Dzukogi

Now he answers to everything that reminds him of her, a crib rocking, a circle of faces crowing at him. He can neither leave his eyes open nor shut them. Splits the night walking between two cornfields, striding like he’s going for the thing he’ll never find. See how he runs his hands over his body, how his skin peels. After a night of crying, he can feel her limbs in his palms, versified, nothing made of flesh; nothing made of bone. He opens his mind and lets the leaves be his skin and lets a song fall inside another song: it mimics his daughter’s voice.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2021 by Sadiq Dzukogi, “So Much Memory” from Your Crib, My Qibla (University of Nebraska Press, 2021.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.

Ski Report

December 20, 2022
 The Hoodoo Ski Area reported on Tuesday that a 1/2 of new snow fell overnight, bringing the base to 45 inches. Temperatures were 26 degrees mid-mountain and 31 at the base with WSW winds averaging 33 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.
 Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 23 degrees at the base and 16 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 38 inches at mid-mountain. Wind conditions might impact operations but expectations were that a new layer of snow could fall. Winds up top were averaging 36 mph. No lifts were open, but 81 of the 121 trails were. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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VACATION DESTINATIONS

- ACROSS**
- 1. Walt Whitman’s dooryard plant
 - 6. Bag, ‡ Paris
 - 9. Sound of astonishment
 - 13. Smell of baking bread, e.g.
 - 14. Self-importance
 - 15. Ma Bell, e.g.
 - 16. List of Catholic saints
 - 17. Bobbsey twin
 - 18. Donor’s bequest
 - 19. *Country to see Stonehenge
 - 21. *Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle
 - 23. Tokyo, in the olden days
 - 24. Way off freeway
 - 25. Gremlin or pixie
 - 28. Assistant
- DOWN**
- 30. Crunches alternative (2 words)
 - 35. Mountain lake
 - 37. Thailand, pre-1939
 - 39. Parlor piece
 - 40. *Maldives continent
 - 41. Plaudit and pomp
 - 43. Unadulterated
 - 44. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
 - 46. Red carpet purse
 - 47. Pelvic bones
 - 48. Gives way under force
 - 50. Like acne-prone skin
 - 52. Pose a question
 - 53. Letter opener
 - 55. Morse code dash
 - 57. *Grand Canyon state

Solution on Page 6

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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 6

2023 Best of the River Awards

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