



Sheriff's Reports

Believed they saw someone attempting to hotwire a vehicle

PAGE 3



Breaking records

Team clinched the world record, wringing 291 two-ounce eggs out of a chicken

PAGE 4



Country Kitchen

Apple time meant hours in the orchard when I was growing up

PAGE 5

Man dies in armed standoff

CAMP CREEK: Just before 10 p.m. on September 6th, the Lane County Sheriff's Office responded to a physical dispute in the 37000 block of Camp Creek Road. Family members had called police after 59-year-old Robert Gutierrez struck another family member. They also said Gutierrez had a gun and other residents of the property said they felt they were unable to leave safely.

During a phone call, a deputy made contact with at least one of the family members and developed probable cause that Gutierrez had committed crimes including Menacing, Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Physical Harassment.

Police said the initial investigation indicates that once on the scene, deputies attempted to

establish verbal contact with Gutierrez and de-escalate the situation; however he responded with profanity, and pointed a firearm at them. One deputy fired his gun, striking Gutierrez. Despite administering life saving measures, Gutierrez died from his injuries.

No deputies were physically injured during the incident. The deputy involved in the shooting has been placed on paid administrative leave.

The Lane County Interagency Deadly Force Investigation Team, comprised of investigators from outside agencies and overseen by the Lane County District Attorney's Office, is investigating the incident. The Lane County District Attorney's Office will release additional details as they become available.

A night of remembrance



A long commemorative procession of vehicles drove from Rainbow to Leaburg on Monday night to mark the first anniversary of the Holiday Farm wildfire. Participants, with emergency lights flashing, were lead by first responders. Vehicles began their drive at 8:30 p.m. - the same time the destructive blaze began on September 7th of 2020 - and ended at the western edge of the fire's burn zone. It took almost five minutes for the long string of lights to pass by onlookers.

A world of thanks - McKenzie Strong

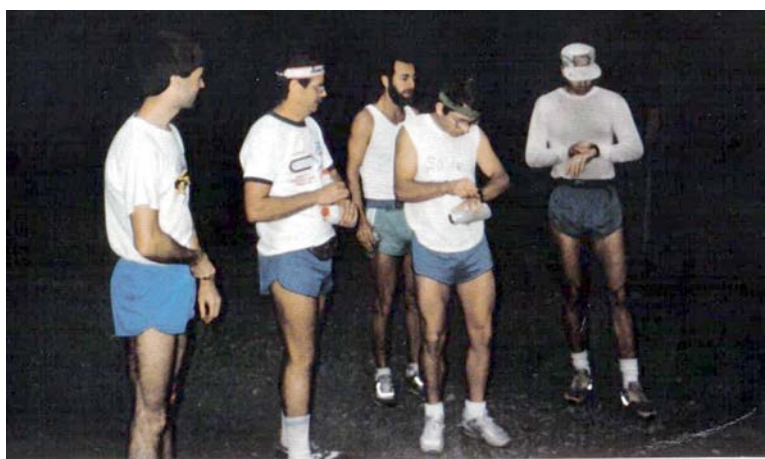
By Cliff Richardson
Monday night, September 6, the McKenzie Community came together, impressively, to commemorate the Holiday Farm Fire

which burned and overturned our beautiful River Valley and lives. The procession of around 50 emergency and personal vehicles and over one hundred residents,

staged at the old Rustic Skillet and Harbick's Country Inn parking lots, just East of where the Fire allegedly first ignited. At 8:30 p.m.,

Continued From Page 1

"First Five" got McK Run on track



The five participants in the first McKenzie River Trail Run were (from left) Jeff Sherman, Robert Cox, Phil Vaughn, George Cox, and John Postlethwait.



Thirty-four years after the initial running, the "First Five" reunited at event sponsor Alesong Brewing & Blending in Eugene during the pre-race packet pickup. COVID restrictions continue to be a factor, but closure of a four-mile section of the McKenzie River Trail (due to the Knoll Fire) meant organizers had to realign the route runners will follow when the starting gun marks the begin of this year's Run this Saturday, September 11th. Read the "First Five's" impressions on the initial event in next week's edition.

Lake shelter getting some TLC

CLEAR LAKE: Volunteers from the Colorado-based HistoriCorps and the Northwest Youth Corps have been busy as summer winds down, restoring a historic picnic shelter at the headwaters of the McKenzie River.

Details on the structure date back to the 1910's, when two companies were competing to build a hydropower site in the area. Although the Forest Service revoked that permit some cabins and outbuildings near the lake were constructed in preparation for the project.

During the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps crews constructed the picnic shelter that is still in use today. The CCC was a poverty relief program that put young men to work on public benefit projects, with local crews based at Camp Belknap, near the site of today's McKenzie River Ranger District office.

Corps members received three

square meals per day, and \$30 per month - \$25 of which was given directly to their families.

In contrast, HistoriCorps' field staff travel all across the country to lead crews of volunteers, students, and veterans in hands-on preservation work to save historic buildings and structures for public

benefit. The organization's field staff includes a wide variety of craftspeople and outdoor chefs.

"Our work is important, simply because if we forget our history, we really won't have any direction for our future," according to a HistoriCorps Project supervisor, John Bales



Work on the Clear Lake Picnic Shelter includes replacing the roof and some damaged logs as well as repairing and repointing the indoor chimney often used as a warming hut for cross-country skiers and hunters.

Letters to the Editor

Come to the Fair

The Walterville Grange would like you to join us at the 70th annual Walterville Community Fair on September 11th from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Walterville Waddle will begin at 8 a.m. (signup is online or morning of the race starting at 6:45 on location).

Fair entries (your canning, baking, garden produce, arts/crafts, photography, antiques, flowers, sewing, and handcrafts) should be brought to the hall from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and judging will start at 9:30.

The flag-raising will be held at 10 a.m. by the Boy Scouts. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. (contact Dani Wright at 541-747-4560 to enter the parade). The famous Walterville barbeque chicken dinner will begin at 11:30 for \$10 in-

cluding 1/2 chicken, corn on the cob, coleslaw, baked beans, and dessert; there will also be hotdogs for \$2 for those who prefer them. Raffle tickets for prizes will be sold and the drawing will be held at 3 p.m.

There will also be a car show, lots of local vendors to shop from during the event (table rental information available from Paula at 541-561-3407), and the Bottle Boys will be collecting bottles for donation to help rebuild upriver.

The festivities will be taking place at the Walterville Community Center located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville. We will be following all COVID-19 state-mandated mask regulations. For more information call 541-521-4760 (please leave a message - call will be returned)."

Guest Opinion

The Coming Firestorms

By Dr. Bob Zybach

Note: Zybach wrote this a year ago, following the Labor Day fires in Oregon.

The most deadly, destructive, and widespread catastrophic wildfires in Oregon's history erupted on Labor Day this year, driven by strong east winds. But unless we change how our national and state forests are managed, these events will be just another chapter in this age of predictable, increasing, and ever-greater firestorms.

I spent my career studying forest fires and forest health. For example, my doctoral dissertation from the OSU College of Forestry was titled, The Great Fires: Indian burning and catastrophic forest fire patterns of the Oregon Coast Range, 1491-1951.

In a 2018 interview, just before the California Camp Fire destroyed the town of Paradise, I said: "You take away logging, grazing, and maintenance, and you get firebombs." Then someone took my quote, pasted it on a forest fire photo, and the resulting meme quickly went viral on Facebook.

This September Facebook began flagging this post as "partly false" because my quote, and related interview, doesn't mention climate change. Evidently, Facebook's executives feel their new-found forestry judgment is better than my lifetime of scientific research and hands-on forestry experience.

The broad arc of Oregon's fire history explains why this year's catastrophic wildfires have converted our public forests into unprecedented firebombs. What were once green trees filled with water, have now become massive stands of pitchy, air-dried firewood.

For thousands of years, ancestral Oregon Indian families kept ridgeline and riparian areas open for travel, hunting, fishing, and harvesting purposes. They cleared

ground fuels by firewood gathering and seasonal fires. This created systematic firebreaks in a landscape characterized by southern balds, huckleberry fields, camas meadows, oak woodlands, and islands of mostly even-aged conifers.

Following the 1910 firestorms, the US Forest Service established a nationwide system of fire look-outs and pack trails backed up by rapid response fire suppression. This system became remarkably effective over time. From 1952 until 1987, only one forest fire in all of western Oregon was greater than 10,000 acres: the 1966 43,000-acre Oxbow Fire in Lane County.

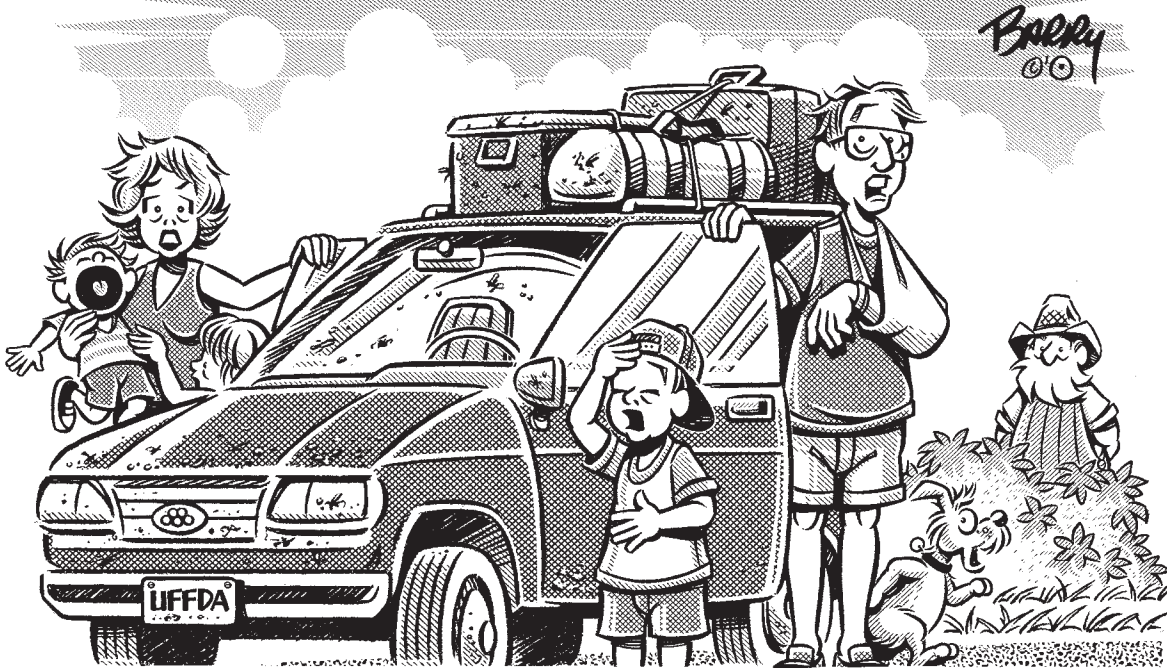
But since 1987, Oregon has had more than 30 such fires, with several larger than 100,000 acres. The 2020 Labor Day Fires alone covered more than one million acres, destroyed over 4,000 homes, caused 40,000 emergency evacuations, killed millions of wild animals, and blanketed the state with a thick, acrid smoke that obscured the sun for days.

What changed to cause this dramatic increase in catastrophic wildfire frequency and severity?

The problems began in the 1960s, with apparently well-intentioned national efforts to create large untouchable wilderness areas and cleaner air and water on our public lands.

The single biggest turning point in how public forests are managed happened on December 22, 1969: about 50 lawyers in Washington, DC created the Environmental Law Institute, and a short distance away Congress passed the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Next, the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the 1980 Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) provided the growing environmental law industry with a way to be paid by the government for challenging nearly every attempt to log or otherwise actively manage public



The END of ANOTHER MEMORABLE VACATION...

forests.

By the 1980s, the artificial creation of Habitat Conservation Plans ("HCPs") and the listing of spotted owls as an Endangered Species laid the groundwork for today's fires.

The 1994 Clinton Plan for Northwest Forests might have been the final nail in the coffin. The subsequent never-ending environmental lawsuits, new Wilderness and HCP creations, access road decommissionings, and fruitless public planning exercises have created tens of millions of acres of massive fuel build-ups and "let it burn" policies that have decimated our forests.

The predicted result has been ever-larger western Oregon forest fires. More than 90% of these large- and catastrophic-scale fires have taken place in federal forestlands, which only represent 50% of Oregon's forested areas.

Even if — like Facebook executives — you believe these fires were somehow sparked by climate change, you should be very concerned with what will happen next.

Lessons from the 1933-1951 "Six-Year Jinx" Tillamook Fires and the 1987-2018 Kalmiopsis Wilderness Fires are clear: unless removed, the dead trees resulting from these fires will fuel even greater and more severe future fires.

Forests of dead trees are far more flammable, dangerous, and unsightly than those with living trees. Dead trees dry out, and dead forests become firebombs that almost certainly will burn again and again, unless something is done.

The 2020 fire-killed trees should be mapped, sold, and harvested ASAP. Prices for Douglas fir logs are at a record high, and there is a great need for good-paying rural jobs. The initial focus should be on the dead trees east of Portland, Salem, Eugene, Ashland and the rural towns directly affected by this year's fires.

Salvage logging must be done soon to be economical: dead trees deteriorate rapidly.

The 1962 Columbus Day windstorm downed 9 billion board feet on a Friday, and by the following Monday salvage logging on

public lands had already started. But the 2002 Biscuit Fire burned a roughly equivalent amount of timber, and it took years to develop salvage logging plans and deal with court challenges.

All the delays meant salvage logging actually lost the US Forest Service money; very little needed logging was ever completed, and the 2017 Chetco Bar Fire resulted, burned hotter, and spread wider.

This year's fires killed at least twice as much timber as the 2002 Biscuit Fire, and it greatly damaged and affected urban areas near major cities. So it will be interesting to see if we can learn from Oregon's fire history and take the prompt, decisive actions needed

to avoid the clearly predictable coming firestorms.

Following a 20-year career as a successful reforestation contractor, Dr. Zybach returned to school and obtained a Ph.D. in the study of precontact Indian burning patterns and historical catastrophic wildfires of the Oregon Coast Range. His book is available here. He is the Program Manager of nonprofit educational website Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project, Inc. since its founding in 1996: and has researched and written about wildfire mitigation and reforestation in the Pacific Northwest for more than 40 years.

A world of thanks

Continued From Page 1

around the time last year's Fire started down our Valley, the procession headed west, down River, through Blue River on Blue River Drive and on toward the Leaburg end destination.

Many McKenzie Valley residents either joined the procession where their driveways intersected the McKenzie Highway or showed support with lights and car horns and heartfelt hand-waves.

Needless to say, not all of the folks remained dry-eyed, either watching or driving. As much as it was a commemoration to a historic and devastating event, the procession was equally a testament to the strength, resiliency, commitment, and compassion the McKenzie River community has

exhibited this past year.

While it felt good come together, it was as much a statement that we are not done with our recovery. Our thanks go out to the Upper and Lower McKenzie Fire and Rescue, McKenzie River Ranger District, Suulutaaq Inc., Cascade Relief Team, Lane County Sheriff Department, Oregon Department of Forestry, McKenzie Community Charter School, Lane County, Harbick's Country Inn, McKenzie CDC, LOVEfirst Disaster Relief, McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals, KEZI, KVAL, KMTR, KLCC, KKNV, River Reflections, and the incredible McKenzie Strong River Valley residents.

The "Holiday Farm Wildfire Scrapbook," with over 300 articles from River Reflections and the Register Guard, posted chronologically, have been posted to the McKenzie ClearWater Coalition website at: alturl.com/inhyn

McKenzie River Reflections

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Friday 9/10		Saturday 9/11		Sunday 9/12	
McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 79 Low: 49	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 70 Low: 40	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 0% chance precip High: 80 Low: 49	Santiam Pass Sunny 0% chance precip High: 70 Low: 40	McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 0% chance precip High: 75 Low: 47	Santiam Pass Mostly Sunny 10% chance precip High: 64 Low: 37

WEATHER REPORT					
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM			READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE		
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Riverflow
8/31	74	45	0	680 cfs	8/31 73 46 0 2,100 cfs
9/1	78	43	0	690 cfs	9/1 76 41 0 2,080 cfs
9/2	83	46	0	690 cfs	9/2 79 43 0 2,070 cfs
9/3	78	51	0	690 cfs	9/3 83 46 0 2,070 cfs
9/4	77	50	0	690 cfs	9/4 82 47 0 2,100 cfs
9/5	83	51	0	690 cfs	9/5 88 50 0 2,070 cfs
9/6	85	58	0	690 cfs	9/6 88 53 0 2,070 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Oct. 27: 8:55 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 88400 block, Gemstone Rd. A male associated with a black Nissan Sentra was seen parked at the bottom of a nearby access road. Caller believed he was possibly casing the area.

Oct. 29: 1:19 a.m: Vehicle in Water - 41100 blk, Deerhorn Rd. A Ford 250 was accidentally partially submerged in the river near the boat ramp. The owner was able to obtain a tow.

Oct. 30: 5:26 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Millican Rd. & Camp Creek Rd. Caller advised that a resident in the area has been standing in front of vehicles and confronting the drivers for driving too quickly.

Oct. 31: 6:49 p.m: Threat, Harassment - 92200 blk, Carson St. Caller advised that a tenant on a property in the area yelled and threatened the caller.

8:16 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 39400 blk Upper Camp Creek Rd. Caller advised that a juvenile relative threatened to harm the

caller with pruning shears.

Sept. 1: 12:57 p.m: Threat, Harassment - 91200 blk, Marcola Rd. Caller advised that an individual has been harassing and making threats towards the caller.

2:24 p.m: Fraud - 39900 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller advised that an online scammer attempted to obtain credit card numbers.

Sept. 2: 11:10 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 92400 blk, Marcola Rd.

12:38 p.m: Citizen Contact - 45900 blk, McK. Hwy.

1:05 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller advised that a male with black and white hair pulled over in a blue Toyota Highlander with no plates. The male then took his clothes off briefly before putting them back on and returning to the vehicle. He was reported to have been talking to himself. He was last seen driving eastbound on McK. Hwy. in the Highlander.

1:15 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 45800 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller advised of a dispute with a neighbor over floodlights. Deputies made contact and worked to resolve the dispute.

2:41p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Thurston Rd. & Billings Rd.

Caller reported that they believed they saw someone attempting to hotwire a vehicle at the location. Deputies arrived and determined no crime was being committed.

2:58 p.m: Truck Inspection - McK. Hwy. Mp. 13.

3:58 p.m: Driving While Suspended - McK. Hwy. & Upland St.

4:11 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - 37900 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

Sept. 3: 11:00 a.m: Subpoena Service - 7300 blk, Thurston Rd.

12:19 p.m: Towed Vehicle - 94900 blk, Thetford Ln.

2:32 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 39100 blk, Woods Rd.

5:54 p.m: Threat, Harassment - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

7:54 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Finn Rock Landing.

Sept. 4: 4:42 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 92200 blk, Murdoch St.

5:26 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McGowan Creek Mp. 3.5.

6:44 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McGowan Creek Mp. 8.

6:50 p.m: Person Stop - McGowan Creek Mp. 8.5.

9:08 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Mohawk River Rd. & Marcola Rd.

10:43 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Parsons Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

Sept. 5: 3:42 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury -

McGowan Creek, Mp. 6.

5:03 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 56900 blk, . Bank Rd.

5:51 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 52500 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:27 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 50400 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:05 p.m: Safety Hazard - 51200 blk, McK. Hwy.

Sept. 6: 4:15 p.m: Welfare , Check - 38200 blk, Boscage Ln.

4:39 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 50400 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:44p.m: Reckless Endangering - Proxy Falls trailhead.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Aug. 30: 19:42: 37000 block, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

13:35: 800 blk, S. C St. Medical, General. Disregarded.

14:51: McK. Hwy. Milepost 42. Medical, General. Disregarded.

18:11: 429000 blk, McK. Hwy. Lift Assist. Lifting assistance provided.

18:39: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Aug. 31: 11:53: 41000 blk,

Madrone Street Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

12:47: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Spc. 5 Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:44: 37000 blk, Worth Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

11:43: 9000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Sept. 2: 12:09: 41000 blk, Madrone Street Down Line. Investigate, Cable line down.

16:13: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. 16:13 Patient assessed, 1 Transported

16:07: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident.

Continued On Page 6

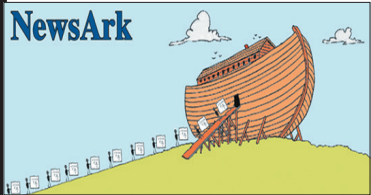
Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Sept. 2: 18:57: Motor Vehicle Accident - 56000 block, McK. Hwy. No injuries, not blocking.

Sept. 3: 10:33: Medical - 52000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Sept.4: 06:54: Deceased Subject - 51000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Not Conscious, Not Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District board of directors will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 15th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge, at 7 p.m.



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

From November 13, 1992 edition of McKenzie River Reflections

McKenzie River Reflections 25 ¢

PUBLISHED BY KEN & LOUISE ENGELMAN
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 14, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1992
SERVING THE MCKENZIE RIVER VALLEY, HOME OF HOLLES & PRISCILLA OXLEY

Eagles Ready For New Season In Basketball

The McKenzie Eagles boys basketball team pose together and present a strong front for the new season. Although recovering from the loss of the first game of the season, the Eagles are practicing hard and with determination. The roster includes: Freshmen: Martin Landwehr, Fortie Luche, Dan Mahonauke, Joe Ollman, Jon Pennington, Preston Richardson, Richard Roberts, James Taylor, Jake Walsh, Mervy Bartford, Smokey Bullock, Mel Crabbs, and Kester Curtis. Juniors: Kevin Mitchell, Greg Taylor, Fred Anderson, Kelsey Anderson, Mike Barth, Kevin Crabbie, Bob Davidson, Guy Crabbs, Brian DeVault, Matt Goff, Scott Spurr, Josh Stanber, Josh Wainwright. Seniors: Jamie Pastorino, Nate Andrews, Ryan Davidson, Devin Hill, Lew Davis, Adam Larson, Kevin Lindsey, Brian Miller.

Kintigh Family Off For D.C. With Present For First Family

President To Receive A "Bushy" Holiday Tree

A locally grown grand fir, scheduled to be the centerpiece of holiday activities at the White House, proved to be more than a beautiful holiday tree. After felling the 18 1/2 foot fir, tree grower and state senator Bob Kintigh and his crew had a few anxious moments when the bulky tree overtaxed a bundling machine at his Cedar Flat tree farm. Unable to budge it by hand, they resorted to hooking up a block and tackle to finish their packaging job.

Kintigh and his wife Margaret, as well as 13 Kintigh family members, planned to be guests on Tuesday at a reception hosted by Barbara Bush. The tree will be placed in the Blue Room of the White House as the focus of the presidential family's Christmas celebrations. An estimated 125,000 visitors to the president's residence are expected to view it over the next month.

The Lights Are Up

On December 3rd members of the McKenzie River Lions Club strung the Christmas lights and hung wreaths on the Goodpasture covered bridge. On Dec. 6th Marie and George Miller will officially turn on the lights at a gathering on the south side of the bridge. Everyone is invited to take part in this celebration of the Christmas season in the McKenzie Valley. The Late Bloomers Garden Club will be serving hot cider and cookies and the McKenzie Baptist Church choir will conduct a song-a-long. Official time for the lighting of the bridge is 5:30pm, bring your family and join in the fun.

Want To Get By? Highway 126 Readied For Widening

Passing Lanes Cost Near \$1 Million

Crews from JAL Construction of Bend have begun work on three new passing lanes being added to Highway 126. Work this week centered on widening operations near Finn Rock, where some blasting will soon occur.

According to a state Highway Division spokesman, the \$919,099.66 project is scheduled for completion by summer of 1993. In addition to the area east of milepost 38, pictured above, new lanes will be built near mileposts 22 and 23.

To download fully functioning 8-page digital files, with accessible text and images go to: alturl.com/5462h

People are paying attention to McKenzie River Reflections!

Insights

Last 28 days : Aug 7 - Sep 3 ▾

People Reached 11,110 ▲89%

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Impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire?
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By Slim Randles

Sweet transition from the heat, from the work, from the hard, rough edges of life. On we go now to autumn, to black, lacy leaves and twigs standing out against an orange sky. The mornings now have that coolness, that chill that tells us we once again have made it through the heat and toil and can sit back now and then and reflect on things.

We can think now of family, of children growing and learning. We can think of loved ones growing old and feeble, but even more beloved as we realize what treasures they are to us.

We can think back on childhood memories of lazy mornings in church, when the droning kept us in constant danger of sleep, of the smell of coffee, of the taste of purloined doughnuts and the sweet frosting on them.

We can think back to the fires of spring, when we found that love is not only terrible, but terribly exciting, too. We can reflect on moments so sacred they live only within our souls and are never expressed, because no one is good enough to put the right words to them.

We look at red barns and horses starting to shag up for winter. We think of the woods, and the deer, and the creeks running pure clear and cold with fish and quiet. The evenings now, the quiet fall evenings when we see the first star come out right over the town where it has always been and we once again ask ourselves if it has always been this way and do we make a difference, or is this simply a chance for our souls to slide through a beautiful time known as life.

We settle down now to an earlier bed time, to a later getting up time, to savoring the heat of the morning coffee as well as the smell and the taste. We look around, now that the fever of summer work has abated, and we notice people and pets and neighbors that are precious to us, and we give a little smile and nod, which means, "I love you, too."

Brought to you by The Fly Fisherman's Bucket List, published by Rio Grande books and written by Slim Randles, who had fun researching it.

Did you know...

54% of community newspapers readers trust their local newspapers more than other sources of news?

2017 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

We believe in newspapers

OSU's world-record-breaking chicken sparked a fowl feud with newspaper

By Finn J.D. John

October of 1913 was a triumphant time for Professor James Dryden, the poultry specialist at Oregon State University (or Oregon Agricultural College, as it was then called). His name was in newspapers nationwide, in glowing tribute after glowing tribute to his success.

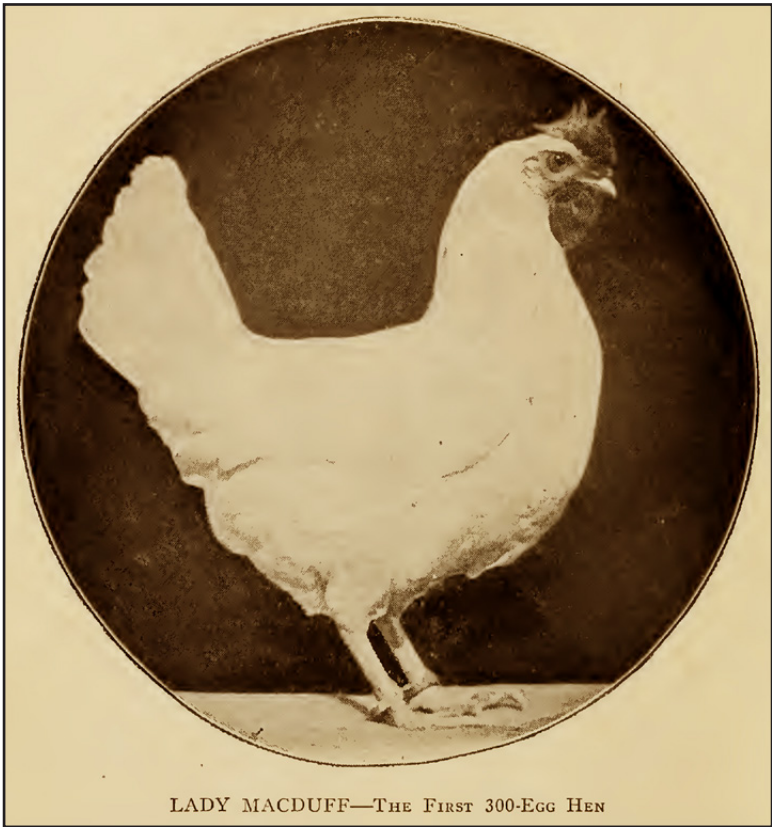
One of his experiment-station hens, the prosaically named C-521 (later renamed Lady MacDuff), had just shattered the world record for egg production with a stunning 303 eggs in a year, breaking the 300-egg barrier for the first time ever. The highest-producing non-Oregon chicken, prior to C-521's feat, was a Canadian bird that laid 281 eggs in 12 months. This was at a time when the average chicken laid 75.

There was, however, one exception to the "glowing tribute" pattern in newspaper coverage of Dr. Dryden's work. That would be the weekly Cottage Grove Leader.

"In our opinion, Prof. Dryden is impracticable, out of harmony with the country's best and most successful poultry breeders, is discouraging the great and growing poultry industry of the state and is therefore out of place at the head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry in our great educational and experimental institution, the Oregon Agricultural College," the Leader's editor raged, in its Oct. 28 issue. "We would suggest, in conclusion, that he tender his resignation."

But the Leader's somewhat one-sided feud with Dr. Dryden had been going on for several years by then. After all, no one does something like call for the resignation of a world champion, in the very hour of his triumph, on the spur of the moment. Nor does anyone do something like that as a solitary voice. The Leader was speaking for a small but influential Oregon industry ... an industry that we might call Big Chicken.

James Dryden was hired at OAC (Oregon Agricultural College) in 1907. He'd been a poultry specialist at Utah State, and had helped build the program there; now, he was given charge of the entire Poultry Husbandry department, such as it



LADY MACDUFF—THE FIRST 300-EGG HEN

Orange Judd Co.

OAC Chicken No. C-521, a.k.a. Lady MacDuff, the world's first 300-egg hen, a white leghorn-barred rock cross.

was, at OAC.

At the college, Dryden very quickly set about his quest to breed a superhen. He knew that the conventional wisdom among chicken experts was that egg laying was not a genetically transmitted characteristic. Breeding experiments at other land-grant colleges had failed to change the chickens' egg production measurably.

To Dryden, this made no sense. Some chicken breeds regularly laid 75 to 150 eggs a year, whereas the original wild chicken (the jungle fowl of India) only laid a dozen or two. Something had made leghorn and barred-rock chickens start laying 10 to 20 times as many eggs as their wild ancestors, and if that something wasn't genetics, what was it?

His theory, which he now set out to test, was that the reason for the failure of other experimenters to breed better layers was that they had been breeding for a broad array of other attributes at the same time: straighter tails, more symmetrical combs, prettier feathers, and so forth. He also noted that the previous experiments had

been with purebred chickens, which raised the possibility that inbreeding might have caused the resulting chicks to be less robust. A less robust chicken will obviously lay fewer eggs.

While these experiments were going on, Dryden started printing regular bulletins for chicken keepers. These were geared toward ordinary farmers and the few specialized poultry ranchers then in operation, and Dryden made no secret of his focus: Eggs and meat.

"To encourage the poultry industry, hundreds of poultry shows are held each year and thousands of dollars are paid in premiums and all the premiums are awarded on the basis of the American Standard of Perfection," he told a reporter on Nov. 9, 1910, according to the Medford Mail Tribune's story. "We think we are encouraging the poultry industry by paying premiums for feathers and other fancy points and for shape of body, and farmers go to the shows to purchase their breeding stock. They never suspect that the premiums indicate nothing of the egg-laying qualities

of the fowl."

"I believe," he continued, "that the farm stock, the cross-breed stock (or, shall I say, the mongrel stock) have better vitality, are more fertile, are less preyed upon by diseases and produce more eggs than the average flock of purebreds. The way to develop the poultry industry is to stop advocating purebred or standard-bred fowls for the farmer. He should decide on the type of fowl to breed and forget the names of the breed."

It was these and similar remarks that brought upon Dryden the enmity of Big Chicken, and by extension the Cottage Grove Leader. Because, of course, a number of parties were making rather a lot of money putting on all those poultry shows and fancy-chicken contests and selling Certified Deluxe Purebred Premium Chickens to farmers.

As far as I've been able to learn, the one-sided war was launched in the Jan. 3, 1910, issue of the Leader. On the top left-hand side of the front page in that issue, under the headline "JUDGE COLLIER AFTER DRYDEN: Shows Up Fallacy of OAC Bulletins on Poultry Raising," there appears an article that basically claims Dryden was just trying to get some cheap publicity -- that the OAC bulletin was the 1910s equivalent of clickbait.

The article is presented like an interview, but the entire thing after the first paragraph is one enormous quote from "Judge Collier," a poultry breeder named Harry Collier who served as contest judge for the 1909 Eugene Poultry Show.

"Men will do almost anything in order to get their names in the papers," Collier said. "Actors have been known to 'kick' their wives in order that they might get a front-page story, and I suppose we poultrymen are sometimes guilty of the same fault."

He then goes on to say that there are so many wonderful kinds of chicken available, there's no reason to have cross-breeds or mongrel chickens, and that only a fool would take such a chance.

"Where a man has a 'dunghill' flock of birds, it would help his flock to cross them with a purebred male, but I cannot see the advantage of crossing purebred fowls," he scoffed. "The man who advocates crossing purebreds is a poor man to advise farmers. ... The farmer has got the advantage of the chicken fancier's work. He can now buy any kind of fowl that

Fowl feud - P 8

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University
OSU Extension Service

Sand, silt or clay? Texture says a lot about soil

It's a simple equation: If you want to grow better plants, you first need to understand the soil.

"The texture of a soil is its proportion of sand, silt and clay," said James Cassidy, a soils instructor at Oregon State University. "Texture determines all kinds of things like drainage, aeration, the amount of water the soil can hold, erosion potential and even the amount of nutrients that can be stored."

To become better acquainted with your soil texture, he recommends using the "hand method." Dig beneath the top layer of organic matter down to the mineral soil, about 6 to 8 inches depending on how much mulch you use. Scoop out a handful of moist soil and knead it into a ball. Add water if necessary. If it can be worked into a ribbon, you have high clay content. The clay content is roughly equivalent to the length to which you can work the ribbon. Each inch of ribbon is the equivalent of up to 10% clay.

So, if you have a 4-inch ribbon, the soil could be comprised of up to 40% clay. After wetting it

excessively, if the soil feels gritty in the palm of your hand, you have sandy soil. The remainder is the silt content.

When people rave about "nice loam," it's the soil texture to which they are referring, Cassidy said.

"Loam means you have roughly equal portions of sand, silt and clay," he said. "If you have sandy loam, it has a little more sand in it. Silt loam has a little more silt in it. Clay loam has more clay in it."

Soil needs to be able to hold some water, he added, but not so much that plant roots can't breathe. A loam achieves that balance.

Clay gets a bad rap because too much of it means it holds lots of water and the soil stays wetter, colder and is difficult to work. But don't be so quick to judge clay harshly.

"In defense of clay, clay is where the nutrients in soil are stored," Cassidy said. "Sand and silt don't store nutrients; they're just rocks."

Many Willamette Valley gardeners, though, must overcome the annual challenge of soils that are high with clay.

"The answer is to add organic matter," Cassidy said.

A key way to do this is to plant cover crops through mid-

September. Plant a mix of grasses such as annual rye grass or winter wheat and legumes such as Austrian field peas or fava beans. Cut cover crops down before they go to seed in the springtime, just as they start to flower. Let the remnants rot back into the ground, and later incorporate it back into the soil.

When preparing your plot for the first time, till it lightly with a garden fork. Cassidy advises against using rototillers in a garden. Rototilling can break up large pores in the soil structure, which are key to water infiltration and drainage.

"Think minimum tillage," he said. "If the soil is a little lumpy-bumpy, just spread a layer of high-quality compost over it and it will be fine."

But if tilling seems to be the only option do it when the soil is ready, not when it is convenient for you, Cassidy advised. Wait until the soil has the right amount of moisture. If you squeeze a handful of soil and it's too hard to break, it's too dry to till. If it ruptures in the hand when squeezed, it's good to till.

Add organic matter every year and in about five years, you will build up healthy soil with improved drainage – even with a clay heavy soil.

"There are literally a billion microorganisms in a single pinch of soil and they all need to eat," said Cassidy, who teaches in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences. "They don't photosynthesize like plants do, but they need energy and that comes from organic matter. They consume energy best in well-drained soils with organic matter."

For more information, Cassidy recommends exploring the University of California, Davis's online soil maps. This tool allows you to enter the address, zip code, city or state of any location in the U.S. to bring up a map of the area and details on its soil type. You can also download a free application for iPhone and Android smartphones.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



APPLE TIME OF YEAR

Early apples from this year's crop have begun to appear in stores. Not many yet, but enough to let us know apple season is around the corner. Also, there's a nip in the air at night. Not so low that there's frost, but a definite coolness to know fall is on it's way, too. Also, a few of the trees already are beginning to change the color of their leaves.

Soon the youngsters in schools will be excited about apple picking field trips. Parents may be planning family outings to local pick-your-own orchards. Apple dishes, such as pies, apple crisp, applesauce, apple cake, muffins and more fill kitchens with enticing aromas.

Apple Picking in Childhood

Apple time meant hours in the orchard when I was growing up. Although Father was a dairy farmer, he also operated an orchard and grew apples to sell. One of my tasks was going to the orchard after school and on weekends to pick apples for our use and to send to market.

The views from the orchard were spectacular since it was near the top of the "Big Hill" on our farm. From there we could view the Hudson River Valley in the distance and, on clear days, the Catskill Mountains west of the river.

Apples - A Versatile Fruit

Apples are so very versatile. We eat them, prepare many recipes with them and even use them for crafts such as dried apple head dolls. This fruit has been

grown for ages and used in dishes throughout the world. Nowadays, with modern refrigeration and preservation methods, they're generally available year round.

Days ago, apples were cut into slices and dried for winter use. Some cooks still dry them in ovens designed particularly for preserving foods this way.

Homemade applesauce was and still is a favorite way of preparing apples for many families. This also can be canned and/or frozen. My family likes this dish throughout the year.

Chunky Apple Cake is a recipe one I acquired from a friend many years ago. I like it because it's filled with apples, so is moist and delicious.

Cream together 1/4 cup shortening, 1/3-cup sugar (you can add more if the apples are tart and you like it sweeter); add 1 beaten egg. Then stir in 3 cups peeled and diced apples, 1/4 cup chopped nuts and 1-teaspoon vanilla.

Sift together 1-cup flour, 1/2-teaspoon baking powder, 1/2-teaspoon baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg. Combine with creamed ingredients.

Bake in 8-inch pan at 350 degrees F. for 45 minutes, or until tests done. Serve warm or cool with whipped cream or ice cream. It's also good plain.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen grew up in apple and dairy country in the Hudson River Valley of NYS. E-mail: me.allen@juno.com)



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Long-Term Recovery Group hires executive director

Devin Thompson has been selected as the executive director for the newly formed McKenzie Valley Long-Term Recovery Group. Thompson started his new position on September 1.

“We are so pleased to welcome Devin as the executive director,” said Long-Term Recovery Group Board Treasurer Marilyn Cross. “His commitment to helping the McKenzie community has been apparent since he began coordinating the Vida Relief Center for fire survivors last fall. Devin has the heart and the experience we need to help the McKenzie Valley Long-Term Recovery Group support wildfire survivors.”

The McKenzie Valley Long-Term Recovery Group (MVLTRG) is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working to assist people and families as they recover from the Holiday Farm Fire.

The executive director is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization, including building the MVLTRG’s organizational structure, recruiting staff and volunteers, setting the priorities and creating a work plan to achieve the wildfire recovery support goals set by the governing board, representing the needs of McKenzie Valley residents to other agencies or service providers, and more.

Thompson brings extensive non-profit experience to the role. He has served as a board member for Northwest Youth Corps since

2016 and volunteered countless hours for McKenzie River Trust, Friends of Fish Lake, McKenzie Community Development Corporation and Friends of Awbrey Park. Professionally, Thompson served as a project manager and technical specialist in research and laboratory environments. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1990 to 1994.

Thompson previously served as a board member on the MVL-TRG; however, he stepped away from that role in order to apply for the executive director position.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Patient assessed, 1 Transported.

Sept. 3: 17:43: 38000 blk, Boscase Lane Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Sept. 4: 0:02: 39000 blk, Waltherville Lane Medical, Heart Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:24: 38000 blk, Nature’s Garden St Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Sept. 5: 22:59: 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Non-Injury, Non-Blocking.

23:34: 89000 blk, Bridge Street Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Sept. 20th, at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center.

HIDDEN GEMS

On August 21st Vida McKenzie Community Center held a Fire (pun intended) Sale at the Big Red Barn in Vida. Leanne, the owner of the venue, could not have been more generous and welcoming to us and the Community Center thanks her for such neighborliness.

The event was a great success. Throughout the day, friends, neighbors and “passers through” stopped by, shopped and chatted. The extended conversations were sweetened by pies, cookies and other treats made by Shelly Pruitt of Soft Peaks Bakery. If you haven’t tasted her “goods,” you need to look up what this local “gem” is doing.

Several seasoned locals told stories about the Big Red Barn itself: how they played music and danced there for years. One visitor and contra dance lover from Prineville chimed in, volunteering to bring her friends to Vida if dances were scheduled. That got some of us thinking. What would it take to bring music, dance and other community festivities back to the barn? Leanne and her family were most receptive to the idea and now I reach out to you.

Are you interested in square dancing, swing, contra dancing or other genre? Let me know. We can return this Hidden Gem to its former prominence in the river community. Oh, and by the way, as we build the new VMCC building, it will have a special floor, ideal for dancing...hint, hint.

Gerry Aster
541-896-3001
gerryaster@gmail.com

September 11

Waltherville Fair



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

September 18

A Dime At A Time



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

September 11

Power Outage



The Lane Electric Cooperative has scheduled an overnight outage set for next Saturday evening through Sunday morning to perform maintenance on the transmission line serving the Rainbow substation. The outage will start at 10:30 p.m. on 9/11, and end 7:30 a.m. on 9/12. In addition, crews will be working in the McKenzie River area Thursdays through Saturdays for the next three weeks removing equipment that was damaged from the wildfire. FEMA requires special handling and record-keeping in order for Lane Electric to receive reimbursement. Contact the LEC office at 541-484-1151 for more information.

Sept. 20 - Springfield School Board Meeting



7:00pm - 8:30pm. The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 pm on the 4th Monday of the month in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

September 20

McKenzie Fire District Board



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

September 15

Upper McK Fire Board



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

September 24

Fish Fry



The Vida McKenzie Community Center is teaming up with Patsy Wilson for a Free-Will Donation Fish Fry Fundraiser at Patsy’s Stage Stop Restaurant’s back patio from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 24th. This event is designed to raise funds for the rebuilding of the Community Center, destroyed in the Holiday Farm Fire. Join friends and neighbors for this family friendly event.

Grant opportunity for local artists and arts programs

The Lane Arts and Culture Coalition (LCCC) has opened its annual grant cycle and applications are available on-line at laneculter.net. To apply, an individual, a group, a non-profit, a municipality

or school district in Lane County are all eligible. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on October 15th. After visiting the website, questions about whether a project “fits” into grant guidelines



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6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth
Thurs. 6 pm - Celebrate Recovery (12-Step Program)

Catholic Church
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Sun. Morn. 9:30am;
web page: sbldodge.opwest.org

McKenzie Bridge Christian Church
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McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Worship is live-streamed, every Sunday at 10:30 am, on the Facebook page for McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Comments on Facebook are appreciated! You may also contact the church for prayer requests, to request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin, and other information. Phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person!
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

Surrounded by Betrayal

Five years ago, I started dating a guy, and after a month he revealed he was married with two children. He said he was unhappy and planned on leaving. Being young and foolish, I stayed with him for a year before realizing it would not happen.

But I formed strong attachments with him and particularly his kids, and so we remained friends. I got over him and tried to support him in his efforts to make a go of his marriage. Still, I had to push back his advances every so often.

I got to know his wife, and it turns out that, of course, she isn't the monster he described. She is a lovely person who has been lied to and made empty promises to. Much the same way I was taken in by him.

He tried to run his own business but was a hopeless spender who plunged them into debt. His wife had to refinance the house twice. He continues to lie about money, and I am convinced he's had other affairs. I know he slept with at least one other woman while he was with me.

During their marriage, his wife became depressed and took up smoking and drinking. But he managed to keep his cheating from her. They recently separated, and I am now better friends with her than I am with him.

She remains ignorant of my affair with him, and I feel terrible about it. I feel like she ought

to know. I said nothing before because I hoped the marriage would work for the children's sake.

I try to be a good friend and help her where I can, but I feel like a hypocrite.

I'm tempted to tell her everything, so she will know exactly what he is like. She deserves better, and I want her to know what a rat he is. But I can't do that without losing her friendship myself.

I'd like to think she could forgive me, but in reality, I can't be sure. I'm still close to the kids, and it would mean losing them.

But I am scared what will happen if I let something slip one day, or if someone else tells on me. There is a fair-sized group of people who know, though they have kept silent for the past five years.

It might be better to take the risk, sit her down, try to explain my mistakes, and ask for forgiveness. Is it selfish of me to want to clear my conscience when nobody stands to gain from me telling?

The marriage is over, after all, and they are coping well with sharing the kids. My friend seems much happier and has cut down on her drinking. Is the moral argument worth spoiling the peace?

Patty

Patty, let's consider this from his wife's point of view. You cheated with her husband. Then you entangled yourself into her

life and the lives of her children.

If you tell her, she will doubt herself, doubt her sanity, and know she has been made a fool of. Fooled by her husband and fooled by his mistress. She will feel you perpetrated a fraud on her.

It does not appear conscience is the issue. It appears it is the fear of being found out. Right now, this woman believes her husband caused the demise of the marriage, not another woman. The blame is where it should be, on him. Don't take that explanation away from her.

Telling her risks her thinking, No, it wasn't my husband who ruined my marriage, it was you.

What must the people who know be thinking? You are hanging out with the wife, and she doesn't know. OMG!

In one sense, you got involved with the wife and kids because it still linked you to him. In another sense, you appear to be a voyeur. You got to spy into the intimate lives of this woman and her children. How could she ever think your friendship was genuine?

You are as much in the wrong today as you were when you stayed with him, once you knew he was married. You sided with the deceiver because you thought it was to your advantage.

Do now what you should have done. Walk away from this man, his wife, and her children.

Wayne & Tamara

write: Directanswers@WayneAndTamara.com

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Jehanne Dubrow's finely crafted sonnet, her own "simple machine", reminds us so well of that moment, full of contradictory emotions, when the things we think are "unfailing", fail us. She reflects on the fear of having to put aside an old, cherished thing to acquire what she calls "clean and bright" things. In the end, time wins. The poem is from a collection of sonnets recently published in her book, Simple Machine: Sonnets.

["Sometimes we wonder what unfailing means..."]

By Jehanne Dubrow

Sometimes we wonder what unfailing means when nothing's warrantied to last. Our car breaks down among the clay-red hills, ravines unmarked. Nowhere, New Mexico. We're far from cities that we know. It takes three days to tow our brokenness across the state, driving half-speed and braking for delays, the detours up ahead. I navigate. You drive. I tell you, I want clean and bright, to trade in clattering and rubberneck for speed or just fidelity. The light is leaking from the sky, our trip a wreck. You say, repairing engines is an art— all of these small devices split apart.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2020 by Jehanne Dubrow, ["Sometimes we wonder what unfailing means..."] from Simple Machine: Sonnets, (University of Evansville Press, 2020.) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 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.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River below Leaburg Dam – 2,000.

Fish Counts

September 2, Willamette Falls
Fall Chinook – 2,259
Summer Steelhead – 1,517

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Personal

The Leaburg Sew & So's will meet again on Monday afternoons when the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Center re-opens for community activities. Call Sara at 541-896-3059 for more information.

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

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A Moment in Oregon History
By Rick Steber (www.rick-steber.com)

September 9 - The range of mountains dividing Oregon north to south in two unequal portions, was first sighted by white men in 1792 when members of British naval officer Captain George Vancouver's crew ascended the Columbia River and sighted what they termed a "snowy range" of mountains to the east. The Lewis and Clark Expedition simply referred to the range as the "Western Mountains." Hall Kelley, a promoter of Oregon but a man who never set foot in Oregon, attempted to name the mountains the "President's Range" and proposed the seven highest peaks bear the names of notable presidents. But it was David Douglas, the naturalist, botanist and world traveler, who chose the name that has endured – the Cascade Range.

Quote of the Week

"Well, it took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball, and I did it in one afternoon on the golf course."

Hank Aaron

Fowl feud

Continued From Page 4



Oregon State University
Poultry professor James Dryden as he appeared in the late 1910s.

he desires and he is very foolish to try and cross-breed the purebred when he can buy now any kind of fowl he wants.”

“The Judge” then finished off with some remarkably condescending advice for the edification of those ignorant college-boy meddlers: “If OAC wants to do something for the farmer, let them impress him with the fact that he wants to build better houses for his poultry ... Let them study the mortality in fowl life here in Oregon and teach the farmer how to prevent roup and kindred diseases. There is lots to be done. This trying to get notoriety by attacking some well-known principle is foolish in the extreme. It makes the college the laughingstock of those who know better and at the same time makes the poultrymen treat anything coming from the college with indifference or contempt.”

Thus spake Big Chicken!

The rest of Oregon’s agricultural community, though, was noticeably unimpressed by these arguments. Obviously, farmers weren’t keeping chickens for ornamental reasons. If OAC had taken “Judge” Collier’s advice and quit telling farmers how to increase egg yields in favor of some platitudes about quality chicken coops and sanitation practices, there probably would have been a revolt.

Over the next few years, Dryden and his college moved from win to win. By 1911 it was clear that he was right about genetics and egg-laying. In December two of his chickens came within 9 percent of the world record, which at the time was 282 eggs in 12 months, held by an Ontario Agricultural College chicken. Dryden’s Chicken No. A-122, a purebred barred rock, laid 259, and Chicken A-61, a barred rock-white leghorn cross, laid 257.

The next year Dryden & Co. fixed up a rail car as a mobile poultry demonstration and toured

the state with it, letting everyone see the state’s champion chicken alongside an apparently identical barred rock that laid only 44 eggs in the time A-122 laid 257. Dryden’s point was that if farmers don’t know each hen’s individual output, they can’t make good decisions about which chickens to continue feeding and which to turn into chicken soup, and the low-output layers will offset the high-output layers.

“DemonstrationisaRevelation,” the Capital Journal wrote in a long sub-headline about the display. “Two Hens Looking Just Alike Show Different Records -- One is a Homebody and Produces 240 Eggs, While Her Flirtatious Sister Devotes Time to Lunches, Suppers, Late Dinners and Such and Gives Up 44.”

“The poorer layer had a saucy, wear-your-hat-on-the-back-of-your-head sort of look and somehow reminded one of Mrs. Jack Cudahy,” the reporter wrote, in a reference to a famously flirty Kansas City society woman whose millionaire husband had just attempted to murder one of her male friends in a jealous rage. “Another of the same breed, but evidently with equal-suffrage ideas about oviparity, deposited only six of the shell-covered bird seeds in 12 months.”

The following year, Dryden and his team finally clinched the world record, wringing 291 two-ounce eggs out of a chicken named C-543 in the course of the year that ended on Oct. 15, 1913. In the meantime, chicken C-521 (Lady MacDuff) was at 279 eggs and counting, with 30 more days in her 12 months; barring some kind of freak incident, the college was about to break both C-543’s record and the 300-egg barrier.

This, of course, happened, right on schedule in early November.

Newspapers around the state and beyond metaphorically threw their hats in the air.

“OREGON’S GREAT

RECORD-MAKING HEN ONLY ONE OF FLOCK,” The Sunday Oregonian shouted above a photo spread covering most of Page Two. And, later, “DEVELOPMENT OF BREED OF HENS WITH SPECIAL ABILITY TO PRODUCE EGGS DRAWS WORLD’S ATTENTION TO OREGON.”

“HEN C-543 WORTH HER WEIGHT IN GOLD: Oregon Chicken is World Beater,” the Portland Journal proclaimed, following up with a glowing comment on the editorial page headlined “THE CORVALLIS WONDER.”

Well ... most of the newspapers did. At least one did not.

At the Cottage Grove Leader, the coverage of Dryden’s triumph was almost whiplash-inducing. On the front page, reasonably prominently placed, was an article headlined “OREGON HEN MAKES WORLD MARK.” It was a short but straightforward account of C-543’s feat. But in the same issue, on the editorial page, under a headline reading “Pure Breeds vs. Mongrels,” editor W.C. Conner really cuts loose. And it’s this article that led Dryden to actually complain to the Leader two weeks later, prompting the newspaper’s call for his resignation.

The fascinating thing about this particular moment in the chicken battle is, up to this point it had not been entirely clear why the Leader was so intransigently opposed to Dryden’s efforts to improve chickens’ egg-laying qualities. It had quoted and supported poultry breeders, chicken-show judges, and other interested parties whose business models were threatened by the new attitude, and it stuck by them even when their position was obviously contrary to the best interests of most ordinary chicken keepers. Why?

Because, as it turned out, chicken C-521 was a cross-breed, and Conner was a eugenics fanatic, and -- well, let’s let him explain: (Bear with me here, Conner’s editorial writing style was turgid and soporific even by 1910s standards.)

“The Leader would refrain from unjust criticism of any state educational institution or its management or the work of any department thereof,” the editorial begins, “but it seems to us that the highest ideals should be fostered in these institutions and all standards of excellence upheld and maintained. And while this object may generally prevail at these educational institutions, we are unable to understand wherein the management of the poultry department at OAC expect to better or advance the great poultry industry of the country by perpetually idealizing and exploiting mongrel strains and breeds of chickens, when perfection in the various standard bred fowls is what every prominent and successful breeder in the country is striving for.”

The editorial goes on to revisit “Judge” Collier’s comments from three years previously, ranting tediously that chicken race-mixing is “not supported by national or international contests

and the poultry records, nor by facts, figures, or Nature’s laws.”

“The fact is,” the editorial continues, a few paragraphs later, “it would be just as reasonable to advocate the production of superior dairy herds by a conglomeration of cattle breeds, or superior horses by a mixture of Clyde, Belgian and Percheron, and so on down the line. This would mean an inevitable return in time to the razor-back hog and the inferior and mongrel breeds found a few decades ago in their native state before they were bred up to the present excellent standards by man.”

And then, finally, Conner makes his true objection to cross-bred chickens plain: He sees it as a form of miscegenation:

“Of course, you might improve the characteristics and the qualifications of the Chinese or Africans by the infusion of the white race,” he writes, “but it would be mighty hard on the Caucasians.”

Ouch. At least he didn’t use racial slurs.

Whether this exhibition of racism and enthusiasm for eugenics played as awkwardly in 1913 as it does today is very doubtful; such ideas were almost mainstream back then. But, it has to have been pretty obvious to everyone reading the Leader that its editor had become obsessed and was no longer talking any kind of sense. The fancy-chicken breeders and county-fair judges might have been going along with him, for business reasons; but nearly every other reader must have thought the guy had flipped his wig. The local college had set a new world record and set the entire country talking about Oregon chickens, and all that seemed to matter to the Cottage Grove Leader was the purity of the chickens’ bloodstock?

In any case, as far as I have been able to learn, the Leader retreated from the field after this engagement. Eighteen months later, editor Conner sold the paper to W.H. Tyrrell, a newspaperman from Iowa; and two months after that, Tyrrell, having found that Conner had misrepresented the business’s balance sheets, merged the paper into the rival Cottage Grove Sentinel. The last issue of the Leader was published in August of 1915.

As for Dryden, in 1916 his book, Poultry Breeding and Management, was published to enormous acclaim. It became the most important chicken-farming textbook of the inter-war period. OSU’s poultry building, a classic brick structure built in 1927, was named Dryden Hall to honor him.

Today, thanks largely to Dryden’s work, the average egg-breed hen lays 200 to 250 eggs a year. The world record for egg laying is currently held by an Australian chicken, which in 1979 laid 371 eggs in 365 days.

(Sources: “Corvallis chicken sets 1913 world record,” an article by Kristine Deacon posted July 1, 2021, on the Oregon State Archives Facebook page; Poultry Breeding and Management, a book by James Dryden published in 1916 and 1920 by Orange Judd Co.; archives of Cottage Grove Leader, Cottage Grove Sentinel, Portland Morning Oregonian, Oregon Journal, Medford Mail Tribune, and Capitol Journal, 1908-1915)

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