



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

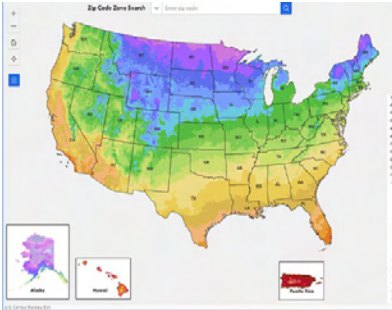
OSP Report

The occupants of a red SUV were yielding off the shoulder when a motorhome traveling eastbound rear-ended them.

PAGE 3

Plant hardiness map

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released its new Plant Hardiness Zone Map



PAGE 5

Festivities are underway

More is planned for Holiday season

Local events got underway last week at both ends of the River, with a fair in Walterville and a dinner in Rainbow.

More is planned next month, starting with the Walterville Grange hosting its annual Holiday Dinner and Open House on December 2nd. The Holiday Dinner and Open House will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, with doors open at 6 and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program will start at 7:30 PM.

Upriver, a raft parade float will be part of the Holiday Bridge Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 9th, in Rainbow. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. and will include Christmas Caroling. Back inside the Upper McKenzie Community Center Santa plans to show up to help people enjoy another Holiday Potluck.



© Keri Fountain

Walterville Elementary was the place to be last Wednesday during the school's Fall Fair. Families Featuring turned out for a night of food trucks, carnival games, a cake walk, a prize store, and more.



Local first responders, police, and firefighters were the focus of last Saturday's Thankful Potluck at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. Participants were encouraged to write or draw notes of thanks that will be displayed as a flag.

Christmas search is on

Sixth annual Ornament Hunt is underway



Eagle-eyed hikers who make a find like this can register to win this year's grand prize.

Sharp-eyed folks can be rewarded if luck is with them on their hikes. Starting last Friday, two hundred locally crafted wooden ornaments were hidden along trails across the Willamette National and Umpqua National Forests.

The annual Willamette Valley Ornament Hunt is now in its sixth year and will run until December 31st.

People who locate them can register to win this year's grand prize, which includes a two-night getaway in the Willamette Valley.

Locally, some ornaments were placed on the McKenzie River Trail between Tamolitch (Blue Pool) and Sahalie Falls #3507.

Others can be found on the Waterfalls Loop Trail #3503 or along the southern

portion of the McKenzie River Trail #3507 below the Frissell Boat Launch. Others were placed on the King-Castle Trail #4326.

The tradition was born in 2018 when the Willamette National Forest provided the Capitol Christmas Tree in Washington D.C. For more information visit <https://willamettevalley.org/ornament>.

Wildfire recovery program helped hundreds of households

Despite \$150 million in recovery, many are far from whole

By Ben Botkin  
Oregon Capital Chronicle  
More than 1,100 Oregon households have received help from a \$150 million wildfire recovery program the state set up after residents lost their homes during the devastating 2020 Labor Day fires.

Three years later, the area is still recovering from the wildfires, which burned more than 1 million acres and destroyed or heavily damaged more than 4,300 homes in an eight-county region of Oregon. A full recovery is still years away.

Since the fall of 2021, the Oregon Housing & Community Services agency has used or committed all \$150 million for the wildfire recovery program that lawmakers appropriated to help Oregonians obtain temporary housing, receive a new home, or find affordable housing, the agency said in a state report released Monday.

The final report focuses on \$35.3 million of the money, which has helped 1,146 households with temporary assistance, a full recovery

or both. Of that group, 867 households fully recovered from the wildfires, usually with the construction of a home or the purchase of one. There also were 450 households that received temporary housing, such as short-term rentals or motel rooms and other housing assistance.

"Thanks to a tremendous amount of work by our local partners, over a thousand families were served, including hundreds who were able to achieve full recovery," Lauren Dressen, chief recovery-

Wildfire recovery- Page 8



Steve Severin

The Holiday Farm Fire was one of five mega-fires that spread in Oregon over Labor Day weekend in 2020. More than 500 structures were destroyed or heavily damaged. structures were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Does your car have grip?

With traction tires you have options

When considering traction tires for winter travel, the Oregon Dept. of Transportation is reminding motorists that they have several alternatives. Because studded tires damage pavement, ODOT encourages drivers to consider using chains or non-studded traction tires.

"Traction tires" are studded tires, retractable studded tires, or other tires that meet the tire industry definition as suitable for use in severe snow conditions. Tires that meet Rubber Manufacturers Association standards for use in severe snow conditions carry a special symbol on the tire sidewall: a three-peaked mountain and snowflake. Research shows these tires provide better traction than studded tires on bare pavement.

People can use studded tires in Oregon from November 1st through March 31st. Remember, driving with



Travel over the Santiam Pass last weekend was slowed as people make sure their tires were up t the task.

studded tires outside that window is a Class C violation and carries a fine of nearly \$200.

Mindy McCartt, ODOT's Region 2 public information officer notes that research shows that studded tires are more effective than all-weather tires on icy roads but are less effective in most other conditions because they may reduce traction between the road and the tire.

"Studies conducted by ODOT and others show that studded tires damage roads," McCartt said. "Our most recent study concluded that studded tires cost Oregon more than \$8.5 million per year because roadways required repaving earlier than they normally would be."

Visit [TripCheck.com](https://tripcheck.com), for up-to-the-minute road conditions and more information.



# Letters to the Editor

## A Thanksgiving opportunity

An artificial intelligence program recently predicted that most of the world will be vegan by 2075. That’s good news, but there’s no reason we have to wait that long. We can use our own good ol’ fashioned intelligence right now, and choose vegan foods—which are cholesterol-free, typically low in saturated fat, and rich in fiber and other essential nutrients. Each vegan spares an estimated 200 animals every year from terrify-

ing, painful deaths, and research shows that vegans are responsible for 75% less greenhouse gas emissions than people who eat lots of meat and other animal-based foods.

Let’s do our part and use our heads—for animals, the environment, and ourselves—and go vegan today. See [www.PETA.org](http://www.PETA.org) to read about all the other reasons to leave animals off our plates and order a free vegan starter kit.

Heather Moore  
The PETA Foundation  
Norfolk, VA

## Guest Opinion

### Two Thanksgiving Day gentlemen

O. Henry

There is one day that is ours. There is one day when all we Americans who are not self-made go back to the old home to eat saleratus biscuits and marvel how much nearer to the porch the old pump looks than it used to. Bless the day. President Roosevelt gives it to us. We hear some talk of the Puritans, but don’t just remember who they were. Bet we can lick ‘em, anyhow, if they try to land again. Plymouth Rocks? Well, that sounds more familiar. Lots of us have had to come down to hens since the Turkey Trust got its work in. But somebody in Washington is leaking out advance information to ‘em about these Thanksgiving proclamations. The big city east of the cranberry bogs has made Thanksgiving Day an institution. The last Thursday in November is the only day in the year on which it recognizes the part of America lying across the ferries. It is the one day that is purely American. Yes, a day of celebration, exclusively American. And now for the story which is to prove to you that we have traditions on this side of the ocean that are becoming older at a much rapider rate than those of England are—thanks to our git-up and enterprise. Stuffy Pete took his seat on the third bench to the right as you enter Union Square from the east, at the walk opposite the fountain. Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years he had taken his seat there promptly at 1 o’clock. For every time he had done so things had happened to him—Charles Dickensy things that swelled his waistcoat above his heart, and equally on the other side. But to-day Stuffy Pete’s appearance at the annual trysting place seemed to have been rather the result of habit than of the yearly hunger which, as the philanthropists seem to think, afflicts the poor at such extended intervals.

Certainly Pete was not hungry. He had just come from a feast that had left him of his powers barely those of respiration and locomotion. His eyes were like two pale

gooseberries firmly imbedded in a swollen and gravy-smear mask of putty. His breath came in short wheezes; a senatorial roll of adipose tissue denied a fashionable set to his upturned coat collar. Buttons that had been sewed upon his clothes by kind Salvation fingers a week before flew like popcorn, strewing the earth around him. Ragged he was, with a split shirt-front open to the wishbone; but the November breeze, carrying fine snowflakes, brought him only a grateful coolness. For Stuffy Pete was overcharged with the caloric produced by a super-bountiful dinner, beginning with oysters and ending with plum pudding, and including (it seemed to him) all the roast turkey and baked potatoes and chicken salad and squash pie and ice cream in the world. Wherefore he sat, gorged, and gazed upon the world with after-dinner contempt. The meal had been an unexpected one. He was passing a red brick mansion near the beginning of Fifth avenue, in which lived two old ladies of ancient family and a reverence for traditions. They even denied the existence of New York, and believed that Thanksgiving Day was declared solely for Washington Square. One of their traditional habits was to station a servant at the postern gate with orders to admit the first hungry wayfarer that came along after the hour of noon had struck, and banquet him to a finish. Stuffy Pete happened to pass by on his way to the park, and the seneschals gathered him in and upheld the custom of the castle. After Stuffy Pete had gazed straight before him for ten minutes he was conscious of a desire for a more varied field of vision. With a tremendous effort he moved his head slowly to the left. And then his eyes bulged out fearfully, and his breath ceased, and the rough-shod ends of his short legs wriggled and rustled on the gravel. For the Old Gentleman was coming across Fourth avenue toward his bench.

Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years the Old Gentleman had come there and found Stuffy Pete on his bench. That was a thing that the Old Gentleman was try-

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

**McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week**

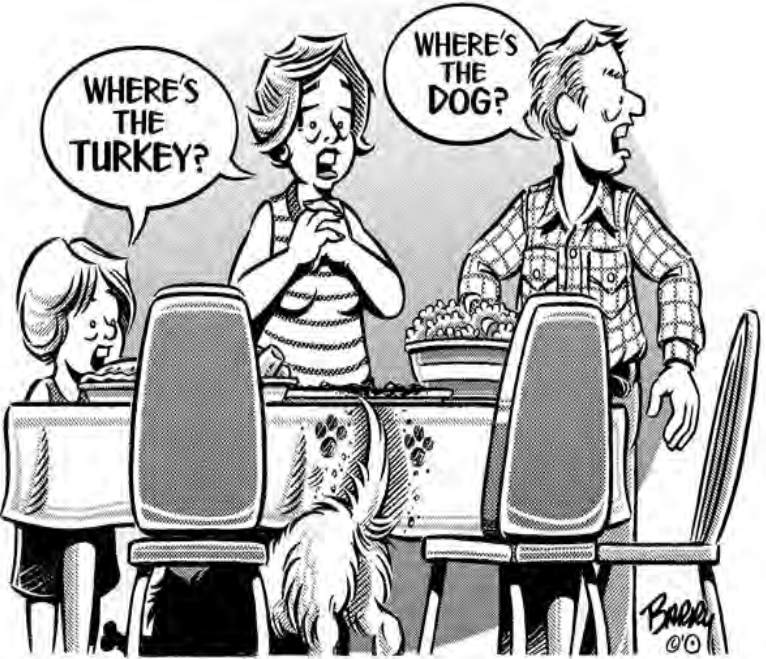
There are no McKenzie Varsity Sports Scheduled for this week.

**Lowell In 2A Football Championship Upsets Upend 1A Six-man**

The Class 2A 3rd ranked eleven man Lowell football team slipped down Highway 58 and over across town to Willamette High School last Saturday, November 18, where they toed up to the 2nd ranked Oakers out of Oakland.

The Red Devils blistered the Douglas County boys with a 32-18 upset victory! The win propelled Lowell into the 2023 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union 2A Football State Championship Title game versus the top ranked Weston McEwen/Griswold crew, 55-39 victors over 4th ranked Regis.

ing to make a tradition of. Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years he had found Stuffy there, and had led him to a restaurant and watched him eat abig dinner. They do those things in England unconsciously. But this is a young country, and nine years is not so bad. The Old Gentleman was a staunch American patriot, and considered himself a pioneer in American tradition. In order to become picturesque we must keep on doing one thing for a long time without ever letting it get away from us. Something like collecting the weekly dimes in industrial insurance. Or cleaning the streets. The Old Gentleman moved, straight and stately, toward the Institution that hewas rearing. Truly, the annual feeding of Stuffy Pete was nothing national in its character, such as the Magna Charta or jam for breakfast was in England. But it was a step. It was almost feudal. It showed, at least, that a Custom was not impossible to New Y—ahem!—America. The Old Gentleman was thin and tall and sixty. He was dressed all in black, and wore the old-fashioned kind of glasses that won’t stay on your nose. His hair was whiter and thinner than it had been last year, and he seemed to makemore use of his big, knobby cane with the crooked handle. As his established benefactor came up Stuffy wheezed and shuddered like some woman’s over-fat pug when a street dog bristles up at him. He would have flown, but all the skill of Santos-Dumont could not have separated him from his bench. Well had the myrmidons of the two old ladies done their work. “Good morning,” said the Old Gentleman. “I am glad to perceive that the vicissitudes of another year have spared you to move in health about the



The Championship game will be played at Hillsboro Stadium this Saturday, November 25. Lowell is 11-1 overall this season and Weston McEwen/Griswold is undefeated thus far with an 11-0 overall record.

In the Class 1A (6 man ranks), 10th ranked Echo (8-3) upset 3rd ranked Elkton, 34-19 and 4th ranked Joseph (9-1) upset top-ranked Prairie City/Burnt River, 33-19. The two winners will settle the Championship with the game scheduled at Hermiston, next

Saturday, November 25.

Lost River (10-0), the State’s number one ranked eight man team easily dispatched 5th ranked St. Paul last Saturday, with 54-39 victory and over on the other side of the bracket, 2nd ranked Crane (10-0) squeezed by 3rd ranked Myrtle Point, 28-22, to earn the opportunity to face Lost River for all the marbles. That battle of the “unbeatens” is scheduled for Saturday, November 25, at Caldera High School in Bend.

beautiful world. For that blessing alone this day of thanksgiving is well proclaimed to each of us. If you will come with me, my man, I will provide you with a dinner that should make your physical being accord with the mental.”



That is what the old Gentleman said every time. Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years. The words themselves almost formed an Institution. Nothing could be compared with them except the Declaration of Independence. Always before they had been music in Stuffy’s ears. But now he looked up at the Old Gentleman’s face with tearful agony in his own. The fine snow almost sizzled when it fell upon his perspiring brow. But the Old Gentleman shivered a little and turned his back to the wind. Stuffy had always wondered why the Old Gentleman spoke his speech rather sadly. He did not know that it was because he was wishing every time that he had a son to succeed him. A son who would come there after he was gone—a son who would stand proud and strong before some subsequent Stuffy, and say: “In memory of my father.” Then it would be an Institution. But the Old Gentleman had no relatives. He lived in rented rooms in one of the decayed old family brownstone mansions in one of the quiet streets east of the park. In the win-

ter he raised fuchsias in a little conservatory the size of a steamer trunk. In the spring he walked in the Easter parade. In the summer he lived at a farmhouse in the New Jersey hills, and sat in a wicker armchair, speaking of a butterfly, the ornithoptera amphrisius, that he hoped to find some day. In the autumn he fed Stuffy a dinner. These were the Old Gentleman’s occupations. Stuffy Pete looked up at him for a half minute, stewing and helpless in his own self-pity. The Old Gentleman’s eyes were bright with the giving-pleasure. His face was getting more lined each year, but his little black necktie was in as jaunty a bow as ever, and the linen was beautiful and white, and his gray mustache was curled carefully at the ends. And then Stuffy made a noise that sounded like peas bubbling in a pot. Speech was intended; and as the Old Gentleman had heard the sounds nine times before, he rightly construed them into Stuffy’s old formula of acceptance.

“Thankee, sir. I’ll go with ye, and much obliged. I’m very hungry, sir.” The coma of repletion had not prevented from entering Stuffy’s mind the conviction that he was the basis of an Institution. His Thanksgiving appetite was not his own; it belonged by all the sacred rights of established

**Thanksgiving gentlemen - Page 9**



Friday 11/24



McKenzie Valley  
Sunny  
10% chance precip  
High: 51 Low: 28

Santiam Pass  
Sunny  
5% chance precip  
High: 33 Low: 20



Saturday 11/25



McKenzie Valley  
Sunny  
10% chance precip  
High: 48 Low: 29

Santiam Pass  
Sunny  
5% chance precip  
High: 37 Low: 22

Sunday 11/26



McKenzie Valley  
Mostly Sunny  
10% chance precip  
High: 48 Low: 33

Santiam Pass  
Mostly Sunny  
5% chance precip  
High: 42 Low: 27

MRR

McKenzie River Reflections



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WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
11/14	53	41	0.12	422 cfs	11/14	57	42	0	3,460 cfs
11/15	57	46	0	NA	11/15	51	44	0.06	3,170 cfs
11/16	54	37	0	401 cfs	11/16	65	44	t	2,950 cfs
11/17	54	36	0	365 cfs	11/17	57	38	0	2,670 cfs
11/18	54	43	1.18	365 cfs	11/18	57	39	0.02	2,620 cfs
11/19	47	37	0	370 cfs	11/19	54	40	0.95	3,000 cfs
11/20	51	36	0	375 cfs	11/20	53	33	0.11	3,020 cfs



## Sheriff's Report

**Nov. 14: 10:32 a.m:** Alarm - 34400 blk, McK. View Dr.

**5:30 p.m:** Welfare Check - 88800 blk, Twin Firs Rd.

**5:48 p.m:** Dead Animal - 37200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**6:32 p.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - 43900 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:07 p.m:** Alarm - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

**9:28 p.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 38700 blk, E. Cedar Flat Rd.

**Nov. 15: 1:23 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:38 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Buck Point Way.

**2:53 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Buck Point Way.

**3:00 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:13 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. mp 27.

**5:25 a.m:** Attempt To Locate

Drunk Driver - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**5:46 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

**6:28 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. mp 33.

**Nov. 16: 1:09 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Old Mohawk Rd. & Hill Rd.

**1:30 a.m:** Gunshot Wound - Old Mohawk Rd. & Hill Rd.

**11:33 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - Silver Creek Landing.

**Nov. 17: 4:44 p.m:** ATL Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

**5:56 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 93300 blk, Holland Ln.

**Nov. 18: 10:34 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 38100 blk, McK. Hwy.

**1:42 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**11:46 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Shotgun Creek Rd.

**Nov. 19: 9:10 a.m:** Theft - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:06 p.m:** Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. Milepost 50.

**5:13 p.m:** Animal Complaint - 90100 blk, Hill Rd.

**6:15 p.m:** Suspicious Subject - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

**Nov. 20: 5:10 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 48500 blk, McK. Hwy.**5:53 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

**6:25 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 88900 blk, Marcola Rd.

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

## State Police Report

**Nov. 18: 15:11:** Crash, Injury - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 36. Troopers responded to a two-vehicle minor injury crash. The occupants of a red SUV were yielding off the shoulder when a motorhome traveling eastbound rear-ended them. The two occupants of the SUV were transported to Riverbend for evaluation. Fire/EMS responded as well as a tow at the owner's request. Involved: red Subaru Forester, white motorhome, 42-year-old and 75-year-old females from Eugene, 28-year-old male from Coos Bay.

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## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Nov. 13: 18:39:** 44000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 14: 4:28:** 88000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**10:58:** 46000 blk, Goodpasture Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 15: 11:56:** 9000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**14:45:** 40000 blk, Potter Creek Ln Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov.16: 1:09:** Old Mohawk/Hill Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded.

**7:47:** 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. False Alarm. Disregarded Prior To Arrival.

**9:12:** 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**11:27:** 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd.. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**16:53:** 42000 blk, Holden Creek Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**20:19:** 89000 blk, Greenwood Dr Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**23:42:** 88000 blk, Missy Ln Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 18: 11:59:** 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**15:09:** 49000 blk, McK. Hwy.

Motor Vehicle Accident. Patients Assessed, 2 Transported.

**17:13:** 88000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 19: 9:07:** 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, General. Lift Assist.

**10:32:** 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General.. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.**

## Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Nov. 16: 09:09:** Medical - 49000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**12:25:** Medical - 91000 blk, Horse Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

**21:08:** Medical - 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Nov. 18: 08:04:** Medical - 58000 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller needing medic for mother.

**15:07:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. 2 occupants, request medics. Not blocking traffic, on shoulder.

**Nov. 20: 09:12:** Medical - 54000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.**

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

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By Slim Randles

Alphonse Wilson here, you know ... yore pal Windy? And I’m here to set the record straight, once and forever more, on turkeys.

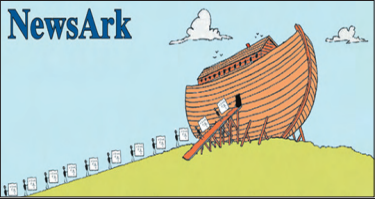
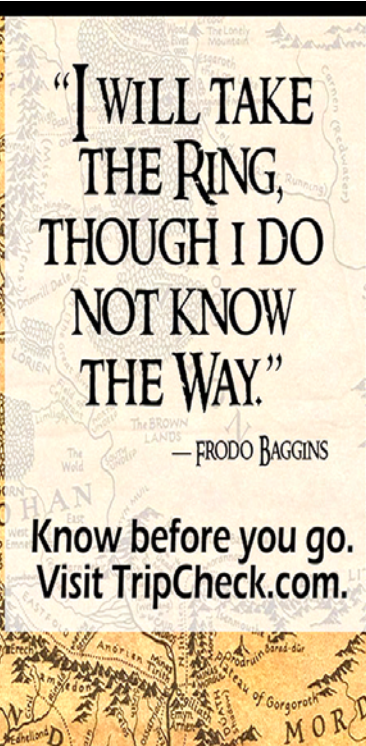
Now for those folks out there who think a turkey is something hot and brown and tasty and is full of stuffing, this here’ll come as a shock. You see, before he becomes a tasteful delicacy, the turkey is a big ol’ bird who lives in the woods, or on a farm, and ain’t too awful smart, neither. Iffen a turkey was smart, we’d probably have to eat vegetables for Thanksgiving. Now that’s a fact. Truth be told, if you had a big ol’ dial thingie with Alfred Linestein on one end of the smart meter ... you know, like to measure who is the intellectual prairie fire and who ain’t? ... wellsir, at the very other end of that dial you’d have a flat brown rock, and then, ‘way off in the distance ... the other side of the rock, there’d be a turkey.

And that there turkey’d be there all by hisself, too. So you might think he’d get kinda lonesome out there all solitaried, right? Nossir. That’s ‘cause he ain’t smart enough to get lonesome.

Ain’t but two things a turkey can do proper, folks. Just two, and you can take this to the blank, too. For one thing, he companionizes right well with cranberry sauce twice or once a year. Yes he does. And for another? Well, he just might make a likely candidate for the United States Congress of America!

And you can tell ‘em I said so.

-----  
This year, disguise your turkey as something that doesn’t taste as good. You know, like a porcupine, or squash. Ideas at [www.simpleeverydaymom.com](http://www.simpleeverydaymom.com).



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

# INDIAN PUPPIES

Lane County Historian  
XXXVI, #1, Spring 1991

By Manena Schwering  
as told to Ray Nash

When I was a very, very young child my mother and father were operating a hotel in Blue River, mostly for the benefit of miners and people who worked at the Blue River mines. The hotel in 1909 kept my parents very busy, so at age four I spent a great deal of time with my grandparents, Samuel and Robenia Sparks, who lived in their old log homestead house about a half mile west of the community of Blue River. I think they enjoyed having me as much as I enjoyed being with them.

During the early part of the century, there were a great many Indians who made the trip from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation crossing the McKenzie Pass coming over to fish for salmon down around the Hendricks Bridge area. They would sometimes spend three weeks to a month fishing for salmon, and the Indian men would quite often pick hops in the hop yards in the Thurston and Waltherville areas.

The two or three fenced fields immediately west of the ranch house where my grandparents lived were a regular stopping place for Indians. They liked to stop for overnight camping, because it was a place for their stock, and they could buy hay from Grandfather. They would camp on their way downriver and stop again on their way back.

The morning after one of these occasions my grandfather began to notice the sound of little puppies whining and whimpering, and it seemed to be coming from under his house. He immediately guessed that one of the many dogs around the Indian encampment had probably crawled under the old house and had puppies, because, as usual, the encampment was overrun with dogs.

So he went outside to see if

there was any way he could get under the house or to the source of the disturbance. But he could see there was no way he could get to them because the house was built right close to the ground, and, of course, he was quite a large man. The puppies were evidently well back under the house.

He decided to walk down to the Indian encampment and find somebody who might know what could be done. He asked around to see if there was a dog missing, or if anybody knew if there might be a little dog that was expecting. Sure enough, there was an Indian dog that was just exactly in that condition, so he talked to the owner who came out to meet him.

The man said, “Well, I’ll tell you what we’d better do. I can’t very well take that dog and those puppies along with us. They’ll only be a few hours old. But, if you would be willing to feed the dog and take care of her until I come back here in probably about three weeks, then I’ll stop and get her on my way back to the reservation.”

My grandfather said, well, he guessed maybe he could do that. So they made a deal, and my grandfather said, “Now you will stop on your way back and get her? Because I don’t want a female dog and a bunch of puppies.”

So the Indian said OK, he’d do that.

In about three or four weeks, after the Indians had fished for their salmon and got their vacation over with, they came back. The Indian, sure enough, came up to see Grandfather. He said he had stopped by to pick up his dog so they went out to investigate how they were going to get under the house to get that dog out.

Well, it proved to be something of a puzzle. In those days, you know, there was not much of a foundation built under houses. It was a big old two-story log house, and it was only about six inches off the ground ..... just built on a

few rocks.

So Grandfather and the Indian talked about it for a while, and they went into the house to see if they could locate the puppies. They could hear the puppies mew-ing and whining and determined that they were almost in front of the fireplace.

My grandfather and the Indian agreed that the only thing they could do was for Grandfather to take up a section of the floor in the living room in front of the fireplace. So they went out in my grandfather’s wood shed, and got the proper tools; hammers and saws and whatever.

Of course, it was just a bare floor. There was no carpeting or anything like that, just a bare wooden floor. So they pried and cut and hammered and took up quite a sizeable little section of floor, right in front of the fireplace in the middle of the sitting room.

We looked down and there was a big dark hole under there. We couldn’t really see the puppies, but you could hear ‘em down there. Then an additional problem showed up. They couldn’t reach the puppies. They were farther back than they thought, but Grandfather didn’t want to tear up the whole living room floor. So he tried to reach the puppies, and the Indian tried too, but they couldn’t get to them.

I was standing there taking it all in as they speculated, and then their eyes hit on me. And so the Indian said, “How about her going down there and getting them?”

I latched onto my grandfather. I wasn’t in favor of that. It looked pretty dark, and cobwebby, and dirty down there. But my Grandpa said, “I’ll hold on to you sister. I wouldn’t let anything hurt you. You go down there and get the puppies for the Indian.”

But I said, “Oh no, grandfather, I don’t want to go down there!” I just loved my grandfather, but I was not open to persuasion. But the Indian was a pretty wily negotiator, and he came up with a proposition that no child could refuse.

He said, “You tell her if she will go down there and get the puppies for me she can have her choice of any puppy that she brings up.”

No child can refuse that. So Grandfather looked at me, and he

kind of laughed. I think he knew I was hooked then.

“Alright sister,” he said, “I’ll hold right on to you, and we’ll hold the lantern for you.”

My grandmother was standing there, and she said, “You wait, child, and I’ll get a towel and tie it on your hair.... (I had long curls) ... so you won’t get those spiders and cobwebs in your hair.”

So she tied a towel on my hair, and grandfather took me in his arms I was not very happy about that, but he let me down in that hole, and held on to me and the Indian held the lantern. He held onto my dress, and I got down there.

I can’t remember how many puppies there were, but they were mew-ing and crying. I suppose they put the mama dog outside because I know she wasn’t there at the time.

So I handed those puppies up to the Indian and got ‘em all out of there. My grandfather lifted me out of the hole, and I still remember those little puppies.

Then he said, “You can have whichever one you want.”

I remember how excited I was. I remember the one I took. It was a little tiny brown one with real curly hair just as silky and soft as it could be. And I can remember sitting there with him all cuddled up in my arms.

The Indian kind of patted me on the shoulder, and he went on with his little dog and the rest of the puppies. I was just perfectly happy and perfectly satisfied with my day’s work, and he was too.

*Writer’s note: This story of the charming encounter of a little girl and a litter of Indian puppies is taken from a tape recording I made on December 6, 1990, of Manena Schwering’s personal recollections 81 years later.*

*Although this printed version is considerably condensed, I have tried to retain the essence and some of the flavor of the narrator’s extemporaneous and informal account of her experience. It is descriptive of circumstances in the years of her childhood, of the warm family ties, and of a particularly congenial relationship between a pioneer gentleman and a wise native American.*

*The respect and remarkable spirit of accommodation so evident between these two men of separate cultures serves us all as an inspiration.*

*Should the reader want more information about the early days around Blue River, the best source available is Manena Schwering’s own fine article, Changing Times in the Upper McKenzie Valley, found in the 1984 Spring issue of The Lane County Historian.*

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Gardening Tips

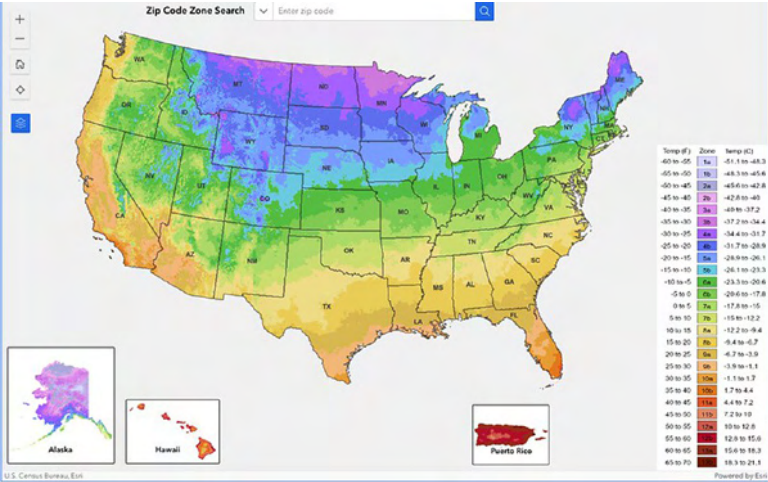
By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

New plant hardiness map unveiled



By Steve Lundeberg

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released its new Plant Hardiness Zone Map, the national standard by which gardeners can determine which plants are most likely to survive the coldest winter temperatures at a certain location. The USDA describes the latest map, jointly developed by Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, as the most accurate and detailed it has ever released. PRISM, part of the OSU College of Engineering, stands for Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model. The previous version of the plant hardiness map, also based on PRISM data, was released in January 2012. The new plant hardiness map incorporates data from

13,412 weather stations, compared to the 7,983 that were used for the 2012 edition. Viewable in a Geographic Information System-based interactive format, the map is based on 30-year averages (1991 to 2020) for the lowest annual winter temperatures within specified locations. The 2012 edition was based on averages from 1976 to 2005. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations. The latest edition of PRISM's signature product, the 30-year climate normals, was released in December 2021. PRISM releases new climate normals every 10 years, taking away one decade's worth of data and adding another. "The addition of many new stations and more sophisticated

mapping techniques using the latest PRISM technology led to a more accurate and detailed Plant Hardiness Zone Map but also produced localized changes that are not climate related," said Christopher Daly, director of the PRISM Climate Group and the map's lead author. The plant hardiness map is divided into a total of 13 zones, each zone representing a 10-degrees-Fahrenheit range of temperatures. Each zone is further divided into two half zones, with each of those representing a 5-degree range. "Overall, the 2023 map is about 2.5 degrees warmer than the 2012 map across the conterminous United States," Daly said. "This translated into about half of the country shifting to a warmer 5-degree half zone, and half remaining in the same half zone. The central plains and Midwest generally warmed the most, with the southwestern U.S. warming very little." Accompanying the new map is a "Tips for Growers" feature that provides information about Agricultural Research Service programs likely to be of interest to gardeners and others who grow and breed plants. The approximately 80 million American gardeners and growers are the most frequent map users, according to the USDA. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Agency uses the map in setting certain crop insurance standards, and scientists incorporate the plant hardiness zones into research models, such as those looking at the spread of exotic weeds and insects.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



HOLIDAY COOKIE TIME

Holiday time is the occasion for trying new cookie recipes and delving into old family ones. It's time to make drop cookies, bar cookies, cutout cookies, raisin cookies, those with sprinkles on top, gingerbread men and more. Do you have recipes from your past and memories of someone special making delicious cookies when you think of homemade baking, a homey kitchen, and treats when you visit? My Cookie Lady, about whom I've written a poem, was my aunt, my mother's sister who comes to mind when I think of delicious meals, homemade bread, and tasty cookies. I also have her recipe book where she jotted down recipes from family and friends. Some of her recipes go back to former generations. Others were simply ones she liked to make. Who Is Your Cookie Lady? Even though my aunt, or Auntie, as we called her, comes to mind most often when I think of a Cookie Lady, my mom also made cookies and often had them warm and waiting when we got off the school bus. What a delicious aroma met us at the kitchen door! Another Cookie Lady might have been my girl friend's mother, the 4-H leader who taught our cooking classes. From her we learned to make biscuits, muffins, cakes and cookies.

Cookie Lady Sketch  
I even sketched my Cookie Lady to accompany the poem in my book. Without consciously having anyone particular in mind, I drew a happy person with a plate of cookies. One day, as I was telling youngsters about the Cookie Lady of my childhood and describing Auntie, one child pointed to the picture and exclaimed, "That's her!" I realized it did indeed resemble Auntie. Requests for copies of the illustration resulted in my making enlarged posters and including her in my coloring book, too. DROP MOLASSES COOKIES evoke thoughts of treats of days ago. Cream together 1/2-cup vegetable oil, 1/2-cup molasses. Stir in 1 beaten egg and 1/2-cup sour milk, 2 teaspoons vanilla. Sift together 2 1/2 cups flour, 1 3/4 teaspoons baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, 1/4-teaspoon allspice. Some cooks like to add 1/2-teaspoon ginger. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture, stirring well. Drop by teaspoon onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F for 10-12 minutes. (c) Mary Emma Allen  
  
(Mary Emma Allen writes from her NH home. e-mail: me.allen@juno.com)

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**YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR NEWSPAPER,**



## Community Notes

November 22

### Wacky Wednesday BINGO

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

November 25

### 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.

November 28

### Board of Commissioners

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

November 28

### Family Story Time

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

November 28

### McKenzie Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need, every 2nd & 4th Friday.

November 28

### Fire Recovery Meeting

The State of Oregon is providing funds for Holiday Farm wildfire recovery and all are welcome to join the conversation. A committee of individuals, organizations, and agencies are meeting regularly online and in-person to make recommendations. The next two meetings are November 28 from 1-4 PM and tentatively on December 5 from 1-4 PM. There is time set aside at the beginning and end for public comments and questions. The State of Oregon program is called PIER - Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization - visit [lanecountyor.gov/PIER](http://lanecountyor.gov/PIER) to provide

comments, confirm meeting dates/timeframes/locations, sign up for project updates, register for the meeting zoom link, and access meeting materials.

In-person at McKenzie River Community School District Office, 51187 Blue River Drive, Finn Rock, Oregon 97488 and online: visit [lanecountyor.gov/PIER](http://lanecountyor.gov/PIER) to register for the zoom link.

Email [megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov) or call 541-852-8259 to submit comments or questions. The Committee will formally vote on priorities during these public meetings.

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) program funds will support:

- \* Planning for housing recovery, economic analysis, hazard mitigation, disasters, or education and outreach.

- \* Rebuilding or replacing impacted infrastructure and/or building new infrastructure.

- \* Retaining or returning businesses, microenterprises, or jobs.

Note: People needing special accommodation (e.g. in-person accommodation, hearing impaired, language translation, chemical sensitivity needs, and large print copies of the agenda or other application materials) are instructed to submit their request at least 48 business hours prior to the meeting by calling Megan Heurion at 541-852-8259 or emailing [megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov).

### December 6 Free Produce

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Orchid Health McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Highway, Blue River, OR 97413, USA

Come by Orchid Health McKenzie River Clinic every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month for free fruits and vegetables!

Who can get produce plus? Households residing in Lane County and all McKenzie River Community members who sign up can be served, as long as they are under the income guidelines.

Pick-up location: Orchid Health McKenzie River - 54771 McKenzie Hwy. Blue River, OR 97413

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1 - 3pm (weather permitted)

For more information or to sign up please call: (541) 822-3341

### December 9 Bridge Lighting

5:00pm - 7:00pm  
54745 McKenzie River Dr, Blue River, OR 97413, USA

The festivities begin at 5pm as we watch the raft parade float by! I think I see Santa in that raft!!

We will then ceremoniously light the Belknap Bridge (thanks to Lane Electric) with Christmas Caroling and Holiday Cheer!

Back inside the UMCC Santa will be waiting, along with photo ops!

We'll also have a Holiday Potluck, so bring your favorite Holiday dish to share! And please bring your own table service.

### December 12 Christmas Bazaar

This will be held at the Waltherville Community Center/Grange Hall located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Waltherville."

"The holidays are upon us and the Waltherville Grange is ready to host its annual Holiday Dinner and Open House. We hope that you will join us with your family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy an evening in friendship. The Holiday Dinner and Open House will be held on Tuesday, December 12. Open House displays and visiting begins at 6 PM, dinner starts at 6:30 PM, and a program will start at 7:30 PM. We are also expecting a visit from the jolly old man in red so make sure the kids have their Christmas lists handy! The Grange will provide, turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, rolls, and beverages. You bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to complete the meal. We will be collecting canned food items for the upriver food bank, so feel free to bring something for that. The thermometer growth for the new siding and windows for the west side of the building is also growing, so be sure to check that out. Donations are welcome for the siding and windows. No charge for dinner. For more information call 541-521-4760 and leave a message (calls will be returned)."

### December 14 Buying Rural Land

OSU Extension in Lane County to hold free webinar "Before you buy rural land" December 14

Contact: Carrie Mack, 541-237-6808, [carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu)

The Oregon State University Extension Service Small Farms program welcomes the public to "Before you buy rural land," a free webinar for future landowners, those who have recently purchased land, and real estate agents who want to learn about important topics related to land management and rural living.

The webinar will be held Thursday, December 14, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Topics covered will include soil capability, wells and septic systems, water rights and farmland zoning. An audience Q&A session will follow the presentation. The webinar will be presented by OSU Extension Service Small Farms faculty: Logan Bennett, Melissa Fery, Chrissy Lucas-Woodruff and Audrey Comerford.

The webinar is free to attend, but registration is required. A Zoom link will be provided to registrants.

More information and registration are available at:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley/events/you-buy-rural-land>. Register online or call

OSU Extension in Lane County at 541-344-5859.

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by December 7, 2023, to Carrie Mack, 541-237-6808 or [carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carrie.mack@oregonstate.edu).

### Paver Sales Remain Open

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

## Time for your tree?

People who are planning to go out in the woods to cut their family's Christmas tree will be pleased to learn that the Leaburg Store has ordered more permits this year. Store owner Jon Payne says most folks start stopping by to pick up theirs around Thanksgiving and his supply arrived this week.

A permit allows the holder to cut one tree in designated areas of the Willamette National Forest, and each household can purchase up to five permits. Permits are \$5 each and by buying theirs

at a local vendor people can save an additional \$2.50 - which is the online option's service fee.

Cutting trees in some areas of the National Forest is prohibited. Tree hunters should remain outside of closed areas For downloadable maps go to: <https://bit.ly/WNFTree>.

Remember, forest roads are not maintained for winter driving. Don't forget to let someone know where you are going, get an early start, and leave the woods before dark.

## Holiday Lights



December 1 to January 1 is Holiday Lights' time. It's time for everyone to show their McKenzie Strong spirit by putting up lights and lawn decorations, especially if you're on the highway. For the fourth year, McKenzie Community Partners is sponsoring this opportunity to bring lights and cheer during the dark days of winter.

Special thanks go to New Image Car Wash for their steadfast support of our large lit displays. As a special surprise, the school will be getting an eagle they can display year round. Go Eagles!

And look for the red posters that list everything that is happenings during the holidays. For the first time, the Leaburg Dam Bridge will also be lit up and have wreaths created by the Late Bloomers Garden Club.

Bring joy to your friends and family as well as all those passing by.

**What is?**  
**Destination Creation**

Would you like to turn your business into a unique destination that customers go out of their way to visit? McKenzie River business owners are invited to apply for our Destination Creation Course, a nationally-recognized training program for small businesses to become can't-miss consumer destinations!

**RAIN catalysts**

Date: Feb-March  
Two Saturdays TBD  
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Location: TBD Leaburg or Vida  
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Provided by:  
Lane County & RAIN Catalysts

Be Placed on Our Invitation List!  
Contact: Melissa Prestinario  
[melissa@raincatalysts.org](mailto:melissa@raincatalysts.org)

More Detailed Information to Come!

<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p><b>Living Water Family Fellowship</b> Pastor - Doug Fairington 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 541-822-3820 Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also. Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM. Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)</p>
<p><b>McKenzie Bible Fellowship</b> 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon <b>Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Youth Ministries</b> <b>KidsFest Family Activities</b> <b>Small Group Fellowships</b> <b>Men's &amp; Women's Bible Studies</b> Call 896-3829 for information <a href="http://www.mckenziebible.com">www.mckenziebible.com</a></p>	<p><b>Catholic Church</b> <b>St. Benedict Lodge Chapel</b> 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: <a href="http://sblodge.opwest.org">sblodge.opwest.org</a></p>
<p><b>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church</b> Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Waltherville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, <a href="mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com">nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com</a>, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! <b>Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</b></p>	

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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## The Information Age



My sister and I are very close, and we don't keep things from one another. Recently she shared with me concerns about her sex life, or lack thereof. She feels like there is something wrong with her because her husband is not attracted to her. They have been married for 15 years.

A couple of weeks ago I was on the Internet and highlighted my brother-in-law's name to send him a message. Well, when I did a box appeared, and it stated where he was online. At first, it said he was in a bisexual chat. I logged off my regular signature signed on to another one and checked to see where he was.

The drop-down box said he was now in a gay chat room. I went to the chat room and just watched, and in no time he typed in his age, sex, and location. I was floored! I didn't know what to do.

I waited about half an hour and thought about it. I decided to call him and tell him what I saw and find out what was going on. He denied everything. He said I had the wrong name or the service provider made some kind of mistake. Since then he has blocked me from knowing when he is online.

Now I am stuck. My gut instinct is to keep my mouth shut because it really is none of my business, but my sister is becoming increasingly open and concerned about her sex life. She has spoken with him several times about it, and he says everything is fine, but nothing changes between them.

I do not want to tell her because it will devastate her, but if she knew I had this information and kept it from her, she would be even more devastated.

Whitney contacting your brother-in-law was the least productive thing you could do. It took the option of silence away from you, and it didn't achieve anything with your brother-in-law. He already knew what he was doing. Now he will take steps to explain away or excuse himself. But the one thing he must wonder is who else knows his secret.

People often end up with

once they have it, they need to act. Your sister has a problem she cannot solve, and you have the piece of the puzzle that can solve her dilemma. Like it or not, you are the one who can shed light on her problem.

If your brother-in-law is meeting strangers for sex, it concerns both your sister's health and her marriage. Tell her. Let her decide what, if anything, she is going to do. Like many of us, your brother-in-law didn't understand the power of technology. A few keystrokes on your computer showed you something that may change all of your lives.

Wayne & Tamara **Past, Present, Future**

Not a month after we married my husband got laid off. I work while he doesn't even try to find a job.

I come from a family where being unemployed more than you work is wrong, and not providing for your wife is wrong. His family has lived on some kind of government assistance for most of their lives, so he doesn't see a problem.

I am beginning to think he is going to ruin my life. We don't have any children yet, and I often think of going after my dreams and leaving him behind.

Nicki

Nicki, we once lived in a town with a group of men known as the "go-getters." These men took their wives to work at a local factory in the morning, then loafed around

all day drinking coffee and telling stories at the café. At the end of the day, they would go get her.

Follow your dreams. You need a go-getter, not a "go get her."

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

## American Life in Poetry

**Blues for Almost Forgotten Music**

By Roxane Beth Johnson

I am trying to remember the lyrics of old songs

I've forgotten, mostly I am trying to remember one-hit wonders, hymns, and musicals like West Side Story. Singing over and over what I can recall, I hum remnants on buses and in the car.

I am so often alone these days with echoes of these old songs

and my ghosted lovers. I am so often alone that I can almost hear it, can almost feel the half-touch of others, can almost taste the licked clean spine of the melody I've lost.

I remember the records rubbed with static and the needle

gathering dust. I remember the taste of a mouth so sudden and still cold from wintry gusts. It seemed incredible then — a favorite song, a love found.

It wasn't, after all.

Days later, while vacuuming, the lyrics come without thinking. Days later, I think I see my old lover in a café but don't, how pleasing it was to think it was him, to finally sing that song.

This is the way of all amplitude: we need the brightness to die some. This is the way of love and music: it plays like a god and then is done. Do I feel better remembering, knowing for certain what's gone?

*Roxane Beth Johnson earned an MFA from San Francisco State University. She is the author of Black Crow Dress (2013) and Jubilee (2006), chosen by Philip Levine for the Philip Levine Prize in Poetry from Anthinga Press. Johnson has won an AWP Prize in Poetry and a Pushcart Prize. She has received scholarships/fellowships from The MacDowell Colony, Cave Canem, The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and San Francisco Arts Commission. She lives in San Francisco.*

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

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Fishing Report

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

**Fish Counts**  
**November 15, Willamette Falls**  
Fall Chinook – 2,187  
Winter Steelhead – 30

**Quote of the Week**  
“All I ask is the chance to prove that money can’t make me happy.”  
Spike Milligan

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

**November 23** - J. G. Thompson arrived in Eastern Oregon in the early 1870s. He went to work as a muleskinner, moving freight with a team of 14 mules over the Blue Mountains between LaGrande and Pendleton. He controlled the mules with a jerkline and he kept a handful of pebbles at the ready, throwing them unerringly to speed up any mule that was not pulling its weight. The most unusual thing about Thompson was his booming voice. It was claimed his voice was louder than any steamboat whistle on the Columbia and that he could stand at the summit of the Blue Mountains and be heard in LaGrande and Pendleton. He was given the descriptive nickname of Whispering Thompson.

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# Wildfire recovery

**Continued From Page 1**

ery officer of the housing agency’s Disaster Recovery and Resilience Division, said in a statement.

The remaining \$114.7 million in the fund is for affordable housing projects in Jackson, Lincoln, Lane and Marion counties, the four counties hardest hit by the wildfires, the report said. Officials expect that to pay for more than 400 new housing units.

Needs remain

State planners estimated that residents have nearly \$1.9 billion in unmet needs after the 2020 fires. The \$150 million was “never intended to address all needs,” but was intended to provide immediate help, the report said.

The wildfires hit southern Oregon’s affordable housing market hard. Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, said her district lost about 1,500 manufactured homes or recreational vehicles in the fires, with 19 mobile home parks destroyed. About 2,500 homes in her southern Jackson County district were destroyed.

Many in those homes were retirees or working class people with modest incomes, Marsh said.

“The only way those families get rehoused in the community is with significant public investment,” Marsh said.

Marsh said projects are starting to come online. But the planning and permitting takes time, she said, adding that in a couple years, the state-funded projects should be finished or in construction.

“I think two years from now we’ll be looking at what’s there on the ground, and we’ll have a pretty good measure of what we’ve been able to bring back,” Marsh said.

But for now, people are still living in motel rooms, camping in recreational vehicles and waiting for more housing to become available.

“We know people have left the area,” Marsh said. “We know anecdotally people are living with multiple families in a small unit. We know they’re camping in RVs in somebody’s driveway. But it’s really hard to put numbers with those anecdotes. You know, in

many cases we have had to face the fact that we are not going to bring back some of our neighbors because they just needed to start life someplace else.”

Other housing programs

Separate from the \$150 million, other programs are paying for another 569 homes, including some that will be ready in 2024 and 2025. They include Renaissance Flats, a 72-unit affordable housing development that opened last month in Jackson County.

Additionally, Oregon officials are planning how to spend \$422 million of federal disaster recovery funds, which was awarded to the state in 2021.

That plan includes a housing replacement program for homeowners who lost their homes in the fires and a new home ownership program for renters. Officials with the homeowner assistance program expect to start taking applications in early 2024.

*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

# Thanksgiving Day gentlemen

**Continued From Page 1**

custom, if not, by the actual Statute of Limitations, to this kind old gentleman who had preempted it. True, America is free; but in order to establish tradition some one must be a repetend—a repeating decimal. The heroes are not all heroes of steel and gold. See one here that wielded only weapons of iron, badly silvered, and tin. The Old Gentleman led his annual protegee southward to the restaurant, and to the table where the feast had always occurred. They were recognized.”Here comes de old guy,” said a waiter, “dat blows dat same bum to a meal every Thanksgiving.”The Old Gentleman sat across the table glowing like a smoked pearl at his corner-stone of future ancient Tradition. The waiters heaped the table with holiday food—and Stuffy, with a sigh that was mistaken for

hunger’s expression, raised knife and fork and carved for himself a crown of imperishable bay.No more valiant hero ever fought his way through the ranks of an enemy. Turkey, chops, soups, vegetables, pies, disappeared before him as fast as they could be served. Gorged nearly to the uttermost when he entered the restaurant, the smell of food had almost caused him to lose his honor as a gentleman, but he rallied like a true knight. He saw the look of beneficent happiness on the Old Gentleman’s face—a happier look than even the fuchsias and the ornithoptera amphrissius had ever brought to it—and he had not the heart to see it wane.

In an hour Stuffy leaned back with a battle won. “Thankee kindly, sir,” he puffed like a leaky steam pipe; “thankee kindly for a

hearty meal.” Then he arose heavily with glazed eyes and started toward the kitchen. A waiter turned him about like a top, and pointed him toward the door. The Old Gentleman carefully counted out \$1.30 in silver change, leaving three nickels for the waiter. They parted as they did each year at the door, the Old Gentleman going south, Stuffy north.Around the first corner Stuffy turned, and stood for one minute. Then he seemed to puff out his rags as an owl puffs out his feathers, and fell to the sidewalk like a sunstricken horse.When the ambulance came the young surgeon and the driver cursed softly at his weight. There was no smell of whiskey to justify a transfer to the patrol wagon, so Stuffy and his two dinners went to the hospital. There they stretched him on a bed and began to test him for strange diseases, with the hope of getting a chance at some problem with the bare steel.And lo! an hour later another ambulance brought the Old Gentleman. And they laid him on another bed and spoke of appendicitis, for he looked good for the bill.But pretty soon one of the young doctors met one of the young nurses whose eyes he liked, and stopped to chat with her about the cases.”That nice old gentleman over there, now,” he said, “you wouldn’t think that was a case of almost starvation. Proud old family, I guess. He told me he hadn’t eaten a thing for three days.”

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## McKenzie Students of the Month

For October staff looked for students who embodied “Respectful” in our R.I.V.E.R acronym: **R**espectful, **I**nitative, **V**alue, **E**xcellence , and **R**esponsibility



High School student Rebekah Short is extremely involved in her guide group, doing a superb job supporting her peers. She is involved in many school functions through leadership and also played volleyball this season.



Middle School student Cylas Sughroue participates in cross country and track. He engages with the classroom lessons, asks questions, is prepared, uses time appropriately, and does his classwork.

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“Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen” by O. Henry is a short story that appeared in his 1907 collection, *The Trimmed Lamp*.

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# Many support maintaining hydropower

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to report to Congress on their future



Lookout Point Dam in Lane County is among 13 on the Willamette River and its tributaries managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

By: Grant Stringer  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The trade-offs between hydropower dams and endangered salmon in the Willamette Valley have been on full display in public feedback in a series of meetings hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The public meetings took place as an operational change at two dams meant to help fish is deluging rivers with mud.

Willamette Valley residents and conservationists weighed in on the future of eight hydropower dams operated by the corps and the future of endangered salmon in three public comment sessions on Monday and Tuesday. The meetings coincide with preparation of a corps’ report to Congress on whether hydropower production should be removed at some or all eight of the power-producing dams in its Willamette Valley project.

Dams in the Willamette Basin can produce a combined 500 megawatts of clean energy, enough to power 300,000 homes, but they also impede the migration of salmon, which once returned to the basin by the hundreds of thousands and have been prized by native tribes from time immemorial.

Tribal governments and environmental organizations including American Rivers and Cascadia Wildlands support removing the hydro capacity of the dams, a change they say would help juvenile salmon migrate to the ocean where they become adults and then migrate back upstream to spawn. Under a court order, the

corps is currently draining two reservoirs to historic lows to help move fish through dams.

Sarah Dyrdahl, Northwest region director for the nonprofit American Rivers, told the Capital Chronicle that the hydropower produced by the Willamette dams isn’t economical. She called the current moment “a unique opportunity to evaluate how these drawdowns move juvenile salmon and other species downstream at these facilities.”

Most of the dozens of people who commented during the meetings were area residents who want the dams to continue producing clean energy.

“If we’re going to push everything to go electric, why in the world would we even have a conversation about taking out hydroelectric power? It’s very efficient, it’s very clean, the river always flows,” said Troy Gulstrom, a pastor in Mehama, a small community near the Santiam River in Marion County.

Migrations impeded

The corps operates a total of 13 dams on the Willamette and its tributaries including the Santiam River. These dams include Green Peter Dam, Lookout Point Dam and Detroit Dam. The corps began building the dams in the mid-20th century to protect Oregon’s most populous region from devastating floods. In addition to the hydropower production of eight dams, Detroit Lake and other reservoirs created by the dams are recreation hubs for boating and fishing.

However, the dams have blocked the migrations of spring

Chinook salmon and winter-run steelhead since their construction in the 1950s and 1960s, robbing the fish of spawning grounds.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration listed both populations as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1999.

Congress required the corps to study the cost and effects of removing hydropower at the dams last year. It’s the second time Congress directed the agency to study the issue. The agency missed its first deadline and has instead pursued a \$1.9 billion, elaborate plan to move fish around dams in trucks, OPB and ProPublica reported.

So-called trap-and-haul operations have a long history but a mixed track record in the Wil-

lamette Basin, academic research has found.

The corps’ report is due in May and will include the public comments made this week. When it receives the report, Congress may mandate more study or require agency action.

Margaret Townsend, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, told the corps on Monday in a public session that altering hydropower dams to promote salmon would bring economic and cultural benefits to area tribes, sport fishermen and orcas, which thrive on salmon. The southern population is also listed as endangered on the federal list.

“Salmon fishing is terribly important to these basins,” Townsend said.

Critics want drawdowns to stop

Several dozen Willamette Valley residents gathered Tuesday night at the Salem Public Library for an in-person comment session. All who spoke were opposed to removing the dams’ hydropower capabilities. Angelita Sanchez, a member of the Sweet Home City Council and director of the rural activist group Timber Unity, said doing so would raise electricity prices and fail her lower-income community.

Like other speakers, Sanchez cast doubt on efforts to reintroduce salmon. She cited an Oregon State University report this year concluding that billions of dollars spent to recover native salmon populations in the Columbia River Basin have largely failed.

“The dams and hatcheries are not the sole problem these salmon are facing,” she said.

Sanchez demanded the Corps pause ongoing drawdowns of the Green Peter and Lookout Point reservoirs to historic lows, which

have flooded the Santiam and Willamette rivers with mud and threatened the drinking water of Sweet Home and other municipalities. The drawdowns are supposed to help juvenile fish pass through the dams.

A federal judge in 2021 ordered the corps to improve the migration of Chinook salmon and steelhead through the dams by lowering the reservoirs. The agency began the drawdowns this year, which exposed vast plains of more than 50 years of accumulated sediment on the reservoir floors that are washing downriver, Jeff Henon, a spokesperson for the corps, said in an interview.

The Salem Statesman Journal first reported the downturn in water quality. Greg Springman, public works director for the city of Sweet Home, told the Capital Chronicle his tiny team of staff at the municipality’s water treatment plant are working nonstop to filter the sediment from the drinking water supply. The water is safe to drink, Springman said, but some residents have complained about a slight discoloration and said the water smells “like a swimming pool” because staff are applying more chlorine than usual.

Henon said the rivers will become less muddy when the corps begins refilling the reservoirs on Dec. 16. He said it’s unclear whether the drawdown is helping juvenile fish move downriver, as expected.

“We’re so early in the implementation of these changes,” Henon said. “It’s too early to look at the data and see if these changes have been a benefit to these species.”

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