McKenzie River Reflections

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Volume 48, Issue 46

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

Sheriff's Reports

36400 McGowan Creek Rd. - Sex Abuse.
93100 Marcola Rd. - Dispute

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Berry Time

You can make fruit and berry tarts with many different types of crusts.

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Briefs...

Families can enjoy a special evening swim and movie event when they watch a movie on Splash's outdoor sun deck and move freely between the indoor pool and the movie outside. Featured from 8:30 to 11 pm at this Friday's Dive-in Movie is Shark Tale (2004).

It will be shown at Splash, 6100 Thurston Road in Springfield. Prices range from $4 to $11— Regular Splash admission rates apply to all attendees.

Besides watching a movie on Splash's outdoor sun deck, people can move freely between the pool and movie. Bring a towel

Dive-in Movies - Page 2

People are invited to browse original art, handcrafted goods, and live music during the Blueberry Festival presented by the Pacific Rim Art Guild. The event includes a fundraising art sale featuring donated works to benefit Food For Lane County. The festival takes place from July 17 - 19: from 10 am to 4 pm on Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday, and from 10 am to 4 pm Sunday.

The Blueberry Patch Farm, Fully Open in peak picking condition, 89849 Greenwood Dr. in Leaburg is open seven days a

Blueberry Festival - Page 2

Catch the buzz!! Leaburg Library, together with the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History will present the amazing program "Bee Amazed".

Come and be delighted as you zoom into the wonderful world of bees - we have over 500 different kinds!! Discover mason bees, cuckoo bees, mining bees, bumble bees, and, of course, honey bees.

Enjoy hands-on science fun and buzz-worthy activities about bugs and bees while exploring these mighty mini-beasts

Bee Amazed - Page 2

Valley Took Center Stage on Oregon Trail Gravel Tour

McKenzie's hidden road network drew cyclists from around the world

The Bruckhart Bridge marked the starting point for Day Two of the Oregon Trail Gravel Tour.

The McKenzie Valley once again served as a showcase for one of North America's premier gravel cycling events as hundreds of riders rolled into the McKenzie Community Track during this year's Oregon Trail Gravel Tour.

Hosted by Team Breakaway Promotions, the five-day event takes cyclists on a 350-mile journey through Oregon's Cascade backcountry, combining challenging gravel roads, historic routes, and overnight camping into what organizers describe as "the adventure of a lifetime."

The McKenzie Community Track has served as a central hub for the event since 2019, and Race Director Chad Sperry said the local community continues to play a major role in its success.

"The support from the McKenzie community has been unbelievable," Sperry said during an interview at the event.

Gravel Tour - Page 12

Nevada Climber Died Near Mount Washington Summit

A 77-year-old Nevada man died Thursday, July 9, after apparently falling while climbing near the summit of Mount Washington in the central Oregon Cascades.

According to the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Robert "Bob" Pickering of Nevada was reported missing shortly before 3 p.m. after he failed to return from a solo climb. He had last been seen ascending the mountain alone near the summit.

A climbing guide who had observed Pickering on the mountain reported hearing a rockslide on the east side of the summit shortly afterward,

Climber Died - Page 12

Costs Cause County to Reshape Waste System

The Lane County Board of Commissioners voted July 7 to keep the Creswell Transfer Station open on Fridays and Saturdays while approving a series of changes designed to address a multi-million-dollar deficit in the county's solid waste system.

The unanimous 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Pat Farr absent, preserves limited operations at the facility rather than closing it entirely, while also authorizing closing the Walton Transfer Station and reducing operating days at the

Waste - Page 12

Art of Picking Lavender Starts With Two Little Leaves

From field to vase: Expert advice for long-lasting bouquets

WALTERVILLE: People at this year's McKenzie River Lavender Bloom Festival weren't just taking home fresh bouquets—they were learning how to harvest and preserve them from someone who knows the plants best.

John Ellis, son of farm owners Carol and Chuck Tannenbaum, spent the weekend guiding visitors through the farm's popular pick-your-own lavender experience, offering practical advice that helps both the plants and the bouquets last longer.

The annual Lavender Bloom Festival, held from July 10th to 12th, welcomed visitors to stroll through fields of blooming lavender, enjoy live music and food, shop for handcrafted lavender products, and relax beside the McKenzie River. But for many guests, the highlight was cutting their own bouquet to take home.

Ellis explained that this year's pick-your-own fields feature the Grosso variety of lavender, selected because of its large, sturdy flower heads.

"Grosso stays on the plant longer than many other varieties," he explains, noting that its durability allows visitors to enjoy a longer-lasting bouquet.

Picking Lavender - Page 10

John Ellis was on hand at the Lavender Bloom Festival to offer tips on the best ways to harvest and care for keepsakes from the field.

Guest Opinion

As feds pull back, Oregon expands antitrust actions

The Democratic argument writes itself: The Trump administration won't do anything meaningful about prices, so we will.

By Randy Stapilus

The Trump administration's take on monopolies, mega-mergers and related activity, among the most important economic actions available to a government, often has been buried under many of the other national headlines in the last year and a half.

But the Oregon attorney general's office — with counterparts in other states — may be about to launch a significant effort in the area.

The general purpose of anti-trust laws has been "to protect the process of competition for the benefit of consumers, making sure there are strong incentives for businesses to operate efficiently, keep prices down, and keep quality up." The laws have often fallen far behind the times, especially in times of rapid technology change, and often leave out concerns other than consumer prices.

Anti-trust enforcement in this country was kick-started here when Congress passed the Sherman Act in 1890, but less known is that some states were working on it even earlier, and Congress voted partly in reaction to them.

Nationally, anti-trust action has trended ever weaker over the last century, and as one analysis from a large law firm working in anti-trust noted, "the transition to the second Trump administration has ushered in a much more favorable antitrust enforcement climate for M&A [mergers and acquisitions]." Friends and allies of the administration appear to get concierge service rather than tough skepticism.

But the feds aren't the only anti-trust game around.

Most states have anti-trust laws on their books as well, some preceding federal laws and sometimes mirroring them, and many states have been active in enforcing them. That's not a far reach, either; even the Federal Trade Commission (one of the major national anti-trust enforcers, at least in theory) says on its website, "most states have antitrust laws that are enforced by state attorneys general or private plaintiffs. Many of these statutes are based on the federal antitrust laws."

In recent years, states increasingly have been banding together to bring major anti-trust actions. Earlier this year, eight attorneys general (led by California's but including Oregon's) moved to stop the planned merger of Nexstar Media Group and the broadcast company Tegna,which owns KGW-TV; that fight is ongoing.

In May, five states (again including Oregon) went to court with an attempt to expand their ability to undertake more kinds of anti-trust action.

Oregon was also among the parties in the legal battle against the Kroger-Albertsons grocery merger, which ultimately fell apart. It also was a player in the Live Nation/Ticketmaster case.

Nearly all states have anti-trust law in place; Oregon's is the simply-named Oregon Anti-Trust Law (in chapter 646 of title 50). One review of state anti-trust laws notes that while it includes provisions against cartels and conspiracy, single-firm conduct and price discrimination, it doesn't include provisions other states have concerning monopsony (where a single major buyer effectively controls the market), buyer power or interlocking directorates.

The whole area of anti-trust law has been busy enough that the Oregon State Bar has an Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section for members.

Don't be surprised if a few expansions in Oregon's anti-trust are proposed in an upcoming session of the legislature.

Legal activity seems about ready to expand. On June 17, Attorney General Dan Rayfield asked the Oregon Legislature's Emergency Board for permission to hire 16 staffers — five attorneys and 11 other support staff — to triple the capacity of the already-existing Antitrust Division.

That speaks to something more ambitious than the state has seen so far. You can get a sense of that from the source of the funding for the new jobs: Not from state tax funds but from money recovered from losers in anti-trust cases.

In his statement after the funding approval, Rayfield seemed to indicate what he has in mind:."Grocery bills are skyrocketing, there are fewer choices for things like cable and internet service, and things like tickets to concerts and movies are increasingly out of reach. A big part of the reason is that corporations are being allowed to consolidate unchecked – with no federal oversight. Oregon and other states are now the last line of defense to protect working families and that's what drove the urgency behind today's action."

As a matter of politics, such a mindset is aimed directly at the barely affordable cost of living so many Oregonians experience. The Democratic argument writes itself: The Trump administration won't do anything meaningful about prices, so we will.

Expect to hear more about this in the months ahead.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.

Briefs...

Dive-in Movie

Return To Page 1

or blanket to enjoy the movie on the lawn and purchase food and drinks from local vendors.

The rec swim starts at 8 p.m., and the movie starts at 9 p.m. No registration is required; just stop by!

On Dive-in Movie nights, there will be no 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. waterpark swim. Learn more at willamalane.org/dive.

Blueberry Festival

Return To Page 1

week from 8 am to 5 pm. Prices are: You pick - $2.75 per pound; Farm Picked - $47 for a ten pound box; and Frozen - $50 for a ten pound box.

For more information on the Festival phone 541.543.0958 or email clarin44@comcast.net.

Bee Amazed

Return To Page 1

of nature.

It's all happening on Saturday, July 25th at 11 am, in the Community Room of the McKenzie Fire Department located next to the library. Kids and adults of all ages are invited to come have fun with us as we find out just how bees, bugs, and other insects do what they do, and why. What could be more exciting?!

Don't forget! Saturday, July 25th – 11 am. Bee there!!

Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com

Turning Community Stories Into Lasting Reflections

A small-town paper could be just about facts and figures, until yourealize your neighbor's win or a heartfelt letter to the editor can spark real change. That's the magic of McKenzie River Reflections.

Every week, everyday people can turn their stories into something inspiring. Your voice matters here, whether it rides the rapids of opinion or quietly grows in a backyard garden feature.

Creativity lives in every community story. Let yours shine in these pages and watch how collective expression shapes the unique community that extends from Cedar Flat to McKenzie Bridge.

Share your story or read the latest from your neighbors
visit mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper

Every voice matters and can inspire real change

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OPIP Oregon Public Information Partnership

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
5% chance precip	5% chance precip	5% chance precip	0% chance precip	5% chance precip	10% chance precip
High: 83 Low: 51	High: 87 Low: 52	High: 86 Low: 52	High: 88 Low: 51	High: 87 Low: 55	High: 89 Low: 56

WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
7/7	84	58	0	309 cfs
7/8	83	54	0	NA
7/9	85	56	0	304 cfs
7/10	84	50	0	304 cfs
7/11	79	51	0	304 cfs
7/12	82	57	0	313 cfs
7/13	86	53	0	NA

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
7/7	88	53	0	1,970 cfs
7/8	83	51	0	1,960 cfs
7/9	85	52	0	1,920 cfs
7/10	86	46	0	1,940 cfs
7/11	86	54	0	1,940 cfs
7/12	80	51	0	1,910 cfs
7/13	84	51	0	1,910 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Editor's Note: From Port Arthur, Washington to the Arcadia Police Dept. in California, information on police agencies has been greatly reduced due to a software error. Until it is resolved, information available to the public will be limited.

35000 High Ranch Dr.- Criminal Trespass.

190000 Marcola Rd. – Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver.

55000 McK. River Dr.- Mental Subject.

54000 Caddis Ln. - Assist fire department.

38000 McK. Hwy. - Harassment.

38300 Kickbusch Ln. - Reckless Driving.

38000 McK. Hwy. - Dispute.

39000 Wendling Rd. - Assault.

91800 Mill Creek Rd. - Criminal Mischief.

34800 Matthews Rd. - Criminal Trespass.

90700 Hill Rd. - Criminal Trespass

42700 McK. Hwy. - Incomplete 911 Call.

Sunderman Rd. - Illegal Camping.

Marcola Rd. - Illegal Camping

N. Bank Rd. - Suspicious Conditions.

36100 Camp Creek Rd. - Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury

35500 Camp Creek Rd. - Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury

90300 Sunderman Rd. - Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle

91100 Marcola Rd. - Suspicious Subject.

Marcola Rd. - Arson.

33500 McK. View Dr.- Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle.

54700 Caddis Ln. - Criminal Trespass.

91100 Hill Rd. - Criminal Trespass.

88700 Easy Ln. - Dispute.

42700 McK. Hwy. - Burglary.

54600 McK. River Dr. - Blocked Driveway.

45700 McK. Hwy. Livestock at Large.

54900 McK. Hwy. - Theft.

92200 Murdoch St. - Harassment.

44500 McK. Hwy. - Unattended Children.

36400 McGowan Creek Rd. - Sex Abuse.

93100 Marcola Rd. - Dispute

Marcola Rd. - ATL Drunk Driver.

39200 McK. Hwy. Reckless Driving.

55400 McK. River Dr. - Dispute.

51000 McK. Hwy. Illegal Camping.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

July 6: 5:14: 42100 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

15:17: Camp Creek Rd. Milepost 2. Motor Vehicle Accident. Extricated Patient, Patient Care Provided.

16:10: 35500 blk, Camp Creek Rd. MVA. Non-Blocking, Non-Injury.

July 7: 13:25: McK. Hwy./ Forest Glen Wayside. Mutual Aid Disregarded En Route.

20:55: McK. Hwy./Mp. 15 MVA. 2 Patients Assessed, 1 Patient Transported, 1 Refusal, Traffic Control; Scene Left with OSP.

July 8: 1:14: 7700 blk, S. A St. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:34: 1300 blk, McK. River Water Rescue. 5 Patient Rescue, Refusals Obtained.

July 9: 12:49: 36200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 14:01: 41700 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:35: 46400 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Unable To Locate.

July 10: 14:18: 90300 blk, Mountain View Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

July 11: 14:50: 39600 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Contact with Patient No Assessment Needed.

16:01: 40800 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

18:41: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, July 20th, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

July 7: 13:22: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury – McK. Hwy./Forest Glen Wayside. Automatic iPhone crash notification on boat ramp.

July 9: 09:20: Medical – 57000 block, N. Bank Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

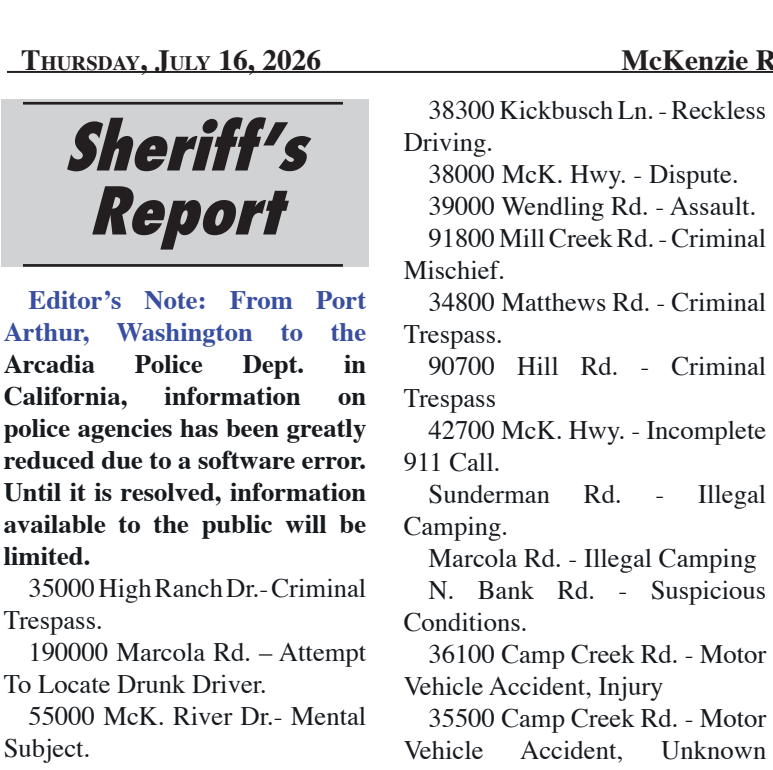
July 11: 13:44: MVA, Injury - Old McK. Hwy./Milepost 69. Manual activation of Garmin device - sent a message that said motorcycle wrecked.

July 12: 01:20: Fire Alarm – 57000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Fire alarm going off, also a carbon monoxide alarm.

July 13: 11:29: Medical - McK. Hwy./Mp. 52. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

17:33: Medical - Blue Pool. Tamolitch Falls. Broken leg.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 20th, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.



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Hank Vaughan, Oregon's legendary outlaw: Part 1

By Finn J.D. John

Crime, they say, does not pay. Yet it's pretty easy to look back through history and find examples of a certain kind of criminal for whom it did, handsomely, and for decades. With charisma, moxie and a seemingly endless supply of good luck, these characters sometimes even manage to cheat karma and die a natural death. And somehow, after these criminals are gone, people remember them with a kind of fascinated fondness, and say things like, "well, we'll never see another like that again."

The second half of the 19th century saw such a man in a larger-than-life Wild West character named Hank Vaughan.

Hank Vaughan is remembered by folks who met him sober as a slender, wiry fellow with a sober look, a full set of whiskers and a Prince Albert-style coat, very affable and charming, but with gray-blue eyes that seemed to hold you. Most people liked him, even if they were a little afraid of him.

Others didn't like him much at all — especially the owners of the horses and cattle that would reliably vanish when he came around their herds. Hank was, for most of his life, a horse thief and a rustler — possibly the most successful rustler in the history of the Old West.

And then there were the folks who met Hank when he was drunk. Some of these didn't survive the experience. Hank Vaughan was in at least a dozen gunfights in his life. There are old saloon buildings in The Dalles, Pendleton and Athena that still have .45-caliber slugs embedded in their woodwork from his Colts, and gouges on their floors from his horse's hooves.

Historian Noah Brown, a former employee at The Umpqua House saloon in The Dalles, describes a typical scene from Vaughan's heyday — as quoted in Jon and Donna Skovlin's excellent biography of this "hell-raising horse trader":

"On (Vaughan) entering the saloon drinks were ordered for the house," he writes. "Needless to say a crowd ambled up to the mahogany and foot rail in the sampling of Old Crow until the room was full to overflowing. It was not a great while until nearly every individual was in the same fix … A shot fired from a six-shooter in a frolicksome way pierced a hole through a back-bar mirror. Tabs were kept on all drinks, damage to furniture, incidental expenses added and by the next evening those typical early-day Western trailblazers and pioneer characters … paid … the full lucre for their gentlemanly tete-a-tete of their own liking in the year of 1881."

In riotous barroom scenes like this, Vaughan was first among equals. He was a fun if dangerous friend, happy-go-lucky and fearless in any kind of fight. His skills as a horseman were legendary, and he could drive nails with a pistol from 20 yards away. But if you were a horse rancher or a cattle drover, he was the last guy you wanted to see.

Sophia Riede/Reflections Publishing

Hank Vaughan in his Sunday best, posing for a portrait photo when he was roughly 30 years of age. Vaughan favored the Prince Albert- style coat because it hung down far enough to conceal his pistols.

An Oregon native son

Hank Vaughan was born in 1849 near Brownsville, in the Willamette Valley. He was one of the very first babies born in the old Oregon territory — although some historians would later try to claim he was really from Missouri, motivated apparently by a desire to keep the Beaver State's reputation free of the stigma of having produced such a rascal.

Hank's family moved to Canyon City when he was about 12 or 13. By age 15 he was an active horse trader with a chip on his shoulder and a pistol on his hip — with which, that very year, he made his first attempt to kill somebody. A customer named William Headspot, to whom Hank had been foolish enough to sell a horse on credit, tried to buffalo the boy by jeering at him and claiming the horse he'd bought from him was stolen. (It probably wasn't, but it might have been.) Hank, incensed by the insult, pulled his Colt and used it to carve a bullet-shaped furrow across Headspot's scalp; half an inch lower, and Hank would have been facing a murder rap.

He was arrested and charged, but he didn't really face much risk of being convicted because of Headspot's behavior. However, a few months later, free on bond, Hank saw the man who'd signed the arrest complaint walking into a saloon in which he was drinking. Out came the six-shooter again ....

The wound Hank inflicted on his antagonist with his pistol doesn't seem to have been very serious, but now Hank's situation was. It was one thing to reply to an insult with gunfire; the Canyon City miners and cowboys didn't approve of that, but they understood, and most of them figured Headspot had had it coming. But to retaliate in semi-cold blood against a man for doing his duty as a citizen was entirely different. Had Hank's aim been better, he almost certainly would have been lynched that day.

As it was, he spent four months in jail, at the end of which he copped a plea: A one-dollar fine and an agreement to join the First Oregon Volunteer Infantry.

That lasted just a few months. Six weeks after Hank mustered in, the Army spat him out. He left with a dishonorable discharge, but it saved him from the state pen and left him free to get back to the business that was already clearly his forte: Horse theft.

The shootout with the sheriff

It was just three months after Hank left the Army that he and a friend, Dick Bunton, traveled to the

Legendary outlaw - Page 11

By Slim Randles

"Hot? Did you say hot?"

"Sure did, Windy, have a seat and join us," said Doc. We were huddled up in the coolth of the air conditioner blast in that certain part of the dining room at the Mule Barn truck stop. Yes. It was hot.

"Ain't like Death Valley, howsomever," Windy said. "Now boys, that there's HOT!"

"You been to Death Valley, Windy?"

"Shore did, Steve. Wellsir, it was a long time back, 'bout the time of when I ferget who was president. One of them guys who ain't president any more. But I was jest percolatin' 'round and got me this here wranglin' job over there at Furnace Crick. Hot? Say, it was so hot it melted your whiskers! But they needed these dudes wrangled and I packed mules for 'em … until the accident …"

"Accident?"

"Oh Doc, it was terrible. One day I was packin' pic-a-nic supplies for 'em, and I had me eight mule loads of that Jiffy Pop popcorn, you know … 'cuz they liked popcorn, ya see. Wellsir, it were so danged hot that popcorn started a-poppin' inside them cans, and it flat blew the lids off them cans. Right out there in the dang desert …"

Windy paused a moment to wipe away a tear.

"And that there popcorn went all over the ground … and … and them mules saw it and thought it was snow … and froze to death!"

….

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OSU Gardening Tips

Oregon State University

Ten resilient plants for waterwise gardens

Cinquefoil is best in full sun, but will tolerate light shade. Hardy to Zone 2.

Hotter temperatures and longer stretches between measurable moisture mean many plants need more water from the end of a hose.

Choosing plants that require less water saves time and money while helping sustain Oregon's water supply, said Amy Jo Detweiler, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

Detweiler recommends these 10 low-water options for landscapes across Oregon:

Cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa)

A compact deciduous shrub about 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide with sunny yellow flowers from June to frost. Best in full sun; tolerates light shade. Hardy to Zone 2.

Flowering currant

(Ribes sanguineum)

A large shrub reaching about 10 by 5 feet with long clusters of dark pink flowers in May and June. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Full to partial sun. Hardy to Zone 5.

Globe blue spruce

(Picea pungens 'Globosa')

A slow-growing conifer with striking silver-blue foliage, maturing at 5 to 6 feet. Full sun for best color. Hardy to Zone 2.

Manzanita (Arctostaphylos)

Evergreen shrubs ranging from 2 to 12 feet tall. Attractive year-round with twisting mahogany bark and hanging clusters of white to pink flowers in late winter to early spring. Hardiness varies by species and cultivar.

Ninebark

(Physocarpus opulifolius)

A 6- to 10-foot deciduous shrub with domes of white early-summer flowers, peeling bark and excellent fall color. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies. Notable cultivars include 'Dart's Gold' and 'Diablo.' Hardy to Zone 2.

Spiraea japonica 'Little Princess'

A compact, mounding shrub reaching about 3 feet tall and 6 feet wide with pink summer flowers that attract pollinators. Full sun. Hardy to Zone 4.

Russian sage (Salvia yangii)

A 3- to 5-foot shrub with fragrant, gray-green foliage. Produces airy lavender flower spikes midsummer to fall. Full sun. Hardy to Zone 4.

Serviceberry (Amelanchier)

A 6- to 10-foot shrub with showy white flowers in early spring, edible purple-red berries and bright fall color. Prefers full sun. Hardy to Zone 2.

Snowberry

(Symphoricarpos albus)

A 5-by-6-foot deciduous shrub with small spring blooms and standout white fall berries. Attracts birds, bees, hummingbirds and butterflies. Full to partial sun. Hardy to Zone 3.

Wayfaring tree

(Viburnum lantana 'Mohican')

A rounded 7-by-8-foot deciduous shrub with spring flower clusters followed by fruit that turns pink, then red, then black. Deep purple fall color. Full to partial sun. Hardy to Zone 3.

This piece is part of the collection *A water-wise home landscape: a xeriscape*

Country Kitchen

Recipes • Traditions • Memories • Seasonal Living

By Mary Emma Allen

ENJOYING FRESH FRUIT & BERRIES

Blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and peaches have found their way to our supermarkets. Even though they don't come from New Hampshire fields and farms yet, they're generally available in stores in the US.

Daughter Beth and I enjoy them for meals and snacks. In fact, I seem to get a craving for these foods if I don't have them. I'd rather give up something else to fit these in the budget if I have to make a choice.

Recent research also emphasizes the value of fruits and berries in our diets because they contain many vitamins, minerals, and often are high on the list of antioxidants. They also are low in calories if you don't laden them with lots of sugar or syrups or include them in desserts that are high calorie.

Fruit/Berries with Yogurt

I enjoy adding berries and cut up fruit into yogurt for breakfast and snacks. To make it more festive, I often stir in whipped topping. (This also makes a nice dessert.)

For instance, this morning, I had small container blueberry low-fat yogurt, sliced peaches, raspberries, strawberries and 1/3 banana. Then I stirred this together with 2 tablespoons whipped topping. Accompanying this mixture, I had a piece of whole-wheat toast and a cup of tea.

Sometimes my dish of fruit and yogurt becomes so large, I save some for another meal or snack. Using the yogurt base, I add any variety of fruit and berries.

For dessert, I might add a spoonful or two of vanilla ice cream or pudding to the berries, with or without yogurt.

Berry Shortcake

We often purchase the frozen buttermilk biscuits and bake only what we need for the particular meal. While warm, spoon mashed berries and fruit over the biscuit and top with whipped topping or a spoonful of vanilla ice cream.

I've found that by using the frozen biscuits, there isn't any waste. I suppose I could bake my usual recipe of biscuits and freeze the leftover ones for future use.

Berry Tarts

You can make fruit and berry tarts with many different types of crusts. These include traditional pastry crust, as well as those made with wheat pastry flour, cookie crumbs (vanilla or chocolate), or graham cracker crumbs,

(c) 2026 Mary Emma Allen, me.allen@juno.com

(Mary Emma Allen researches and writes from her woodland NH home.)

Quote of the Week

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Child Safety Seat Resource Center 1-877-793-2608 childsafetyseat.org
Buckle Up. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety – ODOT

APRIL Community Notes

July 16
Leaburg Food Pantry
3 - 6:30 pm

McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy, Walterville, OR 97489, USA

All are welcome! Please send folks!

July 16
Board Meeting
4:30 pm

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce is a business organization of volunteers that provides members with key opportunities for visibility, marketing, support, and recognition. The board normally meets via Zoom. For more information contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

July 18
River Talk
2 - 4 pm

Author Debra Gwartney will share from her newly published essay about the Holiday Farm Fire and the ongoing efforts to recover and rebuild in the McKenzie River community.

These River Talks at the O'Brien Memorial Library, 51771 Blue River Drive, explore and celebrate our local rivers and the many ways they shape our lives and community.

The event is free and open to the public.

July 20
McKenzie Fire District Board
Noon- 1 pm

McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. 541-896-3311.

July 20
Upper McKenzie Fire District Board
7 - 8 pm

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting. At the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River. 541-822-3479

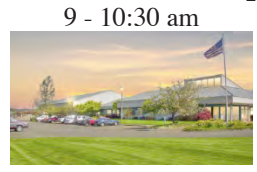
July 21
Lane County Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

July 21
Grange Meeting
7:30 - 8:30 pm

The Walterville Grange #416 will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road. The first two monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday

July 22
Lane Electric Coop
9 - 10:30 am



Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m.

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

If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend.

July 25
Baz Moto
7 - 9:30 pm

The Vida McKenzie Community , 90377 Thomson Lane, invites people for an unforgettable evening of music with Baz Moto! Doors open: 6:30 pm. Open to the public $10 cover charge

July 28
Lane County Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

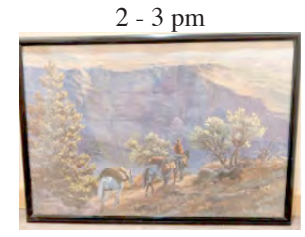
July 28
McKenzie Food Pantry
11 am - 1 pm

Have an event to share?
Whether you're hosting a workshop, performance, or community gathering, we want to feature it!
Click here or submit your event details at tinyurl.com/3j33kkxz

At the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge.

Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 11 am - 1 pm, every 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

August 1
Art Talk
2 - 3 pm



The O'Brien Memorial Library, 51771 Blue River Drive, will host an Art Talk featuring the life and work of Ina Pruitt (1905–1991), presented by her daughter-in-law, Shelly Pruitt.

Learn about Ina's artistic legacy and her deep connection to the McKenzie River community. Her artwork will be on display in the library's Gallery Wall exhibit from June 18 through August 13.

This event is free and open to the public.

August 1
Ice Cream Social
1 - 4 pm

Join the Upper McKenzie Community Center for one of the favorite traditions of the year. Bring your appetite, your family, and your competitive spirit!

What's on the menu? Delicious Ice Cream & Toppings donated by Horse Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Homemade Cobbler (and yes, you can get it A La Mode!), Hot Dogs, Chips, and Refreshing Drinks

Calling All Bakers! Think you make the best cobbler in the valley? Enter our Cobbler Contest and put your recipe to the test! Whether it's berry, peach, or a secret family recipe, we want to taste it! Cobblers are judged by previous winners!

Come out to support the community center, catch up with neighbors, and enjoy some sweet summer treats.

Click here and stay in touch with events online **McKenzie Community Events Calendar.**

Community Events Calendar

Share Tweet

Weekly Meetings

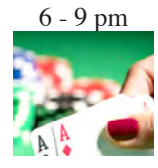
Tuesday
VMCC Senior Center
11 am

Doors at the Vida McKenzie Community Center open at 11 am at 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida for a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. They include socializing, a speaker or activity, and lunch (with a suggested donation of $5).

Wednesday
Upper McKenzie Jiu-Jitsu
7 - 8 pm

No-Gi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. For More Information email: uppermckenzie-jiujitsu@gmail.com

Tuesday
Little Poker League
6 - 9 pm



Watershed Wednesday
9 - 11:30 am
Coburg, Oregon

Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning at Green Island. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care or planting/tree establishment. Green Island is a 1,100 acre preserve.

Wednesday & Thursday
AA meetings

AA meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Walterville. plus in Blue River at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the clinic on Dexter Street.

Thursday
Dog Socialization
Pack Walks
10 am

At the Walterville Pond, meet at East end parking lot. Free weekly, For more information: email quickslyfox@duck.com

Thursday
GMRS net
6 pm

The McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group meets at 6:00 pm on 462.6750 MHz, Tone 100.0 Hz (often Radio Memory Channel 28) on the Deathball Repeater. Make it easy on McKenzie Community Communications-supplied radios and anything volunteers have programmed for you.

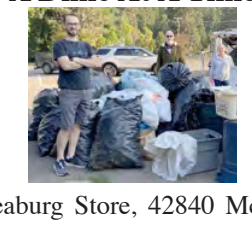
Friday
Yoga in Leaburg

42870 McKenzie Hwy, Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center, from 8 to 9 am..

Friday
SAIL Exercise Program
10 to 11 am.

Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida. Join the SAIL program on Fridays for instructor-led exercises to boost strength, independence, and confidence. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Saturday
A Dime At A Time



Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy, Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10-noon. Donations can be dropped off to us at Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers.

An Invitation to Worship

Living Water Family Fellowship
Pastor - Doug Fairrington
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)

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

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

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!
Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

What If

Last year someone from high school tracked me down, and we've been seeing each other ever since. He separated from his wife nine years ago, and they divorced two years later. Even after the divorce he spent Christmas with his ex and their two sons. He also goes to the sons' birthday parties. which his ex has with her extended family.

I thought that was commendable until we fell in love and he started talking about marriage. I could understand it when the children were young, but they are 19 and 22. I also discovered he doesn't mail his ex alimony every month. He takes it to her personally.

The divorce was his choice, and he said he gave her the house and everything. He left all his personal possessions behind because he didn't want to be reminded of her and she had purchased most of his clothes. After almost a decade she still has them.

My views are colored by my parents' divorce. They never saw or spoke to each other until a couple of years ago, 25 years after their separation. Within a year my mother got rid of everything my dad left. It worries me his ex-wife might be waiting for him to go home, and he may feed that hope by visiting her.

Should I kiss him goodbye on holidays and hope he has a good time with his ex, or expect him to create new traditions with me and our families, if we get married? And when should I broach the subject, before or after he formally proposes?

Theresa

Theresa, we take the same way to work until one day there is a detour sign. Then we change. With this couple nothing happened to change their rituals. She didn't have a new husband, and he didn't have a new wife. But they were legally divorced, and in all these years he has not gone back to her.

Now change is in the offing. If he proposes and you marry, that will be the first change. Other changes will come because his sons are of an age to hold jobs, have girlfriends, and marry. Surely the sons' wives will have a say in how Christmas is celebrated, and jobs and places of residence will influence these decisions as well.

Philosophers delight in creating thought experiments by asking the question "What if?" The rest of us also do this. What if I didn't go to work today? Would I be missed? Would it matter to the boss? Will I have enough sick days left at the end of the year?

Broach this matter to your intended as a thought experiment and see what he says. If you want to be with him on holidays, let him know. Now that Christmas has passed, it would be the perfect time.

Wayne & Tamara

Backfire

I was recently caught talking about a friend to another friend. My friend made a comment about the other friend's son, and I was going to chime in when the other friend walked in.

I hadn't actually said anything, but there was an awkward silence and she knew something was being said behind her back. I feel absolutely horrible, but I'm not sure what to do. I should never have been talking about anyone, and now I'm afraid that I ruined a friendship.

Lorena

Lorena, there's an old saying that a stranger stabs you in the front, but a friend stabs you in the back. From this experience you learned what you were going to say is less important than the damage done to another and your own mortification.

So perhaps this would be a good rule for you. Never hesitate to repeat a positive, but think twice about negatives. Fix them if you can, warn others if they must know, but otherwise stay out of the way.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of Cheating in a Nutshell and As the Child of an Alcoholic.

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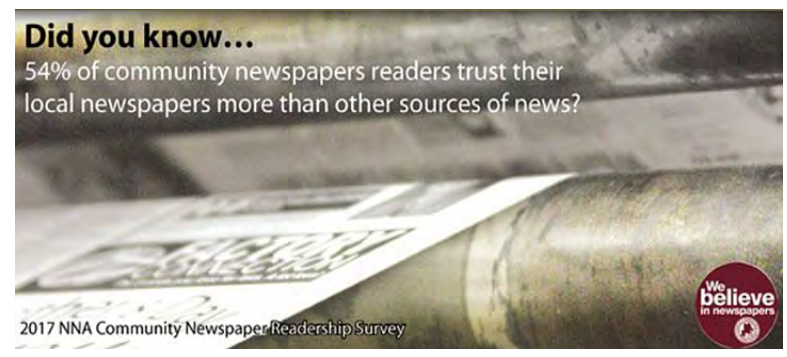

HELP WANTED

Part-Time Cook and Clean-Up Person Senior Program (Contracted Role)

The Vida McKenzie Community Center (VMCC) is seeking a **reliable and community-minded Part-Time Cook and Clean-up Person** to support our weekly Senior Program.

This role prepares, serves, and cleans up a healthy weekly lunch for approximately **12–20 senior participants each Tuesday**, contributing to a welcoming and respectful community environment.

Details:

- Ongoing **1099 independent contractor role**
- Tuesday availability required
- Contracted rate **$18–$22/hour (DOE)**
- Oregon Food Handler's Card required within 14 days of start

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The beautiful Vida McKenzie Community Center, has everything you need for your event. Go to vidacommunitycenter.com for more info.

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Huge Annual Yard Sale

91094 Leashore Drive, Vida, Friday, Sat, and Sunday July 17, 18, & 19th 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.. Cross over the Goodpasture Bridge and you are there. Tools, Furniture and More!

Personal

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

Piano Lessons

Now accepting piano students - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced - all ages. Professional jazz pianist, classically trained with years of teaching experience. Located in Leaburg. Please call or text 408.391.3477 or email; kimberly@liquidsister.com. http://www.liquidsister.com SKP-8/16ruc

Pianists Wanted

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church aims to form a team of pianists with intermediate-advanced skills for accompanying worship services. $65 per service. To apply, call 541-747-2604 or email: marodstrom@yahoo.com.

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

Services

Natures Friend Beautifying Co. Property/rental cleanup, restoration, tree work, blackberry & ivy destruction, pressure washing, Int/ext. painting, furniture refurbishing. Free appliance removal. Call Scottish 541-913-8477. SB=JAB-2/27-3/20/14

Got a hole in your wall? Give me a call! The Wall Doctor - Serving the McKenzie River area. 541-735-2317. p-s15-n3

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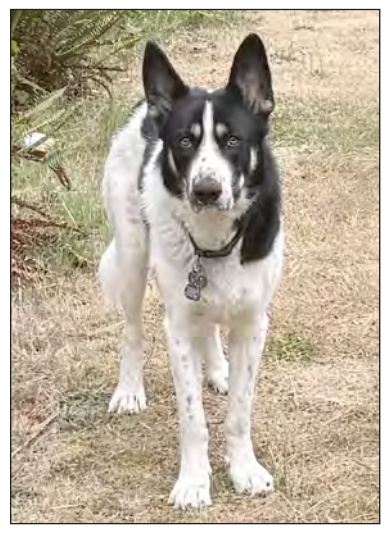
Help this dog find his new home

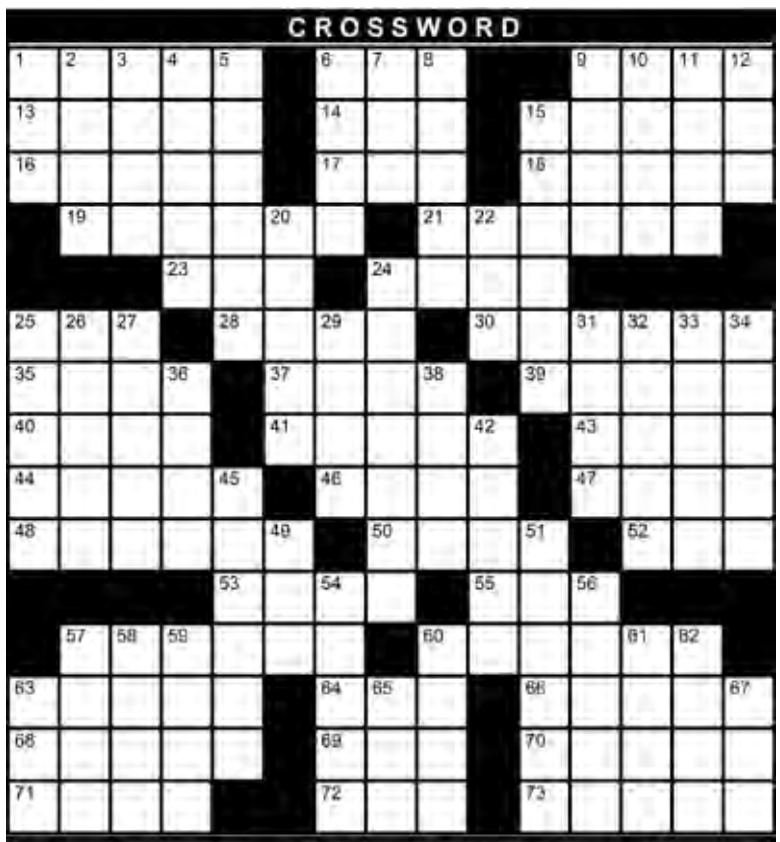


Truman is a male shepherd/collie mix whose owner passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He is about 20 months old and friendly with people and other dogs. He is not neutered but we are willing to have it done when we find a home for him. If you're interested in making him part of your family, or know someone who is, please call 541-822-3358 and leave a message.

This Space For Rent

rivref2@gmail.com

CROSSWORD



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KIDS' CLASSICS

ACROSS

1. Capital of Ghana
6. Pilot's announcement
9. Bog deposit
13. Banned aerosol propellant
14. Lake, in France
15. ____ firma
16. Source of chocolate
17. Sensitive subject?
18. Twig of a willow tree
19. *Certain secret spot
21. *Beezus' little sister
23. Half a dozen
24. Final notice
25. CEO's deg.
28. Spew profanities
30. Swamp
35. Gateway ____
37. Boisterous play
39. *"All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
40. Steak preference
41. Flower's peak
43. *Butter____, Hogsmeade beverage
44. Like some East Coast universities
46. Archipelago unit
47. Plaintiff
48. Loads
50. Tiny bit
52. Snoop
53. Bruce and Spike, e.g.
55. Ovine mom
57. *Pocketful
60. *Cat's ____
63. *Lemony Snicket, to Daniel Handler
64. Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named ____"
66. The company one ____
68. *Peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a kid
69. Lt.'s subordinate
70. Snail mail replacement
71. Says "What?"
72. As opposed to yeses
73. *Mystery solver

DOWN

1. Half of NFL
2. Rugged rock
3. Cecum, pl.
4. Lion sounds
5. Relating to anode
6. Dashing style
7. *"It" game
8. Sour
9. 100 centavos, in Mexico
10. Actress Moriarty
11. Equals 1/2 b x h
12. Smoker's lung residue
15. Double drum
20. Beyond suburb
22. Heart to Cupid
24. Reverse one, in the kitchen
25. *Super Bro.
26. "Music to my ears!"
27. Like thick smoke
29. Same as solos
31. Schneider and Reiner, e.g.
32. Consumed (2 words)
33. Ranch grazer
34. *Game of apologies
36. Achilles' weakness
38. Ralph Lauren's inspiration
42. Same as metre
45. Yummy
49. *"____ Spot Run"
51. Rouse
54. Ruhr's industrial center
56. Swelling
57. Arithmetic operation
58. Piglet sound
59. Cul de ____, pl.
60. ____pool or ____pit
61. Like hard times
62. "The Iliad," e.g.
63. Pie ____ ____ mode
65. *Shedding-type card game
67. *Like Aesop's fox

Solution on Page 9

SUDOKU

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution on Page 9

This Space For Rent
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Stay in touch with what's happening - open the McKenzie Community Calendar!

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Need to talk? Call 988

Meditation on a Grapefruit

By Craig Arnold

Listen
To wake when all is possible
before the agitations of the day
have gripped you
To come to the
kitchen
and peel a little basketball
for breakfast
To tear the husk
like cotton padding a cloud
of oil
misting out of its pinprick pores
clean and sharp as pepper
To ease
each pale pink section out of its
case
so carefully without breaking
a single pearly cell
To slide each piece
into a cold blue china bowl
the juice pooling until the
whole
fruit is divided from its skin
and only then to eat
so sweet
a discipline
precisely pointless a devout
involvement of the hands and
senses
a pause a little emptiness

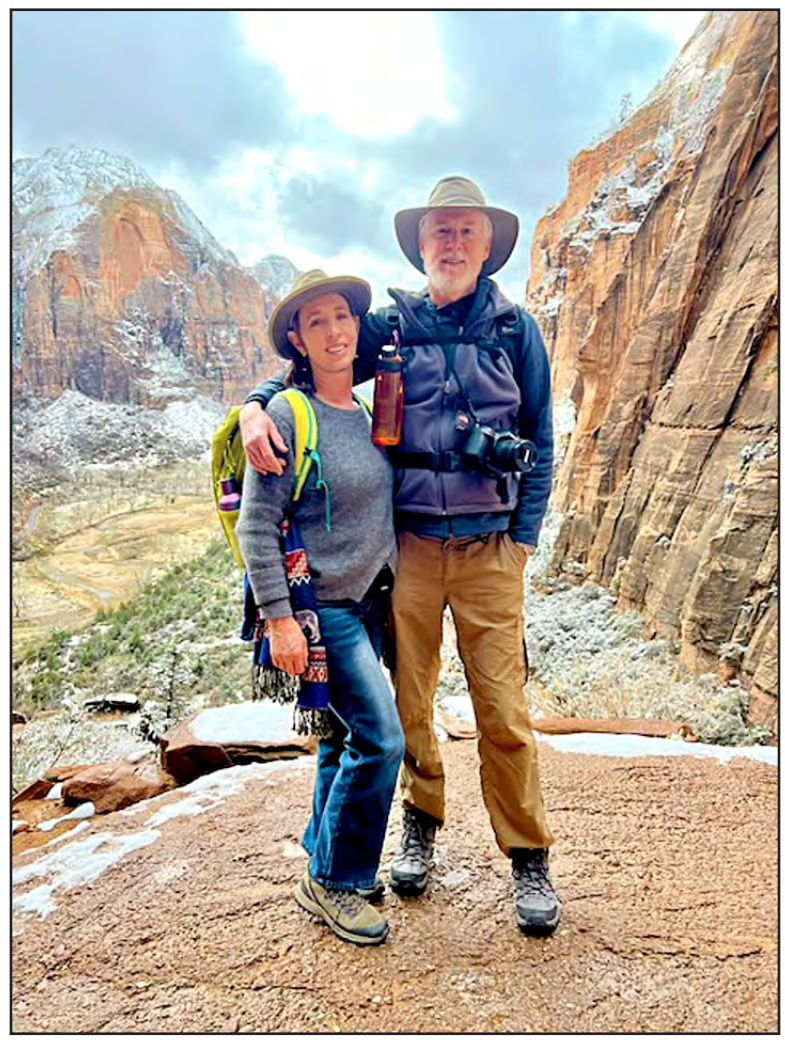
each year harder to live within
each year harder to live without

Craig Arnold earned his BA in English from Yale University and his PhD in creative writing from the University of Utah. Arnold's second collection of poetry, Made Flesh (2008), is "motored by vividly earthy language and disguised philosophical sophistication," observed Publishers Weekly in a starred review, praising "sequences neither (quite) lyric nor narrative, but erotic and ever alert." The raw, emotional intensity of Made Flesh stands in stark reply to the classical, formal mastery displayed in Arnold's first collection, Shells (1999), which won the 1998 Yale Younger Poets Award.

His honors included the Amy Lowell Traveling Poetry Scholarship, the Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the US-Japan Creative Artists Exchange Fellowship, the Alfred Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, a Dobie Paisano Residency, and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. A Fulbright Scholar at Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, Arnold was also an avid musician and performed as a member of the band Iris.

In 2009, Arnold traveled to Japan to research volcanoes for a planned book of poetry. In April of that year, he disappeared while hiking on the island of Kuchinoerabujima. In the New York Times, the poet David Orr mourned the loss of Arnold, but noted it would "be a mistake to think of him as a writer silenced before his prime... His shelf space may be smaller than one would wish, but he earned every bit of it."

Leaburg Library's July "Artists in Residence"



Leaburg Library proudly welcomes Jim Dinn, photographer, to the library's "Artists In Residence" program. His beautiful and innovative photography will be on display through July 31st. Jim has traveled the world with his wife Diana and his cameras, and has brought some of his captivating images to share with all of us.

Here's a little bit more about Jim in his own words:

Jim developed a love for photography in his teens, starting with a Kodak Instamatic. In high school he was introduced to black and white photography and darkroom basics by a photojournalist friend of his parents, and his experience started his serious exploration of photography as an art.

He bought his first 35mm camera in his sophomore year at college and started experimenting with film stocks, lighting, and black and white printing at a darkroom co-op near campus.

After graduating with a degree in Television and Film from the University of Texas, he worked for 18 years as a lighting technician and lighting director on television commercials and independent films, which broadened his experience with lighting and composition. Photography was a serious hobby that he continued to work on improving in order to show the image that he saw in his mind, which was not always the image delivered by the camera.

As cameras moved from analog to digital and the darkroom moved to the computer, more tools became available to manipulate and "enhance" the image that he had captured to move it closer to the picture that he wanted to present.

Some of the pictures here were taken with cameras modified to capture light in the infrared end of the spectrum, and most were processed in Adobe Photoshop to bring them closer to what he saw and imagined when he took the picture.

Jim and Diana retired and moved to the McKenzie Valley in 2018, with one of the objectives being closer access to the beautiful range of landscapes that he loves to photograph.

Come spend some time perusing Jim's wonderful photography collection; it is well worth the time. You're gonna love what you see.

The library is open Monday through Thursday from 1:30 – 4pm, and Saturday from 10am – 1pm. We'll see you soon!

Ogre achiever.

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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.

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish were: Smith Reservoir – 1,000, Carmen Reservoir – 600, Leaburg Lake – 1,000, and McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 850.

Fish Counts
July 9, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook – 34,222
Summer Steelhead – 9,078

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

July 16 - The middle of July 1828, mountain man Jedediah Smith and a group of eighteen trappers were camped on Smith River (located on the Southern Oregon coast). Indians attacked and every white man was killed except for Smith and three others. The survivors wandered for weeks, and according to one report, upon reaching Fort Vancouver they were, "bareheaded and barefooted, more nearly dead than alive. They had endured on roots and the creeping things of the forest." A group of Hudson's Bay Company trappers recovered the expedition's furs and supplies, and even Smith's journal. Jedediah Smith died at age 32, at the hand of the Comanche Indians.

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American Airlines delayed my flight, so I drove. Why can't I get a refund?

After an airline delay leaves him stranded in Phoenix, Michael Damarino rents a car to finish his trip. But American Airlines voids his refundable ticket because he's technically a "*no-show.*" *Can he get his money back?*

My wife and I were recently scheduled to fly from Boston to Tucson, Ariz., via Phoenix on American Airlines. We booked refundable tickets through Expedia.

The first flight was delayed 90 minutes because the first officer fell ill, and it also had a problem with weight calculations on checked baggage. Because of the delay, we missed our connecting flight to Tucson.

There were no later flights with space available, so we had to rent a car and drive the 100 miles to Tucson.

American Airlines is offering me a flight credit. It has erroneously stated my ticket was nonrefundable. I have gotten nowhere, and I need help getting my refund.

Michael Damarino, Brockton, Mass.

I admire your initiative. When American Airlines handed you lemons in Phoenix, you made lemonade by renting a car and hitting the highway so you wouldn't miss your vacation.

Here's the thing about airline logic: It rarely aligns with the logic of a rational human being.

You purchased a refundable ticket. In the real world, that means if you don't use it, you get your money back. In the airline world, however, "refundable" often comes with strings attached.

The most important string is the "no-show" clause. If you aren't at the gate when the flight closes, and you haven't canceled the reservation before your departure, the airline assumes you aren't coming. It marks you as a no-show, cancels the rest of your itinerary, and you often forfeit the value of the ticket.

When you decided to rent a car and drive to Tucson, you effectively became a no-show for that second leg. You solved your own problem, which is commendable, but you didn't tell American Airlines you were doing it so that their computers wouldn't categorize you as a no-show.

Since you booked through Expedia, there was an extra layer of complexity. The online travel agency saw that the airline had marked you as a no-show, which tied its hands regarding a refund.

Expedia told you to talk to American. American told you to talk to Expedia. It was the classic travel industry game of Pong, and you as the ball.

To be clear, you should have received a full refund for the unused portion of your ticket. The delay was caused by the airline's operational issues—a sick pilot and baggage weight problems—not an act of God. Under the Department of Transportation's rules, you're entitled to a refund if the airline cancels your flight. When it comes to a delay, it must be "significant" (more than three hours for a domestic flight) to be considered for a refund. Your delay wouldn't have qualified if you had a nonrefundable ticket, but your ticket was refundable, so you should have received it, as long as you notified American before the flight departed.

However, because you took matters into your own hands without formally canceling that second leg first, you gave the airline a technical loophole.

For future reference, if you decide to bail on a connection and drive, make sure you cancel the remaining flight segments immediately. Get an agent to document that the cancellation is due to a significant delay. That preserves the value of your refundable ticket.

If you ever find yourself stuck in a customer service loop between an agency and an airline, you can often cut through the red tape by escalating your complaint to an executive. I publish the names, numbers and emails of the top executives at American Airlines and Expedia in the company contacts section of my consumer advocacy website, Elliott.org.

I contacted Expedia on your behalf. The company reached out to American Airlines regarding your situation. The airline initially stuck to its no-show policy, adding two $50 trip credits to your existing credits for the inconvenience, but then did an about-face and refunded the entire ticket. You say it would have been impossible to notify American that you weren't going to use the next leg of your flight because of the initial flight delay, and the airline eventually agreed.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (https://elliottadvocacy.org), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/

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Picking Lavender

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Bees were busy doing harvesting of their own.

Before handing visitors their clippers, Ellis emphasized that proper harvesting is essential—not only for creating an attractive bouquet but also for protecting next year's blooms.

Rather than cutting stems at random, he instructed guests to look carefully down each stem until they find two leaves growing opposite one another. The cut should be made just above those leaves.

According to him, cutting below that point can prevent the stem from flowering the following season.

"You're picking the stem, not the plant," he explained. "Every spring, new flowering stems grow from the base of the plant."

After visitors finished gathering their lavender, they went to a festival tent where staff wrapped each bouquet in tissue paper and provided care instructions before heading home.

Ellis recommended two different methods, depending on how visitors plan to use their bouquet.

For fresh indoor displays, he suggested placing the stems in about one-half inch of water and changing it daily for the first three days. On the third day, most of the water should be removed so the bouquet can gradually dry while standing upright. He also recommended keeping the arrangement in a cool room away from direct sunlight.

For those hoping to preserve the bouquet for months, Ellis advised skipping the vase entirely.

Instead, he recommended taking the bouquet home dry, tying the stems together, hanging them upside down in a dark location like a closet, and allowing them to dry for three to four days. Once dried, the lavender can retain its beauty and fragrance for months, provided it is handled gently.

Ellis also shared a few tips for enjoying the experience while helping preserve the farm's appearance.

Visitors were welcome to harvest throughout most of the field, but the outer two rows are reserved to provide a colorful backdrop for photographs throughout the festival.

He also encouraged guests to slow down and enjoy the surroundings.

Rather than simply cutting flowers and leaving, Ellis suggested taking time to sit among the lavender, appreciate the peaceful setting, and watch the bees at work.

Although bees are abundant throughout the blooming fields, Ellis reassured visitors that they are focused on gathering nectar and pollen.

"The bees are here for the flowers," he explained, while encouraging visitors not to disturb them. "If you leave them alone, they'll leave you alone."

By following proper harvesting and preservation techniques, Ellis said guests can enjoy their lavender long after the festival was over, while helping ensure the fields continue producing beautiful blooms for future summers.

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Summer at McKenzie: Preparing for a New School Year The First Day Starts Months Before School

By Lane Tompkins
Superintendent
McKenzie Schools

For students, the first day of school begins when they walk through the front doors on August 31. New school supplies are unpacked, friends reconnect after the summer, and classrooms fill with the excitement of a new year.

For those of us who work in schools, however, the first day of school actually begins months earlier.

One of the things I enjoy most about summer is seeing the incredible amount of preparation that happens behind the scenes. While our buildings may be quieter without students, they are anything but inactive. Every department across the district is working toward one common goal: ensuring that when students arrive on the first day of school, everything is ready for them.

That preparation starts with people.

Our office staff are processing registrations, answering questions from families, updating student records, and preparing schedules. Every new enrollment helps us make decisions about staffing, classroom organization, transportation, and instructional programming.

Our maintenance and custodial staff continue caring for our campus by deep cleaning classrooms, completing repairs, maintaining grounds, servicing equipment, and preparing every learning space to welcome students back in August. Their work often happens quietly behind the scenes, but it creates the clean, safe, and welcoming environment our students deserve.

Throughout the summer, teachers are reviewing curriculum, analyzing student data from the previous year, participating in professional learning, planning instruction, organizing classrooms, and thinking about the individual students they will soon welcome into their classrooms. Great teaching begins long before the first lesson is taught.

Transportation staff are preparing buses, reviewing routes, completing inspections, and making sure students can travel safely to and from school on the very first day. Nutrition Services staff are preparing menus, ordering food, and planning to provide healthy meals that fuel student learning.

Administrators spend the summer coordinating all of these moving pieces while planning professional development, refining school schedules, supporting hiring efforts, preparing budgets, reviewing safety procedures, and ensuring we are ready to provide students with the best educational experience possible.

At the same time, fall athletics begin to take shape. High school fall sports practices officially begin on August 17, followed by Meet the Teacher Night on August 28, before students return for the first day of school on Monday, August 31. Each of these milestones represents months of preparation by coaches, advisors, teachers, office staff, and volunteers.

The work of preparing for a successful school year is truly a team effort.

It also reminds us that schools are much more than classrooms. They are transportation systems, food service operations, maintenance departments, technology networks, athletic programs, and community gathering places, all working together to support student success.

As August draws closer, excitement begins to build. We look forward to hearing laughter in the hallways again, seeing classrooms come to life, and welcoming both familiar and new faces back to campus.

Until then, we'll continue doing what summer allows us to do best: prepare thoughtfully so that every student has the opportunity to start the school year on the right foot.

Thank you for your continued support of McKenzie schools. Every successful first day of school is made possible by an entire community working together on behalf of its students, and we are grateful to be part of such a supportive community.

Legendary outlaw

Continued From Page 4

Baker County Library

Canyon City as it appeared from a nearby bluff in 1885. This was the town in which, 20 years earlier, Hank Vaughan got in his first serious trouble with the law after he shot two people – one for calling him a thief, and the other for signing an arrest warrant.

foothills of the Blue Mountains, stole a few good horses from a ranch there, and headed for Idaho Territory with them.

But Umatilla County Sheriff Frank Maddock and Deputy Jackson Hart were hot on their trail. The two lawmen got the drop on them one night while they were camping by Swayze Creek near the Burnt River, close by the Idaho border. And when the two lawmen slipped up to the sleeping boys and yelled for them to throw up their hands, they both woke up shooting.

The ensuing gunfight was short, but very eventful. Deputy Hart was killed on the spot. So was Hank's companion, Dick Bunton. Sheriff Maddock was wounded badly, a bullet actually passing through his skull and breaking his jaw and wrecking his inner ear, and knocked unconscious. And Hank was hit in the thigh and scalp.

It's hard to stay on the lam with a bullet in your leg, so Hank was soon captured. Dragged back to the notoriously rope-happy town of Auburn to stand trial, Hank was nearly lynched by an angry crowd, and had it not been for the intervention of future U.S. Rep. John Hailey — who stood between the crowd and the jail with a cocked Colt in each fist until they gave up and dispersed — that would have been the end for Hank.

The sentence: Life in prison

The trial was fast and the outcome not much in doubt. The Dalles Weekly Mountaineer reported its outcome on June 16, 1865:

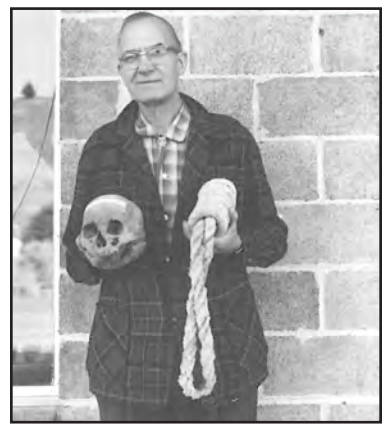
"Henry Vaughan, the boy thief and murderer, arrived at The Dalles yesterday in custody of an officer on his way to the penitentiary, where he is to pass the remainder of his life. This fellow is a youth … yet he is steeped in crime, and regarded as one of the worst villains that ever cursed the country. It is to be hoped that he is not permitted to escape, as in the event of his return to this county he is sure to be hung."

And so to prison Hank went. He was under a life sentence, but he would only serve five years. Some historians have claimed that prison turned him from a wild but good-hearted boy into a hard-eyed monster, which is a fairly common pattern in such cases. However, the Hank Vaughan that emerged from prison seems to have been less dangerous rather than more. He definitely was more successful in his rustling endeavors after he got out. And while he certainly had his enemies and got in his share of gunfights and scrapes with the law, the post-prison Hank Vaughan seemed to have developed an ability to fit into and even dominate frontier social life. He'd never face a lynch mob again — because he'd learned how to get what he wanted from society without getting identified as a deadly threat.

Prison seems to have given Hank the discipline and social skills he'd need to survive and thrive in the 1870s and 1880s on the Oregon frontier. We'll talk about how that went next week, in Part 2 of this 3-part series on Hank Vaughan.

(Sources: Skovlin, Jon and Donna. Hank Vaughan: Hell-Raising Horse Trader of the Bunchgrass Territory. Cove, Ore.: Reflections, 1996; Gulick, Bill. Outlaws of the Pacific Northwest. Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton, 2000)

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



Ben Maxwell/Salem Public Library

Howard A. Black, the curator of the Grant County Museum in Canyon City, shows the skull of murderer Berry Way, hanged for murder near Canyon City in 1864 – the same year hot-tempered 15-year-old Hank Vaughan shot two people in Canyon City. Had Hank's aim been better, this would likely have been his fate as well.

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Gravel Tour

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Not quite as fast as a mountain bike in covering rough terrain or as quick as a road bike on pavement, a gravel bike betters either where the route combines elements of both surfaces.

Sperry said gravel cycling has become the fastest-growing segment of the sport, surpassing both traditional road cycling and mountain biking in popularity.

Unlike specialized road or mountain bikes, gravel bikes are designed to handle a wide variety of terrain, allowing riders to efficiently travel on pavement, gravel roads, and trails.

"They're incredibly versatile," Sperry explained. "They're much faster on pavement than mountain bikes while still being capable on rough gravel and dirt roads."

Modern technology has also transformed the sport, with improved braking systems, lightweight composite frames and wider tires making today's gravel bikes more capable than ever.

One of the biggest attractions for organizers was the McKenzie area's extensive network of interconnected logging roads.

Sperry said the roads, built during Oregon's timber boom of the 1940s through the 1960s, create a riding experience that is difficult to find anywhere else in North America.

Unlike many logging road systems that end in isolated valleys, the Cascade road network allows riders to travel continuously through vast stretches of public forest, connecting communities including Sisters, the McKenzie Valley, Oakridge and Detroit.

"I don't know anywhere else in the country where there's a road network like this," Sperry said.

The combination of scenic forests, mountain views and long stretches free from vehicular traffic has helped make the Oregon Trail Gravel Tour one of the country's premier gravel cycling events.

Stage One began in Sisters and followed portions of the historic Santiam Wagon Road before descending through the Cascade forests to the McKenzie Community Track.

The route included the event's most infamous obstacle — the "Santiam Sandbox" — an eight-mile section of deep volcanic sand and pumice that forced many riders to alternate between riding and pushing their bikes.

Originally built during the early 1860s to connect Central Oregon with the Willamette Valley, the wagon road was designed for ox teams and wagons rather than bicycles, making it one of the event's most memorable challenges.

This year's unusually low snowpack made conditions even more difficult.

Normally, snow would remain on the ground at Sand Mountain into late June, helping keep the volcanic soil moist and compact. This year, however, the snow melted by mid-May, leaving the sand exceptionally loose.

"It was one of the driest years we've seen," Sperry said.

Despite the demanding opening miles, riders were rewarded with fast descents and smooth Forest Service roads as they approached the McKenzie Valley.

The second stage departed the McKenzie Community Track Thursday morning with riders rolling together in a "neutral start" mode along Highway 126 before official race timing began on the Aufderheide Scenic Byway.

From there, competitors traveled south through the Forest Service roadway system, including roads near Salmon Creek, before finishing in Oakridge, where participants spent two nights before continuing the event.

Organizers intentionally exclude the highway portion from competition to minimize impacts on public traffic while safely moving riders onto the gravel course, Sperry said.

Among people enjoying the experience were Sean Ritchie of Kingston, New York, and fellow New Yorker Wyatt Roberts, who both described the event as spectacular despite its physical demands.

"It's spectacular," Roberts said. "It's hard, but that's part of what makes it so rewarding."

The opening stage covered approximately 82 miles from Sisters to McKenzie, nearly all of it on gravel roads.

Roberts said the "Sandbox" section lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest parts of the course.

"It was probably about seven miles of really technical sand," he said.

The multi-day event requires riders to cover roughly 75 to 80 miles most days, with timed race sections connected by untimed rides into each overnight camp.

For Ritchie, it marked his first gravel cycling experience in the Pacific Northwest.

"I'm glad I came," he said.

Roberts, who has ridden elsewhere in Oregon, said gravel cycling combines the endurance of road riding with the adventure of mountain biking.

"It's really the best of both worlds," he said. "You can ride long distances through the woods, away from traffic, and experience places you wouldn't otherwise see."

The riders explained that gravel bikes resemble traditional road bikes but feature much wider tires and lower gearing better suited for steep climbs and rough surfaces.

"They're enormously capable," Ritchie said.

He noted that today's gravel bikes outperform many mountain bikes built during the 1990s, thanks to decades of technological advances.

The Oregon Trail Gravel Tour offered more than competition. Riders were treated to catered breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Other details included stocked aid stations, transport of their gear, mechanical support, campsite entertainment, specialty coffee and optional massage services throughout the week.

After arriving at the McKenzie Community Track, many participants took advantage of one local tradition encouraged by organizers: cooling off in the McKenzie River, located just beyond the campground.

For riders covered in volcanic dust after a day on the historic Santiam Wagon Road, the river provided a brish and refreshing end to an unforgettable first stage through the heart of the Oregon Cascades.

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Climber Died

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prompting concerns that an accident had occurred.

Linn County Search and Rescue launched a search with assistance from the Oregon Army National Guard, whose helicopter located Pickering at approximately 5:30 p.m. He was found about 200 feet below the summit.

Investigators believe Pickering suffered a fatal fall from near the summit, landing near the location where he was found.

Because of the steep, rugged terrain, rescue crews were unable to recover his body Thursday evening. Recovery operations resumed Friday morning, July 10, when personnel from the Linn County Sheriff's Office and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office successfully retrieved him from the mountainside.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office extended its condolences to Pickering's family and friends.

Several agencies assisted in the search and recovery effort, including the Linn County Sheriff's Office, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County Sheriff's Office in Nevada, the Oregon Army National Guard, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

Mount Washington, a 7,794-foot volcanic peak located along the Cascade crest east of McKenzie Pass, is known for its steep volcanic rock and challenging climbing conditions, particularly near the summit.

Waste System

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Veneta from six to four days per week. The changes take effect August 10.

County officials estimate the adopted plan will generate approximately $3 million in annual savings.

During public comment, a Creswell woman urged commissioners not to close the transfer station, saying many rural residents rely on it because they cannot afford weekly curbside garbage service.

She warned that eliminating the facility could increase illegal dumping along roadsides, in forests and campgrounds. Instead of permanent closure, she encouraged commissioners to consider reducing operating hours or limiting service days.

Joe Moll, executive director of the McKenzie River Trust, encouraged support for proposed Springfield development code amendments associated with a drinking water treatment facility planned along the Willamette River in Glenwood, designed to serve more than 300,000 residents.

Molll also praised the county Parks Department for its stewardship of levy-funded natural areas and encouraged continued investment in public lands.

Currently, the county's solid waste program faces a structural operating deficit of approximately $3 million.

In addition, staff told commissioners the system must continue building reserves for future landfill expansion, closure and post-closure obligations at the Short Mountain Landfill.

Staff presented several options, including complete closure of the Creswell Transfer Station. Commissioners instead selected an alternative that keeps the facility open two days each week.

Vice Chair Heather Buch said she had heard overwhelming feedback from constituents opposed to shutting down the Creswell facility.

She said residents generally preferred reduced hours or modest fee increases rather than losing the station entirely.

She also expressed concern that many rural residents have only one available garbage collection provider, leaving them with few alternatives if transfer station access is reduced.

Commissioner David Loveall said Lane County's transfer station network has long been a point of pride and argued that permanent closures should remain a last resort.

While acknowledging the financial realities facing the system, he said reducing operating days represented a better solution than eliminating facilities altogether.

County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky said much of the current financial challenge stems from changes in where waste is being disposed.

He said the county's transfer station system has historically been supported by a system benefit fee established through agreements with local cities in 1999.

Earlier this year, however, the City of Creswell ended its intergovernmental agreement with the county. As a result, garbage is now being hauled outside the county rather than through Lane County's system.

Mokrohisky said Springfield and Cottage Grove are also exporting waste, reducing revenue needed to support the county's transfer station network and landfill reserves.

Commissioner Loveall suggested the county's Clean Lane project contributed to rising disposal costs that encouraged haulers to seek less expensive alternatives.

The adopted plan will reduce staffing needs by the equivalent of 1.15 full-time positions. No layoffs are anticipated because existing vacancies are expected to absorb the reduction.

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