



# A look back

## at some of the last year's news



## January

At the start of 2022, the Jones family (owners of the Seneca Family of Companies) donated 16 acres adjacent to the Aaron and Marie Jones Field/McKenzie Track for community rebuilding and revitalization after the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. A range of possible range from affordable housing to a state-certified child care center, as well as multi-use office spaces, community drinking water, septic infrastructure, and more. The McKenzie River Trust said it will manage the site with community partners as open space while community planning continues for the larger Blue River area.

To the west McKenzie Fire and Springfield School District crews had to pump water out of the Walterville Elementary School after it was flooded. Damage to the well-loved building was extensive and meant students couldn't return to their normal classrooms for the rest of the year.

Good news came to Leaburg when the U.S. Army Corps



of Engineers announced it was transferring the fire-damaged Leaburg Trout Hatchery it had scheduled for closure to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. In 2018, the Corps ceased production of summer steelhead there and outsourced the hatchery's rainbow trout production to the privately-owned Desert Springs Trout Farm in Summer Lake, Oregon. That outsourcing for just two years.

## February

A closely watched area on the South Sister, known as the "Bulge" was bulging in February, according to satellite data that showed an uplift grew by 0.85 inches. A number of small earthquakes had also been recorded in the 12-mile wide area which is located about 3 miles west of the relatively The area gained its nickname about 25 years ago when the upward growth was first recorded. Cascades Volcano Observatory geophysicists also said that although episodes of increased uplift had been observed, the volcano's alert level and color code remained at "Normal/Green."

In a unanimous vote, the board of commissioners approved hiring five deputy sheriffs, two detectives, and one sergeant. The money was sourced through the federal Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) had declined about 90% since the 1970's when timber harvests generated much more income.

In a return to community gatherings, over 100 neighbors showed up for a Chili Feed at the Walterville Community Center. Besides serving dinner to all those numbers, the Grange-sponsored event also generated 50 pounds of canned goods for the Valley's Food Pantries.



## March



The Willamette National Forest invited people to a virtual public meeting on a proposal to decommission Delta Campground. Dead and burnt trees had been identified as posing an imminent hazard to the public, making the area no longer safe or suitable for camping. The proposal included removing all campground infrastructure, including bathrooms, fire rings, signs, picnic tables, bridge remnants, and paved surfaces.

A different program, from EWEB's McKenzie River Source Protection Program, called for planting 500,000 trees in areas that burned in the Holiday Farm Fire. Officials said the work was designed to safeguard drinking water for metro residents by addressing erosion from high-burn areas, as well as longer-term resiliency to restore floodplain areas that are critical to water quality and habitat.

At Leaburg Lake, dreams of a state-of-the-art interactive visitor center moved closer to reality during the Oregon legislature's 2022 short session. Approval was given to a \$3 million lottery fund package earmarked for the development of the McKenzie River Discovery Center. Plans call for building a new 10,000 sq. ft. museum/education complex on the grounds, where fish hatchery-related structures were originally constructed in 1907 and decommissioned in 1953. The 46-acre site includes buildings on the National Historic Registry.

## April

"It was a super cool experience," was the way one McKenzie High student reacted after seeing the Manzanita sculpture and the artists who delivered it. "The gift came from students of the Phoenix-Talent School District who created it after realizing their area wasn't alone in being impacted by the wildfires of 2020. After dropping off their artwork at McKenzie they traveled to the Santiam Canyon School District, which had also been hit by fire.



People interested in local medical care can were invited to learn more at the McKenzie Valley Wellness annual meeting next month. Participants were interested in hearing about the \$1.8 million grant the local nonprofit has received to replace a building that burned in 2020. as well as the election of board members.

Snow on the Clear Lake Cutoff proved challenging to three different motorists who all ran off the roadway in separate wrecks on the same day.

## May

A serious landslide on Aufderheide Drive put a serious crimp on recreational activities by limiting access to not only Terwilliger Hot Springs but also numerous day-use sites and campgrounds that would not be accessible from Highway 126. Affected recreation sites include the Echo Boat Launch; After the snow melted and fallen trees were cleared, accessible from the south side was via Oakridge/Westfir.

The McKenzie School District dealt with a shortage of school bus drivers by combining the downriver routes, to and from school. The district offered to hire and train qualified driver candidates with pay up to \$21/hour with a \$1,200 sign-on hiring bonus.

A report of a deceased male near the eastern snow gate of Hwy. 242 was followed up by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. The corpse had been located by a mushroom hunter. Investigators said they found no evidence of foul play.

The Oregon Fire Chief's Association honored five McKenzie Fire & Rescue volunteers for their long-term commitment to the community. Receiving the OFCA Award



of Excellence were Dana Burwell – 45 Years, Thomas Maddock – 45 Years, Rusty Flanders – 37 years, Dale Ledyard – 35 Years, and Jim Ellis – 30 Years of service.

## June



Vida's turn-of-the-20th-century stagecoach stop was transformed into live musical performances thanks to the construction of a large wooden stage. The first concert held there was a fundraiser for the Vida Community Center, featuring doo-wop twang, country blues, and progressive bluegrass tunes.

Volunteers from the Scorpions were busy restoring the McKenzie River Trail - between Deer Creek and the Trail-bridge Reservoir. The work included restoring the tread on sections that were damaged by slides, trees, rock falls, etc. Last Tuesday they focused on a section with a very steep side slope - building rock retaining walls.

Subscribers to River Reflections were urged to send in their email addresses to continue receiving copies. The notice came as a warning that the mailed print edition would soon no longer be available due to unsustainable print and delivery costs.



## Letters to the Editor

### VMCC receives grant

In time for Christmas, the Vida McKenzie Community Center received a \$3,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) for operating expense support. When the Center opens its doors in late Spring/early Summer 2023, these funds will make it possible for VMCC to “hit the ground running.”

The Board of Directors is most grateful for these funds and is looking forward to Grand Opening Day!

To make a tax-deductible year-end donation and to see our progress, go to [vidacommunitycenter.com](http://vidacommunitycenter.com). View pictures of our rebuild status by clicking on “construction scrapbook.”

Gerry Aster  
VMCC Vice President

**Ridin' the Rapids**



By Ken Engelman

As another year winds down it's always a good time to count our blessings, reflect on the year, and thank in particular the great people and businesses whose partnerships have shored up and sustained McKenzie River Reflections.

In recent years newspaper publishers have faced hard choices when confronted with rapidly rising production and delivery costs. Luckily, I saw changes were inevitable and started to prepare for major adjustments over three years ago by offering existing and new subscribers a digital version of this weekly newspaper.

2022 proved to be a continuation of significant yearly challenges dating back to when COVID first made its appearance. Since then potential roadblocks to

sustainability have included the Holiday Farm Fire, the death of my wife and partner, and the decision of our long-time printer to stop producing newspapers.

Luckily, the last 12 months included opportunities to team up with organizations that have been immensely helpful as a way to gain perspectives and guidance on business operations as well as a sounding board to bounce new ideas off of.

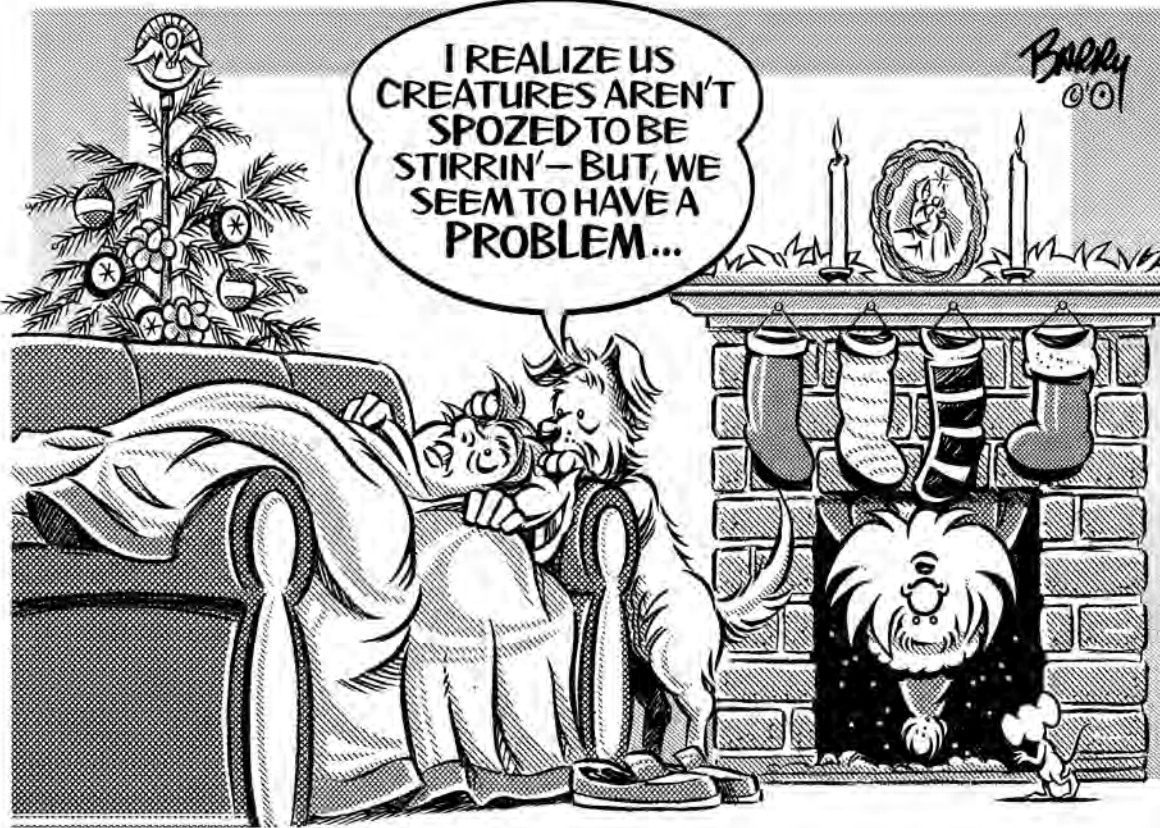
One I've joined is RAIN (Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network) of Eugene. It's an organization of established and newly launched entrepreneurs that provides training in a wide variety of skills. Some of those skills I've been using for the last 40+ years but the after-class gatherings always provide a new nugget of information about how someone else has solved a unique problem.

The other group is LION (Local Independent Online News) Publishers, a 400+ member association of independent news organizations. It too offers courses and resources and peer connections focused on ways to succeed in today's online world of publishing.

LION, in cooperation with the Google News Initiative, solicited applications from members to be part of a sustainability audit designed to evaluate a publication's operations - and determine if it was on a positive growth path. McKenzie River Reflections was one of 25 publications chosen for the sustainability review.

According to LION and Google, I'm on the right path and they've authorized a \$6,000 grant to Reflections to continue moving forward. As part of that agreement, I offered to share reports on my progress with other members of the organization.

So, as I look forward to the coming months, I'd like to hope 2023 will be filled with continuing successes - and much happiness for you and yours.



## Paid Leave for all workers will lift off in 2023



Both full and half-time workers will be eligible for Oregon's paid leave program.

By Eric Tegethoff  
Oregon News Service  
Oregon is joining the ranks of states providing paid leave for all

workers.

In January, employees and employers will begin paying into the program. Workers will be able to apply for benefits in September.

Karen Humelbaugh, director of the Paid Leave Oregon program for the Oregon Employment Department, said the program is important for the safety and welfare of communities.

“Some of us have had paid leave through our employer, but many Oregonians do not have any form of paid leave,” Humelbaugh explained. “This helps to create this level playing field and vital safety net for all Oregonians who

are working.”

Paid leave of up to 12 weeks a year will be available in three situations. The first is family leave so people can take care of a family member, newborn, or adopted child. The second is medical leave for someone's own health. And the third is safe leave for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, harassment, or stalking.

Humelbaugh pointed out COVID has taught us life is unpredictable, illuminating how vital a program like this is. She noted workers should understand where funds for this program are coming from.

“The contributions are going to start to come out of their checks beginning on January 1st of 2023,” Humelbaugh noted. “Workers understand also that they're sharing that contribution rate with their large employer if they have a large employer.”

Workers will pay 60% of the contribution rate and employers with 25 or more employees will pay 40%. So, for a worker making \$50,000 a year, they will contribute \$300 annually and their employer will contribute \$200.

Oregon is among 11 states offering paid family and medical leave and the last state on the West Coast to offer the benefits.

**McKenzie Eagles Sports Report**



By Cliff Richardson

**McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week**

There are no McKenzie Varsity Sports scheduled for this week. Mt. West League and non-League play resumes after the first of the New Year. The Eagle Boys and Girls teams host Riddle in a non-league contest on Wednesday, January 4, at Finn Rock. The Varsity Boys games starts at 5:30 pm and the Varsity Girls game follows at 7:00 pm. Both Eagle teams travel to Eddyville Charter, the next day, Thursday, January 5. The Boys game is scheduled for a 5:30 pm start and the Girls game tip-off at 7 pm.

**Letters to the Editor**

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

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\*\*\*\* Don't forget to describe what makes them the best! \*\*\*\*



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Friday 12/30		Saturday 12/31		Sunday 1/1	
					
<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Showers 70% chance precip High: 51 Low: 40	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Snow 80% chance precip High: 34 Low: 25	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Showers 60% chance precip High: 47 Low: 39	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Snow Showers 60% chance precip High: 35 Low: 25	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Mostly Cloudy 50% chance precip High: 48 Low: 37	<b>Santiam Pass</b> AM Snow Showers 50% chance precip High: 32 Low: 23

WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/20	36	31	0	360 cfs	12/20	44	32	0.10	2,380 cfs
12/21	45	34	0	355 cfs	12/21	44	38	0.55	3,100 cfs
12/22	31	27	0	360 cfs	12/22	40	28	0	3,380 cfs
12/23	36	31	0	365 cfs	12/23	40	28	0.17	3,150 cfs
12/24	42	35	0.11	380 cfs	12/24	45	40	0.05	4,190 cfs
12/25	49	41	0	400 cfs	12/25	50	43	0.96	5,978 cfs
12/26	47	42	.50	417 cfs	12/26	59	41	0	5,652 cfs



# Sheriff's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dec. 19: 1:01 p.m:** Theft - McGowan Creek Rd. Milepost 3.5.

**1:58 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy. Mailbox found near Walterville Pond

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

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

**6:08 p.m:** Assault - 49500 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to the report of a domestic assault. Investigation revealed no crime occurred.

**7:45 p.m:** Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller found beer cans and nicotine patches on his property. Believes they were left by a former tenant.

**Dec. 20: 2:51 p.m:** Assist,

Continued On Page 5

# State Police Report

**Dec. 12: 12:06 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 126E. Waltherville Road. A trailer was called in as a hazard. Trailer was not a hazard but was tagged as abandoned. Trooper contacted the trailer owner and indicated a felony warrant on the owner. The owner was taken into custody for the warrant and lodged at the Lane County Jail.

**Dec. 22: 04:07:** Traffic Crimes, All Except DUII - Marcola Rd. Milepost 12. Troopers stopped the driver of a red Mustang whose owner was misdemeanor suspended for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. The driver of the Mustang was the registered owner and was cited and released for Driving While Suspended. Involved: 47-year-old male.

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Dec. 19: 15:44:** 89000 block, Block Hill Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded.

**19:26:** 88000 blk, Tiki Lane. Motor Vehicle Accident, Non-Blocking, Deceased.

**Dec. 20: 11:55:** 46000 blk, Goodpasture Rd. Lift Assist Only.

**Dec. 21: 16:09:** 39000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. 16:09 Patient Refusal.

**17:34:** 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. Non-Injury/Patient Refusal..

**Dec. 22: 23:10:** 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal.

**Dec. 23: 6:51:** 38000 blk, Natures Garden Way Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Continued On Page 8

# Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

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

**Dec. 21: 03:37:** Medical - 51000 blk, Dexter St. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**22:35:** House Fire - 91000 blk, Horse Creek Rd. Caller hear loud boom, now seeing fire to the west.

**Dec. 23: 18:06:** Medical - 91000 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Continued On Page 8

MRR

McKenzie River Reflections

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

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# World's clumsiest drug smugglers - also its most audacious

By Finn J.D. John  
**Part Three**

As you will have gathered, it didn't exactly take brilliant detective work to figure out what was going on over at Dunbar Produce and Grocery. By November of 1893, word of what they were up to had been filtering up from the waterfront for at least a year and a half.

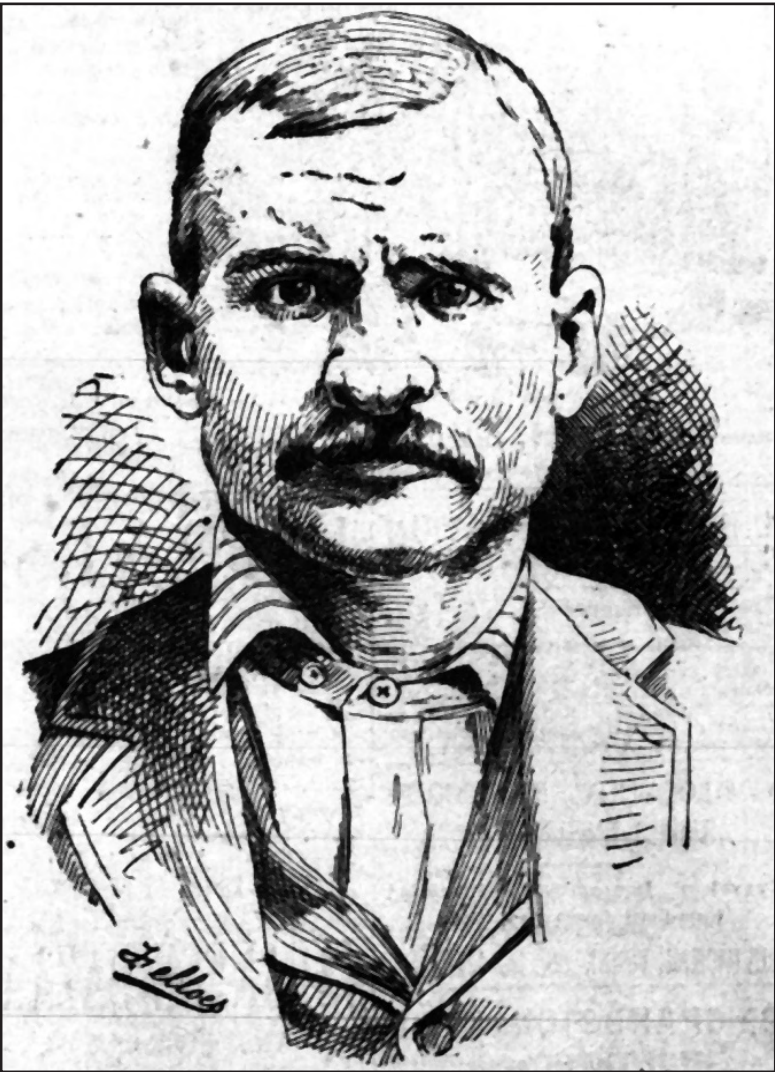
So, in late November 1893, a grand jury returned indictments against 15 people — including Blum, Dunbar, and Lotan. The charges involved smuggling more than two tons of opium and running a human-trafficking operation smuggling thousands of undocumented Chinese laborers into Portland.

The trial held the city spellbound. But Lotan and his codefendants hadn't much need to worry. The roster of court officers at this trial reads like an excerpt from the Arlington Club directory. As an added bonus, the foreman of the jury — Charles Ladd — was a close friend of James Lotan.

The trial ended with a hung jury. The word on the street was that the vote was 11 to 1; jury foreman Ladd had refused to vote to convict his friend. A new trial would have to be scheduled.

Meanwhile, Blum, having posted a \$1,000 bond, promptly disappeared from the city. The rumor around town was that he had gone east to Washington, D.C., to lobby the president for a pardon.

But he returned to Portland and participated in an attempt at a retrial — and then did it again. There were a total of three trials for the accused smugglers from



**Portland Evening Telegram**  
Blum-Dunbar gang member Joseph “Bunco” Kelly, as drawn by the Portland Evening Telegram’s staff artist during his trial on a murder charge in 1894.

the Blum-Dunbar ring, and the thing dragged on well into 1895 as public and newspaper reporters alike got increasingly tired of the whole thing and as Blum got more and more “creative” in his testimony. A few of the defendants ended up being convicted, but mostly these were the ones who

had been foolish enough to plead guilty. But the more Portland saw Nat Blum on the stand, the less credible his testimony became. Lotan never did get convicted.

There was, however, one exception to this pattern. The government had the goods on William Dunbar, and he knew it.

He'd gotten off on the coattails of Lotan in the first trial, but there would have been nothing any lawyer or influential friend would be able to do for him at the next one. Accordingly, Dunbar left for Hong Kong shortly after the first trial commenced on what he claimed was a business trip, and remained there in exile, knowing that he'd be arrested stepping off the boat if he should ever return. Twenty years later, in November 1913, President Wilson pardoned him, and he was able to finally come home.

A few months after the first trial, the impounded Wilmington burned to the waterline and sank in the river, and several months after that, the Haytian Republic was bought up by the Seattle operators and renamed the S.S. Portland. There is a distinct wistful quality to newspaper coverage of both these events. Notorious as both ships were, Portlanders were sad to see them go.

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

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



By Slim Randles

Somehow the snow is a little like Christmas. We can expect it. We can listen to the television weather and expect it. But still, when it comes it's like a gift - a wonderful unwrapped gift - because it is the wrapping.

Doc found it when he turned on the porch light before dawn and the sheer whiteness of it came to him, and he smiled and let the cup of coffee warm his hands and the coffee itself warm his insides.

Snow — whether it's an inch or three feet — tucks us in, he thought. It's an act of love, covering each of us equally, as a mother would do. There should be an ordinance, he thought, smiling, that no one should be required to get out and drive in it, shovel it, curse it, until at least the initial magic has passed. Soon enough, we realize, it will be plowed into muddy strips on our streets and slushed into the gutters and our shoes will complain and we'll have to be careful not to track it in the house. That comes later. Road closures ... they come later, too. When these heavy gray heavens pull back to reveal the moon and the sun, the cold will come, along with the threat of ruptured pipes.

But not now. Right now, in the holiness of early morning, Doc had the best of the snow. The gentle, eternally silent blessing of winter.

It should stay that way at least through breakfast, he thought. At least through breakfast.

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## Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



**Oregon State University**

OSU Extension Service

### Harvesting peat moss contributes to climate change



The harvesting of peat moss used by gardeners and the nursery industry to improve drainage and retain water in soil contributes to climate change, according to an Oregon State University Extension Service soil scientist.

Peat moss is harvested from bogs and fens around the world, but primarily in Canada and Russia. These water-logged bogs have taken carbon from the atmosphere and sequestered it for 10,000 to 12,000 years, according to Linda Brewer, soil scientist in the Department of Horticulture in OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences. As it’s harvested, the carbon is released the carbon back into the atmosphere, contributing to a warming climate. Harvesting peat moss also destroys a native habitat essential to the survival of many birds, reptiles, insects and small mammals.

“Bogs represent 5% of the earth’s surface and yet they contain more carbon than all the planet’s forests combined,” Brewer said. “It’s a huge storage unit for carbon dioxide. As soon as we start tinkering with it, carbon is released.”

When harvested from the bog, peat moss dries out quickly and is turned into amendments meant to improve drainage and retain moisture in soils. Many bagged soils contain peat moss, and some gardeners make their own soil mix with it. However, it’s very low in nutrients, has a low pH and isn’t attractive to essential soil microbes. Compost is an alternative the feeds soil microbes, improves drainage and retains water – but it decomposes faster than peat moss, Brewer said.

The sale of peat moss in England will be banned starting in 2024 because of environmental concern. Peat moss develops in bogs that are so wet they are devoid of free oxygen, which is necessary for rapid decomposition. The oxygen-free environment promotes extremely slow composition, and the carbon structure in the moss remains in the plant materials.

“It’s like a pickling process,” Brewer said. “The highly acidic conditions in the bog preserve organic matter.”

Peat moss, which is in the genus Sphagnum, is formed of three general layers of peat that

can reach down several meters in depth. The bottom, or third zone, comprises the old and most decomposed materials. The degree of decomposition decreases through the second zone until it reaches the thin first layer formed of living moss.

Peat moss used in horticulture and for other purposes is harvested from as deep as the second zone, Brewer said. Dried sphagnum moss, harvested from the top layer, is turned into a decorative product used as top dressing in floral arrangements and in craft projects. Material from the more decomposed second layer is bagged for planting mixes for containers and as a soil amendment.

Peat has been used as fossil fuel for centuries if not millennia, but it was only with the advent of large, industrialized farming after World War II, that peat moss found its way into the agricultural market. Nurseries, which are big consumers of peat moss, tend to sanitize and reuse it. Increasingly, harvested bogs are replanted. However, 30-40 years may pass before a harvested bog stops releasing carbon. Some companies that process peat moss for sale must drain and clear-cut swaths of the peat bogs so they can reach the moss, ruining habitat for native insects, birds and plants.

“You could call harvesting peat renewable because some of the bogs are being replanted but it takes centuries for it to fully recover,” Brewer said. “The damage has been done and is continuing. It’s not eco-friendly.”

Nurseries and gardeners are looking for alternatives, Brewer said, but nothing is quite the same except coconut coir, which is harvested sustainably from the coconut. But coir has its own environmental consequences because of the fossil fuel used to transport it. Instead, she suggests compost, decomposed manure, wood chips, leaves and perlite, a product made from lava deposits.

Concerned consumers should check bagged garden amendments to see if they contain pest moss, Brewer said.

Peat bogs release carbon when harvested.

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## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### HOLIDAY MEMORIES

As you look at your Christmas tree throughout the holiday season, you’ll find memories of Christmas past cropping up. These and events create a heritage of holiday lore. Among these memories may be stories about Christmas tree trimming.

“Why do we have a angel on the top of the tree,” my grandson asked.

His mother made the one they use, delightful in white billowy dress. Then I tell him about the star that topped our tree when I was a child. This was made of silvery tinsel, with a circle in the center where a bulb popped through so the star glowed.

Special Memories  
Trimming or decorating the Christmas tree means a festive occasion when families pull out the boxes of ornaments, lights and other adornments.

Some families make special cookies to hang upon the tree and munch on as they work.

In addition to the tinsel star, which topped the hemlock Christmas trees of my childhood, there were bubble lights. When these came into vogue in the early 1950s, my father thought them fascinating and purchased them for our tree.

I found one of these, too, when I discovered the star. It probably doesn’t work, but calls to mind stories of tree trimming I can share. I even mentioned bubble lights in a story I wrote, “The Live Christmas Tree Ornament.”

Homemade Ornaments  
Tree ornaments might be those purchased, received as gifts, or

### McKenzie Fire & Rescue

#### Continued From Page 3

Follow Up - Oakshire Dr. & Camp Creek Rd.

**3:10 p.m:** Criminal Mischief - 6600 blk, Thurston Rd.

**4:52 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**Dec. 20: 9:50 a.m:** Welfare Check - 46400 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**Dec. 21: 3:20 a.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**4:30 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 45500 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**4:51 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 89900 blk, Greenwood Dr.

**Dec. 22: 11:55 a.m:** Fraud - 89600 blk, Hill Rd. A caller reported having checks stolen out of their mail.

**Dec. 23: 7:12 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - Hill Rd. & McK. View Dr.

**8:55a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Tree Farm Rd. A caller’s dog is missing, suspects that a neighbor stole it.

made by hand. My mother said she loved the colored paper chains we children made for our tree. She made us think they were more treasured than any bought in a store. To her they may have been.

Encourage your children to make ornaments, whether paper chains, popcorn and cranberry strings, decorations cut from old Christmas cards, or painted wooden ones. A friend recently told me how her mom encouraged them to make ornaments each year. The mother kept them and now gives the handmade treasures to grandchildren to hang on their trees.

ABAKEDBEANCASSEROLE could be made ahead and provide an easy meal when you’re busy during the holiday season.

Fry 8 slices of bacon until crisp. Cook 3 diced onions in a dab of bacon fat until golden. Add 3/4-cup brown sugar, 1-tablespoon dry mustard, and ½ cup cider vinegar. Cook with the onions for about 20 minutes, slowly.

Pour this mixture over beans in a casserole dish. The beans consist of 2 cans lima beans, 10 oz. package frozen green Lima’s, partially cooked, 1 can red kidney beans, 1 can baked beans (but without the pork). Crumble the bacon and place on the top.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for an hour.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

*(Mary Emma writes from her NH home. Here she researches the recipes in her family's history. E-mail: me.allen@juno.com)*

**1:53 p.m:** Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

**10:33 p.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - Lat: 44.143485. Long: -122.916584. A bonfire party up shotgun creek turned into a dispute. One male was reported to have tried stabbing a female juvenile.

**Dec. 24: 12:20 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - Marcola Rd. & Paschelke Rd.

**9:23 a.m:** Menacing - Lat: 44.234192. Long: -122.932265.

**10:56 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

**Dec. 25: 9:54 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - Blue River Rd. & Blue River Dr.

**Dec.26: 4:38 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd. Verbal dispute at a residence. parties separated, no injuries reported.

**1:01 p.m:** Criminal Mischief - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy. caller reported former tenant littered on the caller’s property.

**1:39 p.m:** Citizen Contact - Showalter Creek Rd. & Shotgun Creek Rd.

**2:28 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 46100 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**2:55 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Conley Rd.

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

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# Community Notes

**January 4**  
**Blue River Park Board**  
The board will meet at 5 p.m.  
More info @ /www.blueriverpark.com.

**January 4**  
**Blue River Water Board**  
The will meet at 7p.m. More info @ www.blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

**January 9**  
**Springfield School Board**  
7 pm - 8:30 pm. The Board of Directors meet in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

**January 13**  
**McKenzie Food Pantry**  
Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

**January 4**  
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The board will meet at 5 p.m.  
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**January 4**  
**Blue River Water Board**  
The will meet at 7p.m. More info @ www.blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

**January 14**  
**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.

**January 14**  
**Blue River Drive Changes**  
A public meeting on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss possible changes to Blue River Drive, is tentatively between 1 and 4 p.m.at the McKenzie Community School.

**January 16**  
**McKenzie Fire & Rescue**  
McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center from noon to 1 p.m.

**January 15**  
**McKenzie School Board**  
The McKenzie School Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the

district office, 51187 Blue River Drive in Finn Rock.

**January 18**  
**Upper McK Fire Board**  
The board of directors will meet at 7p.m. 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

**January 19**  
**Leaburg Food Pantry**  
Leaburg Food Pantry. Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 3 - 6 p.m. Behind the McKenzie Bible Fellowship Church, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

**January 23**  
**Springfield School Board**  
7 pm - 8:30 pm. The Board of Directors meet in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

**January 27**  
**McKenzie Food Pantry**  
Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

**February 7**  
**Blue River Drive Changes**  
A Public Hearing before the Lane County Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. to discuss possible changes to Blue River Drive. People can attend at Lane County Public Works, 3050 N. Delta Hwy. in Eugene; or via a hybrid option (online and/or phone).

# Need some firewood?



The McKenzie Watershed Council’s Firewood Program is helping rural Lane County residents with their heating needs this winter. The program began in December of 2021, spurred in part to help those affected by the Holiday Farm Fire. It has now expanded to include more of the McKenzie River area communities, helping residents in need with firewood harvested from private properties in the burnzone.

Lara Colley, Watershed Restoration Specialist at McKenzie Watershed Council mentioned, “We heard about a fuels firewood program in Wallowa County that was reclaiming wood on private and public land - wood that would otherwise be burned or chipped - to help socioeconomic disadvantaged individuals to heat their homes during the winter. We thought a similar approach could really help out our community, and it is! We believe this is an approach that could be replicated to help families across Oregon, especially where major fires have occurred.”

The Holiday Farm Fire burned over 173,000 acres causing mass destruction to the surrounding communities. Focused on the post-ecological effects of the fire and inspired by other programs in Wallowa and Jackson counties, the McKenzie Watershed Council’s Firewood Program was developed

as an offshoot of the Pure Water Partners forest fuels reduction work with landowners. It not only helps those that were directly affected by the fire but also helps area residents who are not able to afford heating bills and rely on heating their homes with firewood.

With a goal of distributing 300 cords of wood this year, the Firewood Program has received some grant funding from organizations like The Roundhouse Foundation, United Way Wildfire Response Fund, International Paper and is currently seeking support in order to make the program sustainable and continue providing aid to the community. Those interested in supporting this initiative can visit the organization’s website to donate and see additional ways to get involved.

The Firewood Program is a collaborative effort led by the McKenzie Watershed Council, and including partners such as EWEB, Brinks Land Improvement, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Community Land Trust, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Suulutaaq, local contractors and private landowners participating in the Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program.



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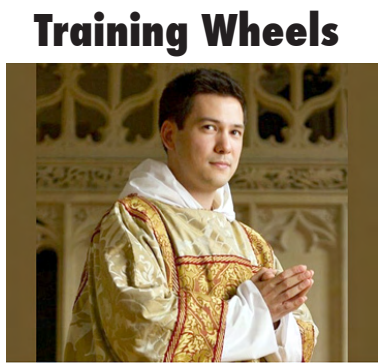
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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirthell



**Training Wheels**

I am a woman who was married for 15 years. Unfortunately, my husband left me for another woman, my best friend. Recently I have found myself drawn to a friend who has entered my heart.

He is a very God-loving individual, a friend always there in my adversities. In him, I find almost all the qualities of an ideal man, yet I sense despair in myself that is hard to explain. Why? Because this man is a priest! How do you explain my attraction to him, and how do I know what I feel is something else?

Geneva

Geneva, each generation of adolescent girls goes crazy over male pop idols. These young men usually have a vulnerable, non-threatening quality, and the girls coo over them as they might coo over a puppy.

It is not surprising that you are

drawn to this priest. He is caring, empathetic, and everything your husband was not. He will never let you down. It is his vocation. In a sense, he is like the “starter males” teenage girls pine for. He is a man who is totally safe.

But being excessively close to him is not likely to be good for either of you. When you are ready for a man for yourself, remember the qualities you didn’t find in your husband, and look for the qualities you admire in your priest.

Wayne & Tamara

**At Play**

My son is having problems with a boy who lives next door. This young man is a year younger than my son, but about a head shorter. Because my son is much taller than other children his age, we taught him never to use his size to threaten or bully other children.

I was physically abused as a child, and thus believe that violence has no place in our home. I guess you would call us pacifists. We raised our son this way, believing violence settles nothing and breeds more violence.

This neighbor boy is quick to anger. There have been times when he hit, pushed, or tackled my son with little or no provocation. We tried to handle this in a friendly

manner and encouraged our son to talk to this child’s parents. They turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to what is happening.

Their response is for my son not to play with theirs if they cannot get along. Today, the boys were drawing with chalk on our driveway when this child wiped his chalky hands all over my son’s shirt. My son in turn made a small chalk spot on the boy’s shirt. This boy got quite angry and shoved my son down, scraping his leg and giving him a sore ankle.

This angered my son. He has turned the other cheek too many times, but I am at a loss to know how to handle this situation.

Madelyn

Madelyn, it’s time to think through the implications of your decision. What is happening is not cause to contact juvenile authorities, your neighbors are unresponsive, and you have disarmed your son. What are the options?

As an adult, you can intervene to maintain order. Or you can let your son defend himself. With his good nature, there is no reason to feel he would take advantage of the situation.

If you watch puppies playing hard, you will see them shove, push, and gnash their teeth at one another, but no one gets seriously hurt. The rough and tumble of young boys is like this. This is normal, not the circumstance that produces a physical abuser.

Knowing your son cannot hit

back encourages the smaller boy to throw his weight around, and puts your son in the same position you were in as a child. You cannot disarm your child and then fail to protect him.

Wayne & Tamara

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

Photo credit: Father James

## American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

This poem will be my statement for a rather abrupt and unexpected ending to my role as the editor of American Life in Poetry. The poem is one of resilience—the resilience of my ancestors and those that carry the fact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as a defining moment in our making. It is also a poem about resilience, about looking hopefully, even if with some caution, to the future, and I believe that Marguerite Harrold and Ber Anena who have been laboring with me to make American Life in Poetry a weekly occasion, share this spirit. My great hope is that the legacy left by Ted Kooser will be continued into the future.

**LAND HO**

By Kwame Dawes

I cannot speak the languages spoken in that vessel, cannot read the beads

promising salvation.

I know this only, that when the green of land appeared like light after the horror of this crossing,

we straightened our backs and faced the simplicity of new days with flame. I know I have the blood of survivors

coursing through my veins; I know the lament of our loss must warm us again and again down in the belly of the whale,

here in the belly of the whale where we are still searching for homes. We sing laments so old, so true, then straighten our backs again.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©1996 by Kwame Dawes, “Land Ho” from Requiem (Peepal Tree Press Ltd., 1996) Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of Prairie Schooner at the University of Nebraska.

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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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2/25/10ruc

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**Quote of the Week**

“I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph.”

Shirley Temple



**A Moment in Oregon History**

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

UPPER MCKENZIE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT  
IMMEDIATE OPENING  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District has an immediate opening for a part-time Administrative Assistant position. Applications due January 13, 2023. Starting wage \$21/hour for a .5 FTE position. This job offers no benefits as part time.

Applications and Job Description available on our web page at <https://www.uppermckenziefire.com/> Applications accepted in person at the Fire Station, via USPS mail at 56578 McKenzie Highway, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413 or email at [uppermckenzie2800@gmail.com](mailto:uppermckenzie2800@gmail.com) until 5pm January 13, 2023. We anticipate interviews will be conducted in mid-January and the start date to be February 1, 2023.

**December 29** - Carleton Watkins came west from New York to search for gold, but in San Francisco he met a photographer and decided his destiny was in photographing the changing western landscape. Watkins arrived in Oregon in 1867. He photographed the Columbia River Gorge and when his photographs were unveiled, the New York critics claimed his work was “groundbreaking” and “monumental.” Watkins returned to Oregon in 1884 to find the Columbia Gorge a vastly different place. Railroad tunnels had been blasted through rock faces. The Indian camps were gone. Fishwheels dotted the river banks. Locks had been constructed around the most dangerous rapids. In his lifetime Watkins never achieved monetary success. He died penniless. But in later years, his work has become popular. Recently two of his albums, containing 100 photographs, sold for nearly \$200,000.

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19						20			21	22				
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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VACATION DESTINATIONS

ACROSS

1. Walt Whitman’s dooryard plant  
6. Bag, ‡ Paris  
9. Sound of astonishment  
13. Smell of baking bread, e.g.  
14. Self-importance  
15. Ma Bell, e.g.  
16. List of Catholic saints  
17. Bobbsey twin  
18. Donor’s bequest  
19. \*Country to see Stonehenge  
21. \*Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle  
23. Tokyo, in the olden days  
24. Way off freeway  
25. Gremlin or pixie  
28. Assistant

DOWN

30. Crunches alternative (2 words)  
35. Mountain lake  
37. Thailand, pre-1939  
39. Parlor piece  
40. \*Maldives continent  
41. Plaudit and pomp  
43. Unadulterated  
44. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology  
46. Red carpet purse  
47. Pelvic bones  
48. Gives way under force  
50. Like acne-prone skin  
52. Pose a question  
53. Letter opener  
55. Morse code dash  
57. \*Grand Canyon state

Solution on Page 6

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

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

Solution on Page 6

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

DOWN

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

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

### Ski Report

December 20, 2022

The Hoodoo Ski Area reported on Tuesday that a 1/2 of new snow fell overnight, bringing the base to 45 inches. Temperatures were 26 degrees mid-mountain and 31 at the base with WSW winds averaging 33 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 23 degrees at the base and 16 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 38 inches at mid-mountain. Wind conditions might impact operations but expectations were that a new layer of snow could fall. Winds up top were averaging 36 mph. No lifts were open, but 81 of the 121 trails were. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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**McKenzie Fire  
& Rescue**

Continued From Page 3

20:02: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Patient Refusal.  
Dec. 24: 3:32: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
8:18: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
8:27: 88000 blk, Gemstone Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Refusal.  
9:19: 8400 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
13:15: McK. Hwy./Milepost 21.5. MVA. Non-Blocking/Non-Injury.  
15:17: McK. Hwy./Heritage Ln. MVA. Non-Injury/Non-Blocking.  
19:36: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
Dec. 25: 1:19: 41000 blk, Madrone St Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
3:57: 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
10:58: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.  
17:34: 90000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded Prior to Arrival.  
19:47: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, January 16<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**

Continued From Page 3

20:08: Medical – 91000 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd. Male walked down the road while Fire Dept. was on scene.  
Dec. 24: 03:30: Medical – 50000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.  
15:45: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury – McK. Hwy./Milepost 52. Red SUV slid off the road and into railing. Male driver appears confused.  
Dec. 25: 03:57: Medical – 50000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m on Wednesday, January 18th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

**2023 Best of the River Awards**



Record your votes for Man of the Year, Woman of the Year & Business of the Year at:  
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## July



Three upgrade projects were put into motion after Mc-Kenzie Community Schools classes were let out in June. Scheduled to run through the summer and fall, some of the most extensive work involved the “Old Gym.” Work on the structure aims at ensuring the gym would be better able to withstand an earthquake while also providing a safe way to exit for students and staff. Some other work on the storage building, concession stand, and replacement of the grandstand is scheduled to be completed by late October.

A 71-year-old man was dead and a 37-year-old was in jail for his killing following a Friday night altercation at the deceased man’s residence. When police arrived on the scene responded and found Gary Stuart Coulter on the ground outside with severe injuries. He was transported by to the hospital by paramedics but died a short time later.

\$6 million in grant funds were awarded to the McKenzie and Upper McKenzie fire districts to help them “staff up.” The Upper McKenzie department received funds to hire temporary seasonal firefighters McKenzie Fire hired two seasonal firefighters and planned to bring on additional personnel during extreme fire danger periods. The grant aimed to help to keep fires small and away from communities.

## September

Campers & recreators along Aufderheide Drive) were given the “Go Now” order due to the growth of the Cedar Creek Fire. The closure area included the Box Canyon Campground, Box Canyon Staging Area/Horse Camp, and Skookum Creek Campground, as well as all the surrounding dispersed camping areas. People were told to not take time to gather things because of immediate and imminent danger.

EWB’s canal conundrum continued some 95 years after the utility made the decision to build the Leaburg hydroelectric project. Choices for the facility’s future ranged from full modernization to minor upgrading - as well as the possible removal of all structures. Those options could total between \$179 million to \$257 million. The public was asked to submit comments by October 10th.

This time of year, people looking in an area river or stream might come across salmon carcasses or see ODFW staff and volunteers slinging carcasses into the water. The dead salmon were at the end of their life’s journey after gathering to spawn and die. Fishery crews distribute carcasses from hatcheries to provide nutrients for algae and other aquatic plants, as well as food for aquatic invertebrates. dead salmon. ODFW tries to avoid areas where dogs may encounter them to avoid canine health risks.



## November

Environmentalists were chalking up a win in their efforts to stop a Trump-era rule that allowed more logging on post-fire land without conducting detailed environmental reviews. The ruling allowed the Bureau of Land Management to move ahead on logging projects they said would involve minimal environmental impacts. Six environmental groups had sued the agency in October of 2021, citing concerns associated with post-fire logging that included impacts to soils, understory vegetation, fuel loads, and post-fire features like snags and burned logs.



The family of a pilot killed in an accident in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness got some help from a GoFundMe campaign to recover the Piper Cherokee. Dave Sparks, known as “Heavy D,” and Dave Kiley, known as “Diesel Dave,” who starred in the reality show “Diesel Brothers” helped raise close to \$50,000 to hire two private helicopters to recover the damaged aircraft that was located at about 6,500 feet in a federal wilderness area miles away from any road.

The McKenzie Valley Wellness board of directors terminated their agreement with Pivot Architecture of Eugene. Some disputed issues included concerns about drawings that included measurements for property line setbacks, discrepancies between exterior and interior renderings, and the placement of overhangs of the proposed new clinic building.

## August

Activists hung a 30-foot banner across Highway 126 as the old-growth timber fight continued near McKenzie Bridge. Opponents of the Flat Country timber sale continued to call on the Willamette National Forest to cancel the proposed sale, saying it would have significant impacts on the climate, drinking water, and community safety. USFS officials argued the project was designed to provide a sustainable supply of timber products, increase vegetative habitat complexity and hardwood composition along streams, and actively manage stands to improve stand conditions on the sale’s 4,438 acres.



Due to the increased risk of wildfires in the region, Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) closed its Oregon forestlands to public access. Officials said the decision was based on several risk factors including increasing weather temperature, excess dry vegetation, low moisture levels, and long-range weather forecasts.

Similar concerns caused ODF&W to offer tips for hot weather angling, noting that in drought, fish are stressed out. People were advised to consider recreating in alternative places to have less of an impact on fish, wildlife, and habitats. Anglers were being steered toward warm-water species that were less sensitive to the heat of summer or for trout in cooler high mountain lakes.

## October



The Bottle Boys (and girls) gained some front-page coverage in the Ruralite, a monthly magazine distributed to 47 consumer-owned electric utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and California. The article noted the citizens - who dubbed themselves the Blue River Bottle Boys - had collected and turned in recyclable bottles and cans totaling about \$50,000 to make a difference in their community. The group was also recognized as the Lane Electric Coop’s “Member of the Year.”

Protesting “Kayaktivists” took to the Leaburg Lake to call for the cancellation of the Flat Country Timber Sale while urging the crowd of 100 to go further. They also targeted European settlers for their ongoing colonization of Oregon and an exploitative relationship when it comes to its relationship with the indigenous community. Over at the Willamette National Forest officials said an internal regional review of the Flat Country sale was underway. No date had been announced for when a harvesting contract would be offered to bidders,

At McKenzie High School students and staff were able to “make a mark” by putting their handprints or initials into the wet concrete forms under the newly reconstructed bleachers replacing those lost to fire. Like area structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, it’s hoped the slab is likely to be something students can visit with their own offspring in the years to come.

## December

A plan to block one of Blue River’s few paved roads generated some local controversy. The request to vacate part of River Street cited traffic safety concerns and trespassing. Some issues cited by opponents included the importance of an alternative access and egress road for area residents in emergency situations, as well as one of convenience and maneuverability. A final decision could need to be heard following a public hearing by the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

Combining wood and steel and switching from log to concrete abutments and steel I-beam stringers is hoped will greatly increase the lifespan of a replacement bridge over Creek. The span, near the outflow of Clear Lake, involved workers who hauled the I-beams 8/10’s of a mile to the bridge site using a motorized wheelbarrow and a customized trailer.

Thanks to donations, the Leaburg Library is now home to a world-class collection of angling-related books. 560 volumes were donated by To Ripp and another 60 - from the estate of Kevin Winter - were donated by his wife Deanna. The collection is housed in a new “Angler’s Roost” room at the library and ranges from “how to’s” to etchings or photography or “just beautiful literature.”

This year’s Business Holiday Lights Contest winners were announced. In first place was the East Lane Veterinary Hospital in Leaburg. Tied for second were the McKenzie River Discovery Center at Leaburg Lake and the McKenzie Stage Stop Restaurant in Cedar Flat.

