Tour highlighted area’s revival
From a childcare center to possible track expansion

People on a guided tour celebrating progress in rebuilding after the Holiday Farm Fire found a lot of positive energy in the air last week. Among the tour stops was the Little Eagles Clinic now open at the McKenzie River Community School campus.

Highlights of the 2023 Tour included an opportunity to look at design drawings for the new O’Brien Memorial Library - where groundbreaking will occur on October 27.

Just a short walk from Area’s revival - Page 2

The dangerous consequences of wildland fire dispatcher burnout
Forest Service survey shows a critical link in wildfire fighting is now struggling

By Kylie Mohr

Lightning strikes in a dry forest and starts a wildfire. It’s a hot, windy day, and the embers quickly spread. Smoke rises, and it’s detected, sometimes by satellites, lookouts or people who call 911. Reports bombard an interagency dispatch center: There’s a new start, and it needs firefighting resources, fast.

The wildland fire dispatchers who respond are a critical link in the fast-moving series of decisions needed to begin battling a blaze. When a fire sparks, they’re the ones responsible for figuring out who’s nearby to fight it, and sending resources where they need to be as quickly as possible. “A good dispatcher is make-or-break if you want to keep a small fire small,” said Rachel Granberg, a wildland firefighter in Washington. (Granberg asked to keep her employer private because she could lose her job for identifying it in the media.)

Editor’s note: This piece discusses suicide and mental health problems among wildland fire dispatchers.

When a new blaze needs air tankers and helicopters dropping retardant and water, aircraft-certified dispatchers coordinate what’s flying where, so the aircraft don’t collide. If firefighters get hurt, dispatchers send medical help to often-remote scenes. Once a fire is under way, dispatchers relay crucial information to and from the fire line, including wind, humidity and temperature forecasts that can determine fire behavior and influence planning and safety on the ground.

But the job is stressful, and sometimes traumatic, amid today’s larger fires, longer fire seasons and too few colleagues. The U.S. Forest Service conducted a survey of fire dispatcher burnout - Page 10

New clinic ready to rise
“Dig”nitories marked the beginning on Thursday

East Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, Orchid Health CEO Orion Falvey, McKenzie Valley Wellness president Val Rapp, and architect Curt Wilson all dug in to kick off reconstruction of the new 3,200-square-foot medical clinic in Blue River. Besides patient exam rooms and office areas, the clinic will be configured so that a portion could be used as a community or multi-purpose room after normal day-to-day hours of operation next to the new Blue River Fire Station, already under construction. People who attended the groundbreaking also had a special treat with a live performance by Kent Roberts original composition of “The Fire of the Holiday Farm.” To view a video recording, go to: tinyurl.com/mr3uhekz.

Finn Rock Landing closing
Work will extend from October 23rd through Spring

Finn Rock Landing, off Quartz Creek Road, will be closed from October 23, 2023 until Spring 2024 for renovations. Improvements to the site will include a better road base, safer traffic flow, and the installation of new parking stalls, ADA-accessible walkways, fenced bird-friendly lighting, picnic tables, and garbage receptacles.

The site, which attracts as many as 400 people a day in the summer, is owned and managed by The McKenzie River Trust (MRT). MRT’s Executive Director, Joe Moll, said they know some users will be disappointed… “We understand that this construction closure will be a significant inconvenience for the many river users who launch or take out at Finn Rock throughout the year. But we expect the site improvements to make the landing more accessible, safe, and enjoyable for all community members and visitors.”

Previously owned by the Rosbore Company as a publicly accessible recreation site, it was purchased by the trust in 2016. MRT also acquired the larger Finn Rock Reach habitat conservation area, which has undergone major restoration efforts over the last three years.
The only real river is a free-flowing river

I had to pinch myself when I stumbled across the opinion piece in the McKenzie River Reflections written by Rusty Bentz. I know Rusty and to hear him advocate for the four lower Snake River dams blew my mind. He and his brother made their living to a large extent on having access to a free-flowing river to run their boats through the rapids and take rubes fishing for steelhead. (The salmon had long since been destroyed by the dams.) Rusty delved into several ideas as to how one could manage to get a few of the Franklin fish back upstream so they would have something to catch...but here are the facts by every known scientist on the matter:

The Snake River basin’s native salmon and steelhead horser on the brink of extinction. Today, only 1-2% of historic wild salmon and steelhead return to spawn above the four lower Snake River dams. Climate change will only continue to worsen these already abysmal percentages. Massive algae blooms in years past as well as this summer in the lower Snake River have prompted the state to issue warnings to not even touch the water. What is wildlife to do?

And the fish?

I would say to Rusty that if he has no problem with these river-killing dams then he should have no problem with damming up his beloved Salmon River and inundating his cabin that sits on the banks of it. Or the Clearwater River and its main forks, the Lochsa and Selway rivers. Also, the Northfork of the Clearwater River, oops, they already destroyed that beautiful river with Dworshak Dam forever destroying one of the largest strains of steelhead in the world. We need to start embracing the fact that these impediments to a free-flowing river are major problems to our environment even beyond fish. Everything is connected and when we destroy one, we set the cast in place for the others to fail.

Hopefully, we can realize that the only real river is a free-flowing river. I think deep down we all know this. We need to rise to the challenge of removing the Snake to as near as we found it as possible instead of shrinking from it and continuing on a path ultimately will lead to ruin. We can either choose to do the right thing for nature and us or paddle around in the muck and mire that is becoming the Snake River.

Kevin Brown
St. Maries, ID

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Letters to the Editor

McKenzie Eagles
Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Cross Country runners will participate in the Umpqua Invite on Wednesday, October 18. The meet will be held at Stewart Park in Roseburg. The Varsity Boys race starts at 4:30 pm followed by the Varsity Girls race at 5:00 pm. The McKenzie Varsity Football team hosts Siletz Valley on Friday, October 20, with kickoff scheduled for 7:00 pm. The Eagles will be celebrating the 2023 Homecoming versus the Warriors.

Dion Finishes 9th At Lebanon XC

Eagle sophomore Myra Dion finished in the top ten at the Lebanon XC meet held last Wednesday, October 11. Dion toured the 5,000-meter course in 16:31.54 minutes, the Varsity runner’s fastest time for the distance this Fall season. East Linn Christian’s Daisy Lalonde won the race with a time of 18:40.03 min. Will Meister, also an Eagle sophomore, finished 23rd in the Varsity boys 5,000 m. race, with a time of 21:23.61 min. Viggo Beck of Triangle Lake won the race with a finish time of 17:39.48 min.

Eagles Defeat Watchmen 34-31

The McKenzie Varsity Six-man football team traveled to George Fox University in Newberg last Friday and evidently liked playing in the fine confines as they defeated host C.S. Lewis Academy, 34-31. The victory was the Eagle’s first this season under Head Coach Neil Barrett. With the win, McKenzie is 1-4 in Special District 2 North Six-man football league play and 1-5 overall that it’s 2023 season. The Eagles will host Siletz Valley on Friday, October 20 for their Homecoming game. The Warriors are tied with the Eagles in the League standings along with C. S. Lewis Academy. No team stats were available following the game.

McKenzie Volleyball Wraps Up Regular Season

The Eagles put a wrap on their 2023 Fall Mt. West League Varsity Volleyball season with a 0-3 loss at Asea on Monday, October 16. McKenzie lost 25-5, 25-15, and 25-18 versus the Wolves, which finished in their Regular season schedule in third place at 13-3. Mohawk and Eddyville-Cliner finished tied for first in the Mt. West League Regular Season each team posting a 14-2 record. McKenzie’s record under first year Coach-Varsity JILL finishes 14 in MWL play and 2-13 overall. No game stats were available following the match.

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Weather Report

**Friday 10/20**

- McKenzie Valley: Mostly Sunny
  - High: 61 Low: 48
  - Precip: 0%

- Santiam Pass: Mostly Cloudy
  - High: 58 Low: 40
  - Precip: 0%

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**Saturday 10/21**

- McKenzie Valley: Mostly Sunny
  - High: 73 Low: 51
  - Precip: 0%

- Santiam Pass: Mostly Cloudy
  - High: 65 Low: 48
  - Precip: 0%

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**Sunday 10/22**

- McKenzie Valley: Mostly Sunny
  - High: 74 Low: 47
  - Precip: 0%

- Santiam Pass: Mostly Cloudy
  - High: 61 Low: 38
  - Precip: 0%

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The McKenzie Eagle Spirit Team performed double duty - outlining the recovery and future visions for the Blue River Park. He also provided an update on the proposed community wastewater system for the town, which could include using part of the park’s acreage for a drainfield. Just down Blue River’s “Main Street,” Melanie Stanley had a chance to share the design for the Meyer General Store - which is now likely to be the downtown area’s first business to rebuild. Her plans include bringing back the OLCC authorized liquor store, along with general grocery-type items at affordable prices. During the lunch break at the McKenzie Community Track and Field, people learned about the non-profit’s will share their vision for economic development. The our wound up with a walk about and an overview of the adjoining Three Sisters Meadow property. Community there, particularly if part of the land would need to be set aside to accommodate a drainfield for the proposed community wastewater projects.

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McKenzie River Reflections

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Sheriff’s Report

Oct. 1: 2:03 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - Koosah Falls (Lincoln County). A caller reported that their Airpod and wallet were stolen from within their vehicle.

Oct. 2: 10:31 a.m: Criminal Mischief - 45200 blk, Goodpasture Rd. An area residence noticed graffiti on the stonework at the Goodpasture Bridge.

11:09 a.m: Burglary - 44800 blk, Disturbance, Criminal th

Oct. 3: 10:35 a.m: Suspicious Condition - 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. A male was observed looking through windows in the area - described as a white male approximate 5’09” with a thin build, wearing a beanie hat, yellow top, blue hooded shirt and black pants.

8:44 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 91900 blk, Marcola Rd. A caller found blood in their bathroom and believed an unknown person may have been inside the house. Determined to be blood from a cut on a dog’s ear.

Oct. 4: 2:00 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy. A utility box belonging to CenturyLink was found to be damaged.

Oct. 6: 2:27 p.m: Fraud - 39500 blk, Pioch Ln. A caller reported that their bank accounts were compromised.

Oct. 7: 6:20 a.m: Disturbance - Dispute - La Lone Rd. & Tree Fams Rd. A caller advised that a hunter in the area brandished a gun after the caller told him he could not hunt in the area until 7:15 a.m.

5:15 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 91900 blk, Marcola Rd. A caller advised that they could not get hold of their juvenile child who was en route to Salem. The child was located and determined to be okay.

Oct. 8: 11:58:01 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 36900 blk, Boiler Creek Rd. An area resident reported hearing people walking in her house.

Oct. 9: 10:53 a.m: Theft - 39100 blk, Eaton Ln. A caller reported that an undisclosed amount of money was electronically stolen from their bank account.

2:31 p.m: Civil, Lockout - 91300 blk, Marcola Rd. A resident reported hearing a disturbance.

9:13 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 91900 blk, Mill Creek Rd. A caller reported that a gray or white SUV pulled into the caller’s yard and flashed their lights. The vehicle then departed.

10:03 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Marcola Mp 5. A caller reported an active dispute between occupants of a moving vehicle; the vehicle was located in Springfield.

Oct. 10: 9:56 a.m: Welfare Check - 89000 blk, Thurston Rd. 4:36 p.m: Assault - 88000 blk, Bridge St. 7:26 p.m: Loud Noise - 39000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.


Move to a place that moves you

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

Mckenzie Fire & Rescue


Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue


Oct. 16: 12:29: Medical - 51454 Dexter St. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

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Austin Willhite, 541-954-8202

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McKenzie River Reflections

Grandma Thomson

By Ruth West

A wealth of memories clings around the boat car," said "The McKenzie River," and in spite of the fact that the lodge has now passed out of the hands of the Thomson family who founded it in 1860, the name and the famous hospitality of the place will continue.

The boat car of the first of the true resorts in the state to be run exclusively for sportsmen by one family, it was built during the past 20 years.

Thomson states, that although he is selling all of his interest in the lodge property, he will retain his boat guide business and will handle reservations for boats the same as in the past.

Although the exact selling price was not given, Thomson stated it was "something that looked even close that pretty?".

Here are a few of the highlights in the life of a woman who has known both the hardship of pioneering in the early days of the state and the comforts of her own apartment in the lodge, over the last few years.

The familiar figure of "Grandma" Thomson, who will be 80 years of age next February, will probably be missed more by her friends, the many fishermen who have fished in the past two years, for any other change that will take place.

Mrs. Thomson will live in a small house, close to the home of Milo Thomson. She and her husband Carey Sr., who passed away in 1938, at the age of 83, came to live in the present house in 1880 in a small cabin.

The new owners will take possession on Oct. 1. The lodge will continue to open for business under the management of Dayton Thomson, for the remainder of the fishing season.

Details will be announced later. Grandma is a brother-in-law of Emil Vodjanksy, a long-time real estate broker, who made the sale of the property. Mr. Vodjanksy has been a long-time fishing guest at the lodge. Grandma will continue to live in the real estate business on the McKenzie.

In 1912 they built a three-room, one-story house. It had three bedrooms, two of which were on the first floor and one on the second.

In the new house, they had such luxuries as cold running water. The new house was built to help take care of the many fishermen who come from the city. The new house is a small house, close to the home of Milo Thomson. She and her husband Carey Sr., who passed away in 1938, in the age of 83, came to live in the present house in 1880 in a small cabin.

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The Emmerich Ferry began service in 1904.

For the best in outdoor and Western art, check out 2vf5caa6.

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There's nothing we need to do about anything. There's no need for picture taking of anything. But it's just something that we can step outside for... look toward the west through the baring branches of our trees fill the sky with the orange and black of fall.

Although the exact selling price was not given, Thomson stated it was "something that looked even close that pretty?"

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Planted the day before last, the burning bush (Euonymus alatus) was looking great. As the weather cooled down, and the autumn rains fell, the leaves started to turn their characteristic red color. This shrub is known for its striking fall color, which provides a beautiful display of red, orange, and yellow leaves. It is a perfect addition to any garden, as it can be planted in a variety of soils and is relatively hardy. For those interested, here are some tips on how to plant and care for this shrub:

1. Choose a location with full sun to partial shade, as this shrub prefers bright light.
2. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball, and only deep enough to accommodate the root ball.
3. Place the plant in the hole, and then backfill with soil. Don't pack the soil too tightly.
4. Water well after planting.

By Mary Emma Allen

**SAUCY SHRUBS STRUT THEIR STUFF IN FALL**

By Kym Pokorny

Mild days and cool nights this fall promised a spectacular show of color, and the promise came true. 

“This fall has been the best year for color in recent memory,” said Neil Bell, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. “The weather has been perfect for the brilliant show we’re enjoying.”

It takes a slow progression of cool to warm days and cool but not freezing nights to bring on such a glowing display, he said. That kind of weather brings on dormancy slowly and leads to a great time to look around for your new shrub, the fall and winter months are a good time to plant and water your new shrub: the fall and winter months are a good time to plant and water your new shrub. The fall color is unbeatble, probably the best of the year. To get the best winter color, cut stems to the ground in early spring. Conversely, the flowers are only borne on the previous year’s stems. To get both, Bell suggests cutting back half of the plant’s stems and leaving the rest. This shrub grows 5 to 6 feet tall and wide and makes an excellent hedged. Regular water is needed. Hardy to Zone 5. Doublefile viburnum (Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum ‘Mariesii’): A list of colorful fall shrubs wouldn’t be complete without doublefile viburnum. The fiery red foliage rivals the burning bush for its dramatic display. Not to be outdone by fall, spring brings a mass of white flowers in flat clusters, making it look snowclad branches. Later, it turns out red berries delicious to birds. Given enough room, this large viburnum (6 to 8 feet tall; 8 to 10 feet wide) will keep an elegant tiered form. Even in winter, the horizontal shape gives it an interesting aspect. Be very judicious in pruning as it can ruin the plant’s tiered branching. Grow in full or light shade. Will need only occasional summer water once established. Hardy to Zone 5. Witch-alder (Fothergilla major and F. gardenii): Both the regular-size and dwarf versions of Fothergilla turn on the quite show in fall with fierce orange-red foliage. Spring is another season to appreciate when they develop new growth. Their light green foliage provides an attractive backdrop for the flowers. Hardy to Zone 4.

Bloodtwig dogwood (Cornus sanguinea ‘Midwinter Fire’): The stems of this bloodtwig dogwood turn a radiant red in winter, but the bright gold foliage in fall is not to be missed. ‘Midwinter Fire’ qualifies as a three-season plant with fragrant, white flowers in spring that attract butterflies and other pollinators; gorgeous golden fall color; and bright red stems in winter. The best color comes if it’s been planted in full sun, but this dogwood can take partial shade, as well. To get the best winter color, cut stems to the ground in early spring. Conversely, the flowers are only borne on the previous year’s stems. To get both, Bell suggests cutting back half of the plant’s stems and leaving the rest. This shrub grows 5 to 6 feet tall and wide and makes an excellent hedged. Regular water is needed. Hardy to Zone 5. Doublefile viburnum (Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum ‘Mariesii’): A list of colorful fall shrubs wouldn’t be complete without doublefile viburnum. The fiery red foliage rivals the burning bush for its dramatic display. Not to be outdone by fall, spring brings a mass of white flowers in flat clusters, making it look snowclad branches. Later, it turns out red berries delicious to birds. Given enough room, this large viburnum (6 to 8 feet tall; 8 to 10 feet wide) will keep an elegant tiered form. Even in winter, the horizontal shape gives it an interesting aspect. Be very judicious in pruning as it can ruin the plant’s tiered branching. Grow in full or light shade. Will need only occasional summer water once established. Hardy to Zone 5. Witch-alder (Fothergilla major and F. gardenii): Both the regular-size and dwarf versions of Fothergilla turn on the quite show in fall with fierce orange-red foliage. Spring is another season to appreciate when they develop new growth. Their light green foliage provides an attractive backdrop for the flowers. Hardy to Zone 4.

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October 19 Earthquake Shakeout

On October 19, 2023, millions of people will participate in the largest earthquake drill ever: ShakeOut! Why? Earthquakes can happen anywhere you work, live, or travel, which is why everyone, everywhere should know how to protect themselves should an earthquake occur.

Everyone, everywhere can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies, and organizations are all invited to join on 10/19 or any day in 2023. https://www.shakesout.org/register

October 19 Story Time

Story Time is back, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Leaburg Library’s Children’s Room, 42888 McKenzie Hwy. Children of all ages and their parents are invited for stories, crafts, and who knows what other fun things might happen. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 19 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. Every 2nd & 4th Friday.

October 24 McKenzie Food Pantry

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

October 24 Board of Commissioners

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

October 24 Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. The McKenzie River Library is delighted to announce that Dianne Yoriyuki has been with us and they will be sharing their latest book. The children are invited for stories, crafts, and activities. We will provide snacks and drinks. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 25 Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene. The Board of Commissioners meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. The board will meet on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The meeting will be broadcast live on the Lane County Board of Commissioners’ YouTube channel.

October 25 McKenzie Food Pantry

The McKenzie Food Pantry is located at 42888 McKenzie Hwy. Children of all ages and their parents are invited for stories, crafts, and who knows what other fun things might happen. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 25 Freethought Museum

Hosted by the Springfield Museum, the Freethought Museum is located at 42888 McKenzie Hwy. Children of all ages and their parents are invited for stories, crafts, and who knows what other fun things might happen. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 25 Story Time

Story Time is back, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Leaburg Library’s Children’s Room, 42888 McKenzie Hwy. Children of all ages and their parents are invited for stories, crafts, and who knows what other fun things might happen. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 25 Wacky Wed. BINGO

The Leaburg Library is excited to announce that Dianne Yoriyuki has been with us and they will be sharing their latest book. The children are invited for stories, crafts, and activities. We will provide snacks and drinks. The library has a wonderful selection of picture books, books for early readers, intermediates and young adults, DVD’s and audio-books, as well as fun puzzles and games.

October 25 Board of Commissioners

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An Invitation to Worship

McKenzie Bible Fellowship


October 25 Wacky Wed. BINGO

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

October 26 Wacky Wed. BINGO

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

October 26 Library Groundbreaking

O’Brien Library, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 51711 Blue River Drive. After the loss during the Holiday Farm Fire of such a treasure, The O’Brien Library and the O’Brien Grange wish to honor all Veterans and their families. The public is invited to attend and help us celebrate the new library. The ribbon cutting will take place at 11 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda.

October 26 McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce meets every fourth Friday of the month via Zoom. To sign up, please contact the Chair of Commerce – McKenzie River at 541-521-4700 for more information. Leave a message and calls will be returned.

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

Living Water Family Fellowship

Please join us for worship both Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an email or earth mailed bulletin -- photo or email mail to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-514-1986. We would love to meet you at worship!

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church

Please join us for church services on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an email or earth mailed bulletin -- photo or email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-514-1986. We would love to meet you at worship!
Justice Delayed

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

I have three grown children. My elderly father, six younger brothers, and a large extended family live in the old country. The last time I took the children for a family visit was 15 years ago. The reason I have not gone back is because i'm youngest brother, who was 21 at the time, "fell in love" with my 13-year-old daughter. It was hell time for me because I had to watch my child 24 hours a day so my brother would leave alone. I had no support from my parents. My mother blamed my 13-year-old daughter, and my dad sat around maintaining his image peace amidst the mayhem.

I was stuck there for two months because I had no money to rush home during the high season or to stay in a hotel. My family's position is my brother and daughter didn't grow up together. They ignored me because a 21-year-old has no business messing with a 13-year-old.

I exchange the occasional letter with my dad and brothers. I have no contact with the brother who, I found out years later, managed to molest my daughter. Several years post despite all my efforts to keep her safe.

My daughter had counseling to help her deal with what happened. For a time she was convinced it was "love," but he finally realized she was just a little girl, not responsible for what happened. I still feel guilty for not protecting her.

In 15 years, many of my relatives have passed away. Now I am being told I am overdue for a visit. I told my aunt I could not go get over it.

My family in the old country loses one every 10 days. It would be impossible to visit without having contact with this brother and his family. As it is, when I get photos, I discard half of them because I don’t want my daughter to deal with memories of her. I am being fair to my dad and to the rest of the family by staying away? Am I being disloyal to my daughter with the contact I have with the family?

What do I say to the relatives? My oldest brother keeps sending photos of my daughter. Neither you nor your daughter would have had contact with the perpetrator or anyone related to him, and those elements would have allowed a measure of healing.

Keeping these family members in your life suggests in some fashion that what happened was all right, and it hurts your daughter to know you are in touch with people complicit in a crime. For your daughter, that dismisses the injustice which was perpetrated upon her.

Nobody has been punished here except you and your daughter. Your daughter has had your daughter’s interests at heart, but instead they broke the bond between you, and that is the bond of blood. People in our families don’t owe us less we are on a stranger; they owe you more of a duty. When that duty is not met, the offense is not lessened; it is doubly so.

This relationship with your brother allowed your daughter to be molested, and your family is still trying to negatize your responsibility for what happened. You are perfectly justified in cutting off contact with those who did it.

We won’t tell you exactly what to say, but you are in a position to give your daughter the justice no court was ever able to.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of The Young Woman’s Guide to Older Men And I Can Be You’re Brother—available from Amazon, Apple, and bookstores everywhere.

The Poetry Foundation is now providing a Poem of the Day.

Villanelle with a Line Borrowed from Bishop

By Kimiko Hahn

The child looks out the window at the peeling barn.

The poet with the shirt on and the sleeves rolled up. The grandmother sings to the marvelous stove.

The child has put away her Little Marvel Stove because her grandmother is baking real bread.

The child looks out the window at the peeling barn.

The two inside are preparing dinner for three.

(If the mother comes down from the roof.)

The grandmother sings to the marvelous stove a song about some mother on another planet (likely the mother that is her daughter).

The child looks out the window at the peeling barn.

The child hums along while she stands to survey her reeling barn and to hear as she hums, she sings her own song.

She looks at her mother atop the peeling barn while the grandmother sings to the marvelous stove.

She’s drawn at least half a dozen photos of my youngest brother as

She's drawn at least half a dozen photos of my youngest brother as

Ulrica, if your daughter was molested by a stranger, charges would have been pressed and punishments meted out. But you nor your daughter would have had contact with the perpetrator or anyone related to him, and those elements would have allowed a measure of healing.

Keeping these family members in your life suggests in some fashion that what happened was all right, and it hurts your daughter to know you are in touch with people complicit in a crime. For your daughter, that dismisses the injustice which was perpetrated upon her.

Nobody has been punished here except you and your daughter. Your daughter has had your daughter’s interests at heart, but instead they broke the bond between you, and that is the bond of blood. People in our families don’t owe us less we are on a stranger; they owe you more of a duty. When that duty is not met, the offense is not lessened; it is doubly so.

This relationship with your brother allowed your daughter to be molested, and your family is still trying to negatize your responsibility for what happened. You are perfectly justified in cutting off contact with those who did it.

We won’t tell you exactly what to say, but you are in a position to give your daughter the justice no court was ever able to.
Stay in touch with what’s happening - open the McKenzie Community Calendar!
Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx
McKenzie River: All hatchery rainbow trout released into the McKenzie River are marked with adipose fin clips and anglers must release all non-fin-clipped (wild) trout in the mainstream river. The first 14 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.

Fishing Report

Continued From Page 3

Mohawk River Rd.
3:23 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - Camp Creek Rd. & upper Camp Creek Rd.
6:05 p.m: Disturbance - 40 000 blk, Yank Loran. Verbal dispute between family members.
8:40 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle 15 000 blk, Park Rd. A LCSO deputy checked on a vehicle parked at an area business.
9:45 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 95 000 blk, Marcola Rd.
10:41 a.m: Civil Service - 96 000 blk, Marcola Rd.
12:49 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Ross Ln.
1:54 p.m: Suspense Service - 45 000 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:57 p.m: Harassment - 39 200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A caller reported that a neighbor has been blasting music and harassing the caller.
5:21 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91 800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
5:39 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 36 000 blk, Pico St. caller says he has been granted temporary custody of grandchildren advised that the children’s biological parents threatened to take the children back by force.
6:17 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call 37 000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.
6:55 p.m: Welfare Check - 87 000 blk, Cedar Flats Rd.
9:19 p.m: Driving While Suspended - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.
Oct. 14: 4:36 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 49 000 blk, Leaburg Dam Rd.
11:09 a.m: Harassment - 36 000 blk, Pico St. Caller has temporary custody over grandchild. Child’s biological parent has threatened to take the child.
12:25 p.m: Civil Standby - 36 600 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
12:37 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 42 800 blk, McK. Hwy. A female was seen messing with a white Mini Cooper. Caller thought she may have been trying to steal.
1:37 p.m: Tree Down - McK. Hwy. Malgeith St.
1:49 p.m: Harassment - 55 600 blk, McK. River Dr. Caller advised that his landlord has been digging through his shed and yelling at his property. Civil dispute over eviction status.
3:27 p.m: Citizen Contact - 55 6000 blk, McK. River Dr.
4:26 p.m: Illegal Burn - 45 500 blk, Goodpasture Rd.
7:57 p.m: Loud Noise - 39 000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.
9:36 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - 91 100 blk, Marcola Rd.
9:47 p.m: Driving Under Influence of Intoxicants - 35 200 blk, McK. View Dr.
Oct. 15: 12:12 p.m: Recover Stolen Property - Lat. 44.13043. Long: -122.57446.
12:22 p.m: Recover Stolen Vehicle - McGowan Creek Rd. Mps. 7.5.
12:57 p.m: Unattended Boat - 56 6000 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:48 p.m: Alarm - 91 800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
6:51 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 9 000 blk, Thurston Rd.
Oct. 16: 6:48:19 a.m: Alarm - 91 8000 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
12:57 p.m: Follow Up - 9 000 blk, Thurston Rd.

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

Opportunity for USFS seasonal jobs

The USDA Forest Service will be accepting applications for permanent seasonal jobs from October 19th to November 22nd. Hundreds of entry-level permanent seasonal positions are available in exciting and rewarding locations across the nation, including 436 positions in Washington and Oregon and almost 30 on the Willamette National Forest.

Jobs on the Willamette include positions working on trails, recreation facilities, and helping manage wilderness areas, off-highway vehicle, and winter recreation programs.

Permanent seasonal positions offer a 13/13 schedule, which means employees work 13 pay periods (6 months) and have the remaining 13 pay periods (6 months) off. These positions have career status and may be increased to 18/8 (18 pay periods of work, 8 pay periods off) or a full 26 pay periods of work based on unit needs and funding.

Positions will be open to the public and applications will be accepted on USAJOBS. Interested candidates are encouraged to review the information provided on the Forest Service website. Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals who are at least 18 years old.

The following webinars will be available to assist with the Federal hiring process:
  * Tips for Job Seekers Webinar – Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 3-4 p.m.

  * Navigating USAJOBS Webinar – Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 10-11 a.m. MDT

The Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer and encourages for more information, visit: https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers/recruitment-events/permanent-seasonal-forestry-careers. tinyurl.com/4mx78ua

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McKenzie River Reflections Page 9

Sheriff’s Report

Continued From Page 3

Emergency: Call 911

Grandma Thomson

Continued From Page 4

the river as the Thomson place. Improvements have been added every year to the Lodge, and there is also a modern rustic type cabin near the Lodge, that sleeps eight people.

The Thomson Lodge has always catered to the more hardy type of sportmen, who enjoy the rustic atmosphere of the Lodge’s good ranch-type meals, served family style. You did not have to “dress up” to dine at this lodge. Fishermen feel right at home in their fishing clothes. Some of the more rugged guests have been known to eat on a few whiskers grow. In the early days “Grandma Thomson” was both a cook and waitress and it has been said, that she really knew how to fry fish. Since she retired from the kitchen, hired help has continued to serve the ranch-style meals, for which the place became famous.

A Moment in Oregon History

October 19 - Sidney Moss was a surveyor, stonemason, hotelkeeper, and all around handyman in western Oregon. He went with the Hastings expedition in 1842 and was called on to survey the town of Oregon City. He performed this duty with nothing more than a pocket compass and a piece of rope that he claimed, “is exactly a rod long on a dry day.” Moss purchased a lot in Oregon City and constructed and operated the first hotel west of the Rocky Mountains. By 1850 he had amassed a fortune and sent a partner with $83,000, a fortune in those days, to purchase merchandise for his store. But the money was lost along the way, and although Moss lived to be 91 years old, he never recovered financially from this setback.

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McKenzie Valley Newspaper

www.mckenzievalleynp.com

For a free trial subscription to River Reflections visit: https://www.mckenzievalley.com/library/4fndher

Need to talk? Call 988

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Fill your screen with McKenzie news
Fire dispatcher burnout

Continued From Page 1

Bob Gray, zone fire dispatcher for the Shasta National Forest at Mt. Shasta, arranging fire-duty charts for the districts on the Shasta National Forest, California. While technology has changed over the years, the pace and intensity of the job remains.

are so slim now due to vacancies and increases in workload.” While some centers in the West are adequately staffed, the survey identified recruitment, retention and vacancies as major problems in Region 6. Over half of respondents said they had little to no work-life balance; many felt forced to take on overtime work, struggled to take time off and did not receive adequate breaks. ABL dispatcher with more than 10 years of experience, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution by his employer, said that experienced dispatchers are overworked and often quit, leading to heavy burdens on those who remain. “It’s a vicious cycle,” he said. Shifts can be up to 16 hours long or more — that dispatcher’s personal record is over 24 — during fire season. “I don’t know how long that pace is sustainable,” Holmstrom said. A source familiar with the survey said that it identified concrete problems stemming from staffing shortages. In one case, a dispatcher with known gallbladder issues didn’t have enough time to step away to use the restroom and received emergency surgery. The survey also found at least one dispatch center on the verge of collapse, with dispatchers threatening to quit because they were short-staffed, overworked and over-looked.

The dispatcher shortage also impacted wildfire camps this summer. At times, managers send dispatchers to fires out to help with communications. During one large fire that threatened homes in western Oregon in August, however, there were no extra dispatchers to send into the field. A medical unit staffed by dispatchers said to Verble’s team, “Many of the crew are total train wrecks.” Another said, “It’s going to continue to be a disaster and we’re going to lose good firefighters.” Verble’s study also found that dispatchers struggle with physical health problems — including eyestrain, headaches and backaches — from long stressful shifts in confined quarters that often lack ergonomically appropriate equipment.

Firefighters want adequately staffed centers so they don’t have to repeatedly work 16 or more hours a day, missing family dinners in the short term and risking burnout in the long run. They say better pay would help recruit and retain more dispatchers. An average Forest Service dispatcher’s base pay is roughly $15 to $20 an hour. “It’s going to continue to be hard to recruit with the perception that we pay less than McDonald’s,” a slide from the Region 6 presentation reads.

The 2021 Infrastructure Law provided temporary pay raises for Forest Service wildland firefighters, but it did not extend the raises to workers who have direct firefighting experience. And even those increases were set to expire at the end of September. According to the advocacy group Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, the recently introduced federal Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act would effectively result in dispatch workers returning to the status quo, because it would preserve only a portion of the temporary raises. Other benefits were set to lapse as well.

Whether dispatchers are included in a new wildland fire job series that the Interior and Agriculture departments are developing will determine whether they have access to retirement benefits. Being left to speed more quickly may portend other problems about pay exemplifies a larger problem — a lack of recognition and respect. Dispatchers said they feel undervalued and are often targeted by anonymous dispatchers. Verble told his team, “We’re dealing with just sabotage, substance abuse and violence” on the line. Take care of us. That is all we ask.” Money alone can’t fix the problem, Holmstrom acknowledged in one of the released emails. “We know this is not a funding issues (sic),” he wrote. “It’s going to continue to be a disaster and we can’t afford it.” Some dispatchers have received additional leadership training to help their teams during stressful situations, and more centers are now sharing training resources to bring dispatchers up to speed more quickly when they fill short-term roles.

But that may not be enough. The agency itself admits, in the survey results, that the creation of stress first aid materials tailored for dispatchers was “slow and laborious.” The agency needs access to retirement benefits. As one anonymous anonymous so that she could speak freely said dispatchers aren’t always included when mental health resources are offered to firefighters after traumatic incidents. Those times include instances when firefighters have died during her shift. “It’s a lot of times over-looked,” she said. Overhearing a firefighter fatality and a firefighter suicide are things that, she said, “I’ll never forget.”

Outside research confirms wild- land fire dispatchers’ struggles nationwide. The National Council on Firefighter Fatality Prevention and Retention, led a recent research report with several others, including Graben, the Washington state firefighter. Of the 510 dispatchers who responded, 10 percent were considered at high risk for suicide — compared to 3 percent of the general population. “It’s a shocking and very sad statistic that needs re- attention via the Signal app at 509-953-1048. Kylie Mohr is a correspondent from Montana. Email her at kylie.mohr@hcn.org or submit a letter to the editor. See our letters to the editor policy.
Oregon, nine states sue EPA over wood stove pollution

Emission standards and tightened oversight at issue

By Lynne Terry  mckenzieriverreflectionsnewspaper.com

Tens of thousands of Oregonians who rely on wood stoves could be at risk for breathing higher levels of harmful emissions than allowed by federal standards – even if they’ve swapped out an old heater for a new one that meets federal standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which is responsible for setting emission limits for wood stoves, has not effectively tested new stoves to ensure they meet the latest standards, according to Oregon environmental and judicial officials.

Concerns about wood stove pollution prompted Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum to join nine other states in a lawsuit against the EPA, calling on the agency to update its standards and tighten regulations.

The suit, filed in September in U.S. District Court in Washington D.C., notes that wood stoves are a key source of pollution.

Wood smoke contains fine particles and pollutants such as benzene and formaldehyde that can cause burning eyes, runny nose and bronchial infections, according to an EPA report published in 2015. Exposure to the smoke can also cause heart and lung problems and can even be deadly.

Every year wood heater smoke “contributes hundreds of thousands of tons of fine airborne matter, which is spewed not only by wood stoves but also by wildfires.” The letter noted that many people in communities that rely on wood stoves, and in the summer also use wood stoves in winter, when weather systems can trap pollution near the ground.

“Oregon is home to unique geographic features that contribute to the beauty and splendor of our natural spaces and also contribute to routine atmospheric inversion which contributes to increased ambient air pollution concentrations,” the letter said. “These inversions occur during winter months when wood stove use is high, especially in the more rural and economically disadvantaged areas of Oregon.”

It said that Oregonians – and others – should not “carry the burden of EPA’s failed wood stove certification program, especially when state and local governments have invested so heavily in changing-out these stoves over the years with an expectation that they would result in improved air quality.”

Although Oregon Department of Environmental Quality officials have known about the EPA’s faulty program, they’ve not taken action to protect Oregonians, including testing new stoves.

“The Clean Air Act established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the authority for setting emission standards for manufactured products, such as wood stoves. So, DEQ has relied upon EPA’s program to ensure that they meet standards,” an agency spokesperson, Dylan Darling, said in a statement.

He advised Oregonians concerned about wood stove pollution could switch to a pellet-burning device or a heat pump, which also cools. Oregon also offers incentives to help residents and landlords switch to clean heat pumps, thanks to a $25 million appropriation by the Legislature last year.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

About 5% of Oregon households use wood stoves, and 15% in rural areas do.

Particulate emissions in the U.S.

Rural Oregonians are especially at risk.

The state Department of Environmental Quality estimates that 5% of Oregon households – nearly 83,000 based on 2022 Census estimates – use wood stoves for heat and that 15% of rural homes are heated with them.

“This is a serious public health, environmental and consumer protection issue all wrapped into one!” Rosenblum said. “The science is clear: Wood heaters in Oregon are a major source of particulate-matter pollution, which is harmful to our health. The EPA needs to do their due diligence to review the standards and has no plans to revisit them until November 2027.

It also says the agency has failed to ensure that new residential wood stoves actually meet those standards.

In February, the inspector general of the Environmental Protection Agency released a scathing report about the agency’s oversight of its wood stove program. It said the agency’s 2015 standards are flawed and that the agency does not ensure that wood heaters are properly tested and certified before reaching consumers.

“Certification tests may not be accurate, do not reflect real-world conditions and may result in some wood heaters being certified for sale that emit too much particulate matter pollution,” the report said.

People’s health is at stake, the report said.

“The EPA’s ineffective residential wood heater program puts human health and the environment at risk,” the report read. “We call on the EPA to update its fine-particulate-matter pollution by allowing sales of wood heaters that may not meet emission standards,” the report said.

DEQ enters the fray

A month following the report, officials at Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority wrote to the Environmental Protection Agency, calling on it to lower its emission standards for particulate matter, which is spewed not only by wood stoves but also by wildfires. The letter noted that many people in communities that are vulnerable to wildfire smoke in the summer also use wood stoves in winter, when weather systems can trap pollution near the ground.

“Oregon is home to unique geographic features that contribute to the beauty and splendor of our natural spaces and also contribute to routine atmospheric inversion which contributes to increased ambient air pollution concentrations,” the letter said. “These inversions occur during winter months when wood stove use is high, especially in the more rural and economically disadvantaged areas of Oregon.”

It said that Oregonians – and others – should not “carry the burden of EPA’s failed wood stove certification program, especially when state and local governments have invested so heavily in changing-out these stoves over the years with an expectation that they would result in improved air quality.”

Although Oregon Department of Environmental Quality officials have known about the EPA’s faulty program, they’ve not taken action to protect Oregonians, including testing new stoves.

“The Clean Air Act established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the authority for setting emission standards for manufactured products, such as wood stoves. So, DEQ has relied upon EPA’s program to ensure that they meet standards,” an agency spokesperson, Dylan Darling, said in a statement.

He advised Oregonians concerned about wood stove pollution could switch to a pellet-burning device or a heat pump, which also cools. Oregon also offers incentives to help residents and landlords switch to clean heat pumps, thanks to a $25 million appropriation by the Legislature last year.

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