



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

JP Doodles

There's more for your personal checklist in the Internet age of Holidays

PAGE 2

NewsArk

John Glenn is a relative of the Condra who carved this record on the hemlock tree in 1867 - a century ago.

PAGE 4



Employees to punch in McKenzie will install tracking software

FINN ROCK: Staff on the McKenzie Community School campus will be punching in and out soon, thanks to a plan approved at the district's November 15th board meeting. With a unanimous vote, the district board approved the purchase of software that will be used to operate timeclocks that are already installed in all the site's buildings and are to be used by all employees to both check in and check out each workday. The costs of the system will be reimbursed by the state.

In other business, Lacey Joy, the district's special programs coordinator, gave an update on a new grant that will provide \$86,424 per year for the next five years.

The funding will underpin a 21st Century Community Learning Center that some district patrons may remember operating locally from 2008 to 2013.

Joy said a joint application was made with the Crow, Mapleton, and Siuslaw school districts under the "Wellness from the Cascades to the Coast."

From 45 to 60 third to eighth-grade students could be involved in after-school enrichment programs as well as a Friday offering that would include breakfast and lunch.

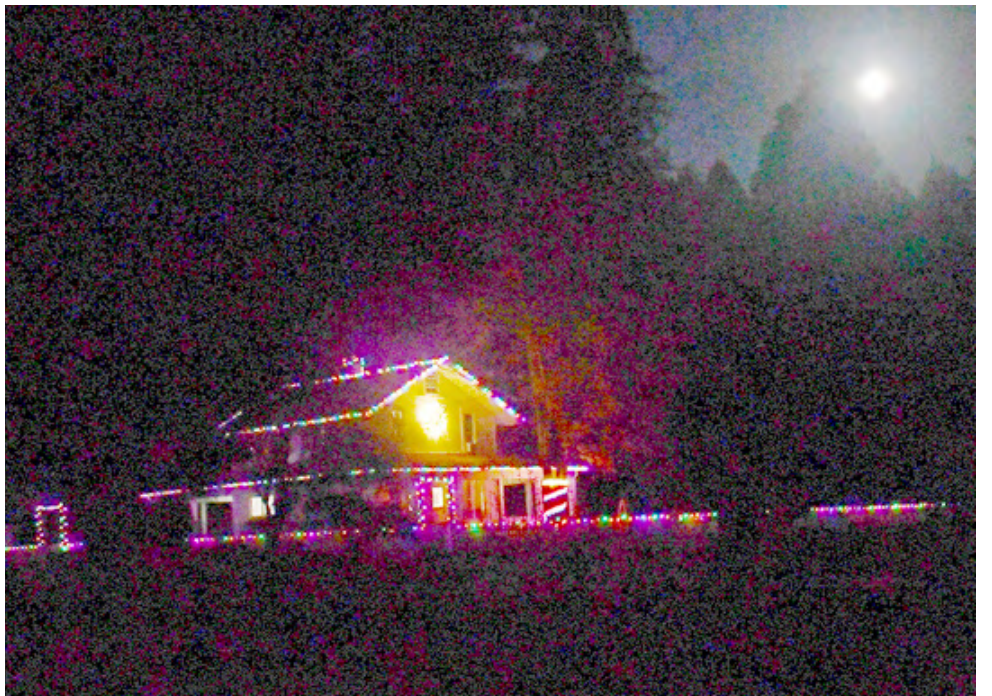
Joy said key four elements would be stressed - including support for an academic "power hour," academically enriching

projects, monthly family engagement activities, and an advisory board overseen by the Lane Education Service District.

The monthly programs should begin in early January and will also include field trips with the other participating school districts.

Three more people will be hired to oversee the program, which should break out to 15 students per adult. In addition, high school students can also function in paid supervisory roles that could be beneficial parts of their resumes if they apply for college admission, Joy said.

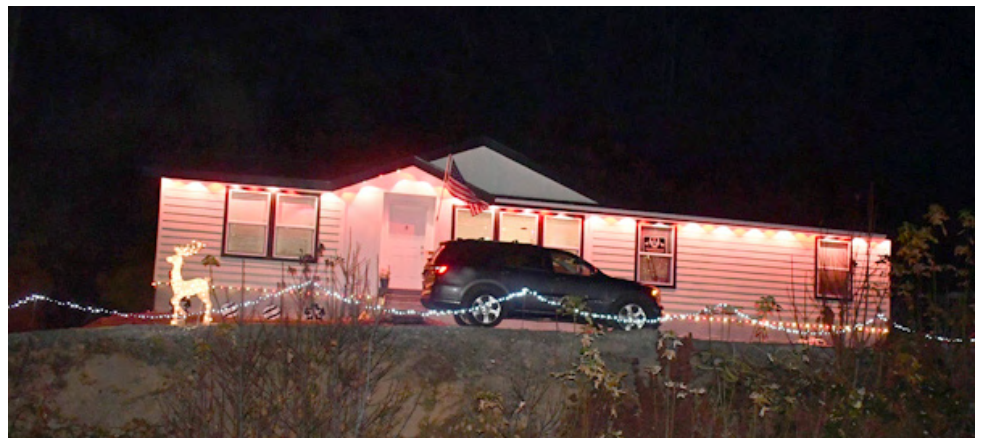
The lights in our nights McKenzie area homes and businesses are glowing



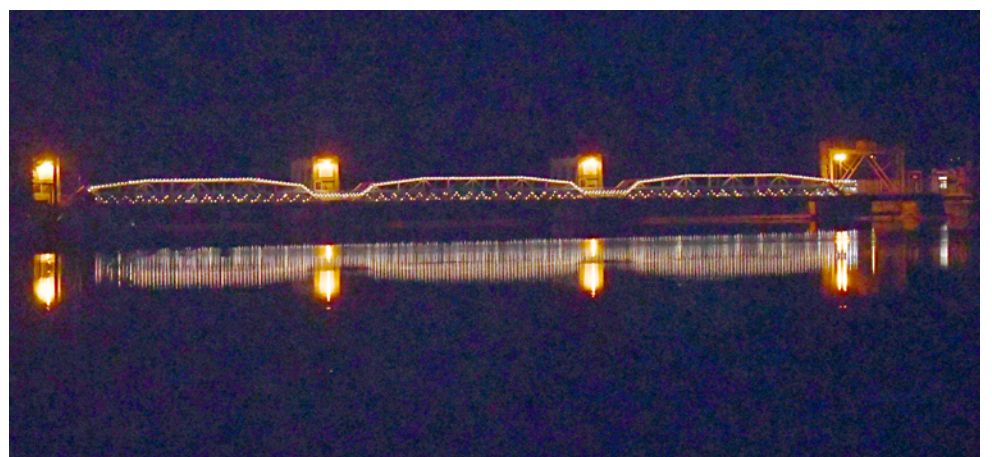
Beneath a Beaver moon, the McKenzie River Discovery Center was also a beacon.



Lawns in Leaburg are among some of the spots brightening up Hwy. 126.



Although the nights will be getting darker, there are bright spots in Vida this year.



Leaburg Lake offers an inverse view of the lighted dam.

Boosting carbon sequestration Study shows fast growing trees are the main factor

By Steve Lundeberg
OSU News

Forest modeling by Oregon State University scientists shows that a site's productivity - an indicator of how fast trees grow and how much biomass they accumulate - is the main factor that determines which time period between timber harvests allows for maximum above-ground carbon sequestration.

The findings, published in the journal *Forests*, are important for Pacific Northwest forest managers seeking to strike an optimal balance between harvesting and carbon sequestration, an important tool in the fight against climate change.

The study by Catherine Carlisle, Temesgen Hailemariam, and Stephen Fitzgerald of the OSU College of Forestry notes that the carbon trapped in the woody biomass of U.S. forests offsets 13% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. Green plants pull carbon dioxide from the air during photosynthesis, the process through which

they use sunlight to make food from carbon dioxide, soil nutrients, and water.

Forests in the Northwest stretch across nearly 25 million acres and are among the most productive in the world, the authors say, with forests in the Oregon Coast Range boasting especially high biomass and carbon densities thanks to the range's wet and mild growing conditions.

"Whether short or long harvest rotations are better for maximizing carbon sequestration has been the

subject of considerable debate," said Carlisle, who led the study as a graduate student. "Future management decisions will need to strive to meet harvest requirements while also striving to maintain high rates of carbon sequestration."

The study area for the modeling was the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest, an 11,000-acre woodland northwest of Corvallis owned and managed by the College of Forestry. The forest is in the eastern foothills of the Coast Range, and the dominant species in the McDonald-Dunn overstory is Douglas-fir, Oregon's state tree and a versatile timber tree that's a source of boards, railroad ties, plywood veneer, and wood fiber.

The researchers inventoried more than 300 stands known from past research to have four different productivity levels - high, medium-high, medium-low, and low - and input stand data into the Forest Vegetation Simulator, a software suite that

Boosting carbon - Page 9



Steve Lundeberg

Dunn Forest, facing Coffin Butte.

Letters to the Editor

In the spirit of Thanksgiving

The Bottle Boys “Dime at a Time” program has gifted McKenzie Fire & Rescue with a \$500 donation for the Life Jacket Lending Program.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue began the Life Jacket Lending Program in 2000 following a tragic incident and have since partnered with the McKenzie River Guides to ensure life jackets are available at no charge for daily use on the McKenzie River. Life jackets are distributed in the Spring to businesses in the McKenzie Valley, where they remain during the

summer months. People enjoying the recreational value of the McKenzie River can pick up a life jacket on any given day at any of these businesses during the summer months and are asked to return it so that someone else may also benefit from the use.

Life jackets are then picked up in the fall, inventoried and cleaned, replaced as needed, then stored for use the following year.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Bottle Boys for this donation to our Life Jacket Lending Program and will use it for the purchase of new lifejackets.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue



McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

The Eagle teams’ schedules remain TBD depending on wins or losses as the Tournament progresses. The McKenzie teams travel to Prospect on Tuesday, December 5. The Eagle girl’s game is scheduled for a 5:30 pm start and the boy’s varsity game will begin at 7:00 pm.

Lowell Lowers The Boom, Red Devils Run Rampant In Winning 2A State Football Championship

The Lowell Red Devils put a stamp on the 2023 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union 2A Football State Championship. Lowell, ranked 3rd in the final Class 2A State rankings, thoroughly thrashed top-ranked Weston-McEwen/Griswold, 74-42, to claim the blue State Championship trophy. The Red Devils finished their extraordinary season with a 12-

1 record and handed Weston-McEwen/Griswold (11-1) its first loss. The Championship contest was held at Hillsboro Stadium last Saturday, November 25.

Meanwhile, over in Hermiston, the 10th ranked Echo Cougars (9-3) put a cap on its Cinderella 1A Six-man football season with another upset, this time a 47-40 victory over the 4th ranked Joseph Eagles (9-2). The Cougars, in their four-post season game march to the Championship title, averaged 41.2 pts/game while holding their opponents to 18.2 pts/game.

The 1A Eight-man Championship went a little more

as predicted as the number one team in the State rankings, Lost River held off second ranked Crane, 30-20. Lost River finished unblemished at 11-0 and Crane dropped its first game of the season to finish 10-1.

Eagle Grid Iron Athletes Garner League Accolades

The McKenzie 1A Six-man football team coached by Head Coach Neil Barrett and Assisted by Joshua Henley finished the 2023 SD- North (Mountain West League) season tied for fifth place with Crow/City First Christian Academy, with a 2-5 League record and 2-6 overall. The Eagles

finished ranked 20th out of 27 Class 1A Six-man football teams in the State.

The Eagles landed five athletes on the 2023 SD-2 North All League teams. Junior Jamie LeClair was selected as a First Team All League Defensive Lineman. Fellow junior, Ayten Brown, joined his teammate on the First Team as Punter. Sophomore Eagle Allen Acevedo secured three honors, selected Second Team Running Back, Linebacker and Returner. Earning Honorable Mention All League were senior Salomon Acevedo as a Defensive Back and senior Thomas Hayes as

Guest Opinion

What lawmakers should learn from the teachers strike

By Tim Nesbitt

The Portland teachers strike sent a message to state lawmakers who hold the purse strings for Portland and the state’s other 196 school districts: You can’t keep writing checks for our schools without getting more involved in how those checks are spent.

Portland teachers managed to force changes in the district’s budget, boosting their salaries and highlighting the issue of unmanageable class sizes. But they had no way to deal with the state’s K-12 budget, which became the immovable object at the bargaining table and set the non-negotiable dollar limits for any settlement.

The Portland strike exposed the illusion of local control in our K-12 system. And it has set the stage for a reckoning with the dysfunction that results from the split-level governance of our schools in budgeting, bargaining and managing for results in our kids’ classrooms.

Budget documents show that roughly two-thirds of school fund-

ing comes from the state (income taxes and lottery receipts) and the other third from local districts (property taxes). But that’s misleading. The Legislature controls both its own allocation to the State School Fund and the distribution of local school districts’ property tax revenue, by equalizing funding across all districts.

With the exception of some local option levies and bonds for capital projects, every local school district budget is set by the state. In effect, the 90 members of the Legislature function as a super school board, telling their underlings what they have to spend while remaining at arms’ length from the consequences of underfunding or underperformance in our schools.

That arms’ length relationship was called out by the Portland teachers, when the union blamed the Legislature for its failure to provide enough funding for a reasonable settlement. Portland lawmakers countered that they had sweetened the school funding pot above what’s called the “current service level.” But that pot was built on assumptions that failed to recognize the inflationary pressures on salaries in today’s econ-

omy. And there was nothing that the teachers and administrators in Portland could do to remedy that failure but argue over competing shares of the hand they were dealt by the Legislature.

To a large extent, all negotiations in the public sector are a struggle over budgeting and bargaining. And when the Legislature has the largest role in the school budgeting process, it shouldn’t expect to remain aloof from the impacts of its decisions on local bargaining as well.

Other states have tackled this problem with some form of statewide bargaining for teachers, either for minimum starting salaries (12 states) or full salary schedules (Hawaii). That idea remains a hard sell for the state teachers union, which has liked getting two bites of the apple by lobbying for dollars at the state level and bargaining for their shares in local districts. But that second bite became a bitter one in Portland this year. And the strike that followed makes the case for reforms of the state’s funding practices to make explicit what amount is intended for teacher compensation when lawmakers approve the massive K-12 budget.

Still, the Portland strike wasn’t just about the traditional bargaining subjects of wages, hours and

working conditions. It was also about shared governance with an elected school board, which can all too easily exacerbate the conflict between budgeting and bargaining.

Class size can be cast as an issue of working conditions. But it rests on staffing levels, which can only be determined in an overall budget with agreed-upon labor costs. That’s the chicken-and-egg problem with budgeting and bargaining.







This is another issue for the Legislature, which sets the scope and processes for public sector bargaining in Oregon. In the 1990s, lawmakers eliminated an obligation to take bargaining disputes to a neutral factfinder, prior to allowing a union to strike or a district to impose its final offer. This was done to speed up the bargaining process. But, without that requirement, we saw wildly

conflicting assertions about the district’s ability to meet the teachers demands in Portland. In one case, the union didn’t even bother to put cost estimates on one of its major proposals.

As local unions press for more say in budgeting, they are going to have to deal with the full financial impacts of their demands, including the total compensation costs that affect staffing levels and the downstream impact of big-ticket items like retirement benefits. Both unions and school boards will need to dig into a district’s spreadsheets to establish a shared reality for short-term budgeting and far-sighted decision-making.

Fact finding can help in this process; restoring it as a touchstone in public sector bargaining ought to be one of lawmakers’ first responses to the Portland experience.

Guest Opinion - Page 9

Friday 12/1		Saturday 12/2		Sunday 12/3	
					
McKenzie Valley Rain 90% chance precip High: 44 Low: 41	Santiam Pass Snow 9% chance precip High: 30 Low: 28	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 47 Low: 44	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 60% chance precip High: 32 Low: 29	McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 51 Low: 48	Santiam Pass Rain/Snow Showers 60% chance precip High: 37 Low: 33



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WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
11/21	49	40	0.03	461 cfs	11/21	47	33	0.02	2,950 cfs
11/22	50	32	0	455 cfs	11/22	61	34	0.07	2,850 cfs
11/23	51	39	0	444 cfs	11/23	61	42	0	2,690 cfs
11/24	50	34	0	NA	11/24	50	29	0	2,590 cfs
11/25	42	29	0	NA	11/25	44	27	0	2,500 cfs
11/26	45	34	0	365 cfs	11/26	47	24	0	2,400 cfs
11/27	46	36	0	309 cfs	11/27	48	25	0	2,250 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Nov. 21: 4:14 a.m: Alarm - 41700 block, McK. Hwy.
9:13 a.m: Fraud - 92200 blk, Whitmore St.
9:32 a.m: Civil Service - 37500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.
9:44 a.m: Restraining Order Service - 37800 blk, MJ Chase Rd.
10:14 a.m: Civil Service - 37200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
2:36 p.m: Harassment - 54700 blk, McK. Hwy.
12:08 p.m: Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. & Saunders Rd.
5:25 p.m: Disturbance Dispute - 38100 blk, McK. Hwy.
Nov. 22: 2:42 p.m: Disabled Vehicle - 91800 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd.
3:07 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Potter Ln.
3:13 p.m: Harassment - 55500 blk, Drury Dr.

3:23 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Potter Ln.
6:13 p.m: Alarm - 89300 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.
Nov. 23: 6:28 p.m: Alarm - 38100 blk, Boscage Ln.
9:10 p.m: Harassment - 92200 blk, Carson St.
Nov. 24: 3:29 p.m: Medical Info Call - 40000 blk, Mohawk River Rd.
4:39 p.m: Animal Complaint - 36500 blk, Alder Branch Rd.
10:34 p.m: Alarm - 38100 blk, Boscage Ln.
Nov. 25: 3:59 p.m: Dog Bite - Lat: 44.16777542. Long: - 122.225245.
Nov. 26: 3:40 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91500 blk, Horse Creek Rd.
Nov. 27: 12:17 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 44900 blk, McK. Hwy.
8:24 a.m: Welfare Check - 37900 blk, Shenandoah Lp.
3:22 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Milepost 37.
3:59 p.m: Civil Service - Lookout Campground.

5:52 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 25.
6:06 p.m: Citizen Contact - 44600 blk, McK. Hwy.
6:35 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Leaburg Dr.

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

State Police Report

Nov. 28: 06:37: Crash, Injury - Hwy. 126 E, Milepost 14. A truck was traveling eastbound when it lost control on freezing fog and impacted the ditch, which caused the truck to roll. The driver was transported to the hospital with injuries. Involved: Silver/aluminum Chevy C35, 49-year-old male from Eugene.

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Nov. 21: 8:00: 44000 block, Leaburg Dam Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
20:13: 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd.. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.
13:14: McK. Hwy./Holden Creek Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/Non-Blocking.
Nov. 22: 14:20: 7900 blk, Thurston Rd.. Medical, General. Cancelled On Scene.
18:07: 88000 blk, Missy Ln Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
Nov. 23: 8:32: 40000 blk, York Ln. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
11:26: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd.. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
Nov. 24: 11:28: McK. Hwy./Deerhorn Rd. MVA. Blocking, Non-Injury.
14:03: 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

Nov. 25: 14:30: 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. Residential Fire. Extinguished Fire, Overhaul.
17:46: 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Smoke From A Structure. Investigated For Smoke, None Found.
Nov. 26: 13:50: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

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

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Nov. 21: 08:28: Medical - Aufderheide Drive/McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.
Nov. 27: 08:28: Medical - 54655 McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

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

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

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2022 May 12 Vol. 44, Issue 39 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 May 5 Vol. 44, Issue 38 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 28 Vol. 44, Issue 37 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 21 Vol. 44, Issue 36 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 14 Vol. 44, Issue 35 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 7 Vol. 44, Issue 34 \$1.00 Add to cart
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By Slim Randles

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

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

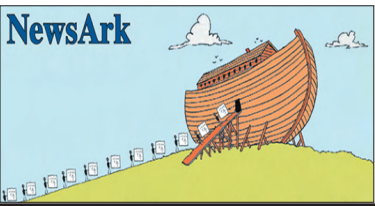
wellsir, at the very other end of that dial you'd have a flat brown rock, and then, 'way off in the distance ... the other side of the rock, there'd be a turkey.

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

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

And you can tell 'em I said so.

This year, disguise your turkey as something that doesn't taste as good. You know, like a porcupine, or squash. Ideas at www.simpleeverydaymom.com.



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

The Condra Tree

As Reported By Lester Calder
Lane County Historian
VIII No. 2, June 1967

A special interest has been added to the finding of the Condra tree markings discovered in 1960 in the McKenzie River Valley Country, with the earth circling on February 20 by John Glenn, first American astronaut. It is interesting to note that Glenn is a relative of the Condra who carved this record on the hemlock tree in 1867 - almost a century ago.

Another occasion for this story is that the section of the tree bearing the scribing has been on display at the Lane County Museum in Eugene and is being viewed by thousands of visitors. The preserving and display are due to the efforts of Lester Calder, an official of the Weyerhaeuser Company of Springfield and former chairman of the Museum Commission.

The following account was published in the Springfield News of September 29, 1960, telling of the date of the crossing of the plains to Oregon of the Condra family who settled near Halsey in Linn County, and were relatives of Rev. Robert Robe, who took such an active part in the building of Eugene City and Lane County, in the 1850's.

"Silas R. Condra (age 8) traveled west with his father, mother, four brothers and one sister in 1853. It was only during that migration season of that year that the government attempted to register the wagon trains at Umatilla Agency. Here the record shows that Aaron and Cordelia Condra, their five children at their side, checked in on October 29, 1853.

"Aaron took up Donation Land Claim No. 1760 about 6 miles southeast of Halsey, Ore. Silas, like any other youngster in a strange and beautiful land, roamed the hills in the area . One day in the early Spring of 1867 (it seems), Silas and some of his young friends rode off into the hills. They followed an old trail, which the Calapooya Indians used in going from the Willamette Valley to Sisters where they obtained obsidian to make their

arrow heads.

"Silas may have been hunting game for the Condra household but being too far from home he hadn't shot any prey, lest it spoil on his return trip. Or he may have been a 22-year old man out roaming.

After his long ride he sat down in front of the trunk of a Hemlock tree and carved his name and brief life history. This is what he scribed: June 12, 1867 - Silas R. Condra - Born July 11, 1845 - in Nox. Co., Ill. - crossed plains in 1853 - Son. (The dates were verified through current research). He started to carve "son" but his friends (may have) called impatiently to be on

their way so he left the tree with just "son" inscribed.

"Ninety-three years later Cecil Cunningham, assistant branch forester for the Weyerhaeuser Calapooya Tree Farm found the hemlock with the long scar not completely healed over along a fire protection road near Vida. Since the scar was similar to those found at section corners where "bearing trees" are scribed by the government, Cunningham was curious and chopped away the live wood covering which exposed the knife scribing. Along the right edge of the inscription rotten wood partially destroyed the last part of the numerals.

The tree when felled in 1960 was about 200 years old and 30 inches in diameter. It stood on the ridge between Gate Creek and Calapooya River, about four miles east and six miles north of the village of Vida which is about 30 miles east of Eugene on the McKenzie River. Delford Condra, nephew of Silas, is presently an employee of Weyerhaeuser Company in Cottage Grove, Oregon.



1867 scribing on a hemlock tree, discovered and chopped out, on the Weyerhaeuser Calapooya farm, about 35 miles east of Eugene on a ridge between the McKenzie and Calapooya Rivers. (Lower) Loading the scribed segment of the "Condra Tree" by Weyerhaeuser Co. employees. Note the fine virgin stand of Douglas fir trees - the predominant species of the area. (Upper) Woodsmen preparing to fell the 200 year old hemlock with a modern chainsaw. Note the old scribing on the left side of the tree. It is on display at the Lane Co. Pioneer Museum.



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RAIN catalysts

Date: Feb-March
Two Saturdays TBD
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Location: TBD Leaburg or Vida
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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Colorful indoor plants make delightful gifts



Mary Stewart

African violet is a popular indoor houseplant that can be given as a holiday gift.

Winter-blooming indoor plants are a welcome way to take the edge off the chill and gloom of winter and make delightful gifts for the holidays.

The choices go beyond traditional poinsettias and amaryllis. Colorful African violets, gloxinia, cyclamen, orchids, ornamental peppers, and Christmas cactus are blooming and readily available. Dress them up with bows and cellophane or combine a few in a basket with store-bought or garden-harvested moss and some decorations and present them as gifts or to a plant lover on your list.

Before you buy, though, consider some key care tips, including how to get them home, said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. She advises taking a cardboard box along with you to the store

and then covering the plant after getting it into the car.

“You want to keep them protected from drafts and mimic the conditions of being in a warm situation,” she said. “Use something that won’t crush the plant but protects it against cold shock. Avoid putting them in the trunk where it gets colder.”

Once you get them home, check to see if they are badly rootbound and need to be repotted to a larger container size. If so, use a well-draining potting soil with perlite or peat moss in the mix. If the plant comes wrapped in foil or cellophane, cut holes in the bottom so water drains through. Most plants will rot if left sitting in water, Edmunds said.

Potted plants are well fertilized before being shipped to stores, so let the recipient know they don’t have to feed them for several weeks. When it’s time,

use a houseplant fertilizer high in phosphorous, which is the middle number on the label, and the element that helps them bloom.

“When it comes to watering, more people overwater than underwater,” Edmunds said. “Check to see if the plant needs water by sticking your finger 2 inches into the soil. If it’s dry, go ahead and water.”

The foliage of some plants, such as African violets, can be damaged if water – especially cold water – gets on the leaves. They also get root rot easily. Avoid that by watering from below. Or carefully water with room-temperature water from above, let it drain, and then empty the saucer it sits in. Also, steer clear of misting, which can promote foliar disease. African violets are more likely to bloom if a bit root-bound.

Keep plants away from drafts, in bright light and in temperatures of 70 degrees or above during the day and 55 or above at night.

“It’s a nice idea to write down instructions on a pretty card to include with the plant,” Edmunds suggested.

Don’t be concerned if gloxinia or cyclamen die down after blooming. That’s normal. You can either discard the plant and buy a new one next year or let it go dormant for a few months until foliage reappears. Then grow it like you would any houseplant.

Look for plants – particularly orchids and Christmas cactus – that have some tight buds as well as open flowers to extend bloom. Orchids can be difficult to rebloom unless you have a greenhouse or can mimic warm, moist conditions.

Colorful ornamental peppers may look delicious but are often extremely hot, so keep them off your taste buds and where kids and pets can’t get to them.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



GETTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE FROM THE WOODS

“Come on! It’s time to get the tree from the woods,” Father called.

He had hitched Dick and Nellie to the sleigh he used for hauling firewood from the forest. We four children piled onto the sleigh with Mother. We sat on empty grain bags, with the bear robe pulled over our legs.

“Make sure you’re bundled up,” Mother said. “Don’t want you catching cold.”

Father called, “Geddy-up, geddy-up” to Dick and Nellie. The sleigh started with a jolt, and we rode over the glistening snow. I liked to hear it crunch under the heavy wooden sleigh runners.

Shep, our collie, ran beside the sleigh. He barked as we went over the bridge, past the barn and across the backfield. “Careful,” Mother warned.

“We don’t want you falling off the sleigh.”

We could hardly sit still as the horses followed the trail beyond the pond in the pasture, and to the woods. Once we entered the woodland, we heard the blue jays calling from tree to tree. We climbed up the trail through the woods.

We rode past the woodland waterfalls. The water echoed as it tumbled under the ice.

Beyond the falls was a turn-around in the trail where Father stopped the sleigh.

He left the sleigh there, and Mother stayed with our younger brother. We older children followed Father as he hiked to the

spot where he’d selected a tree earlier in the year.

The snow was deep. It seemed to take forever as we trudged along, stepping in Father’s tracks.

“Here we are,” Father said. We’d reached a hemlock tree, Father’s favorite for Christmas trees.

I thought it was so pretty as it swayed in the breeze over the white carpet of snow. There was snow on the branches. But that fell off when Father cut the tree and began dragging it behind him.

When we reached the sleigh, Mother was filling a feedbag with greens. “We’re going to make them into wreaths,” she exclaimed..

We began singing Jingle Bell as we rode toward home.

“Can we have hot cocoa?” I asked Mother as we piled off the sleigh in front of the house.

“I like getting the Christmas tree from the woods,” Little Brother said as he ate the marshmallow from his cocoa.

“That’s one of the best parts of Christmas,” Sister added. “And tonight we’ll decorate tree.”

(Later, a tractor replaced the horses, but this remained one of the most enjoyable activities of Christmas during my childhood.)

Snacks for Tree Gathering

Serve hot chocolate or hot-spiced cider, along with favorite cookies....oatmeal, chocolate chip, sugar cookies decorated with red and green sprinkles, brownies, gingerbread or other holiday goodies.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen, who grew up on a farm, often writes about nostalgic and inspirational topics.)



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Community Notes

Nov. 27 - Dec. 22

Electrical Survey

Contractors working with Lane Electric Cooperative will conduct survey work in the McKenzie and Blue River areas from November 27, 2023, through December 22, 2023. The work includes mapping existing electrical infrastructure, including collecting data for power-related infrastructure such as poles and transformers as part of the recovery from the Holiday Farm Fire.

December 2 Christmas Bazaar

The McKenzie Valley’s seasonal festivities will begin with Vida McKenzie Community Center’s Annual Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar will be held at Walterville Community Center and Grange on Saturday, December 2nd from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.

Guests will be greeted by the mouthwatering smells of breakfast and lunch items offered at the snack bar and by the glitter and charm of gift items offered by over twenty artisans. Santa Claus will arrive at 10:30 a.m.

Santa’s Workshop will provide an opportunity for children (young and old) to snap a photo with Santa or for youngsters to decorate Christmas cookies, create hand-made Christmas cards or shop for their family.

A bevy of raffle items will be waiting for the lucky winners (hint: to save hand-cramping writing, bring address labels to affix to the raffle tickets.) Guests will also learn about the wonderful progress in the rebuilding of Vida McKenzie Community Center, destroyed in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. Since VMCC is partnering with the “Bottle Boys” to raise money for non-profits in the McKenzie Valley, guests are encouraged to bring bags of cans and bottles to the Bazaar to aid in this valley-wide recycling effort. VMCC’s Christmas Bazaar is a not-to-be-missed event. Come one! Come all!

December 2 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.

December 2 Tree Decorating

The Walterville Grange is asking people to come help decorate the Grange’s Christmas tree at 5 p.m. All are welcome. Soup and beverages will be provided, please bring a finger food.

December 4-8 Dirty Work at VMCC

“Billy Goats” & “Flat Landers” needed for dirty work at Vida

McKenzie Community Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Vida McKenzie Community Center has partnered with PureWater Partners and Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District to install a native plant/fire-wise landscape at VMCC. Who knew that the optimal time to plant these native plants is from November to January?? Burrrr!

VMCC is looking for volunteers to plant plants on the south bank of the property and around the level driveway areas between the dates of December 4th and December 8th . VMCC will provide snacks and warm drinks, but volunteers will need to bring their own tools (shovels, trowels, rakes) , gloves, boots, warm coats or rain coats, and good energy.

Interested in helping restore this landscape which was destroyed in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire? Contact: John Barnum.

December 5 Board of Commissioners

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

December 5 Coffee With Locals

Meet at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd, Come have a cup of coffee with the locals at 10 a.m. (paid for by Locals Helping Locals). Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

December 5 Family Story Time

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

December 5 Holiday Farm Fire Recovery

The State of Oregon is providing funds for Holiday Farm wildfire recovery and all are welcome to join the conversation. A committee of individuals, organizations, and agencies are meeting regularly online and in-person to make recommendations. The next meeting is tentatively on December 5th from 1-4 p.m.. In-person at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. Check the webpage to confirm date and location: <https://lanecountyor.gov/PIER> . There

is time set aside at the beginning and end for public comments and questions. The State of Oregon program is called PIER - Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization – visit lanecountyor.gov/PIER to provide comments, confirm meeting dates/timeframes/locations, sign up for project updates, register for the meeting zoom link, and access meeting materials. Email megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov or call 541-852-8259 to submit comments or questions. The Committee will formally vote on priorities during these public meetings.

December 5 Cornhole League

The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr in Rainbow. Free bag tossing on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month, Bring some snacks to share.

December 5 EWEB Board Meeting

Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time.. Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically starting at 5:30 p.m. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

An interpreter can be provided with 48 hours’ notice prior to the meeting. To arrange for this service, call 541-685-7000.

December 5 Grange Meeting

The Walterville Grange’s meeting and potluck will be held on Tuesday night. Dinner starts @ 6:30 p.m. with the meeting afterwards @ 7:30 p.m.

December 6 Watershed Wednesday

Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the Mckenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

December 6 Blue River Water Board

The board will meet at 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Schools administration building. A link to the meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com

December 6 Blue River Park Board

The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the McKenzie Schools administration building. A link to the online meeting is at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

December 6 Free Produce

1:00pm - 3:00pm
Orchid Health McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Highway, Blue River, OR 97413, USA

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

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

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

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

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

December 8 2nd Friday Art Walk

The Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield will host the wal from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Meet at 500 Main Street.

December 9 Holiday Bridge Lighting

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. with the raft parade float by and followed by the lighting of the Belknap Bridge (thanks to Lane Electric) with Christmas Caroling and Holiday Cheer. Inside the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr, Santa will be waiting, along with photo ops. There will also be a Holiday Potluck, so bring your favorite Holiday dish to share. And please bring your own table service.

December 11 McK Watershed Council

The council meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at various locations. Contact Melanie Giangreco at 541-201-8150 or melanie@mc-kenziewc.org.

December 12 Tiny Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of the month in Rainbow. A first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning.

December 12 Christmas Bazaar

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

“The holidays are upon us and the Walterville Grange is ready to host its annual Holiday Dinner and Open House. We hope that you will join us with your family, friends, and neighbors to en-

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

December 14 VMCC Board Meeting

The public is invited to attend the Vida McKenzie Community Center’s Board of Directors meeting held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the library of the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Walterville.

December 14 Buying Rural Land

The Oregon State University Extension Service Small Farms program welcomes the public to “Before you buy rural land,” a free webinar for future landowners, those who have recently purchased land, and real estate agents who want to learn about important topics related to land management and rural living. The webinar will be held Thursday, December 14, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

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

More information and registration are available at:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/smallfarms/southern-willamette-valley/events/you-buy-rural-land>. Register online or call OSU Extension in Lane County at 541-344-5859.

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

Paver Sales Remain Open

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

Click here and stay in touch with events online
[McKenzie Community Events Calendar.](#)

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

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Mutiny



I am a forty-something teacher. I recently bought a house, and given that I’m a single woman, I have a huge burden to carry financially. To counter those expenses, I put out an ad for two university students. As a result, I have two twenty-something young men living with me.

One of my “roommates” is pilfering things. I know he uses my facial cleanser and cotton swabs. I like to keep a store of food handy because I live in an area with ice storms, and he helps himself to my edible dry goods. He’s gone through a huge packet of oatmeal and a container of cocoa.

My problem is I can’t prove it, and in the one conversation I had with him about this, he denied it. Now I know this pilfering isn’t the biggest problem in the world, but what do I do? I don’t want to poison the atmosphere by making

further accusations.

My feeling is the best thing might be to put temptation out of his way. I have built-in storage cabinets in my basement. I could lock one of them and keep the excess bulk goods I buy in that cabinet. I guess that’s not the real problem, though. I just feel a bit violated. I welcomed these two men with open arms, and lately every time I walk in the room, they shut up and stop talking.

Tess

Tess, new ideas are like ships. They need to be taken for a shake-down cruise to work out the bugs. You had a great idea for financing your new house, but it is an idea with a few problems. Locking up your property may be only a temporary solution.

You can’t live as an outsider in your own home. You must decide who you want to share your home with. Do you want teachers with your same professional interests? Will you be more comfortable with men or with women? Would you like international students who might draw you into their activities, and who you might mentor?

Once you decide who you want in your home, you must determine how to attract those people. Of course, there need to be ground

rules. There can be only one captain on a ship, and the captain sets the rules. On the next cruise out, you will need a different crew.

Wayne

Going Once, Going Twice...

I am entering a relationship with a man I care very much about. He has two grown children, and I do not have any. At this time in his life he does not want any more, and I understand his reasons. We both agree I should determine if I want children before our relationship gets more serious.

I realize this must be my decision. There are many logical reasons to have or not to have children. How do I really know whether or not I want children?

Lea

Lea, it’s almost as if you are at an auction, and someone has bid “One husband.” You don’t have a husband so the offer sounds pretty good. But you wonder if someone else will bid “One husband and one child.” Perhaps someone may even bid “One husband, two children, and an ivy covered cottage.” How do you decide?

Only two things are certain. First, the man you care about does not want children. Second, if you decide you want a child after you marry, you will see this man, not yourself, as the problem. This is not to blame you. It is simply the way it happens.

Marriage is a gateway to having children, but by choosing this man your decision will be made for

you. That is exactly the opposite of what you may feel after marriage. Some women know they should not have children, and wisely, they never do. Because you are not honestly there on your own, you should not proceed with this man.

Tamara

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

is only the long red and orange branch of a green maple in early September reaching into the greenest field at the edge of which the birch trees appear a little tattered tired of sustaining delicacy all through the hot summer reminding everyone (in our family) of a Russian song a story by Chekhov or my father on his own lawn standing beside his own wood in the United States of America saying (in Russian) this birch is a lovely tree but among the others somehow superficial

Some of Paley’s poems are included in her collection Just As I Thought, along with essays, reviews, and speeches written over the course of thirty years. Here, more so than in the short-story or poetry collections, Paley’s political opinions take center stage, bearing the brunt, occasionally, of critical attention the book was paid. Thus, for example, John Kennedy, reviewing Just As I Thought in the Antioch Review, called Paley “extremely leftist,” and remarked that the author “provokes misunderstanding,” and “controversy” by refusing to take into consideration the views of the opposition in some of the pieces collected in the book. But for Iain Finlayson, writing in the London Times, the voice displayed throughout this volume “cherishes a flawed world that should be grateful for her tough, passionate love.”

American Life in Poetry

Autumn

By Grace Paley

- 1
- What is sometimes called a tongue of flame or an arm extended burning is only the long red and orange branch of a green maple in early September reaching into the greenest field out of the green woods at the edge of which the birch trees appear a little tattered tired of sustaining delicacy all through the hot summer reminding everyone (in our family) of a Russian song a story by Chekhov or my father
- 2
- What is sometimes called a tongue of flame or an arm extended burning

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

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28. Fountain serving
30. Spanky or Alfalfa
35. Short for "hurry up"
37. Live bait
39. Turn upside down
40. Cassette contents
41. Retire from military, for short
43. Jason's vessel
44. Sicker
46. "Sight for _____ eyes"
47. Puppy cry

7. *Line with one endpoint
8. Path in the woods
9. Left or right, e.g.
10. Awestruck
11. *Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces
12. Palm reader, e.g.
15. Cake with filling
20. Three people?
22. Neither here ____ there
24. Subcontract (2 words)
25. *1:2, e.g.
26. Sacred song
27. Canada's favorite tree?
29. "Nobody ____ It Better"
31. Fix a cat
32. First discovered asteroid
33. *Measured in degrees
34. Parkinson's disease drug
36. Banana remnant
38. Between dawn and noon
42. Brown shade
45. Retread, past tense
49. Non-alcoholic brew
51. Rockefeller or Bezos
54. Like today's phone
56. Kind of pie
57. No-win situation
58. Wisconsin neighbor
59. Jewish month of Purim
60. Disease-causing organism
61. Clever
62. Indoor allergy cause
63. Crushed it, as in a test
64. "____ Make a Deal"
67. *X

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Fishing Report

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

Fish Counts
November 20, Willamette Falls
Fall Chinook – 2,187
Winter Steelhead – 41

Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 1

In the end, Portland teachers clearly felt empowered by their strike, not just because of what they gained, but also because of the unity they forged among themselves and the level of support they enjoyed from the public. That feeling will carry forward in Portland and ripple across the state’s other districts, where labor contracts remain unsettled and school boards like Salem-Keizer are planning staff layoffs before the end of the school year.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Salem are wondering how their best budget ever for Oregon schools ended in such turmoil. And it’s not going to get better, until they take more responsibility for a K-12 system whose funding they control and whose challenges at the district level are, like it or not, their problems to solve as well.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2023/11/28/what-state-lawmakers-should-learn-from-the-portland-teachers-strike/>

Quote of the Week

“Some people die at 25 and aren’t buried until 75.”
Benjamin Franklin



A Moment
in Oregon
History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

November 30 - Abigail Scott Duniway came west in 1852, and after her husband was permanently injured in a wagon accident, Abigail became the family breadwinner. She soon discovered the many inequalities workingwomen faced and began to actively campaign for equal rights. As a result of Abigail’s work, and many others in the movement, women received the right to vote in Idaho in 1896, and in Washington in 1910. But Harvey Scott, the editor of The Oregonian and Abigail’s brother, led the opposition to women’s suffrage in Oregon. This resulted in a bitter public feud between the siblings that ended when the suffrage bill was finally passed. Abigail was in poor health and was unable to attend the official signing on November 30, 1912. But Governor Oswald West went to Abigail’s home in Portland, and signed the bill in her presence.



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

Boosting carbon

Continued From Page 3

predicts changes in vegetation in response to natural disturbances or management activities.

“Some forest scientists have argued that multiple but shorter rotations lead to greater sequestration rates because of the accelerated growth rates of younger trees compared to mature or old-growth trees,” said Carlisle, who graduated in 2023 and is now a forest carbon analyst at Finite Carbon. “Others say frequent harvesting won’t allow forest carbon to rebound after each subsequent rotation, and thus longer periods between clearcutting are a better choice. And depending on who you ask, thinning will either enhance forest carbon uptake by facilitating growth in residual trees or hurt it by removing above-ground biomass.”

Over a 240-year projection time frame, the Oregon State scientists found that for highly productive stands, 60-year rotations with low-intensity thinning at 40 years led to the greatest carbon storage (in the standing trees plus what was removed from the thinning). For stands on less productive sites, they found carbon storage was maximized by rotation periods of 80 years or 120 years.

“On these longer rotations, multiple entries for thinning were required to prevent buildup of understory vegetation that would have suppressed the growth of overstory Douglas-fir,” Carlisle said.

Moderately productive stands were found to perform the best with 80-year rotations and two low-intensity thinning treatments between harvests, she added.

“Forest management decisions in the Northwest in the future will aim to meet harvest requirements while maintaining high sequestration potential of the region’s forests,” Carlisle said. “Management techniques like determining the optimal rotation length and implementing silvicultural treatments can be powerful tools that can allow managers to meet both objectives.”

Hailemariam is the Giustina Professor of Forest Management in the College of Forestry and Fitzgerald is a professor of forest resources, engineering, and management. He is also an Extension specialist and the director of the OSU Research Forests, which funded this study.

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