



Serving the McKenzie River Valley ... And Subscriber Erin Canady of McKenzie Bridge

JP Doodles

Ever get the feeling there are times when there isn't enough time?

PAGE 2

Home Country

A lot of this Christmas-in-spring is kept just among us, because we might be accused of being ... well ... poetic

PAGE 4



Truck wreck ties up traffic

Two-vehicle crash at canal bridge



Gina Merritt

An accident at the Walterville Canal bridge resulted in charges for one of the drivers involved.

WALERVILLE: Traffic snarled to a stop and blocked the McKenzie Highway Monday morning after trucks collided at the site of recurring accidents. According to reports from the Oregon State Police, the accident occurred at 8:07 a.m. at Milepost 13, where the roadway crosses a narrow bridge over the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Walterville Canal.

Police say the driver of a white Hino box truck left the road for unknown reasons then re-entered the highway. He then hit the sidewalk of the bridge, sending him into oncoming traffic. He collided with a white Ford F350 service pickup. After the collision, the box truck ended up on its side in the ditch.

Truck wreck - Page 4

Woman reported missing

Was last seen in Blue River area a week ago

\ BLUE RIVER: The Lane County Sheriff's Office and family members are asking the public for help in finding a missing Blue River woman.

According to LCSO reports, Mekenna Reiley was last seen on Thursday evening, April 6th. Friends and neighbors say they hadn't seen or heard from the 40-year-old since.

The Sheriff's Office says that Reiley's phone, purse, vehicle, and dog were left behind at her residence near Blue River Reservoir, but her location was unknown.

It's feared Reiley may be suffering from a mental health crisis. Police said it wasn't known what she may be wearing, other than a blue pair of waterproof boots.



Mekenna Reiley

"We are actively working the case still but have not uncovered any additional information."

Woman missing - Page 2

Rebuild vote coming

Commissioners could ease restrictions

EUGENE: The Lane County Board of Commissioners could write a prescription for relief from rebuilding anxiety at their April 25th meeting. On the agenda are possible code amendments that were developed in response to concerns faced by owners of buildings destroyed by the Holiday Farm Fire in Blue River.

According to senior plan-

ner Becky Taylor, the existing rights-of-way in the "downtown" area of Blue River were formally established by plats originally developed when the town was created. Most of the rights-of-way in the area are from 40 to 60 feet wide. But, the county's existing code language requires widths of from 50 to 80 feet.

In addition, many build-

ings in the area had been constructed right up to their property lines. Since the fire, several have been allowed to be built back in their old locations under grandfathering provisions.

"To require other structures to be built with different setbacks would result in an inconsistent frontage alignment," Taylor has said.

Rebuild vote - Page 10

Solar for Leaburg?

Fire district could win grant competition

LEABURG: McKenzie Fire & Rescue is among finalists in the running for the Eugene Water & Electric Board's 2023 Greenpower Grant.

The fire district's proposal would include installing solar panels on their headquarter station in Leaburg. The panels, according to the grant proposal, "would contribute to the preservation of the area's natural resources in an environmentally friendly way." The panels are expected to help reduce the Leaburg building's annual electricity \$6,100 bill and could open up other parts of the district's operating budget for critical equipment and supplies.

Grant funding comes from voluntary Greenpower customer subscriptions. EWEB developed the Greenpower Program in 2008 and since then thousands of EWEB customers have chosen



Advanced Energy Systems.

If the grant is approved the install would take two weeks, according to Advanced Energy Systems.

to support clean, renewable energy by enrolling in EWEB Greenpower.

In addition to buying renewable energy and funding the Greenpower Grant, Greenpower subscriptions fund EWEB's solar electric program and K-12 education and events relating to renewable energy and carbon emissions.

A total of six applicants

have been selected as finalists for a grant that could total \$50,000. Voting is open to all of the utility's Greenpower subscribers. If someone isn't a subscriber to the program, they can join by April 18th and be able to vote by April 20th, at 5 p.m. The winner will be announced on April 22nd.

A happy "Bunny Day"

Turnout was great at the McKenzie Valley Young Life's Easter Egg Hunt at the McKenzie Community Track & Field. There was a special area for 0-4, and a timed release for the other age groups. Added activities included games like sack and three-legged races. Besides the free entry, the event generated donations towards the costs of going to camp for participants in the Young Life programs.



Keri Best

At the Walterville Grange Easter Egg Hunt, children of all ages were placed in groups to get a fair chance at finding eggs - and they did - not leaving one of the 1,200 behind. "It takes half an hour to put these eggs out," said Vernon Herrick, "and 10 minutes to pick them up."

The event also generated donations for new siding and windows for the Walterville Community Center.

Guest Opinion

Should Oregon’s population decline concern us?

By Tim Nesbitt

State economists sounded the alarm recently about a slight but sudden decline in Oregon’s population, warning of a potential drag on an economy that has benefited from steady in-migration for more than three decades.

For business leaders in Portland and budget watchers in Salem, this decline was another warning signal that Oregon should get its economic act together or prepare for tougher times ahead. But, for Oregonians generally, the idea of slower population growth is hardly a cause for concern. For many, in fact, it may represent a much-needed pause in a rate of growth they see as both unsettling and unsustainable.

We have long been of two minds about growth in Oregon, at least from the time that former Gov. Tom McCall urged outsiders to visit but not stay. We brag about the natural beauty of our state and our ability to attract the young and talented from across the U.S., but we worry that more people will crowd our open spaces and, the latest concern, exacerbate our housing crisis. We celebrate the arrival of new businesses, but are quick to criticize the incentives that lure them here and the impacts of their operations in our communities.

This dissonance was evident in the findings of a recent statewide survey of more than 2,500 Oregonians conducted by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center in February. In that survey, the center found that almost half (49%) of respondents view population growth as “both good and bad,” while 20% see it as a “bad thing” compared to 16% who see it as a “good thing.”

When digging deeper into these attitudes, the center found that the negatives of population growth clearly outweigh the positives in the minds of most Oregonians. For strong majorities of respondents, population growth means:

- “more traffic, congestion and strains on public services” (89%);
- “more stress on natural resources” (85%);
- “more crowded outdoor destinations” (83%);
- “more competition for jobs and housing that is affordable” (73%).

Oregonians recognize the economic benefits of population growth, but they don’t rate them as highly. By lesser margins, respondents agreed that population growth means

- “more businesses, good jobs, prosperity and more choices” (68%);
- “more “workers to contribute to Social Security and the tax base” (67%).

Yes, we want a sound economy, but we want even more to preserve the beauty and livability of our state.

The late Ed Whitelaw, an economist who founded ECONorthwest, saw these values as working in concert rather than in competition with each other. He viewed Oregon’s natural beauty and recreational opportunities as a “second paycheck,” delivering benefits to its people that could not be easily quantified in economic terms.

But after decades of outpacing the nation in both population and economic growth, Oregonians might now be more inclined to flip Whitelaw’s concept and put the preservation of our livability ahead of the promotion of growth. The first paycheck is our livability; the second simply enables the first.

But whether “livability first” is a strategy that can continue to



deliver the paychecks that sustain families and buoy public budgets remains an unanswered question.

The connection between population growth and economic prosperity may not hold in the future, but it has proven its value in our recent past. Data from Oregon’s last decade show that our outsized population and economic growth produced tangible dividends for Oregon families, vaulting median family incomes here back above the national baseline for the first time since the 1970s.

On the other hand, slower growing and rapidly aging populations are a national and, in developed countries, a global phenomenon that is challenging policy makers to develop new economic strategies.

Respondents to the center’s survey were reacting to the experience of past decades and were generally not anticipating a natural slowing of population growth in the future. In the decades ahead, however, there will be greater incentives for states to transform their economies and boost productivity without the benefits of the demographic tailwinds provided by the post-World War II generations.

Meanwhile, fear of an imminent exodus from Oregon seems overblown. A Gallup survey from 2014 found that 33% of Americans expressed a desire to move to another state, compared to 24% in Oregon. The survey this year found that sentiment at 27% among Oregonians. Discontent

with one’s home state seems endemic in America, but no more here than elsewhere.

McCall didn’t get his way. Those who came stayed. And the natural beauty of our state – Whitelaw’s second paycheck – is likely to keep most of us here, motivated to protect and shape what we value in both its livability and economy.

This is one of a series of commentaries that Tim Nesbitt regularly produces for the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, based on the center’s monthly surveys of Oregonians. His observations and opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the center or the Oregon Capital Chronicle.

Woman missing

Continued From Page 1

tion yet to assist with the search,” according to LCSO Sergeant Tom Speldrich “Search & Rescue has been apprised of the case since early on, however, there have not been any areas identified for them to search.”

Reiley’s family has launched an online effort to raise money for a search party.

“My family and I are completely devastated,” according to her brother Bevin. “If you are friends with Mekenna you know she does not go anywhere without her dog, let alone her purse or car. There are only three police officers covering her area which is the size of the state of Connecticut. We were told they can’t afford to hire a search party and the officer covering the case is off for the next three days. My family and I are in complete panic and trying to do our best from here to figure out the situa-

tion from across the country. We are asking for good thoughts and prayers to be sent our way.”

According to the family’s GoFundMe page, “no one has spoken to her since Tuesday when she reached out wanting to come back home soon. Mekenna was not involved with the best people and we fear the worst from some of the company she was keeping.”

Bevin said money raised from the site “will be hiring a search party to cover and investigate. We will fly out there and do whatever had to be done to find her or bring

justice to what has happened. We do not want our sister/daughter to be another person missing in the mountains of Oregon.”

On Tuesday morning, April 11th, the GoFundMe site had raised \$11,451 toward its target of \$20,000. People who want to make a contribution can go to tinyurl.com/yvmf5xup.

The sheriff’s office is also asking people who have information regarding Reiley’s whereabouts to contact them at 541-682-4150, reference LCSO case number 23-1855.

Letters to the Editor

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MRR

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Friday 4/14		Saturday 4/15		Sunday 4/16	
McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 60 Low: 37	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 44 Low: 26	McKenzie Valley Mostly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 64 Low: 43	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 5% chance precip High: 51 Low: 34	McKenzie Valley PM Showers 40% chance precip High: 62 Low: 44	Santiam Pass PM Showers 40% chance precip High: 53 Low: 33

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
4/4	41	34	0.23	776 cfs	4/4	45	33	0.47	4,650 cfs
4/5	47	39	0.85	776 cfs	4/5	47	34	0.30	4,480 cfs
4/6	51	43	0.41	911 cfs	4/6	53	37	0.26	4,480 cfs
4/7	50	42	0.57	903 cfs	4/7	51	39	0.51	5,880 cfs
4/8	55	41	1.20	1,079 cfs	4/8	55	39	0.28	6,310 cfs
4/9	48	44	0.59	1,353 cfs	4/9	59	42	0.02	5,650 cfs
4/10	52	41	0.50	1,504 cfs	4/10	55	45	0.48	5,020 cfs

Sheriff's Report

March 28: 8:16 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Cemetery & Fire Station Rd. A white Ford Econoline van was seen parked on the side of the road. The caller attempted to talk to occupants but they rolled up the window and refused to talk.

March 29: 12:20 p.m: Dispute - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. Reported dispute, parties planned to separate.

March 30: 8:08 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Deerhorn Boat Landing. A deputy contacted the occupants of a vehicle at the park after hours.

11:58 p.m: Dispute - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A caller reported being in an argument with a known female. Parties were separated and no crime was reported.

March 31: 2:30 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 45100 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller heard something fall inside of their house and thought

someone might have broken in. Determined to be a broom that fell over and no crime occurred.

April 2: 5:31 p.m: Dispute - 55700 blk, McK. Hwy. Dispute between a husband and wife passing through the area. Parties were separated and departed the area individually.

5:57 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy. A male was observed going up and down n. gate Creek Rd. throwing trash. He was described as a white male with a thin, gray beard. He was driving a smaller gold Ford truck.

April 3: 12:48 a.m: Repossessed Vehicle - 45400 blk, McK. Hwy.

1:45 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Lat: 44.1382. Long: -122.2523.

12:22 p.m: Down Line – 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd.

6:21 p.m: Harassment - 8600 blk, Thurston Rd. Verbal dispute between neighbors regarding feces being thrown into the caller's yard.

April 4: 1:23 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 37500 blk, Parsons

Creek Rd.

April 5: 2:42 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Old Mohawk Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

11:13 a.m: Alarm, Duress - 89300 blk, Hill Rd.

2:27 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

2:33 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

3:17 p.m: Fraud - 41700 blk, Deerhorn Rd. A caller advised that their EBT card was hacked and an undisclosed amount of funds were taken.

4:39 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 7400 blk, Thurston Rd. An undescribed vehicle with dealer plates on it has been abandoned at the location.

5:18 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

April 6: 5:36 a.m: Welfare Check - 39300 blk, Hileman Rd.

4:09 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - Lat: 44.196022 Long: -122.987373.

April 7: 7:46 a.m: Assault - 38000 blk, Railroad Ln.

12:17 p.m: Foot Patrol – Walterville Pond.

4:25 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 91300 blk, Donna Rd.

6:00 p.m: Custodial Interference - 90000 blk, Marcola Rd.

April 8: 9:15 a.m: Assist, Follow Up – McK. Bridge area.

11:54 a.m: Reckless Driving - Hill Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

3:43 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd.

4:38 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Silver Creek Landing.

April 9: 12:13 a.m: Assist Fire Dept. - Lat: 44.1895690. Long: -122.971762.

9:53 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - Blue River area.

12:16 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd.

2:01 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Cascade View staging area.

April 10: 2:31 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 92800 blk, Saddle View Dr.

2:33 p.m: Theft - 38900 blk, Marcola Rd.

2:53 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Silver Creek Landing.

8:33 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Marcola Rd. & Parsons Creek Rd.

Lift Assist.

12:19: 89000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Down Line. Traffic Control/Standby for EWEB.

April 4: 17:38: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

April 5: 19:38: 90000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded.

April 6: 17:33: 44000 blk, Canal Ln. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Signed

18:52: 89000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Mistaken Alarm.

April 8: 9:15: 7900 blk, South C. St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:29: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

April 4: 17:36: Medical – 49000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

April 6: 05:46: Medical – 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

05:46: Medical - 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

April 8: 15:37: Medical - 91000 blk, Mill Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

April 10: 05:32: Motor Vehicle Accident - McK. Hwy./Quartz Creek Rd. 2 vehicles, Toyota Camray, Toyota Yaris. Yaris is in the ditch - No injuries.

16:09: MVA, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy./Milepost 52. Single vehicle spun around and rolled over into tree, now upside down.

April 11: 11:59: MVA, Unknown Injury – 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Prior crash, overturned on side, hidden by tree.

The Upper McK. Fire District board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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

State Police Report

April 9: 17:49: Crash, Non-Injury – Hwy. 126E & Deerhorn Rd. A black Honda Ridgeline was stopped facing eastbound ay the intersection waiting for a vehicle to turn. A green Toyota Tacoma was traveling westbound and didn't observe the Ridgeline in time to stop safely. The Toyota rear-ended the Ridgeline. Both vehicles were able to move to the shoulder and all occupants were un-injured. Involved: two 18-year-old males from Springfield.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

April 3: 9:16: 42000 block, Holden Creek Ln. Public Assist.

MRR

McKenzie River Reflections

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

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America’s first woman governor, had crazy early life

By Finn J.D. John

Certainly, that is exactly the conclusion Mary Shelton drew from this chain of events, and she immediately got an attorney and set about suing Shelton’s big-mouthed friends for \$50,000 for libel, and Shelton himself to have the divorce overturned.

Well, to make a long story short, that happened. In 1894, Mary Shelton got a court of law to overturn her divorce and thereby annul young Caralyn’s marriage. By this time, though, John Shelton had actually died, so the fight was no longer over the man, but over his estate.

Out of that fight Mary emerged victorious, so she inherited Shelton’s estate, and Caralyn, her reputation hopelessly sullied in Union through no fault of her own (I mean, come on, she was a child when all this happened), decided to stay in Portland — where she and her ersatz husband had moved shortly after their marriage.

Needing a job, she took one as a stenographer for a young attorney named George Chamberlain.

(A quick side note: Mary Shelton subsequently sued for and was granted reinstatement of the divorce from her by-now-long-dead husband. Historian Richard Roth suggests she probably did so to avoid being held liable for his business debts.)

Over the following few years as the newly “unwidowed” Caralyn settled into her work, her new boss, George Chamberlain, noticed his young typist’s aptitude for the law, which she had probably cultivated during the year or two when she’d been married to John Shelton.



Library of Congress

George Chamberlain speaks at the historic July 31, 1913, meeting of Suffragettes in Hyattsville, Md. The woman seated directly behind him is almost certainly Caralyn B. Shelton.

Shelton, who’d had to start up a new law practice in Portland after slinking out of Union with his new child-wife, no doubt had pressed her into service as an unpaid legal assistant while he was working to build up his business. If so, the skills she learned served her

well in her new job. (But we’ll probably never know, because in the few interviews she did over the years for newspaper stories, she never said a word about old man Shelton, giving all credit for her legal training to Chamberlain.)

Soon Chamberlain had Caralyn

functioning more or less as a paralegal for him, drafting legal documents for his review and signature and doing deep research. Soon she was an irreplaceable part of his office.

And then, in 1902, Chamberlain threw his hat into the ring for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Oregon. He won the job with a narrow majority, and then it was time to move to Salem.

Naturally, Chamberlain wanted his most valuable aide to come with him to the capitol. And when he was setting about building his cabinet, he appointed her to the position of Governor’s Private Secretary.

To modern ears, “Governor’s Private Secretary” sounds like a frivolous position at best — or maybe like the name of a “sexy” Halloween costume from that Spirit Halloween store that pops up in vacant storefronts every September. But that’s because for the last 100 years or so we have all gotten used to the idea of secretaries being little more than typewriter operators and call screeners. A secretary in 1902 was much more than that, more like a junior executive — a secretary in the “secretary of defense” or “secretary of state” sense of the word. In 1902 it was almost unprecedented for a woman to have the job of private secretary to a state governor. Caralyn may actually have been the first one in the nation.

Chamberlain served six years — one and a half terms — as Oregon governor with Caralyn

First woman governor - Page 10



By Slim Randles

Spring mornings are a lot like Christmas. Each day we get up and go out into the yard, or walk along the creek or visit the horses in the pasture. And each day, each morning, we find something new the sun has brought us.

Pinfeather leaves of an unbelievable green now start showing on cottonwoods that have stood like stark ghostly frames all through the cold winter. Hopeful blades of grass peek through clumps of brown left over from last summer’s verdant pasture. Everywhere we look there is something new and different.

A lot of this Christmas-in-spring is kept just among us, because we might be accused of being ... well ... poetic if we told people why we were really carrying that coffee cup out into the yard. So we say lame things like “I think I’ll get some of that fresh air this morning.” What we really mean, of course, is “I want to see if Richardson’s bay mare has had that foal yet.”

Some of us have worked very hard last fall and winter to prepare for this spring. By grafting. OK, we have a Granny Smith apple tree. Let’s see if we can’t get a branch of Rome Beauties or Jonagolds to grow on it, too. And we understand completely that where we live no olive tree can survive the winter. That isn’t supposed to stop us from trying, is it?

Nature pitches us a boatload of challenges each day that we’re alive. This plant needs more water than falls naturally here. That tree can’t take the temperatures we get. This little tree needs soil with more organic matter in it.

And those challenges are the stuff winter dreams are made of. We do the best we can to cure the lack, the freeze, the drought, and then we wait for April. We wait impatiently until we can come out of the house some morning and check the grafts on the apple tree and see tiny green leaves coming on the grafted branch. We search the bare ground where we planted that new kind of seed that won’t grow here - to see if it’ll grow here.

It is a continuing feast of green, a triumph of anticipation. An April morning can make us want to sing.

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2017 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

Truck wreck

Continued From Page 1

The driver of the box truck, Jose Manuel Manzo-Gudino, 25, was cited for No Operator’s License and Careless Driving.

Two trucks and a command vehicle from McKenzie Fire & Rescue responded with personnel to the scene. While this MVA was non-injury, it created traffic challenges until the vehicles were removed. Overall, McKenzie Fire &

Rescue was on scene for 49 minutes, until the scene was turned over to OSP and the Oregon. Dept. of Transportation. LCSO also had a deputy arrive to conduct a commercial truck inspection.

ODOT reports the highway was closed for 40 minutes after the crash. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Growing peppers adds flavor to ethnic dishes



Peppers grown by Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes of OSU Extension.

By Kym Pokorny

Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes will never forget the taste of fresh fruit and vegetables brought straight from his father’s farm field when he was a child in Mexico. In honor of that memory, he established a plot of his own in Oregon.

Lopez-Reyes, Oregon State University Extension Service Open Campus and Juntos student success coordinator, has been growing his home garden for five years. It’s full of peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, epazote and cilantro. He grows so many pepper plants, they often overflow into pots. All of his bounties goes into meals he cooks with culturally important foods.

Lopez-Reyes shared his gardening experience as a guest speaker in the Washington County Master Gardener Association webinar series. To learn more, check out the recording of “Hot Peppers! From Seed to Salsa.”

“I love to cook,” said Lopez-Reyes, who has gardened since he was 10 years old. “I was one of four brothers and when I was young, I was the one who used to help mom cook. Not because I had to, but because I was interested. Now I love to experiment. My girlfriend loves it.”

Lopez-Reyes, who works with

Latinx families and students in Washington County to help prepare them for life after high school, grew up in Michoacan, Mexico. He comes from his love of gardening honestly. His dad was a farmer and his mother worked in the nursery industry for 30 years.

“Dad bought me a small cherry tree when I was 8 from Home Depot,” Lopez-Reyes said. “I was so fascinated with growing. We didn’t have much money. We were lucky to have enough food to go around because it was very, very expensive. Summer was my favorite time. For three months, I felt so rich.”

Peppers are some of his favorite vegetables to grow and eat. His choice may change day by day, but during a recent interview Lopez-Reyes said he loves guajillo chile peppers, the dried version of mirasol peppers that look like serranos but turn red when ripe. Guajillo peppers, which are used extensively in Latino culture, flavor the dishes he learned to love as a child.

“I use them in posole and enchiladas,” he said “They are not the spicy kind. When dried they are such a beautiful red. They give color, flavor and a little spice. They are mixed in a blender with garlic and onion and added to the

sauce.”

Chile de arbol, which translates to pepper on a tree because it grows as a large shrub, is another constant in his garden. The dried version of serrano, chile de arbol packs some heat and can be added to chilquiles, salsa rojas, camarones a la crema, and other Mexican dishes.

Guajillo and chile de arbol are just two of the peppers on Lopez-Reyes’ long list of chosen ones. He also grows cola de rata (rat tail pepper), fatali, ghost, habanero, Carolina reapers, cayenne, and jalapeno. Seeds for these peppers are fairly easy to find. He suggests shopping locally first and then turning to online sources like Pepper Joe. Many peppers will be available as starter plants in nurseries when the appropriate time for planting arrives after the soil has warmed to at least 60 degrees, usually in late May or June.

Lopez-Reyes gravitates to the hot peppers because he grew up eating them, especially in eggs and beans.

“We have to have fresh peppers,” he said. “They’re like a pickle. We probably have peppers with every single meal. I’ve always been fascinated with them, how they grow, their aroma, what’s growing around them.”

Growing peppers in the maritime Northwest is more challenging than in Mexico, where the semi-tropical climate is perfect for hot-weather vegetables like peppers. A warming climate will most likely change that, Lopez-Reyes said.

To get ready for the season, he starts seeds indoors in April or March if he’s really anxious to get going. He uses plastic strawberry containers he saves from the grocery store. The lid provides a seal, and it is see-through so you can watch the peppers grow and get a better idea of when to transplant them to larger pots in preparation for planting in the garden.

“It puts people off because they don’t know when to plant,” he said. “There’s a lot of things we have to consider. Not every year is

Growing peppers - Page 9



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



EXPLORATIONS WITH RICE

Rice has become a more common food in American diets in recent years while Asians have eaten this grain for centuries. With nutritionists recommending increased levels of whole grain foods in our diets, we have discovered the delicious flavor of brown rice, as well as white.

Nowadays, the average American consumes 25 pounds of rice annually, according to statistics. However, in Asia, the average is 200 to 400 pounds of rice per person.

Rice in Colonial Days

Rice was a widely grown crop along coastal areas of the southeastern United States in days before the Civil War. Large plantations existed on the sea islands of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

As a teenager, I read a series of historical novels set on these rice plantations. I don’t remember the titles or the author, but I found them a fascinating way to learn about the way of living of that area.

Rice Growing in Asia

From its apparent beginning in Asia, rice growing and consumption spread around the world, with the Mid-East becoming another region that depends on this food. Rice also figures into many festivals and religions. It’s even thought to be a symbol of fertility in some countries.

Most rice is grown in wet areas... marshy lands or those that have been flooded purposely. That’s why the Sea Islands along the southeastern Atlantic coast in this country appealed to rice farmers in colonial days. You’ll find similar terrain in rice growing areas of Asia.

Various Types of Rice

Brown Rice - This is light brown in color, due to the bran layers. This is nutritious, rich in minerals and vitamins, particularly

vitamins of the B group. When you cook brown rice, it is chewier than white and yields a somewhat nutty flavor. Delicious!

White Rice - This sometimes is called “polished” rice and is the type more people are familiar with. Nowadays, with an eye toward good nutrition, brown rice is becoming popular. The white rice has had the outer husk removed. The layers of bran have been milled away until you get a white grain.

Parboiled Rice - When cooked, this gives a fluffy result and separate grains. Before milling, this rice has been through a steam pressure process.

Pre-cooked Rice. This can be either white or brown. The rice has been cooked and dehydrated after it is milled. This cuts down on the cooking time considerably.

You can use rice in many recipes-soups, salads, casseroles, by itself, in pancakes, waffles and desserts.

RICE PANCAKES - Mix together 1-cup pancake mix, 1 egg, and 1 1/2 cups milk. Add 1 cup cooked rice (white or brown). (For a dessert pancake, add 1-tablespoon sugar).

Fry on a hot griddle as you do any pancake. Serve with butter and syrup. Or top with fruit and whipped cream. I also like yogurt on pancakes.

RICE IN SALADS - I often add cooked rice to tuna salad before serving it over a bed of greens. Sometimes I include 1/4 cup cooked rice to an individual serving of tossed salad, and then use my favorite salad dressing.

RICE IN SCRAMBLED EGGS - Another variation is adding a couple tablespoons cooked rice to two scrambled eggs as you’re cooking them. You can vary the amount of rice. Also add chopped onion and green or red pepper to the eggs as you’re cooking them.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen writes from her NH home.)



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Community Notes

April 12
Blue River Water Board
Rescheduled from April 5 - The board will meet at 6 p.m. A link to the meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com

April 12
Blue River Park Board
Rescheduled from April 5 - The board will meet at 7:15 p.m. A link to the online meeting is at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

April 13
VMCC Board
The Vida McKenzie Community Center Board of Directors meets from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the building's second floor conference room at 380 Q St, Springfield. VMCC members and visitors are invited to attend.

April 14
McK Food Pantry
The McKenzie Watershed Council meets from 5 to 6:30 pm.m. at various locations to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, function, and use. Contact: Melanie Giangreco- (458-201-8150) melanie@mckenzieiwec.org.

April 14
Artist Reception
Experience the diverse talent of the community at free reception events as part of Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk. This month's artist's reception at the Island Park Art Gallery, 215 W C Street in Springfield will feature artist Robert O'Connor, with complimentary refreshments, live music, and a shuttle service to and from the Emerald Art Center. No registration is required.

April 15
Exploration Day
Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds. Walks are scheduled on the second Saturdays, March through December, afrom 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 16
Grange Open House
April is recognized as Grange Month, and the Walterville Grange is inviting people to an Open House on April 16th from 2 to 4 p.m at 39259 Camp Creek Road. April 16th is also Grange Friendship Day and an opportunity to share information about the Grange, who they are and what they do in the local community. Refreshments and a free

raffle for homemade pies will be available. In addition there will be information tables hosted by the Mobile Plant Clinic, EWEB, the Discovery Center, McKenzie Valley Communications, and Cancer Awareness. For more information go to: tinyurl.com/awfwku and the Grange Facebook page at https://tinyurl.com/48264r9j. Dues will be half-price for people who join the Grange in April.

April 17
McKenzie Fire & Rescue
McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting at noon, at the Leaburg Training Center from noon to 1 p.m.

April 19
Upper McK Fire Board
The board of directors will meet at 7p.m. 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

April 22
Wooden Boat Festival
From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eagle Rock Lodge. People are encouraged to bring their wooden boat for display. The McKenzie River Guides Association will serve lunch and beverages.

April 28
Mother's Day Tea
The Walterville Grange will be hosting the Annual Play Festival on Friday, April 28th, beginning at 7 p.m. The play festival will consist of three one-act plays from different Granges. Walterville Grange will be hosting Goshen and Mohawk-McKenzie Granges at the Walterville Community Center, 39259 Camp Creek Road. Enjoy refreshments of sandwiches and pie afterwards, please bring a canned food item for the upriver food bank. Donations are gratefully accepted.

April 30
LTD Survey
Lane Transit District passengers are being asked to participate in an online survey that will assist the District in evaluating customer satisfaction with fixed or neighborhood bus service as well as to identify opportunities for improvements throughout the District. The survey is available Monday, March 27, through Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The three- to five-minute-long survey is confidential. The survey will be available online at LTD.org beginning March 27, and paper copies will be available at the LTD Customer Service Center in Eugene Station at 1080 Willamette Street. Participants who complete the survey will be eligible to win one of two \$100 gift certificates from Fred Meyer.

May 1
Springfield School Board
7 pm - 8:30 pm. The Board of Directors meet in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

May 2
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.

May 2
Coffee With Locals
Meet at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd, Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (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.

May 2
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.

May 2
MVW Annual Mtg.
McKenzie Valley Wellness annual membership meeting, from 7 - 9 p.m. Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr, and online.

May 3
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.

May 3
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.

May 3
Blue River Water Board
The board will meet at 6 p.m. A link to the meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com

May 3
Blue River Park Board
The board will meet at 6 p.m. A link to the online meeting is at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

May 4
AMJ Invite
The McKenzie River Community Track & Field will host an event in honor of Aaron and



In Memory

Elvira Isabelle Harris



Springfield, OR. Elvira "Ellie" Harris was bom March 14,1932 in East Barnum, Connecticut, and passed away in family arms on February 10,2023 in her Deerhom community home near the McKenzie River. She had valiantly fought reoccurring cancer and, towards last, a stroke resulting from cancer treatment.

Her life's adventures included being a spouse of a submariner and a respiratory therapist, plus a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Until retirement Ellie was a commercial actor, medical dietary technician, and owned a 1996-awarded McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce cottage industry, *De'Ja 'Vu Fashions*, with its showroom and fashion shows.

She was active in Avon sales, American Cancer Society, and was a McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District Booster. Ellie was a gifted artisan and gardener. As

a result her home and yard were always filled with beauty. She enjoyed golf and snowshoeing. Trips up and downriver were favorite weekly events. Her birthday and holiday gifts plus cheery notes, and her constant warmth and positive spirit, were guideposts for residents of the Deerhom Ranch Acres Community for years.

Ellie was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Harris, and a son Neil Harris; as well as her parents, Frederick and Elizabeth Graves; two brothers, Fred Graves and Robert Graves, as well as a sister, Betty Graves (Poitras).

She is survived by her spouse Conrad Brown, and his son Tyler Brown, spouse Shannon Brown, with three children and families; her son Gregory Harris and his three children with families; plus extended relatives and close friends.

Ellie was a daily example of practiced Beatitudes, finally passing her soul on to Jesus for eternal life. She would want all she loved to meet her again.



Marie Jones from noon to 4 p.m. at 51326 Blue River Dr.

May 5
First Friday
First Fridays at Finn Rock Reach are fromm 9:30am - noon at the Finn Rock Landing, Quartz Creek Road. Join the Friends of Finn Rock Reach from March through November to help care for the Finn Rock Landing area. Projects include tackling invasive species, planting trees and helping to care for the public Finn Rock boat landing, keeping it free and open to the public by McKenzie River Trust. Project sites vary between the Boat Landing and other nearby conservation sites so pre-registration is required. We'll send out details for each project the Tuesday ahead of each event.

May 6
Living River Day
The Living River Exploration Day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene. Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds.

May 6
Artists' Guild Sale
Members of the McKenzie Artists' Guild celebrate their 30th anniversary at their annual Art Show & Sale on May 6th & 7th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 15 artists will display their works at the Leaburg Fire Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. Kris Anderson, Janet Biles, Connie Bonn, Kathryn Cannon, Cindy Cartledge, Whitney Crane, Sandy Dunbar, Joe Frank, Ali Hennes, Joyce Hubbard, Marjorie Lewellen, Chris Mark, Lucy Rudy, Janet Savage, & Susan Warner.

May 6
Mother's Day Tea
A Mother's Day Tea will be held from noon- 2 p.m. at the Dorris Ranch Barn, 205 Dorris St, Springfield for all ages. Spend the afternoon honoring the mother figures in your life. Enjoy sweet and savory treats in the historic Dorris Ranch barn, pose in our photo booth, and listen to music. Make and take home a unique craft. The price is \$15 in-district and \$18 out-of-district. Registration is required.

Stay in touch with events online with the [McKenzie Community Events Calendar](#).

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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

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)

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!
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirthell

For Old Time’s Sake



I am currently going through a divorce, and we’ve been negotiating the terms of the settlement for a year and a half without agreement. I have started a relationship with another woman, but I’m in a saddening, irresponsible situation that was mischievously planned by the ex.

About four months ago, I went to the ex’s to pick up our two young children. She begged me to have sex with her one last time, and she swore she would leave me alone forever if I did this. She desperately begged, begged, and begged.

I told her it was over. I told her it didn’t make any sense. But I was a stupid, irresponsible idiot and gave in to her, thinking I would get rid of her once and for all. Right after, I knew I’d made another stupid mistake.

About a month later, in an odd and happy manner, she told me she was pregnant. Under the circumstances, I thought she should be devastated. I’m angry because I know she planned this to make me go back to her. That couldn’t be further from what I wanted.

Outside of this incident, I hadn’t touched her in over a year. This mistake happened only because I wanted her to leave me alone forever, as she promised. I know I’m partly to blame because no one put a gun to my head. If this child is mine, I will pay for my legal responsibilities.

Anyway, I want to grow in my relationship with this other woman. I have known her for six years, and we connect on all levels. But I’ve lost her trust. She wants to be with me, but she is having a difficult time getting through this and I don’t blame her.

Teddy

Teddy, begging for sex one last time for old times’ sake, sounds suspiciously like something a man would say. It is not in a woman’s repertoire. An alarm should have gone off in your head, the one that says the world has suddenly turned upside down.

Even in a situation that was totally unreal, you acted like a caveman. The last thing you are going to get from a woman who begs for unprotected sex one last time is left alone. Revenge, paybacks, and blackmail maybe. But left alone? Never.

You ignored the alarms about your wife, and you ignored the alarms about ruining your new relationship. I understand why your girlfriend has a problem with this. The story itself sounds like a male fantasy.

Your girlfriend put herself in an emotionally vulnerable situation because she didn’t wait until you were divorced before getting so deeply involved. What makes it doubly worse for her is that, because of your children, she has no guarantee you won’t be “begged” again by your wife.

This isn’t going to end for her. Because of your children, she can’t tell you never to see that woman again. Your girlfriend may very well decide this is not something she is going to be able to endure. It’s for her to decide. You showed a lack of character. This is really about doing the right thing in each moment.

Tamara

\$50,000. How much should I pay to become an equal partner?

Cornelia

Cornelia, this sounds like one of those algebra word problems. If John is twice as old as Ted, and Roberto is five years older than John, how old is Ted’s twin, Chris?

Algebra word problems confused me, but in this case, I think I know the answer. Buying a home with a boyfriend usually turns into a legal problem. Until your status is more permanent, find another way to invest in real estate.

Wayne

dower’d days apart;
From trust to doubt; from doubt to brink of ban;—
Thus much of change in one swift cycle ran
Till now. Alas, the soul!—how soon must she
Accept her primal immortality,—
The flesh resume its dust whence it began?

O Lord of work and peace! O Lord of life!
O Lord, the awful Lord of will! though late,
Even yet renew this soul with duteous breath:
That when the peace is garner’d in from strife,
The work retriev’d, the will regenerate,
This soul may see thy face, O Lord of death!

Dante Gabriel Rossetti was born in London. His works include Sir Hugh the Heron: A Legendary Tale in Four Parts (1843), Poems (1869), which was published in several editions with slightly different content, Ballads and Sonnets (1882), Ballads and Narrative Poems, and Sonnets and Lyrical Poems (1894). In addition to writing poetry, Rossetti was an important figure in the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and the painting associated with that group. Throughout his life he divided his work between his two passions: poetry and art.

American Life in Poetry

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

The House of Life: 66. The Heart of the Night
By Dante Gabriel Rossetti
From child to youth; from youth to arduous man;
From lethargy to fever of the heart;
From faithful life to dream-

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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

Piano Lessons

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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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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Assessed, 1 Transported.
April 9: 15:20: 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
17:05: 35000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
April 10: 5:32: McK. Hwy./Quartz Creek Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident - Non-Injury/Non-Blocking.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, April 17th 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.

Ski Report

April 11, 2022

The Hoodoo Ski Area is closed on Mon. & Tues; open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wed. to Sat; and Sun. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The temperature Tuesday morning was 37 degrees at the base with WSW winds averaging 19 mph. Two inches of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 102 inches. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 25 degrees at the base and 16 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 121 inches. Weather predictions included a 90% chance of snow along with moderate winds. All 122 trails were open, along with 10 of 17 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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COLORS

- ACROSS
1. Partner of pains

6. "Raiders of the Lost ____"

9. Opposite of flows

13. Flesh of fish

14. Grazing area

15. Soft palate hanger

16. Boatload

17. Wood-shaping tool

18. Old episode

19. *Alice of "Color Purple" fame

21. *Fruit and color

23. Long reef dweller

24. Sound of pain

25. Math class total

28. Excessively abundant

30. *"Royal" color
35. Arrival times, acr.

37. *Color quality

39. Shininess

40. White House "sub"

41. Spritelike

43. Cupid's counterpart

44. Serengeti grazer

46. *Feeling blue

47. Hokkaido native

48. *Color wheel inventor

50. Walk with a hitch

52. "Malcolm X" (1992) movie director

53. Stare open-mouthed

55. Napoleon of "Animal Farm," e.g.

57. *Between blue and violet

60. *____phobia, intense fear of colors

Solution on Page 6

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9						5			2

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

Solution on Page 6

63. Opposite of cathode
64. North American country
66. Run ____ of the law
68. Geography class book
69. Local area network
70. It's firma
71. Has divine power
72. Banned insecticide, acr.
73. German surrealist Max

DOWN

1. "General Hospital" network
2. Crop of a bird
3. Zeus' sister and wife
4. Two under par on a golf hole
5. Meat-cooking contraption
6. Winglike
7. *Predominant color of Mars
8. Type of membranophone
9. Like never-losing Steven
10. Town
11. *Primary color
12. ____ Juan, Puerto Rico
15. 7th planet from the sun
20. Chosen few
22. Nicki Minaj's genre
24. Not womenfolk
25. *Number of colors in a rainbow
26. Of service
27. Colorful parrot
29. *The LumiÈre brothers' colorful creation
31. "Cheers" actress Perlman
32. Jeopardy
33. Sergio of Spaghetti Westerns fame
34. Follow as a consequence
36. Email folder
38. Cone-shaped quarters
42. Naiad or maenad
45. Motherless calves
49. Old horse
51. Long John Silver, e.g.
54. Modified "will"
56. Bottom-ranking employee
57. Opposite of "out of"
58. Hall of Fame Steelers' coach
59. June 6, 1944
60. "____ Buy Me Love"
61. Between dawn and noon
62. Yours and mine
63. Expression of pleasure
65. Melancholy
67. Latissimus dorsi, for short

STATE OF OREGON 1859

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber (www.ricksteber.com)

April 13 - In the early years before settlement, the Oregon Country was a vast, unmapped region that extended from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast. The northern boundary was latitude fifty-four degrees, forty minutes, the southern border of Russian controlled Alaska. To the south the Oregon Country was a vague line influenced by the Spanish claim to California. In 1819 this line was arbitrarily set at the 42nd parallel, the present line between Oregon and California. In 1846 Great Britain and the United States agreed the 49th parallel constituted the international border. On August 13, 1848 President Polk signed a bill giving federal recognition to the new Oregon Territory.

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Snow has been stacking up



Spring break was not all sunshine and T-shirts, with several feet of new snow bringing the snow level to the highest it has been all season. Snow levels are expected to rise over the week with primarily rain in the forecast through the next couple of days.

Officials are reminding people to consult Oregon Trip Check for the most up-to-date road condi-

tions and chain control status before heading out to recreate. Expect to encounter significant snow level beginning at 1,800 feet.

- SnoParks -
- Ray Benson: 113-117 inches
- Santiam SnoPlay: 110-114 inches
- Potato Hill: 70-74 inches
- Little Nash : 64-68 inches
- Ikenick: 51-55 inches

Wasted food is wasted money.

Did you know Oregon households could **save approximately \$2,000** annually simply by using all the food they buy?

During **Food Waste Prevention Week (April 10-16)**, learn more about why **food waste matters** and how to take action to reduce waste at home, work, and in our communities.



Get involved at **EatSmartWasteLess.Tips** today.



Growing peppers

Court supports BLM protest process

Continued From Page 3



Ezequiel Lopez-Reyes

A fresh picking of Ezequie’s peppers.

the same. We have to adjust to the weather. You may get something one year and not another. We have to be OK with that.”

Like last year after an abnormally wet spring even for western Oregon, Lopez-Reyes – and many others – ended up with green pumpkins and fewer ripe peppers.

Lopez-Reyes wants people to be comfortable growing peppers, though he understands there is some trepidation because they take a long warm period to ripen.

“I hope they understand that everything takes a little work, but it’s important to try something new,” he said. “You’d be surprised what you can do. It’s important we all try different foods. A lot of good conversation comes out when talking about gardening and food.”

He offers these five tips for growing peppers and shares a salsa verde recipe.

- * Plan ahead. Pepper-growing season from seed comes early. Make sure you are purchasing seeds in late December or early January.
- * Growing from seed can be hard and can take years of practice. Don’t be afraid to buy starter plants at your local plant nurseries to get you going.
- * The Weather Channel is your best friend. Pay a close eye to the

temperature for the week to make sure you’re prepared for what the plants will need. Taking this step will ensure that you will have a good yield.

- * Some years are better than others. Don’t beat yourself up if you don’t get a large crop. Things happen that aren’t within our control. You might not have a great yield, but you will have created a beautiful garden that created a great food source for certain animals, especially bees and other pollinators.
- * If this is your first time starting a garden, start small. Don’t try to go all out and have a big garden from the start. Everything takes time and experience. Plants are like kids. They require a lot of love and attention. It’s hard to do that when you have hundreds of plants that need your attention. Just take your time, enjoy the process and slowly grow your garden.

For salsa verde:

Cook 3-5 serrano peppers and 2-3 medium tomatillos in a small pot filled with 2-3 cups of water until softened a bit. Add peppers and tomatillos to a blender. Add ¼ of an onion, 1 cup of cilantro, ½-1 clove of garlic, and salt to taste. Add a splash of the water you used to cook the peppers into the blender, only a splash. Too much water will make the salsa runny, and it should be thick.

A federal judge has ruled in support of a Bureau of Land Management effort to restrict bureaucratic delays to timber harvests and fuel reduction projects on BLM lands.

U.S. District Judge Michael J. McShane on March 27th granted summary judgment in favor of the BLM’s 2020 Final Rule eliminating the agency’s protest process which, the agency argued, had resulted in unnecessary bureaucratic delays to timber harvests and fuel reduction projects on BLM-managed lands, including more than 2 million acres of OandC lands in Western Oregon that must be managed on a sustained-yield basis.

The ruling was a response to a lawsuit filed in October 2021 against the BLM and the U.S. Department of the Interior by environmental groups Cascadia Wildlands, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and Oregon Wild, which alleged that a BLM timber sale violated both the federal Administrative Procedure Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The lawsuit sought to invalidate the 2020 Rule and reinstate what the American Forest Resource Council described as “a loophole in the agency’s public engagement process that allowed groups to unnecessarily stall, delay, or stop forest management projects by simply filing a written objection after the agency’s environmental analyses had been completed, public input had been received, and land management decisions had been made.”

The specific focus of the lawsuit was the approximately 130-acre Mine your Manners Timber Sale, part of the BLM’s Row



U.S. District Judge Michael J. McShane

River Timber Management Project south of Culp Creek.

The plaintiffs argued that the BLM violated the APA by failing to provide a reasoned analysis for the change in policy that resulted in the 2020 Rule, and failing to respond to public comments during the rulemaking process.

Prior to the 2020 Rule, opponents of logging operations could file objections called “paperwork protests,” that often contained hundreds of pages with what forestry interest attorneys described as “frivolous points that had little to do with the work at hand.”

The BLM was then required to formally respond to each point, a costly process that stopped or stalled forest management projects, forestry interest attorneys said.

The BLM’s review of 1,560 timber sale decisions between 2002 and 2017 revealed that 26% of the total volume of those sales were protested, and the average time between advertisement and award of those protested sales was 251 days, McShane noted in his decision.

In some cases, according to the American Forest Resource Coun-

cil, wildfires have burned forests where “smart forest management” has been planned before the agency could even respond to the protests. In September 2017, the Pickett Hog timber sale in southwest Oregon received 29 protests, including a 250-page protest containing 126 individual protest points, which delayed the project by more than a year.

Before the BLM could complete protest reviews and responses, the Pickett Hog timber sale burned in the Taylor Creek Fire in July 2018.

McShane agreed with the AFRC that the BLM’s rule changes “actually improve public participation by allowing the public to comment on forest projects earlier in the process when public input can have the greatest impact.

He said the opponents’ disagreements with the “BLM’s reasons for changing course” had not been shown to be “legally insufficient.”

McShane also ruled that the environmental groups attempted “to impose a heightened standard on BLM unsupported by case law” in their complaint that the BLM instituted the 2020 Rule without adequate response to public comment.

Sara Ghafouri, an AFRC attorney, in a statement regarding McShane’s ruling: “Under the 2020 Rule, ‘paperwork protests’ can no longer be used and abused after decisions have been made, simply to stall work that helps keep our forests healthy, accessible and less vulnerable to severe fire.


“This decision enables the BLM to meet its mandate to harvest timber on Western Oregon OandC lands while soliciting feedback from the public.”

Stay in touch with what’s happening with the McKenzie Community Calendar!

tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Apr 13th

Submit Event



Thu Apr 13th 7:00pm - 8:00pm

McKenzie Valley Wellness Board Meeting

MVW board meeting, by Zoom only.


Wellness • board-meeting • Clinic



Thu Apr 13th 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Vida McKenzie Community Center Board of Directors Meeting


The VMCC Rebuild Progress is Exciting! VMCC members and visitors are encouraged to attend and participate. Starting in May, the meeting



Fri Apr 14th 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Artist Reception: Robert O'Connor

Experience the diverse talent of our community at free reception events as part of Springfield's Second Friday Art Walk. Each artist's ...



Sat Apr 15th 8:00am - 4:00pm

Living River Exploration Day

Join the McKenzie River Trust



Fri Apr 14th 11:00am - 1:00pm

McKenzie River Food Pantry

Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need.



Sat Apr 15th 10:00am - 12:00pm

A Dime At A Time

Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting- Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10-noon. Donations can be dropped off

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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First woman governor

Continued From Page 4

Shelton by his side. His wife, Sallie Welch Chamberlain, had no desire to leave her social and family connections up in Portland and was more than busy with their seven children, so the Chamberlains maintained their home up in the big town for the family and George “batched it” in the governor’s mansion, traveling home as frequently as he could. Caralyn basically took over the social-secretarial functions of a First Lady so that Sallie could focus on her family up north.

In his book, historian Richard Roth says she and Chamberlain likely had a long-running affair during this time, and that may be so, but I’ve found nothing in my research that supports or even suggests this, and Salem has never been a town that can keep a secret, especially one involving both sex and partisan politics, for anywhere near that long.

Halfway through his second term in office, Chamberlain ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate and won the election. So he resigned his office as governor in favor of his Secretary of State, Frank W. Benson, and prepared to board an eastbound train to take his new seat.

There was a problem, though. The entire freshman crop of senators from all across the country, every new senator who had won the 1908 election, was slated to be sworn in and seated on March 4, 1909. As seniority was determined by the date of swearing-in, all those senators, including Chamberlain, would have equal seniority to one another ... unless one of them arrived in D.C. late and missed the swearing-in. If that happened, the latecomer would be junior to all the other members of his incoming class.

And that was a problem because March 1 was the day Benson was scheduled to be sworn in as Oregon governor.

If Chamberlain stayed in Oregon through the end of his term, he wouldn’t arrive in D.C. until three or four days later, and he’d miss the swearing-in ceremony. That would mean that every other member of the incoming 1908 freshman class of senators would have seniority over him.

No problem; this had happened before, and the solution was an easy one. The incoming governor simply came in a few days early with the title of Acting Governor; then, when March 1 came along, he’d be sworn in for real.

But there was a problem this time. On Feb. 27 when



National Magazine
Caralyn B. Shelton as she appeared in 1909, when she served a very brief term as Governor of Oregon.

Chamberlain boarded that eastbound train, Secretary Benson, who was already struggling with the recurring illness (possibly malaria) that would kill him three years later, was too sick to play his part.

Well, this wasn’t uncharted territory either. There was a contingency plan in place. If the Secretary of State couldn’t step in as acting governor for any reason, the job fell to ... you guessed it ... the governor’s private secretary.

And thus it was that, on Feb. 27, the state of Oregon became the first in U.S. history to have a woman governor.

March 1, 1909, was a Monday, and by 10 o’clock Benson was feeling well enough to take the oath of office and step into his new role; this brought Caralyn Shelton’s 49-hour political career to a triumphal end.

By the way, the newspapers in 1909 found this whole exchange highly amusing and covered the situation extensively. Governor Shelton made a point of telling them she would veto no bills, promulgate no executive orders, and grant no pardons during her term. As far as I’ve been able to learn, nothing much happened during her time in office; but if anything had, she would have been the state’s chief executive in charge of dealing with it. And it’s clear that everyone involved had total confidence in her ability to do so, if she had to.

And after Benson took over, Caralyn boarded a train to D.C. to take her place in Chamberlain’s office.

She served there in Chamberlain’s office in D.C. throughout his two terms as a Senator, and, when he was defeated for re-election in the 1920 “red wave” of anti-Woodrow Wilson votes (don’t get me started

on THAT guy), settled down in D.C. in private practice. And in July of 1926, a suitable interval of time after Sallie Chamberlain’s death at age 70 reader, she married him.

This was, of course, another “first” — the first case of two former state governors marrying each other in U.S. history. By this time, Chamberlain was 72 years old, and Caralyn was a youthful 50. They had been friends and business partners for most of their lives.

George and Caralyn Chamberlain only got to live together as husband and wife for a few months. Shortly after (or possibly before; the records aren’t clear) the marriage, George suffered a paralytic stroke. He lingered on for some months after that, an invalid, being cared for by Caralyn; but in 1928, three days before their second wedding anniversary, he died.

Caralyn followed ten years later, on Feb. 2, 1936, at the age of 59. Oddly, none of the many obituaries that ran in newspapers around the state even mention her 49-hour term as governor!

A quick footnote: There is much confusion about Caralyn Shelton’s name. Newspaper articles about her, of which there were many, called her “Carolyn.” Her great-great niece, Anne Mitchell, told Bryan Vance of OPB that her birth name was Carrie, but that she changed it to Caralyn to sound more formal in her role as George Chamberlain’s top paralegal. In any case, the name used in her obituary and carved on her gravestone is “Caralyn,” so that’s what I have adopted for this story.

(Sources: The Central Railroad of Oregon, a book by Richard R. Roth published in 2015 by Heritage Quest Press; “The Governor who Couldn’t Vote: Why History Forgot Oregon’s First Female Head of State,” an article and news report published Feb. 27, 2019, by Oregon Public Broadcasting; “Heritage: Oregon’s first woman governor lasted a weekend,” an article by Kaylyn F. Mabey published on Feb. 12, 2015 in the Salem Statesman Journal; and a series of articles written by Dr. Kimberly Jensen and posted in April and May 2014 on Kimberly Jensen’s Blog.)

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

U.S. Treasury grants \$22 million to Oregon

Funds to help low-income communities



The U.S. Treasury awarded more than \$22 million to Oregon lenders to help underserved communities.

By Lynne Terry
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The federal government has awarded seven financial institutions in Oregon a total of \$22.3 million in grants to help underserved communities recover from the pandemic.

The money, announced Monday, is part of \$1.7 billion awarded to more than 600 institutions nationwide through a U.S. Treasury program to boost recovery among low-income and moderate-income communities that were the hardest hit during the last three years.

The grants are designed to provide capital and financing for small businesses that lack access to capital, promote affordable housing and give families wider access to home loans, all of which were compromised during the pandemic and are crucial for economic prosperity, officials said.

“When we invest in community lenders, we help build a future where all people – no matter who they are or where they start – have the resources they need not only to succeed but to thrive,” Vice President Kamala Harris said in a Treasury statement.

She said it was the largest nationwide investment in the history of the program, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which was created in 1994.

The grants will help the finan-

cial institutions add staff, purchase technology and gain other tools needed to help the community. They had to apply for the money and be approved by the U.S. Treasury.

“These mission-driven financial institutions specialize in delivering responsible capital, credit and financial services to underserved communities,” the Treasury statement said.

Besides helping small businesses, nonprofits and homeowners, the money can be used for community facilities, commercial real estate, financial services and development services for borrowers.

Six of the seven entities in Oregon that were awarded money are credit unions. The other institution is a loan fund, which got the most money.

The Treasury approved money for these institutions:

- * Northwest Community Credit Union in Eugene: \$3.7 million
- * Point West Credit Union in Portland: \$3.7 million
- * SELCO Community Credit Union in Springfield: \$3.7 million
- * Mid-Oregon Federal Credit Union in Bend: \$2.5 million
- * Central Willamette Credit Union in Albany: \$2.5 million
- * Ironworkers USA Federal Credit Union in Portland: \$1.2 million

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

Rebuild vote

Continued From Page 1

Some relief could come from removing the 10-foot setback meant for topographical constraints from the downtown portion of Blue River Drive. Another option would be to allow development setbacks to be based on a board of commissioners-approved design

that would describe the right-of-way, rather than defaulting to a code-prescribed width.

People can attend the commissioner’s meeting in person on Tuesday, April 25th, at 1:30 p.m. at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Avenue, in Eugene. An online option is available at tinyurl.com/4nszah9h.

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