McKenzie River Reflections

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

JP Doodles

Have summer temperatures have sparked some meltdowns?

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Oregon Gov. T.T. Geer

Geer leaped aboard the bicycling bandwagon in June of 1898

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LOCAL NEWS

Big Vision Takes Shape for Three Sisters Meadow

Workshop eyed lodge, trails, recreation and jobs as catalysts for local economy

The Three Sisters Meadow property, donated to the community by the Jones family, offers a fine overview of the McKenzie River from a bluff above Highway 126.

BLUE RIVER: Possibilities for the 16-acre Three Sisters Meadow property range from a walking path connecting the school campus with downtown to lodging and recreation facilities that could help create a new economic hub for the McKenzie River Valley.

Those ideas emerged during an August 12 planning session that brought together community members and representatives from more than a dozen local nonprofits.

Among the most ambitious concepts was a timber-frame lodge with about 50 rooms, potentially surrounded by rental cabins. The structure could accommodate visiting track teams and other

Big Vision - Page 13

Briefs...

Join Lane Electric Cooperative and General Manager Scott Coe for mem-ber meetings in the McKenzie River Valley. The Lane Electric Cooperative will hold two meetings on Thursday, August 20.

The first, at the McKenzie River Community School is set for 1:30 pm. The second, at 5:30 pm will be held at McKenzie Fire & Rescue, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, Leaburg.

The Cooperative will be sharing de-

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Oregon Wildfire Season Has Blazed Past All Records, With No End in Sight

By Khushboo Rathore
Oregon Journalism Project

On recent days in Prineville, smoke from the nearby Rowe Creek Complex wildfire feels "thick enough to cut with a knife," said Beverly Friesen, an 81-year-old grandmother. For the first time in over 40 years, she had to evacuate from the area, leaving behind her one-story, two-bedroom home, which held so many memories of her late husband and the children they raised.

"My husband had just passed away two years ago, and it was god-awful," she said. "I didn't know what I was going to do if I had lost my home."

Thankfully, Friesen was able to return. Some of her friends, she said, still fear they will lose their homes.

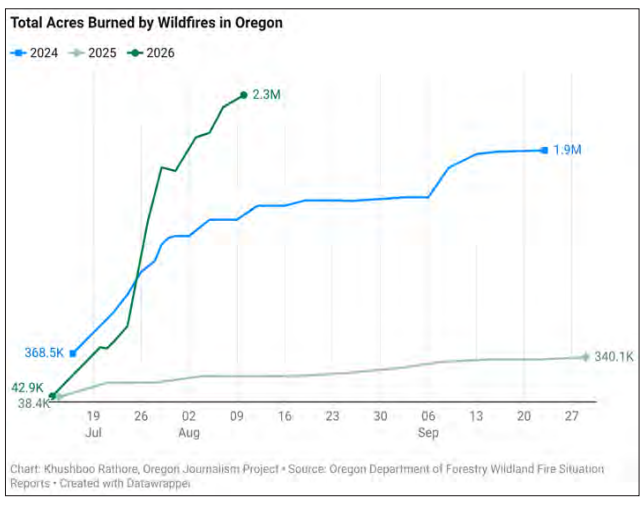


Chart - Khushboo Rathore, Oregon Journalism Project

The 374,000 acres of the Rowe Creek Complex conflagration, which forced Friesen and thousands in Central Oregon to flee for their safety, are only a fraction of the record-breaking wildfires raging in Oregon this summer.

As of Aug. 10, more than 1,400 fires of all sizes have consumed more than 2.3 million acres across the state–an area far larger than the once-record 2024 fire season at its completion. That is more acres than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

Peak fire season in Oregon is usually in August and September. But this year, large, fast-moving fires started in early July, aided by a low snowpack, widespread drought, and persistent lightning strikes.

The fire seasons have become progressively worse since 2013, said Jessica

Wildfire Season - Page 9

The McKenzie, Through an Artist's Eyes

Gallery features works inspired by exploring and floating the river

LEABURG: The slow drift of a summer day on the McKenzie River — the changing light, moving water and memories carried downstream — provides the inspiration for a new exhibition opening this week at The River Run Gallery.

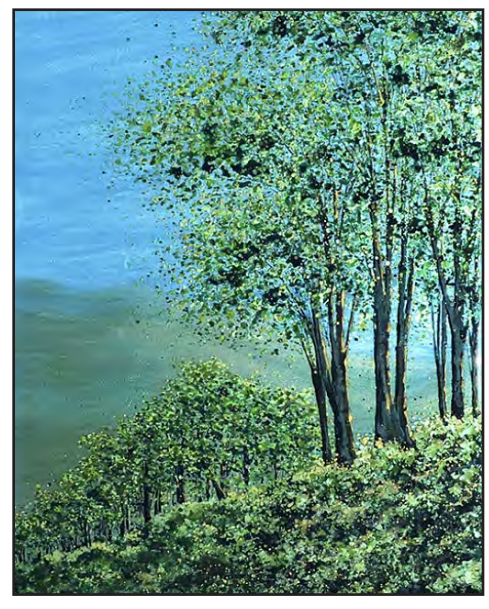
Oregon mixed-media artist Claudia Schouten-Jones will be featured at an artist opening reception Thursday, Aug. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. at The River Run, 42837 McKenzie Highway in Leaburg.

The reception will give visitors an opportunity to meet Schouten-Jones and view her mixed-media resin paintings. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Schouten-Jones' paintings reflect what she describes as the river's lessons in resilience, impermanence and renewal. Water is both a subject and metaphor in her work, representing the passage of time and the connections people leave behind as their lives intersect.

Born in San Francisco, Schouten-Jones moved to rural Oregon at age 11. She spent much of her youth exploring old-growth forests, mountain creeks and the McKenzie River — experiences that eventually became central to her artistic life.

Over the years, she returned repeatedly to the same stretch of the McKenzie, floating the river hundreds of times while pho-



Halycon, by Claudia Schouten-Jones

tographing, sketching and journaling what she saw.

Those journeys gave her an intimate view of the river's constantly changing character and the natural cycles of growth, transformation, decay and renewal along its banks.

"The river became both teacher and companion," she says in describing the influence the McKenzie has had on her work.

Through An Artist's Eyes - Page 11

Letters to the Editor

Communication is vital

Most River Reflection readers live in or near the McKenzie River Basin. We prefer to use our local expression, 'valley', as indeed it beautifully is. This valley we call home stretches from McKenzie Bridge westward nearly 44 miles to the east ridge of Thurston.

But the river we cherish is a longer story. It alternatively plummets and soothes downward from Clear Lake to the Willamette River- a waterway of over 90 miles!

Our valley is attached to 1,300 square miles of surrounding timberland. Much of it is rugged, and at times seemingly primeval to those who disappear within feet of their vehicle into an aromatic, shaded universe both mysterious and timeless. 96% of the basin is timber, 4% is agricultural, and in the midst of this adventure novel is where most of us live.

But this book freezes, floods, and burns. Within these ever changing pages of our story we depend upon each other when the unreasonable happens- and it does, with a rhythm that we are just starting to acknowledge, but that the original Peoples knew so well.

Of the many qualities we take for granted probably communication is the most vital. We connect daily with family, friends, job, education, healthcare, market, and leisure. This routine enables us to pursue our lives in a fashion and rhythm that in most part is safe and healthy.

We also have access to 9-1-1 services when emergencies turn us to a different page.

The loss of communication in our valley at the least results in the immediate reduction of our vitality and at most can be of a devastating nature. Add to this rubric the possibility of extended communication loss and long term isolation from all we consider vital is a signal that a solution is necessary.

For several years communities within our valley have grouped together with two-way radios. Some groups broadcast on low-power, non-license Family Radio Service channels.

Designated members of the group relay messages on high power channels-which require a General Mobile Radio Service license- to networks that have amateur radio operators. In turn, these ham's can forward communication outside the valley.

Our valley now has a unified and functioning repeating network enabling isolated people to talk together. We are the McKenzie Community Communications Net (MCC). Each Thursday at 6:00 pm the upper MCC section broadcasts, and at 6:30 pm the lower MCC section follows. When valley phones are down this GMRS radio network is activated.

Here's an index to increasing your safety and well being through communications.

https://mckenziecommunications.org, Al Lushenko via email echolima333@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/groups/389246860607445 MCC 541-854-0563

Conrad Martin Brown

Statistics: Wikipedia.org/water/McKenzie_River

Guest Opinion

Will data centers be Oregon's big political issue this fall?

Oregonians have strong feelings about data centers, making for a fall campaign issue ready for enterprising candidates to pick it up and run with it

By Randy Stapilus
Oregon Capital Chronicle

In May, state Sen. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro, area lost her bid for reelection to the legislature, the first such incumbent loss since 2018. Multiple reasons contributed to Sollman's loss to union-backed challenger Myrna Muñoz, but a pivotal and new factor was data centers.

Those massive buildings, consuming vast amounts of electricity and water and producing compute, serving as the physical location of much of the internet cloud and especially the locus of fast-growing artificial intelligence.

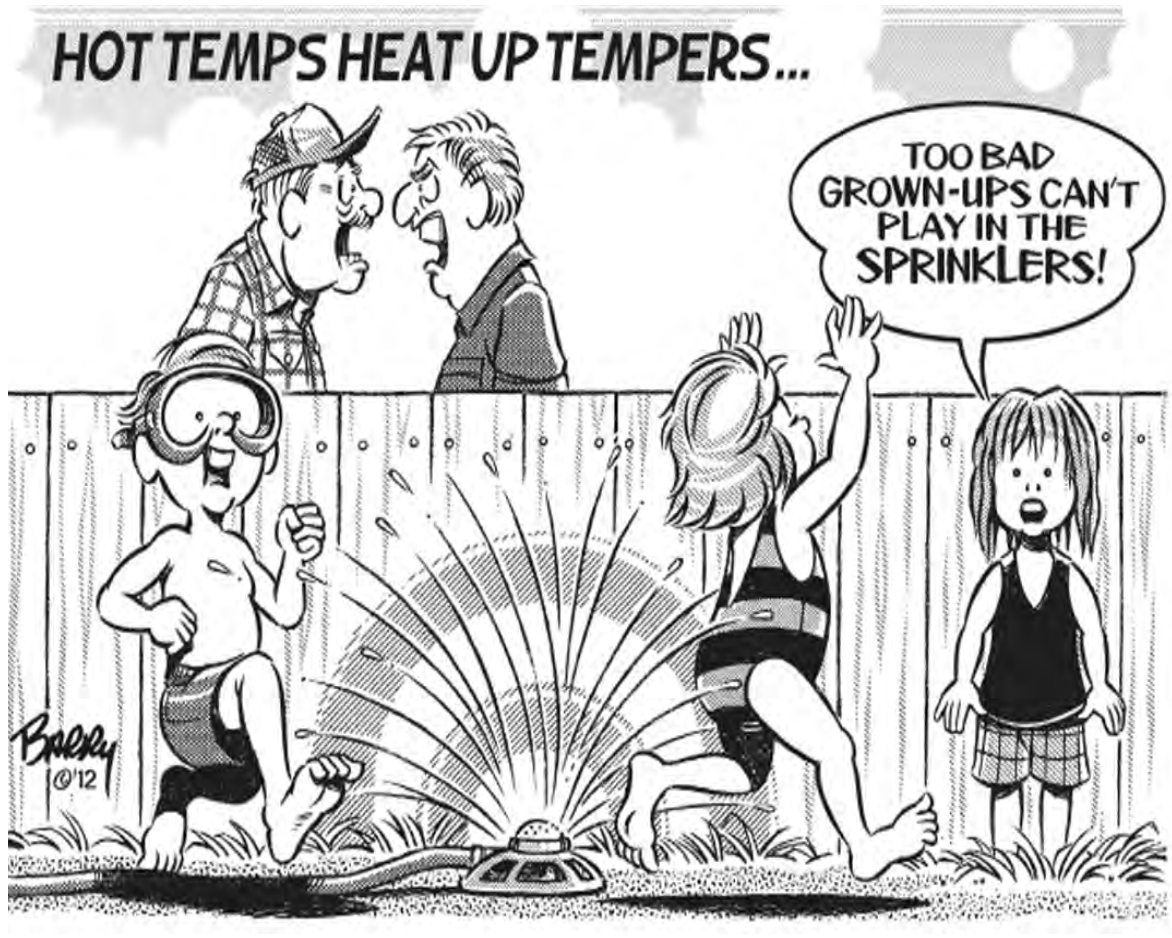
The Sollman result also turned on factors including labor union support. But the broad emotional push seemed to come in reaction to the growth of data centers in the Hillsboro area.

Sollman herself said, "They were saying I was going to turn 1,700 acres of rich farmland, and turn them into data centers. It's a totally unfair characterization of my record."

On Aug. 2, responding to protests, the Hillsboro City Council set a moratorium lasting four months on additional data centers. The meeting was called abruptly with less than usual notice because, Mayor Beach Pace said, "The idea behind it was to prevent a rush of applications from data centers."

This has become an explosive issue in Washington County, where somewhere between a dozen and three dozen (depending on how you count) data centers are operating or planned. And Washington County is not only Oregon's second largest county, it is the political hinge that more than anywhere else took Oregon from a purple to a blue state in the last

Guest Opinion - Page 12



Briefs...

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LEC MEETS

tails about how it operates during wildfire season and highlight current and upcoming projects in the area.

LEC general manager Scott Coe will also take member questions.

TEACHERS

Area families are invited to the Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 27, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Community School. It's a chance to connect with your student's teacher, visit classrooms,, reconnect with McKenzie staff and families, plus explore the campus community and get ready for the new school year.

Whether your family is returning to McKenzie or joining the school for the first time, people can look forward to welcoming you to campus!

The gathering will start in the Old Gym. All families welcome. Light refreshments provided

The first day of school is Monday, August 31.

WITCHES

A coven will be trading their broomsticks for paddles on August 22 as the "Witches on the Water" Paddle Parade returns to the Willamette River.

Sponsored by the Willamette River Festival and organized with the Circle of the Cauldron, the event is scheduled is inviting participants to decorate their watercraft with "magic and witchiness" for a colorful trip down the river.

Peopleshould arrive at the Alton Baker boat launch at 9 a.m. to prepare their parade floats. After dropping off their watercraft, participants can drive to the 4J parking lot near the River House in Eugene, where a shuttle will be provided back to the put-in site at Alton Baker Park.

"The cauldron will be stirred" at 11 a.m., as the paddle parade gets underway. Witches and other costumed paddlers will make their way down the Willamette River to the River House Beach, site of the main festival activities.

Organizers say participants should register through the Willamette River Festival website.

Once ashore, paddlers can join a festival featuring booths from local nonprofit organizations, recreational groups, river outfitters and vendors. A central stage will offer live music and presentations throughout the day.

The festival will also feature free drop-in activities on the beach and in the water, including paddlecraft demonstrations, on-water obstacle courses and tree climbing.

And, organizers promise, there will be "plenty of witches."

McKenzie River Reflections
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Weather Report

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
8/11	86	52	0	NA
8/12	83	56	0	375 cfs
8/13	84	54	0	331 cfs
8/14	84	55	0	327 cfs
8/15	82	60	0	327 cfs
8/16	84	56	0	NA
8/17	84	55	0	360 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
8/11	89	51	0	1,840 cfs
8/12	90	54	0	1,780 cfs
8/13	85	53	0	1,770 cfs
8/14	86	57	0	1,780 cfs
8/15	81	58	0	1,780 cfs
8/16	79	53	0	1,780 cfs
8/17	85	50	0	1,820 cfs

Weather Forecast

Friday 8/21

McKenzie Valley — Partly Cloudy — 5% chance precip — High: 82 Low: 54

Santiam Pass — Partly Cloudy — 10% chance precip — High: 87 Low: 54

Saturday 8/22

McKenzie Valley — Partly Cloudy — 10% chance precip — High: 78 Low: 52

Santiam Pass — Sunny — 0% chance precip — High: 81 Low: 47

Sunday 8/23

McKenzie Valley — Partly Cloudy — 10% chance precip — High: 82 Low: 52

Santiam Pass — Sunny — 0% chance precip — High: 84 Low: 49

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Aug. 11: 5:41 a.m: Suspicious Subject - 87900 blk, Dowdy Ln.

8:35 a.m: Civil Enforcement - 42900 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:34 a.m: Civil Service - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

11:29 a.m:. Subpoena Service - 88000 blk, Running Spring Dr.

11:45 a.m: Subpoena Service - 36300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

Aug. 12: 12:04 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

12:34 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.

1:02 p.m: Welfare Check - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:36 p.m: Civil Service - 37500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

6:27 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

9:27 p.m: Harassment - 7900 blk, Thurston Rd.

Aug. 13: 12:04 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

12:34 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.

2:21 a.m: Welfare Check - 92200 blk, Murdoch St.

7:01 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - Old Mohawk Rd.

2:48 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - 92200 blk, Walling St.

6:00 p.m: Burglary - 55800 blk, E. King Rd.

11:08 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 159500 blk, McK. View Dr.

11:38 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Old Mohawk Rd.

Aug. 14: 2:21 a.m: Welfare Check – 92200 blk, Murdoch St.

6:25 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver – Milepot 4, Marcola Rd.

6:47 a.m: Hit & Run – 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.

8:52 a.m: Illegal Burn – Camp Creek Rd.

1:39 p.m: Suspicious Conditions – 87900 blk, Dowdy Ln.

Aug. 15: 1:09 a.m: Criminal Mischief - 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

1:30 a.m: Shots Fired - 53000 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:08 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 56300 blk, Delta Dr.

12:38 p.m: Welfare Check - 55600 blk, Drury Dr.

3:30 p.m: Civil Problem - 8000 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:43 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Marcola Rd.

4:01 p.m: Animal Abuse - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

5:39 p.m: Request Cover - Camp Creek Rd.

6:15 p.m: Hit & Run - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:25 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. Milepost 4.

Aug. 16: 1:30 a.m: Shots Fired - 53000 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:18 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - Bigelow Hot Springs.

9:35 a.m: Welfare Check - 87700 blk, Collins Ln.

10:13 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 48000 blk, Conley Rd.

10:36 a.m: Animal Abuse - 95200 blk, Marcola Rd.

12:25 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:41 p.m: Criminal Ttrespass - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

6:45 p.m: Welfare Check - 39900 blk, Log Creek Rd.

8:24 p.m: Harassment - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

Aug. 17: 2:26 a.m: Alarm - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:27 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute

Continued On Page 13

MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

Aug. 10: 8:51: McK. Hwy. Milepost 30. Motor Vehicle Accident. Cancelled by Dispatch.

13:06: 46100 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:47: 90600 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Cancelled En Route by Mohawk Valley Fire.

Aug. 11: 1:17: McK. Hwy./Mp. 14 MVA. Made Contact, Flagged Vehicle.

18:55: 45600 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

20:10: 87800 blk, Upland St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

21:54: 48500 blk, McK. Hwy. Fire Alarm. False Alarm.

Aug. 12: 13:51: 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Assist.

16:38: 90000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Public Assist Notified Homeowner Of Equipment Regulations.

Continued On Page 13

UPPER MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

Aug. 11: 21:52: Fire Alarm – 48000 block, McK Hwy. Smoke detectors, from 2 alarms.

Aug. 12: 01:13: Medical – 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

07:45: Medical – 57000 blk, McK Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Aug. 14: 12:52: Medical –51 000 blk, Blue River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

17:27: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury – McK. Hwy./Milkepost 46. Two vehicles rolled over.

Aug. 15: 12:40: Medical - 59000 blk, McK. Hwy. Search & Rescue Channel saying broken wrist at blue pool.

Aug. 16: 00:42: Medical - 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

05:04: Medical - 56000 blk, Delta Dr. Request medic.

18:01: Medical – 91000 blk, Mill Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

18:16: Assist Police Dept. - McK. Hwy. /Taylor Rd. Female Subject.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 21, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

SCAM ALERT!

We NEVER request money by phone.

We DO NOT accept BitCoin as payment.

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Hang Up!

File a report at ic3.gov

or call the Lane County Sheriff's Office at 541-682-4141

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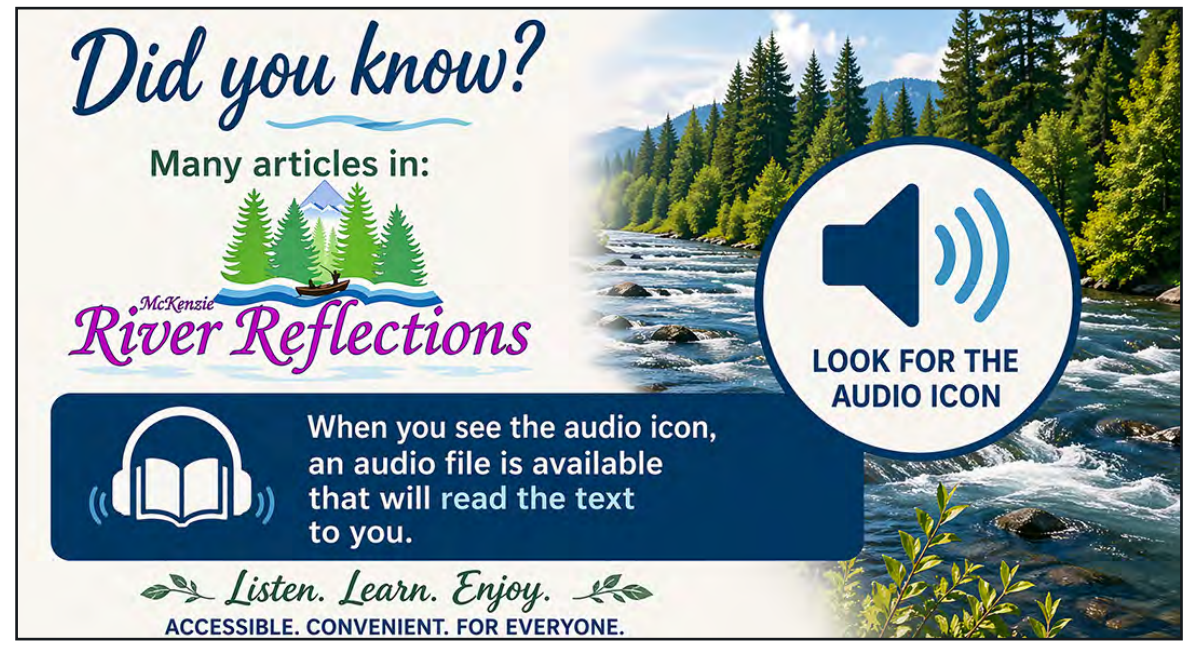

Gov. T.T. Geer is Oregon's 'patron saint of bicyclists'

By Finn J.D. John

In recent years, bicycle commuting has had something of a resurgence in Oregon. That's especially true in urban areas, where you'll see these hard-bodied, Lycra-clad road warriors out in all kinds of crazy weather, jockeying for position with larger vehicles in traffic and trying not to get run over by inattentive motorists.

Proud of their weekly mileage though these hard-core commuters are, few of them can hold a candle to the ninth governor of the state of Oregon — who bested all but an elite handful of them using a heavy steel "safety bicycle" in the twilight years of the 19th century.

T.T. (Theodore Thurston) Geer was the first Oregon governor to have actually been born in the state. He served from 1899 to 1903; before that, he was a state representative and a Presidential elector. So, it's safe to say he spent a great deal of time in Salem.

Which was something of a challenge for him, since he actually lived 10 miles outside Salem, on a farm in the Waldo Hills near the unincorporated hamlet of Macleay.

Most legislators and other state politicians solved dilemmas like this by taking a small pied-a-terre in the capitol city, from which they would journey home on weekends. Some of the more determined commuted each day with a horse and buggy, or rode horseback.

As for Geer, when the roads were dry enough, he made his commute most days by bicycle.

Oregonian

An advertisement for Rambler bicycles published in the Portland Morning Oregonian on Feb. 26, 1899.

Geer was an enthusiastic participant in the 1890s bicycle craze that broke out after the "safety bicycle" was invented and came into widespread use. The "safety bicycle" is essentially the same design used today – two smallish wheels, one driven with a chain. These were called "safety bicycles" for a reason: they were far less likely to kill you than earlier variants, especially the high-wheeled "ordinary bicycles" of a few years before. That high lethality rate is likely the reason hipsters have not yet attempted to bring back the "ordinary bicycle." Put simply, no manufacturer can afford to take on the liability of producing one.

"Ordinary bicycles" (sometimes called penny-farthings) had no brakes, because braking too fast caused the all-too-common and frequently fatal accident known as a "header," in which the rider rotated over the front of the six-foot-tall front wheel and smashed into the ground. Plus, just getting aboard one required an act of gymnastic excellence beyond the skills of most.

Geer leaped aboard the bicycling bandwagon in June of 1898, a little late by nationwide standards; but he had just been elected governor, so his adoption of this new hobby was headline news. The headline announcing this is one of the earliest examples of the penchant for awful puns for which newspaper copy editors and headline writers are notorious. It read, "GEER HAS A WHEEL."

("Wheel" was still common slang for "bicycle" in 1898, because in the old penny-farthing days bicycle riders appeared to be perching atop a single giant wheel. By the late 1890s, the lethal penny-farthings were no longer in use, but the term endured.)

Geer proceeded to use his "wheel" every chance he got. But it must not have been a very good one, because just eight months later he bought a new one – a Rambler brand, bought from bike dealer Fred T. Merrill of Portland.

It was this bicycle that Geer was riding on May 1, 1900, when the Ramblin' Governor set out for his most famous ride.

On that morning, Geer hopped on his Rambler and pointed it northwest. He was riding not to Salem, but all the way to Champoeg – 30 miles distant.

"I shall never forget that beautiful ride," Geer wrote in his memoirs. "It was a perfect day, with a firm north breeze, not a cloud in the sky; the roads were in splendid condition, the crops were growing splendidly, birds were singing everywhere, seeming to be in harmony with Nature's glad mood."

Geer rode north, probably following Howell Prairie Road, to Gervais and on from there to "Woodburn, the 'Metropolis of French Prairie,' railroad junction and all-around pushing town." At Hubbard he turned off to the west, and a few hours later arrived at Champoeg.

Geer was on a mission for the newly chartered Oregon Historical Society. He planned to meet up

"Final boss battle" - Page 11

Quote of the Week

"I am thankful to all who said No. Because of them, I did it myself."

Albert Einstein

This Space
For Rent
rivref2@gmail.com
FAX 541-663-4550

By Slim Randles

Leona was a good mule. She was in a fabled minority in the pack station realm of mules, as she was a riding mule as well as a pack mule. She was also … well …

somewhat notional in nature. There was how Leona pictured her world, and there were the rest of us, who were wrong, of course.

Mules are worth a lot more than a horse in the eastern California High Sierra, and there are reasons for that. They usually live longer than a horse, they learn fast and never have to be shown twice, and they won't jump off a 300-foot cliff just because a 40-foot pine tree sneaked up on them.

When they learn something, it's learned. Period. This includes bad things as well as good things. It's up to the packer to discover just what these atomic boogers are in the life of each mule and avoid them.

With Leona, it was one spot on the Kearsarge Pass trail between Kearsarge Meadow and Slim Lake. Yes, as I told every kid I packed in, it was named for me because of how good a cowboy I was. Some of them asked why Slim Lake was 200 yards long and only 20 feet wide, but you know kids.

But just at the top of the little divide there was Leona's booger spot. There was a short piece of trail that was level and maybe five feet wide, which would have made it flatlands anywhere else.

Well, one night I was riding Leona and leading some horses and mules down that stretch of trail. Leona knew how to get back to the pack station, so I was just making sure UFOs didn't hover and suck us up. We were good.

When we got to that little stretch of trail, close to midnight, I discovered, through pack station Braille, that three hikers had rolled their sleeping bags across the trail and sacked out. I didn't become aware of this until Leona had walked straight over the first two. All three dozing backpackers then saw mules walking over them, jumped straight up, and mules began knocking hikers down like ten pins. It was beautiful.

Every time after that, if I was riding Leona, when she came to that spot, light or dark, she wouldn't go through until she'd thoroughly blown nuclear snot all over it.

Mules are the greatest manmade animal.

- - -

Brought to you by "Strange Tales of Alaska" written by me. Available online.

OSU GARDENING Tips

Oregon State University

How to keep rats away from your home

A contained compost system helps keeps rats out of your home and garden.

Seeing a rat in the yard — or worse, inside your home — can be an alarming experience. And for good reason.

"Rats are very intelligent and resourceful," said Dana Sanchez, Extension wildlife specialist with Oregon State University. "Simply putting down a trap and expecting a rat to fall into it won't work."

Rats have long been associated with garbage and unsanitary conditions, which often leads people to avoid acknowledging a problem. That reluctance, Sanchez said, plays to rats' advantage.

"There are definite social norms that say if you have rodents nearby, it's associated with dirtiness or waste," she said. "There's often a fear of public shaming. That prevents people from working together to find solutions to a shared issue."

While the stigma may linger, disease is a more immediate concern. Rats are known to carry harmful bacteria, including the pathogen that caused the bubonic plague — though this disease is now extremely rare. They can also carry other diseases, prompting valid public health concerns.

Why rats show up

The black rat (Rattus rattus) and brown rat (Rattus norvegicus), both non-native species, are drawn to food sources such as:

° Pet and chicken feed

° Bird seed

° Kitchen scraps in compost piles

° Dropped fruit

° Unsealed garbage

Even compost piles without food waste can attract rats if they aren't hot enough to kill the insects that rats feed on. If rats find their way indoors, they'll search for food and nesting sites.

"Both species are opportunistic and adapt easily to living near people," Sanchez said.

If you're curious about identification: black rats typically weigh about 4.5 ounces and grow to 5–6 inches long, while brown rats are larger, weighing 9–10 ounces and reaching up to 16 inches in length.

The key to control: work together

Sanchez encourages neighbors to work together and share information. Collaboration with local vector control agencies — often managed by city or county departments — is also important.

"Rats will inspect and avoid anything new in their environment," she said. "They're so smart that if they associate something with illness — like bait — they'll avoid it in the future."

While short-term control measures such as traps or bait may help reduce populations, long-term solutions require consistent prevention efforts. Many people ease up when they stop seeing rats, which allows the problem to return.

"It's a cycle," Sanchez said. "You see fewer rats, so you reduce prevention efforts, and then the population grows again."

Rat prevention tips

Sanchez recommends these steps to make your home and landscape less inviting to rats:

° Do not leave uneaten pet food outside. Store pet food in sealed plastic containers.

° Store indoor food properly — ideally in sealed containers — and don't leave food on countertops.

° Thin dense vegetation that provides shelter.

° Keep bird seed off the ground. Use baffles and hang feeders away from eaves or fences.

° Use a hot composting method

Continued On Page 9

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Recipes • Traditions • Memories • Seasonal Living By Mary Emma Allen

FAMILY LETTERS - A FORM OF HISTORY

So often we throw out letters we receive from family and friends. (If we even them instead of texts these days!) How can we keep everything?

However, the importance of letters in compiling a family history and making ancestors come alive was brought to my attention when I discovered letters my great great grandmother wrote. These were tucked away midst memorabilia in an old trunk. I've also found other letters from ancestors kept by my grandmother and my mom. Some were from my great, great uncles in the Civil War and uncles in WWI and WWII.

As I read these messages, I've learned more about these people who had been simply names and date on the family tree.

I discovered letters my grandmother wrote to me when I was a child. Every Sunday and Wednesday evening, Nanny wrote to her friends and family. When I visited her, I learned the rudiments of letter writing as we sat at the kitchen table after supper and penned notes about events of the day.

My daughter and I have been organizing family photos and documents and find other family members asking for information when they learn what we're doing.

Mother's Letters
Filled With Humor

I didn't keep all my mom's letters to me because my husband and I have moved around quite a bit. However, I often jotted down excerpts from them into a journal. Recently I came across this and discovered the humor in her writings. I'm compiling these, along with her diary entries, into a booklet for her family.

These are fun to share with my daughter and grandchildren and give them insight into the person they remember mainly as an old lady disabled by Alzheimer's. She comes alive to them as a vibrant woman with sense of humor.

Keep Your Letters

So keep, as much as you can, see if you can obtain copies of letters other family members may have. These provide a fascinating record of your family history. You often may find food ideas and recipes mentioned.

HAMBURGER STROGANOFF is quick and easy, as well as being a family recipe. Brown 1 pound ground beef or turkey and 1/2 diced onion. Add 1 can cream of mushroom soup and simmer at least 10 minutes. Just before serving, add 3/4-cup sour cream.

Serve over mashed potatoes, noodles, biscuits or rice.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen researches and writes about family history from her New Hampshire home.)

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rivref2@gmail.com
541-822-3358

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Local events & meetings

HAVE AN EVENT TO SHARE? Submit details at tinyurl.com/3j38kkxz

August 20
Leaburg Food Pantry
3 - 6:30pm

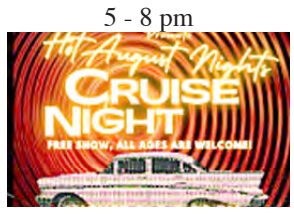
McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy, Walterville, OR 97489, USA

All are welcome! Please send folks!

August 20
McKenzie Chamber Board Meeting
4:30 pm

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

August 21
Cruise Night
5 - 8 pm

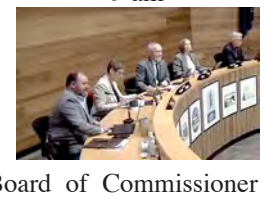


The Stage Stop Pizza & Brew, 38491 McK. Hwy. will host some family fun with a free Hot August Nights Cruise In. Come and enjoy the show, plus a live band with good food and good times all night! All vehicles are welcome - pizza, beer, wine, and food trucks too!

August 24
Spfd School Board
7 - 10 pm

The Springfield Public Schools is led by a five-member elected school board. The Board of Directors meets twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street, Springfield.

August 25
Lane County Board of Commissioners
9 am



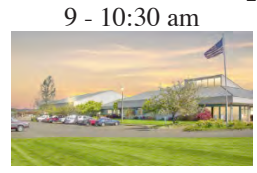
The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis

August 25
McKenzie Food Pantry
11 am - 1 pm

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

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

August 26
Lane Electric Coop
9 - 10:30 am



Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly.

To address the Lane Electric board complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting.

September 1
Lane County Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

September 1
Coffee With Locals
10 - 11 am

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) at the 1966 Bar & Grill at the Tokatee Golf Club in Rainbow. 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

September 1
Grange Meeting
7:30 - 8:30 pm

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

September 1
EWEB Meeting
5:30 - 8 pm

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed.

September 2
BR Water Board
6 - 7 pm

Blue River Water Board Monthly Board meeting in the O'Brien Memorial Library meeting room,, 51771 Blue River Dr.

September 2
Walterville Waddle
9 - 11 am

The Walterville Waddle is so much fun for. competitive runners, walkers and waddlers, that you'll want to attend. REGISTER NOW: https://raceroster.com/.../2026/118290/walterville-waddle-5k. and don't forget to order one of our unique t-shirts! Registration cost is $25 with discounts for seniors and kids.

September 8
Lane County Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

September 8
Gentle Dental Van
8:30 am - 2 pm

The Gental Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic at 51730 Dexter St. in Blue River. 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.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY

VMCC - 11 am
Doors open at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane

Little Poker League 6 - 8 pm
Vida McKenzie Community Center

WEDNESDAY

Upper McKenzie Community Center - 7 - 8 pm
Go-Gi Brazilian Ju-Jitsu at the UMCC, 54745 McK River Drive

Watershed Wednesday - 9 - 11:30 am
Coburg
Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

AA Meetings
Wednesdays at 6 pm and Sundays at 5 pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, plus Thursdays at the clinic onb Dexter St, Blue River

THURSDAY

Dog Socialization Pack Walks - 10 am
At the Walterville Pond, meet at the East end parking lot. Free weekly. Info: quickslyfox@duck.com

MMRS Net - 6 pm
The McKenzie Valley Neighborhood Radio Group meets at 6 pm on 462.6750 MHZ, Tone 100.0 Hz (often Radio Memory Channel 28) on the Deathball Repeater

FRIDAY

Yoga in Leaburg - 8:30 am
Friday Yoga at the Firehouse is back! 42870 McK. Hwy., Leaburg

SAIL Exercise Program - 10 - 11 am
Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane. Instructor-led exerciss to boost strength, independence and confidence. All ages and abilities welcome.

SATURDAY

A Dime At A Time
Morning sorting sessios from 10 am - noon. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store.

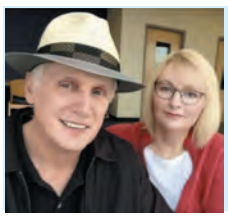
An Invitation to Worship

Living Water Family Fellowship
Pastor - Doug Fairrington
52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42
541-822-3820
Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also.
Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM.
Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)

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

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

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



Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Straight talk and real advice for everyday lofe.

The Right Stuff

I was engaged to be married to a man I've been with for three years. and I have been miserable for months. There were problems in the past with other girls getting too close, but only one I had proof of.

He promised it was a part of an emotional past he was moving away from. He said he used her for the way she would bring him stuff at work--he's a police officer--and wait on him hand and foot. He said he wanted to treat her badly and use her because he has that urge, but didn't want to do that to me--he loved me too much.

I wanted to believe him so much, so I did. He seemed to change over the next few months. Then he broke his foot and got laid up. It was the best six months of our relationship because he was embarrassed to leave the house on crutches. He was always there with me, and I felt close to him. I realize now he felt like half a man and unattractive because he is very proud of his allure and his physique.

Fast forward to now. I find out by accident he's dating another girl, introducing her to friends of ours I haven't seen lately. They didn't question his new girlfriend. They must have figured we broke up.

He told me he was working overtime shifts to save money for us to get married and pay for a new car, but a lot of the time he was with her. He took her places we used to go, places I would beg him to take me on his day off when he said he had to work or was too tired. I felt neglected, but I blamed it on money and his job.

I love him immensely, I live with him, and I just broke up with him. He is morose, saying I won't give him a chance to change and I am giving up on him. He says he doesn't know why he did what he did, but he realizes he is losing the love of his life.

It's hard to see him like that, but I feel he wants me to feel guilty for "leaving him all alone" when I promised him I'd love him forever and never leave him. Of course, he also promised that to me.

Please tell me I have done the right thing. I am so sad over losing him, the pain is nearly unbearable.

Nita

Nita, in Greek mythology Narcissus was an exceptionally beautiful man who was contemptuous of those who loved him. The gods punished him for his cruelty by having him fall in love with his own reflection in a pool of water.

A narcissist lacks empathy, expects others at all times to grant their wishes, and exploits people to get what they want. Your boyfriend is proud of his allure, admits to using women, and lied to you about overtime. The only time you got along well was when he wasn't free to be himself.

The plain fact is a man who loved you could never do this to you. But a narcissist wouldn't have any problem betraying you, and if you found out, he would invent reasons why you had to stay with him.

It helps to remember the difference between shame and guilt. Shame is what we feel when we have done something wrong. Guilt is the tool used by those who seek to manipulate us to get us to do what they desire.

The end of love is painful, but genuine love always flows both ways. You loved him, but he was in love with his own reflection. As a line in the song by Shinedown says, "Sometimes goodbye is a second chance." Breaking up gives you the chance to find love which is genuine.

Wayne & Tamara

Hamster Wheel

I am 39, married for four years. I have no kids, but two stepchildren from my current wife. The problem is I may be in love with someone from my past, and when I say my past, I mean high school.

I met this girl when I was a sophomore and she was a freshman. For me it was instant love. Not only was she the most beautiful woman I've ever seen, she was wonderful. Unfortunately, she was in a popular clique, and well, I was not.

We lived close by, so we rode the same bus to and from school. We were friendly and all, but nothing more. Looking back I can't honestly say if I asked her out she would have said no, but at the time there was no way I was going to risk it.

I wrote her love letters and sent roses on her birthday. She called to thank me, but since I had no idea how to talk to girls, I completely blew that opportunity.

The years sped by as they tend to do, and I thought about her. I figured she was married with kids, and I should just let her go. Once or twice a month I have dreams about her, and no, none of them are sexual. But they usually make me sad. It sometimes takes me a day or two to get over the more vivid ones.

Last year was my 20th high school reunion, and through the grapevine I found out she never married. She's on my Facebook page. I was going to say hi to her just as a friend, but apparently she's never on.

I wrote this letter because last night I had another dream about her. I woke up nearly in tears because it was so emotional. I love my wife but not in the same way; it's more like she's my best friend.

My greatest regret in life is that I never had a chance with this girl. I always felt she was the one I was meant to be with. I feel lost, my heart is breaking, and I have no idea what to do.

Edgar

Edgar, each year, not far from where we live, Civil War re-enactors gather to recreate a battle. They may think what they do is authentic, but parading on clean fields in pressed uniforms doesn't capture the frontline realities of fleas, filth, and the fear of death.

It's more like a getaway weekend. The past is not a buffet where we can take what we want and move it into the present. In truth you are having night sweats over a woman you never dated and barely talked to. You don't know her, and you can't genuinely love someone you don't know.

There are three possible courses of action. First, you can sit around and wallow in this unmatured infatuation and let fantasy destroy your current life--which is exactly what you did as a teenager.

Or you can go see this woman and almost surely be disappointed. But we don't think you will do that. This daydream is about being able to sit on your hands through life, like the man who fantasizes about quitting his job but never does it.

Or you can look at what has been so wrong in your life that you don't want to live in it. What is going on is not about this woman. It's about you. It has nothing to do with her. She doesn't need to be talked to or chased or pursued.

The tragedy is you are losing your life over a phantom. You are having highly charged emotional interactions with someone who exists only in the insubstantial, watery world of your imagination.

We suggest sitting down and talking with a therapist about how to live in the here and now.

Wayne & Tamara

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

Need to talk?
Call 988

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

Shelly Pruitt 541-554-9332

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Personal

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

Piano Lessons

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

Pianists Wanted

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

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

Services

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

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

DIVORCE $130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

HELP WANTED

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

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

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

Details:

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

To request full details or apply, contact Tammy Pelton at (951) 970-0176 or email to: Tpelton@vidacommunitycenter.com

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY
PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Matter of the Estate of
Sharon Ruth Barnard,
Decedent. Case No. 26PB06788
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Marta Powers has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the personal representative at the law office of Bassinger Hoyt LLC, Attn: Thomas H. Hoyt, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401 within four months after the date of publication of this notice or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Thomas H. Hoyt, Bassinger Hoyt LLC, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Date of publication: 8/20/2026

Personal Representative:
Marta Powers
3396 Chevy Chase St.
Eugene, OR 97401
Telephone: 541-389-8041
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Thomas H. Hoyt, OSB# 660662
Bassinger Hoyt LLC
1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Telephone: 541-687-8700
Fax: 541-687-8701
thoyt@bassingerhoyt.com

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY
PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Matter of the Estate of
LANA LORRAINE NOMELLI,
Decedent.
Case No. 26PB06809
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

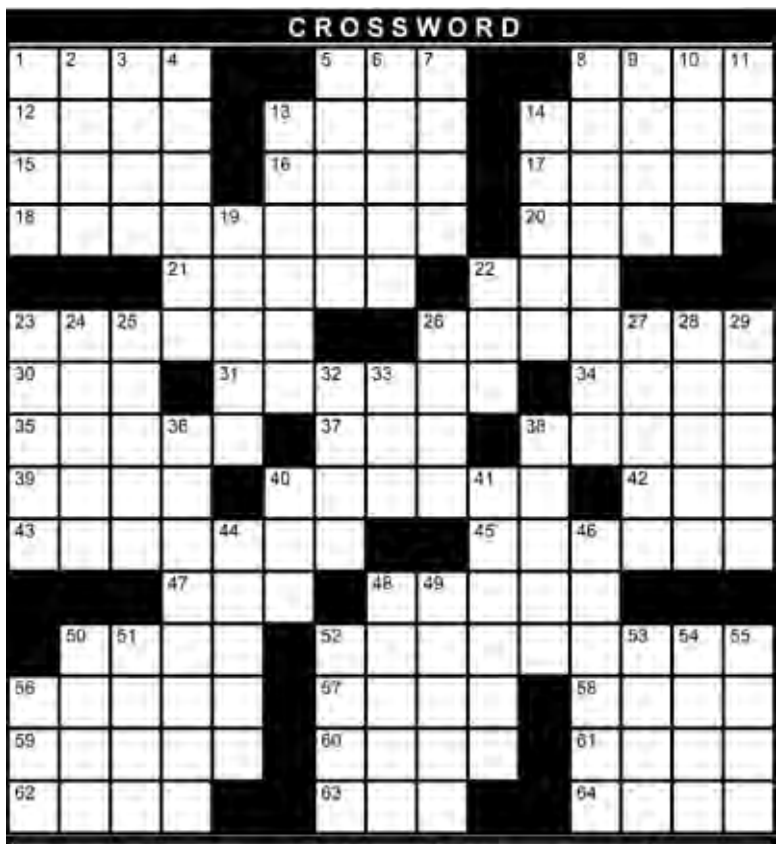
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lorina Nelba Cajias has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the personal representative at the law office of Bassinger Hoyt LLC, Attn: Scott G. Bassinger, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401 within four months after the date of publication of this notice or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Scott G. Bassinger, Bassinger Hoyt LLC, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Date of publication: 8/20/2026

Personal Representative:
Lorina Nelba Cajias
17397 Enterprise Road
Escalon, California 95320
Telephone: 209-42-7567
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Scott G. Bassinger, OSB# 920285
Bassinger Hoyt LLC
1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Telephone: 541-687-8700
Fax: 541-687-8701
scott@bassingerhoyt.com

CROSSWORD



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BACK TO SCHOOL

ACROSS

1. Eye affliction
5. Mowgli to Raksha in "The Jungle Book"
8. Cured pork product, pl.
12. *Every lap you run in gym class completes one
13. Ripped
14. Throw up
15. Mythological ship
16. Agitate
17. Like worthless promise
18. *"Go to the ____'s office"
20. Hatchling's home
21. Wasted on the young?
22. "Amazing!"
23. *____ Core, academic standards
26. *"Rock N'Roll High School" band
30. Be obliged
31. Orange ____ tea, pl.
34. Of low density
35. Earthenware pots
37. Farm layer
38. Bagpipes sound, in Scotland
39. Vessel's "spine"

Solution on Page 9

SUDOKU

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Solution on Page 9

40. "Mary, Mary quite contrary" place
42. Radio knob, abbr.
43. Blended family family member
45. Trotters
47. Owned
48. San Diego baseballer
50. Castle defense
52. *a.k.a. lunch room
56. "____ little cubby all stuffed with fluff"
57. Knight's breastplate
58. Bit of smoke
59. Willow twig
60. Pub arrow
61. Popular street-lining trees
62. Post-deductions amount
63. Opposite of WSW
64. Somebody ____

DOWN

1. Dueler's blow
2. Unit of pressure
3. Jellystone Park denizen
4. Amerigo to America
5. *Plagiarize, technically speaking
6. Heep of "David Copperfield"
7. *School signaling device
8. *Unwelcome load
9. Current unit, pl.
10. Catcher's catcher
11. Chester White's home
13. Three in one
14. Animal toxin
19. Poultry houses
22. "It ____ a dark and stormy night..."
23. Too many in the kitchen?
24. Baby owl
25. Free-for-all
26. Tear
27. Lacking guile
28. Baseball fielding mistake
29. "She ____ sea shells..."
32. *____ Academy, online study aid
33. "____ the land of the free..."
36. *Reading building blocks
38. Stall call
40. *Character in Greek Mythology reading assignment
41. Firstborn
44. Nymph chaser
46. Diminutive
48. Like nature worshipping, e.g.
49. Flamb
50. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.
51. Passing mention
52. Relinquish
53. Small brook
54. Doctrines
55. Part of church
56. *Unit in measurement and weight math lessons

Have a news tip? Contact rivref2@gmail.com

Stay in touch with what's happening - open the McKenzie Community Calendar!

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Free shipping will be applied to select package (SKU 82395). Minimum purchase of $99 per shipping address to qualify for free gift. 1 free gift per shipping address. The free gift does not apply to the purchase of Gift Cards, Certificates, Wine, Wine & Food Packs, Gift Baskets, Gourmet Salame, Caviar, and Custom Cuts. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is not valid on pending or prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 09/30/26. Omaha Steaks, LLC 26M10301

Emergency? Call 911

Farmers' Market

By Molly Fisk

Yesterday I was so lonely
I could barely walk,
my friend being mobbed
by her grandchildren
as we made our way
past the farmers' market's
delicata squashes, the last
tomatoes. I couldn't think
what to buy—came home
with nothing but sweet
peppers, myriad colors
in a single flavor, an elusive
solitary note. I watched her
lay her cheek against
the downy faces, saying love
love love love, and would
have wept except I'm dry
of tears. I love how she loves
them and that she has them,
I love them all from my arm's-
length distance, half-familiar
grandmother's friend
with a laughing eye, glasses
one might want to pluck
from the top of her head.
All that touch. That flesh.
The body heat. Fingers woven
together. I am starving.

Born in San Francisco, poet Molly Fisk earned a BA at Radcliffe College/Harvard University and an MBA at Simmons College Graduate School of Management.

In her poems, Fisk probes transitional periods in family life with clarity and wry humor. She is the author of the poetry collections The More Difficult Beauty (2010), Listening to Winter (2000), and Terrain (1998) and a volume of radio essays, Blow-Drying a Chicken: Observations from a Working Poet(2013). Her recorded CDs of radio commentary include Blow-Drying a Chicken (2008) and Using Your Turn Signal Promotes World Peace (2005).

Fisk's honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Marin Arts Council, and the California Arts Council as well as a Robinson Jeffers Tor House Prize in Poetry, a Dogwood Prize, a Billee Murray Denny Prize, a National Writer's Union Prize, and a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Fisk served as Nevada County's poet laureate from 2017 to 2019.

Fisk has taught at the UC Davis Extension and with the California Poets in the Schools program. She teaches private writing classes online, works as a life coach, and lives in Nevada City, California.

Wildfire Season

Continued From Page 1

Neujahr, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"It's looking like the fire activity that we're currently seeing will continue as we move through the season," Neujahr added.

The largest fire as of Aug. 12 was Big Grass, which scorched more than 500,000 acres spanning the southern end of the Idaho-Oregon border. It is only 36% contained.

Neujahr said lightning strikes—which ignited the Big Grass and over 7,000 other fires in the past 25 years—are "going to come, whether we like it or not." But human-caused fires, which made up 73% of all fires from 2000 to 2025, according to ODF's data dashboard, need to be prevented, she said.

"Our resources are spread extremely thin, and one extra one is just too much," she said. "It puts strain on an already overwhelmed system."

Currently, Oregon has more than 9,000 personnel fighting fires, but lacks the support it would normally get from other states at this time. Similarly, Neujahr said, federal support is limited.

ODF has been forced to change strategies to keep firefighters safe because some fires expanded too rapidly for an aggressive initial attack to keep the fires as small as possible, she said. "The fire behavior this year is extreme and, in a lot of scenarios, unsafe." Instead of direct attacks, Neujahr added, crews create barriers and backfires to try to halt the spread.

One firefighter, 47-year-old Jason Ensign, died recently while fighting the Wright Springs Fire in Southern Oregon.

The 2026 record-breaking season should be considered part of Oregon's new normal, Neujahr said.

"It's changing the mindset to: This is the hand we're dealt right now, and we have to adapt to meet it."

oregonjournalismproject.org

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Gardening Tips

Continued From Page 1

or a contained compost system. At minimum, avoid putting food scraps in open piles.

° Pick up fallen fruit from the ground.

° Seal any gaps larger than ¼ inch around doors, windows, vents, crawl space screens and other openings.

° Store garbage in plastic bins with tight-fitting lids.

° Protect chicken feed and coops. Use hardware cloth with a small opening (smaller than chicken wire), and bury the base several inches underground. Seal any openings larger than a nickel.

° Use traps or bait cautiously. These methods are most effective for small populations. For larger infestations, consider hiring a licensed and bonded pest control professional.

° Stay alert. Even if you don't see rats, they may be present. Ongoing prevention is the best way to avoid infestations.

Want to learn more about this topic? Explore more resources from OSU Extension: *Integrated pest management, Nuisance wildlife*

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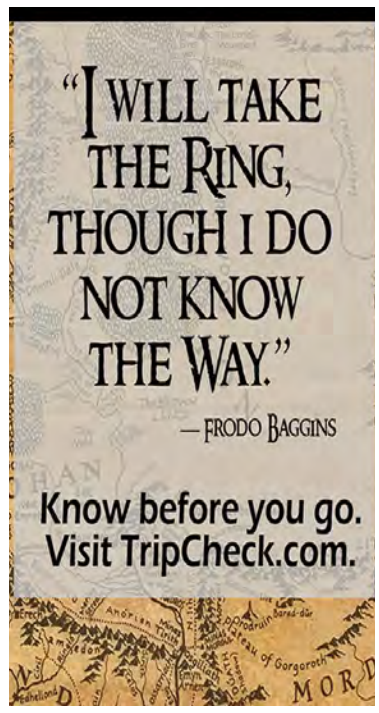

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A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

August 21 - William Selby Harney was born in Tennessee on August 22, 1800. He served in numerous Indian battles from Florida to the Great Plains before being placed in command of the Oregon Department, where his military activities resulted in the forced confinement of the Indians of Eastern Oregon to reservations. He also explored the routes of possible roads and helped to open the area east of the Cascades to white settlement. During the Civil War, General Harney returned east and commanded the Union forces in Missouri. Harney County, created in 1889 and named in honor of General Harney, is the largest county in Oregon.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 3,700.

Fish Counts
August 13, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook – 37,392
Summer Steelhead – 9,419

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Summer at McKenzie: Preparing for a New School Year The Campus Comes Back to Life

By Lane Tompkins
Superintendent
McKenzie Schools

If you have stopped by McKenzie during the summer, you know our campus never really shuts down. Still, there is a noticeable shift that happens around the middle of August. After weeks of projects, cleaning, planning and preparation, the buildings and grounds begin to come back to life. The quiet of summer starts to fade, and it begins to feel like the start of a new school year.

We have reached that point.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in student registration this past week. Registration is an important milestone in our preparations because it gives us a clearer picture of the students we will welcome this year. With that information in hand, we can continue finalizing class rosters, student schedules, transportation routes, staffing, and the countless other details that go into a successful start to the school year.

This week brings another sure sign that a new school year is approaching: high school fall sports practices begin Monday, August 17.

For our student-athletes, coaches and families, that means football, volleyball and cross country are getting underway. Athletics are one of the first ways we see students return to campus in larger numbers, and there is something exciting about hearing whistles, bouncing volleyballs and conversations between teammates after a quiet summer.

Extracurricular activities are an important part of the educational experience at McKenzie. Students learn teamwork, perseverance, responsibility, communication, and leadership through participation in athletics and activities. They also build relationships and a stronger connection to their school, and that sense of belonging can make a difference in the classroom as well.

Our student-athletes won't be the only ones returning.

Over the next couple of weeks, teachers and other staff members will begin making their way back into classrooms and workspaces. Some have been in and out throughout the summer, but as the first day approaches, classroom preparation, curriculum planning, professional learning, scheduling, and collaboration all begin to accelerate.

Meanwhile, the work we've highlighted throughout our Summer at McKenzie series continues. Our facilities and custodial teams are putting the finishing touches on summer projects and getting classrooms ready. Transportation is preparing for students to return to our buses. Nutrition Services is preparing to serve students once again, while our technology, office and administrative teams are working through their own back-to-school checklists.

Individually, these may seem like small pieces. Together, they create a school year.

Families can begin making that transition as well. With just over two weeks until the first day of school, now is a great time to start easing back into school-year sleep and morning routines, make sure registration information is complete, and talk with students about what they are looking forward to and their goals for the coming year.

Our next big opportunity to come together will be Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, August 27. We look forward to welcoming students and families back to campus, reconnecting after the summer, meeting new members of our school community, and building excitement for the year ahead.

Then, on Monday, August 31, the 2026–2027 school year officially begins.

There is still plenty of summer left to enjoy, but you can feel the change happening. The buses, classrooms, gyms, fields, and hallways that have been relatively quiet for the past couple of months are getting ready to serve their real purpose again.

Our students are coming back.

And we couldn't be more excited to see them.

HELP WANTED

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

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

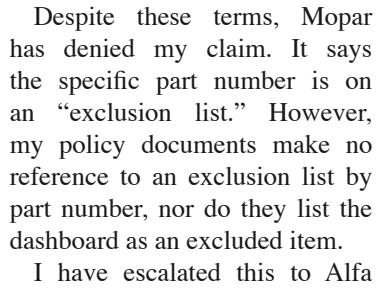
This role prepares, serves, and cleans up a healthy weekly lunch for approximately **12–20 senior participants each Tuesday**, contributing to a welcoming and respectful community environment.

Details:

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

To request full details or apply, contact Tammy Pelton at (951) 970-0176 or email to: Tpelton@vidacommunitycenter.com

My Alfa Romeo's dashboard is falling apart and the warranty won't cover it



Jay Catelli's Alfa Romeo dashboard is defective. He has a warranty that covers interior damage, but the company says his specific part is on a secret exclusion list. Can he get the $14,000 repair covered?

I own a 2019 Alfa Romeo Stelvio SUV covered by a Mopar MVP MultiCare Plus Service Contract. This policy expressly provides protection for interior and exterior damage.

The dashboard in my vehicle is currently separating from the air vents, resulting in a significant gap. The interior section of my policy covers reconditioning, repair, or replacement of surfaces damaged due to normal wear and tear, including loose seam stitches, rips, and tears.

Despite these terms, Mopar has denied my claim. It says the specific part number is on an "exclusion list." However, my policy documents make no reference to an exclusion list by part number, nor do they list the dashboard as an excluded item.

I have escalated this to Alfa Romeo, a division of Stellantis, which also owns Mopar. Alfa Romeo issued my policy. It agrees that the dashboard should be replaced under the policy terms. However, the representative has been unable to secure an agreement from Mopar to authorize the repair.

The cost to replace the dashboard exceeds $14,000. Given the explicit terms of the policy and the absence of any referenced exclusion list in my contract, I'm trying to get this covered. I have written a letter to Stellantis North America Customer Experience but have received no response. Can you help me?

Jay Catelli, Swampscott, Mass.

Mopar should have fixed your dashboard. If your MVP MultiCare Plus Service Contract explicitly covers "interior surfaces" and "wear and tear," and your dashboard is doing a slow-motion separation, then it's an open-and-shut case.

Service contracts—often called extended warranties—are usually one of two types: inclusionary or exclusionary. An inclusionary policy lists exactly what is covered. If the part isn't on the list, you are out of luck. An exclusionary policy covers everything except what is specifically listed as not covered.

If you have an exclusionary policy, you read the fine print and checked the list. The dashboard wasn't on it in your case.

Then Mopar claimed that even though the dashboard isn't listed as an exclusion in your contract, the part number is on an internal exclusion list.

Come on. You can't be bound by a secret list of part numbers that you never saw and didn't sign.

You did an excellent job trying to resolve this yourself. You kept a thorough paper trail. You contacted the dealership, which agreed with you. You contacted Alfa Romeo, which also agreed with you.

In fact, an Alfa Romeo representative told you she tried to reason with Mopar, but Mopar insisted the part was excluded. It is rare to see two divisions of the same parent company—Stellantis—bickering like this over a customer's repair.

When you hit a wall with the normal customer service channels, you can usually appeal to a higher authority. I list the names, numbers and emails for the Stellantis executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

You sent a certified letter to the senior vice president of North America Customer Experience at Stellantis. That was a smart move. But when you didn't hear back, you contacted my team.

You were looking at a bill of more than $10,000 for a problem you paid good money to insure against. That is enough to make anyone's blood boil—and apparently, your dashboard melt.

My advocacy team contacted Stellantis on your behalf. A few days later, you received a call from Stellantis. A representative said the company reviewed your case and reversed its decision.

"Stellantis informed me that they reversed their initial denial and acknowledged that the leather dashboard should have been covered under the plan," you told me.

The company approved the full cost of the dashboard replacement. It's nice to see Stellantis standing behind its product, even if Mopar had to be dragged to the finish line. Next time, let's hope the dashboard—and the warranty—hold together a little better.

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

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William Randolph Hearst

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‘Final boss battle’

Continued From Page 4

with the Society’s secretary, George Himes, to find and mark the exact location where, 57 years earlier, a group of Oregon residents had voted 52-50 to form a provisional government for the Oregon Territory – the step that had led to the territory joining the United States rather than Canada.

Helping them in this quest would be the last surviving member of the group, François X. Matthieu. Matthieu, in fact, had played a key part in that decision, having successfully convinced a fellow French-Canadian to come over to the American side, with the result that the vote was 50-52 rather than a 51-51 deadlock.

Upon arriving at Matthieu’s farm, Geer found that Himes was there, and had brought along a Portland photographer to document the occasion; but Matthieu, having forgotten the appointment, had hopped a train to Portland to run some errands.

A long-distance telephone call ensued, and soon Matthieu was on his way back to Champoeg.

While Geer and Himes waited for their host, Himes suggested that they play a game of Horseshoes.

“This was agreed to, with the declaration on the part of each that he hadn’t pitched a horseshoe for more than 20 years,” Geer recalled. “But I soon afterward had reason to suspect that (Himes) … had forgotten his dates.”

Himes was a strict Congregationalist, so it’s unlikely that any bets were placed. But if they had been, Geer would have been cleaned out. Himes, it seemed, was something of a horseshoe shark.

Finally, after more than an hour of repeatedly having his head handed to him, Geer gave up on the game and went to join the ladies of the house on the porch. There, he made the mistake of commenting that the lawn needed to be mowed.

“I was at once informed that a very good lawn-mower was in the woodshed!” Geer recalled. “Game to the last, I expressed my undying fondness for pushing a lawn-mower — that, in fact, it was one of my particular pleasures in life; and to prove my sincerity, I mowed something like a half-acre of heavy blue-grass during the next hour and a half, much to the enjoyment of the demon Himes.”

Oregon Historical Society

A drawing of then-Governor-Elect T.T. Geer, accompanying an article titled “The Cinncinnatus of Oregon,” which ran in the July 15, 1898, issue of the Weekly Oregonian.

Geer does not say so, but one assumes he slept well and soundly that night.

The next morning, he joined Himes, Matthieu and the photographer on the bank of the river, at the spot where the state government of Oregon was born. Matthieu having pointed out the spot, the governor of Oregon borrowed an ax from a nearby neighbor and used it to chop down a six-inch-thick Garry Oak tree. He then chopped through its trunk again to form a heavy stake. Then he handed over the ax to Matthieu and held it while the old ex-Frenchman struck the first blow, driving the stake into the silty loam. The three of them then took turns pounding on it until it was firmly wedged into the ground.

This done, the governor climbed aboard his Rambler and set out southward, heading back to Salem and home. Was he at least a little sore when he arrived, after so much exertion? The record is silent on that score.

The following January, the Legislature approved an appropriation to install a monument on the site, replacing the stake. It remains there to this day – although to look at it, it’s hard to avoid the suspicion that whoever designed it was rooting for the British side in that 1843 meeting; it resembles nothing so much as a tombstone.

(Sources: Geer, T.T. Fifty Years in Oregon. New York: Neale, 1912; Lundgren, Eric. “Oregon’s First Bicycling Governor,” BikePortland.org, Feb. 16, 2009)

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

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Neale Pub.

Governor T.T. Geer, Oregon Historical Society Secretary George Himes, and pioneer François X. Matthieu pose for a photograph at the spot in Champoeg where, in 1843, a territorial government was formed by Matthieu and 51 others.

Through an Artist’s Eyes

Continued From Page 1

Raised by a photographer mother and an industrial designer and artist father, Schouten-Jones went on to study art, graphic design, illustration, photography and marketing. She has more than three decades of professional creative experience and now works from her studio in the southeast hills of Eugene.

Her mixed-media paintings begin on wood panels, with the natural grain becoming part of the finished composition. She builds layers using watercolor, acrylic, ink, paper fiber, pearlescent pigments and resin.

The resulting surfaces change as light moves across them, revealing different textures and forms — an effect that echoes the shifting surface of the river itself.

Schouten-Jones describes her work as occupying the space between realism and impressionism, where landscapes become expressions of memory, relationships and emotion.

Her paintings have been featured in Professional Artist magazine and SW Hills Living and are held in private collections throughout the United States.

The exhibition also continues the evolving role of The River Run Gallery as a gathering place for arts and community in the McKenzie River Valley.

Located on the historic site founded by artist Ken Scott, The River Run is carrying forward a legacy of artistic expression, craftsmanship and imagination. Its goal is to become a neighborhood gathering place beyond home and work where valley residents and visitors can meet, learn, create and be inspired.

In addition to featured exhibitions, The River Run plans live music, seasonal markets, artist talks and hands-on classes featuring regional artists and makers.

Schouten-Jones’ exhibition offers a fitting connection between that mission and the landscape surrounding the gallery — inviting visitors to see the McKenzie not simply as scenery, but as a place of movement, memory and connection.

The artist opening reception is Thursday, Aug. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. at The River Run Gallery, 42837 McKenzie Highway, Leaburg.

For more information about Schouten-Jones and her work, visit claudiaschoutenjones.com

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McKenzie River Salmon Spawning Surveys are underway

Seeing people up on ladders in rubber rafts is one of the tips that autumn is arriving along the McKenzie River Valley, as the annual salmon survey is underway.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists are once again taking to the McKenzie River and its tributaries for the annual count of spawning spring Chinook salmon, an important measure of the health of one of the river's most threatened native fish populations.

The spawning-ground surveys are conducted each year from August through October, with peak spawning generally occurring in late September. Crews walk and float stretches of the streams.

Their primary task is counting and mapping salmon nests, known as redds, which female Chinook create in gravel beds to deposit their eggs. The surveys help biologists estimate spawning activity and identify important habitat for protection and restoration.

Crews also recover salmon carcasses, checking the fish for clipped adipose fins that identify hatchery-origin salmon. Scales and tissue samples collected from the fish provide additional information about age, growth, migration timing and genetics.

Historically, counts of wild, unclipped adult spring Chinook passing Leaburg Dam have generally averaged between 1,200 and 1,800 fish a year. Recent returns, however, have fallen well below those levels.

By mid-summer 2024, only 272 wild spring Chinook had been counted at Leaburg Dam, putting that year's return among the poorest since the fish were listed as threatened in the 1990s.

Biologists have linked part of the decline to the effects of the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. During the fire, juvenile Chinook at Leaburg Hatchery had to be released earlier than planned and at a much smaller size. Their reduced survival was expected to show up several years later when those fish would normally return to the McKenzie as adults.

Leaburg Library is pleased to introduce Patricia Culwell as our featured artist for the month of August. Her medium is acrylics, and her paintings will be on display through August 31st.

Here's a bit about Patricia – in her own words:

"Patricia's professional name is ELL. She spent her childhood drawing, where art became a quiet way to navigate distraction. In college, she became fascinated with rendering the human form, and after graduating she pursued illustration. In stolen moments with her watercolors and brushes, she wandered trails - exploring, experiencing, and letting nature seep into her work.

Later, after building a log home and raising two daughters, she helped her husband bring to life an English-style brewpub in a small town in the Western Cascade foothills. Now, she lives along the McKenzie River and has found a deep joy in painting with acrylics. Through her art, she explores color, mystery, beauty, and the subtle interplay between the seen and unseen.

Her work is an invitation to look up - to notice the living world around you, its quiet wonder, and the threads that connect us to one another."

I love how she describes her work, and I am so looking forward to spending my own quiet time experiencing the beauty of her art.

Please come and see for yourself. Brew a cup of tea, sit down, relax, and enjoy Patricia's remarkable gifts of "color, mystery . . . the seen and unseen."

The library is open Monday through Thursday, from 1:30 – 4pm, and on Saturday from 10am – 1pm.

I'll see you at the library!

Marty Mealey, Director

Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 1

three decades.

But that's not nearly all. The fight over data centers in Oregon has popped up in many places, some unexpected.

The website Cleanview counts 93 operating data centers operating in Oregon (hitting above average among the states), and 32 planned. Taken together, those operating use 5,098 megawatts.

The largest groupings in Oregon are in Washington County and in the Boardman-Hermiston area near the Columbia River. Secondary groups can be seen at Prineville and The Dalles, but there are smaller batches as well. Some maps indicate a half-dozen or so small data centers are located in downtown Portland.

The push to build more of them has brought the subject to the fore, sometimes in unexpected places.

This spring, Amazon proposed building a data center in the orchard country (the "fruit loop") south of Hood River. At first, local officials seemed poised to approve it, but after community protests the Hood River City Council instead slapped a moratorium on data center construction through at least the end of the year.

Places far afield are being considered as data center sites. The south-of-Bend exurb La Pine (which has an industrial area) is being planned by the Bitcoin mining firm Boxminer, and since its proposal in March city officials have moved toward approving a land sale to facilitate it — at least until a city council meeting in May, packed by hundreds of residents opposed to the project.

Then there's the proposal in Salem, where Verrus, a startup from California, planned to build a $5 billion data center on 32 acres of land it planned to buy from the state. Negotiations with the city had been operating under a nondisclosure agreement for some time until a July 27 Salem City Council meeting when it went public, and dozens of area residents protested.

Within days, Gov. Tina Kotek said she would quash the state element of the transaction, saying "This decision is about my responsibility to make sure state actions reflect Oregon's values and serve the public interest. Oregonians have made it clear they expect thoughtful, responsible decisions about projects of this scale, and I agree."

The Salem City Council voted unanimously Monday to move toward a data center moratorium in the state capital, though that move is too late to block the Verrus proposal that had submitted plans for review before the council action.

Parts of the eastern Oregon data center belt seem uneasy about them too. On July 31, Oregon Rural Action said it would pursue a moratorium on expansion of data centers in the Umatilla and Morrow County area.

These are not just localized outbursts: A national tide has been building against the centers. A May 13 Gallup poll concluded that 71% of Americans somewhat or strongly oppose construction of a data center near where they live, and an Oregon-specific poll Portland-based DHM Research released this week found 71% of Oregonians feel negatively about data centers.

Opposition was strong throughout the state, though pollsters found stronger feelings against data centers among women, young people and Democrats than men, older Oregonians and Republicans.

Political analyst Josh Marshall speculated, "We basically know why they don't want them. They'll bogart all the electricity and water. Drive up rates. Wreck the environment. There's another dimension of it though. The throughline of this age is that you've got these big tech platforms that can do anything they want. It is a society-driving spectacle that is there in plain sight and yet still underappreciated. AI itself captures all of this."

This isn't an issue either major party has really made its own yet. Oregon Democrats have come closer, between Kotek's Salem action and a proposal by four Democratic legislators (aimed at the 2027 legislature) to set a moratorium on new data center development, something 15 other states already have proposed.

But much more is possible. This is a fall campaign issue ready for enterprising candidates to pick it up and run with it.

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

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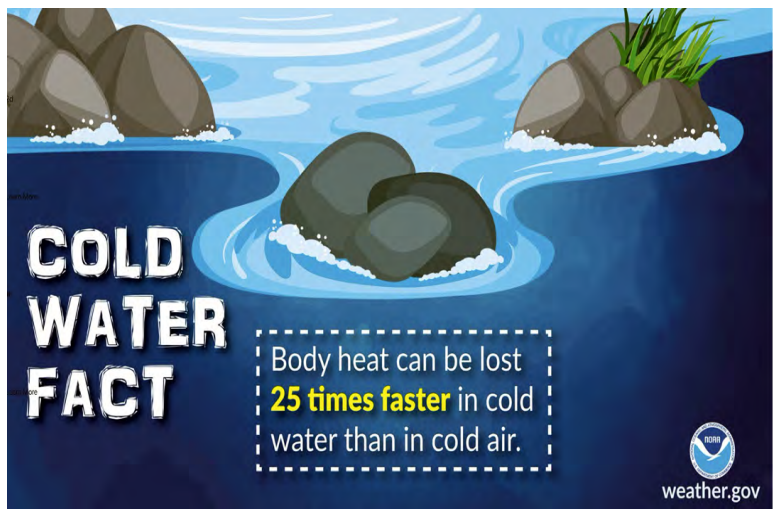
CALL to ARTISTS

The McKenzie River Artists' Guild will be hosting its first ever Autumn Art Show & Sale on October 23rd and 24th this year. We have a small number of tables available to rent for artists from the local community who would like an opportunity to display and sell unique pieces. We are anticipating two single inside tables at $60 each and three completely roofed exterior tables at $50 each. We are seeking some interesting and different art mediums from the community. If you would like to be considered for one of these tables please contact Marjorie Lewellen at mlewellen5@gmail.com by September 13th. When emailing please include at least three photos of your work, contact information and whether you want to be considered for both types of table locations. Our committee will review all submissions and notify those artists that have been selected.



Discovery Center Gains Key Endorsement for $2 Million State Funding Request

Project is among 11 cultural investments before 2027 Legislature

The Discovery Center sits on 46 acres next to Leaburg Lake.

The McKenzie River Discovery Center received an important boost in its effort to build a new museum and educational attraction in Leaburg.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon selected the Discovery Center as one of 11 arts and cultural capital projects it will champion during the 2027 Oregon legislative session. The coalition is recommending $2 million for construction of the McKenzie River Discovery Center, making it one of the largest projects on a statewide list seeking a combined $10 million in Cultural Resources Economic Funds.

For the Discovery Center, the selection is significant because it places the McKenzie River Valley project among a small group of cultural investments that will receive organized statewide advocacy when lawmakers begin considering capital funding in 2027.

The Oregon Legislature will ultimately decide which projects receive money and how much. But CACO's backing gives the Discovery Center an important advocate in Salem as it works to secure the remaining funds needed to bring the project to completion.

CACO looked for projects that are well advanced, have demonstrated private fundraising support and appear positioned for long-term viability.

That puts the Discovery Center alongside projects ranging from historic theater and building renovations in Portland and Southern Oregon to cultural facilities in Eastern Oregon and the Wallowa Mountains.

"It is a privilege to work alongside a dedicated committee of arts leaders to bring forward a slate of capital projects that reflect the full breadth of Oregon's cultural life," said Ginger Savage, chair of the CREF Committee and executive director of Crossroads Carnegie Art Center.

Savage specifically cited the McKenzie project as an example of the statewide reach of the recommendations.

"From expanding accessibility at community arts spaces and rebuilding a sanctuary for creative practice to restoring beloved performance venues and launching a new Discovery Center on the McKenzie River, these 11 projects show what Oregon is capable of when we invest in the places where culture takes root," she said.

For the McKenzie River Valley, the potential $2 million investment carries importance beyond construction of another building.

The Discovery Center is being developed as a place where residents and visitors can explore the McKenzie's natural and cultural history — including the river, fish and wildlife, geology, forests and the people and communities that have shaped the valley.

As the Center moves toward completion, it is also expected to become an important piece of the valley's long-term economic development, helping draw visitors into the Highway 126 corridor and encouraging them to explore other communities, businesses and recreational destinations throughout the McKenzie.

Oregon Rep. Rob Nosse said the The recommended projects include:

Art Center East — $250,000 for ADA renovations

Nightlab — $850,000 for Portland bridge lighting systems

Britt Gardens Music and Arts Festival Association — $2 million for historic building renovation

Cumberland Community Events Center — $250,000 for historic restoration and improvements

Cuomo Theatre Fund — $1 million for building purchase and improvements

Film Forever Northwest — $1 million for renovation of the Hollywood Theatre

McKenzie River Discovery Center — $2 million for Discovery Center construction

Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland — $250,000 for accessibility improvements at the Homeland Gathering Grounds

Portland Youth Philharmonic — $1.5 million for building restoration and renovation

Prismid Sanctuary — $500,000 for rebuilding the sanctuary

Shelton McMurphey Johnson House — $400,000 for its Garden Terrace project

For the Discovery Center, the next major hurdle therefore remains in Salem. The CACO endorsement does not guarantee the $2 million, but it gives the McKenzie River project something important as that process begins: a place on a statewide priority list and an organized coalition prepared to make its case before Oregon lawmakers.

Big Vision

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groups, with the FivePine development in Sisters cited as a possible model.

Participants also envisioned an outdoor recreation center offering raft and bicycle rentals, fishing guides and other services. Winter operations could include ski and snowboard rentals and Hoodoo ticket sales, creating more year-round activity, they felt.

A goal most supported is to build on recreational opportunities that already exist rather than create an entirely new attraction.

If successful, development could potentially create up to 20 full-time and 30 seasonal jobs and generate an estimated $10 million to $12 million in economic activity. Groups visiting for training camps, competitions or recreation could also support restaurants, markets, lodging and other valley businesses.

The existing McKenzie Community Track & Field was repeatedly identified as one of the property's strongest assets. Visiting athletes and international teams have already shown interest in the facility, raising the possibility of Blue River becoming a training and lodging destination connected with major track and field events in Eugene.

Potential partners could include the University of Oregon, TrackTown USA, Lane Community College and Bushnell University.

Other ideas included expanded cycling and mountain bike trails, community events, outdoor concerts, high-speed internet for remote workers and transportation connections throughout the valley.

Participants stressed that any development should remain rooted in the McKenzie Valley, honor the history of the former mill site and respect the intentions of the three Jones sisters who donated the property.

Moving from ideas to construction would require funding, land-use approvals and cooperation with Lane County and state agencies. Organizers said public involvement will also be essential.

Supporters of the project will have a presence at the 6th Annual Community Celebration at McKenzie Community Track & Field on September 12, giving residents another opportunity to learn about, and participate in, the planning process.

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SHERIFF'S REPORT

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- 91500 blk, Dearborn Island Rd.

2:42 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - 56300 blk, Delta Dr.

6:29 p.m: Shots Fired - Blue River Dam.

9:43 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

10:10 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 88900 blk, Ross Ln.

10:36 p.m: ATL Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd.

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

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MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

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Aug. 13: 18:28: Bridge St./ Deerhorn Wayside. Illegal Burn. Informed Personnel, Contact, Extinguished Fire.

21:13: S 79th St./S C St. Smoke Scare. Unable To Locate, ODF in Area.

Aug. 14: 6:37: 42600 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

8:40: 37800 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Illegal Burn. Notified Homeowner Of Equipment Regulations.

12:54: 51500 blk, Blue River Dr. Mutual Aid. Disregarded En Route by Dispatch; Confirmed False Alarm.

14:46: 42700 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

15:32: 41500 blk, Madrone St. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:30: 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Aug. 15: 9:38: 90600 blk, Marcola Rd. Medical, General. Cancelled En Route.

12:56: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded On Scene by Eugene Springfield Fire.

Aug. 16: 2:03: McK. Hwy./ Mp. 10. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported, Traffic Control, Scene Turned Over to OSP.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, September 21, 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.

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Willamette National Forest moves to Stage 2 fire restrictions

Continued hot, dry weather and critically dry forest fuels have prompted the Willamette National Forest to move into Stage 2 Fire Restrictions beginning Monday, Aug. 17.

The restrictions apply across all Willamette National Forest lands, including developed campgrounds and designated Wilderness areas, as officials work to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfires.

Under Stage 2 restrictions, fires, campfires and stove fires are prohibited. The ban includes charcoal briquettes, solid fuels, jellied petroleum and most gas or propane fires.

Devices fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG that can be turned on and off are permitted, provided they are operated within a three-foot perimeter cleared of vegetation.

Chainsaw use is prohibited. Generators may be used only if equipped with an approved spark arrestor and placed in an area cleared of flammable material for at least 10 feet in diameter.

Welding and the use of explosives are also prohibited.

Motor vehicles are restricted to designated National Forest System roads and trails.

Forest officials are asking visitors to use extra caution as dry conditions increase the potential for wildfires to start and spread rapidly.

"Do your part to help firefighters by preventing human-caused wildfires," the Forest Service urged.

Current fire restrictions and additional information are available from the Willamette National Forest.

More info: https://www.fs.usda.gov/.../temporary-fire-restrictions

This Space For Rent
rivref2@gmail.com