Forest begins prescribed burns

The Willamette National Forest is beginning prescribed burning across approximately 600 acres in the next few weeks, depending on how weather and fuel conditions develop. Officials say fire managers will be closely monitoring temperature, humidity, and wind to ensure specific conditions are met and prescribed burns will only be implemented if all parameters are in accordance with the developed burn plans. They’ll also be working with State Smoke Management Forecasters to ensure favorable smoke management conditions, and to limit smoke impacts to roads and communities.

In areas where prescribed fires are conducted, fire personnel will continue to patrol and monitor burned areas until the fire is burned out.

Prescribed burning is a tool to improve forest health and increase resiliency to wildfire. It involves igniting a controlled, low-intensity fire to consume undergrowth and post-harvest organic materials under specific conditions of temperature, wind, and humidity. This limits fire behavior and reduces the likelihood of heavy smoke impacting nearby communities.

Prescribed burning uses low intensity fire to remove hazardous fuels and replicate the natural fire disturbance process under strictly defined weather and fuels conditions,” says Chris Donaldson, Deputy Fire Staff Officer. “These types of projects reduce risk and can increase habitat diversity across the landscape.”

Specific information will be provided prior to each burn day as fuels specialists verify weather conditions are conducive to prescribed burning, and smoke clearance is granted. For information, follow the Willamette National Forest Facebook page or Twitter (@WillametteNF).

Funding to create more than 330 homes approved

“Affordable homeownership” includes Blue River

The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) announced this week the approval of new homeownership development projects that will lead to the creation of 337 new affordable homes.

The goal is to increase homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income people and families in rural and urban communities over the next three years.

In Blue River, a wildfire recovery area, Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) funds will support a new community land trust (CLT) created by a group of residents with a mission to build affordable housing.

With the help of developer DevWW, McKenzie Community Land Trust will build six new homes in downtown Blue River for those who lost their homes in the Holiday Farm Fire.

OHCS released a notice of funding availability (NOFA) in December 2022 and received 53 applications for about $65 million in available funding. All the developments focus on building housing that is responsive to their commuinity's needs and innovative, climate-friendly, and accessible design methods. The funding will be used to advance culturally responsive approaches and increase homeownership opportunities for members of Oregon’s federally recognized tribes.

A 25-year legacy

Nearly 25 years after, the McKenzie High School shooting bring back painful memories for local residents. For most it was hard to comprehend a mass shooting could happen, much less in a school. But in McKenzie and Gloryville a year later, fatal shootings have become more frequent, while debates on making schools safer, gun control, and sentencing juvenile offenders remain unresolved.

Thurston High remembers its own

By Leah Carlson

Two days after a tragic shooting in Springfield, an American flag waves in the wind, and rich splashes of color adorn the chain link fence next to Thurston High School.

Flowers of every kind, notes with prayers or well-wishes, and candles are set up offering of sympathy and hope. Mourners and other community members walk solemnly and thoughtfully along the fence.

At least ten media vans with cameras and suites crowded the street by the fence, and television news correspondents attempted to speak with people. One couple simply refused a request from a local television broadcaster.

An area along the fence was sectioned off by yellow caution tape and signs that said “Press-free zone, Let us mourn in peace, and Friends and family of Ben Walker.”

Most of the notes along the fence were of healing, but some pointed to the anger that people have felt: “Why Kip Why” in large red letters, a white paper plate with the word “Kip” and a swish of his cape, Count Dracula ruined my life.”

I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Heart Will Go On” on his bass clarinet, one of the developers at the McKenzie-Willamette Hospital from a gunshot to the head.

Nine more residents remain hospitalized at either the McKenzie-Willamette Hospital or Sacred Heart Medical Center.

As a Springfield 6th-grader played “My Heart Will Go On” on his bass clarinet, one note along the fence seemed especially applicable: “John 14:18, 27: I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you … Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you … Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Scarnato: Firefighters helping combat wildfires

By Julia Shumway

Forest begins prescribed burns

Forest Health and increase resiliency to wildfires, and to limit smoke impacts to roads and communities. They’ll also be working with State fire officials said Tuesday. Kotek’s press briefing came just ahead of a forecasted heat wave bringing temperatures in the 90s to the McKenzie Valley later this week.

“Even this week, we are seeing how quickly the weather can turn hot and dry,” she said. “Oregonians should prepare for fire season. Prescribed burns this year, have an evacuation plan, have a go-kit. Have a plan if there’s smoke in your community across the landscape.”

Prescribed burning is a tool to improve forest health and increase resiliency to wildfires, and to limit smoke impacts to roads and communities.

“Even in areas at lower elevations, the fire danger is still very high. We’ve got a heat wave coming this weekend, and by the end of the week we could delay wildfires, but drought persists,” said rainy conditions in the Willamette Valley later this week.

“The persistent drought will play out over the summer in areas where fires start and those drought conditions exist,” Shaw said. “Not certain yet how much spring rain we’re gonna get through the rest of this month and into June, and that will really dictate when those drought conditions continue over the summer, firefighters from western states and several Canadian provinces will be closely monitoring temperature, humidity, and winds to ensure specific conditions develop. Officials say fire managers will be closely monitoring temperature, humidity, and wind to ensure specific conditions are met and prescribed burns will only be implemented if all parameters are in accordance with the developed burn plans. They’ll also be working with State Smoke Management Forecasters to ensure favorable smoke management conditions, and to limit smoke impacts to roads and communities.

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School shooting suspect’s home stuffed with booby traps

DeERHORN: Investigators on Saturday were still searching the home of a fifteen-year-old Thurston High School student accused of killing his parents and two classmates.

Kipin was arraigned in Circuit Court on Friday charged with aggravated murder in the deaths of Bill Kinkel, 60, his wife Faith, 57, Ben Scarnato, 16, and Mikayla Nickolson, 17. Police believe the Kinkels were killed Wednesday afternoon.

The following morning, around 8 a.m. witnesses saw the suspect appear with a .22 rifle at the school cafeteria, open it, and on a 50-round clip. Before he left, he stuffed his pockets with booby traps.
RIDIN’ THE RAPIDS

By Ken Engelman

When then means now.

The morning of May 21, 1998, seemed like every other day. I woke inside the Whitewater Cafe in Blue River, the regulars had ordered their usual coffee and the small talk was flowing. Until someone said, “Turn that up.”

Those words came from some one pointing to the black and white TV screen in the cafe. On it was an image with the words, “Thurston, Oregon.”

At first, all of us were bemused to see a local place appearing on a national TV network. But bemusement was quickly dashed as some local businesses were drawn into it. It can happen anywhere, it did here.

It’s time to pull off the blinders and begin thinking of the world as the community we all live in.

Then when means now.

Ridin’ the Rapids

By Ken Engelman

Letters to the Editor

Everyone wins when we support local businesses

Small businesses play a critical role in creating jobs, driving economic growth, and contributing to the overall well-being of rural communities. In many areas, they are the backbone of the local economy, providing essential goods and services.

Spring offers a good reminder of the importance of these entrepreneurs’ contributions, with National Small Business Week, Small Business Month, and other recognitions celebrated in May.

For consumers, it’s a great time to research what’s available in their community, instead of hopping the road to shop at larger chain stores. Directories and websites listing local businesses can be a good starting point, in addition to local newspapers and social media, as small businesses often use them to advertise their services.

It’s important to be patient, as some local businesses do not have the same selection as larger chains and may need to make an order. But, they almost always offer unique products not available elsewhere. Here are some examples:

- Local farmers markets: Markets are the place to find fresh produce, and artisanal food products like cheeses, baked goods, and jams.
- Independent bookstores: These shops offer a curated selection of books, often with a focus on local authors and topics.
- Craft breweries and distilleries: Increasing in popularity, many of these businesses offer unique, locally made beers and spirits.
- Clothing boutiques: Independent boutiques often offer unique, locally made clothing and accessories.
- Home goods and decor shops: These shops can offer unique and interesting products that are locally made, often with a focus on sustainable and eco-friendly materials.
- Locally-based businesses: Businesses such as local grocery and hardware stores, salons, restaurants, and other services keep small communities thriving.

When consumers shop locally, everyone wins. Everyone who stays in the community, supports other local businesses, and contributes to the overall economic health of the area.

Kim Preston
Center for Rural Affairs
Lyons, NE

Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Track and Field teams travel to Bend on Saturday, May 20, to participate in the Mt. Shasta 1A Special District 2 Track and Field Championships. The meet will be held at the Summit Track Complex, on the campus of Summit High School in Bend. Gates will open at 8:00 am and events will start at 10:00 am.

McKenzie Boys’ and Girls’ NHIA At 1A-SD2 NW Sub-District Meet

The North Douglas girls and the Triangle Lake boys teams took home first place honors at the 1A-SD2 NW Sub-District meet held last Friday, May 12, at the Akron and Marie Jones Community Track. The Sub-District meet featured 10 teams in both the boys and girls divisions, competing to qualify for the 1A Special District 2 Track and Field Championships to be held next Saturday, May 20, at Summit High School in Bend.

The North Douglas girls won the meet last Friday, earning 162 points, while holding off second place Triangle Lake, which finished with 141 points. Crow took a distant third with 56 points followed by Cascades Academy of Central Oregon in fourth with 45 points. The boys had Triangle Lake finish with Yoncalla at fifth with 31 points, Mohawk sixth with 29 pts., Mapleton seventh with 26 pts., Elkton eighth with 18 pts., McKenzie ninth with 11 pts., and Mannahouse Academy (Eugene) tenth with 5 pts.

The Triangle Lake boys easily won the team race finishing with 142.5 points in the year. Yoncalla finished in second with 97.5 pts., followed by North Douglas at third with 82 pts. Mohawk took home fourth with 56.5 pts. Trent Peek Van Sickle in a 6th place time of 10.1 in. and Peek followed in 10th with a time of 11.2 in. Jordan also finished 1st in the 200 m., 25.75 seconds and the hurdles event, 10th in the 100 m. hurdles with the 10th seed of 17.56 seconds, and the latter in 43.99 seconds, which was a PR for him. McKenzie’s Levi Lockard took 3rd in the discus with a throw of 98 ft. 10 in., a Season Record, and earned another 3rd in the shot put with a toss of 37 ft. 4 in. Teammate Jacob Peek earned 10th place in the discus with a throw measured at 70 ft. 5 in. and 14th place in the shot put with a toss of 27 ft. 4.5 in., which was a PR. Ray Gerrard out of North Douglas won both events, the discus at 144 ft. 10 in. and the shot put at 40 ft. 2.5 in. Dakota McConnell of Triangle Lake left the meet with a 1st place time of 22.05 seconds, a Personal Record, and he finished 8th in the 300 m. hurdles with a time of 56.66 seconds, also a new Personal Record. Logan Gant of North Douglas won both hurdle events, the first in 17.56 seconds and the latter in 43.99 seconds, which was a PR.

The McKenzie Boys/ Girls team qualified one, Beckah Short, who will represent the Eagles in the 300 m. hurdles and the triple jump. Short is the 14th seed in the 300 m. hurdle event and the 10th seed in the triple jump. Salomon Acvedo qualified in the 100 m. race (10th seed), and the 200 m. race (7th seed). Teammate and brother Alan Acvedo also qualified for the 200 m. race, 13th seed. David Jordan will represent McKenzie in the 110 m. hurdles (9th seed), the 300 m. hurdles (16th seed), and the pole vault (7th seed). Levi Lockard qualified for the shot put (7th seed) and the discus (10th seed). Will Meister will run in the 3000 m. race for McKenzie as a 12th seed. The Eagles 4x100 m. relay team Jordan, A. Acvedo, S. Acvedo, and Trent Peek Van Sickle will compete as a 10th seed and the McKenzie 4x400 m. relay team (Meister, A. Acvedo, S. Acvedo, and Van Sickle) will enter the competition as a 5th seed.

Jovial Jordan Wins 1A-SD2 NW Sub-District Pole Vault

Eagle sophomore Jovial Jordan, in his inaugural season competing in the pole vault event, won the Sub-District meet, clearing the bar at 7 ft. 6 in. Jordan was the lone McKenzie athlete to win an event at the meet. Jordan also finished 5th in the 110 m. hurdles with a time of 22.05 seconds, a Personal Record, and he finished 8th in the 300 m. hurdles with a time of 56.66 seconds, also a new Personal Record. Logan Gant of North Douglas won both hurdle events, the first in 17.56 seconds and the latter in 43.99 seconds, which was a PR. Ray Gerrard out of North Douglas won both events, the discus at 144 ft. 10 in. and the shot put at 40 ft. 2.5 in. Dakota McConnell of Triangle Lake left the meet with a 1st place

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May 4: 10:22 a.m. Assault - Terwilliger Hot Springs. A caller reported getting into a physical altercation with the driver of another vehicle after the other vehicle hit the caller’s parked vehicle.

4:07 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - Keller Ln. & Sunderman Rd. An anonymous caller reported that signs were put up on Keller Ln. that indicated anyone driving on the road would be shot. Signs determined to be on private property.


12:08 p.m. Hit & Run - 38100 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported that a neighbor struck the caller’s vehicle with a van. Deputies responded and determined that the damage to the caller’s truck was old damage.

May 7: 3:49 p.m. Criminal Trespass - 92200 blk, Carson St. A caller reported people moving stuff away from the caller’s grandmother’s house. Determined to be civil in nature.

10:02 a.m. Suspicious Conditions - Lat: 44.228940. Long: -122.893765. Mounds of dirt determined to be caused by a burrowing animal.

May 8: 6:30 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd. A caller reported seeing a person camping in the area that the caller believed to be a missing person from the Springfield Police Department.

May 9: 10:58 a.m. Assist Outside Agency - 54600 blk, Caddis Ln. 2:10 p.m. Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 52300 blk, McK. Hwy. 6:01 p.m. Assist Follow Up - Blue River area.

6:40 p.m. 59800 blk, McK. Hwy. 7:20 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 87800 blk, Upland St. May 10: 10:39 a.m. Disturbance - 92200 blk, Carson St. Civil dispute over property. No crime articulated.

2:39 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. An elderly caller reported that they thought unknown people were on the caller’s property. Deputies responded and conducted a welfare check. No trespassers were located.

3:32 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 90200 blk, Greenwood Dr. A nude female was observed at the Greenwood Boat Landing, possibly associated with a red Pontiac car.

3:44 p.m. Citizen Contact - Dollar Rd. & Cash Creek Rd. 6:40 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 55500 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported finding women’s clothing in the area. The caller reported that the clothes showed up within the caller’s property few days. 9:37 p.m. Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

May 11: 3:01 p.m. Subpoena Service - 39700 blk, Deerhorn Rd. 3:28 p.m. Alarm - 92400 blk, Marcola Rd.

5:09 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 911000 blk, Yeager Rd. A caller reported that someone went inside the LCSO called the caller’s home health care provider to try and get information about someone.

May 12: 12:46 a.m. Assist, Follow Up - 93100 blk, Marcola Rd. 12:59 p.m. Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & N. Gate Creek Rd. 1:30 p.m. Citizen Contact - McK. Hwy. & N. Gate Creek Rd. 1:56 p.m. Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & N. Gate Creek Rd. 3:03 p.m. Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Milepost 50.

4:17 p.m. Restraining Order Service - 90200 blk, Hill Rd. 5:22 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - 34800 blk, McK. View Dr. A caller advised that a pickup bed camper showed up on the corner of the caller’s property within the past week.

5:45 p.m. Suspicious Conditions - Vida area. A caller reported that a known person punched the caller a few years ago and now the caller wants that person arrested. Caller sounded to possibly be intoxicated or suffering from mental health issues.

6:23 p.m. Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy. 6:30 a.m. Reckless Driving - Continued On Page 8

MOVE TO A PLACE THAT MOVES YOU

McKenzie River Specialist
Nadine Scott, broker

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

McKenzie River Reflections

May 8: 10:46: 40365 Tonga

The McKenzie River Fishing Cap

Windermere Real Estate

Thinking of buying or selling? We can help!

We have over 30 years experience specializing in McKenzie Real Estate. Contact us for a professional no-obligation market analysis, or for assistance with all your real estate needs.

Deborah Willhite
541-912-1523

Austin Willhite
541-954-8202
By Clift Richardson
Continued From Page 2

was won by Brodsky Robinson of Mohawk in 24.98 sec. McKenzie’s Willmgton beat his school record PR time of 5:37.60 in the 1500 m race, and a 7th place finisher in the 3200 m race. The 1500 m race was won by Triangle Lake’s Viggio Beck in 4:31.91 min. and the 1500 m race honors went to Wyatt Humphrey of North Douglas, who ran the distance in 30:38.47 min.

McKenzie’s 4x400 m relay team comprised of Meister, A. Acevedo, S. Acevedo, and Van Sickle, finished 3rd with a time of 4:49.63 min. and that race was won by the team of Drake, Ally Peek, Jacob Norlund, and Miller of Lake’s Mitch Dunford, Potter Overvagh, Yosika Baker, and Beck. The Eagle’s 4x100 relay team of Johnson, the two Acedo’s, and Van Sickle finished 5th in a time of 50.93 sec. and the top six times in the state were: the team of Clevenger, Pfeifer Meister, Anna Reidmann, and Molly Jackson of Cascade; the team of McPhee Meister, Kiger Plews, Devan Richardson, Anna Reidmann, and Patty Meister, against the 20 townhomes now owned by Legacy Health.

Oregon has a vast network of neighborhood and in a range of potential funds will support Wallowa Resources to hire staff to focus on the development of a 21st century network that will lead to the construction of 10-20 affordable homes in Wallowa, an area that has fallen behind in building housing.

Of the seven Homeownership Initiatives supported by the five federal funds, the Williams & Russell CDC Homeownership Project is to build 20 townhomes on land acquired in a downtown area for urban renewal in the early 1970s to make way for the expansion of Emanuel Hospital.

Oregon has a vast network of neighborhood and in a range of potential housing that will not only be affordable for homebuyers now but will support wealth building that will impact future generations,” said OHCS Director Andrea Bell.

Among many projects, the record and dedicated volunteers worked there were graciously willing to give up their time to insure that this 2023 track and field season was a winner.

As the spring athletic season can present itself as a challenge alone, and this Spring certainly didn’t disappoint, cold weather, wind, and finally, Old Mother Nature responded to the many calls for dry sunny days. So we jumped right out of our rain gear and into the flying pan. Or so it felt for the girls at the meets. Nonetheless, we collectively, as a community, pulled it off and can now look forward to more and better events and those wonderful Aaron and Marie Jones Track Community values. Thanks again, McKenzie, you are indeed, special!!


Dud was walking and thinking about the novel he’s writing. No reason Dud seemed to size up the other dogs until Duckworth came along. When I explained to her about the novel she asked me, you know? I had no idea what that dog that lady asked me, you know? I had to explain to her about canardy terriers or a bird dog. In the paper bag was a household fire extinguisher connected to a digital timer and you would seem to be an apparent am amish. As a tracer bullet, a porous bullet, said it was detonat, yielding force similar to high explosive.

The bomb squad found more of the chalky substance as well and determined that the disused biscuit, aluminum sulfate, two cans of acetone, and three bottles of dena- tured alcohol. The containers also open to gates of fireworks. Thirty- eight of them, police said, had been altered to increase their explosive potential.

Inside Kip Kinkel’s bedroom there was 13:02.97 min. in the 3000 m. race won by Triangle Lake’s Viggo Beck in 9:40.31 min. and the 1500 m. race won by Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,688 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min. Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,68.8 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min. Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,68.8 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min. Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,68.8 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min. Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,68.8 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min. Triangle Lake’s Samara Baker also finished the meet as well as a 22nd place finisher in the race with a time of 12,68.8 sec. and the 100 m hurdles in a PR time of 16,68.8 sec. and the 300 m hurdles had a PR time of 48.32 sec. in the Triangle Lake 4x100 relay team of Melter, Baker, Madelene Branden, and 3rd place finisher in the race with a time of 32,24.62 min.
Flowers of Springtime

The pole positions in the floral calendar go to the star cherries and forsythia, the soft pink of apple blossoms, white and purple of violets and lilacs all brighten our world in springtime. This year, at my daughter’s home, I’ve discovered that one apple tree has gloriously pink blooms in clusters. The flowers of springtime, which continue on into summer, brighten our spirits and combine with birdsong to bring back memories and make the world seem glorious midst any troubles. Flowers evoke memories.

There must be flowers in your life that evoke memories of a particular place, occasion, or person. Are these wild flowers, bouquets and corsages from a florist, or a plant someone gave you? “It could be affected by rabies or another disease, such as white-nose syndrome, or they may act oddly, such as flying during the day,” Sanchez said. “They might be one of the 15 species of bats in Oregon.”

Of the 15 species of bats in Oregon, the most common are the little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), big brown bat (Eptesicus fuscus), western long-eared bat (Myotis evotis), and western myotis (Myotis evotis). The northern big-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is on the brink of extinction.

* Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight.
* Some live in colonies of 20 million.
* Some bats can be found everywhere in the world except some islands and the polar regions.
* Bats hibernate in winter.
* The size of bats is quite varied.

The humble bee bat in Asia has a wingspan of only 7 inches, while the bumble bee bat in Asia has a wingspan of only 7 inches, while the giant golden-crowned flying fox in the tropics of Asia, Africa, and Europe can have one of up to 6 feet.

* In addition to insects, some bats feed on fish, frogs, lizards, and rodents.
* Many bats are listed as threatened or endangered.
* In Oregon, the most common are the little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), big brown bat (Eptesicus fuscus), western long-eared bat (Myotis evotis), and western myotis (Myotis evotis). The northern big-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is on the brink of extinction.

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“Those of us who are lucky enough to have at least a few trees and shrubs in our backyards can make a difference by just planting bat houses,” Sanchez said. “We can try to mitigate that with bat houses.”

Most importantly, bats are no threat to humans. In fact, according to Bat Conservation International, they are more closely related to humans than humans are to dogs. “If you really want to know, they don’t suck blood, they lap it “like kittens with milk,” BCI says on its website. “Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight.”

“Bats can be found everywhere in the world except some islands and the polar regions,” Sanchez said. “They hibernate in winter. The size of bats is quite varied. The humble bee bat in Asia has a wingspan of only 7 inches, while the giant golden-crowned flying fox in the tropics of Asia, Africa, and Europe can have one of up to 6 feet.”

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Of the 15 species of bats in Oregon, the most common are the little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), big brown bat (Eptesicus fuscus), western long-eared bat (Myotis evotis), and western myotis (Myotis evotis). The northern big-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is on the brink of extinction.

* Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight.
* Some live in colonies of 20 million.
* Some bats can be found everywhere in the world except some islands and the polar regions.
* Bats hibernate in winter.
* The size of bats is quite varied.

The humble bee bat in Asia has a wingspan of only 7 inches, while the bumble bee bat in Asia has a wingspan of only 7 inches, while the giant golden-crowned flying fox in the tropics of Asia, Africa, and Europe can have one of up to 6 feet.

“Some bats are solitary and some live in colonies of 20 million.”

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May 20 - Living River Day
The Living River Exploration Day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd., Eugene. Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds.

May 20 - Plant Sale
The Late Bloomer's Garden plant sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center. There will be a wide variety of plants, refreshments, and laughter.

May 20 - Dime At A Time
The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

May 23 - MCC Meeting
Lane County Board of Commissioners, Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene. The Board of Commissioners meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board Meetings are on an as needed basis.

May 23 - Family Story Time
From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

May 23 - MVW Meeting
McKenzie Water Watch will hold a board meeting on Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. The in-person meeting is at the Living Water Fellowship building at 52355 McKenzie Hwy, in Blue River 97413. To access the zoom meeting, contact Vall Raap at valgabeinekrein@earthlink.net.

May 26 - McKenzie Food Pantry
Food Pantry staff will confer with food pantries in Lane County and produce a list of food distribution availability. Please call ahead to confirm availability.

June 2 - First Friday
First Fridays at Finn Rock Reach are from 9:30am - noon at the Finn Rock Landing. Quartz Creek Road. Join the Friends of Finn Rock Reach from March through November to help care for the Finn Rock Landing area. Projects include tackling invasive species, planting trees and helping with boat launch. You do not need to be a member of the McKenzie River Trust to participate. Contact Brenda Hunter at 541-652-3636 and leave a message.

June 3 - Living River Day
The Living River Exploration Day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene. Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds.

June 3 - Dime At A Time
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June 4 - Pride Outside
A Pride Outside Bird Walk will be held from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at Green Island in Eugene. The McKenzie River Trust is inviting LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors to the island for a morning bird walk at the Willamette Confluence. Led by queer local bird nerds, this walk will be full of fun and education for birders of all ages and levels.

June 4 - Boat Inspections
The Lane County Sheriff’s Office is partnering with Bi-Mart to sponsor Free Boat Inspections to help boaters prepare for the summer season. It will be held on Sunday, June 4th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Mohawk Bi-Mart, 1521 Mohawk Blvd, in Springfield. Bring your boat (any kind) for a free inspection.

June 6 - MCC Meeting
Lane County Board of Commissioners, Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioners meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board Meetings are on an as needed basis.

June 6 - Start & Seed Swap
Want plant starts? Have any plant starts to share? Come to the McKenzie River Valley Start and Seed Swap (Giveaway) in downtown Blue River June 3 from 9 am to noon at the Finch Building in Blue River. You don’t need to bring anything with you, but if you have plants/seeds to share, please do. All varieties of plants and seeds welcome - vegetables, ornamentals, cuttings, annuals, perennials, flowers, natives. For more information contact Sarah Hunter at 541-652-3636 and leave a message.

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I moved from Los Angeles to Eugene with my husband and children. My mother, who had a busy life, left her with three children. She sent an e-mail today asking me to give her $10,000, to her lawyer will continue representing her. My sister already owes her lawyer $9,000. She owes my sister $20,000, and she never talks about paying it back. She is trying to convince a judge she needs more money from her ex so she won’t have to move. Her ex-husband has offered 65% of his check.

It sounds like a lot, but my sister has taken out second mortgages on her home and her house costs $1,500 a month, not including taxes. I don’t know if she is in debt, or if she is just using being able to pay money out of purse whenever she wants and not having to budget. I know she rarely cooks and usually takes the children out for fast food. She asked for government aid, but they say her income is too high to qualify for any help. My husband is willing to give her $1,000, she will assume she can keep asking. Do you have any suggestions?

Trish, you are concerned about your sister’s welfare and would like to make her understand her husband understands the actual situation. Your sister goes through money as if it is water. She doesn’t budget or live within her income. The reason being, her income is not large enough. Her ex gives her most of his income, and it is not enough.

Your sister engages in magical thinking. She is trying to make reality conform to her habits and outlook. Offering her financial help will only encourage her beliefs in magical solutions.

The obvious solution is to sell the house, reduce the debt load, and bring ends in line with her income. She may need to move to another neighborhood and make some lifestyle changes, but that is what is called for.

Give her unlimited emotional support and guidance, but do not subsidize her flight from reality. That may sound harsh, but it is the kindest thing you can do for her.

Wayne

Soap Box

My mother is quite the religious evangelist and political zealot, and it’s getting in the way of our relationship. She insists on discussing her views every time we speak, and she assuages me with unsolicited information by way of letters and one-sided telephone rants.

It doesn’t work to ignore my mother’s enthusiasm or request we don’t discuss religion and politics. Saying I have to get off the phone is most effective, but I am still up nights thinking about her endless “I request” to the end of theoram statements, and she reliably forgets to write down “I request” to the end of the obituary. She, in turn, makes no effort to have anything done with my total devotion. I was devastated.

Renee, in the back of your mind is an idealized picture of domestic life, like one of those Currier and Ives prints. You must convince her that giving us to you so much as she is talking to all those people who won’t stand there and listen to her, for like all zealous, she creates a loathing for her beliefs. She likely treats your sister’s welfare and would like to make her understand her husband understands the actual situation. Your sister goes through money as if it is water. She doesn’t budget or live within her income. The reason being, her income is not large enough. Her ex gives her most of his income, and it is not enough.

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SUDOKU

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SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

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

ACROSS
1. Deep cavity
6. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
9. Supernatural life force
13. French treat
14. Snake-like fish
15. Major Italian city
16. Ring around the sun, pl.
17. Pitcher's stat
18. Donated part
19. Russian President
21. “Nevermind” band
23. “Walkin' on the ____” by Smash Mouth
24. Google search tool
25. Took the bait
28. Between larva and adult
30. Data input device
35. In I.C.U.
37. Dems' opponents
39. One of Florida Keys
40. Be furious
41. *Canada/Mexico/U.S. trade agreement acronym
42. Agitate
43. Unwritten exams
44. Between free and freest
46. Molokai party
47. Telephone Tanny or Sky Dancer
48. Unquestioning tones
50. Greek muse's strings
52. Slightly insane
53. Messy substances

Solution on Page 9

DOWN
1. "____ Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
2. Highlands hillside
3. Raise the roof
4. Leopard marks
5. Bungle (2 words)
6. Part of a hammer
7. “____ the land of the free...”
8. Heathrow craft
9. Type of missile, accr.
10. Aquarium organism
11. Indian bread
12. “____” Kerenina” by Tolstoy
15. Breadcumb, e.g.
20. Contain the ashes
22. Pen Juce
23. “____ the land of the free...”
24. Amount in one's lap, pl.
25. “The Vampire Slayer
26. Accrustation
27. “____ to Kill” and “Nick of ____
29. Bell sound
31. Front or back one
32. Factual evidence
33. Quick and nimble
34. First cloned mammal's name
36. Swam like bees
38. Don't go
40. Pertaining to the ear
41. Same as island
42. Pertaining to reign
45. Motion of assent
46. Port city in Japan
47. *TV show with Central Perk
48. Of low density
49. Port control
50. Pupil controller
51. December 24 and 31
52. Bald eagle's nest
53. Two-fold
54. *Popular Disney movie with a genie
55. Santa ____ winds, CA
56. “Nick of ____”
57. TV show with Central Perk
58. Popular Disney movie with a genie
59. Caterpillar precursor
60. Accompanying winds
68. “Pinkie or The Brain
69. Architectural projection
70. Crème de cassis plus wine
71. Un-written exams
72. ____ pool or ____ pit
73. One of or some or all
74. Find new tenant

THE 1990s

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

tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from May 18th

McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Board meeting
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce is a business organization of volunteers providing members key opportunities for visibility.

May with Mic's - sirens
McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Board meeting

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Emergency? Call 911

Drought persists

Continued From Page 1
economists should follow local rules around fireworks or burning debris, avoiding both on windy days and in dry areas.

Kotek said she hopes to include additional money for combating wildfires in the next two-year budget, assuming an economic forecast released next week shows the state in good shape to spend that extra money.

“We have to protect our communities, which means really looking at the resources that we would normally put into reserve, holding on to some of those things, so we can fund adequate and stable fire prevention and response,” she said. “That’s my pledge to the folks here and that’s what we’re working on.”
Financial strains top of mind for older Oregonians

By Eric Tergehoff
Oregon News Service

A new survey found older Oregonians are concerned about the cost of living in many aspects of their lives. The Vital Voices research program from AARP dove into issues affecting Oregonians age 45 and older.

Bandana Shrestha, state director for AARP Oregon, said the cost of health care and housing top the list of topics on people’s mind.

“One big takeaway from the survey is that Oregonians are really feeling affordability and the economic pressures in all aspects of their lives,” Shrestha reported.

Concern over affording health care expenses increased from 78% in 2020 to 91% in 2023. May is Older Americans Month.

Aging in place is a priority for Oregonians, with 84% of respondents saying it is important to stay in their own home as they get older. Shrestha pointed out the economy presents a challenge to this.

“Especially for people who rent, three quarters experience financial pressure,” Shrestha noted.

“If there’s any rent increases, that would impact their ability to continue to remain at home.”

Shrestha added political leaders are an important part of the conversation.

“Whether we are talking about our public policymakers at the state or local level, they have an important role to play in ensuring that we have the service and supports necessary to be able to thrive throughout our lifetime,” Shrestha contended.

The survey showed Oregonians are concerned about having access to the caregiving resources they need, and many feel stressed about the care expenses increased from 78% in 2020 to 91% in 2023.

Removing financial pressure, three quarters experience financial pressure.

Oregon’s deer and elk give birth in late February through early summer. Many wildlife species will leave their young alone and hidden for extended periods of time while they go off to feed, so never assume a young animal is orphaned when you see it alone. The mother will return when it’s safe to do so—when people, pets or predators aren’t around. Deer and elk see dogs as a threat to their young and may act aggressively in response to disturbance from a dog.

Marine mammals

Harbor seal pups are born in late March through April. Female often leave their pups at haul-outs or along sandy beaches while searching for food. Never pick up or handle a seal pup or any other marine mammal you find at the beach. Beachgoers should stay at a safe distance from resting seals and sea lions and keep dogs away from these animals as well. Marine mammal strandings should be reported to OSP’s hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

Birds

Birds nest in the spring and young birds may be found from late February through early spring. Some baby birds, called fledglings, may become separated from their parents as they learn to fly. These are sometimes brought to be abandoned and brought to wildlife rehabilitators. Unless obviously injured, birds should be left where they are or lifted carefully back onto a branch to help them avoid predators (like outdoor cats), so they have the best chance at survival.

Ducklings and goslings frequently become separated from their mothers due to disturbance from humans or predators. If you spot young waterfowl without a mother, please leave them alone and leave the area so the mother can return.

Detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Oregon continue this year and it is important to avoid contact with wildlife (ducks and geese). Do not feed ducks and geese. Feeding congregates vulnerable birds and enables the disease to spread between birds more easily. Also, note that Oregon’s wildlife rehabilitators are not currently accepting sick ducks and geese to protect other avian patients and education birds in their care.

Removing an animal from the wild often does more harm than good. Please respect wildlife and if you care – leave them there.
How Rep. Charlie Conrad changed his mind to vote for abortion, gender-affirming care
Talking with doctors and parents of trans kids persuaded him

By Jukia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle
Everyone at the Oregon Capitol knows how an April vote on legislative Democrats' sweeping measure to expand access to abortion and gender-affirming care would go.

Democrats who hold the majority in the Legislature believe voters, and are a make-up vote in support of the bill that would allow abortion and gender-affirming care for minors. Republicans adamantly opposed it, focusing most of their ire on provisions in the bill allowing minors of any age to obtain abortions, contraception and other reproductive health care for a minor, with parental notification or rebuttal.

But what followed that vote was a surprise: One Republican, who has voted for the party's minority, changed his mind on HB 2002 after doing more research.

Rep. Charlie Conrad, a freshman representative and former police officer from the small unincorporated community of Dexter in rural Lane County, joined Republicans in voting against it in the House Behavioral Health and Housing Care Committee. He worried that young people would succumb to social pressure or poor decision-making skills and go down a path of medical transition that they’d come to regret.

“We need to do better for them, and we need to protect them,” he said before voting against the bill.

But then, as Conrad later explained in an interview with the Capital Chronicle, he realized that he was voting against the will of parents of trans kids and learn more about what kind of care is provided for minors. And needed to vote in line with what he knew about gender-affirming care.

“I haven’t had personal experience with that,” he said. “I don’t have any friends or family that have gone through that, or friends that have kids that have gone through that. That’s a realm that I don’t have a lot of personal and relevant experience with.”

So he decided to learn what he could. He reached out to health care providers, who helped him connect with parents of trans kids and learn more about what kind of care is provided for minors. And needed to vote in line with what he knew about gender-affirming care.

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