



Serving the McKenzie River Valley ... And Subscriber Teresa Brainard of Blue River

Sheriff's Reports

A caller advised that a known person was distributing a nude picture of the caller.

PAGE 3

Too much gold?

The state was knee-deep in gold dust, but it was really hard to pay for stuff with it.

PAGE 4



More returns in 2023?

300,000 Chinook to enter Columbia River this year



PublicDomainImages /Pixabay

The composition of wild Chinook returns in the McKenzie River has been higher in recent years, averaging 22% since 2010.

Fishery managers are predicting more spring Chinook salmon will be returning to the region this year, although only 10 percent are likely to be wild fish. According to a recent report, Oregon's and Washington's when native returns in 2022 amounted to 15.5 percent.

Historically, wild spring Chinook spawned in nearly all the eastside Willamette tributaries above Willamette Falls. During 1952–1968, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dam-building projects blocked more than 400 miles of wild spring Chinook spawning and rearing habitat.

Some residual areas remain, including about two-thirds of the McKenzie River and about one-quarter of the North Santiam River. However, upstream dams affect these areas through the alteration of flows and temperature. The majority of the Clackamas River Basin remains accessible to natural production, although a three-dam hydroelectric complex has impacted its migration and rearing conditions.

The wild Willamette spring Chinook population was previously estimated at about 10–12%, with the majority destined

More returns? - Page 9

Ideas for 126 aired

Safety updates on ODOT's five year agenda

LEABURG: All the seats were full when the Oregon Department of Transportation hosted a safety study meeting on February 4th. Lacy Brown, an ODOT transportation engineer specializing in safety told the group ODOT would study data to understand crash patterns and combine that with community input to come up with recommendations for about 56 miles of Hwy. 126 between the metro boundaries and the junction with U.S. 20.



People had an opportunity to log their input into laptop computers featuring a pinpoint map, as well as verbally, at last Saturday's Highway Safety meeting.

Some of that community input had already been gathered from over 100 people who logged onto ODOT's Highway Safety Study website dedicated to Hwy. 126 East. Some of those comments provided a general overview ranging from eliminating pass-ing lanes within area communities to concerns about narrow shoulders along the roadway. Others were more specific, mentioning things like the narrow bridge over the Walterville canal and westbound traffic buildups created when someone is turning onto the Goodpasture covered bridge.

Information collected

between 2016 and 2020 revealed that within the study area, an average of 89 crashes occurred per year. A dozen of those were categorized as either serious or fatal accidents with half involving speeding or impairment. When those crashes occurred, Brown said the involved vehicles wound up hitting fixed objects, sideswiping another car, overturning or hitting another vehicle head-on.

For solutions, ODOT says it plans to identify ten safety focus areas to implement ways to improve safety that are low-cost, feasible, and buildable within the next five years.

Better striping, Brown

said, would fit into the lower-cost category but would likely apply to the whole study area. She said plans are underway to develop "small community toolboxes" that would be different from the more rural sections of Hwy. 126 where street intersections or concentrations of driveways don't exist.

For people planning to ask for speed reductions within small towns, there was some good news. In the past speed zones were set at a level equal to how fast 85 percent of vehicles were going as they passed through. That has since been reduced to the speed of 50 percent of those travelers.

Electric transmission lines

Often ignored, but key to NW's renewable future

By Eric Tegethoff
Oregon News Service
Oregon is pursuing an aggressive climate plan to switch to renewable energy sources, but it faces one often overlooked issue: enough high-voltage power lines to facilitate the transition.

An Oregon law requires utilities to cut greenhouse

gas emissions to zero by 2040. However, the Northwest's aging transmission lines will need a reboot to ensure wind and solar resources on the east side of the Cascades make their way west.

Emily Moore, director of climate and energy at the Sightline Institute, said lines can take 10 to

20 years to build, and the grid is nearing capacity.

"We need to be looking much farther into the future in order to start those complicated processes now," Moore contended. "And not wait a decade or 20 years until it's much more urgent."

Moore argued creating a plan for building power lines in the region is going to be critical. She pointed out that a glut of wind and solar projects in the Northwest cannot come online because there is a lack of transmission capacity.

There are several hurdles to siting transmission lines. Negotiations are required with landowners and tribes, and not every community likes the idea of having tall lines stretch across the land.

Fred Heutte, the senior policy associate for the

Transmission lines - Page 9



There are more than 15,000 miles of transmission lines in the Northwest, including these in Rainbow.

Summer work coming for Hwy. 126

\$5 million project extends from Milepost 21 to 26

VIDA: The Oregon Dept. of Transportation's "Greenwood Dr - Vida" project is scheduled to go out to bidders on February 16th. Officials say the pavement resurfacing project is designed to replace deteriorating roadway surface that has come to the end of its useful life. Details will also include upgrades to the deck membranes on four bridges within the project limits.

"This is an important statewide route and the pavement in this section is quickly getting worse," according to an ODOT press release. "The road surface is breaking apart and cracking. Our maintenance crews are having to do more frequent repairs and patching to keep the road usable."

During the project, scheduled for the summer of 2023, work crews will be grinding and removing the top layer of the road surface and then replacing it with a brand-new layer of asphalt to restore the structural strength of the roadway. They will also make some bridge and guardrail repairs and will apply new striping.

"This will create a smoother ride for



Crews should be busy along 5 miles of the McKenzie Hwy. this summer.

drivers and reduce the cost of maintenance," officials say.

The Oregon Department of Transportation is responsible for the contract and delivery of the project, which to date has cost \$403,100 for the design phase from Milepost 21.65 to 26.58. The construction costs are projected to be \$5,226,000. ODOT advises that design projects that are funded through pre-construction may include buying land, moving utilities, or completing final plans

Guest Opinion

Water makes the rules

By Michelle Nijhuis

One hundred years and a few months ago, in November 1922, representatives of seven Western states gathered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to divide up a river. As we now know, the Colorado River Compact calculated each state's share of the basin's water based on an unusually wet period, rendering the compact's promises suspect from the start. And those dubious promises benefited an exclusive few; left out of the discussion were all of the basin's Indigenous nations, the nation of Mexico, and anyone who might view the river as anything other than a servant of development. Had the conversation been broader, someone might have suggested that though humans can try to make rules for water, water obeys its own.

Since the signing of the compact, Mexico has negotiated a share of the Colorado River, and 22 of the basin's 30 federally recognized tribes have gained legal recognition of at least some of their rights to the river's water — although many tribes are still fighting for access to that water, and for an

equitable role in negotiations. The federal Bureau of Reclamation has periodically acknowledged the river's own needs, at times allowing water to be released from Lake Powell, the reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam, to mimic seasonal flooding and benefit downstream habitats. And, since the turn of the century, many of the basin's largest cities have reduced their water consumption so dramatically that, even as their populations have grown, their overall water use has decreased.

At the same time, the river itself has dwindled, starved by the ongoing megadrought. The promises of the Colorado River Compact, never reliable, are now nearly empty; water levels in Lake Powell have reached record lows, threatening regional hydropower and downstream water supplies.

As HCN contributor Craig Childs writes in this issue, the demise of Lake Powell has sharply contrasting consequences. Upstream of Glen Canyon Dam, cottonwood and willow forests are making an intoxicatingly rapid recovery, and the wonders of long-drowned side canyons are being revealed. Downstream, though, the river is a less and less reli-



able lifeline for humans and other species, and for their respective habitats. Furious negotiations are underway throughout the basin, but a basic problem remains: The river never agreed to fulfill the compact, and it is reaching its own limits.

The Colorado River is not the

only Western body of water threatening a work stoppage. Climate change and human overuse are draining the Great Salt Lake, too, and scientists now estimate that if the lake continues to shrink at current rates, it will be gone in five years. As several stories in this issue suggest, there are ways to

live within our ecological means, but all of them require us to acknowledge that water gets the last word.

Michelle Nijhuis, is the acting editor-in-chief of the High Country News in Paonia, CO.

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams host Eddyville Charter on Thursday, February 9, at Finn Rock. The Boys tip-off at 5:30 pm and the Girls game follows at 7:00 pm. The game with Eddyville Charter will also be Senior Night for the

Eagle teams.

The Eagle teams travel to Crow on Friday, February 10 and again, the Boys game is scheduled for a 5:30 pm start and the Girls will tip-off at 7:00 pm. The following Monday, February 13, the two McKenzie teams travel to Mapleton, which is the last scheduled MWL regular season game. The Boys game will start at 5:30 pm and the Girls finish up the competition for the night starting at 7:00 pm.

Triangle Lake Tops Eagles 57-19, C.S. Lewis Too, 54-32

The McKenzie Eagle Varsity Boys Basketball team took a couple of road trips last week. The first, on Tuesday, January

31, found the Eagles traveling to Triangle Lake to meet the Lakers. Triangle Lake currently resides in second place in the latest Mt. West League standings, two games behind leader Mohawk.

McKenzie rolled into Lakerville still seeking a season-first victory, but the Lakers, good hosts as they always are, were reluctant to accommodate their visitor's wishes. Bottom stat line, Triangle Lake 57, McKenzie 19.

McKenzie freshman Allen Acevedo finished with 9 points to lead his young team and he added an assist and 3 steals to his personal stat line. Fellow frosh Will Meister scored 5 points, had 3 rebounds and a steal and junior Griffin Withalm wrapped up his

game with 3 points and 2 rebounds. Junior Salomon Acevedo had 1 point and 3 rebounds and fellow junior Thomas Hayes added another point and 5 boards. Sophomore Jovial Jordan and senior Trent Peek each grabbed 1 rebound.

Following the trip out to Triangle Lake earlier in the week, the Eagles again packed up the team bus on Friday, February 3, this time hitting the road North via I-5 to Newberg, where they tangled with the Watchmen of C.S. Lewis Academy. Still seeking that elusive first victory, the Eagles would find themselves yet searching following a 54-32 loss on the night.

In that game, Meister led his teammates with 14 points, 7 rebounds, and a steal. Allen Acevedo finished with 8 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, and 4 steals. Peek added 6 points, 7 boards, and a steal, Hayes scored 3 points, 7 rebounds, and an assist, and

Salomon Acevedo finished with 1 point, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, and 3 steals. Jordan grabbed 1 rebound and had a couple of steals.

The McKenzie Boys Basketball team has two games remaining on its 2022-23 Mt. West League regular season.

Watchmen Drop Eagle Girls, 34-10

McKenzie's Varsity Girls Basketball team lost a non-league game to C.S. Lewis Academy up near Portland at the Watchmen's campus in Newberg. The Watchmen team is a member of the Casco League and currently sits in third place behind OSAA fifth-ranked St. Paul and second place Crosshill Christian.

McKenzie has two games remaining on the 2022-23 regular season and at least one MWL post-season game scheduled at Mapleton. The McKenzie Girls Basketball team does not furnish official game stats.

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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
1/31	42	23	0	NA	1/31	46	24	0	2,830 cfs
2/1	43	25	0	318 cfs	2/1	50	28	0	2,780 cfs
2/2	48	26	0	459 cfs	2/2	59	27	0	2,640 cfs
2/3	51	40	0.05	448 cfs	2/3	52	30	0.02	2,610 cfs
2/4	50	39	0	477 cfs	2/4	49	36	0.10	2,700 cfs
2/5	44	38	0.52	480 cfs	2/5	55	41	0.27	2,750 cfs
2/6	44	33	0.10	477 cfs	2/6	49	37	0.33	3,150 cfs

Friday 2/10		Saturday 2/11		Sunday 2/12	
McKenzie Valley Showers 60% chance precip High: 50 Low: 38	Santiam Pass Snow Showers 50% chance precip High: 37 Low: 23	McKenzie Valley Showers 40% chance precip High: 49 Low: 35	Santiam Pass AM Snow Showers 40% chance precip High: 36 Low: 24	McKenzie Valley Showers 20% chance precip High: 52 Low: 39	Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 40 Low: 28

Sheriff's Report

Jan. 30: 10:50 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Carson St. A caller advised that a known person was distributing a nude picture of the caller.

Jan. 31: 7:24 a.m: Alarm - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:05 p.m: Speeding Vehicle - 38300 blk, Wendling Rd.

6:32 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 37500 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Caller's house was egged.

6:47 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. Mp. 3.

6:58 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

Feb. 1: 3:45 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 91700 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd.

7:26 a.m: Alarm - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:58 a.m: Alarm - 93200 blk, Ewing Rd.

5:54 p.m: Stalking Order Service - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln.

Feb. 2: 4:44 p.m: citizen contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

1:14 p.m: Harassment - 51100 blk, Blue River Dr.

3:36 p.m: Dog at Large - Finn Rock Landing.

11:39 a.m: Warrant Service - Nadeau Rd. & Marcola Rd.

6:20 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Camp Creek Rd. & Gemstone Rd.

5:48 p.m: Welfare Check - McK. Hwy. & Thurston Rd.

Feb. 3: 7:19 a.m: Alarm - 42700 blk McK. Hwy.

12:26 p.m: Disorderly Subject - 40100 blk McK. Hwy.

2:12 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & Paschelke Rd.

5:38 p.m: Down Line - 43900 blk McK. Hwy.

6:18 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Taylor Rd.

6:50 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Taylor Rd.

Feb. 4: 11:16 a.m: Theft From Vehicle - Camp Creek Rd.

1:29 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

3:47 p.m: Reckless Endang-

ering - 38100 blk, Queens Rd.

5:24 p.m: Assist, Information - 38500 blk, Wendling Rd.

Feb. 5: 12:39 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Marcola Rd. & Donna Rd.

5:27 a.m: Disabled Vehicle - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

10:53 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Marcola Rd. Milepost 4.

11:47 a.m: Missing Person - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

1:13 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

1:46 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

1:54 p.m: Custodial Interference - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

Feb. 6: 6:29 a.m: Traffic Hazard - 38700 blk, E. Cedar Flat Rd.

1:17 p.m: Assist, Information - 45100 blk, McK. Hwy.

1:53 p.m: Fraud - 37900 blk, railroad Ln.

2:34 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 40300 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

5:09 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Goodpasture Rd.

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

State Police Report

Feb. 2: 02:33: Warrant Arrest - Marcola Rd. Milepost 17. Troopers stopped a driver for an observed violation. The driver was Misdemeanor Suspended for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, and a statewide warrant for Meth. The driver was taken into custody without incident and subsequently transported to Lane County Adult Corrections where she was lodged on the warrant. The vehicle was secured at the scene. Involved: blue Ford Ranger, 58-year-old female from Marcola.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue



On Monday, January 16th, John Sullivan took the Oath of Office to fill Board Position #5. Welcome John.

Jan. 30: 13:02: 38000 block, McK. Hwy. Flue Fire. No Fire Upon Arrival.

14:50: 42 000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:03: 38000 blk, Kickbusch Ln. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

23:22: 91000 blk, Angels Flight Rd Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Signed

Jan. 31: 12:11: 41000 blk, Deerhorn Rd Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

17:59: McK. Hwy. Milepost 43. Mutual Aid. Cancelled Prior To Arrival.

Feb. 1: 12:28: 87000 blk, **Continued On Page 9**

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Jan. 31: 17:56: Brush Fire - McK. Hwy./Milepost 43. 6-foot diameter log pile on fire, not attended.

Feb. 3: 07:05: Medical - 54000 block, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

16:50: Medical - 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Male patient.

Feb. 4: 16:19: Medical - 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

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

NEW: Long Sleeve T.



MRR McKenzie River Reflections

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

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45061 McKenzie Highway

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Oregon had the jump on Gold Rush

By Finn J.D. John

If you'd been lucky enough to live in Portland in July of 1848, you would have been able to say, literally, that your ship had come in.

The ship in question was the sailing ship Honolulu. And, funny thing: she arrived in port in ballast, with her cargo holds empty.

That raised some eyebrows. At the time, Oregon was not even part of the U.S.A. yet — just a vast extranational territory jointly claimed by the U.S. and Britain. There was no national government authority to issue money, nor was there any gold or silver around to make money with. Wheat was officially legal tender there; but, there wasn't much wheat being harvested in July. All of Oregon was on a barter economy. Down in Oregon City, Provisional Governor George Abernethy was actually using specially marked pebbles, known as "Abernethy Rocks," as fungible I.O.U.s in the Methodist mission mercantile store that he was in charge of.

Presumably, the captain of the Honolulu would not be interested in investing in Abernethy Rocks. So, what was he going to do in Portland with nothing to trade with?

The answer wasn't long in coming. The skipper headed straight into town almost the moment the Honolulu was at the dock. He raced from one store to another, snapping up every pick, shovel, and washpan he could get his hands on.

And paying for them with gold dust.

He told everyone who cared to listen — after he'd bought all their digging equipment, of course — that he was planning on bringing all of it straight to San Francisco, where he would make a killing selling it for dollars on the penny to gold prospectors.

And that was how the residents of Portland learned what had happened at Sutter's Mill, down in what a few months before had been Mexico. The California Gold Rush had broken out. And it was going to make most of them rich because they had a good ten-



Postcard

A very old hand-tinted postcard shows three prospectors panning for gold.

month head start on the rest of the world.

Within just a few weeks, the Willamette Valley was virtually depopulated. Crops rotted in the ground. According to the census the next year, the population of the entire territory — which at the time included what's now Washington and Idaho, along with parts of Montana and Wyoming — was less than 8,800 people.

So, by the time the New York Herald got the word and splashed it all over its front page on Aug. 19, putting the Eastern Seaboard on notice of the strike, Oregonians had been pouring over the border for a whole month already.

They raced southward as quickly as they could, knowing most of the mining would have to be done during the summer and fall. And yes, some of them did get skunked; but most of them did not. After all, this was the biggest gold rush in history, before or since. In its early days, miners were washing big nuggets out of streambeds with gold pans, and virtually anyone could make a fortune there.

And by the time the first ships crammed with gold-rushers from back east arrived in San Francisco, some eight months later, Oregon's gold-rushers had already spent a very productive season scrounging up the "easy pickin's" and staking out their pick of high-grade mining claims.

When they returned to their neglected farms, these Oregonian "miner forty-eighters" had thou-

sands of dollars worth of gold in their pockets, but the people who'd stayed home and worked their farms, they learned, had done almost as well. The thing was, one could not eat gold. Someone had to grow food and so many of the people who usually do that had skipped out to look for gold instead that food was in short supply. Consequently, prices were astronomical.

Soon ship, after ship was headed out over the Columbia River Bar, loaded with Willamette Valley wheat and other foods and coming back with even more gold.

But now Oregon had a new economic crisis and one that was the complete opposite of the situation six months earlier. Back then, people had been on a barter system, swapping bushels of wheat for wagon tires and paying for groceries with Abernethy Rocks. Now the whole state was knee-deep in gold dust, but it was really hard to pay for stuff with gold dust. Most merchants didn't have scales to weigh it with, and none

were available for sale. One could jerry-rig a balance scale, of course, but how would anyone know your "one-ounce" weight was really an ounce, or that your home-built scale was even accurate?

Also, swindlers very quickly figured out that mixing fine yellow sand with gold could stretch it very nicely. So merchants started getting stiffed. In response, they lowered their exchange rates to compensate. From about \$16 an ounce, gold dust value dropped to about \$11.

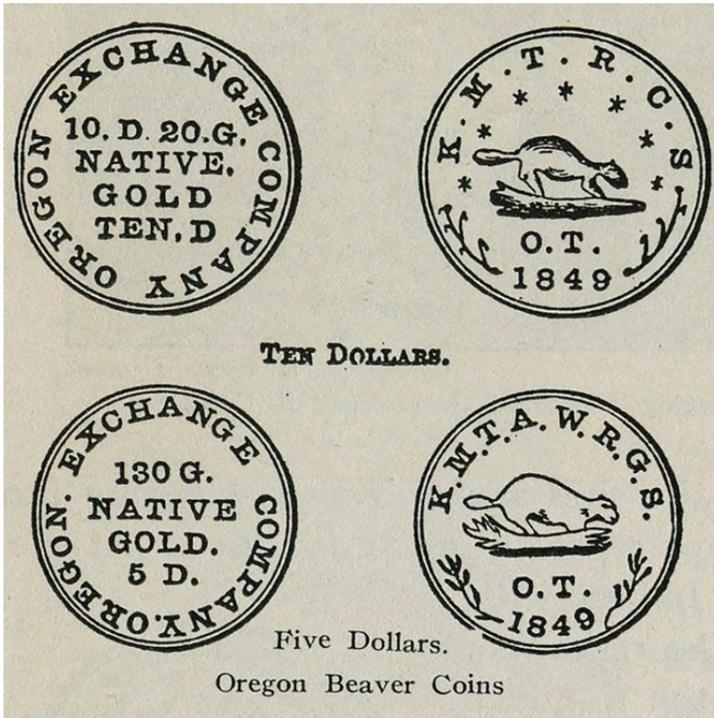
Some Oregonians tried buying Central American money for use in trade. The problem with that was, those countries were already famous for debasing their coinage. A Mexican coin nominally worth half a dollar's worth of pesos might only contain ten or twenty cents' worth of silver. This didn't seem like much of an improvement on the Abernethy Rock system.

With that in mind, a group of Portland and Oregon City business leaders, including Abernethy himself, started minting their own coins.

They formed a private company, bought up gold dust, melted it down, and minted it into \$5 and \$10 gold pieces using strikers made from old wagon tires.

These coins had all the business leaders' initials stamped into them in a giant, cryptic row across the top of one side, along with a picture of a beaver, to function as a sort of personal certification. They made the decision to make the coins out of pure gold, unalloyed, even though that meant they would be super soft and would wear poorly. That was because everyone knew that Oregon was on the verge of

Gold Rush - Page 9



Wikimedia

The "Beaver Money" coin designs, reprinted from John Horner's 1919 Oregon history book.



By Slim Randles

It's coming up on St. Valentine's Day, so I thought I should share the love story of Coalie and Wilma, and every word is true.

Coalie was one of Sequoia-Kings Pack Trains' mules. Coal black of course, and if he should get a good shot, you could be kicked. Pack mule, not riding mule. Wilma was a little brown mule belonging to Rock Creek Pack Station out of Bishop, some 40 miles north of us.

Well, my boss, Gene Burkhart, and Rock Creek's boss, Herb London, pastured their pack stock together each winter just outside Independence. Come June, we'd go catch our stock out of this 110,000-acre mostly desert ranch, and string them together and lead them straight up about 10 miles to a little meadow called Onion Valley, where our headquarters were. It took days to get them all up there.

Herb's packers would truck his stock more than 40 miles north, through three towns and lots of rough country, to their pack station.

It was about three days after I'd led a string of mules overnight to the pack station, including Coalie, and got ready for our season. I went out in the morning and found a little brown mare mule giving muzzle snuggles to Coalie. From the brand on her, we knew she was one of Herb's, so Gene called him and Herb drove all the way to get her.

Four days later, she was back in the mule corral making mulie smooches with her boyfriend. She had tracked Coalie from the winter pasture down 40 miles of highway 395, across five miles of desert and up nine miles of mountains. Twice.

Mules have gender, but are sterile hybrids and don't "mate" physically. They are a combination of a horse mother and a donkey dad.

Gene and Herb decided love was stronger than anything else we had around there, so Gene gave Herb a mule, and Wilma became ours. Well, Coalie's.

After that, for as long as they lived, if you took one, you had to take the other.

A few of the old packers said they'd heard about mules occasionally getting "married" but this was the first time seeing it, and it was the first for me, too.

So Happy Valentine's Day, Coalie and Wilma, wherever you roam these days. Thanks for setting a good example for the rest of us. The world loves lovers.

Brought to you by Hug-a-Horse Thrift Store in Edgewood, NM. Good folks work there. <https://www.thriftstores.net/store/7383/hug-a-horse-thrift-store>.



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Gardening Tips
By Kym Pokorny
Oregon State University
OSU Extension Service

Myth vs. reality: the truth behind common gardening practices?



Reality can get skewed when there are so many sources of information – books, magazines, newspapers, nurseries, and, most of all, the internet and social media open up lots of room for contradiction. So, how do you find the right answer to gardening questions?

Nine experts from Oregon State University Extension Service stepped up to bust some common gardening myths. Read on to get some research-based answers to 10 common misconceptions.

For additional questions, call the OSU Extension master gardeners in your area.

MYTH: You should top a tree to control its height.

REALITY: Trees are programmed to attain a certain height. Topping only temporarily delays the inevitable. The resulting sucker growth, which grows rapidly in an attempt to provide food for the compromised root system, is weakly attached. This creates an even greater hazard. Additionally, the trunk is not a limb and cannot use the tree's architectural physiology to seal the wound caused by topping. This often leads to a slow death for the tree. – Al Shay, horticulturist and site manager for OSU's Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture

MYTH: Lime will remove moss from your lawn.

REALITY: Lime will not fix the problem. Moss prefers to grow in wet, shady conditions. Lawns with moss need more sunlight, i.e. trimming, pruning, and thinning trees. If you like the trees the way they are you will continue to have moss and you should think about shade-tolerant alternatives to grass. Moss also grows well in infertile soils, which includes acidic (low pH) soils, but more importantly, it also includes nitrogen-deficient soils. Lawns, like a lot of cultivated plants, prefer nitrogen-rich soils. Regular fertilizer applications (four applications per year, two in the fall and two in the spring) with products containing nitrogen, combined with improved sunlight will result in a green, dense lawn that can out-compete moss. – Alec Kowalewski, OSU Extension turf specialist

MYTH: Ponderosa pine needles make the soil more acidic (low pH).

REALITY: The notion that pine needles change the soil pH so that nothing will grow or that it will damage plants has been out there for years. The truth is pine needles

do not make the soil more acidic. It is true that pine needles have a pH of 3.2 to 3.8 (neutral is 7.0) when they drop from a tree. If you were to take the freshly fallen needles (before the needles decompose) and turn them into the soil right away, you may see a slight drop in the soil pH, but the change would not be damaging to the plants.

For those of you that leave the needles there on the ground, they will begin to break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers) in the soil will neutralize them. So, you can leave them there (if you're not in a wildfire-prone area). They are a good mulching material that will keep the moisture in, suppress weeds, and eventually add nutrients back to the soil. You can also add them to a compost pile; they will slowly break down over time. If you run them through a shredder they will break down faster. A general rule of thumb is not to add more than 10 percent of pine needles to your compost pile. If you are having difficulty growing other plants under your pine trees it is likely due to the fact that evergreen roots are numerous and shallow and compete for water and nutrients. The shady conditions under a tree can also make growing other plants a challenge. – Amy Jo Detweiler, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Just add more compost to the soil.

REALITY: Adding organic matter to the soil in the form of compost helps to improve soil structure and promote long-term plant health, but adding too much compost at once or over time can lead to problems. If the soil organic matter is much higher than ideal (5 to 8 percent), the soil can have too much available phosphorus, which can stunt plant growth and potentially leach into the water table. Also, some composts can be high in salts, which can also impact plant growth. – Weston Miller, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Bee houses help promote and conserve bee diversity.

REALITY: Although some bee species nest in the cavities provided by bee houses, most bee species nest in the ground. Research out of Canada shows that most cavities in bee houses are colonized by native wasps (that help control pests), and not native bees. So, bee houses still do good, but not necessarily the good that you might think. – Gail Langellotto, OSU Extension entomology

specialist and state coordinator of the Master Gardener program

MYTH: Tree roots go only as far as the drip line.

REALITY: Many trees extend many times beyond the branch crown diameter. For instance, magnolia extends 3.7 times the diameter; red maple 3 times; poplar 3; locust 2.9, and ash 1.7. – Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Epsom salts are a must for great tomatoes. Use them in every garden.

REALITY: If you have done a soil test and your soil lacks magnesium and your plants are not growing well, give it a try. In most soils and gardens, they can do more damage than good. Steve Renquist, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: When you plant a new tree or shrub, dig the hole and add an amendment to the soil before you backfill the hole.

REALITY: Although the amendment of soil with organic matter is often a good idea, it should be done on an area-wide basis, not just in a planting hole for an individual plant. Adding an organic amendment to the soil only in the planting hole will tend to reduce the growth of the plant. This happens because roots may stay within the amended soil and not grow into the native soil, creating a root-bound plant within the amended soil. If the organic amendment is not completely decomposed it may require nitrogen for further decomposition, which will compete with plant roots for minerals, thereby resulting in reduced growth. And in the case of large shrubs or trees, decomposition of the amendment will cause the plant to settle and the root collar will sink below the soil. – Neil Bell, OSU Extension horticulturist

MYTH: Brown recluse and hobo spiders are common in Oregon.

REALITY: It is commonly thought that hobo and brown recluse spiders cause necrotic bites in this state, when in fact the brown recluse is not found in Oregon and the hobo spider does not cause necrotic bites. The hobo spider was in fact removed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's list of venomous spiders in 2015. The black widow is the most harmful spider to humans in the state. – Heather Stoven, OSU Extension entomology specialist

MYTH: Watering on hot sunny days will burn the plants because the water droplets magnify the sun's rays.

REALITY: It rains during the summer all around the world and plants are just fine. More of an issue is that the irrigation water will evaporate and not be as effective. Note though that sensitive houseplants like African violet can show leaf damage from very cold water applied to the leaves. – Brooke Edmunds, OSU Extension horticulturist

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Country Kitchen
By Mary Emma Allen

CASSEROLES FOR WINTER MEALS

Casseroles form tasty and hearty meals for winter days. This type of dish also is generally easy to prepare and can be made ahead, then cooked as needed. Prepared with various combinations of meat, poultry, fish, eggs, noodles, rice, potatoes, any variety of vegetables, and sauces, casseroles are ingenious ways to stretch your meat or use up leftovers.

The ancient Egyptians, so researchers claim, were the first to try their hands at preparing casserole-like dishes. The French are credited with elevating this type of combination dish into a gourmet treat.

Variety of Meals

So casseroles need not be served only as pitch-hit meals. They make delicious and eye-appealing entrees when company appears. They are ideal for buffet meals, for they hold up even if serving time is delayed, are easy to serve, and excellent for large groups.

Potluck meals at church, family gatherings, and social occasions often include casseroles. Here the cooks may exchange recipes, too, when they find a casserole they particularly like.

You can prepare these generally inexpensive dishes ahead of time, store in the refrigerator, then pop into the oven an hour before the meal. Also, many casseroles can be prepared, frozen, and cooked as needed.

CHICKEN DIVAN (sometimes called CHICKEN & BROCCOLI BAKE) is one my family enjoys. I first tasted this dish at a church fellowship luncheon.



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Cook 2 packages frozen broccoli spears (or equal amount of fresh broccoli) until just tender. Lay broccoli in buttered 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Take cooked skinless chicken breasts and cut into bite-size pieces. Lay over broccoli.

Mix together 1 can cream of mushroom soup, 1 can cream of chicken soup, 1/4 cup grated cheddar cheese, 1/2 cup sour cream, 1 small can sliced mushrooms (or equivalent amount of fresh mushrooms). Pour over chicken and broccoli.

Bake at 350 degrees F. about 30 minutes or until bubbly. Serves 8 to 10. (For less fat, use low fat soups, cheese, and sour cream.)

MEXICAN HAMBURGER - Brown 1 pound ground beef (or turkey) and drain off excess fat. Mix beef, 1 small-diced onion, 1 can chili con carne without beans. Spoon into the center of 10 flour tortillas, cover with grated cheese (whatever amount you desire), and roll up.

Place tortillas, folded side down, in a 13x9-inch baking dish.

Mix together 1 can cream of mushroom soup, 1 can tomato soup, and 1/2 soup can of water. Pour soup over tortillas and top with more grated cheese, as you desire.

Bake at 350 degrees until hot and bubbly, about 40 minutes.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen writes from her New Hampshire home; E-mail: me.allen@juno.com)



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Community Notes

February 11

Valentine's Dinner

On February 11th, the Vida McKenzie Community Center will be serving a delicious multi-course dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Menu choices will include prime rib, chicken, or vegetarian offerings. All profits help rebuild and equip the Vida Community Center building poised to open late Spring or early next Summer. Cost: \$25 per person. Reservations: 541-896-3001 or gerryaster@gmail.com.

February 11

Date Night

A Movie & Dinner Date Night event sponsored by McKenzie Valley YoungLife will be held at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship on February 11th in Vida. The \$20 adult plate will include dinner, movie, dessert and free childcare at the event. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the movie will start at 5:15 at 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

February 12

Holiday Fair

The McKenzie River Holiday Fair will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on February 12th at McKenzie Fire's Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. Message Tina Matula on Facebook to reserve table space.

February 14

Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchard McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of the month. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning. The dental

services will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 2p.m. at 54771 McKenzie Hwy. in Rainbow.

February 16

Leaburg Food Pantry

Leaburg Food Pantry. Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 3 - 6 p.m. Behind the McKenzie Bible Fellowship Church, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

February 18

One 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.

February 18 & 19

Frontier Heritage Fair

The 29th annual Frontier Heritage Fair will be held at the Lane County Events Center/Fairgrounds Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday, February 18th & 19th. The focus of the fair will be the pre-1898 period, including Mountain Men, Civil War, and Old Wst articles and replicas of those periods. Included will be a special exhibit of Oregon prehistory and displays representing the Hudson's Bay Company, a replica of Fort Umpqua at Elkton, the Applegate Trail, the Free Emigrant route, and Northwest Coast Native Art. Showtimes are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 to 4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for 13 and older, and kids 12 and under are free. The event is sponsored by the Fort Umpqua Muzzleloaders club of Lane County. Call 541-689-4281 or 541-746-1819 for more information.

February 20

Springfield School Board

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

USFS Jobs

The Willamette National Forest will soon be hiring for the 2023 summer season. Opportunities are available in specialties such as fire, dispatch, recreation, engineering, natural resources, visitor services, and more. Applications will be accepted from January 12th to 19th, on usajobs.gov. Duty locations include McKenzie Bridge, Springfield, Mill City, Sweet Home, and Westfir, Oregon. Seasonal housing may be available. Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/4urm6y3x>

February 21

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

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

February 24

Chili Feed

The Walterville Grange invites you to their annual chili feed on February 24 from 5 to 7 PM. Bring your family and friends to have some great homemade chili and fun visiting with friends and neighbors. Along with the homemade chili, we will be having fresh baked cornbread, salad, dessert, and drinks. We will be having a rootin' -tootin' time at the Walterville Community Center located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville. Please bring a canned food item for the upriver food bank. If you have any questions, please call 541-521-4760 and leave a message (calls will be returned). As always, donations are gratefully accepted.

LCC Board

Five seats on the Lane Community College Board of Education are up for election in the May 16th Special Election. The winners of each seat, with the exception of Zone 1, will serve four year terms beginning July 1, 2023.

Of the five, two At Large positions up for election:

Position 6, currently held by Rosie Pryor, and Position 7, currently held by Lisa Fragala.

Pryor announced in December she did not intend to run for reelection. The board will have a minimum of three new members when the new terms begin in July.

The Lane Community College District serves a 5,000 square-mile area stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade Mountains. The district includes most of Lane County, as well as the Monroe School District in Benton County, the Harrisburg Union High School District in Linn County and a small area in northern Douglas County. The total district population includes about 390,000 people.

Seven elected, non-paid people comprise the LCC Board of Education and have primary authority for establishing policies governing the operation of the college and adopting the college's annual budget. Their charge is to oversee the development of programs and services which they believe will best serve the needs of the people of the LCC District.

Lane County Fentanyl Aware campaign

Lane County Public Health announced the launch of a Fentanyl Aware campaign last week, aimed at addressing the increasing supply and use of fentanyl in Lane County. The effects of fentanyl, a

powerful illicit opioid, are seen in the increased calls to 911, emergency room visits, and deaths. The campaign seeks to counteract those effects by promoting knowledge and safety through risk awareness and education.

"Ultimately, we hope the outcome of this campaign is saved lives," said Lane County Public Health Community Health Analyst and Fentanyl Aware campaign coordinator Alexander LaVake. "To that end, we will be providing youth, families, and community members with the tools to stay safe, respond to an overdose, and provide strategies to lower the risk of overdose."

The campaign will include tools like Narcan education, information on the signs and symptoms of an overdose and how to respond, and resources throughout the community.

Fentanyl Aware will promote these educational tools on web and social media channels as well as through partnerships and educational opportunities with several school districts and community organizations.

To learn more and follow the campaign, visit fentanylaware.com



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Thursdays, 6:00 PM. Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)

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Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirthell

Passing The Torch



Five months ago, I met a guy, 21, and we fell in love. I am 26. I've come to accept that because I look a lot younger, younger guys will always find me attractive. I got some good advice once that if the relationship is good and makes me happy, people around me will learn to accept the person.

Being an African doesn't help the situation because relationships between older women and younger men aren't quite accepted yet. However, my boyfriend and I are doing fine, and my friends and his have accepted us.

All would be well except a month after I met my boyfriend, my brother died. My brother was the single most important person in my life. He is the reason I am the successful and smart person I am today. As the song says, "he was my everything, the center of my world."

Everything I did was so he could

be proud of me. I never made a move or an important decision without asking his advice. Now that he is gone, I don't see the point in anything anymore. If the reward won't be the proud look on his face, then there is no point in doing it.

Sometimes I wonder if I should ask my boyfriend where the relationship is going, or just go with the flow and take things as they come. I know it sounds silly, but to me, my brother was right there next to God.

Kesi

Kesi, wounds take time to heal. But all wounds, to our body or to our spirit, follow a normal pattern of healing. Now is the time to grieve and heal, not the time to decide on the future of your new relationship.

When we are young, our reason for achievement and our reason for depending on other people. As we mature, we understand the real reason for accomplishment grows out of ourselves.

It is our nature to express our capacities. To fail to express everything within us is to fail to live. Your brother understood this, and that is why he gave so much to you. He would not want you to

withdraw from life, but to become the kind of beacon to others he was to you.

Edith Wharton said, "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." You were the mirror reflecting your brother's light. Now you can be the candle passing the light on. Perhaps one day you will again see your brother's light, shining from the eyes of your own child.

Wayne & Tamara

Asking The Wrong Question

I am looking for some advice on how to handle heated moments. I try my hardest to remain calm and keep my voice lowered, but my partner ends up waving his arms and using a host of tactics to argue instead of dealing with the issue at hand.

Usually, I start by saying, "When you do that, it makes me feel like..." His response is usually something like "you're being irrational" or "that's a bit harsh." He says anything to invalidate my feelings. I don't know how to word my feelings so he sees they really are an issue for me.

Jenna

Jenna, the tactic of saying "when you do x, it makes me feel y" has been around for decades. It can only work when the other person is as earnest and honest about communication as you are.

You believe there is a way to

word things so your partner will understand and respond to your feelings. But there is another possibility, the principle known as Occam's razor. Sometimes this is interpreted as "the simplest explanation is most likely to be true."

The simplest explanation is this. He understands every word you say. He doesn't care about your feelings and is successfully communicating that to you.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are also the authors of "Cheating in a Nutshell, What Infidelity Does to the Victim", available from Amazon, Apple, and most booksellers.

American Life in Poetry

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

Ice

By Gail Mazur

In the warming house, children lace their skates, bending, choked, over their thick jackets.

A Franklin stove keeps the place so cozy it's hard to imagine why anyone would leave,

clumping across the frozen beach to the river.

December's always the same at Ware's Cove,

the first sheer ice, black, then white and deep until the city sends trucks of men

with wooden barriers to put up the boys' hockey rink. An hour of skating after school,

of trying wobbly figure-8's, an hour of distances moved backwards without falling,

then—twilight, the warming house steamy with girls pulling on boots, their chafed legs

aching. Outside, the hockey players keep playing, slamming the round black puck

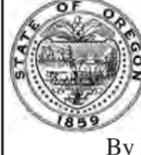
until it's dark, until supper. At night, a shy girl comes to the cove with her father.

Although there isn't music, they glide arm in arm onto the blurred surface together,

braced like dancers. She thinks she'll never be so happy, for who else will find her graceful,

find her perfect, skate with her in circles outside the emptied rink forever?

"Ice" is from Zeppo's *First Wife: New and Selected Poems* by Gail Mazur. Copyright © 2005 by The University of Chicago. All rights reserved. We do not accept unsolicited submissions. *American Life in Poetry* is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine.



A Moment in Oregon History
By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

February 9 - Traditional belief holds that the Appaloosa breed originates from horses introduced by Coronado to North America in the 1500s. The Lewis & Clark journals made note of the spotted horses owned by the Nez Perce Indians and early day settlers claimed to have seen thousands of horses grazing in the Wallowa Valley of Northeastern Oregon. The Nez Perce selectively bred the spotted horses and their strength, stamina and sureness of foot allowed the Indians to travel great distances through rugged terrain. After the Nez Perce War in 1877, the government ordered the annihilation of the tribe's beloved horses. Only a few horses survived to become the foundation of today's Appaloosa breed.

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

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52						53	54	55				56	57	58	59
60						61						62			
63						64						65			
66						67						68			

- 60. "Through" in a text?
- 61. Pelvic bones
- 62. Plural of #54 Down
- 63. Andrew Sean Greer's 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner
- 64. Reverse action
- 65. Mother-of-pearl
- 66. *Lake off Ohio, the state known as "the Mother of Presidents"
- 67. Baseball's "The Say Hey Kid"
- 68. Navigate

DOWN

- 1. *Present tense of #26 Across
- 2. Tibetan priest
- 3. "Singes" in "La PlanÈte des singes"
- 4. Nearly
- 5. Apprentice
- 6. Name on apple cider vinegar bottle
- 7. R in R&R
- 8. Cognizant of
- 9. "Sophie's Choice" protagonist
- 10. *F in JFK
- 11. Bye, to Emmanuel Macron
- 12. Relating to Scandinavia
- 13. Casino bandits
- 21. Sign of assent
- 25. *Civil Rights Act of 1957 signer
- 26. Dueler's blow
- 27. Hyperbolic tangent
- 28. Football great Graham
- 29. *Executive Mansion, colloquially (2 words)
- 30. Misrepresent
- 31. Make over
- 33. *One of four presidents to have never been elected
- 35. "Goodness gracious!"
- 36. "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The _____
- 37. High school student, usually
- 42. Spermatozoa counterparts
- 44. Not marathons, pl. (2 words)
- 46. Central court in domus
- 47. Certain frat house letters
- 48. Ownership document
- 49. Autumn color
- 50. Zoroaster follower
- 51. Pandemonium
- 54. Elbow-wrist connection
- 55. Not a slob
- 56. Like certain Stanley
- 57. A third of thrice
- 58. Steak choice
- 59. Whitetail, e.g.

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ACROSS

- 1. Biased perspective
- 6. Male sibs
- 10. Monday Night Football audience
- 14. Tapiridae representative
- 15. Rock opera version of "La Bohème"
- 16. Object of worship
- 17. Opposite of alpha
- 18. ____ Spumante
- 19. Novice
- 20. *Unanimously elected President
- 22. Gusto
- 23. Eggy drink
- 24. Jig music, pl.
- 26. Stashed in a hold
- 30. Penniless

- 32. Wood turning device
- 33. Toll payment, e.g.
- 34. Not slouching
- 38. Like nay-sayers
- 39. Of many years
- 40. Malaria symptom
- 41. Instagram post
- 43. River, in Spanish
- 44. Bell-bottoms bottom
- 45. Dodge
- 47. Unexpected
- 48. The Cat in the Hat's headgear (2 words)
- 51. Campbell's container
- 52. International Civil Aviation Organization
- 53. *President Hayes' first name

Solution on Page 6

SUDOKU

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2			7						
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5		4	1						

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

Solution on Page 6

Statewide seed giveaway set to return

By Chris Branam, OSU

Photo of classroom seed-starting kit: <https://flic.kr/p/2oewQ64>

The Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge, Oregon State University Extension's statewide seed giveaway, returns for a fourth year in 2023 featuring a continued partnership with the Oregon Potato Commission.

Starting Feb. 6, individuals and households, schools and groups can sign up to receive an individual/household seed kit, group kit or seed-starting teacher classroom kit through the mail.

The seed-starting classroom kits include a 2023 Food Hero gardening calendar, stickers, foil pans, seed markers, a spray bottle and a peat pot for each child. Teachers can request a separate potato growing kit while supplies last.

The challenge is spearheaded by Food Hero, a statewide initiative of the Oregon Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program that was developed by OSU Extension in English and Spanish. This year's goal is to mail seed kits to 3,600 individuals or households, said Lauren Tobey, Food Hero coordinator.

The seed giveaway has been growing since it started in 2020. According to Tobey, an estimated 93,000 Oregonians participated in the 2022 Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge – an increase of 62% over the previous year. About 1,100 Oregon schools received classroom kits, and 3,600 individual/household seed kits were distributed.

Of the returning participants from the 2021 challenge, 73% said they planted seeds and 88% reported an increase in using their garden harvest in a meal, Tobey said.

"We want to grow food together and share gardening tips and experiences to learn together," Tobey said. "Food Hero's bottom-line goal is to increase fruit and vegetable intake and access among all Oregonians."

Throughout summer and fall, participants will receive a monthly Grow This! Oregon Garden Chal-



enge email with gardening information, harvest recipes and storage tips. Challenge information will also be available in English and Spanish on the Food Hero gardening page.

The individual/household kits will include a seed for a flower and seeds for vegetables that can be made into a salad. As they have been in the past, the seeds were donated to Extension by Bi-Mart Stores Inc. The kits also include a bookmark with a link with guidance on how to plant the seeds, either in the ground or in a container.

The continued partnership with the Oregon Potato Commission is the result of a second \$175,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Oregon Potato Commission collaboration will fund both the classroom and potato kits.

The Grow This! Garden Challenge originated with a donation in 2019 of 800 seed packets from Bi-Mart. Those packets were separated, counted and packaged to make 14,000 individual baggies to include in 3,500 seed kits, using the West Virginia University Extension Service Grow This! Challenge as a model.

Mandy Hatfield, Extension nutrition educator for Douglas County, said the original intent was to provide seeds for school gardens across the state. In 2020, Bi-Mart donated more packets, precipitating the need to further expand the program.

Since it launched in 2008, Food Hero has been used in communities and schools across Oregon, building children's cooking skills through sharing the recipes and sampling new foods.

Food Hero recipes are tested according to criteria, such as overall flavor, color and texture. The meals are low-cost and feature easy to find ingredients, easy to follow instructions and minimal preparation time. Recipes and cooking tips are also shared through a Food Hero monthly publication in Spanish and English.

Quote of the Week

"If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to."

Dorothy Parker

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The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety - ODOT

Dept. of Forestry grants \$4.4 million to boost Oregon tree nurseries

Ten tree nurseries across the state are receiving over \$4.4 million this year to help them increase their ability to produce badly needed seedlings. The seedlings are needed to help reforest millions of acres deforested in recent years by wildfire, disease and pests.

The money was given to ODF after passage by the Oregon Legislature in 2021 of House Bill 5006. The bill was a response to the devastating 2020 wildfires which burned a million acres of forest. In the wake of those fires, there were many barriers to reforestation, including shortages of money, labor, and for some smaller landowners

appropriate tree seedlings.

ODF Small Forestland Owner Assistance Unit Manager Nate Agalzoff said, "These grants are helping nurseries make strategic investments to increase their ability to grow more seedlings, which will enable them to better support reforestation needs in the future."

Nurseries are using the funds to invest in everything from adding irrigation to building new greenhouses and seedbed space as well as storage facilities for storing seedling trees. Funds can also go toward equipment, the cost of collecting or purchasing tree seeds, and buying land on which to ex-

pand nursery facilities.

"These grants are increasing overall capacity across the state for whenever seedling demand rises," said ODF Reforestation Program Project Coordinator Astraea Strawn. "In the case of nurseries in Union and Hood River counties, the grants also ensure there will be capacity to provide geographically appropriate seedlings for those areas."

Strawn said funds must be spent before the end of this summer.

"This makes us optimistic that landowners, especially smaller ones, will have better access to seedlings. When they do, they can

promptly reforest after future tree losses to keep Oregon's working forests working for Oregonians," she said.

"The funding will allow Lava Nursery, Inc. to increase seedling production for the small woodland owners, helping them to meet their reforestation needs after forest fires and/or harvest operations," said Lava's Assistant Nursery Manager Jeff Snyder. "These funds will also allow for additional freezer storage capability for long-term storage of seedlings to ensure the best quality seedlings are available at the time of planting."

To qualify for a grant, a nursery had to have experience growing high-quality commercial conifer trees for reforestation in Oregon, including Douglas-fir, grand fir, noble fir, western redcedar, ponderosa pine and others.

"The awards were targeted to nurseries which showed interest in helping with future reforestation needs, whether from wildfires or climate change losses," said Strawn.

Nurseries which received funds included Kintigh Nursery of Cedar Falls, which received \$238,000.

Gold Rush

Continued From Page 4

being accepted into the United States as a territory, and after that happened the "beaver money" would no longer be legal tender. It would be a lot easier for holders of the coins to sell them as raw gold and get all their money back if they were pure.

The beaver money worked like magic. Within a month or two, some \$58,500 worth of them had been struck and sold, and business got a lot easier to do.

Cutting gold dust with sand got a lot less viable as a money-saving option for crooks, too, because now instead of just having to fool the guy at the corner market, they were having to bring their gold dust into a professional assayer to exchange it for beaver coins. So the gold-dust con died instantly, and the market prices for gold dust shot back up from \$11 to \$16



A block of postage stamps was released in 1999 to commemorate the California Gold Rush.

an ounce.

Then, about a month later, the Oregon Territory was officially added to the United States, and

the beaver money mint became unconstitutional. It was shut down forthwith, and soon afterward a shipment of real U.S. currency

arrived from back east.

Today, beaver money is super rare. Because it was made with pure gold rather than the 10% alloy metals that government mints added to their coinage for durability, they were worth more than their face value; so most people who ended up holding them either melted them down, or sold them on the gold markets.

For most Oregonians, the years following the gold strike were lucrative ones. Most of them got back to work growing food to sell at inflated prices to miners; some still had claims in California that they were traveling regularly to work.

But one thing would never be the same: Gold and gold mining was now an intrinsic part of Oregon culture. And it remains that way even to this day.

And something else changed, too: In 1848, there were fewer than 1,000 non-Native American residents in all of California, and Portland was the biggest city on

the West Coast. By the following year, that had changed, and the new population leader was San Francisco. Oregon would never again have a bigger population than its sunnier southerly neighbor.

(Sources: "Pioneer Gold Money, 1849, an article by Leslie M. Scott published in the March 1932 issue of Oregon Historical Quarterly; "The Oregon Gold Rush," an article by Dick Pintarich published in Great Moments in Oregon History, a historical anthology published in 1988 by New Oregon Publishers; Hiking Oregon's History, a book by William L. Sullivan published in 2006 by Navillus Press)

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

Ski Report

February 7, 2022

The Hoodoo Ski Area is back to its regular schedule – closed on Mon. & Tues; open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wed. to Sat; and Sun. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The temperature Tuesday morning was 26 degrees with SW winds averaging 31 mph. No snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 55 inches. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 29 degrees at the base and 19 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 75 inches. It was snowing but winds had picked up resulting in a few lifts going on hold status. Winds at the summit were averaging 36 mph but gusts up to 79 mph were recorded at the 8,000 foot level. 119 of 122 trails were open, along with 9 of 15 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

Transmission lines

Continued From Page 1

Northwest Energy Coalition in Portland, said public engagement is key, especially with the communities where the lines may end up going.

"Their voices are really important and getting benefits to those communities as a result of the new transmission is also very important, and being protective of the environmental and cultural resources that may be affected

by new transmission is also important," Heutte outlined. "All of those things come into play here."

Moore noted the biggest transmission line player in the region is the Bonneville Power Administration, a federal entity that owns about three-quarters of the high-voltage lines in the Northwest.

"We do have, of course, our Northwest congressional del-

egation, which has influence over BPA, and many folks think that they should be encouraging or at least engaging with BPA on more proactively building new lines," Moore emphasized.

She added states should do everything they can to maximize energy sources like rooftop solar, which reduce the need for transmission lines.

More returns?

Continued From Page 1

for the McKenzie River. However, the wild percentage of that run has been higher in recent years, averaging 22% since 2010 - as tabulated over the Leaburg and North Fork Clackamas dams, plus

red and dam counts in the North Santiam River.

In the 1980s the average return was 84,511 fish per year, the 1990s averaged 68,998 fish. 1995 was a low point when just 12,792

upriver fish returned to the river. The average annual return in the 2000s was 209,985, with a high of 439,885 in 2001.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife says coastal conditions have played a role: "Several ocean ecosystem indicators, especially in near-shore areas, were tracking in a manner that generally leads to low ocean survival for some salmon stocks from 2015 - 2017 but began to improve in 2018. These indicators include Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), upwelling, sea-surface temperature, and plankton abundance. Based on these indicators, adults returning in 2023 generally experienced improved ocean conditions during their ocean migration period."

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:07: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Wires Down. Assist ODOT and Spectrum.

Feb. 3: 13:42: 39000 blk, Deerhorn Rd Medical, General. Assist.

17:03: 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Mutual Aid. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

17:43: 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. Down Line. Cable Line Down/Removed Line.

18:54: 41809 Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Feb. 4: 6:55: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

12:43: 90000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed.

InordertoobservethePresident's Day holiday, McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, February 21st 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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