



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

### Sheriff's Report

Criminal Mischief - 89500 blk, Douthit Dr. Fiber optic lines were cut, causing over \$8,000 in damage.

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### Oregon's range wars

Vigilance committee of cattle ranchers and sodbusters had come together to fight the encroachment of the flocks of sheep.

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## Briefs...



Governor Tina Kotek has proclaimed April 2024 Oregon Arbor Month. The proclamation states that "Trees play an integral role in fostering healthy communities," adding that urban development and tree preservation demand a careful balance. It also recognizes the loss of trees in Oregon due to wildfire, extreme heat and drought, development pressures, and new pests, such as the emerald ash borer.

Arbor Month grew out of Arbor Day, a one-day tree-planting campaign in Nebras-

Arbor Month - Page 2



VMCC names Kimberly Reeves Parker "Artist in Residence" and "Artist Liaison"

Vida McKenzie Community Center is thrilled to announce the expansion of its arts and culture programming under the stewardship of Canadian-born pianist and composer Kimberly Reeves Parker. The Center intends to highlight local and regional musical talent at VMCC every two months during the 2024 season. You can meet Kimberly, learn about upcoming concerts, and hear VMCC's baby grand piano for the first

Artist - Page 2



Travelers visiting the McKenzie River National Recreation Area may need to plan alternate travel routes to the area's trails and campgrounds.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will close both lanes of Road NF-1993 across Cougar Dam on March 18 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for construction work on the dam's spillway gate.

Additional road closure dates this summer are currently unknown. USACE will

Access closedt - Page 2

## Cooperation counts when fighting a fire

RAINBOW: Billed as P.R.E.P., a meeting at the Upper McKenzie Community Center focused on how firefighters attack a fire after someone reports one. According to representatives from the McKenzie River Ranger District, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, the Upper McKenzie Fire District, and the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, the answer was the same - "put it out."

Sponsored by Locals Helping Locals, the "Plan, Resilient, Educate, and Prepare" meeting was the first of four sessions to update people on what happens behind the scenes. Last Saturday's gathering focused on initial attack procedures.

Noting that the "Fire Season" concept has changed, McKenzie Fire Chief Darin Bucich said today, "We send out everyone to a call unless we know otherwise."

Upper McKenzie Fire Chief Rainbow Plews agreed. "Whether it's a barn, a chicken house, a yard fire, or a burn pile that got out of control, we're going to put that out." She added that the same would be true if a report came in for a grass fire.

"If we see a column of smoke, we're getting all these guys to come - neighboring fire districts, ODF, Forest Service, and



Dan Trapanese, Fire Management Officer for the McKenzie Ranger District, left, and John Flanigan, Eastern Lane Unit Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, were part of the agency representatives explaining how communication and cooperation has steadily improved in recent years.

whoever is available," Plews added.

While forces are being gathered, sharing information between different agencies is key to developing a proper "Size up," according to Dan Trapanese, Fire

Management Officer for the McKenzie River Ranger District. The term, he said, describes what is actually happening on the ground "and what we need to contain that" **Cooperation counts - Page 10**

## Update coming for 30-year-old Northwest Forest Plan

By Eric Tegethoff  
Oregon News Service

The U.S. Forest Service has announced its intention to update a 30-year-old plan for managing forests in the Northwest.

The agency has issued a Notice of Intent to amend the Northwest Forest Plan. The plan covers management for 19 million acres of forest in California, Oregon, and Washington and was adopted in 1994 but has not changed since.

Nick Goulette, co-executive director of the Watershed Research and Training Center, said the plan needs improving, especially as climate impacts on the region increase.

"It really requires active management to protect the remaining old trees and to really work with fire as a natural process," Goulette pointed out. "The plan didn't do a good job of understanding the sort of real diversity of forests."

Goulette acknowledged that despite the need for improvements, the plan has largely been successful in conserving habitats. A draft of the updated plan's Environmental



An update to the Northwest Forest Plan could be available by this fall.

Impact Statement is expected by June.

Ryan Reed, co-founder of the FireGeneration Collaborative and member of the Karuk, Hupa, and Yurok tribes in Northern California, said tribes in the Northwest were not part of the 1994 plan. This time around, Reed stressed the critical importance of their meaningful inclusion in the process.

He believes Indigenous insight is critical in the traditional use of fire and reestablishing its good use on the landscape as a suppression tool for the larger fires the region is increasingly seeing.

"The Indigenous use of fire doesn't exclusively benefit or impact Indigenous communities ourselves," Reed emphasized. "It impacts everyone in the ecosystems. It impacts everyone who depends on ecosystems, right, no matter what sector you are or whatever stakeholder you are."

**Northwest Forest Plan - Page 10**

## Walterville Canal shutdown to last through this summer

### Investigation seeks cause of increased seepage through the levees

WALTERVILLE: The Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) temporary shutdown of the Walterville Hydroelectric Project is expected to be extended this summer as the utility investigates safety concerns along the Walterville Canal. EWEB dewatered the Walterville Canal last month after detecting an unexpected increase in water seepage near the Walterville Powerhouse.

The issue isn't new. EWEB and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) have known about the seepage in the 110-year-old canal's earthen embankment for years, causing the utility to install

several devices to monitor leaks.

An unexpected increase in seepage flow on February 27th triggered an alarm at one of the monitoring devices, prompting the canal to be dewatered as a safety response.

The utility's generation staff have inspected the canal and determined that more information is needed to identify the cause of increased seepage. EWEB is working with a geotechnical engineering consultant to develop plans for further investigation, and officials say they had hoped to resolve the issue and return to regular operation quickly.

According to Generation Manager Lisa Krentz, "Fortunately, the seepage concern on the Walterville Canal is localized to the forebay."

The forebay is located at the lower end of the canal, where water either drops into the powerhouse to power an electric generator or is released through a spillway into the tailrace. "We think we can resolve the seepage issue by developing a solid repair plan for the forebay," Krentz said.

However, further study and repairs may take months, and staff say they anticipate **Canal shutdown - Page 10**



# Guest Opinion

## Sunlight said to be best of disinfectants

By Gene Policinski

Sunshine Week concluded last week, and this year, there’s an even greater need for you to get involved.

Sunshine Week annually celebrates freedom of information laws in every state. It also salutes efforts by good government advocates and journalists to use and ensure the effectiveness of those laws to get the information we need as self-governing citizens.

The name is a play on the commonsense words spoken more than a century ago by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, that “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.”

Brandeis’ remark was not made in a court opinion. It was in a 1913 article published in the news magazine Harper’s Weekly. Along with its observations on American culture and events, Harper’s was part of the “muckraking” news era, with journalists holding business and government accountable for corruption, waste and illegal activity.

As a special treat of each Sunshine Week, we get to see current examples of news reporting on behalf of the public, the type of journalism that the nation’s founders had in mind when they adopted strong First Amendment protection for a free press.

Sunshine Week was started in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors. The Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications is coordinating Sunshine Week for the first time this year.

Each year, we celebrate the thousands of local, state and national print,

TV, radio and online reports that tell us what the government or others are doing and how they are doing it; reports that explore and expose otherwise-unseen information we need to know to make good decisions at the ballot box, when petitioning for change or simply things we should know about our communities.

Just a few examples, from a 2023 New York Times report:

In the Hunter Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, idle freight trains blocked a main road, sometimes for more than 30 hours, potentially blocking ambulances and fire trucks.

In Colorado, a libertarian “food freedom” movement has re-energized a long battle over the safety of unpasteurized milk.

A city manager in DuBois, Pennsylvania, gave himself raises and allegedly took hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.

After bus issues caused school closures in Jefferson County, Kentucky, two reporters followed one school bus trying to complete an impossible route.

An investigative report of wage theft in New York State uncovered rampant abuse in the horse racing industry, with repeat offenders owing workers more than \$4.4 million.

But this year as we celebrated that work being done on behalf of democracy, there is an increasingly needed partner in that work: You and your support for local journalists.

The number of journalists continues to plummet, from more than 75,000 newsroom jobs in 2005 to 31,860 in 2022, according to the Medill Local News Initiative. Far too many of us now live in “news deserts,” areas across the nation where not a single news outlet exists. Medill reported that in 2023, that out of 3,143 counties nationwide, 204 counties had no newspapers, local digital sites, public radio newsrooms or ethnic publications, and another 228 counties were at substantial risk of losing all local news media.

Even where there are established news media outlets, economic pressures have resulted in staff cuts that mean there is less coverage of local government institutions like the city council, school board, and local courts.

We need to face the fact that there just aren’t enough journalists to do the job of monitoring and reporting on government, business and others.

To be sure, journalists and free press advocates are working to cut those losses and to buttress the flow of information to the public. There are new projects to fund local reporting or produce statewide or local reports, including the American Journalism Project; the Indiana Local News Initiative; Signal, a nonprofit organization in Ohio; and Houston Landing, a recently launched Texas publication.

Student-operated news media at several universities are reporting on their communities as well as their campuses. Student journalists are sometimes providing the only full-time reporting in some communities. Innovative nonprofit statewide news operations such as Wisconsin Watch, South Dakota News Watch and The Maine Monitor report, investigate and examine issues in their states.

Among notable national efforts: Freedom Forum funds two reporters, in Tennessee and Florida, in partnership with Journalism Funding Partners, who are dedicated to the First Amendment beat. The Lenfest Institute for Journalism provides tools and resources for local journalism leaders. The Knight Foundation has been a longtime advocate and supporter of efforts to energize local news outlets and nonprofit journalism



operations.

But even with all those long-term and new initiatives, more help is needed. Let’s turn again to Brandeis, who according to an article by the Sunlight Foundation in 2009, said in that Harper’s article, “The individual citizen must in some way collect and spread the information” through civic groups and the press, which he believed would lead to “remedial action.”

This does not necessarily mean filing a Freedom of Information request. There are ways to help hold government accountable beyond this direct action.

Whether you are red or blue, progressive or conservative, Democrat, Republican or independent, you need to support those who do that investigative work on a daily basis.

Get behind and get engaged with those who use FOI laws and shoe-leather journalism to bring you the facts required for real self-governance. Take that that information and make up your own minds about the concerns of the day where you live — and perhaps give the national pundit class a rest.

Open your eyes, your minds — and, yes, perhaps your wallets, too — and bring a little sunlight into your life. Continue to celebrate Sunshine Week. Justice Brandeis would be pleased, and you and your fellow citizens will be better off for the effort.

Gene Policinski is a veteran multimedia journalist and First Amendment advocate. He is one of the founding editors of USA TODAY and is senior fellow for the First Amendment at Freedom Forum.

## Briefs...

### Arbor Month

Continued From Page 1

ka in 1872. The event spread nationwide and expanded in many states to a week-long celebration of all things tree-related.

### Artist

Continued From Page 1

time on April 6th from 2 - 4 p.m. during the Center’s Grand Opening.

Kimberly discovered her musical passion at age four. Influenced by her musical family, she began classical studies at age five and later discovered jazz theory. By her 20s, Kimberly performed up and down the West Coast. After settling in the Bay area in 1991, Kimberly performed, taught piano, and cut several original re-

cording projects.

Since relocating to the McKenzie River Valley with her husband in 2017, Kimberly has been focused on teaching and producing her next recording project, “Crimson Crow.”

### Access Closed

Continued From Page 1

notify the public when the closure dates have been determined.

Visitors may need to plan alternate routes to access the trailheads at Lower Echo/East Fork, Upper East Fork, Upper Lowder Mountain, and Pat Saddle.

More information is on the McKenzie River Ranger District’s web page at [tinyurl.com/fek-p862c](http://tinyurl.com/fek-p862c)

Send news briefs to [rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)



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## Letters to the Editor

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Friday 3/22		Saturday 3/23		Sunday 3/24	
McKenzie Valley Rain	Santiam Pass Rain/Snow	McKenzie Valley Rain	Santiam Pass Snow	McKenzie Valley Showers	Santiam Pass Snow Showers
80% chance precip High: 59 Low: 44	70% chance precip High: 46 Low: 30	80% chance precip High: 51 Low: 41	80% chance precip High: 36 Low: 27	60% chance precip High: 51 Low: 40	60% chance precip High: 35 Low: 27

## WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWING LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
3/12	43	38	0.73	624 cfs	3/12	48	42	0.38	5,480 cfs
3/13	49	36	0.11	826 cfs	3/13	48	37	0.46	6,100 cfs
3/14	61	31	0	NA	3/14	52	32	0.01	5,530 cfs
3/15	67	36	0	963 cfs	3/15	64	37	0	5,240 cfs
3/16	70	37	0	NA	3/16	75	34	0	5,360 cfs
3/17	72	38	0	945 cfs	3/17	77	39	0	5,340 cfs
3/18	77	42	0	945 cfs	3/18	70	42	0	5,460 cfs



# Sheriff's Report

**March 11: 11:19 a.m:** Welfare Check - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

**12:23 p.m:** Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

**6:12 p.m:** Criminal Mischief - 89500 blk, Douthit Dr. Fiber optic lines were cut, causing over \$8,000 in damage. Criminals have continued to target these lines for scrap metal since the ice storm, causing severe disruptions to internet and phone service, including access to 911. Residents are encouraged to call in any suspicious activity around phone or power lines.

**March 12: 11:50 a.m:** Citizen Contact - 91500 blk, Dearborn Island Rd.

**3:10 p.m:** Criminal Mischief - 39000 blk, Hendricks Park Rd. Citizen self report regarding an illegal dump at the location.

**3:47 p.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.

**4:08 p.m:** Welfare Check - 91600 blk, Burton Dr.

**March 13: 8:26 a.m:** Theft - 90700 blk, Marcola Rd. An individual known to the complainant had been at the location and stolen property.

**1:45 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 41100 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**2:33 p.m:** Civil Service - 90400 blk, hill Rd.

**3:19 p.m:** Vicious Dog - 88200 blk, Tiki Ln. A dog killed 2 chickens at the location. Information forwarded to Lane County Animal Services for follow up.

**3:22 p.m:** Dog at Large - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy.

**3:28 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**6:29 p.m:** Blocked Driveway - 41700 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:06 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Holden Creek Ln.

**March 14: 12:47 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 37800 blk, MJ Chase Rd.

**1:51 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - Marcola Rd. Mp. 5.5.

**3:01 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 14.

**4:41 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Angels Flight Rd.

**6:28 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 52.

**7:01 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 57600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**7:20 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 52.

**7:49 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 52.

**8:04 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 57600 blk, McK. Hwy.

**8:25p.m:**SuspiciousConditions - McK. Hwy. & Thurston Rd. Suspicious vehicle in the area of power lines. A deputy responded, but the vehicle had left.

**9:14 p.m:** Information - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

**March 15: 11:38 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to a physical dispute. No one was

injured, and the involved separated for the night.

**1:53 p.m:** Burglary - 87300 blk, Cedar flat Rd. A deputy took a report of a burglary at a home. Several items were stolen.

**2:37 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - McK. Hwy. & Ben & Kay Dorris Wayside.

**5:01 p.m:** Incomplete 911 call - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

**5:20 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Alcorn St. A neighbor reported possible squatters on a nearby property. deputies were unable to contact the owner. The subjects were gone when deputies responded.

**6:51 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**7:06 p.m:** Assault - 36600 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A deputy spoke with the caller who wanted to document historical abuse.

**March 16: 5:18 a.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - 46500 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

**7:44 a.m:** Assist Outside Agency 42100 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**9:43 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 90400 blk, Mountain View Ln.

**10:18 a.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 39200 blk, Wendling Rd.

**10:38 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 90700 blk, hill Rd.

**10:50 a.m:** Abandoned vehicle - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

**2:00 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 89100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**12:22 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

**1:07 p.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

**1:15 p.m:** Incomplete 911 Call - 91500 blk, Cougar Dam Rd.

**1:40 p.m:** Drug Overdose - Skyhigh Dr. & Camp Creek Rd.

**3:13 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Cedar Flat Rd.

**4:16 p.m:** Assist Oregon State Police - 42800 blk, Leaburg Dr.

**5:04 p.m:** Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

**6:19 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - E. King Rd. & Horse Creek Rd.

**3:34 p.m:** Foot Patrol- 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**5:38 p.m:** Violation of Restraining Order - 87800 blk, Upland St.

**10:48 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 55700 blk, E. King Rd. Deputies responded to a dispute called in by an area resident who overheard subjects yelling at each other. Deputies were unable to locate the involved subjects.

**March 17: 10:38 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 90700 blk, Hill Rd.

**10:50 a.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - 91100 blk, Hill Rd.

**2:00 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 89100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**4:16 p.m:** Assist Oregon State Police - 42800 blk, Leaburg Dr.

**5:48 p.m:** Stranded Boater - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**7:40 p.m:** Warrant Service - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**March 18: 1:17 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 54400 blk, W. King Rd.

**4:44 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Horse Creek Rd.

**5:28 p.m:** Dog Bite - 89000 blk, Marcola Rd.

**7:22 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & N. Bank Rd.

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

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**March 11: 7:53:** 51187 Blue River Dr. Fire Alarm. Disregarded En Route, False Alarm.

**17:01:** 88519 Periwinkle Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**March 12: 3:46:** 42870 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**8:23:** 41825 Madrone St. Medical, Heart. 8:23 Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**9:11:** 40370 Deerhorn Rd. Medical, Heart. 9:11 Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**19:00:** 42870 McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. 19:00 Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**March 13: 15:25:** McK. Hwy./Holden Creek Ln. Disabled Vehicle. Vehicle Unoccupied and Tow Already Arranged, Vehicle Flagged.

**20:18:** 45538 S. Gate Creek Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**March 14: 9:19:** McK. Hwy. Lift Assist.

**March 15: 11:33:** 44531 McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**14:30:** McK. Hwy./Ben and Kay Doris Wayside. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/ Non-Blocking.

**19:13:** 89057 Bridge St Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**March 16: 12:20:** Camp Creek Rd./Sky High Rd. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**13:39:** Camp Creek Rd./Sky High Rd. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**16:01:** 37860 MJ Chase Rd. Fire, Brush/Grass/Wildland. Fire Extinguished, Mop Up Performed.

**19:00:** 49558 McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

**20:15:** 87065 Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**March 17: 17:46:** Leaburg Dam Rd. Water Rescue. Assist Boater to Shore.

The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

# Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**March 18: 05:02:** Medical - 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

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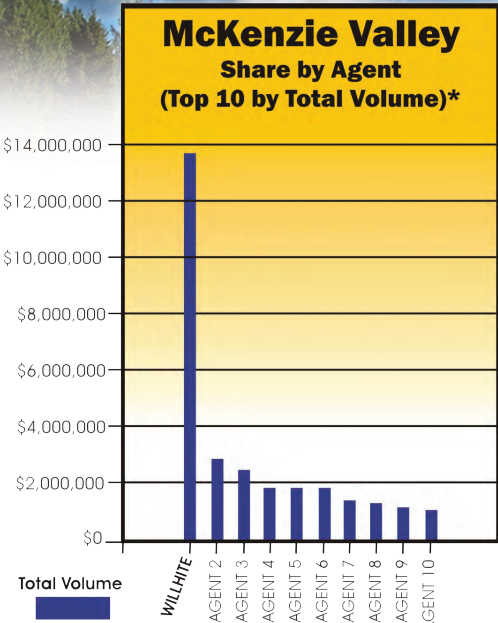
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# Oregon’s range wars were all about shooting sheep

By Finn J.D. John

In the early 1880s, visitors in the Klickitat Valley, just across the Columbia River from The Dalles and Biggs Junction, recalled seeing some very singular signs posted regularly along the right-of-way:

**NOTISE:**  
**All land in woods past**  
**Draper Springs is for**  
**Settlers**  
**cattle. No sheep is**  
**allowed.**  
**Sheep men take notise.**  
**— Comitee**

By “Comitee,” it was clearly understood, the writer meant some sort of vigilance committee, a coalition of cattle ranchers and sodbusters who had come together to fight the encroachment of the flocks of sheep that seemed to be taking over the public rangeland.

Similar signs, and “comitees,” were springing up all across the Columbia River basin. And over the decades to come, the problem would only get worse ... and bloodier.

Luckily, nearly all of the blood would be coming from sheep, not men.

When you hear the term “range war,” chances are you think of the classic Western Shane, either the novel by Jack Schaefer or the 1953 movie starring Alan Ladd. Or, drawing from another famous pulp Western author, maybe you think of the Pleasant Valley Massacre in



**This authentic sheepherder’s wagon, built in the 1930s and last used in 1984, is now on display in a city park in Fossil, Ore., once the heart of Central Oregon sheepherder country. It was home for the sheepherder and his dogs 12 months a year as they followed the flock over the range. This particular unit was donated by the Steiwer family.**

Arizona, the one Zane Grey wrote about in *To the Last Man*.

If Zane Grey had decided to write a novel about Oregon’s contribution to the Western range-wars saga, it would probably have been titled *To the Last Sheep*. Tens of thousands of the wooly animals were butchered in the course of the hostilities, including several thousand that got herded off a “buffalo jump” by hostile cattlemen near Silver Lake.

In Oregon, as with other Western states, when the story of the Western range wars is told, usually it’s a bit oversimplified. Cattle, they’ll say, are picky eaters, so they eat the bunchgrass but leave the weeds behind to hold the soil in place.

Sheep, on the other hand, will take everything down to the soil line and tear up some of the roots for good measure.

All of this is true, as far as it goes. Overgrazing with cattle will result in a hillside full of inedible weeds; overgrazing with sheep will lead to soil erosion. Either outcome is bad, which is why ranch owners are always very careful not to let their livestock overgraze the land no matter what kind it is.

Which gets directly to the actual problem that led to the range wars. That is, none of these stockmen were running their animals on their own land. The range was open to the public, and anyone was welcome to use it for any purpose.

For landowners with homesteads next door to public land, that was great, at least at first. It meant you could stock your homestead with more cows than the land you owned could support.

And in much of the West, being able to use the adjacent public land meant the difference between proving up a land claim and failing. The politicians who had created the Homestead Act of 1862 had sort of assumed that 160 acres would be more than anyone would need to set up a farm.

That was often true – the allotment was very generous indeed if your claim was in a verdant basin like the Willamette Valley. But 160 acres of high desert is barely enough to provide forage for two cows. The only way some settlers in the “dry side” of Oregon could survive was to run some of their animals out on adjacent public land, which they would fence to keep the livestock from straying off in search of a new herd to join, as cattle especially were wont to do.

But even as these unlucky sodbusters were making their plans to augment their stingy land claims with public-land pasturage, a small but growing cadre of entrepreneurial-minded men, mostly Scottish, Irish, and Basque immigrants, had figured out that a person could make quite a decent living without bothering with buying or owning any

**Range wars - Page 10**



By Slim Randles

Life in a small town means everybody knows what’s going on, good or bad. Just take what happened to Dud the other day.

It was trash day, and the trash barrels were on the street waiting to be emptied into the weekly truck. Dudley Campbell was no different from his neighbors, having his cans at the curbside ready for a trip to the dump. His wife, Anita, had driven to the city to do some shopping, so Dud was home alone.

And probably that’s why he felt secure in going through his own garbage. First, he spread a tarp out on the ground next to the cans and then dove in. He resembled a badger trying to dig up a squirrel as he went lower and lower in the garbage can and the pile on the tarp grew larger.

Mrs. Miller lived just across the street from Dud, and was watching the whole operation. She made a horrified phone call across town to Mamie Dilworth, who then passed it along to Windy Wilson. Windy, she knew, was a man of action.

He’d know what to do.

And he did. The bags of groceries were put on Dud’s porch when he wasn’t looking. The used-but-clean clothing for both Dud and Anita were laid on the porch swing.

Anita discovered them when she got home and was the one who informed her husband of the porch treasure.

At supper that evening, Anita asked Dud if he’d done anything to warrant this largesse. I mean, Anita had been clothes shopping all day, so she knew it wasn’t her.

And Dud said, “Hon, the only thing I did differently today was to find that little bronze horse statue I use for a paperweight. I had accidentally tossed it in the trash.”

**Brought to you by the bronze horse statues on Ebay, if you like really fancy stuff. Expensive, but they don’t eat much.**

## Quote of the Week

“It takes two years to learn to speak and sixty to learn to keep quiet.”

Ernest Hemingway

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# Gardening Tips



## Offer robins what they need and they'll stick around



Michael W Klotz

By Kym Pokorny  
American robins are a favorite harbinger of spring, but most people take this ubiquitous Oregon native for granted. Though still abundant, robins are declining in urban settings and could use some help from homeowners.

Oregon State University Extension Service wildlife experts encourage Oregonians to learn about these underappreciated native birds. They've developed the following information to help people foster robins in their landscape.

\* Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) seen in the winter months in Oregon may either be year-round residents or migrants coming from the north to spend the winter here.

\* Home gardeners can plant some of their favorite food sources. Trees and shrubs that provide fruits such as Indian plum, thimbleberry, bitter cherry, huckleberry, and Oregon grape are good choices.

\* It is important to plant trees and shrubs that provide cover. Some good choices are vine maple, currant, ocean spray, and California wax myrtle.

\* To attract robins to bird feeders, feed them chopped apples, berries, and mealworms. They don't eat birdseed; they prefer to forage for their food in lawns and open areas.

\* Providing water is essential for robins because they drink and bathe regularly. A shallow pond with a muddy area is ideal since robins use mud for nest building. Birdbaths with misters and drippers will also appeal to these birds.

\* Nest platforms offer robins a place to build a nest. Plans or platforms can be found in books or on the internet.

\* Robins have many predators. Domestic and feral (wild) cats kill many robins each year. Young robins are especially vulnerable when learning to fly because they are on the ground. Crows, jays, owls, and hawks prey on baby robins.

\* Most robins spend a lot of time in bushes and trees where they hide from predators, rest, raise their young, and find protection from the weather. They use dense evergreen trees and shrubs, dead trees or snags, and nesting boxes. Suburban areas with a mixture of lawns, flowerbeds, gardens, shrubs, and trees provide the variety that can support robins

\* Pesticides can kill or harm robins. They may also kill worms and insects, a major food source for robins. Robins are affected when they eat poisoned worms or berries. We can help keep robins safe by keeping cats indoors, setting out nest platforms, and not using chemicals on our lawns and

plants.

\* Robins help control insect populations. They are also essential for spreading seeds and growing new trees and bushes in new areas. The fruit they eat contains seeds that robins may drop elsewhere.

\* The breeding season for robins is from April through July. When the female finds a partner, she builds a nest with the male's help. The nest is cup-shaped and made from grasses or small twigs mixed with small mud. She places the mud with her feet, bill molds it with her body, and lines the nest with fine grass.

\* Nests are usually located 10-20 feet high in a tree or occasionally in bushes or on the ground. The female may also use a level human-made structure such as a window ledge or platform as her nest site.

\* One of the first birds to begin laying eggs in the spring, robins lay their first clutch or group of eggs around late April or early May. The female lays four light blue eggs, which she incubates (sits on) until they are ready to hatch after about 12 to 14 days.

\* The young are born without feathers and with their eyes closed. Their parents feed them insects until they are ready to fledge or leave the nest when they are 14 to 16 days old.

\* Baby robins cannot fly for the first few days after they leave the nest. Their parents lead them to low shrubs and trees, where they first learn to climb and jump. Their wings grow stronger within a day or two, and they take short flights. Their parents continue to feed them, and within a week or two, they are ready to be on their own. The robins may roost in big groups when the young are strong enough.

\* Nesting up to three times yearly, male robins may watch over the fledging young while the female incubates the next clutch of eggs.

\* For more information, consult Extension's publication *The Wildlife Garden: American Robin*.



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## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### DISCOVER YOUR RECIPE HERITAGE

Most families have favorite recipes that have been handed down through the generations, as well as new ones they add in the present day. It's enjoyable, my daughter and I find, to remember those from days ago, as well as recipes and foodways of my grandmother and her generation.

"Write down the recipes you remember from your childhood on the farm," daughter Beth mentioned one day, as she browsed through old recipe books.

So I've been jotting down these past memories and trying to find recipes in old cookbooks.

I've also discovered that my maternal grandfather mentioned in his journals and newspaper columns recipes his mother prepared. He described food of that era and growing it on their Trails End family farm.

Trails End Recipes

Some of the Trails End recipes exist in a notebook in my aunt's handwriting. I was so pleased when a friend, who acquired the notebook, gave it to me, saying, "This probably will have more meaning for you than for me."

What a delight!

My aunt recorded recipes that caught her attention, those from friends, and ones her grandmothers made.

G R A N D M O T H E R ' S CINNAMON ROLLS - Make your usual white bread recipe. Instead of forming it into a loaf for the second rising, roll one or both loaves (most recipes make two loaves) into rectangles about one inch thick. Spread with butter; sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar mixture (sometimes Grandma used part white and part brown sugar); spread raisins over this, up to one cup per loaf.

Roll up as you would a jellyroll. Then cut into 1-inch slices. Place on greased cookie sheet. Let rise, as you would bread. Then bake, around 350 degrees F. for 10-15 minutes, until done.

Remove from oven and cookie sheet. Grandma never put icing or confectioner's sugar on her rolls; however, you can if you'd prefer.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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



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# Community Notes

**March 21**  
**Leaburg Food Pantry**  
The Food pantry will be open from 3:00pm - 6:30pm at McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy., All are welcome.

**March 23**  
**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

**March 24 & 25**  
**Free Eye Exam**  
Looking for a clearer view this spring? Don't miss the Casey Eye Institute's FREE eye exam and prescription glasses event at Orchid Health in Blue River! Ages 18+ Welcome \* No Insurance Required \* Limited Spots Available. Call Orchid Health at (541) 822-3341 to schedule an appointment.

**March 26**  
**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.

**March 26**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

**March 26**  
**McK Food Pantry**  
Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need will be available from 11:00am - 1:00pm at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy. Every 2nd & 4th Friday.

**March 27**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are

on an as needed basis.  
**March 27**  
**Watershed Wednesday**  
Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

**March 27**  
**LEC Board Meeting**  
Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly. People who wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend at 787 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene.

**March 30**  
**Grange Easter Egg Hunt**  
The Easter egg hunt will begin right at 10 a.m. so don't be late (they go fast). Be sure the kids bring their own baskets to put the eggs they find in. There will be some special eggs with special prizes in them. Every egg will have a surprise in it. There are three age groups: 4 and under; 5 and 6; and 7 and above. There is no charge, and all are welcome. We are still collecting donations for the new siding and windows on the west side of the building if you care to donate.

**March 30**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Youthlife is sponsoring a community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 30th at the McKenzie Community Track. We will have candy stuffed egg hunts in 2 areas where different age groups will be able to participate. The hunt will start at 11 am promptly. Several games will be going on for the youth to participate in. Coffee, cocoa, and apple fritters will be available. And, there will be a free drawing available for some prizes  
YouthLife will have an Information Table where participants can get their ticket (for prize drawing) and receive some free information about the McKenzie Valley Young Life activities. We look forward to

seeing you all there.  
**March 30**  
**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.

**April 1**  
**Kids Eat Free**  
Kids eat free every Monday (with adult meal purchase) at Craig's Lucky Logger Restaurant & Henry's Bar, 39297 McKenzie Hwy. Takeout, Dine-in, Outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

**April 2**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

**April 2**  
**Coffee With Locals**  
Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) from 10 to 11 a.m. at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Rd. Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

**April 2**  
**Family Story Time**  
From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

**April 2**  
**EWEB Meeting**  
The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed. The President will announce the speaking time at the start of the Public Input session. Alternatively, you may submit written testimony to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

**April 3**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin

at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

**April 3**  
**Watershed Wednesday**  
Green Island, 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

**April 3**  
**Cornhole League**  
The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at 54745 McKenzie River Dr. Join in for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. Bag tossings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Bring some snacks to share.

**April 3**  
**BR Water Board**  
The Blue River Water Board will meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com

**April 3**  
**BR Park Board**  
The Blue River Park Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com.

**April 6**  
**VMCC Grand Opening**  
After three and ½ years of planning and fundraising, Vida McKenzie Community Center is opening its doors to the public on April 6th at 2 p.m. for a Grand Opening Celebration. There will be wines to taste, offered by McKenzie Crest Winery; non-alcoholic beverages; delicious appetizers; live music played by Kimberly Reeves Parker on VMCC's beautiful baby grand piano; and at 3 p.m. there will a drawing of the winning ticket for a \$1,000 Jerry's Home Improvement Shopping Spree.

Mark your calendars so you do not miss this pivotal event. For more information, go to vidacommunitycenter.com

**April 8**  
**Parks Advisory Committee**  
The Parks Advisory Committee meets 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy. in Eugene. It advises the Board of County Commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects - including financial and operational development and acquisition. The committee also provides recommendations

regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and serves as a liaison group representing the concerns of the community.

**April 8**  
**Spfd School Bd**  
The Springfield School Board meets twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A St. Agendas, meeting materials, and approved minutes are posted on the Agenda & Meetings page.

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

**April 9**  
**Tiny Dental Van**  
The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Hwy, every second Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning.

**April 9**  
**McK Tourism Committee**  
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every Second Tuesday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m. Please join us even if you are not a Chamber member. The committee strives to strengthen the support of locals interested in improving tourism and the economic vitality of the entire McKenzie River Valley. Email the Tourism Chair to get on the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com

**April 9**  
**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.

**April 9**  
**McK Food Pantry**  
The McKenzie River Food Pantry is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy. Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need, every 2nd & 4th Friday.

**April 9**  
**Save Leaburg Lake**  
"Save Leaburg Lake" members meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Vida Windermere Office in Vida from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, call Nadine Scott at 541-915-0807 or email nadine@windermere.com to join the email list.

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

## Will our future measure up?



We all want the best for our children. A supportive community - one that offers good schools, safe neighborhoods, a clean environment and room to explore and learn - can enrich young and old alike. Local businesses contribute to their community through taxes, direct donations to groups, and very often by volunteering their own time. Together we can all build a community for tomorrow by supporting each other.

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





# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Name That Tune



I have been married to a wonderfully grounded woman for nine years, and we have two young children. The problem? My mother-in-law lives from crisis to crisis. She claims to have a “plan,” but it is always wrong, and my wife and I are constantly picking up the pieces.

A one-year experiment of her living with us became a stressful five-year stay. We are financially stable, but our oldest child is a special needs child who is draining our financial resources at a healthy clip. When our second child was born, we gave my mother-in-law an ultimatum, and she moved into a house with a female roommate 15 minutes away.

The arrangement lasted two years before the roommate had enough and booted her. She then traveled to California with my wife’s older sister and her family.

That arrangement didn’t last six weeks. According to our family in California, she showed more interest in her hair curlers than in her grandchildren.

My wife’s mother is well-educated and in good health. Her first love is writing. She has been working on her “masterpiece” for 25 years, and I am sure it will never be submitted to a publisher. She refuses to pursue financially rewarding work but is a great talker. If paid by the spoken word, she’d have more money than Bill Gates.

If my mother-in-law knows there’s a safety net, she’ll use it. My wife knows this, too, but ultimately, she feels obligated to be her mother’s savior. I’ve given plenty of warning in the past by saying that if preventable “situation X” recurs, I will not be a party to it. Sure enough, situation X repeats itself, and I’m asked to drop everything and provide a solution at the last minute.

Just yesterday, my mother-in-law enlisted our help in moving again. She didn’t ask until the moving deadline was less than 48 hours away. I want to support my wife, but I can no longer condone her mother’s behavior. The one blessing is that my marriage is on a solid foundation.

Nathan

Nathan, the one idea throughout all life is that behavior has consequences, whether it’s heaven and hell, karma and rebirth, running a prison, or teaching a child. When behavior doesn’t have consequences, disorder prevails.

As long as your mother-in-law doesn’t bear the consequences of her behavior, you and your wife will. The problem is this. Your wife feels obligated to meet her mother’s demands, whether legitimate or not, and your mother-in-law is a master at pushing her daughter’s buttons.

In her book “Emotional Blackmail,” Susan Forward writes, “Every time we capitulate to emotional blackmail, we lose contact with our integrity, the inner compass that helps us determine what our values and behavior should be.” This is why you feel you have had enough of your mother-in-law’s behavior.

Children learn by being given responsibility and suffering consequences when they don’t act responsibly. But your mother-in-law, a grandmother, isn’t learning anything. All these years, she has been getting away with it.

Your mother-in-law doesn’t feel bad about the repercussions to you. She is like a gambler gambling with someone else’s money. She is like a teenager whose parents bail her out of every situation. The fewer the repercussions to her, the more destructive and thoughtless her actions can be.

In the television show Name That Tune, contestants compete

to name a tune in the fewest notes. That is also the key to understanding people who manipulate us. When we can name a manipulator’s tune from the first few notes, we can stop their controlling behavior the instant it begins.

The book “Emotional Blackmail” teaches the blackmailer’s tunes. It is the perfect antidote for people who feel lost in pleasing others.

Wayne & Tamara

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

## Found on the Pond Deck

By Petra Kuppers

The husk of a tiny dragonfly, translucent,

clings upside down on a yellow spear of grass

its roots clasp the dry wood of the deck.

Tiny white fibers everywhere: the planks, breathing,

expectorate their innards, wood weeps and uncoils

what it knew when it stood, tall in a wet Redwood forest,

before the chains of a truckbed, dark and long, bite, here,

where all trees are twisted into themselves against

the prevailing winds. On that white-spun deck,

I remember my watery nature,

pour my liquid body

to wash away the pain of the shorter years,

to wash away the pain of a hollow embrace,

the feeling that we all will slide, not into the clear pool,

but into the murk of a place that should not be settled.

Notes: This poem only appears in the digital edition of Poetry and is reprinted from: Kuppers, Petra. “Found on the Pond Deck” from *Gut Botany*. Copyright © 2020 Wayne State University Press, with the permission of Wayne State University Press.

Kuppers is the author of *Diver Beneath the Street* (Wayne State University Press, 2024), which investigates true crime and ecopoetry at the level of the soil; *Gut Botany* (Wayne State University Press, 2020), named one of the top ten US poetry books of 2020 by the New York Public Library, and winner of a 2022 Environmental Creative Writing Book Award from the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment; *Ice Bar* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2018); *Green Orion Woman* (Dancing Girl Press, 2018); *PearlStitch* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2016); and *Cripple Poetics: A Love Story* (Homofactus Press, 2008), a collaboration with poet and performance artist Neil Marcus and photographer Lisa Steichman.

She is the artistic director of The Olimpias, an international disability culture collective, and the cocreator of the Turtle Disco, a community performance environment in Ypsilanti, Michigan, with her wife Stephanie Heit.

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### Personal

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

### Piano Lessons

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**Solution on Page 9**





## Ski Report

March 19, 2023

Starting next Wednesday, the Hoodoo Ski Resort will be open for 13 days straight during Spring Break, wrapping up with an Easter celebration on March 31. The last report reported the base was at 78 inches. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 34 degrees at the base and 38 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 110 inches. Another excellent day was expected, with clear skies, mild temperatures, and temperatures in the mid 40's. 83 of 104 trails were open, along with 10 of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



## A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**March 23** - Judge Owen Denny, an Oregon pioneer, was appointed Consul General to China. While in China he wrote a friend about an exotic ring-necked pheasant, saying, "These birds are delicious eating and very game and will furnish fine sport." He shipped seventy pheasants from China but when they arrived, in March 1881, only 15 roosters and five hens had survived. These were released on Sauvie Island near Portland. Denny sent a second shipment, which were released on his brother's homestead in Linn County. The Chinese pheasants thrived in the wild and were protected until 1892 when hunters bagged 50,000 birds on the first day of hunting season.



## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

B	L	O	A	T	A	R	C		C	O	H	O		
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### First Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

Publishing Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District 1<sup>st</sup> Notice of Budget Committee meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7PM - Location will be at the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District, Station #1 at 56578 McKenzie Hwy

*Jenn Michiger*  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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River Reflections**



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in the back issues of this newspaper. Go to: [tinyurl.com/2rkpkxen](https://tinyurl.com/2rkpkxen)

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At a time when our nation seems deeply divided along political lines, we opt to take a different path. We add.

Our goal daily is to add to the collective understanding of this community through a news report that fully and fairly reflects what's happening. The more we know about our hometown and neighbors, the more likely we are to build common ground.

That's important. Local news coverage is at its best when it captures a community's successes and challenges, and generates conversations that lead to better solutions and a brighter future.

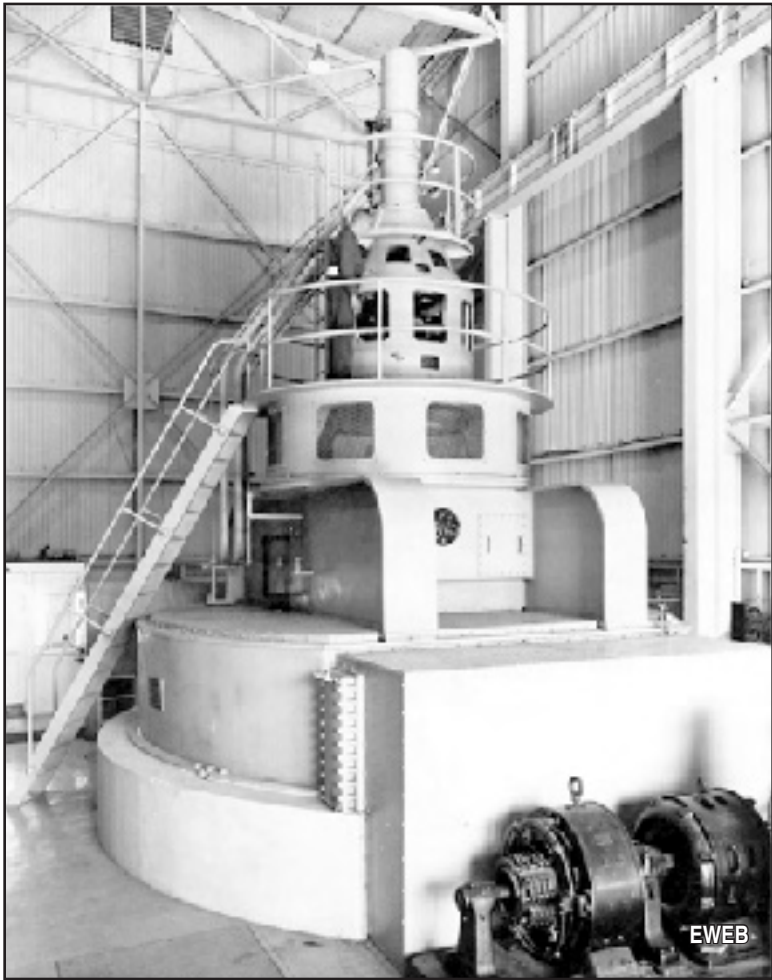
The more informed we are, the more we care.  
That's good for our hometown and good for America. Just do the math.





# Canal shutdown

Continued From Page 1



Now idle, the Walterville Hydroelectric project produced enough to power nine thousand homes. Dug almost entirely by hand , it was reported that “by the spring of 1910, 55 teams of horse, drawing heavily upon local farms for livestock, were at work in the canal.”

the drawdown will extend into the summer. Moving forward requires a repair plan, federal approval, and contracting for the job.

The Walterville Canal starts near Walterville Elementary School and runs four miles through the middle of the valley. Along the way, it passes under the highway, then parallels Camp Creek Road until delivering water to the powerhouse at Kickbush Lane.

Although the canal’s primary purpose is to generate electricity, it has provided an added benefit to the community by allowing neighboring farms to draw water from the canal for irrigation. Approximately seven commercial and one non-commercial irrigator draw water from the canal.

“While we are still determining the next steps, we’d like to notify our neighbors in case they need to prepare to enter the summer season with the canal dewatered,” Krentz said.

EWEB will send letters to canal neighbors to advise them of the issue. People concerned about how they may be affected by the dewatering can contact EWEB Generation Planner Jeremy Somogy at 541-685-7439 or [jeremy.somogy@eweb.org](mailto:jeremy.somogy@eweb.org) to learn more.

# Cooperation counts

Continued From Page 1

incident.”

The sizing up process combines information from initial reports, ranging from the public to other agencies. “We hop on the same channel, and we communicate,” Trapanese said. He prioritizes incidents that could affect the community, adding that “Mutual aid happens a heck of a lot.”

Those interactions have been part of the area’s coordinated responses. While the local fire districts receive input from a central dispatch center in Eugene, it needs to be combined with local awareness. “We’re not going to go 10 miles up Horse Creek Road,” Bucich said. We don’t know the roads as well as the ODF or Forest Service folks. I don’t want our volunteers getting lost or encountering a locked gate.”

To view videos of the meeting, go to [tinyurl.com/2cjh5kpc](https://tinyurl.com/2cjh5kpc)

According to John Flannigan, Eastern Lane Unit Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry, “Initially, we go with the closest forces to get the size up” and plan

# New campaign finance law limits OR donor influence

By Eric Tegethoff  
Oregon News Service

Oregon lawmakers took a step toward limiting the impact of money on elections during the legislative session.

Lawmakers passed House Bill 2024, a campaign finance reform package that limits the amount single donors can contribute to campaigns. Limits haven’t existed in the state since the 1970s.

Contributions will be capped at \$3,300 - per candidate, per election.

House Speaker state Rep. Julie Fahey - D-Eugene - championed the bill.

In her first campaign for office, she faced candidates funded by large donations from wealthy donors - and said the experience inspired her to change the law.

“It really was that first challenging election cycle that cemented in my mind how important it was that we reform our campaign finance system,” said Fahey, “in part because we need to make running for office more accessible to brand new candidates like I was.”

Oregon voters have shown they’re ready for limits on campaign contributions. They wrote them into the the state constitution

in 2020.

This year, Honest Elections and the League of Women Voters had collected nearly enough signatures for a measure to put campaign finance reform on the November ballot.

Fahey noted that the bill doesn’t just limit contributions.

“We also created new kinds of small donor pacs and membership organization pacs,” said Fahey, “that will make sure that we can incentivize the kind of pro-democracy campaigning that we re-

ally want to see more of.”

Common Cause Oregon Director Kate Titus said these changes have taken effort from a lot of people over a long period time

“It’s such a complex issue, campaign finance reform,” said Titus, “and it’s one of the toughest ones to fight because it gets at the heart of power in politics. Anyone who gains power through money has the power to resist.”

The new campaign finance laws go into effect in 2027.



Joaquin Corbalan/Adobe Stock

A bill limiting contributions to candidates is expected to head to Governor Tina Kotek’s desk soon.

# Northwest Forest Plan

Continued From Page 1

Goulette contended promises were made to rural, forest-dependent communities under the Northwest Forest Plan but never realized. He argued that updating the plan is a chance to rectify problems and focus on areas like recreation, management of timber resources, and stewardship.

“There’s a lot that these rural communities stand to contribute and a lot they stand to benefit from being really active participants,” Goulette added. “The plan for getting more focused on and some additional components that focus on rural communities is really important to us.”

## Holiday Farm Fire Recovery Funding Committee Meeting Planned for 4/1/24

On Monday, April 1 the PIER Committee will meet online and in-person from 2 to 4 PM at McKenzie Fire and Rescue in Leaburg, 42870 McKenzie Highway.

The agenda and materials will be posted on the Lane County PIER website a week before the meeting: <https://lanecountyor.gov/PIER>. To receive an online meeting link, register for the meeting on the website.

Background info: The State of Oregon is providing funds for Holiday Farm wildfire recovery and all are welcome to join the conversation. A committee of individuals, organizations, and agencies are meeting regularly online and in-person to make recommendations. There is time set aside at the beginning and end for public comments and questions.

The State of Oregon program is called PIER - Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization – visit <https://lanecountyor.gov/PIER> to access meeting materials, provide comments, confirm meeting dates/timeframes/locations, sign up for project updates, and register for the meeting zoom link. Email [megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov) or call 541-852-8259 to submit comments or questions.

The Committee is formally voting on priorities during these public meetings. Note: People needing special accommodation (e.g. in-person accommodation, hearing impaired, language translation, chemical sensitivity needs, and large print copies of the agenda or other application materials) are instructed to submit their request at least 48 business hours prior to the meeting by calling Megan Heurion at 541-852-8259 or emailing [megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov).



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## NOTICE OF BUDGET COMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Lane County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, will be held at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Highway, Leaburg, Oregon. The meeting will take place on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. The second required notice of the Budget Committee Meeting is posted at [www.mckenziefire.com](http://www.mckenziefire.com).

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the proposed budget.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after March 18, 2024 at District Headquarters, 42870 McKenzie Highway, Leaburg, Oregon, 97489, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

1st notice published in McKenzie River Reflections, March 19, 2024.

2nd notice published at [www.mckenziefire.com](http://www.mckenziefire.com) on March 19, 2024.



# 20-year-old problem solved



Lane County Sheriff's Search & Rescue settled a 20-year-old problem with an evening of high angle training

Lane County Sheriff's Search & Rescue is constantly training. Last week, they were able to train and help out our Oregon State Parks simultaneously. About 20 volunteers practiced rigging and operating the team's high and steep-angle rescue systems at Heceta Head Lighthouse...to "rescue" a picnic table on the cliff below that has been an eyesore for 20 years.

The team's rope rescue systems can be deployed quickly almost anywhere by just a few trained personnel. They have been used to rescue many injured swimmers and hikers, but a picnic table was a first.

The unique "patient" presented an excellent challenge for problem-solving and adaptability. The training provided as close to a real-world scenario as possible and included a near-perfect view.

Nearly every week, Sheriff's Search & Rescue volunteers assist residents in all environments.

Learn more about our Search & Rescue program at [tinyurl.com/jt-bsmmkf](https://tinyurl.com/jt-bsmmkf)

## Drawn to the River

Hiking, shooting hoops at McKenzie's basketball courts, or playing golf at his favorite course, Tokatee, were all fond recollections for Cody Farr-Baenziger. He grew up on the McKenzie River 20 years ago and admits it was a unique and memorable experience. Although his family later relocated to central Oregon, and he moved to Portland to begin a new career, he says he has always wanted to return to those roots.

His mother, Toni, was a therapist with McKenzie School District, and his father, Bart, was an Environmental Consultant. Together, they built a cabin near Finn Rock before Cody was born. And their love of the McKenzie River brought them back to raise Cody and his younger sister, Jesse.

He shared his parent's feelings. "The beauty of the McKenzie River area is unmatched, and the tight-knit community is something that I have not found anywhere else," Cody says.

After graduating from the University of Oregon with degrees in Environmental Studies and Sociology, he spent years as an environmental surveyor. But the trades and home inspection, in particular, had always interested him. So did the idea of working for a nonprofit.

Finding Nonprofit Home Inspections (NHI), he says, happened by chance. After graduating from NHI's trade school in 2019, Cody was hired by the company and entered their rigorous apprenticeship program, which provides inspections on



Cody Farr-Baenziger

a sliding scale and partners with other nonprofits to provide inspections free of charge.

Cody has gained Master Inspector status and is also a licensed Structural Pest Inspector and FAA-licensed drone pilot. Several other certifications allow him to provide sewer scopes, mold testing, radon testing, and more.

After many years in Portland, Cody has returned to the Willamette Valley. He's opened a new branch of Nonprofit Home Inspections that serves the area he still calls home, the McKenzie.

"I hoped to return to where I grew up and provide a valuable service to this community for many years. I am extremely excited to finally make it a reality," Cody says.

Now married, he plans to follow in his parent's footsteps and raise his family in the Willamette Valley. Giving back to a place that has given so much to him "just feels like the right thing to do," he feels.

You can find more information about Cody and Nonprofit Home Inspections by visiting [nonprofit-homeinspections.org](https://nonprofit-homeinspections.org)

## Range wars

Continued From Page 4

land at all. All they'd need to buy to go into this lucrative business was a handful of sheep and some camping gear. The business plan was simple: Drift from pasture to pasture on the public range, protecting and caring for their animals as they ate, bred, and multiplied into a large flock.

This was a business plan that worked for sheep, but not for cattle. Sheep are tougher and more weather-resistant than cattle. Their flocking instinct keeps them together in tight packs, which can be made even tighter with a couple of good sheepdogs. Most of these sheepherders didn't even bother with filing a homestead claim — they wouldn't be able to prove one up anyway, because they'd be wandering the public lands with their flocks all year. They were true transients — the sodbusters and cattlemen called the "tramp sheepmen," and the moniker really did fit. They were always on the move; their sheep would spend the summer munching on alpine herbs near the timberline, then migrate with the cooler weather down close to rivers and lakes.

Everywhere they went, they ate all they could. Why wouldn't they? The land was public range; nobody "owned" it. If a sheepherder moved on before his woolly charges had gnawed the land down to rocks and roots, someone else would just come along and finish the job later. It was a classic "tragedy of the commons" scenario.

Which didn't really bother anybody much until the mid-

1880s, when some important things started to change.

The biggest of these was, more and more settlers were moving out onto the range, staking land claims, and trying to prove them up. Naturally these sodbusters would pick the greenest and most productive bits.

That meant that even as more and more sheepherders moved onto the grasslands to try and hustle up a living, the amount of land available for them was shrinking. And it was shrinking a lot: Between 1880 and 1890, the amount of Columbia Basin grassland devoted to growing wheat increased sixfold. Competition started to heat up.

Plus, the threat of having prime grazing lands claimed and fenced off by some sodbuster actually incentivized the sheepherders to overgraze. A dead, brown, rocky field would be a lot less likely to catch a homesteader's eye than a pleasant field of green grasses, after all.

From a sodbuster's perspective, the itinerant flocks of sheep were like a swarm of locusts. In a worst-case scenario, they would pour into the public lands that he was counting on to feed his extra livestock, tearing down his fencing and devouring everything edible before moving on to the next spot. Homesteaders who planted gardens on the adjacent public lands might go hungry to feed the growing flocks of "tramp sheepmen" in the area. It could mean the difference between making it as a farmer, failing.

(Sources: *Counting Sheep*, a book by Alexander Campbell McGregor published in 1982 by the Univ. of Wash. Press; "From Oregon's Range War to Nevada's Sagebrush Rebellion," an article by William R. Lindley published in the Jan. 1999 issue of *Journal of the West*; "Central Oregon Range Wars," an article by Tor Hanson published July 7, 2018, by *The Bend Bulletin*; "The Central Oregon Range Wars," an article by Melinda Jette published in 2004 by *Oregon History Project*.)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His latest book, *Bad Ideas and Horrible People of Old Oregon*, was recently published by Ouragan House Publishers. To contact him or suggest a topic: [finn@offbeatoregon.com](mailto:finn@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.

Continued Next Week

## Got the downtown rundown?



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