McKenzie River Reflections

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Volume 48, Issue 49

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

Summer Planning

"If I pull out enough drillers, then we'll have a family of drillerless mosquitoes."

PAGE 4

Feed your garden

If your vegetable garden isn't growing lush and fruitful it may need a nutritional boost.

PAGE 5

LOCAL NEWS

Utility's Drilling In Leaburg Seeks Data

Results from test holes aim to help reduce flood risks in the community

LEABURG: Earlier this year Eugene Water & Electric Board officials ap-proved additional work to reduce safety risks associated with the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project, including a new round of geotechnical drilling near Johnson Creek and continued investigations of the aging Leaburg Canal.

Staff reported the utility is continuing efforts to address concerns involving the five-mile canal that runs parallel to the McKenzie River between Leaburg Dam and the Leaburg Powerhouse.

According to officials, the canal faces increasing challenges during major storm events when tributary streams can carry more water than the system was originally designed to accommodate. During periods of heavy rainfall, they warned, the creeks

Leaburg Drilling - Page 10

Crews from PLI Systems were busy last Wednesday drilling a test hole in the former channel of Spring Creek, which once flowed through a section of what is now the holly farm.

From fluffy windrows to bodacious bales - area's summer harvests are in motion

Last week, combines harvested ryegrass in the fields of Walterville's Millican Century Farm. After cutting, the grass was left in windrows to dry in the summer sun before specialized harvesters returned to collect and compress the seed into 1,000-pound bales. Oregon's Willamette Valley is one of the world's leading producers of cool-season grass seed, with ryegrass harvested during the warm, dry days of summer to ensure high-quality seed for lawns, pastures, and turf around the globe.

Solo Summit of Mount Jefferson Ended in Tragedy

Witnesses watched a climber disappear down slope's western face

An experienced Idaho mountaineer was presumed dead after falling while attempting a solo ascent of Mount Jefferson, according to the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Michelle Duncan said deputies were first notified of the incident at approximately 11:35 a.m. on July 24, when a 911 caller relayed information from two climbers who witnessed another man fall near the mountain's summit.

The witnesses reported seeing someone fall down the mountain's west side near the Red Saddle before disappearing into the Milk Creek drainage. They described the individual only as a male wearing what appeared to be a bright red jacket.

An Oregon Army National Guard helicopter was dispatched to search the area and located what investigators believe was the climber's backpack and other gear on the west side of the summit. Despite the chopper's aerial search, crews were unable to locate the climber.

Ground search-and-rescue teams were then deployed to the mountain. Because of the rugged terrain and the late hour, rescuers hiked as far as possible before making camp overnight, planning to continue the search at first light.

At approximately 6:08 a.m. on July 25, the Linn County Sheriff's Office received a missing-person report involving a climber who had failed to check in with his wife after attempting to summit Mount Jefferson the previous day.

Investigators later confirmed that the backpack and equipment found during the aerial search belonged to the missing climber, identified as Jared John Empey, 37, of Kuna, Idaho. Authorities said Empey was an experienced climber who had set out alone to summit Mount Jefferson.

Based on witness accounts and the circumstances of the fall, investigators believe Empey's injuries were not survivable.

Recovery efforts continued throughout Saturday, although officials cautioned that the steep, hazardous terrain where Empey fell may make recovering his body impossible.

The Linn County Sheriff's Office thanked the Oregon Army National Guard, Oregon Department of Emergency Management, Corvallis Mountain Rescue, Eugene Mountain Rescue, Idanha-Detroit Fire District and the U.S. Forest Service for assisting in the search and recovery effort.

"Our hearts and thoughts go out to Jared's family and friends during this difficult time," the sheriff's office said.

Briefs...

Music lovers and aspiring singers will have the chance to take the stage during Karaoke Night at the Pour House Tavern on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

The event begins at 8 p.m. at the tavern, located at 444 N. 42nd St., and is open to anyone who wants to perform or simply enjoy an evening of live entertainment.

Karaoke, a popular form of interactive entertainment, originated in Japan during the early 1970s. The name comes from the Japanese words kara ("empty") and oke ("orchestra"), reflecting the concept of singing with recorded instrumental tracks instead of a live band.

Participants sing into a microphone while the song's lyrics are displayed on a screen, making it easy for both experienced performers and first-time singers to join in. Popular beginner-friendly selections include classics such as Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," ABBA's "Dancing Queen," and more recent hits like Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off."

Poker Night - Page 2

Manufacxturing Class - Page 2

Ridin' the Rapids

By Ken Engelman

It seems McKenzie River Reflections should enter more competitions. That's the message I got when the paper received an award for its website at this year's Pacific Northwest News Publishing Contest.

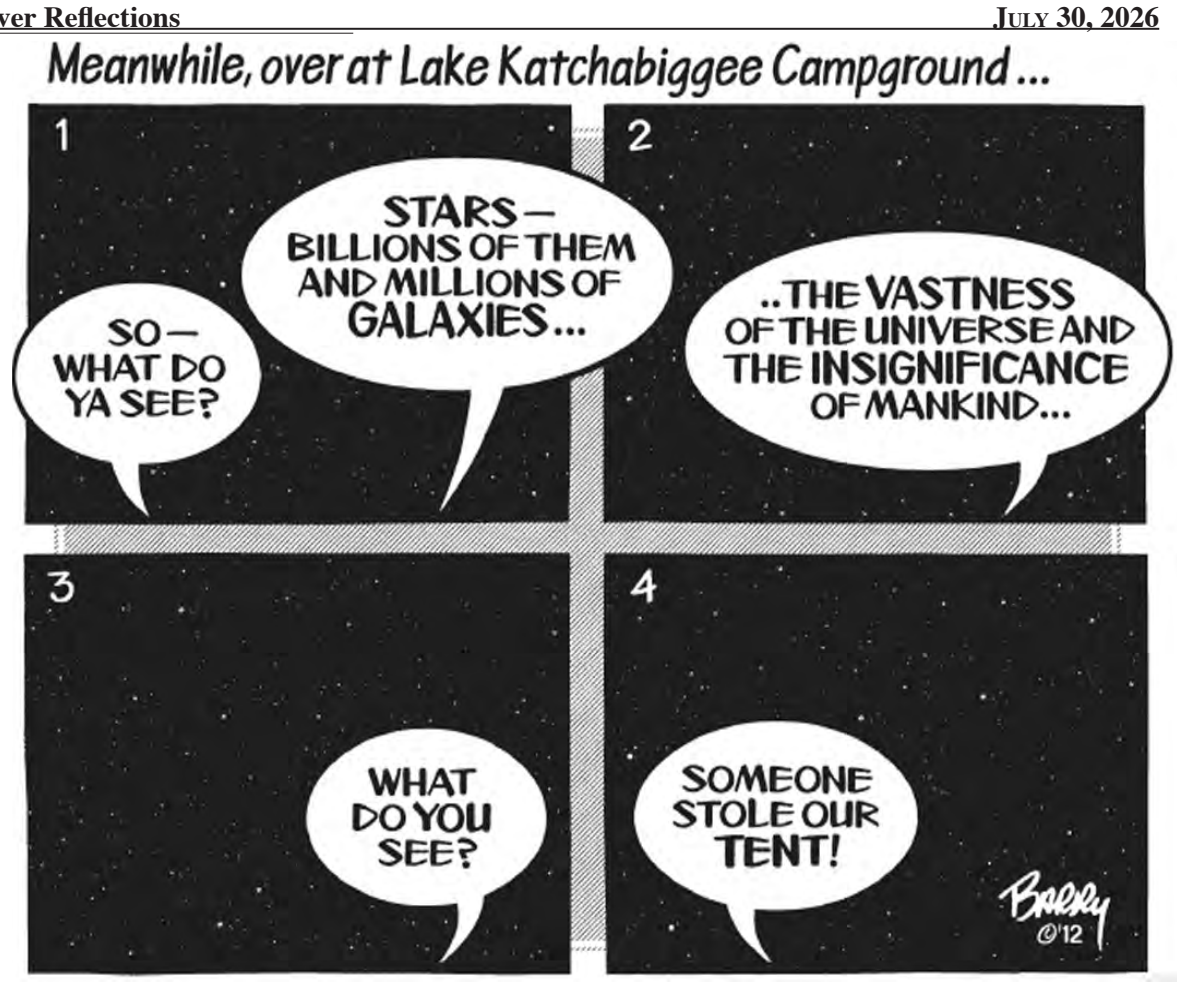
Sponsored by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association the competition included entries from Washington, Idaho and Oregon, judged by a panel from the New Jersey Press Association. It's likely there wasn't any locally influenced favoritism.

But a surprise came when I was asked to go to the podium to accept a plaque for an "Elmo Smith Award of General Excellence." It's not awarded every year but is given out on special occasions in recognition of newspapers showing "an extraordinary contribution to their community , region or state through newspaper journalism."

The gathering was also a good opportunity to share some of the things publishers and reporters have been doing that have improved their work, along with tips on avoiding wasted efforts. For my part, the story of Reflections' success at going from print to digital was something I was happy to talk about.

This week readers should begin to notice some of those ideas, beginning with a freshened up front page layout. Others who access information from social media have been seeing some results from that input as well.

There's more to come - keep reading McKenzie River Reflections.



Letters to the Editor

Include pets in plans

As wildfires continue to sweep through Central Oregon, it's im-portant to have an emergency plan that includes animals.

In a crisis, animals may hide, bolt, or freeze. You might not have time to search for a frightened cat under the bed or coax a panicked dog out of a corner. Leave carriers out so they feel familiar, and practice gathering your animals so you're prepared before an emergency happens.

Pack a "go bag" with at least a week's supply of food, water, medications, and medical records, along with bowls, litter supplies, and comfort items to help reduce stress.

Research hotels, shelters, or campgrounds that accept animals, and keep a printed list in your bag in case your phone dies or service is lost.

Identification can make the difference between reunion and permanent loss. Microchips and up-to-date ID tags are essential. Keep recent photos of yourself with your animals to help prove guardianship if you're separated.

If evacuation becomes necessary, take animals with you. Transport dogs using a secure harness and leash, and cats and small animals in carriers. If authorities force you to evacuate without them, never leave animals tied up or confined. Cut fences and open stalls to give them at least a chance to escape.

A bit of preparation today can save lives tomorrow.

Melissa Rae Sanger, LVT
The PETA Foundation
Norfolk, VA

Guest Opinion

'E pluribus unum' is not a slogan. It's a choice.

By Tim Storey and Sue K. Urahn

Like two sides of a coin imprinted with the nation's mot-to, "e pluribus unum" — out of many, one — America's political factions are cast in opposition, but they are intrinsically bound together as parts of a larger whole.

From the beginning, the United States has aspired to build a more perfect union. When our founders convened the Constitutional Convention in 1787, they disagreed about the structure of government, the balance of power and the protection of individual versus collective rights. But when they debated — and they often did, with great conviction and intensity — they honed their arguments on what they thought was best for the entire country, guided by the shared vision of a new nation established on the ideals of individual freedom, equality and opportunity.

Today, that shared commitment to America's founding creed is under strain.

Most Americans feel exhausted by politics, and a growing number are unhappy with the way the political system is working. Worse, this unhappiness is showing up in unhealthy ways, with low trust in government and each other — a sense that the other side is the problem.

We are painfully aware that partisanship and distrust have grown. We see this too often, when people are reduced to disparaging labels, states are cast as simply red or blue, and the hostility in our politics produces no progress, leaving us all no better off, or worse than before. Our political parties appear deadlocked in a struggle for power, forgetting that they are inseparable sides of the nation's democratic system, which depends not on who wins but on a shared commitment to the common good. Central to that commitment is a willingness to listen to opposing views, not simply to respond but to understand.

Disagreeing is one thing — it is rooted in our pluralist republic. But when we cannot find ways to work together, it becomes impossible to solve our problems. The founders understood this. They argued passionately, but they shared a deeper allegiance to the nation's success and its posterity, and they were partners in creating and safeguarding a system that we all continue to rely on.

Whether we choose to engage in political warfare or civil debate is up to each of us. That's as true in statehouses and city councils as it is at the family dinner table, in the community center, on the debate stage, or standing on opposite sides of a free speech zone. In each of these venues, we can choose to practice democracy by engaging in debate that is spirited, healthy and rooted in strong arguments rather than name calling — or worse, heeding the impulse to withdraw from political engagement altogether.

There are glimmers of hope.

Here in Chicago, as part of the nation's largest public policy gathering of state legislators and staff from all 50 states and U.S. territories, our organizations, the National Conference of State Legislatures and The Pew Charitable Trusts, are working together to build connections across the political spectrum and share policy ideas and best practices that strengthen legislatures and serve communities nationwide. This follows a series of events held around the country, including a February "America at 250 Forum," to bring people with opposing views together to discuss issues that matter to everyone. All of the events demonstrate a serious commitment to strengthening our democratic muscles at this historic moment for the country.

Continued On Page 11

Briefs...

Poker Night

The Vida/McKenzie Community Center is inviting area residents to try their luck at the card table during its weekly Tuesday Night Poker gatherings, which feature both casual play and a Texas Hold'em tournament.

The evening begins with Dealer's Choice cash games from 4 to 5:30 p.m., with 25-cent and 50-cent blinds, offering players the opportunity to enjoy a variety of poker games in a relaxed setting.

The Texas Hold'em tournament starts promptly at 6 p.m. and continues until 9 p.m. A $15 buy-in includes 7,000 tournament chips, with optional $10 re-buys and a $10 add-on at the break, each providing an additional 7,000 chips. Tournament organizers recently introduced a new blind structure and also feature special prizes such as a "three of a kind" pot and a "bad beat" pot.

The outings typically attract 16 to 24 players each week. New and experienced players alike are encouraged to attend, with opportunities available for beginners to learn the game.

Manufacturing

Spark's Manufacturing Excelerator at Booth-Kelly, 303 S 5th St, Ste. 150 in Springfield is a launchpad for youth interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing but who would benefit from workforce readiness training. The Manufacturing Excelerator consists of paid training, including education in OSHA-approved safety practices and the basics of CAD, 3D printing, CNC operation, and welding. Students, from 18 - 24, who demonstrate strong performance may also have the opportunity to participate in a paid internship with a local manufacturing employer.

No previous experience or prerequisites are necessary for the course, provided by Connected Lane County from July 27 to August 24. Info available at: connectedlane.org

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Friday	Saturday	Sunday
McKenzie Valley: Sunny, 5% chance precip, High: 91 Low: 55	McKenzie Valley: Partly Cloudy, 5% chance precip, High: 83 Low: 53	McKenzie Valley: Sunny, 5% chance precip, High: 82 Low: 51
Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 94 Low: 55	Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 85 Low: 47	Santiam Pass: Sunny, 0% chance precip, High: 83 Low: 47

WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
7/21	96	71	0	318 cfs
7/22	92	71	0	318 cfs
7/23	86	64	0	313 cfs
7/24	86	60	0	NA
7/25	84	54	0	NA
7/26	82	55	0	322 cfs
7/27	84	52	0	449 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
7/21	99	64	o	1,860 cfs
7/22	95	64	0	1,860 cfs
7/23	89	63	0.13	1,810 cfs
7/24	85	57	0	1,830 cfs
7/25	85	55	0	1,830 cfs
7/26	80	57	0	1,860 cfs
7/27	82	50	0	1,860 cfs

Sheriff's Report

July 20: 14:00: Suspicious Conditions–94400block, Johnson Rd. Caller reported ongoing issues in the neighborhood, with stop and go traffic. Caller believed drug activity was taking place at the residence but wished to remain anonymous.

15:00: Burglary – 92100 blk, Marcola Rd. Caller reported someone broke in their residence and stole several parcels. Deputies called and spoke with the victim.

21:00: Dispute - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reported hearing neighbors in a dispute. Additional calls were received about the same incident. The male and female involved in the dispute left in a vehicle before deputies could arrive. Neither answered by phone when deputies attempted contact.

July 21: 02:00: Suspicious Conditions - 42700 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reported someone was trying to break into the house but quickly changed his mind and told LCSO they could disregard. The caller called again, and this time requested mental health assistance. He was referred to Mobile Crisis Service.

21:00: Harassment – 38800 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reported being threatened by ex over breakup. Deputies spoke with the caller and advised of the protective order process.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

July 20: 9:42: 42400 blk, Holden Creek Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

13:16: 43600 blk, McK. Hwy Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

21:24: McK. Hwy./Milepost 43. Motor Vehicle Accident/Mutual Aid. Unable To Locate.

July 21: 22:31: 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical Alarm Mistaken Alarm.

July 22: 2:30: 200 blk, S. 79th St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:02: 38700 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:30: McK. Hwy./Mp. 30 MVA. Non-Blocking, Injury.

19:04: Upper Camp Creek Rd./ Mitten Ln. Brush Fire, Lightning Strike. Out of District, OR Dept. of Forestry on Scene.

19:38: 41300 blk, McK. Hwy. Brush Fire. Possible Smoke in Hills, ODF Helicopter flew over area.

July 23: 1:36: 42700 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Assist with Packaging for Transport.

11:05: 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

July 24: 5:22: 49600 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

9:00: Camp Creek Rd./High Ranch Dr. Smoke Scare. UTL.

20:17: 39100 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Mistaken Alarm. False Alarm.

July 26: 4:29: Thurston Rd./ Billings Rd. Subject Down. No One Found in the Area.

13:10: 40100 blk, York Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

15:11: 3900 blk, Marcola Rd. Fire Alarm Canceled En Route.

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

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

July 23: 10:32: Medical – 59000 block, N. Belknap Springs Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

19:25: Medical – 55000 blk, Drury Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

July 24: 05:22: Medical – 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

July 25: 01:47: Medical – 54000 blk, Rainbow Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

13:14: Smoke Check - Old McK. Hwy./Milepost 73. Caller is viewing smoke less than 1/4 mile south of his location, describing a small column. Possible lightning strike, no known access roads.

16:58: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Old McK. Hwy./ Mp. 70. Involved is a black Tesla, no one around, no plates on it.

July 27: 11:40: Fire Alarm - 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Caller advises she can see smoke. Line dropped, inside line does not go through. Unable to reach anyone.

July 27: 16:54:21: Vehicle Fire - 56425 Engles Dr. Jaguar XJ is leaking gas and starting to smoke.

22:48: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury – McK. Hwy./ Aufderheide Dr. Caller is driver of Chevy Bolt, airbags deployed, no injury, not blocking. Unknown if deer is deceased.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 17, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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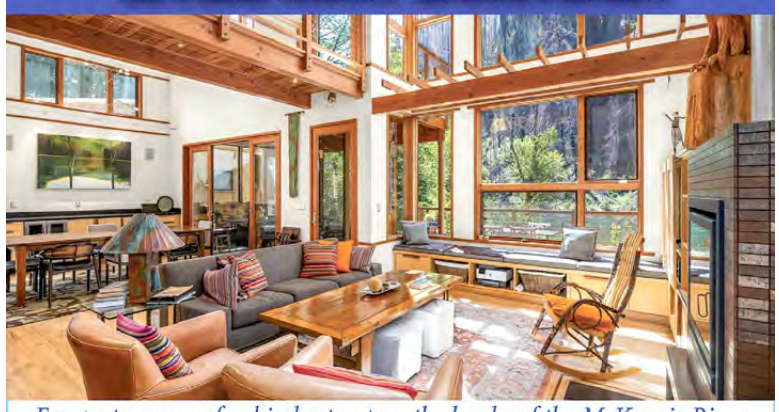

Escape to a one-of-a-kind retreat on the banks of the McKenzie River. The home's unique "pod-style" layout offers both privacy and connection, with three separate structures joined by outdoor walkways. Each sleeping pod features two bedrooms and a spa-like bathroom, a private deck, and peaceful views of Eagle Rock and the McKenzie River. At the heart of the property, the central living pod is a dramatic, light-filled gathering space with soaring ceilings—designed for comfort, connection, and taking in the surrounding beauty. $1,200,000. Call for more information!

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Early Portland man's wake worked – he woke right up!

By Slim Randles

Two boys, asked to watch over the deceased on a dark and windy night in the 1890s, were terrified when the 'corpse' started making noises in the other room ....

By Finn J.D. John

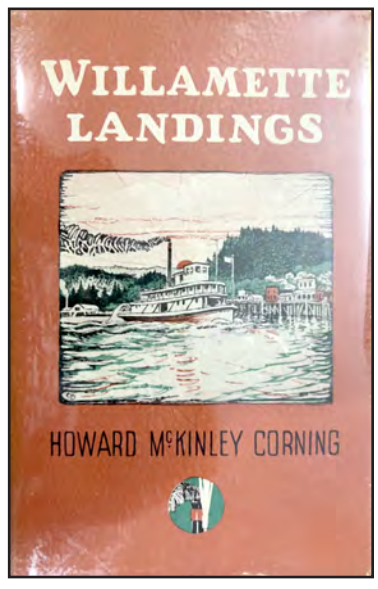
In 1935, in the depths of the Great Depression, the U.S. Congress passed what's sometimes called the "Second New Deal." It was a $4.88 billion investment into getting Americans through the Depression.

The original New Deal, launched in 1933 just after Franklin Roosevelt won the Presidency, had prevented people from starving in the streets; but Roosevelt agreed with some of his critics who felt giving able-bodied working people dole money was demoralizing and demeaning. The 1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act tried to fix that by pivoting away from direct dole payments for people who could work, instead launching projects that could employ the unemployed in their own lines of work.

The philosophy behind this new New Deal push was to let unemployed workers earn their way by putting their existing skills to use, rather than treating them like charity cases or giving them make-work jobs raking leaves or doing litter patrols.

It's an idea that never worked perfectly; but it worked far better than anything else that has been tried, before or since. Professionals and highly skilled workers especially found receiving dole payments profoundly demoralizing and, of course, the government got nothing out of it. Bestowing huge taxpayer-funded gifts upon giant corporations in hopes that they will use the money to employ more people (rather than paying out bonuses to their executives or buying back stock shares) is, if recent experience is any guide, an even worse idea; at least workers receiving a dole payment can be depended on to use it to buy things.

But maybe the best benefit of this "put 'em to work building stuff for the future" approach is, we all got something out of it.



The front cover of Howard McKinley Corning's guidebook, Willamette Landings: Ghost Towns of the River, which he wrote as part of the WPA Federal Writers' Project. It was not yet published when the war ended things, so it wasn't published until 1947 when the Oregon Historical Society took the manuscript

Projects like Timberline Lodge, the improvements at Silver Falls State Park, and the Dee Wright Observatory are still around and in use today, and skilled craftsmen proudly brought their best work to the job despite being paid pennies on every dollar their talents would command during more normal times.

One category of skilled workers who are often unemployed during hard times is writers and artists. So a comparatively tiny sliver of the WPA's funds went toward "Federal Project Number One," a group that included the Federal Writers' Project, Federal Art Project, Federal Music Project, and Federal Theatre Project.

In Oregon, the Federal Writers' Project was especially interesting, because in 1938 — when most of its work was done — there were actual Oregon Trail pioneers still alive.

The WPA set up an office in Portland, and staffed it with a roster of top-flight writers who had been temporarily embarrassed by the Depression. Sara B. Wrenn, Andrew Sherbert, Clair Churchill, Walker Winslow, and William Haight were frequent contributors, and each brought their own particular flair to the job. Their stories fell into six formal categories: Agriculture, Folklore, Occupations, Transportation systems, Recreational Opportunities, and Ethnic Groups.

The basic operating plan was for the writers to find an interesting person and conduct an oral history with him or her. Writers went to various places in the country and recorded on paper the stories of particularly interesting, colorful and/or elderly citizens.

In addition to these oral-history interviews, there also were travel guides, song lyrics, educational materials for schoolkids, and a free annual "Oregon Almanac." They also produced radio programs and research guides to county archives.

The project hit some rough headwinds toward the end, as political pressure mounted. Lots of conservative politicians considered such projects as make-work boondoggles, and as rumors of Soviet Russia's infiltration of the American intellectual world in the 1930s started increasing in intensity and believability, the House Un-American Activities Committee got involved. The project's national leader was fired in 1939, and then of course when the Second World War broke out it was basically abandoned on the spot.

Because of the war, there was never really a proper winding-down of the WPA writers' project. Boxes and boxes were simply filled with the work and placed in storage. To this day, what's publicly available is a sliver of their total output.

It's a bigger sliver than it was before 1999, though, in Oregon at least. That's when librarians at the State of Oregon Library, cleaning up after a flood, stumbled across several boxes crammed with thousands of pages of Writers' Project files. Scholars Tom Nash, Twilo Scofield and Nancy Appling Salucci volunteered to go through them, photocopying old yellowing typescripts on new acid-free paper and compiling an index to the contents.

These are all available at the state library today. A few of them have been digitized and can be browsed on line at the library's Digital Collections Website. In addition, a collection of 100 or so have been digitized by the Library of Congress and can be browsed on line.

The Folklore Studies manuscripts may be the most interesting of the lot, from a storytelling standpoint. The story in the sidebar to this article is a great example, albeit one cherry-picked by Yours Truly for maximum entertainment value. But, there is lots more where it came from.

In the final analysis, anyone with half a day to spend getting reacquainted with old Oregon as it existed in the pre-war years can benefit from the work of these old-time folklorists and history writers.

A simple search for "Oregon WPA" at the Library of Congress's Website will bring up nearly 30,000 items, mostly newspapers and books; but if you click the "Manuscripts/ Mixed Material" link at the left side of the page, you can browse through 118 of these articles written by the WPA writers in the late 1930s; and another 40 or 50 more have been miscategorized as "Books," so you can find them there as well.

It's a drop in the bucket, really; but the color and character of old Oregon shines through in them, and who knows — they may whet your appetite for more!

The Maddest Man in Town:

What follows is an interview transcript by William Haight with Charles Imus of 1624 SW 16th St., Portland, conducted Feb. 24, 1939. Charley, 59, was a retired farm worker, logger, livery stable keeper and dance hall manager … and, as we shall hear, an undertaker's son. The story he tells would have taken place in the late 1880s.

"Are ya religious? If ya are I won't tell this story. Awright, I guess it won't hurt ya none to hear it. It's about old man Donovan. He was as good a Catholic as I ever knew, until he got mad once. Then he was mad for 17 years — the maddest man in town. Ye-up, ding-blasted mad and powerful mizzur'ble. Considering all in all, I reckon his being mad so long set a record of sorts for the whole danged county.

You're right, the old duffer

He woke right up! - Page 11

Quote of the Week

"Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret."

Ambrose Bierce

This Space For Rent
rivref2@gmail.com

It was Doc who first noticed Dud's strange behavior. I was too busy trying to drop an elk-hair caddis fly, size 16, just beyond that big smooth rock on Lewis Creek. I know there's a big rainbow trout in that hole there, you see, and there is nothing more important, on a summer morning like this one, than enticing that big rascal into delivering himself to my waiting hands.

But Doc noticed that Dud had laid his fly rod down in the bushes and was doing strange things with his hands. Finally, Doc got my attention, pointed to Dud, and we both stopped fishing and walked over to see what our long-time pal was up to.

Dud would look around in the air, then make a one-handed grab at the air. After several grabs, he'd take two fingers of his other hand, put them in his clenched fist, and wiggle around. Then he'd smile and open his fist and look in the air again.

Doc and I looked silently at each other, wondering how long it would take from our day of fishing to get Dud delivered to the nervous hospital in the city.

"Dud," said Doc, "how's the fishing?"

"Huh? Oh hi. Not fishing right now, Doc. Experimenting."

"Experimenting?" I said. Of course, I said this automatically, forgetting for a moment how time consuming it could be to start Dud explaining things of a scientific nature.

"Natural selection," Dud said, proudly. "Survival of the fittest. Yes, I decided to spend my morning in Darwinian pursuits, making the world a safer place for mankind."

Doc looked at me. "He's talking like that again," he said.

"Well, Doc," said Dud, "you, of all people, should be able to appreciate what I'm doing. After all, you're a man of science and a healer. I'm going to rid the world of dangerous diseases. Observe."

Then Dud made another grab at the air, and this time we could see he was snatching a mosquito out of the air. Again he used his other hand to do something to the mosquito, and then he released it.

"I'm pulling out their drillers," Dud said. "I figgered if I pull out enough drillers, then sooner or later two drillerless mosquitoes will get married and have pups and then we'll have a family of drillerless mosquitoes here on Lewis Creek. Without drillers, they won't be able to pass along yellow fever or malaria to fishermen.

Doc looked at him in a strange way. "Dud, there's never been anyone get malaria from these Lewis Creek mosquitoes."

"See?" Dud said, brightly. "It's already working."

....

Brought to you by Sandia Crest Bowhunters Association. It's their turn.

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OSU GARDENING Tips

Oregon State University

Feed your vegetable garden midseason

So, your vegetable garden is growing lush and fruitful — or not. If it's the latter, your plants may need a nutritional boost.

Chip Bubl, retired associate professor and horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, has offered vegetable gardening advice for many years. He shares these tips for midsummer feeding of garden plants.

Most vegetable gardeners begin the season by applying a balanced fertilizer worked into the soil prior to planting. For light-feeding crops, this may be sufficient to carry them through to maturity.

Nitrogen is the nutrient most often re-applied after crops are up and growing. There are several reasons to do this:

* Nitrogen leaches from soils during winter, so little remains at the start of each growing season.

* Nitrogen is essential for vigorous plant growth. A deficiency results in pale green or yellowish foliage and stunted plants.

* Nitrogen is highly soluble and can quickly move from the soil surface to plant roots when watered in after application.

Gardeners often side-dress crops in midsummer using one of the following per 10 feet of row:

* 1 cup of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0)

* 1 1/3 cups of calcium nitrate (15-0-0)

* ½ cup of urea (46-0-0)

Scatter fertilizer near the base of plants and water it in. Most crops will respond within two weeks, often showing a noticeable improvement in color and vigor. Corn, onions, members of the cabbage family and squash are particularly responsive.

Organic fertilizers such as blood meal and alfalfa pellets also work well, though they take longer to show results. Lightly work them into the soil and apply early if nitrogen appears to be lacking. Fish emulsion is another option but must be applied more frequently. Always follow label directions for dilution and application rates.

Well-timed side-dressing generally results in higher yields and improved vegetable quality.

Timing guidelines for side-dressing

* Cabbage: 30 days after transplanting

* Cucumbers: When vines begin spreading rapidly

* Winter squash: Same as cucumbers

* Summer squash: When fruit set begins

* Peppers: Same as squash

* Potatoes: When vines reach 8 inches tall

* Beets: When 4 inches tall

* Lettuce: Same as beets

Peas and beans are light feeders if seeds were inoculated at planting with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Without inoculation, they may need additional nitrogen during the growing season.

Tomatoes are moderate to heavy feeders, but excessive nitrogen can lead to vigorous shoot growth and increase the risk of blossom-end rot. If needed, apply nitrogen lightly.

One more tip

If you've added a lot of organic matter to your soil, or are using a soil mix high in organic material, be aware that:

* Organic matter typically

Gardening Tips - Page 9

COUNTRY KITCHEN

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

THE SEASON FOR REUNIONS

The annual family reunion! These usually occur in summer-time.

I recall reunions in my mom's family for Memorial Day (her mother's family) and July 4th (her dad's family)/ I still have photos of those occasions and fond memories. My dad's family didn't have large gatherings...only with his brother who lived in another state.

My mother-in-law reminisced about the reunions of her maternal grandmother's family. We have a photograph of more than 100 people of all ages gathering in 1912.

About 40 years ago, my husband's uncle decided the members of their extended family should congregate and get to know one another better. He did extensive research and invited more than 75 people, young and old, for a picnic in a park near his home.

My husband, his seven brothers and various cousins (first, second and third) are descended from a couple who came to the Boston area from New Brunswick, in the 1880s then spread out throughout the U.S. We continue this tradition and the last Saturday of July become the date for the annual Allen/Cracking reunion.

These were abandoned during Ovid. However, now my husband's brothers and families gather again, I try to keep in touch with many of the on line and continue to research the genealogy and organize the photos.

Sharing Recipes

At these reunions, many families bring favorite foods for a potluck table and share the recipes. The Allen/Cracking group put together a cookbook with various cooks contributing.

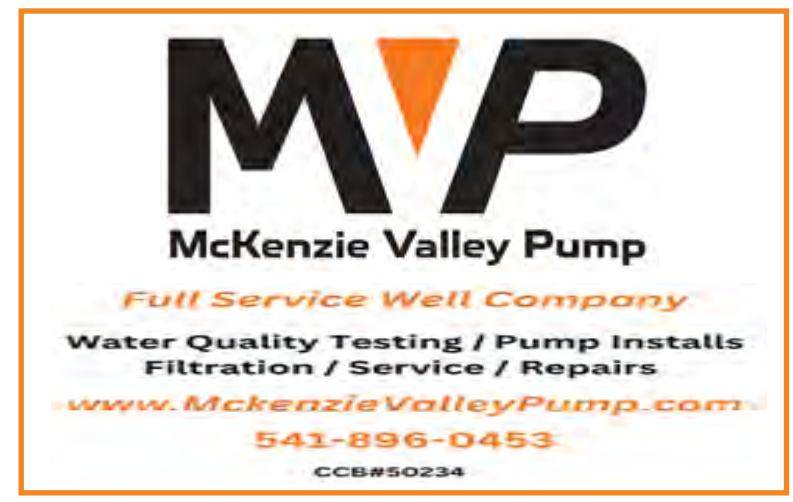
BLUEBERRY MUFFINS
from the Cookbook

Sift together 1 3/4 cups sifted flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder, 3/4 teaspoon salt, Make well in center and add 1 well beaten egg, 3/4 cup milk and 1/3 cup salad oil or melted shortening. Stir quickly, only until dry ingredients are moistened. Stir in 1-cup blueberries.

Fill greased muffin pans or paper lined muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes, or until muffins test done.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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



Need to talk?
Call 988

April Community Notes

August 1
Art Talk
2 - 3 pm

The O'Brien Memorial Library, 51771 Blue River Drive, will host an Art Talk featuring the life and work of Ina Pruitt (1905–1991), presented by her daughter-in-law, Shelly Pruitt.

Learn about Ina's artistic legacy and her deep connection to the McKenzie River community. Her artwork will be on display in the library's Gallery Wall exhibit from June 18 through August 13.

This event is free and open to the public.

August 1
Ice Cream Social
1 - 4 pm

Join the Upper McKenzie Community Center for one of the favorite traditions of the year. Bring your appetite, your family, and your competitive spirit!

What's on the menu? Delicious Ice Cream & Toppings donated by Horse Creek Lodge and Outfitters, Homemade Cobbler (and yes, you can get it A La Mode!), Hot Dogs, Chips, and Refreshing Drinks

Calling All Bakers! Think you make the best cobbler in the valley? Enter our Cobbler Contest and put your recipe to the test! Whether it's berry, peach, or a secret family recipe, we want to taste it! Cobblers are judged by previous winners!

Come out to support the community center, catch up with neighbors, and enjoy some sweet summer treats.

August 4
Lane County
Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

August 4
Coffee With Locals
10 - 11 am

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) at the 1966 Bar & Grill at the Tokatee Golf Club in Rainbow. Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802

August 4
Park SDAO Training
1 - 3 pm

Members of the Blue River Park Board will be training with the SDAO (Special District Association of Oregon) during a special meeting at O'Brien Memorial Library 51771 Blue River Dr. August 4

August 4
Water SDAO Training
1 - 3 pm

Members of the Blue River Water District Board will be training with the SDAO (Special District Association of Oregon) during a special meeting at O'Brien Memorial Library 51771 Blue River Dr. August 4

EWEB Meeting
5:30 - 8 pm

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. An interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. To arrange for this service, call 541-685-7000. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed.

August 4
Grange Meeting
7:30 - 8:30 pm

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

August 5
BR Water Board
6 - 7 pm

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

August 10
Spfd School Board
7:00 pm

Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Springfield School District

The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 pm on the 4th Monday of the month.

August 11
Lane County
Board of Commissioners
9 am

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

August 11
Gentle Dental Van
8:30 am - 2 pm

The Gental Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of the month at 51730 Dexter St. in Blue River. A first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning.

August 11
Tourism Committee
9 - 10 am

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every Second Tuesday of every month. Please join in 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. To get on the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com

Have an event to share?
Whether you're hosting a workshop, performance, or community gathering, we want to feature it!
Click here or submit your event details at tinyurl.com/3j33kkxz

Weekly Meetings

Tuesday
VMCC Senior Center
11 am

Doors at the Vida McKenzie Community Center open at 11 am at 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida for a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. They include socializing, a speaker or activity, and lunch (with a suggested donation of $5).

Wednesday
Upper McKenzie Jiu-Jitsu
7 - 8 pm

No-Gi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. For More Information email: uppermckenzie-jiujitsu@gmail.com

Tuesday
Little Poker League
6 - 9 pm

Watershed Wednesday
9 - 11:30 am
Coburg, Oregon

Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning at Green Island. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care or planting/tree establishment. Green Island is a 1,100 acre preserve.

Wednesday & Thursday
AA meetings

AA meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Walterville. plus in Blue River at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the clinic on Dexter Street.

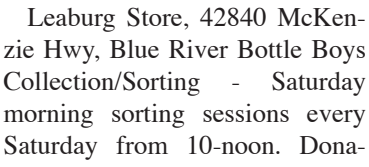
Thursday
Dog Socialization
Pack Walks
10 am

At the Walterville Pond, meet at East end parking lot. Free weekly, For more information: email quickslyfox@duck.com

Thursday
GMRS net
6 pm

The McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group meets at 6:00 pm on 462.6750 MHz, Tone 100.0 Hz (often Radio Memory Channel 28) on the Deathball Repeater. Make it easy on McKenzie Community Communications-supplied radios and anything volunteers have programmed for you.

Friday
Yoga in Leaburg



42870 McKenzie Hwy, Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center, from 8 to 9 am..

Friday
SAIL Exercise Program
10 to 11 am.

Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida. Join the SAIL program on Fridays for instructor-led exercises to boost strength, independence, and confidence. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Saturday
A Dime At A Time

Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy, Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10-noon. Donations can be dropped off to us at Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers.

An Invitation to Worship

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

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

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

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

Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

A Brick Wall

Two years ago, I divorced, and there is still a lot of hostility.

My former husband has been served with contempt papers for not paying child support. He says I am sending him to the poorhouse, but I have no recourse but to contact the court when the payments stop. He continues to blame me, even though two judges have explained it is the court which determines when contempt charges are filed.

My children require the necessities of life, which I provide, but he says the children are my responsibility and not to contact him, even if they become ill. He only interacts with them on scheduled weekends, and many times the weekends are cut short.

The home he purchased with his girlfriend includes a built-in swimming pool and two Jacuzzis. Last summer he asked me how it feels to work, and he explained he makes enough money his girlfriend gets to sit by the pool all summer. His girlfriend looks like a glittering Christmas tree with all the jewelry she wears.

I have tried to talk to him, but he says he is not listening and then belittles me. He buys food and clothing for his girlfriend's children, but he tells me I have messed up our children's lives and dress them in rags. That is not true. They are really great kids doing well in school.

I need some ideas how to try and talk to him to get my point across. How do I communicate my concerns to him?

Marlene

Marlene, you have communicated your concerns to him. He doesn't care. Your ex-husband doesn't want to support any woman he is not sleeping with, or her children. Your children have lost a father figure because their father does not see himself as their father.

There is another danger here. Children often respect the bad parent and respond to what that parent wants, while disrespecting the good parent. It is not simply that they pick up the difficult parent's attitude; they think by placating him they will get a father response out of him. But the end result is they may blame you.

Don't waste time thinking you will ever get through to this man. You are being emotionally battered and so are your children, which is a good reason to minimize contact with him.

His obligation to his children comes from the state in the same way the state determines which side of the road to drive on and when to pay taxes. Let the state enforce this obligation and don't explain or apologize for it.

Wayne & Tamara

Overreaction

My best friend lives across the street. Her daughter and mine play together all the time. Our husbands are best of friends, and we watch over each other's home when we are out of town.

When she got a part-time job, I started babysitting her daughter. I had an interview one evening and left my daughter and hers with my husband. I was gone one hour. The next day she called me and told me all of a sudden she doesn't trust my husband with her daughter.

My husband is an elementary school teacher and loves children. This has upset me and hurt my feelings. She doesn't call now, and I wish I knew what she was thinking. Should I call first?

Christa

Christa, your neighbor is mad, and the question is why. If something actually occurred, she likely would have acted immediately.

She could be angry because for an hour she didn't know who was watching her child, or because you didn't share news of your interview with her. For the former, you can apologize. Tell her you didn't think. Your husband watches children more than you do, and it didn't dawn on you to let her know.

Finally, don't put yourself or your husband in this position with her again.

Tamara

Fishing Out Of Season

I am a legally separated man who is going through a divorce. A friend introduced me to his girlfriend about a year ago. We immediately took to each other, but until a month ago, we didn't realize how the other one felt.

I was happily married when we met, but my wife fooled around on me so we split up. Anyway, I started talking to my friend's girlfriend. While he was away for two weeks of job training, we began seeing each other.

We both want to be together but don't know what to do. She is four months pregnant by him and is happy with him. On the other hand, she wants me and I really want her. Do you have any suggestion on how I, or we, should handle this situation?

Ron

Ron, the last time I saw anything this tangled, it was opening day of trout season. Fishermen were lined up elbow to elbow on the bank, and there was not enough room to cast. Two guys even caught the same fish, which sounds a lot like your situation.

I would think pregnancy would set the hook for this woman, but your lure caught her eye. She doesn't act like she's been caught, though. At any moment she could reject both of you and move on to someone else.

This woman is not a keeper. You are involved with a woman like your wife. The difference is you are in another role, about to betray a friend. This is not a positive direction for your life.

Play out your marriage to its conclusion, and let this woman determine the relationship she will have with the father of her child.

There will be another trout season next year. Give yourself a break. Next season when you are free to go fishing, find a quiet stream before you drop a line in the water.

Wayne

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of Cheating in a Nutshell and The Young Woman's Guide to Older Men—available from Amazon, Apple, and booksellers everywhere.

WayneAndTamara.com

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Huge Annual Yard Sale

91094 Leashore Drive, Vida, Friday, Sat, and Sunday July 17, 18, & 19th 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.. Cross over the Goodpasture Bridge and you are there. Tools, Furniture and More!

Personal

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

Piano Lessons

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

Pianists Wanted

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

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

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

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HELP WANTED

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

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

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

Details:

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

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

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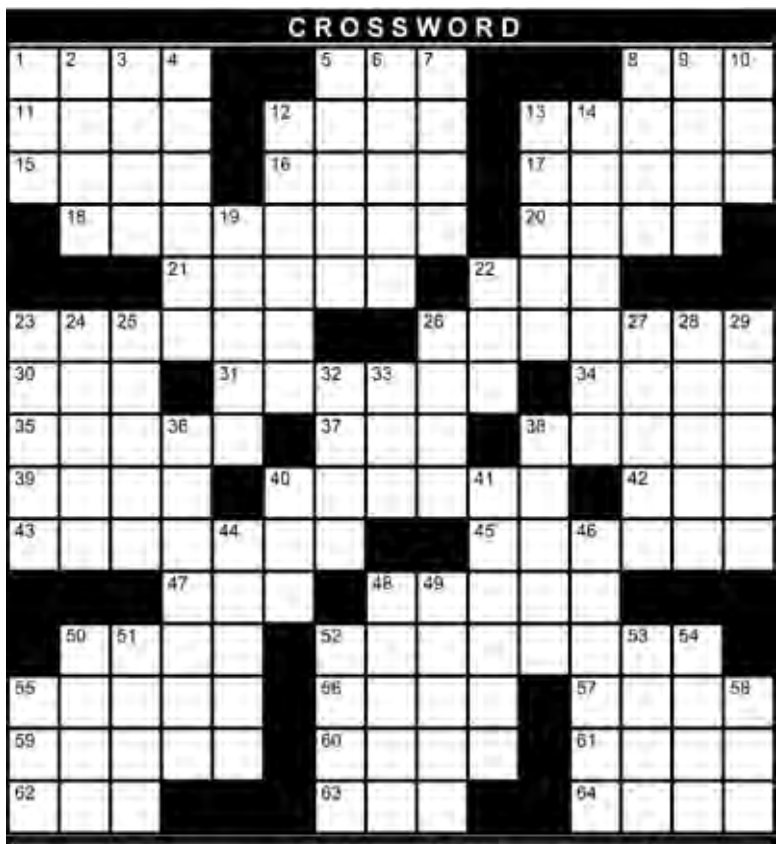

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HISTORY 101

ACROSS

1. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
5. Mary ____, businesswoman extraordinaire
8. Downloadable smartphone purchase
11. In ____ of
12. Greek salad staple
13. Appraisal
15. Law school prerequisite, acr.
16. "Once ____ a Time in America"
17. Dictum, pl.
18. *____ press, Johannes Gutenberg's invention
20. "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" singer
21. In need of a muffler
22. Make a choice
23. *Genghis Khan's ____ Empire
26. Intima, pl.
30. Fertility clinic stock
31. Tranquil
34. Famous Steeler coach, Chuck ____
35. Twisted cotton thread
37. Key next to spacebar
38. Like a gymnast
39. Naysayer's favorite prefix
40. Develop, as in story
42. ____-AFTRA
43. Famous fox of fable
45. Like a smell of soil
47. *World's first 24-hour TV news network, acr.
48. Molten rock
50. Smoke plus fog
52. *First Roman emperor
55. Part of foot, pl.
56. Chowder protein
57. Pelvic parts
59. Are not
60. *Homesteader's purchase, sing.
61. "____ the good die young"
62. *Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis
63. It is
64. Fermented rice brew

DOWN

1. Pledge of Allegiance ending
2. Talk like Daffy
3. Eye drop
4. Day trip
5. Flat-topped military caps
6. Lack of muscle tension
7. Opposite of yin
8. Mushroom spore sacs
9. Benatar and Morita, e.g.
10. Money in Myanmar
12. Pointless
13. Take as one's own
14. *____ Bull, Lakota's famous leader
19. Gallows' rope
22. *World War ____, 1914-18
23. Wisdom tooth, e.g.
24. Sheep-like
25. Highly unpleasant
26. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
27. Damp
28. Islam's Supreme Being
29. Lament for the dead
32. Writer Ayn
33. Rudolph's friend Hermey, e.g.
36. *One of Mount Rushmore presidents
38. *First President in the White House
40. Cremation ashes container
41. Peanut or pea, e.g.
44. Emotional turmoil
46. 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.
48. Defraud
49. Petri dish jellies
50. Feudal lord's servant
51. Humble and docile
52. Frozen bowl berry
53. Arm bone
54. *The ____ Road, ancient East-West trade route
55. Pilgrimage to Mecca
58. Pirate's "yes"

Solution on Page 9

SUDOKU

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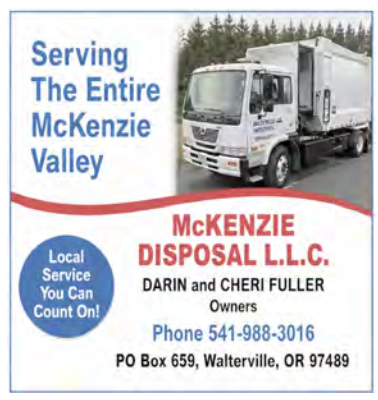
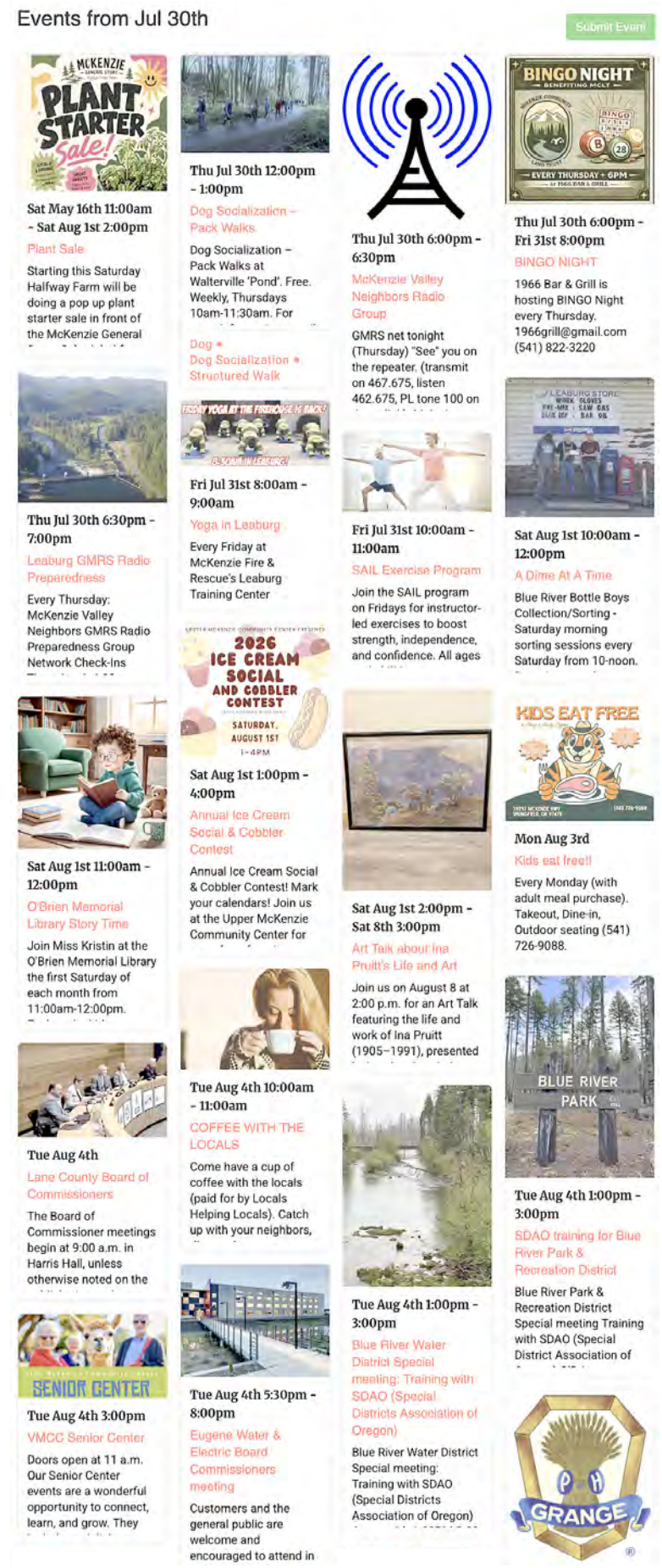
Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution on Page 9



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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx



Emergency? Call 911

To the stranger who stole my bike

By Ethan Chua

Listen
—the lock cut in two. Now I have to walk
to Our Lady and St. Joseph, through
the sparse needlework of deciduous
branches. It turns out we still need
each other—stranger, maybe
you saw the black and orange chassis
and thought speed, something sleek
to meet the headwinds; maybe warm
meals for the week or a present for someone
you hurt and love; or maybe you'd make
of its handlebars and spokes better use
than I could, as forest floor mycelia
spin carbon, nitrogen from muck—

I was so angry with you. The date I'd planned
for Saturday fell through, a friend
vanished from my life last week.
The fossil news from Baku, bleak, and suffering
in Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Palestine.
All things that can be taken, what you thought
was yours, that everything changes hands, and I—

I was late. The mass was almost over,
the voices nearly finished with their singing.
Bread, water, some kind of stolen grace
flashed past me on two wheels in the wind.
December was late. Outside the ash
was watching itself end
and time ride with the thief.

Ethan Chua is a Chinese-Filipino poet, translator, and community organizer. Their chapbook of poems, Sky Ladders (Bull City Press, 2023), won the 2022 Frost Place chapbook competition.

Climate Commission proposes bigger goals for storing planet-warming gas in Oregon lands, waters

Proposed doubling targets it set in 2021 for the amount of additional carbon dioxide Oregon's lands and waters should capture annually

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

As the federal government pushes for more logging and grazing on Oregon's lands, state climate commissioners are calling for more ambitious goals to protect the state's land and water so they can capture carbon dioxide.

The 13 voting members of the governor-appointed Oregon Climate Action Commission last week called to double goals they set just five years ago for capturing and storing additional carbon dioxide each year in the state's forest, grass, crop and wetlands. The targets are recommendations meant to guide state land managers and lawmakers and not statutorily enforceable

To meet goals of eliminating nearly 10 million additional metric tons of greenhouse gases each year via natural carbon capture and storage in forests, grasslands, wetlands and more by 2035, climate commissioners recommend that state lawmakers and agencies act to protect those landscapes. Threats include heavy logging, development and farming practices that erode soil health.

Oregon's lands and waters each year already capture and store greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere that are equivalent to soaking up the emissions of about 11 million gas-powered cars, according to a 2021 commission analysis. The new 2035 targets would mean improving the health and scale of the state's natural lands so that they could eliminate the emissions equivalent of more than 13 million gas-powered cars each year.

In 2021, the commission proposed the state should improve landscape health to capture and store 5 million additional metric tons of greenhouse gasses each year by 2030. Now, the goal is nearly 10 million additional metric tons per year by 2035.

Competing priorities

The new targets come as the state's efforts to harness the power of those lands and waters to confront the growing threat of climate change have in recent years gone up in flames due to historic wildfires, and have been challenged by President Donald Trump's competing priorities for Oregon's natural resources.

An old growth forest in Oswald West State Park in Oregon. It is among the natural landscapes that the state will rely on to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The federal government manages more than half the land in Oregon, where Trump officials have rolled back conservation policies and pushed for more logging, grazing and extractive industries that emit rather than store greenhouse gases.

Commission Chair Cathy Macdonald, a former director at the international nonprofit environmental group The Nature Conservancy, said that's all the more reason to double down on state-level climate work.

"Changes at the federal level make it much more important for the state to increase resources to advance the adoption of practices that result in increases in net sequestration and resilience on natural and working lands," Macdonald said in a statement.

The commission proposes reaching an overall 20% higher rate of carbon capture per year on Oregon's lands and waters than it proposed just five years ago, though it moved the timeline out from 2030 to 2035.

The commission identified several management and policy recommendations legislators could begin implementing in the next three to five years, including investments in technical assistance, data collection and analysis, grants and other incentives for land managers to boost landscape health.

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed a "Climate Resilience Package" that included $10 million of state investment in "natural climate solutions" on Oregon's working lands, including conservation, restoration and improved land and aquatic management.

And in 2025, Gov. Tina Kotek issued an executive order directing state natural resource agencies to coordinate on actions and strategies to preserve in the next decade 10% more of Oregon's most climate-resilient lands and waters.

Although the bulk of Oregon's lands — nearly 50% — are grasslands, the recommendations rely heavily on the potential carbon benefits of better protecting Oregon's forests. That's because the state's forests sequester more carbon every year than any other land category. About 8% of the state is cropland and about 4% is made up of wetlands, according to the commission's 2021 analysis.

Senior reporter Alex Baumhardt covers education and the environment for the Oregon Capital Chronicle. Before coming to Oregon, she was a national radio producer and reporter covering education for American Public Media's documentaries and investigations unit, APM Reports. She earned a master's degree in digital and visual media as a U.S. Fulbright scholar in Spain, and has reported from the Arctic to the Antarctic for national and international media and from Minnesota and Oregon for The Washington Post.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish were: Leaburg Lake – 1,000 and McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 5,000.

Fish Counts
July 23, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook – 36,244
Summer Steelhead – 9,330

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

July 30 - The Brother Jonathan, a steamboat built in the East and brought around the Horn, operated between Portland and San Francisco. She brought the news to Portland that Oregon had been admitted to the Union as the 33rd state. After gold was discovered in Idaho, the Brother Jonathan was pressed into service transporting gold to the mint in San Francisco. On July 30, 1865, overloaded with passengers and carrying a fortune in gold, the ship was caught in a severe storm off the Southern Oregon coast and began taking on water. She turned toward the harbor at Crescent City, California but went down. More than 200 men, women and children perished.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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Gardening Tips

contains little available nitrogen early in the season.

* Microorganisms that break down organic matter require nitrogen, potentially reducing availability for your plants.

In these cases, nitrogen side-dressing during the growing season becomes especially important for healthy crop growth.

Want to learn more about this topic? Explore more resources from OSU Extension: Gardening techniques

Have a news tip?
Contact rivref2@gmail.com

My Furnished Finder subscription auto-renewed. Why can't I get a refund?

***When Debbie McNulty discovers a surprise $179 charge** on her credit card from Furnished Finder, she immediately asks for a refund. Why is the company trying to keep her money?*

I've listed my vacation home on Furnished Finder, an online platform for monthly furnished rentals, for the past three years. I never received a booking from Furnished Finder during that time, but I was fine paying the annual fee. Now that I'm renting short-term again, I no longer need to list on Furnished Finder.

My membership was set to auto-renew. Furnished Finder sent one reminder email last month, but I totally missed it. We all get so much email these days, and I was just back from a two-week trip, so I overlooked it. My bad.

When I woke up to a $179 charge from Furnished Finder last week, I immediately contacted Furnished Finder to cancel and requested a refund. A representative sent me a standard response that their policy is not to give refunds.

It's in the contract, I get it. I should have notified them before the renewal date. Still, the fact that I contacted them on the very same day that they processed the renewal makes it seem petty to keep my money. I asked to escalate the request on the basis that granting me a refund was the right thing to do. Do you think it is worth asking again?

Debbie McNulty, Los Gatos, Calif.

Yes, it's definitely worth asking. Furnished Finder should have refunded your $179.

While the company is technically correct — you agreed to the terms and conditions, which state that all fees are nonrefundable — hiding behind the fine print in this situation is bad customer service.

You canceled on the same day the charge went through. You had a valid reason for leaving the platform, as your property is no longer suited for the long-term tenants Furnished Finder serves. Keeping your money for a full year of service you clearly stated you wouldn't use seems unreasonable.

Companies love automatic renewals because they're convenient. A business doesn't have to pursue every customer, asking them to renew every year. Instead, they simply send a courtesy reminder, and you can cancel before the auto-renewal date.

But in your case, that single email got buried in your inbox. By the time you saw the charge, the company claimed it was too late.

I have a little personal experience with running a business that handles automatic subscription renewals. What you might not know is that about 80 percent of credit card disputes for an unwanted auto-renewal goes the customer's way. So if you'd filed a credit card dispute, you'd probably have your money by now.

The takeaway here is to treat every subscription like a ticking clock. Don't rely on the company to remind you that your bill is due. Set your own calendar alerts for a few days before a cancellation deadline. And if you aren't 100 percent sure you'll want to renew, it's often safer to turn off the auto-renew option the moment you sign up.

You did exactly what I always recommend: You kept a thorough paper trail. You saved your chat transcripts with the virtual assistant and the live agents, as well as your email correspondence. This evidence showed that you acted in good faith and tried to resolve the issue immediately.

I contacted the company's CEO, Jeff Hurst, on your behalf. He reviewed your case and replied, "We'll get this refunded."

You've received the full $179 back.

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

Leaburg Drilling

Return To Page 1

have the potential to erode canal banks, overtop portions of the canal, or create other conditions that could threaten downstream properties.

To reduce those risks, the utility has increased the canal's water-release capacity, completed emergency repairs in late 2025, and begun an extensive geotechnical investigation to better understand underground conditions along the canal corridor.

The investigation includes drilling 59 test holes at various locations. Engineers will use the information to evaluate the canal's structural condition to determine near-term safety improvements and planning for the planned decommissioning of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project.

EWEB has also acquired additional property near Cogswell Creek to provide construction access and support future risk-reduction work in that area

Last week, crews started subsurface exploration near the historic channel of Johnson Creek, according to EWEB Communications Manager Adam Spencer.

The drilling centered on the former Johnson Creek channel near the Spring Creek Holly Farm, where the creek flowed before the Leaburg Canal was constructed in 1929.

Spencer said the work is intended to improve EWEB's understanding of local geology and groundwater conditions, information that will help engineers develop additional strategies to reduce dam safety risks.

One concern is the possibility that Johnson Creek could overwhelm the Leaburg Canal during major flood events. Data collected during the drilling program will help determine what measures may be needed to reduce that risk.

Residents with questions about the work can contact the utility via email at LeaburgInfo@eweb.org or by calling 541-685-7439.

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Summer at McKenzie: Preparing for a New School Year Every Day Counts

By Lane Tompkins
Superintendent
McKenzie Schools

With several weeks remaining before the first day of school, it might seem a little early to talk about attendance. In reality, summer is the perfect time to begin building the routines and habits that help students have a successful school year.

One of the strongest predictors of student success isn't a particular curriculum, technology, or program. It's simply being at school consistently. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to build strong relationships with teachers and classmates, stay on pace academically, participate in extracurricular activities, and feel connected to their school community.

Over the past year, you've heard me write about attendance several times because it is one of the most important factors influencing student success. It's also an area where our entire community can make a difference.

Oregon defines a regular attender as a student who attends at least 90 percent of the school year. With McKenzie's 144-day school calendar, students can miss up to 14 days of school, about 3.5 weeks of instruction, and still be considered a regular attender.

Last school year, 66 percent of McKenzie students met that goal. While we are proud that two-thirds of our students attended regularly, it also means 34 percent of our students missed more than 14 days of school. Those missed days represent valuable learning opportunities that are difficult to replace.

When you look at attendance over the course of a student's entire educational journey, the impact becomes even more significant. A student who misses the maximum of 14 days each year from kindergarten through twelfth grade will miss the equivalent of more than an entire school year of instruction by the time they graduate. Every day truly does count.

Of course, we recognize that families face real challenges. Children get sick. Medical needs arise. Unexpected circumstances happen. Attendance isn't coming to school when a child is ill. It's about minimizing avoidable absences whenever possible and making school attendance a priority when students are healthy and able to participate.

There are several simple ways families can begin building strong attendance habits before the school year even starts.

When possible, schedule routine doctor, dental, orthodontic, and other appointments on Fridays, when school is not in session. Doing so allows students to receive the care they need while missing little or no instructional time.

As August approaches, begin easing back into school routines by gradually moving bedtimes and wake-up times earlier. Students who return to a consistent sleep schedule before school starts are more likely to arrive rested, focused, and ready to learn on the first day.

Preparing the night before can also make mornings less stressful. Packing backpacks, laying out clothes, and preparing lunches or snacks ahead of time helps create a calm, predictable routine that makes getting out the door easier.

Finally, talk positively about school. Children often take cues from the adults around them. Expressing excitement about seeing teachers, reconnecting with friends, participating in activities, and learning new things helps students look forward to returning to school.

If your family is experiencing challenges that could affect your child's attendance, whether related to transportation, housing, health, or another concern, please don't hesitate to reach out. One of the strengths of our district is that we know our families, and we want to partner with you to help every student succeed. Reaching out early allows us to identify resources and solutions before attendance becomes a larger concern.

As we prepare for another outstanding school year, we're looking forward to welcoming families during student registration on August 11 and 12. Registration is more than completing paperwork. It's the first step toward a successful school year. Together, we can build strong routines from day one that help every student be present, engaged, and ready to learn.

Every school day represents an opportunity to learn something new, build a friendship, discover a passion, or overcome a challenge. Those opportunities begin with simply being present.

We look forward to welcoming our students back on August 31 and working together to make the 2026–2027 school year one of our best yet.

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He woke right up!

Continued From Page 4

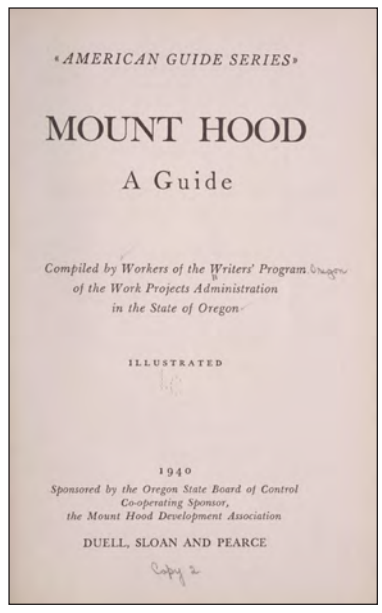
was an Irishman. Being Irish, it didn't take much to start his blood a-boilin'. A kinda small man, inclined to be delicate, with long gray whiskers and a sizable mustache, he was quite a Indian on the warpath. His long grey chin whiskers would wave in the air sorta like they was fannin' the cuss words to take the heat offa them as they came out.

Well, among other things he had two kids, Harry and Joe. Harry was the little bugger and Joe was the big one. Joe was might' nigh six-four. Joe bein' so tall and me bein' considerable shorter didn't no way affect our fightin' nearly every day at school. I reckon that was mainly why I went — so I could wallop Joe up; an' then get walloped up by Joe. We both seemed to like it.

One day I went to school prepared to give Joe a walloping, since he'd done walloped me the day before. But Joe wasn't there. Right away, I figgered somethin' mighty durned important musta' happened to keep Joe from coming to school that day.

Sure 'nuff, school hadn't been took up more'n a little while when somebody came by and told us old man Donovan had died. Soon's the teacher heard this she dismissed school. Seems like the widow Donovan was a-needin' some help at the house, so the teacher asked my side-kick, Bill, the long 'un, and me to go up there. Seein' as how my old man was the undertaker and had already loaned her the money to send for the priest to come and pray Donovan out of purgatory, I guess the teacher thought I was the one to send. Bill allus went where I did, him and me bein' the long an' short of it, as folks'd say.

Mrs. Donovan had to send to Vancouver for a priest, and the fellow that come was purty old and mighty set in his ways. I reckon he figgered he was close to God and didn't mind to allow he knew purty near as much.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MOUNT HOOD

A Guide

Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Oregon

ILLUSTRATED

1940

Sponsored by the Oregon State Board of Control Co-operating Sponsor, the Mount Hood Development Association

DUELL, SLOAN AND PEARCE

Library of Congress

The title page of the Federal Writers' Project historical publication on Mount Hood, written by the Oregon WPA staff.

And he did his job all right. After he got settled he put on all his robes and started to work. Him and Dad laid Donovan out on a board supported by two chairs, threw a sheet over him and put the required number of candles at his head and feet. Then the priest prayed and sprinkled water, and prayed and sprinkled water some more, till old man Donovan was prayed and sprayed out of purgatory. Soon's the priest left, Bill and me was delegated to sit in the kitchen and watch the corpse, which was in the next room.

Donovan, bein' an Irishman, his passin' naturally allowed for a wake. So every Irishman and German within forty miles came to set up for the night. The Germans in our part was not much on wakin' the dead, but because they was mighty thick with the Irish they was willing to help the Irish wake their dead 'uns. All foreigners in them days stuck purty close together, ya know. These wakers set around in another room with the family, and were a-passin' a sociable evenin'. Most of 'em were drinkin' out of a couple of demijohns I saw on the table when some Irishman stuck his head out the door to see if Donovan was a-lyin' out right. The rest of the people were a-playin' cards and talkin' to the widow. Seems as though they'd drink, play cards awhile, then the widow'd wail a bit.

Me and Bill, bein' too young to wake, had to pass the time tryin' to read in the kitchen. This was kinda hard to do. The house was built on a hill, almost the crest, causin' the shakes to catch all the wind. That old wind would howl a mighty bit when she'd hit the shakes. The wind a-howlin', coupled with the wail of the wakers, sort of discommoded Bill and me. Bill was plenty scairt anyhow, Donovan was the first corpse he'd ever been around.

So's all that howlin' had Bill a-settin' mighty uncomfortable-like in his chair, and kept me kinda on the uneasy side.

All of a sudden Bill and me heard the consarndest noise I've ever heard, or expect to hear. Bill jumped from his chair scairt-like and says, kind of quavery like, "What's that?" By this time I'm a-standin' on my feet and a-listenin'. Sure nuff! 'Tweren't the wind nor the wakers — the sound was a-comin' from that corpse.

Now, Bill, not a-takin' his job none too good no ways, decided he wanted to leave. "Shucks," I says to Bill, tryin' to calm him, "it's probably the cat." God! I thought that was terrible. Here them wakers were a-dependin' on Bill and me to watch the corpse and we'd done let the cat in! I told Bill to be real quiet like and we wouldn't disturb nothin', and to bring the metal plated lamp along so's we could see.

Bill and me sort of crept into the room. Soon's the light hit that corpse we could see the sheet a goin' up and down, up and down, with the awfullest noise a-comin' out from under it. Bill takes a good look, tries hand me the rattlin' lamp, shakin' his hands, and says, "By God, I'm a-gettin' out of here!"

He shoves the lamp in my hand and runs like a scairt [racial slur] for home. I figgers him bein' so much bigger'n me, there's a lot more of him scairt than there is of me, so I goes up closer.

For a spell I watched, Then I goes over and gingerly lifts up the sheet, sort of expectin' to see the cat. By that time some of the wakers heard the noise and came edging in to see what it was all about.

Well, I'll be ding-blasted if old man Donovan wasn't a-breathin'. Yes sir, the old coot was as alive as you or me right now. That peculiar noise we'd been hearin' under the sheet was him a-breathin'. Right away the fellers picked him up and toted him into the bedroom. They wrapped warm blankets round him and nursed him back to full breath. Purty soon he took a pull at the demijohn hisself. And was his wife happy! Everybody was real excited.

In a few days Donovan was out on the streets again, a well man. He lived for 17 years more.

And here's what made him mad all that time:

The priest, bein' mighty set in his ways, wouldn't let Donovan nor his family go to church no more. He figgered Donovan had pulled the trick of playin' possum on him. And even if he hadn't it looked like God thought the old cuss was such a sinner that he had to be sent back to earth. Anyway, the priest said he had prayed old Donovan out of purgatory and now he was beyond the jurisdiction of the Church.

Mad? I reckon there never was a madder Irishman than old man Donovan.

You could just see it boiling out of him as he walked down the street. If you wanted to see them chin whiskers of his fan the air, you only had to mention purgatory or the priest to him. His old lady got to swearin' like a trooper, and between the two of 'em I guess they really told the priest off.

Ye-up. Donovan stayed mad for 17 years. Maybe he still is, I don't profess to know. A freight train finally put an end to his mortal life; it took that to kill him. But he had to die sometime."

(Sources: "Federal Writers' Project in Oregon," an article by Tom Nash published Aug. 26, 2022, in The Oregon Encyclopedia; State of Oregon Library digital collections; Library of Congress digital collections)

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

Library of Congress

A poster created by the Federal Writers Project in 1941, promoting the "American Guide" projects.

Guest Opinion

Return To Page 2

Legislators from different parties sitting together to discuss not only their politics but also their human connection and shared belief in the country demonstrates that, despite the spotlight on our divisions, the time is ripe to unite for a common cause. We need to see more unity from our leaders — and be willing to try it ourselves.

Today, Americans must recognize that our political differences are not inevitably divisive, because our futures are fundamentally connected. Politics are difficult, yes, but they do not need to be ugly. Finding common ground is welcome, but at a minimum, Americans need to find the space to connect with one another and the courage to engage in healthy and substantive discussion. We can do that by building up state and local institutions where individuals get to know each other personally and by overcoming the silos and sides we've allowed to define us. A far better approach is to deal with people face-to-face and with respect, even when we profoundly disagree.

In a time when polarization and mistrust are treated as inevitable, we encourage all Americans to recommit to the principles and institutions that bind us together: a common belief in individual rights and equality, the rule of law, the legitimacy of representative democracy and our shared pursuit of national prosperity.

As America honors its 250th anniversary, it's important to say, unequivocally and collectively, that we're grateful to our country's founders for starting this great experiment. We care about each other, and we want our fellow citizens to be successful. And we are proud to be part of this diverse, complicated and hopeful country.

Shared beliefs like these are central to the American experiment. E pluribus unum — out of many, one — if we so choose.

Tim Storey is the CEO of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Sue K. Urahn is the president and CEO of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

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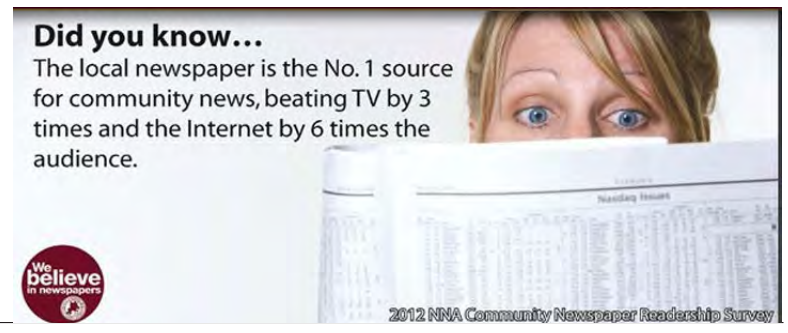

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Credit and loans provided by Regions Bank d/b/a Enerbank USA, Member FDIC, (650 S. Main St., Suite 1000, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-2844) on approved credit, for a limited time. 8.99% to 15.99% fixed APR, subject to change. Minimum loan amounts apply. Interest starts accruing when funds are disbursed. Repayment terms vary from 12 to 144 months. Actual loan term may be shorter if less than the full approved amount of credit is used. First monthly loan payment due 30 days after funds are disbursed. The above listed payment is based upon a $5,000 line of credit, a 7-year term at 8.99% APR. Cannot be combined with and other offers or promotions.

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