



McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Upper McKenzie Fire District



Serving the McKenzie River Valley ... And Subscriber Judy Ambrosins of Alturas, CA

Honoring Firefighters

Whether it's a fire, flood, car crashes, medical calls - or more. McKenzie Valley first responders are there to protect our families, homes and businesses.

PAGE 8

McKenzie/MacKenzie?

In 1824 Hudson's Bay Company made the first map showing the "Mackenzie's Branch" as a tributary to the Willamette.

PAGE 4



Oregon releases school profiles

Report includes performance and enrollments

SALEM: The Oregon Department of Education (DOE) last week released its 2021-22 "At-A-Glance" report on the state's schools, which provides information about student and teacher demographics, educational readiness and success.

The information in the report is based on the 2021 - 2022 year, which offers a comparison to pre-pandemic years, according to the DOE. Some of the data, though, could be reflected in low regular attendance numbers caused by the delta and omicron COVID surges.

Commenting on the results, ODE Director Colt Gill said, "The 2021-22 school year marked the return to in-person instruction for all students across the state, but the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic still presented challenges that required strength, resiliency and resolve from all of Oregon's students, families and educators." He added that "Our communities and districts can use the informa-

tion in this year's profiles to provide every student with the support they need to graduate."

Some of the findings statewide showed some school districts were able to add employees, but many haven't returned to pre-pandemic staffing levels. The number of counselors grew by 20% since the 2018-19 school year, and the number of educational assistants statewide also rebounded from last year.

Locally, the McKenzie Community School District reported its 2021-22 enrollment was 167 students. Class sizes in core subjects there averaged 11, half the size of the statewide counts. Other details of the report showed 69 percent of McKenzie's students graduate on-time, down from Oregon's average completion rate of 81%. However, when looked at over a five-year period after graduation, 84% of students from the upriver school earned a high school

diploma or a GED. The rest of the state fell short, with an 88% completion score.

Under school goals, the McKenzie district listed "providing a safe and welcoming environment for our students following the Holiday Farm Fire and during the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Further to the west, the Springfield School District's WALTERVILLE Elementary School had an enrollment of 144 for its K-5 classes. Students there matched the statewide average with 22 pupil class size.

Achievement levels in core subjects fell a bit short of the Oregon average. For English WALTERVILLE's rate of academic success was 37%, while the state average was 44%. Student meeting the state grade-level expectation of 36% for Mathematics was 10 point less; and in Science WALTERVILLE students posted a 26% level of success, compared to the Oregon average of 31%.

School profiles - Page 10

La Niña likely to return

Wetter-than-average conditions predicted

La Niña is expected to return for the third consecutive winter. Starting in December 2022 through February 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts wetter-than-average conditions for areas of the Pacific Northwest, Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, and northern Rockies.

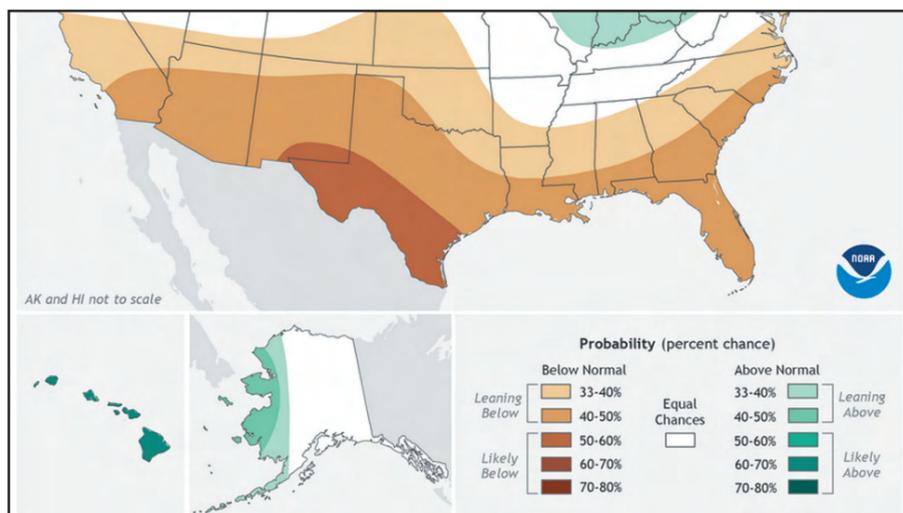
"The hardworking fore-

casters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center produce timely and accurate seasonal outlooks and short-term forecasts year-round," said Michael Farrar, Ph.D., director of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction. "NOAA's new supercomputers are enabling us to develop even better, more detailed forecast capabilities, which we'll be

rolling out in the coming years."

NOAA forecasters, in collaboration with the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), continue to monitor extreme, ongoing drought conditions that have persisted in the Western U.S. since late 2020, as well as parts of the central U.S. where

La Niña - Page 6



Making a lasting mark



Handprints and other individual markings are now part of the visual history of the McKenzie River Community School campus.

FINN ROCK: After over two years, and with the help of state and federal grants, the stadium grandstands lost to the Holiday Farm Fire at McKenzie High School are being rebuilt.

Last week, the district focused on "making a mark" by allowing students and staff to put a handprint or initials on the wet concrete slab under the new bleachers. Like the structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, the slab will likely be something students can visit with their own offspring in the years to come.

For Anna Riedmann, a McKenzie High Senior and Associated Student Body President, the reward should come much quicker. "You don't realize how impactful that is until it's gone," Riedmann said.

Although she's admittedly not "a football person," she says she had always enjoyed going to the games and "hanging out with friends and seeing people I knew on the field."

The new structure will again be topped with a press box and painted to resemble the way it used to look. Another lasting feature will be a manzanita branch sculpture created by students of the Phoenix-Talent School District and delivered to the school last April. The work was created when the P-T students realized they weren't alone in being impacted by the wildfires of 2020.

After dropping off their artwork at McKenzie the Phoenix-Talent students took a similar gift to the Santiam Canyon School District, which had also been hit by fire.

Radio network is growing

Local residents in Camp Creek and Rainbow both got together last week to talk about ways to improve emergency communications.

Some of the 30 people who gathered at the Camp Creek Church on Tuesday night voiced concerns about what happened during a recent power outage. When power companies de-energized their electrical lines during a Red Flag wildfire alert, many said they were surprised to learn they'd also lost their phone service.

Craig Myers, of Springfield-based MyComm Communications, explained an outage like that can occur when a phone system is constructed to rely on amplifiers placed every half-mile to a mile apart. Area residents found theirs had shut down when the telecom's battery backup system discharged after only about 15 minutes.

Myers, who's been working with the non-profit McKenzie Community Communications group to help develop a local General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) network, explained some of the ways GMRS could provide an inexpensive way for people to communicate.

At Saturday's meeting in the Upper

McKenzie Community Center, people talked about how they could combine radio communications into their already developing outreach to involve people with the Firewise risk reduction programs. There were also discussions about developing training programs to familiarize people with radio protocols prior to an emergency.

The idea of creating a GMRS radio network had developed following the Holiday Farm Fire. Key to its operation would be the creation of a neighbor-to-neighbor network. As envisioned, individuals would be able to talk to their neighbors on hand-help portable radios, even if the power goes out. If there's an emergency, they could then connect with a more powerful base station that would forward information to emergency services.

To cover a large area, like the McKenzie/Camp Creek area, solar-powered repeaters have already been placed near Cougar Reservoir and on a hilltop above Vida. A third location along Deerhorn Road is now being evaluated.

People interested in forming their own neighborhood group or learning more about how GMRS radios work can go to: mckenziecommunications.org.

Letters to the Editor

Upper McKenzie Voters

I volunteered for Upper McKenzie Fire District and McKenzie EASE for over 20 years. Although now retired, I am still a strong supporter of the department and the personnel who work so hard for our benefit. I urge everyone to join me in voting YES on the renewal of Measure 20-334 Local Option Levy for EMS and Fire Services. This will continue the much-needed funding for the department and the volunteers who give so much to our community.

Don Lamb
Retired UMFV Volunteer

In support of Measure 111

I was born to a single mom who lacked health insurance. OHSU provided charity care to my mom during my birth. Two years later, the Chemawa Indian Health Service Center in my hometown of Salem was established. I was able to get the care I needed that my family may not have been able to otherwise afford.

I joined the U.S. Army at 18, a blue-collar kid in the hopes of

adventure, a vocation, money for college - and seeing the world while serving the country I love. I served in Army hospitals for eight years in the U.S and around the world, to include Afghanistan. As an active duty soldier, I always received high-quality care from the military health system.

I received an Honorable Discharge from the Army in 2003. Ever since I have been eligible and received "the best care anywhere" from the VA.

Whether because of my status and eligibility as a Native American; as an active duty soldier; or now as a Veteran - the federal government has always ensured that I had the care I needed to thrive. I want this right to healthcare for all my fellow Oregonians regardless of their background or demographic. Measure 111 will add language to the Constitution which establishes health care as a human right for ALL Oregonians.

I encourage voters to vote YES on Measure 111.

Valdez Bravo
Lake Oswego



MWL opponents, finishing 14-0, while posting an overall record of 17-7 and earning an OSAA ranking of 19th.

Mohawk may have been ranked higher throughout the season, but the Mt. West League is currently the weakest ranked League out of the State's eight Class 1A Volleyball Leagues. One of the contributing factors is several of the MWL team's schedules have not included stronger teams outside of the MWL. Stronger schedules can be educational to developing teams for many reasons.

In this year's first post season action, Mohawk easily defeated Eddyville Charter last Saturday, October 22, in the MWL Tournament Championship Match, held at Junction City High School. The Mustangs won in three straight sets, 25-10, 25-18, and 25-12.

Eddyville Charter defeated Triangle Lake earlier in the day, 3-2 (26-24, 22-25, 25-10, 19-25, 17-13) to secure the Championship berth versus Mohawk. Alsea eliminated the Crow Cougars in its first match of the Tournament, winning 3-2 (22-25, 25-17, 25-23, 18-25, 15-5) and advanced to face Triangle Lake, where the Wolverines defeated the Lakers 3-1 (25-19, 8-25, 25-22, 25-22). Mohawk (14-0, 17-7) will represent the Mt. West League as its top seed in the First Round of the OSAA State playoffs and will host Days Creek (10-2, 14-8), the latter representing the Skyline League's third seed. Eddyville Charter (12-2, 14-6), MWL seed two, will travel to Umpqua Valley Christian (10-1, 15-4), the Skyline League two seed. MWL three seed Alsea (7-7, 11-10) travels to the State's top ranked and undefeated team, the Damascus Christian Eagles (16-0, 31-0), Champions of the Valley 10 League.

This season the OSAA

expanded the State Round One playoff format to 32 teams and eliminated the First Round bye previously afforded the League Champions. Thus, each Class 1A League has four, rather than three seeds, playing in the First Round.

The MWL fourth seed to State is Triangle Lake (10-4, 10-7) and the Lakers will travel to the Class 1A third ranked St. Paul (12-0, 24-5). The Buckaroos are the Casco League Champion. All OSAA State First Round matches are scheduled for October 26. Winning teams will advance to the OSAA State Second Round matches, scheduled for Saturday, October 29.

Again, only the eight victorious teams will advance to the 2022 OSAA OnPoint Community Credit Union State 1A Volleyball State Championship, held November 4, 5 at Ridgeview High School, in Redmond.

Eagle Runners Finish Regular Season At Umpqua Invite

McKenzie Varsity Cross Country athletes Myra Dion, Will Meister, and Devon Lawson wrapped up the 2022 Regular Season down in Roseburg, last Wednesday, October 19. The Eagle trio competed in the Umpqua Invite, held at Stewart Park.

McKenzie freshman Myra Dion,

running in the Girls 5,000 meters JV Co-ed race finished second overall timed in 25:14.2 minutes. Dion was narrowly defeated by Springfield senior Madison White, who finished in 25:13.3 min. Dion was the lone Class 1A runner in the race as the rest of the field were runners representing Class 5A and Class 6A schools.

In the Boys 5,000 meter JV Co-ed race, Eagle freshman Will Meister finished 42nd in a posted time of 23:31.4 minutes and sophomore teammate Devon Lawson finished 63rd in a time of 32:29.7 min. Taylor Dial, a junior out of South Medford, won the race with a time of 19:45.4 min.

Eagle Trio And Team Earn All-League Honors

McKenzie Senior Volleyball player Haley Prater was honored recently, by the Mt. West League Coaches - being selected to the MWL All League Third Team. Teammates, Senior Anna Reidmann and Freshman Mya Triplett received MWL All League Honorable Mention awards.

The McKenzie Varsity Volleyball team, under first year Head Coach Rachele Mark, was selected by the MWL Coaches as the recipients of the 2022 Mt. West League Sportsmanship award.

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Cross Country runners participate in the 3A/2A/1A-SD4 Special District 4 Championships, held at Lane Community College, on Thursday, October 27.

The McKenzie Varsity Football team hosts Gilchrist on Friday, October 28. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

Feathers Flew Last Friday In Finn Rock

The McKenzie Eagles' opponent last Thursday night, October 20, was the Eagles of Eddyville Charter. The unseasonably warm October evening was also the 2022 McKenzie Homecoming Night Celebration and the local Eagle student body voted in junior Riley Morales and freshman Allen Acevedo their 2022 Homecoming Queen and King. The new Royalty were honored at halftime.

The Homecoming Court consisted of Senior Princess and Prince, Anna Reidmann and Madrox LeClair, Junior Princess Morales and Prince Thomas Hayes, Sophomore Princess Beckah Short and Prince Sam Waddell, and Freshman Princess Mya Triplett and Prince Acevedo.

Prior to the halftime festivities, however, Eddyville Charter quickly set the tone for the Clash

of Eagles on Wade Thomas Field. The Coast Range Eagle team posted the first five scores of the game and led 38-6 going into the Halftime Activities. McKenzie's lone score of the first half came with 0:02 seconds left on the score clock on a rush by Eagle junior running back Griffin Withalm. Withalm would score once more in the second half as Eddyville took home a SD 2 North League 45-12 victory. Eddyville Charter improved to 4-2, 4-3 and McKenzie dropped to 1-5, 1-6 on the season.

Withalm finished the game with 89 yards rushing on 8 carries and he received one pass for 5 yards. Allen Acevedo carried 7 times for 25 yards gained, senior Quarterback Trent Peek gained 14 yards on 2 carries, junior Solomon Acevedo rushed 4 times for 13 yards, and junior Thomas Hayes carried once for 9 yards. Peek was 3-6 passing for 10 yards. The McKenzie offense fumbled three times and lost all three to Eddyville.

Defensively, McKenzie was led by Withalm with 16 total tackles, 7 of which were solo. Solomon Acevedo had 4 solo tackles, sophomore Jamie LeClair finished with 6 total (2 solo), Allen Acevedo with 5 total (1 solo), Hayes with 3 total (2 solo), sophomore Jovial Jordan with 4 total (1 solo), Peek with 4 assisted tackles, junior Levi Lockard with 1 solo, and freshman Kenneth Krohn with 2 assists.

Mohawk Sweeps

The Mohawk Varsity Volleyball team pulled out the brooms this season, sweeping both the Mt. West League regular season and the MWL Tournament. The 2022 Mustangs ran the table on their

Friday 10/28		Saturday 10/29		Sunday 10/30	
McKenzie Valley Showers 50% chance precip High: 60 Low: 45	Santiam Pass PM Showers 30% chance precip High: 46 Low: 32	McKenzie Valley Rain 80% chance precip High: 56 Low: 47	Santiam Pass Rain 70% chance precip High: 42 Low: 33	McKenzie Valley Rain 70% chance precip High: 56 Low: 46	Santiam Pass Rain 70% chance precip High: 42 Low: 33

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WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
10/18	73	46	0	843 cfs	10/18	74	43	0	2,740 cfs
10/19	78	44	0	NA	10/19	71	42	0	2,720 cfs
10/20	74	41	0	NA	10/20	72	41	0	2,660 cfs
10/21	52	42	2.04	802 cfs	10/21	70	42	0	2,660 cfs
10/22	50	42	0.14	790 cfs	10/22	61	47	1.20	3,030 cfs
10/23	50	42	0.14	778 cfs	10/23	52	44	0.25	3,170 cfs
10/24	50	42	0.89	771 cfs	10/24	57	43	0.05	3,020 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Oct. 15: 6:11 p.m: Burglary - 87300 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A caller reported that they're house was broken into. They believed their landlord possibly did it.

6:21 p.m: Found Property - 87400 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

8:51 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 38400 blk, Wendling Rd. verbal dispute between a landlord and tenant.

11:57 p.m: Welfare Check - 92200 blk, Carson St.

11:58 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 46400 blk, Goodpasture Rd. a caller stated they were outside playing with their BB guns and there were drones in the air.

Oct. 16: 4:55 pm Water Rescue - Finn Rock Landing.

12:02 pm Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported that a former tenant is harassing him.

Oct. 17: 11:16 a.m: Theft From Vehicle - 8900 blk, McK. Hwy.

12:44 p.m: Theft - 41800 blk,

Madrone St.

5:41:29 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 44800 blk, McK. Hwy. A caller reported that a female at an area business was saying strange things. The caller believed the female may have been high on drugs.

6:16 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

Oct. 20: 3:08 pm Disabled Vehicle - McK. Hwy. & Blue River Dr.

7:24 pm Reckless Endangering - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

7:45 pm Civil Service - 8600 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:09 pm Disturbance, Dispute - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

Oct. 21: 12:15 p.m: Repossessed Vehicle - 51100 blk, Blue River Dr.

2:06 p.m: Info - 37800 blk, MJ Chase Rd.

3:37 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 31.

4:34 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 48.

4:51 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 49.

5:04 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 51.

5:26 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 49.

5:35 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 48.

5:52 p.m: Threat, Harassment - Camp Creek Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

6:32 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Millican Rd.

6:53 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Millican Rd.

7:07 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 37800 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

10:40 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd.

Oct. 22: 9:59 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - 88700 blk, Buck Point Way.

10:44 a.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 36700 blk, Oak Point Rd.

11:37 a.m: Burglary - 89900 blk, Greenwood Dr.

3:35 p.m: Fraud - 42200 blk, Holden Creek Ln.

4:49.m: Burglary - 91300 blk, Triple Oaks Dr.

6:32 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver- Camp Creek Rd. & McK. Hwy.

Oct. 23: 6:32 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident. No Injury - Marcola Rd. & Alder Branch Rd.

11:51 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39100 blk, Easton Ln.

12:35 p.m: Welfare Check - 87700 blk, Collins Ln.

3:29 p.m: Intoxicated Subject - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:31 p.m: Disorderly Subject - Camp Creek Rd. & East of Eden Rd.

5:07 p.m: Disorderly Subject - 38600 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

6:35 p.m: Disabled Vehicle - Lat: 44.1218675. Long: - 122.513299.

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

Oct. 20: 4:50: 41000 block, Madrone St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

7:21: 38000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Oct. 21: 21:57: 40000 blk, York Ln. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

22:23: 44000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Oct. 22: 9:50: 8600 blk,

Continued On Page 7

State Police Report

Oct. 19: 15:54: Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 11. A green Kenworth semi was eastbound when it moved toward the shoulder to avoid a collision. It struck the guardrail, lost control, and landed on a shared driveway. No injuries.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Oct. 19: 15:50: McK. Hwy./Deerhorn Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury/Non-Blocking.

16:16: Cedar Flat Rd./McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Evaluation. Traffic Stop/No Transport.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Oct. 18: 17:37: Medical - 91000 block, Horse Creek Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Oct. 19: 17:24: Assist Police Dept. Old McK. Hwy./Milepost 57. Word "Help" spelled out in sticks & an arrow pointing toward a gravel road.

Oct. 23: 10:33: Medical - 49755 McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

11:33: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Old McK. Hwy./Mp. 69. Passerby reported a white Honda Fit "off the embankment," down the side of the mountain.

The Upper McK. Fire District board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m on Wednesday, November 16th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.



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

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By Slim Randles

There's something to be said for the brightness of day, of course, when the energies of the world improve our lot in life. But for a special time, give me the night. Give me the soft, velvety quiet of a country evening and its own sounds and flavors and scents.

It's good to hear the night shift take over the part of our world we call home. The coyote yaps off in the brush, calling his family to the hunt, the quail have a soft cluck and rustle down by the creek. The crickets set up the background music for all this in a spooky kind of harmony.

It's a resting time for most, but for those who will postpone sleep, there is the secret of another world, where we slow down a little and take a bit more time with our lives. This is a time when we can hear the world heal a little before it goes back into daily battle again. A time when we can smile and sit and just say thanks for bringing us to another evening like this. If we like, we can do a little mental planning for the next day. Or not.

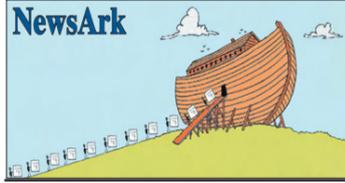
A country evening is what we get for being good all day.

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Quote of the Week

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Abraham Lincoln



...saving stories from the rising tide of time.

From the September 8, 2011 edition of McKenzie River Reflections

Who was McKenzie?

Continued From Last Week

Part 4

From the January 19, 2012 edition of McKenzie River Reflections

January 18th, 1812

On January 18th two hundred years ago Donald MacKenzie finally reached the Pacific Ocean. At 27 years old and 6' 6" in height, he was already well-regarded as the assistant leader of the 60 person "Astorian Overland Party". The McKenzie River was later named after this young leader. This is the final Chapter of Travels with Mackenzie.

In late November 1811, the Overland Expedition had found themselves in the rugged and inhospitable Snake River canyons. The expedition split into four groups, each hoping to find a route to the Pacific Ocean and everyone desperately needing to find food along the way. Ten men followed Donald Mackenzie across the rugged plateau adjacent to the Snake River. In the southeastern portion of present-day Washington State, they came upon a large river flowing west and soon met a group of friendly Indians who agreed to sell several horses. When the river they were following emptied into an even larger stream, the Overlanders realized that they had fi-



nally reached the Columbia (at present-day Tri-Cities). From their knowledge of Lewis and Clark's route, they deduced that they had been riding along the watercourse then known as Lewis's River, and known today as the Snake River. Over the next several weeks, with help of the native people living along the river they made their way down the Columbia River finally reaching Fort Astoria on January 18th, 1812.

The Partner in charge of Fort Astoria at that time was Duncan McDougal. McDougal and several dozen employees of the Pacific Fur Company had arrived at the mouth of the Columbia from New York aboard the ship Tonquin on March 22, 1911. McDougal recorded Donald Mackenzie's arrival in his journal. "Around 5 p.m. on

January 18, 1812, workers at Fort Astoria were agreeably surprised by the arrival of Messrs. Donald MacKenzie, Robert McLellan & John Reed with 8 hands in two canoes." That day clerk Gabriel Franchere noted that the men were "safe and sound but in a pathetic state, with their clothes in rags". Clerk Russ Cox remarked that "their concave cheeks, protuberant bones, and tattered garments strongly indicated the dreadful extent of their privations; but their health appeared uninjured, and their gastronomic powers unimpaired". They had traveled 1750 miles through largely unmapped country. A month later the remainder of the Overland Expedition, led by W.P. Hunt, arrived safely at Fort Astoria.

Around April 1, 1812 Donald Mackenzie left Fort Astoria for six weeks to trap and hunt with six to eight men. They ventured farther south than the Willamette Falls, where Halsey and Seaton had gone in 1811. Mackenzie's party encountered and traded with numerous native people living throughout the valley probably travelling on the well-worn trails made by the thousands of people who had lived in the valley for generations. When the wagon-train settlers arrived in the 1840's the valley was much more sparsely populated. Over eighty percent of the native people had died as the result of a malaria epidemic in the early 1830's.

The lack of resupply ships and the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the newly formed United States of America compelled Mackenzie and his business partners to sell Fort Astoria to the British. Mackenzie returned overland to New York, taking the Bill of Sale for Fort Astoria to the company's American financier, J.J. Astor. In 1816 Mackenzie returned west to establish Fort Nez Perce near the mouth of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. This became an important inland trading post for the North West Company of Canada. In 1822 he was asked by Hudson's Bay Company to govern the politically controversial Red River Colony near present day Winnipeg. His ability to negotiate difficult multi-cultural and environmental conditions saved many lives in the Colony particularly after the Red River flood inundated essential farm land in 1826. In 1824 Hudson's Bay Company made the first map showing the "Mackenzie's Branch" as a tributary to the Willamette. Donald Mackenzie did not leave a written account of his travels but the journals of people who depended on him for their daily survival portrayed him as a capable, honest leader, able to adapt to the immense physical and social challenges of the time. As the first European to the southern Willamette Valley two hundred years ago his legacy is considerable

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Thurston Rd. Public Assist.

Oct. 23: 6:30: Marcola Rd./Alder Branch Rd. MVA. Disregarded.

10:34: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold

its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 21st, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

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Gardening Tips
By Kym Pokorny



Bringing color back to your poinsettias



Holding onto poinsettias after the holidays is good for the pocketbook but hard on the ego when you can't get them to color up the next year.

To get you through the grief, Ross Penhallegon, a horticulturist with Oregon State University, gives the gift of good advice.

Now's the time to start coaxing poinsettias back into color and bloom for December. Sensitive to day length, the poinsettia needs a certain minimum amount of darkness each 24-hour period to stimulate blooming in the winter. With the shorter fall and winter days in Oregon, the plant has a natural tendency to bloom in spring, when there are about equal amounts of dark and light.

If the plants are exposed to lights inside the home, they won't receive enough darkness to start blooming and could stay green through winter.

To make a poinsettia bloom in early winter, indoor gardeners simply need to adjust the amount

of light and darkness to "fool" the plant, Penhallegon said.

In mid-to-late October place your poinsettias in a completely dark area from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until the red color starts to develop on the flowers or "bracts."

"This can take quite a while," Penhallegon said. "People often forget to cover the plant for one or two nights. Interrupting the darkness by even a few minutes may cause failure of the coloring."

Bring the plant to ordinary light after the bracts show color. You may have better luck if the bracts are almost fully expanded before bringing the plant out. Once the plant has large, colored bracts, the artificial light inside a house will not inhibit a poinsettia's blooms.

Penhallegon offered a general timeline for "coloring" the poinsettia:

* Mid- to late October — Begin giving poinsettias long nights (darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.). Cover it with a cardboard box or

black plastic bag or place it in a dark closet.

* Mid-November — Color should be showing in the bracts.

* Early December — Bract color should be almost complete. Plants can be brought out into ordinary light.

* December until February — During this "forced" bloom, keep the temperature between 60 and 70 degrees. Poinsettias are particularly susceptible to cold.

* Let the plant receive as much sunlight as possible during the day. Water regularly and thoroughly.

Throughout winter, fertilize once a week with a water-soluble fertilizer at half-strength or less. Over-fertilization will cause the leaves to drop. Keep plants away from hot or cold drafts. Leaves may wilt if the plant is too dry, too wet, or exposed to a draft. Never allow a plant to stand in water.

Yellowing of foliage may indicate insufficient light, over-watering, or lack of nitrogen. Generally, a slight correction of the environment will correct any of these symptoms.

After blooming, the plant's bracts and leaves will begin to fall naturally. Discontinue fertilizing and reduce watering. Cut the plant back to 6 inches. Water it only enough to prevent the stem from shriveling. When summer rolls around, repot the poinsettia if necessary.

When you see new growth, start watering regularly and feed every two weeks with a balanced (the three numbers on the label are the same) fertilizer. Pinch back stems as they grow to encourage branching. Grow it outdoors or as a houseplant. If grown outdoors, be sure to check for insect pests and treat if needed. Next autumn, start the cycle again.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



TEA WITH TASHA

Autumn brings memories of a lovely afternoon I spent with children's author/illustrator Tasha Tudor at her NH farmhouse home sipping tea and chatting about writing. I marvel today, many years later, that a renowned artist/author would take time to visit with me, then an unpublished writer.

I had just received my teaching degree from college, where I'd studied Tasha's art and writing in a children's literature class. I was fascinated by her work. So when I had an opportunity to visit at her in New Hampshire (the state where I'd moved after college graduation and marriage), I was thrilled.

Tasha Tudor and I spent a quiet autumn afternoon before her fireplace of the rustic house near Webster. There she made tea and cinnamon toast and talked with me about writing. She cautioned me it wasn't easy, getting started as a children's writer and illustrator. But she encouraged my dreams and aspirations and told me about herself.

Parents Met Tasha, Too

When my parents and aunt, who were visiting that weekend and drove me to my meeting, returned to pick me up, Tasha graciously invited them in and made more tea and toast. This remained one of my mom's treasured memories, too.

Over the years, I often thought of Tasha and followed her career and move to Vermont. She inspired me to continue as a children's writer, although my career has branched

in many directions.

I was pleased when a librarian remarked, upon seeing my illustrations in Tales of Adventure and Discovery, that their delicacy reminded her of Tasha Tudor. (I'd had my doubts that my drawings were very good.)

Even though we didn't meet in person again, Tasha Tudor continued inspiring me like she has so many others with her art, storytelling, gardening, and crafts of days gone by.

FRESH BERRY PIE

You'll probably need about 1 1/2 quarts of strawberries. Mash enough berries to make 1 cup. Mix together 3/4 to 1 cup sugar and 3 tablespoons cornstarch in a 2-quart saucepan. Then stir in 1/2 cup water with mashed berries. (Some cooks like less sugar.)

Cook this mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the it becomes thick and comes to a boil. (You also can cook in a microwave and don't have to stir quite so often.) Bubble or boil for about 1 minute, but don't let mixture stick to bottom of pan or burn.

Use one 3-oz. package softened cream cheese and stir until smooth and spreadable. Using an 8- or 9-inch pie shell, spread cream cheese over the bottom. (This is optional, because you can make the pie without the cheese.)

Then fill with remaining whole and/or sliced berries. Pour the cooked berry mixture over the top. Refrigerate until set, about 3 hours. Serve with whipped cream, whipped topping or ice cream.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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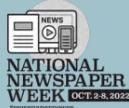
We know. There's a flood of news coverage out there, some of it good and some not so good. But none of those talking heads, cable pundits or national websites can deliver the local news and information that makes this a more vibrant and successful community.

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Community Notes

October 28

McK River Food Pantry

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 11 am - 1 pm, every 2nd & 4th Friday @ McKenzie High School (New Gym)

October 28

Trunk or Treat

A "Trunk or Treat" event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Rainbow on October 28th. Everyone is welcome to take part in activities like pumpkin painting, music, treats, a best trunk contest, and much more. To participate, all us (541) 822-3341.

October 29

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.

October 31

Springfield School Board

7 pm - 8:30 pm. The Board of Directors meet in the

Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

November 2

Blue River Park Board

The board will meet at 5 p.m. More info @ /www.blueriverpark.com.

November 2

Blue River Water Board

The will meet at 7p.m. More info @ www.blueriverwaterdistrict.com.

November 3

Business Resource Fair

The McKenzie Rebuilds Economy Subcommittee is hosting a Business Resource Fair for all businesses impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire. It will be held on Thursday, November 3rd, from 4 to 6 p.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue in Leaburg (42870 McKenzie Hwy). Local, county and state agencies will be available to answer questions and share information about resources that are available. Refreshments served. RSVP requested: email Sofia Castellanos at acastel2@pdx.edu.

November 11

Spaghetti Feed

The Walterville Grange is host-

ing its annual Spaghetti Fee and honoring veterans with a red, white, and blue theme. On the menu is spaghetti with red meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, drinks, and cookies for dessert. It will be held at the Walterville Community Hall, located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Walterville from 5 to 7 p.m. Donations, including canned food items for the upriver food bank, are always welcome

November 12

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.

November 16

Upper McK Fire Board

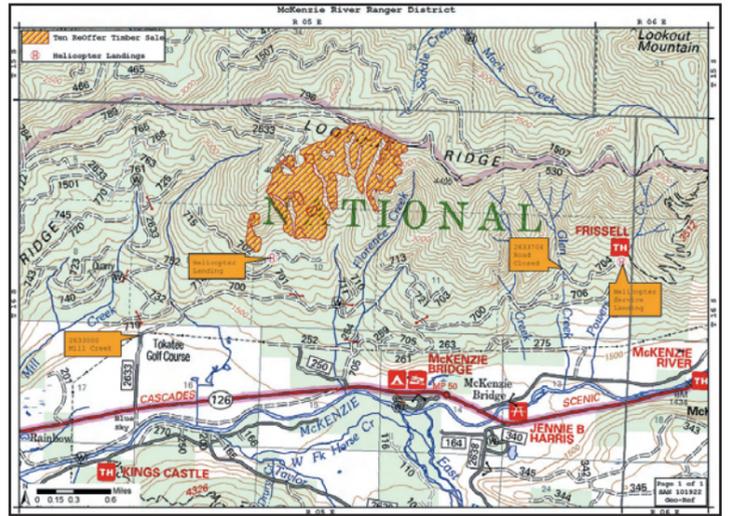
The board of directors will meet at 7p.m. 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

November 17

Leaburg Food Pantry

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

Helicopter logging planned



The McKenzie River Ranger District is advising that helicopter operations on the Ten ReOffer timber sale that began operating from on October 19th will continue through February 1st. The work is scheduled during the weekdays between 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., but could also occur during weekends depending on visibility limitations during the weekdays.

Tree falling could also occur during the weekends. Timber hauling will only happen during the weekdays. Low-flying aircraft in the McKenzie Bridge area could be especially visible from the Frissell Trailhead and the King Castle Trailhead. Contact the McKenzie River Ranger Station at (541) 822-3381 with any questions or concerns.

Hwy. 242 closing soon



The snow is here, and it's time to close the Old McKenzie Pass Highway, Hwy. 242, for the winter season.

On Tuesday morning, November 1st, crews will close the highway - from the western gate at OR 126 to the eastern gate just outside of Sisters.

Hwy. 242 is a secondary, scenic highway. Officials say weather, cost and logistics make it impractical to maintain for travel year-round.

Travelers going past locked gates and closure signs could encounter hazards and working equipment on the road, and there are no services or cell coverage.

Every year, the Old McKenzie

Pass opens and closes with the seasons. Dates vary depending on road and weather conditions.

Hwy. 242 became a seasonal scenic highway in 1962 with the completion of the Clear Lake-Belknap Springs section of Oregon 126. Even during its time as the main route between the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, the narrow, twisting roadway and high elevation (5,325 feet) made the route too difficult to maintain and keep clear during the winter months.

To see what routes are open over the mountains, and to view current road and weather conditions visit TripCheck.com.

Wildfire season ends and Outdoor Burning season begins

The overdue arrival of the first fall storm in Lane County has ended this year's wildfire season and helped clear smoky skies. The ongoing air quality advisory for eastern Lane County has been lifted following 37 days of air quality at or above "Unhealthy for sensitive groups" in Oakridge and Westfir since the first of September.

The fall outdoor burning season reopened on Tuesday, October 25th for many Lane County

residents. The season, originally set to start on October 1st, was delayed by the Lane County Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) due to a dry and warmer than average weather outlook.

The Lane Regional Air Protection Authority (LRAPA) encourages disposing of wood debris without burning. Lane Forest Products, Rexius, or Lane County's transfer stations and dumpsites are resources available to people

who wish to dispose of woody yard material without burning. Composting and chipping are also recommended. LRAPA has published a factsheet providing information on non-burning disposal alternatives for natural vegetation in Lane County.

People can check on the season's status by visiting LRAPA's website, or calling the LRAPA daily open burning advisory line: 541-726-3976.

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<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p>Living Water Family Fellowship 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)</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	

La Niña

Continued From Page 1

historic low-water conditions are currently present.

"Drought conditions are now present across approximately 59% of the country, but parts of the Western U.S and southern Great Plains will continue to be the hardest hit this winter," said Jon Gottschalck, chief, Operational Prediction Branch, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. "With the La Niña climate pattern still in place, drought conditions may also expand to the Gulf Coast."

Below-normal temperatures are favored from the Pacific Northwest eastward to the western Great Lakes and the Alaska Panhandle.

The 2022-2023 U.S. Winter Outlook map for precipitation shows wetter-than-average conditions are most likely in western Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, Great Lakes

and Ohio Valley. Drier-than-average conditions are forecast in portions of California, the Southwest, the southern Rockies, southern Plains, Gulf Coast and much of the Southeast. (NOAA)

NOAA's seasonal outlooks provide the likelihood that temperatures and total precipitation amounts will be above-, near- or below-average, and how drought conditions are anticipated to change in the months ahead. The outlook does not project seasonal snowfall accumulations as snow forecasts are generally not predictable more than a week in advance.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center updates the three-month outlook each month. The next update will be available November 17th.

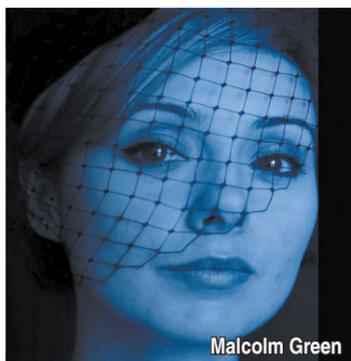
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirthell

Out of the Frying Pan



Malcolm Green

Each day, I feel I am merely existing and not living. I was widowed at 32 and have remained single. I feel unfulfilled with my job, my kids, and in this small town. I've always been restless, but I always made do.

My kids are teenagers. As I get older, I want to do something drastically different with my life. A year ago, I corresponded with a man living in Alaska. I chickened out because it seemed too hard. I didn't feel I could live in the Alaskan bush after spending all my life taking indoor plumbing for granted.

At the time, I was filled with doubt. Now I regret not making the attempt. All I want is to reconstruct my life, so I wake up each morning with gratitude for being alive. What can I do?

Sherry

Sherry, you have spent your life being someone else's child, someone else's wife, someone else's mother. How much time have you spent being yourself? Who are you, and who did you want to be?

You had dreams; you had aspirations. What happened to them? Search the scrapbook of your memory, and find them again. That is the place to begin. Which of those items still stirs your spirit? What can you do, what can you change, what would it take to make any of them possible?

You are at a weak point, so it is tempting to reconsider ideas you've already passed on. The Alaskan wilderness is someone else's dream. You dream of indoor plumbing and running water. Don't move from what you have to less. Move from what you have to more.

You are still a young woman. You have most of a lifetime in front of you. Nearly all paths are still open to you. Give yourself time. Enjoy exploring all the possibilities. When you find what connects, act!

Wayne & Tamara

Falling Short Of Love

I have been involved in a gay relationship for four years. For the past few months, times have been

tough, though somehow we got through them.

A year ago, my partner's father died and left her with nothing. Her mother put up the money on a house and moved in with us. This was the only way my partner could afford to buy a house. I contribute to the house payment but own nothing of the property.

My lover's mother suffers from a mental disorder which causes her to go completely off her head at times and not remember a thing. I am starting to resent my partner for dragging me into this situation, even though I consented to the whole thing.

My other problem is my best friend left last month to work overseas. I miss her terribly and told her I have been in love with her for three years. It started with a game of Truth or Dare.

I regret mentioning my feelings, as I am afraid of losing my best friend. I just want to run away. The walls of my life are closing in, and I don't know where the door is anymore.

Ginger

Ginger, you are confused because you think being alone is worse than being in an unsatisfactory relationship.

You don't want your partner, and your best friend declined your invitation. Tell your partner the truth, including your feelings for your best friend. Don't let her think her mother is the cause of the problem.

You can't say you love your

partner when, for three out of four years, you imagined yourself with another. It is love only when, no matter what difficulties or glories life brings, you can't imagine yourself with anyone else.

Have courage. Honestly end your current relationship, so you are free before you begin another. Courage is the most liberating thing. It makes life simple. It opens doors when we can't find the way out.

Wayne & Tamara

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

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

This an elegant elegy to a father who has passed, captured in the rituals that families create as a way to remember, to honor and to even celebrate. The extra place set at table before a feast of great sensual and emotional power reflects how mourning touches the deepest parts of our self. NaBeela Washington's poem asks the question: "Why Do We Set the Table?" The poem is the answer.

Why Do We Set the Table?

By NaBeela Washington

At what temperature does blood begin to boil? Thicken into a roux, slip between bits of basil, minced garlic, orecchiette;

Permeate chunks of spicy kielbasa, bind a dash of salt, pepper, bubbles roiling forth, then dissipating, heat lowered to a hush;

Congel from the shock of cool clay dishes as a small mound is delicately plated with a large plastic spoon;

Spurt steam, burning both nostrils, as we lean in to say grace, my father's seat empty, placemat bare.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. *American Life in Poetry* is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2022 by NaBeela Washington, "Why Do We Set the Table?" from *crazyhorse*, Number 101, Spring 2022. Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2022 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Kwame Dawes, is George W. Holmes Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* at the University of Nebraska.



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

October 27 - The Reverend Joab Powell was an imposing figure, standing over six feet tall and weighing in excess of three hundred pounds. He came west in 1852 to preach to the settlers, as well as the Indians, claiming, "I shall preach to anyone who will listen." He carried the word of the Lord to the far reaches of the state and although he had difficulty reading, he had managed to memorize, and could recite, long passages from the Bible. During the two decades he preached in Oregon Reverend Joab baptized more than 3,000 people. One time the reverend was asked to give the invocation for the Oregon legislature. In his simple style he addressed the dignitaries by bowing his head and praying, "Lord, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

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

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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.

Fish Counts

October 17, Willamette Falls
Fall Chinook - 2,704
Winter Steelhead - 5,967

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EMR/Admin Asst; Jackson Ruiz, FF/EMT/ Student Program; Trevor Schmidt, FF; David Sherwood, Captain/Training Officer/FF/EMT-I; Donny

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Chief/Maintenance Officer/FF/EMT-I; Brian White, FF/Boat Op; Joel Zeni, FF/EMR; Tanner Zenke, FF/EMT.



Christiana Rainbow Plews, Chief, EMT-Intermediate; Steve Otoupalik, Paramedic; Norm Michaels, Deputy Chief; Brent Caulley, Lieutenant, EMR; Jason Wickizer, Lieutenant, Training; Samantha Wunningham, Lieutenant, EMR; Sean Spradlin, Firefighter, Engineer; Vinny TaFoya, Tender Operator; Enrique Escheveria, Probationary Firefighter; Shawn DuFault, Firefighter, EMR, LPN; Luke Callahan, Firefighter; Eric Plews, Probationary Firefighter; Ed Stanley, Support; Jess Boykin, Firefighter, EMT; Jose Ramirez-Solano; Firefighter, Dirk Rogers, Assistant Chief, EMT; Amy Otoupalik, Administrative Assistant, EMR; Mike Leterneau, Firefighter, Lemont Southworth, Firefighter, EMR; Jenn Wickizer, Firefighter; Tayor Wickizer, Probationary Firefighter; Rayna Wilde, ER RN, Out of District Volunteer; Jeff West, Paramedic, Out of District Volunteer; Chris Jones, Out of District Volunteer.

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CROSSWORD

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4. Reaches (2 words)
5. Computer accessory
6. Do penitence
7. Chipper
8. *SCOTUS' branch of government
9. Jet black
10. Steak option
11. Kith partner
13. In style
14. Part of affidavit
19. Harden
22. Owns
23. Mare's babies
24. Spot for boutonniere
25. Allowed into a bar (2 words)
26. Plug for a barrel
27. Zzzz
28. Drinker
29. Opposing military force
32. Arabian chieftain
33. *U.S. Senator's term, in years
36. *Legislative assembly with power to declare war
38. Mix-up
40. Monkey _____, monkey do
41. United Nation's children-benefiting org.
44. Type of believer
46. Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
48. Be
49. Tooth trouble
50. Deep-red variety of chalcony
51. Bone-dry
52. Outback birds
53. Between Minnesota and Missouri
54. *Same as V.P.
55. European sea eagle
56. *U.S. Representative's term, in years

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CIVICS 101

- ACROSS**
1. Tart spicy quality
 5. *Senators each represent an area on it
 8. Jamaican rub
 12. Succulent medicinal plant
 13. Tiny piece
 14. Home to Burj Khalifa
 15. Sail support
 16. Sensory input
 17. Bedazzle, e.g.
 18. *One making SCOTUS nominations
 20. Grape holder
 21. Japanese cartoon
 22. Drunkard's sound?
 23. *First Lady, acr.
 26. Singer, songwriter, musician Jon _____
 30. Stumblebum
 31. Kind of monkey
 34. In a little while, to Shakespeare
 35. Speedily
 37. M in rpm, abbr.
- DOWN**
1. Pack down
 2. Resembling wings
 3. Rudolph's beacon
 38. North face, e.g.
 39. Toy brick
 40. Typical revolver
 42. "The One I Love" group
 43. The _____ Man, internet meme
 45. Table linens
 47. Wow!
 48. Instruct
 50. Delhi draping dress
 52. *#18 Across' branch of government
 56. Shipping weights
 57. Three blind ones
 58. Field worker
 59. Spot for FitBit
 60. Defender of skies, acr.
 61. Actor Wilson
 62. Bookie's number
 63. Wilbur's home
 64. Back of the neck

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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.

Make a Birthday or an Anniversary a Promotion or a Retirement Uniquely Memorable

McKenzie River Reflections \$1.00 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 Volume 45, Issue 5

Serving the McKenzie River Valley... And Subscriber Harry Wilson of Harlingen, TX

Fall Sports Schedules for both Thurston & McKenzie high schools **PAGES 4 & 5**

NewsArk Dozens of camera shutters were in action when stars made appearances in Rainbow. But the biggest news that week was about more dams. **PAGE 7**

Rafter drowned near Paradise Campground
MCKENZIE BRIDGE: On Sunday, at approximately 8:18 a.m., the Lane County Sheriff's Office received a report that a raft had overturned in the McKenzie River near Paradise Campground. Paradise Campground is located just upstream from McKenzie Bridge. While on route, deputies learned that one of the three involved rafters was unconscious and CPR had been performed by bystanders and paramedics. At 9:14 a.m., paramedics at the scene advised the involved male had died. Police said the name of the deceased is being withheld at press time.

Hatchery salmon returning nutrients to waterways
Owners warned to keep dogs away from carcasses
Volunteers with the OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program have been busy all around the state slinging salmon carcasses into rivers and streams. Why are there dead salmon in the river? If you live close to a river or stream in the Willamette Valley, you might come across salmon carcasses as they gather to spawn and die. Historically, thousands of adult salmon spawned and died in these rivers and streams, supplying essential nutrients to feed the stream ecosystem. The salmon also feed bears, otters, raccoons, skunks, turkey vultures, eagles, hawks, ravens, and other animals as well as fertilize trees and vegetation along the stream banks. September is also when ODFW hatcheries spawn salmon for future small releases. After the salmon are spawned, ODFW staff and volunteers distribute the salmon carcasses from the hatcheries to rivers and streams throughout the Willamette Valley for stream nutrient enrichment. Hatchery salmon carcasses distributed to rivers and streams around Oregon enrich the food web of stream systems. By returning hatchery brood salmon carcasses to local rivers and streams, their bodies can provide nutrients for algae and other aquatic plants, as well as food for aquatic invertebrates that...

Sam Saquatch named Guide of the Year
Pacific Northwest Outsiders announce 2022 pick
SEATTLE: Early in 1927, when the Eugene Water & Electric Board decided another power source was needed it didn't plan 10,000 years in advance. Nor did the utility have to consider what natural disasters might occur in the next million years. Today, though, potential seismic or mega-flood events are part of the design requirements mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). 2022 marks 95 years since EWEB made the decision to build the Leaburg hydroelectric project. It is also a time when the useful life of the facility has run out. Choices for its future range from full modernization to minor upgrading as well as the possible removal of all structures. This December, EWEB commissioners are planning to choose one of four options that will range between \$179 million to \$257 million. Any decision will come with requirements for decades of consultations involving a wide range of agencies and interest groups - all monitored by FERC. "Regardless of what alternative the board chooses, we are going to need a FERC license," according to Mark Zimicker, the utility's generation engineering manager. He estimates issues raised during these discussions would likely be resolved by 2028 or '29. From there the timeline would likely extend another 5 years before the final plan is actually implemented and the physical work gets underway. Adding all that together - people could expect the Leaburg project to be back in service, continue to only act as a channel to transport rainwater, or be completely removed - by 2035 or 2037. Underlying issues involve how the project was originally built. In some places, the levees that form the canal channel are up to 50 feet tall. Material to build them was taken from the surrounding landscape which in some places has led to structural deficiencies. EWEB had always kept an eye on seepage, which is considered to be normal in similar structures. But over the last 15 years, the seepage had tripled. In 2018, FERC ruled Canal cobandrum - Page 10

Can we live with wildfires?
Documentary film explores what could be done
Nearly 20 years ago the Biscuit fire burned across half a million acres in Southern Oregon. It also exposed a college sophomore to the controversy, science, and politics at play during and after the blaze. That student was Tzip Jennings who assembled a team to grapple with the complex debate around the fire and worked with scientists, advocates, and local citizens to capture the story in a documentary. More than a decade later, the Eagle Creek fire ignited the Columbia River Gorge, a scenic area just a half hour from Jennings' home. "As the fire burned, legislation was proposed that would allow clearcut logging in the forests after the fire. The community was shocked and angry," he recalls. "People were searching for answers, and I noticed that people were sharing my nearly two-decade-old student film - I was taken aback. Was it possible that little to nothing else was available to communicate this message?" After the fire, he took to the air with an expert scientist to assess the burn and created a short film that has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people. Over the last four years, Jennings has also visited burned landscapes and communities destroyed by fire. "I am deeply committed to changing the national conversation around wildfires," he says. That message is delivered in a new film he says shows how people can "have healthy forests and safe communities, and that we can prepare for and adapt to fire." His new documentary, "Elemental: Redefining our Relationship with Wildfire" will be shown in Rainbow later this month. Go to Page 5 for more details. A scene from "Elemental" that will be shown at the U.S. Basketball Academy.

Creating your own "Special Edition" mock front page of McKenzie River Reflections can be a fun and playful way to celebrate special events. The result will be a personalized gift that can be framed and displayed for memories and laughs. Send your photo and text to create the lead article of the mock front page Your custom Front Page will be delivered by mail as a full size 11" X 17" reproduction printed on newsprint for an authentic look and feel! Order yours for just **\$16.95**

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Oregon renews federal forest health agreement

State to work with U.S. Forest Service on forest health and wildfire risk reduction

Earlier this month the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) renewed their agreement allowing continued work across boundaries to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, improve forest and watershed health, and create jobs in rural, forest-dependent communities.

The cooperative work agreement was extended until 2032 under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). This is a provision of the 2014 federal Farm Bill that allows state agencies to do vital restoration work on national forestlands in Oregon. Those make up nearly half of Oregon's 30 million forested acres.

Kyle Sullivan with the Oregon Department of Forestry is that agency's Federal Forest Restoration Program Lead. "The Forest Service is the largest forestland manager in Oregon. We are seeing real benefit in leveraging the strengths, skills, and resources of state organizations tasked with stewarding Oregon's forests, fish and wildlife. This Good Neighbor Authority agreement is a crucial tool to continue this cooperative work."

Sullivan said ODF, ODFW and the Forest Service have been working together for over six years under the current GNA agreement. "We've identified long-term projects that extend beyond the agreement's original 2026 expiration date. The agreement signed this week now extends the work between state and federal agencies through 2032," he said.

The three state and federal land management agencies are taking aim at the most pressing issues facing Oregon's forests. At the top of the list is the over 7 million acres of federal forest in declining health and at elevated risk of large and destructive wildfire. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, wildlife species recovery, habitat connectivity, producing sustainable forest products, and supporting jobs are also issues the GNA agreement can help address.

This GNA agreement allows the Forest Service to take advantage of the additional capacity provided by ODF and ODFW, access streamlined state contracting processes, and leverage state funding dedicated to restoring federal forests.

Despite the GNA agreement allowing states to help improve the health of federal forests, all applicable federal laws and environmental reviews are followed. Decision-making authority still rests with the Forest Service for restoration work.

Forest Service Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa said, "GNA is a powerful tool. It allows us to work together across boundaries, at the appropriate scale, to benefit Oregon communities through enhancing forest and watershed health conditions – and to do so proactively, not reactively."

Since 2016, ODF and ODFW have worked across all 11 National Forests in Oregon under 30 Supplemental Project Agreements. Results of this work include:

- * 52,000 acres of restoration project planning and project preparation
- * 11,000 acres of non-commercial fuels reduction and thinning, prescribed fire preparation, noxious weed treatments, wildlife habitat improvement, and stream enhancement

- * 14,000 acres of commercial restoration, producing 50 million board feet of timber volume
- * 7 contracted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusions (CE) projects covering 30,000 acres
- * 440 acres of post-implementation monitoring work

In addition to the strong partnerships, the success of this work is also due to the Oregon Legislature's forward-thinking investments in the Federal Forest Restoration Program. Under this program, state funds support forest collaboratives, environmental planning and analysis, and a state workforce dedicated to increasing the pace, scale and quality of restoration of federal forests.

"The renewal of this agreement maintains a crucial tool for the Oregon Department of Forestry to manage, protect and promote stewardship of all of Oregon's forests," said Oregon State Forester Carl Mukumoto.

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Eugene Weekly is reaching out to the Lane County community to learn about what news topics are going uncovered.

In particular, we are seeking input from communities – low-income, rural, BIPOC, etc. – who have not historically seen themselves and what they care about being represented in our newspaper or the news in general.

How often do you read the Eugene Weekly?

- Regularly - Every week
- Often - Nearly every week
- Once in a While - Monthly
- Rarely / Never
- Other _____

If you access the paper, which method do you use most?

- Paper
- Online

How do you identify racially? We understand that race is a social construct and will use this information to ensure representation in this project.

- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Black / African American
- Latinx / Hispanic
- Indigenous / First Nations
- White / Caucasian
- Bi-Racial
- Not Listed
- Prefer to not reply
- Other _____

Age

- Under 20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- 50+

Are you a member of an underrepresented group (LGBTQIA+, rural, low-income, unhoused, minoritized)?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to the question above and would like to share your identity/community, please do so here. _____

If you are part of an underrepresented community and would like to receive a \$5 electronic gift card emailed within 10 days of taking the survey please include your email address here. _____

Are you a member of / affiliated with any organizations (such as NAACP, TransPonder, Centro Latino Americano etc.) that represent your identities and or interests?

- Yes
- No

Do you feel topics and issues you care about are represented in the Eugene Weekly?

- Often
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Never

Please expand on the question above — what issues have you seen that you care about in EW's pages? _____

What topics / issues you would like to see represented or covered more often by Eugene Weekly or any local news?

What do you feel that we are doing well in terms of our news, culture, arts or opinion coverage?

Would you be available for a possible later phone interview about your answers? If so, please supply your phone or email.

Is there anything we missed? If you would like to share anything else to help us understand news topics that are going uncovered, please do so here.

If you are a monetary supporter of local journalism, would you be willing to contribute to create any of the following initiatives at the Eugene Weekly? (Please note our nonprofit arm can accept tax-deductible donations to support our coverage of minoritized and underrepresented communities, please reach out to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com to learn more).

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- Scholarship
- BIPOC Fund
- Funding for specific coverage (education, politics, homelessness)
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School profiles

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Under the school goals section, the Walthville administrators said the data showed strong evidence of growth in key areas, adding that, "we remain committed to our core belief that all students can and will learn."

Within the 524 student Thurston Middle School, students were only a little bit more crowded than their contemporaries around Oregon. Class sizes at Thurston Mid were 28, compared to the state's 22 student medium size.

Core class proficiencies for English can in at 50%, bettering Oregon's average of 44%. Middle schooler continued to outpace the state's average for Mathematics, posting 31% to Oregon's 28% but wound up with a match for Science with a score of 28%.

"We implement an aligned curriculum to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to learn," was the way administrators at Thurston Middle School explained their goals, adding that their approach includes "access to the same content, knowledge, skills, and quality of instruction."

At the upper end of enrollment for local schools, Thurston High had a student body totaling of 1,164 last year. It was spot-on for its rates of on-time graduation and five-year completions - hitting an 81% match with the statewide numbers for the first and 88%

for the second. Thurston High graduates enrolling in a two-year or four-year college tallied at 48%, compared to the Oregon-wide rate of 45%.

The school adhere's to the Springfield district's overall focus on providing a safe and welcoming environment with staff members, "working together to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment."

Comparisons between the McKenzie and Springfield school districts reveal that both serve a student population where 95% qualify for free or reduced price lunches. There's a variation in compliance with required childhood vaccinations. Within the Springfield system, 99% have been vaccinated, compared with 86% at Finn Roack.

More information on Oregon's school profits and report cards is available at: tinyurl.com/mr42yck.

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