



JP Doodles

Hammers & nails or pen & paper?

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Country Kitchen

As soon as the first snowflakes drifted down

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Direct Answers

He left his first wife, is currently living with another woman

PAGE 7

Business options aired

FINN ROCK: Last Monday night, Lane County staffers fielded questions about economic development and zoning regulations. In the more than hour-long session in the McKenzie Schools gym, questions ranged from general topics to specific details impacting

individual business recoveries.

A topic in that second category concerned replacing business structures lost in the Holiday Farm Fire.

Asked if a different type of business could replace one that burned, Maryanne Note, the county's Holiday

Farm Permit Navigator, said it wasn't likely a flower shop could replace what had been a restaurant without going through the special permit process. Unlike a straight replacement process, where the county has waived replacement **Business options - Page 2**



(From left) Lane County's Disaster Recovery Manager, Matt McRae; Austin Ramirez, Community and Economic Development Manager; Maryanne Note, Holiday Farm Permit Navigator; and Jenna Cusimano, Community and Economic Development Analyst were all up front to answer questions.

Park planning underway

BLUE RIVER: Interest in plans to rebuild the Blue River Park appears to be strong, judging by the 80 responses received to an online survey. Answers to some of those comments focused on a Zoom meeting hosted by the park board last Saturday morning.

As part of the meeting's introductions, park board treasurer Tony Casad explained that it would take many years before the thick, forested park people were familiar with would be restored. Since the Holiday Farm Fire swept through the area, Casad said 225 unsafe trees had been removed.

In response to the damage, volunteers recently pitched in to plant native shrubs, and plants and signs have been replaced, he said. In addition, water lines were repaired, signs were replaced. Tables and the tennis and basketball



Details are still to be worked out but a larger, raised, 30 x 24 foot stage at the Blue River Park will be rebuilt.

courts were cleaned, Casad added.

During the session, Audrey Ryciewicz, a student with the Masters of Landscape Architecture course at the University of Oregon, answered questions about different aspects of a 15-page master plan she'd developed.

Among the things

Ryciewicz explained were removable posts, called bollards, that would restrict vehicles from driving into pedestrian areas while still allowing access for strollers or wheelchairs. Bollards, she added, can also be easily removed if emergency vehicles needed to respond to the scene.

Park planning - Page 6

Community events gaining popularity



Over 100 neighbors showed up for the Community Chili Feed last Friday at the Waltherville Community Center. Besides serving dinner to all those numbers, the Grange-sponsored event also generated 50 pounds of canned goods for the valley's Food Pantries. Proceeds from the dinner will go for Community Service Projects in the area.

Indoor masks gone by March 31st?

State health officials will maintain them for now

PORTLAND: Oregon will remove general mask requirements for indoor public places no later than March 31, state health officials announced last week.

By late March, health scientists expect that about 400 or fewer Oregonians would be hospitalized with COVID-19, the level of hospitalizations the state experienced before the Omicron variant began to spread. Mask requirements for schools will be lifted on March 31.

However, state health officials say Oregon needs to keep mask requirements in place for now as COVID-

19 hospitalizations crest and Oregon's health care system strains to treat high numbers of severely ill patients.

Today, health officials at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) filed a new rule with the Oregon Secretary of State to require people to wear masks while indoors in public places. The new rule replaces a temporary rule that expires Feb. 8. The filing was the only way health officials could extend the current temporary mask rule past its expiration date and until mask rules would no longer be needed to reduce transmission of

SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that causes COVID-19 – to save lives and prevent the Omicron crisis from further overwhelming Oregon's health care system.

The rule, as well as the hearing officer report for the public hearing and a written comment period, can be found here.

Oregon has the third lowest cumulative COVID-19 case rate in the nation and the seventh lowest COVID-19 death rate since the start of the pandemic. In their filing with the Secretary of State, Oregon health officials said scientific research **Indoor masks - Page 2**

Oregon Legislature aims to reduce collisions with wildlife

By Eric Tegethoff
Oregon News Service
House Bill 4130 would allocate \$5 million for wildlife crossings in problem spots across the state.

In Oregon, there are about 7,000 collisions with deer each year, costing Oregonians \$44 million in total.

State Rep. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton, a chief sponsor of the bill, said there's broad support for wildlife crossings, including some Republican co-sponsors.

"These types of projects are not partisan," he said. "We've got Republicans and Democrats, senators and House reps on the bill already. It'll be a great bipartisan, bicameral effort and very popular. So, the enthusiasm is certainly there in this state."

There are an average 700 injuries and two deaths from wildlife collisions each year. Oregon lags far behind on crossings, at five, compared with other states in the West. California and Utah each have 50.

HB 4130 is scheduled for a public hearing today. Zach Schwartz, Oregon

program manager for the Wildlands Network, said the crossings already have proved to be effective on a stretch of highway between Bend and Sunriver.

"The Lava Butte crossing on Highway 97 saw a decrease in wildlife-vehicle collisions of about 85%," he said, "so they allow for wildlife to move much safer, they allow for drivers to drive on the highways safer, and they pay for themselves really quickly."

Tyler Dungannon, conservation coordinator for Oregon Hunters Association, said the bill is a winner for the folks he represents. He said safe crossings also

improve wildlife habitat and connectivity.

"As conservationists, sportsmen and women aspire to bolster our deer, elk and other game populations for the benefit of all Oregonians," he said, "and one way to do that is to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on our highways via wildlife crossing structures."

Supporters of the bill also are hopeful passing it would put the state in a better position to compete for the \$350 million in federal dollars from the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, passed as part of Congress' infrastructure bill last year.



The Lava Butte crossing in Central Oregon was used by 29 species in its first year.

Letters to the Editor

Dinner gets a "V" for victory!

Vida McKenzie Community Center is almost \$2,000 closer to opening its doors this Fall after hosting a Valentine's Dinner at McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 12th.

The room was abuzz with animated conversation and everyone left with their appetites quenched. Many people took their meals "to go." Some supporters even left "tips" (aka donations) to help rebuild the Center more quickly. Auto Craft donated funds to cover a large portion of the food items, Thurston Florist donated some of the flowers and OroWheat Bakery donated the rolls.

During the dinner, VMCC was

able to announce receipt of a \$250,000 grant from Ford Family Foundation and a \$1,000 check from the Bottle Boys.

Rex and Patty Starr were the winners of the Raffle Basket which, among other items, contained a box of See's candy and two bottles of delicious wine from Meadows Estates in Oakland, Oregon, owned by Marilyn and Dexter Meadows of Deerhorn. Patty said she wanted the basket because of the wine. Rex wanted the candy. I love it when things work out well.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success including Diane Brown and her sidekick Scooter plus Ed Pelton and Dick Shirely.

Gerry Aster and Tammy Pelton, VMCC



AS COVID-19 GROWS IN COMPLEXITY, LOCAL FOLKS SIMPLIFY...

Indoor masks

Continued From Page 1

has shown that masks protect people from COVID-19. Oregon's comparatively strong compliance with mask rules and its high vaccination and booster rates have blunted the Omicron surge and - for now - prevented Oregon's hospitals from breaking under potentially hundreds of more hospitalizations they could have faced so far. According to data compiled by Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), more than 8 in 10 Oregonians continue to report wearing masks in public settings.

To date, COVID-19 hospitalizations have not topped the 1,178 high point of the Delta surge, despite initial projections that warned Omicron hospitalizations could more than double Delta's zenith. If Oregon had the same per-capita hospitalization rate as the national average, Oregon would have had seen a high of 1,543 hospitalizations at this time, according to OHSU's data.

"The evidence from Oregon and around the country is clear: masks save lives by slowing the spread of COVID-19," said Dean Sidelinger, M.D., health officer and state epidemiologist. "We should see COVID-19 hospitalizations drop by the end of March because so many Oregonians are wearing masks and taking other steps to protect themselves and each other, such as getting a booster shot or vaccinating their children. At that point, it will be safer to lift mask requirements."

Sidelinger provides additional comments in a video that can be found here.

Over the past week, the average number of newly diagnosed cases has dropped about 40% in Oregon. At the same time, hospitalizations, which are a lagging indicator, have stubbornly remained above 1,000 people per day. As

of today, Oregon's seven-day total in COVID-19 hospitalizations inched down another 1%, with 1,072 people reported hospitalized with COVID-19. More than 9 in 10 intensive care unit (ICU) and acute care beds are currently occupied by a patient in Oregon hospitals, and continuing to strain nurses, doctors and other medical staff.

Oregon's high number of COVID-19 hospitalizations comes at a time when state health officials have mobilized an unprecedented response to prevent Oregon's health care system from buckling. The Oregon National Guard has mobilized 1,300 Reserve National Guard members to help staff hospitals. The state has contracted to bring in more than 1,179 nurses and other medical staff from out of state to help treat the high numbers of severely ill patients.

Current models show hospitalizations peaking at 1,169 and then beginning to decline throughout February and March as infections slow. However, health officials cautioned that the state's emergence from the Omicron surge depends on Oregonians sustaining effective prevention measures in coming weeks. Sidelinger said, "We're likely to see as many cases on the way down from the Omicron peak as we saw on the way up. That means we need to keep taking steps to prevent more hospitalizations and deaths."

State health officials said they would consider lifting the general indoor mask requirement earlier than March 31, if hospitalizations decline to the levels projected by the end of March sooner than expected.

In the meantime, health experts strongly recommend high-risk individuals continue wearing masks in indoor public settings after

mask requirements are lifted, including people who are:

- Unvaccinated
- Immunocompromised
- At high risk of COVID-19 hospitalizations, including those with underlying health conditions and those 65 and older
- Living with people at high risk

Once requirements are lifted, employers and businesses may continue to establish their own mask requirements to protect employees and customers.

To give school districts time to prepare, the mask requirements in schools will lift on March 31. Over the coming weeks, state health officials will work with Oregon Department of Education (ODE) officials to revise guidance to ensure schools can continue operating safely and keep students in class once the school mask requirements are lifted.

State health officials thanked the more than 100 people who testified at the indoor mask rule public hearing and the many others who contributed written comments. Much of the testimony expressed concerns that: Oregon is one of few states that require masks indoors; question the effectiveness of masks; mask rules impinge on personal choices; and mask rules take decisions away from local communities, among other concerns.

In the state's formal rule-filing report, health officials responded to the concerns commenters expressed. They presented data on the effectiveness of masks in preventing COVID-19 transmission and described the impact masks and vaccinations have had in slowing infections, hospitalizations and deaths in Oregon.

Business options

Continued From Page 1

fees, a special use permit comes with a \$2,756 fee. In addition to reviews by Lane County Public Works that would range from blueprint details to neighborhood impacts, the process would also include a public hearing where neighbors could comment.

Another question involving a structure with multiple storefronts wasn't as easy to answer, Note admitted. Under the proposal, a building might contain several individual retail or business spaces that the property owner could lease out to house anything from a dentist's office to a pet store. She wasn't aware of any outright prohibition on that type of operation. "If you're in a rural commercial zone, you can pretty much do anything you can think of that isn't industrial," Note said. She suspected a multiple storefront too would involve letting people "be aware of what's taking place on that property."

\$15.7 million was approved by Oregon in the last legislative session. It targeted water and wastewater management in the McKenzie Valley. Community and Economic Development Manager Austin Ramirez said those funds would be overseen by Lane County and are primarily targeted at building a combined

water/wastewater municipal system in Blue River.

Ramirez said he expects the county will receive those funds soon. After that, its first order of business will be contracting with a water/wastewater engineering firm to help design the new infrastructure.

Questioned when a septic system would be operational, he admitted the work could take several years. In the interim, there have been suggestions that business owners could construct septic tanks to get up and running, utilizing a "modular" approach that would later try into the town's sewage lines.

Another part of the state's allocation will go to the Eugene Water & Electric Board, which has been helping fund people who replace residential septic tanks. Ramirez told people that the program is not limited to properties within EWEB's service area but is available to other portions of the McKenzie Valley.

Note said people who want to meet her in person could find her from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the new gym at McKenzie Schools. She also has office hours every Thursday at the Leaburg Fire Station from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

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Friday 2/18		Saturday 2/19		Sunday 2/20	
McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 51 Low: 37	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 10 Low: -3	McKenzie Valley PM Showers 40% chance precip High: 48 Low: 37	Santiam Pass PM Snow Showers 40% chance precip High: 3 Low: -4	McKenzie Valley Light Rain 70% chance precip High: 44 Low: 35	Santiam Pass Snow 70% chance precip High: 0 Low: -6

WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
2/8	52	35	0	725 cfs	2/8	62	33	0	3,290 cfs
2/9	53	34	0	NA	2/9	55	34	0	3,340 cfs
2/10	56	39	0	688 cfs	2/10	60	36	0	3,340 cfs
2/11	63	39	0	725 cfs	2/11	57	33	0	3,380 cfs
2/12	59	31	0	590 cfs	2/12	55	29	0	3,390 cfs
2/13	56	33	0	NA	2/13	60	32	0	3,380 cfs
2/14	46	35	0	710 cfs	2/14	68	38	0	3,380 cfs

Rival newspapers settled differences with a big gunfight, right downtown

By Finn J.D. John

The “Oregon Style” of newspaper journalism was already a thing in 1871, when upstart newspaper publisher William “Bud” Thompson got in his famous gunfight in downtown Roseburg.

But until that day, the vicious personal attacks that characterized the “Oregon Style” had mostly involved the spilling of ink — not blood.

On that late Monday morning on a corner in downtown Roseburg, that changed.

The enemies meet

The groundwork for the Roseburg Newspaper Shootout was laid when Thompson came to town in 1870, when he was just 22 years old. He’d just sold the newspaper he’d run in Eugene — the Eugene City Guard — and, with \$1,200 in his pocket, had come to Roseburg to do it again. He launched his paper and it steadily started building circulation.

This was not OK with Henry and Thomas Gale, the two brothers who had founded the weekly Roseburg Ensign three years before. Like Thompson, the two of them were from the Eugene area, and like him were in their early 20s; but unlike Thompson, they were staunch Republicans. Henry, the older of the two, was a tall and powerful man, but Thomas was tiny — under five feet tall.

Tensions between the two newspapers built as they fired salvoes at one another from their editorial pages. This was to be expected: after all, the Gales ran a Republican newspaper, and Thompson was a lifelong Democrat and a son of the South. But there was something else happening, too, which added fuel to the brewing feud: Almost as soon as Thompson opened for business, Democrat Lafayette Grover was elected governor of Oregon, ending an eight-year run of Republican governors. The victorious Dems, in Salem, now had a choice of papers to favor with their lucrative public-notice business. That meant most of the



The front cover of the May 1946 issue of 44 Western Magazine shows a scene vaguely reminiscent of the downtown gunfight between feuding newspaper editors in 1871 Roseburg. (Very vaguely. Actually, it’s not reminiscent at all, but it is a depiction of a gunfight...)

business that had sustained the Ensign now was going to the upstart Plaindealer.

Also, looking at all the different accounts of this event, it’s clear that Thompson was an unusually thin-skinned fellow. After being sarcastically called “the ripe scholar and gallant gentleman who stands — when sober enough to stand at all — behind the Plaindealer chair,” and “a sardine among codfish,” and various other quaint-sounding (to us) epithets, Thompson reportedly informed the Gale brothers that he would no longer tolerate this sort of abuse.

Of course, the Gales kept it up. They would have been a disgrace to Oregon-style journalism if they had not.

The inciting incident

Things came to a head one Saturday, when Thompson chanced to meet Thomas Gale in the post office. Reports on the action are varied. Thompson’s memoir claims that Gale tried to

draw a pistol, and he (Thompson) grabbed his hand and slapped him in the face. Contemporary newspaper accounts, including one by Thompson’s own newspaper (published while he was recovering from his wounds) say Thompson spat in Gale’s face and slapped him, and Gale — probably because Thompson towered over him like a giant — didn’t get in a single blow. Bystanders quickly separated the two before a full-on brawl could develop, and Thomas Gale stormed off to get his gun — which he had not had in the post office, or he probably would have used it.

It was not the kind of public affront that went unanswered in a frontier town like 1870s Roseburg. Everyone knew a showdown of some kind was coming.

It arrived two days later, on Monday. When Thompson stepped out of his office to go to the post office, he found the Gale brothers waiting for him.

“Pick on somebody your own size!”

Again, Thompson’s memoir describes the encounter with shameless mendacity. He basically claims the brothers took turns shooting him in the back as he turned from one to the other, that one pretended to surrender so he would lower his guard and then shot him, and (by implication) that he left both brothers dead. His own bravery, and the brothers’ cowardice, fairly pours from the page. And again, if contemporary newspaper accounts are to be believed — including the one by his very own newspaper — it’s almost all lies.

The newspaper accounts all say that the encounter started with Thompson apologizing to Thomas Gale for spitting in his face. The apology was not accepted, though, and Henry, the bigger brother, told him he should be ashamed of himself, and that he should pick on somebody his own size.

Gunshots ring out

What happened next is very unclear. There are just too many conflicting accounts to pick a line through them, especially on the question of who shot first. The most likely scenario is that Henry Gale intended to use his cane to administer a humiliating public beating to Thompson, and had started doing so when Thompson pulled his pocket derringer out. At that point, Thomas Gale (the small brother) pulled his revolver out and the shooting started.

First, Thomas Gale shot Thompson in the chest, but the ball was deflected by a thick sheaf of letters and inflicted only a flesh wound. Thompson turned and fired his one-shot derringer into Thomas’s right side, just above the liver; he then started using his now-empty pistol to beat Henry Gale over the head. Henry then pulled a four-shooter and shot Thompson three times with it from close quarters: once in the back of the head, from the side, apparently at an angle because

Big gunfight - Page 8



By Slim Randles

“Windy ... leave it to you to come up with something none of us ever really thought about before.”

“Well, Del,” Windy said to our one-man chamber of commerce, Delbert McLain,

I figger you got more-a your finger on the pulsations of America than anybody else whoever lives ‘round here.”

Delbert’s promotional agility is amazing to behold. Why, just the International Knife Sharpening Olympics by itself was enough to make a guy legendary, and it didn’t even happen because they couldn’t find enough dull knives to get it started. But the idea was worthwhile.

“I’m thinking what you need, Windy, is a campaign. You know ... let everyone know about you wanting an honorary degree and just keep at it until it ... happens.”

“Campaign?”

“Sure. How many local folks realize just how important that degree is to you?”

“Jest a couple’s all.”

“Hey, guy,” Delbert said, “let’s get out there and beat the drum on this. Okay? I’m behind your campaign all the way. Well, no, I can’t actually neglect my duties as the chamber of commerce to actively ... campaign for you. But you figure something out and stick with it, and my money’s on you getting that degree. And if anyone asks for a reference, you just tell them to ask me.”

“Thanks so much, Delbert, you’re the best. So what should I do now?”

“Beats me,” he said, “but I know you’ll come up with something.”

Brought to you by Home Country (the book), published by Rio Grande Press and now available as a Kindle ebook on Amazon.

Quote of the Week

“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”

Anonymous

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

materials such as peat moss or coconut fiber and perlite, Miller said. The seeding material will retain water for seed germination and seedling growth and also drain well, he said. Place the flats on a seedling heat mat, which can be purchased at nurseries and garden supply stores. The mat will heat the seeding material to promote quick germination, Miller said.

It's important to have enough light, Miller said. Use high-input grow lights or standard shop lights with fluorescent bulbs. Position the lights about 2 inches above the flat and move the shop lights up as the seedlings start to grow.

To tell if the seeds are getting enough water, the growing medium should always feel damp to the touch just under the surface, Miller said. Using a spray bottle is the most efficient way to water.

As they get larger some plants like tomatoes and melons should be "stepped up" from flats into a 4-inch pot and then potentially into a gallon-size pot prior to transplanting, Miller advised.

The OSU Extension guide Growing Your Own offers additional advice on starting seeds and a calendar of dates for planting various vegetables.

it can suffocate the developing seed or lead to root rot," Miller said. "If the soil temperatures are too cool, the seed won't germinate and cold soil temperatures could also lead to damping-off, a disease caused by soil fungi."

To successfully start seeds, first select and clean the right container. Miller recommends plastic flats or repurposed yogurt containers with adequate drainage. Sterilize the containers if they have been in contact with soil in a bleach solution of one part bleach to nine parts water, Miller advised. It is possible to grow seedlings in biodegradable pots fashioned out of newspaper or eggshell cartons, but the material takes a long time to break down in the soil after transplanting and the plant starts might not become well-established, Miller cautioned.

Next, find a seed starting mix at your local nursery or garden supply store. These mixes are not actually soil, but rather a sterile growing medium used to support growth, generally consisting of organic



Start seeds at home

The calendar doesn't say spring, but gardeners are ready to go. Turning vegetable seeds into plants helps satisfy the urge to put hands in the soil.

It's best to seed cool-season crops such as lettuce, cabbage, kale and broccoli in flats in late February to early March in western Oregon, said Weston Miller, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. Warm-season crops such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant should be sown in late March to early April.

Eastern Oregon gardeners should wait until later to start seeds, as the last frost doesn't typically happen until May and sometimes even June, Miller said.

"Back up your seed-starting date from the dates when you want to transplant," Miller suggested. "So if you want to transplant cool-season crops in mid-April, you would start them from seed in mid-March."

Germination starts when the seed takes up water, a process called imbibition. A seed just after germination consists of three parts: the embryonic root, also known as the radicle; the hypocotyl, or the developing shoot; and the cotyledons, or the plant's first leaves.

During this fragile time in the life of a plant, it's critical that seeds receive appropriate amounts of water, oxygen and light. At this point, starting seeds becomes a balancing act.

"Seeds need enough water for imbibition, but if they get too much



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



SNOW ICE CREAM SEASON

Blizzard time meant snow ice cream when I was growing up. This treat, concocted from snow, sugar, milk, and flavorings was one of the highlights of winter in the days when store-bought ice cream didn't exist or was a rare treat.

Snow ice cream, handed down from Yankee ancestors, is a delightful snack at snow time, which appeals to children and adults. It's best when made from freshly fallen snow, fine and hard, not wet and soggy, that's scooped from a big drift where there's no likelihood of scraping soil.

Snow Ice Cream Preparation

You'll find several methods of making this treat. Choose the one that appeals to you

Spoon the snow into a large bowl. Over this pour a custard previously made by mixing together a quart of milk, an egg, 1 cup sugar, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, cooking until thickened, then cooling to room temperature.

Snow and cooled custard are put alternately into the bowl until no more snow can be stirred into the mixture. The ice cream chills to a delicious thickness, but has to be eaten quickly before it melts.

Another Method

This is quicker but doesn't produce such creamy results. Mix

together in a large bowl, a cup of top milk or cream, 1/4-cup sugar, 1-teaspoon vanilla. Into this stir snow, as much as can be flavored by the liquid. This also has to be eaten very quickly for it melts even more rapidly than the custard type.

As soon as the first snowflakes drifted down, my siblings and I hoped there would be enough so we could make this treat.

History of Iced Treats

Recorded history relates that Emperor Nero of ancient Rome was the first to indulge in a delicacy even vaguely resembling ice cream. He had swift runners bring snow from the mountains, which when mixed with fruit juices was not unlike modern ices.

Another mention of frozen desserts is made in 13th century annals that Marco Polo brought home to Italy from Cathay a recipe calling for milk in addition to snow and juices. From there these frozen treats spread throughout Europe and were served mainly at the tables of the royal and very rich.

These chilled desserts appeared in the American colonies in the late 1600s. By the end of the 1700s ice cream parlors were beginning to crop up in New York.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

(Mary Emma Allen writes from her NH home.)

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6:00 pm - Bible Studies and Youth
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McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church
Worship is live-streamed, every Sunday at 10:30 am, on the Facebook page for McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church. Comments on Facebook are appreciated! You may also contact the church for prayer requests, to request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin, and other information. Phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.v.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person!
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Every Tuesday 8:15 am, silent meditation at Leaburg Library. Bring your own practice; we set the timer for 30 minutes. No religious affiliation, sponsored by the McKenzie Valley Holiday Farm Fire Long Term Recovery Group. Just show up, or contact Sara Stanley, 530-520-8901.

Community Notes

February 17

Leaburg Food Pantry

The Leaburg Food Pantry is open from 3 to 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy.

February 21

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

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

February 25

McKenzie Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the new gym located on the McKenzie School campus.

February - April Fuels Reduction

McKenzie Fire & Rescue, in partnership with Northwest Youth Corps, is compiling a list of residents within the fire district boundaries who are interested in

participating in a fuels reduction program that will occur between 2/22 and 4/21.

The primary focus of this program will be driveway access and 30-50' around the home.

The funds for this program have been made available through the Senate Bill 762.

For more information, call McKenzie Fire & Rescue at 541-896-3311.

VMCC receives \$250,000 grant

On February 10th the Vida McKenzie Community Center learned the Board of the Ford Family Foundation unanimously awarded the Center a grant for \$250,000. These funds are designated for the rebuilding of VMCC, destroyed in the Holiday Farm Fire. This grant, combined with other grants and generous donations from local residents and friends, will make it

possible to begin construction in the very near future. Stay tuned for updates and follow progress at vidacommunitycenter.com.

Grants for Arts

Lane Arts has opened applications for their Artist Grant program. This opportunity is open to individual artists of all disciplines. This year it allows applicants the flexibility to apply for funding in one of three areas:

Project: to move forward a new project or creative endeavor that contributes to career advancement or artistic development

Process: to engage in administrative or artistic learning, skill-building or professional development that contributes to improved business or artistic practice

Progression: to bolster artistic business capacity through equipment or supply purchasing, staffing or other operating expenses.

The grant program is funded by City of Eugene Cultural Services Division and administrated by Lane Arts Council. Questions? Call Eric Braman at 541-485-2278, eric@lanearts.org

Library Reopened

The volunteers and Board members of the O'Brien Memorial Library have been busy, including a cleanup day at the build site for the new library in Blue River. An E-books program has been purchased and is available for patrons. Answers to questions about using this new program is at obrienlibrary.org or email at obrienmemorial-library@gmail.com. The library has been closed for some time due to the snowstorm and the Covid surge. Fortunately, the snow is gone, the parking lot is clear of ice and the surge is now improving. The O'Brien Memorial Library reopened inside the Upper McKenzie Community Center in Rainbow on Monday February 7th, at its regularly scheduled hours. Masking and social distancing measures are still in effect.

Park planning

Continued From Page 1

Other discussions included different ways of dealing with stormwater runoff and creating a natural play area, a pollinator park, and a meandering along the forest's edge.

Rycewicz said those areas, along with plans to construct a pet memorial garden, would offer quiet zones for contemplation.

The plans call for rebuilding the softball field and adding some

spectator bleachers over by the basketball court on the athletic front.

Whether the ball field's location and seating for outdoor concerts would conflict was also addressed. Casad said that the dirt pathway around the softball field would continue to be part of the park in the future. In addition, he saw no conflicts with seating for concerts and said people could easily put down blankets to sit on. Utilizing those areas, it was estimated up to 500 concertgoers could be accommodated.

Presently, the park property is open to foot traffic, although

access to the adjoining McKenzie River Trust Trail is closed due to safety concerns. It's also likely signs will be posted warning people to stay off the steep slopes that border the park because of fire-damaged trees that might still have to be removed.

Luckily, the playground area and equipment survived the fire, has been cleaned up, and is open to the public.

People are still encouraged to go to surveymonkey.com/r/BlueRiverPark to complete a questionnaire regarding the park's redevelopment. It will remain open until February 20th.

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McKenzie Students of the Month



Jane Dellinger is our February Student of the Month. She is kind, smart, compassionate, has a great personality and it is truly a pleasure to have in class. Jane is competent and puts her all into her schoolwork.

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

Predictable Patterns

My name is Jessica. I am 25 and my boss is 47. I was wondering if it is inappropriate for me to have a personal, friendship-level relationship with him.

My boss says he is there if I need him, and he almost always is. He emails me electronic greeting cards for every occasion. We often talk to each other via email and text. I have been out with him and some others for a goodbye party for his secretary, and I enjoy his company very much.

He is a bit of a womanizer though. He left his first wife, is currently living with another woman, and has some weird relationship with another girl who is 36. My parents don't approve of our relationship because of his other relationships, and because of what it might do to my job if something wrong happens.

I have always and still continue to feel completely comfortable and relaxed with him. I do not feel threatened or uncomfortable being alone with him at all. I have been alone with him in his office several times, and he has never done anything to make me feel uneasy.

Do you think I can keep the relationship, or do you feel it is wrong?

Jessica

Jessica, whether it's learning a language, running a business, or initiating a relationship, pattern recognition is critical. The postman comes each day at one, and we learn when to have the outgoing mail ready. We hear the wail of a siren, and we pull over to let a fire engine pass.

One of the most important functions of pattern recognition is to protect us, but it can't do that if we ignore the pattern or refuse to see it. Your boss is a womanizer. He is involved with several women and grooming at least one more, you, to join the stable. His pattern of behavior is repeated every day, from the factory floor to the White House.

Perhaps you haven't been in this situation before, so you don't know what the end result is. Perhaps you don't realize each woman entering a relationship with him thought she would be the last. The truth is his pattern doesn't fit what you are looking for, but as long as women line up to be with him, he can only conclude what he is doing works. For him.

Don't give him credit for saying he is there if you need him. That statement will likely never be put to a real test. Making women feel comfortable with him is just his method of operation. Can you see his pattern, or will you learn

an awfully hard lesson, the kind of lesson that makes you mistrust other men. Good, honest men.

Wayne & Tamara

The Right Direction

One of my best friends asked me to be his girlfriend. I like him as a friend but nothing more. How can I tell him no in a way that won't make us stop being friends? Please answer as quickly as possible.

Marci

Marci, when you learn to say no, your life gets a whole lot simpler and a whole lot happier. Saying no is often difficult, but it's much easier than saying yes to something you don't want.

Tell your friend that you just want to be friends. Don't offer an excuse, an explanation, or leave any doubt that your answer is no. Often it is not possible to give a reason, like trying to explain why you like blue and not yellow.

You don't have to justify your feelings to anyone else, and offering lengthy explanations makes things worse. He can't argue with a simple, polite "No." Attempts to save his feelings now will result in more hurt feelings later, and give him hope where there should be none.

You can't find happiness in life without moving in the direction of your true feelings.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are also the authors of *Age Difference Relationships, When Is the Gap Insurmountable*, available from Amazon, Apple and most booksellers.

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Here is what one might call a most witty anti-Valentine's Day poem, which, tellingly, turns out to be an exuberant and witty pro-love poem. Kalamu Ya Salaam's "civilization" should be read as an over-protestation against sentiment, for in the end, "AS SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK", is a lovely and defiantly optimistic celebration of the abundance of love.

AS SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK

By Kalamu Ya Salaam

i have never been fully domesticated but i have been civilized

by women taught that the heart is more than a muscle

a life drum whose function is both physical blood pumping and spiritual longing to be embraced

but love, ah love is a river we may get wet

but we can never drink it all love always flows on more than we can ever swallow

no matter how thirsty we claim to be

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. 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 ©2020 by Kalamu Ya Salaam, "AS SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK" from *Cosmic Deputy, poetry and context 1968-2019* (University of New Orleans Press, 2020.) 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)

February 17 - Joaquin Miller was a poet and a wandering man. He was born in Indiana and came west to Eugene with his family when he was 14. He went to the California mines, lived for a time among the Shasta Indians, studied law and was admitted to the Oregon Bar. Instead of practicing law he became a pony express rider between Walla Walla and the Idaho mines. He began writing poetry and one of his books, *Songs of the Sierras*, published in London, made him an international celebrity. He traveled throughout Europe and was a correspondent during the Klondike gold rush. He was married three times and died February 17, 1913.

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Personal

The Leaburg Sew & So's will meet again on Monday afternoons when the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Center re-opens for community activities. Call Sara at 541-896-3059 for more information.

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 Waltherville Loop, a block from the Waltherville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

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The Leaburg Sew and So's meet every Monday from noon to 4 pm.. If you are interested in joining us, call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

RV Rental Space

RV space available at VidaLea Community Cooperative at 44221 McKenzie Hwy. Call message phone, 541-896-3898, and we will return your call. bf2-9

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Ski Report

February 15, 2021

The Hoodoo Ski Area reported on Tuesday that a trace of new snow fell overnight, leaving the base at 58 inches. Temperatures were 24 degrees mid-mountain and 29 at the base with NW winds averaging 11 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 13 degrees at the base and 18 degrees at mid-mountain on Tuesday. One inch new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 68 inches at mid-mountain. On Tuesday morning the forecast was for sunny skies with winds gusting from 35 to 45 mph. 13 out of 15 lifts were open, along with 118 of the 121 trails. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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Big gunfight

Continued From Page 4

the skull wasn't penetrated; once in the shoulder; and once in the neck. The neck shot went behind Thompson's jaw and lodged in his tongue, filling his mouth with blood.

And with that, the drama ended. Much to the surprise of almost everyone, all three of the men survived this bloody encounter. Thomas and Henry Gale went to a nearby drugstore for treatment, and Thomas's wounds were quite serious; they may have eventually caused his death, which came eight years later. Thompson went home to have the bullets extracted.

"Although neither paper was put out of commission, both had had the stuffing knocked out of their editors," writer David Loftus remarked in his article about the incident.

Thompson leaves town
Thompson soon left Roseburg, selling the Plaindealer for \$4,000 and moving to Salem to take over the Salem Mercury. The Gales sold their paper around the same time, and, languishing with the winds of political fortune, it eventually closed.

Throughout the rest of his life,



Alturas Plaindealer William "Bud" Thompson as he appeared at around age 30, during the Modoc Indian wars.

Thompson would be a dangerous fellow to have around. At the Mercury, he reportedly beat the editor of the Forest Grove paper with a cane after the editor wrote some disparaging things about him. Later, as a cattle rancher, he would become notorious as the head of the Prineville Vigilantes, a gang of masked outlaws responsible for at least seven lynchings and extrajudicial killings in Crook County. After

that, he moved to Alturas, Calif., and there were more lynchings and vigilante action there.

Thompson's enemies, of whom there were many, characterized him as that rare blackguard who had the skill to know whom he could attack and when he needed to leave town ... and they were probably right. But one thing is for sure: He definitely made journalism in frontier Oregon a more interesting occupation.

(Sources: Loftus, David. "Papers' feuding editors settled disputes with gunfire," www.david-loftus.com, 21 Feb 1988, accessed 29 Jun 2013; Thompson, Colonel William. Reminiscences of a Pioneer. San Francisco: Alturas Plaindealer, 1913)

Finn J.D. John is an instructor at Oregon State University and the author of "Wicked Portland," a book about the dark side of Oregon's metropolis in the 1890s. He produces a daily podcast, reading archives from this column, at ofor.us/p . To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com, @OffbeatOregon (on Twitter), or 541-357-2222.

Getting back on track

After a two year absence of track meets featuring student athletes, volunteers will begin preparations for a busy track season with a volunteer orientation program at the track on Blue River Drive in Blue River, this Saturday. Former McKenzie School track coach, Duane Aanestad and former McKenzie HS athletic director, Cliff Richardson have been working with current McKenzie AD Fred Hines to put together a season of 6 events to be hosted by the McKenzie Track and Field at their facilities in the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Field. Included in the schedule will be a return of the district competitions in high school and middle schools in May. The popular AMJ Invitational Meet will once again be held in April and high school and middle school meets held in April. The Ice Breaker meet will open the season on Saturday, March 26. In order for these meets to be successful it will require many volunteers and the appeal is being made to the general public to help fill the void left when some of the volunteers from past years are no longer available. Track board member, Dave Hunter has been recruiting helpers and is putting out the call for folks to show up this Saturday morning, Feb 19 for the orientation. The program for the day will begin at 10am and will include refreshments and lunch and should conclude by 2pm.

team to use the track for a practice site. Bergman was responsible for organizing last year's very successful track event that featured at least one participant qualifying for Olympic competition and is also helping organize a track and field camp at the track in late July. Bergman is hopeful that the MCTF group will be successful in organizing more track camp events in the future and the Blue River Track will become a popular destination for more track and field enthusiasts.

In spite of a lack of track events over the past few years, the track has been quite active. It was a sheltering site for many folks during the Labor Day Holiday Farm Fire and later hosted a commemorative event that featured the unveiling of artwork by local artist Margaret Godfrey. The track also hosted a fund raising event by the Vida-McKenzie Community Center to help with their rebuilding and will again this year be the gathering location for the McKenzie River Trail Run.

The track is a non profit organization relying mainly on support by its generous donors. The limited income from hosting track meets does not meet the monetary demands needed to sustain the facilities. The group receives some support from the McKenzie River Schools but no funding from county or state agencies. We are truly a grassroots group and need all the support the community can provide, according to Board President, Pete Petty. We will be looking forward to hosting the volunteers this Saturday and will find a place for all wishing to help us.

Volunteer Orientation, Saturday February 19 10 am- 2pm at the track in Blue River. Free Lunch!

In addition to the scholastic meets, the local track group anticipates its facilities to be used as a practice venue for teams competing in the World Games this July. MCTF Vice-President Michael Bergman, the past president of the Portland Track Club has been using his many contacts in the track & field world to help attract a

was shooting a .22 and the caller thought they could not safely get to their vehicle. Deputies responded and contacted the involved parties. No crime was determined to have occurred.

3:14 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - McGowam overlook.

4:30 p.m: Loud Noise - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

7:41 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 41800 blk, McK. Hwy.
8:47 p.m: Arrest - 41800 blk, McK. Hwy.

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

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

Feb. 12: 1:51 p.m: Animal Complaint - Fallin Ln & McK. Hwy.

2:13 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - McK. River.

2:56 p.m: Illegal Burning - 41900 blk, Holden Creek Ln.

4:30 p.m: Alarm - 88100 blk, Chita Lp.

6:18 p.m: Weapon, Shots Fired - 88800 blk, Twin Firs Rd.

Feb. 13: 11:09 a.m: Theft - McGowam overlook. A trail camera was determined to have been stolen from the area.

11:54 a.m: Foot Patrol - McGowam overlook.

1:19 p.m: Recover Stolen Vehicle - 88800 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.

2:21 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 91800 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd. A caller reported that a female

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:51: 41000 blk, Holden Creek Ln. Illegal Burn. Unable to Locate.

Feb. 14: 1:13: 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Refusal

1:45: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue's February Board meeting has been moved to Tuesday, February 22nd. Same time, same place. The office will be closed on Monday, the 21st, in observance of President's Day. The district will resume the 3rd Monday schedule in March.

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