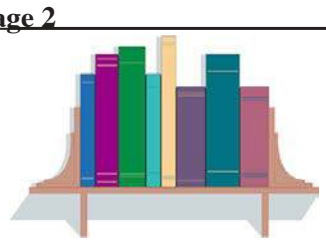
McKenzie River Reflections

Serving the McKenzie River Valley ... And Subscriber Cathy Stone of Springfield

Thursday, December 23, 2021
Volume 44, Issue 19

$1.00





SHELFNOTES FROM LEABURG LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2021

How much is a book worth? Well, I guess you would say that depends on what it is and who is buying it. Sometimes it depends on something else; like what it represents, or who wrote it, or who owned it, or for whom one is buying it. And if an auction is involved, it's the thrill of the hunt.

Several years ago, my husband Steve and I attended the Annual Meeting of the historic Boone and Crockett Club of which he has been a member for over 30 years. Theodore Roosevelt and George Bird Grinnell organized this club in 1887 for the purpose of promoting conservation and management of wildlife (especially big game) and its habitat, and to encourage hunting while maintaining the highest ethical standards of fair chase and sportsmanship. The Club's membership ranges from hugely wealthy CEO's, oil barons and politicians to doctors, professors and Forest Service personnel.

While Club members sit in daylong committee meetings, the wives go shopping and have lunch in funky little restaurants. On one of the evenings, there is a dinner and auction in which some really terrific items are offered, having been donated by various members themselves. There are always hunting trips to exotic places, specially made rifles or fishing rods, original paintings of wildlife, wonderful wildlife sculptures, and the enormous bottle of red wine donated by Marc Mondavi.

That year, however, there was an item that immediately caught my eye: a book. An old book with leather binding and gold-edged pages. It drew me like a magnet. As I moved closer, I could see that it was written by Theodore Roosevelt entitled "Big Game Hunting in the Rockies and on the Great Plains". The title page revealed the first edition date, and on the following page was a photo of TR himself with his original signature beneath it. A little card that sat beside this book revealed the name of the donor: Dr. Red Duke. I caught my breath in surprise, and instantly my eyes burned with tears. Dr. Red Duke was a dear friend of ours who had died earlier that year. He was an extraordinary man, a skilled trauma surgeon who attended President Kennedy when he was brought to Parkland Hospital on that awful day in September, 1963. He was also a wise, gentle man who loved the wild things and wild places, and who believed that God put him on this earth to help other people in any way he could. Just before he died, he had asked his daughter to place this book in the Boone and Crockett auction. It took me exactly one second to decide what I was going to do and why.

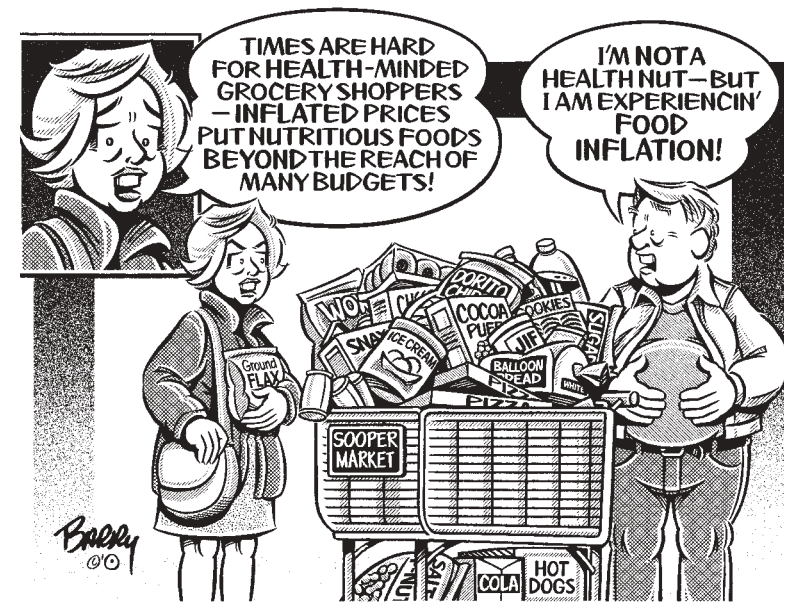
The auction organizers had placed this book next to last on the program. Right away I knew that this was going to be an exciting ride. I do love an auction, particularly when there is something that I am determined to have for someone special. My adrenaline spiked when the bidding began, but with great restraint I held back at first, waiting for the initial bidders to drop out. I finally jumped in at $2500. And we were off! There were a couple of other bidders who drifted in and out of the competition, and the bid rose to $6000. Suddenly it appeared that only one woman stood between that treasure and me. I looked at Steve and whispered, "How high should we go?" But before he could answer I shot my hand in the air for $6500. She held on for $6600. 'Oh geez,' I thought. 'This is getting ridiculous.' But then I recalled the last time I saw Red Duke and I remembered his voice, "How are you, sweetheart? And how's that rogue husband of yours? God, he's a good man." Without hesitation I punched the air with my fist and heard the auctioneer shout, "$6750, I'm bid…. all in….. all done….. SOLD!" And the entire room erupted in applause. I looked at Steve and said, "Merry Christmas."

What's a book worth? It's invaluable when it carries with it love, respect, friendship, and precious memories.

From all of us at the library, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

I'll see you at the library.

Marty Mealey, Director
(Hours: Mon-Thurs: 1:30-4pm; Sat: 10am-1pm)



Wildfire survey underway

The McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group (MVLTRG) is launching a survey that will help service providers identify the obstacles to rebuilding and recovery faced by Holiday Farm Fire survivors.

"If we understand what people really need to help rebuild their homes and lives, we can advocate better for resources, materials and volunteers," said the MVLTRG's disaster case management liaison, Nelda Engstrom. "The community needs assessment is a very important step in the long-term recovery of our McKenzie Valley community."

The survey is estimated to take most people about 20 minutes to complete. The information gathered in the survey includes where survivors were living before the fire, where they are living now, the progress they have made, and what they still need to recover.

The MVLTRG asks that survivors submit only one response per household. The first 500 households to submit a survey will receive a $10 Walmart gift card.

To participate in the survey, fire survivors can visit www.McKenzieValleyLTRG.org before January 31, 2022. In-person opportunities to take the survey will be announced after the first of the year.

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 23 - Many of the men who rushed to the gold fields of California made their way west by crossing the Isthmus of Panama. When naval officer William McArthur reached Panama he found it a lawless country inhabited by gangs of American highwaymen who preyed on the miners. McArthur formed a vigilante committee and, by force, was able to restore peace to the region. Continuing on to Oregon, McArthur was the commander in charge of surveying the coast for the United States government. On his return leg McArthur became ill and died off the coast of Panama on December 23, 1850.

Ski Report

December 21, 2021

The Hoodoo Ski Area reported on Tuesday that one inch of new snow fell overnight, bringing the base to 31 inches. Temperatures were 36 degrees mid-mountain and 39 at the base with WNW winds averaging 6 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 26 degrees at the base and 29 degrees at mid-mountain on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 32 inches at mid-mountain. Tuesday morning was calm and quiet with mostly cloudy skies and chances of the sun peeking through. 10 out of 15 lifts were open, along with 40 of the 121 trails. For more information call 541-382-7888.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen

HERBS & SPICES FOR HOLIDAY COOKING

During the holiday season, our kitchens become redolent with the aroma of herbs and spices. This time of year sees us taking more time to experiment with recipes and trying new ones. We may try using herbs and spices we haven't tried before or discovering new ways to use familiar ones.

Utilizing herbs and spices often enables you to cut down on the salt and sugar in a recipe if you have dietary considerations in those areas. These condiments give an intriguing flavor (when used in proper, not excessive, amounts) so you don't need your food so salty or sweet to taste good.

Herbs vs. Spices

Whether a flavoring is obtained from the leafy or another part of a plant generally determines whether it's labeled an herb or spice. With some plants you can use both parts; others you utilize one or the other.

Herbs are more likely to come from the leaves, and you use them both fresh and dried. Some of the herbs you may have heard about or have used include: thyme, tarragon, mint, parsley, oregano, chives, sage, rosemary, coriander, marjoram, and basil. Do you have some favorites?

We generally obtain spices from the bark, roots, seeds, fruit, or stems of the plants. Sometimes you use them dried and ground; other times whole. For instance, you can purchase cinnamon in a ground form and as a bark stick.

Those you may have used are: cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, paprika, anise, cumin, mustard seed, and ginger.

History of Herbs and Spices

Throughout the ages, cooks, witch doctors, medical specialists, and folklorists have found various uses for herbs and spices besides flavoring foods.

Some have medicinal properties; others have been used in religious ceremonies. You will find some were believed to be love potions. Others were considered a sign of wealth, especially during the Middle Ages. Traders of those times, too, considered spices very valuable.

Trading routes to the Orient, over land and sea, were prominent in those days to bring spices from the Far East. Marco Polo sought spices and the spice routes during his travels.

Uses of Herbs and Spices

My mother-in-law used herbs and spices so well and produced intriguing flavors with her foods. What was her secret?

"Never use so much people can tell what it is," Mum once told me. "Leave them asking what you put into that recipe to make it taste so good."

Some people overwhelm you with flavors in their cooking that you can't taste the food. Now, all of this will depend on individual taste. Some cooks and their families do like the flavor of particular herbs and spices so will add more of these to their recipes. To those who like milder flavors, they'll want to be intrigued, not overwhelmed.

APPLESAUCE COOKIES are a nice harvest and holiday dish using spices. Mix together 1/2 cup shortening, 1 egg, 1-cup sugar, and 1-cup applesauce into which you've stirred 1-teaspoon baking soda.

Sift together 2 cups flour, 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and salt. Stir into the applesauce mixture. Add 1-cup raisins or chocolate chips. Drop onto greased cookie sheets. Bake 15-20 minutes at 375 degrees F. or until done.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

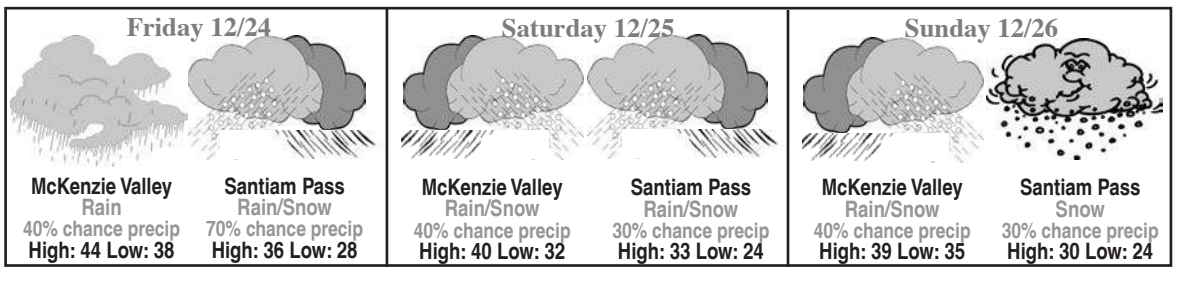
(Mary Emma Allen writes from her woodland home in NH)

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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
12/14	36	31	0.07	NA
12/15	32	34	0.28	NA
12/16	39	32	0.53	NA
12/17	36	34	0.02	545 cfs
12/18	43	35	0.03	551 cfs
12/19	43	41	2.67	604 cfs
12/20	47	41	0.53	502 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/14	NA			
12/15	NA			
12/16	NA			
12/17	NA			
12/18	NA			
12/19	NA			
12/20	NA			

Sheriff's Report

Dec. 9: 3:17 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 38100 block, boscage Ln. A caller reported finding jugs in the roadway blocking the path to the caller's house.

3:30p.m: Reckless Endangering - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd. A caller advised they were involved in a traffic crash and suspected that the other driver intentionally caused the crash.

Dec. 11: 1:23 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 37000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. An intoxicated male was reported to be disputing with an intoxicated female in the area. Parties were separated and no injuries were observed.

Dec. 12: 1:03 p.m: Burglary - 51400 blk, Blue River Dr. Caller reported that their residence was burglarized. Undisclosed personal property was taken from the location.

2:59 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. – caller reported his friend had been in a verbal dispute with an unknown person.

Dec. 13: 8:32 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 38500 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to the report of a dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend. Deputies confirmed the involved parties were okay and no crime was articulated.

Dec. 14: 12:39 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - Terwilliger Hot Springs. A caller advised that they were at the hot springs and an unknown male kept shining a flashlight on her. He then followed her when she left.

5:50 p.m: Fraud - 55700 blk, McK. Hwy. An undisclosed amount of money was stolen in an email fraud.

Dec. 15: 4:29 a.m: Suspicious Subject - 49300 blk, Eagle Rock Pl. Caller reported seeing subjects walking around with flashlights at a neighboring property. Determined to be contractors working in the area.

10:10 a.m: Disabled Vehicle - 91700 blk, Marcola Rd.

11:09 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - McK. Hwy. Milepost 37.5.

1:43 p.m: Assist, Follow Up – Blue River area.

2:37 p.m: Burglary - 38800 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.

2:41 p.m: Welfare Check - 91600 blk, Alma Dr.

2:42 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 50400 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:00 p.m: Assist, Follow Up – 51500 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:27 p.m: Suspicious Conditions – McGowan Overlook. A white Dodge pickup was observed in the area filled with trash and hauling a big piece of equipment. Caller thought that maybe they were planning to dump the items.

3:30 p.m: Location of Stolen Property - 39900 blk, Log Creek Rd.

3:35 p.m: Assist, Citizen Contact - 54700 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 16: 4:55 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 90300 blk, Thomson Ln. **12:11 p.m:** Theft - 38800 blk, Hendricks Park Rd.

12:11 p.m: Theft - 38800 blk, Hendricks Park Rd. Caller reported that a known female accepted gift cards on behalf of the complainant. Caller stated the female made threats.

12:15 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Wendling Rd. & Marcola Rd. Caller reported a sleeping bag under the Wendling Bridge. Believed a person was inside the sleeping bag.

2:43 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - McK. Hwy. Mp. 33.

3:56 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

8:29 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 24.

Dec. 17: 4:55 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 90300 blk, Thomson Ln.

10:55 a.m: Welfare Check - 88600 blk, Potter Ln.

11:17 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Marcola Rd. & hill Rd.

11:19 a.m: Location of Stolen Property - Booth Kelly Rd.

12:11 p.m: Criminal Trespass - Booth Kelly Mainline at 60 Spur. Follow up by BLM contract deputy.

7:20 p.m: Assist, Citizen Contact - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:29 p.m: Assist, Information - 38600 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

9:10 p.m: Hunting Check - McGowan Creek Rd. Mp. 3.

9:12 p.m: Reckless Driving – Marcola Rd. & Old Mohawk Rd.

9:34 p.m: Littering - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.

10:39 p.m: Animal Complaint - 37900 blk, Railroad Ln.

Dec. 18: 2:49 p.m: Citizen Contact - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

4:07 p.m: Water Rescue – Harvest Landing. A fly fisherman was stranded on an island in the McK. River between Harvest Ln. and Armitage Park. Eugene/Springfield Fire assisted.

5:26 p.m: Traffic Hazard - 91100 blk, Donna Rd.

10:14 p.m: Theft of Mail - 6600 blk, McGowan Creek Rd.

Dec. 20: 12:51 a.m: Assist Outside Agency - 48000 blk, McK. Hwy.

12:51 p.m: Civil Service - 45400 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

1:08 p.m: Theft - 88800 blk, Ross Ln.

1:55 p.m: Stalking Order Service - 49900 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:24 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 50400 blk, McK. Hwy.

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

State Police Report

Dec. 15: 01:41: Warrant Arrest - Marcola Rd. and Hill Rd. Stopped to assist a blocking disabled motorist. The driver was identified by name, had a serviceable arrest warrant, and was taken into custody without incident. Trooper was able to push the vehicle from the lane of travel. The driver was subsequently transported to Springfield Municipal Jail where she was lodged. The vehicle was secured on scene. Involved: 54-year-old female from Marcola, white Toyota SR5. Charges: Failure To Appear, Bench Warrant.

Dec. 16: 22:27: Crash, Non-0Injury – Hwy. 126E, Milepost 24. Troopers were dispatched to a reported single vehicle collision located westbound. A white utility van swerved off the roadway for an unknown reason. The van left the roadway on the westbound side by approximately 5 feet, struck the adjacent rock wall, and came to a rest blocking the westbound lane. The van sustained heavy front passenger corner & front axle damage. The driver was uninjured. Involved: Ford EC3, 68-year-olds male from Albany.

Dec. 17: 13:47: Crash, Injury – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 17. Responded to a two-vehicle collision that occurred on the McKenzie Highway. A gray Ford Escape was turning left into a driveway, crossing the on-coming traffic lane without looking and was struck by a white Chrysler sedan. The driver of the Ford sustained non-life threatening injuries but was transported to the hospital. The other driver was not injured. The crash was blocking but fire moved vehicles out of the roadway. Both vehicles were towed at request of the owners. ODOT remained on scene for tows and traffic control. Involved: 71-year-old male from Walterville, white Chrysler, 35-year-old female from Springfield.

16:54: Crash, Hit & Run – Hwy. 126E, Mp. 14. Dispatched to a vehicle crash, where the driver took out a mailbox and kept driving

Continued On Page 7

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Dec. 13: 20:47: 45000 block, McK. Hwy. Fall Injury. False Alarm.

Dec. 14: 19:09: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Lift Assist. Handled by ESF.

Dec. 15: 10:46: McK. Hwy. Milepost 37. Motor Vehicle Accident, Rollover. Non-Injury, Non-Blocking.

Dec. 16: 1:15: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

2:55: 8000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Disregarded En Route.

11:17: 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Fire Alarm. Disregarded by Dispatch.

22:26: McK. Hwy. Mp 24. MVA, Non-Injury/Blocking.

13:45: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA, Injury. Non-Blocking, 1 patient.

Dec. 18: 17:16: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist.

Dec. 19: 13:40: 38000 blk, Boscage Lane Medical, Trauma. Patient Refusal.

23:55: 48000 blk, McK. Hwy. Structure Fire, Fire Extinguished.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Dec. 11: 06:32: Medical – 54000 block, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 14: 11:51: Motor Vehicle Accident - McK. Hwy/S. Belknap Springs Rd. One vehicle with trailer with a car on it, 2 occupants standing outside unknown injuries.

17:44: Medical - Medical – 56000 blk. Hall Dr. Female, conscious, breathing.

Dec. 15: 10:44: MVA- McK. Hwy./Milepost 37. Vehicle on its side, unknown if any other vehicles involved.

11:07: Medical – 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male patient.

11:41: MVA- McK. Hwy/S. Belknap Springs Rd. Caller was helping chain up, and another trailer coming down hit the complainant in between the trucks.

Dec. 16: 11:15: Fire Alarm – 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. General fire alarm, also water flow alarm.

Dec. 18: 03:03: MVA – McK. Hwy./Horse Creek Rd. Vehicle slid and is stuck in ditch.

Dec. 19: 23:54: House Fire – 48000 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 20: 09:08: Medical – 54000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male patient.

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It's time to vote for the Reader's Choice for the McKenzie River's Man, Woman & Business of the Year
Cast your vote by December 27th
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Shipwreck miracle was an inconvenient one

By Finn J.D. John

It was January 3, 1852 — the middle of the night and the middle of winter, just off the middle of the Oregon Coast. The U.S. Army's schooner Captain Lincoln, carrying a detachment of U.S. Army dragoons and supplies to reinforce a garrison near Port Orford, was getting badly abused by the weather. Wave after massive wave descended on the hapless Captain Lincoln, opening up a thousand little leaks in its hull; the soldiers toiled below decks at the pumps, trying desperately to stay ahead of the rising water in the bilge. Trying — and failing.

Finally, Captain Samuel Naghel realized he had two options: Slowly let his ship sink lower in the water until it became unstable and rolled, which would surely drown every man on board; or, in a desperate gamble, turn and race for the black and unknown shore, hoping against hope that the ship would beach on sand instead of rocks.

The longer he waited, the lower the ship would sit in the water when she struck that beach. It had to be done — now.

A desperate gamble almost comes up snake-eyes

"Hard over!" he bellowed to the helmsman, and the Captain Lincoln fell off the relentless southwest wind and raced westward.

They were still several hundred yards from the beach — far enough to drown most if not all of the men in the surf — when the doomed ship slammed into a sandbar.

"The writer had just retired for a short time, preparing to woo sweet Somnus and dream of those we left behind us, when a thundering crash was heard," soldier Henry H. Baldwin later wrote, recalling the incident. "The doomed bark quivered and tall masts, groaning, felt the deadly wound, her deck was rent asunder. Neptune's flood descended, deluging the hapless sons of Mars, who were below in dreams. For a short while it seemed that the sulphurous regions of the infernal were let loose; breakers roared, water dashed and splashed, men swore; then there came a lull, the wounded skimmer of the seas bounded onwards, her aged commander's voice was heard encouraging the panic stricken crew with the following words: 'Fear not, men, we're in deep water now.'"



Google Earth

The site of Camp Castaway as seen on satellite imagery via Google Earth. The shipwreck took place on the beach close to the bottom of the frame.

Miraculously, the schooner had been washed off this deadly sandbar and into deeper water, closer to shore. Again the ship drove westward until it fetched up on the beach, the real beach this time. Breakers started sweeping over the decks.

Thoroughly soaked and bone-chilled, the soldiers and sailors huddled below, perched atop whatever would keep them out of the water, and waited for dawn.

A new day in a transformed world

When dawn came, they found that, whether by happy accident or consummate skill, Captain Naghel had managed to beach the ship at the apex of high tide. So when morning came, it was like a transition from hell to heaven. The ship was now high and almost dry, and the sailors lost no time in lugging enough kitchen equipment ashore to brew up a big hot pot of grog — there was, in the ship's cargo, plenty of whiskey — to lift spirits and warm toes. The day was dry and the sun was shining and every man in the group knew very well that he was phenomenally lucky to be alive.

Native Americans were everywhere, attracted by the fuss, and they were all of the friendly sort, eager to trade delicious cuts of elk and slabs of salmon for hardtack and extra Army uniforms. The ship had struck ground at what's now Horsfall Beach, at the root of the Coos Bay Spit, within walking distance of several sparkling-clean freshwater lakes.

As hackneyed as the term is, for the soldiers, it really must have been as if they'd died and gone to heaven.

Being good soldiers, the men immediately got busy salvaging all the stuff from their ship: Barrels and barrels of flour and sugar and whisky and lard were landed and stacked, along with everything valuable off their ship, which broke up a little more with each incoming high tide until finally it was in pieces on the beach. They also lost no time building sturdy tents with the ship's scavenged masts, timbers and sails.

But now the government had a problem.

What to do now?

If the ship had simply sunk, there would have been nothing to worry about. If the men had made it ashore without the supplies, ditto; they would simply have had to make their way south to Port Orford, and a ship would have come to get them, and they would have been back at work doing soldier stuff in a month.

But because they'd salvaged thousands of dollars' worth of goodies from the ship, the Army couldn't quite do that.

There was no way to bring a cargo ship in through the breakers to take on that freight. Geography made it impossible to get a wagon to them overland. The only hope was for someone to bring a ship across the unknown and fearsome Coos Bay bar, and nobody was willing to do that.

"The difficulty attending this undertaking arose from the fact that no vessel had ever been into the (Coos) River, nor was it supposed that any vessel could enter it," the Army's quartermaster wrote, in explaining the situation to Benicia Army Headquarters.

Of course, they could have simply made a gift of the supplies to the Native Americans who had been so helpful; all parties would have been helped by such generosity. But the Indians would have gotten the best of such a deal, and to the somewhat-spiteful minds of the military commanders, that made the idea unthinkable.

An "as-is, where-is" surplus sale was tried. Nobody was willing to bite, although a few local pioneers did come to the camp to inspect the wares; however, they seemed more motivated by a desire for a neighborly visit than any urge to buy stuff.

A happy ending, especially for Coos Bay

Finally, one brave skipper agreed to take on that fearsome river bar, and with Captain Naghel serving as a pilot, the schooner Nassau sailed boldly across that bar and came around to the inside of the spit on which Naghel had wrecked the Captain Lincoln. Naghel, of course, had never been across the bar before either, but he had spent five or six glorious months shipwrecked right next to it, and it appeared he'd used the time there to make some careful observations.

The Army got its supplies back, and didn't lose a single soldier; all the sailors survived the ordeal too.

And although the event went down in the annals of military disasters as an expensive and unfortunate event, the real benefit of the whole thing was the discovery that the Coos Bay bar — while certainly no pussycat — was not as impassible as had been supposed. Within a few years, the bay was in regular use.

By the way, about 150 years later, this same beach would be the site of another famous shipwreck — that of the stunningly ugly wood-chip carrier New Carissa, in 1999.

And in 2009, archaeologist Scott Byram actually found Camp Castaway.

(Sources: Dodge, Orvil. Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties. Salem: Capital, 1898; Marshall, Don. Oregon Shipwrecks. Portland: Binford, 1984; Higgins, Jesse. "Camp Castaway," Coos Bay World, July 14, 2012)

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. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com, @OffbeatOregon (on Twitter), or 541-357-2222.



By Slim Randles

Mabel Adams was sitting in the day room at the Rest of Your Life retirement home when the children came in. She smiled and so did all the others in the room except for two who didn't know what was going on.

The old-timers in the home knew the kids were coming and had put up Christmas decorations around in the day room and on the doors of their own small apartments and on themselves. Mabel had been reminded several times by the staff that morning that the kids were coming over, this being necessary as Mabel's memory isn't what it used to be. And she put a sprig of imitation holly in her hair and tied a red ribbon on the other side.

The little girl smiled and walked over to Mabel.

"Are you a grandma?" she asked.

"Why, yes dear, I am."

"I brought you a present, Grandma," she said, handing a box to Mabel. Mabel opened it and was delighted at the sandalwood-scented hankies inside.

"Why thank you so much, Honey!" she said. "And what is your name?"

"I'm Candice. I'm four."

"Well, Candice, merry Christmas to you. Have you been here before?"

"Well … no, I guess. Mom said this is where the grandmas are and we can have fun bringing presents to the grandmas."

"I see," Mabel said. "Well, Candice, come over here, dear and let me give you a hug. There!"

Sometimes, it isn't the cost of the hankies, or the fun wrapping them up. Sometimes it's just a child's smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas.

Visiting residents of a rest home this time of year sounds like a worthwhile project. Tell them hi for me, okay?

Quote of the Week

"Where there's a will, I want to be in it."

Anonymous

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Winter Cheer for Blue River



Volunteers from Willamette Christian Center and First Baptist's Camp Harlow were busy on Friday putting up the hand-painted pieces. While working along the McKenzie Highway at Milepost 41, they were greeted by honks and waves from passing cars and trucks.

A project first proposed in June came to life last week. Fifty larger-than-life candy canes were be delivered and installed around Blue River this week. "Before the fire, the Blue River community would come together to decorate one of the large trees in town," said McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group Board Member Sarah Koski. "This is our way of helping to bring some of the traditional cheer of the holiday season to the community while they are still working to rebuild and recover from the Holiday Farm Fire."

The candy canes, which stand three feet tall, are the work of the McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group's Spiritual Needs Committee, Love for Lane County, and generous community partners. The wood was donated by Jimmy Swanson of Swanson Group Manufacturing and the candy canes were cut and painted by Camp Harlow volunteers.

"Christmas is such an important and special time for many families," said Koski. "We are really excited to help bring some holiday cheer to Blue River."

In addition to the candy canes, Willamette Christian Center has donated Christmas lights for the community's Phoenix sculpture and sign.

Community Notes

CORRECTION
Leaburg Food Pantry

The Leaburg Food Pantry is not open on Saturdays, The correct dates are the third Thursday of every month, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy. All are welcome!

January 1
A Dime At A Time

10 am - noon. Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy. Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers! Funds from plastic, glass, and aluminum containers go toward the rebuilding of the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, McKenzie River Clinic, and the Vida McKenzie Community Center - all destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire.

January 10
Spfd School Board

7 to 8:30 p.m. The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

January 13
Leaburg Food Pantry

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

January 15
A Dime At A Time

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

January 17
McKenzie Fire District Board

Noon to 1:00 p.m. at Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, in Leaburg. 541-896-3311.

January 19
McKenzie School Board

5:30 p.m. 51187 Blue River Drive. 541-822-3338.

January 19
Upper McK Fire Board

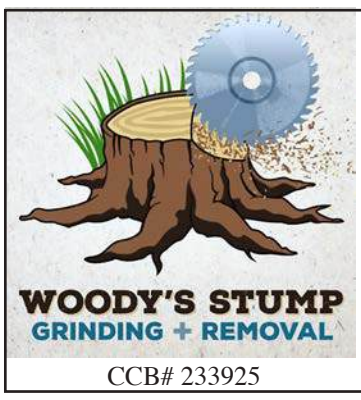
Monthly meeting at, 8 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Fire Station, 565t8 McK. Hwy. 541-822-3479.

January 24
Spfd School Board

7 to 8:30 p.m. The Board of Directors meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (except July). Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

D.C. Scholarship

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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.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We look forward to hearing from our neighbors, either from a distance, or someday, in person!
Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

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.

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mirchell

Shadows Of Things To Come

My husband recently asked me for a divorce. I don't want one. In the past he told me things he would like us to work on. Time went on and I thought everything was going great. Then he came back from a three month job-related trip and acted distant.

Days went by and there was no talking, so I snooped in his email and found love letters from another woman. I confronted him. He told me he wanted to leave me, but not for her. We have two kids. I think we can work things out, but he doesn't think anything will change.

He has a history of leaving me, even before we were married with children. He says he isn't going to see this other woman, he just wants to be alone. He says his feelings are dead. I don't think they are. I think he's blocking his love because he is stubborn. I love him very much and don't want us or our family broken up.

He finally agreed to go with me to counseling, but he doesn't believe it will work. He has fooled all our friends and family about his intentions. Help!

Amber

Amber, the initial problem in your relationship is still there. Your husband kept trying to leave, and you kept dragging him back. Now he has had three months to practice being single. He likes it.

If you go into counseling with false hopes, you will get hurt even more. Each of you has predetermined what the outcome of counseling will be. One of you will be wrong. Your marriage counseling may turn into a discussion of how the divorce will be handled. At the very least, you want to negotiate how your husband will continue to father his children if you part.

I would like to give you encouragement, but in all honesty, you need to realize how often our beginnings determine our ends.

Wayne

When To Say "When"

I have been in a "significant other" relationship with a man for 13 years. For three years we lived together. I had a 9-year-old son at that time. My partner's father was the son of a British-India military officer. Our parenting styles were opposite so I moved out but stayed in the relationship. My significant other has a son who does not live with him, about the age of my son.

My son, now 18, accepts this man happily. His son wants his father all to himself on visiting weekends. Consequently, we spend alternate weekend evenings together. We are monogamous and he calls me "his lady," but I know we are on different planes. I am spiritual, he doesn't want to bother.

He has a full life and is very busy. I have an empty life and feel unfulfilled. It is fine to advise me to go out and do other things, but it hasn't happened yet. I am in my fifties and somewhat overweight. How do I gather self-esteem and regain my self-importance? How do I figure out what to do with my life?

Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn, when you are not satisfied with your life, the first step is to break the pattern. One significant change can begin a cascade of events which alters your perspective and renews your spirit.

For 13 years you have stagnated in a relationship that hasn't come to fruition. That burden has sapped your energy and limited your future. You are afraid to take the first step and step out of this relationship. Don't worry about self-esteem and self-importance. They will come when you start making decisions to improve your life.

Every successful life is, in some measure, a victory over fear. You're letting fear of change keep you from living. Is the pain of your situation finally bad enough that you are ready to act? Or will you drift another 13 years?

Wayne & Tamara

American Life in Poetry

By Kwame Dawes

Here is an elegant flower of a poem—small, delicate in sentiment, and yet so resonant in meaning. Sam Dodson, in a few short lines, observes the stoic strength of faith, the sadness of loss, and the rituals that we perform to help us cope with the helplessness that comes with grief.

After Her Mother Passed

By Sam Dodson

Lutheran beautiful Eva
broke down for a
dear, dear moment
before she picked
that rake back up
and moved maple
leaves over grass.

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 ©2021 by Sam Dodson, "After Her Mother Passed" from Big Life, (Black Mountain Press, 2021). Poem reprinted by permission of the author and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2021 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.

State Police Report

Continued From Page 3

from the scene. Responded to the scene and located damaged parts of the suspect vehicle, located a VIN number and learned the registered owner's information. Contacted the owner at his residence and conducted an investigation. Will be referring the charge of Fail to Perform Duties of a Driver to the DA's office for consideration. Arrested: 60-year-old male from Springfield. Involved: red Kia Soul.

19:13: Fish & Wildlife (Non-hunting Related) – 38600 block, Camp Creek Rd. Dispatched to an injured black tailed female deer at the Waterville Power plant. On arrival saw the deer was alive but unable to move due to a clearly broken front leg and multiple lacerations that exposed bone on all four legs. The deer was dispatched and the company employees advised they would dispose of the carcass.

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

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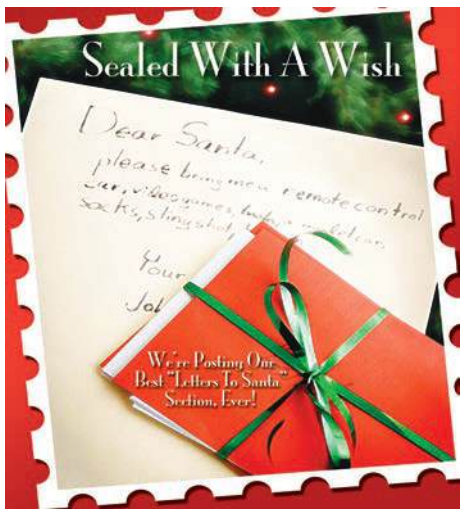
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The Board of Directors of the McKenzie Track and Field extend best wishes for the New Year to our friends and neighbors. Reflecting on the past year, our community faced many challenges and we take pride in being a partner helping to overcome some of those challenges. We anticipate the coming year to be one of more challenges and opportunities and we are confident The McKenzie Strong attitude will prevail and 2022 will be a Happy New Year. Thanks to the continued support of our donors, we are able to provide a number of services at the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Field in Blue River.



Open up to a great holday season by enjoying these "Letters to Santa" from Walterville Elementary 1st grade students

Dear Santa,

I want legos and video gams.

Your friend,
Lucas

Dear Santa,

I want a stuffed Ani-man dol Phin

Your friend,
Paisley

Dear Santa,

I been good for Christmas! But I want a tree.

Your friend,
Callie

Dear Sante,

I want a soft animal dragon and a dog toy hen + toy ausill

Your friend,
Henley

Dear Santa,

I want a pack of nerf bullets.

Your friend,
Thomas

Dear Santa,

I want a Fruemmss-tojv a fon

Your friend,
Clayton

Dear Santa,

I want a eelexic scooter

Your friend,
Kylee

Dear Santa,

I want a rifle!!!!!!!!!!

Your friend,
Porter

Dear Santa,

I want a bike

Your friend,
Kason

Dear SAntA

I want a key-board for Chris-mas

Your friend,
Colton

Dear Santa,

I want a camera

Your friend,
Arabella

Dear Santa,
I want is Poke-mon
I want is Pick-sacade
I want is coda Gin
I want is uoncun

Your friend,
Perpper

Dear Santa,

I want a robe for Chrismis just so you know
Ples can it be a green lantprn

Your friend,
Gus

Dear Santa,

Have I been good?

Your friend,
Brianna

Dear Santa,

Can I please have a horse

Your friend,
Paige

Dear Santa,

I want roller blades

Your friend,
Benet

Dear Santa,

I want my cat Pandov back
I want a ifan 12
And I want a iPad all
I want my dog Shoop back

Your friend,
Paisley

Dear Santa,

I want a unicorn
A violin
A watch
And a house

Your friend,
Neveah