McKenzie River Reflections

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

$1.00

November 5, 2026
Volume 49, Issue 11



Supervillian

Was Charles Henry "Iron Pants" Martin a scurrilous and unlovable character?

PAGE 4



Salute to Veterans

Heartfelt thanks to all for their service, scrifice and deication.

PAGE 11

LOCAL NEWS

Trout Stocking Cuts Threaten Area's Economy

550,000 Leaburg Hatchery trout at risk in federal funding dispute



The Leaburg Hatchery was established in 1953 to compensate for fishing opportunities lost because of federal dam construction at Cougar and Blue River. Its trout production supports recreational fishing throughout the Willamette Basin, not just the McKenzie River.

During an October 29 board meeting, McKenzie River Guides Association members discussed an estimated $520,000 funding shortfall that could result in about 550,000 fewer hatchery trout being produced in 2029. The potential reductions could eliminate stocking in the McKenzie River, Detroit and Foster reservoir, while also reducing the stocking of Green Peter Reservoir by approximately 60%.

Although no final decision to eliminate stocking was identified, several guides were concerned that delays in securing funding could have consequences well before the proposed reductions take effect.

A key issue is that trout intended for stocking in 2028 must enter the hatchery production cycle during this fall and winter.

Concerns extend beyond the future of recreational fishing. Members warned that losing hatchery trout could reduce visitor spending at local lodging establishments, restaurants, gas stations and other businesses that depend on seasonal tourism.

Trout Stocking Cuts - Page 14

Briefs...

242 CLOSING



ODOT's Bend office reports crews will close the Old McKenzie Pass on Thursday, November 5.

The route along Hwy. 242 is a scenic, secondary highway that closes each year as winter weather approaches. Due to weather, cost,

Briefly - Page 2

ANNIE KIDS

Annie KIDS, based on the classic comic strip Little Orphan Annie, is coming to the Wildish Community Theater's Rose Children's Theater, 630 Main St. in Springfield.

The play tells the heartwarming

Briefly - Page 2



Ryan Kniss of Johnstown, Pennsylvania., received first place in the Habitat Conservation category of the 2027 Oregon Waterfowl, Upland Game Bird, and Habitat

Briefly - Page 2

Beyond the Ashes: Melanie Stanley Brite and the Work of Rebuilding a Community

A tribute to years of service, compassion, perseverance and an unwavering commitment

By Jamee Savidge

When the Holiday Farm Fire swept through the McKenzie River Valley on September 7, 2020, it destroyed homes, businesses, livelihoods and the familiar places that had connected generations of families. The fire marked the beginning of a long and difficult journey through loss, displacement and recovery.

For Melanie, the disaster was deeply personal. Her family lost their home and Meyer's General Store & Liquor Shop, a business that had been part of her family's life for nearly three decades. She grew up working at the store, had taken over its operation in 2003 and spent much of her adult life making it a gathering place for the community. While navigating her own devastating losses, she stepped into a role that would define much of the next six years of her life: helping her community find its way forward.

During the chaotic hours of September 7, as the fire approached,



The McKenzie community is mourning the loss of Melanie Stanley Brite, who died the morning of October 31st.

over 150 people came to the store seeking information. She helped notify many households of where to evacuate before escaping herself with her family.

Her home was gone, the store was gone, but the instinct to look after others was not.

In the immediate weeks following the fire, as a Community Organizer with the McKenzie Community Development Corporation, I was tasked with distributing generously donated gas, grocery and restaurant gift cards. Melanie worked closely with me to distribute those cards directly to legitimate evacuees and fire survivors. She spent hours helping me make calls, deliver and complete my log books.

She also helped me locate survivors and distribute the McKenzie Community Development Corporation's Holiday Boxes in December 2020. Created to bring some comfort and financial support to households affected by the fire, the boxes included locally sourced products such as blueberries, honey and hazelnuts, along with a $50 voucher to a local restaurant and $50 in cash. It recognized that families needed immediate financial help, but it also recognized that local businesses needed support. The restaurant vouchers encouraged survivors to spend money within the community, helping local establishments recover

Beyond the Ashes - Page 12

Cross Country Coverage Sparks Controversy

McKenzie's participation was questioned

By Ken Engelman

AdisagreementoverMcKenzie High School's participation in the Old Mill XC Invitational has prompted questions about communication among coaches, event organizers and school officials, along with concerns about the fairness of newspaper coverage of the event.

Superintendent Lane Tompkins raised concerns about an October 21 McKenzie River Reflections article that characterized the school's decision not to enter certain runners as being for "unsubstantiated reasons."

Tompkins disputed that description, citing months of documented communication between cross-country coach Corey Culp and a representative of the McKenzie Community Track and Field (MCTF) board regarding conditions on the competition course.

Subsequent discussions involving representatives of the track organization and Cliff Richardson, the newspaper's sports columnist suggest the disagreement may have resulted largely from incomplete communication rather than fundamental differences over the event or its future.

According to the superintendent, Culp and another McKenzie coach began raising concerns about the course surface in June. Those discussions continued through the summer as improvements to the running trail were being planned.

Richardson feels that although Culp had been communicating with an track board member, those concerns and the resulting correspondence may not have been fully shared among other organizers.

He also suggested that communication could have been better in both directions. While the coach had expressed concerns about course conditions, Richardson believed Culp could have checked with organizers about the progress

X-Country Coverage - P 12

Letters to the Editor

Blue River Park Updates

An easy task Wednesday night became much, much harder Sat-urday - my task? Write a quick "Status Update" for the Blue River Park.

So, here goes:

Our most experienced board member and incoming president (Mel Stanley (Brite)) died Saturday. Which changes everything.

Well, no, not everything. We won't give up. The Park rebuild is progressing - we are in the midst of the environmental review process, the County intends to award the contract to complete the last 20% of the Park's design and construction management to Cameron McCarthy and we expect the actual rebuilding process to begin next summer and be substantially complete by Summer 2028.

We opened the park for a Night Gathering early October and are in the early stages of planning more events in the spring, before reconstruction begins in earnest.

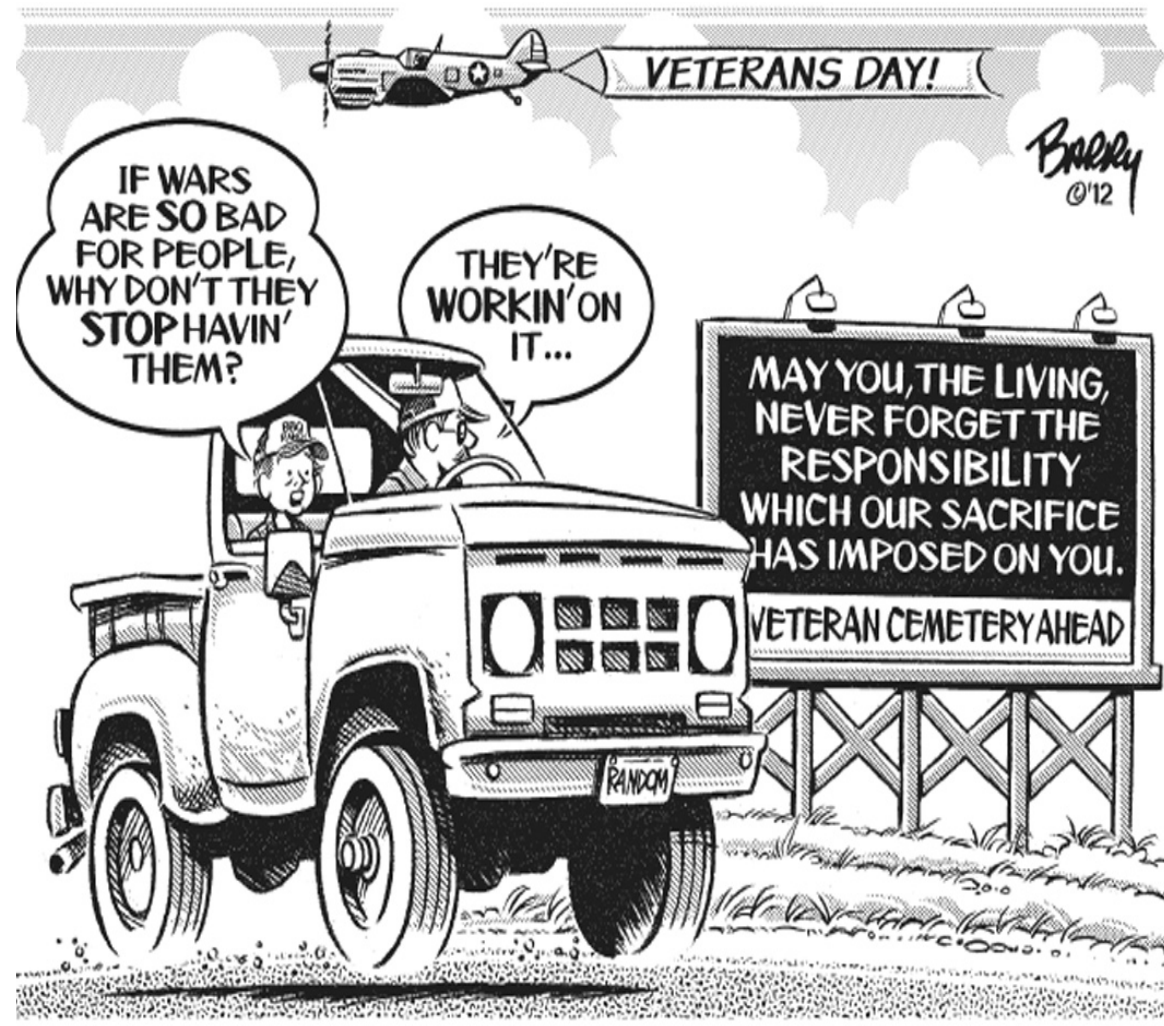
We continue to raise funds for operating expenses. We have two vacancies on the Park Board (who must live in the Park District). We also cneed volunteers (who need not live in the district) to help with short-term and longer-term tasks - both administrative and physical.

The Park is open and we will do our best to keep it open as much as possible during the rebuilding process.

We will miss Mel - and I'm anticipating missing her more as time goes on as we discover all she's done for this community. I'd been looking forward to working with and learning from her. We will continue to do the best we can, I will dig deeper in honor of Mel, and step forward a bit more. And if I add in a few swear words -- thanks Mel, they will be in honor of you.

The Park is located at the northeast end of Rose Street in Blue River. Our address is PO Box 292, Blue River, OR 97413.

Sarah Hunter
Blue River Park Board



Guest Opinion

The prosaic reasons behind school closures

By Randy Stapilus
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Memo to the Oregon Legislature: The increasingly rau-cous battle over plans for public schools — mainly elementaries — in the Portland School District makes for a good on for never making school district elections partisan. The realities of this debate are intensely practical.

School boards in only five states (Louisiana, Alabama, Pennsylvania and Connecticut) generally are elected by political party; five other states allow a location option.

This hasn't stopped activists in Portland from linking proposals for school closures or cuts to national partisan political trends.

In Portland, school administrators earlier this month released two options for mass changes to schools, including boundary changes, course offerings, outright closures and more. The school board is expected to choose be-

Continued On Page 9

Briefs...

Return To Page 1

242 CLOSING

and logistics, ODOT doesn't maintain the route through the winter. Vehicles are prohibited beyond the gates.

The annual highway closure doesn't include public lands. Non-vehicle recreational users, such as skiers and snowshoers can go beyond the closed gates at their own risk. Because the road is not maintained in winter, conditions can be hazardous. There are no services or cell coverage, and weather can change rapidly. As snow melts in spring, recreational users may encounter fallen trees, rockslides and damaged pavement.

Even during its time as the main route between the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon, the narrow, twisting roadway and high elevation (5,325 feet) made it difficult to maintain and keep clear during the winter.

ANNIE KIDS

story of a spirited young orphan determined to find the parents who left her years ago. Along the way, Annie outsmarts the grumpy Miss Hannigan, befriends President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and discovers that family can be found in the most unexpected places.

It's a timeless story that reminds us all that "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow."

Showtimes include Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 pm; Nov. 21 at 1 pm; and Nov 21 at 4 pm. Adult $8, Students/Seniors $5: https://tinyurl.com/4wjwdeh4

WATERFOWL

Conservation Stamp Art Contest with a depiction of a harlequin duck. The winning artwork will appear on the 2027 collector stamps and related promotional items, with proceeds supporting habitat improvement, research, surveys, and conservation projects. Each first-place artist will receive a $2,000 award in recognition of their outstanding talent.

Oregon has had a waterfowl stamp every year since 1984. Waterfowl stamps and validations raise about $500,000 annually with proceeds benefiting waterfowl management and habitat. Stamps and prints of the winning artwork can be purchased through tinyurl.com/4hjys5af

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Fall Sports season has concluded. There are no scheduled contests this week.

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule Last Week

Eagle Girls Split Last Two Regular Season Matches

Triangle Lake Defeats McKenzie 3-1, Eagles Upend Siletz Warriors 3-2

The McKenzie Varsity Volleyball team closed out its 2026 Regular Season with a 3-1 loss at Triangle Lake on Tuesday, October 20 and a 3-2 road win at Siletz Valley on Thursday, October 22. Against the Lakers on Tuesday, the Eagles dropped the opening set 25-15 and played the second set closer, but still losing 25-23. Down two sets and a deciding set three, the Eagles rallied to defeat their hosts 25-20.

But it was the Laker's time to regroup and redirect and team from Blachly put the match win in their hind pocket, defeating the Eagles 25-20.

A trip to the Coast on Thursday pitted the Eagle gals with the gals from Siletz Valley. The Warriors have not won a match all season and indeed, have only won 4 sets out of 58 this year. So, perhaps with a bit of Eagle cockiness, or just an old fashioned Warrior stubbornness on a Siletz senior night, it shouldn't be a surprise that McKenzie found it had its hands full from the start.

The Eagles dropped their first set 25-19 and found themselves in deep trouble, down two, with a second set loss, 25-22. But rally the Eagles did do, winning the next three sets, 25-11, 25-16, and 15-7.

Thus following Oregon State Hall of Fame, retired Head

Continued On Page 15

McKenzie River Reflections
Phone (541) 822-3358
59059 Old McKenzie Hwy., McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413
rivref2@gmail.com
Publisher - Ken Engelman
To subscribe go to: tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6

© 2026 McKENZIE RIVER REFLECTIONS
All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this publication, advertising copy or any part thereof in any form, without written permission of the publisher.

Local Independent Online News
For Oregon Rural Journalism
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
Oregon Public Information Partnership

Weather Report

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
10/26	51	45	0.36	478 cfs
10/27	48	44	0.73	NA
10/28	49	44	0.80	NA
10/29	53	43	0.01	NA
10/30	49	42	0.01	472 cfs
10/31	53	34	0.03	467 cfs
11/1	54	35	0	451 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
10/26	NA			
10/27	NA			
10/28	NA			
10/29	NA			
10/30	NA			
10/31	NA			
11/1	NA			

Weather Forecast

Friday 10/30

McKenzie Valley: AM Showers, 30% chance precip, High: 59 Low: 42
Santiam Pass: Cloudy, 20% chance precip, High: 55 Low: 36

Saturday 10/31

McKenzie Valley: Partly Cloudy, 20% chance precip, High: 64 Low: 48
Santiam Pass: Partly Cloudy, 10% chance precip, High: 58 Low: 41

Sunday 11/1

McKenzie Valley: Showers, 70% chance precip, High: 58 Low: 44
Santiam Pass: Mostly Cloudy, 10% chance precip, High: 54 Low: 36

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lane County Sheriff's Office

Oct. 27: 12:20 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury – Marcola Rd. Milepost 4.

1:06 p.m: Harassment - 55500 blk, McK. River Dr.

3:48 p.m: Restraining Order Service - delta Dr.

3:50 p.m: Violation of Stalking Order - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

6:28 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 39000 blk, Wendling Rd.

Oct. 28: 8:18 a.m: Reckless Driving – Marcola Rd.

11:09 a.m: Welfare Check - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

1:25 p.m: Civil Service - 38900 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

2:06 p.m: Civil Service - 36800 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

4:53 p.m: Assist Police Dept. - McK. Hwy.

Oct. 29: 7:49 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reported lights on in a outbuilding on their property, and it was supposed to be unoccupied. Caller's juvenile son was home alone at the time. Deputies responded. The building was secure and deputies cleared with a patrol check.

12:45 p.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs. Caller reported giving her pet to a friend to watch for a while, however now friend refused to return the animal. Caller was told this may be a civil issue. Deputies attempted contact but were unable to reach the other party.

1:16 p.m: Reckless Driving – Marcola Rd.

3:19 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 55500 blk, McK. River Dr. Caller reported they are in the process of being kicked out and believed their landlord stole keys and pet. LCSO has received multiple reports of issues at the property. Deputies contacted the caller and confirmed no crime, but the caller wanted the information documented.

4:58 p.m: Theft - McK. Hwy. Caller reported child's medical equipment was stolen in the Springfield area, but it was trackable. The item showed to be pinging up the McKenzie Highway. The theft was reported to an outside agency and Deputies responded to the area with OSP. The property was ultimately located and returned to the owner.

Oct. 30: 9:56 a.m: Harassment - 38300 blk, Wendling Rd.

MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

Oct. 27: 0:23: 89000 block, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded En Route by Mohawk Valley Fire & Rescue.

Oct. 28: 1:40: 90000blk, Sunderman Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded En Route by MVFR.

23:04: 44000blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Oct. 29: 6:05: 52000blk, McK. Hwy. Mutual Aid Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

18:56: 87000blk, Upland St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Oct. 30: 21:16: 88000blk, Chita Loop. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Oct. 31: 5:14: 38000blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

10:42: 51000blk, Echo St. Mutual Aid. Assist Upper McKenzie Fire.

16:37: 38000blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Nov.1: 16:12: 42000blk, McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Single Vehicle Off The Road, 1 Patient Transported.

17:16: 42000blk, Timber Hill Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, November 16, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center.

UPPER MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE

Oct. 29: 06:03: Medical – 52000 block, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

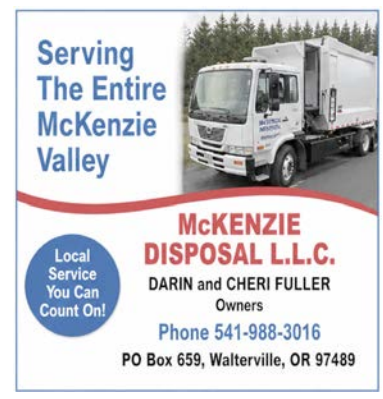
20:59: Medical – 54000 blk, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

23:12: Medical – 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Oct. 31: 10:40: Medical - 51733 Echo St. Female, Not Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 16, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.













This Could Be Your Ad
Contact
rivref2@gmail.com

Did Oregon's supervillain-politician save the world?

By Finn J.D. John

Charles Henry "Iron Pants" Martin was probably the most scurrilous and unlovable character in Oregon political history. As an Army officer during the Boxer Rebellion he looted Chinese palaces; as Oregon governor during the 1930s he expressed support for fascism; and, worst of all, as an Army general after the First World War he was in charge of "breaking" America's African American war veterans at a sort of post-service humiliation-and-degradation camp so that they would not get "uppity" after returning to civilian life.

So it's a little odd to think that Oregon, and the rest of the world, may actually owe him a debt of gratitude for saving it from a nuclear holocaust at the hands of the Nazis.

Here's the story:

In 1933, wheb newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt set about showering the country with borrowed money in an attempt to stimulate the economy out of the Great Depression, one of the projects on his list was a hydroelectric dam on the Columbia River.

The government quickly green-lighted one. But to the dismay of Oregonians, it was set to go at Grand Coulee, up in Washington. It would do nothing for the navigability of the lower Columbia, where boats were still having to portage around the Cascade Rapids or use the locks there. It would do nothing for flood control, either. And — probably most importantly, for the political elites of both parties in Oregon — it would not provide Oregon's well-connected private electric utilities with a pipeline to super-cheap hydroelectric power that they could buy cheap and make a killing selling at their standard residential-service rates.



Salem Public Library/Ben Maxwell

Charles Henry Martin gives a speech at the opening of the new Oregon State Capitol on Oct. 1, 1938, after he'd left the U.S. House of Representatives and been elected governor. This is the event at which Martin famously shouted "Get back, you bastards!" at the crowd waiting to enter the new capitol building.

So Oregon's Congressional delegation swung into action. And that's where Charles Henry Martin comes into the story.

At that time, Martin, a Democrat, was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Martin joined with Oregon Sen. Charles McNary, a Republican, to urge the President to spend some of the $3.3 billion appropriation on a second dam project on the Columbia — what would turn into Bonneville Dam. McNary, who had been pushing for a dam since the Hoover Administration, sent a letter to the President; so did Martin; and a couple months later they followed it up with a personal visit. The President pronounced himself convinced, and told the two lawmakers that if they could find a suitable place to put a dam, he'd put it on the list.

Elated, Martin and McNary went to work. But in the meantime, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes — who was in charge of all the projects — learned what was afoot. Ickes was a passionate opponent of the Bonneville Dam project from the start. It's not clear why; Martin felt it was personal animosity toward himself, but Martin had a deep and ugly streak of paranoia when it came to things like that. It may have been because of appreciation of the scenic beauty of the Columbia Gorge, some of which would be disappearing beneath a lake if the dam were built. Or it might have been simply a sense of financial responsibility; a green light for Bonneville, after all, meant a red light for some other project. $3.3 billion was a lot of money, but it's not an unlimited amount. Then, too, Ickes surely was also aware of Oregon's private electric utilities' agenda; he may have thought a dam at Bonneville would simply be a gift to those wealthy private interests.

But the reason Ickes gave for opposing the project was very reasonable: With two dams on the river, there would be far more power coming out than the Pacific Northwest could possibly use. Much of it would be simply wasted. Why spend a bunch of money to build a second dam when the first one would slake the area's power needs and then some?

So while the two lawmakers were bustling about getting things ready, Ickes was smoothly and effectively walking the president back from the commitment he'd made.

Months went by, and Martin grew suspicious. Back in Washington, he learned what was up; but he also learned, through a fellow Army officer, that the Army Corps of Engineers had just finished a survey on the site, and was recommending a $31 million facility there. Martin got a copy of this report — but, like a good poker player, he kept it to himself, waiting for just the right moment to play his card.

Save the world? - Page 13

Quote of the Week

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Ronald Reagan



By Slim Randles

All land developers really have to do to name all the new streets in a sagebrush subdivision is to leave the naming up to the local kids. The names may be goofy, but are seldom boring.

Such was the case with Fonster Fench. From the outside, she looked just like any other small stray cat that a young girl might rescue and bring home. But when my kid named her Fonster Fench, I had to ask why.

"Well," she said, "you can see her name's Fonster, right? And she has this … fenchiness about her."

The Fench part transmogrified into a verb over the next few weeks, until Fonster was known to cavort in a fenchlike manner. This became "fenching," to the neighborhood kids, who would practice fenching on their own around the yard until they had it perfected.

There must be some law of ethereal justice somewhere, carved on a cloud, which says the scruffier the animal, the classier its name must be.

One of Michael Candelaria's coonhounds out there in Laguna Pueblo wasn't as lucky. Mike named him "Speed Bump." Sure enough ….

A sled dog in Talkeetna, Alaska, named Shark fulfilled his destiny years ago by eating his own tail. His owner took him to a dog shrink (I'm not making this up) and the shrink took $25 up front and then told the owner Shark was crazy.

Sometimes adults who don't accept grown-up-icity (hey, sounds better than adultery) can come up with some kid-like names, too. For example, the little brown dog called "Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River," and the cat named "Nebula" because he had a certain … gas cloud problem.

A happily gobbled pair of turkeys in Corrales, New Mexico were known as King Tut and his bride, Neferturkey.

Sometimes a name changes slightly over time, due to a sharpening of an animal's personality. That was the case with the half hound, half husky given the magnificent name "Ulysses." After a few months, the lady of the house changed his name to "Useless."

Registered animals are given bizarre names by owners with more money than brains. How else would you explain the champion show horse named "Twist My Doo Doc"? The horse show announcer was never able to say it with a straight fac

.....

Brought to you by film composers and editors, just because nobody else does it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Notice is hereby given that Lane County will hold a public meeting with opportunity for public testimony on TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026 at 9 a.m.

Lane County received federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for recovery from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. $7.9 million of these funds were allocated for Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery (PIER) activities in the area of the Holiday Farm Fire. The McKenzie Fire and Rescue Fire Suppression Water Storage Tanks was one of 6 projects chosen by the PIER Selection Committee. This program provides for the supply and installation of water storage tanks to fill water availability gaps in critical locations. To further facilitate fire suppression activities and filling of the water tanks, McKenzie Fire and Rescue is requesting a change in scope to include the purchase of new fire equipment with a portion of these funds. During this Lane County Board of Commissioner's meeting, members of the community can hear a short presentation about the program and are provided an opportunity to give testimony.

Meeting Details:

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with in-person and remote call-in options on Tuesday November 17, 2026, at 9 a.m.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:

To attend the Board of Commissioners meeting in person:
The Board of Commissioners meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Lane County Public Service Building, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 at Harris Hall. Doors to Harris Hall open at 8:45 a.m. If you wish to participate in public comment in person, please make sure to sign up on the sign in sheet located by the entry door. Speakers will be taken in the order they sign up.

To register to speak virtually during public hearings:
Interested persons may also participate virtually in the public hearing by registering online at this link: Zoom registration or at the County's website: www.lanecountyor.gov and searching for Board of Commissioners Agendas.

Public comment by email:
Written comments may also be submitted to the County by sending an email to publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov by no later than noon, the day before the scheduled meeting. In the email subject line please include: Public Comment for Meeting Date 11/17/2026.

To watch the live stream of the session without giving comment:
At this link webcast or at the County's website: www.lanecountyor.gov and searching for Board of Commissioners webcasts.

To request an accommodation, interpretation, or any other assistance contact the staff below. You may be eligible for free language services if you have limited English proficiency. Usted puede tener derecho a servicios linguísticos gratuitos si tiene un conocimiento limitado en inglés. Para más información, favor de comunicarse con:

Contact: Board Coordinator at (541) 682-3706 or publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov
If you have any questions about the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Fire Equipment or Holiday Farm Fire Recovery, please contact: DisasterRecovery@lanecountyor.gov

REOregon Recover · Rebuild · Revitalize

PIER



OSU GARDENING Tips

Oregon State University

End-of-season garden tasks make for a smoother spring



Annuals like marigold will die in winter and should be pulled out to keep diseases at bay.

The days are short, the rain often unrelenting and the holidays fast approaching — but spending a little time in the garden or garage now can make a big difference come spring.

A common fall question is whether to cut plants back now or wait until spring. For vegetable gardens, the answer is clear: Remove everything. Pull out spent plants, including annuals, to reduce the risk of soilborne diseases that can persist for years.

For herbaceous perennials, the choice is more flexible. Many die back naturally in fall. In those cases, remove dead foliage and dispose of it in yard debris or compost — unless the plant showed signs of disease. Diseased material should never go into home compost.

Some perennials are best left standing. Ornamental grasses, coneflowers, Joe-Pye weed, sedum and black-eyed Susan provide winter habitat for insects and seeds for birds. Shrubs and trees with berries can also support wildlife during colder months.

What to do with fall leaves

Another frequent question: Should fallen leaves be raked up or left in place? The answer is yes — use them.

Spread leaves over vegetable beds to help prevent soil compaction from winter rains, suppress weeds, boost fertility and improve soil structure. Leaves are also beneficial as mulch around shrubs.

For perennial beds, there is a tradeoff. Slugs may lay eggs under plant debris, though this can be managed with low-toxicity slug bait. For many gardeners, the soil health benefits of leaf mulch outweigh the downsides. Avoid piling leaves or bark dust near slug-prone plants such as hostas.

Soil pH and lime

If you act quickly, there's still time to add lime to vegetable beds and lawns. Start by testing soil pH using a kit from a garden center. If vegetable garden soil tests below pH 6, apply 5 pounds of lime per 100 square feet.

Delay major pruning

Take pruning off your fall to-do list. Most shrubs and trees are best pruned in late February. Pruning too early can encourage new growth that may be damaged by cold weather.

Always know your plants' needs. Spring-blooming shrubs — including rhododendrons, azaleas, lilacs and forsythia — should not be pruned until after they flower.

Remove fallen fruit

Before heading indoors for winter, remove fallen or leftover fruit from trees and the ground. This step helps reduce disease and pest problems next season, including apple scab and codling moth.

Winter tool maintenance

Once garden beds are in order, turn attention to the garage. Clean and maintain garden tools before winter storage. Wash and dry tools, sharpen blades, oil moving parts and rub linseed oil on wooden handles to prevent cracking.

Basic sharpening can be done at home, but leave pruning saws and chainsaws to professionals to avoid injury or damage.

Prepare your lawn mower

Fall is also the ideal time to winterize lawn mowers. The most important step is emptying the gas tank. Start the engine, let it warm up for about 30 seconds, shut it off and siphon the gas. Restart the mower and let it run until it stops.

Gasoline contains ethanol, which attracts moisture from the air — and water in the engine can cause problems.

Additional maintenance tasks include:

° Changing the oil.

° Replacing spark plugs (check the manual or manufacturer website).

° Installing a new air filter.

° Checking spark plug gap with a gap tool.

Completing these tasks now ensures equipment is ready when grass starts growing again.

Until then, enjoy the slower pace of winter — knowing your garden and tools are prepared for a strong start next spring.

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

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Recipes • Traditions • Memories • Seasonal Living

By Mary Emma Allen

COLLECTING OLD RECIPES

Do old cookbooks, cooking notes, recipes clipped from magazines and newspapers tell about a on's likes and dislikes, even their life?

My Auntie's notebook of family and neighbors' recipes, Gram Allen's Watkins' Cookbook with recipes from friends written inside the cover and flyleaf, my mother's old Rumford Cookbook stuffed with clippings all are part of our family food history. They almost tell a story of our likes and dislikes and food fancies. Also included is my recipe box stuffed with 3x5 cards and clippings of old and new recipes.

I have a variety of recipes from my years of cooking, as well as those from my mother, aunts, grandmother, and even great grandmother. Some are contained in notebooks; others in file folders; more in a family recipe book Beth and I compiled. They tell a story of our family cooking history. If we have time, we can add stories, recollections and photos that tell a family story.

Codes in Recipes

The novel, Miss Graham's Cold War Cookbook by Celia Rees in which ladies used recipes as codes in messages during the Cold War era after World War II. It's an interesting concept for a novel and tells the story in a unique way, as well as providing food information of that era and the areas in Europe where the story occurs.

Then I realized that if you look closely you'll find "codes" about your family members' lives within the foods they prepared and recipes they used. Auntie's and Mother's recipes bring back memories of them and their foodways. Think about your family food history and relate these memories to your children. Write them down for future generations!

A Recipe

from Mother's Collection:

OLD-FASHIONED CORNSTARCH PUDDING - This was a basic dessert that Mother often served with fruit spooned over it or stirred into the pudding. When it was made very thick, she used it for a cake filling or for pie.

Cook over a double boiler, stirring frequently, until thickened - 1 1/2 quarts milk, 1-cup sugar, 3 tablespoons cornstarch that have been dissolved in 1/4 cup of the milk, dash of salt. When thick, add 1-teaspoon vanilla and let cool.

One of my aunts often stirred in cut up pieces of oranges just before serving for an Orange Pudding. For cake or pie filling use 5 tablespoons cornstarch.

If you want CHOCOLATE PUDDING, add 3 teaspoons cocoa to the cornstarch before dissolving in milk.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

McKenzie Valley Pump
Full Service Well Company
Water Quality Testing / Pump Installs
Filtration / Service / Repairs
www.MckenzieValleyPump.com
541-896-0453
CCB#50234

RAINBOW COFFEE CO
Rainbow, OR
Hot Espresso 10, 12 or 16 oz.
Iced Espresso 12, 16 or 24 oz.
Extra Espresso Shot, Syrup, or Alternative Milk
Ask us about our Breakfast Menu items
458-209-0542
Open Mon, Thurs, Fri & Sat: 8 am - 12:30 pm *Closed Wednesday*

Fill your screen with McKenzie news
River Reflections
Get a free trial subscription to River Reflections
tinyurl.com/4f6ndcrh







This Space For Rent
rivref2 @gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Local events & meetings

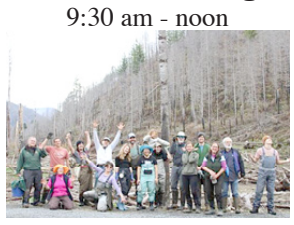
HAVE AN EVENT TO SHARE? Submit details at tinyurl.com/3j38kkxz

November 6
Annual Spaghetti Feed
5 - 8 pm



The Walterville Grange will be serving spaghetti with fresh, homemade meat sauce, green salad, garlic bread, dessert, and coffee or juice at 39259 Camp Creek Road, in Walterville. There will be a collection for nonperishable food items for the upriver food bank. Donations are also gratefully accepted. For more information, call 541-521-4760 and leave a message.

November 8
Willow Planting
9:30 am - noon



The McKenzie River Trust is holding a Willow Planting Party for the South Fork McKenzie River.

Join friends, neighbors, and members of the Redsides Chapter of Trout Unlimited for this special event. Restoration project partners will be on site to share details about the project and planting willow along the water's edge. Registration is required. Contact McKenzie River Trust Volunteer Manager Sarah Wheeler at swheeler@mckenzieriver.org.

November 9
Parks Advisory
6 - 7:30pm

The Parks Advisory Committee meets in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy, Eugene. on the 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August). It advises the Board of County Commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects - including financial and operational development and acquisition. The committee also provides recommendations regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and serves as a liaison group representing the concerns of the community.

November 9
Spfd School Board
7 - 10 pm

The Springfield Public Schools is led by a five-member elected school board. The Board of Directors meets twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street, Springfield.

November 10
Lane County
Board of Commissioners
9 am



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

November 10
Gentle Dental Van
8:30 am - 2 pm



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

November 10
Tourism Committee
9 - 10 am

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

November 10
McKenzie Food Pantry
11 am - 1 pm

At the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge.

Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 11 am - 1 pm, every 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

November 10
MCLT Open House
6 - 8 pm



The McKenzie Community Land Trust will host their Annual Open House at the Leaburg Fire Station, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. There isn't a formal presentation — just a relaxed space to mingle over hot bowls of homemade soup featuring 'Grandpa Dale's Noodles' (an Eck family tradition).

Rose Street's success will be celebrated, along with a sneak peek at upcoming CLT neighborhoods, and highlights the latest community building initiatives.

The event is FREE please register at tinyurl.com/mrpyydfr

November 11
BR Park Board
6 - 7 pm



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

November 12
Vida McKenzie
Community Center Board
4:30 - 5:30 pm



The Vida McKenzie Community Center board will meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

November 12
McKenzie
Watershed Council
5 - 6:30 pm

The McKenzie Watershed Council will meet on the second Thursday of the month from 5 to 6:30 p.m., location varies, please contact Chase Antonovich, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Manager, (458-201- 8150) chase@mckenziewc.org

November 13
Second Friday Art Walk
4 - 7:30 pm

2nd Friday Art Walk at 500 Main Street - Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield.

November 16
McKenzie Fire District Board
Noon- 1 pm

McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. 541-896-3311.

November 16
Upper McKenzie Fire District Board
7 - 8 pm

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting. At the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River. 541-822-3479

WEEKLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY

VMCC - 11 am
Doors open at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane

Little Poker League 6 - 8 pm
Vida McKenzie Community Center

WEDNESDAY

Upper McKenzie Community Center - 7 - 8 pm
Go-Gi Brazilian Ju-Jitsu at the UMCC, 54745 McK River Drive

Watershed Wednesday - 9 - 11:30 am
Coburg
Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

AA Meetings
Wednesdays at 6 pm and Sundays at 5 pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, plus Thursdays at the clinic onb Dexter St, Blue River

THURSDAY

MMRS Net - 6 pm
The McKenzie Valley Neighborhood Radio Group meets at 6 pm on 462.6750 MHZ, Tone 100.0 Hz (often Radio Memory Channel 28) on the Deathball Repeater

FRIDAY

Yoga in Leaburg - 8:30 am
Friday Yoga at the Firehouse is back! 42870 McK. Hwy., Leaburg

SAIL Exercise Program - 10 - 11 am
Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane. Instructor-led exerciss to boost strength, independence and confidence. All ages and abilities welcome.

SATURDAY

A Dime At A Time
Morning sorting sessios from 10 am - noon. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store.

Click here and stay in touch with events online McKenzie Community Events Calendar.

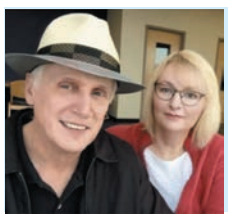
An Invitation to Worship

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

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

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

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



Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Straight talk and real advice for everyday lofe.

Rewind



I am 25 and have been married two years. My husband and I bought a house together one year before we got married, and things went downhill from there.

I married for the wrong reasons. I almost felt I had no choice because the date was set, plans were made, and we had house and cars in both our names. Friends and family tried to talk me out of it, but I felt we could make it work.

Now I think about it every day and think we might be better off if we went our separate ways. My husband makes really good money, but spends it recklessly. What kept me in the relationship was his money and the comfort zone, as much as I hate to admit it.

We see life differently. I don't feel secure around him, and he is not protective at all. Every time we get into an argument, he threatens me by saying he wants a divorce. I'm tired of it. I can't live my whole life afraid of arguments and him leaving.

Last week, I went to a divorce lawyer for a consult and for information on how divorce works. I feel if I don't divorce now, it will happen sometime in the future, and it will only be harder to do as time goes on.

Rhea

Rhea, many people write us and admit they married for all the wrong reasons. Usually they want us to give them a cheat which will make everything right. That's like Pinocchio wanting to become a real boy without doing the right things.

Realists are people who face things honestly. Realists have the best chance of putting their lives in order. That doesn't mean being a realist feels good all the time. Often it feels rotten. But being a realist gives you the firm foundation upon which to build the rest of your life.

You were too much in love with your fiancé's income and too locked-in financially to heed the warnings of friends and family. You overrode your own inner warnings. Now you realize when a person has everything but love, they feel they have nothing.

When we make a mistake, even a serious one, we don't have to dwell on it. We just need to correct it.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of Cheating in a Nutshell.

This Space For Rent
rivref2@gmail.com
541-822-3358

Under The Influence

I'm hoping you can help me discover the moral answer to a dilemma I recently encountered. I know I am not the only woman who has and will face this question, so I do hope you will print an answer.

I recently met a very nice man (I thought) who lives about 40 miles away. We had a very nice date and he was a perfect gentleman. I eagerly accepted a second date with him in my locale. We had drinks, and he drank more than he should have, which is where my question comes in.

As we drew the evening to a close he asked if he could hang at my house for awhile so he wouldn't drive 40 miles under the influence. I did not like this because I'm used to guys using this ploy to try to become intimate, and because people should be responsible and not drink too much when they need to drive.

If I said no, that meant I could be putting him on the road to, at best, get a DWI and, at worst, kill someone. (I don't know how intoxicated he was; he seemed fine to me.) Against my better judgment, I allowed him to come into my home, where he almost immediately set on the path to become intimate with me.

When I tried to send him home, he said he still was in no position to drive. I allowed him to stay and kicked him out in the early a.m. I'm still angry because I had laid out my boundaries very clearly. I didn't want him in my house, and I did not want to be intimate. But he obviously cared little about my feelings.

In the future, what are my moral obligations in this situation? Do I tell him to drive home, make him sleep in his car (which means he'll drive home), or allow him to sleep on my couch (which puts my safety in danger and simply isn't what I want)?

Jill

Jill, Gavin de Becker once remarked, "The best cons make the victim want to participate," and that explains this situation. This man tried to use your own niceness and sense of responsibility against you.

de Becker calls the strategy "forced teaming." In forced teaming one party tries to create a predicament which requires both parties to solve. The goal is to make the innocent party feel "we are in this together." But that is never the case. Moral responsibility is not assignable.

Someone who says "Stop me or I'll do something bad" produces no moral obligation in you. It is simply the strategy of a person running a con. If there is a moral lesson here which applies to you, it is this. It is not right to allow a person to trick you and get away with it.

Instead of getting you drunk so he could take advantage of you, he got himself drunk—or so he said—so he could take advantage of you. That may be a reversal of an old ploy, but the intent is identical. In relationships, people with bad intentions often pull good people off their path.

An old adage says, a teaspoon of sewage will spoil a barrel of wine, but a teaspoon of wine will never improve a barrel of sewage. If this man had achieved intimacy with you, you might be tempted to think of this as a relationship and him as a possible husband. That would have you living in his world.

But even if we assume he didn't scheme this out and simply has a problem with alcohol, it doesn't put him in a better light. Dating a budding alcoholic is of no advantage to you. It still makes him a man you don't want. We don't have the right to change others and seldom do we have the power.

Wayne & Tamara

Invest in local stories

Civic and community journalism connects neighbors, holds leaders accountable, and celebrates local life.



Your donation strengthens:

√ Fact-based local reporting
√ Civic accountability and transparency
√ The shared stories that define our community

Your donation will exclusively fund the "Civic Journalism" work of McKenzie River Reflections - reporting on local government agencies, elections, health and public safety, policy impacts, and updates on community-led responses.

The Civic Journalism mission of McKenzie River Reflections is approved, sponsored, and monitored by the Oregon Public Information Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created for people to make tax deductible contributions to independent Oregon community newspapers.

Go to tinyurl.com/25ahf3jx and click the "Donate" link for an online contribution.
Or mail a check to OPIP/McKenzie River Reflections Civic Journalism
P.O. Box 727, McMinnville, OR 97128

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Bath Tubs

Safe Step. North America¬ís #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-459-4942

Coins & Jewelry

Buying US and foreign coins, currency, tokens, gold, silver, & jewelry. North Star Coin & Jewelry, 650 Main St., Springfield. 541-746-5964. S=nscj--1/14.

Dental Insurance

Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-580-1387 www.dental50plus.com/river #6258

FOR RENT

The beautiful Vida McKenzie Community Center, has everything you need for your event. Go to vidacommunitycenter.com for more info.

Tammy Pelton 951-970-0176

Funeral Home

Major Family Funeral Home. Family Owned Since 1961. Funerals ° Burials ° Cremations ° Monuments ° Keepsakes ° Video Tributes. 541-746-9667.

Personal

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

Piano Lessons

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

Pianists Wanted

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

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

Services

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

Got a hole in your wall? Give me a call! The Wall Doctor - Serving the McKenzie River area. 541-735-2317. p-s15-n3

DIVORCE $130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025.

Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid.

Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle.

Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - $1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-844-659-1070 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North America¬ís #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-900-9151

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY
PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of
Harriet H Strobel,
Decedent. Case No. 26PB09006

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

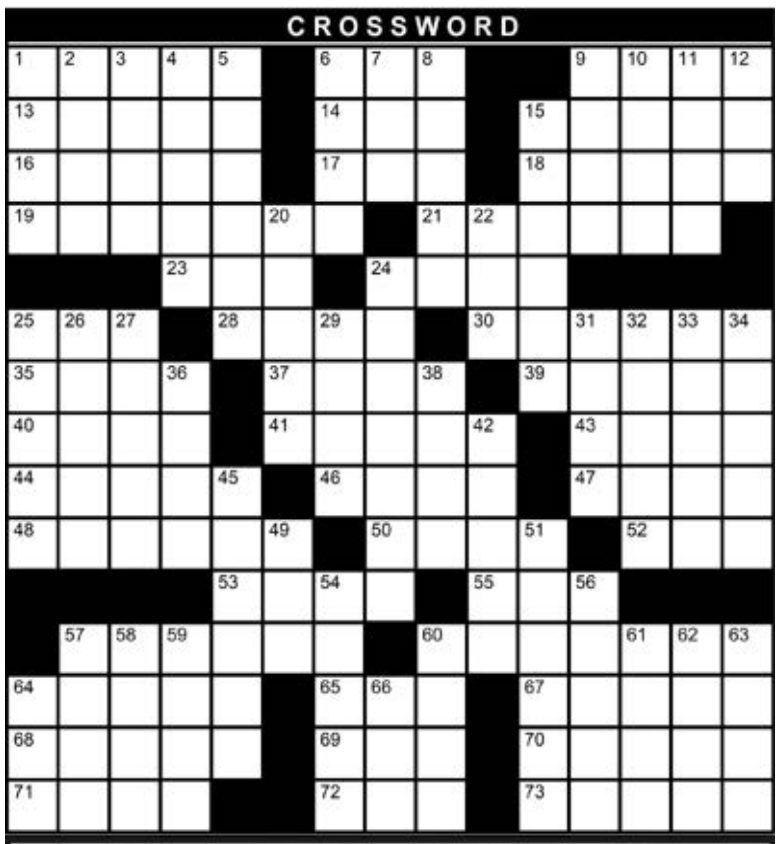
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Laura Strobel has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the personal representative at the law office of Bassinger Hoyt LLC, Attn: Thomas H. Hoyt, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401 within four months after the date of publication of this notice or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Thomas H. Hoyt, Bassinger Hoyt LLC, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Thomas H. Hoyt, Bassinger Hoyt LLC, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Date of publication: 11-5-2026

Personal Representative:
Laura Strobel
885 Taylor St. Eugene, OR 97402
Telephone: 541-606-3085
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Thomas H. Hoyt, OSB# 660662
Bassinger Hoyt LLC
1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 320
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Telephone: 541-687-8700
Fax: 541-687-8701
thoyt@bassingerhoyt.com

CROSSWORD





© StatePoint Media

HOLIDAY MOVIES

ACROSS

1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN

1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

Solution on Page 9

SUDOKU



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

© StatePoint Media

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

Solution on Page 9

Emergency? Call 911

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx







Ghost Sightings at the Redmont Hotel

By Paul Alexander

Sitting in the rooftop bar at happy hour,
I see the lights of Birmingham
glowing against a hazy December sky.

On an evening like this one in 1952,
Hank Williams checked into a second-floor room
—so drunk a hotel down the street

refused to admit him—after arriving
in his powder-blue Cadillac chauffeured
by a teenager hired to drive him from his home

in Montgomery to gigs in Ohio and West Virginia.
Three women he invited up to his room
must have made the last night he was alive

a little less lonely, unaware, as he was,
that years of hard living had caught up with him.
Past midnight the next night,

on a curvy road in West Virginia,
his heart stopped as he lay bundled up in his coat
in the backseat of the Cadillac.

Today, I think of my father
who, like Williams, only needed a couple
of strong ones to make him turn belligerent.

I can see him in our den playing the guitar
as he sang, using his best country twang,
"I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." I believed him.

Over the years, my father often ended up
driving at night in his Cadillac
listening to Hank Williams on the stereo,

empty whiskey bottles rolling around
under the front seat each time he got pulled over.
I lost track of the times he was in and out of jail.

In the bar, the song changes. Suddenly,
his voice—that voice—fills the room.
And now I'm lost, too late to pray.
Lord, I've paid the cost on the lost highway.

Source: Poetry (October 2026)

Paul Alexander has published poems in The New Republic, Bennington Review, and The Sewanee Review. He is provost scholar of the arts and humanities at Hunter College.

Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 2

tween them, or decide on alternatives, at a final vote in December.

The district now has 81 schools. The changes could affect most of them in some way, and one option calls for closure of 13 elementary and one middle school.

The district may not have helped itself by calling the effort "rightsizing," a term many private corporations have used to signal mass cutbacks and layoffs.

This being Portland, protests were quick to arise. Some of that has approached the highly partisan and almost conspiratorial. A teacher union group called Rank-and-File Educators for Democracy (a caucus of the Oregon Education Association) posted one article about "How privatizers are planning to close PPS schools and hasten the dismantling of public education in our city."

An Instagram reel from the group linked the proposed changes to Chiefs for Change, which provides training for school administrators and of which Portland Superintendent Kimberlle Arnstrong is in a leadership position. Chiefs, founded in Florida by former Governor Jeb Bush, has been described as conservative and Republican, but the group has moved in a very different direction in the last decade.

Searching in such places for explanations for the school reductions may feel satisfying for some activists, but the real reasons lie in more hard-to-handle directions.

School closures are a national phenomenon, affecting mainly larger-population school districts (though many smaller ones too) all over the country.

Student population in public schools peaked around 2019 and has decreased by about a third since then. Enrollment sank most deeply during the pandemic years, but has not returned to its earlier numbers since. In the 2025-26 school year, districts nationally closed more than 1,000 schools.

The reasons are many, and some seem immune to simple policy changes. Families have gotten smaller in recent years, a trend predating the Covid pandemic. In many places enrollment has grown for private and charter schools. In some places, students have simply vanished from tracking, because they're attending new-style micro-schools off the grid, or in some cases because of recent immigration enforcement.

One analyst of school reductions also points to high housing costs, which is discouraging local residence by young families in many larger and mid-sized population areas.

Schools in major metro areas like Philadelphia, Seattle and Houston have been closed or merged. So, counter-intuitively, have schools in areas where the overall population is fast-growing, such as the Boise, Idaho, metro area. (There, a proposal for closure of another elementary school surfaced this week.) In Georgia, Atlanta Public Schools has building space for about 70,000 students, but has only about 50,000 actual students.

None of this is popular, and certainly not in Portland. There, one commenter on a Portland School District Facebook page called out: "Pause the process! This is all way too fast with no sound evidence or proper planning."

Another said, "Is there ANYONE who actually has a child in the PPS system that thinks these scenarios are a good idea? Because I sure haven't heard any positive commentary from anyone. No one has been able to provide concrete examples of how this will positively affect our kids, or our teachers."

Most of the commentary is likely to be negative, as it has been in most places around the country which have been going through a similar process. People dislike having to send children further away to school, and long-standing school traditions and memories are being disrupted. Transitions to other schools, and in some cases possibly larger classes, will not be welcomed either.

The district might help itself with an extensive outreach program over the next couple of months, before the planned board vote. It might even consider postponing the vote until district officials and the parents,teachers and others there have had a larger chance to discuss the changes.

And after all, the reasons often come down to the financial. Good community uses may be made of the old school structures. The greater efficiency probably does come from teaching 500 students in a building made for 700. But if – if – patrons want to pay the extra charge (taxes, that is), maybe that's their proper choice. But before that conversation can be had, all the facts have to be laid out.

Sounds more like a job for practical compromisers than it does partisan politics.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.

Return To Page 2

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Continued From Page 3

12:57 p.m: Hit & Run - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:11 p.m: Illegal Shooting - McGowan quarry.
3:11 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
8:58 p.m: Menacing - Thurston Rd.
10:09 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 89400 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.
Oct. 30: 9:56 a.m: Harassment - 38300 blk, Wendling Rd.
12:57 p.m: Hit & Run - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:11 p.m: Illegal Shooting - McGowan quarry.
3:11 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.
8:58 p.m: Menacing - Thurston Rd.
10:09 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 89400 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.
Oct. 31: 12:19 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Marcola Rd.
9:45 a.m: Theft - 88700 blk, Twin Firs Rd.
10:12 a.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - Canal Ln.
10:44 a.m: Suspicious Subject - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.
4:44 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.
Nov. 2: 11:58 a.m: Reckless Driving - Camp Creek Rd.
3:07 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - 35200 blk, McK. View Dr.
4:13 p.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle – McK. Bridge area.

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

Need to talk? Call 988

A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

November 4 - Mountain men told the Nez Perce Indians about the existence of the white man's Book Of Heaven. The Indians called a council and sent four chiefs East to discover the truth of the mountain men's boast. Along the way two of the Indians died but the other two reached St. Louis in 1833. Here, it was reported, they asked to see the Book Of Heaven. An account of this meeting was published in a number of religious publications and this provided the spark that fired the imagination of many religious leaders. They called for missionaries to bring the word of God to the native people living west of the Rocky Mountains. The missionaries were sent but very few Indians ever converted to Christianity and the missionary movement was deemed to be a dismal failure.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. The last releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 2,000.

Fish Counts
October 30, Willamette Falls
Fall Chinook – 1,320
Summer Steelhead – 10,209

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

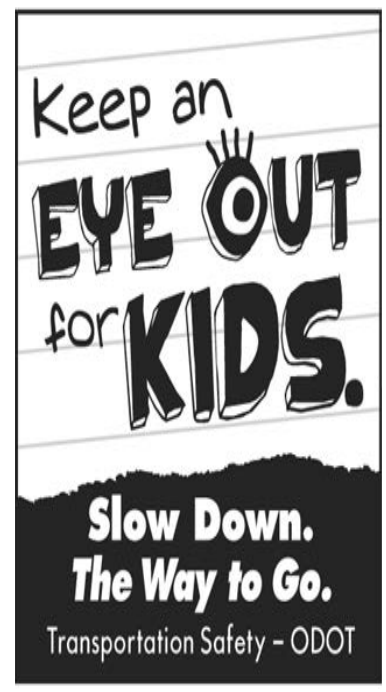
S	O	A	P	S		C	W	T		F	E	A	T
A	T	B	A	Y		O	E	R		J	E	L	L	O
S	T	E	R	N		P	T	A		U	R	B	A	N
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y		D	O	N	N	E	R	
			S	I	B		H	E	C	K				
Q	T	Y		C	A	N	E		A	E	R	O	B	E
U	R	A	L		C	O	X	A		T	O	R	U	S
A	I	M	S		K	R	A	F	T		O	L	D	S
I	B	E	A	M		A	G	R	A		M	O	D	E
D	E	N	T	A	L		O	O	P	S		P	Y	X
			R	O	A	N		I	C	E				
	G	E	O	R	G	E		C	R	U	M	P	I	T
T	U	R	B	O		R	A	M		L	A	U	R	A
A	R	R	O	W		I	D	O		L	I	M	E	N
M	U	S	E			E	O	N		S	L	A	S	H

Emergency? Call 911

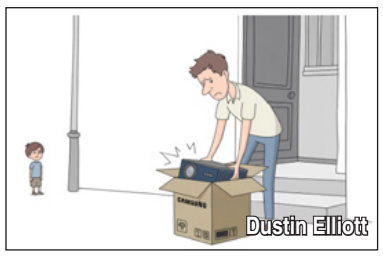
SUDOKU SOLUTION

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





Is there a way out of this Amazon account recovery black hole?



Samsung sent my broken projector back and called the case completed. Is there a way out?

William Hunt's Samsung projector breaks while still under warranty, but the company tells him it can't find the parts to fix it. Instead of a refund or a replacement, the manufacturer simply mails the broken device back to him and marks the file "completed." Can a consumer advocate break through this wall of silence?

Last year, I bought a Samsung Freestyle 2nd Gen projector from Amazon for $365. It came with a warranty valid for a year. When the unit stopped working eight months later, I opened a service ticket and sent it to an authorized repair center in New Jersey.

Samsung confirmed receipt and even emailed me to say it would cover all labor and parts as a "one-time accommodation."

Then the situation turned bizarre. The repair facility notified me that the unit was indeed defective but could not be repaired because the necessary parts were unavailable. Rather than offering a replacement or a refund, Samsung closed my ticket.

I've spent the last two months in a customer service black hole. I called and chatted with support more than four times, and every single time they promised a supervisor would call me back within two days. Those calls never came. I emailed "Extra Care" contacts and got no response. I even submitted a complaint through the CEO portal and emailed executives directly.

Then I sent a formal demand letter citing the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. The next day, I received two automated emails from Samsung stating the "service of your unit was completed" and that they were shipping my projector back to me unrepaired.

It feels like they are just waiting for my warranty to expire so they can walk away from a defective product. I just want a working projector or my money back. Can you help me?

William Hunt, Tulsa, Okla.

Samsung should have replaced your projector or issued a full refund the moment it determined the device was unrepairable. Under the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, a manufacturer can't simply shrug its shoulders because it ran out of spare parts. It's legally obligated to make the consumer whole.

You did almost everything right here. After a few initial calls, you started a paper trail, which is essential to a successful case. You even escalated the matter to the executive level, which is exactly what I recommend when the front-line support agents start reading from a script. I list the contact information for Samsung on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

The only thing you might have done differently was to stop the phone calls sooner. As you discovered, "we'll call you back in 48 hours" is often corporate-speak for "please go away." When a company fails to follow through on a promise once, move everything to email so you have a record of the inaction.

I've dealt with similar "parts unavailable" excuses before. In a previous case involving a Samsung washing machine, the company eventually agreed to a buyback after a similar standoff.

I contacted Samsung on your behalf. A spokesperson for the company told me they were "looking into this ASAP." Shortly after that, the company reached out to you and expedited a full refund for your projector. "We will carefully review this matter in an effort to constantly improve the customer experience," a spokeswoman added.

I'm glad we could pull you out of the black hole. Enjoy the next movie night—hopefully with a brand that remembers to stock its repair parts.

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

© 2026 Christopher Elliott

Division 22: Ensuring Quality Education for Every Student

By Lane Tompkins
Superintendent
McKenzie Schools

Welcome to November and the start of our second quarter! I hope everyone enjoyed a fun and safe Halloween weekend and is adjusting well to the time change. As we begin a new grading period, I'd like to share a part of public education that happens largely behind the scenes but helps ensure our students receive a quality education.

Each year, Oregon school districts review their compliance with a set of state requirements known as Division 22 Standards. While the name may sound technical, the purpose is straightforward: to set clear, consistent expectations for the educational opportunities and services students receive across Oregon.

What Are Division 22 Standards?

Division 22 refers to a set of administrative rules established by the Oregon State Board of Education. These rules outline the foundational requirements that school districts must meet to be considered standard school districts in Oregon.

The standards address a wide range of responsibilities, including instructional time, curriculum, graduation requirements, student assessment, school counseling, student safety and the qualifications and professional development of school staff.

In other words, they help answer an important question: What should every Oregon student and family be able to expect from their public school system?

Whether a student attends a large urban district or a small rural district like McKenzie, the state has established basic expectations to help ensure access to essential educational opportunities.

These standards emphasize high-quality learning experiences, engaged families and communities, safe and inclusive schools and committed and supported staff. These priorities align with the work we strive to do at McKenzie every day.

Accountability and Continuous Improvement

Each fall, school districts are required to review their compliance with the applicable Division 22 Standards for the previous school year and report their findings to their school boards and communities and to the Oregon Department of Education.

This process is about more than checking boxes.

It requires districts to examine their practices, review evidence and determine whether they are meeting the expectations established by the state. When a district identifies an area where it has not met a standard, it must explain the deficiency and develop a plan to correct it.

The process also allows the Oregon Department of Education to provide guidance and technical assistance to districts working toward compliance.

I believe there is value in this kind of accountability. Public schools have a responsibility to the students, families and communities they serve, and part of that responsibility is being transparent about both our successes and the areas where we need to improve.

For a small district like McKenzie, meeting these expectations can require considerable coordination among staff members who often manage multiple responsibilities. That work serves an important purpose: ensuring students have access to the educational services and opportunities they deserve.

At the same time, meeting the minimum standards established by the state should never be our ultimate goal. Compliance establishes a foundation, but the quality of a student's educational experience depends on much more.

Our commitment to ensuring that every student is Known, Valued, Challenged, and Prepared goes beyond what can be measured through a compliance report. It is reflected in the relationships we build, the opportunities we provide, and the care our staff demonstrate for students each day.

I encourage community members to review our district's annual Division 22 Compliance Report, available on the McKenzie School District website. The report outlines how our district is meeting Oregon's educational standards and identifies any areas where additional work may be needed. Sharing this information supports transparency, accountability and trust between our schools and the families we serve.

Around McKenzie This Week

Welcome to the second quarter! Monday, our middle school boys basketball team hosts Mapleton at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, our fourth and ninth grade students will enjoy a joint field trip to the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History, while middle school boys basketball travels to Eddyville for a 4:30 p.m. game.

Thursday evening, we welcome families for parent-teacher conferences from 5 to 8 p.m., with conferences continuing Friday morning from 8 a.m. to noon. These conversations are a valuable opportunity to celebrate student progress, discuss challenges and strengthen the partnership between home and school as we begin a new quarter.

Ultimately, whether we're discussing state standards, classroom instruction, or individual student progress, our goal remains the same: providing an educational experience that prepares every McKenzie student for success.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools. Together, we can continue building a school community that meets the expectations placed upon us while always striving to do more for the young people we serve.



Finding a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball. Check out www.savingsbonds.gov to find out more about Series I Bonds from the U.S. Treasury.
I Bonds
Everyone Needs a Safe Place to Grow
www.savingsbonds.gov
A public service of this newspaper

ROOFING! THE KLAUS ROOFING WAY
REPLACEMENTS • REPAIRS • INSPECTIONS
Our Unique Approach PRESERVES + PROTECTS Your Home!
CAREFUL PROPERTY PROTECTION | QUALITY MATERIALS | HIGH PERFORMANCE ROOFING
KLAUS ROOFING SYSTEMS PUT A Klaus ON YOUR House!
GET A NEW ROOF FOR AS LOW AS $136/month No Deposit Required*
Contact us for a FREE ESTIMATE | 855-511-4742
FULL FINANCING AVAILABLE

Make This Your Ad
rivref2@gmail.com



Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Free shipping will be applied to select package (SKU 82395). Minimum purchase of $99 per shipping address to qualify for free gift. 1 free gift per shipping address. The free gift does not apply to the purchase of Gift Cards, Certificates, Wine, Wine & Food Packs, Gift Baskets, Gourmet Salame, Caviar, and Custom Cuts. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is not valid on pending or prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 09/30/26. Omaha Steaks, LLC 26M10301

Need to talk? Call 988

Emergency? Call 911

McKENZIE ROOFING
541-744-2448
Taking Care Of You Since 1995
Residential & Commercial Roofing & Gutters
CCB#106380
1500 South A St • Springfield

Pizza Hut
Proud to Honor our Veterans!
Eugene 1930 River Rd 541-688-1800
Springfield 140 S. 32nd St 541-741-8000
FEED GOOD TIMES pizzahut.com

JENNINGS GROUP, INC
PROPERTY MGT • RENTALS • SALES
Honoring All Who Have Served!
www.jenningsgroup.com
541-683-2271

ROYAL FLUSH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Honoring All Local Veterans!
www.royalflushservices.com
541-687-6764 • Eugene

ANDERSON BROTHERS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT CO
Call Anderson Brothers For All Of Your Driveline And U-Bolt Needs
541-688-8686
4325 Commerce St Ste 111-406 • Eugene

HITCH PRO & TOW
Honoring All Veterans!
541-434-2403
4701 W. 11th Ave • Eugene

HOME INSULATION CO, INC
www.homecompanies.com
541-484-1733
91720 Hwy 99 • Eugene

Weld School
Become A Certified Welder In 12 Weeks
www.weldcerts.com • 541-393-6555
1567 Main St • Springfield



On this Veterans Day we pause to remember and honor the many service members who have served our nation to keep America free and safe!

Thank You!

ROYAL REFUSE SERVICE
www.royalrefuse.com
541-688-5622
29480 Airport Rd • Eugene

MOHAWK VALLEY MEATS
Proud To Honor All Veterans!
541-746-4411
91167 Marcola Rd • Springfield

EUGENE'S FLOWER HOME
Thank You To Our Veterans!
541-485-3655
1193 Harlow Rd • Springfield

Family Owned And Operated Funeral Home
MAJOR FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
www.majorfamilyfuneralhome.com
541-746-9667 • 112 A St • Springfield

POINT S TIRE FACTORY
Locally Owned And Operated Since 1970!
541-746-1431
4157 Main St • Springfield

KONA CAFE
Open Daily • 11 am - 8 pm
Proudly Honoring All Veterans!
541-741-7136
4605 Main St • Springfield

ARCHER FLOOR COVERINGS
Offering 5% Discount For Veterans!
archerfloors.com
Monday - Friday • 9 am - 5:30 pm
541-747-2608 • 3775 Olympic St • Springfield

EMERALD PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC
www.emeraldpm.com
541-741-4676
525 Harlow Rd • Springfield

McKENZIE DISPOSAL, LLC
Thank You To Our Veterans!
541-988-3016

OREGON FENCE CO
Veterans Day • We Remember!
541-746-8324
1259 N. 35th St • Springfield

Companion Animal Clinic
Where Wise Pets Bring Their People!
5475 Main St, Springfield, Or, 97478
541-747-2307

NORTHWEST FASTENER & SUPPLY
2320 Main Street • Springfield
541-746-BOLT (2658)
• Fasteners, Cutting Tools, Abrasives •
www.NorthwestFastenerAndSupply.com
Freedom Wasn't Free • Take Time To Remember!

OREGON VETERINARY REFERRAL ASSOCIATES OVRA
Veterinary Specialists
541-726-1100
215 Q St • Springfield
Special Vets For Special Pets

A & O ENGINEERING
Honoring Our Local Veterans!
541-302-9790
380 Q St Ste 200 • Springfield

WILLAMETTE TRUCK & FLEET
Thank You, Veterans!
541-463-7938
745 River Avenue E • Eugene

PHEASANT PARK APARTMENTS
Honoring America's Brave Heroes!
541-747-5411
475 Lindale Dr • Springfield

Suburban Propane
541-344-2283 • 110 Hwy 99 N • Eugene

COTTAGE GROVE McDONALD'S
Proud To Honor All Veterans!
i'm lovin' it
Locally Owned By The Campbell Family

Oregon Fuel Injection
ONE STOP DIESEL SHOP
Thank You, Veterans!
541-485-1434
4036 W. 1st Ave
Eugene
oregonfuelinjection.com

HERRICK FARMS
Check us out on facebook
Honoring All Local Veterans!
541-741-1046
88088 Millican Rd • Springfield

SQUARE DEAL LUMBER CO
Doing Business Up The River Since 1947
squaredeallumber.net
Free Delivery Every Wednesday
541-746-2576 • 4992 Main St. • Springfield
Honoring Our Local Veterans!

LITHIA TOYOTA OF SPRINGFIELD
WE MAKE IT EASY
PRICE TRADE SERVICE FINANCE
163 South 9th St.
Springfield, OR 97477
Sales: 888-351-2916
Service: 877-468-4053
Parts: 877-816-4118

NWE NEW WAY ELECTRIC, INC 541-686-2365
Commercial
Industrial
Design/Build
Energy Conservation
4202 W 6th Ave • Eugene
NEW WAY ELECTRIC, INC CCB# 51088

BUCK'S SANITARY SERVICE
Proudly Honoring Our Local Veterans!
www.bucks-sanitary.com
541-342-3905 • Eugene

Beyond the Ashes

Continued From Page 1

alongside the people they served. The cash provided families with some flexibility to address their own needs. It was a way of helping neighbors while investing in the future of the valley.

These early efforts reveal something important about Melanie: she understood that rebuilding a community required more than replacing buildings. It required taking care of people, preserving relationships and helping families maintain a connection to the place they called home.

As the initial emergency response transitioned into the longer and more complicated work of cleaning up and rebuilding, Melanie continued to serve as a bridge between displaced residents and the organizations trying to help them. She worked with the American Red Cross, Lane County and numerous nonprofit organizations, helping communicate with survivors staying in hotels in the Eugene and Springfield areas. She helped coordinate cleanup efforts, support returning property owners and advocate for residents who were struggling to navigate housing and recovery programs all while simultaneously trying to address her own family's recovery.

The emotional weight of that work was considerable. In 2022, Melanie spoke publicly about the frustration of navigating recovery systems and the emotional toll of watching neighbors struggle. She was living in a trailer while working toward rebuilding her own home. Eventually, in 2022, she received a certificate of occupancy for that rebuilt home. It was an important personal milestone, but it was only one part of a much larger recovery.

Her commitment to the valley also grew into formal community leadership. Melanie became a founding board member and secretary of the McKenzie Community Land Trust, serving on its Homeownership Committee. The organization was created to help address the long-term housing and community development challenges left by the fire. Its work focuses on creating opportunities for affordable homeownership, helping displaced residents return and ensuring that the valley remains a place where working families can afford to live.

Her involvement extended into other essential parts of community life. She served with the McKenzie Community Track and Field, Blue River Park District, Blue River Water District, Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District, a founding member of McKenzie Locals Helping Locals and McKenzie Community Land Trust. She also participated in the Oregon Solutions Blue River Work Group, contributing to discussions and planning surrounding the future design of Blue River Drive.

These commitments reflect an understanding that recovery is interconnected. Housing, water, emergency services, recreation, transportation and economic opportunity all contribute to whether a community can survive and thrive. Melanie continued to invest her time in those issues, helping ensure that the people who lived in the valley had a voice in decisions affecting its future.

She was also determined to bring back the business that had connected her to the community for so much of her life. Meyer's General Store was never simply a place to buy groceries or stop for supplies. It was a gathering place, an informal town hall and a familiar point of connection for generations of residents. People stopped to visit, exchange information, check on neighbors and catch up on the news of the valley. Its loss represented something much deeper than the destruction of a commercial building.

From the beginning, Melanie envisioned rebuilding the store as a way to restore some of that sense of normalcy. Her plans included retaining the familiar character of the original business while incorporating new opportunities, including two apartments intended for affordable housing. She could have just rebuilt the store, but that was not enough. She was adding 2 affordable apartments above the store and they were non negotiable.

But the rebuilding process proved far more difficult than anticipated. Permitting delays, construction costs, insurance limitations, financing challenges and the complexity of rebuilding in a community recovering from a major disaster all became obstacles. While some homes and public facilities gradually returned, the store remained unfinished.

Rather than abandon the effort, Melanie continued looking for ways to make it happen. She advocated for the needs of local businesses, spoke with elected officials and county commissioners, participated in community recovery events and explored alternative ways to finance construction.

In 2025, she began developing a community fundraising campaign that would allow supporters to purchase engraved paving stones and commemorative T-shirts. The idea was to invite people to become part of rebuilding the store, quite literally, brick by brick.

She also continued speaking publicly about the economic challenges facing the valley. When federal Forest Service layoffs threatened additional jobs in the region, she raised concerns about the impact on families who had already endured the fire and were still trying to regain financial stability. She understood that a community cannot fully recover if the people who live there cannot find work, support their families or sustain local businesses.

By the six-year anniversary of the fire in September 2026, Meyer's General Store remained unfinished. Melanie had invested enormous personal resources into its reconstruction, including taking out a substantial personal loan. The project continued to face permitting and construction challenges, and the financial burden remained significant.

Yet she continued to push forward.

That persistence is perhaps one of the most defining parts of her story. The immediate relief work of 2020 evolved into years of advocacy, volunteerism, community leadership and personal sacrifice. The work did not end when the news cameras left, when the emergency declarations expired or when the rest of the world began focusing on something else. It continued through the difficult, often invisible years when survivors were still trying to rebuild their lives.

There is a tendency to measure disaster recovery by what can be seen: houses rebuilt, roads repaired, businesses reopened and public facilities restored. But much of the work that makes those accomplishments possible happens behind the scenes. It is the phone calls, the conversations, the assistance distributed, the meetings attended, the paperwork navigated, the difficult discussions with government agencies and the countless hours spent helping someone else figure out what to do next.

Melanie has been part of that work along side me and countless others in the McKenzie Valley since the very beginning.

She has experienced the fire as a survivor, responded to it as a neighbor, worked through it as an advocate, and continued recovery efforts as a community leader and business owner.

She has helped distribute essential financial assistance, supported displaced families, worked with relief organizations, participated in housing and infrastructure planning, advocated for local businesses and devoted years to restoring a gathering place that means so much to Blue River.

None of this erases the personal cost. She lost her home, her family business and the community life that had existed before September 7, 2020. She has had to rebuild while simultaneously helping others navigate their own losses. Her work has unfolded alongside the same uncertainty, frustration and exhaustion experienced by the people she has spent years supporting.

Please understand in addition to ALL of this, she volunteered thousands of hours with our kids at football games, basketball games, volleyball games and track meets. Melanie did not have any children but she had so many kids. And she supported each and every one.

Six years after the Holiday Farm Fire, the recovery of the McKenzie Valley is still a work in progress. There are homes yet to be rebuilt, businesses still struggling, families who have not returned and community needs that remain unmet.

But there is also something that the fire did not destroy: the commitment of people who refused to let their community disappear.

Melanie's contribution cannot be measured solely by the projects she has helped advance or the organizations with which she has worked. It can also be measured in the families who received help when they needed it most, the neighbors who had someone to turn to, the survivors who found information and support, and the continued determination to make Blue River a place where future generations can live, work and belong.

The story of Melanie Stanley Brite is ultimately a story about what it means to show up for your community—not just in a moment of crisis, but for years afterward, when the work becomes harder, the progress becomes slower and the recognition becomes less frequent.

She was not simply rebuilding after the fire, she was working to preserve something far more important than buildings and businesses: the heart of the McKenzie Valley.

Thank you for the countless hours working alongside me, and thank you for your friendship. I will miss you Mel.

Jamee Savidge is a former community organizer who has served with the McKenzie Community Development Corp; as a disaster case manager, Cascade Relief Team; and as a Wildfire Housing Navigator in Lane County.

Return To Page 1

X-Country Coverage

Continued From Page 1

of improvements before finalizing his competition plans.

In subsequent discussions about how to address the disagreement, Richardson acknowledged the importance of accurate and fair reporting but questioned whether a confrontational response would serve the interests of the school, coach or track organization.

He expressed reluctance to "draw a line in the sand" over a disagreement that might be resolved through better communication.

As publisher of McKenzie River Reflections, I agree that emphasizing the absence of any intent to cause harm, while acknowledging the need for improved communication, would be more constructive than prolonging the disagreement.

Despite the disagreement, the superintendent emphasized that Culp has no opposition to the Old Mill Invitational or the MCTF organization.

Since the meet, McKenzie's cross-country team has used the improved trail for practice and has been pleased with the running surface.

School officials also expressed appreciation for the volunteers, donors and community members who have contributed to developing the Old Mill facility, emphasizing their desire to see the invitational continue to succeed.

For a project built largely through volunteer labor, donations and cooperation among community organizations, the controversy underscores the importance of keeping everyone informed as improvements proceed and events are planned.

While differences remain over how the school's participation was described, those involved appear to share a common goal: providing a quality athletic facility and competition opportunities for McKenzie students and visiting teams.

Better communication, rather than continued disagreement, may offer the most productive path toward that goal.

Return To Page 1

Invest in your business

Ads in McKenzie River Reflections are now tax-deductible in support of Civic Journalism.



The Civic Journalism mission of McKenzie River Reflections is approved, sponsored, and monitored by the Oregon Public Information Partnership, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created for people to make tax deductible contributions to independent Oregon community newspapers.

Go to tinyurl.com/25ahf3jx and click the "Donate" link for an online contribution.
Or mail a check to OPIP/McKenzie River Reflections Civic Journalism
P.O. Box 727, McMinnville, OR 97128

Reigniting prescribed burns on private land



Prescribed burns, such as one shown in Wallowa County, can range from less than one acre to thousands of acres at a time.

By Isobel Charle
Oregon News Service

Enthusiasm is growing among private landowners in Oregon to bring back the practice of prescribed burns, thanks in part to the work of Prescribed Burn Associations.

The associations are networks of landowners, community groups and forest agencies, working together to make burning more accessible.

Micah Schmidt, fire specialist for Oregon State University Extension, who helped establish the Northeast Oregon Prescribed Burn Association, said the groups help landowners overcome barriers, which can make prescribed burning difficult.

"We've got people real excited across the region to either burn on their land or to come help someone else burn. It's hard for landowners to implement a burn of meaningful size on their own, and so it's a way to build collective capacity, build community ownership, and put fire back into the hands of the people," Schmidt outlined.

Schmidt pointed out most people burn their land to reduce wildfire risk. Oregon land is adapted to burn every five to 20 years, helping to control invasive species and promote wildlife habitat. After Europeans colonized the area in the 19th century, Oregon largely banned prescribed burns, which Native Americans had practiced for millennia.

Peter Ferré, a private landowner in Wallowa County and supporter of the Northeast Oregon Prescribed Burn Association, just hosted a second prescribed burn on his property last week aimed at suppressing an invasive grass called medusahead rye. He emphasized working with a team on a burn is essential because there are many factors in planning, including carefully tracking the weather and wind speed.

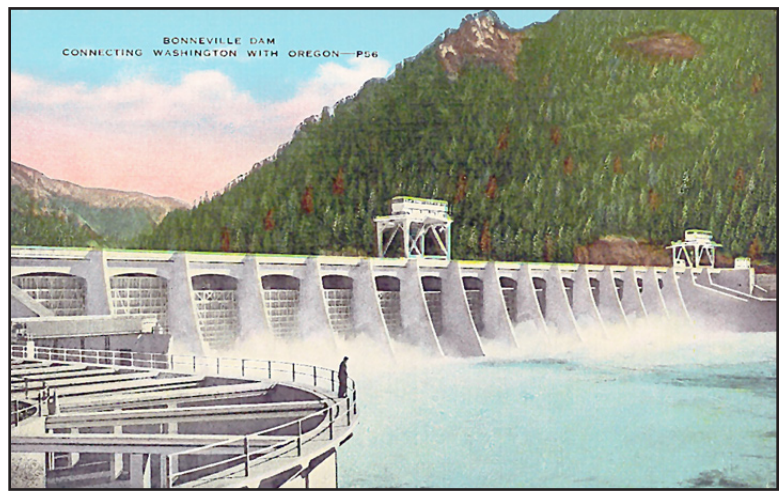
"You don't just go out and throw a match on the grass and hope it burns the right direction. There's so much detail in setting up the burn zone and having a certified burn manager write the plan," Ferré explained.

Ferré encouraged landowners who are interested in prescribed burns to first do their own research to understand how it could benefit their land. Then, he stressed, people should reach out to their regional wildfire specialist associated with the university to see if there is already a prescribed burn association in place to help.

publicnewsservice.org

Save the world?

Continued From Page 4



This postcard image of Bonneville Dam, viewed from the Washington side, comes from a hand-tinted postcard dating from circa 1945.

A few weeks later, he learned that the President had allocated $250,000 to "investigate the feasibility" of a dam at Bonneville. Instantly he knew that the 250 grand was kiss-off money — a little economic something attached to an empty promise to buy a little time so that Roosevelt and Ickes could move on with a minimum of drama.

Calling home to Oregon, he told McNary the showdown was at hand and asked him to return to Washington. Martin knew that he, a mere House member, had little pull in the White House; but McNary, as one of the 96 Senators who voted on Cabinet confirmations, would have a lot more clout. Reluctantly, McNary came, and the two of them essentially staged a sit-in in the White House until Roosevelt agreed to see them.

As predicted, Roosevelt purred that he'd allocated $250,000 to study the site, and if the results were favorable he'd for sure approve the dam — and just like that, Martin had him.

"Why, Mr. President," he exclaimed with well-faked surprise, pulling a folded document out of his pocket, "all that work has been done."

Roosevelt, after a moment of consternation, threw his arms up in the air and roared with laughter. He had been outplayed, and he knew it. The dam, he told the two, was a go — and congratulations.

By the time the dam was finished in 1938, it was clear that Ickes' concerns about overproduction were no longer valid. The answer for using all the surplus power, as it turned out, was aluminum. Aluminum production requires huge amounts of electricity to extract it from bauxite ore. And an America tooling up for a war that everyone knew was coming wanted all the aluminum it could get.

As you likely know, as the war went on America's output of war equipment — especially airplanes — got bigger each year until the hapless Axis powers were completely overwhelmed with hostile (to them) tanks, planes and artillery. By 1945 the output was staggering, and it was topped off with a pair of war-ending nuclear bombings in Japan. The two Columbia River dams played a key role — an irreplaceable role — in all these things.

The role of the aluminum plants is fairly obvious. But equally important to the outcome of the war, if not more so, was the Manhattan Project. It's no coincidence that Hanford, where the fissile matter for the bombs used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was made, is situated on the Columbia River near the dams — nuclear weapons research and production requires enormous amounts of electricity.

Now, perhaps these needs would have been sated without McNary and Martin's "unnecessary and superfluous" Bonneville Dam.

But also, perhaps — just perhaps — our production abilities would have fallen short of the challenge that was before us, and we would have lost the race to build nuclear weapons. The Germans were chillingly close to developing a working nuclear bomb when they were forced to surrender in 1945. Without all those aluminum airplanes flying over Germany and dropping bombs on factories and ore refineries, they might very well have gotten there first.

Or, perhaps — and this is actually a more likely scenario — perhaps no nuclear bomb would have been developed during the war. The U.S. Marine Corps, at tremendous cost to both sides, would have had to conquer Japan street by street. And the world would have been denied the graphic, undeniable demonstration of the horrors of nuclear war that was the world's gift and legacy from the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And consequently when the Cuban Missile Crisis came along in 1961 ... maybe Khrushchev or Kennedy would have pushed The Button ... and ended the world.

So, does that mean that the one man in Oregon politics who most resembles a cartoon supervillain actually saved the world from nuclear holocaust?

We'll never know for sure, but … there's a pretty good chance he did.

(Sources: Murrell, Gary. Iron Pants. Pullman, WA: WSU Press, 2000; Gulick, Bill. Roadside History of Oregon. Missoula: Mountain Press, 1991; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Publication EP870-1-42)

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

Return To Page 4



nother old postcard image, this one probably dating from before World War II, shows Bonneville Dam from the air.

We Buy Houses For Cash!
Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!
No Repairs. No Fuss.
Liz Buys HOUSES
• Fair Cash Offer • No House Repairs
• Quick Closing • Simple Home Sale
• No Realtor Fees • Convenient Closing Date
Call (866) 249-8679

CLOG-FREE GUARANTEED!
Gutter Shutter
LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
Contact us for a FREE ESTIMATE
FULL FINANCING AVAILABLE
844-240-0435

NO CLOG GUTTERS
FOR AS LOW AS
$80/month
No Deposit Required*
Credit and loans provided by Regions Bank d/b/a Enerbank USA, Member FDIC, (650 S. Main St., Suite 1000, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-2844) on approved credit, for a limited time. 8.99% to 15.99% fixed APR, subject to change. Minimum loan amounts apply. Interest starts accruing when funds are disbursed. Repayment terms vary from 12 to 144 months. Actual loan term may be shorter if less than the full approved amount of credit is used. First monthly loan payment due 30 days after funds are disbursed. The above listed payment is based upon a $5,000 line of credit, a 7-year term at 8.99% APR. Cannot be combined with and other offers or promotions.

Not sure why
BUSINESS IS SLOW?
OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND...
is not just a saying in business.
Advertise today and let your business be in sight and in the minds of potential customers
McKenzie River Reflections
rivref2@gmail.com 541-822-3358

Subscribe TODAY!
tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6

Trout Stocking Cuts

Continued From Page 1

For the McKenzie River Valley, where businesses and residents continue rebuilding following the Holiday Farm Fire, the potential loss of a substantial source of economic activity comes at a particularly difficult time.

A 2011 study conducted for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife detailed the importance anglers place on hatchery trout fishing in the McKenzie River.

The report surveyed 1,004 licensed Oregon anglers living within 20 miles of the river during February and March 2011.

It found that 78% of respondents supported stocking the McKenzie River with hatchery trout, while only 8% opposed the practice.

When asked about alternative management approaches, 65% supported continuing the existing stocking program without changes, while 60% favored stocking fewer but larger hatchery trout.

Proposals involving reductions in stocking received considerably less support.

The survey also found that 53% of trout anglers believed hatchery stocking made fishing on the McKenzie more enjoyable, as opposed to only 8% who said it reduced their enjoyment.

At the time, ODFW reported stocking approximately 131,000 hatchery trout annually in a 34-mile section of the mainstem McKenzie River. The remaining 44 miles were managed for wild trout, with catch-and-release requirements protecting wild fish throughout the river.

The study also found that hatchery stocking influenced participation for some anglers. Among those who had fished for trout on the McKenzie, 34% said large numbers of stocked trout encouraged them to fish more frequently, while 21% said insufficient hatchery trout reduced their participation.

Although those findings are now 15 years old and cannot establish current angler preferences, they provide evidence that hatchery stocking has been supported among licensed anglers.

The loss of stocking could affect expenditures for lodging, meals, fuel, groceries and other supplies, particularly during the summer tourism season when many rural businesses earn a substantial portion of their annual revenue.

Association members emphasized that the McKenzie Valley's economy remains vulnerable following the Holiday Farm Fire, making the potential loss of an established recreational attraction especially concerning.

Developing credible economic estimates is expected to be an important part of the Guides Association's efforts to demonstrate the broader consequences of federal funding reductions.

Association members also expressed frustration over what they described as inadequate communication with federal agencies regarding the potential reductions.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ODFW have discussed hatchery funding issues, but some believe fishing guides, local businesses and affected communities haven't been sufficiently involved.

Members also questioned whether eliminating trout production would produce savings proportional to the funding reductions.

Hatcheries have substantial fixed operating expenses, including staffing, utilities, maintenance and infrastructure. Reducing the number of fish produced would not necessarily eliminate those costs.

Questions were also raised about whether funding reductions could affect Chinook salmon and steelhead production, along with the availability of sufficient resources to continue to operate the Leaburg Hatchery and raise fish through 2028.

Association members warned that failing to secure funding in time could result in a lost production cycle, even if financial support is eventually restored.

The issue presents three interconnected challenges for the McKenzie Valley: maintaining an established recreational fishery, protecting tourism-related economic activity and ensuring that affected communities have a voice in federal funding decisions.

Return To Page 1

More than a third of western states' glacial cover has been lost since 1950s

300 have disappeared since the mid-20th century

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Seven western stat es, including Oregon, have lost more than one-third of their glacial cover since 1950 and more than 300 glaciers in those states have disappeared entirely as the earth has rapidly warmed, a first-of-its-kind inventory and analysis confirms.

Researchers at Portland State University and the U.S. Geological Survey built their findings on an earlier analysis that looked at the lost area and volume among 612 federally recognized glaciers in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming since 1950.



A view of glacier-clad peaks in Washington's North Cascades. Snow in Idaho, western Montana, the Washington Cascades and Snake River Basin melted two to five weeks earlier than normal in 2026, and in parts of the Oregon Cascades, mountain snowpack melted two months earlier than normal, according to Washington's state climatologist.

In that analysis, they found that 50 are no longer considered glaciers given their size and condition, including 25 in the Cascade Range and seven in Oregon. Geologists consider glaciers to cover at least 25 acres. And they found two federally recognized glaciers in Washington and Wyoming disappeared entirely.

Their latest study, recently published in the journal of the National Academy of Sciences, looks at size and volume data from 1,331 Western glaciers, not all federally recognized. It compares that data to historical USGS glacial mapping data recorded between 1950 and 1980.

In the 1950s, there were more than 1,450 glaciers across the West. Nearly one-quarter of the glaciers recorded in the mid 20th century are now gone, the researchers found.

The total glacier area in the West has shrunk by 35%, and volume has shrunk by 33%. The lost volume, if averaged across all remaining glaciers, would be equivalent to each of them dropping by 38 feet, according to Andrew Fountain, a Portland State University geology professor who led the study.

"These glacier losses are tangible evidence of continued climate warming," Fountain said in an email.

Global average temperatures have risen 2 degrees Fahrenheit since the 1850s due to humans burning fossil fuels that emit planet-warming greenhouse gases that get trapped in earth's atmosphere.

Most of the West's glaciers are in Washington state, and the glacial cover on Mount Rainier alone is larger than that of all the other states combined. Among the lower 48 states, Washington is home to 89% of the country's total volume of glaciers, but the Cascade range glaciers in Washington and Oregon have lost 13% of their volume in the last several decades. The Sierra Nevada mountains in California have lost 77% of their glacial volume.

Snowpack in the Northwest and in the Cascade Range, which acts as a reservoir during the summer months when there's little rain and many communities rely on snowmelt, is sitting at some of the lowest levels since record-keeping began in 1985.

"Smaller glaciers mean less flow of cold water to high alpine streams and riparian habitat, a critical source in the hot dry climate of late summer," Fountain said.

And last year, the region experienced its warmest fall on record, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Notice is hereby given that Lane County will hold a public meeting with opportunity for public testimony on TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026 at 9 a.m.
Lane County received federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for recovery from the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. $7.9 million of these funds were allocated for Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery (PIER) activities in the area of the Holiday Farm Fire. The Holiday Farm Fire Small Business Recovery Program was one of 6 projects chosen by the PIER Selection Committee. This program provided over $1,570,000 in grants to eleven businesses in the McKenzie River Valley that were directly impacted by the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire and had unmet, urgent needs as they worked to recover from the fire. During this Lane County Board of Commissioner's meeting, members of the community can hear a short presentation about the program and are provided an opportunity to give testimony or provide feedback about Lane County and Community Lending Works' performance during the project.

Meeting Details:
This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with in-person and remote call-in options at 9 a.m.
HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:
To attend the Board of Commissioners meeting in person:
The Board of Commissioners meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Lane County Public Service Building, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 at Harris Hall. Doors to Harris Hall open at 8:45 a.m. If you wish to participate in public comment in person, please make sure to sign up on the sign in sheet located by the entry door. Speakers will be taken in the order they sign up.
To register to speak virtually during public hearings:
Interested persons may also participate virtually in the public hearing by registering online at this link Zoom registration or at the County's website: www.lanecountyor.gov and searching for Board of Commissioners Agendas.
Public comment by email:
Written comments may also be submitted to the County by sending an email to publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov by no later than noon, the day before the scheduled meeting. In the email subject line please include: Public Comment for Meeting Date 11/17/2026.
To watch the live stream of the session without giving comment:
At this link: webcast or at www.lanecountyor.gov and searching for Board of Commissioners webcasts.
To request an accommodation, interpretation, or any other assistance contact the staff below. You may be eligible for free language services if you have limited English proficiency. Usted puede tener derecho a servicios linguísticos gratuitos si tiene un conocimiento limitado en inglés. Para más información, favor de comunicarse con:
Contact: Board Coordinator at (541) 682-3706 or publiccomment@lanecountyor.gov
If you have any questions about the Business Recovery Fund or Holiday Farm Fire Recovery, please contact: DisasterRecovery@lanecountyor.gov

PIER REOregon Recover · Rebuild · Revitalize community LendingWorks

Need to talk?
Call 988

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

Continued From Page 2

Baseball Coach Pat Casey, who used to tell his team to go out and "get-er-didit." The Eagles heard loud and clear. With the win, McKenzie earned a Mt. West League First Round playoff bid with Eugene Christian in Finn Rock on a friendly court.

McKenzie Defeats
Eugene Christian 3-2
Advances To Face
Triangle Lake

The 2026 Mt. West League Regular Season has concluded and league playoff tournaments all around the State are determining who will qualify for the OSAA 2026 State Volleyball Championships. McKenzie qualified to host a first round match at home versus Eugene Christian. The Eagles finished the Regular Season standings in fifth place at 8-8. Eugene Christian finished sixth with a 7-9 MWL record. Thus the Lions had to travel to Finn Rock to play the Eagles on Friday, October 23, for an elimination game. Winners advance, losers begin looking at basketball season a bit earlier.

The Lions roared into the Eagle gym and quickly showed that the King of the Beasts was to be reckoned with. The Eagles fell behind in the first set and then fell behind some more, digging themselves into a 19-3 hole that looked very bleak from the stands. That's when Nelli Sullivan took the serve and the Eagles found themselves crawling back to daylight. McKenzie went on a 8-0 run to purposely scare the Lions and help the Eagle fans find something to yell about.

With the score a more respectable 19-12, Eugene Christian regained the serve back and promptly fashioned a 6-0 run of their own to win the first set 25-12. The second set was much closer. The Eagles earned the first set point, but it was nip-tuck the rest of the set, with neither team willing to give up or earn more than a 2 point advantage.

The largest margin of points in the set was 5, when the Eagles earned a 16-11 advantage. But the Lions would continue to battle back, and finally, following several lead ties, the Eagles and the Lions found themselves in a 24-24 deadlock. Have to win by two and McKenzie did it with Ally Peak serving, Eagles 26, Lions 24.

Set three went back to the Lions, 25-20, both teams picking right up where they left off in the previous set. Back and forth and again, the Eagles managed to forge a 5-point advantage, 16-11, only to find themselves down by three, 20-17.

Eugene Christian wouldn't let any Eagle rally to get hot and closed the set out, but it weren't easy. Set four was do or die for the home team and once again, do they did. Another back and forth affair, the fans now getting used to it, the Eagles pulled the rabbit out of the hat, rallying behind the inspired play of their lone senior, Liliana Jones.

Jones had three aces while serving mid-set and had several kills/spikes throughout the set. The Eagles won 25-20.

That set up the fifth and deciding set, the match win going to the first team to put up 15 points and a margin of two. Down to the wire this one would go, neither team willing to give in or give up more than a two-point difference.

Well, Eugene Christian did hold an 8-5 and a 9-6 three point advantage in the middle of the set. That margin wouldn't happen again until in the end when the hometown Eagles earned the match victory with a 15-12 fifth set win. This was a good victory, earning McKenzie another match, this time with Triangle Lake on Saturday, October 24, in Junction City at the Mt. West League Tournament.

Eagle Volleyball Season Ends
In Junction City

The 2026 McKenzie Varsity Volleyball season concluded on a Saturday in the Semi-Finals of the Mt. West League Tournament. The Eagles, having defeated Eugene Christian the night before in a tough 3-2 match, earned a trip to Junction City High School to meet the Triangle Lake Lakers.

Triangle Lake finished the season fourth in the MWL standings with a 10-6 record, 11-6 overall, and had defeated McKenzie earlier in the season, 3-0, on September 22 and again 3-1 on October 20. Both matches however were hard fought right down to the wire and the Eagles left Finn Rock Saturday morning with high hopes.

In the first set at Junction City, with Ally Peek serving first, McKenzie started strong, scoring the first 3 points of the set before Triangle Lake broke the serve. The set was a back and forth affair as neither team could establish clear control right up to a 12 all scoreboard.

The Lakers' Kya Deering took her turn at the service line and with some help of her friends ran off a Laker 6-0 run. The Eagles stopped the run and Claire Weiss took the serve for McKenzie and a short rally ensued closing the gap to 18-15. But Triangle Lake held the rally and slowly built the lead to a 5 point margin, while the Eagles managed to score just 2 more points.

Set 1 score: Lakers 25, Eagles 17. Set 2, basic same story line.

The two green and gold teams stood toe-to-toe and slugged it out in the first half of the set, right up to a 10-10 tie score. The Eagles built a small lead through 15 points, but the Lakers fought back to tie it at 15. Wouldn't you know it, that's when Deering began serving once more and behind her the Lakers broke the set open for a 11-0 run, leading 23-15, before McKenzie could earn the service back.

Eagle senior Liliana Jones, in her last appearance as a McKenzie Varsity Volleyball player, took the serve and hit three aces while sparking her team to battle back in a 7-0 run of their own. With the score-clock showing 22-23, advantage Triangle Lake, the Lakers finally put a stop to all things Eagle and won the last two points to win the set, 25-20.

The third set started three minutes later and both teams continued to trade blows. The two rivals tied nine times on the way to a 12-all score.

The Lakers' Jenna Mooney was the first to gain ground on the other team while she was serving and Triangle Lake opened the set up to a 18-13 advantage. McKenzie once again came back to close the gap to 18-15, and finally to a 19 tie. Then a 20-20 tie, followed by a 21-all score.

But as in the first two sets, the Lakers found a way to pull out the stops and in this instance, Triangle Lake scored the final four points of the set to win 25-21.

The match win moved the Lakers into a match with Crow/Northwest Christian Academy, who lost 3-1 earlier in the day to Alsea. The Laker/Cougar match followed directly after this match and Crow defeated Triangle Lake, 3-1 (24-26, 26-24, 26-24, 25-20). That match earned Crow, the third seed out of the Mt. West League and a berth in the OSAA 2026 State Volleyball Tournament First Round.

The Cougars, 11-5, 14-7, ranked 28th, will travel for that First Round match, TBD. As for the Lakers, as with the Eagles, their season concludes with a 10-6 MWL record, 11-6 overall.

The Mt. West League Championship match featured the MWL Regular Season Champion, the Mohawk Mustangs versus the Alsea Wolverines, winners over the Crow/Northwest Christian Academy Cougars earlier in the day. Mohawk left no doubts as to who would represent the MWL as the top seed in the forthcoming OSAA 2026 State Volleyball Championships.

The Mustangs, 16-0, 22-5, ranked 13th, defeated the Wolverines 3-0 and earned a bye in the State's First Round playoffs. Alsea waits to find out the final State rankings, which decide who hosts and who travels. The Wolverines, 14-2, 16-10, were ranked 19th going into the weekend and at that ranking most likely will travel for their First Round match.

McKenzie's season came to a conclusion on Saturday. The Eagles finished the with a 8-8 MWL record, 11-14 overall, ranked 39th out of 58 Class 1A teams and earned two MWL playoff appearances.

McKenzie's Drake Finishes
25th At Umpqua Invite

Eagle Cross Country athlete, Zyla Drake brought home a 25th place finish she earned last Wednesday, October 21, at the Umpqua Invite, held at Stewart Park in Roseburg. Drake time of 21:31.20 minutes came from a field of 99 Varsity runners. Bandon's Jael Legutki won the Varsity Girls 5.000 meters in a time of 18:50.40 minutes and Addison Horning of North Bend finished runner-up in 18:55.00 minutes.

Roseburg won the team scores of the race with 92 points. Bandon finished second at 110 points. McKenzie's Cylas Sughroue, a sophomore, won his Junior Varsity 5,000 meters race with a time of 18:32.30 minutes. Ocean Santiago of St. Paul finished second in 18:38.80 minutes. Teammate Diego Gutierrez finished the race in 92nd place.

There were 97 runners in the race. Gutierrez's time was 27:51.10 minutes.

Zyla Drake Finishes In Top Ten
At 2A/1A-SD2 District 2
Championships

McKenzie junior Zyla Drake brought home an eighth place finish at the 2A/1A-SD2 District 2 Championships held October 29 at Cheadle Lake Park in Lebanon. Drake's time on the 5,000 meters course was 21:20.50 minutes, her second fastest time of the season.

Drake established her Personal Record time for 5,000 meters, 21:05.50 minutes, at the Champs Invite, also held at Cheadle Lake Park, on September 25, where she placed eleventh. Sixty-two athletes competed in the race, which determined who qualified for the OSAA State Cross Country Championships held at Lane Community College on Saturday, November 7.

Just two Class 1A girls athletes qualified as individuals (not associated with a full team) for the State Championships from Special District 2, Triangle Lake sophomore Austyn Hartwig (third place, 20:31.0 min.) and Eugene Christian freshman Scarlett Garber (fourth place, 20:32.30 min.). Class 2A SD-2 qualifiers include Central Linn junior Anya Griffith, the East Linn Christian team of Hadassah Albert, Erin Davey, Anna Henry, Morgan Lalonde, Maci Modderman, Allie Presley, and Ella Stutzman, and the Regis team of Calista Anglin, Cassidy Anglin, Paisley Heuberger, Brynn Keudell, Frankie Koehnke, Carli Stellijes, Kate Stellijes.

In the 1A/2A Varsity Boys 5,000 meters SD-2 Championships, McKenzie sophomore Cylas Sughroue finished thirty-seventh out of ninety-one runners. Sughroue's time was 19:02.30 minutes and the Eagle did not qualify for the State meet.

Qualifying as a SD-2 individual is Boston Brown of Delphian High School. SD-2 team members qualifying for the State Meet at LCC are Crosshill Christian's Blake Bernard, Caeden Gregg, Daniel Latik, Jeremiah Stucker, Noah Tedrow, Liam Whitney, and Easton Zorn, Regis' Jaeger Aidan, Hank Foltz, Stuart McLaughlin, Elias Piercy, Harper Stoops, Ben Valladares, and Emmett Wagenaar, and Western Christian's Troy Bradley, Liam Erion, Zeb Harris, Micah Holcomb, Cade Kravitz, Anderson Popp, and Hyunseo Yang.

Elkton Scores Early,
Scores Often
Number 1 Elks Dominate
Eagles, 54-20

Last Friday afternoon was a pleasant day down on the South Umpqua, mostly cloudy, some appreciated sun moments, and just a bit of showers. Enough to keep the dust down. It was also Senior Day at the Elkton Elks football field.

You remember, that green old school field sandwiched between the Umpqua River and State Highway 38? The same one that still has not added field lights, most likely due to the highway's proximity and where the vehicles passing by still honk their horns while passing during the game. And you might have fond memories of Arlene's Cafe and General Store downtown, which had been around for, well, longer than most of us remember. Oh, and by the by, Elkton currently has the State's number one ranked, undefeated (9-0) Six-Man Football team. More specifically, the only undefeated six-man team remaining.

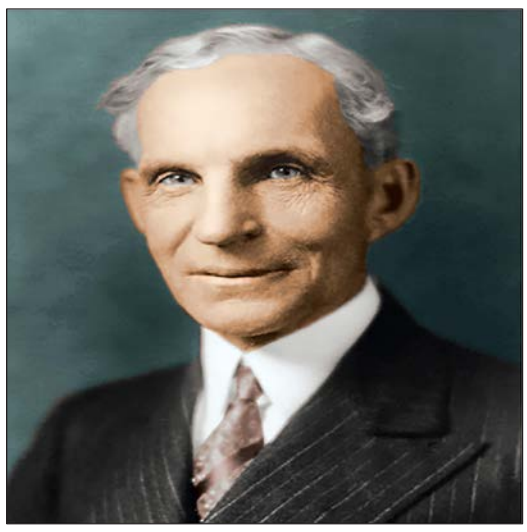
That's where McKenzie traveled last Friday for both teams final Regular Season game. And that's where the Eagles, 1-5, 2-7, played their final game of the 2026 season.

Elkton, good hosts that they were, made certain of the outcome by routing the visitors 54-20. The Elks scored first with 6:51 on the First Quarter score-clock. Center Wyatt Rollefson hauled in a pass-left for the TD and the Elks converted the PAT for the 7-0 lead. McKenzie had to punt (a stunted 8-yard punt) on it's first possession and Elkton converted the great field position with another TD pitch run by running back Talon Harvey. Add the PAT.

Continued On Page 16

"A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time."

Henry Ford



Advertising is an integral part of a successful business. It is not enough to have a good internal operation. Let people know you want their business by making the "McKenzie Connection."

Advertise your goods and services in River Reflections and show your neighbors you support your local community.

McKenzie River Reflections

rivref2@gmail.com 541-822-3358

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

Continued From Page 15

Score-clock: 4:25, Elks 14, Eagles 0. But the Eagles didn't bend in this quarter, roaring back on a 47-yard TD scamper by freshman wide receiver/running back Owen Acevedo. The Eagles converted the PAT with a hand-off to Jacob Norlund and we had a game with 2:42 minutes showing in the opening quarter.

The Elks stamped down any thoughts of upset however, taking the next opportunity to score and doing just that by hitting pay dirt off a pitch to their QB, Carson Peters. Throw in a 2-point PAT kick and Elkton was fully in charge, off and running and ahead in one quarter of play, 22-7.

The home town team added two more aerial touchdowns early in the Second Quarter and capped off that said quarter with a rushing TD, and before you could say "hold on." Elkton fans were looking at their calendars to see about the post season possibilities. Halftime score: Elkton 41, McKenzie 7.

The Third Quarter saw the Eagles return the field from the halftime locker-room with some fire in their bellies and the McKenzie defense held the vaunted Elk offense through the first half of the quarter. With 4:43 remaining in the third, McKenzie took over on downs. Eagle running back Liam Acevedo gained a first down on a 18-yard left side pitch and he followed with a 4-yard carry on the next series of downs. Fellow running back Jacob Norlund carried for a 7-yard gain on 3rd and 10, but a 10-yard holding penalty set the Eagles back with a 4th and 13.

Norlund took the next hand off on a nifty 39 yard touchdown scamper that had Eagle fans whooping and hollering. The PAT pass attempt failed and the score clock was re-set to 41-13, advantage Elks. But somebody left the gates open and the Elks found a way to run through, this time on a 61-yard back breaker run off a fake pass play and with just 1:45 remaining in the third quarter, Elkton was in charge at 47-13.

The Fourth Quarter had barely started, 9:29, when Elkton scored what would be their final tally on Senior Day along the Umpqua. Elk's running back Gavin Skinner ran untouched 65 yards to the end-zone and while the Eagles were looking for some help from the yellow hanky crew, it didn't come and with a good PAT, the Elks ensured the rout was on, 54-13.

Good for the Eagles. Despite the known outcome, the Boys from Finn Rock didn't give up. Liam Acevedo took the Elkton kickoff and returned it 15 yards. A long pass reception from Eagle QB Hayden Kumle to his wide receiver Fen Willis complicated by a Eagle fumble (by Willis) recovery found the McKenzie Eagles sitting at Elkton's 35 yard line, 1st and 15.

A first down pass in-completion was followed by a 28-yard pass completion to Willis setting up a 1st and goal at the Elk's 8-yard line. A first down pass incomplete to Norlund was followed by a TD pass completion back to Willis. The PAT run was good thanks to Eagle lineman Brennon Quesada and with 2:40 left in the game, the Eagles found some hope, for next season.

That's the way the afternoon played out down South last Friday along the banks of the Umpqua.

McKenzie's Jones, Peek and Sullivan Earn MWL Honors

McKenzie's Liliana Jones earned a Mt. West League First Team All League award to cap off her fine senior volleyball season. Jones, a team Captain and Middle Blocker, was joined by Eagle sophomore Setter Ally Peek, the other team Captain, who was honored with a Third Team All League award and sophomore Right-Side Hitter/Setter Nelli Sullivan, who was named to the MWL Honorable Mention All League team.

Mt. West League Volleyball Streak Continues Unfortunately!

For the ninth season in a row, the Mt. West League will not be represented in the OSAA State Championship Quarterfinals, held at Eastern Oregon University on November 6,7. The last season a Mt. West League team negotiated the Round 1 and 2 playoff brackets, earning a berth in the Final Eight teams standing, was the Eagles of McKenzie, back in 2017. That season, McKenzie, sixth ranked, fell to the third ranked Crosshill Christian Eagles 3-1, in the Quarterfinals and to South Wasco County, 3-0, in the Consolation Semi-Finals.

This year, Mohawk won the Mt. West League Regular Season Title and the MWL Tournament, posting a 23-6 overall record, 16-0 in MWL play and entered the post season with an 11th OSAA Class 1A ranking. The Mustangs represented the MWL as the top seed in the OSAA playoffs, hosting a First Round playoff match with Willamette Valley Christian.

Mohawk won the match in three sets, 25-16, 25-13, and 25-14 and advanced to the Second Round to meet the 6th ranked Joseph Eagles. Joseph dominated the match, sending the Mustangs to basketball season earlier than hoped for, winning the three sets, 25-11, 25-12, and 25-14.

The 20th ranked Alsea Wolverines didn't make it out of the First Round road match up with Spray/Mitchell/Wheeler, 13th ranked, losing in three sets, 25-10, 25-15, and 25-16. Alsea was the second seeded team out of the Mt. West League.

Crow/Northwest Christian Academy earned the last and third seed representing the Mt. West League and as the 27th ranked team, they traveled North to Damascus Christian, who finished the season boasting a OSAA 5th ranking. The Eagles of Damascus Christian routed the Cougars in three sets, 25-10, 25-14, and 25-9.

2026 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union 1A Girls Volleyball State Championship

The field is set and let the fun begin. The final eight teams qualifying for and vying for the 2026 State Championship Class 1A Girls Volleyball trophy are on the books and smoothing out any wrinkles prior to the weekend's deciding matches. This season, four leagues made the grade with teams representing, the Valley 10, the Mt. Valley, the Big Sky, and the Old Oregon leagues. The Mt. West, the Skyline, the Casco, and the High Desert leagues are stuck on the sidelines or getting an early start on their basketball seasons, the latter would have to be student led initiatives as official first practice date isn't until November 16.

The official OSAA brackets list 9th ranked Open Door Christian Academy, 21-4, (Valley 10) meeting top-ranked Central Christian, 23-4 (Mt. Valley) in the opening Quarterfinal game on November 6. Following is 5th ranked Damascus Christian, 21-4 (Valley 10) versus 4th ranked North Lake, 17-5 (Mt. Valley). Next is Joseph, 6th ranked, 25-4 (Old Oregon) toeing up to 3rd ranked Sherman, 21-3 (Big Sky). And the last game of the day will be 7th ranked Echo, 21-7 (Old Oregon) facing 2nd ranked Dufur, 21-3 (Big Sky).

Six-Man State Football Brackets Posted

The post-season gridiron fun is set and ready! Beginning on Friday, November 6, when the kickoffs are for all the marbles and the pending Road to Wherever The Final Game is Decided is considered seriously, the first step toward Home Town Football Immortality will be taken.

Two six-man football games commence on Nov. 6 for Round 1. First kickoff is down in Days Creek, where the 7th ranked Wolves host the 10th ranked Eagles of Eddyville Charter at 2:00 pm, if you happen to be in the area.

Later in the evening further up North, the second game is scheduled for a 7:00 pm kickoff on the field of host, Triangle Lake, which is 8th ranked. The Lakers are hosting 9th ranked Dayville/Monument/Long Creek and with good planning and a fast vehicle, you could make it a twofer on the day.

Waiting in the wings, better known as the Quarterfinals, is the State's top ranked team, the Elkton Elks, who will host the winner of the Triangle Lake-Dayville/Monument/Long Creek game. That contest will take place on Friday, November 13. Crow, the State's 5th ranked team travels to Ione/Arlington, which is 4th ranked. Jordan Valley, 3rd ranked, will host North Lake, which sports a 6th ranking.

And down at the bottom of the bracket, but certainly no slouch, the 2nd ranked Griswold Grizzlies are sharpening their claws and polishing their ivories in anticipation of entertaining the winner of the Eddyville Charter-Days Creek battle.

Quarterfinal winners will meet on Saturday, November 21 and the State Championship Title will be decided on Saturday, November 28.

Return To Page 2





Tired of the confusion, the crowds, traffic, and other drivers? Feel worn out before you've even started? There's an easy way to avoid the stress produced by cockeyed street signs, no parking zones, and uninformed sales people.

Whenever you can, shop at home first. The more you can, the more you'll find our friendly hometown merchants probably had what you wanted anyway. Give yourself a break - and the time to enjoy life's simple pleasures ....

McKenzie River Reflections