



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

### West's first newspapers

The Flumgudgeon Gazette and Bumble Bee Budget first appeared in the spring of 1844

**PAGE 4**

### Thinking of Christmas?

Chocolate dipped fruits are an easy, tasty dessert for tree trimming and gift-wrapping sessions

**PAGE 5**



## Night lights



People had an opportunity to see some Holiday Lights brighten the night this weekend. Upriver on Saturday, a flotilla of decorated rafts passed through McKenzie Bridge and Rainbow.

Downstream the surface of Leaburg Lake mirrored the glow from a crew of drift boats as twilight set in Sunday night.

To view videos of both events, go to: [tinyurl.com/2p95vufp](https://tinyurl.com/2p95vufp)



## Shopping yet?



Wondering what to get for family and friends who love the outdoors—the birder, hiker, aspiring angler, avid hunter or neighbor who cares deeply about conservation? Here's two gift ideas that can get them outdoors the entire year while contribute to conserving fish, wildlife and their habitats.

A Waterway Access Permit (\$19 for annual) is a great gift for those who have a paddle craft over 10 feet long, including pontoon boats, kayaks and paddleboards. The permit is required for paddlecraft (SUPs, rafts, drift boats, kayaks, canoes, etc.) and sailboats under 12 feet. Fees support the aquatic invasive species prevention program and grants for boating facilities. Purchase via guest checkout (under General Category), no account required and it's transferable so write the recipient's name in customer info. [Shopping - Page 9](#)

## \$18.5 million dam removal contract okayed

### Eugene Water & Electric approves 10-year oversight of Leaburg hydro



John Barofsky, EWEB vice president, said the vote made clear the utility was making "great steps forward."

EUGENE: In a vote that "is starting to get real," the Eugene Water & Electric Board voted last week to engage McMillen, Inc. to provide consultant support for its Leaburg Decommissioning Program. Adding to his initial take on the action, board vice president John Barofsky noted that "when you start budgeting \$18 million, I kinda get a good feel of what this is entailing."

Portland-based McMillen was behind the nation's largest dam decommissioning project ever—the decommissioning of the dams on the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California. According to a utility press release, "that experience pushed McMillen to the top of EWEB's competitive public purchasing process. Specifically, McMillen's high-scoring proposal highlighted its experience with decommissioning hydropower projects overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)."

At the meeting, EWEB generation manager Lisa Krentz said the \$1.8 million contract with McMillen "offered a lot of flexibility" to bring in outside support. "Their [\\$18.5 million contract - Page 12](#)

## Boards meet after recall election

### Water Board certifies county results, Park Board lacked a quorum

BLUE RIVER: Last week, the Blue River Water/Sanitation and Park District boards held back-to-back meetings that covered several key administrative and operational matters. During the first, the water board discussed board recruitment processes with guidance from Mark Knudson of the Special Districts Association of Oregon. They also addressed representation on the Three Sisters Meadow Committee and nominated Terry Herndon as their representative.

The board also handled various housekeeping matters, including mail collection responsibilities and key holder assignments.

They discussed the removal of consultants Merrick Firestone and Tim Laue and voted on certifying Tony Casaad's recall in the November 5th election. Updates were provided on the new water system project, plans for a town hall meeting in January, and the completion of work on the well house.

The meeting also covered financial matters, insurance renewal preparations, and bill payments. Updates on the status of the area's infrastructure included well registration compliance and repairs to flow meters.

At the start of the Blue River Park Board meeting, interim chair Jim Parks noted that they lacked



Terry Herndon, left, and Jim Parks, along with Melanie Brite, serve on the Blue River Water Board.

a quorum and couldn't vote on agenda items. He reported that sanitation authorities had determined they wouldn't use the park

for a community drain field due to the site's high water table. The park's financial state remains stable, with [Boards meet - Page 9](#)

## Back home before winter

### Close to a dozen families will have a real roof over their heads

VIDA: It's estimated that the Rufous Hummingbird most Oregonians are used



Robert Campbell and granddaughter Cassidy outside his new home.

to seeing travels about 4,000 miles on their annual migration to winter in Mexico. But two apparently had somewhere special to be locally when one then another chose to land on Robert Campbell.

"After the fire, I didn't know if I could go through a rebuild or not or restore what was here," he recalls. "And the hummingbirds came. One sat on each of my hands. A couple more buzzed around me." It was then he decided, "We're staying. We're staying for them."

Campbell, 73, lost his home in the Holiday Farm Fire. Over the following four years, from 2020 onwards, he lived in an RV. That changed last month, thanks to a program backed by Lane County and the McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group (MVLTRG). It provided nearly a dozen new manufactured homes in the McKenzie River Valley for families devastated by the Holiday Farm Fire.

One replacement home arrived in May, followed by three more in September. Two more homes are

[Home again - Page 13](#)

# Guest Opinion

## Forests will burn but then logging them right after delays recovery

By Casey Kulla

The fires that burned down the Santiam Canyon over Labor Day weekend in 2020 were a disaster for the communities from Idanha all the way to Stayton. Recovery started right away, but rebuilding homes and public infrastructure has been tragically slow, delaying the healing of the community.

Likewise in the burned forests; healing started right away, but logging those burned forests delayed healing.

Oregon forests — from the coast to high desert — need fire to be healthy. When those Labor Day fires swept through on the force of a hot, dry and very fast wind, the forests didn't stand a chance. That's because forests in Oregon burn. When we tend a forest, log it or choose not to tend it, we accept (maybe unconsciously or without really thinking about it) that there's a chance it will burn. Sure, when the fire does come, it might burn bright and consume everything or it might burn with a light touch, knowing it will come back again.

We even try to stop the fires. But the forest will burn.

It is what happens in the forest afterwards that's up to us. A post-fire forest is still a forest; it still does stuff. And it can and will regrow as the forest that it needs to be, if we let the forest be. That means not logging it.

But in many Oregon forests, the fire-killed and fire-damaged trees get logged just when the for-

est needs them in order to heal. It is like peeling off a scab too early; we punch in roads, cut vast swathes of trees and take the root stock of a future forest just when the forest needs snags, conifers seeds, downed wood on the forest floor and trees crashing into streams. Dead trees are food for bugs, while bugs are food for woodpeckers that rely upon the fire-killed forest. Dead trees are food for the forest, too, standing as shade for emerging tree seedlings, falling as slow-rotting, moisture-holding wood for the forest floor, and tumbling into streams as homes for fish and water-living insects. There is tremendous life in a fire-killed forest.

We log when we need to let the woodpeckers, ants, butterflies, flowers and seedlings do their work. We have to let the forest heal after fire, and that means keeping the trees. In fact, it is harder for trees themselves to grow on these denuded lands with hotter, drier soils and fewer seed trees present.

It is going to take a lot longer for Santiam Canyon forests to heal after the 2020 wildfires because fire-damaged trees were logged on private, state and federal forests. Much of Monument Peak and surrounding private forestland was mowed clean off by logging after fire. Wide swathes of forest on either side of gated roads in the Mount Hood National Forest on the north side of Oregon 22 continue to be logged after a fire in the name of safety.

The Santiam State Forest was logged by the state Department of Forestry, where snags have been replaced by blackberries and



### Briefs...

Scotch broom.

Rather than healing, those forests that have been logged too soon now adorn the underside of Portland Airport's glorious new terminal, holding up the roof as Mass Plywood Panels made by Freres Lumber, plywood that was named coolest new product in Oregon in 2023. Oregonians traveling inadvertently pay for that degraded forest as we walk under that beautiful roof to and from our plane travels.

While the federal government primarily logs wildfire-killed trees along forest roads, the Forest Service may expand this logging to more of our forests. The North-

[Continued On Page 12](#)

## McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

### McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams travel to Lowell on Thursday, December 12. The Boys Junior Varsity game will start at 4:30 pm, the Girls Varsity game tips off at 6:00 pm and the Boys Varsity game will start at 7:30 pm.

The Eagle Boys travel to Gold Beach on Friday, December 13. A JV game is scheduled at 5:30 pm and the Varsity game is scheduled for a 7:00 pm start.

McKenzie Boys play at Myrtle Point on Saturday, December 14, with a JV game set for 1:00 pm and a Varsity Boys game following at 2:30 pm.

The McKenzie teams host Chiloquin on Tuesday, December 17. The Girls Varsity game will start at 5:00 pm and the Boys Varsity will tip off at 6:30 pm.

### Eagles Scrappy In Oakridge Opener

The McKenzie Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball teams lost their respective opening games of the 2024-25 season last Wednesday, December 4, against visiting Oakridge. The Eagle Girls lost 35-50 and the McKenzie Boys dropped their game 52-63. But both Eagle teams fought and scratched and found a way to keep the fans engaged in positive vocal and foot stomping support.

The Oakridge girls, led by junior guard, Alejandra Arellano, jumped out to a 20-3 first quarter advantage and the Warriors extended the margin to 32-20 at the halftime break. But the persistent and quick (and sometimes wild) slicing drives of Eagle guards Liliana Jones and Claire Weiss kept the Warrior defense on their heels.

McKenzie's offense didn't feature any effective outside shooting (no 3 point attempts) and their shooting percentage for the game was an anemic 18% (15 made out of 85 attempts). But the lanes were open courtesy of the flatfooted Warrior defense and the Eagles took advantage closing the gap in the third quarter and finishing the period just nine

down, 28-39.

McKenzie sophomore guard, Liliana Jones, had a night, scoring 26 points, hauling in 10 rebounds and recording 8 steals, for her first double double of the new season. But over on the other side of the court, the Warriors countered with #22, Arellano, who scored 24 points. Unfortunately for McKenzie, only two other Eagle players scored, Weiss with 5 points (and 8 rebounds) and post Linn Goette, who finished with 4 points.

Goette was a force inside the paint, however, grabbing a game high 15 rebounds. Oakridge, on the other hand, spread their scoring around as forward Brooklyn Anderson added 11 points, post Emmalee Ross added 4 points, guard Allisa Wygle finished with 3 points, and Lola Meska, Aureliah Schroeder, and Nicole Slabaugh each scored 2 points.

The McKenzie Boys painted a similar game portrait as their lady colleagues in that they played an up-tempo pace, slicing into the paint for forced shots that fell in 37% of the time. Oakridge's shot attempts, however, found the bottom of the net more often.

[Continued On Page 12](#)

**TALK IS CHEAP. LOCAL NEWS IS VALUABLE.**

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

That's where we come in. Like you, we live and work here, and we're invested in our community's successes and challenges. That means fully and fairly reporting on the events in our backyard, but also providing an overall news report with a hometown perspective.

At a time of polarization and pandering, we stay out of the fray. We're committed to the local coverage that matters most: Education. The economy. Health care. Public safety. Sports and the arts. And above all else, government accountability.

Support local news. It's the good stuff.

**FREE SPEECH CENTER**

**McKenzie River Reflections**

Phone (541) 822-3358 FAX (541) 663-4550  
MAILING ADDRESS: 59059 Old McKenzie Hwy.  
McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413  
rivref2@gmail.com  
Publisher - Ken Engelman

**To subscribe go to: [tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6](https://tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6)**

© 2024 MCKENZIE RIVER REFLECTIONS

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this publication, advertising copy or any part thereof in any form, including digital and artistic duplication of photos, maps, graphics, advertisements, or text - except for the inclusion of quotations in a review - without written permission of the publisher. Under no circumstances is permission granted to use this content in any artificial-intelligence-related endeavor, including "training."

**Member** FORJ

Local Independent Online News For Oregon Rural Journalism

Friday 12/13		Saturday 12/14		Sunday 12/15	
<b>McKenzie Valley</b> PM Rain 80% chance precip High: 45 Low: 43	<b>Santiam Pass</b> PM Snow 70% chance precip High: 34 Low: 29	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Rain 70% chance precip High: 49 Low: 41	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Snow 80% chance precip High: 35 Low: 25	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Showers 60% chance precip High: 46 Low: 38	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Snow 70% chance precip High: 32 Low: 24

### WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/3	31	46	0	539 cfs	12/3	NA	NA	NA	NA
12/4	33	48	0	484 cfs	12/4	NA	NA	NA	NA
12/5	32	47	0	NA	12/5	NA	NA	NA	NA
5/6	33	48	0	NA	12/6	NA	NA	NA	NA
12/7	35	47	0.28	564 cfs	12/7	NA	NA	NA	NA
12/8	37	43	0.10	577 cfs	12/8	NA	NA	NA	NA
12/9	31	42	0	584 cfs	12/9	NA	NA	NA	NA

# Sheriff's Report

**Dec. 2: 9:56 a.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 36600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**10:08 a.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - Leaburg Dam Rd.

**10:17 a.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - 45300 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**6:49 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 37900 blk, Shenandoah Lp. Deputies contacted complainants by phone regarding a verbal dispute. The parties separated for the night.

**Dec. 3: 2:49 p.m:** Restraining Order Service - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**3:13 p.m:** Drug Overdose - 56400 blk, N. Bank Rd.

**3:59 p.m:** Civil Service - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**Dec. 5: 11:25 a.m:** Subpoena Service - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

**6:25 p.m:** Welfare Check - 8300 blk, Thurston Rd.

**Dec. 6: 6:45 a.m:** Alarm - 45600 blk, N. gate Creek Rd.

**1:29 p.m:** Civil Service - 49200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:26 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 54500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**10:37 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - Shotgun Creek Rd.

**Dec. 7: 12:33 a.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - McGowan Quarry. Deputies were searching for a

vehicle driving recklessly in the area. The vehicle fled, then stopped after dumping a load of pallets at a staging area. The driver was cited, and picked up the pallets.

**1:31 a.m:** Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd.

**11:13 a.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 46700 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

**11:47 a.m:** Theft of Mail - 49500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:32 p.m:** Gunshot Wound - 88800 blk, Twin Firs Rd. A male accidentally discharged a firearm at a residence in the area, injuring another person, who survived. The case is being referred to the District Attorney's office.

**Dec. 9: 9:06 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 190000 blk, Marcola Rd.

**2:38 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - Blue River Reservoir Rd.

**4:03 p.m:** Civil Service - 8600 blk, Thurston Rd.

**5:41 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

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

# State Police Report

**Dec. 5: 17:12:** Towed Vehicle, Abandoned/Hazard - Clear Lake

Cutoff, Milepost 9. A white Sprinter van was involved in a crash earlier in the day. The van was previously called in and had been cleared. It was still present in the afternoon. A trooper responded and found the van unsecured with a large amount of packages inside. The van was unable to be secured on the scene. A towing company was called under community caretaking as the vehicle had a high likelihood of theft. Tow refused to respond until after 12 hours of being called. Vehicle was scheduled to be towed after 8 a.m. on 12/6/24.

**Dec. 6: 23:31:** Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 7. Trooper observed a vehicle that crashed into cable barrier. The driver exhibited signs of impairment, consented to Field Sobriety Tests. The driver was taken unto custody without incident and subsequently transported to Lane County Adult Corrections where he provided a BAC of .12%. The driver was cited and released in lieu of custody for DUII, Reckless Driving and Reckless Endangering a Person. The crashed Camry was towed as a hazard and community caretaking. Involved: 21-year-old male from Beaverton.

**Dec. 9: 10:39:** Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy.126E, Mp. 35. Dispatched to a report of a non-injury cold crash. The complainant stated that his girlfriend's mother left the roadway for unknown reasons, striking a mailbox and fence. The complainant called for their own tow. Involved: white

Nissan Extra, 77-year-old female from Vida.

**13:58:** Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, Mp. 13. A red Honda CRV was attempting to make a left hand turn onto an address when a black Ford Edge attempted to pass the vehicle, striking it on the driver's side. The red Honda was driveable and the driver of the Ford called for a tow. Involved: 78-year-old male, 28-year-old female.

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Dec. 2: 7:36:** McK. Hwy./Goodpasture Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident - Blocking/Non-Injury.

**10:10:** McK. Hwy. Milepost 27. Public Assist. Investigate, Refer to OSP/ODOT.

**10:19:** 41400 block. McK. Hwy. Fire Alarm. False Alarm.

**14:16:** 88000 blk, Tiki Ln. Assist Police. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**Dec. 3: 14:41:** 35000 blk, blk Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**16:58:** 41000 blk, blk McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Lift Assist Only.

**Dec, 4: 7:27:** 39000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Assist Medic.

**22:40:** McK. Hwy. Mp.36. Brush, Fire. Authorized Burn.

**Dec. 5: 3:04:** 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Brush, Fire. Controlled Pile.

**Dec. 6: 2:06:** 9000 blk,

Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded On Scene.

**23:55:** 45000 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Dec. 7:** 91000 blk, McBride Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**14:30:** 88000 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Assist Police. 1 Transported.

[Continued On Page 9](#)

# Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Dec. 3: 15:07:** Medical - 56000 block, N. Bank Rd. Female, Not Conscious, Breathing status uncertain.

**Dec. 4: 22:35:** Brush Fire - McK. Hwy./Milepost 36. Slash pile raining ash in neighborhood. Caller reports about a car sized pile.

**Dec. 5: 13:21:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Clear Lake Cutoff/Mp.10. Vehicle crash, declining medical.

**14:41:** Medical - 56000 blk, McK. Hwy./Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Dec. 7: 08:41:** Medical - 91000 blk, McBride Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Dec. 10: 15:58:** Medical - 51000 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller saw a female fall in driveway, did not stop.

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

# HOBBYIST DREAM!



Enjoy this peaceful, private, and quiet location bordered by National Forest. Features two large separate studio/art family room spaces.

2496 sq. ft. \* .94 Acre \* 160' of McKenzie River Frontage  
\* Workshop \* Pellet stove with river rock surround \*  
Ductless heat \* Guest suite potential \* \$649,500



**Deborah Willhite**  
(541) 912-1523  
Principal Broker

**Austin Willhite**  
(541) 954-8202  
Broker

WillhiteRE@gmail.com ~ www.McKenzieHomes.com

Want to sell your home for top dollar?  
Ask me how!

**Kelly Gustafson, BROKER**

541.799.4398 Direct | KellyG@bhhsnwrep.com

## MCKENZIE HOMES & LAND

SEAMLESS BUYING AND SELLING EXPERIENCE

VIEW FEATURED PROPERTIES

**Judy Casad**  
WINDERMERE REAL ESTATE/LANE COUNTY  
BROKER | LUXURY ADVISOR  
judy@windermere.com  
www.judycasad.com  
(541) 968-2400

ABR | SRES | Top Producer  
Certified Negotiator | Podcast Host  
HOMEOWNERS BEST REAL ESTATE MOVES

<https://bit.ly/Featured-Casad>

**Windermere**  
REAL ESTATE

All in, for you.

# Look for the Blue

# It will talk to you!

Click on articles that begin with blue highlighted text - it will take you to our Audio Reader

Click here:



Listen to this article now  
Powered by **Trinity Audio**  
00:00



MOVE TO A PLACE THAT MOVES YOU

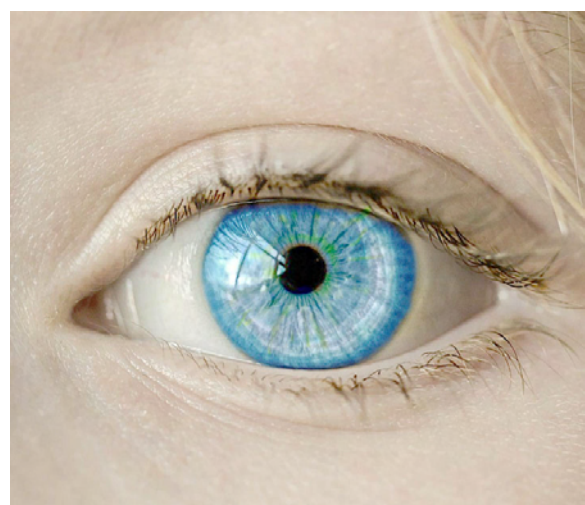


McKenzie River Specialist  
Exceeding Expectations  
**Nadine Scott, broker**  
Top Producer at  
Windermere Real Estate since 2010\*  
541-915-0807  
nadine@windermere.com  
nadinescott.com



\* based on Windermere's annual Top Producers List

**Need to talk?  
Call 988**



# In west's first newspaper, every copy was written out longhand

By Finn J.D. John

It's widely known that the first newspaper west of the Mississippi River was the short-lived Oregon Spectator, which published its first issue on Feb. 5, 1846.

But that's only true if you define "newspaper" very narrowly. In truth, there was an earlier publication that met every definition of a newspaper but one ... specifically, it was "printed" by hand, every copy, with pen and ink — longhand. No printing press was involved.

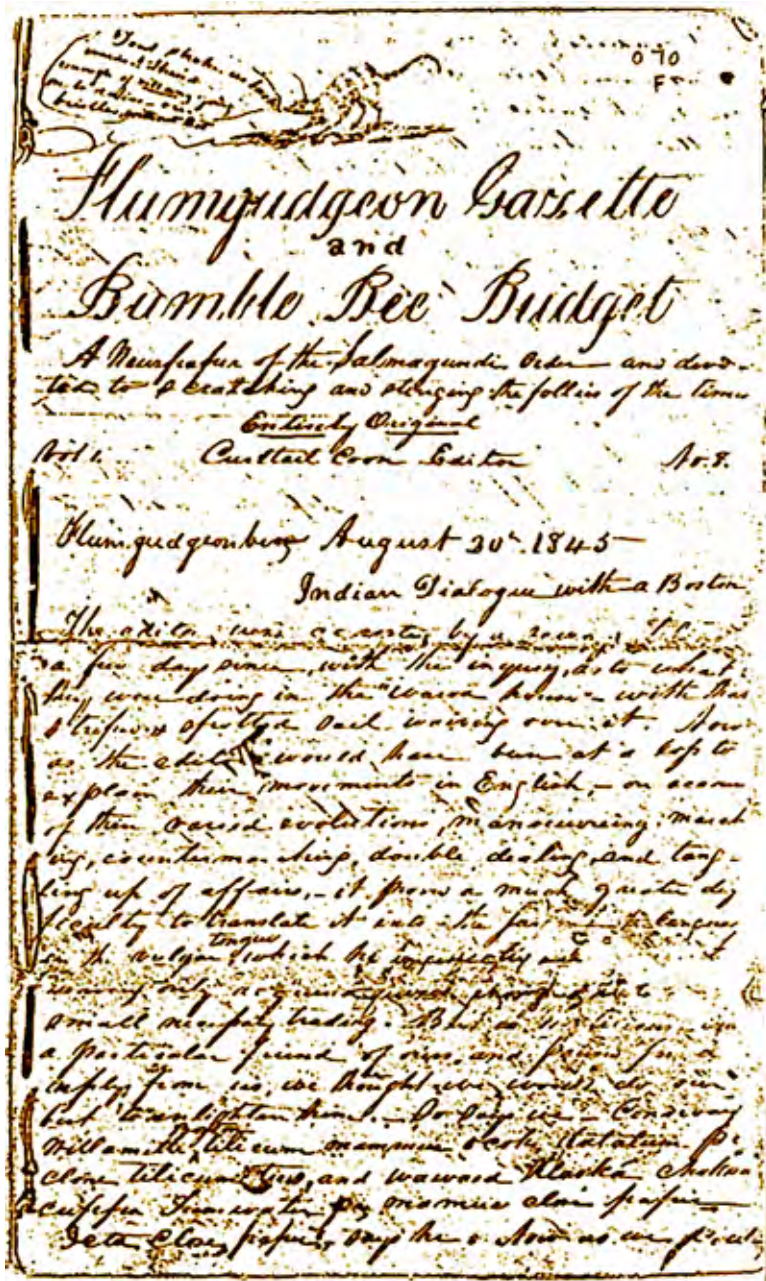
This early newspaper was called The Flumgudgeon Gazette and Bumble Bee Budget, and it first appeared in the spring of 1844 just in time for the first legislative council of the Oregon Provisional Government. Its editor identified himself only as "The Curl-Tail Coon," and it's not entirely clear if that was just for fun, or for protection from revenge by those whose feathers he ruffled in its pages.

It was a tri-weekly, with a press run of roughly 12 copies (written out longhand, remember, and with original art depicting its author hand-drawn individually on the front page of each by a friend of the editor, a German artist named Springer).

Now, "The Flumgudgeon Gazette and Bumble Bee Budget" is a very long name, so to save time we are going to refer to it by a shortened version, in the spirit of Windy City residents calling their daily "The Trib" instead of "The Chicago Tribune" or Portlanders calling theirs "The Big O" instead of — well, "The Oregonian," of course ... In the present case, we're going with "The Gudge."

The Gudge was a mercilessly satirical publication. Its motto, printed prominently on the front page of every copy beneath the flag, read "A Newspaper of the Salamagundi Order and Devoted to Scratching and Stinging the Follies of the Age." Above that appeared a drawing, by Herr Springer, of the Curltail Coon himself, with the caption "Don't stroke us backwards! There is enough of villainy going on to raise our bristles without that!"

If the editor was pseudonymous, so were the legislators he lampooned — which makes it a bit hard to dope out who was who in the little bit of surviving text we have from the Aug. 20, 1845, issue. Historian Lawrence Powell



The front page of the only surviving copy of The Flumgudgeon Gazette and Bumble Bee Budget, in the Curry collection at Oregon Historical Society.

suggests that "The Big Brass Gun" may have been Jesse Applegate's nickname, but confesses himself baffled as to who "The Blueback Terrapin" was.

The editor also makes liberal use of the old "an elderly Chinese gentleman stopped by the newspaper office last week, and here are some of the super unflattering things he had to say about various politicians" wheeze that was commonly used to cloak editorial comments with an air of newsmanship back in the day. In The Gudge, though, the strange plain-talking visitor is "a savage Tillicum" who boils down the news of the day into Chinuk (Chinook Jargon) with results that were occasionally hilarious, but more often just confusing (or sometimes both) due to Curltail Coon's total lack of competence in Chinuk. Reading one of these

columns is a bit like reading something a non-English speaker has fed into Google Translate. Here's a short example:

"But," says he, 'you told me they come to mamuk pehpah (write laws, literally "work paper"), why do they mamuk so much hyas wawa (big talk)?'

"That's Buncombe wawa," says we.

'Iktah okook (what's that)?' — Now as an explanation of this would have been unintelligible to our friend from Clackamas City, as they have no such thing known in their legislative proceedings, we concluded to say Klahowya sikhs, alta nika klatowa kopa theater (Ciao, old friend, I'm off to catch the show; literally, Salutations male-friend, now I travel to theater.)'

(By "theater," he almost certainly meant the latest session

of the Territorial Legislature. In The Gudge, he always refers to its meetings as "Flumgudgeon theater.")

Other characters, though unnamed, aren't so hard to figure out. Disparaging references to "Mr. Vancouver" are, most likely, Dr. John McLoughlin, then still the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. There are also lots of snide references to "the Indian agent," Elijah White — more on him in a bit.

Historian Frederic Hudson writes that this sarcastic little scandal-sheet was taken very seriously and kept the lawmakers on their toes. Essentially forgotten today, it was hugely influential on frontier Oregon journalism before the Civil War, and really established the feisty, sarcastic, muckraking tone that would be known later as the "Oregon style."

So, who was this "Curltail Coon?"

It was historian Powell, writing in 1940, who figured that out and broke the news.

Powell had been working on a biography of a bellicose, colorful transplanted Southerner, a Virginian named Charles Edward Pickett, who moved from Oregon City to Sacramento near the end of the Mexican War and hit the political stage there like a wrecking ball. While researching Pickett's contributions to a California newspaper, Powell came across a letter to the editor in which Pickett spills the tea: The Coon had been Pickett himself.

Pickett's nickname was "Philosopher Pickett," which makes him sound like a harmless enough guy. This was emphatically not the case, though, particularly when he was young. And yes, he was related to George Pickett, the Confederate general famous for Pickett's Charge; the two were cousins. The whole clan was known, back home in Virginia, as "The Fighting Picketts."

Philosopher Pickett was a prickly, aristocratic Virginian of the type that usually adopted "Colonel" as a nickname later in life, and maybe he would have done so if he hadn't already had one. He left Virginia in 1842 when he was 22 years old, lured by the opportunity to "win" the Oregon country away from Perfidious Albion. He ended up joining one of the earliest wagon trains to [West's first newspaper - Page 11](#)



By Slim Randles

There is a nighttime sweetness and hope that hovers over us this time of year here at home. This is a time for summing up and looking ahead ... and a time for dreams.

And at night... ah, that's the time, isn't it? Outside it's dark, December dark, and we're inside and warm and cocooned up. The cold makes our world shrink, especially at night.

But we have our dreams. For Janice Thomas, our art teacher at the high school, it's that painting she's planning. She makes starts at it, from time to time, but she's wise enough to know she isn't good enough to paint it yet. She paints other things well, but that one ... it has to be perfect. It will be the painting of a lifetime, she knows.

Doc will drift off to sleep tonight thinking about that new fly rod. He has half a dozen, of course, that will take about any weight line, and let him catch anything from mouse to moose. But even the most expensive rod isn't what he dreams of. This year, for Christmas, he's giving himself a rod-builder's jig, and he will make his own rod from a Sage blank. That will be the one. It will have his own wrappings and he'll put the ferrules on it himself. He'll be able to feel the fish breathe with this one. It will be true and wonderful and last forever.

For cowboy Steve, the December dream is always the same: staying in that little cabin. The one with a turret and a corral. And hearing ol' Snort happily eating out there in the corral. And exploring. Time enough to explore those mountains with Snort.

There is a nighttime sweetness and hope that hovers over us this time of year. Here's to dreams.

Brought to you by that marvelous stocking stuffer, Home Country (the book) on Amazon.com.

## Quote of the Week

"A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself."

Joseph Pulitzer

**THE GUEST HOUSE**  
At AQUA GARDENS VILLA  
Now Booking!  
McKENZIE BRIDGE, OREGON  
WWW.AQUAGARDENSVILLA.COM  
541-687-0036

**THE LEABURG STORE**

"Mix 6"  
Craft Beverages  
Hot Food To-Go  
Firewood  
Over 30 Kombuchas  
Hunter's Sack Lunches

MP 20, McKenzie Hwy  
(541) 896-0500

Serving The Entire McKenzie Valley

**McKENZIE DISPOSAL L.L.C.**  
DARIN and CHERI FULLER  
Owners  
Phone 541-988-3016  
PO Box 695, Waltherville, OR 97489

rivref2@gmail.com  
541-822-3358

**Jacuzzi** BATH REMODEL

TRANSFORM YOUR BATHROOM AND YOUR LIFE IN **ONE DAY**

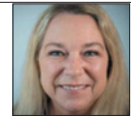
CALL NOW **855.809.2468**

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
Waiving All Installation Costs!

\* Some installs may take longer. Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/29/24.

Before a pint, make a plan to get home right.

**SOBER DRIVERS SAVE LIVES**



# Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



## Colorful indoor plants make delightful gifts



Mary Stewart

### African violets make a wonderful holiday gift.

Winter-blooming indoor plants are a welcome way to take the edge off the chill and gloom of winter and make delightful gifts for the holidays.

The choices go beyond traditional poinsettias and amaryllis. Colorful African violets, gloxinia, cyclamen, orchids, ornamental peppers and Christmas cactus are blooming and readily available. Dress them up with bows and cellophane or combine a few in a basket with store-bought or garden-harvested moss and some decorations and present them as gifts or to a plant lover on your list.

Before you buy, though, consider some key care tips, including how to get them home, said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. She advises taking a cardboard box along with you to the store and then covering the plant after getting it into the car.

"You want to keep them protected from drafts and mimic the conditions of being in a warm situation," she said. "Use something that won't crush the plant but protects it against cold shock. Avoid putting them in the trunk where it gets colder."

Once you get them home, check to see if they are badly rootbound and need to be repotted to a larger container size. If so, use a well-draining potting soil with perlite or peat moss in the mix. If the plant comes wrapped in foil or cellophane, cut holes in the bottom so water drains through. Most plants will rot if left sitting in water, Edmunds said.

Potted plants are well fertilized before being shipped to stores, so let the recipient know they don't have to feed them for several weeks. When it's time, use a houseplant fertilizer high in phosphorous, which is the middle number on the label, and the element that helps them bloom.

Watering tips  
"When it comes to watering, more people overwater than underwater," Edmunds said. "Check to see if the plant needs water by sticking your finger 2 inches into the soil. If it's dry, go ahead and water."

The foliage of some plants, such as African violets, can be damaged if water – especially cold water – gets on the leaves. They also get root rot easily. Avoid that by watering from below. Or carefully water with room-temperature water from above, let it drain and then empty the saucer it sits in. Also, steer clear of misting, which can promote foliar disease. African violets are more likely to bloom if a bit root bound.

Keep plants away from drafts, in bright light and in temperatures of 70 degrees or above during the day and 55 or above at night.

"It's a nice idea to write down instructions on a pretty card to include with the plant," Edmunds suggested.

Don't be concerned if gloxinia or cyclamen die down after blooming. That's normal. You can either discard the plant and buy a new one next year or let it go dormant for a few months until foliage reappears. Then grow it like you would any houseplant.

Look for plants – particularly orchids and Christmas cactus – that have some tight buds as well as open flowers to extend bloom. Orchids can be difficult to rebloom unless you have a greenhouse or can mimic the warm, moist conditions.

Colorful ornamental peppers may look delicious, but are often extremely hot, so keep them off your taste buds and where kids and pets can't get to them.



# Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



## CHRISTMAS CARDS - OLD & NEW

As I sort through my grandmother's and mother's keepsakes, I find many cards, especially Christmas cards they kept from family and friends. The intricate art is lovely. I'm fascinated and pleased that Mother and Grandma decided to save them.

Some Christmas cards have religious pictures and verses. Others portray Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, as he was called in earlier days and by other cultures. Still more cards show pictures of homes, feasting, candles and good will.

The old paper used for the cards often is delicate or satiny. Actual bows may be attached. The designs are carefully drawn with color added.

### Modern Christmas Communications

Many of my family members and friends still send Christmas cards, annual letters and family photos.

I admit that I send my annual family newsletter electronically to some whose email address is the only one I know. But I often hear the comment, "I didn't know people sent cards by postal any longer. It was so nice to receive yours in the mail".

### Keeping Cards

It's difficult to keep all the cards and letters we might receive, like Mother and Grandma did. However, I try to keep Christmas communications from family members and compile them

in albums for family history reference.

I also save printed copies of the Christmas letters I've sent. These recap the events in our lives during that year. They also provide an interesting record of family history over the years.

Several years ago, a writing friend mentioned that she did this and found it a handy reference when they wanted to recall when and where some event happened.

### Holiday Foods

Holiday foods provide a type of history too. Each family has their special ones that bring back memories.

### CHOCOLATE DIPPED FRUITS

This is an easy, tasty dessert or a snack for tree trimming and gift-wrapping sessions or when friends drop in to visit. Cut up various fruits or use smaller ones whole - strawberries, bananas, grapes, pineapple, kiwi, orange slices, papaya, mango, apple chunks, etc.

Melt 1 bag, dark, semi-sweet or milk chocolate chips or white chips in a bowl in the microwave. Put fruit on end of a toothpick and dip into the chocolate and let excess drip off. Place on sheet of waxed paper to harden.

Also, save some fruit to eat plain if anyone doesn't want chocolate.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

**Major Family FUNERAL HOME**  
Family owned since 1961

Devoted Caring Professional Staff  
Funerals • Burials • Cremations • Natural Burials  
Monuments • Keepsakes • Video Tributes  
Personalized Memorial Packages

Newly updated facilities with a warm and comfortable environment, on-site reception room, conveniently located with a reputation of excellence.  
Pre-planning available — Medicaid approved plans

A family's Love is forever

Honoring Veterans • Serving ALL Cemeteries  
Reliable 24/7 Service • Wheelchair Accessible

541-746-9667 112 A St. Springfield  
www.MajorFamilyFuneralHome.com

**Did you know...**  
The local newspaper is the No. 1 source for community news, beating TV by 3 times and the Internet by 6 times the audience.

**We believe in newspapers**

2012 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

**CLOG-FREE GUARANTEED!**

**GutterShutter** NO MORE...

**HERE'S HOW:**

- Super strong interior brackets
- Heavy-gauge aluminum • No sagging & lower straight gutters
- Extra large 6" gutter carries 20% more water than standard gutters
- Rolled hood keeps leaves & debris out
- 20-year paint warranty

**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
855-636-0192

**\$250 OFF**  
A COMPLETE ROOFING SYSTEM  
Minimum project size of \$5,000. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid for prior work. Must be presented and redeemed at time of estimate. Expires 12/31/2024.

**BELOGGING BEGINS WITH US**

**ad COUNCIL**

**WE ALL KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL LEFT OUT.**

**WE CAN CHANGE THAT.**

We've all had moments where we've felt we didn't belong. But for people who moved to this country, that feeling lasts more than a moment. Together, we can build a better community. Learn how at [BelongingBeginsWithUs.org](http://BelongingBeginsWithUs.org)

**BELOGGING BEGINS WITH US**

**ad COUNCIL**

# Community Notes

## AA Meetings

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

## December 6

### Yoga in Leaburg

Yoga in Leaburg meets from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, every Friday.

## December 12

### Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, function, and use. It meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. - location varies, please contact Melanie Giangreco, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Assistant: (458-201-8150) melanie@mckenziawc.org

## December 12

### VMCC Board

The Vida McKenzie Community Center Board meets from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

## December 13

### Holiday Spirit

Oregon Children's Choir Director, Jennifer Searl, will lead a group of talented youth in selections of traditional and new seasonal works at Vida McKenzie Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, December 13th. The choir will be joined by teacher, musician, actor, and McKenzie resident Larry Brown who will perform short and timely readings

guaranteed to cause you to smile and reflect. Bring the whole family! Cookies and hot/cold drinks will be served. up can be served as long as they are under the income guidelines. Call Orchid Health to sign up - 541-822-3341.

## December 13

### Yoga In Leaburg

Yoga in Leaburg meets from 8 to 9 a.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, every Friday.

## December 13

### Oregon Children's Choir

The Eugene-based Oregon Children's Choir (OCC) will bring their love for singing and music to the River from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Ln. OCC's choristers have become ambassadors of harmony within the Lane County community and into the world beyond with the underlying goal of encouraging the lifelong learning and enjoyment of music.

## December 13

### Second Friday Art Walk

The 2nd Friday Art Walk is scheduled from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St in downtown Springfield.

## December 13

### Revelers Circus

Prepare to be amazed as the talented youth aerialists of Revelers Contemporary Circus take to the skies on Friday, December 13th, with stunning, self-created solo acts on aerial silks and slings. This mesmerizing showcase at 7 p.m. in the Wildish Theater, 630 Main St. in Springfield celebrates the community's rising stars' artistry, athleticism, and creativity.

As a nonprofit organization,

Revelers Contemporary Circus (RCC) is dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages and backgrounds through the beauty and athleticism of circus arts. RCC provides aspiring performers with opportunities to soar and fosters inclusion, creativity, and collaboration in every performance.

Join us in celebrating these incredible young artists and supporting a local nonprofit committed to making circus arts accessible and inspiring for all. Ticket Information: VIP Donor: \$20 per ticket, Regular Donor: \$15 per ticket, Mini Donor: \$10 per ticket. Info at: wildishtheater.com

## December 14

### Living River Day

Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet, near 31799 Green Island Rd. in Coburg. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds. If you're looking for a special place to connect to nature this year, join in the fun on the second Saturday's, March through December, and explore the Living Rivers in your backyard!

## December 14

### Christmas Bazaar

The Vida McKenzie Community Center's Christmas Bazaar will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Walterville Grange, 39259 Camp Creek Rd. It will feature Local Crafts & Vendors \* Food & Music \* Photos With Santa \* Toy Shop \* and a Raffle.

## December 14

### A Dime At A Time

The Bottle Boys are busy from 10 a.m. to noon at the Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy. for Saturday morning sorting sessions. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers! Funds from plastic, glass, and aluminum containers go toward the rebuilding

of the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, McKenzie River Clinic, and the Vida McKenzie Community Center - all destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire.

## December 16

### McK Fire Board

The McKenzie Fire District Board will meet from noon to 1 p.m. at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. Call 541-896-3311 for more information.

## December 16

### Upper McK Fire Board

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the fire station, 56578 McKenzie Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge. For more information, 541-822-3479.

## December 17

### Board of Commissioners

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

## December 17

### Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friends hip.

## December 17

### Walterville Grange

The Walterville Grange #416 will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road.

## December 18

### Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. to help care for this

special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

## December 18

### Free Produce

The free fresh produce day is at the new clinic in Blue River. A sign will be posted at the left conference room entrance, where distribution will take place. Pick-up is from 1 to 2 p.m., as produce has been running out within the first hour. All McKenzie community members who sign up can be served as long as they are under the income guidelines. Call Orchid Health to sign up - 541-822-3341.

## December 18

### Board of Commissioners

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

## December 18

### McKenzie School Board

The McKenzie School District board of directors will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 51187 Blue River Dr. The meeting will be live-streamed viewing available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@mckenzieboard6756/streams>

Submit Public Comments to public.comment@mckenzieboard.org comments submitted before noon on the day prior to the meeting will be presented to the Board for review and submission to the meeting minutes.

## December 18

### Cornhole League

The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League meets from 5 to 6:30pm at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. Join us for some free Cornhole fun. We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Bring some snacks to share.

## December 19

### Leaburg Food Pantry

At the Leaburg Food Pantry, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy. All are welcome! Please send folks!

<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p><b>Living Water Family Fellowship</b> Pastor - Doug Fairington 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 541-822-3820 Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also. Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM. Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)</p>
<p><b>McKenzie Bible Fellowship</b> 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon <b>Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.</b> Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's &amp; Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information <a href="http://www.mckenziebible.com">www.mckenziebible.com</a></p>	<p><b>Catholic Church</b> <b>St. Benedict Lodge Chapel</b> 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: <a href="http://sblodge.opwest.org">sblodge.opwest.org</a></p>
<p><b>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church</b> Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, <a href="mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com">nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com</a>, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! <b>Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</b></p>	



**Complete Well Pump Systems**  
Submersible & Jet Pumps • Pressure & Holding Tanks  
New Installations • Service & Repair  
Water Filtration Systems

**541-896-0453**  
**Water Systems & Filtration**

CCB #50234 *Commitment to Excellence*  
[www.mckenzievalleypump.com](http://www.mckenzievalleypump.com)





# MCVEY'S

## POWER & SOFT WASHING

[mcveyswash.com](http://mcveyswash.com)

Commercial, Residential and Industrial Power & Soft Washing  
Property Management Services • Roof Care • Gutters • Concrete  
Patios Pavers • Graffiti Removal • Moss Removal • Siding • Windows  
Commercial Fleet Wash • Housekeeping & Janitorial

*Licensed & Insured*



**Casey McVey**  
Project Manager  
541.510.8255 ☐

**Alisha McVey**  
Estimates/Billing  
541.510.7562 ☐

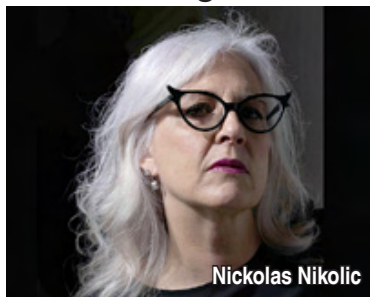
[mcveycasey@yahoo.com](mailto:mcveycasey@yahoo.com) @  
[mcveyswash.com](http://mcveyswash.com) 🌐  
Leaburg, Oregon 📍



# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Standing Alone



Nickolas Nikolic

My mother-in-law of 17 years is a nasty, difficult European woman who has been in America for 45 years. I don't know if we're having a culture clash, a personality clash, or both. For starters, in the beginning when my husband and I lived together she called me a whore, then the day after the wedding she asked me to call her mom. I refused.

We've been having loud arguments ever since. This upsets my children, so three years ago I stopped talking to her. It took her two and a half years to figure out that's what I was doing. She causes major marital problems as my husband refuses to protect me from her. He says she's always been that way, so tune her out. That's what he's done since high school.

Well, I can't tune people out. She criticizes my cooking, states I shouldn't have married her son,

then denies it all when I confront her. I am considering a divorce over this as I can't live with someone who doesn't support me. Yet I don't want to break up the family.

Marianne G.K. Chesterton wrote, "There are no words to express the abyss between isolation and having one ally. It may be conceded to the mathematician that four is twice two. But two is not twice one; two is two thousand times one."

Sometimes a man doesn't realize a woman values him for his ability to protect her from harm. If the man won't stand up for her, she will lose respect for him. When your husband was growing up, he treated his mother like annoying music on the radio. He couldn't turn her off, so he learned to tune her out.

It's not that he disagrees with you. He knows she's a problem. The dispute is how to react to her bad behavior. A book we recommend is Susan Forward's "Emotional Blackmail." It is a primer on how to handle annoying people like your mother-in-law.

In countries where women are free to initiate divorce, divorces are usually initiated by women. When a woman gets to the end of

her rope, it no longer matters if her husband is finally ready to act. It is as if a switch has been thrown, and there is no turning back.

If your husband doesn't deal with this problem, then he's left the choice up to you. He needs to realize this. The Susan Forward book can help you both, but if he won't confront his mother, then in six months we may get another letter from you. That letter will begin, "I met this man...."

Wayne & Tamara

### Thorny Consequences

What do you think about a woman who has children, remarries, and still keeps her ex-husband's name while married to a new man? Is it for the sake of the children? I don't see that is the case with my fiancé's ex because she has no problem abusing him or me or both of us in front of the children. She's even driven down the road in a fit of rage screaming profanity about us with the children in the car. How do we know that? Because we heard it over the cell phone.

Giovanna

Giovanna, her decision about her name is neither here nor there. It is a decision totally within her control and totally beyond yours. If she wants to call herself Elvis Presley, Mother Goose, or Punxsutawney Phil, she can. Since this is something you can do nothing about, let it go.

You are faced with more serious problems. Your life is about to be linked with a woman whose

behavior is out of control. How are you going to deal with her? How are you going to protect the children from her rage? These are the questions you need to answer. Once again, we recommend Susan Forward's book "Emotional Blackmail."

### The Moon Is on Wellbutrin

By Diannely Antigua

Listen

Why else would she lift her shirt every night

to show the world her one milky breast? My sister says Wellbutrin sparked her slut era. I say, I don't need

Wellbutrin for that. The moon used to be on Zoloft, before trying Prozac, before adding Klonopin to her lunar chemistry. The moon is on Propranolol. She's an anxious bitch,

left to borrow light from the brightest orb around. What she wouldn't do

to be the sun, allowed to come out during the day when the humans are awake and buying things, and she—just a sliver of existence, the distance of thirty Earths away from touch. Who could be this cruel

to leave her wanting? The father was probably an asshole, the mother some aloof star. She's been used by too many singers, painters, and scientists, too many witches and hipsters who absorb her essence from bowls of water left outside overnight. I've used the moon in this poem, metaphor, hunk of rock.

I'm sorry little moon, my moonly moon. You know, the moon can be both super and blue. Tonight, let's take our moon-shaped pills together. Let me carry the weight of you.

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

Diannely Antigua is a Dominican American poet and educator, born and raised in Massachusetts and the author of two poetry collections, *Ugly Music* (YesYes Books, 2019), which was the winner of the Pamet River Prize and a 2020 Whiting Award, and *Good Monster* (Copper Canyon Press, 2024). She received her BA in English from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she won the Jack Kerouac Creative Writing Scholarship, and received her MFA at NYU, where she was awarded a Global Research Initiative Fellowship to Florence, Italy. She is the recipient of additional fellowships from CantoMundo, Community of Writers, Fine Arts Work Center Summer Program, and was a finalist for the 2021 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. Her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and chosen for *The Best of the Net Anthology*. Her poems can be found in *Poem-a-Day*, *Poetry*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Washington Square Review*, and elsewhere. In 2022, she was proclaimed the 13th Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, NH, the youngest and first person of color to receive the title. In 2023, she was awarded an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship to launch *The Bread & Poetry Project*, and in 2024, she was awarded an Excellence in Artistry Award from *Black Lives Matter New Hampshire*. She currently teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the University of New Hampshire as the inaugural Nossrat Yassini Poet in Residence. She hosts the podcast *Bread & Poetry* which seeks to make poetry accessible to all in a way that nourishes the soul.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

### Bath Tubs

Safe Step. North America-is #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

### Carpentry

Carpenter - 45 years experience. \$45 per hour. No job too small - or too big. Call 541-822-1086 after 6 p.m. 6/15ruc

### Coins & Jewelry

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

### Deal on Tires

Two - Toyo 195/55R/15 tires. one 205/55R/16 tire. All have a40 to 50% wear, \$15 each. 541-914-9089.

### 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

### Funeral Home

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

### Gutters

Call LeafGuard and say goodbye to gutter cleaning for good. No cleaning.

No leaking. No water damage. No more ladder accidents. Get LeafGuard today and be protected for life. FREE estimate. Financing available. 20% off total purchase (Restrictions may apply.) Call 1-844-923-3650

### Help Wanted

The Vida McKenzie Community Center will begin its Tuesday Senior Center in November and seeks a Part-time Paid Program Director. Call Gerry Aster 541-896-3001.

### 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

### 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

### Travel

Alaska, Europe, Hawaii plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at \$1649 per person (double occupancy reqd.) YMT Vacations plans everything, leaving you to relax and enjoy. Call 1-877-260-8661 for more details. Use promo code YMT2024 for \$250 off. Limited time only.

### Walk-In Tub

Safe Step. North America-is #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



## Herrick Farms

We still have lots of produce for sale. Filberts and walnuts are in - plus apple cider, potatoes, onions, apples, peppers, cabbage, and winter squash.

Family owned since 1980

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram herrickfarms.com

88088 Millican Road in Walterville

541-741-1046

## FREE (non-business) CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SUBSCRIBERS Phone, Email or Mail - Deadline: Every Monday @ 5pm CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FORM

SUBSCRIBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FREE CLASSIFIED  Non-subscriber Rates: 35¢ a word, \$6.00 minimum per issue. All ads must be paid in advance or ad will not be printed. Amt. enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: McKenzie River Reflections, 59059 Old McKenzie Hwy., McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413


# Emergency? Call 9-1-1

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
	19			20		21	22					
		23			24							
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39			
40				41			42		43			
44			45		46					47		
48				49		50			51		52	
			53		54			55		56		
57	58	59	60				61			62	63	
64					65	66			67			68
69					70				71			
72					73				74			

- 46. River in Bohemia
- 47. Queen of Hearts' pastry
- 48. \*Super Bowl winners in 2024
- 50. Visi\_\_\_\_\_ or Ostro\_\_\_\_\_
- 52. The Alan Parsons Project's "Eye in the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 53. \_\_\_\_\_ of passage
- 55. \*Milton's center
- 57. \*Miley Cyrus' Grammy-winning Record of the Year in 2024
- 61. \*2024 Summer Olympic Games host
- 64. Cat's nine
- 65. Lowest or highest card
- 67. Accustom
- 69. E-wallet content
- 70. Backstabber
- 71. N in RN
- 72. Whipping mark
- 73. R&R spot
- 74. Support person

- DOWN**
- 1. "Say what?"
  - 2. All over again
  - 3. \*MV \_\_\_\_\_, cause of 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse
  - 4. Long stories
  - 5. Tends a fire
  - 6. Obscene
  - 7. Spermatozoa counterpart
  - 8. Lost, in Paris
  - 9. \*Olympic Gold winner Katie Ledecky's "court"
  - 10. Dead against
  - 11. Explore by touch
  - 12. Maisie Williams' "Game of Thrones" character
  - 15. Hello, in Haifa
  - 20. Dead-on
  - 22. Last month
  - 24. Disclose
  - 25. Wrecked state
  - 26. Bet's predecessor
  - 27. Pileus, pl.
  - 29. Like steak order
  - 31. Maya Angelou, e.g.
  - 32. Itsy-bitsy bits
  - 33. \*Caitlin of college basketball
  - 34. Gin and grapefruit juice cocktail, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_\_ dog
  - 36. Scarlet O'Hara's home
  - 38. Speaking platform
  - 42. Dinklage or Townshend, e.g.
  - 45. Again but differently
  - 49. Elton John's title
  - 51. Shenzi of "The Lion King"
  - 54. Russian rulers, pre-1917
  - 56. Tedium
  - 57. "One \_\_\_\_\_ Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
  - 58. Classroom pests
  - 59. Elliptical
  - 60. Sunset location
  - 61. Sheep's milk cheese
  - 62. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
  - 63. Gaelic tongue
  - 66. Upper limit
  - 68. Poetic "always"

**Off First Month of New Service!**  
USE PROMO CODE: G2590

**Consumer Cellular**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

**YEAR-IN-REVIEW**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Cerberus' domain
- 6. Chop
- 9. Mama's husband
- 13. Unsuitable
- 14. Adam's partner
- 15. Echo sounder
- 16. Sunny prefix
- 17. Armed conflict
- 18. In a heated manner
- 19. \*Highest grossing movie based on Broadway musical
- 21. \*Time's 100 World's Most Influential People cov-

- er model in 2024 (2 words)
- 23. "\_\_\_\_\_ and the City"
- 24. Not exciting
- 25. Accident
- 28. Rani's dress
- 30. Talking points
- 35. Aflame
- 37. Spanish sparkling wine
- 39. Slang for money
- 40. Velum, pl.
- 41. \*November 5th 2024 winner
- 43. Short for "and elsewhere" (2 words)
- 44. Met's offering

Solution on Page 9

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB** 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSL# 3082180 | NSCR 030299 | 006344

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

© 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.

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

Click here or go to: [tinyurl.com/yeye92hx](https://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

Events from Dec 12th

**Vida McKenzie Community Center Board Meeting**  
Thu Dec 12th 4:30pm - 5:30pm

**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
Thu Dec 12th 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group**  
Thu Dec 12th 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**Leaburg GMRS Radio Preparedness**  
Thu Dec 12th 5:00pm - 7:00pm

**Yoga in Leaburg**  
Fri Dec 13th 8:00am - 9:00am

**EMERALD ART CENTER**  
Fri Dec 13th 2:00pm - 7:30pm

**2nd Friday Art Walk**  
Fri Dec 13th 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**Living River Exploration Day**  
Sat Dec 14th 8:00am - 4:00pm

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR DECEMBER 14 & 15**  
Sat Dec 14th 9:00am - 3:00pm

**McKenzie Fire District Board Meeting**  
Mon Dec 16th 12:00pm - 1:00pm

**Upper McKenzie Fire District Board Meeting**  
Mon Dec 16th 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Watershed Grange #415 Meeting**  
Tue Dec 17th 7:30pm - 8:30pm

**Lane County Board of Commissioners**  
Wed Dec 18th 9:00am - 11:00am

**Watershed Wednesday**  
Wed Dec 18th 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**McKenzie School District Board of Directors**  
Wed Dec 18th 5:30pm - 5:45pm

**COMMUNITY FOOD PARTY**  
Thu Dec 19th 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**Leaburg Food Parity**  
Thu Dec 19th 5:00pm - 5:30pm

**KIDS EAT FREE!**  
Mon Dec 16th

**Oregon Children's Choir**  
Fri Dec 13th 3:00pm - 5:00pm

**Family Story Time**  
Tue Dec 17th 10:00am - 11:00am

**Free Produce at McKenzie Clinic**  
Wed Dec 18th 9:00am - 9:30pm

**Wacky Wednesdays Bingo**  
Wed Dec 18th 5:00pm - 9:00pm

## Read River Reflections on the go with your mobile device



Subscribe and receive the weekly color edition via email every Tuesday  
**\$32<sup>00</sup>/Year – [tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6](https://tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6)**

**This Space For Rent**  
[rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)



## Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

### Help! My Google Play account is frozen and it won't refund my \$115

*Arjun Chhabra's Google Play account is frozen because the company suspects him of fraudulent activity. Can he recover the \$115 he spent?*

I purchased \$115 in Google Play gift cards to use in their app store. Google keeps flagging my account as fraudulent.

Google asked for a bank statement, credit card statement or cell phone bill dated within the last four months, or a photo of the credit or debit card associated with my account.

I've sent the information. Google then sends me a message that everything has been resolved, but when I try to log in to use my credits, I can't.

I've updated the address and payment information and name, I've reverified all my payment methods multiple times and I am still stuck in the same situation.

After a month of back-and-forth, I am no closer to getting the credits usable or refunded. Can you help me?

Arjun Chhabra, Burtonsville, Md.

Google shouldn't have frozen your account, since none of your transactions were fraudulent. And once you verified your identity - several times -- it should have released your funds.

So what happened? I called Google to find out. A representative explained that Google looks for patterns that suggest fraudulent behavior, such as large or small amounts of money being transferred or a

pattern of purchases. Your online behavior triggered one of those fraud detection algorithms.

"Protecting our users against fraud is a top priority for us," the representative explained. "When we suspect suspicious activity, we may prevent any further transactions until the issue has been resolved in order to protect the user."

I can understand disabling your account until you can prove you made the transactions. But how many times do you have to prove it? A look at your paper trail -- and by the way, nice job on keeping all your correspondence with Google -- shows the company repeatedly asking for your ID and account information. You supplied that information repeatedly.

But what happened next is even more frustrating. Google claimed that it had fixed the problem, but hadn't. I'm not quite sure how that could have happened, but you have it in writing.

A brief, polite email to one of the Google customer service managers I list on my consumer advocacy site might have helped. My Google contact also offered another option.

"We have a team of agents who work to ensure our users' questions and concerns are handled in a timely manner. Users who believe their issue wasn't resolved to their satisfaction can request an escalation," she told me.

After I asked Google to review your case it released the \$115 -- this time, for real.

*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*

© 2024 Christopher Elliott

## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

**Dec. 8: 8:26:** 89000 blk, Bridge St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Dec. 8: 12:09:** 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Fire Alarm. Disregarded by Dispatch Prior to Going En Route.

**McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.**

[Return To Page 3](#)

Emergency? Call 911



## A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**December 14** - Henry J. Kaiser rarely visited Oregon, but he had a major influence on the state. Kaiser was born in New York and came to Spokane, Washington when he was 24. He founded a road paving company, and during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Kaiser's companies were given lucrative federal contracts on Hoover, Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams. During the Second World War Kaiser owned three shipyards in Portland and employed more than 130,000 workers. Although Kaiser built an industrial empire in the Northwest he is most known for his work in the field of health care. He founded Kaiser Permanente, a national health care program, and when he died in 1967 he left the bulk of his enormous fortune to the Kaiser Family Foundation for health-related research.

## Ski Report

December 10, 2024

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed no new snow fell overnight, leaving the snow depth at 31 inches. Temperatures were 38 at the base and 37 at the summit, with winds out of the ENE at 12 mph. More snow is predicted this week. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 21 degrees at the base and 32 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 48 inches. Bluebird conditions were continuing this week with calm winds and clear skies. The Summit lift opened today for the first time this year, the earliest in a decade. For more information call 541-382-7888.

## Shopping

Continued From Page 1

formation, then print out permit and give to them.

For the wildlife viewer or hiker in your life a Wildlife Area Parking Permit (\$30 for annual) allows parking at all of ODFW's 20+ wildlife areas (including Sauvie Island in Portland). Purchase via guest checkout (under General Category), no ODFW account required.

To shop, go to [tinyurl.com/yppy83sw](https://tinyurl.com/yppy83sw)

## Boards meet

Continued From Page 1

regular monthly expenses for toilets, water, and electricity.

The board also is involved in discussions with county commissioners on new board appointments to achieve a quorum.

A confrontation arose between board secretary Melanie Brite and Tony Casad regarding Three Sisters Meadow representation. Tony Casad raised concerns about representation rules and the McKenzie Community Land

Trust's role in determining how the property next to the McKenzie Community Track might be utilized. The meeting concluded with an introduction from Kristin Gustafson, a new community member interested in becoming involved in activities related to the park.

To view video recordings of the meetings, go to [tinyurl.com/24wnrycv](https://tinyurl.com/24wnrycv)

[Return To Page 1](#)

Need to talk?  
Call 988

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

**WE ALL deserve to BELONG**

Small acts of kindness can have a big impact in making people feel welcome. When we reach out and connect with others, we can build a stronger community where everyone - regardless of their background - feels like they belong.

LEARN HOW AT [BELONGINGBEGINSWITHUS.ORG](https://belongingbeginswithus.org)

ARTWORK BY ALEX ALBAHRE - AMPLIFIER.ORG

**LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!**

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

**20% OFF** + **10% OFF**  
Your Entire Purchase\* Seniors + Military

USA ACCREDITED BUSINESS ++ We offer financing that fits your budget!  
Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! **1-877-465-9584**

\* See Representative for full warranty details. \*\* One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. † Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR 364920923, AZ 80037, CA 1035795, CT 8627520, FL 0805678, HI 017220, IL 01604, IA 559544, IN 176447, MD 14411225, MI 262300173, MN 262300318, MO 262300328, MS 262300329, NC 262300330, ND 262300331, NH 8731804, NJ 226192, NY 47304, RI 5014532, SD 4514532, TN 1300095300, VA 408693, WA 80996, WI 9113, WY 52229, OR 270294, TX 129643, 669383, 800-41354, TN 10981, UT 10103658-5501, VA 220516445, WA 10103658-5501, WY 80995912

BEFORE AFTER We're looking to install our NEXT GENERATION gutter guard on your home!

WARRANTY

**FULL SERVICE GUTTER PROTECTION - SCHEDULE YOUR FREE INSPECTION NOW! 1-877-465-9584**

# Bill offers wildfire survivors relief from taxes and fees

## The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act could offer relief to survivors of wildfires dating back to 2015

By Alex Burnhardt

Oregon Capital Chronicle

After more than five years of waiting in some cases, wildfire survivors across the West will be relieved of paying federal income taxes on their recovery settlements and lawyers fees.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act passed the Senate on Wednesday night, about six months after it was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives nearly unanimously. It had been stalled for months, tucked into opposing tax packages from Senate Republicans and Democrats.

The bill, which is likely to be signed by President Joe Biden, would exempt people who have survived a wildfire between 2016 and 2026 from paying federal income taxes on disaster recovery settlements and fees paid to lawyers that were received or paid between 2020 and 2026.

Victims elsewhere are also likely to benefit. The bill applies to the survivors of the East Palestine train derailment that occurred in Ohio in 2023, though they've largely been exempted from federal income tax on payments from Norfolk Southern due to intervention from the Internal Revenue Service.

The disaster act would also provide relief for natural disaster survivors since 2020 in the form of a casualty loss deduction. That means that those who only received partial payments from insurers on home damage and other residential property damage could deduct those uncovered losses on their federal income taxes without itemization.



Rian Dundon/OCC

Forests damaged by wildfire on the Colville Indian Reservation.

Passage of the bill, introduced last year by a Florida Republican Rep. W. Gregory Steube, follows a public plea last month by a political action committee. American Disaster Relief sponsored billboards asking for help in Idaho and Oregon to grab the attention of the two leaders of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee where the bill sat. Oregon's senior U.S. senator, Democrat Ron Wyden, chairs the committee, and Idaho's U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo is its ranking Republican member. The disaster PAC was founded by survivors of fires that burned towns in California during 2017 and 2018 and which are still only partially rebuilt.

The bill would sunset in 2026, according to Wyden spokesperson Hank Stern, because federal tax codes are coming up for negotiation in 2025 and there is not a lot of political will among Republicans to do long-term tax policy in the lame duck session before a new Congress and administration comes to power in January.

Wyden said in a speech following the bill's passage that it was necessary and long overdue.

"Their homes and their businesses are burned, their possessions and livelihoods gone, and finally, the federal government is showing some common sense," he said.

He and California House and Senate Democrats and Republicans who championed the bill said despite working in a bipartisan way to get it passed in the Republican-controlled House, Senate Republicans stalled progress.

"We're going to be able to say to Westerners who've been hit by these big fires that they're going

to be able to go to bed tonight in the Western United States with a little relief that the federal government has finally come to its senses and made sure that they're not going to have this additional tax burden," Wyden said in his speech.

Spokespersons for the American Disaster Relief PAC said it would impact survivors of wildfire in many states.

"This has given a much needed glimmer of hope to millions of Americans across California, Oregon, Hawaii, Washington and Idaho who have been devastated by tragedy."

Oregon Republicans also welcomed the bill, including state Rep. Christine Goodwin of Canyonville, who worked on a similar bill passed by Oregon's Legislature.

"When I first wrote Oregon's framework for wildfire disaster tax relief, I did so with the belief that government should not profit from the misfortune of its citizens. It took Rep. Jami Cate and I many years to get the bill over the line here in Oregon; I'm happy to see similar efforts happen so swiftly at the federal level."

The state bill passed unanimously in the spring of 2024, ending state income taxation on settlements and lawyer fees for

wildfire victims. That bill, Senate Bill 1520, was championed by survivors of the 2020 Labor Day Fires, including Sam Drevo, who survived the Santiam Canyon fire that burned down much of the city of Gates in the heart of the Santiam State Forest.

"On behalf of fire survivors everywhere, I am deeply grateful that this passed. I'm not super thrilled about the sunset, but it's a huge step forward for fire survivors," Drevo said.

He and his mom are still sorting out how much she was taxed on the settlement she received to help her rebuild her home in Gates that was completely wiped out by the fires.

"I know it's going to be helpful, and to other people it's going to be helpful. In general, it's a huge thing to have this type of tax relief, especially in a situation where you lose everything," he said.

*Editor's note: The Oregon Capital Chronicle is a nonprofit news operation dependent on tax deductible donor dollars to support high-quality journalism. By donating you help fund reporters and even deeper coverage of public officials and agencies in Oregon. Please go to [oregoncapitalchronicle.com/donate](http://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/donate)*

**MRR McKenzie River Reflections**

Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history - in the back issues of this newspaper. Go to: [tinyurl.com/2rkpsen](http://tinyurl.com/2rkpsen)

2022 August 11 Vol. 44, Issue 52 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 August 4 Vol. 44, Issue 51 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 July 28 Vol. 44, Issue 50 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 July 21 Vol. 44, Issue 49 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 July 14 Vol. 44, Issue 48 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 July 7 Vol. 44, Issue 47 \$1.00 Add to cart
2022 June 30 Vol. 44, Issue 46 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 June 23 Vol. 44, Issue 45 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 June 9 Vol. 44, Issue 43 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 June 2 Vol. 44, Issue 42 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 May 26 Vol. 44, Issue 41 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 May 19 Vol. 44, Issue 40 \$1.00 Add to cart
2022 May 12 Vol. 44, Issue 39 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 May 5 Vol. 44, Issue 38 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 28 Vol. 44, Issue 37 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 21 Vol. 44, Issue 36 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 14 Vol. 44, Issue 35 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 April 7 Vol. 44, Issue 34 \$1.00 Add to cart
2022 March 31 Vol. 44, Issue 33 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 March 24 Vol. 44, Issue 32 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 March 17 Vol. 44, Issue 31 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 March 10 Vol. 44, Issue 30 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 March 3 Vol. 44, Issue 29 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 February 2 Vol. 44, Issue 28 \$1.00 Add to cart
2022 February 17 Vol. 44, Issue 27 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 February 10 Vol. 44, Issue 26 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 February 3 Vol. 44, Issue 25 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 January 27 Vol. 44, Issue 24 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 January 20 Vol. 44, Issue 23 \$1.00 Add to cart	2022 January 11 Vol. 44, Issue 22 \$1.00 Add to cart
January 6, 2021 Vol. 44, Issue 21 \$1.00 Add to cart	2021 December 16 Vol. 44, Issue 18 \$1.00 Add to cart	2021 December 9 Vol. 44, Issue 17 \$1.00 Add to cart	2021 December 2 Vol. 44, Issue 16 \$1.00 Add to cart	2021 November 25 Vol. 44, Issue 15 \$1.00 Add to cart	2021 November 1 Vol. 44, Issue 14 \$1.00 Add to cart

**2025 RECOGNITION**

It's time to vote for the Reader's Choice for the McKenzie River's Man, Woman & Business of the Year

Cast your vote by **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
 Fax, write, or email their name and an explanation of why you think they're the best in the McKenzie Valley

59059 Old McKenzie Hwy.  
 McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413  
[rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)

**A CRASH IS NO ACCIDENT.**

Your decisions have consequences.

**DRIVE SOBER.**

Transportation Safety - ODOT  
 madd Oregon

# West's first newspaper

Continued From Page 1

Oregon, in company with Peter Burnett and Jesse Applegate.

Upon arriving, he found that the Methodist missionaries had staked enormous claims to the best portions of the Willamette Valley. This offended his sense of fairness, so he waded into the fray, staking his 640-acre claim in the middle of the Methodists' reserve, at the confluence of the Clackamas and Willamette rivers in what is now Gladstone.

"The church was unsuccessful in ousting him," Powell reports, "even though it went so far as to incite the Indians to attempt to murder him. The monopoly was broken, and the land-hungry settlers poured in after him."

Pickett also feuded with the territory's Indian agent, Dr. Elijah White, and actually managed to get White fired from his job. The gig was then offered to him, but by the time the offer came through he'd moved to California.

As for the "Philosopher" part of his name, well, Pickett was one of the founders of the Pioneer Lyceum and Literary Club, and served as its secretary.

The Lyceum was the organization that launched The Oregon Spectator in 1846, and Pickett had hoped to be tapped as the paper's editor. In fact, his decision to publish The Gudge may have been intended to demonstrate his suitability for the editor's chair; when Pickett launched The Gudge, the printing press that the Lyceum had purchased to print the Spectator was already on its way "around the horn."

If that's the case, it didn't work. The Methodists, who were furious with him for breaking up their giant land claim, pulled some strings and got him taken off the short list, and the job went to William G. T'Vault instead.

This snub may have been what prompted Pickett to leave Oregon. He was in the first issue of the Spectator with Oregon's first real-estate ad, for townsite lots in what is now Gladstone — he'd carved up his claim and was selling it off. A few months later, he quit the territory and moved to Sacramento.

In California, Pickett got into a fight over a property line that culminated in him blasting his neighbor with a shotgun as the neighbor charged him with a pickaxe. He was prosecuted for murder, but found innocent. The following year he was elected as a delegate to the first California constitutional convention.

Later attempts to get elected to public office in California did not pan out for Pickett, so he continued



The letterpress used to print Oregon's first printed newspaper, the Oregon Spectator, is on display at the University of Oregon's Allen Hall, home of the School of Journalism and Communication there. This press was actually shipped "around the horn" to Oregon in 1846 -- almost a year after Edward Pickett created Oregon's first newspaper, writing every copy out longhand.

publishing his ante-bellum Jacksonian populist screeds and working his land there. He may have wished he'd stuck around Oregon with its "flumgudgeon theater," as apparently he found California's legislature to be even worse.

During the Cayuse War that followed the Whitman massacre, Pickett returned to Oregon to try and lend a hand in rounding up a militia company to attack the tribe. He also lent his pen to a series of unsuccessful but colorful attempts a decade later to keep Oregon slavery-friendly and to block the rise of Edward Baker as Oregon's senator. But his life was in California now, and for the most part he stayed there.

Shortly after the Civil War Pickett had one more brush with fame when, during a trial before the California State Supreme Court, he assaulted one of the judges, seizing him and dragging him off the bench for an epic pounding. A pounding did indeed ensue, but it wasn't the judge who took the brunt of it; and it was followed by a sensational contempt-of-court trial that resulted in Pickett spending eight months in jail. He later sued the court for \$100,000

for this affront, but lost.

Pickett died fairly young, at the age of 62, in Mariposa in 1882.

Like poor James Marshall, the ex-Oregon farmer who touched off the California Gold Rush, Pickett really should have stayed in Oregon. On the other hand, given his pugnacious support for the Confederacy in general and slavery in particular, it's probably just as well that he did not.

(Sources: "Flumgudgeon Gazette in 1845 Antedated the Spectator," an article by Lawrence Clark Powell published in the June 1940 issue of Oregon Historical Quarterly; "Charles Edward Pickett," an article by William L. Lang published May 11, 2022, on oregonencyclopedia.org; Journalism in the United States from 1690-1872, a book by Frederic Hudson published in 1873 by Harper)

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](#)

# Blue, blue Christmas: Coping with holiday grief, loss



It is important to share your feelings of grief with loved ones and to seek out a mental health professional for support with persistent symptoms of depression.

By Isobel Charle Oregon News Service

'Tis the season for celebration and good cheer. However, for many Oregonians, the absence of a loved one -- whether through death, divorce or another painful separation -- can make this time of year feel almost unbearable.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 64% of people with depression reported the holidays make them feel worse.

Noa Curtis, oncology and palliative care social worker for the Providence Cancer Institute, said it is important to be honest about your feelings.

"Allow yourself to be angry or sad, or lonely," Curtis recommended. "It's also OK to feel a sense of joy or connection, if that comes up, too. Avoid places where you feel pressure to put on a 'happy face' or bottle up your emotions."

If you or someone you know is struggling with a mental health crisis, help is available 24/7. Call

or text 988, the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, to connect with someone for free and confidential support.

While many enjoy Oregon's dynamic climate, the state's long winters and reduced daylight can also worsen depression, especially for those with Seasonal Affective Disorder. Curtis advised sharing emotions with trusted family and friends and reflecting on happy memories of loved ones.

"You can look for small moments of comfort," Curtis urged. "Embrace traditions that you once shared. You can set a place for them at the table. It's OK to ignore the holidays, too, but just honoring the love and connection that is still present."

Mental health professionals also emphasize while family traditions can provide comfort and remembrance, it's OK to let go if they become too painful. Explore new ways to celebrate, and over time, new traditions will naturally evolve.

**Did you know...**  
54% of community newspapers readers trust their local newspapers more than other sources of news?

2017 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

**We believe in newspapers**

**WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST**

**YOU WANT OMAHA STEAKS**

When you want to experience a steak that delivers rich, juicy, exquisite flavor and unparalleled quality in every bite, you don't want just any steak. You want Omaha Steaks.

**MAKES A GREAT GIFT**

**Butcher's Deluxe Package**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (5 oz.)**

77318ERX separately \$221.94 **\$99.99**  
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

**8 FREE BURGERS (A \$37 VALUE)**

Order Now! » [OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9761](https://OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe9761) | 1.888.497.1173  
Ask for your 8 FREE burgers with offer 77318ERX

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 5 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 77318. Limit 2 in each item at this exclusive price. While supplies last, items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use/08. Expires 12/31/24. 1.24M/229. © Omaha Steaks, LLC

**OREGON UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER**

**Be Aware New Dig Law! Avoid Fines & Penalties**

**Call Before You Dig**  
**1-800-332-2344 (1-800-332-2DIG)**

**It's Free!**

**McKenzie Eagles Sports Report**



By Cliff Richardson

Continued From Page 2

The visitors established an 18-9 first quarter lead and increased the difference at halftime by a dozen, 32-20.

The Eagles came back out after the half break with new energy, but the Warriors still maintained they had an answer and looked to break open the game for a rout. The Eagle's brand new score-clock showed Oakridge up 49 to 29 after the third quarter horn. But credit those feisty Eagles, they fought back in the final quarter and rallied to within 7 points of tying the score. With the home crowd fired up and well into the supporting their local team's efforts, the McKenzie boys showed some interesting potential. Unfortunately, the Warriors had an unstoppable force in their ranks this evening.

May we introduce you to Oakridge senior guard Max Maher, who kept the Eagle rally at bay with an outstanding 41-point output? With Maher leading the way, the Warriors held off the Eagle rally and earned the 63-52 non-league victory. Maher missed just 2 shot attempts all night, shooting an incredible 89% from

the field, including going 2-2 from the 3-line and hitting 7 of his 8 free-throw attempts.

Eagle freshman guard Amir Enfield led the Eagle offense with 17 points, shooting just under 50% from the field. Sophomore post Masonn Burton added 10 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his first double double. Junior guard Will Meister finished with 8 points, freshman Jacob Norlund and junior Hayden Harbick each contributed 4 points, senior Noah Prado and senior Aytan Munoz Brown each scored 3 points, sophomore Rhys Hamlow added 2 points and junior forward Jacob Peek added 1 free-throw.

**McKenzie Girls**

**Earn First Hoops Victory**

The McKenzie Varsity Girls Basketball team traveled to Pendleton with the Eagle Boys team and participated in the Bouncin' Cancer Tournament held at Nixyaawii High School. The Eagles defeated the Stanfield JV team in the opening game of the Tournament, winning 43-35. The next day, McKenzie fell to Pilot Rock by a score of 27-65. No stats were available at press time.

**Eagle Boys/Girls Drop Two Apiece At Pendleton Tourney**

The McKenzie Varsity Boys traveled to Pendleton last Friday to participate in the Bouncin' Cancer Tournament hosted by Nixyaawii High School. The Eagles fell to Nixyaawii JV in the first game on Friday afternoon, December 6, 27-63 and also to Pilot Rock / Ukiah the next day by 36-63. No stats were available at press time.

[Return To Page 2](#)

**Downhill or cross country - winter rec is underway**  
Nearby SnoParks open for family-friendly sledding and snow play

SANTIAMPASS: Sno-Parks within the Willamette National Forest offer a variety of winter recreational activities suitable for all ages and interests. Up on the Santiam Pass, snow-covered landscapes are ideal for sledding, tubing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling.

Areas like the Ray Benson Sno-Park are particularly popular for snowmobiling and dog sledding. At the same time, the Santiam Sno-Park is known for family-friendly sledding and snow play. A Sno-Park permit is required to park at these locations during winter. The area also provides access to the Pacific Crest Trail and features some of the best views of Cascade Mountain peaks, such as Mount Washington and Three Fingered Jack.

Located on Highway 126/20 near the Santiam Junction, the Santiam Sno-Park includes a tubing hill, the only designated sledding and tubing hill in the Santiam Pass region. This makes it a family-friendly destination for winter fun. Other features include trails accessible from the Sno-Parks, including connections to the Pacific Crest Trail and other scenic routes. The nearby Lava Lake, Tombstone, and Ray Benson Sno-Parks also provide snowmobiling and dog sledding opportunities, adding to the region's diverse recreational offerings.

Motorists must have a valid Sno-Park permit displayed in the windshield of their vehicle to park in designated winter recreation parking areas (Sno-Parks) between November 1st and April 30th. Sno-park permits are sold at all DMV offices and by permit agents in resorts, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets.



Snow and spectacular views of volcanoes, including Three Fingered Jack to the north and Mount Washington to the south, make Santiam Pass an ideal area to enjoy winter sports.

People in search of prime sledding and tubing areas, be sure to check out the Tombstone Summit and Santiam Pass Sno-Parks for good opportunities. All Sno-Parks require a Sno-Park permit, so be sure to get yours at an Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office or licensed retail location and display it in their vehicle windshield.

People looking to combine their outing with finding a holiday tree can purchase a tree permit from one of the Willamette Ranger District offices or at Recreation.gov. Permits are \$5 each and allow the holder to cut one tree in designated areas; each household can purchase up to five permits. Fourth-grade students can receive a free tree permit by getting their Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) pass at a Ranger District office or by visiting Recreation.gov.

**Guest Opinion**

Continued From Page 2

west Forest Plan, adopted 30 years ago to protect old-growth forests for threatened animals, is in the process of being amended and the plan will likely allow post-fire logging on 5.5 million acres (the draft is set for release November 15th). That means an area of public land 50% larger than the Willamette Valley is at risk of being denuded after fires, like a scab peeled too early, delaying healing.

Wildfire on private forestland destroys investments when it kills trees. And yet, the appraised value of the land is based upon its ability to grow trees for the long term.

Logging trees post-fire degrades the ability to grow trees and thus the value of the land, but it also degrades the natural resources that we all depend upon and which landowners have an obligation to not pollute, like air and water. The Oregon Board of Forestry has twice delayed adopting stronger rules for post-fire logging that would protect streams, drinking water and fish habitat.

In a hotter and drier world, every tree we log after a fire is one fewer tree to store carbon, create habitat, accelerate regrowth and clean our water.

From the Forest Service to the

Port of Portland and the Department of Forestry, decision-makers need to stop peeling the scab and end rampant post-fire logging. Our future and the future of the forests demand better.

*Casey Kulla coordinates forest policy at Oregon Wild. Kulla is a first generation vegetable farmer, a former Yamhill County Commissioner and a forest ecologist by training.*

[oregoncapitalchronicle.com](http://oregoncapitalchronicle.com)  
[Return To Page 2](#)

**\$18.5 million contract**

Continued From Page 1

team has extensive geotechnical and construction management experience," she said, "but would also put together consultants who are very experienced with the environmental field and the legal process for FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.:"

EWEB voted to decommission the Leaburg Hydro Project in 2023 following its "triple-bottom-line evaluation," which considered regulatory risks and the costs involved in restoring the project to normal power production.

Key aspects of the decommissioning work will include restoring the McKenzie River to a free-flowing state by removing the Leaburg Dam and addressing structural safety concerns, particularly with the Leaburg Canal. Other work will involve conducting studies on hydrology, water quality, and species impacts to minimize adverse outcomes. McMillen will also investigate ways of providing alternative infrastructures for areas dependent on the dam, like the existing bridge and access roads.

The aim is to begin on-the-ground decommissioning activities

by 2032 while adhering to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requirements.

EWEB officials say they will look toward "key information gaps that include how to remove sediment trapped behind the dam, how to restore the river through the project area and how its flow could change," plus how "the utility can work with neighbors to reduce impacts to the local economy, recreation, and transportation networks."

The utility says it is already working with Lane County Public Works and the engineering firm DOWL to resolve the problem of removing the bridge on top of Leaburg Dam. In September, letters were sent to 300 project neighbors advising about the issue and asking for information about the local terrain and traffic patterns.

Plans call for EWEB to begin on-the-ground decommissioning work by 2032. For more information about the Leaburg Decommissioning Action Plan, go to [eweb.org/leaburgcanal](http://eweb.org/leaburgcanal)

[Return To Page 1](#)

**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

**MRR** **McKenzie River Reflections**

[rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com) 541-822-3358

**Enjoy where you live**

Summertime is here, Wouldn't you rather stay in the McKenzie Valley instead of driving to tow "looking for bargains?"

How about spending a couple of hours at the swimming hole instead of stressing out in summer traffic?

Wouldn't it be better to spend the evening fishing instead of driving back and forth and getting nowhere?

You can invest your time and dollars locally by supporting your neighborhood businesses. The community you support will be a better one to live in and enjoy.

**MRR** **McKenzie River Reflections** [mckenzievalleyreflectionnewspaper.com](http://mckenzievalleyreflectionnewspaper.com)

**Shop at Home, it makes \$ense**

# Mountain lions: A critical part of our lands, despite bad rap



Krzysztof Wiktor/Adobe Stock

Mountain lions, found throughout North and South America, thrive in diverse environments, from dense forests to arid deserts.

By Isobel Charle Oregon News Service

People are probably happy to hear two orphaned mountain lion kittens have been rescued and will find new homes at the Oregon Zoo but sharing space with them in the wild is a different story.

While the kittens are safe, there are different ideas about how much to protect wild mountain lions.

Brent Lyles, executive director of the Mountain Lion Foundation, said although they are often feared, the large cats should be protected for the role they play in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

“The carnivores that are at or near the top of the food chain have been shown, again and again over the decades, to be critically important to the vibrancy and long-term stability of food webs in any environment,” Lyles pointed out.

Mountain lions, like other keystone predators, help maintain balance in an ecosystem by controlling herbivore or plant-eating populations, which benefits plant growth and overall biodiversity. Lyles noted the deer and elk carcasses they leave behind also provide food for hundreds of other species.

However, not everyone is prepared to live in proximity to mountain lions. By the 1960s, Oregon’s cougar population was nearly wiped out. Protections have since allowed their numbers to rebound but by how much remains unclear.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife permits killing up to 970 cougars annually, a quota some biologists believe is excessive. Lyles argued killing too many actually undermines safety, as stable mountain lion populations are less likely to create problems.

“It’s a very common misconception that the best response to human-wildlife encounter is to get rid of the cougar,” Lyles contended. “If you get rid of it, things can get ugly and you’ve just made the community less safe, not more safe.”

Lyles explained when a dominant lion is removed, multiple young males could move into the territory, prompting more human and livestock encounters. Though encounters are rare, Lyles added if they happen, you should make yourself look larger and make noise to scare the animal away. Maintain eye contact, avoid running and back away slowly.

# Being a Good Neighbor: LRAPA’s Winter Burning Guidelines

As winter settles into Lane County, many residents are considering outdoor burning for yard maintenance or using wood stoves for heating. Our local weather patterns play a crucial role in determining whether burning is allowed or the responsible choice on any given day.

## Weather and Smoke: A Critical Connection

Multiple aspects like wind speed and air temperature work together to either disperse smoke safely or trap it close to the ground. On stagnant days with limited air movement, smoke will linger in our valleys for hours or even days, negatively affecting your neighborhood with smokey odors and unhealthy air. Conversely, days with gentle winds and good atmospheric mixing help carry smoke up and away from your family and neighbors.

## Check Before You Burn

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) carefully monitors weather conditions and

uses sophisticated forecasting tools to determine when burning is permitted. Everyone in Lane County is subject to LRAPA’s outdoor burning regulations, which help protect our community’s air quality. LRAPA’s daily burning advisory considers:

- Current wind conditions
- Anticipated temperature changes
- Air quality measurements
- Weather patterns that could trap smoke

## Understanding Our Winter Air

Our region’s winter weather patterns can create temperature inversions, where cold air becomes trapped near the ground beneath warmer air above. This “lid” effect prevents smoke and pollutants from dispersing, leading to stagnant air conditions that can last for days. Climate trends so far this winter suggest we may experience more frequent temperature inversions this winter, making it especially important to check with LRAPA before burning.

## Making Weather-Wise Decisions

Even on “green” burning days, timing matters. LRAPA specifies the times burning is allowed because it accounts for the best conditions for burning:

- During the warmest part of the day when air is rising
- When gentle winds can help disperse smoke
- After morning fog or inversions have lifted

By checking LRAPA’s website before burning and paying attention to weather conditions, we can all contribute to maintaining healthy air quality in our community this winter season. Remember: if smoke hangs low to the ground or settles near the ground, it’s a sign that conditions aren’t suitable for burning, even if burning is technically permitted that day and time.

For current burning conditions and regulations, visit LRAPA’s website at [lrapa.org](http://lrapa.org)

# Home again

Continued From Page 1

expected this month, and another five should round out the program for the new year.

That track record is essential, says Mary Ellen Wheeler, an MVLTRG project manager. “We knew they couldn’t spend another winter in an RV,” she says. The Rapid Rehousing Initiative is directed toward people with moderate to low incomes. “Out of the first round, we were able to get eight placed,” Wheeler says. “By February, we’ll have eleven houses on the ground.”

Besides having elbow room again, what’s on people’s list of positive changes? For Campbell, the first was a shower, followed by laundry.

“When you live in a camper for four years, a shower is very valuable,” he feels. And, “being able to walk up to a washing machine and throw dirty things in” is something “people just don’t know until they’re without it,” he says.

His granddaughter, Cassidy, also gives the new home a thumbs up. “This place is beautiful,” she said. “When I walked in there today I was like, ‘this is so cool.’ We can get to do all our dinners together again and have family gatherings.”

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) provided the funding as part of the State Wildfire Recovery Funding, which is allocated for housing-related wildfire recovery.

“It’s all about trying to keep the community together and as intact as we can,” Wheeler feels. “We’ve learned a lot along the way, but the best part is like with Bob. Since the first day his house was delivered, the smile on his face - it’s like ‘I can finally come home.’”

In his own words, Campbell agrees. “It’s wonderful. I mean, what a gift! It’s heavenly right here.”

[Return To Page 1](#)



“Early detection gave us time to adapt together, as a family.”

If you’re noticing changes, it could be Alzheimer’s. Talk about visiting a doctor together.

[ALZ.org/TimeToTalk](http://ALZ.org/TimeToTalk)



Shop at Home, it makes \$ense