



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Sheriff's Report

A homeowner fired warning shots in a safe direction after observing someone attempt to break into his truck

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Gardening Tips

Some people look down on arborvitae, but it fits in places that other things can't,

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A very busy week

River crossings are being upgrade



Upgrades to five bridges along Highway 126 have seen the installation of temporary traffic lights for the two in Blue River and two 48-hour closures from August 20th to the 22nd, east of the Hwy. 242 junction. Oregon Dept. of Transportation officials said the work is on schedule, particularly on the "Clear Lake Cutoff" section.

Lazy Days site readied for new homes



The 8-acre Lazy Days site in the 52000 block of McKenzie Hwy. is now nearly ready to accept new homes to replace those destroyed four years ago in the Holiday Farm Fire. The Homes for Good housing agency reports during a recent visit to Blazer Industries of Aumsville they had a chance to see some of the modulars under construction - for delivery later this summer.

Upper Center getting a new roof, and more



By John Carlile
Board President, UMCC

It's been a labor of love and a long time coming with the Upper McKenzie Community Center getting a fresh start inside and out so we wanted to thank you all for your patience. The new roof is going on this week - just in time for a bit of rain, too. A

beautiful new access ramp and new stairs have been poured out front. Next comes the railing which still needs to be created and installed. And just so you all don't feel alone in the process of permitting and rebuilding, I wanted to let you know we have struggled with that process, too.

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90 marathons in 90 days?

Pacific Crest Trail in British musician's quest



Charles Costa

Making his way since setting out on July 20th, Charles Costa is now referring to Oregon as the "handsome state."

PCT: It's estimated someone would have to complete five million steps to traverse the entire 2,650-mile-long Pacific Crest Trail. Charles Costa isn't counting but each of his steps has a purpose - supporting charities focused on emotional health and suicide prevention.

The British-born singer/songwriter's

goal is to "run the equivalent of 90 marathons in 90 days to support the invaluable work carried out by James' Place, a

A decade ago, a skiing accident left Costa with a brain trauma that continues to shape his mental health journey. "This cause resonates deeply with me," he says. "I've gained

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Good news on Ore Fire

FINN ROCK: People had a chance to hear some good news during last Saturday's briefing on the Ore Fire at the McKenzie High gymnasium. Oscar Vargas, along with Jason Boehm, is one of the fire's two incident commanders. Both gave the local community high marks for the welcome area residents have received.

Vargas outlined his team's

approach as "being safe and being smart" while efforts are underway to either "put fires out or keeping them small." He also provided some insight into current ways of utilizing drones both night and day to do a lot of the backfiring to keep fires small.

Boehm said the team's focus was the "get the incident down to a

manageable incident that we

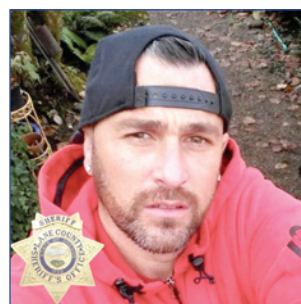
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Oscar Vargas

Break-in suspect sought

The Lane County Sheriff's Office is investigating numerous reports of vehicles being broken into in the McKenzie Bridge area on July 21st. A local



Codey Lewis

business owner observed the suspect vehicle driving through the area early in the morning and contacted police when he learned of the break-ins.

Deputies determined that Codey Lee Lewis owned the vehicle. Later that night, Coburg Police located Lewis. He was lodged at the Lane County Jail on unrelated warrants and the vehicle he was driving was impounded.

Deputies executed a search warrant on the truck

the following day and located a large number of stolen property. Further investigation led to the recovery of more stolen property from an address in McKenzie Bridge.

Police have identified the second suspect as Justin Wayne Arbogast, 40, of Coburg. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call Dispatch at 541-682-4141 and avoid approaching or contacting him.

Guest Opinion

The unheralded agency protecting America's innovation edge

By Frank Cullen

A little-known federal agency might be our most powerful asset in the race for global tech leadership. The International Trade Commission has the power to deter patent infringement abroad and at home by blocking infringers' access to the huge American market.

It's up to policymakers to make sure this asset gets deployed to the full extent of the law.

Here's the problem: In today's knowledge economy, ideas are the coin of the realm. But America's intellectual property is under constant attack.

That's because a 2006 Supreme Court decision, eBay v. MercExchange, severely curtailed the rights of IP owners. Previously, patent holders could easily stop infringers with court orders, called injunctions, preventing the sale of knock-off products that illegally incorporated patented technology.

But the eBay case changed the procedure for obtaining a court injunction. Patent holders now must prove that money alone can't make them whole for the damage the infringement caused. Though intended to curb certain types of abuse of injunctive authority, the decision unintentionally made it nearly impossible for legitimate innovators to stop infringement, often leaving them with the sole option of pursuing lengthy legal battles for financial compensation.

Enter the ITC. This body wields the power to swiftly bar infringing foreign-manufactured products from the U.S. market entirely. For a government body, the ITC moves fast, typically resolving cases in 12 to 18 months, compared to the

years-long slog of district court litigation.

Its administrative law judges are experts in complex patent issues and can grant exclusion orders now mostly unavailable in federal courts. This combination of speed, expertise, and decisive action makes the ITC an increasingly important venue for companies seeking to protect their innovations from copycats.

Established in 1916 as the U.S. Tariff Commission, the ITC has evolved alongside the American economy as we transitioned from a manufacturing powerhouse to an innovation-driven economy.

This evolved role was on full display in a recent high-profile case. When medical device maker Masimo accused the Apple Watch of infringing its blood oxygen monitoring patents, it turned to the ITC. The result? An import ban on infringing Apple Watch models that held Apple to account promptly. The ban demonstrates the ITC's ability to check the power of even one of the world's most dominant companies.

The ITC's role is crucial to preserving America's innovative edge. When a biotech startup pours its resources into a potentially life-saving drug, or when a telecom company invests billions in 5G technology, they need to know their intellectual property will be protected. The ITC's ability to swiftly block infringing products creates a powerful deterrent against IP theft.

Critics of the ITC argue that its powers could potentially be used to stifle competition or harm consumers. But while there's always a delicate balance between protecting innovation and protectionism, the ITC has built-in safeguards, starting with a public-interest requirement to weigh factors like health, safety, and competitive



conditions into its decisions. It's not a blunt instrument, but a precision tool designed to protect innovation while preserving fair competition.

As we look to the future, strengthening and modernizing the ITC should be a priority. This could involve increasing its resources to handle a growing caseload, streamlining its procedures, and potentially expanding its authority. We also need to educate our innovators more fully about the ITC as a forum for IP protection.

The future of American technological leadership depends on the choices we are making now -- in policy, investment, and legal strategy.

Frank Cullen is executive director of the Council for Innovation Promotion. This originally ran in The Hill.

New roof, and more

Continued From Page 1

It was a last-minute realization that the designated handicapped parking area to the east of the UMCC - the one that has been there the entire time - could not be paved by us because it is- wait for it - county property and doesn't belong to the UMCC. So even though they had approved our ramp in the back of the building they also wanted us to pave the area over the septic tank to get us to where we didn't own.

Needless to say, that plan changed - while forcing a huge cost overrun - into doing a new ramp and stairs at the front of the building with a designated handicapped parking spot where pavement already existed. That change order was not in the budget and forced us to spend nearly all of our operating money for the upcoming year to get it done. All that is to say we know the pain of dealing with the building process. And

if you can donate and help support the Upper McKenzie Community Center now is a GREAT time to do so.

Another labor of love we've gotten to witness is the creation and completion of the O'Brien Memorial Library opening soon in Blue River. We are so happy for the board members, and the volunteers and for all of their hard work and accomplishment in creating a brand new library facility for our community. We plan to thank them for getting that accomplished every time we see them. It was a lot of work and hope they take pride in their great success. We wish them well and will miss them when they go.

Stop by our booth at the McKenzie Track during the Holiday Farm Fire Commemorative Event for some Ice Cream and show your support for the UMCC.

Ore Fire

Continued From Page 1

can turn over to local units to finish things out." He felt optimistic that the outcome was on track, noting that the team had already handed management of the Slate Fire to locals and felt that the same could soon happen here.

Vargas earlier commented on the overall impacts of the 2024 season, saying "The West Coast is on fire from California all the way

to the Canadian border." Despite a year that saw "some exceptional records being broken, he said that current efforts to successfully control the Ore Fire "would not have been possible without the right decisions that were made early on."

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Letters to the Editor

Letters To The Editor should contain no more than 250 words. All letters must be signed and include an address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published upon request. Deadline for submission is Monday at 5 pm.

Friday 8/23		Saturday 8/24		Sunday 8/25	
McKenzie Valley Showers 50% chance precip High: 66 Low: 52	Santiam Pass Showers 60% chance precip High: 49 Low: 36	McKenzie Valley AM Showers 30% chance precip High: 71 Low: 52	Santiam Pass Showers 50% chance precip High: 52 Low: 37	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 78 Low: 52	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 63 Low: 40

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
8/13	55	74	NA	584 cfs	8/13	72	55	0	2,740 cfs
8/14	49	81	NA	551 cfs	8/14	77	49	0	2,690 cfs
8/15	60	73	NA	564 cfs	8/15	85	58	0	2,670 cfs
8/16	53	81	NA	558 cfs	8/16	80	54	0	2,590 cfs
8/17	57	82	NA	558 cfs	8/17	82	53	0	2,560 cfs
8/18	53	75	NA	551 cfs	8/18	81	54	0.35	2,670 cfs
8/19	54	76	551 cfs		8/19	77	55	0	2,690 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Aug. 4: 5:35 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 55300 blk, McK. River Dr. A motorcycle blew a back tire and parked in a driveway while they sought help.

Aug. 7: 12:15 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 55600 blk, E. King Rd. A possible scammer claiming to be from Dept. of Human Services stopped at a house in the area and spoke with an elderly couple. A deputy responded, but the person left and was not located. The vehicle was a white VW with a broken window.

Aug. 10: 3:40 a.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs. A backpack was stolen from a vehicle.

12:35 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 52600 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to a dispute in progress. Deputies responded along with Oregon State Police. No crime was articulated, and parties calmed down.

Aug. 11: 2:18 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 92000 blk, Spicer Ln. A deputy attempted contact regarding a possible civil issue.

7:53 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 87700 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

Aug. 12: 10:03 a.m:

Disturbance, Dispute - 87700 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. A deputy responded to the area regarding a civil dispute, which was resolved.

3:59 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 91000 blk, Hill Rd. Ongoing land management issues with a property in the area. Referred to Lane County Land Management.

5:59 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 38800 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A resident was reporting an older incident involving a suspicious subject on his property a month ago.

10:15 p.m: Reckless Driving - Bellinger Landing.

Aug. 13: 4:28 a.m: Burglary - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd. Deputies responded to an apparent burglary that had just occurred in the area. A window had been broken on the building, but nothing appeared to be stolen.

12:23 p.m: Welfare Check - 55600 blk, Drury Dr.

2:31 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

4:24 p.m: Civil Service - 90800 blk, La Lone Rd.

4:28 a.m: Burglary - 91100 blk, Sunderman Rd.

3:23 p.m: Assist Public - 43300 blk, McK Hwy.

Aug. 14: 11:14 a.m: Welfare Check - 95200 blk, Marcola Rd.

12:00 p.m: Assist Public - 43300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:18 p.m: Assault - 55600 blk, E. King Rd.

7:08 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. & Cemetery & Fire Station Rd.

Aug. 15: 12:25 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd. A homeowner fired warning shots in a safe direction after observing someone attempt to break into his truck parked on his property. Multiple deputies responded, however the trespasser was not located.

2:40 p.m: Suspicious Subject - Bellinger Landing. A male was observed walking in the area [Continued On Page 9](#)

State Police Report

Aug. 19: 18:13: Crash, Injury - Hwy. 126E & Thurston Rd. Troopers responded to a single motor vehicle crash involving a black Jeep Cherokee. The passenger was transported by ambulance to the hospital with minor injuries. The driver showed indicators of impairment. Driver's BAC was .01%. Driver voluntarily gave a urine sample. Driver was cited and released for DUII and issued citations for No Operators License and Fail To Provide Proof of Financial Responsibilities. Involved: 34-year-old female.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Aug. 12: 7:53: 89000 block, Old Mohawk Rd. Mutual Aid. Canceled Prior to Arrival.

16:46: 39000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Lift Assist. Patient Refusal/ Lift Assist Only.

Aug. 13: 17:42: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical Alarm. Eugene/Springfield Fire Handled.

18:08: 90000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Aug. 14: 16:56: 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

Aug. 15: 9:20: 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

10:58: 55000 blk, McKenzie River Dr. Mutual Aid. Assisted Upper McK. Fire, Deceased.

14:56: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd.. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Aug. 16: 2:03: 88000 blk, Millican Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded On Scene.

20:09: 88000 blk, Missy Ln. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Aug. 17: 3:40: 88000 blk, Millican Rd. Assist Police. Canceled On Scene.

6:03: 88000 blk, Millican Rd. Medical, Heart. Canceled Prior to Arrival.

16:01: 37000 blk, MJ Chase Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

17:10: 88000 blk, Periwinkle Rd. Smoke Scare. Smoke From a Chimney Found.

17:55: Camp Creek Rd./Whitsell Ln Smoke Scare. Steam Rising Off Hillside Found.

19:52: 88000 blk, Gemstone Rd. Smoke Scare. Unable To Locate.

20:02: 41000 blk, Madrone St. [Continued On Page 9](#)

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Aug. 13: 21:11: Medical - Off Cougar Dam Rd. Male, Consciousness Unknown, Breathing Status Unknown.

Aug. 14: 17:03: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Milepost 1, Clear Lake Cutoff. Yellow school bus off the road in the ditch, some teens are standing outside.

Aug. 15: 10:49: Medical - 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Gender unknown, Not Conscious, Not Breathing.

Aug. 16: 15:16: Medical - 57000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Safety device detected a fall - unable to reach to verify safety.

Aug. 19: 13:48: Medical - Blue Pool/Tamolitch Falls. Female fell, starting to have difficulty breathing.

Aug. 20: 04:09: Medical - 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

06:55: Medical - McK. Hwy./Milepost 52. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

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Small-time political crook James Lotan became West Coast's opium king

Continued From Last Week

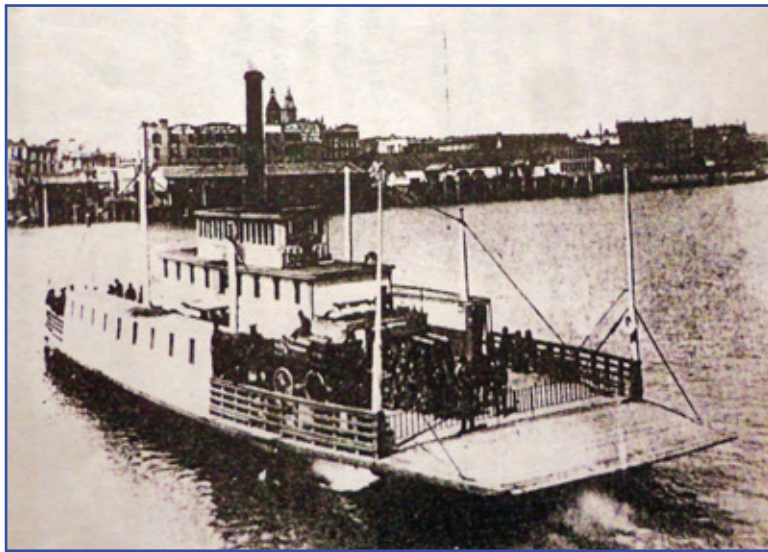
By Finn J.D. John

The problem with opium was, although the stuff was still legal, it was taxed very heavily. That meant smuggling the stuff in without paying the tax was tantamount to stealing money from the government.

When Dunbar smuggled a Chinese guy into the country to work, that was illegal, but nobody really cared; it was a big country, and there was lots of work to be done. But when Dunbar smuggled a barrel of opium into the country, the government lost thousands of dollars in tax revenue.

Most likely, Lotan didn't know about the opium until his partner's steamships started getting raided. Reading between the lines (criminals tend not to leave very complete records) it appears the opium was Nat Blum's idea. In any case, Blum did most of the day-to-day management of the opium operations. The idea was that the drugs would be rolled off the deck of the steamship in a lonely stretch of the Willamette River, before they reached the port, and would be retrieved by some of Blum's cronies later on.

Those cronies — guys like Bunco Kelley and Bob Garthorn, not to mention Nat Blum himself — would be the biggest weakness in the plan, at least when it came to the opium. Put simply, they



Oregon Historical Society
The Stark Street Ferry in roughly 1889. With the opening of the first Morrison Street Bridge a few years before, the writing was on the wall for the ferry at this time, but it was still a busy operation. By 1894 when the city finally agreed to buy it, though, the right-of-way had become worthless and the equipment had deteriorated nearly to scrap value.

were just super incompetent. They lost nearly as much opium to theft, accident and seizure as they actually brought in. And they brought a lot in — this was an industrial-scale operation, probably totaling well over five tons of product.

By November 1893, the jig was just about up. One of the Merchants Steamship Company's two steamers had been seized by the federal government in Astoria,

and the federal prosecutor in Portland was asking a grand jury to return indictments against Lotan, along with Dunbar and Blum and a number of their underworld cronies. Seid Back, the most prominent Chinese businessman in Portland, was also on the hook.

The ensuing trial held Portland spellbound. But Lotan hadn't much need to worry. The roster of court officers at this trial reads like an excerpt from the Arlington Club directory. Lotan was represented by future Senator Charles W. Fulton. Joseph Simon himself (remember him?) came back home from his cushy Washington D.C. position on the Republican National Committee to represent another defendant. Perhaps most outrageously, federal prosecutor John Gearin — who had just been appointed by President Grover Cleveland as special prosecutor for opium frauds — was, in the case of this particular opium fraud, on the side of the defense.

Also, the judge was one of Simon's former law partners, and the jury foreman was fellow Arlington Club member Charles Ladd.

So the trial ended with a hung jury. The word on the street was that the vote was 11 to 1; jury

foreman Ladd had refused to vote to convict his friend. A new trial would have to be scheduled.

The process dragged on for a couple years. Dunbar fled to China before he could be indicted. Blum, on the witness stand, got so "creative" in his testimony that by the end of the second trial, no one believed him any more. Eventually, Blum disappeared and the whole thing just sort of faded away.

As historian MacColl writes, "Lotan, supported throughout the ordeal by his Establishment and Arlington Club comrades, survived with his reputation more or less intact."

It has to be noted, though, that Lotan didn't stay president of the Oregon Republican Party for long after his indictment came down. No political party, even one as dominant as the GOP was in 1890s Oregon, can risk too much of that kind of publicity.

So, that's the end of the story as far as James Lotan was concerned. But you may be wondering about my admittedly clickbait introduction to this story. How, exactly, could a sleazy, venal crook like James Lotan be credited with saving the world from the Nazi menace and/or global thermonuclear destruction?

Those of you who are familiar with the story of Yosuke Matsuoka, the young Japanese lad who grew up on the Portland waterfront and afterward became the most important Imperial Japanese diplomat of the 20th century, know exactly where I'm going with this.

Yosuke Matsuoka was the son of a failed shipping magnate in Japan who came to the U.S. to try to mend his family's fortunes for his widowed mother. He came to Vancouver when he was 12. There he met Dunbar, who was processing in another cohort of Chinese laborers to be smuggled into Portland.

Dunbar sort of informally adopted the gregarious young lad and brought him home to serve as a companion for his 14-year-old son, Lambert.

So young Yosuke grew up in [Opium king Page 12](#)



By Slim Randles

Looking around at all the yard signs and hearing politicians tell us on television what a lying crook their competition is, I have to admit I miss Guv Reeve.

Guv had a real first name, but I sure don't recall it now, because this was back in the 1960s and 1970s in the high desert of California. He had his first name legally changed to Guv so everyone would know what he was all about. Every four years, he ran for governor. I worked for the Victor Valley Daily Press in Victorville, which is just 30 miles from Barstow, where everyone's car breaks down on the way to Vegas.

The other folks in the newsroom knew me as the "weirdo reporter" because if someone needed some serious couch time, they were pointed toward my desk.

Guv was maybe in his early 50s when I met him. He came into the newsroom one morning surrounded by four attractive middle-aged women, and all of them were smiling and handing out free cookies.

Guv and I closeted ourselves for the story while everyone else munched cookies, and I learned the Guv Reeve story.

He was a self-proclaimed preacher and lived in a large cabin about 30 miles away in the desert mountains. Yes ... with the sunshine girls.

His mission, he explained, was to gather food and clothing, and when they had enough for a large cardboard box, they would pack it up, find the name of a village in Mexico that he thought might be poor, and mailed it to them. Every time one of those boxes "ripened" and was ready for taping, they'd find a different village on the map.

His election platform was fairly simple: no taxes, more jobs, constant access to free cookies, and the love of God spreading throughout every person in California. You'd think a message that powerful would make his election a slam dunk. But the folks in California elected Ronald Reagan governor, instead. I met him, too, but he didn't have cookies.

Sometimes I really miss ol' Guv.

Brought to you by Slim's latest book, *Whimsy Castle*, now available at [Amazon.com](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#) and your local bookstore.

Quote of the Week

"I told my doctor I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places."

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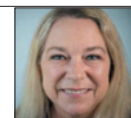
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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Arborvitae stands tall as easy-care hedge



Kym Pokorny

Arborvitae makes a good hedge.

For a hedge, arborvitae has a place. It's tall, skinny, evergreen, low maintenance, and cheap.

"Some people look down on arborvitae, but it fits in places that other things can't," said Neil Bell, a retired horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service. "And it's about as low maintenance a plant as anything you can buy if it's sited correctly."

When finding a location for arborvitae in the garden, Bell recommends full sun and well-drained soil.

"They can take some afternoon shade," Bell said. "But when I say afternoon shade, I mean after 3. The more sun, the better. Otherwise, the foliage will suffer."

Arborvitae also need well-drained soil. If you have boggy soil, they won't survive. Bell strongly suggests dealing with drainage problems before planting your arborvitae. Sometimes digging in organic material will do the trick, but for serious situations, it may be necessary to install drainage tiles.

"You've got to have good drainage," he said. "If there's standing water, it's one of the few instances that they will not thrive."

The flip side of that is the damage incurred during increasingly hot and dry summers. Bell points to how some arborvitae exhibited signs of dieback during the recent drought. Though many people think trees don't need to be watered, it's essential to give them

a good soaking every two to three weeks during dry periods to be on the safe side.

"Even if plants are established, they need water," he said. "Even though they don't wilt or show signs right away, you'll see damage in the fall. They'll turn brown. You might be able to prune and remove the damaged tissue and then give it summer water the next summer. It may recover."

What you shouldn't do is prune the tree back to bare stems. Unlike laurel hedges that like to be cut back with abandon, arborvitae won't produce new growth if pruned hard. They do, however, respond well to light pruning any time of year, if necessary, to keep them shaped.

"If they are well sited, planted properly and in enough sunlight, they will form a natural vertical green fence by themselves," Bell said.

The most commonly found arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) in the Northwest is 'Emerald Green,' also known as 'Smaragd,' which is about 15 feet tall by 4 feet wide. When shopping, look for healthy plants that are relatively the same size. You'll find them in containers or balled and burlapped.

Plant arborvitae like any other tree, is a process that has changed over the years. Dig a hole that's twice as wide as the root ball and just deep enough so that the top

sits 1 to 2 inches above ground. A good resource for complete instructions is *Selecting, Planting, and Caring for a New Tree* by OSU Extension. Space trees 3 to 4 feet apart.

Some cultivars of arborvitae will turn a washed-out brown in winter, though the most ubiquitous 'Emerald Green' doesn't have that characteristic. In those instances, all the foliage will brown up. Drought stress, on the other hand, will show up intermittently on individual trees and may not show up in every tree in the hedge.

Arborvitae are sturdy plants and have very few pest problems. The exception is mites, but even those are very uncommon, according to Bell. A grayish cast to the foliage is an indication there are mites on your tree.

What's more common is deer munching on them. "If they find an arborvitae hedge, they'll help themselves to it," he said. "You see it more in eastern Oregon; in western Oregon, there's more for them to eat so they don't do as much damage – but they will reshape the plant for you."

The deer feed from the bottom 4 to 5 feet and some people don't mind. It depends on what you're willing to tolerate. You can try repellents, but there's no scientific evidence that they work and they need to be reapplied often. The alternative is a fence – either around your entire yard or around the hedge.

If you get snow in winter, it's a good idea to tie up the top of your arborvitae or they could split.

"Freezing rain is worse than snow," Bell said. "It tends to peel them apart and once the limbs are bent over they will stay bent over."

If you have an arborvitae in decline, be sure to determine why it died before replacing it, and then buy the largest plant you can find so it catches up to its neighbors as quickly as possible. For help figuring out the problem, contact the OSU Extension Master Gardeners in your county.

The bottom line, Bell said, is to plant arborvitae in full sun with good drainage and they should perform well for many years.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



HEALTHY SNACKS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Back-to-School time is near. So Moms will be pondering on what to put in lunch boxes for snacks and items to have on hand when students arrive home from school. Snack foods too often result in the downfall of good nutrition and ideal weight for youngsters and adults.

Too often candy, cake, cookies, potato chips, and soda top the list of after school or recess snacks. However, nowadays, you can find more and more healthier snacks for youngsters and adults.

Desirable Snacks

* Fruits rate high on the list of desirable snack foods - apples, oranges, bananas, peaches, pears, plums, etc. Use canned or dried fruits when fresh ones aren't in season. Some are higher in sugar than others, so become knowledgeable about which are best for your children and yourself. With canned fruit, go for those in natural juice or low sugar.

* Fruit juices generally are better than soda for a refreshing drink. Milk is good, too, unless you have allergies. However, remember when you add syrups, such as chocolate and strawberry, you add calories to the drink.

* Water is a very good beverage and necessary to maintain life and good health. When I was a child on the dairy farm, milk and water were our beverages. Sometimes Mother could afford orange juice for breakfast.

* Although carrot and celery sticks aren't always a favorite on the snack list, you can enhance them with cheese, cream cheese and peanut butter. (There are lower fat types of these foods.)

* Raisins and various nuts are good snack foods filled with nutrition. Of course, the dry roasted nuts are lower in calories than those roasted in oil.

* If you have small containers with compartments, you can provide a number of different snack items in one. Many stores nowadays have these already made up with fruit, nuts, grapes, cheese and crackers.

ICY BANANA SHAKES have nutritional value. Blend until smooth: 3 cubes ice, 1/2 cup milk, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla, 1 ripe banana. Enjoy!

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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tinyurl.com/bpeftenb

McKenzie River Traveler's Guide

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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 Waltherville. plus in McKenzie Bridge at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church.

August 23

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.

August 24

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.

August 24

Wine Tasting

Who doesn't love wine tasting?

McKenzie Crest Winery will be offering wine tastings at the Center on August 24th, October 19th, and November 16th. Meet these local winemakers and enjoy the "fruits of their labor." Their tastings always incorporate surprises such as offerings from local craft-speople and makers of art.

August 24

BINGO at 1966

Join us for bingo this Saturday, at 1966 Bar & Grill, Tokatee Golf Club. Bingo will start at 6 pm! So feel free to come early for food and drink. Four rounds of bingo, \$5/3 cards, and you can buy as many cards as you'd like.

August 26

Spdf School Board

The Springfield School District Board of Directors meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 640 A Street, Springfield. Regular business meetings begin at 7 pm on the 2nd Monday and work sessions are generally held at 4 pm on the 4th Monday of the month.

August 27

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.

August 27

Family Story Time

The Family Story Time will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Road. Have some special fun at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship!

August 27

Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry is held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy. Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need, every 2nd & 4th Friday.

August 28

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.

August 28

LEC Board

The Lane Electric Coop Board of Directors meets at 787 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly. If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend: https://laneelectric.com/attend-a-board-meeting

August 28

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Green Island to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and

O'Brien Memorial Library to Open Soon



After years of work by a dedicated team of volunteers, the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River is expected to open this fall. Volunteers are needed to staff operation hours. This is necessary to carry on the mission of the library to provide books and other services to the community.

For more than 90 years, our library has been a vital part of this community. Mrs. Frances O'Brien was a local schoolteacher and in 1928 she had a vision that this community could provide books to all students in the area. Her vision and fortitude led to the first library to serve Blue River and the McKenzie River community. Over the years, the library ac-

quired more books and provided additional services ran entirely by volunteers who shared her original vision and spirit.

Tragically, the Holiday Farm Fire in 2020 destroyed the library structure, historical documents and its book collections. In July 2021, a temporary location opened at the Upper McKenzie River Community Center. Newly purchased and donated books and DVDs lined the shelves, WiFi was

offered to the patrons for the first time, and volunteers went back to work so patrons could borrow books, have a place to gather, and use their devices or find resources most libraries offer.

For our library, volunteers have always been the lifeblood of its existence. With our upcoming Grand Opening of the new library in Blue River, we need more volunteers so we can offer reasonable operating hours. Our Volunteer Drive goal is for 20 new volunteers!

If you are interested in joining a team who are determined to carry the vision and spirit of Mrs.

Frances O'Brien, visit our website and take a look at our Volunteer page at www.obrienlibrary.org, submit a form of interest or send an email directly to our Volunteer Coordinator at sandraobrienmemoriallibrary@gmail.com

A lot of exciting things are happening as our new building is nearing completion. Be one of those 20 new volunteers and join the momentum of rebuilding our community, you'll be rewarded with a meaningful and memorable experience.

2024 Waltherville Waddle is coming your way

On September 7 at 9 a.m. runners, walkers and waddlers will begin their 5K(3.1 miles) 2024 Waltherville Waddle. Professional timing will be available and everyone can learn how long it took them to complete the event. The Waddle is a tradition that was put on hold by COVID and the fire, but it's back with lots of family fun.

Register at: tinyurl.com/mzzz-p4k3 Registration will also be

allowed day of, but be sure to arrive early. If you want one of the stylish t-shirts, you must register by August 22. Registering online also saves you \$5!

Following the 5K, will be an old-fashioned parade at 11. The chicken dinner at noon that you cannot miss, but before the dinner, be sure to tour the local artists' booths.

Any questions, please email 97489waddle@gmail.com

Waltherville Waddle 5K advertisement graphic with duck and text: Saturday, September 7, 2024 - 9 a.m. Start Time - Waltherville Community Center. Includes details about the scenic course, race activities, and registration info.

Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care or planting/tree establishment. Green Island is a 1,100 acre preserve located just outside of the city of Coburg, Oregon.

August 28

Poker at the Center

August 29

McK Chamber Meeting

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at 44645 McKenzie Hwy. for its annual election of members of the board of directors. The program will include a presentation on progress on the McKenzie River Discovery Center. For more information contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

August 30

Classic Car Show

Join us for a fun day with live music, a Hot Dog bar, fresh fruit, and sweet treats hosted by Ester at Riverbend Assisted Living 2530 Game Farm Road in Springfield. Special thanks to Bristol and Brighton Hospice for sponsoring the food stations. Enjoy.

Call for Volunteers advertisement for O'Brien Memorial Library. Includes text: 'You can help us accomplish our vision.', 'Library volunteers enrich our community by- Engaging with Patrons at the circulation desk, Assisting with marketing and fundraising, Representing the library at events, Helping us move into our new, beautiful location', 'Apply by- Asking our current Board or volunteers, Completing an online application at www.obrienlibrary.org, or Visiting the temporary library at the Upper McKenzie Community Center at 54745 McKenzie River Dr., Blue River, OR 97413, or Emailing obrienmemoriallibrary@gmail.com'

Multiple church and fellowship group notices including: An Invitation to Worship, Living Water Family Fellowship (52353 McKenzie Hwy), Catholic Church St. Benedict Lodge Chapel (1/2 mile off Hwy. 126), McKenzie Bible Fellowship (45061 McKenzie Hwy), and McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church (10:30 am).



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64
65					66	67				68			
69					70					71			
72					73					74			

- tion
 47. Fill beyond full
 48. Masters of ceremonies, colloquially speaking
 50. Jon Krakauer's book "_____ the Wild"
 52. High craggy hill
 53. Church congregation
 55. Hole punching tool
 57. *A _____, or without accompaniment
 61. *Fast
 65. Not asleep
 66. 2000 lbs.
 68. Acquisition through marriage
 69. Rubber tree product
 70. Director's cry
 71. *Five lines
 72. Potassium hydroxide solution, pl.
 73. 168 in 1 week
 74. Housed

- DOWN**
- Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's title
 - Dharma teacher
 - Resembling wings
 - Good Year balloon, e.g.
 - Mexico City state
 - Say it isn't so
 - Winehouse or Schumer
 - New Mexico's state flower
 - Diplomat's asset
 - It comes to mind
 - Not in Impossible Burger
 - European erupter
 - Shell-like anatomical structure
 - *Nine instruments, e.g.
 - Bobby of hockey
 - Halle Bailey's 2023 role
 - *Loud or strong
 - Part of small intestine
 - Sometimes follows sauvignon
 - 1.3 ounces, in Asia
 - Coniferous trees
 - October 31 option
 - On top of trends (2 words)
 - *Strong-weak-strong-weak, e.g.
 - Sheltered, nautically speaking
 - "Wheel of Fortune" move
 - Based on number 8
 - Automatic reaction
 - *Fa follower
 - Solemn and wise?
 - Gate holder
 - *Slow
 - Pay a visit
 - Not home
 - Goose liver dish
 - Augments, usually with effort
 - Social insects
 - Air of allure, slangily
 - Five-star review
 - Was in the hole
 - Possessive pronoun

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Aug 22nd

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MUSIC 101

- ACROSS**
- Meat chunks
 - Calendar square
 - *_____ signature, or notation that describes #34 Down
 - Hiya or howdy
 - Down Under runner
 - West Point student
 - At full speed
 - Big Apple
 - Flounder's domain
 - *Complementary notes sung simultaneously
 - *Not sonata
 - Debate position
 - Painter Chagall
 - Munchhausen's story
 - Casino chip
 - *R in R&B
 - Spanish earthen pot
 - Lobed organs
 - Nest for an eagle
 - Bona fide
 - *Adagio or moderato, e.g.
 - What a willow did?
 - *Type of piano technician
 - Flock member description

Solution on Page 9

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

Have a news tip?
 Contact rivref2@gmail.com



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber (www.ricksteber.com)

August 25 - Donald McKenzie was born in Scotland but came to America at an early age and signed on as a fur trader. He led a band of adventurers overland to Oregon, arriving at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1812. McKenzie was a big man, weighing over 300 pounds but he was blessed with boundless energy. He was a skilled trader and explorer and led expeditions up the Snake, Columbia and Willamette river drainages. The McKenzie River, with headwaters in the Cascades, is named for him. During his days as a fur trader McKenzie amassed a fortune and retired to New York where he died in 1851, at the age of 66.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam - 2,500, and Clear Lake - 1,000.

Fish Counts August 17, Willamette Falls Spring Chinook - 21,898 Summer Steelhead - 18,301

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Crossword grid with solution words filled in.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

8x8 Sudoku grid with solution numbers filled in.

Emergency?

Call 911

Sheriff's Office recruiting cadets to gain law enforcement experience

The Lane County Sheriff's Office Cadet Program is for young men and women between the ages of 18 and 21, who have an interest in law enforcement. Our Cadet Program provides an opportunity to get first-hand experience to develop skills and knowledge necessary to prepare the cadets for full-time employment, hopefully with LCSO! Although being a Cadet is not a pre-requisite to becoming a Deputy Sheriff, we want to offer you every opportunity to gain experience and be successful in your career.

Please visit tinyurl.com/3hus3apy to apply.

If you are not selected for this process, we encourage you to consider applying the next time we recruit for these positions.

You must meet the eligibility requirements below.

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a US Citizen Must be between 18 and 21 years of age

Must possess a high-school diploma or be enrolled in a high school or GED program.

Cadets will: Receive training in law enforcement tactics, legal issues, use of force, corrections, and patrol operations

Be exposed to the various differences between a Sheriff's Office and their municipal, state, or fed-



- eral police counterparts
Attend community events and assist deputies present at them
Participate in Law Enforcement Ride-alongs
Be mentored and better prepared for a future career with the Sheriff's Office
Be mentored regarding the culture of service expected from Sheriff's Office members
Receive opportunities to work with many of the special teams and assignments offered by the Sheriff's Office (Dunes Patrol, Marine Patrol, Special Response Team, Forest Patrol, etc.)

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

holding a machete and a coffee mug.

Aug. 16: 1:30 p.m: Welfare Check - 37000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

2:02 p.m: Traffic Hazard - 91600 blk, Marcola Rd.

2:41 p.m: Illegal Dump - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Dollar Rd.

6:34 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Greenwood Dr.

7:50 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. & Camp Creek Rd.

9:52 p.m: Minor In Possession - McGowan quarry.

10:15 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Donna Rd. & McGowan Creek Rd.

Aug. 17: 2:57 a.m: Prowler - 88200 blk, Millican Rd.

4:58 a.m: Welfare Check - 54400 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:09 p.m: Stranded Vehicle - Lat: 44.156510. Long: - 122.262876.

4:21 p.m: Reckless Driving - 44800 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:27 p.m: Citizen Contact - 45600 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:47 p.m: Tree Down - 94400 blk, Marcola Rd.

7:19 p.m: Assist Fire Department - 92800 blk, Fir Ridge Rd.

7:21 p.m: Illegal Burn - 88600 blk, Gemstone Rd.

Aug. 18: 10:27 a.m: Impersonating An Officer - 95200 blk, Marcola Rd.

2:05 p.m: Citizen Contact - McKenzie Bridge area.

2:36 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Camp Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

3:31 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 89100 blk, Old Mohawk Rd.

5:37 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - Deerhorn Rd. & Tiki Ln.

9:58 p.m: Information - 41900 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

Aug. 19: 5:23 p.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

Smoke Scare. UTL.

Aug. 18: 15:07: 42000 blk, Timber Hill Dr. Smoke Scare. UTL.

18:40: 8300 blk, Thurston Rd.. Motor Vehicle Accident. Canceled On Scene.

5:38: 88692 Ermi Bee Rd. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.



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Teresa Simmons



Teresa Yvonne Simmons, beloved Wife, Mother & Grandmother, passed away at home on August 15, 2024, in Blue River, Oregon. Teresa was 60 years young. Born on August 20th, 1963, in Springfield, Oregon, to Garey Cleveland Cartmill & Peggy Lou Cartmill. Teresa graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1981.

She gave birth to her eldest child, James Michael Simmons, on November 12th, 1985; and her baby girl, Christina Marie Simmons, on January 22nd, 1989. Her children, who were her proudest accomplishment,

share a father, Jim Simmons of Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Teresa met her husband, Christopher John Hernandez, in 2004, and they were wed on June 6th, 2007. They lived a quiet life in Blue River, Oregon, with their dogs JJ & Bentley and her son James' cat, Ohno, which she loved. Teresa loved nothing more than to provide and care for her children and grandchildren.

Teresa is survived by her husband, Chris Hernandez and son, James Simmons both of Blue River, Oregon; daughter, Christina Simmons of Moore, Oklahoma; sister, Colleen Cartmill of Vancouver, Washington; brother, Garey Cartmill of Nicholasville, Kentucky; and twelve grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her father, Garey Cartmill; mother, Peggy Cartmill; brother, Dwayne Cartmill; and sister, Sherri Hill; paternal grandparents Grover Cartmill and Sylvia Leaper; maternal grandparents Louis Viestenz and Helen Tipps.

Arrangements are in the care of Major Family Funeral Home. Visit majorfamilyfuneralhome.com to share a memory of Teresa.

CLASSIFIED ADS - Phone, Email or Mail - Deadline: Every Monday @ 5pm rivref2@gmail.com FAX 541-663-4550 Non-subscriber Rates: 35¢ a word, \$6.00 minimum per issue. All ads must be paid in advance.

McKenzie River Reflections back issues grid with dates and prices.

Cascade Homeschool Club launches at Vida McKenzie Community Center



By Gerry Aster

VMCC was delighted to welcome a wonderful group of young people and their families on August 19th, when the first meeting of the Cascade Homeschool Club took place. The Club will meet from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. (bring a sack lunch) on Mondays at VMCC during Fall and early Winter and then it will resume in Spring. The Club's focus will be to provide area homeschoolers opportunities to learn, share, and socialize together.

There was true energy in the room as youth worked at four different project tables while family

members learned more about what the program has to offer. Parents and grandparents expressed excitement for this unique opportunity and some of them have already signed up to participate and to volunteer.

To learn more about Cascade Homeschool Club, inquire at cascadehomeschoolclub@gmail.com. Better yet, come to Vida McKenzie Community Center next Monday and see how extraordinary the Club is. Cannot stay for the whole four hours? No problem. Drop in for as long as you can stay.

Private contractors quickly provide vital people and equipment to help fight Oregon's wildfires

Feller bunchers, dozers, water tenders and other specialized equipment play a key role in the initial attack and suppression of Oregon's wildfires. Much of that equipment is provided by local operators under a contract agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry.

"One piece of equipment can do the work of a 40-person crew," said Craig Pettinger, Oregon Department of Forestry's interim district forester for its South Cascade district. "It's not just the equipment but the experienced operators who know the equipment and the terrain of the local area that make them so effective."

The operators sign up their people and equipment through ODF's Incident Resources Agreement (IRA) program. Applications are typically accepted April through June each year. IRA contractors may select to work within specific ODF geographic areas, or under statewide ODF jurisdiction.

"We participate with ODF's coordinated response to wildfires to help protect the communities our people live and work in, to limit damage to Oregon's forests and to preserve our investment in our timberland," said Kenny Rose, Chief Forester for Giustina Resources. "We were part of the initial attack on the Lane 1 Fire and still have equipment there. We are providing a rotary feller buncher, several dozers and large water tender."

The contractors' depth of knowledge and speed of their mobilization are two critical components they bring to fighting wildfires.

"I can pick up the phone and give them a call and literally have them on-scene in minutes and a full array of resources within a few hours," said Pettinger.



"That's exactly what we did at the start of the Lane 1 Fire. That fire did expand very quickly in the first 48-hours and if not for those resources it could have been much worse."

Although IRA contractors are used primarily on ODF jurisdiction fires, occasionally they may be requested and used on federal fires. That was the case for the Pyramid Fire south of Detroit Lake in the Willamette National Forest.

"We opened up 24-miles of old forest roads and built six-miles of 80-foot-wide fuel breaks," said Milt Moran, President, Cascade Timber Consulting. "I've been in the forestry business for 50 years and that was one of the nastiest fires we have worked on. Our people were out there at 9:30 p.m. working on roads with trees lighting up and snags falling all around. It's inherently dangerous for everyone fighting a fire. However, we always put safety first and work together to get after these wildfires as quick as we can."

IRA contractors are required to

have various levels of training and safety equipment depending on the type of services they provide. It's not just heavy equipment and operators; IRA contractors can provide hand-crews, radio operator, mobile food services, medical services and more.

"When we can work together, industry, large landowners and state forestry, that's when the partnership really shines." Jay Christensen from Weyerhaeuser said. Weyerhaeuser is a private landowner who has supported the agency in wildfire suppression multiple times. Most recently, they've supported the Lane 1 Fire outside of Cottage Grove from the beginning and are still working in partnership with ODF's Incident Management Team 1. "We understand our road system, we understand the ground." Christensen said.

"These IRA resources are critical for us to fight these fires," said Pettinger. "They are efficient, effective, and a vital part of the wildfire attack and suppression effort."

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McKenzie River Traveler's Guide

Take a look at the 2024 McKenzie Traveler's Guide

Look for it on newsstands where McKenzie River Reflections is sold or online at:

tinyurl.com/bpeftenb

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Drought in the West has cost hydropower industry billions in losses in two decades, analysis finds



Getty Images

The Lower Monumental Dam on the Snake River in Washington state. Washington and Oregon produce more than one-third of the nation's hydropower.

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Persistent drought in the West over the last two decades has limited the amount of electricity that hydropower dams can generate, costing the industry and the region billions of dollars in revenue.

The sector lost about 300 million megawatt hours of power generation between 2003 and 2020 due to drought and low water compared with the long-term average, researchers from the University of Alabama found. That equals about \$28 billion in lost revenue. Half of the drop in power generation was due to

drought in Oregon, Washington and California, which produce half the hydropower generated in the U.S.

The researchers published their findings July 23 in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

The three states have been the most affected financially and environmentally by the decline in power production. Economic losses in California were estimated to be more than \$8.7 billion, and in Washington more than \$4 billion. In Oregon, the hydroelectricity sector is estimated to have lost more than \$1.5 billion in revenue over those 18 years.

When there isn't enough hydropower available, utilities are forced to purchase energy from fossil fuel producers, mostly from natural gas companies, that drive up emissions. The purchase of gas-powered electricity to supplement a lack of hydropower drove carbon dioxide emissions up 10% over the 18 years, the study found.

To reach their conclusions, the researchers analyzed stream flows from hydro-generating facilities across the U.S. from 2003 to 2023, and compared them with drought maps over that same period. They noted that droughts in the Western states were more severe and more frequent than in other parts of the U.S., causing the most significant losses.

Hydropower electricity from Oregon and Washington dams fell to historically low levels last year. Both Oregon and Washington generated 20% less hydropower in 2023 than in 2021. The U.S. Energy Information Administration attributed this to low precipitation in the fall and winter, and the May 2023 "heat dome" that drove regional temperatures up 30 degrees above average and rapidly melted snowpack in the region, which traditionally feeds rivers and streams steadily throughout the summer. Experts at the federal agency predict that hydropower generation across the West for 2024 will decrease 12% from 2023, leading to more historic lows.

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ORE Fire Update

On Tuesday, conditions were expected to be warmer and drier, leading to an increase in fire activity ahead of predicted wetting rain later in the week. There are confirmed new lightning fires in the area, and incident resources are available to assist with new fire responses if necessary. Management of the Willamette Complex North will transition from California Interagency Incident Management Team 13 to Northwest Interagency Incident Management Team 7 at 7 a.m. on Wednesday.

The ORE Fire is now 3,135 Acres, 14% Contained, with 571 Total Personnel. It is now believed to have been Human Caused.

Overnight resources continued to secure containment lines. If conditions prove favorable, crews will resume firing operations today along the 1509 Road to strengthen the northwestern flank. Crews on the northeastern flank will continue to construct and improve containment lines. The southwestern and southeastern flanks remain a solid anchor for the fire.

SPS looks for board member applicants after vacancy

By Bayla Orton

During Springfield Public Schools District's (SPS) monthly board meeting on August 12th, members introduced new faculty members, as well as navigating a new opening on their board.

Manny Placencia, a former 4th grade teacher at Guy Lee Elementary and frontrunner in their dual immersion program has now become the Assistant Principal at Yolanda Elementary.

Betsy Johnson, a language arts teacher and Dean of Students from Colorado, has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal at Springfield High School.

After these announcements, the board stated that long standing member Dr. Emilio Hernandez

had handed in his resignation after 7 years of labor for the Springfield School board. This leaves an open seat in their 5 person committee, creating a position for a new Springfield resident to fill. Members of the Springfield Public School board are crucial in regards to creating policies to aid students, allocating money towards district programs, and evaluating the superintendent. Those looking to apply must be registered to vote and cannot be district employees.

Through their discussion, the board decided that the deadline for applications will be 12 p.m on August 23rd, 2024. Interested individuals can apply at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e>

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TIME

Yosuke Matsuoka was on the cover of Time Magazine for the July 7, 1941, issue.

the Dunbar home, kind of like the character of Hadji in the old Jonny Quest cartoons.

He grew up surrounded by all the players from top to bottom of what had to be the biggest and most well-connected drug-smuggling operation in American history. When he returned to Japan after graduating from the University of Oregon, he believed he knew America as well as he knew Japan ... based on having lived there for

half his life.

Of course, his experience of America was basically from the perspective of a regional organized-crime family, like the Corleones in The Godfather.

And as a top-ranking Japanese diplomat, Matsuoka always thought of Americans as being like the waterfront toughs and cowboy-capitalists he palled around with in the 1890s — guys who respected guts and strength.

Which is why, in 1940, Matsuoka worked so hard to forge an alliance between Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany. He figured being an official ally of the most powerful country in Europe would give Japan the strength and credibility to stand up to the U.S.

The result was the Tripartite Pact, which turned Japan into an Axis power. After that, Japan was a tripwire that the Roosevelt Administration could tug on to get the U.S. into the war with Nazi Germany. Which, of course, is exactly what happened (whether the tugging was incidental or deliberate).

So, here's the sequence: Dunbar starts smuggling operations — which leads to Dunbar meeting Matsuoka and adopting him — which leads to Matsuoka getting a very wrong impression of America and Americans — which leads to Matsuoka bringing Japan into an alliance with Nazi Germany — which leads to Pearl Harbor and World War II — which leads to Hiroshima and Nagasaki — which leads to the leaders and warlords of the entire world having seen with their own eyes what nuclear war looks like, before they're ever entrusted with the power to unleash it.

But that whole sequence of events could never have happened without James Lotan, the small-time political crook, looking around to see who might be able to help him make some quick dirty money, and reaching out to his recently widowed friend William Dunbar.

(Sources: *Merchants, Money and Power*, a book by E. Kimbark MacColl published by Georgian Press in 1988; *Agony of Choice: Matsuoka Yosuke and the Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire*, a book by David J. Lu published in 2002 by Lexington Books; *archives of Portland Morning Oregonian and Portland Daily Telegraph*, 1893)

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 early this year. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

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90 marathons

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Charles Costa, at his studio in England, more than 4,000 miles away from the 2,500-mile-long Pacific Crest Trail.

profound empathy for those grappling with similar struggles," he adds.

A run from Canada to Mexico along the legendary Pacific Crest Trail is, in itself a challenge. This year there was more to face than just the mileage.

"Oregon started with a fire diversion from Eagle Creek to Lola Pass," he recalls. "I was coming out of Washington semi-traumatized by the elevation gain and expecting Oregon to be - as everybody had told me - very much flatter and faster hiking. By the time I was scaling Mount Hood, I knew this might have been an overstatement!"

For Costa, formerly known as King Charles, any challenges he might encounter are offset by benefits he hopes his journey will generate for James' Place — a nonprofit dedicated to suicide prevention for men — and the Jed Foundation, which is centered on protecting emotional health and preventing suicide for teens and young adults in the U.S.

Out on the trail, people he's encountered have bolstered his feeling he's on the right track. "After the first day, we ran across trail angel 'Right Time' who was good company and was gathering weary hikers just when they needed him," Costa reports. "As novices to the world of thru-hiking we have been sponges to mission intelligence from seasoned pros.

Then, there's also the area itself. "Some stunning scenery, long days, and greedy berry-picking sessions took me through Olallie Lake where we found some beautiful camping," he says. "I had energizing chats with other thru-hikers - tho all nobos about the berries, the trail, and life's relatables."

He adds he was grateful that there were more in-roads to the trail than in Washington. "I was down to my running vest and moving quickly to Big Lake where more trail magic kept me busy while the van got some repairs. We had a dinner party with guests we had just met on the shore of the lake."

His other observations about Oregon included the lava fields and "no one had warned me that this was imminent. Slow moving 14 hrs later I was pitching my tent. Fortunately, the day was punctuated by yet more blessed trail magic where I loaded up on cold sodas and went on my dishevelled way. High climbs over and around the Sisters peaks at sunset were delightful."

Over the past year Costa says he's been hearing from "more and more friends, and friends of friends, that have taken their lives, and the profound impacts that result, "are such great causes to raise money for."

His goal is to finish his run on October 20th near the Mexico border.

The experience, Costa says, has had special meaning for him. "I believe there's a strong interconnection between running on the trail and making music to keep my mind and emotions balanced. After I've been running, I feel free and completely released from the struggles I face when I wake up. No other therapy can come close to the healing I experience from running and singing."

People who want to help out can donate to James' Place, by visiting bit.ly/3AgFPsD or the Jed Foundation at: tinyurl.com/zm6d66mw

Costa is relaunching his music career under his given name, Charles Costa, and will be releasing new singles starting this September, providing a soundtrack to his run.

You can follow his progress on Instagram [@charlescostaofficial](https://www.instagram.com/charlescostaofficial)

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