



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Sheriff's Report

An area resident found pink underwear hanging on a fence and found it suspicious.

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Bing cherries

Native Americans considered a wagon train carrying trees was under the protection of the Great Spirit.

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Briefs...



It's time to lace up your skates for an all-ages skate party at the Bob Keefer Center, 250 S 32nd St. in Springfield. Bring your roller skates, in-line skates, and rollerblades, or rent them at the 2-hour event for \$3 worth of skating in style with a live DJ, lights, decorations, and more. Registration is not required. Learn more at willamalane.org/skate

The Skate Party can accommodate up to 200 people at one time. Willamalane has limited skates in various sizes available for rent for \$3—admission: \$8 in-district folks and \$11 out-of-district.



It's time to find the perfect Christmas tree and ornament for your holiday celebrations. But that's not all. Once again, one of the Willamette Valley's most beloved traditions is returning - the seventh annual Willamette Valley Ornament Hunt.

U.S. Forest Service Christmas tree permits are available online at Recreation.gov, in person from local vendors, or from one of the Willamette offices. They allow people to cut one tree in designated areas; each household can purchase up to five permits. Permits are \$5 each; online purchases at Trees & ornaments - Page 2



The Thurston Grangers invite all Lane County communities to Christmas shop at their Holiday Craft Sale Event from December 13th to the 15th, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Also, on Sunday, Dec. 15th, from 12 to 2 p.m., people will have a fun opportunity to meet and greet the Grinch. Please bring your camera to take a picture with the See the Grinch - Page 2

"Taking root in the ashes"

Rebirth of the O'Brien Memorial Library celebrated

"When the library burned, even the angels folded their wings and sulked." Those words from a poem read by John Witte reflected the impact the loss of the O'Brien Memorial Library made. Yet, similar to "words flying off like seeds" in the flames of the Holiday Farm Fire, he noted, hope can "take root in the ashes, sprouting new trees, new leaves, new books."

The shoulder-to-shoulder crowd that packed the library Saturday afternoon echoed the feeling of rebirth. All were there to celebrate the grand opening of the replacement for the building lost in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire.

Among the crowd were members of the board of directors that helped bring

the facility back into being. O'Brien Memorial Library President Connie Richardson emphasized that the library's operations depend entirely on volunteers, who perform various roles, including cataloging, cleaning, and landscaping. She also expressed deep appreciation for them, pointing out the library "could not function without their contributions."



A ribbon flew through the air to mark Saturday's return of the O'Brien Memorial Library to Blue River.

"Even though books are my favorite," Richardson said, "we want it to be a community space sometimes where people just want to relax or meet their neighbors on a Tuesday afternoon."

Some of the site's new offerings range from an online catalog to computers for patrons, e- and audiobooks, and high-speed internet connections. She said some things will be welcomed by their continued absence, including the absence of "due dates or fines" for books out on loan.

"The new library isn't just another building," noted Pete O'Brien. "It's a continuation of my grandmother's legacy, who was one of the greatest people I ever met," he added.

"This will be a great place for Blue River, O'Brien added. "It really touches my heart, and I'm glad it's back."

UO secures \$2 million to boost hazelnut farms

By Leila Okahata
University Communications

"To be resilient to climate change and to minimize climate change, you need healthy soil," said Lauren Hallett, an associate professor of environmental studies and biology at the UO's College of Arts and Sciences.

For the past five years, Hallett and her colleague Marissa Lane-Masse, a research assistant at the UO and fourth-generation hazelnut farmer, have worked together to create cover crop seed mixes that keep agricultural soils cooler during increasingly hotter seasons without interfering with the harvest. Compared to bare soil, a blanket of cover crops can better regulate soil temperature and enhance water retention and soil microbiology.

To test and demonstrate the soil management system at scale, the research pair was recently awarded \$2 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to partner with 20 Oregon hazelnut farms. U.S. Sen. Ron Hazelnut farms - Page 11



Nicolas Walcott

A mix of native wildflowers and volcanic rock dust can offer climate resilience for filbert orchards

A new neighborhood is coming to town

Homes in the Rose Street project should be ready next winter



Shovels were at the ready on Friday for volunteers who dug up some small cedars for transplanting at the new Rose Street housing project site.

People interested in building new houses and looking forward to welcoming new neighbors were drawn to a spot of open ground last Friday. The site, at the corner of Rose and McCauley Streets in Blue River, is expected to affect community rebuilding positively.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rose Street project, McKenzie Community Land Trust (MCLT) executive director Brandi Ferguson saluted the area's "candor spirit." Talking to a crowd of well-wishers in a gentle rainfall, she thanked "so many people for volunteering so much of their time to bring this community back."

The Rose Street Homes project involves constructing six 3-

bedroom, 2-bath homes for low and mid-income full-time Blue River residents. Details of ownership include a 99-year lease.

Lane Tompkins, the president of the non-profit MCLT, said he was excited by the prospect of "bringing back some neighbors who were displaced but maybe also welcoming some new neighbors to help strengthen the community."

East Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch also spoke and pledged continued government support for rebuilding efforts. Since taking office at the start of the COVID epidemic and a string of wildfires, Buch said recovery efforts have become "pretty much ingrained in what I do each day."

Letters to the Editor

Library lives on

Dear Friends of the O'Brien Memorial Library,

Words cannot express the appreciation I have for the overwhelming support and generosity at the Grand Opening of the library – shoulder to shoulder, wall to wall, standing room only!

Frances O'Brien's Legacy of a

library in Blue River lives on.

Your new Library hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11:00am – 5:00pm and Wednesday 11:00am – 7pm. Come and enjoy this community gathering place.

With Gratitude,

Connie Richardson
President

O'Brien Memorial Library

Guest Opinion

Wildfires are expensive: Stop making Oregonians pay the bill

By Natalie Whitesel

Across Oregon, the flames from more than 2,000 fires this season have engulfed homes, ravaged landscapes and emitted dangerous levels of particulate matter, while burning through state budgets to rack up a large tab for taxpayers.

Oregon's current approach to wildfire budgeting is inherently incompatible with the level of risk it faces in a changing climate. In fact, the damages – hundreds of thousands of acres burned, dozens of homes and other structures destroyed – are only likely to get worse. The solution?

A carbon price.

Making polluters pay corrects a long-standing market inefficiency, shifting the burden of wildfire costs from the shoulders of taxpayers back on to the responsible party: large carbon emitters. Plenty of evidence shows that the carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels are driving climate change, which, in turn, is causing more extreme weather and more extreme wildfires.

In Oregon, modestly pricing

the carbon emissions that largely responsible for our changing climate – and worse wildfire seasons – could generate an additional \$3 billion annually, providing ample resources to fund the state's wildfire response efforts, offer direct loans for community, infrastructure and landscape recovery, and significantly boost investments in wildfire prevention and resilience.

And we're going to need it all.

On Sept. 26, Oregon's legislative Emergency Board approved \$47.5 million in emergency funding for the Oregon Department of Forestry to pay for this wildfire season.

With climate change, Oregon will continue to face a severe wildfire risk, experts say. Yet the state's current practice of mopping up wildfire costs after the fact is inefficient at best and consistently fails to account for the true costs of worsening wildfire in the warming world.

Wildfire doesn't bend to the will of the budget writers in Salem. The Emergency Board plays a tenuous role doling out funds to keep Oregon's agencies afloat. This year, when the forestry department's initial budget ran out,



wildfires burned on. They faced financial tumult: insolvency by November, with more costs to come, according to a legislative analysis. Protecting Oregonians by approving this round of emergency funding was critical, but as we anticipate the next "record-setting" wildfire season, the continued use of stop-gap expenditures as a makeshift solution levies an unsustainable burden on the state's budget and, by default, on Oregon taxpayers.

Oregonians are all too familiar with the impacts of wildfire: skyrocketing home insurance premiums; countless acres of forest, grasses and croplands burned to a crisp; homes and communities devastated by flames; lives lost. Despite their best efforts to protect themselves and their property, individual action can only go so far.

And costs have continued to rise. Since 1992, annual average wildfire damages have doubled, then

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Both Class 3A semi-final games will be played at Summit HS in Bend.

In the Class 4A, top ranked Marist Catholic hosts fifth ranked Scappoose, 1:00 pm at McMinnville and second ranked Cascade hosts third ranked Henley at Grants Pass, 4:30 pm.

Silverton is the top ranked Class 5A team this season and they host fifth ranked Wilsonville on Friday, November 22, 7:00 pm at McMinnville. Second ranked Mountain View takes on sixth ranked West Albany on the 22nd, 7:00 pm, at McNary HS.

And finally, the Class 6A number one ranked team, Lake Oswego, hosts fifth ranked Central Catholic, at Hillsboro Stadium on November 22, 7:00 pm and second ranked West Linn hosts third ranked Sheldon, 7:00 pm, at Willamette University.

Eagle Athletes Honored At Fall Ceremony

The McKenzie School District held its annual Fall Athletic/Academic Award Ceremony last week and announced the many athletes earning distinction.

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top ranked Powers meets fifth ranked South Wasco County at Cottage Grove and second ranked Harper Charter locks horns with Prairie City/Burnt River at Eastern Oregon University. Both contests kick off at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 23.

Class 1A 8-man football feature top ranked Adrian hosting fourth ranked Crane at Eastern Oregon University, 4:30 pm following the above 6-man semi-final game. Second ranked Crosspoint Christian will meet third ranked North Douglas at Grants Pass, 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 23.

The Class 2A eleven man football will pit number one ranked Heppner hosting fifth ranked St. Paul at Caldera HS in Bend at 2:00 pm on November 23 and on the other side of the semi-final bracket, number two Oakland hosts sixth ranked Gervais at Cottage Grove, 4:30 pm after the 6-man game.

Class 3A has second ranked Banks meeting eleventh ranked Burns at 4:30 pm and fourth ranked Vale meeting ninth ranked North Valley earlier at 1:00 pm.

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

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

Grid Iron Championship Week

We're down to seven high school football games in the State of Oregon and by the end of the week, seven new Championship teams will advance to their respective Title game and the other seven teams will not. The fact of the matter, however, is that all fourteen of the last fourteen school teams involved at this point are Champions in their own right and in the minds and hearts of their schools and Communities. Congratulations to All and hike the pigskin and let's get it on!

In the Class 1A 6-man ranks,

Briefs...

Trees & ornaments

[Continued From Page 1](#)

bit.ly/WNFtree have an additional \$2.50 service fee. For downloadable maps of tree-cutting areas and a list of local vendors selling tree permits, visit bit.ly/WNFtree

Locally crafted wooden ornaments have been hidden in the McKenzie River Ranger District, where eagle-eyed hikers can seek them out and register to win this year's grand prize, which includes a two-night getaway in the Wil-

lamette Valley. Trails include the Waterfalls Loop Trail, the McKenzie River Trail, and the King-Castle Trail.

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See the Grinch

[Continued From Page 1](#)

Grinch.

Admission is free to this Family-friendly shopping experience at 6596 Thurston Road in Springfield.

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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.



McKenzie River Reflections



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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWING LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
11/12	42	46	0.46	NA	11/12	51	43	0.59	3,890 cfs
11/13	44	47	1.33	NA	11/13	51	45	0.71	4,150 cfs
11/14	42	47	0.50	590 cfs	11/14	51	45	0.78	6,670 cfs
11/15	37	45	0.01	NA	11/15	50	41	0.45	5,810 cfs
11/16	34	36	0	740 cfs	11/16	48	34	t	5,030 cfs
11/17	40	47	3.27	981 cfs	11/17	46	39	1.79	5,150 cfs
11/18	33	38	0.71	NA	11/18	50	35	1.67	11,200 cfs

Friday 11/22

McKenzie Valley Rain
80% chance precip
High: 54 Low: 42

Santiam Pass Rain/Snow
80% chance precip
High: 37 Low: 27

Saturday 11/23

McKenzie Valley Showers
60% chance precip
High: 51 Low: 40

Santiam Pass Snow
60% chance precip
High: 34 Low: 24

Sunday 11/24

McKenzie Valley Showers
60% chance precip
High: 48 Low: 38

Santiam Pass Snow Showers
60% chance precip
High: 32 Low: 25

Sheriff's Report

Nov. 2: 2:08 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd. Caller reported trespassers had been in the area the day before.

Nov. 3: 11:50 a.m: Extortion - 51200 blk, Blue River Dr. A juvenile was scammed online after sending information to the suspect.

Nov. 4: 9:52 a.m: Burglary - 59200 block, N. Belknap Springs Rd. A lodge in the area was broken into and items stolen.

Nov. 5: 7:47 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Mail belonging to one person was dumped in the area.

6:28 p.m: Arrest - 90200 blk, Huckleberry Ln. Parole &

Probation made an arrest.

Nov. 6: 8:15 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Blue River Dam. A vehicle was parked in the area with an male driver who appeared to be intoxicated. The vehicle then left the area.

Nov. 9: 12:45 p.m: Assault - 56400 blk McK. Hwy. Two neighbors disputed over leaves on their properties. Both only wanted the incident documented.

Nov. 10: 8:52 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A passerby reported a cyclist was stealing telephone wire. A deputy responded and determined he was collecting cans from the side of the road.

Nov. 12: 12:15 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 3900 blk, Hayden Bridge Rd.

6:57 a.m: Disoriented Subject - 42800 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:10 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 35900 blk, camp Creek Rd.

12:36 p.m: Alarm - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

1:17 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

1:53 p.m: Citizen Contact - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

2:43 p.m: Welfare Check - 38800 blk, Meadow Creek Ln.

2:51 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 52600 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:18 p.m: Information - 87900 blk, Running Spring Dr.

Nov. 13: 4:05 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 8600 blk, Thurston Rd. Deputies responded to a home in the area after the resident awoke to someone attempting to push their door open. The subject left after the resident said they were calling the police. Deputies patrolled the area but did not locate anyone.

10:49 a.m: Assist, Follow Up - 45600 blk, N. Gate Creek Rd.

11:05 a.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

2:14 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Angels Flight Rd. & McK. Hwy.

2:50 p.m: Dog at Large - 38700 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

Nov. 14: 10:41 a.m: Assault - 36600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

12:20 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 39600 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd. An area resident found pink underwear hanging on a fence and found it suspicious.

Nov. 15: 3:21 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 36900 blk, Edgemoor Rd.

6:12 a.m: Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 36600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

8:49 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:48 a.m: Warrant Service - 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

5:14 p.m: Traffic Hazard - 41900 blk, Holden Creek Ln.

8:32 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 44600 blk, McK. Hwy.

Nov. 16: 4:00 a.m: Information - 38400 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

7:54 a.m: Animal Abuse - Marcola area.

10:00 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy.

11:09 a.m: Citizen Contact - Waltherville.

4:48 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 36600 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

Nov. 17: 1:05 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 36300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

6:28 a.m: Tree Down - Wendling Rd. & Martin Ln.

10:07 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:54 p.m: Burglary - 52200 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:50 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:42 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Upper Camp Creek Rd. & McCauley Ridge Dr.

5:51 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Upper Camp Creek Milepost 2.

6:45 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

Nov. 12: 9:06: 35000 block, Camp Creek Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury, Transferred scene to LCSO.

17:27: 7000 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Cancelled En Route.

Nov. 13: 6:39: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Scene Transferred to LCSO

6:46: 8500 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:08: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained

Nov. 14: 17:20: 89000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded En Route by Mohawk Valley Fire.

Nov. 15: 20:59: 7700 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded.

Nov. 16: 22:10: 41000 blk, Madrone St Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported

Nov. 17: 17:40: Upper Camp Creek Rd./Milepost 2. Motor Vehicle Accident. No Patient Found, Vehicle Flagged.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Nov. 11: 15:11: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Aufderheide Dr./Milepost 56. A green van crashed off the side of roadway. Nobody was seen around the vehicle.

Nov. 17: 12:52: Medical - 51000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

CORRECTION

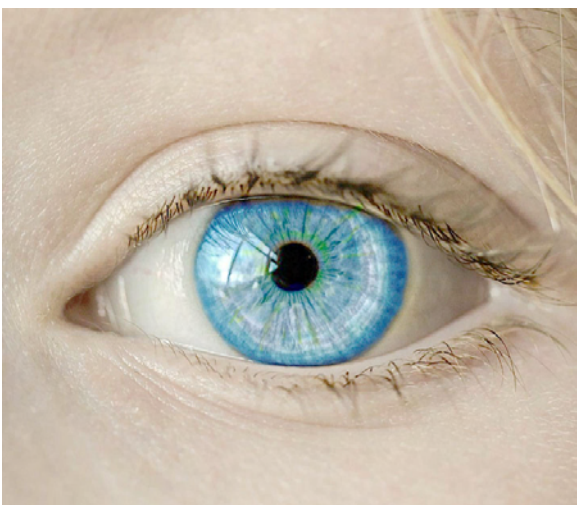
There was an error last week's Blue River Cleanup article. Mark Bruce was incorrectly identified. His name is Mike Bruce.

Emergency?

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Look for the Blue

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Bing cherries are a product of the Oregon Trail

By Finn J.D. John

When cherry season rolls around, there's never much doubt about what varieties you'll find in your local grocery store. They'll usually have some white or bluish cherries, typically Royal Anne or Rainier; but most of them will be Bings.

Among cherry fans, the deep-red Bing is the gold standard, and has been for well over 100 years now. Rich and sweet, almost like chocolate in its intensity of flavor, the Bing dominates the supermarket and is most people's favorite variety.

And there is probably no single fruit that's more closely associated with the state of Oregon than this heavenly cherry, the ancestors of which actually crossed the Oregon Trail and may have saved its fellow travelers on the wagon train from harm at the hands of some fed-up Indian tribes along the way.

For all of that, we mostly have three fruit-growing brothers to thank: Henderson Luelling, and his younger brothers John and Seth (Seth preferred the original Welsh spelling of the family name, Lewelling).

The Luelling family was from North Carolina originally, and they moved in the 1820s to Indiana. They were devout Quakers and hardcore Abolitionists, which was likely at least part of why they left the Carolinas.

Henderson, the oldest brother, started a fruit-tree nursery in Indiana with brother John. They moved their operation to Salem, Iowa, in 1837.

By that time, Henderson had married a girl named Jane Elizabeth Presnall. The two of them, in the early 1840s, built a really nice stone house with two secret rooms in the basement, which they used to stow away runaway slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. In fact, Henderson and Elizabeth were so serious about the abolition of slavery that they were read out of meeting (basically, excommunicated) from the Salem Meeting of Friends. Most likely the other Quakers in the meetinghouse thought their Abolitionist activities were



USDA
A water-color image of the Black Republican cultivar of cherries, created by William Henry Prestele in 1892 from a specimen in Newberg.

too militant to square with the Quakers' mandate to work for peace.

The Luellings responded by founding a new Quaker meetinghouse in Salem, the Abolition Meeting of Friends, and carrying on.

By the early 1840s, the Oregon Trail was starting to open up. Henderson had been obsessed with Oregon since several years earlier when he had found and read the memoirs of Lewis and Clark. A nasty winter that killed a bunch of his nursery stock was apparently the final straw for him, and he started gearing up to make the journey.

Luelling had no intention of just showing up in Oregon and hoping

for the best. He was a nurseryman, and he figured if he expected trees to be there in Oregon for him to go back into business with, he was going to have to bring them himself.

To this end, he partnered with a neighbor and fellow nurseryman, William Meek. The plan was, the two of them would both head for Oregon in separate wagon trains, both of them bringing trees for the nursery they intended to establish there. Luelling would leave first, and Meek the following year.

For the journey, Luelling built a special heavy wagon with room for about 700 slips, cuttings, and saplings, and filled it with soil mixed with charcoal. He crammed as many trees into it as he could.

The tree wagon was in the vanguard when the Luelling family hit the road in 1847. By this time, Henderson and Elizabeth had eight children, with one more on the way. They traveled with two other Quaker families, presumably drawn from the Abolitionist meetinghouse they helped found: The Hockettes and the Fishers.

Along the way, they tried to travel with other emigrants, but friction developed because of the trees. The tree wagon was

extraordinarily heavy, and hence slow. It also had to be watered at every possible stop along the way. Also, it attracted noticeable attention from Indians, which made everyone very nervous. So the other emigrants forged ahead.

This was likely a mistake on their part. Luelling was later told that many Native Americans saw trees as sacred, and considered that a wagon train carrying trees over the mountains was under the protection of the Great Spirit.

Whether for this or other reasons, not only did the Luellings have no "Indian trouble," but when Elizabeth went into labor during the Columbia River part of the journey, Indian friends were happy to load her into a canoe and paddle her to The Dalles for medical attention. She gave birth to the family's ninth child — a boy named Oregon Columbia Luelling — on the way there. (Oregon Columbia, by the way, went by "O.C." his whole life.)

Then the powerful and dangerous Columbia Cascades had to be shot — trees and all. Again, their new Indian canoeist friends helped, retrieving a runaway flatboat that had missed the take-out point and was headed into more danger.

By the time Henderson and Elizabeth got to their destination in Milwaukie, they had lost only half their trees. But they'd gained a child and a large cohort of Native friends along the way. They also gained the opportunity to start what would become one of Oregon's most important industries. Henderson Luelling today is most well known as the "father of the Oregon nursery industry."

He's also somewhat famous, or notorious perhaps, for an episode much later in his life when he tried to found a free-love cult in Honduras. But that, as podcast host Marcus Axford of the Welcome to Oregon podcast likes to say, is a story for another day.

In Oregon, Henderson and Elizabeth settled in Milwaukie and set up their nursery. They soon found that, in Oregon at least, money really did grow on trees. Newly arrived settlers, most of whom had not tasted fresh fruit in months, would pay plenty for a box of apples or plums.

When Henderson's brother Seth arrived on the trail with brother John, he joined the family operation and basically took over the Milwaukie operations while Henderson traveled south to establish a nursery and orchards in the fast-growing San Francisco Bay area — by this time, of course, the Gold Rush had started. This would become the Oakland suburb of Fruitvale.

It is primarily Seth who we

[Bing cherries - Page 12](#)



By Slim Randles

There is a payoff, Doc told us, for getting the aches and pains of old age. Doc should know. We have it on good authority that he is actually older than a flat, brown rock.

"Sure," said Doc, in his usual cheerful way. "You get gray hair, or maybe kinda bald like ol' Steve here, and you develop wisdom, which we all know just means you know not to argue with your wife, right? So then what happens? Your grandchildren think you have all the answers."

Doc cleaned over conspiratorially. "I Live to embarrass my grandchildren."

Dud wanted specifics.

"With me," Doc said, "it's dancing. You see, they are all teenagers now, and therefore they are cool and know everything, and the world couldn't turn without them. So when their friends come over and they crank that stereo up to where it's killing the neighbor's geraniums, I ask them just once to turn it down."

"Takes me a lot more than once," Dud said. "I swear those kids are hard of hearing."

"But do you dance for them?" Doc asked. "You see, if they don't turn it down, I kinda totter to my feet and start what the kids call the Grandpa Boogie. I mean I shake it like an Egyptian pharaoh. I wiggle and jiggle and stick out my chin like this ... and sort of thrust myself around the floor until one of them dashes over and shuts off the music. Then I go sit down and read the paper again. The first couple of times I did that, the kids got me to one side and begged me never to do that again. I guess they were just jealous of my moves. Well, I hated to show them up in front of their friends, seeing as I could dance better than they could, but the music was too loud. I tell them when the music gets more than just kinda regular, I can't help myself and dance fever hits me like a sledgehammer."

"So," Steve said, "how did you do it? I mean, show us, OK?"

So Doc stood up and went into spasms, twitches and slides that had the whole coffee shop cracking up, and people didn't know whether to applaud or call the paramedics.

"The really great thing," said Doc, sitting back down, out of breath, with his coffee, "is that these kids think they invented being cool. And I blind-sided them with great mo-o-o-oves! I showed them a slink or two.

"And you'd be surprised how much quieter it is when they come over these days."

Brought to you with a smile from Slim's just-out fun novel, *Whimsy Castle*. At better book stores and on the internet at Amazon, Kindle, Barnes and Noble, Ebay, Thriftbooks and Page Publishing.

Quote of the Week

"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."

Will Rogers

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

As the sun sets on the season, it's time to winterize



As the outdoor gardening season reaches its conclusion, cool temperatures and shorter daylight hours take over. That means it's time to winterize gardens and position them for continued health and beauty over the winter months.

For ornamental gardens and foundation plantings, it's time to complete a few tasks, but heavy pruning of "woodies" — trees and shrubs — is best left to late winter. Pruning in the fall or early winter might encourage new growth that's later damaged by frost. Exceptions include dead, damaged or diseased material — the risks of not removing these are greater than that of potentially damaged regrowth. Most fall work in the ornamental landscape is focused on the maintenance of herbaceous material.

Cutting back perennials

As perennials like Shasta daisies, rudbeckias, mums and salvias finish blooming and stalks dry out, they should be cut back to tidy the garden. Cutting back is easier in fall when the stems are upright: winter snows mash them in all directions making removal a lengthier process. Previous wisdom has been to cut these stems back nearly to the ground.

Newer research suggests that hollow-stemmed perennials, once cut back, can serve as nesting sites for native bees.

This technique of providing bee habitat may work better on early blooming perennials, stems of which would be available nesting material for a longer period. This topic is ripe for further research. Whether cut ground level or at about two feet to provide pollinator habitat, cut back perennials for the winter season and remove dead leaves and stems.

Mulch

A good application of mulch helps regulate soil temperature and provides insulation to the root zone of plants. This is especially helpful for plants with lots of roots close to the soil surface. Many novice gardeners are surprised to learn that a cycle of frost-thaw, frost-thaw can be more damaging to plants than temperatures that get cold and stay cold.

The warm-cold cycle causes some plants to heave from the soil, can cause roots to dry out and is detrimental to trees. A layer of 3-4 inches of natural products like bark nuggets or shredded bark is commonly recommended. Mulch should not be piled, volcano style, at deeper levels around the trunks

of trees.

Dig and divide

Once plants have been cut back and cleaned up, it's sometimes obvious that one plant has outgrown its designated location or is large enough to be divided into multiple plants to fill in other garden spots. Fall is a great time to divide most perennials. Plants that have a rosette growth habit (all leaves seeming to originate from one central point) are generally not conducive to dividing, but numerous others benefit from division.

Often forgotten at division time are the bulbs — often most traces of their spring beauty are gone by fall. Bulbs like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths should be divided every three to five years by digging them up and removing "daughters" from the main bulb to be replanted separately. There's no one schedule that fits all plants and gardens, but failure to divide bulbs periodically leads to ever smaller and smaller blooms and weak plants struggling to compete with each other.

Protect tree trunks

Young and recently planted trees are especially prone to trunk damage when there are mild days and drastically colder nights. On sunny winter days, the exposed sides of tree trunks thaw differently from the shady sides, leading to cracking and splitting on the sunny side.

Small cracks allow the entry of bacteria, fungi and insects, which create larger problems. Strong winds add further damage. A variety of tree tape and coiled plastic protectors are available. Now is the time to apply these if your trees are vulnerable.

Remove weeds

They might look dead and harmless now, but the roots of perennial weeds are growing underground during winter, just like the roots of desirable plants. Tops may contain thousands of seeds, a deposit for next year's weed bank.

If fall brings rain, weeds are much easier to pull. For a few stubborn taprooted weeds, fall is a good time to apply herbicide as the plant is pulling nutrients into the root for winter.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

"Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go!"

Although we didn't ride in a sleigh pulled by a horse or horses, as the song goes, we did, when we were children, sing this song as we rode in a car the 45 miles to Grandmother's house for Thanksgiving dinner, as long as the traveling was good. Mother cooked some of the food and brought it along to combine with what my grandmother and aunt provided.

We didn't have turkey in those days, but a large roasted hen or rooster we raised on the farm. Auntie made her delicious homemade bread. Other dishes prepared by the family of cooks were mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, peas or green beans, homemade pickles, homemade cranberry sauce and pickled beets. For dessert there were pies... pumpkin, apple and custard.

Thanksgiving & Cranberries

Cranberries were growing wild around Cape Cod when the first European settlers arrived. The natives taught the settlers how to cook them. One recipe called for cranberries mixed with dried venison and fat. It's said, then the

mixture was pounded into a pulp and patted into cakes. These were left in the sun to dry.

The Pilgrim cooks soon developed their own methods of preparation and stewed the berries in water, adding some sweetening for a better flavor. Later cooks developed many recipes for cranberries, such as breads, muffins, puddings, pies and cookies.

CRANBERRY COOKIES is one recipe you may want to try from our modern era. Cream 1/2 cup butter, 1-cup sugar, 3/4 cup packed brown sugar. Beat in 1/4-cup milk, 2 tablespoons orange juice, 1 egg.

Sift together 3 cups flour, 1-teaspoon baking powder, 1/4-teaspoon baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon salt. Combine with creamed mixture and blend well. Stir in 1 cup chopped nuts, 2 1/2 cups coarsely chopped cranberries. (Add more liquid if necessary so cookies will drop easily.)

Drop by teaspoonful on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F. for 10-15 minutes, until browned. Makes about 12 dozen tea-size cookies.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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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 Walterville. plus in Blue River at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the clinic on Dexter Street.

November 21

McK Chamber Board

The The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce board will meet via zoom at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

November 21

Leaburg Food Pantry

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

November 23 & 24

Art Harvest Faire

The McKenzie River Artisans Harvest Faire is back for the first time since the Holiday Farm Fire. Come to the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane and kick of your holiday shopping with arts and crafts created locally.

November 23

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.

November 26

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.

November 26

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.

November 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.

November 27

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>.

November 29

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.

November 30

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 3

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 3

Coffee With Locals

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) from 10 to 11 a.m. at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Road in McKenzie Bridge. Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

December 3

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 friendship.

December 3

EWEB Board

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged

to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. An interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. To arrange for this service, call 541-685-7000. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed.

December 3

Walterville Grange

The Walterville Grange #416 will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road. The first two monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday

December 3

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 4

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 4

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 4

Free Produce

Free fresh produce day is at the new clinic, 51730 Dexter St, 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 4

BR Water Board

The Blue River Water Board will meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the administration building on the

McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com

December 4

BR Park Board

The Blue River Park Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com

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 7

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 7

Bridge Lighting

Come to the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr. in Rainbow for a festive evening of holiday cheer at the Annual Holiday Bridge Lighting Celebration. The community event begins around 4:30 with the colorful raft parade floating down the McKenzie past the Belknap Bridge float by on the river, featuring Santa Claus himself!

Sing your favorite holiday carols with our friends and family while the Historic Belknap Bridge is illuminated for the holiday season!

Then join us at the Upper McKenzie Community Center for hot cocoa, hot cider, festive treats, and a chance to meet Santa in person! (Once he is done rafting, of course) We're also having a Holiday Treat Potluck so bring some holiday treats or appetizers to share.

December 8

Film with Friends

From 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane.

December 8

Disaster Plans

Make a plan now, with the help of a few local experienced people from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center.

<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p>Living Water Family Fellowship 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>McKenzie Bible Fellowship 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's & Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information www.mckenziebible.com</p>	<p>Catholic Church St. Benedict Lodge Chapel 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: sbldodge.opwest.org</p>
<p>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church 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, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	

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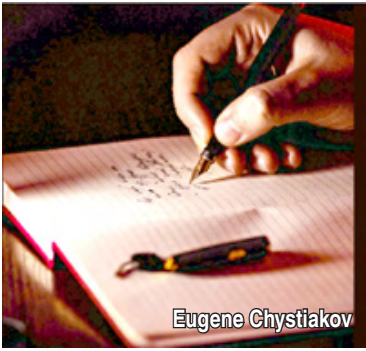
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Unlawful Search



Eugene Chystiakov

I need someone to give me an honest answer, so when I saw your column in the paper, I thought maybe I can unload what I have on my mind. I live in a small community and work for my father. Several weeks ago I was looking for change to purchase water for the crew, and I know my dad keeps loose change in his desk. As I was looking, I saw a notebook.

I know it was none of my business, but what I discovered was a listing of dates and money paid, with some initials and remarks written beside the money amounts. As I was going downtown I tried to figure out what it all meant. Then it came to me. He was having an affair. I couldn't believe it, so when I returned to work I photocopied the book and took it home to try to figure it out.

Ever since I've had a sick feeling, can't sleep, and can't even look at him anymore. My parents have been married for 39 years, and from what I figure, he's been paying for sex for seven of those years. My mother would never discover this because she doesn't drive and him being late has been a way of life for as long as I can remember.

She is a stay-at-home wife who waits for him, cleans for him, and always has a hot meal waiting for him no matter what. She has sacrificed her life for him, and for what? A cheating husband?

Do I say anything to my Dad? I would never say anything to my mother because I know it would devastate her. My point is I have information that could change my family forever, and a time bomb waiting to happen when and if his mistress decides to spill the beans.

Vesta

Vesta, when someone is being hurt by a cheater, we typically say go ahead and tell. But our usual advice doesn't apply here for three reasons. You may be misinterpreting the notations in the notebook; you won't tell your mother under any circumstances; and after seven years this time bomb is likely to be a dud.

Sometimes the law embodies a wisdom which can be applied to daily life, and that is the case here. You invaded your father's privacy when you searched his desk. One legal principle which applies to searches is called the elephant in the matchbox. It means if the police are looking for an elephant, they can't look for it in your matchbox. You had no reason to look for coins in your father's notebook and no right to photocopy what you found.

Another principle of law--one which applies to evidence--is called the fruit of a poisonous tree. That principle says evidence gained through an illegal search can't be used in court. Since the tree is poisoned, all its fruit is tainted.

What you did is akin to sneaking a look at a diary, peeping into a bathroom stall, or using a pinhole camera to photograph a woman on a tanning bed. It wasn't an honorable act. Although we may find spies useful, we seldom find them honorable.

Perhaps the best thing you can do is examine your own motivation. You mention your long-suffering mother, but we suspect there may also be a long-suffering daughter who sees this as an opportunity to settle an old score with her father. If that is the case, using this information is not the way to do it.

A character in a Stephen King novel says, "Peek not through keyholes, lest ye be vexed." You

did something you should not have done, and vexation is the price for having done it. Keep this information to yourself. If you have issues with your father and employer, then address them directly without using this information to gain the upper

hand.

Wayne & Tamara

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.

Alone

By Jack Gilbert

I never thought Michiko would come back after she died. But if she did, I knew it would be as a lady in a long white dress. It is strange that she has returned as somebody's dalmatian. I meet the man walking her on a leash almost every week. He says good morning and I stoop down to calm her. He said once that she was never like that with other people. Sometimes she is tethered on their lawn when I go by. If nobody is around, I sit on the grass. When she finally quiets, she puts her head in my lap and we watch each other's eyes as I whisper in her soft ears. She cares nothing about the mystery. She likes it best when I touch her head and tell her small things about my days and our friends. That makes her happy the way it always did.

Copyright Credit: Jack Gilbert, "Alone" from *Collected Poems*. Copyright © 2012 by Jack Gilbert. Reprinted by permission of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

When Jack Gilbert won the Yale Younger Poets prize in 1962 for *Views of Jeopardy*, he attained a kind of allure usually foreign to poets. His photo was featured in *Esquire*, *Vogue*, and *Glamour*, and his book was often stolen from the library. A Guggenheim Fellowship enabled him to go to Europe; he spent much of the ensuing two decades living modestly abroad. Although the literary world embraced him early in his career, he was something of a self-imposed exile: flunking out of high school; congregating with Allen Ginsberg and Jack Spicer in San Francisco but never really writing like a Beat poet; living in Europe and writing American poetry inspired by Pound and Eliot.

Publishing only four books since he began writing over 50 years ago reinforces for his readers Gilbert's love of economy. In a 2006 interview on NPR, he reflected on his relatively sparse list of publications: "It's not a business with me . . . I'm not a professional of poetry, I'm a farmer of poetry."

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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 Waltherville Loop, a block from the Waltherville 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

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Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

Sears can't repair my Kenmore trash compactor. Can you get my money back?

Kenneth Stueben wants Sears to repair his Kenmore trash compactor. He's already paid \$436 for the parts and labor, but now Sears can't do the job -- and it won't refund his money. Is that allowed?

My Kenmore trash compactor stopped working late last year because the on-off switch malfunctioned. A Sears technician came to my home and said he needed to order a replacement switch.

The total charge for the diagnosis, the part and the labor to install it came to \$436. The technician asked me to sign a form to pay that before he left. But the repair never happened because Sears eventually told me they couldn't get the part. I tried several times to discuss this by chat, phone and email, but no one ever answered the telephone or responded to my messages.

After failing to get any response from Sears, I told Citibank about my problem and they helped me file a credit card dispute. I received a refund for the service call, but the \$297 I paid for parts is still outstanding. Can you help me get my money back?

Kenneth Stueben, Santa Rosa, Calif.

Sears should have fixed your trash compactor, as agreed. If it couldn't, it should have given you a prompt refund for everything - the service call, the spare parts. Everything.

Why didn't it? Once a company takes your money, it will go to great lengths to keep it, so there are probably safeguards in Sears' payment systems to prevent it from just coughing up an immediate refund. Maybe the company was optimistic that it could still find the parts it needed for your trash compactor. But that's probably a garbage theory.

You followed the right path to a resolution. First, you gave Sears a chance in writing to address this, and it didn't. You followed, applying steady pressure to get a resolution, and again Sears failed to act. So you filed a credit card dispute.

You should have received a full refund for the technician visit and the parts, but it looks like you either disputed an incorrect amount or Citibank only processed the charge for your technician visit. You might have circled back with Citi in an appeal or asked a Sears manager for another review. It looks like Sears promised another review but never followed through. I publish the names, numbers and email addresses of the Sears and Citi executives on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I contacted Sears on your behalf. A few days later, Sears contacted you and refunded the charges for the obsolete spare parts. Maybe it's time for a new trash compactor.

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. funds away from student needs at a time like this."

LCC Board seeks applicants

The Lane Community College Board of Education is seeking applications for appointment to the board to serve as At-Large (Position 7) Director. The At-Large seat was vacated November 6, 2024, when Lisa Fragala resigned from the position.

Applicants for the at-large position must live in the Lane Community College District. Interested candidates should contact the Lane County Elections office at (541) 682-4234 to determine if they reside in Lane County boundaries. The period of service of the board member filling this vacancy will begin upon appointment and will expire on June 30, 2025. If the successor wishes to continue to serve on the Board of Education after June 30th, they must then run for election in the May 2025 election. The winner of the May 2025 election will serve the remaining two years of the four-year term, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

Qualified candidates will be interviewed and appointed by current Board of Education members as directed by ORS 341.335(3). To apply, please submit a completed application, resume, and cover letter to Celia Wright, Executive Assistant to the President and Liaison to the Board of Education at wrightc@lanec.edu. The deadline to apply is December 7, 2024. The seat will remain open until filled.



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

November 23 - J. G. Thompson arrived in Eastern Oregon in the early 1870s. He went to work as a muleskinner, moving freight with a team of 14 mules over the Blue Mountains between LaGrande and Pendleton. He controlled the mules with a jerkline and he kept a handful of pebbles at the ready, throwing them unerringly to speed up any mule that was not pulling its weight. The most unusual thing about Thompson was his booming voice. It was claimed his voice was louder than any steamboat whistle on the Columbia and that he could stand at the summit of the Blue Mountains and be heard in LaGrande and Pendleton. He was given the descriptive nickname of *Whispering Thompson*.

Ski Report

November 19, 2023

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed 4 inches new snow fell overnight, bringing the snow depth to 37 inches. Up to 20 more inches could fall this week. Temperatures were 40 at the base and 27 at the summit, with winds out of the south at 14 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 19 degrees at the base and 15 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. 3 inches of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 48 inches. The new snow is light and dry, setting up for another great weekend of skiing and riding. Now open on weekends, the resort will open for the daily season starting on November 29. For more information call 541-382-7888.

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Banking on Oregon Forests:

Oregon inks agreement with developers to enter entire state forest into carbon market

By Alex Baumhardt

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon is one step closer to using a state forest to help capture and store more planet-warming greenhouse gases, and to fight climate change and earn money through the carbon market.

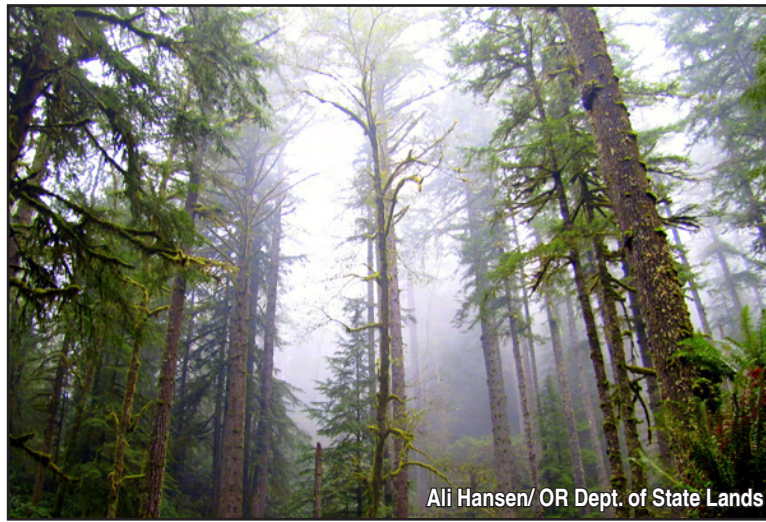
Leaders at the Department of State Lands signed a development agreement Thursday to enter all of the nearly 83,000-acre Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay into the voluntary carbon market for 40 years. The project will be managed by the carbon brokerage and development company Anew Climate, with offices in Houston, Texas, Salt Lake City, Utah and Calgary, Canada.

It's the first such agreement on state-owned lands in the western United States, according to the state lands department. Michigan is the only other state that has entire state-managed forests generating credits for the carbon markets, with two of its state forests listed in the American Carbon Registry, the first voluntary greenhouse gas registry in the world that monitors projects and issues carbon credits.

Oregon is one step closer to using a state forest to help capture and store more planet-warming greenhouse gases, and to fight climate change and earn money through the carbon market.

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The Elliott State Forest is among the first state-owned forests in the western United States to be entered into a carbon market.

is the only other state that has entire state-managed forests generating credits for the carbon markets, with two of its state forests listed in the American Carbon Registry, the first voluntary greenhouse gas registry in the world that monitors projects and issues carbon credits. Those projects were developed by Anew Climate.

In exchange for limiting logging and improving forest management, the Elliott State Forest carbon project is expected to capture and store hundreds of thousands of metric tons of additional planet-warming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This would generate hundreds of thousands of carbon credits — worth millions of dollars — for the land department over the next decade, according to a November 2023 draft analysis between Anew Climate and the state. The final agreement shared with the Capital Chronicle on Thursday was heavily redacted and did not include any of the finalized financial aspects of the project.

"We won't know how many credits will be generated or how much revenue the state will receive until we actually develop the carbon project," said Ali Hansen, a lands department spokesperson,

in an email. "It's not that we're not disclosing, it's that this agreement gets the ball rolling on work to make the project happen."

The agreement with Anew Climate follows an Oct. 15 vote by the State Land Board on a management plan for the 83,000-acre forest near Coos Bay that prioritizes research, protecting animal habitat, increasing forest carbon storage to combat climate change and producing income from the sale of carbon credits.

Gov. Tina Kotek, one of the three members of the State Land Board who voted for the new Elliott Forest management plan, along with Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade and state Treasurer Tobias Read, said in a news release it will help Oregon meet targets for curbing planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

"We need bolder action to fight climate change," Kotek said. "Enrolling the Elliott State Research Forest in the carbon market will help meet our state's climate goals and respond to a future of increasing uncertainty."

Next steps

Officials at the Department of State Lands anticipate that the forest management plan, including the carbon plan, will go into

effect next year, following finalization of a habitat conservation plan currently being reviewed by federal agencies.

The next step for the state and the developers at Anew Climate is to begin inventorying the carbon in the forest, measuring the additional carbon that they expect will be stored as compared with past use and "business as usual" logging practices in surrounding forests and getting the project independently verified by third-party auditors. Once this is complete, carbon credits can begin to be awarded and eventually sold on the voluntary carbon market.

Under the agreement, the forest will be enrolled in the American Carbon Registry. Credits generated will be sold to companies that want to buy carbon credits not because they must under government regulations, but because they want to show that they are trying to reduce the impact of their pollution.

The November draft analysis from Anew Climate showed the Elliott State Forest can be managed to capture and store up to 435,000 additional metric tons of carbon dioxide in the next 40 years — the equivalent to taking about 100,000 gas-powered cars off roads for a year. Each ton would be worth one carbon credit that could be sold to companies to offset some of their greenhouse gas emissions. The credits could be worth nearly \$9 million on the voluntary carbon market over the next decade, Anew Climate's analysis said.

The voluntary carbon crediting

market has come under scrutiny in recent years for lacking regulations and oversight to ensure each ton of carbon dioxide released by a polluter is offset by a metric ton absorbed by a landowner. Critics also say they provide only a temporary solution for harmful emissions that cause climate change. After a 40- or 100-year contract for carbon storage has been fulfilled, a landowner could log it all, or use the land for something else. Others worry the markets only delay a necessary transition away from fossil fuels within the next century by letting polluters buy their way out of making urgent changes.

Under the plan, logging will still be allowed in parts of the forest but will be significantly reduced from previous decades.

The Elliott was intensively logged for much of the last century to provide revenue for Oregon schools. Between 1993 and 2016, the state averaged 20 million board feet in harvests from the forest per year, but some years were heavier than others, and in the early 2000s, 30 million to 40 million board feet were coming off the Elliott to fund schools. Logging for school revenue largely stopped in 2016, and in 2022, it became a research forest. Today, it is among the largest research forests in the nation.

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Reporting for this story was supported by the MIT Environmental Solutions Journalism Fellowship.

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Hazelnut farms

Continued From Page 1



Native cover crops grown on a hazelnut farm.

Wyden of Oregon established the USDA program through his work on the Inflation Reduction Act. The effort built on his earlier work on the 2018 Farm Bill to promote soil health and climate resilience.

“Oregon is great at both growing things and adding value to them, but we need to make sure we do both in a sustainable way,” Wyden said. “I am always eager to support programs that tackle challenges farmers face while helping address the climate crisis.”

The research team additionally consists of Lucas Silva, a professor of environmental studies and biology, and Nik Wiman, an associate professor of horticulture at Oregon State University.

Despite its whispered potential, cover cropping historically has had a negative stigma among hazelnut farmers, Lane-Massee said. The orchard ground is conventionally left bare because

of concerns that adding vegetation would tangle up fallen nuts and mess with harvesting, she said. A clean orchard floor is considered a good orchard floor.

“My grandma always said you got to keep the orchard like a golf course, so that when you go to harvest, the nuts roll right across the ground and into the machine,” Lane-Massee said. “But there’s also cultural and aesthetic reasons, like wanting an aesthetically pleasing understory with smooth floors and rows that are neat and tidy.”

Unlike tangle-prone grasses or weeds, the research pair’s cover crop mix includes native wildflowers, including camas, checkermallow and phacelia, that harmoniously follow the hazelnut lifecycle. The cover crops sprout in late fall, grow to a small ground cover in winter and bloom taller during spring and summer. They improve soil integrity by acting

as a shield from the sun, retaining soil moisture and preventing erosion.

By autumn when trees drop their hazelnuts, the wildflowers have already died back, allowing for easy, untangled picking. To validate this, Lane-Massee checks how many hazelnuts remain unpicked in each plot after the harvesting machines plow through as part of their data collection process. The ideal is two nuts or fewer to avoid profit losses, she said.

As perennials, the cover crops grow back once the fall rains begin.

“You never have to reseed. It’s a one-time input,” Lane-Massee said.

The cover crop mix will be used alongside basalt dust amendments, which can potentially help mitigate climate change. When basalt gets weathered down by rain or wind, a chemical reaction occurs that removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converts it into stable minerals. These wash into local streams and rivers and eventually flow into oceans where they stay trapped on the seafloor for thousands of years — a tactic to address carbon pollution.

Spreading the dust can also increase the pH of the soil, serving as a carbon-sequestering alternative to conventional lime. The process has the potential to scale up quickly because basalt powder, a byproduct of mining, isn’t in short supply with Oregon’s Columbia Plateau as a local source, Hallett said.

The Lane-Massee Farm is the first hazelnut orchard to use basalt dust amendments and plans to investigate how it can be scaled up to commercial farming. Measuring how much carbon gets stored and the amount of powder to apply for the best results is hard to ascertain, Hallett added, but basalt dust is a very compelling source of permanent carbon removal.

Stop and smell the wildflowers

The work started from Lane-Massee’s undergraduate senior thesis in 2019. She and Hallett were initially working on the restoration of Oregon’s oak tree ecosystems but identified a shared problem in hazelnut orchards: the frequency of pesticides and labor needed to maintain a clean understory from unwanted bugs and plants.

Native wildflowers from the Willamette Valley, on the other hand, naturally suppress weed invasions and only need to be mowed annually and sprayed with herbicides once. Their low maintenance comes from the fact that they have co-evolved with Indigenous burning practices over thousands of years, Lane-Massee said. Unlike conventional cover crops, the native plants have adapted to fire disturbances, and because burning functionally translates to mowing, she said the cover crops survive, even thrive, after being trimmed down.

Lane-Massee asked her parents if she could use part of their hazelnut farm in Salem to test the cover crop mix. They gave her three small plots of 12 trees, but that was more than enough to show promise.

“If it can handle the flailing, the scraping and the ‘beat-down-to-the-dirt’ attitude of a hazelnut farmer, it can go far,” Lane-Massee said. “Our pilot was from 2019 through 2021, and those plants were so resilient. I mowed it down every year and they kept coming back and flourishing. They survived ice storms and 115-degree weather, outperformed the weeds that would otherwise interfere with harvesting and expanded their range out of these tiny plots.”

In addition to supporting his daughter’s education, Paul Massee wanted to give back to both the hazelnut industry as a third-generation farmer and the UO as an alumnus. He said he didn’t expect the service to be through a research-driven endeavor, but the experience of co-creating with scientists and farmers has opened his eyes to the larger world beyond his shed and orchard.

“If this is the kind of legacy of our farm, all the better,” Massee said.

But what works on one orchard may not work for another.

“Every farm you go to has a different story,” Lane-Massee said.

To expand, apply and personalize this system at scale to hazelnut farms across the state, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$2 million in federal funds to the research team as part of its Conservation and Innovation Grants program. They will partner with 20 farms across the Willamette Valley to provide incentives and technical support for adoption and demonstrate the ecological and economic benefits.

“I hope that, with the research we’re doing, we can offer more of a tailored scientific perspective and experience to what each individual farmer is doing,” Lane-Massee said. “The blanket science will not work for every situation. It’s really important that science learns from the people it’s trying to help and that farmers learn from science.”

Until the cows come home One of the hurdles of the work is overcoming the tendency to return to the conventional method, Massee said. Transitioning from bare dirt to a woodland-like understory, he said there will be resistance to change due to the generations of programming to keep an orchard tidy.

“Farmers, and I know I’m in this category too, we’re awfully skeptical of new stuff,” Massee said. “Until somebody’s brave enough — or foolish enough, as is the case sometimes — to try something different, folks are thinking with their pocketbooks. Especially since we’ve had a spate of low-income years recently in the hazelnut industry.”

Another barrier is the expenses. Currently, native wildflower seeds and basalt dust amendments are not as cost effective or widely available as conventional methods, Hallett said. But in order to make them economically feasible, you need to demonstrate the practice as powerful, she said.

“It’s a bit of a chicken-and-egg problem,” Hallett said.

The research pair said it will likely take a generation, or more, until the soil health management system becomes standard practice. But they believe the new federal backing could be the tipping point in gaining industry and agricultural support.

“I hope someday when I drive down I-5, I just see fields of wildflowers and happy growers,” Hallett said.

This work was supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation.

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Oregon School districts, employees face \$670 million increase in payments to public pension system

Costs for Public Employee Retirement System will wipe out the governor's proposed increases in school funding

By Alex Baumhardt

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon school districts are projected to pay \$670 million more to the state's public employee pension program over the next two years, potentially wiping out all increases to school funding proposed by Gov. Tina Kotek.

The increased tab, more than 10% for some districts, follows lagging returns in investments of the Public Employees Retirement system and could affect teaching and learning in some schools.

"Next year's sharp jumps in PERS rates will take significant money away from classrooms without making life any better for current educators," Emielle Nischik, executive director of the Oregon School Boards Association, said in an email. "School districts have done their best to mitigate PERS' pain, but it is out of their control."

The impact will vary, with most of Oregon's 197 school districts and 17 community colleges facing an average 1.5% increase in their payroll going to PERS during the 2025-27 budget cycle, according to a PERS presentation last month.

But 22 districts are facing average increases of 10% or more in part because investment returns have been lower than expected but mainly because side investment accounts meant to help buffer PERS increases are expiring. For 72 school districts that don't have one of these accounts, the average contribution rate for PERS will soon amount to about 27% of payroll.

Overall, school districts and colleges will pay \$565 million more in the next two years compared with the 2023-25 biennium, while about 77,000 vested employees, who also pay into PERS, will pay \$105 million more.

The increased costs to districts will more than erase the \$515 million boost proposed by Kotek for school funding for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years. She announced in July that she'd ask the state Legislature early next year to send more than half a billion dollars to the State School Fund for the next biennium to boost student outcomes, literacy rates and more. The fund is responsible for the bulk of district funding, and payroll makes up about 85% of school budgets.

The latest PERS increases are the consequence of an uptick in post-pandemic hiring, public sector wages growing faster than anticipated, a pre-2003 investment formula that made employers liable for massive contributions and several years of underperforming investments, according to Kevin Olineck, director of the system.

The latter is the largest reason for the latest increases, he said. PERS investments were 10% low-



Alex Baumhardt

Teachers watch Eastern Oregon University professor Ronda Fritz demonstrate how to teach phonics during a third-grade reading lesson at Brooklyn Primary School in Baker City. Baker School District is expected to see its PERS costs increase about 15% in the next two years from the previous biennium.

er in 2022 and 2023, collectively, than the four-member, governor-appointed Oregon Investment Council had anticipated.

"The Oregon Investment Council is very highly invested in private equities, and they did less than what the public equity markets did," Olineck explained. Being heavily invested in private equities has brought mostly beneficial returns for PERS in the last 10 or 15 years, he added, but not in the last few years.

Historic deficit

The increases are also driven by a historic issue with PERS policy that has employees who were hired before 2003 commanding higher contributions from employers than those who were hired after. Many PERS investors up until 2003 were able to retire with an annual payout matching their full salary or more due to a program that had employers matching employees' annual contributions and investment returns.

The state is still struggling to come up with the money to pay for the retirement of those pre-2003 employees, considered Tier 1 and Tier 2 retirees. Employees hired since then are invested in the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan, or OPSRP, which is intended to pay about 45% of an employee's salary in retirement.

"Schools' ever-increasing pension costs are a challenge gifted from decisions made a long time before most current school leaders' tenure," Nischik of the Oregon School Board said. Nischik said the state Legislature needs to regularly allocate money to the State School Fund each biennium to meet the true cost of the PERS program on districts given that they are still paying historically high rates for employees hired before 2003. The state will be dealing with high PERS costs as a result of that until about 2043, according to Portland-based Milliman, the state's actuarial firm.

Side account issue

At least 22 districts facing increases will have to pay double or

triple the rate they're paying now, causing alarm for already pinched school budgets. Gladstone and North Marion school districts are two of more than 20 districts that will be heavily affected as their buffer investments expire. These side accounts typically have a lifespan of 20 or so years, and are funded by districts selling bonds and then sending the money to the state to be invested. The state can then dip into the side account to cover PERS increases for districts each year up until the account runs out.

Gladstone is among those with a sunset account.

"Like most school districts in Oregon, Gladstone created a side account 21 years ago to guard against the impact of rate increases. There was no anticipation that during the final years of the account the costs would spike so wildly," district Superintendent Jeremiah Patterson said via email.

In the North Marion School District, midway between Salem and Portland, the increase will take \$1.3 more from payroll during the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years, district officials said. Crook County School District faces a hike of more than 20% for their Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees, and about 17% for the OPSRP employees, which will cost more than \$3 million per year.

Patterson is still working through the numbers and trying to figure out how he'll go from spending 3% of Gladstone's payroll on his Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees and 0.11% of payroll on OPSRP employees, to nearly 19% on Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees and nearly 16% on OPSRP employees.

"I'm deeply concerned about the sudden and dramatic escalation of our PERS cost projections for the next biennium," he said in an email. "It is challenging to imagine diverting critically needed funds away from student needs at a time like this."

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

Bing cherries

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This portrait of Henderson Luelling was published in 1911 by Joseph Gaston.

have to thank for the Bing cherry. Seth first cultivated a rich, deep black cultivar that he named the Black Republican. (This, by the way, is one of the most popular varieties used in high-end black cherry ice creams.) Seth, who shared Henderson's enthusiasm for Abolition, named the cherry after the slur he often heard from pro-slavery neighbors wishing to insult him. He joked that he was going to make them relish a Black Republican whether they wanted to or not, and yeah, that probably worked! For what it's worth, it's my personal favorite kind of cherry.

Seth then crossed the Black Republican with the Royal Anne cultivar to create the famous Bing, which he named after his orchard foreman, Ah Bing.

(Ah Bing, by the way, deserves to be better known. How much he had to do with the development of the Bing is unknown, but it was probably significant. Unfortunately, after spending most of his life in Oregon cultivating the state's best fruit, he made the mistake of traveling back to the Old Country to visit family, and was blocked from returning home to Oregon by the Chinese Exclusion Act.)

Besides the cherries, Seth and John developed the Golden Prune, the Sweet Alice apple, some improved rhubarbs and grapes, and a number of other fruits bearing the family name.

Other later events hinged on the Luellings' success as well. Fellow Quaker John Minthorn's Oregon Land Company, 40 years later, made a specialty of developing

orchards to sell — a business plan obviously dependent on the tradition the Luellings imported. Without the Oregon Land Company, Minthorn's teenage nephew, Herbert Hoover, would likely not have gotten the early training in sound business practices that was to be so important in his early career as an engineer. Hoover, of course, would go on to become the greatest enemy of the Third Horseman of the Apocalypse (famine) in the history of the world, with the possible exception of "Green Revolution" architect Norman Borlaug. But that, again, is a story for another day.

By the way, the story of the Luellings' journey is the basis for Deborah Hopkinson's children's book, "Apples to Oregon," one of the Oregon Reads book selections for the 2009 Oregon sesquicentennial celebration. The book springboards off the story to generate a "tall tale" about the journey with the tree wagon.

(Sources: "The Blacker the Cherry: The abolitionist history of the Black Republican Cherry," a story by Tyler Boudreaux aired by Los Angeles National Public Radio Station KCRW on June 20, 2022; History of Oregon, a book by Charles Carey published in 1922 by Pioneer Publishing)

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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Public Webinars on Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The USDA Forest Service is inviting the public to participate in informational webinars about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an amendment to land management plans within the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) area. The DEIS proposes solutions to address critical challenges such as wildfire resilience, economic sustainability, and climate change across 19.4 million acres of federally managed forests in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington.

Officials say the webinars will provide:

An introduction to the Northwest Forest Plan.

An overview of the proposed amendment to land management plans.

Key details about the proposed action and alternatives outlined in the DEIS.

Information on how to engage during the 120-day public comment period.

The first was held on November 20 and another is set for Thursday,

December 5, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

“The Northwest Forest Plan has guided forest management in the region for nearly 30 years. This amendment reflects new science, changing conditions, and the need to build resilience against wildfire threats,” said Jacque Buchanan, regional forester for the Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Region.

The draft EIS includes ways to improve wildfire resilience, promote economic opportunities, support tribal collaboration, and ensure sustainable forest stewardship. The Forest Service is seeking public input on the DEIS to help shape the final plan, anticipated in 2025.

Comments on the DEIS can be submitted until March 17, 2025 on the Public Comment Portal at tinyurl.com/63hmyu68

To view the DEIS and learn more about the proposed amendment, visit the Project Page at tinyurl.com/5ehcm5ky

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

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Eagle senior wide receiver/linebacker Aytan Brown was chosen as the McKenzie Team Most Valuable Player and also selected as the McKenzie Offensive Most Valuable Player. Brown was selected by the Mt. West League to the First Team All League team

as a kicker and the Honorable Mention All League teams as a defensive back and offensive utility player.

McKenzie junior Elijah Santiago was chosen as the Eagle Defensive Most Valuable Player and he earned an Honorable Mention All League line backer award.

Eagle quarterback, sophomore Hayden Kumle, earned the McKenzie “Gritty,” AKA Grid Iron award and also was named to the MWL Honorable Mention team as a QB.

Junior Allen Acevedo was selected as the Eagle Most Inspirational Player and he also earned Hon. Men. All League

awards as a running back and linebacker.

The 2024 McKenzie Most Improved Player went to freshman Amir Enfield, who played QB and DB for the Eagles this season. And freshman Liam Acevedo was tabbed as this season’s Rookie of the Year.

The McKenzie Football team also earned the OnPoint Community Credit Union/OSAA All State Academic Team as the State’s sixth best team with a 3.17 accumulative team GPA (Grade Point Average).

The McKenzie Volleyball team finished 25th in the State Class 1A with a cum. GPA of 3.08.

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Guest Opinion

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tripled, then quadrupled. Before this summer, 2020 was considered the worst wildfire year on record: burning more than 1 million acres, destroying 5,000 homes and businesses and killing nine.

The 2024 season is worse in terms of acreage burned, scorching nearly 2 million acres. So far, the department of forestry has spent more than double its budget for fire protection this year, effectively subsidizing polluters’ emissions to the tune of \$250 million.

Oregon’s budget is uniquely constrained by a kicker law that limits the state’s ability to hold “additional” revenues for a rainy day. Like other states, many of Oregon’s essential services are already facing budget shortfalls, leaving little wiggle room for wildfire costs.

It’s clear the state needs a new, reliable source of wildfire funding.

Oregon isn’t alone in this quandary. Governments play a critical role in addressing market failures and protecting constituents from unexpected costs. Now they are failing to cover the many costs that stem from decades of unmitigated, unpriced carbon emissions.

Any economist can tell you that the solution is simple: Put a price on the problem.

Legislators have proposed a handful of tax adjustments, including a uniform property tax and an acreage-based tax on private timber harvests. But they’re missing the mark. The additional revenue generated by these proposals would barely cover half of the department of forestry’s emergency funding request, and they’re pointing fingers at the wrong industry. Neither trees, nor property owners, are at fault here. Polluters are and they should be on the hook for the bill.

Pricing the upstream, direct emissions of the state’s largest emitters (think natural gas processing facilities, large industrial plants, etc.) would not only raise the necessary funds but would minimize the welfare impacts felt by Oregonians. Targeted exemptions for critical industries and providing direct assistance to low-income, disadvantaged groups would further negate the strain on consumers.

This is not a new concept for Oregon lawmakers who have discussed, but failed to pass, several

bills on the topic over the years. Though politically challenging, putting a price on carbon emissions would be an effective and efficient way to cover the increasing costs of wildfire associated with human-caused climate change.

Further inaction by Gov. Tina Kotek and state legislators will put Oregonians in harm’s way and drain the state budget and is no longer acceptable.

A carbon price wouldn’t stop the world from warming. It’s too late for that. Climate change is here, it’s impacting Oregonians – their homes, their land, their lives – and it’s expensive. Adopting a carbon tax could alleviate Oregon’s wildfire funding woes, set the stage for better budgeting and ensure a safer, more resilient Oregon for years to come by making the polluters pay.

Natalie Whitesel is pursuing a master’s in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University and holds a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship. She recently finished a Michael S. Dukakis Governors’ Summer Fellowship Program, working on Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek’s natural resources policy team. She has also worked as a legislative assistant at the Washington state House and, separately, organized local, county and state political campaigns.

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4th Annual Holiday Lights

The McKenzie Community Partnership’s 4th Annual Holiday Lights, sponsored by New Image Car Wash, is scheduled for December 1-31. It’s time to plan

your light display on your home, fence, or yard. This year there will

also be two new large lit displays: one at Honey Paddle Farm and one at milepost 24.

A signup sheet will soon be posted to Facebook and on McKenzie Community Partnership’s website so that the partnership’s photographer can be sure and find the wonderful displays and share them with everyone.

For the first time there will also be a free community holiday kick-off party on December 1st, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie

Community Center. There will be live music, gingerbread house decorating, caroling, crafts and games, and refreshments, along with collecting new, unwrapped toys for the McKenzie Fire and Rescue toy drive.

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces & nephews or just yourself. Stop by for a festive start to the holiday season.

Any questions, please email mary@mckenziecommunity.org.



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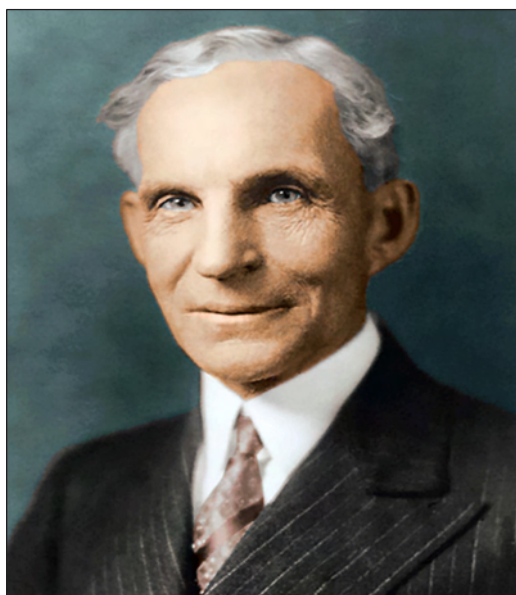
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Henry Ford

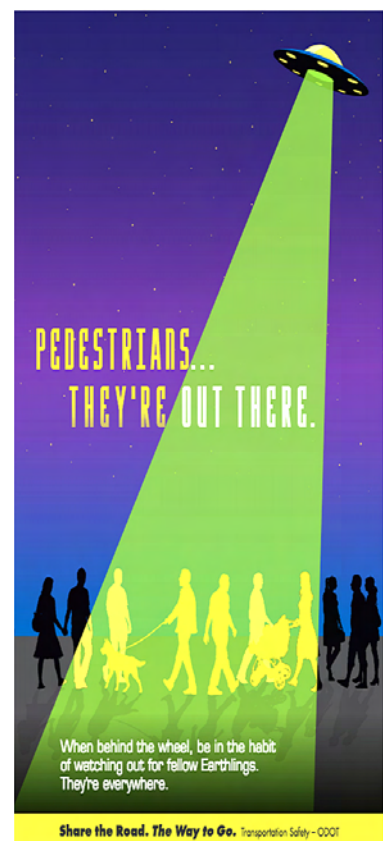


Advertising is an integral part of a successful business. It is not enough to have a good internal operation. Let people know you want their business by making the “McKenzie Connection.”

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



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