



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

### Fall Sports

Schedules for both Thurston & McKenzie high schools

**PAGE 4**

### Gardening tips

Tubers can be saved and planted again the next spring for another year of showy color

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## Briefs...



The Eugene Water & Electric Board is offering residential and commercial loans for backup power systems.

Residential electric customers may qualify for up to a \$5,000 zero-interest loan

Commercial customers may qualify for a four percent interest loan, with the loan amount based on project details and eligible costs.

Purchasing a backup power system can help increase safety and resiliency in a power outage. Our Backup Power Program assists customers with the purchase and installation of a backup power system to safely power critical components in a home or

[Backup power - Page 2](#)



The Lane Arts Council is looking for artists interested in leading arts activities with students in the McKenzie School District. The program is supported by a four-year grant to fund artists who will lead Friday programs and hope to connect students with local artists as much as possible.

An informational meeting will be held at the Vida McKenzie Community Center on Wednesday, September 25th, from 11 a.m. to noon. The meeting will also include a Q&A session about Lane County Cultural Coalition grants that are currently available.

More information about the artist residency program

[Arts activities - Page 2](#)



Great Scott! When Marty McFly found himself transported back to 1955 in a time machine built by the eccentric scientist Doc Brown, he accidentally changed the course of history.

"Back to the Future," the beloved, cinematic classic is now a Broadway musical. Winner of the 2022 Olivier Award for Best New Musical, four WhatsOn-Stage Awards, including Best New Musical, and the Broadway World Award for Best New Musical it's coming to Eugene in 2024. Part of the Hult Center's Broadway in Eugene series, it is scheduled from

[To the future - Page 2](#)

## Autumn's onset welcomed

### Ore Fire's containment has been upped to 78 percent

BLUE RIVER: Rain showers provided some welcome relief on Sunday by reducing fire activity. The wetting rainfall helped remove danger levels in areas east of McKenzie Bridge that had been at Level 1. While Hwy. 242 remains closed to traffic, one lane of Hwy. 126 is open to traffic following a pilot vehicle, east of its intersection with the Old McKenzie Hwy.

In that area, the 511-acre Boulder Creek Fire remained 0 percent contained while crews dealt with fire-weakened trees along the highway corridor to reduce the risk of trees falling into the roadway.

The 3,475-acre Ore Fire, located 7 miles northeast of Blue River, is now reported to be 76% contained. Crews are continuing to chip and remove combustible material below the Forest Service Road 1509. Officials report minimal fire activity has been observed, with smoldering and smoke along the northern side.

Located in the Three Sisters Wilderness northeast of Eileen Lake, the 1,301-acre Linton Creek Fire remains 0 percent contained. Heat remains a concern in larger-diameter trees. Crews there will continue to work on improving trails to use as fire lines and prioritizing the Pacific Crest Trail.

East of the Middle Santiam Wilderness, the Pyramid Fire, which encompasses 1,311 Acres, is 98 percent contained. Work there continues to improve containment lines while reducing burnable fuels through mechanized mastication and chipping.

In the Three Sisters Wilderness, northwest of Packsaddle Mountain, the 58-acre 374 Fire is 0 percent contained. There,



Jake Hoag

Heavy equipment is being used to remove vegetation along fire containment lines to prevent the fire from spreading.

Smokeyjumpers have been working on extinguishing areas of heat and using the existing trail network as containment lines.

Finally, at less than one acre, the Roundtop Fire, near the 374 Fire and Little Roundtop Mountain, is 100 percent contained.

## Lane Electric set for \$20 million of undergrounding

### County adds another \$1/2 million to the kitty for secure fiber

EUGENE: This month the Lane County Board of Commissioners added their support for improved area communications by authorizing a \$500,000 transfer to the Lane Council of Governments to support the McKenzie Broadband

Intergovernmental Agreement. A staff report on the proposal noted that land-based internet service is already available on utility poles above ground that are exposed to disruption from

natural hazards common in the Cascades such as snowstorms, windstorms, and wildfires. The report went on to add that "an added benefit of this project is that it will be a modern

fiber-optic based network. These networks (above or below ground) outperform the existing cable and copper-based networks, and typically drive down the

[Underground project - P 12](#)

## Tuning in to tribal histories

### David Lewis offers an alternative history of Native peoples

RAINBOW: "There wasn't a major tribe that lived here but there were people who came through," may not have been what people had hoped to hear but it was David Lewis's honest appraisal of Native peoples' involvement with the McKenzie River Valley. Speaking at the Upper McKenzie Community Center earlier this month he went on to add that those interactions were most likely to have involved late summer visits for fishing or berry picking, rather than establishing any permanent villages in the area.

Lewis is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and a specialist in the history of Kalapuyans and other Western Oregon tribes which he's been study-



Changes in the landscape made by settlers - including draining lakes and wetlands - have had significant impacts on the Kalapuyans of Western Oregon, Lewis says.

ing for more than twenty years. He's also holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Or-

egon and is an Assistant Professor of anthropology and Indigenous studies at Oregon State University.

Initially focusing on Grand Ronde tribal histories, he's extended

[Tribal histories - Page 12](#)

# Guest Opinion

## Vote for Michelle Emmons for State Representative

By Charlie Conrad

Who are you voting for? The biennial question and challenging decision(s) each of us currently faces. Complicating our down-ballot decisions this election cycle is the overarching potentially historic presidential race. Sorting and filtering through all the incomplete, biased, and self-serving campaign information takes time. Weighting personal histories, character, policies, and parties to decide who you believe will best represent and advocate for you. Each of us uses different lenses based on experiences and expectations. My experiences campaigning and being the state representative for the past 18 months have certainly impacted the criteria important to me and set my expectations, especially regarding a candidate's mindset. "They know enough who know how to learn." Some of life's most powerful lessons can be easily expressed in fewer than 10 words. Perfectly chiseled above a doorway I frequently passed, I read and chewed on this Henry Brooks Adams quote my entire time at Oregon State University. This quote resonates with me today as much as it did then. Always learning, always growing, always improving. This sentiment took root and continues to be fruitful in my adult life. I continue learning and endeavoring to emulate the Four Cardinal Virtues of the Stoics: Wisdom, Temperance, Fortitude, and Justice. For Stoics, a reasoned life dedicated to public service is a fulfilled life.

I agree. I also think about two other meaningful quotes relevant to today's contentious, and drama-filled socio-political world. One from Linus Pauling: "If I couldn't find a place for something, then I would change my picture of the world until I understood where it fit in." The second from Governor Tom McCall: "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say: 'This is my community, and it's my responsibility to make it better.'" Perhaps I am just susceptible to quotes from people far more experienced, knowledgeable, and intelligent than I am. Regardless, these clearly expressed thoughts continue to resonate with me, and from my first day in the Oregon Legislature, I took time to ponder them and gauge my performance. Am I learning, applying new information, and working to improve my community? After all, if a first-term legislator doesn't feel overwhelmed, stressed, and anxious then maybe they shouldn't be there. A critical lesson I learned early in my life is "If you say it, you have to do it, and if you can't do it, then don't say it." This straightforward lesson about setting expectations and following through

has been instrumental throughout my public service career, governing my interactions and tempering commitments I make to folks in the community. While campaigning it is easy to parrot party rhetoric and pledge to repeal legislation or take some other action that clearly can't be done. The simple truth is that a freshman legislator in the minor-



ity has no gravitas and will repeal nothing. Claiming to do otherwise while campaigning demonstrates pure ignorance, the willingness to lie to voters, or a combination of the two. I've learned a lot over the past 18 months, and for that, I will always be grateful to the folks in HD-12 who supported and voted for me. I am a better person for the experience and the opportunities afforded me. All the experiences – from learning the legislative process to building relationships with colleagues, people in the district, and throughout the state taught me that influence is how you successfully deliver

[Guest Opinion - Page 10](#)

## Briefs...

### Backup power

[Continued From Page 1](#)

small business during an emergency. Backup power systems can include generators or battery storage systems.

Learn more about the program and eligibility at [tinyurl.com/5chap2ce](http://tinyurl.com/5chap2ce)

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### Arts activities

[Continued From Page 1](#)

gram is available at: [lanearts.org/](http://lanearts.org/) artist-residencies

People who can't make the

meeting can email: [artsed@lanearts.org](mailto:artsed@lanearts.org)

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### To the future

[Continued From Page 1](#)

December 3rd to 8th at the Silva Concert Hall.

The Hult Center Ticket Office is open to the public Tuesday – Friday from noon to 5 pm, and Saturday from noon – 3 pm, online sales are available anytime, and phone sales are available during normal open hours. 541-682-5000 or [hultcenter.org/events/back-to-the-future](http://hultcenter.org/events/back-to-the-future)

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Send news briefs to [rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)

## McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

### McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Volleyball team hosts Alsea on Tuesday, September 17, with match time set at 6:00 pm. The Eagles host Eddyville Charter on Thursday, September 19, and that match time is also set for 6:00 pm.

The McKenzie Varsity Football team travels to Crow on Friday, September 20. Kickoff is slated for 7:00 pm.

The Eagle Cross Country teams travel to Seaside on Saturday, September 21, to participate in the Three Course Challenge.

### Eagles Defeat Days Creek in Home Opener

McKenzie's Varsity Six-man football team earned a hard

fought 40-34 Special District 2 South League victory last Friday, September 13. The Eagles hosted the Wolves of Days Creek on a very pleasant September evening under the lights at Wade Thomas Field. The Finn Rock contest introduced first-year McKenzie Head Football Coach Willie Kumle and Assistant Coach Angelo Santiago to the Eagle Community. The SD-2 South win also earned the Eagles sole first place in the League standings, 1-0, a half-game ahead of Gilchrist, 1-1.

Several of the teams in the SD-2 South have not played yet this season, including Powers, North Lake, and Crow (McKenzie's next opponent). Days Creek 0-1 and Elkton 0-2 round out the rest of the League.

McKenzie traveled to Stoffer Family Stadium on the campus of George Fox University (Forest Grove) the week prior (September 6) to play C.S. Lewis Academy in the first game of the 2024 season for both teams. The Watchmen easily defeated the Eagles 51-26, but McKenzie was absent some key players at the time.

C.S. Lewis Academy is a

member of the SD-2 North League which also includes Alsea, Triangle Lake, Eddyville Charter, Siletz Valley, and Falls City. No game stats were available at press time.

### McKenzie Open Season With A Win, Searching Since For Second

The Eagle Varsity Volleyball team won its first match of the 2024 season with a 3-1 victory over the Pleasant Hill JV2 team. McKenzie has dropped seven straight contests since then, including losing 19 straight sets.

Eagle Head Coach Rachele Mark has her work cut out for her as the team is spunky and enthusiastic, but short on Varsity level skills. However, it's always a key element to any winning program to begin with the right attitude, and it appears that Coach Mark has that in her players.

McKenzie lost a Mt. West League match, 0-3, at home to Mapleton on September 3 and followed with a 0-3 loss at Mohawk on September 5. Also at Mohawk, the Eagles dropped a 0-3 match to Mannahouse Academy.

[Continued On Page 5](#)

Friday 9/20		Saturday 9/21		Sunday 9/22	
McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 10% chance precip High: 75 Low: 46	Santiam Pass Mostly Sunny 10% chance precip High: 65 Low: 38	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 76 Low: 51	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 65 Low: 39	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 72 Low: 50	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 61 Low: 39

## 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
9/10	82	54	0	539 cfs	9/10	86	51	0	2,520 cfs
9/11	61	55	0.68	550 cfs	9/11	83	51	0.33	2,500 cfs
9/12	66	50	0.42	NA	9/12	62	52	0.66	2,670 cfs
9/13	75	53	0	539 cfs	9/13	69	49	0	2,580 cfs
9/14	73	56	0	532 cfs	9/14	75	51	0	2,550 cfs
9/15	67	47	0	532 cfs	9/15	75	51	0	2,530 cfs
9/16	61	47	0	539 cfs	9/16	70	45	0	2,520 cfs

# Sheriff's Report

**Sept. 9: 4:35 pm** Disturbance, Dispute - 95100 blk, Hazel Ln. Deputies responded to a dispute, in which both parties had left the area. They made contact with both, and determined no crime had occurred.

**9:15 p.m:** Abandoned Vehicle - Leaburg Dam Rd. & Fish Hatchery Rd.

**Sept. 10: 5:13 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Marcola Rd. A deputy contacted the caller about concerns near their property.

**8:32 p.m:** Assist Public - McK. Bridge area.

**11:04 p.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - McK. View Dr. Milepost 2.

**Sept. 11: 3:03 p.m:** Harassment - 36700 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**3:32 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions

- Thurston Rd. & McK. Hwy. **4:29 p.m:** Assist Fire Dept. - 51700 blk, Blue River Dr.

**5:38 p.m:** Warrant Service - Deerhorn Rd. & Madrone St.

**5:55 p.m:** Overdue Subject - 91200 blk, Blue River Rd.

**6:00 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.108. Long: -122.236.

**Sept. 12: 2:11 a.m:** Attempt To Locate Drunk driver - McK. Hwy. Mp. 20.

**8:46 p.m:** Dead Animal - 38200 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

**Sept. 13: 2:21 p.m:** Harassment - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**4:49 p.m:** Reckless Endangering - 88900 blk, Marcola Rd.

**5:02 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

**6:03 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 7600 blk, Thurston Rd.

**6:40 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**8:24 p.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 40700 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**Sept. 14: 10:02 a.m:** Unlawful Use of Vehicle - 40700 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

**12:03 p.m:** Harassment - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**1:54 p.m:** Disorderly Juvenile - 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**7:43 p.m:** Reckless Driving - 55800 blk, E. King Rd.

**9:06 p.m:** Open Gate - 38400

blk, Shotgun Creek Rd. **Sept. 15: 12:12 a.m:** Assist Outside Agency - 8500 blk, Thurston Rd.

**12:20 a.m:** Medical Info Call - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy.

**2:24 p.m:** Hit & Run - 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**5:01 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 89800 blk, Hill Rd.

**5:24 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

**7:30 p.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Carson St.

**Sept. 16: 3:35 a.m:** Traffic Hazard - Saunders Rd. & Marcola Rd.

**11:32 a.m:** Hit & Run - 87800 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**12:33 p.m:** Recover Stolen Vehicle - 91300 blk, Donna Rd.

**1:33 p.m:** Fraud - 41900 blk, McK Hwy.

**2:41 p.m:** Truck Inspection - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**3:38 p.m:** Welfare Check - 38200 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

**5:09 p.m:** Restraining Order Service - 92200 blk, Carson St.

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

# McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Sept. 9: 9:31:** 88000 block, Tiki Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal, Obtained.

**Sept. 10: 10:34:** 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Patient Assessed, Traffic Control, Transfer to OSP/ODOT.

**15:27:** 7800 blk, South A Street Medical, General. Canceled.

**19:32:** 88000 blk, Gemstone Rd. Medical, Trauma. Assist.

**20:58:** 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Mutual Aid. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Sept. 11: 13:14:** 1000 blk, S. 79th St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Sept. 12: 10:51:** 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

**11:51:** 48000 blk, McK. Hwy. Mistaken Alarm.

**17:36:** 90000 blk, Angels Flight Rd. Public Assist. Assist Homeowner with Smoke Detector Battery Replacement.

**23:49:** 88000 blk, Miller Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Sept. 13: 3:02:** 88000 blk, Keola Ln. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

**Sept. 15: 0:18:** 39000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patent Transported.

**10:03:** 8500 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, Trauma. Handled by Eugene Springfield Fire.

**10:09:** 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**14:23:** 87000 blk, Dowdy Ln. Medical, General. Obtained Refusal.

**16:45:** 7500 blk, Thurston Rd. Vehicle Fire. Scene Handled By ESF. Disregarded.

**19:59:** 43000 blk, Greenwood Village Dr. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**20:11:** 38000 blk, Kickbush Ln. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Sept. 16: 4:19:** 40000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

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

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# High School Sports Schedules



## McKenzie High School



## Thurston High School

### Varsity Football

9/13	7pm	vs. Days Creek
9/20	7pm	@ Crow
9/27	7pm	vs. Powers
10/5	2pm	@ North Lake
10/18	7pm	vs. Gilchrist
10/25	3pm	@ Elkton
11/1	League Playoff	TBD

### Volleyball

9/3	6pm	vs. Mapleton
9/5	4pm	@ Mohawk
9/5	5:30pm	@ Mannahouse Acad., Eugene (Mohawk High School)
Non-League Tournament	2pm	vs. Willamette Valley Christian (Eagle Classic - E. Linn Christian)
	Non-League Tournament	Neutral Site
9/7	4pm	vs. Alsea (E. Linn Invitational - E. Linn Christian Academy)
9/9	6pm	@ Crow / City First Christian Acad.
9/12	5:30pm	@ Siletz Valley
9/17	6pm	vs. Alsea
9/19	6pm	vs. Eddyville Charter
9/24	6pm	@ Triangle Lake
9/26	6pm	@ Mapleton
10/1	6pm	vs. Crow / City First Christian Acad.
10/3	4pm	vs. Mohawk
10/3	7pm	vs. Mannahouse Acad., Eugene
10/8	6pm	@ Eddyville Charter

Non-League	TBD	vs. Glendale
10/12	6pm	@ Alsea
10/15	6pm	vs. Triangle Lake
10/22	6pm	vs. Siletz Valley
10/24	5:30pm	

League Playoff  
Neutral Site  
10/26 9am vs. TBD (Junction City High School)

### Boys Cross Country Varsity Schedule

10/5 Sat 8:30 am  
Harrier Classic (Bryant Park, Albany)  
Ashland, Barlow, Blanchet Catholic, Cascade, Catlin Gabel, Central, Central Catholic, Central Linn, Century, Churchill, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Estacada, Forest Grove, Glencoe, Harrisburg, Jefferson, Junction City, La Salle Prep, Liberty, Marshfield, McKenzie, Monroe, Newport, Oregon Episcopal, Parkrose, Phoenix, Putnam, Roseburg, Scio, Sheldon, Silverton, South Albany, South Medford, Sprague, Springfield, Sweet Home, Thurston, West Albany, Western Christian, Westview, Willamette

### Girls Cross Country

No meets have been added to this schedule, yet.

### Varsity Football

F 9/6 7pm @ C.S. Lewis Academy (George Fox U. -Stoffer Family Stadium)		
9/13	7pm	vs. Days Creek
9/20	7pm	@ Crow
9/27	7pm	vs. Powers
10/5	2pm	@ North Lake
10/18	7pm	vs. Gilchrist
10/25	3pm	@ Elkton
11/1	Playoff	TBD

### JV Football

8/29	5:30pm	@ Mountain View [JV]
9/9	4pm	@ Willamette [JV]
9/16	3:30pm	vs. Eagle Point [JV]
9/23	4pm v	s. Ridgeview [JV]
9/30	5pm	vs. Roseburg [JV]
10/7	5pm	vs. Silverton [JV]
10/14	5pm	vs. Crater [JV]
10/28	5pm	vs. Lebanon [JV]
11/4	5pm	vs. Willamette [JV]

### Volleyball

Jamboree		
8/29	1pm	Springfield
8/30	TBD @ TBD	(Mountain View Invitational - Mountain View High School)
8/30	9:15am	vs. South Medford (Mt. View Invite - Mt. View High School)
8/30	12:30pm	@ South Salem (Mt. View Invite - Mt. View)
8/30	1:45pm	@ Mountain View (Mt. View Invite - Mt. View)
9/3	6:30pm	@ Ridgeview
9/12	6:45pm	vs. Ashland
9/17	6:45pm	@ Eagle Point
9/19	6:45pm	vs. Crater
9/21	7pm @ TBD	(Battle of the Bay - Marshfield High School)
9/24	6:45pm	@ Churchill
9/26	6:45pm	vs. Springfield
9/28	TBD @ TBD	(South Albany State Preview Tournament - South Albany)
10/1	6:45pm	@ North Eugene
10/8	6:45pm	@ Ashland
10/10	6:45pm	vs. Eagle Point
10/15	6:45pm	@ Crater
10/17	6:45pm	vs. Churchill
10/19	TBD @ TBD	(Bend Clearwater Tournament - Bend HS)
10/22	6:45pm	@ Springfield
10/24	6:45pm	vs. North Eugene

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# Thurston High

## Boys Soccer

8/31	1pm	vs. North Salem
9/3	4pm	@ Mountain View
9/6	7pm v	vs. Caldera
9/9 7	pm	@ West Albany
9/11	6pm	vs. Canby
9/18	6pm	@ North Bend
9/25	6pm	vs. Cascade
9/28	3pm	vs. Lebanon
10/12	1pm	@ Ashland
10/16	6pm	@ North Eugene
10/23	6pm	vs. Churchill
10/26	1pm	@ Crater
10/30	6pm	@ Springfield (City Derby)
11/2	3pm	vs. Eagle Point

## Girls Soccer

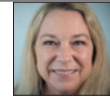
8/31	3pm	vs. Redmond / Culver
9/4	4pm	vs. Mountain View
9/6	4pm	@ Caldera
9/9	6pm	vs. West Albany
9/11	7pm	@ Canby
9/18	6pm	vs. North Bend
9/25	4pm	@ Cascade
9/28	1pm	@ Lebanon
10/5	3pm	@ Crater
10/12	3pm	@ Ashland
10/16	6pm	vs. North Eugene/Triangle Lake
10/23	4pm	@ Churchill
10/30	6pm	vs. Springfield / Mohawk
11/2	1pm	vs. Eagle Point

## Boys Cross Country Varsity Schedule

10/5 Sat 8:30 am Harrier Classic (Bryant Park, Albany)  
 Ashland, Barlow, Blanchet Catholic, Cascade, Catlin Gabel, Central, Central Catholic, Central Linn, Century, Churchill, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Estacada, Forest Grove, Glencoe, Harrisburg, Jefferson, Junction City, La Salle Prep, Liberty, Marshfield, McKenzie, Monroe, Newport, Oregon Episcopal, Parkrose, Phoenix, Putnam, Roseburg, Scio, Sheldon, Silverton, South Albany, South Medford, Sprague, Springfield, Sweet Home, Thurston, West Albany, Western Christian, Westview, Willamette

## Girls Cross Country

No meets have been added to this schedule, yet.



## Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



## Five steps for saving tuberous begonias when frost approaches

In spring garden centers will stock a tempting array of brightly colored tuberous begonias that are hard to resist. Gardeners have a tremendous choice of flower color in shades of orange, pink, yellow, white and bi-colored.

But these lush plants don't grow over winter outside and must be protected. The tubers can be saved and planted again the next spring for another year of showy color. The tuberous begonias should not be confused with the low-growing wax begonias often called annual bedding begonias that don't respond to winter protection.

"There are so many choices for tuberous begonias," said Nicole Sanchez, Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist. "They come in so many colors and there are a lot of



Tuberous begonias can be kept over winter for bloom next year.

new salmon/orange varieties on the market now. In my experience, the yellow ones are always a little less vigorous than other colors."

Tuberous begonias should be grown in bright shade (too much sun will burn them and too little will make them leggy) and watered only when the soil dries out completely.

Don't overwater "We can easily love them to death," Sanchez said. "The biggest problem with tuberous begonias is operator error in the form

of overwatering. Lots of water is already stored in the tubers and stems so be careful to check moisture in the soil at least an inch in, not just on the top. But there's a fine line between letting them dry out well and oops! it dried out too much. This is where I most often fail with begonias."

Tuberous begonias don't like potting soils that contain peat or sphagnum moss that hold lots of water, she added. All of that being said, if they are outside in hanging baskets, they will still need to be watered every day during hot weather.

Begonias are heavy feeders and will bloom larger and longer if they get regular fertilizer, Sanchez said. She recommends slow-release fertilizers for begonias, which are easier to apply and make it harder to over fertilize. Over-fed plants often get leggy and have weak stems.

Tuberous begonias contain both male and female flowers. The male flowers are the larger, showier blooms. Sanchez recommends removing

female flowers, so all the plant's energy goes into producing showier male flowers.

When winter looms, it's time to prepare and store the plants. Sanchez recommends the following five steps to save your potted tuberous begonia tubers:

\* Remove plant from pot before hard frosts occur. Cut back most of the top of the plant, leaving the ball of roots and soil intact.

\* Place in a dry, cool storage area (a basement or garage) and allow the tubers to cure for several weeks.

\* After curing, shake off the soil and remove the remaining stalks and roots. Any stalk or root left has the potential to rot and spread to the tuber. Put the tubers on screen trays \* In the spring, start begonia plants by placing the tubers on damp potting soil in a warm environment. When roots and tops have started, plant them in pots in rich, well-drained potting soil. Bring outdoors when all danger of frost is past and place in a shady spot.



## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### COOKING TIDBITS

Here are some miscellaneous tidbits of cooking lore and culinary tips. My mom and my mother-in-law had great advice on using up odds and ends in their cooking so nothing was wasted. They grew up in the Depression Era and methods accumulated by their mothers were handed down. Some of these I discovered in my own cooking explorations.

\* Save leftover cooked vegetables. Collect these, in a container in your freezer from day to day. When you have enough, stir up a vegetable soup or one that also includes meat or beans.

\* Wrap your sandwich filling in a large romaine leaf instead of spreading it on bread to cut back on calories and carbohydrates. Or, if you want some carbs, use flat bread or pita wrap.

\* Make breadcrumbs with leftover bread. Tear

into pieces and then process in the blender. If you want them crisp, leave on a baking sheet overnight, or place in oven at 325 degrees F. until dried. Then run through the blender.

\* Make seasoned crumbs by adding the desired seasonings to your homemade ones.

\* Chicken spaghetti sauce is tasty. Simply add cut-up cooked chicken instead of ground meat to your spaghetti sauce.

\* Puree ingredients for soups to thicken them without cream, butter, and flour. This would be cooked vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, broccoli, etc.

\* Lightly sprinkle with crumbs instead of batter or heavy breading for coating on meats, poultry, fish, or vegetables.

\* Use non-stick vegetable, olive oil, or canola oil spray instead of oil or butter when broiling, frying, or sautéing foods. This cuts down on fat, too.

\* Instead of using marinade-containing oil, lightly rub meat and poultry with seasonings.

\* Broil instead of fry.

\* If you don't have a cookie cutter or can't find yours, use a glass to shape the dough. We often used glasses of various sizes to cut out cookies when I was growing up on the farm. You also can use a floured canning lid.

\* Milk called for in a recipe is whole milk unless specified. I've found in many recipes I can substitute with low fat or skim milk without any adverse effects. However, you'll want to try this before preparing the food for a special occasion.

\* Use a plastic storage bag to season cubed potatoes for baking. My granddaughter just did this with potatoes she cut into cubes and seasoned with onion soup mix.

\* Use frozen buttermilk biscuit when in a hurry for bread to accompany a meal or for shortcake.

\* Use low-fat, low-calorie salad dressing on vegetables instead of butter. I particularly like low-fat

Italian dressing on mine.

**QUICK TOMATO SALAD** - Mix together 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar, 2 tablespoons olive oil; add 1 tablespoon minced onion, 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley. Cut 3 ripe beefsteak tomatoes into wedges; place in a serving bowl. Pour wine/oil mixture over tomatoes and sprinkle with a dash or salt and pepper. Serve on tossed salad or lettuce leaf.

(You can let tomatoes marinate for an hour or two if you desire. Also, if the vinegar/oil mixture is too sour, sprinkle a little sugar into it.)

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

## Quote of the Week

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there."

Yogi Berra



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## McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

### Continued From Page 1

Eugene.

On September 7, at East Linn Christian Academy in Lebanon, McKenzie lost a pair of 0-2 matches to Willamette Valley Christian and Alsea. Both losses were non-league contests.

Last week, Monday, September 9, the Eagles traveled to Crow to play

Crow/City First Christian Academy, a Mt. West League match. Crow/City First Christian Academy defeated McKenzie in three straight sets, 25-5, 25-13, 25-12.

Thursday, September 12, saw the Eagles jump the bus for a ride to sunny Siletz. The Warriors were fine hosts, but sent the gals from McKenzie home with another 0-3 defeat. But the Eagles didn't fold their tents early however, battling their hosts down to the wire, 25-20, 25-20, and 26-24. No game stats were available at press time.

### Meister Takes Third In Acorn Gully Chase

Eagle junior Will Meister finished third in the annual Acorn Gully Chase 3,000 meter race held at Oakland High School. Meister ran the distance in a time of 10:58.73 minutes. Yoncalla's Max Finnie won the race in 10:44.60 min. and Reedsport's Jude Lichte finished just ahead of Meister in 10:56.10 min.

McKenzie Zyla Drake brought home a fourth place finish in the freshman's first varsity 3,000 meter race. Drake's time was 13:55.23 min., and she was followed closely by junior Myra

Dion, who ran a 13:56.05 min. race and finished fifth. McKenzie freshman Claire Weiss also placed in the top ten with an eighth place finish time of 14:22.06 min.

Oakland's Callie Sarnoski won the Girls 3,000 meters in a time of 12:25.14 min. Reedsport won the Boys team competition with a score of 32 points, followed by Days Creek in second with 37 points, Sutherlin in third with 65 points, and Oakland fourth with 84 pts. The Girls team competition was won by host Oakland with 15 pts.

[Return To Page 3](#)

# A glimpse of life a rowdy gold-mining ghost town

By Finn J.D. John

When mayors of incorporated cities start talking about growth, it's hard to beat the story of Steve Smith, who until a few years ago was mayor of the historic mining town of Granite, Oregon.

When I spoke to him in 2009, Steve told me Granite's population had shot up 2,800 percent over the previous 40 years, since 1970.

So, what was the secret of Granite's amazing growth rate? Simple: Start with a really small number.

And it didn't get much smaller than Granite's population in 1970. At that time, Granite's population's name was Ote Ford.

Ote was Granite's mayor, of course. Also, it's City Council president, police chief, dogcatcher, treasurer, secretary of state — you get the idea.

By 2009 Granite's population had risen to 28, so that means it grew 2,800 percent relative to the time when Ote Ford was its only resident.

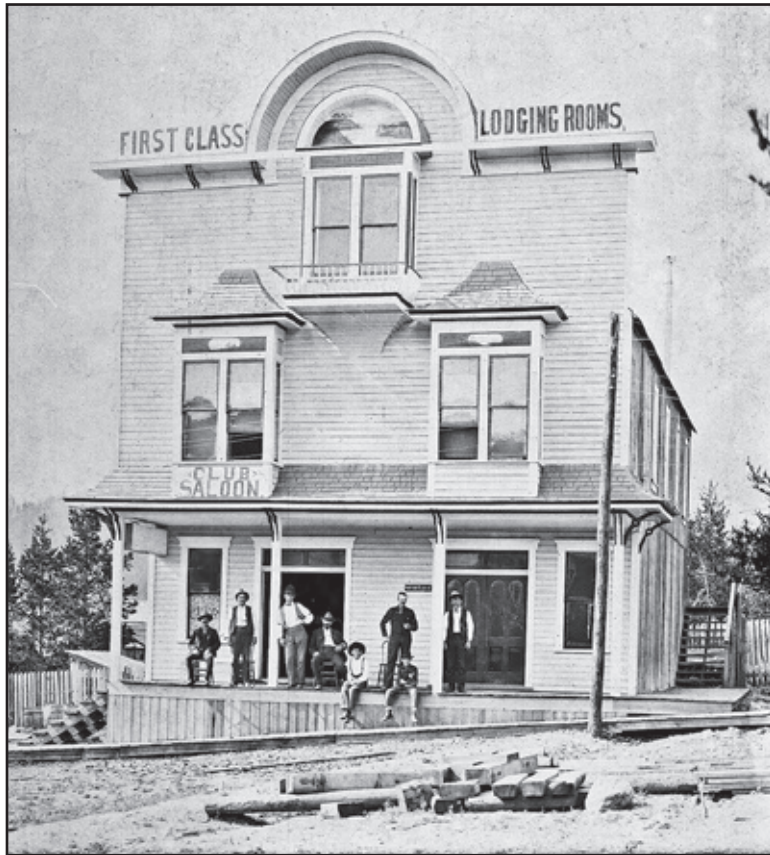
Ote liked to joke that Granite had a "Republican administration." This was pretty funny, but also very ironic, because if Granite's founder had heard that back when the town was new, he probably would have run down Main Street shooting into the air like Yosemite Sam.

Granite was one of the rootin', tootin' boomtowns that sprang up deep in the Blue Mountain wilderness in the few decades after gold was discovered at Griffin Creek in 1861 — towns like Sumpter and Bourne and, a little farther afield, Cornucopia.

In Granite's case, what happened was, that on July 4, 1862, a prospector named Jack Long was on his way back to a mining claim he was helping work, some distance away. He was on a "beer run," if you will, but because he had to pack it dozens of miles across Blue Mountain country, he was bringing whiskey rather than beer.

As he was crossing a mud flat along Granite Creek, his mule, Betsey, got stuck in it and, with the burden of a huge load of whiskey on her back, couldn't get herself free.

Long helped her get out. Then, probably while washing the mud off her hocks in the creek, he discovered the mud she'd gotten



Baker County Public Library  
**The Club Saloon and Boardinghouse, one of the saloons in which miners used to get roaring drunk and gamble away their grubstakes, circa 1895.**

stuck in was mixed with grains and flakes of gold.

The whiskey never made it to its destination. Long stopped right there, staked out a mining claim, and got busy working it.

Word spread fast. You might think Long would want to keep his strike secret, but in 1862 miners in the Blue Mountains were trespassers on Indian tribes' lands, and it was dangerous to work alone. So, soon he had lots of company, and a town soon sprang up nearby.

Long called it Independence, because Betsey got stuck in the mud on the Fourth of July. It's not entirely clear why this date was special to Long, because he was, like almost everyone else in town, a solid Southern Democrat and all in favor of the Confederate States of America. There's a story about that, passed on in a 1939 WPA Oregon Folklore Studies interview with old-time Granite resident Mrs. Neil Niven:

In 1864, Long learned from government records that someone in his town had voted for Abraham Lincoln. Suitably fortified with liquor, he stormed through town with a pistol in one hand and a bowie knife in the other, accosting

everyone he saw. "Did you dare vote for Abraham Lincoln?" he'd holler.

Everyone answered "no," until a man riding by on a horse reined in. "I dared to vote for Lincoln. What are you going to do about it?"

Dead silence fell. A crowd started to gather. Finally Long broke the silence: "Well, that makes one. Where's another?"

"I thought you were going to shoot the first Black Republican you met, Jack!" yelled someone from in the crowd.

"Well," Long said, "you can't shoot a man on his horse."

This story kind of makes Long sound like a gruff but lovable frontier character, and maybe he was one; but Mrs. Niven doesn't remember him that way.

"Jack Long, drunk or sober, was an obnoxious man," she said. "His good qualities were usually submerged in by-gone gallons of liquor. He probably had a few friends as any man alive."

The official Census statistics on Granite list a high-water mark of just under 500 residents, in 1870; but, throughout the 1800s at least, the real population was much higher than that. Mrs. Niven says

there were about 3,000 Chinese miners, who would buy played-out mines and work the tailings over; because they had more skill and patience than European-American miners, they got quite a bit of "color" out of what the Westerners thought was worthless slag. Many a miner, chortling over the money a Chinese man had paid him for a "worthless slag heap," found out later that the joke was on him.

There was also a community of Cornish miners living in shanties just outside town, whom the census people didn't bother to count. Like the Chinese, the Cornishmen kept to themselves and didn't mix with the mainstream community.

Granite was not particularly unusual for what it was — a mining town, mostly made up of temporary structures and mostly inhabited by transient bachelors who were just there to make lots of money and had no intention of sticking around after the gold ran out.

What made the town special and memorable was Mrs. Niven — a truly witty chronicler of the madness of her time. Years after Granite's heyday, she remembered and recorded the flavor of the place.

She originally came to Granite to serve as a schoolteacher and became one of three eligible single girls living in a town bursting with young bachelors there to work in the mines.

"We three girls ... had a glorious time," Mrs. Niven wrote. "Every bachelor there at one time or another asked us for a date."

Granite was a hard-rock mining town, so mining operations were mostly hydraulic operations and sometimes involved stamp mills; the owner of a claim usually couldn't work it alone. So the claim owners would hire crews of young men to dig ore, run sluices, and so forth. The hired hands would participate in most parts of the operation, but the cleaning of the sluice boxes — retrieving the gold from them — was typically done by the mine owner himself. Even so, lots of gold got stolen by hired hands, who would slip it into their socks or special hollowed-out handles on their picks.

All of them, owners and workers alike, were there for a good time rather than a long time. Then as now, Granite is tolerable in the

late spring and early summer, glorious in late summer and early fall, and horrible for the rest of the year. Nobody wanted to put down roots and raise a family there. So, except for the ones who were seriously trying to impress one of the three or four available maidens, most of the lads partied hard and often, especially in the winter when the whole community was cut off from the outside world and there was nothing else to do but shovel snow.

"They would get hell-roaring drunk and gamble their hard-earned money away as if it were water," Mrs. Niven said. "Usually when someone got liquored up he would march up and down the streets shooting off his guns. ... One fellow who was normally rather a quiet chap would occasionally go off on a big spree. When he did this we could always plan on some fancy buckarooing and hollering. He would mount his horse and ride up and down the streets hollering, making his horse buck, and shooting his gun in the air. He never hurt anyone, and it certainly was amusing to watch. I suppose you could class it as just good clean fun."

What she didn't class as "good clean fun" was when liquored-up miners would waylay a Chinese miner and make him "dance" in the stereotypical Western manner by cracking pistols close by his feet.

"We girls used to wish sometimes that the Chinese would get hold of a white man and make him dance to the tune of their knives," she said. "All of the Orientals packed

[Continued On Page 12](#)



Scott Catron/Wikimedia Commons  
**Granite City Hall, which was formerly the town's one-room schoolhouse, as it appears today.**

**Ogre achiever**

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

## Library Volunteer Drive

With the upcoming Grand Opening of the new O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, more volunteers are needed to help offer extended hours and more services to the community. Go to [o'brienlibrary.org](http://o'brienlibrary.org) for more information.

## September 20

### 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.

## September 21

### 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.

## September 24

### 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.

## September 24

### 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.

## September 24

### 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.

## September 25

### 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>

## September 25

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## September 25

### Arts Grant Workshop

Individuals or organizations (for profit or non-profit) engaged in projects that enhance the cultural life of East Lane County are invited to a grant writing workshop at Vida McKenzie Community Center at 1 p.m. on September 25th. During this workshop you will learn who and what LCCC's Cultural Opportunity Grant funds and how your specific project can successfully apply for this \$500-\$2500 grant. Questions? Contact Gerry Aster 541-896-300

## September 25

### Watershed Wednesday

Join the 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.

## September 25

### Artist Residencies

The Lane Arts Council is looking for artists interested in leading art activities with students in the McKenzie School District. We have a four-year grant to bring artists to lead Friday programs and hope to connect students with

local artists as much as possible.

We will hold an informational meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at the Vida McKenzie Community Center. The meeting will also include a Q&A about the Lane County Cultural Coalition grants that are currently available.

You can learn more about our artist residency program at: <https://lanearts.org/artist-residencies/>

If you can't make the meeting, you can reach out to us directly at [artsed@lanearts.org](mailto:artsed@lanearts.org)

## September 27

### 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.

## September 28

### River Cleanup

The McKenzie Watershed Council invites people to the annual McKenzie River Cleanup on Saturday, September 28th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Work together to protect and ensure the health of the river, our community's primary water source. Afterward, meet at Hendricks Bridge Park for a free BBQ between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.. To view available routes, visit the event website at <https://www.mckenziawc.org/cleanup> and contact [chase@mckenziawc.org](mailto:chase@mckenziawc.org) to sign up.

## October 8

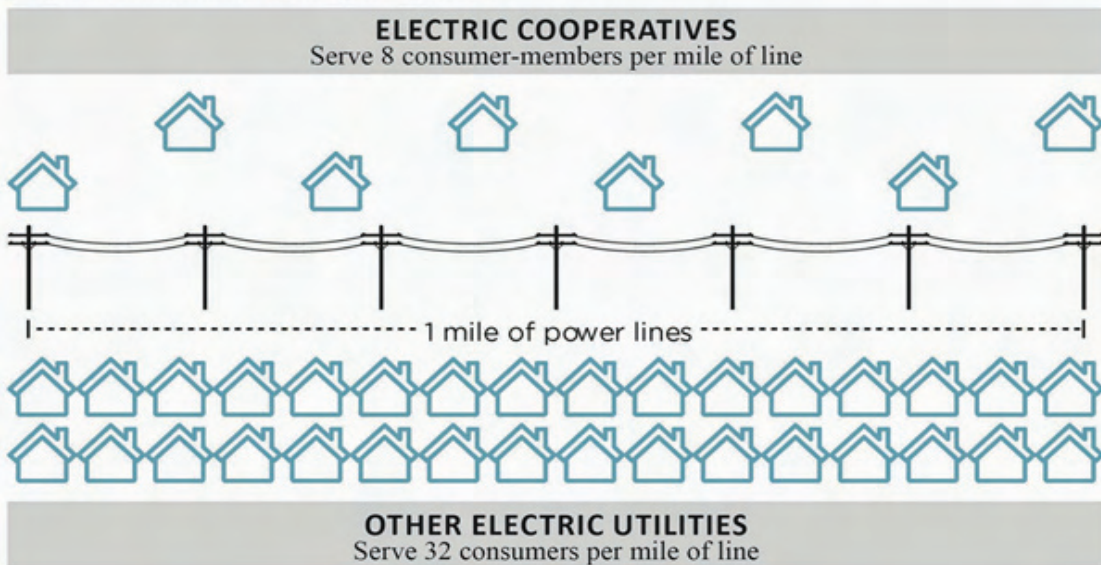
### Save Leaburg Lake

Come to hear about what's really happening with decommissioning of our local hydropower, removal of the EWEB dam, removal of the only ingress/egress to 27 properties, removal of Leaburg Lake and how it will affect the economy of the McKenzie Valley, tourism, businesses, property values and all aspects of EWEB's plans, goals and reasons behind their decisions. The meeting will be held at Vida McKenzie Community Center (VMCC) starting at 6 p.m.

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breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM.  
Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery  
(12 Step Program)

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**Catholic Church**  
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Sun. Morn. 9:30am;  
web page: [sbldodge.opwest.org](http://sbldodge.opwest.org)

**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](mailto:nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com), 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!  
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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Mistress's Woes



Kajetan Sumila

I'm 27. I've been seeing a married man for three years. I am madly in love and cannot imagine losing him even though I don't have him all to myself now. Every time I've had enough of this tortured relationship and am ready to leave, something happens to keep us closely involved. It is strange.

He's been married 10 years and promising to leave his wife for the last year. Well, about three months ago she found out about us and threatened to call me out at work. Yes, we work together too. There is no company policy about this, but I imagine she could still cause problems.

Six weeks ago she called and asked me to please give her the chance to repair her marriage by

stepping out of the way. I agreed. A week later, after they went to counseling, he told me his wife accepted that their relationship was dead. They started to split their assets and find her a house.

He tells me all the time how much he loves me, and how he wants to make me smile every day. He goes out of his way to please me whenever I get upset about the situation. He even says if I left now he would search the planet until he found me.

To get to the point, they are still in their house. Last night, after spending the week with me, his wife called and informed me they had sex last Sunday before he came to my house. He did not deny it. That makes me physically ill. He said they were boxing things up, and she kept bringing out old keepsakes and pictures from their past and he was "drunk and sentimental."

He apologized profusely and is trying to move out of the house by the end of the week in hopes of not losing me. I am confused and hurt. I don't know whether I can ever trust this relationship.

Alexa, while you were having an affair with this man, you

pushed unpleasant thoughts aside. His wife was a louse, unworthy of a faithful husband. Or so you thought. Your mind wouldn't go to: last night he had sex with her, this afternoon he's having sex with me.

For three years he's been intimate with two women. One was at home making food, going to the grocery store, and picking up his underwear. The other woman was you. Now his wife has played her trump card. She's his wife. She isn't doing anything wrong by having sex with him. Maybe she's trying to win him back, or maybe she's simply trying to rain on your parade. Either way it works for her.

What do you fear? You will be making food for him, going to the grocery store, and picking up his underwear, and he will be telling another woman he would search the world over to find her. What you fear is not retribution for what you did. What you fear is the recognition of his true nature.

Wayne & Tamara

### Lying By Omission

My husband's cousin just got married, and his new wife is pregnant. We just found out he's been cheating on her. She is a close friend of mine, and I don't know if I should tell her. The cheating husband asked me not to say anything because he intends to continue cheating.

My husband and I are sick over this, and it is consuming our whole lives. We are supposed to go on vacation with them, and I don't know how to be around my girlfriend knowing what I know. What is the right thing to do?

Trinity, your friend's husband has no right to make you an unwilling accomplice in his cheating, and you have no obligation to protect him.

### Positivity

By D. A. Powell

"Anyway, it isn't forever," Chris said,

"eventually you're dead." And we laughed

Besides, everything is better now. Not us

but implants, blenders, children, heart attacks.

There's never been a better time to be alive

than when you are. If you are. Black-throated

blue warbler says chewchewchewchewchewww

drawing the last chew out like a sucking drainpipe

to say he has mated and is satisfied. Say what

you will about that. His joy is uncontainable

and yet it has a form, a measure, to make it clear

he's not upset or feeling anxious. And if he's bragging,

well, it's no shame to brag that you're happy.

Honeybees cavorting on the goldenrod are working

toward a common goal they'll never see achieved.

They lay down the walls of their cathedral of honeycomb

and will not cope the spire, busy in the present task,

trusting that the work continues. I'd like to write

Your friend is both an innocent party and an ignorant party. She needs to know.

Wayne

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.

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Born in Albany, Georgia, D. A. Powell earned an MA at Sonoma State University and an MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. His first three collections of poetry, *Tea* (1998), *Lunch* (2000), and *Cocktails* (2004), are considered by some to be a trilogy on the AIDS epidemic. *Lunch* was a finalist for the National Poetry Series, and *Cocktails* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry. His next two books were *Chronic* (2009), which won the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Useless Landscape, or A Guide for Boys* (2012) won the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry. Powell is also the author of *Repast* (2014).

Powell has taught at Harvard University, Columbia University, and the University of San Francisco. He has been awarded the Lyric Poetry Award from the Poetry Society of America, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Paul Engle Fellowship from the James Michener Foundation. His poems have been featured in the Norton anthology *American Hybrid* (2009) and *Best American Poetry* (2008). He has blogged for Harriet Books.

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# Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 1

for people in the district and Oregonians. Building influence takes time and is predicated on the relationships you cultivate, the reputation you develop, and the work product you deliver. Build, cultivate, develop, and deliver – all verbs because it takes intentional and consistent effort and energy to build influence. Being in the minority can be easy. Your vote won't change the outcome of bills because the majority will always have the necessary votes to pass bills. Because the only options are to vote "Yes" or "No", it is easy to disengage and understand legislation is unnecessary before pressing either the red or green button – simply press the same one as the minority leader or most conservative veteran member. Putting party before people or country is easy – just vote how the Republican party wants you to. You either vote for the entire bill or oppose the entire bill and finding fault in

someone else's work, particularly if they are from the other party, is easy. Do this and you'll likely be re-elected. Easy. But representing people shouldn't be easy, and easy won't deliver for the people counting on you to represent and advocate for them. Representing 55,000 registered voters and impacting the lives of over 4 million Oregonians is extremely challenging. Representing requires intentional effort to learn and the willingness to admit you may be wrong; it takes courage to talk with people who disagree with you, treating people with respect and decency regardless of differing worldviews or policy positions requires openness, and pursuing policy changes requires moderation, after all, extreme policy swings are unproductive, wasteful, and create inefficiencies. For background, almost everything in the Legislature is competitive – 90 legislators compete to bring

money into their district to support capital projects, compete to have bills heard and passed, and compete to deliver for constituents. Everything in the House is at the pleasure of the Speaker – committee assignments, bills heard and passed, projects funded, and extra appointments. As the representative for HD-12, I successfully built some influence which resulted in bringing in almost \$10 million to the district and six extra-legislative appointments to groups, task forces, committees, and commissions. Each enabled me to be a voice for the district – to represent the people who live here and ensure their voices are heard as problems and solutions are discussed.

*Charlie Conrad is an American Independent politician currently serving the 12th district on the Oregon House of Representatives. He won the seat in the 2022 election against Michelle Emmons. Formerly a member of the Republican party, he changed his party registration in June 2024.*

[Return To Page 2](#)



By Slim Randles

"Mavis, dear, is that coffee HOT this morning?"  
"Sure is, Windy."

"Well then, slaver a bunch of it in a cup and flop it down here in front of a freezin' guy, would you? Thanks, Hon."

"Freezing, Windy?"  
"Ain't the first time, Doc, but they never seem any easier as I get older."

"You want to come in for a checkup later?"  
"Naw, just need to get warm, you know. Used to it at my age."

Steve set his cup down and looked at his old pard, Windy Wilson, camp cook and mule packer extraordinaire. "Don't know how you can get cold on a summer morning like this."

"It's the air tempa-choor, Steve. You recomlect that time you 'n me was up in the high country and got caught in a snowstorm ..."

"And our slickers and jackets were back in camp? Sure I remember that. I thought about how to get that horse into my bedroll that night, 'cuz he was cold, too."

"And you 'member how good that Dutch oven cobbler tasted once we got the circle-lationaries goin' again?"

"You betcha, Windy."  
"Okay ... okay ... I'll do it," mumbled Doc. "Somebody has to. Windy, we've known each other a long time, right?"  
"Sure have."

"And do you really think a temperature of 90 degrees outside will make a guy cold? Cause it's going to be 90 later on. Even the fish in Lewis Creek are sweating."

"No Doc. I don't look at it that way. Sure, it's already hot and it's a-gonna get hotter, you bet. But that's where friends come in."

We all turned to stare at Windy. "See, a friend is a guy who tells you it's the opposit so's you can start your day cooled off a bit. You know ... think SNOW!"

Sponsored by the new family-friendly novel, *Whimsy Castle*. Available everywhere including Barnes and Noble.

**A Moment in Oregon History**  
By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**September 14**—American aviator Charles "Lindy" Lindbergh made the first non-stop solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Four months later, on September 14, 1927, Lindy made a goodwill flight to Oregon. He landed his famous plane, The Spirit of St. Louis, on a dirt runway at Swan Island and was given a parade through town. The Oregon Journal reported the parade as "the greatest Portland has ever accorded anyone." Two days later Lindy departed, flying the Spirit of St. Louis on a final pass over Portland and continuing south to California. Along the way he dropped leaflets over cities in the Willamette Valley reading, "Greetings from Lindbergh."

## 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 last week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 2,000.

**Fish Counts**  
**September 9, Willamette Falls**  
Fall Chinook – 1,418  
Summer Steelhead – 18,658

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## Public agencies to auction surplus vehicles and equipment

Each year Lane County auctions vehicles because of age or mileage. Lane County Fleet Services will conduct a public, open-bid (with proxy bidding) auction from Thursday, September 26th, to Saturday, September 28th.

Vehicles may be previewed before the sale by visiting [fleetauction.lanecounty.org](http://fleetauction.lanecounty.org). In-person viewing is available during the auction from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Lane County Fleet Services is located at 3040 North Delta Highway in Eugene.

Highlights from this year's auc-

tion include:

35 vehicles, including trucks, vans, buses and a hybrid car

Caterpillar equipment, excavators, a backhoe and a bucket truck

A large generator


Proceeds go to a replacement fund that helps offset the cost to buy replacement vehicles.

Bids must be submitted online and will be received until noon on Saturday, September 28th. All bids start with a minimum set amount. No faxed, voice or paper bids will be accepted. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, credit cards (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) cashier's checks, money order or

certified check made payable to Lane County Public Works. Personal checks for \$50 or less are also accepted. Full payment is due within 48 of notification.

This is the twenty-fifth year Lane County Fleet Services and other municipalities have combined their auctions to reduce the cost of disposing of surplus equipment. This auction is in partnership with Lane County, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), Lane Transit District, and others.

For more information, call 541-682-8587, 541-682-8580, or email [lfleet@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:lfleet@lanecountyor.gov).



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# Oregon dark sky sanctuary expected to grow



chris/AdobeStock

By Eric Tegethoff  
Public News Service  
A sanctuary for stargazing in Oregon is the largest in the world and is set to get even bigger.

In eastern Oregon, the organization DarkSky International declared 2.5 million acres of the Oregon Outback International Dark Sky Sanctuary in the first phase of its process in March. It plans to increase the sanctuary to more than 11 million acres in the next few years.

Damon Motz-Storey, director of the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club, recently visited the area.

“Anybody who’s visited it on a clear summer night or otherwise will agree that it is very spectacular,” Motz-Storey observed. “It’s a very unique and amazing place to stargaze and get into astronomy.”

Motz-Storey pointed out the area is far from urban centers like Portland and Boise, and is sparsely populated. It is estimated more than 2.5 times as many stars are visible than in urban areas. Dark-Sky International has designated sanctuaries since 2007 and the Oregon Outback is the first in the state.

Motz-Storey emphasized protecting dark areas is good for wildlife and humans alike because

both are affected by artificial lighting.

“These kinds of designations help to spread awareness around people preserving the dark sky for both wildlife and human enjoyment,” Motz-Storey stressed. “And also to serve as a little bit of a warning signal to future development to say, hey, this is really worth preserving.”

Within the Oregon Outback is an area known as the Owyhee Canyonlands. However, Motz-Storey noted Congress has been unable to pass protections for the unique landscape. A coalition of organizations, including Motz-Storey’s, are pushing the Biden administration to declare it a national monument.

“That would pair very nicely with this dark sky designation and help to protect everything that’s on the ground around the Owyhee Canyonlands, which is just as special as the sky you look up at,” Motz-Storey contended.

*Disclosure: The Sierra Club contributes to the Public News Service fund for reporting on Climate Change/Air Quality, Energy Policy, Environment, and Environmental Justice.*

# Number of trees lost after wildfires likely bigger than thought, research shows

Some suggests not enough are planted to restore areas afterwards

By Nathan Gilles  
Oregon Capital Chronicle  
One year after a wildfire burns in a forest, the U.S. Forest Service assesses the damage.

What the agency finds at this one-year mark informs its post-fire restoration efforts, including how many trees foresters are required to plant to replace ones that died due to the fire. However, according to a growing body of research, one year just isn’t enough time to determine how many trees have died following a wildfire.

Two recent studies, created independently of each other, that examined the effects of wildfires in Oregon, Washington as well as other parts of the West, found that trees scorched by fire can continue to die for as long as five years after a wildfire.

While there is as yet no scientific consensus about what these findings mean for post-fire restoration, the implication, according to some scientists, is that the ecological damage caused by wildfires has been underestimated and restoration efforts are not keeping up.

The amount of climate-warming carbon lost to the atmosphere when trees die likely has also been underestimated, according to one of the two studies, implying that the current carbon-absorbing power of some forests has been overestimated.

The phenomenon being investigated is called “post-fire delayed tree mortality.”

“What we’re finding is fire effects are not static, they’re dynamic, (tree) mortality continues to happen for years, hence the word delayed,” said Andrés Holz, associate professor at Portland State University, director of the university’s Global Environmental Change Lab and coauthor of one of the studies.

The research potentially has wide implications: Though scientists do not know how many acres have been affected by post-fire mortality, wildfires burn millions of acres of forest a year. Last year, 56,580 wildfires burned in the U.S., scorching nearly 2.7 million acres (over 4,200 square miles), and in 2022, nearly 68,990 fires burned more than 7.5 million acres (over 11,800 square miles), according to the National Interagency Fire Center based in Boise, Idaho. The center coordinates fire resources nationwide.

Previous field research has shown that trees continue to die for years after wildfires. Holz and his colleagues’ research is some of the first to use satellite imagery to study the phenomenon remotely.

Wildfires in the Cascades Holz’s study, published in April in the journal *Ecosphere*, examined the effects of delayed tree mortality following wildfires in the Cascades and the northern and southern Rocky Mountains. To do this, Holz and his coauthors compared images of forests burned by wildfires taken one-year post-fire to images of the same forests tak-



ODF/Flickr

A year after a wildfire, the U.S. Forest Service assesses the damage to figure out how many trees need to be planted to restore the forest. But research shows that much more time is needed to calculate tree mortality.

en five years post-fire.

The analysis revealed that many forest sections that had previously shown up as green pixels in satellite images taken one year after a fire were no longer green by year five, suggesting that trees had continued to die over the four years. This one-to-five-year comparison was done in areas burned by 30 wildfires.

The study’s lead author, Sebastian Busby, said the research was inspired by fieldwork he did in the Cascade Mountains as a Portland State University graduate student working with Holz. Busby is now a forest carbon analyst for the non-profit Nature Conservancy.

While in the Cascades, Busby said he used GPS data and fire severity maps created one year after a fire to locate where a fire perimeter should have stopped only to find that the reach of the dead trees had surpassed the perimeter. That was also reflected in the comparisons of the satellite imagery.

By year five, delayed mortality led to a decline in tree cover at the examined fire perimeters from 5% to 25%, according to the study. Busby said it’s likely that trees that previously had been lightly burned but were still living one year after a fire had been weakened enough by the flames to later die from other causes, including drought and insect attacks.

The study also looked at “fire refugia,” or patches of trees in a wildfire area that experience low-intensity fire or no fire and continue to survive.

“The way I always think about (fire refugia) is they’re islands within an ocean, and the ocean is a severely burned forest,” said Busby.

These living islands provide the seeds that forests use to naturally regenerate. Busby and Holz found that while some fire refugia remained unchanged by year five, others shrank in size or disappeared entirely.

“Trees continue to die over time and sometimes at high magnitudes,” said Busby. “So, if you look further out in time, there’s less and less seed source available.”

The problem, Busby said, is most forest management agencies stop assessing fire damage

one year after a fire. This means they are likely overestimating the number of surviving trees and the quantity of seeds they provide. According to Holz, this suggests the U.S. Forest Service is likely underestimating the number of trees it needs to replant.

Researchers disagree

Matthew Reilly, a U.S. Forest Service research forester and lead author of the second paper, also used satellite imagery to study post-fire tree mortality. His study, published last year in the journal *Fire Ecology*, examined tree mortality following six fires in Oregon, Washington, and California. The study also found that trees in a wildfire zone can die up to five years later, with islands of surviving trees shrinking in the years that followed. “The big thing that we found very consistently is that fire refugia are essentially being cut in half in terms of their area,” Reilly said. “They’re not only cut in half, but they are now more fragmented.”

The study found that post-fire tree mortality occurred in 14% of the total area examined in the study. This amounted to 7,725 hectares or over 29 square miles.

The total area impacted by post-fire mortality in the Western U.S. remains unknown. However, Holz, Busby, and Reilly said the methods they developed in their two studies could be used to determine that number in the future. They agree the number is likely to be very large.

Because delayed mortality is a known problem, but nobody knows how big that problem is, Reilly refers to it as “sizing up the elephant in the room.”

But he disagreed that his agency and other land managers aren’t planting enough trees post-fire though he said the findings could “help inform strategies” related to the agency’s restoration practices.

Reilly said his study also suggests that by underestimating tree death scientists have also overestimated the amount of carbon that’s stored by trees, which helps fight climate change.

“We know that they’re underestimating it, but we don’t quite know by how much yet,” he said.

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# Gold-mining ghost town

Continued From Page 6



The ramshackle shell of the Grand Hotel in downtown Granite, as it appeared in 1941 just before the town was basically shut down for the duration of World War II.

knives for protection, but they only used them among themselves, and not that very often.”

When one of the miners would hit a big strike, he sometimes would treat the whole town to a big drunken party. “I remember one time a miner had just made a big strike,” Mrs. Niven said. “When he brought his bag of (gold) dust in he walked up to the saloon and, while standing at the door, he threw his bag of gold dust across the room and it lit on the bar, breaking the bar and making a big dent in the bar. He yelled ... ‘Come on, you mud sluckers, the drink is on me.’ It was one of the wildest, wooliest nights Granite ever had.”

Mrs. Niven was 67 years old when she sat down with WPA writer William C. Haight in 1939 for the oral history interview I’ve been quoting so liberally from. By then she was living in Canyon City with her husband, Neil.

Writer Haight doesn’t give us a lot to go on; he seems not to have liked her very much. He describes her as a “short, round, dark-haired, slow-moving little lady,” and doesn’t even tell us her real name — no first name, no maiden name, just “Mrs. Neil Niven.” But he did his oral history job like the professional he was, and her wry, witty, occasionally ironic voice comes through clearly to us. If you’re at all interested in frontier mining life, it’s well worth looking up.

Neither of them could have known it, but Granite as she knew it had less than three years left. In 1942, with the U.S. involved in World War II, the federal government’s War Production Board decided gold mining was non-essential to the war effort, and shut down all gold mining in the country to free up the labor of the miners to do other work.

The order was lifted after the

war ended, but by then the mines had all lain fallow for four years; timbers had shifted and become dangerously waterlogged, some mines had filled with water, and the mines had been playing out anyway. Nobody bothered trying to reopen them; everyone just moved on. And Granite became a ghost town, more or less.

But never completely. And today, it’s still growing. It’s a gorgeous little mountain town, about 4,500 feet above sea level; vacationers and elk hunters from other parts of the state come and see it, and fall in love with it.

Consequently, Granite is no longer the smallest incorporated city in Oregon. That honor now goes to nearby Greenhorn — whose year-round population is zero.

(Sources: “Occupational and Social life of Granite,” an oral history account obtained and transcribed by William C. Haight of the WPA Federal Writers Project in 1939, <https://www.loc.gov/item/wpalh001942/>; *Ghost Towns of the Northwest*, a book by Norman Weis published in 1971 by Caxton Press; correspondence with Mayor Steve Smith in August 2009.)

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* was published by Ouragan House early this year. To contact him or suggest a topic: [finn@offbeatoregon.com](mailto:finn@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.

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# Tribal histories

Continued From Page 1

his research to cover the tribal settlements and reservations in western Oregon.

Despite being a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and a descendant of the Santiam, Takelma and Chinook peoples, Lewis said he grew up not knowing a lot about “the interrelationships we all have in treaties, US Indian policies, and events of the time.”

Like most other people in the room listening to the lecture that night, he said his own understanding of what occurred in the past came from “an alternative history of Native peoples in the Willamette Valley.”

Most of those accounts were written without Native people input, he noted, adding that few native people were consulted, causing the early histories native people to be completely ignored.

In his book, “Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley,” Lewis stresses the importance of the “alternative perspective” of Native people not normally recorded. Part of his goal in writing it, he said was to expose people to Native perspectives as much as possible “as they lost land, people, rights, and struggled through generations of mistreatment. But he also felt a need to counter to “normal” US histories that “have aggrandized the actions and intents of the settlers.”

“Interactions between tribes and settlers were not always a pretty story,” he said. But unlike other areas of the country, he’s found no evidence of Oregonians using infected blankets to spread smallpox.

“What we think is malaria was the major problem around 1830, probably in the bodies of traders that passed through the tropics,” he believes. While it does not spread from person to person, researchers have identified a Willamette area mosquito similar to those that may have picked up the parasite to spread the disease.

Many tribes disappeared as the native population declined by 95 to 97 percent. Where there “had been ten villages that were part of a tribe it was reduced to one,” he told listeners.

Survivors then grouped together

for safety and survival causing many tribes to disappear and others to appear for the first time.

“In time new confederations rose,” Lewis said. The changes created “A different structure in the whole region that was previously there.”

Unfortunately, anthropology hadn’t come into its own as a science until the 1890’s. By then, tribes had already been on reservations for close to 40 years.

There are other records, like when the Southern US Exploring Corps of 1841 visited the Willamette Valley and found a landscape quite different from today. “All of part of the prairie to the west of us had been burnt,” George Emmons reported. In addition, they found the area “contrasted with green patches of woods scattered with oaks.”

Lewis said other accounts describing natural landforms could be a model for the future.

“We need to understand more about the unique interplay between fire and water for the continuation and revitalization of salmon, native plants, and animal health,” he believes.

Large acreages of seasonal wetlands, swales, and several lakes have been severely impacted by settlers who used drain tiles and ditching to transform them into farmlands. With them went areas that previously supported foodstuffs like camas and wapato that had sustained native populations.

“There are unique tribal cultural adaptations to seasonal wetlands and swales that are yet to be fully considered,” Lewis said.

Some of that research is already underway, like on a test plot of 70 acres of private land where native plants have returned to regenerate on their own.

Others are looking at how fire might return as a management tool to reduce the incidence of large wildland fires.

On that last point, Lewis had a caution. “If we don’t bring back water, what’s going to happen?”

To view a video of tLewis’s presentation, go to: [tinyurl.com/bddhbnsa](https://tinyurl.com/bddhbnsa)

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# Underground project

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cost of all internet service offered in a region.”

Last September the Lane Electric Cooperative was awarded approximately \$20,000,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds to bury electric lines for parts of Lane County affected by the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. Affected areas include power lines that travel up the McKenzie Valley.

After receiving the grant, Lane Electric Cooperative General Manager Debi Wilson said the utility plans to build a more resilient system by undergrounding the majority of its powerlines. She said putting the lines underground mitigates weather effects such as wind, snow, ice, and landslides.

Lane County and the Lane Council of Governments have been working closely with the Coop to leverage installing fiber optic cable underground while the utility trenches are open “to close a critical gap to opening

up access to resilient service for businesses and residents within the McKenzie Valley.”

April Matson, member and public relations manager for Lane Electric, said that “as part of this project, our entire line along 126 will be undergrounded.”

The project area will start “just east of Vida, go to Blue River, and extend beyond the substation up to the end of our lines near

Belknap Springs,” she said.

Timing for the project has yet to be determined.

Besides Lane Electric, Consumers Power will also benefit from FEMA funding. The coop, which serves areas in eastern Linn and Marion Counties received \$1.1 million to help with recovery efforts in areas hard hit by the Beachie Creek Fire.

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