



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Sheriff's Report

Terwilliger Hot Springs. A nude male and female who left the area stole several visitor's backpacks.

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Rewards from the River

After some more unintelligible grunts and groans of excitement, we released the small fish and were now hunting the big one

PAGE 9



Briefs...



Oregon State University researchers have found that U.S. adults are fairly confident in linking wildfires and heat to climate change, but less confident when it comes to other extreme weather events like hurricanes, flooding, or tornadoes.

Looking at extreme weather events across the board, 83% of survey respondents said there is some link between these events and anthropogenic, or human-caused, climate change. About 17% thought climate change had nothing to do with extreme weather.

[Climate links - Page 2](#)



The U.S. Forest Service has announced an investment of over \$2.88 million to fund five "Good Neighbor Authority" (GNA) projects in the Pacific Northwest for fiscal year 2024. This funding is part of a larger \$12 million national investment in GNA projects for the same period.

These projects aim to enhance watersheds, restore forest health, and reduce wildfire risks in Washington and Oregon.

The funding, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, allows the Forest Service to part-

["Good Neighbor" - Page 2](#)

Dungeons & Dragons/Board Games

July 8th-11th | 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Grades 3rd-12th

- Daily transportation provided from home to school
- Breakfast and lunch provided

Do you have a 3rd-12th grade Eagle interested in the fantastical world of Dungeons & Dragons? Look no further than the McKenzie Community School's D & D/Board Games camp.

It's set to run from July 8th to 11th from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., where students will use their imagination and quick thinking to create characters and react to the fantasy world around them. They'll also have the

[D&D Camp - Page 2](#)

Firefighters are hard to hire and retain - and often lack of housing



Controlled burns are used to clear out undergrowth that can fuel catastrophic blazes under dry, windy conditions. Officials told lawmakers they need more resources to expand forest thinning and burning and to speed up the process for getting burns approved.

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon is likely to face fewer big wildfires this summer than in previous years, but a lack of rural housing, coupled with unstable and often low pay, continues to create firefighter workforce challenges across the state and region.

That was a big part of the message from state and federal fire and emergency response officials, who discussed this year's fire outlook and what they need at a meeting Monday at the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. The Portland-based center is part of a larger wildfire prevention

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Tourney boosts rebuilding fund



Mark Mitchell, Clifford Maxwell, Darren Cross, and Josh Shafer were among 52 golfers who took to the greens last Saturday.

RAINBOW: An 18-hole scramble golf tournament - with a shotgun start - was in itself a good reason to show up at the Tokatee Golf Club on June 22nd. But it's underlying function to

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Community Center upgrade underway



Volunteers were busy this week removing old siding from the west exterior wall of the Walthville Community Center.

WALTERVILLE: After a year and a half of planning, fundraising, and strong support from the community, people rolled up their sleeves this week for Phase One of

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Do fish hatcheries have a future?

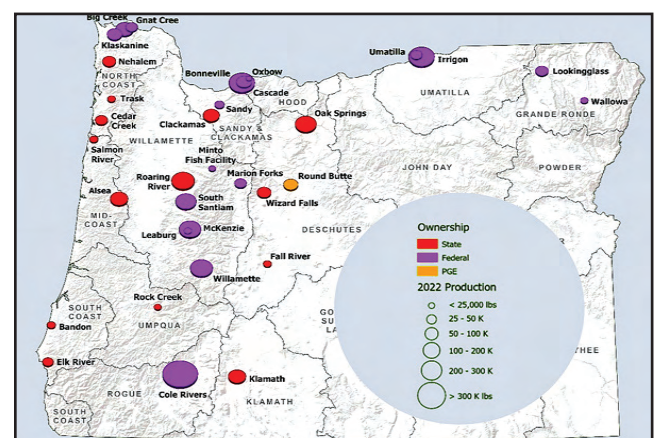
ODFW is hosting sessions to review current and future operations

Fish and fishing are a part of Oregon's heritage. The future, however, is becoming increasingly uncertain as both wild and hatchery fish are being negatively impacted by a changing climate and ocean. With that in mind, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is looking ahead to chart a sustainable future for Oregon's hatcheries. As a start, the public is invited to a meeting on June 27th to learn more about the process the agency is using to thoroughly review the state's hatcheries and plan for the future.

Hatcheries in Oregon produce 35 million salmon and steelhead, and 5 million trout for release into Oregon rivers and lakes. Some of these releases rely on additional facilities operated by tribes, the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), and other local entities.

Climate change and aging hatchery infrastructure, combined with increasing costs are also making it more difficult for Or-

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There are 14 state-owned, 18 federally-owned and one Portland General Electric fish hatcheries in Oregon.

Hard to hire and retain

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and response network that includes nine state and federal agencies.

In particular, they said they need more investment in technology – including satellite detection – along with consistent pay increases for wildland firefighters and stable housing options. Jeff Fedrizzi, the state fire management officer for the federal Bureau of Land Management, said many wildland firefighters live out of their cars while they’re on the job.

“We have folks living in the back of their rigs. They go to work and fight fires and camp out for two weeks and then come back and camp out,” he told Oregon’s U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, who hosted the meeting. All three are Democrats.

The wildfire season in the Northwest can last from May through October but typically the season is most intense from July to September. During that time, firefighters may end up fighting several big blazes at once, and that strains resources as officials share and coordinate equipment and manpower.

This year, the U.S. Forest Service has about 80% of the firefighters it needs in Oregon and Washington with 20% of jobs unfilled, according to Ed Hiatt, assistant director of operations for the regional office of the Service. He said it’s been like that for about the last six years even with a recent bonus in pay.

Federizzi and officials from the Oregon Department of Forestry,

Oregon State Fire Marshal, and U.S. Forest Service praised the \$20,000 supplemental pay bumps many wildland firefighters have received since 2021 under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, but they said the pay supplement needs to be made permanent and pay scales need to be updated. The supplemental money is only authorized through September of this year while agencies wait for a new pay scale to be finalized.

Wyden, Merkley, and Bonamici committed to ensuring firefighter pay will continue to go up and to vote for bills investing in rural and wildland firefighter housing.

Investing in detection The number of cameras able to detect wildfires in the state has grown, and Oregon is likely to surpass Nevada as the state with the second most cameras in the U.S., officials said.

Electric utilities are also setting up their cameras, according to Chris Cline, fire protection division chief at the Oregon Department of Forestry. The department is deploying a new night vision helicopter around the Medford area, according to Cline, something done in California before but new to Oregon.

Still, more money is needed for federal agencies to connect with state and local agencies and share data, said Mariana Ruiz-Temple, state fire marshal, who advocated investment in a wildfire fusion center that can bring all stakeholders together.



Briefs...

Climate links

Continued From Page 1

Researchers found that more than 47% of people were “very” or “extremely confident” in linking increased wildfires to climate change, and roughly 42% of people were very confident linking extreme heat to climate change.

The study also reported how closely the general public is more likely to consider all the hot, dry conditions that contribute to worsening wildfires amid climate change.

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“Good Neighbor”

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ner directly with state agencies to support watershed restoration, improve forest health, and reduce wildfire risks through state-implemented projects.

Pacific Northwest Region projects for fiscal year 2024 include:

Oregon Department of Transportation: Received \$485,000 to mitigate hazard trees along forest roads and state highways crossing

Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com

Forest Service lands, improving access and safety.

The Oregon Department of Forestry’s Federal Forest Restoration Program received \$1 million to support forest restoration on federal lands, providing NEPA planning, commercial timber sale implementation, and restoration services.

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D&D Camp

Continued From Page 1

opportunity to learn the basics of Chess and have time to play other board games, too—no experience necessary.

Transportation from home to school will be provided daily, and breakfast and lunch will also be served.

Space is limited to 18 students, so secure your spot with Lacey Joy at lacey.joy@mckenzieisd.org or Lindsie Cline at lindsie.cline@mckenzieisd.org. For additional information, call (541) 822-3315.

Registration closes July 1st. All can’t wait to see you at camp.

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Rebuilding fund

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raise funds for a non-profit striving to construct replacement housing provided an extra incentive.

“I’m on the board of McKenzie Community Land Trust to remove barriers to homeownership for families that want to live in the McKenzie Valley,” said McKenzie District Ranger Darren Cross. The Forest Service, he added, “is grounded in the community by the employees that serve and live in the valley. Affordable housing is a necessity for the community and the Forest Service to thrive for generations to come.”

Earning first place was the team from Pressure Point Roofing, followed by teammates Josh Shafer, Darren Cross, and Mark Mitchell.

The event raised about \$10,000 to support the McKenzie Community Land Trust’s program to break ground this fall on a project that will construct six 1,300-square-foot stick-built firewise homes in Blue River.

Sponsors for the event included Locals Helping Locals, Willhite Real Estate, Elevate Technology, and Oakshire Brewing.

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Upgrade underway

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plans to improve and preserve the WALTERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER.

On the list of “things to do” are upgrading windows and siding on the west side with modern windows and new hard siding, while also insulating that exterior wall.

Helping fund the work are grants from federal agencies and the

Roundhouse Foundation. The rest of the funds came from generous donations from the community and the Center’s savings.

And, when the work on the wall is complete it will be followed up by the “next step” - replace the current entryway with an ADA-approved ramp.

Close to 1,600 feet of old-growth fir siding in varying lengths has been carefully salvaged and is available for sale to someone who has a use for it. For more information, contact Jeff Dehne at jcdehne@hotmail.com.

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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 EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
6/18	44	75	0	496 cfs	6/18	61	41	0	3,000 cfs
6/19	50	82	0	496 cfs	6/19	76	44	0	2,950 cfs
6/20	53	86	0	496 cfs	6/20	84	51	0	2,920 cfs
6/21	55	88	0	490 cfs	6/21	87	54	0	2,920 cfs
6/22	55	85	0	496 cfs	6/22	89	51	0	2,870 cfs
6/23	58	74	0	NA	6/23	86	57	0	2,900 cfs
6/24	48	81	0	496 cfs	6/24	75	47	0	2,850 cfs

Friday 6/28

McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy
5% chance precip
High: 80 Low: 52

Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy
5% chance precip
High: 72 Low: 45

Saturday 6/29

McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy
5% chance precip
High: 80 Low: 54

Santiam Pass Mostly Cloudy
0% chance precip
High: 69 Low: 45

Sunday 6/30

McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy
10% chance precip
High: 78 Low: 53

Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy
10% chance precip
High: 67 Low: 42

Sheriff's Report

June 12: 8:04 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 88400 blk, Stephens Rd. Deputies responded to a physical dispute. The involved separated for the night.

June 13: 11:45 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Marcola Rd. Milepost 13. A McKenzie District deputy observed a vehicle parked at the location and contacted the occupant.

3:43 p.m: Fraud - 90100 blk, Marcola Rd. A victim lost several hundred dollars through an online scam.

4:44 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 89500 blk, Old Mohawk Rd. A male was observed on camera that appeared to be casing the homeowner's property. The male was driving an older brown Ford Taurus.

June 15: 1:46 p.m: Vicious Dog - 92200 blk, Whitmore St. The caller reported a neighbor's dog is often loose in the neighborhood. The information was relayed to Lane County Animal Services.

June 16: 2:42 a.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs. A nude male and female who left the area stole several visitor's backpacks.

12:09 p.m: Disturbance, Dis-

pute - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy. Several females blocked the caller from accessing the handicap boat ramp, but left after the Sheriff's Office was called.

June 18: 8:35 a.m: Lockout - 88600 blk, Whitsell Ln.

4:27 p.m: Theft - 88400 blk, Little Deerhorn Ln. A house sitter threw a party while the owner was gone, and property went missing. A deputy is still investigating.

7:37 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 40100 blk, York Ln. A subject on probation arrived at the location, in violation of his probation, then left. A deputy contacted the caller and the incident was documented for Parole & Probation.

June 19: 7:29 a.m: Illegal Camping - Marcola area.

8:50 a.m: Dog at Large - 91800 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd.

12:19 p.m: Reckless Driving - Mohawk River Rd. & Marcola Rd.

1:38 p.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:53 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 37900 blk, MJ Chase Rd. A male was confronted when he stopped to take pictures of a residence. Deputies contacted the homeowner and the male. No crime occurred.

8:30 p.m: Assault - Savage St. & B St. Deputies responded to a neighborhood dispute. The

involved remained separated.

8:33 p.m: Disorderly Juvenile - 90700 blk, hill Rd.

9:31 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. Milepost 5.

June 20: 12:26 p.m: Welfare Check- 39400 blk, Mohawk Loop Rd.

7:47 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.0543556. Long: -122.809274.

8:17 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - McK. Hwy. & Cedar Flat Rd.

10:26 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 39800 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

10:29 p.m: Illegal Burn - Easton Ln. & Millican Rd.

June 21: 9:12 a.m: Dead Animal - 94900 blk, Marcola Rd.

12:02 p.m: Theft of Mail - 88900 blk, Easy Ln.

3:51 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.

5:50 p.m: Citizen Contact - Echo St. & Blue River Dr.

7:26 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:56 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Crooked Creek Rd.

9:53 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Crooked Creek Rd.

9:58 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Crooked Creek Rd.

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

June 17: 8:45: 40000 block, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported..

9:31: 41620 Omlid Dr. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

11:41: 38480 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Scene Handled, MKF Disregarded.

June 18: 8:46: 49215 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient going POV, Refusal Obtained.

18:33: McK. Hwy./MP 18 Smoke Scare. Attended Burn Pile, Homeowner Extinguishing.

June 20: 8:54: 90974 Angels Flight Rd. Public Assist. Assist Only.

10:02: 46725 Goodpasture Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

19:45: 39139 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident - Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

20:17: 38559 McK. Hwy. MVA. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

21:09: 39300 blk, Deerhorn Rd. MVA. Disregarded By Dispatch.

21:25: 39621 Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

22:02: 39840 Deerhorn Rd. Illegal Burning. Fire Extinguished.

22:36: Easton Ln/Millican Ln. Illegal Burning. Unable To

Locate.

June 21: 12:56: 41311 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

17:45: 50351 McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Faulty Smoke Detector.

19:45: 40163 York Ln Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

June 22: 2:25: 88260 Millican Rd. Medical, Heart. Disregarded En Route.

12:13: Greenwood Dr/McK. Hwy. Down Branch. Assessed For Fire Hazard, Notified EWEB.

15:32: Tiki Ln./ Deerhorn Rd. Illegal Burning. Advised Homeowner.

19:03: Goodpasture Rd./Milepost 5. Illegal Burning. Fire Extinguished Upon Arrival.

June 23: 19:56: 9032 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

20:30: 87065 Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, July 15th, 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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Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

June 18: 08:46: Medical - 49000 block, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

June 21: 08:16: Subject Down - 91000 blk, Mill Creek Rd. Male slumped over in a truck.

June 22: 08:26: Medical - Terwilliger Hot Springs. Advised someone is doing CPR.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 15th, at the McK. Fire Station, 56578 McK. Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge.

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By Slim Randles

A building project (for those of us who are carpenterially challenged) can be a confusing nightmare of little whatchits we never learned the name of and have no idea how to use.

Oh, if we need a two-by-four that's eight-feet long, we're on pretty safe ground and can head on over to MundoSlab, the building center that dedicates about half an acre to tar paper. It's fun going over there, and you never know when you'll find something you can't live without. You can buy the stuff in there from the kid who mowed your lawn until a month ago.

But when the real tough parts of a project come along, you know, things that involve plumbing or wiring, there's only one place to go ... the old-fashioned hardware store. MundoSlab coming in sure cut down on the number of old-fashioned hardware stores, but there's always one survivor.

They have gray-haired guys standing just inside the door to help you find just what you need, even if you don't know what it's called and have no clue how to install it.

I walked into the real hardware store the other day, and a guy with plenty of gray came over and asked if he could help.

"Well," I said. "I have a float thingie on the horse trough that broke. It's that little doo-trammy that's kinda copper-colored and fits on top of the whiz-gidget."

Without breaking stride, he looked at me and said, "Right-hand threads, or will you need an adaptor?"

Let's see MundoSlab match that.

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Luther Cressman: Oregon's real-live Indiana Jones, only better

By Finn J.D. John

In the course of doing this, Cressman gleaned an understanding of the cultures of "ancient Oregonians" — an understanding that formed into a theory that put him at odds with the conventional wisdom of nearly every other scientist at the time. Essentially, every archaeologist but Cressman was convinced that the Clovis People, an ancient culture named after a New Mexico town where their artifacts had been first discovered, had been the first humans to ever live in North America.

This "Clovis First" theory held that until a hundred centuries ago or so, there had been a "land bridge" connecting Siberia with Alaska, and that the Clovis people had crossed over it into Alaska some 13,000 years ago, arriving in an empty virgin continent. According to the theory, their slow spread through North America had only reached what is now Oregon just two or three thousand years ago.

Cressman didn't buy it. No way, Cressman said, were the artifacts he was finding out there young enough to be Clovis stuff. And he was not shy about sharing that theory, which made him something of a pariah in archaeology circles.

The interesting thing about Cressman was that, in an age in which scientists tended to stay in their lanes — paleontologists sticking to looking for bones, geologists sticking to rocks, anthropologists studying native cultures, biologists studying pollen and tree ring evidence, all mostly in isolation from one another — Cressman made a point of reaching out across intellectual silos and making connections with people studying other things. In this way, he was able to put together pieces of evidence that less eclectic archaeologists would never see.

Nowhere did this approach serve him better than with the legends and artistic traditions he learned about from his Indian friends, and the insights from geologists like Stafford that helped him estimate rough dates for his finds.

And, this is kind of the point at which the comparison with Indiana Jones breaks down. Grabbing a golden idol off of its pedestal where it has sat for thousands of years and hustling it off to a display case in a sterile room in the Mother Country without so much as a photograph taken — Cressman would have considered that an act of cultural vandalism. Stripped of its context, an idol — or a flint arrowhead, or a pair of sage-bark sandals — loses its



Luther Cressman inspects an Indian basket from a collection, in 1943. Cressman was well known for his knowledge of and interest in contemporary and ancient Native arts and culture.

ability to tell its story: how it was used, who made it and when, what the environment was like when it was made, what its artistic style reveals about the movement of ancient peoples across the land.

Basically, Luther Cressman was doing 21st-century archaeology in the late 1930s. And the academic (and sometimes pseudoacademic) artifact hunters of the day didn't all appreciate the insights he was gleaning from that "meta-data" that he was being so careful to preserve.

The great breakthrough in Cressman's fieldwork came as a direct result of his having familiarized himself with Indian basket making art and other distinctive Native artistic traditions. He was able to recognize the pedigree of bits of basketry that he saw sticking out of the ground in places like the Catlow Valley. Looking for more, he found himself exploring the caves that had been carved in the rimrock around places in Lake County that had once been on the shores of a great inland sea.

In one of those caves, he made the first of several discoveries of the sagebrush sandals that would make his reputation.

He found, in excavations, that he could roughly date his finds by recording whether they were buried above or below the layer of ash from the eruption of Mt. Mazama, the ancient supervolcano that exploded and created Crater Lake. At the time nobody knew exactly how old Crater Lake was; but, there would come a time when researchers would learn it was more than 7,500 years ago — proving Cressman had been right to be skeptical of the Clovis-first theory.

Below that layer of ash, in an overhang known as Cow Cave — now called Fort Rock Cave — he found sandals as well as the butchered bones of Pleistocene animals that were known to have

died out more than 10,000 years ago.

Ever the consciencious fieldworker, Cressman treated every square millimeter of the sandals he found with a preservative solution. A few years later, he was doubtless vigorously kicking himself after the technology of radiocarbon dating was developed. None of the sandals he had pickled in preservative could be dated.

Luckily, an amateur artifact collector had dug some sandals out while Cressman wasn't looking. Cressman was able to get hold of them, and sent them to be radiocarbon dated.

They proved him right. They dated back over 10,000 years.

The scientific community did not give up its "Clovis first" theory easily, but over the years they have by and large been forced to concede that Cressman was right and they were wrong.

That was especially true after the early 2000s, when UO researcher Dennis Jenkins recovered some coprolites — dried or fossilized human feces — that dated to 14,500 years ago.

There were some voices in the scientific community that clung to the Clovis theory for a few years after that, claiming the results of Jenkins' coprolites must have been an error introduced by careless researchers. But such protestations had the distinct whiff of desperation to them. After all, where were these allegedly careless researchers going to be able to find 14,500-year-old DNA samples to contaminate the dig with?

The result is that a new scientific consensus has developed, and anyone who still thinks Cressman was wrong has been left behind, yelling at clouds.

You can actually see some of the sandals on display at the Klamath County Museum in Klamath Falls, by the way. Most of them

are on display at the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon, though.

For fans of Oregon and its cultures and history, Luther Cressman isn't just an Indiana Jones character. As an archaeologist he's better than Indiana Jones in pretty much every way. But then, he'd probably do a worse job outrunning boulders, crawling through tombs full of snakes, and punching Nazis — so it's all good.

There is just one kind of unsatisfying aspect of Cressman's story, though. Although Margaret Mead was one of the most important anthropologists in the history of anthropology, if not the most important, it does seem a little unfair that the most common takeaway from the story of her ex-husband's life and career is still the relatively insignificant fact that he was once married to her.

But then, that's a familiar story, isn't it? From Ada Lovelace to Zelda Fitzgerald, from Alma Mahler to Marcia Lucas (and let's not forget Dorothy Loch!), history is full of great women who are remembered more for who they were married to than what they accomplished. And, of course, what's sauce for the goose is always sauce for the gander!

(Sources: "Luther Cressman: Quest for First People," an episode of Oregon Experience produced by Kami Horton and first aired in 2014; "Luther Cressman," an article by Virginia Butler published by The Oregon Encyclopedia on Sept. 15, 2022; Dorothy C. Cressman papers at UO Archives)

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.



Luther Cressman (left) and geologist Howard Stafford pose for a photograph with a particularly interesting petroglyph, circa 1930.

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Gardening Tips

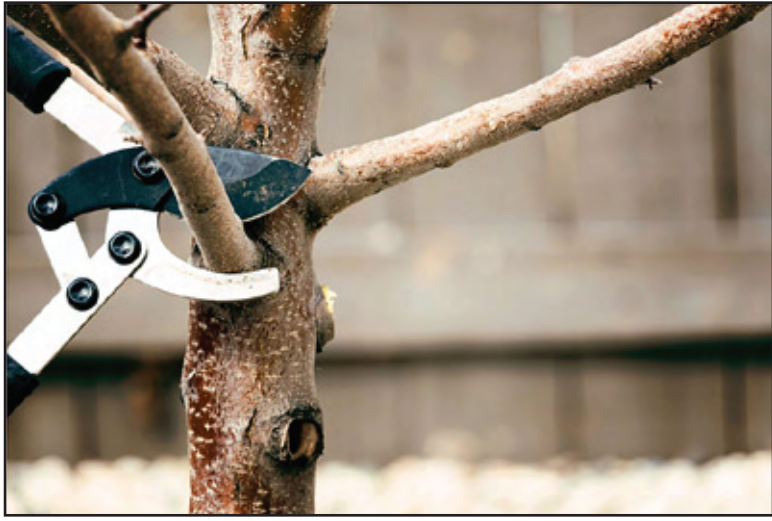
By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Experts offer tips on how to care for trees



By Alyssa Evans
Gardens are beginning to flourish with brightly colored flowers, honeybees are buzzing, and birds are delighting neighborhoods with their unique tunes.

This time of year, gardening is at the top of the minds of many Oregonians. But for those who have trees on their properties, or are looking to plant trees, it can be intimidating and overwhelming to figure out where to start and how to best care for trees.

Have no fear though — three of Oregon's experts are here to help you find your confidence when it comes to conifers, spruces and other types of trees.

The basics before you plant When planting a tree, it's important to find a good spot. This means making sure the tree will have adequate sunlight, shade, airflow and space to grow.

"A lot of trees, if they're in the right environment, will grow and thrive," said Gabe Blustein, yards department manager at Portland Nursery. "Part of selecting the right tree for the right space is making sure it has room to grow. A lot of times, city trees are too close to buildings or powerlines and require emergency pruning.

There are specific requirements that vary from city to city that dictate what homeowners are responsible for when it comes to tree care. In Portland, Portland Urban Forestry specifies requirements for tree care. Often, homeowners must have permits to do any work on trees in the city, including pruning and attaching lights, Blustein said.

"It can seem overwhelming at first for homeowners. I recommend that people reach out to their city and get the information they need and get their proper permits," Blustein said.

Watering and pruning Once a tree is planted, it's important to water and prune it consistently.

Gary English, owner of Landsystems Nursery in Bend, Oregon, suggests watering trees about an inch to an inch-and-a-half of water per week. You can use a rain gauge to measure.

"You should water it well once a week, then leave it alone," English said.

If you're unsure of whether you need to water a tree, you can use a soil probe to take a soil sample. Kevin Carr, vice president and division manager of Bartlett Tree Experts in Clackamas, Oregon, suggests using a long screwdriver (about 12 inches) to insert into soil.

"If you meet a lot of resistance while taking a soil sample, that probably means it's time to water," Carr said.

Carr, a certified arborist, suggests waiting for trees to become established before pruning them.

"After a tree is planted in the first three to five years, let it grow and watch it grow. After that you should do regular pruning cuts. That will make a large difference for the tree for the next 15 to 25 years," Carr said.

However, some trees, like fruit trees, may require more frequent pruning, Blustein said. Fruit trees may need to be pruned once a year or every couple of years depending on their size.

Problems to watch for "There are a lot of little ways that damage reveals itself on trees," Blustein said. "It's natural for trees to have some damage but a lot of them are resilient and can survive."

Signs to watch for include the vibrancy of leaves; whether leaves are dropping during the time of year they should be sprouting; if leaves are curling; and if leaves are black or brown at the edges. Another sign to be wary of is woodpecker activity because that can be a sign of bark beetles, which cause significant damage to trees, Carr said.

To tell whether a tree is thriving, look at how well it is flowering and the size of its leaves, English said.

"If a plant is starving to death, it will have very small, juvenile leaves," English said. "A stressed plant is more subject to disease or pathogenic activity. You can look at a tree and see that it's not doing well."

One way to check for problems is to compare trees to each other.

"If there's one that looks healthy, you can use that as an index if it's the same plant," Carr said. "You'll be able to tell if the color is not as vibrantly green or if you see leaves dropping during the time of year it should be growing, if leaves are curling, or if they are black or brown."

The most common error English and his staff see customers struggle with is planting trees too deep.

"The soil gets on the trunk of the tree when it should be at ground level or higher. I recommend they plant it an inch or two high," English said.

When using bark, English suggests monitoring the moisture around the tree and not placing bark right against the trunk of the tree. He suggests only using a couple of inches of bark.

Inconsistent watering is another common issue.

"You don't want to overwater, and you don't want to underwater. I recommend building a tree well, like a moat. Fill it with tree stimulator and water, at least in the first season, and then the moat can go away," English said.

Young trees can easily be overwatered, while mature trees need their root systems to be moistened, Carr said. He suggests watering just enough to get trees established, then follow up only as needed for a tree's first three years.

"Most problems stem from inadequate moisture levels," Carr said. "Every other year, we have a long drought and our plants aren't adapted to that. We used to have rainfall by Labor Day but now it's late September or early October."

Other issues to be wary of include inadequate mulching, fungi, pests and harsh climates.

When to call a professional Using online resources such as the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture's website (pnwisa.org) and working with local garden centers and arborists are ways to get support with tree care.

"Those are the people who are plant experts and understand how plants grow," English said. "Talk with your local garden centers. If you get into trouble with a tree, then you can call an arborist to have it taken down."

Most arborists will do a first inspection free of charge, Carr said.

"Don't be intimidated. People are more than capable of planting trees and caring for them," Blustein said. "The benefits of planting a tree are pretty amazing for climate and cooling purposes and for providing habitat."

- Resources
- * American Horticultural Society, ahsgardening.org
 - * Northwest Horticultural Society, northwest.org
 - * Pacific Northwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, pnwisa.org



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



4-H & COUNTY FAIR MEMORIES

One of the summer activities in our farming community was 4-H and county fair time. I grew up in a farming area of New York State where 4-H was part of our lives and culture. In fact, this was the main social activity for farm kids at that time and even for some "townies."

I learned to sew and did a great deal of cooking in 4-H classes. Not long ago, I came across the first skirt I made. It was from printed feed sack fabric material with a draw string waist. I was so proud of it and got a blue ribbon at the county fashion show.

Aunt Mary

Aunt Mary, our leader, devoted her life to youngsters as a mother of six, school teacher and a 4-H leader. She taught us sewing (on her treadle machine), crafts, square dancing, and gardening. Although Aunt Mary was a good cook, she encouraged Mrs. Thompson, one of the mothers, to teach cooking classes.

Under Aunt Mary's tutelage, we participated in fashion shows, competed in demonstration events, and showed our wares at the Dutchess County Fair. Even when we were in high school, my sister and I participated in 4-H.

A 4-H Leader

Then with college, marriage and motherhood, plus moving around the country with my husband's Air Force career, I thought my 4-H days were over. However, when my daughter and her cousins were of 4-H age, a friend asked me to help her form a club for the youngsters. Before I knew it, the friend backed out and I had these dozen youngsters who were excited about this new adventure in their lives.

Not wanting to disappoint

them, I became another "Aunt Mary," a 4-H leader for 10 years with occasional help from other moms. I hope I imparted some of the skills and memories to these boys and girls that my Aunt Mary did for Sister and me.

Memories

I still have adults come up to me and introduce me to their spouse, "She was my 4-H leader."

So realize as you work with young people in 4-H and other youth groups, you're molding our citizens of tomorrow and imparting skills and values to make them useful and productive.

PLAIN MUFFINS is one of the recipes from the 4-H cookbook Mrs. Thompson used for our cooking classes.

Measure dry ingredients (2 cups flour, 1/4 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt) in small bowl and sift together.

In large bowl, beat 1 egg slightly with fork. Add 1 cup milk and 1/4 cup vegetable oil. Stir together.

Pour dry ingredients, all at once, into large bowl with liquid ingredients. Stir until just mixed. Lumpy batter will result.

Spoon into greased muffin tins. Bake in preheated 400 degree F. oven for 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

(You can add various ingredients...raisins, chopped nuts, dates, dried cranberries, etc. to the Plain Muffin batter.)

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

Quote of the Week

"Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution."

Albert Einstein

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Finn Rock Reach Phase 2 land acquisition to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat on the McKenzie River in Oregon

The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the McKenzie River Trust for their purchase of a 469-acre property in Lane County, Oregon along the McKenzie River, called Finn Rock Reach Phase 2, in cooperation with other cost share partners. When the transaction is complete, MRT will own and manage the property for conservation purposes and the United States, through BPA, will hold a conservation easement to ensure the identified conservation values on the property, including fish and wildlife species and their habitat, is protected, and conserved in perpetuity.

BPA funds property acquisitions like these to partially fulfill its obligations under the 2010 Willamette Wildlife Memorandum of Agreement and the Northwest Power Act to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System.

A map of the property's location and fact sheet were mailed to local area landowners.

For more information, contact BPA project manager Matthew Schwartz at 503-230-4225 or mdschwartz@bpa.gov. You can also call Communications/Public Affairs toll-free at 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Finn Rock Reach Phase 2" land acquisition.

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Community Notes

AA Meetings

AA meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church in Waltherville. plus in McKenzie Bridge at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church.

June 27

Chamber Meeting

The board of directors of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the McKenzie River Discover Center at 44645 McKenzie Hwy. at Leaburg Lake.

June 29

Dime At A Time

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

July 1 - Aug. 20

Free Summer Meals

An The McKenzie Community School is offering free summer meals with no sign-up, paperwork, or cost required. Just show up at 51187 Blue River Drive and enjoy nutritious meals: Breakfast: 8 am to 9 a, and Lunch: 11 am to noon.

July 2

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.

July 2

Family Story Hour

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.

July 2

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.

Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically starting at 5:30 p.m. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed. The President will announce the speaking time at the start of the Public Input session. Alternatively, people may submit written testimony to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Please note that spoken testimonies will be included in the meeting's audio/video recording and all testimonies will be noted in the meeting minutes. Both are made available on eweb.org following the meeting.

* Start times for agenda items are approximate. Attendees wishing to provide testimony for public input or a public hearing are encouraged to be present when the meeting is called to order. Please note there are not opportunities for public comment during work sessions.

July 2

Coffee with Locals

Come have a cup of coffee from 10 to 11 a.m. with your neighbors (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) at the Jessup's Java in

downtown Blue River. Catch up with your people, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

July 2

Waltherville Grange

The Waltherville Grange #416, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road. The Grange's first two monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, with a potluck dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

July 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.

July 3

Cornhole League

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

July 3

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

July 3

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

Temporary closure at Carmen Bridge project

EWEB seismic retrofit in effect from July 8 to 10th



The Willamette National Forest has issued a temporary closure order for a portion of Forest Service Road (FR) 2600-730. This closure order will be in effect from July 8-10th, or until rescinded.

This temporary closure order has been issued for public safety while Eugene Electric & Water Board (EWEB) conducts construction work for a seismic retrofit on Carmen Access Bridge. The closure will extend from 7 a.m. Monday, July 8th, through 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10th, on both sides of FR 2600-730 from the junction of Highway 126 for approximately 0.25 miles, including Carmen Bridge and up to the junction of Forest Road 2600-730

and 2672-655.

Access to Blue Pool will be limited during the official road closure and bridge construction. The public is advised to observe the road and bridge closure for safety purposes and to expect limited access to recreational sites during this time.

Visitors are encouraged to "know before you go" and exercise caution on roadways that may have construction work or heavy equipment traffic. For current conditions, contact the McKenzie River Ranger Station at (541) 822-3381 or view alerts at

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/willamette/alerts-notice>

to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverpark.com

July 3

Watershed Wednesday

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

July 5

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.

July 6

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 may 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.

July 6

Sullivan Golf Tourney

The Annual Mickey Sullivan Golf Tournament will tee off at 11 a.m. at the

Tokatee Golf Club, 54947 McKenzie Hwy. in Rainbow. Join the family for the 9th annual Mickey Sullivan Memorial Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the raffle will support the McKenzie School District Golf Programs, including Junior Golf. Must prepay - \$125 per person, Cart, range balls, two raffle tickets & dinner included. Cash, check, or Venmo @Cindy-Smith-520. Contact Sherry Smith for more info 541-517-2752. Shotgun starts at 1:30.



News Sports Opinion History

Community Events Calendar



An Invitation to Worship

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)

McKenzie Bible Fellowship

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

Catholic Church

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

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church

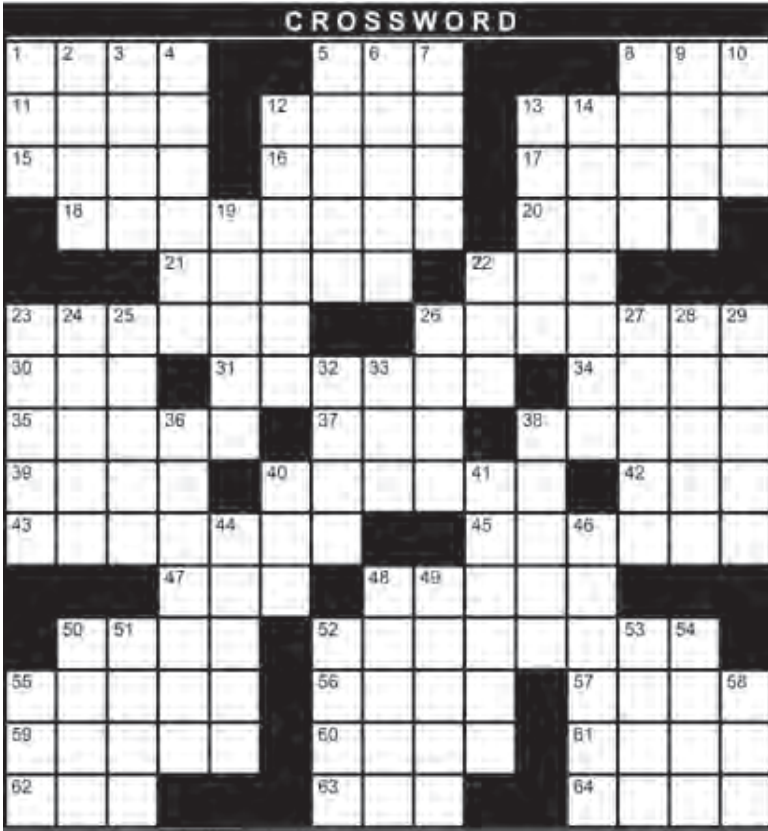
Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Waltherville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would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

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- 40. Engage in a pursuit (2 words)
- 42. Bed-and-breakfast, e.g.
- 43. Tibetan Buddhism
- 45. Pinched
- 47. Sing like Public Enemy
- 48. Mother-of-pearl
- 50. Cripple
- 52. *Wheel in Vegas
- 55. Chocolate substitute
- 56. Egg on
- 57. Capri or Catalina
- 59. Olden days violin maker
- 60. Croaks
- 61. "Run Away to Mars" singer
- 62. Jump key
- 63. Corncob
- 64. Gaelic

DOWN

- 1. *London _____, tourist attraction
- 2. Hankerings
- 3. At the summit of
- 4. Glass ingredient
- 5. TV and radio
- 6. Not odds
- 7. Chinatown gang
- 8. Low-ranking worker
- 9. Pinnacle
- 10. Pig's digs
- 12. *Royal procession carriage
- 13. E in baseball box score
- 14. **"Wheel in the Sky" band
- 19. Star bursts
- 22. "_____ Elise"
- 23. Suez or Panama
- 24. Carl Jung's inner self
- 25. *Type of locomotive
- 26. Surfer's stop
- 27. Like anchor weigh
- 28. Easternmost state
- 29. Serengeti grazer
- 32. *Perambulator, for short
- 33. Black and white sea bird
- 36. *Ancient Greek ride
- 38. Top of a steeple
- 40. Kitchen meas.
- 41. Reunion attendees
- 44. Poets' feet
- 46. Smaller size than small
- 48. *a.k.a. water wheel
- 49. Hole-borer
- 50. Baby's first word?
- 51. Speedy steed
- 52. Boorish
- 53. Russian autocrat
- 54. 90-degree pipes, e.g.
- 55. "Peace Train" singer-songwriter
- 58. Increase



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THINGS WITH WHEELS

ACROSS

- 1. Unfledged hawk
- 5. The _____ Gala, haute couture fundraiser
- 8. Ballet step
- 11. Sasquatch's cousin
- 12. Prefix in levorotary
- 13. DVD player button
- 15. What Tylenol and xylene have in common
- 16. Seaport in Yemen
- 17. With ample space
- 18. *Rumpelstiltskin's _____ wheel

- 20. Viking writing symbol
- 21. Musical finales
- 22. In favor of
- 23. Source of tapioca
- 26. Smith, e.g.
- 30. "Stand and Deliver" singer
- 31. Live-in helper (2 words)
- 34. Et alii, abbr.
- 35. Nephew's sister
- 37. Tire depression
- 38. Turkey's southern neighbor
- 39. Same as ayah

Solution on Page 9



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

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Jun 27th

A grid of event cards for June 27th, 2024. Each card includes an image, title, time, and location. Events include: Springfield Museum closure (10:00am-5:00pm), McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group (7:00pm), Leaburg GMFC Radio Preparedness (7:00pm), McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Board meeting (7:00pm), Lane County Board of Commissioners (7:00pm), Upper McKenzie Cornhole League (7:00pm), Blue River Water Board (7:00pm), McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group (7:00pm), Annual Macey Sullivan Golf Tournament (7:00pm), McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group (7:00pm), Leaburg GMFC Radio Preparedness (7:00pm), McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group (7:00pm), Leaburg GMFC Radio Preparedness (7:00pm), McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group (7:00pm), Leaburg GMFC Radio Preparedness (7:00pm).

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A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

June 29 - In 1864 a group of Lane County entrepreneurs conceived of punching a road over the Cascade Mountains at McKenzie Pass and across Central and Eastern Oregon to the Idaho border. The group was seeking to be compensated by a congressional land grant of alternating sections of public land in a six-mile swath along the roadway. The company subdivided the land and sold the land to the public as farm ground, but most of the land lacked water and was agriculturally worthless. Much of the land was returned to the counties for unpaid taxes. The western seventy-nine miles of the road became the McKenzie Highway.

Fishing Report

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

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam - 850, Blue River Reservoir - 1,200, and Leaburg Lake - 1,000.

Fish Counts

June 20, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook - 14,730
Summer Steelhead - 14,049

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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						C	O	D	A	S		F	O	R			
C	A	S	A	V	A				S	U	R	N	A	M	E		
A	N	T		A	U	P	A	I	R		E	T	A	L			
N	I	E	C	E		R	U	T		S	Y	R	I	A			
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T	A	B				E	A	R			E	R	S	E			

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Emergency? Call 911

Steelhead in the Shadow of Eagle Rock

By Chris Wright
We set off from the boat ramp at Blue River around 9 a.m. I was rowing my two clients down the beautiful McKenzie River in a drift boat. I knew trout fishing would be tough for several miles as the section we started in had not been planted with hatchery trout. They are much more willing to bite flies than their native counterparts. I had no plans of catching anything besides trout. We were above the Leaburg Dam, after all! Steelhead are typically stopped there and recycled back to Holden Creek bridge, around 6 miles downstream. Then they make the run again and hopefully are caught by anglers, that is after the hatchery has enough broodstock to collect the eggs for the following season.

Trout fishing proved slow, as expected, so we continued along at a fast pace. We did see some rising trout and had some action on dry flies. Watching a trout eat a dry fly is one of my favorite things! But the plan for lunch was to eat trout! And you can only keep hatchery rainbows marked by having their adipose fin removed. I believe that's a fantastic practice because the wild fish remain healthy and in the river. The hatchery fish, which we don't want to spawn and change the wild genetics, get eaten by us or the other river inhabitants. Ospreys and eagles, otters or minks, and the native bull trout love them also.

So we went downstream to water that would be more productive for hatchery rainbows. The river was extremely busy with other boaters and fishing guides that day. There are plenty of good lunch spots, but with several other boaters, I wanted to pick a spot for lunch quickly. And potentially have to keep floating for too long and skipping good water. The pressure was on to catch some nice fish for lunch and take advantage of only a few spots to stop!

I had taken both clients before, and I knew Milt loved to throw spoons for trout. Most days, I would just have fly fishing equipment with me, but I have other options depending on what the clients want to do. On this trip, we had the whole arsenal. I noticed most other guides were fly fishing. Fishing appeared slow for everyone we saw. It was time to try something else.

I poked Milt on the shoulder and handed him a trout-sized spinning rod with one of my favorite lures. Pictures will be blotted out, and no lures will be named; if I told you, I'd have to make you sign an NDA, etc. And Milt went to work! The



Chris Wright

Milt with the steelhead from beneath Eagle Rock!

large flat we were in was a great spot. Right away, the lure put a fish in the boat. I also slipped a plug out on Dan's side while he continued to fish with flies. After a minute, the plug rod went off, and we had a fish on. I swapped rods with Dan and watched him reel in the small trout on the plug. In the crystal clear waters below the trout, with the pink plug in its mouth, Dan and I simultaneously saw a large shadow chasing the trout! Swipe and flash, swipe and flash! "Holy smokes," I said, "did you see that?!"

After some more unintelligible grunts and groans of excitement, we released the small fish and were now hunting the big one!

Milt continued slinging the spoon, Dan ran the plug back out, and I was tying on a large egg-sucking leech to the trout fly rod. Usually in a scenario like this, a small trout being chased by a large one, you would see a very distinct yellow coloring to the fish. That's a Bull trout! You can't target those. But this fish was extremely silver! "That's a steelhead," I thought! With no time to figure out why he was up there, we just had to figure out how to catch him! I was looking down, trying to tie on the egg-sucking leech, when I heard Milt holler, "Ope, I got 'em!" What a beautiful sound that was!

The steelhead seems to have some extra juice this year. On a six lb. test line, wrestling a 6lb pound

fish, who is none too pleased with your existence, makes for quite the rodeo! Every jump is heart-pounding. The beauty and power they have is incredible. You want to enjoy the moment but are scared to death that the fish will break the line or throw the hook! After three acrobatic leaps and drag-screaming runs, we had the

fish coming towards the boat. I had pulled the anchor earlier, and we were floating towards the fish. Holding my 20-inch trout net with a long handle, thankfully, I stared down the 26-inch fish! "Keep his head up!" I hollered at Milt. Thankfully, Milt is a seasoned angler who knew what I was thinking! We worked together and slipped him into the net, and then I shoved him right into the boat before he could jump out! Here, we stood triumphantly, all according to plan. Not! One trout in the bag and a gorgeous steelhead on the boat floor. Luck and skill collided. And lunch was served!

We pulled into one of my favorite shore lunch spots, and I started cooking. I served fresh bread in a balsamic olive oil dip, steelhead and trout fried in butter, and a green salad with strawberries, feta, and a homemade vinaigrette. I topped it off with my wife's famous chocolate chip cookies with salt flakes! The only thing we were missing was a nap!

After our soul-filling lunch, we started drifting down the afternoon stretch. Fishing proved to be excellent in the afternoon. Everything started working. Dan caught several on flies. Milt did excellent on lures. He even caught another steelhead! It was just an unbelievable day.

I'm thankful to have a Steelhead run again. What a surprise. This year, above the Willamette Falls, we have over 14,000 steelhead. Those fish spread out

[Continued On Page 9](#)

McKenzie River Reflections

Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history - in the back issues of this newspaper. Go to: tinyurl.com/2rkpxsn

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Federal government acknowledges dams devastated Northwest tribes and fish stocks

Department of the Interior report marks the first time the government has detailed harms caused by 11 dams in the Snake and Columbia River basins



Natalie Fobes/Getty Images

Chinook salmon spawn in Snake River.

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
The federal government this week acknowledged that the construction and operation of 11 hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers during the last century has had a devastating effect on eight Northwest tribes and more than a dozen native fish stocks, some of which have gone extinct.

The acknowledgment came in a report, "Tribal Circumstances Analysis," that was published Tuesday. It represents the first time that the U.S. government has comprehensively detailed the harm that federal dams have caused and continue to inflict on Northwest tribes, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which undertook the analysis.

Those harms include the inundation of thousands of acres of tribal land and sacred sites and the loss of traditional fishing areas. The government in the analysis acknowledged that it violated treaty promises to the tribes in developing the dams, which brought economic benefits to white settlers – hydropower, irrigation, improved river navigation, and mining – while the tribes lost much of their land as well as many of their traditional fishing grounds and the fish they've long depended on.

"Over a century ago, the government and private interests began damming the Columbia River's tributaries. These actions, along with many contemporaneous actions, perpetuated and were part and parcel of the historical transfer of land, natural resources, and wealth away from the tribes," the report said. "The government afforded little, if any, consideration to the devastation the dams would bring to tribal communities."

The analysis follows a series of promises from President Joe Biden to restore native fish populations in the Columbia and Snake River basins and decades of mounting

research and litigation pointing to the role of dams in declining native and wild fish stocks and the subsequent decline in the cultural, physical and economic health of Indigenous peoples who have lived for millennia in the basins.

This week, White House officials announced the creation of the Columbia River Task Force to coordinate interagency and tribal work on restoring wild fish stocks in the basins during the next decade. It will be led by Nik Blosser, former chief of staff to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, a special assistant and deputy cabinet secretary in the Biden administration, and, most recently, a vice president at Portland General Electric.

Leaders of the eight affected tribes named in the report lauded the analysis. Shannon Wheeler, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, said in a statement it is a "stark reminder" for the federal government.

"We know we must act urgently to prevent extinction, and this report reaffirms the need for the United States and us to move forward together," she said.

The report also prompted criticism. The nonprofit trade group Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, which represents ports and other economic interests in the area and supports hydropower, said the analysis was "not based on scientific evidence" and deliberately left out other river basin stakeholders.

"Our concerns with the Biden administration's actions are their excessive lack of transparency and the failure to account for all interests affected by this complex issue," Neil Maunu, the group's executive director, said in a statement.

Devastation of fish stocks
The analysis references dozens of studies that have shown that the 11 dams and their reservoirs on the Columbia and Snake rivers have caused the rapid decline of salmon and steelhead populations.

It further connects those declines to a decrease in the health and economic well-being of members of eight affected tribes.

Up to 16 million salmon and steelhead historically returned to the Columbia River Basin each year, according to the report. Millions of them migrated hundreds of miles upstream from the ocean to return to their birthing grounds to spawn, including up to 3.7 million salmon and steelhead that returned to the area above what is now Grand Coulee Dam. More than 1 million spring and summer Chinook are believed to have returned annually to the Upper Snake River Basin from the Pacific to spawn.

Tribes in the basin consumed millions of pounds of fish each year, which sustained hundreds of thousands of people as well as more than 130 animal species, according to the report.

Today, four of the 16 salmon stocks in the Columbia and Snake Rivers are gone, including coho and sockeye runs, the report said. Some populations have left their historic tributaries, such as salmon and steelhead that used to return to the Umatilla River. Today, seven of the 12 remaining salmon stocks in the Columbia River Basin are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

Half of the historic populations of salmon, steelhead, and lamprey that once inhabited the Snake River Basin are also gone. The rest are in a "dire condition" and could become extinct, the report said. It also detailed losses of lamprey and sturgeon that are important to Columbia River Basin tribes, and, with the inundation of land near the rivers, the loss of habitat for elk and deer that were hunted by tribes and where other foods were harvested.

Federal and state governments have supported hatcheries as their key strategy to reverse fish declines, but the operations have failed to fulfill their promise, the report found. Decades of data show that despite billions in taxpayer investment, salmon and steelhead hatchery programs and restoration projects in the Columbia River Basin have failed to support or boost native fish populations and are contributing to their decline.

'Telling the truth'

Officials from the affected Northwest tribes welcomed the report.

In statements Tuesday, they said they were glad the federal government acknowledged the destructive role dams have played in the loss of their land, food, health, cultural practices, and economic well-being. Leaders from the Nez Perce and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation said that in publishing the analysis, the federal government was finally being honest.

"The United States – by telling the truth about the historic and ongoing injustices the federal dams have imposed on our people and by embracing its treaty and trust obligations – is upholding the rule of law and highlighting the urgency to act to prevent salmon extinction," said Wheeler of the Nez Perce.

Corinne Sams, a board member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, said in a statement that the analysis was "an honest acknowledgment" of the devastating impact that the dams have had on Columbia River Basin tribes.

Three Northwest tribes and federal agencies have begun work on reviving Chinook and sockeye salmon runs that were among the most abundant in the world before the Columbia River dams were built.

As part of that effort, the task force will be charged with coordinating salmon restoration

efforts in the Columbia River and Snake River across agencies.

The administration said in its release that it chose Blosser to lead based on two decades of experience working on salmon and energy issues. The group will be co-chaired by three people: Laura Daniel-Davis, deputy secretary of the Interior; Deputy Secretary of Energy Dave Turk; and Janet Coit, assistant administrator for fisheries at NOAA. Other members will be from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Office of Management and Budget, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Recommendations

The report made vague recommendations to include the historical effects of the dams in federal environmental reviews of the Columbia and Snake River Basin projects. It also called for federal agencies to work with the tribes and to consider the recommendation from the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to potentially breach the four lower Snake River dams.

NOAA officials have said that breaching the dams would be a good way to restore fish stocks.

Opponents of dam breaching point to another NOAA study showing that warming ocean temperatures from climate change are playing a large role in salmon and steelhead declines as evidence that dam breaching won't save the fish. The study, by NOAA scientist Lisa Crozier, found that rising sea temperatures were a dominant driver toward future extinction.

But in an email, she told the Capital Chronicle that it's inappropriate to use her study in discussing historic salmon declines.

"My paper was about the future," she said.

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Have thoughts on recreation?

Shadow of Eagle Rock

Willamette National Forest welcomes visitor input

In the last several years, managers on the Willamette National Forest have started work on a plan for future management of recreation sites across the forest, including areas affected by wildfires. Officials say they're facing difficult decisions about how to prioritize sites for investment, enhancements, and changes in management.



The Willamette's substantial recreation program manages more than 425 recreation sites ranging from remote trailheads to developed campgrounds with flush toilets and showers, and it has fixed resources to maintain and improve this infrastructure.

After hearing from people across multiple communities, officials say they will combine the input into a story of how members of the public use and value the Willamette National Forest. "This information will help to inform a shared vision for recreation management throughout the Willamette NF and in burned landscapes," according to a spokesman

through the Santiam, Willamette, and McKenzie. Starting in 2017, the runs have been very low, averaging around 3000 yearly. Last year, only 698 had come over by mid-June. Steelhead fishermen say a good year is anything over 10,000 steelhead, with 20,000 being excellent.

Like seemingly all natural resource issues, it's a vast and complex problem. Predators eat steelhead from egg to adult. Ocean conditions have also been very unfavorable to steelhead in recent years. The Corps of Engineers is cutting funding for hatchery steelhead smolts that would be planted in our neighboring river, the Willamette. Starting in 2025, there will be no more. Technically, the McKenzie is fine. But all things seem connected, leading to less fish over the falls for everyone to fish for. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) raises the smolts for us fisher-

Continued From Page 9



Chris Wright

Steelhead for lunch!

people. They follow orders from the Corps of Engineers, directed by lawsuits more than science or biology. It reminds me we should be thankful for what we have. And fight for what we enjoy!

The salmon run this year has been lower than we hoped for. So we should all take advantage of the excellent steelhead runs! Permission granted to put off projects and go fishing!

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No longer considered predators, Oregon beavers get new protections from state

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
Oregon's state animal has for years been classified as a "predator" by the state fish and wildlife agency, and that's meant that the North American Beaver has lived largely unprotected from private landowners who can kill them at will.



Peter Pearsall/USFWS

That will change on July 1 when new rules go into effect under House Bill 3464, the "beaver bill." The bill passed the state Legislature in 2023, and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, which crafts regulations for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, approved new rules on June 14 to reclassify and protect beavers from being killed at will by private landowners.

The beavers will now be classified solely as "furbearers," an animal whose fur has commercial value, and no longer be classified as "predators."

With this change, landowners can't kill a beaver for being a nuisance, or because they're worried the animal will gnaw through plants or crops. To kill a beaver, the landowner must go through a permitting process with the Fish and Wildlife Department, which will require the landowner to undertake non-lethal mitigation strategies first. These include placing fences and barriers around trees, repellent on trees, and choosing different types of plants, according to Michelle Dennehy, a spokesperson for the agency.

The bill won't affect the killing of beavers for their furs during the hunting season, which runs from Nov. 15 to March 15. It also won't affect beaver trapping on public lands. Conservationists have over the last four years called on state

The North American Beaver nearly went extinct in Oregon due to fur trapping. New state rules protect beavers from being killed on private land.

and federal agencies to end the practice on federal lands.

Beavers are considered ecological engineers because of their ability to construct dams and create ponds. They can help manage water issues related to drought but they can also cause flooding and damage trees. They're the largest rodent in North America, weighing between 35 and 65 pounds and measuring 2 to 3 feet in length in adulthood.

By the late 1800s, the North American Beaver was nearly extinct in Oregon due to fur trapping, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their numbers across the continent have climbed in the last century from around 100,000 to about 15 million, today. There is no estimated population figure in Oregon.

For private landowners, some exceptions to the new permit requirement will exist. If a beaver's gnawing, digging or dam building is "imminently threatening" to infrastructure or crops, or is damaging – or has the potential to damage – trees owned by small timber

landowners, landowners can get permission from the agency to kill the animals without a permit.

Even in an instance when the state Fish and Wildlife Department determines a permit is not necessary, anyone who kills a beaver will have to report it to the agency, enabling it to collect data on all beaver kills in the state for the first time. The agency will also for the first time collect more detailed data on what kinds of damages beavers tend to be most responsible for, where beavers are distributed across the state, where conflicts have a pattern of arising, and when and why Oregonians kill beavers.

The agency does not have much data on beaver kills and deaths each year, according to Dennehy, but the latest rules will change that. Beavers killed with a permit for their fur have remained low over the past decade, she said. An average of 1,100 beavers in Oregon have been killed each year between 2020 and 2023 for their fur.

oregoncapitalchronicle

BPA first quarter 2024 net revenues down due to dry winter

The Bonneville Power Administration today released its first official forecast of the expected financial performance for fiscal year 2024. Dry winter conditions in the Pacific Northwest have resulted in agency net revenues of negative \$102 million, \$197 million below the financial performance target.

Power Services' net revenue forecast is negative \$109 million, which is \$209 million below agency targets. This decrease is primarily due to higher power purchase expenses and is slightly offset by increases in operating revenues. Transmission Services' net revenues are forecast to be \$3 million, which is \$7 million above agency targets. This is driven largely by lower depreciation expenses and higher interest income.

"These estimates could significantly change by the second quarter since the forecast does not include the impacts from the Janu-

ary cold snap, which realized significantly higher power purchase expense as a result of record low hydro generation combined with record high power prices," said Marcus Harris, BPA's executive vice president and chief financial officer. "We entered the fiscal year with healthy reserve levels, which have helped us navigate the volatility we saw this January. In this environment of volatile weather and market prices, liquidity is paramount and something we will be focused on maintaining going forward."

Agency financial reserves for risk are forecast to be \$903 million at the end of the fiscal year, a decrease of \$385 million from the prior year. BPA forecasts ending the year with 121 days cash on hand, which exceeds BPA's minimum target of 60 days.

BPA's first quarter quarterly business review is available at ti-nyurl.com/2cekpadr

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

Rd.

June 22: 12:29 a.m: Driving Under Influence of Intoxicants - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.

9:19 a.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs. An additional possible victim of the earlier backpack thefts.

11:52 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 92700 blk, Regal Ln.

1:19 p.m: Minor In Possession - Marcola Rd. & Saunders Rd.

2:40 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.182270. Long: -122.964542.

4:51 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

6:06 p.m: Unattended Boat - McK. River & Hendricks Bridge.

7:00 p.m: Illegal Burn - Goodpasture Rd. & McK. Hwy.

8:02 p.m: Civil Problem - 43800 blk, McK. Hwy.

June 23: 6:51 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - Lat: 44.120667. Long: -122.41595.

4:59 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Lat: 44.191883. Long: -122.794061. Two subjects arrived

at a swimming hole and appeared to use drugs before swimming. They later left the location.

5:06 p.m: Boat Complaint - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:08 p.m: Assault - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd. A deputy contacted a female requesting information about the restraining order process to confirm she was not injured during an earlier incident.

9:15 p.m: Alarm - 40500 blk, McK. Hwy.

June 24: 1:51 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - Hendricks Park Rd. & McK. Hwy.

8:14 a.m: Dead Animal - Marcola Rd. & Johnson Rd.

9:41 a.m: Subpoena Service - 89000 blk, Marcola Rd.

11:29 a.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Blue River Reservoir Rd. & McK. Hwy.

12:46 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 7000 blk, Thurston Rd.

6:40 p.m: Shots Fired - 46800 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

10:22 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 40100 blk, York Ln.

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



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Fish hatcheries

Continued From Page 1

egon’s hatchery system to meet fishery and conservation goals. Officials say those challenges are going to increase in the future.

The overall plan calls for completing a range of economic, infrastructure, and biological assessments to complement analyses and assessments that ODFW staff are compiling. Officials hope sharing this information with the public will contribute to “a sustainable hatchery system that continues to support rural underserved communities, provides Oregonian’s fishery opportunities, and is a good neighbor to wild fish.” ODFW says it will also be working with Oregon’s Tribes to ensure their perspectives are heard and incorporated.

The June 27th meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the ODFW Salem Headquarters’ Commission Room. However, due to space limitations, the public is encouraged to join the online Teams meeting or call in to 1-503-446-4951 (conference ID 294-092-605#) or join online: tinyurl.com/3wym3nt6; Meeting ID: 215 125 168 707; Passcode: bcTYnD

The public kick-off meeting will be followed by a series of recorded, informational webinars in August on the third-party assessments of the operations, sustainability, and climate vulnerability of state-owned hatcheries. Dates for these webinars and other information will be coming soon. For [Return To Page 1](#)

Rep. Conrad said primary election results, Trump’s dominance drove him from the party

By Julia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle
The only Oregon Republican lawmaker who supported abortion rights has left the Republican Party.

State Rep. Charlie Conrad of Dexter changed his registration to the Independent Party of Oregon after losing his May primary in a landslide over his April 2023 vote to protect access to abortion and gender-affirming care. He views his stance as consistent with traditional Republican values of protecting individual liberties.

Though his core beliefs haven’t changed, Conrad said the primary made clear his version of moderate Republican politics doesn’t represent the majority of Republican voters in his rural Lane County district. Just less than 1,400 of the more than 8,000 Republican voters who cast ballots in the 12th House District voted for him.

“If I’m not going to represent their voices as a Republican, then I’m not going to fight for it,” Conrad told the Capital Chronicle. “I’m not going to fight for Trump. I’m not going to fight to adhere to that party. As I see it, I don’t represent the party, but I still represent my district, and it’s more important that I represent the district. For me, it’s always been people come first, and then the policies, and the party politics are third.”

Conrad’s term ends in January, and barring any emergencies that cause Gov. Tina Kotek to call lawmakers back in a special session, he’s unlikely to take another vote on the House floor. But he’s continuing to work with other lawmakers on task forces and committees and to help constituents experiencing problems with state



Only Oregon Republican lawmaker who supports abortion rights is now an Independent

“I cannot support Trump,” Conrad said. “I mean, he is now a convicted felon, he is a rapist and he’s an insurrectionist. Regardless of what some folks think about the merits of his policies, his character is abhorrent, and he is absolutely everything that is antithetical to the Constitution – protecting liberties, protecting people, and everything that the framers fought for against the monarch. And now the MAGA folks want to go back to authoritarianism. I cannot support that at all.”

Vote for Biden

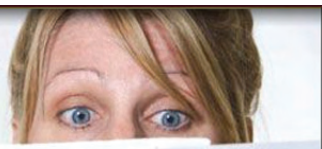

He wrote in former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s name on the Republican primary ballot, which only featured Trump’s name. Come November, Conrad anticipates voting for Democratic President Joe Biden – not because he’s particularly fond of Biden, but because he considers the race to be more a choice between vice presidential candidates given both front-runners’ ages. Vice President Kamala Harris or any other running mate Biden picks will be better than whoever Trump chooses, he reasoned.

“I can’t anticipate any Republican that would kiss up to Trump that would stand and be an awesome president,” Conrad said. “It turns my stomach to think of that.”

Conrad is now the only Oregon lawmaker not affiliated with the Democratic or Republican party. Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, was a registered Independent for about two years, but he switched back to the Republican Party last summer to file for reelection. He is now the Republican nominee for state treasurer.

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