



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Sheriff's Report

Neighbors who were in a verbal dispute regarding whether to cut down trees on one of the properties.

PAGE 3

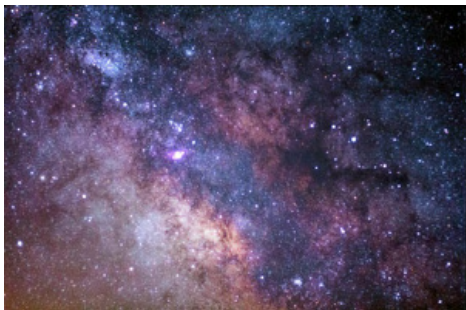
Create a bird haven

At Oak Creek Center birds flock to the long hedgerow of diverse shrubs and trees, many with fruit, seeds, and berries.

PAGE 5



Briefs...

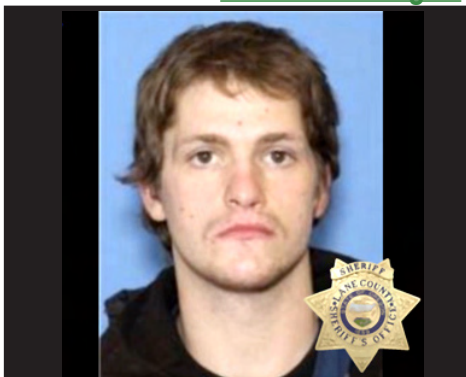


“Where can you see the Milky Way from Main Street?” The answer in Oregon is “Antelope.” The Central Oregon community of Antelope has been designated as the first International Dark Sky Community in Oregon. But could the answer also include the McKenzie Highway?

People will have a chance to learn more at public meetings set for Blue River and Leaburg. On Saturday, January 18th, a Oregon Outback Dark Sky Network (OODSN) representative will give a 10 a.m. presentation at McKenzie Schools, followed by a 6 p.m. session at the McKenzie Fire & Rescue’s Leaburg training room.

The Dark Skies initiative involves governmental agencies, non-profits, and private individuals interested in promoting dark sky preservation while combating

[Dark Skies - Page 2](#)



A man wanted in connection with a vehicle theft was arrested in McKenzie Bridge on Monday. According to the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, a deputy assigned to the McKenzie District located a stolen vehicle and detained two suspects. A third man, identified as Travos James Bechtol, 30, of Veneta, ran from deputies.

The LCSO had requested residents contact dispatch with any information about the suspect’s whereabouts. An area resident reported seeing Bechtol around 4 p.m. on

[Wanted Man - Page 2](#)



The Willamalane Fitness Expo on February 1st promises an array of healthy fun. From 9 a.m. to noon, people can try various fitness classes, explore a health and wellness fair with a dozen booths, savor delicious goodies, win prizes in a raffle, and more! Group exercise classes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and

[Fitness Expo - Page 2](#)

Oregon snowfall projected to drop 50%

Findings are part of the latest state climate report



Snowfall in Oregon is likely to decline 50% by 2100 under global warming according to a new state report.

By Alex Baumhardt
oregoncapitalchronicle.com

Oregonians born today are likely to experience a future of more drought, more rain and less snow under warming average global temperatures due to human-caused climate change.

That’s one conclusion in the 314-page

Seventh Oregon Climate Assessment, which was published Wednesday and authored by more than 65 scientists, experts and engineers, including from Oregon State University, the Oregon Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Two engineers from Portland General Electric and Principle Power, a

floating offshore wind company, also contributed.

The report, which stems from a 2007 legislative mandate, is used in statewide emergency and natural hazard planning, according to Erica Fleishman, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.

[Snowfall to drop Page 13](#)

A year on, ice storm recovery continues

Utilities estimate repair costs will exceed \$15 million

EUGENE: Almost one year ago, a double-header ice storm plowed through the Pacific Northwest, wreaking havoc on electrical infrastructure across the region. The first storm hit on January 13th, and a second one rolled in three days later.

The Eugene Water & Electric Board used its reserve fund to cover the initial clean-up costs of \$9.4 million, including equipment and materials replacement, staff time and contracted labor. At the height of the storm, more than half of the Lane Electric Cooperative’s system was down, resulting in about \$5.9 million in damages.

“The 2024 ice storm will go down in history as one of the most damaging events for our electrical system. For some, it was an inconvenience, and for others, it was a devastating test from Mother Nature,” according to EWEB Electric Division Manager Tyler Nice, the incident commander during the storm. “But it will also be remembered as a moment when our entire utility

[Ice storm recovery - Page 5](#)



Utilities logged tens of thousands of hours making repairs.

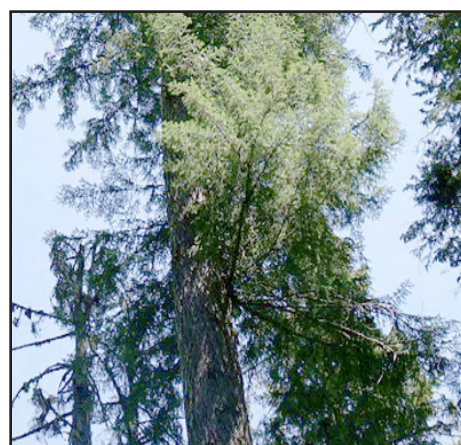
Public meetings for Northwest Forest Plan Amendment

“Much has changed in society and science since the Northwest Forest Plan was created nearly 30 years ago,” according to Jacque Buchanan, regional forester for the Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Region. He was referring to proposed amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in November 2024, adding that “We’re amending the plan to address today’s challenges in ways that honor the plan’s original goals while adapting to changing conditions and enhancing wildfire resilience.”

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in November 2024 will allow the public to learn about and comment on it. On-site meetings will be held at various locations throughout Janu-

ary and February 2025. A local session will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Willamette National Forest office, 3106 Pierce Parkway in Springfield.

The proposed amendment includes top-



ics such as wildfire resilience, economic opportunities, improved forest stewardship, adapting to a changing climate, and tribal inclusion. Officials say the discussions will include an introduction to the Northwest Forest Plan, an overview of the proposed amendment to land management plans, key details about the proposed action and alternatives outlined in the DEIS, and information on how to engage during the 120-day public comment period.

Details and updates regarding the schedule and meeting locations can be found at tinyurl.com/2ey2hzbx

The public comment period for the DEIS will remain open until March 17, 2025. The Forest Service is encouraging interested parties to attend these meetings to learn more about the proposed amendment and

[Northwest Forest Plan - Page 4](#)

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for access

Dear Editor:
I am a legally blind long-term subscriber to River Reflections. As my vision deteriorated, I struggled to read the local news.

The addition of audio has enabled me to enjoy and appreciate a local news source.

THANK YOU.

Bernice S. West
Sent from my iPad

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys Basketball teams travels to Siletz Valley on Tuesday, January 14, for a game scheduled to tip-off at 5:30 pm. There will be no Varsity Girls game this night, as Siletz Valley does not sponsor a Girls team this season.

The Eagles host Triangle Lake on Thursday, January 16. A Junior Varsity Boys game will start at 4:00 pm., followed by the Boys Varsity game at 5:30 pm and the Girls Varsity game at 7:00 pm.

The McKenzie teams travel to Mapleton on Tuesday, January 21. A Junior Varsity Boys game will start at 4:00 pm, the Boys Varsity game at 5:30 pm and the Varsity Girls game at 7:00 pm.

McKenzie Boys Split Last Week Rout Crow 48-21,

Routed By Eddyville 21-56

It was one of those weeks. Eagle pride was riding high with a 48-21 rout of the Crow/City Christian Cougars, on the road at Crow last Tuesday, January 7. McKenzie rolled into Cougar Country sporting a 2 game win streak (following a 10 game losing skid) and a new sense of pride and purpose. The Eagles were tied at the top of the Mt. West League regular season standings with Eddyville Charter and Mapleton.

McKenzie Head Coach Neil Barrett's inspired team (also the first night of new travel duds) took care of business with the victory and set up an All Eagle showdown in Finn Rock the following Thursday night. Champagne's still not legal in high school for solid reasons, but you can't blame the River natives for celebrating. It has been eleven years (2013-14 season) since a McKenzie Boys Basketball team has won three successive games. High time for too long so give this season's Eagle team due credit for turning the corner. But, bubble reality usually rears up, or should we say floats up and then, Pops!

And pop it did last Thursday night when Eddyville Charter arrived from the Coast Range.

Those other Eagles took care of their own business last Tuesday by holding off a tenacious Mapleton Sailor crew at home. Eddyville Charter met the Challenge from the Siuslaw, defeating Mapleton in a hotly contested game, 44-41, and dropping the Sailors from the Conference lead shared with McKenzie and Eddyville. So, two days hence, Eddyville arrived in Finn Rock with a bit of swagger of their own and upon the opening game tip off, methodically went about bursting the local bubble! Eddyville Charter held school and defeated McKenzie 56-21.

The Eagles of Eddyville are now perched at the top of the MWL alone with a perfect 4-0 record followed by McKenzie at 3-1 and Mapleton a half game back at 2-1.

McKenzie Boys take to the road on Tuesday for a game with Siletz Valley (1-3) and the Warriors appear to be a similar team as McKenzie in that they have played most of their contests closely, except for Eddyville where they lost 39-69. If McKenzie hopes to

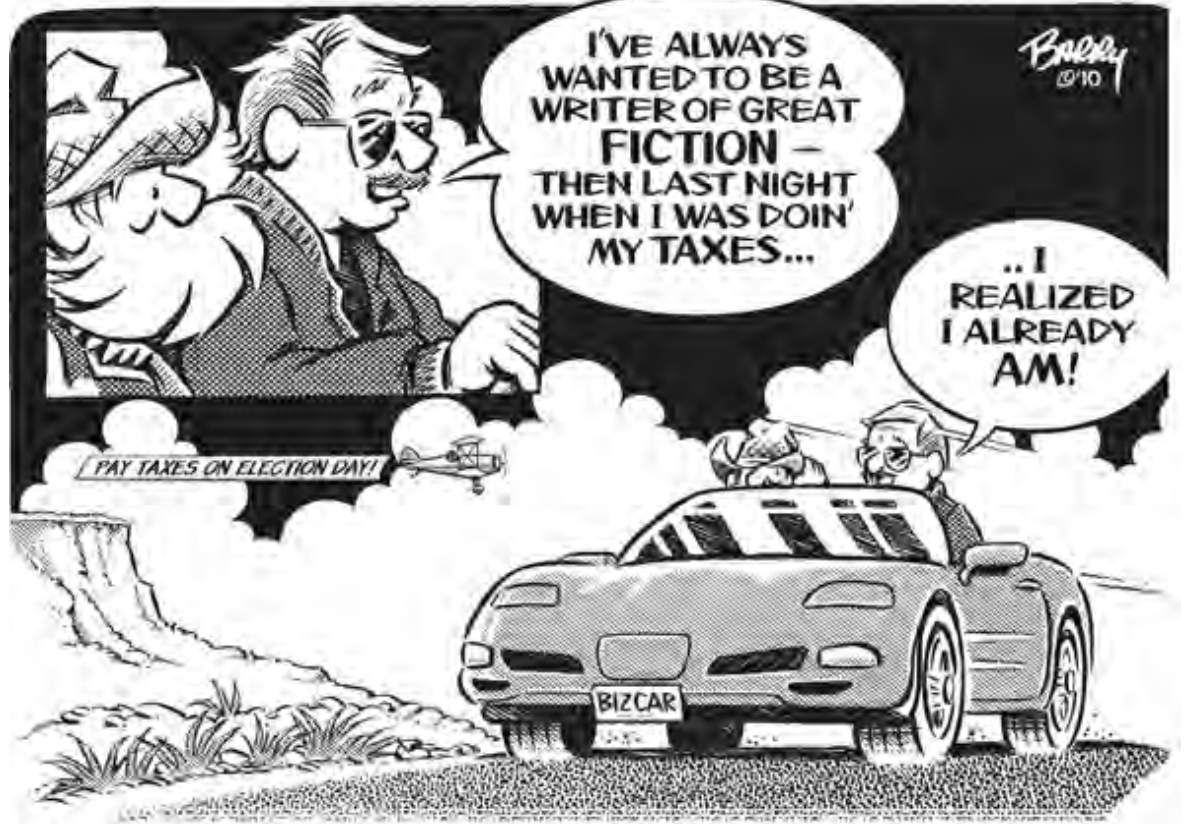
The Eagles were tied at the top of the Mt. West League regular season standings with Eddyville Charter and Mapleton

stay in the hunt for the MWL title and a winning season, the game with the Warriors is one they need to refocus on and pick up a W.

Then, once again it will be hosting one of the top MWL rival teams, Triangle Lake, 2-2 currently, on Thursday. The order of the moment is always take of first business first, so make the long ride home Tuesday from Siletz enjoyable. McKenzie has not defeated the Lakers on the court since the 2019-20 season, a 56-46 victory at home. Don't put away the bubble machine quite yet!

Back to the Crow contest, McKenzie was led in scoring by Will Meister who finished with 14 points. Meister sunk 4-7 from the three-point line and made 5-8 two-point attempts. Masonn Burton also shot very well from the field, successfully hitting 6-13 two shot attempts and 1-1 from the three point stripe, finishing with 13 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 blocks. The only other Eagle to score in double figures was Rhys Hamlow with 11 points. Hamlow led his team in rebounds along with teammate Noah Prado, each securing 7 boards. Amir Enfield scored 7 points and Allen Acevedo added 3 points and 6 rebounds for the Eagles.

McKenzie dominated the backboard at Crow, out-



rebounding the Cougars 38-14. Both teams committed a ton of turnovers, the Eagles 21 and the Cougars 25.

Versus Eddyville, McKenzie's shooting percentage took a hike South. The home Eagles shot 9-30 from 2 point range, 1-7 from the three-point line and made just 2-9 from the charity stripe. That production won't win you many, if any, games. Throw in 33 turnovers and 12 less rebounds than your opponent (18-30) and well, it's back to the basics.

Despite the doom and gloom report, though, there were some positives.

McKenzie played hard all night, and attempted to throw a wrinkle in Eddyville's game plan with the full court press that helped with the previous three games. It worked initially and McKenzie was down just 13-6 in the first quarter. Eddyville decided at that point to show off their own full court pressure defense and McKenzie suddenly found itself flustered with back court time calls, traps in the corners, bad pass decisions, etc., all designed by the Eddyville pressure. The visiting Eagles outscored their Finn Rock hosts 17-0 in the second quarter and the rout was spelled out clearly.

Eddyville didn't take it's foot off the pedal in the third quarter, easily pressuring a McKenzie press break up the sidelines into disaster, meanwhile outscoring their opponent 16-2, establishing a 46-14 lead going into the fourth quarter. Both teams emptied their benches in the final quarter and Eddyville finished icing the game with 10 points scored in the period to McKenzie's 7 points. Final: Eddyville Charter 56, McKenzie 21.

Masonn Burton finished as the top scorer for McKenzie with 7 points and 2 blocks and he shared the team lead on rebounds with Jacob Norlund, each 4 boards. Will Meister added 5 points and a

Continued On Page 10

Briefs...

Dark Skies

Continued From Page 1

light pollution. Since its inception, the OODSN has collected data for sky quality monitoring, community outreach, and educational events to raise awareness about the importance of dark skies.

Also on the agenda is an update on a project exploring whether Hwy. 126 could become a "Sixty Mile Main Street" under the Oregon Parks Division program.

For more information contact info@mckenziechamber.com

Return To Page 1

Wanted Man

Continued From Page 1

January 13th as he attempted to break into a house near the

intersection of Taylor Road and McKenzie Highway.

A short while later, the Sheriff's Office reported that Bechtol had been located and arrested at about 4:45 p.m.

Return To Page 1

Fitness Expo

complimentary childcare will be available. This is a free event, and no registration is required.

Thanks to PeaceHealth's generous support, the Willamalane Fitness Expo is free to attend at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 West C Street - near downtown Springfield and Island Park.

Return To Page 1

McKenzie River Reflections

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Friday 1/17		Saturday 1/18		Sunday 1/19	
McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 10% chance precip High: 43 Low: 28	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 31 Low: 13	McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 10% chance precip High: 40 Low: 25	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 27 Low: 12	McKenzie Valley Sunny 10% chance precip High: 38 Low: 25	Santiam Pass Sunny 5% chance precip High: 28 Low: 13

WEATHER REPORT					WEATHER REPORT				
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM					READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE				
Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
1/7					1/7	55	34	0	10,300 cfs
1/8	48	37	0	1,044 cfs	1/8	47	36	0.02	9,590 cfs
1/9	50	38	0	1,916 cfs	1/9	53	30	0	9,020 cfs
1/10	47	40	0.31	2,950 cfs	1/10	44	31	0.06	10,660 cfs
1/11	46	35	0.01	NA	1/11	47	39	0.46	10,300 cfs
1/12	43	33	0	2,882 cfs	1/12	48	35	0.07	9,800 cfs
1/13	42	30	0	2,882 cfs	1/13	45	31	0.05	9,330 cfs

Sheriff's Report

Jan. 2: 3:38 p.m.: Disturbance, Dispute - 49100 blk, McK. Hwy. A deputy contacted neighbors who were in a verbal dispute regarding whether to cut down trees on one of the properties.
 10:41 p.m.: Disturbance, Dispute - 88700 blk, Buck Point Way. Deputies responded to a dispute involving an intoxicated subject. The subject stayed at the residence and the other occupants left for the night.
 Jan. 3: 11:11 a.m.: Harassment - 56600 blk, McK. Hwy. A resident wanted to document a harassing package she received.
 12:34 p.m.: Disturbance, Dispute - 89500 blk, old mohawk Rd. Deputies responded to a dispute in the area. No crime was committed, and the involved separated for the night.
 Jan. 7: 12:44 p.m.: Assist, Follow Up - 47300 blk, McK. Hwy.
 7:59 p.m.: wc - 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.
 2:13 p.m.: Theft - 92600 blk, Pentilla Ln. Self report regarding a theft of documents and jewelry.
 10:32: p.m.: Suspicious Conditions - 40500 blk, McK. Hwy. A deputy responded to a report of a

juvenile standing in the middle of a parking lot. A deputy responded and contacted the individual nearby.
 Jan. 8: 12:23 p.m.: Abandoned Vehicle - Marcola Rd.
 12:27 p.m.: Assist Fire Department - McK. Hwy.
 4:17 p.m.: Assist, Follow Up - Marcola area.
 6:42 p.m.: Shots Fired - 8600 blk, Thurston Rd.
 Jan. 9: 2:55 a.m.: Location of Stolen Vehicle - 38800 blk, McK. Hwy.
 2:51 p.m.: Welfare Check - 90700 blk, Hill Rd.
 6:13 p.m.: Suspicious Vehicle - McK. Hwy.
 Jan. 10: 12:06 a.m.: Repossessed Vehicle - 87900 blk, Tamora Dr.
 5:19 p.m.: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 34800 blk, McK. View Dr.
 6:15 p.m.: ATL Drunk Driver - McK. Hwy.
 8:43 p.m.: Incomplete 911 Call - 36700 blk, Oak Point Rd.
 Jan. 11: 9:15 p.m.: Assist Oregon State Police - Marcola Rd. Mp. 7.
 Jan 12: 10:44 a.m.: Mental Subject - 37700 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
 11:23 a.m.: Civil Service - 38200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
 12:38 p.m.: Assist, Follow Up - 49700 blk, McK. Hwy.
 Jan. 13: 12:15 p.m.: Assist, Follow Up - McK. Hwy.

4:05 p.m.: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - Marcola Rd.
 Comments, as reported, may not be complete or accurate. If further information is required contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

State Police Report

Jan. 10:17:23: Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants - 34000 block, McKenzie View Dr. Troopers responded to a single vehicle crash where the vehicle crashed through a fence and landed in the yard of a residence. The fire department arrived first and advised the subject appeared impaired and was being belligerent. The driver of the vehicle was contacted and determined to be impaired. The driver was arrested for DUI, Reckless Driving, Driving While Suspended - Misdemeanor, and Criminal Mischief in the First Degree. The driver was taken to

the hospital and cleared for jail. The driver was lodged at the Lane County Jail for the mentioned crimes. The vehicle was towed. Involved: green Chevy C15, 54-year-old male from Eugene.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Jan. 5: 23:14: 41000 block, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 Jan. 6: 21:31: 41800 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.
 22:19: Camp Creek Rd./ Gemstone Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Blocking, Non-Injury.
 Jan. 7: 15:09: 41800 blk, Madrone St. Deceased Subject.
 16:35: 43700 blk, Greenwood Village Dr. Odor Investigation. Investigate, Propane Leak Found, Valve Shut Off.
 3:31: 38000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 4:07: 87800 blk, Lupe Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 Jan. 8: 11:56: McK. Hwy./ Milepost 34. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.
 19:24: 44500 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Lift Assist Only.
 Jan. 9: 8:00: 88700 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Lift Assist Only.

12:46: 88700 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Lift Assist. Lift Assist Only.
 21:01: 41400 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Alarm. False Alarm.
 Jan. 10: 21:27: 88700 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 Jan. 11: 10:59: 44200 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 13:34: 88800 blk, Twin Firs Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
 Jan. 12: 14:01: 88200 blk, Millican Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.
McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, January 20th, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Jan. 9: 10:34: Medical - 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Female, Conscious, Breathing.
 Jan. 10: 16:10: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy./Milepost 50. One vehicle crash into a tree. Drive is out of car, says does not need medics.
 Jan. 13: 16:06: Medical - 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.
The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 20th, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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Soggy, primitive Hug Point Road may have saved Oregon beaches

By Finn J.D. John

Sometime around 1908, a resident of south Clatsop County — probably from the hamlet of Arch Cape — got sick and tired of dealing with Hug Point, and decided to do something about it.

It was a decision that had some unintended consequences — because it led directly to the law that made Oregon’s beaches public property.

Of course, the anonymous roadbuilder (or maybe roadbuilders) wasn’t thinking of anything so grandiose at the time. He was simply tired of having to wait for low tide and then wade into the surf, or drive his team into the surf, to get from Arch Cape to Cannon Beach.

And yes, everyone used the beach to get back and forth, from Arch Cape to Cannon Beach and from Seaside to Astoria. In most cases there were no other roads. Inland, especially in the south part of the county, road building was very difficult and expensive, because of thick forests and steep rocky terrain; so everyone used the beach to get from place to place. And Hug Point, well, it was just really inconveniently located, sticking out across the whole beach and towering several hundred feet high.

So this person, with hammer and cold chisel and probably no small amount of dynamite, chipped and blasted a roadbed through its face.

Now, even in very stormy weather with a high and boisterous surf, the mail could get through; travelers could get home without getting their feet wet (usually); and owners of those newfangled horseless carriages ran much less risk of getting stuck in the sand with the tide coming in to ruin their cars.

The custom of using the beach to travel had developed right from the beginning in Clatsop County, and, after some beachfront landowners had tried to block free access up and down the beach in the 1890s, the state Legislature had actually passed a law making Clatsop County’s beaches public highways.

It wasn’t really a controversial move. It only affected the one



OSU Archives

This image, made around 1915, shows a party with a motorcar crossing the Hug Point Road. At the time of this photograph, this road was the only way to get to Arch Cape

county, and everyone who lived in that county (except one or two landowners) recognized the importance of being able to walk or ride up and down the beach unmolested. Legislators from other counties were happy to give Clatsop what it wanted, and residents of places like Arch Cape no doubt breathed a sigh of relief when it passed.

More importantly, though, that law meant that our road-building benefactor, while blasting the road through Hug Point, could rest assured that wasn’t going to have to deal with some angry putative landowner ordering him off “his property,” or that his act of civic generosity would immediately be seized by a landowner eager to reap where he had not sowed by charging a toll to use it, despite having done none of the work on it. Or, worse, simply exclude the public from using it.

No — thanks to the law, the citizen was free to solve the problem for everyone, and the whole community benefited.

And, as a side benefit, every Clatsop County resident was free to come to the beach, play in the surf, have a picnic, and admire the scenery, whether they owned

beachfront property or not.

So, there things stood, for a few years, with residents of Arch Cape gratefully crossing Hug Point on the newly blasted roadbed, doubtless glancing occasionally at the tossing surf and murmuring a quick word of thanks that they didn’t have to plunge into it like they did back in the older times.

Then came the elections of 1912, and Oregon elected Democrat Oswald West as governor.

West was elected, in part, on a promise to preserve Oregon beaches for public use, rather than letting them be carved up in land claims by private owners. It was a fight that Clatsop County had already had, as West well knew. Now, he thought, it was time to stand on the shoulders of those giants, and use their plan to preserve the rest of the state’s beaches.

It’s crystal clear that West wasn’t nearly as interested in the beaches’ potential as highways, as he was in the scenic beauty and recreational potential.

But there was also an element of the range-warrior spirit about the stand he was taking. Property owners’ claims that they should be allowed to convert the publicly owned beaches into private property were, so to speak, a new stanza of an old familiar song for West. He had grown up watching swindlers and corporations poaching giant blocks of state-owned land (some

of it very valuable and scenic) through land-grant swindles and fake-homesteader hustles, with the help of friendly politicians in Salem. He had built his reputation stopping the same crafty characters from actively stealing state-owned school lands.

He saw the Oregon beaches as the next step in this public-land-conversion racket, and he really wanted to stop it.

There was a difference, though. Landowners on the coast weren’t stealing anything — they had legitimate legal land claims on beachfront property. Legally there was nothing (yet) to stop them from blocking public access, and thereby cutting off any neighbors who used the beach to reach the outside world, except for a waterfront version of “range custom” — except in Clatsop County, where it was now the law of the land.

There was another factor West was thinking about, too. That was the Good Roads Movement. It had acquired a great deal of momentum in Oregon, as wealthier residents had started purchasing automobiles and were finding them very difficult to use on the rutty, stumpy, muddy tracks that passed for roads throughout most of the state.

Nearly everyone in the state was all in favor of good roads. By 1912, most Oregonians were also all too aware of the benefits that had come from Samuel Lancaster’s work up in Washington following Seattle’s Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition three years earlier. In the early 1910s, when it came to good roads, it really was true that “if you build it they will come.” And everyone knew it.

For Oregon to grow its economy into the 20th century, it would need a good solid network of roads suitable for use by driven-wheel vehicles (bicycles, cars, etc.; things that required traction to go) as well as horse-drawn ones.

So Oswald West brought these two constituencies together in his proposal to extend Clatsop County’s road law all the way south to California.

“I pointed out that thus we would come into miles and miles of highway without cost to the taxpayer,” he recalled, in a 1949 interview. “The Legislature and the public took the bait — hook, line, and sinker.”

[Hug Point Road - Page 9](#)



By Slim Randles

It’s Tuesday afternoon at two, which means Clarice Devon is on her way to the Curl Up ‘N Dye beauty salon. It’s like the sun coming up or the price of bread increasing. Tuesday. Two. Clarice.

“Clarice!” yells Fran. “Ready to be beautiful?”

“Sure,” she said. “I enjoy lost causes..”

Clarice Devon is one of our angels. She’s one of the few people in town who will tolerate old people and shut ins, and she not only takes care of them, but seems to relish it as well.

During the rinse, Fran asks her if she’s the one taking care of Mr. Gavin since his stroke. Clarice nods.

“So what’s he like to work with these days?”

“It’s a now-and-then situation,” Clarice says. “You know ... now and then?”

“I don’t understand. You mean it’s part time?”

“Nope. Full time. But it’s now and then.”

Fran looked puzzled.

Clarice laughed. “It’s like this,” she said, imitating old Mr. Gavin’s voice. “Now, when you finish getting me my tea, I’d like a custard, but I’d like it in a glass bowl. A small glass bowl. Then I want you to call and see if my pills are ready. Now if they are, could you pick them up? Then, while you’re there, I want to try that toothpaste they talk about on television.”

Fran laughed. “Now and then, huh?”

“Now and then,” Clarice said, smiling as she was attacked by curlers.

Brought to you by “Whimsy Castle,” by Slim Randles. Available from www.amazon.com.

Northwest Forest Plan

Continued From Page 1

to provide input during this time. Comments can be submitted at ti.nyr.com/63hmyu68

The Forest Service says it will review and incorporate feedback to develop a final environmental impact statement, anticipated later in 2025.

[Return To Page 1](#)

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Creating a bird haven



Bill Proebsting

The number of birds is growing at wildlife-friendly Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture.

At Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture, trees along the creek show signs of beavers gnawing. A doe and her fawn nibble greenery. Skunks, raccoons and even a gray fox feel at home. Birds, including a red-tailed hawk, find plenty of sustenance and shelter.

Al Shay, manager of the center along with site manager Cody Buckman, works with a small retinue of students to keep the center wildlife friendly. Their efforts recently garnered the center Certified Wildlife Habitat status by the National Wildlife Federation.

As the group continues its commitment to environmental sustainability, birds find a haven at the center. They flock to the long hedgerow of diverse shrubs and trees, many with fruit, seeds, berries and all the insects they can eat. There's water from the creek and shelter in trees and shrubs throughout the 6.5-acre site at the southwest edge of the Corvallis campus.

As a favor, Shay asked Bill Proebsting, an experienced birder and professor emeritus of horticulture at OSU, to survey the birds at Oak Creek. In early

October, Proebsting started visiting once or twice a week to do a 20-minute circuit of the property. By December, he'd counted 47 different birds. Whatever species he spots gets entered into the eBird database maintained by Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, a worldwide website where citizen scientists can enter the birds they spot. The information is used to inform research, conservation and education.

"It's the big picture of what's happening to birds," Proebsting said. "With climate change, you get all these species moving north, moving uphill. The habitat is changing. Birds are declining. This is useful data."

Proebsting, who topped 2,500 bird sightings during his 10th trip to Bolivia, said Cornell is trying to obtain a massive amount of information. Biologists and other researchers can test different hypotheses about habitat or seasonal movement.

During the seven trips he's taken to the Oak Creek center so far, Proebsting has seen mostly common birds but in high numbers.

"It's a good location for juncos,

finches, chickadees, sparrows, crows, starlings," he said. "I've also seen a great blue heron and uncommon white-throated sparrows and Hutton's vireo." He plans to monitor the mix of species over the course of a year.

For someone who's been birding 41 years, the 47 species at Oak Creek may not seem overly impressive, but to Shay it's an accomplishment. The goal is to attract wildlife, and the growing number of birds indicates that the efforts are working.

"It reflects habitat," said Proebsting, who goes birding every day. "There's riparian, weedy patches, hedges of mostly native plants, rototilled areas that birds love, crops with seeds. It's a good solid place for basic birds."

Proebsting and Shay agree that habitat must be appropriate to draw birds. People need to come together to help solve the problem. Locally, they point to a small movement to add more bird-loving areas around farms.

"Some agriculturists and environmentalists make the case that we could farm in a way that gives up a little productivity but offers good habitat for wildlife," Proebsting said. "Is there a different way to do agriculture? We're trying to reduce the decline."

The efforts are critical, Shay said. A recent study published in the journal Science shows that the number of birds in the U.S. and Canada has declined by 3 billion or 28 percent over the past 50 years. Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture may be only 6.5 acres, but, as Shay puts it, "We have to start somewhere. We can't just keep talking. We have to act."



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



OLD FAMILY WOODENWARE OR MEMORIES

Old woodenware evokes memories of my childhood. So I was pleased to discover the large oblong wooden chopping bowl of my youth still existed.

As I held this item in my hands, my thoughts drifted back to cooking in the kitchen with its wood fired stove. Many times, I chopped cabbage, carrots and onions from the garden for coleslaw or potatoes and meat for hash, in that bowl.

We couldn't run to the store for ready-chopped cabbage or cans of hash. Most everything was handmade and often mixed in the oblong wooden bowl or a smaller round one Mother had.

Bowls of Great Variety

The wooden bowls of early America were of great variety, ranging from small salt dishes to round and oval bowls for preparing and even serving meals. Large round and oblong ones, often 20 inches in length were used as chopping and mixing bowls.

Not many of these old bowls exist today. They were made for daily use, so wore out.

However, if you have one from childhood, treasure it, more for its nostalgic value than anything monetary. It probably will have nicks and scratches from the metal chopping tool, but that gives it "character," as someone once told me of old woodenware and furniture.

The Early Wooden Bowls
The pioneers shaped the earliest bowls with simple tools, such as chisel, knife and plane. In the 18th century, colonial tradesmen used lathes for turning the insides of bowls, cups, and mortars. From this came the name of "turner's ware" for such items.

Another early name for wooden items was "treenware". This supposedly came from "tree," the material for making them. The craftsmen, who made wooden items for a living, often were called "coopers."

GARDEN SAUTE OR STIR FRY. You can vary it, depending on the veggies available. (You can chop and slice them in your wooden bowl!)

In a large skillet coated with non-stick cooking spray, add 2 teaspoons olive oil, one thinly sliced medium red onion, 1 sliced medium summer squash, 1 sliced medium zucchini, 1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms, 1 medium tomato cut into wedges, 1/2 cup chopped celery.

Season, before cooking, with 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon dill weed, 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning, 1/8 teaspoon pepper, salt to taste. (Vary seasonings, if desired.)

Cover and cook 5-7 minutes over medium heat until vegetables are of desired tenderness.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

Ice storm recovery

Continued From Page 1

and community came together to recover from a disaster. We were truly warmed on those icy days by the support from the community to keep up the restoration pace through all conditions."

Lane Electric's general manager, Debi Wilson, agrees. In a post to the Ruralite magazine, she noted that "Our first storm in 2024 was one of historical significance. For more than 2 weeks in January, Lane Electric and partner utilities and tree crews battled icy weather, downed lines, and debris to restore power to our members."

For many residents of the upper and mid-valley sections of the McKenzie River area, the storm's intensity wasn't apparent until they ventured into the outskirts of Thurston and the other low-lying areas.

"One of the many things that made this storm notable was the unusually heavy ice that prevented most meaningful work

from being completed in the first four days," Wilson recalled. "As ice accumulated, our linemen faced an uphill battle as new trees fell, frequently undoing completed repairs or making roads impassable."

Surprisingly, Creswell was the hardest-hit portion of Lane Electric's service territory. Its damage surpassed even the 2019 winter storm when of the 158 damaged or downed Lane Electric poles, a staggering 118 were in Creswell.

EWEB expects reimbursement for 75% of the total costs, with reimbursement money arriving in 2025 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a storm that took out power for 38,000 customers, or more than one-third of EWEB's customers. The utility reports that EWEB replaced vast amounts of equipment: 352 poles and cross-arms, 92,700 feet of

wire, and 84 transformers. The equipment EWEB replaced was approximately double that of the previous winter storms in 2016 and 2019.

EWEB's Walthville and Leaburg Hydroelectric Projects lost power at the start of the storm. In response, the utility brought emergency generators to the two sites.

Early in the storm upriver, falling trees took down the transmission line that links EWEB's Carmen Smith Hydroelectric Project to Eugene, disconnecting it from the power grid. Without access to the grid, EWEB could not produce power valued at approximately \$4.3 million.

Nice said one key conclusion from the utility's after-action report was that "EWEB needs to improve tracking of outage assessments and restorations so customers can know when power will return to their home."

Return To Page 1

McKenzie Students of the Month

For the months of November/December (because they were reduced due to the breaks) we focused on "Value" in our RIVER acronym. We looked for students who "value their learning time, peers, teachers, and resources."



High School student Grace Weiss (11th grade) demonstrates how much she values her education and teachers through her attention to detail, studying material well, turning things in on time, and being prepared for assessments. She even says thank you when she turns in tests. She values her peers through her friendly nature and willingness to lend a helping hand.



Middle School student Clyde Shireman (8th grade) shows that he values his teachers and education through the effort he puts into his classes and by being prepared. He values his peers and teachers by treating them with respect and courtesy."

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Community Notes

AA Meetings

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

January 16

Chamber of Commerce

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

January 17

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.

January 18

Dark Skies

People will have a chance to

learn more about the Dark Skies initiative at public meetings set for Blue River and Leaburg. On Saturday, January 18th, a representative from the Oregon Outback Dark Sky Network (OODSN) will give a 10 a.m. presentation at McKenzie Schools, followed by an 6 p.m. session at the McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg training room.

The initiative currently involves governmental agencies, non-profits, and private individuals interested in promoting dark sky preservation while combating light pollution.

Also on the agenda is an update on a project exploring whether Hwy. 126 could become a "Sixty Mile Main Street" under the Oregon Parks Division program.

For more information contact info@mckenziechamber.com

January 18

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.

January 20

McK Fire Board

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

January 20

Upper McK Fire Board

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

541-822-3479.

January 21

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.

January 21

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.

January 21

LEC Town Hall

The Lane Electric Cooperative will host a meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Upper McKenzie Community Center to share details on the cooperative's multi-year project to upgrade system infrastructure and electric meters throughout its service area.

This will be an opportunity for people to ask questions about the metering project, and other topics of interest. In addition to conversations, there will be some informational displays, light snacks, and a raffle.

January 21

Walterville Grange

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

January 22

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene,

from 9 - 11:30 a.m. to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

January 22

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.

January 18

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>.

January 24

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.

Click here and stay in touch with events online [McKenzie Community Events Calendar](#).



Sometimes, our crews require a lot of equipment and space to make system repairs. In emergencies, such as a car hitting a pole or a natural disaster, they will often make a temporary fix and work to schedule a brief outage later to complete a rebuild. This means less interference with power delivery to members.

Occasionally, you may find a truck parked in your driveway or easement at an inconvenient time. If possible, the team will pause work and move. If they are in the middle of working on a hotline, you may be asked to wait a few minutes. We are very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please know it's for the crew's and your safety that they complete these tasks.



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

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

My Three Sons



Just before Christmas as I was coming home from Christmas shopping, I saw through the basement window, my 19-year-old son and his girlfriend having sex. It was early evening, and my husband and my other two sons were home. I was incensed.

I was ready to march in there and raise the roof. My husband, on the other hand, thought that it would be a mistake and convinced me he would talk to our son the next day. He did, but candy-coated it by saying he thought he had seen them doing something and not to do it again. The bedroom door was also to remain open.

I wasn't happy with that but went along to keep the peace. Two days later I came home from work at 11 p.m. and found them in his room again with the door closed. Their clothes were on, but I yelled at them and asked her to leave.

For almost six weeks now my son and I have not spoken.

My heart is broken because I don't know what to do. I'm the bad guy again, and my husband can't see what the problem is. He feels I should apologize for shouting at them. I feel an apology is in order from my son. Am I missing something? Have I lost all perspective?

Peggy

Peggy, you are not operating a bordello or a flophouse. Your home is not a place where people meet to have sex. Your son is living in your house under your rules. If he wants different rules, he can move out, support himself, and make his own rules.

In setting rules for your son, there are several things to consider. You don't want to become a grandmother any sooner than necessary, and you don't want drugs or alcohol abused in your home. You do want parents of girls to know your house is a place with adult supervision, not a bachelor pad. And you want rules which are reasonable for all three boys.

As long as the boys are in your home, their problems automatically become your problems. The discussion of rules must begin

with your husband. His desire to be a "cool dad" undermines the need for order in the household. There is no reason for you to be a bad guy, prison guard, or the only

grown-up in the house.

Wayne & Tamara

are the authors of *Cheating in a Nutshell* and *The Young Woman's Guide*

Photo of Miles Davis at Len-nies-on-the-Turnpike, 1968

By Cornelius Eady

New York grows

Slimmer

In his absence.

I suppose

You could also title this picture Of Miles, his leathery Squint, the grace In his fingers a sliver of the stuff

You can't get anymore, As the rest of us wonder: What was the name Of the driver

Of that truck? And the rest Of us sigh: Death is one hell



Of a pickpocket.

Copyright © 1997 by Cornelius Eady. Used by permission of Carnegie Mellon University Press. Source: *The Autobiography of a Jukebox* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 1997)

Poet and cofounder of Cave Canem Cornelius Eady's published collections include *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze* (Omnation Press, 1986), winner of the Lamont Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets; *The Gathering of My Name* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 1991), nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; *Brutal Imagination* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001), a National Book Award finalist; and *Hardheaded Weather:*

to *Older Men*—available from Amazon, iTunes, and booksellers everywhere.

New and Selected Poems (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008).

He is a recipient of the 2023 Pegasus Award for Service in Poetry. In 1996, Eady and poet Toi Derricote founded Cave Canem, a nonprofit organization that supports emerging African American poets through summer retreats, regional workshops, first-book prizes, annual anthologies, and events and readings across the country.

He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. He is the Hodges chair at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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Help Wanted

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

Personal

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. AA Group meets Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Sunday 5:00-6:00pm at the McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church, 88393 Walterville Loop, a block from the Walterville Shopping Center. N/c-sub 5/15/-5/11/14

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The Leaburg Sew & So's are meeting most Friday afternoons at the McKenzie Fire and Rescue Training Center. Please call Sara at (541) 896-3059 for more information. S=JS-2/25/10ruc

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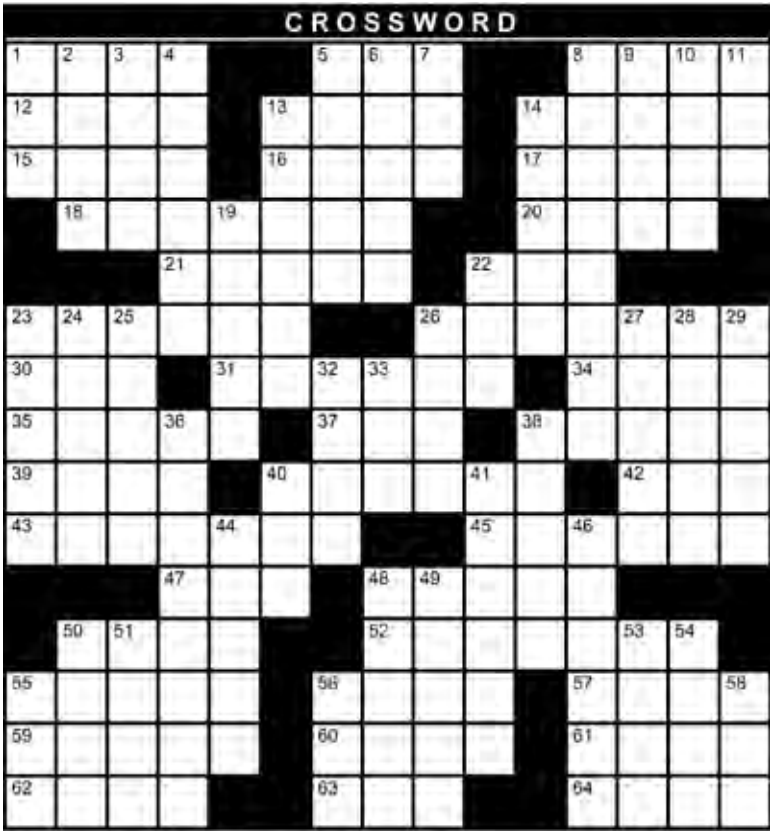
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- 12. Ocean Spray ____-Apple juice
- 13. #5 Across, pl.
- 14. Concentration of solution, in chemistry
- 15. CISC alternative
- 16. Swearing-in words
- 17. Goodwill branch
- 18. *Artist with most Grammy

- 20. ALCS counterpart
- 21. Winter Olympics participant
- 22. IX minus II
- 23. Drum roll sound
- 26. Front of building, pl.
- 30. Get it wrong
- 31. Upholstery choice
- 34. Reflect deeply
- 35. Raccoon's cousin
- 37. "____ the fields we go"
- 38. Binary digits code
- 39. Capital on a fjord

Solution on Page 9

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9			5	6	1	3		8
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9								3
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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.

Solution on Page 9

- 40. Isaac of science fiction fame
- 42. Consumed
- 43. Within shortest distance
- 45. *100-year-old Grammy Award nominee
- 47. Beer faucet
- 48. Corpulent
- 50. Self-satisfied
- 52. *2025 Grammy nominated former band, with The
- 55. Twist and distort
- 56. Bank's provision
- 57. Flock's response
- 59. Ranees's wrap
- 60. Elvers
- 61. *2003 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient _____ Puente
- 62. Like some wines
- 63. _____ it or lose it
- 64. Formerly, formerly

DOWN

- 1. Acronym, abbr.
- 2. Discarded cards in cribbage
- 3. Tear down
- 4. Enclose in a cyst
- 5. Orthodontic appliance
- 6. Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
- 7. Certain tray content
- 8. *Former multiple time Grammy host Andy _____
- 9. Related to ear
- 10. RPMs
- 11. Before, in verse
- 13. Predatory fish
- 14. Gin's partner
- 19. Giraffe's striped-leg cousin
- 22. *1995 "Have I Told Your Lately That I Love You" winner _____ Morrison
- 23. Scout's mission
- 24. What phoenix did
- 25. _____-_____la
- 26. Non-negotiable
- 27. Old European coin
- 28. Last 8 in college basketball
- 29. More than sly
- 32. *Nominated artist Post Malone's actual last name
- 33. Hula dancer's necklace
- 36. *Taylor Swift's "The _____ Poets Department"
- 38. Nautical "Stop!"
- 40. Nile viper
- 41. *Grammy winners Frank and Billy
- 44. Top scout
- 46. Make a connection
- 48. Double-reed instruments
- 49. Famous Memphis street
- 50. Unforeseen obstacle
- 51. Foal's mother
- 53. Chieftain in Arabia
- 54. Tennis amount
- 55. General Services Administration
- 56. Romanian money
- 58. *Kendrick Lamar's "_____ Like Us"

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Jan 16th

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

The Jan 16th 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Leaburg Food Pantry
All are welcome! Please send donations!

MCKENZIE RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Jan 16th 5:30pm - 4:30pm
McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Board meeting
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce is a business organization of residents that provides members with key opportunities for ...

The Jan 16th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group
GMSR Netnight (Thursday) "See" you on the regular! (Transmit on 457.475, listen 462.575, PL tone 100 on the uplink) Make it easy!

The Jan 16th 6:30pm - 7:00pm
Leaburg GMSR Radio Preparedness
Every Thursday, McKenzie Valley Neighbors GMSR Radio Preparedness Group Network Check-in Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. McKenzie Valley Area Net

The Jan 16th 8:00am - 9:00am
Yoga in Leaburg
Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center

Mon Jan 13th 12:00pm - 1:00pm
McKenzie Fire District Board
McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. 541-896-3211.

Sat Jan 18th 10:00am - 12:00pm
A Dime At A Time
Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting - Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off ...

Sat Jan 18th 10:00am - 12:00pm
McKenzie Dark Skies
"Where you can see the Milky Way from Main Street!" The answer is Oregon's "Astroplex" The Central Oregon community of Astorplex has been ...

Mon Jan 20th
Kids eat free!
Every Monday (with adult meal purchase). Takeout, dine-in, outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

The Jan 21st 10:00am - 11:00am
Family Story Time
Some special story at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

The Jan 21st
Lane County Board of Commissioners
The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in Harts Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board ...

Wed Jan 22nd 9:00am - 10:00am
Lane Electric Coop Board of Directors meeting
Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment ...

Mon Jan 20th 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Upper McKenzie Fire District Board
Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting. At the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Siche St. 541-822-3479.

Wed Jan 22nd 9:00am - 10:30am
Watershed Wednesday
Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9:00-10:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the ...

The Jan 21st 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Waltersville Grange #416 meeting
Our second monthly meeting is on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 7:00 PM that night and includes a nice dessert.

The Jan 23rd 5:00pm - 5:30pm
McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group
GMSR Netnight (Thursday) "See" you on the regular! (Transmit on 457.475, listen 462.575, PL tone 100 on the uplink) Make it easy!

Mon Jan 27th
Kids eat free!
Every Monday (with adult meal purchase). Takeout, dine-in, outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

COLD WATER FACT

Body heat can be lost **25 times faster** in cold water than in cold air.

[weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

Need to talk? Call 988

Ski Report

January 16, 2024

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed no new snow fell overnight, leaving the snow depth at 67 inches. Temperatures were 28 at the base and 47 at the summit, with winds out of the North at 3 mph. A sunny week is expected, with no rain expected in the next week or so. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 24 degrees at the base and 31 degrees at the summit on Tuesday, with winds averaging 21 mph. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 100 inches. Clear skies and moderate winds are expected to continue this week and next. 123 of 124 trails were open, along with 11 out of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

A Moment in History

Info provided by History.com

January 16, 1919- The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prohibiting the “manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes,” was ratified.

Nine months after Prohibition’s ratification on December of 1917, Congress passed the Volstead Act, or National Prohibition Act, over President Woodrow Wilson’s veto. The Volstead Act provided for “the enforcement of prohibition, including the creation of a special unit of the Treasury Department. One year and a day after its ratification, prohibition went into effect, and the nation became officially dry.

Despite a vigorous effort by law-enforcement agencies, the Volstead Act failed to prevent the large-scale distribution of alcoholic beverages, and organized crime flourished in America. In 1933, the 21st Amendment to the Constitution was passed and ratified, repealing prohibition.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Oregon’s Pro-life legislators sworn in

SALEM: On January 13th, newly-elected pro-life lawmakers were sworn in ahead of the start of Oregon’s 83rd legislative session.

In the Oregon House of Representatives, Oregon Right to Life PAC-endorsed representatives Alek Skarlatos (R-Roseburg), Darin Harbick (R-Blue River), Darcey Edwards (R-Hillsboro), and Christine Drazan (R-Canby), were sworn in after winning their general election races in November. Also sworn in, in the state Senate, were ORTL PAC-endorsed senators Noah Robinson (R-Cave Junction), Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), Diane Linthicum (R-Klamath Falls), Todd Nash (R-Enterprise), and Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte).

“We’re incredibly proud of the pro-life lawmakers who were sworn in today,” Oregon Right to Life executive director Lois Anderson said. “We’re confident that these principled men and women will be strong advocates for Oregon’s unborn and the medically vulnerable, who more than ever need courageous voices to promote their dignity and protection.”

For this session, 100% of the Republican legislators have earned the support of ORTL PAC. In the 2024 election cycle, Oregon Right to Life PAC reports it carried out a highly successful campaign to oust Harbick’s predecessor, Republican Charlie Conrad, who had voted in support of a bill that would have authorized girls to get abortions without parental knowledge.

Quote of the Week

“The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.”

George Jessel

Hug Point Road

Continued From Page 4



Hug Point as it appeared shortly after the road was cut across it, from a distance. The roadway can be seen at the bottom left, across the front of the headland.

So, the question of the day is — would that have worked had the public (or, rather, the most politically active parts of it) not seen with their own eyes how well the beach-highway was serving Clatsop County?

Speaking for myself, I doubt it. A canny politician, West could see that he would have two main sources of resistance to his plan: Landowners to the south, and libertarian-leaning plutocrats who felt that government should meddle as little as possible in other people’s property interests.

As West well knew, he could do nothing to counter resistance from landowners with beachfront property to the south. But in 1912, partly because it was so hard to reach those places, there just weren’t very many of them. Other than settlements at the mouths of major rivers and bays,

like Tillamook and Newport and Marshfield, the Oregon coast was almost a wilderness area.

As for the libertarian plutocrats, well ... most of those, living in the Portland and Salem areas, had at least once vacationed in Clatsop County and benefitted personally from having a legal right to access the beaches there.

And at Hug Point, the hand-cut roadbed became Exhibit A in the case for beach-as-highway. Would the anonymous benefactor have invested the time and dynamite to make that road if he hadn’t had the protection of the law? Of course not.

So when West came before the Legislature to make the case that the state should claim a right of passage all along the beach, defined as the strip of wet sand between the low and the high tide marks — he got very little

resistance indeed.

To be sure, the landowners with beachfront property were mostly defiant. But, as noted, there just weren’t very many of them, and that actually had a lot to do with the problem the beach-highway scheme would directly address: there was no way to access their property.

The law was passed, duly signed into law in 1913 ... and the rest is history.

But the whole debate might have gone down in flames if it had not been for Clatsop County — and the anonymous benefactor who blasted that road into the side of Hug Point.

(Sources: “US 101 (Oregon Coast Highway),” an article by Robert W. Hadlow published Aug. 11, 2022, in The Oregon Encyclopedia; “Oregon owes its public beaches to a decision by Oswald West 100 years ago,” an article by Lori Tobias published in the Feb. 13, 2013, issue of The Portland Oregonian; “Law protecting Oregon beaches enacted 110 years ago,” an article by Bob Atiyeh published in the Feb. 12, 2023, issue of the Cannon Beach Gazette; In Search of Western Oregon, a book by Ralph Friedman published in 1978 by Caxton Press)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His most recent book, Bad Ideas and Horrible People of Old Oregon, published by Ouragan House last year. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

[Return To Page 4](#)

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"Thank You," Community



Volunteer support has always been at the heart of the areas food pantries.

By Robin Roberts
"Thank You" ... doesn't seem like powerful enough words for what our community has done this year and years past to help those struggling to make ends meet.

Due to economic conditions the food pantries have been feeding more and more families. Thank You this year to McKenzie Valley Wellness who bought the hams and turkeys for the Christmas Boxes that are given out each year to these families.

Locals Helping Locals contributed Butter and Potatoes for these boxes and Orchid Medical Clinic, McKenzie School, and Forest Service, McKenzie River Trail Run

and Bottle Boys helped provide food and toys for these families.

80 families received boxes this year and we gave toys to over 70 children and fed over 200 people.

The McKenzie River Food Pantry was started and supported by Sister John's Southern Oregon Mission Center. We continue to carry on her mission of supporting those in need.

For the pantry to continue we have been graced with volunteers who have committed their time and energy twice a month to carry out this mission. Over 75 hours a month is given of their time by these volunteers.

We have several regulars and

many more volunteers waiting in the wings to be called. "Angels" is what I like to call them. We cannot come to the close of another year and not be anything but extremely humbled and blessed by this community.

Families have already thanked us for the gifts and food. So let us pass on their several message of thankfulness to all of you who participated this year.

We were just the hands that passed on your gifts. So much love is in between the giving and the gifting.

Until they invent a better word to express the heart felt gratitude... "Thank You Community."

seconds of the quarter, running off a 7-0 scoring streak to lead McKenzie 12-7 to start the second quarter. Eddyville slowly built the lead out in the second quarter and at halftime broke for the locker rooms holding a 24-12 edge.

At the juncture in the game, it looked as if Eddyville was going to blow out the contest, as all McKenzie's second quarter points came from the charity stripe. Following the halftime break, nobody was arguing for the McKenzie defense and Eddyville certainly was happy the way the game was progressing. With 2:28 remaining in the third quarter, the visitors held a comfortable 31-20 lead. But somebody put a spark in the McKenzie tank and shots started to fall in.

Suddenly the Eagles from Finn Rock had themselves a rally. The home crowd woke up as well and when the horn sounded the end of the quarter, we had ourselves a game. Tied at 31 all and something felt like a bit of the past had shook

off the dust and stood up.

But alas, some good things do pass and so did McKenzie's brave rally. Eddyville took the quarter break to talk about it and then came out and outscored McKenzie 19-0 to formalize the rout. McKenzie did not score until 4:50 remained in the game couldn't climb any closer than 17 points the rest of the way. Eddyville Charter easily coasted the rest of the way, defeating their hosts 59-42.

With the win, the Coastal Eagles improved to 2-1 and a tie with Triangle Lake for second in MWL plays, behind 2-0 Mapleton. McKenzie fell to 0-3 in MWL play.

For the game on Thursday, Liliana Jones led her team with 20 points scored, although the Eagle sophomore did not score in the final quarter. Freshman Claire Weiss finished with 19 points and junior Linn Goette added 3 points from the post. No other player scored for McKenzie.

[Return To Page 2](#)

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

[Continued From Page 2](#)

blocked shot, and Allen Acevedo finished with 4 points and 3 assists. Jacob Peek and Norlund each added 2 points and Aytan Munoz-Brown sunk 1 free-throw.

Lady Eagles Battle Better But Bummer, Drop Two

The McKenzie Lady Eagles Basketball team competed hard this past week against Crow/City Christian on the road and again against Eddyville Charter at home. Over in the Land of the Cougars, the Eagles gave it a fine go, but ultimately lost to Crow/City First Christian 44-54. The Cougars victory was their first MWL win of the 2024-25 season and at 1-2, they are a game ahead of 0-3 McKenzie.

Eddyville Charter traveled to Finn Rock on the following Thursday and found themselves a game, despite the final score. McKenzie came off the bench at the opening tip ready to rumble and earned a slim lead, 7-6, with 2:19 remaining in the first quarter. Five of McKenzie's points came from the free-throw line as Eddyville treated their host to fourteen free-throw shot attempts in that opening quarter. The visiting Eagles did get lined out a bit better in the closing

Task force tackles Oregon's hospital 'boarding' problem



Patients collectively spent more than 57,000 days in Oregon hospitals in 2024.

By Isobel Charle Oregon News Service
Oregonians who are ready to leave the hospital but still require care do not have enough places to go, affecting providers and patients at all levels.

The average hospital stay has increased to nearly five days, according to the Hospital Association of Oregon. With nowhere to send discharged patients, hospitals can end up boarding them, which hurts hospitals financially and means fewer beds are available for people who need them.

Sen. Deb Patterson, D-Salem, was part of a task force which released 10 recommendations to address the problem. She said a top priority is presumptive eligibility for Medicaid, so people who likely qualify do not have to wait for their applications to be processed in order to receive care, which would also benefit providers.

"Long-term care facilities need to be assured that the patients they're accepting, they already have their insurance in place," Patterson explained.

Increased reimbursement rates for adult foster homes are high on the list for the task force, as well as continued funding for guard-

ians. Guardians are court-appointed positions who make decisions for adults found incapable of caring for themselves because of dementia or other health problems.

The task force, which included representatives from hospitals, nursing homes and union leaders, said expanding medical respite is also critical. The programs provide short-term residential care for people experiencing homelessness who do not need a hospital to recover from an illness or injury.

Patterson stressed not having access to places to heal can be deadly.

"I would really advocate for funding for medical respite because we do not want to see people dying on the streets," Patterson emphasized.

Another issue contributing to the backlog of patients is staffing shortages in Oregon's skilled nursing and long-term care facilities. Patterson noted the state is collaborating with Future Ready Oregon to grow the health care workforce, including certified nursing assistants. She added another bill is in the works for spring, focusing on entry-level positions in long-term care.

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Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history - in the back issues of this newspaper.

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Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

Help! Amazon sent me the wrong water heater

Amazon sends Marshall Haney the wrong heater. After he returns it, the company won't refund his money. Where did he go wrong?

I purchased a tankless hot water heater from Amazon a month ago. They sent the wrong hot water heater -- propane instead of natural gas.

Amazon approved my return, and I sent it back the next week. Amazon received the item but I haven't received a refund yet.

I contacted Amazon by chats several times, asking about my refund so I could order a replacement. I've talked to 12 different so-called customer service reps -- some claimed to be supervisors -- without a resolution from any.

When I check my account, there is now no evidence that I have a return sent, received, or being processed. That information was taken off the site. The item was there before.

I can't afford to purchase another heater until they refund my original purchase. To say the least, this situation is now and continues to be intolerable, and their actions indicate they don't care. Please help me get my \$496 back.

Marshall Haney, Lockport, NY
Amazon should have sent you the correct heater. But if it couldn't, it should have sent you an immediate refund after you returned the heater -- along with its apologies. Instead, it pretended you were never a customer. Come on.

Amazon's return process usually works well. I've heard from customers who get their refunds in hours instead of days, which is great. For you, the system didn't work as it should have. Amazon

approved your return, acknowledged it, but then erased all records of your transaction from the system.

Remember how I like to talk about keeping a paper trail? That also includes screenshots with acknowledgments of product returns. Why? Because this could happen to you. The company could simply delete all of its records, leaving you with no proof that you ever returned a product. Or even ordered a product.

Now, to be sure, you could have cobbled together some forensic evidence from your credit card bill and email correspondence. This shouldn't be necessary with a sophisticated company like Amazon.

Reviewing your correspondence, I see two issues. First, all of your messages were in all uppercase. When you're online, that's considered yelling. I would maybe ease up on that and disengage your caps lock. Also, it had only been a few weeks since your return, and I think Amazon would have eventually resolved this problem. Since chatting wasn't really helping, maybe you could have sent a brief, polite email to one of the Amazon customer service executives whose names I publish on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I contacted Amazon on your behalf. It investigated your return problem and sent you an update a few days later

"We've received the item below and have issued your refund," it said. "Thank you for sending the item back. Your return is now complete."

Your \$496 has been refunded.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (<https://elliottadvocacy.org>), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at <https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/>

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The Electric Slide

New electric truck rule is disrupting state's transportation industry

By Nigel Jaquis
Oregon Journalism Project
On Dec. 20, Daimler Trucks North America issued a stunning statement: It would stop selling large diesel trucks in Oregon.

"Effective immediately, DTNA is pausing all orders for new internal combustion vehicles intended for registration in Oregon," wrote Daimler's general manager of product strategy and market development, Mary C. Aufdemberg, in a message to Oregon truck dealers.

The statement hasn't been reported previously. It's significant for a few reasons.

First, Daimler, through its Freightliner and Western Star brands, is the leading producer of large trucks in the U.S., accounting for 40% of all new Class 8 trucks (tractor-trailers) sold in 2023, according to the American Truck Dealers association. (PACCAR Inc., the second-largest heavy truck maker, declined to comment on its sales plans.)

More pointedly, Daimler Trucks' North American headquarters is in North Portland. The company is one of the state's largest manufacturers and employs 3,000 people here.

But for now, the company that builds diesel trucks in Oregon has stopped selling them in the state.

The reason for that halt, the Oregon Journalism Project has learned: a new rule issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality that took effect Jan. 1.

Here's how DEQ's "Advanced Clean Trucks rule" works: Out of every 100 new Class 8 heavy trucks a manufacturer sells in Oregon in 2025, seven must be electric. That percentage of electric



Out of Juice: A mobile diesel generator recharges an electric truck that stalled atop the Siskiyou Summit.

trucks will increase every year, reaching 40% of all heavy trucks sold in 2032. (In 2023, according to DEQ, Oregon dealers sold 1,708 new heavy trucks. Nine were electric.)

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission, which is appointed by the governor and sets policy for DEQ, first adopted the Advanced Clean Trucks rule in 2021, mirroring California's policy. Colorado, Washington and other blue states have since adopted the same rules, but Daimler hasn't stopped selling trucks in those states.

The company says that's because there is "ambiguity" in how Oregon accounts for electric truck sales. Daimler fears it might fail to meet Oregon's quota, triggering penalties. The company says that's an unacceptable risk.

DEQ spokeswoman Susan Mills says her agency immediately contacted Daimler after the Dec. 20 announcement.

Mills says DEQ sought to resolve what she terms an "inaccurate" communication from the agency about when manufacturers would get credit for an electric truck sale.

Gov. Tina Kotek is aware of Daimler's decision but wants to stay the course. "Gov. Kotek believes that Advanced Clean Truck requirements are critical to reaching our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and ensuring healthy air quality," spokeswoman Anca Matica says.

Environmental groups, including Climate Solutions, Verde and

Neighbors for Clean Air, urged DEQ in November to proceed with the new rules in 2025. "Adopting these rules was the promise from Oregon to address the public health crisis caused by persistent diesel pollution," Mary Peveto, executive director of Neighbors for Clean Air, said then.

Others pushed for delay. State Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany), whose family owns a trucking company, says the mandate will disproportionately affect rural Oregon. "The rules will harm farmers who feed our families," Boshart Davis wrote in a Nov. 14 letter to DEQ.

Regardless of where one stands on the merits of the new rules, Daimler's decision speaks to the complexity of implementing them.

As with many environmental regulations, Oregon followed California's lead on reducing the use of diesel fuel, adopting standards developed by the California Air Resources Board.

Transportation fuels are the biggest single source of carbon emissions in Oregon. Heavy trucks comprise about 4% of vehicles but produce about 23% of harmful emissions, according to DEQ. That is why the state wants to electrify them as part of a broader policy to reduce carbon emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

But Jana Jarvis, CEO of the Oregon Trucking Associations, says there are key differences between California and Oregon.

First, California built charg-

[Electric Slide - Page 12](#)

Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$25.48-\$27.00 per month and business services are \$37.00-\$42.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



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Electric Slide

Continued From Page 1

ing stations for electric semitractor-trailers. Oregon has only one public charging station, located on Swan Island in Portland.

Second, the nature of California's geography and of its massive ports in Los Angeles and Oakland Beach means that a large share of trips in California are big trucks making relatively short hauls, which make charging simpler.

"Our routes tend to be long haul," Jarvis says. Diesel trucks can travel more than 1,000 miles between fill-ups, she adds, while electric trucks might go 200—and carry less freight because their batteries are big and heavy.

Given those differences and the fact that electric trucks cost twice as much as diesel trucks, Jarvis thinks that manufacturers will struggle to sell heavy trucks in Oregon.

"You can't make an electric truck work in Oregon yet," Jarvis says. "The technology isn't there. I have been trying to get DEQ and the governor's office to understand the implications of this, but I'm not making progress."

Electrification is proceeding well for passenger vehicles, but even in ideal situations, Jarvis says, it doesn't yet make sense for rigs carrying heavy loads.

Roger Davis is general manager of TP Trucking & Logistics in Central Point, just north of Medford. In November, Davis saw an opportunity to test an electric truck on a run his company regularly makes, moving loads of veneer between a mill that TP owns in Yreka, Calif., and mills in Medford and Grants Pass.

It's only 56 miles from Yreka to Medford and 79 miles from Yreka to Grants Pass, so Davis thought the short trips between mills might be ideal for electric trucks.

"We knew the new rules were coming and we needed to figure them out," Davis says.

In mid-November, a TP employee drove the truck—without a trailer attached—to Yreka to see how it would fare. The trip consumed about half the battery's charge. That seemed OK, Davis says, because the trip back to Medford included steep downhill grades, which would allow the vehicle to recharge.

"The routing from our terminal in Yreka has a series of mountain passes exceeding 6% [grade] for a duration of over 6 miles," Davis says.

But on the second day of testing, pulling the full load of veneer, the electric truck died on Interstate 5 halfway to Medford on the Siskiyou Summit.

It sat for three hours, getting a charge from, ironically, a mobile diesel generator. TP dispatched a diesel truck to haul the veneer to Medford.

"In the minds of the people who wrote these rules, we operate in a perfect world," Davis says. "But when we tried one [electric truck], it ran out of charge on the Siskiyou Summit."

Davis told his employer that the electric truck was of no use to TP: "This trip would be made three times per day by a diesel truck in our fleet—unfortunately, we failed to get one trip completed by the electric vehicle." He shared his experience with DEQ.

Mills, the DEQ spokeswoman, says the agency knows there will be challenges in electrifying Oregon's fleet.

"We hear the manufacturers' and fleet owners' concerns, and we recognize zero-emission vehicles won't work for every fleet or application right now," Mills says. "That is why the Advanced Clean Trucks rule is designed with many flexibilities, including an additional three years for manufacturers to achieve the first-year sales targets."

Mills notes that between legislative and federal appropriations, there are tens of millions of dollars coming to build out charging stations. She also notes there are some uses for which electric trucks already work.

"Many medium- and heavy-duty vehicle applications, such as delivery vans, drayage trucks, and transit and school buses drive less than 100 miles per day and are or can be electrified with private depot charging," she says.

But for now, Daimler still says DEQ's rules are untenable. That means it's holding new diesel trucks, which produce far less emissions than older trucks, off the market.

Critics, including the National Resources Defense Council and the Union of Concerned Scientists, say truck manufacturers are undermining decarbonization. Daimler, however, is investing \$40 million in Portland on research on zero-emission vehicles.

The company says the ball is now in DEQ's court.

"They are implementing key provisions of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule differently than California," Daimler spokeswoman Anja Weinert told the Oregon Journalism Project on Jan. 6. "[That] risks our compliance in the state. We are confident we can work with the Oregon DEQ to resolve this issue. But until we have clarity on the matter, we are regrettably unable to process any orders for combustion-powered vehicles for the state."

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Return To Page 11

Into woodworking?

2025 boatbuilding class set for this April



Roger Fletcher

Participants in the McKenzie River drift boat building class will have a chance to buy the boat they work on.

The McKenzie River Discovery Center is announcing its upcoming drift boat building workshop, scheduled for April 21st to 25th. Under the expert guidance of Jayson Hayes from Cedar Flat's Hayes Custom Boats, participants will construct the iconic McKenzie River drift boat and gain hands-on experience with finishing techniques and bottom protection. For more details and to register, visit McKenzie Discovery Center's website and go

to the Workshops tab tinyurl.com/mrysvsyy

Due to construction at the Discovery Center, the workshop will take place at the Roy Pruitt Memorial Shop on the property of Shelly and the late Roy Pruitt. Their property, affectionately called Campfire, is just upriver from the Discovery Center.

Roy Pruitt was a legendary McKenzie guide, and Shelly Pruitt has graciously opened her property for this special event.

Roger Fletcher, the workshop coordinator, notes that the workshop dates coincide with the April 26th McKenzie River Drift Boat Festival at Eagle Rock Lodge, an annual gathering of wood boat enthusiasts from around the Northwest. Fletcher is encouraging anyone interested in building their own drift boat to take advantage of this opportunity. He notes that a lucky participant can leave with the new boat for the price of a kit.

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Share Your Thoughts

You can help shape the future of the McKenzie River Valley regional economy! Please take 5 minutes to complete a survey to inform the work of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce and other regional efforts. Survey respondents will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to a local business: bit.ly/3V6AFae

Scan to take the survey:



Questions? Contact Ken Engelman
president@McKenzieChamber.com

Snowfall to drop

Continued From Page 1

Fleishman told the Capital Chronicle that the latest report shows that data on climate change, and the climate modeling that can be done with it, has gotten increasingly precise at showing how, when and where temperature rises will lead to droughts, floods and other extreme weather events.

“There’s less uncertainty. We are increasingly confident this is the way things are headed,” she said.

More severe drought

The state is headed for longer and more severe annual droughts during the summer and an increase in heavy winter rains as opposed to snow, the report said. Precipitation in Oregon has been below average in 18 of the last 24 years, and snowfall in Oregon is projected to decline 50% by 2100 at current rates of global warming.

The average annual temperature in Oregon has increased 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit since the industrial revolution began just over a century ago and humans began pumping enormous amounts of heat trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. Scientists expect the average annual temperature in Oregon to rise at least 5 degrees in the next 50 years and 7.6 degrees by the end of the century if humans worldwide do not urgently begin reducing and ending the burning of fossil fuels.

Fleishman called the data showing declines in snow “sobering.”

“When I looked at projections of every part of the state losing 50% of snowpack by the end of the century I said some things,” she said. “But there is the capacity to prepare,” she said. “This isn’t going to happen next year, this is a trend. Knowing that, how over the next couple decades can in-

dustries in Oregon be responding to that?”

Other economic vulnerabilities identified in the report were posed by longer, more intense wildfire seasons, which depress forest-land values and sales and lead to agriculture losses from major smoke events that make working outdoors unsafe and compromise the quality of products like wine grapes.

Potential for headway

Among the areas identified by the authors as ones where Oregon can make greater headway in curbing greenhouse gas emissions are protecting forests — which could be managed to increase their carbon capture and storage — and reforestation. Modeling shows that planting trees on less than 1% of Oregon’s land could help capture and store nearly 16 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by 2050, equivalent to taking 3.7 million gas powered vehicles off the road for a year.

Other headway could be made in developing floating offshore wind turbines to generate clean energy on the Oregon coast, the authors found, though that’s been shelved for the foreseeable future by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management following mounting opposition from some coastal communities and tribes.

Changes in the climate have also led to recent changes in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Plant Hardiness Zone Map, which shows geographic ranges where plants can survive. In the updated map, many areas in the U.S. and some parts of Oregon have warmed up, and been reclassified as more amenable to crops that previously would have been killed off by frosts.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

[Return To Page 1](#)

New bill would pause Oregon’s retirement fund fossil fuel investments

By Isobel Charle
Oregon News Service

A new bill aims to further reduce investments in fossil fuels by Oregon’s Public Employee Retirement System.

The Pause Act would impose a five-year ban on new investments by the system in private fossil-fuel funds. Supporters believe this move will help lower emissions and keep wealth in Oregon communities.

Andrew Bogrand, volunteer communications director for the advocacy group Divest Oregon, helped draft the bill. The group found the system’s fossil fuel investments have underperformed the market by \$4 billion to \$10 billion over the past decade.

“Private equity has taken advantage, in our view, of public pensions, and this would allow Treasury staff the time and space they need to kind of course correct,” Bogrand explained.

Last year, former treasurer Tobias Read, now Secretary of State, introduced a plan to reduce the system’s investments in fossil fuels by 60% by 2035, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. Bogrand noted the Pause Act aligns with that plan.



In December, the Oregon Investment Council found the state’s Public Employee Retirement System returned 2.7%, which lagged other states and its benchmark, in part because of fewer investments.

Oregon’s Public Employee Retirement System covers pensions for more than 415,000 public employees across schools, local governments and 900 agencies. Divest Oregon said 60% of the system’s funds are private investments, which is almost double the average U.S. pension fund.

Elizabeth Steiner, Oregon’s newly-sworn in treasurer, manages the system’s investments, totaling more than \$100 billion. Steiner said moving away from fossil fuels is not just about reducing

emissions, it is smart financially.

“The data are really clear that carbon-intensive investments are a risky proposition at this point,” Steiner observed. “At some point in the not too distant future, they will not be profitable.”

Steiner added it is too soon to say if she can support the Pause Act, but she is having productive conversations with Divest Oregon.

newservice.org

Are your dollars out of touch?



Shopping at Home directly impacts the McKenzie area’s economic well being. There’s a circular flow when people buy from neighbors - who in turn buy from each other (labor, services, or products).

Keeping locally earned dollars in the community is the best way for everyone to be part of building a better place to live, work, and play - rather than letting those dollars slip away to benefit outside interests.



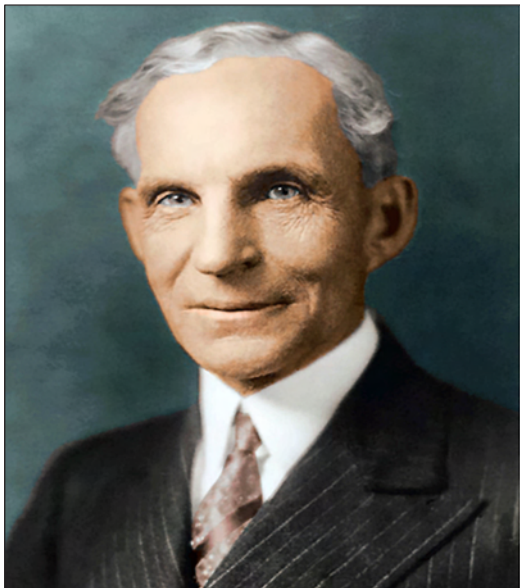
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“A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time.”

Henry Ford



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