

Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

JP Doodles

It will soon be the time where kids will be resetting their focus buttons, dusting off backpacks, and hoping there won't be a first-day pop quiz.

PAGE 2

Lynch mob

Killings marked the start of a two-year period of rule by masked gunmen and lynch mobs in Prineville

PAGE 4



Briefs...



After last year's success, they had to do it again. The Army Corps Of Engineers has released its 2024 giant Cats and Infrastructure calendar. Last year it was an internet sensation, going beyond being viral to being featured on TV talk shows. This year they decided to time the release of their calendar with National Cat Day and it appears to have a gentler approach, compared to last year, when giant cats appeared to be trying to destroy infrastructure.

Also new to this year is a dog calendar. That's right, they did two calendars. The dog versions fea-

[Pet calendars - Page 2](#)



Dear Stranger is a recurring letter exchange project that connects Oregonians through the mail to share experiences, beliefs, and ideas. Since 2014, more than 1,000 people have exchanged letters through the project. Everyone is invited to participate—whatever your age, your place of residence, or your circumstances, Dear Stranger wants to hear from you.

When you write to Dear Stranger, your letter will be swapped with one from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get theirs. The exchange is anonymous.

Here's how to participate: Write a letter. Address it "Dear Stranger." Fill a page or two, or more if you feel inspired. If you'd like, feel free to include a pho-

[Dear Stranger - Page 2](#)



Enjoy a unique evening swim and movie event. Watch "How to Train Your Dragon" on Splash's outdoor sun deck and come and go as you please from the pool to the movie. Bring a towel or blanket to enjoy the film on the lawn, and purchase food and drinks from local vendors. Food and beverages are available from Wildcraft Cider Works (for adults aged 21 and older) and Most Wanted Espresso.

Doors open at 8 p.m., and the movie starts at 9 p.m. You don't need to register. Regular Splash admission rates: Toddler (3 and under) \$4 in-district or \$7 out-of-district, Youth (4-17) \$7 in-district or \$9

[Dive In Movies - Page 2](#)

Crews are still on the firelines

Containment of Ore Fire now at 25% as warm weather returns



Drones are among the tools firefighters have employed to ignite new prescribed burns as well as monitoring heat sources with infra-red cameras.

BLUE RIVER: Over 650 firefighters are using firelines to control the spread of the 3,000-acre Ore Fire. On Tuesday, the fire was 25 percent contained.

Despite a little over 3/4 of an inch of rainfall recorded at the Cougar Dam weather station last week, officials say pockets of heat from dense fuels remain within the

fire interior and increased fire behavior will be possible as skies clear, temperatures rise, and humidities drop, causing fuels to begin to dry.

A slow warming/drying trend is expected to bring gusty conditions mid-week, along with above-average temperatures and low humidities by the end of this week. Firefighters are making access where safely possible, continuing containment line improvements and contingency work.

Workers have continued to patrol and secure hand lines, mop up, and secure containment lines where possible. Other activities include continuing fuel break improvements, chipping, and masticating (cutting, chopping, and grinding vegetation).

In addition, Unmanned Aerial System (drone) flights with infrared detection capabilities have continued to confirm fires have not crossed any containment lines, while helicopters continue to make bucket water drops.

Opponents seek vote on waste disposal plant

EUGENE: Supporters have described it as "potentially the most technologically advanced waste processing facility in the country." Opponents, though, say the \$150,000,000 waste sorting facility is "a massive project that will increase costs of living for all Lane County residents."

At issue is the CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility (previously known as IMERF) the county plans to build in Goshen. An August 20th Lane County Board of Commissioners' vote to approve it was a replay of December when Commissioners Heather Buch, Pat Farr, and Laurie Trieger also voted in favor of the project while David Loveall and Ryan Ceniga were opposed.

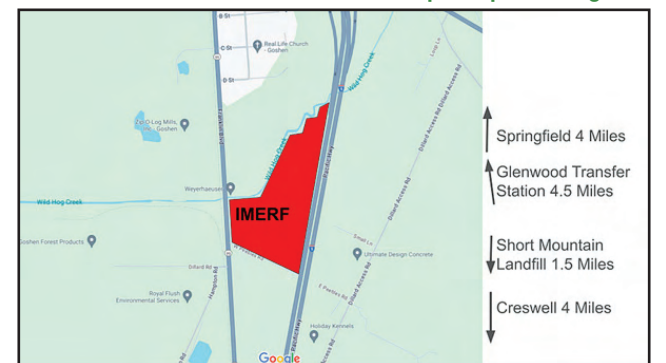
A local manufacturer, Bulk Handling Systems (BHS) would build the new facility that would divert an estimated 80,000 tons of residential garbage, commingled recycling, and organic waste from the existing Short Mountain landfill to produce marketable recycling commodities and biogas.

Dana Siebert, managing director of Onward Eugene, said the non-profit's goals of "building a thriving economy to promote inclusive prosperity for all" fell in line with supporting the

CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility. If built, he felt, the project could help recruit potential "local success stories" like BHS that would create high-paying jobs.

Other backers of the project say the IMERF would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the

[Waste disposal plant - Page 11](#)



The CleanLane recycling site could create 65 new jobs and generate a million gallons of diesel fuel, supporters say.

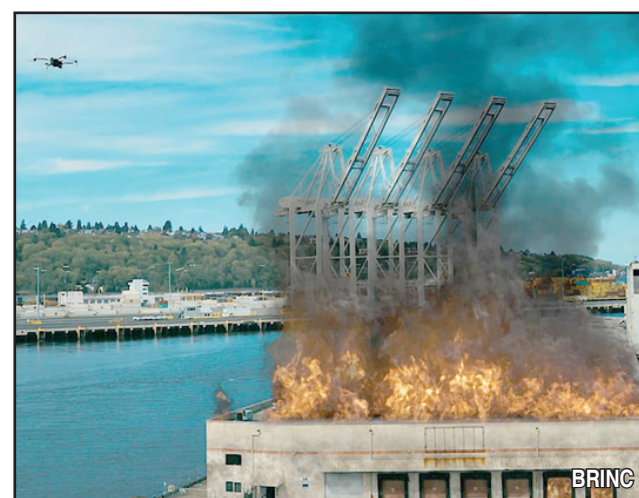
Wildfire experts are turning to AI

By Paige Gross
Oregon Capital Chronicle

With climate change driving hotter, drier summers across the West, the intensity of recent fire seasons is outpacing workers' ability to track and analyze fires with the traditional methods.

"There simply aren't enough boots on the ground, or eyes in pairs of binoculars to cover the base and the extent of what we've been dealing with and that's been true across the western U.S. and across the world," said Sarvesh Garimella, the chief scientist and chief technical officer at weather app MyRadar.

But government agencies and



BRINC's Responder drone is used by emergency response teams to quickly arrive at a structural fire and assess conditions and safety measures needed.

private sector companies like Garimella's are adapting artificial intelligence technologies in their wildfire monitoring and fighting strategies.

Increase in number and reach of wildfires

The Environmental Protection Agency's data shows that wildfires have become more common and spread further over the last few decades.

The 1990s was a "period of transition" for climate cycles that tend to change every few decades, and

[Turning to AI - Page 12](#)



"Volume 47" appears on the top of the front page of this edition. Right beside it is "Issue 1."

Those numbers mark the start of the forty-seventh year that River Reflections will be reporting on life along the McKenzie River. In the weeks and months to come, some of the stories are likely to continue to inform on things people may not have thought about, others could be sad, and some at times silly.

That last item got me thinking about what might have been lightening the mood of other publications. Here are a few samples.

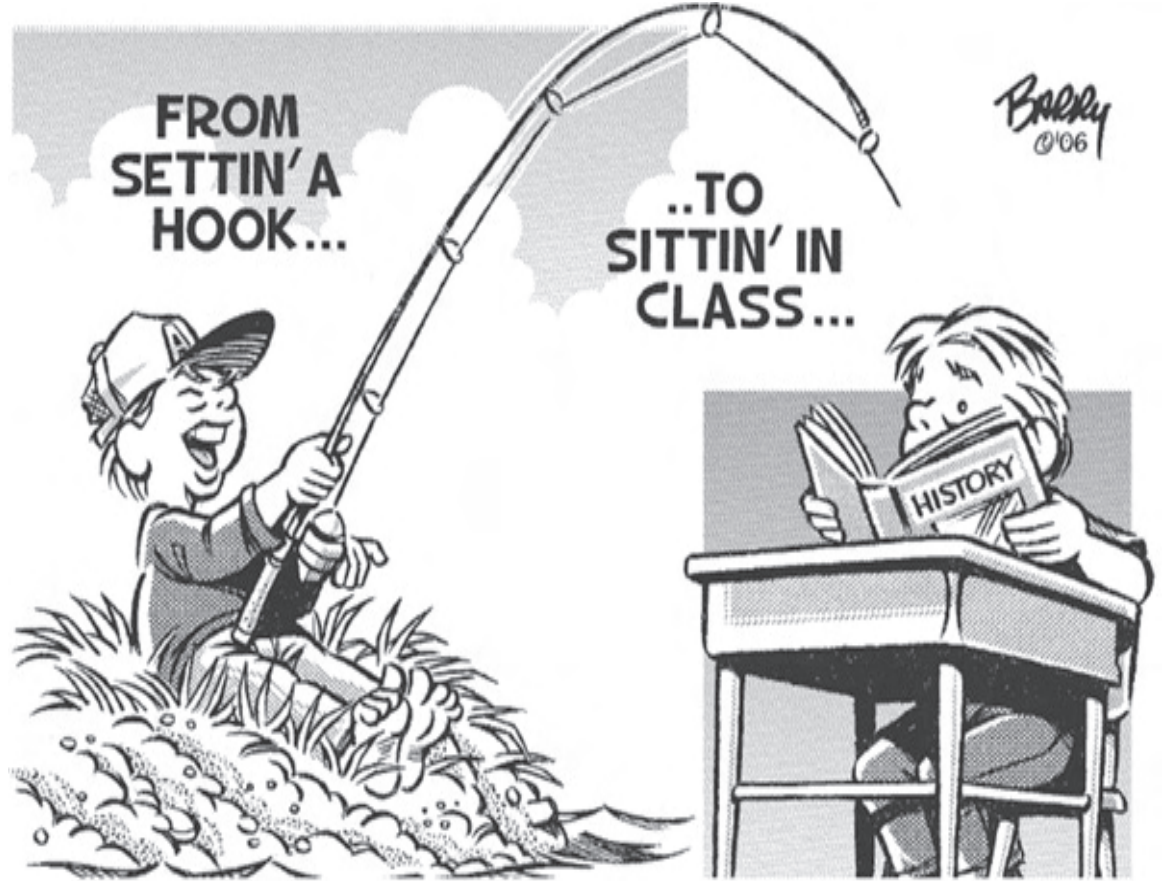
In the early days of digital conversions, a newspaper worked on a story about an upcoming astronomy event. However, the autocorrect feature on their computer system changed "celestial" to "celery" throughout the article. The paper printed the piece, which mistakenly informed readers about the best time to view "celery objects" in the night sky and the "celery bodies" visible during

the event. The editor apologized and assured readers that the only "celery" they needed to worry about was in their salads, not in the sky.

During an election year, another local newspaper meant to endorse a candidate. However, due to a last-minute change and a rushed print job, they mistakenly endorsed both candidates for the same office, with two editorials appearing side by side - each praising a different candidate. Readers were confused and amused, and some joked that the paper was trying to "please everyone." The paper issued a correction, but by then, the dual endorsement had become a humorous anecdote shared around town.

Hereabouts, regular readers usually know when it's getting close to a Spring holiday. Because Reflections is a weekly, the annual April Fool's edition is often delivered a few days in advance of that date. Some, though, still phone to complain about an article that was "Continued on a page that doesn't exist."

For future issues of Volume 47, I promise silly will still appear here.



Guest Opinion

Why no Congressional Term Limits?

By Andrew Kalloch

In the hit Broadway musical Hamilton, President George Washington summons Alexander Hamilton into his study to discuss writing what would come to be known as Washington's "Farewell Address." Hamilton protests the very idea of Washington leaving the Presidency: "As far as the People are concerned, you have to serve, you could continue to serve!" Washington, insistent and resolute, replies, "We're gonna teach them how to say goodbye."

Washington set an example - two terms, no more - that every President voluntarily followed until 1940, when Franklin Roosevelt ran, and won, his third of four terms in office. After Roosevelt's tenure, the American People wisely and quickly enacted the 22nd Amendment, imposing a two-term limit on the Presidency.

No such limit exists concerning the United States Congress, however, and as a result, we are increasingly left with a legislature full of career politicians who have not learned Washington's lesson - they simply do not know how to say goodbye.

The tenure of Members of both Houses of Congress has steadily increased in the modern era. As a result, the average and median age of Members of the House of Representatives has increased by nearly ten years since the early 1980s, leaving it as "one of the oldest pools of politicians in the world today." Indeed, the percentage of Representatives 40 or under was cut in half from 1981 to 2021.

Age alone, of course, is not a problem. The problem is that be-

tween partisan gerrymandering, closed primaries, and the extreme advantage of incumbency - sitting Members of the House win about 95% of reelection bids, on average - the People are all too often left with the mere appearance of choice. In most cases, Congressional elections are a fait accompli well before the first ballot is cast.

If voters don't have a real choice and elected officials, in turn, do not "fear" the ballot box, then we are left with an increasingly unaccountable system that ceases to benefit from the wisdom of the People that is the lifeblood of Democracy.

The good news is that the American People, across party lines, recognize the need for term limits on Congress. A recent poll by Pew showed that support for congressional term limits has risen to 87%, the highest ever recorded. A similar poll from the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy found that 83% of registered voters nationally support a constitutional amendment to establish term limits in Congress - including 86% of Republicans, 80% of Democrats, and 84% of independents.

Let's be clear, though: Congress isn't going to limit itself. For decades, courageous members of Congress have proposed term limits, only to be soundly rejected by their peers. Just last year, House Joint Resolution 11 by Representative Ralph Norman

(R-SC) was defeated in committee despite having bipartisan support from over 100 lawmakers.

Fortunately, the Founders recognized the risk of Congressional intransigence and crafted a way for the People to amend the Constitution without Congressional support. How? By having the states call for a convention to adopt a congressional term limits amendment.

When enough states request a convention to add a term limits amendment to the Constitution, Congress is bypassed and the amendment can be proposed directly by the states, with 3/4 of the states needed for ratification.

Eight states have already called for a limited convention to propose a congressional term limits amendment to the Constitution. Oregon should join them.

Setting congressional term limits would take power away from Washington insiders and put it back where it belongs - with the People.

It will diversify Congress - providing a fairer playing field for younger candidates, as well as women and Hispanics.

And it will lead to a Congress that is responsive - and accountable - to the issues facing everyday Americans.

As Benjamin Franklin (who supported term limits) aptly said, "In free governments, the rulers are the servants, and the people their superiors...For the former to return among the latter does not degrade but promote them."

It's time to teach our politicians how to say goodbye.

Let's put the Beaver State on record for congressional term limits.

Andrew Kalloch is the Oregon State Co-Chair for U.S. Term Limits. He resides in Eugene.

Calling all Men and Women of the Year

If you were a Man of the Year or a Woman of the Year, please join other honored locals to walk in the Waltherville Fair Parade on September 7th. The parade usually starts to queue up around 9:30 a.m. at the Waltherville fire station and then proceeds to the Waltherville Grange - less than one mile. Please contact Gerry Aster at 541-896-3001 or gerryaster@gmail.com

Briefs...

Pet calendars

Continued From Page 1

ture pups riding in ships, looking after the dams, and running through locks.

Both versions are completely free and downloadable so you can print and enjoy. Be warned, they are, however, very large high-resolution files. To view, or download, go to: petcalendar.us

[Return To Page 1](#)

Dear Stranger

Continued From Page 1

to a drawing, or a recipe—anything that will fit in an envelope. You can write about anything you like. Here's a prompt to get you started: What is the Oregon you want to live in? The United States declared its independence nearly 250 years ago. What do you hope the next 250 years will hold for

Oregon and the country? How will people practice independence, interdependence, or both?

Complete the Dear Stranger release form, at wheremindsgrow.org. We cannot exchange letters without a release. Mail your letter by October 31, 2024, to Dear Stranger c/o Oregon Humanities, 610 SW Alder, Suite 1111, Portland, OR 97205.

[Return To Page 1](#)

Dive In Movies

Continued From Page 1

out-of-district, Adults (18-49) \$8 in-district or \$11 out-of-district, Seniors (50+) \$7 in-district or \$9 out-of-district, Students/Military \$7 in-district or \$9 out-of-district

Splash! at Lively Park 6100 Thurston Road in Springfield. wilmalane.org/activities/dive-movies

[Return To Page 1](#)

Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com



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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
8/20	50	80	0	NA	8/20	77	50	0	2,670 cfs
8/21	51	76	0	558 cfs	8/21	81	64	0	2,670 cfs
8/22	58	67	0	545 cfs	8/22	76	59	0	2,640 cfs
8/23	53	63	0.87	551 cfs	8/23	69	53	0.13	2,720 cfs
8/24	51	64	0	545 cfs	8/24	64	52	0.38	2,660 cfs
8/25	46	78	0	540 cfs	8/25	69	48	0.03	2,590 cfs
8/26	51	85	0	539 cfs	8/26	80	50	0	2,610 cfs

Friday 8/30		Saturday 8/31		Sunday 9/1	
McKenzie Valley Sunny 0% chance precip High: 94 Low: 56	Santiam Pass Sunny 0% chance precip High: 85 Low: 52	McKenzie Valley Mostly Sunny 0% chance precip High: 91 Low: 56	Santiam Pass Mostly Sunny 0% chance precip High: 84 Low: 53	McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy 10% chance precip High: 83 Low: 56	Santiam Pass Partly Cloudy 2% chance precip High: 76 Low: 47

Sheriff's Report

Aug. 17: 2:57 a.m: Prowler - 88200 blk, Millican Rd. Deputies responded to a reported prowler and located the subject. He requested medics, as the subject appeared to be confused and in medical distress. Medics confirmed this, and provided care. The deputy then transported him back to his residence.

Aug. 18: 10:27 a.m: Impersonating An Officer - 95200 blk, Marcola Rd. A black Dodge sedan drove up the homeowner's driveway at about 2:30 a.m. The homeowner flashed a light at the car, and the car flashed red and blue lights in response. The homeowner approached and spoke to a male driver, who was not in a uniform but stated he was a police officer and was going welfare checks due to the thunderstorm. He then left. This subject was not a deputy sheriff, and no other police agencies were known to be doing welfare checks in the area.

3:31 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 89100 blk, Old Mohawk Rd. A deputy responded to a report of a neighbor shooting on their property in the area and advised them of safe shooting practices.

Aug. 19: 5:23 p.m: Theft - Terwilliger Hot Springs. The victim had \$100 stolen from their shorts while at the springs. No suspect information.

Aug. 20: 11:03 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 94800 blk, Kelso Ln.

2:26 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.

2:41 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Cedar Flat Rd. & E. Cedar Flat Rd.

3:13 p.m: Suspicious Subject - Cedar Flat Rd. & E. Cedar Flat Rd. A female walking the road was reported due to concern about fires set in the area several weeks ago. A deputy had already contacted her and nothing suspicious was noted.

4:36 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Silver Creek Landing. Caller advised they were calling about a male field dressing a deer, who was behaving odd. A deputy patrolled and forwarded the information to Oregon State Police.

7:00 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Oak Point Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

Aug. 21: 3:02 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - McK. Hwy. Milepost 50. Information was relayed to LCSO that there was a male with a rifle walking. LCSO was advised the rifle was never pointed at anyone. Unable to locate.

1:29 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 41300 blk, McK. Hwy. Advised girlfriend's ex tried to punch him. They separated without further issue and both were contacted by LCSO. No arrest was made.

2:14 p.m: Harassment - 46100 blk, McK. Hwy. Family dispute between brothers. Unable to contact one half of the dispute at this time.

3:31 p.m: Criminal Trespass - 88100 blk, Millican Rd. Caller advised they found clothing that didn't belong to them and backdoor was open. Nothing stolen and believes it might be friend of family playing a joke.

4:06 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Lat: 44.358521. Long: -122.024475. Caller had some pictures of an area. Those pictures had location that is in Linn County. Linn County Sheriff's Office was advised for follow up.

5:01 p.m: Citizen Contact - 57600 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:04 p.m: Suspicious Subject - 91000 blk, Leashore Dr. Caller reported unknown male walking their property and eventually leaving towards neighbor's house. No contact made with unknown male.

Aug. 22: 12:01 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McGowan Creek Mp. 1.

2:26 p.m: Criminal Trespass - 90000 blk, Greenwood Dr. Caller

advised that a truck with a camper on it stopped on their property. Two subjects were in the vehicle and one subject attempted to open a door to the property. Caller said it was captured on a camera and they left the property.

1:11 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:39 p.m: Warrant Service - Marcola Rd. & Sunderman Rd.

Aug. 23: 1:26 a.m: Theft - 92200 blk, Marcola Rd.

10:00 a.m: Lost Property - Lat: 44.17. Long: -122.972.

2:52 p.m: Warrant Service - Blue River area.

10:38 p.m: Illegal Burn - McK. Hwy. & Ben & Kay Dorris Wayside.

10:52 p.m: Shots Fired - 89700 blk, Upper Johnson Creek Rd.

Aug. 24: 12:12 a.m: Motor [Continued On Page 9](#)

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Aug. 19: 18:12: McK. Hwy./Thurston Rd. Motor Vehicle Accident - Eugene/Springfield Fire Handled Patient Care, McK. Fire Traffic Control/Scene Safety.

Aug. 20: 3:21: 40000 block, York Ln. Medical, General. Assist.

4:11: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

8:25: 38000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

15:01: 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Aug. 21: 17:30: 51000 blk, Dexter St. Mutual Aid. [Continued On Page 9](#)

State Police Report

Aug. 23: 14:36: Crash, Injury - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 19. A silver Toyota pickup turned in front of a black Toyota SUV. The SUV had no time to react and struck the rear passenger corner of the truck. The two drivers were uninjured. The front passenger of the SUV was transported to Riverbend Hospital for complaint of pain.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Aug. 21: 11:06: Medical - Old McK. Hwy./Milepost 74. Male, Not Conscious & Is Breathing.

17:30: Medical- 51000 block, Dexter St. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Aug. 22: 02:32: Medical - 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

22:58: Medical - 56000 blk, N. Bank Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Aug. 24: 14:20: Illegal Burn - 51000 blk, McK. Hwy. Group of subjects is having a backyard burn. Flames looked to be about 6 feet tall.

19:40: Medical - 54000 blk, E. King Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing. [Continued On Page 9](#)

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It will talk to you!



Click on articles that begin with blue highlighted text - it will take you to our Audio Reader

Click here:
Listen to this article now
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00:00



LIVE ON AN ISLAND!

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* Workshop * Pellet stove with river rock surround *
Ductless heat * Guest suite potential * \$665,000

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Lynch mob kicked off Prineville vigilante rule

By Finn J.D. John

It was the Ides of March — March 15, 1882. A man named A.H. Crooks had filed a homestead claim on a piece of land near Prineville. He and his hired hand, Stephen Jory, were out on the land now, cutting blaze marks on trees along the property line.

Except, it wasn't actually the property line. The clerk in the county seat, way up in The Dalles, had made a mistake, and tried to give Crooks a big slice of the homestead next door, which was owned by a cantankerous fellow named Lucius Langdon. Crooks and Jory were actually on Langdon's property.

When Langdon figured out they were there, he came out to have a "git off my land" conversation with them. To help make his point, he brought along his Winchester.

There are several detailed accounts of this encounter, but none of them can be trusted, because nobody who was there lived long enough to tell the full story. All we know for sure is that a few noisy, smoky seconds later, Crooks and Jory were dead — and their killing marked the start of a two-year period of rule by masked gunmen and lynch mobs in Prineville that sounds, today, like the plot of a Louis L'Amour novel: The Rise of the Prineville Vigilantes.

"When a band of men went outside the law ... to revenge the killings, they also hanged an innocent man, and started a rule by gun and rope that is one of the blackest chapters in Oregon's history," local rancher and future sheriff James Blakely told a Morning Oregonian reporter, many years later.

Blakeley, by the way, was no unbiased observer of the Vigilante outbreak. He would, two years later, become the leader of the community group formed to oppose them — the Citizens Protective Union, a.k.a. "The Moonshiners." More on him — and them — shortly.

The killing of Crooks and Jory was like a cigarette in the gas tank — the explosion of violence it set off was way out of proportion to



Portland Morning Oregonian
Artist Ralph Lee's rendering of Lucius Langdon shooting neighbors A.H. Crooks and Stephen Jory on March 15, 1882 — the killing that touched off two years of D.I.Y. law enforcement in the Prineville area by the masked riders and lynch mobs who called themselves The Vigilantes.

it.

The real source of trouble was basically a simmering range war. Established ranchers in the Prineville area wanted to be able to use the public rangeland, but every year more "sodbusters" showed up to file homestead claims on it. It felt, to the ranchers, like something that was theirs by right was being stolen from them.

For example, Lucius Langdon obviously wasn't very welcoming to his new neighbor. But that wasn't entirely because of their boundary dispute. If it had been, one or the other would no doubt have gone to The Dalles and investigated, rather than escalating straight to death threats.

But before Crooks filed his claim, the land next to Langdon's place had been part of the public range, and he'd probably gotten used to running his stock on it. Now that someone lived there, he'd have to find new pasturage for the cattle and horses that he'd had grazing there. Many small-plot landowners, back then, depended on nearby public land to pasture large herds of stock, often more than could survive on their own property alone. So when a greenhorn showed up and claimed a choice piece, it could be a real source of trouble.

Also, for the established ranchers — cattlemen especially — stock theft was a huge problem. Cows and horses found running on the

public range were easy and fairly safe to steal, and if they didn't have a brand on their rump, it was finders-keepers. Even if they did have a brand, rustlers found it pretty easy to drive them off across a couple state lines and sell them someplace where the brand wasn't known, or hide them away for a couple years to let the brand scars heal. Plus, of course, hungry sodbusters sometimes stole cows off the range to eat.

Then, too, not all cows and horses that vanished from public-range pastures were rustled. Plenty more of them died of natural causes — falling down a mountain, getting eaten by bears, etc. Their owners, though, would naturally assume when they disappeared that they'd been stolen.

So, all the stock owners, especially the larger ones, were utterly convinced that they were being robbed blind all the time by sneaky gangs of thieves, some of whom were now "squatting" on federal land they thought should still be available for their use.

As it happened, the big cattle ranchers of the Ochoco Valley had been talking about doing something about this. Their leader was a ruthless, amoral Southerner named William "Bud" Thompson, who owned one of the larger cattle operations in the Hay Creek area.

Bud Thompson was one of those people that inspired the maxim that "only the good die young."

In 1934, as he passed peacefully away at the ripe age of 92 in his lovely home at Alturas, Calif., honored and revered by the whole community as a brave and noble pioneer, Thompson could look back on a life peppered with chaos, violence and murder. Oregon history buffs will remember him as the belligerent Roseburg newspaper editor who started a gunfight with a rival newspaper's owners, which he barely survived, in 1871.

By the time he came to Prineville, a decade later, Thompson had

made quite a bit of money and had friends in high places back in Salem. He was an all-in Democrat of the touchy old Southern type. Like an old antebellum Southerner, he called himself "Colonel" and carried a heavy walking cane, which he at least once used (a la Sen. Preston Brooks) to punish a rival newspaper owner who was mean to him in print.

New homesteaders quickly learned to fear "Colonel" Thompson, and with good reason. His combination of friends in high places and high social standing, not to mention his violent temperament, made him a fearsome person. But more and more he was starting to fear them — to fear that they would hem him in with their little land claims and maybe even get together and take away his power.

Lucius Langdon was one of a few established locals that actively disliked Bud Thompson, and the feeling was very mutual. So when Langdon got himself into trouble over this double-murder, Thompson basically used it to galvanize the movement that became the Prineville Vigilantes.

Now, before we continue, I have to talk about the quality of sources for this story. They are terrible. There are quite a few from different secondary sources — newspaper writers, Wild West pulp mags, etc. But basically all of these are based on just two sources: A brazen, mendacious memoir written by Bud Thompson in his golden years which reads in places like a Vigilante manifesto; and a detailed eyewitness account by James Blakeley, the former sheriff and head of the anti-Vigilante movement, given several times to different newspaper reporters over the years. It's chiefly from these two men that we have the story of the Vigilantes, and their stories, as you can imagine, diverge wildly in places.

According to Blakely's account, he (Blakely) was in town with Langdon's hired hand, W.H. Harrison, when he heard the news that Langdon had gunned down Crooks and Jory. Both Blakeley and Harrison hurried to join a posse that was coming together to go out to Langdon's ranch and bring him in. Another posse went to Langdon's brother's place, in case he'd gone there, but the killer was found at his own ranch and arrested.

Colonel Thompson's account is a bit different. In it, he says Harrison, the hired hand, wasn't with Blakely and didn't ride with the posse; instead, he was hiding out with Langdon at the brother's place.

Thompson also claims that they found 10 men who were completely unknown to them in [Vigilante rule - Page 10](#)



By Slim Randles

Four years ago now. Yep, four years ago we lost Max Evans. I sure did, anyway. That old cowboy, artist, writer, bar brawler and two-fisted philosopher meant a lot to a lot of people and not just his wife, Pat, and their twin daughters.

I met Max one day about 40 years ago. I was working for the Albuquerque Journal as a columnist at the time, and another columnist there, Jim Belshaw, came up to me in the newsroom one morning and said, "We're having lunch with Max Evans today at noon. Don't plan anything else for the rest of the day."

I thought he was kidding. Lunch lasted through closing time in several establishments, and by closing time, I mean well, you know.

On my way home that night, I sat remembering some of those stories of his and one thing occurred to me: the hardest thing to do in the world would be to write a boring biography of Max Evans.

So many years later, after countless lunch interviews and little expeditions here and there with Max, I finished his biography, "Ol' Max Evans, the First Thousand Years." It isn't boring.

Max had grown up in a small town in Texas called Ropes. I visited the town once and saw where his grandfather's store had been and saw the house he grew up in and was told his little brother is still buried in the backyard in an unmarked grave.

Nothing evil, just another issue people in those days of covered wagons, cattle drives and wind had to face. They were tough people and it was a tough life.

Max fit right in.

He went from cowboying to painting pictures to writing some of the best literature about life in the West that's ever been seen. He was tough. Hitler tried to kill him on D Day plus one when Max was "blown up" by one of Adolf's railroad guns. Max survived. It killed everyone else in the outfit.

But survive? Oh yes. He had an inner-ear balance problem because of it for the rest of his life. Right up until two days before his 96th birthday. That was right in the middle of the pandemic, so we couldn't even gather for a farewell lunch or sacred words, or to have one of us bring a bottle of something.

To sum up what this old cowboy curmudgeon with an honorary doctorate in literature meant to me ... he was another member of my family. After three years working on his bio, I was wrapping it up and finally about to write the darn thing..

"So Max," said I, "do you have any advice for beginning writers?"

He looked across the table at me without any sign of a smile.

"Slim," he said, "never hit a critic."

"Ol' Max Evans: The First Thousand Years" is available from the University of New Mexico Press. UNMpress.com.

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Figs grow fine in Western Oregon



Judy Scott

Figs grow fine in the long corridor of Western Oregon, where the climate offers not-too-cold winters and hot-enough summers.

Though they look tropical and taste exotic, figs grow fine in the long corridor of Western Oregon, where the climate offers not-too-cold winters and hot enough summers.

The cooler summers of the coast and colder winter temperatures east of the Cascades are a different story, though. The weather in those areas is not conducive to growing the love-it or leave-it fruit.

Not all varieties of figs thrive, however. Of 100 or more cultivars, Cody Copp, Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist, recommends three figs: 'White Kadota,' 'Desert King' and 'Lattarula,' which he prefers for fresh eating. All have yellowish-green skin and amber flesh. They are sufficiently cold hardy, ripen nicely, and may produce two harvests.

Except for pruning, which can be tricky for beginners, the plants are pretty bulletproof, according

to Copp. Plant them in quick-draining soil in the hottest spot in the garden and you've done your duty.

When it comes time to plant - fall is optimal - choose a south-facing aspect where the sun shines all or most of the day. The soil should be loose enough to drain well. Adding organic material will help with that. Make sure the pH is neutral; shoot for 6.5 to 7. Adding lime to the soil will bring Western Oregon's typically acidic-leaning soil up to the correct level, Copp said.

Planting is no different than other trees. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and the same depth as it is in the pot. Work some compost into the hole, place the plant, and backfill with soil. Water well and you're good to go. Rather than using commercial fertilizer, top dress the soil around the tree with compost once a year. Avoid fertilizing in summer.

Don't expect fruit for the first few seasons.

As far as watering, less is more. Once roots are well established, an inch of water every couple of weeks is sufficient.

To add more fig trees to your collection, propagating by cuttings is an easy task. In winter when the plant is dormant, clip off a piece about 8 to 10 inches long. Cut below a node and at the tip of the stem. Stick the piece in a pot of potting mix and leave it through spring. At that point, the small plant can go in the ground, but keeping it in a pot for a year is not a bad idea.

Copp doesn't recommend growing figs in pots for the long term. They are vigorous plants that need room for sustainable root growth. If you have a small space to garden and a container is the only choice, start with a pot that will accommodate several years of growth and then transplant to a larger one. A 7-gallon container should be sufficient for three to four years; a 15-gallon for seven to eight. Once the pot fills with roots, growth will become weaker, and he suggests pulling the plant out and pruning the roots severely. The top will have to be pruned significantly, also.

Make sure the pot has good drainage holes and use a soilless potting mix. Don't overwater. Check by sticking a finger into the soil. If it's dry an inch below the surface, it's time to water. Feed with a thick layer of well-rotted manure on top of the soil, a foliar fertilizer once a month or a balanced (5-5-5) fertilizer in early spring and late spring.

Though not as complicated to prune as other fruit trees, it takes some practice to learn the art of pruning fig trees. First, Copp strongly suggests growing your fig as a multi-trunked plant. The plant's natural tendency is to branch, so why fight it?

To get going on pruning, follow Copp's tips:

* Prune in January or February by opening up the interior of the tree and reducing its height. Start by standing back and studying the tree to see where you want to cut. To open up the interior, concentrate on taking out old wood, including a few large limbs. Leave about a third to a half of the 1-year growth because that is what produces fruit. It's easy to tell the difference: The 1-year growth is green and smooth. Mature wood is gray. Also, the 1-year wood will have developing fruit on the tips of new growth that look like tiny

Continued On Page 9



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



SQUASH - AN AUTUMN FOOD

The chill of fall is in the air some evenings and the days are more comfortable. Although we have summer squash and zucchini throughout the summer, the winter squash, in its many shapes and varieties, makes a hit in the fall. This hard tough covered vegetable will save into the winter when stored in a dark, dry place. In days ago, our ancestors saved it, along with other hearty vegetables in a "root cellar"...an underground storage.

The root cellar was a dug out portion of ground, often containing a framed door, possibly framing inside - a sort of cave.

Storage in the root cellar kept fruit and vegetables from freezing and provided food throughout the winter. If the house had a cellar and it was cold enough, food often was stored there, as it was in the old farmhouse where I grew up.

Squash Appeal

Squash appealed in days ago because it kept well through the winter (if stored properly) and could be prepared in a variety of ways, thus adding variation to the menu, in days when there weren't so many different foods as today.

This vegetable comes in many types. Among them are: Hubbard, acorn (the traditional dark green), white acorn, gold acorn, table ace, butternut, bush, sugar loaf, buttercup, sugar, and turban.

Recipes

As mentioned, you can prepare squash in a great variety of ways: soup, casseroles, desserts, and breads.

MASHED SQUASH - Simply cooked (boiled or baked), scooped out and mashed, served with butter and a dash of cinnamon, makes an easy to prepare vegetable dish.

SQUASH PIE - Substitute cooked, mashed winter squash for

the pumpkin in a recipe. It's tasty. I usually can't tell the difference, but some people claim they can.

BAKED ACORN SQUASH with APPLE FILLING - Wash 2 acorn squash, cut into halves lengthwise; scoop out the seeds and fiber. Place in a baking pan with the cut side down. Add 1/2 inch boiling water. Bake at 400 degrees F. for about 20 minutes.

Using 3 tart apples, peel, core and dice them. Mix with 1/4 cup melted butter and 1/8 cup maple syrup or honey.

Take squash from oven, and turn cut side up. Brush with melted butter. Fill squash with apple mixture. Cover the pan with foil, and then continue baking at 400 degrees F. for 30 minutes, or until the apples and squash are tender.

ACORN SQUASH VARIATION - Many people serve the squash plain. Turn them right side up and sprinkle with cinnamon, possibly a little sugar, and a dab of butter. Finish baking until tender. You also can substitute maple syrup or honey for the sugar.

MORE VARIATIONS - Some cooks make bread stuffing, like that used for turkey, chicken or pork and fill the squash with it instead of apples. You also can add cranberries to the apples (recipe above) or to the bread stuffing. In the South, cooks might use cornbread stuffing.

(2024) Mary Emma Allen

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

Quote of the Week

"Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut thinking they're sexy."

Anonymous

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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.

Library Volunteer Drive

With the upcoming Grand Opening of the new O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, more volunteers are needed to help offer extended hours and more services to the community. Go to obrienlibrary.org for more information.

August 30

Yoga in Leaburg

Yoga in Leaburg meets from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, every Friday.

August 30

Classic Car Show

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

August 31

A Dime At A Time

The Bottle Boys are busy from 10 a.m. to noon at the Leaburg Store, 42840 McKenzie Hwy. for Saturday morning sorting sessions. Donations can be dropped off at the Leaburg Store and maybe help us bag up the containers! Funds from plastic, glass, and aluminum containers go toward the rebuilding of the O'Brien Memorial Library in Blue River, McKenzie River Clinic, and the Vida McKenzie Community Center - all destroyed in the Holiday Farm fire.

August 31

BINGO at 1966

Join us for bingo this Saturday, at 1966 Bar & Grill, Tokatee Golf

Club. Bingo will start at 6 pm! So feel free to come early for food and drink. Four rounds of bingo, \$5/3 cards, and you can buy as many cards as you'd like.

August 31

Beach Party

Say Goodbye to Summer with yummy food specials like Teriyaki Pineapple Burger, Loco Moco Dinner, and, of course, Mac Salad. There will be a Hawaiian T-shirt contest, so show up in your best garb to win a gift card and a prize, 7:30 p.m. at Craig's Lucky Logger, 39297 McKenzie Hwy in Waltherville.

September 2

River Celebration

The 4th Annual McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals Celebration will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Labor Day at the Aaron and Marie Jones/McKenzie Community Track, 51326 Blue River Drive, ½ mile west of Blue River. • Free BBQ • Beer & wine garden • Live music • Games for all ages and kids zone • Art vendors and more *P.R.E.P. Go Bags for kids from 1-3 pm. Please bring canned food donations for the Food Pantry and bottles and cans for the Blue River Bottle Boys. (No dogs allowed at the track)

September 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.

September 3

Family Story Time

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

adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship!

September 3

EWEB Board Meeting

The Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners will meet from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene. Customers and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend in person or watch a live stream of the meeting in real-time. An interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. To arrange for this service, call 541-685-7000. Each person will have up to three minutes to speak, though the Board President may adjust speaking time as needed.

September 3

Grange Meeting

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.

September 4

BR Water Board

The Blue River Water Board will meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the administration building on the McKenzie Schools campus. A link to the virtual meeting is available at: blueriverwaterdistrict.com

September 4

BR Park Board

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

September 4

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.

September 6

Yoga in Leaburg

Yoga in Leaburg meets from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy, every Friday.

September 6-7

Hoodoo Music Festival

Bigstock will be back at the Hoodoo Ski Area Sept. 6-7 for a two-day benefit concert featuring Greensky Bluegrass, Margo Price, Oteil & Friends ft. Melvin Seals, Steve Kimock, Jason Crosby, Johnny Kimock, Tom Guarna and Lamar Williams, Jr. Tickets and more info are available at bigstockfundraiser.org. Bigstock Fundraiser is a domestic nonprofit corporation to bring people together to raise money through music for other non-profits around the Pacific Northwest. Benefactors from this two-day event are Oregon Adaptive Sports and Cascadia Wildlands.

September 7

Waltherville Waddle

Waltherville Waddle, from 9 to 11 a.m. Everyone can Waddle! Past participants have ranged in age from 3 to 90, and we all go at our own pace... We have waddlers, walkers, and runners! Scenic 5 K (3.1 mile) course. Participate, then enjoy the exhibits, vendors, and delicious BBQ chicken at the Waltherville Community Fair. Register online at electricedgeracing.com or call/text 541-968-1047 for more information.

September 7

Waltherville Fair

The Waltherville Grange, 39259 Camp Creek Rd, is hosting the 72nd annual Waltherville Community Fair on September 7, starting at 9 in the morning and going until 4 p.m. Bring your entries of canning, baking, flowers, fruits and vegetables, antiques, arts, and textiles/handicrafts from 7 to 9 AM. Judging starts at 9:30 AM. Scheduled events will be the Waltherville Waddle 5K run/walk starting at 9 AM this year. Sign up online. Just search for Waltherville Waddle 5K. Registration is \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for youth (add \$15 if you want a Waddle T-shirt). Sign up before August 22 to be guaranteed a T-shirt. You can also sign up on the

September 7

Potluck & Speaker

Potluck & Speaker from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr in Rainbow. Potluck followed by a talk from David Lewis about his book "Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley."

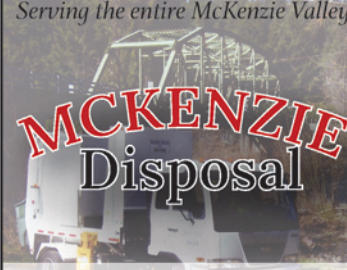
The Willamette Valley is rich with history—its riverbanks, forests, and mountains home to the tribes of Kalapuya, Chinook, Molalla, and more for thousands of years. This history has been largely unrecorded, incomplete, poorly researched, or partially told. In these stories, enriched by photographs and maps, Oregon Indigenous historian David G. Lewis combines years of researching historical documents and collecting oral stories, highlighting Native perspectives about the history of the Willamette Valley as they experienced it. Doors open at 5:30 pm. The Potluck Dinner starts at 6 pm. The speaker begins at 6:30pm.

September 8

"Around the World"

A special presentation, "Around the world in 80 minutes with Scot Haugen" was set for 3 to 5 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida. Ready for astounding stories by an author, and nature photographer with near-death experiences on land, sea, and air? Hear them from the man himself. Don't miss this family-friendly event. Refreshments will be served - and attendance is "pay what you wish" with proceeds supporting the Community Center. Questions: Gerry Aster 541 896-3001 vidacommunitycenter.org

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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

One-sided



Sir Manuel

I am divorced with two grown daughters in their 20s. Both my ex and I are remarried. He lives in a distant city. Both daughters are married, and one has two boys and the other one boy. My problem is the lack of interest my ex-husband shows in his daughters.

My youngest daughter is getting her master's degree and invited her dad to come to her graduation. Also, she bought a new house two years ago and has a little boy, neither of which he has seen. Her invitation to the graduation was greeted with enthusiasm, and she thought he was coming. She also told the news to people at work and family members.

She's been buffing up the house and getting a guest room ready for his stay. Well, lo and behold,

he's not going to come. He gave some lame excuse about tickets for something or other, and he couldn't give them away so he had to use them. Sorry, he said, you know you come first, but these tickets are hard to come by. Yada, yada, yada.

My daughter told me last night. I showed no sign of anger or disappointment, nor did I rank on him. But I'm mad. She says no big deal, but I know how hurt she is and it hurts me when my kids hurt. Both daughters are so nice they would never confront him on any issue. I don't want to butt in where I shouldn't, but when I see my kids hurt, I want to do something.

Do I have the right to interfere and call or write my ex and tell him exactly what he has done? Or do I keep my mouth shut, and let relationship issues between father and daughters be dealt with by them?

Delia

Delia, you cannot make him be the man he isn't. If that could be done, everyone could just write a letter or make a phone call, and everything on the planet would be fixed. He is taking advantage of your daughters because they are nice, but if they weren't nice,

would they be your daughters?

You've experienced who he is. A divorce didn't change him. Your daughters are going to have to come to terms with this on their own. There are children whose parents die when they are young. Some children are abused by their parents. Some children are ignored by their parents.

Each child deals with that individually. Perhaps 20 years from now he may suddenly decide he needs a relationship with his daughters. And they may accept, or reject, him based on their past dealings with him.

This is not a matter for you to get involved with. He is no longer your husband. Your daughter is trying to "win" her dad, a man who rejects her. She may always try to do that, and she may take for granted the person who has been there by her side all along. Best to take a neutral stance here and do nothing.

Wayne & Tamara

Around The Block

I'm 21 and for the past seven months, I've been with my girlfriend, 20. I am the first person she's slept with. Although she is the first girl I've been in a relationship with, she is not the first lady I slept with. Before her, I had a series of one-night stands with five other women. In the beginning, she was perfectly all right with that.

Lately, we've been fighting, and

she finds me disgusting, dirty, and cheap for having slept with other women. The last analogy before kicking me out was I am a used car, a cheap Yugo, while she is a brand-new Ferrari.

Burt

Burt, she was a brand-new Ferrari. Not anymore. Now you're both "pre-owned." When it's love,

Bright Bloom

By Helene Achanzar

I wish I had hiked the frozen hill tonight for reception, called to tell you I had a good time

hearing the two Somali cab drivers laughing near an avalanche of on-sale oranges.

I played a prince in absolute awe as the orchestra soared. I wish I had braved

the snow to say, I ain't want nothing but got the world.

How I'll whisper about the one wasp

who lived with me here through all of October, that snowy owl in the nettles so close inland

in November, the night, its lick of moon. Tell me again what your home looks like: wet grapefruit pulp,

pomegranate juices running over fingers as the fruit is split, every dirt smudge

on the cream carpet. The morning sunlight dancing

history doesn't matter. When it's not, history does.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara are the authors of *Cheating in a Nutshell* and *The Young Woman's Guide to Older Men*—available from Amazon, iTunes, and booksellers everywhere.

off shards of glass, knocking perfume bottles

and photographs, light emptying into itself like a sun at the center of a sun. This life of little regret

with no sad trombones. I imagine a new year caked with your grin, your unflagging belief

in the bright bloom, the point just before liberation.

The road will end one day, but on all other days,

it does not. Think, my love, of all the stars

where better versions are breathing.

Helene Achanzar (she/her) is a poet and editor whose writing has been published in *The Georgia Review*, *Sixth Finch*, *Best New Poets*, and elsewhere. Winner of the 2022 *New England Review Award for Emerging Writers*, her work has also been supported by *Bread Loaf* and the *Chicago Architecture Biennial*. She is a senior editor for *Poetry Northwest*, a regional chair for *Kundiman*, and the director of programs at the *Chicago Poetry Center*.

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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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Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

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CROSSWORD

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- manufacturer
 42. Grasp
 43. Elbow room, to a ship (2 words)
 45. Teenagers' emotions
 47. Belly
 48. East Indian pepper
 50. Buzzing pest
 52. *Prairie crisis (2 words)
 55. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
 56. "If all ____ fails..."
 57. Solomon-like
 59. Boatload
 60. Lab gel
 61. Enthusiasm
 62. Finale
 63. Grazing land
 64. Blood vessel network


- DOWN**
 1. Blue Angel
 2. In a frenzy
 3. Calf-length skirt
 4. Ford option
 5. Two-footed mortar support
 6. Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
 7. *Al Capone's Chicago Outfit, e.g.
 8. Mend, healthwise
 9. Small island
 10. Doctor Dolittle, e.g.
 12. *Shenyang (China) in 1931
 13. O in B.O., pl.
 14. *Cole Porter's "Begin the ____"

19. Dashboard windows
 22. Accounting title
 23. Oxfords and loafers
 24. 9 a.m. prayer
 25. *George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess"
 26. Discharge
 27. Ding-a-____, pl.
 28. Eightsome
 29. Egg holders
 32. Big-ticket ____
 33. Tank filler
 36. *a.k.a. The Little Rascals (2 words)
 38. Brightest star in Cygnus
 40. 1990s negotiation
 41. Second of two
 44. Beat the Joneses
 46. Angry stare
 48. Battle of the ____, a.k.a. Ardennes Offensive
 49. Test format
 50. *Bureau of Investigation agent, to "Machine Gun" Kelly
 51. Smart but awkward one
 52. *FDR's New ____
 53. ____ E. Coyote
 54. Law school test acronym
 55. Expert
 58. Compass point between NE and E


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

Click here or go to:
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Events from Aug 29th




Call for Volunteers
 We are seeking volunteers for various projects. Contact us at 503-533-1234.




The Aug 29th 5:00pm - 5:30pm
McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Board meeting




The Aug 29th 5:00pm - 5:30pm
McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group




The Aug 29th 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Leaburg GMVFS Radio Preparedness




Volunteer Drive
 With our upcoming Grand Opening of the new Store in Blue River, we need more volunteers to see our offer extended hours and more.



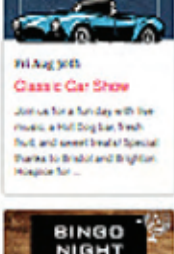
The Aug 29th 6:00pm - The Oct 31st 9:00am
Volunteer Drive




The Aug 29th 6:00pm - 9:30pm
Dive-in Movies at Splash



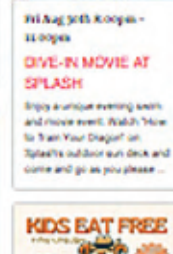
Nat Aug 31st 6:30pm - 12:00pm
A Dinner At A Time




Wt Aug 29th
Classic Car Show




Wt Aug 29th 8:30am - 9:30am
Yoga in Leaburg




Wt Aug 29th 8:30pm - 11:00pm
DIVE-IN MOVIE AT SPLASH




Nat Aug 31st 10:00am - 4:00pm
Kids eat free!



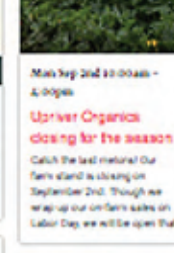
Nat Aug 31st 5:00pm - 7:00pm
BINGO




Nat Aug 31st 7:00pm
End of Summer BEACH PARTY



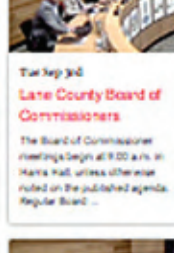
The Sep 3rd 10:00am - 11:00am
Family Story Time



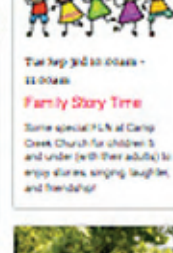
The Sep 3rd 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Eugene Water & Electric Board Commissioners meeting



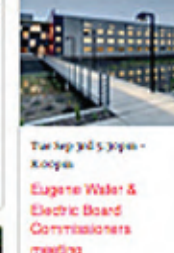
Mon Sep 2nd 5:00pm - 8:00pm
McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals Celebration




The Sep 3rd
Lane County Board of Commissioners




Wd Sep 25th 9:00am - 11:30am
Watershed Wednesday




Wd Sep 25th 5:00pm - 8:30pm
Upper McKenzie Corralles League




The Sep 3rd 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Wakerville Grange #415 meeting



Wd Sep 25th 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Blue River Water Board



Wd Sep 25th 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Wacky Wednesdays Bingo



The Sep 25th 5:00pm - 5:30pm
McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group

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- ACROSS**
 1. Doorframe part
 5. *The Swing Era or ____ Band Era
 8. T-cell killer, acr.
 11. Arabian chieftain
 12. Actress Sorvino
 13. Excessively fat
 15. Chore list
 16. Second word in fairy-tale?
 17. Doled out cards
 18. *1933 movie monster (2 words)

20. Eyeball
 21. Golf aid
 22. French vineyard
 23. *Larry or Curly or Moe
 26. Between delta and zeta
 30. ____ B vaccine
 31. Cipherring machine
 34. Kind
 35. Black and white cookies
 37. ____ chi
 38. Fender bender consequences
 39. Light beige
 40. *First white chocolate

Solution on Page 9

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Vigilante rule

Continued From Page 1

Langdon's brother's house. In this obviously fabricated yarn, these 10 armed men are not arrested and nothing is ever heard from them again, as if they were minor characters in a Western pulp-magazine story. It's almost certain that Thompson made them up in order to claim the Langdons were the leaders of a gang of outlaws (a gang conveniently made up entirely of strangers from out of town) and to justify what was about to happen to Harrison, the hired hand ... more on that in a minute.

In any case, the posse brought Langdon back under arrest, with Harrison riding with them as a posse member. Langdon was entrusted to Deputy Sheriff John Luckey, and everyone went to bed.

Very early the next morning, though, as Deputy Luckey was sitting by the stove, the Vigilantes made their first move.

"The door was suddenly opened and I was caught and thrown backward on the floor and firmly held, while my eyes were blinded and immediately a pistol was fired rapidly 5 or 6 times. I heard someone groan about the time the firing ceased," Deputy Luckey wrote in a subsequent report to his boss. "I went to Langdon and found him dead. I looked around and a masked man stood at each door, warning by ominous signs for no one to undertake to leave the room."

The Vigilantes then grabbed Harrison — it's not clear whether he was in the room with Langdon when the masked riders burst in, or whether he came later, attracted by the activity. Ignoring his panic-stricken pleas, the masked men put a rope around his neck and used a horse to drag him through the streets of Prineville to the bridge, where they strung his by-now-lifeless body from a banister.

Harrison, of course, was a posse member, and had been in town when Crooks and Jory were killed. But as Langdon's hired hand, his name had been mentioned on the charging paperwork as a possible accomplice, and that was apparently good enough for the Vigilantes.

The next day, the men who'd participated in this double murder met with the top Prineville pillars of the community and formed an organization called the Ochoco Livestock Association. They voted Elisha Barnes, Prineville's first mayor, as president, and promptly proclaimed no one was allowed to ride the range without a permit



Alturas Plaindealer
William "Bud" Thompson as he appeared at around age 30, some five years before the Vigilante outbreak in Prineville.

from them.

It was the beginning of the Vigilantes' reign of their own special kind of law and order in Prineville country — enforced by masked riders with drawn guns and ready ropes.

"The 'Vigilantes' who banded together that night to shoot Langdon and lynch the innocent Harrison stuck together for two years, getting bolder and bolder," Blakely told the Oregonian.

The group took to sending death threats, with skull-and-crossbones emblems, to various people around town — some of whom, certainly, were rustlers and criminals, but others of whom were simply fellow ranchers opposed to their methods.

Colonel Thompson claims the escalation in Vigilante activity was in response to a bold increase in crime, apparently by the unknown gang of 10 outlaws first encountered in Langdon's brother's house. In truth, though, the only increase in crime was going to come from the Vigilantes. By 1884 Prineville was literally the murder capital of the state of Oregon.

Historian David Braly, who has done more than anyone else (present company included) to get to the truth of this story, thinks the rise of the Vigilantes was the result of an unusual combination of circumstances.

"First, the organization's bosses were already the social and financial leaders of the region," he writes. "Second, some members were willing to shed blood without much hesitation. Third, they became the local government, thanks to their roles in the community and because of Thompson's influence at Salem."

That third point is an interesting one. Local residents had been

very frustrated by the low quality of law enforcement in the Prineville area (part of that was surely down to the uselessness of Deputy Luckey) and had just finished up a successful push to split South Wasco County off into a new county, to be called Crook County.

When the split happened, about six months after the murders of Crooks, Jory, Langdon and Harrison, Oregon Governor Zenas Moody appointed all the government officials for the new county, with the understanding that they would serve until the next regularly scheduled election in 1884.

In making his appointments, Moody relied on advice from a friend who happened to live in the Prineville area ... a friend named Bud Thompson.

As a result, Vigilantes were installed in every single county government position. Moreover, although everyone in Prineville knew the lynching of Harrison had been a terrible mistake, nobody really cared about Langdon — he was a murderer, after all — and they figured that given that the alternative was the same anarchy and chaos they'd been experiencing, it was fair and probably smart to offer a "mulligan" to the folks who'd stepped up to bring some order to their lawless community.

They'd come to regret that later. "No one, including the Vigilantes themselves, could have predicted how ruthless the group would become," Braly writes, "or that some members would use the organization as a cover to settle scores."

***We'll talk about all that in Part Two of this story, next week.

(Sources: Crooked River Country, a book by David Braly published in 2007 by WSU Press; "When the Juniper Trees Bore Fruit," an article by Herbert Lundy published in the March 12, 1939, issue of the Portland Morning Oregonian; Reminiscences of a Pioneer, a book by William Thompson published in 1912 by the Alturas Plaindealer)

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.

[Return To Page 4](#)

State Police Fish & Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division has named Mihnea Moga as Prosecutor of the Year for 2023. The Oregon Hunters Association provided a framed wildlife print during a ceremony at the Oregon District Attorney Association Summer Conference in Seaside earlier this month.

Moga, former Deputy District Attorney (DDA) for Columbia County, graduated from Willamette University College of Law, and has a long-standing dedication to Oregon's natural resources. Moga included classes on wildlife conservation in his studies and learned everything he could about how to follow unconventional evidence to prosecute poaching cases.

"I appreciate and would do anything to preserve Oregon's natural resources," DDA Moga said, "Seeing people who don't follow the law infuriates me. With all the people who go through the process and get the permits to do it, why should those that don't follow those regulations not be punished for it? Ethical hunters are enraged when they find people who break laws."

In one notable case, Moga prosecuted three men who poached five sturgeon in Scappoose Bay in 2022. Two teenagers became local heroes after they called the Turn In Poachers TIP Line to report men in a boat catching and keeping sturgeon in the popular waterway.

After several days of surveillance, OSP F&W Sr. Trooper Justin Morgan and Trooper Scott Bernardi approached the men who were moored at the dock. Several ropes tied to the dock went underwater, and when the Troopers lifted the ropes, they found four large sturgeon, including a female more than seven feet long and likely about 80 years old. They found a five-foot long sturgeon in the boat.

All of the fish were still alive and released back into the bay. The teenaged boys, who were bank fishing when they witnessed the crime, received accolades and a cash reward from the Oregon Hunters Association for their quick thinking and courage.

The case reached Columbia County courts in 2023. Moga secured penalties including 20 days in jail for the primary offender, a combined \$6,750 in fines and restitution for all three men, forfeiture of equipment, probation and community service. All three lost their fishing rights for three years.

The case brings attention to ongoing plights of fish and wildlife, and the efforts of those charged with maintaining them. Prosecuting fish and wildlife crimes is difficult, according to ODFW Director, Debbie Colbert.

"It requires specific evidence collection, persistence, and awareness of nuances of these crimes,"



Deputy District Attorney Mihnea Moga, pictured, was named Prosecutor of the Year by OSP F&W Division for his work prosecuting crimes in Columbia County. Moga is currently a DDA in Multnomah County.

she said, "This award is not easily won, and we thank DDA Moga for his dedication to protecting Oregon's fish and wildlife for future generations."

Now a DDA for Multnomah County, Moga is proud of the cooperation and teamwork he establishes with Troopers. He credits those relationships as key to successfully prosecuting poaching crimes.

"They are knowledgeable, helpful, and after working with them I have nothing but high praise for every trooper who investigates this kind of crime."

DDA Moga receives high praise from OSP F&W Division members and others in law enforcement who described him as dedicated to natural resource protection and valuable to furthering the Fish & Wildlife Division mission. He goes above and beyond in his dedication to natural resource prosecution by being readily available to the field force.

Sergeant Joe Warwick, based at the Astoria/Warrenton command center, describes Moga as, "One of the best prosecuting attorneys I've had the pleasure of working with in my 15 years as a member of the Fish and Wildlife Division."

The Protect Oregon's Wildlife-Turn In Poachers Campaign educates the public on how to recognize and report poaching. This campaign is a collaboration among state agencies, sportsmen and other conservationists, landowners, and recreationists to engage the public in combatting Oregon's poaching problem. Our goal is to: Incentivize reporting on wildlife crimes through the TIP Line; Strengthen enforcement by increasing the number of OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers; and Support prosecution in becoming an effective deterrent. The campaign helps to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

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2012 NNA Community Newspaper Readership Survey

VMCC's Social Model Senior Center (Help us find a better name!)

On August 29th, fifteen residents gathered at Vida McKenzie Community Center to enjoy lunch and to help flesh out the vision for an exciting new program.

Gerry Aster explained that the purpose of Vida McKenzie Community Center's Senior Center "is to provide meaningful, participant-driven activity (including a nutritious lunch) on a regular basis for McKenzie Valley residents who are 60 years of age or older."

Topics included a Technology Hour to help participants solve problems related to electronic devices, Tai Chi Classes (either in-person instruction or via video), Functional Exercise Classes, Senior Safety Classes including personal, digital, driving safety; Cooking/Meal Sharing (perhaps paring the meal with a lecture regarding a specific region of the world). Other suggestions ranged from Movies, Board Games, Life Stories presented by local residents or professional speakers who are prepared to share their career experiences in a story format to Writing Classes which might include memoir classes or "nuts and bolts" fiction/non-fiction writing classes from a local, professional writer, Travel Talks to learn about places near and far from people willing to share where they have lived or visited, and a Speaker Series including local firefighters, healthcare workers, sheriff, experts in local flora and fauna, etc.

Gerry mentioned there is currently only volunteer staffing available for this program but hopefully there will be a combi-



Gerry Aster, left, and Daisy Cruz.

nation of volunteer and part-time paid staff in the future. Funding for the program will be through participant fees, sponsorships, and grants.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Daisy Cruz of Orchid Clinic gave a short presentation regarding her role as community liaison, including the many ways she must "think out of the box" to help clinic clients.

This new program is due to launch before the end of the year. If VMCC's Senior Center program is of interest to you, please share your thoughts with Gerry Aster by phone (541-896-3001) or email (gerryaster@gmail.com) and please help us find a name for the Senior Center. A prize will be given to the person whose idea is chosen.

Wildfire study detects more mercury in streams

By Mia Maldonado
Oregon Capital Chronicle
A new study from the U.S.

Geological Survey looked at how wildfires impact mercury concentrations in headwater streams in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey found wildfires are increasing mercury concentrations in Pacific Northwest headwater streams.

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found in rocks and soil. But under the right conditions, it can be converted into methylmercury, a highly toxic form that accumulates in organisms such as fish and humans, said Boise-based USGS research hydrologist Austin Baldwin, who led the study.

Baldwin said the purpose of the study was to fill the gaps of previous studies.

"A lot of the studies of the effects of wildfires on mercury previously focused on maybe one specific watershed, or have looked at the effects in a downstream lake or reservoir, but there hasn't been a lot of work done on headwater streams," he told the Idaho Capital Sun.

In the new study, which was published last month, Baldwin and his team of researchers sampled soils, water, sediment, in-stream leaf litter, streambed algae and aquatic invertebrates in 36 headwater-stream watersheds in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

They sampled the sites between 2021 and 2022 — one year after they had been burned by wildfire. They also collected samples from

21 similar but unburned watersheds to compare mercury concentrations.

The amount of total mercury and methylmercury in water particles was 89% and 178% higher in the areas affected by fires.

So why is this a cause for concern? Collin Eagles-Smith, a USGS research ecologist, said the concentrations in the study are from headwater streams, which are at the top of watersheds.

"In general, the mercury is really low in those systems," he said. "What we saw in vertebrates and streams weren't terribly high concentrations, but they did increase with fire. In those environments, I don't know that mercury poses a direct exposure threat to humans or wildlife or food webs."

However, the concern is more mercury being carried downstream.

"If that mercury is made more mobile and transports downstream, it could end up in reservoirs or larger rivers where there are predatory fish, top predators that humans would catch and consume," he said. "In those scenarios, there could be an increase in risk of exposure if that work is transported downstream to those other types of environments."

Surprising results, and why burn severity matters

Eagles-Smith, who sampled locations in the Oregon Cascades, said some of the results of the study were surprising.

"When there's a wildfire, the soils get really hot, and we know that the organic matter is burned

and vaporizes," he said. "The question was — does all that mercury just volatilize and end up in the atmosphere, or is some of it left behind? And if it's left behind, is it more mobile to be moved downstream?"

Eagles-Smith said the team was "a little surprised" to see that the concentrations were elevated in the water after the fire.

The study also found that concentrations of mercury increased with the severity of the fire.

Baldwin and his team sampled several locations in Idaho, including where the Buck Fire near Yellow Pine and the Grouse Fire near Featherville took place in 2020. They also collected samples from the sites of the 2021 Woodhead Fire near Council and the 2021 Snake River Complex Fire, south of Lewiston.

Because of climate change, there are more frequent and more severe wildfires, Baldwin said. But solutions exist.

"This practice of prescribed burns that has a lot of other benefits as well, might actually help keep mercury concentrations bound," Baldwin said.

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U.S. Geological Survey

This photo shows Buck Creek, Idaho, one year after a wildfire burned the watershed. Buck Creek was one of 36 headwater streams in watersheds burned by wildfire that USGS scientists studied to determine mercury mobilization, methylation, and bioaccumulation in aquatic insects.



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Waste disposal plant

Continued From Page 1

landfill while diverting recyclable materials from waste that would otherwise end up in landfills. Other expected benefits, they say, include leveraging public-private partnerships while operating at an affordable cost.

During public comments last week Chris Kjar, managing director of Sanipac, told the board "There are no bad guys here. We all want to plan for our children's futures and protect our environment."

Kjar cautioned commissioners that "If this facility fails, it's a disaster not only for the county but more importantly, it would destroy the foundation for public trust in recycling programs."

Another opponent was Jake Pelroy, president of the Lane County Garbage and Recycling Association (LCGRA). He criticized Buch, Farr, and Trieger for blocking a motion by Loveall that called for a public vote on the CleanLane Project. "If this project moves forward, it will be the largest project in Lane County Government History, which will result in higher garbage prices for Lane County residents,

businesses, schools, and non-profits," Pelroy believes.

"We believe the public deserves to vote on this project," Pelroy said in a statement. "This is a massive project that will increase costs of living for all Lane County residents, and still many questions haven't been answered about CleanLane."

Garbage haulers and recyclers, he said, are calling for the county to clear the way for referendums that would allow petitioners to collect signatures. If they do, opponents would need to receive an estimated 7,347 valid signatures within 90 days.

[Return To Page 1](#)

Turning to AI

Continued From Page 1



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tested its new AI fire monitoring technology, the Next Generation Fire System, at its fire weather testbed in Colorado in June.

this shift may have contributed to “warmer, drier conditions,” the EPA reports, which make wildfires easier to spread in the Western US. Between 1981 and 2021, the amount of land involved in wildfires and suffered severe damage has risen from 5% to 22%.

Changing climate conditions are just one of the contributing factors, said Michael Pavolonis, a physical scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Center for Satellite Applications and Research. He added that land management practices, a century of fire suppression that left forests overgrown and combustible, and human activities have greatly changed the fire landscape in the U.S.

The Western Fire Chiefs Association says that nearly 90% of all wildfires are caused by human activities, like discarding a cigarette, leaving campfires unattended or through an equipment malfunction.

Fire activity for 2024 is already above average from the last decade, the New York Times reported this week.

Oregon firefighters worked on what was at the time the biggest fire in the country, in late July which spread across nearly 270,000 acres and threatened evacuation for thousands of residents. A week after the initial response from EMS, residents of the state were still dealing with smokey, unhealthy air conditions. And late last week, Coloradans faced evacuation orders for a blaze along the state’s Front Range, which killed one person.

Zach Tolby, director and lead scientist at NOAA’s fire weather testbed said living with wildfires is “nerve wracking.” The now Colorado-based weather expert said while living in Reno, Nevada, there were a few years where the wildfires kept people from being outside nearly all summer.

Incoming threat of fire or the residual smoke often upends social gatherings, interrupts work and school schedules and can keep people from feeling safe in their communities.

“Once you do have wildfires, there’s a lot of, you know, kind of

PTSD from the effects of being around them,” Tolby said.

Weather science is all about data, climate experts say, but viewing, logging and processing that data is an overwhelming task. It’s where the AI comes in: the bread and butter of AI models lies in the processing and sorting of mass amounts of information.

In the case of wildfire prevention, if you can automate the sorting of fire information, more humans are freed up to make decisions, call for resources and be deployed on a scene to stop a wildfire from spreading.

That’s the intention behind NOAA’s Next Generation Fire System, which uses an AI model to identify fires from the department’s geostationary satellites. The program, and a location to test fire prevention systems, was developed via funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed by the Biden administration.

NOAA’s Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) are the “workhorses” of weather monitoring of the entire United States from space, Pavolonis told States Newsroom. The satellites are able to record an image as often as every 30 seconds, which generates an overwhelming amount of information, Pavolonis said.

“So humans stare at all of these images and look for the fires themselves,” he said. “They do that and they do catch some of them. But it’s impossible to stare at every image.”

The AI model, which was built through academic partnerships, automatically scans those images and uses heat detection to look for features of an emerging fire. It then pipes the information to a situational dashboard that allows those monitoring it — whether it’s the National Weather Service or a land management partner — to determine that a fire could use their attention.

The Next Gen Fire System has been in development for a few years, and NOAA piloted the technology at the Colorado-based fire testbed in June. Tolby, director of the center, said they tested the technology with a few existing

systems, like the National Weather Service, to see if they could identify fires and weather phenomena with enough accuracy to be used in real-world situations to issue public alerts.

Tolby and Pavolonis stressed that humans are still at the helm of decision-making. The pilot at the fire testbed provided a realistic operational environment that allowed NOAA to understand how new capabilities would work when the agencies have to make real decisions.

“Science and technology are essential, but they’re not sufficient,” Pavolonis said. “You need to also work closely with decision makers throughout the development and testing process.”

Some states that experience a lot of wildfires, like California, have camera systems to monitor the spread of fires. But more rural and lower-population areas can be vulnerable to wildfires going unchecked. The satellite systems, developing AI tools and cross-department collaborations are valuable tools for those communities, Tolby said.

“If you can get to a fire when it’s ... only a couple of trees, you’ve got a much better chance of putting it out than you do when it’s 10 acres or 100.”

A project from the University of Southern California aims to use AI to improve the effort to fight fires once they start, predicting their possible spread and behavior. The research team at the university, headed by Professor Assad Oberai, uses a physics-informed approach to predict the spread of wildfires.

The team uses a generative AI model called conditional Wasserstein Generative Adversarial Network (cWGAN) and trained it, informed by data from past wildfires, satellite images and from data assimilation, or a method of combining different data sources, to predict future fire spread.

They’ve spent months testing their algorithm with simulated wildfire data that was built upon traits of real fires that occurred from 2020 to 2022. They then compared their model’s predictions against how those fires actually spread to understand the ac-

curacy of its prediction abilities.

The generative AI works similarly to a chatbot like ChatGPT, Oberai said. ChatGPT gives text responses based on a prompt provided by the user, and the USC model will show predictive imaging about wildfire spread.

“You can think of the satellite measurement as a prompt, right,” Oberai said. “And you can think of sort of the image of the spread of the wildfire as the response to that prompt from this generative algorithm.”

The USC team’s algorithm differs from other fire prediction tools in that it generates several predictions, and gives a user the likelihood of each outcome, similar to the graphs used to predict the possible course of a hurricane. Their model is also relying on data from these simulated wildfires to help piece together what will likely happen.

Bryan Shaddy, a Ph.D. student and researcher on the team, said possible next steps for the team include folding in more variables. Right now, the algorithm focuses on predicting the likelihood of fire progression, but they could train the cWGAN on others, like how terrain might affect spread. The team will continue training and adding variables, and could foresee the technology being adapted into existing fire prediction tools.

While many industries are just considering how AI can be incorporated into their work, climate scientists have been early adopters to supercomputing and big data processing in general, MyRadar’s Garimella told States Newsroom.

The weather monitoring app offers high-definition radar, NOAA weather alerts, temperatures, forecasts, flight tracking and disaster warnings. Some users depend on it just for their daily weather updates, while others have business reasons, like for wedding planners or sports coaches planning an event, Garimella said.

Activities are heavily affected by environmental events, he said, and climate change has made weather harder to pin down and predict over the last several decades.

The company’s Orbital Wildfire Resilience solution was just chosen to advance in the XPRIZE wildfire competition, which is seeking to revolutionize wildfire technologies.

MyRadar will launch its AI system via four satellites in February. The technology is “edge deployed,” meaning the AI processing happens in the satellites themselves rather than in com-

puters back on the ground, and it takes less power to transmit those messages back down to Earth. It allows for smaller satellites and quicker message times.

The obvious attraction is more information for their app users, Garimella said, but eventually, they can feed the data into data streams that government agencies, like NOAA, would use to monitor and fight fires.

AI technologies are also being used for on-the-ground response to fires. Autonomous machines, often called drones, are being tested across the country as a resource for emergency responders.

One example is public safety technology company BRINC’s Responder drone. Right now, it’s being used for structure fires, but the company’s vice president of strategy and growth, Andrew Cote, said he believes the future of AI and machine learning will allow for more predictive analytic capabilities in firefighting.

The Responder drone is used by emergency response teams to cut significantly down on response times to a scene, and to monitor via cameras how a fire scene is developing. It can help firefighters identify safer places of entry into a structure and can drop resources like survival kits or flotation devices down onto a scene.

Cote said this method not only gets resources to a scene faster, but also helps EMS teams deploy them in a more efficient and cost-effective way.

“We’re long overdue for new types of techniques, at least to give them a try,” Cote said. “And they’re not that expensive, as opposed to new, new water tankers, new aircrafts and all the other things that we try and currently use.”

It will be several months before NOAA’s and MyRadar’s AI models are in regular use, but we’ll likely continue to see more AI technologies being adapted in weather prediction and fire monitoring in the coming years.

Firefighting methods haven’t changed much in the last 50 years or so, the climate scientists said. So new technologies that can streamline systems, provide early intervention and potentially provide more information to government agencies and everyday people are a win, they said.

“This is another tool in the toolkit,” Garimella said. “But it’s also one of the most powerful ones that have ever been invented.”

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[Return To Page 1](#)

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