

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

High School Sports

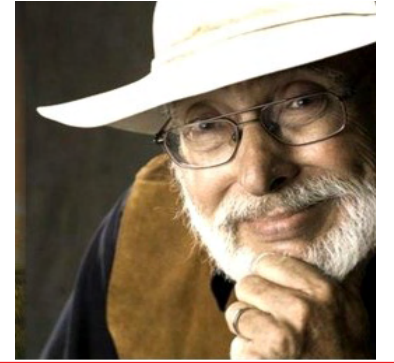
The McKenzie School District will host its annual Fall Sports Banquet on Tuesday, November 12, at 5:30 pm in the District cafeteria.

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Home Country

“All through with that,” he said, shaking his head. “I was a successful businessman and now I’m successfully retired.”

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Briefs...



The Lane Transit District (LTD) will host a Día de los Muertos celebration on Friday, November 1st. The party will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Rosa Parks Plaza at LTD’s Eugene Station.

Attendees will see live performances from local groups Mariachi Cuervo and a folklórico dance by Raíces de Oregon. Also planned are interactive activities for children, including bilingual storytime on an LTD bus and family-friendly art projects. Community partners, including Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad and Oregon Department of Human Services, will also be on site.

LTD participates and hosts dozens of out-
[Day of the Dead - Page 2](#)



As fall sets in, bears are beginning their annual fall eat-a-thon, known as hyperphagia, as they prepare for winter.

Their intense feeding period begins in late summer when berries and fruits ripen and peaks when fruits like pears, apples, and plums become available. During this time, bears spend up to 20 hours a day foraging.

ODFW is urging Oregon residents, vacation rental managers, and visitors to secure attractants and prevent bears from accessing trash, bird seed, pet food, livestock and poultry feed and other tempting food sources – including dirty diapers (yes, this is true). If these types of food are easily accessible, bears won’t turn down an easy meal. Bears that become used to “people food” can pose a serious safety risk to people.

[Eat-A-Thon - Page 2](#)



A White Oak Blessing will be held at the Riverwalk Trailhead in Blue River from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 10th. The ceremony, on the River Street site near the confluence of Blue River and McKenzie River will be conducted by Dietz Peters of the Grand Ronde with drum by Karen Rain-song, bell by K’iya Wilson and accompanied by native flutes. People are invited to attend and learn about the role of White Oak in local Indigenous Cultures. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Kath-erine-wil@gmail.com or 541-521-3378.

A town worth rebuilding

Speakers praise the return of another Blue River public structure

BLUE RIVER: “We had to learn to trust that our lives in this community are worth rebuilding.” Those words from McKenzie Valley Wellness president Val Rapp helped explain that the area’s rebuilding efforts involve more than just putting up new walls. “There was not a single one of us here who could do this by ourselves,” she said. “But working together, we began to figure out who could be our allies and support and help us and others in the community.”

Rapp spoke at Saturday’s dedication of the new McKenzie River Clinic during a gathering that highlighted the community’s resilience and the return of a vital resource for residents. Like the newly rebuilt fire station and the soon-to-be-reopened O’Brien Memorial Library, the clinic isn’t merely a replacement.

The new clinic is embracing a holistic approach, melding social, economic, and environmental factors by continuing the medical, dental, and behavioral health services that were added. At the same time, Orchid Health operated out of a temporary office in Rainbow.



The inside of the new 3,350 square foot McKenzie River Clinic was well received.

“This beautiful building is going to care,” according to Orion Falvey, executive add to the core pillar of Orchid’s goal of director of medical practice. He noted it creating the best ways to work in health

[Worth rebuilding - Page 14](#)

Route over the Old Pass closes for winter

ODOT is advising winter recreationists that they’re on their own



Dee Wright Observatory courtesy Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club

OLD MCKENZIE PASS: The east side gate to McKenzie Highway (OR 242), located near Sisters, will close for the season on Friday, November 1st, ahead of an incoming storm, the Oregon Department of Transportation reported on Monday. ODOT is also clarifying a report from last weekend regarding whether it allows snowmobilers, skiers, and recreationists into the closed area.

The west side gate near McKenzie Bridge was closed last week. When the east side gate closes Friday, highway vehicle access across the pass and to the Dee Wright Observatory will be limited until spring.

ODOT spokesperson Kacey Davey said the pass is closed so crews can focus on the more heavily traveled Santiam Pass.

Davey also addressed a report in the Oregon Statesman Journal over the weekend about the agency not allowing snowmobilers, skiers, or bicyclists into the closed area. Davey said ODOT’s policy has not changed and that anyone who chooses to go up there when the gates are closed are doing so at their own risk.

“Nothing has changed. It is a closed area. We’re asking folks don’t go in there for
[Continued On Page15](#)

What if people don’t show up?

Turnout for community grant program meeting was underwhelming

FINN ROCK: Public input on a possible community disaster recovery grant was limited last Thursday when only one person showed up at the old McKenzie High School gymnasium. Up for discussion was an initiative Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) managed to aid recovery in disaster-impacted communities.

Up for discussion were aspects of possible U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to help after major disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, or other emergencies. The CDBG-DR funds are flexible, allowing OHCS to tailor the support based on the unique needs of each community affected.

Details of the program include support for rebuilding or repairing homes, particularly for low—and moderate-income householders who may not have sufficient resourc-

es. Other funds could be allocated to assist businesses that suffered damage or losses in restoring economic activity in affected areas.

For communities, funds might be directed toward reconstructing or improving damaged infrastructure, such as roads, water systems, and utilities. Looking to the future, measures to reduce the impact of future disasters, such as firebreaks or flood control systems, would also qualify.

Oregon’s program has been especially vital after recent wildfires, such as those in 2020. Funds were directed to help rebuild homes, aid small businesses, and strengthen community resilience against future fires.

Grants have varied in the past, depending on the scale of the disaster and the specific needs of affected communities. For instance, following the 2020 wildfires, Oregon received an allocation of \$422,286,000 to support recovery efforts.

Earlier disasters (flooding, smaller-scale fires, etc.): Past allocations have
[Community grants Page15](#)

Letters to the Editor

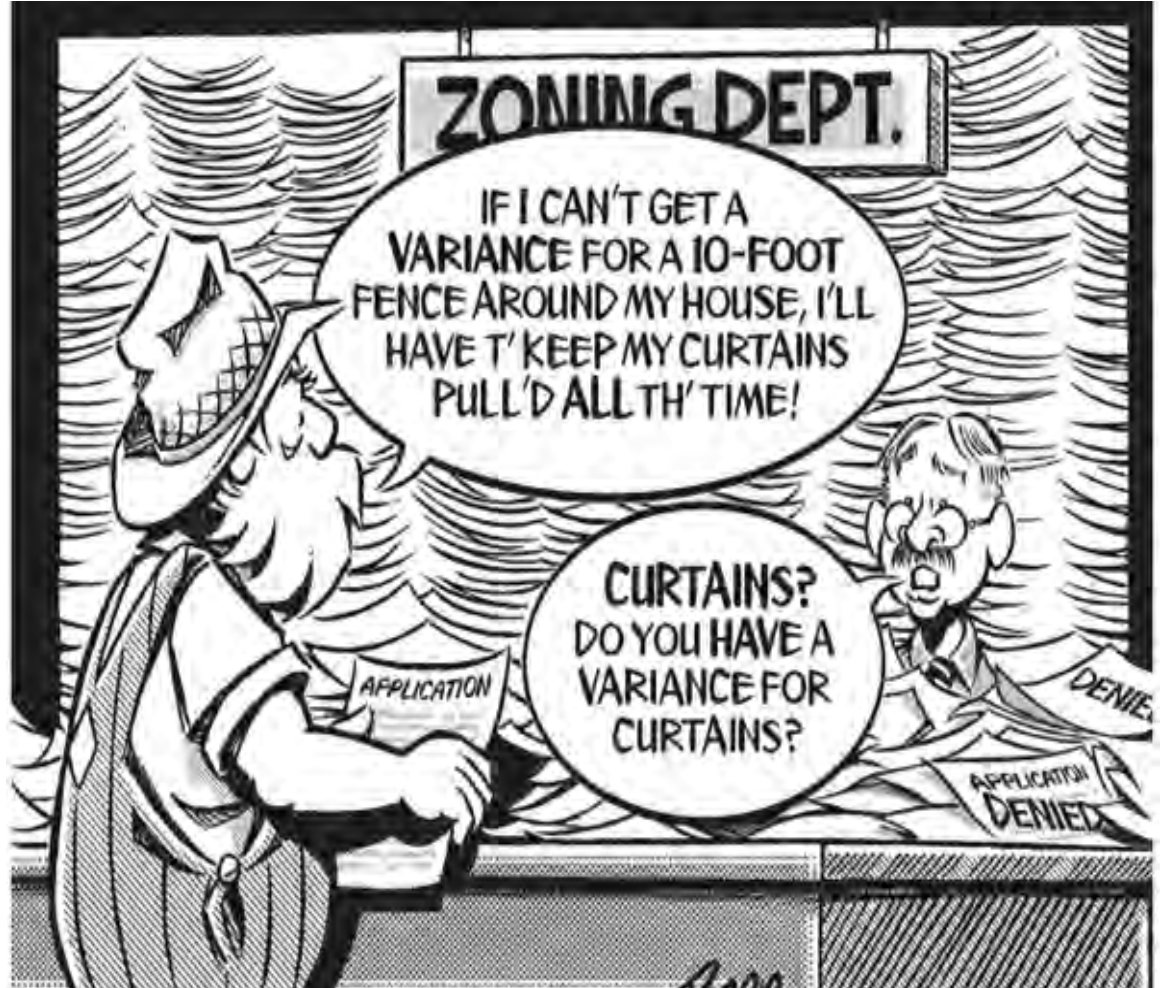
McKenzie Locals Helping Locals Thanks You!!

It already seems like a long time ago when McKenzie Locals Helping Locals sponsored the fourth annual McKenzie River Community Celebration at the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Track. As you recall, the event was held this summer on September 2, Labor Day, and we had a grand time celebrating our Community. A lot of effort went into the organization and implementation of the annual event and we would be remiss if proper acknowledgment of those efforts went unannounced or not recognized. Please accept our apologies for doing so later rather than sooner. We have been as busy as you all have been and well, as they say out in the brush, excuses are like arm pits, and we all have them (I believe that's the way it goes). A huge thank you

goes out to our major sponsors, Lane Electric Cooperative (music), Brinks Land Improvement (Kids Zone), Hop Valley (Beer stand), and McKenzie Valley Pump

(cash donation). We would like to thank the many local vendors who donated their creations and items towards the raffle and auction and shared their expertise with our Community. A thank you to our local emergency personnel: Blue River and Upper McKenzie Fire and Rescue, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the McKenzie River Ranger District. Thank you to all the volunteers that did site work and preparation for the Community Celebration, including the McKenzie students. And once again, we would like to thank McKenzie Community Track and Field for the opportunity to celebrate at the Aaron and Marie Jones Community Track

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Guest Opinion

Stop Lane County political gerrymandering

By Dale Riddle

Lane County "voters" should choose the members of the Lane County Board of Commissioners. A member of the Board of Commissioners should not be allowed to choose his or her "voters." Ballot Measure 20-362 does just this. It does this by prohibiting the Commissioners or their allies from drawing the boundary lines for their own districts for their

benefit.

Drawing boundary lines to give a politician an advantage in an election is called gerrymandering. It is immoral and anti-democratic. Ballot Measure 20-362 will stop gerrymandering.

Prior to the 2022 election, the Board of Commissioners at that time created a partisan and conflicted committee to redraw voting boundary lines. Many of the members of the committee were hand picked by the Commission-

ers and had gross conflicts of interest. As it turned out, several members of the committee were cronies of the Board of Commissioners. For example, Kevin Cronin (a local political consultant who was paid \$106,526.57 by Commissioner Buch and former Commissioner Berney) was appointed by the Commissioners (including Buch and Berney) to serve on the committee. Not surprisingly, Mr. Cronin had a direct hand in drawing the boundary map that was selected by the then Board of Commissioners. Even less surprising, the new district for Heather Buch's district (East Lane County) suddenly had 1,500

[Turn to Page 13](#)

Meister, Weiss, and Dion Get Personal At Umpqua Invite

McKenzie junior Cross Country runner Will Meister set a new Personal Record 5,000 meters time last Wednesday, October 23, at the Umpqua Invite meet held at Stewart Park in Roseburg. Meister's PR time of 18:33.60 minutes was 11 seconds faster than his finish on October 3 at the Stayton/Regis Invitational. At Stewart Park, Meister finished 80th out of a field of 186 runners.

Benjamin Kehrein of Sheldon won the Boys 5,000 meters race with a finish time of 15:23.00 minutes, while holding off Carson Buergey of Thurston, who finished second in 15:29.10 min. North Eugene's Ashenafi finished the race in third with a time of 15:34.30 min. South Medford won the Boys team race with 70 points on the afternoon and Sheldon finished second with 90 points.

Heading into the SD 4 District Championships this Thursday at Lane Community College, Meister currently has posted the 12th fastest time this season in the SD 4 District. Curtis Heier of Illinois Valley holds the fastest SD

4 District time, 16:16.50 minutes, also posted at the Umpqua Invite.

McKenzie's freshman Claire Weiss led her Eagle teammates at the Umpqua Invite with a Personal Record 62nd place time of 22:34.50 minutes. Weiss improved her best time by nearly 2 minutes (previous PR: 24.30.40 min., Lebanon Open, Oct. 9) and seems to be peaking just right going into the SD 4 District Championships this week. Teammate, junior Myra Dion, is in the same boat, having set her own PR at the Umpqua Invite, finishing in 23:14.60 minutes, good for 77th place. Dion's previous best was 24:41.10 minutes at the September 27 Champs Invite, held in Lebanon. Zyla Drake finished 81st at the Umpqua Invite race, the Eagle freshman running her 5,000 meters race in 23:23.60 minutes.

There were 129 runners in the race, which was won by another freshman, Ella Henthorn of Coquille, who cruised the distance in 18:32.50 minutes. Sylvia Eckman of Roseburg finished second in a time of 18:36.50 min. The South Medford Girls team took home top honors on the day with 105 points earned

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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



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McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Cross Country teams will participate in the Special District 4 Championships this Thursday, October 31, at Lane Community College. The Boys 2A/1A-SD4 Special District 5,000 meters race will start at 2:00 pm and the Girls 3A/2A/1A 5,000 meters race will begin at 2:45 pm.

The McKenzie 2024 Varsity Volleyball and Football Seasons have concluded. There are no volleyball or football scheduled contests.

The McKenzie School District will host its annual Fall Sports Banquet on Tuesday, November 12, at 5:30 pm in the District cafeteria. The event will recognize both High School and Middle School academics and athletics.

Briefs...

Day of the Dead

[Continued From Page 1](#)

reach events each year to further engage with community members. This Día de los Muertos event is no different – come celebrate culture and community with LTD at this exciting party!

Attendees are encouraged to use LTD or its partners in public transit to get to the event. People can download the Umo Mobility app, plan their trip and purchase bus fare in advance. Another option is a PeaceHealth Rides bike, by LTD's partners at Cascadia Mobility.

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Eat-A-Thon

[Continued From Page 1](#)

The good news is that most conflict between humans and bears is preventable. Bears don't want to be around humans. Removing things that attract them to the area is the most important thing you can do.

Contact your local district ODFW office if you need assistance with a bear-human conflict or observe unusual or aggressive behavior from a bear. Report human safety concerns to the Oregon State Police.

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Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com



McKenzie River Reflections



Phone (541) 822-3358 FAX (541) 663-4550
 MAILING ADDRESS: 59059 Old McKenzie Hwy.
 McKenzie Bridge, Oregon 97413
rivref2@gmail.com
 Publisher - Ken Engelman

To subscribe go to: tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6

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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE
 US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT
 EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
10/22	55	47	0	NA	10/22	55	45	0.35	2,800 cfs
10/23	52	32	0	NA	10/23	55	45	0.01	2,610 cfs
10/24	52	43	0	859 cfs	10/24	56	34	0	2,530 cfs
10/25	62	50	0	851 cfs	10/25	56	35	0	2,460 cfs
10/26	55	51	0	835 cfs	10/26	70	37	0.04	2,470 cfs
10/27	66	49	1.35	810 cfs	10/27	73	37	0.56	2,560 cfs
10/28	44	48	893 cfs		10/28	58	47	0.54	2,830 cfs

Friday 11/1

McKenzie Valley
Showers
60% chance precip
High: 55 Low: 40

Santiam Pass
Snow
90% chance precip
High: 35 Low: 25

Saturday 11/2

McKenzie Valley
Partly Cloudy
20% chance precip
High: 57 Low: 36

Santiam Pass
AM Snow Showers
40% chance precip
High: 38 Low: 24

Sunday 11/3

McKenzie Valley
Mostly Sunny
20% chance precip
High: 57 Low: 35

Santiam Pass
Partly Cloudy
20% chance precip
High: 42 Low: 28

Sheriff's Report

Oct. 19: 3:13 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 90700 blk, Hill Rd. Deputies responded to a possible gas leak at a residence in the area.

Oct. 21: 9:14 a.m: Fraud - 56900 blk, N. Bank Rd. The victim's child paid over \$1,000 to an online scammer before the scam was discovered by parents.

7:07 p.m: Assist Public - Lat: 44.0835667. Long: -122.319606.

7:50 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 34600 blk, McK. View Dr.

Oct. 23: 4:36 p.m: Civil Service - 48100 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:25 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Milepost 44.

6:32 p.m: Foot Patrol - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

Oct. 24: 1:11 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:14 p.m: Assist Outside

Agency - 55400 blk, Delta Rd.
2:47 p.m: Vehicle Stop - McK. Hwy. Mp. 43.

4:16 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy. & Greenwood Dr.

7:52 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Skyhigh Dr.

8:40 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - Lat: 44.0238. Long: -122.5760.

Oct. 25: 6:18 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Deerhorn Rd. & Clemens Rd.

10:42 a.m: Elder Abuse - 7000 blk, Thurston Rd.

3:13 p.m: Theft - 6500 blk, Thurston Rd. A deputy followed up on a stolen property case.

8:28 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. A deputy patrolling the area observed a suspicious vehicle in the area, however it was unoccupied and nothing else suspicious was noted.

Oct. 26: 12:10 a.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Hill Rd. & Graves Ln.

11:01 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 93100 blk, Marcola Rd.

12:19 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

1:52 p.m: Animal Complaint - 38400 blk, Kickbusch Ln.

5:50 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd. A male stabbed a knife into the tire of a vehicle in the parking lot and fled the area.

8:49 p.m: Vehicle Stop - Marcola Rd. & Parsons Creek Rd.

9:21 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 89500 blk, Douthit Dr.

Oct. 27: 12:02 a.m: Welfare Check - 92200 blk, Savage St.

12:19 a.m: Shots Fired - 87100 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

3:56 a.m: Alarm - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:22 a.m: Burglary - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

5:34 p.m: Hit & Run - 91100 blk, Donna Rd.

10:08 p.m: Screaming - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

Oct. 28: 3:32 p.m: Subpoena Service- 91800 blk, Mill Creek Rd.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Oct. 21: 20:06: 46000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Oct. 22: 14:41: 47000 blk, McK. Hwy. Legal Backyard Burn. Disregarded by Dispatch; Legal Backyard Burn.

18:33: 90000 blk, Cascade View Dr. Legal Backyard Burn. Investigate, Legal Backyard Burn, Visible From 126.

Oct. 23: 13:54: 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, General. Lift Assist Only.

19:15: 7700 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Cancelled On Scene.

21:07: 47000 blk, McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Blocking/Non-Injury.

Oct. 24: 16:22: McK. Hwy./Greenwood Dr. MVA. Blocking/Non-Injury, Refusals Obtained.

Oct. 25: 3:48: McK. Hwy./Milepost 27. MVA. Old Wreck From Yesterday.

16:05: Fallin Ln./McK. Hwy. Brush Fire. Water Hose Broke Off House, Mohawk F&R extinguished fire at homeowner's request.

Oct. 26: 12:57: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

15:09: 380 blk, Elk Dr. Brush Fire. Assisted South Lane Fire.

19:11: 42000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Oct. 27: 8:04: 1300 blk, 66th St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

11:07: 45000 blk, North Gate Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

17:01: 980 blk, 63rd St. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

17:33: 89000 blk, Bridge St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, November 18th, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Oct. 27: 17:32: Medical - 55000 block, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Oct. 28: 10:43: Medical - McK. Hwy./Milepost 44. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 18th, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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Blowing up the school was once a Mohawk community tradition

By Finn J.D. John

As of the time of this writing, it's election season, and some of us are being asked to approve bond measures for local schools. So, most likely I don't have to tell you that such debates can get pretty heated.

We should count our blessings, though. Some Oregonians used to argue over this sort of thing with dynamite.

More specifically, a few of the residents of the unincorporated hamlet of Mohawk did.

Mohawk is situated in the heart of the Mohawk River Valley a dozen or so miles northeast of the Eugene-Springfield metro area. It hasn't always been called Mohawk. Over the years it's been named Donna and Ping Yang — Ping Yang having been, in the mid-1890s, the popular English pronunciation of Pyongyang, then the capital of Korea (and today the capital of North Korea).

In the early fall of 1894, Pyongyang had just made headlines worldwide as the scene of a historic battle between the colonial forces of China, which had dominated the Korean peninsula for years, and the "liberating" armies of Japan. The Chinese had outnumbered the Japanese armies by a good margin, so the outcome had been very unexpected. As a result, the "plucky" Japanese warriors had captured the imaginations of newspaper readers worldwide. Within a year the battle was a regular subject in the pulps and serials of the day.

Also within a year, a little one-room schoolhouse was built in the Mohawk Valley. The community named it Ping Yang School.

There are other theories on the origin of the name. But if the Ping Yang school was in fact named after a battlefield, it was an appropriate choice, because it quickly became one — in more than just a metaphorical sense.

You see, a sizeable percentage of the population did not want the school to be built where it ended up. Basically, everyone wanted it built close to where they lived, so that their kids wouldn't have to walk as far and because they figured the neighborhood around the school would become the most important part of the growing town.

Everyone wanted it close, that is, except Old Joe Huddleston, the man who actually lived next



UO Libraries
A clip from the July 20, 1901, edition of the Eugene Weekly Guard announcing the fourth attempt to blow up Ping Yang School with fire and/or dynamite.

door to the chosen site. Old Joe hated the noise of children at play — and more about him in a red-hot minute.

Speaking of red-hot stuff — almost immediately after the school was built, someone snuck in at night and tried to torch the place, by dumping coal oil on the floor and lighting it off. This did not work. Most likely that's down to the fact that the almost-brand-new school was built with green lumber fresh from the local sawmill. Anyone who's tried to get unseasoned firewood to burn knows there's not enough kerosene

in the world to get that job done. Especially not in an unheated building on a foggy, drizzly February night in the Mohawk Valley.

In any case, the coal oil flared off and flickered out, and the frustrated would-be firebug had to slink back to the drawing board to come up with another plan.

Which he did, three months later, when he skulked back under cover of night with a few sticks of dynamite.

"Several sticks of dynamite were placed under the house and exploded," the Eugene Weekly Guard reported, "with the result that the building was completely demolished. Schoolhouse, books and furniture quit the hitherto quiet regions of Ping Yang by the upward route. The explosion was heard for miles about."

That was in early May of 1895. The new schoolhouse had lasted less than six months.

The reports of the building's demise turned out to be a bit exaggerated, though. Although heavily damaged, the school was repairable, and it was reassembled in jig time by community volunteers, in time to finish the school year out without incident.

There is an amusing report that local historian Steve Williamson found from a former student who recounted that the schoolteacher, for a time, had to step carefully around a big blast crater in the floorboards while teaching her lessons. But, apparently education was pretty important to Mohawk Valley residents, and everyone made do.

The attempted demolition does seem to have established a tradition at Ping Yang School. Over the subsequent 15 years, three more attempts would be made to blow up the school with increasing success, until after the last effort in 1909 the building succumbed completely and had to be replaced with a bigger structure. This new schoolhouse served the community uneventfully until 1963, when it was quietly replaced with Mohawk Elementary School, just a few hundred yards away on the other side of Marcola Road.

So, why all the fireworks?

Williamson, who is probably the preeminent historian of the Mohawk Valley, suggests it was a land-use issue.

The Mohawk Valley is first-rate farmland, but also prime timber country. The valley floor is nice and flat and fertile, and the surrounding hills are gentle and well-watered and thick with trees.

So very early in the process of settlement, emigrants put down claims on that nice quiet peaceful bottomland, and then some of them watched in dismay as timber operators — most notably Booth-

Kelly out of Springfield — started moving in to work in the adjacent woods.

Soon there was a logging railroad heading up the valley, and it got busier and busier as time went by, hauling logs down to the mill and timber workers and their families up to live. The older residents stewed as they watched their pastoral hideaway turned into an industrial community, complete with roaring machinery, howling steam whistles, and screeching buzz-saw blades.

One of these longtime residents was a curmudgeonly specimen named "Old Joe" Huddleston, the grumpy schoolhouse neighbor I mentioned earlier; and he is the fellow that most people suspected in the dynamite attacks on the school. Old Joe was already upset because the railroad had cut up the valley near his property, and when the school went in right next door as well, he was fit to be tied.

To make things more complicated, Old Joe was a hard-core racist. As the new century dawned in 1900, the old goat was on a veritable campaign against the Japanese colony upriver at Mabel and the Chinese and Japanese workers whom the railroad kept bringing in.

He also was very vocal about Ping Yang School. It was annoyingly close to his home, like the railroad.

Also, he was known to regularly practice "dynamite fishing" on the Mohawk River, chucking a lit stick into a promising hole and then scooping up all the fish stunned by the blast. Clearly he was a man who was comfortable handling explosives.

So when, late on the night of July 14, 1901, another dynamite blast shook the schoolhouse, everyone figured they knew who had set it off — although, of course, nobody could prove anything.

"This is the fourth attempt made to destroy this schoolhouse," the Eugene Weekly Guard wrote the next morning. "First an attempt was made to burn it; about three years ago dynamite was used and the building was considerably damaged, the benches, etc., destroyed; and again about a year and a half ago dynamite was placed on the organ and exploded, but not much damage was the result."

Evidently the organ — a pump organ (a.k.a. harmonium) of the type you operate by pumping bellows with your feet while you play — was tougher than the arsonist reckoned.

But he apparently learned from his mistake.

"The explosive was placed under the organ in the southwest corner of the building," the Guard reported. "The organ, the desks, and all other furniture and apparatus

Blowing up - Page 10



By Slim Randles

Ran into Herb Collins the other day down by the school. He volunteers there, from time to time, helping kids with their math homework, and trying to recruit future members of The Great World of Business.

He loved business, back in the days when he lived in the city and ran the pawn shop. For years now, ever since he hung up his jeweler's loupe, he's told us that there was an excitement to making the right deal.

"It has to be right for the customer and for me, or it isn't right at all," Herb always says. "You can do that and make several people happy and earn a living. There's no need to take unfair advantage of someone just to earn a living."

Our little town is a bit tame after city life, but it's Herb's wife's hometown and she wanted to come back here to live after he retired. So Herb turned to helping kids understand how wonderful business can be.

He's advised kids on the most effective way of delivering newspapers on their bicycles, he's suggested advertising gimmicks for kids with summer lemonade stands, and he's helped several boys market their skills with a lawn mower. You can take the man out of the business, I guess, but it's hard to take the business out of the man.

So after the shaking hands and the how-are-yous, we talked about kids and business, and the new crop of youngsters coming up this year. I couldn't help thinking ol' Herb might jump at the chance to dive back in the world of commerce again, but he disabused me of that right away.

"All through with that," he said, shaking his head. "I was a successful businessman and now I'm successfully retired."

Successfully retired?

"That's right," he grinned. "I have a wife and a television set, and they both work."

For a good look at the cover of the new family novel, *Whimsy Castle*, go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and look for books by Slim Randles. Thank you.

Quote of the Week

"The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge."

Stephen Hawking

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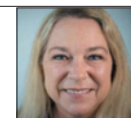
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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Storing squash and pumpkins



Chris Branam

Pumpkins can sustain damage in temperatures under 50 degrees.

As pumpkins and winter squash reach harvest time, gardeners wonder how and where to store them.

Since they won't survive the first frost, now's the time to plan a strategy. Tried-and-true storing techniques can keep some winter squash for several months.

"Most squashes and pumpkins are warm-season crops and

are susceptible to injury at temperatures less than 50 degrees," said Gail Langelotto, an Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist.

"If left out in the garden too long, they may decay prematurely in storage."

When the weather gets below about 50 degrees for more than a week, or when there is an

extended period of rain, pumpkins and squash should be brought in for storage, she said.

Squash are ready to harvest when the rind is hard enough to resist fingernail scratches. Pumpkins are ripe when they turn bright orange. Cut – do not break – stems 2 to 4 inches above the fruit. Pumpkins without stems will not store well. The exception is hubbard-type squash (hard with a green or yellow rind), which store best with stems completely removed.

"Handle fruit carefully to avoid bruising them," Langelotto suggested. "Don't drop or pile up your pumpkins and squash. Injured produce spoils quickly."

Before storing cure squash and pumpkins by keeping them dry and warm (80 to 85 degrees), if you can, for several days to heal minor abrasions from harvesting.

You should store most winter squashes and pumpkins at about 50 to 55 degrees; don't let the temperature go below 50 degrees. Give them moderate humidity and good air circulation. A garage is usually suitable, as long as the pumpkins and squash are on shelves off the floor, Langelotto said. A layer of straw helps keep them dry. Newspaper and paper bags hold too much moisture and should not be used.

Keep stored pumpkins and squash away from apples and

[Gardening Tips - 9](#)



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



MEMORIES OF CLOTH NAPKINS

Very seldom do we see or use cloth napkins at the dining table these days. However, when I was a youngster, paper napkins were coming into use, but most ladies used cloth napkins, especially when they served a meal for guests. Setting the dining room table wasn't complete unless we used Mother's napkins, usually the blue ones with white flowers.

Mother also had white napkins with a white-on-white design that matched her white tablecloth we used for special occasions. For these events, we also set the table with Mother's good china and silverware, both of which she and Father received as wedding gifts.

Napkins of Many Colors & Styles

Some people like to use cloth napkins today to "save the trees." Others consider they add a special festive touch to the meal.

Napkins don't have to match. You can use a variety of colors and styles at the table, just as it's fashionable nowadays to mix-and-match your dinnerware.

Ways to Use Napkins

* Sew some together for a quilt.

* Line a basket for rolls or homemade bread.

* Cover and wrap around a

hot dish when carrying it to a potluck.

* Sew several napkins together to make an apron or a skirt.

* Place on a tray when a family member is ill in bed.

* Make a tablecloth of napkins.

* Sew a few together for placemats.

* Use as the background for a shadow box.

* Include with baked goods when giving a gift to a friend.

* Use at teatime with family or friend.

Tea Time Recipe

LEMON CAKE PUDDING - Mix together 2 tablespoons butter or margarine with 1 1/2 cups sugar. Add 1/3-cup flour, 1/2-teaspoon salt, 1/4 cup lemon juice, and 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel. Stir in 3 beaten egg yolks mixed with 1 1/2 cups milk.

Beat 3 egg whites until stiff. Then fold into the first mixture. Pour into greased custard cups or a baking dish. Set in a pan of water and bake 45 minutes at 375 degrees F.

When done, each serving will contain custard on the bottom and sponge cake on the top. Serve hot or cold.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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- **Fluorescent lamps**—Visit lanecountyor.gov/hazwaste
- **Paint**—Visit paintcare.org

For more information on any of the above, visit lanecountyor.gov/hazwaste or call (541) 682-4120.

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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 o'brienlibrary.org for more information.

November 1

Yoga In Leaburg

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

November 1

Music at VMCC

A night of music with Ukranian born Natalie Alexandria, an incredibly talented independent music artist is set for 7 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Ln, Vida, Natalie offers an impressive and diverse range of the Greatest American hits across various genres. Her captivating program includes beloved styles such as Jazz, Pop, Latin, Soft Rock, Country, Folk, and Reggae. You can look forward to enjoying her original compositions, along with iconic hits from legendary artists like Fleetwood Mac, Sade, and the Mamas and the Papas. Join the festivities with friends and family—no ticket is required to enter. Donations are warmly welcomed to help raise funds for the VMCC. For any questions or more information, please call

Gerry Aster at 626-437-0539.

November 2

A Dime At A Time

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

November 2

Waste Collection Event

For community members in the McKenzie corridor, save a trip to Eugene and drop off your household hazardous waste materials closer to home during a collection event on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKenzie Fire & Rescue in Leaburg: 42870 McKenzie Highway.

Many common household products contain hazardous ingredients. Anything with a caution label such as Danger, Warning or Caustic can become a pollutant to groundwater and streams. Avoiding these products saves money and protects people, wildlife and our environment.

November 2

PUB Halloween Party

The McKenzie Station Pub in McKenzie Bridge will host a Halloween Party from 7:30 to 10 pm. at 56393 McKenzie Hwy. It will include Live Music * Costumes * \$5 cover.

November 4 - 8

Book Fair

The McKenzie Elementary School, 51187 Blue River Dr, will

host a Book Fair at the Elementary School Library from 8 a.m. to noon, Nov. 4th through 8th.

All purchases made through the Book Fair will benefit the school.

Can't make it in person? No problem! Shop online from November 4th to November 17th to support our school! 25% of every online purchase goes directly to the school. tinyurl.com/yckj5rw6

Family times are: Thursday, 11/7, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday, 11/8, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

November 5

Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene. The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

November 5

Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

November 5

EWEB Board

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

November 5

Coffee With Locals

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals (paid for by Locals Helping Locals) from 10 to 11

a.m. at the McKenzie Bridge General Store, 91837 Taylor Road in McKenzie Bridge. Catch up with your neighbors, discuss how you are doing in the fire recovery process, and share your successes and struggles. Contact Brenda Hamlow with questions: (541) 729-9802.

November 5

Family Story Time

From 10 to 11 a.m. at the Camp Creek Church Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special fun for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friends hip.

November 5

Waltherville Grange

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

November 6

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.

November 6

Cornhole League

Join the Upper McKenzie Cornhole League for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. Bring some snacks to share.

November 6

Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene. The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday. Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

November 6

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

November 6

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

November 8

2nd Friday Art Walk

Fri Nov 8th

The Second Friday Art Walk is scheduled from 4 to 7:30 p.m. starting at the Emerald Art Center, 500 Main Street, in downtown Springfield.

November 9

Living River Day

Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. The Living River Exploration Day is set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene. Observe 15 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, and over 150 species of birds. If you're looking for a special place to connect to nature this year, join in the fun on the second Saturday's, March through December, and explore the Living Rivers in your backyard!

November 15

Spaghetti Feed

The Waltherville Grange will be holding its annual Spaghetti Feed on Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Waltherville Grange Community Center, 39259 Camp Creek Road. Grangers will be serving spaghetti with red meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, dessert, and drinks. Bring your friends and family for a great meal and to enjoy some fellowship with your neighbors. Tickets will be sold for raffle prizes. We will also be collecting canned food items for the upriver food bank and accepting donations to further upkeep of the Grange Hall. Come see the new siding, windows, curtains, and front step handrails installed with your helpful donations. For more information call 541-521-4760.

November 9

BINGO at VMCC

Bingo at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane, is a family (kids welcome) fun night - Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The snack bar has a variety of goodies for one's taste... Hotdogs, nachos, popcorn, desserts, an assortment of drinks, no alcoholic beverages.

<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p>Living Water Family Fellowship Pastor - Doug Fairington 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 541-822-3820 Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also. Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM. Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)</p>
<p>McKenzie Bible Fellowship 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's & Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information www.mckenziebible.com</p>	<p>Catholic Church St. Benedict Lodge Chapel 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: sblodge.opwest.org</p>
<p>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Waltherville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you! Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	



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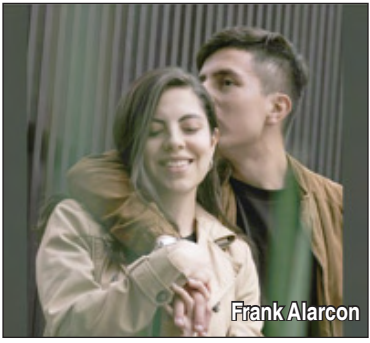




Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Coming of age



Frank Alarcon

Tom and I have been in a relationship for well over a year. We're very much in love, and we've discussed moving in together more than a few times. We are both 19-year-old college students, have no siblings, and come from single-parent homes.

My mother and I have a fairly strong relationship; our family is devoutly Catholic. Although I was raised to share the same values as my mother, Tom and I have put a lot of thought into moving in together, and we are currently trying to rent a townhouse. His mother is okay with the idea.

When I told my mother, she said it would shame her family, and I would be no better than a whore. I told her she should allow me to make my own choices. She said she does not approve, would no longer give me money, and hung up the phone. I am on full

financial aid from school, and the only financial help she gives is occasional spending money.

Afterwards I cried for hours, and when I told Tom, he said I should do what feels the most comfortable. I really want to move in with him next year, but I also don't want to lose my relationship with my mother.

Zoe

Zoe, at some point you have to realize you are a child who has become an adult. At some point you have to decide if a particular religious dogma expresses what you feel about your spiritual connection to the universe. At some point you have to leave your mother's house and move toward the man you will spend your life with.

All these things entail growth toward your life as a mature woman. Your mother would like to control your future, but she is holding out a model she did not show you. Since both you and Tom grew up in a single-parent household, you were both born to a skepticism about marriage.

Adults make decisions knowing that the benefits of wise decisions will be theirs to enjoy and the consequences of bad ones theirs to bear. One principle is clear: the person who makes the decision

should bear the consequences. If decisions are not yours to make, the consequences should be your mother's to endure.

The most important thing in your life now is education. Whether a woman is happily married for a lifetime or a single parent like your mother, an education offers her the greatest security. The most reliable advice we can give is don't allow unintended parenthood to alter your future.

It may be that you are at a turning point in your relationship with your mother. You are going from her dependent child to an adult young woman with self-determination and drive. As it took you time to get to this place in your life, it may take her time to accept who you are now. Continue to move toward growth, based on the values you cherish.

Wayne & Tamara

Unforeseen Event

I am a forgiving person and cannot understand why a man who told me daily he loved me could turn his back on me and our children for a woman who smokes, has an alcohol problem, and if he marries her, will be her third husband! If you knew my husband, you would never guess he would go after this type. He better hope she is worth it, but that, I doubt.

Isabel

Isabel, in the Aeneid there is a story about a prophetess living in

a cave. The god Apollo tells her the future, which she writes on leaves. But whenever someone enters the cave, the draft from the open door moves the leaves and rearranges the future.

You thought you knew your future, but that future has changed. Now you have two tasks: getting past the sadness and anger, and

being the lioness protecting her cubs.

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.

Social Skills Training

By Solmaz Sharif

Studies suggest *How may I help you officer?* is the single most disarming thing to say and not *What's the problem?* Studies suggest it's best the help reply *My pleasure* and not *No problem*. Studies suggest it's best not to mention *problem* in front of power even to say there is none. Gloria Steinem says women lose power as they age and yet the loudest voice in my head is my mother. Studies show the mother we have in mind isn't the mother that exists. Mine says: *What are you crying for?* Studies show the baby monkey will pick the fake monkey with fake fur over the furless wire monkey with milk, without contest. Studies show to negate something is to think it anyway. *I'm not sad*. I'm not sad. Studies recommend regular expressions of gratitude and internal check-ins. *Enough*, the wire mother says. History is a kind of study. History says we forgave the executioner. Before we mopped the blood we asked: *Lord Judge, have I executed well?* Studies suggest yes. *What are you crying for, officer?* the wire mother teaches me to say, while studies suggest *Solmaz, have you thanked your executioner today?*

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"Social Skills Training" from *Customs*. Copyright © 2022 by Solmaz Sharif. Reprinted by permission of Graywolf Press, www.graywolfpress.org.

Source: *Customs* (Graywolf Press, 2022)

Born in Istanbul, Turkey, to Iranian parents, Solmaz Sharif earned degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied and taught with June Jordan's Poetry for the People, and New York University. She is the author of the poetry collections *Customs* (Graywolf Press, 2022) and *Look* (Graywolf Press, 2016), a finalist for the National Book Award and the PEN Open Book Award and the winner of the 2017 American Book Award for poetry. Her first published poem, included in *A World Between: Poems, Short Stories, and Essays* by Iranian-Americans (George Braziller, 1999), was written at the age of 13. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *the Kenyon Review*, *jubilat*, *Gulf Coast*, *Boston Review*, *Witness* and other publications.

In 2014, Sharif was awarded a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. She is the Shirley Shenker Assistant Professor of English at University of California, Berkeley..

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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

Piano Lessons

Now accepting piano students - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced - all ages. Professional jazz pianist, classically trained with years of teaching experience. Located in Leaburg. Please call or text 408.391.3477 or email; kimberly@liquidsister.com. http://www.liquidsister.com SKP-8/16ruc

Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

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- 42. Lake, in French
- 43. Anise seed (1 word)
- 45. * ____ of Versailles or Buckingham ____
- 47. ____ of war
- 48. Sinbad the Sailor's home
- 50. Not good
- 52. *St. Basil's in Moscow or St. Paul's in London
- 56. *The Parthenon in Athens is made of this
- 57. Capital of Norway
- 58. Aeneas' lover
- 59. More slippery
- 60. Animal protein
- 61. Independent chieftain
- 62. High degree
- 63. TV program interruptions
- 64. Retired, abbr.

- DOWN**
- 1. CAT or PET, e.g.
 - 2. *Key Tower, tallest building in this Buckeye state
 - 3. Laundry room fire hazard
 - 4. Type of local tax
 - 5. Pupa, pl.
 - 6. Things
 - 7. Give up a state
 - 8. Dam-like structure
 - 9. Not misses
 - 10. Football's extra point
 - 12. Soup scoopers
 - 13. Make a solemn promise
 - 14. *Burj ____, tallest building in the world
 - 19. Wading bird
 - 22. "Monkey ____, monkey do"
 - 23. Bodily swelling
 - 24. Rice wine
 - 25. 1/100th of Finnish markka
 - 26. Rotisserie skewer
 - 27. Spurious wing
 - 28. Cancer-treating machine, acr.
 - 29. * ____ Needle, Seattle
 - 32. For boys and girls
 - 33. Lawyers' org.
 - 36. * ____ Chapel, Vatican City
 - 38. Flat replacement
 - 40. "____, borrow or steal"
 - 41. Eventual outcome
 - 44. Leonhard ____, Swiss mathematician (1707-1783)
 - 46. Portable stairs
 - 48. Headquartered
 - 49. Road-tripping guide
 - 50. Carve in stone
 - 51. Emptiness
 - 52. Vegetative state
 - 53. Ice crystals
 - 54. Passage in a coal mine
 - 55. Voldemort's title
 - 56. Small amount of drink

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FAMOUS BUILDINGS

ACROSS

- 1. Performer's time to shine
- 5. Selfie, e.g.
- 8. One of five Ws
- 11. TrEs ____, or very stylish
- 12. Mandolin's cousin
- 13. Knitter's unit
- 15. Aren't, colloquially
- 16. Mimicked
- 17. *Like House with Oval Office
- 18. *The Hunchback's home (2 words)
- 20. Listening devices

- 21. Flirtatious stares
- 22. Salt, in Spanish
- 23. * ____ State Building
- 26. TV shows, e.g.
- 30. Will Ferrell's "Funny or ____"
- 31. Steve McQueen's "The Great ____" (1963)
- 34. Toss a coin
- 35. ____ & Young financial services company
- 37. Kimono tie
- 38. Sweating room
- 39. Short skirt
- 40. Batter (2 words)

Solution on Page 9

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

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Oct 31st

Call for Volunteers

Helping the community...

Leaburg GMRB Radio Preparedness

Every Thursday...

McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group

GRMS network (Thursday)...

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

For community members in the McKenzie corridor...

KIDS EAT FREE

Join us at McKenzie Elementary School...

Pub Halloween Party

Live Music + Costume + \$5 cover

COFFEE WITH THE LOCALS

Come have a cup of coffee with the locals...

Blue River Water Board

The Blue River Water Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building...

BINGO!

Wacky Wednesdays BINGO

Blue River Park Board

The Blue River Park Board will meet from 7:15 to 8 p.m. in the administration building...

McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group

GRMS network (Thursday)...

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Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

Saks Fifth Avenue return problem: Why won't they accept this \$10,854 gold ring?

Saks Fifth Avenue refuses to accept a \$10,854 gold ring as a return. The reason: The company says it's damaged. Is Thomas Gunderson stuck with this purchase?

I ordered an Origami Crossover Ring In 18K Yellow Gold With Diamonds from Saks Fifth Avenue for \$10,854.

The ring was too large for my wife. She had it out of the box for literally two minutes. We returned the ring the next day. Saks received the ring, but they sent it back to us, saying it was damaged.

We did not damage the ring. We are in our 60s and 70s, and our eyesight is not the best. We did not see any damage, but after taking photos of the returned ring, we could see scratches when enlarging the images.

We have been trying to get a refund from Saks for a long time, but they have yet to do so. We can't prove we did not damage the ring, and they can't prove that they sent us an undamaged ring. The scratches in the gold band appear very superficial and can be buffed out. Can you help me get my money back?

Thomas Gunderson, Los Alamos, N.M.

If you had the ring out of the box for two minutes and your wife did nothing more than try it on, you couldn't have possibly caused the damage.

But you're right. How do you prove something like that?

Saks says it accepts returns via mail or through the store. Earlier this year, it began charging a \$9.95 return shipping fee, which it deducts from your refund. According to the Saks Fifth Avenue refund policy, returns are eligible for a refund if they are made within 30 days of delivery. They must be presented in the same condition as when they were received: unworn, undamaged, unaltered, and with the original

tags and proof of purchase.

It says, "Returns that do not meet this policy will not be accepted and returned to you."

Saks should have assumed you damaged the ring. It said you were responsible for the damage. Saks believes it sent you an undamaged ring and was damaged between the time it was sent out and received.

Based on the correspondence between you and Saks, it looks as if a few things were overlooked. Initially, Saks referred you to a third party, which sold the ring through Saks. The vendor referred you back to Saks. At that point, Saks might have filed a claim through its insurance or shipping company. Instead, it just told you that you had to accept a ring that didn't fit your wife.

Is there a way to prove you didn't do it? Kind of. You could have taken a picture of the ring when you received it. Presumably, the ring was damaged during the return, so you could have used the initial photo to prove you didn't scratch the jewelry.

Ultimately, a brief, polite email to one of Saks Fifth Avenue's executive contacts might have helped. I publish them on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.

I reached out to Saks Fifth Avenue for you. A corporate escalation specialist contacted you and agreed to accept the return.

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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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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2	3	8	4	5	6	1	9	7



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

October 30 - Sacajawea was a Shoshone Indian woman, born along the Salmon River and taken as a slave to the east side of the Rocky Mountains. She was known as Bird Woman and was either bought as a slave, or won in a gambling game by French-Canadian trapper, Toussaint Charbonneau. She married Toussaint and accompanied him when Lewis and Clark employed him as a guide. Sacajawea proved to be a very valuable member of the expedition. Upon completion of the journey, Sacajawea left her husband because of his cruel treatment and married a Comanche brave. It is believed that Sacajawea lived to be nearly 100 years old, and died in 1884 in Wyoming.

Gardening Tips

Continued From Page 3

pears. These and other ripening fruits release ethylene gas, which hastens the decay of squash.

Check on your stored pumpkins and squash once a week and remove any that are turning soft.

Under proper storage conditions, acorn squashes will last one to two months and pumpkins and butternut squash from two to three months. The longest keepers, including turban, hubbard and Sweet Meat squash, can be stored for up to six months.

For more details, see Extension's publication Storing Pumpkin and Winter Squash at Home.

Return To Page 5

Ranger District to begin prescribed burns

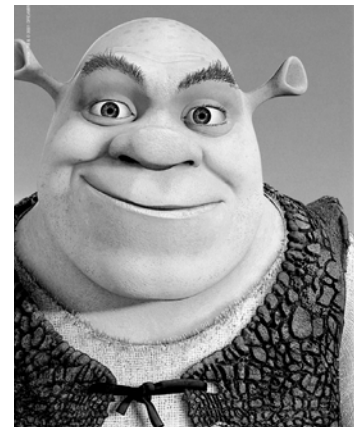
With fall finally approaching, McKenzie River Ranger District Fire Management is once again preparing for their fall prescribed fire burning. This fall there will be up to 736 acres of pile burning that could begin as early as 10/28/2024 and continue thru March of 2025. Pile burning is conducted to reduce the fuels after timber sales that are left on the landscape from the harvest activity. Several locations across the McKenzie River Ranger District will have piles in them to be burned. Pile burning will not start till managers have determined that enough moisture has occurred on the district to minimize any spread outside any unit. Piles will then be monitored by fire personnel until they are called out. Prescribed burning is used to reduce the risk of high severity wildfires and enhance habitat in the forest ecosystem where fire is a natural disturbance process.

This week piles will be burned along Highway 126 and McKenzie River Trail between MP-52 and 55. Smoke may be seen from McKenzie Bridge and Highway 126. These piles were created from a Hazardous Fuels Reduction that was contracted in 2023 and 2024.

Timing is critical when planning for prescribed burns, mainly because of the weather conditions required to have a successful burn. Fall in Oregon gives fire managers the variable weather needed to fit their specific objectives, often-times unique to each project. For this reason, public notice of specific burn times may only come 24 hours in advance, and often the morning of the burn.

If you have any questions or comments about prescribed fire, please contact Dirk Rogers, Assistant Fire Management Officer-Fuels at dirk.rogers@usda.gov, 541-822-7247.

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Progressive groups withdraw endorsements of Oregon Measure 118

The widely-opposed measure would increase corporate taxes to send a rebate to all Oregonians



Getty Images

Four progressive groups that formerly backed Measure 118 have withdrawn their support and are now neutral or opposed.

By Julia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle
At least four progressive organizations that previously backed an Oregon ballot measure to hike taxes on businesses and divide proceeds among all Oregonians have withdrawn their support.

Voters will decide in November whether to approve Measure 118, which proponents say would give about \$1,600 annually to all Oregonians by making corporations pay more. Opponents across the political spectrum, citing analysis from state economic researchers, warned that it would raise prices and blow a hole in the state's budget.

The measure, largely funded by wealthy Californians, earlier this month trumpeted endorsements from the Community Alliance of Tenants and Portland Tenants United, bringing its total number of endorsements to nine — but it counted endorsements from 11 groups in July, an archived version of the measure's website shows. Four progressive groups — the Oregon Working Families Party, the farmworkers union PCUN, Democratic Socialists of Eugene and LIUNA (Laborers Local 483) — quietly walked back their support in the past few months.

The measure retains support from some other progressive organizations, including the Oregon Progressive Party, the Pacific Green Party and the Oregon chapter of Progressive Democrats of America. Antonio Gisbert, chief petitioner for Measure 118, dismissed the organizations that withdrew their endorsements as not being brave enough to buck politicians he says are obliged to corporate donors.

"It is no surprise to us that some organizations felt pressure to walk back support once elected officials began a concerted effort to denounce Measure 118 in favor of their corporate donors," he said. "This is sadly how Salem works. Nothing has changed in the content of the ballot measure, nor in the reasoning for their initial endorsements. We know that po-

litical change requires significant courage, which is why we are proud and encouraged by all the support Measure 118 has received from both community organizations and individuals across the state."

Annie Naranjo-Rivera, state director of the Working Families Party, told the Capital Chronicle that the party still supports a wealth tax, but that Measure 118 had too many problems.

"We were looking forward to supporting a measure that funds the care, support and services our families need by making big corporations pay what they owe — it's one of the backbones of the Working Families Party's legislative agenda," Naranjo-Rivera said. "But this measure has flaws, and it would potentially take resources from our communities and harm our families economic well-being."

The Working Families Party now has a neutral stance on Measure 118, neither endorsing it nor joining the large coalition opposing it. Representatives of the three other former endorsers did not return phone calls or emails Monday.

The Oregon Laborers' International Union of North America, or LIUNA, now opposes only Measure 118 on its list of 2024 endorsements. The campaign arm of PCUN left Measure 118 off its endorsement list, while it's supporting other ballot measures.

A political action committee organized by Oregon Business and Industry has raised more than \$15 million to defeat the measure, with more than \$1.8 million from a political action committee funded by grocers and hundreds of thousands from other Oregon businesses. Our Oregon, a coalition of unions, environmental groups and civil rights groups, also has two political action committees that oppose the measure.

Voters began receiving ballots late last week, and they must be returned or mailed with a postmark by 8 p.m. Nov. 5.

oregoncapitolchronicle.com

Sunny side up: Does solar energy make sense for your home?

By Daniel Hiestand
Lane County Waste Reduction
Outreach Coordinator

Over the past year, I've been fortunate to make some energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades to my home. During this process, I examined the feasibility of installing solar panels.

As it turned out, my home was not a great candidate for installation (too much shade), but I still wanted to know more. So, this month, I turned to local installation expert Jeremiah Chavez, General Manager of Energy Design (solarenergydesign.com), to ask a few follow-up questions.

First on my list: what makes a property a good candidate for solar electricity?

Not surprisingly, Chavez highlighted that sunlight exposure is a crucial factor. He said that just one in eight people who contact his company in Lane County have adequate sunlight levels to make solar a "decent" investment.

Additionally, he noted that the age of a roof plays a critical role in determining whether the installation is appropriate.

"Most rebate and incentive programs, if available through the state or a local (utility company), require the roof to have at least 15 years remaining roof life," he said. "Ideally, we're looking for 20 to 25 (years of remaining life)."

He said that if the roof covering was replaced within the last eight years, it's likely a prime candidate.

Furthermore, Chavez said a changing climate has increased solar irradiation rates. Solar systems today produce approximately 10 percent more power annually than 15 years ago.

Chavez acknowledged that most local power in Lane County is already cheap and clean, so solar may not always make sense for owners. Conversely, the cost of solar panel installation has come down approximately 80 percent during his two decades at Energy Design. Currently, according to Chavez—without incentives, rebates, or tax credits applied—solar installation costs an average of around \$27,000 for an Oregon home.

Chavez says most people can "pay for a solar electric system that offsets 100 percent of their consumption annually in about 12 years." However, he acknowledges that this timeline may not always be practical or even the most effective way to improve building efficiency.

"We always recommend that people first look at heating and air conditioning upgrades and weatherization (before considering solar)," Chavez said. "Those programs are not as 'sexy,' but...



long term...(they) are the best way to invest in the home, and solar should really just be considered after those."

Waste Wise Tip: Washing in cold water saves energy (and more)

According to Energy Star, 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine is spent heating the water. Energy Star estimates that switching from hot to warm water cuts energy use in half, and switching to cold water lowers energy use even more. Washing in cold water also reduces microfiber shedding, prolongs clothing life, and reduces wrinkles. For this tip and others, visit Instagram.com/wastewiselanecounty.

wastewiselanecounty.
Energy Trivia

Take a few minutes to test your knowledge of energy and take our trivia quiz. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone, "spin the wheel" to choose a nickname, and play the game.

Waste Wise Lane County, a part of the Lane County Waste Management Division, seeks to empower residents, businesses, and schools with resources to reduce waste and live sustainably. Sign up for the Waste Wise newsletter and discover more resources at lanecountyor.gov/wastewise.



McKenzie River Reflections



Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history -
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Go to: tinyurl.com/2rkpkxen

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Blowing up

Continued From Page 4

were blown to atoms, the floor and sleepers of the building were completely splintered, the sides of the building were blown out and all that remains is the roof with part of the framework to support it.”

Old Joe was never charged. No one else was either, for that matter. But after Old Joe moved out of the valley a little later, the explosions stopped ... well, mostly. There was one more, and it was the last one.

It happened in 1909. According to a student attending the school at the time, the students and teachers had been complaining about the small size of the school for several years. The Mohawk Valley was growing, and the building just wasn't big enough.

But, as usual, not enough of the local taxpayers were willing to ante up to do something about it.

So at the end of the school year, a group of enterprising pupils decided to force the issue in the way that had become a Mohawk Valley tradition.

That's right, these lucky young punks got to literally do what every maladjusted elementary-school kid fantasizes about: Blow their school to smithereens. (Didn't we

all sing a song about that, back in the day, during recess?)

The kids turned out to be a lot better at blowing up schools than Old Joe Huddleston, or whoever the Mohawk Bomber had been. Their efforts resulted in total destruction — and, in short order, the new, larger schoolhouse that they wanted.

The new building lasted until 1963, when it was taken out of service in a far less dramatic fashion — with a school board vote.

(Sources: "The Ping Yang School Bombings," an article by Stephen Williamson published in 2005 at storiesbysteve.com; archives of the Eugene Weekly Guard and Albany State Rights Democrat, May 1895 and July 1901)

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](#)

McKenzie Locals Helping Locals To Sponsor November 3rd Blue River Cleanup Day

By Cliff Richardson
Fall Season has arrived armed some pretty decent rainy days putting to bed another long and dry fire season. If you recall, however, the Spring season was wet and warm and responsible for profuse vegetative growth, some still standing. Earlier in the summer, McKenzie Locals Helping Locals sponsored a Blue River Cleanup Day. Those efforts around the South end of town helped remove invasive Scotch Broom plantations and other invasive plants as well as pick up many, diverse scattered items remaining following the Holiday Farm Fire and initial cleanup activities. LHL and community volunteers (the latter very much appreciated) were able to burn or haul off most of the collected items. There is more to do before the Fall Season ends and Winter clamps down. Our three Blue River non-profit organizations are opening up for business after much time, effort and resources invested. The sparkling new Blue River Fire Station and equally resplendent Orchid Health - McKenzie River Clinic have recently opened their doors for business and the beautiful

O'Brien Memorial Library will do so as well on November 16. Too, the McKenzie Community Land Trust will be breaking ground in early November to begin its Rose Street project of building six, new stick-built, fire-resilient, affordable homes. And the McKenzie River Community will be happy to celebrate the new Meyers Market and Liquor Store opening, hopefully soon. There is much to be thankful for and pride in the efforts and accomplishments of our local organizations in their efforts to rebuild and stand up our McKenzie Community. More tours and efforts are in the works to showcase these local efforts but to also illuminate the many pressing needs we yet have in this recovery journey, addressing these

to our County and State counterparts. We have and will continue to provide evidence that to these visitors that we love and care for our Community. McKenzie Locals Helping Locals is requesting your assistance this Sunday, November 3 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm to help once again clean and spruce up Blue River. McKenzie Locals Helping Locals will provide the burgers for lunch. Please consider volunteering with us for weed eating, brush cutting, blackberry removal, other general clean up. Bring your tools, gloves and any other items you have to help out. Come for some fun, camaraderie, work and let's spruce Blue River up! Thank you and looking forward to spending quality time with you all.

4th Annual Holiday Lights

The McKenzie Community Partnership's 4th Annual Holiday Lights, sponsored by New Image Car Wash, is scheduled for December 1-31. It's time to plan your light display on your home, fence, or yard. This year there will also be two new large lit displays: one at Honey Paddle Farm and one at milepost 24.

A signup sheet will soon be posted to Facebook and on Mc-

Kenzie Community Partnership's website so that the partnership's photographer can be sure and find the wonderful displays and share them with everyone.

For the first time there will also be a free community holiday kick-off party on December 1st, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Vida McKenzie Community Center. There will be live music, gingerbread house decorating, caroling, crafts and

games, and refreshments, along with collecting new, unwrapped toys for the McKenzie Fire and Rescue toy drive.

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

Any questions, please email mary@mckenziecommunity.org.

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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

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and Pleasant Hill finished second with 131 points. Looking ahead to the 3A/2A/1A SD 4 District Championships, the Eagle's freshman runner Claire Weiss, has posted the 33rd best District time, Drake has the 45th and Dion is currently sitting at 46th.

Elks Trample Eagles, 32-13 Elkton Earns Last Post Season Berth

The Eagles traveled to the Land of the Umpqua, or one should say, the Home of the Elks. McKenzie was hunting for its second Special District 2 South Six-man football victory, but the hunters became the hunted.

Elkton, winless through seven contests this season, smelled first blood and then some, rolling up 32 straight points, before giving up 13 to their visitors. The Elks were led by senior captain Jordyn Nederhood, who scampered for 3 touchdowns on 112 yards gained in 8 rushing attempts (14 yards per carry average). Elkton teammate Devlin Harper toured the end-zone twice in the first quarter, scoring on runs of 61 and 25 yards, while amassing 136 yards rushing on 8 touches (17 yards per carry). Harper was a force on the other side of the ball too, leading his Elks teammates with 8 tackles, 1 sack, and an interception.

No Eagle stats were available at press time. McKenzie, coached by first year Head Coach Willy Kumle, fell to 1-5 in League play and 2-6 overall. With the victory, Elkton improved to 1-5, 1-7, and a tie with the Eagles for sixth place in the South Division.

Just as important, however, the last post-season berth went with

the victor of this game. There were six berths available for both the Special District 2 North and South Leagues, respectively. The SD 2 North has six teams, thus all qualified for the playoffs. The SD 2 South, which McKenzie is a member, however, has seven teams.

The Elks and the Eagles were playing for more than just a League victory, that is, the last SD 2 berth was on the line as well. Hometown pride means a lot in small rural America, and you can bet the Elkton faithful were celebrating last Friday night on the Umpqua. It might last but one night, but hey, you can dance as long as the music's still playing! So the Elks will head North on Friday, November 1, to share celebration mindsets with the Warriors of Siletz Valley.

That kickoff between the two sixth place teams will commence at 2:00 pm and we'll see whose dancing a couple of hours later. Crow, the fifth place SD 4 South team will load a bus on Friday and drift on up to C.S. Lewis Academy, who usually holds six-man football events at George Fox University. That playoff game between the Cougars and the Watchmen will kick off at 4:30 pm if you're in the neighborhood. The fourth place divisional teams, the Falls City Mountaineers will ride over the Cascades to Grizzly Country, as in Gilchrist. Expect the Grizzlies to show a cold shoulder, low temps should hover in the low 20s come the 7:00 pm game time.

The Alsea/Days Creek, 3rd place hookup, features Wolverines and Wolves respectively. And you can bet there will be a ton of snarling and biting going on down at Days Creek on Saturday, November 2, 1:00 pm. Days Creek's football field is unique in that it is set down in a bowl next to the Creek and you can bet the howling will be loud from both of these proud schools. Second place playoffs will feature a couple of Lakes, one East of the Cascades, the other West. That feature in itself is usually good for conversation but this game, 3:30

Saturday on the East side, will be one to watch.

The North Lake Cowboys, ranked 5th in the State with a 4-1, 6-1 record will be ready to drain the hopes and dreams of the Triangle Lake Lakers, who roll into Silver Lake town with an equally fine 4-1, 5-2, 8th ranked bragging right. But, you've got to consider when you place your bet, that the Cowboys have been averaging 56.5 points scored per game while holding their opponents to about 18.5 pts. And oh by the way, North Lake's lone loss came at the pleasure, one sided, by the Powers Cruisers, second ranked six-man team in the State with a perfect 8-0 record, who laid an old fashioned 66-19 whooping on the high scoring Cowboys back in September.

Speaking of Cruisers cruising, Powers will entertain the 3rd ranked, also undefeated 8-0 team, the Eddyville Charter Eagles. The game of the weekend will kickoff in Powers at 6:00 pm and it might be well worth a trip to the Southwest corner of the State for this clash.

These are the situations that rural folks talk about for many years following, but rest assured, both of these teams plan to make a big dent in the 2024 OSAA State 1A Six-man Football Championships that will begin First Round play on November 8-9. Maybe if you choose the Southern rode trip Saturday, you can be one of those that say you were there for the show!

Siletz Valley Bus Accident/Forfeit Closes Regular Vball Season

The final regular season Mt. West League Volleyball match between the visiting Siletz Valley Warriors and host McKenzie, finished on an unexpected and some might say, dramatic finish. And it didn't take place on the court.

Fortunately, and thankfully, the visiting Warriors were all safe, if not a bit shaken, following a vehicular accident involving the Siletz Valley bus, while on

its travel upriver to the match. McKenzie sent a bus to the rescue and delivered the visiting Warriors to Finn Rock, but the season finale was forfeited by Siletz Valley, due to the circumstances and direction from the OSAA State Volleyball Director.

The Warriors were delivered home by Bethel School District, which sent a bus up to Finn Rock to pick up the 9 athletes and their coaches.

McKenzie finished the Regular Mt. West League 2024 season with a 1-15 record, 2-17 overall, last in the MWL standings and an OSAA State ranking of 73rd out of 73 Class 1A teams. Siletz Valley finished its season 4-12, 4-13, 7th out of 9 MWL teams and a final ranking of 63rd. Neither team qualified for post-season action.

Triangle Lake Wins MWL Volleyball Title

The Triangle Lake Lakers outright won the 2024 Mt. West League Volleyball League Championship with a 14-2 regular season record. The Lakers two MWL losses were provided courtesy of Eddyville Charter, 1-3, there, on September 12, and at Alsea on October 8, also a 1-3 defeat. The 23rd OSAA ranked Lakers sealed the deal with a 3-0 defeat over second place Mohawk 13-3, 15-11, at the Mt. West League Volleyball Tournament held at Junction City High School on Saturday, October 26.

The Lakers earned the top MWL seed to the 2024 OSAA State First Round playoffs beginning on Wednesday, October 30. Mohawk defeated Alsea, 3-1, on Saturday, to advance to the MWL Championship match with the Lakers and will represent the League as a second seed. Alsea upended Eddyville Charter, 3-0, to earn the match opportunity with Mohawk and will move on to the First Round as the third MWL seed. Triangle Lake will host South Wasco County in their First Round match at 6:30 pm on Wednesday.

The Big Sky League Redsides of

SWC travel West with a 12-1, 21-10, record. South Wasco County is the third seed out of the Big Sky. Mohawk travels East to Union where the Mustangs will tangle with the Old Oregon League's second seeded Bobcats. Union has posted a 9-1 OOL record and a 20-7 overall record, which has earned the Bobcats an OSAA State 3rd ranking. You can bet the Mustangs will have their hands full of Bobcats on Wednesday, first serve set for 6:00 pm.

And then enter the Wolverines of Alsea, who will be the featured guests of the Umpqua Valley Christian Monarchs on Wednesday, match time yet to be decided. The Monarchs, are the second ranked Class 1A team in the State this season, impressively winning their Skyline League with a 10-1 record and notching a 21-5 overall record. UVC has always been a good host to its visiting rivals.

Don't expect to see anything but a good ole fashioned thrashing, however, in the spirit of the occasion. The Monarchs' school lies in the shadows of Roseburg, and the teams down South know how to celebrate a good victory. The Wolverines of Alsea better have their best fight on and you can bet the Head Coach Ricki Hendrix will have her team ready for the challenge. The Hendrix family residing in the Valley of the Wolverine has been associated with many a fine Alsea athletic season.

Mady Groggins And Grace Weiss

Earn Mt. West League Honors

Eagle juniors Mady Groggins and Grace Weiss both were honored by the Mt. West League Coaches with selection to the 2024 Mt. West League Honorable Mention Volleyball All League team. MWL All League team honors were announced at the 2024 Mt. West League Championship Tournament last Saturday held at Junction City High School.

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Guest Opinion

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new voters from liberal South Eugene. This increased the odds that a liberal leaning candidate like Commissioner Buch would win in the upcoming election in 2026 in conservative leaning East Lane County. The new boundary map also took 700 votes out of liberal South Eugene and put them in the Springfield district.

It is sad and almost hard to believe that the League of Women's Voters for Lane County oppose Ballot Measure 20-362. Why do I say that? Because Ballot Measure 20-362 is almost identical to Oregon Initiative Petition 14 that is supported by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. If you compare Ballot Measure 20-362 and Initiative Petition 14 you will note, except for changes made to take into account one measure is statewide dealing with Representatives and Senators and one is countywide dealing with Commissioners, the measures are almost word for word.

In the McKenzie River Reflections Guest Viewpoint (10/17/24), Tammy Parker, President of the League of Women Voters of Lane County, states that having this County Ballot Measure take ef-

fect before the 2026 election "is a non-starter for the League. It is highly unusual and costly." Ms. Parker must have forgotten to read her own statewide measure because it also takes effect before the 2026 election. See Initiative Petition 14, paragraph 1, Section 6(1). In fact, the author of Ballot Measure 20-362 got the idea of making Ballot Measure 20-362 effective before the next election after reading the League of Women Voter's Initiative. And it makes sense. Why wait until the election in 2032 to get rid of the corrupt gerrymandering that took place by the Board of Commissioners in 2021.

Let's take away the power from our Commissioners to choose their own voters. Let's stop gerrymandering. Please vote YES for Ballot Measure 20-362.

Dale Riddle is a local attorney who specializes in good government cases. He was the Managing Attorney in the Rob Handy case that stopped Open Meeting Laws violations by the Lane County Board of Commissioners in the last decade.

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Oregon Health Authority to launch new rental assistance program in November

State is first in the nation to offer a statewide program through Medicaid



Courtesy of Oregon Health Authority

Farmworkers live in this affordable housing project in Lebanon. A new housing program will help Oregonians on Medicaid receive up to six months in rental assistance.

By Ben Botkin
Oregon Capital Chronicle
The Oregon Health Authority is launching a new rental assistance program through its Medicaid plan that serves low-income Oregonians when medical crises impact their ability to pay rent.

The health authority's plans are intended to keep people housed who need a short-term bridge to make ends meet and pay rent. Its goal is to help people maintain their health and their housing, which can lead to better long-term outcomes. People who face homelessness or the threat of eviction are 35% more likely to delay preventative health care, according to one national study.

The program, which starts in November, will make Oregon the first state in the nation to offer a statewide rental assistance program through Medicaid. The Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid program, provides more than 1.4 million Oregonians with health care, dental care and behavioral health care services.

"It really is focusing on trying

to keep those most at risk still housed, hopefully leading to them being able to have some short-term help," said Dave Baden, the authority's deputy director for policy and programs, in a recent press call with reporters.

The Oregon Health Authority is providing the program through its Medicaid waiver, which is a five-year plan that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid approved. States can receive waivers as a tool to try new programs or approaches to Medicaid. Oregon's current Medicaid waiver is in effect from Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2027.

During this period, Oregon has nearly \$1 billion available for the rental assistance programs and other new programs within the Medicaid plan for air conditioners, air filters and food benefits. Most of the money — \$904 million — is federal funding, with a state match of \$71 million.

The program can cover rental and utility costs for up to six months, including past-due amounts. People also can receive

medically necessary home improvements, including wheelchair ramps, pest control and heavy-duty cleaning.

The program covers rental assistance, but not new housing placements for people who are homeless.

"The goal of the housing benefit is really around keeping people housed and preventing homelessness," said Steph Jarem, the authority's waiver policy director.

Not everyone on Medicaid is eligible. To qualify, an Oregonian enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan would need to have a qualifying risk factor, such as complex medical condition, behavioral health condition, pregnancy or repeated emergency department trips.

The program can cover people who fall behind on rent because of a chronic condition or an injury that prevents them from working.

They also would need an income that is 30% or less than the median income of their region. For a family of four in Portland or Hillsboro, the cutoff is \$35,400.

State officials estimate 22% of Oregon's 618,278 households that rent have incomes that fall below the threshold and are potentially eligible.

In one example, a person who lives alone in Hood River and makes \$18,000 a year could get help for missing work with a broken leg while also living with chronic heart disease.

The authority reached the eligibility determinations after negotiations with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

OR Department of Forestry launches Prescribed Fire Liability Program

The Oregon Department of Forestry is happy to announce the launch of the Prescribed Fire Liability Program. This pilot program is intended to increase use of prescribed fire and cultural burning and support fire practitioners by providing liability coverage for enrolled burns.

Introducing periodic fire to fire-adapted landscapes and reducing forest fuels has been shown to lessen the potential for high-intensity wildfires and the large volume of smoke they produce.

While the rates of escape and loss are very low due to the careful planning and preparation required for prescribed fire and cultural burning, there is always some residual risk when working with fire. This risk, and the resulting liability for damages due to escape if uninsured, can deter some practitioners from using beneficial fire.

Governor Kotek signed House Bill 4016 in 2024 establishing the pilot Prescribed Fire Liability Program. It authorizes claims covering certain losses arising from escaped prescribed fires and

cultural burns. Participation in the program is voluntary.

For your burn to have liability coverage under the program, all the following conditions must be met:

The burn is enrolled in the program prior to burning.

The burn is conducted or supervised by an appropriate party for the burn.

Ensure the burn follows all applicable laws related to the burn (obtain and follow any required permits/burn plan, make required notifications for Certified Burn Manager-led burns, additional paperwork/submissions for Power Driven Machinery, etc.).

If the burn escapes, the fire must not be a result of willful, malicious, or negligent actions in the origin or subsequent spread.

Learn more about the program and apply at ODF's Prescribed Fire Liability Program web page: tinyurl.com/ybpfcmh6

For more information on prescribed fire and correlating programs, visit ODF's Prescribed Fire web page: tinyurl.com/mrx86j5b

Worth rebuilding

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East Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch cut the ribbon to celebrate the return of medical services in Blue River.

was "the oldest rural health clinic organization in all of Oregon and oldest in the nation."

"There's something about organizations that have existed for several decades, multiple decades," Falvey said. "There's strength in that history. And, we're excited to be closing out this chapter of the past four years and opening a new chapter about what's to come for the future of health care."

"We wanted to keep the warm, personal contact with patients that clinic was known for in the past, and we also wanted 21st-century health care," Rapp said. "Orchid does that. They give their providers time with patients. They bring in new ideas, like a community health worker, telehealth, free produce, and behavioral health."

Services like those came into play as people envisioned how the new building would function. "In fact," she added, "our architect designed a type plug in the exterior that you would more often see in an RV park so those mobile clinics could plug into

power while they were up here. So this key to success was pulling together the right team, and we found a remarkable build team to build this clinic."

Referencing what still needs to occur was Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch. "The first thing I noticed, which I've noticed before, but it's even more pronounced when you see new concrete, is that these local access roads need funding for redevelopment," she said. Buch promised to be an advocate at the next state legislature for "infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure" because of a "chronic deficit in funding for ODOT and other county roads."

Buch observed, "as many people know, it is not easy to build outside of a city limit. I hear you. I hear you." She vowed to continue to work on those needs as well. "As investment for the building comes through, we need ways in which to cut red tape for permitting and structures," she said.

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Letters to the Editor

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site. But mostly, we would like to thank you, our McKenzie Community.

Recall Tony Casad

Certainly Tony Casad has done some good things as superintendent of the Blue River Water Board. He does deserve credit for those things.

The question becomes: are the things the "good Tony" did outweigh the abuse, bullying and obstructionism that he has dished out to many members of the community. This of course remains a decision only the community of Blue River will make.

It is not true that only Tony

Casad can manage the Water District. It ran fine before he moved here and will go fine, likely better, if he leaves.

There are still some smart and decent people on the water board that can manage it, and many smart and decent people in the community that can be drafted to help as needed.

Eugene Skrine
McKenzie Bridge
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Banking on Oregon forests: Despite challenges, carbon markets see big potential in small landowners

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
A small statue of St. Francis sits on a stump holding court in Julie and John Christensen's forest in Corbett.



Rian Dundon/Oregon Capital Chronicle

John Christensen in his and wife Julie's forest in Corbett, Oregon, near the Columbia River on July 17, 2024.

The patron saint of animals and ecology is at home among the couple's 70-acres of Douglas firs, cedars and hemlocks near the Columbia River. The Christensens moved to Corbett, a small, unincorporated town 30 miles outside of Portland, in 1984, intending to make it a communal home for themselves and friends they'd met through Julie's work as a Catholic campus minister at Western Washington University. Much of the forest had been clear-cut for logging and for animal grazing before they moved in, so they set out planting over 5,000 trees in their first few years on the land, and many more over the next 40, making it a sanctuary to the bears, cougars and deer navigating a broader landscape taxed by growing logging and development.

Hoping to preserve their reforestation efforts, they signed a contract in 2023 with the company Forest Carbon Works that binds the future of their forest to a voluntary carbon crediting market. The contract ensures their forest, regardless of ownership, is managed for 125 years primarily for conservation so it can capture and store as much carbon dioxide as possible, generating credits that can be sold to polluting companies hoping to offset their own pollution.

A formerly logged forest being restored and replanted would be a shiny acquisition to most companies operating in carbon markets, where carbon credits can only be generated and sold if project owners can prove the forest is being managed to store more carbon dioxide through less intensive logging or no logging. But the Christensen's forest is an unusual player in the markets because of its size. It is among the smallest

forests in the nation that is generating carbon credits today.

The Christensens, however, are not a rare kind as aging owners of a forest who are concerned about its legacy. The average age of a small forest owner in the U.S. and in Oregon is about 65, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and carbon crediting companies are beginning to appeal to these owners with an offer they've long been left out of due to the high costs and risks – lock up your forest in carbon markets to generate some cash and to keep it from being sold to developers and industrial timber companies.

About 270 million acres of privately owned forests in the U.S. are small and family-owned, according to the U.S. Forest Service. That's an area about the size of California and Texas combined. But it's declined in recent years. Between 2007 and 2017, the total share of family-owned forests in the U.S. declined by 11 million acres, while the share of acres owned by industrial timber companies rose by more than 11 million acres.

Over the past 40 years, more than 750,000 acres of Oregon's family-owned, non-industrial forests have transferred to forest industry-ownership through buyouts and mergers, according to the non-

profit Coast Range Association. As of 2020, at least 40% of private forests in Oregon are owned by investment companies, according to an analysis from ProPublica, Oregon Public Broadcasting and The Oregonian/OregonLive.

If even 20% of existing family-owned, private forest acreage in the U.S. – about 50 million acres – was enrolled in carbon markets that necessitate better management and lighter logging, family forests could trap up to 1 billion additional tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide in the next 30 years, according to an analysis from the nonprofits American Forests Forever and The Nature Conservancy. That's about equal to taking all cars off of U.S. roads for one year.

Oregon could be a major player in this equation. About 4.3 million acres of Oregon forests – nearly 15% of the state's total forested acres – are owned by 62,000 families who oversee non-industrial forest parcels of less than 5,000 acres each. These forests, collectively, are about the size of Connecticut and Delaware combined.

For now, Minneapolis-based Forest Carbon Works is the only company currently operating in the state that is willing to work with forest owners as small as the Christensens, and it is today

managing the greatest number of forest carbon projects in Oregon. For years, it's been prohibitively expensive to get small forests into carbon crediting markets, and the risks have far exceeded the rewards. But more companies and nonprofits are experimenting with a new model that could make the scheme more lucrative for small forest owners and perhaps for the planet.

The Challenges

U.S. carbon markets have, for most of their short history, been accessible only to large forest landowners with 5,000 or more acres. The upfront and long-term monitoring and maintenance costs on projects are high, and can quickly get into the hundreds of thousands of dollars depending on the size of the forest. Companies that help manage projects and broker credits depend on big acreage generating large quantities of credits, and collecting a portion of those carbon credit sales to make up for the costs.

A small forest also comes with greater risks. A fire that wipes out 20,000 acres of a 250,000-acre forest carbon project is not a total loss. If a fire burned down the Christensen's 70 acre-forest, it's likely the project would have to be canceled and the credits "reversed" or rendered moot.

So far, small forests have also not generated piles of money for the small forest landowners. It's not a big deal for the Christensen's who don't rely on timber revenue for income, but for small forest owners who do, carbon companies have to make the case that the sale of credits could one day counterbalance some of the lost revenue from reducing or ending logging. Until carbon credits are worth significantly more than the \$6.50 that each one fetches on the voluntary market today, or the \$30 to \$40 the regulatory markets command, the companies have to make an appeal to landowner values.

"We basically don't make any

money from this. This is out of love," said Julie Christensen walking with John through the forest on a rare, cool July afternoon. The couple gets less than \$2,000 per year on their forest project, and said they invest most of that in planting new trees. Meanwhile, they get regular notes in the mail from timber harvesters and companies offering to buy the property or to help log it for shared profit.

David Bugni, another small forest owner near Estacada with 100 acres in the carbon market, is collecting similar returns as the Christensens on his credits. Bugni, a 2022 Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year, has been doing restoration work on the forest since the 1990s, and has probably spent more money on it than he's bound to ever receive from the sale of his carbon credits, unless the value per ton of carbon rises significantly. He's been able to leverage his forest restoration work over the years to bring in more than \$1 million in state and federal grants to build fish passages and native plant habitat in his forest, but he's spent tens of thousands of dollars of his own money either matching grant investments in projects or paying for them outright.

Choosing a legacy

Both the Christensens and Bugni entered the carbon market to protect their legacy. They did it as an alternative to an old-fashioned conservation easement, which is a legally binding agreement between landowners and a government agency or conservation organization, ensuring little to no development on a swath of land in perpetuity to protect it. In exchange for agreeing not to develop the land, landowners can get tax incentives and, in some cases, a payment from an agency or a land trust.

But the Christensens quickly learned that to do an easement, they'd need to pay someone to do an appraisal of their forest, which could cost up to \$30,000. Bugni found he'd need to hire a lawyer to help draft all of the paperwork, which could cost up to \$10,000.

In the carbon market, they didn't

[Big potential - Page 16](#)

Old Pass closes

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several reasons. But, if you go in, go at your own risk. But we are not an enforcement agency. We're not going to be up there chasing folks out, and we have not asked (Oregon State Police) to enforce anything up there either," Davey said.

She said one cross-country ski event, the John Craig Memorial Race, happens each year, which obtains a permit to go up to McKenzie Pass.

An online petition started by

Christian Sammons Sunday called for ODOT to keep the pass open.

Officials report it's not uncommon for bicyclists to go up to McKenzie Pass in the spring after the roads have been plowed but before the gates open. Davey said cyclists are advised not to do this because there may still be debris on the highway, and crews will be up there felling trees and removing debris.

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been significantly lower, often ranging from \$10 million to \$100 million, depending on the scope of damage and unmet needs.

Considering recent major disasters (like the 2020 wildfires) alongside more minor incidents, a rough average might range from \$50 million to \$150 million per allocation. However, larger, more devastating events skew this average upward, and smaller, localized incidents receive less funding.

People who missed the meet-

Community grants

Continued From Page 1

ing can still submit their ideas by commenting to OHCS by 11:59 p.m. on November 8th.

The community can provide comments on the draft SAPA in multiple ways. We encourage folks to find what works best for them.

Comments can be submitted online, or by email, phone, or mail to: hcs_housinginfo@oregon.gov, Phone: 877-510-6800, Mail: OHCS, 725 Summer St NE, Suite B, Salem, OR 97301-1266

To access a copy of the draft plan go to: tinyurl.com/2s4b7vmv

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Big potential

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A Christmas tree farm near David Bugni's forest in Estacada, Oregon, on July 12, 2024.

have any upfront costs – Forest Carbon Works, which will work with forests as small as 40 acres – took care of it. The average forestland owner with a project under the company's management is about 450 acres, according to Sandy Letzing, its senior Northwest forester.

Letzing would not share the company's cut in carbon credit revenue from small landowners, which varies by project, but said it's enough to make up the costs of hiring consulting foresters and third party auditors who verify the integrity of the small carbon projects. They also have cost-saving methods for inventorying forest carbon – including using a phone app – and work almost exclusively with voluntary markets run by nonprofits and private companies rather than regulatory markets run

by California or Washington. The company also got a \$200 million infusion of funding in 2022 when they were acquired by a division of Kimmeridge, an energy investment company.

Letzing believes the market for carbon credits from small forests in Oregon and across the U.S. is just getting started. Companies such as Microsoft and Facebook, or Meta, are buying carbon credits from Oregon-based forest projects, she said, and earlier this year, created a coalition with Salesforce and Google to invest in "nature based" carbon credits equal to offsetting 20 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

"It's growing exponentially. I'd say that the demand for credits far exceeds the supply," she said.

A patchwork approach
Hoping to compete with For-

est Carbon Works and cash in on the growth in forest carbon credit projects in Oregon are two of the largest nonprofit conservation groups in the U.S. and the largest carbon crediting company in the country. The Nature Conservancy and the American Forest Foundation have since 2020 been bringing together forestland owners in the East and Midwest, and aggregating their acreage together as one big project, allowing them to generate and sell carbon credits collectively.

Their Family Forest Carbon Program has connected 100,000 acres of forests across 19 states and enrolled them in voluntary carbon markets resulting in nearly \$24 million in payments to landowners, according to data on the program site. The groups are hoping to expand to the West in coming years, according to Emily Heber, a spokesperson for The Nature Conservancy in the Northwest, but data regarding forest carbon storage across the west that's needed to inform baselines for projects is not detailed enough to meet verification standards used by the group currently, she said in an email.

Finite Carbon, the nation's biggest carbon planning and brokerage company, is planning to roll out a patchwork program in the West in the next couple years, according to Caitlin Guthrie, Finite's director of forest carbon origination. The company currently does not work on projects less than 2,000 acres in the West, but does in other parts of the country. It will plan to integrate forests as small as 40-acres into aggregated forest plans in Oregon and other western

states by 2026, Guthrie said.

The company, which was founded in 2009 and is today majority owned by oil company BP and headquartered in Philadelphia, opened up its third and largest office in Portland in 2022.

The Christensens and Bugni described their decision to enter their forests into carbon markets as an attempt to protect their legacy of conservation, and as a response to the growing number of neighbors and companies around them cutting down forests. It was also a way to confront concerns about climate change, but in larger part, they see the carbon market as the best way for them to make sure the forests they spent their lives on continue to stay forests.

Across the road from Bugni's place, a Christmas tree farm with neat rows of small Noble firs that stand stick-straight like stubble across the bare ground serve as a frequent reminder to him of the

alternative to protecting his forest. The Christmas tree farm was, just a generation ago, an old forest. Now, trees get cut and regrown and cut again about every seven or so years.

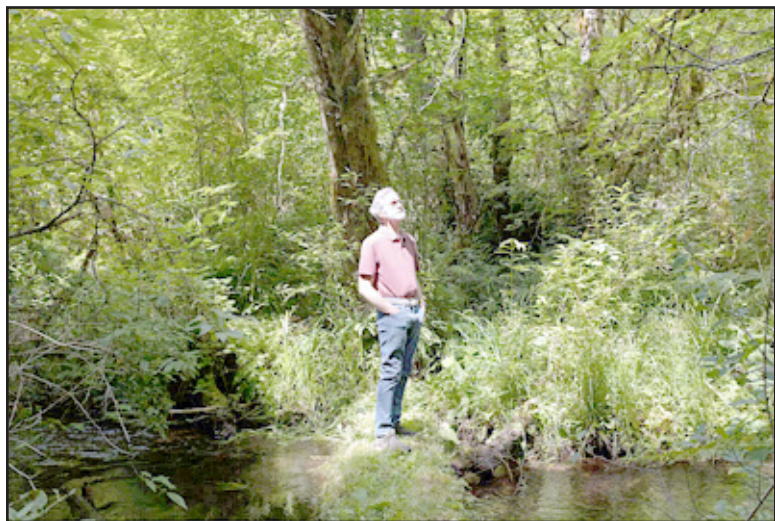
"Hopefully I'm around for another 20, or 25 years – but forests live on for centuries. I want to make sure that happens."

John Christensen made a similar calculation.

"If we hadn't been here and done this, this probably would have been logged off. But we want this to become an ancient forest, with all the benefits that it provides to wildlife, to watersheds, up to carbon sequestration," he said, passing St. Francis on the way back to his house.

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John Christensen in his and wife Julie's forest in Corbett, Oregon, near the Columbia River on July 17, 2024.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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