



Looking Back news of last year

January



Little was left of an abandoned trailer near the Cedar Flat community sign.

Remnants of the prior year included the discovery that someone had broken into the outdoor mailbox at the Walterville Post Office, taking it out of service for an investigation by the U.S. Postal Service. Just down the road, McKenzie and Eugene/Springfield firefighters responded to a vehicle fire east of the Thurston Road/Hwy. 126 intersection to encounter an abandoned travel trailer fully engulfed in flames. No license plates or VIN numbers were found to help identify the trailer's owner.

Also in January, a proposal to allow industries to permanently stash climate-polluting carbon dioxide beneath U.S. Forest Service land drew fire from opponents who were wary of carbon dioxide leaking from storage wells or pipelines and harming forest trees.

Then, the "Iceathon" impacted everything from turning on a light to mail delivery. Everyday activities were suspended when blizzard-like conditions hit Oregon. "The ongoing challenge of ice accumulation on trees, power lines, and devices is significantly impeding our power restoration efforts" was an understatement from one utility after the ice storm cut power and heat from thousands of households and contributed to a blaze that destroyed the home of a Leaburg family.

February

Permit challenges from environmental groups caused two fish hatcheries to close. Based on the temperatures of the warmer water they release, concerns around adverse impacts on important native species, including threatened Bull Trout and Spring Chinook salmon, caused ODFW to transfer fish raised at the Leaburg and McKenzie hatcheries to the Willamette Hatchery in Oakridge.

Water woes in Blue River were linked to community supply pipes being "discovered" as the town moves to rebuild. Unfortunately, the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020 removed all traces of fences and other unofficial landmarks commonly used to mark property boundaries.

An article on Oregon history detailed inventor Thomas B. Slate's dream of a business empire built on shiny silver steam-powered airships that didn't fly high for long.



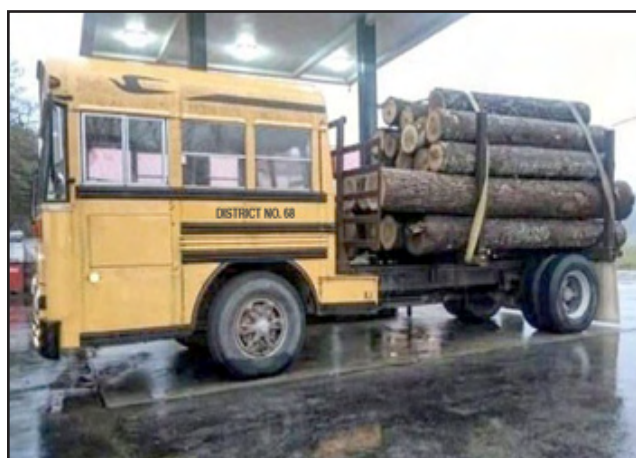
Locating sections of old water lines is a concern as Blue River rebuilds.

March

A state-of-the-art garbage handling facility approved by the Lane County Board of Commissioners was challenged by an association of family-owned garbage and recycling processors. The LCGRA sent a letter to Lane County detailing major legal issues with their 25-year \$150,000,000 contract to utilize technology and equipment designed and built by a local manufacturer.

Several people who testified at a Eugene Water & Electric Board meeting opposed plans that had been in the works for decades. Some said they'd received threats to cut off the electrical service of ratepayers who opposed the installation of wireless smart meters. Some of the sources of their power were reduced by the temporary shutdown of the Walterville Hydroelectric Project after an unexpected increase in water seepage near the Walterville Powerhouse was discovered.

As the month ended, a solution to the challenge of hiring and retaining bus drivers took some readers by surprise. Dubbed "Split-Load," the tongue-in-cheek program claimed to increase the number of district vehicles on the road while providing a new income source for school financing. Others realized the story was part of our annual April Fool's edition.



Students or logs? Why not both when April rolls around?

April



Ribbon cutting season was kicked off at the Vida McKenzie Community Center's ceremony.

A wowed crowd was on hand when the doors swung wide at the newly rebuilt Community Center in Vida. "Wows" were shared again inside when they found the open central gathering room and a fully equipped kitchen.

Prescribed fire, the controlled use of burns, was gaining favor as an increasingly important strategy in response to wildfire seasons posing more significant threats to the Northwest. A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator explained in a story, "Prescribed burn is one of the best tools we have for making our forests more resilient against catastrophic wildfires."

In Rainbow, a Hot Springs sword swinger who eluded K9 trackers was eventually cornered in a Port-A-Potty and arrested. The Crawfordsville man was reportedly "huffing from a nitrous oxide tank, swinging a double-handed sword, and making threats" before a chase ensued after his vehicle sped away from responding law enforcement.

May



Camaraderie was the fuel powering volunteers who helped bring ashore boats arriving at the Wooden Boat Festival.

Some drifted, some drove, but all had the picturesque Eagle Rock Lodge in mind as they made their way to an annual gathering in Nimrod. Once again, the McKenzie River Wooden Boat Festival was a tribute to local river history and the craft of wooden boat building. This event boasted over forty boats displaying both tradition and creativity.

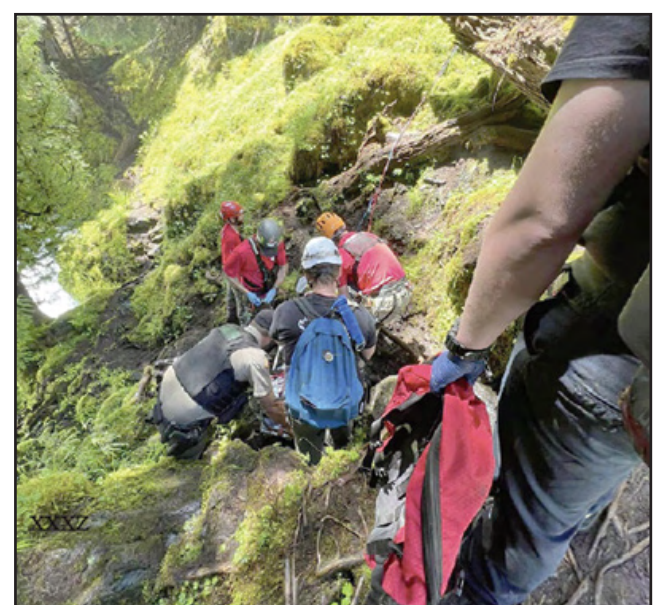
An incident starting at a mental health clinic in Bend wound its way across the Santiam Pass before ending with a local car crash in May. During the investigation, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office determined the case started when a 21-year-old man requested a ride-share service to Sisters and then assaulted and dragged the driver out of the vehicle before speeding off.

The McKenzie River Discovery Center at Leaburg Lake hosted the second "Listening Session" in May for a proposal to see if the McKenzie area could benefit from a "Main Street" approach. Focused on boosting or stabilizing their economies, the program has already helped communities around the state.

June

A year's worth of work on entrepreneurship and marketing was on display and for sale during Market Night at the McKenzie Community School gym. Products ranged from homemade jerky to crocheted headbands, hand-crafted driftwood trees, and wire-wrapped jewelry.

Rescuers responded after an elderly male fell 40 feet down a cliff near the base of Sahalie Falls. On the scene, medics found bystanders helping the patient, who sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was unable to walk.



Teamwork was essential for a rescue at Sahalie Falls.

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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys Basketball team hosts Alesa on Thursday, January 2. A Boys Junior Varsity game will start at 4:00 pm followed by the Boys Varsity game at 5:30 pm. Alesa is not fielding a Girls Basketball team this season.

The Eagle Basketball teams, boys and girls, travel to Mohawk on Saturday, January 4. A Boys Junior Varsity game will start at 4:00 pm and the Boys Varsity will tip-off at 5:30 pm. The Varsity girl's game will start at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 7, the McKenzie teams travel to Crow. A Boys Junior Varsity game starts at 4:00 pm, the Boys Varsity game at 5:30 pm and the Girls Varsity game at 7:00 pm.

Eagle Hoops Teams Tip-off Mt. West League Schedule

Pre-season basketball has come and gone with the Old Year and the

New Year ushers in the counting games of the 2024-25 schedules.

The Eagle boy's team opens the Mt. West League at home with the Wolverines of Alesa. This will be a good test for McKenzie Head Coach Neil Barrett's young team. Alesa forged a 5-5 pre-season record and fields a roster of young players similar to the Eagles. The Wolverine's five wins tie with Eddyville Charter for the best in the MWL thus far. Eddyville is the only MWL team with a winning record, 5-4, and Triangle Lake is the only other team not sporting a losing record. The Lakers are 4-4 in the pre-season.

If McKenzie manages to nail an opening MWL win at home, that might build the confidence to make a decent run through the rest of the season. And the Eagles (0-10) seem ready to taste their first victory of the year. It still remains to be seen if the McKenzie Boys can play with the discipline to produce a win, but for those who have watched the Eagles play up to now, it's of note that the physicality is there, the skill level still in the learning stage, and when the team figures out how to implement the Coaching staff's clip board notes during the court action, opportunity for success will increase.

The following Saturday, McKenzie travels to Mohawk, always a tough venue to play



in. The Mustangs are young this season as well and have shown it on the court thus far with a 3-6 pre-season. But Mohawk's roster shows some height and if the Eagles don't figure how to box out better under the basket, it will be a long ride home on the short trip. Keep the Mustangs to a one and done shot attempt and more

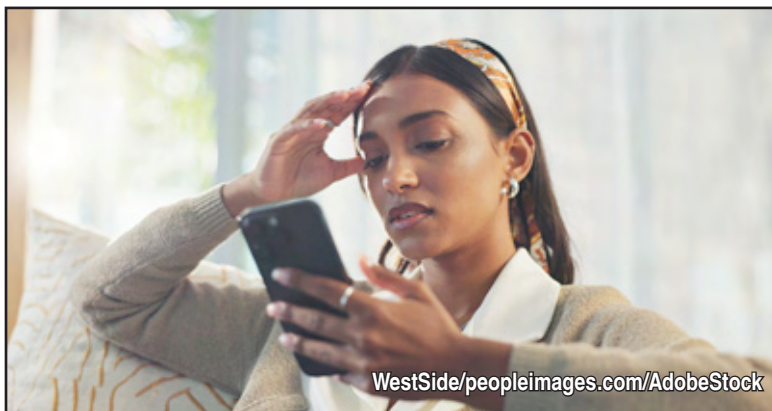
importantly, collect the offensive boards on the other end for put-backs and the Eagles have a chance to finish the week atop the MWL standings.

The Eagle Girls Varsity Basketball team has its work cut out this week. Head Coach Heather Holte takes her team next Saturday to the Mohawk Valley and as with the Boys team, the Mustangs always give you a battle. This is an old rivalry that goes way back and then some, so expect nobody in Mohawk black and orange to show much sympathy for whipping on the Eagles.

The Mustangs put together a 4-4 pre-season record, tied with Mapleton, for best in the MWL. But Mohawk Head Girls Basketball

Coach, Tim Yokum, grew up with this rivalry, and played on back-to-back Boys State Championship teams (2002-2003) under Head Coach Bart Rothenberger. Mohawk will put some experience on the court Saturday and the young Eagles will be hard pressed to overcome the relentless defense and scoring skills Coach Yokum's teams always present, if McKenzie insists on a run-and-gun offense. The Eagles will need to utilize the backboard more to improve shooting percentages and not be reluctant to box out for rebounds on both ends of court. Slowing the game down with more discipline will also help the offensive schemes.

Oregonians need to watch out for 'smishing' packages



WestSide/peopleimages.com/AdobeStock

With many holiday packages still to be delivered, the United States Postal Service is warning people new to receiving text messages on a smart phone to not fall for "smirshing" scams. Smirshing texts appear to come from the USPS, but the postal service does not send unsolicited text messages about packages, and the fraudulent texts are likely trying to obtain your personal information, according to John Hyatt, strategic communication specialist, United States Postal Service.

By Isobel Charle Oregon News Service Many folks are still expecting holiday packages this week, and the United States Postal Service is warning customers not to fall for what are known as smishing scams.

Smishing, said John Hyatt - a strategic communication specialist with the USPS - is the practice of sending fake text messages to smart phones, asking users to click on a link to resolve a zip code or other issue with a pending package.

He warned that personal data is what the sender is after.

"Basically, criminals trying to obtain personally identifying information about a person," said Hyatt, "such as accounts, user names, passwords, dates of birth, credit card numbers - things like that."

In 2020, the Internet Crime Complaint Center reported over 240,000 victims of smishing, phishing, and other fraudulent

schemes - costing over \$54 million, with the average person losing about \$800.

Smishing texts can be relentless this time of year, but Hyatt said you should never follow the message prompts.

"When you get a suspicious text message," said Hyatt, "if you click on those links, it will take you to a website that could be downloading onto your phone - and once you submit that information then they use it for nefarious purposes."

Hyatt said you will only receive text messages from the USPS if you have gone online and registered for such services.

"You can sign up to receive text messages about a tracking number," said Hyatt, "or you can go into the tracking service and put the number in and then ask for text message updates, or even an email update on usps.com."

He said the USPS informed delivery program is being used by millions of Americans to receive legitimate messages about what packages are on the way.

Go to the USPS.com website for more information.

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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases
12/24	48	39	1.78	700 cfs
12/25	35	45	0.78	NA
12/26	39	48	2.57	NA
12/27	39	44	1.72	851 cfs
12/28	39	48	0.86	945 cfs
12/29	39	44	2.17	945 cfs
12/30	36	42	0.21	786 cfs

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEAUBURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
12/24	50	38	1.41	7,660 cfs
12/25	47	38	0.45	8,760 cfs
12/26	50	39	1.51	9,170 cfs
12/27	49	42	1.15	9,170 cfs
12/28	50	43	0.68	13,000 cfs
12/29	50	42	1.83	cfs
12/30	48	39	0.51	14,800 cfs

Friday 1/3

McKenzie Valley Shows 50% chance precip High: 52 Low: 43
Santiam Pass Rain/Snow 60% chance precip High: 39 Low: 29

Saturday 1/4

McKenzie Valley AM Shows 40% chance precip High: 53 Low: 44
Santiam Pass Snow Shows 40% chance precip High: 38 Low: 30

Sunday 1/5

McKenzie Valley AM Shows 70% chance precip High: 52 Low: 41
Santiam Pass Rain/Snow 50% chance precip High: 40 Low: 29

Sheriff's Report

Dec. 20: 6:36 a.m: Suspicious Subject - McK. Hwy. A resident reported a suspicious subject walking in the area. A deputy contacted the subject.

8:39 a.m: Extortion - 92800 blk, Saddle View Dr. Self-report regarding online threats demanding payment.

2:08 p.m: Harassment - 38800 blk, McK. Hwy. The caller wanted a harassment incident documented that occurred earlier.

2:31 p.m: Fraud - 40100 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Self report regarding a garage door installer who took money for the installation, but did not install the doors.

5:31 p.m: Traffic Hazard -

Marcola Rd. Milepost 4.

11:09 p.m: Alarm - 90800 blk, La Lone Rd.

Dec. 21: 10:29 a.m: Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

6:24 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy. A suspicious vehicle was observed loitering in the area. The vehicle was described as a blue GMC pickup with a headache rack.

6:53 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

5:10 p.m: Information - Shotgun Creek Rd.

Dec. 22: 9:25 a.m: Hit & Run - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

11:42 a.m: Citizen Contact - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:03 p.m: Criminal Mischief - Terwilliger Hot Springs.

6:03 p.m: Criminal Mischief - Terwilliger Hot Springs. Self-report regarding a person who left their vehicle at the hot springs. The tires were deflated and windows broken overnight.

9:48 p.m: Alarm - 87800 blk, Fawn Way.

Dec. 23: 7:12 a.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd.

11:39 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - Mohawk Loop Rd.

Dec. 23: 8:05 a.m: Suspicious Vehicle - McK. View Dr. Mp. 5.

10:46 p.m: Shots Fired - 42800 blk, Leaburg Dr.

Dec. 24: 2:02 a.m: Drug Overdose - 50000 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:08 p.m: Harassment - 53000 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 24: 7:17 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 90400 blk, Sunderman Rd.

Dec. 25: 2:06 a.m: Traffic Hazard - McK. Hwy.

2:16 a.m: Tree Down - 190000 blk, Marcola Rd.

4:30 a.m: Alarm - 89700 blk, Upper Johnson Creek Rd.

11:07 a.m: Repossessed Vehicle - 36700 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

3:14 p.m: Illegal Dirt Bikes - Latta Rd.

Dec. 27: 3:34 a.m: Assist Fire Department - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.

5:51 a.m: Vehicle in Ditch - Johnson Rd.

7:03 a.m: Medical Info Call - 88500 blk, Lone Fir Dr.

7:22 p.m: Down Line - 87600 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

8:35 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 39500 blk, Howard Rd.

11:05 a.m: Welfare Check - 37000 blk, Goats Rd.

9:42 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 41300 blk, McK. Hwy.

Dec. 28: 11:49 a.m: Theft - McGowan Quarry.

Dec. 29: 11:31 a.m: Traffic Hazard - McGowan overlook.

12:34 p.m: Assist Public - Deerhorn Rd. Milepost 4.

2:22 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - McK. Hwy.

Comments, as reported, may not be complete or accurate. If

further information is required contact the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

State Police Report

Dec. 31: 01:29: Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 42. Dispatched regarding a single vehicle collision. Vehicle #1, a teal Ford Ranger, was travelling eastbound when it veered to the right and collided with a guardrail attenuator. Driver #1 left the scene prior to law enforcement's arrival. The vehicle was towed as a hazard/community caretaking.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Dec. 23: 19:21: 42955 Leaburg Dr. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

Dec. 24: 10:05: 38886 Camp Creek Rd. Patient Evaluation. Lift Assist.

12:07: 41598 Madrone St. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 25: 1:44: 50055 McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 26: 2:01: McK. Hwy./Milepost 21. Wires/Trees Down. Cleared Trees, Flagged Wires.

4:45: Goodpasture Rd./Mp. 1. Wires/Trees Down. Cleared Trees, Assessed Damage.

8:51: 40329 Booth Kelly

Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

10:09: 88677 Ermi Bee Rd. Fire, Structural. Legal Backyard Burn Found, No Structures Involved.

10:27: 88139 Keola Ln. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:00: 45071 McK. Hwy. Odor Investigation. Investigate, Confirm No Odors in House.

14:24: 8651 Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded While En Route.

20:19: 88139 Keola Ln. Public Assist. Assist Patient Upstairs.

Dec. 27: 2:22: 40329 Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, Trauma. Assist.

[Continued On Page 11](#)

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Dec. 25: 01:41: Medical - 50000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 26: 03:09: Medical - 54000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female patient.

Dec. 31: 01:22: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy. Milepost 42. A Ford Ranger looked like it had gone into the guardrail. One or two people were out walking near it.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 20th, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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World's shortest river is still long on drama – and hilarity

By Finn J.D. John

Far away from the Beaver State, in the backcountry of West Virginia by the Kentucky border, a man named Floyd Hatfield was the proud owner of a fine razorback hog.

A distant neighbor, from across the Tug River on the Kentucky side, saw the hog one day, and claimed the hog was really his. He could tell, he said, by the distinctive notches in the hog's ear.

Hatfield was enraged; the neighbor was basically calling him a thief, an insult that was, in the heart of Appalachia just after the Civil War, not to be borne.

The neighbor took Hatfield to court, suing for the return of the hog, and lost. But the Justice of the Peace was Anderson Hatfield, a relative of Floyd, and the neighbor was convinced the fix was in. Now the neighbor was enraged.

That was in late 1878, and the dispute over the allegedly stolen hog blossomed out over the following 12 years into the most notorious family feud in U.S. history. The neighbor, as you have probably guessed by now, was named McCoy — Randolph McCoy.

The Hatfield-McCoy feud ended with more than a dozen members of both families being measured for coffins, and a decade or so of prosecutions for murder.

The stakes in the Lincoln City-Great Falls, Mont., feud, if it can be called that, are a lot less serious. In fact, the whole situation is the kind of thing that's just fun and funny.

But the parallels are striking, and — now that nearly 150 years has passed since the last Hatfield-McCoy blood was spilled — amusing.

It all started, more or less, in 1940 when the city of Delake — which today is part of Lincoln City — had a contest to name the channel that drains Devil's Lake into the Pacific Ocean. At the time it had no official name, mostly being known as simply "The Outlet." It was, however, already locally being proclaimed as the shortest river in the world. Measured from the rim of the lake to the low-tide level on the beach, it was just 440 feet long.

The winning entry in the naming contest was "D," submitted by Johanna Beard of Albany, who reasoned that the world's shortest river should have the world's shortest name.

There were some objections from the folks at Klamath Falls, who objected that it really should be "D Creek" and taken off the list of rivers entirely. The Klamath Falls folks had their own candidate for "world's shortest" honors in the Link River, which is 8,000 feet long but is also undeniably a "real" river.

Nothing came of this objection, though, and soon the Highway



Offbeat Oregon
The D River, as seen from under the Highway 101 bridge, looking out to sea.

Department made the claim official with a sign at the bridge on Highway 101: "D River: World's Shortest."

Somewhere along the way, the Guinness Book of World Records picked up on the claim, and listed the D River as the world's shortest river, at 440 feet.

And that's how the situation stood in 1987 when, like a pugnacious neighbor casting covetous eyes upon a prize razorback hog, Mrs. Susie Nardlinger's fifth-grade class at Lincoln Elementary School in Great Falls, Mont., set out to prove that the title of World's Shortest River actually belonged to them.

Under their teacher's guidance, the students surveyed and measured a very short and as-yet-unnamed waterway that connected Giant Springs with the Missouri River. It was 201 feet long, less than half the official length of the D River. They named it Roe River and petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographical Names to list it.

The kids also earned a ton of popular support for their crusade as newspapers, magazines, and television reporters caught onto what they were doing and started running stories about their quest to win the record for their town. The publicity culminated with a spot on the docket of "the highest court of opinion in the land," as writer Niki Hale Price puts it: The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson.

Like the McCoy's arguing their case in front of Justice Anderson Hatfield, Lincoln City boosters didn't think they were getting much of a fair trial there. How could they, with the other side represented by all those cute little precocious fifth-graders?

In due time the geography board certified the Roe River with a listed length of 201 feet, and at that point the kids went in for the close — by submitting the newly designated river to the Guinness Book of World Records.

When the 1987 edition of the Guinness Book came out, the Roe River was listed as the world's shortest.

The year after this disastrous turn of fortune, the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce hired David Gomberg as director.

"I learned very quickly that the mothers and fathers in Lincoln City took the 'shortest river' very seriously and they said, David, go fix this for us," Gomberg said, in an interview with Conde Nast Traveler's Ken Jennings.

In the more than 30 years since that year, Gomberg has been the D River's number-one booster in the battle for shortest-river honors.

"A group of students in Great Falls as a school project decided to get a drainage ditch recognized as a river by the Survey of Geographical Names," he said, "and then submitted that to the Guinness Book as the shortest river in the world."

As a drainage ditch, the Roe would be something to see — its stream flow is in the range of 2,300 cubic feet per second, or about half the size of the McKenzie River at Leaburg. Moreover, the D itself isn't exactly huge.

But then, it's not usually 440 feet long, either. In fact, it's only that long twice a year, at the two maximum low tides. With the title on the line, Lincoln City locals started thinking that wasn't a fair way to measure the river. So a local survey company sallied forth on a spring tide and measured the river at its shortest — with the tide as high as possible, and the ocean practically lapping at the footings of Highway 101.

The result: 120 feet.

Armed with this information, the Lincoln City partisans went back to the Guinness Book publisher to petition for a new trial.

In 1990, the Guinness people agreed to update the listing so that it listed the D River as the world's shortest during high tides, and the Roe as the world's shortest at other times. Both could keep their "World's Shortest River" signs and information, and everybody was happy....

Well, almost everybody. Just as Randolph McCoy wouldn't have been happy settling for half of the hog he thought was his, some of the students and community boosters in Great Falls did not want to share the title they considered theirs by right of conquest following a

hard-fought victory.

Mrs. Nardlinger found another short waterway nearby — this one really was more or less a drainage ditch — that was the length of a medium-size motorhome, and started the process of surveying that to petition to designate it as a "fork" of the Roe River.

As for Dave Gomberg and the Lincoln City boosters, they weren't ready to settle for half a hog either.

Under Gomberg's leadership, the Chamber hired a team of geologists to survey the river, and the geologists decreed that the river measurements that had been used were entirely wrong.

"They said that it starts where the water comes out of the lake at the water break there, and ends at the vegetation line," said Gomberg. "We determined that our river was actually not 440 feet but about 110 feet long."

Beyond that vegetation line, the geologists said, the D River was no longer the D River, but rather the D River Estuary ... or at any rate, that's how Gomberg sees it.

"That's our story," he added. "We're sticking to it."

At that point, very understandably, the Guinness Book people gave up and simply deleted the entire category of "shortest river" from their next edition. The whole affair seems to have left a bit of a bad taste in their mouths, because they've basically memory-holed the whole affair: When Beach Connection writer Andre Hagestedt asked about it a few years ago, a PR assistant with the Guinness Book actually claimed Guinness had never published the D River as the world's shortest.

As a side note, there is a story in fairly widespread circulation online from Oregon Coast Today that tells of some really startling new activity on the D River. According to this story, just in case the whole "world's shortest because Estuary" wheeze doesn't hold up, the D River now has a new record it can contend for: World's Narrowest. And also, maybe World's Fastest too.

This article is un-by-lined and has no date, but a quick dive into the source code brings up a fairly suspicious one: March 30, 2021 ... just in time for April Fools Day. Oregon Coast Today is kind of famous for April Fools pranks, and it seems pretty clear that this is one of them.

In this article, Chip Dipson (or is that Dip Chipson? It could be a typo) claims Explore Lincoln City brought some of its extra leftover marketing money to the table to partner with the Oregon Department of Transportation while ODOT crews were shoring

[Shortest river - Page 11](#)



By Slim Randles

"Boys, I gotta tell you," said our old pal Windy Wilson, "This cold transmits me reversely to the winter of '47. Cold? It thicklicated your blood so much you could hardly walk. You remember it, Doc? Ol' Miller at the dairy had to ignitiolize a fire under the milk separator to liquinate it. Why, even the dickie birds got refrigelated up and crashed!"

"You boys know about them engine heatilations, right? Well, it was so cold we were obligatored to pre-heat the blamed firewood before we could burn it. Diesel trucks were immobilating up at sixty miles an hour and it still took them a mile and a half to stop.

"Some of the women were knitting up sweaters that would fit two people, just to take advantage of the body heat. Dang near caused epilemic divorce, 'cause the husband wanted to go one way and the wife another. I tell you, it was parsimonium! It was blame near four days and nights erstwhile an ol' he-coon down 'long Lewis Creek reconnized he'd been treed by the hounds, 'cuz the dogs' bawling frosticated up concretely afore he could hear it."

Windy paused for a sip or two. No one wanted to interrupt.

"Some winters," Windy said, "just take the former limitarions to obliqueness!"

Yeah. We'd always figured it that way, too.

Brought to you by "Dogsled, A True Tale of the North," by Slim Randles. Find it at Amazon.com.

Quote of the Week

"The problem with human beings is not that we aim too high and fail; it is that we aim too low and succeed."

Michelangelo

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

The basics of selecting garden seeds



For gardeners, January is a kind of second Christmas — mailboxes overflowing with seed catalogs and gardeners' imaginations filled with visions of new varieties, bountiful flowers, and tasty produce. There's a long road between the fantasy gardens of January and the summer harvest. That road starts with seeds.

Here are five things to consider when trying to narrow down the multitude of choices to selections that can reasonably fit your yard, time, and budget.

Choose varieties with shorter harvest windows

The shorter the days-to-maturity, the greater the chance for success in an unpredictable and frost-prone environment. In the trade, it's called "days to maturity" — the time between planting and harvest. Beans, for instance, might have days to maturity anywhere between 55 (bush green beans) and 110 (large limas). The shorter the days to maturity, the greater the chance for success in an unpredictable and frost-prone environment like the Klamath Basin or much of Eastern Oregon.

Use days to maturity to cull some options from your menu.

You can manage some plant diseases via seed selection

Some diseases, especially those we call "soilborne," can linger in the soil for many years. We can use many disease-resistant varieties — rust-resistant beans and blight-resistant tomatoes — to manage disease while reducing fungicide use in the garden. Seed catalogs tend to be a great source of disease-resistance information. Often, charts in the catalog make disease resistance options easy to understand. Some plants (like lettuce) don't have many disease-resistance options, while others (tomatoes) have lots for gardeners to work with when disease pressure is high. Conversely, seeds can also carry some diseases. Sometimes, inexpensive dollar-store seed can be less of a deal than expected — seed packets might not have any resistance information and are unlikely to be certified disease-free.

The bigger packet is not always the better deal. Even under ideal storage conditions, seeds have a shelf life. Different types of seeds differ significantly in the time they remain viable (able to germinate). Parsley and onion, one year; beans, three years; lettuce, six

months. For gardeners, January is a kind of second Christmas — mailboxes overflowing with seed catalogs and gardeners' imaginations filled with visions of new varieties, bountiful flowers, and tasty produce. There's a long road between the fantasy gardens of January and the summer harvest. That road starts with seeds.

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Continued On Page 7



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Looking Back

news of last year

July



This year's Tokatee Celebration really got into the swing of things thanks to the aerial art of coordinated drones.

Animated American and Oregon flags, joined by Tokatee's own logo, generated smiles from the sky. A fleet of illuminated drones was the source as they again took to the air for the Golf Club's annual celebration.

Doors were pried open and smashed during an early morning break-in at the Leaburg Store. In the process, a burglar attached a tow strap to an ATM inside the building and ripped off the front door. Below-normal numbers of returning Chinook salmon brought an end to angling in the McKenzie River in July and remained in effect through the end of the year. ODFW took the step to protect unexpectedly small runs of wild and hatchery Chinook salmon observed at the Leaburg Dam this year.

People walking around the fragrant grounds of the McKenzie Lavender Farm Lavender Bloom found plenty to delight the eyes and soothe the senses. Many left laden with bundles of U-cut lavender as well as ceramic, acrylic, wood, metal, or fabric handcrafted treasures.

August

A controlled burn that reignited on Forest Service land also touched off fears that the area could be entering an age of "forever fires." During a public meeting, officials outlined how the Ore Fire had grown from embers a month after a controlled burn was thought to have been extinguished.

An article that month noted investor interest in Oregon's timberlands for nature-based solutions to remove greenhouse gases. The story included a quote from Fortune Magazine: "The investment arms of massive banks are getting into the game, too." It also mentioned that in April 2016, Rosboro announced it had sold approximately 95,000 acres of its high-quality timberland in Western Oregon to Campbell Global of Portland.

Plenty of drivers looked at least twice after being surprised when a 10-foot giraffe went by. What the unsuspecting motorists were the result of two months' restoration by taxidermist Curran Manzer, who had spent two months restoring it- rehydrating the skin and glues along with repairing areas that had pulled away from its foam core before ferrying it over to the new owner's shop in Veneta.



Necks were craned when drivers noted a giraffe was among the raffic they encountered.

September

The McKenzie River Discovery Center received good news when the county okayed a special use permit allowing commercial uses on the 46-acre property. Envisioned as an education destination and a stepping stone for economic development, supporters hoped to soon renovate the interiors of three buildings and rebuild a barn that burned in 2020.

Upstream Lane County reported it would be working to determine the feasibility of constructing a separated bike/pedestrian bridge in Blue River. Two alignment options were being looked at "to support emergency vehicles and withstand an earthquake."

The Board of Commissioners authorized \$500,000 to upgrade land-based internet service available on utility poles exposed to disruption from natural hazards. The work would be part of a \$20 million grant Lane Electric received for a modern fiber-optic-based network expected to outperform existing cable and copper-based networks.

David Lewis offered an alternative history of Native peoples when he explained that although no major tribe lived here, people came through. He added that those interactions were most likely to have involved late summer visits for fishing or berry picking.



Indigenous awareness was a key component of a presentation at the Upper McKenzie Community Center.

October



Life at a slower pace was appreciated by folks who spent a weekend dat at the historic Fish Lake Remount Depot.

Buckskins and burros were among the sights, while the Crazy Weasels and a curved-dash Oldsmobile provided background sounds to round out the Santiam Wagon Road Exhibition. The event brought the 1800s back to life on part of the unique route between Albany and Bend that sent settlers eastward to reach the rich pasture lands of Central Oregon.

The county clerk approved recall petitions for Blue River Water and Sanitation District members and the Blue River Park and Recreation District. Opponents claimed Tony Casad and Josh Cloke limited public access and had personal agendas.

A California man lost his life in a two-vehicle crash on the curve around Leaburg Lake. Monday near Milepost 24 of the McKenzie Hwy. During the incident, a gooseneck trailer loaded with bales of hydroseed overturned, spilling the load into the westbound lane. A westbound Toyota Corolla collided with the debris.

"Conservative or liberal?" was the question facing Oregon's House District 12 voters. People had an opportunity to hear from Democrat Michelle Emmons and Republican Darin Harbick during a McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event at Ike's Pizza.

November



Ribbon cutting continued when people celebrated the reopening of the the O'Brien Memorial Library.

Blue River's Complete Community Plan got a full "thumbs up" from county commissioners as they approved zoning amendments to expand community boundaries and allow higher-density development. Details meant owners of one-acre residential properties could build two homes and an Accessory Dwelling Unit (sometimes called a "granny flat") on their lots.

Only 38% of homes have been rebuilt, and the costs of rebuilding have risen 40%. In response to those numbers, the McKenzie Community Land Trust announced plans to break ground for a cluster of six new homes that they hoped would provide affordable homeownership opportunities for local families who live and work in the McKenzie Valley.

A shoulder-to-shoulder crowd packed the O'Brien Memorial Library, echoing a feeling of rebirth while celebrating the grand opening of a replacement for the building lost in the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. Besides being bigger, the facility also offers an online catalog, computers for patrons, e- and audiobooks, and high-speed internet connections.

December

An overflow crowd turned out in Springfield to view a documentary exploring the evolution of the McKenzie River Drift Boat. "Oregon's Boat" showcased the ingenuity and craftsmanship behind the development of the iconic vessel and its impact on the recreational economy.

People also turned out for more water-related opportunities as some Holiday Lights brightened the night. A flotilla of decorated rafts passed through McKenzie Bridge and Rainbow, while downstream at twilight, the surface of Leaburg Lake mirrored the glow of a flotilla of drift boats.

A one-acre parcel could become the site of a memorial to the Holiday Farm Fire. Located at the junction of Hwy. 126 and the west end of McKenzie River Drive, the lot includes a historic piece of the old McKenzie River Hwy. and seems to be a former homestead, judging by river rock features like an old retaining wall and a large chimney.

On Wednesday, ODFW staff responded to a report of a large koi, most likely intentionally released into the McKenzie River near the Armitage Boat Landing. Concerns arose because the invasive species can live up to 25 years, reproduce rapidly, and survive frigid winters.



A rock chimney could anchor the site of a proposed memorial to the Holiday Farm Fire.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



EXPLORING A FAMILY FOOD HERITAGE

You may have your family food heritage represented in cookbooks but not even realize it. This doesn't have to be a collection of family recipes in one cookbook or notebook. You may discover that family members have contributed to community and organizational cookbooks.

These might date back for several decades, but give you insight into recipes your family members used, places where they lived, and organizations they belonged to. These cookbooks compose a part of your family heritage as much as those containing only recipes from your relatives.

Check Out Family Cookbooks
Look over recipe books accumulated by family members over the years. Generally when someone contributes a recipe or two to a fund raising project, they purchase at least one copy of the cookbook.

Most of these recipe books will be from the community where your family lives or has lived. Occasionally someone will contribute recipes to a project in a distant, yet related, area.

Nowadays, with the Internet, it's easier to send recipes to projects further from home. Also, groups of people around the country and the world may add their recipes to an e-book that raises funds or promotes a cause.

Possible Cookbooks with Family Recipes

* Church cookbooks - Fund raising cookbooks by church organizations are numerous. If your family member or ancestor attended a particular church, check to see if the ladies' group ever produced a cookbook. You may find a familiar name there.

* Organizations - Various

organizations find cookbooks a great fund raising project. I've participated in cookbooks created by authors' and quilters' groups. Some historical societies produce cookbooks, especially when contributors pass along old family recipes.

* Schools - Often the PTA will produce a cookbook with recipes from the teachers and parents of the school children.

* Calendars = Sometimes calendars with recipes on them have been used as fundraisers. When my granddaughter was in 7th grade, the students collected recipes placed on a calendar instead of a picture for each month.

* Online Cookbooks - These have become popular in recent years and are produced in the e-book or on a CD.

My recipe from a church recipe book, the 1974 Poughquag Cookbook, produced by the ladies of the Poughquag (NY) Methodist Church.

APPLE CAKE - Add 1 cup sugar to 2 cups coarsely chopped apples; let stand for 10 minutes. Melt 4 tablespoons butter or margarine and add to apple mixture. Then blend in 1 beaten egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Sift together 1 1/2 cup flour, 1-teaspoon baking soda, 1-teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2-teaspoon salt; add to apple mixture. Stir; then fold in 1/2-cup raisins and 1/2 cup chopped nuts.

Bake in greased 9-inch pan at 350 degrees F. for approximately 30-40 minutes, or until cake tests done.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

Wreck takes life of one

SANTIAM PASS: A crash at the Santiam Junction of Hwy. 20 killed one person on December 30th, according to the Oregon State Police.

According to the OSP report, a westbound Toyota Highlander, operated by Victor Hernandez Triana, 28, of Springfield, attempted to turn left onto Hwy. 20 and entered the path of an east-bound Hyundai Accent, operated by Maryssa Elizabeth Swiderski, 35, of Willamina, causing a head-on crash.

The driver of the Hyundai was critically injured and transported by air ambulance to an area hospital.

A passenger in the Hyundai, a 15-year-old female from Willamina was transported by air ambulance to an area hospital and was later declared deceased.

A 17-year-old and a 15-year-old male from Willamina were in the Hyundai. Both were seriously injured and transported by ground ambulance to an area hospital.

The operator of the Toyota suffered minor injuries and was transported by ground ambulance to an area hospital.

Two passengers in the Toyota, Kathy Hernandez, 22, of Spring-



field and Bertha Santana Longoria, 28, of Springfield both suffered reported minor injuries. They were also transported by ground ambulance to an area hospital.

A passenger in the Toyota, Maria Triana De Hernandez, 51, of Springfield, suffered serious injuries and was transported by ground ambulance to an area hos-

pital. The highway was impacted for approximately two hours during the on-scene investigation. An unsafe left turn is considered to be the primary cause of the crash, which is under investigation.

OSP was assisted by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Black Butte Police Department, and ODOT.

Gardening Tips

Continued From Page 1

years; weeds, 1,000 years.

Depending on the crop, buying more than you can plant in one or two years to save a few cents on seed packets may lead to more frustration in poor plant quality than is offset by savings.

Group seeds into "cool season" and "warm season" plantings. Seed germination is dependent, in part, on soil temperature. That's soil, not air temperature.

Cool-season plants such as broccoli, lettuce, parsley, and spinach grow well in cool temperatures but germinate faster when soil temperatures are warm—one reason we start some seeds indoors. It's easier to manage the warm soil temperature indoors and harden these plants to withstand cooler outdoor temperatures.

Warm-season plants —

tomatoes, peppers, beans, and melons—need soil temperatures at least 55°F to germinate and grow. Planting these into cold soil will stunt them and reduce later yield. In areas like the Klamath Basin, where the growing season is short, gardeners benefit from starting even warm-season plants indoors because of cool soils early in the growing season.

Seeds give you more choice. A good seed catalog or independent garden center will offer far more site-specific seed variety options than a national big-box store.

Looking for the perfect chartreuse zinnia to complement the blue salvia you got last year? Do you need sunflowers that will stay under three feet tall so they don't block the view from your window? Seed catalogs have

choices that fit these specific needs.

For vegetables and herbs, you'll find varieties best suited to your cooking style and needs. Most large stores will carry a few starts of the most common, inexpensive seed varieties for vegetable transplants. Starting your seed opens up a whole new world of options.

That last consideration is a conundrum. With all those choices, it can be not easy to choose only what you can manage in a growing season. Use the first four tips to narrow down the options, and use this bonus gleaned from produce growers, who have the same challenge of so many amazing plants to grow — limit new and experimental types to three to five per year, and stick with tested favorites for the rest.

[Return To Page 5](#)

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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 Blue River at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the clinic on Dexter Street.

January 3 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.

January 4 A Dime At A Time

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

January 1 Make A Vision Board

Come to the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr. from noon to 2 p.m. A vision board is a creative way to organize your dreams and prioritize your goals for the upcoming year. It's hard to believe it has been a year...and what a year! It's time to set your intentions and create a clear vision

for 2025 with a fun vision board class hosted by John Carlile at the UMCC. The first Saturday of the year is January 4th, so meet at the UMCC at noon. Cost is \$40 per person. Starts promptly at noon.

RSVP Cell/Text 541-510-8405 if you plan to attend and invite friends for a fun and informative afternoon!

January 4 BINGO

BINGO at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida at the Center is a family (kids welcome) fun night - Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is not the high dollar payout as some locations are. We use a computer bingo game which is displayed on a large TV screen. Everyone is welcome

The snack bar has a variety of goodies for one's taste - Hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, desserts, an assortment of drinks, no alcoholic beverages.

Right now we are playing 15 games (Per crowd request)

2 cards for \$5, buy as many as you can handle (Can buy extra cards at any time) We take about a 20/30 minute break after game 10. The last game pays out \$75 if there is a bingo within 54 cards or less then it drops down to \$50.

January 5 "Oregon's Boat"

The recently released documentary "Oregon's Boat" will be shown at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr. on January 5th, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The film explores the evolution and enduring influence of the McKenzie River Drift Boat, the distinctive craft that represents the Oregonian spirit for adventure. Director Randy Dersham will be there for a question and answer session. (The film will be entered at the Oregon Documentary Film Festival in Portland on January 26th.) More historic movies of the river will be shown at 3 pm. Suggested Donation \$5

January 7 Board of Commissioners

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

January 7 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.

January 7 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.

January 7 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.

January 8

Board of Commissioners

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January 7

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

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January 9

Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at various location, please contact Melanie Giangreco, McKenzie Watershed Council Operations Assistant (458-201-8150) melanie@mckenziawc.org

January 9

VMCC

The Vida McKenzie Community Center Board meets from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

January 10

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.

January 10

Art Walk

The Second Friday Art Walk meets from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, in Springfield.

January 11

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!

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web page: sblodge.opwest.org

McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church

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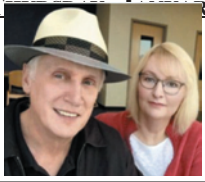
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Jailbreak



Duygu Gungor

My girlfriend is really upset over her friendships. On her last birthday her two best friends didn't show up. All her friends constantly break plans with her which makes her feel unwanted and lonely. She lives in an emotionally abusive home and needs good friends, but she feels if she gives up the old friends she will have no one.

She also feels every new friend she makes will do the same thing. I've suggested she find a club or group where she can meet people with similar interests. I even went so far as to look up her university and send her internet links. However, I don't think she intends to try them.

She considers my friends and their wives or girlfriends more like friends than her own. When I tell her to give them a call, she says she wouldn't feel comfortable

talking about our relationship with them. While watching me play volleyball, she became close to one of the girls I play with. I told her to email this girl or I can, but she said it would be strange calling her up after so long.

Rafe Rafe, your girlfriend can't get a new family of origin, and they won't change. Why would she think she will be treated well by anyone, when she has not been treated well by the people who are supposed to love her? Why would she think she can escape from any situation in her life?

She is in a prison, and people in prison become institutionalized. They would rather stay in the life they know than take a chance on life outside prison walls. That is how she views things.

But beneath her bad experience is her human essence, and that essence is positive, hopeful, resilient, and able to change. We are not the kind of people who tell others to "have a nice day." We are realists. We are saying this because it is true.

Your girlfriend needs someone who can show her how to get past emotional abuse. You've tried to help her and failed. That suggests she needs skilled help.

Wayne

Mending Her Ways

I've been in numerous relationships, and I'm only 18. That's not the problem. The problem is I want to end it with this guy who's two years younger than me. I don't trust him because, well, we did stuff I now regret, but I can't tell him that. If I say I regret it, I'm afraid he's going to tell everyone at school. It was his first time.

Anyway, I'm going to college next year and don't need a high school sophomore on my tail or on my conscience. I don't know how to end it without him saying, "Oh, you just used me." Or something like that. He promised he wouldn't tell, but he's so immature. I really need your help.

Mandy

Mandy, whether he tells or not is not the issue. Promise or no promise, he likely told someone that night. Whenever you have to extract a promise of secrecy, it's a good sign that is not a person you can trust.

Don't focus on him. Focus on yourself. In what way is your sexual behavior to your advantage? You're only 18, and you are making black marks on your sexual résumé. Realize you made a mistake, and mentally decide you are not going to do anything like this again.

If you truly change, it does two things. For you, it ends a pattern of negative behavior, and for some good man, it will prevent him from

being plagued by thoughts of your past. If something is no longer relevant, why should it ever be spoken of?

That's the difference between good therapy and bad therapy. In bad therapy you keep wallowing in your past problems; in good therapy you solve them, learn

from them, and move forward in your life.

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.

My goldfinch, I'll toss back my head—

By Osip Mandelstam

My goldfinch, I'll toss back my head— let's look at the world, you and I: a wintry day, prickly as stubble, is it just as rough on your eye?

Tail like a boat, black and gold plumage, dipped in paint from the beak down— are you aware, my little goldfinch, what a goldfinch dandy you are?

What air there is on his forehead: black and red, yellow and white— the keeps a sharp lookout both ways, won't look now, he's flown out of sight.

Copyright Credit: "My goldfinch, I'll toss back my head" by Osip Mandelstam, translated by Peter France, from *Black Earth*, translation copyright © 2021 by Peter France. Reprinted

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Osip Emilyevich Mandelstam ranks among the most significant Russian poets of the 20th century. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, in or around 1891, but soon afterward, his family moved to St. Petersburg, Russia. In St. Petersburg, the Jewish Mandelstams—on the strength, according to some critics, of the father's fine standing as a leather merchant—managed to live relatively free of the anti-Semitic hostilities that were then pervasive. Mandelstam eventually studied at the city's prestigious Tenishev School but failed to distinguish himself. Continuing his education abroad, he attended the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Heidelberg in Germany. After returning home Mandelstam—despite his Jewish ancestry and his somewhat unimpressive record at Tenishev—gained acceptance to the University of St. Petersburg, a rather exclusive, and exclusively Christian, institution.

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Help Wanted

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

Personal

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

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

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NOTICE OF HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Notice is hereby given that the Holiday Farm Fire Recovery PIER Funding Selection Committee will hold a public hearing with opportunity for public testimony on 1-15-25 at noon. Community members and the general public are welcome to attend and provide public comment at the outset and/or conclusion of the the PIER Funding Selection Committee: Wednesday, January 15 from 12-2 PM online. To check for changes to meeting dates/times/locations, register for an online meeting link, sign up for project updates, or access meeting materials: <https://lanecountyor.gov/PIER>. The Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) program funds will support planning for recovery, rebuilding infrastructure, and retaining or returning businesses in the Holiday Farm Fire area. The Committee will formally vote on priorities during upcoming public meetings. Please send public comments to Megan. m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov. People needing special accommodation (e.g. in-person accommodation, hearing impaired, language translation, chemical sensitivity needs, and large print copies of the agenda or other application materials) are instructed to submit their request at least 48 business hours prior to the meeting by calling Megan Heurion at 541-852-8259 or emailing megan.m.heurion@lanecountyor.gov, Senior Program Services Coordinator, Lane County Administration Policy Division, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401



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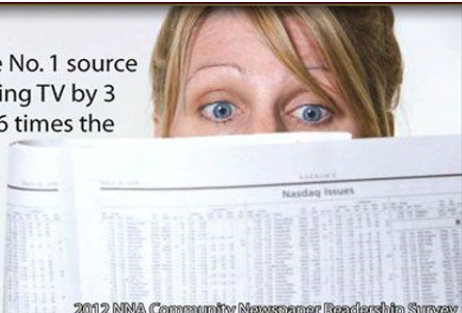
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- 47. Tel _____, Israel
- 48. Auto_____ website
- 50. *Module
- 52. Compass point between NE and E
- 53. *Insane
- 55. Old-fashioned before
- 57. *Prevent
- 60. *Ditch
- 63. Peninsula of 38th parallel fame
- 64. Single-_____ plastics
- 66. Donkey + horse, pl.
- 68. All told (2 words)
- 69. '80s band "_____ At Work"
- 70. Bay window
- 71. Chapter 11 issue
- 72. Mouse turf
- 73. Email option

DOWN

- 1. Tax pro, acr.
- 2. Capital of Latvia
- 3. Bibliographical abbr.
- 4. Not upright
- 5. Instructions handbook
- 6. Use an Underwood
- 7. Promissory note letters
- 8. Cocoon dwellers
- 9. Horse and mallet sport
- 10. *Pitcher
- 11. One ridiculed for studiousness
- 12. Banned insecticide, acr.
- 15. Kevin _____ and Sir Francis _____
- 20. Resting spot for a chicken
- 22. French vineyard
- 24. *Avid
- 25. *Correct
- 26. *Slipperier
- 27. 4th letter of Greek alphabet
- 29. *Nothingness
- 31. Spanish sparkling wine
- 32. Martini garnish
- 33. Violinist's pine resin
- 34. *Rogue
- 36. Wall support
- 38. It often precedes "eye"
- 42. Laundry room appliance
- 45. Correspondence friend
- 49. Feel remorse
- 51. Seismic shake
- 54. Card game move
- 56. Accustom
- 57. *Sharpen
- 58. A in UAE
- 59. Cheesy patty
- 60. Be inclined
- 61. Paper holder
- 62. Dog command
- 63. Baby goat
- 65. Pirate's turf
- 67. "Rocky" creator

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SYNONYMS

ACROSS

- 1. Half of half-and-half
- 6. *Gratuity
- 9. Remain unsettled
- 13. Pita, alt. sp.
- 14. Uncle Sam wants whom?
- 15. Played violin, e.g.
- 16. "Encore!"
- 17. Young canine
- 18. Amber warning
- 19. *Entice
- 21. *Agreement
- 23. "_____ Te Ching"

- 24. Goose egg
- 25. Antonym of keep
- 28. *Affection
- 30. Open wine, e.g.
- 35. Frosts a cake
- 37. Leave in a bucket
- 39. *Parlor
- 40. Coating of aurum
- 41. Like many bathroom floors?
- 43. Border pass
- 44. Full of emotion (2 words)
- 46. Opposite of talker?

Solution on Page 9

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Solution on Page 9

Waste Wise Tips

By Daniel Hiestand
Lane County Waste Reduction Outreach Coordinator



Get plugged into the school Electronics Recycling Competition

By Daniel Hiestand
Lane County Waste Reduction Outreach Coordinator

It's likely a safe bet you have some old electronics lying around the house. Think laptops, cell phones, cords, cables, monitors, keyboards, speakers, tablets, game consoles, remotes, or AV equipment. Maybe even VCRs!

You get the point. We all have unwanted, unused, or broken electronics. If you've been seeking a way to safely and responsibly donate and/or recycle these items, you don't have to wait any longer. Consider donating them to the Electronics Recycling Competition (Jan. 7-March 20), a joint effort between Lane County schools, NextStep Recycling, and Waste Wise Lane County—a part of the Lane County Waste Management Division.

While the competition isn't new (it's been going on for many years), this year's may be the biggest, as nearly 50 schools from across the county signed up.

Lane County schools that recycle the most "e-waste" will win grants of up to \$500 from Lane County Waste Management to support school sustainability, a NextStep Reuse Store gift certificate, and a special recognition award.

The top schools in each of the four student population categories will win the prize package and a \$500 grant. In contrast, the second-place school in each population category will win the prize package and a \$250 grant.

In 2024, 18 schools collected 13,269 pounds. In 2025, we expect to more than double that total. Considering that e-waste is

the fastest-growing waste stream, this is a big deal!

All Lane County residents are invited to participate, whether they are parents of students or not.

You can either donate to your chosen school by dropping off your electronic items during the school's pickup week (which you can find at <http://www.wastewiselane.org/erc>), or you can drop off electronics at the NextStep Donation Center (245 Jackson Street, Eugene) during the competition.

Businesses can also donate their electronic waste to schools during the competition—and NextStep will even pick it up! Email learnmore@nextsteprecycling.org with questions or for more information.

Waste Wise Tip: Donate to the Electronics Recycling Competition

Kelly Bell, Lane County Master Recycler program coordinator, encourages you to get involved with the Electronics Recycling Competition, a partnership with Lane County schools and NextStep Recycling. Learn more at www.wastewiselane.org/erc. Scan the code to watch a short video and subscribe to Waste Wise Lane County's Instagram channel for Kelly's monthly tips at www.instagram.com/wastewiselane-county.

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 at lanecountyor.gov/wastewiselane.



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\$191.5 million approved for wildfire vendors

Months-long debts after record-breaking season

commitment to get outstanding payments to wildland fire vendors as quickly as possible. The department processed \$88 million since the Legislature allocated the department \$191.5 million for the historic and costly 2024 fire season during its recent special session.

“Without these vendors, we could not have provided Oregonians with the wildfire protection we did this year,” said State Forester Cal Mukumoto, ODF director. “It was critically important to take care of those who served right alongside us all summer.”

Prior to the recent special session, ODF had paid out \$130 million in fire season costs. Some of that money came from the State Emergency Board—which allocated \$40 million toward the state’s portion of large fire costs in September—but the other \$90 million was paid from the budgets of non-fire ODF programs. Under the state’s current wildfire funding structure, ODF uses budgeted funds from its other lines of business to pay for fire season costs and then carries that debt while

awaiting federal reimbursements. This approach worked when gross large fire costs were averaging \$11 million a year. Over the past decade, that average jumped to around \$79 million, but the funding provided for large fires hasn’t increased accordingly.

“I commend the ODF team for their swift action to ensure the state’s fire season costs are paid after having received the necessary resources from the Legislature during the recent special session. Again, my appreciation to lawmakers for their expeditious work,” said Governor Tina Kotek. “Next year, I look forward to working with legislators to ensure the state finds a pathway for sustainable funding to cover wildfire costs in the years ahead.”

Despite ODF’s effort, this year’s large fire costs far exceeded the funds ODF could muster, resulting in significant delays in payments to the companies that provide critical firefighting resources like people, aircraft and heavy equipment.

“It was a stressful time for our

folks, as many had to take out credit lines to make their payrolls and pay their bills,” explained Deborah Miley, executive director, National Wildfire Suppression Association. “Our members provide a significant amount of response to assist our agency partners during fire season, and we are proud to provide quality, cost-effective resources in Oregon’s time of need and look forward to continuing to serve.”

Remaining fire costs are still under review. All charges and associated documentation are reviewed for accuracy and completeness by department payment teams prior to being approved for payment.

While the \$191.5 million from the special session will help ODF considerably in cashflow management over the remainder of the biennium, the cashflow issue is just a symptom of the larger problem: how wildfire response and mitigation are funded in Oregon. “The way response and mitigation are currently funded is inadequate to address the growing complexity and cost of wildfires Oregon faces

today,” Mukumoto said. “The workgroup we have been heading up with the Department of the State Fire Marshal has been working hard for the past several months to identify alternative funding strategies to bring to the 2025 Legislature for consideration.”

The Governor’s Recommended Budget for the 2025-27 biennium identifies the need for at least an additional \$130 million through new revenue to modernize and fully fund the state’s wildfire readiness and mitigation programs on an ongoing basis. This direction is in addition to the specific recommendation for \$150 million to be redirected from going into state reserves and instead be appropriated to the agencies to pay for wildfire suppression costs as needed.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

6:20: 42955 Leaburg Dr. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

6:59: 88570 Lone Fir Dr. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

12:55: 87850 Lupe Ln Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:18: 87666 Cedar Flat Rd. Wires/Trees Down. Assessed area, Informed Proper Agency.

20:53: 40329 Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, General. Lift Assist.

Dec. 28: 21:30: 40329 Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, Trauma. Lift Assist.

Dec. 29: 11:00: 43259 McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Extrication Performed, Patients Assessed, Refusals Obtained.

13:10: 36412 Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, Monday, January 20th, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK. Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

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Shortest river

Continued From Page 4



The D River, as seen from the edge of Devils Lake, looking out to sea. The edge of the lake is marked by the low dam in the foreground.

up the Highway 101 bridge over the river.

“Workers already had concrete deliveries on order, they had rebar,” Mr. Dippity says in this article. “All you’d need to build a concrete channel to narrow the width of the D River to four inches.”

The article says the new riverbed would be unveiled at a special ceremony on Thursday, April 1, 2021.

“Some people question whether

building up concrete walls two meters tall to force the D River into a 4-inch-wide channel was a smart move,” Mr. Chippity adds. “They’ll see how smart it is when potamologists and tourists flock to Lincoln City in the dead of winter to stand astride the world’s narrowest river. Mark my words.”

This also, according to Mr. Chalupadip, puts it in the running for world’s fastest river, as squeezing the channel down into a four-inch slot resulted in current

speeds of 39 miles an hour.

Ironically enough, that was probably about the maximum sprinting speed of Old Man Hatfield’s razorback hog.

(Sources: “World’s shortest river is long on controversy,” an article by Niki Hale Price published Jan. 18, 2007, in Oregon Coast Today; “What’s the World’s Shortest River?” an article by Ken Jennings published June 18, 2012, in Conde Nast Traveler; “Destination Oregon: Lincoln City’s D River — The World’s Shortest?” a short video published Dec. 22, 2021, by Central Oregon Daily News; “What’s up with those claims of Oregon Coast towns?” an article by Andre Hagestedt published without a date in the Oregon Coast Beach Connection Website; “Changing the Channel,” a humorous article published March 30, 2021, in Oregon Coast Today.)

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

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Ski Report

December 31, 2024

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed no new snow fell overnight, leaving the snow depth at 67 inches. Temperatures were 24 at the base and 20 at the summit, with winds out of the ENE at 12 mph. More snow is predicted this week as the base continues to build. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 10 degrees at the base and 9 degrees at the summit on Tuesday, with winds averaging 8 mph. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 108 inches. Temperatures were expected to remain below zero through the day, followed by a new storms arriving and continuing through the week. 24 of 124 trails were open, along with 12 out of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

A Moment in Oregon History

wikipedia.org

January 2, 2016, an armed group of right-wing militants seized and occupied the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County, Oregon, and continued to occupy it until law enforcement made a final arrest on February 11, 2016. Their leader was Ammon Bundy, who participated in the 2014 Bundy standoff at his father’s Nevada ranch. Other members of the group were loosely affiliated with non-governmental militias and the sovereign citizen movement.

The organizers were seeking an opportunity to advance their view that the federal government is constitutionally required to turn over most of the federal public land they manage to the individual states, in particular land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Forest Service (USFS), and other agencies.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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