

Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978



JP Doodles

Would tax cuts have an impact on your wallet this year?

PAGE 2

Salute to 4-H

Changing lives and teaching skills for a lifetime. We're proud of all of you!

PAGE 13

4-H Changes Kids' Lives And Teaches Them Skills For A Lifetime!



McKenzie Pass reopens Recreation sites also accessible



Traffic is again flowing through areas like the switchbacks on Deadhorse Grade along Hwy. 242.

MCKENZIE BRIDGE: Successful firefighting efforts and favorable weather conditions, combined with the Oregon Dept. of Transportation's decision to reopen Hwy. 242, have boosted Fall access to many recreation sites.

Willamette Forest officials this week announced that the Linton Creek Fire Closure area has been reduced into four smaller closures around the Boulder Creek, Linton Creek, Young Grasshopper, and 374 fires, which sparked from a lightning storm on September 6th. The updated closure orders will be in effect until January 1st unless conditions change.

Recreation sites include Proxy Falls, Aufderheide Drive, and portions of the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas. Benson/Tenas Lakes, Foley, and Linton Lake are among the reopened trailheads. Reopening the Old McKenzie Pass has restored access to the Dee Wright Observatory, Scott Lake Campground, and the Benson and Tenas Lakes area.

[Fire updates - Page 10](#)

Outdoor burns delayed Season to start on October 15

Lane County residents will have to wait until Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at the earliest for the opening of the fall outdoor burning season. The season is typically scheduled to start on October 1 each year. However, the decision to delay has been jointly made by the Lane County Fire Defense Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). "The recent rainfall and cooler weather are not enough to declare the end of fire season," said Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) spokesperson, Matt Sorensen. "Lane County and statewide fire authorities want to ensure conditions are as favorable as possible to avoid accidental firespread after a very challenging fire season." Until the beginning of the burning

season, yard debris may not be burned across all of Lane County. Residents can use services like Lane Forest Products, Rexius, or Lane County's transfer stations and dumpsites to dispose of woody yard material in the interim. Violations for burning during the closed season could result in fines ranging from \$50 to \$2,500 or more. LRAPA has also released a factsheet on non-burning disposal alternatives for natural vegetation in Lane County. The Lane County Fire Defense Board and ODF will re-evaluate conditions closer to October 15. To check the status of the burning season, visit LRAPA's website or call the LRAPA daily outdoor burning status line at 541-726-3976. Coastal residents may call 541-997-1757.

Wagons, Ho! Celebration brought the 1800's back to life

FISH LAKE: Buckskins and burros were among the sights, while the Crazy Weasels and a curved dash Oldsmobile provided background sounds to round out Saturday's Santiam Wagon Road Exhibition. The event offered opportunities to learn more about a unique route between Albany and Bend that sent settlers eastward to reach the rich pasture lands of Central Oregon and marketplaces in Idaho.

Native people had long been accessing the area to hunt, forage, or trade long before Andrew Wiley, John Gray, and John Bradenburg made forays into the zone in 1859. Their exploits resulted in the formation

of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company. After dynamiting through

obstacles, their new wagon road continued to be the primary way to cross over the mountains until

it was surpassed with the completion of Hwy. 20 in 1939.

[Wagons, Ho - Page 10](#)



Teamsters Tom Marquette and Linda Walker helped people time travel back to when the Cascade Wagon Road was the prime route across the Cascades in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Putting a bite on weeds

Springfield schools acquires goat herd for vegetation maintenance

Officials say the goats will mitigate weeds in bioswale, easement, and other areas away from student playgrounds. They add that "environmental guidelines for removing weeds in bioswales make goats an efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable method of maintaining these areas."

"Hand-pulling the weeds is costly and time-consuming," says Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations Terry Rutledge. "By thinking outside the box,



Five agile grazers are ready for some eco-friendly foraging around Springfield district schools.

we found a solution that is environmentally friendly, alleviates some of the manual workload of the grounds crew, and provides an opportunity to educate our students on sustainable practices."

Goats are known for enthusiastically consuming blackberry bushes and for being highly effective at clearing an area quickly. They also like shrubs, woody plants, and thorny weeds. Their repeated graz-

[Bite on weeds - Page 9](#)

Could measure 118 cost state \$1 billion annually?

Legislative analysts have spent months trying to parse the proposed tax hike and rebate

By Julia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A proposed corporate tax hike to send every Oregonian a check could end up costing the state more than \$1 billion annually, legislative revenue analysts told lawmakers this week.

Voters will decide in November whether to approve Measure 118, which would increase by 3% the corporate minimum tax on sales above \$25 million and distribute proceeds to all Oregonians. In 2026, the average rebate could range from about \$1,000 to \$1,300, according to an analysis released this week.

State fiscal analysts have spent months trying to figure out how the proposed new tax and rebate would affect Oregon's budget. It's complicated – it would raise taxes on many corporations, resulting in more tax revenue, but because the rebate would be claimed by many Oregonians as personal income tax credits that reduce their taxes, personal income tax revenue could decrease. Other Oregonians would re-

ceive their rebate in the form of direct payments, which would show up on state balance sheets as money spent.

[\\$1 billion annually? - Page 10](#)



Getty Images

Measure 118 promises to give all Oregonians cash while hiking taxes on corporations.

Letters to the Editor

Compromising readers?

After reading this week's issue of the River Reflections, I saw that you had included another letter to the editor (is it the third one in less than 2 months?) written by a rep from The Cascade Policy Institute, a PAC I have researched extensively.

Out of concern, I sent you a note, wondering why you are allowing this far-right organization to get free advertising for its singular intent on spreading disinformation funded by wealthy individuals and organizations connected to the fossil fuel industry (mostly Koch Bros. in this case). Had you done the research on this organization before printing?

Like the Federalist Society, but on a far smaller scale, the Cascade Policy Institute has targeted Oregon, among other 'blue' states, making a strong attempt to blind-side Oregonians with false or twisted statements about issues and policies that have protected Oregonians from the corruption, environmental degradation, and general malaise that Republican states have experienced for years; all so that the financial elite can avoid paying taxes and run their businesses with as little regulation as possible (they usually disappear when taxpayers are forced to pay for cleaning up the mess).

The Koch Bros. made their fortune building refineries for Russia, for heaven's sake, where there are no health and safety regulations, and an overabundance of dark money. Do you think they have any interest in democracy, environmental safety, and honesty in any aspect of financial integrity when they've kept such a deep and hugely profitable relationship with a dictatorship?!

These organizations never reveal their true intent, but only exist to create confusion and distrust in the very social and political structures that make this country the place immigrants strive to enter,

and international billionaires want to safely cache their (often illegally obtained) assets.

They should not be allowed to compromise your readers, free of charge, without stating their organizational goals, their donors, and general affiliates. The statements in all three Letters to the Editor you have published are not substantiated, and have no intention of solving real issues we all face. Why the Cascade Policy Institute, when there are so many interesting, accurate and insightful sources to draw from, available to the public at large? The Cascade Policy Institute is not one of them.

When I asked you for an explanation, you replied that "Someone put me on Cascade's mailing list after sending a note complaining that River Reflections had a liberal bias that was "disturbing the community."

Perhaps this person would prefer to live in Russia or China, for starters, where there is only one journalist voice, the state dictator's, and any contradictory (liberal?) statements get put in jail, or better yet, Putin's preferred response, assassinated (Putin has brutally assassinated at least 21 journalists, it's probably far more, and that's not counting the dozens that have been harrassed, beaten and jailed). This kind of attitude never helps create healthy communities; never.

The best journalism strives for the truth, which can be very difficult to ascertain, as well as complicated, but we stop striving to get to it at our own peril, as history tells us over and over again. Let me enclose the voice of one of America's most beloved and renowned journalists of all time, Bill Moyers. It is an excerpt from his presentation to the Society of Professional Journalists conference on September 11, 2004, exactly 20 years from this month. And yet, it is just as apropos today as it

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Guest Opinion

"Monetizing fear" by bulletproofing schools

By Gary Conkling

As public schools grapple with lagging student literacy, chronic absenteeism, and classrooms without air conditioning, they are now being pitched to bulletproof their school buildings and students. The reason is obvious – more than 230 school shootings in the last decade and a growing threat of online ideation to shoot teachers and classmates. The solution seems equally obvious – restrict access by minors to firearms and take online threats of violence seriously.

But in a capitalist economy, every tragic occurrence can be a business opportunity. School shootings are no exception.

Firms have been hawking sophisticated sensors to detect guns in backpacks or uninvited intruders with weapons. They are being joined by sellers of bulletproof backpacks, hoodies, and clip-

boards. There are also bulletproof window shields, classroom desks, whiteboards, and collapsible safe rooms. Some of the products are designed and promoted by parents of schoolchildren.

None of this protection is cheap. For schools already financially strapped to pay teachers, provide school counseling, and upgrade facilities, these purchases will further strain resources.

"Arm us with books, counselors, and resources, not bulletproof vests," says Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. "It is infuriating that rather than having the courage to solve the gun violence problem, we now have to confront the monetizing of fear."

Avoiding monetization of fear may be too much to hope for in a politically polarized society unable to address responsible gun ownership and an economy where businesses pursue profits rather than plaudits.

Steve Naremore, owner of TuffyPacks, told The Washing-

ton Post he sold tens of thousands of ballistic shields for backpacks to parents within a week of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

"People say, 'Oh, you're just profiting off the carnage,'" Naremore said. "And you know what I say? 'Look, don't blame me. I'm just the fire extinguisher manufacturer, OK?'"

Atomic Defense sells backpacks with images of cute puppies and blue dinosaurs that appeal to young potential shooting victims. The backpacks come in different versions – some protect against handguns, while more expensive models claim to protect against assault rifles.

There also are Tank the Turtle backpack inserts, which were designed by a mother of two with military experience and have been sold to thousands of customers. A cynical critic said a backpack with a Captain America shield won't do much good in a school shooting if it's hanging on a hook in a schoolroom.

Hardwire sells bulletproof clipboards for teachers with artistic

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Classroom Curiosity Alert!

The McKenzie Community School has kicked off its first Classroom Curiosity this school year!

The school's seventh graders embarked on a field trip for a Salmon Watch.

Under the guidance of Mr. Day, the students visited Carmen Smith to observe the fascinating spawning season for salmon. It was a great opportunity to connect with nature and learn about this important part of our ecosystem.



McKenzie River Reflections



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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

Date	High	Low	Rain	Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow
9/24	94	60	0	545 cfs	9/24	83	55	0	2,260 cfs
9/25	71	53	0	NA	9/25	89	53	0	2,260 cfs
9/26	50	73	0	564 cfs	9/26	65	49	0.22	2,290 cfs
9/27	50	77	0	551 cfs	9/27	72	49	0	2,190 cfs
9/28	51	77	0	NA	9/28	77	52	0	2,180 cfs
9/29	49	69	0	558 cfs	9/29	74	47	0	2,170 cfs
9/30	41	78	0	539 cfs	9/30	70	39	0	2,220 cfs

Friday 10/4		Saturday 10/5		Sunday 10/6	
McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass
Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
10% chance precip	10% chance precip	10% chance precip	5% chance precip	5% chance precip	0% chance precip
High: 76 Low: 48	High: 67 Low: 42	High: 81 Low: 49	High: 72 Low: 45	High: 79 Low: 49	High: 71 Low: 46

Sheriff's Report

Sept. 24: 12:42 a.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 90700 blk, Hill Rd.

6:24 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 40700 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller advised male chased him with a firearm from the caller's residence. Deputies responded and determined no crime was committed.

11:18 a.m: Burglary - 91000 blk, Hill Rd. Caller advised that landlord was illegally in her residence. Deputy contacted caller and took report.

11:49 a.m: Theft of Mail - 39800 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

12:16 p.m: Theft - 51100 blk, Blue River Dr.

12:44 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 39200 blk, McK. Hwy. Caller reporting individual drinks and drives on a regular basis. Caller was advised to call and report when individual is currently driving under the influence.

1:23 p.m: Burglary - 88600 blk, Whitsell Ln. Caller advised that someone broke into a camp trailer on their property and stole property to include propane tanks. Caller believes they know who it was but no evidence at this time.

1:45 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 90100 blk, Marcola Rd.

6:32 p.m: Assist Follow Up - 38800 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:37 p.m: Citizen Contact - 39000 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:51 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - 90100 blk, Hill Rd.

Sept. 25: 6:23 a.m: Panic Alarm - 39300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:27 p.m: Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. & Milepost 46.

5:16 p.m: Foot Patrol - 39500 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:46 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln. Caller advised that a drone has been following them for months. Caller advised it follows them wherever they go. Report taken.

9:31 p.m: Vehicle in Ditch - Camp Creek Rd. & Oak Point Rd.

Sept. 26: 6:35 p.m: Criminal Trespass - McK. Hwy. & Latta Rd. Caller advised a male was walking down the street opening mail boxes and had come onto callers property. Off-duty deputy attempted to follow subject but subject eluded on foot. K9 attempted to track later but subject was not located. Subject was a white male in their 30's.

7:21 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 88700 blk, Ermi Bee Rd. This

was a family issue that deputies determined there was no crime.

9:58 p.m: Disabled Vehicle - 92300 blk, Marcola Rd.

Sept. 27: 9:34 a.m: Illegal Shooting - McGowan overlook.

12:53 p.m: Alarm - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd.

1:23 p.m: Disorderly Subject - 88100 blk, Tiki Ln. Caller advised their child was having a mental health episode. The Mobile Crisis Response Team contacted the involved and spoke with them. No further contact.

1:40 p.m: Assault - 39200 blk, Camp Creek Rd. - Caller advised son assaulted them and then left the residence. Deputies contacted the caller and attempted to locate the son. Unable to locate the suspect at multiple locations.

5:02 p.m: Disabled Vehicle - 8600 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:45 p.m: Assist Oregon State Police - McK. Hwy. & Thurston Rd.

7:31 p.m: Burglary - 36900 blk, Boiler Creek Rd.

Sept. 28: 3:50 a.m: Alarm - 40800 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:23 p.m: Suspicious Vehicle - McK. River Dr. & McK. Hwy.

5:03 p.m: Subpoena Service - 89000 blk, Marcola Rd.

5:12 p.m: Civil Service - 92000 blk, Maple Ln.

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McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Sept. 23: 13:25: McK. Hwy. Milepost 41. Medical, Heart. 3 Patients Assessed, 1 Transported.

Sept. 25: 13:05: 90000 block, Leashore Dr. Medical, Heart. 3 Patients Assessed, Patient Refusal.

16:49: 90000 blk, Gale Creek Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:32: 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, Patient Refusal.

Sept. 26: 3:32: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. 1 Patient Assessed, Patient Refusal.

8:02: 38000 blk, Cress Creek Rd. Medical, Heart. Deceased.

17:17: 88000 blk, Tiki Ln. Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:31: 43000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, Transported

Sept. 27: 8:14: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Assist Police 8:14 1 Assist LCSO with Patient Eval

14:28: McK. Hwy. Milepost 32. Motor Vehicle Accident. 3 Patients Assessed, Refusal Obtained, Scene Turned Over to OSP.

Sept. 28: 0:06: 37000 blk,

Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:09: McK. Hwy. Mp. 36. MVA. 3 Patients Assessed, Refusal Obtained, Scene Transferred to OSP

19:29: 89000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded En Route by Mohawk Valley Fire Rescue.

Sept. 29: 18:55: 41000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. 1 Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

19:51: 8500 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. 3 Patients Assessed, Transported.

21:29: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. 3 Patients Assessed, Transported.

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

Sept. 27: 14:26: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy. Milepost 32. Single vehicle rollover, tan Mada pickup.

Sept. 28: 16:09: MVA, Unknown Injury - McK. Hwy, Mp. 36. Semi and school bus.

Sept. 30: 10:19: Medical - 54000 block, McK. Hwy. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

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Buster Keaton made Cottage Grove a mini-Hollywood

By Finn J.D. John

If a Cottage Grove logger had been bonked on the head in January 1926 and woke up six months later, he would have scarcely recognized his hometown.

There was a whole new Main Street built way out east of Main Street, with businesses and boardinghouses and banks and everything. Meanwhile, back on the old Main Street, everyone in town was clustered around the Bartell Hotel, dressed in weird, archaic outfits like it was Civil War times. And there were a pair of old steam logging locomotives, shined up and gleaming, parked on a siding near the two parallel railroad tracks that ran east of town.

Let's imagine our amnesiac logger — we'll call him Rip Van Winkle, for obvious reasons — pauses outside the hotel to watch and see what the crowd is doing. Soon the front door of the hotel opens, and out steps — hey, is that Buster Keaton? Old Stoneface himself?

It sure is. But he's anything but stone-faced. He's greeting people in the crowd by name, shaking the occasional hand, and asking if everyone had a good breakfast.

Then someone behind him starts picking people out and sending them after Buster, who's now striding along at about four miles an hour straight toward the locomotives.

Then the cameras come out, and crews are swarming around, and suddenly Cottage Grove no longer looks like Cottage Grove — it's now Hollywood, baby.

The summer of 1926 was one that would live in the memory of Cottage Grove residents for half a century afterward, and then some. The little timber town was transformed into an enormous movie set for a picture that would go down in history as the crown jewel of the silent film era: *The General*.

It started, for most residents of the town, when Buster rolled in with 18 freight cars full of props, costumes, and cameras. There



Alta Journal

Buster Keaton perches happily atop the wreckage of his steam locomotive, which he purchased for the express purpose of crashing it for his movie, *The General*.

were covered wagons, Concord stagecoaches, Civil War cannons, and several thousand Union and Rebel uniforms and rifles.

It had started for Buster, though, the previous winter, when he was looking for a good story to base a comedy-romance-action movie around. He'd just come off of releasing *Battling Butler*, which was his biggest movie success yet, so he had a tough act to follow.

That's when he learned about the Andrews Raid, which happened in 1862 during the Civil War.

The Andrews Raid was the only locomotive chase of the Civil War, and it started as a Union incursion into the South. The raiding party snuck into Georgia in civilian clothes, commandeered a locomotive called *The General* near Marietta, and set out racing northward toward Nashville, which Union forces had recently taken. Their goal was to tear up the track and cut the telegraph lines so the South wouldn't be able to use it to support its troops around Chattanooga. They didn't get much of this kind of thing done, though, mostly because they were closely pursued by a Rebel locomotive called *Texas* with a squad of Confederate soldiers on board.

The raiders made it almost to Chattanooga before running out of fuel, abandoning *The General*, and scattering. Only eight of their number made it back to friendly lines, two of them by floating down the Chattahoochee River all the way to the Gulf of Mexico; fourteen were caught, of which eight were executed as spies and six held as prisoners of war.

Buster loved trains, and he immediately saw the appeal of a madcap train chase. So he reached out to the folks in Georgia about doing a movie on location. Best of all, both locomotives — *The General* and *Texas* — were preserved in local museums.

The folks in Georgia were initially open to Buster's plan to make a movie about the chase, especially since he was switching it up to make the hero a Southerner instead of a Yankee. But, that all changed when they learned it was going to be a comedy. The prickly Southerners were not yet OK with making jokes about their sacred Lost Cause — remember, this was just 60 years after the war ended, so it was still in living memory.

So Buster had to look elsewhere for two Civil War-era steam engines to do his chase with and a place with scenery that would look more or less like northern Georgia. He soon found what he was looking for in Cottage Grove, where logging operations were still using wood-burning steam

“lookies” to haul sticks out of the woods. Some of them were old enough to be Civil War-era machines, or at least they could be with a few easy modifications.

Buster also found the entire town of Cottage Grove was over-the-moon enthusiastic about the movie, in stark contrast with the fussy Foghorn Leghorn types who'd shut him down in Georgia.

Clearly, to borrow from another great movie, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

The shooting was classic Buster Keaton. Buster was a bit of a madman on the set, planning and executing stunts that could easily have killed him. There were literally dozens of accidents and serious injuries on the set, including some tough bumps and bruises for Buster himself. But it was all in a day's work for “Old Stoneface.”

Much of the filming was a bit repetitious, because there was only half a mile of the Oregon, Pacific and Eastern line with parallel tracks. For the chase scenes, sometimes involving all three locomotives (including the one that was pulling the flatcar that the cameras were mounted to), the rolling stock had to build to speed and get all their action in during the 90 seconds or so that it took to cover a scant half mile at 20 per.

Then the trains would be move back to the starting point, the cameras repositioned so the ridges and scenery behind would look different, and they'd do it again. Over and over. For days on end. If you've seen the movie, you'll remember it's mostly chase scenes — and all of them are made of 60-second takes stitched artfully together, made on the same half-mile of track.

There were also some epic battle scenes. For the occasion, Buster Keaton was made a captain in the Oregon National Guard, and a big cohort of Guardsmen volunteered to fill the roles of soldiers. They ran down a hill in Union blue, shouting and shooting and with cannons blasting merrily away; then they hurried off, changed their uniforms, and ran down the opposite hill in Rebel gray, again shouting and shooting and with cannons blasting. One can't help thinking these guys were having

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By Slim Randles

Bob Milford popped in for a cup the other day at the philosophy counter of the Mule Barn truck stop. Bob isn't usually seen in town during the day, as he's manager of the big Diamond W spread, and there are lots of daylight things to do out that way.

As we worked our way through the usual topics: women, politics, laundry and welding, Bob said he's planning a spring turkey hunt.

We nodded, silently vowing to check our own camo clothes and slate turkey calls.

“I sure hope this season goes better than last one, though,” Bob said, sipping his coffee.

“Didn't you get a turkey, Bob?” asked Doc.

“Well, yes and no, I guess you could say, Doc. It's just the way it happened that didn't turn out so well. You see, I was driving the stock truck out the highway . . .”

“What happened, Bob?” asked Dud, finally.

“Oh, this stupid turkey flew out of the woods and across the highway. That wasn't bad in itself, but there was this state trooper behind me, you know? I kept watching him to see if he thought I was doing something wrong. You know how it is. I checked my speed, made sure my seat belt was on real good. I kept looking in the rearview mirror at him, but even if I hadn't, I couldn't have stopped it . . .”

He took another sip and looked up at us.

“You know the headache rack on the stock truck? Well, that dumb turkey pulled up when he saw the truck, but he didn't clear that rack and smacked it hard. He went up and over and came right down through the windshield of that cop car. Smashed it all to pieces.”

“Bummer,” said Dud, who tried to be a hippie once.

“The worst part was, the trooper gave me a ticket for it!” Bob said. “A ticket? For what?”

Bob smiled. “Flippin' him the bird.”

For a good look at the cover of the new family novel, *Whimsy Castle*, go to Amazon.com and look for books by Slim Randles. Thank you.



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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Seize some seeds for planting next year



Lynn Ketchum

Lettuce seed.

As the gardening season winds down and you pick the season's last vegetables, let some plants go to seed and harvest them for planting next year.

Saving seeds can be fun and is a great way to learn about plants. If you choose the right types of vegetables, you can keep them going year after year without buying them again.

The key to saving seed is selecting open-pollinated or heirloom plants, which produce offspring with the same traits. Hybrids are bred from two different varieties for characteristics like disease resistance or higher yield and won't come "true to type" in the next generation. Check seed packets or catalog information to know which you are buying.

The easiest crops for saving seed are annual plants that self-pollinate, like lettuce, beans, peas,

peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes.

Collect seeds from the healthiest plants and allow them to dry. Harvest lettuce seed when the seed coat turns hard and dark in color. Peas and beans are ready for harvest when the pod dries on the plant. Pepper seeds are ready when the fruit fully matures and starts to wrinkle.

Seeds from annual herbs like cilantro (coriander), arugula, and calendula are also easy to save. These yearly plants will often self-seed, so if you let the seeds mature on the plants and fall to the ground, new plants will start next year.

Tomatoes are a smidgen more complicated. Allow the fruit to fully ripen, scoop the seeds along with the gel that surrounds them, and place them in a jar of water. Allow this mixture to ferment for up to five days until the seeds sink

to the bottom. Then, dry the seeds on a paper towel.

Many broccoli family crops (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, collards, kale, mustard greens) are all of the same species and are pollinated by insects. Though it is relatively easy to save seeds from these biennial crops, they tend to cross-pollinate easily, and you might end up with new (and sometimes tasty) traits.

It is more difficult to save seeds from other crops, particularly in a garden setting. For example, beets and Swiss chard are wind-pollinated and cross. These plants require at least 3,200 feet of isolation to prevent cross-pollination. Similarly, corn is pollinated by wind, making it difficult to isolate without special screening.

Carrots are insect-pollinated and cross with Queen Anne's lace, a common weed. Summer and winter squash flowers are also insect-pollinated and require isolation to maintain true varieties. The fruit grown from cross-pollinated squash seeds is often bitter-tasting.

Store seeds in tightly sealed glass containers in a cool and dark location. Label seeds with the type and date. A small packet of silica desiccant or powdered milk in the jar can help remove moisture and keep the seeds dry. The refrigerator or freezer is also a good place for storing seeds that you collect and seeds that you buy. Put small seeds in envelopes and label them. Place the envelopes in sealable freezer bags.

For starting seeds, refer to the Extension publication Propagating Plants from Seed.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



APPLESAUCE SEASON

When apples ripen on the trees, it's time for homemade applesauce. Most homes of old had at least one apple tree, usually three or four. From these, families picked apples for immediate use and for eating and cooking throughout the winter. Many were made into applesauce, which was served to accompany a meal, or as dessert with cookies.

There are various ways to make applesauce. My mother and other cooks I knew during childhood peeled and cored the apples, then cooked them in water on the stovetop...a wood-burning cook stove in our farmhouse kitchen. When soft, Mother drained the apples, then mashed them, and added sugar or honey and a bit of cinnamon.

When I married Jim, I was introduced to preparing applesauce another way. Mom Allen cut up the unpeeled apples, cores and all into large pieces, then cooked them on the stove top in a little water until soft. Then she spooned the apples into a stainless steel or aluminum cone shaped colander set in a tripod stand. With a wooden pestle she squeezed the apples through the holes, leaving skins and cores inside. Then she added sugar and cinnamon to taste.

The flavor varies with the apples used. Although we made it with different apples, Jim liked it best using Cortlands. I noticed the other day when my daughter made a batch for a family gathering she used Cortlands too.

The applesauce can be canned or frozen for future use.

Applesauce made this way has become an Allen tradition. Several of the eight Allen brothers (and some of their children) make applesauce "like Mom did" every

fall...and also freeze it for winter use.

The third year we were married, Jim found one of those vintage applesauce makers, which I still have today.

LUCILLE'S APPLESAUCE CAKE (My Mother-in-law's Recipe)

In a large bowl, with a mixer at medium speed, cream 1/2 cup shortening, 1/2 teaspoon each of cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg. (I leave the cloves out and reduce the nutmeg to 1/4 teaspoon.)

Gradually add 1 1/2 cups sugar (I use 1/2 to 3/4 cup), beating until fluffy. Stir 2 unbeaten eggs until well mixed.

Sift together 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda, 1/2-teaspoon salt. Add the flour mixture and 1 1/2 cups applesauce to creamed mixture and beat well.

Stir in 3/4 cup floured raisins. (I like to use golden raisins and at least 1/4 cup chopped walnuts.)

Pour into a greased and floured baking pan. (I often use the floured type baking spray.) Lucille's recipe mentions using a ring mold pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes, or until inserted pick comes out clean.

I like it served with whipped topping. You could top with ice cream. Or make a cream cheese icing.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

Quote of the Week

"Superstition is foolish, childish, primitive, and irrational – but how much does it cost you to knock on wood?"

Judith Viorst

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Community Notes

AA Meetings

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

October 4

Yoga In Leaburg

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

October 5

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.

October 7

Sip & Create

Honey Paddle is Offering two classes at Sweet Market, 4425 Main Street in Springfield. Explore the delight of designing your succulent pumpkin alongside Amber from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a hands-on demonstration showcasing how to create an elegant pumpkin to grace your home just in time for the fall season. Complimentary non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks will be provided. McKenzie Crest Wines will also join us and sell a selection of their wines by the glass so you can sip while you create.

Link to tickets: tinyurl.com/mry9bzrd

October 8

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.

October 8

Tiny Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic, 54771 McKenzie Hwy, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A first visit will include a patient assessment, intraoral photos, teeth cleaning, charting, and X-Rays. Call 360-449-9500 or 800-525-6800 to schedule new patient appointments or teeth cleaning

October 8

McK Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry will be at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free groceries are provided in accordance with OR Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution.

October 8

Chamber Tourism

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets via Zoom every second Tuesday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m. Please join us even if you are not a Chamber member. The committee strives to strengthen the support of locals interested in improving tourism and the economic vitality of the entire McKenzie River Valley. Email the Tourism Chair to get on the meeting email list: Treasurer@McKenzieChamber.com

October 8

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.

October 9

Board of Commissioners

Lane County Board of Com-

missioners. 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.

October 9

Show & Tell History

Bring your stories, photos, and curiosity about McKenzie Valley's history. This will be a casual gathering to share different historical interests and media. Coffee and treats were provided, and goodwill donations were made to help the VMCC. There will be no agenda; hopefully, everyone will bring a story and photo along with questions of interest. This gathering is to share with like-minded people about the valley's events and people. Please bring your History to share. From 2 to 4 p.m. at 45937 McKenzie Hwy. in Vida.

October 9

McKenzie School Board

The McKenzie School District board of directors will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 51187 Blue River Dr. The meeting will be live-streamed viewing available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@mckenziechooldistrict6756/streams> Submit Public Comments to public.comment@mckenziesd.org comments submitted before noon on the day prior to the meeting will be presented to the Board for review and submission to the meeting minutes.

October 10

VMCC Board

The board of directors of the Vida McKenzie Community Center will meet at 4:30 p.m. at 90377 Thomson Lane in Vida.

October 10

McK Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Its mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure

October 11

Yoga In Leaburg

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

October 11

Second Friday Art Walk

The 2nd Friday Art Walk Will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. starting at the Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield, 500 Main St.

October 12

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.

October 12

Living River Day

Join the McKenzie River Trust from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 31799 Green Island Rd, Eugene, and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. 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.

PUBLIC MEETING



WHEN: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 6:00 P.M.**

WHERE: **VIDA MCKENZIE COMMUNITY CENTER, IN VIDA**

Important Meeting for McKenzie Residents

Purpose:

- Residents meeting for all viewpoints on the removal of Leaburg Dam
- Review of facts, figures and data
- Meeting presented by neighbors for neighbors
- The valley depends on the river and on its people. The removal of the dam will affect generations.

- this is your chance to affect its future!

RSVP would be appreciated, but not necessary

Nadine@windermere.com

An Invitation to Worship

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

Living Water Family Fellowship
Pastor - Doug Farrington
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)

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

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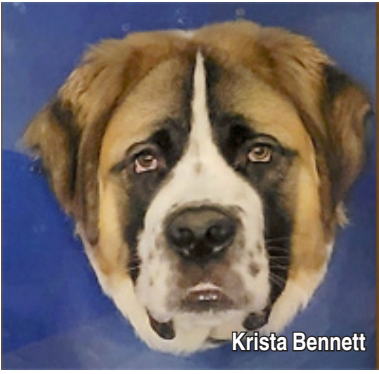
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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Suspicious Claims



Krista Bennett

I am the oldest of three kids. I am 28 and my brothers are 24 and 16. I wish I could say the years of sibling rivalry are over, but I'd be lying if I did. My 24-year-old brother still lives at home. We used to get along, but things changed when he turned 16. He developed a violent temper which is directed only toward me.

It started with the typical bickering you get from any brother and sister and evolved into cursing, name-calling, and insults. That further evolved into spitting on me, throwing food at me, and physically threatening me. It's hard on my parents because they cannot control his temper. They've spoken to our family physician, but unless my brother is willing to help himself there isn't much they

can do.

I started dating an amazing man over a year ago. One day he overheard my brother cursing at me. He told my brother if he was going to talk to me, to do it with respect. There have been no violent encounters or arguments since. This works for my family because the fighting has stopped.

It hurts so much that my brother hates me. I don't have this kind of relationship with my younger brother. In fact, we are close. But I wish I knew what it is about me that bothers my oldest brother. I want to find a way to fix things. Is there anything you can suggest to help me build the bonds of this broken relationship?

My boyfriend told me to realize it's a lost cause, but he's my brother and I love him. If anything happened, I'd be there regardless. I want to make peace but don't know how. Is everyone right? Am I hoping for the impossible?

Mary Jo

Mary Jo, years ago Wayne rented a farmhouse in the Ozarks. Wayne owned a St. Bernard, and he and the dog would roam the woods together and the dog would watch as Wayne picked apples in the orchard. One day the landlord

decided to put cattle on the land. Unfortunately the dog sensed the cows feared her, so she entertained herself by chasing them.

Wayne thought he might have to give the dog away. A dog that runs cattle can't stay on a farm because cattle can overheat, collapse, and die from exhaustion. Things changed, however, when the landlord bought two young bulls and made them part of the herd. The bulls began to stalk the St. Bernard. Her fun over, the dog lost all interest in chasing cattle.

Apparently you found a "bull" to end your brother's fun. While we wouldn't call your brother's behavior healthy, it does appear to be under his control rather than an undiagnosed mental illness. It also appears he trained you and your parents to accept his behavior, and he escalated his tantrums to increase his power.

Today many of us are raised to believe there is a fix for everything. Experts claim to have a system which will put other people under our control. But these claims often disappear on close examination.

The author of a best-selling relationship book admits he gets along with his wife by pretending she is as important to him as his clients. The author of a book purporting to eliminate divorce, in fine print on the copyright page, specifically disclaims any legal responsibility for her claims. And a leading researcher

on communication skills, whose work is often cited in self-help books, no longer stands by that research.

In the United States you can recover money from an auto mechanic who fails to fix your car, but there is no legal recourse against "experts" who claim to fix any relationship. The worst part is, when you fail to make their system work, you blame yourself

rather than them.

The power to change this situation is in your brother's hands, not yours.

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.

Translation

By Erika L. Sánchez

- a huevo: to be aggressively seduced by an egg
- ay diosito: the small god you thank because your hands exist
- me hicieron ojo: my eyelashes flew one by one like a longing!
- señora studies: look, a map in the dirt of your mother's hurts
- empacho: you ate cactus until you burst open like a rotten fruit
- tacos de cabeza: quandaries posed under the spell of an orange moon
- un susto: your future ghost twitches in an empty room
- santo niño de atocha: the baby saint who freed all the wounded deer
- escalofrío: the sudden chatter of your favorite ancestor, Lupe
- no te metas con mi cucu: a cheerful song about attempted rape
- me da cosa: it gives me thing;

- a feather in your ear without consent
- no mames: you still suckle from your mother's teat and tell us about it
- sopita de letras: little baby soup made of little baby letters
- fabuloso: your mom's favorite mop water
- el chavo del ocho: an adult orphan in search of an elusive ham sandwich
- esa huerca: Angie from next door who never wears socks
- allá en las cocinas: a crisis of the spirit

Erika L. Sánchez is an American poet and writer. She is the author of poetry collection *Lessons on Expulsion* and a young adult novel *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, a 2017 finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature. She was a professor at DePaul University. Finalist, National Book Award for Young People's Literature; winner, Tomás Rivera Award.

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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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- 40. Political "shelter"
- 42. The night before Christmas
- 43. Eyewash vessel
- 45. Food tester
- 47. King Kong, e.g.
- 48. Milk quantity
- 50. * _____ Verde National Park
- 52. *Black Hills' Mount _____ National Memorial
- 55. Short-trunked ungulate
- 56. Geometric calculation
- 57. Barbequed anatomy
- 59. Not upright
- 60. Mountain lake
- 61. *Easter Island statues
- 62. Short for detective
- 63. Follow ems
- 64. "Mr. Roboto" band

DOWN

- 1. Recipe amt.
- 2. Related to ear
- 3. U.S. space agency, acr.
- 4. Gram, in Great Britain
- 5. Walks weary
- 6. Composer of "GymnopEdies" fame Erik _____
- 7. *Machu Picchu empire
- 8. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
- 9. On one's guard
- 10. Ostrich-like bird
- 12. Marcel of "Remembrance of Things Past" fame
- 13. Harden
- 14. * _____ Familia, Spain
- 19. Autocratic
- 22. Earlier in time, archaic
- 23. Use blunt end of pencil
- 24. Sack fabric
- 25. Change shoelace knot, e.g.
- 26. *China's Great attraction
- 27. *Mt. Everest's northern slope location
- 28. Tool handle
- 29. Ranch grazer
- 32. Poison ivy woe
- 33. * _____ Strait, Alaskan cruise destination
- 36. *Famous onion-domed cathedral's namesake in Russia
- 38. Ingratiating behavior
- 40. Gobbled up
- 41. Relating to Utah
- 44. Like exes
- 46. Violent weather, pl.
- 48. #13 Across' sacred writings
- 49. Site frequenters
- 50. First one on a ship
- 51. Long narrative poem
- 52. Loan attribute
- 53. Heavy metal's Quiet _____
- 54. E-commerce website
- 55. Sylvester, to Tweety
- 58. Broadway musical about wives of Henry VIII

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

Click here or go to:
tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Oct 3rd



Call for Volunteers
Help us with our upcoming Grand Opening of the new Library in Blue River. We need more volunteers to help with the extended hours and more.



McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group
GMS will bring (Thursday) "See" you on the regular. (Signed on 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on the radio). Make it easy...



Leaburg GWES Radio Preparedness
Every Thursday McKenzie Valley Neighbors & MFD Radio Preparedness Group Network. Check in Thursday @ 8:30 p.m. McKenzie Valley Radio Net.



Yoga in Leaburg
Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center.



Volunteer Drive
With our upcoming Grand Opening of the new Library in Blue River, we need more volunteers to help with the extended hours and more.



KIDS EAT FREE
Kids eat free!
Every Monday (with adult meal purchase). Takeout, Dine-in, Outdoor seating (3-11). 729-8088.



McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce
The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce meets via Zoom every second Tuesday of every month. Please join us every month.



McKenzie River Food Pantry
Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food for Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need.



McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group
GMS will bring (Thursday) "See" you on the regular. (Signed on 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on the radio). Make it easy...



Late County Board of Commissioners
The Board of Commissioners meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board.



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FAMOUS WORLD SITES

ACROSS

- 1. To grab meat off a grill
- 5. Tire meas.
- 8. Flock member
- 11. Hollywood sidewalk mark
- 12. Architect's drawing
- 13. Muhammad's teachings
- 15. *Leaning Tower city
- 16. Co-eds' military org.
- 17. a.k.a. Pleasant Island
- 18. *Angkor Wat country
- 20. Like some Christmas sweaters

- 21. Walt's Mickey
- 22. Blunder
- 23. Emerge
- 26. "Midsommar" flower arrangements
- 30. *Avenue des Champs-Élysées, technically
- 31. Plural of stria
- 34. Prescribed food selection
- 35. On pins and needles
- 37. Knee-related acronym
- 38. Fur of the marten
- 39. Hissy fit

Solution on Page 9

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(541) 896-0500



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

October 5 - Portland and Astoria were infamous ports for shanghaiing sailors. Men known as "crimps" used knockout drops, alcohol and other means to obtain crews for sailing ship captains. Once the bodies were delivered on board ship and the crimp was paid the ship set sail. At the height of the shanghaiing days crimps charged as much as \$135 per man and stories were told of dead men, and even a cigar store wooden Indian, having been taken aboard by gullible captains. As steamships became more popular, the sailing era began to fade and large crews were no longer necessary. In time the Portland and Astoria waterfront became relatively safe places, where a man no longer needed to worry about waking up with a hangover and being a hundred miles out to sea.

Orchid earns kudos



Orion Falvey and Oliver Alexander

Orchid Health has been named one of The Oregonian's Top Places to Work for 2024. The award, based on employee feedback, included three distinctive culture badges: Clued-in Employees, Strong Values, and Open-Minded.

Since its founding in 2014, Orchid has emphasized relationships, trust, and autonomy while expanding access to care in some of Oregon's most underserved communities.

With five clinics and a sixth opening in October, Orchid has proven that prioritizing the well being of its clinic teams not only creates a more desirable workplace but also drives industry leading quality outcomes and economic sustainability.

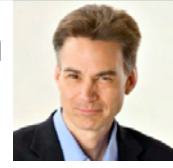
"Our commitment to strong values like vulnerability with accountability and cultivating

respect creates an environment where team members feel safe to voice their needs, allowing them to be more effective in their roles," said Orion Falvey, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Orchid Health. "By giving our local teams the autonomy to make key decisions based on their direct experiences, we empower them to provide the best care to our patients and communities."

"This unique approach has enabled Orchid to reduce administrative burdens and unnecessary bureaucracy, ensuring a more patient-centered approach to health-care," he added, "addressing one of the biggest challenges facing healthcare organizations today."

For more information about Orchid Health or to inquire about career opportunities, visit orchid-health.org

Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

What can I do about the missing mobility scooter I ordered from Amazon?

The mobility scooter Tom Kay orders from Amazon never arrived -- yet the tracking number says it's been delivered. Is his \$2,650 lost, too?

I purchased a mobility scooter last month from Amazon. The vendor contacted me through Amazon and said that the color I ordered was not available and asked if I would take another one. I told them no and to cancel the order.

The vendor said they could not cancel the order. Then I received another response through Amazon that my scooter had shipped. I have no idea what color it was because I never received it. A few days later, I received an update from the seller that said, "We are currently coordinating the shipment and delivery of your goods. Thank you for your patience and kindness."

Obviously, they had not shipped the scooter yet. But the tracking information shows that it has been delivered. Can you help me get the \$2,650 for the scooter I never received?

Tom Kay, Lawrence, Kan.

You should have received the mobility scooter you ordered and in the color you ordered. Full stop. Why? Amazon has some sophisticated systems that track the inventory of its vendors, so you should have been able to order an item that was in stock.

More surprises were in store for you. The vendor said they were out of the green scooters and wanted you to accept another color. And when you wouldn't and tried to cancel the order, the vendor said it couldn't. I think it meant to say it wouldn't.

I've reviewed the paper trail between you and the vendor, and it gets worse. The vendor claimed to have sent you the scooter and told you to file a police report.

First of all, who steals a mobility scooter? What kind of depraved human takes an assistive device from someone's front door? If you said, "no one," then you are probably right. The vendor might claim to have sent you a scooter, but I think it's wrong again. I'm betting it never sent the device.

So do you have to pay \$2,650 for nothing? Absolutely not.

It looks as if Amazon had taken a hands-off approach by simply handing you off to a vendor. How very un-Amazon-like of them. Usually, the company is there to help you quickly resolve problems.

A brief, polite email to one of the Amazon executives I list on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org, might have helped.

As I reviewed the back-and-forth between you, the seller and Amazon, it seems the problem was that Amazon needed a police report. But you couldn't file a police report because you were not sure if anything was delivered -- or stolen. And Amazon wouldn't do anything until you filed a police report.

This type of bureaucracy is just maddening. Someone should have been able to look at your case and see that there was a pretty good chance the scooter wasn't even sent to you. Instead, Amazon was just spamming you with form emails.

I contacted Amazon on your behalf. The company reviewed your case and promptly apologized and sent you a refund for \$2,650.

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

© 2023 Christopher Elliott

Bite on weeds

Continued From Page 1

ing can also weaken and kill off persistent species by reducing their ability to regrow.

"They're little machines," says Rutledge.

The herd lives in a rural portion of the school district and enjoys a shelter on the property constructed by a Thurston High School career and technical education (CTE) class. Officials said the goats represent a mix of breeds selected for temperament and suitability to the environment. A community member donated the goats to the District.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Vaping can cause irreversible lung damage.

Talk About Vaping.org

Get the facts about youth vaping.

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

Go to: tinyurl.com/2rkpkxen

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Emergency?

Call 911

Wagons, Ho!

Continued From Page 1

As the forest continued to swallow up the old roadbed, it might have been lost to antiquity. But in the last 20 to 30 years, volunteers have restored about half of the old route to the point where it can now be navigated by horse-drawn wagons or early-era autos.

Both were displayed during the celebration with docents wearing period costumes or sessions with live-action pack trains and wagon rides.

Also on hand was a 1902 Oldsmobile commemorating the cross-country race that passed through the area in 1905. While the motorcar's motor gave off a low-volume purr, tunes from the Civil War to the 1920s suffrage movement wafted out from the tent, shading the Crazy Weasels musical duo.

To view some videos from the event, go to tinyurl.com/ykadwak2

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Tony Farque, as Gifford Pinchot, gave a spirited talk about the history of Santiam Wagon Road.

Buster Keaton

Continued From Page 4



Cottage Grove Historical Society
The "money shot" in Buster Keaton's classic *The General*: A full-size, working steam locomotive collapsing through a burning bridge into the Row River.

the time of their lives.

Having lots of manpower on the scene got pretty important later in the summer, by the way. Wood-burning locomotives are really good at lighting off forest fires, and on days when the temperatures climbed into the 100s, the crews found themselves spending almost as much time dousing wildfires as they did shooting footage.

One big one almost got away from them, which would have been very bad news for Cottage Grove; but luckily, the National Guard volunteers were on the scene that day for a big battle scene. Dressed, some in Union and others in Rebel uniforms, they charged into battle side by side against their common enemy. Buster joined them in his underwear, beating at the flames with his trousers.

Eventually the valley got too smoky to shoot in, and the cast and crew had to retreat back to 90210 and wait the fire season out, shooting what they could on

studio lots while they were there before returning to finish up in September after the smoke had cleared.

(Sources: "The General (film)," an article by Jim Schepke published Aug. 22, 2022, in The Oregon Encyclopedia; "Buster Keaton's Last Stand," an article by Julian Smith published Aug. 5, 2020, in Alta Journal; "Remains of the General," a TV package reported by Meghan Kalkstein and aired on KVAL-TV on May 23, 2007.)

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*, was 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](#)

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

\$1 billion annually?

Continued From Page 1

Sen. Mark Meek, the Gladstone Democrat who chairs the Senate Revenue Committee, called the measure a "debacle" and said he was "very much more confused now" after a 45-minute presentation Tuesday about the possible costs.

"From the sounds of it, it was very poorly written," Meek said. "It was written to be sexy to those people that have children and families that want that money in their pocket but don't understand the cost, what it's going to take and if it's even going to be a benefit to them."

The legislative revenue office added expected tax increases, tax decreases and spending together to estimate that the state would receive more money in the current budget cycle, but that it would have a negative cash flow in future budgets. If the measure passed, the state would be down about \$547 million in the 2025-27 budget, \$2.1 billion in the 2027-29 budget and \$2.5 billion in the 2029-31 budget.

That's money that couldn't be used for state services, including investing in housing, health care and highways. And it would reduce how much money the state automatically adds to its rainy day fund.

The state would also be on the hook for making sure that anyone who receives social services tied to income – like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Employment Related Day Care – wouldn't see their benefits reduced based on a higher income from the rebate.

"I don't know if I can stress

the complexity of going through every person who is entitled to a rebate and figuring out what the impact on their benefits would be," Legislative Revenue Officer Chris Allanach said.

Money pouring in

The legislative presentations come as backers of the proposed measure stepped up their fundraising efforts. On Tuesday, the same day that campaigns needed to start reporting contributions within seven days of receiving them, the Oregon Rebate PAC reported that it has received \$200,000 in the past month from Jones Holding LLC, owned by California venture capitalist Josh Jones.

Much of the measure's financial support has come from wealthy Californians, including Jones, who gave \$780,000 through his company; the mother and foundation of late Tesla engineer Gerald Huff, which gave nearly \$200,000; and Dylan Hirsch-Shell, a former Tesla engineer running for mayor of San Francisco, who gave \$100,000.

Opponents, led by Oregon Business and Industry, have raised nearly \$9.3 million to defeat the measure. The Defeat the Costly Tax on Sales committee received six-figure checks from some of the largest retailers and manufacturers in Oregon and the nation, including Home Depot, Walmart, Bi-Mart, the Tillamook County Creamery Association and Daimler Trucks.

A long bipartisan list of opponents includes Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek, most state legislators, labor unions, businesses and progressive groups including the

Oregon Center for Public Policy. Supporters of Measure 118 have decried its opponents, especially elected officials, as being too loyal to corporate donors.

Sen. Jeff Golden, D-Ashland, said he has heard from constituents who read comments from opponents, including Kotek, about how the measure would have a negative impact on state revenue. But he said he struggles to clearly answer their questions because of the measure's complexity.

"I feel like I've done a poor job trying to make clear why that is," he said.

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, described it as a "disaster in the making," and said lawmakers would have to figure out how to implement the measure if voters approve it. He won't be among them – Boquist is barred from running for reelection because he missed too many days of floor sessions in 2023, and he's running for treasurer instead.

"It's so difficult," Boquist said. "I mean you're going to have a single mother of two kids looking at their ballot and saying, 'OK, I would get \$4,800 according to the voters' pamphlet, if I vote yes. Do I pay my rent? Do I pay my food?' ... And you go to the opposite end of the spectrum, and you can have a homeschooling couple with six children, and they could be the ultra-conservative anti-tax people, and they're going to look at this and say, 'Well, I could maybe get \$12,800 back. I could put that in the college fund for my kid to go to college.'"

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

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Pass reopens

Continued From Page 1

"Although fire season is not yet over, we feel confident about the progress fire crews are making on wildfires," said McKenzie River District Ranger Darren Cross. "We want to make sure people can get back out there and enjoy their favorite places as soon as it is safe."

With large portions of the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas reopened and accessible, visitors are reminded to get Central Cascades Wilderness Permits, which are required through October 15th. Willamette National Forest - Recreation Pass-

es & Permits (usda.gov)

The reduced closures also greatly expand hunting opportunities, reopening miles of road and thousands of acres. As wildfires are still active in the area, hunters are advised to review existing closure maps and stay out of closed areas for their safety and the safety of firefighters.

For a map of the closure areas and a complete list of recreation sites and roads included in the orders, visit tinyurl.com/yccprw75. For updates on Highway 242, visit TripCheck.com

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Fire Updates

Boulder Fire

The lightning-caused Boulder Fire is 523 acres and 72% contained. No recreation sites are in the new closure area.

Linton Creek Fire

The lightning-caused Linton Creek Fire is 1,310 acres and 0% contained. Closed recreation sites and trails include Obsidian Trail #3529 Trail and Trailhead, Obsidian Stock Trailhead, Glacier Way Trail #4436, portions of the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, Linton Meadows Trail #3547, and Eileen Lake Trail #4348.

374 Fire

The lightning-caused 374 Fire is 64 acres and 0% contained. Closed trails include Mud Lake Trail #3518, Porky Lake Trail #4338, Starwano Trail #3537, Lake Side Trail #3525, and portions of McBee Trail #3523, Crossing Way Trail #3370, Mink Lake Trail #3526, portions of the Pacific Crest Trail #2000, and Elk Creek Trail #3510.

Groups seek reinstatement of Oregon's Climate Protection Program



A group of Oregon conservation advocates is calling on officials to reinstate a 2021 Climate Reduction Program invalidated in 2022 by a state Court of Appeals.

By Mark Richardson
Oregon News Service

A group of Oregon conservation advocates is asking the state's Department of Environmental Quality to restore the provisions of a 2021 Climate Protection Program that had been invalidated by the courts.

The Oregon Just Transition Alliance wants the state to adopt a 2024 version of the plan that restores most of its goals and protections.

Xitlali Torres, coordinator of the Air Quality and Climate Program for the group Verde, a member of the alliance, said they want to fix the objective of achieving equity for marginalized communities that have borne the burden of pollution.

"The Climate Protection Program is a great opportunity to shift Oregon's way of thinking and doing business to more sustainable and equitable practices," she said.

The Oregon Court of Appeals invalidated the original plan mostly on technicalities involving posting of notice requirements. Torres said today is the final day for Oregonians to submit written comments on the 2024 plan. That can be done online at DEQ.Or-

regon.gov and searching for "CPP 2024."

The proposed plan would re-establish the program, setting limits on greenhouse-gas emissions. It would also set an enforceable limit on emissions from sources such as diesel, gasoline, natural gas and propane.

Torres said sharing your opinion can make a big difference.

"Comments are valuable," she said. "I've heard firsthand from the Department of Environmental Quality staff that comments do make a difference. During the last rulemaking, they received thousands of comments and it did make the rules stronger."

Torres said the coalition's goal is to restore the climate program with a scope and ambition comparable to the previous plan for emissions reduction. She also noted that the state's environmental policies must include all Oregonians.

"The program is prioritizing uplifting environmental justice communities," she said, "and listening to groups that have historically been left out of decisionmaking, or left out of policies."

newsservice.org

Nearly five months in, Oregon wildfire season expected to last into mid-October

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
Oregon's forest and fire leaders were succinct in describing this year's wildfire season to a group of Oregon senators.

"It just won't quit is essentially where we're at, and our folks are really tired," Kyle Williams, deputy director of fire operations at the Oregon Department of Forestry, told the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire on Tuesday.

Williams and two others – Doug Graffe, Gov. Tina Kotek's wildfire and military advisor; and Travis Medema, a chief deputy for the Oregon State Fire Marshal – told senators the state would likely wrap up its now five-monthlong fire season in mid-October, following a record 1.9 million acres burned. That's nearly three times as many acres as the state's 10-year average.

Medema said projections from the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, which coordinates wildfire resources, showed one or two more "significant event days" before the state is fully out of the 2024 wildfire season.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is currently fighting a 300-acre fire near Coos Bay and the Fossil Complex in eastern Oregon, made up of five fires over nearly 25,000 acres.

"We're finally on the downhill of the slope," Williams said, but warned that forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show 10 days ahead of dry and above average temperatures. "What's next is what we're focused on, and we're in good shape. We're mostly back in the barn ready to go again."

The bulk of the wildfires have burned through east Oregon grass and shrub, with about 25% of it in

forestland, according to the Wildland Mapping Institute. More than one-third of all acres blackened have been on private land, and about 62% has been on federal land. Most wildfires are caused by humans, according to the interagency coordination center, but this year the bulk of blazes have started from natural causes, such as lightning.

The wildfires prompted Kotek to declare a statewide emergency and ask for federal help and regulatory flexibility for farmers and ranchers. She's also invoked the Conflagration Act 17 times this year, with the latest invocation on Sept. 10 for the Service Fire in Wheeler County. The act unleashes resources to fight blazes that threaten lives, communities or key infrastructure.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com



Courtesy of Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

A road closure from the Fossil Complex fires in central Oregon in September. The fires have burned nearly 25,000 acres.

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

6:00 p.m: Building Check - 38400 blk, Shotgun Creek Rd.

7:23 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 51700 blk, Blue River Dr.

Sept. 29: 2:04 p.m: Criminal Mischief - 92200 blk, Carson St.

Sept. 30: 12:03 p.m: Assist, Information - Old McK. Hwy. & McK. Hwy.

12:59 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 41800 blk, Holden Creek Ln.

2:25 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 46200 blk, McK. Hwy.

3:10 p.m: Violation of Restraining Order - 92200 blk, Carson St.

3:21 p.m: Reckless Driving - Deerhorn Rd. & McK. Hwy.

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

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Need to talk?
Call 988



"Early detection gave us time to adapt together, as a family."

If you're noticing changes, it could be Alzheimer's. Talk about visiting a doctor together.

ALZ.org/TimeToTalk



NEWSPAPER READERS ARE COMMUNITY LEADERS

87% of newspaper readers feel they have a responsibility to help shape the future of their communities.



Source: America's Newspapers 2023 Local Newspaper Study conducted by Coda Ventures.

Burned-Area Emergency Response team begins post-fire surveys

Work to focus on Boulder, Chalk, Coffeepot, Ore and Pyramid fire areas

An Emergency Response Team of scientists and resource specialists began field surveys and assessments this week for the burned areas of the Boulder, Chalk, Coffeepot, Ore, and Pyramid fires in the Willamette National Forest.

The Boulder Creek Fire is 523 acres in size and 51% contained. The Chalk Fire covers 5,996 acres, the Coffeepot Fire is 6,203 acres, and the Pyramid Fire totals 1,312 acres and is also contained. These four fires resulted from lightning strikes and continued to smoke within established lines. The Ore Fire, which is 3,484 acres caused by humans, is 80% contained.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is an Emergency Response program to manage imminent and unacceptable risks to human life, safety, and property as threats to critical natural and cultural resources from post-wildfire conditions.

The BAER Team, comprised of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management employees specializing in multiple resource areas, "conducts field studies us-

ing science-based models to assess watersheds on National Forest rapidly lands. The team will inventory critical values, assess risk, and determine the need for emergency measures and treatments on the Forest," officials say.

Team members will closely assess watersheds for post-fire, rain-related impacts, such as increased flooding, debris-flow potential, and soil erosion. The team will then recommend time-critical treatments to be completed before the first damaging storm event. Those recommendations are submitted as a proposed stabilization plan for approval. Once approved, the Forest will receive funding to complete stabilization efforts within the fire area.

Treatments will be installed within one year of full containment and may be monitored for up to three years. Fire assessments should be completed within a few weeks, and a stabilization plan implemented by the Willamette National Forest will follow.

State leaders send Forestry Department extra \$47.5 million to cover mounting wildfire costs

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capita Chronicle
The Oregon Department of Forestry is getting help from the state's general fund to pay its bills after a record wildfire season.

The Legislative Emergency Board voted Wednesday to send \$47.5 million to the forestry department to help cover the costs of the 2024 wildfire season. Spending on wildfires this year has topped nearly \$250 million, about 2.5 times the amount budgeted for the forestry department and the State Fire Marshal's Office for wildfire response.

"The Department of Forestry has done incredible work fighting these fires under difficult weather conditions and with personnel and resources stretched thin across multiple states," Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, said in a news release.

About half of the \$47.5 million was previously earmarked for a potentially expensive wildfire season, while the board, comprised of ten representatives and ten senators, appropriated \$20 million as emergency funding.

More than 2,000 fires have scorched nearly 2 million acres this year – a record in the state



Grant County Emergency Management

The Rail Ridge Fire south of Dayville in Grant County scorched more than 135,000 acres.

and more than three times the 10-year average for acres burned. Gov. Tina Kotek has invoked the Conflagration Act 17 times this year – a new record – with the latest on Sept. 10 for the Service Fire in Wheeler County. The previous record was in 2020, when Kotek invoked the act 16 times, said John Hendricks, a spokesman for the fire marshal. The act unleashes resources to fight blazes threatening lives, communities, or key infrastructure.

Kotek also asked for federal help and regulatory flexibility for farmers and ranchers who have

lost land used for animals and plants while urging Congress to pass a spending bill to fund federal agencies and fully increase firefighter pay.

According to experts, the state will likely wrap up its now five-month-long fire season in mid-October. Projections from the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, which coordinates wildfire resources, indicate the state could face one or two more high-risk days before the 2024 wildfire season is over.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

Letters to the Editor

Continued From Page 2

was then, while it gives us both a historical perspective and a vivid challenge for today and the future. I strongly encourage any of your readers with the above-stated attitude to take heed and learn something that might be useful, from one of the best of us.

It's election time! Let the River Reflections flex its small-but-mighty muscles and engage both of our District 12 candidates to write Letters to the Editor, stating their reasonable and realistic goals if elected. What is their knowledge of our state legislature, the bills that are coming up before it starting Jan. 13, 2025 and their thoughts on how they will approach their votes? What specific teamsmanship skills would they bring to their work? What impediments to good governance does the state legislature face, if any? How are they going to keep an independent mind when faced

with the constant barrage of lobbyists that don't always have the health and safety of Oregon and Oregonians in mind? Direct answers to (at least) these questions would surely be helpful to all your readers.

We have time for our congressional candidates, too. And perhaps some of our locals might want to weigh in on their thoughts about the upcoming ballot measures. All statements should be fact-checked for accuracy.

Let's get a conversation going! For that's what democracy is, a conversation (there are no conversations in authoritarian governments). And this conversation is only useful when it is honest, thoughtful, and as precise as possible. Let's get going, Mr. Editor and River Reflections community!

Sincerely, Francesca Anton
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Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 2

shows 18 children behind upright desktops."

RTS Tactical touts bulletproof portable whiteboards that blend into classroom decor and avoid the appearance of a bunker. The armor panels were originally designed for army recruitment centers.

3M offers clear window laminate that prevents glass from shattering when struck by bullets from a semiautomatic rifle.

KT Security Solutions hawks rapidly accessible, collapsible safe rooms, which it says can double as reading rooms when not used for protection against a shooter. The bulletproof safe room sells for \$60,000 per unit. Multiply that by 20 classrooms in a school and

you're talking real money diverted from teaching and learning.

By failing to address the root causes of school shootings, we may leave little choice for public school administrators and parents. It's too bad no one has thought of bulletproofing air conditioning or library books.

Gary Conkling co-founded CFM Advocates and has worked in various public affairs capacities for more than 40 years to advocate for adequate K-12 school funding in Oregon. He most recently provided strategic communications counsel to Portland Public Schools and Salem-Keizer Public Schools.

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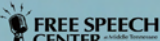
TALK IS CHEAP. LOCAL NEWS IS VALUABLE.

We know. There's a flood of news coverage out there, some of it good and some not so good. But none of those talking heads, cable pundits or national websites can deliver the local news and information that makes this a more vibrant and successful community.

That's where we come in. Like you, we live and work here, and we're invested in our community's successes and challenges. That means fully and fairly reporting on the events in our backyard, but also providing an overall news report with a hometown perspective.

At a time of polarization and pandering, we stay out of the fray. We're committed to the local coverage that matters most: Education. The economy. Health care. Public safety. Sports and the arts. And above all else, government accountability.

Support local news. It's the good stuff.



Enjoy where you live



Summertime is here, Wouldn't you rather stay in the McKenzie Valley instead of driving to tow "looking for bargains?" How about spending a couple of hours at the swimming hole instead of stressing out in summer traffic? Wouldn't it be better to spend the evening fishing instead of driving back and forth and getting nowhere? You can invest your time and dollars locally by supporting your neighborhood businesses. The community you support will be a better one to live in and enjoy.



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