



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Sheriff's Reports

No crime was committed, however one of the subjects had a warrant and was arrested.

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Gardening Tips

Hydrangeas populate millions of gardens and with good reason.

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Briefs...



"Oldest and Coldest" Springfield Christmas Parade Presented By: Oregon Riders Society returns for its 72nd year with the theme of "Gingerbread Kisses & Christmas Wishes." This is the 8th year on December 7th. ORS has been able to make a significant impact on children and families located in Lane County. Within the last couple of years, ORS has helped dozens of children and families in need of assistance. Parade entries must reflect a holiday theme. The staging area opens at 9 a.m. on Olympic Street, between 21st and 28th Street.
[Christmas Parade - Page 2](#)



Prepare to be amazed as the talented youth aerialists of Revelers Contemporary Circus take to the skies on Friday, December 13th, with stunning, self-created solo acts on aerial silks and slings. This mesmerizing showcase at 7 p.m. in the Wildish Theater, 630 Main St. in Springfield, celebrates the community's rising stars' artistry, athleticism, and creativity.

As a nonprofit organization, Revelers Contemporary Circus (RCC) is dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages and backgrounds through the beauty and athleticism of circus arts. RCC provides aspiring performers with opportunities to soar and fosters inclusion, creativity, and collaboration.
[Revelers Circus - Page 2](#)



Make Your Disaster Communications Plan. When the next disaster strikes, who will you call and how? Area residents are encouraged to make a plan now with the help of a few experienced local people. A planning session will be held on Sunday, December 8th, at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive. Sessions will include 1 pm - 1:30 - Get a free 2-page plan to complete and have ready. It lists questions to ask yourself and
[Communications Plan - Page 2](#)

SPRINGFIELD: A documentary exploring the evolution and enduring influence of the McKenzie River Drift Boat has proved a crowd pleaser, judging by its enthusiastic acceptance at a screening last week. The film's debut at the Wildish Theater is the creation of Randy Dersham, who has shifted his focus to filmmaking after a long career in the video game industry.

Combining a mix of historical film, archival photographs, and insightful interviews, Dersham's film charts the wooden boat's evolution and its role in transforming how people fish and navigate whitewater in shallow rocky rivers. "Oregon's Boat" also showcases the ingenuity and craftsmanship behind the development of the iconic vessel - from features like its flared sides for stability and a rocker bottom for maneuverability to a generous girth that ensures a shallow draft.

The five-act documentary cites several men who helped the craft evolve. Among them are Veltie Pruitt and Prince Helfrich—the first to float many of the great rivers of Oregon from top to bottom—as they scouted and recorded the rapids of these rivers. Other notables were boatbuilders Tom Kaarhus and Woodie Hindman, who introduced innovative ideas to the design of the drift boat that greatly benefitted from the introduction of plywood to their raw materials.

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"Oregon's Boat" premieres Overflow crowd turned out in Springfield



Fans of drift boats soon outnumbered available seats in the Wildish Theater.



Christmas lights brightened a darkening sky at the VMCC,

Plugging in a new tradition

Holiday Party planned for annual return

VIDA: The McKenzie Community Partnership hosted a Holiday Party at the Vida McKenzie Community Center on Sunday that was topped off with the illumination of a tall fir. Prior to flipping the light switch at 5 p.m., people inside the building were treated to live music, gingerbread house decorating, caroling, crafts and games, and refreshments - along with collecting new, unwrapped toys for the McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Toy Drive.

The event was a new addition to the area's Annual Holiday Lights project, now in its fourth year and running through December 31st. Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by decorating their yards and buildings. In years past, some featured sites included a Santa riding a Salmon at the McKenzie River Discovery Center and a snowman at the Jeweled Messenger near the Goodpasture Covered Bridge. This year, organizers say to look for two new large lighted displays - one at Honey Paddle Farm and another at milepost 24.

For more details and to share the location of your lighted display, email Mary@mckenziecommunity.org. Donations for next year's party can be made at mckenziecommunity.org. (Please specify that your donation is for Holiday Lights.)

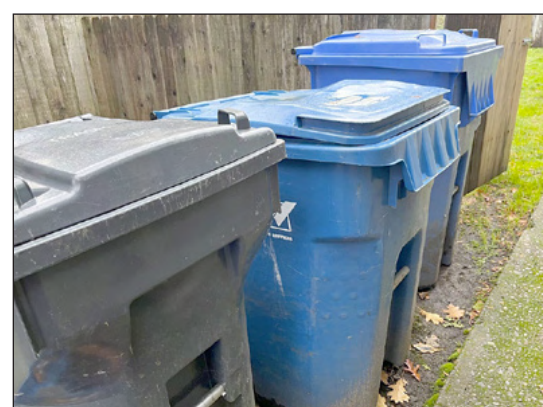
State approves new recycling rules

By Julia Shumway
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Starting this summer, Oregonians across the state will begin to receive a standardized list of what can and cannot be recycled statewide, and owners and managers of apartment complexes and multi-unit housing will need to prepare to provide recycling for residents.

These are among new rules around recycling finalized Friday by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission following four years of negotiation and planning. The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act will go into effect July 1, 2025, making it easier for Oregonians to recycle. It will establish new packaging fees for companies selling products in Oregon, based on the weight and recyclability of the material.

Hard-to-recycle materials, such as plastics, will command higher fees from companies than products that are easily recycled, ideally incen-



Oregon is working on modernizing its recycling system so items are actually recyclable.

tivizing producers to choose lighter, more sustainable materials. This follows regulations in Oregon in recent years that require manufacturers to pick up some of the end-of-life costs of paint, mattresses and electronics, or to invest in programs to recycle such products.

"Part of the goal is to move companies into more recyclable materials. There is a cost to packaging that needs to be internalized," said Sen. Michael Dembrow, who championed the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act in the legislature in 2021.

The rules also give authority to collect and invest some new packaging
[Recycling rules - Page 9](#)

Guest Opinion

Trump's unusual labor secretary pick - could have an impact at home

By Randy Stapilus
Oregon Capital Chronicle

President-elect Donald Trump's choice of Oregon's U.S. Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer as labor secretary is among the more unusual and intriguing cabinet picks he's made, and her appointment could have an impact on partisan politics — notably in Oregon.

The Republican, who lost Oregon's 5th Congressional District seat last month to Democratic state Rep. Janelle Bynum, has become an unlikely pivotal national figure. With only a single term in the U.S. House and a small-town mayoralty on her resume, Chavez-DeRemer is set to run the Department of Labor, which is tasked with fostering and developing the welfare of workers, job seekers and retirees, according to its mission statement. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, she'll also be in charge of improving working conditions, promoting employment and protecting workers' rights, which could become a flashpoint in the next couple of years.

Unlike some of the other cabi-

net nominees, such as the flamed-out Matt Gaetz for attorney general, Chavez-DeRemer does not enter this arena with any heavy baggage or evident scandals. Her election loss was narrow, running against a strong opponent and in a Democratic-leaning district that's difficult for a Republican.

Chavez-DeRemer endorsed Trump well before the general election, but she developed a reputation as a relatively moderate Republican while representing her district. That, with the fact that she is a Latina, may have combined to give her some advantage in the contest for a seat on the cabinet.

There is another factor, too, unusual among Republican secretaries of labor: She has a personal connection to labor unions and support from a number of them. She has family connections to unions — her father was a member of the Teamsters — and she attracted some union support during the last campaign.

She also was a rare Republican supporter of the PRO Act, which was intended to make union organizing easier and was backed by the Biden administration but did not clear Congress. She also supported another unsuccessful mea-



sure aimed at protecting public sector workers from losing Social Security benefits if they receive pensions as well. Both measures mainly failed because most other Republicans in Congress opposed them.

All this seems to make her much closer to organized labor than most Republican administration labor secretaries. Labor unions have considered most past

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bouncing leather balls, scoreboard horns and whistles from the striped crew. Basketball season has arrived and it's time for the folks to pencil in this season's Eagle Hoops schedule.

Heather Holte, McKenzie Athletic Director and second-year Eagle Varsity Girls Head Coach welcome eight athletes for the season opener. Lone senior guard Beckah Short will lead her teammates, which include two incoming freshmen, guard Claire Weiss and wing Courtney Garrelts. Junior post players Linn Goette and Mercy Mitchell-Chavez and junior wing Paiten Clevenger will share time with sophomore guards Liliana Jones and Sapana Mitchell-Chavez.

McKenzie Head Coach Neil Barrett, assisted by Willy Kumle and Jack Devereaux, welcome one of the largest rosters in recent seasons. The Eagle team has two seniors, Aytan Munoz Brown and Noah Prado. Six juniors on the roster include Noah Borden, William Meister, Jacob Peek, Elijah Walline, Hayden Harbick and Allen Acevedo. Three sophomores looking to make an impact are Masonn Burton, Rhys Hamlow, and Hayden Kumle. And rounding out the roster are the five freshmen, Avery Thoms, Liam Acevedo, Jacob Norlund, Amir Enfield, and Andrew Munoz Brown.

The McKenzie Boys look to improve on their 2023-24 Mt. West League record, 2-12 and 3-19 overall. The Eagle girls will also be hoping to improve from last season's 2-12, 2-20 record.

Grid Iron Champions Crowned
The 2024 OSAA Football season has concluded and the

earned trophies celebrated. Now it's time to sit around the gathering places and share the stories, both frustrating and inspiring. Do you remember that pass, did you see him knock his hat off, what a hit, we couldn't stop that play, undefeated you bet, he charged through that line, oh man!!! Yep, been there done that. But all over the Great Beaver State, fans have returned to their communities to discuss and cuss this season's football action. Seven teams earned the coveted OSAA State Champion blue trophy. And it was fun watching the annual process.

The Powers Cruisers, representing the smallest Classification, the 1A six-man football game, fashioned an undefeated 12-0 record with a 32-13 win over second-ranked Harper Charter, the Hornets finishing 10-1.

Up one notch or shall we say two players, the Class 1A eight-man football Championship was won by Adrian. The number one-ranked Antelopes established their own unblemished 12-0 record by defeating the third-ranked Warriors of North Douglas, which finished with a fine 11-1 mark.

In the smallest Classification for eleven-man football, Class 2A, the State's fifth-ranked team, the St. Paul Buckaroos, finished off their upset march to the Blue Trophy by upending the second-ranked Oakland Oakers, 28-20. Maybe it wasn't so much an upset, but rather improper season rankings, as St. Paul concluded its remarkable season undefeated, 13-0, while Oakland fell to 12-1.

Then there is the Class 3A story. Maybe the best to tell around the

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Briefs...

Christmas Parade

[Continued From Page 1](#)

Entrance into the parade entry staging area is only through the Olympic and 28th checkpoints. Entry will not be permitted at any other point of the parade route. Do not drop off participants or non-participating vehicles through this point. ORS plans to continue charity work throughout the state of Oregon. For more information, go to: oregonriderssocietyevents@gmail.com

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Revelers Circus

[Continued From Page 1](#)

tion in every performance. Join us in celebrating these incredible young artists and supporting a local nonprofit committed to

making circus arts accessible and inspiring for all. Ticket Information: VIP Donor: \$20 per ticket, Regular Donor: \$15 per ticket, Mini Donor: \$10 per ticket. Info at: wildishtheater.com

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Communications Plan

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is a place to list your essential contact information. 1:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Learn how different phone and internet systems work, when they might fail, and how to plan for resiliency. 2:30 - 3:30. General Mobile Radio Systems (GMRS) handheld radios. Why you might want one, and how to use them. For more information or to receive a Plan Template, email 200mckenzie@gmail.com

Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com

McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams host Oakridge on Wednesday, December 4. The Girls game tips off at 6:00 pm and the Boys game will start at 7:30 pm.

The two teams travel to Nixyaawii Community School in Pendleton on Friday, December 6 and December 7 to participate in the Bouncin' Cancer Tournament. The Eagle Varsity Girls will open with the Stanfield JV team, 1:00 pm on Friday and play Pilot Rock at 9:00 am on Saturday. The McKenzie Boys will play Nixyaawii JV on Friday, 2:30 pm and Pilot Rock on Saturday at 10:30 am.

The Eagle Boys are scheduled for a game at Riverside, WLWV JV on Monday, December 9. Tip off is set for 4:30 pm.

The McKenzie Girls host the Sutherlin JV on Tuesday, December 10, 5:30 pm.

It's Hoops-Time On The McKenzie

Winter athletics are about to tip off in the Upper McKenzie Valley. With snow capping the surrounding ridges, folks are taking frost precautions and wood stove smoke is wisping upward throughout the River Valley, the time has arrived for the sounds of



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
11/26	36	43	0.04	1,796 cfs	11/26	45	36	0.37	6,480 cfs
11/27	34	44	0	972 cfs	11/27	48	35	0.03	5,320 cfs
11/28	30	39	0	954 cfs	11/28	52	30	0	4,740 cfs
11/29	28	41	0	843 cfs	11/29	46	29	0	4,400 cfs
11/30	27	41	0	732 cfs	11/30	39	28	0	4,080 cfs
12/1	29	45	0	617 cfs	12/1	46	28	0	3,720 cfs
12/2	29	44	0	539 cfs	12/2	45	28	0	3,550 cfs


Friday 12/6



McKenzie Valley Cloudy
60% chance precip
High: 53 Low: 46

Santiam Pass Cloudy
20% chance precip
High: 45 Low: 37


Saturday 12/7



McKenzie Valley Showers
120% chance precip
High: 53 Low: 40

Santiam Pass Rain/Snow
70% chance precip
High: 41 Low: 26

Sunday 12/8



McKenzie Valley Partly Cloudy
15% chance precip
High: 47 Low: 36

Santiam Pass AM Snow Showers
30% chance precip
High: 36 Low: 23

Sheriff's Report

Nov. 24: 1:17 p.m: Lost Subject - 7400 blk, Thurston Rd. A passerby found a disoriented male with mental health issues who had wandered away from his home. He was returned to family.

Nov. 25: 3:02 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - 44500 blk, McK. Hwy.

Nov. 27: 2:01 p.m: Information - 88600 blk, Whitsell Ln.

2:37 p.m: Assault - 41400 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:35 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 49600 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:05 p.m: Incomplete 911 Call - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

Nov. 28: 6:35 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Deputies responded to a dispute at a residence in the area. No crime was committed, however one of the subjects had a warrant and was arrested.

2:38 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 41400 blk, McK. Hwy. Deputies responded to a dispute at a residence in the area. Parties separated for the night.

Nov. 29: 7:01 a.m: Subpoena Service - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

8:53 a.m: Burglary - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

Nov. 30: 7:35 a.m: Civil Service - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

2:38 p.m: Livestock at Large - McK. View Dr.

Dec. 1: 1:00 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Injury - McK. View Dr.

12:29 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 36000 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

2:34 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 49600 blk, McK. Hwy.

2:35 p.m: Abandoned Vehicle - Finn Rock.

3:21 p.m: Illegal Dirt Bikes - Deerhorn Rd.

4:44 p.m: Burglary - 92200 blk, Marcola Rd.

Dec. 2: 11:59 a.m: Civil Service - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

6:49 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 37900 blk, Shenandoah Lp.

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

State Police Report

Nov. 29: 15:22: Towed Vehicle/ Abandoned/Hazard - Hwy. 126E, Milepost 12. Troopers responded to report of an intoxicated male on the side of the highway. Upon arrival the male was evaluated by medical and it was determined he was having a medical event.

The male was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. His car was parked nearby and was towed as a hazard. Involved: white Chrysler PT Cruiser, 62-year-old male from Junction City.

Nov. 30: 22:50: Crash, Non-Injury - Hwy. 126E, Mp 10. Single vehicle vs. deer, non-injury. Vehicle 1, a Dodge Caliber, was eastbound and collided with a deer in the roadway. The vehicle had heavy front end damage and the driver arranged for his own tow. The deer was injured and dispatched on scene.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Nov.25: 10:19: 38000 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:54: 40000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Nov. 26: 6:22: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

7:53: 89000 blk, Upper Johnson Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

18:56: Camp Creek Rd./Easy Ln. Brush Fire. Legal Slash Pile.

Nov. 27: 10:06: 45000 blk,

McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

14:48: 42000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

19:54: 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Nov. 29: 1:35: 46000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

11:15: 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Public Assist. Patient Education Provided.

12:57: 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Mutual Aid. Assist Upper McKenzie, 1 Transported.

15:14: 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

16:46: 8600 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Nov. 30: 13:06: 37000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

Dec. 1: 9:28: 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

McK. Fire & Rescue will hold its monthly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, December 16th, at noon, in the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McK.

Hwy. The district maintains Facebook, Twitter, and web pages. If you have a question or concern about any Fire District business, give Chief Bucich a call @ 541-896-3311. If he is unavailable, please leave a message and he will respond ASAP.

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

Nov. 27: 23:10: Medical - 56000 block, N. Bank Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Nov. 28: 00:14: Medical - 56000 blk, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

Nov. 29: 08:45: Medical - 51000 blk, Dexter St. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

12:55: Medical - 51000 blk, Blue River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

Dec. 1: 05:40: Medical - 92000 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

The Upper McK. Fire District's board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 16th, at the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. in Blue River.

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Beaver's "drunk tweets" led to brawl with McLoughlin

By Finn J.D. John

Earlier this year, as you may remember, country music singer Zach Bryan had a few too many alcoholic beverages before pulling out his phone and opening "X," the app formerly known as Twitter.

"Eagles>Chiefs," he tweeted tipsily. "Kanye>Taylor. Who's with me?"

It's not clear exactly what Bryan intended — most likely he was joke-trolling the Taylor Swift fan community, which, as he realized the next morning when he awakened with a penitent headache and looked at his phone, is about as good an idea as sneaking up behind a sleeping grizzly bear for the old "popping a paper bag" prank.

A few days of red-faced apologies later, Bryan deleted his Twitter account, explaining that he'd decided it was too tempting for him, especially after a few beers.

"It gets me in trouble too much," he wrote, on an Instagram post. "Don't drink and tweet! Don't drink and tweet!"

This seems to have done the trick; the kerfuffle faded quickly away. Probably that's because Bryan's last line rang like a bell. Nearly everyone who has a social media account and is not an absolute teetotaler has had the experience of waking up the next morning after a friend's birthday party and discovering that he has embarrassed himself with a late-night Facebook post that seemed like the right thing to do at the time, but ...

The first drunk tweet in Oregon history didn't end nearly so benignly. Maybe it would have, if Twitter had been a thing in March of 1838 when, fortified with a nice zesty jolt of French brandy, the Rev. Herbert Beaver took quill pen in hand and sat down to compose it; but, then again, maybe not.

Now, I have to confess that I have no hard evidence that Beaver was drunk when he belted out his handwritten "tweet." But, one of the unintended consequences of the tweet, much later, would be the publishing of Beaver's household liquor consumption, which was absolutely heroic. I figure a fellow



Cascade Video Productions

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site as it appears today.

who burns through the alcoholic equivalent of 17 "fifths" of Jack Daniels every month probably can be assumed to be no stranger to the whole "Dutch courage" thing, when sitting down to write an angry letter.

The thing about that letter, and the reason it had something in common with a modern social-media post, is that there was no assurance of privacy in it. As a matter of general administration, Fort Vancouver's chief factor, Dr. John McLoughlin, looked over all the outgoing correspondence before sending it off to London.

Beaver may have assumed that this would not be the case with his correspondence. He having been appointed to his post by the Company's governor in London, he figured he was only answerable to the governor. McLoughlin, though, disagreed — and considered Beaver to be his subordinate. The two of them had already clashed more than once as a result of this misunderstanding, which was made worse by the fact that McLoughlin's wife, Marguerite McKay, was a devout Catholic, and he himself had Catholic sympathies. Like a lot of Protestants back then, Beaver detested "papists" on general principles.

Not surprisingly, this had become a sore point between them, made worse because McLoughlin's marriage to Marguerite was of the informal "fur-trade style" kind, basically a common-law marriage. Beaver considered fur-trade marriages to be living in sin, and was forever pushing the traders

to sanctify their unions with the Indian and half-Indian ladies who graced their homes.

McLoughlin stubbornly refused to let Beaver formalize his marriage to Marguerite. This may have been because Marguerite, a devout Catholic, wouldn't allow it; or he may have just been being stubborn. In any case, it was clearly very much on Beaver's mind that evening as he stretched out his pen.

The "tweet" was in reference to Marguerite McKay. He referred to her as "a female of notoriously loose character," and "the kept mistress of the highest personage in your service."

Naturally, when the autocratic and hot-tempered McLoughlin read those lines while reviewing the outbound correspondence, he was incandescent with rage.

Immediately he fired off a peremptory order, commanding Beaver to come to his office immediately. Beaver, doubtless a little daunted but refusing to recognize McLoughlin's right to issue such an order, ignored him. This can't have improved McLoughlin's mood much.

In any case, the next day the two men encountered each other by chance in the courtyard at the fort. Beaver had prepared for such a chance by bringing a heavy walking stick, but this ended up making things worse for him, as an infuriated McLoughlin, roaring, "You scoundrel! I will have your life!" pounced upon him.

Even with a stick, Beaver was no match for McLoughlin, who was 6 feet 4 inches tall and built

like a draft horse. After taking several kicks and punches, Beaver dropped his stick, which his wife picked up. McLoughlin wrenched the stick away from her and gave her husband a couple lusty wacks across the shoulders with it.

Then several bystanders arrived to help Mary Beaver stop the fight.

The following day, realizing he'd gone too far, McLoughlin apologized to Beaver for the attack.

"This Beaver spurned, and it is clear that he felt McLoughlin's violence had delivered him — and perhaps the Company — into his hands," writes historian W. Kaye Lamb. "Ill-concealed exultation as well as righteous indignation blazes up in the account of the affair that he sent to London."

Perhaps luckily for all involved, McLoughlin left two days later for a previously scheduled overland journey into Canada, and in his absence James Douglas was left in charge.

Douglas was at pains to keep Beaver as happy as he could, and for some time he thought it was working. It should have been a great relationship, really, as Douglas and his now-wife, Amelia Connolly, had been the first marriage ceremony Beaver had presided over at the fort (Douglas and Connolly had, of course, been fur-trade-style spouses before that).

But, it was not to be. The break literally happened in the middle of a letter Douglas was writing to London in which he copiously praises Beaver's efforts in one paragraph, and a few lines later speaks very disparagingly and contemptuously of him.

So what happened? Well, once again, Beaver sent a "tweet" in his report to London (which at this point he obviously well knew the head of the fort would be reading) that included this line:

"I see the principal house in your Establishment made a common receptacle for every Mistress of an Officer in the service, who may take a fancy to visit the fort."

Douglas, incensed, dashed off a note to Beaver demanding that he explain what this meant, and who these "mistresses" were. This Beaver replied to in very formal terms, declining to provide any explanation, and after that, the two of them were no longer on speaking terms.

So Douglas dashed off a lengthy letter to London rebutting Beaver's accusations (and disclosing his consumption rate of brandy, port, and other liquors, as mentioned above), and at his very next opportunity Beaver embarked for London "for the purpose of instituting legal proceedings

"Drunk tweets" - Page 11



By Slim Randles

"When you been maturinatin' 'long as I have, they's a few ultimatum facts about life that jest can't be ignored,"

With that, our favorite old-time camp cook, mule packer and occasional predictor of things that haven't happened yet, Windy Wilson, stirred the sugar in his coffee and looked at the rest of us. Wisely. Well, as wisely as old Windy ever gets.

We knew we were in for another dose of campfire education, even if it's totally wrong. We smiled. Some people need cable TV to find this kind of fun.

"Like them measurementals we use when we're cookin', he said. "If you look in them recipe books, they slam a buncha measurementals on ya that you never heard of and no one to convert them into plain American, like we speak here."

"You jest take in there them bakin' recipes," he said. "Cups a this, then you gotta shift them so they don't stick together with stuff you already tossed in a bowl ... like a dramblin' of this or a sticker of butter. You ever see that stuff? How in the everlastin' hoot owl drumsticks they spect us, 'way over here in the United States of Our Country to figger that out?"

He sipped and stirred and looked up at us in that same way old Sam Elliott does when he finds a greenhorn he wants to set straight.

"Let's figger out real cowboy measurementals and use 'em. That's what I say."

"Like which ones, Windy?"

"Why, Doc, didya know there are them caf-ma terial ladies all over the place don't know what a herman is? Truth. A herman, as all of us know, is a cubic fistful.

Jest right handy fer makin' biscuits in a Dutch oven. Set 'er on that campfire and let 'er go! Gits too hot? Hey, jest pull 'er back a mite 'til she's settin' more in the coals out where the state line would be if campfires had states."

Our resident working cowboy, Steve, got up to pay his bill and leave.

"Don't run off, Steve," said Windy, "was jest 'bout to start 'luminatin' on stuff like gloogles, gurgles, bellyache triggers, slushes and nips."

"Next time, I guess," Steve said over his shoulder as he headed out the door for his getaway pickup truck.

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Quote of the Week

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

Will Rogers

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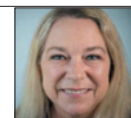
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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Hydrangeas play a pretty role in the garden



Hydrangea macrophylla or mophead hydrangeas have long been a favorite in the garden.

When botanist John Bartram first identified a hydrangea native to the U.S. in the 1730s, little did he know it would become a mainstay of the garden with its iconic flowers implying romance with their blustery beauty.

Hydrangeas populate millions of gardens and with good reason. They can be used as specimens in a place of honor, as partners in mixed beds, in containers and even as hedges, said Heather Stoven, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service. And with the continuing frenzy of breeding, new, cool cultivars come on the market on a regular basis. But with all the species available – mophead, oak-leaf, panicle, smooth or H. serrata – there really is one for every garden. To clear things up, Stoven unlocks the mystery of hydrangeas and offers her tips on how to grow them.

Here it is. The famous mophead hydrangea (H. macrophylla) is the plant everyone imagines when thinking of hydrangeas. The big, bouncy blossoms of Hydrangea macrophylla give it the common name mophead hydrangea and make it the showiest of the genus. Flowers appear in shades of pink, purple, blue and white. Native to

coastal Japan, mopheads, which are also known as bigleaf hydrangeas, are a little less cold hardy than other species. They're fine in Zones 5 through 10 and some will tolerate Zone 4.

Though known for those big mophead flowers, some H. macrophylla show up with lovely lacecap flowers, which are flatter, less full and have sepals that look like petals in a circle around the flower. Though perhaps not as obvious as the mophead flowers, a plant full of lacecap flowers will not disappoint.

The plants range in size from 2 to 10 feet, but are most commonly 3 to 5 feet. Like all hydrangeas, H. macrophylla needs even moisture, so keep them watered. Plant them where they will get afternoon shade or they will burn in the hot summer sun.

About 20 years ago, the first hydrangeas that bloom on old and new wood – called remontant – were introduced to the public. This was a huge breakthrough because it means flowers develop throughout the season instead of just once, giving a longer season of bloom and more flowers. 'Endless Summer' started the stampede, and the resulting publicity put hydrangeas fully on the

map after years of languishing popularity. Some other remontant types to look for include 'Bloomstruck' from the Endless Summer series, 'Starlight' from the Let's Dance series, 'Revolution' from the Plants Nouveau Everlasting series and 'Fire Island' from the Seaside Serenade series.

Similar to H. macrophylla is H. serrata, a smaller, more compact shrub. Most have lacecap flowers, but some sport the mophead type. H. serrata a little more finicky than mophead hydrangeas, and needs protection from hot, sunny, windy spots. So plant in a mostly shady spot. H. serrata is hardy to Zone 6.

If you admired a hydrangea in grandma's garden, it was probably H. arborescens or smooth hydrangea with huge mophead blossoms in pink or white, but not blue. Native to the Eastern U.S., H. arborescens gets 5 to 7 feet, though dwarf varieties are hitting the market. Smooth hydrangea needs shade and is hardy in Zones 3 through 9. The best-known of the smooth hydrangeas is the old-favorite 'Annabelle,' a large shrub with huge white flowers. Breeding is bringing out varieties with even bigger blooms on stronger stems, such as Proven Winners' 'Incrediball,' which is white, and 'Invincibelle Spirit,' which is pink.

Most commonly known as panicle or Peegee hydrangea, H. paniculata has elongated flowers in white, pink or greenish-white. The long flowers make quite a show and turn various shades of pink as they age. H. paniculata is the hardiest of the hydrangeas, growing successfully down to Zone 3. Earlier cultivars grow up to a height of 10 feet, but newer ones stay in the 3- to 5-foot range. The best known of the newer varieties is 'Lime-light,' which gets about 6 feet tall and wide and sports 8-inch, greenish-white flowers. Other new ones include 'Pinky Winky' and 'Vanilla Strawberry.' Panicle hydrangeas can take full sun if kept moist enough, and should have at least several hours. This attention-getting hydrangea can be grown as a single-trunk standard form. Smaller varieties do well in containers.

H. quercifolia or oakleaf hydrangea is a tough plant that withstands hot weather and sun better

[Gardening Tips - Page 11](#)



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



SNOWMAN TIME OF YEAR

Even though youngsters are surrounded by electronics, they still seem to get excited with the first snowfall and making snowmen.

When I was a child, my brothers, sister, friends and I seemed to make snowmen and forts every time the snow would stick together in large balls. We'd roll them across the yard, then pile them one on another, decorating as we went. Snowmen and snow families were a natural part of the winter scene.

Snowmen in History

Snowmen have been around for centuries; it seems, with even Michelangelo, in 1494, supposedly building one. Actually it was a snowman sculpture commissioned by the ruler of Florence, Italy.

In 1511, the people of Brussels made snowman sculptures all over the city. Many of these figures represented various topics... political, social and religious.

Snowmen in Art

When I was substitute teaching in art classes, I was delighted with the joy the youngsters seemed to find in coloring pictures of snowmen I'd sketched and others they created on their own. We made snow families, snowmen riding downhill on sleds, snowmen dancing and playing games. Some students drew their own families as snow people; others drew imaginary snow creatures.

I also read poems I'd written about snowmen. Then the youngsters wrote poems of their own. Why not try doing this yourself and with the youngsters in your life. Or write a story. When my grandson was small, I wrote for him, "Dancing with Snowmen." The we drew pictures to accompany it.

More Modern Snowmen

Records have been kept of modern snowmen with one set in 2008 in Bethel, Maine. It was a 122 foot, 1 inch snow-woman.

The builders named it for Senator Olympia Snowe, who represented the state at that time.

One of the heaviest snowmen recorded also was from Maine, built in 1999. It supposedly weighed more than 9,000,000 pounds.

Winter Recipes

Dogs (or Dogs) in Blankets - a very simple recipe that children enjoy. My mom used to make this for us. Today you can make them quickly by using refrigerated biscuits or croissants. Roll each flat. Then wrap around a hot dog.

Bake on a cookie sheet at 400 degrees F. for 10-12 minutes.

(Since refrigerated canned biscuits didn't exist when I was a child, Mother stirred up her own biscuit dough for the "blanket.")

Baked Chicken - an easy dish to make

Place 6 to 8 pieces of chicken in a greased baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Then add 1 sliced onion. Pour over this 2 cups Italian salad dressing.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for an hour or until the chicken tests done.

(c) 2024 Mary Emma Allen

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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.

December 6

Yoga in Leaburg

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

December 7

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.

December 7

Christmas Parade

"Oldest and Coldest" Springfield Christmas Parade Presented By: Oregon Riders Society returns for its 72nd year with the theme of "Gingerbread Kisses & Christmas Wishes." This is the 8th year on December 7th. ORS has been able to make a huge impact on children and families located in Lane County. Within the last couple of years, ORS has helped dozens of children and families in despite need of assistance. Parade entries must reflect a holiday theme. The staging area opens at 9 a.m. on Olympic Street, between 21st Street and 28th Street. Entrance into the parade entry staging area

is only through the Olympic and 28th checkpoint. Entry will not be permitted at any other point of the parade route. Do not drop off participates or non-participating vehicles through this point. ORS plans to continue charity work throughout the state of Oregon. For more information, go to: oregonriderssocietyevents@gmail.com

December 7

BINGO at VMCC

Bingo at the Vida McKenzie Community Center, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm, is a family (kids welcome) fun night - Doors open at 5:30 p.m. It 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...Hotdogs, nachos, popcorn, desserts, an assortment of drinks, no alcoholic beverages.

December 7

Bridge Lighting

Come to the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Dr. in Rainbow for a festive evening of holiday cheer at the Annual Holiday Bridge Lighting Celebration. The community event begins around 4:30 with the colorful raft parade floating down the McKenzie past the Belknap Bridge float by on the river, featuring Santa Claus himself!

Sing your favorite holiday carols with our friends and family while the Historic Belknap Bridge is illuminated for the holiday season!

Then join us at the Upper McKenzie Community Center for hot cocoa, hot cider, festive treats, and a chance to meet Santa in person! (Once he is done rafting, of course) We're also having a Holiday Treat Potluck so bring

some holiday treats or appetizers to share.

December 8

Community Event

The McKenzie Writers Public Reading will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 2 p.m. in the Leaburg Library, with the theme of "Life On The River." Local authors and writers will share their work at this Reading event. It is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Come join us!

December 8

Disaster Plans

Make a plan now, with the help of a few local experienced people from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. Learn about how different phone and internet systems work, when they might fail, and how to plan for resiliency. Plus - General Mobile Radio Systems (GMRS) handheld radios. Why you might want one, and how to use them. For more information, or to receive a Plan Template, email 200mckenzie@gmail.com

December 8

Film with Friends

The second "Films with Friends" will take place at Vida McKenzie Community Center on December 8th. Doors and snack bar (candy, popcorn, hot/cold drinks) open at 2 p.m. and the film starts shortly thereafter. Following the film there is an opportunity for informal discussion around the fireplace with friends and neighbors.

Not to give too much of the plot away...in this month's film, "Oldies but Goodies," a retired gentleman reconnects with an old flame and heartwarming adventures follow. For more information, go to vidacommunitycenter.com or call 541-896-3001.

December 7

Parks Meeting

The Lane County Parks Advisory Committee meets from 6 7:30 p.m. the 2nd Monday of

each month in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy. in Eugene. It advises the Board of County Commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects - including financial and operational development and acquisition. The committee also provides recommendations regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and serves as a liaison group representing the concerns of the community.

December 9

Spfd School Board

The Board of Directors meets in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street, Springfield. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month.

December 10

Tiny Dental Van

The Tiny Dental Van, sponsored by the Rural Oregon Outreach Program, will be at the Orchid McKenzie River Clinic every second Tuesday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 51730 Dexter St. in Blue River. 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.

December 10

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.

December 10

McK Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Food Pantry is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church, 56334 McKenzie Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge. Free groceries are provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County

December 10

Tourism Committee

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee meets from 9 to 10 a.m. via Zoom every Second Tuesday of every month. 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

December 11

Save Leaburg Lake

Oregon Citizens for Energy Security/Save Leaburg Lake, will meet at 6 p.m. in the heated barn at 46585 Goodpasture Road in Vida. For more information, call Nadine Scott at 541-915-0807 or email nadine@windermere.com to join the email list

December 10

Holiday Dinner

It's the holiday season and Waltherville Grange will be hosting its annual Holiday Dinner and Open House on December 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Open House will begin at 6 PM, dinner starts at 6:30 PM, and a program to follow at 7:30 PM. After all that, Santa plans to pay a visit so make sure your kids are ready with their lists. The Grange will provide the entire dinner, all you need to do is bring yourselves, family, friends, and a dessert. This will be held at the Waltherville Grange Community Center located at 39259 Camp Creek Road in Waltherville. There is no charge, just bring your favorite dessert. Nonperishable and canned food items will also be collected for the upriver food bank. For more information call 541-521-4760 and leave a message (calls will be returned).

December 11

Watershed Wednesday

Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning 31799-31601 Green Island Rd, Eugene, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. to help care for this special area where the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers meet. Projects vary based on the season but typically include invasive species removal, habitat care, or planting/tree establishment.

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



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Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

Home For Christmas



LuAnn Hunt

I have been married 25 years. We come from completely different backgrounds. I grew up in a large family in a small town, and we were poor. My husband is an only child, privileged, and he was given everything by his parents. This continued throughout all our married life.

The house we moved into, against my wishes, is theirs. It was "given" to us when they retired and built a home in a warmer climate. However, the deed remained in his parents' name, and they came back every summer for a visit. For me it was a nightmare.

I work full-time but arranged time off to get everything in immaculate order for Abigail, my mother-in-law. It was never good enough. It was always a white glove inspection with her rubbing her hands across my kitchen coun-

ter and glancing at her fingertips. She even poked her head up inside the fireplace.

She would say, "Oh, honey, you need to clean your mirrors," or "I rewaxed your floors because I didn't think they were clean enough." When she asked how I liked my house, I would say I didn't really think it was mine. She would smile at me and say, "No, it's not, is it?"

One year after they arrived and we were having dinner, I made a grammatical error. I said "me and Linda" instead of "Linda and I." Abigail rapped her spoon on the tabletop screeching, "Honey, Honey, Honey! It is not me and Linda! It is Linda and I! Linda and I! Linda and I!" I was so stunned and embarrassed I excused myself from the table.

My husband and my father-in-law just dropped their heads. As usual, what Abigail did was "for my own good." The following year she brought me a grammar book.

I adored my father-in-law. He made me feel special. He would put his arms around me and tell me how much he appreciated me putting up with them. My husband would say, "That's just my mom." So I quit trying to fight

her for the sake of my father-in-law and husband and to keep the peace.

Three years ago when my father-in-law died, something happened inside me. I felt so much anger at Abigail I wanted to stay away from her. Last Christmas I didn't want to go see her. Abigail went berserk saying, "How will this look to my friends?" So I went.

Within 24 hours she started in on me, as always, after my husband left the room. This time I called my husband back. It shocked my husband to see his sweet mom screaming, but when she saw she wasn't going to get away with it, she switched like a light bulb. She hugged me and told me how much she loved me. The rest of our visit she was as nice as pie.

It is Christmas again, and we are scheduled to return to her house. I've asked my husband to go alone, which he thinks is a horrible idea. I am on antidepressants and scheduled for therapy after the first of the year. Am I being selfish?

Melanie

Melanie, the Greek playwright Aristophanes said, "The wise learn many things from their foes." Last Christmas you learned two things from Abigail. You learned she would be embarrassed if you refuse to visit, and you learned she will not confront you in front of her son.

If you can stay home without

doing serious damage to your marriage, that is one possible course of action. But there is another answer. Can you distance yourself from the situation? Can you decide in a perfectly calm, cool manner that you will go, but if your mother-in-law is not nice as pie, you will confront her in front of her son?

Abigail has shown you that you can alter her behavior by standing up to her. The power has shifted.

Wayne & Tamara

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

Thanksgiving for Two

By Marjorie Saiser

The adults we call our children will not be arriving with their children in tow for Thanksgiving. We must make our feast ourselves,

slice our half-ham, indulge, fill our plates, potatoes and green beans carried to our table near the window.

We are the feast, plenty of years, arguments. I'm thinking the whole bundle of it rolls out like a white tablecloth. We wanted

to be good company for one another. Little did we know that first picnic how this would go. Your hair was thick,

mine long and easy; we climbed a bluff to look over a storybook plain. We chose

our spot as high as we could, to see

the river and the checkerboard fields. What we didn't see was this day, in our pajamas if we want to,

wrinkled hands strong, wine in juice glasses, toasting whatever's next,

the decades of side-by-side, our great good luck.

Copyright Credit: Poem copyright ©2014 by Marjorie Saiser, "Thanksgiving for Two," (2014). Poem reprinted by permission of Marjorie Saiser.

Marjorie Saiser is the author of six poetry collections, including *The Woman in the Moon* (2018), *Beside You at the Stoplight* (2010), *Road Trip* (2003), and *Lost in Seward County* (2001). Her poetry has been published in former U.S. poet laureate Ted Kooser's column, "American Life in Poetry." She lives in Nebraska.

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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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Poems, essays and non-fiction writing addressing the theme, "Rivers" will be presented at a free public reading at 2 p.m. on Sunday December 8th at the Leaburg Library. The essays address life on the river, or rivers themselves. For information, please contact Duane Noriyuki at duane_noriyuki@gmail.com or library director Marty Mealey, (541) 896-3817.

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT VMCC SENIOR CENTER

Vida McKenzie Community Center's Senior Center is in full swing and here is a sampling of upcoming events: "What is the Fate of Leaburg Lake?" "How to Prepare and Freeze Tasty Meals," "The Birth of a Thriller Writer: or Why Does a Good Person Turn to Killing, the Fictional Kind."

The Senior Center happens every Tuesday (except for Holidays and Holiday Eves.) Doors open at 11:00a.m. followed by a hot lunch (\$5 donation) and program. Questions? Gerry Aster, 541-896-3001.

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42. Haute couture gala location, with The
 43. Slimy phlebotomists
 45. * ____phobia, fear of public speaking
 47. Took the bait
 48. Tempter
 50. Dumbstruck
 52. *Gamophobia, fear of ____
 55. September stone
 56. Cantina cooker
 57. Apple leftover
 59. Lakes, in Scotland
 60. ____ gin
 61. "On a ____," or carefree
 62. * ____mania, obsession with oneself
 63. Cough syrup amt.
 64. Additional

- DOWN**
 1. * ____phobia, fear of bees
 2. Bananaphone preceder
 3. Itty bit
 4. Language disfunction
 5. Indigenous person of Lesser Antilles
 6. Track and field star, 1936 Olympics
 7. Tear in pantyhose
 8. Struck with a mallet
 9. Back arrow key
 10. Indeed
 12. Against the stream swimmer
 13. Say "pretty please"
 14. * ____phobia, fear of snakes and crocodiles
 19. Uncooperative, like a mule
 22. "Battleship" success
 23. Kind of mushroom
 24. Grind down
 25. Glittery stone
 26. Carpet style
 27. Lily genus, pl.
 28. Angers
 29. "All for one and one for all," to Musketeers
 32. Egyptian goddess of fertility
 33. Hair raiser
 36. * ____ effect, or compulsive handwashing
 38. Pileus, pl.
 40. Entomologist's catcher, sometimes
 41. Agora, plural
 44. Tannery supply, pl.
 46. Delphi talker
 48. Room partitions
 49. Lowest deck on a ship
 50. Full of excitement
 51. Home to Baylor University
 52. Lion's share
 53. Hockey score
 54. Commits a faux pas
 55. A in IPA
 58. Increase

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1. Figaro's solo, e.g.
 5. Not sin, as in math
 8. Designer Laroche
 11. Pi-meson
 12. Cut, like a log
 13. *Telephobia, or fear of this device
 15. "He's Just Not That ____ You", movie
 16. 2D measurement
 17. Gives a helping hand
 18. *Ludomania, obsession with ____
 20. Therefore

21. Poetic feet
 22. Accident
 23. * ____mania, obsession with wealth and power
 26. Type of throw, in baseball
 30. Miner's load
 31. Member of Round Table
 34. Quartet minus one
 35. Spacious
 37. Last word of "America the Beautiful"
 38. Young chicken
 39. Cocoyam
 40. Largest Asian antelope

Solution on Page 9

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

Events from Dec 5th

The Dec 5th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
McKenzie Valley Wellness
 MVM board meeting scheduled because November meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
 Wellness • Board • Clinic

The Dec 5th 6:00pm - 8:00pm
McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group
 GMRG net tonight (Thursday) "See" you on the repeater. (Transmit on 45.775, listen 46.2575, Rx tone 100 on the repeater). Make it easy!

The Dec 5th 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Leadbury GMRG Radio Preparedness
 Every Thursday McKenzie Valley Neighbors GMRG Radio Preparedness Group Network. Check-in Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. McKenzie Valley Wide Net.

FRIDAY FISH & REEFERS
Yoga in Leadbury
 Every Friday at McKenzie Fish & Reefers Leadbury Training Center.

Sat Dec 5th 10:00am - 12:00pm
A Dime At A Time
 Blue River Bottle Boys Coffee & Donuts - Saturday morning social sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off.

Sat Dec 5th 10:00am - Sat Dec 12 noon
Springfield Christmas Parade
 "Coolest and Coldest" Springfield Christmas Parade Presented by Oregon Rivers Society returns for its 70th year with the theme of ...

Sat Dec 5th 5:00pm - 7:00pm
BINGO at MVCC
 Bingo at the Center is a family (kids welcome) fun night - Doors open at 5:30 p.m. It is not the high dollar payout as some locations ask ...

Sat Dec 5th 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Public Reading - Community Event
 The McKenzie Writers Public Reading will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 2 p.m. in the Leadbury Library with the theme of "Life On The ..."

Sun Dec 8th 10:00am - 12:00pm
Disaster Communications Planning
 Make Your Disaster Communications Plan. When the next disaster strikes, who will you call and how? Make a plan now, with the help of a few ...

Sat Dec 5th 10:00am - Sun Dec 12 noon
Springfield Christmas Parade
 "Coolest and Coldest" Springfield Christmas Parade Presented by Oregon Rivers Society returns for its 70th year with the theme of ...

Sat Dec 5th 5:00pm - 7:00pm
BINGO at MVCC
 Bingo at the Center is a family (kids welcome) fun night - Doors open at 5:30 p.m. It is not the high dollar payout as some locations ask ...

Sun Dec 8th 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Film with Friends
 The second "Film with Friends" will take place at Vaca McKenzie Community Center on December 8th. Doors and snack bar (party popcorn) ...

Mon Dec 5th 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Lane County Parks Advisory Committee
 The Parks Advisory Committee meets 2nd Monday of each month (except during July & August). It advises the Board of County Commissioners on ...

The Dec 5th
Lane County Board of Commissioners
 The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in Hall's Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board ...

The Dec 5th 6:00pm - 7:00pm
McKenzie Valley Wellness
 MVM board meeting scheduled because November meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.
 Wellness • Board • Clinic

Mon Dec 5th 9:00am - 11:00am
Watershed Wednesday
 Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the McKenzie ...

Wed Dec 11th 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Wacky Wednesdays Bingo
 Cards go on sale at 6 pm. Bingo starts at 7 pm. Call 541-725-9088 for reservations in the morning. Spots fill up quickly. Budget and brew ...

Wed Dec 11th 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Watershed Wednesday
 Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for this special area where the McKenzie ...

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Watershed Wednesday
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Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

They moved my wheelchair-accessible seats at a Springsteen concert. Can I get a refund?

Julie Stupsker buys two wheelchair-accessible seats for a Bruce Springsteen concert. But the venue moves her seats and now, she can't see anything. Can she get a refund?

I paid \$3,000 for two wheelchair-accessible seats at a Bruce Springsteen concert recently. They were shown as seats 2 and 4 in the front row, next to the general admission pit.

On the interactive seating map, the pit was behind the accessible seats and to the left of the accessible seats. The seats I bought were in the front row directly in front of the stage.

It was very important to me to have an unobstructed view because I couldn't stand during the show and I wanted a clear view.

When I arrived, no one knew where the seats were. I explained, but an usher said the seats did not exist. I was sent to seats behind the pit where I could not see the stage. Hundreds of people were standing in the pit between me and the stage.

I never would have bought tickets for the seats I ended up with. I wanted to see the show, but I could only hear it. I had no view of the stage or the performers from a seated position behind hundreds of standing people.

I want a full refund. How does this happen? And who is responsible for providing the seats that are sold? I felt cheated out of a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I did not enjoy the show. I was upset the entire time.

Julie Stupsker, Sausalito, Calif.

Wow, Ticketmaster really took a wrecking ball to your Springsteen concert experience. (Oh, and

before I go on, a quick note: I will be using a lot of Springsteen song titles in this story. Why? Because when it comes to writing this column, I am the Boss. Plus, it's fun.)

You did everything you could to ensure you had an unobstructed view from your wheelchair-accessible seats. I think if you had called the venue, you would have gotten the same answer about the location of the seats. No question about it, Ticketmaster left you in the darkness on the edge of town.

You should be able to rely on the interactive map and the venue should deliver what it promises instead of expecting people with disabilities to fade away.

It turns out that the wheelchair-accessible seats were relocated "to ensure safety," according to a Ticketmaster representative. But Ticketmaster gave you reason to believe your seats would be where it originally said they'd be.

"The seats were not relocated to behind the pit," she added. "They were shifted to the side of their original location, between the barricades, where there was a comparable view of the stages."

But that's not the way you saw it. And I really think you could have pushed this issue in a brief, polite email to one of the Ticketmaster executives I list on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org. No surrender!

I contacted Ticketmaster on your behalf to tie up this loose end.

"As a one-time courtesy, our consumer support team has reached out to the fan and issued a refund, which should be processed within three to seven business days," a representative told me.

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

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"Oregon's Boat"

Continued From Page 1

Dersham also included archival footage of how the McKenzie design was adapted as the basis for dories that conquered the Grand Canyon and helped quash plans to dam it.

While many people may have heard stories about the White Water Parade, footage of some crazy rafts illustrated how the increasing danger ended the event. The movie will emphasize the danger of the river by having a time of recognition for the

influential people who have died on the river.

Plans call for the film to be shown at various gatherings, including by special request at fly-fishing clubs, over the coming year. "Oregon's Boat" has been entered into several film festivals and is now one of four finalists for Best Documentary Feature of the Winter 2025 Oregon Documentary Film Festival.

[Return To Page 1](#)



A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

December 7 - John Templeton Craig was born in Ohio and came to Oregon in 1852. He settled in the McKenzie Valley and began working to develop a toll road to Central Oregon by way of McKenzie Pass. To help pay his expenses Craig took the contract to carry mail to the army outpost at Camp Polk, near the present town of Sisters. A few days before Christmas 1877, Craig attempted to outrun a blizzard. He was trapped on the summit and froze to death. A rock monument was built near where he died and is dedicated to the memory of John Templeton Craig, the road builder and pioneer mail carrier.

Recycling rules

Continued From Page 1

fees to the Circular Action Alliance, or CCA, a nonprofit based in Washington D.C. Local governments and the alliance will be in charge of reinvesting fees in projects that improve Oregon's recycling infrastructure. The alliance was formed in 2022 by 20 multinational corporations in the food, beverage, retail and consumer goods industries, including Amazon, CocaCola and Nestle. It oversees similar recycling programs that are rolling out as a result of new policies in California, Colorado, Maine and Maryland.

Under Oregon's new rules, environmental officials will release a standardized list of items that can be recycled across the state beginning this summer. Owners and managers of multi-family buildings, such as duplexes and apartment buildings, will also need to eventually provide recycling services for residents.

Two other bills passed in Oregon in 2023 will require manufacturers to label products to indicate whether and where they can be recycled in Oregon and ban the use of styrofoam containers for take-out food. The latter, Senate Bill 543, will go into effect in January.

Rules under Senate Bill 123, the Smart Labeling Bill, must be finalized by 2027.

No nation on earth produces more plastic waste than the U.S., according to a 2022 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The average person in the U.S. in 1980 produced about 60 pounds of plastic waste per year. Today, each person in the U.S. produces more than 200 pounds of plastic waste each year, according to the EPA. Up to 2 million metric tons of that waste escapes into the environment each year, and much of it ends up in waterways and oceans, eventually becoming microplastics.

The nonprofit Environment Oregon tested 30 rivers and lakes around the state in 2021 and found detectable levels of microplastics in all of them.

Despite efforts to improve plastic recycling, no more than 9% of plastic waste generated in the U.S. each year gets recycled, according to EPA.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

[Return To Page 1](#)

Ski Report

December 5, 2024

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed no new snow fell overnight, leaving the snow depth at 33 inches. Temperatures were 39 at the base and 39 at the summit, with winds out of the ENE at 12 mph. The resort will be open from December 5th to 8th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 31 degrees at the base and 49 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. No new snow fell overnight, leaving the snowpack at 50 inches. A streak of nice weather was continuing this week with calm winds and clear skies. 44 of 124 trails were open, along with 4 of 12 lifts. For more information call 541-382-7888.

Emergency? Call 911

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Governor Kotek calls special session to cover wildfire season costs

Existing funds could pay bills for historic fire season before the end of the year



Matt Fisher/Umatilla Task Force

Governor Tina Kotek announced today that she is using her constitutional authority to call a special session of the Oregon Legislature, to begin on Thursday, December 12, for lawmakers to appropriate funds to pay for the historic 2024 wildfire season. A record 1.9 million acres burned this wildfire season, far exceeding the state's 10-year average of 640,000 acres per season and incurring costs upwards of \$350 million. While over half of the costs will eventually be covered by disaster relief funds from the federal government, the state needs to pay its bills as expeditiously as possible.

"The unprecedented 2024 wildfire season required all of us to work together to protect life, land, and property, and that spirit of cooperation must continue in order to meet our fiscal responsibilities," said Governor Kotek. "I am grateful to legislative leaders for coming to consensus that our best course of action is to ensure the state's fire season costs are addressed and bills paid by the end of the calendar year."

The Governor is asking the Legislature to release a combined total of \$218 million to the

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and the Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to address all costs for the season assumed to date. This includes meeting the state's financial obligations to small, medium, and large contractors who worked tirelessly to protect and support Oregonians for more than five months.

"Fighting wildfires of the magnitude we saw this season required a tremendous level of resources that even wildfire experts couldn't foresee," said House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta). "Now, as we approach the end of the year and the holiday season, we need to make good on our commitments and pay our bills so that the contractors who fought fires in Oregon can be made whole. Convening now will enable us to do so, and to chart a bipartisan path forward to address our state's most pressing needs."

Wildfires this season destroyed at least 42 homes and 132 other structures, and caused severe disruptions and damage to transportation facilities, utility infrastructure, and natural resource economies. In July, Governor Kotek declared a State of Emergency in response to the threat of wildfire and invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act a state record 17 times to mobilize structural firefighting resources coordinated by OSFM to local communities and thousands of wildland firefighting personnel and resources coordinated by ODF.

Support available to help with winter heating bills



Rawpixel.com/AbobeStock

Use caulk, spray foam and weather stripping to keep more heat inside the home.

By Isobel Charle Oregon News Service

La Nina is bringing a cooler, wetter winter to Oregon and likely driving up heating bills as systems work harder.

This is the third year of major price hikes for Pacific Power and Pacific Gas and Electric, with rates up by 40% from four years ago.

One report found nearly half of Americans struggle to pay their utility bills and last winter, a January ice storm and rate hikes saw power shut off for a record number of Oregon households due to lack of payment.

Jami Seymore, home energy expert for the Energy Trust of Oregon, said this winter, one way to save on energy bills is to lower the thermostat at night.

"Every degree you drop that thermostat, you can save about 3% on your energy bill," Seymore pointed out.

Seymore recommended setting the thermostat to around 67 degrees during the day and about 59 at night. If you have a heat pump, do not change the temperature more than a few degrees either way for maximum efficiency.

The most helpful way to save money is to keep the heat inside by insulating walls, attics and floors. Seymore noted filling in gaps around the home like door frames, windows and mail slots can save up to 20% on heating costs. She added Energy Trust of Oregon can help cut the costs of projects.

"Energy Trust offers higher incentives for people with lower to moderate incomes to be able to make some of those changes a little more affordable," Seymore emphasized.

One source of energy loss people may overlook is the air filter. Seymore recommends changing it about every three months, or every time the season changes.

"A dirty air filter, that actually slows all that airflow coming in," Seymore observed. "It's going to waste energy and it's going to cost you more money."

If you need help with utility bills, Seymour advised checking with your utility provider first, as most have assistance programs and payment plans. You can also apply for Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates, which offer assistance for installing high-efficiency electric appliances, along with insulation and air sealing measures.



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“Drunk tweets”

Continued From Page 1

against Chief Factor McLoughlin,” as he put it.

This he attempted to do after arriving home in May 1839; but nothing came of it, and shortly thereafter he was told that his services would no longer be needed, and was hit in the backside with a check for 110 pounds sterling to settle his claims against McLoughlin and the Company.

Beaver went on to become a chaplain in the British Army in South Africa, where, in 1858, at the age of 58, he died.

McLoughlin wouldn't get off unscathed either; the Hudson's Bay Company brass in London never quite trusted him after this incident, especially as he started befriending American settlers who arrived in the country destitute. Eventually they tried to “kick him upstairs” by offering him a promotion that would require him to move back east, and he resigned and took up a land claim at Willamette Falls in what is now Oregon City.

It is tempting to think of Herbert Beaver as a sanctimonious clown, a hard-drinking version of Jane Austen's Mr. Collins from *Pride and Prejudice*. And there is, as we've seen, something to that view. His anti-Catholic sentiments were over the top even for the 1830s, and his constant complaints about the inadequacy of his housing and the unsuitability of the servants assigned to him in this roughest of frontier outposts don't endear him much to modern readers.

But there are a couple things that should be mentioned about him, and maybe they actually make up for all the unnecessary trouble and drama he caused:

First, there's the issue of slavery. The Indians of the Pacific Northwest practiced slavery, pressing war captives into forced service, and under McLoughlin the Hudson's Bay Company followed this custom, a blatant violation of English law and Company policy.

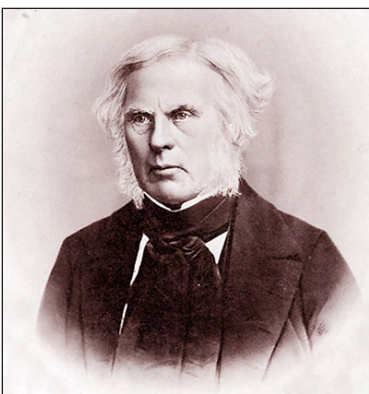


Oregon Historical Society
Fort Vancouver as it appeared in 1845, in a painting by Lt. Henry Warre.

Beaver, when he learned this, had a fit, and it's chiefly thanks to him that this practice was stopped.

He also had a point about “fur-trade marriages.” The problem with them was, the women were committed to them, but the men often were not. Even Marguerite McKay was a former cast-aside fur-trade wife; she'd been “fur-trade married” to trader Alexander McKay, who had deserted her. This happened a lot in the Company's remotest outposts, and resulted in a lot of abandoned wives and semi-orphaned children dependent on the charity of the Company. It was blatantly unfair, clearly immoral by the lights of the church, and Beaver did his best to stand up to it.

In spite of all the trouble Beaver encountered, including the healthy



Oregon Historical Society
Dr. John McLoughlin as he appeared circa 185

portion he laid upon himself, Beaver did some real good at the fort — giving at least a dozen “fur-trade wives” some stability and legal status, and ending slavery in the Oregon Territory for good.

It makes one wonder how much different history would have been, if only Beaver had had a little less of a tendency to drunk-tweet, and a little more generosity of spirit.

(Sources: “Herbert Beaver: First Anglican Clergyman West of the Rocky Mountains,” an article by Thomas E. Jessett published in the December 1947 issue of *English Church History*; “The James Douglas Report,” an article by W. Kaye Lamb published in the March 1946 issue of *Oregon Historical Quarterly*; “Experiences of a Chaplain at Fort Vancouver,” an article by Herbert Beaver published with “Editorial Comment,” an article by R.C. Clark, both in the March 1938 issue of *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.)

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

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Gardening Tips

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than other hydrangeas. As the name implies, the foliage looks like oak leaves and turns dark orange, red and burgundy in fall. Flowers, which come in pink and white, are smaller than mopheads and elongated like panicle hydrangeas. Size ranges from 3 to 7 feet. Native to Southeast U.S., oakleaf hydrangea is hardy in Zones 6 through 10. A few smaller options are ‘Munchkin,’ ‘Ruby Slippers’ and ‘Queen of Hearts’ and ‘Jetstream.’

Planting: Choose the right site. Hydrangeas can be picky about what sun exposure they get so check the recommendation when buying. Avoid planting in hot weather. It's best to plant from spring to fall. If you care about the color of the flowers, do a soil test to determine pH. See “Bluing” below. If you determine you want to change the color, planting is a good time to add sulfur or lime. Dig a hole two times the size of the plant's rootball. Cut any circling roots. Fill the hole in with native soil mixed with organic material. Place mulch over the planted area and water well.

Fertilizing: Use a slow-release well-balanced (the three numbers on the label are the same or close to the same) fertilizer in spring. Fertilizing too much, especially with a fertilizer high in nitrogen (N) can bring on too much foliage and not many flowers. Avoid fertilizers high in phosphorus (P) if you want blue blooms.

Watering: Hydrangeas were named for a reason. Hydro means water in Greek and Angeion is vessel. So think of it this way: Hydrangeas are a vessel that holds water. In other words, don't skimp on the water. Keep the plants evenly moist, but in well-drained soil.

Pruning: When to prune depends on if the plant blooms on new (current year) wood or old (last year's) wood. If it's new wood, prune in late winter or ear-

ly spring. If it's old wood, prune in late summer after blooming. Flowers can be deadheaded at any time, but be sure not to cut off the flower buds. Hydrangeas don't need heavy pruning unless you want to reshape or resize it. In that case, cut out no more than a third of the plant by pruning old wood to the ground. At the appropriate time of year, prune for height by cutting back as far as you wish, but you may lose some flowers the following year. Blooms can be snipped at any time as long as you leave the buds. Keep in mind there's no need to prune every year. If it looks good, just dead-head and remove dead wood.

H. macrophylla, H. serrata and H. quercifolia bloom on old wood, except the newer remontant forms of mopheads like ‘Endless Summer.’ H. arborescens and H. paniculata bloom on new wood. Do your homework and know which type of hydrangea you have before pruning.

Bluing: The million-dollar question is “How do I get my hydrangeas to turn blue?” Well, first of all, not all hydrangea flowers turn blue — such as white ones — so do some research before buying. Second, you need to know your pH, so either get a soil test done or buy a pH tester and do it yourself. For pink flowers the pH should be 6.5 or higher; purple flowers result from pH between 5.5 and 6.5; blue comes from a pH of 5.5 or lower. To adjust the pH, use sulfur to lower the pH and turn the flowers blue. (Use aluminum sulfate if growing a hydrangea in a pot in a soilless potting mix). If pink is your goal, go with lime to raise the pH. The best time to add amendments is fall. Changing the pH is a slow process that can take several years. For a deep dive into how to lower the soil pH see *Acidifying Soil for Blueberries and Ornamental Plants in the Yard and Garden*.

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McKenzie Eagles Sports Report

By Cliff Richardson

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campfires to come. The Burns Highlanders began the First Round playoffs as the eleventh-ranked team. Burns upset sixth-ranked Cottage Grove, at Cottage Grove, 46-7 and advanced to play third-ranked Santiam Christian, also on the road, in the Quarterfinals.

The Highlanders squashed the highly rated Eagles, 25-3, and rolled into the Semifinals versus the second-ranked Banks Braves, once again on the road. Burns squeezed by Banks 22-15 and thus set the stage for their outstanding finale at Summit High School last Saturday. The Highlanders found the High Road still to their liking and not to be denied, clobbered the fourth-ranked Vale Vikings 42-16. Burns chocked up an 11-2 season record and Vale finished at 12-1.

Marist Catholic, 12-1, dominated the Class 4A rankings all season and true to form, defeated third-ranked Henley, 30-6. Henley finished its season with

an 11-2 record. Mountain View, out of Bend, in the Class 5A ranks, earned a Championship berth as the State's second-ranked team versus fifth ranked Wilsonville. The Wild Cats of Wilsonville, 11-2, handed the Cougars of Mountain View, 12-1, their first defeat of 2024, a 56-35 catfight clawing!

The State's largest schools, in the Class 6A, pitted two old rivals, top-ranked Lake Oswego and second-ranked West Linn. The second-ranked West Linn Lions, 11-1, upset the top-ranked Lake Oswego Lakers, 11-1, 44-30, to win the 2024 Championship.

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Despite promise to protect old forests, Biden administration moves to cut them down

By April Ehrlich, OPB, McKenzie Funk, ProPublica and Tony Schick, OPB
On Earth Day in 2022, President Joe Biden stood among cherry blossoms and towering Douglas firs in a Seattle park to declare the importance of big, old trees. “There used to be a hell of a lot more forests like this,” he said, calling them “our planet’s lungs” and extolling their power to fight climate change.

The amount of carbon trees suck out of the air increases dramatically with age, making older trees especially important. These trees are also rare: Less than 10% of forests in the lower 48 states remain unlogged or undisturbed by development.

The president uncapped his pen, preparing to sign an executive order to protect mature and old-growth forests on federal lands. “I just think this is the beginning of a new day,” Biden said.

But two years later, at a timber auction in a federal office in Roseburg, this new day was nowhere to be seen. As journalists and protesters waited outside, logging company representatives filed through a secure glass door to a room where only “qualified bidders” were allowed.

Up for sale this September morning were the first trees from an area of forest the Bureau of Land Management calls Blue and Gold. It holds hundreds of thousands of trees on 3,225 acres in southern Oregon’s Coast Range. Forests here can absorb more carbon per acre than almost any other on the planet.

A week after Biden’s executive order, the Blue and Gold logging project had been shelved. Now it was back on.

The BLM is moving forward with timber sales in dozens of forests like this across the West, auctioning off their trees to companies that will turn them into plywood, two-by-fours and paper products. Under Biden, the agency is on track to log some 47,000 acres of public lands, nearly the same amount as during President Donald Trump’s first term in office. This includes even some mature and old-growth forests that Biden’s executive order was supposed to protect.

An Oregon Public Broadcast-



Erich Reeder (left) and Madeline Cowen, an organizer with the environmental group Cascadia Wildlands, measure an old-growth tree in the Yellow Creek area.

ing and ProPublica analysis found the bureau has allowed timber companies to cut such forests at a faster pace since the executive order than in the decade that preceded it.

The BLM still reports to Biden until Trump takes office again in January, and it’s unclear what changes, if any, the new administration will make. Outgoing presidents often use this lame-duck period to take additional action on the environment and to protect public lands. In a statement, White House spokesperson Angelo Fernández Hernández wrote that the “Biden-Harris Administration has made unprecedented progress toward the climate-smart management and conservation of our nation’s forests.” He did not specifically answer questions about why Biden’s actions didn’t slow the BLM’s cutting of old forests — or about any further protections the administration is planning now.

At the timber auction that September morning, the bidders emerged 80 minutes after they started. For \$4.2 million, the administration had just sold off the first 561 acres of Blue and Gold, an estimated 83,259 trees.

Blue and Gold project

One of the most accessible patches of forest in the Blue and Gold project is 30 minutes up the highway from Roseburg.

On a recent fall afternoon, Erich Reeder, a BLM wildlife surveyor who had just retired from the agency after 23 years, led the way there. The sun was out as he drove into the Coast Range, but soon af-

ter he turned off the highway and followed a single-lane road along the banks of Yellow Creek, trees shaded the way.

Ribbons marked the edge of the area that will be logged. Reeder walked past them and into the forest, stepping lightly through sword ferns and over moss-covered logs, pausing to look down at a paper map or straight up at the varied canopy above.

But the trees here did not match that description. They were widely spaced. There were no stumps, no signs of previous logging. The forest was tall and wild, with large branches and multiple layers of canopy and understory. Native tree species including chinkapin oaks, western hemlock, western red cedar and grand fir intermixed with the dominant Douglas fir. Many of the biggest trees had thick, wrinkled bark, indicating old age.

“You’re familiar with tree farms?” Reeder asked, describing the monoculture rows timber companies often plant after clear-cutting. This was the opposite.

For some endangered species, old-growth forest matters immensely. Marbled murrelets, round coastal birds sometimes described as “flying potatoes,” nest only in the large, mossy branches of old trees. Spotted owls, which were at the center of the 1990s timber wars in this part of Oregon, require similar habitat to survive.

Old trees also matter for climate change, as Biden noted in his Seattle speech. The larger a tree is, the more carbon it absorbs. Data from the U.S. Forest Service shows that

in forests older than 200 years in Oregon, on average, the trees hold more than three times as much carbon per acre as young industrial timber plantations. Ultimately, leaving forests intact keeps more carbon out of the atmosphere than logging them and planting new ones.

Down the hill toward Yellow Creek, Reeder pulled out a measuring tape at the base of one particularly large Douglas fir. Its diameter: 86 inches. If it was chopped down, Reeder could lie across the stump with more than a foot to spare.

In the planning documents, the BLM estimated the trees in this area were around 90 years old.

“Yeah, this is a little bit older than 90,” Reeder said dryly. He put its age at 400 to 600 years.

BLM officials believe federal law forces them to keep chopping trees. It’s part of a balancing act between resource extraction and other priorities, like recreation and conservation. “We are a multi-use agency,” spokesperson Brian Hires wrote in response to questions from OPB and ProPublica. “We are committed to forest health and providing the timber Americans need.”

Across the country, the agency manages 245 million acres, including vast territories of desert and juniper trees, along with rangeland it leases out to ranchers. Among its holdings in Oregon are 2.4 million acres of green forests.

A big portion of these are known as O&C lands because they once belonged to the Oregon and California Railroad until a deal with Congress went wrong. The federal government took them back, resulting in a giant checkerboard of alternating public and private squares. The O&C Act of 1937 says the federal government must manage these lands for “permanent forest production” under the principle of “sustained yield,” helping local economies while also protecting watersheds and providing recreation opportunities.

The timber industry interprets the 1937 act as primarily a logging mandate, and it has sued the BLM for setting aside too many O&C acres for conservation. This view is shared by local counties that historically received part of

the BLM’s sales revenues to pay for schools and roads and that still rely on the industry for jobs. Trees cut on federal lands can’t be shipped overseas and typically go to local mills. And “it’s not just the mills,” says Doug Robertson, executive director of the Association of O&C Counties. “It’s everything that supports the mills: all of the manufacturing, the trucking, and on and on.”

But how much logging the O&C Act mandates is subject to debate. The act directs the BLM to set its own quotas for timber sales, and it does so. In 2016, the agency drew up a regional logging plan with annual targets for each district in Oregon’s Coast Range, taking care, in theory, to avoid sensitive habitat for species like the spotted owl. It protected three-quarters of the O&C lands from regular logging, and even in those areas where logging would be allowed, there were new prohibitions against cutting the biggest, oldest trees.

There were problems with the bureau’s approach, however.

It created logging maps based on a database of tree ages that local staff in Oregon warned didn’t accurately capture the old-growth forest that serves as owl habitat. A leaked 2014 memo by a BLM wildlife biologist suggested that the bureau “field verify all stands” before deciding which areas could be cut, meaning it should visually inspect them instead of relying on data alone.

There’s no evidence agency officials followed this recommendation. They used the database in developing the 2016 plan and again in recent years in deciding which Blue and Gold areas would be up for sale.

The BLM also has tried to avoid detailed environmental reviews as it moves to log in new areas, saying it sufficiently considered impacts in 2016. Over and over, conservation groups have sued to demand full reviews, which can be required by federal law. Over and over, courts have decided against the bureau, in most cases directing it to redo its analysis before logging can continue. The BLM lost at least three such lawsuits between 2019 and 2022, with judges ruling that it failed to

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Guest Opinion

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Republican administrations as hostile to their efforts, and many have had corporate rather than labor backgrounds.

Several news reports said that the Teamsters pushed for her appointment. Shortly after the Chavez-DeRemer announcement, AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler commented that she “has built a

pro-labor record in Congress.”

Shuler added, however: “But Donald Trump is the President-elect of the United States — not Rep. Chavez-DeRemer — and it remains to be seen what she will be permitted to do as secretary of labor in an administration with a dramatically anti-worker agenda.”

All of this happens against the background of political cross-currents.

On one side, there’s the significant number of votes Trump received this year from workers in or allied with labor unions. Chavez-DeRemer’s placement could be intended as a way for a business-oriented Republican administration to build bridges to them.

To the extent that happens, it could affect Oregon politics. Democratic party success in Or-

gon is tightly tied to labor organizations, especially public sector unions. To the extent the Trump administration is seen as friendly rather than hostile, a significant curve ball could be thrown into politics back home. A disruption in the labor-Democratic relationship could make for big changes locally.

But squaring that with the generally business-oriented tenor of the administration won’t be easy, as the second part of Shuler’s comment makes clear. Business interests and leaders who have supported Trump were expecting a more business-oriented nominee, and some already have made plain their displeasure with the nominee.

Shortly before Trump delivered the nomination, the anti-regulatory Competitive Enterprise Institute blasted her as unqualified for the job and said, “What we do know is not encouraging. In any event, cabinet secretary shouldn’t be a place for on-the-job training. Trump should keep on looking.”

The apparent likelihood is that Chavez-DeRemer, if she holds to her labor-allied path in Congress, would be swimming against the Trump administration’s overall tide. And that could prove a serious challenge for even the most skilled and experienced of Washington operators, let alone a relative rookie.

So that begs the question: Will Chavez-DeRemer move the curve on conventional Republican politics and labor unions, or will she be ground up in conflict surrounding the incoming Trump administration?

Smart money probably is on the latter. But it’s a story yet to be written.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.

oregoncapitalchronicle.com

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Leah Nash/ProPublica

Environmental activists protest outside the Bureau of Land Management office in Roseburg, Oregon, during a timber sale. The auction itself took place behind closed doors and only “qualified bidders” were allowed in.

take a “hard look” at impacts or calling its decisions “arbitrary and capricious.”

This approach could have ended with Biden’s Earth Day executive order. It called for a national inventory of mature and old-growth forests, an analysis of the threats to them, and future regulations to protect them. But all of these prescriptions ultimately have proved too vague to bring about change.

Unlike the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the biggest federal forestland manager in Oregon and the country, responded to Biden’s order by proposing to update management plans for all national forests with new regulations for protecting old growth. These plans outline how a forest will be managed — like logging parameters, species protections, restoration projects and road maintenance. The updates will include a prohibition on cutting old growth solely for commercial reasons.

The BLM, on the other hand, said nothing about changing its current forest plans. Hires, the agency spokesperson, wrote that Biden’s executive order builds on the bureau’s “existing efforts” to protect mature and old-growth forests, offering “further clarity” but not a new direction. The BLM did issue a new rule stating it is “working to ensure” that these forests are managed to “promote their continued health and resilience.” But the rule does not include hard stipulations protecting them from logging — so the logging continues.

OPB and ProPublica compared the agency’s forest database for Oregon to its timber records and found that in the past two years, the BLM oversaw logging in more than 10,000 acres of forest it labeled as at least 80 years old — the age at which the BLM and Forest Service consider western Oregon’s conifers to be “mature”. The average number of acres of older forest logged annually since the president’s executive order is already higher than in any two-year span since at least 2013.

Last year, a pair of appellate court rulings called into question the idea that the O&C Act is little more than a logging mandate. Judges affirmed the BLM and its parent agency, the Department of Interior, have “significant discretion” in determining how much to cut and where. “The Department’s duty to oversee the lands is obligatory,” reads a 2023 opinion from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, “but treating every parcel as timberland is not.”

For now, tree sales set in motion in 2016 are still in motion. The bureau does not expect to revisit its logging plan for Oregon’s Coast Range until 2028 at the earliest. The list of areas to be cut, including Blue and Gold, remains

unchanged. And it is likely the incoming administration will look to expand logging on public lands. Project 2025, a transition plan prepared by Trump allies at The Heritage Foundation, mentions the O&C Act by name and recommends that “the new Administration must immediately fulfill its responsibilities and manage the O&C lands for ‘permanent forest production’ to ensure that the timber is ‘sold, cut, and removed.’”

Since Biden’s executive order, environmental groups have sued the BLM at least four more times for avoiding full environmental reviews of logging projects. In two of these cases, the bureau again lost in court. A third case ended in a settlement, with the bureau agreeing to pause operations and redo its environmental analysis.

The newest case, filed three days before the timber auction in Roseburg, is over Blue and Gold.

Environmental groups in Oregon can’t challenge every BLM logging project. “We just don’t have the capacity,” said attorney Nick Cady of Cascadia Wildlands, one of three groups that filed a joint lawsuit to stop the plan for Blue and Gold. This one stands out, he said, because of the apparent age of the forest.

Blue and Gold is also the only logging project known to have been paused in response to Biden’s executive order, then reinstated.

Heather Whitman, the BLM district manager in Roseburg, says the bureau remade the logging plan for Blue and Gold after she decided to pause it. The project now relies more on forest thinning and less on methods that, to a layperson, can look much like clear-cuts. “Quite a bit changed,” she says.

But Blue and Gold still depends on the same database of forest ages as before, and, as the new lawsuit points out, questions about the data’s accuracy remain. In 2022, the bureau declared the forest above Yellow Creek to be 60 years old. In 2024, after restarting the project, the bureau inexplicably revised the forest’s age to 90 years. A dozen other areas had their ages jump around, too. A handful are said to be younger now than they were two years ago.

After all that, nearly as many acres of Blue and Gold will be logged as would have been before. Roseburg officials wrote that the project must proceed because of their district’s ongoing “need to produce timber volume.”

Trees greater than 40 inches in diameter or older than about 175 years are, in most cases, protected under the BLM’s 2016 management plan for Oregon’s Coast Range. But if logging does go forward here, the intact forests these trees now anchor will be transformed, says Reeder, the re-

tired BLM surveyor. The older trees themselves, more exposed in the landscape, could be more vulnerable to windstorms. The soil around them could dry out.

The BLM estimates that after logging, the risk of wildfires — a focus of Biden’s Earth Day speech — will go down in Blue and Gold in the long term, but that for decades some areas of forest will have a higher fire risk. If burned, the trees’ stored carbon will be released back into the atmosphere.

Because the BLM skipped a comprehensive environmental review of Blue and Gold, it did not look in detail at how the project will affect carbon storage and climate change. The new lawsuit claims that the bureau also skipped detailed analyses of other potential impacts, including heightened landslide risk and invasions of nonnative plants.

The BLM did carry out a quicker initial review of likely impacts to the ecosystem, including hiring a contractor to search the forest for endangered spotted owls. But “it was rushed at the beginning,” recalled Tom Baxter, one of the owl surveyors hired to do the job.

Baxter said the contractor he worked for was called in just weeks ahead of the survey. As a result, his team was shorthanded. Then the BLM had the surveyors fan out across the entire project area, instead of focusing on the parts of the forest most likely to have owls — a “peanut butter” approach that he says spread the team too thin.

“We were wasting our time in places where I knew there weren’t going to be spotted owls,” Baxter recalled.

What the bureau’s initial review does show is that the Blue and Gold project will destroy 119 acres of prime spotted owl habitat and “downgrade” another 1,539 acres. The logging will periodically cloud the waters of Yellow Creek, where threatened Oregon Coast coho salmon go to spawn. And it could kill or harm up to 13 endangered murrelet chicks.

But the BLM, summing up its findings in a notice published two weeks before the first trees went on sale, concluded that there would be “no significant impact” on the environment.

Cady, the Cascadia Wildlands attorney, disagrees. For conservation groups, Blue and Gold is just the latest logging project that Biden’s executive order failed to stop. “There is a massive disconnect between the administration and what’s happening on the ground,” Cady said.

This article was produced by ProPublica in partnership with Oregon Public Broadcasting.

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Columbia River nuclear power proposal raises concerns

By Eric Tegethoff
Oregon News Service

Interest in nuclear energy as a solution to “dirty” sources of power is growing, including a proposal in the Northwest. However, some critics said it could divert attention from more practical renewable energy solutions.

Amazon has signed an agreement with X-energy to build new nuclear technology, known as small modular reactors, to meet the company’s growing energy needs. The aim is to build the reactors at the Hanford nuclear site along the Columbia River.

Kelly Campbell, policy director for Columbia Riverkeeper, said companies are looking into nuclear because they want it to be a “magic bullet” for climate change.

“It’s a distraction,” Campbell contended. “It’s a shiny object that you can say, ‘Look over here! We’re going to do “clean” nuclear power.’ But it’s going to take 15 years at least to build these things, and meanwhile there’s still part of the problem of trying to get more energy supply for the data centers and AI needs.”

While small modular reactors are seen as an innovative way to provide nuclear energy without having to build large power plants, none has been built in the United States or approved by the federal

government. An Oregon-based company called NuScale, at the forefront of small modular reactor design, had its only customer back out last year because of repeated delays in the project.

Campbell pointed out the location of the project Amazon and X-energy are moving forward with is also a concern.

“It’s right on the Columbia River, and if there’s an emergency, if there’s an accident with any of these nuclear facilities at Hanford, it would affect all of them,” Campbell emphasized. “You may end up in a situation where you’re not able to get in and do the things that you need to do in order to protect people from radiation.”

After Amazon and Google expressed interest in nuclear to fuel their growing energy needs, the U.S. Department of Energy announced it would invest \$900 million in the technology.

Campbell is convinced the money would be better spent on proven technology, like wind and solar.

“When we start spending it on nuclear, which people have called the most expensive way to boil water, then that’s an opportunity cost that we’re losing in terms of spending that on things we know will work and are safer, quicker to build and cheaper,” Campbell outlined.



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New nuclear-energy technology has been proposed but not yet built in the United States.

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