



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

### JP Doodles

The sun goes down sooner and comes up earlier. A wood pile may look too small. Could there be other signs of winter's approach?

**PAGE 2**

### Home Country

"You can bet it will separate the serious candidates from the oh-what-the-heck guys."

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## Briefs...



Some of the ideas floated at a joint Lane County Parks and Oregon State Marine Board community meeting are starting to take shape at the Forest Glen Boat Landing in Blue River. Last week, the Parks Department announced that people dropping by to answer nature's call or get ready to launch their drift boat no longer had to hold it, thanks to \$45,000 in improvements, includ-

[Forest Glen - Page 2](#)

The Maude Kerns Art Center presents the 32nd annual Art for All Seasons Membership Show and Club Mud Ceramics Holiday Show & Sale, opening on Friday, November 15, with a Reception from 5 - 7 pm, and on view through Friday, December 13 at 1910 E. 15th Avenue in Eugene. Exhibit receptions are free and open to the public.

[Art for All Seasons - Page 2](#)

## White oak rooted in at the River Walk path

### Plantings aim to bring back parts of area's cultural past

Honoring the important traditions of "our grandmas, grandpaws, aunts, and uncles" was all called to mind as people gathered in Blue River last Sunday. "The things of the traditional world when we recall those days," added Dietz Peters, "are especially important so when our kids get older, they can pass it on to their kids and grandkids."

Deitz, himself an elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, was speaking to a group of about three dozen people interested in restoring some of the natural world that wildfires had swept away.

Katherine "K'iya" Wilson organized the event around White Oak trees. She identified herself as a fire survivor trying to "get back and help my community the best way I know—to try and inspire replanting areas in a way that honors McKenzie's original people and the landscape."

The plot she chose was "pretty much at ground zero" of where the Holiday Farm Fire burned the town of Blue River. It's also close to the confluence of the Blue and McKenzie Rivers and is the location of the River Walk Trail, established in 2014. "Everywhere you look, you can see where the fire burned," she said.

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Deitz Peters an elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde and Katherine Wilson of McKenzie Reel opened the event with a burning ceremony to cleanse the site.

## Affordable homes could spell relief



The site has been prepped for construction to get underway.

Only 38% of homes have been rebuilt four years after a destructive wildfire, while property values and the cost of rebuilding have risen 40%. In addition to the 517 lost homes, the number of people living along a 60-mile stretch of Hwy. 126 from McKenzie Bridge to Springfield has also dropped off.

"Since the Holiday Farm Fire, the McKenzie River Ranger District has had difficulty filling vacant positions. The reason most often heard from prospective applicants when they decline a position is the unavailability of housing," according to McKenzie District Ranger Darren Cross. He's also a member of the McKenzie Community Land Trust (MCLT) board of directors, a nonprofit founded in 2020.

This Friday, November 15th, the MCLT

plans to break ground for a cluster of six new homes they hope will offer some relief.

"We are building permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for local families who live and work in the McKenzie Valley," according to Brandi Crawford Ferguson, Interim Executive Director of MCLT. "Our homes and the landscaping will be firewise, helping to rebuild a thriving and more resilient McKenzie community after the Holiday Farm Fire."

The new Rose Street neighborhood in Blue River will feature homes with three bedrooms and two bathrooms to be constructed on-site. Target buyers of the new houses will be McKenzie families earning less than 80% of the area median income. The MCLT will sell each home to a

[Affordable homes - Page 12](#)

## 2024 election results signal shifts in local politics

By Devon Lawson

In a significant election for Oregon House District 12 and Lane County governance, voters turned out to resolve races and measures that highlight the area's evolving political landscape. From redistricting reform to charter amendments and recall efforts, Lane County residents faced choices reflecting regional and state concerns around transparency, governance, and community values. The state representative race and various ballot measures brought two distinct visions for the area's future to light, especially in the Blue River community, where local voting targeted issues of trust and leadership.

The Oregon House District 12 race saw Republican Darin Harbick and Democrat Michelle Emmons competing head-to-head, each representing a different approach to issues important to rural areas and some sub-

urban Eugene residents. Harbick's win in the May primary over incumbent Charlie Conroy set the stage for a race primarily



Recall signs, along with other political postings, are now coming down.

fueled by his controversial vote in support of House Bill 2002 - which focused on expanded access to abortion and gender-affirming care. His vote led to Conrad's censure by the Oregon Republican Party, and his being the only Republican supporting the bill. While some moderates appreciated his stance, many conservatives felt alienated.

Harbick, meanwhile, rallied voters with a platform centered on parental rights and opposition to HB 2002, which he argued undermines parental consent in medical decisions for minors. His primary campaign emphasized Oregon's more conservative values, particularly family issues, small business support, and traditional land-use practices, attracting support and resources from conservative backers. This alignment helped him win over a Republican base that

[Election results - Page 11](#)

Parents' CPR, AED, and First Aid Class, November 17, noon to 3:30 p.m. This non-certification course is perfect for parents, grandparents, and family members who want to feel prepared for child and infant emergencies. Gain essential skills and confidence in a friendly, supportive environment.

Topics covered include CPR and AED for children and infants, responsive and unresponsive choking, water safety essentials, and first aid for minor and major emergen-

[CPR Class - Page 2](#)

# Letters to the Editor

## "Films with Friends" proves to be a wonderful idea

Months ago, Chani Demello, an energetic and optimistic McKenzie River resident, proposed an idea for a way to make the "dark days of the cooler months" a bit brighter: Invite everyone to Vida McKenzie Community Center to view a full-length independent film or a number of "independent shorts" and then discuss the film(s) afterward. I was skeptical until I started previewing the films. The production quality of the works was fabulous, and the content was both creative and accessible.

The first of the "Films with Friends" series took place on Sunday, November 10, 2024. Sixteen folks watched "Walking the Camino." The lights dimmed, the fireplace glowed, and the snack bar brimmed with buttery pop-

corn, movie candy, and hot/cold drinks. Following the film, Alison Hennes shared her own experiences as she made this ancient pilgrimage, answered questions, and everyone got home before dark. A lovely way to spend a chilly fall afternoon.

Here are two early reviews: "I enjoyed this very much. Thanks for providing the films, Chani." NA "It was a great film Chani and very cozy around the fire afterwards with Ali. Positive and uplifting..." MB

Join your friends and neighbors at VMCC on December 8th at 2:00p.m. for the second film in this series. It will be a touching story of an elderly couple that will leave you feeling warm.

For more information, go to [vidacommunitycenter.com](http://vidacommunitycenter.com)

Gerry Aster, Vida

## Guest Opinion

### Oregon election results follow usual pattern

By Randy Stapilus

Oregon had few surprises in the general election results that changed the political landscape very little.

Tracking closely with similar kinds of results in Washington state, the light blue Beaver state stuck with its usual voting patterns, careful to rarely edge over into landslides. In most cases, Portland remained deep blue and most of the eastern counties stayed deep red.

Taken as a whole, Oregon remained generally blue, even as much of the country was awash in red-tinged results.

The state Legislature will not be significantly changed by this

election, even if a number of new faces will be taking their places in it.

But some degree of change, you could point to the decisive election of Democrat Anthony Broadman to a Senate seat representing Deschutes County. That, together with a clear win in the same region by Democrat Emerson Levy, can be fairly marked as an extension of Democratic strength there. But that's really an extension of an ongoing trend.

Partisan status aside, Portland could almost have served in this election as a poster child for "change," given its impending change of the form of government and many new people on the ballot. But City Hall is unlikely to feel a lot different when the results are finalized.

## McKenzie Eagles Sports Report



By Cliff Richardson

### McKenzie Varsity Sports Schedule This Week

The McKenzie Varsity 2024 Fall Sports season has concluded. There are no contests scheduled this week.

The McKenzie School District will hold its annual Fall Sports/Academics Awards Banquet on Tuesday, November 12, at 5:30 pm in the High School cafeteria. Both High School and Middle School academic and athletic achievements will be honored.

### Will Meister Finishes 52nd At State

Will Meister was McKenzie's lone qualifier to the OSAA 2A/1A State Cross Country Championships held at Lane Community College last Saturday,

November 9. The Eagle junior, in his first State meet finished 52nd out of a field of 95 participants and posted a time of 18:54.0 minutes in the 2A/1A Boys 5,000 meters race. That time was a bit slower than the Personal Record mark, 18:18.5 min., Meister set the week prior, October 31, in the 3A/2A/1A District 4 Championships also held at LCC.

Curtis Heier, representing Illinois Valley, won the State title with a fine time of 16:31.3 minutes. Wyatt Jacobson from Knappa finished second in 16:35.1 min.

Union High School won the 2024 Boys team title and blue trophy. The Bobcats placed runners in the 3rd, 4th, 7th, 18th, 22nd, 34th, and 46th finishes. Union earned 41 points while Knappa finished a close second with 44 points. Bandon was a distant third with 122 points.

In the 3A/2A/1A Girls 5,000 meters Championship race, Daisy Lalonde of East Linn Christian took top honors with a time of 18:07.8 minutes. Lauren Tittel from Oregon Episcopal finished

second in 18:23.8 minutes.

The Oregon Episcopal team also finished first in the team competition, earning 79 points. Enterprise finished a close second with 82 points and Union was back a bit in third with 126 points on the day.

Siuslaw's Clayton Wilson won the individual 3A Boys Championship race, running the 5,000 meters in 15:37.8 minutes. Jett Leavitt of Enterprise followed him in second with a finish time of 15:41.0 min. In 3A Boys team competition, Banks and Valley Catholic both earned 79 points and a tiebreaker based on scoring order and individual time differences earned Banks the first place trophy. Siuslaw earned third place with 97 points.

### Six-man Football State Championships

The Quarterfinals Round of the 2024 OSAA/OnPoint Community Credit Union 1A(6) Football State Championships is set. Top-ranked Powers will meet 8th ranked Joseph at Powers Friday, November 15. Fourth ranked

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## Briefs...

### Forest Glen

Continued From Page 1

ing installing new modular vault toilets funded by Parks funds and a FEMA grant.

Officials say the next phase of improvements at one of the more popular launch sites for fishing and rafting along the McKenzie River will include repairing and expanding the parking lot, creating ADA parking, and enhancing access for the boat launch area to handle better traffic and the loading/unloading at the 2-acre site.

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### Art for All Seasons

Continued From Page 1

The "Art for All Seasons Membership Show" is the Center's

largest exhibit of the year. It features the tremendously varied artistry of Art Center members and high-quality functional and decorative pottery created by members of the Center's on-site ceramics cooperative, Club Mud. This annual show features work in various 2-D and 3-D media, including paintings, drawings, watercolors, prints, sculpture, jewelry, mixed media, and more.

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### CPR Class

Continued From Page 1

cies. Oregon CPR sponsors the event, which is open to the public and will be held at 657 West Centennial Boulevard in Springfield. The cost is \$55.

Send news briefs to [rivref2@gmail.com](mailto:rivref2@gmail.com)

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

**To subscribe go to: [tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6](http://tinyurl.com/2vf5caa6)**

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Friday 11/15		Saturday 11/16		Sunday 11/17	
<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Showers 50% chance precip High: 50 Low: 36	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Snow Showers 40% chance precip High: 34 Low: 23	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 49 Low: 41	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Partly Cloudy 20% chance precip High: 35 Low: 26	<b>McKenzie Valley</b> Showers 60% chance precip High: 48 Low: 38	<b>Santiam Pass</b> Rain/Snow 60% chance precip High: 34 Low: 23

WEATHER REPORT									
READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM				READINGS TAKEN AT THE EWING LEABURG POWERHOUSE					
Date	High	Low	Rain Releases	Date	High	Low	Rain	Riverflow	
11/5	42	48	0	868 cfs	11/5	48	43	0.29	4,170 cfs
11/6	35	52	0	843 cfs	11/6	50	37	0	3,890 cfs
11/7	38	57	0	810 cfs	11/7	58	34	0	3,720 cfs
11/8	38	57	0	851 cfs	11/8	59	38	0	3,620 cfs
11/9	41	55	0.02	851 cfs	11/9	63	40	0	3,570 cfs
11/10	46	52	0.18	NA	11/10	60	46	0.01	3,520 cfs
11/11	45			680 cfs	11/11	57	46	0.67	3,500 cfs

# Sheriff's Report

**Nov. 2: 8:57 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 47300 blk, McK. Hwy. A deputy and OSP trooper responded to a dispute between a male and female in the area. They contacted the involved, which advised they were doing a livestream on YouTube together and got carried away.

**11:33 a.m:** Disturbance, Dispute - 92200 blk, Murdoch St. Deputies responded to a dispute at a residence in the area. no crime was committed and the involved separated for the night.

**2:08 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - La Lone Rd. & Tree Farm Rd. Trespassers observed in the area much earlier in the day.

**Nov. 4: 9:52: a.m:** Burglary - 59200 block, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

**5:44 p.m:** Citizen Contact - Blue River area.

**Nov. 5: 7:44 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, No Injury - Lat: 44.2681. Long: -122.8138.

**7:47 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 87500 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

**10:37 a.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 89100 blk, Marcola Rd.

**12:42 p.m:** Welfare Check - 51700 blk, McK. Hwy.

**1:26 p.m:** Assist Police Department - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

**4:25 p.m:** Vehicle Fire - Lat: 44.284344. Long: -122.856266.

**4:40 p.m:** Assist Public - Lat: 44.0843. Long: -122.3246.

**6:28 p.m:** Arrest - 90200 blk, Huckleberry Ln.

**Nov. 6: 8:15 a.m:** Suspicious Vehicle - Blue River dam.

**10:41 a.m:** Welfare Check - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

**4:35 p.m:** Assist, Follow Up - 59200 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd.

**4:50 p.m:** Abandoned Animal - 90300 blk, Sunderman Rd.

**7:13 p.m:** Subpoena Service - 39200 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd.

**Nov. 7:21 a.m:** Welfare Check - 52600 blk McK. Hwy.

**8: 8:15 a.m:** Suspicious Subject - 38400 blk McK. Hwy.

**8:34 a.m:** Information - 43200 blk McK. Hwy.

**3:48 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk McK. Hwy.

**6:02 p.m:** Reckless Driving - McK. Hwy. Milepost 13.

**7:44 p.m:** Vehicle Stop - 41300 blk McK. Hwy.

**8:38 p.m:** Open Gate - Seeley Creek Rd. & Horse Rock Ridge Rd.

**Nov. 9: 7:58 a.m:** Welfare Check - 91800 blk, Marcola Rd.

**12:45 p.m:** Assault - 56400 blk McK. Hwy.

**1:01 p.m:** Livestock at Large -

90800 blk hill Rd.

**5:02 p.m:** Foot Patrol - 39500 blk McK. Hwy.

**5:49 p.m:** Citizen Contact - Holden Creek Ln. & McK. Hwy.

**7:09 p.m:** Assault - 37800 blk, MJ Chase Rd.

**Nov. 10: 8:52 a.m:** Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

**11:53 a.m:** Reckless Driving - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**12:41 p.m:** Welfare - 7500 blk, Thurston Rd.

**1:52 p.m:** Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 39700 blk, Wendling Rd.

**2:48 p.m:** Drug Overdose - 37000 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

**Nov. 11: 12:36 p.m:** Alarm - 92000 blk, Marcola Rd.

**1:17 p.m:** Suspicious Conditions - Marcola Rd. Mp. 4.

**2:43 p.m:** Welfare Check - 38800 blk, Meadow Creek Ln.

**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. 6: 08:31:** Driving Under the Influence, Controlled Substance - Hwy. 126 E, Milepost 1. Troopers

were dispatched to multiple driving complaints involving a gold Ford Expedition, Troopers located the Ford and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle for observed violations. The operator displayed indications of impairment and consented to Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. Troopers arrested the operator for DUII-CS and transported the operator to the Springfield Municipal Jail. The operator provided two breath samples, which yielded a BAC of 0.00%. Operator provided a urine sample and refused to conduct DRE evaluation. Troopers issued citations in lieu of custody to the operator. The Ford was release to a 38-year old male from Eugene. Changes: DUII, Reckless Driving, Possession of Methamphetamine.

## McKenzie Fire & Rescue

**Nov. 1: 10:33:** Camp Creek Rd./Millican Rd. Brush Fire. Authorized Burn.

**17:58:** 47900 block, McK. Hwy. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 2: 10:57:** 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**Nov. 3: 8:31:** Cedar Flat Rd./McK. Hwy. Motor Vehicle Accident. Non-Injury. Provide

Traffic Control, Transferred scene to ODOT.

**12:59:** 88000 blk, Periwinkle Dr. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**14:10:** 7900 blk, Thurston Rd. Medical, General. Disregarded On Scene.

**14:40:** McK. Hwy./Deerhorn Rd. MVA. Blocking/Injury.

**Nov. 4: 3:40:** 45000 blk, McK. Hwy. Fire Alarm. Canceled En Route, False Alarm.

**15:04:** Marcola Rd. Milepost 3. MVA. Cancelled By Mohawk Valley Fire.

**Nov. 5: 0:31:** 89000 blk, Alexis Ave. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**17:19:** 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

**19:44:** 42000 blk, Leaburg Dr. Lift Assist Only.

**Nov. 9: 2:22:** McK. Hwy. Mp. 11. Unable To Locate.

**15:57:** 89000 blk, Whitewater Rd. Medical, General. False Alarm.

**19:16:** 37000 blk, MJ Chase Rd. Medical, Trauma. Cancelled All Units/No Patient.

**19:49:** 37000 blk, MJ Chase Rd. Medical, General. Assist LCSO with Patient Evaluation.

**Nov. 10: 18:10:** 38000 blk, McK. Hwy. MVA. No Incident Found.

**Nov. 11: 2:29:** 40000 blk, Deerhorn Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

## Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

**Nov. 5: 17:16:** Medical - 49000 block, McK. Hwy. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

**Nov. 7: 18:09:** Forest Fire - 90000 blk, Huckleberry Ln. Fire appears to be 1.5 to 2 acres, spreading downhill. Caller thinks this was started with woodcutting, saw fresh sawdust nearby.

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

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By Slim Randles

"This whole election process just doesn't work for me," Dud said, sipping his coffee. "There's no way we can tell who is best for the job."

Doc, being the senior member of the Mule Barn truck stop's world dilemma think tank, looked kindly at Dud. "Well, haven't you been reading what each guy stands for, Dud?"

Dud shrugged. "Sure. But I firmly believe they only tell you what you want to hear. They're the best, and the other guy is going to take you straight to ruined aspirations."

"Ruined aspirations?" piped up Steve, the cowboy with the owlish look of pure bowlegged intellectualism. "That's why I've always thought we need a contest. A real contest. Have them put their aspirations where they'll do the most good."

"A contest?"

"Bull riding," said Steve, nodding sagely. "Just put them on bulls and the first one to fall off loses."

"But what does bull riding have to do with taxes and warfare and education and all that stuff?" asked Doc.

"Nothing at all," said Steve, "but you can bet it will separate the serious candidates from the oh-what-the-heck guys."

"I like what I'm hearing here," said Dud, with a grin. "Only problem is, if they ride bulls, one of them might get killed."

Steve grinned, "Helps simplify the process, doesn't it?"

**Brought to you with a smile from Slim's just-out fun novel, Whimsy Castle. At better book stores and on the internet at Amazon, Kindle, Barnes and Noble, Ebay, Thriftbooks and Page Publishing.**

## Quote of the Week

"The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits."

Anonymous

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# Oregon's oldest hotel was a hideaway for Hollywood stars

By Finn J.D. John

There were times, during Hollywood's golden age, when Clark Gable simply couldn't be found anywhere.

Studio executives would search frantically for the top-shelf star, needing to talk to him about a project and facing a tight deadline. He'd be gone.

In fact, he'd be fly-fishing on the Rogue River in Oregon, while staying in a small inn that today is the oldest continually operating hotel in the entire Pacific Northwest: The Wolf Creek Tavern.

Clark wasn't the only Hollywood bigshot in on the secret, either. The Wolf Creek Tavern was a regular place of refuge for a bunch of Golden Age Hollywood stars, including Carole Lombard, Douglas Fairbanks Jr., Mary Pickford, Orson Welles, and even John Wayne.

And none of them was even the most prominent person to have spent the night at the Tavern. In 1880, United States President Rutherford B. Hayes spent the night at the Tavern. (This was on the same visit to the West Coast that would expose President Hayes a couple days later to the dangers of stray bullets from gunfighter-rabbi Moses May on the street outside the Esmond Hotel in Portland; that, of course, is a story for another time!)

Also, if you are more of a literature buff, Sinclair Lewis's name is also on the guest register, and Jack London was a regular and did quite a bit of writing there. With his wife, Charmian Kittredge London, he holed up in a tiny little garret-like room over the hotel's front porch for several weeks in 1912 to put the finishing touches on the manuscript for *The Valley of the Moon*.

(*The Valley of the Moon* is not London's most famous novel, but maybe would have been if it had come out a decade or two later; a University of California Press reviewer described it as "a road novel 50 years before Kerouac.")

The Wolf Creek Tavern got its start in 1883, when pioneer Henry Smith built the "Six Bit House"



Bruce Fingerhood/Wikimedia Commons

The Wolf Creek Tavern as it appears from the front of the drive.

folks traveling the Oregon Stage Coach line between Portland and Sacramento. He called it Six Bit House because, well, it cost six bits (75 cents) to stay the night there. Basically, that broke down into two bits each for dinner, a room, and breakfast.

Business, on that basis, was really good. Wolf Creek turned out to be perfectly positioned for an overnight stop for passengers on the regular stagecoach line. So four years later, Smith built a bigger inn right across the street — a "first-class hotel" featuring 16 guest rooms, separate men's and ladies' parlors and a nice dining room. There were no bathrooms; each room came with a bowl and pitcher of clean water, and a "deluxe privy" stood just outside the back door. The meaning of "first class" has, it appears, changed in the intervening years.

So, too, has the meaning of the word "tavern." The Wolf Creek Tavern served no alcohol until much later (they have a decent wine list today featuring primarily Oregon vintages).

The stagecoach stopped running in 1887, the same year the tavern was built, because a railroad link to Sacramento made it obsolete. But the stagecoach road remained busy with travelers on horseback and in wagons and carts, and a few years later Highway 99 followed the same route. So the hotel business remained brisk.

The price of a room for the night also remained at 75 cents for a long time, and that was a problem

for some of the travelers because, well, that was a decent amount of money in the 1880s. Not everyone passing through could afford that rate.

So to accommodate working cowboys and other traveling bindlestiffs who needed a cheap place to sleep while passing through, Smith let them stay in the attic for a dime a night.

The trouble was, the attic wasn't fully floored; all it had was a sort of shelf around the perimeter, two or three boards wide. So to keep from rolling off this shelf and crashing through the board-and-batten ceiling into some unsuspecting guest's room, the cowboys would jam their spurs into the rafters. The marks from these spurs, left 125 years ago, can still be seen.

There are also a few bullet holes in the bricks and woodwork here and there, apparently put there by guests in a rowdy and frolicsome mood — one has to suspect the cowboys of having been responsible for these. This sort of thing was more typical with inns that served whiskey, but maybe guests brought their own. In any case, there they are, and it's sort of fun to wonder about the circumstances that resulted in such dramatic damage.

The Wolf Creek Tavern can't really be discussed without bringing up some of the legends and stories of paranormal activity there. Stories of ghostly fingers tickling the ivories of the piano in the parlor and furniture rearranging itself while nobody is looking are common there. Over the years ghost hunters have flocked to the inn with electromagnetic-frequency "ghost meters," EVP detectors, dowsing rods, and various other spirit-detection wheezes, and several of the ghost-hunting TV shows have sent crews to investigate the place. Supposedly there is a daughter of an innkeeper that wanders the halls, and a man that sometimes materializes in the Clark Gable suite. The place is even rumored to be haunted by Jack London himself — London died in 1916,

so he's had plenty of time to get settled in.

If the tavern really is haunted, the ghosts all seem to be on board with the program; they add color to the place, but don't do much to frighten guests. In fact, during the Halloween season the tavern leans into the "Elvira, Mistress of the Dark" theme with cobwebs, plastic skeletons and other spooky décor.

The Wolf Creek Tavern was a successful enterprise for most of its existence. Its closest brush with disaster came after Interstate 5 took all the traffic off Highway 99, in the 1960s.

Still, partly because it's just a few hundred yards off I-5, it managed to survive until 1975, when the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation bought it and started a complete, historically accurate restoration, which was completed in 1979.

Since then, the parks department has operated it — either directly or through concessionaries — with an eye for historical accuracy. The rooms now have private bathrooms, but otherwise they're just like they were 100 years ago. There are no TVs, although there is WiFi in the hotel and during the summer months guests will appreciate the tastefully-retrofitted air conditioning.

The restaurant is particularly nice, trimmed and decorated just as it was a century ago, and it enjoys a really good reputation.

Two rooms in particular are not available to stay in, though. The huge upstairs suite that movie stars used to stay in has been set up just as it was when Clark Gable was expected — right down to the whisky decanters full of what looks like Scotch — and roped off as a museum-like tableau.

The same has been done with the closet-sized, very-basic Jack London room, just a few steps down the hall. The contrast between them is striking — and, if you happen to be a novelist, maybe a little depressing too.

(Sources: "The Historic Wolf Creek Inn," an un-by-lined article published at [rogueweb.com](http://rogueweb.com); "Historic Wolf Creek Tavern," an article by Finn John published in the August 1999 issue of *Travelin' Magazine*; Oregon State Parks: A Complete Recreation Guide," a book by Jan Gumprecht Bannan published in 2002 by The Mountaineers; "Haunted Tales from Wolf Creek Inn," an article by Jen Anderson published Sept. 27, 2018, on [traveloregon.com](http://traveloregon.com).)

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](mailto:finn@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.



wolfcreekinn.com

One of the parlors in the Wolf Creek Tavern, restored to its original last-century glory.



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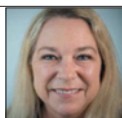
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## Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

### Snip some stems and have new plants in spring



Neil Bell

After removing all but the top leaves, the cutting - this one a hebe - should look like a miniature tree.

Snipping some cuttings from the garden this time of year will produce your own private nursery of plants by spring.

Whether you plant the results of your "snip and stick" project or give them away, propagating by cuttings can be a rewarding process.

Although some sources of information can be intimidating, Neil Bell, a horticulturist for Oregon State University Extension Service, has good news.

"I do lots of them at home," he said. "I don't use a greenhouse or even bottom heat. What that means is that the average gardener can propagate their own plants with nothing more than a tray, a decent medium, a bit of rooting hormone and a place to keep them out of the way."

Not all cuttings will "take" and produce roots, but enough will to make it worth the attempt.

Greenhouses are advantageous, but not necessary. Using bottom heat can help as well if you've got room in the house to set up a system. But Bell keeps his trays of cuttings outside in a sheltered area and has reasonable success.

Not all cuttings will "take" and produce roots, he said, but enough will to make it worth

the attempt. Up to 100 to 125 cuttings can fit in one tray so, if you've never propagated by cuttings, try one or two trays and you're bound to get some plants out of your efforts.

"There's no need to complicate it," he said. "Even if you end up with 10% rooting, you've succeeded and most of the time you can do far better."

This list of possible plants to propagate from hardwood cuttings in October and November is long, but some common ones include rosemary, rhododendron, hydrangeas, flowering currant (Ribes), Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium), mock orange (Philadelphus), redbud dogwood (Cornus sericea), rock rose (Cistus), manzanita (Arctostaphylos), Hebe, Cotoneaster, barberry (Berberis) and Pyracantha. If you grow half-hardy shrubs like salvia, cuttings taken now are great assurance against winter injury.

Bell's recommendations for taking hardwood cuttings

\* You'll need clean small clippers (the sharper the better), clean 3- to 4-inch deep tray, rooting hormone, tight-fitting gloves to protect hands against prickles and hormone, and a soilless mixture of 80% perlite and 20% peat moss. If

you've used the tray before, wash with soap and water or a mild bleach solution and let it dry thoroughly.

\* Start with a healthy plant. Those stressed by disease, pests or drought will have a high failure rate.

\* Fill tray with perlite-peat moss mixture.

\* The easiest cuttings to take are shoot tips from strong-growing twigs. Cut the twig about 3 to 4 inches long, which will leave a cutting with at least a couple of nodes (where the leaves and buds attach to the stem). With deciduous cuttings, make sure to keep track of the top and bottom of the cutting: buds on the shoot always point to the tip. If you can't tell which side is up, cut the tip at an angle and the bottom straight.

\* Bundle them up and take them to your workstation. Remove bottom foliage from the cutting, leaving two leaves or leaf buds at the top. If they have berries or fruit, remove those, too. Be careful not to tear the bark. If the plant is evergreen and has large leaves like a rhododendron, cut off half of each leaf.

\* Snip off a bit from the bottom of the stem to refresh the cut. Dip the bottom end of the stem in rooting hormone and stick in the tray one-half to 1 inch apart. Press "soil" around the cutting.

\* Apply water so that the mixture is thoroughly moist but not sopping wet.

\* Place in a sheltered spot where the cuttings get the most shelter you can provide.

\* If it doesn't rain or the cuttings are under an eave, keep them watered.

\* When the forecast predicts freezing weather, bring the trays inside. Put them out as soon as the temperature comes back above 32 degrees.

\* Don't worry if leaves start to fall off; it's natural. But clean them out of the tray to keep them from rotting and causing disease.

\* In late March or early April, tug on a couple of the cuttings. If they don't budge, they've rooted. If so, transplant them into a 4- or 6-inch pot, depending on the size of cutting. If more roots have grown than will fit in the pot, don't be afraid to trim them.



## Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



### PREPARATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are approaching with the weather becoming colder and the leaves off the trees. Now thoughts turn to this joyful season starting with Thanksgiving. Rather than getting bogged down with preparations, Simplify and Enjoy.

That's easier said than done, you exclaim. But take time to consider what you think you need to do, what you really have to do, and what you'd enjoy doing. Find ways to keep costs down, if that's a reason for stress.

#### Think Back to Earlier Days

I recall one Christmas, when our daughter was small. Money was very tight. I had to make most of the gifts. Our decorations for tree and home were ones we'd had for years or homemade.

We made strings of popcorn and cranberries for the tree, decorated our own cards, draped paper chains around the living room. We read Christmas stories and sought the reason for our celebration. Then for Christmas dinner, we got together with other family members who lived nearby.

That night, as she prepared for bed, our daughter said, "This was the best Christmas ever!"

That made me realize Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays don't have to be high powered, but can strike back to celebrations of earlier days. Since then, we've tended to keep our holidays simpler. Plan family activities we can do every year and create memorable traditions.

#### Making Simpler Foods for Festivities

\* Around our home Caramel Corn became a tradition, made for gift giving and ourselves. The

grandchildren and their friends look forward to it each year. Our granddaughter still makes it for friends and family as her dad did.

\* When I was growing up, Fudge was on the holiday menu. We might make it occasionally throughout the year, but at holiday time, Mother (later Sister and I when we could cook) stirred up Chocolate Fudge, Penuche, and White Fudge. These we enjoyed ourselves and gave as gifts.

\* Make Snacks ahead that you can serve when guests stop by. These might include: fudge, candy corn, various cookies that keep well (if family doesn't get into them), hors d'ouvres that can be frozen then popped in the oven when needed.

\* Look for inexpensive recipes you can use that make tasty dishes. Use the basic ingredients, then add the more costly sparingly. Or have one or two dishes that you truly enjoy; splurge on those.

\* Try something new when you hear about a recipe or tradition.

**GRAHAM CRACKER TREATS** - These are easy to make, good to eat, and fun for the youngsters. Decorate graham crackers with holiday colored icing and place candy decorates on top. Or cut the crackers into triangles, put icing on the edges and stick together to form a tree shape. Then decorate the outside edges with candies and sprinkles.

**VANILLA WAFER TREATS**  
You also can decorate vanilla wafers with colored icing and candies.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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# Community Notes

## AA Meetings

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

## November 14

### McK Watershed Council

The McKenzie Watershed Council will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. It's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health. Location varies, Contact Melanie Giangreco 451-201-8150. melanie@mckenziawc.org

## November 15

### Yoga In Leaburg

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

## November 15

### Rose Street Groundbreaking

Come celebrate the groundbreaking of McKenzie Community Land Trust's first six

homes in Blue River - at 51685 Rose Street from 2 to 4 p.m.

## November 15

### A Dime At A Time

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

## November 15

### Spaghetti Feed

The Walterville Grange will be holding its annual Spaghetti Feed on Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Walterville Grange Community Center, 39259 Camp Creek Road. Grangers will be serving spaghetti with red meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, dessert, and drinks. Bring your friends and family for a great meal and to enjoy some fellowship with your neighbors. Tickets will be sold for raffle prizes. We will also be collecting canned food items for the upriver food bank

and accepting donations to further upkeep of the Grange Hall. Come see the new siding, windows, curtains, and front step handrails installed with your helpful donations. For more information call 541-521-4760.

## November 16

### Library Grand Opening

The Grand Opening the of O'Brien Memorial Library is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Brief presentations at 2:30 p.m. followed by tours of the new building. Come enjoy some cake and the celebration, at 51771 Blue River Dr, Blue River.

## November 16

### Thankful Potluck

Gather together to share a delicious meal, celebrate the season of gratitude, and give thanks to our Local First Responders and Firefighters at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. Bring your best potluck dish to share with your neighbors and join us at the Upper McKenzie Community Center for our Annual Thankful Potluck. Please bring a dish to share and table service.

## November 18

### McK Fire Board

The McKenzie Fire District Board will meet from noon to 1 p.m. at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Hwy. Call 541-896-3311 for more information.

## November 18

### Upper McK Fire Board

The Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the fire station, 56578 McKenzie Hwy. in McKenzie Bridge. For more information, 541-822-3479.

## November 19

### Board of Commissioners

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

## November 19

### Family Story Time

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

## November 19

### Family Storytime

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

## November 19

### Walterville Grange

The Walterville Grange #416 will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 39259 Camp Creek Road.

## November 20

### Board of Commissioners

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

## November 19

### Free Produce

Free fresh produce day is held

at the new medical clinic, 51730 Dexter Street in Blue River. A sign will be posted to the left conference room entrance, where distribution will take place. Pick-up is from 1 to 2 p.m., as produce has been running out within the first hour. All McKenzie community members who sign up can be served as long as they are under the income guidelines. Call Orchid Health to sign up - 541-822-3341.

## November 20

### Watershed Wednesday

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

## November 20

### Cornhole League

The Upper McKenzie Cornhole League meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Upper McKenzie Community Center, 54745 McKenzie River Drive in Rainbow. Bring some snacks to share.

## November 20

### McK School Board

The McKenzie School District board meeting (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) will held at 51187 Blue River Dr. It will also be live-streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@mckenziechooldistrict6756/> streams. Submit Public Comments to public.comment@mckenziensd.org comments submitted

## November 21

### McK Chamber Board

The The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce board will meet via zoom at 4:30 p.m. For more information contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

## November 21

### Leaburg Food Pantry

The Leaburg Food Pantry is open from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the McKenzie Bible Fellowship, 45061 McKenzie Hwy. All are welcome! Please send folks.

## November 23 & 24

### Art Harvest Faire

The McKenzie River Artisans Harvest Faire is back for the first time since the Holiday Farm Fire. Come to the Vida McKenzie Community Center, 90377 Thomson Lane and kick of your holiday shopping with arts and crafts created locally

## McKenzie Students of the Month

For the month of October we focused on "Involved" in our RIVER acronym. These are students who "participate in school events, clubs, and sports. They engage in all class lessons and activities, are prepared, and use their time wisely."



High School student Myra Dion (11th grade). "Myra wears so many different hats and does them all so well. She is an ASB officer, participates in Garden Club, and is on the cross country team." "I can't think of any student more involved at this school."

Middle School student Sadie Peterson (8th Grade). "Sadie is involved in Band and Garden Club, and is an active learner in the classroom. She always participates in everything to the best of her ability." "Involved means USING TIME WISELY, BEING PREPARED, and READY TO LEARN. I see Sadie do this everyday. She always makes an honest effort and always contributes positively to class!"



<h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2>	<p><b>Living Water Family Fellowship</b>                  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><b>McKenzie Bible Fellowship</b>                  45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon  <b>Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.</b>                  Youth Ministries                  KidsFest Family Activities                  Small Group Fellowships                  Men's &amp; Women's Bible Studies                  Call 896-3829 for information                  www.mckenziebible.com</p>	<p><b>Catholic Church</b>  <b>St. Benedict Lodge Chapel</b>                  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><b>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church</b>                  Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walterville, or on our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or request an emailed or earth-mailed bulletin -- phone or send email to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, 541-914-1986. We would love to meet you!                  Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604</p>	

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# Direct Answers

By Wayne & Tamara Mitchell

## Liar, Liar



Kelly Sikkema

I am wondering if this is fair? I work and my employment benefits include life insurance. My husband came to watch me sign him as beneficiary. He then took out family insurance through his bank and showed me a page of the insurance form stating if he dies I am his beneficiary.

Later I heard him on the phone with his daughter telling her she and her brother were his beneficiaries. They are grown and married, with well-paying jobs. Is this fair? When I asked him about this, he said it was not true. He said I heard wrong, which I did not.

He claims he lost all the paperwork, though he has not lost so much as an old hunting license in his life. I wonder if he mailed the papers to his daughter. When I asked to see the forms, he said he

would just cancel the insurance, which is fine. But he did not cancel.

I do not care if he has insurance or not. I am not a taker. It is the principle of feeling loved, cared for, and equal. His bank account is with his daughter also, not with me. I've bought him many things, make the truck and car payments, and pay the rent. I love him but wonder if he loves me or considers me an outsider.

Freda

Freda, your husband hasn't lost so much as an old hunting license. Is he lying to you? Does a wild bear poop in the woods? Heck yes.

You are sharing a bed with a man you don't share a bank account with. You must know where you stand if he dies. Will his children inherit everything, even the two vehicles you are making payments on?

If he doesn't come up with the information you need, at the very least change the beneficiary on your life insurance policy to someone else, even a second cousin twice removed. Forcing his hand will dictate your next move.

Wayne & Tamara  
**Getaway**

I am a 30-year-old single mother

of one. I've been dating a man, 40, for two years. He is a wonderful person, takes exceptional care of me, and is attentive to my needs. He is the best man I have ever dated, but I am in conflict about my feelings for this man for as long as we've dated.

Our problem lies with communication. I don't feel he understands how important communication is to our relationship. Often I feel left out of the loop because he doesn't communicate simple things I feel are important. Sometimes I feel it is because I am younger, and he views me as a child. Other times I feel he just doesn't get it.

Sometimes I don't know why I love him, or if I love him. Recently I wonder if I want to get married just because it is what you do after two years of dating, or if I really want to be married to this man.

Erin

Erin, the car he drives, the clothes he wears, the way he folds his arms--all that expresses who he is. The way he communicates with you is who he is. He is who he is, and after two years you haven't fallen in love with who he is.

If you loved him, he would feel right. You wouldn't feel he is treating you like a child, you wouldn't feel out of the loop, and you wouldn't feel you are marrying him just to get married.

All signs suggest you should step away from this relationship. Have we communicated this clearly enough? Picture a police

officer with a bullhorn. He brings the bullhorn to his mouth, the microphone crackles with static, and he roars, "Keep your hands to yourself, and step away from this relationship!"

Erin, you need to be available for a relationship you feel passionate

about.

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.

## I Want to Read at the White House

By Joshua Clover

I want to read at the white house. I want to read poems at the white house.

I want to read poems at the white house with all the pomp available.

With celebratory music and all my beloveds watching.

With Baraka and DiPrima and Roque Dalton behind me

I want to read at the white house. I want to read poems at the white house wearing my favorite clothes probably a hoodie or perhaps my Belgian suit.

Belgium is a failed state in the heart of Europe which is something to aspire to. I like Belgium and one day I might like to read poems at the palace of the nation but for now I want to read poems at the white house.

I want to read poems and sing karaoke and I will probably tell a few nervous jokes. It will be like all the other readings. We will be there together. I want to read poems at the white house and then like any house reading we will all clean up together.

We will clean up the mess we have

made together. All that rubble and all those ashes. These are my conditions.

Copyright Credit: Joshua Clover, "I Want to Read at the White House." Copyright © 2017 by Joshua Clover. Used by permission of the author for PoetryNow, a partnership between the Poetry Foundation and the WFMT Radio Network.

Poet, scholar, and journalist Joshua Clover was born in Berkeley, California. An alumnus of Boston University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Clover has published several volumes of poetry, including *Red Epic* (2015), *The Totality for Kids* (2006), and *Madonna anno domini* (1997). His poems have also appeared three times in the *Best American Poetry* series. He has also written books of cultural and political theory: *Riot.Strike.Riot* (2016), *1989: Bob Dylan Didn't Have This to Sing About* (2009), and *The Matrix* (2005).

He is a professor of English and comparative literature at the University of California, Davis, and a columnist for *The Nation* and *Ny Tid*, in Norway. Clover is a founding editor of *Commune Editions*.

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### Help Wanted

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

### Personal

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

### Piano Lessons

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

### Quilters/Needle Crafters

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

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- 50. Riyadh native, e.g.
- 52. Sixth note
- 53. Common fairway club
- 55. Brewed beverage
- 57. \*Red Redding and Nelson Mandela
- 61. \*Ricky Bobby and Buddy
- 65. Beat the Joneses
- 66. Outrage
- 68. Adjust, as laces
- 69. Tears violently
- 70. Anointment liquid
- 71. Talks and talks and talks
- 72. a.k.a. Operation Neptune
- 73. "Just kidding!"
- 74. Billy Joel's "\_\_\_\_\_ Always a Woman"

**DOWN**

- 1. Between Phi and Kappa
- 2. Second word in a fairytale
- 3. Encircle
- 4. Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.
- 5. Boot-wearing feline
- 6. Draft pick
- 7. Impolite look
- 8. Miles per hour, e.g.
- 9. Insult
- 10. Between bleu and jaune
- 11. Connection between brain and spinal cord
- 13. Bundle of wheat
- 15. Like certain libraries
- 20. Pup
- 22. Hemingway's "The \_\_\_\_\_ Man and the Sea"
- 24. Railyard worker
- 25. \*Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan
- 26. Offer two cents
- 27. Doctrine
- 29. New Mexico town
- 31. Deep pile carpet
- 32. Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.
- 33. Ostium, pl.
- 34. \*Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall
- 36. Center of authority
- 38. "The New Look" main character
- 42. September stone
- 45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology
- 49. Time period
- 51. \*Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson
- 54. Vidalia one
- 56. Regions
- 57. \*Han Solo and Indiana Jones
- 58. Wished undone
- 59. Europe's highest volcano
- 60. \*Nelson, star of 8 films with Jeanette MacDonald
- 61. Matted wool
- 62. Write on tombstone, e.g.
- 63. Facebook button
- 64. More is \_\_\_\_\_?
- 67. Duran Duran's 1982 album

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**FAMOUS ACTORS**

**ACROSS**

- 1. QA's focus, pl.
- 5. "Swan Lake" steps
- 8. Evite request, acr.
- 12. Long stories
- 14. Final, abbr.
- 15. Opposite of neo-
- 16. Synagogue scroll
- 17. Poseidon's domain
- 18. One-eighty
- 19. \*Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp
- 21. \*Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich
- 23. Kum Ba follower

- 24. Cry out loud
- 25. Stolen, slangily
- 28. Greek salad cheese
- 30. Popular clubs of the 1970s
- 35. Chimpanzees, e.g.
- 37. Porcine fat
- 39. Great divide
- 40. Cat o'how many tails?
- 41. Podium, pl.
- 43. Dead against
- 44. Work the dough
- 46. Urban haze
- 47. Manner of walk
- 48. Parlor piece

Solution on Page 9

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

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

Click here or go to:  
[tinyurl.com/yeye92hx](https://tinyurl.com/yeye92hx)

**Events from Nov 14th**

**The Nov 14th 5:00pm - 6:30pm**  
**McKenzie Watershed Council**  
The McKenzie Watershed Council's mission is to foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources. Sign up for issues in...

**The Nov 14th 6:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group**  
GMA5 Netrange (Thursday)  
See you on the regular. Open on 453.525, listen 462.575, R, tone 103 on the uplink. Make it easy!

**The Nov 14th 6:00pm - 7:00pm**  
**Leaburg GMA5 Radio Preparedness**  
Every Thursday, McKenzie Valley Neighbors GMA5 Radio Preparedness Group Network. Check-in Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. McKenzie Valley Wide Net

**Fri Nov 15th 8:00am - 9:00am**  
**Yoga in Leaburg**  
Every Friday at McKenzie Fire & Rescue's Leaburg Training Center

**Sat Nov 16th 2:00pm - 4:00pm**  
**Grand Opening of O'Brien Memorial Library**  
Book presentations at 2:30 p.m. followed by tours of the new building. Come enjoy some cake and the celebration!

**Fri Nov 15th 2:00pm - 4:00pm**  
**Rose Street Neighborhood Groundbreaking**  
Come celebrate the groundbreaking of McKenzie Community Land Trust's first six homes in Blue River!

**Waterville Grange's Annual Spaghetti Feed**  
Friday, November 15, from 5 to 7 PM. It will be held at the Waterville...

**Sat Nov 16th 10:00am - 12:00pm**  
**A Time At A Time**  
Blue River Book Boys Collection/Story - Saturday morning story sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off...

**Nov 16th 5:00pm**  
**Thankful Potluck**  
Let's gather together to share a delicious meal, celebrate the season of gratitude, and give thanks to our local Fire Responders and...

**Men Nov 14th**  
**Kids eat free!**  
Every Monday (with adult meal purchase), Takeout, Dine-in, Outdoor seating (541) 726-9088.

**Men Nov 14th 5:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**McKenzie Fire District Board**  
McKenzie Fire District Board meeting. 541-496-3311.

**Men Nov 14th 7:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**Upper McKenzie Fire District Board**  
Upper McKenzie Fire District Board of Directors monthly meeting. At the Blue River Fire Station 2, 51730 Echo St. 541-822-3479.

**Thu Nov 14th 10:00am - 11:00am**  
**Family Story Time**  
Some special fun at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship.

**Wed Nov 13th 5:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**Waterville Grange #416 meeting**  
Our second monthly meeting is on the third Tuesday of each month. It starts at 7:30 PM that night and includes a nice dinner.

**Wed Nov 13th 9:00am**  
**Free Produce at McKenzie Clinic**  
Free fresh produce day is at the new clinic in Blue River. A sign will be posted at the left corner of the entrance, where distribution...

**Wed Nov 13th 9:00am - 11:00am**  
**Water Wednesday**  
Join McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9am-11:30am at Green Island to help care for the special area where the McKenzie.

**Wed Nov 13th 5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
**Upper McKenzie Fire District Board**  
The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 6:00 a.m. in Harts Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board...

**Wed Nov 13th 5:00pm - 9:00pm**  
**Wacky Wednesdays**  
Join us for some free Cornhole fun at the Upper McKenzie Community Center. We're tossing bags on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month...

**Wed Nov 13th 5:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**McKenzie School District Board of Directors**  
Meeting will be livestreamed. Viewing link: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC14\\_648fmaeclp0fUMC6oYvdw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC14_648fmaeclp0fUMC6oYvdw) See Submit Public Comment to

**The Nov 14th 3:00pm - 5:00pm**  
**Leaburg Food Pantry**  
All are welcome. Please and thank!

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## Problem Solved



By Christopher Elliott

### Iberia told me to file a credit card chargeback. Now I don't have a ticket!

When Joel Revill's ticket purchase on Iberia doesn't go through, a representative advises him to dispute the purchase on his credit card. But now he doesn't have a valid ticket. What should he do?

I purchased a ticket from Boston to Madrid on Iberia Airlines through its website, but I didn't receive a confirmation. When I called Iberia, an agent told me he couldn't see the purchase and advised me to dispute the charge with my credit card company, which I did a week later.

On the same day, I received an email from Iberia with a confirmation. I called my bank that day and withdrew the dispute. A bank representative told me to just ignore any written communication and that it would automatically close the dispute. I followed this advice and assumed that my ticket would be valid.

It wasn't. When I tried to check in for my flight, the system showed my ticket as "suspended." An Iberia representative told me to dispute the charge again and buy a new ticket. I followed this advice.

Iberia did, in fact, receive the \$776 from my bank (Capital One), but it nonetheless suspended my ticket. I would like to get a refund. Can you help me?

Joel Revill, Providence, R.I. You should have had a ticket on your flight from Boston to Madrid. The problem is obvious: An Iberia representative told you to dispute the charge -- and later "undispute" it -- without making the necessary notations on Iberia's side. As a result, you ended up with a voided ticket.

You shouldn't have disputed this charge in the first place. True,

credit card chargebacks under the Fair Credit Billing Act, cover products and services purchased but not received. But you hadn't given Iberia time to resolve this on its side. It turns out Iberia processed your transaction eventually, which led to this mess. My advice: File a credit card dispute after a few days -- not a few hours. (I have more on filing a credit card dispute in my free guide to credit card disputes on my consumer advocacy site, Elliott.org.)

If someone says you should file a dispute, and you decide to take their advice, then try to get them to put it in writing -- or, at least, to make a notation in their system. It looks like Iberia had no clue what you were doing because it hadn't made any notation in your flight record.

Also, simply refusing to answer the questions is not enough to close your dispute. Yes, it will ultimately close the case and resolve in the merchant's favor, but for a problem like this, you need more. I would have explained the situation fully and asked for something in writing that confirmed your dispute had been withdrawn.

I list the names, numbers and email addresses of the Iberia customer service managers on my consumer advocacy site. A brief, polite appeal to one of them might have helped.

Was there a better way? Maybe. A qualified travel advisor might have ensured you had a real ticket on Iberia. Sure, you would pay a little extra for the ticket, but the travel agent would also ensure everything goes smoothly with your flight. (Here's my guide to finding a travel advisor.)

I contacted Iberia on your behalf. The airline issued a refund for your original ticket, as you requested.

*Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at [chris@elliott.org](mailto:chris@elliott.org) or get help by contacting him on his site.*

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## A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber  
(www.ricksteber.com)

**November 16** - Cattlemen arrived in Central and Eastern Oregon to take advantage of grazing their stock on the vast tracts of open rangeland. But sheep men soon arrived, wintering their flocks in the low country, and as weather and grass permitted, driving them across the plains and into the mountains. Violence between the factions was inevitable. What became known as the Sheepshooters War was a bloody affair with thousands of sheep slaughtered by the cattlemen and a number of sheep men killed or simply missing. Eventually the government stepped in, and at a meeting called in Canyon City on November 15, 1906, all stockmen were assigned individual grazing

allotments to public lands. This ended the Sheepshooters War.

## Ski Report

November 12, 2023

The Hoodoo Ski Resort report for Tuesday showed 3 inches new snow fell overnight, bringing the snow depth to 17 inches. Temperatures were 37 at the base and 29 at the summit, with winds out of the WSW at 5 mph. For more information call 541-822-3337.

Mt. Bachelor reported temperatures of 25 degrees at the base and 18 degrees at the summit on Tuesday. 3 inches of new snow fell overnight, bringing the snowpack to 22 inches. The resort is now scheduled to open on November 15 - 17, thanks to the early arrival of early season snow. The long-term forecast predicts more will come through the week. For more information call 541-382-7888.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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# Banking on Oregon Forests:

## Carbon markets could offer middle road in divide over forests



Rian Dundon/Oregon Capital Chronicle

Carbon credits generated from the Bear Creek Watershed forest carbon project near Astoria (left) have been used by the private plane company Solairus, which operates flights from the Hillsboro Airport (right) to offset their carbon dioxide emissions.

By Alex Baumhardt  
Oregon Capital Chronicle  
A growing number of local and state agencies that rely on revenue from logging public forests are agreeing to scale back logging in exchange for money from carbon credits

When the Astoria City Council got the results of a forest inventory in the Bear Creek Watershed about a decade ago, councilors learned the city was in possession of far more valuable trees, and timber, than they had realized.

In light of the news, some members of the council in northwest Oregon wanted to boost timber harvests and revenue for city services and infrastructure. The 3,700-acres of forests that protect the city's main drinking water source have been logged semi-regularly for decades, sending millions of dollars to the city budget over the years. But other members of the council, concerned the watershed

had been too heavily logged in the past, wanted the newfound bounty to be protected for the future.

The debate among council members over whether to cut or keep the trees was a microcosm of the long lingering divide over logging and conservation that exists today over the 18 million acres of federal forests in Oregon and the less than 1 million acres of forest owned by the state.

The Astoria City Council members decided to call a carbon project developer, to see whether there was a way to make some money off their newfound tree inventory without increasing harvests. It's a decision that a small but growing number of public landowners and managers in the state are making: scale back logging, and attempt to offset some of the lost timber revenue with revenue from the sale of carbon credits earned by keeping the forest intact.

The City Council learned the

carbon revenue would not be worth as much as the timber revenue they'd give up by forgoing increased harvests, but they could, through delaying some harvests and allowing longer rotations before trees were cut, generate carbon credits worth more than \$2 million, that would offset 240,000 additional metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere over 40 years.

"Carbon was kind of a nice compromise point, where the folks that were interested in seeing less harvest, and those that wanted to see more harvest for revenue, were able to find some common ground," said David Ford, owner of L&C Carbon and the carbon project developer councilors called. In 2023, Hood River County along the Columbia River made a similar calculation, and voted to put nearly all 30,000 acres of its public tree farm into the voluntary carbon market in

exchange for an estimated \$24 million in revenue over the life of the project and an agreement not to increase harvests.

But those compromises can come at more than a financial cost, according to Bev Law, professor emeritus of forest ecology at Oregon State University and an expert on global forest carbon storage. From a land use perspective, Oregon forests are some of the best on Earth to combat climate change because of their extraordinary ability to capture and store carbon dioxide, but to do so, they have to be left intact.

Law's research has found that globally, existing forests can store twice as much carbon, curb biodiversity loss and protect critical drinking water supplies if they are managed for preservation and growth, not logging. Intact forests could help advance global goals to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

She's proposed state and federal agencies put aside high value, high priority forests to help fight climate change, and to reduce logging significantly and to end some logging on public forests in the West.

"When you're logging, you're always putting more carbon into the atmosphere than you would have if you just let the forest grow," she said. "You're adding to the problem."

Logging legacy

For most of the last century, Oregon was adding significantly to the problem by overlogging, and forests were a net carbon emitter. About 65% of the forest carbon that's been logged from Oregon forests during the last century has been returned to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, and the rest is stored in long-lived wood products, like two-by-fours in houses and wood furniture, or in landfills, having been used for short-term products like paper and cardboard, Law found. Levels of forest carbon that existed in Oregon 200 years ago are unlikely to be recovered, according to Law's research, but increases are possible.

Oregon forests likely started becoming a net benefit to the climate in the early 1990s, after the passage of the Northwest Forest Plan, which led to an 80% reduction of logging on federal forests in the region to protect threatened and endangered species. Because the bulk of forests in Oregon are managed by federal agencies, it led to a dramatic reduction in logging in the state that has since made forests in Oregon a net carbon sink, according to research from the U.S. Forest Service.

Since the passage of the Northwest Forest Plan, Oregon's forests

[Carbon markets - Page 11](#)

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# Carbon markets

Continued From Page 11



The Elliott State Forest two years after an April 2007 clear cut, part of the Bowl Bound Beaver timber sale on the forest. (Courtesy of Francis Eatherington)

have been removing and storing anywhere from 23 million to 63 million metric tons worth of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year, according to research from Law's colleague Mark Harmon, a professor emeritus of forest ecology at Oregon State University. At the high end, that's equal to taking about 15 million gas-powered cars off of roads each year.

Today, Oregon's total 30 million acres of forests store about 11.6 billion metric tons worth of carbon dioxide, keeping it on the ground and out of the atmosphere. Law has suggested that the state and federal government should grow this carbon bank as a strategic tool in the fight against climate change.

### Strategic carbon reserves

To do this, Law has proposed taking an existing, albeit far less green, carbon storage plan, and turning it on its head.

Since the administration of former President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. government has kept hundreds of millions of barrels of crude oil stored in underground salt caves along the Texas and Louisiana coasts to guard against an unpredictable energy future, and to use as leverage in foreign policy making.

Law has argued a similar approach should be taken to protect the nation's forest carbon under an uncertain climate future.

"We have strategic petroleum reserves. Why don't we have strategic forest reserves?" she said.

She and a team of researchers from across the West found that protecting 30% of what they called high-priority forests in 11 Western states by 2030 – which would involve extending the highest federal protections to an additional 25 million to 36 million acres of forests in those states – could triple the amount of carbon stored and protected in those forests.

This would have the additional benefits of helping to meet global goals aimed at preserving rapidly declining biodiversity of many species and protecting water quality and quantity in the West.

About 90% of all people in the West are served by public drinking water systems that rely on water originating in national forests and grasslands. And nearly 80% of surface drinking water sources in Oregon originate or travel through

Department of State Lands, part of a larger strategy to advance and debate different approaches to forestry on public lands in the state, and to show that logging, biodiversity and climate objectives can all be incorporated into forest management plans. Implementing the plan is expected to begin in the spring of 2025.

Brownscombe said the Elliott can mark a middle ground between logging and carbon storage – just as Astoria city officials decided to do with the Bear Creek Watershed. Officials at the Oregon Department of Forestry, in charge of the bulk of state forests, said they will be watching and learning from the experiment on the Elliott.

"ODF is open to forest carbon projects on the lands it manages, as long as it aligns with our other forest management goals," Tim Hoffman, an agency spokesperson, said in an email. Among those goals is continuing to generate timber revenue.

But management plans for forests entered into markets last anywhere from 40 to 150 years, and even delayed harvests eventually get cut. Law's research shows the potential for Oregon trees to grow for up to 500 years or more and still keep capturing and storing carbon. She said such trade-offs the market provides, protecting parts of forests in order to sell off other parts, can offer a level of protection to some ecosystems that is commendable. But such tradeoffs do less to help meet the urgency of solving climate change and reaching net-zero carbon emissions in the next 25 years.

"Spending carbon to capture carbon is not climate neutral. Climate protection is not climate neutrality," she said. "The real core thing we want to do is to get landowners to not harvest their forests."

*Reporting for this project was supported by the MIT Environmental Solutions Journalism Fellowship.*

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# Election results

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has increasingly shifted towards more conservative candidates.

"Harbick's campaign resonated with people's fears, but I concentrated on real issues and solutions," Emmons said. "Unfortunately, that didn't attract big money or enough voters."

While Harbick's 57.85% of the initial vote results reinforced District 12's conservative-leaning, Emmons emphasized her focus on eco-friendly, community-centered policies, and expressed optimism that her vision "for balanced, proactive environmental strategies would continue to resonate in the district."

Lane County ballot measures provided an opportunity to update the county's charter, repealing outdated sections and attempting to modernize local governance. These measures allowed voters to weigh in on budget provisions, land use, and income tax restrictions, with outcomes that signaled voters caution in altering financial guidelines.

Measure 20-359, which aimed to repeal Section 32 and remove budget limitations on general fund expenditures, was ultimately rejected by voters. This decision keeps existing, albeit outdated, spending limits intact, reflecting a community preference for caution around budget changes.

Measure 20-360 successfully passed, repealing Section 33's restrictions on East Alton Baker Park, a property no longer under Lane County's ownership. This measure's passing removes outdated language, helping streamline the charter.

Measure 20-361, which proposed repealing Section 34 and lifting the 2% income tax cap earmarked for public safety, was also rejected. This signaled that voters are cautious about removing financial safeguards even if the tax isn't in place.

The most divisive measure,

20-362, proposed creating an Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee and a mid-cycle redistricting in 2025 to ensure impartiality. Proponents argued it would remove partisan bias from redistricting. However, opponents, including the League of Women Voters of Lane County, cited concerns over timing, cost, and the unusual nature of mid-cycle redistricting. Voters rejected the measure, preferring the established process and signaling hesitancy toward changing the county's redistricting approach.

The recall of Tony Casad underscored ongoing concerns in Blue River. Casad, who served on the boards of both the Blue River Water and Sanitation District and the Blue River Park and Recreation District, faced allegations of harassment, trespassing, and restricted district access. Casad defended his actions as part of his official duties, yet petitioners, led by Shannon Goodpasture-Lehr, claimed his approach was divisive and self-serving. His recall ultimately passed, reflecting a desire among Blue River residents for change in community-oriented governance.

Meanwhile, another board member facing similar allegations, Josh Cloke, resigned in early October, preempting his recall.

Lane County's November 5th election results reflect a county at a crossroads, grappling with questions of transparency, charter updates, and representation. While the House District 12 race reaffirmed conservative values in the district, Lane County's ballot measure outcomes and local recalls highlight both a desire for stability and a cautious approach to change. As voters continue to weigh local and statewide issues, the results provide insight into Lane County's shifting political currents.

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## Preliminary returns from the November 5, 2024 Election

<b>20-359 Repeal of Section 32 of Lane County Charter</b>		
Yes - 49.18%	No - 50.82%	
<b>20-360 Repeal of Section 33 of Lane County Charter</b>		
Yes - 51.73%	No - 48.27%	
<b>20-361 Repeal of Section 34 of Lane County Charter</b>		
Yes - 43.53%	No - 56.47%	
<b>20-362 Amendment of Lane County Charter, Redistricting</b>		
Yes - 26.24%	No - 73.76%	
<b>State Representative, 12th District</b>		
Michelle Emmons, Democrat	16,147	41.98%
Darin Harbick, Republican	22,251	57.85%
<b>Blue River Water District Recall Election</b>		
Tony Casad	Yes - 54	No - 17
<b>Blue River Park District Recall Election</b>		
Tony Casad	Yes - 52	No - 19

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# Guest Opinion

Continued From Page 2

There is. It's Keith Wilson." A lot of Portland voters seem to have had the same idea.

But Wilson, who campaigned expressing strong interest in several high-profile issues such as homelessness, doesn't immediately seem to be suggesting radical change at City Hall. And under the revised form of city government, he would have less clout to exercise it than his predecessors did.

The premier congressional race and one of the hottest in the nation, in the Clackamas-Deschutes-based 5th House District, turned out as close as advertised. The results as of Tuesday night mirrored almost exactly the district's thin Democratic lean, probably giving Democrat Janelle Bynum the edge over Republican incumbent Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

That margin is close enough that late-counted votes still could reverse it. But the results in two other moderately Democratic districts with serious contests, the 4th District in southwest Oregon and the 6th in the southern Willamette Valley, also ran true to form, showing results not a lot different from the way the parties performed two years ago.

Results in the state's three highly partisan congressional districts, the Democratic 1st and 3rd Congressional districts and the Republican 2nd, went according to the usual patterns.

With the possible exception of the 5th District, the U.S. House members from Oregon seem to be settling into place, and may be hard to dislodge in the next few elections.

For the most part, Oregonians went along with the stands of major organizations and political leaders when they decided on ballot issues. They approved the impeachment process (Measure 115) and rejected the widely-criticized

corporate income tax proposal (Measure 118).

But they strongly rejected the legislative proposal – which generated bipartisan criticism – for ranked choice voting (Measure 117), and by a wide margin. Only three counties (Multnomah, Benton and Hood River) appear to have supported it.

At the same time, Democrats in Oregon were not running away with overwhelming support.

The three statewide offices up for election this year were, unusually, were all open seats with no incumbent running for reelection. That might have opened the door to major changes, but the three Democratic nominees for those offices – Tobias Read for secretary of state, Elizabeth Steiner for treasurer and Dan Rayfield for attorney general – all were winning, and did not present themselves as clear change agents.

Though they ran against candidates with more modest campaigns, they did not win by huge margins. On Tuesday night, Steiner was ahead of Republican Brian Boquist by about 49% to 44%, an unspectacular margin considering the relative scope of the campaigns, and organized support, the two had.

This election didn't really move the state of Oregon into a new direction. On a state level, its results have the feel of a holding action.

In that, it may have stood out strikingly from the red wave in the nation at large.

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*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.*

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# Sports Report

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North Lake will host 5th ranked South Wasco County on Saturday, November 16. The winners of the two above contests will meet in Semi-final Round on November 22-23.

On the other side of the bracket, 2nd ranked Harper Charter toes up to 7th ranked Echo, at

Harper, on Friday, November 15. The following day, 3rd ranked Eddyville Charter hosts 6th ranked Prairie City/Burnt River and that game will be played at Toledo High School. The two winners of these games will meet in Semi-final action on November 22-23.

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# Affordable homes

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qualified buyer (but not the land) to keep costs lower for an initial purchaser. The homebuyer will also sign a 99-year lease on the property.

The new Rose Street homes are scheduled for completion by winter 2025. MCLT also bought a second piece of land in Blue River earlier this year with plans for similar affordable housing.

"We have been working to get to this moment for over

two years," according to Lane Tompkins, MCLT's chairman. "It is heartening to see this project take its next, tangible phase. We're excited to share this moment with the McKenzie River community."

The groundbreaking ceremony is set for 2 p.m. this Friday at the corner of Rose Street and McCauley. East Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch is expected to attend and share a few words.

OregonHousingandCommunity Services LIFT funding, Lane County, PacificSource, and Eugene Water and Electric provided the Rose Street neighborhood funding.

For more details, contact Brandi Crawford Ferguson at brandi.ferguson@mckenzieclt.org or 541-954-4672.

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# White oak rooted in

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On Sunday, most of the three dozen people took Peters on his offer to sprinkle tobacco on potted white oak seedlings as part of their blessing and take one home. "I've heard stories about these trees for a long time," he said, encouraging hopes that the transplants "will be strong."

Acorns from the white oak were a major food staple to many of Oregon's original inhabitants, including the Kalapuya, Klamath, and Chinook. Dried nuts were a nutritious food source high in carbohydrates and fats. They were also ground for bread making, while bark and leaves also had medicinal values.

In contrast to wildfires, Indigenous tribes used controlled burns to manage groves of white oak savannas, creating open spaces where fir and conifers didn't take hold. Those open areas supported

wildlife for hunting and areas where camas and other beneficial plants like yampah grew.

McKenzie River Ranger District Archeologist Tom Fox also discussed fire. He pointed out that despite its destructive results, the Holiday Farm Fire and other recent events offered up "rich stories in the landscape that are allowing us to put together parts of the story" of what occurred before European colonization.

"This side of the mountain is wet and rainy and gets covered up by moss and brush very quickly," Fox said. "Basically the window of opportunity to find things is about two years before vegetation grows back even thicker than before."

While it's believed native people didn't settle in the McKenzie River area, quite a bit of evidence has pointed to them valuing their visits here. Besides returning home

with foodstuffs like berries and dried salmon, the rich deposits of material at the Obsidian Cliffs in the Three Sisters Wilderness were valuable for high-quality tools and trade goods.

"Before we made rules and designated it a wilderness area," Fox said, "It was a place where people from all over the region came to get extremely high-quality obsidian."

A white oak was transplanted adjacent to the River Walk Trail as part of Sunday's gathering. Wilson says the nonprofit McKenzie Reel group that sponsored the event is planning others in the future and supporting a school for Native American filmmakers. For more information, contact Katherine Wilson at katherinewil@gmail.com

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