



Delivering targeted news for the McKenzie Valley community since 1978

Bridge patent trolls

The owner of a bridge company discovered he could make more money shaking counties and states down than he could make building bridges

PAGE 4

Don't leave soil naked

Cover crops - Gardeners can plant them and forget about them - and then kick them out of the ground when it's time.

PAGE 5



Briefs...



All volcanoes in the Cascade Range of Oregon and Washington have been at normal background activity levels. These include Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams in Washington State and Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson, Three Sisters, Newberry, and Crater Lake in Oregon.

Mount St. Helens continues to experience slightly heightened seismicity than typical of recent years, with 26 located earthquakes a week ago, and 451 since February 1st when the current increase in seismicity began. [Earthquakes - Page 2](#)



If you're a patron of the Lane Transit District you may have noticed more passengers recently filling seats. That's because of an uptick in ridership during the U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Track & Field at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in late June.

"The Trials bring thousands of visitors to the area and we are thrilled people made the sustainable choice to hop on a bus to Hayward Field," said Anni Katz, LTD's Public Information Officer. "There's a huge amount of infrastructure installed for this event, which meant parking was harder to find and local roads were blocked off. Riding the bus allowed people to skip all of this." [Bus rides - Page 2](#)



The Oregon State Fire Marshal and the Oregon Department of Forestry are bringing in out-of-state firefighters and equipment to fight several wildfires impacting communities and resources across the state.

Last Sunday night, the Oregon State Fire Marshal mobilized two task forces from Washington to add structural firefighter capacity. The two task forces are from Snohomish, Thurston, and Grays Harbor counties with 29 firefighters, eight engines, and two support vehicles. [Firefighters - Page 2](#)

Drawn to fragrant fields

Annual McKenzie Lavender Bloom continues to delight

WALTERVILLE: Under canopies shading vendors ranging from "Ali's Art" to the "Vintage Makeover" booth, there was plenty to delight the eyes and soothe the senses of people walking around the fragrant grounds of the McKenzie Lavender Farm this weekend. Many left laden with bundles of U-cut lavender as



One-of-a-kind creations were the rewards for folks shopping for jewelry at the "Sister Stones" display at the Lavender Bloom Festival.

well as ceramic, acrylic, wood, metal, or fabric handcrafted treasures.

Someone stopping by Gini Hornbecker's "Sister Stones" display for a keepsake could leave with a purchase no one else possesses - since each piece of jewelry or necklace she's crafted is a one-off.

"A lot of people believe natural stones carry a lot of Earth energy for spiritual purposes," she explains. "I'm very conscious and deliberative of that when I string things."

Her fascination with unique pieces extends back to her time as a young girl who visited beaches with her family and returned home with pockets so full of rocks that "my pants would be falling down."

Twenty years ago she began turning her collections of shells, stones, sterling silver, and disassembled vintage jewelry into gifts for family and friends. Five years later, with encouragement from her husband's comment that "you're spending a lot of money on beads," it became the [Continued On Page 12](#)

EWEB bracing for a 15% increase

Costs associated with area hydro generation keep increasing

By Bayla Orton
The Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project's increased costs, supply chain shortages, and other Eugene Water & Electric Board projects could soon translate to a 15% increase in utility bills for the utility's customers.

Costs for the Carmen site were up \$21 million - or 3.3% - last week, creating new issues for budgeting, board officials said. Concerns include requirements for the safe passage of Chinook salmon and bull trout along an 8-mile stretch of the McKenzie River.

There are now questions sur-

rounding the effectiveness of that anticipated construction work and passing on costs to the general public, officials said.

General manager Frank Lawson and board presi-



Matt McCrae

dent Matt McCrae were both concerned about how the rate increase would impact insecure households.

"Nobody wants a 15% increase in electricity rates," McCrae said. "We are doing all we can to control our rates relevant to inflation. I think this increases the importance for all of us to keep track of those who are utility-burdened."

Key factors pushing up expenses are mostly out of the board's control.

"The allotted funds for

these projects has been steadily increasing since 2016 and can be attributed to factors like inflation, long-lead times for materials and equipment, labor shortages, compliance requirements, and overall safety procedures," according to generation manager Lisa Krentz.

"We've seen factors where we have looked at specific assets of somewhere between one and a half and two times the re-

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Army Corps misses key deadline to report to Congress on ending Willamette hydropower to save salmon

Tribal leaders and environmentalists say imperiled fish cannot wait any longer

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle
Inexplicable delays to a federal report on ending hydropower generation in the Willamette River Basin to save threatened fish are creating frustration and concern for tribal leaders and conservationists in Oregon.

Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2022 to produce a report by the end of June 2024, detailing the impacts that eight federal hydroelectric dams in the Willamette River Basin had on native fish populations over the past 60 years, and the possibility of deauthorizing hydropower at the dams to save the fish. Ending hydropower generation at the dams can't happen without congressional

approval.

Instead, the report is sitting in Washington, D.C., under administrative review.

Kerry Solan, a spokesperson for the Portland District of the Army Corps of Engineers, said her office submitted its disposition report - an evaluation of corps projects that no longer serve their intended purpose - to headquarters in D.C. and that she could not comment further on the process. She could not discuss whether the report from the Portland office was submitted on time or where responsibility for the



Detroit Dam southeast of Salem on the North Santiam River provides hydropower and flood risk management but also blocks fish passage.

delay should lay.

Meanwhile, advocates for deauthorizing hydropower at the dams and allowing

water levels in reservoirs to be drawn down for safe fish passage say native fish [Continued On Page 12](#)

Ridin' the Rapids
By Ken Engelman

I didn't recognize the name or return address on an envelope before opening it recently. The note I read was a total surprise.

"About forty years ago I pulled my uninsured vehicle out onto Hilyard St. in Eugne right in front of your oncoming small Honda. Your car had been ready to sell but was significantly damaged. My recollection is that you mentioned a big deductible on your insurance coverage and requested I send money if my fortunes ever improved. I felt bad about the situation.

I have been steadily employed at a good job for over a dozen years now and recently began drawing Social Security as well. I'm sure this check in 2024 dollars is far short of your loss in the 1980's. but still, I feel sure you can put the

money to good use.

I will remember you if there is ever a lottery win or similar windfall in my future!"

Inside the envelope with that note was a check for \$1,000. But it contained more money. There was also the reaffirmation of my faith in the common decency of a fellow human.

Soon after came my chance to reciprocate. Walking back to my car in a metro area parking lot I was surprised to find my wallet lying on the pavement. Picking it up, it didn't take long to realize it - and the credit cards plus \$150 in cash inside - weren't mine.

I could easily imagine the sinking feeling its owner felt when realizing he'd lost it. The solution was simple - giving it to the store's courtesy desk so they could contact him.

But how to respond to my "friend from the 80's?"

Easy. I mailed him a thank-you card - and a lottery ticket.



Guest Opinion

How Oregon can make progress on lifting wages

By: Juan Carlos Ordóñez

For two years now, Oregon's wage floor has been stuck in place. It's run aground at a place well short of what families need to make ends meet.

That may seem strange to say given that Oregon's minimum hourly wage went up 50 cents on July 1, but that increase only keeps pace with inflation. It's just enough to not fall behind the rising cost of living, but not enough to make progress.

Progress on wages is essential to remedy the widespread economic insecurity afflicting Oregonians, and there are several strategies Oregon can pursue to boost the paychecks of workers.

A recent analysis by United Way reminds us how vast economic insecurity is in our state and nation. In 2022, the year with the most recently available data, 45% of households in Oregon made too little to reasonably afford the necessities of modern life: food, housing, transportation, and a few others.

That year, a single parent with a child in daycare in Multnomah County needed a wage of nearly \$40 per hour to cover all essentials. But two years later, the Portland metro area's minimum wage - the highest in the state - stands at \$15.95

Over the past decade, the share of households struggling to make ends meet has been rising, a trend that "represents a major vulnerability in our economic system," the United Way warns.

Making Oregonians more secure requires action on several fronts, not least of which is increasing the wages of workers. Fortunately, there are tried and true ways for

Oregon to raise wages.

Removing barriers

One way is to remove the barriers to worker organizing. Historically, unions have been the main driver of better wages and working conditions for workers. But through decades of sustained assaults by corporate interests on organized labor, the share of workers belonging to unions withered.

While federal law mainly governs workplace organizing, Oregon can take steps to strengthen the hand of workers. For one, Oregon can use state law to protect workers not covered by federal law.

Such is the case with agricultural and domestic workers, left out of the protections in the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 due to opposition from Southern segregationist members of Congress, who succeeded in denying bargaining rights to a group of workers who were mainly Black. Today in Oregon, people of color continue performing a disproportionate share of agricultural and domestic work. By establishing a state-protected right to organize for agricultural and domestic workers, Oregon can increase the collective power of some of the lowest-paid workers in the state.

An even more direct way to raise the wages of groups of workers is for Oregon to establish worker standards boards, also known as wage boards or sectoral bargaining. A workforce standards board is a public body that establishes minimum wage and working standards for an entire industry. Created by the legislature, such a board is usually made up of workers, employers, public officials, or members of the public.

Rather than bargain for pay increases one establishment at a time, the standards board approach secures pay increases one industry at a time. Take the case of the Minnesota standards board for nursing

home workers. Established just last year, the board recently set wage floors for the industry that will range from a low of \$20.50 to a high of \$28.50 per hour by 2027. Or consider the case of fast food workers in California, who saw a minimum wage of \$20 per hour take effect in April.

Finally, in terms of state strategies for raising wages, we need to circle back to the minimum wage, the ultimate wage floor. In 2016, after several years of mobilization by workers and the public, the Oregon Legislature agreed to raise the minimum wage in real terms, beyond cost-of-living adjustments. The Legislature created a three-tier minimum wage - a standard wage, a wage for the Portland metro area, and a wage for non-urban counties - with phased-in increases over the next six years.

By 2022, the standard, middle-tier wage level in Oregon had increased 23% in real terms from the time the increases began. It was real progress, even if insufficient. And contrary to the claims of opponents, these minimum wage increases had no dampening effect on jobs. Indeed, some research has found that a stronger minimum wage may increase employment.

Making Oregonians more economically secure requires a minimum wage that isn't stuck in place, but rather makes forward progress, lifting the wage floor. And it requires the state to pursue other strategies, like standards boards, that are true and tried ways of boosting the paychecks of Oregonians.

Juan Carlos Ordóñez is the communications director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy, as well as the host of the podcast Policy for the People. Outside of work, Juan Carlos likes to spend time tending to his garden.

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Briefs...

Earthquakes

Continued From Page 1

micity began. The largest earthquake since then was a magnitude 2.0. Although this level of seismicity is elevated compared to the last several years at Mount St. Helens, it is still considered within the background range and does not suggest an imminent eruption. No changes have been detected in ground deformation, volcanic gas, or thermal emissions at the volcano.

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Bus rides

Continued From Page 1

EmX ridership was generally higher during the Trials, with noticeable bumps of 10-20% on a few of the most final-heavy days.

According to the International Energy Agency, cars emit between

57 and 322 gCO₂-eq/pkm—compared to buses at just 22-92 gCO₂-eq/pkm. Full buses emit 0.18 pound of CO₂ per passenger mile, making them comparable to rail. Plus, the City of Eugene, notes that one full 40-foot bus equals a line of moving automobiles stretching six blocks.

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Firefighters

Continued From Page 1

water tenders. The task forces are assigned to the Falls Fire in Harney County.

ODF has received more than 58 resources from eight states to assist in the Salt Creek and Larch Creek Fire. 71 resources are coming to Oregon through state-to-state mutual aid agreements and the Northwest Compact.

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Send news briefs to rivref2@gmail.com



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WEATHER REPORT

READINGS TAKEN AT THE US ARMY CORPS COUGAR DAM

READINGS TAKEN AT EWEB LEABURG POWERHOUSE

| Date | High | Low | Rain | Releases | Date | High | Low | Rain | Riverflow |
|------|------|-----|------|----------|------|------|-----|------|-----------|
| 7/9 | 66 | 103 | 0 | 304 cfs | 7/9 | 104 | 59 | 0 | 2,260 cfs |
| 7/10 | 64 | 95 | 0 | 304 cfs | 7/10 | 104 | 59 | 0 | 2,250 cfs |
| 7/11 | 56 | 93 | 0 | 309 cfs | 7/11 | 97 | 54 | 0 | 2,210 cfs |
| 7/12 | 57 | 92 | 0 | 309 cfs | 7/12 | 89 | 53 | 0 | 2,150 cfs |
| 7/13 | 59 | 96 | 9 | 309 cfs | 7/13 | 80 | 54 | 0 | 2,150 cfs |
| 7/14 | 93 | 61 | 0 | 313 cfs | 7/14 | 85 | 56 | 0 | 2,150 cfs |
| 7/15 | 92 | 57 | 0 | 304 cfs | 7/15 | 95 | 54 | 0 | 2,150 cfs |

| Friday 7/19 | | Saturday 7/20 | | Sunday 7/21 | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | |
| McKenzie Valley | Santiam Pass | McKenzie Valley | Santiam Pass | McKenzie Valley | Santiam Pass |
| Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Sunny |
| 5% chance precip | 0% chance precip | 5% chance precip | 0% chance precip | 5% chance precip | 0% chance precip |
| High: 92 Low: 57 | High: 82 Low: 52 | High: 94 Low: 56 | High: 89 Low: 53 | High: 88 Low: 53 | High: 81 Low: 49 |

Sheriff's Report

July 3: 4:56 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 92200 blk, Queen St. A passerby noticed a male attempting to remove a screen from a window. Deputies responded and determined a homeowner was installing an air conditioner.

July 4: 4:57 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 40100 blk, McK. Hwy A deputy conducted a patrol check of the McKenzie Transfer site and contacted one individual.

July 6: 2:33 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 88900 blk, Ross Ln. Deputies responded to a report of a dispute at the location. The involved separated for the night.

July 8: 10:38 a.m: Traffic Hazard - Blue River Rd. & Marbrook Ln.

11:59 a.m: Reckless Endangering - Marcola Rd. & HF Williams Rd.

12:48 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 45300 blk, McK. Hwy.

4:37 p.m: Arson - 87400 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

4:56 p.m: Subpoena Service - 89000 blk, Marcola Rd.

July 9: 1:39 a.m: Assist Oregon State Police - Collins Ln. & McK. Hwy.

Accident, Unknown Injury - Old McK. Hwy. Milepost 69.

12:07 p.m: Towed Vehicle - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

12:28 p.m: Tree Down - McK. Hwy. & Greer Rd.

12:28 p.m: Tree Down - McK. Hwy. & Greer Rd.

1:40 p.m: Down Line - 37000 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

1:56 p.m: Subpoena Service - 92200 blk, Alcorn St.

July 10: 12:50 p.m: Attempt To Locate Drunk Driver - Camp Creek Rd. & McK. Hwy.

12:53 p.m: Dead Animal - 36400 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

1:53 p.m: Eluding - McK. Hwy. & McK. River Dr.

2:49 p.m: Burglary - 46600 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

3:45 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 91900 blk, Taylor Rd.

5:34 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 57100 blk, north bank Rd.

5:59 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - 54700 blk, Caddis Ln.

11:55 a.m: Burglary - 38400 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:57 p.m: Driving While Suspended - McK. Hwy. & Taylor Rd.

10:16 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.

July 11: 1:43 p.m: Information - 87100 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

5:40 p.m: Assist, Follow Up - Walterville area.

6:55 p.m: Warrant Service - Aufderheide Dr. & McK. Hwy.

July 12: 5:16 p.m: Unattended Boat - 50100 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:17 p.m: Driving While Suspended - Shotgun Creek Rd. & Showalter Creek Rd.

10:04 p.m: Menacing - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.

July 13: 2:06 p.m: Citizen Contact - Blue River Dr. & Dexter St.

2:16 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 91700 blk, Blue River Reservoir Rd.

2:25 p.m: Theft - 56200 blk, Delta Dr.

4:08 p.m: Citizen Contact - 48100 blk, McK. Hwy.

6:17 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 37300 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

6:46 p.m: Vehicle Stop - 40500 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:09 p.m: Warrant Service - 40500 blk, McK. Hwy.

7:20 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 52500 blk, McK. Hwy.

8:37 p.m: Animal Complaint - Deerhorn Rd. & Madrone St.

July 14: 4:04 a.m: Suspicious Conditions - 48100 blk, McK. Hwy.

5:46 a.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Hill Rd.

10:28 a.m: assist, follow up - 50100 blk, McK. Hwy.

11:12 a.m: Injured Animal - [Continued On Page 10](#)

State Police Report

July 10: 23:05: Harassment - Hwy. 126 & USFS Rd. #2676. OSP responded to a reported possible domestic violence situation between a female and a male. The female had her juvenile daughter with her. The altercation was mainly verbal but the female was struck with a small flashlight during the incident. The female did not incur substantial pain or injury. The male walked away with property that belonged to the female. The female did not want to be a victim and just wanted her belongings back. The male was not on scene upon arrival and was not able to be located despite efforts made. The female and her daughter drove to a different location for the night. Involved: brown Pontiac Grand Am, 59-year-old male from Brownsville, 47-year-old female from Lebanon.

22:24: 49000 blk, McK. Hwy. Public Assist. Lift Assist Only.

July 9: 9:27: 87000 blk, Upland St. Motor Vehicle Accident. False Alarm.

July 10: 22:19: 46000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Heart. Patient Assessed, Refusal Obtained.

July 11: 19:15: 38000 blk, Upper Camp Creek Rd. Medical, General. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

July 12: 8:02: 40000 blk, Booth Kelly Rd. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

July 13: 2:17: 41000 blk, Madrone St. Medical, General. Patient Refusal.

[Continued On Page 10](#)

Upper McKenzie Fire/Rescue

July 9: 12:04: Medical - 57000 block, McK. Hwy.. Female, Conscious, Breathing.

July 10: 23:44: Fire - 59000 blk, N. Belknap Springs Rd. Caller has evacuated, vent fan in the bathroom is smoking and sparking.

July 15: 17:54: Medical - 55000 blk, McK. River Dr. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

July 16: 01:06: Medical - McK. River Dr./Dearborn Island Rd. Male, Conscious, Breathing.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

July 8: 16:26: 87000 block, Cedar Flat Rd. Fire, Grass. Fire Extinguished.

16:26: 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd. Illegal Burning. Illegal Burn Pile, Extinguished.

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- 91241 Blue River Rd * .38 Acre * city water available * septic * riverfront * level site * \$249,000
- 49391 Eagle Rock Place * 2 Acres * well * septic * \$195,000 * PENDING
- 91623 Fir Ln * .34 acres * well * septic * 2 lots * \$189,000
- Blue River Rd. * 1645213400200 * 0.79 acres * septic approval * city water available * \$169,000
- McKenzie Hwy * 20.25 acres * F2 zoning * \$75,000 * Not buildable
- McKenzie Hwy * 13.27 acres * F2 * \$75,000 * Not buildable



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By Slim Randles

Life is kinda like a corrugated, washboard ranch road, I believe. You give anything enough time and experience and you'll find that warts and scars and grooves will get worn in it. The down times and the up times can lead to a corrugation in our dirt roads and our lives.

Any good cowboy knows how to handle a washboard road, though. Taken slowly, a pickup truck hits each little dip and rattles its carburetor until it puts a kink in the distributor clamp. It takes forever to get someplace, of course, but it

does give a guy time to compose a symphony or a letter to Congress.

There is only one way to handle a washboard road: gun it!

Oh yeah, Mama. You step down on the pedal and kick that monster up to about 52 miles an hour and everything smooths out. Fly, baby, fly.

We hit only the high spots on the road and live a bit daringly, challenging the existence of any possible oilpan-killing rock ahead. The country slips by more excitingly and a driver tends to grin a lot.

And in life, we can wallow forever in the slow and low stuff and take ages to get somewhere, or we can floor it, give a yell, and skip along on the high spots.

Somehow, that sounds like more fun.

Feet sore from all that walking? Hey, just sit on a rock and sprinkle some "Foot's Achin'" powder on them. The secret's in the sitting.

Quote of the Week

"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too."

Yogi Berra



Advertisement for TripCheck.com featuring a quote from Frodo Baggins: "I WILL TAKE THE RING, THOUGH I DO NOT KNOW THE WAY." and the text "Know before you go. Visit TripCheck.com."

Bridge builder Conde McCullough battled patent trolls

Part 1 of 2

By Finn J.D. John

Conde McCullough had a problem.

Actually, let's restate that. The Iowa highway department, which McCullough worked for at the time (in 1914), had a problem; what McCullough had was an opportunity.

His solution to Iowa's problem would, several years later, enable him to basically write his own ticket, and the name he would write on that ticket in the "destination" category would be "Oregon."

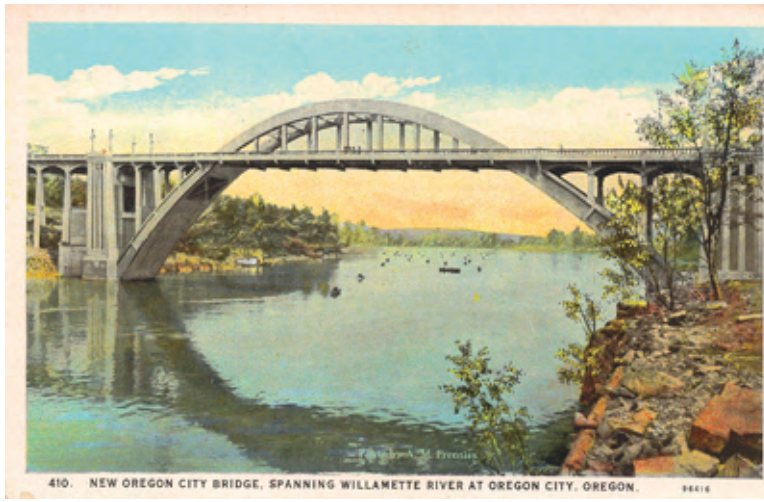
But at the time, that happy day was several years in the future and was far from certain. The problem the highway department was depending on McCullough to solve for them was a big one, and success was far from assured.

The problem's name was Daniel Luten, and he was the founder and president of the National Bridge Company. And he was a patent troll — possibly America's first.

The National Bridge Company was one of a handful of startup construction outfits that had sprung into being after about 1890, when people started regularly traveling on driven wheels for the first time. (Wheels, at the time, meant bicycles. Automobiles wouldn't be a factor until 15 to 20 years later.)

Obviously, a horse can cope with much worse road conditions than a bicycle can. So as Oregonians and other Americans started using bicycles, they quickly found that roads that worked OK for Old Bessie were not great for bikes. In fact, for the early "wheelmen," riding the old big-wheel "penny-farthing" models, it was a matter of life and death — a bad road surface could lead to a "header" crash over the handlebars, with a strong possibility of a broken neck.

As counties and states started spending public money on fixing their old mud-bog wagon roads, they naturally wanted to replace fords and ferries with bridges. But most 1890s counties didn't have much engineering expertise in-house, so they would entertain bids from contractors — including nationally-active bridge companies like Luten's, which sold their services and designs like life insurance policies,



Postcard

One of the first major Oregon bridges designed by Conde McCullough was the Oregon City bridge, as seen here shortly after it was built.

courthouse-door to courthouse door, promising whatever it took to make a sale.

These companies typically just installed whatever bridge they had patent rights on or expertise in, whether it fit the spot or not. Many of the bridges they built lasted only a year or two before footings washed out or surfaces failed because of a design that didn't work with the local geography. Others required so much additional bracing and reinforcing to make them work, that the adaptations — huge wing walls to prevent flood washouts, massive slugs of concrete to anchor thrust arches in sandy soil, that kind of thing — cost more than the bridge. At least one bridge company successfully sold the same bridge to two adjacent counties — the bridge crossed the county line, so the company billed each county the full price of the bridge. They also typically overcharged, because county leaders didn't really know what a bridge should cost.

By 1914, when the state of Iowa turned to Conde McCullough for help, this problem was well on its way to solution. The state had started helping the counties out with free bridge plans and consultation services, which made it a lot harder for a bridge salesman to parachute into the county seat and sell a bunch of farmer-leaders a line of garbage; plus, everybody in government by then knew somebody who knew somebody who'd been burned.

No, the problem McCullough faced was that the owner of one of those bridge companies — Luten,

of course — had discovered that he could make more money shaking counties and states down with dubious patent-infringement lawsuits than he could make building bridges.

Luten was playing a pretty long game. He'd started it around 1900 by "throwing spaghetti at the wall" of the patent office, using slight modifications to common bridge architecture elements to claim patent protection on them. One or two of these were legitimate; the majority were not. Not all of Luten's dubious patent filings stuck, but some of them did, and as a result basically every reinforced-concrete arch bridge in the world suddenly became, legally, an infringement on his patent.

So Luten lawyered up and started shaking governments down. His typical "royalty fee" demand was 10 percent of the construction budget, so you can see how this could add up to a pretty nice income for him.

Everyone knew what he was doing. The problem was, it would cost a ton of money to fight him, because the burden of proof was not on him. He had a patent. Anyone who wanted to argue with him could go ahead and spend huge amounts of money fighting him in court, but they would have to pay what it took to prove his patents were bogus. Or, of course, they could settle the matter privately for a lot less money by just paying his ransom.

And the shakedown worked great, at first. If you were a Dubuque County Commissioner, you didn't have the resources or the expertise to do the research and pay the lawyers to contest a claim for a few thousand bucks for your three or four "infringing" bridges. The smart move was to grit your teeth and pay up.

That changed, though, when states like Iowa got involved ... and hired competent bridge engineers

like Conde McCullough.

Knowing their potential exposure to Luten's shakedowns ran far into the future and involved millions of dollars, the Iowa highway department pulled McCullough off his other duties and tasked him with taking Luten down.

Three years later, in 1918, a judge was looking over the 600-page report McCullough and his staff had produced, along with 15 bridge models and hundreds of other exhibits. They laid the case out very clearly and in ways a layman could clearly grasp: Luten's patents had been issued for concepts that were already well known, published, and in the public domain.

The judge banged his gavel and invalidated most of Luten's patents.

McCullough's handling of the patent troll had brought him nationwide fame in highway-engineer circles. He now had some opportunities for advancement that he probably hadn't had before. If he'd wanted to, he probably could have landed a job anywhere in the country; or, of course, stayed in Iowa.

He chose to move; and he chose Oregon as the place to go. In 1916, he packed up his family — he and his wife Marie Roddan McCullough and their infant son John, the first of their five children — and settled in Corvallis, taking a professorship at Oregon State University, then known as Oregon Agricultural College.

Why Oregon? It cannot possibly be a coincidence that Samuel Lancaster's famous and legendary Columbia River Highway No. 100 was nearing completion at that time. The highway was all over the national media, in postcards and magazine spreads. It seems highly likely that McCullough, looking around for places where he could put his skills and aesthetic sensibilities to best use, settled on the state that had just demonstrated it shared his design values.

Conde McCullough spent the next three years teaching at OAC. Meanwhile, he wasn't the only one drawing inspiration from Samuel Lancaster's masterpiece. The Columbia River Highway was a popular destination for excursions, so thousands of people came to see and drive (or ride) on it, then returned home to wherever they lived and compared local efforts unfavorably with it. The same bridge-company hucksters who McCullough had

Bridge builder - Page 10

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Gardening Tips

By Kym Pokorny



Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service

Don't leave soil naked, coat it with cover crops



Tiffany Woods

A field of crimson clover blooms in Yamhill County.

No one wants to go through the winter with no clothes, not even the soil that grows our plants. So jacket up the soil in cover crops.

If you're not acquainted with cover crops, here's the rundown: These hardworking plants can add organic matter and aerate the soil, protect it from compaction caused by rain, suppress weeds, and reduce erosion – some even add nitrogen to the soil, according to Brooke Edmunds, an Oregon State University Extension Service horticulturist.

"They're nice," she said. "You can plant them and forget about them and then kick them out when it's time."

Not a bad deal for an almost no-maintenance plant. All that's needed is to seed it in fall, water it a couple of times until the rains start, leave it through winter, and dig till it in spring. However,

timing is key, Edmunds said. You want to get overwintering cover crops seeded by September or early October so they get established before the weather turns cold and wet. It's also important that plants are cut or mown down in spring before they set seed. Do this about four weeks before planting vegetables again so the crop decomposes properly.

Cover crops, also called green manure, include grains like winter oats and cereal rye. Legumes, such as commonly used crimson clover, Austrian field pea, and common vetch, are nitrogen "fixers." Beneficial bacteria in legume root nodules take nitrogen from the air and supply it to the plant. When the cover crop decomposes, some of the nitrogen becomes available to other plants.

Edmunds particularly likes clover because it does double

duty by providing nitrogen and providing sustenance to pollinators. Be sure to pull the plants before they go to seed.

Make sure when you plant that the seed has good contact with the soil. Larger seeds like peas, vetch, and cereals should be raked in lightly. Mix small seeds with sand to make them easier to broadcast and then use a sprinkler to water in. If the weather is still dry, keep the seed bed irrigated.

When it comes time to incorporate the crop, shorter plants can be tilled right into the soil, Edmunds said. If the plant is too tall to turn under easily, mow first or use a weed trimmer. Tough-stemmed plants can be cut and left to decompose above ground. Or the tops can be carted to the compost pile and the roots dug in. Either way, let the turned-under material sit for about four weeks before planting.

For beginners, Edmunds advises:

* Start with a cover crop that is easy to grow and manage. For example, crimson clover is relatively easy to incorporate into the soil.

* The first time you try cover crops, plant them in an area of your garden that you can leave for vegetables typically planted in late spring or early summer. This will buy you time to learn how to manage the cover crop residues in spring.

* Try another cover crop that fits in a different niche of your garden plan after you have successfully used one cover crop. Then when you gain experience, experiment with others.

* Consider inter-seeding cover crops during the summer into late-harvested crops like tomatoes.



Country Kitchen

By Mary Emma Allen



SWIMMING HOLES OF CHILDHOOD

I've discovered a Facebook Page for a swimming hole of my childhood, the Beekman Recreation and Parks. It's a recreation area my father and some other town officials decided we needed for families and young people many years ago. It's delightful to see that it's still operating and has greatly expanded its facilities and offerings for families, seniors and youngsters.

It started out by damming a brook and building a clubhouse on property the town acquired. In the beginning, only summer activities were available at that location, with winter ones taking place at the town hall building a few miles away. We had a seasonal director who conducted swimming lessons and ball games. One of my girl friends learned to be a lifeguard at the Recreation Area.

Volunteers usually conducted winter activities. I recall our 4-H leader directing a play we young people offered for the community. She let me be a co-director with her. What fun!

Farm Swimming Hole

My sister, brothers and I had learned to swim at the confluence of two brooks on our farm, but the swimming area at the Recreation Park was larger and deeper. Many afternoons we four youngsters spent at the farm swimming hole after chores were done and we weren't needed in the hay field. This also was a refreshing place

after a day helping Father and the hired man with the haying.

Mother often joined us between gardening and canning tasks. When we were small, she brought us to the swimming hole so we could learn to swim. She hadn't learned until she was in high school and attended a church summer camp on a lake.

But it was a special treat for Mother to drive us to the Recreation Area for swimming and the growing number of activities there.

Here's a salad dish, almost a meal in itself, you can tote along in a cooler or eat in the back yard.

Refreshing Summer Delights

PIZZA SALAD - a favorite of my daughter's

In a large bowl, combine 1 pound cooked and drained elbow or spiral macaroni, 3 medium seeded and diced tomatoes, 1 pound cheddar cheese cut into cubes, 2 green onions sliced, and 3 ounces sliced pepperoni.

In a small bowl, combine 1/4-cup olive oil, 2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1/4-cup red wine vinegar, salt and pepper to taste and pour over pasta mixture. You also may add 1/4-tablespoon mayonnaise and vary the amounts of vinegar and olive oil, if you desire. Cover and let set in refrigerator several hours. Top with some croutons, if desired, before serving.

(c) Mary Emma Allen

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

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Continued From Page 1

placement costs, versus the original costs," Lawson added. "If you think about \$750 million to \$800 million worth of assets, that means we're talking about \$1.6 billion worth of replacement on the electric side over time."

A budget extension of \$200,000 was approved in the board's consent calendar. Krentz informed commissioners that half that amount had already supplemented Leaburg dam removal costs and kickstarted work for the Carmen-Smith Project.

The board is forecasting future spending while saying the process is an almost impossible task "based on inflation and unforeseeable issues or natural events."

"Trying to budget for Carmen-Smith over the next 10 years seems like a wild hair with all the things that pop up seemingly monthly with that project," according to board vice president John Barofsky.

"It seems like a lot of the challenge we are facing is that there

are fewer and fewer suppliers of the products we need," Commissioner Sonya Carlson added. "I fear that that number will continue rising, but I'm glad we continue to adjust and increase this number based on the crystal ball that no one has."

She added, "I wonder if we as a board have become a little bit more complacent about large dollar figures - these numbers dramatically impact the rates we are getting each year. I want to make sure we are fully scrutinizing projects like this."

The price of decommissioning the Leaburg hydro project has already impacted utility bills for EWEB customers living in the western McKenzie Valley and the Eugene metro area. The fate of the Walterville and Carmen-Smith facilities is likely to continue to play significant roles as the utility develops its 20-year electric forecast, now scheduled for discussion on the board's September agenda.

[Return To Page 1](#)

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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 Walmerville. plus in McKenzie Bridge at 6 p.m. on Thursdays at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church.

July - Aug. 20

Free Summer Meals

Free Summer Meals will be served from 8 a.m. to noon at the At the McKenzie Community School, 51187 Blue River Drive. No sign-up, paperwork, or cost is required! Just show up and enjoy nutritious meals: Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Lunch: 11 am to noon

July 18

Morning Meditation

Morning Meditation, from 9 to 10 a.m. at 91241 Rose Street in Blue River. Bring a chair or sit on a picnic bench. No experience is necessary. Guided & Silent Meditation, usually 20 to 30 minutes. \$5 (no one is turned away for lack of \$) We have a little time for getting to know each other and socializing.

July 18

Leaburg Food Pantry

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

July 19

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.

July 19

Scenic Bikeway

Residents along the McKenzie River are invited to a public meeting on July 19th at 5:30 pm to learn about the possibility of designating Aufderheide Drive (National Forest Road 19) as an Oregon Scenic Bikeway. The meeting will be held at the Upper McKenzie Community Center, located at 54745 McKenzie River Dr.

The Oregon Scenic Bikeway program, established in 2009 by Oregon Parks and Recreation, markets and promotes cycling routes that offer cyclists a unique and enjoyable experience. Proposed routes are nominated by local proponent groups and then reviewed and approved by the Oregon Scenic Bikeway Committee. Our proponent group recognized the Aufderheide Drive for its spectacular views of mountains, lakes, waterfalls, creeks, and rivers. Our proponent groups believe this designation can further attract visi-

tors, boost local businesses, and encourage everyone to explore the outdoors by bike.

Meeting attendees can expect to learn about the criteria for scenic bikeway designation, hear about plans to market the route, ask questions, and provide feedback. We encourage residents, local business owners, and cycling enthusiasts to attend and learn more about the Oregon Scenic Bikeway program. We're excited about the potential to market, promote, and enjoy this bikeway—and we hope you will be, too!

For more information, please contact: Connor Nolan, Destination Development Manager, connor@eugeneascadescoast.org, (541) 743-8762

July 20

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 may 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.

July 20

Community BBQ

Orchid Health's McKenzie River Clinic will host a Community BBQ at 54771 McKenzie Highway, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All ages are welcome! We will have free food & drinks, as well as, games, raffles and gift cards! This is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with the Orchid Health - McKenzie River Clinic Team. Questions? call us @ (541) 822-3341

July 22

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.

July 23

Family Story Time

The Family Story Time will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall, 37529 Upper Camp Creek Rd. Some special FUN at Camp Creek Church for children 5 and under (with their adults) to

enjoy stories, singing, laughter, and friendship!

July 23

McKenzie Food Pantry

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

July 24

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.

July 24

Lane Electric Board

Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 9 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment period. Individual members have three minutes to address the board at that time. Topics presented will be discussed amongst the board and followed up on accordingly. If you wish to address the Lane Electric board please complete a meeting request form at least five days prior to the meeting you would like to attend. <https://laneelectric.com/attend-a-board-meeting>

July 18

Watershed Wednesday

Join the McKenzie River Trust every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Green Island 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. Green Island is a 1,100 acre preserve located just outside of the city of Coburg.

July 25

Morning Meditation

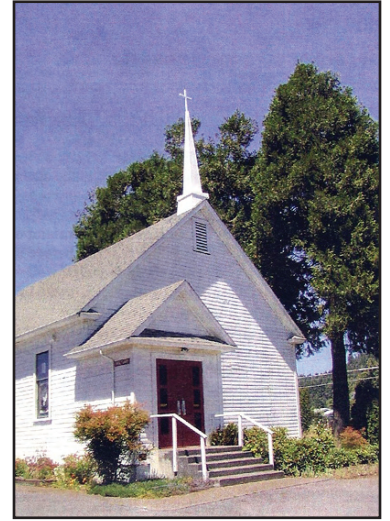
Morning Meditation, from 9 to 10 a.m. at 91241 Rose Street in Blue River. Bring a chair or sit on a picnic bench. No experience is necessary. Guided & Silent Meditation, usually 20 to 30 minutes. \$5 (no one is turned away for lack of \$) We have a little time for getting to know each other and socializing.

July 18

Food Pantry

The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce board of directors will meet virtually from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information contact: info@mckenziechamber.com

Small but Mighty - McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church



About 20 people meet for Sunday worship (10:30 am), for service projects, and to care for the church at McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC), just east of Walmerville on Hwy 126. This small group of people makes a lot of friends near and far - friends who have become partners in supporting our valley far beyond what 20 people could do alone.

In the past MVPC provided an office for WomenSpace to meet with survivors of domestic trauma as well as a meeting space for Boy Scouts and a preschool. The church continues to provide a space for Alcoholics Anonymous and is always looking for new groups to support.

This networking of friends and partners came into full play in 2020, when MVPC hosted Green Cross, which offers emotional support after traumatic events, for a community presentation at MVPC just weeks after the Holiday Farm Fire. Also in 2020, MVPC developed a plan for counselor-led sessions to help community members process by sharing our stories about the fire. Cascades Presbytery, of which MVPC is a part, offered a partnering grant to cover costs. The Presbytery provided another grant for another mental health professional to run three 6-week support sessions for community fire survivors. When another area Presbyterian

church wanted to send money to help in the recovery effort, MVPC helped direct that money to survivors.

MVPC has supported the rebuild of the Vida McKenzie Community Center by providing a venue for their fund-raising events, including dinners, concerts, bingo, and yard sales. The Sew and So quilters met at MVPC during COVID, as did the Late Bloomers Garden Club occasionally.

Most recently, Cascades Presbytery offered recovery funds for survivors of the January 2024 ice storm, and MVPC helped direct some of that money to a local family (not associated with MVPC) that had suffered significant losses. MVPC welcomes all to come to be part of something bigger than it looks!

County considers Blue River rezoning

Under the proposed changes Lane County would amend the Lane County Rural Comprehensive Plan and Lane Code Chapter 16 - Land Use and Development Code to implement a Complete Community Plan for the unincorporated community of Blue River.

The action would involve rezoning properties within the community of Blue River to "promote compact, small-town development patterns with an active and convenient pedestrian environment along a mixed-use Blue River Drive, higher density development near Lane Transit District bus stops and the McKenzie River Community School, and mixed-use lands located within the com-

munity boundary."

The Lane County Planning Commission will conduct a work session regarding the draft Complete Community Plan on Tuesday, July 16th, and a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 6th. The work session will begin at 6 p.m. and the public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the Goodpasture Room, Lane County Customer Service Center, 3050 North Delta Highway in Eugene.

For more information, contact Lindsey Eichner, Assistant Planning Director, Lane County Land Management Division, 3050 North Delta Highway, Eugene, OR 97408, 541-682-3998, or lindsey.eichner@lanecounty.gov



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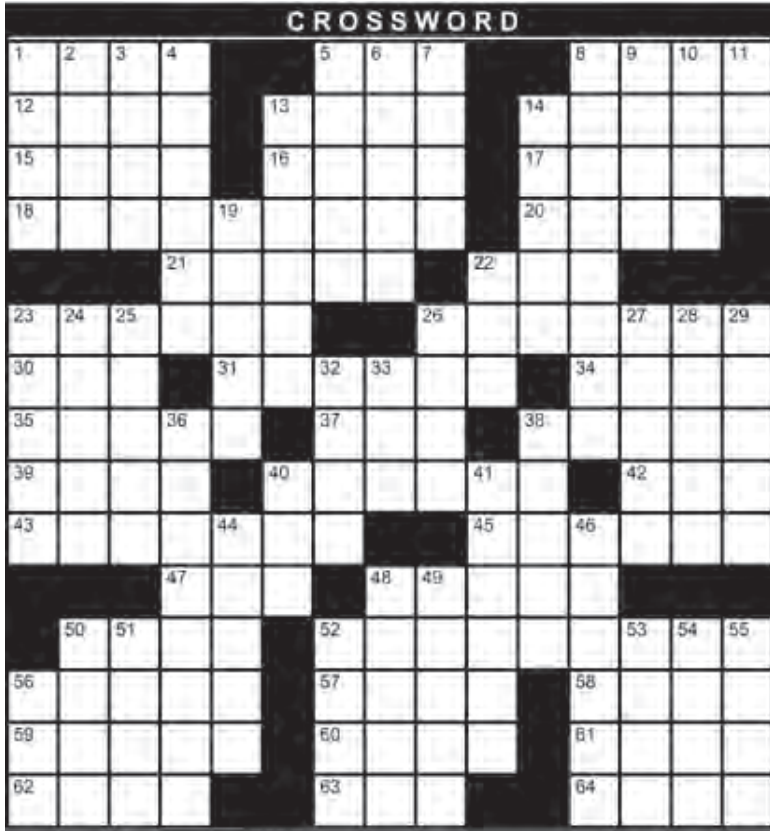
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541-741-1046

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| <h2>An Invitation to Worship</h2> | <p>Living Water Family Fellowship Pastor - Doug Fairington 52353 McKenzie Hwy - Milepost 42 541-822-3820 Gathering Sundays at 10:00 AM, Children's ministry also. Come early for a meet and greet continental breakfast and coffee at 9:30 AM. Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)</p> |
| <p>McKenzie Bible Fellowship 45061 McKenzie Hwy - Vida, Oregon Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Youth Ministries KidsFest Family Activities Small Group Fellowships Men's & Women's Bible Studies Call 896-3829 for information www.mckenziebible.com</p> | <p>Catholic Church St. Benedict Lodge Chapel 1/2 mile off Hwy. 126 on North Bank Rd., McKenzie Bridge Sat. Eve. 5:00pm Sun. Morn. 9:30am; web page: sblodge.opwest.org</p> |
| <p>McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church Please join us for worship Sundays at 10:30 am, either in church on Hwy. 126 just east of Walmerville, 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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- 42. ___ chi
- 43. Hindered
- 45. Alternative form of a gene
- 47. Band aid
- 48. Diet inspired by prehistory
- 50. European erupter
- 52. *Michael Phelps predecessor
- 56. "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ___
- 57. Black and white killer?
- 58. U.S. lake
- 59. From then on
- 60. Bank claim
- 61. Decomposes
- 62. Against, prefix
- 63. a.k.a. acid
- 64. State of vexation

DOWN

- 1. Bird feeder morsel
- 2. a.k.a. Daminozide
- 3. Hard to find
- 4. Family addition, pl.
- 5. *Archer or shooter, e.g.
- 6. Homer's classic
- 7. Accepted behavior
- 8. *a.k.a. Cassius, 1960 gold medal winner
- 9. Greek H's
- 10. Landlord's due
- 11. Heat unit
- 13. Certain style of humor
- 14. Obelus, pl.
- 19. "The end justifies the ___"
- 22. ___ out, as in a win
- 23. Mardi Gras souvenir
- 24. Dark
- 25. Full of cattails
- 26. Petals holder
- 27. Rocky ridge
- 28. Like certain rug
- 29. *Swimmer Ledecky
- 32. *Like 23 out of Michael Phelps' 28
- 33. "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
- 36. *Nadia of perfect 10 fame
- 38. Archipelago
- 40. Large edible mushroom
- 41. *Like Bosnia and Herzegovina or Bulgaria
- 44. Mental portrait
- 46. Trotters
- 48. *2024 Olympics host city
- 49. Formed a curve
- 50. Sportscaster Andrews
- 51. Windshield option
- 52. Gangster's gal
- 53. *Xander Schauffele club option
- 54. South American monkey
- 55. Gusto
- 56. Geological Society of America



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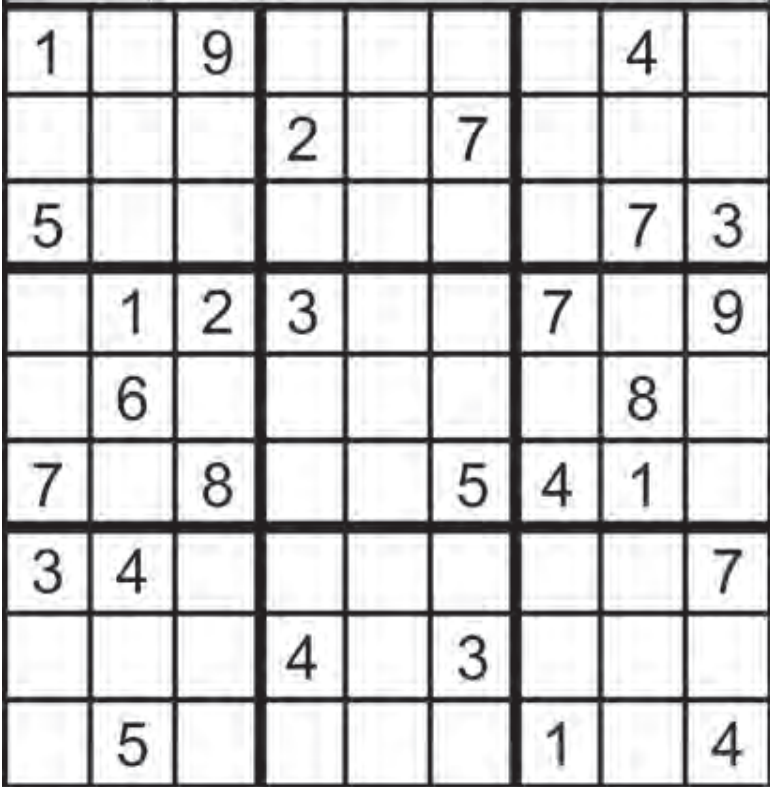
SUMMER OLYMPICS

ACROSS

- 1. Delhi dress
- 5. *Individual Neutral Athlete at 2024 Olympics, acr.
- 8. Mother in #48 Down
- 12. Joie de vivre
- 13. Fodder holder
- 14. External
- 15. ___ Grey tea
- 16. Gulf V.I.P.
- 17. Edible cannabis substance
- 18. *Famous Olympics basketball team (2 words)

- 20. 90 degrees on compass
- 21. Like Al Yankovic
- 22. Popular deciduous tree
- 23. College treasurer
- 26. Balaclava (2 words)
- 30. Compass point between E and NE
- 31. Nullify
- 34. Diva's delivery
- 35. Smart ones?
- 37. Two halves
- 38. That is, in Latin
- 39. First queen of Carthage
- 40. What ivy does

Solution on Page 9



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

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

Click here or go to: tinyurl.com/yeye92hx

Events from Jul 18th

Events from Jul 18th

- Free Summer Meals**: At the McKenzie Community School July 1st - August 23rd. Monday to Thursday. No sign-up paperwork or cost is required. Just show up and...
- Soccer Camp**: Do you have a 3rd-7th grade Eagle interested in the exciting game of soccer? Check out our Soccer Camp. Join us July 15th-18th from 8:00...
- Morning Meditation**: Bring a chair or sit on a yoga mat. No experience is necessary. Guided & Silent Meditation, usually 20 to 30 minutes. \$5 (no one is...
- Leasburg Food Pantry**: All are welcome. Please send feedback.
- McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group**: GMSRS will bring (Thursday) "See" you on the speaker (diamond on 85.7 FM, 88.3 FM, 91.1 FM, 102.1 on the radio). Make it easy...
- Community BBQ**: Come meet our staff!
- A Dime At A Time**: Blue River 8th & 9th. Collection/Sorting. Saturday morning sorting sessions every Saturday from 10:00am. Donations can be dropped off...
- Orchid Health McKenzie Radio - Community BBQ!**: Join us for our fun-filled Annual Community BBQ! All ages are welcome! We will have free food & drinks, as well as games, raffles and gift...
- Lane County Board of Commissioners**: The Board of Commissioners meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board...
- Lane Electric Coop Board of Directors meeting**: Members of Lane Electric Cooperative can join monthly board meetings, which begin at 7 a.m. Each meeting begins with a member comment...
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- McKenzie Valley Neighbors Radio Group**: GMSRS will bring (Thursday) "See" you on the speaker (diamond on 85.7 FM, 88.3 FM, 91.1 FM, 102.1 on the radio). Make it easy...
- Leasburg DMPS Radio Preparedness**: Every Thursday McKenzie Valley Neighbors DMPS Radio Preparedness Group Network. Check-ins Thursday @ 9:30 p.m. McKenzie Valley Wide Net.
- McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce**: The McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce is a business organization of members that provides members with key opportunities for...

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A Moment in Oregon History

By Rick Steber
(www.ricksteber.com)

July 20 - When Highway 101 was built along the Oregon coast there were several places where the roadbed was cut through mounds of shells that were 30 feet deep and ranged in size up to 20 acres. It is believed that Native People built the mounds of, what to them, was nothing but garbage. In addition to sea shells, excavations have revealed the bones of game animals and dogs, tools, mortars, pestles, arrows, spear points, smoking pipes and bits and pieces of pottery. It is estimated, based upon the size of the villages located nearby, that it took up to three thousand years to build the mounds.

Fishing Report

McKenzie River: All hatchery rainbow trout released into the McKenzie River are marked with an adipose fin clip and anglers must release all non fin-clipped (wild) trout in the mainstem river. The lower 11 miles of the McKenzie River below the Hayden Bridge - and the McKenzie River upstream from Forest Glen Boat Ramp at Blue River - are restricted to angling with lures and flies only, and all trout must be released.

Trout Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8" to 10" hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam - 850, and Leaburg Lake - 1,000.

Fish Counts

July 11, Willamette Falls
Spring Chinook - 20,169
Summer Steelhead - 17,916

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Emergency?
Call 911

100 human-caused wildfires since June

Since June, there have been 100 human-caused wildfires on national forests and grasslands in Oregon and Washington. While firefighters have been largely successful in putting out these preventable fires, the extremely hot and dry conditions are significantly ramping up fire danger across the region.

"We're entering a very dangerous time period in the Pacific Northwest wildfire season," said Ed Hiatt, Pacific Northwest Assistant Fire Director for Operations. "Mother Nature turned on the oven for a week in local forests and now we're preparing for the potential of dry lightning and gusty winds."

Local responders have been closely tracking conditions where any new wildfire will have the

potential to spread rapidly and burn intensely right from the start. And as firefighters are responding to lightning-sparked fires a preventable, human-caused wildfire can limit availability of needed engines, dozer, helicopters, and other resources.

"It's as dry as I've ever seen it," said Hiatt. "From the Canadian border to southeast Oregon, multiple areas have broken daily records for forecasted fire intensity. Bottom line? If it starts, it's going to burn hot and it's going to burn fast."

To help limit potential human-caused starts, 13 regional national forests are now in campfire restrictions. People are advised to check locally before visiting many area national forests and grasslands.



Inciweb Pioneer Fire

Fire burns through the night on the human-caused Pioneer Fire in central Washington. More than 800 personnel are currently working this incident.

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Powering up Paradise?
Premium sites could gain electricity



Crews from C2 Utility Contractors have been busy lately undergrounding utilities in McKenzie Bridge as part of current US Forest Service projects.

MCKENZIE BRIDGE: The US Forest Service is seeking public comments on a series of upcoming improvement projects ranging from hazardous fuels reduction treatments in the Hwy 242, Camp Melakwa, and Santiam Lodge areas to adding a temporary dock to the boat launch at the Cold Water Cove Campground.

Among the eleven projects slated for 2024 is a plan to install an electrical utility line to the McKenzie Bridge and Paradise Campground Host sites. The work would also add to several "premium site" sites within each campground by adding electrical connections.

The project would involve running an underground utility line from the highway to the sites at each location. At the McKenzie Bridge Campground, the line will follow the entrance road from

Highway 126 to the host site and will be buried within 8 feet of the pavement.

Written, and electronic comments concerning these actions will be accepted until July 27th. Written comments must be submitted to: the Project contact, or Jessica Reed, NEPA Planner, 57600 Highway 126 McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413. Comments should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any; 2) title of the project for which the comment is being submitted; and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.docx) should be sent to jessica.reed2@usda.gov

McKenzie River Reflections

Explore a treasure trove of McKenzie River history - in the back issues of this newspaper.
Go to: tinyurl.com/2rkpkxen

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Bridge builder

Continued From Page 4

helped run out of Iowa were still closing sales and building rickety garbage spans over Oregon rivers and creeks. Public pressure started to build for the state of Oregon to get involved, like the state of Iowa had.

In 1917, they did — creating a powerful Highway Commission and starting it off with a \$6 million endowment. The following year, state representatives Loyal Graham and W.B. Dennis created the nation's first gasoline tax to provide continuing funding. And the year after that, they took the very obvious step of reaching out to OAC's rising-star bridge architect and offering him the job of handling its bridges for it.

McCullough doesn't seem to have hesitated. He promptly "deputized" his entire senior class of OAC engineering students and moved to Salem with them to start the most productive phase of his career, the phase in which he would truly make a name for himself. It would end with his name associated with five spectacular bridges on the Oregon Coast Highway along with dozens of smaller spans, all sharing a distinctive design architecture that screams "Oregon bridge" at a glance as well as an engineering excellence that's kept almost all of them in continuing service to this day, nearly a century later.

We'll talk about Conde McCullough's work as Oregon's bridge-architecture czar, throughout the 1920s and 1930s,



OR Department of Transportation **Conde McCullough as he appeared in about 1930.**

in next week's column.

(Sources: *Elegant Arches, Soaring Spans*, a book by Robert W. Hadlow published in 2001 by Oregon State University Press; *Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon*, a book by Dwight Smith & al. published in 1989 by OSU Press.)

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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New wildfire hazard map will be released with few changes after yearlong makeover

Original drew ire of property owners previously identified as high risk

By Alex Baumhard
Oregon Capital Chronicle
A statewide "wildfire risk map"

that drew the ire of many Oregonians will return in several weeks with few changes but with a new name following a yearlong makeover.

The new "wildfire hazard map," set to debut in mid-to-late July, will not differ in substance too much from the previous map published in 2022, according to lead researcher Chris Dunn, an Oregon State University forestry professor and wildfire expert. That first map was quickly taken offline in August 2022, just months after it was released, due to public backlash over many areas classified as high risk. Property owners saw the map as a state attempt to regulate their properties, and it coincided with some insurers raising premiums and choosing not to renew or write new wildfire policies.

In the new "Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map," some grass and ranch lands will no longer be considered at high risk depending on what they're used for and on whether, and how often, they're irrigated. The replacement of the word "risk" with "hazard" indicates that the map is an environmental assessment, not an assessment of individual properties. There will be three hazard categories, rather than the five risk categories in the previous map.

The latest map and the public rollout is the result of broader collective efforts, unlike the last one, Dunn said.

"The Oregon Department of Forestry and OSU stood alone the last time," Dunn said about the previous map's public debut. "The biggest change is just that all of these other agencies have come together to participate in community meetings and to meet with the county commissions and county planners," Dunn said.

Unraveling of the 'risk map' Dunn and Oregon State researchers worked with the U.S.



Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry in 2022 to develop the searchable "Wildfire Risk Explorer" map, which the state Legislature mandated under Senate Bill 762, a sweeping wildfire mitigation package passed in 2021. State agencies were given one year to produce a map and release it publicly.

The final map allowed anyone to plug in their address to see where their area fell among five risk categories from "no risk" to "extreme risk."

It was meant to bring attention to the potential for wildfire across Oregon's different landscapes but was instead seen by many as a property-specific wildfire risk assessment. It didn't help that for many categorized as living in an area of "high" or "extreme" risk, the map's findings weren't widely known until letters started arriving in the mail alerting them to their risk status.

"People would step out their backyard or their front porch and say: 'There's no way I'm at high risk. I've already cleared my property or whatever.' Most people were assessing from their individual susceptibility perspective, not from an environmental exposure perspective," Dunn said.

Assigning risk to individual properties is not what the map makers were trying to do, according to Dunn. They were looking at the landscapes around the state and using data to understand the potential exposure for wildfire across a given landscape.

But they failed to make that

case. The public rollout was a disaster, Dunn said.

"There was no real hard and concerted effort to reach out to the counties and the public, mostly because we just didn't have the time," Dunn said.

Also, the timing couldn't have been worse. The rollout coincided with a sea change in the insurance industry, heavily hit by growing natural disasters and costs over the past few decades. Insurers were beginning to not renew policies or stop writing new policies in parts of California due to wildfire risk, and similar trends were beginning to show up in Oregon, on top of rapidly rising premiums. While insurers had been planning such moves for a while, according to industry experts, the public blamed the map, which was seen as an attempt by the state to regulate properties, and property owners, to make them wildfire-proof.

Just a few months after being made public, it was pulled by the state forester and sent back to the drawing board.

Redoing the rollout When rolling out the latest maps, Dunn, researchers, and officials at several public agencies with a stake in mitigating wildfire are presenting a unified front, Dunn said.

Last fall, Dunn and a cadre that included officials from the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Building Codes Division, the Department of Forestry, and the Division of Financial Regulation met with county commissioners to hear

[Continued On Page 11](#)

Sheriff's Report

Continued From Page 3

35500 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

12:55 p.m: Suspicious Conditions - 87000 blk, Cedar Flat Rd.

5:30 p.m: Assist Public - Lat: 44.151476. Long: -121.943011.

5:58 p.m: Assist Outside Agency - Upper Calapooia Dr. Milepost 5.

6:00 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - Parsons Creek Rd. & Marcola Rd.

7:26 p.m: Found Animal - 45200 blk, Goodpasture Rd.

July 15: 3:06 p.m: Gunshot Wound - 39800 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

5:54 p.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 35100 blk, McK. View Dr.

7:45 p.m: Citizen Contact - McK. View Dr. Mp. 5.

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

McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Continued From Page 3

11:34: 46000 blk, Goodpasture Rd. Water Rescue. 2 Capsized Boaters, One Rescued with Boat, No Medical Needs.

13:33: 46000 blk, McK. Hwy. Illegal Burning. Legal Burn, In Fire Pit.

July 14: 3:56: 48000 blk, McK. Hwy. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

7:19: 90000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid. Disregarded Prior to Going En Route.

10:40: 88000 blk, Marcola Rd. Mutual Aid 10:40 Disregarded En Route.

12:51: 45000 blk, S. Gate Creek Rd. Medical, Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 Transported.

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

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Wildfire hazard map

Continued From Page 11

their concerns.

The researchers and agencies also have held joint public meetings in parts of the state where residents were most concerned about the mapping last time, including Grants Pass, The Dalles, Medford, La Grande, and Redmond. Some of the meetings have drawn hundreds of people, while others have drawn less interest. Dunn said in Redmond, about 100 people showed up and in Grants Pass, over 300 people attended. But in La Grande, staff told Dunn about 13 showed up.

Dunn said in Grants' Pass, the general take was that people weren't there to argue but to get more information.

"I think people were generally interested in learning, which is what the intent of these are," he said.

The target for stakeholders is to get the map finished and online by mid-July. The draft map is currently with county planners across the state, who have had two months to review the data and provide feedback. Once online, the map will be open for at least a 30-day public comment period before the Oregon Board of Forestry votes to adopt it in September. The process is moving faster than Dunn and others had expected, he said, due to political pressure on the Department of Forestry.

After it's finalized, the state officials in charge of guidelines for shoring up homes against wildfires, or home hardening, and creating defensible space around structures to make it easier to fight fires will need to get to work implementing new recommendations and rules.

The Oregon Building Codes Division is developing residential

building material rules that will apply to all new dwellings and in high wildfire hazard zones that are within the wildland-urban interface. The standards would also apply to existing homes and buildings when exteriors are replaced.

"The standards are ready to adopt," said Mark Peterson, a spokesperson for the agency, in an email. "The division is waiting on the final map, at which point we will do rulemaking to adopt the map, add it to the Oregon Design Criteria Hub, and apply the standards based on the map."

The State Fire Marshal's Office is also developing statewide, minimum defensible space standards that will be adopted following the finalization of the map.

Dunn said no one is going to immediately demand Oregonians start spending to wildfire-proof their homes and properties.

"Their (the agencies) stance to date has always been that 'we educate first, regulate last,' and so I think there's going to be a fairly substantial, multi-year gap before there are any real, substantial regulations that occur," Dunn said.

He's hopeful the general attitude of the public to the newly rolled-out map will be one of curiosity rather than contempt. He said that despite the trouble with the first attempt to bring it to Oregonians in 2022, it wasn't a total blunder.

"Even if the map failed, it put fire in people's minds, and they're thinking about it, and that is a difficult thing to do," he said.

Reporting for this story was made possible with a fellowship from the nonprofit Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources.

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Blue River wastewater project updated

EUGENE: On July 8th, a "Notice to Proceed" was issued to HDR Inc. to commence with the Engineering and Construction Services contract for the Blue River Community Wastewater Project. The scope of work includes final design, permitting coordination, and construction services support. Additionally, the 12-month aquifer monitoring requirement from the Department of Environmental Quality is concluding in September 2024 - which will provide data needed to determine the maximum daily wastewater flow capacity from the Three Sisters Meadows property, as well as the Blue River Park site.

Currently, two 2,500 gallons per day (gpd) wastewater systems are proposed which would support a combination of residential and commercial connections near each site. Also, the search for a funding source to construct the proposed \$3.5 million to \$4.3 million wastewater facilities is still ongoing and if obtained within the next year this phase would commence second quarter of 2025.

Costs associated with the operations and maintenance of the treatment systems would be paid by the users of the systems. That cost is anticipated to be \$105 a month but does not include additional money that may be levied



MonikaP/pixabay

by the Blue River Water & Sanitation District.

Also, the associated Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF)

permits will be issued by DEQ to the Blue River Sanitary District.

Learn more about the project at tinyurl.com/mtxn9nds



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Shop at Home, it makes \$ense

Emergency? Call 911

Corps misses key deadline

Continued From Page 1

species cannot wait. Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout are all listed as threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. A report from the National Marine Fisheries Service published this week found that populations are continuing to decline. By 2040, some runs could be extinct or nearly extinct, according to the report.

“These fish can’t wait any longer for the corps to stop dragging its feet,” said Jennifer Fairbrother, policy director for the Native Fish Society, at a news conference Thursday.

The corps has in the past resisted deauthorizing hydropower at the dams and allowing draw downs because the reservoirs behind the

dams are also used for irrigation and recreation. Officials have instead advocated other, high-cost methods for fish salvage, despite calls from electric utilities and industry groups to end hydropower at the dams because they produce little electricity while harming the fish.

At a news conference Thursday, Kathleen George, tribal councilwoman for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, said almost every stakeholder agrees that the dams should no longer be used for hydropower.

“This is a unique natural resource policy challenge where you have salmon advocates, you have tribal nations, you have the state of Oregon, you have the Bonneville Power Administration

and public power advocates all united in seeing the same solution,” George said. “This is a win-win-win situation that you don’t find just about anywhere else in the world of salmon recovery.”

Little power

The eight hydroelectric dams are among 13 dams the corps operates in the basin and part of the larger federal Columbia River Power System overseen by the corps and the Bonneville Power Administration, which is in charge of marketing hydroelectricity in the system. The Columbia River Power System provides 40% of all hydroelectricity in the U.S.

But the eight Willamette Basin dams produce just 4% of the Columbia River System’s power. They were built between 1940

and 1960 primarily for flood control in the Willamette Valley. And ever since, fish have struggled to get past them, except for when the reservoirs are drawn down. With lower water levels, small fish can reach gates in the dam walls to continue downstream. But lowering water levels compromises hydropower and the reservoirs’ other uses for agriculture and recreation.

Instead of ending hydropower and allowing draw downs, the corps has proposed developing giant fish collectors to transport fish around the dams. It would entail sucking young fish up through a floating vacuum, then depositing them in trucks and driving them downstream to be rereleased into the water. It’s been criticized by many as ineffective and overpriced, and making a bad situation worse.

Operating costs for hydropower production from the eight dams

outweigh the revenue, according to a recent federal study, and they’re slated to lose nearly \$940 million in the next three decades.

The electricity from the dams has become so expensive that the Eugene Water and Electric Board, which buys power from the Columbia River System, said that it’s not worth continuing to operate the Willamette Basin dams for hydropower, but to repurpose them to ensure fish can pass.

“We already know that the Willamette Basin projects are the least efficient hydropower resources in Bonneville Power Administration’s portfolio,” said Aaron Orłowski, a spokesperson for the utility, in an email. “Changing how they operate will have benefits for fish and wildlife, while saving money for publicly owned utilities.”

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Avoiding extinction of NW Spotted Owls

Study calls for lethal removal of small numbers of invasive Barred Owls



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this week released its final environmental impact statement analyzing proposed barred owl management alternatives to protect northern and California spotted owls in Washington, Oregon, and California from invasive barred owls. The Service’s preferred alternative is the implementation of a proposed Barred Owl Management Strategy, which would result in the annual removal of less than one-half of 1% of the current North American barred owl population.

Northern spotted owl populations are rapidly declining due to competition with invasive barred owls and habitat loss. California spotted owls, which are proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, face a similar risk as barred owl populations continue to move south into their range.

“Barred owl management is not about one owl versus another,” said Service Oregon Office state supervisor Kessina Lee. “Without actively managing barred owls, northern spotted owls will likely go extinct in all or the majority of their range, despite decades of collaborative conservation efforts.”

If the proposed strategy is adopted and fully implemented, lethal removal of barred owls by trained professionals would occur in less than half of the areas where spotted and invasive barred owls co-exist within the northern spotted owl’s range; and would limit their invasion into the California spotted owl’s range. Public hunting of barred owls is not allowed under the proposed strategy and lead ammunition will not be used for any lethal removal actions.

“Barred owl removal, like all

invasive species management, is not something the Service takes lightly,” said Lee. “The Service has a legal responsibility to do all it can to prevent the extinction of the federally listed northern spotted owl and support its recovery, while also addressing significant threats to California spotted owls.”

Barred owls are native to eastern North America but started moving west of the Mississippi River at the beginning of the 20th century. This expansion was likely due to human-induced changes in the Great Plains and northern boreal forest. As a result, barred owls now surpass northern spotted owls in numbers across most of California, Oregon, and Washington.

Barred owls are larger, more aggressive, and have a wider prey base than native spotted owls. As a result, they displace northern spotted owls, disrupt their nesting, compete with them for food, and occasionally attack them. Research shows that northern spotted owl population declines are more pronounced in areas where barred owls are present, and declines are greatest where barred owls have been present the longest and are in larger populations.

The Service has concluded that barred owls meet the definition of “invasive” because they are not native to the range of the northern and California spotted owls and were unintentionally introduced through human-related activities and caused significant environmental harm. Barred owls are also likely to harm other species through predation or competition and are considered a risk to create a trophic cascade in some forest

systems.

The expansion of barred owls from their historical range in eastern North America was likely a result of human-caused changes to the conditions in the Great Plains and northern boreal forest. Changes in climate, fire suppression, the extirpation of bison and beaver, and tree planting associated with European settlement created patches of forested habitat in the Great Plains and altered the northern boreal forest, in turn altering natural barriers that previously inhibited the barred owl’s expansion westward. As a result, barred owls were able to move westward and are now competing with native species in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Their populations began to expand west of the Mississippi River, likely around the turn of the 20th century. Barred owls reached the northern spotted owl’s range in British Columbia, Canada, around 1959 and continued to expand southward. They were first documented in Washington in the 1970s and now outnumber northern spotted owls in most of the subspecies’ range in California, Oregon, and Washington.

If the proposed strategy is adopted, the Service would receive a permit under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Service could then designate interested Tribes, federal and state agencies, companies, or specific landowners to implement barred owl management on their lands if actions are consistent with the strategy, conditions of the permit, and state laws and policies. Those who implement the strategy will be accountable for annual monitoring and reporting.

The final EIS <https://www.fws.gov/media/final-environmental-impact-statement-barred-owl-management-strategy> and proposed strategy reflect the input received throughout the scoping and public comment process, as well as feedback from cooperating agencies and Tribes. The Service expects to announce a final record of the decision on the proposed strategy at least 30 days after the formal publication of the final EIS in the Federal Register.

The final EIS will be available in the coming days in the Federal Register and at <https://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2022-0074.

Lavender Bloom

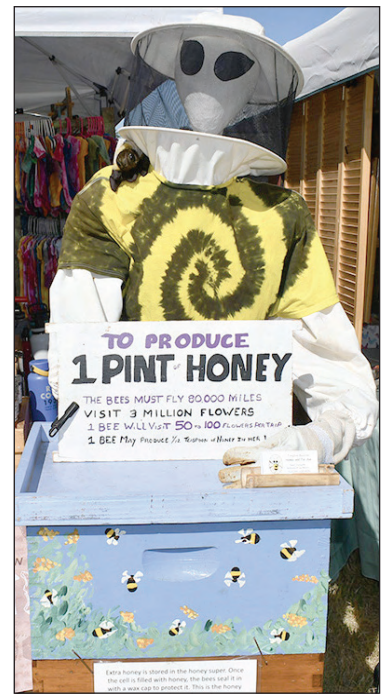
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craft fair business that Gini folds out of a suitcase that he crafted out of red cedar for her.

Just a short walk away, substitute teacher Melissa East was welcoming visitors to her “Barefoot Books” booth with shelves chock full of printed matter. Inside each, she says, readers will “have access to stunning illustrations, thoughtful text, diversity, inclusivity and heart!”

Like other vendors, Melissa too can be seen at other events and regularly sets up “give back” sales to benefit PeaceHealth at locations at RiverBend, the University District or Cottage Grove or benefits for the Eugene Library and the Tugman and Bethel parks.

Some of those other vendors, like Shelly Pruitt’s “Soft Peaks Cakery” offered immediate satisfaction for buyers who indulged in on-the-spot bites into her cakes and specialty-baked goods. And, there was the not to miss sweet tooth-satisfying honey at the Foxglove Apiaries display.



Beyond the aroma alone, Foxglove Apiaries offers fresh honey produced from some of their bees that live on the McKenzie Lavender Farm and is sold exclusively at the McKenzie Lavender Bloom.

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Upcycled recreations by Pat Gardener’s “Broken Dreams Glass Artwork” were purchased by quite a few attendees.

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