

McKenzie River Reflections ^{50¢}

September 2, 2010
Serving the McKenzie River Valley... Home of Anita & Steve Bermont of McKenzie Bridge, Reflections Subscriber Since 2004

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Youth crews finish Summer on Trails

Hikers and travelers on the Obsidian Trail last week might have caught a glimpse of a young crew wearing blue hard hats and blue long sleeve shirts, swinging hand tools. The group is part of a youth conservation crew from the Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) that created three miles of new trail in the area.

areas and removed unwanted vegetation so the last visitors of the busy summer season will get the opportunity to enjoy the area.

The NYC crew was picked for this especially challenging project because of the organization's experience using a variety of specialized tools designed for isolated backcountry settings;



NYC crew members learned the value of teamwork in overcoming obstacles this summer.

MCKENZIE BRIDGE: The ten person, 16 to 19 year old Northwest Youth Corps crewmembers combined their experience, knowledge, and expert use of hand tools to finish off their summer in the McKenzie Ranger District. Armed with a variety of tools, such as hand saws, loppers, and mattocks; the crew camped in the area for two weeks to help reroute paths and build new trails. In addition they have helped repair damaged

along with a reputation for high quality production. Thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), they got an opportunity of a lifetime to give back to their community.

Each year the NYC program offers more than 1,000 young people the chance to earn money through conservation work. At

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Road maintenance



WALTERVILLE: With an eye toward upcoming winter storms, ODOT workers were busy this week next to the westbound lane's shoulder near milepost 18 of Hwy. 126. Excavators removed several tons of material from a rock wall prone to sloughing off large chunks during storm events.

Firefighters gain on Scott Mountain Fire



Photo By Shana Jewell

People taking in the views from the Dee Wright Observatory atop the Old McKenzie Pass this week had an opportunity to see aircraft in action as they battled the Scott Mountain fire.

OLD MCKENZIE PASS: Weather conditions have helped calm the Scott Mountain Fire after burning 3,500 acres west of Belknap Crater. Sparked by a lightning strike on August 19th, the fire at one point involved

14 crews with 550 firefighters, nine helicopters, 12 engines, six bulldozers, and eight water tenders.

All that activity was winding down after Monday's cooler temperatures combined with ½ to

¾ inches of rain in the morning and snow on the south end of the fire. Predictions were that the fire behavior would remain mild, and heavy fuels would continue to

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Flood preparedness getting an early start

EUGENE: Although most people aren't thinking about winter storms yet, Lane County officials got an early start discussing flood preparedness last week at the first of several meetings to come.

Officials were briefed by the National Weather Service and the Army Corps of Engineers and discussed everything from the weather outlook to sand bagging workshops as local agencies collaborated on flood preparedness efforts.

"It's always good to remember that we live in a flood basin and that every year is a good year to prepare for a flood," said Linda Cook, Lane County Emergency manager.

McKenzie River residents are invited to attend a meeting sponsored by the Emergency Management Division of the

Sheriff's Office to discuss flood-warming services on the lower McKenzie River. On September 16th, National Weather Service representative, Andy Bryant, will lead a discussion about past flooding along the lower McKenzie and how flood warning services for that area could be improved.

Cook said officials hope to use existing river gauges - either upstream on the McKenzie River at Waltherville, or downstream above Hayden Bridge. "Based on information from the February 1996 flood and any information from local residents about more recent high water events, officials will establish a flood stage level at one of the above-mentioned stream gauges that applies to the flood-affected area," she noted.

Area residents are invited

to bring their local historical knowledge about past flooding in the area to the meeting hosted by McKenzie Fire Chief Darren Bucich. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16th, at 6:30 p.m., in the McKenzie Fire Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Highway in Leaburg.

Officials say flood events can usually be predicted, with the most reliable information coming from the National Weather Service, from two to three days in advance. Although the Army Corps of Engineers will be modifying flood control operations on dams this fall and winter for spillway gate repairs, they will be keeping a close watch and working to minimize the potential for flooding as storms start arriving, Cook noted.

Letters to the Editor

Columbus Day Storm 1962 Memories Sought

Columbus Day, 1962: If you were around Oregon, Northern California, or Washington that day you don't need any more clarification.

Do you have a 1962 Columbus Day Storm story?

I am collecting stories about the infamous Columbus Day Storm and will compile the stories into a book as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Independence Public Library. It's an opportunity to tell your story and help a cause.

The publication will be for sale in 2012 in time for the storm's 50th anniversary.

E-mail stories to Betty at elizabethplude@aol.com (please no attachments) or call me at (503)838-4039

Betty Plude
Independence, OR

Youth crews

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the same time, they get to live in some of the most beautiful parts of the Northwest, travel, make new friends, get into shape, and earn high school credit.

The Northwest Youth Corps is now hiring for the Fall Conservation Corps. To apply or to learn more about Northwest Youth Corps, go to: www.NorthwestYouthCorps.org.

Established in 1984, the Northwest Youth Corps is a non-profit organization with a mission to create leaders through teamwork, education, and outdoor conservation work experiences. NYC is the region's largest and oldest outdoor conservation and youth education program, and serves youth from all backgrounds.

Fire

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burn even with low moisture.

Based on historic experience, U.S. Forest Service spokesmen anticipated the fire could continue to burn until late October. Crews on the Scott Mountain Fire have worked to build and strengthen containment lines around the perimeter of the fire that tie into the lava beds north and south of the fire.

Hwy. 242 reopened to through traffic at 7 p.m. on Monday. Portions of the Mt. Washington Wilderness and National Forest lands managed by the McKenzie River Ranger District are closed. People can check www.inciweb.org for updates and the closure map.

Guest Opinion

A jobs strategy that both parties can agree on

By Douglas E. Schoen

We're nearly three years into the recession -- and our economy still shows few signs of life. The Department of Labor just announced that the country shed 131,000 jobs in July. Unemployment now stands at 9.5 percent.

It's not surprising that Democrats and Republicans agree that something must be done -- soon -- to stem the loss of jobs. Neither side, though, has offered a creative or comprehensive jobs strategy to turn the economy around. There is one strategy that could create jobs and generate support from both sides of the aisle: Biotech Innovation.

"Over the long run, few issues are as important to a nation's long-term economic security and global standing as being a leader in moving life sciences forward," says Lawrence Summers, director of the White House's National Economic Council.

He's right. Innovation in biotechnology is the engine that could get our economy back on track. Yet neither party has forcefully championed this idea, even though it's one of the few ideas that would elicit bipartisan support.

Enacting policies that will help this industry thrive is a painless way to create the jobs Americans desperately need. It's also a strategy on which lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can cooperate.

Biotechnology is racing ahead while the rest of the economy sputters. During the first year of the current recession, private-sector employment decreased by 0.7 percent. Employment in the biosciences, however, increased by 1.4 percent.

It's not just PhDs who are finding jobs in the industry. Research, testing, and medicals labs employed 2.1 percent more people in that time. The medical devices and equipment sector increased its workforce by 2.4 percent. The area of agricultural feedstock and chemicals did even better -- employment increased there by 4.6 percent from 2007 to 2008.

All told, the biotechnology industry employs more than 700,000 Americans. These aren't just scientists -- the industry depends on administrative assistants, business managers, computer professionals, groundskeepers, and engineers. Even better, the industry creates a powerful ripple effect. Biotech firms utilize construction workers, accountants, IT workers, daycare operators, and others.

These people are transforming the world. The cutting-edge medicines that the sector develops

WHAT DOES LABOR DAY MEAN TO YOU?

Bobby @10

"It means I have to prepare my Fall hubby-do list."



IMA DeBAUS
LABOR ORGANIZER

"It means a one-day reprieve from Back to School."



SKIP KLASS
STUDENT INACTIVIST

"It means I've gotta run! Th' wife is havin' a baby!"



JUSTIN TYME
ABOUT-TO-BE DAD

"I forget what it means -- I'll know it when I see it!"



KENT MEMMER
RETIREE (He Thinks!)

are making our lives better and longer -- pharmaceuticals have reduced heart attack mortality by more than half. Agricultural biotech is increasing crop yields, bringing down food costs, and reducing disease. These technologies help millions -- across the world.

So what can lawmakers do to foster innovation?

First, Congress could make the R&D tax credit permanent. This provision was included in the president's budget last year, but didn't make it through. This is something on which Democrats and Republicans see eye-to-eye -- politicians from both parties have voted regularly to extend the temporary tax. Making it permanent would provide a long-term incentive for investors to put more money into the sector. An already-growing industry could explode.

Lawmakers should also enact a payroll tax holiday. This would encourage private-sector employers in the biotech community to make new hires and retain current employees.

Long term, we must ensure the industry can fill the jobs thus created. We need to foster the next generation of scientific researchers -- perhaps the ones who will discover a cure for cancer -- by improving math and science education in our nation's schools.

The National Center for Education Statistics compared 15-year-olds around the world last year, and discovered that American students were below average in math and science. Students in other countries are improving their performance in these crucial subjects, while ours simply stay steady. American high school students are in the bottom quarter in math, trailing the rising China.

In future years, our country's thriving industry of innovation could find itself increasingly competing for investment dollars headed to Asia. Between 1986 and 2003, the U.S. share of global R&D investment declined from 46 percent to 37 percent. Even more striking -- our share of scientific researchers fell from

41 percent to just 29 percent. We must stay competitive in the arena we've dominated up to now.

Biotechnology is the future of the American economy. Other industries are innovating, too, of course. But biotech is a rare bright spot in this gloomy recession. Passing consensus-driven, bipartisan policies to boost what might be our fastest growing sector will create jobs and save lives.

Douglas E. Schoen was a campaign consultant for more

than 30 years and is the author of "Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System."

Quote of the Week

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain."

Anonymous

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MEMBER OF



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
8/24	99	57	0	480 cfs	8/24	87	47	0	1,200 cfs
8/25	100	56	0	473 cfs	8/25	94	47	0	1,100 cfs
8/26	75	56	0	473 cfs	8/26	96	50	0	1,200 cfs
8/27	73	56	0	466 cfs	8/27	78	44	0	1,180 cfs
8/28	68	53	0	473 cfs	8/28	77	43	0	1,140 cfs
8/29	66	47	0	480 cfs	8/29	75	45	0	1,120 cfs
8/30	61	49	0.28	480 cfs	8/30	68	50	0.27	1,110 cfs

Friday 9/3		Saturday 9/4		Sunday 9/5	
McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass	McKenzie Valley	Santiam Pass
Sunny - 0%	Sunny - 0%	Sunny - 10%	Sunny - 0%	Mostly Sunny - 0%	Sunny - 10%
High - 86 - Low - 55	High - 79 - Low - 46	High - 78 - Low - 53	High - 69 - Low - 42	High - 72 - Low - 53	High - 62 - Low - 41