

Skyline Ridge Runner

January 2025

Skyline Ridge Neighbors

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Nonprofit Neighborhood Association Serving Northwestern Multnomah County, Oregon

Close Encounters of the Wildlife Kind, Part 3

By Alex Rose

Eagle Eye on the Ball

From Brad Graff — “One morning we looked out the backyard and saw a bald eagle on the putting green. It was unusual to see a bald eagle on the ground so we were very curious what it was doing there. We took out the binoculars and saw that it was moving a golf ball around. We think it thought it was an egg. After playing with the golf ball for about 5 minutes, the eagle picked it up and flew away to its nest. Somewhere there was a nice Titleist-One ball lining his nest. I hope she is still not trying to hatch it.

We heard some really weird screeching noises coming from a tree about 50 yards from the house. We saw two baby Great Horned owls and their mother. The babies are total fluff monsters when they are small. They stayed around for a few months, and we got to see them in different areas all around the house.”



The Beekeeper

From Laurel Erhardt — A call came in - There’s a swarm of bees....” Can you come get them?” ‘Beekeeper Joe’ asks the usual questions: “Where ya live? (Don’t wanna drive to hellandgone for a swarm of bees!) How long they been there? (You wanna know how many times I’ve driven to pick up a swarm and they’re gone before I get there?) But this call is sounding all pretty good. Big ol’ swarm on a low branch in a leafy tree. Been there all day in a residential neighborhood (Joe’d be the hero!).

Joe Cool arrives. It’s a hot spring day. As the coolest of beekeepers know, you don’t need to wear the whole hot bee suit when you’re collecting swarms. They’re pretty docile at this stage of their lives. They’re not protecting their hives, they’re conserving energy so they’re in “no-sting” mode. A small crowd of neighbors gathered to watch the show. They’ve obviously been worried about the

bees all day - keeping the kids indoors during the threat. They are standing at a very, very respectful distance. Joe puts on his gloves and veiled hat but doesn’t bother with the suit. He’s wearing a cotton button up shirt with the first three or four buttons undone – cause it’s hot – and he’s cool. He approaches the swarm and murmurs rustle thru the crowd.... No suit? Won’t he get stung? They are standing, watching in awe. Subconsciously, leaning away from the bees – prepared to bolt and run Holding their children closely, prepared for the worst yet not able to look away.

Calmly approaching the low hanging hive, Joe’s acutely aware that all eyes are on him, and he’s (the hero.?) He’s placed the hive box directly under the bee swarm. Next, he gives the branch the swarm is on a sharp shake; and the ball of bees will simply drop into the hive-box which it always does. He grabs the branch, smiles at the crowd, and gives it the sharp, snap, shake that he knows will cause the bees to neatly plop into the waiting box below. The crowd stands in disbelief at his casualness in such a dire situation – and gasps - then he shakes the branch, which catapults the bees and sends the whole ball of bees inside his half buttoned shirt. Since the shirt was tucked in, he had now just captured the swarm in a cute little bee paunch, and was able to “box” them at home.

Raccoon Rascals

From Jeanine Gilkeson — Every Fall around the first month in September we have furry visitors. Over the years we have grown Concord grapes on a pair of vines that stretch from the ground to our second-floor deck and then up over an arbor over our outdoor table. Naturally, as the grapes ripen, they attract nearby raccoons, who work their way up the vines to get at the sweet-smelling bounty. Unfortunately, raccoons are not the neatest eaters in the for-

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Skyline Ridge Runner

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→ *Deadline for the next issue is March 15*

Skyline Ridge Neighbors Inc.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors is a nonprofit organization serving rural northwestern Multnomah County through educational, environmental, and social programs that inform residents on relevant issues and events. SRN endeavors to better our community, encourage volunteer efforts, and openly communicate with residents and outside organizations.

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Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

Subscribe to SRN's weekly email newsletter of local events and news via the link at www.srnpx.org. Contact the Editor, Laurel Erhardt, at newslines@srnpx.org or 503.621.3501 to submit items for publication.

SRN Website

Visit www.srnpx.org for more news, photos and information about our community. If you have questions or comments, contact the Webmaster, Agnes Kwan, at webmaster@srnpx.org.

The views and opinions presented herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by SRN or Skyline neighborhood residents.

Thanks for Your Donations!

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who recently made cash donations to SRN:

- ~ Elaine & Edward Perkins
- ~ James Emerson
- ~ Susan Still
- ~ Lawrence Zivin
- ~ Grant Rolette & Rachael Brake

SRN relies on the financial support of the Skyline community to pursue its nonprofit, educational mission. We operate entirely on the volunteer efforts of neighbors like you. Donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated! Please make checks payable to SRN and send them to Rachael Brake, SRN Treasurer, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. Thank you.



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Introducing “Neighbors Speak Out,” a New Ridge Runner Feature

By Miles Merwin, Editor

Starting with this issue, we’re launching a new, on-going column in the Skyline Ridge Runner. “Neighbors Speak Out” will be a platform for Skyline area residents to share their opinions, ideas, and information with the community. The subjects can be wide-ranging and diverse while being mindful of the community’s well-being. If you feel strongly about an issue of local, national or global importance, you are welcome to share your views here.

To be considered for publication, we ask that you please adhere to some basic guidelines. No rants about politics or religion, please, or diatribes about individuals. And keep the tone civil; nothing that could be construed as racist or sexist, of course. Stories will be accepted only

from residents within the SRN neighborhood boundaries and may be edited for length and clarity if needed.

Send your story to ridgerunner@srnpx.org. Please provide your name and where you live; anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Publication may be delayed depending on the amount of material already submitted for the next issue.

To kick off “Neighbors Speak Out,” in this issue you will find a guest editorial from Alex Rose who first suggested the idea for this new column. She writes about the impact of livestock farming on global warming. You are welcome to share your own thoughts in the Ridge Runner. □

Connecting Neighbors

By Laurel Erhardt

Are you a Facebooker? So are we! Good news, we now have a Facebook group page, Skyline Ridge Neighbors Portland Group Page, where you can go and share pertinent neighborhood information (road conditions, power outages, report lost and found pets). We have had a Skyline Ridge Neighbors Facebook page for quite some time but individuals could not do their own posts on that page. With the new group page, you’ll be able to initiate your own posts. So if you’re so inclined, swing by our group page, join in and feel free to make comments. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1092972632532775>)

We are so fortunate to live in the Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) neighborhood that is so rural yet so connected. I want to take a moment here to make sure you know of some of the ways you can meet and connect with your neighbors in the SRN hood.

First, there is this Ridge Runner newsletter. It is delivered by USPS to all mailboxes in the SRN neighborhood

four times a year. Neighborhood boundaries can found at www.srnpx.org/boundary-map. The Ridge Runner editor Miles can be reached at ridgerunner@srnpx.org.

Next is our weekly Skyline Rural Watch Newslines. This self-subscribed email is sent out on Fridays or as needed to notify neighbors of timely neighborhood events or lost and found pets. You can subscribe to this email on our website. The contact email is newslines@srnpx.org. Folks who are subscribed to the email Newslines also receive an electronic Ridge Runner.

Our website, srnpx.org, is chock full of local information, what’s going on in the ‘hood, Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) information, previous Ridge Runners and historical articles.

So, enjoy this Ridge Runner read, make sure you’re signed up for the email Newslines, flip through the website for some interesting reads and I look forward to seeing you at the next community event! □

Save the Date: Skyline Ridge Wildfire Ready Workshop

By Jen Warren, Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office

Are you interested in learning more about wildfire in the Skyline Ridge area? Concerned about how to protect your home and family? Join your neighbors at the Skyline Ridge Wildfire Ready Workshop, Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Skyline Grange #894. This event is free and includes lunch!

After Oregon’s record-breaking 2024 wildfire season, your local wildfire professionals and community partners have already begun to look ahead and prepare for next season. While most of the acreage burned in 2024 was on the east side of the state, the potential for a large wildfire

to impact communities in northwest Oregon remains ever present. Just one careless act...

This free workshop will be a great opportunity to take a deep dive learning how to prepare your home, your family, and your landscape through interactive sessions. Tailored to the forested communities in the West Hills/Tualatin Mountains, and unincorporated Multnomah County, it is a great opportunity to meet your local wildfire professionals and neighbors who share your interest in being wildfire ready.

Mark your calendar now! Registration information will be in the next issue of the Ridge Runner. □

Brian Lightcap, 1944-2024: A 20th Century Pioneer

By Andy Lightcap

My dad really was like the last of the pioneers or like a 20th century pioneer, journeying west and building his home with his own hands. Except he drove a Karman Ghia for his transport west instead of a covered wagon. People thought he was crazy to have these dreams and to raise a family with the ideals my mom and dad had. However, his goal wasn't to tame the land, but to learn, grow, and care for it.

As he got older, people would ask him questions and so he would teach and share the knowledge and wisdom he gained and be an example for all who saw the path he followed. He was humble about this, open to learning more himself, and always passionate about these things.

Dad was born in 1944 in Rockford, Illinois. He is survived by his two sons, Andrew and Zachary, four sisters, and two grandchildren. He lost his first wife Christine in a traffic accident on Cornelius Pass Rd in 1994. In the accident, a driver high on drugs, crossed lanes and hit them head on. He miraculously survived after being life-flighted for emergency surgery in Portland with massive internal and external injuries that left him permanently handicapped.

After earning a BS degree at Iowa State University, dad enlisted in the Army, earning the rank of Sergeant. Following his military service, he furthered his education at Southern Illinois University, earning a master's degree in forestry. Professionally, he dedicated 25 years to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a respected wetland ecologist before retiring in 2001. His work left an enduring impact on Oregon's natural landscape, and his personal commitment to conservation continued long after his retirement.

Dad was a Unitarian for over 50 years, attending the First Unitarian church in downtown Portland, and later becoming a founding member of the Washington County Unitarian Universalist Church. He sang in choir most every year, a tradition that started as a child singing with his parents at church and with school choirs growing up.

On his 54-acre agroforestry farm on Newberry Road, he raised sheep and sustainably harvested wood, crafting picture frames, gates, and furniture—a reflection of his ingenuity and connection to the land.

He served 42 years as a publicly elected, volunteer officer with the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation

District, among many other things. As the board's longest-serving member, he held the title of Chair Emeritus and was instrumental in initiatives such as the Sturgeon Lake restoration, securing critical funding for the project. If you don't see a giant landfill in the west hills that was pushed years ago by Metro, or if you enjoy Sturgeon Lake on Sauvie Island, send a thanks to him.

He and other members of the family were active members of the Skyline Grange since the 1970s. He chaired its Agriculture Committee for many years, championing sustainable practices and strengthening his local community.

For recreational fun, he enjoyed biking, getting on the water and paddling canoes or kayaks (especially in the kayaks he built), backpacking, and cross-country skiing.

Starting as a young boy playing in the woods whenever he could, he had fond memories of being with his father and family walking hand in hand through forests. The eagle scout grew into a man who marveled at the beauty and peace found in a life of what we could call today as sustainable forestry.

I can say without a doubt, in addition to family, friends, and neighbors, that the land was instrumental in keeping him alive when the doctors thought there

was little chance he or anyone could survive the injuries he suffered in the 1994 car accident. It is a beautiful irony that the forest took care of him all these years, just as much as he took care of it. □



Brian is all smiles holding his first granddaughter Kinley (Photo courtesy A. Lightcap)



Food For Thought

By Alex Rose

Global warming, Greenhouse Gas, Climate change, Climate Crisis...these are phrases used interchangeably to describe the challenges our planet faces today. In this article on climate change, the goal aims to look at some surprising facts coming to light, spark our curiosity and inspire thoughtful dialogue about what we can do.

Defining our subject, climate change refers to the long-term shift in the Earth's temperatures and weather patterns.

In 2023, global warming surpassed the critical threshold of 1.5C ("the point of no return") i.e., the hottest year on record with 2025 poised to be even hotter. When encountering these headlines, do you move on, "Someone else's problem." Or, do you imagine living in Las Vegas or Tucson where temperatures soared to grid-challenging heights over 100 degrees for days? Consider India where heat waves "routinely" rocketed over 120 degrees. We can recall the Heat Dome that struck Portland in 2021 when scorching temperatures reached 116 degrees inconveniencing us, even claiming the lives of 70 people in Multnomah County, alone. Heat is just one facet of the extreme weather events tied to climate change.

This article will spotlight a lesser discussed but significant contributor to the climate crisis: animal agriculture (AA) and the extreme burden the practices shift onto our planet and, ultimately, us. "While much of the focus has been on fossil fuels, it's hardly the whole story.

Many climate experts believe environmental organizations have side-stepped AA's impact by avoiding bringing AA into the discussion largely due to financial ties with the mega-food and livestock industries. Will Anderson Founder of Alaska Greenpeace states bluntly, "The environmental organizations are failing us and failing ecosystems."

The Role of CAFOs

An even more profound burden to the environmental crisis is triggered by AA and the rise of CAFOs – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. According to the Humane League, "Hundreds of thousands of these facilities exist throughout the United States. Factory farms are the sites of acts of animal cruelty, breeding grounds for viruses and drug-resistant bacteria and are one of the biggest sources of air and water pollution." 116,000 pounds of farmed excrement are produced every second in the U.S. with no waste treatment. 130 times more "poop" than we humans produce! The overuse of anti-biotics in AA meat production is staggering, accounting for 70% of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. This profligate practice threatens our entire "human" health system fueling drug-resistant bacteria, totally immune to anti-biotics - crucial components to our most basic standard medical procedures.

- The environmental toll of AA is difficult to ignore.
- The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) reports "31% of human-caused greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions originate from the world's agri-food systems."
- Methane gas from livestock is at least 28 times more destructive than CO2 from vehicles. The 1.5 billion cows raised for meat worldwide push 231 billion pounds of methane into the atmosphere each year, trapping 120 times more heat, moment to moment, than CO2.
- Hydraulic fracking uses the astonishing 100 billion gallons of water/year. Animal agriculture uses 34 TRILLION gallons of water/year.
- 1,500 gallons of water are required to produce one quarter-pound burger and 1,000 gallons produce just 1 gallon of milk; whereas, short showers over a 2-month period use 660 gallons of water.
- AA uses 55% of our water supply compared to just 5% for residential use.

Rainforest Destruction

95% of the Amazon rainforest extinction is attributable to AA amounting to the loss of ONE acre every 6 seconds, or 14,400 acres/day, further translating to 136 million acres of rainforest that have been lost to date. Put another way, every year, between 15 and 22 million acres of tropical forests are lost to animal agriculture - equivalent to 8 million soccer fields. This to feed cows, which eat 150 lbs. of feed/day – in comparison, a human eats a fraction of that – maybe 2-3 pounds? Experts attribute cattle ranching as the single overwhelming driver of rainforest destruction.

A Path Forward -The bright side: yes, there's a lot you and I can do.

An obvious answer is to greatly decrease AA worldwide. However, there is a middle ground – simply eating less beef and dairy each week. Plus, with all the new and delicious plant-based offerings available in both meat and dairy, it's surprisingly easy to start converting one's kitchen to grains and plant proteins. Also, by adding more chicken to our plates – a nutritious choice that is much less environmentally depleting – we can make a positive change.

The largest mammals on earth – giraffes, elephants, hippos, rhinos, gorillas, cows, horses, etc. thrive on ONLY GREENS. Plus, with myriads of vegetarian and vegan websites, YouTube videos, IG and Facebook recipes – all demonstrating mouth-watering recipes, we can all create amazing dishes.

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Dorinne Pedersen: A Woman Ahead of Her Time

By Lindsey Laughlin

Elaborate Japanese woodworking, meticulously manicured gardens, and a winding pathway replete with an arched wooden bridge spanning a large koi pond welcome visitors to Dorinne Pedersen's home on McNamee Road. Dorinne and her two close friends, Kurt Kimsey and Rik Kalmbach, purchased the 35-acre property in 1992. As a real estate broker with an eye for long-term investments and decades of city-living under her belt, Dorinne was ready to return to her Minnesota roots—she longed to live on land.

The trio designed and built their architecturally-rich home with three individual living spaces. "We designed the house specifically to have independence," Dorinne says. The concept of three unrelated, unmarried adults living together was unheard of at the time. But since the friends were each childless and independent, the choice to build a shared home made sense financially. Dorinne recalls questions she received about her marriage status in those early years on the hill, including an inquiry about how to list the threesome in the local phonebook. "I said, 'We're not a couple. We are three adults living together.'"

In 2013, Rik passed away from leukemia. "I miss Rik every day," Dorinne says. "We thoroughly enjoyed each other. We all had such different talents that it worked really well."

Dorinne, the youngest of seven daughters, was born in 1938 in Norcross, Minnesota. Her father was fifty-three at the time of her birth, farming land with plow-horses rather than a tractor. Her large family lived a modest life without electricity or running water. "We were undoubtedly the poorest family in the area. We walked everywhere—we had no car—and lived a mile from town. I learned how to be self-sufficient, raise ducks, work on the farm, have a garden, take care of livestock, and haul water. Our well was shallow and had frogs in it. Life was great, we were healthy, happy, loved and not troubled by 'all that stuff' we buy today. It was a good thing."

At age thirteen, Dorinne made her first phone call on a crank telephone. At age fourteen, the family moved to Wheaton, Minnesota, and had access to running water, flush toilets and electricity for the first time. At age sixteen, Dorinne was married. "In that era, you had only one reason to be born as a girl—to get married and have children. So, consequently, that was my ambition. At age sixteen, I married a Minnesota farm boy. He entered the service and,

when he was out, we moved to Southern Oregon."

After a few years of married life, "I grew up," Dorinne says. "I was just a child when I got married and we had no kids." In her early twenties, she left her husband and eventually moved to Portland.

Dorinne worked at United Grocers while going to school to earn a real estate license. At age twenty-seven, license in hand, she offered her services to a real estate firm. "I was really good at real estate because I loved it.

I sold it day and night. I didn't have to go home in the evening and cook dinner for a husband, so I made extra money." Dorinne invested some of her earnings in a four-plex apartment building.

In 1966, at age thirty-one, Dorinne took a year-long work hiatus to travel around the world. Her trip started with an overnight stop in Japan—a country she would ultimately return to. "I wanted to explore Southeast Asia, so I spent six months living in Thailand then went to Bangkok. I spent a lot of time in the Middle East, in Israel and what was then Palestine, and then moved on to Greece. I visited Europe, France and England before returning to Oregon."

Back in Portland, Dorinne moved into her four-plex. She attended college for a spell with the goal of becoming a real estate lawyer, but couldn't justify going to class during

winter term when there was great skiing to be had. Plus, her real estate career was flourishing. In 1970, at age thirty-two, she purchased acreage near Reed College and built a five-plex apartment building. "I knocked myself out and did all sorts of special things. I wallpapered the living room walls, built fireplaces, and installed large picture windows. To this day, the apartments all have patios extending into fenced backyards."

In 1977, Dorinne purchased a number of new properties, including a colonial house, a run-down mobile home park and a vacant property, all adjacent to her four-plex. "I huffed and I puffed and I came up with enough money to purchase the three properties. You just have to have a lot of courage. The bank turned me down multiple times in Portland, so I got in my car and drove to the head office in Seattle. I walked in and said I was there to discuss my business. I laid out my plans.

"They gave me the money and I built a thirteen-unit apartment complex on the vacant lot," Dorinne says. She also completely renovated the mobile-home park, trans-



(Photo: L. Laughlin)

Dorinne Pedersen, p. 7

► **Dorinne Pederson** (continued from p. 6)

forming it from “a wretched mess” into a park so clean that an attorney once said “you could eat off the pavement.” Dorinne owned and managed the mobile-home park for thirty-four years. “People would say, ‘Oh, your husband is in real estate? Or was it your father?’ Nope, my father was a Minnesota farmer—he had nothing to do with any of this.”

Dorinne jokingly describes herself as a woman of ten-thousand words. With a smile, she says, “My older sisters always pushed me to the front of the line and made me

do the talking for them!” As a young lady living in an era when women were discouraged from venturing outside of the home, Dorinne followed her natural ambition and was willing to take risks. And now, at age eighty-seven, still managing her five-plex apartment units, she continues to do so. □

For this ongoing series of neighbor profiles, please send us (ridgerunner@srnpx.org) your suggestions for people you know who would be interesting to interview.

► **Food for Thought** (continued from p. 5)

“The worldwide phase out of animal agriculture, combined with a global switch to a plant-based diet, would effectively halt the increase of atmospheric greenhouse gases for 30 years and give humanity more time to end its reliance on fossil fuels,” report scientists from Stanford University and UC, Berkeley. “A shift towards more plant-based diets is “essential” for the health of people and planet,” adds Dr. Ghebreyesus, WHO’s Director-General. Food production is responsible for “almost one third of the global burden of disease” and most of these emissions are from animal agriculture.”

Other “fixes” would be improving soil in our environment – it has been shown that adding a 1% increase of organic matter to soil will allow it to hold an additional 25,000 gallons of water reducing the risk of drought or flood. Shopping at our local farmers’ markets, we find the freshest, nutritionally dense, home-grown fruits and vegetables that don’t even require shipping and that are economically priced.

The Big Picture

Fortunately, there are side health benefits that align with plant-based eating. Dr. Michael Klaper adds, “We are designed as plant-based beings – we have fingers, not claws, long intestines for fiber, small mouths, a rotary jaw for side-ways grinding, molars – not tearing teeth, and enzymes to digest starch. He continues, “I’ve never had gorilla or a giraffe in my office saying, “Doc, I’m not getting enough protein.”

Statistically, vegans live 10 years longer with a 15% less mortality rate, lowering the incidence of chronic diseases. Drs. Ayesha and Dean Sherzai of The Brain Docs Clinic in Loma Linda, CA treat degenerative brain disorders, emphasizing these “untreatable” maladies are not genetic or inexorable but consequences of poor diet – emphasizing meat and the myth of “high protein.” Their spectacular results stem largely from helping patients achieve vegan-style eating plans.

As film director and wine grower, Francis Coppola optimistically remarked in a recent NPR interview, “We are a genius species – we’ll figure this out!” □



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Quick Facts: The CEI Hub and Zenith Energy

By Claire Stock

The CEI Hub (Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub) is a six mile stretch along Highway 30 that houses 630 tanks that supply 90% of Oregon’s liquid fuels: 300 million gallons of highly explosive and volatile liquid. The tanks are next to the Willamette River on unstable, in-fill soil, on a fault line and subject to liquefaction in the event of a Cascadia Earthquake. Most of the tanks were built well before modern seismic standards had been established, averaging to year 1954.

You can learn more by referencing the 2022 Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub Report commissioned by Multnomah County, intended to characterize and quantify anticipated damages from the CEI Hub in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) Earthquake. Read the report here: <https://multco.us/info/cei-hub-seismic-risk-analysis>.

Fenceline Air Monitoring: On December 9, 2024, the EPA announced that it is requiring nine facilities in the CEI Hub to collect fenceline air monitoring data for concentrations of five volatile organic compounds: benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylenes and hexane. Air monitors will collect data for one year and facilities will submit the data to EPA every two weeks. You can learn more on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/or/fenceline-air-monitoring-oregons-critical-energy-infrastructure-hub>.

Fuel Tank Financial Responsibility: Multnomah County Office of Sustainability, supported by the Office of Emergency Management, has developed a policy to expedite mitigation of risk and, when the CSZ or other major disaster happens, ensure that the County has sufficient financial

resources on hand to address the scale and scope of the unprecedented and cataclysmic damage that will occur. The policy goals will be achieved through a county ordinance requiring parties responsible for hazardous materials stored at the CEI Hub provide proof that they will have sufficient financial resources on hand to cover damages from a worst-case spill or hazardous release. Read more here: <https://multco.us/info/budget-note-risk-bondfinancial-assurance-policy-critical-energy-infrastructure-cei-hub>.

Zenith Energy is a fuel products transloading facility. The company accepts crude oil, diesel, renewable fuels and other fuel products from one mode of transportation, like railcars, and passes them along to another, such as marine vessels. In the interim, fuel products are stored at the facility in above-ground tanks.

Zenith's air quality permitting process is currently on pause while DEQ gathers more information. On Dec. 6, 2024, DEQ requested a Land Use Compatibility Statement, or LUCS, from Zenith to cover operations on adjacent properties before the agency can proceed with the air quality permitting process.

DEQ requested a LUCS issued by the City of Portland that includes these operations within 60 days, or by Feb. 4, 2025. DEQ determined that the LUCS Zenith submitted in 2022 for its Title V air quality permit renewal and new Air Contaminant Discharge Permit applications does not cover the McCall and Chevron properties adjacent to Zenith's terminal, where Zenith loads fuel onto ships at marine docks. Read the DEQ report: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/programs/pages/zenith.aspx>. □

Weed Wrenches Available to Borrow

By Sen Speroff

As a way of supporting residents in their efforts to remove invasive plants, SRN has Weed Wrenches available for borrowing. The wet season is a perfect time to use it. This back-saving manually operated tool is very effective in uprooting woody shrubs and sapling trees, such as Scot’s broom, English holly, Norway maples, Russian olive trees, English laurel, hawthorns, willows, and conifers. A person with ordinary strength can use it. It works on some herbaceous plants if their stems are fibrous and tough enough to not break before the roots are pulled out.

It may be useful for a first-round removal of blackberry vines, as long as you understand you still will have to dig up the underground root runners. It will not work on soft-stemmed plants and on plants that grow in a clump like pampas grass. Contact Laura at 503-407-7175 (McNamee) for small size or Sen at 503-621-3331 for medium and large sizes. □



Winterize Your Car's Go-Bag



By Sen Speroff

Every time we are away from home during bad weather, we hope the Big One won't come then. At least if we are at home, we'll have our emergency supplies at hand... right? And don't forget, those emergency supplies can serve you well during other situations, such as during power outages, road closures, etc. You should have food, water, extra prescription medications, extra clothing, shelter, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, communication devices and so on stored in an accessible location. There are many sources for emergency kit content recommendations, including FEMA (<https://ready.gov>) and the American Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>). You can even purchase pre-packed kits.

If you haven't already, it is time to winterize your car Go Bag and to winterize your home emergency equipment as well. Make sure you have rain gear, insulated or fleece pants & long shirt, moisture wicking long underwear, wool socks, warm clothing, winter hat and a pair of

warm mittens for each member of your household. Ideally you have a 3 or 4 season tent, handwarmers, footwarmers, well-insulated sleeping pads, cold weather sleeping bag(s), insulated vacuum bottle and cup, and cold weather foods, such as soups, coffee, and cocoa. It would be easier if the Big One would choose a warm summer day, but living here, our chances are greater for it to happen in the soggy, rainy fog.

Thank You

We want to thank Skyline Grange and all the members who contributed to its annual Soup Supper and all those of you who attended this past fall. The Grange donated its profit of \$926 to us. We will use this for team supplies or equipment.

Contact Us

NETs are here to support the community. Questions? Email Skyline Ridge NET at SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com or contact Rachael Brake, Team Leader, at 503.201.6740. Learn more about NETs at <https://www.portland.gov/pbem/neighborhood-emergency-teams>. □

► Close Encounters (continued from p. 1)

est, and they manage to spit out all the grape skins as they work their way across the arbor. Now grape skins are one thing, but the number two thing is also their specialty, and I do mean number two! As they get their fill they also manage to poop all over the deck below the arbor making quite a mess.

One year I decided to trap the creatures in a live trap and I was feeling so proud when the trap worked. I even found two raccoon children in the trap together. Normally, I would cart the grape thieves off to destinations that shall remain secret; however, the last time I put the live trap out I got an unexpected alternative: namely, a smaller black and white creature that was clearly not my neighbor's cat. Yes, it was a skunk- and I had to figure out how to get it out of the trap. Can you guess how I did it?

Wily Coyotes

From Vickie Coghill — Unlike their wolf cousins, coyotes rarely hunt in packs, but it's been a rough month here. The coyotes are on my full grown goats now. One was killed a couple weeks ago and another yesterday. Killed and gone. They are hunting as a pack now. Probably coyote parents and last year's pups. Great! And breeding season is here. The coyotes are out of control on this hill. I've been here 48 years and I've never ever had them pull down a full grown goat or sheep. Lambs and chickens are their go to meal when they can get away with it. I stopped raising lambs here years ago because of coyotes. And I got great

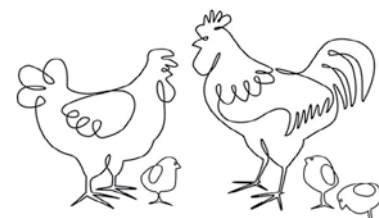
joy raising lambs on this farm, too! Taken away because of those killers. Fine.

I can't imagine what will happen if they go unchecked. Another litter or more this year and no predators to keep the population down. I get irritated when they hit my chickens, but at least I can resolve that by keeping the chickens penned up. If one troublemaker comes around, s/he will be quickly dispatched by my rifle. That takes care of that problem for a year or two. I cannot keep goats locked in a barn indefinitely. Their job is weed and brush control here. I hate to run a trapline but I'll do what I have to do to protect my animals.

I moved my remaining goats away from my farm and to a friend's secure farm.

Since the food source (my goats) were removed from my farm, it's been quiet here.

Cougars can have a 50-150 square mile territory so it can be anywhere - miles away or on my mountain. I hope with the Frat Boyz goats being gone, the cougar will move on. □



Generous Community Support Makes Us Grateful



By Sen Speroff

Skyline Grange #894 – Since 1940
"Where Community Connects"

A new year triggers pause for reflection and our reflections hold so much gratitude for this community's support. There is a saying: "Our actions are like a boomerang. What we throw is what comes back to us." Our mission is community service based, and like the boomerang, the Skyline community has returned support back to the Grange in various forms. A record number of 49 local households donated items to our fall garage sale, earning \$5,300 earmarked for capital improvements.

You continue to be an engaged audience at our educational presentations, often prompting speakers to positively comment. You offer us program and event ideas and valued feedback. You express appreciation for having an openhearted place to gather and our building improvements. You pitch in to help clean after events without being asked. You volunteer, you cook, you donate. You turn garage sales into social events. At plant sales you delight us with your successes (and some failures). You encourage others to come to events.

West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District continues to be a partner, most recently funding two speakers in our Skyline Living Series. SRN continues to provide vital space in this publication and on its Newsline to distribute information about happenings at the Grange. Plainview Grocery and Linnton Feed & Seed post our flyers. We are thankful for all of you and the community we live in.

What's Been Happening at the Grange

Since the last Ridge Runner, we have been busy. Our Education Committee presented two free presentations to the community: "Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley" with speaker Dr. David G. Lewis and "Soil: What It Is & How It Works" with speaker James Cassidy. The aroma of soups filled our hall during Community Soup Supper. To support our creative arts community, we invited local artisans to sell their wares at our annual Skyline Grange Artisan Holiday Arts Fair. Café Grange offered "real" food during the Arts Fair. Grange members taught a Wreath-Making Workshop to 27 participants using woodland materials donated by Grangers.

Our membership continues to grow. The desire to participate in community and engage with local residents tends to be the main reason stated for joining. We now total 112 voting members and five juniors.

Our building is available to rent. Since the last Ridge Runner it has been rented for monthly ISHA satsangs and a weekend meditation event. It was also a venue for Ponte en mis Zapatos, a non-profit, to wrap donated

gifts to children of families in need, and it is a venue for Skyline Ridge NET's monthly meetings. We also sponsor Yoga at the Grange three mornings a week.

Upcoming Community Activities

For details, visit our website at www.skyline-grange894.org and on the weekly SRN Newsline. Mark your calendars. Our Education Committee has organized numerous free educational events this winter/spring: on January 22, 2025 "More Than Flowers: What Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators" with Xerces Society speaker Matthew Shepherd; on March 26, 2025 "Earthquakes on Skyline Ridge" with speaker Jay Wilson; and on April 23, 2025 the film showing of "Once a Braided River" with local filmmaker Barbara Bernstein. Known and appreciated for our cooking, on February 16, 2025 is our Pancakes, Etc. Community Brunch. On February 28-March 1, 2025 is our uniquely Skyline flavored Spring Garage Sale. Yoga at the Grange is open to all on most Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 9 a.m. (Schedule and details are at www.yogainalignment.com). On May 3, 2025 our Grange is co-sponsoring an all-day Wildfire Ready Community Workshop with other partners.

Join Skyline Grange

Grange is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit, and totally volunteer-driven organization. We are a diverse group of people who believe that we are fortunate to live in the Skyline area and are dedicated to support its well-being. We take the fact seriously that our building is a community asset as a gathering place. Our impact, activities, and accomplishments depend upon our members and community volunteers. We offer 3 categories of membership: lifetime, individual, and family.

Contact Information

You can learn more about the Grange and contact us regarding rentals and general questions as follows: www.SkylineGrange894.org; Skyline-Grange894@msn.com; www.Facebook.com/Skyline-Grange-894-169559023662398/; Physical Address: 11275 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97231; Mailing Address: 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland, OR 97231. ☐

Wanted: Snow Plowing Contact. The Highlands at Forest Park HOA (access points are Skyline @Glendoveer Dr and Skyline @Mactavish Ln) is seeking a reliable contact for paved street snow plowing (about 3/4 mile total) in the event of winter storms. Please contact Doug Franklin at dougf@live.com.

Free Horse Items. Fly spray, shampoo, brushes, saddle pad, bareback pad, halters, leads, bridles. Text: Linda 503-704-1241.


Snow Tires for Sale. Pirelli, Rimless 245/46/19. Barely used. Pictures available. \$250. Please text Linda, 503.704.1241.

Phoenix Farm Riding School. English horse-riding lessons for the whole family. All ages and ability levels are welcome! Day-off-school camps. Summer camps. Parties and special events. Located on the corner of Skyline Blvd. & Rock Creek Rd. Call/text 503.621.3823, email 13phoenix-farm13@gmail.com.

Owen West Electric. Our specialty is service and panel changes, kitchen and bath remodels, security, and yard lighting. 30 years of experience. CCB #29492. 503.297.6375 Office, 503.880.9512 Cell.

Rent the Skyline Grange. Details at skylinegrange894.org.

Borrow tool to eliminate Scotch broom, holly and other woody shrubs, sapling trees easily. SRN will lend 3 sizes of Weed Wrench. Contact Sen 503.621.3331 for large and medium size (Skyline near mile marker 15). Contact Laura 503.407.7175 for small size (McNamee Rd.).



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Community Calendar

Mostly Tree Seedling Sale at Skyline Grange. By Pre-Order ONLY. Mostly bareroot native tree seedlings & some native shrub seedlings & wildflower starts. Pre-order early Jan to Feb. 2 deadline. Pick-up date TBD in Feb. or Mar.

Jan. 22, 7-8:30 pm: "More than Flowers: What Your Garden Needs to Support Pollinators." Matthew Sheperd of Xerces Society will discuss practical ways in which we can bring diversity into our landscapes and make our gardens havens for pollinators.

Feb. 16, 9:30-11:30 am: Pancakes, Etc. Community Brunch. Come fill your bellies with pancakes, waffles, French toast, fresh fruit, and fresh brewed coffee. Suggested donation of \$10 for ages 14 and older, \$5 for ages 5-13, & free under 5 years.

Feb. 28, 9 am-7 pm & Mar. 1, 9 am-5 pm: Spring Garage Sale at Skyline Grange. Donations from 35+ local households. Huge! Has a uniquely Skyline favor with a mix of practical to zany, plus equipment useful for semi-rural living. All proceeds go to Capital Improvement Fund.

Mar. 26, 7-8:30 pm: Talk: "Earthquakes on Skyline Ridge." Speaker is Jay Wilson, Clackamas County Resilience Coordinator with the Department of Disaster Management & former Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)

Apr. 4 & 5, 9 am-5 pm: Tree & Native Plant Sale Native Section: 95+ native species. Available by pre-order or on sale days. Bare Root Section: fruit-bearing, ornamen-

tal & shade trees. Available only on sale days. Skyline Grange's 20th year.

Apr. 5, 8:30 am-3 pm: Soil School 2025 at PCC Rock Creek. If you're a new or seasoned gardener or curious about soil health for landscaping, stormwater solutions, or other reasons, be sure to mark your calendar. Registration is \$35 and covers a full day of classes plus breakfast and lunch. <https://wmswcd.org/soil-school>.

Apr. 23, 6:30 pm: "Once a Braided River: How Portland Abused and Degraded the River that Runs Through It." This film by local filmmaker Barbara Bernstein tells the story of the Willamette River before it was transformed into a "Superfund" site. It features community groups and activists working toward a green, working waterfront defined by good jobs, clean energy, and healthy ecosystems.

May 3: Skyline Ridge Wildfire Ready Workshop, at the Skyline Grange.

SRN Board monthly meetings: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13; 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact Brad Graff (bradgraff@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link.

Skyline Grange monthly meetings: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10; 7 pm. All are welcome to attend, regardless of Grange membership. For more info, email Skyline-Grange894@msn.com.