JUNE/JULY, 2025 ISSUE 1.2

ROW RIVER REVIEW

Our Voice, Our Valley, Our Future

Welcoming Summer: Connect, Bloom, Prepare

As summer unfolds in the Row River Valley, so does a new edition of the Row River Review, your community newsletter dedicated to connection and resilience. In this issue, we celebrate the beauty of our home and the strength of the people who live here—past and present.

One highlight we witnessed this season is the abundant bloom of Common Camas, recently gracing our wet meadows and valley with soft blue blossoms. Once a staple food cultivated by Native peoples, camas still flourishes in special places alongside lilies, sedges, and other native plants. Today, Indigenous communities, and others continue the work of restoring this vital plant and its ecosystem. Their efforts are a powerful act of resilience and cultural renewal.

We also focus on wildfire preparedness -- offering practical tools to help you stay safe, and proactive. Inside you'll find checklists for building a go-bag, tips on reading air quality indexes, and guidance for caring for pets, family, and neighbors during smoke or evacuation. You'll also learn how to use an air horn to alert others in an emergency and how to plan safe travel if it ever happens.

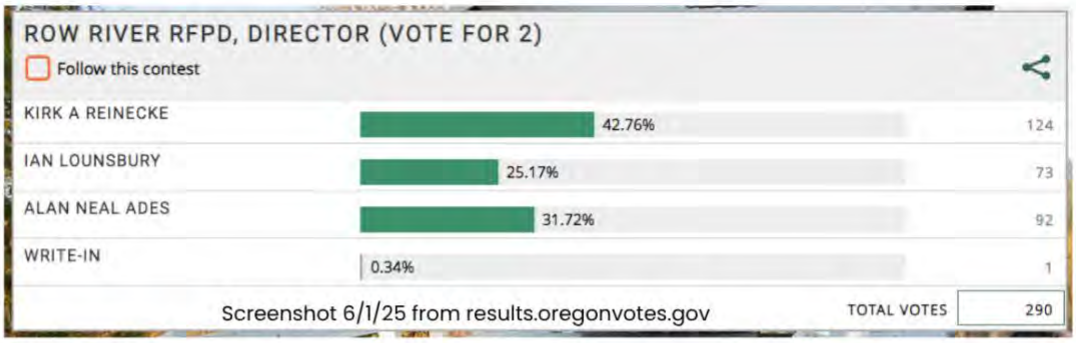
Our Community Calendar has info on the Sunshine Club Ice Cream Social: a delicious invitation to our community! Also check out the generous list of Row River Grange offerings.

As always, the Row River Review is here to help us take care of ourselves and each other—with open eyes, open hearts, and a readiness rooted in love for this land and community.

Stay safe, stay connected,
and enjoy the season.

RRRFPD News

Congratulations to Kirk Reinecke and Alan Ades on winning the vote to serve as board officers for the RR Rural Fire Protection District!



Symptoms of Smoke Exposure

Anyone can be impacted by wildfire smoke. High levels of smoke can make breathing more difficult. Symptoms to watch for include wheezing, shortness of breath, difficulty taking a full breath, chest heaviness, lightheadedness and dizziness.

If you experience these symptoms, or any symptoms that concern you, reach out to your healthcare provider. If you have a chronic lung disease, such as asthma or COPD, follow your action plan and take medications as prescribed and if your symptoms aren't relieved, contact your healthcare provider.

For more tips on how to stay safe during Wildfire smoke, see article on page 5.

DIY Air Filter

Materials Needed

20" x 20" air filter
Suggested rating: MERV 13

20" x 20" box fan
Only use certified fans with UL or ETL certification (2012 model or newer)

Clamps | Duct Tape | Bungee Cords

Assembly

1. Check the air flow direction on the filter before attaching it to the fan.
2. Attach the air filter to the back of the box fan using either clamps, duct tape or bungee cords.
3. Replace filters when dirty.

Know the Air You Breathe: Understanding the AQI

When wildfire smoke drifts into our valley, knowing what's in the air becomes essential. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a simple, color-coded tool that shows how clean or polluted the air is, and what that means for your health.

You can find current AQI levels on weather apps, airnow.gov, or purpleair.com.

- Green (0–50): Good – air is healthy for everyone.
- Yellow (51–100): Moderate – acceptable, but may affect very sensitive individuals.
- Orange (101–150): Unhealthy for sensitive groups – children, elders, and people with health conditions should limit outdoor activity.
- Red (151–200): Unhealthy – everyone may begin to feel effects.
- Purple (201–300): Very unhealthy – health warnings for all.
- Maroon (301–500): Hazardous – emergency conditions; stay indoors.

Staying informed helps you make safe, proactive choices—because clean air matters.

PLAN YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE - *BEFORE* YOU NEED IT

PIn a wildfire emergency, knowing how to get out safely is one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Here in our small valley community, we don't have many roads out—so planning ahead can make all the difference.
Start by making a plan:

Know your routes:
Take a look at a map of the area and identify at least two ways out of your neighborhood. Since we mostly rely on the roads along the river, it's good to know which ones stay open longest in a fire. (Think brush clearances.)

Figure out transportation:
Make sure everyone in your household has a way to leave. If you don't drive or need help evacuating, talk to neighbors, friends, or local services now—before an emergency.

Pick a meeting spot:
Choose a safe place outside the danger zone where your household can meet if separated. Share that location with an out-of-town friend or relative who can help keep track of everyone.

Know the local plans:
Ask our local fire department, the RRRFPD, how they will handle evacuations. They may have maps, or tips to help you prepare.

Plan for pets and animals:
If you have pets or livestock, think about how you'll transport and shelter them safely. Having carriers or trailers ready to go is a big help.

When a wildfire happens, stay informed:
Listen for official updates: We do not have good cell coverage in our area, and in the event of a wildfire power may be out and cut us off from the internet. If you cannot reach our local department, those with landlines may be able to reach the South Lane Fire Department at 541-942-4493.

Sign up for local alerts:
If you haven't already, register for emergency notifications (like Everbridge) so you'll get real-time updates by phone or text.

Know how evacuation orders are given:
In our area, that might mean sirens, an air-horn sounded off by your neighbor, or even a knock on your door. If you're asked to leave—go right away.

If you're told to evacuate:
Follow directions from law enforcement:
If they show up, be assured they're here to help keep you safe and will guide you along the safest route.

Pay attention to changing conditions:
Fires and smoke can move fast. Watch the wind, listen to updates, and be ready to change direction if needed.

Have a backup plan:
If your first route is blocked, take your alternate one. If roads are closed, law enforcement may direct you to a safe temporary gathering spot.

Preparing now means peace of mind later. Your safety matters to this community—and we're all in this together.

CAMAS RETURNS: CELEBRATING A VALLEY IN BLOOM

Every spring, the wet meadows and moist hillsides of the Row River Valley come alive with the soft blue glow of blooming Common Camas.

This native wildflower, once widespread across the Pacific Northwest, thrives in areas shaped by seasonal water—wetlands, floodplains, and low, open grasslands. You may have seen beautiful meadows full this spring, including alongside the Row River Bike Trail.

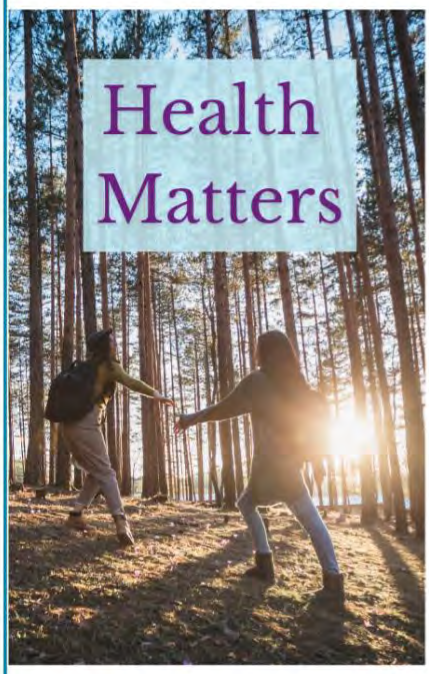
Here in the valley, camas still blooms alongside other native species like Chocolate Lily, Tiger Lily, Leopard Lily, Northwest Territory Sedge, and Panicled Bulrush. These living plant communities are not just beautiful—they're vital to the health of our ecosystems and cultural memory..

For countless generations, Northwest Native tribes have cultivated and harvested camas as a foundational food source. Today, despite the legacy of displacement and cultural suppression, many tribal communities are actively restoring camas meadows—reviving both ecological balance and ancestral practices. These efforts are acts of resilience, deserving of our recognition, respect, and support.

Camas also has a future in sustainable agriculture. With deep roots and natural drought resistance, it's well-suited for no-till, low-input farming. Even famed plant breeder Luther Burbank once worked to develop larger, productive camas varieties for food crops.

Whether in the wild or the garden, camas is a powerful symbol of restoration —for the land, for cultures, and for a future rooted in respect for both.

Photo from an article on Camas: :lewis- clark.org/sciences/plants/camas



Living with Pollen in the Willamette Valley

We all await the parade of wildflowers that marches through our beautiful valley. With the flowers come an array of color and beauty that nurture the soul, but our precious flowers and trees also bring a sticky substance called pollen which can cause grief for many of our bodies—and brains.

Below are a few basic tips for surviving this allergy season:

- Eat local raw honey. It lowers your reaction to the pollen the bees carry!
- When coming inside, remove your shirt, blow your nose, & wash your hands and face.
- Pay attention to the wind! Avoid going outside on windy days if you know you are sensitive to pollen.
- Drink plenty of water to help the body cleanse irritants.
- Take an antihistamine if needed, Be aware some make you groggy.

Clearing the Air: How to Stay Healthy During Wildfire Smoke

When wildfire smoke settles in the valley, it can feel overwhelming. The air grows heavy, skies turn orange, and the usual joys of being outside—gardening, walking the dog, watching the sunset—suddenly feel unsafe. While we can't control the wind or flames, we can take steps to protect our health and care for one another.

First, it's okay to admit this is hard. Smoke affects more than just our lungs—it can cloud our mood, disrupt routines, and add stress. So let's begin with compassion: for ourselves, our neighbors, and anyone struggling to breathe—physically or emotionally.

Here are a few things that do help:

- Stay indoors. Keep windows and doors closed. Use fans or AC to stay cool, and run a HEPA filter if you have one. Even a DIY purifier (a box fan and furnace filter) can help clean the air inside.
- Create a "clean air room." Choose a space with few windows, and keep it cool and filtered. This can be your safe haven on the worst days.
- Wear a mask outside. N95 or KN95 masks filter out harmful smoke particles. Cloth or surgical masks don't offer much protection, but a snug N95 can help if you need to be outdoors.
- Take care of yourself. Drink water, rest, and avoid strenuous activity when air quality is poor. If you have asthma or other conditions, follow your care plan and keep medications nearby.
- Check on others. Smoke affects everyone differently. Elders, children, and those with health conditions may need extra support. A quick call, a box fan, or shared information can go a long way.

Wildfire smoke is a challenge we're learning to live with, but not one we face alone. Each step we take to protect our own health also eases the strain on our clinics and first responders. It's community resilience in action—observant, steady, strong.

Together we can breathe a little easier

Wildfire Readiness Starts at Home:

Simple Steps to Protect Your Property, Animals, and Loved Ones

As we head into the dry season here in the Row River Valley, it's time to take a few smart, simple steps to get ready for wildfire. While we can't control where fire might spark, we can take practical action to make our homes and land more resistant—and protect our families, pets, and livestock in the process.

Many of us live tucked among trees, with animals to care for and land to manage. That's the beauty of the valley. It also means we have a responsibility to prepare thoughtfully. Here's how you can get started today:

Clear Flammable Debris Close to Home

The first 30 feet around your home and outbuildings can make a big difference in whether fire spreads or slows down.

- Rake and remove dead leaves, pine needles, and dry branches, especially under decks, around porches, and near buildings.
- Mow or weed-whack tall, dry grasses. Aim to keep grass under four inches tall during fire season.
- Move firewood piles, lumber, and other combustibles at least 30 feet away from structures.

Limb Up Trees and Thin Brush

If your land is heavily wooded (as many parcels are here), it's important to manage your trees so fire doesn't climb from the ground into the canopy.

- Trim lower branches of trees up at least 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Remove small trees and dense brush beneath larger trees—these are called "ladder fuels" and help fire spread upward.
- Thin crowded trees so there's at least 10 feet between their branches. This helps prevent crown fires that jump from tree to tree.

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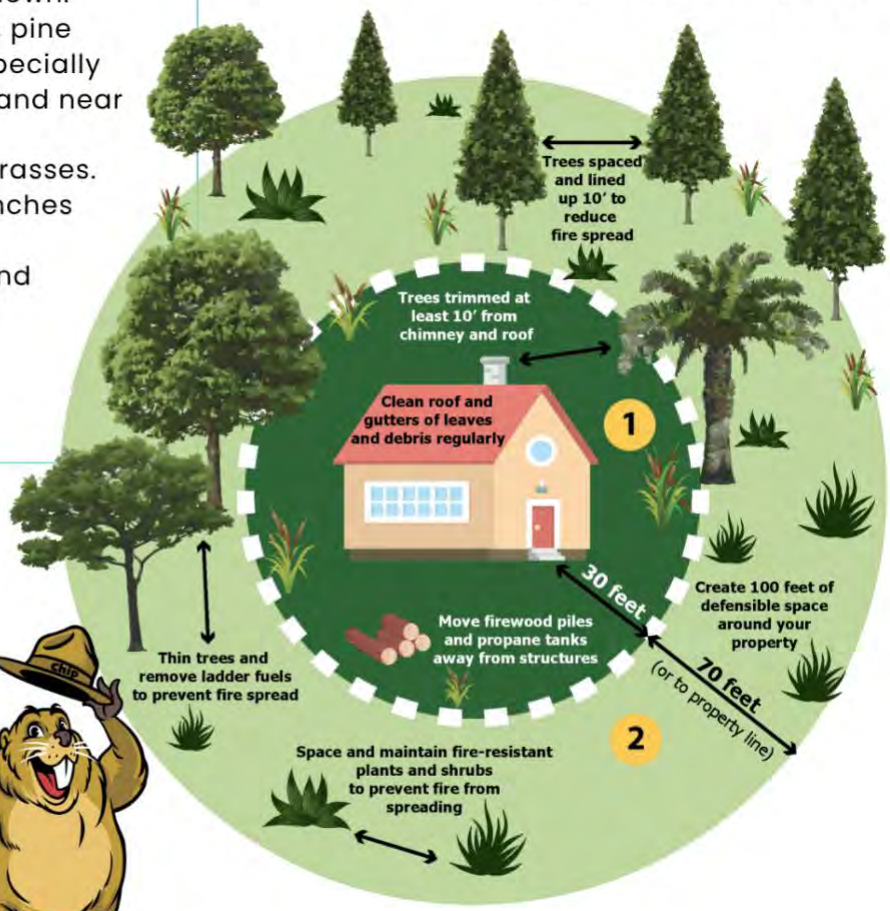


So that you know...

In Lane County, Oregon, backyard burning is prohibited starting June 7, 2025, due to fire safety concerns. This applies to both yard debris and recreational fires.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Animal Emergency Preparedness Tips

From your Friends at Old Mill Farm Store

Think of the basics and then add goodies as you refine your plan.

Emergency response experts suggest you prepare for 3-10 days in the event of an evacuation. When dealing with large livestock, consider a three-week plan.

Develop an information file for each animal that includes

- Identification
- A photo of you and your pet
- Food
- Water
- Medicine
- Shelter equipment (include shade tarps)

Consider using your cell phone for your pet's information and share with friends and family who may help you respond to the emergency.

Enclose photos of your animals with their human family!

Include any tips that may help calm your critter such as petting styles they prefer or what scares them. If they hate hats, include that info!
List medical needs and directions, along with their vet's name and phone number.

An unwashed t-shirt that has been worn by their favorite person makes a goo cage-calmer.

Keep it simple! Don't pack new untested food or treats. Stick to old favorites. Consider a can of plain pumpkin, a great belly soother and helpful for diarrhea.

Consider packing Rescue Remedy, an easy to use calmative that can go in their mouth, food and water. Good for humans too! Remember, they pick up on your stress. Some for them, some for you!

Develop and review your plan and instructions with family and friends to ensure you are on the same page- ahead of time.

Post a notice with the same information, near your main door, if any animals may be at home, to assist emergency workers.

LABEL everything!

BE READY TO GO

Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness

When wildfires threaten, every minute counts. Preparing ahead of time can save lives—yours, your loved ones, and your animals. Evacuation may happen suddenly, so having a plan is essential.

Know your evacuation route. Identify multiple ways out of your neighborhood in case roads are blocked. Practice driving those routes and share them with family and neighbors.

Choose a safe check-in location. Pick a place outside the fire risk zone—such as a family member's home—where everyone in your household agrees to meet or check in. Post this information near your front door and store it in your phone.

Prepare for your animals. If you're not home during an emergency, work with neighbors ahead of time to make a pet evacuation plan. Leave a spare key with someone you trust. Keep carriers, leashes, and food ready by the door. During hot, smoky days, keep animals in shaded, cool areas with access to water.

Use an air horn to alert others. If you spot a fire or need help evacuating, blast an air horn three times—this is a universal signal for danger. It can alert neighbors who may not yet be aware of the threat.

Gather important documents. Store copies of IDs, insurance, prescriptions, and key phone numbers in a waterproof folder in your go-bag. Also, back them up digitally if possible.

Have backup go-bags. In addition to one at home, store an extra go-bag at your safe location or with a trusted family member outside the danger zone. Include essentials like medication, clothing, and spare chargers.

Preparedness is a community effort. Talk with neighbors, make a plan, and revisit it each season. Your readiness today is tomorrow's peace of mind.

IT'S GO-BAG TIME!

Make a Go-Bag for each member of your family, including animals!

- N95 or KN95 mask (for smoke protection)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Phone charger or portable power bank
- Copies of important documents (ID, insurance, prescriptions)
- Cash (small bills)
- Basic first aid kit
- Prescription medications (7-day supply)
- Eyeglasses or contacts with solution
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, hand sanitizer, wipes)
- Water (at least 1 gallon per person)
- Non-perishable snacks
- Change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes
- Blanket or emergency heat sheet
- Air-Horn
- Pet food, leash, carrier, and water bowl (if needed)
- Baby supplies (diapers, formula, etc., if needed)
- Comfort item (toys, books, small games, downloaded movies)
- Store items in a durable backpack or duffel bag, and check your supplies seasonally.
- Umbrella for shade
- Fire extinguisher
- Fire Blankets
- What else would you add?

Create Safe Zones for Animals

If you have horses, goats, chickens, or other farm animals, planning ahead is essential.

- Identify a safe pasture or corral cleared of flammable vegetation. Short grass and metal fencing are best.
- Have leads, carriers, and enough transport ready in case you need to evacuate. Also tarps for shade.
- Keep your animals' ID tags up to date, and consider writing your phone number on their hooves or collars during fire season.

For pets:

- Pack a "go bag" with food, water, leashes, and vet records.
- Make sure your pets are comfortable being loaded into a vehicle quickly. A practice run helps.

Mark Driveways and Water Sources

Emergency crews need to find your home—and access water—fast.
Post a visible address sign at the road with reflective numbers.

Trim overhanging branches and widen driveways so fire trucks can get through (ideally 12 feet wide and 15 feet tall).

If you have a water tank, pond, or other source, clearly mark it for firefighters.

Work with Neighbors

Fire doesn't respect property lines. Talk to your neighbors about shared access roads, joint clean-up efforts, and evacuation plans. Community readiness helps protect everyone.

The Row River Valley Community Partnership and other local organizations are here to help with tools, resources, and even free defensible space assessments. Watch for upcoming work parties and workshops.

Remember: every hour you spend clearing brush or making a plan helps reduce wildfire risk for the whole valley. You don't have to do everything at once—just take it step by step.

We all love this land, our animals, and the close-knit community we share. Let's take action now, so when fire season comes, we're ready.

Connect with the Row River Valley Community Partnership, by writing to Communications@RowRiverValley.org

Help Fight Fires with On-the-Ground Marking

By marking your property assets, you can help firefighters find resources to protect your property.

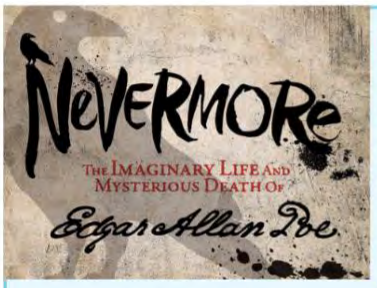
Clear Signage: Place signs pointing toward and at water sources to indicate the type of source (e.g., pond, stream, well) and its approximate flow rate. Prepare a map, mark it clearly in big letters, and post for firefighters to find.

Access Point Marking: Mark access points to water sources with reflective tape or other visible markers to help firefighters find them at night or in challenging conditions.

Portable Water Sources: Clearly mark the location of portable water sources, such as a rain-water catchment basin, hot tub, or that canoe that is filled with rainwater. Hey, it might come in handy!

Equipment Marking: Mark the location of portable pumps or generators used to draw water from non-hydrant sources.

JUNE & JULY



NEVERMORE

The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe.

A tell-tale musical profile and haunting reverie.

June 6-22nd

Show Times: Th, Fri & Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm
700 Village Drive, CG
(541) 942-8001 | info@cottagetheatre.org

Wednesday Jun 18, 5:30 - 8pm
Concerts in the Park
Bohemia Park with Riffle
Food and vendors open at 5:30 pm and the Band starts at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, July 19, 1-3pm
Sunshine Club Ice Cream Social
Row River Community Church
FREE! Come one, come all!

Tuesday, June 17 and July 15, 6pm
Row River Rural Fire Protection District (RRRFPD) Board Meeting
Dorena School Library
37141 Row River Rd, Dorena

Kellen's Flower House

Working with nature to grow unique flowers and herbs

Pick up bouquets and plants at CG Public Market

Or Call 503-857-3522

Row River Grange

Row River Grange, 34360 Row River Rd. CG

- **Monthly Meeting and Potluck:** Third Monday of the month. Meeting at 5:30pm. Dinner at 6:30pm.
- **Monthly Community Birthday Party:** Third Thursday of the month at 6pm. Come celebrate this month's birthdays. All are welcome!
- **Music Jam**: Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30pm
- **Refuge Recovery:** Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm. Anyone struggling with addiction of any kind is welcome.
- **Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11am

*Check out Row River Grange Facebook page for more info.

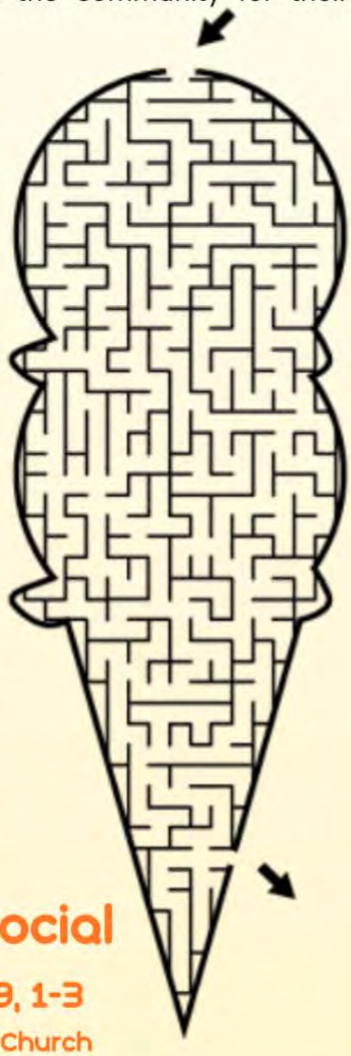
SUNSHINE CLUB

Row River Valley Sunshine Club is dedicated to spreading Sunshine and Cheer to its residents. Since 1943!

The club takes a hiatus from June to September. Our next regular meeting will be the first Wednesday of September. That does not mean that we aren't doing things however.

On Saturday, July 19th we will be hosting a free ice cream social for the Row River Valley. It will be held at the Row River Community Church from 1 to 3. This is our way of thanking the community for their support.

We are also continuing to to honor all graduates who live in our area with a gift of $50.00. This is not limited to high school grads, but anyone over 16 years old who is graduating from any type of school, trade school,, nursing, community college, home school even GED recipients. To get your name on our list, please contact us via FB messenger on our FB page, call 541-4731 or drop us a note at PO Box 124 Dorena.



Ice Cream Social

Saturday July 19, 1-3

Row River Community Church

Row River Valley History Corner

Where did that name come from?

By Katy Vaughn

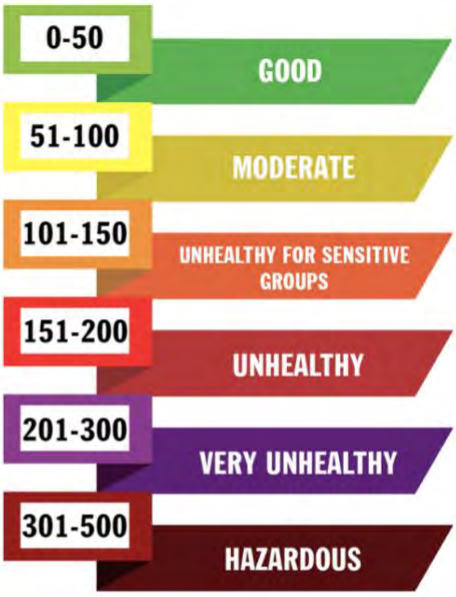
The **Row River,** and the valley that it runs through, were named after a family feud, or row, that happened in 1868. The conflict left George Clark dead, and his nephew John Southwell charged with murder. The website of the Cottage Grove Historical Society has a detailed account of the murder and the trial. Go to cghistory.org and click on the history tab and from there go to the history snapshots tab.

Dorena was named in 1899 by Alfred Bigelow, the first Postmaster of the town. He was charged with giving the place a name, but his first two choices were turned down by the Post Office Department. The first, Dewey, was denied because there was already a town by that name in the state, and the second, Reno, because it sounded too much like Keno, another Oregon town. In desperation he made up his own name by combining the names of two local women, Dora Burnett and Rena Martin.

Culp Creek was named for John Melvin Culp. Mr. Culp moved to this area in 1888. He married a local woman, Minnie Hawley, and farmed near the creek that was subsequently named for him. The town was named for the creek when the Post Office there was established in 1924.

Disston was named for the Disston Saw Company which provided the blades for the local sawmill.

Photo courtesy of Cottage Grove Historical Society



USING AN AIR HORN IN AN EMERGENCY

An air horn is a simple, effective tool for signaling danger during a wildfire or evacuation. Keep one in your go-bag, vehicle, or near exits. Use it to alert neighbors, responders, or family if you're trapped, injured, or need attention—especially when visibility is low or communication is cut off. **Three short blasts is a universal distress signal.** Conserve air: don't hold the horn continuously. Practice using it ahead of time so you're familiar with the sound and feel. A loud, clear signal can save time—and lives—when seconds matter.
Stay prepared, stay heard, stay safe.

ROW RIVER REVIEW
Your Community News

Row River Valley Community Partnership
P.O. Box 4, Dorena, OR 97434

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For More on the Row River Review visit: RowRiverValley.org or email Communications@RowRiverValley.org