

Oregon dam malfunctions; hatchery fish released

LEABURG (AP) — Malfunctioning gates at a dam on the McKenzie River have led state biologists to release more than 50,000 hatchery trout into Willamette Valley fishing spots at a time of year when there's not enough food to give them a good chance to survive.

The fish are from a state hatchery at the Leaburg Dam, part of small hydroelectric operations on the McKenzie. The Eugene Water & Electric Board dam dates to 1929.

Two of its gates are closed and stuck that way, the *Eugene Register-Guard* reported. The third gate is open, and officials of the city utility don't want to move it up or down much for fear it also will malfunction.

So the river is flowing through, draining the reservoir and depleting a supply of water that would normally go into the hatchery, built in 1953.

Dumping young trout this early "is a bit of gamble. There's not enough food to give them good survival" chances, said Jeff Ziller, a biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The department still has 430,000 trout and 110,000 steelhead at the Leaburg hatchery. It is using five portable diesel pumps to draw water from the McKenzie in

hope of providing enough in the breeding ponds to sustain them, said Eric Withalm, the hatchery manager.

The agency is also pondering what to do with 800,000 salmon at a hatchery two miles downstream that gets water via a canal from the reservoir.

That hatchery is also fed by a small natural stream, but with the canal flow dwindling, "we are looking for another home for those fish," Ziller said.

Most of the fish trucked Monday to lakes and reservoirs in the south and mid-Willamette Valley are fingerlings. About 9,300 are one-pounders.

The fish are usually stocked in the spring, when there's more food, such as insects.

The Eugene utility says it is working to fix the Leaburg Dam.

When functioning, the gates roll up to allow water to flow out of the lake, and roll down to shut and build up water in the lake.

The No. 2 gate, in the middle of the dam, abruptly crashed down and shut in 2012. Repair work is underway.

The No. 1 gate stopped working earlier this month. It is largely closed. The utility is evaluating how to make repairs.

Oregon ax-maker settles with feds for \$2.6 million

PORTLAND (AP) — Fiskars Brands Inc. has agreed to pay \$2.6 million to settle allegations that safety regulators weren't promptly alerted about a potentially defective ax made by the company's Oregon-based subsidiary.

Federal prosecutors say Gerber Legendary Blades, based in Tigard, started receiving complaints within months of releasing the Gator Combo Axe in 2005. It reported potential hazards five years later and later issued a recall.

Court documents show customers complained that a knife secured by magnets inside the ax handle would slide out and slice them, *The Oregonian* reported. Consumer protection laws require manufacturers to alert regulators immediately after they learn about a product defect that poses a "substantial risk" of injury.

The settlement was announced Wednesday by the U.S. attorney's office in Portland. It awaits court approval.

The company reported potential hazards with the ax to the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2010 and issued a voluntary recall the next year. Customers were offered a cap for the ax's handle.

One man filed suit against the company in April 2009, saying he suffered permanent wrist injuries, including nerve damage, when the knife fell from the ax and cut him, according to the federal complaint. Another customer informed the company in July 2010 that he suffered severe nerve damage and lost some use of his hand.

One woman, so concerned after injuring herself with the ax, wrote to the company in August 2009 and strongly urged it "to recall and discontinue this product ASAP," according to the complaint.

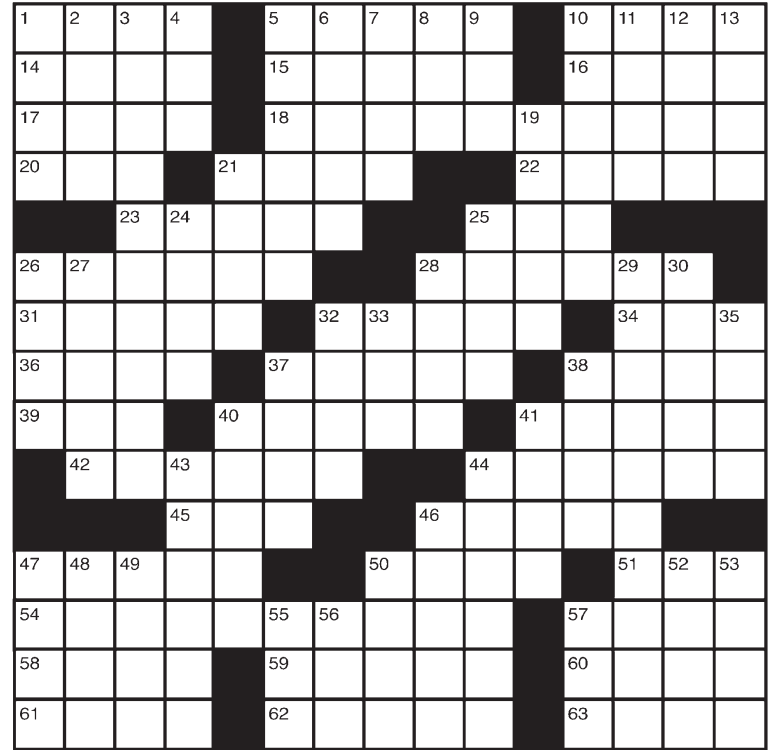
In addition to the penalty, Fiskars agreed to set up a program to track product safety hazards. The company did not admit breaking any laws.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wines & dines
 - 5 Thin piece of leather
 - 10 Snatch
 - 14 Sixty minutes
 - 15 Clear the slate
 - 16 Actor's part
 - 17 ___ for; selects
 - 18 Sailor's beacon
 - 20 Burro
 - 21 Escape
 - 22 ___ the blue; seemingly from nowhere
 - 23 Stubborn animals
 - 25 Declare illegal
 - 26 Slip-on shoe
 - 28 Singer Lightfoot
 - 31 Bow and ___; Cupid's props
 - 32 ___ with; beg
 - 34 Doggy doc
 - 36 Dyers' tubs
 - 37 ___ the town red; carouse
 - 38 Yogi or Smokey
 - 39 Supped
 - 40 Go down smoothly
 - 41 Baseball's Yogi
 - 42 Magazine head
 - 44 Elegant
 - 45 Curtain holder
 - 46 Like a thin and gloomy face
 - 47 Traditional Eskimo home
 - 50 Dwindle; lessen
 - 51 Likely
 - 54 Indirect
 - 57 Provo's state
 - 58 Actress Winslet
 - 59 Sudden increase
 - 60 Lima's nation
 - 61 Winter toy
 - 62 Actor Ed ___
 - 63 ___ for; requests

- DOWN**
- 1 "___, Nellie!"
 - 2 Fumbler's word
 - 3 Got the better of
 - 4 Twelfth-graders: abbr.
 - 5 One who lists on eBay
 - 6 Endeavors
 - 7 In a ___; irate
 - 8 ___ Wednesday; 2/18/15
 - 9 Teacher's favorite
 - 10 ___ beef; hamburger
 - 11 Overwhelming defeat
 - 12 In addition
 - 13 Complaint
 - 19 Hidden supply
 - 21 Piloted
 - 24 Eerie saucers, for short
 - 25 Dory or dinghy
 - 26 Volcanic output
 - 27 Give a speech
 - 28 Trait transmitter
 - 29 Exaggerates
 - 30 Approaches
 - 32 Couple
 - 33 Trash can top
 - 35 Cafeteria patron's item
 - 37 Trudge
 - 38 Lima or fava
 - 40 ___ up; rose
 - 41 Unhappy
 - 43 Made smooth
 - 44 Horse's gait
 - 46 Measuring device
 - 47 Annoys
 - 48 Hockey score
 - 49 Guitar of old
 - 50 ___-out; shabby
 - 52 Yellowstone National ___
 - 53 Therefore
 - 55 Skinny ___ rail
 - 56 Pupil carrier
 - 57 "___ Lazy River"



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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