Whale Watch Week
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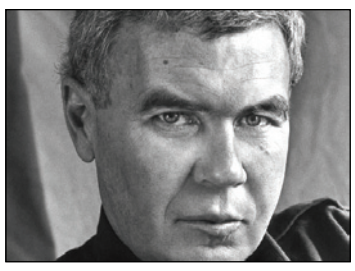

Writing Festival returns
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FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023

The Chief

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Serving the Lower Columbia Region since 1891

School board selects new superintendent

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

The Clatskanie School Board has selected Dr. Danielle Hudson as the district's new superintendent.

The board made the decision during its regular monthly meeting March 14 and Board Chair Megan Evenson released the following statement.

"The Clatskanie School Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Dr. Danielle Hudson as our new Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1, 2023.

After an extensive search and interview process, with the help of the OSBA (Oregon School Boards Association) team, we were able to find a highly qualified Superintendent.

We want to thank all of the community members who participated in our "Meet the Candidates Day" and provided their input. Dr. Hudson comes to us with a wealth of experience that will help Clatskanie schools continue to improve and provide a quality educational experience for all of our students.

We look forward to working with her! Throughout the spring Dr. Hudson plans to spend some time in our district with our interim Superintendent, Ken Parshall, to meet students and staff and familiarize herself with our community, please join us in welcoming her!"

Hudson statement

Dr. Danielle Hudson also released a statement following her appointment as the new Clatskanie School District Superintendent.

"I am so excited I have been selected to serve as the Superintendent of the Clatskanie School District.

In the short time that I have spent in Clatskanie, I have been impressed with the way the school board elevated student voice throughout the hiring process, the board's commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience for every student, the sense of community that has been cultivated by the dedicated staff at the schools, and the investment by the city in the future of our youth.

I am looking forward to becoming an active member of the Clatskanie community and working alongside Clatskanie students, educators, and families to enhance the educational experience and social-emotional well-being of Clatskanie youth as they prepare for post-secondary success."

Background

The Clatskanie School Board and Screening Committee interviewed five superintendent candidates, Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The five were selected from the 13 candidates who initially applied for the open position that has been advertised through OSBA (Oregon School Boards Association). Immediately following the interviews, the school board selected David Marshall and Danielle Hudson as the two finalists for the position.

In a published interview with The Chief in November, Evenson defined the qualifications for the new superintendent.

"We are looking for a leader that is going to put kids in our community first, that is our priority, and to empower the district administration and staff to do their very best for kids," she said.

The pay range for the Clatskanie School District Superintendent's position is between $135,000 and $150,000, according to district officials.

Hudson replaces Cathy Hurowitz, who resigned in November after serving the district for five years.

Read more about this transition in previous stories at thechiefnews.com.

Courtesy photo
Dr. Danielle Hudson

> *"I am looking forward to becoming an active member of the Clatskanie community and working alongside Clatskanie students, educators, and families to enhance the educational experience and social-emotional well-being of Clatskanie youth as they prepare for post-secondary success."*

Community gathers to support Zuber family

WILL LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

As a Columbia County family seeks closure for the loss of a loved one, community members gathered for a candlelight vigil hosted by the Zuber family and the Justice For Sarah Zuber group.

More than 50 people attended the 6 p.m. event at Rainier City Park Monday, March 13.

Though it had been a rainy day, the sun broke through the clouds, and a rainbow appeared as the group gathered for a statement from Sarah Zuber's parents, Randy and Rebecca Zuber.

"In difficult times, we have a tendency to revert into one's own self. To pull away from our loved ones, our friends, family. To hide, to withdraw, to seek to be alone, often we don't know who to turn to even though there are people all around us. Maybe it is trust, or oftentimes it is that we just don't have the energy to seek someone out," Rebecca Zuber said. "It has been four years today, and yet it was yesterday in the heart of those closest to her. When Sarah was killed, our family was shattered. Our family was shattered in slow motion; we didn't even realize the depths of that brokenness until recently."

On March 13, 2019, Sarah Zuber's body was found by her sister Katie Zuber, on the side of Neer City Road in Rainier, less than 400 feet from her home. After an investigation by a major crimes team, Oregon State Medical Examiner Rebecca Millius ruled that the death was accidental and caused by "combined deterious effects of acute ethanol (beverage alcohol) intoxication and hypothermia due to exposure."

Will Lohre / Country Media, Inc.
Community members gather beneath a rainbow at Rainier City Park during the candlelight vigil for Sarah Zuber.

In a letter issued to Columbia County media outlets in October of 2022, Rebecca Zuber outlined that the family had reservations about the findings of the investigation and how the investigation was handled.

"From the beginning, Sarah's suspicious death investigation was handled incompetently," the letter read. "Because no trained special investigative crime team is available in Columbia County, Sarah's case suffered a plethora of mishaps, missed opportunities, miscommunication, half-completed interviews and lost evidence."

The Justice For Sarah Zuber Facebook page, a page created to bring awareness to the ongoing plight of the family, now has around 2,000 followers.

Now, four years later, because of public interest, the case has been reopened by the Columbia County District Attorney. District Attorney Jeff Auxier stated to the Chief in early February that he believes the original outcome of the case was correct, but that the investigation has been reopened and turned over to the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ).

"Based on recent requests from the public, I have reopened the investigation and have turned over the investigative materials to the Oregon Department of Justice so they can independently review the case," Auxier said. "We are currently waiting to hear whether they agree with our conclusion, or whether they have recommendations for us in terms of additional investigative steps we could take. If they think we missed something during the first investigation, we will promptly conduct any follow-up they recommend."

Auxier said that having a group of independent and experienced attorneys and investigators review the case was the best way to start reopening the investigation.

With the DOJ investigation underway, Auxier hopes that will bring the four years of disquiet for the family to an end. In her address to the gathering at the vigil, Rebecca Zuber thanked those who have continued to help the family in their time of need.

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Beer, wine price boost proposed

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

Prices for beer and wine could be temporarily increased to help fund immediate access to detox and treatment, under a proposal at the Oregon Legislature.

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Act (HB 3312) has been introduced by Oregon State Rep. Tawna Sanchez, a licensed social worker, Rep. Travis Nelson, and Rep. Lisa Reynolds.

Additional funding will be used to educate consumers and children about the adverse health impacts of alcohol, fentanyl, cannabis, and methamphetamines, according to a release from the legislators.

"As too many Oregon families know, excessive alcohol use destroys lives, families, and relationships," Sanchez said. "Alcohol addiction cuts across income level, race, culture, geography—and politics. That makes reducing the harms of alcohol in our state an issue that should unite everyone. There are over 450,000 people struggling with addiction across Oregon, primarily addiction to alcohol. I believe their lives are worth more than a dime a drink, and I hope my colleagues do too."

"The out-of-state alcohol industry is trumpeting that this is a 1200% increase, which is intentionally misleading. What they don't want consumers to know is that it's just a ten-cent-a-beer increase, spread out over five years," Oregon Recovers Executive Director Mike Marshall said. "This bill was specifically designed not to negatively impact Oregon's breweries and wineries; their customers won't even notice a two-cent-a-year increase. Those who will notice are people who engage in binge drinking and underage drinking—two behaviors predictive of lifetime alcohol addiction. Those folks simply aren't the customer base of breweries and wineries. Let's keep the focus on what this bill is all about: addressing Oregon's alcohol crisis and saving lives."

By the numbers

Excessive alcohol use is Oregon's third-leading cause of preventable death. Six people die each day here due to alcohol. In 2020, alcohol-related deaths increased 73%. Oregon ranks 5th nationally in alcohol addiction and 12% of Oregonians have alcohol use disorder, according to the release.

Oregon ranks 50th in access to addiction treatment, with 18% of Oregonians needing but not receiving treatment. Each alcoholic drink sold in Oregon costs local and state governments $2.08 in lost workplace productivity, health care expenses, criminal justice costs, and motor vehicle crashes. The total economic costs of excessive drinking in Oregon were $4.8 billion in 2019, the release

See **ALCOHOL** Page A3

Metro Creative Connection
The temporary measure to increase beer and wine prices will reduce alcohol addiction from 12% to 5% and fund immediate access to addiction treatment, according to the state representatives.

Courtesy photo

This is a conceptual drawing illustrating what the new school campus would look like.

School board seeks $49.4M bond measure

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Rainier voters will be asked in the May 16 Special Election to approve a $49.4 million bond project for the Rainier School District.

Rainier School District residents have not passed a school bond since the one that built the current campus in 1978, according to information on the district's website. Rainier school district has been in facility planning since Spring of 2021.

What the bond will fund

The critical needs list has been pared down to the following:

- New Elementary School
- Building Exteriors (siding, doors, windows, and roofs)
- Mechanical System Upgrades (ventilation, heating and controls)
- Fire Alarm System Replacement
- Site Improvements (safety and parking)
- Expanded Shop Spaces for Trades Instruction
- Security Upgrades (entry vestibules, cameras, and access controls)
- HPE Renovations (junior high and support programs)
- Remove all portable buildings

The Rainier School Board voted during its January public session to seek voter approval for the capital bond. Superintendent Joseph Hattrick said the decision was the culmination of 18-months of work and study to determine the need.

If passed, the 30-year bond would include a $4 million grant from the state.

"The Rainier School District is planning to use the bond if passed at our current location," Hattrick said. "The bond is seeking to build an elementary school which would address many of the challenges the district is facing. Currently students in preschool, some of our special education classes, and sixth grade do not fit in Hudson Park Elementary School (HPE), so building a new elementary would provide a safe space for all students."

Hattrick said by adding a new building, the current HPE would be repurposed to house the middle school and North Columbia Academy, as well as other district programs.

"This will also have the benefit of freeing up necessary space in the high school, he said. "Additionally, a variety of campus improvements would be made that will improve safety, mechanical systems, CTE programming, access, and site improvements."

By the numbers

According to information presented at the district's website, the estimated tax rate is $2.60 per thousand dollars of assessed home value (down from initial estimates of $2.99). This is against county assessed value and is lower than appraised, or market, value. For example, the average assessed value outside city limits is about $148,000 and would equate to roughly $32 per month. The average assessed value in-town is about $207,000 and would equate to just under $45 per month. Each property is different, and voters are encouraged to contact the county to identify their own assessed value.

Community engagement

Hattrick said he also wants the community to fully understand the need for the project.

"As the community considers the bond, we would ask that members of the community reach out to a school board member or superintendent to ask any questions, attend one of our information sessions, review the information on the district website, and research what the bond would mean for their individual situation," Hattrick said. "We are all happy to help community members enter into this decision with all of the facts and to make an informed decision for themselves."

For more information, visit the Rainier School District website, or call 503-556-3777. Follow this developing story at thechiefnews.com. and in the Friday print editions of The Chief.

Writing Festival returns to Clatskanie

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA HAZEN
Chief Guest Article

The revived Raymond Carver Writing Festival (RCWF) is back for its second year with an emphasis on poetry.

Located in Clatskanie, Oregon where the world-famous poet and short story writer Raymond Carver (1938-1988) was born, the two-day festival, May 19-20, will be preceded by a poetry contest in April "Poetry Month" with the theme from Carver's poem Happiness: "Happiness. It comes on unexpectedly. And goes beyond, really, any early morning talk about it."

The contest will kickoff with Poetry and Pie (Carver's favorite dessert) from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, at the Clatskanie Library, 11 Lillich Street.

Poetry from youth living within the Clatskanie School District boundaries and adults from throughout the Lower Columbia region will be judged in the following categories: Youth (ages 8-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18); Adults: Published and Non-Published, and Haiku: Open to both youth and adults. Entries are limited to two poems per poet. Cash prizes will be awarded.

More information will be available at https://www.rayondcarverwritingfestival.org. or https://www.clatskanielibrary.org prior to the April 1st start of the poetry contest. Participation in both the poetry contest and the May 19-20 festival events is free.

Oregon Poet Laureate Anis Mojgani will be the featured presenter at a reception on Friday, May 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Clatskanie Cultural Center, 75 S. Nehalem Street. The reception also will feature speakers on Carver's connection to Clatskanie, local authors, and refreshments.

Prior to the May 19 evening reception, a pop-up poetry booth will offer readings of Carver poems beginning at 1 p.m., festival information, maps for a self-guided walking tour of Carver's birthplace, mural and sculpture, and the Clatskanie Historical Museum at the Castle where Carver memorabilia is on display. Also available for purchase will be keepsake posters and t-shirts, while supplies last.

A free showing of the 1993 movie, Short Cuts, based on Carver works is set for 2 p.m. May 19 in the Clatskanie Cultural Center's Birkenfeld Theatre. The movie is R rated. Free popcorn will be available.

On the schedule for Saturday, May 20, will be workshops by Mojgani, Michael Mills, host of the Raymond Carver Podcast; Marianne Monson, a leader of the Astoria Writer's Guild, and Cathlamet poet Dayle Olson. More details about the workshops soon will be listed on https://www.rayondcarverwritingfestival.org.

Presentations of awards and readings by youth winners of the poetry contest in the Birkenfeld Theatre at the Cultural Center is set for 4:30 p.m. on May 20th, followed by dinner in the ballroom, at 5:30 p.m. Cost of the chicken fettuccini dinner and pie dessert is $20. Reservations are required and may be made online at https://www.clatskaniearts.org

After dinner, the winners of the adult categories in the poetry contest will read their winning poems, followed by an open mic poetry jam.

The Raymond Carver Writing Festival is sponsored by the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, State Historical Preservation Office, Columbia County Cultural Coalition, Oregon Cultural Trust, Clatskanie Foundation, Clatskanie Library, Wauna Credit Union, Writer's Guild of Astoria, C.C. Stern Foundry, Clatskanie Arts Commission, and Jerome White.

School Team Winners

Courtesy photo

The Rainier Jr. Sr. High School History Bowl Team has returned to campus as winners taking 1st place in the Greater Portland Regional History Bee and Bowl. Pictured is the team Coach Demko with their trophies. "They learned teamwork in a competition format through history and they were excited about their accomplishment," Demko said. "I am very proud of them for their accomplishment." The team is now preparing for Nationals to be held in Arlington, Virginia in late April. Pictured are from left to right, Ian Schopf, Tanc Tygret, Logan Stoddard, Hunter Taylor, Joseph Elliot-Bach and Alora Jefferson. In middle is Coach Demko.

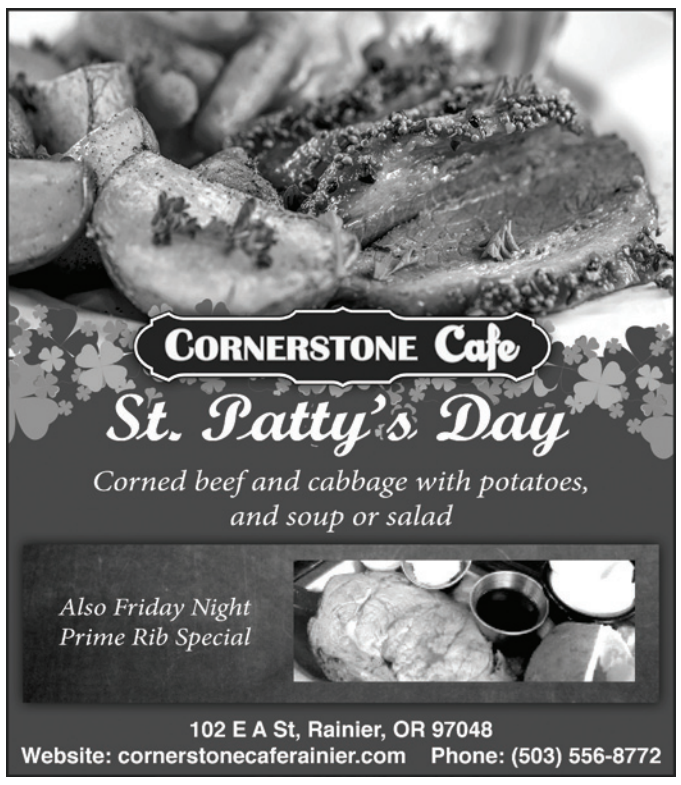
Submit your photos to The Chief
Email photos to chiefnews@countrymedia.net and get them featured in the paper!

ZUBER

From **Page A1**

"In 2019, we were too withdrawn to notice all the ways the community loved on us. And again now, we have a new movement to draw out answers and closure to this very personal, yet public tragedy. Today, we want to say thank you. Two small words for such a huge emotion," Rebecca Zuber said. "Many are gathered tonight, and thousands more online who have spent hundreds of volunteer hours and given personal testimony, opinions, specific tips, and information regarding Sarah's investigation. This in itself is a major testimony of what happens when a community gathers together around a family in mourning and a daughter whose young life was taken."

Follow this developing story at the thechiefnews.com and in the Friday print editions of The Chief.



ALCOHOL

From **Page A1**

states.

Oregon currently has the lowest beer tax and the second lowest wine tax in the country, when factoring in the lack of a state sales tax. Beer taxes are less than 1 cent per bottle and haven't been raised since 1977. Wine taxes are 3 cents a glass, and haven't been raised since 1982. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Act calls for a temporary, incremental price increase to $0.10 per bottle of beer/cider, and $0.17 per glass of wine. The increased pricing sunsets when Oregon's alcohol addiction rate falls from 12% to 5, according to the release.

The legislators said raising alcohol prices to reduce harmful consumption and fund services is popular with voters. Six in 10 Oregonians support increasing alcohol taxes in order to reduce harmful alcohol use like binge drinking and underage drinking. And 76% support increasing alcohol taxes to fund expanded access to drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery support services.

An increase in alcohol pricing is a proven public health tool recommended by the CDC to reduce harmful consumption, just like with tobacco. The legislators said the tool works, giving the example from Maryland, where a 3-percentage point price increase led to a 26% decline in underage drinking and 17% decline in binge drinking.

According to the legislators' release, many Oregonians and lawmakers incorrectly believe that Measure 110 funding will help address the addiction crisis by expanding access to treatment. But Measure 110 funding cannot be used for prevention, nor will it fund any new treatment beds. Instead, funding is limited to use for referrals to treatment, which often put people on already long waitlists, critically needed harm reduction, and other important recovery supports—but will not reduce addiction rates nor increase access to traditional treatment.

Where the new revenue generated by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Act would be spent:

• Create Immediate Access to Treatment & Detox (25%): Direct OHA to develop and implement a program to provide immediate access to withdrawal management and culturally relevant residential treatment programs for every Oregonian.

• Expand Public Education/Prevention (15%): Direct the Oregon Health Authority to use the revenue for public education campaigns (like "Rethink the Drink") that specifically educate Oregonians about the health consequences of consuming alcohol, opioids/fentanyl, cannabis, and methamphetamines. Communities most adversely impacted by substances must be prioritized.

• Introduce Consumer Education (10%): Direct the OLCC to implement a point-of-sale consumer education campaign regarding the health consequences of alcohol consumption with a primary focus on addiction, cancer, and impotence.

• Hire County Preventionists (20%): Direct county Behavioral Health and/or Public Health departments to place certified preventionists in every public middle and high school.

• Establish Family Relief Fund (10%): Direct OHA to create a fund to reimburse individuals and families for any insurance deductibles related to withdrawal management, residential and/or outpatient treatment and addiction therapists.

• Support Public Safety (10%): Direct local police to fund hiring certified peer mentors

• Combat Cannabis Cartels (10%): Direct state police to shut down and prosecute illegal cannabis operations across Oregon.

What the Alcohol Harm Reduction Act does:

• Temporarily and incrementally increases beer/cider/wine pricing annually over 5 years.

• Beer/cider pricing: from $0.007/beer to $0.10/beer (2 cents each year)

• Wine pricing: from $0.03/glass to $0.17/glass (3 cents each year)

• Reduces beer/cider consumption by 2.6% and reduces wine consumption by 4.1% — which will be disproportionately felt among binge drinkers and underage drinkers, two behaviors predictive of lifetime addiction.

• Raises new revenue, approximately $350 million/biennium by 2028. Importantly, unlike with Measure 110 dollars, these funds are eligible to be matched by federal dollars.

• Current OLCC revenue recipients continue to receive what they receive now, plus 5%.

About Oregon Recovers

Oregon Recovers is an inclusive statewide coalition of people in recovery–and their friends and family—uniting to transform Oregon healthcare to ensure world-class prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for Oregonians suffering from the disease of addiction.

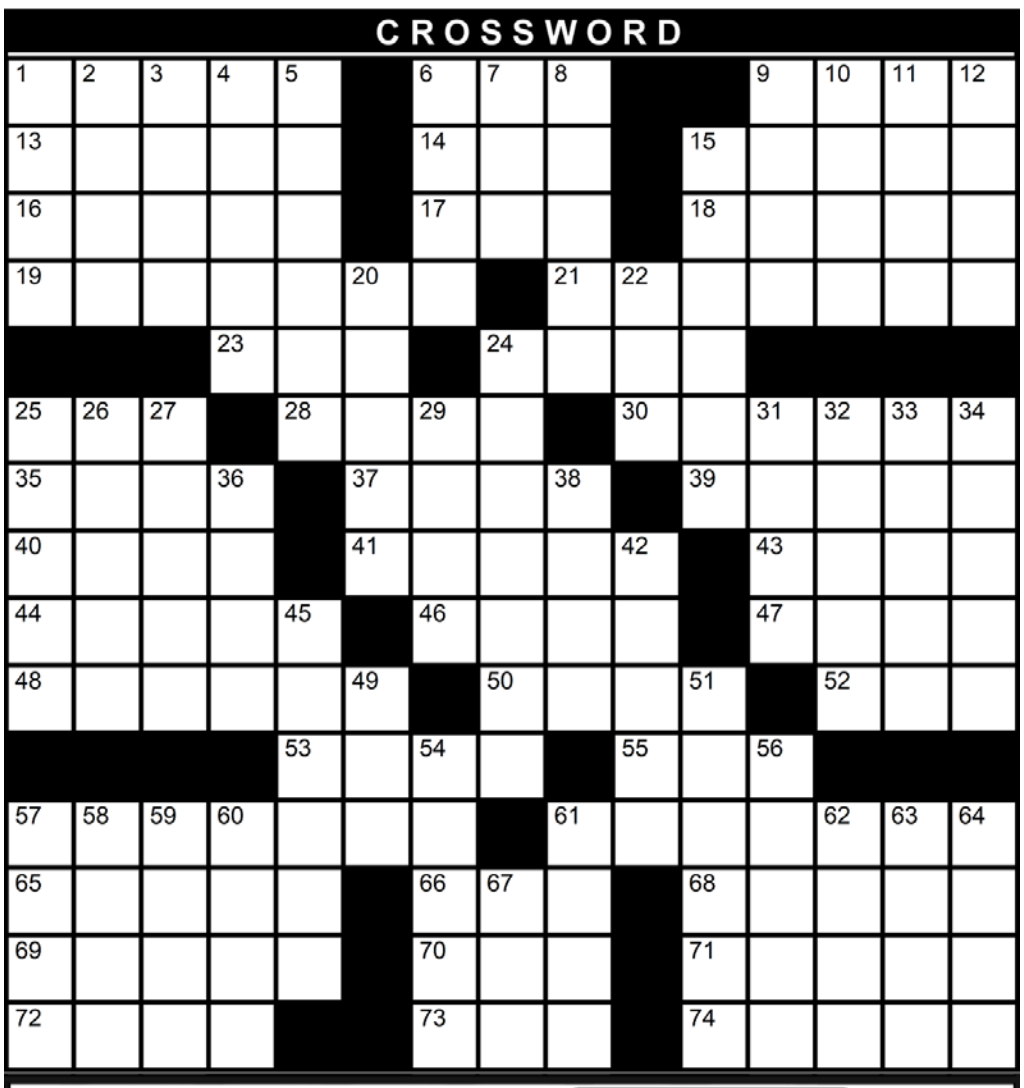
··Obituaries··

Irene Ruth Jacob

Jan. 16, 1933 ~ Feb. 24, 2023

Born Irene Ruth Jacob on January 16, 1933 in Livingston, MT and went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 24, 2023 at the age of 90. Irene was the oldest of seven children born to Elmer Nelson Jacob and Ruth Almina Jacob (Roggow). The family moved from Montana to Oregon while she was just a child so her father could find work. Irene's childhood was a new adventure to the Northwest where they found a place to call home in the Taylorville and Westport area and later moved to a place called Alston's Corner where she grew up and attended Delena Grade School and one year at Rainier Union High. Life was not easy in the 1940s and many young people had to help their families to survive. Around 1950 Irene met Bobby E. "Gene" Gibson who traveled to Oregon from Oklahoma and the two were married on September 18, 1951 in Astoria, OR. Gene was a quick learner and worked in sawmills and later became a painter like Irene's father Elmer. They traveled around the Northwest to places where Gene was painting bridges, grain silos and other commercial structures until Gene developed lead poisoning and had to quit painting. They then moved back to the Alston's Corner area where they began farming. Irene was instrumental in the success of the farming business keeping books for it and keeping the boys supplied with food and soda. They also raised prized Polled Hereford cattle and she traveled to Reno Nevada with two of the boys where they were going to show the cattle. During that trip they were in a serious car accident that took months for her to heal. Irene was very active in 4-H and with anything to do with helping kids to learn and read. She attended and was a member of Clatskanie Baptist Church for roughly 50 years and most recently attended Rainier Community Church of God. She loved to read her Bible. Irene did love to travel and she noted some memorable trips to Alaska to see family, as well as trips to Disneyland with family. Irene and Gene traveled to Montana to see family when one of their Grandsons was born. Irene also booked a cruise and went along with other seniors. In 2006 she realized the big house was just to much for her to manage anymore and she moved to an apartment in Rainier where she then got involved in the Senior Citizens group and began volunteering her time at the Center. She made many friends at the Senior Center and loved going to play cards and bingo on a weekly basis. She was also selected as a Senior Princess to represent Rainier at the Columbia County Fair. Irene enjoyed watching her grandkids in their numerous activities.

Survivers include: sisters Mary Ann Caulfield, Beatrice Caulfield, and Barbara Miller as well as brother Frederick Jacob, all of Rainier. Daughter Beatrice Harrison and sons Terry Gibson, Michael Gibson (wife Polly), Fredrick Gibson (wife Susan), and Roger Gibson (wife Jolynn) all of Rainier, as well as James Gibson (wife Leona) of Clatskanie, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. Preceding her in death were: her parents, husband Bobby E. (Gene) Gibson, sons Elmer Benjamin and Allen Eugene Gibson, daughter Donna Kay Gibson, brothers Nelson M. and David E. Jacob, son in-law Jerry Harrison, grandson James Paul Gibson, and Aaron J. Howe. Celebration of Life Service is 2 pm March 25th at Rainier Community Church of God 321 West C Street, Rainier, OR 97048



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 2010s

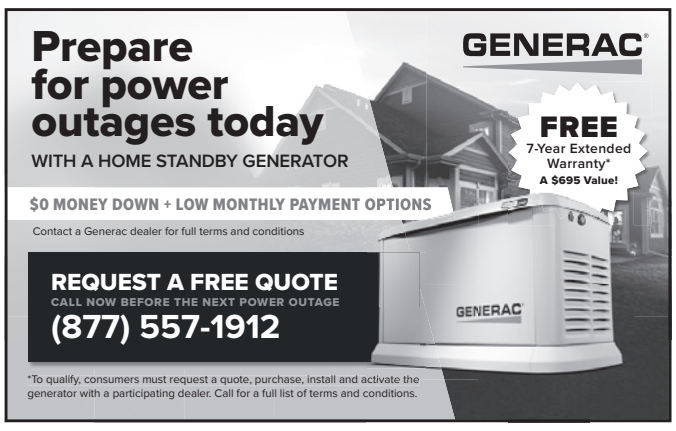
ACROSS

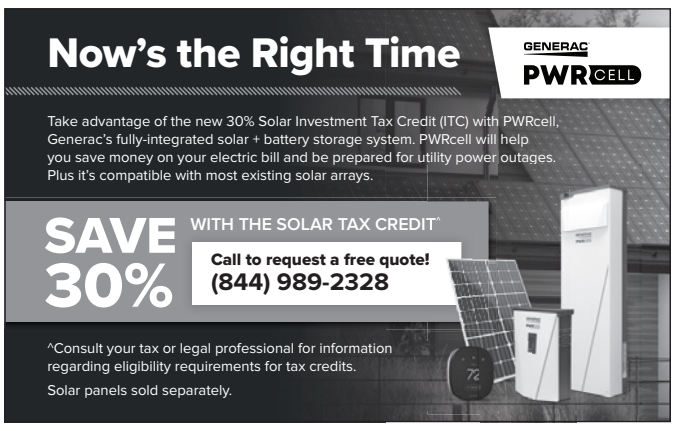
1. Necktie alternative
6. Finish line
9. Show of appreciation
13. Biotic community
14. Hula dancer's necklace
15. House duty
16. Sofia Costanza Brigida Villani Scicolone's stage last name
17. International distress signal
18. Hogwarts professor, part werewolf
19. *"Avengers: ____," second-highest grossing movie of all time
21. *Annexed Black Sea peninsula
23. Santa ____, Orange County
24. Multicolored horse
25. *Rand Paul's title, abbr.
28. Youngster
30. *Type of spinner popular in the late 2010s
35. Between duet and quartet
37. Newspaper piece
39. Pope's court
40. Bohemian
41. *Tonya and Harley Quinn to Margot Robbie, e.g.
43. *Like Millie Bobby Brown and friends in "Stranger Things"
44. Prows
46. Vaulting prop
47. Fencer's blade
48. *Animated story of Elsa and Anna
50. Greek salad ingredient
52. Make #26 Down
53. Look through a book
55. Good times
57. *Global surveillance whistle-blower
61. *Swedish audio streamer
65. BBQ spot
66. Words at the altar (2 words)
68. Beneficiary
69. Anti-seniors sentiment
70. Ides mo.
71. Bone hollow
72. Prepare potatoes
73. Tide's backward flow
74. City in France

DOWN

1. Having the means
2. Land of Israel
3. *____-cutting, broadcast TV phenomenon
4. Opposite of alpha
5. Not owner
6. Something ____
7. Opposite of paleo
8. "Saturday Night Fever" music
9. Pal
10. Between trot and gallop
11. Operatic solo
12. Actor Sean
15. Healthcare facility
20. *Bill de Blasio, e.g.
22. England's airforce
24. Recite rapidly (2 words)
25. Walking stick
26. Fielding mistake
27. Part of TNT
29. *BTS' genre
31. *Home to Blue Devils, 2015 NCAA winners
32. Complain
33. Downy duck
34. Policeman's shocker
36. Court of law opener
38. Mark for omission
42. Frame job
45. Not often
49. *Amal Clooney ____ Alamuddin
51. Naturally footless
54. Japanese cartoon art
56. Expressionless
57. Junk e-mail
58. Hindu serpent deity
59. Singer-songwriter Redding
60. Item on Santa's list
61. Acidic kind of apple
62. A fan of
63. *Plant in Zach Galifianakis' 2019 movie
64. Those not opposed
67. *Popular meme move

Solution to crossword in next week's issue of The Chief.





··Viewpoints··

Oregon doesn't need an R&D tax credit

NHI NGUYEN
Chronicle Guest Column

Following the expiration of its research and development (R&D) tax credit, businesses in Oregon have spent more on research and development than their counterparts in nearly all states — adding further evidence that reinstating the R&D tax credit would be a waste of public resources.

In 2017, the Oregon legislature chose not to renew the Qualified Research Activities tax credit. The legislature's decision stemmed from the lack of sufficient evidence that this R&D tax credit resulted in companies undertaking activity that otherwise wouldn't occur. Since 2018, Oregon has had no R&D tax credit.

Even without the tax credit, industry's spending on research and development in Oregon, adjusted to 2020 dollars, has continued to strengthen. In 2017, the last year the Qualified Research and Activities

Courtesy photo

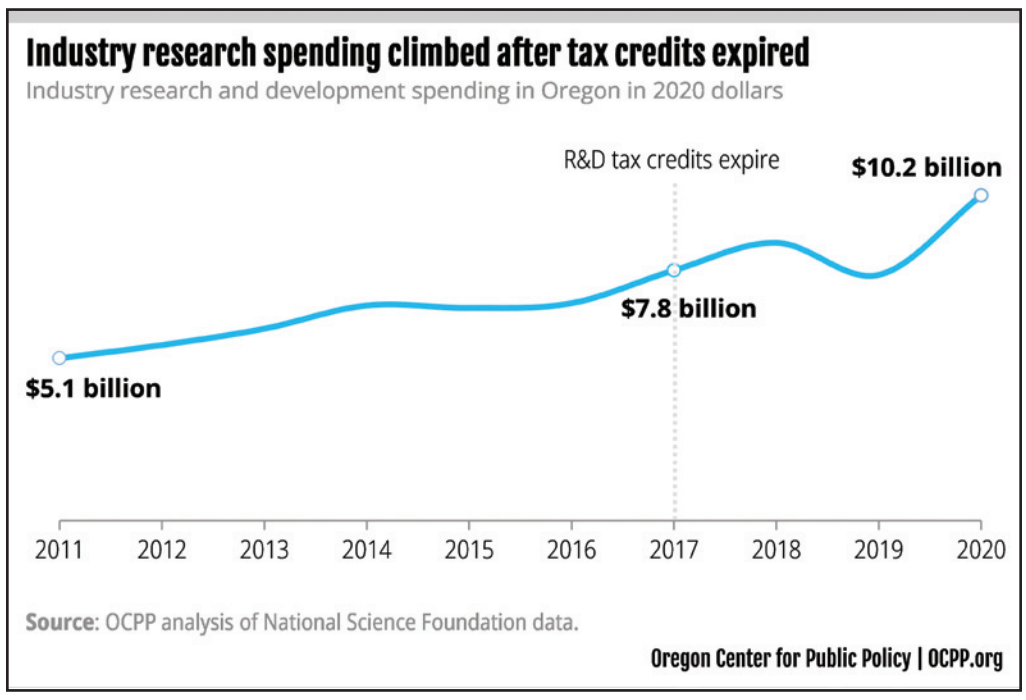
Nhi Nguyen

tax credit was in place, businesses spent nearly $8 billion dollars in R&D in Oregon. In 2020, the year with the most recently available data, that figure had risen to over $10 billion, a 30 percent increase.

Oregon consistently remains near the top of industry R&D rankings. In 2017, Oregon ranked fifth in the nation in terms of business R&D spending as a share of the state's private-sector economy. Oregon's ranking had risen to fourth place by 2020, trailing only research powerhouses Washington, California, and Massachusetts. Washington, the state that ranked first, let its High Technology Business and Occupation Tax Credit expire in 2015.

Oregon's continued strong performance in business R&D spending even after its Qualified Research Activities tax expired shows that reinstating the tax credit would be a mistake. Senate Bill 55 proposes to reinstate and significantly expand the R&D tax credit. Enacting this legislation would reduce funds that could be used to build affordable housing, invest in workforce development, or improve the infrastructure that serves businesses and Oregonians — factors that help boost private investment.

Nhi Nguyen is the Policy Analyst for the Oregon Center for Public Policy. She may be reached at 971-279-4732.



Courtesy graph

··Voices of the Community··

Lack of affordable housing

For some time now city, county, state, and federal politicians have been whining about the lack of affordable housing, but really, what's causing it?

Why are people allowed to buy homes with monthly payments more than 25% of their monthly income? Why are couples allowed to purchase a home based on two incomes? Why are people allowed to to buy, remodel, and resell homes just to increase their personal wealth and drive housing costs up? Why are banks allowed to manipulate interest rates to stimulate the economy to encourage people to spend more money than they can't afford?

Maybe it's time for Americans to take a long look in the mirror. America is a capitalistic republic yet very little is taught in public schools and universities unless a person is majoring in accounting or business. The average American buying a home is at the mercy of their banks' loan officers.

Banks are in the business to make money by providing banking services for a fee. If you have less than $5000 balance you have a monthly fee; have a mortgage, you have monthly interest added to your balance.

In Oregon 22-25% of a person's paycheck is withheld for taxes, social security, union dues, etc.; and by the time you pay rent/mortgage half your check is gone. It's time for Americans to learn how to manage their own money. Did you know Social Security is a Supplemental Secured Income (SSI) not a retirement program?

Joe Turner
Columbia City

Favors Greg Pettit for Port Commission

There are no statewide elections in Oregon for May of 2023, but we have local elections to look forward to.

Casting a ballot for Port Commissioners is probably one of the most important elections decisions you can make this year.

I have a personal favorite candidate that I would like to promote as a Commissioner, Greg Pettit. Greg is an extraordinary person.

The Port of Columbia County is responsible for millions and perhaps even billions of dollars in new jobs and businesses for our county. Port Commissioners play a very important role in what new businesses establish themselves here.

Greg is a former Manager and Administrator for the State of Oregon. He has been part of the National Governor's Association task force on Non-Point Source Pollution, U.S. Department of Interior National Water Monitoring Council, and Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Committee.

Greg is smart, personable, and capable. He is a person who cares about his neighbors, his community and our State.

Don't let anyone fool you. The Port election is a very important election. We need to be sure that we elect the very best people for this job. Greg Pettit is by far our best choice.

Please remember him when you vote in May.

Bill Eagle
St. Helens

Weekly Online Poll

What are your plans for Spring Break?

- ☐ Vacation
- ☐ Staycation
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Visiting Family

Last Week's Results

What is your favorite type of movie?

42.9% Comedy
23.8% Drama
19.0% Action
14.3% Romance

Vote online at thechiefnews.com

The Chief

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Editorial policy
Opinions expressed on this page are independent of The Chief views and are solely those of the writers expressing them.

Letters policy
This newspaper's letters to the editor are limited to a maximum of 250 words and will be edited for grammar, spelling and blatant inaccuracies. Unsubstantiated or irresponsible allegations, or personal attacks on any individual, will not be published. Letters containing details presented as facts rather than opinions must include their sources. Writers are limited to one published letter per month. All submissions must include the author's full name, local street address and telephone number (only the name and city of residence will be published). By submitting a letter, writers also grant permission for them to be posted online. Opinions expressed on this page are the writer's alone and do not represent the opinion of the newspaper or its parent company, Country Media, Inc.

Guest commentary
We welcome all variety of community viewpoints in the newspaper. These longer, guest opinions might be columns written by newsmakers, public officials or organization representatives. Or you might just have interesting thoughts to share and a penchant for writing. If you'd like to submit a guest column for publication, contact us at (503) 397-0116 or chiefnews@countrymedia.net. All columns are subject to editing for style, grammar and clarity. However, views expressed in guest columns are independent and do not represent those of The Chief, its staff or Country Media, Inc.

Obituaries
Obituaries received after noon on Wednesday may not be in time for that Friday's paper. Obituaries may be emailed to chiefnews@countrymedia.net, sent via mail, or dropped off at the office. We also accept obituaries written by funeral homes. Include the address and daytime phone number of the person who submitted the obituary, so we can verify information as necessary.

Let us know what YOU think
EMAIL YOUR LETTERS TO: CHIEFNEWS@COUNTRYMEDIA.NET

Marketplace

It's easy to place a classified ad in The Chief Just call 503-397-0116

Listings are updated daily at www.thechiefnews.com

312 Events

Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic
PippinDoc, Clatskanie's Hometown Veterinarian, will host its next Dog & Cat Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday March 21, from 9:00-11:00 AM and 1:30-3:30 PM, at the Johnson Feed Store, 905 NE Van St. in Clatskanie. See www.pippindoc.com for more details.

502 Help Wanted

PORT OF COLUMBIA COUNTY
The Port is hiring the following positions: Finance Manager. Facilities Maintenance full-time. Scappoose Bay Marina summer parttime staff. To learn more and apply, please visit our website www.portofcolumbiacounty.org/jobs. EOE.

Work Crew Supervisor
PT-Temp Columbia County, OR. EOE. Open until filled. Apply at ColumbiaCountyOR.gov.

860 Storage

CLATSKANIE Mini Storage
Hoarder's Paradise! 20 sizes, Inexpensive RV Storage, Carports, Hand trucks, Locks, Fully-lined, Insulated, Condensation free, all units lit. On-site Manager
503 728-2051
503 369-6503
Visa/MC/Amex

Public Notices

PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

CC23-1728

TS No. OR06000057-22-1 APN 19015 TO No 220445422-OR-MSI TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

Reference is made to that certain Trust Deed made by, JEFFREY L HAMMANS as Grantor to TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for EAGLE HOME MORTGAGE, LLC, Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, dated as of September 15, 2009 and recorded on September 30, 2009 as Instrument No. 2009-009189 and the beneficial interest was assigned to LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC and recorded November 9, 2020 as Instrument Number 2020-011758 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Columbia County, Oregon to-wit: APN: 19015 PARCEL 2 OF PARTITION PLAT NO. 1998-14, RECORDED MARCH 18, 1998, FEE NO. 98-02859, IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON. TOGETHER WITH A 25 FOOT EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER PARCEL 1 OF PARTITION PLAT 1998-14, AS DISCLOSED ON THE FACE OF THE PLAT MAP. Commonly known as: 72695 APIARY ROAD, RAINIER, OR 97048 Both the Beneficiary, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, and the Trustee, Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112, have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said Trust Deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.735(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. The default for which the foreclosure is made is the Grantor's failure to pay: Failed to pay payments which became due Monthly Payment(s): 1 Monthly Payment(s) from 12/01/2021 to 02/28/2023 at $23,520.75 Late Charge(s): 1 Monthly Late Charge(s) 188.16 By this reason of said default the Beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: The sum of $182,497.10 together with interest thereon at the rate of 5.37500% per annum from November 1, 2021 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all Trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the Beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said Trust Deed. Wherefore, notice is hereby given that, the undersigned Trustee will on June 27, 2023 at the hour of 12:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statues, at the west entrance to the Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand St., Saint Helens, OR 97051 County of Columbia, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the Grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the Grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said Trust Deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the Trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.753 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the Beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, Trustee's or attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the Trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the Trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a Trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the Trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "Grantor" includes any successor in interest to the Grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, the words "Trustee" and "Beneficiary" includes their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 2/8/23 By: Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112 Successor Trustee Malcolm & Cisneros, A Law Corporation Attention: Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112 c/o TRUSTEE CORPS 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Order Number 89327, Pub Dates: 2/24/2023, 3/3/2023, 3/10/2023, 3/17/2023, THE CLATSKANIE CHIEF

CC23-1746

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF THE CLATSKANIE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting for the landowners and Board of Directors of the Clatskanie Drainage Improvement Company, Columbia County, Oregon, will be held Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Port of Columbia County's Office located at 555 SW Bryant Street in Clatskanie, OR. Notice is further given that all proxies must be in writing and signed by the owner. The meeting is to elect a director, adopt a budget and any other business that comes before the landowners. Dated this 7th day of March, 2023. Elliot Levin Secretary Clatskanie Drainage Improvement Company Board of Directors.

CC23-1747

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANDOWNERS OF THE CLATSOP #15 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, INC.

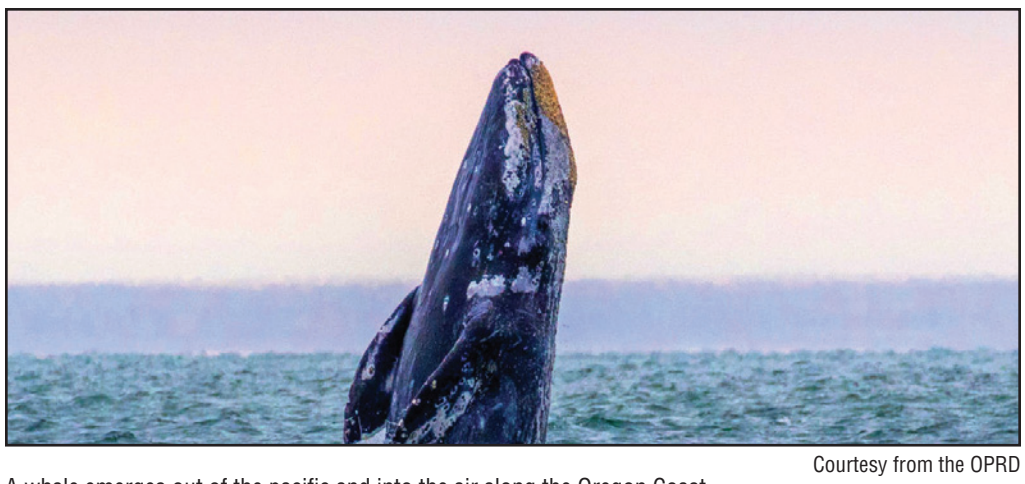
Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting for the landowners and Board Members of the Clatsop #15 Drainage Improvement Company, Columbia and Clatsop County, Oregon, will be held Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the Poplar Tree Nursery Office located at 91151 Old Mill Town Rd in Westport, OR. Notice is further given that all proxies must be in writing and signed by the owner. The meeting is to elect a director, adopt a budget and any other business that comes before the landowners. Dated this 7th day of March, 2023. Kathy Haiby Secretary/Treasurer Clatsop #15 Drainage Improvement Company, Inc. Board of Directors.

CC23-1750

TS No. OR07000044-22-2 APN 26473 TO No 230061721-OR-MSI TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

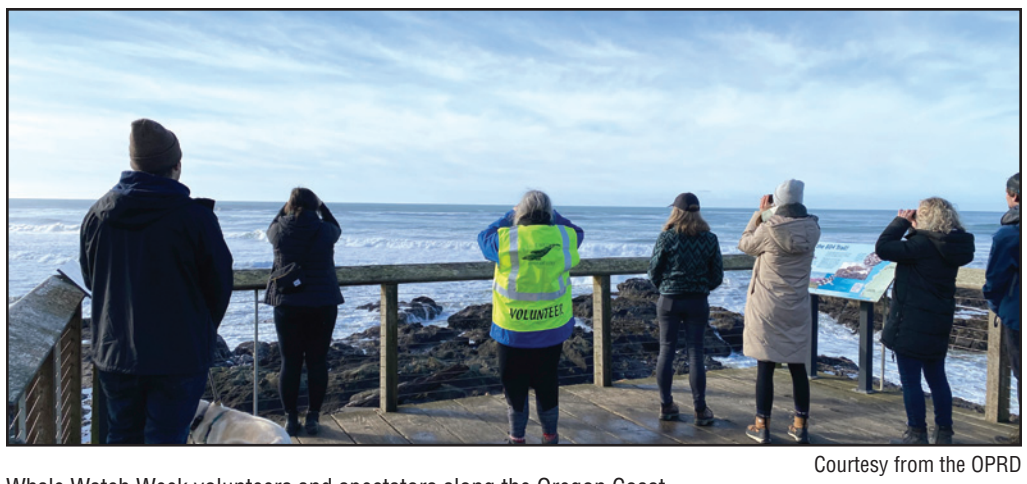
Reference is made to that certain Trust Deed made by, AUDIS CHRISTOPHER JAMES SHEKER, A SINGLE MAN as Grantor to TICOR TITLE as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for MANN MORTGAGE, LLC DBA LIFE MORTGAGE, Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, dated as of June 16, 2017 and recorded on June 19, 2017 as Instrument No. 2017-005731 and that said Deed of Trust was modified by Modification Agreement and recorded April 14, 2022 as Instrument Number 2022-03510 and the beneficial interest was assigned to M&T Bank and recorded February 17, 2021 as Instrument Number 2021-01842 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Columbia County, Oregon to-wit: APN: 26473 LOT 34, CEDAR GROVE ESTATES, RECORDED JUNE 20, 1979 IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 72, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON. Commonly known as: 73651 CEDAR GROVE DRIVE, CLATSKANIE, OR 97016 Both the Beneficiary, M&T Bank, and the Trustee, Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112, have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said Trust Deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.735(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. The default for which the foreclosure is made is the Grantor's failure to pay: Failed to pay payments which became due Monthly Payment(s): 1 Monthly Payment(s) from 10/01/2022 to 03/15/2023 at $7,722.90 Monthly Late Charge(s): $331.56 By this reason of said default the Beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: The sum of $194,031.89 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.87500% per annum from September 1, 2022 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all Trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the Beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said Trust Deed. Wherefore, notice is hereby given that, the undersigned Trustee will on July 11, 2023 at the hour of 01:00 PM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statues, Front Entrance, Columbia County Courthouse, 230 Strand Street, St. Helens, OR 97051 County of Columbia, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the Grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the Grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said Trust Deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the Trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.753 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the Beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, Trustee's or attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the Trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the Trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a Trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the Trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "Grantor" includes any successor in interest to the Grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, the words "Trustee" and "Beneficiary" includes their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: March 8,2023 By: Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112 Successor Trustee Malcolm & Cisneros, A Law Corporation Attention: Nathan F. Smith, Esq., OSB #120112 c/o TRUSTEE CORPS 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 Order Number 90071, Pub Dates: 3/17/2023, 3/24/2023, 3/31/2023, 4/7/2023, THE CLATSKANIE CHIEF

Spring whale watching returns



Courtesy from the OPRD

A whale emerges out of the pacific and into the air along the Oregon Coast.



Courtesy from the OPRD

Whale Watch Week volunteers and spectators along the Oregon Coast.

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Oregon State Parks will host Spring Whale Watch Week in person along the Oregon Coast Tuesday, March 28 through Sunday, April 2.

Every year thousands of gray whales pass through Oregon's waters in the spring on their journey home from the calving lagoons in Mexico, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) invites visitors to the coast to see them.

An estimated 18,000 gray whales are expected to swim past Oregon's shores from late March through June as part of their annual migration back toward Alaska. The end of March is the beginning of this migration and timed perfectly for spring break.

In a previous interview with The News Guard, OPRD spokesman Chris Havel said people are fascinated by the whales for good reason.

"People are clever and good at inventing and building ways to survive and thrive, and wildlife, like whales, do the same thing through sheer awesome power," he said. "There's still some mystery about their lives, and seeing them in action is a thrill. Seeing them in real life is also a reminder of how we affect all marine life, and have a responsibility to eliminate pollution and be careful stewards of the planet's resources."

Havel adds that people are naturally attracted to the whales' beauty, mystery, and power.

"But we also appreciate being reminded of our place in these natural systems," and it makes us all feel part of the family," he said.

Where to see the whales

The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Visitors to the center can enjoy interactive whale exhibits and take in the panoramic ocean views. Binoculars are provided. Rangers from Oregon State Parks will also be on hand to answer questions about the whales.

A map of volunteer-staffed sites is available online on the official event webpage at: https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=thingstodo.dsp_whaleWatching.

Trained volunteers will be stationed at 17 sites to help visitors spot whales, share information and answer questions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. The sites are some of the best places to watch for whales on the Oregon Coast.

"Spring is a great time for whale watching because the gray whales are usually closer to shore on their return trip, typically around a mile or so out, and the weather is a little warmer for visitors," OPRD Park Ranger Peter McBride said.

All Whale Watch Week visitors are encouraged to dress for the weather, to bring binoculars and to follow beach safety guidelines such as remaining out of fenced areas, knowing the tide schedule and keeping an eye on the surf at all times.

For safety tips, visit: https://visittheoregoncoast.com/beach-safety.

For more information about coast parks and campgrounds, visit oregonstateparks.org.

··Community Events··

March 21 Ladies Motivational Night Out
6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clatskanie Library. This event is free. Toni Dowrey is the guest. Dowrey is a motivational speaker, published author and certified life coach.

March 25 – April 15 Columbian Artists Associations 45th Annual Spring Art Show
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum, 405 Allen St., Kelso, Washington. Eileen Thompson is the featured artist. Admittance is free. For questions, contact www.columbianartists.org or columbianartists/longviewwa on Facebook. There will be opportunity to purchase original art from local artists, starting at $35.00.

Ongoing

Caples Evening Programs

The cost for this evening and all our Fireside Chats will be only $5. Caples will be offering a different program the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 1925 First Street in Columbia City. For more information, call 503-397-5390.

Lower Columbia River Watershed Council
Meets at 7 p.m. every other second Tuesday. Meetings are currently held electronically by Zoom. For more information, contact Council Coordinator Henry Franzoni ar 360-353-0937 or email to hjfranzoni3@gmail.com. Visit the council's website for agenda postings and Zoom at www.lowercolumbiariver.org/events-page.

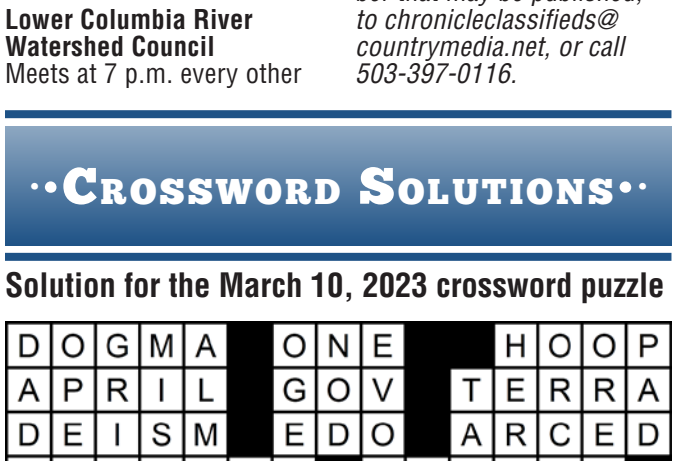
The Rainier Oregon Historical Museum (ROHM) is open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday (except major holidays weekends). ROHM is located inside Rainier City Hall at 106 W B Street. For more information, call 360-751-7039.

The Rainier Public Library is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. It will be closed Sundays and Mondays.

Avamere at St. Helens hosts a Virtual Dementia Support Group – 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2 to 3 p.m. For more details, contact Jenny Hicks/Avamere at St. Helens at 503-366-8070.

To list an event in the Community Calendar, email details with a phone number that may be published, to chronicleclassifieds@countrymedia.net, or call 503-397-0116.

··Crossword Solutions··

Solution for the March 10, 2023 crossword puzzle

D	O	G	M	A	■	O	N	E	■	■	H	O	O	P
A	P	R	I	L	■	G	O	V	■	T	E	R	R	A
D	E	I	S	M	■	E	D	O	■	A	R	C	E	D
A	N	D	D	O	N	E	■	K	A	N	S	A	S	■
■	■	■	O	N	O	■	S	E	N	D	■	■	■	■
O	F	F	■	D	I	N	T	■	D	E	N	T	A	L
B	I	O	S	■	S	C	U	D	■	M	O	O	L	A
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P	U	T	O	N	■	E	G	O	■	M	A	N	T	A
I	N	A	N	E	■	S	P	A	■	O	R	E	A	D
C	O	H	O	■	■	S	A	T	■	R	E	E	L	S