

New Year's Eve  
Dinner Special



1/2 crab dinner with 10oz  
prime rib, potatoes  
and grilled veggies \$40

NE 6th Street  
& Hwy 101  
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THENEWPORTCAFE.COM

LINCOLN COUNTY  
BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Sports  
PAGE B8



EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF  
BELLINI'S I PURITANI

Coast Life  
PAGE B1



# Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, December 31, 2025Lincoln County, Oregon\$2



The Lincoln City Police Department announced it was using Flock brand License Plate Readers but has discontinued the Flock contract.

## Lincoln City ending Flock Camera use

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

Earlier this month, the Lincoln City Police Department (LCPD) announced it was using Flock automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras “to identify vehicles known to frequent multiple felony theft locations in close temporal proximity to reported felony thefts.”

The December 16 LCPD Facebook post states in part:  
*In furtherance of the Lincoln City Police Department’s mission to maintain human rights, protect persons and property, and address citizen concerns while providing the highest quality professional service to all, we have explored many different tools and technologies in pursuit of that*

*objective while ensuring a steadfast respect for the Constitutional protections we enjoy as Americans. As part of our goal in combatting Organized Retail Crime, we have partnered with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to utilize tools, such as Flock brand License Plate Readers, along with*  
See **FLOCK**, page A6

# Embracing the business of Christmas

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

Local businesses are hopeful the surge in shopping during the Christmas season gives them a boost into the New Year for sustainability and growth.  
Explore Lincoln City’s Stephanie Hull said several events during the holiday season were conducted and designed to enhance experiences for visitors coming to Lincoln City, including the Lincoln City Winter Festival at Lincoln City Cultural Center and Deck the Dock in Taft hosted by Explore Lincoln City and Lincoln City Parks & Recreation.  
“The staged lights throughout Oceanlake, City Hall and Taft highlight the season as well,” she said. “Folks visiting can walk through these districts and get a sense of joy here.”  
Other local scenic attractions through winter and into



Bright holiday lights stretched along the Taft Dock in Lincoln City is one of the annual events highlighting the spirit of the season. (Courtesy photo from Explore Lincoln City)

## Conservation groups urge Oregon to reduce whale deaths from crab fishing gear

MIA MALDONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

After at least four humpback whales were entangled this year in Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishing gear, conservation groups are petitioning the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt measures to reduce the amount of fishing gear during whale feeding and migration seasons.  
Filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Oceana, Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Cetacean Society, the petition asks officials to open a pathway for fishers



Fishermen catch crabs off California’s Half Moon Bay. (Photo by Getty Images)

to use pop-up fishing gear, which eliminates untended buoy lines. The gear has been tested in the California Dungeness

crab fishery, and conservation groups say it is reliable, profitable and

See **WHALE**, page A4



Oregon officials and members of Newport’s fishing community take a tour of the city’s municipal airport in November. (Shaanth Nanguneri / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

## Oregon seeks to block potential Newport ICE facility

SHAANTH NANGUNERI  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Suspecting the federal government plans to open a large-scale Immigration and Customs Enforcement

facility near Newport’s airport early next year, the state of Oregon asked a federal judge to block construction.  
Lawyers for the state sought an injunction from U.S. District Judge Ann

Aiken in an amended complaint filed earlier this month as part of an ongoing lawsuit challenging the U.S. Coast Guard’s removal of a

See **ICE**, page A7



# RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

This ad paid for by David Elton, a full-time resident of Lincoln County and the founder of “RECALL HALL” PAC. A political action committee registered with the IRS and the Oregon secretary of state (ORESTAR). Treasurer, Richard P. Burke.



Weather

Wednesday:

High-53/Low-41

Cloudy

Thursday:

High-48/Low-44

Rain

Friday:

High-53/Low-46

Rain

Saturday:

High-50/Low-44

Rain

Sunday:

High-50/Low-44

Showers

Monday:

High-52/Low-44

Showers

Tuesday:

High-53/Low-44

PM Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

	Rain	Low	High
December 23..	0.06.....	44.5°F...	48.7°F
December 24..	0.42.....	43.8°F...	53.5°F
December 25..	0.15.....	44.2°F...	56.3°F
December 26..	0.23.....	42.9°F...	51.2°F
December 27..	0.04.....	40.2°F...	48.6°F
December 28..	0.00.....	36.8°F...	50.1°F
December 29..	0.00.....	42.8°F...	52.3°F
Total rainfall from Jan. 1 .....	65.11"		

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Low.....2:09 a.m.....3.8

High.....8:33 a.m.....10.1

Low.....3:55 p.m.....-1.0

High.....10:47 p.m.....6.8

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Low.....3:13 a.m.....4.0

High.....9:25 a.m.....10.4

Low.....4:46 p.m.....-1.6

High.....11:41 p.m.....7.2

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Low.....4:14 a.m.....4.0

High.....10:20 a.m.....10.6

Low.....5:36 p.m.....-1.9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

High.....12:28 a.m.....7.6

Low.....5:12 a.m.....3.8

High.....11:13 a.m.....10.6

Low.....6:23 p.m.....-2.0

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

High.....1:13 a.m.....7.8

Low.....6:07 a.m.....3.6

High.....12:04 p.m.....10.4

Low.....7:08 p.m.....-1.9

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

High.....1:56 a.m.....7.9

Low.....7:01 a.m.....3.3

High.....12:55 p.m.....9.9

Low.....7:52 p.m.....-1.4

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

High.....2:39 a.m.....8.2

Low.....7:56 a.m.....3.1

High.....1:45 p.m.....9.0

Low.....8:33 p.m.....-0.8

Sunrise/Sunset

December 31.....	7:53 a.m.....	4:45 p.m.
January 1 .....	7:53 a.m.....	4:46 p.m.
January 2.....	7:53 a.m.....	4:47 p.m.
January 3 .....	7:53 a.m.....	4:48 p.m.
January 4.....	7:53 a.m.....	4:49 p.m.
January 5 .....	7:53 a.m.....	4:50 p.m.
January 6.....	7:53 a.m.....	4:51 p.m.
January 7 .....	7:53 a.m.....	4:52 p.m.
January 8.....	7:53 a.m.....	4:53 p.m.
January 9 .....	7:52 a.m.....	4:54 p.m.
January 10.....	7:52 a.m.....	4:55 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, December 26

Mega Millions

9 • 19 • 31 • 63 • 64 • PB-7

Saturday, December 27

Powerball

5 • 20 • 34 • 39 • 62• PB-1 • x1

Saturday, December 27

Megabucks

8 • 13 • 18 • 20 • 35 • 45

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# Oregon saw 1,100 immigration arrests in 2025

Arrests in Oregon in 2025 almost 10 times as high as previous year.

MIA MALDONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Federal immigration agents arrested about 1,100 people in Oregon this year, immigration experts estimate — a surge from the 113 arrests recorded in all of 2024.

In August, the Trump administration said it would “come after” states like Oregon with laws preventing local law enforcement from coordinating with federal immigration officials. Since then, Oregon’s been at the forefront of President Donald Trump’s renewed immigration enforcement efforts.

From Trump’s attempt to deploy Oregon National Guard troops to Portland in the spring, to the state’s largest Latino labor union and a Portland immigration law firm suing his administration alleging it is blocking attorneys from accessing detained clients — the Beaver State in 2025 repeatedly drew the administration’s attention. Oregon now ranks among the top five states with the largest year-over-year increases in ICE arrests, Stateline reported.

The Oregon Capital Chronicle analyzed data from Deportation Data Project, a database run by lawyers and academics

Department of Homeland Security police, along with other federal police, push and tackle protesters at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility south of downtown Portland on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025. (Alex Baumhardt / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

who collected national ICE arrest data from public records requests between Sept. 1, 2023, and Oct. 15, 2025, as well as data from immigration advocates to understand what federal immigration enforcement looked like in Oregon by the numbers.

**Oregon saw surge in arrests in summer and fall**  
ICE agents arrested 660 people in Oregon in the first ten months of 2025, according to the Deportation Data Project. The project’s dataset doesn’t include arrests after mid-October, but U.S. Border Patrol Chief Michael Banks said on the social media platform X that federal agents arrested more than 560 people in Portland in October alone. Immigration experts assume his estimate is accurate, and the Portland Immigration Rights Coalition, which became a

statewide hotline this year for Oregonians to report ICE sightings, confirmed with the Oregon Capital Chronicle that it reported more than 1,000 arrests this year.

The rise came after Trump in the spring raised the national daily ICE arrest quota from 1,000 to 3,000 per day. Regional director Cammilla Wamsley, responsible for ICE operations in Oregon, Washington and Alaska, also set an internal goal of 30 arrests per day for the region — double the daily goal the regional agency had in 2024.

ICE did not respond to the Capital Chronicle’s request for comment.

“The data shows arbitrary quotas were imposed by Trump in June 2025 and apprehensions spiked and then in September 2025, they spiked again, and on October 15, 2025

they surged off the chart,” Manning told the Capital Chronicle.

While ICE has claimed its crackdowns are catching criminals, the data shows that only 32% of people arrested in 2025 had criminal convictions. That’s down from 45% of the people ICE arrested in Oregon in 2024, according to the Deportation Data Project.

People arrested by ICE came from at least 45 different countries, with the most people coming from Mexico, followed by Honduras, Venezuela, Guatemala and China.

About 84% of those arrested in the first 10 months of the year were male.

Roughly two-thirds of people detained were between the ages 19 and 40. The youngest person detained was 4-years-old. **Cities, counties respond to**

**ICE action in Oregon**  
Portland Immigrants Rights Coalition  
Coordinator Alyssa Walker Keller said there will be “many hard months” ahead. The group anticipates a looming eviction and hunger crisis for families who lost their breadwinners.

“It will be important for local and state governments to invest in stabilizing, for mutual aid groups to supplement that support, and for all of us to be thinking about strategies of how to stabilize these families whose entire worlds have been rocked by their loved one being stolen away,” she told the Capital Chronicle.

Cities and counties including Portland, Salem, Forest Grove, Woodburn and Multnomah and Washington counties have responded to ICE’s increased presence in their communities by declaring local emergencies, ordering training for local staff on how to follow Oregon’s sanctuary law or allocating funds to support immigrant and refugee communities.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/12/29/oregon-saw-1100-immigration-arrests-in-2025/>  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.*

## Proposed state forest management plan information session

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will host a virtual only informational session on a proposed rule change to adopt a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for western Oregon state forest lands managed by the department.

The Jan. 6 session starts at 1 p.m. and will include a presentation outlining the purpose and proposed changes to the FMP. After the presentation there will be a question-and-answer period.

ODF staff will NOT take official public comments during this session, it is informational only. The public comment period began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31. Comments can

**ODF staff will NOT take official public comments during this session, it is informational only. The public comment period began Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31.**

be submitted or given in person at any of four formal hearings in January. Comments can be submitted electronically. No question-and-answer period will be offered at

the hearings.

To participate in the information session, use this link: Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan Informational Meeting. A recording of the session will be available on ODF’s website.

The proposed change to the FMP will replace the three current FMPs (Northwest Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Elliott) with a single FMP for these forest lands. The ODF’s State Forests Division is pursuing an alternative method for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act by applying for incidental take permits from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration – Fisheries. The incidental take permits will require the division to manage Oregon state forest lands in compliance with a habitat conservation plan.

The Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan contains guiding principles, goals, and strategies that are compatible with the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan. The Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan provides management direction for all Board of Forestry Lands and Common School Forest Lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry west of the crest of the Cascade Range.

The FMP does NOT include the Elliott State Research Forest (ESRF). The ESRF is not within the scope of the draft Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan. There are scattered Board of Forestry Lands within and adjacent to the ESRF, along with scattered Common School Forest Lands outside of the ESRF that are still managed under prior Elliott State Forest Management Plan which will be managed under the new Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan, once adopted. The ESRF

has its own management plan, under the authority of the Department of State Lands.

The Board of Forestry may review, modify, or terminate the FMP at any time; however, the BOF will review the FMP no less than every 10 years. The current Southwest and Northwest FMPs were last revised in 2010, while the Elliott FMP was last revised in 2011. More information about State Forests Management Plans can be found linked to this story at the Lincoln County Leader website.

Public comments on the proposed rule will be accepted from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31 at 11:55 p.m. Rulemaking hearings will be held on Jan. 13 (virtual), Jan.15 (Forest Grove), Jan. 20 (Tillamook), and Jan. 22 (Eugene) at 5:30 p.m. The locations of the hearings are in The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The notice also includes important details including but not limited to the proposed rule text and instructions for submitting public comments and participating in the hearings.

*More information about this rulemaking effort and ongoing updates can be found on the Rulemaking activity page of the ODF website.*

## Notice of Waiting List Closure

### Housing Authority of Lincoln County

The Housing Authority of Lincoln County announces that the waiting lists for the following programs will close effective **January 1, 2026**, for an undetermined period:

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program** (Formerly known as Section 8)
- **Public Housing**
- **Agate Heights Apartments**
- **Mariner Heights Apartments**

To be placed on a waiting list prior to the closure, completed applications must be received by the Housing Authority of Lincoln County no later than **11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025**. Applications received after this date and time will not be accepted.

### Reason for Closure

The waiting lists are being closed because the Housing Authority of Lincoln County has determined that the existing waiting lists contain an adequate pool of applicants to utilize available program funding.

### Fair Housing Statement

The Housing Authority of Lincoln County does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, age, disability, or familial status. Reasonable accommodation is available upon request for persons with disabilities.

### Reasonable Accommodations / Language Assistance

Applicants needing reasonable accommodation or language assistance may contact the Housing Authority of Lincoln County at 541-265-5326 or by email at [contact@housinglincolncountyor.gov](mailto:contact@housinglincolncountyor.gov)

**Housing Authority of Lincoln County**  
PO Box 1470, 1039 NW Nye St, Newport, OR 97365  
(541) 265-5326 phone | (541) 265-6057 fax | [contact@housinglincolncountyor.gov](mailto:contact@housinglincolncountyor.gov)

4	1	2	6	5	7	3	9	8
3	5	9	1	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	3	9	4	5	1	2
5	6	7	2	8	3	9	4	1
1	9	8	7	4	6	2	5	3
2	3	4	9	1	5	6	8	7
6	8	1	5	3	9	7	2	4
9	4	3	8	7	2	1	6	5
7	2	5	4	6	1	8	3	9

Sudoku answers

Get the facts!

RecallHall.com

Public Safety • Accountability  
Transparency • Basic Fairness

Paid for by  
Citizens to Recall County  
Commissioner Claire Hall  
(22nd year/6 terms)

The Lincoln County Leader is printed on recycled newsprint.



RECALL

★ HALL ★

**We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.**



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethics....Hall is currently under investigation by “OGE”, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, for “Open Meetings” violations of law.</li><li>• Non communication with Judge Bachart, DA Jenna Wallace and Sherriff’s office (Curt Landers). See September 18, 2024 meeting video.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom of Speech violations of public comment section during commissioner meetings.</li><li>• Non communication with general public and voters seeking “redress of Grievances”</li><li>• Unethical removal and banishment of commissioner Miller.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illegal and inappropriate banishment from commissioner meetings by those Hall deemed as opposition. (Christine Hutchins)...later reversed after proved to be either Illegal or wrongful action.</li><li>• It is time to end “Strong Arm” and bully tactics at the county commissioners office!</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

This ad paid for by David Elton, a full-time resident of Lincoln County and the founder of “RECALL HALL” PAC. A political action committee registered with the IRS and the Oregon secretary of state (ORESTAR). *Treasurer, Richard P. Burke.*

COMMENTARY

The Right to be Human and the Need to be Humane

PAUL HAEDER  
Leader Guest Column

It was 77 years ago when the United Nations general assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declaring that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

For an organization for which I am involved, Cultural Survival, Dec. 10 is linked closely to Indigenous Peoples worldwide who are struggling to protect their basic rights and who are suffering gross human rights abuses.

Indigenous peoples worldwide continuously face threats from resource extraction, climate change, land grabbing, deforestation, discrimination, and development projects (like dams, roads) that destroy their ancestral lands, pollute their environments, erode cultures, and violate their rights, leading to loss of livelihoods, forced migration, and even annihilation, especially for isolated groups.

Interestingly, at the most recent climate summit COP 30, in Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025), Indigenous peoples in the thousands attended demanding climate

justice, land rights, and an end to destructive projects, leading to some gains like new territory demarcations in the Amazon.

Coming to the close of this Year of the Snake, we must take heed from those guardians of earth at their frustration over slow progress and exclusion from key decisions around a world with rising seas, desertification, drying up rivers and water sources, and chaotic weather patterns.

COP30 host Brazil has created 10 new Indigenous territories, with the climate summit hit by protests daily.

The designation means the areas, including one in part of the Amazon, will have their culture and environment protected under Brazilian law -- though this is not always enforced.

The move follows similar actions from President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose government recognized Indigenous possession of 11 territories last year.

“Each and every indigenous territory in Brazil is a reason to celebrate and is a reason for us to feel happy,” Dinaman Tuxá from the group Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) told the

BBC at COP30.

“Indigenous peoples today protect 82% of the world’s biodiversity. If you demarcate indigenous lands, you guarantee this area will be protected. The traditional way of life of indigenous peoples protects the lands and automatically guarantees global warming will be tackled. Consequently, the entire humanity benefits from it,” he stated.

If readers want a local spin on how vital indigenous cultural survival is to not just tribes and first nations involved but to the wider community of settlers and colonizers, get to the history links over at the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) website.

CTSI is a confederation of 27 Western Oregon, Northern California and Southern Washington bands. Think locally about how those 1.1 million acres designated as reservation land -- established by President Franklin Pierce on November 9, 1855 -- have been stolen over time.

In 1954 CTSI was terminated as a tribe. However, in 1977, CTSI was the second tribe in the nation to achieve “restoration.” In 1980, some reservation lands were reestablished.

Over the past 45 years,

the tribe has increased its land base to 16,655 acres, which includes 15,977 acres of timberland and 678 acres for cultural preservation, housing, economic purposes and wildlife habitat enhancement.

About 56 percent (9,315 acres) of the land base is in Lincoln County.

This is a type of US demarcation and restoration. More specifically, land back movements are unfolding throughout the United States involving 574 federally recognized American Indian tribes.

Now shift yet again to the current neo-fascist Administration and these new dictates:

Attorney General Pam Bondi ordered the FBI to “compile a list of groups or entities engaging in acts that may constitute domestic terrorism.”

As Lincoln County grapples with the reality that a concentration camp of the ICE variety might be etched into our future, Bondi and Trump’s target is those of us expressing “opposition to law and immigration enforcement; extreme views in favor of mass migration and open borders; adherence to radical gender ideology,” as well as “anti-Americanism,” “anti-capitalism,” and “anti-Christianity.”

Trump’s directive National Security Presidential Memorandum-7, or NSPM-7, is a declaration of war on just about anyone who isn’t MAGA.

In addition to compiling a list of undesirable, Bondi directed the FBI to enhance the capabilities (and publicity) of a tipline to more aggressively solicit tips from the American public on turning in other Americans.

This memo also directs the FBI and Joint Terrorism Task Forces to retroactively investigate incidents going back five years, authorizing the JTTFs in particular to use everything at their disposal to do so.

We are entering a new Chinese Zodiac year, the Fire Horse, with the likelihood of masked men and women plowing vehicles into Lincoln County citizens deemed DUI -- driving while Indian and DWBS, driving while brown skinned.

How many of the 800 people who showed up at Newport City Council Nov. 12 to register protest against any ICE facility coming to town will be targets of that NSPM-7 directive?

Many of us consider ICE to be neofascist, Gestapo-like, and

un-American.

During Wednesday’s meeting, 14-year-old Abril Aldama tearfully recounted the day federal agents detained her father Gemallel on Sept. 17.

“No one knew where he was at,” Abril told the City Council. “No one deserves what I and my family are going through right now.”

Her father is being held at the notorious Tacoma, Washington, ICE facility.

Indian tribes are not officially “sanctuary zones,” but their reservations function as sovereign lands with self-governance, often serving as protected homelands and conservation areas.

Now that would be novel -- tribes welcoming in those of us who are undocumented or deemed un-American according to NSPM-7.

Some U.S. judges have accused the Trump Administration’s deportation of legal Americans as “blatant lawlessness.” Will they too have to seek refuge from the long arm of the lawless “law” of Trump?

A new year of hope indeed!

*Paul Haeder is a novelist, journalist, educator and author of “Wide Open Eyes: Surfacing from Vietnam,” Cirque Press.*

WHALE  
From Page A1

safe for whales and other marine animals.

“This year’s horrific entanglements show that humpbacks are in a lot of danger from Oregon crab

gear,” said Ben Grundy, an oceans campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. “If state officials don’t move to adopt whale-safe fishing gear, like pop-up buoys for Dungeness crab pots, endangered whales will continue to suffer and die preventable deaths.”

The petition, filed earlier this month, comes weeks after a young entangled humpback whale was found stranded on a beach north of Yachats. Veterinarians euthanized the whale after unsuccessful attempts to free it on Nov. 17. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is investigating

the entanglement.

The department on Dec. 5 issued a fleet advisory, urging fishers to be vigilant and take precautions to avoid entanglements. The advisory doesn’t include enforcement measures, but it says the department is strongly considering further regulatory action to reduce entanglement risk.

“The latest dead humpback whale should be a wake-up call that entanglements in Oregon crab gear are a major problem,” stated Ben Enticknap, fisheries director at Oceana. “Oregon fishery managers should act quickly to strengthen conservation

measures to reduce whale entanglements.”

The number of entanglements in Oregon commercial Dungeness crab gear this year is likely higher than just the four confirmed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in September released preliminary results showing that there may have been as many as 20 entangled whales.

Entanglements can cause starvation, infections, amputations, strangulation as well as impact a whale’s ability to reproduce, according to NOAA.

“The four humpback whales found tragically entangled in Oregon crab gear are a signal of a much greater entanglement problem, as only a small fraction of them are ever detected,” said Francine Kershaw, a senior scientist at Natural Resources Defense Council. “The state should take swift, science-based management action to effectively protect endangered whales in Oregon waters.”

State law requires the commission to respond to the petition in writing within 90 days and either

deny it or begin rulemaking proceedings.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/25/conservation-groups-urge-oregon-to-reduce-whale-deaths-from-crab-fishing-gear/>

*Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.*

Get the facts!  
RecallHall.com



Public Safety • Accountability  
Transparency • Basic Fairness

Paid for by  
Citizens to Recall County  
Commissioner Claire Hall  
(22nd year/6 terms)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SANTA SOCKS FOR SENIORS

A huge Christmas thank you to the Hill Top Patriots that generously donated time and money to provide a special gift to the Seniors at three Senior homes this Christmas Season.

They delivered socks decorated with a candy canes and prayer cards. The Hill Top Patriots went to Hillside Place Assisted Living and Memory Care, Lakeview Senior Living and Oceanview Memory Care Senior Living Center.

They provided something for those residents that sometimes do not have friends or family visit during the Holiday Season. Many smiles and thank you’s were received and so much appreciation for the Hill Top Patriots that did something for our Community Seniors.

Merry Christmas Everyone and Happy New Year!!

Diana Olson  
Lincoln County

ONLINE POLL

Previous Poll

Are you signed up for emergency alerts from your local government?

Yes.....61.3%  
No.....38.7%

New Poll

How are you feeling about the New Year ahead?

- Confident and positive
- Optimistic but cautious
- Pessimistic and not hopeful
- I don't know how to feel





# Vote “NO” on Recall

## WE STAND WITH CLAIRE

*“**Claire Hall** has championed affordable housing, veterans’ services, mental health and substance abuse care and better access to healthcare—and consistently delivers results, bringing critical funding to Lincoln County. We need experienced, stable County leadership focused on improving quality of life, NOT politics driven by gossip and infighting.”*

Jan Kaplan, Mayor, Newport

Kathy Short  
Mayor, Depoe Bay

Susan Wahlke  
Mayor, Lincoln City

Kevin Hohnbaum  
Lincoln City Councilor

Rick Mark  
Lincoln City Councilor

Cynthia Jacobi  
Newport City Councilor

Sandy Roumagoux  
Newport City Councilor  
and former Mayor

Judy Casper  
Former Lincoln City  
Councilor

Doug Hunt  
former Lincoln County  
Commissioner

Lori Hollingsworth  
Former Mayor  
Lincoln City

Greg Holland  
Former Mayor  
Waldport



Lincoln County  
Democratic Central  
Committee

Monica Kirk  
15 Neighborhoods



the **MAGA** takeover



FLOCK

From Page A1

many other tools, to identify vehicles known to frequent multiple felony theft locations in close temporal proximity to reported felony thefts.

The LCPD Facebook post states that the cameras are in plain view and positioned to address specific concerns in partnership with area commercial businesses. The Lincoln County Leader reached out to the LCPD for details about the specific camera locations.

“The cameras are placed on private property with the permission of the owners, pole mounted on the side of the highway,” LCPD Sgt. Torin Liden said.

The LCPD Facebook post also states that many businesses and private individuals are increasingly turning to the use of cameras of different kinds for their own safety, and law enforcement is no different.

“In Lincoln City these tools are deployed to capture what is in public in plain view, including the publicly viewed characters of license plates, as permissible by Oregon and US law,” the post reads.

Liden said that while the LCPD did use the Flock cameras, the LCPD Flock contract has ended..

“The Police Department has already ended the contract with Flock due to substantial rate increases in the near future,” he said. “They will be present for the near future but will likely be removed as the contract is ending. I suppose the data from the cameras could still be used up until the end of the contract, so if another theft investigation is underway, we would likely use any information pertinent to the investigation.”

Newport Police do not use any Flock cameras or subscribe to the Flock services, according to the city of Newport Communications Director John Fuller.

The use of Flock cameras comes with controversy.

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office recently announced it suspended its contract even though it had not yet installed cameras anywhere in Lane County.

According to an LCSO release, “LCSO’s contract with Flock Safety was initiated after the Eugene Police Department and Springfield Police Department began work to install their systems.”

LCSO’s contract with Flock Safety occurred after the Eugene Police Department and Springfield Police Department started work to install their systems.

“For an ALPR system to be most effective in preventing crime and holding offenders accountable, coordination

between local agencies is paramount,” the release stated. “Without other local networks to integrate with, LCSO is looking for ways to best utilize the resources that we have available to keep our residents safe.”

“We are still examining this type of technology and others in an effort to improve community and deputy safety,” Lane County Sheriff Carl Wilkerson said. “ALPRs have proven their benefit to our residents with the capture of multiple murderers over the past year.”

According to LCSO, Oregon legislature is expected to examine the use of ALPR technology by law enforcement agencies in the next legislative session which will likely impact local systems and policies.

**IN EUGENE**

Eugene Police Department also ended its contract with Flock Safety, saying it had identified vulnerabilities and limitations that raise concerns about the system’s ability to meet EPD’s operational needs, data security requirements, and community expectations.

“Eugene Police’s ALPR system experience has demonstrated the value of leveraging ALPR technology to aid investigations, apprehend felony suspects, and recover stolen vehicles more quickly,” a EPD release

stated. “However, the department must ensure that any vendors meet the highest standards for safeguards surrounding privacy, data handling, data security, and system reliability.”

**IN FLORENCE**

Florence has had flock cameras since April, 2024 and Florence Police Department still has a contract with Flock Safety. Florence Police Chief John Pitcher has repeatedly cited the cameras as a useful tool for local law enforcement to quickly find stolen vehicles and vehicles related to crimes in progress. Pitcher has repeated that the system cannot be used by Immigration authorities and only FPD can share data from Florence-based cameras.

“I have talked to LCSO, Eugene PD and Springfield PD,” he said by email Dec. 11. “None of their reasons for suspending their contracts had anything to do with misuse or anything that contradicts Oregon law.”

**IN OREGON**

The group, Eyes of Eugene-Springfield said its main goal opposing the Flock cameras was to “defend public safety from a flawed and intrusive system.” The American Civil Liberties union is urging all law enforcement agencies in Oregon to also cancel their flock contracts, according to a KVAL report.

The Oregon Legislature is set to review the use of ALPR technology by law enforcement agencies in the upcoming legislative session.

Flock has come under scrutiny at the state level and in November, Sen. Ron Wyden, called for an investigation of Flock Safety and its data handling protocols. According to a release from House.gov Wyden and Illinois Senator Raja Krishnamoorth called for a federal investigation, saying dozens of accounts of Flock customers had been stolen. An investigation by Hudson Rock said 35 accounts have reportedly been stolen by hackers.

Hudson Rock’s investigation data is available to view at <https://www.hudsonrock.com/search/domain/flocksafety.com>

Flock’s website is located at <https://www.flocksafety.com>

**WHAT LPR TECHNOLOGY CAPTURES**

LPR technology is designed to have cameras capture rear license plates and vehicle characteristics.

LPR technology is not designed to capture people or faces. There is no facial recognition.

LPRs will provide real-time alerts to law enforcement when a license plate associated with certain types of crimes is detected.

Note: Other cameras at

the intersections do not record and simply detect the presence of a vehicle for traffic signal operation. They are for traffic engineering.

**TYPES OF CRIMES ALPR IS USED FOR**

LPR is used for addressing organized retail theft, stolen vehicles, or other serious crimes.

The cameras may also assist in detecting vehicles associated with missing people, or an Amber alert.

The LPR system will help EPD investigate crimes by providing the objective evidence needed to clear cases.

Note: Other cameras at the intersections are for traffic engineering and do not record but simply detect the presence of a vehicle for traffic signal operation.

**4TH AMENDMENT AND IMMIGRATION CONSIDERATIONS**

4th Amendment - The cameras are placed in public spaces where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. LPR technology is already in use by businesses, financial institutions, and other law enforcement agencies in the region. Data associated with license plates is already accessible in existing systems such as the DMV, LEDS, and NCIC.

*Siuslaw News Editor Tony Reed contributed to this story.*

CHRISTMAS

From Page A1

the New Year include the King Tides and storm watching.

“We want to remind everyone to please be mindful and not go on the beach during such weather, there are some spectacular beachcombing opportunities after the storms and tides have passed,” Hull said. “There are also many celebrations for New Year’s Eve that bring visitors to Lincoln City. Chinook Winds Casino Resort hosts themed parties every year and many local bars host live music and festive atmospheres here as well.”

During the first half of winter, which is mid-November through the end of December, Lincoln City almost always see peaks around the holidays, according to Hull.

“This is most likely because visitors have time off work and school to stay,” she said. “We usually see lower to mid-50’s in occupancy percentage around the holidays. Christmas 2024 showed 46.5% occupancy and Thanksgiving 2025 shows a slight bump at 50.8% occupancy rate.”

**WINTER SEASON (NOVEMBER15, 2024 - MARCH 15, 2025) TOURISM DEMOGRAPHICS**

- A majority of Winter visitors in fall between the ages of 45-64 years, closely followed by 25-44 year-olds.
- Their households are primarily those who are considered to be “empty-nesters” (1-2 individuals) and young families (3-5 individuals per group/family).
- These visitors are primarily traveling from the Portland Metro Areas (Portland, Vancouver WA, Beaverton), Salem, Albany/Lebanon Areas, Eugene Springfield Areas, Seattle Metro Areas (Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue), Bend, and Rural Oregon.
- Average length of stay is 2.3 Days

“In 2025, spending by visitors is down nearly 2% from the previous year, (which is on trend with visitor spending for this year we won’t have hard figures until the conclusion of the winter travel season,” she said. “Ex. Summer spending was down 5% in 2025. In comparison, spending from 2023-2024 was up nearly 5%.”

According to Hull,

“Even during the winter months, tourism continues to be Lincoln City’s most valuable economic resource.”

— *Stephanie Hull, Explore Lincoln City*

those who are spending money locally, are primarily using it for the following

- Accommodations/ Lodging | **34.8%**
- Dining and Nightlife | **21.2%**
- Clothing and Accessories | **12.2%**
- Grocery and Dept Stores | **12%**
- Specialty Retail | **7.65%**
- Service Stations | **5.62%**
- Fast Food Restaurants | **2.74%**
- Leisure, Recreation and Entertainment | **2.1%**
- Other | **1.77%**

We asked Hull, from a dollars and cents perspective, what is the overall value of winter tourism to our local businesses and to the community overall?

“Even during the winter months, tourism continues to be Lincoln City’s most valuable economic resource. The 2024-2025 Winter travel season saw \$26.1M contributed to the Lincoln City economy,” Hull said. “The direct travel spending to Lincoln County in 2024 totaled \$712,700,000, which makes up 25% of the total funds generated for the entire Oregon Coast. The number of tourism related jobs in Lincoln County for 2024 totaled 7,850.”

**CHAMBERS' PERSPECTIVE**

Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lori Arce-Torres said the holiday season is a great time to celebrate community and embrace the spirit of giving. She said local businesses embraced the season with festive decorations, special promotions, and collaborating on initiatives.

“The Chamber encourages giving back to the community, and many businesses are supporting the people who have supported them throughout the years, especially important this year as the unstable economy has increased the need in our community,” she said. “These efforts not only spread holiday cheer but also help sustain and grow local businesses, strengthen connections, and ensure that the spirit of generosity continues to shine in Lincoln City.”

Businesses often collaborate with other organizations such as the Chamber, Rotary and Kiwanis coming together to decorate a tree for the Angels Ball, which was to be auctioned off to help fund Angels Anonymous throughout the year, according to Arce-Torres. Other local

initiatives included businesses gathering toys for the North Lincoln Fire and Rescue Toy Drive and collecting food for the many food drives happening in the area.

“They know the importance of giving back and fostering the connections between neighbors and other business owners while helping those in need,” she said, and that the Christmas season adds a special sparkle to Lincoln City, with the businesses and community partners working hard to create a welcoming and festive atmosphere that draws visitors in.

“From decorated storefronts and holiday shopping promotions to family-friendly events and attractions, the entire community is helping make Lincoln City a destination for that unforgettable holiday experiences,” she said. “From small boutique shops to larger service providers, our businesses are showing creativity, generosity, and resilience, proving that the holiday season can truly be a time of both celebration and community growth.”

The Chamber is receiving more visitor inquiries about Lincoln City into the winter over previous years,

“Travelers are looking for affordable, close-to-home getaways, and Lincoln City continues to stand out as a welcoming coastal destination with year-round experiences. More people are discovering that winter at the beach offers its own magic, from King Tides to Storm Watching,

and Glass Float Drops to Seasonal Dining, and Unique Holiday Shopping with our local merchants,” she said.

In addition, enhanced marketing efforts and expanded community events such as the many concerts and activities at the Lincoln City Cultural Center have helped keep Lincoln City top-of-mind, even beyond the traditional summer travel months.

“We’re thrilled to see this growing interest and look forward to continuing to support our businesses as more visitors experience everything our city has to offer this winter. By embracing the season with creativity and collaboration, we continue to showcase the warmth and hospitality that define Lincoln City,” she added.

Newport Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wayne Patterson said many of the local businesses, from Newport’s Bayfront, Nye Beach, downtown, and the Highway 101 corridor, conducted special Christmas events offering food, music and or special pricing. Others participated in special shopping events and shows embracing the spirit of the season to enhance customer services and business profits.

“We have a lot of special draws like the Lighted Boat Parade, Tree lighting, special events to bring visitors in from all over,” he said, adding that that holidays help boost Newport’s fall and winter tourism.

“We are a little up from last year on the visitor count,” he said. “We feel that tourists are driving more to keep travel costs down and coming to Newport is under a 5-hour drive from most places in Oregon”



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BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION MILESTONE:

25 years of improving Oregon waterway safety

OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD  
Leader Guest Column

In 1999, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2977, Mandatory Boater Education, requiring operators of motorboats with engines greater than 10 horsepower and youth 12-15 years of age operating any size motorboat, to take a course on basic boating skill and/or pass an equivalency exam to demonstrate basic boating knowledge.

The primary reason for passing the law was to reduce accidents, injuries, deaths, property damage, and conflict on Oregon’s waterways. Oregon was the first state west of the Mississippi to enact an education requirement. Today, there are more than 45 states and U.S. territories that require some form of boating safety education.

Back in 1999, the Oregon Legislature gave the agency three years to implement the program, first offering a home-study and mail-in application option between 2000 and 2003. Then in 2003, the age phase-in began and ended in 2009, when all boaters, regardless of age, had to meet the education requirement.

From the beginning, the Marine Board wanted to have plenty of options for boating safety education by offering internet, in-person classroom, and equivalency exams for boaters to choose from. When the age phase-in began in 2003, there were three approved Internet course providers. The Marine Board also partnered with the U.S. Coast



The primary reason for passing the Mandatory Boater Education Law was to reduce accidents, injuries, deaths, property damage, and conflict on Oregon’s waterways. (Courtesy from the Oregon State Marine Board)

Guard Auxiliary, US Power Squadrons (America’s Boating Club), and the Red Cross to offer classroom courses around the state.

Additionally, the agency developed its own volunteer instructor program with certified instructors teaching the “Boat Oregon” classroom course. The third option available for boaters included equivalency exams, offered through certified Boat Oregon instructors or county Sheriff’s Offices with approved marine patrol proctors.

The three options remain today, and approved internet courses have expanded, including courses in Spanish. Virtual classes are also offered throughout the year

in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Of note, when the law was passed in 1999, the accident reporting threshold was set at \$500. In 2001, the threshold was increased to \$2,000 to reduce the number of reports for minor damage and to align with changes in the cost of boat repairs. This reporting change is evident in a significant drop (in the chart below) in 2001. What’s more, the data below for accidents (incidents) and fatalities includes non-motorized boaters per reporting requirements for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Since 2010, paddling in Oregon and across the nation has shown exponential growth. Motorized boating incidents

and fatalities have been declining on average over the last 15 years.

The inference can be made based on submitted boating incident reports, indicating whether the boat operator did not have a boating safety education card.

Very little has changed in the Marine Board’s administrative rules for the program in reference to ORS 830.082 for the Mandatory Boating Safety Education Program. The program has been self-supporting through boating education card fees with very little agency administration and does not rely on other funding.

In the past 25 years, the price of the lifetime card increased once, from \$10

in 2000 to \$20 in 2020. Replacement cards increased from \$8 in 2000 to \$16 in 2020. The increase was due to other rising costs in US mail postage, other supplies, and the card printing itself.

Course options remain the same, although approved internet courses have modernized, giving the student an interactive learning experience. Oregon-specific course content and testing are routinely updated to remain relevant to current national standards or changes in state boating laws. The agency now offers a digital Boat Oregon classroom course manual, also available in Vietnamese, Simple Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

With the popularity and growth in paddling, the agency encourages people who recreate in kayaks, canoes, rafts, and stand up paddleboards to take advantage of FREE online paddling safety courses. They’re fun, interactive, and outline not only Oregon state boating laws, but also other important tips to reduce accidents out on the water.

Currently, over 439,700 education cards have been issued, and Oregon’s boating safety education program continues to be a model for other states and territories.

The BEC is a lifetime card and must be carried by the operator when the boat is in use. The BEC must be shown to a marine law enforcement officer upon request.

Visit [Boat.Oregon.gov](https://boat.oregon.gov) to learn more about all things recreational boating.

BLM timber sales net over \$67M

The Bureau of Land Management in Oregon and Washington wrapped up fiscal year 2025 with a standout timber performance.

Across Oregon and Washington, the BLM exceeded its annual goal and, in support of the President’s promise of increased timber production, offered 15% more timber than in fiscal year 2024. In total, BLM Oregon/Washington sold 241 million board feet of timber for \$67,049,012 from October 2024 – September 2025.

“This year’s timber efforts show what the BLM can achieve,” BLM Oregon/ Washington State Director Barry Bushue said.. “We exceeded the timber target goal established in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Next year, the BLM is offering even more timber, which means supporting more rural jobs and improving forest health.”

The sales support the BLM’s commitment to the nation under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and the President’s order to increase domestic timber production.

The timber sold in fiscal year 2025 could build more than 15,000 homes and support about 3,400 jobs across western Oregon.

“America has significant timber resources, and Oregon and Washington have some of the best timber in the world,” Bushue said. “BLM timber sales ensure we retain our domestic lumber supply and reduce reliance on other imported building

supplies.”

In addition to new sales, in fiscal year 2025 the BLM facilitated the harvest of 250 million board feet of timber valued at nearly \$66 million, a 7% increase in harvest volume and 9% more in revenue than fiscal year 2024. These harvests include sales that were purchased over the previous four years, reflecting years of planning and collaboration with purchasers and operators in the community.

“Our foresters and partners in local communities are the reason for this successful year,” Bushue said. “Together, we’re building a stronger future for Oregon’s forests, one timber sale and acre at a time.”

In western Oregon, the BLM

manages 2.4 million acres of some of the most productive forests in the world, and is committed to supplying a reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply of timber. BLM forestry supports economic security, reduces risks from wildfire, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, and decreases costs of energy production. Local communities rely on jobs that come from BLM forests, and timber from public land feeds local industry.

Each year, sales managed by the BLM’s forestry program in Oregon and Washington support local jobs and generate more than \$1 billion for local economies. Revenue from timber sold on O&C lands is shared between the U.S. Treasury and 18 western Oregon counties.

This funding provides local communities with the means to construct new county buildings; develop fairgrounds and museums; support libraries, schools, and jails; and build flood-control dams and reservoirs.

ABOUT THE BLM

The BLM manages about 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people.

The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

ICE

From Page A1

rescue helicopter from its Newport Municipal Airport facility in late October. They argued that the federal government is skirting federal environmental and coastal land use regulations which would require more notice for Oregon leaders should an ICE facility be constructed in the area.

“Defendants have engaged in these efforts behind closed doors, with no transparency or public process, ignoring direct requests for information from local officials and members of Congress,” the new filing reads. “As a result, the state has been forced to piece together defendants’ plans for the ICE detention facility based on public reporting, inquiries to and information from federal contractors, the second-hand

account of a U.S. Coast Guard witness, and related evidence.”

Much of the evidence in Attorney General Dan Rayfield’s updated lawsuit has been previously reported. Jenny Hansson, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, referred to the amended complaint in response to a request for additional information or evidence.

“We will not allow federal agencies to sidestep the law or build detention facilities where they don’t belong, including along our coast,” Rayfield said in a statement. “The federal government has to follow the same laws everyone else does when operating in our communities.”

Representatives for the homeland security department and ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit. On Monday, Dec. 22, Newport’s

lawyers filed a similar lawsuit in federal court asking a judge to require compliance with federal environmental regulations mandating impact assessments before any construction of an ICE detention facility in the city. The U.S. Coast Guard’s deed from 1992 for its Newport Municipal Airport facility specifically mentions its purpose as an aviation site, a purpose the suit says should be honored.

State attorneys, a local Newport-based fishing nonprofit and Lincoln County officials had sued for the rescue helicopter’s return from a base in North Bend in November ahead of a dangerous crabbing season in the coastal city, home to one of Oregon’s largest commercial fishing industries. The U.S. Coast Guard went on to station a rescue helicopter in Newport following a temporary court order for its return, and federal lawyers

have since committed to leaving the helicopter in place until spring 2026.

Aiken on Monday, Dec. 22, however, issued a broader preliminary injunction that ordered the chopper to remain at Newport’s Municipal Airport as the lawsuit over its relocation continues to play out. While Oregon’s two U.S. senators previously received written Dec. 12 promises from U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Kevin E. Lunday that the helicopter will stay at the city’s municipal airport, Lunday did not rule out more long-term changes to the Coast Guard’s Newport facility.

Oregon is one of a few states in the nation that does not have a large-scale, long-term immigration detention facility. People held by ICE in the state are allowed to be detained in processing facilities in cities such as Portland for up to 12 hours, often transferring to a center in

Tacoma, Washington, for longer detentions.

According to the state’s updated lawsuit, though, ICE informed potential facility contractors that it would hold most detainees in Newport for less than 72 hours to avoid triggering federal rules regarding heightened space, services and standards of care. The suit alleges the federal agency then “acknowledged stays may exceed the 72-hour threshold, even though doing so would violate its own standards.”

In a Monday, Dec. 22, newsletter to his constituents, state Rep. David Gombert, D-Otis, who represents Newport, praised the state’s move.

“Now we have a tool to do something. When all we have are rumors, we can’t plan and we can’t have a real dialogue that helps us convey our community’s concerns,” he wrote. “I hate that it took a lawsuit to get our government to

simply talk to us.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/anticipating-early-2026-opening-oregon-seeks-to-block-potential-newport-ice-facility/>  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: [info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com](mailto:info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com).*

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# RECALL HALL

**We must recall county commissioner  
Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such  
as ethics and non-performance.**



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethics....Hall is currently under investigation by “OGE”, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, for “Open Meetings” violations of law.</li><li>• Non communication with Judge Bachart, DA Jenna Wallace and Sherriff’s office (Curt Landers). See September 18, 2024 meeting video.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom of Speech violations of public comment section during commissioner meetings.</li><li>• Non communication with general public and voters seeking “redress of Grievances”</li><li>• Unethical removal and banishment of commissioner Miller.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illegal and inappropriate banishment from commissioner meetings by those Hall deemed as opposition. (Christine Hutchins)...later reversed after proved to be either Illegal or wrongful action.</li><li>• It is time to end “Strong Arm” and bully tactics at the county commissioners office!</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|





First Day Hike at Shore Acres State Park. (Courtesy photo)

# First Day Hikes set for New year’s Day 2026

Whether you prefer a moderate hike through a desert landscape or a paved wooded trail inside city limits, Oregon State Parks has a First Day Hike for you on New Year’s Day, Thursday Jan. 1.

Rangers and volunteers will lead guided First Day Hikes at 25 parks around the state with distances ranging from a quarter-mile stroll to a 5-mile trek. Hikes are free, but a day-use parking permit is required at some parks. Permits cost \$10 per day for Oregon Residents or \$12 for non-residents; annual permits are also sold online or at park offices.

America’s State Parks sponsors the First Day Hikes program nationwide to encourage everyone to start the year outside and connect

See **HIKES**, page B4

# Dallahan returns to the U.S. with a high-energy local Celtic concert



Dallahan (Courtesy photo)

The Lincoln City Cultural Center (LCCC) continues its acclaimed Celtic Music Series with a live performance by Dallahan at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8.

Known internationally for their bold, contemporary take on traditional Celtic music, Dallahan brings driving rhythms, virtuosic musicianship, and global influences to an electrifying concert experience.

Formed by musicians from Scotland, Ireland, and England, Dallahan features Jack Badcock on fiddle and vocals, Ciarán Ryan on Irish bouzouki and tenor banjo, and Andrew Waite on accordion. Together, they deliver intricate arrangements and a powerful sound that honors Celtic traditions while pushing them forward with fresh energy and intensity.

This performance marks Dallahan’s first U.S. appearance in more than a decade, making the Lincoln City concert an especially significant event. Lincoln City will be the first stop on the band’s U.S. tour, offering audiences a rare opportunity to welcome the group back to Oregon and to the United States.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Dallahan back to

See **CELTIC**, page B4

# Experience the Magic of Bellini’s I Puritani

Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) is proud to present a live high-definition broadcast of Vincenzo Bellini’s final masterpiece, I Puritani, streaming directly from the Metropolitan Opera stage to the Alice Silverman Theatre at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10.

Renowned for its spellbinding coloratura and virtuoso vocal fireworks, I Puritani returns to the Met in its first new production in nearly 50 years. This striking new staging marks the directorial debut of Charles Edwards, who brings the sweeping drama of the English Civil War to life with breathtaking set designs and direction.

The performance features a “world-beating” quartet of opera stars under the baton

See **PURITANI**, page B4



**This presentation is part of the Met’s “Live in HD” series, which brings world-class opera to screens across the globe with better-than-front-row angles and glorious sound, according to Oregon Coast Council for the Arts. (Courtesy photo)**

# Moon Mountain String Band brings Oregon Newgrass to LCCC

The Lincoln City Cultural Center (LCCC) is excited to welcome one of Oregon’s rising acoustic ensembles, the Moon Mountain String Band, for a lively night of bluegrass and newgrass at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10.

The seven-member band, based in Eugene, is known for its dynamic stage presence, tightly woven harmonies, and a mix of traditional fiddle tunes, bluegrass standards, and contemporary originals.

Formed in 2022, Moon Mountain String Band has quickly built a strong regional following, performing at beloved Pacific Northwest venues including the Oregon Country Fair, Sam Bond’s Garage, the White Eagle, the Jazz Station, and multiple Oregon festivals. Their energetic approach to roots music has earned praise for getting audiences dancing, smiling, and engaged.

In 2025 the band released its second album, “Valsetz”, now streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, and other platforms. The album, titled after the deserted Boise-Cascade logging town, includes original songs written about Oregon’s checkered past and unique ecology, mixed with a healthy



dose of high lonesome bluegrass tunes, and more contemporary folk songs.

Band Members and

Instruments

- Slug Kaltenbach— rhythm guitar, vocals
- Shane Connor— lead guitar, vocals
- Sarah Wilfong— fiddle, vocals
- Albert Yang— mandolin, vocals
- Dave

Deblaker— standup bass

- Dylan Plummer— banjo
- Zachary Wallmark— dobro

“This is my first time inviting a band to the Cultural Center, and I’m thrilled that it’s Moon Mountain String Band,” Lincoln City Cultural Center Executive Director Serena Dressel said. “Their energy, musicianship, and sense of fun feel like a perfect match for our community, and I’m really looking forward to experiencing their music live alongside our audience.”

See **NEWGRASS**, page B4



# Resolving to spend less time on your smartphone?

Understanding your travel habits can help

STEVE LUNDEBERG  
Leader Guest Article

If you open a banking app, play a mobile game or scroll through a news feed every day while riding the bus, your commuting routine is probably bolstering your smartphone habit, according to new research that shows phone tendencies are stronger in locations chosen automatically.

As you ponder this year’s potential New Year’s resolutions, understanding your habits and what reinforces them is key to helping ensure your autopilot doesn’t steer you in directions that conflict with your values and goals, said Oregon State University’s Morgan Quinn Ross, who led the study.

“Habits are a direct driver of behavior, those activities we do frequently and without thinking,” said Ross, assistant professor of communication in the OSU College of Liberal Arts. “Because they automate our cognition, habitual processes can make day-to-day life easier to navigate – but they can also ultimately make things harder on us. For better or worse, our habits have powerful implications for how we engage with the world around us.”

Ross notes that past research has shown that “mobility choices” – where we go and how we get there – are largely a factor of habit, as are the ways and frequency in which we use our smartphones. Much less studied, however, is how those habits might feed off each other.

“The interaction between mobility choice habits and smartphone habits is ideally suited for analyzing interactive habitual processes in daily life,” he said. “Unlike most habits, smartphone habits can come into play



Research suggests your smartphone habits are strongest in places you visit habitually. (Courtesy photo from OSU)

pretty much wherever you are.”

Ross and collaborators at the Ohio State University, the University of Iowa and the National

Chiao Tung University in Taiwan employed a specially designed app to collect millions of data points from 419 study participants over a two-week

period.

The app tracked participants’ travel routes, destinations and smartphone use, and also checked in with participants to see how automatically chosen their routes and destinations were. In addition, participants were surveyed about whether they used certain apps without thinking.

The scientists melded four indicators of spatial habits – route frequency, route automaticity, destination frequency and destination automaticity – with two measures of smartphone habits, app frequency and app automaticity, and found that smartphone habits are stronger in spaces chosen out of habit.

“That was true for social apps like Instagram, Reddit, Signal and TikTok, and also for non-social apps like Venmo or Asana,” Ross said. “Social app habits, though, were less tethered to location than non-social app habits.”

Regardless of type, apps used out of habit were used across spatial contexts and especially likely to be used in contexts selected based on habit. The study indicates the multiplicative potential of habitual processes in daily life, Ross said.

“Ultimately, although habits involve a lack of thinking, you can think about which habits you want to develop,” he said. “We’ve shown that phone habits are tied to spatial habits, and that has implications for how we develop or break habits. We may try to cultivate a good habit of staying abreast of the news by reading news articles on the bus, or we may try to break a bad habit of over-using TikTok by not using it in bed.”

Findings are published in Nature Scientific Reports.

Steve Lundeborg is a news and research writer at Oregon State University. He may be reached at Steve.Lundeborg@oregonstate.edu

# Unmanned aircraft systems at Oregon State Parks

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is seeking public feedback on proposed rules governing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) takeoff and landing in Oregon’s state parks and along the ocean shore.

The proposed rules establish where and how UAS may take off and land on state park property, to balance recreational opportunities with protection of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources.

Public comments on the proposed rule changes will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. January 1., and can be submitted:

- Online: <https://www-auth.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Pages/PRP-Rule-2025-Drones-Take-off-and-Landing.aspx>
- By email: OPRD. PublicComment@oprd.oregon.gov
- By mail: Oregon Parks and Recreations Department, Attn: Robert Ellison, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

A public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide testimony.

- Virtual hearing 5 p.m. January 20

Zoom: [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_X3ChSIJkTE-Y3FRh3WIy-Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X3ChSIJkTE-Y3FRh3WIy-Q)

The draft rules focus on regulating takeoff and landing locations, which are within the department’s authority, while recognizing that UAS flight is

regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Under the proposal, UAS use would generally be limited to designated areas for drone operations, with additional requirements for commercial or research purposes.

The proposed rules were developed in response to Senate Bill 109 (2021), which directed OPRD to create a regulatory framework that provides recreational UAS access while protecting sensitive

park resources and minimizing conflicts with other visitors.

OPRD convened a Rule Advisory Committee made up of recreation user groups, conservation organizations, natural resource specialists, commercial operators and other stakeholders. The committee reviewed draft rules and provided recommendations that helped shape the proposal now open for public comment.

Once the public comment period closes, OPRD staff will review all feedback, revise the draft rules as appropriate, and present a final proposal to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration later in 2026.

If adopted, the rules would be implemented in phases, allowing the department to adapt management strategies over time, based on resource conditions, visitor use and operational experience.

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Lincoln County Leader

		2		5		3	9	8
		9		2		4	7	
	7				4	5	1	
				8	3	9		
1			7		6		5	3
2				1		6	8	7
6		1		3	9		2	4
		3						
		5	4	6	1		3	

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

SUDOKU

数独

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers.  
The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

SHERIFF’S TIP OF THE WEEK

New Year’s Safety

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Among all the fun and noise of a New Year’s celebration, it’s important to ensure festivities are safe.  
If alcohol is involved, there should be people in attendance who are designated to stay sober and ensure safety. While laws can help prevent mishaps, people making the right choices and being respectful of each other will help keep people safe while still having fun.  
The responsibility and much of the liability of a safe party remains with the host. If you are hosting a party, there are safety measures you



can implement to keep people safe and reduce liability during New Year celebrations.  
**Party Safety Tips:**

- Use common sense. This includes not driving after drinking or using substances.
- Designate a non-drinking driver before the party.

- Utilize public transportation where available.
- Consider spending the night at the party location.
- If you are hosting a party, ensure that non-alcoholic drinks are also served.
- Communicate with neighbors before the party. Work together to respectfully address noise levels and other potential disturbances.
- Have the courage to refuse serving a friend a drink if they are acting strange or are intoxicated.
- Do not pressure friends to drink if they say no, have a drinking problem, or are already intoxicated.
- Consider the safety and welfare of pets. Loud music, people, and fireworks can result in

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# Ticket system announced for Sand Lake over Fourth of July weekend

The Siuslaw National Forest will implement a ticket reservation system at the Sand Lake Recreation Area on the Hebo Ranger District over the Fourth of July holiday, July 3 – 5, 2026.

The new system is designed to manage heavy visitation, reduce congestion, and provide for public safety after record-breaking crowds last year created significant traffic and safety challenges. The first opportunity to secure space at Sand Lake will come in January when camping reservations become available for July on Recreation.gov.

“We saw unprecedented visitation last year, which unfortunately led to overcrowding, long lines, and safety issues,” Hebo District Ranger

Bryan Wilson said. “The new ticket system will help protect visitors, reduce congestion, and create a quality recreation experience.”

Visitors will have two options to visit Sand Lake during the Fourth of July weekend, camping reservations at a developed campground or a vehicle ticket.

Camping reservations at a developed campground – Camping can be reserved six months in advance beginning from the date of arrival on Recreation.gov. To camp in July, reservations become available in January 2026. Campsites have space for two street legal vehicles, and these vehicle limits will be strictly enforced. Campground reservations holders do not need an



Sand lake is located along the North Oregon Coast north of Pacific City in Tillamook County. (Courtesy photo from the US Forest service)

additional vehicle ticket to access the Sand Lake area.

Vehicle ticket – Tickets will be available for purchase in May 2026. Tickets will be required per street legal passenger vehicle, per day to visit the Sand Lake area July 3, 4 and/or 5. The tickets are issued for established parking lots and for dispersed use on the sand, including sand camping by date.

All reservations can be made at Recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. No entry to Sand Lake Recreation Area will be permitted without camping reservations or a vehicle ticket and no tickets will be sold on site. For more information, please visit the Sand Lake Fourth of July webpage on the Siuslaw National Forest website.

About the Forest Service  
The USDA Forest

Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology– and rooted in communities–the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other.

The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world.

The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

# Plants that feed backyard birds in winter

KIM POKORNY  
Leader Guest Article

When winter reduces natural food sources in Oregon yards, many birds turn to people and planted landscapes for help.

“Different birds are attracted to different foods and it’s good to have a variety,” said Dana Sanchez, a wildlife specialist for Oregon State University’s Extension Service. “In addition to bird feeders, which people sometimes forget to fill, they need plants to forage on.”

This time of year, you will notice winter wrens, pine siskins, scrub jays, chickadees and robins. All are searching for food to give them the energy they need to survive the prolonged stress of cold and wet weather.

“Birds need a lot of energy to make it through cold nights,” Sanchez said. “They can’t eat during the night, and they burn off whatever food calories they found during the day.”

Feathers help birds stay warm. They fluff them, huddle together to reduce heat loss and even shiver to keep muscles warm. But they still need good food sources to produce energy. A few insects remain in winter, sometimes under moss and lichen. Some plants, such as thistle, hold on to seeds that birds can work into their diet. Plants with berries that are high in fat help, too.

**Providing food in the landscape**

Sanchez suggested looking around the yard and



Bodinier’s beautyberry offers birds berries in the winter. (Courtesy photo from Josie Noteboom)


adding a few shrubs that keep berries into winter. That way, even if feeders run empty, birds still have something to forage on.

**Plants with berries for birds**

Dana Sanchez’s picks for plants with berries for birds:

- Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium) breaks out in brilliant yellow flowers in midwinter that leave behind bunches of blue-black berries. The state flower of Oregon grows to about 6 feet tall and 5 feet wide. Hardy to Zone 5.
- Beautyberry (Callicarpa bodinieri) was named for a reason: The violet to purple berries in midwinter stop people in their tracks. This shrub shows well at the back of a border where its 6-by-6-foot size has room to develop. The cultivar ‘Profusion’ has especially abundant berries. Hardy to Zone 5.
- Snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus) is recognized for clusters of white berries that last well into winter. At about 5 feet tall and 6 feet wide and somewhat rangy, snowberry works well in a bird-friendly hedgerow, and its vigorous roots help with erosion control on slopes. Hardy to Zone 3.
- Himalayan honeysuckle (Leycesteria formosa) needs space for its 6-foot height and width, but it pays off. Long clusters of white flowers with purple bracts hang from the shrub through summer and fall and are followed by berries that move from green to deep red to purplish black, often with all three colors on the plant at once. Hardy to Zone 6.
- Pacific wax myrtle (Myrica californica) is an evergreen that can reach 30 feet at maturity, so it is often used as a screen or small tree. A Pacific Northwest native, wax myrtle bears purplish berries in fall that persist into winter. Hardy to Zone 7.


Kim Pokorny writes for the Oregon State University Extension Service.



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CELTIC

From Page B4

the U.S., and especially excited that Lincoln City is the first stop on their tour,” LCCC Programs Director Jason Corso said. “This feels like a true homecoming, and our community is going to love the energy they bring to the stage.”

Dallahan has toured extensively throughout Europe, earning a reputation for performances that are both technically dazzling and deeply engaging. Whether delivering fiery dance tunes or

expressive, song-driven moments, the band creates concerts that are immersive, joyful, and unforgettable.

This concert is part of the Cultural Center’s ongoing Celtic Music Series, which celebrates outstanding traditional and contemporary artists from across the Celtic world. Following Dallahan in the Celtic Series is Gadan on Feb 10, Solas on March 25, Gnoss on April 19, and Scottish Fish on May 7th. Customers can purchase Celtic subscription packages with a 15% discount until Jan 8th at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?subscription=lccc>.

arts-people.com/index.php?subscription=lccc.

Tickets:

- Table Seating: \$42 Adults / \$39 Seniors / \$30 Students
- Regular Seating (no table): \$37 Adults / \$34 Seniors / \$20 Students

Tickets are available at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=289906> or by calling 541-994-9994. Seating is limited, and advance purchase is strongly recommended.

The Lincoln City Cultural Center Auditorium is located at 540 NE Highway 101 in Lincoln City.

HIKES

From Page B4

with nature. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has participated since 2012.

“Across Oregon, First Day Hikes have grown into a beloved New Year’s tradition for visitors and staff alike. On January 1st, park rangers and volunteers share stories of park history, geology, wildlife, and plants, as families and friends kick off the year together with an engaging outdoor

adventure,” Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Lisa Sumption said.

Visit the Oregon First Day Hikes web page to see the list of parks hosting hikes. Additional hike information such as hike times, meet-up locations and trail terrain are available via the park links on the web page. A few hikes require registration including Deschutes River, Elijah Bristow, Emigrant Springs, LaPine, Lukiamute, Oswald West, Sitka Sedge, and Smith Rock.

For any questions about accessibility or to request reasonable accommodations needed to participate in a hike, please see the contact information on each hike’s webpage.

Remember to plan for winter weather, dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and carry binoculars for viewing wildlife.

Share photos of First Day Hikes via X and Instagram by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes or tagging “Oregon State Parks” on Facebook.

OHA urges caution to prevent carbon  
monoxide poisoning during winter months

What you should know:

Carbon monoxide risks increase during winter due to tighter home ventilation and heavier use of heating appliances.

Carbon monoxide exposure can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion and loss of consciousness, and it can be fatal.

Have wood stoves, chimneys and vents regularly inspected and cleaned, ensure wood-burning devices are properly vented, and never use outdoor heating or cooking devices inside homes.

As temperatures drop and Oregon households rely more on wood stoves, space heaters and other heating sources, Oregon Health Authority is reminding people around the state to take steps to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced whenever fuel is burned. In winter, carbon monoxide risks increase due to tighter home ventilation and heavier use

of heating appliances. Exposure can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion, loss of consciousness and can be fatal without prompt treatment.

“Carbon monoxide tragedies are preventable,” said David Farrer, Ph.D., toxicologist in the OHA Public Health Division’s Environmental Public Health Section. “Proper maintenance, ventilation and working carbon monoxide alarms are essential for keeping families safe during the winter.”

In Oregon last year, there were 121 emergency and urgent care visits from carbon monoxide poisoning. Since Oct. 1 this year, there have been 55 carbon monoxide poisoning emergency and urgent care visits.

Wood stoves and heating safety

Improperly installed, poorly maintained, or inadequately vented wood stoves are a leading cause of winter carbon monoxide incidents. OHA urges residents to:

Have wood stoves,

chimneys and vents inspected and cleaned annually by certified professionals.

Ensure all wood-burning devices are properly vented to the outside.

Never use outdoor heating or cooking devices, such as camp stoves, charcoal grills or generators - inside homes, garages or enclosed spaces.

Additional safety tips

Install battery-powered or battery-backed-up carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home.

Test alarms monthly and replace batteries twice a year.

Never run vehicles, generators or gas-powered tools in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces.

Seek fresh air immediately and call 911 if a carbon monoxide alarm sounds or if symptoms occur.

For more information on carbon monoxide prevention and winter safety, visit OHA’s website at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preparedness/currenthazards/pages/carbon-monoxidepoisoning.aspx>.

NEWGRASS

From Page B4

Tickets are \$20 in

advance and \$25 at the door. Early purchase is recommended. Purchase tickets: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=309929>

The Lincoln City Cultural Center is located at 540 NE Highway 101 in Lincoln City.

PURITANI

From Page B4

of conductor Marco Armiliato. Leading the cast are soprano Lisette Oropesa as Elvira and tenor Lawrence Brownlee as Arturo—two lovers torn apart by political rifts and madness. They are joined by baritone Artur Ruciński as Riccardo and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn as Giorgio.

The production is sung in Italian with English subtitles and runs approximately 3 hours and 45

minutes with one intermission. This presentation is part of the Met’s “Live in HD” series, which brings world-class opera to screens across the globe with better-than-front-row angles and glorious sound. Tickets range from \$12 to \$28 when purchased at the Newport Performing Arts Center box office (777 W Olive Street) or by phone. Online ticketing is also available (additional fee applies). To learn more, call 541-265-2782 or visit [coastarts.org/events/met-puritani](https://coastarts.org/events/met-puritani)

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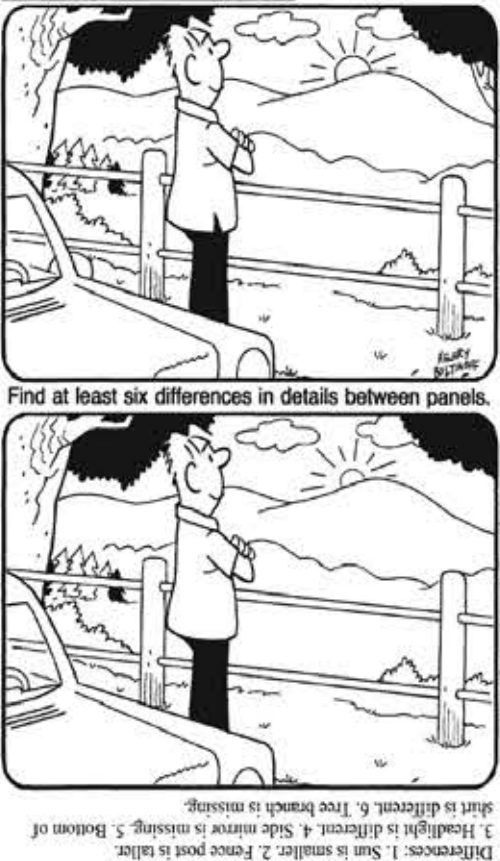
TIGER



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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals O

CGURTTH YRFWGXJ ZRLRUGJH  
YHROQTGJL AWXOXF XY CGL  
PROHT ZRZZRIF PGOW YIGAHTF:  
ZRJROHH YRGT.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Chant  
DABALL

New  
LOVEN

Ruler  
ERGENT

Collect  
GEARTH

TODAY'S WORD

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

GMAPA UR WBQWHR RXTA  
TWZJARR UJ BXIA. NSG  
GMAPA UR WBRX WBQWHR  
RXTA PAWRXJ UJ TWZJARR.  
— EPUAZPUYM JUAGCRYMA

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between Ukraine and Russia?
2. SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan “Think Different”?
3. MOVIES: Which actor plays himself in the movie “Zombieland”?
4. HISTORY: Which U.S. president authorized the Indian Removal Act, which forcibly relocated Native Americans?
5. BIOLOGY: How do plants take in oxygen and carbon dioxide?
6. TELEVISION: What’s the name of the bar in “The Simpsons”?
7. MUSIC: Which pop singer refers to her fans as “little monsters”?
8. ANATOMY: Where is the deltoid muscle in the human body?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Greek dish moussaka?
10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children’s book “Where the Wild Things Are”?

Answers

1. Sea of Azov.
2. Apple.
3. Bill Murray.
4. Andrew Jackson.
5. Tiny pores on the underside of leaves called stomata.
6. Moe’s Tavern.
7. Lady Gaga.
8. Shoulder.
9. Eggplant.
10. Maurice Sendak.

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— Friedrich Nietzsche  
some reason in madness.  
there is also always  
madness in love. But  
There is always some  
answer  
CryptoQuote

Bizarre fashion magazine  
featuring photos of big  
water mammals with flippers:  
Manatee Fair.

CryptoQuip

Today's Word  
GARAGE  
1. Ballad; 2. Novel;  
3. Regent; 4. Gather  
solution  
SCRAMBLERS







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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

LCL25-595

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSORTIUM  
FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Lincoln County Consortium for Solid Waste Management will hold a public hearing on January 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Commissioner's Conference Room, Room 108, 225 W. Olive Street, Newport, Oregon. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 as approved by the Consortium Budget Committee and to adopt the budget. Financial summary of the budget is provided below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained from the Lincoln County Solid Waste District Office, 880 NE 7th Street, Newport, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This is a public hearing. Any person may appear and present arguments for or against any item in the budget document. This Budget has been prepared using budgetary practices and techniques guided by Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 294.305 to 294.565.

DATED: December 18, 2025

Paul Seitz, Budget Officer

Publish December 30, 2025

	FINANCIAL SUMMARY	Adopted 2024-2025	Adopted 2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027
Total All Funds				
A. Anticipated Requirements				
1. Personal Services		\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Materials & Services		\$146,357	\$140,750	\$132,500
4. Contingency		\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Requirements:		\$146,357	\$150,750	\$142,500
B. Anticipated Resources				
1. Total Contributions from Member Agencies		\$146,357	\$140,750	\$132,500
2. Property Taxes		\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Beginning Balance		\$25,277	\$15,277	\$15,277
Total Resources:		\$171,634	\$125,473	\$117,223

Super Crossword

CORNER TO CORNER

ACROSS			51 Bic — Stic	94 Send forth	DOWN	40 Video's	80 It's charged
1 Fishhook end	52 Add up to	96 Some	1 Streisand,	to friends	counterpart	81 Knotted like	
5 Neophyte	53 March 15,	pinschers,	2 Slightly	for short	42 Last name of	shoelaces	
9 Negate	e.g.	98 Completed	3 Vigorous	quality	the Bee Gees	82 Huxtable	
15 "Kapow!"	55 Emperor	99 Male sibling	4 — Gump	by birth	creatures	mom on TV	
19 "— Ben	before	105 Asian fusion	Shrimp		45 The second	83 Goat groups	
Adhem"	Caligula	restaurant	Company		Mrs. Trump	85 Limber	
(Leigh Hunt	58 In the	chain	5 Mechanical-		Actress Eve	86 Black, in	
poem)	direction of	106 Taxis org.	looking dance		47 Bird homes	verse	
20 Whole	62 Unsafe	107 French body	6 Pro vote		50 Cheapen	87 Honcho	
bunch	64 Convent VIP	of water	7 Rub roughly		54 Enjoy a slope	90 Mambo king	
21 Opposed (to)	65 Quilt, e.g.	108 Like an ode	8 Sight-related		56 McEntire of	Puente	
22 Nevada city	66 Small	110 Marjanovic of	9 Beach hut		country	91 Ricochets	
on I-80	bouquets	the Rockets	10 "Selma"		57 Lead-in to a	95 Janitorial	
23 Mild-flavored	68 Monkey in	112 Memory loss	director		proposal	tool	
lettuce	"Aladdin"	116 Like	DuVernay		59 Bake-off	97 Deli heroes	
24 Dawn's	69 Die-hard	eyesores	11 Lincoln loc.		needs	100 Last Greek	
direction	devotees	118 Citigroup	12 Boohoo		60 "As if that —	letters	
25 Common	70 What this	alternative	13 Canadian		enough ..."	101 Actor Arnaz	
corsage	puzzle's	121 Item for	gas choice		61 Pooch sound	102 Court filings	
flower	solver does	surfing on	14 NBA star		63 Aden citizen	103 Pianists'	
27 2019 buddy-	when filling in	one's	James		65 — -de-sac	exercises	
cop action-	the upper-left	stomach	15 Twists to		67 Composer	104 Road semi	
comedy film	to lower-right	125 Work for	pull free		Erik	109 Staff	
29 Leaning	diagonal?	127 Impose — on	16 Sun output		69 Ocean floor	symbols	
Tower city	74 8-11 p.m.,	(forbid)	17 Poker cost		71 Mouth or	111 Addis —,	
31 Co-avenger	TV-wise	128 Arm bone	18 Hardness		face, slangily	Ethiopia	
with Electra	78 Exec's deg.	129 Princess	scale inventor		72 Rescue	112 Be up	
32 Wooden	79 Tattle	Beatrice's	26 Take in a		squad VIP	against	
shoe	84 Old Russian	mom	novel, e.g.		73 Upscale	113 Yard pest	
34 Bestow	revolutionary	130 Ran away	28 Abba of		Swiss watch	114 Not any	
38 Feedbag	85 German	131 1967 Peter	Israel		brand	115 Aid in crime	
grain	for the verb	Sellers film,	30 Boohoo		74 — tucked	117 New Haven	
39 Jaguar, e.g.	"love"	with "The"	33 Leg bone		out	university	
41 "It's not —	88 Sheer fabric	132 Casual tops	35 Popular office		75 Of kidneys	119 Local theater,	
deal"	89 States of	133 Brines, e.g.	plant		"The Princess	informally	
43 Guy who	oneness	134 Lays (down)	wings		Bride"	120 Door handle	
helps people	90 Filename	135 Spin —	37 Hitting stat		character	122 Iron —	
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Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 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, methamphetamine, 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: 11/13/2025 By: Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112 Successor Trustee Malcolm & Cisneros, A Law Corporation Attention: Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112 c/o TRUSTEE CORPS 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 NPP0481390 To: LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER 12/31/2025, 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026

LCL25-596 WEATHERIZATION CONTRACTORS NEEDED IN LINN, BENTON, AND LINCOLN COUNTIES. Request for proposals: CSC's Weatherization program is requesting bids for installation of Weatherization measures. Respond by 4:30 pm Monday, January 12, to Joe Collett, Weatherization Program Manager, jcollett@communityservices.us (541)758-2782 12/24/25 12/31/25

LCL25-597 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87. Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/2/26. The sale will be held at 10:00am by Guero's Keys & Programming, LLC 968 N Deerland Loop Otis, OR 97006 Toyota Prius VIN: JTDKBRFU8J3082562. Amount due on lien: \$7650.00 Reputed owner: Bantamalak Mekuanzi Zlek Being Employees CU 12/24/25 12/31/25

LCL25-598 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87. Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/2/26. The sale will be held at 10:00am by Guero's Keys & Programming, LLC 968 N Deerland Loop Otis, OR 2005 Toyota Tacoma VIN: 5TELU42N95Z022054. Amount due on lien: \$7900.00 Reputed owner: Dawnn Marie French Hartman, Cash 1, LLC 12/24/25 12/31/25

LCL25-592 TS NO: 128329-OR APN: R188859 // 07-11-14-BB-03500-00 NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, on 11/9/2012, a certain Mortgage Deed of Trust was executed by WALTER V. JOHNSON AND JACQUELINE R. JUSTICE, HUSBAND AND WIFE as trustor in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS BENEFICIARY, AS NOMINEE FOR URBAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS as beneficiary, and was recorded on 11/15/2012, as Instrument No. 2012-11121, in the Office of the Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, the Mortgage Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family house; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Mortgage Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated 5/23/2018, recorded on 8/15/2018, as instrument number 2018-07979, in the office of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage Deed of Trust in that the payment due upon the death of the borrower(s) was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of 12/9/2025 is \$478,067.43; and WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family

Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, SEE ATTACHED notice is hereby given that on 1/20/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Legal Description: LOT 3, BLOCK 4, EAST DE LAKE, IN THE CITY OF LINCOLN CITY, COUNTY OF LINCOLN AND STATE OF OREGON. Commonly known as: 1700 NE 6TH DR, LINCOLN CITY, OR 97367 The sale will be held at: THE OLIVE STREET ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 225 W OLIVE STREET, NEWPORT, OR 97365 Per the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated opening bid will be \$486,375.17. There will be no protection of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, the winning bidders with the exception of the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten percent (10%) of the Secretary's estimated bid amount in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the undersigned Foreclosure Commissioner. Ten percent of the estimated bid amount for this sale is \$48,637.52. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral a deposit of \$48,637.52 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees,



# Wrestlers battle at the Bill Hagerty Invitational

**WILL LOHRE***Lincoln County Leader*

The wrestling season for high schools in Lincoln County is full steam ahead, and several of the area's high schools sent wrestlers to the Bill Hagerty Invitational at Nestucca High School in Cloverdale to test their mettle against programs from around the state.

Wrestlers from Waldport, Toledo, and Taft competed in both the boys and girls divisions on Dec. 20, and all three programs came home with hardware, with each school seeing podium placements from some of its athletes.

In the 12-team boys tournament, Taft placed 4th, Waldport took 6th, and Toledo finished 12th. On the girls side, Toledo placed 2nd, Taft placed 5th, and Waldport finished tied for 10th.

#### Girls results

Toledo's girls came to wrestle in a big way when they arrived in Nestucca. Though they sent just four wrestlers to the event, the team finished second, powered by podium finishes from each student athlete. Mindy Blomstrom,



**Taft's Janelle Towers wrestling at the Lincoln County Duals earlier in December. (Courtesy photo from Lon French)**

Reegan Peterson, and Zoey Welch were each champions in their respective weight classes, and Aushay Lucas added a third-place finish for good measure.

Taft High School also sent four wrestlers, and they each earned placements. Janelle Towers, Lynnlie Bryant, and Stephanie Hargitt all took home silver medals, going a

combined 5-3 in their matches. Altea Butler-Hill also placed fifth for the Boomers in the 110-115-pound division.

The Irish sent three wrestlers to compete at Nestucca High School. Azura Stuart, Savannah Baxter, and Sofia Elgin represented Waldport, and they wrestled well. Stuart finished 3rd in the 110-115-pound weight class, and Sofia Elgin

placed 6th in the same division.

#### BOYS RESULTS

For Taft's boys team, 11 wrestlers were present, going a combined 14-20 at the tournament to finish 4th. Grayson Weiss and Kyren Carr had the highest finishes, each placing second in their respective weight classes, and both went 2-1 in their three matches.

Also placing for the Tigers were Braylen Evjen (5th), Nick Lattig (4th), Perry Carr (4th), and Selvin Fajardo (4th).

Waldport also sent 11 wrestlers, and the Irish's 6th-place finish was highlighted by championship finishes from Logan Thomas and Daniel Segaline. Both Thomas and Segaline were undefeated; Thomas 3-0 in the 165-pound division, and Segaline 2-0 at 157 pounds. Other highlights from the tournament were 3rd-place finishes from Austin Quam and Braeden Walch, a 5th-place finish from Benito Matias, and 6th-place finishes from Gabriel Dooley and Vaughn Stafford.

Lastly, the Boomers were represented by five wrestlers. Gabriel Thomas placed 2nd with a 2-1 record, losing in the final to St. Paul's Hayden Miller in the finals. Also placing 2nd was Kai Zimmerman. Zimmerman defeated Yamhill-Carlton's Cooper Marshall to reach the finals, but was ultimately beaten by Jose Santos of Gervais. The final placer for Toledo was Cory Wilson, who placed 6th in the 120-pound weight class.

# Lincoln County basketball roundup

**WILL LOHRE***Lincoln County Leader*

When midnight strikes, it will be 2026! To bring in the new year, let's take a look around at how Lincoln County's high schools are doing on the basketball court this season.

#### EDDYVILLE CHARTER

The Eagles have been taking flight on the court. Before their game against Triangle Lake on Dec. 30, the boys basketball team had a 4-3 record. After forfeiting against North Clackamas Christian on Dec. 9, Eddyville went on a three-game winning streak, beating Dufur, Trout Lake, and Elkton. The result of the game against the Lakers is unknown at the time of press, but heading into the match, Eddyville was ranked #28 in OSAA's 1A basketball rankings.

The girls also played Triangle Lake on Dec. 30, with the result not available at the time of press. Going into that matchup, Eddyville had two wins and four losses. The wins came against Elkton on Dec. 16 and South Umpqua's JV team on Dec. 6. The Eagles have

five more non-league games until their first 1A Mountain West matchup against Siletz Valley on Jan. 13.

#### SILETZ VALLEY

The Siletz Valley boys basketball team will enter the new year with a 0-5 record and is still pursuing its first win of the season. The Warriors' closest game came against Falls City/Kings Valley Charter, when they were narrowly defeated 37-45 on Dec. 12. They will be back in action against McKenzie on Jan. 6.

#### TOLEDO

The Boomers' boys basketball team has been playing well this season, winning five of its first seven games. They have been sharp on offense, and when things are clicking, they are hard to beat. In four of the five wins, Toledo has scored more than 70 points, and in all five, they've beaten the opponent by double digits. The Boomers will battle it out with Neah-Kah-Nie in their next game on Jan. 3.

The girls have also been balling recently. Despite some tough losses, Toledo entered the holiday break as the

#16-ranked team in OSAA's 2A basketball rankings. Toledo has a 4-3 record, beating Vernonia, Siuslaw, Chemawa, and Gervais. Their most recent win came against Gervais on Dec. 12, when the Boomers laid the boom on the Cougars 58-42. Toledo's next game is against Neah-Kah-Nie on Dec. 3.

#### WALDPART

After losing the first two games of the season, the Irish have been on a hot streak recently, winning three of their last five matchups. Waldport's boys are 3-4, having beaten Alsea, Siletz Valley, and Camas Valley. League play is fast approaching, and the Irish only have two more tune-up games before they play Toledo in their Valley Coast Conference opener on Jan. 13.

Despite spending many of their games in December on the road, the girls have been playing like one of the best teams in the state to start the season. Waldport has begun 5-2 and has won four of its last five. Thanks to big wins over Siletz Valley and Siuslaw and a thriller against Camas Valley, Waldport has climbed to #8 in the 2A rankings. Next up,

Waldport will travel to Bandon for the Bandon Dunes tournament, Jan. 1-3.

#### TAFT

The boys team at Taft High School has already tipped off action in the PacWest Conference, and they've started with a bang. Facing off with the Scio on Dec. 16, the Tigers started league play on a high note, besting the Loggers 52-48 on home court. The Tigers are playing well, notching a 4-2 record overall to pair with a 1-0 mark in conference play. Heading into the league game against Salem Academy on Dec. 30, Taft was ranked as the #9 team in 3A boys basketball.

The girls team also opened PacWest play with a win, beating Scio with resounding dominance on Dec. 16. The Tigers mauled the Loggers 56-17, turning in the best defensive performance of the season, allowing the fewest points in a game they've played so far. The Tigers have a 4-3 record overall, but had won three consecutive games going into a league matchup with Salem Academy on Dec. 30. The result of that game is unknown at the time of press.

#### NEWPORT

Newport is currently the #8 team in boys 4A basketball, and with good reason. The Cubs have been dominant so far this season, losing just one of their first five games. Other than the lone loss to Westside Christian on Dec. 11, the Cubs have been imperious, winning their other four games by an average margin of 28 points. Newport played on Dec. 29 against Creswell, but the result of that game is unknown at the time of press. Newport's next match is against Madras at the Sisters Shootout Tournament on Jan. 1.

For the girls, winning that first game has proven more elusive. The Cubs started the season 0-5, but they've had no shortage of tough competition. Each of Newport's opponents (Pleasant Hill, Tillamook, Westside Christian, Cottage Grove, and Elmira) is ranked inside the top 20 in OSAA's rankings. With such challenging opponents in non-league play, these games should be the perfect preparation for when Oregon West Conference play kicks off on Jan. 23 against Cascade.

# OSAA Executive Board finalizes districts for next four years

#### OSAA

The Oregon School Activities Association Executive Board has approved the leagues and classifications for sports in Oregon's high schools for the next four-year time block.

In a 13-1 vote Monday, the Executive Board largely went with the final recommendation of OSAA's Classification and Districting Committee, making three changes, none which directly impact the South Coast schools.

Marshfield and North Bend will remain in the Class 4A Sky-Em League, with a few new members after adjustments to the enrollment range for the classification moved several schools up from Class 3A to Class 4A.

Cottage Grove, Junction City and Marist Catholic remain in the league and Elmira returns after spending the current time block as a Class 3A school. South Umpqua also moves up to join the league.

Also moving up to Class

4A are Taft (Oregon West Conference), North Valley (Skyline Conference) and Valley Catholic (Cowapa League), which all had representatives several times ask the Classification and Districting Committee to leave them in Class 3A. Both Banks (Cowapa League) and Cascade Christian (Skyline Conference) requested to move up to Class 4A for the next time block.

One of the changes by the Executive Board was a slight change to the upper end of the Class 4A enrollment scale that moved both Henley and Cascade back into Class 4A after the final recommendation had them moving up to 5A.

Because of that change, the Executive Board also went back to an earlier proposal with the three remaining 5A schools in Southern Oregon (Eagle Point, Ashland and Crater) as part of a 6A-5A hybrid league with South Medford, North Medford, Grants Pass and Roseburg. Eagle Point

and Ashland representatives had asked the committee not to include them in a hybrid league with teams they would rarely or never play against in any sports. They have been in a league with the Eugene-area 5A schools the past four years and those schools will now be part of a hybrid league with 6A schools Sheldon and South Eugene.

The hybrid leagues are designed to greatly reduce travel for the schools.

In Class 3A, Coquille will remain in the Far West League, which will be the biggest in the classification to fit in three schools in Southern Oregon.

Siuslaw, Sutherlin, Douglas and Glide remain in the league with the Red Devils, but South Umpqua has moved up to 4A.

Brookings-Harbor returns after a few years in the Southern Oregon Conference, which has been fractured with North Valley and Cascade Christian moving up to 4A and Lakeview and Rogue River

dropping down to 2A. St. Mary's of Medford also returns to the Far West League and Illinois Valley of Cave Junction will be a new member as it moves up from Class 2A.

In Class 2A, the Sunset Conference keeps South Coast members Bandon, Myrtle Point, Reedsport and Gold Beach, along with Oakland and adds new member North Douglas of Drain, which is moving up from Class 1A.

In Class 1A, Powers and Pacific remain in the Skyline League along with current members Camas Valley, Days Creek, Elkton, Glendale, Milo Adventist Academy, New Hope Christian, Riddle, Umpqua Valley Christian and Yoncalla. Rogue Christian Academy of Grants Pass also is listed with the league, though the small school this year only sponsors three sports, all part of special districts rather than leagues — cross country, wrestling and golf.

The other change the

Executive Board made Monday was moving Class 2A school Enterprise from the Blue Mountain Conference to the Wapiti League, which better geographically fits the school in the northeast corner of the state.

The Classification and Districting Committee also asked the Executive Board to reconvene the Computation of ADM task force next year to look further into recommendations about the classification and districting process.

Among suggestions during various meetings of the committee were returning to using enrollment for all four grades when determining school size during the classification process. Only the lower three grades were used in computing the enrollment numbers this year.

Another suggestion was for the committee to consider participation in extracurricular activities, not just enrollment, when determining where schools should be placed.