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TAFT GIRLS

9-2 IN 2026

Sports

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THE JOY OF MUSIC AT THE
NEWPORT PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

Coast Life

PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2



Senator Ron Wyden, left, listens to Newport Mayor Jan Kaplan speaking at the news conference with Lincoln County Commissioner Walker Chuck and Newport Fishermen's Wives representative Taunette Dixon in the background. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

'We are not going to have an airport Alcatraz in Oregon,' Wyden says

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Oregon U.S. Senator Ron Wyden said he

continues efforts to stop the federal government from establishing an immigration center at the Newport airport.

"As long as I am in this position, we are not going to have an airport

See **WYDEN**, page A7

One-on-One with Depoe Bay Mayor Valeria Sovorn

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Valerie Sovorn is the new mayor in Depoe Bay. Sovorn was appointed by the Depoe Bay City Council Jan. 6 following Mayor Kathy Short's resignation. Sovorn has served as city councilor since 2023 after being elected through a write-in campaign.

The Leader reached out to Sovorn for insight into her priorities as mayor.

Lincoln County Leader: What do you see as Depoe Bay's priorities going into 2026 and what are your suggestions to council about navigating through those challenges?

Sovorn: I told folks at



Depoe Bay Mayor Valeria Sovorn with her dog Ozzie, the Aussie. (Courtesy photo)

Northern Lights captured along the Central Oregon Coast

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Depoe Bay resident Cecille Kennedy was up early on the morning of Jan. 20, looking up.

Kennedy, armed with camera, captured amazing photos of the Northern Lights.

A combination of a strong geomagnetic storm and the local clear, cold, weather produced the chance for the Northern Lights to extend south over Oregon.

The surge of charged particles from the sun interacts with the Earth's magnetic field, causing the sky show.

According to NOAA, best viewing point is to find a place where you can see to the north, or south if you are in the southern hemisphere.

Given the right vantage



The sky show above Boiler Bay. (Courtesy photo from Cecille Kennedy)

Oregon Democratic leaders push to move transportation referendum to May

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Democratic leaders in the Oregon Legislature want to move a statewide vote on transportation taxes from November to May.

After submitting enough signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, petitioners with the Republican-led No Tx Oregon campaign

blocked hikes to the gas tax, vehicle registration and title fees and payroll tax included in a 2025 transportation law from taking effect pending a statewide vote in the November general election — thus delaying \$791.2 million in revenue for the Oregon Department of Transportation in the 2025-27 budget cycle.

However, House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene and Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego announced late Wednesday that they will introduce legislation to set the date of the referendum for the

statewide primary election on May 19.

"Voters were clear that they want to have a say on this bill, and legislators and our local partners need to know the transportation funding landscape so meaningful conversations can continue," Wagner said in a statement. "Setting the election date for May achieves both these goals."

But Republicans vowed to fight the effort to reschedule a vote. Rep. Ed Diehl, a Scio Republican and one of the leaders behind the referendum campaign



Elizabeth Camara, a No Kings rally counterprotester holds a sign protesting against the transportation package Democratic lawmakers passed during a special session earlier this year in Salem, Oregon. Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle



See **LEADERS**, page A7

Weather**Wednesday:** High-53/Low-50 Rain**Thursday:** High-56/Low-50 Showers**Friday:** High-55/Low-49 Rain**Saturday:** High-60/Low-47 Cloudy**Sunday:** High-55/Low-46 Light Rain**Monday:** High-57/Low-45 Showers**Tuesday:** High-61/Low-46 Partly Cloudy**Past Weather****On the Coast**

	Rain	Low	High
January 20	0.00	42.0°F	56.2°F
January 21	0.00	39.1°F	56.9°F
January 22	0.00	35.4°F	51.2°F
January 23	0.00	39.6°F	54.8°F
January 24	0.00	36.7°F	56.4°F
January 25	0.00	38.9°F	55.8°F
January 26	0.00	41.5°F	48.4°F
Total rainfall from Jan. 1			4.23"

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Low	12:32 a.m.	4.17
High	7:08 a.m.	9.4
Low	2:45 p.m.	0.2
High	9:47 p.m.	6.2

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Low	1:55 a.m.	4.3
High	8:14 a.m.	9.6
Low	3:45 p.m.	0.8
High	10:44 p.m.	6.8

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Low	3:10 a.m.	4.1
High	9:17 a.m.	9.9
Low	4:37 p.m.	1.2
High	11:30 p.m.	7.2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Low	4:14 a.m.	3.8
High	10:16 a.m.	10.0
Low	5:24 p.m.	1.4

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

High	12:10 a.m.	7.7
Low	5:10 a.m.	3.2
High	11:09 p.m.	10.0
Low	6:07 p.m.	1.4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

High	12:48 a.m.	7.9
Low	6:01 a.m.	2.8
High	11:59 a.m.	9.8
Low	6:46 p.m.	1.2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

High	1:24 a.m.	8.3
Low	6:51 a.m.	2.4
High	12:47 p.m.	9.3
Low	7:23 p.m.	0.8

Sunrise/Sunset

January 28	7:40 a.m.	5:18 p.m.
January 29	7:39 a.m.	5:20 p.m.
January 30	7:38 a.m.	5:21 p.m.
January 31	7:37 a.m.	5:22 p.m.
February	7:36 a.m.	5:24 p.m.
February 2	7:34 a.m.	5:25 p.m.
February 3	7:33 a.m.	5:27 p.m.
February 4	7:32 a.m.	5:28 p.m.
February 5	7:31 a.m.	5:30 p.m.
February 6	7:30 a.m.	5:31 p.m.
February 7	7:28 a.m.	5:32 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, January 23

Mega Millions

30 • 42 • 49 • 53 • 66 • PB-4

Saturday, January 24

Powerball

2 • 16 • 35 • 61 • 63 • PB-5 • x3

Saturday, January 24

Megabucks

1 • 2 • 16 • 34 • 40 • 46

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LCPD swears in two new officers

Lincoln City Police Department has added two new officers to the ranks.

Officer Jeff Hughes and Officer Jeff McPherson were sworn in on January 22.

Officer Hughes joins the force as a lateral with 34 years of experience, and if he looks familiar it's because he served many years as a deputy with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, according to a LCPD Facebook post. He began his career with Law Enforcement as a military police officer and investigator in the US Army, and during his tenure in the profession, he also served as a deputy with the Curry County Sheriff's Office, a patrol officer with Eugene Police Department, and as a patrol officer and Sergeant with the Junction City Police Department.

His experience includes serving as a field training officer, firearms instructor, active violence

**Officer Jeff Hughes**

instructor, and a member of SWAT.

When asked why he chose to join our agency, Hughes responded, "I loved working in the area, and greatly appreciate and respect the culture displayed by this department," he said.

Officer McPherson is an Oregon native who served as a combat engineer with the Army

**Officer Jeff McPherson**

National Guard and enrolled in the ROTC program at Western Oregon University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Business. He then went on to earn a Master of Arts in Communications, and both a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources, utilizing this education as an aquatic

biologist for the federal government at locations across the country. Before joining our agency, he worked as a fisheries biologist for the Siuslaw National Forest.

Officer McPherson said that he had always been interested in serving the public in law enforcement, and while his career took him onto a different path of public

service, he said he is excited to circle back to becoming a police officer. He also stated that, after exploring different law enforcement opportunities, the Lincoln City Police Department stood out as a great place to work and the best fit for him, and he looks forward to doing his best to serve the community safely and professionally.

State DMV priority scheduling for drive tests to customers in rural Oregon counties

Rural county offices serve large geographic areas for all DMV transaction types. Customers in those counties can face challenges getting a driver's license due to the limited number of drive tests offered in their area, combined with the fact that customers from across Oregon sometimes come to those locations for a test."

Who does this bill impact?

The bill helps customers living in Baker, Clatsop, Crook, Curry, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler counties. DMV does not offer

drive tests in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman or Wheeler counties. Customers in those counties can schedule a local-preference drive test at any rural DMV office that offers the service.

How can rural customers schedule local preference

DMV will offer rural customers three different options to schedule local-preference Class C drive tests:

- At their local DMV office through the lobby check-in kiosk. The kiosk will only display and allow scheduling of drive test appointments for the office the customer is physically at.

- Scheduling with an employee

at the DMV office.

- Calling Customer Assistance at 503-945-5000. Customer Assistance will verify the customer lives in one of the 20 counties before making the appointment.

Senate Bill 9 does not affect drive test appointments made on DMV2U, which are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers who don't live in a rural county should continue to use DMV2U or call Customer Assistance to schedule drive test appointments or schedule with a third-party tester.

Visit oregondmv.com for a list of certified Class C testers.

Kotek picks Nevada state forester as first woman to lead ODF

**Kacey KC.**

KC, from Nevada, most recently spent eight years as Nevada's State Forester Firewarden and three years as president of the

National Association of State Foresters.

"Kacey KC brings tenacity and a get-it-done style to her management approach and knows how to build strong partnerships across all levels of government to tackle complex challenges," Kotek said in a statement.

It's also the first time Kotek has had the authority to choose the state forester, rather than leaving the decision to the governor-appointed Board of Forestry, following the passage of Senate Bill 1051 during the summer.

Leading up to the change in hiring authority in 2025, the Oregon Department of Forestry had been roiled by controversies in 2024, including

going to the Legislature for emergency money to cover its wildfire season bills, executive investigations and firings over workplace misconduct, as reported by The Oregonian/OregonLive. Former director Cal Mukumoto resigned early last year at the urging of Kotek and the agency has been run by interim director Kate Skinner, who was previously lead forester in the Tillamook district.

The Oregon state forester reports to the governor and the forestry board, and oversees the management and protection of 745,000 acres of forestland owned by the state of Oregon, as well as wildfire protection for 16 million acres of forestland

in the state. All of this requires negotiating the desires of environmentalists, logging companies, tribes and private property owners.

They also oversee a biennial budget of more than \$570 million and roughly 1,400 employees.

KC holds a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Montana and is an alumna of the Peace Corps, where she volunteered for two years on community forestry projects in Nepal. Afterward, she returned to her home state to work for the Nevada Division of Forestry, then spent 10 years working on wildfire fuels reduction programs

See **ODF**, page A6

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ODFW takes action to reduce risk of whale entanglements

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

To reduce the risk of humpback whale entanglements in commercial Dungeness crab gear, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is moving the May 1 “late-season” regulations to April 1 this year.

These regulations require commercial crab fishermen to fish in waters less than 40 fathoms, use 20 percent fewer pots, and affix a “late-season” buoy tag to each pot, according to a release from the ODFW.

“While our current pot limit reduction and depth restriction has reduced the number of vertical lines in the water after May 1, newer research shows that starting these measures in April will do even more to reduce entanglement risk,” ODFW Marine Resources Program Manager Justin Ainsworth said. “Whale distribution in Oregon waters varies each year but limiting commercial Dungeness crab fishing to shallower waters in April will help reduce overlap with crab gear.”

The West Coast humpback whale population is growing and interactions



As waves wash over this whale stranded on the shoreline near Yachats in November, one woman raises her arms as if to help push the whale out to sea. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

with Dungeness crab gear are increasing, according to the release.

The National Marine Fisheries Service attributes the entanglement of three humpback whales in 2024 and four in 2025 to Oregon Dungeness crab fishing gear, including an entangled juvenile humpback whale that stranded alive near Yachats last November.

In a Dec. 5, 2025, commercial crab fleet advisory, ODFW stated the agency would strongly consider the potential need to take additional regulatory action in the 2025-26 season to further

reduce entanglement risk. Today, ODFW also issued an industry notice on late-season regulations beginning April 1 this year.

The ODFW said actions to reduce entanglement risk are part of this sustainable fishery that brings in over \$230 million in income to coastal communities each year and generates 3,000 jobs.

BACKGROUND

After at least four humpback whales were entangled in 2025 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, according to an Oregon Capital Chronicle report in late December.

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

fishery, and conservation groups say it is reliable, profitable and safe for whales and other marine animals, the report stated.

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, according to the Oregon Capital Chronicle. See the full story at:

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

Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute Director and Education Director at the Hatfield Marine Science Center Lisa Ballance said the Newport commercial fishing industry, particularly the Dungeon crab fishing industry, is working

to find solutions to the entanglement danger.

“They have been working with scientists to find a specific solution to this problem,” she said at the scene of a beached humpback whale near Yachats in November. “One of the best things we can do is understand more about where the whales are and when they are there. The hot spots. The fishing community can then actively avoid those hot spots and that has been a real success story here with the Dungeon crab fishing industry in Oregon.”

According to Ballance, another solution would be to use revised gear.

“It would be pots that sit on the bottom of the ocean, where they fish, without being attached to the float at the surface of the line. It is that long line that entangles whales.

Instead, the alternative gear is using a remote trigger device that allows the pot itself on the bottom and the trigger allows the float to come to the surface when you are ready,” she said.

Report entangled whales or sea turtles immediately to the NMFS entanglement response hotline at 1-877-SOS-WHALE (1-877-767-9425).

Oregon legislation poised to tackle ‘fishing expedition’ searches of license plate data for safeguard and protection

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A powerful Oregon legislative committee chair is calling for increased “safeguards and protections” on the use of data collected by a controversial crime-fighting technology scanning license plates that critics fear the Trump administration will weaponize.

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, helped convene a group of law enforcement stakeholders, privacy advocates and legislative leaders, which met in December to tackle the issue as cities across the state have debated whether to turn off their cameras employing the technology. One vendor in particular, the Atlanta-based Flock Safety, has drawn condemnation from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who previously said the company is “unable and uninterested” in addressing abuses of its products.

But views among work-group stakeholders were diverse, including law enforcement who have defended license plate readers as a valuable tool for intercepting crime to progressive activists who say such technology itself is far too vulnerable for abuse by the federal government. Critics of some license plate reading technology have pointed to instances where the software’s data has been accessed by federal immigration enforcement agencies or used to target out-of-state abortion seekers.

“At this point, Prozanski is leaning more towards putting up some guardrails that will make it safe,” Ky Fireside, an Oregon House candidate and Springfield-based progressive organizer who is part of the work-group, told the Capital Chronicle in December.



A Flock Safety license plate-reading camera is seen at Colfax Avenue and Franklin Street in Denver on Aug. 5, 2025. (Quentin Young / Colorado Newsline)

“But the fact of the matter is, there’s not anything you can do to make this kind of technology safe. It’s just designed to be abused.”

Prozanski, however, said in an interview that he values the technology for “legitimate, lawful enforcement purposes,” pointing to its use in the arrests of suspected criminals tied to a Pacific Northwest burglary ring targeting Asian American households, including in the Eugene-Springfield area.

He said he was also concerned about inappropriate data-sharing with the federal government or other states, as well as data brokers who are mining and selling such data for unlawful use. He added that law enforcement agencies across the state may be entering into contracts for the software without adequate data privacy protections, calling for similar protections employed by other Oregon state agencies for safeguarding information.

“They have protocols in place already on the duration of the length that can be held, (to) cross check for if someone’s making inquiries, to ensure that there has been something

assigned to it, like a case number, and someone’s not going on what some people would call a fishing expedition and just picking out this request or that request,” Prozanski said. “That’s the type of stuff that we’re working on.”

New funding formula Key to the debate over the license plate readers have been Oregon’s sanctuary laws, which prevent state and local law enforcement from assisting federal immigration enforcement without a court order. U.S. Border Patrol employed automated license plate reading technology in the 1990s, and it spread to police departments across the country in the next decade.

A November state court ruling in Washington found that the images captured by Flock’s license plate readers are not exempt from disclosure under public records law. Prozanski confirmed he is still considering a public records exemption for such information as well as increased audits, a pathway to allow individuals whose data is improperly accessed to receive redress and certification requirements for

license plate reading software vendors.

A Flock company spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment about legislative efforts in Oregon, but company leadership have previously accused opponents of spreading misinformation, pointing to improved filters for sanctuary states.

“We’re working under state law of Oregon, and if someone is making queries for something that happened or potentially could be actionable in a different state, it’s not what their state law provides, it’s what Oregon provides,” Prozanski said. “So we’re going to maintain safeguards and protections for those within this state.”

The state has already funded the proliferation of the technology’s use across Oregon, though in cities such as Eugene, police have backed away from their contracts with Flock. In that instance, local authorities confirmed that a license plate reading camera in the area was turned on without the city’s consent.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding for law enforcement agencies across the

state has gone toward the technology, drawing from an Oregon organized retail theft grant program, according to the state’s Criminal Justice Commission. As of December, however, there have been no instances where the agency has needed to investigate reports of state law violations involving the use of state funds for license plate reading technology, according to Ryan Keck, the commission’s director.

He said that his agency uses quarterly reports from recipients and can also conduct information audits within the scope of its grant agreements.

If there were a reported violation, Keck said the agency would forward the matter for investigation.

For new grants issued after Dec. 1, 2025, however, the agency has tightened its purse strings. New contracts include additional language for returning any funds that have been spent outside the scope of the agreement, which includes

requirements to comply with state laws, Keck said. The commission in October also agreed to establish a new methodology for determining how the retail theft grant money would be awarded.

“The Commission’s methodology prioritized applications to support local programs specific to organized retail theft (to include equipment) over applications solely requesting equipment with no specified support (ex: personnel, operations) to address organized retail theft,” he wrote in a statement.

“Moving forward, CJC will continue to monitor its grants in accordance with the terms of executed grant agreements, and remain responsive to any legislative changes,” he added.

Future legislation, continued debate likely

In an interview Friday, Fireside said that while they appreciate the work the legislative workgroup has done, the deck felt stacked in favor of law enforcement.

The line in the sand they and other privacy advocates are drawing has to do with support for end-to-end encryption, the process by which secure data is encoded before it is transferred to its destination and decoded. Having such a safeguard would make it difficult for federal authorities to subpoena vendors for information stored securely by a law enforcement agency, Fireside said.

“They are trying to push for like, ‘Oh, well, it’s, it’s encrypted in transit, and it’s encrypted at rest’, and that just doesn’t mean anything,” they said. “It doesn’t provide any protection.”

Prozanski, in the meantime, suggested there would be more than one proposal in the works, potentially for future sessions. Some ideas involve allocating additional funding, which is not feasible given the state’s current financial outlook, he told the Capital Chronicle, but could be in the future.

“This is probably the first beginning of more than one session dealing with this,” he said. “We’re not going to get everything done the first time.”

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/01/20/oregon-legislation-poised-to-tackle-fishing-expedition-searches-of-license-plate-data/>

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'Just a start': Kotek, industry leaders inch closer to reforms for Oregon business climate

SHANNTH NAUGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek has kicked off her plan to jump-start Oregon's economy alongside some of the state's top business and industry leaders as the state continues to battle unemployment and slow economic growth.

The 16 members of Kotek's "Prosperity Council" represent different Oregon regions and sectors such as labor, technology and construction, with businesses from a wireless health tech startup based in Eugene to the well-established Port of Portland. Kotek and newly-appointed Chief Prosperity Officer Tim Knopp, a former Republican state senator, joined them, Thursday,

Jan. 22, at the World Trade Center Portland, home to the state's economic development agency, Business Oregon.

Kotek officially announced the council in early December ahead of the annual Oregon Business Plan convention and in the face of Oregon's economic growth lagging behind the national average for the past four years. The council she convened could offer her administrative or legislative policy change recommendations by June 30.

Members heard a presentation on Oregon's economy led by Michael Wilkerson, a partner and director of economic research for the consulting firm ECONorthwest. He noted that Oregon has been losing nearly

\$600 million per year in net income due to people leaving the state.

"This is just a start," Kotek told members of the council. "If we're successful in putting some actions in place in the next couple of years, we are going to grow the economy in a way that is going to serve the entire state, and our ability to provide services, our ability to make sure people have what they need."

Kotek's push to spur economic growth comes months ahead of the 2026 gubernatorial election in November, during which she will have to defend her record against what many business leaders say is an increasingly hostile climate in the state of Oregon due to regulatory and tax burdens. Meanwhile, her

appeals to business groups and previous criticism of the high-income tax-payer-funded Preschool for All program in Multnomah County have fueled skepticism from more left-leaning advocates who have questioned her commitment to progressive values.

The governor told the Capital Chronicle before Thursday's meeting that she will be seeking from the Legislature a one-time funding allocation of \$40 million for "new seed money" toward industrial land development. She's also planning to introduce legislation to fast track the permitting process. Future proposals would likely center around growing jobs, additional tools to recruit and retain businesses and workforce modernization, she said.

A memo from Kotek's office also lays out her wide-ranging legislation for an economic development package. It aims to take inventory of complex permits and fast-track approval for projects in Business Oregon's targeted sectors, such as metals and machinery, forestry and wood products, bioscience and business services. Similar efforts have already been employed in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Michigan, the memo says.

Qualifying projects would have to be seek approval by more than one state agency and investment minimums would be \$50 million for projects in nonurban counties, \$100 million in mid-sized counties and \$150 million for projects in the Portland metro area. Another piece of her package would expand

Oregon's enterprise zone programs, which can help kickstart new business investments by easing local property tax requirements for a set number of years.

"Because of growth in the last decade or two has happened somewhat organically (through) relationships. Certain sectors like the semiconductor industry, we've attracted into an ecosystem that was already there," Kotek said in a Tuesday interview. "But what I have seen over the last year or so in talking to businesses — this is going to take more concerted effort."

Unemployment and population growth take center stage

Wilkerson's presentation to the council noted that Oregon has experienced one of largest percentage drops in multifamily housing production compared to its pre-pandemic averages. Unemployment rates have also been higher in every county in the state compared to a year ago. He also said the "real challenge" is population growth.

"When you're not growing your number of workers or your population, that productivity is the way that you raise income for growth," he said.

Thursday's event also coincided with newly-released data from the Oregon Employment Department, which showed that Oregon's unemployment rate remained higher than the national average at 5.2% in both November and December, the highest figure since 2021. Last month, the largest gains in the job market came from

professional and business services as well as government jobs, while the most significant job losses were in the construction, retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utility industries.

Perhaps the most controversial appointment to Kotek's prosperity council effort was Knopp, a Senate minority leader who in 2023 led a six-week quorum-denying walkout over bills on gender-affirming care, abortion and guns. He was unable to run for reelection due to a 2022 voter-approved constitutional amendment which bars any lawmaker with 10 or more unexcused absences from serving another term. He gave no indication Thursday that those wounds still linger, however, thanking the governor for publishing a prosperity roadmap.

"He and I worked together when I was in the Legislature, and we negotiated across the table to build the Paid Leave Oregon program and the bill that passed in 2019," said Kotek, who served as speaker of the Oregon House before winning election in 2022. "He's a hard worker. He has a good attention to detail."

Hiring Knopp has not shielded Kotek from pushback on the right, however. One of the governor's top potential rivals for the upcoming 2026 governor election, Sen. Christine Drazan, a Republican gubernatorial candidate from Canby who came within a few percentage points of defeating Kotek in 2022, took a swipe at

See CLIMATE, page A6

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OPINION

Jeremy Ruark, Opinion Page Editor

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

A5

COMMENTARY

Is Oregon turning a population corner? Maybe

RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

If you've become accustomed to headlines about Oregon losing population as people flee the state, be prepared for something different.

Not massively different. Just another way of looking at the state's trajectory.

Depending on the statistician judging it, Oregon's population growth early in this decade was soft, at times nonexistent, maybe even falling off slightly; Conventional wisdom began to develop that, for example, the state may lose its newly-acquired 6th Congressional District after the 2030 census as a result of not keeping up with the national average.

We're still some distance from that next census, so hard predictions are risky. But the most recent indicators are that Oregon's growth patterns are kicking in again as they weren't three and four years ago.

The most distinctive data point, especially for anyone in the

Oregon-in-decline mindset, came days ago from United Van Lines. Its 2025 national movers study ranked Oregon highest in the nation among the 50 states for net inbound moves — 1,188 inbound (from other states) to 654 outbound. The next five ranked states were West Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware, Minnesota and Idaho, states that don't fall on any easy ideological line. (New Jersey, New York and California brought up the end of the list.)

The company also tracked reasons for the moves, and while Oregon didn't rank especially high for purposes of retirement, moving closer to family or better cost of living, it did rank high for "lifestyle change" and "new job or company transfer." That suggests Oregon is looking better to people around the country. The company seems not to have tracked political or cultural reasons, though those might be hard to reliably obtain.

In the most recent study from U-Haul, the other

large industry evaluator, Oregon ranked lower. But it still did much better than in previous years; U-Haul noted, "Oregon enjoys the largest year-over-year climb on the index, ranking 11th as a net-gain state in 2025 after ranking 34th as a net-loss state in 2024 — a jump of 23 positions."

These company reports are, of course, more in the area of anecdotal information than comprehensive statistics. So let's take a little wider view.

State population growth comes in two ways, either natural growth (births exceeding deaths) or arrivals from other places exceeding departures. Oregon's natural growth long has been soft, so much of the picture hinges on moves to and from other states.

In the last decade, from 2010 to 2020, Oregon grew by about 11.9%, more than the overall national growth rate of 9.6%. The COVID-19 year of 2020 slowed that, as the state still grew but very slightly (about 0.7%), this

time less than the nation overall.

In the next couple of years population growth hit the brakes even more, and seemed to stall almost completely in 2022.

Since then, clearer growth has returned, albeit modestly.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census and Portland State University are the main comprehensive analysts of population statistics. The Census said that Oregon lost population in 2022, but has since resumed growth. PSU has reported somewhat higher numbers.

In overview, the statistics site NCH Stats said "As of 2025, Oregon's population is estimated at 4,227,340, reflecting a steady growth rate of 0.89%, which ranks it as the 22nd fastest-growing state in the country according to the World Population Review. This places Oregon among the states experiencing moderate population increases, aligning with its reputation as an attractive destination for residents."

Of course, such growth

as Oregon has seen hasn't been evenly distributed.

The Portland metro area has seen growth light enough to drop it from 25 to 26 in size among the nation's largest metro areas. Portland and to some degree Multnomah County have had mostly sluggish growth in this decade. But neighboring Washington and Clackamas Counties have had plenty of activity.

And the heaviest growth has turned up in the region around Bend, in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

The counties which have seen the highest proportional growth have been Crook and Sherman Counties, east of the Cascades — places where growth in data centers has been especially large.

Apart from psychological and economic considerations, the level of population in Oregon matters because the 6th congressional district seat, which the state added in 2022, could remain here or go somewhere else, to a faster-growing state.

If Oregon's numbers held at the 2022 and 2023 levels, that seat might well vanish. But if some of the newer indicators hold up in the next few years, so might the state's congressional representation.

Not to mention the state's overall state of mind.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/01/15/is-oregon-turning-a-population-corner-maybe/>

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Reality in the ICU

PAUL HAEDER
Leader Guest Column

Forget about why I was at Samaritan-Corvallis's ICU. The day before New Year's I had to undergo surgery THEN because of our failed health insurance mafia system. Samaritan health plan ended Dec. 31 midnight.

While there I gobbled up narratives of the people there: those doing the minute to minute care, and those doing the surgery.

Was I amazed at how professional the CNA's and custodial staff were? Was I impressed with the neurodiverse nursing staff and the compassion and the hard work and extended hours put in as healers?

Was I blown away by the dedicated training the PA's and MDs embodied?

Here I was, the day before that cretin in the White House went onto TV and blathered about how "awesome" and "well-planned" a kidnapping of a president and his wife was, while, darn, that same guy has a history of attacking the very people working on me and attempting to save others about to die.

That punk Trump who has called people retarded. Donny, who while pigging

out on McDonald's, jokes about "fat, ugly women," and worse. The Racist in Chief who attacks all people from the Global South.

There were plenty of people attending the sick and the dying our War Criminal hates: single mothers, LGBTQ, men and women from African countries. There were West Asians with head-coverings. Pudgy folk, overweight, lots of tattoos and plenty of skinny young men with purple or green colored hair.

Trump hates them all.

In light of that, let's get back to our Banana Republic. Billions of tax monies for ICE and Mafia-style raids kidnapping presidents or murdering them too, but what about those Level One Trauma Centers in this shining country?

We have few of them, and there won't be any more built adding to the numbers of underserved sick, injured and wounded never making it to a level one trauma hospitals. You like illegal raids with helicopters? Expect to shell out tens of thousands of dollars for helo flights from some backwoods town to a decent hospital.

New Year's Eve thru Jan. 4, I was with hard-working food service

folks always with a smile. I received words of encouragement from all staff as I walked ICU and PCU corridors. I heard funny, amazing stories from these open-hearted men and women who have come from around the country and world to serve.

I was with professionals hated by our undereducated and IQ-challenged Donald. He is laughing at them while putting up more hurdles to pay off medical college debt. Our Don, who attacks nurses as "not professionals."

This is so apropos now from DH Lawrence: "America is neither free nor brave, but a land of tight, iron-clanking little wills, everybody trying to put it over everybody else, and a land of men absolutely devoid of the real courage of trust, trust in life's sacred spontaneity. They can't trust life until they can control it." (1923)

I know the value of Venezuela, in the scheme of things.

Maduro did not come from Venezuela's traditional political elite. He began his political life as a bus driver in Caracas and a trade union organizer in the city's transport system. In the 1980s, he helped form an unofficial union

for Metro workers, an experience that grounded his politics in the daily struggles of working people rather than in electoral maneuvering or elite sponsorship.

Maduro was elected to the National Assembly in 2000 and later served as its president. He went on to become foreign minister, where he played a central role in building alliances against U.S. domination, particularly through regional integration projects and closer ties with Cuba and other countries resisting Washington's dictates. In 2012, Chávez appointed him vice president and publicly identified him as his political successor.

When Chávez died in March 2013, Maduro stepped into leadership during a moment of profound uncertainty. The special presidential election that followed was closely contested, but Maduro won. His opponent, Henrique Capriles Radonski, came from one of Venezuela's wealthiest families and was backed openly by domestic capital and the U.S. government. The election result was never accepted by Washington, which had already begun treating Maduro's presidency as

illegitimate from its first day.

Nah, no one I talked with at Samaritan could discuss anything deep about Venezuela, and so I was deemed the professor during those few days there. I did riff with highly-educated medical professionals about one crisis after another in our for-profit medicine racket. We discussed the impending violent takeover of THEIR jobs through Artificial Intelligence.

The older nurses and staff are greatly concerned for the younger ones coming in as millions of good jobs will be sucked away through the neuroperverse world of Tech Terrorists like Ellison, Brin, Altman, Dell, Karp, Zuckerberg.

I've written about America's significant shortage and unequal distribution of Level I trauma centers, especially in rural areas, the West, and underserved urban communities. Think of the term "trauma deserts" where patients lack timely access to the highest level of critical injury care, leading to worse outcomes and preventable deaths, largely due to high costs, poor reimbursement, and financial pressures causing closures.

This is all occurring

while steroid-induced Delta Force hitmen are saluted with crocodile tears and trillions of bucks are funneled into the racket that is war. These medical miracle workers talked openly, honored me, going from me to one fellow who was vegetative after a auto accident.

This is a microcosm of two types of humans. Yet, Lawrence was correct . . . [I]n America Democracy was always something anti-life. The greatest

democrats, like Abraham Lincoln, had always a sacrificial, self-murdering note in their voices. American Democracy was a form of self-murder, always. Or of murdering somebody else... The love, the democracy, the floundering into lust, is a sort of by-play. The essential American soul is hard, isolate, stoic, and a killer. It has never yet melted."

Defines Trump and Company to a tee.

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

ONLINE POLL

Previous Poll

Are you changing your eating habits because of the increasing cost of food?

Yes..... 37.3%

No..... 62.7%

New Poll

What is your favorite 'Wake Up' beverage each morning?

- Coffee
- Tea
- Juice
- Soda pop
- Water
- Other

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOCIAL SECURITY AT RISK

Social Security payments are scheduled to be cut as soon as 2033.

All of us who have worked for a living have paid FICA taxes into Social Security on every dollar we earned.

Balancing a federal budget that prioritizes tax cuts for the very wealthy by paring Social Security benefits that we have been paying for throughout our working lives just seems like stealing from the most vulnerable.

During Senator Merkley's town hall Saturday the 17th, the Senator handed out a survey listing several options to secure continued

solvency and funding of Social Security. He talked about his and Senator Wyden's efforts to forge a realistic budget and urged everyone to contact Oregon representatives to share their ideas.

Oregon Federal representative Val Hoyle's office is 541-465-6732. Senator Merkley's office is 503-326-3386. And Senator Wyden's is 503-326-7525.

Call and tell them how you feel about cuts to Social Security.

Sharon Scarborough

Newport

LETTER: THANK YOU LINCOLN CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Thank you to the Lincoln City

mayor and council for directing staff to draft a resolution regarding ICE activities in Lincoln City. Our council is a nonpartisan body, and this is a nonpartisan issue.

It is imperative that our council goes on record and stands against inhumane, dangerous, and unethical practices of federal agents.

When the draft resolution comes to the council for consideration, I urge you to make sure it includes:

1) Exclusion of an ICE detention facility or ICE administrative offices in Lincoln City;

2) Prohibition of face masks or facial coverings for local, state or federal agents;

3) Expectations for treating

all people with respect and due process, regardless of known or suspected illegal immigration status; and,

4) Support for the Constitutional right to free speech and freedom of peaceable assembly, without fear of chemical sprays, or injury from violent or aggressive actions by ICE agents.

Again, none of these issues is partisan.

Thank you, LC city council, for your thoughtful work on this and all council issues; thank you for standing on the side of justice, mercy and respect for all.

Jane Mulholland

Lincoln City



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ODF

From Page A2

at the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, including as program manager of the state's Sagebrush Ecosystem Program.

She returned to the forestry division as a deputy administrator of wildfire management in 2015, and in 2018 Nevada's governor appointed her as state

forester firewarden.

In 2021, she was appointed by Congress to a national Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission to update the nation's wildfire protection systems, and in 2023 her peers elected her president of the National Association of State Foresters.

"I am extremely excited for the opportunity to join the Oregon

Department of Forestry team," KC said in a statement. "While I am not from Oregon, my experience at both the national and state level equips me to deepen key relationships while leading and supporting the strong work and mission of the Department."

<https://oregon-capital-chronicle.com/2026/01/22/gov-tina-kotek-picks-nevada-state-forester-as-first-woman->

[to-lead-oregon-forestry-department/](https://oregon-capital-chronicle.com/2026/01/22/gov-tina-kotek-picks-nevada-state-forester-as-first-woman-)

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CLIMATE

From Page A4

the council's effort a day before Thursday's

meeting.

"As governor, it will be my job to be the 'chief prosperity officer' and lead our state towards becoming the best place in America to start and grow your business," she wrote on X. "We'll start (by) taking on Oregon's hidden sales tax."

Kotek, in the meantime, says she's focused on delivering results. An often-cited July 2025 CNBC ranking listed Oregon at 23rd nationwide for the strength of its workforce, and she previously told business leaders in December that she wants to see the state rise to a slot in the

top ten positions. Asked about potential changes to the tax system, she told reporters Thursday that she didn't want to get ahead of her council.

"I don't have any predetermined destination, but (what) we do know from other states is that they have targeted tax incentives or tax breaks," she said. "That can be effective, and we have some here in our state as well, we just don't have a lot of them."

The prosperity council is an advisory body which is not open to the public by default, but Kotek's office has said press will be invited to

select events. The council's next meeting is set to take place in Bend in February.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/01/22/just-a-start-kotek-industry-leaders-inch-closer-to-reforms-for-oregon-business-climate/>

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Bernyce Hanson

October 1, 1942 - November 26, 2025



Bernyce Hanson passed away on November 26, 2025, at her home in Gleneden Beach, Oregon. She was 83.

She was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on October 1, 1942, to Bernard Fortier and Rose Plante. Growing up in Holliston, her father took her to Boston Red Sox games, and she became an avid fan. She told many stories about her beloved Arno, the family German Shepherd, who bonded with her.

She attended Annhurst College and was a flight attendant for American Airlines, based out of New York City and Dallas.

In 1965 she married Chase Johnson of Holliston. They lived in California until 1969, when they moved to Portland, Oregon. In 1970 their daughter Robyn was born, and the family moved down to Lincoln City in 1974. The couple divorced in 1976. She married Joe Hanson of Lincoln City in 1979, and they had two sons, Todd and Drew.

Bernyce's hobbies included playing tennis with Joe and mixed doubles with friends; skiing trips with family and friends; and scuba diving in Hawaii and other tropical destinations. She volunteered for the Portland OMSI museum, Neskowin Valley School, and other organizations. She loved gardening — especially roses — escaping into her small greenhouse, and photography with her Minolta.

She loved to cook and was famous for her Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with family and friends.

In 1996 she owned and operated Elements of Style, a women's boutique, in Pacific City and later in Lincoln City. This was her forte and "in her chart," socializing with her customers and people.

In 2008 Joe and Bernyce moved to Gleneden Beach, and she soon retired from Elements of Style.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Joe Hanson; sister Barbara Lowe of Falmouth, MA; daughter Robyn Tanner (Shane) of Lincoln City; son Todd Hanson (Trudi) of Forest Grove; son Drew Hanson (Shelly) of Newberg; stepson Max Hanson (Kirsten) of Lincoln City; stepdaughter Heather Hanson of Lincoln City; and eight grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local hospice. They were very professional, understanding, and sensitive in the final few weeks of her life.

LIGHTS

From Page A1

point, with an unobstructed view toward the north, a person can see aurora even when it is 1000 km (600 miles) further north.

It must be dark: Go out at night. Get away from city lights. The full moon will also diminish the apparent brightness of the aurora (not the actual brightness). One caveat



Up the small hill at Whale Watch Subdivision in Depoe Bay.

that people often neglect

to think of is that the high latitudes where aurora occur are also latitudes where it doesn't get dark in the summer.

Timing: Best aurora is usually within an hour or two of midnight (between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. local time). These hours of active aurora expand towards evening and morning as the level of geomagnetic activity increases. There may be aurora in the evening and morning, but it is usually not as active and therefore, not as visually appealing.

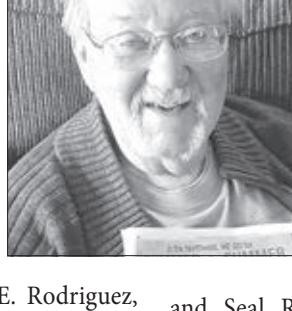
Learn more about how active the northern lights are likely to be in Oregon by visiting Geophysical Institute and NOAA's Space Weather Prediction website.

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

Sudoku answers

George John Schwartz III

April 1, 1929 - December 23, 2025



It is with great sadness that we said our goodbyes to George John Schwartz III, a wonderful man who became our step-father when we were teenagers. He was a creative free spirit and one of the elite ski and scenic photographers of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. George passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 23, 2025, at the age of 96 in Grant-Valkaria, Florida. His stepson James E. Rodriguez, and wife Kimberly, were by his side. He was a kind, easy-going and loving man, who made a big difference in our lives. His family loved him very much and will all miss his laughter and gentle nature.

Born and raised in Dunkirk, New York, George attended local schools and graduated from Dunkirk High School in 1946. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Notre Dame in 1951, with minors in Philosophy and History. In August 1951, George enlisted in the U.S. Army, training as a Cryptographic Technician. He served 15 months in Korea with the Korean Military Advisory Group during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in August 1953. Back in Dunkirk, he worked as a reporter-photographer and sports editor for the Dunkirk Evening Observer from 1953 to 1956, continuing a family tradition as the third generation to contribute to the newspaper—his father had been city editor.

Drawn to the West in 1956, George briefly worked as a reporter-photographer for the Santa Ana Register in California before moving to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he reported for the Associated Press until November 1958. He then settled in Alta, Utah, working on and off at the ski area for five years, with time spent at Winter Park and Aspen in Colorado. This sparked his passion for ski photography, which became his lifelong profession. He pursued graduate studies in English Literature at the University of Utah in 1961. From 1963 to 1965, he freelanced in Laguna Beach, California. In 1965, he became a photographer for Sun Valley Ski Area in Idaho, living there for 11 years. In 1970, George married Monserrate in Sun Valley.

She joined him in freelance photography, traveling throughout the country doing scenic photography and selling their work through F.P.G. Inc. in New York City, with images published nationally and internationally.

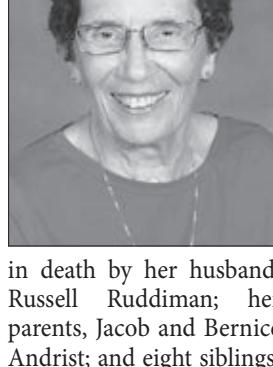
The couple moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1976, then to the Oregon Coast in 1993, residing in Newport and Seal Rock until 2019. Throughout his younger years, George cherished an active outdoor life, skiing, mountain climbing, and backpacking. He took special pride in summiting the Grand Teton in Wyoming and rafting the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. He was a dedicated member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newport, serving as a Eucharistic Minister; Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 7246; the Newport American Legion Post; the Notre Dame Alumni Association; and the Notre Dame Club of Oregon. In later life, George enjoyed gardening at his Seal Rock home, church activities, and volunteering for five years with Lincoln County Food Share. He loved reading, playing cards with friends, and using Adobe Photoshop to restore his photographs. In 2003, he and Monserrate resumed active photography, scanning and retouching over 4,300 images for Alamy in England, which sold usage rights online. In his 80s, he bought a baby grand player piano to enjoy and play classical music. Seeking proximity to family, he relocated to Eugene, Oregon, in 2019, and finally to Florida in April 2023 for its warmer climate.

George was preceded in death by his wife, Monserrate, in May 2009. He is survived by his only sister, Judith Reuter of Tonawanda, New York; his stepchildren: James E. Rodriguez (wife Kimberly) and Joseph E. Navas, both of Florida, and Lizette M. White (husband Ron) of Marcola, Oregon; three step-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and five nieces and nephews.

George will be laid to rest next to his loving wife, Monserrate de Jesus Schwartz, at the Upper Mabel Cemetery in Marcola, Oregon. No services will be held.

Gail Jean (Andrist) Ruddiman

June 18, 1931 - January 14, 2026



Gail Jean (Andrist) Ruddiman was born on June 18, 1931, in St. Francis, Kansas, to Jacob Andrist and Bernice (Smutz) Andrist. She passed away on January 14, 2026, in Salem, Oregon. Gail graduated in 1953 from Providence Hospital School of Nursing where she studied nursing. She worked for one year at McMinnville Hospital in McMinnville, Oregon, and one year at Providence Hospital in Portland, Oregon. In 1955, she moved to Newport, Oregon, where she married Russell Ruddiman. She worked for one year at Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport. In 1977, Gail began working for the Lincoln County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse, where she remained until her retirement in 1991. Gail lived in Keizer, Oregon, for the past 20 years and was an active member of Saint Edward Catholic Church. She was preceded

in death by her husband, Russell Ruddiman; her parents, Jacob and Bernice Andrist; and eight siblings. She is survived by her children: Lisa (Ruddiman) Say, Pat Ruddiman, Tom Ruddiman, and Bob Ruddiman; six grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and one sister, Wanda Manson of Martinez, California.

Funeral services were held on January 23, 2026, at Saint Edward Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Providence Center for Medically Fragile Children, in memory of Gail Ruddiman.

Timing: Best aurora is usually within an hour or two of midnight (between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. local time). These hours of active aurora expand towards evening and morning as the level of geomagnetic activity increases. There may be aurora in the evening and morning, but it is usually not as active and therefore, not as visually appealing.

Learn more about how active the northern lights are likely to be in Oregon by visiting Geophysical Institute and NOAA's Space Weather Prediction website.

Douglas Davenport

February 12, 1954 - January 10, 2026



Douglas was born on February 12, 1954, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He passed away on Saturday evening, January 10, 2026. Doug was the eldest son of five children born to David Lee and Mary Esther Davenport. His Mom and Dad, and brother Michael predeceased him in death.

Doug was a Navy Veteran who served aboard the USS Kittyhawk during the Vietnam War. He was a Welder and Fabricator by trade, but really, was a true artist who could design and build about anything he set his mind to.

He loved music! He loved to sing and play guitar. He played whenever and wherever he could and was happiest when he was just

"jamming with the guys." He was a wise cracker, sometimes a goofball, an incorrigible tease, and everyone was fair game.

Doug is survived by his loving wife, Debbie, and his six children: Janine Renee, Jonathan Douglas, Jeremy David, Sierra Carmel, Sophia Louise, and Lucia Anne. Also, by his sisters Deana Culbertson, Katherine (Beth)

Coleman, brother Martin Davenport; and by eight beloved grandkids, three great grandkids, and countless nieces, nephews, and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the LDS Church on 2850 Grand Prairie Rd, Albany, OR on February 14th, 2026 at 2:00 pm

LEADERS

From Page A1

called Democrats' efforts to move it to May "callous."

"(Gov. Tina Kotek) doesn't want to be on the same ballot as this referendum," Diehl told the Capital Chronicle. "I'm going to fight it tooth and nail. They're not going to get away with this."

Kotek and legislators will be on primary ballots in May, but only Democratic ballots. Oregon's closed primary system means only registered Democrats receive Democratic ballots and registered Republicans get Republican ballots, while the more than one-third of voters who aren't affiliated with either major party receive shorter primary ballots with only ballot measures and non-partisan races.

Fahey said setting the referendum date for the May primary gives lawmakers and Oregonians the needed clarity on the next steps for Oregon's transportation future.

"In this time of uncertainty, we're focused on

governing, not politics," Fahey said. "That means acting as quickly as possible to prevent disruption in our transportation system and to protect the roads and bridges that connect Oregonians to work, school and emergency services."

Transportation department short on funding

The transportation department is behind \$242 million for the current two-year budget cycle. Starting next year, it will only be able to afford paving its interstates, meaning Oregon drivers can expect more potholes, rutted roads, faded pavement markings and higher vehicle repair costs, department chief engineer Tova Peltz previously told lawmakers.

The efforts to move the referendum come weeks after Gov. Tina Kotek called on lawmakers to repeal the transportation law she championed and Democratic lawmakers passed in a September special session to raise \$4.3 billion in transportation maintenance funding over the next 10 years. However, a 1935 Oregon Attorney General

opinion states the Oregon Legislature can't repeal a law once it has been referred to the ballot.

Chief Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnson wrote a legal opinion to Diehl on Jan. 9 that if the legislature repeals the transportation law, then it ceases to be an act which means there is no longer a basis for a referendum.

But Johnson since reversed his opinion, Diehl said, concluding that Oregonians have a right to the referendum process and the Legislature cannot repeal a measure that has been referred, though it can set a date for the election.

Lawmakers have done this before. Transportation legislation passed in the 1999 session was referred by voters and went to the ballot in May 2000.

Kotek told the Capital Chronicle that she's focused on providing stability to the transportation department so it can provide essential services.

"I'm focused on solving the problem, and that's, to me, the easiest thing to do," Kotek said. "The most direct approach is to start over, then solve

the problem, and then get back to the table on what we need to do for transportation long term as we go into the next session in 2027."

Republicans criticize attempts to move referendum to May

Diehl was a lead petitioner for the campaign alongside Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, and Jason Williams, director of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon. On Nov. 12, they received approval from the Oregon Secretary of State to begin collecting signatures to refer the law to the ballot, and within a month the group submitted nearly 200,000 signatures.

"When we did the referendum, we marked that box that says we want it on the November 2026 ballot," he said. "We got all the signatures, all verified for November 2026. This ship has sailed. I know they have the legal right to move it, but November is the people's day to vote. That's when the people show up to vote in the general election."

Starr echoed Diehl's

concerns, noting that primaries usually have less voter turnout than general elections. In the state's last gubernatorial election year in 2022, voter turnout reached 37% in the primary, compared to 67% in the general election.

"Republicans have been clear from the beginning that we can balance ODOT's budget without raising taxes, and that is exactly what we are working to do," Starr said. "We are having real conversations about priorities and accountability, and that is how governing is supposed to work. Manipulating the election calendar to avoid political consequences is not how Oregonians expect their government to operate."

Gubernatorial candidate Sen. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, also criticized the attempts to move the referendum.

"This is what desperation looks like," Drazan said in a statement. "Tina Kotek is afraid of being on the same ballot as her gas tax. At the end of the day she can't avoid Oregonians; they will hold her accountable."

Oregonians rallied

together in record time to advance the referendum, and for the first time Democrats are realizing the power of the political minority, House Republican Leader Lucetta Elmer, R-McMinnville, said in a statement.

"If this policy is so good, it should stand on its own — on a full, general election ballot," Elmer said. "Trying to tuck it away in an off-cycle election only confirms what the people already know: this gas tax is unpopular, and the public deserves a real say."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/22/oregon-democratic-leaders-push-to-move-transportation-referendum-to-may/>

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MAYOR

From Page A1

a work session last week that I A-I-M to get us safely to next year. My personal priorities are A: Audits and Accountability; I: Infrastructure (specifically water and sewer); M: Marketing – which includes communication about what we're accomplishing at the city and doing a better job of keeping folks informed including residents and visitors.

We have a great council right now and will be adding one more to fill my spot. I hope we can make a positive effort to work through the challenges one big project at a time.

Lincoln County Leader:

What new

revenue sources would you like to see the city consider to help meet the funding demands for basic city services?

Sovern: I hope you had a chance to watch some of our old council meetings where we discussed things like a food and beverage tax, parking meters, a harbor usage fee (it went into effect this month) and revisiting all revenue sources currently in place. As your research probably shows – our little town is financed with NO LOCAL PROPERTY TAX but entirely using transient room tax, SDC's, water/sewer fees, business licenses, moorage fees, etc. So – we have to spend smart and frugally.

If the council hadn't adopted the Urban

Renewal District back in about 2008 – there are millions of dollars the city would have missed out on that have been put toward infrastructure repairs/maintenance and maintaining the harbor.

Lincoln County Leader: What type of infrastructure improvements and expansion do you see necessary to improve the livability of Depoe Bay?

Sovern: Our livability is pretty great right now – but things like our water system (the water treatment plant along with the piping throughout the city) is quite old and reaching the end of its life expectancy. The sewer system is a whole story in itself.

Lincoln County Leader: What are you

hearing from the business community about their concerns?

Sovern: I personally haven't heard much from the business community. Some of them do like to express their opinions. I'd like to see them gather themselves together and maybe create something like a "Business Association" or BID (Business Improvement District). The Chamber concept didn't really work well for us this last go around.

Sovern added that all responses to the Leader's questions are her personal input and do not necessarily reflect a full council opinion.

The Depoe Bay City Council meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each

month at 6 p.m. Executive Sessions and Special or Workshop meetings are scheduled as needed. The city is served by six city councilors and a mayor.

On its website, the City of Depoe Bay lists its Mission and Policy Statements.

MISSION

Our mission is to manage and execute the business of the City of Depoe Bay:

- Preserve public health, safety, and welfare
- Preserve financial stability
- Promote cohesiveness
- Policy

POLICY

The Depoe Bay City Council recognizes its responsibility and obligation to make policy and provide guidance for the

operation and maintenance of our City in order to benefit the health, welfare, and safety of our citizens.

To demonstrate financial stability, the City Council needs to support the maintenance of existing state

shared revenue programs, oppose enactment of new property tax exemptions, oppose unfunded mandates, and oppose additional state preemptions of local revenue-raising authority. We will avoid providing new services without demonstrated and designated funding capacity and source.

Cohesiveness may be achieved through better communication and cooperation with our advisory commissions and committees as well as the public we represent.

WYDEN

From Page A1

Alcatraz in Oregon," he said. "I will do everything in my power to derail that effort."

Wyden took a private tour Thursday, Jan. 22, of the U.S. Coast guard's air station at the Newport airport and later that morning conducted a press conference at Newport City Hall.

"The facility was in very good shape," Wyden said. "People there were happy with the opportunity to serve and to help the community."

Wyden commented on the success by the Oregon Congressional delegation and the Newport Fishermen's Wives to have the Coast Guard rescue helicopter returned from North Bend to Newport after it had been moved from Newport in October by the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The success in retaining the helicopter was based on a public meeting that drew 500 people to Newport High School, according to Wyden. The meeting followed the removal of the helicopter and efforts by the federal government to establish an immigration detention facility in Newport.

"We've gotten hundreds of emails from folks who said if this facility is established, they would not come back to Newport," Kaplan said. "Because it is not the environment that they want to come to."



Sen. Wyden poses with the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crew at the air station in Newport. (Courtesy photo)

Newport Mayor Jan Kaplan, speaking at the news conference, said his city is also continuing its legal efforts to block the detention center, emphasizing that such a facility would mean a loss of tourism and a loss of people working in the city's industries.

"We've gotten hundreds of emails from folks who said if this facility is established, they would not come back to Newport," Kaplan said. "Because it is not the environment that they want to come to."

Kaplan thanked Wyden

for his work to secure the rescue helicopter.

"The Coast Guard's presence helps the entire coast," Kaplan said. "That's important to remember because there are no boundary lines out in the ocean."

Lincoln County Commissioner Walter Chuck also spoke at the news conference, saying the efforts to maintain the Coast Guard helicopter comes back 10 years.

"It is a benefit for the community to have the helicopter here," Chuck said. "It is also a confidence factor, so when someone comes to coast

to visit, and our fishermen go out to sea, it is about safety," Chuck said. "That asset is also vital to our forest workers, to our sheriff's deputies and to our local police."

The Newport Fishermen's Wives representative Taunette Dixon also spoke at the news conference about the importance of the rescue helicopter and how lawsuits are helping retain the helicopter at Newport.

Follow developments online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

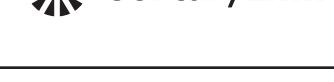
Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Oregon Public Utility Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$27.30 per month, and business services are \$43.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Committee formed to advise on massive data center growth

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon's governor is organizing a new committee of advisers to weigh in on issues rising from the rapid growth of data centers in the state.

Gov. Tina Kotek announced the new Data Center Advisory Committee on Tuesday and named seven members, who will provide policy recommendations to her and the Legislature no later than October 2026.

Kotek and state lawmakers will use those to create regulations, most likely aimed at where data centers can be built, according to a news release from Kotek's office. The regulations would aim to protect energy infrastructure and water supplies from being overburdened by the privately run data and AI processing centers, which require massive amounts of energy to run and water for cooling.

"Oregonians have made their concerns about rising utility bills clear. As our state faces rapid growth of data facilities, we must have frank conversations about the challenges and opportunities ahead," Kotek said in a statement. "I expect the Data Center Advisory Committee to help ensure economic growth while protecting affordable power and Oregon's critical water resources."

Oregon's data center market is among the largest in the nation, according to Chicago-based commercial real estate group Cushman & Wakefield. Access to relatively clean, cheap hydroelectricity in the region and a lack of sales tax, along with billions of dollars



QTS Data Centers in Hillsboro on Oct. 11, 2024. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek created a new advisory committee to help establish rules and regulations to protect energy access and affordability and water supplies from being overburdened by the rapidly growing data centers in the state. (Rian Dundon / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

in property tax incentives, helped lure the companies.

But the decision to offer those property tax incentives and site a data center is largely a local one, made at the city and county level. The Data Center Advisory Committee is the state's first big foray into setting data center policy, following several laws that passed in 2025 meant to curb rising electricity rates driven by data centers.

As the giant data complexes expanded across the state during the last several years, energy rates rose on all customer classes served by the state's private, investor-owned utilities. For residential customers, rates have gone up an average of 50% in the last five

years.

Between 2013 and 2023, Oregon's overall electricity consumption rose by more than 20%, according to a Sightline Institute analysis of U.S. Energy Information Administration data.

"Data centers undoubtedly drove a major share, if not almost all, of this growth," analysts wrote.

In the next two decades, demand for electricity in the Northwest could double, and demand from data centers is expected to outpace demand from the growing use of electric vehicles until 2046, according to regional energy experts.

Kotek appointed as committee chairs Margaret

Hoffmann and Michael Jung.

Hoffman is also a member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, former energy policy adviser to Oregon governors John Kitzhaber and Kate Brown and former rural development director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Oregon. Jung is an environmental policy executive and director of the ICF Climate Center, an international tech and energy consultancy.

Other commission members are:

- Dan Dorran, chair of the Umatilla County Commission. Umatilla has sited a large number of Amazon data centers in the last decade that have caused

554% demand growth at the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, according to Sightline's analysis.

- Greg Dotson, an energy and environmental law expert at the University of Oregon.
- Bill Edmunds, a former private utility executive who teaches energy and business courses at Portland State University and the University of Portland.
- Tim Miller, director of the nonprofit industry group Oregon Business For Climate.
- Jean Wilson, a renewable energy executive and former president of the nonprofit Oregon Environmental Council.

The group will meet publicly at least once a month and focus on studying data center siting decisions, according to Kotek's news release. They'll look at regulations to support how and where data centers could be built to spur "responsible economic development" and job creation, without overburdening local energy and water supplies in the rural communities they tend to be built in.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/20/oregon-governor-forms-new-committee-to-advise-on-massive-data-center-growth/>

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Tax season: Here's how to get your refund and kicker sooner

With the start of tax season less than one week away, the Oregon Department of Revenue is providing guidance to help taxpayers file their return and claim their share of Oregon's \$1.41 billion kicker. Oregon was to begin processing e-filed 2025 state income tax returns on January 26, the same day the IRS will begin processing federal returns.

You have to file a return to get your kicker

The kicker is a refundable credit that will either increase a taxpayer's Oregon state income tax refund or decrease the amount of state taxes they owe. It is not sent to taxpayers separately as a check.

Only taxpayers who filed a tax year 2024 return and also file a tax year 2025 return can receive a kicker. The credit is a percentage of Oregon personal income tax liability for the 2024 tax year.

Electronic filing is faster—especially in 2026

On average, taxpayers who e-file their returns and request their refund via direct deposit receive their refund within two weeks. E-filed returns will be processed in the order they are received, with the first refunds expected to be issued February 17. For paper filed returns, refunds will not start being issued until early April.

Due to the late receipt of tax forms and information from the IRS in

late 2025, processing of paper-filed Oregon personal income tax returns is expected to be delayed until late March, a process that has historically begun in February.

The delay in paper return processing will mean that the department won't be able to tell taxpayers who file paper returns that their return has been received until paper return processing starts at the end of March and their specific return enters processing. That also means information on paper-filed returns won't be available in the "Where's My Refund?" tool until that time.

Free e-filing options open

Oregon residents who normally mail their paper tax return to the department should consider using Direct File Oregon,

a free filing option available through Revenue Online, or other online tax preparation software,

to e-file and receive

their refund—and their

kicker—sooner.

In addition to Direct File Oregon, other free filing options are also available. Free guided tax preparation is available from several companies for taxpayers that meet income requirements.

Using links from the department's website ensures that both taxpaying federal and state return will be filed for free.

All electronic filing

software options approved for filing Oregon personal income tax returns can be found on the Electronic

filing page of the agency's website. Taxpayers seeking to hire a professional to prepare their taxes can find helpful tips in the department's "How to Choose a Tax Practitioner" video.

Free and low-cost tax help

Free tax preparation services are available for low- to moderate-income taxpayers through AARP Tax Aide, VITA, and CASH Oregon. United Way also offers free tax help through their MyFreeTaxes program. Visit the Department of Revenue website to take advantage of the software and free offers and get more information about free tax preparation services.

How will U.S. Postal Service changes affect filing?

Taxpayers who choose to file a paper return, should mail it early. Due to changes at the U.S. Postal Service, returns mailed in after April 9 may not receive a postmark on time. Taxpayers who still want to mail their paper returns can take them to a local USPS office and request a postmark no later than April 15, 2026.

Paper returns can also be physically deposited in drop boxes available on both the east and west sides of the Department of Revenue Building in Salem, or outside the DOR offices in Portland, Eugene, Medford, and Bend. A drop box at DOR's Gresham office is available during business hours.

\$25M secured to protect maternity care

Gov. Tina Kotek has announced a coordinated effort with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Hospital Association of Oregon to stabilize and sustain labor and delivery services across the state.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to keeping care local, supporting new families, and ensuring hospitals are sustained through higher rates for maternity costs.

"Every Oregon family deserves access to safe, local maternity care," Kotek said. "By bringing together public and private partners, we are aligning policy and funding to keep care close to home. This investment is about more than dollars—it's about taking steps forward to sustain the health and vitality of communities for generations to come."

Investing in Maternity Care

Recognizing that maternity care is foundational to healthy communities, the governor requested funding from the legislature to stabilize hospital operations. The Governor has directed OHA to distribute \$25 million of General Funds in a targeted way following input from impacted hospitals:

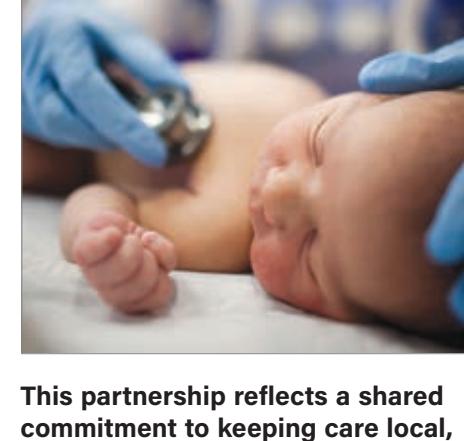
- \$15 million will provide stabilization payments to smaller, rural hospitals that offer maternity services. These hospitals have fewer than 50 beds and may or may not be within 30 miles of another hospital. OHA will be identifying options to match these funds federally for maximum, direct impact prior to distribution.

- \$10 million, multiplied by federal match for an even greater impact, will be invested in larger hospitals through Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) rates and is reflected in the 2026 coordinated care organization (CCO) rates.

"Hospitals are facing mounting challenges in keeping the services available that Oregonians rely on," Hospital Association of Oregon President and CEO Becky Hultberg said. "This boost in payments is a good first step toward stabilizing maternity services—especially in rural communities—and demonstrates what's possible when state leaders and hospitals work together toward shared goals."

Why Stabilizing Maternity Care Matters

Strong local maternity systems



This partnership reflects a shared commitment to keeping care local, supporting new families, and ensuring hospitals are sustained through higher rates for maternity costs. Metro Creative Connection

promote healthier starts for babies, which translates into better long-term health, educational, and economic outcomes for states and communities. Across Oregon and the nation, smaller, rural hospitals face mounting challenges in sustaining maternity services. Workforce shortages and increasing healthcare costs have forced some hospitals to close labor and delivery units, leaving families to travel long distances for care. These closures can have lasting impacts on maternal and infant health outcomes, as well as the vitality of rural communities.

The governor's investment aims to reverse that trend by providing targeted support where it is needed most. Stabilizing maternity care requires shared responsibility among state agencies, hospitals, policymakers, and insurers. This approach will maximize state resources for hospitals while navigating federal limitations under House Resolution 1, also referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill."

"Maternity care is the cornerstone of healthy communities," OHA Director Dr. Sejal Hathi said. "These investments will help stabilize hospitals that provide this critical service and ensure families can continue to rely on care in their own communities. We are proud to work with the governor and our partners to make this happen."

For a list of hospitals by type, please refer to OHA's Oregon Hospital Types document.

Joanie Lindenmeyer presents 'Nun Better and Joyously Free!'

NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Newport Public Library is pleased to welcome back author Joanie Lindenmeyer with her presentation titled "Nun Better and Joyously Free!" on Saturday, February 7 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the McEntee Meeting Room of the Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye St., Newport.

Joanie Lindenmeyer is the bestselling author of *Nun Better: An Amazing*

Love Story, co-written with her late wife Carol Tierheimer.

This powerful memoir tells the extraordinary story of their 40-year romance when they met as Catholic nuns during a time when coming out was dangerous and rare. Joanie will share details, read excerpts and show a video about building a life rooted in love, truth, authenticity and courage, defying the odds and paving the way for a future that was once thought impossible.

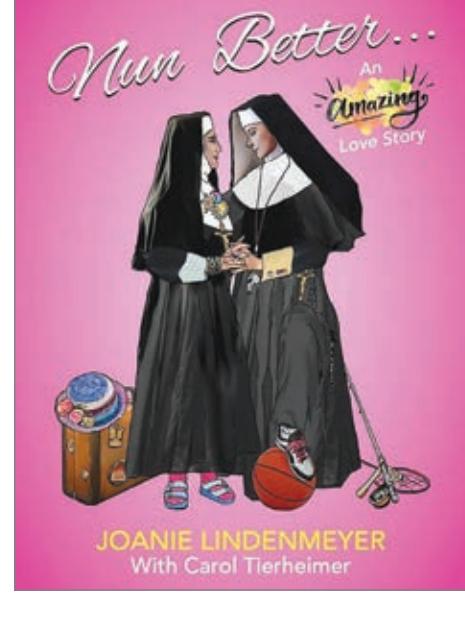
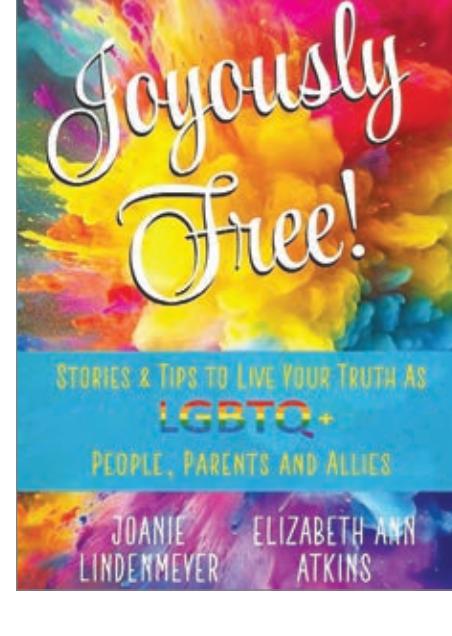


Joanie Lindenmeyer

She calls this the 3C's: courage, confidence and collaboration.

In Joanie's high energy

See **AUTHOR**, page B2



SPOTLIGHT ON THE TEACHERS

The Joy of Music at the Newport Performing Arts Center

SUBMITTED

Spotlight on the Teachers: The Joy of Music will be presented by the Lincoln County District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association on Sunday, February 1 at 2 p.m. at the Newport Performing Arts Center.

Admission to the concert is by donation of any size toward the Suzanne Brown Student Scholarship Fund which supports local students in their pursuit of music.

After over 25 years on the music calendar for Lincoln County, the Spotlight on the Teachers series will have a special event as part of this year's concert. The concert will feature a world premiere of a new composition written by Nicole Buetti. Buetti is a composer, educator, educational content creator, songwriter and performing musician. Her chamber and orchestral music have been honored as the Washington State Music Teachers Association's "Commissioned Composer of the Year for 2025."

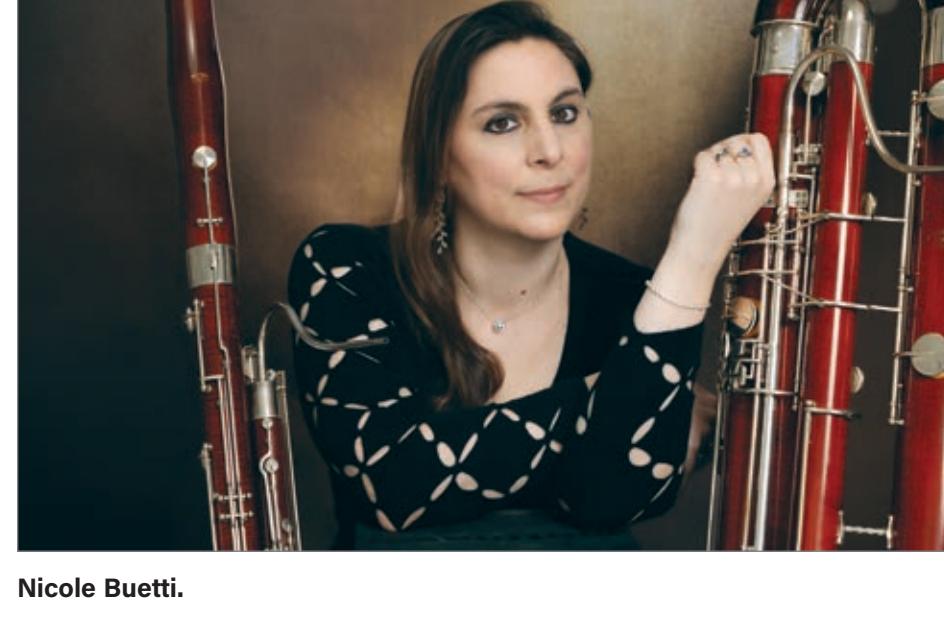
She also received 2 Telly Awards for her multimedia brass ensemble



John Ohnstad and Nicole Buetti. (Courtesy photos)



John Ohnstad.



Nicole Buetti.



Milo Graamans.



Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse Phukhang Monastery on three-week coastal tour of Lincoln City, Yachats and Newport Feb. 11- Mar. 1. (Courtesy photos)



One of the Tibetan monks from Gaden Shartse Phukhang Monastery, on tour on the Oregon coast in February, laying precise lines of sand into brocade-like patterns during the 100-hour creation of a sacred sand mandala, which will then be swept up or "dissolved" upon its completion.

Tibetan Monks 'Compassion, Wisdom, Enlightened Action' Tour

SUBMITTED

Bringing a beautiful gift to our coastal cities, four Tibetan monks from Gaden Shartse Phukhang Monastery in India are touring the Oregon coast this February, with week-long stops in Lincoln City, Yachats and Newport.

Organized by Lincoln County Friends of Tibet in conjunction with the Lincoln County Cultural Center and the Yachats Chamber of Commerce, the tour brings the rich and colorful music, sights, and art of Tibetan culture to our coastal audiences.

The tour's purpose is

to promote intercultural understanding and share the timeless wisdom of Tibetan Buddhism's many practices for promoting peace and personal healing. The monks are here to raise critical funds for housing, health, and education facilities at the "monastery-in-exile" back in southern India.

The Oregon stops are part of a 6-month tour throughout the western United States.

The Oregon coast tour begins Wednesday, February 11 thru February 15 at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Hwy 101 in Lincoln City. Then moves on February

17 thru February 22 to the Yachats Commons, 441 Hwy 101 North in Yachats. They finish up the coastal Oregon tour February 24 thru March 1st at Newport's Samaritan Center for Health Education, 740 SW 9th Street.

The monks will be creating a different

sacred "sand mandala" in each of the three stops: Green Tara (Lincoln City Cultural Center), symbolizing Enlightened Action; Avalokiteshvara (Yachats Commons), symbolizing Compassion; and Manjushri (Samaritan Center for Health

See **MONKS**, page B2

Lincoln County Democrats unveil Young Democrats Action Group at Jan. 28 meeting

SUBMITTED

The Lincoln County Democratic Central Committee will unveil its new youth-oriented action committee, the Young Democrats Action Group at the organization's first 2026 meeting, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 28 in the community room of Newport's Atonement Lutheran Church.

Atonement Lutheran Church is located at 2315 N. Coast Highway in Newport.

Also on the meeting's packed agenda are updates on Democratic Party

organizing efforts to be delivered by Nathan Stoltz, chairman of the Oregon Democratic Party and Kien Trong, who serves as liaison between the state and county party organizations. Additionally, the meeting will serve to introduce new Lincoln County Neighborhood Leader co-chair, Mary Cooke.

The Lincoln County Young Democrats Action Group will be co-chaired by Katie Saaty, who serves on the board of the Siletz Rural Fire Protection District, and Newport City Counselor,

Angel Aparicio-Reyes. Saaty, 29, is currently Lincoln County's youngest elected official and Aparicio-Reyes, 32, is the youngest member of Newport's city council and only the second Latino to hold a position on the council.

The group's efforts will be focused on bringing young voters and young members of underserved minority communities into the political process. It aims to effect change on a local level by creating community-supported workshops and hosting social gatherings

in an effort to build community solidarity and resilience. The group will actively outreach to young voters, connecting them with other progressive-minded young people in a safe and inclusive environment.

Attendees are requested to bring canned food, dried beans, powdered milk or other dried foods as donations to the group's ongoing food drive, benefitting Food Share and other local food pantries.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

MUSIC

From Page B1

work Walking With Giants. The piece to be performed on this concert is Echo in the Void and Back to the Light. It is written for Contrabass Trombone and Piano. John Ohnstad of Portland, Oregon will perform the piece with local pianist Milo Graamans. Ohnstad is the Principal Bass/Contrabass Trombonist of Orchestra Nova Northwest, Oregon Coast Music Festival, Siletz Bay Music Festival, Big Horn Brass, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Choir & Orchestra, Art Abrams Swing Machine Big Band

and is the founder of the Northwest Trombone Collective, an Oregon-Based Trombone Choir.

Graamans is the Church Organist/Choir Director at Yachats Community Presbyterian Church and is a member of the Lincoln Pops. He has performed in multiple pit orchestras for musical productions and performs as a soloist frequently here on the Coast. "The Lincoln County District is honored to have this new composition premiere on a Spotlight Concert. We hope to have a large number of the community turn out for this special event," says Jessie Treon, president of the district.

In addition to this

special presentation this concert will give the music community the unique mix of music expected from this event. There will be vocalists, Christine McKenney and Gidget Manucci performing a baroque Latin Motet with Ginger Hodge accompanying on piano. There will be lighter folk music performed a cappella by the Sea Star Sisters, Marie Read, Valarie Ondricka, and Alesha Orton. Rita Warton will share two of her humorous numbers accompanied by Carol Wolfe. John Warton and Ohnstad will perform a trombone duet, Trombone Institute of Technology. Pianists on tap for the concert include Ramona

Goddard performing a Beethoven Sonata and Cathy Champion-Predmore playing a Chopin Etude. Pianists in this series often combine their talents in groups. On this program Champion-Predmore will join Jessie

Treon in a two-piano rendition of Malaguena by Ernesto Lecuona and then Graamans will join them on one piano for a six-hand version of Oblivion by Astor Piazzolla. As always, the concert will end with a two-piano, eight-hand piece, A Scott Joplin Rag Rhapsody by Kevin R. Olson.

For more information about the concert or the Scholarship Fund contact Jessie Treon 541-961-0959.

MONKS

From Page B1

Education in Newport), symbolizing Wisdom.

The mandalas are made by using specially made metal funnels with narrow tips that the monks vibrate with a metal rod, directing the individual grains of sand into the brocade-like figures, patterns, and symbols that decorate the mandala.

Each sand mandala requires long hours of daily work by the monks, culminating in a ritual "dissolution" of the finished art work, when the mandala is ritually swept up, and the sand taken to pour into the ocean as an offering to beings of the sea. The dissolution of the mandala symbolizes the impermanence of all created things.

Sand mandalas are an ancient sacred art used by Tibetan monks and nuns to represent celestial abodes of various



Two of the Tibetan monks from Gaden Shartse Phukhang Monastery, on tour on the Oregon coast in February, laying precise lines of sand into brocade-like patterns during the 100-hour creation of a sacred sand mandala, which will then be swept up or "dissolved" upon its completion. (Courtesy photo)

The mandalas may be viewed from 10am - 5pm each day at each location while they are working on them.

Throughout the weeks the monks are here, they will also be offering Tibetan Buddhist rituals and ceremonies, as well as talks, cultural presentations, and family-friendly workshops. In Newport, a special "Monks & Momos" dinner benefit will be offered, with Tibetan stuffed dumplings (momos) handmade by the monks. In Yachats, special ceremonies marking Tibetan New Year or Losar will be performed

the first three days of the visit there.

Additional highlights of the three week-long visits include:

* "Butter Sculpture" workshops in each city, along with a demonstration of Tibetan calligraphy, an all-ages and family friendly event. Butter sculptures (or "tormas") are small, generally abstract figures made of dough and decorated with floral designs or other patterns. They are used in certain ceremonies as ritual offerings, and in the monasteries, can reach heights of 10 feet. In the workshop, participants

Central Coast spring all-depth Pacific halibut season public meeting

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is hosting a Feb. 2 public meeting beginning at 6 p.m. to get input on the number and timing of fixed and back-up dates for the central Oregon coast spring all-depth Pacific halibut season.

The meeting is in the conference room at the ODFW office, 2040 SE Marine Research Science Dr., Newport with a virtual option on Teams.

Background materials for the meeting will be posted Jan. 30 on the ODFW Sport Halibut Management Webpage.

Those who can't join the meeting can provide input to Christian Heath (christian.t.heath@odfw.oregon.gov) or Melanie Bukovec (melanie.a.bukovec@odfw.oregon.gov) or call 541-867-4741.

ODFW fishery managers will also review the International Pacific Halibut Commission's annual meeting and resulting recreational Pacific halibut quotas.

To join online through Microsoft Teams:

- Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
- Join the meeting now
- Meeting ID: 298 341 474 598 03
- Passcode: PN6UZ3EB

Or call in (audio only)



The meeting is to get input on the number and timing of fixed and back-up dates for the central Oregon coast spring all-depth Pacific halibut season. (Courtesy graphic)

- +1 503-446-4951,,950369010# United States, Portland
- Find a local number
- Phone conference ID: 950 369 010#
- Reasonable accommodation, such as assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreters, and materials in large print or audiotape, will be provided as needed.

To ensure availability, please contact the Marine Resources Program at 541-867-4741 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to make your request. TTY users can reach ODFW by using the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service; dial 711 and ask to connect to 503-947-6044.

will learn to make small, handheld ones.

* Tibetan Cultural Nights: featuring a special ceremony with chanting and Tibetan sacred music, followed by a demonstration of the often hilarious and acrobatic "Tibetan monastic debate", followed by a Q&A with the monks.

* Ceremonies and rituals for overcoming adversities, promoting compassion and understanding, and for personal health and healing.

* Talks and presentations by the senior monks on topics like "Aging, Death, and Rebirth", "Lojong" or "mind training" practices, and beginning meditation.

In Newport only, on Friday, February 27th, the monks will present a very special "Monks and Momos" benefit dinner, with Tibetan stuffed dumplings (momos) made by the monks. This is a very limited seating offering and the only "tickets in advance" event during the three weeks.

In Yachats February 17th - 22nd, the visit by the monks coincides with Tibetan Lunar New Year,

or Losar. So in addition to the Avalokiteshvara sand mandala, the monks are offering several special evening ceremonies that are traditionally performed during Losar, and will only be presented in Yachats.

In Lincoln City, the monks are offering a presentation on basic Buddhist philosophy: The Four Noble Truths, and a "How to" workshop on Meditation.

Special personal blessings, as well as house, land, and business blessings are also being offered by the monks, and can be scheduled by contacting Lincoln County Friends of Tibet.

All proceeds go directly to the Gaden Shartse Phukhang monks building projects at the monastery in India, and are tax-deductible.

For a complete schedule of all events during these three weeks, go to <https://LCFriendsofTibet.org> or on Facebook: Lincoln County Friends of Tibet.

For all other questions, contact LincolnCountyTibet@gmail.com or call 530-748-9365.

AUTHOR

From Page B1

style, she'll share and read from her second published book, *Joyously Free!* Her true stories will highlight their resilience and joy and will provide practical support tips for being an out LGBTQ+ queer person and empowering ways for Allies and Parents to endure and celebrate the power of love. Written with best-selling co-author Elizabeth Ann Atkins of twosisterswriting.com and a 32-member team of brave and raw first-time writers, *Joyously Free!*

shows that the LGBTQ+ community can find the courage to live their truths

"out and joyful."

Joanie's dynamic presentation includes themes and book readings of authenticity, courage, confidence, collaboration and resilience. Joanie will also provide a few writing tips with a hands-on activity at this presentation, so you too can write and speak with your authentic voice. Her 2025 film *Wowzer*, directed by film producer Michael Gorse, will be shown at the 2026 LA Indie Short Film Festival.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit newportlibrary.org or contact Newport Public Library at 541-265-2153.

Lincoln County Leader



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

SUDOKU

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.



LAND-SEA SYMPOSIUM

A Night of Science, Storytelling, Stewardship

SUBMITTED

The Cape Perpetua Collaborative is proud to present the annual Land-Sea Symposium, a one-night event celebrating the intersection of science, community, and coastal stewardship.

Held on the evening of January 30, this dynamic gathering invites scientists, artists, students, decision-makers, and passionate locals to explore the pressing challenges and inspiring opportunities facing Oregon's coastal and ocean environments.

The Land-Sea Symposium is a vibrant space for connection, learning, and action. Through engaging presentations and lively discussions, attendees will dive into topics

such as marine conservation, climate resilience,

Indigenous knowledge, and community-driven

restoration efforts. This event brings



together voices from across disciplines and generations. It's a chance to celebrate our shared love for the coast and spark new ideas for protecting it. Our theme this year is "Cape Perpetua for All"

who treasures the land and sea, the Land-Sea Symposium offers inspiration and insight for all.

Date: January 30, 2026

Time: 4:30-8:00 PM

Location: Yachats

Commons

441 Hwy 101 N

Yachats, OR 97498

* Our Main event at

the commons is now sold out but we have limited spots open at our watch party location and live-stream options. Details available on registration website*

Admission: Free entry

Register or learn

more: <https://www.capecperpetuacollaborative.org/event-details/cape-perpetua-collaborative-land-sea-symposium>

Networking opportunities with partner organizations and local leaders

Student engagement

and storytelling from emerging coastal stewards

Art and multimedia that illuminate the beauty and complexity of Oregon's marine ecosystems

Whether you're a seasoned researcher, a curious student, or a community member

Join us as we celebrate the power of collaboration and the promise of a resilient coastal future.

Heceta Head Lightstation. (Courtesy photo)



Heceta Head Lightstation Celebration

SUBMITTED

Heceta Head Lightstation celebrates its birthday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 30, at the Keeper's Home.

The community is invited to celebrate at the Lightstation which has a scenic walking trail from

the beach to the Keeper's Home, Gift Shop, and lighthouse tower.

This family-friendly free event takes place at the Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast in the Keeper's Home and West Lawn.

Food and beverages will be available, as well as live music. Local agency

representatives will be present to talk about the outstanding natural features of the area, as well as volunteers from the Heceta Lighthouse Interpretive Center at the Keeper's Home and Oregon State Parks volunteers at the lighthouse tower!

The park is located off

of Hwy 101 just 13 miles north of Florence. Parking is available at the Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint, and parking is \$10 per vehicle.

For more information contact Heceta Lighthouse B&B at 541-547-3696 or keepers@hecetalighthouse.com

BottleDrop community raises \$75,000 for local food access

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative, operator of the BottleDrop network has distributed a total of \$75,000 to support 12 nonprofits providing food assistance to Oregonians during the 2025 holiday season.

OBRC kicked off the fundraising campaign on Oct. 30 with a \$30,000 donation from its Emergency Fund and encouraged BottleDrop customers to donate their beverage container refund values to support the effort through the end of the year.

In total, \$21,360 was donated by customers, and OBRC's Emergency Fund matched all donations made through Jan. 1, 2026, plus contributed additional funds to round out the total amount.

"Once again, our BottleDrop customers stepped up, turning their beverage container refunds into real impact by supporting dedicated local food pantries and food distribution nonprofits serving communities across the state," OBRC Vice President of Strategy and Research Devon Morales said. "We are grateful to partner with our customers to get resources to these organizations so they could



Community food and cash donations, such as these at Lincoln County Food Share, are part of the \$75,000 collected to support food assistance. (Courtesy photo)

help feed Oregon families during the holidays, which is often the season of greatest need – and maybe this year more than most."

There were two ways for customers to donate: online using funds from a personal Green Bag account or in-person by bringing redeemable beverage containers into any full-service BottleDrop Redemption Center. An astounding 124,876 containers were donated in-person and 177 BottleDrop customers donated online.

The following nonprofits each received \$6,250 from this fundraising event:

- Eastern Oregon Mission - Agape House
- FOOD for Lane County
- Food Share of Lincoln County
- Josephine County Food

- Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank
- Marion Polk Food Share
- NeighborImpact
- Oregon Food Bank
- Rogue Food Unites
- Sunshine Division
- The Breadbasket Emergency Food Center
- The Giving Plate

Food Share of Lincoln County reflected on the power of partnerships to support Oregon communities. "We are incredibly grateful for OBRC's investment in our community. Their generous donations, along with the support of BottleDrop customers, demonstrate the true power of partnership," Food Share of Lincoln County Executive

Director Nancy Mitchell said. "These funds directly support our local pantries and meal sites and help ensure that nutritious food continues reaching families, seniors and individuals across Lincoln County at a time when the need remains high."

Oregon Food Bank estimates that for every \$10 donated, their network can provide as many as 30 meals. Using this estimate, the funds generated through OBRC's Emergency Food Assistance campaign provided 225,000 meals for those in need. BottleDrop customers can support thousands of nonprofits participating in their Give program year-round with their beverage container refunds.

Auditions slated for 'Barefoot in the Park'



Actors aged 18 to 99

are invited to audition for the Porthole Players' production of "Barefoot in the Park," Neil Simon's classic romantic comedy, at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 7.

The auditions take place in the David Ogden Stiers Studio Theater of the Newport Performing Arts Center, 777 W Olive Street in Newport.

Director Stephan will conduct the auditions, along with producer Morgan Locklear and assistant production Jennifer Locklear. The play is scheduled to run May 15 through 31 at the Newport Performing Arts Center.

"Barefoot in the Park" chronicles the first week of marriage for Paul, a

straight-laced lawyer, and his free-spirited wife, Corie. As if their first week in a second-rate NYC apartment isn't enough, they get a surprise visit from Corie's loopy mother, Ethel, whom they try to set up with the original "Wacky neighbor" Victor.

No preparation is needed for auditions. Selected scenes will be supplied to the actors.

Anyone interested in assisting with set construction, costuming or technical assistance is also invited to attend the auditions and submit information for future contact.

Participants are asked to subscribe to the Porthole Players digital newsletter (at no cost) at www.portholeplayers.com.

League of Women Voters meeting

The League of Women Voters Lincoln County will hold its next meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the McEntee Room of the Newport Public Library, 34 NW Nye Street, in Newport.

The program will feature Representative David Gomberg, who will

provide a preview of the 2026 legislative session and give folks a sense of the big, topline issues the body will be considering.

All League meetings are open to the public—please join us! Cookies and beverages will be served. For more information, go to lwvlincolncounty.org.



Lincoln County Leader

Your information source for the Central Oregon Coast



Health FACT:

Getting organized can help reduce this, which is good for personal health.

Answer: Stress

How they say that in...

English: Clutter

Spanish: Desorden

Italian: Disordine

French: Désordre

German: Unordnung

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Baskets on bottom 2. Teapot on second left shelf 3. Different basket on top center 4. Labels are missing on white bags

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1813: Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is first published in the UK.

1878: "Yale Daily News" becomes the first independent daily college newspaper in the United States.

1915: An act of Congress creates the United States Coast Guard.

NEW WORD

NEAT

arranged in a tidy way

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Closet shelves

BASKETBALL WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ASSIST
BACKBOARD
BASELINE
CLOCK
COURT
CROSSOVER
DEFENSE
DRIBBLE
DUNK
FOUL
FREE THROW
JUMP SHOT
LAY-UP
OFFENSE
PIVOT
REBOUND
SCREEN
SHOT
SUBSTITUTION
THREE-POINTER
TIMEOUT
TIPOFF
TRAVELING
TURNOVER

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Gary Kopervas

Out on a Limb



©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

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The Spats



©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Jeff Pickering

© TIGER



©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

by Bud Blake

OLIVE & POPEYE



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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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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: F equals P

FHEFRH JTEQRV GH LHYS
FYQVHAU DTHA JHRHIUOAC
GHLHYXCH IEAUXOAHYJ. ITEEJH
SEQY GEUURHJ DOJHRS!

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CryptoQuoteAXYDLBAAXR
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.

BCUXENR RIZO LIXUC QZYX

UE LUHXR ZB LCZKTQX, EZL

UE IVSSUEXRR.

— XKCUSUNXR

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1. HISTORY: When did the Easter Rising insurrection take place in Ireland?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of India?

3. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?

4. MOVIES: The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?

5. LITERATURE: What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?

6. GAMES: How many points is the center red bullseye on a dartboard worth?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of floating otters called?

8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?

9. TELEVISION: What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?

10. SCIENCE: What part of the brain controls hunger?

Answers

1. 1916.

2. New Delhi.

3. Tennis elbow.

4. 2015.

5. Red.

6. 50.

7. A raft.

8. Toyota.

9. Advertising executive.

10. Hypothalamus.

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— Euripides

in happiness.

in times of trouble, not

friends show their love

ANSWER

CryptoQuote

your bottles wisely!

beverage containers. Choose

prudent when selecting

people should be very

answering

CryptoQuip**INCOME***Today's Word*

solution

1. Carmel; 2. Code;

3. Inside; 4. Inpet;

5. Clamet;

6. Codd;

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150 MISC SERVICES

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in Lincoln County. Fax resume to 541-764-3362 or email jkvinja@gmail.com.

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FOR RENT

1 bdr, 2 ba house in Otis. Call Jill: 714.292.6928

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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL26-028 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Probate Department Case No. 25PB01342. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

In the Matter of the Estate of Allen Wayne Austin Aftoller Pyle, Deceased. Case No. 25PB11263. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Betty Pyle has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at 516 Alder Ave, Harvey, ND 58341, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative. Adam C. Springer, Lawyer for Personal Representative. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Betty Pyle, 516 Alder Ave, Harvey, ND 58341, (480) 296-6773. LAWYER FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Adam C. Springer, OSB #112109, PO Box 1987, Newport, OR 97365. DATED AND PUBLISHED ON: January 28, 2026. Adam C. Springer, Lawyer for Personal Representative. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Betty Pyle, 516 Alder Ave, Harvey, ND 58341, (480) 296-6773. LAWYER FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Adam C. Springer, OSB #112109, PO Box 1987, 380 SW 2nd St., Newport, OR 97365, T: (541) 272-5500, F: (541) 265-7633, springer@vaquinalaw.com 1/28/26

LCL26-031 NOTICE OF BALLOT TITLE.

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has been

LCL26-033 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
SALE WILL BE HELD
AT IDEAL STORAGE

235 Dahl Ave Waldport, OR, 97394. Garrett Sheldon-WA04. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

On February 26th 2026 at 11:00 AM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage. 134 E Metcalf Ave Siletz, OR, 97380: Dennis Geer-S177, Josh Kirkland-S174, John Wilson-S178. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

On February 26th 2026 at 2:00 PM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage, 5441 HWY 20, Toledo, OR, 97391: Luis Olivas-T029, Glenda Easterby-T061. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

LCL26-020 SELF-STORAGE PUBLIC SALE.

On Tuesday 2/3/26 end-

LCL26-022 IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Probate Department Case No. 25PB01342. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has been

LCL26-023 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
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AT IDEAL STORAGE

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On February 26th 2026 at 2:00 PM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage, 5441 HWY 20, Toledo, OR, 97391: Luis Olivas-T029, Glenda Easterby-T061. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

LCL26-024 IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Probate Department Case No. 25PB01342. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has been

LCL26-025 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
SALE WILL BE HELD
AT IDEAL STORAGE

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On February 26th 2026 at 2:00 PM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage, 5441 HWY 20, Toledo, OR, 97391: Luis Olivas-T029, Glenda Easterby-T061. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

LCL26-026 IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Probate Department Case No. 25PB01342. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has been

LCL26-027 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
SALE WILL BE HELD
AT IDEAL STORAGE

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LCL26-028 IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE STATE OF
OREGON FOR THE
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Probate Department Case No. 25PB01342. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

Notice is hereby given that a ballot title for a measure referred by the North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has been

LCL26-029 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
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LCL26-030 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
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SALE WILL BE HELD
AT IDEAL STORAGE

235 Dahl Ave Waldport, OR, 97394. Garrett Sheldon-WA04. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

On February 26th 2026 at 11:00 AM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage. 134 E Metcalf Ave Siletz, OR, 97380: Dennis Geer-S177, Josh Kirkland-S174, John Wilson-S178. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

On February 26th 2026 at 2:00 PM, a public sale will be held at Ideal Storage, 5441 HWY 20, Toledo, OR, 97391: Luis Olivas-T029, Glenda Easterby-T061. Minimum bid \$50.00, cash only.

LCL26-033 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
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LCL26-034 ON
FEBRUARY 24TH 2026
AT 11 AM, A PUBLIC
SALE WILL BE HELD
AT IDEAL STORAGE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

P.O. Box 1475, Eugene, OR 97440, 1/21/26
1/28/26 2/4/26 2/11/26
LCL26-013 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE #26-0013.

On February 19, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St., Room 203, in the City of Newport, Oregon, the defendants' interests will be sold, subject to redemption, in the following time share interests, which will be sold individually and all of which are located at 939 NW Highway 101, Depoe Bay, OR 97341, commonly known as THE RESORT AT WHALE POINTE CONDOMINIUMS: (1) Time Share Interest H in Unit 127, (2) Time Share Interest H in Unit 126. The court case number is 25CV45420, Association of Unit Owners of the Resort at Whale Pointe Merged Condominiums, plaintiff vs. Robert Lynn Berry, Sr., Personal Representative of the Estate of Paul Berry, Deceased, Any and All Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns, and all Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest From, Under or Through Alice M. Yetka, Deceased, defendants. This is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand. For more details go to: <http://www.oregonsheriffsales.org/> county/lincoln/ 1/14/26 1/21/26 1/28/26 2/4/26

LCL26-002 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE FILE NO. 25-008390R

Reference is made to that certain deed of trust made by Deborah Kelly Keeney and John Barton Keeney, as grantor, to First American Title Insurance Company, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for Bank of the West, a California state banking corp., beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as beneficiary, dated July 10, 2015, recorded July 13, 2015, in the records of Lincoln County, Oregon, under instrument No. 2015-06884, and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to BMO Bank N.A., covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON, THAT IS 293.5 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, THENCE NORTH 0° 20' WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 8, 209.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89° 51' EAST PARALLEL TO 11TH STREET IN THE CITY OF TOLEDO, 147.0 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING WHICH POINT IS ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE PARCEL CONVEYED TO G.L. SANFORD, ET UX, BY DEED RECORDED MARCH 15, 1965, IN BOOK 253 29, DEED RECORDS; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 89° 51' EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 60 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE PARCEL CONVEYED TO HARVEY WERDER, ET UX, BY DEED RECORDED AUGUST 16, 1963, IN BOOK 237, PAGE 115, DEED RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 89° 51' WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID WERDER PARCEL 96.43 FEET; THENCE NORTH 2° 58' EAST 60 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, APN: R394413. Commonly known as: 1262 NW Meadow Ln., Toledo, OR 97391. The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the trust deed, or if such action has been instituted, such action has been dismissed except as permitted by ORS 86.752(7). Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. There is a default by grantor or other persons owing an obligation, performance

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PUBLIC NOTICES

of which is secured by the trust deed, or by the successor in interest, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of such provision. The default for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sum: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE: \$4,742.15 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$55,917.87 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, the following, to-wit: 1. The installments of principal and interest which became due on May 1, 2025, and all subsequent installments of principal and interest through the date of this Notice, plus amounts that are due for late charges, delinquent property taxes, insurance premiums, advances made on senior liens, taxes and/or insurance, trustee's fees, and any attorney fees and court costs arising from or associated with the beneficiaries efforts to protect and preserve its security, all of which must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, including all sums that shall accrue through reinstatement or pay-off. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust pursuant to the terms of the loan documents. Whereof, notice hereby is given that Affinia Default Services, LLC, the undersigned trustee will on April 15, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 AM (PST), as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes. At the south entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St., Newport, OR 97365, County of Lincoln, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 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 and 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. For Sale Information, contact NPP at (916) 939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com. In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Affinia Default Services, LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency

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PUBLIC NOTICES

if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. 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. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS THAT SETS FORTH SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO A TENANT OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PRO-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Affinia Default Services, LLC may be deemed to be a debt collector and any information obtained may be used for that purpose. File No.: 25-008390P, Dated: 12/02/2025. Affinia Default Services, LLC, By: /s/ Phally Eng Name: Phally Eng Title: Foreclosure Processor Trustee's Mailing Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 16000 Christensen Rd., Suite 310 Tukwila, WA 98188 Phone Number: (503) 836-3799 Trustee's Physical Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 10151 SE Sunnyside Road, Suite 490 Clackamas, OR 97015 Email: inquiries@affinadefault.com NPP0481635 To: LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER 01/07/2026, 01/14/2026, 01/21/2026, 01/28/2026

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, C/O FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY OF OREGON, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR JFO LENDING, LLC, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 3/11/2022, recorded 3/23/2022, as Instrument No. 2022-03106, in the Official Records of Lincoln County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Lincoln County, Oregon: Lots 3 and 4, Block E, BEAR CREEK HIDEOUT, County of Lincoln and State of Oregon. APN: R131342 / 07-10-10-AB-02100-00 Commonly known as: 1799 N DORIS LN OTIS, OR 97368 The current beneficiary is: UNITED WHOLESALE MORTGAGE, LLC Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which the

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PUBLIC NOTICES

foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums: Delinquent Payments: Dates: Total: 2/1/2025 - 12/1/2025 \$7,679.65 Late Charges: \$0.00 Beneficiary Advances: \$1,173.74 Total Required to Reinstate: \$8,853.39 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$101,567.99 By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$95,616.35 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.75 % per annum, from 1/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97006, will on 4/28/2026, at the hour of 1:00 PM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, At the Public Entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, Newport, OR 97365, sell at pub-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

lic auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 12/11/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Jessica Lopez, Authorized Signatory of Trustee 1/7/26 1/14/26 1/21/26 1/28/26

Super Crossword U.K. PLAY

ACROSS

1 Give a right to
8 Eye narrowly
14 Choir songs
20 Dog collar attachments
21 Ends of bridal paths
22 See 1-Down
23 Refrigerator, stove or dryer
25 Warship fleet
26 Over yonder
27 Designer Gucci
28 Lhasa — (little dogs)
29 Mega Stuf cookies
33 This second
35 Legendary figure in a 1999 horror film
39 Azaleas are members of it
43 Not quite
44 Dutch beer
45 — the line (obeyed)
47 Sturdy tree
48 Slimy gunk
51 Shaft of light
52 Common allergy trigger
55 Condiment spicier than its yellow cousin
59 On — with (similar to)

61 Big name in dog food

63 Born
64 TV
65 Riddle
68 Strep-treating doc
69 Person giving out prizes
71 Eight of their last names are featured in this puzzle
76 Egg-hiding holidays
77 Gridiron stats
78 Punctual
79 Sominex or Unisom rival
80 Passing vote
81 As many as 82 Big lamb cut
86 Common weed of North America
90 Universal donor blood type, in brief
93 Shark feature
94 Ending for alp or salt
95 Architect I.M. —
96 Red Sea canal
98 Get there
100 Hive house
103 Suburb of Minneapolis

106 June bugs, by another name

110 Poetic Don
111 Yule songs
112 Post-teen
113 Squeaks
116 Ticked (off)
118 Spring back
120 Kentucky Derby venue
126 "Little Women"
127 Wanness
128 Cry upon getting there
129 Joined (up)
130 Baby hooters
131 Vain person's lack

11 Music genre for TLC

12 Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"
13 Mao — tung
14 Free TV ad, for short
15 Drink inserts
16 Target of antiperspirant
17 Minimal
18 Bordeaux wine
19 Secret store
20 Grads' event
21 Fictional Scarlett
22 Plan a new route for
23 Cushy class
24 Mel the Giant
25 Jokester
26 Solo
27 Mosque officiant
28 Streaming set-top box
29 Viral misery
30 Soft throws
31 "out!" (ump's call)
32 Death Be Not Proud"
33 Avant- —
34 Bud
35 Director Kazan
36 Plus others: Abbr.

56 Cleaning tool in a bucket

57 Muscle jerk
58 More citrusy, say
59 Mary Lou of gymnastics
60 One suffering for a belief
61 Atom studier
62 Bohr neighbor
63 911 gp.
64 Susan of "Spring Fever"
65 Nintendo console
66 1974 dog film
67 Artificial silk
68 "Orange — New Black"
69 Thoughts
70 Taken with "Two Guys and —"
71 Operated
72 In flames
73 Courteous
74 Midleg joints
75 Sherif Taylor's tyke
76 Mess-free
77 Take to court
78 Jug handle
79 Pa's pa

97 Last letter in a bucket

98 '16 Olympics site
99 Flowering small dress size
100 Cowboy's whoop
101 Suffering for a belief
102 Pot (sinus cleaner)
103 Early tourney round
104 Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open
105 She sang the hit "Hello"
106 Mexico's state flower
107 Brain protector
108 New Mexico's state flower
109 Inc., abroad
110 "Stanley Gardner
111 "Nae" sayer
112 Red Muppet
113 "Orange — New Black"
114 "Avant- —"
115 "Two Guys and —"
116 "out!" (ump's call)
117 "Death Be Not Proud"
118 Director Kazan
119 Mess-free
120 Take to court
121 Jug handle
122 Artificial silk
123 "Orange — New Black"
124 "Avant- —"
125 "Death Be Not Proud"
126 "out!" (ump's call)
127 Director Kazan
128 "Death Be Not Proud"
129 "Avant- —"
130 "out!" (ump's call)

DOWN

1 With 22-Across, film "nightmare" locale
2 Teachers' gp.
3 — Mahal
4 Equal: Prefix
5 Walloped
6 Foliage bit
7 Barcelona's land, to natives
8 Bud
9 Director Kazan
10 Plus others: Abbr.

14 Avant- —
15 Mandate
16 Smells
17 Exhales
18 Wistfully
19 Pack firmly

20 Secret store
21 Grads' event
22 Cushy class
23 Director Kazan
24 Mel the Giant
25 Jokester
26 Solo
27 Mosque officiant
28 Streaming set-top box
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42 "Death Be Not Proud"
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Taft girls 9-2 in 2026

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Taft's varsity girls have been balling on the basketball court this season. The Tigers have been hard to beat this year, as evidenced by their 14-5 record, but this level of success hasn't come as a surprise to Head Coach Jacob Tolan.

"Going into the season, I felt this group had a lot of potential. What's been encouraging is seeing that potential turn into consistent growth," Tolan said. "The team has really bought into focusing on the little things—defensive details, ball movement, effort plays—and that steady attention to detail is what's helped us continue to get better."

After setting the program's all-time records for wins in a season in 2025, Taft has carried that momentum into this year, recording a 14-5 record through 19 games, and a 9-1 start to league play. The one loss on Taft's league record came against defending state champions Amity on Jan. 19. The Warriors are currently the #2 3A team in Oregon and are the only team ahead of Taft in the PacWest Conference. Before their Jan. 27 matchup with Blanchet Catholic, Taft had won 13 of its last 15 games, including 11 by 10 or more points. The result of the Jan. 27 game is unknown at the time of press.

Tolan credited the team's dogged determination on defense as the catalyst for the fantastic run.

"Any run like this starts on the defensive end. We've really committed to guarding for four quarters—talking, helping, and taking pride in getting stops. That's allowed us to play faster and more confidently on offense. Offensively, our execution has been much better: we're valuing possessions, getting the ball where it needs to go, and taking quality shots," Tolan said. "The biggest key,



FB @Lonnie M. French IG @LonMF French

Tigers Captain Laney Lee sets for a jumpshot against Westside Christian on Dec. 22. (Courtesy photo from Lon French)

though, is that our kids are playing connected and trusting each other on both ends of the floor."

The team's intense defense and high-functioning offense have set the tone for the Tigers this year, but the area Tolan has seen the biggest improvement in is the team's "toughness and togetherness." To compete at a high level, the team has started working for each other, and the selflessness has been paying dividends.

"We're much more connected now and willing to do the hard things for each other," Tolan said.

In a season where not much

has gone wrong, one of the standout moments so far was Taft's win against Jefferson on Jan. 12. Tolan said the Tigers haven't scored a win against the Lions in three seasons, and the matchup was a big "mental and emotional hurdle" for the team. The last time Taft faced Jefferson, the Tigers lost 53-48 in a League Playoff game on Feb. 18.

This time, the Tigers left little doubt. The Tigers met the challenge with poise and preparation, mauling Jefferson 63-37 and securing the first win against the Lions since Jan. 19, 2023.

"I thought we showed a lot of

maturity and toughness in that game, especially defensively, and we executed when it mattered most," Tolan said. "It felt like a turning point because it reinforced to our players that if we defend, stay disciplined, and play together, we can compete with anyone."

If the Tigers continue this level of play, they may surpass last year's record-setting season, when Taft won 18 games. With six games remaining, the record is still in sight. As they head down the home stretch, the Tigers will look to keep their claws sharp. Luckily for Tolan, he isn't the only one holding the standard high for his team.

Several players have stepped up and filled leadership roles for the Tigers, both on the floor and in the locker room, and it hasn't just been captains Laney Lee and Olivia-Kate Davis shouldering the whole burden.

"It hasn't just been one voice, and I think that shared leadership is a sign of a great team," Tolan said. "When players hold each other accountable, support one another, and lead in different ways, it creates a strong culture and makes us better every day."

The Tigers will look to get another win against Santiam Christian away from home on Jan. 29.

Newport Swim Team makes splash in Corvallis Invite

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

The Newport Swim Team traveled to Corvallis for the Corvallis Aquatic Team (CAT) Winter Invite on Jan. 25, swimming hard in 17 races and setting 10 new personal best times.

Other teams in attendance besides NST and CAT included the Tillamook YMCA Sharks (TY), Toledo Tidal Wave (TIDE), and the Sweet Home Swim Club (SHSC).

THE MEN'S SCORES WERE:

CAT - 802
NST - 79,
SHSC - 76
TY - 62

THE WOMEN'S SCORES WERE

CAT - 598
SHSC - 147

TY - 112
NST - 107
TIDE - 16

NST Head Coach Gavin Santiago said each of Newport's swimmers performed "very well," and he was happy with how they fared on the deck and in the pool.

"Newport had 17 total splashes, with two being first-time swims, and 10 new personal bests. NST also walked away with 3 new state qualifying times called 'A times,' and several B times (times close to but not quite a state qualifying time)," Santiago said. "NST kiddos swam fast, hard, and supported each other throughout the meet."

Slate Steenkolk (M 18) swam in the mixed 100 yard Freestyle, dropping two seconds and placing 9th overall. On top of that, Steenkolk took fifth in the mixed 200-yard individual medley and grabbed second overall in the mixed 100-yard breaststroke.

Iker Leo (M 13) swam in three events and consistently set new personal bests.

In the mixed 100-yard freestyle, Leo dropped four seconds and took 6th overall. His biggest time jump came in the mixed 200-yard individual medley, where he dropped 34 seconds and placed 6th. Lastly, in the mixed 100-yard butterfly, Leo shaved five seconds and also notched another 6th overall finish.

Zoey Chappell (F 12) had an amazing day in the pool, taking two gold medals and a bronze home from Corvallis with her. In the mixed 50-yard breaststroke, Chappell placed 3rd, but the big moments of her weekend came in the mixed 200-yard backstroke and the mixed 100-yard individual medley. In her backstroke swim, Chappell knocked four seconds off her best time and won 1st place. In the mixed 100-yard individual medley, Chappell also recorded a new best time, dropping 1 second

and again taking 1st place.

Olive Mitchell (F 9) swam in the mixed 100-yard freestyle, cutting seven seconds and placing 20th. In the mixed 100-yard breaststroke, Mitchell swam her first race and placed 9th, and in the mixed 100-yard individual medley, dropped 14 seconds and took 8th place. She walked away with 3 state qualifying times for the upcoming 10-and-under state championship.

Jeannie Faber (F 10) swam in the mixed 50-yard butterfly, a new first swim for her, while also dropping one second in the mixed 50-yard freestyle and taking 21st place. In the mixed 100-yard individual medley, she trimmed three seconds and placed 9th.

Finally, Remi Chappell (F 8) swam in the mixed 50 breaststroke, taking 11th place, and in the mixed 50 yard backstroke, being a first swim, taking 12th.

SHERIFF'S TIP OF THE WEEK

TIE IT DOWN
Research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimates that road debris played a role in more than 50,000 crashes each year in a four-year period. These resulted in over 9,800 injuries and approximately 125 deaths.

The National Sheriffs' Association Traffic Safety Committee is working to raise awareness of the problem with unsecured loads.

Thinking of making that annual or semi-annual trip to the dump? Ridding your home of trash and items to be recycled is a great way to keep it a healthy, safe, and clutter-free place.

Remember that we also want to keep our environment and fellow motorists healthy and safe. Before making that dump run or hauling other loads, take

a moment to inspect your cargo. Are there any light, loose items that can scatter and become debris or pollution along the roadway? Or are there any items that may fall out and cause another drive to swerve or crash?

TO BE SECURED, LOADS SHOULD BE:

- Tied down with rope, netting or straps
- Tied directly to the vehicle or trailer
- Covered entirely with a sturdy tarp or netting
- NOT overloaded
- Packed with lighter weight items at the bottom and evenly distributed to prevent them from sliding.

For more information and tips visit our website at www.lincolncountysheriff.net

