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FINAL GAMES APPROACH FOR
TIGERS BASKETBALL

Sports
PAGE B6



MUSIC ON THE
BAYFRONT

Coast Life
PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2

Lincoln County to receive \$5M for community projects

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

Rep. Val Hoyle (OR-04) has secured more than \$16.6 million in federal funding for community projects in Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

These funds will support 15 projects in Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane and Lincoln Counties.

For Fiscal Year 2026, each Member of Congress could request federal funding for up to 15 community projects on behalf of their district.

Last spring kicked off months of work between the Congresswoman's office and local governments, first responders, schools, ports and other organizations to identify, vet and advance community priority projects,

according to a release from Hoyle's office.

Hoyle said she advocated for her colleagues to invest in these projects. She also partnered with Senators Merkley and Wyden to move an even broader set of Oregon priorities through the process.

"These project requests came from communities across six counties, and for months I've worked

with my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee and our Senators to help carry them forward — from public safety and affordable housing to workforce training to cutting-edge research," Hoyle said. "I'm looking forward to communities starting to see real investments on the ground — from shovels in the dirt to programs getting underway."

This federal funding will allow communities to make long-overdue investments in fire and police services, water infrastructure, workforce training and affordable housing. A full list of funded projects can be found below.

Since entering Congress, Rep. Hoyle has leveraged the federal appropriations process to bring more than \$33.3

million back to Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

LINCOLN COUNTY

- \$1.015 million for Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District #7 to make necessary upgrades for its emergency services headquarters
- \$2 million for Lincoln City to support the

See **PROJECTS**, page A7

'Iconic' Newport Seafood and Wine Festival returns

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Newport Seafood and Wine Festival returns February 19-22, with coastal seafood, Oregon wines, and a full weekend of festivities. Tickets are on sale now, and event details are available.

The festival will be staged at the South Beach Marina.

Newport Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Wayne Patterson said the 49th annual festival is an iconic economy stabilizer for the area.

"It brings people to the area at one of the slowest times of the season," he said. "It effects all the businesses. Restaurants fill up. Hotels fill up. Shopping fills up. It gives our business community a shot in the arm of revenue."

Patterson adds that the festival creates unknown benefits as well.

"We pay everybody who volunteers and participates in the festival, so we are the



A massive 50,000 square foot tent is erected at the South Marina Port of Newport property to showcase the festival and its vendors and displays. (Courtesy photo)

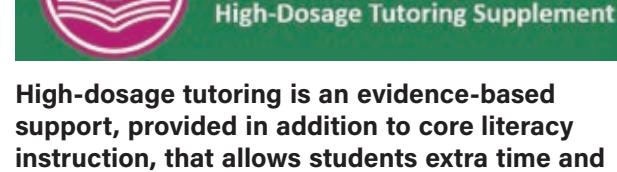
LCSD to receive \$305,092 in tutoring funds

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

With additional funding from the legislature to support statewide early literacy efforts, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has awarded 48 school districts a total of \$12 million in 2025-27 high-dosage tutoring (HDT) supplement funds.

The Lincoln County School District is to receive \$305,092.32 in the 2025-27 allocation, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

ODE allocated funds based on districts' English language arts (ELA) proficiency, as well as their number of English language learners, students experiencing disabilities, and students experiencing poverty.



High-dosage tutoring is an evidence-based support, provided in addition to core literacy instruction, that allows students extra time and assistance to practice foundational literacy skills in small groups or one-on-one with a highly-trained tutor. (Courtesy photo)

"This investment is about meeting students where they are and giving them the support they need to thrive," Governor Tina Kotek said. "High-dosage tutoring allows us to focus resources on the learners who need it most, accelerate progress, and make sure every dollar is driving better outcomes for students."

High-dosage tutoring

is an evidence-based support, provided in addition to core literacy instruction, that allows students extra time and assistance to practice foundational literacy skills in small groups or one-on-one with a highly-trained tutor.

"This investment is about ensuring students

See **FUNDS**, page A7

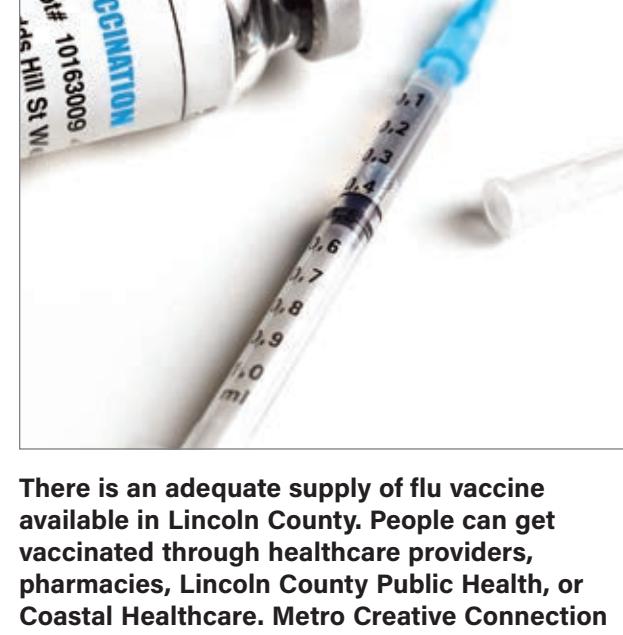
Influenza cases rising, vaccinations decreasing

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a contagious respiratory tract infection caused by influenza viruses. Influenza can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

BY THE NUMBERS

"During most influenza seasons, which typically run from November to April, between 10 percent and 20 percent of the population is infected with influenza



There is an adequate supply of flu vaccine available in Lincoln County. People can get vaccinated through healthcare providers, pharmacies, Lincoln County Public Health, or Coastal Healthcare. Metro Creative Connection

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Weather

Wednesday: High-56/Low-37

Partly Cloudy

Thursday: High-54/Low-40

Sunny

Friday: High-51/Low-41

Mostly Cloudy

Saturday: High-48/Low-38

Rain

Sunday: High-51/Low-35

Rain

Monday: High-45/Low-36

Showers

Tuesday: High-45/Low-37

Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

Rain Low High

February 3 0.00 50.8°F...63.2°F

February 4 0.00 51.3°F...72.6°F

February 5 0.00 48.8°F...70.4°F

February 6 0.00 46.0°F...60.1°F

February 7 0.67 46.8°F...56.4°F

February 8 1.55 47.3°F...53.7°F

February 9 0.01 46.5°F...53.3°F

Total rainfall from Jan. 1 7.92"

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Low 12:06 a.m. 4.6

High 6:43 a.m. 7.8

Low 2:36 p.m. 1.1

High 10:01 p.m. 5.7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Low 1:35 a.m. 4.7

High 7:48 a.m. 7.9

Low 3:30 p.m. 0.8

High 10:43 p.m. 6.1

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Low 2:48 a.m. 4.6

High 8:47 a.m. 8.2

Low 4:14 p.m. 0.3

High 11:14 p.m. 6.5

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Low 3:43 a.m. 4.2

High 9:38 a.m. 8.4

Low 4:51 p.m. 0.1

High 11:41 p.m. 6.7

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Low 4:28 a.m. 3.8

High 10:22 a.m. 8.7

Low 5:24 p.m. 0.4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

High 12:07 a.m. 7.1

Low 5:10 a.m. 3.3

High 11:04 a.m. 8.8

Low 5:55 p.m. 0.6

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

High 12:32 a.m. 7.4

Low 5:50 a.m. 2.8

High 11:45 a.m. 8.8

Sunrise/Sunset

February 11 7:23 a.m. 5:38 p.m.

February 12 7:21 a.m. 5:39 p.m.

February 13 7:20 a.m. 5:41 p.m.

February 14 7:18 a.m. 5:42 p.m.

February 15 7:17 a.m. 5:44 p.m.

February 16 7:16 a.m. 5:45 p.m.

February 17 7:14 a.m. 5:46 p.m.

February 18 7:12 a.m. 5:48 p.m.

February 19 7:11 a.m. 5:49 p.m.

February 20 7:09 a.m. 5:51 p.m.

February 21 7:08 a.m. 5:52 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, February 6

Mega Millions

13 • 21 • 25 • 52 • 62 • PB-19

Saturday, February 7

Powerball

25 • 36 • 42 • 51 • 58 • PB-6 • x2

Saturday, February 7

Megabucks

6 • 15 • 18 • 19 • 32 • 44

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Kotek, mayors call for pause on immigration enforcement

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Gov. Tina Kotek discusses legislative priorities in the 2026 short session in a meeting with reporters at the Oregon State Capitol on Jan. 28, 2026. Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Gov. Tina Kotek and mayors of 31 cities have a message for the federal government: Stop all immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated.

Kotek and the mayors sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and White House border czar Tom Homan on Thursday, Feb. 5, saying they represent communities that are afraid of and morally opposed to federal officers' tactics.

"The actions of your officers are not making our communities safer," they wrote. "Parents are afraid to take their children to school. Families are avoiding health care. People are scared to go to the store for essentials, let alone support a range of small businesses. The actions of your officers, especially the use of lethal force, are damaging local

economies and hurting the people we are responsible for protecting and serving."

Most of the 31 mayors who signed onto the letter represent cities in the Portland region and Willamette Valley, but it also includes signers from the coast, Central Oregon and Rogue Valley.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and Eugene Mayor

Kaarlin Knudson, both of whom have navigated recent incidents of federal officers using tear gas on protesters outside federal buildings in the state's largest and third-largest cities, signed the letter.

Salem Mayor Julie Hoy, who voted in December against declaring a state of emergency over increased immigration enforcement in Oregon's second-largest

city, did not.

While most of the mayors who signed come from liberal-leaning cities, the list of signers also includes the mayors of the deeply Republican city of Detroit, which President Donald Trump won by 45 points in 2024, and Carlton and Dayton, two small Yamhill County cities he won by double digits.

The letter included a commitment to the state's decades-old sanctuary law that prohibits local governments from using their resources to enforce federal immigration law. Oregon voters upheld that law by a 2-to-1 margin in 2018.

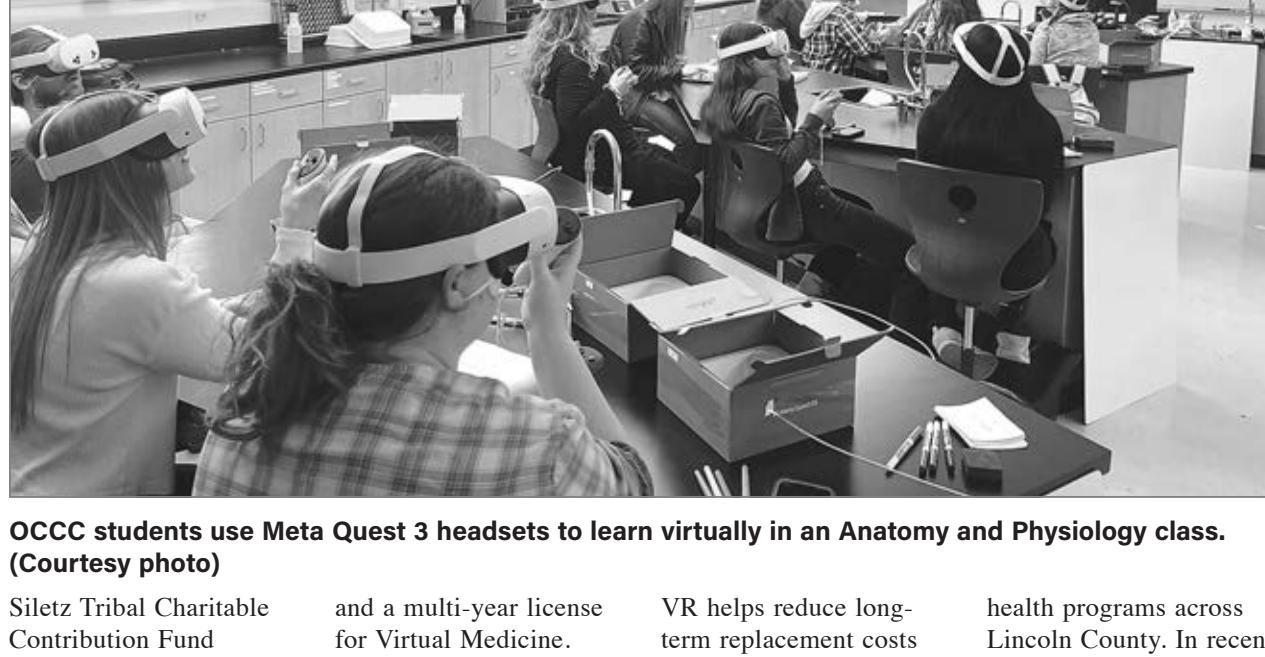
"Our message to our immigrant and refugee communities is unequivocal: We stand with you. You belong here," it ended. "Our message to your administration is equally clear: Current practices must change immediately."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-gov-kotek-mayors-call-for-pause-on-immigration-enforcement/>

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Siletz Tribal Grant funds Virtual Reality learning at OCCC

SUBMITTED



OCCC students use Meta Quest 3 headsets to learn virtually in an Anatomy and Physiology class. (Courtesy photo)

Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCCF), which funded both the VR headsets

and a multi-year license for Virtual Medicine. VR-enhanced A&P supports OCCC's pre-nursing pathway by strengthening foundational anatomy learning for students pursuing Nursing and other allied health fields – and it's a smart investment:

VR helps reduce long-term replacement costs for physical models that wear out over time, while also supporting students with a wider range of learning styles.

This VR lab is part of OCCC's larger push to expand access to allied

health programs across Lincoln County. In recent years, the College has increased seats in its first-year nursing program and launched an LPN-to-RN pathway, helping address the severe nursing shortage in rural communities—while keeping more locally trained nurses working right here on the Central Coast.

In addition, nursing faculty recently completed two days of advanced simulation training with Laerdal in OCCC's Newport simulation lab, strengthening instruction using high-fidelity mannequins and supporting updates to older simulation equipment—also funded through STCCF.

Oregon Coast Community College is deeply grateful to the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for investing in innovative, high-impact learning tools that strengthen the nursing pipeline and help prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals for Lincoln County.

Learn more and discover the full range of degree and certificate programs available at Oregon Coast Community College at oregoncoast.edu. Follow OCCC on TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook, @occsharks. You can also join the OCCC Community on LinkedIn. Or, call the College at 541-867-8501.

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26,29

Oregon cracking down on abandoned boats

Abandoned boats continue to harm Oregon's rivers and coastlines, according to the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL).

From huge vessels like the 100-foot Dredge Herb Anderson, removed from the Columbia River last year, to smaller recreational craft, these derelict boats leak harmful toxins, drift dangerously into navigational channels, and degrade water quality, the DSL states in a release.

Oregon Department of State Lands has been leading the charge on this issue since launching the statewide Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Program in Sept 2024.

"We can't continue polluting our Oregon waterways or risking a large marine accident," Oregon Department of State Lands Director Kaitlin Lovell said. "The scope of this issue has motivated bipartisan legislators and community members along impacted waterways to come together for solutions."

After a successful push

during the state's 2025 legislative session, two significant changes to state law came into effect on September 26, 2025.

- Streamlined Disposal: Allows the state to classify severely degraded ADVs as marine debris, opening a more efficient and cost-effective route for disposal.
- Reduced Administrative Burden: Allows authorized entities throughout the state to remove ADVs from the waterway without a time- and resource-intensive process, reducing delays and red tape.

"The legislative wins for this program might sound like words on a page, but these are the systematic changes we need to get these dilapidated vessels out of our waters," Oregon District 10 State Representative David Gomberg (D) said. In agreement was Republican State Senator Legislator Dick Anderson from Lincoln City, "This issue requires all of us to stay vigilant for ways to be more effective, and



Exterior of the Dredge Herb Anderson looking on to the Columbia River. (Courtesy photo)

removing red tape is a good place to start."

In addition to legislative progress, Oregon's statewide ADV Program secured a \$1,000,000 grant from the BoatUS Foundation, with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program. The dollars awarded to Oregon

will support the removal and disposal of dozens of high-priority boats in counties throughout Oregon.

"Some of the really large vessels can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars when there is toxic material," Port of Newport Deputy Director Aaron Bretz said. "so obviously significant funding is

required, but there's also a lot of coordination with the Coast Guard, sheriff's offices, environmental regulators, and companies equipped to perform the complex dismantling work."

Coordination of involved parties was top-of-mind for Oregon Department of State Lands when updating the

statewide ADV Program website to include new procedures for ADVs based on the changes in state law.

A remaining challenge for the nascent program is stemming the flow of ADVs into Oregon waterways.

"We pursue penalties against owners who fail to resolve their problems and leave DSL to address the hazards they've created," DSL Waterways Stewardship Program Manager Josh Mulhollem said. "But many of the biggest, most expensive cleanups are ships that have already drained the owner's assets. Many people just don't understand that bidding on a cheap ship at auction can lead to financial ruin."

Despite the challenges that remain, momentum is building, according to the DSL.

"With new tools, funding, and partnerships in place, Oregon's ADV Program is chartering a clearer course toward cleaner, safer, waterways," the release states.

Public invited to Toledo Parks Master Plan work session, open house

STAFF REPORT

Lincoln County Leader

The City of Toledo invites community members to a Joint City Council and Planning Commission Work Session, followed by a public open house, focused on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The event is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 11, at Toledo city Hall, located at 206 N Main Street in Toledo.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Review community survey results
- Learn about key issues and community response
- Ask questions and share input with staff

The work session agenda includes a Traffic Calming presentation and a parks presentation. The Parks Master Plan Open House includes information and community response, an opportunity to provide input and ask staff questions, and the next steps in the process.

The City of Toledo City Council and Planning Commission work session and Parks Master Plan open house will be held in the Council Chambers in Toledo City Hall, 206 N. Main Street, Toledo.

Participants can attend the meeting in-person at city hall or through the Zoom video meeting platform. Participants who want to attend through Zoom, see the registration link below.

For more information, contact the Toledo Planning Department staff at 541-336-2247 extension 2130, or email planning@cityoftoledo.org.

The following is information from the City of Toledo.

Overview and Purpose

The City of Toledo Parks and Recreation



Master Plan provides a long-range framework for the planning, development, and maintenance of the City's parks, trails, recreation facilities, and related programs. The Plan establishes a shared direction for how these public assets should serve residents and visitors over the coming years, while remaining flexible enough to respond to changing needs, funding conditions, and community priority.

Toledo is currently balancing growth, reinvestment, and stewardship of existing assets. Parks and recreation facilities play a central role in community health, neighborhood identity, and quality of life. They also support economic activity, tourism, and partnerships with schools, special districts, and regional providers. This Plan is intended to guide decisions about capital improvements, ongoing maintenance, and future acquisitions, while also providing a clear basis for grant applications and coordination with other

adopted City plans.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is used as a policy and implementation tool. It informs the City's capital improvement planning, supports day-to-day operational decisions, and helps prioritize investments over time. The Plan also serves as a reference for City Council, advisory bodies, staff, and community partners when evaluating opportunities, responding to funding programs, or considering changes to the park system. While the Plan looks ahead, it places strong emphasis on maintaining and improving existing parks and facilities to ensure they remain safe, functional, and welcoming.

Community Context

Toledo is a small coastal-region community with a strong connection to its natural setting and working waterfront. Located inland from the Pacific Ocean and surrounded by forested hills and waterways, the City's character is shaped by its riverfront, industrial history,

and close relationship to the surrounding Coast Range and coastal communities. Parks and open spaces provide important places for everyday recreation, community gatherings, and access to natural areas.

The community serves

both year-round residents and visitors who come to enjoy the region's scenery, events, and outdoor opportunities. Seasonal activity and tourism influence how parks and trails are used and maintained, particularly in areas near the waterfront and downtown. As

Community engagement was a central part of the planning process. The City conducted a public survey to gather input on park use, needs, and priorities. The survey was administered online and was also made available in printed form at City Hall and the Toledo Public Library. Survey findings were used alongside site observations and staff input to identify common themes, priorities, and concerns.

Plan Organization

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is organized to move from

context to action. While each section can be read on its own, the document is intended to be used as a complete and integrated guide.

The Plan is generally organized as follows:

- **Existing Conditions and Inventory:** An overview of Toledo's current parks, trails, and recreation facilities, including their distribution and general condition.

- **Community Needs and Priorities:** A summary of input from community engagement and identification of key needs and gaps in the system.

- **Vision and Goals:** A statement of the long-term direction for parks and recreation in Toledo, supported by clear goals.

- **System Recommendations:** Specific recommendations for improvements, additions, and policy direction across the park system.

- **Implementation and Funding:** A practical framework for phasing, partnerships, cost considerations, and potential funding strategies.

This structure is

intended to support both strategic planning and day-to-day decision-making.

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Lawmakers urged to support anti-hunger initiatives

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

After failing in recent years to convince the Oregon Legislature to extend food benefits to tens of thousands of immigrants, an anti-hunger coalition is narrowing its scope this year to addressing coming cuts to federal food aid.

Oregonians made more than 2.9 million visits to food pantries last year, a 50% increase from 2023, according to the Oregon Food Bank. The statewide food pantry network is already stretched to its limit, advocates said at a Thursday, Feb. 5, rally on the Capitol steps, and they're anticipating more demand because congressional Republicans' 2025 tax and spending megalaw limited eligibility for food aid and shifted costs to states.

The state Department of Human Services estimated more than 310,000 of the more than 750,000 Oregonians who receive food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could be at risk of losing them under new requirements that adults without young children prove they're working, and that at least 3,000 refugees, asylees and trafficking survivors previously eligible for SNAP will lose benefits.

Meanwhile, the department says it needs at least \$114 million in the current two-year budget that ends in June 2027 to implement the federal law's new requirements that states pay more administrative costs and reduce payment error rates.



Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams, center, and advocates gathered on the steps of the Oregon Capitol on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, to urge lawmakers to support anti-hunger initiatives. Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Members of an anti-hunger coalition including the Oregon Food Bank visited the Capitol to urge lawmakers to support the department's budget request, and to consider allocating \$3.5 million to pay for benefits for the immigrants who lost SNAP eligibility and up to \$25 million for food pantries. They're also supporting Senate Bill 1581, which would require schools to offer free lunch and breakfast to all students, as most already do.

"This is not about charity," Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams said. "It's about responsibility. Food is not a privilege, it's not political leverage, it's a basic

human right, and Oregon is stronger when everyone eats."

In prior sessions, the coalition has sought unsuccessfully to extend food benefits to more than 60,000 Oregon residents who meet income thresholds but don't qualify for SNAP because they're not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Last year, they tried a scaled-down bill that would have extended benefits to people 25 and younger and 55 and older.

Matt Newell-Ching, senior public policy manager at the Oregon Food Bank, said advocates were "heartbroken" to give up on the goal of food aid for all, regardless of immigration status, during this

legislative session.

"Given all the circumstances, it was going to be too big of a hill to climb this session," he said. "It still remains our North Star that everyone deserves food."

Adrienne Sampson, a member of the Oregon Food Bank's policy leadership council and of the Bitter Water Clan of the Navajo Nation, described how she used local food banks, SNAP, the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program and occasionally cash assistance through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to care for herself and her children while escaping domestic violence.

Sampson, who now lives on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation with her children and spouse, a member of the Cayuse tribe, said she couldn't imagine life without the assistance she received when she needed it.

"In indigenous teachings, good food is medicine, water is medicine, laughter is medicine," she said. "In order for our communities to be happy and productive, we need access to nourishing food, clean water and less financial stress."

Changes to SNAP eligibility for refugees and asylum seekers are hitting African refugees in Oregon hard, said Yonas Kassie,

executive director of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center. Families he works with are losing an average of \$400 per month in food benefits and many are forced to choose between rent and groceries.

"These are families who escaped war, trauma and persecution, came to Oregon for safety and are now facing different kinds of crisis, hunger," Kassie said. "This crisis is not because they are not trying. It's because the system is failing them."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/05/oregon-anti-hunger-advocates-push-for-food-bank-funding-school-meals/>

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FAST FACT

Given the state's challenging budget situation, the coalition backed off earlier efforts to extend food benefits to all income-eligible Oregonians regardless of immigration status.



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OPINION

Jeremy Ruark, Opinion Page Editor

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

A5

PERS reform starts with removing conflicts of interest

DOUGLAS BERG
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The Oregon Public Employees Retirement System is set to take another massive bite out of public budgets starting in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Still reeling from an even bigger increase that took effect last summer for the current biennium, public agencies will feel unprecedented pressure as they struggle to absorb this new shock.

The two increases mean that by 2029, PERS contributions will have increased almost 80% over the 2023-2025 biennium, from \$5.26 billion to \$9.35 billion, over 25% of payroll.

Shocking as these increases are, they shouldn't be surprising. They are the inevitable result of years of failures by a succession of PERS Boards.

Such a big spike in contributions could have been prevented. Its main cause is the depletion of reserve accounts, known as "side accounts," established years ago to soften contribution hikes by tapping the accounts each biennium.

Responsible PERS

boards would have planned for the end of the side accounts by gradually raising contributions each biennium to blunt the future increase. Instead, PERS Boards showed a stubborn unwillingness to raise contributions enough, leaving the agencies exposed when the inevitable contribution increase arrived.

The 2008 financial crisis should have been a wakeup call. Overnight, PERS funding crashed to 80%. Suddenly the board was facing a large unfunded liability, which means too little money coming into the system to pay promised pensions under current assumptions.

One key assumption that the PERS Board controls is the assumed rate of return on PERS investments. A large unfunded liability means the assumed rate is set too high — PERS investments would not earn enough to meet pension promises. Lowering the assumed rate produces higher contributions from public agencies but improves system funding.

How did the PERS Board react after 2008?

For five years, the PERS Board did nothing



The Public Employees Retirement System building in Tigard. Courtesy photo from the Oregon State Archives

to increase contributions, leaving the assumed rate of return unchanged.

Finally a new board chairman arrived in 2013 and lowered the assumed rate for three consecutive bienniums. In 2019, progress stalled again. Only one reduction has been made since then.

PERS Boards failed to understand that keeping agency contributions artificially low is like backing up water behind an unstable dam. Eventually the deluge will come, as it has now with these enormous contribution hikes. And there may be more to come. Despite the billions of new money coming into the system, its funding is even worse than it

was 2008.

Why did PERS Boards behave this way, and what can be done?

For decades, conflict of interest has marred PERS decisions and their oversight. Lawmakers, governors, and judges are all PERS members in some form. PERS members held half of the PERS Board positions before 2003 reforms. Today two out of five board members can be PERS members.

Whatever the motivations, the results are unmistakable. For decades, PERS Boards had their priorities backward. First, they approved such generous pensions that by 2000 many retirees were collecting

pensions equal to their final salaries. Then, when the 2008 financial crisis exposed the cost of those decisions, they refused to ask for enough contributions to fund the pensions they created.

Reform is long overdue.

Lawmakers can reform the system by mandating that all five PERS Board members and their spouses have no connection to the PERS system, either as a beneficiary or in any other capacity. We've seen how badly PERS was managed with PERS members having substantial influence on the decisions. Only by having a truly independent board is there hope for the PERS system.

Meanwhile, as public agencies scramble to manage over \$4 billion in added PERS costs by 2029, we wait to see what PERS hands them next.

Douglas Berg moved to Oregon in 2008 after a long career in information technology. He soon became interested in Oregon issues such as ballot measures, taxation and the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System.

His opinion pieces and letters have appeared in The Oregonian/OregonLive, the legacy Eugene Register-Guard, and Lookout Eugene-Springfield. He has testified before the PERS Board and the Oregon Investment Council.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/pers-reform-starts-with-removing-conflicts-of-interest/>

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

The Arc of Lincoln County is proud to announce the completion of new gutters and soffit repairs on the Circle Center Building (old Mary Garrison school) in Toledo.

The nonprofit bought the building in June and has been completing necessary building improvements in the months since.

They received a large grant to cover most of the project's cost from The Roundhouse Foundation. The Roundhouse Foundation is a private family foundation based in Sisters,

Oregon that supports creative solutions to the unique challenges associated with rural culture and the landscapes of the Pacific Northwest.

For more information call 541-904-0700 or visit their website at www.RoundhouseFoundation.org. The remainder of the gutter cost came from The JTMF (John and Tami Marick Family) Foundation and a private donation.

The Arc of Lincoln County is a non-profit supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The group has many plans for the

building including housing their thrift store, which generates funds for the program, as well as many uses that will benefit the community. They are so grateful to be able to do these repairs to upkeep the building, making it a welcoming place for their participants, their families, future customers and visitors from the community.

*Nikki Holland
Lincoln County*

OPPOSES ICE FACILITY

As a Depoe Bay/Lincoln County resident, I'm completely opposed to

any type of ICE facility at the Newport airport or anywhere else in Lincoln County.

Your most recent coverage mentioned a court filing by DHS/ICE Operations Support that no facility construction would happen before May 1, 2026 - 90-days away.

I encourage the Lincoln County Leader to stay on this issue every day and report to the community with every issue.

Thank you,

*Michael Johnson
Depoe Bay*

ONLINE POLL

PREVIOUS POLL

Are you ready for winter, or do you want the warm spring-like conditions to continue this month?

54.5% Ready for winter

45.5% Want more spring-like weather

NEW POLL

Do you agree with Gov. Kotek's call to stop all immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated?

• Yes

• No

We want to hear your opinions.

Email: jruark@countrymedia.net

Lincoln County Leader

WWW.THENEWSGUARD.COM
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classified news entertainment business the arts opinion weather travel sports



LCSD Teen CERT students demonstrate emergency response skills

Students from all four Lincoln County School District high schools have participated in a Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) skills certification, putting their emergency preparedness training into action.

Teen CERT is a training program that educates high school students about disasters that may impact the area in which they live.

In this semester class, students learn hands-on disaster response skills that empower them to become a part of the school's emergency response efforts and rescue their fellow

students when professional responders are not readily available due to the magnitude of the disaster situation.

During the certification event in late January, students rotated through a series of hands-on testing stations designed to practice and assess the real-world emergency response skills they have been developing throughout the program. Working in pairs, students demonstrated competencies such as performing CPR, safely removing contaminated gloves, properly shutting off natural gas, putting out small fires, and providing



During the certification event, students rotated through a series of hands-on testing stations designed to practice and assess the real-world emergency response skills they have been developing throughout the program. (Courtesy photo from the LCSD)

basic first aid and disaster

are injured, among other skills.

"Students were challenged, encouraged, and empowered in their emerging disaster response skills," LCSD Safety Coordinator Sue Graves said. "They grew in confidence over the course of the day-long event as they progressed in their skills from 'proficient' to 'mastery' grades."

Over three dozen volunteers and staff from a variety of local, state and Federal emergency response organizations came together to run the event and evaluate students as they demonstrated

their new skills.

"It takes a lot of skilled and dedicated people to pull off a big event like this," Graves said. "We are grateful to have so many great partners who are eager and willing to give a full day to support and invest in our Teen CERT students at this event."

The LCSD administration said it was also honored to host staff from Woodburn Fire Department and Woodburn School District as observers who are working to develop a similar Teen CERT program in the Woodburn schools.

FESTIVAL

From Page A6

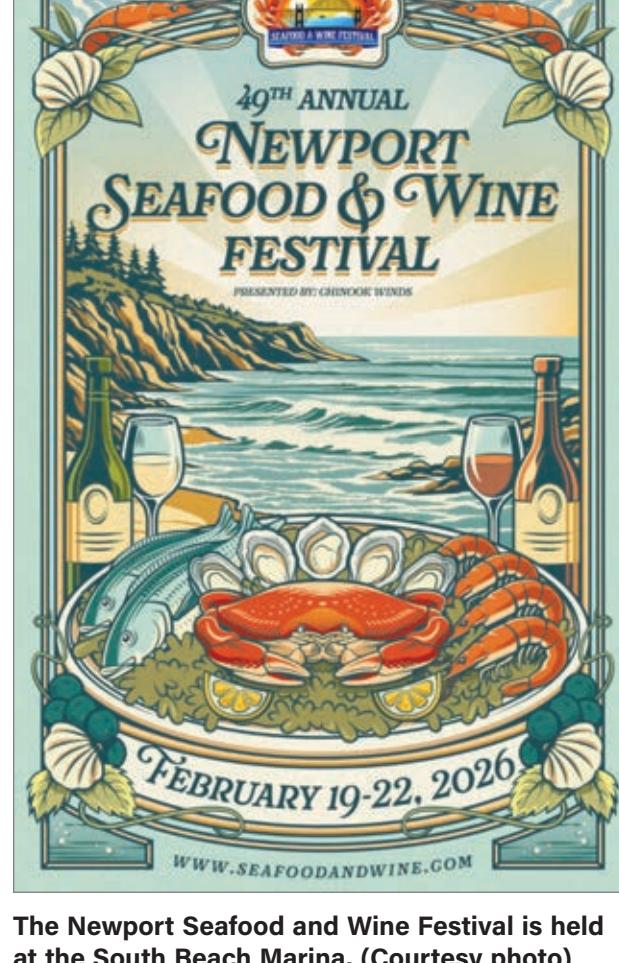
largest fund raiser for over 20 local nonprofits each year," he said.

While Patterson added it was difficult to provide a dollars-and-cents value that the annual festival creates, he said the impact is significant.

"The year before last when we had over 25,000 people attend," he said. "Many of the local businesses, our legacy businesses here, came to me and said that Saturday was the largest revenue day in the history of their business, so the impact it can make is significant. We are getting calls this week from people because they want to reserve their B and B or their hotel room for next year, a year out. We have people from all over the county who call us and make reservations six and 12 months in advance."

Patterson said they festival has been "polished."

"We've really tried to work hard to make it a little more professional. A



The Newport Seafood and Wine Festival is held at the South Beach Marina. (Courtesy photo)

little more less carnival. Mixed drinks and high alcohol are out. We've really worked hard to polish the event because

it kind of had a reputation of too much drinking," Patterson said. "We've tried to clean a lot of that up. Last year many of our



New at the festival this year is the Raw-some Bar, a dedicated seafood experience designed for those who crave the purest flavors of the Pacific Northwest. (Courtesy photo)

"The festival is a legacy and a heritage for Newport. It is a great event for the community."

— Wayne Patterson, Newport Chamber Executive Director

vendors told us the type of customers that they're seeing are buying more high-class wines. They're buying more food and more items. These are the kind of people that we want to bring to our community."

The vibe created, Patterson said reflects the polished effort.

"We've brought back music. We have a sound tent," he said. "A big change is that Pelican Brewery has taken the place of the Rogue Brewery, and they are

sponsoring the beer tent.

So, the overall impact the festival makes to the community is important and it is a fun event to go to. There is so much there to eat and see."

This year, the Newport Seafood & Wine Festival is raising the bar—literally. Making its highly anticipated debut for 2026 is the Raw-some Bar, a dedicated seafood experience designed for those who crave the purest flavors of the Pacific Northwest.

"We've been trying to find a way to bring in

more local fresh items to people who are visiting," he said.

With safety as a number one priority, organizers are providing free shuttle buses to the festival. The large yellow shuttle busses will run on a continuous loop, stopping at most of the major hotels as well as Agate Beach, Historic Nye Beach, Deco District, Historic Bayfront and South Beach. This year we will be going as far south as Seal Rock to as far north as Agate Beach.

See more details and ticket information at <https://www.newport-chamber.org/newport-seafood-wine-festival/>

BACKGROUND

The festival began in 1977 with the intention of boosting the local economy during the slowest time of the year. The chamber president at the time, Bob Spangler, and former Sen. John Brennenman came up with the idea to simultaneously promote Newport's seafood industry while bringing visitor dollars to the central Oregon coast.

By 1980, attendance was up to 8,000, and the location was moved to the dry moorage building in South Beach. The event continued to grow and expanded to a three-day event. By 1987, a Commercial Wine Competition was added.

Today, the event runs for four days and draws thousands of visitors to Newport during the last full weekend in February, with more than 125 vendors — seafood vendors, craftspeople, and Northwest wineries — all under a tented venue in South Beach. More than 300 volunteers, a dedicated volunteer committee, and local support from city and county agencies make this annual event possible. Presenting sponsor Chinook Winds Casino Resort has generously supported the event over the years.

Arline Toates

March 30, 1936 - February 1, 2026



Arline Claire Toates of Penn Valley, PA died peacefully on Sunday, February 1st, 2026 at home. She was 89.

Arline was born on March 30, 1936 in South Bend, WA to the late Ernest and Gladys (nee Johnsen) East. She graduated from Jefferson High School and Portland State College, both in Portland, OR, and had a long career in teaching.

Arline enjoyed reading, doing puzzles, and friendly sports betting with her sister. She also loved flowers, gardening, and most of all being a grandma.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard, and is survived by her daughter, Julie Brethauer, and sons, James Brethauer (Laurie), Scott Toates, and Greg Toates (Stephanie). Her grandchildren are Breanne Toates (Casey), Brandon Toates (Megan), Dustin Brethauer, Lucas Johnston, Noah Thomforde-Toates, and great grandchildren Colton Frances and Roman Johnston.

No service will be held at this time.

Memorial Contributions can be made to Waldport Food Share C/O South Lincoln Resources PO Box 1638 Waldport, OR 97394

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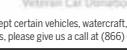
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Veteran Car Donations

Robert "Bob" Doyle Whitson

February 26, 1941 - January 26, 2026



Robert "Bob" Doyle Whitson, 84, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026, at Marian Estates in Sublimity, Oregon, with his family by his side.

Bob was born on February 26, 1941, in Hugo, Oklahoma. In 1956, he moved with his family to Springfield, Oregon, where he would build deep roots and lifelong friendships.

On June 16, 1962, he married Kathy (Pinkham) Whitson, beginning a devoted partnership that spanned more than six decades.

Bob worked for Georgia-Pacific in Springfield for 30 years, serving in supervisory roles for 16 of those years. He later worked in management for Springfield Forest Products and Omak Wood Products. Always eager to learn, Bob attended Lane Community College through the Dislocated Workers Program, earning a degree in Computer Science.

Faith and community were important to Bob. He was a longtime member of Trinity Baptist Church in Springfield and later remained active in civic and volunteer efforts. After retiring to Waldport, Oregon, where he lived for 22 years, Bob volunteered with Oregon State Parks for a

decade and brought joy to many by placing Duncan glass floats along the beaches for five years. He also served for many years as Vice Chairman of the Southwest Lincoln County Water District. In 2019, Bob and Kathy moved to Marian Estates in Sublimity, where he spent his final years.

Bob is survived by his wife, Kathy Whitson; his children, Craig Whitson and his wife Ann of Portland, Oregon, and Angela (Whitson) Pickett and her husband Shawn of Sammamish, Washington; and his grandchildren, Megan Pickett and Derek Pickett of Sammamish, Washington. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Trevor Pickett. He was the oldest of three brothers, Walter Whitson (deceased) and his then wife Judy of Springfield, Larry Whitson and his wife Lori also of Springfield.

Bob will be remembered for his strong work ethic, quiet dedication, kindness, and deep love for his family. He took pride in serving others and left a lasting impact on the communities he called home. His steady presence, gentle spirit, and thoughtful ways will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

No services are planned.

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DEPARTURE

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FUNDS

From Page A1

who need additional literacy support receive it early and consistently," ODE Deputy Director of Academics Dr. Candice Castillo said. "By prioritizing districts with higher concentrations of need, ODE is helping schools deliver high-dosage tutoring that can make a meaningful difference in students' reading outcomes."

All districts receiving HDT supplement funds are required to:

- Prioritize funds for their highest-need schools, based on 3rd-5th grade ELA proficiency.
- Supplement, not supplement funds already allocated to HDT.
- Funds must be used to expand or establish new tutoring activities.
- Participate in ODE's HDT Community of Practice taking place through March 2026.

Participants will learn about current research on effective HDT, identify key actions for high-quality implementation, and share resources and best practices.

Many districts are using HDT Supplement funds to strengthen tutor training and ensure high-quality implementation aligned with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) frameworks.

"By providing tutors

with strong training, ongoing support, and opportunities to observe other high-dosage tutors, we help them see effective strategies in action," Central Point School District Director of Education Christine Bech said. "These experiences build their capacity to better serve students who benefit from additional MTSS support."

BACKGROUND

In the 2025 legislative

session, ODE received additional funds to support statewide early literacy efforts. The HDT Supplement distributes \$12 million directly to prioritized school districts to expand tutoring programs focused on improving early literacy outcomes for grades PreK-5.

ODE is allocating approximately \$3,000 per student for 15% of 3rd-5th graders in each eligible district who are not yet proficient on

state standardized tests. Additionally, approximately \$1.5 million (12%) of all funding is being set aside to support small districts (<1650 ADM), which is commensurate to the percent of students served in small districts across the state.

See More information about the HDT Supplement attached to this story online at the Lincoln County Leader website.

PROJECTS

From Page A1

development of 84 affordable housing units

- \$1 million for Oregon Coast Community College to construct a new Aquaculture Technician Training Facility and purchase specialized equipment to support careers in commercial fishing, seafood food processing, maritime technology and aquaculture
- \$1.015 million for the Siletz Valley Fire District to help build a new fire station, which

would house their fire apparatus and enable the creation of a Level 1 Evacuation Shelter

BENTON COUNTY

- \$1.031 million for the city of Corvallis to support the purchase and installation of equipment for a fully functional emergency backup center

COOS COUNTY

- \$1 million for the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay to replace work docks and expand a travel lift slip used to haul out vessels, including commercial fishing vessels, for



The funding will be used for upgrades at Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue, Siletz Valley Fire District, develop affordable housing in the county, and to construct a new Aquaculture Technician Training facility at Oregon Coast Community College. Metro Creative Connection

service and inspection

CURRY COUNTY

- \$1.031 million for Curry

County to support long-needed improvements at the Curry County Jail

- \$1 million for the city of Brookings to work to replace aging water infrastructure along Easy Street

DOUGLAS COUNTY

- \$3.15 million for Umpqua Community College to redevelop a college-owned building into affordable housing for students
- \$800,000 for Glide Revitalization to bring to fruition its vision for a multi-use community facility

LANE COUNTY

- \$1 million for Lane County to strengthen its fire radio network

- \$675,000 for the Mapleton Water District to extend the service life of Mapleton's water storage tanks

- \$858,000 for the city of Springfield to replace existing body-worn cameras and in-car video systems used by police officers

- \$800,000 for the city of Cottage Grove to support community policing
- \$250,000 for the city of Florence to work to stabilize a landslide along the Siuslaw River and repair damaged stormwater infrastructure.

FLU

From Page A1

viruses," the OHA states on its website. "More than 200,000 people are hospitalized with influenza each year in the U.S. Certain groups of people, including older adults, young children, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions, are at higher risk for serious complications from influenza illness."

Lincoln County Public Health Communications Coordinator and PIO Asia Richardson said her agency monitors influenza activity through the Oregon Health Authority dashboards, which include routine disease surveillance, including laboratory reports and trends in healthcare visits.

As of late January, Lincoln County Health had not received information suggesting that flu activity in the county is significantly different than past seasons. Even though individual case counts, and specific locations are not publicly reported, Richardson said Lincoln County Health continues to monitor local and regional trends and her agency encourages community members to focus on prevention measures, including vaccination, rather than the annual strains circulating.

"Each flu season can vary based on which strains are circulating and how well the seasonal vaccine matches them. Some strains can cause more severe illness,

particularly among older adults, young children, pregnant people, and those with underlying health conditions," she said. "Regardless of strain, influenza can lead to serious complications, which is why annual vaccination is strongly recommended along with taking steps like handwashing, staying home when sick, and seeking medical care if symptoms become severe remain important every flu season."

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills. Not everyone with flu will have a fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Flu vaccination rates in Lincoln County have declined slightly in recent years, consistent with trends seen in other parts of Oregon.

"Oregon Health Authority data show that at the end of flu season, vaccination coverage in Lincoln County was 30.9% during the 2023-2024 season and 28.7% during the 2024-2025 season. For the 2025-2026 season, vaccination coverage is currently at 23.8%.

"Lower vaccination levels mean that the community is less protected against flu transmission.

It is not too late to get a flu vaccine in Lincoln County," Richardson said. "Lincoln County Public Health recommends that everyone six months and older receive an annual flu vaccine, unless advised otherwise by a healthcare provider. Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of serious illness, hospitalization, and complications from influenza."

Richardson added that there is an adequate supply of flu vaccine available in Lincoln County, and people can get vaccinated through healthcare providers, pharmacies, Lincoln County Public Health (call 541-265-4112) or Coastal Healthcare (call 541-265-4947). There have been no reports of any shortages from other providers.

In addition to getting vaccinated, Richardson said people can help protect themselves and others by washing their hands regularly with soap and water, using hand sanitizer, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and seeking medical care if flu symptoms become severe.

WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Seizures
- Fever above 104

degrees

- Any fever in a child younger than 12 weeks

- Dehydration (no urine for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)

- Worsening of chronic medical conditions

- Dizziness, confusion, or difficulty to arouse

Lincoln County School District (LCSD) Director of Special Education Dr. Carol Stock said that while the district did see an uptick in student illnesses reported in December, the district's average absence rate per day for illness was trending down in January for every one of the district's eleven schools.

"When caregivers report absences to our school offices, our staff ask for symptoms in order to monitor for an increase in particular symptoms related to flu, noro-virus or pertussis. However, unless a caregiver tells us their child was diagnosed with the flu, we do not know their particular illness," Stock said.

The LCSD engages in a variety of disease prevention practices, guided by board policy, Oregon Health Authority, Lincoln County Public Health, and best practice.

"When 20% or more of students from one classroom or 30% or more of the student body

in any school are out ill

with the same symptom, we notify Public Health and collaborate with our state epidemiologist to determine an appropriate course of action," Stock said. "New for this school year, our contracted

custodial service now has access to absence rates due to illness for every school. They monitor for an uptick in illness and respond with increased disinfection as appropriate."

Stock encourages parents to familiarize themselves with LCSD guidance regarding when to keep their child home from school and when ill, report their child's symptoms to the school office.

"Our school-based health centers, located at each of our LCSD high schools, also offer flu vaccines, Stock said. "A student's regular attendance is critical to their academic success. For this reason, we encourage students to avoid infection via universal precautions like handwashing and covering coughs and

remain home with fever, vomiting or diarrhea to avoid the spread of infection."

Follow health-related stories online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

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2026 LINCOLN COUNTY ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NOTICE

As part of the County Road Department, the Vegetation Management Program utilizes Integrated Pest Management tools for control of vegetation along county roads and operates under the authority of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

Regular maintenance is performed for driver safety, visibility, road shoulder and ditch integrity, as well as noxious weed control. Our approach integrates preventive, cultural, mechanical, chemical, and biological control measures.

The County uses mowing, brushing, grading, manual weed-pulling/cutting and location-specific treatment with herbicides. Indiscriminate road spraying

is not utilized in Lincoln County. Noxious and invasive treatments are

specifically applied by state-licensed and trained staff utilizing effective formulations and methods. Treatment may occur on the county roads

specified in our website.

Please note that we are no longer going to post roads with anticipated

treatment dates as weather conditions frequently disrupt our scheduling and

result in the need to re-post later, which is inefficient and causes confusion.

We will continue to post roads with orange signs on the day of treatment.

Adjacent property owners desiring an alternative to Lincoln County's

Integrated Pest Management practices on their property frontage(s) may

obtain a **Private Maintenance Agreement** permit application for the current

year.

For a listing of county roads involved in this program and more information

on the **Private Maintenance Agreement** option, please visit our website at

<https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/469/Vegetation-Management> or contact

Lincoln County Public Works at (541)-265-5747.

Sudoku answers

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



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GROVES

Corporate profits, consumer spending reverse Oregon's deficit

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon lawmakers meeting at the Capitol to balance the state's budget are staring down a much rosier economic forecast than expected.

Lawmakers will have about \$106 million more revenue to work with in the state's general fund than expected and \$50 million more from other non-general fund revenues, a significant increase from the \$63 million budget deficit they were expected to be grappling with following the last economic forecast in November, and a near-full turnaround from the \$373 million deficit they were told to expect in August.

Oregon's chief economist, Carl Riccadonna, and senior economist, Michael Kennedy, presented the surprising news and the state's latest quarterly economic forecast on Wednesday to House and Senate revenue committees and previewed some of their findings on a call with reporters Tuesday evening.

Riccadonna said the gap between market forecasts and actual revenues has been a problem not just for state economists but national ones during the last year. Data showing strong economic output in the midst of market uncertainty from tariffs, an anemic labor market and rising unemployment has confounded economists nationwide.

"This is the conundrum that forecasters are dealing with. Normally there's a tight relationship between growth and employment. At the moment, that has broken down," Riccadonna said.

Whether that's due to a rebalancing in hiring that boomed after the COVID pandemic, or due to the proliferation of artificial intelligence in the workplace meant to replace human labor, or both, is too difficult to know for certain right now, Riccadonna said.

"It's probably contributions from both factors, but understanding the weighting — is it a little AI or a lot AI? — has huge implications as we're trying to put together a personal income tax forecast. Time will tell and that's the only way to understand what's happening here. This is a conundrum my team's dealing with," he said.

Lawmakers will also have

\$147 million in unspent revenue from the last budget cycle to apply to the state budget during the next 18 months.

The roughly \$106 million general fund revenue boost in the latest forecast is from corporate income tax revenues and other revenues coming in higher than expected, though personal income taxes are down more than \$40 million from the previous quarter. Another \$50 million that lawmakers will have to work with comes from lottery and corporate activity taxes that came in higher than expected.

Overall, the state is looking at more revenue than expected in the quarter ahead due to several factors, Riccadonna explained:

— Spending stimulated by the Republican tax and spending cut megalaw and from the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates by about 2% over the last year.

— Less uncertainty related to tariffs than at the start of 2025. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide in the next few months whether President Donald Trump can continue ordering them by executive fiat.

— High corporate profits, business activity and stock market valuations driven by the "hyperscalers" such as AI processing and data centers selling cloud computing and data storage and management, and the semiconductors needed for the server farms.

"The fact of the matter is that the corporate profits environment is strong. Financial market valuations are close to record high levels, and so this offsets a lot of the weakness that we would see in wages and salaries, especially in the lower tier households," Riccadonna said.

Democratic lawmakers expressed relief that they'll have more money to work with to shore up nearly \$1 billion in federal revenue losses from the Republican tax and spending cuts, and frustration that the economic boosts seem to indicate healthy corporate, rather than household, budgets.

"While modestly good news at the state level, most Oregonians won't be impacted by what we learned in the revenue forecast today. Many will wake up tomorrow and still struggle to pay skyrocketing healthcare costs, rising rent,



The Oregon Department of Revenue building in Salem on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025. Lawmakers will begin 2026 with \$300 million more than expected for the state's budget, state economists reported. Alan Cohen / Oregon Capital Chronicle

and growing grocery bills," House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, said in a statement.

"Oregon's economy continues to show signs of resilience, even though President Trump's economic policies are exacerbating inflation pressures and cost of living challenges for Oregonians," Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement. "My focus remains on driving solutions for people struggling to make ends meet and defending Oregon's values in the face of federally-driven cuts to essential services."

Republican leaders used the forecast to poke holes in Democrats' plan to cut ties with three of the 115 provisions of the Republican tax and spending cut law to keep nearly \$300 million in tax revenue in the state.

"Raising costs on businesses and middle-income Oregonians right now is indefensible, and voters have already rejected this approach in overwhelming fashion," Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, said in a statement. "With additional resources on the table, Democrats are deliberately choosing to suppress economic growth and shrink our tax base."

Economy continues to split
During the last revenue forecast, Riccadonna told lawmakers that Oregonians are experiencing the current economy differently based on

their income bracket, creating a K-shaped economy where upper income-earners see their money grow while low-income households see theirs fall.

On Tuesday, Riccadonna said the split is becoming even more pronounced. Capital gains taxes are on the rise from the sale of stocks, but overall income taxes are down, indicating low wages and lost jobs or low job growth.

The national unemployment rate decreased slightly in recent months, but Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has characterized this period as one of "low hiring, low firing," leaving many trapped outside of labor markets or stuck in jobs with little mobility.

Oregon's unemployment rate seems to be plateauing after reaching the highest level — outside a recession or recovery period — in a decade, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Filings for unemployment insurance have slowed compared to the same time last year, signaling that maybe labor conditions will begin to meet growing economic output, Riccadonna said.

There is strong growth in production and the national output of durable goods, Riccadonna said, but it's not being reflected in the labor market. Among the strangest relationships is growing output from the manufacturing sector, coupled with large

manufacturing job losses, especially in Oregon.

"It's unusual," he said. "In normal economic conditions, if the economy grows faster, you have more job gains to go along with that."

Economists at the Federal Reserve recently changed their assessment of economic activity from "modest" to "solid," and Riccadonna characterized it as "sturdy."

Clarification: The article previously stated that lawmakers would have \$300 million more than expected to spend during the next 18-months of the budget cycle. This included \$147 million in unspent funds from the previous cycle, which state budget writers were aware of. The article has been updated to clarify that state budget writers are in fact looking at a combined \$156 million more than expected from general fund revenue and other non-general fund revenues that improved.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/state-budget-goes-from-deficit-to-expected-300-million-increase-in-latest-economic-forecast/>

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Parents, educators, workers ask Oregon lawmakers to separate from federal tax code

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

As Oregon lawmakers weigh how to balance the state's budget, hundreds of Oregonians visited the Capitol to plead with them not to cut funding for public defense, career and technical education and kids with disabilities.

In the fall, Gov. Tina Kotek asked all state agencies to put together proposed cuts of 2.5% and 5% to their current budgets in response to a tax law President Donald Trump signed in July that created a \$900 million gap in the state's 2025-27 budget cycle. Democratic lawmakers are now considering partially disconnecting from the federal tax code to preserve state funding, while an updated state revenue forecast Wednesday indicates the current hole is closer to \$650 million.

More than 260 people signed up to testify to the state's budget-writing Joint Ways and Means committee during a public hearing about which programs to prioritize, according to committee co-chair Sen. Kate Lieber, D-Portland. People waited in a single-file line to enter the overflowed hearing room downstairs in the



A crowd — many of them wearing matching purple shirts representing the Service Employees International Union Local 503, which represents about 72,000 caregivers and other professionals — lines up to attend a public hearing in the Oregon Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee. Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon State Capitol, while an additional 660 people had submitted written testimony as of Wednesday morning.

Sen. Deb Patterson, D-Salem, was the first to testify, reminding lawmakers that Oregon has disconnected from the federal tax code several times before, such as in 2018 when it disconnected from a 2017 federal 20% deduction for certain pass-through and proprietorship entities.

"Today we must disconnect with parts of (the federal tax

law) that benefits multinational corporations at the expense of working people and must focus on protecting access to health care and other programs, as well as protecting our state fiscal resources for the long-term," Patterson said.

Dozens of education advocates — including community college leaders, public school teachers and students — testified against cutting programs that expand access to career and technical education, promote careers in agriculture, science,

technology, engineering and math, or STEM, as well as programs geared at improving attendance and community outreach.

Several called for dipping into the state's \$1.2 billion education stability fund to ensure no mid-year cuts.

Parents of children with disabilities also implored lawmakers to break with the federal tax code and preserve the parental income disregard — a program that lets children with disabilities qualify for Medicaid-funded services based on their own income rather than their parent's income.

Shasta Kearns Moore, the state chapter lead for Little Lobbyists Oregon, said she was shocked to see the program on the list of possible funding cuts for the Oregon Department of Human Services.

"If we're not funding services that let children survive, then what are we even doing?" she said. "Disabled kids can't just work harder or raise funds another way."

Penny FitzMaurice testified alongside her young son, Silas, who she said has a rare neurogenetic syndrome, needs 24/7 care and must be within a foot of distance from her at any time

because of safety concerns.

"Medicaid allows parents to keep their children at home instead of institutions," FitzMaurice said. "It allows us to go to schools and not hospitals, and without it, many families would be forced to make impossible choices between working, housing and caregiving."

At least two people spoke in favor of Trump's tax changes at the hearing, criticizing lawmakers for subsidizing so many programs. Others who testified asked lawmakers to maintain funding for transportation projects, the state's public defense commission and natural resource agencies in charge of monitoring water and air quality.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/parents-educators-workers-ask-oregon-lawmakers-to-separate-from-federal-tax-code/>

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Seven Capes Bird Walk Feb. 14

Seven Capes Bird Alliance welcomes birders of all abilities to show their love for our region's exceptional birdlife.

Bird Walk: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, February 14

Location: Friends of Wildwoods Open Space

Take a walk through the forest right in the heart of Lincoln City. We'll start on the short boardwalk that overlooks a marsh, looking for raptors and sparrows. As we enter the woods, we'll look for year-round residents such as woodpeckers, chickadees, and kinglets, along with wintering sparrows.

With luck, we'll spot a



Downy Woodpecker. (Courtesy photo from Ruth Shelly)

flock of warblers! Meet at the trailhead on NE West Devils Lake Road.

There is limited parking along the street at the trailhead.

Sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation.



Two users enjoy the beach courtesy of David's Chair. (Courtesy photo)

New all-terrain track chair coming to Pacific City

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

David's Chair OMS announces the installation of an additional electric all-terrain track

chair to their Pacific City location.

The non-profit is dedicated to expanding outdoor access for

See **CHAIR**, page B2

Music on the Bayfront



Alistair Kok



Charmaine Leclair

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Chamber Music on the Bayfront, a part of the Newport Symphony Orchestra Jeanette Hofer Chamber Music Series.

This is a special presentation of Baroque music performed on period instruments with NSO musicians, Alistair Kok on the Baroque violin, Charmaine Leclair on Baroque cello and Diane Baxter on the harpsichord all tuned to the A415 pitch that was common for that era.

Music programmed will highlight the European countries that produced many of the favorite composers of the era: Couperin from France, Vivaldi from Italy and Bach from Germany. The program will end with a tongue in cheek neo-Baroque work by 20th century composer, Alfred Schnittke.

The Doerfler Family Theatre is a favorite venue for audience members to enjoy

a stunning view of

Newport's historic bay-

front while enjoying

delightful music.

When: Saturday, February 14th, at 7:30pm

Where: Doerfler Family Theatre, Pacific Maritime Heritage Center 333 SE Bay Blvd. Newport, OR 97365

How much: \$44 for

regular seating. Students \$10 with ID.

Repertoire: Francois

Couperin: Les

Barricades Mysterieuses

Antonio Vivaldi:

Cello Sonata #1

J.S. Bach: Sonata #3

Alfred Schnittke:

Suite in Olde Style



Diane Baxter

Perch & Pour Birding Happy Hour at Salishan Coastal Lodge

SEVEN CAPES BIRD ALLIANCE

Seven Capes Bird Alliance has teamed up with Salishan Coastal Lodge to host "Perch & Pour" on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. This bird-oriented happy hour is open to everyone and starts at 3 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month in The Attic.

Salishan opens The Attic an hour early for birders of all levels to gather in conversation and sip on a craft cocktail or non-alcoholic beverage in a cozy setting. In addition to sharing

recent bird sightings, this month's discussion will toast Valentine's Day with an exploration of birds that mate for life.

In addition to beverages, The Attic presents a farm-to-fork dinner menu crafted from sustainably sourced ingredients. Perch & Pour participants are welcome to stay when The Attic opens to the public at 4 p.m. And don't miss out on live music every Wednesday from 5-7 p.m.—come for the birds, stay for the tunes!

Salishan Coastal Lodge is easily accessible

at 7760 US-101 in Gleneden Beach. Join us to share your latest bird sightings and stories!

SEVEN CAPES BIRD ALLIANCE

Seven Capes Bird Alliance (sevencapes.org) was founded as Audubon Society of Lincoln City in 2005. A nonprofit membership organization and chapter of the National Audubon Society, Seven Capes is active in education and advocacy for protection of birds, other wildlife,

See **PERCH**, page B2



Tundra swans. Courtesy photo from Ruth Shelly



NSO

Alistair Kok, violin

Charmaine Leclair, cello

Diane Baxter, harpsichord

newportsymphony.org

IN THE GARDEN

Tiny gardens, big impact: how to make (and care for) a terrarium

KYM POKRNY
Leader Guest Column

If you don't have space for a garden — or even if you do — a terrarium may be in your future.

"Terrariums are an easy way to have some greenery," said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "And they're fun to make."

A terrarium can also reflect the personality of its maker. With stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your own stamp on it. Let kids gather favorite items — they'll enjoy helping.

Start with a clear glass container. You may already have one at home; thrift shops are a good source for low-cost options.

Choose the smallest plants you can find.

"You don't want plants to grow too big and out of the terrarium too fast, so get very small ones and don't fertilize too much," Edmunds said. "But eventually they'll need to be replaced."

Think of them as fleeting beauties."

For beginners, select open containers. Closed terrariums trap humidity, which can lead to disease or algae.

Skip gravel; use charcoal

Avoid a bottom layer of stones that can allow water to pool and cause root rot. Instead, begin with horticultural charcoal, which helps absorb runoff and odors and discourages bacterial growth.

Mix and match textures — and consider air plants

When shopping, look for varied textures and colors. If you choose succulents or cacti, use a potting mix formulated for them and water much less than other plants — often once a month or less. Let the soil dry completely before watering. Use a container with a wide opening to keep humidity low.

Air plants (*Tillandsias*) add contrast with spiky forms and gray-green foliage. They don't grow in soil; in nature they perch on trees and absorb moisture from the air. Place them in the terrarium,



By using a variety of stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your stamp on a terrarium. Courtesy photo from Stephen Ward

then remove once a week to mist thoroughly or soak for 30 minutes. Hang upside down to dry before returning them so moisture doesn't collect in the crown.

When buying air plants, avoid brown tips, which signal neglect. Outer brown leaves can be trimmed. For all plants,

choose healthy specimens with similar light and water needs. If you're unsure, ask nursery staff for guidance. Small plants are an investment — often about \$5 each — so select carefully.

How to make a terrarium

Materials

- Clear glass container.

Choose a size you can reach into for planting.

- Horticultural charcoal (garden centers).
- Soilless potting mix.
- Tiny plants (call ahead to confirm availability).
- Small decorative rock (craft stores).
- Chopstick or large knitting needle.

Maintenance

- Water: Once a week or less, depending on container size and light. Check moisture by inserting a finger to the first knuckle. Target water to the base of each plant.

- Fertilizer: Use a water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength about once a month. To keep plants small longer, skip fertilizer.

- Succulents/cacti: Water sparingly; allow soil to dry between waterings.

- Air plants: Remove weekly to mist well or soak for 30 minutes, then dry upside down before returning.

Give it a try — you may be surprised how easy and satisfying a tiny, living landscape can be.

Kym Pokorny writes for the OSU Extension Service. In the Garden is a frequent Leader County Leader feature.

Newport college student to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi

Erin Robison of, Newport, has been elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, at San Jose State University

Robison is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students

in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a

desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

CHAIR

From Page B1

individuals with mobility challenges.

David's Chair has provided a track chair for use in Pacific City for the last two years, and is able to provide a second track chair due to a generous grant from Travel Oregon.

The chairs, available at no cost to users, enable more people—including individuals with disabilities and veterans—to experience meaningful outdoor recreation.

This expansion was made possible through a generous grant from Travel Oregon and in continued partnership with Tillamook Coast Visitors Association and Pelican

Brewing Company. An additional track chair in Pacific City will significantly increase the organization's ability to serve the community and enhance inclusive access to the beach.

"We are grateful for the amazing support we have received from Travel Oregon, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, Pelican Brewing Company and the community," CEO and Founder Steve Furst said. "The work that Jeff (Kalleveig) our Northwest Operations Manager has done to bring a second track chair to this community is astounding and necessary."

A public installation event will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the parking area beside

Doryland Pizza, 33315 Cape Kiwanda Drive, in Pacific City. Community members are invited to attend and celebrate this milestone as David's Chair continues its mission to broaden outdoor access in the year ahead.

BACKGROUND

David Hartrick was diagnosed with ALS in 2017 and found that his decreased mobility made it hard to access outdoor recreation opportunities that he loved. Looking for a solution, Hartrick found that advanced dual-track wheelchairs capable of navigating unpaved services cost around \$20,000, which would not be covered by insurance.

Hartrick reached out to a friend, Steve Furst, and the pair began brainstorming about ways to solve the problem, and David's Chair was born. That year, Hartrick and Furst joined with a group of friends to host a fundraiser, bringing in the \$20,000 necessary to purchase the organization's first chair.

Tragically, Hartrick succumbed to his illness in 2018, but Furst continued the mission of developing the organization, and over the next four years four more chairs were added to the fleet. The original chairs are housed outside Medford and made available for free for weeklong stretches with a tow-and-go model.

Then, in 2022, Furst began looking to expand the nonprofit's footprint, by bringing on Kirk Nicholson to serve as Fundraising and Development Director. Nicholson helped to expand David's Chair's fundraising efforts, adding multiple golf outings to a once annual fundraising weekend that had traditionally supported the organization.

Nicholson also helped connect Furst with Oregon Parks Forever Executive Director Seth Miller, whose organization supported grant writing efforts that have funded the acquisition of more chairs.

As new chairs came online, Kalleveig said that Furst and others at the nonprofit began considering supplementing the tow-and-go model with chairs in permanently located in specific locations close to recreation opportunities. Kalleveig said that requiring participants to have a vehicle that could tow and was properly insured was a barrier for many and that the group found that most borrowers were taking the chairs to the beach, leading the organization to explore housing chairs there.

"What they found was that most of the people who were checking the chairs out in Medford were taking them to the beach," Kalleveig said. "So, how do we build partnerships so that we could locate chairs on the coast and make it something that is more accessible for people?"

That has led to eight chairs being placed at locations up and down the Oregon Coast, from Gold Beach to Seaside, with the greatest concentration, four, in Tillamook County.

In Tillamook County, three of the four chairs have their \$7,000 in annual costs covered by the Tillamook Coast Visitor's Association (TCVA) using transient lodging tax dollars, while the costs for the fourth are covered by the City of

Rockaway Beach.

Rockaway Beach's chair is housed at Saint Mary by the Sea Catholic Church, with the city's park and beach cleanup volunteers managing its lending. The chair in Manzanita is housed at the visitor's center, with a group of volunteers overseeing borrowing.

In Pacific City, the chair is housed in a small enclosure at the rear of the PC Pour wine bar, with another group of volunteers handling operations.

Tillamook's final chair is hosted at Happy Camp Hideaway in Netarts, where owners Bruce and Teresa Lovelin house and manage the chair, with Kalleveig praising their commitment to accessibility. "You have a great partnership just out of the goodness of their heart," Kalleveig said. "They wanted to be able to provide this and are excited about it provides access."

Other chairs on the Oregon Coast are in Seaside housed at the Elks Lodge, Newport at Don and Ann Davis Park, Florence at Heceta Beach County Park, Gold Beach and a tow-and-go chair in Coos Bay.

More information can be found and reservations made at davidschair.org.

Tillamook Headlight Herald Editor Will Chappell contributed to this report.

Lincoln County Leader

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

SUDOKU

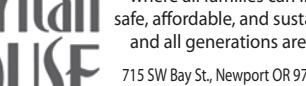
数独

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

Samaritan House
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Samaritan House envisions a community where all families can live together in safe, affordable, and sustainable housing; and all generations are able to thrive.
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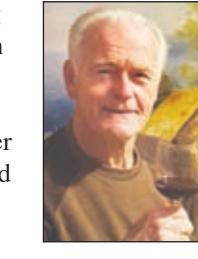


Nothing beats a local wine

As a wine merchant for 30 years, beginning in 1981, I got to know many Oregon wine pioneers somewhat closely at a time when Oregon began asserting itself as a wine region of quality and not just a poor neighbor of California.

Enough time has passed that I have seen death take such talented wine giants as Hillcrest Vineyard's Richard Somer, The Eyrie Vineyards' David Lett and Dick Erath of Erath Vineyards Winery.

And in mid-December, less than a month from his 89th birthday on Jan. 12, Tualatin Vineyard's co-founder, Bill Fuller



Joseph Swafford

died. Possessing a warm and open personality and a great sense of humor, Bill Fuller was a good friend and mentor to many members of the Oregon wine industry, to which I can attest. Bill poured his wines at our Champagne Patio Restaurant and Fine Wine Shop and at dinners Christina and I were fortunate to attend. His sense of public relations were a great boost for the underdog winemakers competing against their counterparts in California. Bill co-founded the Oregon Wine Growers Association and served on national enological organizations promoting technological and educational

advancements in winemaking. Proof of his talent came in the 1982 London International Wine and Spirits Competition. Bill Fuller's '81 Willamette Valley Chardonnay and '80 Estate Pinot noir each took Gold, two of the 15 trophies awarded out of more than 1,000 entries from around the world. Fuller, who was otherwise a world traveler, unfortunately was unable to accompany the award-winning Tualatin wines to London but his partner Bill Malkmus was there to receive the awards from Queen Elizabeth II. On a trip some years ago that we

made together to a tasting staged by a group of Portland businessmen at a Washington vineyard just north of Portland, I teased Bill by suggesting that he could pour for the Queen his Tualatin Vineyards Chardonnay that, in 1989, was the first Oregon wine to make the prestigious Wine Spectator Magazine's annual "Top 100" list.

By 1997 Bill Fuller was ready to retire from winemaking. Tualatin Vineyards merged with Willamette Valley Vineyards. Later Bill moved to Florida for a period of time. We connected on his return to Oregon and I picked him up for us to attend that vineyard tasting trip mentioned above. During the drive he turned to me

and described how he had planted vineyards, grown grapes, harvested them and made wine, promoted and educated the public on the Oregon wine industry and sold his wines both in and out of state. Then he said that while in Florida he had even helped a shop owner as a retail wine salesman. "Joseph, when it comes to wine, I guess I've done it all."

I recently saw—for at least the fourth or fifth time—on OPB's excellent series, Oregon Experience, the 2012 documentary film that shows the history of the Oregon wine industry. The story, "Oregon Wine: Grapes of Place", is well told in interviews with Somer, Lett, Erath and the other pioneers, including, of course, Bill

Fuller, who we will all miss.

I've learned that increases in locally-produced wines in Russia are trying to fill the void that tariffs have created. These wines are drinkable, but are not going to replace wines no longer available from Western Europe. I don't think you'll hear any Russian accents at our upcoming Newport Seafood and Wine Festival, much as they would love to get their hands on our good Pinot noir, but you should make plans to attend. That is the 49th Annual Newport Seafood and Wine Festival out at the South Beach Marina, Thursday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 22.

Cheers!
Joseph Swafford
jcswaff56@gmail.com

Toledo Public Library receives grant for new shelving

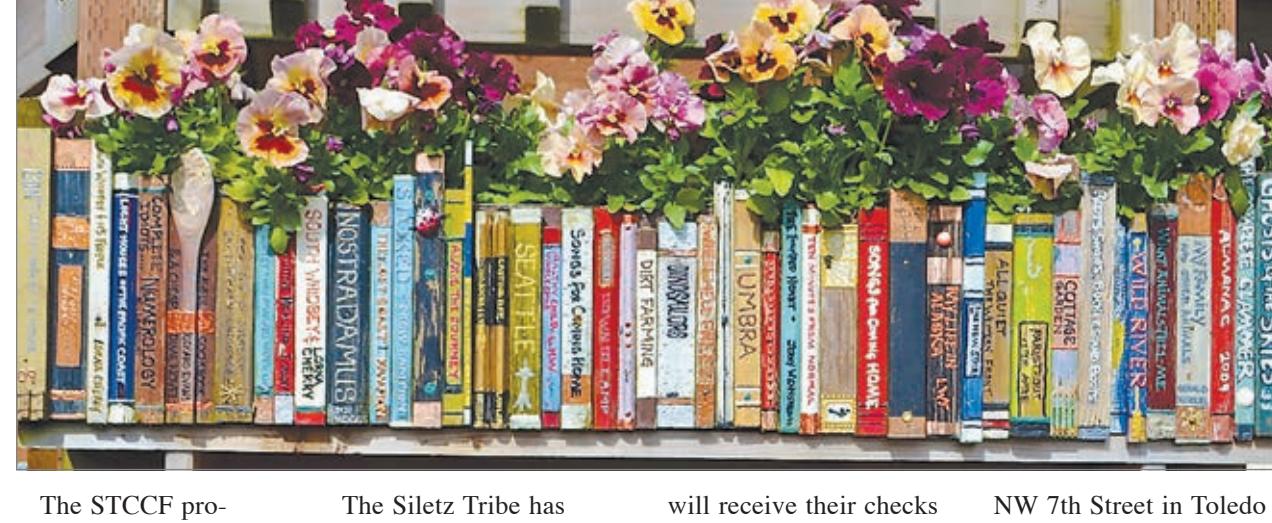
The Toledo Public Library will soon receive some new and improved shelving, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCCF).

The shelving upgrades and replacement are part of a larger effort to update and revitalize the library's interior.

The library has occupied its current building since 1975. The library saw a major update in the early 1990s, including expansion of its collection floor and the addition of lower-level

storage and meeting spaces. In addition to regular building maintenance and improvements, the quality, condition, and accessibility of interior spaces is a priority to Library staff.

"We're extremely grateful to the STCCF for providing the funds necessary to purchase the bulk of our new shelving," Toledo Library Director Harrison Baker said. "Keeping our collection spaces up to date is an ongoing process, and a grant like this allows us to get a lot of that work done in a shorter time."



The STCCF provides quarterly grants to eligible organizations within its service area.

The Siletz Tribe has distributed more than \$14.5 million to date through grants and other efforts. Current grant recipients, including the Toledo Public Library,

will receive their checks at a public distribution reception Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

The Toledo Public Library is located at 173

NW 7th Street in Toledo and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, contact the Toledo Public Library at 541-336-3132.



ODF's Browns Camp OHV campground in Tillamook State Forest is moving to a reservation only system. Reservations can be made online for the 2026 season starting March 2. The campground will reopen on April 1. Courtesy photo

Popular Tillamook State Forest campground to transition to reservations-only system

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Browns Camp Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Campground in the Tillamook State Forest, managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), will transition from a first-come, first-served model to a reservation-only system when it reopens for the season on April 1, 2026.

"We are making the change to a reservation-only campground for two main reasons," ODF's State Forests Recreation Facilities Manager Ben Burns said. "First, it benefits our campers. When you load up your toy hauler for a weekend trip, it's reassuring to know you'll have a campsite waiting when you arrive. This system eliminates the frustration of driving around the campground hoping to find an open site."

ODF successfully

implemented a reservation system at all equestrian campgrounds in 2025 for similar reasons.

"Horse campers often travel long distances with large trailers and have limited options if a campground is full," Burns said. "The reservation system worked well to eliminate that problem, so based on that success, we're expanding reservations to OHV campgrounds."

The change will also improve operational efficiencies.

"Fee collection takes up a significant portion of staff time during the camping season," Burns said. "The time saved can instead be used to better maintain and improve our campgrounds."

Browns Camp has 28 campsites, and ODF encourages visitors to reserve early—especially for busy holiday weekends—when reservations open on March 2, 2026.

The group camping area at Browns Camp is already reservation-based and will remain unchanged.

Campsites can be reserved at www.reserveamerica.com. Same-day reservations will be allowed although reserving sites prior will be recommended due to spotty cell phone service in the area. Camping fees will remain the same at Browns Camp: \$20 per night.

In addition, ODF is working to improve overnight options for OHV users in Tillamook State Forest by converting the Diamond Mill OHV Area into a campground.

"We are actively working on that project, and it will be ready to roll out for the 2026 season," Burns said.

Visit ODF's [Recreation, Education and Interpretation website](http://recreation.education.oregon.gov) and [social media sites](http://www.facebook.com/odf_recreation) for updates and opening announcements."



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300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Retired married couple to live on the ocean in a 2 bdr/1 ba home while care taking a waterfront vacation home.

1,650.00 mo. rent.

Misc. duties required:

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MEDICAL OFFICES

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

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LCL26-049 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF MARY A. McCUSKER, DECEASED, Lincoln County, Oregon, Circuit Court Case No. 25PB08270. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative at 285 SW Highway 101/P.O. Box 700, Waldport, Oregon 97394-0700, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED and published: February 11, 2026. Michael Rithaler, Personal Representative. Law Office of Holly Anne Gibbons, LLC, Attorney for Personal Representative, P.O. Box 700, Waldport, OR 97394-0700.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

recorded on 10/23/2017, as instrument number 2017-10377 in the office of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage Deed of Trust in that the payment due upon the death of the borrower(s) was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of 1/28/2026 is \$652,110.78; and WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, SEE ATTACHED notice is hereby given that on 3/12/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: COMMENCING AT THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, WILAMETTE MERIDIAN; THENCE EAST, A DISTANCE OF 776.07 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING EAST 465.09 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE ABOVE SAID SECTION 23; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID LINE 400.51 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF AN EXISTING GRAVELED ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 357.54 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE OREGON COAST HIGHWAY NO. 101, 216 FEET; THENCE WEST, 220 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID HIGHWAY, 200 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; BEING AND SITUATED IN SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, WILAMETTE MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF LINCOLN AND STATE OF OREGON, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THOSE PORTIONS CONVEYED TO BERT HARLEY AND ELAINE HARLEY BY DEEDS RECORDED SEPTEMBER 29, 1983 IN BOOK 144, PAGE 974 AND RECORDED MAY 9, 1984 IN BOOK 149, PAGE 2318, AND RECORDED MARCH 18, 1996 IN BOOK 314, PAGE 2160, FILM RECORDS AND THAT PORTION CONVEYED TO ELAINE B. RUMERY BY DEED RECORDED SEPTEMBER 3, 1966, IN BOOK 258, PAGE 613, DEED RECORDS FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON, commonly known as: 523 NE FOREST HILLS ST., YACHTS, OR 97498. The sale will be held at: AT THE OLIVE STREET ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 225 W OLIVE STREET, NEWPORT, OR 97365. Per the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated opening bid will be \$471,090.00. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, the winning bidders with the exception of the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten percent (10%) of the Secretary's estimated bid amount in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to the undersigned Foreclosure Commissioner. Ten percent of the estimated bid amount for this sale is \$47,109.00. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$47,109.00 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15 day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the Foreclosure Commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner, not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at

any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner, not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is based on the nature of the breach, this loan is not subject to reinstatement. A total payoff is required to cancel the foreclosure sale or the breach must be otherwise cured. A description of the default is as follows: FAILURE TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL BALANCE AND ANY OUTSTANDING FEES, COSTS, AND INTEREST WHICH BECAME ALL DUE AND PAYABLE BASED UPON THE DEATH OF ALL MORTGAGORS. Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below. Date: January 29, 2026 CLEAR RECON CORP. Foreclosure Commissioner: By: Hamsa Uchi Title: Foreclosure Supervisor 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: (858) 750-7777 Fax No: (858) 412-2705 2/11/26 2/18/26 2/25/26

LCL26-059 CITY OF NEWPORT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING. The Newport Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to review and make a recommendation to the City Council on File No. 1-Z-26, amendments to Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Section 14.44.040, Conditions of Development Approval, related to HB 2658 (2025) Restrictions on Local Government Exactions. The measure prohibits municipalities from requiring frontage improvements, such as sidewalks, curbs, or gutters, as a condition of issuing a building permit for the renovation or alteration of existing buildings with a construction value of \$150,000 or less (2026 dollars), unless the project increases the building's size or changes its occupancy classification. The prohibition does not extend to required right of way dedications, system development charges, or compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Pursuant to Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Section 14.36.010, the Commission must find that the change is required by public necessity and the general welfare of the community in order for it to make a recommendation to the City Council that the amendments be adopted. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the request above or other criteria, including criteria within the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances, which the person believes to apply to the decision. Failure to raise an issue with sufficient specificity to afford the city and the parties an opportunity to respond to that issue precludes an appeal, including to the Land Use Board of Appeals, based on that issue. Testimony may be submitted in written or oral

division processes contained in ORS 92.031 and ORS 197A.140 to 197A.146. Pursuant to Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Section 14.36.010, the Commission must find that the change is required by public necessity and the general welfare of the community in order for it to make a recommendation to the City Council that the amendments be adopted. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the request above or other criteria, including criteria within the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances, which the person believes to apply to the decision. Failure to raise an issue with sufficient specificity to afford the city and the parties an opportunity to respond to that issue precludes an appeal, including to the Land Use Board of Appeals, based on that issue. Testimony may be submitted in written or oral

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form. Oral testimony and written testimony will be taken during the course of the public hearing. The hearing may include a report by staff, testimony from the applicant and proponents, testimony from opponents, rebuttal by the applicant, and questions and deliberation by the Planning Commission. Written testimony sent to the Community Development (Planning) Department, City Hall, 169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365, must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day of the hearing to be included as part of the hearing or must be personally presented during testimony at the public hearing. The proposed code amendments, additional material for the amendments, and any other material in the file may be reviewed or a copy purchased at the Newport Community Development Department (address above). Contact Derrick Tokos, Community Development Director, (541) 574-0626, d.tokos@newportoregon.gov (address above). 2/11/26 **LCL26-057 THE MOBILE HOME, SERIAL NO. 182576A, LOCATED AT 10 BREEZE ST #12, DEPOE BAY, OR 97341, IS ABANDONED.** The former tenant for the space in the Lincoln Trailer Park is Gabino Capuchino. The home will be sold by private sale, seal bids, with a minimum bid of \$8,000. The landlord, Henry Nguyen, is accepting bids until February 22, 2026. Please mail your bid to PO Box 32, Beaverton, OR 97075, and contact the landlord at 503-318-9616 if you wish to inspect the home. 2/11/26 2/18/26

LCL26-062 CITY OF NEWPORT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport, Oregon, will hold a public hearing in the City Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, to consider File No. 1-VAR-26, a request to deviate from the orientation of "front of house" to face the Easement rather than SE Harbor Crescent Dr. This will allow the house to face the same way as the house directly to the west #402. This is also the way the driveway connects to the house due to property being landlocked and having to utilize the prearranged easement. The garage portion of the building will have a 10'-6" setback from the edge if the easement, a 52% deviation from the required 20-foot garage setback, and 30-ft deviation from the front yard setback. The building will possess a 5-ft rear yard setback from the south property line, a 50% deviation to the 10-ft rear yard setback. A deviation

NOTICE OF LINCOLN CITY URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY LCL26-061 ANNUAL REPORT

The Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency has published the FY 2024/25 Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report. It is on file at City Hall and with the Agency. The full information is available to all interested persons.

The Year 2000 Urban Renewal Area: The Year 2000 Area has reached its maximum indebtedness and is no longer impacting taxing districts. It is operating on program income. In FY024/25 the Agency received \$302,815 in program income including a \$250,000 transfer from the Property Rehabilitation Fund and expended \$326,948. The FY 2025/26 budget includes \$529,565 in revenues and expenditures in the General Fund and \$488,711 in revenues and expenditures in the Property Rehabilitation Fund.

Roads End/Villages at Cascade Head Urban Renewal Area: In FY 2024/25, the Agency received \$703,386 in property tax revenue and expended \$37,645. The estimated tax revenues for FY 2024/2025 are \$843,795. The FY 2025/26 budget includes \$2,328,214 in revenues and expenditures. The amount of maximum indebtedness remaining is \$86,990,581.67. The maximum indebtedness incurred in FY 2024/25 was \$33,495.75.

Nelscott Urban Renewal Area: In FY 2024/25, the Agency received \$150,219 in property tax revenue and expended \$535. The FY 2025/26 budget includes \$361,133 in revenues and expenditures. The amount of maximum indebtedness remaining is \$128,999,465. The maximum indebtedness incurred in FY 2024/25 was \$535.

The impacts on taxing districts due to the Roads End/Villages at Cascade Head Urban Renewal Plan in FY 2024/25 are shown below.

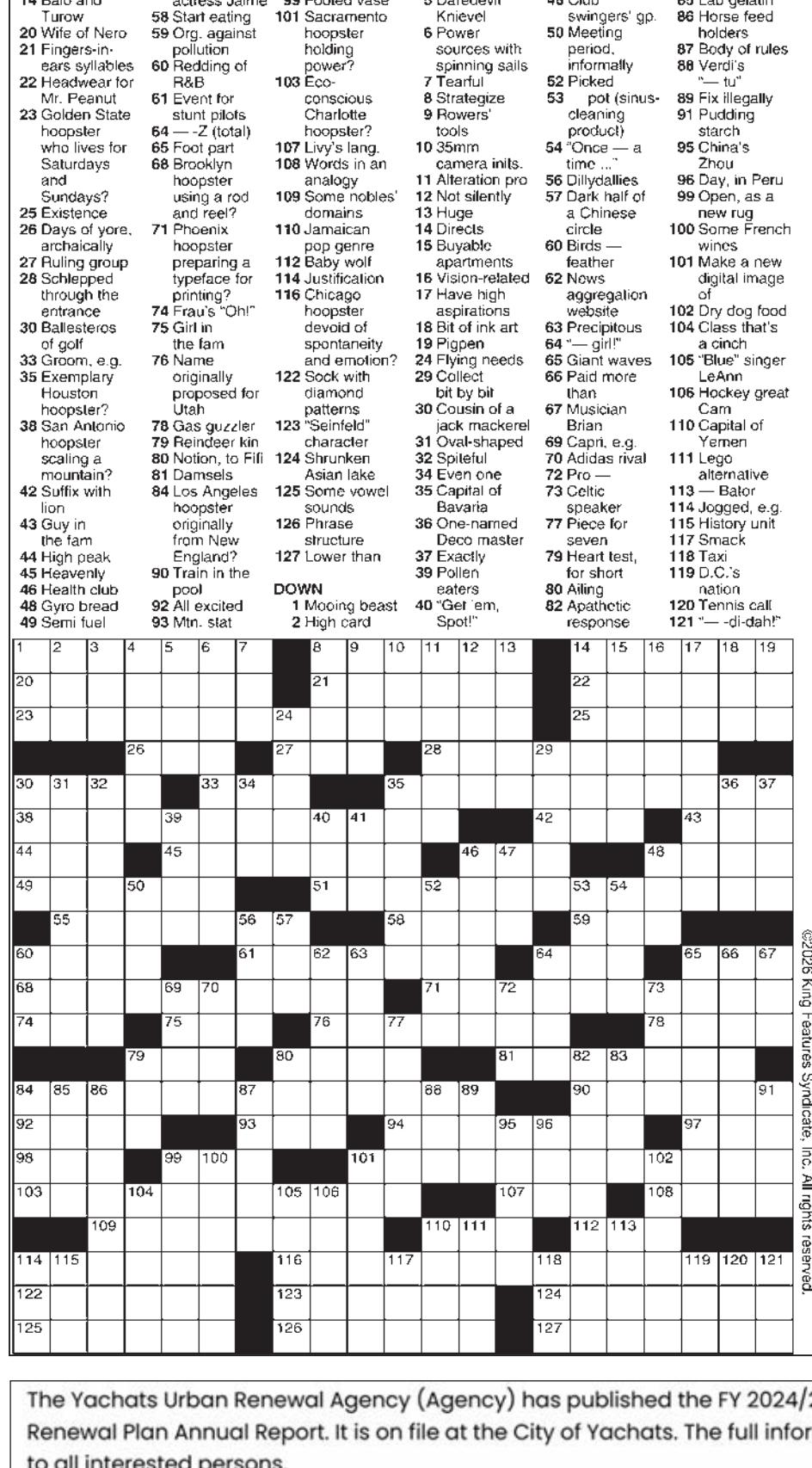
Taxing District	Taxes Levied with Urban Renewal	Taxes Levied without Urban Renewal	Urban Renewal Taxes Levied
Lincoln County General	26,757,389	26,907,531	150,142
Lincoln County Extension	428,390	430,665	2,275
Lincoln County Animal Services	1,044,359	1,050,046	5,687
Lincoln County Transportation	924,845	929,850	5,005
City of Lincoln City	9,060,827	9,279,215	218,388
North Lincoln Fire and Rescue #1	1,905,676	1,941,017	35,341
Water Devils Lake In	163,828	164,401	573
Water Devils Lake Out	187,100	187,543	443
North Lincoln Health	1,887,823	1,915,349	27,526
Oregon Coast Community College	1,663,779	1,673,106	9,327
Lincoln County School District	46,469,618	46,731,228	261,610
Education Service District Linn, Benton, Lincoln	2,886,714	2,902,866	16,152
TOTAL:	\$93,380,348	\$94,112,817	\$732,469

The impacts on taxing districts due to the Nelscott Urban Renewal Plan in FY 2024/25 are shown below.

Taxing District	Taxes Levied with Urban Renewal	Taxes Levied without Nelscott Urban Renewal	Urban Renewal Taxes Levied
Lincoln County General	26,757,389	26,789,700	32,311
Lincoln County Extension	428,390	428,845	455
Lincoln County Animal Services	1,044,359	1,045,497	1,138
Lincoln County Transportation	924,845	925,755	910
City of Lincoln City	9,060,827	9,107,689	46,862
North Lincoln Fire and Rescue #1	1,905,676	1,913,380	7,704
Water Devils Lake In	163,828	1,226,613	6
Water Devils Lake Out	187,100	188,428	1328
North Lincoln Health	1,887,823	1,893,739	5,916
Oregon Coast Community College	1,663,779	1,665,599	1,820
Lincoln County School District	46,469,618	46,526,048	56,430
Education Service District Linn, Benton, Lincoln	2,886,714	2,890,127	3,413
TOTAL:	\$93,380,348	\$94,601,420	\$158,293

999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES	999 PUBLIC NOTICES
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(D) Authorization of the	Variance will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts to property in the vicinity or zoning district in which the property is located, or adversely affect the appropriate development of adjoining properties. Adverse physical impacts may include, but are not limited to, traffic beyond the carrying capacity of the street, unreasonable noise, dust or loss of air quality. Geology is not a consideration because the Code contains a separate section addressing geologic limitations. (E) The Variance will not interfere with the provision of or access to appropriate utilities, including sewer, water, storm drainage, streets, electricity, natural gas, telephone, or cable services, nor will it hinder fire access. (F) Any impacts resulting from the Variance are mitigated to the extent practical. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the criteria described above or other criteria in the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances which the person believes to apply to the	decision. Failure to raise an issue with sufficient specificity to afford the city and the parties an opportunity to respond to that issue precludes the Land Use Board of Appeals, based on that issue. Testimony may be submitted in written or oral form. Oral and written testimony will be taken during the course of the public hearing. Letters to the Community Development/Planning Department, City Hall, 169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365, must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day of the hearing or be personally entered into the record during the hearing. The hearing will include a report by staff, testimony (both oral and written) from those in favor or opposed to the application, rebuttal by the applicant, and questions and deliberation by the Planning Commission. Pursuant to ORS 197.797 (6), any person prior to the conclusion of the initial public hearing may request a continuance of the public hearing or that the record be left open for at least seven days to present	additional evidence, arguments, or testimony regarding the application. The staff report may be reviewed or a copy purchased at the Newport Community Development Department (address above) seven days prior to the hearing. The application materials and the applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost or copies may be purchased at this address. Contact Derrick Tokos, Community Development Director, (541) 574-0626, d.tokos@newportoregon.gov (address above), 2/11/26	claims a lien in the amount claimed below, pursuant to ORS87.152, for the reasonable and agreed charges for labor and materials, storage or services provided at the request of the owner or lawful possessor of the following described personal property: Personal property: Evie; Official number: 593510; Reputed owner: Kenny Reitzenstein, Evie - 593510; Last known address: PO Box 787, Toledo, OR 97391; Security interest holder: None; Amount of claim of lien: \$10,368.18 (which includes storage of property and accrued late charges until sale date, and costs of lien foreclosure). The sale of the property will be "as is, where is" and there are no representations by the lien claimant as to the condition of the property or its title. Any person wishing to inspect the property prior to the sale may do so during normal business hours, by contacting the Harbormaster at 541-270-5557. 2/4/26	25, 2026. Email bids to: mbrown@portofnewport.com OR drop bid off at: Port of Newport, 600 S.E. Bay Blvd., Newport, OR 97365. Bid forms can be found online at www.portofnewport.com or at the address listed above. The sale of the property will be "as is, where is" and there are no representations by the lien claimant as to the condition of the property or its title. Any person wishing to inspect the property prior to the sale may do so during normal business hours, by contacting the Harbormaster at 541-270-5557. 2/4/26	REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$381,436.98 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, those sums being the following, to wit: 1. The installments of principal and interest, which became due on March 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 March 12, 2026 at the hour of 01:00 PM (PST), as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, Public Entrance, Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, 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 Auction.com at (800) 280-2832 or www.auction.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 Trustee's Agent, or the Trustee'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 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 PROTECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,
of 40% or more to a dimensional standard, such as a building setback, requires a variance subject to Planning Commission review and approval. The property is split zoned, with a portion being designated R-1/"Low Density Single Family Residential" and a portion R-2/"Medium Density Single Family Residential." The setbacks listed are applicable to the R-2 zone; the criteria for approval of a variance are: (A) A circumstance or condition applies to the property or to the intended use that does not apply generally to other property in the same vicinity or zoning district. (B) The circumstance or condition in "A" above is not of the applicant's or present property owner's making and does not result solely from personal circumstances of the applicant or property owner. Personal circumstances include, but are not limited to, financial circumstances. (C) There is practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship to the property owner in the application of the dimensional standard. 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File No.: 25-00840OR Dated: 12/29/2025 Affinia Default Services, LLC By: /s/ Laura Coughlin Name: Laura Coughlin Officer Title: Officer 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 NPP0482530 To: LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER 02/04/2026, 02/11/2026, 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026

Super Crossword



Final games approach for Tigers basketball



Sophomore Aida Lupo taking a contested shot against Westside Christian. (Courtesy photo from Lon French)



Senior Kol Tolan celebrates scoring 1000 points against Dayton on Feb. 6. (Courtesy photo from the Taft Tigers Boosters Facebook Page)

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Only one more game to go in the regular season for Taft's varsity basketball teams, and both programs have been fighting through their final hurdles ahead of the season finale against Amity on Feb. 13.

For the girls, the Tigers have been romping through the new year, winning game after game. For the boys, a senior's milestone achievement has cemented his spot in Taft High School history.

KOL TOLAN NOTCHES 1000TH POINT

Taft's Feb. 6 Senior Recognition Night was extra special for Kol Tolan.

Going into the final home game of his four-year Taft career, Tolan needed just three points against Dayton to reach 1000 points in orange and black. It didn't take long. By the end of the third quarter, Tolan had breached the milestone mark, attaining a career point tally that few Tigers have earned.

With one more game, Tolan will have another chance to add a few more baskets to his already impressive career total. Senior Zack Hankins was also recognized for his contributions to the Tigers' basketball. On a young Taft team, Tolan and Hankins captained the team as the program's only two seniors. Both wrap their careers having made the state playoffs twice in 2024 and 2025, and they were PacWest champions in 2025.

While Tolan's achievement was the highlight against Dayton, it was the Pirates who ended up victorious, mounting an impressive comeback to win 61-63. That loss brought Taft's record to 5-10 in the PacWest Conference and 8-15 overall.

With one game remaining, the Tigers have been eliminated from contention for a spot in the state playoffs. The defending PacWest League champions just haven't quite been able to find the wins needed to compete in one of OSAA's most stacked conferences. Four of the nine teams in the PacWest sit inside the top 20 of OSAA's 3A

rankings. Only two of Oregon's seven other conferences feature that many top-ranked sides.

The Tigers will finish their season away against Amity on Feb. 13.

TAFT GIRLS PREPPING FOR PLAYOFF PUSH

Senior Night for the girls was capped off with a resounding win over Dayton. The Tigers exploded for 81 points, beating the Pirates 81-24 in the final home game of Taft's season. It was the highest scoring night for Taft since at least before the 2013-2014 season, according to OSAA.org (OSAA.org does not have results for seasons before 2013-2014).

This year, the Tigers have built off their record-setting state qualifying campaign in 2025. Last season's Tigers finished the regular season with an 18-5 record, breaking a record that had stood since 1979. They finished with a 20-8 record and reached the quarterfinals of the state playoffs.

This season, the Tigers already have an 18-6 record

with one more regular-season game to play. At 13-2 in the PacWest, Taft is ranked #11 in OSAA's 3A rankings, hoping to make a return to the state tournament. The game against Amity will pit the two top PacWest teams against each other, with Taft seeking revenge for a 40-58 loss to the Warriors on Jan. 19.

Taft's only other league loss came against Jefferson on Feb. 2, with Taft losing a heartbreaker on the road 57-58. Senior Laney Lee put up a team-high 22 for the Tigers, but it was Jefferson who eked out the win, with Taft's shot at the buzzer refusing to fall. Despite that defeat, Taft enters the final game of the season on a great run, having won six of their last seven games.

One of the keys to their

success has been their high-octane offense. The Tigers have shown how potent their attack can be this season, notching 70 or more in three games and hitting at least 60 nine times. For reference, the Tigers had hit 70 points just once in five years. Last year, Taft scored more than 60 just three times. The Tigers have notched the second-most points in the PacWest this season with 1355, behind Amity's 1416.

Win or lose against Amity on Friday, the Tigers will look to extend their season in the league playoffs and, hopefully the state championships.

Follow game results at osaa.org and see Lincoln County high school sports features online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.



The Taft girls with the second place trophy from the Alsea Bay Classic. (Courtesy photos from the Taft High School Wrestling Facebook Page)



Nick Lattig on the podium after finishing second at 138 pounds at the Alsea Bay Classic.

Tigers place well at the Alsea Bay Classic

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Taft High School was well represented at the Alsea Bay Classic in Waldport Jan. 24, and both the boys and girls had plenty of hardware to show when action wrapped up.

The girls ended up with a second-place trophy, and the boys took seventh. Both programs ended their regular seasons on a high note, with wrestlers earning podium finishes in their final large-scale competition of the year.

GIRLS AT ALSEA BAY

On the girls' team, four athletes earned silver medals en route to their second-place finish.

Janelle Towers, Lynn Bryant, Natalie Islas, and Solange Gutierrez all took second in their respective weight classes.

Towers wrestled at 125 pounds and went 2-1 over the weekend with two pins to make the finals. Bryant grabbed her silver at 135 pounds with two wins and one loss in a round robin format, her one loss coming to the undefeated champion, Marshfield's Renee Anderson. Gutierrez reached the silver medal in a similar fashion, winning two matches and losing one to the eventual champion. Finally, Islas grabbed silver in a two-wrestler division, but fought hard against Coquille's Jerri Field,

ultimately going 0-2.

Third-place finishers for Taft included Altea Butler-Hill at 115 pounds, Malyka Warll at 170 pounds, and Stephanie Hargitt at 140 pounds. Each wrestler finished 1-2 at the tournament, with each win securing them a bronze medal. Olivia Hertz and Gieselle Hermosillo rounded out the placers for the Tigers girls, both earning fourth-place finishes. Hermosillo won her quarterfinal with a pin in less than a minute, but couldn't win to advance to the finals in her next match. She finished her tournament with a win in the consolation semifinals against a fellow Tiger, Ariandne Diaz Velazquez, but lost in the

third-place match.

BOYS AT ALSEA BAY

For the boys, their seventh-place finish was achieved with a second, a third, and two fourth-place finishes.

Nick Lattig led the way for the Tigers, finishing second at 138 pounds. Lattig received a bye into the semifinals, where he faced Lowell's Brendan Hourigan. Lattig dominated the match, winning by technical fall with an impressive 22-3 domination on the scorecard. In the finals, Lattig was pinned by Nestucca's Tegan Slavens to take second.

Finishing bronze for Taft was Kyren Carr. Wrestling at 285 pounds,

Carr put together an impressive 3-1 record, bouncing back after losing his second match to battle through the consolation bracket for a medal. Carr pinned Knappa's Camden Demase in the quarterfinals to earn a spot in the semis. After losing to Marshfield's Skylar Folau, Carr proved a tough out in consolation. Carr ended his weekend with back-to-back pins to secure a bronze medal.

The final two placers for Taft were Braylen Evjen and Ethan Hanson, who each finished in fourth at 132 and 138, respectively. Hanson won his quarterfinal match against Reedsport's Charles Stapleton, but was defeated in the semifinals

by Nestucca's Tegan Slavens. In the consolation semifinals, Hanson registered a lightning-fast pin against Coquille's Jeremiah Thompson, taking Thompson down in just 21 seconds. In the third-place match, Hanson fell to Lowell's Brendan Hourigan. Evjen also finished 2-2, with two pins comprising his wins, and a loss in the semifinals and third-place match to land in fourth.

Other boys wrestling for the Tigers were Dario Topete, Gabriel Thomas, Layton Cannon, Owen Kimberling, and Parry Carr.

Follow results and competitions for the Taft wrestling teams at flowrestling.org.