



Making the grade PAGE 12

Trump not blocked from ballot PAGE 7

THE NEWS Guard

December 5, 2023 Lincoln City's Largest and Most Trusted News Source Since 1927 \$1.50

Volunteers spreading Christmas spirit

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Volunteers will be working this week to assemble Christmas baskets following the launch of the annual Christmas Basket Toy and Food Drive in Lincoln City in November.

Community donations have been collected from large plastic barrels placed at businesses around Lincoln City of new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items to fill the Christmas baskets.

Each year North Lincoln Fire & Rescue (NLFR), the Eagles and Les Schwab, help between 1,200 and 1,500, according to organizers. The volunteers gather to sort, wrap and assemble the baskets.

Bucket locations

Samaritan Urgent Care
Cultural Center
Left Coast Realty
McKay's
Les Schwab
The Mall Office
Bi-Mart
Mo's
Ace South
Otis gas station
Churchill Realty
LCPD
Grocery Outlet
Walgreens
Safeway
Lakeview Senior Living
Dorchester
Ace North
Community Center
Samaritan building C
NLFR Station 14
Lincoln City Gifts
Lincoln City City Hall

Families who need assistance have been encouraged to apply for the program through the Eagles Lodge or NLFR. The application includes a wish list for the children, and the organizations strive to deliver at least one toy the children have specifically requested. All toy applications must be returned by Dec. 12.

The toys and food will be wrapped and packaged by volunteers, personnel from NLFR, the Eagles Lodge, and personnel from Les Schwab, at St Peter's the Fisherman's Lutheran Church located at 1226 South West 13th Street in Lincoln City.

Community involvement

NLFR's Marc McPherson said the toy and food drive would not be possible without the involvement of our entire community.

"For two months of the year, November and December, the toy and food drive is the reason I get up in the morning, there is nothing more rewarding than to see the smiles on the children's faces when we deliver toys and also the appreciation we get from the elderly and disabled when we deliver food," he said. "So many times we are greeted with hugs and tears. It is a feeling that cannot be duplicated anywhere else. This is my 14th year participating in the toy and food drive and I can't even imagine my Christmas without volunteering for the toy and food drive."

Firefighter Santa

McPherson takes on the role of Firefighter Santa during the holiday season.

"When I moved to Oregon 20 years ago one of the most common complaints that I would hear from families was that there was no local Santa to get their kids pictures with," he told The News Guard. "The families would be forced to drive into the

See **SPiRiT**, Page 3



Courtesy photo from Bob Gibson / Blue Water Photography

The Lincoln City Community Christmas tree shinning bright.

Lincoln City Cultural Center welcomes holiday tradition

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

It's standing proud and true right in front of the Lincoln City Cultural Center and the decorated 18-foot Christmas tree shines bright each night.

In previous years, Lincoln City Cultural Center Director Niki Price and her staff organized the set-up of a community Christmas tree on the northwest corner of the Center property along U.S. Highway 101. Adverse weather, specifically high winds, often knocked the tree to the ground. All that changed with the development of the Center's new Plaza.

This year's community tree, installed in a new dedicated sleeve in front of the historic Delake School entrance, was donated by Brett Hagedorn of Big Foot Christmas Trees in Dallas. It was transported free of charge by Joe Moore from the Mar-

ion/Polk Chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association. It was erected by crews from Cascade Civil Corp., on site to build the Plaza, and decorated by the Cultural Center's visual arts director, Krista Eddy, staff, and community volunteers.

"We upgrade our lighting and decorations each year, which is about a \$500 to \$800 expense, because we need specialized outdoor lights that have to last for about six weeks in the weather," she said.

Price said providing the holiday tree has been a tradition for approximately 11 years.

"We are right in the middle of town, we have space, and visibility, and this is a place for people to come and celebrate, so that's always a good thing," Price said.



Courtesy photo from Naomi Best
The green paint is not a spill. In fact, it's Lincoln City's first bike box.

Dangerous crossing gets safety upgrade

Lincoln City gets its first 'Kermit' bike box

NAOMI BEST
Correspondent
Country Media, Inc.

As Lincoln City residents have been telling City Hall, it's not easy to walk across the highway in the Delake neighborhood, where U.S. Route 101, also known as Highway 101, was widened to four and five travel lanes without adding bike lanes or crossing islands.

But Lincoln City's "main street" just got a little safer at the Highway 101 intersection with SE Third Street.

A crossing beacon project that was on Lincoln City's to-do list for years is nearly complete, and it has created a more relaxed way to cross from the D Sands Condominiums and housing on the west side, to the east side's Nauti Mermaid Beach House and El Torito Market.

Lincoln City Project Manager Daniel Wentz said the project is down to its "punch list," which is engineer-speak for crossing the it's and dotting the i's.

The highway in that spot is also a little greener.

With the project nearly buttoned up, passersby may be left wondering why there is a bright green rectangle of paint in the road between El Torito and the Escallonia building. The bright splash of green can be spotted from the northbound lanes of Hwy 101, at the intersection with SE Third Street.

The green paint is not a spill. In fact, it is Lincoln City's first bike box.

People who use bicycles as transportation colloquially refer to these green markings as "kermit," after the green Muppet known as Kermit the Frog. Kermit is shorthand for the

See **SAFETY**, Page 10

Police alerting public of local credit card scheme

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

The Lincoln City Police Department (LCPD) is requesting the public's assistance in identifying potential victims who may have had fraudulent charges placed on their credit cards.

The LCPD launched its investigation Nov. 17, following an incident that occurred at the north Chevron gas station where persons using their credit cards to

purchase fuel had an additional charge placed on their card.

"A former employee of the station fraudulently placed this additional charge on the card by scanning the card with a device without the knowledge of the card owner," LCPD Lt. Jeffrey Winn said.

LCPD believes there may be a large number of additional individuals who fell victim to this credit card fraud scheme.

"We are asking our residents and visitors of Lincoln City, specifically those who used credit or debit cards at the station on November 4th, 10th, 11th, 15th and 17th of this year, to check their bank statements and transaction history for any transaction listed as "Hot Dog Stand."

Winn said which LCPD is taking additional investigative measures to identify potential victims, given the nature of the case, "this may

be a time consuming process."

If you or someone you know discovers a transaction consistent with the above information, please call the Lincoln City Police Department at 541-994-3636 and ask for Officer Jon Humphreys or CSO Jim Folmar and reference case LCP23008921.

"The Chevron management has been fully cooperating with the investigation and there is no reason to

believe the scheme is still occurring as an initial arrest has been made in this case," Winn said.

On Nov. 17, the former employee, 43-year-old Jeremy Michael Brown of Lincoln City, was arrested on initial charges of Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Theft in the Third Degree and Identity Theft.

Brown was transported to the Lincoln County Jail and lodged on the listed charges.

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WEATHER

TUE.



56°/47°

WED.



54°/43°

THU.



51°/40°

FRI.



50°/37°

SAT.



50°/37°

SUN.



51°/40°

MON.



50°/42°

TheNewsGuard.com



COAST MOMENT



Jeremy C. Ruark/Country Media, Inc.

The surging ocean at Depoe Bay along the Oregon Coast. See more Coast Moments at thenewsguard.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 8 Bird Walk
Taft Waterfront and Siletz Bay Walk. The bay is a winter resting grounds for thousands of waterfowl including Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, and the possibility of a Eurasian Wigeon. Bald Eagles often put on a show and Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets are always present. Those attending will observe from the Taft dock, then drive south along the bay, ending at Salishan Nature Trail if time permits. Event scheduled from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet in the Taft Waterfront parking lot in Lincoln City. Sponsored by Explore Lincoln City and Lincoln City Parks and Recreation

Dec. 9 Garden Club Holiday Sale
The Seal Rock Garden Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary and is once again offering coastal residents hand-crafted holiday decorations at its Holiday Greens Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Seal Rock at the clubhouse, adjacent to the Seal Rock Fire Station, on the east side of Highway 101, 10377 Rand Street. The sale features green wreaths and swags of various sizes made from locally sourced greens, small live decorated trees and tabletop arrangements, all handmade and decorated by club members. Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or six for

\$5. You need not be present to win. Refreshments will be free for shoppers. A portion of the sale proceeds are donated to local projects to aid youth and women. For more information, text Marilyn, at 801-635-5001 or email at mlkid123@yahoo.com

On Going Music
Enjoy Singing? The Lincolnaires, an informal singing group, meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center and is looking for more voices. Come and join us. For more information, contact Karen Nichols 541-669-1147.

Vets Lunch
Veterans Free Homemade Soup and Sandwich offered twice monthly from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays at the Lincoln City B.P.O. Elks # 1886 located at 1350 S.E. Oar Avenue in Lincoln City.

Lincoln City Senior Center Events
Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets at 10 a.m. , first and third Thursdays.
Tai Chi 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednes-

days. No membership required. Donation to instructor suggested.
Folk Music Circle to begin meeting Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning in April.
Weekly Walk on LCCC track. No charge or membership required. 10:30 a.m. Mondays.
Chair Yoga 11:30 a.m. Mondays. No membership required. Donation to instructor suggested.

Central Coast Word Surfers
Writing group 1 to 3 p.m. every second Saturday of the month. Free. Driftwood Public Library, 801 SE Highway 101 in Lincoln City

Lincoln County Genealogical Society
Regular meeting first Saturday of each month from 10-10:45 a.m. Programs begin at 11 am. We host a kaffeeklatsch before our meeting from 9:30 a.m. -10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. Call 503-302-8892 or visit LCGSOregon.org.
If you have a community event coming up, send brief details with the date, time, location and contact phone/email to jru-rark@countrymedia.net.

Taft Dock shines for the holidays



Courtesy photo

The holiday lights stretch across the Taft Dock lighting up Siletz Bay. See more photos with this story at thenewsguard.com.



Courtesy photo

Visitors gather at the Taft Dock to view the holiday light display.



Courtesy photo

The holiday lights draw visitors to the dock during the Christmas season.

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Lincoln City Parks & Recreation and Explore Lincoln City hosted the annual tradition of the lighting of Taft Dock, known as Deck the Dock., Dec. 1, at Taft Dock located at SW 51st Street in Lincoln City.

The News Guard reached out to Explore Lincoln City Executive Director Kim Cooper Findling for insight into the holiday tradition.

The News Guard: How many lights are placed on the dock for this event, where did those lights come from, how much did they cost and who pays?

Kim Cooper Findling: Explore Lincoln City in partnership with Lincoln City Parks and Rec adorns the Taft

Dock with hundreds of lights in December. ELC has purchased the lights, adding to the display each year, including the addition of a lighted arch last year. Look for more lights at Regatta Park including an illuminated Sparky the Wish Dragon and a jet-skiing Santa over the lake.

The News Guard: When did this event first start and why?

Cooper Findling The City of Lincoln City has decorated the city in various ways for years, from wreaths to holiday-wrapped poles to lighted neighborhoods and businesses, to celebrate our community. The 51st Street dock was first lit in 2019, and Deck the Dock was born, with lights added to Regatta Park a couple of years later. This year holiday festivities return

to both Deck the Dock and Light up the Lake beginning December 1st and continuing until the new year.

The News Guard: What does Explore Lincoln City believe is the value of such a holiday display to the community?

Cooper Findling Holiday lights, beginning with the kick-off event on December 1 which includes carolers, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and cookies, bring the community together and remind us of the joy and gratitude of the season. The lights and events bring visitors to our community who invest their dollars into our businesses, and provide everyone with a fun, positive way to celebrate community and the season of cheer.

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SHERIFF’S TIPS OF THE WEEK

The dangers of driving drowsy

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

It is very important to stay alert while driving at all times, but especially during this time of year since weather conditions can rapidly become hazardous.

Here are several safety tips to keep in mind before hitting the road.

Feeling sleepy is especially dangerous when you are driving. Sleepiness slows your reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs your judgment just like drugs or alcohol.

People who are very sleepy behave in similar ways to people who are drunk. The impact that drowsy driving has on traffic safety should not be underestimated.

To remain alert and avoid drowsiness:

- Getting plenty of sleep, at least six hours, the night before a long trip.
- Traveling at times when you are normally awake and staying overnight rather than driving straight through.
- Scheduling a break every two hours or every 100 miles.
- Stop driving if you become sleepy; someone who is tired could fall asleep at any time – fatigue impacts reaction time, judgment, and vision, causing people who

are very sleepy to behave in similar ways to those who are drunk.

Not planning to work all day and then drive all night.

Drink a caffeinated beverage. Since it takes about 30 minutes for caffeine to enter the bloodstream, find a safe place to take a 20-30-minute nap while you’re waiting for the caffeine to take effect.

Avoid sleepy times of day. Take a mid-afternoon nap and find a place to sleep between midnight and 6 a.m.

Traveling with an awake passenger.

You are too tired to drive if you’re experiencing any or all of the following:

- Having trouble keeping your eyes open and focused.
- The inability to keep your head up.
- Daydreaming or having wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- Drifting from your lane or off the road or tailgating.
- Yawning frequently or rubbing your eyes repeatedly.
- Missing signs or driving past your intended exit.
- Feeling irritable and restless.
- Being unable to remember how far you have traveled or what you have recently passed.

For more information and tips, visit www.lincolncounty-sheriff.net

Man arrested on multiple charges

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

A Newport man faces multiple criminal charges after Newport Police responded to reports of a subject breaking items and acting erratic in the 300 Block of NW Coast Street Nov. 28.

Officers arrived in the area and began observing obvious fresh damage to businesses and residences in the area.

Officers observed broken windows, broken flowerpots, broken street signs, and other items broken or tampered with.

Multiple witnesses provided police with a description of the suspect and as officers began searching the area they located and



Metro Creative Connection
During the investigation, officers observed broken windows, broken flowerpots, broken street signs, and other items broken or tampered with.

detained the suspect. The suspect was identified as Zachary Arrow Smith, 38, of Newport. Smith's hands were all bloody and he was not wearing any shoes at the

time of police contact.

Officers began canvassing the area and located additional businesses and residences that had been damaged and or accessed. During the event

officers observed blood drops and smudges throughout the area, which led them to additional damage and victims.

Officers located multiple businesses and residences Smith had either entered or attempted to enter.

Smith was taken into custody and lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for the following charges:

- Burglary 1 x 2
- Burglary 2
- Criminal Trespass 1
- Criminal Mischief 1 x 2
- Criminal Mischief 2 x 9
- Criminal Mischief 3 x 4
- Theft 3
- Disorderly Conduct

Due to the high number of vacation homes in the area, officers are continuing to search for property owners and additional victims.

Sex offender sentenced to 35-plus years

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

Shawn Anthony Cupp, 32, has been sentenced to serve 425 months (35.4 years) in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of Sex Abuse in the First Degree and three counts of Un-

lawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree.

According to court records, the victims in the cases were three children, aged 7 - 13 at the time the offenses occurred. Cupp, of Grand Ronde, was sentenced by Polk County Circuit Judge Norm Hill according to Or-

egon's Jessica's Law and determinate sentencing laws. Cupp will not be eligible for any form of early release or sentence reduction. He will also be required to serve a lifetime term of post-prison supervision upon his release, and he must register as a sex offender.

The case was investigated by the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Grand Ronde Tribal Police, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Matthew Wilson of the Polk County District Attorney's Office.

Spirit



Collection buckets have been placed throughout Lincoln City.

Courtesy photo



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Beautiful Private Lot

Private lot in gated community near Regatta Park, access to trails and lake.

MLS # 23-1701 Seller will consider offers between \$59,900-\$71,876



Lincoln City Wetland Parcel

Lot(s) located in Historic Taft District. 1 of 3 available lots.

MLS 23-2126 \$55,000 for each lot



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Jeremy C. Ruark / Country Media, Inc.

Each year, this large room at the St. Peter The Fisherman Lutheran Church fills with the community donations that will be placed in Christmas baskets and delivered to needy families.

Continued from Page 1

valley during horrible weather and have to pay up to \$45 a child to get a picture with Santa. For a Christmas loving guy like myself, I felt this lack of a local Santa was not acceptable so Firefighter Santa was born.”

Dressed as Firefighter Santa, McPherson visits local businesses, community orga-

nizations and spends time at the wrapping event as his way of spreading the Christmas spirit.

“I never charge for my Santa appearances,” he said. “To me that would defeat the spirit of Christmas. To get around the parents having to pay for pictures with the children, I decided to let the parents bring their own cameras and take as many photos as

they would like. Being Santa is a labor of love. I could not imagine going through the Christmas season without transforming into Santa. Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas!”

The Christmas baskets are scheduled be delivered to needy families next week.

Santa will be at the Panther Creek Community Center, 655 N. Wayside Loop in Otis, from 5-7 p.m., Dec. 9.

3 simple tips for staying healthy during the holidays



Be active

Any movement counts! Go for a walk, stretch or try that new exercise class you've been thinking about.



Manage stress and anxiety

The holidays don't have to be perfect and can often be filled with sadness and grief. Take time to acknowledge your feelings, reach out if you feel lonely and seek professional help if you need it.



Eat mindfully

Moderation is key! Keep your gut healthy by skipping the sugar and being mindful of overindulging in liquid calories such as wine, pumpkin spice lattes and hot chocolate.



Samaritan Health Services

samhealth.org

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2023 Toy Run



Saturday, December 16th 2023, 1:00 - 3:30

\$600M sought for housing, homelessness

JULIA SHUMWAY
*Oregon Capital Chronicle
News Guard Guest Article*

Gov. Tina Kotek plans to ask the Legislature to spend another \$600 million on housing and homelessness next year, building on record investments over the past few years as the state continues to grapple with a housing crisis.

She laid out some of her budget priorities during a Tuesday, Nov. 28, press conference in Salem, a little more than two months before lawmakers return to the Capitol for a 35-day dash to pass new laws and allocate money.

Kotek and legislative leaders from both parties generally agree that housing, homelessness, addiction and public safety are top priorities.

Kotek’s biggest request, \$500 million, will be tied to housing production. She set a goal of building 36,000 homes each year – nearly double the average number of homes built in Oregon in recent years. A 2022 state report estimates that Oregon needs to build more than 550,000 homes in the next 20 years to make up for years of underbuilding and keep pace with population growth.

“I’m really urging the legislators to be bold with one-time money to make sure we can move forward on our housing production goals here in the state,” Kotek said.

By the numbers

The state’s most recent point-in-time count indicates that at least 18,000 Oregonians are homeless. Shrinking that number will require not only more homes, but also more affordable housing, experts say.

Members of her Housing Production Advisory Council have suggested using state funding to train construction workers and create or expand loans, tax rebates and grants for developers building homes for low-income and middle-income families. Cit-



Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle
Gov. Tina Kotek, pictured talking about housing in July 2023, plans to ask the Legislature to approve hundreds of millions in new spending for housing, homelessness, child care and summer learning.

ies have also indicated they’ll need state help with infrastructure funding to build the streets, sewers, sidewalks and other infrastructure necessary to build new homes across the state.

Along with money to spur housing production, Kotek said she’ll ask for about \$65 million to keep existing homeless shelters open and another \$33 million for rent assistance to keep Oregonians who fall on tough times from losing their homes.

Lawmakers allocated almost \$34 million this spring to help nearly 9,000 households avoid homelessness. By Sept. 30, the most recent date for which data is available, Oregon Housing and Community Services had spent a little more than \$11 million and helped more than 3,800 households.

Kotek also plans to ask for money for summer learning, child care and road maintenance. Districts scaled back summer learning programs this summer after the Legislature failed to provide funding ahead of an April deadline. The \$50 million Kotek will ask lawmakers to provide for summer learning this spring is far below the \$240 million lawmakers approved in 2021 and the \$150 million provided in 2022, when federal funding tied to the COVID pandemic gave the state and school districts more money to spend.

She’ll seek \$59 million to maintain the state’s Employment Related Day Care program, which helps low-income families pay for child care and now has a waitlist. The program, which is facing a \$123 million shortfall and indefinite waiting lists, allows families earning up to twice the federal poverty level – just less than \$40,000 annually for a single parent with one child or \$60,000 for a family of four – to have most of their child care costs covered and pay only a small monthly copay.

Other priorities

Kotek is also asking legislative leaders to commit to spending \$19 million for the Oregon Department of Transportation to schedule overtime and equipment to meet winter road maintenance needs. The department announced in October that it planned to cut back on plowing and sanding this winter because of staff shortages, inflation and decreased revenue from gas taxes related to more fuel-efficient vehicles. The Legislature will take up a large transportation funding package in 2025, eight years after passing a \$5.3 billion transportation package that was intended to cover needs for the next decade.

And other spending proposals could be coming. Kotek said she’ll work with

lawmakers to review and revise the state’s methodology for providing school funding, as well as come up with a plan to provide funding for minimum teacher salaries. A teachers’ strike just wrapped up in Portland and other large districts, including Bend-La Pine and Salem-Keizer, are in negotiations as school districts around the state face budget shortfalls.

Kotek, who opposed the city of Salem’s failed payroll tax that she and about 21,000 other state employees based in Salem would have paid, also said she was open to legislation that would have the state make payments in lieu of taxes for state property within city limits. The capital city faces an estimated \$15 million budget shortfall by 2026, and city officials estimate the untaxed state property within city limits would generate about \$7.25 million annually if it were taxed.

Other capitals, including Olympia, Washington, receive such payments from their state governments. Kotek said she would likely sign such a bill if it arrived on her desk.

“Having state government in Salem is a benefit, and there are also costs to provide public safety services,” Kotek said. “I think there is a place for the state to do more to support Salem because of the number of properties we have here, but it will be up to the city of Salem and Salem legislators to bring something in the session.”

Follow this developing story at thenewsguard.com and in the Tuesday print editions of The News Guard.

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Kotek addresses education improvements

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

Following a nearly month long strike by Portland teachers in the state’s largest school district that ended last week, Oregon’s Governor has outlined the next steps she believes are necessary to address core issues that educators have raised to improve outcomes for students across Oregon.

“The strike was a reflection of larger challenges that districts across the state are facing,” Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement released Nov. 28. “From salaries not staying competitive with the market, to backlogs in facility maintenance, to classroom disruptions related to the behavioral health needs of students, we clearly have work to do.

“I commit to continuing the work. As your Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, I commit to partnering with educators across the state to tackle the systemic issues that contributed to this strike. We all have an opportunity to do our part to ensure our schools are safe, successful places for students, teachers, and school employees.”

To address many of the underlying structural needs facing Oregon’s schools,

Kotek said she will take the following steps:

Develop a statewide action plan, with the help of a multidisciplinary group of leaders, to support the social-emotional health needs of students in school settings and strengthen resources and capacity of school staff to meet these needs.

Partner with the legislature on their work to establish minimum teacher salaries and review funding for schools.

Salary Schedules: The Governor will closely monitor and review the recommendations of the legislature’s Task Force on Statewide Educator Salaries. She wants to see a proposal for minimum teacher salary schedules that make Oregon competitive with our neighboring states, mitigate competition between neighboring districts, and reflect local cost of living. She also wants to see a plan to fund that proposal over the next several years.

Funding: While the legislature ultimately adopts the budget, the Governor’s office must be a partner to ensure the methodology makes sense for today’s realities. The Governor will direct the Chief Financial Officer and the Oregon Department of Education to partner with the legislature and education



Metro Creative Connection
The governor’s statewide action plan includes support for the social-emotional health needs of students in school settings and strengthening resources and capacities of school staff to meet these needs.

stakeholders to review and revise the methodology for school funding.

Create the Office of Transparency within the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to make budget information that the State already collects from districts more accessible and easier to understand. This is intended to ensure labor and district partners and the public have the same budget information that the State does and strength-

en transparency and improve customer service to Oregonians. ODE will include data about future estimated revenues that districts may have, the share of district funding that comes from State sources compared to local sources, and the share of district expenditures spent on administration. This work will draw from the work of states such as Arizona, Illinois, and Michigan, and from ODE’s ESSER dashboard.

OBITUARY

Barbara J. (Brooks) Eborall

Aug. 7, 1946 - Oct. 12, 2023

Barbara Brooks Eborall passed away after a long chronic illness on Oct. 12, 2023 in Depoe Bay, Oregon where she had resided since 1991. She was born on Aug. 7, 1946 in McMinnville, Oregon.



She attended McMinnville High School, graduating in 1964. She went on to get her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Linfield College in 1968.

She was born to Janet A. (McDonald) and Stanley M. Brooks both of McMinnville. The family briefly moved to Corvallis so her father could complete his studies at Oregon State School of Pharmacology but returned to McMinnville after Stanley’s sudden death in 1947 when Barbara was only six months old. Janet remarried in 1950 to Ronald Eborall who preceded her in death. Barbara was not officially adopted by Ron but was known in the community and to her close friend by that last name. She was married and divorced and had no children. She considered her children her series of small Shih Tzu type dogs who spent many hours laying by her side when she was ill.

She majored in sociolo-

gy and psychology at Linfield and worked as a social worker with the State of Oregon primarily in Multnomah County for 17 years until illness caused her early retirement at age 40.

Barbara enjoyed a variety of sports when she was well, enjoyed rock music, and traveling. The farthest she traveled was to Athens and the Greek Isles. She went on many cruises; her favorites being the three Rock and Roll Cruises with Paul Revere and the Riders and Oldies groups. She traveled to nearly all of the US states, taking in historical sites from the Revolutionary War and Civil War.

She is survived by her brother Gary Brooks, DMD of Sheridan; stepbrother Mike Eborall of Kauai; two nieces, Shannon Brooks Pearce of Venice, Florida and Tiffany Brooks of Beaverton; nephews, Shawn Eborall of Portland and William Eborall of Rockwall, Texas; and great niece Sophia Pearce of Florida.

Her mother Janet preceded her in death Aug. 23, 2016. Janet lived with her for 27 years in Depoe Bay.

There are no services planned per her request. Interment will be in Evergreen Memorial Park in McMinnville.

OCCC seeks new board member

SUBMITTED

The Oregon Coast Community College Board of Education has a current opening for Zone 4 in the Lincoln County District.

Zone 4 includes Toledo, Eddyville, and Elk City, comprising much of East Lincoln County.

Citizens considered must be a registered voter, currently residing in Zone 4, and resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the appointment (ORS 332.018(2)). Pursuant to (ORS 324.124) if no one applies from the vacant zone after the position is advertised for a 20-day period, an individual may be appointed from the district at large.

Citizens interested in serving the balance of the term, which is through June

30, 2027, are asked to apply with a letter of interest, noting qualifications. Letters should be mailed to the administrative office of the Board of Education located at 400 SE College Way, Newport OR 97366 or emailed to EA@oregoncoast.edu. Letters will be accepted until Dec. 12.

Further confirmation of Zone 4 boundaries can be obtained through contact with administration at 541-867-8532 or by contacting the Lincoln County Clerk’s office at 541-265-4131. View the map with this story at thenews-guard.com.

OCCC Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in Newport, Lincoln City, or Waldport at 6 p.m. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed.

For more information, visit oregoncoast.edu/boardofed.

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News & Views



IN THE GARDEN

The gardener’s holiday wish list

CHIP BUBL
News Guard Guest Column

I know this is pushing the calendar, but I thought it made sense to have some gardening Christmas gift ideas in this column.



Chip Bubl
Nice gardening gloves, especially those flexible kinds that rose thorns don’t penetrate or nice-fitting leather gloves.

Knee pads or knee benches for gardeners to make close work less of a pain.

A well-made spading fork or shovel.
Cast aluminum hand tools or specially designed “ergonomic” tools for less muscle strain. This is increasingly important as one gets older.

High quality loppers or hand pruners. Felco makes outstanding hand pruners that, with care, will last a very long time but there are other quite good brands.

A soil thermometer is always useful to know when to plant seeds. So are moisture meters with 12-inch probes that you poke into the soil or media to know which plants (in containers or in-the-ground plants) need water.

Q Knot reusable cable ties are handy for staking tomatoes or trellises. Get them from a local hardware store.

Manual or electric water timer. This device can be attached to any faucet, and automatically shuts off water after a set amount of time. Get a single or dual model from a hardware store.

Corona Quick Tool Sharpener. A pocket-sized tool for sharpening pruners, shears, blades.

Floating row covers are lightweight blankets to put over vegetables that help capture warmth and protect plants in the spring. Heavier gauge ones can even protect against extreme heat or cold.

A Hori Hori Knife is a transplant knife from Japan, that’s part trowel and part knife. Also, good for dispatching slugs. It is a great tool.

Folding pruning saws are necessary for pruning also handy for camping or back-packing. Fiskers, Barnel, Stihl, or Corona are good brands.

LED headlamp is handy tool for gardening, locating slugs (if you are so inclined), or just looking around in your garden at night. If you have close neighbors, warn them of your new hobby.

Christmas trees, already?

The enthusiasm for a longer Christmas season seems to have no bounds. We have already gotten calls about Christmas tree care. The good news is that Christmas tree species grown here generally

hold up for a fairly long time.

Some factors that influence how long a tree lasts include time inside the house (houses are very drying), temperature of the room (cooler is better and never near a heat source), the size of the tree (larger trees tend to hold moisture better, table top trees are the worst), the tree species (Nobles, Nordmann, and Turkish firs seem to be the best with Douglas fir not too far behind), weather before and when the tree was cut (drier weather tends to lower the base moisture content and thus storage time, a possible issue this year), and whether the base of the tree is kept constantly in water after harvest (make a fresh basal cut on the trunk to ensure tree water uptake, often four gallons the first week the tree is in the house, when it is first brought into the house). Chemical treatments to prolong tree life have rarely shown results.

Living Christmas trees

I get quite a few questions about managing a living Christmas tree. These are conifer trees that are purchased in containers or “balled and burlapped.” Most haven’t been out of the ground for a very long time before they are sold. Since the point of a living tree is to keep it alive after Christmas and for many years to come, you must know something about how to keep it alive. First, these trees cannot be brought into the house for very long. Most suppliers recommend an inside period of one week or less, in the coolest space possible. In a warm house, these trees will come out of dormancy and since the inside conditions are generally quite dry, they will start to move lots of moisture through their needles. The container the tree is in must be able to be watered to keep the root ball moist.

Right after Christmas, move the tree outside. If you were thinking ahead, you have prepared a hole to plant it into. Most conifers will not do well in dense, poorly drained clay soils. If that is what you have, I would skip the living tree idea. Finally, plant the tree where it will have room to grow.

A noble fir can grow very tall so plant it where it can develop its character and not interfere with your other landscape selections. They are great trees in a landscape when well-placed. Unfortunately, many people don’t appreciate the tree’s growth potential and they find that the location where they planted it isn’t appropriate. At that point, it is firewood.

For more information or to ask questions, contact Chip Bubl, Oregon State University Extension office in St. Helens at 503-397-3462 or at chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu.



THIS THING CALLED LIFE

Winter is coming and I am prepared

MICHELLE PIERSON YOUNG
News Guard Guest Column

A cold slap from the winter wind can be enough to steal oneself for the coming months. In the Pendleton Store, I bated the sales associate. “Do you want to know what I hate more than being cold?” I asked. Her quizzical look was enough response for me to continue. “Nothing,” I declared. Her



Michelle Young
laugh was my payoff.

We’ve been stealed even more against the winter of our lives. As a woman, I’m clear the best years were supposedly in my twenties and thirties. This is disappointing since I spent those years working myself to death and suffering. Both were optional, if only I’d known.

It’s my opinion that not only have we been misled regarding aging and what it holds, but we’ve idealized being young, putting pressure on people who, we are forgetting, don’t have as much context and experience. Maybe they have tighter bums, but with significantly less life experience, there’s less context, perspective and hope.

I was a shotgun who believed I’d hit the bullseye if I shot enough stuff. Maybe I obliterated some of those targets, but I could have done so with less ammo, more elegance, and less collateral damage. It’s rough not having a history of, “everything is going to be okay, even if it takes some time.” With real world/real years experiences under our belt, this “knowing” is the peace we’ve earned.

I’ve seen some long, cold and dark seasons that seemed they’d never end. I’ve felt deep loss thinking of the time consumed by those seasons.

The ones where its not that much fun to go outside, but you really want to go outside, but you’re stuck with the weather.

I respect the coming season. I don’t have control over what’s coming, but I can prepare and even make the season a generous and, in the best of times, a gentle experience, warm and protected from harsh winds.

It’s dreamy to imagine living in the summer sun forever. But I’ve known the breathtaking pleasure of a cold that sucks your breath away in small clouds. Tears have stung my eyes watching snowflakes wisp down, insulating the forest floor. Fat, cold snowflakes and the dark days on which they fell, remind me of summer and the contrast feels like joy. There is no warm without the cold.

Winter’s coming and man does his topsy turvy, looped-dee-loos through history. We long for the ease of peace and the comfort of the warm sun

that keeps us safe and easy. But we know from experience that these seasons are ancient and necessary patterns. We need remember the path to spring is to trod through winter. In truth, we also remember too-long summers when we begged for relief.

Winter’s coming. When we see it in the long view it’s a beautiful dance and a delight to participate in the waxing and waning of energy.

May the coming winter be one of peace for you. If your memory doesn’t stretch through a long history of cold times, I hope you’ll entertain for a minute that we’re all in the natural dance and neither can we escape the rhythm nor would we wouldn’t want to. Eternal summer is not natural and there is at least a peace in surrendering to that truth.

Michelle Pierson Young is a Lincoln City life coach. She may be reached at Michel-leadplay.com.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

Grocery store merger impact

I recently took some time to learn more about a proposed merger between Kroger (Fred Meyer) and Albertsons, (Safe-way & QFC).

The proposed merger is under consideration by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), with a decision expected soon.

I don’t believe it’s any secret that the discount and online retailers have drastically changed the grocery industry, and this merger is being proposed to keep Kroger competitive with entities like Walmart and Amazon.

Under the merger, their combined operations would help them keep neighborhood and rural supermarkets in operation. Kroger has committed they will not close any stores, distribution centers or manufacturing facilities or lay off any frontline associates as a result of the merger.

When it comes to our local grocery stores, my biggest concerns are pharmacies, pricing, and availability. We have recently seen local pharmacies close, prices rise, and during heavy tourism months, empty store shelves.

Any store closures would have major impacts on our local community, both for pharmacy and grocery availability, and to the number of good paying jobs.

National decisions like these can have major impacts on our

daily lives, and I encourage residents to learn more as we await an FTC decision.

Lori Acre-Torres
Executive director
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce

Disturbing experience

I recently had a very disturbing experience in the parking lot of the Starbucks in Newport.

On Oct. 26 I was exiting when a man in a red/white pick-up truck showed a woman with him a dead bear that he had in a white ice chest in the truck bed.

I lost it. Who does that? I was completely devastated and never expected to see someone have such complete disregard for the life of a beautiful wild animal.

This comes just a few weeks after witnessing a woman lose her pants three times at Fred Meyer. Not wearing anything underneath, it was something I could not un-see. Add this to the constant accidents everywhere on 101, 20 and 18, and I am seriously questioning why I moved here.

Drunk and high drivers, hunters killing bears and meth heads and crack whores! Wow!

Nicole Yount
Depoe Bay

VIEWPOINT

Addressing the child care crisis

JEFF MERKLEY
News Guard Guest Column

Welcome to the first edition of the Merkley Monthly. In this column, I’ll address topics in Oregon’s rural and coastal communities served by Country Media Newspapers.

Coming from rural Doug-



Jeff Merkley

las County, myself, I know how essential local newspapers are for speaking to the unique needs of your communities and keeping folks connected. So,

I’m excited for this opportunity.

Every year, I host town hall meetings for all 36 Oregon counties. I’ll use this monthly column as an extension of that town hall spirit and the “Oregon Way” to answer questions and address issues that have come up in the town hall meetings in your

communities, which means these topics will be relevant and local to you.

One topic I hear about in every rural and coastal community is the lack of affordable, quality child care.

If it feels more difficult to find child care than it used to

See **MERKLEY**, Page 7



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Obituaries

Death Notices: Free | Standard Obituary: \$75 for 200 words with small photo, \$50 additional 200 words, \$25 for each additional photo | Includes online placement

Health Matters

by Samaritan Health Services

New vaccines to prevent RSV now available

Many people may have missed the news of two game-changing vaccines that could eradicate an all-too-common illness that primarily affects babies, but one Samaritan pediatrician hopes respiratory syncytial virus — more commonly known as RSV — will become as rare as polio or diphtheria, diseases that plagued children of previous centuries.

In fact, Eddie Frothingham, MD, compares the two RSV vaccines approved this year by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to the lifesaving diphtheria antitoxin pulled by lead sled dog Balto on the final 55 miles to the Maynard Columbus Hospital in Nome, Alaska, nearly 100 years ago.

“Passive immunity to diphtheria is what Balto and the other sled dogs brought to that isolated community in Alaska,” Dr. Frothingham said of the event that is annually celebrated with the Iditarod sled dog race. “And passive immunity is what we’re giving infants now. It is the same principle that applies to the RSV vaccines we are offering.”

Shipments of the two new RSV prevention products arrived at Samaritan Health Services in mid-October. Nirsevimab, a monoclonal antibody, was recently approved for infants while Pfizer’s bivalent RSVpreF vaccine was approved for use by pregnant people.

Currently Samaritan clinics offer the vaccines free to all patients who are on the Oregon

Health Plan or are uninsured. Most commercial insurances are also covering the cost of vaccines.

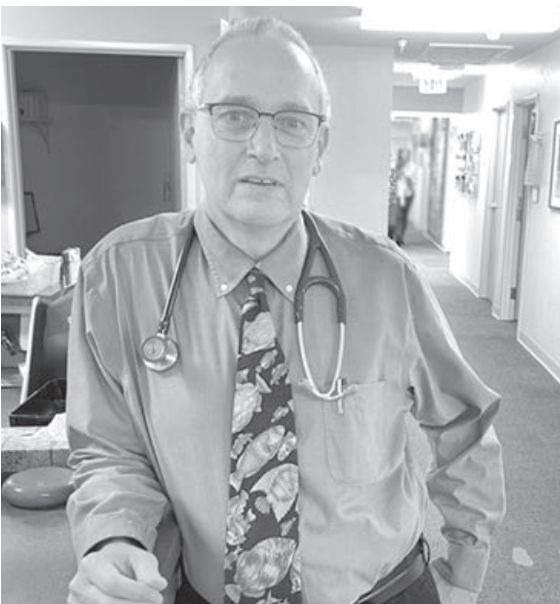
RSV is a viral illness that often affects newborns. Infected infants suffer from respiratory distress, sneezing, coughing and labored breathing, which makes them unable to feed well. There are limited treatments once a baby is diagnosed with the disease. They may be hospitalized to receive oxygen and IV fluids to help manage the symptoms. Severely ill infants often need to the higher level of care available in a children’s hospital.

“There isn’t any knockout treatment available, like an antibiotic for a bacterial infection,” said Dr. Frothingham. “It’s a very frustrating disease.”

One of the most frustrating aspects of RSV is its unpredictability.

“We can’t predict,” said Dr. Frothingham. “It could be sniffles and a cough for a few days and they’re fine, or will they wind up in a children’s hospital on a ventilator?”

The two RSV prevention shots now available work with different delivery methods to achieve the same results. The infant prevention shot Nirsevimab is a one-time shot with monoclonal antibodies that are directed against RSV, which is different than a vaccine that provokes the infant’s immune system to react to the vaccine and produce its own antibodies. The second option is the bivalent RSVpreF, which is a vaccine given to pregnant people so their bodies



Pediatrician Eddie Frothingham, MD, sees the new RSV vaccines approved by the FDA this year as a gamechanger in treating respiratory viruses in infants.

can make antibodies against RSV, which are passively transferred to the unborn baby through the placenta. The maternal vaccine is given between 32 and 36 weeks of gestation.

“RSV has filled our hospitals and filled our clinics every winter and caused untold misery for parents and children,” said Dr. Frothingham, who has been a pediatrician for 28 years. “To have something that prevents this is just very exciting.”

Talk with your health care provider about these vaccine options and which is right for your or your child.

Preparing yourself for respiratory virus season



Respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, are a concern for people with higher health risk factors including those with underlying health conditions, compromised immunity and the elderly. Fortunately, vaccines, testing and treatments are available to help people minimize risk and manage symptoms.

Patients and visitors can check masking requirements at samhealth.org/Visitors before coming to any Samaritan Health Services hospital or clinic.

Influenza (the flu) and respiratory syncytial virus, also known as RSV, are two other seasonal viruses that cause respiratory infections and result in severe illness or even death, particularly in older adults, pregnant people, young children and those with underlying medical issues.

Flu and RSV infections typically peak between December and February. Safe and effective vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19 and flu; and this year, for the first time, there is an RSV vaccine to protect infants as well as people 60 years and older.

Samaritan Health Services encourages everyone to prepare by taking the following actions:

- Get your seasonal flu vaccine at a flu clinic, your primary care provider’s office, a pharmacy or your local public health department.

- People 60 years and older should also talk to their doctor about whether they should also get the RSV vaccine.
- Practice preventive measures like washing your hands, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, cleaning surfaces often and staying home when sick.
- Consider masking in higher risk indoor settings and if an individual is high risk.
- Ensure you are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines or boosters.
- Familiarize yourself with how to manage respiratory virus symptoms, including when and where to seek care if your symptoms are severe.

Learn more at samhealth.org/WhereToGo. Following these tips, can help minimize the spread of virus, keeping the community safe and healthy.



Living**healthy**
Community classes to keep you healthy

Warm Winter event supports Samaritan cancer patients
Submission deadline: Friday, Dec. 8 | Center for Health Education, Newport
Stop by the center to pick up blank cards that you can use to write or draw messages of hope and inspiration for Samaritan cancer patients. Also, donations of new knitted items such as socks, gloves, mittens, scarves or hats are being accepted by 3 p.m. on Dec. 8. For information, contact the Samaritan Cancer Resource Center at 541-768-2171.

Cancer resources and information available locally
Friday, Dec. 1 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital, Lincoln City
Monday, Dec. 18 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Center for Health Education, Newport
If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with cancer, stop by for information and support on the first Friday or the third Monday of each month. Resources include wig and head coverings by appointment, support groups, financial assistance, nutrition services, social work and transportation assistance. For information or to schedule a head covering session, contact CancerResourceCenter@samhealth.org or call 541-768-2171.

Cancer support available online
Wednesday, Dec. 6 and 20 | 3 to 4:30 p.m.
This online cancer support group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. It provides a safe place to share feelings, learn ways to overcome challenges and to foster a sense of community. It is open to anyone living with cancer and cancer survivors. For information, call Amy Coppa at 541-574-4684.

Prepare for childbirth with online class
Wednesday, Dec. 6; Monday, Dec. 11; and Wednesday, Dec. 20 | 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Those in week 30 to 33 of pregnancy are invited to attend this three-week series to learn about and prepare for labor, delivery and postpartum care. To register for this free class, enroll at pollywogfamily.org or call 541-917-4884.

Workshop to help adults cope with grief and the holidays
Friday, Dec. 15 | 3:30 to 5 p.m.
This free in-person workshop is for adults looking for ways to cope with grief during the holidays. It will be led by a trained medical social worker. Topics include navigating holiday rituals, ideas for holiday memorials and planning for gatherings. For information, call Samaritan Evergreen Hospice at 541-812-4680.

Heartsaver CPR and AED course planned
Friday, Jan. 12 | 8:30 a.m. to noon.
Participants will learn how to perform CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator and how to help someone with an airway obstruction. This class cover skills for helping an adult, child and infant. The cost is \$52 which includes the book and two-year certification. For information, contact Amy Conner at aconner@samhealth.org or 541-574-4952.

In-person activities are held at the Center for Health Education, 740 SW Ninth St., Newport.

Oregon Secretary of State won’t block Trump from ballot

JULIA SHUMWAY

*Oregon Capital Chronicle
News Guard Article*

Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade won’t bar former President Donald Trump from appearing on primary ballots despite an ongoing pressure campaign, she announced Thursday, Nov. 30.

Griffin-Valade cited legal guidance from the Oregon Department of Justice, whose attorneys told her that presidential primaries operate differently than other races and she doesn’t have the authority to determine whether those candidates meet the qualifications to run. The results of presidential primaries provide direction on how delegates should vote at a nominating convention, but they don’t directly elect candidates or even guarantee the winning candidate is the nominee.

But Griffin-Valade left open the possibility that she could block Trump from the ballot in the 2024 general election if he is the Republican nominee because of his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection and the potential that his return to office again would violate Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, intended to block former Confederates from gaining power after losing the Civil War.

“I understand that people want to skip to the end of this story. But right now, we don’t even know who the nominee will be,” she said in a statement. “When the general election comes, we’ll follow the law and be completely transparent with our reasoning.”

Solicitor General Benjamin Gutman said in a five-page letter to Griffin-Valade that it was prudent to defer considering the general election, citing ongoing litigation in other states and the question of whether Republicans nominate Trump. He still commands a strong lead in polls, though he also faces 91 felony counts in New York, Georgia, Florida and Washington, D.C.

“Whether Section 3 bars former President Donald Trump from returning to office is a question of paramount importance to American democracy,” Gutman wrote. “But it is not a question that the Legislature has charged the secretary with determining when assembling a list of candidates at the primary election stage. Instead, that important question must be resolved in the first instance by other participants in the selection process such as the convention delegates, and,



I understand that people want to skip to the end of this story. But right now, we don’t even know who the nominee will be.

**LaVonne Griffin-Valade,
Oregon Secretary of State**

ultimately, in an appropriate case, by the courts.”

Court cases over whether Trump can appear on ballots are ongoing in Colorado, Michigan and Minnesota – and one could happen in Oregon. Free Speech for People, the national advocacy group that has spent more than two years urging top election officials around the country to block Trump from primary ballots, has retained two Oregon attorneys.

“We disagree with the secretary’s statement, but we are going to proceed with next steps to ensure that this important constitutional provision of the Constitution, Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, is followed, and that Donald Trump be barred from appearing on the presidential primary and general election ballot in Oregon,” said John Bonifaz, the group’s president.

The group argues that

Trump is ineligible to hold federal office because the 14th Amendment bars anyone who previously took an oath to support the U.S. Constitution and then “engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof” from serving in office. Trump swore to uphold the Constitution at his inauguration, then incited the Jan. 6 attack.

Election officials routinely prevent candidates from running for office if they don’t meet basic qualifications – for instance, people who are too young for offices with age limits or who don’t live in a district with residency requirements. In two high-profile recent Oregon cases, former Secretary of State Shemia Fagan blocked New York Times columnist Nick Kristof from running for governor for residency reasons and Griffin-Valade disqualified conservative state

senators who skipped more than 10 days of floor sessions and were ineligible to run for re-election because of a voter-approved state law meant to discourage walkouts. The state Supreme Court upheld Fagan’s decision and will consider Griffin-Valade’s in December.

Bonifaz said there is judicial precedent to bar Trump from the ballot, citing a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals – the same federal court that covers Oregon – that upheld a 2012 California decision to bar a 27-year-old from appearing on the presidential primary ballot because presidents must be at least 35. That shows that state election officials have the right to block unqualified candidates from presidential primary ballots, he said.

“If Vladimir Putin wanted to appear on the primary ballot for president in Oregon, under the secretary’s analysis today, she’d have no ability to bar Vladimir Putin from appearing on the presidential primary ballot,” Bonifaz said. “And obviously, that’s patently absurd. The reason why we have the United States Constitution to govern these matters is because it’s the supreme law of the land and it has to be followed in all circumstances, including in a

presidential primary.” Nevertheless, Gutman said the precedent around primary candidates is different – and the state has an example from the 1968 presidential election. Michigan Gov. George Romney – father of U.S. Sen. and former presidential nominee Mitt – was running for the Republican presidential nomination, and questions abounded about whether Romney was a “natural born citizen.” He was born to American parents in Mexico.

At the time, the Oregon attorney general issued an opinion that the secretary of state didn’t have the authority to determine whether Romney was a “natural born citizen.” The office issued a similar opinion when asked whether former President Dwight Eisenhower could be removed from 1952 primary ballots when he wasn’t registered with the Republican Party.

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Sunday service added to Lincoln County transit

SUBMITTED

Lincoln County Transit has started Sunday service to and from Waldport and Yachats and Sunday service on the Blue Line and restored Saturday service on the East County route.

The transit agency, in cooperation with Benton Area Transit, made the changes Dec. 1, including adjusting stop times on the Coast to Valley Express to ensure passengers can catch the train out of Albany.

“We’re so excited to offer these new options to our riders and bring back a service previously enjoyed by our east county customers,” Lincoln County Transit Director Cynda Bruce said.

The expanded service is possible thanks to increased demand and newly hired drivers, according to Bruce.

“When we were working on the transit plan, Sunday service was one of the things most requested by the public, so we’re delighted to be able to respond in this way,” Bruce said.

While the agency’s driver roster has been expanded, permitting this expansion in services, Bruce said more drivers are still needed. Hiring a few more drivers should allow the transit agency to kick off the new Waldport Loop route.

Lincoln County Transit received a \$224,640 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation in 2021 to



The Coast to Valley bus standing by at the Yaquina Bay Bridge.

Courtesy photo

fund the city circuit, but it’s been unable to run the service without sufficient staff.

Driver applications can be found at tinyurl.com/LCTransitApply. Bruce said the

county offers free training, competitive pay and benefits.

Route and fare information can be found at co.lincoln.or.us/361/Transit.

Merkley

Continued from Page 5

be, that’s because it is. Since 1999, the total number of child care slots in Oregon has dropped by about 6,600. Oregon State University estimates that, for families of infants and toddlers, 35 of 36

counties qualify as child care deserts where there can be as many as 10 children competing for the same child care spot.

The numbers are stark. Up north, at the mouth of the Columbia River, Clatsop County has child care for only 8% of

its infants and toddlers. Farther south, it drops to 6% in Lincoln County. And, down in Curry County, there’s only child care for 3% of their infants and toddlers.

Even if that spot becomes available, families may not be able to afford it. In Oregon, the average cost of child care is nearly \$13,700 a year – or more than in-state tuition at Portland State University.

As one mother put it, “A day care bill is a mortgage right now.”

Parents who can’t find af-

ford child care options often are forced to use up their paid time off or drop out of the workforce altogether. In Clatsop County, it got so bad that two hospital systems donated funding for local child care services because of staffing shortages.

Child care workers need to be paid a living wage, too. The average child care worker in Oregon makes about \$12.90 an hour, and the profession has high burnout and turnover rates.

What can we do about

it? During the pandemic, Congress created Child Care Stabilization Grants that sustained approximately 220,000 child care providers, saved an estimated 9.6 million child care slots, and protected more than 1 million child care jobs across the country. Oregon received nearly \$250 million to sustain more than 3,000 child care programs and support more than 80,000 children. But those funds expired on Sept. 30.

We need to pass the Child Care Stabilization Act to

restore this successful and needed program. Then we need to build on it by passing the Child Care and Working Families Act so eligible families pay no more than 7% of their income on child care.

Middle class families deserve a break. This legislation is a start, and I will continue to fight to expand and improve child care in Oregon and across the country.

Do you have a topic or issue important to your community you want to hear more about from Senator Merkley? Email dcurrie@countrymedia.net.

Jeff Merkley represents Oregon in the U.S. Senate.

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Senators sue Senate president, secretary of state over absences

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle
News Guard Guest Article

Three Oregon Republican senators sued Democratic Senate President Rob Wagner and Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade in federal court, marking the latest in a series of attempts by Republicans who shut down the Legislature for six weeks to subvert a voter-approved law and run for reelection.

The federal lawsuit filed by Sens. Brian Boquist, Cedric Hayden and Dennis Linthicum, along with three county Republican central committees and two voters, joins a state lawsuit filed by Linthicum and four other senators to block a ruling from Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade that disqualified several senators from filing for reelection based on Measure 113.

The state case rests on how the court interprets the text of Measure 113, a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2022 to prevent any lawmakers with 10 or more unexcused absences from serving another term. The senators who sued in state court contend that they’re ineligible for the term after their next term because the measure wasn’t worded clearly.

But the federal lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene, is based on the U.S. Constitution, with Boquist, Hayden and Linthicum arguing that Wagner and Griffin-Valade infringed on their First Amendment right to free expression and Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law.

“Senator plaintiffs were punished for exercising their First Amendment rights and their punishment snowballed into additional constitutional violations,” the plaintiffs’ attorneys wrote in their complaint.

They’re seeking a court ruling clearing them to run for reelection and declaring that exercising a constitutional right to protest is a valid reason to miss Senate floor sessions.

Spokespeople for Griffin-Valade and Wagner did not immediately provide comments responding to the lawsuit Monday evening.

Boquist, Hayden and Linthicum are three of the 10 Republican senators – a third of the Senate – who skipped six weeks of Senate floor

sessions as part of a protest over controversial bills on abortion, guns and transgender health care. Because Oregon’s unusual quorum rules require two-thirds of lawmakers to be present to conduct any business, the protesting Republican senators stopped the Senate from passing any bills during the walkout.

Republicans in the minority in the House and Senate have increasingly relied on walkouts to block Democrats from passing bills in recent years, leading a coalition of unions and progressive groups to put Measure 113 on the ballot. Some Democratic lawmakers are now looking at a different constitutional amendment to change the quorum requirement and eliminate walkouts altogether.

Measure 113 amended the state constitution to declare that any lawmaker who misses 10 or more legislative floor sessions “without permission or excuse” is ineligible to serve another term. The senators contend that they had excuses, but Wagner didn’t acknowledge them.

“Only the defendant Senate President Rob Wagner determines if an absent member has permission to be absent or not,” the complaint said. “There are no laws or rules putting legislators on notice of what category of absence is ‘unexcused.’ There are no historical indicators. There is no hearing process. There are no provisions for an appeal process.”

As a matter of practice, senators turn in forms requesting an excused absence and providing a reason, and Wagner checks a box indicating whether they’re excused or not excused. Historically, the Senate president and House speaker excuse absences – a notable exception in 2022 was former Republican state Sen. Dallas Heard, who was marked as absent most days after he refused to comply with the Senate’s COVID mask policy.

When Republican senators began their walkout on May 3, Wagner marked some senators as excused and others as absent, depending on the language of their requests. For instance, Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, was excused to accompany Gov. Tina Kotek on a tour, and Hayden was marked absent when he requested an excused absence to protest.

On May 5, Wagner announced that he would only

Fast Fact

The federal lawsuit joins an ongoing state case from Republican senators who want to run for reelection.

excuse absences for an “extraordinary circumstance.” Two lawmakers, one Democrat and one Republican, continued receiving excused absences for ongoing medical treatment, and Boquist received excused absences when a waterline burst on his rural property.

But most senators, Democrats and Republicans, were marked “absent” when they missed floor sessions for reasons including illness, family health issues, attending religious services, officiating a family member’s out-of-state

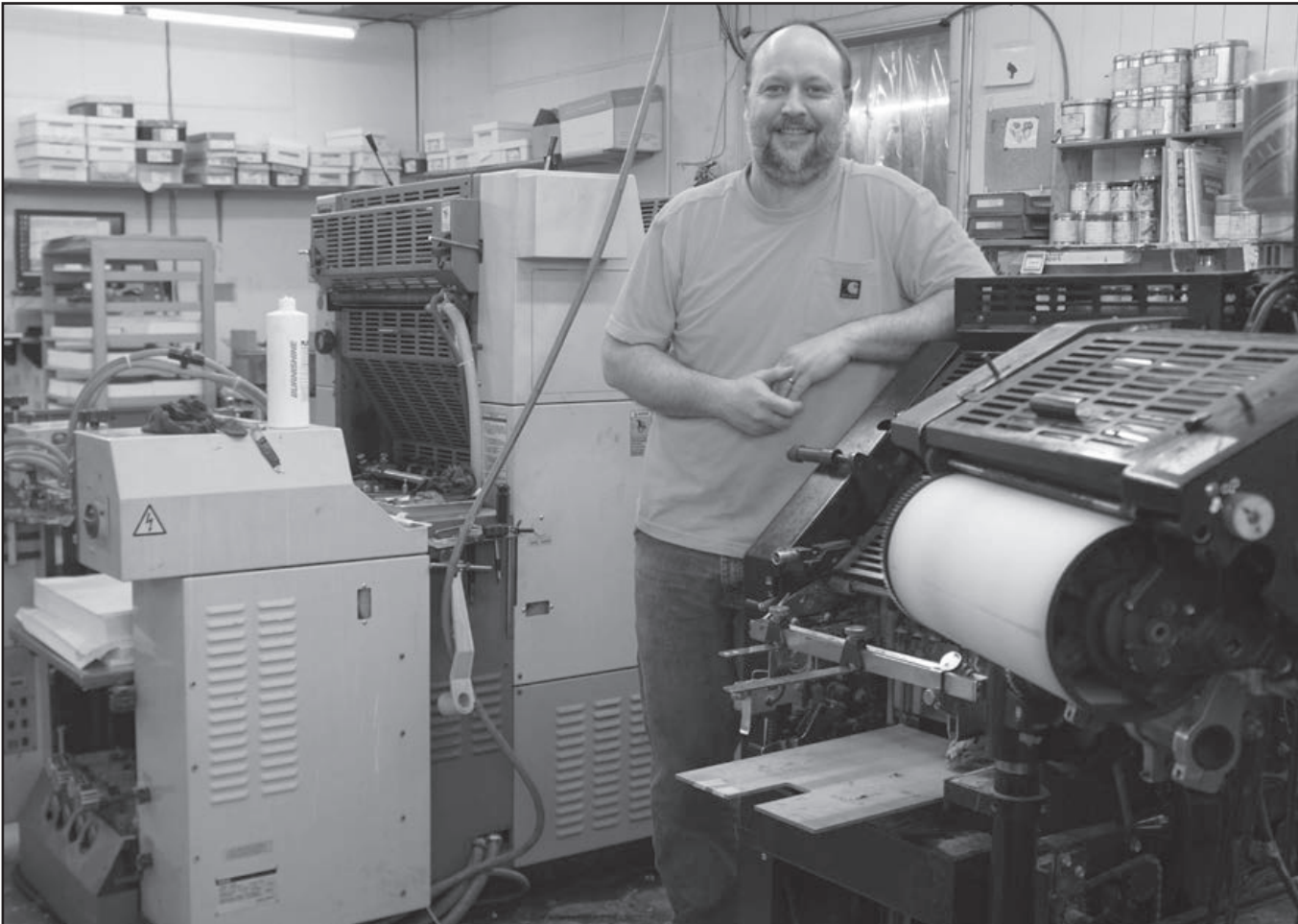
wedding, visiting out-of-state family and attending a child’s graduation, according to an independent report from an attorney investigating workplace harassment complaints Hayden and Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, filed against Wagner earlier this year.

The Senate Committee on Conduct, composed equally of Democrats and Republicans, unanimously dismissed those complaints in October. Hayden has a separate complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, and that investigation must be

wrapped up by May 8, 2024. Hayden, who is a Seventh-day Adventist and observes the Sabbath on Saturdays, and Boquist, a Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and other Catholic feast days, also argued in the federal lawsuit that they were punished for exercising their religion because Wagner denied their requests to miss work for religious reasons. The Lane, Klamath and Polk county Republican central committees joined the lawsuit, as did former Republican candidate John Swanson, who resides in Boquist’s district, and Klamath County Republican Party Chair Rejeana Jackson, who lives in Linthicum’s district. The plaintiffs are represented by conservative attorneys Elizabeth Jones of Salem-based Capitol Legal Services, Vance Day of Powell Butte and Indiana attorney James Bopp. The lawsuit was filed Nov. 6.

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Follow this developing story at thenewsguard.com and in the Tuesday print editions of The News Guard.



“IT WAS A SMOOTH TRANSITION – NO HICCUPS”

Volumes have been written about the dynamics of family businesses. When one generation decides to retire, rarely is the transition to the next without issue. Dave and Carol Shank opened Pioneer Printing in Newport back in 1973 and ran it successfully for 46 years. Their son, Tim, grew up in the shop, worked there after school and started fulltime in 1998. When his parents finally retired in January of 2019, Tim was well-equipped to take over the reins and Pioneer Printing has continued to thrive.

“It was a smooth transition – no hiccups,” remembers Tim. “The most important thing in the printing business – perhaps the most important thing in any business – is how you treat customers. My parents were my model. In printing, there are many creative decisions. Dad and mom taught me it’s not what we want that’s important, it’s what the customer wants.”

Before deciding to work at the family business fulltime, Tim had other jobs, some that paid more and had shorter hours. But owning a business does offer the flexibility to shape your work schedule around family priorities. “Dad worked long hours, but in all the years that I played sports he never missed a game, he even showed up when we were playing on the road,” recalls Tim. “I wanted to be able to do that for my kids and I wanted them to be able to grow up around the shop like I did.”

With a customer base that stretches from Astoria to Gold Beach, including accounts as far east as Salem, Pioneer Printing has a stellar reputation for quality and affordability. A business doesn’t continue to grow for 49 years without doing a few things right. Known for its customer service, Pioneer offers in-house graphic design, delivery and outstanding turnaround time.

When Tim started with the company, Pioneer had a dark room. Now the entire prepress process is digital, which eliminates the harmful chemicals that had plagued the printing industry. These days, approximately 60% of the company’s projects are printed digitally. Pioneer’s largest format digital printer outputs signs, banners and other big projects on paper or vinyl up to 44” wide and six feet long. The remaining 40% of the company’s output is of projects of sufficient volume so that traditional offset printing is a more cost-effective option.

If you’ve seen a brochure, newsletter or menu you admire locally, there’s an excellent chance it was printed at Pioneer. Well known for the tide books it prints annually, the company also prints posters, business cards, envelopes, forms and scores of other projects, including entire paperback books.

Pioneer Printing employs six fulltime, skilled professionals who have worked for the company for as long as 30 years. In fact, the knowledgeable Pioneer staff is why the company continues to succeed in an era of online competition. “It’s important for customers to be able to talk directly with graphic designers and printers,” points out Tim. “That kind of in-person interaction is impossible through a website.”

Tim and his wife, Holly, recently bought what they consider to be a “hobby farm” on 17 acres in Toledo. To finance the investment, they simply called Oregon Coast Bank, just like they did when they purchased Tim’s truck. “Our family and business have been with Oregon Coast Bank since day one,” says Tim. “We’re loyal to them and they’re loyal to us. We thoroughly believe that long-term relationships are important.” And if you ever want to see an example of Pioneer Printing’s quality work, take a look at any Oregon Coast Bank brochure. We wouldn’t have them printed anywhere else.



Jeremy C. Ruark / Country Media, Inc.
Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Toby Duran speaking to Taft Middle/High School juniors as Sen.Dick Anderson, a Spectrum representative, Rep. David Gomberg, and Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke, look on.

Vets speak to students

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

Juniors at Taft Middle/High School listened as Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Toby Duran outlined his military service during the Take a Veteran to School Day.

Spectrum, owned and operated by Charter Communications, organized the special event as part of The History Channel’s Take a Veteran to School Day outreach initiative connecting veterans from all walks of life with students in schools and communities nationwide.

“With 9% of our employees identifying as veterans, we are proud to partner with the History Channel to celebrate Take a Veteran to School Day in Lincoln City,” Charter Communications Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Adam Falk said. “By sharing their remarkable stories of service with today’s students, we ensure tomorrow’s leaders understand and appreciate their devotion to our nation.”

The event was held Monday, Nov. 13 at Taft Middle/High School.

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Happy Jack Liquiavict 2x is recognized safe & effective against hook & round worms by the USCVM. Double strength, 3 year stability. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com).	Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.	Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-833-395-1433.	NG23-581 INVITATION TO SUBMIT BIDS FOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION of NW 17th Street Restroom Replacement Due: 2:00 PM, January 4, 2024 The City of Lincoln City is requesting bids for the design and construction of a Public Restroom @ Hwy 101 & NW 17th Street. The proposed work is to either construct the current building design or submit an alternative design of an approximately 690 sf public restroom and related site improvements. The City is requesting bids for the current building design or proposals and bid to modify the building design through a best value review process. The selection process will focus on the building design, best value to the City and contractor experience with similar projects. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL - Sealed bids must be received by Finance Department, PO Box 50, 801 SW Hwy 101 - City Hall, 3rd Floor Information Desk, Lincoln City, OR 97367 until 2:00 PM Local Time on January 4, 2024. Late proposals will not be accepted. Submittal of the bid shall be in a sealed envelope with identification plainly marked on the outside including project name, bid due date and time, "Bid, Bid Bond and Certificate of Residency", and Proposer's name. Each bid must be submitted on the forms prescribed by the City and accompanied by a Proposal Guaranty (certified check, cashiers check, or bid bond) in an amount equal to ten (10) percent of the total amount bid. The ten (10) percent Proposal Guaranty shall be forfeited to the City if the successful bidder fails to enter into a contract with the City of Lincoln City within fifteen (15) days after the date of the Notice of Award. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a bond equal to one hundred (100) percent of the total amount bid for faithful performance of the Contract. PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS - Bid Documents may be obtained by requesting a set of documents by email to Kevin Mattias at kmattias@lincolncity.org. Only		
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win automatically. To “appear” you must file with the court a legal paper called a “motion” or “answer.” The “motion” or “answer” (or “reply”) must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiff’s attorney or, if the plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the plaintiff. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans’ service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a local county veterans’ service officer and community action agency may be obtained by calling the 2-1-1 information service. Additionally, contact information for a service officer appointed under ORS 408.410 for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves your area can be found by visiting the following link: [vices/pages/county-services.aspx and selecting your county. You can also access a list of Veterans Services for all Oregon counties by visiting the following link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Services/Pages/All-Services-Statewide.aspx>. The relief sought in the Complaint is the foreclosure of the property located at 431 NE Alder St, Yachats, OR 97498. Date of First Publication: 11/14/2023 McCarthy & Holthus, LLP _ John Thomas OSB No. 024691 _ Grace Chu OSB No. 220848 _ Michael Scott OSB No. 973947 920 SW 3rd Ave, 1st Floor Portland, OR 97204 Phone: \(971\) 201-3200 Fax: \(971\) 201-3202 \[gchu@mccarthyholthus.com\]\(mailto:gchu@mccarthyholthus.com\) Of Attorneys for Plaintiff IDSPub #0189298 11/14/2023 11/21/2023 11/28/2023 12/5/2023](https://www.oregon.gov/odva/ser-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

NG23-576 TRUSTEE’S NOTICE OF SALE Reference is made to a certain trust deed (“Trust Deed”) made, executed and delivered by Wendie Mary Rose Reyes, as grantor, to Western Title and Escrow, as trustee, in favor of Point of View Investments LLC 42.424% Undivided Interest, Paulette Postell 42.424% Undivided Interest, Randy and Jennifer Witherspoon 15.152% Undivided Interest, as

beneficiary, dated March 4, 2020, and recorded on March 6, 2020, as Recording No. 2020-02454, in the mortgage records of Lincoln County, Oregon. The beneficial interest held by Jennifer Witherspoon has been assigned to Randy Witherspoon who now holds a 15.152% undivided interest as beneficiary under the trust deed. The Trust Deed covers the following described real property (“Property”) situated in said county and state, to-wit: Lot 4, Block 3, SHORE PINE HILLS, 1ST ADDITION, in the City of Newport, County of Lincoln and State of Oregon, according to the official plat thereof recorded August 31, 1981 in Plat Book 13, page 43, Plat Records. There are defaults by the grantor or other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Trust Deed, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of default of such provision; the defaults for which foreclosure is made is grantor’s failure to pay when due the following sums: Arrearage in the sum of \$43,670.50 as of August 22, 2023, plus additional payments, property expenditures, taxes, liens, assessments, insurance, late fees, attorney’s and trustee’s fees and costs, and interest due at

the time of reinstatement or sale. By reason of said defaults, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: Payoff in the sum of \$43,670.50 as of August 22, 2023, plus taxes, liens, assessments, property expenditures, insurance, accruing interest, late fees, attorney’s and trustee’s fees and costs incurred by beneficiary or its assigns. WHEREFORE, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on January 23, 2024, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, at the following place: Main Entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, Newport, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the above-described Property, which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by grantor of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the grantor or grantor’s successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Trust Deed, to satisfy the obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is fur-

ther given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sum or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with trustee’s and attorney’s fees not exceeding the amounts provided by said ORS 86.778. In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word “grantor” includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, and the words “trustee” and “beneficiary” include their respective successors in interest, if any. Without limiting the trustee’s disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the

trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee’s sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee’s sale. The NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is incorporated herein by reference. [Exhibit A, NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS, is not published pursuant to ORS 86.774(2)(b).] THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. DATED: August 22, 2023. /s/ Eleanor A. DuBay, Eleanor A. DuBay, OSB #073755 Authorized By: Tomasi Bragar DuBay PC, Successor Trustee, 121 SW Morrison, Suite 1850, Portland, OR 97204, Phone: 503-894-9900; fax: 971-544-7236.

NG23-582 Storage Auction Devils Lake Storage 1645 SE East Devils Lake RD Lincoln City, OR 97367. Unit #C23 Bonita Bradley. December 14th 2023. Look on the BID13 website for Unit C23 - Lincoln city, Oregon | Devils Lake Storage | BID13.

Safety

Continued from Page 1

official paint that engineers are required to use, as approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2011. The FHWA chose green for bike infrastructure because other colors were already in use. Red markings were already being tested for transit lanes, which can be seen on the ground in Portland, and blue is the primary color of the international symbol of accessibility parking.

While the green paint is not required to be retroreflective, it must be made with FHWA approved daytime and nighttime chromaticity coordinates, and it must minimize the loss of traction for bicyclists.

Many Oregon cities have had green pavement markings for years. More than 15 years ago, Portland was chosen as one of the first cities in the country to test green bike boxes. Green markings are now widely used to give people on bicycles an expected spot to wait for traffic lights, which gives their presence more visibility to drivers. The green is also used to alert road users to conflict zones, like in slip lanes.

First Kermit in Lincoln County?

Lincoln City’s inaugural kermit may also be the first green pavement in Lincoln County. Kevin Mattias, Lincoln City’s Public Works ADA Coordinator, said a possible candidate for green paint in Newport might be where that city is updating its walkways at SE 35th and Hwy 101 as part of the South Beach Refinement Plan, but he hasn’t seen any green there in person.

While this is the first green bike box in the city, and possibly Lincoln County, it is not the first green bike paint on the coast. In Lane County, Florence is one Oregon coast city that already has green markings on its Hwy 101 bike lanes. And many coastal cities, including Astoria and Newport, have heard and documented requests for green paint from the public and from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees.

Lincoln City does not currently have an advisory com-

mittee for biking and walking, but the county does, and five of its eight seats are vacant. The Lincoln County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) would like representatives from more cities in the county, including Waldport, Yachats, Toledo and Depoe Bay. However, the meeting has a 5:30 p.m. start time, and the last north or south buses of the day depart Newport by 6 p.m., before the meeting ends. And unlike urban state highways, such as T.V. Hwy in Washington County, Hwy 101 is not consistently lit at night for local residents using bicycles as intercity transportation, despite having been part of the Oregon Coast Bike Route (OCBR) since the 1980s.

The BPAC has invited Jenna Berman, the Region 2 Active Transportation Liaison from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to the next meeting to discuss Hwy 101, which has been found to generate more than \$50 million in bike tourism dollars per year. That meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. December 12, at 880 NE 7th Street in Newport, and the public is invited to attend. County commissioners will provide a new livestream option that will create virtual access to the meeting for anyone able to participate remotely.

Why green

ODOT’s most recent Strategic Action Plan revision is prefaced with a message from Bob Van Brocklin, Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, and ODOT Director Kris Strickler, who urge the agency to evolve in key ways. The Plan goes on to say:

“Cars, trucks, and other transportation sources significantly contribute to air pollution and are the largest source of GHG emissions in Oregon, constituting some forty percent of the total.”

That’s why one of ODOT’s ten Strategic Outcomes is improving access to active transportation, like biking, walking, rolling, scooters, as well as public transportation, like vanpools, buses and passenger rail. So far ODOT reports a 20.2% funding boost for public and active transportation, with \$15 million going to replace

older transit vehicles in rural communities. From ODOT’s website:

“Transportation isn’t limited to just cars. Oregonians walk, bike, ride and scooter to their destinations. Giving people options from A to B, and ensuring those options are easy to access, is key to a modern, multimodal transportation system.”

But when it comes to on-the-ground transportation choices for road users, it’s still not that easy being green, like Kermit the Frog says.

ODOT has heard that concern. They acknowledge:

“Nearly one-third of Americans are unable to drive due to age, disability, or because they can’t afford a car. They rely on walking, biking, and transit.”

You get what you pay for

To give more people the choice to “be green,” ODOT has at least one free solution at its disposal: to encourage a culture of following the state’s crosswalk law. In Oregon, ORS 801.220 says every intersection is a legal crosswalk whether it is marked or not, which means people are allowed to walk across the highway at intersections, including T-intersections.

But drivers do not necessarily stop for people showing a desire to cross. Desperate safety concerns are leading Oregon cities to request larger amounts of money from the state toward creating safe transportation choices for people, as well as for businesses who voice concern about their patrons’ well-being.

Even declaring a crosswalk to be closed on one or both sides of an intersection has an expense. It currently costs \$3,000 or more to purchase and install a pair of Crosswalk Closed signs, according to the city’s itemization for the SE 3rd Street project.

According to the Oregon Transportation Emissions website, which was developed by ODOT in partnership with the Oregon Departments of Energy, Environmental Quality, and Land Conservation and Development, ODOT works with local jurisdictions to give Oregonians more low-carbon transportation options.

Funding

What that means is that funding for active transportation projects tends to come from a combination of sources and intergovernmental agreements, and not all at once.

Funding for the Lincoln City SE 3rd Street crossing project first came in 2009, in the form of an ODOT grant using “Bike Bill” money, which is state highway fund money that ORS 366.514 requires to be spent on bike and walkway projects occurring in the road or highway right-of-way. The final phase of funding came last year, when Lincoln City approved a grant award to a contractor plus a 20% contingency fund totaling \$522,945.68.

If that seems like a lot of green, consider that it is about 0.0087 percent of the cost of the interstate freeway widening and bridge replacement project ODOT is planning in the Portland metro area.

Representative David Gombert, who is running for reelection in District 10, which includes Lincoln City, carried a motion to the Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means on November 8th, recommending that ODOT be authorized to request yet another \$1.2 billion in federal funding in an application due Nov. 27.

With the growing costs and tally of smaller safety projects in mind, some legislators are voicing concern about that massive Interstate 5 project, which is costing taxpayers \$6 billion dollars, one billion of which legislators decided to pay with general obligation bonds. The state’s general fund has reportedly never been used for transportation projects prior to ODOT’s Interstate Bridge project.

District 30 Senator Lynn Findley was one legislator who voted against the motion for ODOT to apply for more federal funds, after expressing concern about navigability of the Columbia River for tall ships.

“I don’t want to give the perception of a green light when I think there’s some big flashing red beacons coming at us, that scare the heck out of me on the height, on the approach path for the Portland International Airport, on the

navigability of the river in the future, and the capacity of the bridge, on whether we’re going to spend \$6 billion dollars for three more lanes of traffic when we have that now.”

The motion ultimately passed.

Pressing buttons

To activate the new Rapid-Flashing Beacon lights, people must press a button in the pole situated in the sidewalk, which looks like a standard crosswalk button. The lights begin flashing immediately, and drivers must stop. There is no need to turn off the lights, which turn off on their own. The FHWA has said that the beacons are particularly effective at multilane crossings with speed limits less than 40 mph. The Hwy 101 speed limit is 30 mph in this location.

Bike boxes are not always used on low-car streets like SE 3rd Street, where people in cars can only drive one way: east to the parking area. But in this case, the bright green paint can help catch the eye of drivers on Hwy 101, drawing their attention to the fact that SE 3rd Street is likely to have a person on a bicycle waiting to cross the highway or turn left or right onto the highway.

It remains legal for people using bicycles to ride through the intersection without using the flashing beacon if they prefer. They may also legally ride on the highway itself, even though it lacks bike lanes in the area of D-River. Bicycles are defined as vehicles under Oregon law, with certain exemptions from motor vehicle laws.

As of 2020, the Oregon Stop as Yield law (ORS 811.265), which applies to stop signs only, not traffic signals, allows people on bicycles to slow roll through a stop sign as long as they yield the right of way to approaching traffic and people walking.

This lawful bicycle access to the highway is important for businesses located along Oregon’s internationally-known Oregon Coast Bike Route. Lincoln City is longer than it is wide, which means several miles of Hwy 101 businesses at which to stop pedaling and spend money.

More than transportation

With the marked crosswalk at SE 3rd Street now repositioned and restriped, the beacon and crossing refuge installed, and the cement poured, the foundation for a new SE 3rd Street People Plaza is set. From here, the city plans to add benches and other furniture to create a place for people walking and biking to rest and gather on the segment of SE 3rd between Hwy 101 and SW Ebb Ave, as well as overlooking the bluff.

At a council meeting in July 2022, Ward 2 Councilor Riley Hoagland asked staff to contact the Confederated Siletz Tribes about work on the bluff, and Public Works Director Stephanie Reid said she would do an archeologist study. There has not yet been a date set for a grand opening celebration for the redesigned area.

If stopping traffic with the press of a crosswalk button isn’t enough, as of this year people have one more reason to cross the road, and that’s to eat wood-fired pizza at the newly reopened Hearth & Table. The restaurant is in the building at 304 SE Hwy 101 Lincoln City, next door to their former digs at the now-closed bowling alley.

The Escallonia building, as it is now known, is a historic Lincoln City building that has held a U.S. Post Office and various grocery stores, and it has new owners. Tyler Cunningham, who builds furniture on the lower level for his company Schooner Creek Designs, said he and his wife Shelby bought the building this year, before they knew the crosswalk would be arriving at the same time.

“It was a wonderful surprise,” he said. “Who wouldn’t want people to be safer on this highway?”

Before the beacon was installed, Cunningham said there were times when he helped stop traffic for someone who uses a mobility device.

There is no bike parking yet for patrons on bicycles on the east side of the highway at SE 3rd Street, but as part of the plaza project, two bike racks were placed at the western end, where people can lock up bikes on the bluff before using the crossing beacon.

LOCAL SPORTS



Tigers lineman Isaiah Wilson on the field.

Courtesy photo from Lon French

Taft’s Isaiah Wilson earns NFL award

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

The National Football League Way to Play youth awards are designed to recognize youth players who exemplify proper technique in making impactful plays. The NFL Way to Pay campaign has acknowledged a Taft High School junior for doing just that. Tigers lineman Isaiah Wilson is the Week 10 winner of the NFL Way to Play high school award. He is recognized for both his outstanding blocking technique, and for going above and beyond in terms of sportsmanship in earning a \$3,000 equipment grant for Taft through USA Football.

“NFL Way to Play is about

recognizing good play each week: Knees bent. Pads down. Head up,” Troy Vincent, Sr., NFL executive vice president of football operations, said on the NFL Play Football website, <https://tinyurl.com/4tb9w8d8>. “NFL players and coaches are the best in the world at demonstrating excellent technique.” Players are honored each week during the 2023 NFL season for demonstrating exceptional in-game playing technique. The award is featured each Thursday on the NFL Network’s Good Morning Football program, and winners are chosen by a panel of judges that include: Phil Bogle – 2-year NFL guard, Director of Game Operations; Kevin Boothe – 9-year

NFL offensive lineman, Director of Labor Operations, Management Council; Jay Manahan – Director of Player Communications; Jon Runyan – 14-year NFL offensive tackle, Vice President of Policy and Rules Administration; Bobby Taylor – 10-year NFL cornerback, Strategic Advisor for Football Development; and Troy Vincent – 15-year NFL cornerback, Executive Vice President of Football Operations. On a recent edition of Good Morning Football, program co-host Will Selva spoke highly of Wilson while the network aired a clip of Wilson blocking on Taft running play during the Tigers’ 56-0 victory Sept. 15 at Jef-

erson. “Let’s head out to Taft High School in Oregon and check out the proper blocking technique and sportsmanship from offensive lineman, Isaiah Wilson,” Selva said while the clip of a Wilson pancake block played multiple times. “There’s Isaiah in the middle of the line using his arms, and how about his legs as well, to drive his opponent off the line and down the field. And then the sportsmanship right there from Isaiah as he goes to help up his opponent after the whistle. Nicely done, Isaiah.” Wilson is one of 18 high school football NFL Way to Play winners throughout the country this season, and at press time, the only recipient from Oregon.

Artwork added to Samaritan Hospital collection

SUBMITTED

A painting created by the late Toledo artist Michael Gibbons now graces a hallway at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital. The painting joins dozens of other curated original artworks created by local artists that adorns the hospital walls, in a project spearheaded by the PCHD Foundation. Entitled Winter Surf II, the original oil painting was created by the late Michael Gibbons. The nationally known artist made his home in the coastal mill town of Toledo for many years before his passing in July 2020. The 30-inch by 80-inch painting, with a gold wood frame built by the artist, offers a perspective of the central Oregon Pacific coast. It is one of a series of four paintings the artist made at different times of the year. Now, patients and visitors can view the piece from the gallery and main entrance of the hospital. “We are pleased to accept and display this beautiful piece,” Foundation Executive Director Karla Clem said. “Many who come to our facility for health care are surprised by the variety, beauty and creativity of the local art pieces displayed throughout our hospital. We are grateful to Yaquina River Museum of Art for giving our hospital Winter Surf II for our Pacific communities to enjoy.” For years, Winter Surf II was owned by a company in Hillsboro then later sold to a company in Lake Oswego, which then gifted it to the non-profit Yaquina River Museum of Art in Toledo. The museum was founded in 2002 by Michael and Judith Gibbons. The institution has shown the painting to the public each year for the past 11 years in the 1887 School House Exhibit in Toledo. The museum’s board of directors decided to make this remarkable painting available for more members of the public to see. Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital was

chosen because of its known appreciation for the therapeutic role and healing power of art in a health care setting. “The Samaritan Health Services Arts in Health program, known as ArtsCare, is dedicated to enhancing the well-being and healing experiences of patients, employees and community partners through the power of art, according to Program Manager Erin Gudge. “ArtsCare has worked in conjunction with hospital foundations to bring enjoyable and unique art experiences to patients and staff,” Gudge said. “One facet of arts in health is creating a healing environment. This is accomplished through architectural and interior design as well as including art and music in healing spaces.” As part of the ceremony, The Rev. Pauline Morrison, chaplain for both Samaritan hospitals in Lincoln County and friend to the Gibbonses, gave the following prayer of blessing, which offers an explanation of the healing nature of the arts: “O God, you create many venues for healing through medical personnel who offer healing through their hands, intellect and compassion; through music and art. Michael Gibbons sought to offer glimpses of your beauty and peace through his paintings. Even as viewing the ocean’s surf can bestow a sense of calm, so may your blessing be on those who view this painting, that they may find peace and healing of body, mind, soul and spirit. May the silent music of Winter Surf II soothe all who enter this house of healing. O God, bless this painting, and all who behold it, for your glory and through your mercy, grace, and love. Amen.” The artwork was dedicated Monday, Nov. 27, during a ceremony attended by dignitaries from Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, Pacific Communities Health District Foundation and Yaquina River Museum of Art.



Courtesy photo from Mary Jo Kerlin

Board members and other dignitaries gathered beneath Winter Surf II including, front row from left, hospital CEO Lesley Ogden, MD; museum founder and board president Judith Gibbons; foundation Executive Director Karla Clem; and Oregon State Rep. David Gomberg.



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