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TO LINCOLN CITY

Coast Life  
PAGE B1



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WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Business  
PAGE A8



# Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2

## Samaritan to cancel Advantage health plans



Samaritan Health said it will discontinue offering its Advantage health care plans at the end of this year. (Courtesy photo from The Lund Report)

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

Samaritan Health has announced to its Medicaid customers that it will cease offering its Advantage health care plans at the end of this year.

The announcement was issued over the Labor Day weekend.

Following repeated requests for details about the possible discontinuation of the plans over the past several weeks by the Lincoln County Leader, prompted by Samaritan clients, Bruce Butler, CEO of Samaritan Health Plans issued the following statement Sept. 4:

“Samaritan Health Plans has

not been immune to nationwide challenges in health care. As part of an integrated health system serving the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon coast, we are evaluating multiple options to ensure sustainability for the long term. In 2025, there are no changes for our health plan members. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) enables Medicare Advantage plans to begin communicating plan options for the upcoming benefit year to the public in October of each year.”

CMS enables Medicare Advantage plans to begin

See **SAMARITAN**, page A4

## Lincoln County Leader employees to work remotely

STAFF

The weekly Lincoln County Leader newspaper is moving out of the office it currently leases in Newport, allowing its employees to work remotely.

The newspaper will continue to be published each Wednesday, although beginning Sept. 8, its employees will be working remotely from home offices or from other Country Media newspaper locations. Country Media is the parent company of the Lincoln County Leader.

“Far fewer of our customers are coming into our local offices to do business,” said Country Media’s chief executive, Joe Warren. “Classified advertising and legal notices, obituaries and subscriptions increasingly are being placed online.”

Country Media owns nine community newspapers in Oregon and one in Northern California. It’s based in Salem.

“Within our group of newspapers, we’re beginning to create a small number of hub locations where we can produce multiple publications,” Warren said. “In Tillamook, for example, we oversee news reporting and ad sales not only for the Headlight Herald, but also for our newspapers in Cannon Beach and Manzanita.”

Meantime, allowing certain of its employees to work remotely “will make it easier for Country Media to recruit new workers and also to share resources within the company,” said Warren. “It’s increasingly difficult to recruit new employees and independent contractors to the small towns where we’re located,” he said. “Many of them now want to work

See **REMOTE**, page A4

## Newport man bikes across country

WILL LOHRE  
Lincoln County Leader

A little more than 11 weeks after setting out on his bike from Newport in June, Thomas Knott celebrated completing the journey of a lifetime with his sister at her home in Philadelphia.

The party was held to commemorate Knott’s achievement of biking from coast to coast, a final hurrah before he headed back to Germany.

After so long on the road, Knott is ready for the comforts of home, a routine, and a nice German beer.

“I’m pretty happy about this,” Knott said ahead of his flight home on Aug. 24. “Then my life gets more structured.”

Life on the road

The structure of Knott’s life over the summer was built on hours and hours on roads, trails, and bike paths.

Knott started his trip at Newport, where he once lived on the Oregon Coast. Two months later, Knott was gazing over the Atlantic Ocean in



Knott in front of the United State Capitol building in Washington D.C. (Courtesy photos from Thomas Knott)

See **BIKES**, page A6

## LCSD expected to lose \$1.47M following student population decline

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

As a new school year begins, Lincoln County School District (LCSD) administrators are keeping a close watch on student population.

The number of children in the classrooms determines the amount of state school funding each district receives.

LCSD Superintendent Majalish Tolan said an early count shows a decline in overall student population.

“We anticipate a decline in enrollment of around 100

students, as per the trend reported in our demographic study,” Tolan told the Lincoln County Leader. “The decline is currently being seen at the elementary schools, with smaller kindergarten classes enrolling than senior classes graduating. As these smaller classes move up through the grades, declining enrollment will be realized at the secondary level.”

The predicted enrollment decline will amount to an approximately \$1.47 million loss, according to LCSD

Business Office Director Kim Cusick.

**STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY**

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, The LCSD Board was expected to vote on changes to the district’s student cell phone following an executive order this summer by Gov. Tina Kotek. The executive order to Oregon’s 197 school districts issued July 2, requires each district adopt a

See **LCSD**, page A6



LCSD administrators estimate a \$1.47 million loss in state school funding due to declining student enrollment. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)





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Weather

**Wednesday:** High-64/Low-54  
AM Clouds/PM Sun

**Thursday:** High-62/Low-52  
Cloudy

**Friday:** High-64/Low-53  
Mostly Cloudy

**Saturday:** High-62/Low-56  
Cloudy

**Sunday:** High-61/Low-52  
AM Clouds/PM Sun

**Monday:** High-64/Low-53  
AM Clouds/PM Sun

**Tuesday:** High-65/Low-54  
Partly Cloudy

Past Weather

On the Coast

	Rain	Low	High
September 2...	0.00	53.2°F	68.8°F
September 3...	0.00	57.0°F	66.5°F
September 4...	0.00	56.5°F	63.9°F
September 5...	0.02	55.9°F	64.3°F
September 6...	0.00	57.4°F	66.6°F
September 7...	0.00	55.9°F	69.7°F
September 8...	0.00	56.0°F	59.7°F
Total rainfall from Jan. 1		35.32"	

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

High.....	2:29 a.m.....	8.1
Low .....	8:20 a.m.....	1.0
High.....	2:36 p.m.....	9.2
Low .....	9:06 p.m.....	0.2

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

High.....	3:25 a.m.....	7.4
Low .....	8:58 a.m.....	1.8
High.....	3:14 p.m.....	9.3
Low .....	10:00 p.m.....	0.3

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

High.....	4:28 a.m.....	6.8
Low .....	9:40 a.m.....	2.7
High.....	3:57 p.m.....	9.2
Low .....	11:01 p.m.....	0.2

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

High.....	5:41 a.m.....	6.3
Low .....	10:30 a.m.....	3.3
High.....	4:48 p.m.....	8.9

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Low .....	12:11 a.m.....	-0.1
High.....	7:09 a.m.....	6.0
Low .....	11:36 a.m.....	3.9
High.....	5:53 p.m.....	8.4

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Low .....	1:27 a.m.....	0.0
High.....	8:40 a.m.....	6.1
Low .....	1:05 p.m.....	4.1
High.....	7:11 p.m.....	8.2

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16**

Low .....	2:42 a.m.....	0.0
High.....	9:51 a.m.....	6.3
Low .....	2:36 p.m.....	3.9
High.....	8:32 p.m.....	8.1

**Sunrise/Sunset**

September 10.....	6:49 a.m.....	7:37 p.m.
September 11.....	6:50 a.m.....	7:36 p.m.
September 12.....	6:51 a.m.....	7:34 p.m.
September 13.....	6:53 a.m.....	7:32 p.m.
September 14.....	6:54 a.m.....	7:30 p.m.
September 15.....	6:55 a.m.....	7:28 p.m.
September 16.....	6:56 a.m.....	7:26 p.m.
September 17.....	6:57 a.m.....	7:24 p.m.
September 18.....	6:58 a.m.....	7:22 p.m.
September 19.....	7:00 a.m.....	7:21 p.m.

September 10.....	6:49 a.m.....	7:37 p.m.
September 11.....	6:50 a.m.....	7:36 p.m.
September 12.....	6:51 a.m.....	7:34 p.m.
September 13.....	6:53 a.m.....	7:32 p.m.
September 14.....	6:54 a.m.....	7:30 p.m.
September 15.....	6:55 a.m.....	7:28 p.m.
September 16.....	6:56 a.m.....	7:26 p.m.
September 17.....	6:57 a.m.....	7:24 p.m.
September 18.....	6:58 a.m.....	7:22 p.m.
September 19.....	7:00 a.m.....	7:21 p.m.

Lottery

**Friday, September 9**  
Mega Millions  
6 • 14 • 36 • 58 • 62 • PB-24

**Saturday, September 10**  
Powerball  
11 • 23 • 44 • 61 • 62 • PB-17 • x2

**Saturday, September 10**  
Megabucks  
7 • 21 • 25 • 38 • 40 • 47

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# Two arrests during Crimes Against Minors investigations

STAFF REPORT  
Lincoln County Leader

Two people face crimes against children charges following separate investigations by the Lincoln City Police Department (LCPD).

On Aug. 21, 32-year-old Dylan Wright, of Otis, was arrested after attempting to pick up a minor at an undisclosed location in Lincoln City, according to LCPD.

Wright is accused of sending sexually graphic messages and offering to sell/bring marijuana to an undercover officer posing as a minor, according to a release from the LCPD.

A search warrant was executed on Wright’s vehicle. Officers located



**The investigations are conducted in a continuing effort to protect our children from predators who target children for sexual exploitation and to reduce crime and further enhance the safety of the community, according to a release from the LCPD. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)**

many individually pack-aged Ziploc bags of marijuana bud, large bags/ moving boxes of marijuana trimmings, a digital

scale, and marijuana pipes.

Wright was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for:

- Luring a Minor
- Online Sexual Corruption of a Child 1st Degree
- Delivery of Marijuana
- Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

Wright’s bail was set at \$150,000.

On Aug. 30, 36-year-old Joseph Dunn, of Colton, was arrested after attempting to pick up a minor at an undisclosed location in Lincoln City.

Dunn is accused of sending sexually charged messages and images through social media to an undercover Officer posing as a minor, according to the LCPD release.

Dunn was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for:

- Luring a Minor
- Online Sexual Corruption of a Child 2nd Degree x2
- Sexual Corruption of a Child 1st Degree.

Dunn’s bail was set at \$250,000.

The LCPD was assisted in the investigations by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office.

The LCPD encourages parents to monitor their children’s social media activity and discuss with them the possible dangers of communicating with strangers online.

These investigations are conducted in a continuing effort to protect our children from predators who target children for sexual exploitation and to reduce crime and further enhance the safety of our community, the release states.

# Asleep at the wheel leads to possession arrest

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

One person has been arrested, and Newport Police seized 11.25 ounces of meth following a welfare check.

Newport Police Department (NPPD) officers were dispatched to a Welfare Check involving a vehicle in the area of SE Ferry Slip and SE 35th Street, at approximately 10:42 p.m. Sept. 6.

The vehicle was reportedly stopped in the lane of travel, and the occupants were asleep inside. The officers contacted the driver identified as 49-year-old Patrick Leo

Ball Jr., of Siletz.

The officers were able to determine Ball, and the passenger were not suffering from a medical emergency and had fallen asleep. However, during the contact, officers observed evidence of drug crimes within the vehicle. Ball and his passenger were detained for possession of methamphetamine. Officers seized the visible evidence, which tested positive for methamphetamine.

Narcotics Detection K9 Zoe was deployed and alerted to the presence of narcotics inside of the vehicle. Officers were granted a search warrant



**Newport Police Narcotics Detection K9 Zoe and the evidence collected following the investigation. (Courtesy photo from the NPPD)**

for the vehicle, where they located a commercial quantity of methamphetamine, as well as evidence

of drug use and sales. Officers seized 11.25 ounces of methamphetamine.

Ball was transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was lodged on the following crimes:

- Unlawful Manufacture Methamphetamine
- Unlawful Delivery Methamphetamine
- Unlawful Possession Methamphetamine

The incident remains under investigation.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Officer Mangum of the Newport Police Department at 541-574-3348. The Newport Police Tip Line is available at 541-574-5455, or Text-a-Tip at 541-270-1856 or tipline@newportpolice.net.

# Traffic stop leads to arrest for unlawful possession of machine gun

A Dallas, Oregon man faces multiple criminal charges following a traffic stop by Newport police and the discovery of the unlawful possession of a machine gun.

Newport Police Department (NPPD) officer observed a traffic violation and conducted a traffic stop on a 1996 Chevrolet Camaro at approximately 11:30 p.m. Aug. 27.

Officers determined that the driver of the vehicle, identified as 35-year-old Michael Andrew Knight, of Dallas, Oregon, During the stop, had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Two additional Newport officers arrived on the scene to assist.

As officers attempted to take Knight into custody, he attempted to flee in the vehicle, according



**Officers discovered a machine gun, a hand gun and cocaine in the suspect's vehicle. (Metro Creative Connection)**

to a NPPD release.

“Officers were able to prevent his initial attempt to drive away. When officers attempted to remove Knight from the vehicle, he lunged toward the passenger seat and began reaching under the dash. One officer entered the vehicle to subdue Knight, while additional officers attempted to access the

inoperable,” the release states. “Knight continued to resist all attempts to place him under arrest and an officer deployed a Taser. With the assistance of Lincoln County Sheriff’s deputies that arrived on scene, officers were able to detain Knight in handcuffs and remove him from the vehicle. While taking control of Knight’s arms, officers observed an empty handgun holster on the seat next to Knight.

Officers learned Knight was a convicted felon. The officers applied for a warrant to search the vehicle, which was granted. A subsequent search of the vehicle led to the discovery of a 9mm handgun that was concealed under the driver’s seat of the vehicle. The handgun was a non-serialized handgun that had been modified with specific parts, allowing it to be operated as a machine gun. The handgun was loaded with a 30-round extended magazine, the release states.

Officers discovered four other loaded magazines for the pistol, two of which were extended capacity magazines. Also located during the

search was five grams of cocaine, evidence of cocaine manufacturing, a box of 9mm ammunition, a ski mask, a wig, and a large crowbar.

Michael Andrew Knight was booked and lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for the following:

- Fleeing or Attempting to Elude
- Attempted Escape III
- Resisting Arrest
- Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- Attempted Kidnapping II
- Felon in Possession of Firearm
- Unlawful Possession of Firearm (concealed)
- Unlawful Possession of Machine Gun
- Possession Controlled Substance – Cocaine
- Manufacturing Controlled Substance – Cocaine
- Probation Violation
- Arrest Warrant – Dallas Municipal Court

If you have any information regarding this case, contact Officer Eshleman of the Newport Police Department at 541-574-3348. The Newport Police Tip Line is available at 541-574-5455, or Text-a-Tip at 541-270-1856 or tipline@newportpolice.net.

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# Commissioner falls, fractures hip, shoulder

JEREMY C. RUARK  
Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall fell after tripping over an electrical cord in her courthouse office the morning of Aug. 25 and suffered fractures to her hip and shoulder, according to Lincoln County

Public information Officer Kenneth Lipp.

“She subsequently underwent surgery at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, where surgeons placed a plate and two screws in her hip,” Lipp said. “After some initial rehabilitation in the hospital, the Commissioner is now

recovering at home and undertaking duties as she is able.”

Hall plans to attend the next board meeting, Sept. 17, remotely and pass the gavel to Commissioner Walter Chuck to temporarily act as chair, according to Lipp.

Hall is currently the subject of a recall effort.



# Department of Justice issues warning of new scam

The Oregon Department of Justice’s Consumer Hotline is warning Oregonians about a new scam involving scammers impersonating Oregon lawyers to target victims.

In the two cases reported, victims lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to scammers pretending to be attorneys.

In the first case, a fraudulent website impersonating an Oregon attorney successfully scammed victims out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. One victim obtained the “attorney’s” information through a person she met on the dating app Hinge – and believing the individual to be a real attorney offering investment services, she transferred

funds with the expectation of receiving returns.

In a separate incident, a consumer lost over \$700,000 when scammers gained unauthorized access to both the attorney’s and the client’s email accounts. Scammers were aware that the client was expecting a substantial settlement, so they impersonated the client to provide false wiring instructions, and they impersonated the attorney to cancel a scheduled meeting.

Although the deception was discovered shortly after the transfer and a hold was reportedly placed on the funds, it remains unclear how much, if any, of the money has been or will be

recovered. This matter is under investigation by the FBI and the involved financial institutions.

“Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, predatory, and cruel,” Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield said. “This is a reminder to practice extreme caution when it comes to money, even if something – or someone – seems legitimate.”

In a PSA earlier this



**In the two cases reported, victims lost hundreds of thousands of dollars to scammers pretending to be attorneys. (Courtesy photo)**

month, the FBI warned of scammers impersonating lawyers and reaching out to victims of past scams, falsely offering to help them recover previously stolen funds.

If you have been impacted by this scam: File a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center as quickly as possible File a police report with your local police

department

If money was delivered via wire, contact your bank and file a “Suspicious Activity Report”

File a report with the FDIC regarding wire fraud

File a report with the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) as they investigate banks for unsafe or unsound practices, compliance violations, or breaches of fiduciary duty

File a report with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

If you are an attorney who has been impersonated: Report the incident to the Oregon State Bar

File a police report with

your local police office and provide the imposter website

File a report with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center and provide the imposter website

Additional precautions for attorneys:

In transactions involving wiring funds, obtain and confirm wiring instructions in-person, whenever possible.

If wiring instructions are received via email or another indirect method, verify them using a known and trusted phone number before initiating any transfers.

Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated — and staying informed is one of the best ways to protect yourself.

# Rep. Cyrus Javadi registers with Democratic Party

State Rep. Cyrus Javadi (HD 32-Tillamook) announced that he changed his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat in advance of the Sept. 4 deadline for incumbent candidates running for re-election to file with the major political party of their choice.

“Being an elected leader has never been about party loyalty to me, it’s been about how I can best fight for our community and our state,” Javadi stated in a release issued Sept. 5. “Like the vast majority of my constituents, I support our constitution and the right to freedom of speech, support the rule of law, believe we have a moral obligation to treat people fairly and with respect, and believe that as elected leaders it’s our job to show up and govern, for the sake of ordinary people, not the interests of the powerful and well-connected.

“Too many extreme politicians in today’s Republican Party have abandoned these values, which is why I made the decision to join the Democratic Party. I’m not leaving my principles, just



**Cyrus Javadi**

aligning with people who still share them, still show up to govern, and are more interested in bipartisan solutions than obstruction. My loyalty is first and foremost to the people of my district and I won’t waver from my values in order to fit into a partisan mold.”

First elected to the legislature in 2022, Javadi, who serves as vice-chair of the House Committee on Health Care, has championed policies to bring down the costs of health care and prescription drugs, fight overdose deaths, and stand up for crime victims and survivors of domestic abuse, according to the release.

“Rep. Cyrus Javadi has worked relentlessly to

create good jobs and fight rising costs for coastal families. He doesn’t hide behind political slogans or shy away from tough conversation,” Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar said. “He is dedicated solely to his constituents and for that, he’s earned our trust and respect, regardless of political party.”

According to the release, Javadi’s advocacy has delivered millions of dollars for services and infrastructure projects in coastal communities, including \$6 million to Columbia Memorial Hospital, \$1.4 million for detox and substance use recovery centers in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties, \$2.7 million for water safety and storm preparedness in Manzanita, and much more.

“As an elected official in a non-partisan office, I care about results, not party politics,” Commissioner Chair Mark Kujala said. “The Clatsop County Commission unanimously established legislative priorities at the beginning of this year and Rep. Cyrus Javadi was a champion for each

and every one of them in Salem, delivering major wins for our community.”

“It’s been clear for years that Rep. Javadi’s loyalty is to the residents of the North Coast, not to any politician or political party. I look forward to continuing to work with him to move our region forward, regardless of what letter is next to his name on the ballot,” Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson said.

In addition to serving in the legislature, Javadi has a doctorate in dental surgery and operates a dental clinic in Tillamook. Previously he has served as a Commissioner for the Port of Tillamook, the Dental Director for the Tillamook County Health Department, and board member and secretary for the Oregon Dental Association.

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESPONSE**

“The Democratic Party of Oregon extends a warm welcome to Representative Javadi, who has been a steadfast advocate for the North Coast communities he serves,” DPO Chair Nathan Soltz said. “As

Democrats, we’re proud to stand with those who will protect Medicaid, support rural hospitals, work to improve roads and bridges, and safeguard the rights of all Oregonians.”

Rep. Javadi’s decision demonstrates that Democrats are serious about delivering real solutions for Oregonians. His record shows a clear commitment to doing what’s right for his constituents. While Republicans focus on stoking division with hateful rhetoric, Democrats believe in pursuing the best policies that improve Oregonians’ lives.

“We’re a big tent party. Unlike Trump’s GOP, we believe in healthy debate and an honest exchange of ideas,” Soltz added. “Democrats believe that we’re stronger when we all work together to get good things done for people.

Republican Leader Christine Drazan’s caucus is in clear disarray as they vote to let rural hospitals shut down, attack vote-by-mail, ban books, and oppose road and bridge improvements while endangering jobs.

“We’re glad to work

with Rep. Javadi on the issues that matter most to Oregonians. We welcome him to the Democratic Party, and look forward to supporting him for re-election in 2026.”

**REPUBLICAN PARTY RESPONSE**

The Evergreen PAC released the following statement concerning after Javadi’s decision to switch his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat: “House Republicans remain united in our commitment to lowering taxes, making homeownership affordable, ending homelessness, and improving student outcomes. That mission is not affected by today’s announcement. Instead it strengthens our work, and our caucus, to advance those ideals by giving the north coast the opportunity to support a new leader who will put the needs of their communities above themselves.”

Evergreen PAC is the campaign arm of House Republicans and is committed to electing Republicans to the State Legislature to fight for Oregonians and hold the Supermajority accountable.

# Oregon transportation tax vote and layoffs delayed because of senator's health

**JULIA SHUMWAY**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

With a key Democratic senator recovering from surgery, the Oregon Senate has delayed a planned vote on a transportation tax package for two weeks.

The House narrowly passed the 10-year, \$4.3 billion package Monday, Sept. 1, and a Senate vote was scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 3. But on Tuesday evening, Senate Democrats announced that they would delay the vote until Sept. 17, when they expect Sen. Chris Gorsek, D-Gresham, to be available.

Raising taxes requires support from 18 of 30 senators, and Democrats hold 18 seats. That means all Democrats need to be present if Republicans remain united against the transportation bill. Gorsek underwent back surgery in August and is recovering from complications of that surgery, Democratic leaders said.

“We have been in constant communication with Sen. Gorsek and his team as he works to recover from complications relating to a planned



**Sen. Chris Gorsek, D-Gresham, at the Oregon Legislature on Feb. 12, 2024. (Courtesy photo from Jordan Gale / Oregon Capital Chronicle)**

back surgery,” Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, said in a statement Tuesday. “My understanding is that it would be unsafe for Sen. Gorsek to be away from medical care at this time.”

A Sept. 17 vote means the bill cannot pass until after Sept. 15, when hundreds of Oregon Department of Transportation workers were slated to be laid off pending legislative intervention. Kotek on Tuesday ordered layoffs be delayed until Oct. 15 again only if the transportation tax package fails final passage in the Senate.

“This date will make

sure there are no interruptions for the hundreds of workers whose jobs hang in the balance and the basic services that Oregonians rely on,” Kotek said in a statement.

Melissa Unger, executive director of the Service Employees International Union Local 503 that represents many of the affected employees, said workers appreciate the security of knowing no one will lose their jobs for another month, but that lawmakers need to do better.

“When one of our workers calls out sick, someone will step up and do their job,” she said. “And I think right now, we really believe that

we need to give workers security. They have been facing unknown timelines, unknown votes for the past two months about whether they get to save their jobs.”

The Oregon Department of Transportation faces an immediate \$300 million shortfall in the two-year budget cycle that began July 1, because lawmakers failed to pass a transportation funding plan during the recent six-month legislative session. Kotek in July announced that the department would lay off 483 workers and close a dozen maintenance stations, but she postponed the effective date of layoffs after calling lawmakers back in a special session.

Wren Gilson, an ODOT senior application developer who received a layoff notice in July, held back tears while talking to reporters about an hour after learning of the delay. About half of Gilson’s team, who work on software for the Motor Vehicles Division and compile data, received layoff notices, and at least one person on the team left state employment because of the uncertainty

over department funding.

“I definitely feel like my job is being held hostage for some political

game, and I just wish that there was something that

See **TAX**, page A4

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APY<sup>1</sup> RELATIONSHIP RATE<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is effective 6/2/2025 for a limited time. Minimum to open is \$500, maximum CD amount is \$240,000. Fees may reduce earnings on your account. Early withdrawal penalty may apply.  
<sup>2</sup>Relationship is defined as opening and using a consumer or business checking account with 1st Security Bank.

TAX

From Page A3

I could do or say, or anything that would help get people to just make this happen,” Gilson said.

The House on Labor Day passed an amended version of Kotek’s proposed plan, including a 6-cent gas tax increase, hikes to vehicle title and registration fees and temporarily doubling a statewide payroll tax for transit from one-tenth of 1% to two-tenths of 1%.

Under that plan, the payroll tax increase would cost a worker who earns the statewide average salary of \$68,283 about \$68 per year, and drivers of passenger vehicles would pay \$84 more on their two-year car registration. The gas tax impact would vary depending on how many miles people drive and how fuel-efficient their cars are.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/09/02/oregon-transportation-tax-vote-and-layoffs-delayed-because-of-senators-health/>

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REMOTE

From Page A1

remotely from home.

“As it is, all of the company’s accounting, circulation and human resources functions already are going through our central office in Salem, so this move will be of little disruption to our readers and advertising customers.”

Those who need assistance can call the Leader’s phone at 541-265-8571 or 503-842-7535, or email [jwarren@countrymedia.net](mailto:jwarren@countrymedia.net).

SAMARITAN

From Page A1

marketing Medicare Advantage plan options for the upcoming benefit year to the public on October 1 of each year, according to Samaritan Health Services Marketing and Communications representative Evonne Walls.

She suggested that anyone shopping for a Medicare plan should visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) or refer to the Medicare & You handbook for a list of Medicare health and prescription drug plans in the area. They can also reach out to Senior Health Insurance Benefit Assistance Program (SHIBA) at 800-722-4134 or TTY 711 or visit [Shiba.oregon.gov](http://Shiba.oregon.gov).

For a list of plans Samaritan health care providers are in network with, visit [samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling](http://samhealth.org/InsuranceBilling).

BACKGROUND

In May, the Lincoln County Leader published an Open Letter to the community from Samaritan President and CEO Marty Cahill concerning the medial agency’s financial challenges.

“Health care in Oregon is in a tough spot. According to the Hospital Association of Oregon, half the health systems in our state are operating at a loss,” Cahill wrote. “That’s not sustainable. Reimbursement from government payers is shrinking, even as more people rely on those programs. At the same time, the health challenges our patients face are more complex than ever.

“Costs are rising — driven by inflation, staffing shortages and new regulations. It’s a simple but brutal equation: expenses are up, and revenue is down.

“All across our industry, we’re being asked to do more with less — see more patients, provide more services, stretch farther. And while those of us in health care will always do our best to serve, no system or caregiver can keep stretching indefinitely without strain.

“Samaritan is not immune. We’ve stepped up time and again to meet growing needs — expanding access, adding services, recruiting specialists, and stepping in when other community providers have needed support. And we’ve been open about the financial pressure we’re under.”

Cahill solicited the community’s support in his Open letter.

“This is a pivotal moment. Health care is changing. If we want Samaritan to be here for the next 100 years, we must adapt. And we can’t do that alone,” he wrote.

In July of this year, The Lund Report presented a story concerning Samaritan Health’s financial challenges, citing a report by consultants hired by Samaritan Health. The report said the consultants, Warbird Consulting Partners, advised Samaritan that an option would be to develop a two-year phase performance improvement plan.

“Notably, the consultants encouraged Samaritan to find buyers or partners for its two largest health plans — a Medicare Advantage plan known as Samaritan Advantage, and its Medicaid plan and CCO, InterCommunity Health Plan,” The Lund Report noted.

For the first six months of the year, Samaritan Health lost about \$24.2 million on its operations but made almost \$11 million on its investments. Its patient revenues for the period were almost \$982 million. The system reported higher admissions, patient days, clinic visits and emergency room visits than the same time last year, according to The Lund Report.

Read the full Lund Report at: <https://www.thelundreport.org/content/samaritan-healths-survival-lies-cutting-costs-raising-revenues-consultants-say>

In Late August, Samaritan issued a statement saying that it will continue offering labor, delivery, and emergency surgical services at all five of its hospitals, including in Lincoln City.

Samaritan said the decision follows more than 70 listening sessions with staff, clinicians and leaders across the system, and “they directly reflect the ideas shared during those conversations.”

The Oregon Nurses Association said in a statement that Samaritan’s decision to preserve the critical healthcare services comes after a months-long campaign by ONA nurses, doctors, patients, community members and elected leaders to save family birth centers and surgical services at risk of closing at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital and Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital.

Samaritan Health operates Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City and Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport.

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

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LETTERS

WE CARE ABOUT CLAIRE

County Commissioner, Claire Hall, an Oregon native, has served Lincoln County admirably since 2004 receiving three prestigious awards for her work on homeless issues, mental health/addiction/disability issues, and rural organizing activities.

She has received recognition for her work on veteran’s needs, childhood education needs, and affordable housing needs. With a degree in Communications and a career in journalism, Claire Hall is skilled in finding answers for issues through investigative techniques.

I also know Claire Hall. Claire Carse! She cares about the democratic values that have made our country great. She cares about seniors, and children, and veterans, and those who have

harder struggles. Claire cares about the environment, our industries, services, and a balanced budget. Her experience and vast knowledge of all the issues we face in this troubling era is invaluable to us. Her dedication to maintaining the democratic process is unquestionable.

And yet... It is being questioned by a recall effort that is awash in misrepresentation and spurious intent. A small group without clear purpose. You might say a small group in Lincoln County using the national republican tactics to push

out those who treasure democracy and the ideals of liberty and freedom for All!

I urge my fellow citizens to remember Claire Hall’s record of service in Lincoln County and reject this recall effort.

Elissa Wilson  
Newport

COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have proclaimed optimal community water fluoridation as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Studies show that community water fluoridation - which is not currently practiced in our community - prevents at least 25% of tooth decay in children and adults, even with the widespread use of fluoride-containing products like toothpaste.

Critics of safe levels of water fluoridation claim there is a negative association between any amount of fluoridation and IQ. That is not true. No studies have found consistent evidence that fluoride exposure at the concentration used for community water

fluoridation in our country is associated with lower IQ scores. Even the National Toxicology Program’s Monograph on Fluoride and Neurocognition, which is often cited as proof that fluoride affects IQ, states in bold print that its findings do not apply to the practice of water fluoridation in the US and Canada.

We must continue to evaluate and use non-biased, scientific reviews of evidence to protect our community’s most vulnerable from preventable disease. Decades of research and over

80 years of practical experience have demonstrated that fluoridation of public water has been responsible for dramatically improving the public’s oral health.

The American Dental Association stands with the Oregon Dental Association and other local pediatric health care groups who strongly support community water fluoridation because it is effective, safe, economical, and socially equitable in preventing tooth decay.

Rachel Meek, DMD  
Siletz and Lincoln City  
Dentist

ONLINE POLL

Previous Poll:  
Are you ready for the change of seasons, from summer to fall?

Yes.....81%  
No.....19%

New Poll: How often do you and your family share dinner at home together?

- Every evening
- Frequently, when everyone is home
- Not often



COMMENTARY

Oregon’s different way on liquor store privatization

RANDY STAPILUS  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Along a remote and deep-sunk crook of the Deschutes River, in the small town of Maupin, you can find a state liquor store. But to find it you’ll need to make sure your vision encompasses legal theory.

The Maupin Market does indeed sell liquor, along with related products, a few steps away from groceries and other goods. Walking from the general goods side of the store to the liquor store side is just a matter of walking through a large doorway; you have to read the posted sign to tell when you’ve crossed over. It is a legal liquor store, legally separate, but it has the feel of being part of a normal retail operation.

Why Maupin’s example isn’t more the rule than the exception in Oregon could be a political question this year, as it last was in 2022.

Most Oregon liquor stores are stand-alone operations, separate from other retail operations and under strict state control.

The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission describes the difference between larger and smaller operations: “There are two types of liquor stores to serve the public: exclusive and non-exclusive. Exclusive



Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission / Flickr  
The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission oversees the state’s liquor stores.

stores are generally located in metropolitan areas and are high volume businesses whose primary function is selling liquor. Exclusive stores may also sell authorized related items such as glassware, mixers and items used in preparing a drink. Non-exclusive stores are operated in conjunction with another business such as hardware, drug or grocery stores. Non-exclusive stores usually serve smaller communities and unique settings.”

It also says, “The State owns the distilled spirits in each store. The OLCC appoints liquor store operators who are responsible for the stores’

daily operations. The liquor store operator and personnel are part of a small business operation and are not state employees. Which seems like a strange mix of public agency and private business.

The Oregon approach is not unique. About a third of the country, most often in southern states, does something similar.

But most western states, including California, Washington and Nevada allow liquor sales in private retailers like grocery stores. Washington state made the change, after a successful initiative campaign, in 2011. Oregon’s system is more like those

in Idaho and Montana. Many Oregonians, especially on the west side, might puzzle over that.

The possibility of changing this approach to broader retail sales has come up this year because two Portlanders, David John Allison and Kyle LoCascio, have filed an initiative proposal intended for the November 2026 ballot. It has gotten as far as an approved ballot title, issued by the attorney general’s office on August 8. The measure would allow liquor sales in stores which could obtain a license to do so. It is initiative proposal 43.

It probably won’t make the ballot, at least based

on campaign activity so far, of which there hasn’t been much. Little or no spending on the measure has been reported by its backers, who appear to have no organized campaign or even a website. Strong organization would be needed, as it would be for any ballot measure, to gather the 117,173 petition signatures needed for a spot on the ballot.

The language on the petition is not even original: It comes from a 2022 initiative effort by the Northwest Grocery Association, whose members would like to be able to sell liquor. A spokesman said at the time “Oregonians firmly believe that we should be able to buy liquor along with beer and wine at their local grocery stores as our neighbors in Washington and California are able to do.”

The association said legal battles and delays were among the reasons the petition didn’t reach the ballot in 2022. But it didn’t try again in 2024, and its spokesmen have said it has nothing at all to do – not even giving permission to use the same initiative language as in 2022 – with the Allison and LoCascio effort this year.

Four years ago, whatever the background, the group was unable to collect the needed petition

signatures, and efforts before that also fell short.

So why has active support for the idea been so much less in Oregon than in its neighboring states – excepting the one least like it politically, Idaho?

The existing stores and their operators do make up a political constituency of their own, and they may have been making their own case over time. Possibly, not so many Oregonians are displeased with the current system and simply aren’t excited about changing it.

Or maybe Oregon really isn’t so different from California or Washington. Maybe a properly organized and well-scheduled effort could succeed if it is tried again.

But that will take work, effort and money. As matters sit, that may not be until 2028. At the earliest.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/08/28/oregons-different-way-on-liquor-store-privatization/>  
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BIKES

From Page A1

Delaware before making his way up to New York City. By the time he left for Germany, Knott’s journey had spanned 4,396 miles by bicycle.

Along the way, Knott experienced the vast open expanses of the American West, the rural plots of the Midwest, the canal systems from Cleveland to Washington, DC, and the busy hustle and bustle of the Big Apple. He saw Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, biked through Chicago and Pittsburgh, spent time on the National Mall in DC, crossed the Delaware at Washington’s Crossing, and stood in Times Square.

Despite all the sights he saw, the aspect that made the most profound impression was the people.

“The biggest thing is people. The people that I met, people that I talked to get different ideas, different perspectives, what they think about the rest of the world,” Knott said. The people, for me, were the most interesting part.”

Knott met folks of all creeds and colors, whether he was buying a new taillight from an Amish bike shop or sharing his story with a security guard beside the 911 Memorial site. Wherever he went, if the topic of his cross-country trek came about, inquiries would follow.

“Everybody’s interested. No matter what you do, if you go somewhere, and you have people standing there and you say, ‘By the way, I was biking from the West coast to the East coast,’ at first they don’t react, then they recognize ‘biking,’ and they say, ‘On a bicycle?!’ and then the big story starts,” Knott



Thomas Knott after arriving at the Atlantic Ocean. (Courtesy photos from Thomas Knott)

said. “The interest in this country is imminent.”

Young and old, people were always curious about what Knott’s travels had been like. One way he was able to share his travels was through Instagram. Working with his daughter, Knott created an Instagram page called Thomasbiketours58. His daughter manages the page, and it serves as a way for them to share their journey.

Cycling connection

Though Knott set out alone, he met other cross-country cyclists along the way in Iowa, and traveled with them while their routes coincided. When he hit the East Coast, he met up with one of his road companions again.

Jeremy May is from Annapolis, Maryland.

When Knott arrived in Washington, May came to meet up with Knott so they could ride together. They hitched a ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge with May’s wife and rode to Lewes, Delaware. May returned home from there, and Knott continued up the New Jersey shore to Atlantic City and on to Philadelphia. During the cross-country excursion, May and Knott shared the road for about 1,000 miles to Knott’s estimation.

“Sometimes we met, sometimes we lost each other again; that was interesting,” Knott said. “And obviously, there will be more travels with Jeremy, probably, because we have the same ideas.”

May met up with Knott again in Philly, and they biked up to New York



Knott in Times Square. (Courtesy photo from Thomas Knott)

together. Of all the places Knott visited, New York was a true pinnacle of the trip.

“Of course, New York is an ultimate high point with its famous sights, like Times Square, the Stock Exchange, the Raging Bull, the 9/11 Monument, the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges,” Knott said. “There are plenty of bike paths through town. The Empire State Trail is a perfect trail along the West side of Manhattan.”

It also featured the best culinary experience he’d had since his Midwest spareribs. New York pizza has a reputation for good reason, and Knott especially enjoyed slices from John’s of Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village in NYC.

Loving Newport

At the end of his journey, Knott came away with a preference for the West Coast and the same conclusion he had when he decided to move to Newport.

“I bought a motorcycle in 1995, and I traveled around through the United States. Every time I was on holiday, I traveled for two or three weeks. One day, I came through this area there, and decided Newport is it,” Knott said. “The East Coast is fast, busy, and congested. Buildings and towns everywhere. I prefer the open space on the West Coast. For me, Newport and its vicinity is the perfect place.”


Going forward, Knott doesn’t plan to stop with long-distance tours. He’s already been making plans with some of the people

he met along the way. They have ideas of a trip from Maine to Key West, the Great Divide, the Alps in Europe, and more.

Knott headed back home on Aug. 24, and one of the things he took away from the experience is that even if it sounded impossible, a lot can be achieved with proper preparation, determination, and planning.

“I heard several times: ‘I could not do that.’ [The] truth is that a lot of people could do that if it is important enough for them and they are prepared to do the physical preparation and training beforehand,” Knott said.

So next time you think you may not be able to do something, think about Thomas Knott, and maybe give it a try.




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Call or text 988



988 Oregon is answered locally by Lines for Life and Northwest Human Services.

LCSO

From Page A1

policy for banning student cellphone use by Oct. 31, 2025. The policies must be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 2026, according to Kotek’s order.

The order technically bans all “personal electronic devices,” which includes any portable, electrically powered device capable of making and receiving calls and text messages, and that can access the internet independently from the school’s wireless network, such as a smart watch. It does not include laptops or other devices that support classroom activities.

In November, the Oregon Department of Education issued guidance to districts on limiting or ending cellphone use in schools. State law currently requires every school district to have policies about cellphones and personal electronic devices, but each district gets to set its own rules, according to an Oregon Capital Chronicle report.

At least eight Oregon

school districts have already either banned use in individual classes or in schools altogether, according to the state education department. Full bans have been enacted at some middle and high schools in the Lincoln County School District, Portland Public Schools, and in the Nyssa School District. The Lake Oswego School District bans cellphones for students in all K-12 schools.

Kotek in a news release said that model policies for schools that already have prohibitions in place will be made available, and the state will offer some flexibility in implementation.

“The research is clear,” Korek said, “cellphone use can create a trifecta of consequences for our young people – mental health issues, safety in school, and distraction from learning.”

A growing body of research and teacher surveys show student cellphone use in schools is hindering more than helping the school experience.

In a May 2023 advisory, then-U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy recommended parents set limits on phone use, and in June 2024, Murthy called for health warnings on social media platforms for younger users, who research shows are suffering from higher rates of mental health issues when spending hours on the platforms each day.

A Pew Research Center

survey from October 2023 found that more than two-thirds of U.S. adults favor banning cellphones during class, and almost two-thirds of high school.

See the full Oregon Capital Chronicle report at: <https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/07/02/gov-tina-kotek-orders-oregon-schools-to-prohibit-students-from-using-cell-phones/>

The LCSO posted the following statement on its website Aug. 9 regarding the student cell phone policy:

In 2024-25, the LCSO Board reviewed its cell phone policy, and secondary principals and staff began implementing phone-free classrooms. Taft 7-12 had already been operating as a phone-free campus for two years. This summer, Governor Tina Kotek ordered all Oregon schools to adopt a policy that prohibits personal electronic devices — cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, etc. — during school hours. Our administration team is finalizing a district-wide policy and school-specific guidelines to be released before the 2025-26 school year starts. The Executive Order’s main change extends device restrictions from the beginning to the end of the school day.

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

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

Sudoku answers



This Week in

HISTORY

**LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER STAFF**

*This is a brief look back at what made the news in Lincoln County during this week in history.*

**100 YEARS AGO (1925)**

**IDEAL WEATHER GREETS OPENING OF COUNTY FAIR**

Stock Barns Jammed to Doors With Fine Exhibitions of Prue Bred Stock; Exhibits Far Superior to Anything Shown in Past.

Lincoln County’s Twelve Annual Fair opened Wednesday morning with every con edition favorable to making this the greatest annual festival ever held here. Practically the entire day was taken up with the final arrangement of exhibits in the two exhibit buildings and getting the stock comfortable located in the barns, and at this writing, Thursday, the crowds are gradually increasing.

**CITY OF NEWPORT TO HAVE CANNERY; LEASE IS GRANTED**

Columbia River Packing Company to Erect Plant to Handle Halibut, Salmon and Berries. Construction of a large canery, cold storage and cold packing plant will begin in Newport on the waterfront on January 1, 1926, according to a lease granted by the city council covering 250 feet on Front Street. The name of the lessee not given out, but it is understood that it is a Columbia Ricer company.

**CITY SCHOOLS TO OPEN NEXT TUESDAY; TEACHERS MEET MONDAY**

According to Superintendent D.C. Carter Toledo Public Schools will open next Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., Monday being a legal holiday (Labor Day). Mr. Carr stated that there will be a meeting of all teachers of the Toledo schools at the high school next Monday morning at 9 o’clock, at which time final plans and arrangements will be made for the opening of school Tuesday morning.

**MAYER & MCMILLAN TO BUILD NEW CITY HALL AT NEWPORT**

Mayer & McMillian, Toledo contractors, were the successful bidders on the new \$25,000 city hall to be erected at Newport, according to a story appearing in Yaquina Bay News of that city. The bids were opened at a meeting of the Newport city council last Tuesday evening.

**75 YEARS AGO (1950)**

**BURNS FATAL TO YOUNG BOY**

A firecracker, matches, and a happy youngster playing Indian was a combination that added up to a holiday tragedy that took the life of a Toledo boy this week. Glenn William Hopper, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morse Hopper, died Tuesday at 7 a.m. in Doernbecher Hospital,

Portland, from burns received Monday here Monday afternoon. The lad had been playing Indian and was dressed in a burlap costume. His parents believe he was attempting to light a firecracker in basement room of their home when the fringing and knap of on the burlap ignited.

**OFFICERS SEEKING ELUSIVE STRANGER**

Sheriff’s deputies were keeping an eagle eye peeled throughout the county Wednesday and Thursday for an elusive stranger whose name or destination they did not know. He showed up in Toledo Tuesday evening, remained close to the Master Service station for a time and disappeared. Immediately after things began to happen. First attendants at Master Service noticed that an expensive revolver in their gun collection was gone.

**GOV. MCKAY TO VISIT TOLEDO SEPTEMBER 18**

Entire Eastern Section of County To Take Part in Republican Rally

Lincoln County Republicans are hustling around spiritedly these days, preparing and planning to entertain Governor and Mrs. Douglas McKay who will visit the area later this month.

**FOREST FIRE RAGES ON BUCK CREEK; BIG CREW BATTLES TO CONTROL BLAZE**

Approximately 100 acres of timber on C.D. Johnson holdings located between Buck and Holman creeks, north of Logsden, were ablaze Wednesday morning and threatening to spread. Fire fighting crews -estimated at about 100men- from Johnson’s operations were on the scene, fighting desperately to hold the flames in check.

**OREGON SENATORS IN FIGHTING MOOD OVER FREIGHT CAR SHORTAGE**

Oregon’s senatorial delegation, Guy Cordon and Wayne Morse, are in a fighting mood over the current freight car shortage. They maintain that the car scarcity in the Northwest is more critical than anywhere in the nation and want to know why.

**50 YEARS AGO (1975)**

**TV CABLE TELLS “RIPOFF” IN NEWPORT**

About 200 Newport residents are “ripping off” Yaquina Television Cable Company and its paying subscribers, members of the Newport city council learned September 2. Bill Miller, cable company manager reported that an independent auditor is now checking the system, and with 50 percent of the study completed, about 100 “illegal” hookups have been discovered.

**CENTER COUNT SETS RECORD FOR AUGUST**

Visitor count at the Marine Science

Center, Newport for August reached 69,284, nearly 10,000 higher than last August, Don Giles reports. For the three day Labor Day weekend, some 5,646 visitors were counted, with Sunday the busiest day, when 2,231 persons went through the doors.

**BIG CREEK DAM BID OPENING SET**

Bids are being opened at 3 p.m. today (Thursday) on raising the city of Newport’s Big Creek dam number two by some 14 feet. City officials are hoping that the bids will be close to the \$264,000 estimated for the project. The funds are available from a bond issue approved in May 1974.

**PRISONER RECAPTURED BUT ‘CURED’**

A fugitive wanted on federal charges escaped from Pacific Communities Hospital, Newport September 2 while under guard and was captured a few minutes later about a block away. Michael M. Burick, 29, of Mountain View, California, was arrested August 30 by state police in Lincoln City on federal warrants and was being held in the county jail at Newport for a federal marshal.

**25 YEARS AGO (2000)**

**PALMER TAKES STATE POLICE COMMAND IN NEWPORT**

Effective Friday, Oregon State Police Lieutenant Jerry Palmer became the new permanent station commander of OSP’s Newport Patrol Office. Palmer had been acting as the station’s interim commander since the retirement of Lt. Dennis Dotson

at the end of June. 1 23-year veteran of OSP, Palmer is no newcomer to Lincoln County. He was assigned as a patrol sergeant in OSP’s Lincoln City outpost in 1988, and when that office closed in 1991, he was transferred to Newport.

**FACTORY STORES @ LINCOLN CITY TO EXPAND**

With competition from the new outlet mall in Woodbury “definitely being felt,” plans are under way for another expansion at Factory Stores @ Lincoln City. “We have felt the effects. We’re trending about 5 percent down,” said marketing manager Diane Kusz of local business since the Woodbury mall opened one year ago. Kusz added that the Seaside outlet center, Washington Square, and Salem Center are also experiencing similar trends.

**FIRE DANGER LEVEL**

Because of decreasing forest fire danger, the West Oregon Protection District implemented Industrial Fire Protection Level 1 Regulations Saturday in the West Oregon-1 Regulated Use Area. This effects Lincoln, Benton, Polk, and southern portions of Tillamook and Yamhill Counties.

**PACIFIC COMMUNITIES RECEIVES \$300,000 OWNED BY MEDICARE**

The Pacific Communities Health District received more than \$300,000 from the federal Health Care Financing Administration - the agency with control over the auditing and payment of Medicare reimbursement requests from hospitals across the United States.

## Arren Wayne Fowler

July 24, 1982 - July 26, 2025

Arren Wayne Fowler was born July 24, 1982 in Corvallis, Oregon to George and Linda (Murrah) Fowler Jr. of Toledo, Oregon. Arren passed away on July 26, 2025 at his childhood home in Toledo with his parents at his side. His sudden and tragic death caused by an undiagnosed medical condition.

Arren received his schooling and education at Toledo Oregon Mary Harrison Elementary, Arcadia Elementary, Toledo Middle School and Toledo High School.

His first job after school was at McDonalds in Newport, he soon decided he would rather work on cars and trucks, he was always tinkering with rigs. His next job was at Newport Rental where he got the feel of big rigs and operating equipment and deliveries – he liked the job a lot but was still on the lookout for something more in the line of working on rigs.

He found employment at Auto Doctors in South Beach for 15 years until the owners retired. He worked for P.J.M. in Newport before they moved to South Beach in the old Auto Doctors location. When Auto Doctors retired, Arren started looking into something else to do. His best friend, Eric, told him there was an opening at his workplace, Eric told him to talk to his boss and see what happens. He got the job working at Lincoln Glass Co. in Newport. He met the job with excitement and the new challenges of working with glass, he was looking forward to learning as much as he could.

Arren and Eric worked on many projects together for many years until his passing. Arren had said later he never regretted switching from cars to glass, he still liked his rigs

Arren loved cooking, the outdoors, camping rock hounding in Eastern Oregon – he loved sitting on the deck at night with his mom, watching the stars and talking about his kids Alyssa and James, about the things he wanted to do for them, the places he wanted to take them on trips, and talked about the adults he could see them being as they grow up. He was really the happiest when mud racing with his friends. He was a member of “The Screaming Eagles” racing team and “The Wrecking Crew”.

Arren was a bit of a prankster and had a joke a day for his boss, Spencer, who he liked and respected. He loved the office mascot “Romeo” Spencer’s dog. He was always a hard worker and did a good job, always did his best.

Arren was born a happy baby with a good attitude and personality, those traits followed and stayed with him his whole life.

He became interested in Boy Scouts at an early age and joined when he was old enough to become a boy scout, as time went on he got his dad involved and eventually his dad, George, became a Scout Leader for his Troop #30.



Arren went on to work his way through all the levels and earned tons of badges, he became a very good Scout. He worked his way up to the rank, earning the badge of “Eagle Scout”.

He lived by the Scout, Law, Motto and Oath, He took them to heart and lived by them everyday without fail. He was a member of Troop #30 Yaquina Chapter Boy Scouts. He was an active member of “The Order of The Arrow” Tsisqan Lodge #253, active member of “The Oregon Trail Council Yaquina Chapter” Yaquina District. He received and earned his full honors and “Eagle Scout” badge in 1999.

He was well known for his quirky wit, his quiet observational demeanor, big laugh, chuckles and smile, his calm reactions to serious situations and danger, with a quick grasp and resolve of that situation. His raised eye brow and crooked grin would always win the day no matter what. One of his favorite past times was teasing his mom.

Arren was a good man, good son, brother and a great father, he loved his children with his whole heart. He had an amicable relationship and stayed friends with his former wife, Lindsay, that was admirable, they shared their children James and Alyssa lives together, with the children always being first and their main focus.

Arren is survived by his parents George and Linda (Murrah) Fowler Jr.(Toledo, OR), his former wife, Lindsay Myhrvold Atkinson, his children Alyssa and James Fowler (Toledo, OR), his sister Lisa Fowler (Corvallis, OR), His in laws Mike and Judy Snyder (Eddyville, OR), father in law Evertte Myhrvold (Toledo, OR), Sister in law Ellen Myhrvold Valentine (Waldport, OR), Grandparent Richard Berg (Siletz, OR), Aunt and Uncle Gerry and Joanne Fowler (Elk City, OR) John and Linda O’Brien (Randle, WA), Dan and Darlene Smith (Siletz, OR), Richard and Shannon Smith (Newport, OR), Terry and Pattie Smith (Eastern, OR), Bill Smith and Teresa Ouder Kirk (Siletz, OR), Jim and Carrol White (Albany, OR), Sister in law Sarah Rudolph (Waldport, OR), Charles Murrah (Newport, OR) and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Arren was preceded by his brother (Sgt.) George W. Fowler III, Grandparents Viola M. Chapman, James R Murrah, George and Betty Lou Fowler Sr., Zack R. Smith Sr., Aunt Marie Smith, Nancy Batchelor and Cousin Richie Sargent.

Arren was a friend to everyone who knows him. He was and is greatly loved and will be missed everyday, his passing has devastated his family and friends alike.

At his request there will be no services, but a celebration of life will be September 13, 2025 from 12pm – 4pm at A.W.P.P.W Local 13 Union Hall at 138 NW First St., Toledo, OR. Potluck welcome, bring your favorite dish, your stories, your tears and memories and we will remember Arren and honor him for the man, son, brother, and father he proved to be and we are very proud of.

## Ray Moe

August 25, 1946 - April 25, 2025

Ray T Moe passed away on the 25th of April 2025

He was born 25 August 1946 in Salem OR to Ray T and Dorothy Jane (Lillard) Moe. Raised in Newport, OR, he played little league baseball, delivered The Oregonian in the mornings to various neighborhoods and helped put out the family run Newport News every week.

Ray, while attending Newport High School, played football, baseball and the trumpet in the band. During this time he received the D.B. “Joe” Malsom Award for Valor after assisting a struggling swimmer in the Siletz river. In the summers he would work in the newspaper office doing some of the job printing, such as, printing tide tables and delivering booklets to surrounding businesses until graduating in 1964.

Ray pursued his academic life at Oregon State University. There, after one year, decided to fulfill his military duty. May of ’67 he decided to distinguish himself from a common soldier and entered the Green Beret to finish his three year commitment as a sergeant. Returning home, he enrolled into and graduated from the University of Oregon.

Having had some experience in the fishing industry, he assumed a supervisory position in a fish buying business. This was followed by purchasing a ‘38 double ender, Dutch King, to fish salmon and tuna off the CA, OR, WA coasts. This propelled him to seek a more lucrative venture. He sold the boat and headed for Dutch Harbor, AK to fish king crab. After a few years of crab



fishing, he decided to try trawling for pollock in Shelikof Strait along the west side of Kodiak Island and around the Bering Sea.

During this time, he met Toni Sue Halverson from Payette, ID and married 10 Jan 1980. They had three children; Windy Gail, Ray T and Jon Russell. Anyone acquainted with the fishing industry know that the husband, father

spends a large amount of time away from home and on the sea. The family lived in Newport, Corvallis, Albany, Anacortes and Granite Falls, WA.

Ray, in 1983 begin working on a fish processor for Glacier Fish out of Seattle, WA. The boat, Northern Glacier was 205 feet long and employed many processors. He operated the boat as captain and as fish master for fourteen years. He moved on to another, larger boat, Alaska Ocean until he was through fishing and settled down to raise his grandson, Harlem K. in Airlie, OR.

He is survived by his wife, daughter and son-in-law and three grand children and son. By his sisters Jimmie K. Cheney, Jane Clayton, brothers, Thomas L. David E. and nieces nephews. He is preceded in death by his brother, Nicholas P. Moe who drowned in the Bering Sea and his son Jon R.

During the family and friends get together, what was shared was how much everyone enjoyed his even keeled manner. He will be missed for years to come. If you hadn’t had a chance to know him, we feel your loss.



Bregman named Oregon Small Woodlands Association Volunteer of the Year

At the annual Lincoln County Small Woodlands Association meeting presentations were made by Dan Newton (OSWA State President), Onno Husing (Lincoln County planning director) and Adedayo Akande (OSU graduate student). Newton provided an overview on topics central to OSWA’s legislative and membership objectives, Husing discussed the impact of FEMA flood plain rules, and Akande presented a GIS analysis of data on streams in the Alsea drainage.

During the Aug. 9 meeting in Waldport, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) honored Lincoln County forestland owner Peter Bregman with its prestigious Volunteer of the Year award, recognizing his decades of service, leadership, and commitment to sustainable forest stewardship.

Bregman’s recognition reflects not only his contributions to the Lincoln County OSWA chapter but also his



Peter Bregman and his wife, Alice, show off the Volunteer of the Year Award. (Courtesy photo)

dedication to addressing issues of long-term importance to Oregon’s natural resources. “We must recognize the responsibility we all have—not just for a special interest group, but for the greater public interest,” Bregman said. “In today’s complex society, it is a challenge to govern in a way that benefits all, including Mother Nature. Our role as stewards is to

preserve the delicate balance of nature so that future generations understand their responsibility to maintain it.”

Over the past 20 years, Bregman has been a visible and active force in OSWA programs, including hosting educational tours, mentoring new woodland owners, and contributing to discussions that shape forest management practices across

the state. His efforts embody OSWA’s mission of fostering collaboration between landowners, agencies, and communities to protect Oregon’s forests for the future.

Ben Barclay, Lincoln County small woodlands chapter president praised the recognition, noting that “Peter’s leadership and dedication demonstrate how individual landowners can have a statewide impact. His work exemplifies what it means to be both a caretaker of the land and a bridge-builder within Lincoln County and statewide community.”

The Volunteer of the Year award is one of OSWA’s highest honors, underscoring the importance of local leadership in advancing sustainable forestry. Through education, advocacy, and hands-on stewardship, honorees like Bregman ensure that Oregon’s family-owned forests remain healthy, productive, and resilient for generations to come.

About the Oregon Small Woodlands Association

OSWA is a statewide non-profit dedicated to supporting family forestland owners and ensuring that privately owned woodlands remain a thriving and enduring part of Oregon’s landscape. Guided by its core values of stewardship, advocacy, fellowship, and education, the organization empowers landowners to responsibly manage their forests while engaging in public policy, community education, and conservation efforts.

Founded to represent and support Oregon’s family forestland owners, OSWA operates through local chapters across 20 counties. The association provides education, fosters community, advocates for landowners in legislative matters, and promotes best practices in forest management.

Submitted by the Lincoln County Small Woodlands Association. For more information, visit [www.oswa.org](http://www.oswa.org)

BottleDrop to support nonprofits providing wildfire relief

SUBMITTED

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC), operator of the BottleDrop network, is activating its Emergency Fund to aid with wildfire relief in Oregon and is inviting Oregonians to support the effort through container donations.

OBRC’s Emergency Fund will match up to \$20,000 in total donations made via BottleDrop through Oct. 7, 2025.

Donations made to the OBRC Emergency Fund will be directed to the following nonprofit organizations providing wildfire relief in Oregon:

American Red Cross, Cascades Region

United Way of the Columbia Gorge

Wildland Firefighter Foundation, Oregon Chapter

Since early June, the American Red Cross, Cascades Region has opened 12 shelters, provided 376 overnight stays and 520 meals for communities affected by this year’s wildfires.

“We know this fire season is far from over and we have volunteers on standby to open shelters and provide assistance to those who need it,” Red Cross Cascades Regional Disaster Officer Kirsten Mandala said. “Our goal is to

make sure no one has to face a disaster alone.”

The United Way of the Columbia Gorge launched their Rowena Fire Relief Recovery Fund to provide immediate and long-term support for those affected by the Rowena Fire. This fund will help meet ongoing needs such as housing, food security, and other critical resources throughout the recovery process. They are working with local partners to mobilize resources and lead collaborative efforts to rebuild.

The Oregon Chapter of the Wildland Firefighter Foundation helps families of firefighters killed in the line of duty and assists injured firefighters and their families. “The last few fire seasons have impacted a lot of communities, our forests, and grasslands. The WFF has been there supporting the brave men and women who have been on these firelines,” said Event Coordinator Sam Percy. “With the support of programs like BottleDrop, we can continue taking care of the boots-on-the-ground workers and their families after an injury or even worse, there is a fatality.”

Last year, Oregon experienced a record-breaking wildfire season with 1.9 million acres burned. According to experts, the Pacific Northwest



OBRC’s Emergency Fund will match up to \$20,000 in total donations made via BottleDrop through Oct. 7, 2025. (Courtesy photo)

is anticipated to be at elevated risk of significant fires from August to October. Earlier this summer, Governor Tina Kotek declared a State of Emergency due to the imminent threat of wildfires.

As of early August, wildfires burned nearly 200,000 acres statewide in 2025. Oregonians can find resources from the Oregon State Fire Marshall on how to prevent wildfires. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management has information on how Oregonians can be prepared, including signing up for emergency notifications. As they have in previous years, OBRC is working with boots-on-the-ground

wildland firefighting camps to facilitate their beverage container redemptions during this wildfire season. The emergency match campaign allows OBRC and its customers to magnify their support for those impacted by recent, ongoing and future wildfires.

“We know that wildfires pose a significant threat to Oregon, and our wildfire seasons are starting earlier and lasting longer,” OBRC Vice President of External Affairs Devon Morales said. “BottleDrop customers are incredibly generous and rise to the occasion to help their neighbors during times of urgent need, which is why we are activating our OBRC

Emergency Fund to match donations from customers made through BottleDrop. While we are hopeful this wildfire season will be less aggressive than last year’s, we know circumstances can change rapidly and we want to support nonprofit organizations who are prepared to assist first responders and communities impacted by wildfires.”

Between now and Oct. 7, BottleDrop is encouraging its more than 1-million-member strong Green Bag account network to make online donations from their BottleDrop account to bolster wildfire relief efforts in Oregon. Customers can direct their donations to the Emergency Fund by logging into their account and visiting [bottledrop.com/wildfire](http://bottledrop.com/wildfire) or donating directly at this link. OBRC will match up to \$20,000 of total donations made through BottleDrop to the OBRC Emergency Fund.

Oregonians can also donate their OR-10 cent redeemable cans and bottles directly to this effort, and have their funds matched, by taking them to one of the 27 full-service BottleDrop Redemption Centers and letting staff know they would like to donate their redeemable beverage containers to support wildfire relief efforts.

Here’s how much you’d pay in payroll tax under Oregon’s proposed transportation bill

MIA MALDONADO

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Most public testimony submitted about the proposed transportation bill lawmakers are considering this special session has been in opposition to the bill, with many Oregonians writing to lawmakers that they want “no new taxes.”

Lawmakers are considering passing a transportation package that would raise \$4.3 billion over the next 10 years by raising the gas tax by 6 cents, increasing vehicle title and registration fees and temporarily raising a statewide payroll tax for transit from 0.1% to 0.2%.

House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby, in a Facebook post called the legislation the “largest transportation tax hike in Oregon history.

“If you work in our state, your payroll

tax is doubling in this measure, which means you’re going to take home less to your families every single week,” Drazan said in a Facebook video.

To put that into perspective, the Oregon Capital Chronicle has compiled a detailed breakdown of how much the payroll transit tax would cost Oregonians.

How does the payroll transit tax work?

“Payroll tax” is a general term for what’s taken out of your paycheck for tax purposes or social services. For Oregonians, this includes state and federal income tax, social security, Medicare, a workers fund tax, a paid leave tax and a transit tax.

The proposed transportation package would only raise the transit tax, which goes toward the State Transportation Improvement Fund. The

fund started in 2018 to invest in public transportation improvements across the state. It provides free or reduced public transportation for students, rural and low-income Oregonians.

Oregonians pay \$1 out of every \$1,000 of their wages to this fund. If the bill passes, that would double to \$2 for every \$1,000 between January 2026 and January 2028.

So what would this cost the average Oregonian?

A worker making the average Oregon salary of about \$68,000 already pays \$68 per year, or \$5.60 per month, out of their paycheck toward the state’s public transportation fund. This would double to \$136 per year, or \$11.20 per month.

Rep. Cyrus Javadi, R-Tillamook, was the only House member to vote in favor of

the legislation. While explaining his vote on the House floor, he said doing nothing is riskier than not passing the legislation.

“The truth is this isn’t some massive new payroll tax,” Javadi said in a Facebook post. “It’s a small adjustment to a very narrow slice of the payroll tax, and it keeps buses running in communities that depend on them.”

Oregonians would also have to pay more for:

Passenger car registration, which would go up from \$86 every two years to \$170

Motorcycle and moped registration, which would go up from \$88 every two years to \$172

Low-speed vehicle registration, which would go up from \$126 every two years to \$210

Medium-speed vehicle registration, which would go up from \$126

every two years to \$210

Title fees, which would go up from \$77 to \$216. Oregonians only pay title fees when they buy a car or move to Oregon from another state and need to title their car here. The average American buys a car every six to eight years, according to insurance industry data, meaning the \$139 increase to title fees would amount to about \$17 to \$23 annually for the average duration of car ownership.

Gas taxes, which will rise from 40 cents per gallon to 46 cents per gallon. How much gas Oregonians use varies widely depending on how far they drive and how fuel-efficient their vehicles are, but the state transportation department estimates the average Oregonian pays almost \$160 in gas taxes each year with the current 40-cent-per-gallon

tax.

The transportation bill passed the Oregon House on Sept. 1. The Oregon Senate plans to vote on Sept. 17 for a vote. If passed, the bill would go to the governor’s desk where she is expected to either sign it into law or let it become law without her signature.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/09/04/heres-how-much-you-d-pay-in-payroll-tax-under-oregons-proposed-transportation-bill/>

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Lincoln County ‘Hands Across the Bridge’ Event Sept. 20



SUBMITTED BY LINCOLN COUNTY

Hundreds of community members will link together on the Alsea Bay Bridge during National Recovery and Wellbriety Month for the 17th annual Walter Ackerson Jr. Hands Across the Bridge event, Sept. 20. This September marks the 36th anniversary of National Recovery Month. Each year, Lincoln County joins communities around the nation in coming together for a month-long awareness campaign and celebration for those in

People from all over the county will participate in the ‘Hands Across the Bridge’ event on the Alsea Bay Bridge during National Recovery and Wellbriety Month. (Courtesy photo)

See HANDS, page B2

‘Cherished’ tradition returns to Lincoln City

One of the Oregon Coast’s most iconic and cherished traditions, the annual Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival, returns to the beaches of Lincoln City for its 45th year this Sept. 19 - 21. Since its debut in 1980, the festival has become a cornerstone coastal event, offering a weekend of colorful skies, family fun, and cherished memories for generations of visitors. This year, the festival debuts a breathtaking new program: the Night Fly. On Friday, Sept. 19, from 7–9 p.m., LED-illuminated kites will fill up the night sky in choreographed displays by experienced kite fliers. Weather permitting, massive inflatable kites will also take flight, creating a stunning visual backdrop as the sun sets over the Pacific. “The Fall Kite Festival has been a beloved tradition for nearly half a century and continues to showcase why Lincoln City is known as the Kite Capital of the World,” Explore Lincoln City Director Kim Cooper Findling said. “We are thrilled to celebrate the 45th anniversary of this beloved event, and to add the LED Night Fly to what is already a cherished weekend of high-flying fun in the community.” The Fall Kite Festival is free to attend and packed with activities for everyone to enjoy – whether a dedicated kite enthusiast or a first-time visitor. Taking place at the D River State Recreation Site, the main festival runs Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



If the winds are just right, the kites soar above the beach in Lincoln City. (Courtesy photo)



Folks set up along the sidewalk at the D River Beach to view the kites. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)



Kites of all sizes and design fill the sky at the annual fall event in Lincoln City. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

Celebration of Honor recognizes veterans, engages community



This photo taken in 2017 shows a Tribal member and hundreds of American flags positioned behind the Chinook Winds Casino for a previous Celebration of Honor in Lincoln City.

**JEREMY C. RUARK**  
*Lincoln County Leader*

For more than 20 years, Chinook Winds Casino Resort, owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, has spearheaded the Annual Celebration of Honor

The public event honors

active-duty personnel, military veterans, and their families. Chinook Winds Casino Resort is proud to continue the tradition of honoring our men and women who have served, and are serving, our country. Explore Lincoln City is doing a special float drop to help honor our veterans and



The Oregon Veteran Wall set up at the Celebration of Honor events lists the names of those lost in combat. (Photos by Jeremy C. Ruark)

active-duty men and women. The Veteran Services tent is back this year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. On Wednesday, Sept. 10 Veterans and active-duty personnel can stop by the Winners Circle to register and

show proof of military service (DD-214 or other Military ID), to receive a free dining voucher valid through Sept. 13. Winners Circle membership is required to pick up a voucher. “We are excited to bring

See HONOR, page B4

Priceless Garage Sale seeking donations

Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary is now accepting donations for its annual Priceless Garage Sale, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20, in Building 8 on the hospital campus. This annual event is priceless in two important ways, according to Volunteer Services Coordinator Kathy Smith. “First, proceeds from the sale benefit the auxiliary, which provides financial support for many important hospital programs,” she said. “Second, the sale items have no prices. Buyers name a reasonable price

See DONATIONS, page B2




SWAFFORD ON WINE

Pages coming to life

Christina and I would often wave to the man on his deck that faced the ocean. We passed his house as we navigated the rocks just before hitting the sand at surf’s edge for our morning beach walk.

Then we encountered him on some of those walks, and we got to know each other. It wasn’t long before Jim Kennison and his wife Elletta were sharing with us a glass of Pinot noir and other mutual interests.

We learned that Jim



Joseph Swafford

was a retired educator and college administrator from the mid-west, who, after publishing many articles and short stories, wrote six or seven novels, four of which were of the genre that are called Westerns.

There is no writing style that is more American than that which gives us tales set in the wild west and peopled by cowboys, ranchers, outlaws, dance hall girls, sheriffs and the like. Newport resident Jim Kennison’s output of six

or seven novels doesn’t come near the stack of books written by Louis L’Amour and Zane Grey, to name just two of the giants of the Western, but Jim would have been readily welcomed hunkered down at a prairie campfire with the two of them.

I told Jim that I didn’t think any of his characters would cotton to, had a hankerin’ for, or fancied a glass of wine. “Nah, make it a whiskey to clear the throat of the cattle-drive dust...” would

be the way his high-plains drifter Jamison Jakes might have put it in “Letters From A Bounty Hunter”. (I think this is where Elletta Kennison said, “I wouldn’t mind if you poured me another glass of that Oregon Chardonnay from the Willamette Valley with its balanced acid and fruit...”).

In creating the character of Jamison Jakes, author Kennison doesn’t just give us a one-dimensional dime-novel, whiskey-drinking, gun-totin’ cowboy: we see a man with insight and self-awareness, capable of change. When his

dying friend, the bounty hunter Daniel True, can only say, “Tell... Elizabeth...” before succumbing to his gunshot wounds, Jamison knows he must try to find the long-lost recipient of the undelivered letters found in the saddle bags of the man who had once saved his life.

O.K., I won’t reveal anymore. Go to those places where you can still find books—Amazon, the library—and I hope you will cotton to Jamison Jakes the way I did.

We lost Elletta several years ago to a fatal illness. And Jim died just weeks ago at age 88. As

a writer he had fun with a set of characters that reveal friendships can outlast the inevitable if you can hold on to the good memories. And I have good memories of the man who introduced me to people who came to life on the pages of his books.

I want to end this piece with a thank you to my wife Christina with whom I celebrated our 61st wedding anniversary on August 29th and who picked up my option for another year.

Cheers!

Joseph Swafford

jcswoff56@gmail.com

# Six Oregon hospitality industry professionals to be honored

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) will honor six leaders in hospitality at its annual conference this month in Seaside.

The honor recognizes the contributions of the six individuals to workforce development, guest experience, and industry growth.

Employee of the Year: Dulce Mendez, Bentley’s Grill (Salem)

Team Leader of the Year: Billie Jo Edmonds, Mo’s Seafood & Chowder (Coast)


Restaurateur of the Year: Andy Fortgang, Le Pigeon / Canard / Flor Wines (Portland)

Lodging Operator of the Year: Jennifer Bernal, Surfland Hotel (Lincoln City)

Allied Member of Year: Oregon Destination Association

Workforce Champion: Heather DeSart, Northwest Oregon Works (Lincoln City)


“The true heroes of our industry are the



Dulce Mendez

passionate people who elevate hospitality every day,” Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association President & CEO Jason Brandt said. “These recipients embody the dedication and excellence that set the standard and inspire us all.”

Dulce Mendez has demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism, consistently earning the respect of her colleagues and the appreciation of guests. Her progression from hostess at Bentley’s Grill to a key leader on the service team reflects her strong work ethic, adaptability, and commitment to excellence




Billie Jo Edmonds

in hospitality.

Billie Jo Edmonds, Regional Manager of Mo’s Seafood & Chowder, exemplifies outstanding hospitality leadership by guiding with calm, compassion, and integrity—earning the trust of her team, raising industry standards, and inspiring others to lead with the same commitment and heart.

Andy Fortgang, Co-Owner of Le Pigeon and Canard, has played a pivotal role in shaping Portland’s dining scene and earning national recognition for excellence. His leadership, award-winning beverage




Andy Fortgang

programs, and advocacy for independent restaurants highlight his lasting impact on Oregon’s hospitality industry.

As GM of Surfland Hotel, Jennifer Bernal has excelled in combining operational expertise with a commitment to team development and guest satisfaction elevating the property to a top TripAdvisor ranking. Her leadership extends beyond the hotel through active community involvement, making her a model of excellence in Oregon’s lodging industry.


The Oregon Destination Association is being recognized for its



Jennifer Bernal

leadership in supporting and strengthening Oregon’s tourism and hospitality industry. Through statewide collaboration and strong advocacy, including efforts to oppose harmful lodging tax proposals, the organization has advanced shared goals for effective destination marketing and management.

As Executive Director at Northwest Oregon Works, Heather DeSart has been a driving force in advancing hospitality workforce development by bringing vision, resources, and advocacy to initiatives beyond traditional workforce



Heather DeSart

approaches. Her leadership in building partnerships, securing funding, and championing hospitality as a priority sector has created lasting opportunities for industry training and growth.

Nominated by their peers, these statewide award recipients will be recognized in front of over 250 delegates at the ORLA Hospitality Conference, Sept. 13-15, held at the Seaside Convention Center, in Seaside.

For more information about the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, visit OregonRLA.org.

TRADITION

From Page B1

Attendees can enjoy non-stop flying festivities as giant kites soar above the beach and surf in a variety of vibrant performances. At the same time, interactive activities and community partners offer fun on the ground. Highlights include:

Carnival games hosted

by The Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City

A free kite-making tent by Family Promise of Lincoln County, where kids and adults alike can design and decorate their kites

Branded festival gear available from local PNW-style shop Scout Northwest

Delicious food from Bristo’s Place, a Siletz Tribal-owned and

operated food truck, offering hot dogs, burgers, and Indian tacos

Free parking and shuttle service from Lincoln City Outlets and Lincoln City Community Center to the festival at D River Wayside.

While there are many places along the beach for the public to fly kites, only professional kite fliers performing in the festival are permitted to fly within the designated festival area.

For more information about the Fall Kite Festival, visit [explorelincolncity.com](http://explorelincolncity.com).

HANDS

From Page B1

recovery from mental health and substance use challenges.

During their regular meeting Aug. 20, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution proclaiming September National Recovery and Wellbriety Month in Lincoln County.

In recognition of National Recovery and Wellbriety Month, the entire community is invited to join the 17th annual Lincoln County

Hands Across the Bridge event in Waldport at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

This year’s event will feature speaker Rob Bovett, former Lincoln County District Attorney and current County Counsel for Lane County. Bovett will share the origin of the event and about the memorial for Walter Ackerson Jr.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration emphasizes that with the right treatment, support, and resources, recovery restores lives. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of people in or seeking recovery from mental and substance use disorders. This powerful local event supports those community members,

counteracting stigma in a dramatic display of solidarity.

Lincoln County Hands Across the Bridge begins with a gathering at 11:30 a.m. at the parking lot of the Alsea Bay Interpretive Center, 320 NW Highway 101 in Waldport.

The crossing will begin with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians drummers at noon followed by a free lunch, speakers, resource tables, and family-friendly activities at 12:30 p.m. at the Waldport Community Center, 65 NW Hemlock St.

Community members can find a link to the online event on the Lincoln County Public Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnPublicHealth>

Lincoln County Leader

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦



SUDOKU

数独

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

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

Support these Local Nonprofit Community Organizations!



Samaritan House

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

715 SW Bay St., Newport OR 97365

Phone: 541-574-8898

Sam House

[samfamshelter.org](http://samfamshelter.org)

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization


DONATIONS

From Page B1

for the items they want to purchase and walk away with priceless treasures.”

To help make the garage sale a success,

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



donations of good used items are welcome on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 8, located east of Samaritan Lincoln City Medical Center, 2870 NE West Devils Lake Road. Please, no books and no clothing except baby items.

For more information, send an email to [kathysmith@samhealth.org](mailto:kathysmith@samhealth.org).

Lincoln County Leader

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sports





# Steins, songs, and shared tables: YCPC brings Oktoberfest back to Yachats

On the Oregon Coast, fall arrives with the smell of rain and wood smoke. This year it will also bring the clink of steins, the snap of bratwursts on the grill, and neighbors catching up across long tables. Yachats Community Presbyterian Church is bringing Oktoberfest back for a two-day celebration Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27, and the invitation is simple: pull up a chair and be part of it.

The weekend opens Friday at the church campus, 360 West 7th Street, with a Biermeister's Dinner that reads like a love letter to Oregon farms and kitchens. Chef Michelle Korgan leads the line, with Karen Moyer of Beach Daisy Wines and Blythe Collins of Bread & Roses collaborating on breads, flavors, and accompaniments.

The five-course menu moves from Vesperplatte to roasted root soup with



Proceeds from Oktoberfest support the mission of Yachats Community Presbyterian Church. (Metro Creative Connection)

smoked blood sausage, from a bright trio of shrimp, celery root, and golden beet, to roast duck with herbed potato salad and braised red cabbage, and finishes with Black Forest cake layered with Five Rivers cherries. Each course will be paired with a Rogue Brewing beer chosen by Rogue

Brewmaster Joel Shields, who will be on hand to share tasting notes and stories from the brewery. "We're setting a table where strangers become neighbors," organizers said. "Food and music help us remember we already belong to one another." The evening begins with a

welcome reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited, and tickets are \$125. Reservations are available by calling 541-547-3400.

Saturday's celebration moves to the Yachats Commons and opens with the ceremonial tapping of the keg at 5 p.m. From 5 to 8 p.m.,

families can order à la carte beer and brats with classic sides and settle in for live music from the Yachats Big Band, the Sauerkraut 7, and Robert Rubin. Expect dance-floor favorites and sing-alongs — the Chicken Dance and "Sweet Caroline" among them — because local festivals should be as welcoming for kids as they are for grandparents. Laughter, a simple waltz step or a goofy turn or two, and the feeling that this is a town that cares for one another are all part of the plan.

Oktoberfest is also a showcase of local partnership. Sponsors include Rogue Brewing, ONA Restaurant, Sweet Homes Vacation Rentals, Beach Daisy Wines, and Bread & Roses. Their support helps underwrite the music, keeps tickets accessible, and brings in the ingredients that give the dinner its sense of place.

"We are grateful," the

organizers added. "These are businesses that invest in this community all year long."

If you've never attended, regulars suggest starting with Friday's dinner if you can, then returning on Saturday for the casual, family-friendly evening at the Commons. If you're already booked Friday, come Saturday and bring a friend. If you're new to town, consider Oktoberfest your welcome party.

YCPC's Oktoberfest isn't about recreating Bavaria so much as doing what small towns do best... pooling talent, telling stories, and taking care of one another over shared food. It's a moment to pause at summer's end and say, together, that we belong to this place and to each other.

Proceeds from Oktoberfest support the mission of Yachats Community Presbyterian Church.

# PCHD Foundation's Giving Circle impacts local lives

**SUBMITTED BY SAMARITAN HEALTH**

It's often said that it's better to give than receive. Since 2007, participants of the Pacific Communities Health District Foundation's Giving Circle have collectively been doing both.

The Giving Circle offers a unique opportunity for participants to receive information about health care and philanthropy as well as give to a fund, said Karla Clem, executive director of the PCHD Foundation. The collective fund is then used to award grants, primarily benefiting children and people

who identify as women, within the scope of patient care provided by Samaritan Pacific Health Services.

Community members wishing to learn more are invited to attend the next Giving Circle meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Center for Health Education. The featured speaker, Linda Carden, will share how Samaritan Health Services advances the professional practice of nurses and other health care personnel. RSVPs are required. To reserve a seat, call the PCHD Foundation office at 541-574-4754.

**HOW THE GIVING CIRCLE WORKS**

Giving Circle participants are people with strong ties and deep care for our coastal communities who want to make meaningful investments in rural health care, explained Clem, who is also a Giving Circle participant.

Participants make an annual donation of \$250, which can be paid in installments, to the PCHD Foundation's Giving Circle Fund, and they attend semiannual meetings to learn about health-related topics and local critical needs. This information guides their

decisions about how to apply the pooled fund.

"Where else can my \$250 gift buy an infant mannequin for staff training or an adaptable wheelchair that ensures patients with limited mobility or strength can receive a mammogram? Participation multiplies my impact and makes a winning investment all the way around," Clem said.

"They are not only making our community

stronger together but are also deepening the social connections and friendships with other participants," Clem said.

**HOW THE GIVING CIRCLE HELPS**

Since it formed, The Giving Circle has collectively awarded more than \$130,000 in grants for facilities, equipment, programs and services. They've protected children with a safe place to sleep, proper car seats and

bike/skateboard helmets. Through scholarship awards, they've helped hospital staff gain education, skills and confidence to advance their professional careers and serve our communities. They've improved access to care with ambulance services and state of the art equipment for patients of all ages who've needed cardiac, respiratory or physical therapies within their community.



The Rebel Yell, Guardian Sailing's J24 vessel, will make its way south with stops planned in Tillamook, Newport, Florence, Coos Bay, Port Orford, and other coastal ports. (Courtesy photo)

# Harbor Hop launches along Oregon coast

Guardian Sailing is launching the Sailing Toward Healing Harbor Hop, a coastwide sailing campaign aimed at raising \$100,000 to support veterans battling PTSD and trauma.

The campaign will begin in Astoria and travel south to Brookings, stopping at every major harbor along the Oregon coast, including in Newport.

The Harbor Hop will unite communities to bring awareness to the suicide epidemic among veterans, while providing direct support through sailing therapy and peer connections. As part of this mission, Guardian Sailing has pledged 10% of proceeds as a financial gift to families directly affected by the death of a veteran.

The campaign will kick off in Astoria with a press conference, community sail, and donor launch. From there, the Rebel Yell, Guardian Sailing's

J24 vessel, will make its way south with stops planned in Tillamook, Newport, Florence, Coos Bay, Port Orford, and other coastal ports.

At each harbor, Guardian Sailing will host community events, peer-support circles, and educational workshops designed to raise awareness and provide healing opportunities.

The Harbor Hop will also spotlight veteran voices throughout the journey, sharing stories of resilience, recovery, and the power of connection. Local residents, businesses, and organizations, including American Legion and VFW posts, are invited to get involved by sponsoring events, attending gatherings, or even sailing alongside veterans.

Guardian Sailing, founded in 2021, provides therapeutic sailing opportunities for veterans facing trauma, PTSD,

and suicidal thoughts. The organization uses recreational therapy and the power of the ocean to build resilience, community, and hope.

Supporters can help by making a donation at Guardian Sailing, or spreading the word about the Harbor Hop campaign. Every contribution, whether financial or participatory, brings Guardian Sailing closer to its \$100,000 goal and ensures more veterans have access to life-changing programs.

Guardian Sailing is proud to partner with Once a Soldier, a non-profit that provides an average of \$1,000 per week in financial relief to families who have lost a veteran to suicide, ensuring support is given through a careful and compassionate review process.

For more information, contact Guardian Sailing at 541-514-0514 or at [guardiansailing.org](http://guardiansailing.org)

# After-School Drop-In Art Classes for Youth return

Newport Visual Arts Center (VAC) announces the return of its popular Wednesday After-School Drop-In Art classes for youth in grades 2 through 8.

Starting Oct. 1, 2025, and running through May 27, 2026, the program offers a creative and engaging outlet for young artists on Wednesday afternoons.

Held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the VAC located at 777 NW Beach Drive, these classes provide a flexible and affordable way for students to explore various art forms, according to a release from the VAC. Each session will feature a rotating list of instructors and activities, ensuring a fresh and inspiring

experience each week. The program is designed to be accessible for families, with no pre-registration required.

Participants have the option to pay per class at the door for \$20, or they can reserve a spot for the entire month for \$50. The VAC also offers a punch card for \$50, which is good for four drop-in art days throughout the school year, providing an even more flexible option.

Please note that there will be no classes on Nov. 26 due to Thanksgiving Break, Dec. 24 and 31 due to Winter Break, or March 25 due to Spring Break.

Newport Visual Arts Center is committed to fostering creativity and providing a supportive

environment for young artists to learn and grow. This program is a cornerstone of that commitment, offering a welcoming space for students to develop their skills and passion for art.

To learn more, visit [tinyurl.com/vac-after-school](http://tinyurl.com/vac-after-school)

The Newport Visual Arts Center was built by the City of Newport as a space for public art exhibition and art education programs. It is maintained by Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

Oregon Coast Council for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization developing, promoting, and celebrating community arts on the Oregon Coast.

Learn more at [www.coastarts.org](http://www.coastarts.org)

Kathleen Hutchinson  
541-760-2529

John Reis  
503-580-7811

Chris Watkins  
541-270-6774

Gail Stonebreaker  
541-992-4317

Deborah Allen  
907-903-1536

Wendy Birchfield  
541-272-9190

Julie Gamache  
541-231-0753

Danielle Cutler  
541-961-3868

Karla Kahlenbeck  
541-270-2965

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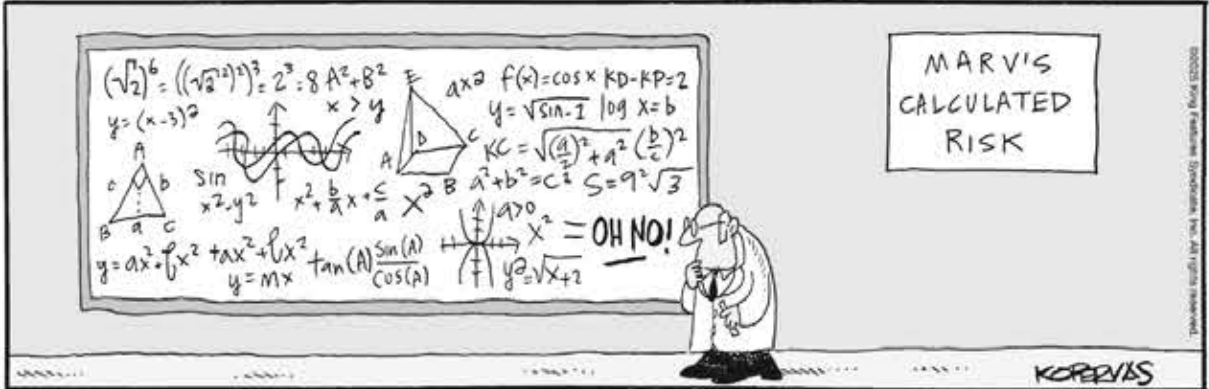




Amber Waves



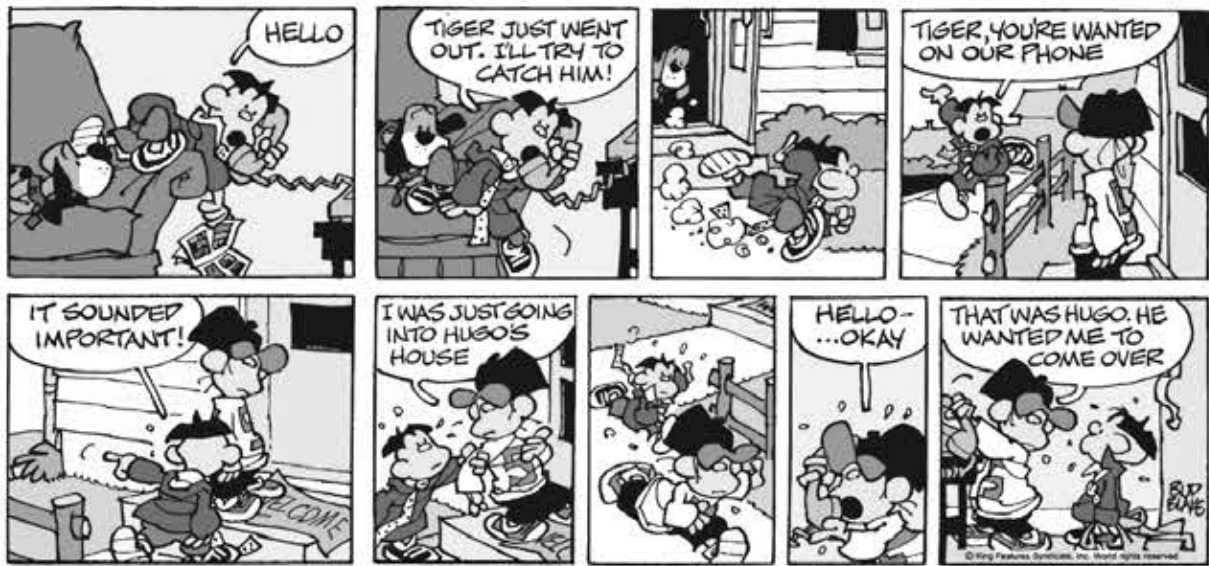
Out on a Limb



The Spats



TIGER



OLIVE



Just Like Cats & Dogs



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: K equals B

NCYPY VAAQWYP NCLN FAZ  
SZFP KLQYG LTY NAA CLTG  
LIG VTZDKOF. PATTF, W'D  
KYWIS KTWNNOF CAIYPN.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Servant	CAKELY			
Area	PACES			
Trudge	RUMBLE			
Dirty	DROIDS			

TODAY'S WORD

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

BK LDTZ RKP EKUY TZ EYTFZ  
T EWZZEY CWZ, TIB WM RKP  
DTUY ZK BK FKVYZDWIA YEFY  
ZK FPOOKXZ LDTZ RKP EKUY,  
BK WZ. — HTVYF MXTIGK

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: Which of the major oceans is the saltiest?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which two primary colors mix to make the color purple?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Falkland Islands located?
4. MOVIES: What are the villains in the movie "Transformers" called?
5. LITERATURE: Hercule Poirot is a detective featured in more than 30 of which author's novels?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many olfactory receptors are in a dog's nose on average?
7. MUSIC: When did the Woodstock Music and Art Fair take place in rural New York state?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear of speaking in public called?
9. U.S. STATES: In which state is the Rocky Mountain National Park located?
10. LANGUAGE: What is the most commonly used letter in the English alphabet?

Answers

1. The Atlantic Ocean.
2. Red and blue.
3. South Atlantic Ocean.
4. Decepticons.
5. Agatha Christie.
6. 300 million.
7. August 1969.
8. Glossophobia.
9. Colorado.
10. The letter "e."

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These cookies that you  
guys baked are too hard  
and crumbly. Sorry, I'm  
being brittly honest.

answer  
CryptoQuip

Do what you love at least  
a little bit, and if you  
have to do something else  
to support what you love,  
do it. — James Franco

CryptoQuote

Today's Word  
BICYCLE  
1. Lackey 2. Space;  
3. Lumber; 4. Sordid  
solution  
SCRAMBLERS



Lincoln County Leader

Classified

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Sell your household items.

Sell your vehicles.

Sell or rent your homes.

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Sell your goods.

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IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (Blue Blanket), between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorney Charles H. Johnson 800/535-5727.

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ED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CHRISTOPHER DAVID JOHNSON has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to Personal Representative, DIANA FAIE JOHNSON, at the address below, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative. ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: c/o Attorney Joshua D. Zantello, OSB #121562, Zantello Law Group, 1818 NE 21st Street, Lincoln City, OR 97367. DATED and first published: September 10, 2025. /s/ JOSHUA

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PUBLIC NOTICES

D. ZANTELO, Joshua D. Zantello, Attorney for Personal Representative. LCL25-0401 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN - PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of LINDA CARROLL GETMAN, Deceased. CASE NO. 25PB07420 - NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. Notice is hereby given that Richard M. Getman has been appointed as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned personal representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 13100 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, Oregon 97015, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. All per-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

sons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from records of the Court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative. Richard M. Getman, Personal Representative /s/ James Shikany OSB#014129. James Shikany, PC, Attorney for Personal Representative, 13100 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, Oregon 97015 Tel: (503) 698-9808 Fax: (503) 210-8344 Email: shikanylaw@hotmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL25-0402 CITY OF NEWPORT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING The City of Newport Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to consider File No. 2-CUP-25, a request submitted by applicant William Proc-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

tor, CFI Design Management (Jeff Atkinson, CFI Design Management, representative) (SJ Automotive Investments, Inc., owner) for a conditional use permit filed pursuant to Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Section 14.03.070/"Commercial and Industrial Uses" of the Newport Zoning Ordinance, for a conditional use permit to construct a 23,909 square foot Toyota dealership in a C-1/"Retail and Service Commercial" zone in which auto repair and sales are a conditional use. The property is located at 3234 S Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365 (Tax Map 11-11-17-DB, Tax Lot 2000), 3441 SW Anchor Way (Tax Map 11-11-17-DB, Tax Lot 2100), and 3414 S Coast Hwy (Tax Map 11-11-17-DB, Tax Lot 2200). The applicable criteria per NMC Chapter 14.34.050 are that: 1) The public facilities can adequately accommo-

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Real Estate

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Cheryl Swan

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Janine Duronslet

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\$409,000 - 7376 Logsden Rd, Logsden

\$467,000 - 918 NW Lake St, Newport

\$420,000 - 27894 Siletz Hwy, Siletz

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Bonnie Saxton  
Broker Owner,  
CRB, CRS, GRI

Audra Powell  
Broker, GRI, CRS,  
PSA, CHLMS

Marilyn Grove  
Broker, AHWD,  
C2EX, ABR

Tammy Gagne  
Broker,  
ABR, CRIS

Barbara Le Pine  
Broker, AHWD,  
C2EX

Elise Jordan  
Broker

Chris Garrett,  
Broker

NEW LISTING

Perched atop Waldport Hts., Beautifully updated home w/SS appliances & granite counters, offers privacy & room for expansion 4BD's, 2 BA's, sunroom, & fireplace, shed, garage & beautiful mudroom entry. Sellers offering 20k credit at closing, short term rentals permitted.  
25-2003.....\$680,000

NEW LISTING

Calling Investors, Contractors, & Visionaries! 2BD, 2BA home on secluded lot w/mature fruit trees & offers privacy for those seeking peaceful retreat. House requires renovation, real value lies in natural setting for buyer willing to invest. Separate shop adds value. Sold as-is Cash only.  
25-1988.....\$150,000

PRICE REDUCED

Turnkey & Remodeled Luxury Condo at Embarcadero Resort. Current vaca. rental w/profitable income features kit. w/granite counters, & marina view. Teak hardwood floors, Travertine tile & restoration hardware throughout. Baths: Radiant Heat floors & Jet tubs. Rent or live full time.  
24-2306.....\$339,000

NEW LISTING

Oceanview 2005 MFD Home on secluded lot & above sea level. Well maintained, updated flooring, interior paint & Samsung Smart Kit. appliances. Light & airy, big windows, front & back deck. Newer shed, & across from state park, 804 Trail & ocean. Seller is Lic. OR Broker.  
25-2010.....\$440,000

NEW LISTING

2BD, 2BA, MFD 800sf home in Bayview Mobile Home Park w/ water views & frontage. Move-in ready w/new treated timber deck, updated windows, newer solid metal roof, & freshly washed siding. Park approval required, 769mo. Space rent includes some utility services, buyer due diligence.  
25-1991.....\$225,000

PRICE REDUCED

Luxury Oceanfront Living! 3 bedroom condo w/stunning ocean & beach views from both levels. Fully furnished and move-in ready w/wonderful community amenities. Recent extensive exterior renovation, 2,246sf floorplan makes this unit one of the largest in subdivision.  
25-167.....\$1,000,000

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date the proposed use; 2) the request complies with the requirements of the underlying zone or overlay zone; 3) the proposed use does not have an adverse impact greater than existing uses on nearby properties, or impacts can be ameliorated through imposition of conditions of approval; and 4) a proposed building or building modification is consistent with the overall development character of the neighborhood with regard to building size and height, considering both existing buildings and potential buildings allowable as uses permitted outright. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the criteria described above or other criteria in the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances which the person believes to apply to the decision. Failure to raise an issue with sufficient specificity to afford the city and the parties an opportunity to respond to that issue precludes an appeal (including to the Land Use Board of Appeals) based on that issue. Submit testimony in written or oral form. Oral testimony and written testimony will be taken during the course of the public hearing. Letters sent to the Community Development (Planning) Department, City Hall, 169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365, must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day of the hearing or that the hearing be left open for at least seven days to present additional evidence, arguments, or testimony regarding the application. The staff report may be reviewed or a copy purchased for reasonable cost at the Newport Community Development (Planning) Department (address above) seven days prior to the hearing. The application materials (including the application and all documents and evidence submitted in support of the application), the applicable criteria, and other file material are available for inspection at no cost; or copies may be purchased for reasonable cost at the above address. Contact Derrick Tokos, Community Development Director, (541) 574-0626, d.tokos@newportoregon.gov (address above).

**LCL25-0403 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PORT OF NEWPORT**

claims a lien in the amount claimed below, pursuant to ORS87.152, for the reasonable and agreed charges for labor and materials, storage or services provided at the request of the owner or lawful possessor of the following described personal property: Personal property: Ashstella Rhelyn stored property; Official number: 261087; Reputed owner: Leonard McLay; Last known address: 8261 Abalone Street, Pacific Shores, South Beach, OR 97366; Security interest holder: None. Amount of claim of lien: \$87,823 (which includes storage of property and accrued late charges until sale date, and costs of lien foreclosure). The Port of Newport has retained the property for at least 60 days from the date when the charges for services provided were due. Notice is hereby given that unless the lien is paid prior to the date set forth for sale below, said property will be sold to the highest bidder. The successful bidder must pay 10% of the bid price in cash or certified check immediately upon being declared the successful bidder. The balance of the bid price is to be paid in cash or certified check within 24 business hours of offering the successful bid. The lien claimant may bid part or all of the lien amount claimed, plus storage and foreclosure sale expenses, which will be an offset against the lien amount. Minimum bid is \$12,022.65. Bids accepted until: October 1, 2025. Email bids to: mbrown@portofnewport.com OR drop bid off at: Port of Newport, 600 S.E. Bay Blvd., Newport,

OR 97365. Bid forms can be found online at www.portofnewport.com or at the address listed above. The sale of the property will be "as is, where is" and there are no representations by the lien claimant as to the condition of the property or its title. Any person wishing to inspect the property prior to the sale may do so during normal business hours, by contacting the Harbormaster at 541-270-5557.

**LCL25-0406 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL TERRY NELSON, DECEASED CASE NUMBER: 25PB06999 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Matthew C. Nelson has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative, c/o Freeman Green, Freeman Green Law, 525 Glen Creek Rd NW, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97304, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Published on September 10, 2025.

**LCL25-0407 PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Pacific Communities Health District Board of Directors will hold a Virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. by Microsoft Teams or in person at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital 930 SW Abbey St, Newport, Oregon 97365, Conference room 1. Persons interested in joining the Virtual meeting must have the Microsoft Teams downloaded on a personal computer or cell phone. To request a Teams Meeting invite please email cmacnab@samhealth.org or call 541-574-4674. To join by phone (audio only) option, directly call 1-971-254-1254, followed by Conference ID: 690 365 553#. Agenda: Call to Order, Additions or Change to Agenda, Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2025, Invitation for Citizen Comments, Dig Deep Water Resiliency Update, Water Resiliency Loan Application, Bylaws Revisions/Resolution, Financial Reports, Report from Legal Counsel, Construction/Facilities/Water Resiliency Update, Hospital Update, PCHD Foundation Update, Board Items, Adjourn. Catherine Macnab, Recorder. PACIFIC COMMUNITIES HEALTH DISTRICT For additional information contact 541-574-4674 or www.pchd-district.org

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

Claims against the Estate of Dianne L. Trask, Deceased, Lincoln County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB07199, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Terry M. Trask, c/o Alan Lanker, 810 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333, within four (4) months from September 10, 2025, the date of publication, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. MAREK & LANKER, LLP, Attorneys

**LCL25-408 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

In the Matter of the Estate of: RICHARD WAYNE HARRELL, Deceased. Case No. 25PB07260 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JENNY WILSON has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to Personal Representative, RICHARD WAYNE HARRELL, at the address below, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal rep-

resentative, or the attorneys for the personal representative. ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: c/o Attorney Joshua D. Zantello, OSB #121562, Zantello Law Group, 1818 NE 21st Street, Lincoln City, OR 97367. DATED and first published: September 10, 2025. /s/ JOSHUA D. ZANTELLO, Joshua D. Zantello, Attorney for Personal Representative.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN**

In the Matter of the Estate of: ROBERT CARL LAMB, Deceased. Case No. 25PB07226 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CATHY ANNE STEINBACH has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to Personal Representative, ROBERT CARL LAMB, at the address below, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative. ADDRESS FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: c/o Attorney Joshua D. Zantello, OSB #121562, Zantello Law Group, 1818 NE 21st Street, Lincoln City, OR 97367. DATED and first published: September 10, 2025. /s/ JOSHUA D. ZANTELLO, Joshua D. Zantello, Attorney for Personal Representative.

**SELF STORAGE PUBLIC SALE SAFE-LOCK STORAGE**

3639 SE Ash St South Beach, Oregon 97366 Saturday, 9/27/2025 @ 10:00am. C06 - Rich Rouske, L31 - Victoria Sharp, S29 - Kaitlyn Mathers. Sale Subject to Cancellation. Safe-Lock Storage reserves the Right to refuse any and all bids.

**LCL25-0387 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE #25-0688**

On September 29, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St, Room 203, in the City of Newport, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 340 Southeast 3rd St, Toledo, OR 97391. The court case number is: 17OV44616, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee Under The Pooling and Servicing Agreement Relating to IMPAC Secured Assets Corp., Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-2, plaintiff(s) vs. The Unknown Heirs, Assigns, and Devisees of Erika L. Heins AKA Erika L. Hedgcoth, Creditors Collection Service, Ray Klein Inv. DBA Professional Credit Service and All Other Persons or Parties Unknown claiming any right, title, lien, or interest in The Real Property, commonly known as 340 Southeast 3rd Street, Toledo, OR 97391, defendant(s). This is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand. For more details go to <http://www.oregon-sheriffsales.org/country/lincoln/>

**LCL25-0388 PUBLIC NOTICE: AS OF MARCH 20, 2025**

Tiffany L. Gerber is no longer responsible for any debts incurred by Edward J. Gerber.

**LCL25-0377 TS NO. OR05000069-24-1 APN R346301 TO NO 240481836-OR-MSI TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

Reference is made to that certain Trust Deed made by KEYTEN CHASE MCKUHN AND LAURISSA MARIE MCKUHN, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY as Grantor to WESTERN TITLE & ESCROW COMPANY as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as designated nominee for FAIRWAY INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, dated as of September 15, 2021 and recorded on September 16, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021-11880 and the beneficial interest was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC and recorded September 19, 2024 as Instrument Number 2024-06537 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon

to-wit: APN: R346301 PARCEL 3, PARTITION PLAT NO. 2021-16, 16A, IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED JUNE 30, 2021 IN LINCOLN COUNTY PLAT RECORDS. Commonly known as: 224 PIONEER MOUNTAIN LOOP, TOLEDO, OR 97391 Both the Beneficiary, Nationstar Mortgage LLC, and the Trustee, Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112, have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said Trust Deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(5) of Oregon Revised Statutes. The default for which the foreclosure is made is the Grantor's failure to pay: Failed to pay payments which became due Total Payment(s): Total Payment(s) from 08/01/2024 to 07/31/2025 at

\$22,954.44 Total Late Charge(s): Total Late Charge(s) at \$203.96 By this reason of said default the Beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: The sum of \$276,331.30 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.25000% per annum from April 1, 2024 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all Trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the Beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said Trust Deed. Wherefore, notice is hereby given that, the undersigned Trustee will on December 2, 2025 at the hour of 10:00 AM, Standard of Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, At the front entrance to the Lincoln County Court-

house located at 225 West Olive, in the City of Newport, OR 97365 County of Lincoln, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash or the interest in the said described real property which the Grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said Trust Deed, together with any interest which the Grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said Trust Deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the Trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the Beneficiary of the entire amount

then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, Trustee's or attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the Trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the Trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a Trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid

for this property at the Trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "Grantor" includes any successor in interest to the Grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said Trust Deed, the words "Trustee" and "Beneficiary" includes their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 07/17/2025 By: Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112 Successor Trustee Malcolm Cisneros, A Law Corporation Attention: Nathan F. Smith, OSB #120112 c/o TRUSTEE CORPS phatamines, 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

COMMERCIAL EXPANSION

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 It's on either side of a weather front

8 Like some pain-causing toenails

15 Award for "Nomadland"

20 Decay of a plant's stalk

21 Suave, glib sort

22 1/24 of a day, in French

23 Astronauts' advisory group?

25 Blows gently

26 NHL great Bobby

27 Dot in la mer

28 Candied nut given to a kid to quell a tantrum?

30 Advice for Fonda when she has a grievance?

35 Finds a new purpose for

36 Saudi export

37 Adele's vocal range

38 Without remuneration

41 Big cheese

44 RBL, e.g.

45 "Lily White" novelist Susan

46 Colo.-to-Ga. direction

49 Present, as the whole group

51 Small car manufactured in Poland's capital?

54 Optimal nutrient amt.

55 In — of (replacing)

57 Suffix with hero or opal

58 Common brown rodent

59 Give praise to sellers of stolen goods?

63 Regarding

64 Like the horse favored to win

65 Units of gold purity

70 Zest or Dial

73 Fighting between Dracula and Lestat?

80 Puts into operation

85 Partner of neither

86 Land of Lima and llamas

87 "So that's it!"

88 Halt hubbub?

91 Is scornful of

93 Pork product

94 Ocean trip

95 Oolong and Darjeeling

97 List details

98 Isn't truthful with

99 Orch. section for timpani, triangles, etc.

100 Jet to JFK, once

101 Tater Tots maker

104 Give solace to actor Mike?

109 Win the contest?

113 — Grande

114 Meadow

115 From Havana, e.g.

116 Noting the differences between cutting utensils?

121 Nuclear trial, in brief

122 Respectful tributes

123 Hint-giving columnist

124 Old Persians

125 Unity

126 Plaits of hair

DOWN

1 Part of YMCA: Abbr.

2 Computer support whiz

3 Supply with new weapons

4 2,100, to Caesar

5 "— you in?"

6 Communal

7 Vodka brand, familiarly

8 Suffix with 6-Down

9 Abbr. for those with only one given name

10 "Gee, I would never do that!"

11 Perez of film

12 Elevator company

13 "— asking?"

14 Big Apple mail abbr.

15 "I do so suffer!"

16 Slimy shore deposit in some spa treatments

17 Sleeve ends

18 Bandleader Shaw

19 Takes it easy

24 — Work ("Down Under" band)

29 Industrial city in southern Poland

31 Pal of Tigger

32 Maligned in print

33 "The Hunger Games" star, in tabloids

34 Acquire

38 D.C.'s land

39 Rustic denials

40 Tempo

41 DEA agent

42 "Battle Cry" actor — Ray

43 "Kapow!"

44 Watermelon waste

45 "So that's it!"

46 Work to get

47 Mark for life

48 Suffix with kitchen

50 Watermelon waste

52 Big GOP get-together

53 It splits light

56 Aliens' ship

60 Clean a spill on the floor

61 Ltr. enclosure

62 Slalom, say

66 Jean of Dada

67 Bog grasses

68 Lot division

69 Vacation travel, often

70 Window part

71 Twice tetra-

72 Quark locale

74 Price to play

75 "Li'l ol' me?!"

76 For the time being

77 Portland

78 "Excuse me"

79 Fling

81 Mishaps

82 Ripped into

83 Tall birds

84 "The Power of the Dog" co-star Kodi — McPhee

89 Spanish for "bear"

90 Spongy ball

92 Teeny-tiny

96 Oak nut

98 Enzyme in fat breakdown

99 Thick soup

100 Dracula creator Bram

101 Philosopher with a "razor"

102 Way to travel

103 Plant firmly

104 Channel that televises hearings

105 Correct

106 "Blue Suede Shoes" singer

107 Della of song

108 RSVP card ends.

110 Say again

111 Great benefit

112 Single-named plus-size model


117 Apt., e.g.

118 Mag. edition

119 Mets' div.

120 Platform for iDevices

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# Tigers win thriller in first game

**WILL LOHRE**

*Lincoln County Leader*

Taft High School started the football season with a W, powered by fantastic play from the program's seniors. Taking the field away against Kennedy on Sept. 5, the Tigers came out with a last-second touchdown, securing the 39-33 victory.

The most significant moment came to close the game out. With the teams tied at 33-33, Taft started its final drive at the Kennedy 45-yard line with about 1:19 on the clock, after a solid kick return. Senior quarterback Kol Tolan scrambled twice for more than 10 yards to get the Tigers to the first and goal in the red zone. After a QB draw went nowhere, Taft went no-huddle play with five seconds on the clock. The last play of the game.

Tolan got the snap, climbed the pocket, and delivered a strike to the back of the end-zone to his number-one target, Zack Hankins, as the game clock read 0:00. The offensive squad mobbed Hankins, and the celebrations ensued.

Tolan and Hankins tore up the Trojans in the season opener. At quarterback, Tolan sliced up the defense for 150 yards in the air and three touchdowns. Hankins was Tolan's favorite target, wracking up 120 yards on five receptions, including all three TDs.

This is Head Coach Jacob Tolan's ninth season at Taft, and he's excited about the improvement his squad has shown from last season.

"We have some very good football players returning this season. Kol Tolan and Zack Hankins were both 1st team all-league and all-state receivers for us last season, and with the graduation of Ezra James at QB, Kol has moved from WR to QB and has done a nice job so far running our offensive system," Tolan said.

The Tigers also put on a clinic in the running game, gashing Kennedy's defense for an imperious 286 yards on the ground. Tolan showed his versatility with the ball in his hands, rushing for 148 yards on 20 carries. Senior running back Riley Gilbreath also had a monster day, amassing 106 yards on 12 carries and punching in two touchdowns. The work in the trenches wouldn't be possible without linemen Alejandro Hernandez and Logan Burt, who Tolan said could be in the conversation of



**Taft Football away against Kennedy on Sept. 5. (Courtesy photo)**

the best linemen in the league by the end of the season.

Gilbreath is a player Coach Tolan is expecting a lot from this season, as well as defensive stalwarts Jorge Cruz and Logan Lovel.

"We also have Jorge Cruz and Logan Lovel, who were also first team all league defensive players for us, and Riley Gilbreath at LB and RB, who I anticipate will have an outstanding season on both sides of the ball," Tolan said.

Cruz, Lovel, and Gilbreath were a three-man wrecking crew on the defensive front, combining for 39 of Taft's 69 tackles during the game. Cruz led the pack with 15, including six solo takedowns.

Overall, it was a thrilling first win of the season, with just one play separating the Trojans and the Tigers at the end. This season, Coach Tolan hopes for more big plays, and his job will be to get guys in situations to make them.

"Schematically, I feel both our offensive and defensive systems have improved and should allow us to use our athletes to make plays in space," Tolan said. "We have some really good football players on both sides of the ball and hope to put them in the best positions to make plays."

## **TAFT'S PRESEASON PREP**

Taft's buzzer-beating victory didn't happen by accident. Tolan and his squad were working throughout the summer to prepare for the season. The Tigers had two weeks in June and weekly seven-on-seven matchups throughout June and July. To prep physically, the weight room at the school was open four days a week.

Participation numbers are

slightly down this season, after the Tigers saw a large graduating class depart in May.

"Our numbers are slightly down this year from last season. We currently have 45 players signed up for football, which is down from over 60 last season," Tolan said. "As the school year begins, we still hope to be able to add some more players that could hopefully add some much-needed depth in some position groups."

Despite wanting players to understand the X's and O's, Tolan really wants players to take away skills and life lessons off the field. He said his philosophy and mindset have always been to place "character and growth" of his players "above all else." As head coach, he wants to prepare them for life after high school and football.

"My hope for all my players on and off the field is to work hard and put effort into everything they do, whether it's practices, games, or in the classroom," Tolan said. "I also expect players to show high levels of character on and off the field and shine a bright light on our program. We expect players to show class and sportsmanship in everything they do."

The Tigers will be back in action on Sept. 12, when they host Sisters in the first home game of the season.

Toledo High School lost to Nestucca 34-40 Friday, Sept. 4, and is scheduled to next play at Myrtle Point Sept. 12. Waldport High School will travel to Glide Sept. 12 after losing 0-49 Sept. 5 to Bandon.

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

# Newport Football building culture and chemistry

**WILL LOHRE**

*Lincoln County Leader*

Cubs football is back, and though the first game of the season was a challenging start, Head Coach Mark Moore is hoping his young squad can grow and get the community out to support the team this year.

Newport's opening game against Philomath was a tough draw, as they traveled away and took home a 49-0 defeat at the hands of the Warriors. Despite the loss, it's early season for the Cubs, and the non-league games allow the Cubs to zero in on the things they need to improve before kicking off Special District 2 football.

Moore's got a young team this season, with just five seniors on a squad of more than 40 players. It's a double-edged sword, as the fresh-faced sophomores and freshmen can get valuable experience, but it also means there's not much know-how in the team. The squad's captains this year are a trio of impressive juniors, Kaiden Reel, JC Berry, and Anthony Guthrie.

Other players whom Moore expects to make an impact this year are Jaxon McDowell, James Worley, Jose Castillo, and Jackson Jinks, though Moore said they expect contributions up and down the roster.

On the gridiron, Moore wants his team to go "toe to toe" with opponents, bringing "smash mouth football" to their opponents. If the team takes a blow, it's not about getting knocked down; it's about getting back up again. Moore graduated from Newport in 1985, and many of the tenants he teaches to his team are similar to the tentpoles of the program during his time as a Cub.

Though he has been in the head coach position for two seasons, Moore has been involved with Newport football for the better part of 30 years. His approach to coaching stems from coaching more than just football; he wants his players to take away lessons that help them become good people and build character to become the best "employees, employers, husbands, and fathers." When his players are battling, Moore wants them to fight for the player standing next to them and buy into the team concept. The Cubs are building a culture of sportsmanship, and he said

that the young players on the roster are a big part of it.

One thing Moore is hoping to avoid this season is the injury bug. Last season saw multiple key players miss time due to freak incidents.

"Last year, [the injuries] were legit. Like, one of our quarterbacks/corners goes up for a ball and hits his hand on a helmet and breaks his hand," Moore said. "Then we had a hyper-tended knee. And then we had a dislocated clavicle. I mean, stuff that you just can't plan for, you know?"

Something that will hopefully help this season is the new Athletic Trainer, Dylan Borden. Moore said he's been a "godsend."

"There is nothing that man doesn't know about injuries or getting the kids back, you know? I'm so extremely pleased to have him as a part of our program," Moore said.

Moore said that having Borden around helps take a lot of the health questions off the plates of the coaches, allowing them to focus on performance. It's been a big weight off the staff's shoulders.

With the football season now in full swing, Moore is hoping the fans come out to rally around the team.

"When I played in 1984, I tell these kids, I'd stand on the field and look around, and you couldn't see the fence. The bleachers were full, and they were standing three deep all the way around the field," Moore said. "The term Friday Night Lights was real. And so I would just say to your readers, come out and watch a game and support those kids."

Moore said that over the years, the support has waned, and he wants to see more of the community out at games, not just in Newport, but around Lincoln County.

"I don't care if it's the Taft Tigers up there in Lincoln City or Waldport or Toledo, all those programs are great programs with great head coaching and great kids," Moore said. "Go out and catch a game, it's a fun Friday night for sure."

Newport will be back in action away against North Marion on Sept. 12.

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

# Taft Volleyball ready for smashing season

**WILL LOHRE**

*Lincoln County Leader*

Breaking into the playoffs is a challenge in the Pac West League. The league has perennial top 10 programs in Scio, Santiam Christian, and Dayton, but this season, Taft Volleyball Head Coach Boone Marker thinks the Tigers are ready to claw their way into the picture.

"My expectations are high. Only losing one starting senior in our rotation, we know what we need to do to win and perform each game. Execution of the offense and defense is imperative to be successful," Marker said. "I do expect us to be one of the top teams in our league because of our experienced core of players."

This is Marker's second year as the head varsity coach, but he's no stranger to the court. He coached one year as JV Head Coach and spent three years as a volunteer assistant. Felicia Lambie and Heather Hatton. Being part of the program is something he's passionate about.

"I love being a Tiger," Marker said.

## **EARLY SUCCESS**

The Tigers have shown their stripes in the early goings this season, going 3-1 through their first four games. The Tigers beat Toledo and Nestucca 3-0 in their first two games before taking a loss to Blanchet Catholic 1-3. Despite the loss, Taft rebounded well, swatting aside Amity 3-0.

Marker credited the team's offseason preparation for the early success.

"Our pre-season games were a testament to the hard work our players have put in through the summer workouts and early-season practices," Marker said. "Each week, we will face a new challenge in our tough Pac-West league, and I know our players will rise to the occasion."

Other opponents Taft will face in the Pac West include Blanchet Catholic, Salem Academy, Willamina, Amity, and Jefferson. Marker's philosophy this year is about "doing the small things right and playing smart, developing mental strength and fortitude, and positivity program-wide."

With the solid continuity

from last season, getting the team to buy in hasn't been an issue.

"I'm blessed to work with such an amazing group of young women who know they have a chance to be successful this season," Marker said. "It makes my job as a coach easier as I don't have to remind them of certain things - like attitude and effort. They are hungry!"

The hungry group of Tigers are few, but the talent on the squad is high. Marker said the varsity team is 10 players deep, with a JV program of nine. Having only graduated one senior, Taft is already ahead of the curve with their chemistry and togetherness.

Marker isn't the only one with high expectations. The team created their goals this season, and they want to make the league playoffs and beyond for the first time since before the pandemic.

"Our team has great goals this season, with the primary one being in the top 3 in our league and playing in the league playoffs, and getting into the OSAA playoffs. I truly hope we can meet these

goals, and I'd love to see them in Coos Bay in November," Marker said. "Off the court, I want their bonds and friendships to flourish and create a sisterhood that will last forever, and influence the next generation of Taft volleyball players."

## **TEAM OF STANDOUTS**

When asked about who the playmakers are that will keep the ball popping around this season, Marker had difficulty naming just a few. He said that "all of them are stand-out athletes - top to bottom." But he did note that many of the accolades go to the setters and hitters. Regardless, there isn't a weak spot in the lineup.

You'll want to keep your eyes out for our senior outside hitters, Laney Lee and Ava Lambie, setters Ariel Jin and Katelyn Hatton. And you have to include our big middles, Aida Lupo and Olivia Davis, as well as our right side hitters, Kasey Lee and Ari Hunter. And you can't forget about our defensive specialists, Layla Jones and Maya Freschi," Marker said.

The "backbone" of Taft Volleyball is the four seniors,

Lambie, Jin, Freschi, and Lee. All four players are athletes that Marker started coaching in 2016, and he said it's exciting to watch them embark on their final season together. Lambie and Lee set the tone as leaders for the program, and are two of the team's captains.

With a team that has played together for years, and some of the other contenders hopefully taking a step back this season, Marker is hoping this will be a season to remember for the Tigers.

"Our league has produced one to two top-8 teams at the state tournament traditionally. As many of those schools have graduated seniors, and five schools have new head coaches, I think this will be a record year for Taft volleyball," Marker said. "Our court experience, leadership, game IQ, tempo will set us apart from the rest of the league - but only time will tell."

Follow game results at osaa.org, and look for Taft sports features at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.