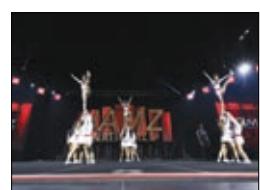


NEWPORT CHEER CLINCHES
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sports PAGE B8



RETRO EXPO AND NEW VINTAGE
VOYAGE PASSPORT

Coast Life PAGE B1



THE MONEY SAVER MOTEL
GETS A NEW LOOK

Business PAGE A8



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2

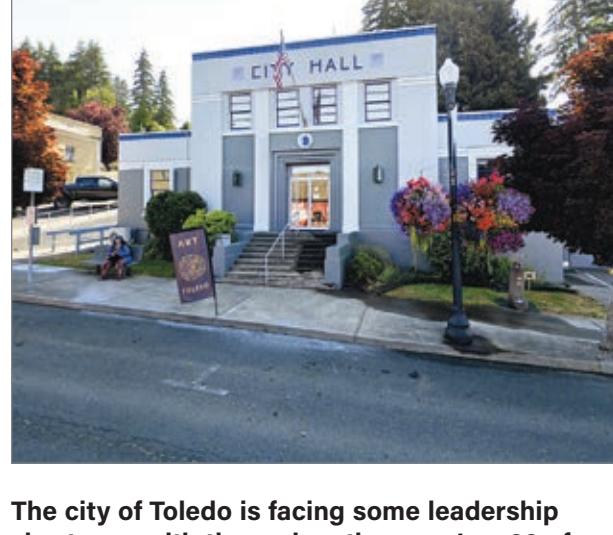
Toledo's interim city manager, interim fire chief resign

*Former fire chief
brought back
from paid leave*

STEVE CARD
Lincoln County Leader

Toledo city administration has been in a whirlwind the past few months, and while there may be some light on the horizon, there will likely be more turbulence as they weather the storm.

On Jan. 22, Toledo's interim city manager, the



The city of Toledo is facing some leadership shortages with the resignations on Jan. 22 of Interim City Manager Amanda Carey, Interim Fire Chief Ryan Harris, and Fire Training Officer Shannon Brecik. (Courtesy photo)

See **TOLEDO**, page A4



The owner of the Four Winds Inn in Depoe Bay was shot and killed with a handgun reportedly fired by a disgruntled employee at around 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30. (Courtesy photo)

Depoe Bay man arrested for murder

*Police pursuit goes
all the way to
Benton County*

STEVE CARD
Lincoln County Leader

A 29-year-old Depoe Bay man was arrested by a detective with the

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, Jan. 30, on charges that he shot and killed the owner

See **MURDER**, page A7

Senator, representative hold town hall

STEVE CARD
Lincoln County Leader

It was a standing-room-only crowd as hundreds of people gathered on Saturday, Feb. 1, at a joint town hall meeting held by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle. The event took place at noon in the commons at the Oregon Coast Community College Central County Campus in Newport.

The legislators were introduced by Newport Mayor Jan Kaplan, and they took questions from the crowd using a lottery-based system, drawing random numbers that people had been given as they walked into the event.

Many of the concerns raised by those in attendance



U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley addresses hundreds of people who turned out for a town hall meeting on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Oregon Coast Community College Central County Campus in Newport. (Photo by Steve Card)

Fake robbery leads to arrest, trial, sentencing

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

A former Lincoln City restaurant manager has been sentenced following her conviction for staging a fake robbery.

After a three-day jury trial, Denali Cox was found guilty Jan. 24 by a Lincoln County jury of aggravated theft in the first degree and initiating a false report, according to Lincoln County District Attorney Jenna Wallace.

"On the morning of July 31, 2023, Denali Cox, then manager of Pelican Brewery — Siletz Bay, called 911 to report that she had just been robbed. Cox alleged that she was walking to her car with a bank deposit bag with more than \$17,000 inside a paper sack when an unknown male jumped



An officer with the Lincoln City Police Department searches for a suspect on July 31, 2023, in what turned out to be a false robbery report. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

Lincoln City mayor outlines city's needs at Oregon Legislature

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Mayor Susan Wahlke is hopeful, but not optimistic, that Lincoln City will receive a fair share of state funding during this year's legislative session.

"Lincoln City, in particular Lincoln County, has received a lot of grants from the state, and we can't expect that to be ongoing," she said while leading a city delegation during the League of Oregon Cities City Day in Salem.

More than 350 city officials, representing more than 120 cities throughout Oregon, participated in City Day at the Capitol on Tuesday,



Gov. Tina Kotek addresses the League of Oregon Cities members, including representatives from Lincoln City, during the City Day at the Capitol at the Salem Convention Center. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

Jan. 28. The event helps city officials advocate for their communities on priority issues.

Of particular concern for Wahlke is funding for

See **MAYOR**, page A6

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Weather

Wednesday: High-42/Low-34
Rain
Thursday: High-44/Low-33
AM Fog/PM Clouds
Friday: High-44/Low-37
Showers
Saturday: High-46/Low-33
Showers
Sunday: High-46/Low-32
Cloudy
Monday: High-45/Low-32
Mostly Cloudy
Tuesday: High-44/Low-33
Partly Cloudy

Past Weather

On the Coast

	Rain	Low	High
January 24	0.00	35.1	48.4
January 25	0.00	30.8	51.3
January 26	0.00	36.9	54.9
January 27	0.00	39.8	43.2
February 1	0.06	40.5	49.8
February 2	0.10	35.9	45.5
February 3	0.05	35.4	39.7
Total rainfall from Jan. 1			6.71"

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
High.....5:00 a.m.....9.3
Low.....12:13 p.m.....0.8
High.....6:44 p.m.....5.7
Low.....11:16 p.m.....5.9

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
High.....5:56 a.m.....9.2
Low.....1:29 p.m.....0.3
High.....8:25 p.m.....5.9

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Low.....12:31 a.m.....4.2
High.....7:01 a.m.....9.0
Low.....2:39 p.m.....0.0
High.....9:45 p.m.....6.3

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Low.....1:56 a.m.....4.4
High.....8:09 a.m.....9.0
Low.....3:39 p.m.....0.4
High.....10:41 p.m.....6.7

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Low.....3:12 a.m.....4.2
High.....9:13 a.m.....9.2
Low.....4:31 p.m.....0.7
High.....11:25 p.m.....7.1

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Low.....4:12 a.m.....3.9
High.....10:09 a.m.....9.3
Low.....5:15 p.m.....0.8

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
High.....12:01 a.m.....7.3
Low.....5:03 a.m.....3.4
High.....10:58 p.m.....9.2
Low.....5:53 p.m.....0.8

Sunrise/Sunset

February 5.....7:30 a.m.....5:30 p.m.

February 6.....7:29 a.m.....5:31 p.m.

February 7.....7:28 a.m.....5:33 p.m.

February 8.....7:27 a.m.....5:34 p.m.

February 9.....7:25 a.m.....5:36 p.m.

February 10.....7:24 a.m.....5:37 p.m.

February 11.....7:22 a.m.....5:38 p.m.

February 12.....7:21 a.m.....5:40 p.m.

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

Lottery

Friday, January 31

Mega Millions

9 • 28 • 48 • 56 • 63 • PB-2 • x2

Saturday, February 1

Powerball

23 • 29 • 32 • 49 • 61 • PB-8 • x2

Saturday, February 1

Megabucks

9 • 11 • 28 • 31 • 37 • 47

Inside

News.....A1-4

Obituaries.....A6

Opinion.....A5

History.....A7

Business.....A8

Coast Life.....B1

Comics.....B5

Classifieds/Public Notices.....B6-7

Sports.....B8

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Advisory issued for commercial crab fleet

A fleet advisory for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in all waters off Oregon was issued Jan. 30 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Program.

A humpback whale entangled in multiple sets of commercial crab gear from Oregon was reported off the central Oregon coast on Jan. 6, marking the first humpback entanglement attributed by the National Marine Fisheries Service to Oregon commercial crab gear this year.

This follows a record high of four entanglements, involving three humpback whales and one fin whale, attributed

to Oregon commercial crab gear in 2024.

Given these events and the high number of crab lines in the water during the first months of the season, ODFW is issuing this fleet advisory. Crab fishing vessels should remain vigilant and move or avoid setting gear in areas where whales are transiting or foraging to minimize risk of entanglement as much as possible. This advisory is effective immediately and remains in effect through the end of the crab season or until superseded.

In its advisory statement, ODOT said, "We remind the fleet of the crab fishing best practices to help reduce risk

of entanglements at all times, but especially when entanglement risk is elevated during times of higher crabbing effort or when higher numbers of Endangered Species Act-listed humpback whales are present off Oregon." Remember to:

- Remove any fishing gear you are not actively tending and promptly remove all gear from the ocean when finished crabbing for the season.

- Use the minimum amount of scope required to compensate for tides, currents, and weather.
- Adjust the length of buoy lines when moving pots to shallower water to maintain taut vertical lines.

• Minimize surface gear and ensure no excess line is floating at the surface.

- Avoid setting gear in the vicinity of large feeding aggregations of whales.

- Maintain gear to ensure lines and buoys are in good working condition and clearly marked.

- Bring derelict gear to shore in-season. If unable to retrieve, report the location of derelict gear to ODFW.

Crabbers are asked to share this advisory and reminders about crab fishing best practices to reduce risk of marine life entanglements. ODFW also asked them

to consider reporting whale sightings using the WhaleAlert app and sharing the locations of unusually high whale or sea turtle activity with ODFW and with other fishers.

All entangled marine mammals or sea turtles should be promptly reported by calling 1-877-SOS-WHALE (1-877-767-9425). Keep a safe distance and do not attempt disentanglement.

For more information, contact Brittany Harrington, 541-819-9246 or Brittany.L.Harrington@odfw.oregon.gov, or Kelly Corbett, 541-270-5083 or Kelly.C.Corbett@odfw.oregon.gov

Lincoln County Transit: three services, three brands



Lincoln County Transit has new graphics on its buses to help people identify what service a particular bus provides, whether it is a city loop, InterCity Commuter, or Dial-A-Ride. (Courtesy photo)

Lincoln County Transit has unveiled new graphic designs for its loop buses in Lincoln City and Newport, along with its Dial-A-Ride buses, to distinguish them from the InterCity Commuter.

Dubbed "Three Services, Three Brands," the purpose is to enhance route recognition, as well as identify city buses with the character of the communities they serve.

The discussion began in May 2024, when Lincoln County approached city staff in Newport and Lincoln City with a proposal to design distinctive graphics. Transit had heard from locals and tourists alike who believed commuter buses passed them as they waited at the stop when, in fact, the passing buses were Dial-A-Rides not making regular stops.

Previously, graphics for all of Lincoln County Transit buses were of the same design, making their specific service difficult to identify.

The Greater Newport

Chamber of Commerce and Explore Lincoln City

took the lead on creating designs for their respective city routes.

Newport produced a design featuring its status as the

"Dungeness Crab Capital of the World," while

Lincoln City opted to highlight its network of eight scenic hiking trails.

Dungeness crab is by far the most commercially important crab caught in the Pacific Northwest and helps drive the economy in Newport and along the Oregon coast. Commercial fishing makes up about 15 percent of the economy for Newport and surrounding Lincoln County. Income generated from Dungeness crab is more than 40 percent of the total value of all locally harvested seafood. Over 13 million pounds of crab were commercially caught and landed in Newport, valued at nearly \$40 million.

The Lincoln City Loop Bus highlights the city's trails with the

advertisement "Hike Lincoln City." The city's scenic hiking trails are easily accessible via the loop bus. These trails are family and dog friendly, with hikes ranging from 1/3 mile to 3 miles in length. They include:

Agnes Creek Trailhead, Devils Lake Boardwalk Trail, Friends of Wildwoods Trail, Regatta Nature Trail, The Knoll Open Space Trailhead and Trail Complex, Spyglass Ridge Trailhead, Spring Lake Open Space Hiking Trails, and Nesika Park Trail.

Lincoln City Transit operates two city loops — Newport and Lincoln City — which run circuits throughout the day with stops at main commercial and tourist locations. It

also operates commuter routes from Yachats to Lincoln City and to Siletz and Toledo. In cooperation with Benton Area Transit, it operates the

Coast to Valley Express, which runs from Newport through Philomath and Corvallis to the train station at Albany and back. And its Dial-A-Ride service provides curb-to-destination transportation to any member of the community for just \$1 a trip.

Transit operates 20 buses and provides approximately 280,000 rides per year. Last year, its buses traveled more than 520,000 miles.

During the next two years, the county will invest more than \$4 million in the system through the State Transportation

Improvement Fund. Transit Director Cynda Bruce shared her excitement about the "Three Services, Three Brands" initiative.

"Staff at Lincoln City and Newport worked seamlessly with county staff and brought forth wonderful designs that perfectly represent their communities," Bruce said. "These not only enhance the appearance of our vehicles but make navigating our transit system simpler with easily recognizable buses that correspond with their routes."

To learn more about Lincoln County Transit, find routes and schedules, or to book a trip on Dial-A-Ride, visit www.co.lincoln.or.us/361/Transit

County welcomes Lennon Pierce as its new director of finances



Lennon Pierce

he earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. He received his diploma from Crater High School in Central Point.

"As a fifth-generation Oregonian, I have very fond memories of the aquarium here and the kind community," Pierce said. "And I wanted to be able to utilize and leverage my skills to enhance

this community around me because I find a lot of fulfillment in that. And, I love the Oregon coast, so this was a really good fit with who I am and my ethos."

Pierce said he is still getting the lay of the land in the finance office, having only been on the job one week. His start date was Jan. 27.</p

School district reports 2024 graduation rates

In data released Thursday, Jan. 30, by the Oregon Department of Education, Lincoln County School Districts' (LCSD) graduation rates across its high schools for the 2023-24 academic year showed several programs and student groups exceeding state averages and showing growth from the prior year.

LCSD's overall graduation rate of 83.3 percent surpassed the state average of 73.6 percent by nearly 10 percentage points. This represents growth from the district's 2022-23 rate of 79.9 percent.

"Our high school graduation data is a testament to the hard work our students, staff, families and communities are doing to support our students throughout their K-12 experience in Lincoln County," said LCSD Director of Secondary Education Aaron Belloni.

"I am especially proud of the systems and processes that exist within our high schools to help students start high school strong and remain on track to graduate as they progress from freshmen to seniors."

The district made significant progress in supporting students experiencing homelessness, with the graduation rate increasing from 65.2 percent to 75.5 percent district-wide. Newport High School particularly excelled in this area, with a 92.9 percent graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness, compared to the state average of 80.3 percent.

Newport High School achieved a 92.6 percent graduation rate, up from 82.1 percent in 2022-23. The school's female students reached a 95 percent graduation rate, while CTE (Career & Technical Education) participants graduated at 93.2 percent,

both exceeding state averages.

Taft 7-12 High School saw a 93.8 percent graduation rate among CTE participants and a 90 percent graduation rate for Hispanic/Latino students, compared to the state's Hispanic/Latino average of 82.9 percent. Female students at Taft graduated at 91.8 percent, showing growth from the school's overall 2022-23 rate of 91.6 percent.

Toledo Jr/Sr High School reported a 93.3 percent graduation rate for students not experiencing poverty, improving from their 2022-23 overall rate of 80.0 percent. Female students achieved an 87 percent rate, surpassing the state average.

Students in Waldport High School's CTE program showed an 84.4 percent graduation rate, while their English Learners achieved an 82.7 percent rate, considerably higher

than the state average of 68.0 percent.

District-wide 2024 graduation rate highlights include:

- English Learners: 86.2 percent (state: 68.0 percent)
- Hispanic/Latino students: 87.6 percent (state: 82.9 percent)
- Students with Disabilities: 79.7 percent (state: 75.8 percent)
- CTE programs consistently showing graduation rates above 85 percent

"I am consistently impressed with the work of our community partners to support graduation and post-secondary efforts in LCSD," said Superintendent Majalise Tolan. "Graduation rates do not improve in the school alone, although our schools work incredibly hard. Rates do improve when entire communities work together to help all students overcome any obstacle in their path."

MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners: 10 a.m., commission meeting room, county courthouse, Newport. For info, go to www.co.lincoln.or.us.

Lincoln City Library Board: 3:30 p.m., Driftwood Public Library, 801 SW Highway 101.

Newport Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: 5:30 p.m., council chambers, city hall.

Toledo City Council: 6 p.m., council chambers, city hall.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

Siletz City Council: 5:30 p.m., work session, city hall.

Greater Toledo Pool Recreation District Board: 6 p.m. Toledo Library meeting room, 173 NW Seventh St.

Newport Planning Commission: 6 p.m. work session, 7 p.m. regular session, council chambers, city hall.

Lincoln City City Council: 6 p.m., council chambers, city hall.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

Lincoln County School District Board of Directors: 5 p.m. work session, 6:30 p.m. regular session, Toledo Jr/Sr School.

Lincoln County Drainage District Board: 7 p.m., Toledo Public Library, 173 NW Seventh St.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 Board of Directors: 4 p.m., Bob Everest Station, 2525 NW Highway 101, Lincoln City.

Lincoln City Public Arts Committee: 4 p.m., public works conference room, city hall.

TOLEDO

From Page A1

interim fire chief, and the fire department's training officer all abruptly resigned their positions. The following week, on Jan. 29, the city council met in executive session for about an hour and a half, followed by an open special session during which they began trying to plot a course forward.

Last year, Toledo City Manager Doug Wiggins was placed on paid administrative leave, as was Fire Chief Larry Robeson, and there are ongoing investigations into these two individuals, the details of which haven't been made public because they are personnel matters.

The city's finance director, Amanda Carey, was appointed interim city manager, and Ryan Harris was appointed interim fire chief. Since that time, there has reportedly been considerable turmoil associated with both city administration and the fire department. A number of volunteer firefighters went on personal leave from the department last fall, and they were later terminated by Carey. Many of those have begun volunteering

with the neighboring East Lincoln County Fire District. There were also complaints made by some of those volunteers regarding actions by fire training officer Shannon Brecik.

Carey, Harris and Brecik were the three paid city employees who handed in their resignations on Jan. 22.

One of the first things the Toledo City Council dealt with during its special session on Jan. 29 was to authorize someone to sign certain city documents that had been the responsibility of the city manager.

City Attorney Mike Adams said, "There are definitely gaps in authorities. We would like to appoint somebody for a very short time or just authorize staff for signatures. There's a lot of authority given to the city manager or the interim city manager, and there really is no mechanism for somebody to do that if the position is empty."

Mayor Rod Cross said, "We could give a department head that signature authority ... to make sure the payroll and our bills get paid." He said he would be happy with either Police Chief Mike Pace or Public Works Director Brian Lorimor

doing that. Ultimately, the council opted to use both of those individuals as signatories, to share the load, and the council unanimously voted to give them that authority.

The council then tackled the issue of the current lack of leadership at the fire department.

Adams told the council, "Siletz Fire Chief David Lapof is more than willing to help the city. There is also the possibility of reinstating Chief Robeson, subject to the next full-time city manager's possible future conditions."

Lapof, who attended the meeting, was asked if he would be comfortable working with Robeson to rebuild the fire department.

"We've established a pretty good relationship and friendship over the last few years, so one hundred percent we would be their support," he said. "And that is actually my preference. I know I can speak for Tom Jackson, the president of the Lincoln County Fire Defense Board, that it would be our goal that Chief Robeson would get reinstated as the fire chief. It would make things just so much easier from the get-go."

Lapof said there are

some things that would need to be addressed right away. East Lincoln County Fire District, with support from Siletz, has been covering the residents of Toledo, but he is concerned about response time. "We'll be there as fast as we can, but there's a geographic challenge. We are three small agencies that serve a large geographic community. There's over 100 square miles between the three agencies." He also said the rhetoric needs to go away for the ease of rebuilding of this group.

"Rebuilding the Toledo Fire Department is going to be a monumental task," Lapof added. "Chief Robeson and I have talked about that. It's hard, sometimes, for organizations such as this to almost ever come back to where they were ... but I don't think it's insurmountable. And with barriers and rhetoric removed, I think East Lincoln County and Toledo Fire will work together as a unified unit, and then we (Siletz Fire) will just go back north of the highway and be here whenever you need us."

City Councilor Tracy Mix made a motion to reinstate Larry Robeson, along with Lapof, as co-chiefs of Toledo Fire, effective immediately, and instruct city attorney Adams to work out details surrounding this leadership arrangement. The motion passed unanimously.

Getting issues sorted out at the fire department is also critical in the city's effort to consolidate

its 911 dispatch services with Willamette Valley Communications Center (WVCC) in Salem. Due to staffing levels and current finances, the city can no longer maintain its own dispatch center

Police Chief Mike Pace informed the city council last week that WVCC has suspended negotiations with the city. "They said they will not move forward with the consolidation unless four things are resolved," he said. Those are:

• Resolution of all threatening, pending and/or existing litigation;

• Resolution of all property disputes including, but not limited to vehicles and structures related to assets;

• Resolution of all contract and/or agreement disputes;

• That the city of Toledo assures it has, at minimum, an interim department chief and minimum staffing members needed to respond to emergency calls.

"So the conflict between the city and East Lincoln County Fire has caused us problems," Pace said. "We cannot continue to function as a dispatch center with the aid that we have for an indefinite period of time, so those things need to be resolved as soon as possible, and that needs to come with the cooperation of the East Lincoln County Fire District."

Several East Lincoln County Fire District firefighters, who had previously been volunteers with Toledo Fire, were seated in the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting, And Mayor Cross added, "Contrary to the popular belief on social media, we do not run the fire department. Know this, that if we could have done something at the time, within the rules, we would have, simply because we believe that there were many people wronged in all of this. And while we can't rewind the clock and make everything be perfect again, what we can do is let you all know that we are sorry. It will be topmost in our resolve to get to the end of this and try to make us all whole again, and I want to welcome you back if you want to come back."

some council members addressed them directly.

"We on the city council recognize that we owe our first responders that were terminated an apology," said Mix. "While we on council may not have directly done that, we are still responsible for things that we manage, and we're responsible for what the employees in the city do. Our promise as a council is that we are going to take the appropriate steps ... to start bridging the divide that has happened in our town."

Councilor Jackie Burns said, "It's been really difficult to see all of these things happen and wonder what we could have done. We're not looking to point fingers and place blame

other than to look at ourselves as your leaders and what can we do going forward, learning from our mistakes. Let us put the corrections in, and please forgive us."

And Mayor Cross added, "Contrary to the popular belief on social media, we do not run the fire department. Know this, that if we could have done something at the time, within the rules, we would have, simply because we believe that there were many people wronged in all of this.

And while we can't rewind the clock and make everything be perfect again, what we can do is let you all know that we are sorry. It will be topmost in our resolve to get to the end of this and try to make us all whole again, and I want to welcome you back if you want to come back."

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Kathleen Hutchinson

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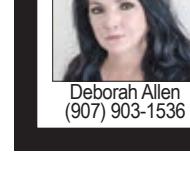
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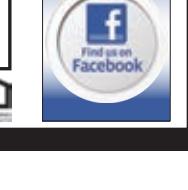
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OPINION

Steve Card, Opinion Page Editor

A5

VIEWPOINT

We need a regional water system for Lincoln County

BY TERRY VAUGHN

This is a written response to recent planning meetings and newspaper articles regarding Big Creek Dam replacement. It appears that further discussion of the Big Creek Dam construction is over and the final decision has been made. However, several long-time professional colleagues over many years have expressed concern that the Big Creek Dam site is not the best solution to longtime water system needs in this area.

The Rocky Creek site, located two miles south of Depoe Bay, was identified and recommended for the regional water supply in the Fuller-Morris Engineering 1997 "Long-Range Water Supply" study completed for the city of Newport. Newport city officials contacted Lincoln City officials to propose a joint city council meeting to discuss the possibility of cooperating in the development of a regional water project. The possibilities and benefits of the Rocky Creek site were presented, and in short order, the cities agreed to make a joint water rights application to the water resources department for storage on Rocky Creek.

The effort to coordinate Lincoln County water districts in support of a regional water system had progressed to the point of formulating an intergovernmental agreement of all county water systems suppliers to support the effort to obtain the Rocky Creek water rights. This group, named "Central Coast Water Council" (CCWC), was formed in 2001. After that effort, interest subsided, and it appears the lack of support for the Rocky Creek solution is more than a lack of funding. The plan for Rocky Creek is one of those activities that has been shelved largely due to the inability to maintain support for the project by both parties of the joint water rights application.

Bringing this issue up to date, there is recognition among a group of concerned citizens of several issues with the proposed Big Creek Dam relocation and rebuild. Those serious issues are as follows:

1) Any dam/reservoir upstream from residential development brings additional and often changing regulatory oversight.

2) Any substantial increase in storage volume cannot be reliably filled by the relatively small drainage basin. More use of the Siletz pump station would be necessary. Winter pumping is not desirable because of the silt content in winter runoff and the damaging effect of that silt on pumps.

3) The stated plan for a roller-compacted concrete dam will require importing all embankment materials, which

by some independent estimates would be prohibitively expensive. The Rocky Creek Dam location is positioned between two steep basalt walls resulting in excellent support and anchoring for the proposed dam, widening into an expanded water storage area with reduced construction cost.

4) Much of the cost is because a good share of the dam won't store water during the lengthy construction process because it will be in the excavation required to find an acceptable foundation for the dam.

The apparent bottom line is that Rocky Creek regional water supply for Lincoln County is dead — a lost opportunity to address future water needs in an environmentally responsible manner. Even with the final decision to focus only on Big Creek, there is an ongoing interest from concerned citizens that all must come together to find permanent solutions for our communities' infrastructure needs. The engineering group I'm associated with all agree the Rocky Creek site appears to be more suitable than replacing the existing Big Creek dams. The Rocky Creek outflow drops 40 feet or more into the ocean and eliminates all possibility of a fish run. In addition, unlike the Big Creek site, there are no residential areas above or below the dam site that would be impacted by dam failure.

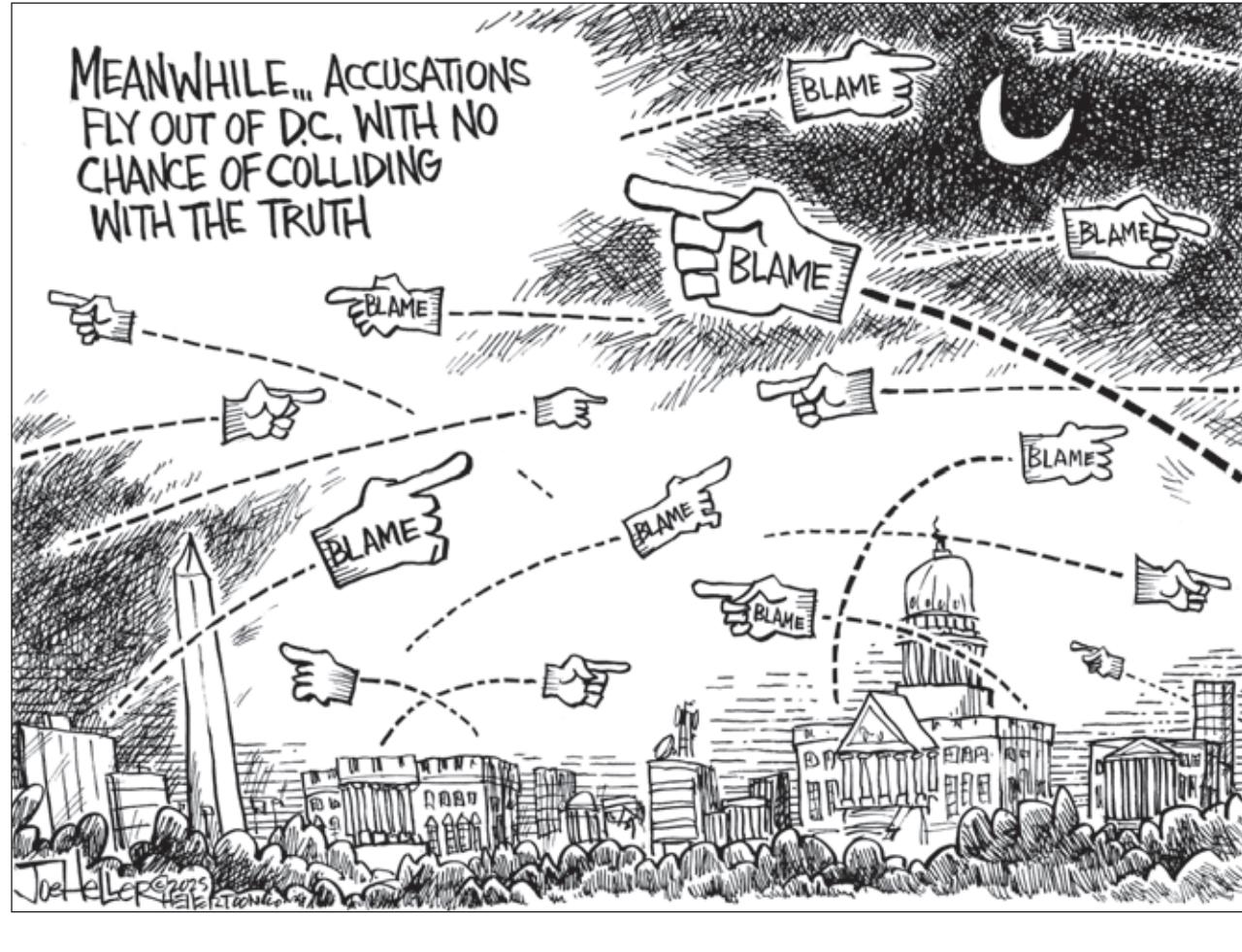
We believe there is a huge potential for capturing this generous outflow for a more effective regional water system. Fishery impacts due to diversions on salmon streams with inconsistent water quantity are ongoing issues, and will only worsen with increased population pressures. In the event the Rocky Creek Dam had been built at the time of all this activity to stop it, we would now have one regional water source from Rocky Creek Dam. This work, had it gone forward, would have benefited the potential fish populations and the environmental health of the Lincoln County coastal area by reducing the pressure on the existing water supply systems.

Communities up and down the central Oregon coast with individual water supplies have ongoing difficulty meeting local needs. Additionally, these sites impact fish runs and the quality of water in many ways, particularly the warming of coastal streams, including Big Creek. Prior to the final authorization of this project and based on the forgoing concerns, we recommend this decision be thoroughly re-investigated to safely meet the best long-term needs of Lincoln County.

Terry Vaughn is a resident of Newport.

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

MEANWHILE... ACCUSATIONS FLY OUT OF D.C. WITH NO CHANCE OF COLLIDING WITH THE TRUTH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE ARE NOT AN ENCLAVE OF HATE

A couple of years ago, I attended the Terroir Writing Festival in Newberg and participated in a poetry workshop there. At the end of her presentation, the teacher gave us a writing prompt and a few minutes to compose a poem. The prompt was: "In the Republic of Gratitude." This is the poem I wrote:

In the Republic of Gratitude

In the Republic of Gratitude
farmers would put signs
facing the highway proudly telling the people
in passing cars what is growing in their fields.

In the Republic of Gratitude

the people in the passing cars
would notice the farmers' signs
and discuss the beauty and fragrance
of what is growing in the farmers' fields.

In the Republic of Gratitude

the pickers bent over the fields
would look up when they heard the passing drivers cheering their hard work
and their fortitude.

In the Republic of Gratitude

the pickers would return to their little houses after hard days spent picking
and would sit in rockers

by rushing rivers and listen
and remember all the smiles and cheers they had gathered that day.

Yesterday I heard that there are people in parking lots here in town hassling Hispanic-looking families as per the Brown Roundup letter that appeared in retired Sheriff Curtis Landers' mailbox and to which he called for compassion, reminding us Oregon is a sanctuary state.

I think we need to restore our honor and

show that we are not an enclave of hate here in Lincoln County.

Donni Kennedy
Lincoln City

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO THE SUPER RICH

The Supreme Court 2010 decision known as Citizens United said that financial donations to political candidates should be considered a form of free speech. Well, happy Valentine's Day to the super rich 14 years later. They now own our president, Senate and House of Representatives and write legislation to accumulate even more money than ever before in the history of the world.

The 2024 presidential campaigns by both Trump and Harris were extreme examples of over-the-top expenditures, and the 30 percent of eligible voters who didn't vote in November might be excused if they thought their poor effort would be in vain.

But 64 percent of us true believers were left to decide the race, and the winner — Mr. Trump — took almost half of those votes.

One in three eligible American voters cast their vote for Donald Trump, giving incredibly rich people even more tax cuts on their mountains of money.

Government programs of the people, by the people, and for the people will have to be cut. Watch for fewer services, less Social Security, Medicaid, and other safety net programs.

The Supreme Court and its decision on Citizens United in 2010 gave away democracy to the super rich, leaving the rest of us with nothing to say about our government.

This year, Oregon passed campaign finance reform. Oregon state representatives are no longer for sale to the super rich.

Happy Valentine's Day, Oregon.

Sharon Scarborough

Newport

VIEWPOINT

Newport Farmers Market: many benefits

BY ERIC HANNEMAN

The Newport Farmers Market just celebrated its 46th year! The market is financially healthy, but the lack of an indoor winter space limits our ability to provide services to Newport's residents and guests.

Historically, the market is the second oldest farmers market in Oregon after Eugene. The market is governed by a board of directors and has three part-time employees. About a dozen farms and over 60 craft booths participate in the market. The market has a significant impact on the economy and health of Newport and its residents, and supports farmers both large and small.

As recently as 30 years ago, there were only farmers. After moving around several locations, eight to 10 vendors settled at the fairgrounds, all selling produce. Craft vendors started in 2010. The market was also located at the armory, on the city hall lawn, and across Highway 101 on Seventh and Lee streets; during the winter it was inside at the fairgrounds. And the market moves

a lot of produce. Gathering Together Farms from Philomath has delivered over 70,000 pounds of produce to the market each year from 2021-2024, selling over 56,000 pounds of produce annually, and they are just one of a dozen farms at the market.

The Newport Farmers Market conducted a Dot Survey July 27, 2024 to get an idea of how many attend the market, how much they spend, how often they shop at the market, and how far they travel to get to the market. Approximately 2,250 total shoppers attended the market between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The average shopper at the market spent \$39; 40 percent of the customers shop at least twice a month; 52 percent of the customers were first time shoppers or visitors; 51 percent of the customers came from 20 miles or less; and 41 percent of the customers were from out of the area.

The survey revealed that 2,250 people spent nearly \$90,000. During the spring and fall, the market is smaller, but we estimate the daily economic impact of direct sales is between \$16,600

and \$90,000, an average of \$53,280. Multiply that times the number of markets during the months of March through November (35 markets) and the total gross sales for the year are approximately \$1,864,800.

The market also processes SNAP/Oregon Trail cards, providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables for those who qualify for this program. In addition, the market participates in the state supported Double Up Food Bucks Program, which doubles participants SNAP benefits up to \$20 per week. In 2024, the Newport Farmers Market processed \$24,324 in SNAP benefits and matched those benefits with \$20,135 in Double Up Food Bucks.

Prior to the pandemic, the market used a building on the Lincoln County Commons for a winter market. However, since then the market has not been allowed to use the building. The county is renovating the commons, tearing down six buildings, but not the one that the market used to use. Repeated attempts to reach out has not met with success. The market

has been unsuccessful in locating another winter market location.

Every dollar we spend has power. When we choose local farmers, we're not just buying fresh nutrient dense produce, we're encouraging sustainability, strengthening our community, and supporting families who pour their hearts into the land.

The Newport Farmers Market offers more than groceries and crafts — we offer a connection to the Earth, the arts, and the people who nurture it. Customers not only shop, they also engage in conversations, meet neighbors for lunch, and enjoy the festive atmosphere with family and friends. Every purchase is an advance toward a healthier community and planet.

For our 47th year, please help the market find a permanent location and a space to have a winter market, so we can continue serving the community for another 47 years. We look forward to seeing you March 29!

Eric Hanneman is the manager of the Newport Farmers Market.



MAYOR

From Page A6

Lincoln City's deteriorating street system.

"We do have requests for funds to help with streets, but those street funds are spread throughout the state, I understand," she said. "But we do have a lot of people who drive on our streets who don't live in town."

Wahlke is also concerned about state funding for housing.

"It would be wonderful to get some assistance for our workforce housing," she said. "We have the low- and moderate-income housing now, but we really need that workforce housing. It is one of our priorities."

Lodging tax flexibility is also a key priority, according to Wahlke.

"We need a broader definition of tourist-related facilities," she said. "Not just helping to build restrooms, but to maintain them, maintain beach access that currently is not allowed. We can build new things, but we can't use lodging taxes to maintain those things. With the coastal weather, we need maintenance money."

Wahlke added that her push for more flexibility for the lodging tax isn't just for Lincoln City.

"We have it so much better than the cities whose lodging tax is more recent," she said. "We have the grandfathered

flexibility, but the state's 70-30 split is just really difficult for most cities."

Cities are allowed 30 percent of the tax for projects they determine they need. The 70 percent of the lodging tax collected is mandated for tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities.

"I just want that definition of tourism-related facilities expanded so that we can use lodging taxes for maintenance of things that the tourist use," she said.

TRUMP IMPACT

Wahlke said she is also concerned about President Trump's impact of federal resources that have been used is Oregon.

"I am semi fearful," she said, adding that she was hopeful she'd hear some reassurance during the Feb. 1 town hall in Newport conducted by Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and Oregon Rep. Val Hoyle.

"I hope they can provide us with a little assurance that there will still be some federal money available for Oregon," she said.

Wahlke joined the Lincoln City delegation during the City Day at the Capitol listening to Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and other speakers during the morning at the Salem Convention Center. In the afternoon, the delegation visited with legislative members, including Rep. David Gomberg.

Sen. Dick Anderson was scheduled to meet with the delegation Jan. 30 in Lincoln City.

"We will talk about the LOC priorities and our needs in Lincoln City," Wahlke said. "I feel fortunate that both our senator and our representative know what Lincoln City needs are. We will also thank them for the money we have received in the past and let them know what we have done with it so far."

Wahlke has been pressing to redevelop the restroom area at D River Wayside, one of the most visited locations along the Oregon coast. The city's plan is to establish a more-user friendly area.

"The money we have received has been slow to be used, but we are on the right track, and we are headed in a good direction," she said. "We have five bids (from contractors) and those will come to the city council at the end of February, then the design-build team presents a design for us. There was one a few years ago, but there will probably be a few changes."

Wahlke said she is hopeful construction could begin to redevelop the restroom building and parking at the wayside soon after the city council approves the project.

"I hope that we could start building next summer," she said. "I want to tear that old thing down."

LOC PRIORITIES

Homelessness and housing are part of the nine priorities adopted by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Board of Directors for the 2025 and 2026 Oregon legislative sessions. The priorities have been identified through a committee process, and a vote by the LOC's 241 member cities this past summer.

THE FOLLOWING NINE ISSUES WERE ADOPTED BY THE LOC BOARD:**1) Community Infrastructure and Housing Development**

Funding — The LOC will advocate for a comprehensive infrastructure package that supports increased water, sewer, stormwater, and road investments from that state. Without continual infrastructure investments, communities cannot build needed housing; these two priorities are inherently linked. To this end, the LOC will advocate for continued state investments to support the development and preservation of a range of needed housing types and affordability.

2) 2025 Transportation

Package — The LOC will support a robust, long-term, multimodal transportation package focused on: stabilizing funding for operations and maintenance for local governments and ODOT; continued investment in transit and bike/

ped programs, safety, and congestion management; and completion of projects from HB 2017. This objective includes support for a transition from a gas tax to a road user fee and improved community safety and livability.

3) Recreational

Immunity — The LOC will encourage legislation to protect cities and other landowners who open their property for recreational purposes from tort liability claims.

4) Behavioral Health

Enhancements — The LOC will support legislation to expand access to behavioral health treatment beds and allow courts greater ability to direct persons unable to care for themselves into treatment through the civil commitment process.

5) Lodging Tax

Flexibility — The LOC will advocate for legislation that increases the flexibility to use locally administered and collected lodging tax revenue to support tourism-impacted services. These services include public safety, community infrastructure, and housing-related investments.

6) Shelter Funding and Homeless Response

- The LOC will support a comprehensive homeless response package to fund the needs of homeless shelters, homeless response efforts statewide, and capital projects.

Funding will include baseline operational support to

continue and strengthen coordinated regional homeless response and include a range of shelter types and services and other related services.

7) Address Energy Affordability Challenges from Rising Utility Costs

- The LOC will support actions to maintain affordable, reliable, and resilient energy resources and invest in programs and new technology that support energy efficiency, renewable energy, battery storage, and resilient communities. These efforts will help address members' concerns about increased costs associated with energy usage.

8) Operator-In-Training Apprenticeships

- The LOC will advocate for funding apprenticeship training programs and expanding bilingual training opportunities to promote the workforce development of qualified wastewater and drinking water operators.

9) ORS 195.530

Johnson v. Grants Pass — The LOC will advocate for public policy that allows cities to respond to the unique needs of their community's housed and unsheltered members. This advocacy will include adjustments to ORS 195.530 to provide cities with the necessary tools to address unsafe camping conditions, safeguard public spaces, and protect the health, safety, and wellness of all community members.

FAKE

From Page A1

out of the bushes, grabbed the paper sack, and ran away," Wallace states in a media release. "Cox told law enforcement that she chased the male but lost him in the woods."

Lincoln City Police Department officers immediately responded to Pelican Brewery and established a perimeter to search for the male suspect.

"More than a dozen members of law enforcement were called in from LCPD, Oregon State Police and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office," Wallace said. "LCPD's K9 Nix was deployed by Officer Cody Snidow in an attempt to locate the male suspect. However,

no male suspect was located."

LCPD Detective Sergeant Randy Weaver took over leading the investigation. Weaver, with more than 35 years of law enforcement experience, continued to investigate the allegations made by Cox in her initial 911 call and subsequent interviews, according to Wallace.

"Further investigation revealed that Cox intentionally stole over \$17,000 in cash from the Pelican Brewery and deliberately staged a robbery in order to conceal her theft," Wallace said.

In October 2023, Cox was arrested in Hawaii and extradited back to Lincoln County to face charges related to her conduct on July 31, 2023. This case proceeded



Lincoln City Police, with weapons drawn, look for a suspect who was said to have stolen money from Pelican Brewery — Siletz Bay in July 2023. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

to trial on Jan. 22-24, and the state was represented by Deputy

District Attorney Michael Thorncroft. Wallace said during the trial, the state called 11 witnesses and submitted over 56 exhibits

to the jury.

The 12-person jury deliberated for approximately three hours before finding Cox guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of aggravated theft in the first degree, a Class B felony, and initiating a false report, a Class A misdemeanor.

"This case involved a lot of incredible police work. Law enforcement left no stone unturned. In the end, it was just presenting the jury

with each piece of the puzzle," Thorncroft said. "Separately, the pieces made no sense, but like a puzzle, as they came together, the picture was clear. The jury saw it for what it was."

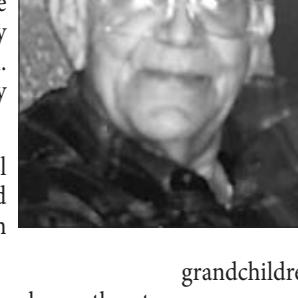
After the guilty verdicts, Cox was taken into custody and sentenced by Judge Amanda Benjamin on Jan. 27. Cox was sentenced to 24 months supervised probation and ordered to pay \$17,434.77 in restitution to the

Pelican Brewery on the aggravated theft in the first degree charge. Cox also received 36 months of bench probation and 17 days jail with credit for time served on initiating a false report charge.

Cox may also be responsible for paying restitution to the responding law enforcement agencies for costs incurred in responding to and investigating the false report, according to Wallace.

Antone "Tony" Wisniewski, Jr.

November 21, 1935 - January 23, 2025



Antone "Tony" Wisniewski, Jr. was born in the Lincoln Beach area of Depoe Bay on November 21, 1935 to Tony Wisniewski, Sr. and Jessie Heaton Wisniewski. Tony joined an older sister Helen. Tony passed away on January 23, 2025 at the age of 89.

Tony attended grade school in Depoe Bay and graduated from Taft High School in Lincoln City, Oregon.

Tony married his high school sweetheart Lois Roberts on May 26, 1956. When first married, Tony commercial fished with Ted Painter, Sr on the Uyak. In 1957, Tony was hired by Central Lincoln PUD where he worked until his retirement in 2003. He was a journeyman lineman and retired as the foreman of the maintenance shop.

Tony loved the outdoors. He loved to

hunt, fish, cut wood and pick berries. He passed his love of the outdoors on to his sons and grandsons.

Tony and Lois had 5 children.

Donna, Jerry, Tony, Gene and Renee'.

He is survived by his wife of

68 years, Lois, daughter Donna

(Mike) Beckham, Tony (Traci)

Wisniewski, Gene Wisniewski

and Renee' (Phil) Taunton, 11

grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents

Tony and Jessie Wisniewski, his sister Helen

Eliasen, his son Jerry Wisniewski and his

grandson Joseph Beckham.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday

February 16th at 2pm at the Depoe Bay

Community Hall, 220 SE Bay St, in Depoe

Bay, Oregon.

OBITUARY POLICY

Country Media offers several options for submitting obituaries, each catering to different needs and preferences:

1. DEATH NOTICE: This option includes basic information such as the deceased's name, age, town of residency, and details about any funeral services. There is no charge for this service. If you wish to add a photo, there is a \$35 fee.

2. STANDARD OBITUARY: For \$100, you can submit an obituary with up

to 200 words. Each additional 200 words cost \$75. A small photo can be included at no extra charge. If you'd like to add more photos, each additional one costs \$35.

3. 50% OFF PICK-UP OPTION: If you choose to republish an obituary within one month of its original publication date without making

any changes, you'll receive a 50% discount.

4. ONLINE: All obituaries are placed online at no additional charge.

Contact your local newspaper office for submission deadline and how to submit payment information.

Obituaries must be prepaid before publication.

Shirline June Butler

October 26, 1931 - January 6, 2025



Shirline June Butler joined her Parents, Siblings and Son in Heaven on January 6, 2025. Can you imagine the celebration that was happening?

Shirline was born in Anaconda, Montana in 1931.

Shirline had 4 children that were the love of her life.

Loretta, Stanley (deceased),

Norma, and Mereline. They

were her pride and joy and being proud of them is an understatement. Those 4 children blessed her with 9 Grandchildren, 21 Great-

Grandchildren with 1 more on the way, and 1 Great-Great Grandchild. That is a wonderful

and amazing legacy to leave.

Shirline lived in Lincoln City, Oregon for 57 years. She loved that town and her community.

She worked as the Production Manager at the News Guard in Lincoln City for 35 years.

When she retired from there, she continued serving her community by

volunteering with Meals on Wheels.

She was a member of the Congregational Church of Lincoln City, which she loved.

Now, enough for the details. Let's get on to

who Shirline REALLY was.

Besides the fact that she loved her family unconditionally and completely, she loved feeding and watching the birds that would visit her yard daily. She loved to travel, making many trips to Montana to see her sister and trips to various other places to visit family and friends, even overseas to see family there. She loved

to go camping with her children. Another love of hers was beating anyone who tried to play Scrabble with her. She was fierce at that game!! Probably from her years at the News Guard. She loved playing Marbles, Yahtzee, doing puzzles and diamond dot pictures. She had a stubborn streak that showed at times but was the most loving, caring, giving, joyful, and fun person to be around. She will be forever remembered and sorely missed.

Shirline is survived by her daughters Loretta, Norma (Paul), Mereline (Paul), 9 Grandchildren, 21 (almost 22) Great-Grandchildren, 1 Great-Great Grandchild, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends. A Memorial Service is planned for a later date.

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.

25 YEARS AGO (2000)

BUDGET CUTS MAY SPELL THE END FOR DELAKE SCHOOL

As if Lincoln City schools don't have enough to worry about, an anticipated \$3.1 million budget cut is looming for the Lincoln County School District, and those cuts could spell the end for Delake Elementary School.

A task force created to find ways of reducing the operating budget for the district has made preliminary recommendations to close Delake School and others in Siletz and Newport.

SCHOOL BUS VANDALIZED IN WALDPORT

A school bus was vandalized during the weekend while it was parked in the Lincoln County School District's bus lot in Waldport.

Tom Correia, LCSD transportation coordinator, said rocks were thrown at the bus, breaking eight windows.

Because buses have been vandalized in the past at this location, the district has requested that law enforcement personnel increase patrols in the area.

NEW POLICE STATION NEARLY COMPLETE

Work on converting the former U.S. Bank building into the new Toledo Police Station is expected to be completed next week. The building is located near the corner of Business Highway 20 and A Street and will give the department room to grow.

Police Chief Don Dennison expects to begin moving equipment to the new facility in the next few weeks.

COUNTY ANTICIPATES DISASTER DECLARATION

For weeks, Lincoln County staff have been working to gather data that would lead to an economic disaster declaration by the state, and with Gov. John Kitzhaber traveling to the coast today, that declaration may be close at hand.

The county is seeking the disaster declaration because of the massive slide at Cape Creek that kept U.S. Highway 101 closed between Yachats and Florence for more than a month.

Kitzhaber will be in Lincoln County to discuss the Cape Creek slide with city and county officials.

50 YEARS AGO (1975)

CRIME INVESTIGATIONS INCREASE FOR COUNTY

While the number of tenants at the Lincoln County Jail declined in 1974, the number of crime investigations was up, according to the annual report of Lincoln County Sheriff Everett Hokema.

Released last week, the report shows the number of criminal investigations conducted and filed had increased from 1,004 in 1973 to 1,169 in 1974.

Felony arrests decreased in Lincoln County from 96 to

wounds. They were told the suspect was driving a dark grey sedan, and an advisory was issued to other law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the vehicle. At one point, there was a comment made on the police radio that the suspect could be suicidal.

At about 11:15 a.m., Sgt. Aaron Pitcher, with the Toledo Police Department, spotted the vehicle on Highway 20 traveling east.

Lincoln County Sheriff's Patrol Lt. Karl Vertner

told the Lincoln County Leader, "To the best of my knowledge, Sgt. Pitcher was set up in the area

of the Highway 229/20 junction. We know from cellphone data he (Neal) went north out of Depoe Bay. That means he turned south onto 229, where he then went east on 20 when Pitcher saw him."

Several other law enforcement officers arrived to assist and a traffic stop was attempted, but the suspect vehicle continued east on Highway 20.

Other vehicle traffic along the highway was reported by pursuing officers to be fairly light as they continued chasing the suspect.

Law enforcement in Benton County was notified and responded near the Lincoln/Benton County

line to place "spike strips" in an effort to disable the car. The car ran over spike strips but traveled for several miles on damaged tires. Oregon State Police assisted with a "vehicle redirect maneuver," which successfully stopped the vehicle. Neal was the sole occupant of the vehicle, and he taken into custody without further incident.

Neal was lodged in the Lincoln County Jail on charges of murder in the second degree, assault in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon, robbery in the first degree, and attempting to elude a police officer.

According to a probable

cause affidavit filed with the Lincoln County Circuit Court, Neal was an employee at the motel where the owner, Singh, was shot. He reportedly had made statements to other people that he was angry with Singh over job issues and specifically said he was going to kill him, according to the affidavit.

On the day of the shooting, another motel employee reported witnessing Neal and Singh arguing in the office, and the witness told investigators he saw Neal pull out a handgun and shoot Singh several times. Neal also reportedly took cash from

the register as he was leaving the office.

Neal appeared via closed-circuit video from the jail for an initial hearing Friday afternoon, Jan. 31, before Judge Pro Tem Joseph Allison. A not guilty plea was entered on all charges.

Allison scheduled a preliminary hearing for Neal for 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 7.

The judge said that having reviewed the circumstances in this case as laid out in the probable cause affidavit, he was denying Neal's release from jail, but he added the defense retains the right to request a release hearing at a future time.

TOWN HALL

From Page A1

revolved around unknown changes coming through the new administration under President Donald Trump. Merkley said some of Trump's actions go beyond presidential powers and are, in fact, unconstitutional.

"We cannot have an imperial presidency," he said. "We have a president, not a king." He said many people are feeling helpless, but he urged

those in the audience, "Don't curl up on your couch in a fetal position ... we cannot give up."

A special education teacher in the Lincoln County School District asked what is going to be done to protect children with some of the possible changes coming in terms of Trump's attacks on DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion). "What are you going to do to protect children," she asked. "I am scared, teachers are scared, transgenders are scared."



U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle addresses constituents during Saturday's town hall meeting, with Sen. Jeff Merkley, left, and Newport Mayor Jan Kaplan looking on. (Photo by Steve Card)

Hoyle said, "We will protect children in schools. I am going to vote to make sure we do protect our children. We will fight back. I can't change who is president, but I sure as hell can protect people in this district."

Other topics included things like issues at the southern border and attacks on minority populations. Merkley also talked about the inequalities between the upper 1 percent of ultra-rich Americans versus the

middle class, saying, "We really are in a terrible place. The discrepancy ... is massive (and) the tax system is riddled with loopholes for the wealthy."

The atmosphere in general at the town hall meeting was one of concern mixed with fear, frustration, anger and not knowing what to expect.

Hoyle said, "These are people who don't uphold our values. They want us to be afraid. We have to keep hope. We have to keep fighting back."

Getting a new look



The Money Saver Motel, located at 861 SW Coast Highway in Newport, is getting a major upgrade to its exterior. According to details in the building permit issued to owner Shree Vishwanath by the Newport Community Development Department, the \$375,000 project will include renovation and modernization of the existing motel exterior, site landscaping and parking lot improvements. Vishwanath said he hopes to have the motel back open by late May or June. (Photo by Steve Card)

New vacation rental company launched in Lincoln County

The founder of Vacasa, a vacation rental management company, is starting a new company in the vacation rental space called Fairly, and they're launching in Lincoln County.

"It's been four years since I ran Vacasa, and in that time, I experienced property management both as a guest and a homeowner. I'm not impressed with the direction the industry has taken," said Eric Breon, founder and CEO of Fairly. "Companies have been squeezing housekeeper pay while living costs grew. Excessive fees are rampant. And increasingly, when you call a property management company, you end up having your call routed to someone who isn't local."

Breon said local companies have started adopting the worst practices of large management companies, "like excessive guest fees, and outsourcing calls to virtual assistants who aren't familiar with the



The Fairly founding team, from left: Subechya Person, Eric Breon and Jeff Flitton. (Courtesy photo)

properties nor location. And across the board, companies are underpaying their housekeepers."

Fairly isn't a property management company, at least not in the traditional sense. Breon describes it saying, "Fairly is a platform for empowering local professionals: specifically, real estate agents and housekeepers. We help them build their business."

Fairly shares half of their fee with local partners: 25 percent to the housekeeper (in addition to the cleaning fee they

negotiate directly with the homeowner), and 25 percent to the advisor, typically a real estate agent who also helps clients get started renting.

"We're excited to be partnering with local real estate agents. Real estate sales have been slow, and for most of us, it's hard to even imagine the 50 percent pay cut many of them have experienced in the past year," said Breon. "Exceptional local real estate agents are a tremendous resource for people looking to buy a vacation

home that they intend to rent. Historically, they've bowed-out as soon as the property closes. With Fairly, they take them one step further, helping their owner get started renting."

Breon said he knows vacation rentals are a controversial topic in many towns. "We want to be a responsible partner on this front. With Fairly, more of the money stays local, and our rentals in Newport, Lincoln City, and South Beach can help support other businesses in the community, creating jobs and bringing in tax revenue."

With Fairly's launch in Newport, Lincoln City, and South Beach, they are actively recruiting exceptional housekeepers that are interested in earning as a caretaker with Fairly, as well as real estate agents, especially those who frequently help buyers find vacation rentals.

People can learn more about the business online at fairly.com



The Oregon Employment Department reports 2,084,954 employed and 92,561 unemployed in December. (Photo by Jeremy C. Ruark)

Oregon sees decline of 3,700 jobs

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

A key Oregon economic indicator illustrates a slowdown in job growth across the state.

Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 3,700 jobs in December, following a revised increase of 3,700 jobs in November, according to the latest Oregon Employment Department report.

GAINS AND LOSSES

December's gains were largest in health care and social assistance (+1,900 jobs) and government (+700). Declines were largest in leisure and hospitality (-1,900 jobs); manufacturing (-1,800); financial activities (-1,000); and retail trade (-900).

Health care and social assistance continued its rapid, consistent pace of hiring, adding 18,100 jobs, or 6.2 percent, in the past 12 months. Within this industry, social assistance added the most jobs, gaining 9,200 jobs, or 12.2 percent, since December 2023. The three health care industries each added between 3,300 and 4,400 jobs during that time.

December's growth in government also capped

off a year of strong performance. Its 7,000-job gain (+2.3 percent) was the second fastest growth over the year.

Leisure and hospitality cut 3,200 jobs in the past two months. It employed 204,000 in December, which was 3,000 below its average during January 2023 through October 2024.

Cutbacks of 1,500 jobs within semiconductor and electronic component manufacturing contributed most of the December employment reductions in manufacturing.

Over the year, manufacturing dropped 2,500 jobs (-1.3 percent). Several durable goods manufacturing industries have shed jobs in the past 12 months: wood product manufacturing (-500 jobs, or -2.2 percent); machinery manufacturing (-300 jobs, or -2.2 percent); and transportation equipment manufacturing (-600 jobs, or -5.3 percent).

Oregon's unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in December and 4.0 percent, as revised, in November. The rate has consistently remained between 4.0 percent and 4.2 percent since October 2023.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in December and 4.2 percent in November.

An advertisement for the "Tillamook Headlight Herald Home & Garden Show". The main text reads "HOME & GARDEN SHOW" in large, stylized letters. Below it, it says "Tillamook Beekeepers Assoc. is Presenting Bee Day 2025". A sign on the right says "Vendors Wanted! April 2025". The bottom text includes "Sat. & Sun. April 26-27, 2025", "Saturday 9 am to 4 pm • Sunday 11 am to 4 pm", "at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds", "FREE ADMISSION", and "FREE PARKING". There are illustrations of bees, butterflies, and a garden gnome.



Shops at Streetcar Village, located at the south end of Lincoln City, are included on the new Vintage Voyage Passport, which will help visitors navigate Lincoln City's antique shops and vintage boutiques.

Lincoln City unveils week-long Retro Expo and new Vintage Voyage Passport

Lincoln City is excited to announce the transformation of its popular Antique and Collectibles Week into the newly revamped Lincoln City Retro Expo.

Also this month, Lincoln City is launching its latest digital adventure offering, the Vintage Voyage Passport. Both initiatives expand upon Lincoln City's reputation as the Oregon coast's premier destination for antiques, vintage collectibles and other thrifited treasures.

The Retro Expo will take place Feb. 8-17, with the launch and availability of the Vintage Voyage Passport to coincide with the start of the event. Lincoln City has previously been named one of the

See RETRO EXPO, page B3

Revamped annual event and new digital passport celebrate vintage treasures and antique heritage



Previously known as Antique and Collectibles Week, the newly revamped Lincoln City Retro Expo takes place beginning this Saturday, Feb. 8, and running through Feb. 17. Learn more at www.explorelincolncity.com/events/annual-retro-expo (Courtesy photos)



During the Lincoln City Retro Expo, 100 Japanese antique-style glass floats will be hidden along the city's seven miles of public beach.



Brittany Blades, curator of marine mammals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, is pictured training a sea otter, Oswald, to wave his paw. (Courtesy photo)

The care and conservation of sea otters

Join MidCoast Watersheds Council for an inside look at the care and conservation of sea otters this Thursday, Feb. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

at the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center, located at 333 SE Bay Blvd., Newport. The guest speaker will be Brittany Blades, curator of

marine mammals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. People can also watch the presentation online.

See OTTERS, page B2

Quilters Guild meets Feb. 13

Oregon Coastal Quilters Guild (OCQG) hosts Jill Huntington, modern quilt designer, presenting a Trunk Show of her work at the regular guild meeting on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church, located at 2315 N Coast Highway in Newport.

For Valentines Day on Friday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Huntington will teach a class called "Improv Roses Galore." The cost of the class is \$40 for members and \$45 for nonmembers. Kits are available for \$20.

Huntington's love

See QUILTERS, page B2

'Improv Roses Galore' class offered on Valentine's Day



Modern quilt designer Jill Huntington will speak during an Oregon Coastal Quilters Guild meeting in Newport on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. The next day, Valentine's Day, she will teach a class called "Improv Roses Galore." (Courtesy photo)

Free chamber music concert in Newport



The University of Portland String Quintet will be the featured performers in a free chamber concert this Sunday, Feb. 9, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport. (Courtesy photo)

The University of Portland String Quintet will perform in a free chamber music concert beginning at 2 p.m. this Sunday, Feb. 9, at Atonement Lutheran Church, located at 2315 N Coast Highway in Newport.

The quintet is comprised of students who are all part of the university's orchestra and chamber ensembles.

Marshall Zhang, the

See CONCERT, page B3

Float Odyssey' exhibit opening in Newport

"Float Odyssey," a traveling exhibit by the North Lincoln County Historical Museum in Lincoln City, will be on display for most of this year at Newport's Pacific Maritime Heritage Center.

An opening reception for the exhibit, along with a Glass Float Identification Day, will take place this Saturday, Feb. 8, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Pacific

Maritime Heritage Center, located on the Newport Bayfront at 333 SE Bay Blvd. This opening reception is free.

The Float Odyssey exhibit was curated by Dr. Nick Simpson and the North Lincoln County Historical Museum's former director, Jeff Syrop, who is now the executive director of the Lincoln

See FLOAT, page B3

Newport Rec Center earns 'Sensory Inclusive' certification

The Newport Recreation Center is proud to announce that it recently earned a "Sensory Inclusive" certification from KultureCity, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with sensory processing needs.

This certification recognizes the recreation center's commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for individuals with sensory challenges, such as those with autism, PTSD, and dementia.

To qualify for the certification, Newport Recreation Center staff members have been trained to recognize and respond to sensory sensitivities, ensuring that they are equipped to assist patrons in ways that enhance their experience at the facility. The certification also provides patrons with weighted lap pads and sensory bags available for checkout at the front desk, which include noise canceling

headphones, fidget tools, strobe reduction glasses, and feeling thermometer cards.

The Newport Recreation Center will also feature "headphone zones" or "quiet zones" labeled by signage to allow visitors the opportunity to experience the facility's amenities with individualized comfort. Additionally, the KultureCity mobile app will feature a social story highlighting the recreation center's sensory inclusive initiatives, offering visitors a preview of their experience.

These enhancements are part of the recreation center's ongoing effort to foster inclusivity and continue to create an accessible environment for individuals of all abilities.

For more information about the Newport Recreation Center and its sensory inclusive initiatives, visit www.newportoregon.gov/dept/par. To check out a sensory bag, visit the Newport Recreation Center front desk at 225 SE Avery St.

Drop-in pediatric vaccination clinic planned on Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day is a school holiday. This is a great time to get your kids' routine and seasonal shots up to date at a drop-in pediatric vaccination clinic at Samaritan Health Center – Newport.

This vaccination clinic on Monday, Feb. 17, is open to infants and children ages 6 months through 18 years. Just stop by between 8 a.m. to noon, or 1 to 5 p.m.

The clinic is located on the second floor of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, 930 SW Abbey St.

Appointments are not needed, and vaccinations will be given on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. Insurance will be billed. Vaccines will be covered for those without insurance by the Oregon Vaccines for Children Program.

Support these Local Nonprofit Community Organizations!



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

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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.

Siletz Library Birthday Bash



Enjoy free cake, punch and coffee during the Siletz Library's 18th Birthday Bash from noon to 3 p.m. this Saturday, Feb. 8. There will also be books, baked goods, a rummage sale and more during the Siletz Valley Friends of the Library fundraiser. The library is located at 255 SW Gaither St. in Siletz. For more information, call 541-444-2855. (Courtesy photo)

Bird Walk Saturday in Lincoln City

Seven Capes Bird Alliance welcomes birders of all abilities to enjoy a hidden gem of Lincoln City open space during a Bird Walk this Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 to 11 a.m.

The walk will take place at the Friends of the Wildwoods Open Space. This is an easy walk through the forest right in the heart of Lincoln City. The group will look for year-round residents like the Downy Woodpecker, as well as wintering sparrows.

Meet at the trailhead on Northeast West Devils Lake Road. There is limited parking along the street at the trailhead.

This Bird Walk is sponsored by Lincoln City Parks and Recreation.

All Seven Capes Bird Alliance (SCBA) outings are free, family-friendly, easy to moderately easy, and open to the public; no pre-registration



Participants in Saturday's Bird Walk may see birds like this white-crowned sparrow. (Photo by Ruth Shelly)

or experience is required. Binoculars and guidebooks are provided.

Outings are held rain or shine; dress appropriately for coastal weather and muddy trails. Be sure to carry water. Look for the SCBA sign at the meeting

site. For details and any cancellations, check their website (sevencapes.org) or Facebook (@sevencapesbirds).

Seven Capes Bird Alliance was founded as Audubon Society of Lincoln City in 2005. A

nonprofit membership organization and chapter of the National Audubon Society, SCBA is active in education and advocacy for protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats in Lincoln and Tillamook counties.

OTTERS

From Page B1

To register for the link, go to at <https://tinyurl.com/5y5znkdm>

Sea otters, often described as charismatic marine mammals, are more than just a cute face. Attend this free talk to discover why they are the heroes of the near-shore ecosystems. The plight of the sea otter is an encouraging story about the recovery of a

near extinct species, a journey that continues to this day.

In Oregon, sea otters have long been absent from the shores as a result of centuries of intense hunting. The only places in Oregon where people are guaranteed to find one are the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Oregon Zoo.

Learn how Blades found herself immersed in a career caring for sea otters as well as getting involved with sea otter conservation

efforts. Hear personal stories of hilarious sea otter antics and discover actions you can take to help sea otters in Oregon.

Blades has worked with sea otters since 2008, getting her start with an internship at the Oregon Zoo, where she was inspired to focus on the care and conservation of sea otters. She has now cared for sea otters at the Oregon Coast Aquarium since 2011. In addition to managing care for sea otters, she collects

Washington sea otter foraging data, participates in the Washington Sea Otter Annual Census, and collects data on sea otters in California. She has always called the Pacific Northwest home, growing up in Washington and Oregon as a child and graduating from Oregon State University with a bachelor's of science in biology. She recently took the next step in sea otter conservation by becoming a board member for Elakha Alliance.

QUILTS

From Page B1

of textiles began at a young age. Inspired by "Twas the Night Before Christmas," she made stocking caps for her family. Her first quilt, a wedding gift for her husband, provided the foundation for her life-long journey as a quilter.

As owner of Huntington Quilt Design (www.huntingtonquiltdesign.com) she shares her passion

for "Creating Inspired Textiles" through unique quilt patterns, iron-on fabric stamps, lectures, and classes.

Inspired by the city of Roses, Huntington, a Portland native, envisioned fabric roses galore. Making these roses uses improv foundation piecing techniques, which she will teach during the class. Beginning students will enjoy adding a new skill to their toolbox, and experienced makers will appreciate

the open-ended possibilities that this fun technique offers. No pattern is required. Students can bring their own fabric, or they can purchase kits at the class.

For more than 30 years, boasting over 150 members, the Oregon Coastal Quilters Guild has served the Lincoln County area providing fellowship among quilters, promoting knowledge and appreciation of quilts and quilt making through educational programs

and meetings. Hundreds of quilts are gifted throughout the community through Community Quilts and through the Veterans Quilt project. The annual August Quilts by the Sea quilt show event draws quilters and enthusiasts from all over the country.

To learn more or to reserve a space in the class, contact Pamela Potter, program and workshop chair, by emailing quilterOCQG@gmail.com

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RETRO EXPO

From Page B1

country's foremost undiscovered places for antique and vintage collectibles. The city is home to numerous vintage shops and used bookstores, and has long been considered an antiquing hotspot on the Oregon coast.

First conceived in 1991 by June Minor, founder of the historic Rocking Horse Mall, the original Antique & Collectibles Week — now, Retro Expo — offers a nostalgic celebration of treasured artifacts and keepsakes. Lincoln City was formed in 1965 when the five historic towns of Oceanlake, Taft, Cutler City, DeLake and Nelscott united. Today, the community boasts the largest antique mall on the Oregon coast, with more than 80 dealers at the Little Antique Mall, alongside numerous other vintage shops and boutiques throughout the historic districts.

Retro Expo celebrates a broader range of vintage and antique experiences throughout Lincoln City. The 10-day event highlights the treasures, collectibles and other finds to be discovered at Lincoln City's local antique shops, vintage boutiques, and used bookstores — from the iconic Robert's Bookshop to exciting vintage retailers that have recently joined the community.

The event will feature thrifting adventures, special sales, and a themed Finders Keepers "drop," where 100 Japanese antique-style glass floats will be hidden along the city's seven miles of public beach, from Roads End on the north to Siletz Bay to the south. Floats will be placed above the high tide line and below the beach embankment — if someone finds a float, it's all theirs, Finders Keepers style. Limit: one float per family per year.

"Introducing Retro

Expo enables us to further solidify our longtime reputation as a unique destination for antique and vintage enthusiasts," said Kim Cooper Findling, director of Explore Lincoln City. "In 2025, we're expanding our focus to include vintage boutiques alongside traditional antique shops to create an even more dynamic treasure-hunting experience. Launching the Vintage Voyage Passport will provide even more fun opportunities for people to participate via interactive check-ins year-round."

The Vintage Voyage Passport joins Lincoln City's popular collection of Adventure passports, which currently include the Art Trail, Tap & Brew Trail, and Hiking Trails Passport. This new digital guide will help visitors navigate Lincoln City's antique shops and vintage boutiques throughout Lincoln City's historic districts, offering a curated journey through the city's most cherished vintage and antique shopping destinations.

Here's how the Vintage Voyage Passport works:

- Sign up online: Go to www.explorelincolncity.com/vintage-voyage (link to go live by Feb. 8) to sign up for this free passport. There is no app to download.
- Explore the passport: This mobile-exclusive passport is a collection of curated shops and boutiques to explore during your stay.
- Redeem: When visiting a participating location, visitors should simply check in using their phone's built in GPS.
- Current participating Vintage Voyage Passport locations include Better Days Vintage, shops at Streetcar Village and Beach Bum Vintage with many more locations added to the trail.

For more information about the Retro Expo, visit: www.explorelincolncity.com/events/annual-retro-expo

CONCERT

From Page B1

first violinist, organized the quintet for his senior recital. He is currently pursuing a double major in music and computer science and has been playing the violin for 15 years. He was part of the Guam Symphony Orchestra and played with the Honors Performance Series in Sydney, Australia.

Second violinist Emily Todd is currently pursuing a double major in music and civil engineering. Violist Rowan Lowery is doing a double major in music arts administration and theater sound design and has been playing viola for 15 years. Ian Carlos, first cello, is currently pursuing a degree in electrical engineering with a minor in music and has received many awards over his 12 years. Laney Mohr, cello, is a junior currently pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering with minors in music and physics.

The quintet will perform Franz Schubert's String Quintet in C Major, Op. 163, Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 Op. 11, Dvorak's String Quartet No. 12, Op. 96,

plus selections by Manuel Ponce and Christopher Ducasse.

Opening the program will be the South Eugene Piano Trio of South Eugene High School. The trio, featuring Zoe Kramer, piano, Nina Vivek, violin, and Pearl Carter, cello, has been playing together for the past year. Each member has over 10 years of music experience.

In addition to playing as a piano trio, the members also participate in school orchestras, youth symphonies, chamber music institutes, and have competed at the state level in solo competitions and honor ensembles. The trio will perform Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor Op. 49 and Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires.

This chamber music concert is a presentation of the Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival and is free, with donations accepted at the door.

The chamber concert series is presented with support by the Chambers Family Foundation and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution. The final two concerts of the 2025 season are March 16 and April 13.

FLOAT

From Page B1

County Historical Society. This exhibit showcases beautiful glass fishing floats and their stories.

Odysseys are described as long and adventurous journeys, and the curators couldn't think of a better word to describe the epic voyages that the fishing floats in this exhibit have endured. After being used and lost at sea by fishermen, these floats were caught in the circular Pacific currents for decades until large storms forced them ashore.

This exhibit follows extraordinary float odysseys, highlighting their place of origin, their use in the fishing industry, where and when they were found, and how they wound up in the North Lincoln County Historical Museum collection. Many of these floats originated in Japan, but the display also includes experimental American-made floats



"Float Odyssey" is the name of an exhibit coming to the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center in Newport, with an opening reception set for this Saturday, Feb. 8, from noon to 3 p.m. Also during this time, people can bring in their old glass floats for identification by experts. (Courtesy photos)

and more.

Learn all about glass fishing floats through the stories selected for this exhibit. The Lincoln County Historical Society will also include spectacular floats from its own collection, including repurposed World War

II air tank floats used in soupfin shark fishing.

The Glass Float Identification Day being held in conjunction with the exhibit opening will be coordinated by float expert and exhibit co-curator, Dr. Nick Simpson, and fellow float

expert, Ken Busse. They will be on hand to answer questions and to help identify floats.

People can bring in that old glass float they have hanging in their garage or from a tree in their yard to learn its history from experts.

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by Dave T. Phipps

**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: G equals U

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QOTWT LTNLBT FBQFDM LGC
PNWCO CNXM NP TPPNWC:
COT ZWTFC LFYXM WTZYNX.

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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!

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from SEARS to LAIRD in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

SEARS

LAIRD

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the spaceship on the TV drama "Firefly"?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the only tropical rainforest in the United States?

3. LITERATURE: What is the title of author Oscar Wilde's only complete novel?

4. MOVIES: What is the name of the killer in the movie "Silence of the Lambs"?

5. SCIENCE: What are the three branches of science?

6. AD SLOGANS: Which fast-food chain's slogan is, "What you crave"?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many NFL teams are named after animals (including birds)?

8. U.S. STATES: In which state is the U.S. Naval Academy located?

9. ASTRONOMY: How many constellations are visible from Earth?

10. ART: What is the Japanese art of arranging flowers called?

Answers

1. Serenity.

2. El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico.

3. "The Picture of Dorian Gray."

4. Buffalo Bill.

5. Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Formal Sciences.

6. White Castle.

7. 14 (Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals, Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers, Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions, Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Los Angeles Rams, Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles and Seattle Seahawks).

8. Maryland.

9. 88.

10. Ikebana.

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CryptoQuip**HAIRS, LAIRS, LAIRD****SEARS, HEARS, HEIRS****ANSWER****WORDLADDER****PROTEST**

Today's Word

3. Whither; 4. Sparse

1. Aspect; 2. Cloak;

solution

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Home to seven miles of uninterrupted sandy beaches and an annual operating budget of \$26 million, the City of Rockaway Beach is now accepting applications for City Planner. This position administers the City's Comprehensive Plan and performs advanced professional planning work, exercising considerable independent judgment. Responsible for current planning work including permit intake, permit reviews and tasks related to zoning code compliance.

Visit <https://corb.us/employment/> for job description, requirements and application.

To apply, submit application, resume and cover letter to cityrecorder@corb.us or mail to: Melissa Thompson, City Recorder, City of Rockaway Beach, PO Box 5, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136. Questions may be directed to:

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a month (up to \$8,891.55
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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL25-0039 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN In the Matter of the Estate of Patrick Hugh Cooke, Deceased. Case No. 24PB11489

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maureen Nightingale has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at 757 Blind Oak Circle Saint Augustine, FL 32095, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for

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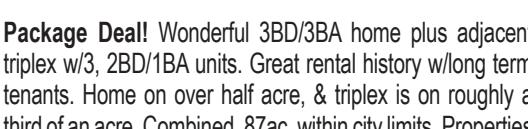
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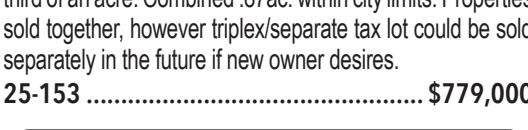
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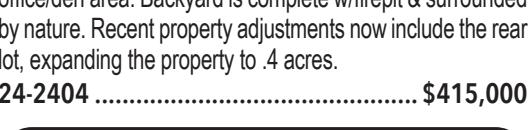
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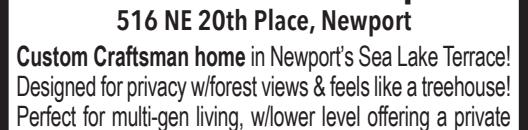
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NEWPORT

From Page A8

Farias (second in 100 breaststroke last year) and Will Postlewait (sixth in 100 backstroke) and sophomore Jahan Eibner (fifth in 200 IM, seventh in 500 freestyle).

Farias, a member of Newport's state champion cross country team, is outstanding in the breaststroke but also could be a threat to contend in the

100 butterfly, 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle, if the situation dictates. He has "shown mass improvement" in the butterfly in the last few weeks, according to Swanson, and is strong in the 100 freestyle.

"He has the stamina to really come back that second 50," Swanson said. "He's come along beautifully this year. He's put his head down and started working."

Eibner fought through

injuries as a freshman last season to be a factor in the state meet. He showed his range of strokes with his efforts in the 200 IM and 500 freestyle.

"He's a great distance swimmer, but he can also turn it on and really get at the sprints," Swanson said. "He's definitely matured mentally and has really been there for the team this year. He'll definitely move up."

Newport also is hoping for Will Postlewait to

help compensate for the absence of his brother.

"I think a lot of people are going to be surprised by Will this year," Swanson said. "He is such a strong swimmer this year. All of the sudden he just stepped up and he had taken off. I think he's really going to be a factor at state."

In last year's state meet, the Cubs won both freestyle relays and were second in the medley relay. They figure to be

a force again this year, considering they have five swimmers clocking under 55 seconds in the 100 freestyle and five under 25 seconds in the 50 freestyle. Hurty, Eibner and Will Postlewait are back from the winning 400 freestyle relay.

Newport's girls team, which won its first state team title last year, is facing a difficult encore this season. The Cubs graduated their top scorer in Layla Bretz, who was

third in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

Sophomores Gwynn Postlewait (third in 100 breaststroke, sixth in 500 freestyle) and Ruby Perucci (fifth in 100 backstroke) are a solid foundation, but the Cubs will need other swimmers to emerge to have a shot at a repeat.

"I won't discredit my girls," Swanson said. "They have surprised me many, many times about stepping up."

TAFT

From Page A8

kindergarten."

Kol Tolan, a 6-foot-3 junior wing who was a first-team all-state receiver in football and a track state qualifier in the high jump, long jump and triple jump, is the team's top scorer (14.2) and rebounder (6.0).

"He runs the floor probably the best,"

Lillebo said. "He is special."

Taft's other starters are senior guard Kai Bayer (10.1 points, 2.8 assists), junior guard Zack Hankins (8.0 points, 5.3 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 3.2 steals) and senior forwards JJ McCormick (8.0 points, 4.8 rebounds) and Jackson Nightingale (9.4 points, 4.8 rebounds, 2.7 steals).

The 6-1 Nightingale started the season slow

but has come on strong in recent games. He scored 26 points against Amity and 27 points against Scio in the last two games.

The rotation includes senior guards Ezra James, the PacWest football offensive player of the year as a quarterback and a first-team all-conference pitcher, and Trenton Battle.

The Tigers partially negate their lack of size

— Tolan and McCormick (6-3) are their tallest players — by scrambling on defense and converting in transition.

"They've really come into their own playing defense," said Lillebo, a North Bend graduate who went 85-38 in five seasons as the Madras girls coach (2013-18) before arriving at Taft, where he also serves as athletic director and assistant principal.

Taft split its first six games, losing to Catlin Gabel 64-43, No. 6

Oregon Episcopal 63-50 and Scio 50-47. In the Tigers' loss to Scio, their only conference defeat, they sputtered down the stretch, committing seven turnovers in a six-point fourth quarter.

"We really went away from our game," said Lillebo, whose team got payback Monday with a 70-56 home win over

Scio (12-5, 6-4).

Taft built momentum Jan. 2-4 by winning the Sisters Tournament, beating Warrenton 66-54, Banks 54-26 and Junction City 65-49.

"That was huge because we had just lost to Scio the week before," Lillebo said. "For my kids to bounce back, and travel three, four hours, I saw their confidence grow. Those were good, solid wins."

SWIM

From Page A8

going to be some challenges and adversity. The rainy season often seems to bring seasonal sicknesses, and Taft has been battling that like all the other programs in the state.

"We've had some kids

come down with the flu this year, and I think that's true across all of the teams. It seems like it's hitting now. When we went to the Blanchet meet on Jan. 25, and there's 11 teams there, eight of our kids were unable to go, and most of them were because of sickness," Parker said. "But that's going to be true for

everybody we compete against. It's that time of year and it seems like that never changes very much."

LOOKING AHEAD

As districts approach, Parker said she's hopeful for the team's prospects, but it will be tough to make the grade. One of the things the Tigers

have going for them is the versatility of their swimmers.

"We have a fair amount of talent in numbers. So, that is a matter of strategizing where kids are going to swim. We have enough kids that can do events that a lot of kids can't do," Parker said. "We have multitasking athletes that can do

all four strokes. But we shall see. It's all based on numbers, and it means that every single swim counts if you make it in the top 12."

Parker compared swimming to track and wrestling because it is still a team sport, even if it seems like an individual undertaking. Individuals can score points for the

team depending on where they place, so Taft's depth is significant. Taft's last regular meet will be the Last Chance Invitational at the Lincoln City Community Center Pool on Feb. 6. After that, it will be time for the District Championships, which will be Feb. 14-15 at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

Super Crossword

CELEBRITY ANAGRAMS

ACROSS	43 "Juno and the Paycock"	83 Moose kin	DOWN	38 Virtual money	75 Many a monk
1	Hindu music pattern	84 These, in Spain	1	Less refined	76 Some
5	Captivated	85 Alternative to laser tag	2	2 Au courant	77 unofficial
13	Kellogg's toaster treat	88 — buco instrument	3	3 Top medals	78 sci-fi stories
20	Missing GI in "Spider-Man 2"	89 Apt item for 44-Across to keep files in?	4	4 Valved brass	79 Two-gender pronoun
21	Sprinted competitively, perhaps	90 Make a gaffe	45	4 Bar brew	80 "It's go time!"
22	One shunning something	91 "It's go time!"	46	46 Almanac, in	79 Prefix with
23	Best Actor nominee for "Mrs. Miniver" abbr.	92 Chief	47	47 Ship's diary	82 Camera
25	Maximal-ebb phenomenon	93 Chief	48	48 Trent of Mississippi	variety, briefly
26	Trauma pro in a hosp.	94 Garlic mayo	49	49 Large part	86 Swiss mount
27	"Knives Out" actress — de Armas	95 Principal	50	50 Slushy drink	87 Bowled over
	56 "Yes, Yvette"	96 Apt business for 33-Across	51	51 Rica	88 Gas ratings
	57 "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"	97 For 33-Across	52	52 Accessory	89 Floor cleaner
	101 Mimicking a crow's cry	98 "Norma —"	53	53 Real estate	90 Styled after
	105 Sci-fi princess	99 Assn.	54	54 Individuals	91 Writer Anaïs
	106 Alias letters	10 "Norma —"	55	55 "It's too hard for me"	94 Laotians and Thais
	107 Pal, to Yves	11 Writer	56	56 "It's too hard for me"	95 Just dandy
	108 Former chief justice Roger relative	12 IHOP	57	57 Brought on	96 Likenesses
	109 Mimicking a crow's cry	13 Prefix with	58	58 "It's too hard for me"	97 Leslie of "Lili"
	110 Alias letters	14 — lacto	59	59 "It's too hard for me"	98 "The Deep"
	111 Carrier based in Tehran	15 "Wham!"	60	60 More crafty	99 Director Peter
	112 Court period	16 From which	61	61 Comic Idle	100 "The Deep"
	113 Carrier based in Tehran	17 Reebok rival	62	62 — I a stinker?"	101 Delhi's land
	114 Apt ingredient for 23-Across	18 Made over	63	63 "I'd rather — there" (That	102 Very poor
	115 Planet's path	19 Au courant	64	64 "I'd rather — there" (That	103 Whirls
	116 Alias letters	20 Tourist	65	65 A while ago	104 Around
	117 Midday time	21 Destination	66	66 Loch —	105 Old
	118 Treaty result	22 "That's green"	67	67 A while ago	106 Short skirt
	119 Impacts	23 Golf rarity	68	68 Ketchup	107 Peruvian
	120 Apt retail establishment	32 Ho-humness	69	69 Skater Midori	108 Do — say!"
	121 Assistant for 57-Across	34 Cruel Amin	70	70 Informally	109 Old
	122 Court period	35 Many an heir	71	71 Adam and —	110 "Do — say!"
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	124 Gleeful cries	37 Travel origin, generically	73	73 Study of insects, informally	112 "Do — say!"
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999

PUBLIC NOTICES

the personal representative, Traci P. McDowell, PO Box 1987, Newport, OR 97365, DATED AND PUBLISHED ON: February 5, 2025. /s/Traci P. McDowell, Lawyer for Personal Representative.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Maureen Nightingale, 757 Blind Oak Circle, Saint Augustine, FL 32095 (503) 688-1426.

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Traci P. McDowell, OSB #184063, PO Box 1987, 380 SW 2nd St., Newport, OR 97365, T: (541) 272-5500, F: (541) 265-7633 traci@aquinalaw.com.

LCL25-0038 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR

THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN IN the Matter of the Estate of VIRGINIA MORRIS, Deceased, Case No. 25PB00014. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Johnnie Morris has been appointed personal representative.

All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned personal representative in care of the attorney at 6500 SW Macadam Ave., Ste. 300, Portland, OR 97239-3565 within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or such 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 attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and published February 5, 2025 Karen Sue Lund, Personal Representative, Emma Crispin, OSB #223877 Law Offices of Nay & Friedenberg LLC Attorney for Personal Representative Portland, OR 97239-3565

LCL25-0039 PUBLIC AUCTION AT ANCHOR STORAGE

628 Painter Ln Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341 Contact number is 541-921-9878. The following units will be sold at Public Auction on Feb 21st, 2025 Beginning at 11:00am for non-payment of rent and other fees. Unit #D31 Cristina Serabia, F5 F12 F19

LCL25-0040 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN PROBATE In the Matter of the Estate of RAY FRANKLIN NELSON, Deceased, Case No.: 25PB00194

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: The Circuit Court of the County of Lincoln, has appointed Stan Butterfield as Personal Representative of the Estate of Ray Franklin Nelson, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with

Depth a plus for Taft swimming

WILL LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Things are going swimmingly for Taft High School's swim team this year, as the Tigers have competed well in events throughout the season, buoyed by a good turnout for both the boys and girls swim squads.

Longtime Tiger swimming coach Lissa Parker said that something the program has going for it is the depth that they have in the team.

"A lot of times, some of those kids might be getting third, fourth, and fifth places, but that still contributes to the overall scores, so that helps quite a bit," Parker said. "We've had some success. We got second at the Cheese Relays this year. In some instances, we've been pretty close to getting first place."

Some of Taft's highlights

this year were two instances where the Tigers did come out first. Taft came away victorious at the Battle on the Beach dual with Newport on Jan. 16 and the Taft Invitational swim meet on Jan. 9.

"When we did the dual with Newport, which was the first year that we started that, we were able to win that, not so much winning individual events, but [with our depth]," Parker said.

Similarly, Parker credited the depth of the squad for propelling Taft to wins in both the boys and girls divisions at the Taft Invitational, when the Tigers beat out teams from Newport, Scappoose, St. Helens, Rainier, and Banks.

TIGERS IN THE POOL

Some of the standout swimmers for the program are swimmers who have spent a lot of time in the pool,

including the program's seniors Abigail Nunes, Sierra Sanders, and Isaiah and Brendan Wilson. Though those are some of the fastest swimmers for Taft, Parker said all the seniors have stepped up this year. One pleasant surprise has been senior Hazel Fiedler, who just started swimming; despite being new, she's done well.

While the seniors are essential to the program, it does promise that there will be turnover in the future.

"The good thing and the bad thing is that out of all these kids, 14 of them are seniors. So, we're losing quite a few of them," Parker said. "We don't have that many eighth graders, but the more progress we make, the more we attract people. It just might take a couple of years to get these tenth graders and freshmen up to their potential."

Some of the younger swimmers to keep an eye on are sophomore Dylan Murphy, freshman Max Serrato, freshman Abby Halferty, junior Ellie Nightingale, and junior Blaik Gray.

The new kids in the program come from a variety of different backgrounds. Parker said some of the freshmen have worked with her for years, as she is also the coach of Lincoln City's club swim program. Other kids have come out because of connections on the team from other Taft High School sports. One thing most of the new athletes in the program do have is some experience.

"We don't have very many kids this year that came on that absolutely don't know how to swim, but we do have some that are novices, and fortunately, they're only sophomores, so that is helpful

in terms of future growth," Parker said.

The team is made up of 37 athletes, 19 female and 18 male. Parker said "it's been a while" since she coached this many, and it may be as far back as the "late 2000s." Part of the reason she believes it's been a while since there was a team of this size is that the numbers were still recovering from the pandemic.

On a personal level, one of the highlights for the longtime Taft coach recently has been working with different generations of swimmers.

"Having been there a long time, we have young kids whose parents have joined our board, and they swam for me as little kids and high schoolers," Parker said. "So that's pretty cool."

As with any season, there's

See SWIM, page B7

Newport cheer clinches national championship

WILL LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Newport is home to a group of national champions! The achievement results from a long journey and a lot of hard work for the Cubs cheer team, but the effort has paid off. Newport High School was crowned national champions at the School Cheer Nationals, hosted at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas on Jan. 25.

The national championship is another trophy for a team that won the 4A Oregon state championship in February. Head Coach Jessica Arnsdorf said that winning a national championship with this team was "truly amazing," and described the team as "special."

"These girls wanted it so bad and put in the work to make it happen. I knew if there was a group that could do it, it would be them," Arnsdorf said.

The group is made up of 15 girls and is laden with experience; the team has seven seniors who the program relies on for their talent and leadership. Arnsdorf said the team's captains, Heidi Hackworth, Dorothy Semple, and Hailey Albinio, have led this team over the last two years to "be the best they possibly can be."

Though winning on the national stage was something of a continuation of the work from last year, the 2024-2025 kicked off for the Cubs during the summer. Arnsdorf and the

team started the season in the summer when they attended a National Cheerleading Association camp at Oregon State University. The team garnered multiple awards at the camp, including "Top gun stunter, Top gun jumper, Top gun dancer, Top team, and leadership awards."

Off the back of their successful camp, the team decided they wanted to try and compete at the next level, and the level of work they put in reflected that goal.

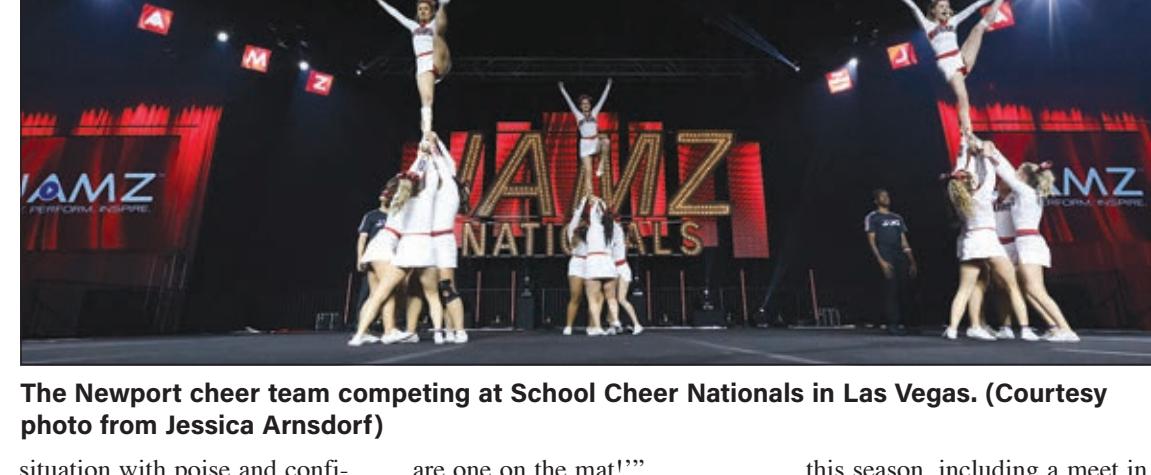
"It was decided then that these girls wanted to push towards attending a national championship event. They put in the time and practice it takes, practicing three hours a day, five days a week, all while still cheering at sporting events for the school," Arnsdorf said. "They practiced throughout Christmas break to get us ready for our first competition in January."

ON THE BIG STAGE

Talking about competing at a national event, Arnsdorf said it can be "very intimidating." It was just a week before the competition when Newport got a list of which other teams they would be going up against. As a result, Arnsdorf and her staff didn't have much time to prepare for their competitors.

In the end, they had to trust that what they were bringing would be "at the caliber needed to be successful."

"The girls handled every



The Newport cheer team competing at School Cheer Nationals in Las Vegas. (Courtesy photo from Jessica Arnsdorf)

situation with poise and confidence," Arnsdorf said.

Despite some logistic adversity, the team met every challenge. On the first day, Newport's first event wasn't until 9:40 p.m. Arnsdorf said that keeping the girls ready to go was a little challenging, but the team rose to the occasion, hitting a perfect routine.

The Cubs entered the finals on day two in first place. And though they were again given a competition spot at the end of the night, they knew what they needed to do: Hit another clean routine and give it their all.

"Which is exactly what we did," Arnsdorf said. "These ladies went in knowing this was going to be tough and that they needed to really bring their best performances. They really came together as a team and pushed one another. We had a saying: 'We fall as a team, or we hit as a team. We

are one on the mat!'"

And now they are not only "one on the mat," but number one in the country as well. Arnsdorf thanked the community who tuned in from home and the parents who traveled to Las Vegas for their support of the team as they chased their goals.

"In all my years of coaching, I have never had such a supportive group of parents," Arnsdorf said. "It's been amazing to watch!"

JOB NOT DONE

Though winning a national championship would probably be enough winning for many programs, Arnsdorf and the Cubs aren't ready for the season to be over. They still have their sights set on defending their state championship from last season.

Newport's cheer team still has two more competitions left

this season, including a meet in Salem on Feb. 8, and then they will finish out the season at the OSAA State Cheerleading Championship Feb. 15 at Oregon City High School. Arnsdorf has her eye on Sweet Home as tough competition at state; after all, it was Sweet Home that the Cubs bested for their state title last season.

Though there are still a couple of weeks left in the Cubs' season, this season is still one that leaves a legacy for this generation of Cubs cheerleaders, and Arnsdorf couldn't be happier with this team.

"Coaching over the last 25 years Newport, I have seen a lot of teams, but there was just something special about this group," Arnsdorf said. "We talk about leaving a legacy for those to come after, but I like to say, 'They are the Legacy!' The coaching staff couldn't be more proud of these ladies!"

Newport looks to repeat as state swim champs

JERRY ULMER
OSAAtoday

One year after regaining its status as the state's top small-school boys swim team, Newport is intent on keeping it.

The Cubs – the 4A/3A/2A/1A champions in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and runners-up to Catlin Gabel in 2022 and 2023 – dominated the state meet last year, outscoring Catlin Gabel 72-47 for first place.

They graduated their top swimmer in Sam Postlewait, who won four individual state titles the last two seasons (two in the 50-yard freestyle), but their lineup is filled

with state-meet veterans.

"They're developed into that competitive mind frame," said coach Shayna Swanson, who also trains the Cubs as coach of the local club, Newport Swim Team. "They came into the season like, 'We want to be undefeated.' They are definitely setting their goals. They look at other teams' performances."

Senior Ben Hurty, who won the 100 backstroke and was runner-up in the 200 IM last year, sets the table for Newport's championship bid. He has placed in two events in each of the last three state meets, also winning a title in the 100

freestyle in 2023. All told, he has placed in five different events.

"He's just so versatile," Swanson said. "He's one of those swimmers you can put in almost anything and you know he's going to make finals at state."

With Postlewait gone, it's not certain that Hurty will swim the same events as last year's state meet.

"I'm kind of setting up for other considerations," Swanson said. "Losing Sam, I have to cover up those points somewhere."

The Cubs also feature state contenders in seniors Ivan

Taft boys look to end long state tournament drought

JERRY ULMER
OSAAtoday

It's been a while since Taft appeared on the radar as a state contender in boys basketball.

The Tigers of Lincoln City last appeared in the state tournament 27 years ago. Since that time, they have recorded only six winning seasons.

Last season, though, Taft showed signs of life by finishing 15-13, its most wins since 1998. This season, with all five starters returning, the Tigers are 15-3 and have risen to No. 4 in the OSAAtoday 3A coaches poll.

They stand alone atop the PacWest Conference

at 9-1, ahead of Dayton (11-8, 7-3), Amity (11-6, 6-3) and Santiam Christian (11-6, 6-3).

They carry a 12-game winning streak into Wednesday's home game against Sheridan (5-10, 1-8).

Coach Zach Lillebo

said Taft doesn't have a dominant player, "but I've got kids that step up each and every night. We're not great shooters, but we run the floor well and we see the open man. We play very unselfish. We're a fast-paced team. We want to get up and down the floor."

Lillebo said that when he took over as coach for the final eight games of the 2022-23 season,

the Tigers' offense often devolved into a "one-on-five type of mentality." With an emphasis on sharing the ball and capitalizing in transition, they have gone from averaging 47.1 points per game two years ago to 59.1 last season to 62.4 this season.

"Our offense starts with our defense," Lillebo said. "The thing that's going to get us by is our athleticism. I have athletes, and they've truly bought into the process. I'm not easy on them. They're mature and they see the process. They believe in each other. They've grown up together since

See TAFT, page B7

See NEWPORT, page A7