



Cheesemaker swim teams take two trophies  
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Lady Cats win  
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New Tillamook Bay Fire & Rescue District proposed  
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Tillamook

# Headlight Herald



Tuesday, January 20, 2026 | Vol. 138, Issue 3

www.TillamookHeadlightHerald.com

\$2.00

## Trask River Apartments fire kills one

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

A midday fire on Sunday, January 11, at Trask River Apartments on Fifth Street in Tillamook left one dead and twelve displaced after three apartments were completely consumed.

Firefighters from the Tillamook Fire District and Bay City Fire Department, as well as local law enforcement agencies, responded to the conflagration, the causes of which are still under investigation, according to Tillamook Fire District Operations Chief Alan Christensen.

Tillamook 911 received calls about the fire and a trapped individual just after noon on Sunday, and when fire crews arrived, they found multiple units on fire and heavy smoke engulfing the scene.

While officers from the Tillamook City Police and deputies from the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office evacuated residents from nearby apartments, crews battled the blaze, containing it within a few minutes of arrival and removed a victim from outside the apartment, who was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Despite the quick response, another victim was found deceased in the apartment where the fire is believed to have begun. The identity of the deceased has not been released.

In total, 22 firefighters responded to the scene, in addition to personnel from the Tillamook Ambulance, Tillamook Police, Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, Tillamook Public Works and the Tillamook People's Utility District.



The aftermath of the January 11 fire at Trask River Apartments in Tillamook.

See **APARTMENT FIRE**, Page A3

## Fire merger moves toward ballot

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Tillamook County's board of commissioners held their first public hearing on a proposed combination of the Tillamook Fire District and Bay City Fire Department on January 14 and signaled their intention of approving the question for the ballot at a second meeting on February 11.

At the meeting, leaders from both agencies and members the steering committee that has been leading the consolidation push and the public spoke in support of the proposal, saying that it was necessary to create a stable foundation for firefighting in the communities.

The proposed new district would be named the Tillamook Bay Fire and Rescue Rural Fire Protection District and encompass the area covered by both the district and department. If approved for the ballot, Tillamook voters would be asked in May to approve the dissolution of their current district, while voters in the entirety of the new proposed district will be asked to weigh in on its formation and a new tax rate, and select a board of five directors, all contingent on Tillamook voters' approval of the dissolution.

Tillamook County Administrative Analyst Isabel Gilda kicked off the public hearing with a staff

See **MERGER**, Page A4



Alder Creek Commons's renovation included new roofing and siding, as well as updated landscaping and the addition of parking spots.

## Move ins begin at Alder Creek Commons

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Following a \$2.5-million renovation, the former Nehalem Bay House assisted living facility has reopened as Alder Creek Commons, with 24 affordable apartments for residents 55 and over.

Daryn Murphy, the project's lead developer from North Development Group, recently gave the Headlight

Herald a tour of the newly updated facility, which had welcomed one resident and received another dozen plus applications.

Alder Creek Commons is located on the west side of Nehalem, near Bayside Gardens, and was originally built in 1997 as a 34-room, assisted-living facility. It operated under that model until 2022, when economic pressures forced its closure and it fell into the

ownership of CareOregon.

For several years, CareOregon officials searched for a partner to reopen the facility, but following three or four efforts that fell through, they reached out to Murphy, who has worked with the organization before, about renovating the facility.

Murphy, who had also led

See **ALDER CREEK**, Page A2

## Merkley focuses on Trump in Tillamook town hall

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

United States Senator Jeff Merkley largely focused on his resistance to the Trump administration's policies and actions at a town hall at Tillamook High School on January 17.

Merkley voiced strong opposition to the recent military operation removing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to the United States and discussed a list he recently compiled of ten strategies used in recent decades to undermine democracy as a basis to continue his fight to prevent Trump from doing the same in America.

"We know that we have to fiercely hold our elected leaders accountable, all of us, even me," Merkley said, "but maybe you're making me think about what else I can do, because when I go to town halls and people say, 'Jeff Merkley, you haven't done enough.' I'm thinking, what else can I do?"

At the town hall, Tillamook County Commissioner Paul Fournier introduced Merkley, who presented a flag flown over the United States Capitol to members of the Nehalem Bay Health District's board of directors in recognition of their recently completed pharmacy and clinic project.

Merkley then addressed the crowd, sounding the alarm about the dwindling Social Security Trust Fund, which is set to reach a zero balance within seven years, causing a cut of 25% to social security payments. Merkley said that he was using his role on the budget committee to agitate for a solution ahead of the problem becoming an emergency for millions of retirees.

"Why do we have to wait until the last second when there's a crisis and it's harder to fix it," Merkley asked rhetorically. "Let's actually do something before we reach kind of a cliff and show that we can actually govern in this United States of America."

Constituents then began asking question of Merkley, with most focused on disagreements with the administration.

In response to a question about the release of the Epstein files, as required by a December 2025 bill, Merkley said that he would do what he could to make court orders compelling the justice department to follow the law stick.

On the subject of Venezuela, Merkley took the president to task for taking the action not in support of democracy, but to secure control of the country's oil reserves. Merkley said the move represented a return to a longtime U.S. foreign policy of supporting dictators as long as they allowed American companies access to their resources, engendering anti-American sentiment around the world.

"It's undermining our reputation for promoting democracy," Merkley said. "Our damage to

See **MERKLEY**, Page A3

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Tuesday



High 58° Low 32°

Wednesday



High 54° Low 33°

Thursday



High 50° Low 38°

Friday



High 52° Low 33°

Saturday



High 52° Low 36°

Sunday



High 53° Low 43°

Monday



High 56° Low 43°

### Weather





*Kristi Bertrand*

Real Estate Broker

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kbbertrand@gmail.com

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The common room in the new building will be open for residents to have events and feature artwork from local artists.

panded into kitchens, as well as a complete upgrade to all interior and exterior finishes, including siding, roofing, flooring and wall painting. With the renovation complete, the building now has six studio, 16 one-bedroom and two two-bedroom apartments, as well as a community room and communal laundry room. The apartments are open to those 55 years of age or older and earning less than 50% of the area's median income, and rents will be \$731 for the studios, \$783 for the one-bedroom apartments and \$940 for the two-bedroom apartments.

Each bedroom features an accessible shower and full kitchen, and residents will have access to a storage locker in the building. Murphy said that an internal courtyard in the building could also be used for a communal garden once drier weather arrives, if residents desire.

Murphy said Cascade Management is managing the property and that most prospective clients were probably in contact with somebody at CareOregon or another social services organization that could help them navigate the application process, but that if they weren't, they should reach out to the property manager. As of mid-January, one person had moved into the building and Murphy said that around 15 more applications had been received.

## ALDER CREEK move ins begin

From Page A1

development at the nearby Bayside Commons apartment complex, agreed to become involved and secured a Local

Innovation and Fast Track zero-interest loan from the state government for \$4.3 million and a grant from CareOregon for \$500,000.

Those funds allowed Murphy to purchase the building and begin renovations to convert the building from an assisted-care to independent-living facility. That entailed reducing the number of units from 34 to 24 to allow room for kitchenettes to be ex-



The kitchen in one of the one-bedroom apartments at Alder Creek Commons.



**2026 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM**

The 2026 Community Support Grant program is currently open and accepting applications until 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026. Local not-for-profit organizations with community projects that promote community livability and economic development are eligible to apply. Application forms, procedures, and additional information are available now at [www.tpud.org/news-community/community-support-grants/](http://www.tpud.org/news-community/community-support-grants/).

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MERKLEY

From Page A1

the alliances is hurting us in terms of not just intangibles like respect but tangible stuff like people being willing to work with us on trade agreements and we're not having any principles that help us go forward in an orderly world and prosper, so I think it's a massive mistake."

Asked about damage to Hangar B at the Port of Tillamook Bay, Merkley said that completing a study of repairs needed to fix the structure should be the priority and mentioned Federal Emergency Management Agency money as a potential funding source.

When asked about how the Democratic Party could appeal to voters on the core issues Merkley has identified as key to American families, healthcare, housing, jobs and education, Merkley said that he didn't like to make his town halls partisan but instead to focus on his positions. On that front, Merkley called attention to the fact that President Donald Trump in recent weeks has adopted two of his ideas for increasing affordability, prescription drug control prices and



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley addresses constituents at a town hall at Tillamook High School on January 17.

barring hedge funds from owning single-family homes, citing it as evidence that he was still in touch with issues that resonated on both sides of the aisle.

More generally, Merkley said that his view of the current system was that the wealthy had too much influence through dark money donations and were able to induce legislators to craft

new laws that made them wealthier, a dynamic that needed to be reversed. "If we want to make this country work better, it can't be a families-lose-billionaires-win version of the world," Merkley said. "It has to be families thrive; billionaires pay their fair share."

Responding to a question about how concerned citizens could take action to

protect democracy, Merkley pointed to a pamphlet that his staff had handed out to town hall attendees titled "Ring the Alarm Bells: The Ten Rules of Trump's Authoritarian Playbook." Merkley said that he had researched democracies from around the world that had failed in recent decades, saying that armed coups had receded from prominence,

replaced by a slow drift to authoritarianism and that he had studied the commonalities from those situations to compile the list.

The list includes items like pack the government with loyalists, disregard due process, silence free speech and steal congress' power of the purse, and culminated with rigging the next election, which Merkley accused Trump of working to do. "The president's rigging the next election," Merkley said. "He's doing this national voter database so it can be purged before the next election, you'll show up and you won't be able to vote."

Merkley praised the Oregon Secretary of State and Attorney General for fighting to protect the state's ability to conduct vote-by-mail elections. Merkley said that everyone deserved the option to vote by mail and that "saving our election system has

got to be a top priority when we have a congress that is under different leadership."

Finally, in response to a question from a college student about affordability of classes, Merkley said that he believed the United States had the financial resources to make college debt free for all students and that he would continue to advocate for that policy.

"If other developed nations can afford to do that, we can afford to do that," Merkley said. "We can't afford to do it if we're spending on wars like Afghanistan and Iraq, we can't afford to do it if we're doing tax bills that give \$30 billion to the richest Americans, we can't afford to do it if we're spending \$40 billion to help out some right-wing ruler in Argentina. We've got to focus on the fundamentals so we can deliver for the next generation."

Manzanita council updated on slide

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Manzanita City Manager Leila Aman updated the city's council at their January 7 meeting about a slide near the city's public works yard that triggered an emergency declaration in mid-December.

Aman said that the slide had been caused by unstable topsoil and that repairs were ongoing and encouraged the council to extend the state of emergency by a month to allow an assessment of the completed work, which they did.

The situation at the city-owned property across Oak Street from the public works yard caught the attention of the city's Public Works Director Rick Rempfer on December 16, when he

noticed that sustained rains had created the potential for a landslide. Rempfer called Aman as well as the city's emergency manager, Manzanita Police Sergeant Mike Sims, and the city's engineer and went through a preliminary investigation of the site with them on the phone, as a geotechnical expert made their way to the city.

Sims also reached out to the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, with 12 volunteers arriving promptly to help secure the situation by placing sandbags over an impacted area.

A geotechnical engineer made an initial visit on December 17, and returned on the December 18 for a full investigation, before placing monitoring points around the property on December 22. Those sensors revealed that the slide was being caused

by unsettled soil sitting near the surface, while the underlying soil remained stable, leading the engineer to recommend removing the unsettled material and taking steps to stabilize the underlying soil, such as planting grass.

Aman said that the city was following that recommendation and contractors had begun removing material on January 5. Aman said that further monitoring of the sensors at the site had not shown further movement and that she was confident in the geotechnical report's findings.

Aman asked that the council extend the state of emergency, which they initially declared on December 16, until their February council meeting, which will make it simpler for Aman to hire contractors should

assessments after the current work is done reveal the need for more.



The aftermath of the January 11 fire at Trask River Apartments in Tillamook.

APARTMENT FIRE

From Page A1

"This incident underscores the resilience of our emergency response network and demonstrates our commitment to the communities we serve,"

Christensen said. "The dedication and professionalism demonstrated by all responding agencies, both paid staff and volunteers, was instrumental. Our thoughts are with those impacted by this tragedy."

In addition to the three units impacted by the fire, neighboring units suffered smoke, water and structural damage, forcing 12 residents from their homes.

The American Red Cross is working with local organizations to provide temporary assistance to those displaced.

Tillamook Fire District personnel are now working with Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office on a cause and origin investigation into the blaze, and Christensen said further information would be released as it becomes available.

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FIRE MERGER moves toward ballot

From Page A1

report about the proposed merger and the commissioners’ role in it. Gilda explained that it was commissioners’ responsibility to determine if the changes that would result from the proposed merger would benefit the area. Gilda said that the group supporting the request had submitted a study that showed staffing efficiencies, better training and long-term financial stability would be achieved by the merger.

Gilda also said that the new district was proposing a tax rate of \$1.49 per thousand dollars of assessed value and that employees and

assets from both agencies would transfer to the new entity.

Tillamook Fire Chief Paul Edwards then delved deeper into the reasons the district needed the merger. Edwards, who has been involved with Tillamook Fire since 1982, explained that in those days, the City of Tillamook’s fire department had been underfunded, while the Tillamook Rural Fire Protection District was somewhat better off.

In 1993, that led the agencies to seek voter approval for the merger of the two entities to form the Tillamook Fire District, which was given and a property tax rate of 69 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value set. Edwards explained that, at the time, the rate supported seven or eight full-time staff, the purchase and maintenance of necessary equipment, and the district’s volunteer operations.

However, in the intervening years, the rate has remained steady as inflation has reduced the services the revenue it generates can support. “This has resulted in inadequate funding for fire services our residents demand and deserve,” Edwards said. Currently, the district only has one full-time employee and has difficulty paying for ongoing maintenance of its equipment.

The good news, Edwards said, is that the district has been operating under an intergovernmental agreement with Bay City since 2024 and the partnership has been working seamlessly, giving him confidence in the proposed merger.

Bay City Fire Chief Alan Christensen then spoke briefly, recognizing the commitment and heroic efforts of the volunteer firefighters in each organization. Bay City Manager David McCall then discussed the steering committee that has been leading work on the merger for the past five months and introduce Committee Co-chair Mike Saindon.

Saindon echoed Edwards, saying that the current coordination between the two entities had shown the effectiveness of the approach of combining resources and said that it was important for the services to evolve as they responded increasingly to medical calls. Saindon

said that the proposed merger would allow for increased staffing coverage and resilience, allowing the new entity to add capacity and provide a stable foundation to serve the area’s needs moving forward.

Saindon stressed that the merger would not be a silver bullet solving all the issues instantly, but that it would provide a solid base for the new district to grow into the future and be handed off to the next generation.

Public comment then began, with Bay City Mayor Liane Welch leading off and sharing a statistic that since 2010, the calls for service to the city’s fire department have increase from 115 to more than 300, with volunteers combining to work for more than 1,000 hours in response. Welch said that the current situation with only three full-time staff between the two entities was not tenable, especially during the busy summer months, and argued that approving the district would address long-term viability concerns.

Tillamook Fire District Board Member Tim Hamburger also spoke in favor of the proposal, saying that the district’s sustainability has declined in recent years, primarily due to financial concerns caused by the low tax rate. Hamburger said that at the same time, it was

becoming more difficult to find volunteers, especially during daytime hours, and that more full-time staff was desperately needed. Hamburger concluded by saying that approval of the district would allow the new district to build reserve funds and said that the Tillamook Fire District could not realistically continue at its current tax rate.

Several Tillamook business owners, Jim Christensen of Valvoline Instant Oil Change, Don Burden of Burden’s Muffler and Towing and Don Averill of Don G. Averill Recycling Inc., also spoke in support of the merger, saying that it was unrealistic to expect the Tillamook district to provide services with a funding level from the 1990s and that they were concerned about impacts on property insurance should the district not be better resourced.

Tillamook City Manager Sean Lewis then spoke, saying that while the city did not have a direct interest in the district, it was an important issue for residents and that he supported giving them the chance to vote.

A Bay City volunteer firefighter spoke in favor of the measure, saying that while the department currently receives strong support from the city’s council, amounting to around half

of the city’s general fund dollars annually, and has a voter-approved operating levy of \$1.80 per thousand dollars of assessed property value, either could change. He said that by forming the new district, funding for firefighting would be secured against potential changes in public or council sentiment.

Commissioners Mary Faith Bell and Paul Fournier then weighed in, with Commissioner Erin Skaar not in attendance.

Bell thanked everyone for attending and testifying and said that she was moved by the unanimity of comments in supporting the proposal and that it signaled to her that there was a clear benefit to the community from the merger. Bell said she was grateful for the hard work undertaken by the steering committee and that she hoped voters would approve the district.

Fournier echoed Bell’s comments, noting that the merger matched a trend among other fire districts in the county and made sense.

Bell and Fournier voted to approve a preliminary order approving the formation of the district, setting the second public hearing on the matter for February 11, at which point the board will vote on its approval for inclusion on May’s primary ballot.

Tillamook

Headlight Herald



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Tides of Change Forensic Nursing Program has gone live

Tides of Change is announcing that our Forensic Nursing Program has officially gone live starting December 2025. Since 2019, Tillamook County has been absent of Sexual Assault Forensic Nurses (SANEs) for Adolescent/Adult Sexual Assault Forensic Exams (SAFEs). The lack of availability has left survivors of sexual assault without the available option to have evidence collection and provided a comprehensive forensic exam to be used in potential criminal proceedings. Survivors that wanted

to have the exams were faced with leaving the county and traveling anywhere from 1-3 hours to the nearest location with an available SANE. After experiencing a significant trauma, survivors were having to secure transportation, travel, and then go through wait times at the next location to finally obtain the exam, which is a lengthy process. This created barriers that many survivors were not able to overcome and chose to not pursue those exams.

Through a multi-disciplinary workgroup that included Tides of Change, Adventist

Health Tillamook, Tillamook County Sherriff’s Office, Tillamook City Police, and Tillamook County District Attorney’s Office the plan to build a new SANE response for Tillamook County began back in 2022. Tides of Change was successful in receiving a competitive federal award through the Office on Victims of Crime that allowed us to develop a Forensic Nursing Program within Tides of Change, which is the only program in Oregon that has both services housed under the same agency.

We currently have 3

SANEs in addition to a full-time SANE Manager. We are actively recruiting for nurses that are interested in becoming trained. While we do not have 24/7 response at this point in time we are hoping to build up the response over time, but we are able to have a SANE available 5-6 days a week to start. Advocacy services and response are still available 24/7.

If someone has experienced sexual assault they can call Tides of Change and speak to a confidential advocate 24/7 at 503.842.9486.

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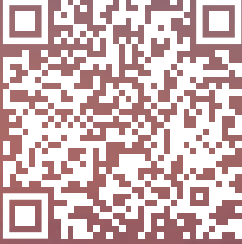
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**GARDENING MATTERS**  
**CARLA ALBRIGHT**

## SIGNS OF SPRING

January on the North Oregon Coast can feel pretty dismal. The winter rains seem like they will never end and this year we have even had some thunderstorms. The gardens are caked in mud, and even when it is not raining, the skies stay gray and cloudy. But if we take the time to look very closely at our gardens, we can also see early signs of spring to come. The Japanese maples have teeny, little beginnings of the leaves that will be a brilliant green in another few months. Right now, those tiny tips are tinged with red. My Hellebores, also known

as Christmas Roses, have been setting buds for weeks now and those buds have now opened into full-fledged blossoms. One of the reasons I love Hellebores is they bloom for such a long period of time, often from December until June. They can be seen so easily when nothing else is in bloom. I have one Hellebore called ‘Ivory Prince’ that regularly has 50 to 75 blooms at the same time. Standing above dark green foliage, this is a real stunner in my January garden. But there are other favored plants. The heady scent of the Sarcococca stopped me in my tracks the other day as I was going down the sidewalk. The tiny bell-shaped flowers are so fragrant this time of year that I often smell them before I see them. My hardy fuchsias have largely dropped their flowers now, but that’s okay. They bloomed most of October, November and December, feeding the Anna’s hummingbirds. It will be time to prune those fuchsias heavily in February to spur on new growth for the season. But my Cape Fuchsia (Phygelius), a South African native, is still blooming so that’s a nice splash of pink in

my winter garden. Buds on the Rhododendron and Azaleas have started to swell now, too. They have been forming since late last Spring after the 2025 blooming period. In January, we will see those buds enlarge and get nice and plump. The pink and white camellia are in bloom. I don’t personally have this plant in my garden, but I do see them in the neighborhoods and wish I had space for one in my tiny yard. Instead, I take pleasure in seeing these rather large shrubs in other people’s gardens. Snow drops and crocus have poked their leaves up through the muddy gardens now and I expect we will see them in bloom in the next couple of weeks. They are such important harbingers of spring that their appearance simply makes me smile in anticipation. It’s much too early for most tulips and daffodils, but if you have a warmish microclimate in your garden, you may see some leaves of the earliest bloomers begin to show through the winter mulch. In the meantime, my hardy geraniums have been blooming for almost the entire winter. They aren’t as prolific



in their blooms as they will be later in the spring and summer, but even having a few of these cheerful little flowers here and there brings a spot of color to an otherwise gray garden. I have noticed as I walk around the garden that my Clematis Montana ‘Warwickshire Rose’ now has leaves

breaking out of their dormancy. I will carefully watch this plant as it moves to blooming. It will be stunning in May, with hundreds upon hundreds of pinkish-white flowers. And while it is a bit early to plant new pansies, my primrose have been blooming for a couple of weeks now. Always

fun to see those bright spots of color amid the browns of the surrounding plants. Find a nice day to walk around your garden for a peek at what might be ready to bloom. It will be encouraging to see those beginning signs of growth.



**CAPE MEARES**  
**ELLEN STEEN**  
ellensteen2@gmail.com

A small dead whale was spotted on Bayocean Spit near the south jetty by Wendy Burroughs and her husband, Mike Olson, on January 11. Capt. Pete and I had walked to the south jetty

on January 8 and it was not there then, and Park Ranger Simon Freeman drove the beach on January 10 and did not see it. Thus, we presume the whale came ashore on the high tide in the early morning hours of January 11. Wendy reported the whale to Jim Rice, Stranding Coordinator of OSU’s Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network in Newport, and Simon went back out and got GPS coordinates for Jim. Jim then drove out on January 13 and took samples from the dead whale for analysis. He identified the mammal as a young female sperm whale. Jim could see no obvious cause of death, but the

carcass had been scavenged by sharks before it came ashore. This is not the first time we’ve had a whale on that stretch of sand. At least this one is far enough away from the village that we shouldn’t be able to smell it as it decays. If you come across a stranded, injured or dead mammal, please call the NOAA West Coast Stranding Hotline at 866-767-6114. For a couple of months now, a burned truck was on the side of the Cape Meares Loop Road. The truck was taped off but not moved... until January 12. Hooray and thanks to the authorities who finally got that unsightly

wreck out of there. No one in Cape Meares seems to know the backstory, but hopefully no one was hurt in the original accident. Nick and Kristi Ostroff, Scott Gordon and Randy Klobas went to the Portland Boat Show earlier this month. After looking at the prices there, no one is getting a new boat—all are content with the boats they have. In fact, Spike Klobas reports that Randy just got his all fixed up. That plus Capt. Pete’s new motor for our boat, and the Cape Meares crew should be all set for the 2026 spring Chinook season. Just in from neighbor Karen Walz, who often

volunteers with the Tillamook Girl Scout troops: Girl Scout cookie season is open. The local Tillamook troops have started taking pre-orders from family and friends. These budding entrepreneurs will be at local stores from February 20–March 15 for you to order in person. You may pinpoint times and locations by visiting <https://www.girlscoutsofsw.org/en/cookies/find-cookies.html>. Support our young scouts and enjoy a delicious treat, to boot. Speaking of Karen, she and her husband, Steve, participated in the Tillamook County Family YMCA Polar Plunge for 2026 at Cape Lookout on January 10. The event was

rescheduled from New Year’s Day due to safety concerns with the king tides. Neighbors Kathy and Kevin Burke were there to cheer on the Walzes and other swimmers (but didn’t get in the water themselves). There were hot drinks, French onion soup and pastries afterward for the brave plungers. Way to get after this New Year. Movie time. “Rumblings” is this coming weekend, 10 a.m. Saturday at the Oceanside Community Center on Saturday, January 24, and the same time at our Barbara Bennett Community Center on Sunday, January 25. See you there.



**BAY CITY**  
**PENNY EBERLE**  
hrhpenny57@hotmail.com

As we enter this new year, there are many projects getting underway in Bay City, including the installation of the new playground equipment at Al Griffin Memorial Park,

the seismic upgrade to Fire Station 41 and the replacement line along Alderbrook Road. Other projects in the works include improvements to the Red Rock area along Highway 101 at 5th Street, paving on Doughty Road and 8th, and the start of work to replace an undersized culvert on Patterson Creek at 7th. Total costs for all these projects are nearly \$8 million and will be funded through a collection of grants the city has obtained from over a dozen sources. In November of 2025, both the elected City Council of Bay City and

the Board of Tillamook Fire District each voted unanimously to recommend to the Tillamook County Commissioners that the formation of the Tillamook Bay Fire and Rescue Rural Fire Protection District be placed on the ballot for approval by voters in May 2026. If passed, this measure would unify the existing Bay City Fire Department and the Tillamook Fire District into one fire district. This combined district would serve approximately 18,385 permanent residents in the Tillamook and Bay City areas and would be overseen by a five-member

Board of Directors elected by voters, who would be responsible for carrying out the hiring process of a new fire chief for the newly formed district. The Bay City Fire Department currently has two full-time employees, while Tillamook has one full-time and several part-time. Both fire departments rely heavily on volunteers to respond to emergencies. Currently, the Bay City Fire Department operates as a municipal fire department under the authority of the Bay City Council. If passed in May, a unified tax rate of \$1.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value

would be imposed, generating approximately \$2.45 million for district operations. For Bay City properties, this \$1.49 per \$1,000 tax rate on assessed value would replace the current \$1.80 of assessed value, resulting in a decrease in the amount of property tax assessed. A Community Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th at 5 p.m. in the Ad Montgomery Community Hall located at 5525 B Street in Bay City. The purpose of this workshop is to gather information from the public for inclusion of the subject property, located southeast of the Bewley

Street and Vaughn Road intersection, in the proposed “one time” Urban Growth Boundary expansion, and to gather the community’s perspectives on what the community believes is important to protect, strengthen, and be mindful of, as the city considers how this site moves forward. It’s time to get a new dog license. Please take proof of rabies vaccination and expiration date when applying for your annual license to city hall. Fees are \$20 per dog, but with a 50% discount if your furry friends are spayed/neutered and an additional discount for senior citizens.

Tillamook

Headlight Herald

## WRITE TO US

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should contain at most 350 words. The Headlight Herald reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any letter to the editor. Letters published in The Headlight Herald will also be published online.

Letters to the editor and guest columns must include your first and last name, city or town or residence, and phone number for verification purposes.

Letters endorsing candidates or campaign issues must be received no later than ten days before an election. Letters written by candidates will not be accepted. Letters to the editor should be the author’s work.

We strongly discourage and will attempt to weed out form letters, letters mailed to other news outlets, or letters written and edited by a third party, including but not limited to political parties.

We try to restrict the printing of one submission per author per month. We do not publish anonymous letters, personal attacks, personal complaints, poetry, consumer complaints, or letters written in bad taste.

Letters need to be submitted by **4 p.m. Wednesday** the week prior to publication.

While we strive to publish all viewpoints, Headlight Herald and Country Media reserve the right to refuse to publish any letter or guest editorial.

### OBITUARIES

Obituaries need to be submitted by **4 p.m. Wednesday** the week prior to publication.

### SUBMISSIONS

Submissions may be sent in by:

- **Email:** Editor Will Chappell at [headlighteditor@countrymedia.net](mailto:headlighteditor@countrymedia.net)
- **Mail:** Headlight Herald P.O. Box 444, Tillamook, OR 97141
- **Stop by our office:** 1906 Second St. Tillamook, OR

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**Due by 10 a.m. Thursdays for the following week’s edition.**



**Will Chappell**  
Editor

[headlighteditor@countrymedia.net](mailto:headlighteditor@countrymedia.net)



**Katherine Mace**  
Advertising Account Executive

[headlightads@countrymedia.net](mailto:headlightads@countrymedia.net)



**Patty Archambault**  
Office Manager

[classifieds@orcoastnews.com](mailto:classifieds@orcoastnews.com)  
[legals@orcoastnews.com](mailto:legals@orcoastnews.com)



**Steph Baumgart**  
Graphic Designer

[sbaumgart@countrymedia.net](mailto:sbaumgart@countrymedia.net)



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Joe Warren, Chief Executive/Operations

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## Results from our online poll:

### What is your favorite part of Cannon Beach?

28

The nature

26

The village feel

7

Galleries

29

Something else

## Stay connected to us!



### Check out next week’s poll at [TillamookHeadlightHerald.com](http://TillamookHeadlightHerald.com)



FENCEPOSTS



**SOUTH COUNTY**  
**MELONIE FERGUSON**  
503-812-4242  
mossroses@yahoo.com

My dining room has morphed into an artist’s studio again this winter as I prep a metal mosaic (bits of colorful pop and tea cans attached to a square of plywood) for the “Art for the Heart” show in Nehalem next month. It will be a rooster who I’ve named Romeo, on a black background because he’s crowing in the dark.

The project was inspired by the nightly crowing of a cockerel in my own (Parkway Drive, Cloverdale) neighborhood that starts up at 2:30 a.m., almost like clockwork.

Artists of any age with work in progress are reminded that up to 5 wall-ready “Art for the Heart,” submissions will be accepted between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 and between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, January 30 at North Coast Recreation District, 36155 9th Street, In Nehalem. There are no fees for creative submissions. A 20% commission will be collected on sold pieces, but work need not be offered for sale.

Meals on Wheels plans to serve free eats at an

open house from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28 with lunch served at 11:30. They’re located within Kiawanda Community Center (KCC). The address is 34600 Cape Kiawanda Drive in Pacific City.

Nestucca High School will host a Red Cross Blood Drive in the high school gym from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 22. The address is 34660 Parkway Drive in Cloverdale. Preregister online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) by entering Cloverdale’s zip code (97112) when prompted on the home screen.

Poets and poetry lovers of all ages are invited to listen to and read a poem at the South Tillamook County Library in Pacific City at 5

p.m. on the Third Tuesday, monthly (January 20). Be there at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21 (Third Wednesday, monthly) for an hour of coloring time. This program is for adults 19 and older. Storytime at the library happens at 3:30 p.m. on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (January 28 and February 11) monthly. Children of all ages are invited; the program includes stories, singing and moving about. The library is located off Brooten Road on Camp Street in Pacific City.

This week KCC serves senior lunches at 11:30 on Tuesday (January 20) and Wednesday (January 21) for \$3 each. (Others may partake for \$6.) Bingo there is planned from 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, January 22. The

address is included above. For more information call 971-212-7131 or go to [kiwanda.com](http://kiwanda.com).

Don’t forget that the former Nehalem Bay House has been remodeled into apartments for seniors age 55 and up. Renamed Alder Creek Commons, it offers affordable studio, one-, and two-bedroom units to seniors and disabled individuals who earn or receive little enough income to qualify as tenants. A chart online shows rents ranging from \$731-944 per month. The property is located at 35385 Tohl Road in Nehalem. For more information, search “Alder Cove Apartments” online and to apply, click on the highlighted link that reads, “click here to apply.”

Belated birthday greet-

ings go out to Sue Beachy, B.J. Clark, Whalen Dillon, Ginger Durham, Chris Eckhardt, John Eckhardt, Marsha Hale, Paige Hale, Taylor Haltiner, Eric Hays, Jason Hill, Raeanna Hughes, Holdyn Hurliman, Kyler Jones, Richard Love, Lila McKillip, Sandra Porter, Waylon Porter, Bryn Rulifson, Terrance Watters and Brad Whitaker.

Happy birthday this week to- Kelvin Caspell, Justin Christiansen, Emmet Clark, David Reed Craven, Caleb Fitch, Baird Hagerty, David Hale, Jason Hale, Nicole Hamilton, Ashley Malcom, Morgan McDaniel, Noah McDaniel, Stormee McKillip, Kari Ross, Wilda Schmitz, Caleb Slavens, Kristin Trost and Kayden Wagner.

As of the January city council meeting on January 14, 2026, The Rockaway Beach Artisan Farmers Market is currently without a venue.

The issue was discussed at the December 2025 city council workshop, when applications for the wayside had been filed ahead of the 2026 season. Longtime events such as the Kite Festival (in its 50th year for 2026) and

Arts & Crafts Festival were approved, as was the relatively new NCAM Music Festival.

But objections arose to the proposed Thursday Market, primarily for closing of the Wayside from 9 a.m. through 8 p.m. on market days.

Introduced in May 2023, the market ran on Thursdays, from its May 16 opening through Labor Day in September.

It returned in 2024 with a similar schedule. In 2025, the hours were changed as a result of visitor feedback. From my May 6, 2025, Fencepost: “Visitors in previous years asked for more time after the market ended [...] Of particular interest was having enough time for visitors to have dinner after shopping.

“This year [2025], the Thursday Market hours are 2 p.m.—6 p.m., which gives vendors the chance to pack up earlier and guests another hour to grab a bite downtown.”

Objections to the 2026 Thursday Market application came down to questions of the best use of the Wayside during summer.

“It’s 14 weeks of our peak tourist season,” commented City Councilor Kiley Konruff. This concern was echoed by Mayor Charles McNeilly:

“Rockaway Beach is experiencing a surge in businesses in our downtown core. But we have not had an increase in parking to



**ROCKAWAY BEACH**  
**SCOTT FISHER**  
sfisher71@yahoo.com

support this growth. Simply put, Rockaway Beach does not have enough parking.” He cited some of the consequences of this as affecting safety, congestion, “and lost revenue for businesses.”

At issue appears to be the loss of the 17 parking spaces in the Wayside.

The proposed location for the Market is the Anchor Street parking lot, with space for 43 vehicles. It has hosted the annual Trunk or Treat activity, last held at the Wayside in 2023 before moving to Anchor Street in 2024.

But Anchor Street has a number of challenges for the Thursday Market. Chief among these is little to no visibility from highway 101, lacking the historic red Caboose to

draw the eye.

Citizen commentary at the January 14 City Council meeting was decidedly in favor of continuing the market in its location at the wayside.

First to present was Chris Williams, representing the Rockaway Renaissance Artists, a group established by the late Cindy Kay Gregory.

“We are beholden to the Thursday Market,” Williams began, which provides the ability for a number of Rockaway artists to supplement their income.

“My first concerns were for myself. But then I heard from folks that brought up some really good issues.” Williams mentioned “many barriers to having a market on Anchor Street. One is absence of wifi,” which vendors use for payment systems. Others included the relative lack of electricity and water. At the core, though, Williams concluded, “The Wayside is the heart of Rockaway Beach and people who drive by stop for events.”

City council discussion focused on the duration of

closure for the Wayside. Councilor Pat Ryan noted his concern with the application calling for Wayside closure all day from 9 a.m.—8 p.m. He added that it would be “difficult to tie that up for the full day when there are other options.”

Councilor Mary McGinniss noted that in the past, the market “doesn’t start till 2:30 but they’re requesting to block it off from 9 a.m.”

McGinniss went on to note that Rockaway Beach has “the 4th most tourists on the North Coast.”

She concluded with a possible course of action for proponents of the Thursday Market: “I would like to see the chamber come back with an amended application that more accurately reflects what’s possible at the Wayside. I invite the chamber to come back.

“I think we can come out of this with a big win for everybody.”

If you have ideas or wish to express an opinion on the issue, write to Rockaway Beach City Council, P.O. Box 5, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136.



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ART FOR THE HEART 2026

A Call to Artists

Adventist Health Tillamook announces a call to artists for a non-juried art exhibition at North County Recreation District (NCRD), Feb. 1–27, 2026.

- **Artists of all ages** on the Oregon coast are welcome.
- **No fees** for creative submissions.
- **Submit up to five entries** — must be wall-ready.
- **Art sales.** If selling art pieces, 20% of sales go to NCRD for fitness scholarships and 80% back to the artist.

Save the date for art submissions!

Adventist Health staff will intake art at NCRD, 36155 9th St., Nehalem. Artwork will be accepted on two days:

- Thursday, January 29, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Friday, January 30, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For full details, visit:

[AdventistHealthTillamook.org/ArtForTheHeart](http://AdventistHealthTillamook.org/ArtForTheHeart)



A new year. It seems Aeasy at first to write 2026 and then as the days go by, you find yourself still in 2025. And it happens every year. The new dog and I are settling in; he still counter-surfs and has started on open trash cans. Always a new trick. However, my shoes are still intact, furniture has only a few teeth marks, but it is replacement time. And he sleeps through the night.

Last week was beautiful, dry, maybe not clear, but not too chilly. And I ended up inside doing paperwork things. After all it is close to tax season, and I am still setting up tax clinic sites – Tillamook and Seaside. So, it is time to start your tax preparations. Time to gather information about deductions and credits that you can use to reduce your tax burden.

If you are 65 or older you want to collect all your medical information because it may be useful for your state tax calculation, even if it doesn’t help the federal. Medical information includes health insurance premiums that you pay, long-term care premiums, doctor copayments you make, prescription drugs you buy (your pharmacy may be able to give you a printed list of what you purchased for the year), nursing care you purchase, medical devices you needed, such as walkers, glasses, hearing aids, hearing aid batteries, canes, and if you needed to add a ramp to your walkway, that is also a medical expense. Another fun one for me is medical miles. Miles from your residence to the doctor’s office and back, to the pharmacy and back, to the eye doctor, the dentist. They can really add up for some folks, especially if you drive to Portland for care. And while it is not a great amount, it adds to the



**GARIBALDI**  
**LINDA BADE**  
[lindabade2023@gmail.com](mailto:lindabade2023@gmail.com)

total medical expense you can use. Make sure you ask your tax preparer if you think you have other medical related expenses that might qualify. Or consult the IRS publication on medical expenses.

What else can you deduct? Property taxes for any year, paid in the current year. Other taxes you paid can be deducted, although Oregon does not have many that I have seen. Cash contributions or items donated to a qualified organization – such as Goodwill, Kit Kaboodle, Habitat, Food Bank – are also deductible. Your tax preparer may want to see a receipt for the donation and some tax software programs require more information about the organization than others – for example the name, address, and date of donation. This information is always good to have and keep in your tax files in support of what you are claiming. There are sources of information on the value of goods donated that you could find online to help you get to the amount to be deducted.

Other items that assist in creating the tax return include last year’s return; it shows your social security numbers, dependents, what you filed as income so you can look for those same documents to come to you in the mail. We are supposed to receive such documents by the end of January or by mid-February. The tax return will also show if you have any carryforwards from investments, for example. If you

are taking your items to someone to prepare the return for you, you may need to have your actual social security cards. Not your Medicare card. Another item that can be deducted is any gambling loss up to the amount you won from gambling. The casino can provide you with that information.

This is not a complete list.

Childcare costs to enable you to work can become a credit against your tax. You want the amount you paid and information on the care provider (name, address, phone, amount, and date range of services). If you are attending college, or your child is attending college, that also can result in a credit. You need the statement from the school (1099-T) on tuition, information on any grants used, and school expenses for books and materials required.

Remember, federal and state taxes are “self-imposed” – that means we each calculate and impose the tax upon ourselves. So, you are allowed these deductions from your income, in line with the rules IRS and Oregon State have provided. I believe in paying my taxes but not overpaying them.

I would encourage you to contact the Tax-Aide program at the library, but I understand that the appointment schedule is almost full. However, if you have tax questions, you can contact us by coming in on Thursdays or Fridays to the clinic at the library or calling or emailing me – [lindabade2023@gmail.com](mailto:lindabade2023@gmail.com), 503-577-7403. We are here to help.

I usually end this fencepost with something on the library, but there isn’t anything new happening this week. The normal activities continue on a weekly basis, and I am over my word limit.



# OBITUARIES/NEWS

## John Raymond Marshall *April 26, 1955*



John Raymond Marshall was born on April 26, 1955 to

Raymond and Thelma Marshall in Tillamook, Oregon. An avid outdoorsman, John lived for the hunt, whether it be rifle or archery. He loved watching logging shows and archery hunts. He enjoyed camping, seeing much of the US and Canada on archery shoots with his family. John loved gardening and could grow anything. He spent countless hours in his shop woodworking or scrolling on his “Tik-Tok machine” (aka phone) That was always his happy place!

John’s working career started out working for Robert Yergen Road Construction.

He then went on to

logging for several years and ended with 23 years at Tillamook PUD.

John is survived by his wife Teresa, daughter Jaimie Butler, son Andrew Marshall (Alyssa) and granddaughters Breanna Butler and Paisley Marshall. He is also survived by sisters Jan Bush (Tim) Judy Burt (Denny) and Jerrilee Anderegg (Rick).

He was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Thelma Marshall and nephew Jerry Burt.

May the bulls always bugle loud, the bucks grow big and the logging be great. 652 we love you!

Rest in peace, your loving family.

## Mark W. Killion *January 22, 1963 - January 13, 2026*

Mark W. Killion of Nehalem was born 1/22/1963 and passed away 1/13/2026 at the age of 62. Funeral ser-

vice will be on 1/24/2026 at 11:00am at Waud’s Funeral Home.

**BASIC OBITUARY:** Includes name, age, town of residency, and funeral services info - No Cost.

**CUSTOM OBITUARY:** Cost is \$75 for the first 200 words, \$50 for each additional 200 words.

**PREMIUM OBITUARY:** Several photos and a longer announcement - cost varies by length of announcement.

# AG’s Opinion Raises Questions About Transportation Tax Repeal

*Gov. Kotek wants lawmakers to invalidate House Bill 3991. The opinion says they cannot do that*

BY NIGEL JAQUISS  
Oregon Journalism Project

A 90-year-old legal opinion could jeopardize Gov. Tina Kotek’s desire to repeal House Bill 3991, the controversial Oregon Department of Transportation funding package she backed and lawmakers passed in a September special session.

The opinion, dated Nov. 13, 1935, is about a bill lawmakers passed that year related to student fees at Oregon colleges. Before the measure went into effect, however, citizens gathered enough signatures to send it to the ballot for voters to decide.

Then-Gov. Charles Martin asked then-Attorney General I.H. Van Winkle whether lawmakers could simply repeal the bill rather than engage in a ballot fight.

The answer Van Winkle gave, based on case law from Oregon and numerous other states: No.

“The right of the people to a referendum vote on a statute enacted by the Legislature can not be defeated by a subsequent repeal of the act referred,” Van Winkle wrote, quoting a Missouri case.

The opinion is newly relevant because of the machinations around HB 3991. After lawmakers failed in 2025 to pass a long-planned ODOT funding measure, Kotek then called them back in September, and the Democratic supermajorities ultimately passed a slimmed-down measure that would generate new revenue from a 6-cents-a-gallon gas tax hike, increases in vehicle registration fees, and a doubling of the statewide payroll tax to fund transit.

But after Kotek signed the bill into law in mid-November, critics of HB 3991, led by state Sen. Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Scio) and Jason Williams of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon then stunned many political observers: They quickly gathered about

250,000 signatures to refer HB 3991 to the November 2026 ballot.

Kotek subsequently changed her mind and now wants to repeal HB 3991 because the consensus is the referral would succeed in repealing the tax increases.

Rather than allowing critics to use the repeal as a cudgel against her and legislative Democrats between now and November, Kotek decided to take the pain and move on.

But she may not be able to. A reader tipped OJP to the 1935 AG’s opinion which is so old it’s not online but is findable at the Oregon State Library.

It’s unclear what consequence the opinion will have.

Kotek spokeswoman Elisabeth Shepard says the governor was unaware of the opinion when she declared in a Jan. 7 speech: “Here is what I am asking the Oregon Legislature to do in the February session—repeal House Bill 3991.”

“The governor’s office was not specifically aware of this 1935 opinion,” Shepard told OJP in an email today. “The Legislature will certainly be doing its due diligence about how best to proceed on this issue.”

(Legislative leaders have previously taken a wait-and-see approach to what they will do in the session that starts Feb. 4 and did not take a position after Kotek’s call for repeal.)

Jenny Hansson, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Dan Rayfield, says the Department of Justice

has not yet formed a legal opinion on the proposed repeal.

“We are aware of the 1935 opinion,” Hansson says. “Since 1935, the relevant portion of the constitution has been amended, and there is additional case law bearing on the issue. We have not analyzed whether the 1935 opinion’s conclusions remain valid in light of more recent legal developments.”

In a Jan. 9 interview with OJP, Starr said he and his co-petitioners in the referral were disappointed that Kotek wanted to repeal HB 3991, which would short-circuit the process.

“I understand how the game is played,” Starr said then.

But when OJP shared the AG’s opinion with Starr, he struck a different note.

“This opinion makes the law unmistakably clear,” Starr said. “Once the people invoke the referendum, the Legislature has no authority to repeal it. The constitution requires an election. There is no statutory workaround, no procedural loophole, and no legal basis to keep this measure off the ballot.”

House Minority Leader Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville) echoed Starr’s displeasure.

“When more than a quarter million people sign a petition demanding a vote, the response should be transparency and respect, not backroom maneuvering,” Elmer said. “This is about trusting the people, following the constitution, and letting voters decide for themselves.”

# TBCC bequeathed \$773,000

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Last year, the Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation received an unexpected donation of \$773,000 from the estate of Richard and Virginia White in to support students at the college.

The gift represented the largest in the foundation’s history and is expected to provide around \$30,000 annually to support scholarships at the college in honor of the Whites’ passion for education.

Richard White was born in Tillamook on McCormick Loop Road and attended and graduated from South Prairie School when it still taught students from kindergarten to 12th grade. After a stint in the Navy, White returned to Tillamook and worked to save money for college, while also honing his craft as a cartoonist with some creations submitted to the Headlight Herald, before matriculating at Lewis & Clark College.

It was there that he met his wife, Virginia, with Donna Kaser, Richard’s sister and the trustee for the couple’s state, recalling that they were drawn together by their shared passion for art. “They met at Lewis & Clark,” Kaser said, “they were both studying art and married before they graduated.”



Richard and Virginia White.

Photo courtesy TBCC Foundation

The couple’s passion for art continued during their marriage, with Richard teaching Virginia to draw cartoon characters and the pair taking a cross-county trip to the 1964 World’s Fair in New York from their home in San Diego, drawing along the way.

Education was another core value of the Whites, and though there was no community college in Tillamook during Richard’s youth, he decided to support the institution with his portion of the estate.

“When [he] passed, the trust was split and his was always wanted for Tillamook Bay Community College (TBCC),” Kaser said. “He felt it was something he would

like the college to have, something to help the students.”

TBCC Foundation’s board will determine the best use for the returns from the endowment, expected to be around \$30,000 to \$35,000 annually, each year at a quarterly meeting each March. TBCC Foundation Executive Director Britta Lawrence said that the gift could be used for credit or non-credit programs and that the board intended to use the money flexibly to maximize its impact.

“We are deeply grateful for the White family’s belief in our mission,” Lawrence said. “This incredible gift will open doors for generations of TBCC students.”

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Leading with Heart:  
Meet the Finalists for Citizen of the Year

**TILLAMOOK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The heart of Tillamook County is not found in its landmarks or its landscapes, but in the tireless spirit of the people who call this place home. In the final installment of our 2025 Chamber Community Award highlights, we celebrate the selfless individuals who represent the best of our community's spirit and leadership. This year's Citizen of the Year nominees represent servant leadership, from

veterans and healthcare pioneers to advocates for our youth and protectors of our animals. Each of these finalists has looked at a need in our community and met it with unwavering dedication, often working behind the scenes without expectation of praise. These are the neighbors who build our future, one act of service at a time.

Vanessa Cham is deeply committed to strengthening Tillamook County through her leadership, service and care for local families. As the Executive Director of the Tillamook

Early Learning Center, she leads a team that provides essential daycare, nutrition and education services to nearly 60 local families. Her passion for child safety led her to spearhead the "Dive Into Water Fun & Safety" event in Garibaldi, which provides free life jackets and education to hundreds of children. Beyond her professional role, Vanessa serves on the boards of both the Kiwanis Club and the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. A devoted mother and caregiver to her extended family, Vanessa's tireless work ethic and heart for service make her a community treasure.

Barbara McCann has been the driving force behind the North County Recreation District since 1995. When the local school district moved out, Barbara spearheaded the effort to save the building and pool, successfully placing the recreation district on the ballot. For nearly 30 years, she has been the "common thread" ensuring the facility's survival through numerous successful bond measures. Most recently, Barbara defied the odds by leading the \$16-million campaign

to build a modern aquatics center, ensuring that health, safety and community connection remain a legacy for North County for generations to come.

Judy Riggs embodies the spirit of service, integrity, and dedication that defines Tillamook County. An Air Force Veteran, Judy's commitment to others was forged in the highest levels of duty. Locally, she served as Garibaldi's Postmaster for 14 years and later as mayor, always prioritizing the dignity and security of every resident. Her volunteerism is boundless, from staffing the Garibaldi Museum to her tireless work at God's Lighthouse Food Pantry. Whether she is personally hauling groceries for families in need, maintaining Highway 101 through the Adopt-a-Road program, or coordinating the Giving Tree for local children, Judy leads with a smile and a genuine heart.

Eric Sappington enhances the quality of life in Tillamook County through a unique blend of artistic talent and community mentorship. Whether he is enriching local lives with his music or supporting youth through the YMCA's Court

4 program, Eric's presence is a constant source of encouragement. He is the first to step in when a need arises, always showing up with a positive attitude and a signature smile. Beyond his artistic gifts, Eric's willingness to serve whenever called upon and his genuine gratitude for those around him make him an exceptional neighbor and an outstanding part of our community.

Nelia Seratista is widely known throughout Tillamook for her extraordinary generosity and open-door spirit. As the owner of Pacific Restaurant, she has transformed her business into a community hub, frequently providing her space free of charge for non-profits, school groups and fundraisers. Nelia has a unique ability to mobilize dedicated volunteers for vital causes like Tides of Change and Shop with a Cop. From donating food to hosting the annual law enforcement dinner, Nelia's selfless investment in local organizations and consistent support make her a respected part of the county.

Eric Swanson exemplifies servant leadership through his commitment

to the health of Tillamook County. As President of Adventist Health Tillamook, Eric has led transformative healthcare improvements, most notably his multi-year mission to restore local dialysis services in 2025. Recognizing the physical and financial toll long-distance travel took on vulnerable patients, Eric navigated complex regulatory and financial hurdles to bring this lifesaving care back to the community. He pursued this difficult task not for institutional gain, but to ensure residents could receive treatment with dignity, keeping families together and providing a vital safety net for those in need.

Dusty Trost, Principal Broker of Rob Trost Real Estate, leads his team with a rare blend of strength, vision and heart. Since stepping into leadership in 2019, he has not only upheld his father's legacy but expanded it through a culture of quiet, sincere service. From revitalizing the Netarts park to his steadfast support of 4-H and local youth, Dusty consistently invests in the traditions that define Tillamook. Though he prefers to stay out of the spotlight, his hands-on generosity and humble leadership inspire a ripple effect of kindness throughout the entire county.

Nonda Zwald has dedicated over a decade to animal welfare and community service in Tillamook County. Following the creation of the "Mutt Strutt" in honor of her daughter, Sondi, Nonda became the driving force behind Tillamook K9 Rescue. Under her leadership, a deteriorating building was transformed into a functional shelter that provides a safe haven for lost and abandoned dogs. Nonda has rallied local contractors, organized microchip clinics, and partnered with law enforcement to fill a vital gap in local services. Her tireless advocacy, integrity, and compassion have ensured that countless animals find their forever homes and a second chance.

Choosing just one recipient from such an extraordinary group is a daunting task, as each of these eight individuals has left a mark on the fabric of our community. Their stories remind us that whether through a lifelong career of service or a quiet, daily commitment to kindness, every resident has the power to create a ripple effect of positive change. We invite you to join us in honoring these local heroes and celebrating their contributions at the Chamber Community Awards Banquet on Saturday, January 24th, at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds. This is our night to say "thank you" to those who make Tillamook County a better place for us all. Tickets are selling fast, visit [tillamookchamber.org/rsvp](http://tillamookchamber.org/rsvp) to secure your tickets today.

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# Cheesemakers Take Two

DAVID RICHMOND  
Tillamook Swim Coach

Both the boys' and girls' swim teams earned a trophy at the Molalla invitational the second weekend of January. The boys and girls were second only to Silverton at the meet that boasted prelims in the morning and finals (top 8) in the afternoon. The boys have been on a tear this year and outside of losing to Silverton who is in a higher classification (5A), the Cheesemakers are undefeated against all other classifications, including 6A schools.

We are deep this year on the boy's side and have a number of boys who are quick and versatile. First among them is Wyatt Swart who continues to impress and improve. He had the top finish on the boy's side, swimming to 2nd place in the 200IM with a big drop in his personal best. He was also third in the 100 butterfly by only .07 seconds. Soren Johnson, Easton Vance and Johnny Sappington also swam to third place finishes in their respective finals. Johnson's top 3 was in the 200 freestyle, while Vance swam the breaststroke and Sappington's the 500 free. All four boys swam to top finishes in their four events.

Cyrus Werner and Tristan Valencia also dropped their sprint times during the meet and had big impacts in the relays in finals. Werner had a top 4



The Tillamook swim teams with their trophies earned at the Molalla Invitational.

Photo courtesy David Richmond

and top 5 finish in the 50 and 100 freestyle respectively. Mason Barajas had an impressive personal best in the 100 backstroke to place in the top 6.

Drew Boomer, Weston Wilks, North Mulder and Neah Kah Nie swimmer Jacob Flynn also had big time drops on the day.

Captain Soren Johnson

noted, "The boys' team is an especially tight group this year" and they all have a collective goal to not just win the Cowapa League title, but the one that matters most, the District 3 crown.

Newport has had a strangle hold on that meet for 17 straight years and they won't let go of it eas-

ily. We hope to continue to train hard, give it our best effort and try to finally knock them off this year.

The last team to beat Newport at the District meet, coincidentally, was Tillamook almost 20 years ago in 2008.

On the girl's side, Indi Rhodes showed the big schools how it's done.

She clocked a solid 500 time running away with the top time in the longest event. She also placed second in the 200 freestyle to lead the team. Violette Gomes impressed again going for top 2 finishes in both the 50 free and 100 freestyle. She's been great this year. She was just out touched by

hundredths of a second in the 50 free. We thought she had it as she was hard charging down the stretch but came up just a bit short. Both girls will be big factors in the championship meets coming up. League is just three short weeks away and District is 4 weeks away. It's hard to believe we are so close to the finish of the season. The most exciting part of the season is coming up these two are ready now.

Battling a sore shoulder didn't stop Emmy Mulder from having a huge meet. She was third in the 50 free just off the lead by a few tenths and swam to a PR and top 4 finish in the 100 free.

Sanni Venlainen was impressive in her efforts on the day swimming in finals in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke. In only her second meet swimming the IM, she swam the race flawlessly and to a top 5 finish. She is a foreign exchange student for us, and we are so thrilled to have her.

Rachel and Lauren Phillips also had big days swimming in finals. Rachel in the 50 and 100 freestyle and Lauren in the 100 breast. Lauren took off 5 more seconds in her breaststroke and close to 10 in her 100 free. We love to see that.

The Cheesemakers go on the road to St. Helens for a dual, before coming back to host the annual Cheese Relays at home.

# Lady Cats get bounce-back win

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

After dropping two of their previous three games, the Nestucca High School girls' basketball team scored an emphatic 75-51 home victory over the Portland Christian Royals on January 12.

The Bobcats jumped out to an enormous lead with a blistering hot first quarter, headlined by nine points from reserve Carly Wisehart, who scored 17 on the night, and cruised to the easy victory.

McKennah McDonald got the Cats rolling with an early three and Taylor Knight scored a fast break layup off a Piper Armstrong steal to push the lead to five. The Royals answered with a midrange two but an and-one from Autumn Rist, transition layup from Armstrong, three from Knight and short Armstrong jumper pushed the lead to 15-2 before they scored again.

Nestucca dominated time of possession as Portland Christian struggled with

their full-court press and lost the battle for boards, and Nestucca's lead grew to 24-7 with two and a half to go in the quarter as the Bobcat offense continued its scorching hot and balanced attack. Carly Wisehart chipped in nine off the bench in the quarter's waning moments, including a buzzer-beating three to push the lead to 34-10.

The Bobcats cooled slightly as the second quarter began except for Piper Armstrong, who scored six points in the first two minutes. Rist sank a three shortly later, but the Royals slightly trimmed the lead to 48-19 with two left in the half and 50-24 at the break as Nestucca remained cool.

Nestucca came out with a renewed offensive intensity to start the second half and again pushed the lead past 30, 60-29, with four minutes left in the quarter. The Bobcats continued to stretch the lead with seven unanswered and by the end of the quarter led 69-38.

The Bobcat reserves took over in the fourth quarter



Armstrong goes up in the paint against the Royals in the second quarter.

and struggled to gain traction, though the lead proved sufficient for them to hold on for the 75-51 win.

Armstrong finished the night with 14 points, while Knight chipped in 12 and McDonald 11, and Nestucca

improved to 10-2 on the season, and 2-1 in league play with the win. The Bobcats returned to action

on January 14, with a 43-41 win at Clatskanie, ahead of a matchup on Friday against Gaston (result unavailable).

# Pirate wrestlers turn in strong performances

BY MIKE WEBER  
For The Headlight Herald

The Neah-Kah-Nie High Pirates boys and girls wrestling teams competed in two OSAA Class 3A meets last week and they had several athletes turn in standout performances.

The 10-member boys' squad was highlighted by a third-place finish for senior Nathaniel Tinnes (1-0) who took first place in the 165-pound division in a Class 3A/2A Special District 1 dual meet Jan. 12 at Vernonia High School.

The Pirates, guided by fifth-year head Coach Alejandro Quintana and assistant coach Krista Bozely, also had a solid overall finish by other

wrestlers, who helped their team win two-out-of-three dual events at Vernonia.

"Everything is going pretty well, and Nathaniel had a good performance at Vernonia," said Quintana.

On January 10, the Pirates boys squad competed at the eight-team Bob Bishop Classic at Willamina High School and had an impressive overall performance by taking third place in team scoring. Tinnes took third place in his weight class. Freshman Ivan Cazarez took sixth place in the 132-pound division and junior Nathan Vance (285 lbs.) also notched a sixth-place finish.

"We did okay at Willamina and it was a tough tournament, so it was good to get third place," said Quintana. "It's get-

ting down to crunch time now, so we're just looking forward to getting a couple of kids to qualify for the state tournament. Nathaniel is having a good season and we're hoping that he'll qualify for state. Senior Alex Lessor (157 lbs.) has been doing well to despite the fact that he's dealing with an injury, but I think he'll have a good chance to qualify for state as well."

The Pirates boys' squad will compete in the SD1 District Tournament February 14 at Yamhill-Carlton High School and the top four finishers qualify for the OnPoint Community Credit Union Wrestling State Championships Tournament Feb. 26-28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

"On our girls' team, senior

Sara Vega (113 lbs.) and junior Trinity Schenk-Williams (126 lbs.) are first-year wrestlers who have been doing pretty good, but they won't be able to qualify for state," said Quintana. "There's a lot of tough girls in the Class 4A/3A/2A/1A level and Sara and Trinity are still pretty new in the sport

since they've only been wrestling for one season."

Schenk-Williams had a solid performance while winning one out-of-three matches in a tournament Jan 14 at Riverside High School in Tualatin.

The Pirate boys and girls will compete in their next meet January 24 in a three-

way dual meet with Banks and Yamhill-Carlton at Yamhill-Carlton High School.

The Pirates girls' team will compete in the Class 4A/3A/2A/1A Special District 1 tournament February 20-21, and the top four finishers qualify for the state meet February 26-28.

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Lady Pirates lose to Banks

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

In a tough outing, the Neah-Kah-Nie High School girls' basketball team dropped a league game 37-21 at home against the Banks Braves on January 15. The Pirates never found an offensive rhythm on the night, struggling with the Braves' defensive pressure throughout, and after holding an early lead, watched the visiting team pull away for the win. The teams traded threes in the early minutes of the game but were otherwise cold from the field and remained knotted at three with four to go in the quarter. Neah-Kah-Nie struggled with Bank's defensive pressure and turned the ball over repeatedly, but the Braves failed to capitalize and a Lucy Smith free throw with two and a half put the Pirates ahead and a Ruby Martine basket with a little over minute left stretched the lead to 6-3 after one. A Bianca Smith three a bit over a minute into the quarter stretched the Pirate lead to six but the Braves responded with two midrange jumpers to cut it back to two and tied it up on a layup off



Acacia Christensen goes up for a basket in the paint.

a steal as Neah-Kah-Nie continued to struggle with Banks's defensive pressure. After several scoreless minutes another Banks midrange jumper returned the lead to the Pirates and after a Banks layup, Marilyn Dante cut the

lead to 13-11 at the half with a layup. Neah-Kah-Nie remained in an offensive funk as the second half got under way, though Banks fared little better and led 17-13 with four minutes to go in the quarter. Banks scored six straight in the next minute to push the lead to double digits and with just four points between the teams in the rest of the quarter, the Pirates headed into the fourth trailing 26-14. In the fourth, Neah-Kah-Nie's offensive travails continued, with the squad scoreless through four minutes, allowing the Banks lead to grow to 35-14. A Bianca Smith putback with just over two left ended the drought for the Pirates but the Braves held on for the 37-21 win. Bianca Smith led the Pirates in scoring with eight points in the game as the squad snapped a five-game winning streak with the loss and moved to 9-5 on the season and 2-1 in league play following a 39-32 win at Riverdale earlier in the week. Neah-Kah-Nie is scheduled to return to action Wednesday at Warrenton before a Friday home matchup against Rainier.

Pirates fall to Braves

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Neah-Kah-Nie High School's boys' basketball team lost a close home game to the league rival Banks Braves on January 16, coming up just short 53-48. The Pirates struggled with Banks's defensive pressure all night long and could not find a way to build or sustain a lead. Clayton Dante led the Pirates with 11 points on the night, while reserve Marcus Johnson chipped in ten. Early in the game both teams were playing strong defense and three minutes in the only basket had come from Dylan Sigman on a transition layup off a steal. Banks evened the game on a driving lay in a little less than a minute later and took the lead on a three following a Dante floater in the lane with two and a half left in the quarter. A Johnson layup returned the lead to the Pirates shortly later and

after a Brave layup off a steal, Douma tied the game with a free throw before the Banks bench drew a technical allowing Dante to give the Pirates an 8-7 lead from the line. Banks responded with another layup and Johnson answered with one of his own before two late Braves free throws put them ahead 11-10 after one. Neah-Kah-Nie's offense went dormant as the second began, as the team struggled to take care of the ball, allowing Banks to extend their lead to eight before Dante ended the run with a contested midrange jumper. The Brave run continued as time wound down in the half, as the defensive pressure continued to flummox the Pirates, and the lead was 23-14 with two minutes to go. Lewis knocked home a three with one and a half left and the teams traded baskets before two Sigman free throws cut the lead to 25-21 at the half. A 7-3 Pirate run drew the game level on a Lewis three two and a half min-



Sigman attacking the basket in transition against Banks.

utes into the second, and Johnson converted on a second chance opportunity near the basket on the next possession to give Neah-Kah-Nie the 30-28 lead. Both teams went cold from the field as the quarter wore on, as the Pirates again struggled with turnovers, allowing the Braves to tie the game with around four to go. The teams stayed close for the rest of the quarter, with Dante scoring four for the Pirates, and Banks took a 36-34 advantage to the fourth. Banks extended the lead to six with four unanswered before Dante scored a contested layup. The Braves responded with a layup of their own and Douma scored a three on the next Pirate possession to cut the lead back

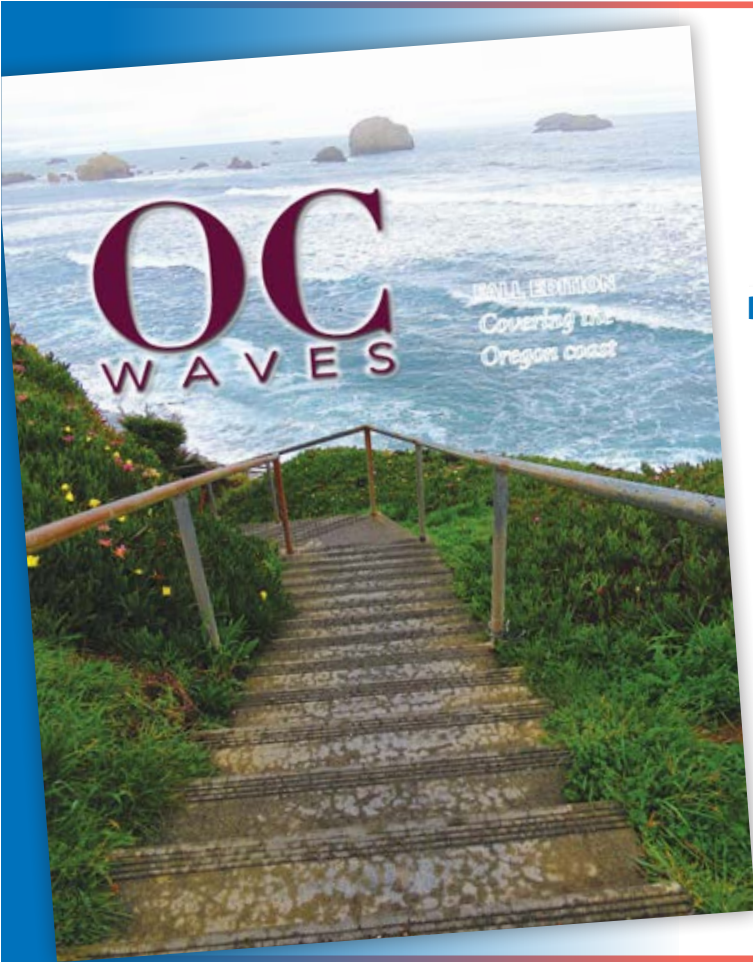
to 42-39 with six minutes remaining. Banks stretched the lead to nine with three and a half to go, as the Pirates were again cold from the field, drawing a Neah-Kah-Nie timeout. The Pirates struggles continued after the break, with the Braves pushing the lead to 11 before a Douma three ended the run. Kason Fletcher scored on a drive on the next possession and Douma knocked home a contested floater from the foul line to cut the lead to 51-46 entering the final minute. A Sigman steal and breakaway dunk trimmed the lead to three with 30 seconds left but two Brave free throws pushed it back to five and Neah-Kah-Nie failed to score again, falling 53-48. Neah-Kah-Nie went to 8-6 on the season and 1-2 in Coastal Range League play with the loss, after a 77-30 win earlier in the week at Riverdale. The Pirates return to action with games this Wednesday at Warrenton and on Friday versus Rainier.

Nestucca loses to Portland Christian

WILL CHAPPELL  
Headlight Editor

Nestucca High School's boys'

basketball team snapped a two-game win streak with a tough home 76-30 loss against the Portland Christian Royals on January 12. The Bobcats fell into a hole early and struggled all night with the Royals' defense, with Mason Vu leading the team with nine points. Both teams came out cold in the early minutes of the game as the Bobcats struggled with Portland Christian's defensive pressure and fell into a 6-0 hole before Mason Vu scored a midrange jumper with five minutes left. The Royals kept their foot on the gas as the quarter progressed, pushing the lead to double digits and to 27-7 at the end of one. The Royals cooled off in the second quarter though their defense continued to frustrate Nestucca, leaving them ahead 33-11 with four to go in the half. Nestucca's struggles continued as time wound down and they trailed 43-15 at the break. The second half brought more of the same, and the Bobcats trailed 70-23 after three and lost 76-30. With the loss the Bobcats fell to 5-7 on the season and 1-2 in league play. They returned to action with a 60-50 win at Clatskanie on January 14, before a home game against Gaston on January 16 (result unavailable).



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<https://www.tillamookcounty.gov/emergency-management/page/tillamook-county-citizens-corps-council>.

## Prevention Is Powerful: What We Can Do to Stop Cervical Cancer

*Paul Welch, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer at Adventist Health. A board-certified provider with decades of experience in care and leadership, he guides all clinical practice settings to deliver the best experience and outcomes for patients in the communities Adventist Health Tillamook serves.*

# Adventist Health Tillamook Receives Significant Gift from Bill Block Foundation

The Bill Block Foundation is currently developing a website to share more information about its work and grantmaking process, which is expected to launch in spring 2026. At this time, the foundation's giving remains family-directed and thoughtfully researched to align with its mission and values.

# 2026 Business and Community Resource Guide For Tillamook County

## PRINTED GUIDE • ONLINE PUBLICATION

Magazine

On Desktop

On Mobile

*Sample Cover from 2025, image by Brooke Walker*

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**Tuesday**, January 20, 2026

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Page B4

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## 999 Public Notices

HH26-001 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE. On 02-05-2026 at the hour of 10:30 AM at the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, 5995 Long Prairie Road, in the City of Tillamook, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the residential real property commonly known as 470 NORTH AVENUE MANZANITA, OR 97130, where GREENSPRING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE RMH 2023-3 TRUST, is Plaintiff v. UNKNOWN HEIRS,

DEVISEES AND BENEFICIARIES OF DORENE L. DUNLAP; WEST ONE BANK, OREGON S.B; THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; and ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 470 NORTH AVENUE, MANZANITA, OR 97130, is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Tillamook County Sheriff's Office. For legal description and more information on this sale go to: [www.oregonsheriffssales.org](http://www.oregonsheriffssales.org)

1/6/26 1/13/26 1/20/26 1/27/26

HH26-002 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 142623-OR Loan No.: \*\*\*\*\*0113 Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by BRANDON TRAVIS

**At its Board meeting on Monday, January 8, 2026, The Neah-Kah-Nie School Board announced three vacant positions on its budget committee. The positions are in the following Zones:**

**Zones 1 -** The area included in the Pine Grove Precincts.

**Zone 3 and 4 -** (Common boundaries) The areas included in the Wheeler, South Rockaway Beach and North Rockaway Beach Precincts and including that area of the Twin Rocks Precinct which is contiguous with the south boundary of the Wheeler Precinct and the north boundary of the North Rockaway Beach Precinct.

Neah-Kah-Nie School District requires any applicant to reside within the NKN boundary and be a registered voter. We prefer you reside within the zone, but if you are still interested, please contact Kari Fleisher, 503-355-2222.

To apply for one of these positions please contact Kari Fleisher for an application. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026.

H26302

### OPEN POSITIONS:

**Nehalem Elementary School**

- District Special Education Assistant

**Neah-Kah-Nie High School**

- Temporary GEAR Up Coordinator
- 26/27 High School Counselor
- 26/27 Science Teacher

**District**

- Temporary Behavior Interventionist (remainder of 25/26 school Year)

Questions? 503-355-3506

**SUBSTITUTES NEEDED - PLEASE CONTACT ESS.COM**

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- Classroom
- Secretarial
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Neah-Kah-Nie School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## Tillamook School District No.



### Classified:

- School Bus Driver @ Transportation (477)
- Food Service Helper, 7 hrs/day @ Liberty (490)
- Preschool Educational Assistant, 7.5 hrs/day @ WRS (493)

### Extra Duty:

- Flag Football Coach @ THS (489)
- Assistant Track Coach, 2 Positions @ TJHS (491)
- Head Track Coach @ TJHS (492)

### Substitute:

- Substitute Teacher (485)
- Support Staff Substitute (484)

To view job details, qualifications and more job postings, visit our website [www.tillamook.k12.or.us](http://www.tillamook.k12.or.us) Questions? Contact: Hannah Snow Roberts, [hsnowh@tillamook.k12.or.us](mailto:hsnowh@tillamook.k12.or.us), (503) 842-4414, ext. 1200

Full time employees are entitled to excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits (PERS). Tillamook School District is an equal opportunity educator and employer. All employees must pass a criminal background/fingerprint check.

Tillamook  
Headlight Herald



## LEGALS

### DEADLINE

**Wednesdays 4 p.m.**

ciary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums: Delinquent Payments: Dates: 7/1/2025 - 12/1/2025, Total: \$8,694.84. Late Charges: \$523.57, Beneficiary Advances: \$850.00, Total Required to Reinstated: \$10,068.41, TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$175,409.96. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$169,233.92 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.5 % per annum, from 6/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all

vances: \$850.00, Total Required to Reinstated: \$10,068.41, TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$175,409.96. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$169,233.92 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.5 % per annum, from 6/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all



### OPEN POSITIONS

#### Special Education

#### Instructional Assistant- K8 Life Skills

- \$18.25-\$21.69 per hour -180 day contract

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[www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/hr/index.php](http://www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/hr/index.php)

## Administrative Assistant

**Opening Date: January 2, 2026**

**Closing Date: Open till filled; First Review on January 16th at 4:30 p.m.**

**Salary Range: \$22.00-\$28.00 per hour depending on Qualifications and Experience**

Tillamook Fire District is actively recruiting for (1) full time, 40 hour/week Administrative Assistant.

### Position Overview:

The Administrative Assistant, under administrative direction, manages and fulfills the clerical and financial workload for the Fire District. Also provides staff assistance to Fire Chief and performs other job-related work as required.

**To be considered for this position, qualified candidates must submit the following:**

- Application (required)
- Cover Letter (required)
- Resume (required)
- Credentials, Certifications and Licensing (if applicable)

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.tillamookfire.com](http://www.tillamookfire.com)

If you have specific inquires not otherwise listed on our website, please feel free to contact Administrative Chief Dale Kamrath at 541-517-9867 or [dkamrath@tillamookfire.com](mailto:dkamrath@tillamookfire.com)

Please submit by Mail:  
Tillamook Fire District  
Attn: Administrative Assistant Recruitment  
2310 4th Street  
Tillamook OR, 97141  
OR

Email: [dkamrath@tillamookfire.com](mailto:dkamrath@tillamookfire.com)

**Submission deadline for first Review is January 16, 2026, 4:00 PM**

Applicants must provide certification that they are a veteran or disabled veteran to receive veteran's preference.

*Tillamook Fire District provides equal employment opportunity to all qualified employees and applicants, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran's status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, Oregon, or local law. No application will be rejected because of a disability that, with reasonable accommodation, does not prevent performance of the essential job duties. To claim veterans' preference in hiring, complete the Veteran's Preference Form and submit it with the required documentation at the time you submit this application.*

H26290











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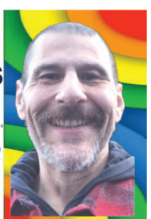
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999Public Notices

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HH26-024 COMPENSATION BOARD MEETING NOTICE. Tillamook County's Compensation Board will meet on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room 106 at the Tillamook County Courthouse, 201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook. The teleconference number is 1-971-254-3149, Conference ID: 866 914 607#. The Compensation Board, as required by State law ORS 204.112, will discuss the process to determine compensation for the salaries of the County's elected officials. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Hagerty, Chief Administrative Officer, at [rachel.hagerty@tillamookcounty.gov](mailto:rachel.hagerty@tillamookcounty.gov). 1/20/26

[zoomgov.com/j/1606267174?pwd=Qxs8FOgxtliFbyf0sQocFUBIDMs5tw.1](https://zoomgov.com/j/1606267174?pwd=Qxs8FOgxtliFbyf0sQocFUBIDMs5tw.1) Meeting ID: 160 626 7174, Passcode: 205507. One tap mobile +16692545252, 1606267174# US (San Jose) +14154494000, 1606267174# US (US Spanish Line) Meeting ID: 160 626 7174. Find your local number: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/ac2TWHAAog>. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input from farmers, ranchers, foresters, agencies, and groups to help guide the conservation efforts of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Tillamook County. This will be a hybrid meeting, and is also available via Zoom Online. To request accommodations for persons with disabilities, please contact Thomas Gehrken with the US-DA-NRCS at (503)457-9027 by February 9, 2026.

1/20/26 1/27/26

### 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: L equals U

HTBI RUL GBXMLDCB ADIR

GBUGQB WU AUOB WU

L VXDEIB'M JDGEWDQ, HTDW

CU RUL CU? WTEJVB I VEBO.

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### Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Stand up for	___ F ___	Rely upon	___ P ___
2. Iron or pewter	___ T ___	Olympic award	___ D ___
3. Oak fruit	___ C ___	Decorate	___ D ___
4. Airplane garage	___ _ A _	Closet implement	___ _ E _
5. Burn down	___ R _	Physical contact	___ U _
6. Weather prediction	___ _ R	Spic-and-span	___ _ N
7. Florida citrus	O _ _ _	Rural homestead	G _ _ _
8. Snap into	_ R _ _	Dismal	_ L _ _
9. Barrister	L _ _ _	Finn's buddy	S _ _ _
10. Remove whiskers	_ H _ _	Sophisticated	_ U _ _

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"Well, it's that time again to regret you didn't marry a \_\_\_\_\_ woman!"

### 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!

Mean  
LIMPY

Hue  
DEASH

Bask  
LOWLAW

Garb  
TRAITE

TODAY'S WORD

### Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Defend, Depend	6. Clear, Clean
2. Metal, Medal	7. Orange, Grange
3. Acorn, Adorn	8. Break, Bleak
4. Hangar, Hanger	9. Lawyer, Sawyer
5. Torch, Touch	10. Shave, Suave

Go Figure!  
answers

8 + 9 = 2 = 15
+ + +
7 + 6 x 3 = 39
÷ x ÷
1 + 4 ÷ 5 = 1
= = =
15 60 1

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Imply; 2. Shade; 3. Wallow; 4. Attire

Today's Word  
**WEALTHY**

### CryptoQuip

answer

When you persuade many people to move to Ukraine's capital, what do you do? Thicken Kiev.

OLD SAILING TERMS STILL USED TODAY

### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Man is looking the other way. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Necktie is missing. 4. Tie is different. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Armrest is different.

### SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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