

PHOTO COURTESY PORT OF TILLAMOOK BAY Hangar B is closed indefinitely as a fix is determined.

## Wind damage closes Hangar B

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

An intense windstorm with gusts above 50 miles an hour ripped a 200-foot-long section from the roof of Hangar B at the Port of Tillamook Bay on December 16, forcing the closure of the Tillamook Air Museum and other businesses located in the hangar.

Officials from the port are now working to determine the best way to address the issue, though with no insurance on the structure and a six-figure price tag solely to rent scaffolding to address the situation, finding a solution may be challenging

Roofer Rick Lofton appeared at the port's board of commissioners meeting on December 17, to discuss the damage to the hangar and possible steps forward. Lofton said that he believed the hole on the southeast end of the hangar had been caused by water intrusion creating weakness in the structure, leading to a rip when the high winds caught a saturated piece of material.

The hole is just below the transition point between the convex portion of the hangar and the morevertical portion of the wall, and Lofton said that led him to believe intrusion occurred at the transition point where different water barriers were joined.

Lofton said that there was still debris hanging from the hole and that the port needed to secure the hole to prevent future storms from bringing the entire structure down, adding that any temporary fix would require a rigid cover for the hole.

Port of Tillamook Bay General Manager Michele Bradley said that the incident had caused a tent owned by the port to fill with water and collapse, but that none of the planes underneath had been damaged. Bradley also said vehicles, including RVs, boats and cars, that are usually stored in the area where

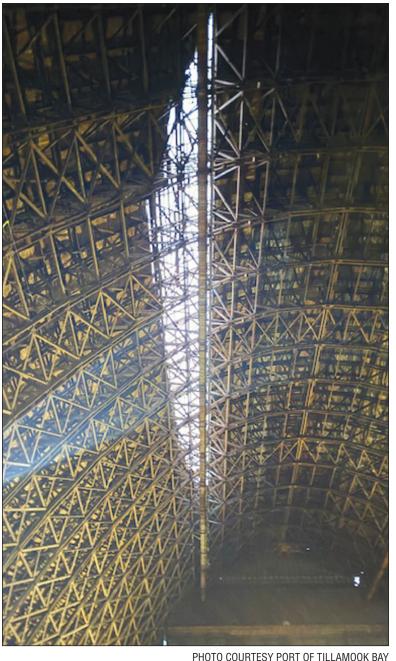


PHOTO COURTESY PORT OF TILLAMOOK BAY

A windstorm caused a hole in the roof of Hangar B at the port of Tillamook Bay.

the damage occurred have been

relocated.

Lofton said that he recommended the port find a crane to allow him to better evaluate the damage, remove the hanging debris and devise a temporary measure to repair the hole and minimize further damage.

In the long run, Lofton said that he believed the correct approach was to erect scaffolding around the hole to work on a permanent repair. The scaffolding would need to reach 180 feet into the air, span the entirety of the 200-foot hole and stand 80-feet wide, which Lofton said would cost at least \$178,000 based on an initial quote. Lofton

said that the hole was too high for most cranes in the region to access and that there were no anchor points on the roof, making scaffolding the best option for accessing the damage

Port commissioners instructed Lofton and port staff to continue fleshing out the possible solutions and set an emergency meeting for December 22, to discuss next steps for both the short- and long-term repairs.

With the risk of additional debris falling posing a risk, commissioners also decided to close the hangar until further notice for the Tillamook Air Museum and its other tenants.

# Rockaway Beach council raises sewer rates

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Rockaway Beach's city council voted to raise water rates in each of the next five years at their meeting on December 10, with the first increase of \$3.65 scheduled for January 1.

The following increases will be around \$5 annually and by 2030, residents will pay a rate of \$75.45 monthly for sewer service, as compared to \$50.80 now.

The increase came following a rate study conducted by HDR Engineers, which was presented to council by Josiah Close of HDR at the meeting. Close told council that the city's sewer rate had last been updated in 2009, since which prices have risen more than 50%.

Close said that this left the city's sewer utility in a position where the utility would not be able to cover costs into the future, with revenues for this year projected at \$1.149 million against costs of \$1.198 million. The utility's reserve fund has around \$200,000 to cover the gap between costs and revenues but would be depleted by fiscal year 2027 absent rate increases.

The reserve fund will be used to smooth the rate of increases over the next several years before beginning to be replenished once the rate is fully updated in 2030. Close also said that the rate increase would allow the utility to maintain its debt reserve, which can be used to help pay for future capital projects.

In addition to approving the rate increases, council also authorized City Manager Luke Shepard to execute an option agreement for the purchase of the lower half of the Jetty Creek Watershed from Nuveen Capital. The two parties had already

See ROCKAWAY COUNCIL, Page A3

# City of Manzanita declares local state of emergency due to landslide risk and forecasted storm

CITY OF MANZANITA

The Manzanita City Council has declared a local state of emergency in response to discovering an area of cityowned land where erosion has caused soil instability and surface failure. Saturated ground conditions have led to sections of sedimentary material fracturing and sliding downslope, leaving exposed soil and debris. The area is being actively assessed and stabilized.

With unstable land conditions in parts of the city and a forecasted storm expected to bring heavy rainfall and strong winds, city officials are concerned that the anticipated weather conditions may increase the risk of landslides, falling trees,

and damage to homes and public infrastructure, posing a threat to residents and emergency responders.

"This declaration allows the city to act quickly and responsibly to protect public safety," said Mayor Kathryn Stock. "Our priority is ensuring we have the flexibility to respond immediately if conditions worsen."

Under the emergency declaration, City Manager Leila Aman is authorized to take necessary actions to safeguard life and property. These include coordinating with county and state agencies, expediting emergency contracts and repairs, deploying personnel and resources, and taking preventive measures where needed.

The declaration is made pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 401.309 and 279B.080, which allow local governments to respond swiftly when conditions threaten public safety. The emergency declaration also

See **MANZANITA**, Page A2



The new addition's exterior at the rear of Adventist Health Tillamook.

#### Adventist surgery expansion progressing

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Adventist Health Tillamook's surgery suite expansion progress is dried in, and crews are working to install utilities in the new space, putting the new building on track for a March 2026 opening.

Once the 4,500 squarefoot addition's four operating rooms are open, Skanska USA Building will shift fo-

cus to renovating the current surgery suite into pre- and post-operative areas, with that work expected to be complete by next September.

A recent tour with the hospital's civic advisory board showed that walls in the new building have been framed and sheet rock hung,

See **ADVENTIST,** Page A3

Work progressing on mechanicals on the building's interior.



### Rockaway walking tour under development

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

A group of full- and part-time residents of Rockaway Beach have been working to bring a walking tour to the city to highlight its colorful history, a project which recently received a \$4,700 grant.

That award will finance 12 interpretive signs across the city that will feature historical photos of the city accompanied by stories and serve as the backbone of the walking tour.

The idea for a walking tour arose during a 2023 series of workshops hosted by the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association in Rockaway Beach to gather community input on destination management, according to Annette Dhein, one of those spearheading the walking tour effort. Dhein, whose family has been vacationing in Rockaway Beach for five generations, said that she had only recently become aware of the community's rich history and that she came into the workshops looking for ways to increase others' awareness of it.

While the workshops ended up focusing on larger projects like renovations to Lake Lytle and the city's wayside, Dhein said that she met other people who were also interested in promoting the area's history. The group learned that neighboring communities had volunteer nonprofit groups that helped to manage cultural attractions like

the Garibaldi Coast Guard Boathouse and historic Wheeler Hotel and decided to pursue that model for Rockaway Beach.

The group found a home with the Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce, which has a nonprofit arm under which they formed a committee to work on projects, with a goal of honoring the city's heritage. Dhein said that the group has been leveraging the chamber's membership in the Oregon Main Street Alliance to help identify available grants and optimize their communications.

In late November, grant writing efforts paid off when the Roundhouse Foundation awarded the group \$4,700 to help fund interpretive signs that will serve as the basis for the planned walking tour.

Dhein said that numerous residents and visitors have already contributed photographs of the city throughout the years, memorabilia from past restaurants and businesses and stories, and that the committee has been working to decide the best way to organize and present them.

"It's been really just like a big puzzle and each piece that somebody contributes adds to understanding the picture," Dhein said. "So, my takeaway to date has really been that it's enriching to share a place in history and it also builds pride in this collective future that we all have here together."

The grant will fund 12 two-by-three-foot panels

like one already at the caboose by the wayside, featuring black-and-white photos and text, and designed to withstand the coastal elements. Dhein said that the signs will mainly focus on Rockaway Beach's resort heyday, starting with the arrival of train service from the Willamette Valley in 1912 and continuing through the roaring 20s when the town featured a natatorium, dance pavilions and card rooms.

To guide those on the tour, the group is also developing a flyer that will be available at the caboose and online and feature a map of the different panels and additional stories to enhance the experience.

"The walking tour itself really brings this history to life," Dhein said. "We have firsthand accounts from some of these founding families, band members who played at the dance pavilions and this day in the life of the prohibition style. So, that will be shared in stories that are really compelling and through the people we'll draw people door to door listening, learning and seeing.

Dhein said that the committee hopes to secure funding for additional panels in the future and that they also hope to secure funding for a cultural center that would offer further opportunities to showcase the city's history.

Dhein said that the committee is also still looking



## ROCKAWAY BEACH COMMUNITY EDUCATION HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



CLOVERDALE OREGON 97112

for more photos or stories from the city's history from residents or visitors and that the project would be more impactful as more people participated. "Its success and its joy will come from it being a cooperative and collaborative thing with anybody and everybody that wants to do it," Dhein said.

#### MANZANITA State of Emergency

From Page A1

ratifies actions already taken by city staff in preparation for the forecasted storm. The local state of emergency will remain in effect through at least January 8, 2026, and may be extended if conditions require.

City officials urge residents, particularly those in areas with steep slopes or known drainage issues, to remain alert, prepare for

possible power outages or road closures, and follow any safety guidance issued by the city or emergency services

Updates will be shared through the city's website and official communication channels as conditions evolve.



#### **Healthy Happy Holidays**

The holidays are a time for joyful gatherings and celebration—let's keep them healthy too. Vaccinations for flu, COVID-19, and RSV are still available—come into the clinic today!

Staying safe also means practicing healthy habits that protect everyone during gatherings. Simple steps can make celebrations safer: wash hands often, keep indoor spaces ventilated, and be mindful of food safety when preparing and sharing meals. If you're feeling unwell, staying home helps ensure everyone can enjoy the season without illness.

By combining healthy habits with preventive care, we can all share meals, laughter, and traditions with peace of mind. The best gift you can give this season is good health. Happy holidays!

#happyholidays #healthyhabits

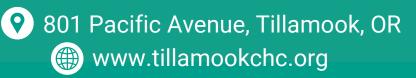


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## Pioneer Museum's Festival of Trees concludes with tea and gala

STAFF REPORT

Supporters of the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum gathered on December 17, for an afternoon tea and evening gala and silent auction to raise funds to support the museum and conclude its 21st annual festival of trees.

Eight trees decorated by community groups and businesses were on display on the museum's first floor and attendees were welcomed to explore all the museum's exhibits.

Unique silent auctions were up for grabs during both the afternoon tea and evening gala, and Christmas music and refreshments were also on offer.



## Coffin Butte landfill expansion approval buys Tillamook County time

**WILL CHAPPELL** CITIZEN EDITOR

Benton County commissioners approved an expansion of the Coffin Butte landfill located north of Corvallis on November 17, giving the facility capacity to operate for an estimated additional six years.

That was welcome news for the Tillamook County Solid Waste Program, which transports all 30,000 tons of waste generated in the county annually to the landfill, though Solid Waste Program Manager Justin Weiss said it was still important to

continue exploring alternatives to the site.

"It's still a short, stop-gap measure," Weiss said, "we've got to really look towards the future and what we're going to do beyond that six years, it could be shorter. Maybe there's another expansion in the future, but eventually we are going to have to find another resource."

The approval for the expansion of the 178-acre landfill in Adair Village operated by Republic Services came after a July denial of the request by Benton County's planning commission and despite the objections of neighboring property owners concerned about odor, traffic and pollution. A group of those residents have submitted a notice of their intent to appeal the approval to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals.

Tillamook County has used the Coffin Butte Landfill to dispose of the majority of solid waste for at least a decade, according to Weiss. Refuse collected at the county's three transfer stations is gathered at the central county station, operated by Averill Recycling,

which then transports it to Coffin Butte.

Central county's transfer station was originally a landfill but was capped in the middle of the 20th century, and Weiss said he does not see a new landfill within the county as a viable possibility.

So, when the initial denial of the application was issued this summer, Weiss, his staff and members of the county's solid waste advisory committee began looking for other options to dispose of the county's waste.

Weiss said that those alternatives are limited

locally, with the closest landfills aside from Coffin Butte located in eastern Oregon around the Dalles or Boardman. That physical distance would require trash be hauled to the Portland area and placed on trains for shipment, increasing costs. For the moment, that possibility looks to have been forestalled with the expansion approval, but Weiss noted that there is a chance Coffin Butte will stop accepting waste from agencies outside the local area before the six-year window elapses.

To be prepared when

Coffin Butte is no longer available, Weiss said that he would continue looking for alternate solutions but allowed that it was unlikely a new landfill would open west of the Cascades, meaning long-distance transport of waste and higher costs for the county and residents is likely.

"We do want to keep costs affordable and reasonable for Tillamook County residents," Weiss said, "but if we do have to spend more for disposal, that odes typically trickle down if we can't subsidize it somewhere else."

## Commissioners select firm for radio system construction, greenlight Beaver library

**WILL CHAPPELL** CITIZEN EDITOR

At a busy meeting on December 10, Tillamook County commissioners approved a letter of intent with EF Johnson Technologies to construct a new emergency radio system for the county and gave the goahead to add a new library branch in Beaver.

John Hartsock of J. N. Hartsock Project Management, who is managing the radio project for the county, discussed the letter of intent for construction of the project that is being supported by a \$24 million bond approved by voters last November.

Hartsock said that after

the county issued the bond early in the year, they published a request for proposals in May, with four firms initially expressing interest.

Hartsock said that the request solicited a turnkey proposal from contractors, with system design, permitting, construction, testing and training all included, and that the county asked for two potential solutions, one using 150 megahertz, very-high frequency radios and one using 700-800 megahertz radios.

In early December. EF Johnson and Motorola each submitted proposals. Motorola proposing an 18-site system for the 150-megahertz solution, a 23-site system for

the 700–800-megahertz system, or a 14-site hybrid system. EF Johnson proposed 17 sites, regardless the radio frequency used.

A steering committee made up of representatives from local emergency response agencies and several county staff reviewed the two proposals and recommended commissioners' move ahead with the EF Johnson submission.

Hartsock explained that the proposal did not include a price because of uncertainty about the costs associated with siting the equipment. Hartsock said that EF Johnson's proposal included both existing radio tower sites and new sites that the committee

needs to confirm can be leased.

That confirmation process is expected to take around 70 days, per Hartsock, who said that the data would then be given to EF Johnson to update the cost of the project, allowing final negotiations for the contract to occur in March and April of next year. Hartsock said that design and permitting would take place through the summer and fall of 2026. with construction slated to begin in spring 2027 and conclude by the end of the year, allowing training to occur in early 2028 before the system goes live by that

Hartsock said that the

team was aiming for the new system to cover 95% of the county and that a citizen advisory committee will be established to ensure accountability in the construction process.

The new library branch in Beaver is envisioned as part of a mixed-use development being developed by Schoolyard LLC, owned by Katie and Kevin Shluka who previously developed the Kingfisher Apartments in Pacific City.

Planned for the old Beaver Middle School, Kevin said that the new development would offer around 30 apartments when it came online in a couple years and that he and his wife were in discussions

with the Tillamook YMCA about using the school's gymnasium.

Tillamook County Library Director Donald Allgeier said that the library had identified the need for additional resources in south county in a 2022 strategic plan and been working to prepare for that expansion since. Given recent savings from switching catalogue systems, Allgeier said that the library could move forward on the project without additional resources, noting that they would hopefully work with the Tillamook County Library Foundation and South County Library Club to purchase furnishings for the new branch.



Work progressing on mechanicals on the building's interior.

## From Page A1

and work on installing other utilities was well underway.

The \$18 million project broke ground in fall 2024 and was initiated to meet expanding needs and fix a foundation issue with the existing operating rooms, which were built in

The project received \$1 million in funding from the federal government, with the remainder of its budget Health's capital management

being supported by Adventist

#### Rockaway Council

From Page A1

signed a letter of intent for the city to purchase the 800 acres of forestland at the city's north end that constitutes the lower half

of the watershed for Jetty Creek, which is the source of the city's drinking water. The original letter of intent had a deadline of the end of this year to enter an option agreement, which council also authorized Shepard to extend.

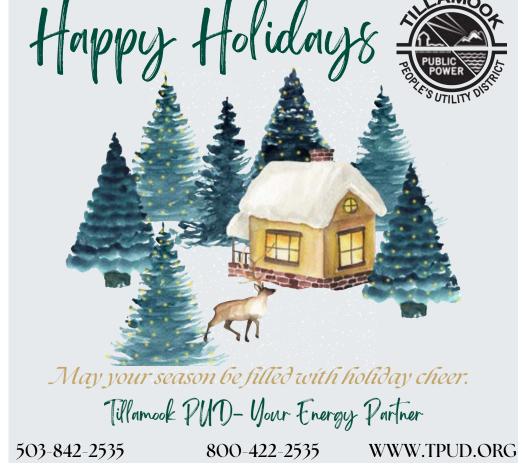
The city was awarded a \$1.4-million grant from the Oregon Watershed

Enhancement Board in July and received news that they had qualified for a loan of up to \$5 million from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, of which the lesser amount between \$2 million and 50% of the watershed's purchase price will be forgivable.

#### 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.

_ ,, ,		2							
1. Greasy dirt	M _	Complain	P						
2. Inspect the ledger		Of the ear	0						
3. An official order	c	PhD or BA	G						
4. Household duty	E	Musical note combo	D						
5. Nun	s	Child care giver	T						
6. Loner	H	Henson's frog	K						
7. Eye cosmetic	R	Napkin fabric	N						
8. Harriet Beecher	W _	Kitchen cooker	V _						
9. Frolic	A	Royal son							
10. Depart	L	Use a loom	W						
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#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### *MAGIC MAZE* ● — CUTTI

OTO/P\NKHDAXURPM II I A X V S Q N D K P I VTQOMJRLHF A Y REWURRPANLE EMDEHSURB GVRPMTGROK IIHAFDTBS PWLWTCPGVSSTO LITCIMAREC HOFIMUELONIL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: STOGIE

CABZXWMEGVCUSR

Bolt Brush Ceramic tile Coast Guard

Cookie Garment Gem Glass

Linoleum Milling Paper Pineapple

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#### CryptoQuip

answer

Stop trying to convince me that female sheep have no capacity to long for things. Ewe wish!

#### Weekly SUDOKU \_\_\_

#### Answer

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

#### Stickelers Answer

Figure C does not belong with the others. All of the other figures form the letter G, whereas figure C is a backward G.

#### **Super** Crossword

90 Bullfight cry 91 Really unkind

Mollroy

Huxtable on "The Cosby Show 55 Drink like

44 Foot cover

49 Soccer's

52 Player

Chastain

23 Coach induct-56 Greek coin 58 Baseballer Hall of Fame Slaughter **59** Jurists' gp 60 Speck in

25 Make dim. as by tears the ocean 26 Meal with a 63 High choir pastry crust voice 27 Spanish for 65 Ivory tickler 70-Down 69 Star of 2015's

28 "Star Trek" lieutenant Yar 30 Fashion designer once known

**ACROSS** 

1 Pairs

5 Actress

Thurman

8 "Well done!"

for a diva

13 "Shame on

19 Bows' shapes

21 Fundamental

22 Not planted

ed into the

**Baskethall** 

in 2008

you!"

20 is able to

for his metal couture 32 Equal to the face value 34 Shul text

37 Dress up, with "out" 38 "The Human Stain" novelist

36 Cartel formed

in '60

40 Hazy stuff 41 Heads, to Fifi

43 Sleek, in brief 46 Fido's pests 48 — -Magnon

93 Golf champ 94 Gettysburg

96 Bucket 98 "Kindergarten 103 Obsolescent TV hookup 104 Mia of soccer

105 Chichi tie 106 Give birth. as a cow 107 1960-89 NFL

110 Ordeal 112 Kuwait export 113 Reply 114 Cacophony

"Ant-Man" 71 Prior to featured 72 She played celebrities in Lulu Hogg on this puzzle "The Dukes are? of Hazzard' 118 Puerto

73 Six-stanza Ricans, e.g. poem 119 Certain 74 Siberian opening for husky, e.g. a bolt 76 Skyrockets 77 Tolkien fiend 121 Sensed

78 Moisturizer brand 79 Rim 81 Tiny peeve 82 Star of "Trapper John, M.D."

125 Punky Moon

92 German river victor George

5 West Coast sch, with the Cop" co-star Bruins 6 Eminent conductor 7 Slangy "Well,

then 8 Fraud-finding org. 9 Polo designer commissione Lauren 10 Sailing

11 It bought MTV in 1985 12 Old Athenian 116 What nine citadel 13 Rap's Shakur

14 Snooty sort 15 Univ. in the Midwest's Manhattan 16 First-rate 17 Heyday of Glenn Miller

18 Leg part 120 Bray syllable 24 "That was my best shot" 122 Bitcoins, e.g. 29 Place to buy 123 Ends sketchpads 124 Census stat 31 Aqua -

(corrosive Brewster liquid) player Soleil 33 Actor Ladd 35 Matey's cry

10

1 Mic-testing

2 Ghost

3 Ink-squirting

once: Abbr

mollusks

4 Lithuania,

39 — -dieu (prayer bench) 40 Scraped, as an 18-Down 41 Pouches for

50 Tabulae

52 Spur on

51 High grade

53 Dove sound

57 Beef quality

"Candle in

the Wind\*

warship

tag on

67 Sans -

74 — -mo

singer John

bought it in

rater, in brief

54 Panasonic

2009

82 Petite pooch, infusion for short 42 Turf for lawns 45 Having bright 83 An hour peepers before noon 84 Laughs at, 47 James Bond player Daniel say 49 Radar signals

85 Bolivian capital 86 435 in Cong. (blank slates) 88 Seer's shrine

**POTENTIAL** 

**SPIN DOCTORS** 

75 Take away

78 Holiday tree

danglers

compound

(from)

80 Organic

89 Fashionable Banks 93 One no longer working 95 Lured

97 Declaration when asking for directions 99 Transforms (into)

62 Old Greek 100 One fleeing 64 Change the to get hitched 101 In a devilish 65 Actor Simon way 102 Cross out

of "Mission: Impossible' 104 Tot's equine rocker 66 Tehran 105 Fable author native

107 Pasty-looking 108 Philosopher (font style) Descartes 109 "--- & Stitch" 68 Delicious 70 Dad's brother 111 Pinnacle 72 Peas' places 115 UFO crew

117 On's opposite 15 16 17

## Church Services by the Sea Cannon Beach to Nehalem

Pipe

Plas

Wire

#### **Nehalem Nehalem Bay United Methodist Church**

36050 10th Street, Nehalem, OR (503) 368-5612 Pastor Celeste Deveney + Sunday service 11 a.m.

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#### 56 103 105 108 119 122 123

#### 19 20 21 22 26 28 32 55 65 69 73 75 100 101 102 106 112 113 118 120 121

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#### Deadline for letters is noon Fridays.

The date of publication will depend on space.

#### **Obituaries**

The North Coast Citizen has several options for submitting obituaries.

- · Basic Obituary: Includes the person's name, age, town of residency, and information about any funeral services. No cost. • Custom Obituary: You choose the length and wording of the
- announcement. The cost is \$100 for the first 200 words, \$75 for each additional 200 words. Includes a small photo at no additional cost. • Premium Obituary: Often used by families who wish to
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include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who

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#### **CryptoQuip**

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: N equals Y

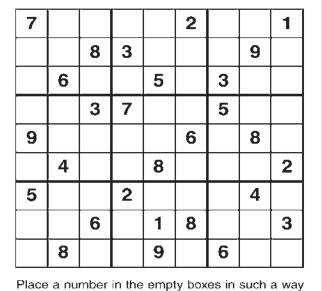
CSZK SWNEXR SZ BZXLEXBD GD SIJS QDGJHD CIDDK IJLD XZ

BJKJBESN SZ HZXR QZW SIEXRC. DVD VECI!

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#### Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle



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: ◆◆

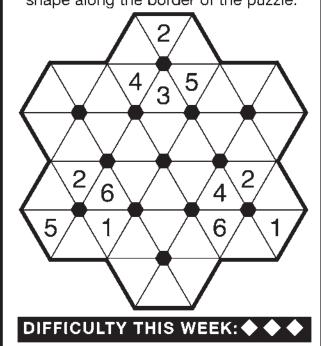
 Moderate → → Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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125

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.



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**Super** Crossword -Answers U M A



E M O N E

## After nearly two-year lapse, Congress renews Secure Rural Schools funding

**ALEX BAUMHARDT** Oregon Capital Chronicle

After letting funding lapse for nearly two years, Congress voted to renew crucial federal funding that rural counties and schools have counted on for a quarter century.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday evening voted 399-5 to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act through September 2026, and to provide lapsed payments for the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years. The vote came after a year-long campaign led by bipartisan federal lawmakers from the West.

The U.S. Senate in June unanimously voted to reauthorize the act. It now goes to the president to be signed into law.

"The Secure Rural

Schools program has been a lifeline for rural communities across Oregon since I originally authored the program back in 2000," Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, said in a statement. "I'm relieved the House has finally done its job with the long-overdue passage of my bill to return the safety net for critical services to communities that need it the most.'

Wyden co-authored the original law that provided tens of millions each year for rural schools and communities that previously benefited from revenue generated by natural resource industries on public lands. Since then, it has provided \$7 billion in payments to more than 700 counties and 4,400 school districts across 40 states and Puerto Rico that have large swaths of federal land within their borders.

Oregon, where more

than half of the state consists of federal land, has experienced the biggest loss of any state since the funding lapsed in 2023: nearly \$48.7 million in money for rural roads, public services and schools, according to a September report from the D.C.-based Center for American Progress, a liberal public policy and think tank. Idaho has missed out on \$21.3 million, Alaska more than \$12.6 million and Washington more than \$14.7 million.

Overall, states have lost out on more than \$207 million in the two years since the act expired, the Center for American Progress

Twice since December 2024, the Senate has voted to renew the act in an effort led by Wyden and Idaho's senior U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, a Republican.

But each time the Senate approved it, the House

failed to take a vote. The bill lapsed in 2023, and counties haven't gotten payments since early 2024. House Republicans most recently failed to reauthorize the act in the tax and spending cut megalaw they passed in July.

With just weeks before the House is due to wrap its work for the year, Wyden, Crapo and 83 bipartisan lawmakers from the Senate and the House sent a letter to U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a Democrat from New York, urging them to take a vote on the act before they recessed.

Just 12 hours after receiving the letter, the House announced it would fast-track consideration and a vote on the bill.

Washington's U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, a Democrat representing southwest Washington's

3rd Congressional District, led the passage of the bill in the House.

"The Secure Rural Schools program is absolutely critical, and the passage of this legislation is beyond overdue," she said in a statement. "Candidly, the only reason it took this long is because way too many folks in D.C. have been blissfully ignorant about how disastrous the lapse of SRS has been for timber communities in Southwest Washington and across the West. Schools have closed up, teachers have been laid off, and our kids have been left footing the bill for Congress's neglect."

Since the funding lapsed, schools in Skamania County in her district have laid off staff and a middle school was forced to close.

In Alaska, the failure to reauthorize the program caused rural school districts to cut their budgets, particularly in southeast Alaska, home to the vast Tongass National Forest.

Rep. Nick Begich, R-Alaska, voted for the bill on Friday, and both of the state's senators — Republicans Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan — supported it as well.

Reporter James Brooks of the Alaska Beacon contributed to this report.

https://oregoncapitalchronicle. com/2025/12/09/afternearly-two-year-lapse-congress-renews-secure-ruralschools-funding/

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

## Tillamook County Community Health Centers closing Rockaway Beach Clinic

Tillamook County Community Health Centers (TCCHC) is closing their Rockaway

Beach Clinic, located inside the Rockaway Beach City Hall building, on December 31, 2025. The last patient clinic day was December 11, 2025. Formal notice was submitted to the City of Rockaway Beach, and notification letters have

been mailed to all impacted patients.

This decision follows a careful review by the TC-CHC Health Council and leadership team and reflects long-term trends in patient volume, access needs, and finances. Over the past fourteen years, operations at the Rockaway Beach Clinic were gradually reduced from three days per week to two days

per month as patient demand declined. During this time, other clinics were opened in the north county area. Today, the clinic serves fewer than 60 patients—less than one percent of TCCHC's total patient population. Due to ongoing declines

in patient utilization over the years, maintaining operations at this location is no longer prudent. At the same time,

access to care in Tillamook has expanded with the addition of the Main Street clinic location and an integrated pharmacy. Access to virtual visits has also expanded, which provides another option for many patients with travel challenges.

TCCHC Administrator Marlene Putman said, "While closing the Rockaway Beach Clinic was a difficult deci-

sion for everyone involved, this transition allows us to provide patients with more consistent access to health care providers in our Tillamook locations. We are working closely with patients needing support during this transition.'

Although the Rockaway Beach Clinic is closing, all patients can continue receiving their care through TCCHC at the Tillamook Central Clinic, located at 801 Pacific Avenue, beginning January 1, 2026. TCCHC will support patients who need assistance with transportation and will continue to offer virtual visits when appropriate.

Public Health will continue to provide WIC services in North County at a location still to be determined.

## Classic Street project underway

**WILL CHAPPELL** CITIZEN EDITOR

After a complicated request for proposal process, the \$3.5-million upgrade of Classic Street in Manzanita and the water infrastructure

under it is underway. Manzanita City Manager Leila Aman said that the project's infrastructure elements should be completed by the end of the calendar year or soon thereafter, with paving to occur once weather allows.

The project along the

course of Classic Street between Laneda Avenue and Necarney City Boulevard is adding a new water line and storm water management for the street and will see the street repaved with a pedestrian pathway added. The new water main line will increase water flow rates in Manzanita Highlands and create a looped system, increasing resiliency by allowing parts of the system to be shut off without disrupting service for all users past them.

Made possible by a

\$2.7-million grant from the Oregon legislature, which aimed to facilitate the development of the 60-unit Spruce Point apartment complex off Necarnev City Boulevard, the remainder of the project's funding is coming from systems development charges assessed by the city.

Originally, plans called for a wider pedestrian path and roadway, which would have been made possible by adding a retaining wall on Classic Street's west side. However, after receiving re-

sponses to an initial request for proposals for contractors for the project, Aman said that city staff found the cost of such a structure was higher than estimated by contracted engineers and that there were discrepancies among the documents in the request.

Given those factors, Aman said that she decided to reissue the request for proposals, with corrected documentation and with an allowance that the retaining wall might need to be removed from the project's scope. Aman explained that constructing the original wall would have been a complex process because of geotechnical challenges, leading to both higher costs and more uncertainty about what those costs would be once work began.

After selecting a contractor, the city worked with them and the city's engineer on the project's plans, deciding that instead of building the retaining wall on the road's west side, rebuilding one on the road's east side would be a more

cost-effective solution.

While that decision meant a narrowing of the roadway in places and a reduction between the pedestrian path and road, Aman said that it was allowing the project to fulfill its purpose and be completed within budget.

"We maintained all the things that we wanted from the project at the lowest risk and the lowest cost for the greatest public benefit," Aman said. "And that was my philosophy from the start, that's how good projects are built."

### bcc recognizes fall term honors students

Tillamook Bay Community College (TBCC) would like to proudly recognize the outstanding achievements of the following students during the Fall Term. To qualify for the Honor List at TBCC, a student must achieve a 3.5 GPA, complete 12 credit hours during the active term, and be a degreeseeking student.

Presenting the Tillamook Bay Community College Fall Term Honor

Julieta Ochoa, Samantha Madrigal, Jamie Wilkinson, Brysen Mc-Donald, Audrey Miller, Joanna Arreola, Hannah Obrist, Kyle Glueckert, Zoe Pigeot, Gabriala Go-

**SHOMELTHRES** 

solution

mez Diaz, Taylor Decker, Donovan Witthoft, Sydnee Abbott, Michael Garcia, Shaun Parker, Sarah Vieten, Charlee Horton, Karyl Udtohan, James Baldwin, Evelyn Dix, Sam Clark, Tessa Padilla Rojas, Mason Frahm, Steven Sprague, Jessica Logsdon, Hailey Widmer, Courtney Mortenson, Kali May, Ashley Shultz, Dylan Cooper, Shane Derowitsch, Jonlin Shiomi, Kelsey Leonnig, Leslie Camba, Mikah Kooy, Marcella Heath, Emma Farr, Jessica Fer-

brache, Anna Longfield, Abbygale Hill, Liz Gomez, Blake Oyala, Tyler Motsinger, Megan Lux, Blake Poblador, Stefany Moreno Gutierrez, Kewi Carver, Nick Sheridan, Makayla Moody, Joshua Baker Freeman, Kimberly Schwartz, Ana Ayala, Jennifer Reicheg, Loreen Gray, Roger Jesinghaus, Andrew Amerson, Holli McKinney, Arianna Donowho, Daisy Camacho-Gutierrez, Eden Bizeau. MaKenna Mata, Mary May, Sonja Kovach-Munoz, Evan Prince,

Tayvin Sexton, Shalynn Lane, Nicole Johnson. Kaden Wolfe, Kerrin Higdon, Aubree Fagen. Brenton Schiminesky, Dorian Romero Sanchez, and Crystal Peerson.

Congratulations to these students for their hard work and determina-

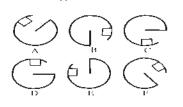
If you want a career change, to skill up for advancement, or to transfer to a four-year university, TBCC has options for you. There are no immigration status or educational

requirements to enroll at TBCC—everyone is welcome. Visit tillamook-

baycc.edu to apply online and learn more.



Can you determine which figure does not belong with the others in the diagram below?



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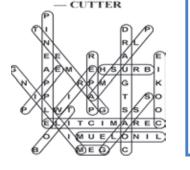
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**Tillamook Headlight Herald North Coast Citizen** 

Our print version of the Almanac is inserted into the Headlight Herald and North Coast Citizen plus distributed at regional tourist information centers, many

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Sigman goes up for a putback against the Loggers.



Dante rises up for a shot in the lane en route to a 20-point night against Knappa.

## Pirates cruise against Loggers

WILL CHAPPELL CITIZEN EDITOR

Neah-Kah-Nie High School's boys' basketball team improved to 4-2 on the season with a convincing 67-42 win over the Knappa Loggers at home on December 16.

The Pirates jumped out to an early lead which they

maintained throughout, led by strong performances from Clayton Dante, Jordan Lewis and Dylan Sigman, who combined for 49 points.

Neah-Kah-Nie came out hot, jumping out to a 13-2 lead behind eight from Sigman while Knappa struggled against the Pirates' defensive pressure. The Pirate run continued as the team stayed

hot from the field, with Dante pouring in seven in the last four minutes of the quarter, helping the Pirates stretch their lead to 20-6 at the end of the first

The Pirates cooled off momentarily as the second quarter started but maintained their defensive pressure, before a seven-point burst two minutes into the quarter stretched the advantage to 27-7, drawing a Logger timeout. Knappa knocked in a three following the timeout but could not sustain any momentum allowing Neah-Kah-Nie to take a 34-17 lead to the half.

Neah-Kah-Nie opened the second half with a five-point run and maintained the lead around 20, leading 43-24 with four to go before extending the advantage to 56-29 heading into the fourth.

Knappa trimmed the lead back to under 20 in the early minutes of the fourth, but Neah-Kah-Nie responded with a six-point run and cruised to the 67-42 final.

Dante finished with 20 points on the night, scoring in every quarter, while Lewis chipped in 17, including three three-pointers in the third quarter alone, and Sigman put up 12. The Pirates improved to 4-2 with the victory ahead of a three-game road trip to Arizona where they took on ALA West Foothills on December 18, Thunderbird on December 19, and Chandler Prep on December 20.

## Lady Pirates outlast Loggers in overtime

**WILL CHAPPELL** CITIZEN EDITOR

Neah-Kah-Nie High School's girls' basketball team beat the Knappa High Loggers 38-35 in overtime at home on December 16, stopping a two-game slide.

The game was back and forth throughout, with neither team leading by more than five points, but a timely three in overtime proved decisive for the Pirates, who were led by Jasmine Jones with 14 points and Quinn Scalabrin with nine.

Both teams were cold to start the game, with no baskets until a Jones jump shot with six minutes remaining in the first, but the Pirates struggles continued from there allowing the Loggers to take a 3-2 lead with a three with four minutes to go. The game remained a defensive struggle as

#### **Even Exchange**

6. Hermit, Kermit Grime, Gripe 7. Liner, Linen 2. Audit, Audro Decree, Degree 8. Stowe. Stove

Chare. Chord 9. Prance, Prince Sister, Sitter 10. Leave, Weave the quarter wore on, with Knappa extending the lead with a field goal before Bianca Smith made two free throws and Scalabrin sunk a late three to give the Pirates a 7-5 advantage after one.

Knappa evened the game shortly into the second and took a threepoint lead with an and-one moments later. Smith responded with a basket in the paint to cut the lead to one with five minutes left in the half and Jones retook the lead on a drive on the ensuing possession. The teams traded baskets before Knappa took a three-point lead as the Pirates again went cold, with only a late Smith free throw to trim the lead to 16-14 at the half.

Jones returned the lead to Neah-Kah-Nie with a pull-up three on the first possession of the second half, but Knappa responded with four against one Jones free throw to retake the lead 20-18 with five remaining in the quarter. The Pirates entered the bonus a minute later and tied the game with two free throws, before the Loggers again jumped ahead with a three and free throw. Both teams again went cold from the field, until a late Marily Dante and Scalabrine three leveled the game at 24 heading into the fourth.

Jones opened the fourth with a midrange jumper to give Neah Kah Nie the lead before Knappa again evened the game with a jumper of their own. Acacia Christensen scored a basket in the paint to again put the Pirates ahead and a three and free throw from Christiansen stretched the lead to 32-27 with four left in the game.

Knappa's offensive woes continued as time wound down in the game until a three with two minutes left trimmed lead back to two and a mid-range jumper with 1:15 again drew the score level at 32. Neither team scored in the final minute, sending the game to overtime.

In the four-minute overtime period, Neah-Kah-Nie struck first with Jones scoring on a drive on the opening possession. That remained the extra frame's only basket until the Loggers again drew level with a midrange jumper with a minute and a half remaining. Scalabrin hit her third three of the night on the next possession before the Loggers trimmed the lead to 37-35 with a free throw with 45 seconds to



Jones steps through two defenders for a shot near the hoop.

go. Jones went one for two from the line with 15 left to stretch the lead to three and secure the 38-35 victory.

With the win, the Pirates improved to 3-3 on the season, following two losses by a combined six points to Nestucca and Oregon Episcopal. Neah-Kah-Nie returned to action in a three-game road trip to Arizona, with games against Phoenix Christian, St. Mary's Catholic and Benjamin Franklin on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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