



Manzanita residents gathered at Underhill Plaza on the evening of December 5, to celebrate the season with a tree lighting ceremony.

Merry  
and bright

The Neah Kah Nie High School Choir performed Christmas Carols, while younger kids took pictures with Santa and everyone enjoyed refreshments from Wanda's and Sarasota's. Mayor Kathryn Stock then led a group of local youth in the illumination.



## Commissioners discuss financial priorities

WILL CHAPPELL  
Citizen Editor

In a work session on December 3, Tillamook County commissioners prioritized a list of revenue-generating and cost-cutting measures to help bridge a \$2-3 million annual shortfall in the county's budget. Part of a multiyear process started in summer 2024, the meeting gave staff direction on which ideas to research further, with commissioners stressing that public processes would take place before they pursued implantation of any of the ideas. Conversations around the county's tenuous budget situation kicked in to high gear last summer after the spring approval of a habitat conservation plan for western Oregon state forests cut the county's timber revenues substantially. Along with statutorily limited increases to property taxes, that revenue cut created a projected deficit of to \$2 million to \$3.6 million in each of the five fiscal years starting in 2025, which began in July 2024. In special meetings of the budget committee last summer and fall, suggestions for cutting expenses and generating new revenues were brainstormed, including raising the county's TLT, instituting utility fees on electric bills and shortening employee work weeks. Consultants from Tiberius Solutions then generated a prioritized list of those suggestions based on feasibility and economic impact. Commissioners first discussed the list in October and returned to the subject to finalize their prioritization. At the meeting, commissioners began their discussion by affirming that continuing to delay the filling of open staff positions was a high priority. Commissioners then touched on the building on Third Street that previously housed the Bureau of Land Management, for which they signed a purchase agreement on September 24, at a price of \$2.475 million. If the sale is consummated,

See **COMMISSIONERS**, Page A3

## Spruce Point construction underway

WILL CHAPPELL  
Citizen Editor

Work is well underway at the new Spruce Point apartment complex in Manzanita and on pace to bring 60 new affordable apartments online by next fall. The project is being led by Home First Development Partners and supported by a \$21.4 million grant from Oregon Housing and Community Services, as well as grants from the Tillamook County Affordable Housing Grant program. Construction crews broke ground on August 12, after the property was cleared of trees and a new street, Legacy Place, which intersects with Necarney City Road between Clipper Court and Pine Ridge Lane, constructed to serve the development. The 60 apartments will be spread across three three-story buildings and two two-story buildings, and the complex will also feature a community center with a leasing office and community area, common courtyard with a nautically themed playground and 96 parking spots.

There will be 14 one-bedroom, one-bathroom apartments, 23 two-bedroom, one-bathroom, and 23 three bed, one-and-a-half-bedroom

apartments, with all featuring washers and dryers. 48 of the apartments will be affordable to residents earning 60% of the area's median income or less,

with 12 dedicated to those earning 30% of that figure or less. Colleen Osborn, Develop-

See **SPRUCE POINT**, Page A2



The newly constructed Legacy Place will exclusively serve residents of the new Spruce Point Apartment Complex.

## Weber raises alarm over family courts

WILL CHAPPELL  
Citizen Editor

Following voluminous constituent feedback about poor outcomes in Washington County family court, Oregon State Senator Suzanne Weber is working to raise awareness about the issues in the system. Weber said that she believes family court judges are given too much authority and that the special courts may need to be abolished in favor of letting regular courtrooms handle the cases, though she acknowledged that somebody else will have to take up the cause after her time in the legislature concludes following 2026's short session. "It has to be something that someone will take up in the long session and carry through, but at least we've done the groundwork to be able to express the concern we have for our children," Weber said. "Because It's not only our children right now and what is happening to them, it's how it's affecting their futures." Family courts are administered by individual states but regulated by numerous federal laws that have

See **WEBER**, Page A3







Workers prepare for the concrete slab bases of the five apartment buildings and community center to be poured.

## SPRUCE POINT

From Page A1

ment Manager with Home First, said that the team working on the project was excited to be able to fully address the need for 60 housing units identified in the recent Tillamook County Housing Needs Assessment. “The rents are going to be able to serve people in the community that work at the local places here, so we’re directly trying to respond



to both Tillamook County and the City of Manzanita’s need for housing for the people that work here,” Osborn said. As of mid-November, workers were preparing for the concrete pads at the base of the buildings to be poured by building interior footings and compacting base rock. Brad Dineen, the project foreman, said that the slabs would be poured at some point in early December when weather allowed and that framing would begin shortly after.

# Commissioners approve contracts for bridge, quarry, courthouse roof work

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

Tillamook’s board of county commissioners approved contracts for a variety of projects including bridge repair design, quarry exploration and architectural support for replacing the county courthouse’s roof at their meeting on December 3. Commissioners approved a contract for \$47,189.50 with DOWL LLC, for design work for the replacement of four bridges on Slab Creek Road. Tillamook County

Director of Public Works Chris Laity said that the four bridges all needed new seal plates where the bridge’s wooden structures rested on their concrete supports, while one also needs a new timber deck. Laity said that his department would put the project out to bid once the plans were completed by DOWL. Laity also discussed the \$96,765 contract with Shannon & Wilson Geotechnical Services for exploration of new areas in the county’s quarry on North Fork Road. Laity explained that the county

owns around 100 miles of gravel roads, as well as two quarries to provide material for their maintenance, one outside of Cloverdale and the other on North Fork Road. The county owns the quarries and contracts with outside companies to mine and crush rock at them, saving roughly half of the cost of purchasing gravel from an outside vendor. The North Fork quarry has reached the end of its currently accessible stockpile of material, and a new mining target must now be found, leading to the

contract. Laity explained that geotechnical experts will visit the quarry and drill 100-150-foot-deep cores around the property to determine where operations should move next, a process last completed in 2018. Commissioners also approved a \$38,100 contract with Certa Building Solutions to serve as the project manager for the replacement of the county courthouse’s roof. Tillamook County Chief Administrative Officer Rachel Hagerty said that the building’s roof currently leaks and that a scan had showed a good portion of the roof was wet underneath. Hagerty said that the preliminary plan is to remove the entire roof assembly, determine if there is damage to the structural deck and repair it, then install 14,500 square feet of new PVC roofing membrane and a new roof, plus 2,000 square feet of overclad on the building’s parapet. Hagerty said the project’s estimated budget is \$650,000, with funding to come from the county’s building improvement fund, and that the project is planned for next summer. Commissioners also accepted a \$31,280 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to support the construction of a secondary fee station at Barview Jetty County Park, as part of a larger project redesigning the park’s entrance for better traffic flow. The parks department will kick in \$7,720 in matching funds, and Tillamook County Parks Director Dan Keyes said that the project has a deadline of December 2027, but that he expects the work to be completed long before.

*A Holiday Message from*

**EUGENE SCHMUCK FOUNDATION**





Our hearts are full of gratitude for everyone that helps us put on our annual Manzanita Open Golf Tournament Fundraiser in May. Our volunteers, sponsors, donors, and players are the gift that keeps on giving the whole year. With their hard work and generosity, we were able to give over \$80,000 to support kids and organizations in our communities in 2025.

*We would like to shine some big, bright holiday lights on the groups we are giving to this year in addition to our scholarships for graduating Neah-Kah-Nie seniors and alumni:*

Adventist Health: Faith in Action  
Adventist Health: Hospice Care  
Bay City Arts Center  
HUGGS  
Meals for Seniors, Inc.  
Nehalem Bay Community Services:  
Child Program, Senior Lunches, and Food Pantry  
Nehalem Bay Health Center and Pharmacy  
New Discoveries Preschool  
Neah-Kah-Nie School District #56: Family Resource Centers for all four schools, Outdoor School, Robotics, FBLA, FNRL, Band and Choir, and all OSAA teams  
Nehalem Valley Care Center  
North County Recreation District School Swim Programs  
North Tillamook County Food Bank  
Rockaway Beach Interscholastic Baseball  
Sammy’s Place  
Smiley Brothers Salmon Harvest  
Tides of Change

We are famous for our golf tournament, but our mission and passion are to raise funds so we can help those in our communities meet basic needs and find opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. In the spirit of giving this time of year, please keep ESF or the organizations above in mind. There is a lot of need in our area and every little bit helps.

**Have a safe and wonderful holiday season! See you in May!**  
~The Eugene Schmuck Foundation Board  
<https://www.eugeneschmuckfoundation.org/>

## Jetty repair to continue in 2026

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

With winter weather come to Tillamook County, crews from Trade West working on the repair of the south jetty at the entrance to Tillamook Bay have stopped placing stones on the jetty and will return to complete the work next summer. While contractors hoped to complete the project in two years, the contract for the repair included the option of a third work season, which the contractors will now use to complete stone placement on the final 200 feet of the jetty’s head. Work on the \$52.7-million project, funded by the 2021 Infrastructure and Jobs Act, began in 2024, with Trade West creating a staging area at Kincheloe Point and haul road to the root of the South Jetty and placing around 5,500 tons of stone in a 600-foot section by September. After completing that section, work shifted into lower gear over last winter, with crews transporting stones from their delivery point at the Port of Garibaldi to Kincheloe Point and onwards to a secondary staging area near the jetty’s base, creating a large stockpile for this year’s work. The first order of business this summer was building a temporary road on top of the jetty to access the 800-foot section of the jetty 3,500 feet from the shore that needed repairs. A temporary pause on work at the quarry providing stones due to concerns around spotted owls slowed things slightly and stone placement didn’t begin until August 12. Placement of the first 400 feet of stone took just three and a half days, but once that was complete and crews transitioned to placing stones in the head of the jetty itself, work slowed considerably, as rock weights and the volume placed increased substantially. Procurement of the 23- to 40-ton rocks needed for this section of the project put a strain on the quarry in eastern Oregon supplying stones to the project and as of early November, 30,000 tons of stone still await delivery, with another 20,000 tons onsite and awaiting placement. By late October, wave action at the jetty had increased and begun to overtop the haul road, forcing work on the jetty itself to be suspended for the season. Transport and stockpiling of rocks will continue throughout the winter, before placement work resumes when weather allows in the spring. Representatives from the project team could not offer an estimate of how long it would take to complete placement.

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CLASSIFIEDS

MAGIC MAZE • LIGHT

Q O T L H E B X U R O L I E  
Y V S H Q N P W K H R S E B  
W T R O G L M O J G E E B Y  
R U R P N I A H L K I N E G  
B E Z X V S E S Q L O S M B  
I G P E D C R W A Y U I W L  
S Q P E I A C N Y O L T L U  
H F E R E T E M H V I I I B  
A Y X Y T L V R U S A V Q O  
N M K J H F S E B A R E P O  
C B Z Y X V U D E D A E H T

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

- Beer  
Bread  
Cream  
Diet
- Headed  
Heavyweight  
House  
Meter
- Opera  
Pollution  
Rail  
Sensitive
- Show  
Sleeper  
Years

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Church Services by the Sea  
Cannon Beach to Nehalem

**Nehalem**  
**Nehalem Bay**  
**United Methodist Church**  
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Pastor Celeste Deveney +  
Sunday service 11 a.m.  
**Food Pantry**  
Open Friday, Saturday & Monday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Wednesday

March - October 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
November - February noon to 4 p.m.  
**Nehalem Senior Lunches**  
Tuesday & Thursday served at noon  
email: nbumcns12020@gmail.com

To feature your spiritual organization on this panel:  
Contact Katherine at  
(503) 842-7535,  
headlightads@countrymedia.net.

CryptoQuip answer

That young guy loves to dress really smartly, so I told him “You’ve been a very natty boy!”

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Sticklers Answer

Adding RAM to each word forms a new word in each case.

- RAMPANT  
RAMPAGE  
RAMPART  
RAMROD  
RAMSHACKLE

Super Crossword

SONG TITLES

- ACROSS  
1 Teenage witch played by Melissa Joan Hart  
8 Breakwater embankment  
15 Nintendo title plumber  
20 Germ-free  
21 Singer with the 2018 hit “Boo’d Up”  
22 Put up, as a building  
23 Patti Smith  
25 Flat, as cola  
26 One of the two Pro Bowl gps.  
27 Rantle  
28 Notices  
30 Hero type  
31 Nina Simone  
39 Napoli’s nation  
41 Alien-seeking proj.  
42 City near Disney World  
43 Manicure tool  
46 Oxidizes  
49 Put the kibosh on  
50 Missy Elliott  
53 Dir. from Miss. to Mich.  
56 Pre-CIA gp.  
57 Ad featuring Smokey Bear, e.g.
- 58 “Science Guy” with multiple Emmys  
59 Honorable  
60 Busy airport  
63 George Strait  
69 World capital in the Andes  
74 ‘80s war zone  
75 2010-14 Mets member  
76 Britney Spears  
79 Plane ticket detail  
80 Large musical disk  
81 Encyc. unit  
82 Tosses out of the game, for short  
85 “Law & Order” spinoff, in brief  
88 Busy insect  
89 Bessie Smith  
97 Plane ticket detail, for short  
98 Mafioso John  
99 Narrates  
100 Running rather quickly  
104 “This Is Life” journalist  
106 Lisa  
106 Totally in favor of  
107 Chuck Berry
- 112 “Casablanca” woman  
113 “Dies —” (Latin hymn)  
114 — Schwarz  
115 Peculiar  
118 Just making, with “out”  
120 Liza Minnelli  
127 Roaring cat crossbreed  
128 Remove loose coverings from  
129 “Tartuffe” playwright  
130 Thick  
131 Ancient Jewish ascetics  
132 Slung mud at
- DOWN  
1 Very long tale  
2 Dating from  
3 Furniture pieces for lying or sitting  
4 Tach abbr.  
5 Judge Lance  
6 Petty peeve  
7 Have — on one’s shoulder  
8 “Black Panther” actor Andy  
9 “Xanadu” gp.  
10 Sitcom ET  
11 “679” rapper Fetty —  
12 Make laugh
- 13 Thin streets  
14 “In this way”  
15 Spanish for “month”  
16 Skilled crafter  
17 Go further in the book, say  
18 Apple digital storage service  
19 Verdi opera  
24 Mess up  
29 Hercules player Kevin  
32 Afflictions  
33 Natural talent  
34 Greet loudly  
35 Architect  
Saarinen  
36 Double — (Oreo option)  
37 Wife on “The Addams Family,” casually  
38 Big to-do  
39 Lowdown  
40 Mai — (rum drinks)  
44 Track circuit  
45 Mag staffers  
47 Ex-Yankee  
Martinez  
48 James Bond genre, in brief  
51 Ox of Tibet  
52 “Doggone it!”  
53 Punishment for a tube watcher  
54 “Me neither”
- 55 Rival of Ben & Jerry’s  
59 Nibble (on)  
60 Suspend  
61 Scanned market ID  
62 Busy insect, musically  
64 With one flat, musically  
65 Brief snooze  
66 Biotech-created food  
67 Atop, in verse  
68 Japanese salad green  
69 Links gp. for women  
70 Club for a 69-Down member  
71 Small fortune  
72 Letters of invitation?  
73 American assn.  
77 Margarine, quaintly  
78 Adobe Acrobat suffix  
83 Fourth of a yr.  
84 That girl  
85 Large yellow bloom  
86 Put the kibosh on  
87 KGB’s land  
89 Paree “to be”  
90 Native New Zealander
- 91 WWII battle town in France  
92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)  
93 Hog sound  
94 Tesla auto, e.g.  
95 String necktie  
96 Quiet stretch  
97 Fuel gases  
100 Off-track  
101 New film type in the 1920s  
102 What “@” is  
103 Rotational force  
105 Big blunders  
108 Man-goat delities  
109 Marsh plants  
110 Capture  
111 Campus buildings  
116 Have the guts  
117 Made blond, maybe  
119 Test for college srs.  
121 Prior to, in sonnets  
122 Indian flatbread  
123 Not closed, in verse  
124 — -pah band  
125 Heady brew  
126 Day, to Diego

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55  
56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87  
88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117  
118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132

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**Advertising:** Katherine Mace, email headlightads@countrymedia.net  
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**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: X equals Y

M Q K M X C T U O O T X V C Z Y D M C  
P J Y D D J Y K V V X D N K J M V X , D C  
H M C V P Q H N “X C T ’ Z Y A Y Y U  
K Z Y J X U K M M X A C X ! ”

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

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

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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**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.

1 5 6 1 3 3 4 6 4 2 1 3

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

S	A	B	R	I	N	A	S	E	A	W	A	L	L	M	A	R	I	O			
A	S	E	P	T	I	C	E	L	L	A	M	A	I	E	R	E	C	T			
G	O	D	M	O	T	H	E	R	O	F	P	U	N	K	S	T	A	L	E		
A	F	C					I	R	K				S	E	E	S	I	D	O	L	
			H	I	G	H	P	R	I	E	S	T	E	S	S	O	F	S	O	U	L
I	T	A	L	I	A		S	E	T	I		O	R	L	A	N	D	O			
N	A	I	L	F	I	L	E	R	U	S	T	S		B	A	N					
F	I	R	S	T	L	A	D	Y	O	F	H	I	P	H	O	P		N	N	E	
O	S	S					P	S	A			N	Y	E		G	O	O	D		
			H	U	B		K	I	N	G	O	F	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y		
L	I	M	A	P	E	R	U		N	A	M		I	K	E	D	A	V	I	S	
P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S	O	F	P	O	P			R	O	W				
G	O	N	G				V	O	L			D	Q	S			S	V	U		
A	N	T		E	M	P	R	E	S	S	O	F	T	H	E	B	L	U	E	S	
			E	T	A		G	O	T	T	I		R	E	C	O	U	N	T	S	
A	T	A	T	R	O	T		L	I	N	G			A	L	L	F	O	R		
F	A	T	H	E	R	O	F	R	O	C	K	A	N	D	R	O	L	L			
I	L	S	A				I	R	A	E			F	A	O			O	D	D	
E	K	I	N	G			Q	U	E	E	N	O	F	B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y
L	I	G	E	R			U	N	D	R	A	P	E		M	O	L	I	E	R	E
D	E	N	S	E			E	S	S	E	N	E	S		S	M	E	A	R	E	D



# TBCC prepares for belt tightening

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

A variety of factors, chief among them a budget crunch at the state government, have converged to create a challenging financial situation for Tillamook Bay Community College, leading President Paul Jarrell to begin weighing cost-cutting measures for the institution.

Other factors include an increase in the college's contributions to employees' pensions and preexisting underfunding, and with state funding accounting for approximately 60% of Tillamook Bay Community College's (TBCC) operating budget, Jarrell said that any cuts to state funding would have a major impact.

"Any changes that occur at the state level impact community colleges hard, and especially small, rural community colleges like

us," Jarrell said. "We have a smaller tax base, so we tend to get more of our revenue from the state."

Funding challenges first came onto the radar at TBCC when the state's August revenue forecast projected a \$372.7 million state deficit for the current biennium given the current budget. This prompted the state legislature asked every agency across the state to present a list of proposals to cut 2.5% or 5% of their budgets. The latter percentage would represent a \$276.6 million cut to the overall state budget.

At TBCC, around 60% of the \$10-million annual operating budget comes courtesy of the Community College Support Fund, while property taxes, and tuition and fees contribute around 20% each. On the expenditure side, 76% of the budget is dedicated to paying for staff salaries and

benefits, with the balance going towards materials and services.

TBCC has 65 full-time employees, 60 of whom are paid out of the operating budget, and the annual cost per employee is around \$100,000, according to Jarrell, who said that benefits are a large driver of those costs, adding 60 cents to every dollar spent on salary.

Jarrell said that as part of the cost-reduction exercise, TBCC leaders decided to implement a hiring freeze in anticipation of the projected need for cuts, removing one job listing earlier this month, and that they have also put a hiatus on nonessential travel. While Jarrell estimated those changes will save several hundred thousand dollars, any further reductions would likely mean cutting staff positions.

"We think we might be able to come up with a

couple hundred thousand out of that materials and services that could be savings," Jarrell said, "but we are looking at the likelihood of having to do some kind of staffing reductions as well."

Further complicating matters is the recent news that TBCC's required contribution to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), which manages its pensions, increased by 5% on November 1. Previously, TBCC had been participating in a state-managed program whereby the proceeds of bonds purchased years ago were used to help defray the cost of PERS participation, but in October, the college was informed that the bond funds had run out before their expected expiration in June 2027.

That meant an increase in the college's PERS rate from 26.5% to 31.5%, or

an increase of \$200,000 to \$250,000 over the rest of this fiscal year and \$350,000 in fiscal year 2027, a deficit that will remain regardless state funding.

On a positive note, the state's December revenue forecast adjusted the projected deficit for the current biennium downward from \$372.7 million to \$63.1 million, signaling the potential for a smaller reduction to that funding. But Jarrell pointed out that even at the current funding level, community colleges had been set to receive 7% less than they had requested based on their projected need.

Jarrell was quick to stress that even as TBCC faces a straitened budget, he and its board of directors are committed to prioritizing affordability for students and that there is no plan to deviate from the

prior practice of increasing tuition and fees at a level related to inflation.

"We are the most affordable community college in the state," Jarrell said. "We really want to keep it that way."

As TBCC's administration wades into the discussion about staffing cuts, Jarrell said that they hope to achieve some savings through attrition as faculty resign or retire and are not replaced. To the extent that trend does not meet budgetary needs, Jarrell said he and other administrators will look at ways to combine and streamline positions to continue delivering the most important programs and services for students.

"I think we're really looking at how do we meet the mission critical needs of the college in the face of some staffing reductions," Jarrell said.

# Fournier gathers Highway 6 economic data

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

As part of his ongoing effort to improve conditions on Oregon Highway 6, Tillamook County Commissioner Paul Fournier is asking residents and local businesses to share information about the road's economic importance.

Fournier said that he hopes to arm Tillamook's representatives in Salem with data to support a legislative push to fund a long-term solution to a massive slide between mileposts 33 and 36 that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) spends upwards

of \$100,000 annually to maintain.

As ODOT officials estimate a long-term fix to cost tens of millions or upwards of \$100 million, Fournier is concerned about the disastrous impacts any prolonged closure would have on local businesses but said that the road is not on the radar of most people outside the county.

"I think what it does is inform on the importance of the road," Fournier said of his in-progress economic impacts study, "because we're not even on any of the lists, like it's a maintenance only road at this point."

Fournier's quest to address the issues on Highway 6, which date to the road's construction in the 1930s, began as soon as he took office as a Tillamook County commissioner early this year. He reached out to officials at ODOT, Representative Cyrus Javadi, Senator Suzanne Weber and his counterparts in Washington County about the issue.

Fournier learned that a road upgrade or replacement was not on the list of future projects for ODOT and that funding for the issue would have to be allocated by the legislature. Weber, who sponsored legislation funding a safety

study of the highway in 2022, and Javadi were supportive but said that the issue lacked awareness outside the county, a point reinforced by Washington County commissioners' lukewarm response.

As part of his initial research into the subject, Fournier had spoken with officials from the Tillamook County Creamery Association, who estimated that a closure of Highway 6 would cost the company \$66,000 a week in additional transportation costs. Fournier reasoned that if the impacts to the creamery were so large, it could be a successful tactic to determine the overall

impacts on the community to demonstrate the road's importance to the local economy.

To that end, Fournier is asking local businesses and individuals to reach out to him or respond when asked, to tell him about how they would be affected should the road close. "I'm basically looking for why Highway 6 is important to their business, for their personal life and what are the impacts when it closes and if it closes for one day versus one week versus one year," Fournier said.

So far, Fournier has heard from local automotive shops that rely on

consistent deliveries of parts from the Willamette Valley and made note of the recent Tillamook County Housing Needs Assessment's finding that some 2,000 people commute more than 100 miles daily to work in the county.

Fournier is also working to determine what the impacts would be on Tillamook's tourism industry, saying that he believed overnight visitors would still make the trip on Highway 26 or 22, but that day trippers would be discouraged, with grave consequences for both tourist-focused businesses and the county's transient lodging tax revenues.

# Pirates shoot for fourth consecutive playoff trip

**BY MIKE WEBER**  
For The Headlight Herald

Neah-Kah-Nie High School's boys' basketball program is enjoying a successful multiyear run with three consecutive trips to the state playoffs, a streak which the Pirates hope to extend to four years this season.

The Pirates, guided by sixth-year Coach Erick White, took second place in the Coastal Range League last year with a 9-3 record (15-10 overall). The Banks High Braves (20-7 last year) won the 2025 league title but lost eight graduated seniors compared to just two for the Pirates, who have 12 players returning, putting them in a strong position to contend for the league title.

"I think that we'll have a very competitive team again this year, especially since we have quite a few people returning," said White. "We lost our best player from last year (2025 graduate Ethan Hanson), but we have four of our five starters coming back, so that's a good situation to be in. As long as everyone does their job, then we should be able to reach the state playoffs again this year."

A year ago, the No. 18-ranked Pirates concluded the season with a 68-56 first round playoff road loss to the Douglas High Trojans (15-11) on Feb. 26, 2025. The Pirates will be hoping to avoid a playoff road trip this year by securing a league title, as they did in 2024, and earning a first-round home playoff game.

"I think our ceiling for success is pretty high and if we can put all the pieces together and if everyone jells properly, then this could be one of the best teams that we've had in quite a while," said White. "We're going to play six games in nine days to start the season, so we'll have to really come out and be ready to play almost every night."

The Pirates started practice on November 17 in preparation for a 25-game schedule. The Pirates got off to a good start to with 58-29 season-opening victory Dec. 4 over the Kennedy High Trojans (10-15 last year). That was their first game in the Westside Winter Jam Tournament Dec. 4-6 at Westside Christian

High School in Tigard.

The Pirates compete again on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in a Tillamook County rivalry game versus the Nestucca High Bobcats (14-12 last year) at Nestucca High School. They'll follow with a 7:30 p.m. home contest Friday versus the Oregon Episcopal High Aardvarks (19-9 last year).

An experienced Pirate squad (six seniors, four juniors) has exceptional height with seven players six feet or taller, including 6-foot-4 junior post Tyson Huntley and 6-3 sophomore post Dylan Sigman, a CRL second team all-league selection last year.

The seniors who will provide leadership include two team captains in Brady Douma and Clayton Dante. The quartet of seniors Greyson Lott, Noah Scovel, Kason Fletcher and Jordan Lewis will also be counted on to make significant contributions too. Douma was a CRL all league honorable mention award winner last year and Dante earned a second team all-league award a year ago. Fletcher will provide toughness on the inside and Lewis is the Pirates top three-point shooter who will provide a boost to the Pirates offense.

The Pirates start a 12-game CRL schedule Jan. 7 on the road versus the Yamhill-Carlton High Tigers (6-18 last year).

**Lady Pirates look to build on success**  
**MIKE WEBER**

The Neah-Kah-Nie High Pirates girls' basketball team improved tremendously last year, finishing 12-12 and qualifying for the state tournament for the first time since 2016, an accomplishment they hope to repeat this season.

The Pirates finished in fifth place in the seven-team Coastal Range League standings with a 4-8 record and they qualified for a first round playoff road game, a February 25, 52-31 loss to Lakeview.

The Pirates, guided by longtime Coach Corey Douma (21-years), started practice November 17 with a solid group of players who are hoping to move up in the league standings this year and earn a second consecutive

state playoff berth.

"We have a great group, they're a bunch of hard-working kids who enjoy playing the game and our goal is to qualify for state and then go as far as we can in the playoffs," said Douma. "We're going to work hard and have fun, and we'll see where that takes us."

Neah-Kah-Nie lost just three seniors from last year's squad and have an experienced team with leadership provided by a group of six seniors including Acacia Christensen, Bianca Smith, Avery Spellman, Payton White, Lorelai Keefauver and Ashley Perez Juniors Jasmine Jones (2025 CRL honorable mention award) Ruby Hucek-Marteeny and Marilyn Dante are also expected to make significant contributions for the Pirates. Christensen, Smith and Jones will be counted on to contribute most of the offense for the Pirates.

"We have seven players returning from last year's state playoff team, so that's a pretty good group," said Douma. "I expect the seniors to provide good leadership. The players worked hard in the offseason, and we had a really good summer league program. This is just a great group of players to be around."

The Pirates opened their 25-game schedule in a December 4 nonleague season-opener versus the Class 2A Kennedy High Trojans and they won 46-27. That was the first of three games in the Westside Winter Jam Tournament December 4-6 at Westside Christian High School in Tigard.

The Pirates will play their next contest in a Tillamook County rivalry nonleague matchup Wednesday versus the Nestucca High Bobcats (16-11 last year) at 6 p.m. at Nestucca High School.

The Pirates will begin their 12-game CRL schedule January 7 on the road against the Yamhill-Carlton High Tigers (8-4 CRL, 19-8 overall last year), a 2025 state playoff squad. The CRL has been one of the toughest leagues in the state recently with five of the seven teams qualifying for the state playoffs a year ago. Riverdale (5-7 CRL, 13-12 overall) and Corbett (10-2, 16-7 overall) also reached the 2025 state playoffs.

The defending champion

Banks High Braves (12-0 CRL, 26-4 overall last year) are considered one of the top

contenders again with nine of their 13 players returning from a squad that reached the

state championship game last year (a 43-41 loss to Amity on March 8).



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# Tillamook County criminal convictions

STAFF REPORT

On October 2, Patricia Marie Mendez, 35, pled no contest to one count of assault in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about January 23. Mendez was sentenced to 18 months' probation and ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine.

On October 3, Emmanuel Hernandez-Soto, 40, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 13. Hernandez-Soto was sentenced to two years' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On October 3, Eric Douglas Alm, 41, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, one count of assault in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor, and four counts of recklessly endangering another person, class A misdemeanors, all committed on or about November 11, 2023. Alm was sentenced to 270 days in jail and his driver's license was revoked for life.

On October 3, Michael Ashley Homan, 40, was sentenced pursuant to an October 30, 2023, no contest plea to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about May 5, 2023. Homan was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation, his driver's license was suspended for one year and he was ordered to pay \$1,255 in fines and fees.

On October 6, Emi Dorothy Fujimoto, 52, was sentenced after pleading no contest to one count of driving under the influence

of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about October 30, 2023, on June 24, 2024. Fujimoto was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation, and her driver's license was suspended for one year.

On October 6, Fey Ruelas Tuttle, 25, was sentenced pursuant to a January 9, 2023 guilty plea to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about July 23, 2022. Tuttle was sentenced to two years' probation, and her license was suspended for one year.

On October 6, Matthew A. Blair admitted to being in contempt of court and was sentenced to one year on probation.

On October 7, Draven Louis Hughes, 21, pled guilty to one count of criminal trespass in the second degree, a class C misdemeanor, committed on or about September 20. Hughes was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

On October 9, Charles Daniel Downie, 34, pled no contest to one count of attempt to commit the class A felony of assault in the first degree, a class B felony, committed on or about May 8. Downie was sentenced to four years on probation.

On October 10, Nicholas Alexander Brys, 20, pled guilty to one count of sodomy in the third degree, a class C felony, committed on or about September 23, 2023. Brys was sentenced to ten days in jail and three years' probation.

On October 10, Shelby Dee White Bear, 43, pled guilty to one on count of assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic violence, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or

about September 26. White Bear was sentenced to 15 days in jail and three years' probation.

On October 13, Robert Jeffrey Biglin, 42, pled guilty to one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 7. Biglin was sentenced to time served in jail and ordered to pay a \$175 fine.

On October 13, Lisa Parris Allen, 46, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 10. Allen was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation, her driver's license was suspended for one year and she was ordered to pay \$2,255 in fines and fees.

On October 13, Hunter J Wilson, 26, pled no contest to one count of harassment, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about July 4. Wilson was sentenced to five days in jail.

On October 13, Curtis Allen Veazie, 62, was found convicted on one count of unlawful use of a weapon, a class C felony, committed on or about July 14. Veazie was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On October 13, Charles Benjamin Moser, 40, pled guilty to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 31. Moser was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years' probation, his driver's license was suspended for three years, and he was ordered to pay \$1,755 in fines and fees.

On October 13, Dantea Cheveal Frazier, 41, pled guilty to one count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, a class B felony, committed

on or about April 1, 2024. Frazier was sentenced to nine months in prison and two years' post-prison supervision.

On October 14, Joshua F. Gingerich, 50, pled no contest to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A violation, committed on or about July 14. Gingerich was fined \$440.

On October 17, Alexander Daniel Arellano, 22, pled no contest to one count of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree, a class B felony, committed on or about February 15, 2022, one count of sodomy in the third degree, a class C felony, committed on or between July 1, and August 31, 2021, and two counts of rape in the third degree, class C felonies, one committed on or between June 1, and June 30, 2021, and the other between March 1, and March 31, 2021. Arellano was sentenced to 45 months in prison and three years of post-prison supervision.

On October 17, Danny Lee Blair, 36, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 12, and one count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 9. Blair was sentenced to two days in jail, two years' probation and his driver's license was suspended for 24 months.

On October 17, Arron Michael Compton, 34, pled guilty to two counts of sexual abuse in the second degree, class C felonies, committed on or between January 20 and January 30. Compton was sentenced to 25 months in prison and five years of post-prison supervision.

On October 24, Andre Tito Pascua, 43, pled no contest to one count of disorderly conduct in the

second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about October 20. Pascua was sentenced to 120 days in jail.

On October 24, Justin Ray Davidson, 44, pled no contest to two counts of criminal mischief in the third degree, class C misdemeanors, committed on or about September 23. Davidson was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

On October 24, Joe Dusty Little, 68, lodged an admit plea to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 4, 2024. Little was sentenced to two years' probation, his driver's license was suspended for one year and he was ordered to pay \$2,492 in fines and fees.

On October 24, Brock Gabriel Graff, 25, pled no contest to one count of attempting to commit a class B felony-assault in the second degree, a class C felony, committed on or about September 27. Graff was sentenced to 30 months in prison and two years' post-prison supervision.

On October 27, LJ Edward House, 34, pled no contest to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or between June 28, and August 5. House was sentenced to five days in jail and two years' probation and ordered to pay \$2,611 in restitution to Fred Meyer.

On October 27, Michael J Douglas, 41, pled no contest to one count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about May 23. Douglas was sentenced to two days in jail and assessed a \$100 fine.

On October 28, Jeffrey Steven Heidenreich, 30, pled guilty to one count of criminal mischief in the third degree, a class C mis-

demeanor, committed on or about July 9. Heidenreich was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

On October 28, Gina Marie Wilson, 47, pled guilty to two counts of burglary in the second degree, a class C felony, committed on or about October 16. Wilson was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On November 3, Eric Leonard Silva, 59, pled guilty to one count of encouraging sexual assault of an animal, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about January 17, and one count of failure to report as a sex offender, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about December 17, 2024. Silva was sentenced to 10 days in jail and three years' probation, and ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

On November 3, Joshua Andrew Salazar Jr., 30, pled no contest to one count of criminal mischief in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 29, and admitted to being in contempt of court. Salazar was sentenced to 135 days in jail.

On November 3, Taylor Zane Stoll, 27, pled no contest to one count of harassment, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about May 7. Stoll was sentenced to 15 days in jail.

On November 3, Angelo Michael Thomas, 27, pled guilty to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 27. Thomas was sentenced to two days in jail and three years' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On November 5, Raymond Dale Burt Jr., 45, pled guilty to one count of criminal mischief in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about October 5. Burt was sentenced to two years' probation.

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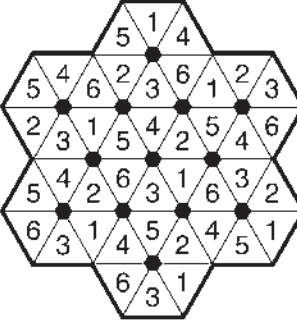




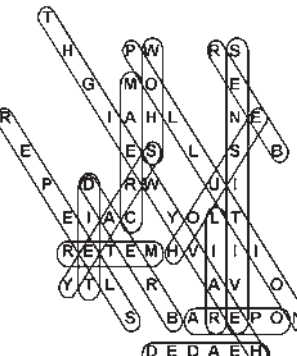
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### STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

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