



Community responds to South Prairie Flood  
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Nestucca grapplers start season strong  
**Page B1**

# Tillamook Headlight Herald



**Tuesday,** December 30, 2025 | Vol. 137, Issue 52

www.TillamookHeadlightHerald.com

**\$2.00**



## SHOP WITH A COP brings joy to area youth

The group of local law enforcement officers and guardsmen shortly before kids started to arrive.

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Headlight Editor

More than 30 local law enforcement officers, U.S. Coast Guardsmen and U.S. Forest Rangers gathered at the Tillamook Fred Meyer on December 20, helping 50 area kids through a \$250 holiday shopping spree in Tillamook's 21st annual Shop with a Cop.

Deputies from the Tillamook Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, and Tillamook and Manzanita Police Departments all participated in the event, organized by Tillamook Police Chief Nick Troxel and supported by donations and a fundraiser at Pacific Restaurant.

"I'm so grateful that you guys are here because we're going to have an impact on kiddos today like they've never had before,"

Troxel said. "And that's what's just so cool about this program and thanks to Tillamook County as a whole, we're able to do \$250 per child this year, which is the biggest we've ever been able to do."

Designed to help foster positive interactions between kids and law enforcement, all Tillamook County school districts, the Department of Human Services, law enforcement agencies and community part-

ners refer potential participants to Troxel each year. This year, Troxel received 66 referrals, generally for children between the ages of four and 12 years old and a committee of Tillamook School District and Department of Human Services staff and representatives of various law enforcement agencies selected 50 to participate.

See **SHOP**, Page A4

## VFW awards scholarships

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Headlight Editor

Members of VFW Post 2848 gathered with community members and teachers from the Nestucca School District on December 21, at the Kiawanda Community Center to recognize winners of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests.

Six students, five from the Nestucca School District and one from Neah-Kah-Nie High School, were honored for their writing about how they show support for our country and patriotism.

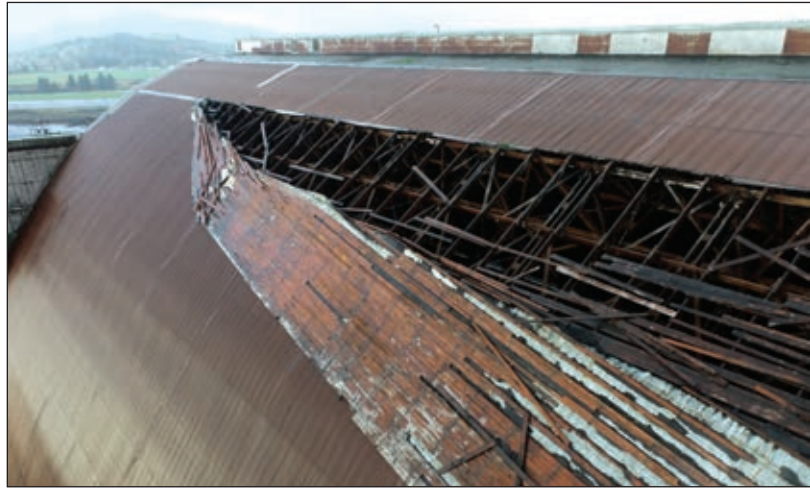
The afternoon started with all ceremony attendees enjoying an ice cream social organized by VFW member Paul Ferris, with help from the Nesko Women's Club, many of whose members were in attendance. VFW Post 2848 Commander Donovan Goff then discussed the two scholarship contests and handed out the awards.

The Patriot's Pen contest is open to students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and Tressa Franklin, Kate Gilas and Valjon Estrella, all students at Nestucca K-8 School, won first second and third place in the contest, respectively. According to a teacher, these students shared strong visions of what it meant to them to be patriotic, including voting, being active members of their community and knowing the country's history.

At the high school level in the Voice of Democracy competition,

See **VFW**, Page A5

## Port board updated on hangar options Highway 6 lane closed indefinitely



The damaged area of the building's roof as viewed during a drone flight the day after the windstorm. Photos courtesy of Stimson Lumber.

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Headlight Editor

In an emergency meeting on December 22, the Port of Tillamook Bay's board of commissioners received an update on estimated repair costs for Hangar B, which was closed after damage caused by a windstorm on December 16.

At the meeting, contractors Rick Lofton and Ed Laskaris shared that the cost to secure loose-hanging pieces of debris and build scaffolding to safely remove it, allowing experts to assess how to proceed with repairs, would be between

\$3.6 and \$4.5 million.

Board chair Jack Mulder started the meeting by saying that the board faced a substantial challenge in deciding how to proceed and that he felt it was important to gauge the community's feelings about the building and incorporate that information with feedback from staff to select a path forward.

Mulder said that he had been impressed by the scale of the hangar since he was a child and got the opportunity to tour the space, which was then closed to the public, with

See **PORT**, Page A4

**STAFF REPORT**  
Country Media, Inc.

A December 18 atmospheric river triggered a landslide that knocked out both lanes of traffic on Highway 6 around milepost 35 and caused significant subsidence to the westbound lane of travel.



Damage to the westbound lane of travel on Highway 6 at milepost 35. Photo by Cyrus Javadi.



The landslide caused significant damage to the road's shoulder as well. Photo by Cyrus Javadi.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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**Tuesday**



High 54° Low 37°

**Wednesday**



High 53° Low 41°

**Thursday**



High 51° Low 44°

**Friday**



High 51° Low 42°

**Saturday**



High 50° Low 42°

**Sunday**



High 52° Low 43°

**Monday**



High 52° Low 45°

### Weather



# TFCC welcomes new executive director

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Headlight Editor

With its longtime Executive Director Frank Hanna-Williams set to retire at the end of the year, the Tillamook Family Counseling Center welcomed his replacement, Amanda Bunger, in mid-November.

Bunger brings a wealth of experience to the position and said that she was

drawn to Tillamook Family Counseling Center (TFCC) by the opportunity to help bring quality behavioral care to a rural population.

“I’ve always had a real passion for ensuring services are of the highest quality and that individuals have access to those even if you’re in a rural county,” Bunger said, “even if you’re far out from the main city seat, that you are still able to get high

quality care.”

Bunger was born and raised in Burns and attended Southern Oregon University, earning a bachelor’s degree in sociology before completing a master’s degree in counseling, family and human services at the University of Oregon.

Bunger’s professional career began in Klamath County, where she was first the children and fam-

ily program manager with Klamath County Mental Health, before becoming the agency’s executive director. Bunger continued in that position until her husband’s job moved the family to the Portland area, where she found a job with CareOregon, working to support mental health agencies in Jackson, Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties.

In that role, Bunger got to work closely with staff at TFCC and found that their philosophy closely aligned with hers, so when she learned that Hanna-Williams was retiring, she decided to apply for the job.

“I had the opportunity to work with a lot of the staff and so when I heard that Frank was going to retire, which is well deserved, I thought what a cool opportunity,” Bunger said.

After being selected to succeed Hanna-Williams, Bunger moved to Tillamook County in mid-November and said that she has found the welcome from the com-



Amanda Bunger

munity and staff at TFCC and partner organizations amazing. In her first month-plus on the job, Bunger said that she has been focusing on familiarizing herself with the nuts and bolts of TFCC’s services and day-to-day operations, praising Hanna-Williams’s strong leadership of the organization for leaving her a solid foundation.

Looking forward, Bunger said that she wanted to

maintain and strengthen communication with Adventist Health and work to increase TFCC’s footprint in south Tillamook County. Bunger said that she would also like to work with the county’s school districts to bolster outreach to their students and potentially add groups or more telehealth availability to better serve them.

Bunger said that impending changes to Medicaid and Medicare at the federal level could have impacts on TFCC, and that while it was currently difficult to forecast what they might be, the organization was committed to sustaining its care.

“What I do know is TFCC will always find a way to meet the needs of the community, whatever it might look like,” Bunger said, “and so I think everything’s on the table in regard to how do we serve our community best and ensure that our patients have access regardless of what might come with funding.”

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*From All of us to you, Happy New Year*

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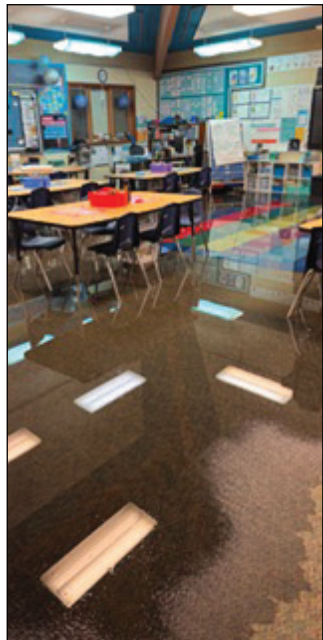
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# Community responds to South Prairie Flood



Community members help move supplies from a flooded classroom at South Prairie Elementary School. Photo courtesy Tillamook School District



The flood waters in one of the classrooms.

## Kristi Bertrand

Real Estate Broker

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**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Headlight Editor

An atmospheric river on December 18, caused extensive flooding at the South Prairie Elementary School just outside Tillamook, but a call for help drew in more than 100 community members within half an hour, helping to mitigate damage to the school.

Tillamook School District Superintendent Jennifer Guarcello said that parents, grandparents, board members and other members of the community showed up to help and that she was deeply grateful for the show of support.

“There truly aren’t enough words to adequately thank our community for showing up last night,” Guarcello said. “I constantly say it takes a village and our village showed up. What an amazing community we have; a true example of selflessness and compassion.”

Water started pouring into the eastern part of the school building around 4 p.m. on December 18, according to Guarcello, with more than half of the school’s classrooms seeing some water. Guarcello said that within 20 minutes of seeking help for the flooding on Facebook, more than 100 people showed up and began moving furniture out of impacted classrooms, clearing storm drains, hauling sandbags and chipping in wherever else they could.

The school was closed for the last day before winter break on December 19, and Tillamook’s school board held an emergency meeting to declare a state of emergency in response to the flood on the same day. Guarcello said that the next steps would be to work with a cleanup and restoration company to assess the damage and determine how to proceed.

Guarcello said that she hoped most of the work to repair the flood damage could be completed over the holiday break and that South Prairie families would be alerted if that timeline changed.

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# NEWS

## St. Peter Lutheran Church closes



**PATRICIA MUMFORD**  
For The Headlight Herald

On December 28, 2025, St Peter Lutheran Church at 405 Madrona, Tillamook, held its last service and official Holy Closure at 10 a.m. to officially mark the end of an era in Tillamook history. The church on the corner of Madrona and 4th Street was erected in 1897 by the United Brethren Church and dedicated in 1898. In 1967, St. Peter Lutheran Church purchased the octagonal structure and adjoining parking lot from the Mormon church. The St. Peter congregation has worshipped and shared the building with the Tillamook Community since then. St. Peter has been the place for concerts, choirs, youth groups, cancer cyclists and others needing a place to pray, practice or stay. The congregation has been active in the ecumenical community working with other area churches to support Tillamook community food banks, Christmas baskets, CARE, United Paws, Tides of Change and others. Due to aging and attrition, the St. Peter Congregation voted to pass this blessing on to the Tillamook YMCA so this historic wooden structure may continue serving the people of Tillamook. The YMCA has promised the St. Peter congregation they will maintain the historical significance of this original building and continue welcoming the community.

## Neskowin: A Book of Found photos

After two years of production, the non-profit Neskowin Historical Foundation is pleased to announce that “Neskowin: A Book of Found Photos” is now available. This 312-page hardcover collection features restored images that capture 100 years of Neskowin’s transformation—from a simple campground and hotel to a village of cottages, homes, a golf course, a store, and a cafe. The book also includes maps and documents highlighting

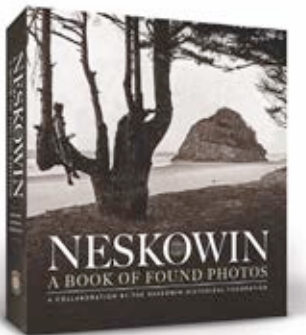
lect, preserve, and share the visual history of Neskowin. This inaugural project has been published by the Neskowin Historical Foundation’s Board Members:

Jim Affolter, President  
Michael Schlichting, Secretary  
Jody Stager, Treasurer  
Cathy Carver Benneth, Historical Consultant  
Stephen Dow Beckham, Historical Consultant  
Cameron Nagel, Photo & Content Editor

### Neskowin’s development through the years.

Books may be purchased for \$100 per copy at Neskowin Provisions and Oregon Coast Bank’s Pacific City branch. To have books shipped, please order online: NeskowinHistoricalFoundation.org.

All proceeds support our non-profit mission to col-



## Tillamook Hall of Fame nominations sought

The Tillamook High School Hall of Fame (HOF) is returning in 2026. There is a newly formed Hall of Fame Committee with the support of Tillamook High School Principal Jill Ingram and Tillamook High School Athletic Director Kye Johnson. The committee is seeking nominations for the 2026 Hall of Fame class. We are asking for nominations from anyone in the greater Tillamook community under four separate categories: individual athletes, coaches, teams and other community members who have made substantial contributions to Tillamook High School Athletics.

The committee is now accepting nominations, which will be reviewed

in May 2026 with finalists selected by June, and inductees contacted in July. An induction ceremony will occur at the Tillamook High School auditorium in September 2026 with more details to follow once inductees have been selected. Nominations will continue to receive annual consideration even if they are not inducted the year of initial nomination. We are asking the community to reach out the Tillamook High School Hall of Fame Chairman David Richmond (davidrobbyn@gmail.com) or Tillamook High School Athletic Secretary Melanie McCune (mccunem@tillamook.k12.or.us) to request a THS HOF Nomination Form. You may submit

completed HOF nomination forms to anyone on the HOF Committee or at the athletic office. Nomination forms will be accepted in any manner provided.

The individuals representing the Tillamook Hall of Fame Committee include Bob Lamb (Retired Coach), Mark Dean (Retired Coach), Todd Bush (Former Head Coach/Current Assistant Coach), Shelley Hurliman (Attendance Secretary), Bob Miles (Multi Sport Alumni), Whitney Averrill (Multiple Sport Alumni), Melanie McCune (Athletic Secretary) and David Richmond (Current Head Coach).

Tillamook High School has inducted three previous HOF classes.

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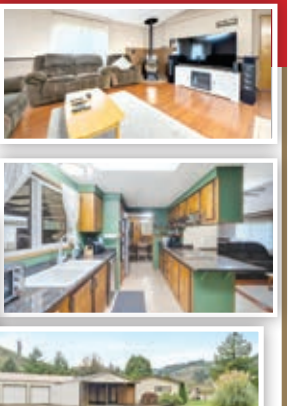
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SHOP  
with a Cop brings  
joy to area youth

From Page A1

Troxel said that donations to support the event generally trickle in throughout the year, but that as of October, fundraising for this year’s event had been lagging. However, a late influx of support, led by a \$5,000 donation from First Security Bank, and buoyed by the fundraiser at Pacific Restaurant gave Troxel the funds to give each participant \$250, compared to \$200 in recent years.

Officers and guardsmen gathered before dawn on the drizzly Saturday morning at the Tillamook Fred Meyer, which donated donuts for breakfast and dedicated two registers to checking out

participants. Volunteers from First Security Bank were also at the event, handing out free t-shirts to every participant.

Troxel greeted and welcomed the group, telling them that toys, coats and bikes were all great items to purchase, the last along with a helmet, but officers should refrain from doing grocery shopping for parents. Troxel said that volunteers were also manning a wrapping table and that kids could choose to have their gifts wrapped or unwrapped. Tillamook Fred Meyer Manager Randy Jones also let officers know that Fred Meyer had a promotion for \$30 off when customers spent \$150 or more, giving the kids a \$280 total budget.

Kids arrived in two groups and were paired with officers who escorted them throughout the store, with a photo opportunity set up to give them the chance to commemorate the day.



Officers wait for kids to check in for the Shop with a Cop event.

PORT  
Board updated on  
hanger options

From Page A1

his father, who was on the port commission at the time. Since then, Mulder said he has been impressed by the hangar’s transformation into a public space with the Tillamook Air Museum but that it still presented a challenge for the port’s commissioners. While the hangar carries undeniable historical value, the income it generates does not cover the costs of maintaining and repairing the 80-plus-year-old structure, creating a quandary.

Mulder explained that in recent years, the port commission has determined there are three possible paths forward with the hangar: preserve it, choose to demolish it or wait for natural forces to demolish it. While the board has always stated a desire to preserve the structure, funding has not materialized and prospective tenants with plans to restore the hangar and use it for air ship construction have not been able to consummate their plans, including two companies in the last several years.

Now, Mulder said, mother nature has forced a choice by ripping the 200-foot hole in the structure’s roof. Mulder concluded by saying that the port board needed to remain focused on repairing the damage caused by the

recent storm and not on the tens of millions of dollars in estimated repairs to restore the rest of the structure.

After Mulder’s introduction, the board voted to declare a state of emergency relating to the hangar damage before Lofton and Laskaris discussed repairs.

Laskaris told the board that the biggest concern was pieces of metal hanging from the edges of the hole that could be blown loose by a gust of wind and fly a considerable distance, posing a significant safety threat. Lofton said that the section of folded-over roof represented tons of unsecured material hanging on to the structure by a thread and that it needed to be secured as soon as possible.

To do that, Laskaris said that contractors would use basket lifts to access the hanging material and secure it to adjoining, solid roofing with screws. Laskaris said that this would probably require the removal of power lines adjacent to the building.

Once the loose material is secured, Laskaris said that it would be safe for an outside contractor to build scaffolding to access the damaged section of roof. At that point, workers would be able to cut loose pieces of the roof from the structure and safely remove them, using the scaffolding.

When the loose debris has been addressed, Laskaris said that experts would be able to assess the damage and provide options for next

steps, which could include rebuilding the roof in the affected area or covering the hole with shrink wrap. Laskaris said that the scaffolding would also give the experts a chance to assess the feasibility of repairing the rest of the building’s structure.

The estimated cost of securing the roofing, building the scaffolding and removing the debris was estimated at \$3.6 to \$4.5 million. Laskaris also said that the scaffolding company had initially told him it would take 80 days to erect scaffolding, though they had since shortened that estimate to 40 days.

Following the presentation, Port Commissioner Bill Baertlein kicked off the discussion by saying that the port could not pay for a \$4 million repair and that it would be necessary to either identify outside funding or have a tough conversation about the building’s future.

When asked, staff said that the hangar generated around \$150,000 in annual revenue, which Baertlein said made repairs economically untenable.

Mulder chimed in that the board needed to consider other projects in the county, namely Highway 6, which saw extensive damage in an atmospheric river the day after the damage to the hangar, when considering whether to seek limited state resources to support the repair. Mulder also pointed out that a hangar at Moffett Air Field in the Mountain View, California, had been demolished under similar circumstances, saying that if a hangar in Silicon Valley could not raise the funds for a repair, it would be difficult for Tillamook to do so.

The board agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss next steps for the last week of the year or the first week of 2026 after they have a chance to fully review the proposal and port staff have more time to explore potential funding.

In the interim, Port General Manager Michele Bradley said that she would work with a contractor to erect a temporary fence around the hangar to keep the public safe.

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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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Our First Amendment Rights are Under Siege

The US Constitution Amendment 1 ratified 1791 states:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances.

These rights are being sorely tested under the current administration and complicit Republican Congress. Trump’s lawsuits against media; threats to pull FCC licenses and the de-funding of public television and radio; huge fines on universities that allow demonstrations against Israel’s genocide; firing boards of directors and ending support for the arts, museums, libraries and stripping content deemed to have “woke” ideology; firing scientists and researchers

who speak out about climate change and vaccine safety; and federal troop deployments to fight non-existent runaway crime in cities and squash peaceful protests are designed to instill fear, erase history, curtail speech and eliminate dissent.

A National Security Presidential Memorandum Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence was recently issued. It designates Antifa - which is not an organized group - as a “Domestic Terrorist Organization,” and provides for federal prosecution of any groups, individuals and funders whom the current Administration believes to be fomenting “political violence, terrorism or conspiracy against rights”. The government is now compiling a secret domestic terrorist list. In the meantime, the violent protesters convicted of storming the Capitol on January 6, 2021, have all received full Presidential pardons.

Groups and people who express “anti-capitalist”, “anti-Christian” or “extremist positions on immigration, race, and gender,” could be targeted as “anti-American”. Voices opposed to invading Venezuela or support for environmental protections could be silenced. LGBTQ persons will be pushed back in the closet. Book bannings and citizen “tip lines” to report on neighbors are coming. Those who oppose federal policies could be jailed or worse for demonstrating peacefully, posting on social media, or writing opinion pieces such as this. (Note: phrases in “quotes” are from the NSPM-7).

I urge you all to speak truth to power. I shall continue to protest proudly.

Sonya Kazen  
Cloverdale



Goff addresses the crowd at the scholarship award ceremony.

# VFW

## awards scholarships

From Page A1

students wrote 400–500-word essays on the same topic and recorded themselves reading the essay, with their oratorical skills also judged. Nestucca High’s Melina Christensen placed third in the local contest and Carley Wisehart

second, while Zelda Hooker, of Neah-Kah-Nie High School placed first. Hooker’s essay went on to take first place at the departmental level and is now being judged at the statewide level.

Nestucca Band and Choir Director and Language Arts Teacher Kathleen Serven praised the students’ efforts, saying that Hooker’s essay had been shared with students at Nestucca High on Veterans’ Day, and she could see why

it had won. Serven also noted that all the scholarship winners were freshmen, meaning they had not yet studied U.S. history, making their accomplishment even more impressive.

“I just want to say I’m really proud of all of them for stepping up and doing this,” Serven said, “because most freshmen don’t have a whole lot of experience or knowledge about country matters or haven’t taken U.S. history yet, so it really takes a bit of reflection and research and putting together that knowledge to assemble an essay and speech that’s meaningful for them.”

Winners of the Patriot’s Pen scholarships were awarded \$50, \$100 and \$150, while Voice of Democracy winners received \$100, \$150 and \$200, with Hooker still in the running for further scholarship funds should her essay win the statewide competition.

Tillamook

Headlight Herald

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WRITE TO US

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITUARIES

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

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Submissions may be sent in by:

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Tillamook

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# FENCEPOSTS

Here we are at the end of another year – a time for reflection. My first thought was a blank. Am I living a day-to-day existence with little time for reflection? It feels like I do a lot of planning going forward but not looking back. Traditionally at the end of the year, we aim our reflections on accomplishments – or non-accomplishments – and improvements for the coming year. Today, I’m thinking about what has been accomplished in the city of Garibaldi.

Kyler’s Big Heart event raised \$12,000 for the purchase and distribution of AEDs – medical devices useful in case of a heart attack. These are being distributed to businesses along our coastline, so they are available for such emergent situations. The community’s participation in this event, the musicians, along with the sponsors – the Cavitt family - made this happened.

The Garibaldi Business Association has been very active in our community. They made Garibaldi Days a great success. They participated in the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony, and they took over doing Christmas baskets for families from the disbanded Lion’s Club and provided a giving tree (at the Beach Beagle) for the children. This year there were forty-nine baskets, some with turkeys and some with ham. I went over to help put them together – there were eight or nine people who came to help.

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

We walked the boxes in and set them up, walked the food in and started filling boxes. The next day, others from the GBA came to deliver these special packages, food and toys for children. It was an honor to help. And so well executed that it took less than an hour. I know this was only a small part of the total Christmas Basket project – the gifts had to be matched up with the food boxes, then deliveries, so my help was minor in the great scheme. But that is how we each play a part and make it happen.

The city’s Emergency Management volunteers have worked hard to help us be prepared in case of emergencies such as a tsunami or earthquake. Their poster in the Post Offices provides us with information to put our go bags together so they are ready for an emergency. Recently the leader, Conney Corey, expressed interest in doing an inventory of the city’s emergency supplies stored near the water tank. With these winter storms, atmospheric rivers coming down on us, that is a great idea.

The GURA provided grants to several businesses

for exterior improvements this year. Fish with Lips was able to capitalize on a grant to provide ramps and other exterior improvements. The Portside Bistro is improving their patio area, which hopefully will be ready for the summer season. Recently, grants were awarded to Threaded Peaks (Tina’s Hair Salon), Captain’s Corner, and Belladonna Beads (for the old Gloria’s). These grants are designed to help businesses attract shoppers, tourists, and even us community members. They provide funding to help with the structural soundness of these buildings, to keep them standing as well as looking good. There are more requests in the queue, waiting for improvements. That means more good-looking places to shop. Hopefully a busy and bountiful summer tourist season in 2026.

Oh, yes. How could I forget? Garibaldi’s main street was repaved this year. That is an accomplishment! Some potholes were filled. Some sewer laterals were replaced or unplugged as needed. Several repairs were made to city hall, especially after the vehicle-hitting-the pole- incident last month. City hall hours remain the same – Monday to Thursday, 8:30 to 3:30. But staff working hours were reduced from a 40-hour work week to a 32-hour work week. This was a management decision and was not discussed

See **GARIBALDI**, Page A6

Results from our online poll:

Which type of Christmas Tree do you have this year?

Real

25

Artificial

45

None

47

Stay connected to us!

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



FENCEPOSTS

The second December atmospheric river hit Tillamook right on the heels of the first. Power went out here in Cape Meares just before 1 p.m. on December 18, and the Cape Meares Emergency Volunteer Corps sprang into action. The team turned on their GMRS radios and began sharing information.

Had Tillamook PUD been notified? Yes. Had all eight neighborhood captains been heard from? No, no word from one, so one of the team pursued that. Had the source of the outage been identified? Yes, an alder tree near the oyster boat off Bayocean Road had fallen across the road,

taking down the power lines. Had information been shared with the community at large? Check, someone had posted a notice on social media site MeWe. Was there an estimated time of repair? A villager received a timeframe estimate from Tillamook PUD of an hour to clear the road and another hour after that to restore power

And, boy, was that PUD worker right on. Just before 3 p.m., the lights in Cape Meares came back to life. Many, many thanks to our stellar PUD crew, who had been working for days to fix lines across the county but still managed to fit us in and get us back in busi-

As we go to press for New Year’s week, I’ve used vacation days to travel to Boardman, Oregon to bring Christmas to my mom and stepdad. Tonight is Christmas Eve and the elderly pair were as excited as my own kids back in the 1980s when they retired for the night just now. I’ll put our Fencepost news on the page as they drift off to sleep and then sneak their wrapped presents under the tree before calling it a night myself.

I hear that congratulations are in order again for the Lady Cats, Nestucca High School’s girls’ basketball team. They wrapped up

2025 with a 58-31 win over Lowell. Their records is 7-0, undefeated. Nestucca’s next game is Friday, January 2 in St. Paul.

This week KCC serves senior lunches at 11:30 on Tuesday (December 30) and Wednesday (December 31) according to my source for \$3 each. (Others may partake for \$6.) Bingo there is paused until 1-3 p.m. on Thursday, January 8. The address is 34600 Cape Kiawanda Drive in Pacific City. For more information call 971-212-7131 or go to kiwanda.com.

Thanks to Bear Creek Artichokes for word that their

ended up with more than 40 homes participating and 26 businesses offering special deals during the event.

One important intention for the Beach Bargains was to draw attention to Rockaway Beach, not only from locals but also from visitors, during the shoulder season. That refers to the weeks just before and just after the summer busy season, when local businesses that depend on



CAPE MEARES  
ELLEN STEEN  
ellensteen2@gmail.com

ness in under two hours.

What emergency preparedness steps did individual households take? I can’t speak for all, but here at the Steen homestead, Capt. Pete immediately plugged in two extension cords to our Anker battery



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

store and eatery will be open from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31 and closed on New Year’s Day, Thursday. They’re located 11 miles south of Tillamook and 3.5 miles north of Beaver on U.S Highway

tourism start to see a drop-off in customers.

The initial weekend was a huge success, especially given the short time for planning and promotion. That success was enough to ensure a repeat in 2026.

“Everyone wants to do a two-day event next year,” Deb explained a week or so later. She added that one popular request was for more and clearer signage. Apparently, there was a wedding in town over that weekend, and some of the wedding guests saw the arrows guiding shoppers to homes participating in the Beach Bargains—and mistakenly thought they were directions to the wedding. Next year’s event can therefore be expected to have better branding.

Just one week after the Beach Bargains, GO Rockaway was instrumental in organizing the traditional push-in ceremony for Rockaway Beach Fire & Rescue’s new ladder truck, known as Quint. In addition to words from City Manager Luke Shepard,

back-up system, getting the refrigerator running again and enabling the washing machine to finish its current load. He set out a couple of little lanterns, one in the bathroom and one in the living room, to use if needed—bright little lights that the PUD had given out as Christmas gifts some years back. He retrieved a mophie from its storage place in the garage so that I could fully charge my cell phone, which was down to 60%. Pete started the fire he had pre-laid in the fireplace, then went to the shed to retrieve the stand-up drying rack our son and his wife had given dear old dad for Christmas

101.

Adventist Health has announced a call to artists for their “Art for the Heart” event in February. Artists of any age are invited to submit up to five entries (which must be wall-ready). If items are offered for sale, North County Recreation District (NCRD) will keep a 20 percent commission for sold pieces.

The theme is “Art for the Heart,” and we should Mark our 2026 calendars for submission dates which are 9 a.m. through 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 and 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. on Friday, January 30 at



ROCKAWAY BEACH  
SCOTT FISHER  
sfisher71@yahoo.com

Mayor Charles McNeilly, Go Rockaway member Michael Weissenfluh, and of course Fire Chief Hesse, those who attended were treated to complimentary hot dogs, chips, soda and Tillamook ice cream. Several lucky residents were included in a ride-along in Quint (so named because of the five-in-one configuration of firefighting gear).

I caught up with Chief Hesse, who expressed his appreciation for GO Rockaway’s ability to put together the event.

“These people aren’t in it for themselves,” he said. “They’re working to lift up everyone in town.”

Since then, GO Rockaway

a couple of years ago (yes, that was on his wish list). He set the drying rack up in front of the fire. Soon, the clothes were drying, and we had resumed our game of canasta. Weathered that one well.

Local Cape Meares artists Bev Stein and Michael Stevens will be among the exhibitors in The Hoffman Center for the Arts’ 2026 Annual Community Show. The theme for this year’s community show is “Violet.” North Coast artists, all full- or part-time residents of Tillamook or Clatsop County, will be displaying artwork featuring the color violet in all sorts of mediums—painting, draw-

NCRD, 36155 9th Street, in Nehalem.

Don’t forget that King Tides will happen through January 4 and make for great storm watching. Just be certain to stay off the beaches for safety.

Winter whale watching is at its peak this same week as more than 20,000 gray whales migrate to warmer waters to the south. Cape Kiawanda Natural Area is among more than two dozen “Whale Watching Spoken Here” sites along the Oregon Coast through Wednesday, December 31. Some sites have personnel available from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

has participated in several other events, at least two also involving Rockaway Beach Fire & Rescue. The weekend after Thanksgiving saw Rockaway Beach’s first Holiday Bazaar, a festive collection of local arts and crafts. Originally planned to take place in city hall, participants soon exceeded the space available there. This required opening an overflow site at the International Police Museum, 320 S. Highway 101.

In addition to booths and tables for vendors, the bazaar included a selection of gift baskets which were raffled off to benefit Fire & Rescue. One vendor is close to my own caffeinated heart: Divine Bean Coffee, sourced and roasted by Rockaway’s own Julian Sakata, one of the founders of the Rockaway Roastery. Julian’s beans can also be found at the Green Coast Market, 119 S. Miller Street. Fortunately for Julian but sadly for us, his special commemorative blend created for Fire & Rescue sold out the first day.

ing, print, collage, textile, metal, wood, ceramic, writing and more. The artwork will be up from January 2 through January 31. All registration spots to exhibit pieces have been filled. An opening reception for the “Violet” exhibition will be held at the gallery on Saturday, January 3, from 3–5 p.m. Also at the reception, writers who have been accepted for the annual Community Writes program will have an opportunity to share their work. Admission is free and the exhibition is open to the public; please drive on up Highway 101 to 594 Laneda Avenue in Manzanita and enjoy the show.

Those locations include Fort Stevens, NeahKahNie Mountain, Cape Meares on the North Coast and Boiler Bay, Depot Bay, Rocky Creek, Yaquina Head, Yachats State Recreation Area, Cape Perpetua, and Heceta Head on the Central Coast. There are additional sites on the South Coast accessible online.

Happy New Year, dear reader. Happy Birthday this week to - Josh Armstrong, Sean Bennett, Michael Corey, James Elliott, Taylor Geil, Emma Hagerty, Blayke Haltiner, Brandi Haltiner, April Huff, Mary Hurliman, Elijah Love and Cheryl Trent.

The year’s final event was Santa at the Fire Station on December 13, following the Parade of Lights from Nedonna Beach. After a procession of decorated private vehicles, led by Quint the #21 ladder truck, Santa arrived at the fire station at 6 p.m. It’s worth recalling that our fire station is dedicated to former Rockaway Beach Fire Chief Barry Mammano. Chief Mammano retired in 2019 after 61 years of service, 34 as fire chief, one of the longest tenures in Oregon state history.

The visit from Santa to the fire station included cookies and hot beverages for those who attended, plus raffle prizes and pictures with Santa.

No word yet on GO Rockaway’s plans for 2026, but with the momentum they are carrying from the last four months of 2025, we should be able to expect to hear more from them.

To find out more or to volunteer, reach them by email at [go@gorockaway.org](mailto:go@gorockaway.org), or call (773) 551-4979.



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H26064

I hope everyone had a warm and peaceful Christmas holiday. Two more days remain this year; it certainly seems that 2025 has gone by so fast. Wishing all our readers a Happy New Year, may 2026 bring you all good blessings.

Looking back on 2025, our Booster Club, the fire department, public works and our local city staff have accomplished quite a few projects in Bay City. Well done to everyone who tackled many difficult and rewarding tasks.

Looking ahead for January, the Bay City Arts Center will be offering an after-school theater program for youth in grades 3-6. This begins January 13, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and will run through March 5. The cost is \$100 per student; scholarships are available and if support is needed e-mail [baycityartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:baycityartscenter@gmail.com)

Students will, through fun, hands on activities act in two children’s plays, learn costume, sets and props, try kid-friendly lighting and sound, and create make-up and character looks. Stu-



BAY CITY  
PENNY EBERLE  
hrhpenny57@hotmail.com

dents will perform live for their family and friends, be in an inclusive space, engage and develop social skills, and build confidence through teamwork. This sounds like a great program for these students; I almost wish I was still in school.

The monthly coffee with the mayor and city manager will be held on Tuesday, January 20th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. This will be the first meeting of the year, and we will hear about some of the upcoming plans in Bay City. This is an informal gathering, all in the community are invited, and it’s a great way to hear from our mayor and city manager, and for residents to express ideas, concerns and get involved.

The Bay City Booster

**GARIBALDI**  
Linda Bade  
From Page A5

with council. Water and sewer rates were raised, and a street fee was imposed as a result of the budget process in June. Street fees

are being collected in the Street Fund and will not be expended until an improvement plan is developed, reviewed by the Budget Committee and the Council, and implemented. Two audits have been completed, FY 2021 and FY 2022. FY 2023 is being finalized; FY 2024, and FY 2025 remain to be completed.

Christmas carols are playing in the kitchen as I

finish this up. I hope that Santa was “good” to you all last night and that your Christmas day was filled with cheer. I wish you a very Happy New Year.

And remember, the Tax-Aide appointment schedule will be out the first week of January at the Tillamook Library (503-842-4792) for you to sign up for a tax appointment during tax season.



# Conservation groups urge Oregon to reduce whale deaths from crab fishing gear

**MIA MALDONADO**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

After at least four humpback whales were entangled this year in Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishing gear, conservation groups are petitioning the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt measures to reduce the amount of fishing gear during whale feeding and migration seasons.

Filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Oceana, Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Cetacean Society, the petition asks officials to open a pathway for fishers to use pop-up fishing gear,

which eliminates untended buoy lines. The gear has been tested in the California Dungeness crab fishery, and conservation groups say it is reliable, profitable and safe for whales and other marine animals.

“This year’s horrific entanglements show that humpbacks are in a lot of danger from Oregon crab gear,” said Ben Grundy, an oceans campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. “If state officials don’t move to adopt whale-safe fishing gear, like pop-up buoys for Dungeness crab pots, endangered whales will continue to suffer and die preventable deaths.”

The petition, filed earlier

this month, comes weeks after a young entangled humpback whale was found stranded on a beach north of Yachats. Veterinarians euthanized the whale after unsuccessful attempts to free it on Nov. 17. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is investigating the entanglement.

The department on Dec. 5 issued a fleet advisory, urging fishers to be vigilant and take precautions to avoid entanglements. The advisory doesn’t include enforcement measures, but it says the department is strongly considering further regulatory action to reduce entanglement risk.

“The latest dead hump-

back whale should be a wake-up call that entanglements in Oregon crab gear are a major problem,” stated Ben Enticknap, fisheries director at Oceana. “Oregon fishery managers should act quickly to strengthen conservation measures to reduce whale entanglements.”

The number of entanglements in Oregon commercial Dungeness crab gear this year is likely higher than just the four confirmed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in September released preliminary results showing that there may have been as many as 20 entangled

whales.

Entanglements can cause starvation, infections, amputations, strangulation as well as impact a whale’s ability to reproduce, according to NOAA.

“The four humpback whales found tragically entangled in Oregon crab gear are a signal of a much greater entanglement problem, as only a small fraction of them are ever detected,” said Francine Kershaw, a senior scientist at Natural Resources Defense Council. “The state should take swift, science-based management action to effectively protect endangered whales in Oregon waters.”

State law requires the

commission to respond to the petition in writing within 90 days and either deny it or begin rulemaking proceedings.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/25/conservation-groups-urge-oregon-to-reduce-whale-deaths-from-crab-fishing-gear/>

*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.*

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas J. Burns 1954 ~ 2025



Thomas J. Burns was born in 1954 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Jack

and Jean Burns. Tom lived in several states—New York, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, and Illinois—before settling in Oregon in his early 20s. A Boy Scout from a young age, he carried a lifelong curiosity and love for nature and space. As a child, Tom developed a deep passion for music. He taught himself to play guitar on an instrument with only two strings, a spark that grew into a lifelong devotion. Over the years, he played in many bands and touched countless lives through his

talent, creativity, and love of music. Tom was well known wherever he went and built a reputation as one of the most friendly and helpful people you could meet. He was, and always will be, deeply loved by many. Tom is survived by his sister, Nancy; his brothers, John and Jimmy; his son, Benjamin; and his grandson, Tucker. A celebration of life will take place in the summer of 2026.

### Michael A Wade May 30, 1948 ~ Dec. 14, 2025

Michael “A” Wade, 77, passed away December 14, 2025, at the Maine Veterans’ Home in Bangor after a lengthy stay. He was born May 30, 1948, in Tillamook, OR, the son of Clair and Esther (Gulstrom) Wade. After graduating from Oregon State University, Michael enlisted in the US Coast Guard. He attended OCS and became a commissioned officer shortly thereafter. Mi-

chael retired as a Lieutenant Commander after 20 years and moved to Maine to help run Sherman Lumber Company. Michael is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Aaron and Katie of Southington, CT and grandchildren, Evan, Adam, and Lucy. He is predeceased by his parents, wife Suzanne, brother Lance, and son Jared.

Services will be held privately with his family.



### Curtis Scott Williams Jan. 14, 1966 ~ Dec. 15, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Curtis Williams. Curtis was born on the 14th of January, 1966, and passed away on the 15th of December, 2025, leaving a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Memorial Service to be held in the Spring.

#### OBITUARY POLICY:

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**CUSTOM OBITUARY:** You choose the length, the wording of the announcement, and if you want a small photo included - Cost is \$75 for the first 200 words, \$50 for each additional 200 words.

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# Adventist Health Tillamook relaunches virtual grief support groups

Adventist Health Tillamook is relaunching its Virtual Grief Support Groups beginning Thursday, January 8, 2026, offering a compassionate and accessible space for individuals navigating grief and loss. The groups will be held virtually on the first and last Thursday of each month from 9 to 10 a.m., with

registration. Grief can follow many life experiences, including the loss of a loved one, significant life changes, or other forms of personal loss. These virtual support groups are designed to help participants process a wide range of emotions, including shock, anger, disbelief, guilt, and sadness, while

connecting with others who understand the grief journey. The groups will be co- led by Cami Aufdermauer, Bereavement Coordinator and Chaplain serving Adventist Health since 2024, and Dr. Pam Strachan, a Board-Certified Chaplain and Bereavement Specialist who previously served the Tillamook community from

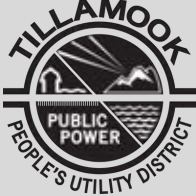
2020 to 2024 and is returning to provide bereavement support. Together, they will offer gentle guidance, practical coping tools, and a supportive environment where participants can move through grief at their own pace. Participation is open to community members experiencing loss of any kind. There is no requirement

to share, and individuals are welcome to engage in ways that feel comfortable to them. After registering at [ahlink.org/tillamookgg](http://ahlink.org/tillamookgg), participants will receive an email with details and a secure link to join each virtual session. Adventist Health Tillamook remains committed to supporting the emotional, spiritual, and mental well-

being of the community, recognizing that healing often happens through connection, understanding, and shared experience. For more information or to register, community members are encouraged to visit [AdventistHealthTillamook.org](http://AdventistHealthTillamook.org) or contact the bereavement support team directly at 503-816-8694 for any questions.





## STORM SAFETY

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We are available 24/7 to respond to power outages, downed power lines, and damaged equipment. After-hours calls are routed to our on-call dispatcher who sends crews to repair and restore power.

After-hours electrical emergencies can be reported by calling 503-842-2122 or 800-842-2122. Customers can also report online through SmartHub at [www.tpod.org](http://www.tpod.org). The after-hours number is to report power outages or electrical emergencies only.

Crews respond as quickly as possible; however, this can take time depending on the location and situation.

**PLEASE BE AWARE, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE OR GO NEAR DOWNED POWER LINES.**



Cami Aufdermauer, Bereavement Coordinator and Chaplain (left), and Dr. Pam Strachan, board-certified chaplain and bereavement specialist (right), co-lead Adventist Health Tillamook's virtual grief support groups.

## Tillamook PUD Announces 2026 Community Support Grant Program

# New Year, New Ride!



25T27



24T84



24T76

**2025 Maverick XLT 2.0L EcoBoost AWD**  
MSRP \$34,845.00  
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**2024 Edge SE 2.0L EcoBoost AWD**  
MSRP \$40,225.00  
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**2024 Ranger XLT 2.3L EcoBoost 4X4**  
MSRP \$42,680.00  
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24T47



25T7



24F1

**2024 Ranger Lariat 2.3L EcoBoost 4X4**  
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**JOANNA STELZIG**  
Tillamook People's Utility District

Tillamook People's Utility District (Tillamook PUD) is excited to announce the opening of its 2026 Community Support Grant Program, designed to foster economic growth and enhance community livability throughout Tillamook County.

Local not-for-profit organizations are invited to apply for grant funding to support projects that benefit the community. Applications are available online at [www.tpod.org/news-community/community-support-grants/](http://www.tpod.org/news-community/community-support-grants/) or can be requested at the Tillamook PUD office. The deadline for submission is 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Grant applications will be reviewed by the Tillamook PUD Board of Directors in mid-March. The Board will prioritize projects that demonstrate strong potential for economic development, community outreach, and financial need. Preference will be given to not-for-profit entities that do not receive tax-based funding and to projects resulting in a physical asset for the community.

Key program details include:

- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2026.
- Individual grant awards are limited to \$10,000 per year.
- Organizations may receive no more than \$20,000 in total funding within a five-year period.

Past grant recipients have used funding for a variety of community projects including emergency preparedness initiatives, lighting and electrical upgrades at civic organizations, energy efficiency improvements, and enhancement projects at local facilities serving Tillamook County.

For more information, please contact Joanna Stelzig at (503) 842-2535 or [jstelzig@tpud.org](mailto:jstelzig@tpud.org).



# Nestucca grapplers start season strong

**MIKE WEBER**  
For The Headlight Herald

The Nestucca High Bobcats OSAA Special District 1 Class 2A/1A boys and girls wrestling teams competed in their fourth event of the season in the December 20 Bill Hagerty Invitational at Nestucca High School and had an outstanding performance.

The Bobcats, guided by seventh-year Coach Aaron Pearn, had three wrestlers who won their weight class in boys' events, including juniors Brady Hurliman (126 pounds), Tegan Slavens (144 lbs.) and senior Levi Farrens (132 lbs.). Hurliman and Far-

rens also won at the December 12 Culver Invitational meet. Hurliman, Farrens and Slavens are returning state qualifiers for the Bobcats. Farrens took third place at the 2025 state tournament.

"Our top three wrestlers are doing very well and they're wrestling at a really high level right now," said Pearn. "I expect them to continue doing well all season and qualify for state again."

The Bobcats 16-member boys' squad and the two member girls' team will compete in their next event of their 10-meet schedule January 3 at Lowell High School.

The Class 2A/1A boys district meet will be held

February 13-14. The top four finishers in each weight class will qualify for the OnPoint Community Credit Union Wrestling State Championship Tournament February 26-28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. The Class 4A/3A/2A/1A girls district meet is Feb. 20-21.

## Neah-Kah-Nie wrestlers shoot for state

The Neah-Kah-Nie High Pirates boys' and girls' wrestling teams competed in their fourth OSAA Class 3A Special District 1 meet December 20 at Nestucca, with several athletes turning in strong performances.

The 12-member boys'

squad was highlighted by a second-place finish for senior Alex Lessor in the 157-pound weight class. The Pirates, guided by fifth-year Coach Alejandro Quintana, also had solid top five finishes by Wyatt Miller (144 lbs.), Talon Zink (190 lbs.), Nathaniel Tinnes (175 lbs.) and Tyson Latter (215 lbs.). Ivan Cazarez took sixth place in the 132-pound division.

"We did great work at the Bill Hagerty Invitational at Nestucca," said Quintana. "Both the boys' and girls' teams finished in seventh place in team scoring overall, so they really did a nice job. We don't have too many kids this year, so it's kind of a small team. Hopefully,

Lessor, Tinnes and Hunter Skelton will get back to state again this year, and they'll have a good chance to do that to."

Lessor, Tinnes and Skelton are returning state qualifiers who are each seeking to return to the state tournament again in 2026. The Pirates boys' squad will compete in the district tournament February 13-14, and the top four finishers qualify for the state meet.

"We have a young boys' team (seven freshmen, one sophomore) and we're looking forward to developing our young freshman class," said Quintana. "Our three upperclassmen (Lessor, Tinnes and Skelton) are each hoping

to qualify for state again and place well at the tournament. On our girls' team, senior Sara Vega and junior Trinity Schenk-Williams are first-year wrestlers who are very athletic and they're learning quick too."

Schenk-Williams took sixth place at Nestucca in the 125-pound weight division. The Pirate wrestlers will compete in their next meet Jan. 8 at Rainier High School, followed by their seventh event of the season January 10 at Willamina.

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

# Oregon Parents Disproportionately Exempt School-Age Children From Vaccines

*Oregon has the nation's third-highest opt-out rate, leaving more than 50,000 children vulnerable to serious disease.*

**KHUSHBOO RATHORE**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon's already low kindergarten vaccination rates may worsen after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this month stopped recommending the hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

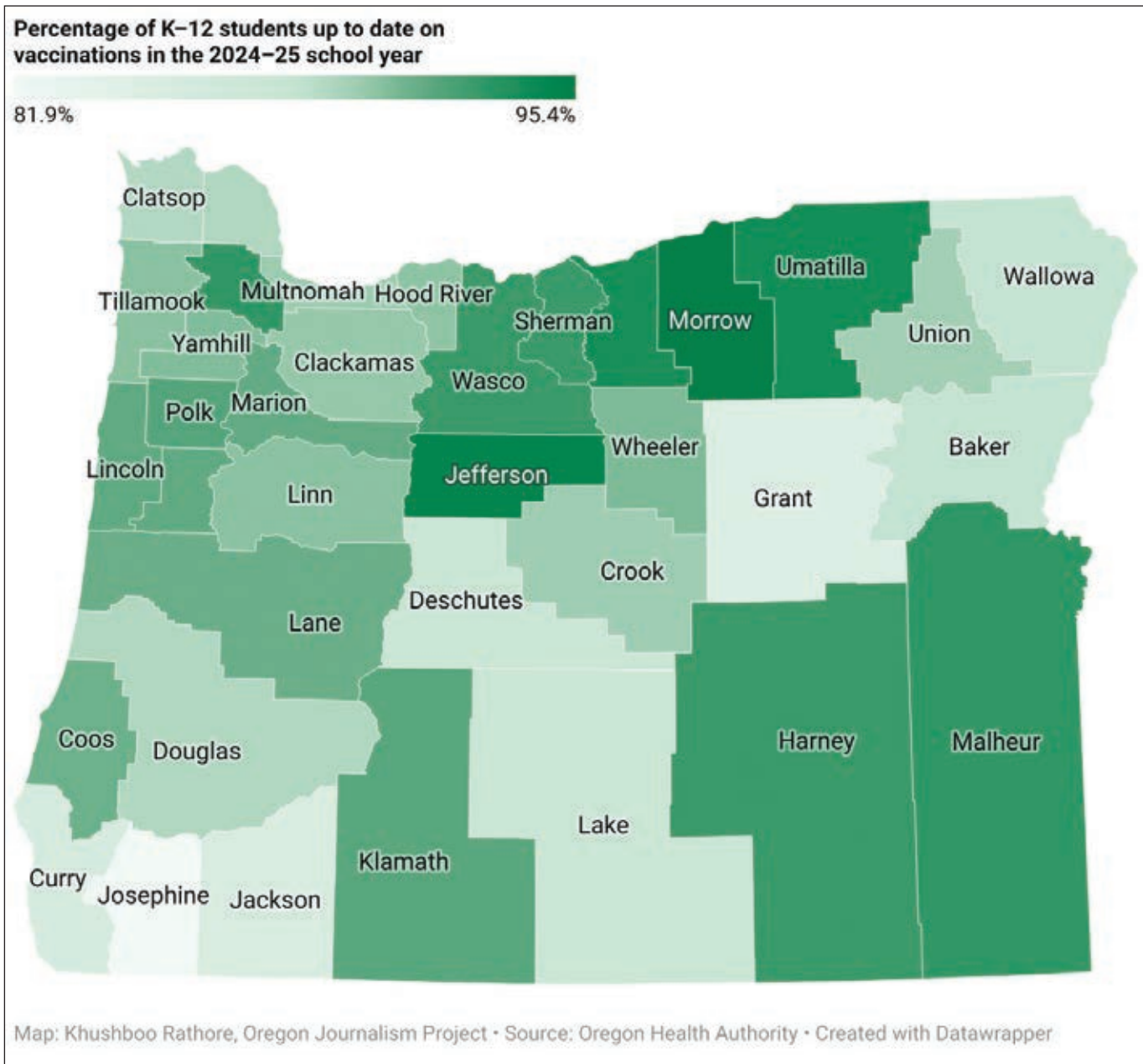
Public health experts decried the controversial decision, which overturned 30 years of guidance that cut rates of liver disease and cirrhosis.

Oregon is part of a new public health collaborative with Hawaii, California and Washington, the West Coast Health Alliance, that works to support evidence-based vaccination schedules and policy, and recommends the vaccine.

Compared with those states, however, public health officials here may face a tougher task. By law, Oregon parents can claim both "medical" and "personal" exemptions to leave their children unvaccinated.

At 9.7%, Oregon has the third-highest kindergarten vaccine opt-out rate in the country, nearly triple the nation's 3.4%. Idaho ranks first (15.1%), followed by Utah (10%).

Kindergartners in nearly all Oregon counties have



been vaccinated at rates lower than the national average for measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough and hepatitis B, diseases that can lead to lifelong consequences, even death.

This leaves the state far from what experts call "herd immunity," which requires a 95% vaccination rate for a community in order to thwart highly contagious diseases such as measles.

Morrow is the only Oregon county where over 95% of children in grades K-12 were up to date on vaccinations for the past school year.

"We try not to shame them, just provide them with

information and education that they can make an informed decision," Morrow County public health director Robin Canaday says.

Nearby Grant County, at the other end, had a vaccina-

tion rate for the 2024-25 school year of only 85%.

"I think it's kind of out of sight, out of mind for some of these major diseases that people don't even have to interact with anymore," says the county's public health administrator, Trey Thompson.

"Post-COVID, there's still a lot of distrust in just general vaccinations, even ones that have been long standing," he says.

U.S. Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. of the Department of Health and Human Services has publicly said, without citing evidence, that vaccines cause far more harm than good. Earlier this year, he appointed members to the CDC immunization panel who largely share his views.

Unvaccinated Oregon children have led to record cases this year of whooping cough, also known as pertussis. Through November, 1,453 cases have been reported in the state, a 43% increase over the same time last year, and the highest number since 1950.

"It's really, really hard to see a child that is so sick from pertussis," Canaday says, "and to think that vaccines can protect against the severity of those diseases."

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# Anticipating early 2026 opening, Oregon seeks to block potential Newport ICE facility

**SHAANTH NANGUNERI**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Suspecting the federal government plans to open a large-scale Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility near Newport’s airport early next year, the state of Oregon asked a federal judge to block construction.

Lawyers for the state sought an injunction from U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken in an amended complaint filed last week as part of an ongoing lawsuit challenging the U.S. Coast Guard’s removal of a rescue helicopter from its Newport Municipal Airport facility in late October. They argued that the federal government is skirting federal environmental and coastal land use regulations which would require more notice for Oregon leaders should an ICE facility be constructed in the area.

“Defendants have engaged in these efforts behind closed doors, with no transparency or public process, ignoring direct requests for information from local officials and members of Congress,” the new filing reads. “As a result, the state has been forced to piece together defendants’ plans for the ICE detention facility based on public reporting, inquiries to and information from federal contractors, the second-hand account of a U.S. Coast Guard witness, and related evidence.”

Much of the evidence in Attorney General Dan Rayfield’s updated lawsuit has been previously reported. Jenny Hansson, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, referred to the amended complaint in response to a request for additional information or evidence.

“We will not allow federal agencies to sidestep the law or build detention facilities where they don’t belong, including along our coast,” Rayfield said in a statement. “The federal government has to follow the same laws everyone else does when operating in our communities.”

Representatives for the homeland security department and ICE did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit. An unnamed DHS spokesperson responded two days after this article published and called the lawsuit another example of “demonizing rhetoric” from sanctuary state politicians.

“The Department of Homeland Security reserves the right to use its own property to support its own operations in the mission given to it by the American people to uphold the laws they passed through Congress,” the spokesperson said. “No lawsuit is going to stop us from fulfilling that mission.”

On Monday, Newport’s lawyers filed a similar lawsuit in federal court asking a judge to require compliance with federal environmental regulations mandating impact assessments before any construction of an ICE detention facility in the city. The U.S. Coast Guard’s deed from 1992 for its Newport Municipal Airport facility specifically mentions its purpose as an aviation site, a purpose the suit says should be honored.

State attorneys, a local Newport-based fishing nonprofit and Lincoln County officials had sued for the rescue helicopter’s return from a base in North Bend in November ahead of a dangerous crabbing season in the coastal city, home to one of Oregon’s largest commercial fishing industries. The U.S. Coast Guard went on to station a rescue helicopter



Oregon officials and members of Newport's fishing community take a tour of the city's municipal airport in November. Photo Courtesy of Shaanth Nanguneri/Oregon Capital Chronicle.

in Newport following a temporary court order for its return, and federal lawyers have since committed to leaving the helicopter in place until spring 2026.

Aiken on Monday, however, issued a broader preliminary injunction that ordered the chopper to remain at Newport’s Municipal Airport as the lawsuit over its relocation continues to play out. While Oregon’s two U.S. senators previously received written Dec. 12 promises from U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Kevin E. Lunday that the helicopter will stay at the city’s municipal airport, Lunday did

not rule out more long-term changes to the Coast Guard’s Newport facility.

Oregon is one of a few states in the nation that does not have a large-scale, long-term immigration detention facility. People held by ICE in the state are allowed to be detained in processing facilities in cities such as Portland for up to 12 hours, often transferring to a center in Tacoma, Washington, for longer detentions.

According to the state’s updated lawsuit, though, ICE informed potential facility contractors that it would hold most detainees in Newport for less than 72 hours

to avoid triggering federal rules regarding heightened space, services and standards of care. The suit alleges the federal agency then “acknowledged stays may exceed the 72-hour threshold, even though doing so would violate its own standards.”

In a Monday newsletter to his constituents, state Rep. David Gomberg, D-Otis, who represents Newport, praised the state’s move.

“Now we have a tool to do something. When all we have are rumors, we can’t plan and we can’t have a real dialogue that helps us convey our community’s concerns,” he wrote. “I hate

that it took a lawsuit to get our government to simply talk to us.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/anticipating-early-2026-opening-oregon-seeks-to-block-potential-newport-ice-facility/>

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# Confronted by a Grassroots Backlash, Democrats Consider Repealing Unpopular Gas Tax Hike

*Repealing the controversial bill could deprive Republicans of a powerful campaign issue in an election year.*

**NIGEL JAQUISS**  
Oregon Journalism Project

At politically oriented holiday parties all over the state, the hot topic is what Democrats will do in the face of a remarkably successful Republican effort to refer a gas tax increase to the November 2026 ballot that lawmakers passed in September.

The option that's getting the most serious consideration, according to numerous Democrats speaking on background: repealing all or parts of House Bill 3991 in next year's legislative session.

"My recommendation has been to just take the pain early and repeal it in February," says one Democratic lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

By now, many Oregonians know that one of the Legislature's top priorities for 2025, bailing out the financially troubled Oregon Department of Transportation, turned into a slow-motion train wreck and fueled a populist rebellion.

The original funding bill, the result of more than a year's worth of meetings around the state, emerged relatively late in the regular session. Even after Democratic leaders offered slimmed-down versions of



No Tax Oregon delivered nearly 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read's office. Photo courtesy of Rep. Ed Diehl.

the bill, they could not find the support to pass it.

That failure threatened layoffs at the agency and led Gov. Tina Kotek to call a special session in late summer to pass an even narrower package: a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase; a doubling of some vehicle registration fees; and a doubling of a payroll tax to fund public transit—but only for two years.

In passing the more modest bill, Democrats neutralized groups critical of more expensive versions of the bill that have paid to fund

a referral. But critics of the bill, led by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), state Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Scio), and Jason Williams of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, mounted a guerrilla campaign to refer the gas tax increase.

Last week, their group, No Tax Oregon, delivered the latest blow to Democrats' plans for ODOT when they turned in just shy of 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read's office.

The ability of the anti-tax opposition to House Bill 3991 to gather so many signatures so quickly—and with virtually no funding—surprised many lawmakers as well as political insiders.

"I was flabbergasted," says political pollster John Horvick of DHM Research, who has no stake in the issue.

The anti-tax group's success has convinced many Democrats the referral would not only pass easily—killing the tax increase—but that it would also give Republicans a powerful tool to use against legislative Democrats in contested districts and against Gov. Kotek as she seeks reelection in 2026.

Democrats told OJP that in view of the success in signature gathering, they see three options:

- Take the loss earlier. That could mean moving the gas tax referral to the ballot in May rather than allowing it to go on the November ballot.
- Take the loss on schedule. If Democrats do nothing, that allows Republicans to capitalize on the unpopular tax in campaign messaging for the next 11 months.
- Repeal all or parts of HB 3991 in the short session that begins Feb. 4.

Several Democratic lawmakers and political consultants say the third option—repeal—makes sense both practically and politically.

The practical consideration is that, by gathering signatures far in excess of the threshold required to

qualify for the ballot (78,116 valid signatures), No Tax Oregon put the gas tax and other increases on hold until the matter is decided. (Otherwise, the increases would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 2026.)

If Democrats are going to lose on that question in November, the thinking goes, why not start in February to figure out a solution for ODOT that Republicans will accept?

The political question is more nuanced. Absent the gas tax issue, Democrats could capitalize in 2026 on widespread dislike of the GOP's standard-bearer, President Donald Trump. History shows that midterm elections typically favor the party that lost the presidential election. The unpopularity of the gas tax increase threatens that Democratic advantage.

Kotek waited to sign HB 3991 for nearly the maximum time allowed after lawmakers passed it. That tactic shortened the window for her opponents to gather signatures. It didn't work. Now, Kotek says she wants to cooperate with critics to find a solution for ODOT.

"The governor is committed to working with lawmakers of both parties, ODOT leadership, stakeholders, and local leaders to find a path forward," her spokeswoman Roxy Mayer says. "Her guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians."

Mayer declined to comment on which Democratic strategy—including a repeal of HB 3991—Kotek favors.

Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) and House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene) were similarly noncommittal.

"We are considering several options for moving forward—as always, any legislator who shares that goal and is willing to work in good faith has a seat at that table," Fahey says, adding, "The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don't have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won't fix themselves."

Wagner highlighted the challenges the signature-gathering poses for motorists. "Our focus right now is on ensuring the basic safety and maintenance of our roads now that emergency funding is on hold," he says. "We are ready to work with the governor's office, ODOT, and our local partners to manage this situation through the upcoming legislative session."

Pollster Horvick says the nearly 200,000 signatures gathered put Democrats in a tough spot.

"If you assume the referral is going to pass—and pass overwhelmingly—it makes more sense to take the pain sooner than later," he says. "Still, it's not a great look for Democrats, and it would look a little weird for the governor to sign a repeal after calling a special session."

Diehl, one of the leaders of the repeal campaign, says he's heard secondhand that Democrats may seek to frustrate his group's path to the November ballot. A repeal of the measure, of course, would be a victory of sorts. But Diehl says he'd need to see the details.

For one thing, HB 3991 included a number of nontax items, including the resolution of a long-running dispute between truckers and the state over the apportionment of road-user charges. "There are some parts of the bill I like," Diehl says.

Extreme weather over the past week caused flooding and landslides in parts of the state. That led some Republicans to call for emergency funding for ODOT, even as the referral freezes new money; Democrats said the recent damage to state highways and roads points to the need for HB 3991 funding.

Diehl says he hopes the disagreement will lead to a more thorough examination of how ODOT operates. He remains convinced the agency is poorly run and could prioritize its spending much more efficiently.

"We've got to put maintenance and safety first," he says. "This is our one chance to really hold an agency accountable."

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## 999 Public Notices

HH25-545 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Case No.: 25CV50028 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF TILLAMOOK U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEWISEES OF KATHRYN L KROO AKA KATHRYN LOUISE KROO AKA KATHY KROO; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEWISEES OF JOHN THOMAS LLOYD; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; OCCUPANTS OF THE PROPERTY, Defendants . TO:Unknown Heirs and Devises of John Thomas Lloyd IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above entitled cause within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this summons upon you, and in

case of your failure to do so, for want thereof, Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" you must file with the court a legal paper called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiff's attorney or, if the plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the plaintiff. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a local county veterans' service officer and community action agency may be obtained by calling the 2-1-1 information service. Additionally, contact information for a service officer appointed under ORS 408.410 for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves your area can be found by visiting the following link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/services/pages/county-services.aspx> and selecting your county. You can also access a list of Veterans Services for all Oregon counties by visiting the following link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Services/Pages/All-Services-Statewide.aspx>. DATED 12/09/2025 McCarthy & Holthus, LLP Grace Chu OSB# 220848 920 SW 3rd Ave, 1st Floor Portland, OR 97204 Phone: (971) 201-3200 [gchu@mccarthyholthus.com](mailto:gchu@mccarthyholthus.com) Attorneys for Plaintiff IDSPub #0271800

12/9/2025 12/16/2025  
12/23/2025 12/30/2025

HH25-552 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION Case No.: 25CV56721 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF TILLAMOOK U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEWISEES OF TOM R CHAMBERS AKA TOM REID CHAMBERS AKA TOMMY CHAMBERS; GRACE CHAMBERS; LUCIA CHAMBERS; OCCUPANTS OF THE PROPERTY, Defendants. To: the Unknown Heirs and Devises of Tom R Chambers aka Tom Reid Chambers aka Tommy Chambers, Grace Chambers, and Occupants of the Property You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above entitled cause within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this summons upon you, and in case of your failure to do so, for want thereof, Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal paper called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" (or "reply") must be given to the court clerk or ad-

ministrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiff's attorney or, if the plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the plaintiff. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a local county veterans' service officer and community action agency may be obtained by calling the 2-1-1 information service. Additionally, contact information for a service officer appointed under ORS 408.410 for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves your area can be found by visiting the following link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/services/pages/county-services.aspx> and selecting your county. You can also access a list of Veterans Services for all Oregon counties by visiting the following link: <https://www.oregon.gov/odva/Services/Pages/All-Services-Statewide.aspx>. DATED 12/09/2025 McCarthy & Holthus, LLP Grace Chu OSB No. 220848 920 SW 3rd Ave, 1st Floor Portland, OR 97204 Phone: (971) 201-3200 [gchu@mccarthyholthus.com](mailto:gchu@mccarthyholthus.com) Of Attorneys for Plaintiff IDSPub #0271854

12/9/2025 12/16/2025  
12/23/2025 12/30/2025

HH25-558 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87. Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be Sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/5/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by Tillamook RV Repair, 4190 Hwy 101 N, Tillamook, OR. 2013 Keystone RV VIN = 4YDT28124EX410687. Amount due on lien \$4085.00. Reputed owner(s): JOHNSON, JULIAN, ONPOINT COMM CU

12/23/25 12/30/25

HH25-559 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819. Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/6/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by MENE-FEE WELDING REPAIR & TOWING 31665 HWY 101 S CLOVERDALE, OR. TOYT TAC PK VIN = 3TMDZ5BN3PM145036. Amount due on lien \$14795.28

Reputed owner(s) > B. R. WESTWOOD & S. P. LAZZINI II

12/23/25 12/30/25

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### Extra Duty:

- Basketball Coach, Girls @ TJHS (488)
- Flag Football Coach @ THS (489)

### Substitute:

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

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

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## Headlight Herald



# LEGALS DEADLINE

**Wednesdays 4 p.m.**

## 999 Public Notices

## 999 Public Notices



### OPEN POSITIONS

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H40844

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H25705

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×		= 56			
+		+		+				
	+		×		= 60			
×		÷		÷				
9	+		÷		= 13			
=		=		=				
45		3		14				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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MAGIC MAZE ● — CALL

FRPECNATSIDGNOL  
MLJRHECZCEXUSQN  
LJAGECZXOVRTRPN  
LNJIHEYCNAYVWVT  
KRPNCCLSSFKIGITE  
NCBZEUXUEOWUSCR  
PIOOMSSERTSIDEEL  
LJGIBGOEEORTDLN  
BAYRXOWLNUHURLO  
TSNIASTRUCQPCOOH  
ONLKJMHGELTTACP

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

Cattle

Conference

Distress

Ports of Service

Chorus

Courtesy

Long-distance

Social

Close

Crank

Margin

Collect

Curtain

Phone

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Even Exchange

answers

1. Patch, Pitch

6. Humor, Rumor

2. Would, World

7. Faster, Fasten

3. Barber, Berber

8. Stream, Scream

4. Model, Motel

9. Greet, Great

5. Warren, Warden

10. Stick, Stuck

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

	S	H	E	L	F		
	O			I			
U	G	L	I	E	R		
A			P	A	G	E	R
S	A	R	I		A		
			L	A	S	E	D
			O		I		U
			G		F	I	N
					Y	E	

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Chant

DABALL

New

LOVEN

Ruler

ERGENT

Collect

GEARTH

TODAY'S WORD

BUY LOCAL

Headlight Herald

— CALL

E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	G	N	O	L
L	R		C	E	R	V	I	T			
K	Z	I	C	S	S	F					
N			E	O	U	E	O		C		
			S	S	E	R	T	S	I	D	E
			O		E	O	R	T	D	L	N
			R			L	N	H	U	R	L
			N	I	A	T	R	U	C		
			M						E	L	T
										T	T
										A	C
										P	

Go Figure!

answers

2	+	5	×	8	= 56
+		+		+	
3	+	7	×	6	= 60
×		÷		÷	
9	+	4	÷	1	= 13
=		=		=	
45		3		14	

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Ballad; 2. Novel; 3. Regent; 4. Gather

Today's Word

GARAGE

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sun is smaller. 2. Fence post is taller. 3. Headlight is different. 4. Side mirror is missing. 5. Bottom of shirt is different. 6. Tree branch is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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