



Keeping Kids Healthy and Safe Special Section

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CITIZEN

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\$2.00

Final touches being put on TBCC Administration and Health Sciences Building

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

With a temporary permit of occupancy issued, workers were busy at work installing furnishings and finishing the installation of information technology equipment at Tillamook Bay Community College's new Administration and Health Sciences Building in mid-January.

That put the 28,400-square-foot, \$14.4-million facility on track to begin welcoming staff in early February, ahead of a grand opening ceremony and the commencement of normal operations in April.

Tillamook Bay Community College (TBCC) Director of Facilities and Safety Jason Lawrence recently led a tour for the Headlight Herald, along with TBCC President Paul Jarrell and TBCC Foundation Executive Director Britta Lawrence. Jason said that in addition to the IT systems, crews were also working to complete the building's security systems before moving on to a final cleaning, which had already started upstairs.

While most elements of the building are complete, artistic and design touches, including a painted topographical map of the county, frosted glass appliques featuring themes inspired by nature and displays honoring donors, remain to be installed. Similarly, while basic classroom furnishings have been set up in the upstairs classrooms and both the EMT and nursing labs downstairs, installation of the nursing-training stations and EMT-training equipment will wait until after the final cleaning.

Jarrell said that he had already received a lot of interest from community groups about hosting events in the new building's event center, which will be capable of hosting more than 300, where workers were completing setup of the movable walls that allow the space to be divided into five different configurations.

Jason said that he expected



The building's exterior is finished, and landscaping will be completed in the new courtyard in the spring.



Furniture in the building's downstairs hallway that will be moved to several student lounges around the building.

See TBCC, Page A3

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

In his 1,144th town hall at the Port of Tillamook Bay's officer's mess hall on January 22, Senator Ron Wyden focused on his opposition to the policies and actions of the administration of President Donald Trump in response to concerned constituents.

Wyden touted a recent success in securing mental healthcare funding against proposed cuts the week before the meeting and argued that by forcefully pushing back, he and other Democrats could make a difference.

"I know that a lot of people are furious about what's going on in Washington D.C.," Wyden said. "At the same time, I want people to know that when we do fight, when we do push back, we're able to get things done."

After being introduced by State Representative Cyrus Javadi, Wyden started the town hall by discussing a fight the previous week over \$2 billion in funding for mental health care, which Republicans were trying to rescind. Wyden said that he had made a stink about the issue in the media, eventually leading Trump to pull his support for the proposal, leaving the funding secure.

The first constituent at the town hall asked Wyden about how he would support people providing care for their aging parents, and Wyden said that he favored taxes on billionaires to provide monetary support. "The billionaires are going to start paying some taxes, rather than going for years on end paying nothing because of a loophole, so we can get

See WYDEN, Page A5

Wyden focuses on Trump in Tillamook town hall

Weber ready for session

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Heading into her final session in Salem, State Senator Suzanne Weber is ready to tackle several important issues, including transient lodging tax reform and the state's education funding formula.

Weber, who is ineligible to run for reelection following a 2023 walkout, told the Headlight Herald in a recent interview that she would probably stay involved in public life in some way because of her passion and exhorted others to become similarly engaged.

"I get involved in these things because I'm interested and I care and I wish there were more people that would get involved in you might say the entry level," Weber said. "Learn what's going on in your city,

school boards and water boards, find out, because otherwise things happen to you rather than you knowing and being able to influence anything that happens."

With a short five weeks on the legislative calendar this year, each legislator is restricted to sponsoring two bills.

One of Weber's bills will be a renewal of a push she and State Representative Cyrus Javadi led last year to amend the state's restrictions on spending for transient lodging tax (TLT) dollars. Currently, jurisdictions are required to spend 70% of

See WEBER, Page A5

Javadi pushes TLT reform, open primaries in short session

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

As the legislative session gets rolling this week, State Representative Cyrus Javadi will seek to pass transient lodging tax reform and advance a ballot measure to open Oregon's primary elections to the ballot.

Javadi said that while he believes the former reform might have to wait until next year's long session, he is bullish that his and State Senator Suzanne Weber's joint push to

allow jurisdictions freer use of transient lodging tax (TLT) dollars will be successful.

"One thing I've learned over the last couple of terms is that there can always be last minute hurdles and some of those are not recoverable," Javadi said. "What happened last time when that bill went to the senate committee and it was in there, it couldn't come out, not even the senate president could reach in and move it and so we wanted to have a backup just in case something fishy happens at the

end."

Javadi's push to amend the split that currently requires jurisdictions to spend 70% of TLT, paid on overnight stays, on tourism marketing or facilities kicked off last year and was nearly successful, passing the house before stalling out in a senate committee amid political infighting. This year, Javadi and Weber are bringing matching bills before their chambers, seeking to reduce the funds required to be spent on tourism-related expenses to 40%, allowing

counties tourism to use the remaining money for whatever they chose.

While the bill faced stiff opposition from the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association in last year's session, Javadi said that he feels the group has been less opposed this year and that fellow lawmakers continue to support the change to give localities more flexibility in a challenging fiscal climate. "Right now, I feel like the temperature

See JAVADI, Page A5



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PHOTO COURTESY NEHALEM BAY HEALTH DISTRICT

Artists who have donated pieces to the pharmacy and clinic in Wheeler at the reception.



PHOTO COURTESY NEHALEM BAY HEALTH DISTRICT

Donors, artists, staff and board members socialized during the reception.

NBHD celebrates artists and donors

STAFF REPORT

Supporters of the Nehalem Bay Health District gathered for a reception recognizing artists and donors who contributed art to the district's new health center

and pharmacy in Wheeler.

The Heart of the Community artist and donor reflection recognized the important role that art plays in a healthcare setting and brought artists, donors, staff and board members

together.

Nehalem Bay Health District's (NBHD) new pharmacy and clinic opened in Wheeler last fall and has since seen dozens of works donated by regional artists, estates and community mem-

bers. There are sculptures, photographs, paintings, textiles and other mixed media pieces displayed throughout the public spaces across the facility.

The signature piece and namesake of the reception is

a Carrara marble sculpture named The Heart of the Community, symbolizing the spirit, care and lifeblood of the new health clinic, which was donated by artist M.J. Anderson and served as a catalyst for the broader art

initiative at the building.

Staff from both the dental and medical clinics in the new building said that patients often remarked on the beauty of the art and that it helped to bring joy to chaotic days for them.

Port board requests vacation of Hangar B

WILL CHAPPELL CITIZEN EDITOR

With no clear path towards a repair option for damage caused to Hangar B during a December windstorm, the Port of Tillamook Bay's board of commissioners requested port staff continue working with hangar tenants to complete the ongoing removal of contents.

Port Manager Michele Bradley told the board that she would continue to

work with businesses on removing more manageable items before determining secure ways to store larger items, such as the Tillamook Air Museum's collection of aircraft, until a plan to remove them can be developed.

At the board meeting, attention primarily focused on the disposition of the hangar's contents, as no developments had occurred regarding potential funding for repairs since the board's last meeting

two weeks prior. Lloyd Stoller, an engineer from Turner & Townsend Heery, a subsidiary of CBRE, a firm that has been involved in the maintenance and removal of similar hangar in California, told the board that he planned to assess the situation and return at their next monthly meeting with input based on his experience with the other structures.

Bradley then said that she had been in contact with the Tillamook County

board of commissioners' office, and that they were planning to designate a work session in the coming weeks to discuss their potential funding of an engineering study of the hangar, requested by the port in the fall. Bradley said that she had also reached out to Business Oregon and that any funds they had would come in the form of loans.

Turning to the question of the hangar's contents, Bradley said that officials with whom she had spoken from the Navy and Air Force, which own many of the aircraft in the museum's collection, were understanding of the situation and not demanding immediate action. However, should a long-term fix fail to materialize, there are clauses in the contracts for the craft that would require the port to return them to Pensacola, Florida, which Bradley said would cost several million dollars.

Tillamook Air Museum Director Rita Welch said that for museum staff, the

big question was what the next steps would be and noted that their jobs now had an unclear future.

Board Chair Jack Moulder said that without funding, the port did not have a path to getting people back into the museum or as tenants in the building, and that it would make sense for people to empty the building, with a focus on removing as much as possible during the ongoing period of good weather. The board agreed and asked that Bradley work with tenants toward that end.

Bradley said that Britney Bakes, previously located in the café in the air museum's lobby, has found a new location in Garibaldi and is planning to purchase some equipment from the port, and Welch said that the museum had started to remove the contents of its gift shop.

Bradley said that it made sense to her to take a two-phase approach to removing items from the hangar, first taking things

that could be fit through doors in the hangar's side, including RVs and boats stored in the hangar, out and moving larger items, primarily the aircraft to the north, undamaged end of the hangar. Removing those items will require opening the large doors at the north end of the hangar, which Welch said are operational, unlike those at the building's south end, but finicky. Opening the doors also creates a wind tunnel effect in the building, increasing the possibility of further damage.

Welch then discussed the museum's actions, saying that staff had been working to pack collections and identify safe places to house them. They have also been working on listing items from the gift shop for sale online and are exploring the possibility of opening a temporary pop up store to sell some of what Welch estimated as around \$50,000 in inventory with over \$300,000 in retail value.

Statewide Graduation Rates Are Up for Nearly All Student Groups

Not all school districts saw improvement, and Oregon continues to trail the national average

By Khushboo Rathore

Four-year high school graduation rates in Oregon have inched up, but still remain below the most recent national average.

Data released on Thursday by the Oregon Department of Education shows the state reached an 83% graduation rate across the state's 197 school districts. That mark is Oregon's highest in a decade.

Nationally, a recent analysis by U.S. News & World Report says the average 2024 graduation rate was 86.4%.

Oregon's four-year graduation rates increased 1.2 percentage points from last year's senior class and 0.4 points from the 2019-20 graduating class, which had the highest rate until the latest

school year.

Almost every historically marginalized group that ODE tracks saw improvement in graduation rates. Notably, Oregon's Youth Corrections Education Program had a 22% increase.

"Today's graduation data show what is possible when we stay focused, aligned and committed to student success," said Charlene Williams, director of ODE.

The rise in graduation rates, along with this past school year's lower 2.9% dropout rate, is part of a long series of incremental gains in the state, says Sara Kerr, an Oregon parent and consultant for Results for America, a research nonprofit for public policymakers.

"Based on data, many students are on track academically, but are still missing too much school," Kerr says. "Graduation gains are real, but they are pretty fragile."

The largest increase and decrease in four-year graduation rates were in Harney and Gilliam counties, respectively.

Harney County saw the biggest overall improvement, 20 percentage points over last year's rate. The increase was largely due to the success of Silvies River Charter School, which had 92% of its cohort graduate, a vast improvement from the previous year's 12.5% graduation rate.

On the other hand, Gilliam County saw its graduation

rate drop 28 percentage points, to 72%. But the county also had a larger eligible class this year: 32 students, up from 19 the year before.

Rising graduation rates don't necessarily reflect how well prepared Oregon high school graduates are for postsecondary education. Unlike most states, Oregon, through its State Board of Education, suspended the requirement that students prove "basic mastery" of reading, writing and math in order to receive a diploma through the class of 2029.

In addition, data indicates that about 40% of high school graduates who enroll in community college have to take remedial courses, Kerr says.

"When you're handing a kid a diploma, they're walking across that stage and being told that the world is their oyster. Are they truly prepared to succeed in community college, a four-year institution, and/or civic life?"

Williams said efforts to raise graduation rates must start long before high school. "We know that we have more work to do to support our younger learners, especially when it comes to English language arts," she said. "Gaps in literacy can show up later, sometimes in attendance, course completion, and sometimes whether or not students ultimately graduate."



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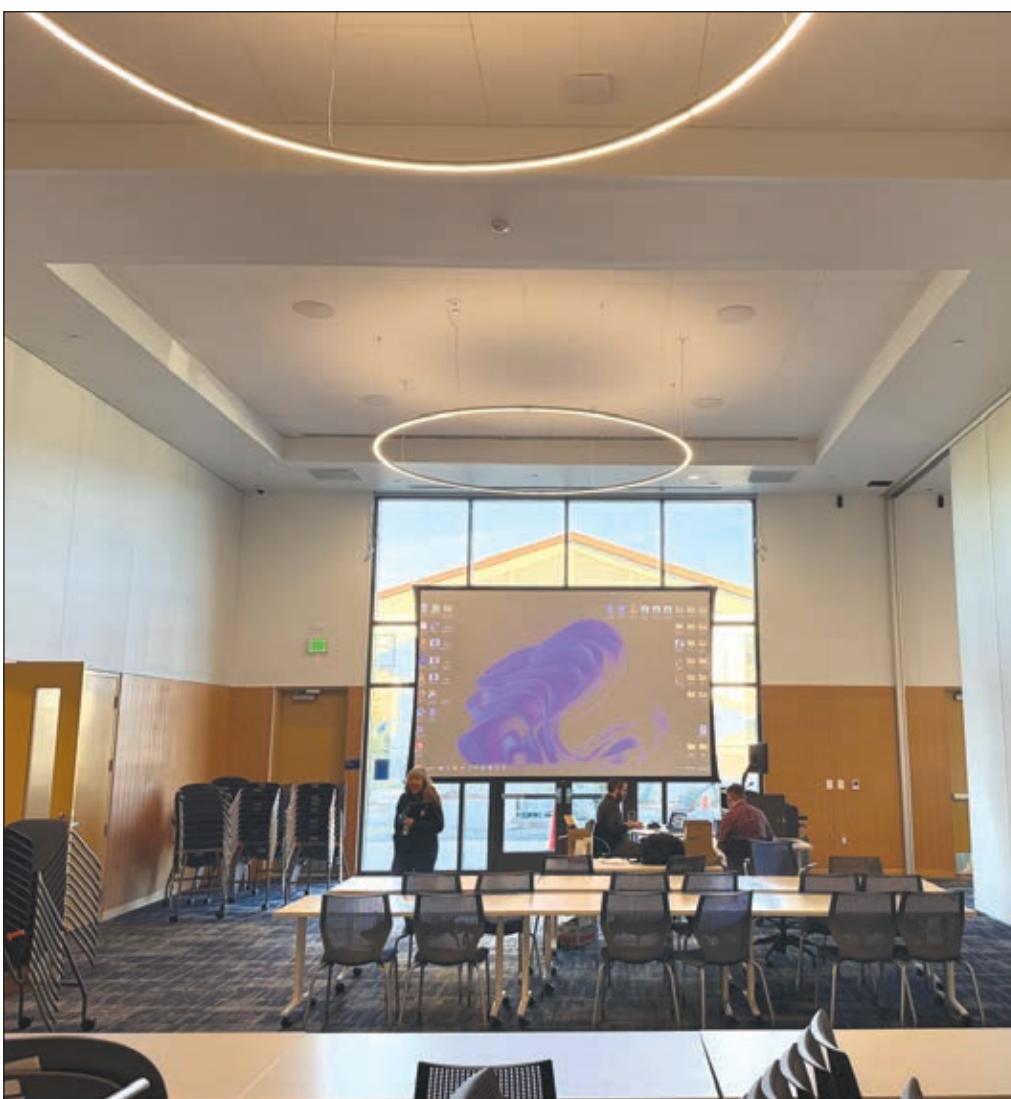
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Audio visual equipment being tested in one of the new community center's three matching rooms that can be combined in five different configurations.

TBCC Final Touches

From Page A1

the permanent permit of occupancy to arrive in the coming weeks and that the first group of administrators were scheduled to begin moving from their of-

fices in the college's main classroom building to the new administrative suite on the building's second floor the week of February 2. Faculty making the move

will include non-student-facing staff including Jarrell, Britta and Jason, as well as IT services, human resources and accounting.

Another major change

occurred last week, when the parking lot adjacent to the new building opened to the public, relocating the college's entrance from Third Street to Brookfield

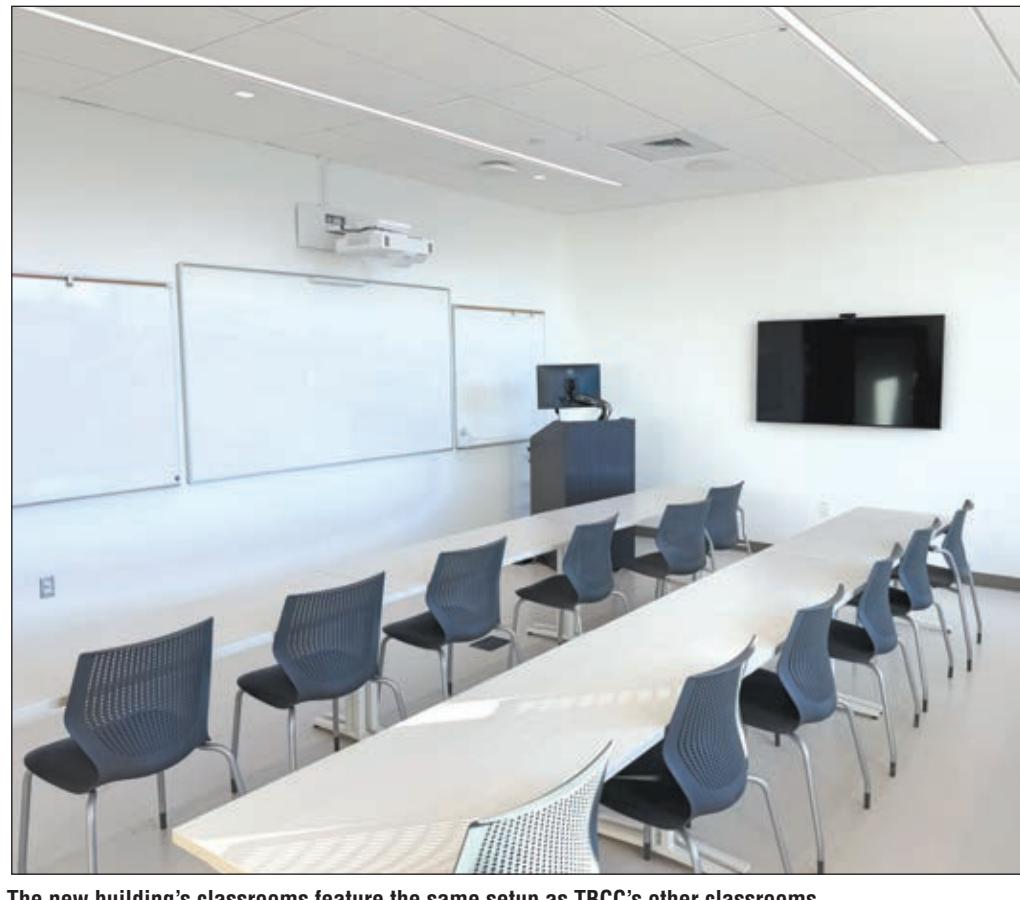
Avenue.

Once staff has settled in, TBCC will host a grand opening for the new building and begin holding classes there in April.

The view towards the rest of campus from the new building's second floor.



A board room on the building's second floor that will host TBCC board meetings and be available to other groups.



The new building's classrooms feature the same setup as TBCC's other classrooms.

JAVADI Short Session

From Page A1

is everybody's struggling across the board and giving more local controls and flexibility for local governments to solve their needs is a winning story, winning argument," Javadi said.

For his second sponsored bill, Javadi is bringing forward a proposal to put a ballot measure before voters to change Oregon's primary elections from closed to open. Javadi is working with Open Elections, a group led by former Representative Charlie Conrad, and supported by former Governor Ted Kulongowski and former State Senator Betsy Johnson, on the proposal, which would give major parties the opportunity to opt out and pay for their own primary elections.

Javadi explained that he felt the current system fails to give adequate input to the half of Oregonians who are registered with neither political party, as many districts do not have competitive general elections, making one of the primaries a de facto general election. Under the new system proposed by Javadi's bill, all voters would receive a primary ballot and select their top candidate, with the top two vote winners advancing to the November general election, regardless of party affiliation.

In addition to involving all voters in meaningful elections, Javadi said that he also believed the move would encourage politicians to take less extreme positions. "I think what

it does for the candidates is you have to moderate a little bit," Javadi said. "You're not just playing to your base, everybody can vote."

Javadi acknowledged that the proposal was likely to meet with pushback from the parties and that it might be necessary to form a working group to further explore the issue before returning to it in 2027's long session.

Aside from his bills, the major issue on Javadi's radar for this session is the state's budget situation, especially as it relates to healthcare as Oregon grapples with substantial changes to federal funding for Medicaid. Javadi, a dentist by trade, said that his practice had previously seen Medicaid patients, losing around \$20 per patient to provide what they felt was an important service, but that at the beginning of the year, a 30% cut to their reimbursements had forced them to stop.

A similar situation is playing out at medical clinics across the state,

and Javadi explained that the decreased reimbursements are coming while the federal government is asking the state to take on an expanded administrative role at considerable cost. Those two changes are also being exacerbated by a recent increase in reimbursement rates for behavioral health providers in Oregon to encourage them to see Medicaid patients, which has been successful, requiring a larger share of funding.

"We have to find more money to pay for that so we can meet the standards so we can continue to provide Medicaid budgets and SNAP benefits," Javadi said. "So, all that's coming in 2027, that's when the rate impact will hit, so the next two to six years are going to be crazy for healthcare and welfare services in general as we try to figure out where we're going to find all of the money to meet those needs, because they don't go away."

Javadi said that he felt the most expedient option

to address the issue would be decoupling Oregon's definition of adjusted gross income from the federal definition to increase tax revenues. Javadi explained that only five states use the federal definition and that it leaves the state's revenues vulnerable to changes like the policies removing tax on tips and overtime wages that occurred this year.

While he said that he would favor keeping tips tax free for those with lower incomes, suggesting starting to phase out the benefit for those making over \$75,000 annually instead of the federal government's \$150,000 bar, Javadi said that making the change would give Oregon more

stability in budgeting.

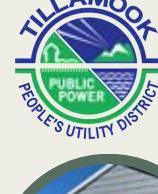
"It makes you wonder structurally, from a good governance point of view, when you're trying to think of how do we make it so our state is sound, predictable, structurally secure, you look at something like that and you say, well, let's just disconnect, then we have more control over it and we're not whipsawed between administrations," Javadi said.

Javadi said that he will also be supporting legislation to place a referendum on last year's gas tax increase on May's ballot rather than November's because he believes the issue should be resolved as quickly as possible to

secure funding for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Finally, Javadi said that he expects he and other Democrats will try to pass legislation to ensure that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents operating in the state follow state laws requiring police not to wear masks and provide support for those negatively impacted by their operations.

"We want the public to trust them," Javadi said. "We want to make sure that people who are not acting in the best interest of the public that they serve can be held accountable and that they can't sidestep the laws."



2026 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM



The 2026 Community Support Grant program is currently open and accepting applications until 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026.

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Headlight Herald

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

Badger	Cricket	Hedgehog	Raccoon
Bandicoot	Firefly	Leopard	Red fox
Catfish	Gerbil	Ocelot	Womb
Cougar	Hamster	Owl	

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Deadline for letters is noon Fridays.

The date of publication will depend on space.

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- **Premium Obituary:** Often used by families who wish to include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of the announcement.

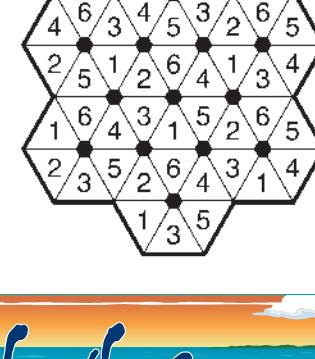
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Weekly SUDOKU**Answer**

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CryptoQuip**answer**

When Oklahoma residents make humorous mistakes in speech, would people call those Soonerisms?

Snowflakes**solution****ACROSS**

- 1 Protestant denom.
- 6 Command
- 11 Duel weapon
- 16 Blind - bat
- 19 Fiji neighbor
- 20 Acai, for one
- 21 Peel remover
- 22 Scanned ID on a pkg.
- 23 Is that something that ought to worry me?"
- 25 Rembrandt or Rubens
- 27 Aralat's gp.
- 28 Thurman of the screen
- 29 With it, once
- 30 "I Got a Name" singer Jim
- 31 Patient information document
- 36 Be a thespian
- 39 Discount vouchers
- 40 ER "PDQ!"
- 41 Wanna — (copycats)
- 45 Spanish "a"
- 46 Young miss
- 48 "I'm stepping away for just a sec"
- 52 Actress Bingham
- 55 "... boy — girl?"
- 58 Gut-punch response
- 59 On the whole
- 60 Embarrassed oneself while singing, in a way
- 63 Rubs clean a pkg.
- 64 Spinning, archaically
- 65 Peru's — Picchu
- 66 Suffix with 29-Down
- 67 Fifth-cen. pope
- 68 What "etc." means
- 72 City sections
- 77 Oversee
- 79 Android, e.g. Jim
- 80 Some steel girders
- 81 Wise up
- 85 Always the wrong way to go about it
- 89 With 49-Down, miraculous biblical staff
- 90 Singer Yoko
- 91 Science advocate Bill
- 92 Spa treats for feet, for short
- 93 Felled
- 96 Tip of a boot
- 98 Org. for a periodontist
- 100 Pigs' hangout
- 101 Female pig
- 102 Slithery fish
- 105 Left on one's plate
- 108 In what way
- 110 More so
- 114 Grads
- 116 Lycist Kahn
- 117 Slugger Maris, to pals
- 118 Actor Stephen
- 119 Psyching-out activities
- 120 Sufi
- 121 "Where's —?"
- 122 Time to sing the tune suggested by the starts of 10 long answers in this puzzle
- 123 Co. name abbr.
- 128 Lott of politics
- 130 Sporty car roofs
- 131 Stretch (out)
- 132 Threescore
- 133 Harbors
- 134 Perception
- 144 "The — limit!"
- 147 Lindsay of "Get a Clue"
- 149 See 89-Across
- 150 Stipulations
- 151 Youth org. with dens
- 153 "Permit Me Voyage" author James
- 154 Food dyes
- 155 Shipping dept. stamp
- 157 "Horton Hears —!"
- 158 Notes after mis
- 161 Tax evasion agt.
- 162 Very unusual
- 166 Analogy part
- 169 Tooted thing
- 170 Online auction site
- 171 Thesaurus compiler
- 173 Place — (participate on 70-Down)
- 174 Glow with joy
- 175 German city
- 176 Org. issuing nine-digit IDs
- 178 Final result
- 181 Chatters idly
- 182 Alternative to AOL or NetZero
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WYDEN

Trump Town Hall

From Page A1

some kind of money for caregivers," Wyden said.

In response to a question about what democrats were doing to push back against the Trump administration, Wyden took a strong stand against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), saying that the agency needed to change its enforcement tactics and that he would not vote for further funding for it without guardrails addressing concerns.

"We've got another date coming up in terms of the budget to make some decisions and I'll be damned if I'm going to let more money go to ICE with the lawlessness we've been seeing," Wyden said. "We've got to take off the masks. We've got to end the profiling."

Two questioners asked Wyden about the potential for federal support for repairs to Hangar B at the Port of Tillamook Bay, which was damaged in a December windstorm, and Wyden pledged to help explore the possibility of federal funding.

In response to a question about stopping Trump from lying, Wyden said that he thought the appropriate response was to keep on calling out the lies. "The way we beat him is to embarrass him," Wyden



Senator Ron Wyden at the January 22 Tillamook town hall.

said.

On the subject of fighting the broader conservative agenda, Wyden said that he felt focusing on reproductive healthcare would be a winning strategy for Democrats and that he was doing so in his position on the senate finance committee. "I have said at every health meeting, you're not going to turn back the clock on repro-

ductive health, and we can win that fight," Wyden said, "and that will be the best one to counter what you're talking about."

Asked whether he believed Trump's support was fraying among rural voters, Wyden said that he felt Trump's aggressive foreign policy had created doubts and that Democrats should seek to take advantage by pushing on issues

of healthcare and communications.

Wyden said that he would favor expanding the supreme court to help return judicial independence, which he said has "gone out the window." He said that he opposed term limits, saying that the bureaucracy "loves the idea of having people who are inexperienced come in and tackle somebody

who's been there, healthcare, utilities and stuff, for a long period of time." When a student asked about the affordability of higher education, Wyden pointed to legislation he has sponsored to go after "crooked" loan servicers.

Wyden also expressed concern over the recent bid by Oracle, controlled by Trump ally Larry Ellison, and other firms to

buy Tik Tok, which he said matched a concerning trend of Trump allies buying up media firms.

In response to a constituent concerned about Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s push against vaccinations, Wyden said the health and human services secretary had lied to him at his confirmation hearings and that it was now important to work to give parents accurate information about vaccines. "We've got to do everything we can, make changes in congress and do everything we can to mobilize providers in communities, so that right now, when parents are trying to figure out what to do and what it all means, I think we've got to get facts in front of them," Wyden said.

Wyden also highlighted his push for stronger banking regulations, especially more follow up on suspicious activity reports for large transactions, in response to the Jeffery Epstein saga and reiterated his unwillingness to vote for further funding for ICE without significant changes at the agency.

In conclusion, Wyden thanked the crowd for attending and said that he was "digging in like never before" for the fight against Trump. "This is not going to be a walk in the park," Wyden said, "but I want you to know I can't think of any group of people I'd rather be in this fight with than the people of Tillamook."

Vision for mixed-use Bay City development takes shape

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Over the last year, the owners of the former paintbrush handle factory in Bay City have been working to flesh out their plans to develop the property into a mixed-use development with affordable housing and space for businesses.

Lisa and Ralph McRae have worked with Salazar Architect Inc. to gather community feedback on the project and develop a master plan envisioning 58 units on the site and will appear before the Tillamook County Housing Commission this week to seek further funding to help support the project, which they feel can be an important asset for the community.

"We want it to be more thoughtful, more mindful about the place, because the place matters. If it didn't, we could just build big homes and sell them

off, and that's not what we're trying to do," Lisa said. "We want to create more opportunity in the community, certainly for us, but for others, and we see the way we can do that with the amount of property that we have, the infrastructure, all of that."

The couple has been working towards developing housing on the property since 2020, when the factory ceased manufacturing operations after more than 60 years producing paintbrush handles and a one-year stint producing furniture. Currently, the former manufacturing space houses workshop space for various community members and businesses, while the McRaes also run a U-Haul business and rent storage space in another building on the property.

Last year, the McRaes were awarded \$40,000 by the housing commission, which they used to contract with Salazar, holding a community meeting

attended by more than 40 in August and developing a master plan for housing on the site. That master plan includes 58 dwellings on the property, including a 16-unit apartment building, 12 1,100-1,200-square-foot, single-family houses, each of which would also include an accessory dwelling unit, eight townhomes and a ten-home cottage cluster, while leaving the 25,000-square-foot factory and building being used for storage.

Lisa and Ralph said that all the units would be affordable to people making between 80% and 120% of the area's median income, that they would like to explore ownership models for some of the housing and that they envision the cottage cluster as ideal for seniors who want to age in place. "The whole idea was you can live in this apartment, you work, and then you can be able to buy a townhome or buy a house, and then you can move

into that, and you can keep going up that ladder," Lisa said.

Ralph said that they had been surprised at the amount of housing that would fit on the property, and that while they planned to solicit further community feedback and remain open to change, it seemed to be what many in the community want. "We are going to remain adaptable to what has to happen to move it forward," Ralph said. "The scale is so

much more than what we imagined, but the feedback is this is a positive direction, so let's keep going with that and then find out what's the obstacle to get to the next step."

Currently, that next obstacle is getting groundwork done for the property, including platting and determining where utilities need to be located, which Ralph said could cost up to \$300,000.

The couple will appear before the housing com-

mission this week to seek a grant to help begin that groundwork process. They are also in the process of identifying and applying for other grants, including ones from Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Housing and Community Services, and working to build a capital funding package with banks.

Once the groundwork is completed and as the funding picture comes into focus, the couple will need to decide which aspect of the project to construct first, with Ralph saying they were primarily debating the merits of the single-family homes with ADUs against those of the apartment building, which would be easier from an infrastructure perspective.

At the same time as they develop the vision for housing on the property, the couple is also working on the business-facing side of the development, updating and upgrading

the two existing buildings on the site and looking for an anchor tenant for the former factory space. The McRaes said that the plan is for the building currently being used for storage to house the workshops currently in the former factory once a tenant is found, and that they have been looking across the state for that tenant, with an eye on companies in modular housing, which they feel would be a boon to the area.

The couple said that they plan to hold another meeting to gather community input soon and that they remain driven to create a meaningful community as a legacy for the McRae family. "Fundamentally, we're working hard just because the family is the important piece," Lisa said. "It's like leaving something behind that is the entire family's—there's a lot of McRaes that live here—and that they can all be proud of."

WEBER
Ready for Session

From Page A1

to reduce to 40%.

Weber said that the current requirements leave counties like Tillamook and Clatsop that see high numbers of summer visitors underfunded to deal with the impacts those visitors have on law enforcement and first responders, citing a statistic that 34% of Clatsop County's jail roster in the summer months is made up of people from outside the county. "I need that transient lodging tax fixed so that our local municipalities that are charging that can be able to use it more openly for more of the issues that tourism brings to the area," Weber said.

Last year's push to amend the TLT fizzled in a senate committee due to political infighting among Democrats, and Weber said that her and Javadi's tandem efforts this year were aimed at preventing such an issue from recurring. Weber said that Senate President Rob Wagner has been less involved on the issue this year than last, but

that she hoped to reengage him at an upcoming meeting and that she felt the support from the League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties would help the effort be successful this year.

Weber's other bill seeks to remove barriers to the construction of replacement dwellings after fires or other disasters destroy residents' homes.

Weber explained that the issue had come to her attention after a constituent in rural Multnomah County lost their home in a fire in August 2023, and was told by the county that the original permits for their home had been lost, which would require them to go through a full permitting process that would take up to two and a half years. Weber said that with support from her office, the issue had been resolved, but that it had shown the need for reform.

Weber's bill would require local governments to approve the replacement of a dwelling if the former dwelling on the property met a list of requirements, including having electricity, plumbing and heating, and if property taxes were

paid on the dwelling for more than ten years, even if permits for the prior dwelling are missing.

By dint of her membership on the education appropriations committee, Weber has also been involved in an ongoing reevaluation of the quality education model used since 1999 to determine the proper level of funding for Oregon schools. Weber said that she and other committee members are looking at what is included in the model and plan to bring a bill updating the requirements for the model to the full legislature before the end of session.

"We get the reports and they say we're not spend-

ing enough money. Do we do anything about it? No, we accept the report," Weber said. "Okay, so maybe we ought to look at what's required and a little bit better picture of what we can do to fully fund education."

Weber will also seek \$225,000 in funding for the Nehalem Bay Food Pantry and \$155,000 for a traffic signal outside the fire station at the intersection of

Highways 26 and 47 in the annual capital construction bill and participate in task forces focused on drinking water and hunger.

Looking ahead, Weber, who walked out of the 2023 legislative session in protest against a bill aiming to protect reproductive rights and gender affirming care, rendering her ineligible to run for reelection, said that she is still mulling her options, includ-

ing running for office in Tillamook where she was previously mayor, and sad that her time in Salem is nearly through.

"I'm looking at all my options," Weber said. "I haven't made any decisions yet. I'm still wishing that I could have continued for another term, but that isn't in the cards. I find this work very challenging and I'll have a lot of time on my hands."

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

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2. Royal home	— — — C	Roof of the mouth
3. Mountainous	— I — —	Christmassy plant
4. Flag	— — — N	Money loaner
5. Ire	— N — —	Boring tool
6. Crowd	— — — D	Stable inhabitant
7. Keep back	— — — — N	Facet
8. Make amends	A — — —	Pebble
9. Military rank	— — J — —	Estate
10. Shaving foam	— — H — —	Second (of two)

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2. B G O R A G U O C

3. H N R T O O P L

4. S O W E F C H O W X

5. I O K G I N E E O

6. M C D R V L G F

7. T B I C N A E O D D

8. A R A B F T E

9. T C B R L R H

10. Y

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PHOTO COURTESY TILLAMOOK AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aufdermauer (left) and Dove with the Community Impact Award presented to Dove on behalf of the Loren E. Parks Trust.



Aufdermauer shields Sisco as he removes his kilt for a \$2,000 donation at the end of the live auction.

Chamber banquet draws record crowd

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

More than 375 community members came together at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds on January 24, for the Tillamook Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Awards Banquet.

Attendees were treated to hors d'oeuvres and dinner catered by Garibaldi's Portside Bistro, before a live auction raised funds for the chamber's grant program and local businesses, projects and people were recognized for their accomplishments in the past year.

"It's where we come together to honor businesses, projects, people in the community that have had a significant impact," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Justin Aufdermauer.

The event started with a social hour, before attendees enjoyed a Scottish themed dinner in celebration of the chamber's annual European trip which will visit Scotland this summer.

After dinner, Aufder-

mauer welcomed Kaylan Sisco, last year's citizen of the year and former CEO of the Tillamook YMCA, to host the event's live auction. A variety of dining experiences, a standup freezer and Oregon football tickets all drew considerable interest, but the largest donation of the night came when one donor excitedly paid Sisco \$2,000 for the kilt he was wearing, on the condition that he remove it onstage.

Following the auction, the crowd participated in a raise-your-cards style fundraising event for the maintenance of the veterans' memorial in downtown Tillamook, before Aufdermauer returned to present the chamber's community awards.

Tillamook Grocery Outlet was selected large business of the year, with owner Rob Williams saying, "this community has welcomed us since day one and I cannot express my gratitude to every member of the community for that."

The Tillamook branch of the Oregon Coast Bank was named small business

of the year for their efforts to engage with community organizations, and the National Bank Building redevelopment on Second Street Plaza, being led by Terry Phillips, was named project of the year.

Tillamook Bay Community College's Nursing Program was honored as the program of the year, and Barbara McCann named citizen of the year for her longtime support of the North Coast Recreation District in Nehalem, which opened its new aquatics center last year.

Finally, at the end of the ceremony, the Loren E. Parks Trust was recognized with a Community Impact Award, accepted by trustee Jerry Dove. The trust has existed for more than 40 years and supported a wide variety of community organizations and projects including the Tillamook County Fairgrounds, Tillamook County YMCA, Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation, Adventist Health Tillamook and many more with millions of dollars in donations.



Tillamook Bay Community College President Paul Jarrell addresses the crowd after accepting the program of the year award for the college's nursing program as Aufdermauer and members of the college's board and staff look on.



Tillamook Bay Community College President Paul Jarrell addresses the crowd after accepting the program of the year award for the college's nursing program as Aufdermauer and members of the college's board and staff look on.



Barbara McCann was selected citizen of the year for her work with the North County Recreation District dating to before its establishment in 1997.

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