

Nestucca boys seek to end losing streak

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Tillamook County Treasurer resigns

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Tillamook Headlight Herald



Tuesday, January 6, 2026 | Vol. 138, Issue 1

www.TillamookHeadlightHerald.com

\$2.00



Manzanita City Hall cut- (Left to right) City Councilors Tom Campbell, Linda Kowalski and Jerry Spegman, City Manager Leila Aman, City Councilor Brad Hart and (far left) John Handler, hold the ribbon as Mayor Kathryn Stock and Velda Handler, whose family previously owned the city hall and police station, cut it to open the new Manzanita city hall and police station.



NBHD Board Chair Marc Johnson addressing the crowd gathered for the grand opening of the district's new clinic and pharmacy.

Skaar steps into AOC presidency

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

In late November, at the group's annual conference, Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar assumed the presidency of the Association of Oregon Counties, a post she will hold for a year.

In the role, Skaar will advocate for the interests of Oregon counties at the state and national level and lead the organization in conducting a comprehensive study of county finances across the state to better inform the association's conversations with state leaders moving forward.

"We're actually going to do a study with AOC (Association of Oregon Counties) to determine where we are so that we can then be able to have a cohesive conversation, one voice, with the state to say, here's where we are," Skaar said.

The AOC is a membership organization comprised of elected leaders from each of Oregon's counties that represents counties' interests at the state and federal levels. The organization has a professional staff, including an executive director and team of lobbyists in Salem, offers training for newly elected county leaders and has a division that oversees the distribution of road maintenance funds to counties.

Skaar was elected to the association's board in 2023, and served as second vice president in 2024, before moving into the first vice presidency last year.

As president, Skaar will

See **SKAAR**, Page A4

Fournier sounds optimistic note on budget situation

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

One year into his tenure as Tillamook County commissioner, Paul Fournier said that he feels that he has played a role in an ongoing culture shift at the county that he believes promises a strong financial future.

In a series of recent interviews, Fournier said that the county's new strategy of placing a portion of parks revenues into the general fund, along with delaying hirings and increasing the county's share of revenues from justice court will meet budgetary needs. Fournier also remains committed to realizing new projects across the county to boost revenues and has identified increased code enforcement efforts as a further revenue generator, saying that he believes they can help the county begin replenishing its reserve funds in the medium term.

"We have a couple of years not to wait to figure it out, we have a couple years to actively figure it out, which is what I think we're doing," Fournier said. "I think the big difference here is this county in the past 30 years I've been here seems to have been reactive and I feel like this current board and these cur-

See **FOURNIER**, Page A3

Bell prepares for TLT discussions

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

With potential changes to state restrictions on transient lodging tax dollars and a change in leadership at the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association appearing likely, Tillamook County Commissioner Mary Faith Bell is preparing to lead a working group to evaluate the county's use of those dollars moving forward.

In a recent interview with the Headlight Herald, Bell said that the potential changes to transient lodging tax (TLT) legislation at the state level could prove a critical piece in securing the county's finances. However, that potential change comes at the same time as Bell and her fellow commissioners are looking at ways to use TLT dollars to improve county facilities to grow revenues and as a

list of projects across the county has grown that would benefit from those funds.

That led commissioners to decide to convene a working group, with Bell at the helm, to holistically evaluate the county's approach to its TLT dollars moving forward.

"The pot of TLT that we'll have to spend will be smaller because we need to move more of it into the general fund and yet the things we want to invest in are growing," Bell said. "So, we need more direction figuring out the balance between all that."

The subject of TLT reform has been a hot topic for several years in Salem, as Tillamook and other counties with high numbers of visitors have advocated for a change in the requirement that 70% of TLT revenues be spent on tourism marketing or tourist-related facilities. County

leaders have contended that high numbers of visitors have burdened their emergency services and infrastructure and that the current split does not allow the funds they generate to be used to address that burden.

Last year, State Representative Cyrus Javadi proposed legislation that would have reduced the percentage of TLT revenues restricted to tourist related expenditures from 70% to 40%, but it ultimately fizzled out in a senate committee after passing through the house of representatives.

However, Javadi plans to bring a similar bill forward again in this year's short session, and State Senator Suzanne Weber plans to sponsor a partner bill in the senate. Both have said they are optimistic they will pass, though have noted that the final percentage allocation of restricted and unrestricted funds may change.

For Tillamook County, an increase from 30% to 60% in unrestricted funds would represent an increase from around \$2.4 million to \$4.8 million.

Currently, the county's unrestricted funds are allocated to the county's public works department for road maintenance expenses, while the \$5.6 million in restricted funds are split between a roughly \$1.3-million contract with the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (TCVA) for destination management services, tourism facilities and marketing grants managed by TCVA, and a county run tourism facilities grant program.

The potential change to allowed TLT revenue uses comes as the county's contract with TCVA is set to expire at the end of 2026, and as

See **BELL**, Page A4

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Tuesday

High 52° Low 41°

Wednesday

High 50° Low 40°

Thursday

High 48° Low 38°

Friday

High 49° Low 37°

Saturday

High 51° Low 37°

Sunday

High 51° Low 38°

Monday

High 51° Low 39°



08805 93141

Weather





Members of the Tillamook County Board of Elections counting ballots in the race for Measure 29-183 on June 12, with Tillamook County Clerk Christy Nyseth overseeing.



Ben Salo won 2025's championship Pig n' Ford race thanks to three perfect cranks and two smooth pig exchanges.

Projects

From Page A1

12th Streets in the city.

That was followed quickly by the opening of Manzanita's new \$4.6 million city hall and police station in early August, after substantial completion in early May.

The North County Recreation District's \$18-million natatorium project, featuring a six-lane lap pool and therapy pool, was completed in September and celebrated with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony in mid-November.

Rounding out the trio of north county projects, the Nehalem Bay Health District's new \$12.2-million pharmacy and clinic opened with a ribbon cutting on October 4.

Tillamook's dialysis clinic also reopened in the summer under the management of Dialysis Clinics Inc., after a year-plus closure, as did Nehalem Bay State Park, following upgrades to its campground amenities.

Work is substantially complete on Tillamook Bay Community College's new healthcare education building, set for an April grand opening, and the rehabilitation of the south jetty at the mouth of Tillamook Bay will continue once better weather arrives and be completed by the fall.

August's county fair saw the only-in-Tillamook Pig-n-Ford races turn 100, with Ben Salo winning the centennial championship.

There was also a turnover in leadership at both the Tillamook and Nestucca Valley School Districts, with Matt Ellis resigning as superintendent of the former in June, and Misty Wharton resigning as superintendent of the latter in August. Tillamook's board of directors selected Jennifer Guarcello to serve as interim superintendent for the current school year, while Nestucca's selected Ken Richwine.

The year's last quarter saw several damaging incidents occur, starting with a fire on a railroad trestle on Tillamook's east side in October, and followed by severe damage to Hangar B at the Port of Tillamook



Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar (right center) and CARE Interim Executive Director Marie Miller (left center) cut a ribbon to celebrate the opening of CARE's new shelters flanked by CARE staff and board members.

Bay and Highway 6 and other roadways during December winter storms. Port leaders are considering

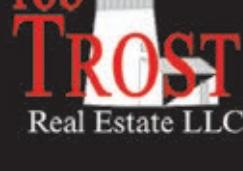
possible repairs for the hangar as the new year begins.

For this issue, the Head-

light Herald sat down with each of Tillamook County's commissioners and discussed developments in the

county over the past year and what they are looking forward to in the year ahead.

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From All of us to you, Happy New Year



Left to Right: Adventist Tillamook President Eric Swanson, Tillamook County Commissioner Paul Fournier, State Senator Suzanne Weber, DCI Senior Operations Director Sharon Marti, State Representative Cyrus Javadi, Tillamook County Commissioners Mary Faith Bell and Erin Skaar, and Dialysis Nurse Molly Lust celebrate the reopening of Tillamook's dialysis clinic.



2026 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM

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

Local not-for-profit organizations with community projects that promote community livability and economic development are eligible to apply. Application forms, procedures, and additional information are available now at www.tpubd.org/news-community/community-support-grants/.

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NEWS

Tillamook County treasurer resigns

WILL CHAPPELL
Headlight Editor

Tillamook County
Treasurer Shawn Blanchard
submitted her resignation on
December 2, with the move

taking effect on January 2, and Debra Jacob assuming the vacated position on January 3.

Blanchard worked in the treasurer's office for 14 years and was first elected trea-

surer in 2018, before being reelected in 2022 with her term set to expire in 2026.

In her resignation letter, Blanchard said, "This decision was not made lightly. I am proud of the work the

Treasurer's department has accomplished. It has been a privilege to work alongside a dedicated and talented team." She did not provide a reason for the resignation.

At their board meeting

on December 31, Tillamook County commissioners unanimously selected Jacob, the county's finance director, to serve as treasurer from January 3, through the end of the year.

Tillamook County Chief Administrative Officer Rachel Hagerty also said that commissioners will be evaluating the duties of the treasurer ahead of an election to fill the role this year.

Fournier

From Page A1

rent (department) directors, everybody's got the memo, everybody agrees we have to be proactive."

In a signal accomplishment of his first year, Fournier played a key role in conceiving and achieving a \$1-million transfer from the parks department to the county's general fund, with the county reimbursing the parks in full from transient lodging tax (TLT) revenues. Fournier said that in the past county leaders had not landed on the strategy in flusher financial times but that spending TLT dollars restricted to tourist facilities on parks and allowing the department's unrestricted revenues to flow to the general fund was a prudent move.

"I feel like I was a big architect of seeing that we could use that money for parks and we could pull some revenue from parks back into the general fund for operations," Fournier said. "There's nothing sneaky about that, it's just it was never done before."

The parks department transfer was paired with a revenue stabilization fund transfer of \$1 million this year to balance the county's budget, and Fournier noted that the parks department saw around \$2 million in annual revenues, meaning the county could expand its use of the strategy.

Fournier said that he also felt optimistic about the approach that the county government is taking to financial planning and that it has already begun to pay dividends that will show during budget season. Fournier praised the work of Financial Director Debra Jacob in creating comprehensive modeling of the county's financial position that she shares with commissioners, the budget committee and department directors quarterly, and department directors for finding efficiencies that are allowing the county to operate with around 10% of positions unfilled.

Moving forward, Fournier is pursuing a number of avenues to further improve the county's finances, not least among them working to expand and upgrade county-owned facilities to provide increased revenues, a main plank of his campaign platform.

Since assuming office, Fournier said that he has become convinced that the best way to achieve that goal is to hire a property manager for the county who will create an inventory of county-owned properties and identify projects that could help monetize them. "Tillamook Count has a large inventory of properties," Fournier said, "some are campgrounds, but we have other empty property that we've purchased over the years, or we've just been holding onto that I think we can realize some revenue from rather than asking residents."

Potential examples include

the Rawe property in the city of Tillamook's urban growth boundary, which Fournier suggested could be turned into an RV campground while work progresses to prepare it for housing, or Netarts Bay Drive, which he has advocated turning into a one-way road partnered with pedestrian path that would include paid parking.

At the end of the day, Fournier said that as a commissioner, he does not have the capacity or expertise to pursue these and other projects, and that he feels a property manager will easily pay for themselves.

Another new position Fournier is working to add to the county government is a code enforcement officer, who would work with a variety of departments including the sheriff's office, community development, public works and solid waste.

Progress towards the position began earlier this year as Fournier coordinated with those departments on the removal of abandoned RVs and cars in county rights of way, which Fournier said he was proud to have helped facilitate. "It's one of those things I get the most complaints about and so I'm excited because all I did, I'm not the one that gets credit, I just convene the people," Fournier said.

Directors from those departments are now working with Fournier to develop details for the code enforcement officer position, which is included in the county budget as two halftime positions in the community development department and solid waste program.

In addition to coordinating the removal of abandoned vehicles and working to abate concerns around nuisance properties, Fournier said that the code enforcement officer would also spend a significant portion of their time issuing parking and other citations at county-owned properties.

Fournier said that he is also working to draft new ordinances regulating parking at the county level so that the code enforcement and other law enforcement officers won't have to rely on Oregon statutes, which require a portion of fines be sent to the state government.

In concert, increased enforcement and more direct revenues would help to offset the \$200,000-plus cost of administering the county's justice court and drive higher revenue at county parking lots and boat ramps. Fournier said that he believes the largest untapped source of potential revenue is day trippers who do not contribute TLT but still strain the county's resources, and that increasing compliance at day-use areas with fees and expanding the number of those areas is the best way to monetize those visitors.

On the other side of the equation, Fournier said that he is working on plans for a free pass for county residents to use county-owned facilities, to avoid burdening locals.

Beyond finances, Fournier said that he feels he has helped foster a more sup-

portive and communicative relationship between the board of commissioners and county employees, culminating in the ratification of new collective bargaining agreements with the two unions representing employees late in 2025. Crediting the success to his more than two decades as a county employee, Fournier said, "I feel like I'm helping with a positive culture shift in the way the board of commissioners interacts with its employees and prioritizes employees, and I think that's something the other two commissioners are wanting to do as well."

In the coming year, Fournier said that he looks forward to discussions around how the county spends TLT as Commissioner Mary Faith Bell leads a working group in discussions of how to spend the funds and the county renegotiates its contract with the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association. Fournier said that he would like to see TLT funds used to support activities to boost visitors in the shoulder season, mentioning a crab, mountain biking or motorsports festival.

Fournier is also set to take over from Commissioner Erin Skaar as liaison to the Tillamook County Housing Commission and said that he was excited for the role. Fournier

said that he would like to find ways for the county to support more workforce and affordable housing projects with detached, single-family homes, especially one with ownership opportunities. "I think homeownership for workers in middle housing is something I'd like to try to set up if we can and I think there's an appetite for that," Fournier said.

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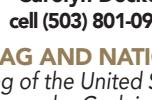
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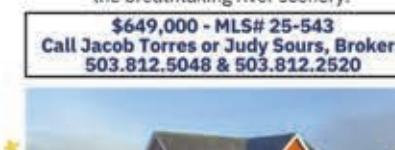
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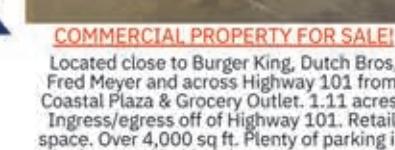
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SKAAR

From Page A1

chair the association's monthly meetings, meet bimonthly with Governor Tina Kotek, travel to Salem frequently during the legislative session to advocate on counties' behalf and attend several regional and national conferences representing AOC.

During the short legislative session, Skaar said that members have identified increasing state grants to counties to defray the cost of property tax assessment as a top priority. Those grants haven't increased since the 1980s and have gone from paying for around half the cost of property assessment to less than 10%, placing a heavier burden on county budgets.

Otherwise, Skaar said that she planned to work with lobbyists to respond to proposed bills that would impact counties before shifting her attention to preparing the association for next year's legislative session for the remainder of the year.

That preparation will revolve primarily around county finances, which Skaar said are in distress across much of the state, including in Tillamook

County. Three decades after voters pass Measures 5 and 50 capping property tax rates and limiting increases in assessed property value to 3% annually, Skaar said that around 60% of counties are facing potential service cuts in the next couple years.

"Over time, counties used to be able to do more things, they used to provide more services, and as our expenses have, frankly, outpaced our revenues, we've gotten leaner and leaner," Skaar said. "And now, we're at the point where many counties don't have a lot more leaning out we can do if we're going to continue to provide services to our residents."

To facilitate a better-informed conversation, Skaar decided to use her presidential initiative to commission a study of the general fund of each county. Skaar said that this study would be used to determine ways that the state government can help alleviate the crunch, with an eye on services counties are mandated to provide by state law but do not receive funds to support.

Skaar said that she would also use the study as a jumping-off point to facilitate conversations amongst members about different approaches that were working for different counties, mentioning Tillamook's suc-

cess with a transient lodging tax (TLT) and several east Oregon counties' leasing of land for energy generation. "What we're going to do is spend this year learning from each other. The other thing we're going to do is learn from each other what you do when you're just flat out of money," Skaar said, referring to counties like Washington and Douglas, which have already been forced to cut services.

In preparation for being president, Skaar has relinquished her position as chair on several boards, including the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners and Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee, saying that she may be forced to miss meetings and would feel uncomfortable doing so as chair.

On the subject of Tillamook County, Skaar said that working to address the aforementioned budget shortfall will continue to be a top priority in 2026. Skaar said that while she felt good work had been done in 2025 and progress made on the issue, including by transferring money from the parks department to the general fund and replacing those funds with TLT revenues, the county was still relying on a transfer from its reserve fund to balance the budget, meaning there was more to do.

"It's been fabulous to engage with all of the directors across the county and to have everybody's brain working on this," Skaar said, "and I will be nervous until we define and find funding sources that are good for today and to cover our growth into the future. At that point, I'll feel like we did it; we're not there yet."

Skaar said that a reform to the percentage of TLT dollars counties can spend without restriction being pushed by representatives of Tillamook County in Salem represented a potential solution. "Otherwise," Skaar said, "we are going to have to get into conversation with our community about what's important to them and what they are willing to potentially pay more for because we have very few options to raise more money that do not require a vote of the people."

While a study by Tiberius Solutions identified a list of potential new revenue generating ideas for the county including a utility fee or vacant home tax, Skaar said that questions remained about the feasibility of those ideas and that she did not have strong preferences among the proposals. She said that if commissioners decide to pursue any of the ideas, she believes it will be

necessary to inform the public about the need for new revenue and gather their feedback on the best way to generate it.

"I'm not bullish on any one thing at this point," Skaar said of the options for revenue generation, "I am interested in all of the things, and I think no matter what it is, it's going to take a conversation with our community."

This year, Skaar will be handing off her liaison duties with the Tillamook County Housing Commission to Commissioner Paul Fournier, after serving there since her arrival on the board in 2021. Skaar, the former director of Community Action Resource Enterprises in Tillamook County, said that though she has a background in housing to the board and was proud of the work she'd accomplished, she felt the timing was right for a change.

"I think it's just a great time for me to take a step back and acknowledge that we've done some really good things and we continue to do good things, and I'm excited for someone else to bring their fresh eyes and perspective to what good things we can do," Skaar said.

Skaar said she was also feeling good about the county's position vis-à-vis timber

as she prepares to step into the vice chair role on the Forest Trust Lands Advisory Committee. Skaar said that she felt the committee's member counties were more in accord with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staff now than when she had become chair following Commissioner David Yamamoto's retirement in mid-2024.

Finally, Skaar said she was looking forward to the sunsetting of the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency (STIA), which is set for its final meeting in January before becoming an advisory committee at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The department will take over the lease for the 82 miles of railway between Tillamook and Banks, and a staff member will work part time helping to manage the trail.

"By having STIA go away and by having there be a parks employee, that will give the Salmonberry Trail Foundation a person to work with and we'll figure out the structure by which the tough questions that need to be brought to the steering committee, there'll be a staff person at parks to make that happen and to really move things forward without these difficult questions landing in the way of everybody," Skaar said.

their head around the complex budgetary situation and that most knowledge about the county's finances ended up siloed in the treasurer's office, a dynamic which has drastically shifted.

"Now we're dealing with real information in real time, and the culture has changed in the sense that a lot of people have knowledge about it, whereas the knowledge used to really just be protected in the treasurer's office," Bell said.

So far, that increase in proactivity, as well as contracted work from Tiberius Solutions and Mike Gleason, has borne fruit in several ways, including the transition to a central services model of government in late 2024. That transition saw Rachel Hagerty move from a chief of staff role to county administrator overseeing the human resources, information technology and other internal-facing operations.

Bell said that the change had paid off this year as Hagerty shepherded a pay equity study that had been initiated in 2019 to completion, allowing the county to finalize updated collective bargaining agreements with its employees in December.

Beyond financial concerns, Bell said that she will also be working in the coming year to help reconvene the Holden Creek Working Group, which has been moribund for about a decade but previously helped manage flood concerns for the creek through Tillamook.

Bell also said that she hoped to find ways to continue improving the county's emergency management offerings. After adding new emergency supply cache containers in Oceanside and Cape Meares this year, Bell said that she would like to see them added in more communities and that she would like to enhance the county's communications in emergencies and continue building strong relationships with cities and volunteer groups.

"They (volunteers) can't do it by themselves, the cities can't do it by themselves, the counties certainly can't do it by ourselves, the state can't do it for us," Bell said, "but the combination, that's what I think we need to grow is the combined effort of all the partners."

Bell said that she is also excited for the completion of the new healthcare education and maintenance technology buildings at the Tillamook Bay Community College, where she sits on the board, and said that it was important to foster programs like these that helped people find quality jobs and build lives in the county.

"We want this to be a community that continues to grow," Bell said, "and that requires young couples who want to invest and stay and that requires a good job. So, I think those programs are really important."

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BELL
From Page A1

the association's Executive Director Nan Devlin is set to step down at the end of February. Several other factors would further complicate discussions about reallocating the funds, including a desire by county leaders to increase investments in parks facilities to boost revenues, as well as an outstanding list of existing or envisioned tourist facilities across the county that would qualify for restricted TLT

funding.

Altogether, Bell said that this had led commissioners to decide it was a good time to convene a working group with community members and industry representatives to evaluate priorities moving forward. Bell said that the TCVA board, of which she is a member, had agreed to hold off on recruitment of a new executive director until the work group process is complete.

"We need some cohesive sense that involves people from the community, that involves people from TCVA but also from the industry to brainstorm about prioritizing those expenses," Bell said.

Dovetailing with that work, Bell said that she also wants to develop a strategic plan for the parks department to create a roadmap for upgrades across their facilities, mentioning possible expansions at the Barview Jetty, Webb and Kilchis River County Camp-

grounds.

Bell said that she expected most or all of any newly unrestricted funds would be used to fill a multimillion-dollar shortfall in the county's general fund, which is being covered this year by transfers from the parks department and reserve fund.

Despite the draw on the reserve fund, Bell said that she felt a lot of progress had been made in 2025 on moving the county toward financial stability, citing improved communication as a driving factor. Over the past year, county commissioners and members of the county's budget committee have met quarterly for updates on the county's budgetary position from Debra Jacob, who was named the county's finance director earlier in the year.

Previously, that group had met only during budget season, and Bell said that it was difficult for members to get

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Concerned by Kirk Banners

Is Laurel Thompson's concern about portraits of Charlie Kirk displayed on private sector buildings in downtown Tillamook directing a narrative to remove a picture, a statement, or an opinion exhibited by a member of our community, because it's not aligned with her views of the world? Ms. Thompson has every right to her opinion of a man that peacefully expressed his thoughts and ideas while encouraging discourse on college campuses throughout our country. But she steps out of bounds, suggesting that an individual's life and opinion that differs with her position should be swept under the rug. I'm not writing this response in defense of a husband and father of two young children whose life was taken away, while he was practicing what should be near and dear to all of us, freedom of ideas, freedom of thought, freedom of speech. I'm responding as a pro-American, pro-constitutionalist as our country celebrates its 250th anniversary. Whether we agree or disagree, we should be able to express our thoughts and opinions, without repercussions or fear of another individual taking this right

away, or worse, taking our life. This is what makes us great as a nation. We are all blessed to be citizens in the greatest social experiment the world has ever known, the United States of America. If Ms. Thompson wanted to display a picture in her window, I would stand by her right to do this, as well as someone displaying a picture of Charlie Kirk.

Mark Stewart
Netarts

Scam Alert ~

I woke early. It was Friday and I was due at 10:00 to be at the Cape Meares Community Center to practice for a public reading. We would be performing Thanksgiving weekend. Opening my computer to read the news was the first of a series of mistakes. My computer was frozen and a flashing red light advised me to immediately call Apple Security at an 800 number. I did. That was mistake #2.

The scammers convinced me that child pornographers were trying to steal my money and I must transfer funds immediately from one account to another. It was imperative I tell no one. Doing so would compromise the investigation. The F.B.I.

The beginning of another new year. It calls for resolutions, right? I resolve to persevere in whatever comes my way (sound like a song?) just as I have over the last 77 years. I resolve to be as young and outgoing as I can. I might even consent to learning about Google Docs.

And just to make sure I follow through on that, I just got a new dog. Yes, a young dog. Yes, another border collie mix. A working dog that needs a lot of exercise and direction. That should be helpful in reaching my goal, don't you think?

You may remember the library is running a quarterly spice special. Last quarter they introduced us to Anise. I googled other recipes for a non-gluten item to make with anise and landed on a Thai soup made with star anise. Not the same spice, but similar. It made a very flavorful broth into which I could add rice noodles – they are gluten free. That sweet Swedish bread recipe still intrigued me, and I had to try it. I have not made a yeast bread in years, so I carefully organized the ingredients and proceeded like I knew what I was doing. Kneading the bread was fun and I put

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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• **Stop by our office:** 1906 Second St. Tillamook, OR

was hot on the trail of the criminals. They claimed the F.B.I. was doing an identity check verification on me. I believed them having had I.D. verification before. I knew how it looked. They are crafty and persuasive. Live in other countries. They face no consequences. Do NOT call any 800 number unless you have independently verified that it is correct. It's best to go to the company web page for the 800 number. Remember banks and financial institutions do not call customers and ask for personal information.

I hate child pornographers. They are the lowest of the low. Dutifully I followed their instructions moving thousands of dollars to their account. The scam was interrupted by my daughter, Susannah. Ever vigilant, she saw money moving out of my account and wanted to know what was going on.

Please be on the alert. I am now safe but I no longer live at the beach. There is no getting back the thousands of dollars I lost. The emotional toll of being held "captive" for five days and not being believed by a man I admired and considered a friend was devastating.

Sincerely, Sally McGee
Cape Meares

and of course, it hit the trash can. So much for that labor of love. And now my counters are remarkably clear.

El Trio Loco has opened in the old bakery at Third and Garibaldi Avenue (Hwy 101). This is their fourth restaurant along the coast. I stopped in with a friend for a bowl of tortilla soup last week. The broth was so flavorful, the chicken so plentiful. It was a bowl of comfort food for about \$15. I tried chicken flautas as well. The menu seems the same as their restaurant in Rockaway. The interior is open and inviting, lots of natural light coming in. The light fixtures over the bar area are fun. The staff are just as welcoming and friendly as they are in Rockaway. Within easy walking distance, it is worth checking out. And there is parking on Third for those a bit further away. And a Third street entrance to escape rain.

Let me give a shout out to the Food Pantry (at God's Lighthouse), Judy Riggs and Jeff Coon, along with numerous others who deserve recognition for the tremendous job they are doing. With all the cutbacks and other struggles,

See **LINDA**, Page A6



FENCEPOSTS



SOUTH COUNTY
MELONIE FERGUSON
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mossroses@yahoo.com

tist 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 NCRD, 36155 9th Street, in Nehalem.

Happy Birthday this week to - Rachel Adkins, Rick Anderson, Dale Caspell, B.J. Chatelain, Colton Craven, Nau-dia Eckhardt, Francine Hagerty, Noah Hancock, Jesse Heathershaw, Berta Limbaugh, Maloree Mal-com, Hannah Faire-Scott, Linda Shiels, Knol Simmitt, Sophie Jo Slavens and Nash Whiteman.

Remember that Adven-

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Headlight Herald

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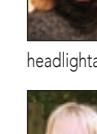
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Subscription rates

Annual \$90.00 • 6 months \$65.00 • Monthly \$10.00

Digital Only

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Results from our online poll:

Do you support turning the Cannon Beach Elementary School property into a park?

19

Yes

8

No

12

Unsure

Stay connected to us!



Check out next week's poll at TillamookHeadlightHerald.com

FENCEPOSTS

Happy New Year. The last king tide series of this winter just ended, January 1-4. I'm turning in this column before those dates, but hopefully by the time you read this, the ocean's fabulous king tide display ended with everyone enjoying the show from a safe distance and no injuries or property damage.

The "Aging with Grace" team will be sharing the documentary "Wine, Women, & Dementia" with the Cape Meares community on January 14, at the Barbara Bennett Community Center. This film follows Kitty Norton as she makes a road trip across the

U.S., seeking out other family caregivers to share stories, find community, and cope with the stress and heartbreak of helping a loved one with dementia. Wine and camaraderie are a backdrop for honest conversations about isolation, financial strain and the emotional toll such a journey takes. Please join us at 3 p.m. that day for the showing. And, yes, there will be wine—and movie snacks.

It will be movie time yet again at our community center on Sunday, January 25, at 10 a.m. The Cape Meares Emergency Volunteer Corps (CMEVC) will present the movie "Rumblings," a



CAPE MEARES
ELLEN STEEN
ellensteen2@gmail.com

documentary focused on the threat of a Cascadia earthquake and how communities in the Pacific Northwest are preparing for it. A representative from the Oregon Office of Resilience and Emergency management (OREM) will be

with us that morning. There will also be a showing of this film the day before at the Oceanside Community Center at 10 a.m. Please attend to learn more about emergency preparedness.

It is important for the Cape Meares community to know that the weekend of "Rumblings" satisfies two requirements of our emergency preparedness efforts. The Resilience Hubs and Networks Grant Award from April 2025 (the one that awarded us the Conex box to serve as a communications hub in case of disaster) requires us to have an OREM representative come and engage with

our community at least once every six months. Secondly, input from the "Rumblings" weekend will be used in an art activity that will appear as part of Governor Kotek's Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO), slated for publication in September 2026. PRO is a person- and community-centric plan that relies on input at the ground level. Many thanks to CMEVC for doing the work involved to include Cape Meares in this statewide initiative.

Starting off the New Year with resolutions? Here is a tip to help you in the area of financial security. Take all the cards in your wallet and

lay them on the glass platen of your printer. Hit the copy button. Turn the cards over and take another copy. Staple the copies together and put them in an appropriately labeled folder in your files. Voilà. If your wallet is ever stolen, you can easily retrieve the information as to which cards you lost, the credit card numbers, the contact numbers, etc.

Happy birthday to dear granddaughter Emma, a regular visitor who enjoys crabbing with Grandpa, rockhounding with Grandma, and playing canasta with both of us. Sending oceans of love her way.

RESOLUTIONS VS EVOLUTIONS

If you have a good memory, you might remember my first column of 2025 was about the difference between resolutions and making to-do lists. I did set out three resolutions, but I only accomplished one: not to buy a tomato plant. No big surprise there, because I am famous for not living up to my resolutions. I do work from to-do lists, not only in the garden, but in life as well. That way things don't fall through the cracks.

But this year, I got to thinking about how my resolutions resulted in an evolution in the garden. Instead of making those resolutions or even a to-do list, in 2026 I will be letting the garden evolve

organically.

As any Tillamook County gardener knows, in the Pacific Northwest a garden is never a static creation. It is a living collaboration between climate, soil, seasons and the gardener's shifting vision. Over time, what begins as a simple patch of earth transforms into a layered ecosystem shaped by patience, experimentation and the region's distinctive rhythms. The evolution of such a garden reflects both the resilience of native landscapes and the gardener's growing understanding of how to work with, rather than against, the natural world.

The earliest stage of a Pacific Northwest garden is often observation. The region's maritime climate—mild temperatures, abundant rainfall



GARDENING MATTERS
CARLA ALBRIGHT

and long, soft springs—creates both opportunities and challenges. Moss thrives effortlessly, while heavy winter rains test drainage and soil structure. A new gardener quickly learns that success depends on embracing these conditions. Instead of fighting the dampness, they might choose moisture loving natives such as sword ferns, red twig dogwood and salal,

which anchor the first phase of the garden with textures and tones that feel inherently at home.

As the garden matures, structure becomes the next focus. Evergreen backbones—Western red cedar, Douglas fir, or even compact cultivars of native conifers—provide year round presence. Understory layers begin to fill in with vine maple, rhododendron and huckleberry, creating a sense of depth and enclosure. This middle stage is where the garden starts to develop its identity. The gardener experiments with color and form, discovering how the filtered coastal light interacts with foliage: the way chartreuse leaves glow on overcast days, or how deep greens create a sense of calm even in winter.

Over time, the garden becomes more ecological than ornamental. Birds, pollinators, and small mammals begin to shape the space as much as the gardener does. Native flowering plants—Oregon grape, camas, penstemon—invite bees and hummingbirds, while berry bearing shrubs support migrating species. The gardener's role shifts from designer to steward, tending the balance between cultivated beauty and natural processes.

Fallen leaves are no longer debris but mulch; decaying logs become nurse logs for fungi and seedlings. The garden evolves into a miniature forest, echoing the larger ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.

In its later stages, the garden reflects a deepening relationship between the

gardener and the land. Plants chosen for novelty may give way to those that offer habitat or seasonal continuity. Paths soften as moss creeps in, and once rigid borders blur into more organic shapes. The garden becomes less about control and more about harmony. It tells the story of years of growth—of plants adapting, of the gardener learning, and of the quiet dialogue between human intention and natural resilience.

Ultimately, the evolution of a Pacific Northwest garden is a testament to time. It is shaped by weather, wildlife, and the gardener's shifting understanding of place. What emerges is not just a cultivated space, but a living expression of the region's spirit: lush, layered and always changing.

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2026, bringing the hope of a new year filled with happiness, and more grace and kindness to our fellow people. There is an old saying which is one I try to live by and hope to stick to this year, "Helping one person may not change the world, but it could change

the world for one person". Last week we all enjoyed a few sunshine filled days, natures gift to help us through those rainy dull days.

Today marks Twelfth Night, or the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the final night of the Christmas season. Epiphany is the date when some celebrate how a

star led the Magi (the three wise men), to visit the baby Jesus. A popular tradition stemming from medieval times is to have a twelfth night cake. A bean is baked inside the cake, and the person who gets the bean in their slice becomes king or queen for the night. When I was a child, we always had cake, and it also marked the day that Christmas decorations were put away until next season.

Throughout 2026, the Tillamook United Methodist Church will be celebrating their 160th anniversary and will hold many events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. The first event will be held on Sunday,

will be served at noon prior to dancing. There is no charge, everyone is welcome, and donations for the local food bank will be gladly accepted.

Bay City Council will meet January 12 at 5:30 p.m. for the council workshop and the following day will meet at 6 p.m. for the city council meeting. These meetings are open to the public, and they are a great opportunity to become informed about our local government's decisions.

The Planning Commission meeting will be on January 21 at 5:30 p.m. There are still vacancies on the commission and if you are interested in volunteering, you can contact city hall.

Coffee with the mayor and

city manager will be held on January 20 at 9:30 a.m. This is an informal gathering and very worthwhile to attend, lend your voice and ideas to our town. That same day the Bay City Emergency Volunteers will meet at 5:30 p.m., again volunteers are always needed for this group that will be vital in any emergencies. All meetings are held in the Ad Montgomery Hall.

The festive lights decorating our new Welcome Park have weathered quite a few storms these past few weeks but have made it through. Many thanks to Kathy Manis of the Booster Club for making repairs and keeping the lights twinkling and welcoming for everyone.

Jason Averill

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meeting, which passed Resolution 2025-53, authorizing City Manager Luke Shepard to execute an option agreement to purchase the lower portion of the Jetty Creek Watershed.

The process of acquiring the watershed as city-owned property has moved forward rapidly over the past two years or so. In June 2024, the city signed a letter of intent to purchase the downstream portion of the watershed from Nuveen Natural Capital. Roughly 18 months later, the option agreement—one of the requirements of the June 2024 letter of intent—signified closure on this significant portion of the process.

Where things stand now: the city has no obligation to purchase the land but is also protected from other would-be purchasers buying it. This gives us, as Mayor McNeilly said at the December meeting, "exclusive rights but no obligations" to complete the purchase.

There remains work to be done, most notably the assessment of property value and a comprehensive site walkthrough to ensure that the watershed is as it has been described. While I have participated in two walkthroughs of the site since April 2023, the financial assessment requires someone trained in forest and in particular watershed appraisal.

The letter of intent gives us until December 31, 2026, to conclude all due diligence around appraising and financing. Funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan through the Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are expected to be available to complete the purchase.

The city has received \$250,000 from the Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Source Protection Program to cover timber valuation, property appraisals, and legal support, as well as to develop our forest stewardship plan to maintain and improve the forest on the watershed.

At present, a final purchase price has not been determined, pending the appraisals and valuations which will be forthcoming. In addition, the upstream portion of the Jetty Creek Watershed is still owned by Stimson Lumber and will require a separate process and funding. These and other issues are expected to receive attention throughout the year.

Next up for 2026: City Council has already begun reviewing applications for our popular summer festivals. This year's Kite Festival will be the event's 50th edition, and residents and visitors alike can expect something suitable to commemorate this milestone.

Other festivals and activities this year include the Arts & Crafts festival traditionally held in August, and the Thursday Market which has been

growing in popularity with each successive year.

As a side conversation, city council discussed other locations in town for these and other activities. Anchor Street Park (site of the Trunk or Treat activities for the past two years) came up, as did Phyllis Baker Park, site of last year's popular Music & Movies in The Park. Both have advantages and disadvantages, but one plus to either is that we do not lose visitor parking in the entire Wayside. Expect to hear more about this (as well as some potential upgrades to Phyllis Baker Park) through the spring.

Next, I expect to see discussion, though perhaps little movement, on the Salmonberry Trail project. At present, the funding situation for much of the Salmonberry Project has shrunk, and as was reported last year, there is talk about revising plans downward to match available funds. The city still shows the Salmonberry Trail project and plans on their website, at <https://corb.us>; look for the link in the column at the left side of the home page.

On a positive and immediate note: beginning this month, a coalition of business and civic groups will present Co.Starters Boot Camp, a 4-week workshop aimed at helping local businesses move forward. Targeting current and prospective owners looking to start or grow their businesses, this free program takes place from 2 PM – 5 PM in City Hall, 276 Highway 101 South, on four Mondays, from January 12 and through February 2. To pre-register, visit <https://startupspace.app/detail-normal-events/67857>.

the coast – has been supporting each other with food this season. Bay City put out food barrels and collected food. The Garibaldi business community donated \$1,500 toward the Christmas food baskets. Community members donated gifts to match up with those baskets. We live in a wonderful place filled with wonderful people.



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FAMOUS 20-POINT FULL-SERVICE OIL CHANGE

OBITUARIES

Dennis Lee Russell

November 25, 1977 – October 5, 2025

"Denny," born to Laura Gale Harper-Hurst and Tommy Lee Russell, was a true singularity, a light in life whose passing will be mourned by many for generations to come.

Denny is survived by his mother, Laura Gale Harper-Hurst, and stepfather, Stephen Jay Hurst, of Rockaway Beach, Oregon. Denny was an organ donor, and through his gifts, many lives were saved.

He is survived by his four beloved children: Devlyn Russell, Keeliana Suzan Russell, Sage John Russell, and River Willow Russell.

He is also survived by his siblings — two from his mother, Laura G. Hurst: Des DesJardins and Shaun DesJardins; and two stepsisters from his stepfather, Stephen Jay Hurst: Angela Bea Firey and Virginia Jay Hurst.

From his late father, 'Tom' (who passed in 2008), Denny is also survived by four siblings: Tommy Lee Russell Jr., David Russell, Twila Marie Russell-Knoll, and Riyyah Lee Russell-Knoll.

Denny is also survived by his loves and partners that he had in life: Sandra



Dickson and her daughter, Kyliegh Best (and grandson Mokoa), and Sabrina Cale and her daughter, Celeste.

A resident of Rockaway Beach since 2004, Denny loved life and lived it to the fullest. He worked as a stage builder and enjoyed sharing stories about the famous people, bands, and groups he had the chance to meet and hang out with. He loved the ocean, the beach, and walking his dog Sky.

Denny was a lifelong fan of everything sci-fi, space, music, and fantasy. From D&D to MTG, cosplay, live shows, or movies, he was always ready to dive in with enthusiasm.

He had lifelong friends in many people: Theresa Maloney, the mother of Sage and River; Taunya Russell-Plank, Devlyn's mother; and Suzan Selmen, Keeliana's mother. He also had countless friends such as - Eric, Joe, Mike, and Kesha, just to name a few.

Denny leaves behind many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved him dearly. He was the kind of man who, if you knew him, you were his friend.

In recent years, Denny worked as a cook at Camp Magruder, a job he took great pride in. Each new recipe brought him joy, and he cherished the people he worked with. The kids he cooked for always made him smile. Denny loved to laugh, to learn, and to share his warmth with others.

Above all, Denny loved his four children deeply.

We will miss Denny so very much.

Edward J. Zimmerman

December 31, 1939 – December 1, 2025



Edward J. Zimmerman was born in Tillamook, Oregon on December 31st, 1939 to Irma and William Zimmerman and passed away on December 1, 2025 in Bay City, OR. Edward graduated from Nehalem Union High School in 1959. The same year Edward joined the Navy where he served 22 years as a diesel mechanic. After Edward retired from the

Navy he worked in a test site in Nevada for 13 years. He was married to Carmen Solano Zimmerman for 50 years before her passing in 2020. Edward loved crabbing, garage sales, and the Green Bay Packers football games which he'd watch every weekend. Edward is survived by his brother Eddie J. Zimmerman Tillamook, OR and sister Margo Zimmerman

JoAnn Rosalie Davis

January 18, 1940 – December 26, 2025

JoAnn Rosalie Davis, age 85, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2025. She was born on January 18, 1940, in Los Angeles, California, to the late William Laws and Anna Getz Laws. JoAnn grew up in Los Angeles, at 16 escaped an abusive home, and later moved to Oregon in 1968, where she spent the remainder of her life.

JoAnn was a truly devoted Christian, and she leaned heavily on her faith in Jesus Christ. She often helped homeless people, sometimes providing them with food and a place to live on her property even though she struggled financially. She prayed often for her family and friends. Above all things she was a loving, caring, social and empathetic person.

JoAnn had a lifelong love of music. She was part of a singing group in her teens. Later, she enjoyed singing in church and playing her autoharp and the piano, using her musical gifts to worship and encourage others. She also wrote songs, expressing her faith and creativity through music.

Throughout her life, JoAnn worked in many roles, reflecting her



strong work ethic. She worked at Tektronix in Beaverton and Oregon-Washington Plywood in Garibaldi. She waitressed at several restaurants including the Hungry Harbor in Pacific City. She worked as a CNA and at Exact Electronics and JC Penney in Tillamook.

JoAnn faced significant challenges in her life, including a long battle with mental illness, particularly in her last 16 years. Sometimes she was ostracized and marginalized because people didn't understand her behavior. She endured these challenges with perseverance and

faith.

She was first married to Atwood Parnell ("Bill") on August 25, 1957; together they had two children, Joy Neufeld (born in 1958) and Paul Parnell (born in 1963). On November 21, 1973, she married Alton Lewis Davis.

JoAnn was preceded in death by her brother, William Laws Jr.; her sister, Ruth Griffin; her first husband, Bill Parnell; and her second husband, Alton Davis. She is survived by her sister, Kitty Belendez; her daughter, Joy Neufeld, and her husband, Steven Neufeld; her son, Paul Parnell, and his wife, Christina Romanik as well as 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

The family wants to express our gratitude to Sefika Alijaj, for providing our mother with amazing care in the last 2 years of her life.

A funeral service will be held on January 17, 2026, at 1:00 PM at Waud's Funeral Home, 1414 3rd Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141. The burial will follow at Bay City IOOF Cemetery, 7555 Doughty Road, Tillamook, Oregon 97141.

Kristi Bertrand

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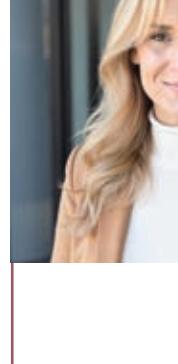
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The Most Dangerous Question In The Room

Why Universal Healthcare without Cost Controls Won't Fix Anything

CYRUS JAVADI DDS, OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE

At some point in any failing enterprise, someone finally asks the most dangerous question in the room:

"Are we actually making enough money to run this thing?"

After four essays walking through the slow unraveling of American healthcare—the math that doesn't work, the history that boxed us in, the carnival financing tricks we pretend are normal, and the tourniquet known as Obamacare—it seems only reasonable to finally ask the question everyone keeps circling.

"Okay. So, what's the answer?"

In the Capitol, this is the moment when the conversation stops being a conversation and turns to a heated debate.

Quickly. Someone says single payer with the confidence of a man who believes he has just discovered fire. Someone else says free markets with equal conviction, as if healthcare were simply a poorly run cable company in need of better branding and a customer-loyalty program.

Everyone nods vigorously at their own opinion. No one listens very carefully. And, the problem is kicked down the road. Again.

Which makes sense. Americans like fixes. We like clean answers. We like the idea that somewhere in Oregon (or Washington, D.C.) there exists a big lever that, once pulled, causes costs to fall, access to rise, wait times to shrink, and hospital billing departments to disappear in a cloud of morally satisfying smoke.

The problem is that

healthcare is not that kind of problem.

Because healthcare is not a broken appliance. It's not even a complicated machine. It's more like an old house remodeled by six different owners, each of whom fixed the thing bothering them most without ever touching the foundation. The windows don't line up. The floors slope slightly toward the kitchen. And everyone keeps arguing about paint colors while pretending the creaking noise is just the wind.

A Quick Return to the Tourniquet

(Because People Keep Forgetting This Part)

The Affordable Care Act was never designed to fix American Healthcare. It wasn't a master plan. It wasn't a cure. And it certainly wasn't elegant.

It was a tourniquet.

It stopped the bleeding in a system already quietly failing. It forced participation. It ended the practice of treating sick people as actuarial mistakes.

It cut uncompensated care roughly in half from \$40–50 billion a year pre-ACA to about \$28–30 billion today. It slowed medical bankruptcies. It kept hospitals open long enough for us to keep arguing about what comes next.

Premiums went up (a lot) not because insurers suddenly discovered greed in 2010, but because the system finally had to acknowledge something we had spent decades avoiding: modern healthcare is expensive to deliver.

Since 2019 alone, hospital labor costs are up 21–25%, supplies 18–20%, pharmaceuticals 13–15%, and construction costs 25–30%. Contract labor spiked even higher. You don't need ideology to understand what does to prices,

but a calculator helps.

See, the mistake wasn't applying the tourniquet. The mistake was pretending we could

leave it there forever without curing the gaping wound underneath.

Because while we argued about Obamacare, everything underneath it kept changing. Labor got scarcer. Medicine got better and more expensive. Technology advanced like it had somewhere urgent to be. People lived longer (and with more chronic disease) requiring more care over more years.

And we kept pretending the payment system would somehow absorb all of that.

It didn't.

The Two "Solutions" Everyone Pretends Are Mortal Enemies

Once you strip away the slogans, there are really only two ideas serious countries return to.

They are not opposites. They are siblings who refuse to sit next to each other at dinner. The first is universal, government-run insurance.

Everyone pays in. Everyone is covered. Prices are set. Budgets exist. Canada is the usual reference point. No choice. No options. No out-of-pocket expenses. If you need it, you go to the doctor. No bill afterwards.

The second is mandatory universal coverage with private insurers operating under strict rules. This is Switzerland. Participation is required. Benefits are standardized. Prices are controlled. Subsidies make it affordable. A few choices (more cosmetic than functional), payroll taxes, out-of-pocket expenses. You go to the doctor when you need it.

Both systems work. Both ration care. They just ration it

differently.

Yes—rationing happens either way.

And, news flash, we already ration care in the United States. We just do it through deductibles, networks, prior authorizations and geography instead of waitlists. If you live near a major academic center, you enjoy the illusion of abundance. If you don't, you learn quickly that choice often just means drive farther.

What the Numbers Actually Say

Here's where things get uncomfortable.

The United States spends about \$13,500 per person per year on healthcare. That's roughly 17.3% of GDP. The average among wealthy nations is closer to \$6,500 per person and 9–10% of GDP.

Canada spends about \$6,300 per capita—roughly 11% of GDP. Germany spends \$8,100 per capita, also around 12% of GDP.

Switzerland, often cited as the "expensive" European system, spends about \$9,800 per person, still far below us. Japan spends about \$4,800 per capita, just under 11% of GDP, while maintaining the highest life expectancy in the world.

So yes, we pay dramatically more.

But here's the part most comparisons conveniently skip: those countries also have lower labor costs, healthier populations, fewer specialists, fewer high-tech interventions, smaller geographic footprints, and cultural acceptance of limits that Americans openly reject.

Japan has 12 hospital beds per 1,000 people. The U.S. has 2.8. Germany has 7.9. You don't need to guess how that affects surge capacity. Physicians in the U.S. (especially

See JAVADI, Page A8

H25287

2026 THS Alumni Scholarships now accepting applications



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H26181

MIKE WEBER
For The Headlight Herald

The Tillamook High School (THS) Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc. is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2026 scholarship cycle. The Fund offers multiple scholarships to support both graduating seniors and alumni continuing their education.

Current Student Scholarship

Provides \$3,000 to six (6) graduating THS seniors with

a minimum 2.75 GPA who plan to attend a college, university, community college, technical school, or accredited trade program. Applications are due to the

Tillamook High School Resource Center on or before Friday, April 4, 2026.

Postgraduate Scholarship

Awards one (1) \$3,000 scholarship and is available to THS alumni with a minimum 3.00 GPA who are enrolled in or registered at an accredited college, university, community college,

or technical/trade program. Applications must be mailed to the THS Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc., PO Box 195, Tillamook, OR 97141, by Tuesday, April 1, 2026.

Applications and instructions for both scholarships can be obtained online at <http://thsasf.yolasite.com/>, at the

Tillamook High School Resource Center, or at the Tillamook Bay Community College Main Office.

About the THS Alumni Scholarship Fund

Founded in 1992, the THS Alumni Scholarship Fund has proudly supported generations of graduates pursuing higher education and skilled trades. To date, the Fund has awarded \$318,500 to 142 students.

The THS Alumni Scholarship Fund is a non-profit entity. If you would like further information about the THS Alumni Scholarship Fund or would like to donate toward scholarships, please visit <http://ths-asf.yolasite.com>. All donations are tax-deductible.

JAVADI

From Page A7

specialists) are paid two to three times what their counterparts earn elsewhere. That isn't greed. It's supply, training cost, malpractice exposure and opportunity cost rolled together.

And our population is sicker. Six in ten American adults have at least one chronic disease. Four in ten have two or more. Obesity sits around 42%, roughly double the

OECD average. Diabetes prevalence is about 11%, compared to 4–7% elsewhere.

No financing model escapes those realities.

The Part Everyone AVOIDS Saying Out Loud

Here's the sentence that ruins everyone's favorite talking point:

Universal coverage solves how we pay for healthcare. It does not, by itself, solve how much healthcare costs.

You can nationalize insurers tomorrow. You can regulate them into polite submission. You can replace every executive with a golden retriever wearing a lab coat. If labor remains scarce, drugs remain expensive, and medicine keeps advancing faster than the system that pays for it, prices will keep chasing costs.

Every country that "solved" healthcare did so by explicitly controlling prices, volumes, workforce supply, and technology adoption. Not vibes. Not slogans. Actual constraints.

They decide how many specialists to train.

They decide which drugs they will pay for—and which they won't.

They accept wait times as a tradeoff instead of a scandal.

Americans say they want European healthcare.

They recoil from European decisions.

The Cost We Never Talk About: Running the System Itself

Here's the number that quietly explains why American healthcare feels so expensive even before you get sick.

It costs about \$2,700 to \$3,000 per person, per year just to run the U.S. healthcare system. Not to deliver care. Not to pay doctors or nurses. Not to buy drugs or MRI

machines. Just to move money around. That's the cost of administration: billing departments, coding teams, prior authorization, network negotiations, utilization management, claims appeals, employer benefits offices, compliance staff, and an insurance ecosystem so complex that entire careers are built on knowing which box to check on which form for which payer on which day of the week.

By comparison, Canada spends roughly \$500 per person on administration. Germany spends about \$400–500. Switzerland, despite relying on private insurers, lands around \$600–700. Japan runs one of the leanest systems in the world at roughly \$150–200 per capita, thanks to a single national fee schedule and minimal billing variation.

In percentage terms, the United States spends 18–20% of all healthcare dollars just on administration. Most wealthy countries spend 3–7%. Put differently: even if America somehow matched European prices for doctors, hospitals, and drugs tomorrow (no miracles required, just pretend) we would still be spending roughly \$2,000 more per person every year than our peers simply to operate the system.

That gap alone is larger than what many countries spend to cover an entire citizen's healthcare. This isn't because Americans are uniquely inefficient people. It's because we built a financing system that treats complexity as a feature. Multiple payers. Nonstandard prices. Constant network churn. Prior authorization as cost control. Employer-based insurance as a middleman. Pharmacy benefit managers skimming value in ways even experts struggle to fully explain.

Every layer added to manage cost creates another layer that has to be managed. And managed layers need staff. And staff cost money. And eventually, someone gets handed the bill.

Usually the patient. Or the employer. Or the hospital trying to keep its doors open.

So, What's the Fix?

Here's the answer that won't fit on a bumper sticker.

We have to choose a universal financing system and pair it with real cost control.

That means admitting healthcare is not a normal market. It means standardizing prices where markets don't function. It means expanding the workforce instead of treating burnout like a personal failing. It means simplifying administration, so clinicians spend less than 25% of their time feeding billing portals that collectively cost \$90 billion a year.

It means confronting drug pricing where 2–3% of prescriptions drive half of all spending.

It means acknowledging that consolidation raises prices, but also that thin margins force survival mergers.

And it means accepting out loud that better medicine costs money, whether we pay through premiums, taxes, or time.

Obamacare bought us time. We spent that time arguing about whether the tourniquet caused the wound. It didn't.

But time is running out. And choosing nothing is still a choice—just one where the system keeps deciding for us, hospital by hospital, county by county, mile by mile.

Which is fine.

Unless you think healthcare matters.

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SPORTS

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Page B1

Nestucca boys seek to end losing streak

MIKE WEBER

For The Headlight Herald

After a tough OSAA Class 2A boys basketball nonleague schedule, the Nestucca High Bobcats are hoping to turn things around in the new year.

The Bobcats, guided by fourth year Justin Hartford, lost three straight games in December, including two contests in the Monroe High School Invitational Tournament December 19-20.

The Bobcats lost 54-47 to the Monroe Dragons (5-4) on December 19, followed by a 51-38 loss to the No. 12-ranked Lowell High Devils (8-1). Junior Mason Vu, a 2025 Northwest League All-League award winner, led the Bobcats in scoring with 20 points in the game versus Lowell.

"We've been in kind of a little slump, but in our last game against Lowell we actually played pretty well," said Hartford. "They are a

pretty good team, and we held our own against them, and we showed glimpses of being able to play good basketball. I'm hoping we can start a win streak. Our practices have been good, the guys have had a high morale level and they're playing more consistently. I'm hoping that we can turn things around and get some wins now."

The Bobcats are looking to begin their 12-game NWL schedule on a posi-

tive note in a 7:30 p.m. road game Tuesday against the No. 4-ranked Knappa High Loggers (7-2), a 2025 state playoff squad. The teams split two matchups last year with both winning home games.

"Knappa is always a pretty tough team, and they always play pretty well," said Hartford. "Another tough team is going to be

Portland Christian (defending state champion), which has been one of the top 2A

teams for the past three or four years. Other than Knappa and Portland Christian, I think anyone in our league has a shot at getting third place and I think we'll have a good chance of doing that. I think we could even have a chance to get a tie for second place with Knappa in the standings, so that's our goal."

An experienced Bobcats squad has six seniors and is hoping to be a top contender in the eight-team North-

west League standings. The Bobcats finished in fourth place last year with a 10-4 NWL mark (14-12 overall), just missing qualifying for the state playoffs last year following a 53-51 overtime loss to the Faith Bible High Falcons (8-6 NWL, 11-15 overall last year) on February 22, 2025, in the NWL district playoffs at Vernon High School. The Bobcats are hoping to reach the state playoffs for the first time since 1974.

Lady Cats undefeated in non-league schedule

MIKE WEBER

For The Headlight Herald

Nestucca High School's girls' basketball team finished 2025 with an unblemished 7-0 record and hope to build on that success as their league season begins in the new year.

The Bobcats extended their win streak to seven after notching two nonleague victories at the Monroe High School Invitational Tournament December 19 and 20, starting with a 59-24 over

the Monroe Dragons (2-7) December 19.

Senior Taylor Knight (10 points) had a career-high nine assists and junior Autumn Rist scored a career-high 18 points, while Piper Armstrong pulled down 12 rebounds to help lead the Bobcats to the win over Monroe. Knight leads the Bobcats in scoring with an average of 16 points per game, while freshman Carly Wisehart, who scored 13 against Monroe, is averaging 12 points per game and Rist is nearly in double figures

too with an average of 9.1 points per game.

Nestucca, guided by sixth-year Coach Tevin Gianella, followed with a 58-31 win over the Lowell High Devils (5-4) December 20. Knight (14 pts.), Armstrong (15 pts.) and Wisehart (12 pts.) led the Bobcats potent offense, currently the No. 2-ranked offense in Class 2A, at 57.71 points per game.

"I thought we would be pretty good, but it's hard to go undefeated through your first seven games," said Gianella. "I hope we can

keep the win streak going. I'm pretty happy with our offense and we like to run and gun. Our goal is to extend our streak to four years in a row going to the state playoffs and go back to Pendleton and bring home a trophy."

The state tournament quarterfinals are March 5-7 at the Pendleton Convention Center. The Bobcats are hoping to return to the quarterfinals for the first time since 2024, when they were 0-2 at the tournament and lost in the consolation round. The

Bobcats are hoping to get a trophy for the first time since 2009, when they finished in second place after losing 48-37 in the championship game to Santiam.

"Taylor has been a great leader for us," said Gianella.

"We have some things that we need to improve on such as our free throw shooting (42 percent). We just have to have our two freshmen (Wisehart, Natalie Blackburn) do a little better with free throws. I would like to see us shoot 60 percent at the free throw line."

The Bobcats will seek to extend their win streak as they open their 14-game Northwest League schedule with a 6 p.m. road contest Tuesday versus the defending league champion Knappa High Loggers (1-7).

Nestucca has lost three consecutive games to Knappa over the last two years. The Bobcats then play the Columbia Christian High Knights (2-3) in a 6 p.m. Friday home game. The Bobcats won two one-sided games last year over the Knights.

Lady Pirates go two for three in the desert

MIKE WEBER

For The Headlight Herald

Bringing 2025 to a strong finish, the Neah-Kah-Nie High School girls' basketball team won two of three games in a tournament in Arizona from December 18 to 20.

The Pirates, guided by longtime Coach Corey Douma (21 years) won 55-42 over Phoenix Christian High in their first game December 18, followed with a 36-32 loss to St. Mary's Catholic High on December 19, and bounced back with a 41-26 win over Benjamin Franklin

High on December 20.

"We're still trying to figure some things out, but I think we're right on target for where we want to be with everyone learning what their role is now," said Douma, whose squad has lost three games by four points or less. "We have a great group, they're all working hard together and we have fun every day, and that's what matters."

The No. 21-ranked Pirates (5-4) will now focus on their 12-game OSAA Class 3A Coastal Range League schedule. They'll play their first contest Wednesday at home at 7 p.m. against the No. 4-ranked Yamhill-Carl-

ton High Tigers (8-2). It's a matchup featuring two 2025 state playoff teams. The Pirates lost two games last year to the Tigers by double digit margins, which they will be looking to avenge.

"We're just focusing on playing good defense all around and then just get enough scoring to win some games," said Douma. "I hope we can win most of our league games. Banks is going to be really good, and Yamhill has a pretty good team. We're in a pretty tough league, but we'll compete well with everyone, and I think we can get third or fourth place by the end of the season and qualify for

the district playoffs."

A talented squad led by the senior trio of Payton White, Lorelai Keefauver and Ashley Perez helps provide the Pirates with leadership and they're hoping to help the team achieve their goal of making the playoffs a second straight year. White was a key contributing member to the team last season when she earned a 2025 CRL All-League Honorable Mention Award.

Acacia Christensen has been the leading rebounder for the Pirates, with career highs in rebounding twice this season with 18 and 19 rebounds. Bianca Smith has been providing a key boost

offensively as she scored a season-high of 18 points in a game recently.

The CRL has been one of the toughest leagues in the state recently with five of the seven teams qualifying for the state playoffs a year ago. Riverdale (5-7 CRL, 13-12 overall) and Corbett (10-2, 16-7 overall) also reached the 2025 state playoffs.

The defending champion Banks High Braves (12-0 CRL, 26-4 overall last year) are considered one of the top contenders again with nine of their 13 players returning from a squad that reached the state championship game last year (a 43-41 loss to Amity on March 8, 2025).

Pirate boys start strong in nonleague schedule

MIKE WEBER

For The Headlight Herald

A two-for-three desert swing from December 18 to 20 capped a strong non-league schedule for the Neah-Kah-Nie High School boys' basketball team, bringing the Pirates to 6-3 heading into the new year.

The No. 13-ranked Pirates (6-3) lost their first game 77-57 to ALA West Foothills High on December 18, despite a career-high 36 points from senior Clayton Dante. Dante scored a career-high 36, before bouncing back for wins in their next two contests. Neah-Kah-Nie, guided by sixth-year Coach Erick White, won 46-44 over Thunderbird High on December 19 and followed by scoring a season-high 73, en route to a 40-point victory over Chandler Prep High December 20.

"We had a good trip to

Arizona and winning two out of three games there was pretty good," said White. "Unfortunately, our best shooter, senior Jordan Lewis, has an ankle injury that happened in practice recently, so I'm not sure when we'll have him back. I feel like we're playing some pretty good basketball, especially considering that we've had to deal with some other injuries too. As long as we play our game, I think we can be one of the contenders for our league title this year."

The Pirates will seek to sustain their early season momentum as they begin their 12-game OSAA Class 3A Coastal Range League schedule with a 6 p.m. Wednesday home game against the Yamhill-Carlton High Tigers (6-4). The rivals split two matchups last season, with both winning on the road.

"Dylan Sigman didn't

play in Arizona because he was recovering from an ankle injury that he sustained in a game against Knappa (a 67-42 win Dec. 16), so we've been resting him quite a while," said White. "It was kind of a bummer that Dylan couldn't play in Arizona. He's our best athlete and our leading rebounder and second leading scorer."

Neah-Kah-Nie is looking to reach the state playoffs for a fourth straight year and are on track to meet that goal. "I'm very pleased so far with the way things are going, and I think there's a lot of key things that we gained from the Arizona trip," White said. "We learned a lot of things there that will help our team improve, and the boys felt like it was a pretty good trip."

An experienced Pirate

squad includes seniors

Brady Douma, Kason

Fletcher, Greyson Lott and

Noah Scovel. They have ex-

ceptional height with seven players six-foot or taller, including 6-foot-4 junior post Tyson Huntley and 6-3 post Sigman. Dante (6-foot) is the Pirates leading scorer who is averaging 20 points per game.

"I'm having lots of fun, especially with the senior group of guys on our team who have been playing together for a very long time," said Douma, who recorded a season high in scoring with 12 points December 20 in Arizona. "It's fun seeing all the work that we've done as a group, which has really helped our team improve this year. We've incorporated some new people into our lineup too with sophomores Dylan, Jack Cole and Marcus Johnson, who have each really helped us out quite a bit. I think we definitely have a chance to reach the state playoffs this year and there's really no team in 3A that we can't beat."

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Tillamook County criminal convictions

STAFF REPORT

Country Media, Inc.

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

On November 7, Kyle Anthony Clark-Cisneros, 33, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about December 16, 2024. Clark-Cisneros was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years' probation, his driver's license was suspended for three years, and he was ordered to pay \$1,999 in fines and fees.

On November 10, Ariadna J Orozco, 28, pled guilty to one count of assault in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about June 21. Orozco was sentenced to eighteen months' probation and ordered to pay a \$600 fine.

On November 13, Steven L Klahn, 61, pled no contest to one count of failure to register as an outfitter or guide and one count of violation of wildlife law with culpable mental state-taking, hunting or trapping in violation of wildlife law or rule, both class A misdemeanors, committed on or about October 22, 2024. Klahn was sentenced

to 180 days in jail and five years' probation and ordered to pay a \$100 fine. On the same day, Klahn pled no contest to a further count of failure to register as an outfitter or guide, committed on or about February 20, 2024, for which he was assessed an additional \$600 in fines.

On November 14, Jonathan Ray Stevens, 40, pled no contest to two counts of harassment, class B misdemeanors, committed on or about June 17, and August 15, and one count of failure to appear in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about October 6. Stevens was sentenced to 50 days in jail.

On November 17, Joseph Paul Larsen, 35, pled no contest to one count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine, a class C felony, committed on or about June 13, 2024. Larsen was sentenced to three years' probation and a drug treatment program.

On November 17, the Oregon Coast Clam Company pled guilty to one count of violating commercial fishing laws with a culpable mental state, a class A misdemeanor.

The company was placed on probation for three years and assessed a \$20,000 fine.

On November 17, Lilly Eugene Alder, 20, pled guilty to one count of harassment, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about February 28. Alder was sentenced to

ten days in jail.

On November 19, Jesse Lee Stinnett, 39, pled guilty to one count of theft in the third degree, a class C misdemeanor, committed on or about October 6. Stinnett was sentenced to time served in jail and ordered to pay \$17.11 in restitution.

On November 21, Christopher Troy McKinney, 37, pled no contest to two counts of harassment, class A misdemeanors, committed on or about May 14 and 15. McKinney was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

On November 24, Sherman James Gossett, 64, pled no contest to one count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, a class B felony, and one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class C felony, both committed on or about June 19. Gossett was sentenced to eight months in prison and two years of post-prison supervision, his driver's license was revoked for life, and he was ordered to pay \$500 in restitution.

On November 24, Orian Joseph Sheppard, 19, pled guilty to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about May 26. Sheppard was sentenced to two years' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On November 24, Debbie Carolyn Donaldson, 65, was found guilty on one count of theft in the third degree,

a class A violation, committed on or about October 20. Donaldson was ordered to pay a \$440 fine and \$16.35 in restitution to Fred Meyer.

On November 25, Autumn Strang, 42, pled no contest to one count of assault in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 22. Strang was sentenced to ten days in jail and two years' probation.

On November 26, John Franklin Henry, 55, was found guilty on one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about April 25. Henry was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years' probation.

On December 1, Michael Vicente Reid, 36, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 14, one count of harassment, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about August 14, and one count of menacing, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 7. Santos was sentenced to one year on probation.

On December 1, Taylor Zane Stoll, 37, pled no contest to one count of criminal trespass in the second degree, a class C misdemeanor, committed on or about October 18. Stoll was sentenced to one year on probation.

On December 1, Jordan Ranae Marie Aldrich, 20, pled no contest to one count of assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic

violence, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 4. Aldrich was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On December 1, Austin Joseph Werner Bell, 28, pled no contest to one count of harassment, a class B felony, committed on or about November 29. Bradley was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

On December 10, Austin Ray Wallace, 21, pled no contest to one count of menacing, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 29. Wallace was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On December 10, Draven Louis Hughes, 21, pled guilty to one count of criminal trespass in the second degree, a class C misdemeanor, committed on or about November 14. Hughes was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

On December 12, Larry Neal Baker, 58, pled no contest to one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about March 8. Baker was sentenced to time served in jail.

On December 12, Jesse Dillon Merrill, 31, pled no contest to one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle, a class C felony, committed on or about October 14. Merrill was sentenced to two years in prison.

On December 12, Mcrae Daniels Armstrong, 35, pled guilty to one count of recklessly endangering another person, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about July 3, 2022. Armstrong was sentenced to 30 days in jail and two years' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for 90 days.

On December 15, Raine Siegel, 46, pled no contest to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about October 16. Siegel was sentenced to one year on probation and ordered to pay \$53.98 in restitution to Fred Meyer.

On December 15, Andrew William Niemi, 58, pled no contest to one count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 16. Niemi was sentenced to two days in jail.

On December 15, Jordan Bruce Luzader Kamprath, 41, pled no contest to two counts of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, class C felonies, committed on or about August 2. Kamprath was sentenced to ten days in jail and 18 months' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for 90 days.

On December 15, Tyler Garrett Seals, 23, pled no contest to one count of violation of wildlife law without culpable mental state, a class A violation, committed on or about October 8. Seals was assessed a \$265 fine.

2026 Discovery Guide Photography Contest



2025 sample cover by Brooke Walker and 2024 image by Peggy McDaniel

Winner receives a free advertisement in the 2026 Discovery Guide which is inserted into the Tillamook Headlight Herald and photo credit.

Send us your images by March 1, 2026

We are looking for bright and colorful high-quality vertical photos from Tillamook County at least 300 dpi and 8 inches wide.

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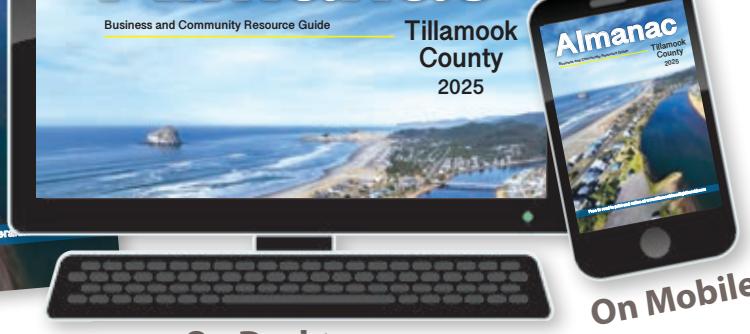
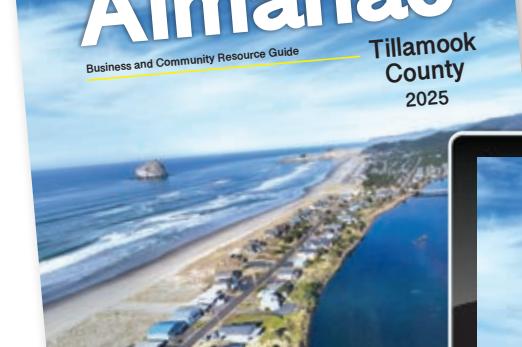
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INSERTED INTO TWO NEWSPAPERS

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



Sample Cover from 2025, image by Brooke Walker

Headlight Herald
tillamookheadlightherald.com

North Coast CITIZEN
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NEWS

Oregon to receive \$197.3M federal investment in rural healthcare

Funding will help improve healthcare access, boost disease management and prevention, support workforce, expand data and technology use

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

Oregon will receive \$197.3 million in 2026 to improve rural healthcare and could receive more in the following four years, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will invest the federal funding in community-driven projects that improve healthcare access, boost chronic disease management and prevention, grow and sustain the healthcare

workforce, and expand the use of health technology and data in Oregon's rural and frontier communities. The Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program includes a dedicated Tribal initiative that will provide direct funding for the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon to improve their own healthcare access and health outcomes in a way that honors the government-to-government relationship with the Tribes.

Oregon is centering the unique needs and perspectives of people in rural communities for this effort. OHA conducted statewide engagement to develop its original funding proposal, and will continue to closely collaborate with hospitals, clinics, providers, patients and others in rural Oregon as it implements the program during the next five years.

"Oregon is resolved to steward this funding ef-

fectively, ensuring it benefits rural communities across the entire state," said Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek. "We look forward to working in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to advance rural health transformation and improve the lives of our rural and frontier residents."

"Everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, no matter where they live," said OHA Health Policy & Analytics Director Clare Pierce-Wrobel. "OHA is honored to partner with rural communities through the Rural Health Transformation Program. While this much-needed boost can't make up for the substantial federal funding cuts we anticipate in the coming years, OHA is committed to using this opportunity to support as many promising and sustainable rural health solutions as possible."

The federal funding is

being awarded through the Rural Health Transformation Program, which was established under House Resolution 1, the federal government budget reconciliation bill that became law in July 2025. The federal program will distribute a total of \$50 billion nationwide between 2026 and 2031. The total amount that individual states will receive is subject to change. The federal government will revisit funding awards every year after reviewing each state's progress. OHA will review the terms and conditions of Oregon's award and work with the federal government to finalize the program budget in January.

The Rural Health Coordinating Council, which advises the Oregon Office of Rural Health, will also advise the Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program.

OHA will move as fast as possible to distribute funding

and plans to make two sets of awards in quick succession during 2026. Early on, OHA will stand up management structures to ensure proper oversight and fiscal stewardship of these federal funds as well as coordination with the federal government and community engagement. OHA will first distribute funding through Immediate Impact Awards that will be given to strategic projects that can begin within two months of receiving funding. By mid-2026, Catalyst Awards will be made to ready-to-go projects following a formal application process. OHA expects to begin accepting Catalyst Award applications by spring 2026. In later years, further funding will be awarded through a competitive process to projects that are focused on long-term sustainability, shared infrastructure and cross-sector collaboration.

Oregon initially requested

\$200 million annually, or a total of \$1 billion over five years, from the federal program. OHA will scale down its original proposal to fit its given budget.

More information is on the OHA Rural Health Transformation Program webpage. Organizations interested in applying for funding are encouraged to sign up for email updates through the webpage.

The Oregon Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$197,271,578, with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this release are those of OHA and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government.

TAPA holding auditions for comedic play

TAPA is holding auditions for the comedic play, Barbecuing Hamlet, written by Pat Cook on January 11th at 4:00 pm at The Barn Community Playhouse. This hilarious production is looking for seven (7) females and six (6) males to fill a variety of different character roles, all ages 18 and over.

Barbecuing Hamlet is a comedic play that takes place in a small-

town community theatre, known as the Peaceful Glen Memorial Players, a renovated funeral home. They have hired Margo, an experienced New York director, to direct Hamlet. Chaos ensues when she is informed the play must be a melodrama. It must also take place in the Old West, and the theatre sponsors must be included in the play. She is told to "make sure the actors talk real

loud because all the noise the audience makes sucking their fingers" – as they will be selling barbecue before the show. Add the local "actors", including the pizza delivery guy, and you have a hilarious rendition of Hamlet!

Ultimately, the play is

a hilarious look at artistic ambition clashing with small-town charm.

Actors of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to audition. Barbecuing Hamlet is directed by Patty Cook and offers a wide range of roles, strong ensemble moments, and

opportunities for actors to explore both heightened comedy and grounded emotion. Whether you're a seasoned Shakespearean or new to the Bard, this production promises a fun, collaborative rehearsal process and a fresh take on a timeless story. Find

more information about the characters in the audition packet on TAPA's website at tillamooktheater.com.

Barbecuing Hamlet will run March 13th through the 29th, tickets are on sale now on TAPA's website at tillamooktheater.com.

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

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process to determine compensation for the salaries of the County's elected officials. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Hagerty, Chief Administrative Officer, at rachel.hagerty@tillamookcounty.gov.

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the estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at 2308 Third Street, P.O. Box 939, Tillamook, Oregon 97141, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and published: January 6, 2025. Grace Chambers, Personal Representative, P.O. Box 939, Tillamook, Oregon 97141. CHRISTOPHER M. KITTELL, ALBRIGHT KITTELL PC, Attorneys at Law, 2308 Third Street, P.O. Box 939, Tillamook, Oregon 97141

1/6/26

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your email. Anyone requiring special accommodation and information about attending the meeting should contact the Authority office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1/6/26

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meeting, beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026. In-person attendance is not offered; however, if you wish to listen by phone, dial 1-971-254-3149, conference ID 887 242 77#. If you need additional information, please contact Tommy Steiber at 503-842-3408 ext. 1827 any weekday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or email tommy.steiber@tillamookcounty.gov.

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CryptoQuote

answer

Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the sun.

— Pablo Picasso

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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		10
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÷		+		-	
	+		÷		6
5	10		7		
2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9				

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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!

Trap

SUMBAH

Crack

CHERAB

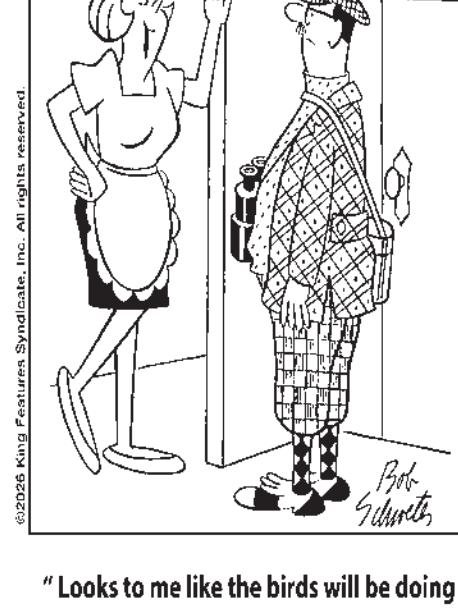
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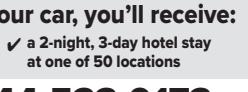
TODAY'S WORD



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most of the _____!"

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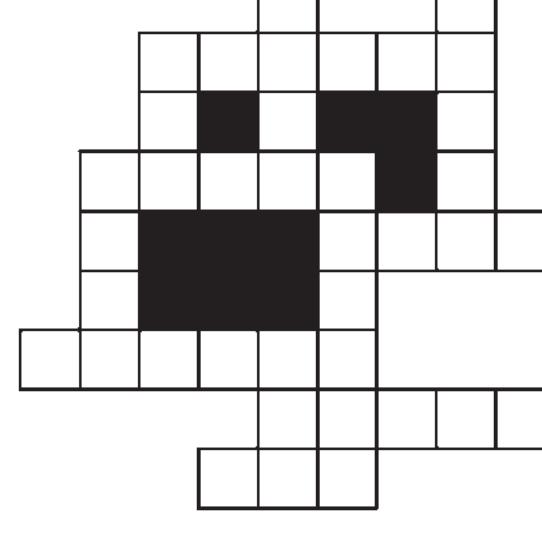
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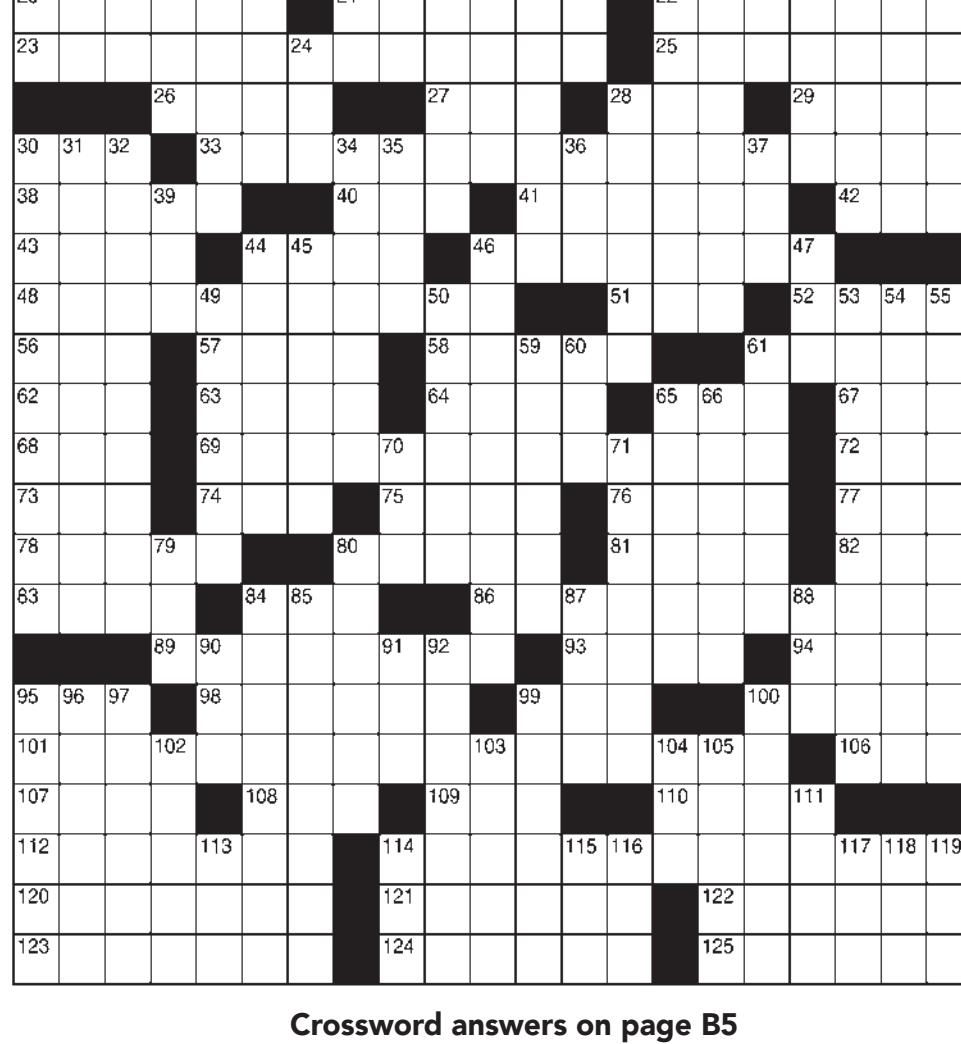
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ R A T H E becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

1. Hand warmer	— — — V —	Circular map	— — — B —
2. More lethargic	S — — — —	Tulip or gladiola	F — — — —
3. Weeping tree	— I — — —	Flounder	— A — — —
4. Modify	— — — E —	Church table	— — — A —
5. Park seat	— E — — —	Cluster of grapes	— U — — —
6. Wander aimlessly	— — I — —	Gentle wind	— — A — —
7. Perimeter	— — — G —	Hemingway's fish	— — — L —
8. Hedge plant	— H — — —	Use steel wool	— C — — —
9. Prying bar	— — — R —	Even	— — — L —
10. Football takedown	— A — — —	Touch with a feather	— I — — —

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Crossword answers on page B5

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Tillamook County Church Services

Bay City

BAY CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A warm and friendly congregation.
5695 D Street, Bay City, OR,
(503) 377-2679, Rev. Jonathan Mead.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.,
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41507 Oretown Rd E
Cloverdale, OR 97112
(541) 671-5588
11 a.m. Sunday Church Service
7 p.m. Wednesday Bible study
Friday 7 p.m. Pastor Bry's Corner

ST. JOSEPH MISSION PARISH

34560 Parkway Dr Cloverdale, OR 97112
(503) 842-6647
Mass Schedule Thursday - 11 a.m.
Friday - 11 a.m.
Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Confession: Call the office for appointment

Garibaldi

NORTH COAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

309 3rd St., (503) 322-3626
Pastor Sam McRae

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to join us.

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www.hisgathering.net
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(503) 368-5612

Pastor Celeste Deveney + Sunday service

11 a.m.

Food Pantry

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10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday

March - October 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

November - February noon to 4 p.m.

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email: nbmcnsl2020@gmail.com

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4685 Alder Cove Rd. West,
(503) 842-8375

Email: friendschurchnetarts@gmail.com

Website: www.netartsfriends.org

Pastor Aaron Carlson, Adult & Youth

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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35305 Brooten Road, (503) 965-6229

Rev. Ken Hood

www.nestuccavalleypc.org

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Open communion the first Sunday of each month

Regular services Sunday 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome

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35220 Brooten Road
(Adjacent Post Office)

Pastor Dan Mason (503) 926-8234

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Website: pacificcoastbiblechurch.com

All are welcome!

Rockaway Beach

ST. MARY BY THE SEA

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275 S. Pacific St. (mailing: P. O. Box 390)

Rockaway, OR 97136
(503) 355-2661

e-mail: stmarys1927@gmail.com

Administrator: Fr. MacDonald Akuti

Mass Schedule: Saturday (5 p.m.)

Sunday (8:30 a.m.) (10:30 a.m.)

Weekdays: Monday (9:30 a.m.)

Wednesday thru Friday (9:30 a.m.)

Confessions: Saturday (4 p.m.)

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(503) 842-5598

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Pastor Josh Myers

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Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Celebrate Recovery 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Youth Group 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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and Sunday School

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Pastor K.W. Oster

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Pastor Brad Smith

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11 a.m. Church Service

Wednesday:

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Pastor Sterling Hanakahi

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9225 Mill Creek Road, Tillamook, OR 97141 MLS#22522 \$359,000
Move in ready 3 bedroom 2 bath home! This single level home sits on a third of an acre level lot and is located south east of Tillamook away from coastal breezes and no CCR's! The back yard has great southern exposure with 2 large storage sheds and a greenhouse. Enjoy country living, yet just a few miles from the beach, rivers, and town for shopping, medical and activities! Would make a nice starter home, investment property or downsizing! Come see today!!

Call Patti Tippett, Real Estate Broker
@ 503-812-6508

1600 Skyline Drive, Tillamook, OR 97141 MLS#22281
\$57,400
Unique opportunity for a shop with living quarters situated on rural acreage! Located in a desirable area of Tillamook County with beautiful views

overlooking the Trask River Valley, you'll find this one of a kind property. An amazing well was drilled in 2023 and yields 40 gallons per minute! No shortage of water here, plenty to supply the shop, a home and water for irrigation. Plus a 3000 gallon holding tank is located on the property for extra water storage. 400 amp power supplies plenty of electricity to the property. The shop was constructed in 2019 and the living quarters were completed in 2023. Inside the living quarters you'll find many luxury features such as quartz counter tops and window sills. LVP flooring, vaulted ceilings in the great room, 9 foot ceilings in bedroom, and more. Two spacious bedrooms with a large walk in closet in the primary suite. A ductless heat pump insures that you will stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Lots of storage throughout the property including a large pantry room. Attic space is finished off for additional storage! Inside the shop portion of the home there's a wood stove along with a full bathroom. Plenty of parking for boats, RV's, and more. The home site is level, cleared and ready for you to build your dream home. 200 feet of French drain has been installed along the cut bank to ensure proper drainage. Our back you will find a nice sized deck with a private sitting/bbq area. Plenty of wood storage in the back yard. This is truly one of a kind property. Call today for more details!

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Or Marilyn Hankins, PC, GRI, CRS, Principal Broker @ 503.812.8208

36090 8th Street, Nehalem, OR 97131 MLS#25-526 \$370,000
MOTIVATED SELLER! Charming home located in downtown Nehalem! Many updates have been completed in the last few years including a new roof, siding, windows and gutters. Inside the home you'll find two bedrooms upstairs and one downstairs, plus a bonus room which is used as a bedroom. The kitchen and bathroom was updated in last few years. New water heater in 2021. Large .29 acre lot, located on a dead end street. Fenced backyard works great for pets and kids. The property has recently been surveyed and corners are marked. Conveniently located just a few minutes drive to the beaches, shops, and restaurants of Manzanita. Also located right by the Nehalem Recreation Center. Call today for more details!

Call Dylan Landolt, Real Estate Broker @ 503.457.8725
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42520 Testament Creek Road, Beaver, OR 97108 MLS#22543 \$825,000
Impressively maintained home on Testament Creek Road! Located in a quiet and secluded area of Tillamook County, with public access to the forest, nearby. One of a kind home that was built in 2014 and features two bedrooms upstairs, one downstairs, plus a den. Inside you'll find two spacious family rooms and lots of extra storage throughout. A wood stove heats the upstairs and downstairs radiant floor heat provides plenty of warmth. On the south side of the home you'll find a large deck to enjoy the views. The property is two acres and features nicely landscaped grounds, extra parking, wood storage, and a large stamped concrete patio. Home is wired for a generator and is served by a shared well. Property also features a few dry camp sites. Call today for more details!

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H26264

WORDS FOR MAGIC MAZE ● NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

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

Cheerful Happy Positive Reflective
Clean slate Hopeful Promising Renewal
Excitement Joyful Prospering Resolutions
Festive Optimistic Rebirth

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Band around hat is wider. 2. Blinds are different. 3. Chart is different. 4. Plant is taller. 5. Briefcase handle is missing. 6. Thumb is moved.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

QJTM UBNLFMZQ FZBLQCJZT
FXM QIL NLFJ B WMAAJR
QUJF, JFXMZQ FZBLQCJZT B
WMAAJR QUJF NLFJ FXM QIL.
UBGAJ UNHBQQJ

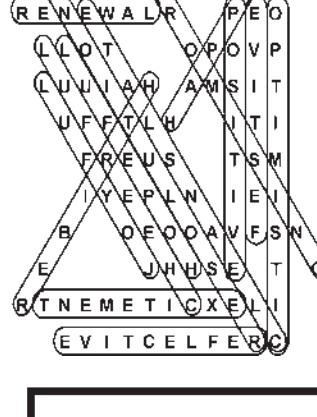
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Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

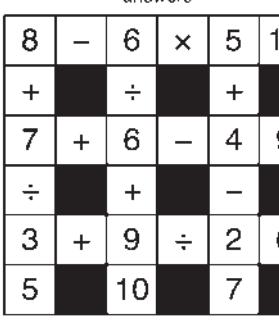
1. Glove, Globe	6. Drift, Draft
2. Slower, Flower	7. Margin, Marin
3. Willow, Walow	8. Shrub, Scrub
4. Alter, Altar	9. Lever, Level
5. Bench, Bunch	10. Tackle, Tickle

WORDS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY



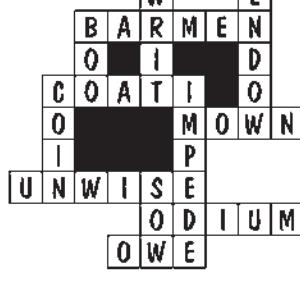
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Weekly SUDOKU

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

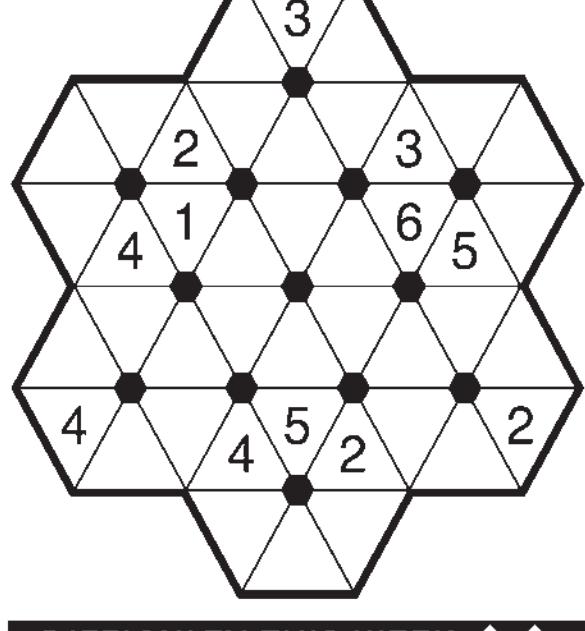
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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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