

New Brookings Mayor Phoebe Pereda on Leadership, Values, and the City's Future



FROM THE CITY OF BROOKINGS

When Phoebe Pereda was first encouraged to consider public service in Brookings, her reaction was immediate. "Absolutely not," she recalls.

At the time, the community was emerging from a period marked by strained public trust and leadership change. Several residents approached her, urging her to step forward. Though initially resistant, Pereda found herself returning to a persistent question: Why not?

That honest reflection revealed fear, self-doubt, and the personal cost of service. She knew that

stepping into public leadership would require sacrifices of time, energy, and comfort. As she wrestled with those realities, Pereda spent time in prayer and reflection, asking whether serving in this way was something she was being called to do. She ultimately came to believe that stepping forward—despite discomfort—was the right and responsible thing to do.

"To work diligently for the welfare of one's community is an exceedingly valuable thing," Pereda says. "With that recollection, came the conviction that for me to be unwilling was not right and I was convinced to say yes."

What began as a step of faith soon became one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of her life. "Serving our community in this role has stretched and shaped me in meaningful and lasting ways," she reflects. "At its core, my motivation is about obedience

to doing what I believe is right, even when it requires personal sacrifice. That meant confronting my fears, examining my motives, and ultimately saying yes to serving the people and place I call home."

Learning Leadership Through Example

Pereda's time on City Council—particularly serving alongside former Mayor Isaac Hodges—deeply shaped her understanding of civic leadership. She first observed Hodges' leadership during the same difficult period of rebuilding trust that initially drew her into public service.

"He consistently chose steadiness, humility, and teamwork," Pereda says. "His approach wasn't reactionary or divisive, but patient, respectful, and focused on the long-term health of the community."

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Federal judge ends oft-used exemption to environmental review for logging on federal land

BY: ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A federal judge in U.S. District Court in Medford found the 34-year-old exemption to environmental review on some logging projects lacked statutory limits

A 34-year-old rule exempting some commercial logging projects on federal lands from environmental review is unlawful, a federal judge recently ruled.

Judge Michael McShane in the U.S. District Court in Medford earlier this month struck down the exemption, and with it, reversed recent approvals for three commercial logging projects covering tens of thousands

of acres in Fremont-Winema National Forest in southern Oregon.

The decision is the result of a 2022 lawsuit brought against the U.S. Forest Service by regional conservation groups Oregon Wild, WildEarth Guardians and GO Alliance.

Since 1992, the U.S. Forest Service has been able to bypass environmental reviews required by federal law for logging projects on federal land, if the logging is meant to "improve forest stand conditions," habitat or prevent wildfires, without "significant effect" on the human environment.

The agency established the carveout as one of 25 that could be invoked to circumvent a rigorous environmental review process in certain situations that require logging and prescribed burns on federal forestland.

But in 2022, after the U.S. Forest Service used the exemption to approve without envi-

Please see **LOGGING** Page 3



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service/Flickr

The Chewaucan River Flowing through the Fremont Winema National Forest in Southern Oregon. A judge recently reversed approvals for three commercial logging projects in the forest because they relied on an exemption to environmental review that has been found unlawful.

Brookings Property Watch Program

FROM BROOKINGS PD

Property Watch is a partnership with our community that focuses on assisting owners of commercial properties, businesses, and apartment complexes in curbing unwanted activity that occurs after business hours or when the owner or manager cannot be contacted. Without explicit authority granted by the person in control of the property, officers are often unable to address non-crime related nuisance issues and some crimes, notably trespassing.

The Property Watch program allows the person responsible for the property to sign an agreement partnering with this department and authorizes officers to act on the owner's behalf when they are not there. This is a free program that is renewed yearly. The Community Resource Officer

will be the main point of contact and once an agreement is approved, the CRO will meet with the representative and prominently post a Property Watch sign with the year so that officers can quickly and easily identify a participant property and take action to assist in keeping the property safe.

Use this link to find the agreement and sign up today:

<https://www.brookings.or.us/346/Property-Watch-Program>

If you have questions about the Property Watch Program you may contact Community Resource Officer Sophia Lucero at 541-373-0333 or Community Resource Officer Gabby Dominguez at 541-373-1511. You can also email propertywatch@brookings.or.us for further information.

ARE YOU A LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER OR MANAGER?

Sign up for Brookings Police Department's

Property Watch

BPD will watch over your property/business after hours

Learn more at the link in the description



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Opinion & Letters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I attended the recent Harbor town hall and want to commend the Curry County Board of Commissioners—particularly Commissioner Lynn Coker—for moderating and modeling what responsible local governance should look like.

Too often, community meetings are “send-only” affairs, where officials consume most of the available time and the public leaves unheard. This town hall was different. The Board deliberately structured the meeting to maximize community input. Over the course of a 2.5-hour session, 38 Harbor residents were able to offer direct testimony to the Commissioners.

What stood out most was the com-

munity’s clear focus on outcomes: reducing unanswered law-enforcement calls, stabilizing chronic high-risk health and homelessness situations, restoring safety to neighborhoods and public spaces, improving interdepartmental coordination at the county and state level, and insisting on transparent performance reporting.

If the Board follows through by designing and implementing the solutions discussed at the town hall, Harbor can expect tangible benefits—fewer unmanaged encampments, more effective and appropriate service delivery for homeless and addicted individuals, stronger and more visible law-enforcement presence, fewer

crisis escalations, safer neighborhoods and commercial areas, and renewed public confidence that government systems are working together rather than at cross-purposes.

This effort reflects serious policy work, not slogans. It demonstrates that Curry County leadership understands that livability, dignity, and public safety are not competing values—but shared responsibilities that must be advanced together.

Congratulations to the BOC and thank you Commissioner Lynn Coker for moderating the event.

*Sincerely,
Anthony “Tony” Bond
Brookings, Oregon*

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A healthy baby girl:
Raven Alicestar Luna Vazul Cramond, was born on **March 13th, 2025** at 8:30 in the evening to overjoyed parents Paige Cramond and Steven Godo Kiss and beaming brother, Griffin, in a planned and peaceful home-birth in Eugene Oregon. She is also welcomed by doting grandparents, Helen and “Bubba.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submissions for events can be sent by email to: pilotofficecmgr@countrymedia.net. The deadline for submission is 4:30 pm Monday, the week prior to publication.

DAILY

- Daily Meal, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Chetco Activity Center, 550 Chetco Lane

WEDNESDAYS

- T'ai Chi, Chetco Activity Center: 9:00 am – 10:30 am and 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm.
- Line dance lessons, Elks Lodge. Membership not required. All donations welcome and appreciated, \$2 minimum from all dancers. 10:30 - 11:00 am absolute beginners, 11:00 – 12:00 pm improver, 12:00-2:00 pm intermediate.
- The Walking Group, Azalea Park: 11:00 am. Meet by Capella by the Sea. If raining meet at Brookings Harbor Shopping Center by the barbershop. For information 541-412-8664.
- Cribbage Club, Wild Rivers Pizza: 5:30 pm.
- Afterschool Program, Chetco Library: 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm. School aged kids are welcome to come by the library for a free snack and to hang out, work on homework, or craft using supplies from the Maker cart.

THURSDAYS

- Bridge, Chetco Activity Center: 12:15 pm. Closed on Thanksgiving.
- Widows and Widowers Coffee Clique, Community Center, Airport Way, Gold Beach: 10:30 – 11:30 am.
- Easy Flow Yoga, Chetco Library: 5:30 pm. A beginners' yoga class that includes standing positions. For this class it is recommended that participants be able to comfortably get up and down from the floor.
- Rowdy Creek String Band (open rehearsal), Chetco Library: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. A friendly open rehearsal for acoustic string instrument players. Not a string instrument player? Drop in and listen.
- Checkmate Corner, Chetco Library: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. A weekly chess club for players of all ages and skill levels. Can't bring your own set? Extra game boards are available.
- Recreational Table Tennis, 102 Park Street, Brookings: 6:30 pm. Love a good rally? Join us. For intermediate players who enjoy fast,

friendly matches and great company. Bring your paddle and hope to see you soon.

- Line dance lessons, Crescent City Elks Lodge. Membership not required. All donations welcome and appreciated, \$2 minimum from all dancers. 10:30 - 11:00 am absolute beginners, 11:00 – 12:00 pm improver, 12:00 - 1:00 pm intermediate.

FRIDAYS

- Bingo, Chetco Activity Center: 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm. Closed Friday after Thanksgiving.
- The Walking Group, Azalea Park: 11 am. Meet by Capella by the Sea. If raining meet at Brookings Harbor Shopping Center by the barbershop. For information 541-412-8664
- Pinochle and other card games, Chetco Activity Center: 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
- T'ai Chi, Chetco Activity Center: 9:00 am – 10:30 am.
- Threads, Hooks, & Needles, Chetco Library: 10:30 am. A fiber arts club for knitters, sewers, and more. Bring your latest project and connect with other fiber artists over light refreshments in the Makerspace.
- Teens Teach Tech, Chetco Library: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Drop by the Library Annex with your device or tech questions and get help from a trained Cyber-Senior Technology Mentor. Our mentors are young people who have been trained to teach technology to older adults and are standing by to help with your smart phone, iPad or computer. This free service is presented in partnership with Harmony & Me Music.

SATURDAYS

- Men's Club Golf, Salmon Run Golf Course: 900 am. Friendly team and individual play. Prizes, laughs, good food and drink. \$65 annual fee (includes OGA membership). All skill levels welcome. For info call: Bob K. 701-269-7822.
- Saturday Shuffle: Magic the Gathering and more, Chetco Library: 1:00 pm. Stop by the library every week for Saturday Shuffle, where players can bring their favorite deck and play Magic:

The Gathering. Gamers of all kinds are also welcome to bring their favorite card or board games from their own collections, or browse the library's games, and find a crew to play with.

- Saturday Storytime, Chetco Library: 10:30 am. Stories, songs, and games for young children.

MONDAYS

- Line dance lessons, Elks Lodge. Membership not required. All donations welcome and appreciated, \$2 minimum from all dancers. 10:30 - 11:00 am absolute beginners (new), 12:00 – 1:00 pm improver, 1:00-2:00 pm intermediate.

TUESDAYS

- Brookings-Harbor Garden Club Work Party, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, Brookings Botanical Garden. Come see how you can help.
- Bridge, 12:15 pm, Chetco Activity Center
- Line Dancing, Brookings Elks Lodge, 6 pm – 8 pm Donations requested.
- Storytime, Chetco Library: 10:30 am. Stories, songs, and simple crafts for young children.
- Tween Club, Chetco Library: 3:30 pm. Youth ages 10-13 are welcome to hang out and explore new interests and activities every week.
- Pinochle and other card games, Chetco Activity Center 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- Amateur Radio Net check-ins, Gasquet Net: 6:30 pm on 147.18, DN Amateur Radio Club: 7:15 pm on 146.88. If you are a licensed Ham Radio operator, join us. You do not have to be a member of the Del Norte Amateur Radio Club. Find out what is happening around the area. Registration recommended, but team signups are allowed the day of if space allows.
- Line dance lessons, Crescent City Elks Lodge. Membership not required. All donations welcome and appreciated, \$2 minimum from all dancers. 10:30 - 11:00 am absolute beginners, 11:00 – 12:00 pm improver, 12:00 - 1:00 pm intermediate.

FEBRUARY 4

- Team Trivia Night, Chetco Library: 5:30 pm. Join us for a competitive, family-friendly trivia competition at the library. Gather your dream team of 2 to 4 players and put your knowledge to the test. This month's theme: Movies! Kids' division starts at 5:30, and the teen/adult division starts about 6:15. Registration recommended, but team signups are allowed the day of if space allows.

FEBRUARY 6-8

- Out of Howard's Head, Three one act stories by Howard Patterson, directed by Tommy Jones, Chetco Pelican Players, 1240 Chetco Ave: 7:00 pm Friday and Saturday, 2:00 pm Sunday. First is (Flo and Cyn). Two adult women who are just surviving from day to day on the street. Second is (Vince and Saul). Two adult gangster men talking in a restaurant with one younger woman in late teens or early twenties and one older woman as waitresses. The last is (Cal and Tang). One older man and one older woman who are country and western stars, being interviewed by a young ambitious radio announcer, a younger man. Tickets: \$15 Adults & \$7 Students. Doors open 45 minutes before the start of the performance. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://www.chetcopp.booktix.com>. To reserve specific seating please call our reservation line at 541-469-1857.
- Out of Howard's Head, Three one act stories by Howard Patterson, directed by Tommy Jones, Chetco Pelican Players, 1240 Chetco Ave: 7:00 pm Friday and Saturday, 2:00 pm Sunday. First is (Flo and Cyn). Two adult women who are just surviving from day to day on the street. Second is (Vince and Saul). Two adult gangster men talking in a restaurant with one younger woman in late teens or early twenties and one older woman as waitresses. The last is (Cal and Tang). One older man and one older woman who are country and western stars, being interviewed by a young ambitious radio

announcer, a younger man. Tickets: \$15 Adults & \$7 Students. Doors open 45 minutes before the start of the performance. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://www.chetcopp.booktix.com>. To reserve specific seating please call our reservation line at 541-469-1857.

FEBRUARY 6

- Community Scion Exchange, Chetco Library: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Join us for our community's 3rd Annual Scion Exchange and Grafting Demonstration. In addition to swapping fruit tree scions at this event, you'll also get a demonstration of grafting techniques with John Savage, a longtime member of the Rare Fruit Grower's Association. Light refreshments will be provided.

FEBRUARY 7

- Tabletop Takeover, Chetco Library: All Day. A monthly drop-in event to play and connect with other board game enthusiasts. Tweens, teens and adults welcome.
- Afternoon Indie Films, Chetco Library: 2:00 pm. Sorry, We're Dead. A free monthly film screening for the community, our Afternoon Indie Film events feature top film selections from the Wild Rivers Film Festival. February's Film Selection is the award-winning comedy Sorry, We're Dead, written and directed by Alex Zajicek.

FEBRUARY 11

- Bookworm Buddies Club, Chetco Library: 4:00 pm. Geared toward 2nd through 5th graders, kids vote on and pick the books they read each month. In February, the group will discuss Zoey and Sassafras: Wishpooofs & Hiccups, by Asia Citro.

FEBRUARY 12

- Writers' Conference Community Reception, Chetco Library: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. The public is invited to a free early bird reception ahead of the South Coast Writers Conference! Get to know early conference arrivals,

enjoy light refreshments, & live music from John Canalin, and learn more about the upcoming workshops and presenters.

FEBRUARY 13

- Creative Café, Chetco Library: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. A free monthly art event for adults and teens at the library. Drop in to explore a new art medium with supplies from our maker cart and connect with fellow creators over coffee, tea, and light refreshments. February's focus: Valentines..

FEBRUARY 14

- VFW Post 966 meeting, 507 Pacific Ave, Brookings, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Wartime veterans are encouraged to join. Help us save our Post, buy a brick. For more information call: 541-412-6236.
- Dress a Girl, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1200 Easy Street: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. We sew dresses for girls and shorts for boys around the world. Bring your lunch and bring a friend. Contact Jane Knox for more information at 209-815-2100.
- 2nd Saturday Sale, Chetco Grange, 97895 Shopping Center Ave: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Enjoy one stop shopping from several vendors (inside and outside). Hand crafted items as well as new and garage sale miscellaneous items to choose from. Lunch available. Music by Cisco and Friends. For information on rental of tables or spaces, call or text Gayle at 541-290-0592.
- Art Walk Open House: The Mask of Lincoln, Chetco Library: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Join library staff for light refreshments and take in The Mask of Lincoln, a poster exhibit on the life and historical portraits of former President Abraham Lincoln, designed and made by possible by the Smithsonian Institution.

FEBRUARY 15

- T• Monthly Potluck, Chetco Activity Center, 550 Chetco Lane, 4:30 pm. Bring your own or enough to share, either way, we share community and friendship.

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Guest Column



HOLY COW! HISTORY:

The Outlaw’s Son’s Bum Rap

By J. MARK POWELL
[InsideSources.com](#)

The fruit doesn’t fall far from the tree, they say. More than a century ago, investigators desperately hoped that it would prove true in a big criminal case. As we’re about to discover, things didn’t work out that way.

It all started on a Friday in late September 1898. Gunmen robbed a Missouri Pacific Railroad train’s express car near Leeds, Mo. That was where valuables were kept, and it’s believed the bad guys got away with a bundle. Some sources say the haul was about \$40,000 (more than \$1 million today).

The railroad bosses brought in agents from the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. It was the world’s largest private law enforcement agency at the time. Its services came with a hefty price tag, meaning the rail carrier wasn’t fooling around. It was paying big bucks, and it expected big results.

Leeds was a neighborhood in the southeast section of Kansas City, then as now, a municipality infamous for its casual relationship with law and order.

The Pinkertons began snooping around and asking questions. In that time, long before Miranda rights were ever heard of, the company’s detectives were known for “sweating” witnesses in hotel rooms — grilling them until they got the answers they wanted to hear, one way or another.

The investigators quickly zeroed in on what would today be called a person of interest. William W. Lowe was a railroad switchman. When investigators put the screws on him during a particularly heated “sweating session,” he folded like a cheap suit.

Lowe fingered Tim Edwards as the brain behind the holdup. Which was music to the Pinkertons’ ears. Because they knew “Tim Edwards” was an alias. Edwards was actually Jesse Edwards James, son of legendary outlaw Jesse James.

Born in 1875, he was only 6 years old when his father was shot from behind in the family’s rented house in St. Joseph, Mo., on an April morning in 1882. Already a national celebrity by then, the elder James’ murder catapulted him into American folklore. Among his many crimes, he and his

gang were credited with committing the first train holdup near Adair, Iowa, in 1873.

Now his son was being accused of the same thing.

But the boy was nothing like the dad. He added “Tim” to his middle name, posing as Tim Edwards to conceal his identity as he grew up with his widowed mother and sister in Kansas City. (Although it was an open secret around town who he really was.) He was 23 in 1898, ran a cigar store, and kept a low profile.

The Pinkertons could barely contain their glee. Nabbing the son of the greatest outlaw in American history would make his trial national news. They licked their chops in anticipation of the headlines.

However, there was a problem. And it was a big one. Not only did Jesse E. James insist he knew nothing about the crime, but there was also no evidence linking him to it. All the Pinkertons had to go on was one confession.

That was enough. The mere public speculation that “another James” was somehow involved looked bad in the court of public opinion. The younger

James was arrested in October and charged with complicity in the robbery.

Just as expected, the trial made news from coast to coast when it began in early 1899. Also, as expected, the case against James fell apart almost immediately. The prosecutor had nothing to go on — no evidence, no credible witnesses, not even a motive — just a last name.

Jurors didn’t buy it. James was swiftly acquitted.

“We made up our minds that the police had picked out this boy to railroad him to the penitentiary, and we wouldn’t stand for it,” the foreman said afterward. As for Lowe’s testimony, another juror added, “We believed he was a liar. We simply threw it out.”

One error from news coverage of the trial took on a life of its own. Because of the similarity in their names, the son was incorrectly identified as “Jesse James Jr.” and is still frequently called that today. There was no “junior.” The dad was Jesse Woodson James, and the boy was Jesse Edwards James.

At that point, James realized the



J. Mark Powell

futility of continuing to use the alias and adopted his real name for the rest of his life. He later became a successful lawyer.

Although in a manner of speaking, he did have a brief criminal career of his own. He played his famous father in two silent movies in the early 1920s.

The father of four daughters, James died quietly in his sleep at age 75 in 1951.

ABOUT THE WRITER
J. Mark Powell is a novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff. He is the author of “Witness to War: The Civil War Told by Those Living Through It”; it is available now for preorder online. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Logging

From page 1

ronmental review three large and controversial forest restoration and wildfire prevention projects in the Fremont-Winema that involved logging roughly one-third of the 91,000 acres the projects encompassed, local conservation groups sued.

Oregon Wild, WildEarth Guardians and GO Alliance said in the suit that the agency’s exclusion to environmental review for such projects is fundamentally flawed and a “logging loophole,” because it is being used to justify bypassing environmental reviews on large logging projects of thousands of acres that most certainly will have significant environmental impact.

“There is — and never has been — any legal basis for the agency to use a regulation intended for small, innocuous projects for massive commercial logging projects instead,” said Oliver Stiefel, a Crag Law Center attorney who represented the con-

servation groups, in a statement.

McShane agreed.

“Because the record before the court does not show the Forest Service considered the impact of thinning (logging) at any scale, commercial or otherwise, the court cannot conclude the Forest Service engaged in a ‘reasoned decision’ regarding environmental impacts of the actions authorized by (the exemption),” he said in the ruling.

The U.S. Forest Service has not yet filed an appeal in the case and did not respond by Tuesday to a request for comment.

Exclusion used excessively

The specific exclusion at the heart of the lawsuit allowed for logging and prescribed burns to go forward on national forestland without environmental review if the logging and burns would not cause significant environmental harm, and if they are done in service of forest and habitat improvement or wildfire prevention.

The exemption couldn’t be used if

logging activities required building more than 1 mile of new road, or if herbicides would be used, but it did not have any other limitations, including on the amount of logging that could reasonably take place without having a “significant effect” on the environment.

By the early 2000s, the specific exclusion was being used frequently to authorize commercial logging without review on federal land, according to a Government Accountability Office review of Forest Service vegetation management projects from 2003–05.

The office found it was the most used of the categorical exemptions to environmental review, and was used to to bypass such reviews on nearly 2.5 million acres of forest logged as part of “vegetation management” projects during those years.

WildEarth noted in the suit that the 1992 exclusion was established for improving forests, not to make it easier to log them.

“The Forest Service did not intend for

the categorical exclusion to apply to commercial thinning,” the group wrote.

But the Forest Service argued that it’s been long used to advance commercial logging projects, that the agency is staffed with scientists who know best practices and that it’s needed to avoid litigation that often comes from environmental review processes that can slow the agency’s work down.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/27/federal-judge-ends-oft-used-exemption-to-environmental-review-for-logging-on-federal-land/>

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Tiny gardens, big impact:

how to make (and care for) a terrarium

“You don’t want plants to grow too big and out of the terrarium too fast, so get very small ones and don’t fertilize too much. But eventually they’ll need to be replaced. Think of them as fleeting beauties.”
Brooke Edmunds, Horticulturist

KYM POKORNY
Guest Column

If you don’t have space for a garden — or even if you do — a terrarium may be in your future.

“Terrariums are an easy way to have some greenery,” said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. “And they’re fun to make.”

A terrarium can also reflect the personality of its maker. With stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your own stamp on it. Let kids gather favorite items — they’ll enjoy helping.

Start with a clear glass container. You may already have one at home; thrift shops are a good source for low-cost options.

Choose the smallest plants you can find.

“You don’t want plants to grow too big and out of the terrarium too fast, so get very small ones and don’t fertilize too much,” Edmunds said. “But eventually they’ll need to be replaced. Think of them as fleeting beauties.”

For beginners, select open containers. Closed terrariums trap humidity, which can lead to disease or algae.

Skip gravel; use charcoal

Avoid a bottom layer of stones that can allow water to pool and cause root rot. Instead, begin with horticultural charcoal, which helps absorb runoff and odors and discourages bacterial growth.

Mix and match textures — and consider air plants

When shopping, look for varied textures and colors. If you choose succulents or cacti, use a potting mix formulated for them and water much less than other plants — often once a month or less. Let the soil dry completely before watering. Use a container with a wide opening to keep humidity low.

Air plants (Tillandsias) add contrast with spiky forms and gray-green foliage. They don’t grow in soil; in nature they perch on trees and absorb moisture from the air. Place them in the terrarium, then remove once a week to mist thoroughly or soak for 30 minutes. Hang upside down to dry before returning them so moisture doesn’t collect in the crown.

When buying air plants, avoid brown tips, which signal neglect. Outer brown leaves can be trimmed. For all plants,



Courtesy photo from Stephen Ward
By using a variety of stones, moss, seashells, tiny pieces of driftwood, doll furniture and other accessories, you can put your stamp on a terrarium.

choose healthy specimens with similar light and water needs. If you’re unsure, ask nursery staff for guidance. Small plants are an investment — often about \$5 each — so select carefully.

How to make a terrarium Materials

- Clear glass container.

Choose a size you can reach into for planting.

- Horticultural charcoal (garden centers).
- Soilless potting mix.
- Tiny plants (call ahead to confirm availability).
- Small decorative rock (craft stores).
- Chopstick or large knitting needle.
- Optional decorations:

driftwood, seashells, pinecones, small toys.

- Preserved green moss (live moss usually needs more water than other plants).
- Watering can with a narrow spout.
- Water-soluble fertilizer.

Instructions

1. Wash and dry the container.
2. Add 1 to 1½ inches of horticultural charcoal.
3. Add 3 to 4 inches of soilless potting mix (depth depends on container and root size).
4. Use a chopstick, knitting needle or your fingers to make planting holes. Set plants, then gently tamp soil around roots.
5. Add a top layer of small decorative rock. Keep the layer thin near plant crowns.
6. Finish with found objects and small accessories.
7. Water plants lightly.
8. Place the terrarium where light suits your plant choices. Many do well in an east window; some tolerate brighter light.

Maintenance

- Water: Once a week or less, depending on container size and light. Check moisture by inserting a finger to the first knuckle. Target water to the base of each plant.
- Fertilizer: Use a water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength about once a month. To keep plants small longer, skip fertilizer.
- Succulents/cacti: Water sparingly; allow soil to dry between waterings.
- Air plants: Remove weekly to mist well or soak for 30 minutes, then dry upside down before returning.

Give it a try — you may be surprised how easy and satisfying a tiny, living landscape can be.

Kym Pokorny writes for the OSU Extension Service.

Mayor

From page 1

When Pereda was appointed to Council, her first motion was to place Hodges in the role of mayor, recognizing that he had already demonstrated the tone Brookings needed. She watched him hold firm convictions while still standing with his team when votes differed, creating a culture of mutual respect.

She often points to a line from the film Remember the Titans to describe what she witnessed: “Attitude reflects leadership.”

“Teams mirror the posture of their leaders,” Pereda explains. “Serving with Mayor Hodges allowed me to see how a calm, fair, and transparent tone can help rebuild trust. I learned that leadership is less about directing outcomes and more about setting a culture.”

Understanding the Work—and the Framework That Shapes It

Serving as a councilor also revealed the

complexity of municipal governance. Determined to fulfill her role responsibly, Pereda immersed herself in learning, relying heavily on resources from the League of Oregon Cities to better understand the laws and systems governing local government.

“One of the biggest things I learned is that Oregon is a ‘home rule’ state which essentially means local jurisdictions have the authority to establish ordinances that reflect the unique needs of their communities,” she says. “Although this is the case, there are an increasing number of state-level laws that hand down mandates to municipalities. Understanding that balance shapes how I approach local policy—I must know what is required by the state and ensure we are in compliance, and also recognize where we have the freedom to craft policy that reflects Brookings’ needs.”

With that understanding came a deeper appreciation for the importance of advocating for Brookings at the state level—ensuring local

voices are heard when legislation directly affects the community.

A Leadership Style Rooted in Service

When asked to describe her leadership style, Pereda frames it as a posture of service, stewardship, and responsibility.

“Leadership is a trust,” she says. “It’s something I hold with care—both because of the people who placed it in me and the responsibility that comes with it.”

Her goal is to lead through partnership, example, and service—by valuing people, listening well, and building solutions collaboratively. She is also candid about imperfection.

“I will not lead perfectly,” she says. “But when I fall short, my commitment is to take responsibility, seek repair, and grow. I extend that same grace to others. I don’t expect perfection—only accountability and a willingness to learn.”

She believes this approach fosters a healthier civic culture rooted in humility, respect, shared responsibility, and dignity.

Priorities, Opportunity, and Connection

As she steps into the role of mayor, Pereda’s priorities include ensuring a smooth transition, maintaining continuity in ongoing work, and continuing to rebuild trust through openness and collaboration. She is also focused on strengthening community engagement by finding better ways to listen to residents and intentionally connect with people across a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives.

Looking ahead five to ten years, Pereda sees significant opportunity for Brookings—particularly in addressing housing needs by thoughtfully leveraging state resources and aligning them with local priorities. She also sees potential in strengthening year-round tourism to support local businesses and build a more resilient local economy while preserving what makes Brookings unique.

Staying connected to residents is central to her vision of the mayor’s role. She is exploring ideas

such as regular availability at City Hall, increased presence in the community, and new opportunities for dialogue and feedback—always with careful consideration of public meeting laws and the collaborative nature of council governance.

“I genuinely welcome ideas from the community,” she says. “Especially practical suggestions for how the city can communicate better and how I, as mayor, can connect in ways that fit naturally into people’s everyday lives.”

Confidence in the City’s Direction

City Manager Tim Rundel expressed confidence in Brookings’ leadership and direction as Pereda steps into the mayoral role.

“I’m genuinely encouraged by Mayor Phoebe Pereda’s leadership and the positive direction of our City Council,” Rundel said. “I look forward to working closely with Mayor Pereda on meaningful, substantial projects that strengthen Brookings as a place where people want to live, work, and play. Together, my staff and the

City Council have a real opportunity to build on our community’s strengths and move Brookings forward.”

A City Worth Serving

What Pereda enjoys most about living in Brookings is the rare combination of mild weather, stunning natural beauty, and rich local history—but above all, it’s the people.

“There is a deep dedication here,” she says. “A willingness to volunteer, adapt, collaborate, and find ways to help our community not just endure, but truly thrive.”

As she begins this chapter, Pereda wants residents to understand the true nature of the mayor’s role.

“The best word for it is connector,” she explains. “The mayor doesn’t have greater decision-making authority than any other council member, but the role carries greater responsibility—especially the responsibility to listen.”

Her goal is to stay attuned to the full range of voices in the community and to help bring greater unity, clarity, and collaboration among council, staff, partners, and residents alike.

“My aim is to hear your voices and help ensure they are shared,” she says, “so that together we can build the best possible Brookings for everyone who lives, works, and visits our incredible city.”

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All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at c/o K.R. Olin, Attorney at Law, PO Box 7530, Brookings, OR 97415, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.</p> <p>All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, K. R. Olin, PO Box 7530, Brookings, OR 97415.</p> <p>DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED this 4th day of February, 2026.</p> <p>/s/ K.R. Olin, OSB #903547 Attorney for Personal Representative</p> <p>PO Box 7530 Brookings, OR 97415 (541)469-2669 olinandassociates@gmail.com 2/4, 2/11, & 2/18/2026 Pilot 423176</p> <p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF</p>	<p>CURRY</p> <p>PROBATE DEPARTMENT</p> <p>In the Matter of the Estate of CHRISTA LAND, Deceased.</p> <p>Case No. 25PB11003</p> <p>NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at 16063 Driftwood Lane, Space #9, Brookings, OR 97415, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred.</p> <p>All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may~ obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative, Attorney Alice Seeger. Dated and published on: February 4, 2026.</p> <p>/s/ Harold Ohler, Personal Representative</p> <p>PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:</p> <p>Harold Ohler 16063 Driftwood Lane, Space #9 Brookings, OR 97415</p> <p>LAWYER FOR PERSONAL REP.:</p> <p>Alice Seeger, OSB #942109 P.O. Box 573 West Linn, OR 97068 (503) 317-5023 tel. alice@aseegerlaw.com Attorney for Petitioner 2/4/2026 Pilot 422986</p> <p>NOTICE OF APPLICANT SOLICITATION</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that the</p>	<p>South West Area Commission on Transportation comprising of Coos, Douglas, and Curry Counties is soliciting applicants to fill various vacant positions. The following positions are currently vacant: Douglas County Stakeholders Primary and Alternate Representatives; Coos County Stakeholder Primary and Alternate Representative; Curry County Stakeholder Primary and Alternate Representative. Interested parties should contact Sarah Thompson at 541-529-5067 or Sarah.L.Thompson@odot.oregon.gov for an application. Applications must be submitted by February 28th, 2026, to be voted on by the membership at the March 13th, 2026, regular meeting. Dated this 20th day of January 2026.</p> <p>SOUTH WEST AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>4/2/2026 Pilot 422980</p> <p>Notice of Public Meeting</p> <p>The Winchuck Rural Fire Protection District will hold its next Board of Director's meeting on Wed., February 11, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., at the Winchuck Fire Hall, 363 Winchuck River Road.</p> <p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Call to Order and Roll Call2. Reading of the Minutes3. Chief's Report4. Treasurer's Report5. Old Business6. New Business7. Public Comments8. Meeting adjourned. <p>Respectfully Submitted Jan Loren, Secretary 2/4/2026 Pilot 422977</p>

Merkley Joins Senate Probe of Trump’s Cuts to Child Care for Rural Families

“Trump vowed to lower costs for Americans, yet his administration’s actions...make this [child care crisis] worse.”

Washington, D.C. – Oregon’s U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley joined a group of Senators in announcing a new investigation into how the Trump Administration’s cuts to affordable child care programs are affecting rural families. The Senators pressed the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration of Children and Families (ACF) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide answers about the threats to child care programs in rural communities amid staffing and funding cuts to the agencies.

“Families across the country are being forced to choose whether to scale back work, forgo essential items, or break the bank to access and afford child care. The Trump administration’s dangerous cuts to the agencies whose programs make child care more accessible and affordable only make this situation worse,” wrote Merkley and the other Senators in a letter to the administration.

Child care has become “one of the biggest expenses families face,” forcing parents—especially mothers—to reduce their working hours or leave the workforce entirely. This problem has an especially tough impact on families in rural areas, where

they spend even more of their income on child care and where child care is even harder to find. Recent polling indicates that one in five rural families are “having trouble finding work, are cutting back on basic necessities, and are putting off growing their families due to a lack of affordable options that meet their family’s needs.”

Over the last year, the Trump administration has attacked child care programs and raised even more uncertainty for families, including by:

- Rescinding a Biden-era rule that improved child care providers’ financial stability while lowering costs for families;
- Attempting to freeze, with no justification, \$2.4 billion in Child Care and Development Fund funding in five states;
- Holding Head Start funding hostage as a way to force grantees to comply with onerous and vague new regulations;
- Closing half of the field offices for ACF, which administers Head Start, and laying off 500 of its employees (about 30-40 percent of the agency);
- Slashing over \$1 billion for food assistance programs for rural schools and child care programs to buy local food from

farmers; and

- Draining the USDA Rural Development (USDA RD) field offices of local employees who know their communities best.

Polling conducted since President Trump took office indicates rural Americans want “federal action,” specifically in the form of increasing funding that expands “options for affordable, quality child care.”

“The Trump administration has done the exact opposite,” wrote the Senators.

“Trump vowed to lower costs for Americans, yet his administration’s actions disregard “one of the biggest expenses families face”—child care—and the resources needed to alleviate the country’s ongoing child care crisis,” the lawmakers concluded.

The Senators requested the USDA provide, by February 16, 2026, details of how staffing cuts have affected rural child care programs, funding changes to rural child care programs, an analysis of how the government shutdown affected rural child care programs, and an assessment of the state of the child care crisis in rural communities.

This letter was led by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Reverend Raphael



Warnock (D-GA). In addition to (D-MD), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), and Alex Padilla (D-CA). U.S. Senators Angela Alsobrooks

POLICE BLOTTER

The police blotter is an excerpt of a public record of incidents as reported by law-enforcement agencies. All individuals arrested or charged with a crime are innocent until proven guilty. The information printed is preliminary and subject to change. For a list of missing items found in the Brookings area, you can visit the police services page of the city of Brookings website at www.brookings.or.us/134/police-services and follow the link near the bottom of the page.

Monday 01/19: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:25 Chetco and Center, warrant service• 8:52 2243 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct• 9:37 Easy and Clair, dispute/fight• 9:53 Oak and Redwood, minor in possession/purchasing liquor• 12:24 17245 Garvin Ct, dispute/fight• 13:36 99652 North Bank Chetco River Rd, criminal trespass• 13:42 906 Chetco Ave, traffic crash• 17:08 898 Elk Dr, civil problem• 20:13 1201 Chetco Ave, violation of restraining	<p>order</p> <p>Tuesday 01/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11:01 640 Old County Rd, criminal trespass• 14:01 325 5th St, criminal trespass• 17:13 914 Marina Heights, harassment• 17:32 530 Chetco Ave, fire• 8:05 241 Marine Dr, harassment <p>Wednesday 01/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:02 Chetco and Center, illegal camping• 9:26 711 Chetco Ave, warrant service• 11:25 325 5th St, criminal trespass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12:38 1035 7th St, harassment• 20:34 325 5th St, criminal trespass• 21:35 810 Fawn Dr, dispute/fight• 21:56 Pioneer and Ransom, dispute/fight <p>Thursday 01/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0:34 16019 Hwy 101 S, criminal trespass• 7:47 Mill Beach, illegal camping• 8:53 607 Pacific Ave, criminal trespass• 10:16 96707 E Harris Heights, dispute/fight• 12:26 Bridge St, illegal dumping• 13:38 325 5th St, dispute/fight	<p>fight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14:07 241 Marine Dr, disorderly conduct• 14:59 650 5th St, criminal mischief• 15:39 401 Hillside Ave, hit & run• 16:01 640 Old County Rd, criminal mischief• 16:17 97991 Gerlach Ln, criminal trespass• 18:23 914 Marina Heights, theft <p>Friday 01/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:18 410 Oak St, fire• 14:50 97900 Shopping Center Ave, theft• 17:41 Hwy 101 and Carpenterville Rd, fire• 18:48 365 Wharf St, civil	<p>problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19:24 Mill Beach, harassment• 19:49 777 Cottage St, theft <p>Saturday 01/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <p>Sunday 01/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4:21 1123 Chetco Ave, counterfeit• 4:21 1123 Chetco Ave, warrant service• 8:56 N end of Bridge, illegal camping• 9:09 405 Alder St, alarm• 10:38 16035 Boat Basin	<p>Rd, burglary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:45 521 Fir St, hit & run• 13:08 1005 Easy St, dispute/fight• 14:07 325 5th St, criminal mischief• 18:13 607 Pacific, loud noise• 19:26 623 Chetco. theft of services• 21:57 988 Parkview Dr, prowler• 22:24 1229 Rowland Ln, disorderly conduct• 23:26 1006 Chetco Ave, juvenile problem• 23:42 309 Spruce St, juvenile problem
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Siskiyou Mountain Club hiring college students, others for summer of digital detox

"A lot of the world went soft in the last decade. We didn't."



The Club is hiring for Wilderness Corps Crew Members to backpack into the wilderness and spend up to two weeks at a time working from spike camps to restore trails disappearing from America's great national forests.

"First year crew mem-

bers get a \$1,800 monthly training allowance," says executive director Gabriel Howe, as well as accommodations on off-trail days. He mentions the program hasn't changed much in the last 12 seasons. "A lot of the world went soft in the last decade," Howe

remarks. "We didn't." To learn more and apply, go to siskiyoumountainclub.org/pages/wcc2026. After waking up before sunrise, crews spend long hours digging out forgotten trails, clipping brush, and cutting downed logs, often in the footprint of recent wildfires. 2025 intern Samantha Zimmerman of Kansas speaks to the challenge. At first, she struggled to hoist a 60-pound pack on and keep up with the crew. "But I pushed through, looked back, and was like, 'yeah I can do this.'"

The most unusual thing about the program, though, is perhaps the "digital detox," Howe says. Interns don't bring their phones or digital devices into the backcountry. "Most of them grew up with parents addicted to iPhones, so it's a departure." Interns consistently report that the experience forms strong bonds. "They make more eye contact in a summer than they have in years." That's part of why Samantha is returning in 2026. Part of her duties will be supporting those first-year crew members.

"Now I'll be able to help them figure it out. If I can do it, they can do it." Crew members onboard remotely in the spring and travel from near and far for one of two start dates in June. In between each work hitch, interns participate in a program that includes a whitewater rafting trip and visits to places like Redwood and Crater Lake national parks, and the coast. They attend workshops, including one on financial literacy and job seeking. Interns receive 1st Aid/CPR and have the option to pursue

nationally-recognized field certifications. Siskiyou Mountain Club is also on the search for a backcountry crew leader. More about that and other positions at siskiyoumountainclub.org/jobs/. The program is funded by community support and partnerships with the Rogue River-Siskiyou, Fremont-Winema, Six Rivers, Klamath, and Mt. Hood national forests, as well as the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council and with support from the REI Cooperative Fund.

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O	N	L	K	J	C	I	T	S	U	A	C	I	G	F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: SHE IS A STAND-UP —

Cadillac	Caustic	Classic	Critic
Caloric	Celtic	Clinic	Cryptic
Cardiac	Ceramic	Cognac	Cynic
Catholic	Civic	Cosmic	

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Wild Rivers Coast

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Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Justus Alaeto, Pastor
820 Old County Rd., Brookings
541-469-2313

Tuesday Mass.....5:15 p.m.
Wednesday Mass.....5:15 p.m.
Friday Mass.....5:15 p.m.
Saturday Mass.....4:30 p.m.
Saturday Spanish Mass.....6:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass.....8:30 a.m.
First Friday every month Adoration 4 p.m. & Mass 6 p.m.
First Saturday every month Mass 9 a.m.
<https://staroftheseastcharles.org/>

Lighthouse Assembly of God

15803 Hwy. 101 S., Harbor

Sunday School.....9:30am
Sunday Worship.....10:30am
Thursday Youth Group.....5:00pm
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:00pm
Wed. Lighthouse Kids.....6:00pm
Doug Jamieson, Pastor
541-469-3458

Church of Christ

17222 Passley Rd., Brookings

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10am
Sunday Morning Worship Assembly.....11:00am
Wednesday Bible Class.....3pm
Evangelist: Darryl A Cope
541-469-6453 or 541-469-0191

Christian Science Church

429 Pine St., at Redwood Spur, Brookings

Sunday Service.....11 a.m.
Sunday School.....11 a.m.
Wednesday Testimony Mtg..6 p.m.
Reading Room: Monday & Wednesday..1-3 p.m. or by appointment
www.BrookingsCSC.com
541-469-2398 or 469-3333

Crescent City

Grace Lutheran Church

(LCMS)

9:00am All Ages Bible Study
10:15am "The Story" Worship
11:15am Fellowship

188 E Cooper, Crescent City
www.GraceLutheranCC.com

Seventh-day Adventist Church

1770 Northcrest Dr., Crescent City
707-464-2738
Pastor Mason Philpot

Crescent City Seventh-day Adventist School
Grades 1-8707-464-2738

Saturday Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Services.....11:00 a.m.

Ft. Dick

Faith Baptist Church

Fundamental Independent
409 Hillside Ave. Unit C, Brookings
541-412-1070

Sunday School.....10 a.m.
Morning Preaching.....11 a.m.
Evening Preaching.....6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....7 p.m.
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Fort Dick Bible Church

"Grace Alone, through Christ Alone, for God's Glory Alone"
for God's Glory Alone"

Sunday School - 9:30am
Sunday Service - 10:45am
Sunday Replay on Facebook @FortDickBibleChurch
Mid-Week Bible Study - call for details
Phone (707) 458-4030

Smith River

Smith River Baptist Church

340 Highland Avenue, Smith River

Just off Hwy. 101
(707) 487-5275
Pastor Steve Alexander

Worship Service.....10:30am

SolidRock Christian Fellowship

Pastor Pat Henderson
(707) 460-1696

3180 S Fred D Haight Drive
Smith River, CA 95567 • (707) 460-1696

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www.solidrockcrescentcity.com

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Chetco Activity Center

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550 Chetco Lane, Brookings 541-469-6822

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lunch served 11:15 - 12:30 Mon - Fri. Menu may change without notice. Meals cost \$10 to prepare - Donations requested.			1 Closed Happy New Year's Day	2 Closed
5 Beefy Chili With Beans Cornbread Spinach	6 Cheesy Ravioli Bakedsticks Chef's Blend	7 Chicken Taco Salad Rice Corn Salsa	8 Herb Baked Fish Italian Rice Green Beans W/ Mushr	9 Chili Dog Garlic Roasted Potatoes Chef's Blend
12 Meatloaf With Mush Gravy Mashed Potato Carrots	13 Oven Fr Chick Tenders Au Gratin Potat Brussel Sprouts	14 Pork Ribs With Sauerkraut Mash Sweet Potat Collard Greens	15 Tuna Noodle Casserole Seasoned Beets Corn	16 Sloppy Joe's On A Wh Wnt Bun Baked Potato Chef's Blend
19 Ham & Bean Soup Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Wh Wnt Bread	20 Chick Andri Dumpl Cassero Mashed Potatoes Green Beans	21 Corn BF Hash Reub Casserole Glazed Carrots Succotash	22 Lemon Bkd Fish Baked Beans w/ Bac & Oni Peas & Carrots	23 Bacon Wrap Bf Mac N' Cheese Roasted Vegetables
26 Sausage Gravy Biscuits Scrambled Eggs	27 Kielbasa With Sauerkraut Cheesy Mashed Potatoes Chef's Blend	28 Vegetarian Spaghetti Garlic Bread Creamed Corn	29 Tuna Salad On Whole Wheat Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle Bean Salad	30 Turkey Stuffing Mashed Potatoes Gravy Green Beans

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Fewer immigrants are seeking Oregon health care benefits under Trump

Data privacy concerns, increasing immigration enforcement impacting enrollment in Healthier Oregon

By: **MIA MALDONADO**
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Thousands fewer people are receiving health care through a Medicaid-like Oregon program that’s open to income-eligible people regardless of immigration status than were six months ago, state data shows.

Two years after its launch, the Healthier Oregon program reached peak enrollment of 107,000 people in June, according to data from the Oregon Health Authority. That includes people who have refugee status, lawful permanent residents, those enrolled in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, work or student visa holders and others who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid if it weren’t for their immigration status.

Enrollment dropped to 97,000 people in January, according to state health officials, who attributed the change to concerns about data privacy and increasing immigration enforcement under the Trump administration.

“We’re seeing a real drop in enrollment in Healthier Oregon, likely due to all the federal changes and people being very concerned about signing up for Healthier Oregon,” OHA Deputy Director for Policy and Programs Dave Baden told lawmakers earlier this month. “And we’re also seeing less utilization, so even someone that is in Healthier Oregon is not coming to the doctor.”

Federal health officials in June began sharing Medicaid data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to track non-citizens in states where eligibility for the low-income health program does not depend on immigration status.

Oregon is one of five states in the U.S. that offers health care coverage for all income-eligible adults regardless of their immigration status, according to the health policy nonprofit KFF. Several other states offer similar programs to specific groups such as pregnant women, children and elderly adults.

State dollars cover most Healthier Oregon services, except for emergency health care visits, which are paid for with federal dollars.

Under federal law, hospitals must stabilize anyone needing emergency care — no matter their immigration status — and Medicaid must reimburse hospitals for this legally required care. This means that when a Healthier Oregon recipient uses an emergency service, their information is included in files shared with the federal government, OHA spokesperson Amy Bacher told the Capital Chronicle.

The data exchange prompted Oregon and 21 other states and the District of Columbia to file a lawsuit, asking a judge to block the Trump administration from sharing Medicaid data with deportation officials. A federal judge in December ruled that ICE can pull Medicaid data including addresses, phone numbers, birth dates and citizenship or immigration status to use in its deportation



Photo by Alex Baumhardt/Oregon Capital Chronicle
Department of Homeland Security police, along with other federal police, push and tackle protesters at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility south of downtown Portland on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025.

proceedings.

“From the state’s perspective, we will do everything we can to only share the data that we need to share,” Gov. Tina Kotek told reporters at a Saturday press conference.

Federal immigration efforts impeding immigrants from seeking care

Nearly half of likely undocumented immigrant adults say they have avoided seeking medical care since January 2025 because of immigration-related concerns, according to a survey from the New York Times and KFF.

The Trump administration in January rescinded a policy that previously protected hospitals, schools and places of worship against immigration enforcement.

ICE agents may access public spaces such as lobbies and waiting rooms without a warrant, but under the Constitution no law enforcement can enter places where a person has a “reasonable expectation of privacy” without a warrant — such as examination rooms, staff offices and patient rooms. Despite this protection, health care providers have reported cases of ICE agents entering medical exam rooms without a warrant.

Federal immigration agents have also appeared near hospitals in Oregon. On Jan. 8, a Border Patrol agent shot two Venezuelan immigrants near Adventist Health

Portland. Then on Jan. 16, Border Patrol agents detained a 7-year-old girl and her parents in the same hospital’s parking lot before the family, who came to the U.S. in late 2024 from Venezuela, could seek health care for the child.

Kotek urged health care providers to communicate with Oregonians about providing safe health care for people.

“Because of the fear and the chaos that is being created by the Trump administration and the lawful immigration enforcement, people are scared,” Kotek said. “They’re not seeking the medical care that they need, and that is hurting our communities.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/28/fewer-immigrants-are-seeking-oregon-health-care-benefits-under-trump/>
Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregon-capitalchronicle.com.

Curry County Justice Complex Funding Challenge

FROM THE CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

As previously announced, Curry County, working through its lobbying group, Accelerate Strategies, was successful in securing 1.1 million dollars from the Federal Government as part of its requirement to modernize and safeguard the County Jail. The County will work closely with the Jail Commander and expert consultants to prioritize improvements that can be made with the money secured.

The Curry County Courthouse, Jail, and Sheriff’s Office are all housed in the Curry County Justice complex. Last week, the Director of County Operations, Commissioner Coker, and others met with Trial Court Supervisor, Thomas Lankford. They were thankful to learn that the Oregon Department of Justice was able to grant approximately \$125,000.00 for court security support, including screening. Although this funding will be put to good use, reviewing the security and infrastructure needs of

the Courthouse brought to light the substantial repairs needed to modernize and upgrade the entire Curry County Justice Complex. Addressing repairs is deemed more realistic than previous hopes of getting funding for a new complex, estimated at between 60 and 100 million dollars. There are sources of funding available to qualifying counties to address some of the needs of the courthouse itself, both state and federal, but each has specific time lines and requirements that are best served to be addressed

through a universal funding strategy.

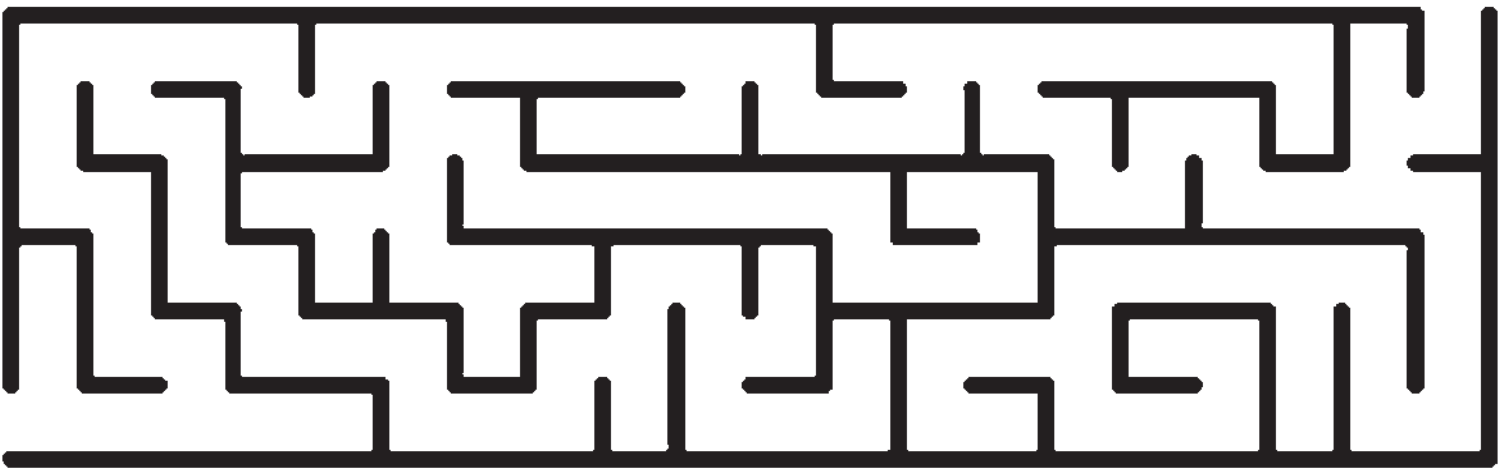
Working with Accelerate Strategies, County leadership has already begun determining its 2027 funding needs to plan and execute a strategy to secure the financial aid necessary to make the entire Justice Complex a more safe and efficient facility.

For more information, please contact the Curry County Board of Commissioners Office. (541) 247-3296



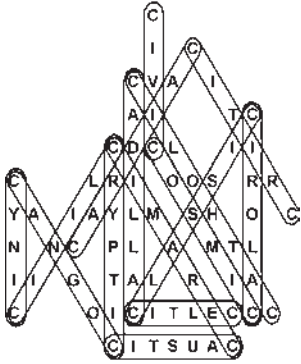
Puzzles on page 6

Kids' Maze



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BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH “C”



—KNIGHT MOVES—
Answer

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6	3	8
P		L
1		5
T	N	L
4	7	2

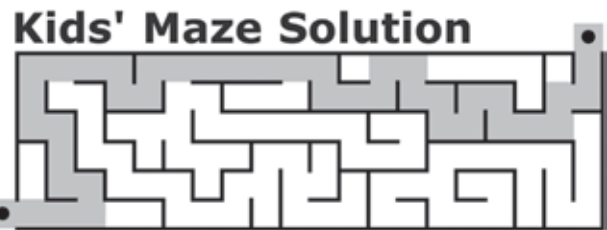
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