

Best of 2026 Readers' Choice Winners Announced

CURRY COASTAL PILOT

www.currypilot.com | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2026 | Brookings, Oregon

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving meals for those in need

JEREMY C. RUARK
Curry Coastal Pilot

A local group of volunteers has been working for days to prepare Thanksgiving food boxes to be distributed to those in need.

Brookings Harbor Community Helpers were scheduled to pass out the Thanksgiving meal boxes from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday Nov. 23, at the Brookings Church of the Nazarene.

Each box included a turkey, and a box of fixings, roll, and a pie,

Brookings Harbor Community Helpers Executive Olivia Davis estimated the cost would likely be an estimated $15,000 to $18,000. She said donations and grants helped fund the project.

Davis said about 50 volunteers helped with the filling and passing out the 450 food boxes.

"We know that individuals need this help, Davis said. "With today's costs, people need the extra handout. This is why we do this. It is to be able to help our community."

In the coming weeks, David and her volunteers are partnering with the Elks Lodge in the annual collection drive of food and toys for needy family at Christmas.

"We estimate 600 people in Brookings-Harbor will sign up for the Christmas project," David said.

The Brooks Harbor Community Helpers food pantry serves approximately 1,700 people each month, according to Davis. The food pantry is located at 539 Hemlock Street and can be reached at 541-469-6988. The pantry is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clients can also receive referrals, hygiene kits, snack packs for children, donated free clothing, shoes, and household items.

For more information, visit Brooks Harbor Food Bank Facebook, or online, at brookingsharborfoodbank.org

Who We Are is a frequent Pilot feature highlighting the people in our community.



Courtesy photo

The Thanksgiving meal distribution room filled as volunteers passed out the food boxes during the 2025 event in Brookings.

Brookings City Recorder earns professional certification

City of Brookings

Brookings City Recorder Brooklyn Osterhage has earned her Certified Municipal Clerk designation, recognizing her commitment to professional education and public service. For a small city like Brookings, having a staff member achieve this credential is a point of pride—and an investment in the knowledge and skills that support effective local government.

Osterhage joined the City in September 2023 after relocating to Brookings for her husband's job. Bringing a background in administration, general accounting and legal assisting, she began as Deputy City Recorder and became City Recorder about a year later.

"Though Brookings hasn't been my home for long, I had an instant feeling of belonging when I arrived," Osterhage said. "I love serving my community in this very practical way."

Her responsibilities include managing official records and the Municipal Code, coordinating public notices and City Council meetings, serving as the City's Election Officer, and supporting the City Manager and Council. She also serves as a public contact for the Council and as backup Municipal Court clerk.

The work requires accuracy, organization and an ability to respond to a wide range of questions. It also brings the variety Osterhage enjoys.

"Although I have consistent duties and tasks that need to be completed, I have different interactions with the community, Council or staff that bring variety to my days and weeks," she said.

Mayor Phoebe Pereda said Osterhage's dedication quickly made her a valued member of the organization.

"Brooklyn is an incredible asset to our community and a consummate professional," Pereda said. "She brings exceptional quality and a wonderful attitude to everything she does, carrying out her duties with joy and grace."



Courtesy photo

Brookings City Recorder Brooklyn Osterhage.

Osterhage's interest in strengthening her skills led her to pursue certification through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Early in her City career, she joined the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders, where experienced colleagues offered practical guidance and encouraged professional development.

"When I became the City Recorder, I was encouraged to learn more and wanted to make sure that I was serving the City to the best of my ability," she said.

The Certified Municipal Clerk designation requires extensive education and relevant municipal experience. For Osterhage, that meant two weeklong Northwest Clerks Institute programs in Tacoma, Washington, along with professional conferences, academies, online coursework and a leadership dialogue. Many courses required follow-up action plans explaining how she would put the lessons into practice.

Completing that work alongside her regular responsibilities took sustained time and focus. The result carries both personal meaning and practical value.

"Earning this designation means a lot to me," Osterhage said. "It shows I've put in the work to improve my knowledge and skills for my role which will in turn help the City. I feel honored that the City helped me along this process."

City Manager Tim Rundel has seen that growth firsthand.

"I've had the opportunity to watch Brooklyn continue to grow professionally over the past couple of years," Rundel said. "She has become an invaluable resource to me, the Mayor and City Council, and someone I rely on every day. Her attention to detail, professionalism and willingness to continue learning are a tremendous benefit to the City of Brookings. Achieving the Certified Municipal Clerk designation is well deserved, and I'm very proud of her accomplishment."

Looking back on her time with the City, Osterhage takes pride in helping redesign the City website, updating its electronic records management system, coordinating elections and helping organize the Azalea Festival. Smaller moments bring satisfaction, too: locating a record someone needs or being able to answer a question about City Code.

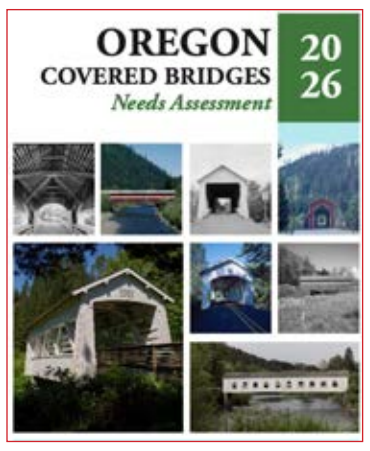
Together, those experiences and her professional education have strengthened the expertise she brings to her work.

"Obviously there's always room for improvement and to keep learning, but I'm happy with how much I've grown since my start," she said.

Outside City Hall, Osterhage enjoys the beaches, river and redwoods, with her dog, Bruce Wayne—"yes, like Batman." Her interests include sourdough baking, reading, watercolor painting, thrifting and hosting friends for board and card games. She also volunteers with her church's youth group, reflecting her commitment to supporting young people in the community.

For Mayor Pereda, the appreciation extends beyond Osterhage's professional accomplishments.

"Working alongside her has been one of the highlights of my public service, and I'm very grateful to have her on our team."



Oregon's remaining covered brides needs outlined

JEREMY C. RUARK
Curry Coastal Pilot

The Oregon Heritage Commission released the 2026 Oregon Covered bridges Needs Assessment Report.

The report assesses current conditions of remaining covered bridges, identifying their economic and cultural impact, and providing recommendations to support continued preservation of these unique heritage resources in Oregon.

At one time, Oregon had over 400 covered bridges. Today only 50 remain. Oregon has the most covered bridges in the country west of the Mississippi and has the sixth largest concentration of covered bridges in the United States.

There is 1 covered bridge in Coos County, the Sandy Creek Covered Bridge, located near the community or Remote. While Curry County has over 100 inventoried bridges—including notable spans like the Thomas

See More Bridges on page 4

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Opinion & Letters

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Commentary

Fire fighting funding and training needs to be Oregon's top priority

Gold Beach, Ore. — Representative Court Boice (R-Gold Beach) today said, "The State of Oregon has a critical responsibility to fully support our statewide fire teams and wildfire training."

"I want to thank the incredible men and women who fight fires and wildfires across Oregon. They are simply the best in the Western United States. I thank our volunteer firefighters, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Forest Protective Associations and our Oregon State Fire Marshal."

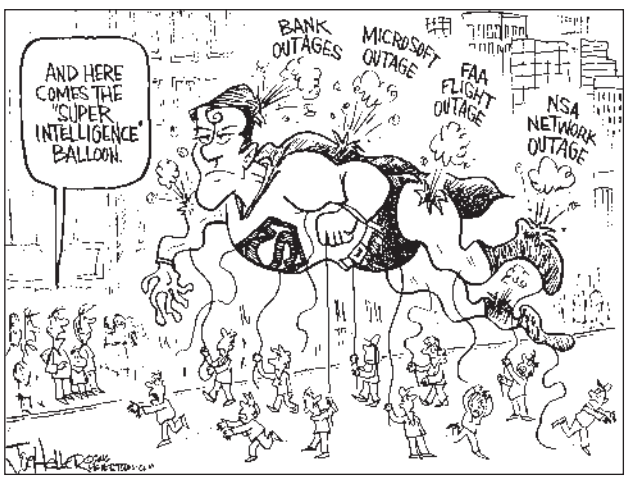
Boice has repeatedly used his office to firmly 'sound the alarm' on the catastrophic fire risk our state was facing. The 2025 and 2026 fire seasons recorded the most devastating totals of land lost ever. Over 2 million acres burned just last year alone. Years of the dramatic need for additional trained wildfire-fighting and fuels reduction personnel have put us where we are today.

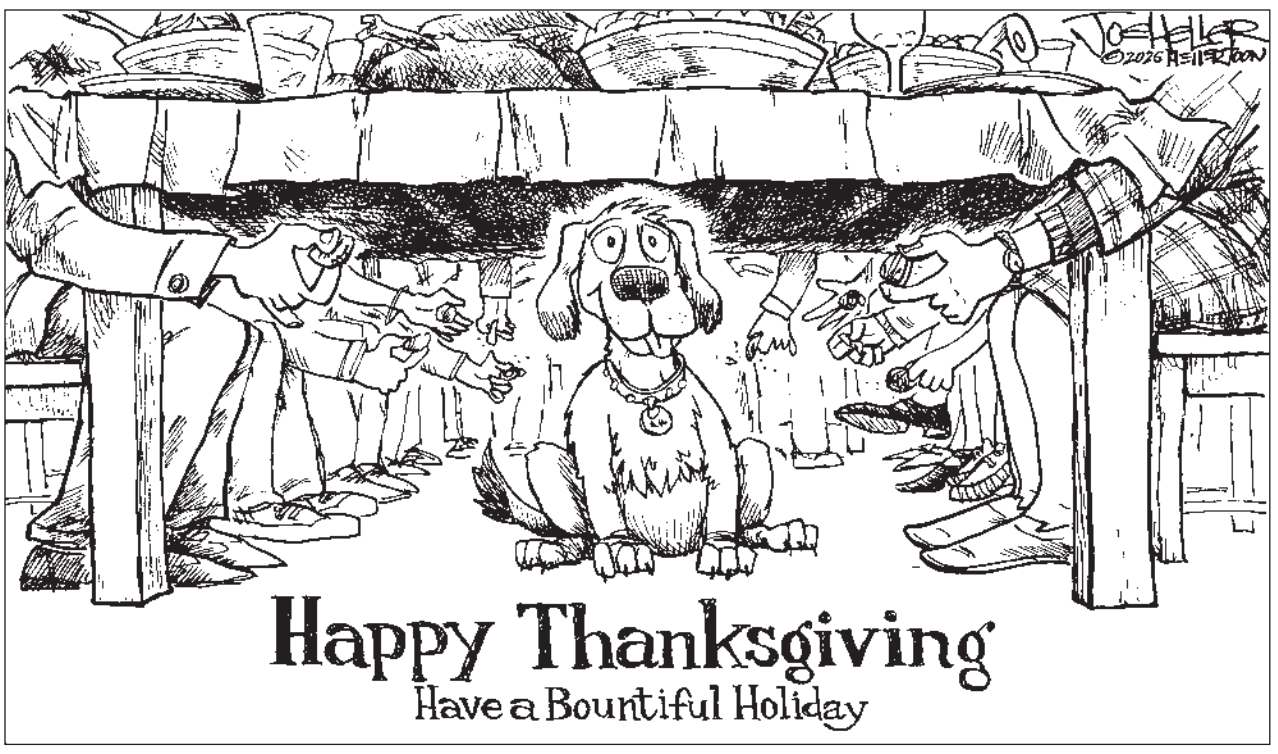
As we prepare for the 2027 fire season, there is no time to waste when it comes to prioritizing and fully funding our fire departments and firefighters at all levels, because lives are literally at stake everywhere in our state. We must begin now to better protect our families, properties and resources.

Boice concluded, "Oregon doesn't have a funding problem, we have a problem prioritizing our funding. That's why I'll be fighting for the Legislature to fully fund CORE3, a dedicated, multi-agency coordination center and collaborative training facility for local, state, and federal personnel in Redmond, and the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Wildfire Training Center (RSR) in Curry County, that will train up to 1,500 wildland firefighters a year. Without these facilities, billions of dollars in future forest economies and infrastructure will needlessly be lost."

Boice believes we must act now as more lives are at stake, along with our spectacular forests, watersheds and wildlife Oregonians cherish.

Representative Court Boice
Rep.CourtBoice@OregonLegislature.gov
503.986.1401





Holy Cow! History

A hurricane, a rabbi, and a new life in America

By J. Mark Powell

Storms should never be taken lightly. Hurricane Ian is a fresh reminder of what we know too well, that nature's beauty can turn savage when the skies darken and the wind picks up.

One such catastrophic event brought out the worst the elements can inflict on man, followed by the best of man helping his fellow man. All within the same coastal community.

Galveston, Texas was a bustling place in the summer of 1900. A 19th-century boomtown, its mushrooming population pushing 40,000 made it the Lone Star State's fourth largest city. Snuggled alongside the Gulf of Mexico, it was home to one of America's leading



ports. International trade flourished so much its downtown, known locally as The Strand, was nicknamed "the Wall Street of the Southwest."

Galveston's future looked dazzlingly bright as the 20th century dawned. Until the weather turned cloudy.

At first, it promised to be just another storm. The city had seen—and survived—its share of them over the years. But it quickly became apparent this one was much more than a typical storm.

The hurricane that made landfall at Galveston around 8 p.m. on Sept. 8, 1900, didn't have a name; the National Hurricane Center wouldn't start identifying them that way for another 50 years. But it didn't need one. Because when it was over, the Galveston Hurricane had notched its place in the record books as the worst national disaster in U.S. history.

We'll never know how many people died that Saturday night. Historians generally place the death toll at 8,000, with some estimates going as high as 12,000. The city was flooded by up to 12 feet of water. Some 7,000 buildings were destroyed, more than half of them homes.

The tragedy was enough to drive some surviving businesses to nearby Houston. Others hung on, determined to somehow claw their way back to normalcy.

And amid all the wreckage and ruin and waterlogged streets, an energetic rabbi saw an incredible opportunity.

Henry Cohen was the 37-year-old rabbi at Galveston's Congregation B'nai Israel. Part scholar, part community activist, part writer, he was always looking for ways to make things better for others. And he knew Galveston offered a golden chance for Jews looking to start over in this country.

He had caught the vision of Jacob Schiff, himself a Jewish immigrant who had struck it rich in business in New York and wanted to assist Jews coming to the U.S.

It was a particularly tough time to be Jewish in Europe, especially in the Russian Empire, where the czar's pogroms sent millions of people fleeing for their lives. Many of them wound up in New York City.

But that was the problem. So many Jews were arriving in the Big Apple at the start of the 20th Century, it was feared Washington might impose immigration quotas and severely restrict the number of new arrivals. Schiff wanted to help those people move into the American interior and put down roots there.

And so, the Galveston Movement was born. With the city needing new residents as it was being reborn, Rabbi Cohen and others set about inviting them to their town. Bankrolled by Schiff's donation of almost $500,000 (nearly $15 million today), volunteers from several Jewish organizations diverted immigrants away from Gotham and sent them to Galveston instead.

Between 1907 and 1914, tens of thousands of Jews passed through the city's port. Many came from Palestine where they had gone after being driven from their homes in Eastern Europe. Cohen and his allies met them at the docks, helped them navigate the cumbersome entry process, and then steered them to new homes—and new lives—in the recovering city and beyond.

There were moments of friction, of course. Some Texans were bewildered to hear their new neighbors speaking Russian, Polish, German, Yiddish, and Hebrew, languages they had never experienced before. Some simply couldn't understand why the immigrants refused to work on Saturdays. And as the new arrivals went into business for themselves and began prospering, some merchants grew jealous. But there were more success stories than failures.

The Galveston Movement gradually sputtered

See More HISTORY on page 3

Weekly Poll

WHEN WILL YOU PUT UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS?

- 18.2% - THEY'RE ALREADY UP
- 18.2%-BY THANKSGIVING
- 27.3% - AFTER THANKSGIVING
- 36.4% - I DON'T DECORATE

Poll Results

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New poll every week!

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Off the charts: Epigenetics

DR. GIGI REED
Guest Column



In August, I was invited to join a discussion panel about the film "The 100 Year Effect" with Dr. Kent Thornburg. It was the opening screening of the 2026 Wild River Film Festival. This fantastic documentary explores epigenetics and how we can make a difference for the generations that follow.

Most of us learned that our genes are the body's blueprint: inherited instructions encoded in DNA. That is true, but it tells only part of the story.

Epigenetics helps explain why cells containing essentially the same DNA can perform entirely different tasks. A skin cell functions as skin, a heart cell beats, and a nerve cell transmits messages, despite carrying nearly identical genetic instructions.

Epigenetics describes how cells control the use of genes without altering the underlying DNA sequence. If DNA is a cookbook, epigenetics is the collection of bookmarks, sticky notes, locks, and highlights telling each cell which recipes to follow and which to keep closed.

This matters because genes are not simply "good" or "bad," nor are they permanently turned on or off. Instead, cells continuously adjust gene activity according to their identity, developmental stage, surroundings, and needs.

Put simply, epigenetic control takes several forms, including chemical modifications and structural changes.

Every person starts as a single fertilized cell. From that one cell develops an extraordinary range of tissues: blood, muscle, bone, liver, retina, brain, skin, and more.

This happens not because each cell contains a different collection of genes. Rather, different cells access different sections of the same genetic library. Epigenetic signals help create and maintain these distinctive patterns of gene activity. The underlying instructions remain essentially the same, but the ways those instructions are read and put to work can vary from one cell to another cell.

This also helps explain why identical twins can grow increasingly different over time. Their DNA starts out very similar, but their lives differ. Illness, diet, physical activity, stress, sleep, environmental exposures, and ordinary chance can all contribute to differences in gene regulation.

This does not mean every experience leaves a lasting epigenetic mark, or that epigenetics accounts for every difference between people. It does mean biology is more responsive and adaptable than the familiar "DNA equals destiny" model would suggest.

Epigenetics plays important roles in normal growth and development, immune function, brain function, aging, and tissue repair. It is also a major focus of research into cancer and other diseases.

Cancer cells often acquire abnormal epigenetic patterns. A protective gene may be incorrectly silenced, while a gene promoting cell growth may become excessively active. Unlike a DNA mutation, some epigenetic changes may be reversible. This possibility has inspired medicines targeting epigenetic machinery in selected blood cancers and other malignancies.

Researchers are also investigating epigenetic patterns as potential early warning signs, or "biomarkers," of disease. Eventually, these patterns may help physicians assess risk, classify cancers, select treatments, or track responses to therapy.

Dr. Thornburg emphasizes in his documentary that we can indeed change our epigenetics AND influence that of the next generation. Cells naturally modify signals regulating genes throughout life. Environmental exposures, nutrition, inflammation, hormones, activity, smoking, alcohol, sleep, aging, and medications can all affect biological pathways involving epigenetic regulation throughout our bodies, including the eggs or sperm cells we produce.

Dr. Thornburg's documentary emphasizes nutrition's influence on our epigenetics and explains how food prices, advertising, and convenience make it difficult for us to choose foods that support a healthy epigenome.

Perhaps epigenetics' most useful lesson is balance. We inherit genes, and those genes matter. Yet genes are not an inflexible script determining every outcome.

DNA may supply the cookbook. Epigenetics helps determine which recipes are prepared today.

(Gigireedmd@gmail.com)

Leaving Germany after college, Dr. Gudrun (Gigi) Reed spent over 20 years as a scientist in the U.S. She holds four patents in DNA research and was a university professor. Today she is busy as co-medical director for hospice, acute rehabilitation and practices family medicine in Brookings, OR. Gigireedmd@gmail.com

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HISTORY
From Page 2

out of existence as World War I neared, slowing the tide of Eastern European immigration. Henry Cohen was a respected rabbi emeritus when he passed away at age 89 in 1952.

Miles deep in the heart of Texas, mom-and-pop businesses still operate on small-town courthouse squares that were founded by people he helped settle there.

Yes, a hurricane can be ferociously ugly. But what came come out of it can be beautiful.

ABOUT THE WRITER

J. Mark Powell is a former television journalist. His nonfiction book "Witness to War: The Story of the Civil War Told by Those Living Through It" is available at jmarkpowell.com. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.





Tide Tables

NOVEMBER 2026
Curry and Del Norte Counties
LOW TIDES

Date	Day	1st Tide Time	1st Tide Ft.	2nd Tide Time	2nd Tide Ft.
1	Sun	10:21am	3.6	11:18pm	-0.1
2	Mon	11:52am	3.2	----	----
3	Tue	12:21am	0.3	1:12pm	2.5
4	Wed	1:18am	0.7	2:15pm	1.6
5	Thu	2:08am	1.1	3:07pm	0.8
6	Fri	2:52am	1.6	3:53pm	0.2
7	Sat	3:33am	2.0	4:33pm	-0.3
8	Sun	4:12am	2.5	5:11pm	-0.6
9	Mon	4:49am	2.9	5:47pm	-0.7
10	Tue	5:25am	3.2	6:24pm	-0.7
11	Wed	6:01am	3.5	7:01pm	-0.5
12	Thu	6:38am	3.7	7:41pm	-0.3
13	Fri	7:18am	3.9	8:24pm	0.0
14	Sat	8:05am	4.0	9:10pm	0.3
15	Sun	9:06am	4.0	9:59pm	0.6
16	Mon	10:22am	3.9	10:50pm	0.9
17	Tue	11:42am	3.6	11:40pm	1.2
18	Wed	12:50pm	2.9	----	----
19	Thu	12:28am	1.5	1:45pm	2.1
20	Fri	1:15am	1.8	2:32pm	1.2
21	Sat	2:00am	2.1	3:16pm	0.3
22	Sun	2:45am	2.5	4:00pm	-0.6
23	Mon	3:30am	2.8	4:44pm	-1.3
24	Tue	4:16am	3.0	5:29pm	-1.7
25	Wed	5:03am	3.2	6:17pm	-1.9
26	Thu	5:53am	3.3	7:06pm	-1.9
27	Fri	6:47am	3.4	7:58pm	-1.6
28	Sat	7:48am	3.4	8:51pm	-1.1
29	Sun	8:58am	3.3	9:45pm	-0.5
30	Mon	10:17am	3.1	10:40pm	0.2

Tide Tables

NOVEMBER 2026
Curry and Del Norte Counties
HIGH TIDES

Date	Day	1st Tide Time	1st Tide Ft.	2nd Tide Time	2nd Tide Ft.
1	Sun	5:17am	5.6	3:57pm	6.3
2	Mon	6:20am	5.8	5:22pm	5.9
3	Tue	7:12am	6.2	6:47pm	5.6
4	Wed	7:55am	6.6	8:02pm	5.6
5	Thu	8:33am	6.9	9:08pm	5.6
6	Fri	9:07am	7.2	10:04pm	5.7
7	Sat	9:39am	7.4	10:55pm	5.8
8	Sun	10:10am	7.5	11:42pm	5.8
9	Mon	10:41am	7.5	----	----
10	Tue	12:26am	5.8	11:12am	7.3
11	Wed	1:09am	5.7	11:44am	7.2
12	Thu	1:53am	5.6	12:18pm	6.9
13	Fri	2:40am	5.4	12:55pm	6.6
14	Sat	3:31am	5.3	1:37pm	6.2
15	Sun	4:25am	5.2	2:26pm	5.8
16	Mon	5:18am	5.3	3:27pm	5.4
17	Tue	6:03am	5.5	4:43pm	5.0
18	Wed	6:41am	5.8	6:06pm	4.9
19	Thu	7:15am	6.2	7:23pm	4.9
20	Fri	7:46am	6.7	8:31pm	5.1
21	Sat	8:19am	7.2	9:32pm	5.4
22	Sun	8:55am	7.7	10:27pm	5.7
23	Mon	9:33am	8.1	11:19pm	6.0
24	Tue	10:14am	8.4	----	----
25	Wed	12:11am	6.1	10:58am	8.6
26	Thu	1:02am	6.1	11:46am	8.5
27	Fri	1:55am	6.1	12:37pm	8.1
28	Sat	2:50am	6.1	1:33pm	7.6
29	Sun	3:45am	6.1	2:35pm	6.9
30	Mon	4:41am	6.3	3:46pm	6.1

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COURT BOICE'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING OREGON'S 2026 GENERAL ELECTION WIN

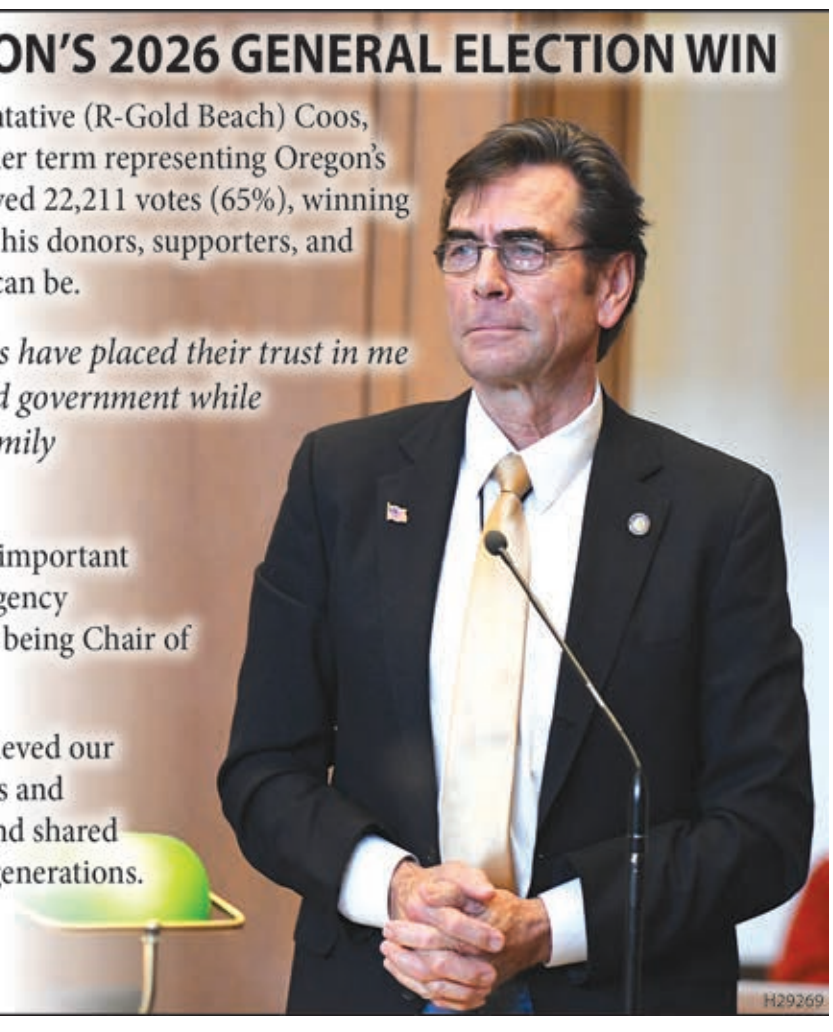
Gold Beach, Ore – On Tuesday, November 3, Court Boice, Oregon State Representative (R-Gold Beach) Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties, secured a decisive re-election victory, earning another term representing Oregon's House District 1. According to the Secretary of State's election results, Boice received 22,211 votes (65%), winning over his opponent by more than 10,000 votes. Court Boice is deeply grateful to all his donors, supporters, and volunteers and will continue his work to make Southwest Oregon the very best it can be.

"I am humbled and deeply honored that so many of my three-County residents have placed their trust in me once again, as my team and I always commit and are anxious to push for good government while serving at our State's Capitol," said Representative Boice. "Thank you to my family and to the citizens who showed up and cared enough to vote."

As the full 2027 session begins in January, Boice is dedicated to his four – all very important committees to District 1. *Agriculture/Water/Land Use/Natural Resources *Emergency Management/Veterans *Housing/Homelessness and *Early Childhood along with being Chair of the Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus.

"Finally, to those who didn't vote for me, I want you to know that I have never believed our Southern Oregon future belongs to one party. It belongs to all of us. We are friends and neighbors before we are Republicans or Democrats. I will always hope for equal and shared responsibilities as we all work for best outcomes and policies benefiting our next generations.

Thank you for believing in me and believing with me."



ODOT report forecasts 'rougher roads' ahead with declining revenues

JEREMY C. RUARK
Curry Coastal Pilot

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has released new details of its declining funding options.

Oregon's state and local transportation agencies are funded by the State Highway Fund, which includes revenues from the gas tax, driver and vehicle fees collected at DMV and from taxes paid by heavy trucks, and soon the per-mile road usage charge.

The State Highway Fund is now declining with total revenue from January to September of this year coming in below 2025 levels by $32 million or 2.4%, according to latest ODOT report.

ODOT economists had long predicted gas tax revenue would decline as Oregonians purchase more efficient vehicles and use less gas to travel. That decline began earlier this year with motor fuels tax revenue down 2.2% for 2026 compared to the first nine months of 2025 . ODOT communicated about the decline in gas tax revenue and its causes earlier this month.

New Revenue Losses

"In addition to gas tax declines, driver and vehicle fee revenues are also down $14.7 million for the first nine months of 2026 compared to the same period last year. Registration and title fee revenues are down $7.7 million, while driver license fees are down about $6 million. Vehicle sales have been slow, reducing revenue from title and registration transactions. Driver license fees are lower than in 2025 as fewer Oregonians are choosing to renew their licenses early to get a Real ID," ODOT states in its report.

Starting in 2027, as directed by the Oregon Legislature in HB 3991, electric and hybrid vehicle owners will now be required to pay either two cents per mile or $340 per year. This road usage charge (RUC) program will be implemented in phases and is expected to be bringing in revenue from more than 500,000 drivers by mid-2030.

However, ODOT officials said even with the new revenue from RUC, ODOT's latest revenue forecast projects total revenue in the State Highway Fund will still be below 2025 levels through 2029. Through 2035, revenue is expected to grow an average of less than eight tenths of one percent per year—well under the rate of inflation.

ODOT and local governments will have about the same amount of revenue from the State Highway Fund in 2035 as they do today. After factoring in inflation, this revenue will

See More ODOT On Page 4

Bridges From Page 1

Creek Bridge (Oregon's highest bridge) and the natural rock formations known as Natural Bridges in the Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor—none of Oregon's surviving historic wooden covered bridges are located within the county.

The report also emphasizes the significance of Oregon's covered bridges.

Bridge building has always been closely tied to the growth and economic development of communities as people have sought to broaden their access to the world around them," the report states. "Oregon's covered bridges continue to both strengthen community identity and support regional and community economic growth. In addition to their transportation roles, the bridges now have cultural and economic roles related to community identity, recreation, and tourism providing a unique and iconic experiential and visual role."

The report includes a challenging forecast for the remaining bridges.

"Incremental funding to support smaller ongoing stabilization, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects is central to the long-term retention of the covered bridges as funding to support major capital projects to clear deferred repairs will be increasingly rare," the report summary states. "Despite the significance of these resources, managers of covered bridges face challenges to find funding to address deferred and ongoing maintenance for these structures. The importance of Oregon's historic covered bridges to local and regional community identity and their contribution to the state's heritage tourism and recreation underscores the importance of ongoing investment, which yields return on visitation and tourist dollars spent in local communities."

Findings of the report include:

• Critical funding needs for stabilizing 6 bridges and rehabilitating 15 bridges is between $16 million and $51 million.

• Previous state and federal funding dedicated to covered bridges no longer exists and covered bridge projects are now competing with general infrastructure needs.

• Grants exist to help support projects but total grant funds for historic structures are limited, competitive, and often for smaller amounts compared to total project costs.

• Certain bypassed bridges that are removed from the county or state roadway system are at more risk because they are ineligible for transportation related funds.

• Covered bridges have value to local communities as place-defining features and contribute to shared community connections and traditions

• Oregon's covered bridges contribute to regional tourism and recreation economies.

"Oregon's covered bridges are a unique feature across Oregon's landscape that residents and visitors seek out for experiences, traditions, and connections," says Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator Katie Henry. "These covered bridges are unique to Oregon on the west side of the country, they contribute economically to tourism and recreation, they are important places to local communities, and there are barriers to preserving them for future generations."

In 1987 the state legislature established the Oregon Covered Bridge Program investing in preserving Oregon's historic covered bridges and conducted a study resulting in the 1989 Covered Bridges Report providing recommendations to the legislature. Between 2000-2012, the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provided dedicated federal funding for covered bridges.

These dedicated state and federal funding sources were critical in minimizing the loss of covered bridges through the early 2000's but these dedicated funds no longer exist.

The report offers a range of potential funding options, including partnerships with various local groups.

Most of the covered bridges in Oregon are managed by local governments and may not be eligible for certain grant programs," the report states. "Forming a partnership with a local nonprofit that has a mission that includes preservation of heritage resources to apply for grants can help expand grant funding options. If allowed in the grant program guidelines, the nonprofit may be able to include an administrative fee in the grant request to cover time spent managing and reporting on the grant. Recreation related groups may be an avenue for partnership opportunities for fundraising events, education, and advocacy if they include covered bridges in any regular organized activities. Museums and historical societies may also be willing to partner for public education campaigns or with ways to gather stories of community value and highlight the value of these unique resources

Report recommendations include:

• Develop a coalition to raise awareness at the state level of the bridges' cultural and economic value and advocate for both public and private funding needed to preserve them.

• Implement a statewide economic impact study to better understand the role and value of Oregon's covered bridges in tourism, recreation, and any other contributing commercial interests.

• Develop and implement value related messaging and outreach plans that support both coordinated efforts across the network of resource managers and local efforts to continually promote the cultural and economic value of the bridges.

• Ensure covered bridges have a preservation maintenance plan in place and prioritize roof and siding repairs and long-term budgeting for reroofing.

The 2026 Oregon Covered Bridges Needs Assessment report was prepared by consultants of Northwest Vernacular. Interviews were conducted with bridge owners, managers, tourism entities, nonprofit partners, local community members, and other interested parties. Before finalizing the report, a roundtable discussion was held inviting report contributers and interested parties to discuss the draft recommendations.

The report was funded by an Oregon Cultural Trust grant.

Oregon Heritage Commission:

The Heritage Commission's nine Governor appointed members represent a diversity of cultural, geographic, and institutional interests. The Commission's nine advisory members include representatives from the Oregon State Library, Oregon State Archives, State Historical Records Advisory Board, Higher Education Coordinating Committee, Travel Oregon, Oregon Historical Society, Department of Education, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

The Commission is the primary agency for coordination of heritage activities in the state. This includes carrying out the Oregon Heritage Plan, increasing efficiency and avoiding duplication among interest groups, developing plans for coordination among agencies and organizations, encouraging tourism related to heritage resources, and coordinating statewide anniversary commemorations.

More information about the Oregon Heritage Commission is available online at www.oregonheritage.org and from Commission coordinator Katie Henry at 503-877-8834 or katie.henry@oprd.oregon.gov.—

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Breezi Albert Austin Stormi
Daughter Owner Son Daughter

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Phone: 541-469-2610 Cell: 541-971-1828

Wild Rivers Coast
Worship Directory

Brookings

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/

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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Church of Christ
17222 Passley Rd., Brookings
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10am
Sunday Morning Worship Assembly...11:00am
Wednesday Bible Class.....3pm
Evangelist: Darryl 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**

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(LCMS)
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10:15am **"The Story" Worship**
11:15am **Fellowship**
188 E Cooper, Crescent City
www.GraceLutheranCC.com

Ft. Dick

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6725 Lake Earl Dr.
Sunday School - 9:30am
Sunday Service - 10:45am
Sunday Replay on Facebook @FortDickBibleChurch
Mid-Week Bible Study - call for details
Phone (707) 458-4030

To God Be The Glory
Christian Community Church
15138 McVay Lane
Sunday Service **10:30am**
Bible Study **Thursdays 7:00pm**
See Our Facebook page
Friends Who Like Christian Community Church - Harbor
Pastor **Carl Smith**
541-659-9352

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Pastor Barry Kimbrough
102 Park Ave., Brookings
541-469-3030
Saturday Bible Study.....10:00am
(All Ages)
Saturday Worship.....11:15am
Also on Facebook and Youtube.
https://www.facebook.com/7thdayadventistbrookings/

Seventh-day Adventist Church
1770 Northcrest Dr., Crescent City
707-464-2738
Pastor Mason Philpot
Crescent City
Seventh-day Adventist School
Grades 1-8 707-464-2738
Saturday
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Services.....11:00 a.m.

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 ChristianFellowship
Pastor Pat Henderson
(707) 460-1696
3180 S Fred D Haight Drive
Smith River, CA 95567 • (707) 460-1696
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502 Help Wanted

Hiring part-time community manager in Brookings. Office on site, flexible hours, training provided. Limited or no experience OK. Come join our team! Call 916-299-3077.

McLennan Excavation has a full-time working foreman position to fill. The working foreman will have full understanding of underground utilities and grading. Foreman will have full working knowledge of the use of heavy equipment needed for all excavation projects. Leadership, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving under pressure will be essential in this position. The ability to successfully manage projects and use project management plans and can set grades and elevations. McLennan Excavation offers health & dental benefits as well as 401K opportunities. Email your resume to: lily@pipeandrock.com or drop off your resume & apply directly at 98109 N. Bank Chetco River Road; Brookings, OR. Open hours are Monday through Friday from 7aqm to 5pm. Please be prepared for a prospective interview.

McLennan Excavation is looking for full-time experienced Professional Concrete & Asphalt Laborers. They will be responsible for supporting the team throughout various projects.
They will be expected to:
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Open hours are Monday through Friday from 7am to 5pm. Please be prepared for a prospective interview.

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• Work to ensure the team's success.
McLennan Excavation offers health & dental benefits as well as 401K opportunities.
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McLennan Excavation is looking for a full-time experienced Professional Office Manager to oversee office processes including AP.
Qualifications for this position include but are not limited to:
• Leadership skills for overseeing administrative staff
Strong organizational skills to maintain schedule and workflow
• Strong attention to detail and problem-solving ability
Expert knowledge of accounting principles, practices, and procedures
• Strong Excel, Word, and QuickBooks skills
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
Responsibilities include but are not limited to:
• Managing office and accounts payable staff
• Assist with onboarding and offboarding
• Coordinating approval process of all accounts payable invoices to ensure timely payments of vendor invoices and expense vouchers
• Prepare monthly reports and assist with month-end closing
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Oregon's financial outlook 'healthy' going into 2027

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon's economy is holding steady despite persistent and rising inflation and record fuel prices driven by the war in Iran, and little has changed in recent months to concern economists about the state's financial health going into the new year.

The state's top economists shared their quarterly revenue forecast with the Legislature's revenue committees Wednesday morning and previewed it for reporters Tuesday. It's the last forecast before legislators convene in January and begin crafting a two-year budget, with about $245 million more revenue in the state's coffers than previously expected.

"The overarching theme of this forecast is no news, no real change in terms of the economic outlook or the revenue picture," Carl Riccadonna, Oregon's chief economist, told reporters Tuesday.

The additional money will be critical to partially cover federal government funding cuts to healthcare and food access programs during the next few years, as well as new costs that states are required to take on to administer those aid programs. Congressional Republicans passed the cuts in 2025 and new Medicaid work and reporting requirements are set to be implemented in early 2027, though exact dates have shifted in recent days.

Only $11 million of that additional $245 million, or roughly half of 1%, was from the most recent financial quarter, further indicating the state's steady revenue growth and no major increases or drops.

"Today's revenue forecast shows Oregon state government has steady financial footing on which to protect essential services, even as stubborn inflation persists as a result of tepid federal action," Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement. "While this economic trajectory is encouraging, we must create more momentum to help families struggling to make ends meet."

The additional revenue is not yet at a threshold to trigger the state's kicker tax rebate that occurs when state income tax revenues exceed projections by more than 2%. Corporate taxes are hovering right around the threshold for triggering a tax surplus that would go to schools, called the "corporate kicker," Kennedy said, but it's too early to tell what could happen.

Kennedy said revenues going into 2027 are healthy, "but with a tax season left to go, there's still potential there for that ($245 projected revenue increase) to evaporate."

Riccadonna said consumer spending is healthy and corporate profits are healthy despite gas and diesel prices up 40% and 70% respectively over the last year. Businesses appear to be spending and investing in infrastructure, equipment, software and more, indicating accelerating economic activity that should put downward pressure on the unemployment rate, he said.

The Oregon Employment Department will release the state's latest jobs numbers shortly after the revenue forecast is shared. Riccadonna said there seems to be some acceleration in the pace of hirings and job openings that have, in Oregon and nationally, stalled for the last few quarters.

Economists remain concerned that persistent inflation could trigger a recession, and the roughly one-in-five odds of a recession remain relatively unchanged from the last quarter, Riccadonna said. That could go higher if the federal reserve too aggressively raises interest rates to curb inflation, as has happened in the past, he added.

More energy shocks due to rising fuel costs could also contribute to a recession, and fuel prices are still far higher today than a year ago.

"We're not there at the moment, but the Fed does seem to be in a moment of recalibration on their expectations of what it will take to get inflation pressures down," Riccadonna said. "A couple of weeks ago they were saying one or two more rate increases. Now some of the Fed communications today are talking about four interest rate increases or potentially even more."

The bulk of Oregon's income tax growth in the last few quarters is from what Riccadonna and Kennedy described as the "wealth effect." That is more revenue from corporate dividends, interest earnings and capital gains taxes on stock sales and on

See More OUTLOOK On Page 8

ODOT from page 4

buy about 20% less than it does today, the ODOT report explains.

"While this decline was expected, revenue is declining faster than anticipated with drops both at the gas pump and at DMV—Oregon's transportation system depends on these fees to function," Oregon Department of Transportation Deputy Director Travis Brouwer said. "In the next several years, transportation agencies across Oregon at the city, county and state level will have fewer dollars to maintain and improve the transportation system. With inflation rising, each of those dollars will buy less. ODOT remains committed to using resources efficiently and making them go as far as possible."

The decline in the State Highway Fund widens the gap ODOT is expected to face between available revenues and the cost to keep service and staffing levels stable.

Earlier this year, before high gas prices and reduced vehicle registrations drove down revenue, ODOT expected to face a roughly $200 million funding gap for the 2027-2029 biennium that would require eliminating more than 500 jobs across the agency. Because of the gas tax and State Highway Fund decline, that gap has widened to $240 million, which will likely require elimination of even more jobs. These reductions come at a time when the department has already cut hundreds of millions of dollars from its budget and employes fewer people than iy has at any time in the last 27 years

In response to this declining revenue and growing budget gap, ODOT officials said they will further reduce hiring and spending while working to maintain critical services. The agency has hired workers to be prepared for winter maintenance like snowplowing but will only hire the most critical jobs going forward.

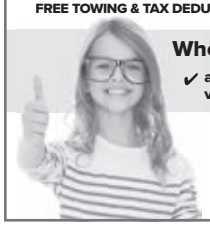
Local Funding Impact

This new decline will also result in about $40 million fewer dollars going to cities and counties through the end of the 2027-2029 budget cycle. Local governments receive nearly half of all State Highway Fund revenue and are facing their own increasing maintenance backlogs and unfunded safety solutions, according to the ODOT report.

"If funding for maintaining and operating the transportation system continues to decline, travelers will experience rougher roads, more delays, more closures, and less reliable travel across the state," the report forecasts.

To learn more about transportation funding in Oregon and efforts to put state and local transportation agencies on a sustainable path, visit ODOT's online funding page.

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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.

Tuesday, November 10

3:25 am, Hwy 101 MP 352, possession of drugs.

9:08 am, Rowland Ln, alarm.

9:55 am, Park Ave, alarm.

10:31 am, 5th St, criminal mischief.

11:35 am, Mendy St, criminal trespass.

12:31 pm, Wharf St, civil problem.

1:16 pm, Chetco Ave, criminal trespass.

2:24 pm, Alder St, dispute/fight.

2:43 pm, Chetco Ave, traffic crash.

2:54 pm, Cypress St, civil problem.

3:46 pm, Hwy 101 S, fire.

11:22 pm, Fir St, dispute/fight.

Thursday, November 12

8:24 am, Vista Ridge Dr, juvenile problem.

1:45 pm, Chetco Ave, burglary.

2:23 pm, Chetco Ave, criminal trespass.

2:56 pm, Zimmerman and Shopping Center, traffic crash.

3:00 pm, Chetco Ave, assault.

4:11 pm, Chetco Point, dispute/fight.

4:59 pm, Lundeen Ln, criminal trespass.

5:06 pm, Mill Beach Rd, warrant service.

7:04 pm, Oceanview Dr, fire.

7:27 pm, Oak St, juvenile problem.

8:03 pm, 5th St, theft.

9:23 pm, Hillside Ave, alarm.

10:03 pm, Old County Rd, warrant service.

Saturday, November 14

5:48 am, Fir St, minor in poss/marijuana.

8:21 am, Chetco Ave, unauthorized use of weapon.

9:42 am, Ransom Ave, unlawful entry motor vehicle.

11:53 am, Schooner Bay, alarm.

12:41 pm, Easy St, civil problem.

6:05 pm, Chetco Ave, criminal trespass.

Sunday, November 15

2:26 am, Lower Harbor Rd, harassment.

9:22 am, Easy St, civil problem.

9:25 am, Elk Dr, dispute/fight.

10:43 am, Hwy 101 N, tree down.

12:41 pm, 5th St, alarm.

1:27 pm, North Bank Chetco River Rd, disorderly conduct.

2:38 pm, Chetco Ave, harassment.

3:01 pm, Shopping Center Ave, dispute/fight.

3:46 pm, Chetco Ave, dispute/fight.

5:03 pm, Chetco Ave, theft.

8:13 pm, Memory Ln, harassment.

10:29 pm, Bayview Dr, dispute/fight.

Monday, November 16

7:38 am, Easy St and Fern St, fire.

9:29 am, Pioneer Rd, violation restraining order.

9:37 am, Pacific Ave, traffic crash.

10:37 am, Zimmerman and Shopping Center, hit & run.

12:16 pm, Memory Ln, dispute/fight.

12:17 pm, 5th St, alarm.

1:39 pm, Camellia Dr, burglary.

3:04 pm, Ransom Ave, violation restraining order.

10:13 pm, Hwy 101 MP 347, traffic crash.

Calendar of Events

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

DAILY

•Daily Meal
Daily
Chetco Activity Center, 550 Chetco Lane: 11:15 am - 12:30 pm.

Beyond 250 Oral History Project
All Year Long
Chetco Library.
Anyone who has called Brookings-Harbor home is welcome to share lived experiences for the oral history project. Learn more and sign up at chetcolibrary.org/Beyond250.

Line dance lessons
Mondays Brookings Elks Lodge, 800 Elk Dr: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm.
Membership not required. Absolute beginners 10:30 am, improvers 11:00 am, intermediates 12:00 pm. $2 minimum donation.

Qi Gong for Health & Vitality
Mondays
Chetco Library: 5:30 pm.
Free class with licensed instructor Linnie. All are welcome; donations appreciated.

Stretch Class
Mondays
Chetco Activity Center: 7:15 am - 8:15 am.

T'ai Chi
Mondays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm.

Games in the Lounge
Mondays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:30 pm.

Karate
Tuesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 8:00 am - 9:00 am.
Brookings-Harbor Garden

Club Work Party
Tuesdays
Brookings Botanical Garden: 10:00 am - 11:30 am.

Tri City Bridge
Tuesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm.

Games in the Lounge
Tuesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:30 pm.

Ukulele Group
Tuesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Storytime
Tuesdays
Chetco Library: 10:30 am.
Picture books, songs, dance, a simple craft, and stay-and-play for young children with accompanying adults.

Amateur Radio Net
Tuesdays
Gasquet Net: 6:30 pm (147.18); DN Amateur Radio Club: 7:15 pm (146.88).

Line dance lessons
Tuesdays
Crescent City Elks Lodge, 359 H Street: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm.
Membership not required. Absolute beginners 10:30 am, improver 11:00 am, intermediate 12:00 pm. $2 minimum donation.

Zumba
Tuesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 5:30 pm.

Stretch Class
Wednesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 7:15 am - 8:15 am.

T'ai Chi
Wednesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:00 pm.
Qi Gong for Health & Vitality
Wednesdays
Chetco Library: 9:30 am.
Free class with licensed instructor Linnie. All are welcome; donations appreciated.

Line dance lessons
Wednesdays
Brookings Elks Lodge, 800 Elk Dr: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.
Membership not required. Absolute beginners 10:30 am, improvers 11:00 am, intermediates 12:00 pm. $2 minimum donation.

The Walking Group
Wednesdays
Azalea Park: 11:00 am.
Meet by Capella by the Sea. If raining meet at Brookings Harbor Shopping Center by the barbershop. 541-412-8664.

Games in the Lounge
Wednesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:30 pm.

D&D One-Shot Adventures
Wednesdays
Chetco Library: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm.
Tabletop role-playing adventures for youth ages 10-16; registration required.

Afterschool Wednesday Crafternoons
Wednesdays
Chetco Library: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm.
Drop-in art activities and free snacks for school-aged children and families.

Chair Tai Chi
Wednesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 2:00 pm.

Exercise Class
Wednesdays
Chetco Activity Center: 5:30 pm.

Men's Club Golf
Wednesdays
Salmon Run Golf Course: 9:00 am.
Friendly team and individual play. All skill levels welcome. Bob K: 701-269-7822.

Cribbage Club
Wednesdays
Wild Rivers Pizza: 5:30 pm.

Karate
Thursdays
Chetco Activity Center: 8:00 am - 9:00 am.

Book Club
Thursdays
Chetco Activity Center: 10:00 am.

Rowdy Creek String Band
Thursdays
Chetco Library: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.
Open rehearsal for acoustic string instrument players.
Widows and Widowers Coffee

Clique
Thursdays
Community Center, Airport Way, Gold Beach: 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

Games in the Lounge
Thursdays
Chetco Activity Center: 12:30 pm.

Tri City Bridge
Thursdays
Chetco Activity Center: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm.

EZ Flo Yoga with Mavis
Thursdays
Chetco Library: 5:30 pm.
Free class for beginners and above. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle; participants should be able to comfortably get up and down from the floor.

Zumba
Thursdays
Chetco Activity Center: 5:30 pm.

Recreational Table Tennis
Thursdays
102 Park Street, Brookings: 6:30 pm.

Intermediate players welcome; bring your own paddle.

Line dance lessons
Thursdays
Crescent City Elks Lodge, 359 H Street: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm.
Membership not required. Absolute beginners 10:30 am, improver 11:00 am, intermediate 12:00 pm. $2 donation. Jean: 541-251-8998.

Bingo
Fridays
Chetco Activity Center dining room: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm.

The Walking Group
Fridays
Azalea Park: 11:00 am.
Meet by Capella by the Sea. If raining meet at Brookings Harbor Shopping Center by the barbershop. 541-412-8664.

T'ai Chi
Fridays
Chetco Activity Center: 9:00 am and 10:30 am.

Threads, Hooks & Needles
Fridays Chetco Library: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm.
Fiber arts club for knitting, crocheting, sewing, and conversation.

Paws to Read
Saturdays
Chetco Library: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.
Children are invited to read one-on-one to certified therapy dogs Tucker or Suri in the Children's Section.

Saturday Shuffle
Saturdays
Chetco Library: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
Weekly card gaming session; players may bring decks to play Magic: The Gathering or Pokemon: The Trading Card Game.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Craft'n'Connect with Kim
Wednesday, November 25
Chetco Library: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Free monthly crafting workshop for adults. Registration is required and supplies are limited.

Look-Back Book Club
Wednesday, November 25
Chetco Library: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Teens 16 and older and adults revisit a childhood classic in the Annex Conference Room; see library social media or chetcolibrary.org for the November selection.

Monthly Drum Circle
Wednesday, November 25
Chetco Library: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Drop in to play percussion or listen in the Forest Room; all percussion instruments, including hand clapping, are welcome.

Thanksgiving Day Service and Potluck Thursday, November 26 St. Timothy Episcopal Church, 401 Fir St., Brookings: 12:00 pm. The Brookings-Harbor community is invited to a Thanksgiving Day service, followed by a potluck meal downstairs.

Chetco Library closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, November 26 - Friday, November 27

Book Talk Book Club
Saturday, November 28 Chetco Library: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
Discussion of Dungeon Crawler Carl by Matt Dinniman in the Quiet Reading Room.

Pacific Music Guild Holiday Concerts Wednesday, December 2 - Thursday, December 3
Crescent Elk Middle School Auditorium, 994 G St., Crescent City: 7 pm both evenings.
North Coast Chorale, Redwood Chamber Singers and North Coast Youth Choir present The Joys of Christmas. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for youth and free for children age 5 and younger. Advance tickets are available at Del Norte Office Supply and Wright's Custom Framing, with tickets also available at the door.

Rented Christmas: The Musical
Friday, December 4 - Sunday, December 20 Rogue Playhouse, 94196 Moore St., Gold Beach: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm. Ellensburg Theater Company presents the holiday musical. Tickets are $15 for adults and $8 for students, available at rogueplayhouse-etc.org, Gold Beach Books and Art, or by calling 541-247-4382.

A Christmas Carol
Friday, December 4 - Sunday, December 20 Chetco Playhouse, 1240 Chetco Ave., Brookings: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm.

Chetco Pelican Players present Charles Dickens' holiday classic, adapted and directed by Carolyn Poston. Tickets are $15 for adults and $7 for students, available through BookTix and at the door. Reservations and information: 541-469-1857.

Wild Rivers Symphony Winter Concert: Beyond the Horizon
Sunday, December 6 - Monday, December 7 Crescent Elk Auditorium, 994 G St., Crescent City: Sunday at 3:00 pm; Trinity Lutheran Church, 1200 Easy St., Brookings: Monday at 7:00 pm. The program includes wind ensemble selections, Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No. 2 and pianist David Sedgwick performing Grieg's Piano Concerto. Tickets are $20 at the door, $15 in advance and free for students in grades K-12. Advance tickets are available at wildriverssymphony.org, Del Norte Office Supply, High Note Winery and Wright's Custom Framing.

Friends of Curry Campus Holiday Music Program Thursday, December 10 SWOCC Curry Campus Community Room, 96082 Lone Ranch Parkway, Brookings: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.
The Coastal Winds Recorder Ensemble and North Coast Chorale present a free afternoon of seasonal music, followed by cookies. Information: 541-813-1667.

Friends Not Bullies Kids' Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 12
Salmon Run Golf Course, 99040 S. Bank Chetco River Road, Brookings: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Free event featuring more than 25 stalls of handmade gifts created by local children, along with ornaments, Christmas treats, baked goods, local vendors, live music, performances and children's activities. Information: 541-254-1125 or friendsnotbullies@yahoo.com.

The Snow Queen: A Tale of Ice and Roses Thursday, December 17 - Saturday, December 19
Sea Spray Center, 97986 Shopping Center Ave., Brookings: Thursday and Friday at 7:00 pm; Saturday at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Oregon Coast Dance presents an original holiday ballet based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy tale. Tickets are $20 for adults, $17 for seniors age 55 and older, and $15 for children under 12; children under 2 sitting on a lap are free. Tickets and information are available at oregoncoastdanceconservatory.com/performances or 541-698-8223.



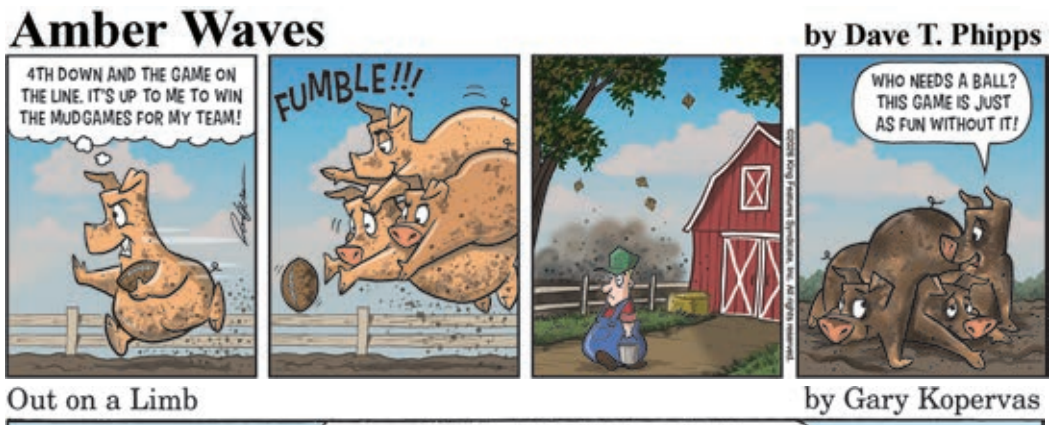




November 23, 2026 Posting Date

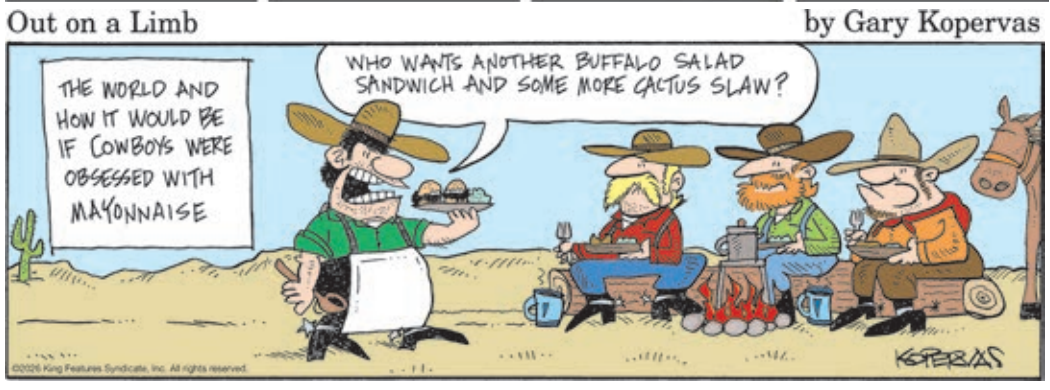
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



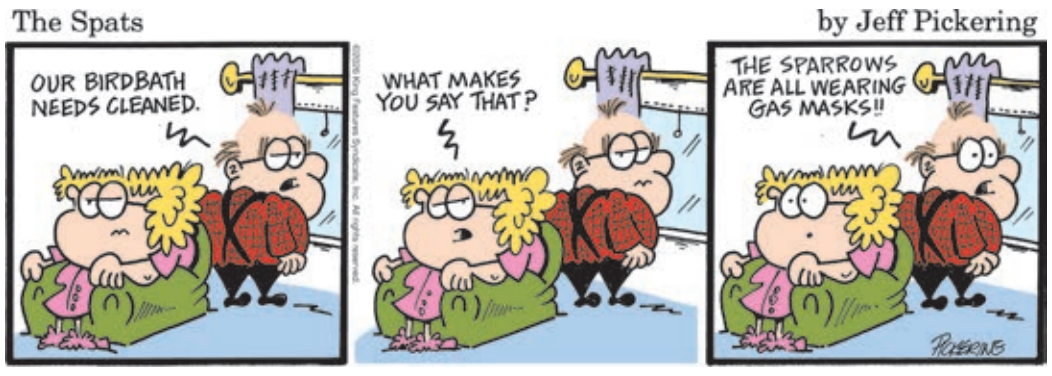
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



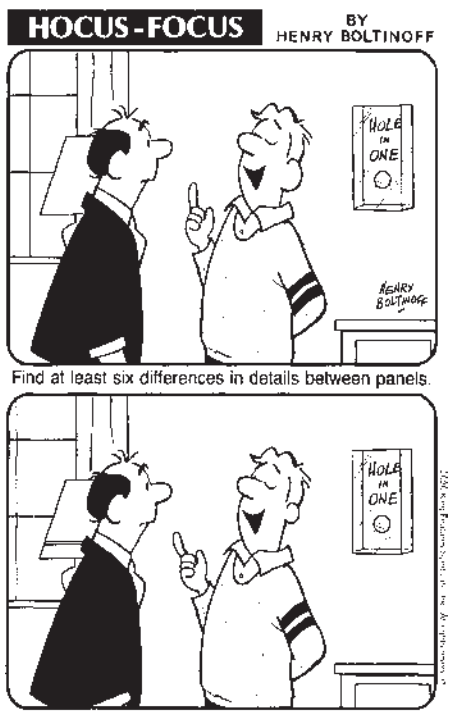
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Window panes are different. 6. Tie is smaller.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

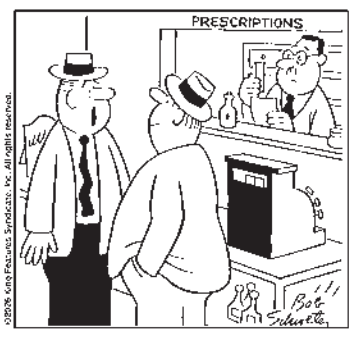
Clue: R equals M

D HR IBLAS XL TDCDAW YHOTNZMMV DA RV OTLZMCSB PBHI, YZX BSQSAXMV D'R OXHBXDAW XL QLRS LZX LN RV OTHPM.

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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!



Take LEAST ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Horrible DRUIL ___

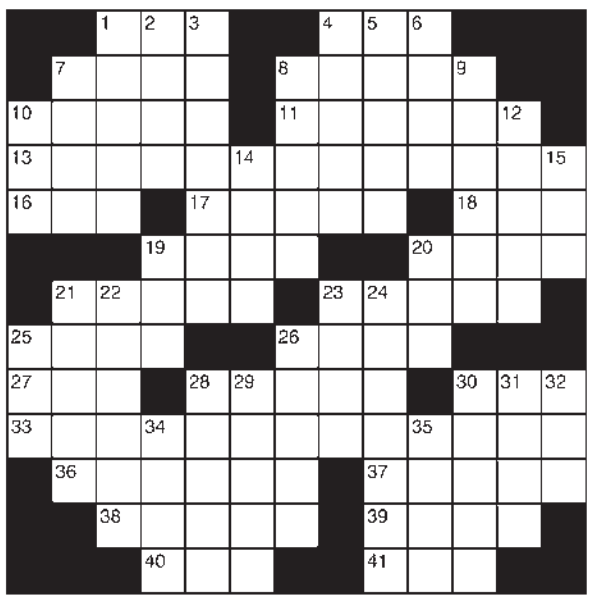
Devour WOWSALL ___ ___

Lever PLEAD ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

"My prescription has one bad side effect — it keeps my ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ empty!"

TODAY'S WORD ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Indent key
4 "Spring ahead" hrs.
7 Mentor
8 Japanese bedroll
10 Rock genre
11 European peninsula
13 1980 Lennon/Ono album
16 Mercedes-Benz models
17 Barbecue site
18 Scoundrel
19 Netting
20 Helps
21 Parisian river
23 Accra's country
25 Dumbstruck
26 Milne bruin
27 Standard
28 Hose woes
30 Cagers' gp.
33 Figure skater's jump
36 Wild scuffles
37 Unconventional
38 Actor McDowall
39 Gratis
40 Airport screening org.
41 Nourished

DOWN

1 Ballerinas' skirts
2 United — Emirates
3 Pitcher's warmup area
4 Persian Gulf emirate
5 Shorthand pro
6 Legal wrong
7 Earth sci.
8 Bourbon buy
9 B vitamin
10 ER workers
12 Carne — (Mexican dish)
14 Lighten
15 NFL measures
19 Prefix for "night" or "morning"
20 "That feels good!"
21 Honey bunch?
22 More spine-tingling
23 Type of dancer
24 Spray down with water
25 Suitable
26 Sucker
28 Winter coasters
29 "I — vacation!"
30 Famous
31 Drill
32 Chest-beating beast
34 Conspiracy
35 Entice

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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FiveSpot™

Onyx

B	L	A	C	K	
					Chess side
					Communications conduit
					Uncorrupted
					Candy Christmas decorations
					What search dogs follow
					Word with "birth" or "grave"

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McBride
See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

03667

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Who does Dorothy's house land on and kill in "The Wizard of Oz"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which country does Easter Island belong to?
3. MUSIC: In which city did The Beatles form?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Hippos are native to which continent?
5. ANATOMY: What is peristalsis?
6. MOVIES: What kind of animal is Donkey's wife in the animated movie "Shrek"?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the names of the two marble lion statues outside the main New York Public LIBRAry?
8. MEASUREMENTS: In physics, what is a jiffy?
9. TELEVISION: What is Bill Nye's nickname, based on his shows?
10. HISTORY: Where did the Anasazi native tribe live in modern America?

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SCRAMBLERS
Solution
1. Steal; 2. Lurid
3. Swallow; 4. Pedal
Today's Word
WALLET

FiveSpot™ Solution

S	T	O	N	E
S	C	E	N	T
C	A	N	E	S
C	L	E	A	N
C	A	B	L	E
B	L	A	C	K

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

CryptoQuip answer

I am prone to hiding bashfully in my shoulder wrap, but recently I'm starting to come out of my shawl.

Trivia Answers

1. The Wicked Witch of the East
2. Chile
3. Liverpool, England
4. Africa
5. Muscular contractions that push food through the digestive system
6. A dragon
7. Patience and Fortitude
8. The time it takes light to travel 1 centimeter in a vacuum
9. The Science Guy
10. Southwest United States

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

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

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jwarren@countrymedia.net

State and Regional News

State unemployment rate holding steady

STAFF REPORT
Curry Coastal Pilot

Oregon's unemployment rate was little changed at 4.9% in October from 5.0% in September, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

It has held to a range between 4.9% and 5.3% for the past 21 months, since February 2025 when it was 4.9%. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1% in October and 4.2% in September.

In October, Oregon's seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment declined by 300 jobs, following a revised gain of 4,700 jobs in September. October's gains were largest in professional and business services (+2,200 jobs); health care and social assistance (+1,300); and leisure and hospitality (+900). Losses were largest in construction (-1,800 jobs); retail trade (-1,500); and wholesale trade (-1,400).

Several industries rebounded over the past three months. Professional and business services added 3,200 jobs since July. Manufacturing added 2,600 jobs since July, partially reversing steady declines during the past three years. Leisure and hospitality added 2,400 jobs in the past three months, following a flat employment trend during the prior three years.

Government added 2,300 jobs since July, following losses in prior months.

Health care and social assistance was the fastest growing industry in the past 12 months, adding 6,700 jobs, or 2.1% in that time. While the health care industries have seen slower growth, social assistance continued its very rapid growth of the past four years, adding 3,900 jobs, or 4.6%, in the past 12 months.

Construction employment continued its decline of the past three years. At 108,200 jobs in October, it was down 5,300 jobs, or 4.7%, in the past 12 months. Losses during that time were most pronounced in building equipment contractors (-2,700 jobs, or -8.1%) and building finishing contractors (-1,200 jobs, or -8.2%). Since reaching a record high of 118,900 jobs in June 2023, construction declined by 10,700 jobs, or 9.0%.

$230M invested to strengthen Oregon's rural communities

SUBMITTED

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development has announced nearly $25 billion in rural community investments nationwide in fiscal year 2026. These projects strengthen essential infrastructure, expand housing and business opportunities, and ensure rural families and farmers have the tools they need to succeed.

"Rural communities know what they need to thrive, and USDA is proud to help turn those local priorities into lasting results," USDA Rural Development Oregon State Director Jim Carmack. "The investments we made over fiscal year 2026 strengthen housing, infrastructure, businesses and essential services across Oregon while creating new opportunities for the people who call rural Oregon home."

In Oregon, Rural Development invested more than $233.8 million in loans and grants in fiscal year 2026 to support these efforts.

These investments support local priorities in Oregon and deliver real results for rural residents, farmers, businesses, and communities, including the following highlights:

• Business: $73.8 million invested in Oregon's rural businesses, including timber production, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and supporting value-added agriculture.

• Housing: $143.3 million in multifamily and single-family housing investments to support rural homeownership and affordable rural rental housing, including $12.3 million in direct loan funding for 40 new Oregon homeowners.

• Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: $1.2 million invested to protect, modernize, and improve rural water and wastewater systems.

• Telecommunications: $12.7 million to expand access to high-speed internet in Oregon's rural and remote areas.

• Community Facilities: $7 million invested to support emergency communications, essential community buildings, and equipment.

The investments mark only the beginning of USDA's commitment to deliver resources that communities can rely on to improve their quality of life. Focusing on the needs of rural America helps build more resilient communities across the nation.

Looking ahead, USDA Rural Development will continue to deliver targeted investments that strengthen our communities by responding to rural needs across Oregon.

For more information on USDA Rural Development investments in rural America, visit the Rural Data Gateway. The Rural Data Gateway is an online tool that strengthens USDA Rural Development partnerships with rural people, entrepreneurs, government officials and Congress by making agency investment data accessible to the public.

Oregon school attendance some of worst in country

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Roughly one-third of Oregon ninth graders last year missed at least three weeks of classes, according to new data from the Oregon Department of Education, continuing trends of some of the worst attendance rates in the nation.

It's still about a 2 percentage point improvement in attendance from the 2024-25 school year, when 35% of ninth graders were considered chronically absent. Oregon's 160-day school year is already among the shortest in the country.

The data is part of the state's At-A-Glance report cards for each district, which also showed the rate of ninth graders on track to graduate in four years grew by one-fifth of 1% between the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. To be considered on track, ninth graders must have earned at least one-quarter of their required credits for graduation in their first year of high school.

The report builds on state assessment data education officials shared in September showing Oregon students have made small gains in key subjects over the last year but are still lagging behind the proficiency levels of their peers before the pandemic.



At a news conference on Tuesday ahead of the data release, Oregon education officials celebrated attendance improvements in some districts, and the statewide ninth-grade on track rate growing from a prior record of 86.6% to a new record 86.8%. The proportion grew while the overall number of 9th graders on track to graduate dropped.

During the 2024-25 school year, 36,512 ninth graders of 41,713 total were on track to graduate in four years.

During the 2025-26 year, 36,200 were on track — 312 less than the class before them — though there were 473 fewer ninth graders counted in 2025-26.

Still, it's been a significant improvement — about 13 points — since students returned to school following the pandemic.

Oregon Education Director Charlene Williams didn't directly answer questions about whether the low attendance since the pandemic, yet still growing on-track graduation rate, shows ultimately that schools are passing and promoting students who don't show up.

"I can't argue with you that we have a lot more work to do," Williams said. "We have to do better. We have to do better with attendance. We've got to get our students coming to school way more regularly, so that you know if they are performing at this rate with this level of attendance, imagine what could happen if we really double down and our students are able to participate in all of the aspects of this assessment of learning that we're doing."

The chronic absenteeism rate nationally during the 2025-26 school year was roughly 21%, significantly lower than Oregon's statewide average of about 32%. About 69% of Oregon students regularly attended school during the 2025-26 academic year.

Ten years ago more than 80% of Oregon students regularly attended school.

Attendance has been worse among high schoolers. Nearly 43% of eleventh graders and more than half of high school seniors were chronically absent during the 2025-26 school year.

Chris Wells, assistant principal at Cottage Grove High School in Lane County, said lawmakers' passage of Senate Bill 817 in 2021 neutralized schools' ability to dig in and make sure kids get to school by imposing penalties on parents, including fines.

"Without a manner to help families motivate students to go to school, we will see a snowballing of the problem, and it will only drastically multiply in its severity as these students not only enter the workforce, but also as they become parents with the misunderstanding that school is optional," Wells said in an email.

He said other states that do impose fines also have legislation that directs districts to undertake certain actions before the fine is issued. He said Oregon could do the same and reinstate penalties that do have real-world consequences for parents who are not ensuring their kids get to school.

"Just like driving, if I know that I won't be given a ticket and won't face a consequence, I'm not likely to drive the speed limit. SB 817 removed all the speed signs."

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/11/19/poor-school-attendance-persists-in-oregon-remains-among-lowest-in-nation-post-covid/

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OUTLOOK from page 5

retirement investment fund distributions from high income households.

Baby boomers, and the wealthiest 10% of them that hold the single largest share of generational wealth in U.S. history, are retiring, and taxes on the sale of their assets are helping to buoy Oregon's revenues, where one in five residents are 65 or older, according to the Legislative Policy and Research Office. Nationwide, one in six Americans is 65 or older.

https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/11/18/oregons-financial-outlook-healthy-going-into-2027-state-economists-forecast/

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