

# Curry County Sheriffs

## Conduct Search and Rescue Stuck Motorist

FROM THE CCSO

On 12-20-25 at about 7:14pm, the Curry County Sheriff's dispatch received a 911 call from eighty-eight-year-old Bertie Percy of Harbor. The cell reception was very poor, but dispatch was able to determine that Bertie needed help, that she was lost in the middle of nowhere. Dispatch then received another 911 call transferred by Brookings PD, from Steve Bertie, who lives in Crescent City, reporting that his mother had called and told him she had driven up the South Bank of the Chetco and got stuck. Steve Percy said his mother had started walking and didn't know where she was.

Dispatch was able to get a Lat Long from Bertie's cell phone and then paged out Sheriff's Search and Rescue. SAR members arrived and started search-

Please see **RESCUE** Page 3



# ODOT Launch Gold Beach U.S. 101 Community

## Connections Plan, Announce Town Hall



Photos courtesy of ODOT

### STAFF REPORT

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently launched a Community Connections Plan (CCP) for the U.S. 101 corridor through Gold Beach with the goal of creating an integrated plan to bring accessibility and improved safety for those who rely on the highway. Taking input from the community, ODOT hopes to set out a 20-year roadmap for enhancements to make life easier for locals and travelers alike.

"The U.S. 101 corridor through Gold Beach is a vibrant and accessible route that balances the needs of residents, visitors, emergency services and

businesses and supports the City's evolving economy," ODOT states is the vision for the project. "It promotes safe and comfortable walking, biking, rolling and driving with features designed to calm traffic and reduce speeds."

ODOT has laid out three core goals in order to accomplish this vision for the corridor: safety, multimodal connectivity and economic development.

Safety: Improve multimodal safety and comfort, enhance emergency access and promote evacuation preparedness.

2. Multimodal Connectivity: Provide an interconnected, multimodal transportation network

that connects all members of the community to key destinations.

3. Economic Development: The transportation system shall enhance economic development and vitality within the city and support a vibrant and welcoming environment.

The Plan area (Study Area) is within city limits along U.S. 101 (Ellensburg Avenue) and the local city streets from Jerry's Flat Road at the mouth of the Rogue River to Hunter Creek Loop (south of the Gold Beach Visitor Center).

Decision makers on the project will include a Public Advisory Committee full of local stakeholders including the City of Gold

Please see **ODOT** Page 3



**Oregon  
Department  
of Transportation**





# Opinion & Letters

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Light a Candle

Let’s light a candle for those who’ll be alone on New Year’s Eve. Let’s close our eyes and hug them with our hearts. Let’s light a candle for those who may be forgotten, those with no family, those who’ve lost touch with the ones who loved them before their lives disintegrated and now they are homeless or in jail or in emotional exile from those they violated.

Let’s light a candle for a world that forgot how to be a child and doesn’t even make space for children to be

children anymore. Let’s light a candle for a planet that worries about global warming while not noticing how frozen their hearts have become and how ice has formed around their soul.

Let’s light a candle for a time gone by where smiles came easier, when songs sung of love, when movies made us feel good inside. Let’s light a candle for the babies, that they may grow up in a world not so angry and riddled with fear. Let’s light a candle for the old ones who are pushed aside by progress and hardly noticed

anymore.

Let’s light a candle for the lonely, that it may shine where there is darkness and bring hope where there’s despair. Let’s light a candle for those we miss, who no longer walk the earth, but who we loved and when we close our eyes, we can still see their faces. Let’s light a candle because we can and sometimes that all it takes.

Avery Freauxbischer  
Brookings

## 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](http://www.brookings.or.us/134/police-services) and follow the link near the bottom of the page.*

- Monday 12/15:
- 
- Tuesday 12/16:
- 
- Wednesday 12/17:
- 7:47 431 Oak St, warrant service
  - 8:07 Social Security Bar, rescue operation
  - 15:56 Hwy 101 and Dawson, illegal camping
  - 19:30 908 Chetco Ave, warrant service

- 19:34 325 5th St, criminal trespass
  - 22:27 335 Memory Ln, juvenile problem
  - 23:34 405 Alder St, criminal trespass
- Thursday 12/18:
- 2:14 815 Pioneer Rd, loud noise
  - 10:27 808 Pioneer Rd, juvenile problem
  - 14:46 Hwy 101 MP 344, tree down
  - 15:16 96707 E Harris Heights, contempt of court

- 15:20 336 5th St, arson
  - 16:47 898 Elk Dr, warrant service
  - 18:40 766 1st St, assault
  - 19:00 349 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct
  - 19:39 Hwy 101 and Whaleshead, tree down
  - 19:46 Hwy 101 MP 347, tree down
  - 19:49 Hwy 101 MP 348, tree down
  - 23:44 16700 Thompson Rd, fire
- Friday 12/19:
- 9:48 15971 Wenbourne

- Ln, theft
- 10:26 Hwy 101 and Court St, warrant service
- 10:49 17529 Longacre Loop, fire alarm
- 13:16 808 Pioneer Rd, juvenile problem
- 15:21 Hwy 101 and E Hoffeldt, eluding
- 16:14 1240 Chetco Ave, hit & run
- 17:56 1109 Fifield St, theft
- 18:02 16167 Wedgewood Ln, loud noise
- 20:07 1216 Chetco Ave, criminal trespass
- 21:51 335 Memory Ln,

- civil problem
  - 23:00 16219 Lower Harbor Rd, threats
  - 23:09 17834 Aquavista Ln, illegal burn
  - 23:36 Railroad and Mill Beach, juvenile problem
- Saturday 12/20:
- 0:51 621 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct
  - 1:57 16219 Lower Harbor Rd, threats
  - 5:20 3 mi up South Bank Chetco River Rd, traffic crash
  - 7:00 314 S Hazel St,

- alarm
  - 16:16 Chetco and Oak, warrant service
  - 16:25 16494 Lovell Ln, criminal trespass
  - 18:38 325 5th St, disorderly conduct
  - 20:32 1000 7th St, loud noise
  - 23:23 4 miles up North Bank Chetco River Rd, disorderly conduct
- Sunday 12/21:
- 

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submissions for events can be sent by email to: [pilotofficemgr@countrymedia.net](mailto:pilotofficemgr@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. 11:30-12:00 absolute beginners (new), 12:00 – 1:00 pm improver, 1:00-2:00 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.
- 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. 11:30-12:00 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.
- JANUARY 3

- Revolution Rocks! Chetco Library: 2:00 pm. A Hamilton Community Singalong. A free monthly film screening for the community, our Afternoon Indie Film events feature top film selections from the Wild Rivers Film Festival. January’s Film Selection is the musical Hamilton. This event will include preview info about an upcoming oral local history project—and how you can get involved.
- JANUARY 7
- Team Trivia Night, Chetco Library: 5:50 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. Kids’ division starts at 5:30, and the teen/adult division starts about 6:15. Registration recommended, but team sign-ups are allowed the day of if space allows.
- JANUARY 9
- Winter Poetry Circle, Chetco Library: 4:00 pm. Share your own work or poems by your favorite poet at this quarterly meetup where poets and poetry lovers connect, discuss, and celebrate the written and spoken word. Anyone who signs up to share a poem will be entered to win a door prize.
- JANUARY 10
- 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.
  - D&D One-Shot Campaign for Teens, Chetco Library: 11:00 am. This campaign is designed for participants 12 and up who are new to playing Dungeons and Dragons (D&D). This one-shot event will introduce beginners to the basics of the game.
- JANUARY 13
- Art After Dark: Community Art Reception and Glow Paint Party, Chetco Library: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Explore the blacklight paintings of John Harold Scott in our Forest Gallery. Attendees ages 15 and up may also register in advance to participate in a blacklight painting activity during the reception. To close the evening, the lights will go out for a few minutes at 6:45pm, allowing Scott’s artwork to fully glow in the dark—an unforgettable, one-of-a-kind moment that invites visitors to slow down and experience the magic of art after dark.

Have an opinion to share?  
Send letters to the editor to: [PilotEditor@CountryMedia.net](mailto:PilotEditor@CountryMedia.net)

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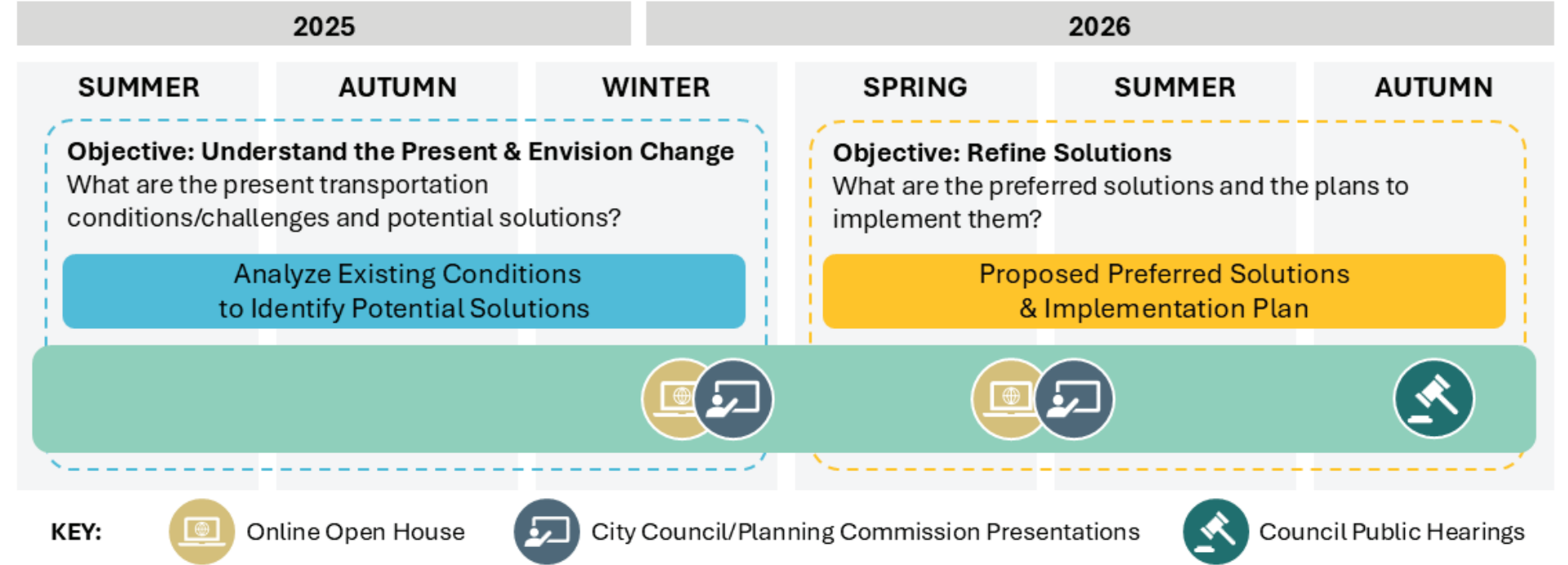
Rescue

From page 1

ing the area. SAR member Jesse Flovin located Bertie on the 290 spur off of the 1107 Road.

According to SAR member Flovin, Bertie was wet, cold and had fallen and couldn’t get up. SAR member Flovin was able to get Bertie up and into his vehicle. Flovin then drove Bertie to meet with Cal Ore Life Flight Ambulance.

Flovin and other SAR members along with a volunteer from Harbor Fire Department, located Bertie’s vehicle a couple miles from where she was found on a dead-end road and were able to get the car unstuck and drove it back out of the area.



ODOT

From page 1

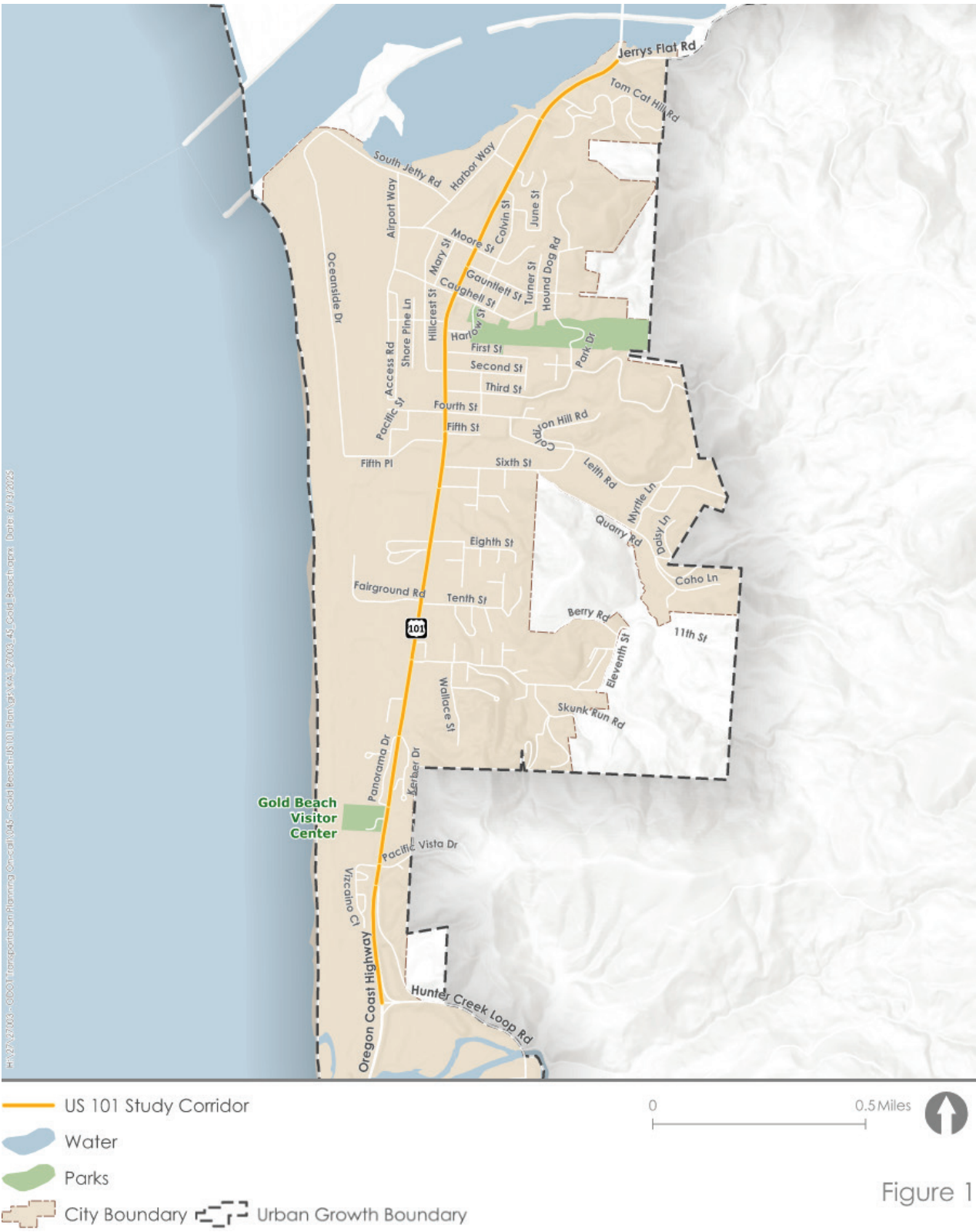
Beach Planning Department, City of Gold Beach Public Works Department, Curry County Area Transportation District, Curry Public Transit, Port of Gold Beach. As well as local business owners (i.e. Barnacle Bistro Restaurant, Sunset Pizza, RE/MAX Ultimate Coastal Properties, First Chapter Coffee House), community economic interest (i.e. Gold Beach Main Street), the Curry County School District, and local tribes.

Interested residents can get involved by attending the first Town Hall, hosted by Gold Beach Main Street (GBMS) on January 13: “Gold Beach Main Street invites the entire community to come together for an open conver-

sation over small bites and no host Arch Rock Brewery bar about the future of Ellensburg Avenue and our downtown corridor. Discussion includes representatives from ODOT, City of Gold Beach, Gold Beach Main Street and more,” says GBMS.

You can find out more about the project on ODOT’s official page for the project at: [experience.arcgis.com/experience/c4372d-3663c747588b33b-134f75e1675/page/Home](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c4372d-3663c747588b33b-134f75e1675/page/Home)

And more info on the Town Hall meeting on GBMS’s website: [www.goldbeach-mainstreet.com/events/town-hall-meeting-reimagine-ellensburg](https://www.goldbeach-mainstreet.com/events/town-hall-meeting-reimagine-ellensburg)



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SEE THE MAZE ON PAGE 8

Kids' Maze Solution

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# South Coast Seed Community 2025 Recap

Founded in 2012, as the Coquille Valley Seed Library, the non-profit organization became the Coquille Valley Seed Community (CVSC) in 2017, and are under the umbrella of the Seven Fires Foundation. To be more inclusive of our members and partners in Bandon, Coos Bay, North Bend, Port Orford, and those living in the south coast region, the CVSC became the South Coast Seed Community (SCSC) in April 2025.

True to the original mission, SCSC's continues to preserve a diverse gene pool of Open-Pollinated, Heirloom, Pure, Natural, and Non-GMO seeds to promote local food security, by inspiring, engaging and educating our community to grow and share locally adapted seeds from our gardens that will thrive in the southern Oregon coastal region for the best resilience and productivity.

The Seed Community is a critical part of our food security system that is evolving along the south Oregon coastal region.

Our annual Seed Swap last March was a huge success with about 200 people attending and we sent more than 20,200 FREE seeds out into the community! We once again participated at the Master Gardener's Fertilize Your Mind event last April, sending out another 9,000 FREE seeds to local households. After the Spring Seed Swap at the Coquille Community Center, SCSC held three additional events in 2025: Summer Garden Tours at Happy Dirt Veggie Patch and Kreutzer's Roses and Nursery, and a Seed Saving Workshop at Cherry Hill Farm.

At our upcoming Seed and Plant Propagation Faire, to be held on March 15, 2026, we are once again inviting all local



Seed Savers to participate. Several local non-profit organizations that are working to promote resilience of our ecosystems that support our life along this

beautiful coast will also be there. And a new element to our Spring event in 2025 was the addition of several local Vendors offering their wares for sale to

help us pay for the event space and we welcome them again for 2026. For more information about us, please contact SouthCoastSeedCommunity@gmail.

com and check out pictures from all the 2025 events at Facebook.com/SouthCoastSeedCommunity Hope to see you in the Spring!

# Friends of Curry Campus Speaker Series Presents: Stories of the Redwood Parks by Ranger Rick

Southwestern Oregon Community College Curry Campus invites the community to join us on Thursday, January 8, 2026, 1:00 to 2:00 pm, for a presentation by Rick Serman, Retired Superintendent of the Redwood National and State Parks: Stories of the Redwood Parks.

Rick Sermon worked more than fifty years among the forests and redwood parks along the California coast and has stories about the majestic giants that you will not want to miss. Rick will present the natural history of the redwoods and the cultural history going back to the gathering at the Bohemian Grove in 1917 that was instrumental in saving the redwoods.

Only 5% of the old growth redwoods still exists. Rick will tell us about how these remaining trees were saved and discuss their future.

This is a free program sponsored by the Friends of Curry Campus and will be held in the Community Room on Southwestern's Curry Campus, 96082 Lone Ranch Parkway (off Highway 101), Brookings. Bring a friend and a brown bag lunch.

Stay tuned for upcoming talks in our speaker series. Talks during winter term will focus on the nature all around us. For more information contact the Curry Campus at 541-813-1667.



# Curry County Strengthens Financial Stewardship with Comprehensive Audit of Special District Tax Distributions

**FROM THE CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Curry County Board of Commissioners has initiated a comprehensive, multi-year forensic audit of past property-tax distributions to its 42-tax districts. The goal is straightforward: ensure the

past is correct so the future is secure.

"Accurate property tax distributions aren't just administrative details—they're the foundation of public trust. When residents know their tax dollars are allocated based on verified, precise data, it reinforces confidence in

how we manage community resources" said Val Early, Winchuck Rural Fire Protection District.

By proactively validating prior-year allocations to County tax districts, Curry County is strengthening accountability, protecting essential community services, and hon-

oring the intent of Oregon taxpayers. The audit also underscores the complexity of Oregon's unique property-tax framework, shaped by constitutional limits under Measures 5 and 50 and a centralized county distribution model that differs from many other states.

"This audit ensures we move into future budget cycles with much greater confidence," said Board of Commissioners Chair, Jay Trost.

For more information, please contact the Curry County Board of Commissioners.



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Announcements

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Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

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999

Public Notices

TS No. 251030925 Notice Of Default And Foreclosure Sale U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development Recorded in accordance with 12 USCA 3764 (c) APN 4113-05CC-00700 Property Address: 311 Alder St Brookings, OR 97415 Title Order No.: 1037080 Whereas, on 7/17/2007, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by Barbara J. Kairis and Jack R. Ward as trustor in favor of James B. Nutter & Company as beneficiary, and Lenders First Choice as trustee, and was recorded on 7/24/2007, as Instrument No. 2007-4032, in the Office of the County Recorder of Curry County, Oregon; and Whereas, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and Whereas, the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an Assignment of Deed of Trust dated 10/16/2023, recorded on 11/9/2023, as instrument num-

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Help Wanted

ber 2023-2681, in the Office of the County Recorder, Curry County, Oregon; and Whereas, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust in that the payment due on 10/4/2025, was not made and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and Whereas, the entire amount delinquent as of 1/26/2026 is \$265,375.91; and Whereas, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; Now Therefore, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of Allstate Reconveyance Company d/b/a Total Lender Solutions. as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on 9/8/2025 as instrument number 2025-02085, notice is hereby given that on 1/26/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: The Southerly 20.0 feet of Lot 3, in Block 4, and the Northerly 60.0 feet of Lot 4, in Block 4, of Coastview Subdivision, in the City of Brookings, Curry County, Oregon. ALSO a parcel of land lying within the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 41 South, Range 13 West, Willamette Meridian, City of Brookings, Curry County, Oregon, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a 3/4" iron pipe marking the Northwest Corner of Lot 4 per the Coast View Subdivision Addn.; thence leaving said point South 01° 02' 19" East, 60.00 feet; thence South 01° 02' 42" West, 54.52 feet; thence North 26° 40' 28" West, 151.02 feet; thence South 89° 52' 47" East 67.40 feet to a point lying on the Westerly boundary of Lot 3 of said subdivision; thence leaving said point South 00° 51' 57" East 20.31 feet to the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as: 311 Alder St, Brookings, OR 97415 The sale will be held at In the lobby of the Curry County Courthouse, 29821 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an estimate of \$265,375.91. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$26,537.59 [10% of the Secretary's bid] in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$26,537.59 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary

may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD Field Office representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD field office Representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is \$265,054.57, as of 1/25/2026, plus all other amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, advertising costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices and for the Foreclosure Commissioner's attendance at the sale, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure Commissioner, and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to reinstatement. Date: 11/26/2025 Allstate Reconveyance Company d/b/a Total Lender Solutions U.S. Dept. of HUD Foreclosure Commissioner By: Rachel Seropian 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA, 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Fax: 866-242-8599 A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the

identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document. State Of CA County Of San Diego On 12/18/2025 before me, Kimberly Alise Lokey, a notary public personally appeared, Rachel Seropian who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. I certify under Penalty Of Perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct. Witness my hand and official seal. Kimberly Alise Lokey (Seal) 12/31/2025, 1/7, & 1/14/2026, Pilot, 421863

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 141289-OR Loan No.: \*\*\*\*\*6578 Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by DOROTHY L. NICKERSON, AS AN ESTATE IN FEE SIMPLE, as Grantor, to CURRY COUNTY TITLE INC., OR, as Trustee, in favor of FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF INDYMAC BANK, F.S.B., as Beneficiary, dated 7/21/2006, recorded 7/26/2006, as Instrument No. 2006-4003, in the Official Records of Curry County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Curry County, Oregon: That certain tract of land lying in the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section One (1), Township Thirty-seven (37) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, Willamette Meridian, Curry County, Oregon, described as follows: Beginning at a point described as being 489.59 feet North and 810.78 feet East of the Southwest Corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of said Section One (1); Thence North 1° 53' West 261.9 feet to an axle; Thence South 89° 18' West 146.5 feet; Thence South 21° 44' East 100.0 feet; Thence South 89° 18' West 214.8 feet, more or less, to the centerline of the pipeline easement described in DV: 62 Page: 445, Curry County deed records; Thence following the centerline of said pipeline easement South 17° 37' East 100.0 feet; Thence South 7° 34" West 9.21 feet; Thence leaving the centerline of said pipeline easement, East 153.48 feet; Thence South 60.0 feet; Thence East 150.0 feet to the point of beginning. EXCEPT that portion lying within the pipeline easement referred to above APN: R13207 / 3715-01DA-01710 Commonly known as: 29202 WALLACE STREET GOLD BEACH, OR 97444 The current beneficiary is: PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which foreclosure is made is caused by the death of the

borrower. TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAY-OFF: \$599,850.32 By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$230,151.24 together with interest thereon in the total amount of \$344,412.39, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust 'emspace Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97006, will on 4/2/2026, at the hour of 11:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, AT THE ELLENSBURG AVENUE ENTRANCE TO THE CURRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 29821 ELLENSBURG, GOLD BEACH, OR 97444, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 11/17/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Jessica Lopez, Authorized Signatory of Trustee 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, & 12/31/2025, Pilot, 421038

Wild Rivers Coast

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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CURRY COASTAL PILOT



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

By Shaanth Nanguneri  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

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

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

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

and related evidence.” Much of the evidence in Attorney General Dan Rayfield’s updated lawsuit has been previously reported. Jenny Hansson, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, referred to the amended complaint in response to a request for additional information or evidence. “We will not allow federal agencies to sidestep the law or build detention facilities where they don’t belong, including along our coast,” Rayfield said in a statement. “The federal government has to follow the same laws everyone else does when operating in our communities.”

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

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

On Monday, Newport’s lawyers filed a similar

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

State attorneys, a local Newport-based fishing nonprofit and Lincoln County officials had sued for the rescue helicopter’s return from a base in North Bend in November ahead of a dangerous crabbing season in the coastal city, home to one of Oregon’s largest commercial fishing industries. The U.S. Coast Guard went on to station a rescue helicopter in Newport following a temporary court order for its return, and federal lawyers have since committed to leaving the helicopter in place until spring 2026.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

simply talk to us.”

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

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

CryptoQuip  
answer  
I can imagine somebody  
calling that profile of  
Abraham Lincoln on a  
penny a copper head.

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: C equals M  
T B Y Q T C Y P T Q G E X C G O X S V  
B Y M M T Q P Z N Y Z H J X A T M G X A  
Y O J Y N Y C M T Q B X M Q X Q Y  
H G Q Q V Y B X H H G J N G Y S.  
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WINTER  
WORD SEARCH  
blizzard  
frigid  
sleet  
windchill  
frost  
mittens  
scarf  
parka  
boots

earmuffs  
skiing  
ice skating  
sledding  
caroling  
icicles  
evergreen  
snowflakes  
hibernation

polar vortex  
blustery  
whiteout  
slush  
fireplace  
hot chocolate  
flannel  
cozy

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

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/>

Crescent City

Grace  
Lutheran  
Church  
(LCMS)  
9:00am All Ages Bible Study  
Childcare Available  
10:15am "The Story" Worship  
11:15am Fellowship  
188 E Cooper, Crescent City  
[www.GraceLutheranCC.com](http://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 1-8 .....707-464-2738  
Saturday  
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship Services.....11:00 a.m.

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

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.  
"Looking for an exciting Bible-  
Preaching Church? We may be  
just what you're looking for!"

Fort Dick Bible Church  
  
"Grace Alone,  
through Christ Alone,  
for God's Glory Alone!"  
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

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

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

Smith River  
Baptist Church  
340 Highland Avenue,  
Smith River  
Just off Hwy. 101  
(707) 487-5275  
Pastor Steve Alexander  
Worship Service.....10:30am

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](http://www.BrookingsCSC.com)  
541-469-2398 or 469-3333

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/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/7thdayadventistbrookings/>

SolidRock  
Christian Fellowship  
Pastor Pat Henderson  
(707) 460-1696  
3180 S Fred D Haight Drive  
Smith River, CA 95567 • (707) 460-1696  
Sun 10:00am • Wed 6:30pm  
Kids Ministry for both services  
Also on Facebook and YouTube  
[www.solidrockcrescentcity.com](http://www.solidrockcrescentcity.com)

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for a Delicious, Nutritious Hot Lunch  
550 Chetco Lane, Brookings 541-469-6822

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
CLOSED LABOR DAY	Frittata, Eng Muffin, Fruit	Chicken Cacciatore, Penne Pasta w/ Mush & Zucc	Spanish Baked Fish, Rice, Baja Corn	Grilled Tomato & Cheese Vegetarian Chili
8	9	10	11	12
Chile Dog, Baked Fries, Corn	Smothered Pork Chops, Baked Beans, Broccoli	Sweet & Sour Chicken, Turmeric Rice, Asian Blend	Tuna Casserole Biscuit Peas & Carrots	Chicken Cordon Bleu, Au Gratin Potatoes, Roasted Tom.
15	16	17	18	19
Cheeseburger, Lettuce, Tom, Onion, Pickle, Fries	Chef Salad Crackers Fruit	Meatloaf Mac 'N Cheese Roasted Vegetables	Fish Sandwich with cheese Vegetable Soup	Chile Relleno Spanish Rice Refried Beans
22	23	24	25	26
Kielbasa & Sauerkraut Beans Peas & Carrots	Egg Salad Pasta Salad Fruit Salad Crackers	Spaghetti with meatballs Garlic Bread Brussel Sprouts	Fish Sticks Baked Beans Chef's Blend	Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, gravy, yams
29	30	Menu is subject to change without notice. Meals include Drinks (Coffee, Tea (hot or iced), Milk, or Water), Salad, and Dessert. Meals Cost \$10 to prepare - Donations requested.		
Turkey Chile Soup, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato Sandwich	Supreme Pizza Minestrone Soup			

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Amber Waves



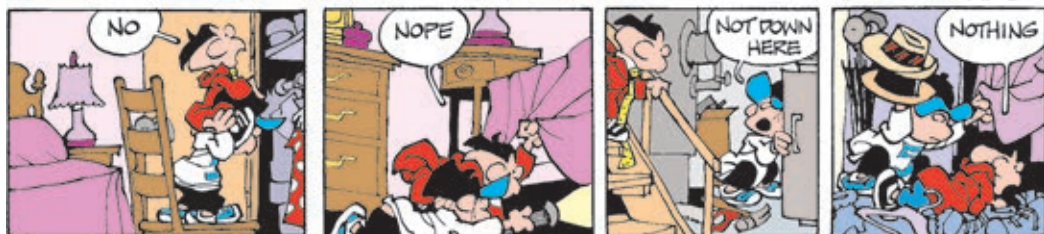
Out on a Limb



The Spats



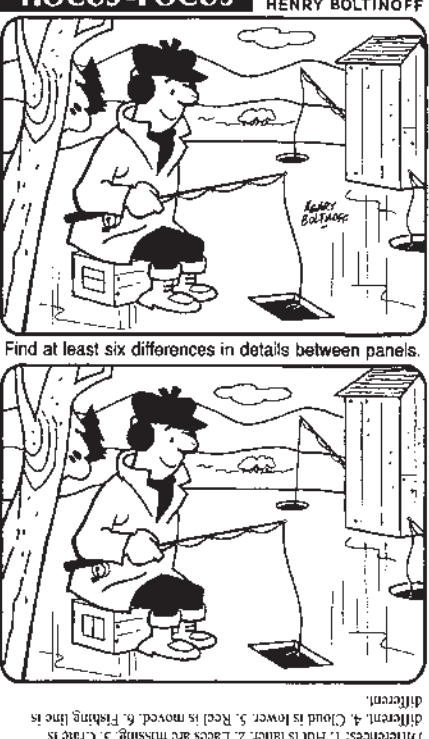
TIGER



OLIVE & POPEYE



HOCUS-FOCUS



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### 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: C equals M

T BYQ TCYPTQG EXCGOXS

BYMMTQP ZNYZ HJXATMG XA

YOJYNYC MTQBXMQ XQ Y

HGQQV Y BXHHGJ NGYS.

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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!

Sneak **ALWSE**

Consume **BEADO**

Respond **SEWNAR**

Foreign **INLAE**

**TODAY'S WORD**

### King Crossword

December 22, 2025 Posting Date

#### ACROSS

1 Pundit's piece  
5 "Kapow!"  
8 Ancient mariner  
12 Carousel, for one  
13 Half of dos  
14 German car name  
15 Hgt.  
16 Baseball's Hodges  
17 \$ dispensers  
18 Humble  
20 Tolkien villains  
22 Eye furtively  
26 Plant firmly  
29 Droop  
30 Shelter  
31 Librarian's advice  
32 Enjoy Vail  
33 Ink smudge  
34 Fine, at NASA  
35 Middling grade  
36 '70s club  
37 TV ratings period  
40 Relaxing refuges  
41 Fruity desserts  
45 Spiced tea  
47 Wedding words

#### DOWN

1 Utah city  
2 Heap  
3 Idyllic place  
4 Concocted  
5 "Taps" instrument  
6 Singer DiFranco  
7 Hawaiian island  
8 Civil rights org.  
9 Moves more goods than  
10 USN bigwig  
11 That chap's  
19 Moreover  
21 Cleaning cloth  
23 Cockeyed  
24 Fair-hiring org.  
25 Low-carb diet  
26 Eventful periods  
27 Calico's call

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### Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### FiveSpot™

Unglamorous work

B	A	R	G	E

Boat without a motor  
Word with "Lakes" or "Grandma"  
"TTFN..."  
Follow  
Braid  
Captain or first officer on a plane

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 Molton. See more at [www.fivespotpuzzle.com](http://www.fivespotpuzzle.com)

02542

### King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

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

### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: What city is considered the birthplace of democracy?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a pet raccoon named Rebecca?
- MOVIES: What is the 2007 documentary "The 11th Hour" about?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many countries lie along the equator?
- ANATOMY: Which part of the eye controls how much light enters it?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the Tanners' cat on the sitcom "ALF"?
- LITERATURE: What are the names of the two families in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"?
- CHEMISTRY: What kind of reaction produces heat?
- U.S. STATES: Which state was the first to join the Union?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side?

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### SWALLOW

Today's Word

3. Answer; 4. Alien  
1. Weasel; 2. Abode;  
solution

### SCRAMBLERS

P	I	L	P
T	L	A	I
T	R	A	I
L	A	T	E
R	E	A	T
G	R	E	A
B	A	R	G
E			

Solution

FiveSpot

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

I can imagine somebody calling that profile of Abraham Lincoln on a penny a copper head.

### CryptoQuip

Answer

10. Uranus  
9. Delaware  
8. Exothermic  
7. Capulet and Montague  
6. Lucky  
5. Its  
4. 13  
3. The critical state of the Earth's environment  
2. Calvin Coolidge  
1. Athens, Greece

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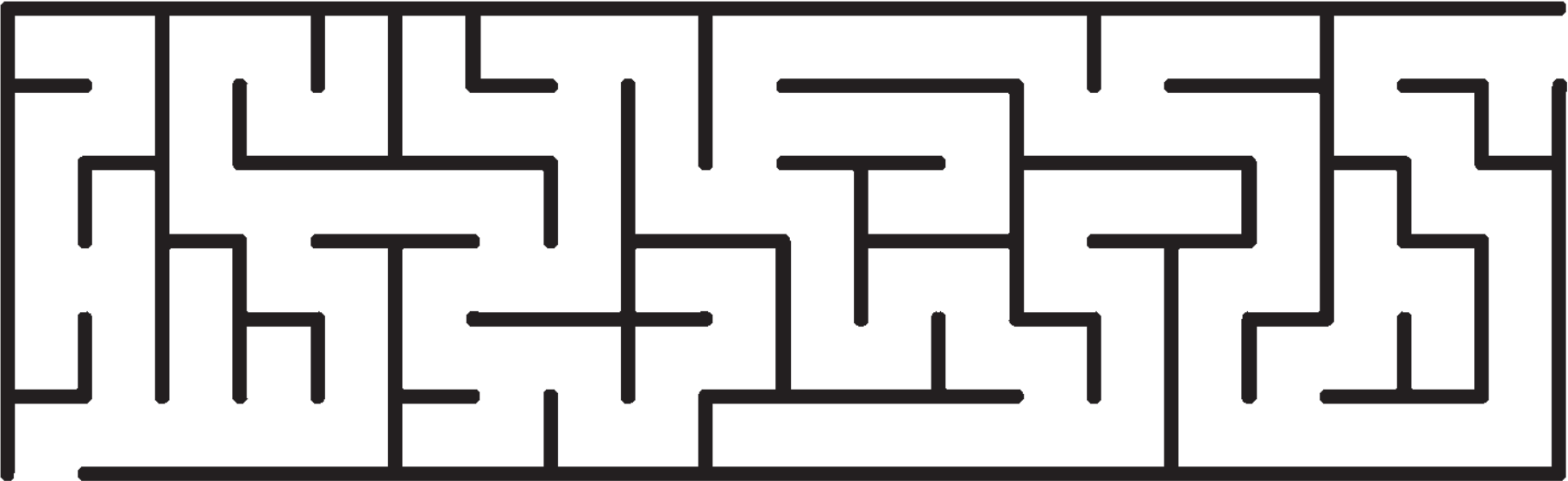
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# Kids' Maze

SOLUTION ON PAGE 3



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## Oregon leads lawsuit over Kennedy’s efforts to ban gender-affirming care for minors



Photo by Laura Tesler/Oregon Capital Chronicle  
Attorney General Dan Rayfield speaks to the Salem City Club at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem on Sept. 12, 2025.

By **JULIA SHUMWAY**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Attorney General Dan Rayfield, who led the Oregon House when it passed some of the nation’s strongest laws to protect access to transgender health care, is suing the federal gov-

ernment over efforts to bar gender-affirming care for minors by stripping federal funding.

The lawsuit, filed late Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Eugene, includes 18 other Democratic states and Washington, D.C. It targets a proposal

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced last week to bar hospitals from participating in Medicare and Medicaid if they provide care including puberty blockers or surgeries for transgender children and teens.

Under a landmark 2023 law, Oregon requires commercial insurers, public employee health plans and the Oregon Health Plan, the state’s Medicaid plan, to cover gender-affirming care, including for minors. Other plaintiff states also require insurance plans, including Medicaid, to cover gender-affirming care.

Kennedy’s proposal goes beyond banning Medicaid coverage for gender-affirming care for minors, which the proposal describes as “sex-rejecting procedures.” It seeks to block hospitals or doctors that provide such care from participating in Medicaid or Medicare entirely.

Patients covered by Medicaid and Medicare represent the majority of the typical hospital’s volume, according to the American Hospital Association, though the federal

programs often pay less than the cost of care.

Rayfield said in a statement announcing the lawsuit that health care decisions belong with families and their doctors, not the government.

“By targeting Oregon providers, HHS is putting care at risk and forcing families to choose between their personal health care choices and their doctor’s ability to practice,” he said.

The lawsuit argues that the federal government is attempting to circumvent normal procedure by introducing a major policy change without consulting doctors, patients or states. The states are asking a judge to block Kennedy’s proposal from taking effect.

It’s the 53rd lawsuit Oregon has filed against the federal government this year.

The attorneys general

of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin, as well as Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, joined Rayfield in the lawsuit.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-leads-lawsuit-over-kennedys-efforts-to-ban-gender-affirming-care-for-minors/>

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## First-in-the-nation Oregon law capping state employee hospital payments is working, study says

By: **SHAANTH NANGUNERI**  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A leader of the state’s top hospital industry group called the research “disconnected from reality and tone deaf”

A landmark 2017 Oregon law that limited how much hospitals can bill state employees’ health care plans has saved the state around \$50 million annually without harming providers’ ability to operate, according to a new report.

Researchers with Brown University’s Center for Advancing Health Policy made their findings in a study released earlier this month in the policy research journal Health Affairs. They analyzed the first-in-the-nation measure’s effects on financial, staffing and patient experience data from 22 Oregon hospitals impacted by the policy from 2014 to 2023.

The law prevents large, metropolitan-area hospitals from charging the state more than double what it would bill Medicare enrollees for the same service, though it does not apply to small hospitals with less than 50 beds or those in rural communities.

Analysts found that an estimated \$50 million in annual savings generated a 9.5% reduction in out-of-pocket payments for enrollees, which include state government employees and Oregon’s public educators. But the new research also homed in on the effects of those savings when it came to hospitals and their ability to operate.

Since the law went into effect in 2019, the study found that hospital revenue in Oregon reduced by about \$2.6 million on average while patient satisfaction scores slightly rose and profitability margins themselves remained steady. Additionally, there were more patients who reported that staff provided timely care with adequate explanation of their medication options.

The new analysis suggests that clamping down on the “highest, most excessive prices” that hospitals charge can still allow hospitals to make a profit, according to Roslyn Murray, the lead author of the study and an assistant professor of health services, policy and practice in Brown’s School of Public Health.

“What this may mean is that prices greater than the cap represent provider rents — such as extra charges based on hospitals’ market power or name recognition — and hospitals may be able to

receive lower prices with reduced profitability and still cover their costs and keep running smoothly,” Murray said in a statement. “It also suggests excessively high and increasing prices being paid to hospitals do not represent things that people value.”

But a leading hospital industry group in Oregon sharply disagreed with the study findings. The results of the Brown University study come as multiple high-profile hospital closures and layoffs have occurred throughout the state, including the recent shuttering of the 73-bed Vibra Speciality Hospital of Portland and the 49-bed Asante Ashland Community Hospital.

Oregon’s hospital safety ratings by another industry watchdog group have also been on a significant decline since 2020, with the state ranking 31st in the nation as recently as spring 2025.

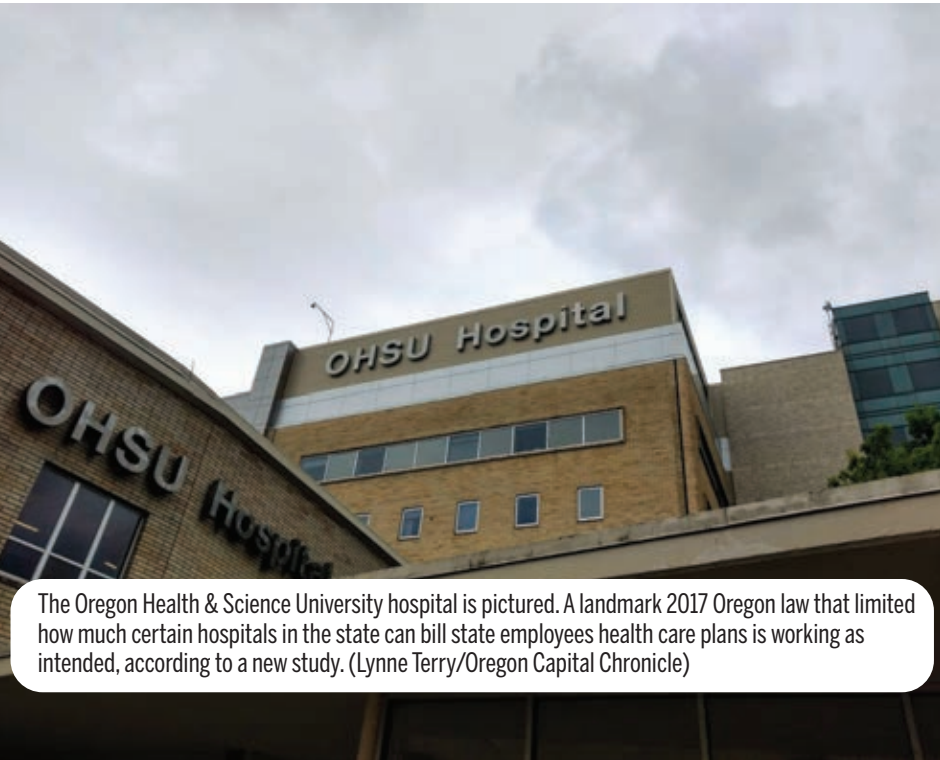
Becky Hultberg, president and chief executive officer of the Hospital Association of Oregon, said in a statement that Oregon hospitals are facing significant challenges when it comes to their ability to provide care, arguing that the 2017 law’s rate caps are part of a “cascading series of well-intentioned but disconnected policy choices.”

“This research is disconnected from reality and tone deaf, coming at a time when half of Oregon’s hospitals are consistently operating in the red,” Hultberg said in a statement. “This month alone, two Oregon hospitals announced the closure of inpatient beds. Oregon’s health care system is in crisis.”

Debates over price capping legislation echo broader tensions between consumer advocates and health care providers in Oregon, who have often sparred over how best to ensure access and transparency without allowing red-tape and regulations to stymie the industry’s growth.

In August, for instance, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a paused 2018 Oregon law meant to ensure transparency behind rising prescription drug prices after a pharmaceutical industry group claimed it infringed on its property and free speech rights. The court rejected the plaintiff’s request for a hearing with a broader panel of judges in October.

In the meantime, several states have considered adopting a price capping model similar to Oregon’s. In Colorado, Indiana, Montana and New York, lawmakers have considered legislation to limit the price of certain hospital services while targeting certain populations. Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson in May signed into



The Oregon Health & Science University hospital is pictured. A landmark 2017 Oregon law that limited how much certain hospitals in the state can bill state employees health care plans is working as intended, according to a new study. (Lynne Terry/Oregon Capital Chronicle)

law a Medicare-aligned cap for the state’s employees.

“We’re seeing massive increases in premiums each year as a way to try to address the rising costs of health care,” Murray said. “This is a way that states can try to manage some of those rising cost pressures, which are primarily coming from high hospital prices.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/23/first-in-the-nation-oregon-law-capping-state-employee-hospital-payments-is-working-study-says/>

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