

## ODOT Southwest Oregon Construction Report for Curry County



U.S. 101 (Oregon Coast Highway), MP 312, Arizona Landslide repair (\$18.3 million)

This project will help reduce ground movement at the Arizona Landslide Complex, located 12 miles south of Port Orford, by building a deep shaft that will act as a giant catch basin for the new drainage system. Construction is scheduled for completion in November 2026.

Most work will take place on the west side of the highway. Drivers should watch for construction workers, equipment and vehicles along the shoulder.

U.S. 101 (Oregon Coast Highway), MP 327.4-329.5 (Gold Beach) and MP 354.8-359.3 (Brookings), ADA curb ramp replacement project (\$2,310,000)

This project will improve pedestrian facilities by build-

ing ADA-compliant sidewalk curb ramps at approximately 31 intersections in Brookings, Gold Beach, Myrtle Point and Roseburg. All work is scheduled to be completed by July 16, 2026.

Construction involves eight intersections in Gold Beach (U.S. 101 from Wedderburn Loop Road to Kerber Drive, MP 327.4-329.5) and 12 in Brookings (U.S. 101 from Dawson Road/OR 255

to Benham Lane, MP 354.8-359.3).

In both communities, watch for intermittent lane, shoulder and sidewalk closures. Construction will likely take place Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., though traffic impacts may continue 24/7 through the work zone. When sidewalks are closed, alternate pedestrian routes will be provided.

## Understanding the Oregon Legislature: How laws get passed - and how to participate

Here's our civilian's guide to the 2026 Oregon legislative session



Photo by Ben Botkin/Oregon Capital Chronicle  
Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response listen to testimony about drug overdoses on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024.

By MIA MOLONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Whether you're wondering when the state will finally fix that pothole, whether new restrictions on artificial intelligence are coming or if tips will be taxed despite new federal policies, what happens at the Oregon Capitol has impacts on all Oregonians.

On Monday, the Oregon Legislature convened in Salem for a month-long legislative session, during which elected officials will pass state laws and decide which agencies and programs re-

ceive more funding—and which face cuts—in the state's 2025-27 budget.

This year, Oregon's mostly-Democratic legislature is expected to craft bills addressing the federal government's immigration crackdown and Oregon's cost of living, as well as a gap in the state's budget caused by a new tax and spending law. President Donald Trump signed in July.

How does that process work? Let's start with the basics.

What is the Oregon Legisla-

The Oregon Legislature is the body that makes state laws. It consists of the House of Representatives, which has 60 members elected for two-year terms, and the Senate, whose 30 members are elected to serve four-year terms.

To find the lawmakers representing you, visit the state's interactive map.

Democrats hold 18 of 30 seats in the state Senate and 37 of 60 in the state House. That gives them the three-fifths supermajority needed to approve new taxes or fees or increase existing ones

without Republican support. Each representative represents a geographic district of about 70,600 Oregonians, while senators represent districts of about 141,000.

How often does the Oregon Legislature meet?

In odd years, the Oregon Legislature has 160 days to craft laws and pass a budget for the next two years. In even years, lawmakers have 35 days to make laws and adjust the two-year budget they crafted from the previous year.

If an emergency arises when the Oregon Legislature isn't in session—such as in late August, when Gov. Tina Kotek called on lawmakers to address a major transportation maintenance funding gap—the governor may call for a special session, mandating that lawmakers come back to Salem to resolve an issue.

How does a bill become law?

Each bill starts out as a legislative concept introduced by a lawmaker or committee. Once introduced, a bill gets assigned a number and then the bill is sent to a committee for a public hearing.

There are dozens of committees between the Oregon Senate and House, each of which focuses on specific issues such as education, government, labor and housing. Committees have bipartisan membership and hold public hearings on bills to hear

Please see LEGISLATURE Page 4

CCEC Invites Rural Youth to Apply for Programs Scholarships and Exclusive Washington D.C. Youth Tour

### PRESS RELEASE

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) and the Coos-Curry Electric Charitable Foundation are opening doors to outstanding educational opportunities for local high school students. With applications now being accepted for the 2026 Washington Youth Tour and multiple scholarship programs, CCEC is encouraging young people throughout its service territory to take the next step in their educational journey.

### Washington D.C. Youth Tour (2026)

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour represents one of the most transformative experiences CCEC offers to a deserving student. Last summer, CCEC's representative, Sheila Larson from Port Orford, joined 27 student leaders from across rural America for an unforgettable week in Washington, D.C. The experience included Capitol Hill meetings, visits to iconic American landmarks, and engagement with national policymakers, all designed to inspire the next generation of community leaders.

"The Youth Tour is incredibly meaningful," says Kelsey Bozeman, CCEC Senior Communications Specialist. "When Sheila stepped off the plane in D.C., she carried with her the spirit of her coastal community of 1,200 residents and the determination that earned her a spot on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's prestigious tour. We're so proud to have young leaders as future members of this cooperative."

The Youth Tour experience is comprehensive; an American civics lesson combined with leadership development. Participants visit the Smithsonian museums, meet with members of Congress, tour the Kennedy Center, and witness the democratic process firsthand. From the Arlington Cemetery to the World War II Memorial,

Please see SCHOLARSHIPS Page 2



### INDEX

- Police Blotter (2)
- Calendar of Events (5)
- Classifieds (5)
- Crossword Answer (7)
- Crossword Puzzle (7)

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# Opinion & Letters

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oregon's cities, small to large, deserve the ability to make decisions that reflect their own needs, not one-size-fits-all mandates from Salem. As Mayor of Rogue River, I've seen firsthand how outdated state laws governing Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) spending restrict our ability to maintain essential services and prepare for future growth.

Rogue River has had a 6% TLT since 1986, generating about \$100,000 annually. Because our tax predates current statutes, we can use these dollars flexibly to support police, parks, streets, and other basic services. But if we were to raise our rate—even just to match neighboring cities—we would immediately lose that flexibility. State law would require 70% of any new revenue to be spent solely on tourism promotion or narrowly defined tourism facilities, leaving only 30% for core community needs.

For small cities with lean budgets, that's simply unworkable. In addition, increasing the tax would force Rogue River to boost reimbursement payments to lodging operators from 0.5% to 5%, further reducing the funds available for essential services.

The reality is that the kinds of investments small communities need like park restrooms, pedestrian safety improvements, street repairs, and police services benefit both residents and visitors. Yet many of these priorities don't qualify under Oregon's restrictive definition of "tourism-related facilities."

Across Oregon's 241 cities, the message is the same: local leaders know what their communities need. I urge the Legislature to modernize TLT rules, update the definition of eligible tourism facilities, and allow Oregon cities the flexibility to thrive.

*-Pam VanArsdale, Mayor City of Rogue River*

### To whom it may concern,

As a lifetime resident of Curry County, former Mayor of Brookings and health care professional with decades of experience in community-based care, frontline nursing, and hospital administration, I strongly support Commissioner Lynn Coker as he seeks reelection to the Curry County Board of Commissioners.

Rural communities like ours face increasingly complex challenges that require strong and effective leaders. Addressing the current difficulties of our county such as sustaining a qualified workforce, decreased reimbursement rates, increasing behavioral health needs, and expanding regulations are challenging tasks. In addition, there is mounting pressure on community partners like emergency services, law enforcement, courts, corrections, and rehabilitation systems, all of which need an effective voice. Quite simply, there is a lot of work ahead that requires strong, talented and experienced local leadership. These challenges are not solved through complacency,

doing things as they have always been done; nor are they solved with ideology or short-term fixes. They require steady guidance, systems thinking, new ideas, fiscal discipline, and the ability to coordinate institutions that too often operate in silos. Commissioner Coker understands this reality. He approaches health and public-safety issues not as isolated problems, but as interconnected systems requiring coordinated, data-informed solutions. His leadership reflects a clear understanding of how unmanaged crisis response accelerates costs, strains frontline workers, and erodes public trust—and how early stabilization, accountability, and the responsible use of state and federal resources can improve outcomes while protecting taxpayers.

Equally important, Commissioner Coker brings credibility, calm, and respect to difficult conversations. He listens, asks the right questions, and focuses on measurable results rather than rhetoric.

Curry County needs leadership that protects our essential institutions, supports the local workforce, and delivers practical solutions for community. Lynn Coker is the right man for the job. I support Lynn Coker for Commissioner.

*Isaac Hodges*

*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 01/26:

- 9:50 Chetco and Hillside, violation of city ordinance
- 12:29 500 5th St, traffic crash
- 12:40 621 Chetco, disorderly conduct
- 13:46 713 Old County Rd, threats
- 15:19 550 Chetco Ln, hit & run
- 15:54 McVay Rock State Park, threats
- 21:36 840 Railroad St, alarm

### Tuesday 01/27:

- 12:22 16695 Crown Terrace Rd, threats
- 3:24 Mill Beach, loud noise
- 10:38 401 Fir St, criminal mischief
- 16:08 464 Mendy St, theft
- 18:04 1540 Seacrest Ln, theft
- 18:47 325 5th St, criminal trespass
- 19:28 Hwy 101 and South Bank Chetco, hit & run

### Wednesday 01/28:

- 1:13 Hwy 101 MP 362, traffic crash
- 2:39 513 Pine St, loud noise
- 9:09 16695 Crown Terrace, dispute/flight
- 11:15 217 Schooner Bay Dr, threats
- 12:37 Bridge St, warrant

### Thursday 01/29:

- 14:26 625 Pioneer Rd, minor in posession/purchasing liquor
- 16:21 621 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct
- 18:49 Hwy 101 MP 353, traffic crash

### Friday 01/30:

- 4:52 906 Chetco Ave,

### criminal trespass

- 9:32 Spruce and Fern, violation of city ordinance
- 10:36 542 Pacific Ave, hit & run

### disorderly conduct

- 13:00 325 5th St, shot(s) fired
- 17:56 401 Fir St, criminal trespass
- 19:45 16117 Hwy 101 criminal trespass

### Sunday 02/01:

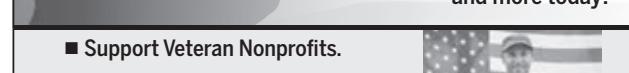
- 1:45 1016 Chetco Ave, illegal camping
- 5:03 1016 Chetco Ave, criminal trespass

## Scholarships

From page 1

from the Monuments to the offices of senators and representatives, the week offers perspectives that are valued by students and their communities for years to come.

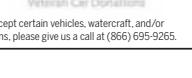
"The program's power lies in the connections it forges," explains Bozeman. "Students from 27 states return home with new perspectives on rural America, stronger commitment to service, and expanded horizons. That's the real impact."



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Represent CCEC at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's prestigious

Washington D.C. Youth Tour. This all-expense-paid opportunity brings together young leaders from across rural America for a week of civic engagement, leadership development, and unforgettable experiences in our nation's capital. Applicant must be a high-school sophomore headed into their junior year.

Deadline: February 14, 2026.

Application & Details: [https://www.ccec.coop/youth-tour](http://www.ccec.coop/youth-tour)

### Educational Scholarships for Every Path

For students pursuing higher education, whether at four-year universities, trade schools, or community colleges, CCEC and its Charitable Foundation offer three scholarship programs totaling \$14,000 in opportunities:

### CCEC Scholarship:

\$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors planning to attend college, university, trade school, or community college. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate academic excellence, community engagement, and leadership. Deadline: March 15, 2026.

Apply: [https://www.ccec.coop/scholarships](http://www.ccec.coop/scholarships)

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### CCECF Luck of the Draw Scholarship:

\$1,000 scholarships awarded through random drawing to all qualified applicants, ensuring every eligible student has an equal opportunity. These scholarships prioritize students planning to pursue skilled trades in high-demand fields.

Application deadline: March 15, 2026.

Apply: <https://www.ccecf.org/>

### New! CCECF Trade Scholarship:

\$1,000 scholarships specifically designed for students planning to attend trade school, technical college, or apprenticeship programs in fields such as electrical, HVAC, plumbing, welding, carpentry, automotive, maritime, and health care. This new program reflects CCEC's commitment to workforce development and skilled trades.

Apply: <https://www.ccecf.org/>

"Education is the catalyst that propels dreams into reality," says Keith Buchhalter, CCEC Marketing and Member Services Manager. "We are honored to support the recipients of these scholarships as they embark on their educational journeys. These young people have the potential to shape our communities and make a lasting impact."

## SERVICE NOTICE

A memorial service for Janet Fritch will be held at St. Charles Catholic Church on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 1:00 PM and a Celebration of Life will follow at the Event Center on the beach - Showcase building at 2:30 PM.

### Have an opinion to share?

Send letters to the editor to:

[PilotEditor@CountryMedia.net](mailto:PilotEditor@CountryMedia.net)

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# Chetco Girls Bring Home Title, Qualify for State Championships

This past weekend the Chetco Basketball Club (CBC) traveled to Grants Pass, Oregon where they battled to secure a spot in the Oregon State Championships.

The 7-8 Grade Girls team started the weekend off with a 44-25 victory over Roseburg (6A) before taking a tough 27-26 loss to Marshfield (4A) to close out pool play.

On Day 2, the CBC defeated Azalea (3A) 33-14 in a semi-final matchup to advance to the championship game against the home town Grants Pass Lady Cavers (6A). The CBC was able to pull away in the second half of the final to secure a 46-29 victory, a tournament champion-

ship, and most importantly, a spot in the 2026 Oregon State Championships.

The 7-8 grade team is coached by Frankie Cardenas and Martin Ramirez. Both coaches expressed their thankfulness to the hard work and dedication these girls have put forth to get to this point. Both coaches also alluded to an eagerness to continue developing the athletes and assisting them with reaching their full potential.

The CBC was formed in April of 2024, aiming to elevate the level of play in our area and offer year-round basketball for athletes who want to play. The program is currently comprised of over 30 girls from Brookings, Crescent

City, Gold Beach and Smith River ranging from 2nd-8th grade.

The CBC as a whole would like to thank all of their sponsors and donors who have made it possible for them to participate in these events. Each member of the program is thankful and aware that it would not be possible without the kind donations they have received from the community.

If you have any questions regarding the CBC you may contact them at Chetcobasketball@gmail.com or on Instagram or Facebook (Chetcobasketballclub).



(l to r) Martin Ramirez (Coach), Makenzie Trost, Harleen Kaur, Auriana Leslie, Aria Cardenas (Middle Back), Aaliyah Ybarra (Middle Front), Amya Ramirez, Tenley Travis, Analia Baltazar, Frankie Cardenas (Coach)

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# South Coast Writers Conference Opens for Registration!

Southwestern Oregon Community College is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the South Coast Writers Conference. The conference brings together a collection of writers from the Northwest to share, explore and celebrate the many facets of writing. The conference is offered with support from local agencies including the Curry County Chamber of Commerce, Travel Southern Oregon Coast, Oregon's Wild River Coast and is sponsored by Beacon Broadband, Powered by Coos-Curry Electric.

The conference will be held on Presidents' Day weekend, Feb. 13 and 14, 2026 at the Curry Campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College, 96082 Lone Ranch Parkway, Brookings. This is an opportunity for an extended stay to write and explore the splendor of America's Wild Rivers Coast.

The conference is an eclectic gathering of writers of various genres including novice and published authors. "Our goal for participants and presenters to leave the conference inspired and renewed, with new insights and skills, and better connected to fellow writers and resources," said Jill te Velde, Curry Campus Dean. The conference will feature some of the Northwest's best writers to guide in an exploration and celebration of the many facets of writing including Elizabeth Ann Atkins, Robert Balmer, G. A. (Georgia) Cockerham, Melissa Hart, Andrew Kafoury, Ken Letko, and Cliff Stansell (songwriter).

Miriam Gershow will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Miriam is the award-winning author of Closer, Survival Tips: Stories and The Local News. Her writing is featured in The Georgia Review, Gulf Coast, and Black Warrior Review, among other journals. She is the recipient of a Fiction Fellowship from the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, an Oregon Literary Fellowship, and is a two-time finalist for the Oregon Book Award. Miriam Gershow will give the keynote presentation, "Turning Rejection into Creative Rejuvenation" at Authors' Night on Friday evening.

Workshops begin on Friday with a 6-hour workshop with three options to choose from; the cost for the Friday session is \$80. Four 90-minute workshops are offered on Saturday, with four options for each session. Register before January 31 for the early registration price of \$85 for Saturday or \$165 for both days. Early registration for this popular conference is encouraged to secure a place in the workshops.

The conference schedule and registration information is available on the conference website at [www.socc.edu/scwcriters](http://www.socc.edu/scwcriters).

Authors' Night, featuring the workshop presenters reading from their work, is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, and will be held in the Commons at the Curry Campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College at 96082 Lone Ranch Parkway. This event is free and open to the public.



Photo by Ron Cooper/Oregon Capital Chronicle  
The Oregon Senate meets in the east wing of the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

## Legislature

From page 1

concerns from constituents and stakeholders.

Committees don't take action on the bill until a work session, when a majority of members can vote to advance it to the floor or effectively kill the idea. This year, nearly all bills that haven't had a work session scheduled by Feb. 9 will be unable to advance.

After the work session, the bill goes to the full House and Senate for a vote, referred to as the bill's third reading. Most bills need a simple majority of 31 votes in the House and 16 in the Senate, though bills that raise revenue need more. If the bill passes, it is sent to the opposite chamber and undergoes the same process.

While Democrats have the majority, Republicans have the power to block legislation from coming to the floor of the House or Senate by skipping floor sessions because the

House needs 40 members present and the Senate 20 to conduct business. However, lawmakers who skip at least 10 days of floor sessions cannot run for reelection because of a voter-approved constitutional amendment intended to block frequent walkouts.

If a bill passes both chambers, it goes to Kotek for approval. The governor may allow a bill to become law without her signature, or she can decide to veto the bill. A veto may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both chambers.

Want to get involved? In-person, virtual options are available

One of the most direct ways to share your concerns about a policy is by testifying.

To register to testify, you can call 1-833-588-4500, or fill out an online form using the Oregon Legislative Information System website, also known as OLIS.

The online form is found at the OLIS page for a specific bill or at a committee's agenda posted on OLIS under a "Register to

testify" tab at the top of the webpage. Online testimony registration opens when a public hearing is scheduled and it closes 30 minutes before the meeting begins.

People who need special accommodations to testify should contact committee staff 24 hours before the meeting. If an interpreter or translation is needed, share your request with languageaccess@oregon-legislature.gov or call 503-986-1813 within at least three business days before the hearing.

Next to the "Register to testify" tab is a "Submit testimony" tab, where Oregonians can share their concerns in writing. Written testimony is accepted for up to 48 hours following a bill's hearing. All information, except email addresses, included in written testimony is public record.

To watch a livestream or a recording of a public hearing or floor session, click the "Video" tab on the OLIS homepage. This page includes links to live events as well as archives of past meetings.

Oregonians can also attend rallies, follow their lawmakers on social media and email lawmakers directly. A lawmaker's email can be found on their homepage on the OLIS website.

Can I visit the Oregon State Capitol?

The Oregon State Capitol, located at 900 Court St. NE, in Salem, is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The public entrance is on State Street on the south side of the Capitol. Weapons are prohibited inside

the building. Visitors must go through a metal detector and present their bags, packages and other items to security upon entering. A help desk is located upon entry.

For the first time in years, visitors can see the building's iconic rotunda after most parts in the historic building were under construction to retrofit it to withstand earthquakes.

To plan your visit, visit the Oregon State Capitol website for more information about parking, events and accessibility concerns.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/02/03/understanding-the-oregon-legislature-how-law-s-get-passed-and-how-to-participate/>

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## Puzzles

### KNIGHT MOVES

A	Y	S
I		L
L	C	F

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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

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

Abalone	Conch	Fig	Melongina
Auger	Cone	Frog	Nutilus
Babylon	Cowrie	Helmet	Umbonium
Bonnet	Drupe	Limpet	

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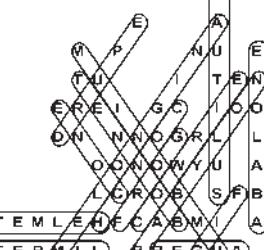
### - KNIGHT MOVES -

Answer

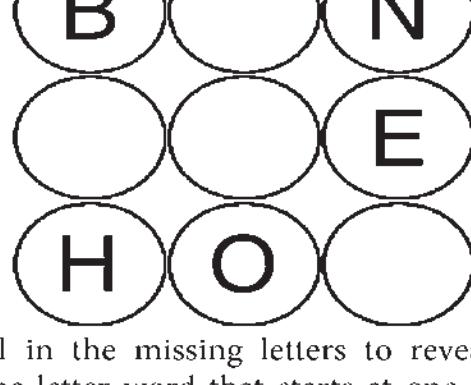
A	Y	S
I		L
L	C	F

### FISCALLY

### SEA SHELL TYPES



### WORD SPIRAL



Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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### Word Spiral Answer

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### 150

#### Misc Services

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET  
Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.

DIVORCE \$130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

### 150

#### Misc Services

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today!

### 150

#### Misc Services

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We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-866-335-3689.

### 311

#### Announcements

**Gun and Knife Show**  
Douglas County Fairgrounds  
2/14 - 2/15  
541-530-4570

### 502

#### Help Wanted

**McLennan Excavation** is looking for full-time management to join their growing team. Management will encompass areas of bidding & job acquisition, project management & cost

### 502

#### Help Wanted

analysis, sales & marketing. Leadership, communication, and problem solving will be essential in this position as well as budgeting, risk management, and scheduling, all supported by proficiency in project management software tools. McLennan Excavation offers health & dental benefits as well as 401K opportunities.

Email your resume to: lily@pipeandrock.com or drop off your resume at 98109 N. Bank Chetco River Road; Brookings, OR.

Open hours are Monday through Friday from 7am to 5pm.

Please be prepared for a prospective interview.

### 702

#### Garage Sales

**ESTATE SALE**, Sat 2/14 & Sun 2/15, 9am - 3pm. Corner of Field St & Smith Dr, Brookings. All goes - cash only - no early birds.

### 999

#### Public Notices

##### Notice of Public Meeting

The Port of Brookings Harbor Board of Director's will hold a Regular Meeting Wednesday February 18, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. For meeting agenda and packet please visit Port website: www.portofbrookingsharbor.com

**This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider**  
2/11/2026 Pilot 423175

### 150

#### Misc Services

##### NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

##### PROBATE NO.: 26PB00531

##### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that I, Ronnie L. Slimmer,

have been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Gail Dean Knopick by the

Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Curry County, and all

persons having claims against

said estate are required to

present them to me at the law

office of my attorney, Michael

P. Vanderhoff, 780 S. Front St.,

Ste. 150, Central Point, Oregon

97502, within four months after

the date of the first publication

of this Notice or they may be

barred.

All persons whose rights may

be affected by this proceeding

are advised that additional

information may be obtained

from the court records, the

undersigned, or my attorney.

##### DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED

this 11th day of February, 2026.

Ronnie L. Slimmer, Personal Representative

2/11/2026 Pilot 423322

### 999

#### Public Notices

nounced on sale day conditions apply.

2/11 & 2/18/2026 Pilot 423476

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY

PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of:

KATHLEEN ANN REBELLO, Deceased.

Case No. 26PB00265

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Julie Rosebraugh-Brown has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at c/o K.R. Olin, Attorney at Law, PO Box 7530, Brookings, OR 97415, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or they may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings are advised that additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, K. R. Olin, PO Box 7530, Brookings, OR 97415.

DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED

this 4th day of February, 2026.

/s/ K.R. Olin, OSB #903547

Attorney for Personal Representative

PO Box 7530

Brookings, OR 97415

(541)469-2669

olinandassociates@gmail.com

2/4, 2/11, & 2/18/2026 Pilot 423176

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

### THURSDAYS

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

### FRIDAYS

- Bingo, Chetco Activity Center: 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm. Closed Friday after Thanksgiving.
- 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.
- 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: 9:00 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

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

### FEBRUARY 11

- Bookworm Buddies Club, Chetco Library: 4:00 pm. Geared toward 2nd through 5th graders, kids vote on and pick the books they read each month. In February, the group will discuss Zoey and Sassafras: Wishypos & Hiccups, by Asia Citro.
- Creative Café, Chetco Library: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. A free monthly art event for adults and teens at the library. Drop in to explore a new art medium with supplies from our maker cart and connect with fellow creators over coffee, tea, and light refreshments. February's focus: Valentines.



**Amber Waves**

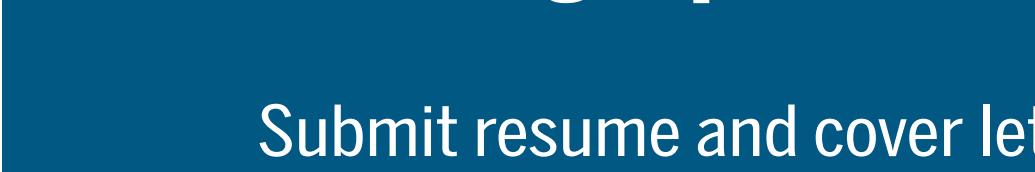
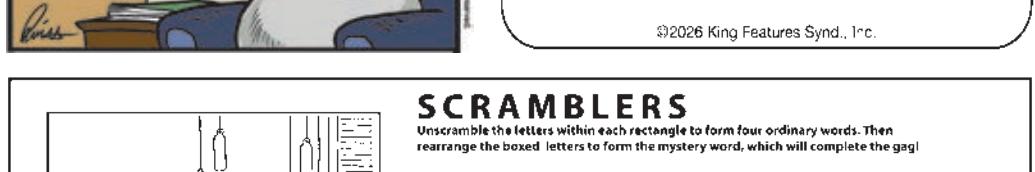
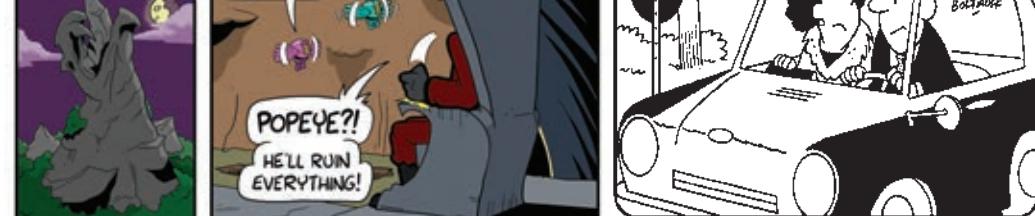
Out on a Limb



The Spats

**TIGER****OLIVE & POPEYE**

By Randy Milholland



# Where fires used to be frequent, old forests now face high risk of devastating blazes

FROM THE OSU COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

A new analysis shows that the Pacific Northwest's mature and old-growth forests are most at risk of severe wildfire in areas that historically burned frequently at lower severity.

The study by scientists at Oregon State University and USDA Forest Service Research & Development is important because those forests are culturally, economically and ecologically significant, supporting biodiversity while storing vast amounts of carbon, and they are under increasing threat of stand-replacing wildfire.

Researchers used state-of-the-art modeling techniques to gain knowledge that can help guide risk mitigation efforts and return forests to healthier fire regimes.

Led by Bruno Aparicio and Meg Krawchuk of the OSU College of Forestry, the research highlights the impact of fire exclusion by showing that 75% of the forest areas with the biggest risk of severe wildfire are places that used to see widespread low- and mixed-severity fires.

The exclusion of fire from Northwest landscapes began with the disruption of Indigenous fire stewardship, the researchers say. Indigenous peoples were forcibly removed from their lands in the 1850s, and putting out wildfires became federal policy following the Great Fire of 1910, which destroyed several towns and burned an area roughly the size of Connecticut across forests in Idaho, Montana, Washington and British Columbia.

Prior to fire exclusion, frequent low- and mixed-severity fires had played a key role in maintaining the forest ecosystems of the western United States. Since then, older forests and trees have seen major structural shifts as shade-tolerant and fire-intolerant species have moved in.

"Now, as wildfire activity intensifies under climate change, understanding where and why mature and old-growth forests are most vulnerable is essential," said Aparicio, a postdoctoral researcher in Krawchuk's group within the college's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. "This work provides a spatial framework to help land managers prioritize where protection may be sufficient, where active restoration is needed, and how fire refugia can be integrated into conservation and wildfire risk planning."

Fire refugia are pockets of landscape less prone to crown fire than adjacent areas and may hold the key for scientists, conservationists and land managers seeking to preserve vulnerable species in a changing climate.

Informally described as the "lifeboats" or "slow lanes" of biodiversity,



Photos courtesy of OSU

refugia have spawned the new field of refugia science, which has learned that some locations have inherent characteristics – such as terrain, vegetation, proximity to bodies of water, and slope-face direction – that can buffer them from stand-replacing fire with a degree of predictability.

In the context of this study, which looked at federal forests in the 24 million acres of western Oregon, Washington and California covered by the Northwest Forest Plan, estimates indicate fire refugia could reduce the overall risk of severe fire by up to 20%. Roughly 7 million acres of the study area are mature or old-growth forest, 1.8 million acres of which is in fire refugia area.

The analysis suggests the study area's subalpine mature and old-growth forests – those at the timberline – are both relatively rare and have high vulnerability, and that the Klamath Mountains are a hotspot for both wildfire exposure and potential carbon emissions.

"Protecting mature and old-growth forests isn't just about preserving the past – it's a key strategy for climate mitigation, ecosystem resilience and long-term forest stewardship," Krawchuk said.

Through the 20th century, the authors note, mature and old-growth forests on national forests saw major declines because of logging. In recent years, wildfire has replaced logging as the largest threat, and since 2000, federal lands have seen a net loss of 2.6 million acres of mature forest and 700,000

acres of old-growth forest. Those acres were designated for multiple uses including recreation, timber production and wildlife habitat, providing important ecosystem services.

"Current trends show a continuous increase in area burned and wildfire severity in the western U.S. over the last decade," Aparicio said. "The increase is driven by a growth in the number of human-caused fires; warmer and drier fire seasons and worse droughts, all exacerbated by climate change; and the presence of landscape fuels created through management and fire-exclusion policies."

Developing land management strategies to address the loss of mature and old-growth forests to stand-replacing wildfire is crucial for maintaining these vital socio-ecological resources, the researchers say. That starts with quantifying the spatial footprint of fire exposure by combining geographic data with fire ecology analytics.

"Our work can help prioritize stewardship actions," Krawchuk said. "Overall, fire exclusion has left historically fire-resistant forests disproportionately exposed to severe fire now. Our analysis can underpin the stewardship of mature and old-growth forests to promote their resistance and resilience."

Also collaborating on the study, published in *Natural Hazards*, were Michelle Day, Raymond Davis and Rachel Houtman of the Forest Service, which provided funding for the research.



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