

# Azalea Festival 2026: “Living In Paradise”



FROM THE CITY OF BROOKINGS

Plans for the 2026 Azalea Festival are underway! Last year set a high bar, so we're working hard to make this year's festival even better. We hope you can join us!

Our goal with the theme for the year, “Living in Paradise,” is to elicit even more visitors and customers to our businesses, vendors, and Brookings. We encourage everyone to think of ways to showcase our area and all the wonderful activities there are to enjoy. We look forward to see how everyone uses it! We will again be launching an advertising campaign with the theme in mind to showcase our sponsors.

If you are interested in being a Street Market vendor, join the Saturday morning parade, list your non-profits event on the official schedule, or be a sponsor, visit our website. You'll find all

Please see AZALEA FEST Page 4

## Therapy Dog Teams Bring Smiles and Joy to Gold Beach

GUEST COLUMN BY BARBARA THOMAS

Therapy Dog Teams play a vital role in providing comfort and companionship to others. Gold Beach has some very special dogs and humans that donate their time and skills to enrich the lives of folks in our community.

Riley's Readers promotes the love of books and reading to students at Riley Creek Elementary School. Reading to dogs in programs such as Riley's Readers creates a relaxed, non-judgmental environment that boosts kids' reading confidence, fluency, and

comprehension, while also reducing stress and improving empathy. The dogs provide patient, loving listeners, making reading less intimidating than reading to peers, and studies show this program results in improved reading skills and greater enthusiasm for reading.

Special Needs Students at Riley Creek enjoy the social, emotional, and academic benefits of a therapy dog team by reducing stress, improving focus, boosting social skills, and increasing motivation.

Hospice Visits by therapy dogs provide comfort, reducing anxiety, loneliness, and pain for patients by offering unconditional love, gentle companionship, and a welcome distraction, while also bringing families together and sparking joyful memories, enhancing emotional and psychological well-being during end-of-life care. These visits involve trained, certified therapy dogs and handlers who tailor interactions to patient needs, creating moments of peace and normalcy in challenging environments, often leading to lower blood pressure and increased smiles.

Shore Pines Senior Living offers therapy dog visits to provide emotional, social, and cognitive benefits. They reduce loneliness, anxiety, and depression in seniors by offering comfort, stimulating conversation, and breaking daily routines. Trained therapy dog teams visit to provide these valuable interactions and improve overall resident well-being.

Curry County Judicial Department and Curry General Hospital offer therapy dog visits to their staff. Therapy dogs boost staff wellness by reducing stress, improving mood and morale, in-

creasing productivity, and fostering better social connection and collaboration in the workplace. These programs offer a low-barrier, high-impact way to combat burnout, particularly for high-stress professions like healthcare and courtroom professionals.

Biscuit, the Courtroom Comfort Dog offers support to victims of trauma while they navigate through the court system. Biscuit assists victims of crimes such as domestic abuse or sexual assault, by providing a calming, non-judgmental presence that lowers anxiety and reduces stress. Biscuit's Wiggle Butt Therapy is sure to bring a smile!

Curry Public Library has had a therapy dog “on staff” during Children’s Story Time since 2019. These low-key encounters offer the younger children a chance to interact with a calm, well-trained therapy dog while learning age-appropriate dog safety skills and establishing a love for books and reading.

W.A.I.T. is a fun, interactive program designed to teach children and adults how to interact safely with dogs. W.A.I.T. teaches basic skills for friendly and not-so-friendly dog encounters. Biscuit and Barbara regularly present W.A.I.T. to students at Riley Creek and Driftwood elementary schools, Curry Public and Chetco libraries and various other home school and after school programs.

For more information about Therapy Dogs please contact: Barbara Thomas barbarakthomas@outlook.com Or visit: www.darby'sbackyard.com



## INDEX

Police Blotter  
Calendar of Events  
Classifieds  
Crossword Answer  
Crossword Puzzle

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Send us your news, photos, and videos and let us know what's going on!

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# OBITUARIES

## Beverly Jean Conner Burke Reich

January 23, 1939 - November 14, 2025

Beverly Jean Reich died Nov. 14, 2025, at her home in Brookings with her sons around her and the sound of ocean waves outside her window. She was 86.

Bev was born Jan. 23, 1939, in Fresno, California, to Herbert and Rosella Chapman Conner. She was joined about 18 months later by her sister Joyce and they shared a lifetime bond of affection and adventure that is the heart of sisterhood. Their parents divorced and the girls spent time in the care of their grandmother.

In October 1947 they traveled on a military transport ship with their stepmother Mabel to Hawaii where Herbert and Mabel worked for the civil service. Bev recalled being seasick the whole five-day trip and glad to see land at the end. She loved living in Hawaii, though.

As a girl, Bev liked dolls, pretty dresses and having her hair curled, but she also enjoyed tomboy activities. She scampered up coconut trees and climbed a mango tree in the yard to harvest fruit and perch in the branches with a book to read. She loved exploring tidepools, spending whole days at the water's edge, snacking on opiohi — salty little limpets plucked from the rocks — instead of going home for lunch. She dived from cliffs for change from tourists and body surfed.

She returned to California when she was a junior in high school and soon met a handsome Navy medical corpsman, Lewis Burke, at a dance. They married March

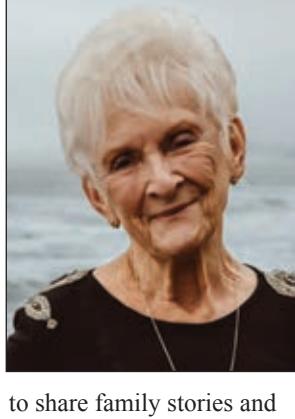
24, 1956, when she was just 17. Bev always wanted a large and loving family and she gave birth to seven sons in rapid succession: Lewis, Derek, Joe, Shawn, Jeff, Gary, and Scott. Three preceded her in death: Lewis and Derek who died in a fire in January 1962 when they were 4 and 3, and Gary, who died shortly after birth in 1963.

After Bev and Lewis divorced in 1973, she supported her family by working as a waitress. She would sometimes work multiple shifts at different restaurants in a single day. She worked her way up from coffee shops to fine dining and was a customer favorite wherever she went. She never had a driver's license, but that didn't slow her down.

She married Leroy Reich Dec. 16, 1979, in Citrus Heights, California. When he retired from his job as a warehouseman at the Sacramento Army Depot, the couple hit the road to find the perfect place to retire and a little fun on their way to that spot. They settled in Brookings in 1993 and all four sons came to live in Brookings for some time.

Bev loved working in the yard, planting flowers, building decorative fences, and collecting all sorts of garden gnomes, bird houses and feeders, statues, trinkets, and whimsical signs. She and Roy even won an award for their yard.

She had a flair for decorating inside the home, too, and collected objects that held history and brought her joy. She was always happy.



to share family stories and liked teaching her grandkids Hawaiian and German words.

Bev loved gathering with family and friends for holidays and football games. She was a lifelong 49ers fan. She enjoyed listening to music and loved to hula. She cared for a long line of pets over the years.

She was preceded in death by her husband Roy. She is survived by Joe Burke and Aleta Mankamyer of Brookings; Shawn and Veronica Burke of Post Falls, Idaho; Jeff Burke of Brookings; Scott and Anita Burke of Medford; and granddaughters Jassminne, Citlaly, and Shawna. Her sister Joyce Bosworth of Montana and a nephew Joe, two nieces Cheryl and Caroline, and their extended families also survive her.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 401 Fir Street in Brookings. Vicar Bernie Lindley will officiate. There will be a reception following the service at 1029 Fisifield street.

## Gwendolyn Conner

February 12, 1944 - November 29, 2025

Gwendolyn Conner died on November 29th at Asante Rogue Medical Center with her family & friend by her side, due to complications of respiratory illness.

Born on February 12, 1944 to Vernon and Louise Bowman in Pontiac, Michigan, her family moved to Rochester, New York where she was raised. Growing up, Gwendolyn was active in 4h learning the art of canning and sewing - skills she would continue and master throughout her life.

She graduated from DePew High School in 1962 and left for work in Texas. Her adventurous spirit led her to Lake Elsinore, Ca where she married Jack D. Smith and had 2 sons: JD Carleton Smith and Lled Aaron Smith.

Jack & Gwen parted ways and she and the boys moved to Port Orford, Or where many adventures awaited. Whether it was making pottery in her home kiln up the Elk River; harvesting cedar on the farm with her husband, Jimmy Guerin, or establishing and operating Gwendolyn's Bed & Breakfast, Gwen loved her home in Port Orford.

Gwen cherishes her role as mom to JD & Lled who kept her rolling her eyes and laughing with their antics.

She was an accomplished gardener with a huge vegetable garden up the Elk River and masses of sunflower, lavender and roses at the B&B.

The Jam Stand at the B&B was well known for Gwen's delicious jams- especially the Blackberry Jam which was out of this world.

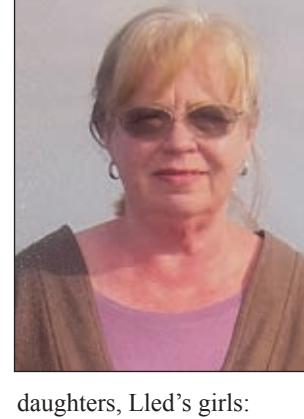
Gwendolyn's caring nature guided her occupations - first at Community Action where she helped people in need find housing and later as a caregiver for the elderly including Alice Wakeman Bowman and her friend Johnny Tomanovich.

A marriage to Roy "Chip" Dath brought her across country to Wellfleet, Ma where she worked as a seamstress in the interior design industry.

After Chip's death, Gwen returned to Oregon but this time to Brookings in a little house with a view of her beloved ocean. Gwen loved her quiet life with her greenhouse and her favorite meal, fish & chips.

Gwen cherishes her role as mom to JD & Lled who kept her rolling her eyes and laughing with their antics.

She adored her 3 grand-



daughters, Lled's girls: Harper, Quincey and Lilly Smith and loved watching their adventures.

Gwen was predeceased by: her parents, her son, JD and her husbands Chip Dath & Jimmy Guerin.

She is survived by her son, Lled Smith of Bend, his wife Becky and daughters- Harper of Corvallis, Quincey & Lilly of Bend; her brother, Ronald Bowman his wife, Judy and their daughters & families, and her lifelong best friend, Anne Goodwin.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Common Good of Port Orford.

A celebration of Gwen's life will be held in the spring at Edison Creek.

## Janet Ann Fritch

Janet Ann Fritch (Greiner) passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on October 6th at age 81.

Janet was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, friend and colleague. She loved and was loved unconditionally.



Janet was born in Portland, Oregon in 1944 as the second of 12 children. She attended Holy Redeemer Catholic School and St. Mary's Academy. In 1960 at age 16, she met Ronald B. Fritch who attended Central Catholic High School, and they were married in 1962. Janet and Ron had four daughters - Michele, Debbie, and Laurie, born in Portland, and Leslie, born in Petaluma, California.

Sonoma County became home to Jan and Ron where they nurtured their family and enjoyed raising animals and growing extraordinary gardens. In addition to running a household and being a devoted wife and mother, Jan had always worked outside the home as well. Once the girls were old enough, Jan started a career of her own as a 911 emergency dispatcher for Petaluma Police and Fire. Her ability to remain calm, grounded, and focussed truly made her a gift to the community and to all of the first responders she supported.

In 1997 Jan and Ron retired in Gold Beach, Oregon where they built their dream home on the beach. The wet winters led them to building a second home in Gold Canyon, Arizona where they enjoyed the desert warmth during the fall and winter months.

Jan was an avid volunteer throughout her life. She volunteered with Rancho Cotati Little League, served as an auxiliary member of Curry General Hospital,

supported the Snack Pack program, Gold Beach Main Street, and Gold Beach High School, and she faithfully donated blood to the American Red Cross.

Janet is survived by her husband, Ron; her daughters, Michele Fritch; Debbie Kozak and her husband, Scott; Laurie Herrera and her husband, Alejandro; and Leslie Ceniceros and her husband John; seven grandchildren, Lance Collins Jr. and his partner Nicole Goodman; Zackery Collins and his wife, Grace; Raquel Carpenter and her husband, Zed; Nicole Olheiser and her husband, Eric; Alejandro Herrera; Pasha Ceniceros; and Avery Ceniceros; and six great-grandchildren, Kayden and Preston Carpenter; Luke Collins; and Grayson, Eloise, and Genevieve Olheiser.

There will be a memorial service and celebration of life for Janet at St. Charles Catholic Church: 94323 Gauntlett St. Gold Beach, Oregon on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11:30 AM. All are welcome.

## 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 12/29:

- duct
- 17:47 840 Railroad Ave, alarm
- 2:02 North Bank Chetco and Redwood, traffic crash
- 18:11 248 Wharf St, intoxicated subject
- 22:59 1045 Chetco Ave, criminal trespass

Tuesday 12/30:

- 2:56 500 Velopa Ct, civil problem
- 3:37 Railroad and Wharf, warrant service
- 9:24 621 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct
- 9:40 248 Wharf St, criminal trespass
- 11:43 325 5th St, hit & run
- 11:48 1106 Rowland Ln, theft

Wednesday 12/31:

- 8:31 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 16:37 Chetco and Bridge, tree down
- 16:42 14888 Oceanview Dr, fire
- 17:19 815 Chetco Ave, hit & run
- 19:56 North Bank Chetco near Gardner Ridgen tree down

Thursday 01/01:

- 2:56 500 Velopa Ct, civil problem
- 3:37 Railroad and Wharf, warrant service
- 9:24 621 Chetco Ave, disorderly conduct
- 9:40 248 Wharf St, criminal trespass
- 11:43 325 5th St, hit & run
- 11:48 1106 Rowland Ln, theft

Friday 01/02:

- 8:31 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 16:37 Chetco and Bridge, tree down
- 16:42 14888 Oceanview Dr, fire
- 17:19 815 Chetco Ave, hit & run
- 19:56 North Bank Chetco near Gardner Ridgen tree down

Saturday 01/03:

- 8:31 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 16:37 Chetco and Bridge, tree down
- 16:42 14888 Oceanview Dr, fire
- 17:19 815 Chetco Ave, hit & run
- 19:56 North Bank Chetco near Gardner Ridgen tree down

Sunday 01/04:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Monday 01/05:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Tuesday 01/06:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Wednesday 01/07:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Thursday 01/08:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Friday 01/09:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Saturday 01/10:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Sunday 01/11:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Monday 01/12:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Tuesday 01/13:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Wednesday 01/14:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Thursday 01/15:

- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801 Chetco Ave, traffic crash
- 12:51 1119 Rowland Ln, criminal trespass
- 12:54 830 Old County Rd, alarm
- 18:20 325 5th St, threats
- 20:19 Mill Beach, loud noise

Friday 01/16:

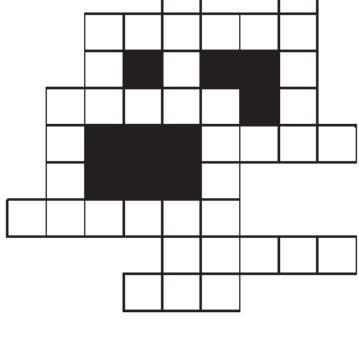
- 1:56 625 Chetco Ave, dispute/flight
- 10:47 Chetco Point, illegal camping
- 12:34 801





By: rj johnson  
DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

OBO  
WENIUS  
DUMIO  
RTWI  
DEMPIE  
▼ EWO  
▼ NCIO  
▼ WEDNO  
WOS  
ENRAMB  
TACIO  
WMNO



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (▼) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ▼ RATH becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

### WORD FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Unlisted clue hint: — AS A DAISY

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

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### GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-	x	10
+	÷	+	
+	-		9
÷	+	-	
	+	÷	6
5	10	7	

#### DIFFICULTY: ★★

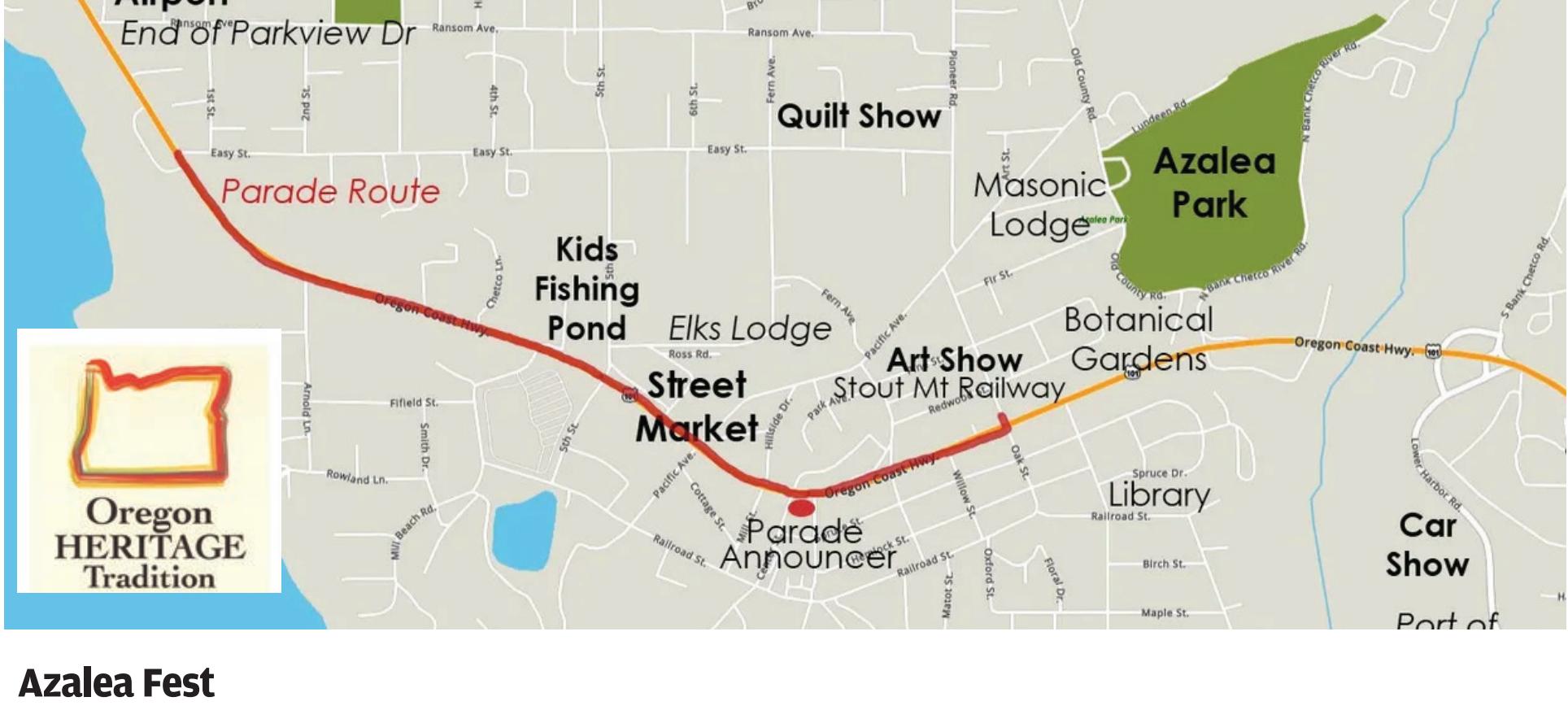
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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Puzzle Answers on page 6



## Azalea Fest

From page 1

the details and easy online forms to submit. Some details may have changed, so please read all the related information.

It's also time to nominate the Grand Marshal. This is your chance to recognize someone in the community who makes a difference. As in years past, we seek a special person who has been an exceptional citizen. The nomination form is available on our website.

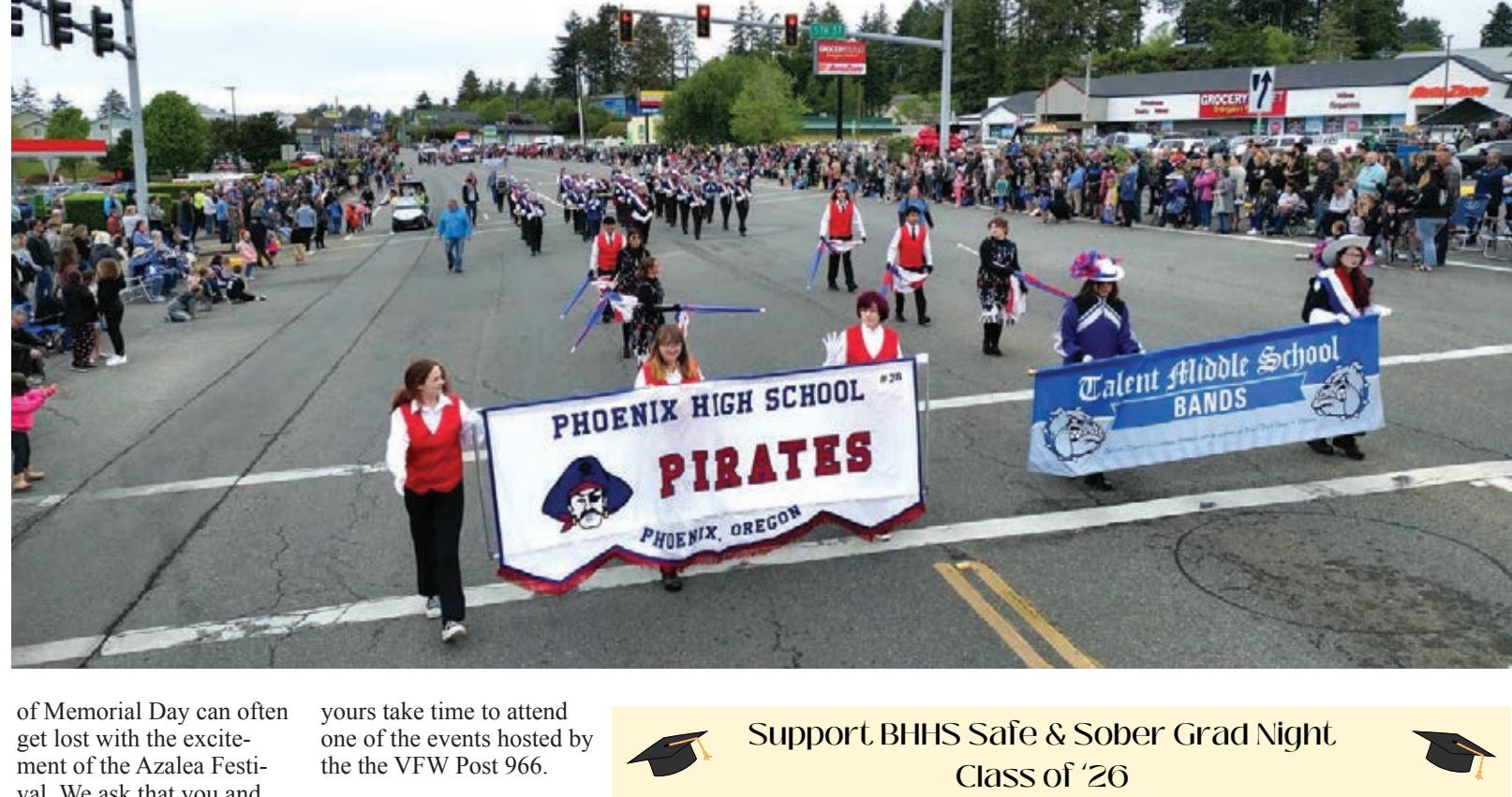
Visit our website for more details: azaleafest-valbrookingsoregon.com/

### A Long History with National Importance

Since 1939, The Azalea Festival has been a time-honored tradition of celebrating the beauty of the Southern Oregon coast, and has been awarded the "The Oregon Heritage Tradition" award. Brookings gained national attention in 1962, when organizers of the annual event invited former Japanese naval pilot Nobuo Fujita to be the parade's grand marshal. In 1942, Fujita had catapulted his small float plane from the deck of a Japanese submarine and had flown over the town on a daring flight to bomb the redwood forests southeast of Brookings. It was the first and one of only two enemy aerial bombings of the U.S. mainland. Fujita presented the city with his heirloom samurai sword.

In the past, the Festival was run by the former Chamber of Commerce and various service organizations. In 2019, the City stepped forward to keep the Festival running by reorganizing the event focusing on financial and organizational sustainability. Today, the Festival is run by the City of Brookings with help from Community Stakeholders, volunteers and service organizations. Sponsorships and vendor fees offset the costs involved in running the Festival.

Memorial Day, honors everyone who has died serving in the American Armed Forces. The holiday, originally known as Decoration Day, started after the Civil War to honor the Union and Confederate dead. Amidst the holiday hubbub, the real meaning



of Memorial Day can often get lost with the excitement of the Azalea Festival. We ask that you and

yours take time to attend one of the events hosted by the VFW Post 966.

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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.

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 12/31/25.) 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

### 150 Misc Services

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! 1-844-847-9778.

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.

### 502 Help Wanted

**Safe Coast Seafoods LLC**  
Hiring for processor's. Apply in person 161 Starfish Way, Crescent City, Ca 95531

### 700 Misc/Trade

108 ft of 1-inch black poly pipe. 160 psi. \$75. 541-813-2603.

### 999 Public Notices

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

Probate Department Case No. 25PB11039

#### NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

In the Matter of the Estate of Robert Peter Moran

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Nadia Shearer has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for the Personal Representative at 6400 SE Lake Road, Suite 440, Portland, Oregon 97222, within four months after date of publication of this Notice, as stated below, or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in the Estate may obtain

### 999 Public Notices

additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and published on January 14, 2026.

**Nadia Shearer**

Personal Representative

Theressa Hollis, OSB #982626

Fitzwater Law

Of Attorneys for Personal Representative

6400 SE Lake Road, Suite 440 Portland, OR 97222

(503) 786-8191

TheressaH@fitzwaterlaw.com

1/14/2026 Pilot 422305

#### Notice of Executive Session

The Port of Brookings Harbor will hold an executive session at 2:00 p.m. at the Port Conference Room, 16350 Lower Harbor Rd Suite 202, Harbor OR 97415, on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

The executive session is being held pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i) To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

1/14/2026, Pilot, 421845

#### Notice of Public Meeting

The Port of Brookings Harbor Board of Director's will hold a Regular Meeting Wednesday January 21, 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*

1/14/2026, Pilot, 421847

#### Notice of Abandoned Property Auction

The auction is for the property of Thomas Steele located at 16345 Grootendorst Ln, Space #2, Brookings, OR 97415. Sale will be by private bidding with bids accepted until February 7, 2026.

1/7 & 1/14/2026 Pilot 422052

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 trustee 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 number 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 the

Service District.

"It's important for Oregon Schools to have access to resources such as Naloxone (Narcan). Opioid overdose prevention is important for staff and student safety and having an intervention plan that allows for Narcan in schools can save lives. Schools need to be prepared to respond to emergencies and provide immediate assistance when necessary. We have staff trained in CPR, first aid, as well as many other school emergencies, we need to be prepared to respond. We need to ensure we have resources to provide a timely response and encourage responsible action for our staff. Making Naloxone (Narcan) available in schools will provide opportunities for educators and staff members to be educated about the dangers of opioids, fentanyl and how the body responds to overdoses. This education promotes greater awareness to staff, students and families and will help safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students and most importantly save

### 999 Public Notices

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

### 999 Public Notices

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: 1/26/2025

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

## Merkley, Scott Lead Bipartisan Legislation to Fight Opioid Overdose in Schools, Support School Access to Naloxone

Washington, D.C. – Today, Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Florida's U.S. Senator Rick Scott teamed up to reintroduce their bipartisan School Access to Naloxone Act. The bipartisan legislation would ensure school personnel have the training and education to administer lifesaving drugs and devices for emergency treatment in cases of known or suspected opioid overdose.

"As I meet with Oregonians in each of our 36 counties for town hall conversations, I hear about the need to combat the opioid crisis, especially from our younger generations who are demanding effective solutions to this epidemic," said Merkley. "Naloxone saves lives and helping schools stock and administer it is an important part of what needs to be a multi-pronged effort to tackle opioid overdoses. I'll keep working to deliver federal resources and support individuals and communities suffering from this crisis."

"I'm proud to join

Senator Merkley on our bipartisan School Access to Naloxone Act, to ensure schools can access the resources they need to recognize and treat opioid overdoses and save lives," said Scott. "I'll continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to raise awareness of this crisis and promote access to life-saving tools and I urge Congress to pass this bill to help save lives."

The bipartisan bill is co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM). The School Access to Naloxone Act is endorsed by the National Association of School Nurses, National Association of School Superintendents, School-Based Health Alliance, Oregon School-Based Alliance, InterMountain Education Service District, La Grande School District, and Umatilla School District.

"Once again, I appreciate Senator Merkley's consistent effort to improve the lives of Oregonians. Due to the high rate of opioid use, schools need support, training and resources to prepare a response to this crisis," said Mark Mulvihill, Superintendent, InterMountain Education

Service District.

"It's important for Oregon Schools to have access to resources such as Naloxone (Narcan). Opioid overdose prevention is important for staff and student safety and having an intervention plan that allows for Narcan in schools can save lives. Schools need to be prepared to respond to emergencies and provide immediate assistance when necessary. We have staff trained in CPR, first aid, as well as many other school emergencies, we need to be prepared to respond. We need to ensure we have resources to provide a timely response and encourage responsible action for our staff. Making Naloxone (Narcan) available in schools will provide opportunities for educators and staff members to be educated about the dangers of opioids, fentanyl and how the body responds to overdoses. This education promotes greater awareness to staff, students and families and will help safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students and most importantly save

lives," said George Mendoza, Superintendent, La Grande School District.

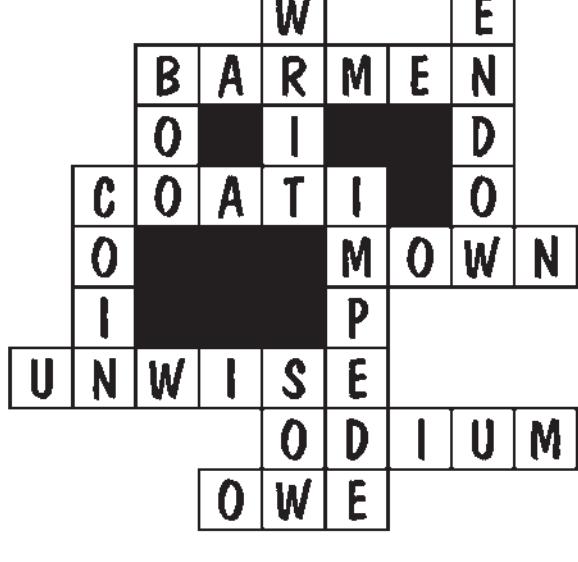
"Schools are often community hubs. No community is immune from opioid concerns and having access to life saving medications in the event

Puzzles on page 4

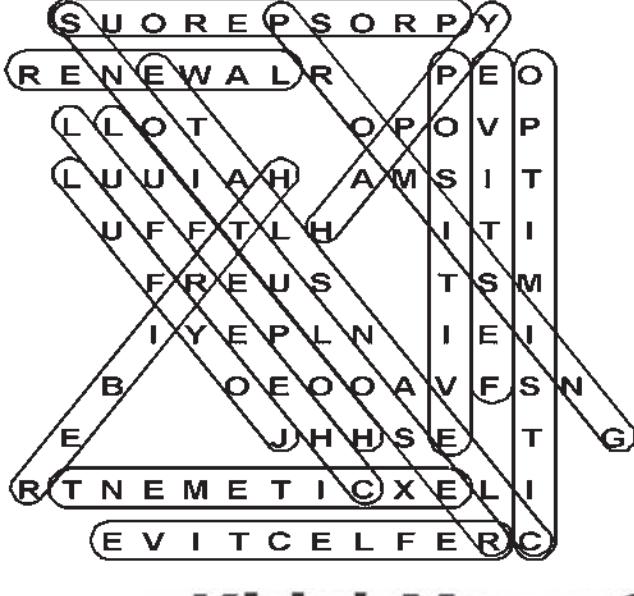
Maze on page 8

# FEAR & KNOT

answer



## WORDS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY



## Go Figure!

answers

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

## Kids' Maze Solution



## 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, Chet-

co 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: 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

- 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

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## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

Out on a Limb



by Jeff Pickering

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

TIGER



by Bud Blake

OLIVE &amp; POPEYE



By Randy Milholland

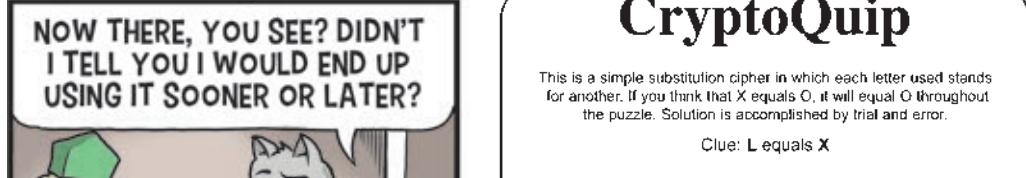
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details in between panels.



Just Like Cats &amp; Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

NOW THERE, YOU SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULD END UP USING IT SOONER OR LATER?

## 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: X equals X

HQGI JNEAQSID JPKKGIVB

DNGJ GLASIYA WNX IN

ZOOZXGIA XGZJN, HQZA

ESDQA BNP YZVV AQZA?

ONNW NW GLSJAGIYG.

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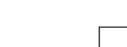
## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag.

Trap



Crack



Plan



Plot



TODAY'S WORD

"Looks to me like the birds will be doing

most of the

!"

January 5, 2026 Posting Date

## King Crossword

## ACROSS

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
21	22				23	24						
25	26	27			28				29	30	31	
32					33							
34					35	36						
					37							
39	40	41			42	43			44	45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

feature  
31 Thesaurus  
32 Tree bumps  
33 Unfettered  
34 Closed tight  
35 Partner  
36 Outlaw  
37 Summer in  
38 Flavor enhancer, for short  
39 Aspic shaper  
40 Baby's father  
41 Now, in a memo  
42 Rock producer Brian  
43 TV's Griffin  
44 Painter Magritte45 Thextor's gulf-  
46 DLI doubled  
47 Unfettered  
48 Partner  
49 Baby's father  
50 Painter Magritte51 Thextor's gulf-  
52 DLI doubled  
53 Partner  
54 Chopper  
55 Diminutive suffix  
56 Dance move57 Coerces  
58 Map feature  
59 "The Da Vinci Code" monk  
60 Small ammo  
61 Wish undone  
62 Coach  
63 Parseghian  
64 Physique  
65 — was saying ..."  
66 Perfect place67 Retrieve  
68 Texter's gulf-  
69 Tubular pasta  
70 During  
71 Corn concoc-  
72 tion  
73 Coerces  
74 Map feature  
75 "The Da Vinci Code" monk  
76 Small ammo  
77 Wish undone  
78 Coach  
79 Parseghian  
80 Physique  
81 — was saying ..."  
82 Perfect place83 Retrieve  
84 Texter's gulf-  
85 Low-budget  
86 flick  
87 Small plateau  
88 Cameo stone  
89 Single  
90 Legal docu-  
91 ment  
92 Plane reserva-  
93 tion  
94 Pot starter  
95 Incubator  
96 noise  
97 Bovary's title  
(Abbr.)

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the festival of lights that's celebrated in some European countries as the start of the holiday season?

2. MOVIES: Which actor played folk singer Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"?

3. SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan "The Best a Man Can Get"?

4. HISTORY: What was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention about?

5. TELEVISION: What is the name of Liz Lemon's show in the sitcom "30 Rock"?

6. SCIENCE: What kind of substance does Boyle's law govern?

7. FOOD &amp; DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Italian dish calamari?

8. LITERATURE: Which Shakespeare play introduces the characters Beatrice and Benedick?

9. MATH: What kind of number is pi (3.14)?

10. MUSIC: What is the name of the house band on "The Tonight Show"?

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## FiveSpot™

Not really sure

Possibly

Assist at the climbing wall

A single unit of grass

Kept a machine running smoothly

Provided a hint

Might be able

A little help

A lot of help

A whole lot of help

A really, really lot of help

A whole bunch of help

# Feds award Oregon \$197 million for rural health care as state grapples with billions in cuts

Photo provided by Trinity Health  
Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City. The rural hospital closed its birth center in 2023 to cut costs and is one of two rural birth centers that has closed in recent years under budget constraints.



By ALEX BAUMHARDT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program was tucked into the same bill that cuts roughly \$1 trillion from the federal Medicaid program over the next decade

Oregon will receive more than \$197 million to invest in rural health care projects in 2026, federal health officials announced shortly before the new year.

It's slightly less than the \$200 million the Oregon Health Authority requested from the new Rural Health Transformation Program run by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. And it's significantly less than the average \$400 million per year that Oregon's rural communities are expected to lose in federal health care funding during the next decade under changes to Medicaid eligibility congressional Republicans passed last summer.

"While this much-needed boost can't make up for the substantial federal funding cuts we anticipate in the coming years, OHA is committed to using this opportunity to support as many promising and sustainable rural health solutions as possible," the state health agency's policy and analytics director, Clare Pierce-Wrobel, said in a statement.

Congressional Republicans included the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program in a July megalaw that's slated to cut Medicaid spending by nearly \$1 trillion over the next decade to partially offset tax cuts.

Rural communities across the U.S. are expected to lose about \$137 billion in Medicaid funding during the next decade, including more than \$4 billion in rural Oregon, according to an analysis of Medicaid data by the nonprofit KFF.

Oregon's application for funding had

bipartisan support, though Democratic lawmakers criticized the Rural Health Transformation Program as a "bandaid for a bullet hole," according to statements from U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas. U.S. Rep. Maxine Dexter, also an Oregon Democrat, said it was "like throwing someone a life jacket after sinking their ship."

#### Oregon's appeal

State health officials requested \$200 million per year for five years, for about \$1 billion total from the \$50 billion program through 2031. Given that their first year award is less than expected, the agency will scale down its original proposal to fit its given budget, officials said in a news release.

The state will distribute money to local governments and organizations for projects that provide preventative care to more people, boost the number of health care workers in rural communities and improve technology and data infrastructure in rural hospitals and clinics, according to the agency's application materials.

About one-third of Oregonians live in rural communities, defined as living at least 10 from a population center of 40,000 or more. All but two of Oregon's 36 counties have rural areas, and 10 Oregon counties are designated "frontier" counties with an average of six or fewer people per square mile.

Roughly \$20 million of the award is slated to go to health care projects undertaken by the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

#### Bipartisan-ish support

Oregon's application received bipartisan support from the state's Congressional delegation, though a letter from Democratic delegates struck a different tenor than one from the state's lone Republican, U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz. Bentz's vast 2nd Congressional District in southern and eastern Oregon is predominantly rural and includes all 10 frontier counties.

In a Dec. 11 letter of support, Bentz thanked the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Administrator Mehmet Oz for their "unwavering commitment to strengthening America's health care system."

"I also want to recognize President

Trump's Administration and CMS for bringing real accountability and urgency back to rural health care," Bentz continued. "Your leadership has given rural communities confidence that Washington is finally paying attention and acting."

Bentz's district is likely to be among the most impacted by Medicaid cuts. About 1 in 3 Oregonians relies on Medicaid for their health insurance, but the rate is higher in the 20 counties Bentz represents. In Malheur, Klamath, Josephine and Jefferson counties, more than 40% of residents rely on Medicaid, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Democrats in their letter of support for Oregon's application on Dec. 29 wrote that the funding is an attempt to make up for the harms of Republican cuts to the Medicaid program, and its disproportionate impact on rural communities.

"While the expected awards from the Rural Health Transformation Fund will not make up for catastrophic Medicaid cuts Trumpcare is implementing, we believe that Oregonians deserve their fair share of this funding," they wrote.

Koray Rosati, a spokesperson for Rep. Janelle Bynum, a Democrat representing the state's 5th congressional district, said

Bynum signed on because the congresswoman wants to protect rural hospitals and healthcare, but that the funding is a bandaid for health care cuts rural communities will experience in the next decade.

"Let's be clear here, the reason this funding is needed at all is because Rep. Bentz and President Trump, who Rep. Bentz fawns over in his letter, made massive cuts to rural healthcare and jacked up healthcare costs for Oregonians with their 'trash bill,' H.R. 1," Rosati said in an email. "They sold our rural communities out and now they want credit for offering pennies in return. Rep. Bynum isn't falling for that."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/05/feds-award-oregon-197-million-for-rural-health-care-as-state-grapples-with-billions-in-cuts/>

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## Kids' Maze

Maze Answer on page 6



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