



Catherine Scobby

Port of Port Orford hires new Port Admin.

For the Pilot

The Port Commission of the Port of Port Orford voted unanimously to hire to the position of Port Administrator. Catherine moved to the beautiful South Coast of Oregon in 2020 from Boise, Idaho and brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role. She holds a BA in Communications and a Master's of Public Administration from Boise State University. Her background includes work with small businesses, the Idaho Department of Finance, and as a Senior Research Analyst for the Idaho Department of Labor. Notably, she served as the acting Regional Economist for the Boise MSA before making the important decision to focus on her family.

Throughout her career, Catherine has remained active in her community and has served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Bandon for the last four years.

Her professional experience, education, and desire to pursue success in the maritime industry make her an excellent fit for the role. Her interests in economic development and ocean products are aligned with the Port's priorities. The Port Commission is united in support of our new Port Administrator and we are excited to see what she accomplishes. Please join us in welcoming Catherine aboard as she gets up to speed over the coming months.

New hello's also mean fond farewells: late last year, Port Manager Pat Cox charted a course for new horizons. The Port Commission is grateful for Pat's considerable contributions over the years. Under his leadership, the Port secured funding for exciting infrastructure upgrades, endured a pandemic, and weathered heavy seas. Pat remains a stalwart friend of the Port and we are glad to see him down at the dock often. Please join us in wishing him all the best!

Linda Phillips has also earned a spot in Port history. Her eagerness to help and administrative skills have been instrumental in making this an effective leadership transition. She has served admirably as Interim Port Administrator and will be wrapping up her assignment soon. We hope to see Linda around the dock in the future, too!

As always, the Port of Port Orford is grateful to its tenants, staff, public users, supporters across the Port District, and visitors from around the world.

Oregon lawmakers meet with Florida Governor Ron Desantis

From the Desk of Court Boice

Governor DeSantis flew to Oregon over the weekend to meet with a group of Oregon Leaders. His leadership has been marked by conservative policy wins that have elevated his national profile and garnered attention for Florida's governance.

Boice stated, "I believe he is the most successful State Governor in my lifetime. His policies are improving the lives of Southeast U.S. Citizens. I was also proud of Oregon Governor Candidate Christine Drazan and Oregon U.S. Senate Candidate David Brock Smith. Both had speeches fully demonstrating their heart-felt beliefs we know will help bring Oregon back to balance and find common sense solutions. Governor DeSantis also found time to play the 'Sheep Ranch' 18-hole course at Bandon Dunes which of course is in my Oregon State Rep. District 1 - Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties."

DeSantis's administration has seen various notable achievements.

• Education Reform — Governor DeSantis has championed policies that expand educational opportunities and support teachers, aiming for high-quality education for all students.



Courtesy photo

Court Boice with Florida Governor Ron Desantis.

• Economic Growth — His pro-growth economic policies have contributed to Florida's robust economic performance, attracting businesses and investments.

• Public Health Initiatives — The establishment of the Public

Health Integrity Committee reflects his administration's focus on assessing vaccine safety and protecting high-risk populations.

• Cultural Policies — DeSantis has engaged in high-profile culture-war confrontations, which have significantly raised his

national profile

• Lowest Tax Revenue Policies -- No Income Tax and a proven record of doing more with less

• Public Safety -- The DeSantis Law Enforcement Policies have resulted in the lowest Crime Rate in the entire U.S.

Bandon Tours offer culinary delights and more

By BREE LAUGHLIN
Bandon Tours

Anyone who participates in a Bandon Tour will not only go home with a full belly and newly-gained knowledge of the town, they will also take away lasting memories from their experience.

The Bandon Bites Tour explores the culinary delights of the charming historic district of Bandon. Tour-goers sample everything from fresh seafood to delectable sweets, all crafted by passionate local business owners. The tours not only satisfy the palette, they also connect participants with a historic overview of the area and support multiple local businesses.

Charis McGaughy co-founded Bandon Tours with Lauren Robertson in the Fall of 2024. McGaughy had recently gone on a trip to see her daughter in Boston, and they went on a food tour of Cambridge.

"We were walking around having a blast and my daughter says, 'Hey, Mom, why don't you do this? You'd be really good at it.'"

The idea stuck. When McGaughy researched the Food Tour market, there looked to be some untapped potential for a local business.

"Food tourism is a \$5.5 billion industry worldwide, and there were no food tours to be found on the Oregon Coast," Mc-



Courtesy photo

Bandon Food Tour Group at Tonys Charis.

Gaughy said.

So she and her partner ran with it, forming relationships with local business owners, and collecting fun and interesting tidbits of knowledge about the local history of the area.

Bandon Food Tours has been welcomed into the community by locals and tourists alike. In fact, McGaughy said locals have been some of her biggest supporters. They often book tours when friends and family are visiting to give them a 'taste' of the local flavor.

That was the case on a recent Bandon Tour. Longtime local and Bandon City Council Member

Geri Procetto brought her family and friends on a Bandon Tour as part of her 95th birthday celebration.

During the tour, they enjoyed gluten-free clam chowder from Bandon Fisheries Warehouse Farm and Sea, locally-sourced rockfish tacos from Tony's Crab Shack, stuffed crab mushrooms and shrimp from The Wheelhouse & Crownsnest, and a tomato and burrata caprese salad from Alloro Wine Bar & Restaurant. Most of the items were paired with the choice of an alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverage.

During the tour, the group also got to try homemade candy

samples at Cranberry Sweets, and fudge from the Big Wheel General Store. The tour even ended with a delectable dessert drinking chocolate from Coastal Mist.

McGaughy entertained the group with fascinating insights about the local cranberry industry, stories about how the town of Bandon came to be, tragic recounts of fires that swept through the community and a historic recount of local indigenous peoples.

The tour-goers also got an inside scoop from many of the local business owners during their stops through Old Town Bandon.

McGaughy said the decision to open Bandon Tours has been a great journey, and one that she hopes is just getting started. She is currently expanding her business to sell curated gift baskets of local products.

McGaughy pointed out that every time someone does a tour they are supporting at least six local businesses, because the Bandon Tours owners compensate them for their products.

The Bandon Tours co-founder said she also loves to support her town.

"I get to contribute to this community I love and I get to be a cheerleader for Bandon," McGaughy said.

For more information, and to book a Bandon Tour, visit bandontours.com.

Here's how Oregonians want the state to address its transportation budget crisis

By MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians ranked maintaining and preserving highways and bridges and improving safety as the top priorities they think the Oregon Department of Transportation should

focus on as it looks to resolve a \$200 million budget gap in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Between August and September, the group Gov. Tina Kotek tasked with vetting solutions to the state's transportation budget crisis surveyed Oregonians about what they think the state's spending priorities should

be. The Oregon Capital Chronicle obtained a copy of the survey responses, as well as an analysis of the responses compiled by Department of Transportation staff.

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Opinion & Letters

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Commentary

Sea-Side Social Scene

By JACQUES KEPNER
Social Columnist

A tip of my hat and a breezy greeting to all of you loyal Curry Coast Pilot readers!

My name is “Jacques Kepner,” and I am officially on the beat with this brand-new weekly social news column. Thanks to the gracious indulgence of our intrepid editor, Nate Schwartz, I’ve been handed the social commentary keys to the news kingdom.

My mission? To serve as a weekly tsunami-siren for good local lore and news. I’ll be chasing the happiest headlines throughout coastal Curry County. My turf will stretch from Port Orford through Gold Beach to my home in Brookings, Oregon. I know that wonderful human-interest stories unfold every day along our rugged shores. My intention is to cross-pollinate people, events, and local happenings like a caffeinated bumblebee with a press pass.

But a columnist is only as good as his spies. If you know of a local character, hidden gem, or heartwarming tale deserving a little ink, don’t keep it tucked beneath a starfish. Reach out, and let’s share your community news! EMAIL: jaxlist4u@gmail.com TEXT: 510-881-3679

Thanks! Now, onward!

The leaves are turning gold along our sun-drenched Southern Oregon coast, and the social calendar is bursting at the seams. My partner in gala-gabbing, Dr. Gigi Reed, MD, and I have been burning the candle at both ends—and probably in the middle, too. Between making the rounds at chic public shindigs

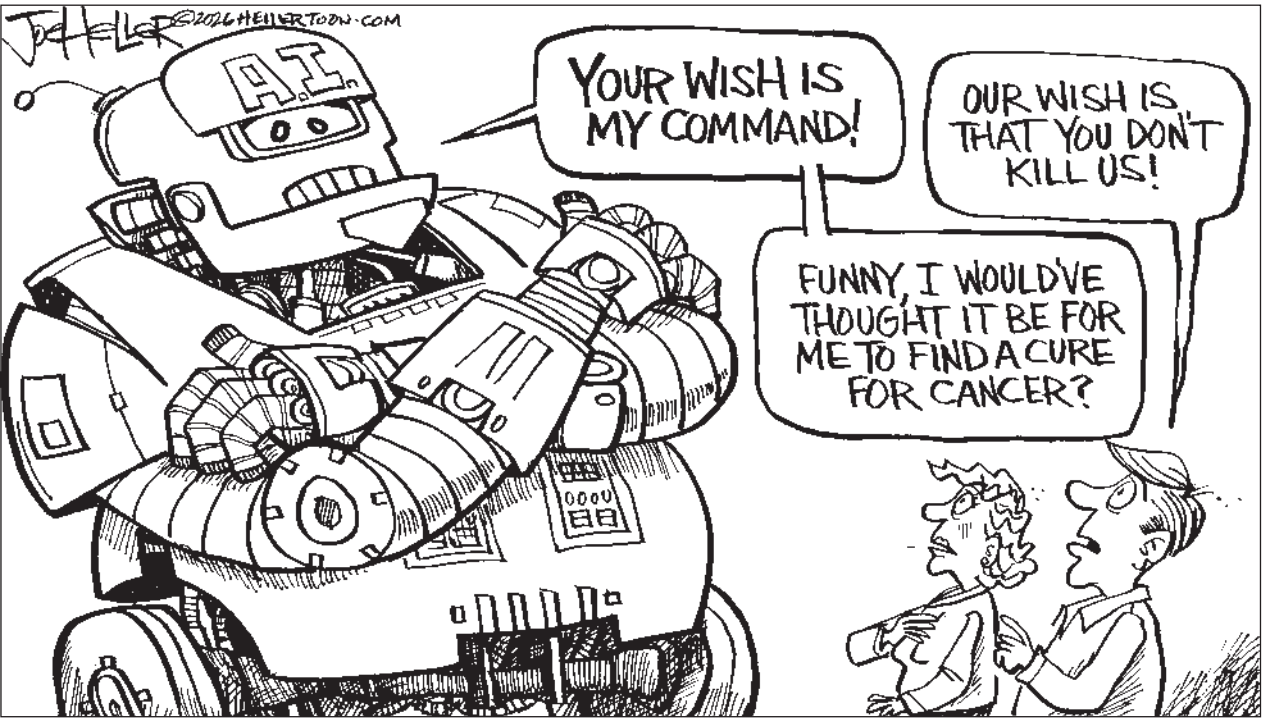
and private soirées, we must also meet newspaper deadlines and produce our syndicated weekly “KCIW” radio broadcast, “The Doc and Jacques Show.” The pace has been deliciously frantic!

Now, a fellow can get dizzy on the cocktail circuit until something comes along and knocks his socks clear into the next ZIP code. It happened last week at the Monarch Memory Care facility in Brookings. Enter Tricia Iverson, a grand gal and friend with a heart the size of the Pacific. For nearly 15 years, Tricia has poured her soul into a marvelous nonprofit called Harmony and Me. One facet of her 501(c)(3), is Move to the Music, which brings joy, rhythm, and song to residents of elder-care homes.

When I visited Monarch, there was a whole lot of shakin’ going on. The room was electric—feet tapping, spirits lifting, and smiles beaming from sea to shining sea. I can rattle on for paragraphs about Tricia and her many altruistic crusades, but we must save some ink for later. We’ll dip into her wonderful world again, so stay tuned.

Speaking of dynamic ladies—and proving that “The Future Is Female”—two musically talented and ever-so-funny gals in Gold Beach deserve a tip of the hat. I’m talking about Yana G. and Lacey Young, the dynamic-duo known to coastal night owls as “Rogue Strings.”

Folks, these lovely gal-pals know how to put on a show! They dish out



Holy Cow! History

The Golden Age of TV

By J. MARK POWELL
InsideSources.com

Mr. Whipple, Mrs. Olson and the Golden Age of TV Ad

Once upon a time, American consumers took advice from a little man floating inside a toilet bowl.

No, really! Ask your parents. They’ll remember. There’s even a name for it — the Golden Age of TV commercials. From 1960 through 1980, 30-second ads built three television network empires, influenced shoppers’ purchases and kept us entertained.

One genre stood out from all the others: spokesperson campaigns.

The name says it all: A mashup of a fictional character serving as a spokesperson for a company or product. Nobody knows who coined it, although the smart money says it originated with Madison Avenue types in the early 1970s when that advertising tech-



nique was in full flower.

A case can be made that the first TV spokesperson was Adelaide Hawley Cumming, who began portraying Betty Crocker on television in 1950. Purists reject that claim, since Betty Crocker’s name had appeared in print as far back as 1921.

Although her character didn’t have a name, dancer Floria Vestoff became an early commercial favorite starting in 1949 when she hoofed across fuzzy black-and-white screens wearing a cardboard box of Old Gold cigarettes. She appeared as the prancing pitchwoman so often, she’d worn out 12 cardboard costumes by 1952!

Mr. Clean — in the form of actor House Peters Jr. — first blew into households in 1958 in a burly blend of real life and animation.

And with that, the floodgates were open.

Juan Valdez and his burro ambled down a mountainside with bags

of “100 percent Colombian coffee” in 1959. The character (whose name was much easier to remember than the sponsor’s, the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia) was played for a decade by actor Jose Duval, with Carlos Sanchez carrying on the role into the new century.

Speaking of java, arguably the greatest spokesperson of all pitched a particular brand. Mrs. Olson performed one matrimonial miracle after another, saving more marriages than Dr. Phil McGraw, all over a friendly cup of Folgers coffee.

First appearing in 1965, Mrs. Olson (who seems to have been born without a first name) was the wise older neighbor who counseled young new-llyweds in a soft Scandinavian accent. Never mind that actress Virginia Christine was actually born and raised in Stanton, Iowa; her soothing coffee counsel kept couples together until 1986, selling carloads of Folgers in the process. (Folks back in Stanton were so proud of their Local Girl Made Good that they erected a coffee pot-shaped water tower in her honor in 1971.)

Another spokesperson superstar had a weird fetish. One day in 1964, a fussy, likable but slightly neurotic neighborhood grocer burst into living rooms fretting about toilet paper. George Whipple (al-

though he had a Christian name, the creators needn’t have bothered, because he was known simply as Mr. Whipple) lived in terror that shoppers couldn’t resist squeezing Charmin toilet tissue rolls. (Why that was a bad thing was never fully explained.)

After delivering his catchphrase, “Please don’t squeeze the Charmin!” he was always caught doing just that.

Speaking of names, you may be surprised to learn that the biggest sad sack spokesperson actually had one. Commencing in 1967, veteran comedy actor Jesse White was perpetually frustrated at having nothing to do at work day after day. While TV viewers loved him simply as The Maytag Repairman, the character was officially dubbed Ol’ Lonely. White played him for 21 years, followed by Gordon Jump, Hardy Rawls, Clay Earl Jackson and Colin Ferguson.

Another job-related spokesperson also used her profession to pitch a product. When bubbly screen veteran Jane Withers first pulled on a pair of white coveralls and picked up a wrench in 1963, she probably had no idea she’d just struck commercial gold. Josephine the Plumber took

See More HISTORY on page 3

Weekly Poll

DO YOU LIKE SCARY MOVIES?

• 19.0% LOVE THEM

• 71.4% ABSOLUTELY NOT

• 9.5% ONLY DURING SPOOKY SEASON

Poll Results

currypilot.com

New poll every week!

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Off the charts: Two rashes

By DR. GiGi REED MD

It is common for patients to come to the clinic convinced they have poison ivy, only to learn that the rash is actually shingles—or the reverse. Both can make someone feel miserable, but they are very different conditions. Shingles results from reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. After a person has chickenpox, the virus can remain inactive in nerve tissue for many years. Later in life, it may reactivate and cause shingles. Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac cause a form of contact dermatitis. This is an inflammatory skin reaction that occurs when the skin contacts an allergen or irritant.



Poison ivy is a classic example: the oily resin from the plant triggers a delayed hypersensitivity, or allergic-type, reaction in susceptible people. Other chemicals, cosmetics, metals, and workplace exposures can also cause contact dermatitis. One of the most useful clues is how the rash feels. Shingles often begins with pain, burning, tingling, tenderness, or unusual sensitivity in one area

before the rash becomes obvious. Even light touch from clothing or bedcovers may be painful. Contact dermatitis, on the other hand, is usually marked by intense itching. It may also sting or burn, particularly when the skin is badly irritated, but itching is generally the dominant symptom. Scratching can worsen redness, swelling, and inflammation. The pattern of the rash provides another important clue. Shingles usually affects only one side of the body and follows the path of a nerve, often producing a bandlike or stripe-like area of rash. Clusters of small, fluid-filled blisters commonly develop. Poison ivy and other forms of contact dermatitis usually appear where the skin came into contact with the offending substance.

The rash may be patchy, streaked, or scattered across several exposed areas. Poison ivy frequently produces linear streaks, reflecting where the plant brushed against the skin. The two conditions also follow different courses. Shingles commonly lasts about two to four weeks. However, the rash is not always the most troublesome part. Some people develop postherpetic neuralgia, persistent nerve pain that remains after the skin has healed. This discomfort can last for months and, occasionally, much longer. Contact dermatitis generally improves once the offending substance is removed and the skin has time to settle down. Most cases resolve over several days to a few weeks. Repeated exposure to poison ivy or another trigger can

cause the rash to return or prolong the irritation. Treatment depends on the cause. Shingles is often treated with antiviral medication, particularly when treatment is started early. Pain-relieving medicines and soothing skin care may also be needed. Prompt treatment can shorten the illness and may reduce the risk of prolonged nerve pain. Contact dermatitis is managed by washing away the irritant or allergen as soon as possible, avoiding additional exposure, and reducing inflammation. Topical corticosteroids, antihistamines for itching, and—in more severe cases—oral steroids may be used. Cool compresses, calamine lotion, and gentle skin care can also provide relief. In short, shingles is

a painful viral illness involving the nerves and skin, while poison ivy is an itchy inflammatory reaction caused by skin contact with an allergen. Pain that begins before the rash and remains on one side of the body points more toward shingles. Intense itching, especially in streaks or in areas that contacted a plant or other trigger, is more suggestive of contact dermatitis.

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

Signs of progress in a challenging economy

By LEXIE WOODWARD Executive Director, South Coast Development Council

We are not in an easy time for economic development,

and Oregon is not an easy place to do it. Businesses across Oregon are navigating workforce shortages, rising costs, housing challenges, infrastructure constraints

and economic uncertainty. Here on the South Coast, many of those challenges are amplified by our rural geography, smaller labor pool and fewer resources. We see those challenges in the data, and we hear them directly from busi-

nesses. In 2025, we met with 132 businesses across the region and documented seven barriers that surfaced repeatedly: workforce, site and utility readiness, late awareness of business incentives, fragmented regional data, housing, sup-

ply chain fragility and the limited capacity of very small businesses. Those are real challenges, and there are no quick fixes. But there is another part of the story that I think is equally important: even in a difficult economic en-

vironment, we are seeing evidence that the South Coast's economic development ecosystem is working and maturing.

Progress from page 2



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SOCIAL From Page 2

original ballads with such style and wit that they can wake-up a wooden whale. Their high-octane act arrives Oct. 8 at the fabulous

Old Agness Store, lovingly operated by everybody's friends, Steve and Michelle Berlant. If you miss that show, they'll tune up again Oct. 10 at the Arch Rock Brewery tasting room. All of it happens in Gold Beach. Meanwhile, Kevin and

Rhonda Jones have been spotted cruising the coast like high-riding banditos in their famously tattered brown 1978 K-30 Chevy van. This gas-gulping vintage beast packs a whopping 730 horsepower and rides so sky-high that Rhonda needs a pioneer's

spirit and a sturdy aluminum ladder just to reach the passenger seat! When they're not defying gravity, this lively pair can be found cavorting with the Corvette and Mustang crowd. They attend car shows religiously and love nothing more than seeing smiles reflected in chrome hubcaps. Lastly, some quick shout-outs to Finley and Gudrun, Michael, Teresa and Josh Powell, Dr. Joe Vogl and Karen, Miami Scott, Joanie Lindenmeyer, and "The Ghosts of St. George Reef Lighthouse!" That's it for this week! Stay tuned for more wildly interesting people and events coming your way. Cheers!

HISTORY From Page 2

a break from repairing household pipe problems to preach the stain-removing power of Comet cleanser, which, coincidentally, she always happened to have on her. Josephine proved so popular that, at one point, Withers was filming 30 storylines a year before hanging up her toolbox for good in 1974. Time doesn't permit mentioning them all, like a certain clown named Ronald McDonald (whose 1963 debut looked nothing like today's version, with a paper cup for a nose and a food tray for a hat, yet who nonetheless went on to sell billions of burgers), or Madge the Manicurist, who delighted in duping women customers into soaking their fingers in bowls of Palmolive dishwashing detergent. Oh, and that skipper nattily decked out in white slacks, blue blazer and a captain's hat who shouted advice from the bottom of the family commode? He was the Ty-D-Bowl Man who, from 1968 to 1984, was played by a parade of B-list actors, including Dan Resin, best remembered today as Dr. Beeper in "Caddyshack."

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

You're Invited!

Ribbon-Cutting Celebration

Curry Infusion Center

Please join Curry Health Network and Curry Health Foundation as we celebrate the opening of the Curry Infusion Center and the expansion of lifesaving cancer care close to home on the southern Oregon coast.



Saturday, October 10, 2026



12:30 p.m.



Curry Infusion Center
Curry General Hospital
94220 4th Street
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Following the ceremony:
Tours and refreshments
at Bethany Lutheran Church
94190 5th St., Gold Beach
All are welcome!

Infusing Hope Together





Letters to the Editor

County Sovereign Wealth Fund

I think, as in Communist China and some Arab nations, each USA County or at least each state should have a Sovereign Wealth Fund. Since I moved here from another state (not California, Nevada, Idaho or Washington) my rent and electric bills have continued to rise.

The electricians and landlords (that sometimes are the same person) seem to be psychopaths since they seem callous about that fact that old people, the disabled people, people doing jobs that maybe demand less smarts skills - they have no recourse to "raise their price" on others, at least not as easily as these monopolist tricksters taking advantage of peoples' addictions or humble survival needs.

Luckily, I am better off than a lot of people. But as Bernie Sanders would say - make sure the 1%, the billionaires, are paying into at a high percentage of their income to The County

Sovereign Wealth Fund. Then the poor people can simply apply to it for help with their rent and utilities - even internet.

Of course, the wealthier USA counties should be helping the poorer ones who cannot as easily build up huge amounts (think Saudi Arabia or other Arab monarchies) in their County Sovereign Wealth Funds. And of course there would be no more moving of wealth to these tax shelter places, personal Gates Trusts, with no trust in the County you were born in and mainly worked in or whichever County you choose (within reason and with the approval of the Economics Experts on the matter.)

Jeffery North
Brookings

Dear Residents of Brookings and surrounding areas

We recently visited your lovely area and camped at the Red Meadows Campground in Hiouchi. We love this part of the country and have loved ones in the area.

While almost all of the people we interacted with were kind and helpful we are saddened by the dishonesty of two. Our e-bikes (a white Harley Davidson and orange Cyrusher) were stolen from the RV Park at approximately 4:00-4:30 a.m. , August 30th. The bikes were locked to our RV by a cable. The cable was cut.

We learned from a gentleman that he saw a woman with an orange hoodie with a black jacket over it at the turn off to the RV Park at 4:30 that morning on the orange bike.

We also found out there had been a bike stolen from the RV Park a few weeks earlier.

We filed police reports with the Crescent City police and the County Sheriff. If anyone has any information please contact these departments. They have our contact information.

We hope the good people of the area will help in the apprehension of these thieves.

Richard and Joan Larsen
Green Bay, WI

Voters have power to demand better

I woke up this morning to the news that another one of our highly qualified public safety servants is leaving Curry County. This individual has served this community with the training, experience, and knowledge that only years of service can provide.

I cannot say that I blame him for leaving. Our Board of Commissioners, including my opponent, stripped him of the rank of Sergeant he had earned through dedicated service

and merit, reclassifying him as a Road Deputy in an effort to politicize the reality of our public safety. While our community is already facing a crisis of too few deputies to respond throughout the county, the BOC is pushing the few experienced people we still have out the door.

Two years ago, this Board made decisions that resulted in massive cuts to our public safety.

A quick review of the County's master payroll on their website shows that we lost 14 positions from the criminal patrol division. Now we are losing another experienced deputy to a neighboring county—one that provides 24-hour law enforcement coverage and can put a deputy at your doorstep during a crisis. A county that values commitment to excellence, and one that rewards service, achievement, and merit.

We are at a point where we need to ask ourselves: Why would any qualified public servant choose to come to Curry County? Furthermore, why would

they want to stay when their experience and dedication are treated like political problems?

This is bigger than one deputy or one Sheriff.

It is about the kind of county government we want. We should not only be recruiting experienced public servants, but it is in our best interest to retain them—not drive them away! We should be putting our communities and public safety first, not playing political games with the people responsible for protecting our communities.

This has to end. Curry County deserves better.

The voters of Curry County have the power to demand better.

My opponent and this Board have had the opportunity to fix these problems.

They have chosen not to. I will.

Jeremy Dumire
Candidate for Curry County Commissioner

PROGRESS
From page 3

We estimate that businesses we supported created 27 jobs in 2025 and another 58 through August of this year. Three new storefronts opened and another reopened. Three businesses we helped enter new markets or sales channels reported approximately \$275,000 in resulting sales. Funding applications supported through letters

of support have secured more than \$2 million for workforce, infrastructure, community and business development projects.

We are also seeing something that is harder to measure but just as encouraging. Entrepreneurs who came into our network are now providing bookkeeping, photography, website development, consulting and other services to other entrepreneurs we serve. That means expertise businesses once may have



needed to find outside the region is now being built here, creating more opportunities for businesses to "Source Local" and keep those dollars circulating in

our economy.

None of this means our economic challenges have disappeared. It means that the network we are cultivating together with our partners and all of you is working.

That is why we are asking South Coast businesses to participate in our annual South Coast Business Survey. Your responses help us determine where our limited time and resources can have the greatest impact.

When businesses consistently identify the same barrier or opportunity, we can investigate it further, bring the right partners together, pursue funding and other resources, advocate for solutions, or develop new initiatives.

We know the state and region face significant economic challenges. We also know the South Coast has tremendous economic assets, opportunities and growing momentum to build on.

If you own or manage a business on the South Coast, please take the South Coast Business Survey and encourage other businesses to do the same. The better we understand what businesses are experiencing today, the better we can work together to tackle our challenges, seize our opportunities and build an even stronger South Coast economy. Survey: <https://bit.ly/4AGQJT6>

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<https://staroftheseastcharles.org/>

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

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

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Church of Christ
17222 Passley Rd., Brookings
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10am

Sunday Morning Worship Assembly...11:00am
Wednesday Bible Class.....6pm

Evangelist: Michael Wilk
541-469-6453 or 541-469-0191

Christian Science Church
429 Pine St. at Redwood Spur, Brookings

Sunday Service.....11 a.m.
Sunday School.....11 a.m.
Wednesday Testimony Mtg. 6 p.m.

Reading Room:
Monday & Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.
or by appointment
www.BrookingsCSC.com
541-469-2398 or 469-3333

To God Be The Glory Christian Community Church
15138 McVay Lane

Sunday Service 10:30am
Bible Study Thursdays 7:00pm

See Our Facebook page

Friends Who Like Christian Community Church - Harbor

Pastor Carl Smith
541-659-9352

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Pastor Barry Kimbrough
102 Park Ave., Brookings
541-469-3030

Saturday Bible Study.....10:00am (All Ages)
Saturday Worship.....11:15am

Also on Facebook and Youtube.
<https://www.facebook.com/7thdayadventistbrookings/>

Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

188 E Cooper, Crescent City
www.GraceLutheranCC.com

Fort Dick Bible Church

"Grace Alone, through Christ Alone, for God's Glory Alone"
6725 Lake Earl Dr.

Sunday School - 9:30am
Sunday Service - 10:45am
Sunday Replay on Facebook @FortDickBibleChurch

Mid-Week Bible Study - call for details
Phone (707) 458-4030

Smith River Baptist Church

340 Highland Avenue, Smith River

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

Worship Service.....10:30am

Solid Rock Christian Fellowship
Pastor Pat Henderson
(707) 460-1696

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

Sun 10:00am • Wed 6:30pm
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550 Chetco Lane, Brookings 541-469-6822

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu 1	Fri 2
Menu is subject to change without notice. Meals include Drinks (Coffee, Tea (hot or iced), Milk, or Water), Salad, and Dessert. Meals Cost \$10 to prepare - Donations requested.				
5	6	7	8	9
Beefy Chili With Beans Cornbread Corn	Fish Taco Rice Black Beans	Sweet & Sour Chicken Turmeric Rice Asian Blend	Italian Baked Fish Tomato Pasta Green Beans	Cheeseburger Lettuce, Tomato Pickles, Onion Sweet Potato Fries Hot Dog Baked Beans Carrots
12	13	14	15	16
Smoked Pork Ribs Yams Succotash	Egg & Chili Taco Regried Beans Fruit	Chicken Alfredo Pasta Chef's Blend	Salmon Patty On A Bun Chicken Noodle Soup	Beef Stroganoff Biscuit Carrots
19	20	21	22	23
Beef Stew Biscuit Beets	Chicken Taco Rice Beans	Meatloaf Baked Potato Chef's Blend	Fish 'N Chips Peas & Carrots	Cheese Ravioli With Maranara Garlic Bread Zucchini
26	27	28	29	30
Kielbasa With Sauerkraut Mac 'N Cheese	Beef Taco Refried Beans Corn	Vegi Spaghetti Bread Sticks Grilled Vegetables	Tuna Melt Clam Chowder	Turkey Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy Yams

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502

Help Wanted

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

790

Misc Wanted

Brent Ottosen Timber Co. Selective logging specialists. Buying standing timber. Insured with excellent references. Honest, dependable service throughout Southern Oregon. Call today for estimate: 541-866-8586.

OLDER POKEMON CARDS. Paying cash for 1990s-2000s Pokemon cards, collections, binders. Any condition. Local transaction. Please call or text Dane 503-884-5031. Thank you.

999

Public Notices

Notice of Public Meeting
The Winchuck Rural Fire Protection District will hold its next Board of Director's meeting on Wed., Oct 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M., at the Winchuck Fire Hall, 363 Winchuck River Road.
Agenda:
1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Reading of the Minutes
3. Chief's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Public comment
8. Adjourn meeting
Respectfully Submitted
Jan Loren, Secretary
10/7/2026 Pilot 430015

NOTICE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY & MANUFACTURED HOME
TO: Registered Owner **Rendon, Larry**, (last known address: 16391 US Highway 101 Site #5, Harbor, OR 97415), the Estate of Larry Rendon, and all heirs, interested parties, or claimants.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Safeway 28x70, 4F42LS5 Manufactured Home (Home ID #196200, Serial #28x704F42LS5933 Oregon License #X00122280) and all personal property located within Space #5 at Brookings Mobile Home Park, 16391 US Highway 101 Site #5, Harbor, OR 97415), is deemed abandoned.
Unless said property and manufactured home are claimed, and all storage fees of \$800.00 per month are paid, the landlord intends to sell, donate, or dispose of the home and personal property as authorized by ORS 90.425 and ORS 90.675.
To claim this property, contact Brookings Mobile Home Park, 16011 Lower Harbor Rd, Harbor, OR 97444. Deadline to respond and establish intent to claim is **October 16, 2026**.
9/30, 10/7/2026 Pilot 430860

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 10/15/26. The sale will be held at 10:00am by Tiny's Automotive & Upholstery Shop 16340 Lower Harbor Rd. Ste 1 # 306 Brookings, OR 2011 Toyota Van VIN: 5TDKA3DC6BS008888 Amount due on lien: \$4600.00 Reputed owner: David R. Leroux, Tyler C. Mack, Red Bluff Auto Center, Williamson Motors Co.
10/7 & 10/14/2026 Pilot 431080

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DESIGN-BUILD DELIVERY SERVICES

999

Public Notices

BROOKINGS-HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL SEISMIC REHABILITATION
Jess Beaman, Maintenance Director
Brookings-Harbor School District 17-C
629 Easy Street
Brookings, OR 97415

Proposals for Design-Build Services for the BROOKINGS-HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL SEISMIC REHABILITATION located in Brookings, Oregon, will be received by Jess Beaman, Director of Maintenance, at 629 Easy Street, Brookings, Oregon, 97415, until 5:00 P.M., local time, October 20, 2026. Proposals can be mailed, delivered, or submitted by e-mail. jessb@brookings.k12.or.us

This Request for Proposal is part of a competitive selection process to engage a firm to provide design-build delivery services for the Project. The Project consists of seismic rehabilitation of the Brookings-Harbor High School. This may include structural rehabilitation, shear walls, foundation work, replacement of interior finishes and other related work.

RFP DOCUMENTS may be obtained from Jess Beaman, Maintenance Director, Brookings-Harbor School District, 629 Easy Street Brookings, OR 97415, (541) 469-7131 or an electronic copy can be requested from jessb@brookings.k12.or.us. This is a public works project and is subject to Oregon Prevailing Wage and Oregon Public Works requirements. 10/7 & 10/14/2026 Pilot 431098

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION / DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED STRUCTURE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rogue Pacific RV Park &

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 148910-OR Loan No.: *****2890 Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by MICHAEL GENTRY AKA MICHAEL W. GENTRY and LEAETTA GENTRY, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Grantor, to FIRST AMERICAN TITLE, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC., BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 12/20/2016, recorded 1/9/2017, as Instrument No. 2017-00082, in the Official Records of Curry County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Curry County, Oregon: THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND LYING IN LOT ONE (1), SECTION ONE (1), TOWNSHIP THIRTY-SEVEN (37) SOUTH, RANGE FIFTEEN (15) WEST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN IN THE CITY OF GOLD BEACH, CURRY COUNTY, OREGON, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE DRIVEN AT A POINT 265.9 FEET SOUTH AND 711.0 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION ONE (1), WHICH SAID POINT MARKS THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAT CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND HERETOFORE CONVEYED BY H.W. CROOK, ET AL, TO CHARLIE W. BATES AND BELLE H. BATES, BY DEED OF CONVEYANCE RECORDED MARCH 2, 1948 AT PAGES 570-571 OF VOLUME 32, RECORDS OF DEEDS, CURRY COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE SOUTH SOUTH 100 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT OF LAND HEREBY CONVEYED; THENCE SOUTH 100 FEET; THENCE EAST 1 00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 100 FEET; THENCE NORTH 100 FEET; THENCE WEST 100 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. APN: R12221 Commonly known as: 29543 CROOK ST GOLD BEACH, OR 97444 The current beneficiary is: ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums:

Delinquent Payments:	
Dates:	Total:
12/1/2025 - 8/1/2026	\$3,724.29
Late Charges:	\$41.38
Beneficiary Advances:	\$4,368.23
Total Required to Reinstate:	\$8,133.90
TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF:	\$75,645.30

By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$71,565.93 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.875 % per annum, from 11/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225, San Diego, CA 92108, will on 1/12/2027, at the hour of 11:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, MAIN ENTRANCE, CURRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 29821 ELLENSBURG, GOLD BEACH, OR 97444, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 8/28/2026 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, CA 92108 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Hamsa Uchl, Authorized Signatory of Trustee 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14/2026 Pilot 430394



Whip up a Tasty and Healthy Vegetable Ribbon Salad

Welcome in the fall season with colorful ribbons of orange, green, yellow and red! Abundant zucchini, squash and carrots can be woven together with fettuccine pasta for a tasty supper that your family will enjoy, from preparation to the last bite.
Hand each of your preteen kids their own vegetable peeler and give them a few tips to hone their ribbon-making skills! They'll keep busy and feel useful cutting vegetables while you cook up the pasta. A healthy supper will be ready in minutes.

VEGETABLE RIBBON SALAD

Serves 4-6
— 8 ounces fettuccine pasta, cooked, drained and rinsed in cool water
— 1-2 small-size green zucchini
— 1 yellow squash
— 2 medium-size carrots
— 1 scallion
— 1/2 fresh red pepper (optional)
— 1/2 cup of your favorite vinaigrette-style salad dressing, or traditional vinaigrette (see recipe below)
— 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
— Chopped parsley or basil
Trim off the ends of the zucchini, squash and carrots. Use a vegetable peeler to cut the vegetables lengthwise into long, thin, ribbonlike strips. When you reach the inner seeds of the zucchini and squash, stop and continue slicing the other side. Discard the centers.



In a small bowl, let one child whisk the salt, mustard and vinegar together. While whisking, another child may slowly add the oil in a stream, until the mixture is well-combined. Store covered at room temperature for a week or in the refrigerator for a month.

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at DonnaErickson.com.

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celebrity

extra

by Dana Jackson

Q. I recently discovered the series "Sweet Magnolias" on Netflix and binged all five seasons over the summer. Is there going to be a sixth one anytime soon?
— J.J.

A. Unfortunately, Netflix recently announced that there won't be any more new episodes of "Sweet Magnolias" after the fifth season concluded in June. This has come as a shock to the show's fans because one of the couples, namely Dana Sue (Brooke Elliott) and Ronnie (Brandon Quinn), appeared to be headed toward "Splitsville."

JoAnna Garcia Swisher, who played Maddie, had nothing but kind words for the show, despite the bittersweet announcement of its cancellation. She stated, "'Sweet Magnolias' came into my world during a chapter that held some of my deepest loss [the death of both of her parents] and, somehow, some of my greatest joy."
The series is based on the "Sweet Magnolias" novels that were written by Sherryl Woods. Perhaps fans can find a proper conclusion for their favorite characters inside those pages. Netflix also recently announced that the show's executive producer and showrunner Sheryl J. Anderson is creating a new show for the streamer, called "Ladies of the House." Swisher's set to produce and possibly even star in it, too.

This new series is also based on a set of novels that feature three female central characters. The "Ladies of the House" books are written by Lauren Edmonson.

Q. Is there anywhere I can stream "Murphy Brown"? I've noticed it's missing on all the ones I subscribe to. — E.D.

A. According to TVLine, the original seasons of the Emmy-winning hit comedy series "Murphy Brown" have been unable to find a home on any of the streaming platforms due to music rights. It's the same reason why shows like NBC's "Homicide" weren't streamable for many years, until Peacock was able to secure the show with partial rights.

According to TVLine, "Murphy Brown" creator Diane English explained that the show "used one and sometimes

Place all the vegetable ribbons into a large bowl. Trim off the green ends of the scallion. Tear them into thin, long strips with your fingers. Add to the vegetables.

Add pasta and toss lightly with your favorite vinaigrette dressing, or prepare the basic recipe below. Cut thin slices of the red pepper and arrange on top, if you wish. Top with grated Parmesan and parsley or basil. Serve with French bread.

Extra Tip: If your kids love apples, add one to the salad for sweetness. Peel, core and cut an apple into 4 slices. Peel strips from each slice and add to the vegetable ribbons.

BASIC VINAIGRETTE
Makes 1 cup
— 1/2 teaspoon salt
— 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
— 1/4 cup white wine or sherry vinegar
— 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil



In a small bowl, let one child whisk the salt, mustard and vinegar together. While whisking, another child may slowly add the oil in a stream, until the mixture is well-combined. Store covered at room temperature for a week or in the refrigerator for a month.

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JoAnna Garcia Swisher as Maddie in "Sweet Magnolias"

two pieces of original music" when crafting unique opening sequences for each episode.

But here's a bit of good news: There was a "Murphy Brown" 13-episode revival series that was released in 2018, and you can find these episodes on the free streaming service Tubi.

Q. Is it true that Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan didn't want to work with Tom Hardy on "MobLand" anymore? — L.L.

A. While the Paramount+ series "MobLand" returned for its second season this September, it was rumored that star Tom Hardy wouldn't be returning for a third. His co-stars Helen Mirren and Pierce Brosnan recently denied that Hardy was a pill to deal with on set. Mirren stated that she loves working with Hardy, hopes to share more scenes with him in the future, and called him "the most amazing actor."

Some chatter on the internet includes theories that Paramount started the rumors of Hardy being difficult because they didn't want to pay him his worth. Fortunately, the two parties have come to some kind of agreement because Hardy will be back for season three.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



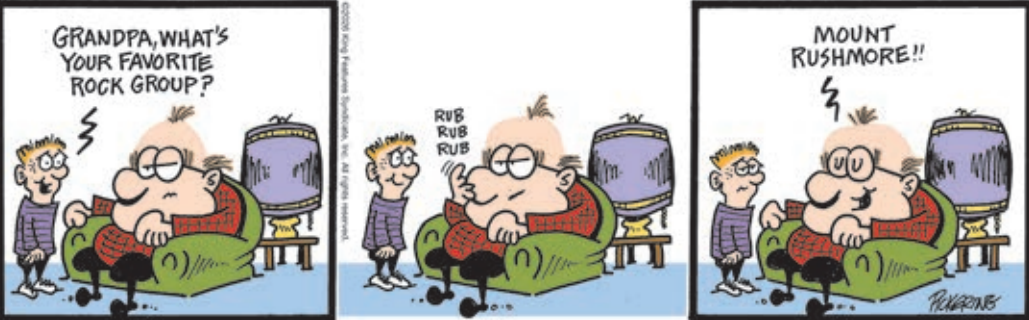
Out on a Limb

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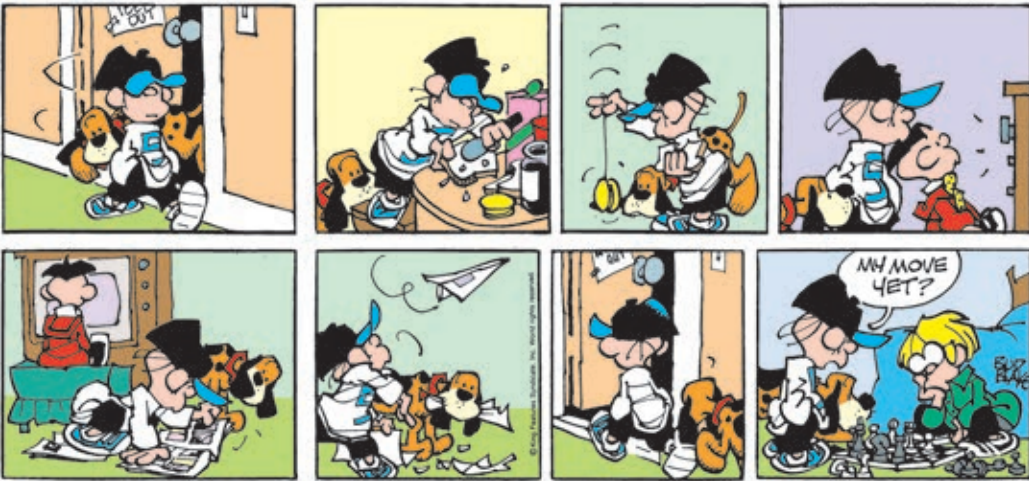
The Spats

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



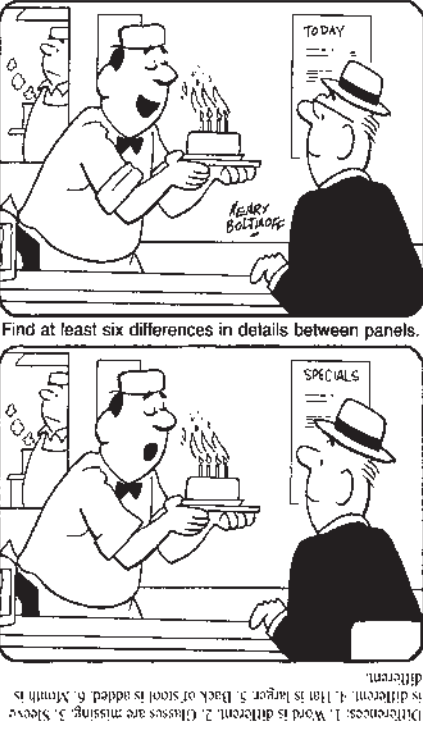
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: T equals M

VYEJ TZSYJ OQA EUUATG ZU
JYG REXQKZJG NYQNQBEJG
NEICO QR NEXG-CVGBBZIS
CVEKRU? JQQJUZG JKQBBU.

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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!

Mull
ENDROP
Shine
SHIPLO
Bore
CREEPI
Deli
MAILAS

TODAY'S WORD

October 5, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Use a squeegee
- 5 ACLU concerns
- 8 Oodles
- 12 Valhalla VIP
- 13 — Jima
- 14 Slightly
- 15 Reveals by accident
- 17 California valley
- 18 LAX and JFK overseer
- 19 Bad spell
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Young bloke
- 22 Used to be
- 23 Skewered Thai recipe
- 26 Beach robes
- 30 Four Corners st.
- 31 Gearwheel tooth
- 32 Barrett or Jaffe
- 33 Pond floater
- 35 Unclothed
- 36 Long lunch?
- 37 Tier
- 38 Teapot feature
- 41 Binge
- 42 Hiatus
- 45 Galley gear
- 46 Legendary gossip columnist
- 48 Vicinity
- 49 Soul, to Sartre
- 50 Eager
- 51 Drudge
- 52 PX patrons
- 53 Trawler gear
- 9 Final notice
- 10 Clock reading
- 11 Swizzle
- 16 Horse-drawn carriage
- 20 Klutz
- 21 Revolving tray
- 22 Witty one
- 23 Bando of baseball
- 24 "Exodus"
- 4 Em halves
- 5 Ticked off
- 6 Candy sold in twos
- 7 Soak (up)
- 8 Breaking point
- 31 Taxi
- 34 Impose
- 35 Egggy drinks
- 37 Demolishes
- 38 Daytime drama
- 39 Rid of rind
- 40 Sweet sandwich
- 41 Rock's Hendrix
- 42 Donate
- 43 Bickering
- 44 Profs' degrees
- 46 Trail the pack
- 47 "Sheesh!"
- 29 Blue

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

A cliché

B	A	S	I	C

- Cable subscription option
- Gelatin
- Dog's portion?
- Agricultural output
- Everyday writing
- Narrative device

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael Klotz Inc.
See more at www.fivespotpuzzles.com

02662



Solution time: 23 mins.
Answers

King Crossword

Trivia Answers

- 1. H.G. Wells
- 2. Istanbul, Turkey
- 3. 687 Earth days
- 4. Ursula
- 5. 120 days
- 6. 2,001
- 7. Orange, green and purple
- 8. "Arrested Development"
- 9. A smack
- 10. 64

Cryptoquip

What might you assume is the favorite chocolate candy of cave-dwelling dwarfs? Toosie Troll's.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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State and Regional News

Oregon students’ grasp of key subjects slowly grows, but below pre-pandemic levels assessments show

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon students continued to make small gains in key subjects over the last year but still haven’t returned to pre-pandemic levels. They’re also not keeping pace with many of their peers nationwide when it comes to reading and writing. The latest results from statewide assessment tests in English language arts, math and science show that across subjects, grades and districts, students tested at the end of the last school year were still about 8 percentage points behind pre-pandemic achievement levels. Overall proficiency in key subjects grew by less than 1 percentage point on average from the previous school year. Less than half of all Oregon students tested are proficient readers, about one-third are proficient in math and less than one-third are proficient in science according to the state tests, a stubborn trend that has persisted in math and science since before the pandemic and worsened in English language arts since the pandemic. Proficiency for elementary students means they are reading and doing math at or above grade-level standards. For 11th graders, proficiency also indicates college-readiness. But ongoing declines in the five years since students returned to schools

following pandemic closures have begun to turn into small rebounds in the last two years. In the state’s 10 largest districts — responsible for educating about 40% of Oregon’s 540,000 students — students have made small gains in most subjects, but most are still on average looking at double-digit percentage point gaps from pre-pandemic proficiency levels. “We are focused on steady, sustained gains that build over time. And while this year’s results may not feel transformational on their own, sustained improvement year after year can fundamentally change outcomes and the trajectory for our scholars,” said Charlene Williams, director of the Oregon Department of Education, at a news conference Tuesday. Small gains at bid districts The small gains made in Oregon’s largest districts mean those students are, on average, testing at proficiency levels above the state’s overall averages, which inched up by less than a percentage point since last year across all subjects. The biggest success among the large districts is Portland Public Schools, where students have on average come within a few percentage points of pre-pandemic levels in English language arts, math and science. Other big districts, such as Salem-Keizer, have seen

gains from literacy investments in certain grades. Salem-Keizer’s third-graders had their second year of improvements in reading and the largest since the pandemic, outpacing the statewide average. “Last year, we said we had bent the curve, reversing a pattern of loss to one of gain. This year, we are expanding on that pattern with districtwide gains and state-leading gains in third-grade ELA,” said Salem-Keizer Superintendent Andrea Castañeda in a news release. “Third-grade reading accelerated, math improved in every tested grade, and every school posted a gain in ELA or math. I can’t imagine more affirming news for our hardworking students and staff.” Angelica Cruz, director of literacy at the Oregon Department of Education, said there are clear signs of improvement in reading across most grade levels. Third graders who took the assessment tests last year were in first grade when the first round of more than \$90 million Early Literacy Success Initiative dollars were released to schools. Those students have benefited from at least two solid years of literacy-focused support and investments, according to Cruz. “While long-term impacts will take time to fully emerge, these results represent encouraging early signs that the state’s literacy initiatives are



(Metro Creative Connection)
Oregon students' overall proficiency in key subjects grew by less than 1 percentage point on average from the previous school year, according to the state's most recent data.

moving achievement in the right direction,” she said. The annual assessment tests, called Smarter Balanced tests, are given in the spring to grades three through eight and 11th grade students. The tests are required by state and federal law, though Oregon allows parents to opt their children out of testing, according to the state education department. Prior to the pandemic, participation in the tests was closer to 95% while this year it was about 88% on average across all grades and subjects. Students were not required to take the tests in 2020 and the state education department scaled back

testing in 2021. This year saw marginally higher numbers of students participating in the tests, but the percentage of high schoolers taking the tests is still below 80%, making their assessment data difficult to interpret effectively, according to state education officials. Oregon’s slow marginal growth in recent years reflects a nationwide trend showing student learning was negatively affected by the pandemic, which included more than a year of online classes. Students nationwide are, however, making “sizable improvements” in reading according to recent data assessed by NWEA, the Port-

land-based nonprofit that administers assessments similar to the Smarter Balanced tests called MAP tests. <https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/09/24/oregon-students-grasp-of-key-subjects-slowly-grows-but-below-pre-pandemic-levels-assessments-show/> Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

CRISIS continued from page 1

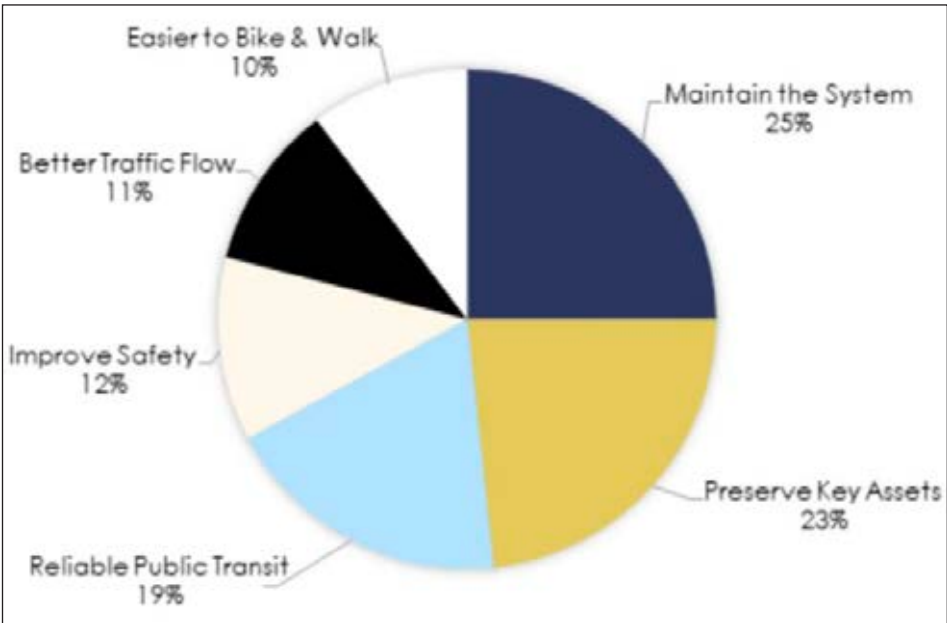
About 8,650 Oregonians from all counties except Wheeler County responded to the survey. More than 60% of respondents live in the Portland metro area, according to the survey analysis. In 2024, nearly half of Oregon’s population lived in the Portland metro area, according to a state economic analysis. Survey comments express frustration with spending, emphasize public transit The first question in the survey asked respondents to rank six transportation priorities:

- Improving safety
- Reliable public transit
- Easier to bike and walk
- Better traffic flow
- Maintaining the system, such as fixing potholes, clearing debris and snow
- Preserving key assets, such as bridges and roads needing replacement

Maintaining the transportation system was ranked as the top priority in the survey, followed by preserving key assets, improving safety, making it easier to bike and walk, reliable public transit and

better traffic flow. Nearly 4,600 people included comments in their answers to this question, including hundreds who expressed their frustration with cuts to TriMet, Portland’s public transportation system. Many of them said they rely on public transportation because they cannot afford a car or because of health issues. The department did not include commenters’ names in its records release, or any other identifying information aside from each respondent’s zip code. “I’m an avid public transportation user because my life was altered by a driver hitting me while I was cycling in the bike lane during the day,” a person wrote. “Making the roads safer for all, especially pedestrians and cyclists, is important. Public transit is the greenest and most viable option, especially when coupled with reliability and safety.” Nearly 40 comments said they want the state to focus on increasing wildlife crossings, which wasn’t listed as a priority option in the survey. Other comments expressed frustration with the department’s financial

efficiency, asking that it creates more cost-effective ways to complete projects. “No new taxes,” a person wrote. “There are too many taxes in Oregon. Reduce expenses first. Increase efficiency,” another person wrote. The second question in the survey asked Oregonians how they would allocate transportation funding, asking them to put the percentage of funding they think each priority category should receive. The survey analysis shows respondents said the transportation agency should focus its funding on maintaining its infrastructure, followed by focusing on preserving assets and public transit. The third question asked respondents about what type of transportation service reductions would impact them the most. The answers mirrored responses to the first question, saying not maintaining the system, preserving key assets and improving safety would impact them the most. The last question was an optional and open-ended question, asking Oregonians what a well-managed transportation system looks like to them.



The chart above shows the average percentages survey respondents allocated to each category. (Screenshot from analysis)

Of the more than 6,800 responses to this question, an analysis conducted by Oregon Department of Transportation staff found that 20% of responses want a transportation system that offers different transit options that works for people of all income levels and communities. “A successful transportation system gives people the freedom to choose what transportation mode they wish to use by equally investing in making them all safe and reliable,” one

respondent wrote. Another 19% of responses called for more reliable public transit options, while 17% of responses said the transportation agency should focus on budgeting and delivering projects. The remaining responses asked the agency to focus on maintaining roads and bridges, improving traffic flow and eliminating perceived wasteful spending. “Stop pushing ridiculously expensive freeway expansion projects that do

nothing at all to address safety, congestion, connectivity or reliability in our transportation system...” a person wrote. “Develop and maintain a transportation system that provides options people can afford, rather than mandate car ownership.” Kotek’s workgroup will hear the results of the findings at its next meeting on Oct. 9. The group has until the end of the year to present its transportation funding recommendations to the governor.

CALENDAR From page 6

Thursday, October 22
Residential Organic Yard Waste curbside collection, Port Orford



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High School football, Elmer Bankus Field, SOCOMI Sports Complex: vs. Siuslaw. Homecoming and Senior Night.

Saturday, October 24
Spooky Season Double Feature, Chetco Library: 1:00 pm - 4:15 pm. The Nightmare Before Christmas and Hocus Pocus will be shown back-to-back; attend one film or both.

Fall Poetry Circle, Chetco Library: 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm. All-ages community gathering celebrating written and spoken verse.

Tuesday, October 27

Music of Four Centuries: Peter Fletcher in Concert, Chetco Library: 5:00 pm. Free solo classical guitar recital with repertoire from the Renaissance through the 20th century.

Wednesday, October 28

Craft'n'Connect with Kim, Chetco Library: 1:00 pm. Free step-by-step Forgotten Fairies miniature workshop for adults; registration opens October 1 and is required.

Look-Back Book Club, Chetco Library: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Teens 16+ and adults revisit a childhood clas-

sic; see library social media or chetcolibrary.org for the October selection.

Monthly Drum Circle, Chetco Library: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Drop in to play percussion or listen; all percussion instruments are welcome.

Thursday, October 29
Tea and Tarot, Chetco Library: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Monthly gathering near the full moon hosted by Kalyca Bell, with tea and tarot reflections in a welcoming setting.

Friday, October 30
Brookings-Harbor

High School football, at Douglas Trojans.

Friday, October 30 - Saturday, October 31
Trick or Treating & Spooky Selfie Station, Chetco Library: all day. The library is an official stop on the Curry County Chamber of Commerce candy map, with treats and a family photo station.

Saturday, October 31
Book Talk Book Club, Chetco Library: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Discussion of Caretaker by Marcus Kliever in the Quiet Reading Room.