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Sports

PAGE B8



OUT IN LC'S ANNUAL PRIDE

FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

Coast Life

PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2



The Newport Safeway store is located at 2020 N Coast Highway in Newport. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

Newport Safeway to close

JEREMY C. RUARK

Lincoln County Leader

Company officials confirm that the Newport Safeway store, located at 202 N Coast Highway will close by June.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to renew our lease." Albertsons Companies Senior Director Communications, Public & Government Affairs Jill McGinnis told the

Lincoln County Leader.

McGinnis said there are 90 employees at the Newport Safeway.

"Our team is working with the affected

See **SAFEWAY**, page A6

Pilot walks away from small plane crash at Waldport

STAFF REPORT

Lincoln County Leader

First responders rushed to the Wakonda Beach Airport in Waldport at approximately 1:35 p.m. Feb. 11, following a report of an airplane crash.

A small aircraft had struck a grove of trees and was reported to be severely damaged, with the pilot still inside, stuck approximately 50-feet up from the ground.

Responders arrived on scene and contacted the pilot, who was the sole occupant of the aircraft. The pilot, identified as 80-year-old Les Lacasse, was safely extricated



The plane landed in a growth of trees near the Wakonda Beach Airport in Waldport. (Courtesy from the LCSO)

Lawmakers issue letter of opposition for ICE detention center

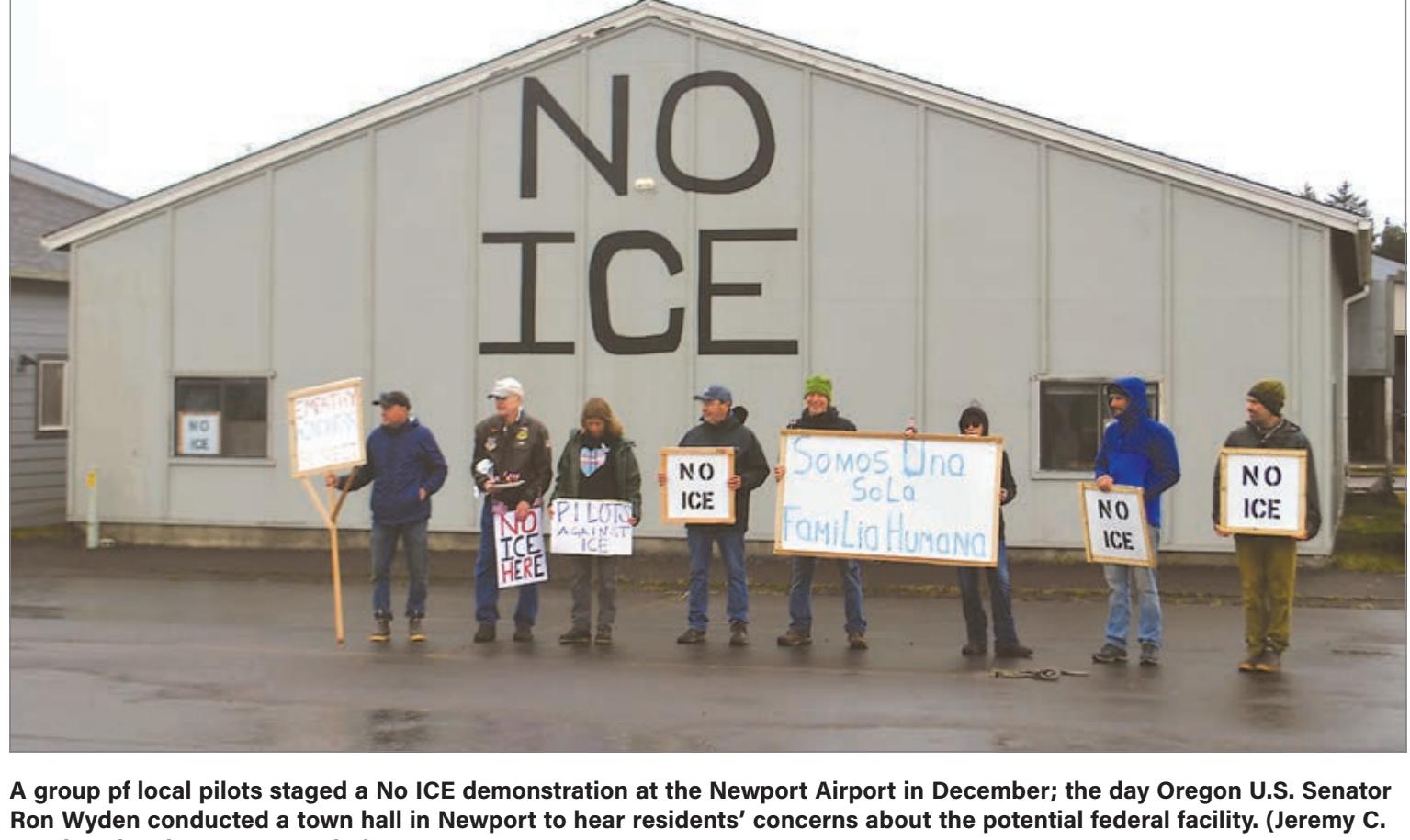
JEREMY C. RUARK

Lincoln County Leader

Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and several other federal lawmakers have issued opposition to the Trump administration's efforts to establish or expand immigration detention facilities in Oregon.

Merkley and U.S. Congresswoman Andrea Salinas (OR-06) led Oregon's Democratic members of Congress and ten additional House members in a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) acting director Todd Lyons opposing such plans, including so-called "soft-sided" or repurposed facilities.

The letter, issued February 12, raises serious concerns about the safety, transparency, environmental impacts, and humanitarian standards of ICE facilities, particularly regarding



A group of local pilots staged a No ICE demonstration at the Newport Airport in December; the day Oregon U.S. Senator Ron Wyden conducted a town hall in Newport to hear residents' concerns about the potential federal facility. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

\$73M in school bond measure projects taking shape

JEREMY C. RUARK

Lincoln County Leader

Since voters approve a \$73 million dollar Lincoln County School District bond project in the May 2025 election, crews have been working to complete the improvements, repairs, and additions.

To gain insight into what's been done and what's next, the Lincoln County Leader has reached out to Susan

Schuytema, the district's communications representative.

Lincoln County Leader: Give us an overview summary of what has been done since the passage of the bond.

Susan Schuytema: Since voters approved the bond, Lincoln County School District moved quickly to begin work.

In fact, projects began the day after the election, even before bonds were sold, using available capital construction funds that were later reimbursed with bond proceeds. We hit the ground running.

Lincoln County Leader: Are the projects on time and on budget? If not, why

not?

Schuytema: All projects remain on schedule and on or under budget. Any time there has been even a slight delay on a project, Facilities Director Rich Belloni has filled in with other projects, so the crews are never on hold. Since we're using our in-house team and local contractors for the relatively smaller projects, we've been able to maintain progress and efficiency.

Since passage of the bond, LCSD has completed numerous safety, infrastructure, and facility upgrades across the district, and additional projects are underway or



LCSD's Facilities and Maintenance crew finished the rubber fall protection at the Sam Case Elementary School playground. All elementary schools will have these safety features installed. (Courtesy photo from the LCSD)



6 18134 63978 4

See **BOND**, page A7

Weather

Wednesday: High-56/Low-37

Partly Cloudy

Thursday: High-54/Low-40

Sunny

Friday: High-51/Low-41

Mostly Cloudy

Saturday: High-48/Low-38

Rain

Sunday: High-51/Low-35

Rain

Monday: High-45/Low-36

Showers

Tuesday: High-45/Low-37

Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

Rain Low High

February 3 0.00 50.8°F 63.2°F

February 4 0.00 51.3°F 72.6°F

February 5 0.00 48.8°F 70.4°F

February 6 0.00 46.0°F 60.1°F

February 7 0.67 46.8°F 56.4°F

February 8 1.55 47.3°F 53.7°F

February 9 0.01 46.5°F 53.3°F

Total rainfall from Jan. 1 7.92"

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Low 12:06 a.m. 4.6

High 6:43 a.m. 7.8

Low 2:36 p.m. 1.1

High 10:01 p.m. 5.7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Low 1:35 a.m. 4.7

High 7:48 a.m. 7.9

Low 3:30 p.m. 0.8

High 10:43 p.m. 6.1

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Low 2:48 a.m. 4.6

High 8:47 a.m. 8.2

Low 4:14 p.m. 0.3

High 11:14 p.m. 6.5

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Low 3:43 a.m. 4.2

High 9:38 a.m. 8.4

Low 4:51 p.m. 0.1

High 11:41 p.m. 6.7

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Low 4:28 a.m. 3.8

High 10:22 a.m. 8.7

Low 5:24 p.m. 0.4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

High 12:07 a.m. 7.1

Low 5:10 a.m. 3.3

High 11:04 a.m. 8.8

Low 5:55 p.m. 0.6

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

High 12:32 a.m. 7.4

Low 5:50 a.m. 2.8

High 11:45 a.m. 8.8

Sunrise/Sunset

February 11 7:23 a.m. 5:38 p.m.

February 12 7:21 a.m. 5:39 p.m.

February 13 7:20 a.m. 5:41 p.m.

February 14 7:18 a.m. 5:42 p.m.

February 15 7:17 a.m. 5:44 p.m.

February 16 7:16 a.m. 5:45 p.m.

February 17 7:14 a.m. 5:46 p.m.

February 18 7:12 a.m. 5:48 p.m.

February 19 7:11 a.m. 5:49 p.m.

February 20 7:09 a.m. 5:51 p.m.

February 21 7:08 a.m. 5:52 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, February 6

Megamillions

13 • 21 • 25 • 52 • 62 • PB-19

Saturday, February 7

Powerball

25 • 36 • 42 • 51 • 58 • PB-6 • x2

Saturday, February 7

Megabucks

6 • 15 • 18 • 19 • 32 • 44

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Lincoln County Leader

(Publication number 0888-2110)

Published weekly, 52 issues per year

Periodicals postage paid at

Newport, OR 97365

Postmaster: Send address changes to Lincoln County Leader mailing address,

PO Box 670 Salem, OR 97308

OFFICE ADDRESS - HOURS

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Production Jody Craig

IN COUNTY PRINT W/DIGITAL:

Annual \$90

6 months \$65

Monthly \$10

DIGITAL ONLY:

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Oregon agency warns of scam targeting Spanish-speaking injured workers

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) is warning the public about a scam targeting Spanish-speaking injured workers in other states, including in nearby Idaho and Montana.

In these scams, workers are contacted by phone, email, social media apps such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp, or video calls. The scammers try to convince the worker to appear at an online workers' compensation hearing, and at times, this results in an official appearing order in their favor. Thereafter, they are told must pay money to receive the workers' compensation benefits or the settlement for their claim.

These communications may appear official and the hearings may include a fake judge, attorney, or government



In these scams, workers are contacted by phone, email, social media apps such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp, or video calls. (Metro Creative Connection)

representative. The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division (WCD), part of DCBS, and the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) will never ask anyone to pay to receive benefits

Here's what you should know:

- WCD, WCB, and insurance companies do not ask for payment

- Official communications from WCD and

to release workers' compensation benefits. Never pay money up front for benefits or settlements.

- WCD and WCB will never ask for payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. Be skeptical of any requests for payment.
- Official communications from WCD and

WCB will not pressure you to act or pay immediately.

- WCB, which conducts workers' compensation hearings, does not charge or collect fees for hearings or mediation.

- WCB does not use social media or applications such as Facebook Messenger or WhatsApp to communicate with parties about hearings or mediations.

If you are unsure whether a communication is legitimate, do not send money or personal information. Verify before you act by contacting the Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers by phone at 800-927-1271 (toll-free) or email at oow.questions@dcbs.oregon.gov. The office serves as an independent advocate for workers by helping them understand their rights, benefits,

protections, and responsibilities within the workers' compensation system and workplace safety and health laws and rules.

If you believe a scammer has contacted you:

- Report the incident to local law enforcement
- Report any scams, fraud, or suspicious business activity to the Oregon Department of Justice's fraud hotline at 1-877-877-9392 (toll-free)

- Report the scam to the Oregon Department of Justice and the Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers
- Early reporting helps others from becoming victims

If someone representing an insurance company is calling and threatening you, contact the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation, also part of DCBS, at 1-888-877-4894 (toll-free).

Oregon looks to regulate AI chatbots

ROBIN LINARES

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Lawmakers who "missed the boat" on regulating social media now have a chance to address the next emerging technology's effects on youth, Oregon lawmakers contend.

Sen. Lisa Reynolds, D-Portland, and the Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health committee she chairs are championing Senate Bill 1546 to regulate artificial intelligence chatbots. The committee voted 4-1 to advance the bill with amendments to the Senate floor Thursday.

The bill would require AI programs such as ChatGPT to remind users more regularly that they are speaking to an artificial intelligence tool, not a human. The legislation follows a recently passed California law and similar legislation introduced this year in New York and Washington.

Reynolds, a pediatrician, described parents' struggles with managing electronic use among youth she works with, as kids spend more time using the internet, social media, and now, AI.

"What is coming up for me all the time in my exam room is parents feel like they're fighting a losing battle," Reynolds said.

Assessing teen AI use

AI use among teens is increasingly common, with 72% of teens using AI companions, and more than 50% as regular users, according to the nonprofit Common Sense Media. Other research from the organization noted that nearly a third of teens find conversations with AI chatbot companions just as satisfying or more satisfying as real-life conversations.

Robbie Torney, the head of AI and digital assessments at Common Sense Media, said teens are using AI chatbots as companions for emotional support or to discuss mental health.

"Our testing shows that they consistently miss subtle warning signs — and even not so subtle warning signs — that another human being, a parent, a friend or an adult would catch," Torney said.

There have been several cases over the past few years of AI chatbots, including ChatGPT and Character.AI, contributing to teen suicides, according to parents' testimony before a U.S. Senate committee last year.

The Oregon bill proposes additional guardrails for youth access to AI, including calling for programmers to note that the platform may not be suitable for minors, to not show or

promote sexually explicit content or conduct and to discourage spending extended time interacting with the platform.

Expanding notifications is one way chatbots can promote responsible AI use, said Linda Charmaraman, senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College and founder and director of the Youth, Media and Wellbeing Research Lab. She supports educating youth about responsible uses of AI, rather than outright bans.

"Whether it's adults or for minors, just to remind people that there are limits to the technology and that there's inaccuracies," Charmaraman said. "If I could wave a wand, I would love for them to really focus on AI literacy from early ages."

Suicide prevention

focus

Beyond youth access, Reynolds added that the bill's intent is to protect anyone expressing suicidal tendencies.

The proposed legislation would require programmers who make their tools available to Oregonians to develop protocols for their AI platform to detect signs of suicidal ideation, self-harm or thoughts of intending to do either.

Siletz Tribe distributes \$248,109.02 in charitable giving to Oregon non-profits

The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCCF) distributed \$231,298.09 to 55 organizations in the state on Friday, Feb. 6, at the first quarter award ceremony.

The Siletz Tribe has made contributions through employment, monetary donations and cooperative measures to the Siletz community, Lincoln County and the state of Oregon.

The seven-member charitable fund advisory board has distributed more than \$19.5 million since its inception in 2001. Chinook Winds has donated more than \$7.5 million in cash and fund-raising items since it opened in 1995. The casino also provides in-kind donations of convention space for various fund-raisers as well as technical support, manpower for many events.

The second quarter deadline to apply is March 2, 2026. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. The deadline is final, postmarks are not accepted. Early submission is recommended. When possible, apply 1-2 weeks prior to the deadline to allow time for basic screening and to correct applications where required. Assistance is provided as appropriate.

Eligibility for money from the charitable fund is limited to two categories:

- Entities and activities



The Siletz Tribe has made contributions through employment, monetary donations and cooperative measures to the Siletz community, Lincoln County and the state of Oregon. (Courtesy photo)

located in the Siletz Tribe's 11-county service area (Lincoln, Tillamook, Linn, Lane, Benton, Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties)

- Native American entities and activities located anywhere in the U.S.

Applications are encouraged to be submitted via e-mail at stccf@ctsi.nsn.us.

The application and requirements can be obtained at ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund or by calling 541-444-8372.

The first quarter distribution awards went to these non-profits serving their communities:

Cultural Activities:

\$11,500

- Adair Living History, Inc - \$2,000

LCSD NA/AN Education Program - \$4,500 Powerland Heritage Park - \$5,000 Drug & Alcohol Treatment: \$4,000 Soaring Heights Recovery Home - \$4,000

Education: \$51,161.22

- Eugene-Springfield NAACP - \$5,000 Friends of the Albany Public Library - \$1,500 Friends of the Scio Public Library - \$1,535 Newport Middle School Booster Club - \$6,000 Oregon Coast Community College - \$21,943.22 Oregon Coast STEM Hub/Agricultural Research Foundation - \$5,000 Philomath Elementary School - \$2,253

Philomath Scout Lodge - \$2,820 Siletz Tribal Head Start Parent Committee - \$2,610 St. Clare School - \$1,000 Youth Development Coalition of Lincoln County - \$1,500

Environment & Natural Resource Preservation:

\$24,700

- Chintimini Wildlife Center - \$4,700 City of Siletz - \$20,000

Health: \$34,500

- Corvallis-Albany Farmers' Markets - \$3,000 Daisy CHAIN - \$4,000 Fair Share Gleaners - \$4,000 HIV Alliance - \$5,000 Looking Glass Community Services - \$4,000 Mary's River Gleaners,

Association - \$1,500 Mountain Gospel Fellowship: Falls City Produce Giveaway - \$3,000 Our Community Birth Center - \$5,000 Yamhill County Master Gardener Association - \$5,000

Historical Preservation:

\$14,840

- Central Grange #360 - \$8,000 Friends of the Historic Butteville - \$5,000 Willamette Grange #52 - \$1,84

Housing: \$8,333.99

- Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County - \$5,000

Samaritan House

- \$3,333.99

Public Safety: \$28,652.81

- Dundee Fire Department - \$4,572.14 East Lincoln County

Fire Rescue - \$4,750 Hoskins-Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District - \$3,251.26 Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District - \$3,182.52

Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association - \$3,000

Siletz Valley Grange #558 - \$9,896.89

The Arts: \$15,064

- Charles A. Sprague High School - \$4,200 Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops - \$3,050

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology - \$7,814

Prevention: \$11,770

- CASA - Voices for Children (Lincoln County) - \$3,000 Eugene Little League - \$3,770 Siletz Eddyville Toledo Baseball & Softball - \$5,000

Other: \$43,587

- Centro De Ayuda - \$2,000 Lebanon Gleaners, Inc. - \$3,000

Lincoln City Sunday Market - \$1,400 Siletz Round Dance Committee - \$10,000

South Corvallis Food Bank - \$4,000

The Foundation Athletics dba NS Cal Ripken - \$5,000

Toledo Public Library - \$10,000 Waldport Library Foundation - \$1,500

Women at the Well Grace House - \$6,687

Immunizations update deadline is Feb. 21

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

With the annual deadline fast approaching for updating children's vaccinations, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reminds parents and caregivers that their children may miss school or child care, if they are missing vaccinations.

By the fourth Wednesday in February, under state law, all children in public and private schools, preschools, Head Start and certified child care facilities must submit documentation showing they are up-to-date on required vaccinations or have an exemption.

This year, the annual Exclusion Day falls on Feb. 25. If a child's records do not show up-to-date vaccinations by that day, the child's school or child care facility will send them home.

"Vaccine-preventable diseases can be highly contagious," OHA's Public Health Division School Immunization Coordinator Stacy de Assis Matthews said. "Last year, for example, Oregon reported 1,552 cases of pertussis, the highest number we've seen in 75 years. Vaccination remains our best defense against these diseases, keeping kids and school communities healthy and safe."

A new OHA report shows parents and guardians seek nonmedical exemptions (NME) for their children's required school vaccinations for two primary reasons: Concerns over vaccine safety and the inability to get vaccination appointments.

The study was launched in 2023, after Oregon's kindergarten NME rate reached what was then an all-time high of 8.1%. That continued a steady rise in



This year, the annual Exclusion Day falls on Feb. 25. If a child's records do not show up-to-date vaccinations by that day, the child's school or child care facility will send them home. (Metro Creative Connection)

such exemptions over the past decade, interrupted only by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the rate reached a new record high of 9.7%.

Record highs for NMEs were recorded for the past three years.

These findings can be found in the report *Understanding Nonmedical Vaccine Exemptions in Oregon*.

"We want to make sure that all families are able to get their questions about vaccines answered by a trusted medical provider, and to get into a clinic where their children can get needed vaccines," said de Assis Matthews.

For children who are still missing vaccinations for the current school year, county health departments mailed letters to parents and caregivers (on or before Feb. 4) informing them of the upcoming deadline to submit their children's up-to-date vaccination records.

Last school year (2024-2025), county health departments in Oregon mailed 22,702 letters, which led to 4,504 children being sent home and not able to attend school until their families provided the necessary vaccination records.

School vaccination and exemption rates for the 2024-2025 school year are available at Oregon's School Immunization Data dashboard. Data for the current school year will be available this spring.

With the upcoming school vaccination deadline, and with difficulty getting vaccines being a factor in increasing exemption rates, OHA wants people to know where to get vaccines for their children.

Parents and caregivers can contact their health care provider or local health department. No one can be turned away from a local health department because of their inability to pay for required vaccines.

Many pharmacists can also immunize children aged 7 and older. Families can also call 211 go to 211info.org to find a local vaccine clinic.

People in Oregon shared their personal stories with OHA on why they decided to vaccinate their children:

- Hear how Sarah's powerful conversations changed her mom's long-held views on vaccinations: <https://youtu.be/dPBsfySwJQ>
- Reverend Dr. Currie encourages people

from all religious walks of life to get their vaccinations: <https://youtu.be/D6XnPm1N4iQ>

• As a parent herself, Dr. Choo talks about why she vaccinates her children: <https://youtu.be/aDy7sseKs24>

OHA invites people to join the conversation and share why they vaccinate by using #ORVaccinates on social media.



We're proud to support our Oregon operating communities, and in 2025 we contributed nearly \$300,000 to projects across the state.

Thank you to our nonprofit partners for helping us provide important resources our communities need to grow and thrive!

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Facing a 'chilling effect,'

Oregon lawmakers seek to beef up abortion, trans health care laws

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

In the wake of Oregon hospitals ending access to gender-affirming care for minors, dueling state policies over abortion and increasingly hostile federal actions toward transgender Americans, Oregon Democrats say the state's protections for doctors and patients need an update.

House Bill 4088 awaits a House floor vote after Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee advanced it earlier this week. It would build on the state's existing "shield laws" that since 2023 have sought to safeguard providers' liability insurance and their personal information while protecting them from out-of-state prosecutions, investigations and professional discipline.

The Trump administration has subpoenaed hospitals and providers for providing gender-affirming care, issued warnings to breast binding manufacturers, and threatened some health care providers with prosecution. Those moves, combined with increasingly aggressive enforcement from Republican-led states which have sharply restricted abortion access and health care for transgender youth, spurred Oregon lawmakers to act.

"We've seen federal and interstate attacks on abortion and personal health decisions increasing," Rep. Lisa Fragala, D-Eugene, a bill sponsor, told the Capital Chronicle. "States like Oregon have

adopted shield laws to protect against these outside attacks, but with these increased attacks from the federal government and also incursions from other states, we've seen gaps."

The new legislation would prohibit Gov. Tina Kotek from granting another state's extradition request for a health care provider if they are engaged in providing reproductive or gender-affirming care in Oregon in a manner consistent with state law. That doesn't apply if the person is a fugitive facing charges of treason or a felony, for instance.

It also contains new privacy protections and blocks state licensing authorities from revoking a midwife's license if they faced a criminal conviction or discipline in another state for health care services that are unlawful in other states but allowed in Oregon.

The governor's office told the Capital Chronicle that she has not received any extradition requests related to reproductive health or gender-affirming care. But Lucas Bezerra, a spokesperson for Kotek, said "care that is legal in Oregon is protected, and the governor will use every tool available to uphold those protections."

"Health care decisions belong between patients and their providers, not politicians and certainly not prosecutors from another state," Kotek said in a statement. "People come to Oregon because we respect personal



Planned Parenthood has seen an uptick in demand for abortions in states where they remain legal, like Oregon, since the Dobbs decision overturning Roe. v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court. (Dana DiFilippo / New Jersey Monitor)

freedom, privacy, and evidence-based medicine. Those values are reflected in our laws, and I will defend them."

The bill would block publicly-funded agencies and state employees from cooperating with investigations into legal reproductive and gender-affirming care. The Oregon Health Authority, for instance, would be prevented from disclosing identifiable information of a person related to their use of such care during examination in a court or administrative proceeding.

The legislation comes as support for some policies involving transgender Americans' rights has decreased, according to a 2025 poll from the Pew Research Center.

A New York jury also issued a recent award of \$2 million in a landmark malpractice suit against a patient's plastic surgeon and psychologist for a breast removal surgery she received as a minor and came to regret. When

it comes to abortion, 13 states nationwide have enacted near-total bans on abortion services.

In Oregon, meanwhile, access to health care for transgender residents has been hampered as more people fleeing other states' restrictive policies have moved to the state. The advocates behind a ballot measure seeking to enshrine same-sex marriage, abortion and gender-affirming care protections in the Oregon Constitution also abandoned their signature-gathering campaign last week, calling it a "particularly difficult time, as the federal government continues attacking our rights, freedom, and basic humanity."

Kaiser Permanente announced last year that it would be pausing gender-affirming surgeries for minors younger than 19 in Oregon. Attorney General Dan Rayfield also sued the federal government alongside 11 other attorneys general in January

over a directive conditioning hundreds of billions of dollars in federal health and education funding based on compliance with Trump's January 2025 executive order on "defending women from gender ideology extremism and restoring biological truth to the federal government."

A "chilling effect" on care in Oregon

While Oregon hasn't landed on the radar of another state seeking to extradite a doctor yet, Fragala said the possibility of that happening is far from speculative.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom in January rejected Louisiana's extradition request for an abortion provider, and another doctor in the state is facing a federal lawsuit in Texas from the boyfriend of a woman who claims her doctor improperly sent her abortion medication.

"I believe health care is a human right, and so we want it to be free from interference, stigma, surveillance," Fragala said. "When those things are in place, it creates a chilling effect. And I think the loss of hospitals providing care, the loss of clinics providing this type of care, is a part of that."

Alongside the heightened backlash from conservative states and the federal government, there has also been some movement among professional health care groups which has created an opening for opponents of gender-affirming care. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons also

recently stated that it recommends waiting until age 19 for gender-affirming surgery for transgender youth, a move that the Trump administration has promised but that is already in line with existing standards of care by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Other major medical groups support evidence-based gender-affirming care but with mixed positions on surgery, such as individual decision-making or waiting until adulthood.

The bill faced opposition from some Christian medical professionals and anti-abortion activists, including the Keizer-based Oregon Right to Life, which does not delineate exceptions for opposing abortions in the case of rape or incest.

Melissa Ohden, the Kansas City-based director and founder of the Abortion Survivors Network, told lawmakers at a public hearing last week that the bill would limit transparency and prioritize provider immunity over patient safety, particularly in the case of complications. Research has shown that complications occur in about 2% of elective abortions in the United States, and of that percentage, about a quarter result in hospitalization or a medical procedural intervention.

"Facing fear, uncertainty and trauma, women need information, documentation — like access to their abortion records,

See **LAWS**, page A6

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OPINION

Jeremy Ruark, Opinion Page Editor

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

A5

Hey Newport, You're in the News

STAN SHELL
Leader Guest Column

Imagine my surprise, while watching my favorite progressive cable news network, to see a picture of our beautiful Yaquina Bay Bridge pop up, later followed by film clips of our town. Of course, that was a few weeks ago and it concerned construction of a potential ICE facility out by the airport.

This was coupled with the sudden removal of our Coast Guard helicopter from Newport and sent to southern Oregon. Later it came out that the helicopter was to be sent further south to help with "border security".

How did this happen? In the last election, classic Republicans joined with the MAGA crowd and legally elected

Donald Trump. I'm convinced that he won two elections based on preventing "open borders" and removing the "worst of the worst". Not many, including me, disagree with the goals of this policy. So how is this going? I admit the southern borders are more secure. How? By installing thousands of federal troops along a vast area of the southern U.S., rather than passing lasting immigration legislation through a MAGA/Republican congress, Trump has unilaterally ordered federal troops to the border.

Anybody have a guess how much that is costing taxpayers? How's the "worst of the worst" thing going? This brings us back to the Newport situation. Far from ferreting out the inevitable crooks in any group of people, ICE is going

after anybody they "suspect" of not belonging in the US. They are being rounded up and placed in "holding facilities" like the one envisioned by the Trump administration at our airport. People who have court dates to decide if they qualify for asylum -- too bad, into a holding area. Troops rappelling down from a helicopter searching for undocumented people (of which none were found), followed by dozens of ICE incidents which are now common. That many U.S. citizens are caught up, often roughed up and held for days at a time is common.

Inevitably, with such a ham-fisted approach, activities like this will generate pushback like in our little town.

Now the inevitable has happened. An ICE agent decided a

non-threatening protester's wife needed to be shot in the face and killed. Of course, Trump and his "ICE Barbie", Kristi Noem, insist the driver was trying to and did run over the agent. Any careful review of the films of the incident reveals this to be a total lie. Lately, the Trump administration has decreed that there would be no investigation of this atrocity, in which a U.S. citizen was killed.

Like most liberals I was horrified with the destruction I anticipated by Trump after his election. But I must confess, I am even stunned by how bad it has become.

Like the immigration debacle unfolding in front of us, Trump's policies regarding insane tariffs on our long-time allies and bordering countries has set us on a course for higher prices,

loss of foreign markets like soybeans to China, Kentucky whiskey to the rest of the world and many other products that are now less attractive to foreign buyers. Look at bankruptcy filings across the country. Now comes his insane threat to take over Greenland. This would be against Denmark, a fellow NATO member, which would end the NATO organization. I wonder what Vladimir Putin thinks about this?

Like most liberals I was horrified with the destruction I anticipated by Trump after his election. But I must confess, I am even stunned by how bad it has become. However, the recent events should terrify even the Republicans in our country. Trump has bombed Iran, threatened to bomb Mexico's suspected drug facilities, has bombed Venezuela and kidnapped their President. He then said we were taking their oil and everyone is going to get rich. This is so ludicrous it's almost

funny. That we are going to unify a country with many armed factions, spend billions of dollars fixing a broken set of oil fields and take their extracted oil "all on a summers day" is absurd.

Did you, Republicans, vote for this: tariffs, ICE seizures of Dreamers, roughing up citizens, destroying NATO, alienating our neighbors and biggest trade partners, and bombing multiple foreign countries?

Wonder what you think about Donald Trump Jr. saying at the Turning Point Conference on December 21 that it is no longer the Republicans that lead the political right, it's MAGA! Are you still on this Bandwagon to Hell that you voted for? If not, there is an election in 10 months.

Stan Shell is a Lincoln County resident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REJECTING THE PRESENCE OF ICE

As a homeowner in Lincoln City, Oregon, for 35 years, I support the recent vote of the Lincoln City Council to draft a resolution opposing any operations or housing presence by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) in our city.

We have seen the results of increased ICE activities in other cities across the country. Do we believe things will be different if ICE locates a detention center in Lincoln County or houses its employees in Lincoln City?

Lincoln City is a tourist destination. Although it has only 10,000 or so residents, it routinely hosts more than 600,000 guests from all over the country and the globe, from all social and economic statuses, and from multiple cultures. That diversity, unsurpassed scenery, mild climate,

outdoor recreation, shopping, dining, lodging, and entertainment contribute to the charm of Lincoln City.

That charm would be irreparably harmed by housing ICE detainees in Lincoln County or housing ICE employees in Lincoln City.

The potential damage to the city's \$330 million-dollar annual tourism revenue alone should be a major consideration in anyone's decision to oppose an ICE presence. Other considerations include the impact on infrastructure, including water, sewer, and roads; the strain on public services, including police, fire, and healthcare; and the loss of housing for visitors, residents, and temporary workers.

For these and other reasons, I command the Lincoln City Council's decision to join our neighbors in Astoria, Newport, Toledo, and Waldport in publicly

rejecting the presence of ICE in our city, too.

*Cary Greenwood
Lincoln City*

HELLO FELLOW OREGONIANS

I recently attended a Lincoln City Council meeting in support of a declaration opposing the activities of masked ICE agents and of establishing a concentration camp in our region.

The question for our city leaders, as I saw it was: Should we welcome ICE to our community?

I say No. This organization has a documented track record which cannot be ignored.

Our president and his underlings have been lying to the American public about ICE agents and their assassinations of law abiding US citizens. I compare these masked secret police to the KKK of the 1920s America. No one was restraining them, no one was holding them

accountable for their excesses. It took dedicated district attorneys to build cases which could finally get convictions. Oregon was a KKK state with the governor and political officers all members of

this masked clandestine organization active in the 1920s. I'm sure most of us have grandparents who recall this period of Oregon history only 100 years ago. The Japanese relocation to concentration camps by the US army in the 1940's was another illegal event which dispossessed US citizens of their freedom, property and future dreams.

What we are asking the Lincoln City Council to do is to declare that the ICE organization is not welcome here. We have no "worst of the worst" operating on the Oregon coast. This was a lie. Trump and his followers lie. We have hard working neighbors who are a

net benefit to our seafood processing industry, our logging industry, our construction industry, our agricultural industry, our hotel industry and our restaurant industry.

Please join the Newport, Waldport and other city leaders across our nation who want to stand on the side of reason and history. Resist the pressure of our local white nationalists to side with trump and his corruption of our country.

*Ken Sund
Otis*

SUPPORTS VACCINATIONS

Thank you for your recent article regarding influenza cases in Oregon.

For those individuals wondering whether the flu shot may be worth the effort, please let me add to the discussion. A recent review article in the Journal of the American Heart Association

(2025;14:e042670) puts it best: respiratory infections, such as influenza, significantly increase the risk of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) and stroke.

Vaccination reduces your risk of having a heart attack and stroke. As an epidemiologist, I can attest that taking measures to protect yourself against influenza may be an act of kindness for yourself, your family members, and your neighbors.

*Dr. Mary A.M. Rogers,
Newport*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Abraham Lincoln

ONLINE POLL

PREVIOUS POLL

Do you agree with Gov. Kotek's call to stop all federal immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated.

Yes 60.2%

No 39.8%

NEW POLL

Would you prefer to vote on the referendum on last year's statewide transportation funding package at the May or November elections?

- May
- November

We want to hear your opinions.
Email: jruark@countrymedia.net



Lincoln County Leader

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Open House for W. Olive Street Improvement Project

The City of Newport will host a community open house on Wednesday, Feb. 18, to share preliminary designs and gather public input on the W. Olive Street Improvement Project.

The open house will be held at the Newport Public Library from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. No formal presentation is scheduled, allowing attendees to stop by at their convenience.

Improvements as part of this project include the addition of bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway, curb extensions, and accessible sidewalk ramps along W. Olive St. between NW Nye St. and SW Coast St. Project design is currently approximately 30 percent complete, and a construction timeline has not yet been established.

Project designers and City leadership will be available to discuss the enhancements, answer questions, and receive community feedback. Attendees are encouraged to review the designs and share their input as the project continues to move forward.

WHAT: W. Olive Street Improvement Project Open House

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. p- 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 18

WHERE: Newport Public Library, 35 W. Nye St., Newport

This event is open to the public.



ASPIRE Program helps Toledo students picture their future

LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Walk into the ASPIRE room at Toledo Jr/Sr High School, and it feels less like a classroom and more like a living room or casual café.

Couches, comfortable chairs, and snacks create a welcoming space where students come and go throughout the day, whether they have a scheduled mentoring session or simply need a safe place to talk and think about their future.

That intentional atmosphere is part of the vision of Jen Hamilton, who is in her second year as GEAR UP coordinator and ASPIRE program director at Toledo. Hamilton, along with Melinda Dye, ASPIRE coordinator at

Newport High School, was recently named a College Access Champion by Oregon GEAR UP for her work

helping students plan for life after high school.

ASPIRE is a state-wide mentoring program overseen by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission. The program pairs trained volunteer mentors with students to provide one-on-one support in career exploration, college planning,



Toledo senior Tenaya Cordova works with ASPIRE Program Director Jen Hamilton on her college applications. ASPIRE students meet regularly with Hamilton and volunteer mentors for support with college planning, scholarships, and next-step guidance. (Courtesy photo)

and scholarship research. Mentors help students navigate applications, understand financial aid, and build confidence as they set goals for their future.

Hamilton hosts events throughout the year designed to help students start thinking early about what comes next. One of those is a "Picture Your Future" event, where colleges and local businesses come together to share information with students.

"It's really about improving college awareness so students can make a plan," Hamilton said. She also organizes field trips that connect learning to real-world experiences, including a visit to a

Portland

Trail Blazers game, where students learn about the many careers involved in producing a professional sporting event. About two-thirds of Toledo's middle and high school students participate in ASPIRE.

Local ASPIRE mentor coordinator Ron Brocklehurst said the program's impact is especially strong in smaller schools like Toledo and Eddyville. "Middle school students are also participating and starting to learn what it's like to be in high school and why keeping up their grades matters," Brocklehurst said.

Brocklehurst also hosts

Portland

Trail Blazers game,

where students learn

about the many careers

involved in producing

a professional sporting

event. About two-thirds

of Toledo's middle and

high school students

participate in ASPIRE.

a weekly student round-table, where students talk about their dream jobs, where they see themselves in 10 years, and their plans to make those dreams a reality.

One student benefiting from that support is Tenaya Cordova, a Toledo senior who will be a first-generation college student in her family. Tenaya has a 4.0 GPA, perfect attendance, and has participated in five varsity sports. She has already applied to several colleges and credits ASPIRE with helping her focus on her future.

"It has just pushed me to think about college and my future and where I wanted to go," Tenaya said. She plans to pursue a career in nutrition and return to the area to work at the Tribal pharmacy. Tenaya's senior mentor, Peter Vince, a retired teacher and chair of the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors, finds volunteering extremely rewarding.

"I work with students on their scholarship essays, and I have gotten to know them pretty well," Vince said.

"They have all shown resiliency, competency, and intelligence, and their ability to think about their futures makes me feel

very positive. Working with these seniors is definitely a highlight of my retirement."

While the program continues to grow, Hamilton said challenges remain, including student procrastination. "I feel like a nagging mom sometimes," she said. "There is a lot of apprehension. Many of our students are first-generation college students, and they are scared."

Despite those challenges, Hamilton and Brocklehurst agree that ASPIRE's success is driven by relationships and community support. As participation increases, so does the need for volunteer mentors. "Mentors are changing lives," Brocklehurst said. "It is so rewarding."

ASPIRE mentors can volunteer as little as one hour a week, though some choose to give more time. All volunteers complete a background check and training through the district.

Community members interested in becoming an ASPIRE mentor can contact Jen Hamilton at jen.hamilton@lincoln.k12.or.us for more information or visit the Lincoln County School District website at lincoln.k12.or.us to learn more about volunteering.

LAWS

From Page A4

not legal barriers to oversight and accountability of the provider," Ohden said.

Supporters of the bill included Kara Connelly, a pediatric endocrinologist and director of the gender clinic at Oregon Health and Science University's Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. She testified that her clinic

has faced doxing and death threats over the past few years.

"Specialty clinics at other institutions in Oregon have removed their websites entirely, causing confusion for Oregonians about which programs remain open and resulting in an influx of new referrals to our program which we do not have the capacity to take on," she told lawmakers.

Potential U.S. Supreme Court battle looms

Amanda Barrow, senior staff attorney at the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy, told the Capital Chronicle that Oregon's legislation appears to respond to a "broader strategy" from legal efforts by states

such as Louisiana and Texas to eliminate access to abortion "by any means." She encouraged lawmakers to continue pursuing data privacy protections as well.

"If the extradition provision were enacted in Oregon, that law would generally prevent another state's criminal action from moving forward against an Oregon-based provider in that state's courts," Barrow said.

"That's because it's unlikely that another state could force the Oregon provider to appear in criminal proceedings in that state, and all defendants have a constitutional right to be physically present in the courtroom at the start of a felony case."

The legislation would

exempt from public

records requests personal

information related to the

receiving or providing

of gender affirming care

or reproductive health

care that is funded in part

or whole by the state.

Lawmakers also adopted

an amendment that would

expand privacy protec-

tions to encompass pro-

viders' images and home

telephone number, as

well as their name, home

address and professional

address.

It's unclear how dis-

putes in federal court

between conflicting state

policies on such forms

of care could play out.

Barrow said the issue

could find itself up for

debate at the nation's

highest court.

"We are all expecting that a clash could make its way up to the Supreme Court for resolution," she said, "but as of now, the shield laws are operating exactly as they intended."

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/02/12/facing-a-chilling-effect-oregon-lawmakers-seek-to-beef-up-abortion-trans-health-care-laws/>

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SAFEWAY

From Page A1

associates and labor unions, where applicable, to attempt to find them other work that is both consistent with the applicable law and/or labor agreement," McGinnis said.

The Lincoln Chronicle reported that WinCo signed a lease with Dickerhoof Properties, the owner of the building, to use the 32,000 square foot portion of the building that currently houses

Safeway. The Chronicle added that WinCo was not able to confirm the plans and that the city of Newport had not received permit applications from WinCo as of Feb. 9.

When asked by The Leader if there are any plans to close the Lincoln City Safeway on Logan Road, McGinnis responded:

"There are no other store closures planned," she said.

BACKGROUND

As of June 2025, there were 305,156 grocery

stores in the United States, according to GourmetPro, which ranked top six stores being

Walmart, Cosco Wholesale Corporation, The Kroger Co., Walgreens, CVS Health Corporation, and Albertson's.

According to a Lincoln

County Leader published

article in March of 2024,

grocery stores in the

United States have been

on the decline, according

to a report from Food &

Water Watch, a consumer

advocacy group.

"The rise in

supercenters and supermarket chains coincides with a steep decline in the actual number of grocery stores — a roughly 30 percent loss from 1994 to 2019," the report states.

"The trend is toward fewer but much larger stores, including a surge in those employing 100 or more employees."

A new supercenter or grocery chain store might bring seemingly greater selection and competitive prices. But these supposed perks conceal the bigger impacts that large grocery retailers have on regional economies, the report states, adding that the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) analyzed grocery mergers and found that growing market concentration usually leads to a rise in food prices. Many academic studies also make this link. Concentration in the broader agribusiness sector can also reduce efficiency and growth while increasing economic inequality.

"Simply put, market power enables intermediaries like retailers and processors to capture an ever-growing share of food dollars, at the expense of farmers, food chain workers and eaters," the report states.

Leo J Volmering

May 15th, 1938 - February 3rd, 2026



Leo J Volmering was born May 15th, 1938, in Ruth, MI, and entered heaven's gate on February 3rd, 2026.

He devoted many years, along with his wife, who passed in 2020, as owner/operator of De Lake Bowl in Lincoln City, OR. Previously he lived with his wife and children in Corvallis, OR, and he was an Air Force Veteran.

Carol Darlene Gillen

December 25, 1939 - January 13, 2026

Carol was born at home in Pawnee, Oklahoma to Opal and Ellis Speakman on Christmas Day in 1939.

After the Dust Bowl years, she and her family moved to Castle Rock, Washington in 1947 where she grew up and met her future husband, Paul Gillen. After high school she attended Beauty School in Portland, Oregon and then moved to Toledo, Oregon in 1959 where she spent the rest of her life.

Carol and Paul married in 1960 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2025. She was a beloved and devoted wife and mother, choosing to be a stay-at-home mom raising four children and many

foster children. She loved to give haircuts to anyone who wanted one and gave hundreds over the years. She was a gourmet cook and enjoyed oil painting, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needlepoint, and gardening.

Carol and Paul were lifelong members of Toledo First Baptist Church where she taught children's Sunday school for many years. She was a living example of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.

As was her desire, Carol passed away peacefully at home on January 13, 2026, surrounded by family and friends. Hers was a life well-lived in service to others.

School for

living example

in Proverbs 31.

As was her desire,

Carol passed away

peacefully at home

on January 13, 2026,

surrounded by family and friends. Hers

was a life well-lived in service to others.

BOND

From Page A1

scheduled to begin this summer.

- Other bond projects in progress include:
- Districtwide painting
- Installation of play sheds at Oceanlake, Yaquina View, and Taft Elementary
- A synthetic turf playfield at Taft Elementary
- Rubber fall protection under swings at all schools
- A gym upgrade at Toledo Elementary
- A new 2,800-square-foot music room at Taft Elementary
- Bathroom retrofits to single-stall configurations
- New fire alarm systems at Crestview Heights, Newport Middle School, and Taft High School



The new baseball/softball bathrooms at Waldport Middle/High School have been recently completed. (Courtesy photo from the LCSD)

Box intruder alert system at remaining schools Auditorium Update: The three new 12,000-square-foot auditoriums at Newport High School, Waldport Middle/High School, and Toledo

ICE

From Page A1

a potential facility in Newport, according to Merkley and Salinas. The members demanded detailed information about ICE's detention plans in the state amid a rapid nationwide expansion of detention capacity. The full letter is attached below.

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons:

We write to express deep concern and strong opposition to any plans to open or expand Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities in Oregon. In particular, we request detailed information on plans or communications regarding the development of immigration detention facilities in Oregon.

Given the well-documented cases of overcrowding, medical neglect, and insufficient nutrition at the facilities it currently operates. In addition to human rights concerns, we also request information on how the facility's construction will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Given these grave concerns, we urge you to stop any plans to repurpose existing structures or build facilities for the purpose of detaining people in Oregon. We also request answers to the following questions and requests for information:

1. Is ICE planning to expand current detention facilities or open any new long or short-term detention facilities in Oregon?
2. If ICE is moving forward with detention, will any contracts be issued through ICE or through a separate agency contracting process?
3. If ICE is planning to expand or open facilities in Oregon, please confirm the estimated size of each facility and type of structure.
4. Is ICE planning on purchasing, renting, or repurposing any existing property or structures in Oregon for the purpose of detaining people?
5. Please provide information on the environmental impacts of any planned facility construction or expansion
6. Has ICE coordinated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and state emergency management officials to assess, mitigate, and plan for potential facility or detainee risks from natural disasters including a tsunami?
7. Please provide any reports or analysis DHS or ICE have conducted on the impacts of military readiness and coastal safety if the Coast Guard is affected or displaced.
8. Please provide detailed data on the location, capacity, and average length of stay at each soft-sided facilities in the U.S.
9. Please provide detailed information on any plans for new or additional soft-sided facilities or detention capacity in FY 2026 and FY 2027.
10. How does ICE maintain the Performance Based National

In addition to our concerns about an increase in detention facilities in Oregon and nationwide, we also have concerns regarding the type of detention facilities DHS and ICE plan to develop. Reports indicate that ICE plans to reach its detention facility expansion goals through increased reliance on temporary, "soft-sided" structures or repurposing existing structures, including in Newport, Oregon. Given the cold and wet climate of the Oregon Coast, a soft-sided detention facility or an existing structure not intended to safely house people would threaten the safety and well-being of the people who would be detained there.

Moreover, we find it increasingly difficult to believe that ICE can responsibly house and care for people humanely

in Oregon and how the agency will comply with requirements under the National Environmental Protection Act. Please also provide the results of any environmental assessment, and the names of the individuals who completed the assessment.

Detention Standards (PBNDS) in soft-sided facilities to meet requirements for care related to food, hygiene, bedding, access to legal counsel, and temperature?

11. Please provide detailed data regarding all areas of non-compliance and violations of PBNDS 2011 or other detention standards at soft-sided facilities.

12. Please provide a detailed list of every detention standard that has been waived for a soft-sided facility in CY 2025 including the date of the waiver, reasoning, and who signed off on issuance.

The letter asks that Homeland Security respond to the questions and requests for information by Monday, February 23.

LOCAL OPPOSITION

Local groups in Newport and Lincoln City have continued to stage rallies against the ICE detention facilities.

In community meetings at Newport over the past few months Newport city officials and local residents have voiced opposition to a federal detention center that has been reportedly proposed at the Newport Airport.

Following a special city council meeting Nov. 12, that filled the Newport City Council Chambers, Newport Mayor Jan Kaplan told those gathered that the city stands

communication infrastructure, and restroom configurations strengthen school safety. Modernized learning spaces, including new auditoriums, music rooms, and Career and Technical Education facilities, expand opportunities for students. Improved play areas, gyms, and outdoor facilities support student health, safety and wellness.

Overall, the bond is delivering on its promise to make schools safer, healthier, and more secure while investing in facilities that serve both students and the broader community for decades to come.

Follow developments online at the Lincoln County Leader's website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

firm in its opposition to such a federal detention facility.

"On behalf of Newport City Council, I want to begin by acknowledging the deep concern, frustration, and fear many in our community expressed regarding reports of a potential ICE facility being considered for Newport. We have heard your voices through conversations, emails, phone calls and at our Special Meeting, and our community can be assured that we share your commitment to ensuring that Newport remains a place that reflects our values of inclusion, compassion, and respect for all who live and visit here.

We recognize that even the possibility of such a facility being erected here has caused understandable alarm. I want to make it absolutely clear that City staff is working alongside our legislative leaders at local, state, and federal levels to explore every available legal and municipal avenue to oppose the siting of an ICE facility in Newport.

Newport is a city built on trust, diverse cultures, and shared responsibility. We will work together, thoughtfully, transparently, and within the bounds of the law to protect those values.

Read previous coverage of this issue at the Lincoln County Leader website and follow developments in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.



The pilot was safely extricated from the aircraft by first responders. (Courtesy photo from the LCSO)

CRASH

From Page A1

from the aircraft and evaluated by medical staff. No fatalities or injuries resulted in this incident, according to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

As of Monday, Feb. 16, the specific cause of the crash had not been released and was under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Pacific West

Ambulance, Seal Rock Fire, Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue, Yachats Rural Fire Protection and Newport Fire crews responded to the incident.

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Sudoku answers

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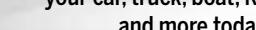
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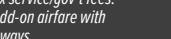
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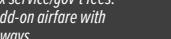
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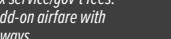
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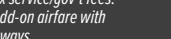
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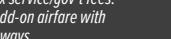
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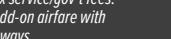
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Federal legislation introduced to stop grocery price gouging, lower costs

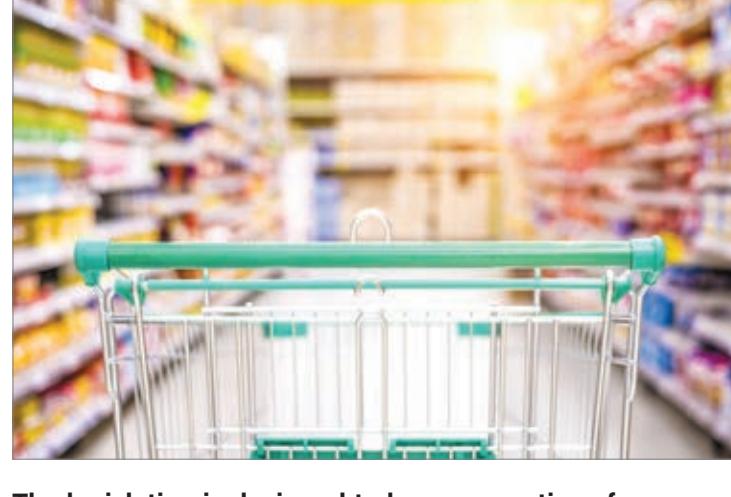
STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

U.S. Senators Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) have introduced the Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026.

The legislation is designed to ban corporations from leveraging new technologies to increase grocery prices for Americans. Specifically, the legislation prohibits the use of surveillance pricing in grocery stores, the practice of using personal data to set individualized prices for goods.

Corporations often collect and purchase your personal information to create a detailed profile of consumers. This data, coupled with mobile apps, electronic shelf labels, facial recognition, and other biometric technology, allows companies to charge different people different prices for the same item.

As grocery prices rise and the federal programs that fight hunger are slashed, some of the largest grocery chains appear poised to implement the widespread use of electronic shelf



The legislation is designed to ban corporations from leveraging new technologies to increase grocery prices for Americans. (Metro Creative Connection)

labels, a technology that allows stores to change the price of an item in a matter of seconds from a remote location, Merkley and Luján explain in a release.

The Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026 levels the playing field by implementing commonsense guardrails to protect Americans families.

"In New Mexico and across the country, Americans are struggling to put food on the table," Luján said. "With rising costs driven by President Trump's trade war

and Republican cuts to SNAP, Congress must act to ensure that technologies are being used to improve the lives of Americans, not increase their grocery bills. Our friends, family, and neighbors should be able to shop at their local grocery store without worrying about predatory pricing."

"Working families are paying more than ever for groceries, while huge corporations are raking in record profits," Merkley said. "We must protect Americans from price gouging and from billionaire corporations abusing folks' personal

information just to charge higher prices. The Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act cracks down on this corporate greed—in the store and online—putting people over profits."

"Every single American will be affected by these predatory pricing practices, including the more than 800,000 grocery workers that UFCW represents, who are on the frontlines of this war on consumers," UFCW International President Milton Jones said. "Families deserve to shop without worrying that they'll be targeted with a higher price because of their income level or zip code. We applaud Senators Luján and Merkley for their commitment to ending the affordability crisis and protecting consumers."

Specifically, the Stop Price Gouging in Grocery Stores Act of 2026 addresses the ability of corporations to leverage new technologies against consumers by:

- Prohibiting surveillance pricing in grocery stores;
- Requiring grocery stores to disclose the use of facial recognition technology;
- Banning electronic shelf labels in large grocery

stores; and

- Establishing an enforcement mechanism to hold corporations accountable.

During the government shutdown, Senator Luján led the Senate Democratic Caucus in introducing legislation that prevents the Trump administration from illegally withholding available funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). During debate on the Republican Budget Betrayal, Senator Luján spearheaded efforts to reverse the bill's drastic cuts to food assistance.

Together with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Senator Luján convened a Spotlight Forum titled "Hunger by Design: The GOP's Assault on SNAP" to underscore the devastating impact of Congressional Republicans' plan to gut SNAP.

This legislation is endorsed by The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

Oregon population growth sustained by international immigration

LUKE COURY
Leader Guest Article

Most of Oregon's population growth between 2024 and 2025 came through international immigration according to new estimates from the U.S.

Census Bureau. This dynamic was even more pronounced over the longer period between 2020 and 2025, when immigration was the only positive component of population change.

Between July 2024 and July 2025, around 9,600 more people moved into Oregon from other countries than moved out (net international migration). That was more than four times the net number of people who moved into Oregon from other states (net domestic migration) which was 2,200.

Oregon continued to have around 0.9 births for every death, resulting in a natural population decline of 3,800. Since 2020, net international immigration added 56,700 to Oregon's population, net domestic migration resulted in a drop of 670, and natural population change reduced the population by 19,500.

Luke Coury is an Oregon Employment Department economist. He may be reached at 541-224-4154 or at luke.c.coury@employment.oregon.gov



Between July 2024 and July 2025, around 9,600 more people moved into Oregon from other countries than moved out. (Metro Creative Connection)

Oregon housing bill tries to reduce rental barriers for older adults

ROBIN LINARES
Oregon Capital Chronicle

A clerical error on an online rent payment portal nearly led to one Milwaukie renter losing her home — and that's just one example of housing advocates' increasing concerns as online portals become more standard for finding housing and paying rent.

Mistyping one piece of personal information on her apartment's online portal meant Beth Walker didn't realize her rent payment hadn't gone through until after her landlord applied a late fee and prepared to start an eviction filing.

"It ultimately took hours of frantic communication and a forced day off work just to ensure the process wasn't initiated the following morning," Walker wrote in legislative testimony. "The digital divide isn't just about internet access — it's about making sure that people who lack access to or familiarity with technology like smartphones and electronic portals can still meet their fundamental needs, including housing."

Walker is one of dozens of Oregon tenants, landlords and housing advocates who urged lawmakers to pass Senate Bill 1523, which would require landlords to accommodate

renters by giving the option to use a paper application, pay by check or other non-digital methods and have non-digital keys to access rental spaces. The Senate Housing Committee advanced the bill Tuesday.

Advocates say it's a way to stop technological advancements from limiting housing access for older adults, low-income renters, renters with disabilities and those otherwise technology adverse.

While smartphone ownership has drastically increased over the past decade, data from the nonpartisan Pew Research Center shows roughly 1 in 10 adults — and approximately 1 in 4 for seniors 65 and older — don't own one.

Sybil Hebb, director of legislative advocacy at the Oregon Law Center, told lawmakers that some of her clients have nearly lost their housing because of technological mishaps from tenant portals that made rent payments appear late or even missing.

These concerns are exacerbated among low-income seniors, especially those at risk of homelessness, according to advocates at the Northwest Pilot Project. Often rental applications require multiple devices, like a computer and a phone, which some low-income



Oregon lawmakers are considering a bill to force landlords to provide renters options to apply or pay rent by paper. (Barbara Barrett / Stateline)

residents cannot afford.

"The client is basically stuck with moving forward with an application, and these are not minor inconveniences. They directly prevent people from applying for housing, and some of these clients simply give up and they don't apply at all," said Jason Colthurst, housing access manager at Northwest Pilot Project. "Access to housing should not depend on a person's ability to afford or use technology."

Most opposition to the bill came from landlords and housing providers, who noted that the lack of standardization of

from one group to another. Either the housing advocate inputs the information into the portal or the housing provider has to do it."

Existing protections under the Fair Housing Act require legal accommodations for those with disabilities. However, the act does not cover accommodations for age or income status, which housing advocates contend creates a dangerous loophole.

Judy Annon, a board member at the Oregon State Tenants Association, said that many members paid dues by check and rely on neighbors for technological support.

"And so we're going to ask you to please take into consideration the human element here of seniors who don't have disabilities that need you to support this bill," she said to the committee.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/10/oregon-housing-bill-tries-to-reduce-rental-barriers-for-older-adults/>

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.

Talk About Art



Lisa Emonds

Historical Costuming with guest speaker Lisa Emond

SUBMITTED

The Coastal Arts Guild presents "Talk About Art: Historical Costuming with guest speaker Lisa Emond, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at the Newport Visual Arts Center, 777 NW Beach Drive, 2nd floor classroom.

This event is free and all are welcome.

Lisa Emond, retired

See **HISTORY**, page B3

Lisa and Robert Emonds. (Courtesy photos)



DRAG SHOW FUNDRAISER

Out in LC's Annual Pride Festival Fundraiser

Out in LC invites the community to turn up, show out, and give back at its second annual fundraiser—an electrifying night celebrating queer joy, creativity, and coastal pride.

The Feb. 22 event will feature a full-throttle drag show starring four of the Oregon Coast's most beloved drag entertainers, a vibrant silent auction filled with must-have items from local businesses, and plenty of surprises designed to delight all night long.

Leading the evening is Sweeney Gray, the Oregon Coast's number one—and only—drag pianist, serving camp, chaos, and charisma as your master of ceremonies. The stage will also shine with performances by Lincoln City locals Mai Fai Rit, a fierce lip-syncing powerhouse, and Misty Magi, a bold and imaginative creative force. Completing the lineup is Salem's own Thee Dutchess, whose commanding presence

See **PRIDE**, page B2



Newport Seafood and Wine Festival Feb. 19-22

The Newport Seafood and Wine Festival February 19-22, offers coastal seafood, Oregon wines, and a full weekend of festivities.

The festival will be staged at the South Beach Marina. A shuttle bus will be operating to and from the event. Read more about the economic impact of the festival online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Feb. 11 print edition of The Leader.

FESTIVAL HOURS:

Thursday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TICKET DETAILS

Online prices are inclusive of service fees. All persons must be 21 years old or over for admission into the festival, ID required.

Ruby Wine Club
\$150.00 advance online sales only

Valid for one person,

comes with all 4 days of the festival VIP entry, Access to VIP room, swag bag with festival coupons, commemorative wine glass, complimentary wine tastings, VIP restroom, Seafood Chowder tasting kit and Thursday Night VIP Reception.

***3-Day Pass (Friday - Sunday) \$75. advance online sales only**

3-day pass, Friday ,

See **FESTIVAL**, page B2

Delbert Anderson blends Diné Heritage, Jazz and Funk at LCCC



Delbert Anderson Quartet. (Courtesy photo)

The Lincoln City Cultural Center welcomes the Delbert Anderson Quartet for an electrifying night of contemporary jazz at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the Cultural Center Auditorium, 540 NE Hwy 101.

Tickets are available now at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=314586> or by calling 541-994-9994.

Led by Diné trumpeter, composer, and educator Delbert Anderson, the quartet blends traditional Diné "spinning songs" with modern jazz, funk, and hip-hop influences. The result is a bold, groove-driven sound

that honors heritage while pushing musical boundaries.

Raised in Shiprock, New Mexico, Anderson began playing trumpet at age 10 and later studied music at the University of New Mexico. He formed the Delbert

Anderson Quartet to create original music grounded in Navajo culture while engaging audiences through improvisation and contemporary energy. His compositions draw inspiration from Navajo Nation landscapes, historical events, and the desire to preserve and educate about Diné history.

"Our music reflects

who we are and where we come from,"

Anderson has said. "It carries tradition forward while creating something new for today."

The quartet has performed across the United States and internationally, earning recognition for technical mastery, vibrant stage presence, and meaningful cultural expression. On stage, audiences can expect soaring trumpet lines, tight rhythmic interplay, and moments that shift from meditative reflection to high-energy celebration.

Delbert Anderson's

See **JAZZ**, page B2

Singer Linda Yapp at Zurita Restaurant

Linda Yapp, Lincoln County singer song/ writer, is singing every Tuesday night from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Zurita Restaurant in Nye Beach.

"My music is a combination of original songs, and thoughtful covers, with a bit of an Americana vibe," Yapp said. "I play the guitar and sing solo, although on occasion have others join me."

Zurita Restaurant is located at 711 NW 2nd Court in Newport's Nye Beach.



Singer and songwriter Linda Yapp of Lincoln County. (Courtesy photo)

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Representative, Newport Law, LLC, 111 SE Douglas St., Suite F3, Box C, Newport, OR 97366, T: (641) 264-8157, trace@thenewportlaw.com. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Angela Williams, 833 Bay St., Apt. 4, Santa Monica, CA 90405

LCL26-072 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN PROBATE DEPARTMENT.

ESTATE OF JAMES PHILIP TRAMP, DECEASED. CASE No. 26PB00762. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. Notice is given pursuant to ORS 113.155 that Patricia A. Chong has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice, or their claims may be barred. Claims are to be presented at the address of the attorney for the personal representative, set forth below. All persons whose rights may be affected by this estate proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the Circuit Court, the personal representative, or Jeffrey C. Hollen, attorney for the personal representative. Date of publication: February 18, 2026. Attorney for the Personal Representative: Jeffrey C. Hollen, OSB #761757, 541-574-1630, P.O. Box 1167, 615 SW Hubert Street, Suite A, Newport, OR 97365. Personal Representative: Patricia A. Chong, 310 SW 2nd St. #650, Newport, OR 97365, 541-973-5845

LCL26-055 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE #26-0088.

On March 12, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St., Room 203, in the City of Newport, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 3705 Sea Mist Avenue, Depoe Bay, OR 97341. The court case number is 25CV15397, Willber, Inc., an Oregon corporation, plaintiff vs. Colin P. Coleman, defendant. This is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE FORECLOSURE SALE BIDDERS AND BUYERS: WARNING - READ CAREFULLY BEFORE BIDDING: This foreclosure sale does NOT eliminate the 2024 Lincoln County Property Tax Lien Foreclosure Judgment or any other valid liens that are senior to Plaintiff's lien. The Lincoln County tax lien foreclosure judgment includes a statutory one-year right of redemption. That redemption right may be exercised only by: 1. The record owner of the property (or anyone claiming through or under that owner) as of the date the tax-lien foreclosure judgment was entered; or 2. A lienholder of record (or anyone claiming through or under that lienholder) as of the date the tax-lien foreclosure judgment was entered. Redemption rights do not apply to interests or transfers recorded after the tax-lien foreclosure judgment was entered. The Lincoln County property tax lien foreclosed in 2024 remains senior to Plaintiff's judgment lien and may be redeemed only as provided in ORS 312.120-312.125. Sale proceeds from this sheriff's sale will NOT be applied to satisfy the tax lien or any other lien that is senior to Plaintiff's lien. If you bid at or purchase this property and you are not legally entitled to redeem the tax lien, you may forfeit the purchase money. Plaintiff's judgment lien is a junior lien. All valid and existing liens senior to Plaintiff's lien-including the Lincoln County property tax lien (subject to statutory redemption rights)-will continue to encumber the property after the sale and will not be paid from the sale proceeds. This supplemental notice is NOT LEGAL OR TAX ADVICE. Prospective bidders and buyers must conduct their own independent due diligence, including investigation of title, taxes, liens, zoning, and redemption rights, and should consult legal counsel and/or tax advisors of their own choosing before bidding or purchasing. BID AND BUY AT YOUR OWN RISK. For more details go to <http://www.oregonsheriffssales.org/> county/lincoln/

LCL26-051 NOTICE OF UPCOMING PROJECT.**INTRODUCTION: HIGHLAND ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (HEHA)**

is undertaking a project to improve its roadways. This notice is being posted in advance of the Request for Proposals to give contractors added notice about this project. This notice shall serve only to provide general information about the project. Anticipated publishing of Request for Proposals is expected to occur in the first week of April, 2026 and may be found at djicoregon.com. The anticipated start of construction is May 4, 2026. The estimated construction completion day is June 30, 2026. Project specific inquiries may be directed to: Jacqueline Puett, Program Coordinator, Columbia Pacific Economic Development District Jacqueline@nworegon.org, 971-203-6547. www.nworegon.org. Project Location: Otis, Lincoln County, Oregon. Starting at the intersection of NE Highland Rd and Highway 101 (milepoint 111.05), terminating approximately 1.6 miles uphill at the end of NE Highland Rd. Note that work is not expected along the entire 1.6 miles to the terminus. See Project Description for more detail. Project Description: This project calls for milling and repaving of approximately 100,000 sqft of damaged and aging

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existing paved roadway. NE Highland Rd is part of a road network used by HEHA residents and extends to a few side roads. Along NE Highland Rd, the roadway alternates from portions of pavement to crushed rock and back to pavement multiple times. For this project, only specifically outlined portions of the existing pavement will be worked on. Note that areas and construction details are subject to change prior to publishing the Request for Proposals. This notice is just meant to provide general project information. Note that work includes the access point to Highway 101. In coordination with ODOT it is understood that the proposed construction timeline imposes limited work windows on any work that would affect ODOT Right-of-Way traffic and would require traffic control. This includes no-lane-closure-days and limited work hours (7PM - 6AM only). These limitations are expected to apply for the westernmost portion of work only. All other portions of road improvements are expected to be completed without impact to ODOT Right-of-Way traffic. Furthermore, the selected contractor will be expected to have a certified inspector capable of performing DEQ ESC inspections related to the project's 1200-C permit. The project engineer will obtain the 1200-C permit prior to construction beginning but the related inspections and BMP maintenance will be the responsibility of the contractor. Further project specific details will be included in the official Request for Proposals.

LCL26-052 PUBLIC NOTICE THE LINCOLN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

has in its physical possession the unclaimed personal property described below. If you have any ownership interest in any of that unclaimed property, you must file a claim with the Lincoln City Police Department within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, or you will lose your interest in that property. The personal property is described as: 14' Boat on a trailer. Contact: Lincoln City Police Department, 1503 SE East Devils Lake Rd, Lincoln City, OR 97367; 541-994-3636 to submit a claim. Published February 17 and February 18, 2026. This notice is published in accordance with ORS 98.245.

LCL26-054 TS NO.: 142809-OR APN: R211946 // 14-12-23-CB-00100-00

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, on 2/27/2009, a certain Mortgage Deed of Trust was executed by BERT D. HARLEY AND ELAINE C. HARLEY, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY as trustee in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR FINANCIAL HERITAGE, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS as beneficiary, and was recorded on 3/9/2009, as Instrument No. 2009-02812, in the Office of the Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, the Mortgage 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 house; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Mortgage Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated 9/7/2017, recorded on 10/23/2017, as instrument number 2017-10377, in the office of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Mortgage Deed of Trust in that the payment due upon the death of the borrower(s) 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 1/28/2026 is \$652,110.78; and WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage 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 me as Foreclosure Commissioner, SEE ATTACHED notice is hereby given that on 3/12/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: COMMENCING AT THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 14 SOUTH, RANGE 12 WEST, WILAMETTE, MERIDIAN; THENCE EAST, A DISTANCE OF 776.07 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING EAST 465.09 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE ABOVE SAID SECTION 23; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID LINE 400.51 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF AN EXISTING GRAVELED ROAD, A DISTANCE OF 357.54 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERNLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE OREGON COAST HIGHWAY NO. 101, 216 FEET; THENCE WEST 220 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERNLY

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sure Commissioner. By: Alison Arendale Title: Foreclosure Assistant 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: (888) 750-7777 Fax No: (888) 412-2705

LCL26-055 TS NO: 143334-OR APN: R399633 // 13-12-13-AD-07100-00

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, on 10/21/2008, a certain Mortgage Deed of Trust was executed by CHARLES L. CHANDLER AND LILLIE M. CHANDLER, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY as trustee in favor of WORLD ALLIANCE FINANCIAL CORP as beneficiary, and was recorded on 10/27/2008, as Instrument No. 2008-12525, in the Office of the Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, the Mortgage Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated opening bid will be \$471,090.00. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, the winning bidders with the exception of the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling ten percent (10%) of the Secretary's estimated bid amount in the form of a certified or cashier's check or cashiers check made payable to the undersigned Foreclosure Commissioner. Ten percent of the estimated bid amount for the purchase price must be paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashiers 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 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 representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgagor fails to tender payment to the Foreclosure Commissioner, SEE ATTACHED notice is hereby given that on 3/12/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described premises ("Property") will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: AT THE OLIVE STREET ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 225 W OLIVE STREET NEWPORT, OR 97365. Per the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the estimated opening bid will be \$325,860.46. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his pro rata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. 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999 **999** **999** **999** **999** **999** **999** **999**

PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

The Yachats Urban Renewal Agency (Agency) has published the FY 2024/25 Yachats Urban Renewal Plan Annual Report. It is on file at the City of Yachats. The full information is available to all interested persons.

- In FY 2024/25, the Agency received \$570,143 in current and prior years property tax revenue.
- They spent \$736,000
- The estimated tax revenues for FY 2025/26 are \$587,885.
- The FY 2025/26 budget includes \$959,485 in revenues and expenditures.

The impacts on taxing districts due to the Yachats Urban Renewal Plan in FY 2024/25 are shown below.

Taxing District	Impact
Lincoln County General	\$175,522
Lincoln County Extension	\$2,771
Lincoln County Animal Services	\$6,833
Lincoln County Transportation	\$6,035
City of Yachats	\$10,666
Yachats RFPD	\$17,210
Port of Alsea	\$2,050
Pacific Communities Health	\$22,548
Oregon Coast Community College	\$10,932
Lincoln County School District	\$305,569
Education Service District (LBL)	\$18,979
TOTAL:	\$579,115

Kimmie Jackson

Recorder / Election Officer / Notary

501 Hwy 101 N. - PO Box 345

Yachats OR 97498

recorder@yachatsmail.org

www.yachatsoregon.org

Office 541-547-3565 ex. 108

E-MAIL CityHall@yachatsmail.org WEB SITE www.yachatsoregon.org

The City of Yachats OR does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation or any other legally-protected status.

B29. The above listed property is being held under claim of a Landlord's Lien for failure to pay rent in the amount of \$1,114.00. The amount due to us may be paid and your property recovered by paying in IN FULL prior to the date of this sale. The amount due is through the month that this letter is dated, after this first of the next month another months rent is due. Anchor Storage Management, P.O. Box 985, Lincoln City, OR 97367 541-765-2931

LCL26-040 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE

File No. 25-00840OR

Reference is made to that certain deed of trust made by Jasmine Rochelle Massender and Jose Adam Hernandez, as grantor, to Krista L. White, Esq., Bishop, White, Marshall & Weibel, P.S., as trustee in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as beneficiary, dated September 12, 2023, recorded September 13, 2023, in the records of Lincoln County, Oregon, under instrument No. 2023-06444, and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: LOT 22, BLOCK 5, BAYSHORE DIVISION NO. 1, IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF RECORDED, JUNE 26, 1963 IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 47, PLAT RECORDS, APN: 13-12-13-DA-10000-00 Commonly known as: 2001 NW Mackey St., Waldport, OR 97394. The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property

is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the trust deed, or if such action has been instituted, such action has been dismissed except as permitted by ORS 86.752(7). Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. There is a default by grantor or other person owing an obligation, performance of which is secured by the trust deed, or by the successor in interest, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of such provision. The default for which the trustee is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sum: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE: \$31,736.36 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$381,436.98 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, those sums being the following, to-wit: 1. The installments of principal and interest which became due on March 1, 2025, and all subsequent installments of principal and interest through the date of this Notice, plus amounts that are due for late charges, delinquent property taxes, insurance premiums, advances made on senior liens, taxes and/or insurance, trustee's fees, and any attorney fees and court costs arising from or associated with the beneficiaries efforts to protect and preserve its security, all of which must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, including all sums that shall accrue through reinstatement or payoff. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust pursuant to the terms of the loan documents. Whereof, notice hereby is given that Affinia Default Services, LLC, the undersigned trustee will on May 12, 2026 at the hour of 01:00 PM (PST), as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, Public Entrance, Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, Newport, OR 97365, County of Lincoln, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, 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 Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under

the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. For Sale Information, contact Auction.com at (800) 280-2832 or www.auction.com. In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the trustee's deed has been issued by Affinia Default Services, LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to convey title, the purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the trustee. This shall be the purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the trustee, the trustee's agent, or the beneficiary's attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. 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 methamphetamine, 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. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS THAT SETS FORTH SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO A TENANT OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PROTECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Affinia Default Services, LLC may be deemed to be a debt collector and any information obtained may be used for that purpose. File No.: 25-00840OR Dated: 12/29/2025 Affinia Default Services, LLC By: /s/ Laura Coughlin Name: Laura Coughlin Officer Title: Officer Trustee's Mailing Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 16000 Christensen Rd., Suite 310 Tukwila, WA 98188 Phone Number: (503) 836-3799 Trustee's Physical Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 10151 SE Sunnyside Road, Suite 490 Clackamas, OR 97015 Email: inquiries@affinadefault.com NPP0482530 To: LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER 02/04/2026, 02/11/2026, 02/18/2026, 02/25/2026

Super Crossword

REPTILIAN EMPIRE

ACROSS

1 Soft drink giant
9 Pappy
12 "Botch—" (old hit song)
15 Masticate
19 Oval wind instruments
20 Took too far
22 Put concrete on
23 Start of a riddle
25 Partially
26 Heir, often
27 Penta-plus one
28 Spitting beast
30 Everything
31 Unusual
34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
39 Riddle, part 2
44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
45 Curvy letter
46 Given a permanent post
47 Cereal grain
48 Computer menu option
50 Prefix with chemistry
53 Curiosity's planet
54 Riddle, part 3
60 Palatable

61 Computer menu option
62 Revise, as a manuscript
63 Yank's home
66 Try to be like
69 A couple of
71 Mice, e.g.
73 House divs.
74 Kinda
77 And higher, as in price
80 Perfect
81 Riddle, part 4
85 Dalai—
88 Contaminate
89 Big burden
90 Sports draw
91 Paper-folding craft
94 Part of BTW or OTC
96 "Allow me to assist"
99 End of the riddle
103 Allergy sufferer's device
104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
105 Audit org.
106 Spy's device
107 With
112 See
115 Akron's state

117 Riddle's answer 123 Painter Vincent van — 124 Fastening feature of many a face mask 125 Ultimate consumers of products 126 With 127 'Zine staffers 128 Antis' votes 129 Occupied, as an inn

11 Biden's party: Abbr.

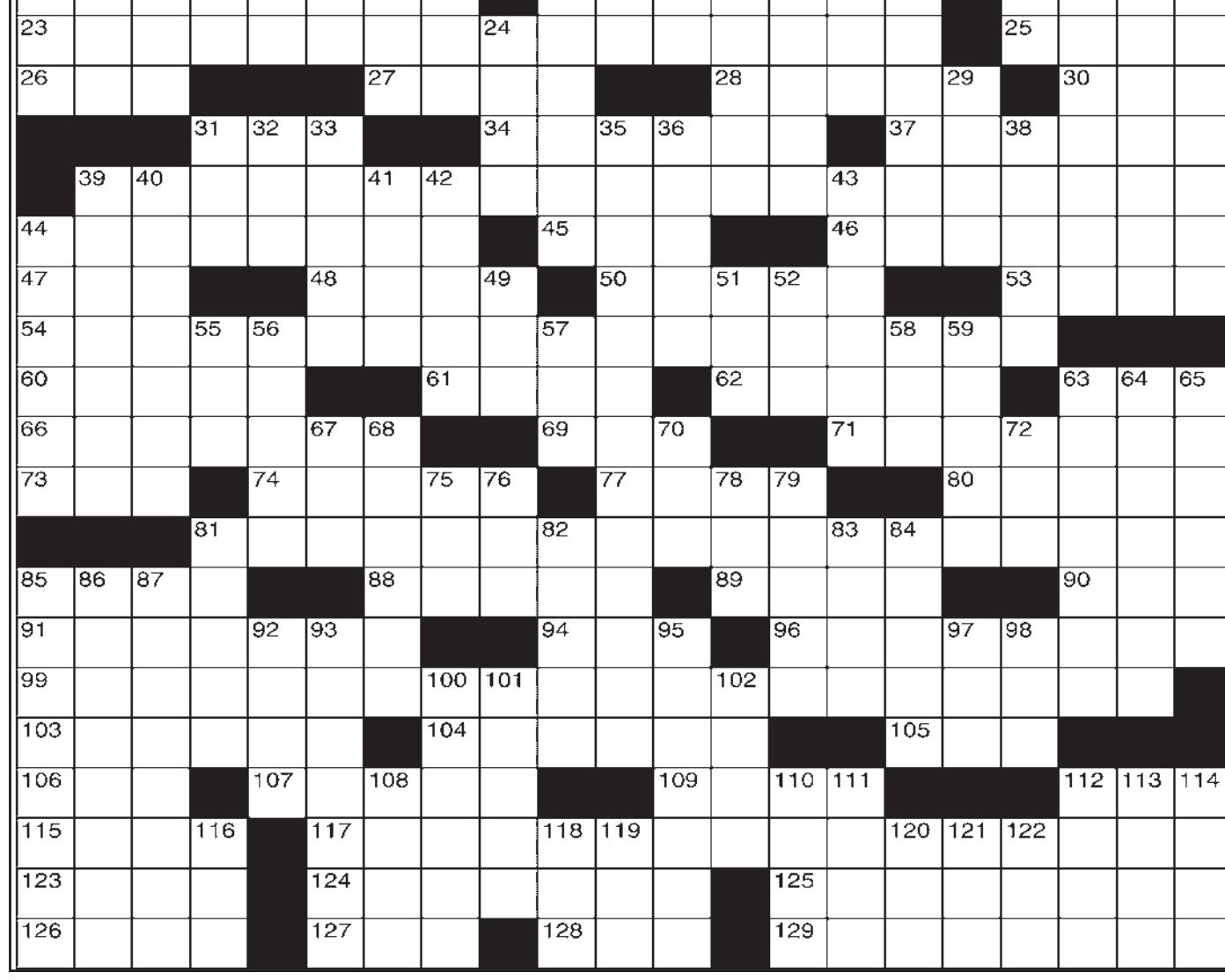
12 Basketball coach Rupp
13 Re-sol linkup
14 Boiled, salted soybeans
15 1040 pro
16 Dance similar to the tango
17 Unsaintly soul
18 Marshy habitats
21 Holy artifact
24 Trade show
29 "So true!"
30 "So true!"
31 Fertilizable cells
32 Chip go-with
33 Actress Bo
35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
36 Intense beam
38 Some reunion-goers
39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
40 Living ink squitter
41 Assistant
42 Idaho's capital
43 Person doing penance
44 One searching for water with a divining rod

49 Tariff 51 Sporty truck, in brief

52 Daiquiri base
55 "Cool" cash amount
56 Very little, as of salt
57 Tantrum
58 Brian of electronica
59 Give as a bonus
63 Like wasted food
64 In a theatrical manner
65 Snoozing
67 Shoe tip
68 Like Nin's writings
70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
72 Baseball great Roush
75 Old Pan Am competitor
76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
78 ETs' craft
79 Fail to keep one's cool
81 Return to base after a fly ball
82 — nous
83 See
84 "Likewise"

85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea

86 Wyoming tribe members
87 Small swine breeds
92 Several
93 Plant-eating sea mammal
95 Catches in a snare
97 "Planet Money" ainer
98 Includes
100 People lugging things
101 Politician Mo, Mark or Tom
102 Ship's rigging
108 "If only — known!"
110 — of March
111 Taboo thing
112 Litigated
113 Poet Pound
114 — la vie!"
116 "Well well!"
118 Charged atom
119 Animal park
120 Rx watchdog
121 Dude
122 Suffix of enzymes



Amber Waves

Out on a Limb



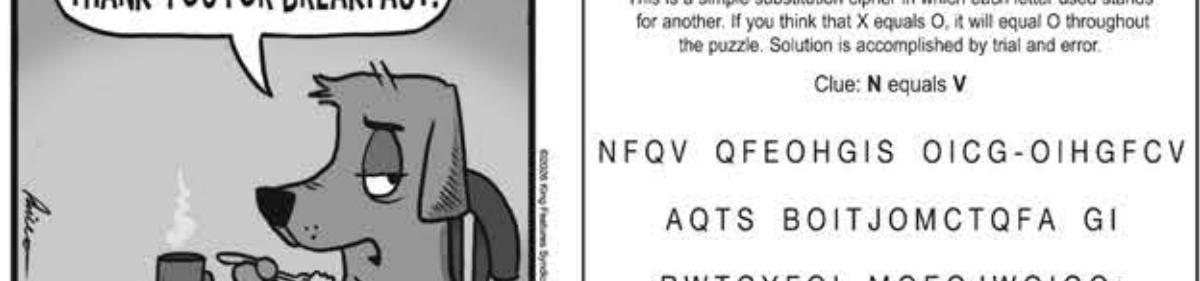
The Spats

**TIGER****OLIVE & POPEYE****HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINGE

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Wheel is missing. 2. Hole is larger. 3. Window is missing. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidekick is missing.

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: N equals V

NFQV QFEOHGIS OICG-OIHGFCV

AQTS BOITJOMCTQFA GI

RWTCYFQI MOEGJWQIGO:

ROI JFQIOIAW NOEGTB.

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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!

Fly

TEAVIA

Notebook

RIBEND

Walk

REDITS

Press

NAKED

TODAY'S WORD

CryptoQuoteAXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

ZM'L DFM MNWM SZWXFDSL

WBI W HZBV'L TILM JBZIDS,

TRM ZM'L QFRB TILM JBZIDSL

UNF WBI QFRB SZWXFDSL.

— HZDW TWBBIPW

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1. FOOD & DRINK: What is a bunch of bananas called?

2. MOVIES: Who is Neo's nemesis in "The Matrix"?

3. MUSIC: The Broadway show "Jersey Boys" is about which music group?

4. TELEVISION: In which U.S. city is the sitcom "New Girl" set?

5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What is the name of the helicopter that transports U.S. presidents?

6. GEOGRAPHY: The Lake of the Ozarks is in which U.S. state?

7. HISTORY: When did construction begin on the Berlin Wall?

8. PSYCHOLOGY: What fear is represented in the condition called mageirocophobia?

9. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system has the Great Red Spot?

10. LITERATURE: Which country is the setting for the novel "The French Lieutenant's Woman"?

Answers

1. A hand, and each banana is a finger.

2. Agent Smith.

3. The Four Seasons.

4. Los Angeles.

5. Marine One.

6. Missouri.

7. 1961.

8. A fear of cooking.

9. Jupiter.

10. England.

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— Gina Barreca
but it's your best friends,
are a girl's best friend,
It's not that diamonds
who are your diamonds.

ANSWER

CryptoQuote

San Fernando Valley.

Southern California:

Drug manufacturing in

Very relaxing anti-anxiety

answer

CryptoQuip**STARVED**

Today's Word

3. Stride; 2. Binder

1. Aviate; 4. Knead

solutions

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Tigers take on District Championships

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Taft High School's swimming season came to an end at the District Championships in Astoria, with the girls finishing fifth and the boys fourth, narrowly missing state-qualifying marks in several events.

Head Coach Lissa Parker said it was a successful campaign, but late-season illnesses put several of Taft's strongest swimmers behind the eight-ball going into the final meet of the year. Despite not getting to continue on to the state championships, there were still some highlights from the swims at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

"We had some best time swims at districts. Unfortunately, a couple of my key swimmers have been sick leading up to the meet, at the beginning of the week, so we narrowly missed the cutoff for at least one relay and a couple of individual swims at state," Parker said. "Overall, they had a pretty successful season, with both girls and boys



Taft's girls at the District Championships at the Astoria Aquatic Center.
(Courtesy photo from Lissa Parker)

winning the Tillamook Cheese relays, and their last home meet against Blanchet and Gladstone, both boys and girls placed first. They also did well at the Blanchet Invite, placing fairly high in those results."

The district championship proved to be challenging, but not without its highlights. Of the 24 athletes who competed for Taft, 19 delivered personal best times. The three most substantial drops came from sophomores Heidi Moreno, Hadley Twigg, and Ava Graves. Moreno dropped

an impressive 33 seconds off her career best in the 500 Free. Twigg axed 8.5 seconds off her best time in the 200 Free, and Graves took almost 5 seconds off her personal best in the 100 Back.

Another remarkable moment of the weekend came from Spanish exchange student Fedrico Guzman, who competed in the 500 Free for the second time ever. Guzman finished seventh in the 12-person field, one of Parker's highlights of the meet.

The three areas where

Taft came closest to securing a state qualification were the boys' 400 Free Relay, the boys' 100 Butterfly, and the boys' 50 Free. The boys' 400 relay, made up of sophomore Max Serrato, junior Dylan Murphy, senior Blaik Gray, and senior Elijah Fingerson, finished third behind Tillamook and Newport, just missing the cut. Serrato also placed fourth in the 100 Butterfly, finishing just three seconds off third place. Elijah Fingerson also just missed out on a top-two finish in the 50



Taft's boys team at the District Championships, which took place Feb. 13-14.

Free. Fingerson's 24.37 was just .17 seconds behind second place, a tough end to a decorated swimming career at Taft for the senior.

The final team standings from the District Championships were:

Girls Team Scores

1. Newport - 283
2. Valley Catholic - 209
3. Tillamook - 174
4. Astoria - 160
5. Taft - 140
6. Seaside - 110
7. St. Helens - 54
8. Scappoose - 46
9. Banks - 34
10. Rainier - 22

Boys Team Scores

11. Tillamook - 229
12. Newport - 218
13. Astoria - 186
14. Taft - 165
15. St. Helens - 115
16. Scappoose - 115
17. Valley Catholic - 79
18. Seaside - 66
19. Neah Kah Nie - 10

While the swim season ended in Astoria, this year saw plenty of highs for the Tigers. Winning the Cheese Relays, the Last Chance Home Invitational, and taking top-three finishes in boys and girls divisions at the Blanchet Invitational were feats to be proud of.

Newport cheer takes second in state

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

The Newport High School cheerleading squad earned a second-place trophy at the 2026 OSAA State Cheerleading Championships, with many falling in love with their performance on Valentine's Day.

More than 100 teams competing at the 3A/2A/1A, 4A, 5A, and 6A levels came to compete at Oregon City High School, but just 10 were crowned state champions. Competing at the 4A Small level, the Cubs finished with a total score of 80.50, netting them second place behind Sweet Home, who won with 89.80 points.

It had been a battle between the two programs all season, with Sweet Home proving tough throughout the



Cubs cheerleaders accept their second place trophy at the 2026 OSAA State Cheerleading Championships.
(Courtesy photo from the Newport High School Athletics Facebook page)

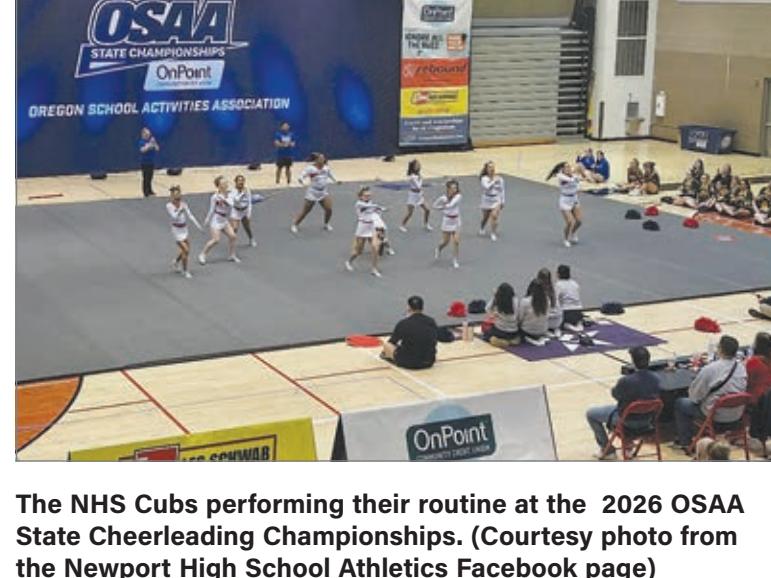
regular season. Newport was seeking its third consecutive title, entering as the defending state champion two times over. Sweet Home and Newport were in a league of their own, with the

Cubs clearing third-place Cascade by just under 14 total points, but it was Sweet Home's turn to hoist the trophy.

The full scoring breakdown for the state championships between Sweet

Home and Newport was:

Sweet Home	Total Score: 89.80
Overall: 31.50	Newport
Building: 31.50	Overall: 27.50
Tumbling and Jumps: 28.80	Building: 28.90
Safety Deductions: -2.00	Tumbling and Jumps: 24.10
	Safety Deductions: 0.00



The NHS Cubs performing their routine at the 2026 OSAA State Cheerleading Championships.
(Courtesy photo from the Newport High School Athletics Facebook page)

While the Cubs couldn't quite get back on top of the pyramid, their season has still been a sterling example of the high standards of the program.

Newport girls take first, boys second at swimming district championships

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

The Cubs hit the water at the Astoria Aquatic Center for the District Championships Feb. 13-14, and Newport High School came away with some of the top marks, with the girls repeating as champions, and the boys taking second heading into the upcoming state championships.

The full standings from the 19-team meet were as follows:

Girls Team Scores

1. Newport - 283
2. Valley Catholic - 209
3. Tillamook - 174
4. Astoria - 160
5. Taft - 140
6. Seaside - 110
7. St. Helens - 54
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Boys Team Scores

1. Tillamook - 229

plenty of individuals who stole the show.

Senior Gwynn Postlewait broke her own school record for the second time this season in winning the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 32.84. She also placed second in the 50-yard free and was a part of all three of Newport's girls relay teams. Sophomore Ilona Weisz won the 200 and 500 free, with both races being within 1.5 seconds of school records that have stood since 2001. Junior Hana Parker won the 100 butterfly and placed second in the 200 Individual Medley. The final top three placers for Newport's girls were Junior Ruby Perucci, who took 3rd on the 100 Back and 100 Free.

Also performing well for Newport were freshman Skyla Chen, who

placed 4th in the 100 Fly and 5th in the 200 IM, sophomore Gigi Howard, who placed 4th in the 200 and 500 Free, senior Brynn Hillebrand, who placed 5th in the 100 Back and 9th in the 100 Free, and Junior Alondra Balderas, who finished 11th in the 200 free and 8th in the 100 Fly. Freshman Daphne Grant took 11th in the 50 Free and 9th in the 100 Free. Senior Pacie Young placed 12th in the 100 Free, and freshman Ashlyn Conrad took 10th in the 500 Free.

For the boys, junior Jahan Eibner led the way, capping a phenomenal junior regular season by winning the 200 IM and 100 Fly. Other standouts were junior Clyde Bretz, who took 2nd in both the 100 and 200 Free, and freshman Hudson Cline, who took 2nd in

the 50 Free and 4th in the 100 Free.

Also scoring for Newport's boys were freshman Dylan Gibson, who placed 5th in the 200 Free and 9th in the 100 Fly, senior Sam Smith, who placed 4th in the 50 Free & 8th in the 100 Free, freshman Rowan Pettett, who took 11th in the 100 Back and senior Zane Carver, who took 6th in the 50 Free and 7th in the 100 Breast. All those swims scored team points on Saturday.

Also competing and setting personal best times were Tristin Speer, Anaid Hernandez, Leo Granilio, and Kindal Brandenberger. In the JV Girls 50 free, sophomore Chloe Postma won, with junior Giselle Sanchez placing 3rd. Both with personal best times.

After the meet, Wray

said the team celebrated in the only way you can after a long day at an away meet.

"[The] team was very excited, we celebrated by eating and riding a bus back home for 3 hours," Wray said.

Thanks to their fine showing in Astoria, Newport will be represented by Alondra Baldares, Skyla Chen, Ruby Perucci, Daphne Grant, Gigi Howard, Hana Parker, Gwynn Postlewait, Ilona Weisz, Brynn Hillebrand, Anaid Hernandez, Pacie Young, Clyde Bretz, Zane Carver, Jahan Eibner, Dylan Gibson, Rowan Pettet, and Sam Smith.

Going into the state meet, Wray said his team will need to sleep, rest, eat well, and fix the small things to be at their best.