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Sports
PAGE B8



A QUIET MOMENT ALONG THE OREGON COAST.

Coast Life
PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

www.newportnewstimes.com

\$2

Cliff side rescue illustrates Oregon Coast danger

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

A Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Facility Newport has rescued an injured 25-year-old man who was stranded on a cliffside at Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint near Depoe Bay.

Depoe Bay firefighters arrived on the scene of the event Saturday morning, April 25, assessed and stabilized the patient, and determined the safest extraction method was

a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter hoist.

The Lincoln County Technical Rescue Team was requested as a backup.

At approximately 10 a.m. watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Columbia River received a request for assistance from Salem County Dispatch who reported the individual sustained an ankle injury and was unable to safely extricate himself from a cliffside position approximately 10 feet

See **RESCUE**, page A7



A Coast Guard helicopter safely lifts the victim to land and a waiting ambulance. (Courtesy photo)

Newport fishing nets to be used to save lives



Dozens of used donated fishing nets rest on the docks in Newport before being shipped to Ukraine. (Courtesy photos)



The fishing nets are carefully measured before the journey to Ukraine.

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Fishing nets once used to catch fish from the Pacific Ocean off Newport will now be

used as shields for soldiers and people in Ukraine.

The nets are being recycled and have been carefully packaged and are heading to the war-torn county, spearheaded

by the nonprofit, Net Your Problem.

"We collect netting and lines from the maritime industry, commercial fishing, tourism, aquacultural, shipping, and

we take apart the nets, sort them into different classes and types, and then package them up and send them to recycling facilities." Net Your Problem, Executive Director Nicole

Baker said. "Our job is basically to keep this stuff from going to the landfill."

The nonprofit began

See **NETS**, page A6



Gov. Tina Kotek, state lawmakers and housing advocates celebrate signing six bills into law that address the state's housing shortage at Woodburn City Hall on Wednesday April 22, 2026. (Screenshot from livestream)

Governor signs housing bills addressing affordability, urban growth boundaries

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Six new Oregon housing laws aim to make it easier for cities and developers to build housing and prioritize

affordable housing for families and older Oregonians.

Gov. Tina Kotek, local

elected officials and state legislators gathered

See **BILLS**, page A7

Newport's Loyalty Days celebrates 250 years

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Newport's Loyalty Days is a special annual event observed during the first full weekend of May every year.

"What I enjoy most about the Loyalty Days Celebration is that it's a chance to recognize and honor local people who live in Newport," Event Coordinator Elizabeth Golden said.

The citywide celebration includes Loyalty Days Princesses, a Grand Marshall, and six

Hometown Heroes.

The selected 2026 Hometown Heroes are:

Lincoln County Seach and Rescue Team member Kath Wertz, Newport Police Officer Jeremiah Mangum and K9 Sly, Coast Guard Petty Officer Jonah Pahel, Newport Fire Department's Josh Malloy, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Deputy B. Douglas, and Oregon National Guard Specialist Mitch Feldman. See bios of the Hometown Heroes with this story at the Lincoln County

Leader Facebook page.

The Loyalty Days Princesses are Caroline Gardner, Hadessah Bobeda, and Kiley Humphrys.

The Hometown Heroes and Princesses will ride in the Loyalty Days Parade on Saturday, May 2.

The celebration's weekend activities include the Veterans Lunch, the Queen's Coronation, the Reading of the Names Ceremony, and the annual Loyalty

See **LOYALTY**, page A7



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Weather

Wednesday: High-57/Low-45 Mostly Sunny
Thursday: High-58/Low-47 AM Clouds/PM Sun
Friday: High-56/Low-45 Cloudy
Saturday: High-57/Low-46 AM Clouds/PM Sun
Sunday: High-67/Low-49 Partly Cloudy
Monday: High-58/Low-49 Mostly Cloudy
Tuesday: High-57/Low-48 Cloudy

Past Weather

On the Coast

Table with columns: Rain, Low, High. Rows for dates April 21-27 and Total rainfall from Jan. 1.

Tides Tables

Table with columns: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, FRIDAY, MAY 1, SATURDAY, MAY 2, SUNDAY, MAY 3, MONDAY, MAY 4, TUESDAY, MAY 5. Rows for High and Low tide times.

Sunrise/Sunset

Table with columns: Sunrise, Sunset. Rows for dates April 29 to May 7.

Lottery

Friday, April 24 Mega Millions 7 • 16 • 32 • 35 • 40 • PB-12
Saturday, April 25 Powerball 4 • 30 • 36 • 52 • 57 • PB-2 • x3
Saturday, April 25 Megabucks 2 • 5 • 36 • 45 • 46 • 47

Inside

Table with columns: News, Business, Obituaries, Opinion, Coast Life, Classifieds/Public Notices, Comics, Sports. Rows with page numbers A1-4 to B8.

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Regulating police use of license plate readers

SHAANTH NANGUNERI Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians will soon be able to sue private companies that sell or otherwise improperly use data captured by license plate-reading cameras under a new state law.

Senate Bill 1516, signed into law by Gov. Tina Kotek on March 31, went into effect immediately due to an emergency clause lawmakers tucked into the legislation. The 16-page law was part of a public safety omnibus package that received bipartisan support, but it stood out for its restrictions placed on the use of automated license plate reading software and the street cameras it employs.

Law enforcement agencies have used that technology to dismantle criminal networks, but their use has drawn increased scrutiny amid increased federal immigration enforcement.

"We have the possibility of multiple law enforcement agencies in the state entering into contracts that may not have those private protections of data," Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, told the Capital Chronicle in January. "There may be the ability for other entities (to be) getting access to that material for purposes that are not lawful within the state, specifically sharing with the federal government or



A Flock Safety license plate-reading camera is seen in Denver on Aug. 5, 2025. The technology is at the center of a new law going into effect in Oregon regulating law enforcement agencies. Quentin Young / Colorado Newsline

other states."

Oregon's sanctuary laws prevent state and local law enforcement from assisting federal immigration enforcement without a court order. But civil rights advocates have raised concerns that the data collected by cameras could be used to track immigrants and people seeking abortions, even in states including Oregon that have laws to protect access to reproductive care and bar local police from working to enforce immigration law.

The technology tracks more than license plates, including features such as car color, make or physical condition, and some researchers have found that its use can lead to misread plates or arrests of innocent individuals.

U.S. Border Patrol employed automated license plate-reading technology in the 1990s, and it spread to police departments across the country in the next decade. One vendor in particular, the Atlanta-based Flock Safety, has drawn condemnation from U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, who previously said the company is "unable and uninterested" in preventing abuses of its products.

University researchers and journalists have documented how U.S. Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement accessed camera data in states like Oregon and Washington.

U.S. Border Patrol had access to at least 10 Washington police departments' databases without explicit authorization, according to an October 2025 report from the University of Washington. And in June 2025, some local agencies outside of Oregon searched the networks of Oregon's local law enforcement agencies hundreds of times on behalf of ICE, according to the Oregon Law Center.

In response to concerns from privacy advocates, the law limits the retention of such data to 30 days unless it is linked to a criminal inquiry or court proceedings, allowing for law enforcement to hold onto it as they pursue their investigations. Authorities would have to log the purpose of their searches and the specific type of crime or violation being targeted if their search through the data is for a criminal investigation. They are barred from using the technology in a manner that violates the state's sanctuary laws.

Flock Safety cameras, meanwhile, have stoked increasing controversy in recent months, prompting some Oregon cities to turn off their usage. But they've been used for years nationwide in thousands of law enforcement agencies. This past year, the company announced new artificial intelligence tools allowing officers to search for vehicles with unique characteristics.

The company has also issued guidance around the new law and praised it for establishing Oregon's "first comprehensive ALPR framework, setting rules for ALPR use while preserving its ability to help solve crime and locate missing persons."

"Flock Safety remains See FLOCK, page A6

Ray's Food Place 3 DAY MEAT BONANZA HUGE SAVINGS FRIDAY, MAY 1 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026. Includes prices for items like Boneless New York Strip (\$8.97/lb), Boneless Beef Rib Eye (\$11.97/lb), Boneless Pork Loin (\$2.77/lb), 73% Lean Ground Beef (\$4.97/lb), Untrimmed Tri-Tip Roast (\$8.97/lb), Whole Beef Tenderloin (\$14.47/lb), Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast (\$2.47/lb), Pork Shoulder (\$2.67/lb), Pork Back Back Ribs (\$3.97/lb), Bulk Bacon Ends (\$24.99/ea), Rib Eye or New York Strip (\$16.99/lb), Boneless Pork Sirloin (\$2.57/lb), Bottom Round (\$6.47/lb), Chicken Drumsticks (\$0.99/lb), Newport 41/50 ct. Peeled & Deveined Raw Shrimp (\$10.99/ea), Coho Salmon Fillets (\$8.99/lb). Limited to stock on hand - no rain checks. WOW! 580 NE Broadway, Waldport • 541-563-3542

Does Cathie Rigby have the master's degree she claims to have in the May 19 Voters' Pamphlet? The records don't support it. Get the facts at RigbyVerify.com. QR code. Paid for by Move Lincoln County Forward

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Council advances Big Creek Dam design alternatives

STAFF REPORT

Lincoln County Leader

The Newport City Council has unanimously approved a new direction for the Big Creek Dams project, selecting two alternative design approaches presented by Jacobs Engineering that address critical seismic safety risks while remaining financially achievable for the city.

The decision made by the city council Monday evening, April 20, marks a shift from the previously approved Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) dam design after an analysis in 2025 when the design was 30% complete estimated the project would cost approximately \$185 million, an amount that continues to escalate and far exceeds what the City is able to reasonably fund.

“The city will now advance two alternatives for further design and evaluation, proceeding with additional studies and refined cost estimates while coordinating with state and regulatory agencies,” city officials state in a release. “A final



This Google Earth graphic shows the Big Creek Reservoir locations at Newport. (Courtesy photo)

alternative for construction will be selected at a later, currently undetermined date.”

The selected alternatives are to remediate both dams, or to remediate only Dam #2 (the upper dam) and remove Dam #1 (the lower dam). The estimated costs of these alternatives are between \$30 to \$77 million, depending on fish passage.

The Big Creek Dams, key components of Newport’s water supply system, have long been identified as vulnerable to seismic activity, and seepage in the upper dam spillway has escalated the critical nature of a repair

and solution.

Both dams have been classified by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) as unsafe or potentially unsafe, as studies have found weak soils beneath both dams, creating a risk of failure during a seismic event and potential downstream impacts to people and infrastructure. The city is required to implement corrective action by the end of 2036.

Both dams are earthen dams constructed of compacted layers of soil, rock, and clay. Dam #1 was built in 1951 and holds approximately 57 million gallons of water. Dam #2 was built

in 1969 and holds approximately 270 million gallons.

In 2022, the city received \$14 million in state funding for the design and permitting of a replacement dam. Later that year, the city received a \$60 million federal authorization for the Big Creek Dams project.

“This authorization allows the project to be eligible for federal funding and signals congressional support, but it does not provide actual funding. Instead, it establishes the legal framework for future appropriations, meaning additional legislative steps are required before any federal dollars

are received,” the release states.

Big Creek Dams Project Timeline

- **2011** - Weak soils identified beneath Big Creek Dams #1 and #2
- **2013** - Initial geotechnical evaluation conducted
- **2013** - Listed as “most-critical, high-hazard” dam project in the state by Oregon’s Dam Safety Engineer
- **2015** - Alternative analysis identifies RCC dam replacement as preferred solution
- **2021** - Dam #1 classified Unsafe and Dam #2 classified Potentially Unsafe by the Office of Kate Brown, Governor

- of Oregon
 - **October, 2022** - City of Newport granted \$14 million in state funding for design and permitting of a replacement dam
 - **December, 2022** - \$60 million federal authorization approved
 - **June, 2025** - RCC dam design advanced to 30% completion; project cost estimated at \$185 million
 - **August, 2025** – City of Newport commissions updated alternative analysis by Jacobs Engineering
 - **April, 2026** - City Council approves Alternatives 3A and 3B for further development
 - **May 1, 2026** - Deadline for OWRD agreement on corrective action path
 - **By 2036** - Required completion of dam safety improvements under state consent order
- See a list of links to related materials with this story at the Lincoln County Leader website. Follow developments online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of the Leader.*

Oregonians claw back nearly \$1.6M with state consumer protection effort

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregonians filed more than 10,000 consumer complaints with the Oregon Department of Justice last year recovering nearly \$1.6 million as a result of state attorneys’ efforts.

The more than \$1.56 million Oregonians received back through the Justice Department’s Consumer Advocacy Complaint Program was a 27% increase in recovered funds compared to 2024, according to figures the department shared last week.

Fraud and imposter complaints, as well as reports related to the auto industry and telecommunications, topped the list. The number of health and medical complaints dropped 17% from 2024. And complaints about the government — many tied to the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency — more than doubled.

“These numbers tell a real story about what Oregonians are up against,” said Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield in a statement. “Fraud and scams are on the rise, and more Oregonians are turning to us for help — which means more chances for us to put money back in their pockets. We’re resolving complaints faster than ever

and holding people and businesses accountable.”

While many of the complaints dealt with the private sector, the new figures come as Democratic-led states like Oregon are under political pressure from the Trump administration to combat fraud and financial misuse in programs and social services that receive federal funding.

Rayfield, for instance, announced charges in early April against a Portland-area behavioral health provider for allegedly stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from Oregon’s Medicaid program, vowing to “continue to hold accountable anyone who steals from Oregon’s most vulnerable residents.” At the time, the Oregon Department of Justice noted that its Medicaid fraud investigation unit has secured more than 200 criminal convictions, hashed out dozens of civil settlements and recovered more than \$85 million in the last decade.

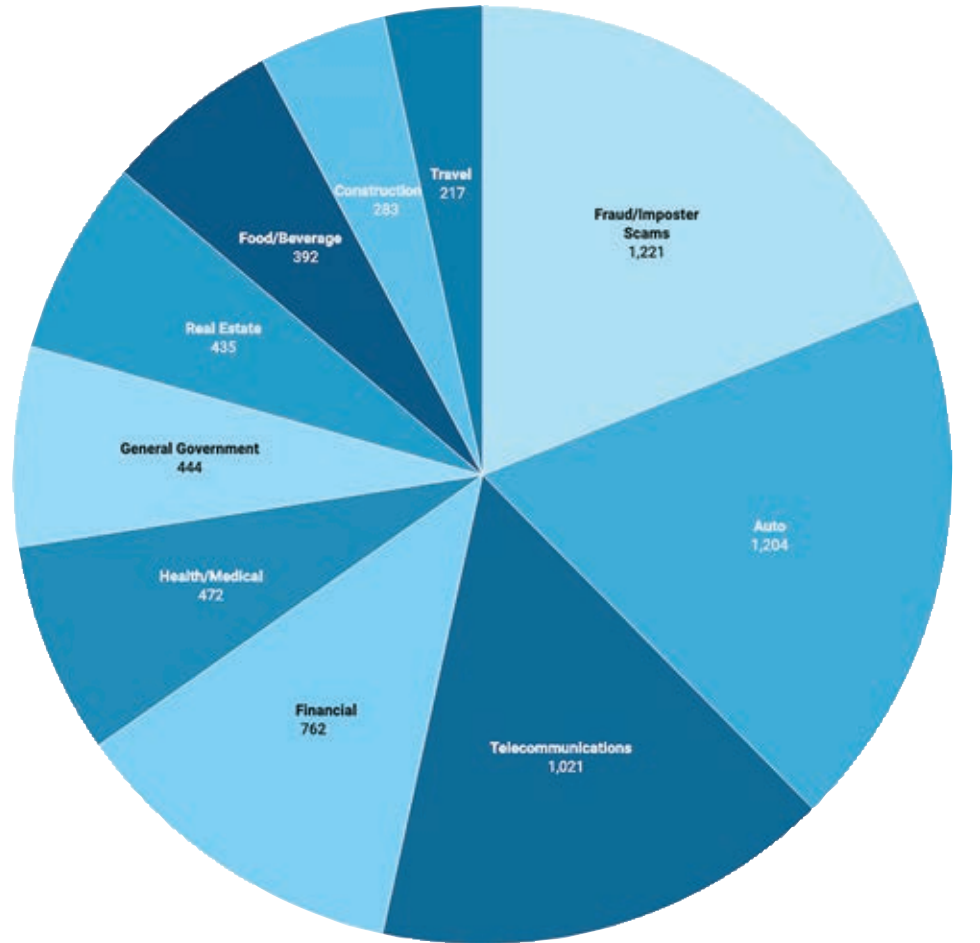
The state agency also took a subtle swipe at the efforts of the Trump administration when announcing the most recent consumer protection findings. In one change from 2024, the Oregon Department of Justice noted that “general government complaints” surged by 166%, largely driven by complaints related to the U.S. Department of



Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield speaks to the Salem City Club at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem on Sept. 12, 2025. The Oregon Department of Justice under his leadership has been working to respond to consumer complaints of fraud and scams. (Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

Government Efficiency, or DOGE. It said the surge “reflects the current political environment rather than traditional consumer fraud activity.”

“Fifty-three percent of the government related complaints we received in 2025 concerned the Department of Government Efficiency,” Jenny Hansson, a spokesperson for the Oregon Department of Justice, said in a statement. “The majority of these focused on Oregonian’s concerns about Elon Musk and other non-governmental individuals accessing private



This chart illustrates the types of complaints from consumers to the ODOJ Consumer Program in 2025. (Courtesy photo)

information. Many complaints characterized this as a data breach involving the U.S. Treasury.”

In its announcement, the Oregon Department of Justice also noted that its consumer advocacy program resolved complaints “faster than ever.” The agency said the average case now closes in 40 days, down from 50 days in 2023.

There has been a slight increase, 6%, in cases that result in fully or partially

resolved outcomes, as well as real estate, food and beverage, and construction complaints, according to the agency. Travel complaints have fallen by 59% since 2024.

Oregonians who suspect that they have received unfair treatment from a business or faced a scam can file complaints at oregonconsumer.gov or call the state’s consumer hotline at 1-877-877-9392. <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/>

oregonians-claw-back-nearly-1-6m-with-state-consumer-protection-effort-for-scams-fraud/ 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.

City of Yachats Receives LOC’s Excellence Award

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) has presented its 2026 Award for Excellence to the city of Yachats for the Yachats Collaboration Model.

The award, which recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services, was presented to co-recipients, with the cities of Pendleton and Medford also winning.

About the Yachats Collaboration Model With structured management principles, Yachats has shown how

a small city can execute multi-million-dollar improvements through innovative service delivery, according to a release from the League of Oregon Cities. The key to their success is the “local multiplier effect,” which allowed the city to convert every \$1.00 of local tax money into \$3.00 of community value through aggressive grant-seeking and private philanthropy.

A shining example is the \$1.5 million Yachats Public Library, built by leveraging city funds with

urban renewal agency

support, private bequests,

and foundation grants. The city’s new approach has also helped secure ownership of the Estuary Walkway, and through partnerships with local Tribes, transformed the Little Log Church & Museum into a center for cultural truth. Through modern, progressive governance, Yachats is proving that a city of 1,000 residents can preserve its past while building a sustainable, high-quality future, the release states.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon’s incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, inter-governmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

The award was presented during the League of Oregon Cities 2026 Local Government Spring Conference in Pendleton April 24.



Accepting the award are from left to right, Yachats City Council President Nicole Hedlund, Yachats Mayor Craig Berdie, and Yachats City Manager Bobbi Price. (Courtesy photo)

Lincoln County welcomes new Veteran Services Officer

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

Following the January retirement of Veteran Services Officer Keith Barnes, Lincoln County officials have welcomed Thomas Evans, U.S. Army retired, as the new head of Lincoln County's Veteran Services Office and the Veterans Resource Center.

Evans grew up in New Jersey and enlisted as an infantryman in the Army in 2008. After completing training, he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq. Evans served in Sadr City and other regions of Baghdad for a year before returning to Fort Stewart, Georgia at the end of 2010.

About a year after returning, Evans was deployed to Afghanistan. His company was assigned to support the 2nd Infantry Division in



Thomas Evans' military honors include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal with Valor. (Courtesy photo)

the Panjwai District of Kandahar Province. In October of 2012, he was wounded by a pressure plate IED and evacuated to the U.S. for treatment. That injury resulted in his

medical retirement from the Army and return to civilian life, according to a release from Lincoln County.

Following his military service, Evans moved to the West and worked several different jobs before getting involved in veteran advocacy. He served as a case manager and program coordinator for Central Oregon

Veteran Outreach, an organization dedicated to supporting houseless veterans and connecting them to resources such as substance abuse and mental health treatment and enrollment with VA programs.

In 2024, Evans was hired on as the Veteran Service Officer for Crook County and connected veterans all across Central

Oregon with their benefits earned through service.

"As with my previous positions, I will do anything I can to ensure our veterans here in Lincoln County receive the best services possible," Evans said. "Our office will be fierce advocates for our veteran community and do everything within our power to connect them with their benefits earned through service, as well as any resources available at the state or federal level."

Evans said he's heard about difficulties for some senior veterans obtaining transport to appointments outside of the county.

"We hope to implement a transportation program, in partnership with our local veteran organizations, which will assist veterans in getting to medical appointments outside of the area. We will also expand outreach through events, as well as setting up remote office days where we will facilitate in person appointments in Lincoln City, Yachats and eastern county areas," he said.

The next outreach event will be the Women Veterans Luncheon at 11 a.m. June 12 at the Lincoln City Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

"I truly enjoy working with veterans and have worked tirelessly to connect them to the benefits they earned through service," Evans said. "I have taken great interest in pursuing the more 'complicated claims,' seeking compensation for veterans exposed to various toxins which have led to lifelong illnesses, such as Trichlorethylene, AAAF, jet fuels and other toxic substances."

Evans describes one veteran's experience who suffered from illnesses related to jet fuel fumes.

"After numerous appeals, we were finally able to get the veteran service-connected compensation. Not only did he receive in excess of \$100,000 in retroactive pay, but he was also able to have a critical organ transplant completely covered by VA Healthcare," he said. The transplant has greatly prolonged his life, and he is now receiving 100% disability and free healthcare through the VA."

Evans' military honors include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal with Valor. His hobbies include hiking, camping, fishing, surfing, snowboarding, weightlifting, gardening and agriculture. He's married to Emily, with whom he is currently expecting their first child.

The Lincoln County Veteran Services Office can be reached by phone at 541-265-0570. For more information about the office, visit <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/483>

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Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master's degree** she claims to have in the May 19 Voters' Pamphlet? The records don't support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**

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“Without the local community, we wouldn't be here. We chose Oregon Coast Bank.”

Duane Hobbs JR has been fishing the Oregon Coast for decades. So when Nestucca Valley Sporting Goods(NVSG)—a fixture in the community for over three decades—came up for sale, it felt less like a business decision and more like a calling. “I just fell in love with the store when I first visited 10 years ago,” says JR. “I'm over here, might as well open up a fishing shop.” He acquired and reopened NVSG in 2025, stepping into a legacy that local fishermen had been counting on long before he ever owned it.

The property has a long standing history. An original photo, featuring a dirt Highway 101, showcases its first life as a gas station and service center. The location has always been a place where neighbors helped neighbors. The vintage Model A cars still parked out front are a quiet nod to that history. Originally converted into a sporting goods store by Lori and Pat Gefre, the spot has been a community hub for generations.

That spirit carries on today through two businesses under one roof. Alongside the sporting goods store, JR's wife Vy has reopened Little Nestucca Deli, which has been a part of the property for nearly 16 years. With renovations and a fresh energy, Vy brought the deli back to life as a welcoming spot for locals, outdoor enthusiasts, and passersby alike to enjoy warm, homemade food.

Since reopening, the response from the community has affirmed everything the couple hoped for. “It's been warm and welcoming,” says JR. “Much needed and encouraging.”

When it came time to choose a bank, JR wanted something that felt just as local as the business itself. A prior relationship with the Gefre's brought him to Oregon Coast Bank, and the fit made sense. “We wanted something close so we didn't have to go far. There aren't many options on the Coast, but Oregon Coast Bank is a good one.”

For a business rooted in community, banking locally is a necessary part of the equation. NVSG looks forward to welcoming more outdoorsmen through their doors whether they're booking a guided salmon or steelhead trip, gearing up for a day on the water, or just stopping in for a hot sandwich from the deli.



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Waldport: 285 NW Maple St. • 541-563-9000
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oregoncoast.bank



Vote to End Closed-Door Government in Lincoln County

ROSS SMIKTH

Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column

Voters in Lincoln County are being told this election is all about ideology and political camps. But that misses the real point. The real issue is whether our county government is going to be run out in the open, under the law, or behind closed doors by insiders.

Look, voters can disagree about spending, housing, or taxes. That's normal. What isn't normal is a county government where questions about how things are run get met with stonewalling and secret investigations. We've watched this pattern for far too long.

Back in September

2024, a cycle of retaliation started. An elected commissioner asked if decisions were being made outside of public meetings. Instead of just answering him, the county spent \$65,000 on Portland lawyers to investigate Commissioner Casey Miller. Whether you like Miller or not, that should worry you. Public money shouldn't be used to punish someone for asking questions. When an official asks where the money went, they should get a spreadsheet, not a \$65,000 legal bill.

It didn't stop there. Over a year ago, county staff actually disabled Miller's keycard access to his own office. Even if you aren't a fan of the man, you should be scared of the precedent.

A commissioner isn't a guest; he's one of the people we sent there to represent us. When his keycard stops working, that's not a "technical glitch"—it's a lockout of the voters who sign his paycheck. In a democracy, the staff works for the board, and the board works for us. When staff starts locking out their own bosses, the chain of command is broken.

We see the same thing with the meeting agendas. A board can't govern openly if a commissioner can't even get an item on the schedule. While Miller has spent months trying to bring up real issues, at the April 15 meeting, Commissioner Walter Chuck was asked what he wanted to bring forward. His answer? "I do not have

any topics." You have to ask yourself: if one guy is trying to work and the other has nothing to say, why is the one asking questions the one being shut down? A seat at that table is a duty, not just a chair.

We've also seen public meetings handled like the public is an inconvenience. They've shifted to virtual-only formats and struck public comment. It might sound like a technicality, but that's where accountability lives. Transparency isn't a buzzword; it's a reality. When it gets harder to track what's happening, the public isn't being served.

It's still going on. In February, without any board approval, county staff hired a California

lawyer at \$650 an hour to file a complaint against our elected District Attorney. The Ethics Commission had already cleared the DA on these same issues a year ago. So, who approved this? Why is a county that's struggling to fund core services spending our money on expensive lawyers to relitigate things that are already settled?

Don't let anyone wave this away as a "personality conflict." That's just a convenient cover for a system that's breaking down. The real question is whether Lincoln County is run by an open process or by a group of insiders who think they don't have to answer to you.

Process matters because it decides where our money goes—whether

it's for core services or for legal damage control. It's time to get back to basics. The board should govern in public, and they shouldn't treat public comment like a chore.

Voters should look past the polished campaign tickets and ask: who's going to answer to the public, and who's going to answer to the insiders?

This election is the moment to draw a line in the sand. We can demand that public business be done in public. If you want to restore confidence in our government, it's time to end the closed-door games and choose commissioners who actually believe in being accountable to the people.

Ross Smith is a Lincoln City resident.

McCarthyite Mischievousness even in Podunk Towns

PAUL HAEDER

Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column

"Tenured Jewish Faculty Axed for Supporting Palestinian Causes."

"Tenured US professor fired over pro-Palestinian protests."

"Berkeley Suspends Lecturer for Pro-Palestinian Comments."

"University of Washington professor fired from director job after Iran war criticism."

Even in the Jewish State: "Israeli teachers are losing their jobs for criticizing the war."

From the River to the Sea, Palestine Shall be Free: Maura Finkelstein from Pennsylvania's Muhlenberg College may have become the first institution since Oct. 7, 2023, to oust a tenured faculty member for such statements

Collective memory in the United States of Amnesia (Gore Vidal's tag) is powerful, and for most Lincoln County residents, they forget that in the months after the onset of Israel's genocidal campaign, hundreds of thousands of people mobilized in the streets, at their workplaces, and on campuses across the country

in support of Palestinian liberation and to demand a permanent ceasefire and an end to US support for Israel.

This scared the hell out of the Zionists and the Jewish State of Israel supporters in both US parties. There was a drastic shift in the popular narrative on Palestinian rights and freedom, as people increasingly affirmed the right of Palestinians and their allies to oppose Zionist settler colonialism.

There has been historically repeated pushback to this upsurge of mobilization: state and institutional actors launched an unprecedented McCarthyite campaign of anti-Palestinian repression targeting the solidarity movement in the US in an attempt to criminalize dissent and censor pro Palestine speech and advocacy.

I could bet a few thousand dollars that at the Newport OCCC campus, if students and faculty launched a protest on one of the school's strips of lawn, one where they had posters of Netanyahu, Trump and Biden burning in effigy and handed by the neck, we would see the County Sheriff called out.

It is racism and

dehumanization that have made possible Israel's killing of at least 85,000 Palestinians and counting; the displacement and starvation of nearly the whole population of over 2 million people in Gaza; and the complete devastation of its infrastructure. It also has enabled the US's continuing complicity in these crimes, and the 78 years of oppression that preceded them.

There have been dozens of Israel advocacy groups—including the racist Anti-Defamation League (ADL)—resorting to smear tactics in an attempt to discredit pro-Palestine advocacy. I have been accused of supporting terrorism through my advocacy of Palestinian self-determination and my many references to resistance to Israel's 78-year colonization and occupation of Palestine.

Swiftly, on October 11, the ADL and other Israel advocacy groups wrote to universities, baselessly claiming that Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapters at their universities may be engaging in "material support for terrorism," and calling on them to investigate and withdraw recognition

and funding for SJPs, an action that would violate students' constitutional rights

Despite the swift debunking of this threat by civil rights and liberties groups, in the months that followed, multiple universities gave in to these demands and sought to suspend or block recognition of SJP and other pro-Palestine clubs on their campuses.

There's an old saying I have always used in my college classes as a teacher (1983 to 2023): "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it" by Upton Sinclair (The Jungle).

I was an adjunct faculty organizer on several campuses, finally with SEIU, the big union which hired me on in Seattle to organize part-time faculty. Time and time again, even at Georgetown and George Washington universities where I also organized, faculty were always in support of a part-time union, but also afraid of retributions by the administration and admonishments by the fulltime faculty.

We are called precarious faculty, and we are

now the new majority, many of whom make less than \$20,000 teaching college classes. Precarity has infected the land since my early days at the University of Texas in 1983. Exponentially, most all jobs are now on the chopping block, and it's as if every aspect of American life has turned into a constant emotional, economic and existential T-bone crash to the gut.

I was at the Flamy Grant concert in Yachats, and several people I know mentioned the last commentary I wrote for this newspaper – "Poetry in a Time of Genocide." They thanked me, and one woman was shocked that I would be cancelled from teaching community ed classes. She asked why, then said, "Was it antisemitism?"

The irony at the concert, with opener Heather Mae, was Heather got arrested in the Tennessee state capitol for "singing." She was there with others protesting HB754, a bill forcing medical providers to report private information about transgender patients to the state — creating a publicly accessible database and putting lives at risk.

Six state troopers roughed her up, and she's

now got a court case for "singing in the rotunda of the people's capitol in Tennessee."

The term "McCarthyism" is used today as a noun for political witch hunts or unfounded accusations. For my generation, people often know the "ism" without necessarily studying the specific senator from Wisconsin.

Gen Z? They now have other causes – ICE out of our Town, From the River to the Sea, and of course, in general, advocating for climate change action, racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender equality.

Leave it to the older generation to label Geb Z as "the intolerant ones." What a bloody smear is that. Well, maybe not: Not tolerating racism, gender discrimination, rampant pollution and climate change capitalism, and being for the rights of all humanity to be free of war, of sanctions, and of economic hijacking?

Bring it on Z.

Paul Haeder is a novelist, journalist, educator and author of "Wide Open Eyes: Surfacing from Vietnam," Cirque Press

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Future of Lincoln County

Lincoln County is comprised of a variety of people who largely embrace the same values - fairness, rule of law, and compassion.

Claire Hall embodied those values and notably worked hard on behalf of those who are live on the margins of society. She knew that the Lincoln County Commission exists to safeguard and benefit all citizens.

When driving through

Newport the other day, I was surprised to only see signs for Miller and Landis. This gives the impression that Newport only cares about conservative candidates for Lincoln County Commission.

Nothing could be further from truth. Like Claire Hall. Cathie Rigby, Cristen Don, Cheri Brubaker, Dru Earls, and Walter Chuck are also committed to compassion, fairness, and equity - like the majority

of the county's citizens.

Signs are only effective when someone, looking at a ballot, doesn't know who the candidates are. Then, the names that come to mind, that look familiar, get chosen. Bottom line:

an informed citizen won't make that mistake.

Read. Watch. Learn. Vote. The future direction of our county depends on it.

Shar Walbaum
Lincoln City

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking."
William Butler Yeats

ONLINE POLL

PREVIOUS POLL

If the election were held today, who would you for in the open Lincoln County Commissioner Position 2 race?

18.8%..... Marci Baker
43.8%..... Cristen Don
31.3%..... Joe D Steere
6.3%.... Eddie Townsend

NEW POLL

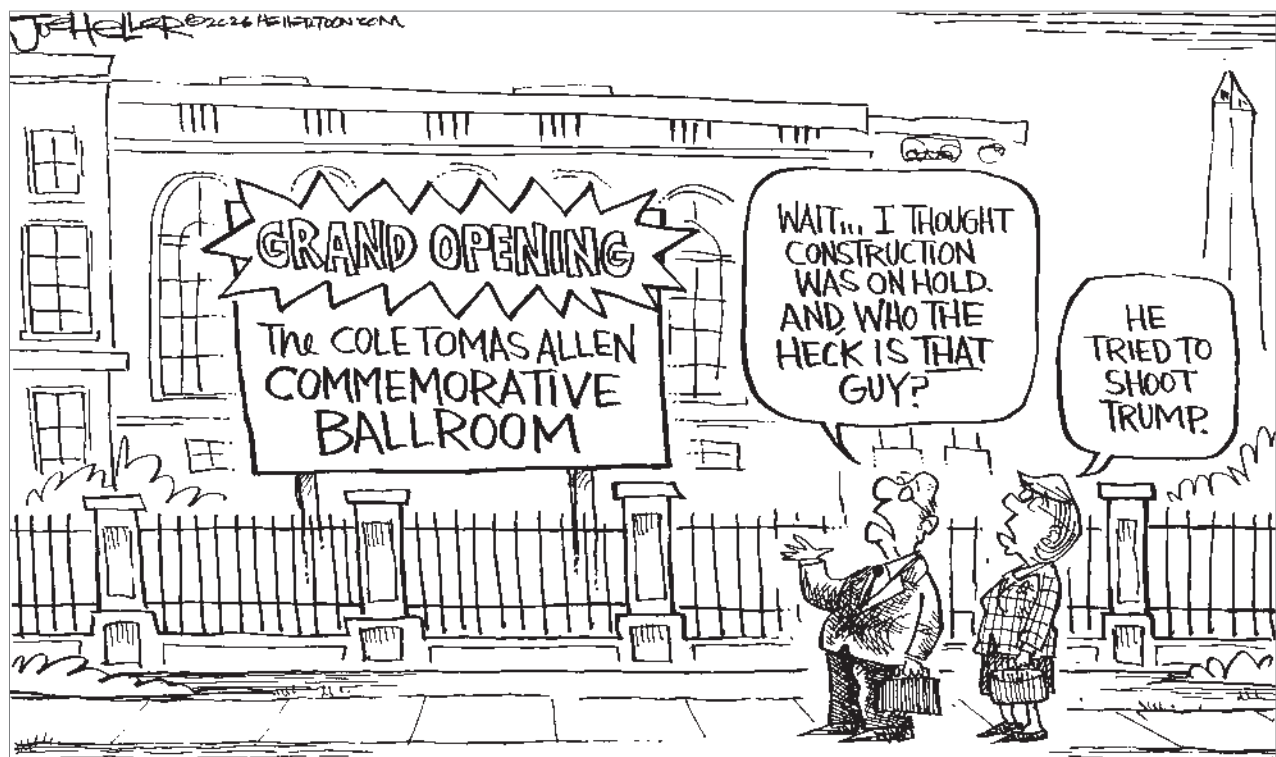
How often do you read a book?

- Frequently
- Sometimes
- Not often

Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master's degree** she claims to have in the **May 19 Voters' Pamphlet**? The records don't support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**



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FLOCK

From Page A2

committed to responsible ALPR regulation and continued collaboration with policymakers and law enforcement agencies across Oregon and the country,” the company’s website reads. “As SB 1516 takes effect, our priority is to help agencies adjust to the new law while continuing to protect their communities.”

ENFORCEMENT QUESTIONED

Any member of the public could sue for damages caused by vendors who act “intentionally or with gross negligence” by selling, disclosing or sharing the data. That could include a vendor accessing and providing data to federal

immigration authorities without a local law enforcement body’s consent or judicial warrant.

But that leaves a great amount of onus on individual Oregonians to enforce the law, according to Ky Fireside, an Oregon House candidate and Springfield-based progressive organizer who was part of a license plate reader workgroup convened by Prozanski.

“If I wanted to take a private right of action against a vendor, I’m gonna need to find some very powerful lawyers that are willing to work on contingency or something,” Fireside told the Capital Chronicle.

Under the law, non-Oregon law enforcement can also access Oregon law enforcement agencies’ database for information “relevant to the

law enforcement purpose” rather than “unrestricted or ongoing access to captured license plate data.” The agency sharing data must log which government agency or entity requested the search and the number of cameras or devices accessed.

And any vendor that contracts with law enforcement agencies must give the agency monthly and quarterly audits. Those audits, which must also be available to the public, would include information such as the number of unique vehicles the system has captured, what kind of data was searched for, the purpose of a search and any government agencies for whom a law enforcement agency conducted a search.

Fireside said this

transparency is particularly important given the public’s involvement with holding the technology accountable. Prior to halting their use, local authorities in Eugene confirmed that a license plate reading camera in the area was turned on without the city’s consent.

“Every misuse of the system that we found was because of the public auditing these companies, watching them, doing public records requests or just looking at transparency portals,” Fireside said. “It was not like internal affairs investigating themselves and realizing someone did something wrong. It was the public.

Although the bill exempts license plate reader data used by law enforcement agencies

from public records requests, it notes that audits can be disclosed if they are edited to remove personally identifiable information. Videos or images, for instance, would need to be “edited in a manner as to render the faces of all persons within the recording or image unidentifiable.”

One thing privacy advocates wanted, but didn’t get? The law requires that the captured license plate data be encrypted through end-to-end encryption, the process by which secure data is encoded before it is transferred to its destination and decoded. But it doesn’t spell out how that process is defined, a major issue for Fireside.

“The bill requires it, but doesn’t define it. My biggest concern is that these vendors are

going to try and skirt that aspect of the bill,” Fireside said. “That is the most dangerous part, because that requirement was the thing that kept the data out of the hands of these private corporations.”

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/04/23/a-new-oregon-law-regulates-police-use-of-license-plate-readers-heres-how-it-works/>

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NETS

From Page A1

operations in 2018 on the West and East Coasts. Net Your Problem became involved in the Ukraine project in the fall of 2025, after another group reached out and asked if the nets could be sent to Ukraine to project soldiers from Russia drone strikes.

Baker explained that poles are used to set up the nets as a tunnel over roadways.

“They allow people to pass through on the

roadway without the threat of the drones hitting them, because the drones than get tangled up in the netting, so it prevents casualties from drone strikes,” she said.

Baker said the Ukraine project became a “no brainer.”

“What better option for these nets than saving people’s lives,” she said.

Russia’s drones target the Ukrainian army’s supply routes and rear bases, often threatening to cut off units on the front lines. But they also strike hospitals and civilian

traffic, according to a CNN report.

Baker added that her organization’s overall mission is to keep the fishing nets and lines out of the local landfills, contribute to full utilization of natural resources, and to reduce carbon emissions.

The nets and lines were collected locally at the Newport International Terminal from fishing vessels on April 22.

“The boats can drop off nets that they are finished with, nets that have reached their end of life,



The fishing nets were loaded from the Newport dock during a project April 22. (Courtesy photo)

or nets that aren’t working properly and many of them have chosen to recycle the nets instead of taking them to the local landfill,” Baker said.

She added that the recycling project is

especially important now because it adds value to waste management by keeping the nets out of the landfill. However, she was not able to give a specific dollars and cents figure on that economic

savings.

Baker encourages anyone seeking more information about the recycling efforts, or to make in-kind or financial contribution to the organization, to visit netyourproblem.com.

Bob E. White

July 31, 1927 - April 8, 2026

Bob E. White was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He passed away at home on April 8, 2026 surrounded by family and loved ones. He was 98.

Bob was born on July 31, 1927 in Madrid, Iowa to David William and Rosa Anna Pitney White. He had 10 brothers and sisters, one being his twin sister, Betty.

After high school, Bob served in the U.S. Army during WWII. After his military service, he met his lifetime partner, Delores N. Landers and they married on Christmas Eve 1948. They moved to Toledo, Oregon to live, work, and raise their 2 sons, Les and Steve. When Delores passed last year, they had been married for 76 years.

Bob worked at Georgia Pacific then at Toledo Sand and Gravel for several years before going into the excavation business for himself, mainly in the road construction industry. He was also instrumental in the building of the Olalla Golf Course. Bob’s son, Steve, joined him in business for a number of those years.



Bob became a Christian later in life. He and Delores attended and served the Toledo Church of Christ for many years.

Bob liked to be busy, and when he wasn’t working, he could be found out in the community assisting other people who needed help completing their projects. Occasionally, when he found himself with free time, he loved to golf, hunt, and fish. Bob’s generous and loving spirit had a positive influence on everyone he met.

Bob is survived by his sons, Les (Terri) of Idaho and Steve (Gail) of Toledo; 5 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and 1 great, great grandchild.

The family would like to thank the VA for the many years of support and care, and to Aging Wisely and hospice for helping to make his last days more comfortable.

Services will be held on Friday, May 1st at 1:00pm at Toledo Church of Christ, with a celebration of life to follow at the Toledo Union Hall.

LaVonne Jane Bussey

March 16, 1930 - April 8, 2026

LaVonne was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to Victoria and George Earnest. She graduated from Union High School and completed post-high school studies in bookkeeping. She met and married Ernest Alfred “Al” Bussey in 1951, beginning a partnership that lasted 67 years.

They lived in Salem, Newport, and Lake Oswego, returning to Newport in retirement. During those early years, she and Al purchased and remodeled their first home—something they would continue to do over the years.

LaVonne worked in a variety of roles. In her early years, she worked at a radio station, a music shop, and a lumber mill. She later served as a high school administrative assistant and as a financial bookkeeper at a major shipyard in Portland.

She had a passion for living life. LaVonne enjoyed square dancing, gardening, and travel, exploring destinations across the United States as well as China, Europe, and many memorable cruises. She even square danced on the Great Wall of China and experienced indoor skydiving at age 89. Her curiosity and sense of adventure enriched her life and those around her.

LaVonne was known for her dedication to volunteerism. In 2010, she joined the Newport Police Volunteers. In 2016, she and her husband Al were honored as Newport’s



“Outstanding Volunteers of the Year,” receiving the Alma B. Howell Award in recognition of their service.

In 2018, she continued her commitment to the community by co-founding the Bayfront Memorial Bench Refurbishing Program with Judy Bateman. Through this effort, they restored and preserved bayfront benches that were at risk of being

removed, leaving a lasting contribution to Newport.

Most recently, she volunteered many hours at Samaritan Hospital and the Newport Performing Arts Center, where she enjoyed greeting and assisting others. Her warm smile and welcoming nature made a lasting impression on all who crossed her path.

LaVonne is survived by her children, Shawn, Scott (Lisa), and Mark (Kym); her grandchildren, Travis (Sydney), Nick, and Connor (Emi); and her great-grandchildren, Everett, and Emery, who were an important part of her life.

LaVonne will be remembered for her generous heart, tireless service to others, and the love she shared with her family and community. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the community she helped strengthen.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Jeni Greening-Burleigh

5-21-52 - 3-12-26

Jeni Greening-Burleigh of Depoe Bay, Oregon died from cancer on March 12, 2026. She is survived by her husband, Ray Burleigh, and her two sisters, Kathy Mills of Duluth, Minnesota and Ann Helmly of Bend, Oregon. Additionally she leaves behind eight loving nieces and nephews, three devoted step sons, and four step grandchildren whom she played with all during her last years.

In her lifetime she had worked as a counselor for the Lincoln County School District, Lincoln County Mental Health and in the last twelve years of her life she opened her own counseling office in Newport, Oregon.

It’s important to note that many of the children she worked with in local

schools came back to her as adults clients who returned to her because of the gentle support she continuously offered.

She was a person who deeply believed in helping others. She had learned this attribute in her family whom she treasured daily. She was proud of the accomplishments of her brother and sisters. She loved her parents and recalled tennis lessons frequently.

Finally, she was an animal lover. She owned several cats, but two dogs dominated her adult life. Akio was her companion for many years. They traveled alone all over Oregon and Canada. Mudita joined our family in 2017. She was a constant joy to Jeni and slept beside her every night.

Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master's degree** she claims to have in the **May 19 Voters' Pamphlet**? The records don't support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**



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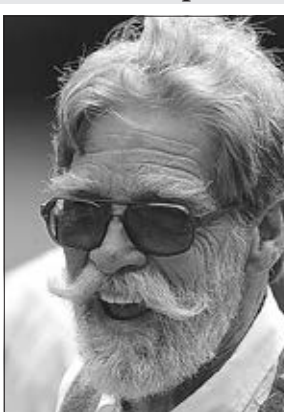


Mark Walters

Sept. 28, 1947 - April 10, 2026

Sadly, we lost Mark Walters on April 10, 2026, at age 78.

Mark was born in Merced, Ca. on Sept. 28, 1947. He was the youngest and last of 5 children. Mark was proud to have served in the Navy on board submarines and the U.S.S. Winston from 1966-1968. After his military service, Mark traveled around the States for a few years and then moved to the Oregon coast where he met and married Laura, his wife of 45 years. He raised two sons, Justin and Luke, and was blessed to have Luke’s wife, Brenda, as a daughter-in-law. He had 3 grandchildren, Gabe, Justin’s son and Alli



and Riffin, Luke’s children. He took great pride in his work as a painter. Mark was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing agate hunting, 49er’s football, NASCAR racing and was an avid reader. Mark loved living in Waldport with its easy access to time spent in the woods and searching for treasures on the beach which he would use to create beautiful art. Mark was a gift to his family and friends. Such a kind and gentle man. He will forever be missed.

Mark’s wish, in lieu of a service, is to have you tip your hat or drink to him and remember the good times!

BILLS

From Page A1

at Woodburn's city hall Wednesday, April 22, to celebrate the new laws, which include one to clear the way for Woodburn to add more housing outside of current city limits.

State economists say Oregon has to build 29,500 new homes a year, mostly in the Portland region and Willamette Valley, if it wants to overcome its housing shortage, while Kotek set — but has yet to meet — a more ambitious goal of 36,000 homes per year. Since the start of her administration, Oregon has financed or added 17,000 housing units with state support and has taken action to add 50,000 future housing units, Kotek said Wednesday.

Woodburn Mayor Frank Lonergan

introduced Kotek, saying it was a special day because Kotek signed House Bill 4035, which modifies a 2024 law that lets eligible cities make a one-time urban growth boundary expansion. The law will allow Woodburn to oversee its own 120-acre expansion.

Similarly, Kotek, state lawmakers and housing advocates celebrated the signing of House Bill 4082. It's a one-time expansion of urban growth boundary rules, with the condition that additional land be used for manufactured housing, prefabricated structures, manufactured dwelling parks or for housing specifically for people 55 years old and older. It lets cities with populations of 25,000 or more to bring in 100 additional acres for development, and those with smaller populations to bring in up to 50.

"To all the Oregonians who are struggling to find affordable housing right now, all the folks who are working on this, we see you," Kotek said. "We are working for you. I'm working for you. We want to make sure that everyone in the state has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home."

Three of the new housing laws Kotek signed also strengthen state loan programs to preserve and build affordable housing, including Senate Bill 1567, which authorizes the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to establish a \$20 million loan fund that will offer subsidized loans to developers willing to build housing units affordable to residents at different levels of income.

House Bill 4036 also establishes the Housing Opportunity, Longevity and Durability Fund,

a new program funded through the same bond money the state uses to acquire, repair or furnish state-owned property. The new fund would help preserve existing affordable housing that's at risk of being lost because of expiring federal or local affordability restrictions, financial distress or physical rehabilitation needs.

"With existing federal funding for affordable housing under attack, it's critical for Oregon to find cost effective ways to build homes available to Oregonians at different income levels," said Sen. Khanh Phạm, D-Portland.

And House Bill 4037, an omnibus bill addressing a range of housing issues, modifies the state loan program to expand low and moderate-income housing production, strengthens state enforcement of local housing laws and clarifies that surplus state-owned land

should be prioritized for housing development. The bill cuts red tape for new housing, Kotek said, by expanding the ability for developers to self-certify that building plans meet requirements and reducing notice and public hearing requirements for certain housing projects.

Elected officials and Kotek also celebrated House Bill 4128, which gives families, individuals and small real estate businesses a 90-day head start before private equity firms can purchase single-family homes for sale in Oregon.

"I think the lineup of bills today is pretty reflective of the work that we have to do," said Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, the chair of the House Housing and Homelessness Committee. "It is not just one solution to solve the housing problem

in the state of Oregon. Really, we have to hit and address every point on the continuum of development."

Kotek signed most of the housing bills in late March, according to the state's legislative information website. Wednesday's event was a ceremonial celebration of their passage into law.

https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/04/22/oregon-governor-signs-housing-bills-addressing-affordability-urban-boundary-growth-boundaries/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.

LOYALTY

From Page A1

Days Parade. Local people can create a parade vehicle and participate in the parade.

Recently retired Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major Scott Stimpson has been selected as the Newport Loyalty Days 2026 Grand Marshal. The parade begins at noon at the north end of Newport. It proceeds south on Highway 101 to NE 3rd Street.

The first theme of the Loyalty Days parade was Red Crab Day in 1938. The parade was every year until 1941-1945 when it was in abeyance until after the war. The celebration returned again in 1946, but it was cancelled for a year in 2020-2021 due to the COVID pandemic. Loyalty Days began again in 2022 and has been held every year since. This year's theme is 250 Years Strong.

BACKGROUND

Loyalty Day was originated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on the East Coast as a counter demonstration to the annual May Day mass rallies and celebrations staged by communist supporters, according to information provide by Newport High School Alternative Environment

Teaching Assistant BayLee Layton-Karnes.

The notion of a Loyalty Day caught on favorably, spreading with tremendous speed until 1950 when the observance was inaugurated by the VFW on a nationwide basis. Not only is Loyalty Day a successful counter to communism, but it specifically affords a time when loyal Americans may rededicate themselves to their country, the information states.

In response to the East Coast VFW, Newport's American Legion Post #116 commenced its first Loyalty Day celebration in May 1956. In 1957, Oregon Governor Robert Holmes and Newport City Mayor Ellis Moses issued a proclamation asking all citizens to step forward and renew his and her faith in America.

In Congress, a joint resolution was written designating each May 1st as Loyalty Day, stating:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the 1st day of May of each year is hereby designated as Loyalty Day and is to be set aside as a special day for the affirmation of loyalty to the United States of America for the recognition of the heritage of American Freedom; and the President of the United



The Loyalty Days 2026 poster. (Courtesy photo)

States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on such day and inviting the people of the United States to observe such day, in schools and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies."

This resolution was approved July 18, 1958, and President Dwight

D. Eisenhower officially signed the Loyalty Day bill into law.

By 1958, Newport had already celebrated its second Loyalty Day. Since, Newport's Loyalty Days celebration has been growing strong. However, in 1973 it went unobserved. Recognizing this as a community failure, students of Newport High School set and accomplished a goal to revive Loyalty Day in

Newport.

"Able with ambition and determination of mind and body, local high school students showed their community what Newport teens are made of," the information states. "Since 1974, celebrating Loyalty Day has grown in public participation and has added numerous activities. Patriotism is what Loyalty Day is all about! It is a time to stand, be counted

and express one's faith in our great country. It is a time to honor those who protect our freedom."

The public is invited to meet the Loyalty Days Court from 7 to 9 p.m. May 1 at the Newport Elks Lodge, located at US Highway 20 and 45 SE Moore Road in Newport.

For specific event schedules and more information, see the Newport Loyalty Days Facebook page.

RESCUE

From Page A1

above the water.

At approximately 10:25 a.m. an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Facility Newport arrived on scene and successfully hoisted the individual from the cliff side. The patient was then transported and transferred to awaiting emergency personnel.

Lt. Travis Weaver was the MH-65 helicopter pilot in command during the rescue.

"Rescues like this highlight the importance of programs like the Advanced Helicopter Rescue School, which focuses on training for contingencies such as inland search and rescue and cliff side rescue," Lt. Weaver said. "Being able to train for events like this before they happen make for safe and effective

rescues when our partners call on us for help."

When the Coast Guard helicopter arrived, the patient was successfully hoisted into the aircraft, then landed at Rocky Creek State Park to transfer the patient to fire and medical personnel. The patient was transported to a local hospital in stable condition.

The name of the victim and where the man was from was not immediately available.

In a Facebook post, Depoe Bay Fire officials said the rocky coastal terrain can be unforgiving.

"Visitors should prepare before outings, notify friends or family of plans, and exercise extreme caution," the post states.

Depoe Bay Fire District crews responded to three other falls along the rocky coastline over the weekend and the crew members urge the public to use care near cliffs and

shorelines.

In a published interview in March with the Lincoln County Leader, Lincoln County Technical Rescue Team member Andy Parker, and a member of the Newport Fire Department, a common cause of emergencies involve people attempting to climb hillsides or cliffs along the coastline.

"Many individuals underestimate the terrain or encounter conditions they weren't expecting, which can leave them stranded or in need of rescue," he said. "The most important advice is to respect the natural hazards along the coast. Visitors should stay off hillsides and cliffs and always remain on marked

pathways. If there are railings or fences, they are there for a reason, both to protect public safety and to help preserve the coastal environment."

In the March interview, Parker said often, such emergencies can be prevented.

"We encourage people to take the time to read posted signage in the areas they visit," he said. "Most coastal access points include warnings about hazards, but those signs are often overlooked or ignored. Staying aware of your surroundings and following those guidelines can go a long way toward preventing emergencies."

The Lincoln County Technical Rescue Team conducts specific safety

training to be ready for such emergency calls. Often the training is conducted in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard helicopter air crews.

Newport Fire Department, Lincoln

County Technical Rescue Team, Oregon State Police, ODOT, Oregon State Parks, Pacific West Ambulance, and the United States Coast Guard worked together in the April 25 rescue.

Does Cathie Rigby have the master's degree she claims to have in the May 19 Voters' Pamphlet? The records don't support it. Get the facts at RigbyVerify.com



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Sudoku grid with answers: 4 3 2 5 9 6 1 7 8, 1 6 9 8 4 7 2 3 5, 5 8 7 3 1 2 6 9 4, 6 5 3 7 2 9 8 4 1, 9 2 8 1 5 4 7 6 3, 7 1 4 6 8 3 9 5 2, 8 4 1 9 7 5 3 2 6, 3 9 5 2 6 1 4 8 7, 2 7 6 4 3 8 5 1 9

Lincoln County Leader Classified drives sales for auto dealers.

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Arc of Lincoln County opens thrift store

The Arc of Lincoln County is pleased to announce the opening of its thrift store located in the old Mary Harrison school building in Toledo. Named Old School Thrift and Gift Shop, all sales from the store go directly to The Arc of Lincoln County.

The Arc of Lincoln County provides services supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants attend weekly Day Support activities at the building and out in the community. The Arc of Lincoln County has expanded to offer Employment Services to help people with disabilities in finding and maintaining jobs, and Attendant Care Services, assisting them with daily living tasks. Sales from the thrift store support the costs of running these programs and upkeep of the building.

All items for sale are donations from the community. They are displayed on shelves donated by David at Toledo Do It Best Hardware. Carefully organized by category among the classrooms in the mid-section of the building, shoppers can find separate areas for vintage, outdoor, crafting, clothes, kitchen, books, electronics, home goods, toys, games and kids' items. Also for sale in the gift shop section are handmade items that make great gifts including a wide variety of crocheted plush creations.

The Arc of Lincoln County would like to thank all the people who volunteered, everyone



The Arc of Lincoln County participant, Samantha Justice cuts the ribbon held by Toledo Chamber of Commerce Director, Amber Brown, and participant Annabeth Bassingthwaite opening the doors to The Old School Thrift and Gift Shop. Board President, Bob Spurgeon, and his wife Marianne Spurgeon, along with participants, Jobie Rasar, and DJ Meduna, and Bonnie Meduna are seen watching in the background. (Courtesy photo)

who has come to shop and those who have donated items. They invite you to come shop, visit and learn about the program during their regular hours Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 11-3 on the first Saturday of every month located in the Circle Center Building (old Mary Harrison school) at 321 SE 3rd St in Toledo. Donations are accepted during store hours. You can find out more about donation guidelines in the store or on their website ArcofLincoln.org

The group celebrated their grand opening on March 21 with a ribbon cutting ceremony organized by the Toledo Chamber of Commerce. At the ribbon cutting, a participant read the following poem written by an Arc of Lincoln County employee, encapsulating the journey to get this store from an idea to a reality:

What started off as a gathering of only two,

The Arc of Lincoln County grew and grew.

Learning how to run the program and set it on a good

course,

We discovered that other chapters have thrift stores as a funding source.

We knew it'd be a while until we could have a real running store,

So we started gathering donations behind the scenes more and more.

When our storage unit was filled up to the top,

We'd put together the occasional pop-up shop.

Always on the lookout for a suitable retail space,

We never expected to find such a meant-to-be place.

Our Circle Center building with our group right down the hall,

We could set up shop AND have a home-base; there's room for it all!

Along with the 4th of July fireworks, our work began in busy booms,

Sorting and moving objects from over 20 rooms!

A rhythm began in constant rotation,

Of taking in each generous donation.

Trying to be informed of items and their worth,

All the while staying mindful of recycling for the Earth.

Packaging and boxes were used again and again,

Before they would move on to the recycle bin.

Like Santa, David gave the gift of his old store shelves,

Delivered in January by a fleet of volunteer elves.

Once they were assembled,

we could suddenly feel,

That our store was actually becoming real.

Now to stock shelves so our shoppers will know,

When they enter the door exactly which way to go.

We hustled to present it logically organized,

The little store of our dreams that became supersized.

Harrison is our dinosaur mascot to greet kids at the door,

On their way to the section where they'll find toys, games, books and more.

Come to our kitchen room to take a look,

At what could help you when you bake, serve or cook.

So many clothes that don't fit someone anymore,

Have made it to the Lost and Found section of our store.

An art piece, a trinket, basket or tray,

Countless objects live on another day.

We can't count how many trips it took,

To get the library's donation of each and every book.

In the Time Capsule room there's history with it all,

Told by the faded packaging and the face of the China doll.

In this building we found the most fitting theme,

Old School thrift store - a name for our dream.

So come in and find your treasure from our bounty,

Have fun shopping while supporting The Arc of Lincoln County!

Oregon minimum wage workers will get 50-cent bump in July

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon workers making minimum wage will get an additional 50 cents per hour beginning in July, the state's Bureau of Labor and Industries announced Thursday, April 23.

The state has three different minimum wages, depending on location. Beginning July 1, minimum wage will be:

- \$16.80 for workers in the Portland metro area.
- \$15.55 for workers in Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco and Yamhill counties, as well as the parts of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties that aren't included in Portland's urban growth boundary.
- \$14.55 for workers in the rural counties of Baker, Coos, Crook, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler.

All new wages are 50 cents

higher than the current minimum for that area. State law requires adjusting the minimum wage to account for inflation each year. Using the U.S. city average consumer price index of 3.3% between March 2025 and 2026, state regulators calculated a 50-cent increase to the standard minimum wage.

The rural wage is always \$1 less than the standard wage, and the Portland minimum wage is always \$1.25 more.

Roughly 4% of workers earn the state's minimum wage, and most of those jobs are in the hospitality or retail industries, according to Oregon Employment Department data. But increases to minimum wage often result in higher wages for other low-paid employees.

"When wages grow for workers at the lowest end of the income scale, the effects ripple outward," Labor Commissioner Christina Stephenson said in a press release announcing the new rates. "It helps reduce long-standing disparities and supports a more inclusive economy where every Oregonian has a fair shot to succeed."

Oregon is one of 34 states



Oregon's minimum wage will increase to \$16.80 in the Portland area, \$14.55 in rural counties and \$15.55 in the rest of the state beginning July 1. (Getty Images)

with a higher minimum wage than the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour, which has gone unchanged since 2009.

Oregon's minimum wage is higher than in neighboring Idaho, where the minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour, and higher than Nevada's \$12 per hour minimum wage.

But Oregon's minimum wage is below its neighbors to the north and south. Washington's minimum wage is \$17.13, though Seattle and other urban areas set local wages higher

than \$20 per hour. California has a statewide minimum wage of \$16.90, with higher rates in many cities and a requirement that fast food workers be paid at least \$20 per hour.

A living wage calculator maintained by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows that a single Oregonian must make at least \$26.46 per hour and a family with two children and two working parents must bring in a household income of more than \$67 per hour to afford all basic

needs.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/23/oregon-minimum-wage-workers-will-get-50-cent-bump-in-july/>

Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

Lincoln, Tillamook counties to receive a share of \$48M in federal funding

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Nearly \$48.7 million in federal funding from the U.S. Forest Service for fiscal year 2025 will be coming to Oregon counties.

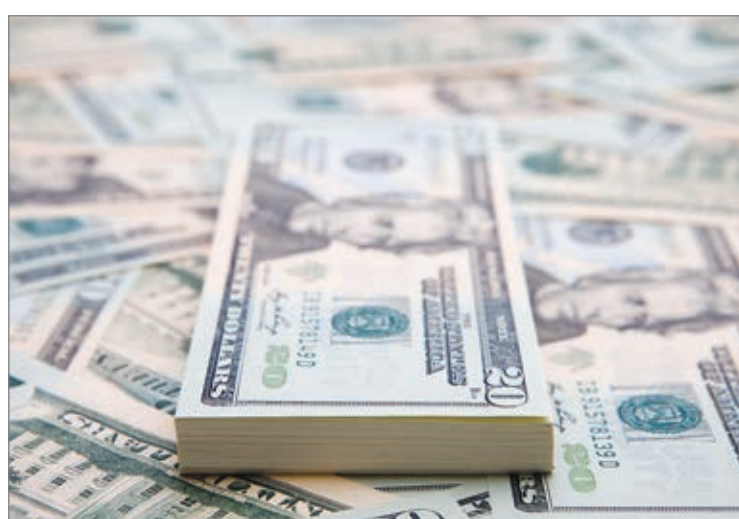
The funding comes following the passage of Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley's bipartisan bill late last year to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, with more to come when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its payments for the 18 Oregon & California counties.

Lincoln County will receive \$1,412,795.76. Tillamook County will receive

\$689,482.51.

This fiscal year 2025 funding comes in addition to nearly \$49 million in already announced retroactive SRS funding for Oregon counties in fiscal year 2024. Wyden co-authored the SRS law in 2000, and it has brought nearly \$4 billion since then to Oregon counties. Funding for the program lapsed in September 2023, and counties in Oregon and nationwide had not received payments since early 2024 because the bill to reauthorize the program had stalled in the House after previously passing the Senate twice.

"Young Oregonians who deserve quality schools, and all Oregonians counting on safe



Lincoln County will receive \$1,412,795.76. Tillamook County will receive \$689,482.51. (Metro Creative Connection)

roads as well as dependable public safety will all benefit

from these investments in communities throughout our state,"

Wyden said. "I'm glad these funds are heading to Oregon, and I am focused on a permanent solution that takes rural communities off this year-to-year financial rollercoaster."

"SRS payments are a lifeline for rural communities here in Oregon and across America—supporting our schools, public safety, and wildfire mitigation and preparedness," Merkley said. "This nearly \$49 million in federal funds ensures counties with federal forest lands have the resources they need to stay safe and resilient."

A full breakdown of funding for each Oregon county can be seen with this story at the Lincoln County Leader website.

Coast Moment



A quiet moment along the Oregon Coast. (Courtesy photo from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)

Culture of Course! Starlight Gala on May 2

LINCOLN CITY CULTURAL CENTER

The Lincoln City Cultural Center invites the community to step into an evening of music, celebration and generosity at this year's Culture of Course! benefit event, happening Saturday, May 2, at the Cultural Center in Lincoln City.

This year's theme, "Starlight Gala," promises a magical night filled with great food, lively entertainment and opportunities to support one of the community's most cherished gathering places for arts, culture and connection. This year, the Gala will be emceed by the wonderful Keith Altomare, owner of the Bijou Theatre.

Guests will enjoy an elegant, multi-course dining experience that showcases some of the coast's favorite culinary partners. The evening begins with an appetizer from The Red Roof Munchery, followed by a fresh salad from Neskowin Provisions, a memorable main course from Side Door Cafe, rolls from Fish Tails Cafe, and a sweet finale from My Petite Sweet — all included with the \$125 ticket.

Adding to the evening's glow will be a special performance by acclaimed jazz pianist, composer and bandleader Gordon Lee. Known for his dynamic style and engaging stage presence, Lee has performed throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond, blending jazz, classical and popular influences into music that is both sophisticated and deeply accessible. His performances are celebrated for their warmth, creativity and connection with

See GALA, page B4

Readings and Conversation with Oregon Book Awards finalists

Literary Arts, in partnership with the Newport Public Library, presents a reading and conversation with three 2026 Oregon Book Awards finalists, as part of the Oregon Book Awards Author Tour from 2 to 3 p.m. Friday, May 8, in the McEntee Meeting Room of the Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye St., Newport.

The tour showcases acclaimed finalists in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction and the Newport program features:

Jennifer Perrine – Winner of the 2026 Oregon Book Award Stafford/Hall Prize in Poetry for Beautiful Outlaw (Kelsey Street Press).



Jennifer Perrine

Perrine is the author of five award-winning books of poetry: Beautiful Outlaw, Again, The Body Is No Machine, In the Human Zoo, and No Confession, No Mass. Perrine is a two-time winner of Arts and Culture Diversity



M. L. Herring

and Inclusion Awards from the Asian American Journalists Association.

M. L. Herring - Finalist in general nonfiction for Born of Fire and Rain: Journey into a Pacific Coastal Forest (Yale University Press). Herring is



Jamie Mustard

associate professor emerita of science communication at Oregon State University, where she continues to lead workshops to inspire people to experience the world through observation, art, and ecology.

Jamie Mustard - Finalist in general nonfiction for Child X: A Memoir of Slavery, Poverty, Celebrity, and Scientology (BenBella Books). Mustard is a conceptual artist, artistic director, culturist, and writer, including his work on perception in the physical world relating to art, imagery, and ideas. In 2025, his first

See FINALISTS, page B4



The OCCC campus in Newport is located at 400 SE College Way. (Courtesy photo)

OCCC hosts open house for high school students, parents

OREGON COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) will host an Early College Open House Tuesday, May 5, at its Central County Campus in Newport.

The event is designed to offer local students and families an opportunity to explore affordable pathways to college credit while still in high school.

The Open House will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. in English, followed

by a Spanish-language session from 6 to 7 p.m., at the OCCC Newport Campus, 400 SE College Way, in Newport.

Designed for high school students and their parents or guardians, the

See OCCC, page B4

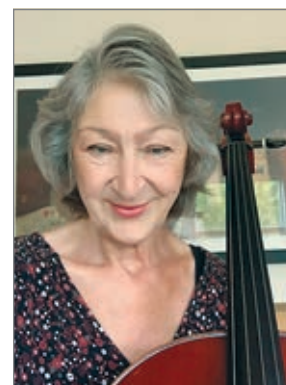
Classic Rock with a Classy Twist: Candlelight Sessions at the PAC

OREGON COAST COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Oregon Coast Council for the Arts and the Newport Symphony Orchestra invite you to experience a truly unique evening of music as they present "Candlelight Sessions" at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

Imagine sitting on stage with four extraordinary musicians — bathed in the warm glow of flickering candlelight — as you're treated to string quartet arrangements of some of the greatest hits of classic rock. This intimate, glowing concert experience treats you to reimaginings of the songs that defined a generation.

Forget the distance between performer and audience. The Candlelight Sessions



Alberta Barnes

tears down that wall entirely, placing listeners inches from the instruments. The musicians (Casey Bozell on Violin, Alberta Barnes on Violin, Shauna Keyes on Viola, and Adrienne Welsh on Cello) will guide the audience on a journey through beloved classics, sharing stories and insights along the way.

The rumored playlist reads like the soundtrack



Adrienne Welsh

of a lifetime. Expect sweeping string arrangements of songs like White Rabbit (Jefferson Airplane), Paint It Black (The Rolling Stones), Life on Mars (David Bowie), Sweet Home Alabama (Lynyrd Skynyrd), More Than a Feeling (Boston), Brown Eyed Girl (Van Morrison), Born to Be

See ROCK, page B4



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How to use mindfulness in your daily living

STAN POPOVICH
Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column

Mindfulness is the practice of becoming more fully aware of the present moment rather than dwelling in the past, projecting into the future or what's going on around us. It involves a heightened awareness of sensory stimuli, such as our breathing and being "in the now."

Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery and other practices to relax the body and mind.

1. Find a comfortable

place: You'll want to find a comfortable seat in a relaxed and stress-free environment. Sit on a couch or chair with your feet on the ground. Allow your head and shoulders to rest comfortably; place your hands on the tops of your legs with your upper arms at your side. Put your upper arms parallel to your upper body. Rest the palms of your hands on your legs.

2. Focus on your breathing: Close your eyes, take a deep breath and relax. Keep your attention on the sensation of the inhale and exhale of your breath. Focus on the

air moving through your nose or the rising and falling of your stomach and chest.

3. Reduce wandering thoughts: It's normal to have wandering thoughts or distractions, so don't judge yourself if you start becoming distracted. Instead of wrestling with your thoughts, let them pass by, without focusing on any thought. Thoughts will try to pull your attention away from your breathing. Notice them, but don't pass judgment. Gently return your focus to your breath.

4. Tune into your senses: Sometimes, when

we're stressed, focusing on what's happening right in front of us can be a challenge in and of itself. Our minds are drawn to thinking about the future and all the bad things that are or could happen.

5. Live in the present: Focus your attention on what's happening right now, actively engaging with the current moment instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future.

6. Focus on one thing at a time: Multitasking can leave you feeling distracted, so concentrate on one task with your full attention.

7. Pay attention: It's hard to slow down and notice things in a busy world. Take the time to experience your environment with all your senses, including touch, sound, sight, smell and taste. For example, when you eat a favorite food, take the time to smell, taste and enjoy it.

8. Enjoy the small moments: Small moments in our lives include those that we don't typically notice and those we take for granted. A small moment may be having a cup of coffee or a cool glass of water, spending a moment with a child or

pet, or performing any everyday activity that goes by without our attention. Enjoyment, peace and serenity in life happen in the small moments.

9. Go outside: Spending time outdoors is a great way to live in the moment and observe the sights, sounds and sensations around you.

Stan Popovich's the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers 200+ techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, visit Stan's website at <http://www.managing-fear.com>

Tips and Clicks: Photography Essentials

BOB GIBSON
Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column

I am currently on a photo shoot in New Orleans. I am here to photograph musicians and performances during the French Quarter Festival and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. The location is filled with great food, wonderful people, interesting culture and incredible music. The photography is challenging. Of course, I don't have any control over lighting or background. In some ways this is true of situations in which you might find yourself.

I will break it down and offer some ideas for climbing through these problems.

The first item on the list is lighting. The direction and quality of the light is going to drive the whole experience. If the front (towards the camera) of the subject is illuminated it might seem that the problem is solved. However, moving your camera from one side to the other can create a more interesting photograph. Side lighting creates shadows that add character to the image. Back lighting opens the door to a rim lighting effect that can be wonderful. In this case, I like



Photographer Bob Gibson captures a moment during the 2018 Siletz's Bay Music Festival's Donor Party. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

to increase the exposure a bit, to reduce the silhouette effect.

The other variable is your background. If the background is not great,

you can reduce the negative impact by opening your aperture to shorten

your depth of field and softening the background. The other option is to move and adjust your subject into a different, more desirable, area of the background.

Photography is a game of decisions and compromising. Often, solving one issue creates another. Pushing the boundaries and putting ourselves in challenging situations strengthens our skills and increases our creativity.

Until next time, make some photographs!

Bob Gibson is a Lincoln County photographer. He may be reached at The Photography Studio, 4846 SE Highway 101, in Lincoln City.

SHERIFF'S TIP OF THE WEEK

Wildfires can happen every year in Oregon, and it is important to be ready

Here are 10 easy things you can do to get prepared

during May's Wildfire Awareness Month.

- Burn yard debris safely. Escaped debris burning is the main cause of wildfires started by people.
 - Do yard work and use power tools in the spring, not summer, to lower fire risk.
 - Create a safe space around your home. Start with 5 feet and work up to 30 feet. This helps protect your home if a wildfire comes.
 - Make sure your address is easy to see from the street so emergency crews can find you.
 - Know at least two ways to leave your neighborhood in case of evacuation.
 - Build a 72-hour emergency kit for your family and pets.
 - Make a communication plan with family, neighbors, and someone out of the area.
 - Take photos or videos of your belongings and store them safely.
 - Sign up for Lincoln Alerts to get emergency warnings and updates.
 - Share these tips with friends, family, and neighbors.
- For more wildfire safety tips, visit www.keepore-gongreen.org

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Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master's degree** she claims to have in the May 19 Voters' Pamphlet? The records don't support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**

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Lincoln County Leader

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

SUDOKU 数独

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

Support these Local Nonprofit Community Organizations!

Samaritan HOUSE

Samaritan House envisions a community where all families can live together in safe, affordable, and sustainable housing; and all generations are able to thrive.

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DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE

Oregon's submission to the national America250 time capsule

On July 4, 2026, America250 will bury the Semiquincentennial Time Capsule within Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA.

The stainless-steel cylinder, designed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is designed to safely store commemorative objects for 250 years until the capsule's opening in 2276.

Each state was asked to contribute a submission that represents its people, stories, and values at this historic moment. In February, the America 250 Oregon Commission invited the public to share their ideas for what Oregon should submit to the time capsule, with suggestions ranging from creative works, written reflections, and symbolic objects.

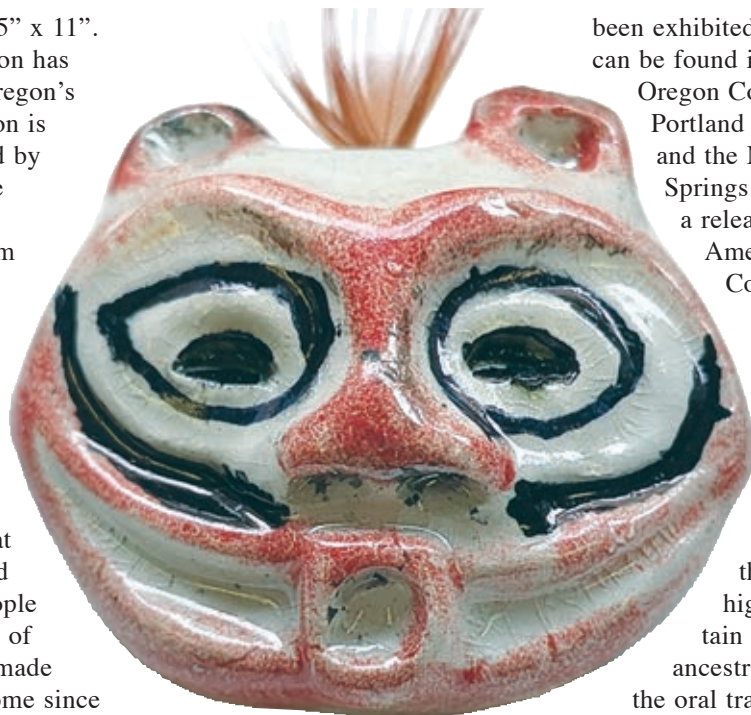
Each state's submission must fit within a 6" x 5" x 2" archival storage box or consist of a single page of archival paper

no larger than 8.5" x 11".

The Commission has announce that Oregon's chosen submission is a pin handcrafted by acclaimed Native American artist Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs, Wasco, and Yakama).

"I am honored that my work will be included in this time capsule and am heartened to know that when it is opened in 250 years, people will be reminded of those who have made this land their home since time immemorial," Lillian Pitt said.

Pitt is widely known for her sculpting and mixed media artistry, which focuses on 12,000 years of



Oregon's chosen submission is a pin handcrafted by acclaimed Native American artist Lillian Pitt (Warm Springs, Wasco, and Yakama). (Courtesy photo)

Native American history and traditions of the Columbia River region. Her works have

been exhibited globally and can be found in Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland State University, and the Museum at Warm Springs, according to a release from the America 250 Oregon Commission.

The pin that was selected is She Who Watches, Pitt's depiction of a famous petroglyph and pictograph that is perched high on a mountain visible from her ancestral village. Under the oral traditions of tribes of the Columbia River region, She Who Watches represents Tsagaglalal, a wise and powerful chief who was transformed to stone,

where she continues to keep vigil over her people and the Columbia River.

"The inclusion of this pin from one of Oregon's most celebrated Indigenous artists reminds us that Oregon's history and America's history is much longer than 250 or 500 years," America 250 Oregon Commission Chair Kerry Tymchuk said.

Lillian Pitt was born on the Warm Springs Reservation in 1944 and moved to Portland in the early 1960s, where she resides today. She has received many honors, including the Oregon History Makers Award from the Oregon Historical Society.

The Ford Family Foundation has named Pitt as the inaugural recipient of the 1905 Legacy Award, which will be presented every five years to an active Oregon artist who has been producing art for at least 20 years.



Miles Rough. (Courtesy photo)

Restoring Our Kelp Forests

On Wednesday, May 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Seven Capes Bird Alliance presents Life in the Kelp: Predators, Prey, and Ecosystem Balance with Miles Rough.

A large marine epidemic known as sea star wasting disease hit the Oregon coast in 2014. This outbreak caused the sunflower sea star, an important sea urchin predator, to decline by more than 98% in population size.

Sunflower stars are large and fast-moving, with up to 28 arms. They regulate urchin populations not only by directly consuming urchins, but also by indirectly affecting their behavior through fear. The loss of this predator is linked to a 70% decline of Oregon's kelp forests and an increase in urchin populations, creating urchin-dominated barrens. Miles will talk about his laboratory research on these giant sea stars and his field studies, where he dove in Oregon's cold turbulent waters to test the effect of sunflower sea star presence on urchin behavior and grazing.

Miles Rough is a Ph.D. student at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in the laboratory of Dr.

Aaron Galloway. Miles is fascinated by kelp forest dynamics, particularly the shifts between healthy ecosystems and urchin-dominated barrens. He uses field and laboratory experiments to understand the role of sunflower sea stars as a key predator influencing urchin populations and ecosystem stability. Miles is an AAUS scientific diver and SCUBA instructor, using diving both to conduct research and to train others in underwater observation techniques.

This webinar is free, but pre-registration is required. Register online now at sevendecapes.org/restoringourkelpforests.

This presentation is the second of a three-part series, Restoring Our Kelp Forests, which explores the changing world of kelp from the challenges

these vibrant ecosystems face to the passionate efforts underway to bring them back. Hear stories from scientists, divers, and community groups working to restore balance among keystone species and revive these essential ocean habitats. Discover how resilience, balance, and ingenuity are shaping the future of life along our coasts.

Restoring Our Kelp Forests is brought to you by Seven Capes Bird Alliance in partnership with Friends of Otter Rock, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Elakha Alliance, and Oregon Kelp Alliance.

Learn more about this series, register for upcoming presentations, and listen to recordings of past sessions at sevendecapes.org/restoringourkelpforests.



OPEN POSITIONS

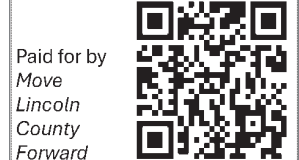
Fall 2026 Teaching Position
K8 Life Skills Special Education
K8 Physical Education (one year contract)
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 -190 day contract -Starts 8/31/2026

Substitute Transportation Drivers
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Fall 2026 Stipend Position
Middle School Athletic Director - \$3,935 stipend
Assistant Football Coach - \$3,935 stipend

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Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master's degree** she claims to have in the May 19 Voters' Pamphlet? The records don't support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**



Paid for by Move Lincoln County Forward

Young Frankenstein at Taft High

Taft High School's Tiger Stripe Players present Young Frankenstein—the outrageously funny musical comedy by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan.

Based off of the classic movie starring Gene Wilder, this musical follows the events that unfold when the grandson of the infamous Doctor Frankenstein joins the family business and creates a new monster.

The show is packed with over-the-top characters, classic monster movie moments, and laugh-out-loud songs, that are perfect for teens and adults alike.

You can catch evening performances May 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 6:30 p.m. with a 1:30 matinee on Saturday, May 16 at Taft High School in Lincoln City.

Student tickets are \$12, adults \$15, and doors open 30 minutes before curtain.



Free after school art classes offered

The Yaquina Art Association (YAA) is offering free after school art classes through a generous donation from the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation.

Monday May 11 Watercolor reverse stencils High School age
Tuesday May 12 Copper Embossing High School age
Wednesday May 13



Oil Pastels Middle School age

Monday May 18 Glass Fusing Tile High School age

Tuesday May 19 Glass Fusing Tile Middle School age

Wednesday May 20

Watercolor Pastels Middle School age

All after school classes are free for 10 students each day Classroom will be open by 3:30 start 3:45-5 p.m.

The YAA classes, held at Newport 1st Baptist Church located at 224 NW 6th St. The classroom is behind the church.

To sign up and for more information, contact yaa-gallery@yahoo.com



Kathleen Hutchinson
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Chris Watkins
541-270-6774



Gail Stonebreaker
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Deborah Allen
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Tips help Oregon gardeners grow better tomatoes

KYM POKORNY

*Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column*

Nothing challenges Oregon vegetable gardeners quite like coaxing a ripe tomato from the vine.

Between unpredictable weather, pests and disease, it can be a test of patience — and persistence.

“Everyone wants to grow tomatoes,” said Amy Jo Detweiler, horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. “It’s a universal food people tend to like.”

Still, wanting to grow tomatoes and successfully doing it are two different things. Short growing seasons on both sides of the Cascade Range — and limited sunlight on the coast — often mean tomatoes take their time to ripen, if they ripen at all.

Choose varieties suited to Oregon’s climate

When shopping for tomato starts, Detweiler recommends choosing varieties that mature in

60 to 70 days rather than those that take 70 to 100.

“Some of those are ‘Legend,’ ‘Early Girl’ and ‘Siletz,’ all developed by Oregon State,” Detweiler said.

Cherry tomatoes such as ‘Sun Gold,’ ‘Gold Nugget’ and ‘Sweet Million’ also ripen early and are great choices for beginning gardeners. Large beefsteak types can be rewarding but are more challenging in Oregon’s climate.

Tomatoes come in two main growth habits. Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and ripen fruit throughout the season. Determinate types ripen most of their fruit at once, making them ideal for canning and sauces. For detailed information and recipes for preserving tomatoes, visit the OSU Extension guide Canning tomatoes and tomato products.

Give tomatoes protection in cooler regions

In colder parts of the state — such as Central



Short growing seasons on both sides of the Cascade Range — and limited sunlight on the coast — often mean tomatoes take their time to ripen, if they ripen at all. (Courtesy from Alyson Yates)

and Eastern Oregon — tomatoes benefit from protection to extend the growing season.

“If you don’t have a greenhouse, use a cloche or row cover,” Detweiler said. “When plants are young, water rings are helpful. They absorb heat during the day and release it at night.”

Plastic mulch or sheeting around plants can also help retain soil warmth and moisture.

Amy Jo Detweiler’s tips for growing tomatoes

Select sturdy, healthy plants.

Choose a site that gets at least six hours of full sun each day.

Plant in well-drained

soil amended with compost or well-rotted manure.

Remove lower leaves and bury the stem 5 to 10 inches deeper than it was in the pot. Roots will form along the buried stem. As the plant grows, remove leaves near the ground to reduce soil-borne diseases.

Space plants far enough

apart for good air circulation and sunlight penetration. Vigorous plants are better able to resist pests and diseases.

Use a strong tomato cage or trellis for support.

Start fertilizing about two weeks after planting with a 5-10-10 or 5-10-5 fertilizer. Follow label directions and feed about every three weeks until fruit begins to ripen.

Water deeply every two to three days — more often in very hot weather — but don’t let the soil dry out completely between waterings.

Pinch off side shoots (suckers) that have no blossoms where they meet the main stem. This directs energy toward fruit development instead of foliage.

For more information about growing tomatoes, consult the OSU Extension publication *Grow your own tomatoes and tomatillos* or contact a local OSU Extension Master Gardener.

GALA

From Page B1

audiences — a perfect complement to a festive night under the stars.

Culture of Course! is the Lincoln City Cultural Center’s signature fundraiser, supporting the nonprofit’s programs, events and daily operations. Funds raised during the event help make it possible for the center to continue offering arts experiences, community gatherings and educational opportunities for people of all ages.

In addition to dinner and entertainment, the evening will feature a live auction, the crowd-favorite Totally Tangible Paddle Raise and the ever-popular 50/50 raffle.

The raffle is a fun way to join in the excitement while supporting the Cultural Center. Only 400 tickets will be sold, at \$25 each or five for \$100, and participants need not be present to win. The first-prize winner will receive half of the gross ticket sales, with a minimum guaranteed prize of \$1,000. Second prize is a custom mosaic home address sign created by



Joanne Daschel, and third prize is a \$200 gift certificate to Hearth and Table. All raffle proceeds support the programs, events and operations of the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

This year’s Culture of Course! Starlight Gala is made possible in part through the generous support of Estle Harlan, Laury and Dave Girt, Christmas Cottage and Les Schwab Tire.

Whether guests come for the music, the food,

the auction, the raffle or simply the pleasure of sharing a festive evening with friends, Culture of Course! promises to be a fun, welcoming and meaningful night under the stars.

Live Auction -

A preview of some of the 10+ Live Auction Packages available includes the following:

- Emerald City Escape (2 night stay at the Courtyard by Marriott Seattle Pioneer Square

in Seattle, Washington)

- Rose City Retreat (2 night stay at Portland Marriott Waterfront Hotel, One year OMSI Membership for 2, Tickets to a 2026 Broadway Rose show)

- Salishan Adventure (2 night stay at Salishan & \$50 food and beverage credit, and Aerial Adventure/Zipline)

- Bay and Stay (One night at The Inn at Dayton with a \$300 Gift Certificate to The Bay House, etc.)

- Wine Country Experience (2 Night stay at Hotel Oregon with Food Credit, Remy Wine Tasting Gift Card for Two People, Evergreen Aviation Museum, etc.)

- Load O’ Gravel (Dump truck load of gravel delivered w/in 15 miles of Lincoln City - Lambert Excavation)

- Desert Oasis (2 Night Stay at Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California)

Event tickets are available now at: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=318608>

For more information, call 541-994-9994.

OCCC

From Page B1

open house will provide an overview of OCCC’s Early College program, which allows students to begin earning college credits toward a degree or certificate before graduating from high school. Attendees will also learn about Dual Credit opportunities available at Lincoln County high schools, many of which are offered at no cost to students.

In addition to program information, participants will have the chance to meet with college staff, ask questions about the enrollment process, and tour the Newport campus. Information on OCCC’s range of degree and certificate programs will also

be available.

Light refreshments, including tacos, will be provided.

OCCC’s Early College and Dual Credit options are designed to help students save time and money while gaining a head start on their academic and career goals. For more information about the event or Early College opportunities, contact Oregon Coast Community College at 541-867-8521.

Oregon Coast Community College serves Lincoln County through centers in Newport, Toledo, Waldport, and Lincoln City, offering transfer degrees, career-technical education, and community education opportunities.

Learn more at oregon-coast.edu.

FINALISTS

From Page B1

graphic novel, *HYBRED*, will be released—a world written, conceived, and

art directed by Jamie.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit newportlibrary.org or contact Newport Public Library at 541-265-2153.

ROCK

From Page B1

Wild (Steppenwolf), Livin’ on a Prayer (Bon Jovi), Freebird (Lynyrd Skynyrd), Pinball Wizard / See Me, Feel Me (The

Who), and more. These songs have filled arenas, but now you can experience them in an intimate setting, with the precision and mastery of a world-class string quartet.

Don’t miss this special event — on stage — in the Alice Silverman Theatre at Newport Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$45 when purchased at the box office, 777 W. Olive Street in Newport, or by calling 541-265-ARTS. Tickets are also available online (additional fee applies).

Learn more at coastarts.org/events/candlelight

Does **Cathie Rigby** have the **master’s degree** she claims to have in the May 19 Voters’ Pamphlet? The records don’t support it. Get the facts at **RigbyVerify.com**



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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: L equals U

MWDG NZLGBOP FTGYTGY
 NDEDCOTBP OZP KBBGDGHDH
 CEKNS-BTD KVKTOF, HTH WD
 MDKO KNLVV-ETGSF?

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
 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.

JILEL NEL JIELL JIPYBR WZH
 VNY QZ PY N ANRLANOO
 BNKL. WZH VNY CPY, ZE WZH
 VNY OZRL, ZE PJ VNY ENPY.
 - VNRLW RJLYBLO

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Trivia test

- MOVIES: What is Indiana Jones' real first name in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- LITERATURE: What is Charlie's last name in the children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What isthmus connects the Asian and African continents?
- MATH: What is the first prime number to follow 19?
- GEOLOGY: What type of rock is formed by cooled lava?
- TELEVISION: What is the title character's famous line in the TV detective show "Columbo"?
- BUSINESS: What company's stock ticker symbol is LUV?
- ASTRONOMY: Which four planets in our solar system have rings?
- HISTORY: About how many people worldwide were infected by the Spanish flu in the early part of the 20th century?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: If an animal eats only plants, what is it called?

Answers

- Henry.
- Bucket.
- Isthmus of Suez.
- 23.
- Igneous.
- "Just one more thing."
- Southwest Airlines.
- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- Nearly one-third of the world's population.
- An herbivore.

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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!

Stay
 MARINE
 Chance
 MODARN
 Fake
 SOUPED
 Values
 SCITHE

TODAY'S WORD

There are three things you can do in a baseball game. You can win, or you can lose, or it can rain. — Casey Stengel

CryptoQuote

When country singing celebrity Roy attended black-tie affairs, did he wear Acuff-links?

CryptoQuip

OPINION
 Today's Word
 1. Remain; 2. Random
 3. Pseudo; 4. Ethics
 solution



"That one is in case you want another!"

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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL26-191 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of Eddyville Charter School, Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 will be held at Eddyville Charter School, 1 Eddyville School Road, Eddyville OR 97343. The meeting will take place on May 20, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may attend the meeting and hear discussion on the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Please visit the Eddyville Charter School website at www.eddyvillecharterschool.org to

902 HOMES FOR SALE

view updated information regarding virtual attendance. A copy of the budget document may be obtained on or after May 13, 2026 at Eddyville Charter School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will also be available electronically on the website at www.eddyvillecharterschool.org. A copy of this notice may also be found at www.eddyvillecharterschool.org. 4/29/26

LCL26-192 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 188481 APN: R352002

Reference is made to that certain deed made by Lucille Keith, widow as Grantor to Pacific Northwest Company of Oregon, Inc., as Trustee, in favor of One Reverse Mortgage, LLC as Beneficiary, dated 02/24/2011, recorded 03/28/2011, in the official records of Lincoln County, Oregon as Instrument No. 2011-03091 and Re-recorded on 1/8/2025 by Instrument No. 2025-00104 in Book xx, Page xx covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to wit: See Attached Exhibit A, Commonly known as: 1349 NW Arcadia Rd, Toledo, OR 97391 The current beneficiary is Onity Loan Acquisition Trust 2024-HB2 pursuant to assignment of deed of trust recorded on 05/07/2025 as Inst No. 2025-02941 in the records of Lincoln County, Oregon. The beneficiary has elected and directed successor trustee to sell the said 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: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to: There is a default by the grantor or other person owing an obligation, or by their successor-in-interest, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of default of such provision; the default for which foreclosure is made is due to the non-payment of property taxes and/or insurance and other charges in the amount of \$15,561.71, and subsequent tax payments and charges thereafter. 1. By the reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: Principal balance in the amount of: \$98,375.37; 2. Interest through 01/31/2026 in the amount of: \$103,799.39 3. MIP/PMI Advances in the amount of: \$18,985.85 4. Recoverable balance in the amount of: \$36,452.10 5. Intra Month Per Diem in the total amount of: \$1,408.28 6. Late Charges in the amount of: \$0.00 7. Escrow Advances in the amount of: \$0.00 8. Together with the interest thereon at the rate 5.31% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. The principal sum of \$98,375.37 together with the interest thereon at the rate 5.31% per annum until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on 06/10/2026 at the hour of 10:00 AM, Standard Time, as established by Section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at the front entrance of the Court-house, 225 West Olive, in the City of 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

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

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 the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; 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 Prime Recon 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 Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attor-

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

ney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 06/10/2026 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE. IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR AT

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LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE. IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days' written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement is the result of an arm's-length transaction; Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR

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NEW LISTING

Oceanfront Condo in Historic Nye Beach Dist., on top floor, beautifully updated, & has elevator or stair access to reserved parking. Main floor: liv. area w/gas fireplace (only one in complex), kit. & dining area, wall bed, BD, & BA. Upper level: laundry closet w/W&D, primary suite & more!
26-1001 / Newport.....\$695,000

PRICE REDUCED

This Agate Beach area of Newport home offers easy access to schools, shopping, dining, & entertainment. Inside you'll find 3BD's, 2BA's, & spacious kit. w/nat. light. Living area upstairs & den in the lower area. Newer roof, new windows & great outdoor space.
LC-103774 / Newport.....\$427,000

Classic Cape Cod style home on landscaped double lot. Updated over the years but needs work & vision! Woodstove insert in Fam.Rm; Main floor BD has slider to deck & garden. 2 BD's upstairs w/BA needs restoration. Utility/storage Rm, & double garage.
26-638 / Newport.....\$515,000

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Great Sheltered Location at end of A Dock in deeper water. This 10 x 25 slip will accommodate up to a 30-foot boat. Dues include utilities (water, power, trash) plus resort amenities. Year-round easy access for your boat to Yaquina Bay and its bounties.
26-1060 / Newport.....\$21,000

PRICE REDUCED

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LC-104265 / Waldport.....\$699,000

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26-993.....\$799,000

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Boomers explode for 17 against Eddyville

WILL LOHRE

Lincoln County Leader

The Toledo Boomers baseball team has been bashing the ball as of late, winning three of their last four league games and scoring 10 or more runs in each of those victories.

The 15-4 win against Reedsport on Apr. 17 saw the Boomers beat the Brave away for the first time in five years, led by outstanding games from Braden Marthaller and Maddox Law. Marthaller went 5 for 5 at the plate with a double and seven RBIs, while Law added a perfect 4 for 4 day in the batter's box, scoring five runs as well.

After that watershed victory, the Boomers suffered their first league defeat of the season against Myrtle Point on Apr. 22. It was a battle between the two top teams in 2A/1A Special District 4, and both entered undefeated. It was the Bobcats who ended the game on top, 7-2, but the Boomers didn't sulk for long.

Toledo bounced back with back-to-back blowout wins, beating Waldport 10-1 on Apr. 23, and taking care of business against Eddyville Charter/Siletz Valley 17-0 on Apr. 24.

Marthaller was exceptional on the hill for the Boomers against the Irish, ringing up 11 strikeouts and giving up just



A "victory selfie" after the Boomers' 17-0 win against Eddyville. (Courtesy photo from Toledo High School Baseball's Facebook page)

three hits and one run. He also led the team in hits, collecting a single, a double, and an RBI. It was the fifth consecutive time the Boomers have beaten the Irish, a streak dating back to April 2024.

The win against Eddyville in the following matchup was another dominant effort, with contributions from up and down the roster. The Boomers amassed 12 hits to get their 17 runs, led by Connor Mason

and Marthaller.

Mason was a pacesetter, both pitching and hitting, for Toledo. He struck out six Eagles' batters and gave up just one hit. At the plate, Mason had four hits, including a double and a triple. He batted in three runs, including Toledo's first score of the day with a triple in the first inning. For his part, Marthaller had two hits and three RBIs.

The Boomers put up seven

runs in the first frame, setting the tone for Toledo's highest scoring game of the season. The Boomers' power hitting was on point, and they had doubles from Bentley Edwards, Braden Marthaller, and Riley Tyler. Tyler and Marthaller also registered three RBIs, bolstering their season totals. The Boomers ended up blowing away the Eagles, and the game ended 17-0 in the fifth inning. The win pushed Toledo's

record to 11-6 overall, and 5-1 in Special District 4. Coming out of that game, the Boomers sat #16 in OSAA's 2A/1A rankings. If the Boomers continue their winning ways, they may make the playoffs for the first time since before the pandemic.

See results of Toledo's April 27 game against Bandon at osaa.org. The Boomers will be back in action against Waldport on May 8.

Taft girls golf prepping for Districts

WILL LOHRE

Lincoln County Leader

Taft's girls have been hitting the fairways and greens this spring, and in their early tournaments, they've been showing promising growth.

Taft has been placing well at recent tournaments, improving scores each time out, and even competing with other top teams in the district.

Tigers' Head Coach Heather Hatton took a couple of years off coaching the program, but has returned this year. Now in her 25th year coaching Tigers' golf overall, Hatton is happy to be back at the helm with a team loaded with returning talent.

"It's nice because we have all returners. That's really great because you have a great base of knowledge. You don't really have to focus too much on the rules or the etiquette, because they already know that," Hatton said. "This year, we were really able to focus on our short game."

Hatton said that, in her experience, the short game is really what can drive the most improvement. A lot of golfers can get off the tee alright and advance down the fairway, but once within 80 yards, having confidence on the green or in approach shots is one of the easiest ways to keep scores low.

"[We're focusing on our] short game and the ability to stay focused through wayward shots. A good golfer shows their strength by how they recover from a tough shot. We know they will get in the rough, hazard, behind a tree. We all do on the course. It's how we manage those shots that can determine the outcome

of the score," Hatton said. "These athletes listen, are patient, and want to perform at a high standard for the Tigers."

The squad has eight athletes, including three seniors, two juniors, and three freshmen. Taft's golfers are seniors Maya Fresci, Teya Kessinger, and Taylor Goodart, juniors Taylor Baker and Katie Fairfield, and sophomores Abby Halferty, Ava Graves, and Giona Pistoressi.

Throughout the early part of the season, the Tigers have been showing great signs of improvement. In the first tournament of the year, the Tigers battled at Creekside Golf Course for the Cascade invite. In a field of 40 golfers, Taylor Goodart placed 11th, Maya Freschi placed 12th, and Taft placed 3rd behind Salem Academy and Santiam Christian. A week later at McNary Golf Club, the Tigers shot 10 strokes better. Teya Kessinger had the lowest score for the team, with Maya Fresci and Taylor Goodart only one stroke behind. Ava Graves and Taylor Baker both posted their lowest scores of the season.

Taft's best result of the season so far came at the Mallard Creek Invite. The Tigers placed second with a Team PR of 420 - an 11-stroke improvement. Abby Halferty posted a 2-stroke PR of 106 (11th). In a field of 38 golfers, Maya Fresci was low score for the team with a 100 - 6th overall. Other scores included Taylor Goodart 105 (9), Teya Kessinger 109(13), and Ava Graves 126 (25). In the 9-hole JV tournament, Katie Fairfield won with a 51, Taylor Baker was third with a 56, and Giona Pistoressi was 8th out of



Sophomore Ava Graves hitting out of a sand trap at the first tourney of the season at Creekside. (Courtesy photos from Heather Hatton)

a field of 22.

Hatton said seeing the finishes in these events has been the highlight of the season so far.

"Our consistency in placing in the top 3 of the competitions. Salem Academy is the front-runner with four golfers shooting in the 70's and 80's for 18 holes. It will be run for 2nd place to earn that state trip. The Taft Girls have earned a state trip many years, and we can do it again," Hatton said. "Sometimes, you just have to have the best day. Our 420-team round at Mallard Creek, where the district tournament will be held May 4 & 5, has been the highlight. We placed only 3 strokes behind Santiam Christian, who is one of the top four teams to beat."

Posting a season-best score at Mallard Creek may be exactly the confidence boost the Tigers need to get their seniors a trip to state this year.

"Our team wants to get our seniors to state after their hard work the last four years. We want to use our experience to our advantage. Taking the smart shot but being aggressive when it makes sense,"

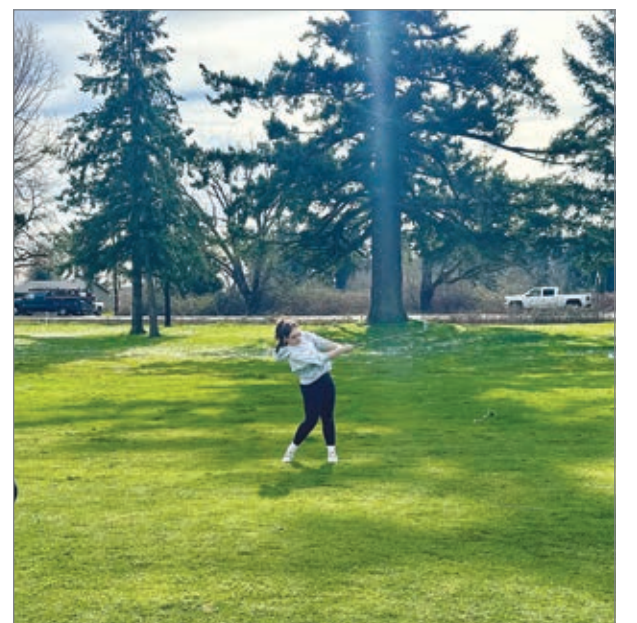
Hatton said. "We will focus on short game, getting off the tee with the club that we feel the most confident with, and how to get our ball back in the game when we are in trouble. Mallard is a tough course with hazards, deep rough, and trees. We played well there two weeks ago, and we hope to do so again at Districts."

Part of the team's success this season has also been due to the program's two assistant coaches, Barb Halferty and Stephanie Leben. Hatton described them as "invaluable" to the program's success.

"I can be a little intimidating with my competitiveness and drive to win; they balance us out, so all eight of our golfers are comfortable and able to grow," Hatton said.

Hatton played for Taft from 1984 to 1988, competing at the state tournament in 1987 and 1988, and she still carries her desire for success when coaching.

While getting to state and playing well are always goals, one of Hatton's biggest goals is making sure her team improves off the course as well as on it.



Maya Fresci swinging off the tee at Santiam Golf Course in March.



Taylor Goodart putting.

"I always tell people we're raising employable adults. They need to get to their tee time on time, and they need to be at practice on time. The other bridge of that is I want kids to leave my program with a sense of integrity, and that they can do anything, not just on the golf course," Hatton said. "I really look at this team as my

family. So, when I see Maya Fresci out there with a six-foot putt she has to make to get her best score, I feel that for them, and I know that we've prepared together for her to make that putt. And that's what I love about it."

The District Championship for Taft is May 4-5 at the Mallard Creek Golf Course.