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DANCE PARTY

Coast Life
PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2



The investigation began in the 1500 block of NW Grove Street Jan. 2. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

2 dead, 1 injured in Newport shooting, stabbing incident

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

The Lincoln County Major Crime Team has launched an investigation into a double stabbing and single shooting that has left two people dead, and one person injured.

According to Newport Police, the incident occurred at approximately 12:58 a.m. Friday, Jan. 2, in the

1500 block of NW Grove Street.

Newport Police officers responded to a call about a disturbance and when they arrived, they discovered one adult male deceased from a gunshot wound and another adult male suffering from multiple stab wounds.

“Investigators determined that 42-year-old Matthew Wonser, of Newport, was shot by

the resident of the home after Wonser continued to stab 33-year-old Shawn Knuckey, also of Newport, on the resident’s front porch. Wonser died at the scene from a single gunshot wound,” a release from Newport Police states.

Knuckey was transported by air ambulance to a Portland-area hospital, where he remained

See **CRIME**, page A4

Commissioner Claire Hall passes away

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Commissioner Claire Hall passed away late Sunday evening, January 4, 2026, at Providence Hospital in Portland after a brief illness, according to a release from Lincoln County.

“Commissioner Hall lived a life defined by service to her community and the causes she was passionate about,” the release states. “She served as a Lincoln County Commissioner for over twenty years. During her tenure, she expanded healthcare services with the creation of federally qualified health centers, increased access and services for veterans, and was a tireless advocate for affordable housing. Claire prioritized others before herself, led with kindness, and created countless services to improve the lives of community members. Her strength, grace, and compassion left an indelible mark on all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered for the kindness she gave so freely, and the legacy she leaves in Lincoln County.”

“I was saddened to learn of the passing of Chair Claire Hall,” Lincoln County Commissioner Casey Miller said. “Chair Hall devoted many years

of her life to public service in Lincoln County, and her work reflected a deep commitment to the community she served. Regardless of differences that may arise in public life, the loss of a colleague and community member is a moment for reflection, compassion, and respect. My thoughts are with her family, loved ones, and all those who worked alongside her during her years of service to Lincoln County.”

State Rep. David Gomberg also issued a statement.

“I have known Claire for many years, and I was always heartened by our conversations and interactions. She had deep convictions and a dedication to helping those less fortunate in our county. She will be dearly missed,” Gomberg wrote in his weekly newsletter.

Hall was the subject of a recall election during the past several weeks. Lincoln County Clerk Amy Southwell said Hall’s passing means the recall is now void. As of Monday, Jan. 5, Southwell said she was waiting to get more information from the Oregon Secretary of State.

“We are locking the ballot boxes,

See **HALL**, page A2



Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall passed away Jan. 4 at a Portland hospital. (Courtesy from Friends of Claire Hall)


Democrats consider repealing unpopular gas tax hike



No Tax Oregon delivered nearly 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office. (Courtesy photo)

NIGEL JAQUISS
Oregon Journalism Project

At politically oriented



holiday parties all over the state, the hot topic is what Democrats will do in the face of a remarkably successful Republican effort to refer a gas tax increase to the November 2026 ballot that lawmakers passed in September.

The option that’s getting the most

serious consideration, according to numerous Democrats speaking on background: repealing all or parts of House Bill 3991 in the New Year’s legislative session.

“My recommendation has been to just take the pain early and repeal it

See **TAX**, page A4



This is a view from the July 4, 2025, Lincoln City Drone Show over Siletz Bay. (Courtesy photo)

Town hall set to discuss Lincoln City’s July 4th celebrations

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln City residents and others will have the opportunity to tell city officials if fireworks should be returned as the main feature of the city’s annual Fourth of July Independence Day

celebrations.

A town hall meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 NE Oar Place in Lincoln City.

BACKGROUND

In 2025, Lincoln City replaced its annual

fireworks display with a drone show over Siletz Bay, following mounting environmental and safety concerns.

In June 2025, Lincoln City officials announced that the city was turning away from its annual

See **JULY 4**, page A2

Weather

Wednesday: High-45/Low-41
Cloudy

Thursday: High-48/Low-42
Rain

Friday: High-52/Low-39
Rain

Saturday: High-53/Low-41
Rain

Sunday: High-53/Low-44
Showers

Monday: High-54/Low-43
Showers

Tuesday: High-55/Low-43
PM Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

| | Rain | Low | High |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| December 30.. | 0.00..... | 42.7°F.. | 56.2°F |
| December 31.. | 0.00..... | 41.6°F.. | 56.7°F |
| January 1..... | 0.47..... | 42.5°F.. | 54.2°F |
| January 2..... | 0.23..... | 52.0°F.. | 55.7°F |
| January 3..... | 0.25..... | 49.4°F.. | 54.3°F |
| January 4..... | 1.35..... | 43.3°F.. | 53.3°F |
| January 5..... | 0.03..... | 42.6°F.. | 46.1°F |
| Total rainfall from Jan. 1..... | 2.33" | | |

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----|
| High..... | 3:20 a.m..... | 8.2 |
| Low..... | 8:54 a.m..... | 2.9 |
| High..... | 2:37 p.m..... | 8.2 |
| Low..... | 9:13 p.m..... | 0.0 |

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----|
| High..... | 4:01 a.m..... | 8.3 |
| Low..... | 9:55 a.m..... | 2.8 |
| High..... | 3:34 p.m..... | 7.2 |
| Low..... | 9:52 p.m..... | 1.0 |

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----|
| High..... | 4:41 a.m..... | 8.3 |
| Low..... | 11:00 a.m..... | 2.6 |
| High..... | 4:39 p.m..... | 6.2 |
| Low..... | 10:31 p.m..... | 2.0 |

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----|
| High..... | 5:22 a.m..... | 8.3 |
| Low..... | 12:09 p.m..... | 2.2 |
| High..... | 5:59 p.m..... | 5.6 |
| Low..... | 11:12 p.m..... | 2.9 |

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----|
| High..... | 6:04 a.m..... | 8.3 |
| Low..... | 1:17 p.m..... | 1.8 |
| High..... | 7:34 p.m..... | 5.4 |

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----|
| Low..... | 12:01 a.m..... | 3.7 |
| High..... | 6:48 a.m..... | 8.3 |
| Low..... | 2:19 p.m..... | 1.3 |
| High..... | 9:08 p.m..... | 5.6 |

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|-----|
| Low..... | 1:01 a.m..... | 4.2 |
| High..... | 7:36 a.m..... | 8.4 |
| Low..... | 3:12 p.m..... | 0.9 |
| High..... | 10:18 p.m..... | 6.0 |

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| January 7..... | 7:53 a.m..... | 4:52 p.m. |
| January 8..... | 7:53 a.m..... | 4:53 p.m. |
| January 9..... | 7:52 a.m..... | 4:54 p.m. |
| January 10..... | 7:52 a.m..... | 4:55 p.m. |
| January 11..... | 7:52 a.m..... | 4:56 p.m. |
| January 12..... | 7:51 a.m..... | 4:57 p.m. |
| January 13..... | 7:51 a.m..... | 4:59 p.m. |
| January 14..... | 7:50 a.m..... | 5:00 p.m. |
| January 15..... | 7:50 a.m..... | 5:01 p.m. |
| January 16..... | 7:49 a.m..... | 5:02 p.m. |
| January 17..... | 7:49 a.m..... | 5:04 p.m. |

Lottery

Friday, January 2

Mega Millions

6 • 13 • 34 • 43 • 52 • PB-4

Saturday, January 3

Powerball

18 • 21 • 40 • 53 • 60 • PB-23 • x3

Saturday, January 3

Megabucks

11 • 15 • 25 • 32 • 35 • 39

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Landslide damages Highway 6 near Oregon Coast

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Tillamook County Sheriff's Office reports a landslide had closed Highway 6 near the Oregon Coast Sunday, Jan. 4.

"Highway 6 near milepost 35 was fully closed Sunday morning in both eastbound and westbound directions near milepost 35 due to construction to repair the washed-out section of roadway," a release from the TCSO stated.

The full closure began Sunday morning and was expected to remain in effect for approximately eight hours while Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)



Highway 6 near milepost 35 was fully closed Jan. 4 in both eastbound and westbound directions near milepost 35 due to construction to repair the washed-out section of roadway. One temporary lane was open late that evening. (Courtesy from the TCSO)

crews work to make the roadway passable. ODOT crews are

working expeditiously to address the damage and restore safe travel

JULY 4

From Page A1

Fourth of July fireworks display show in favor of launching a new Independence Day tradition: a drone display event over Siletz Bay.

"Lincoln City is leading the way to a more environmentally friendly Independence Day celebration starting in 2025," Lincoln City Public Information Officer Kevin Mattias said.

"Instead of fireworks, we will be staging an innovative drone show"

Over the past few years, the city of Lincoln City has been approached by many people regarding the negative impacts of fireworks, according to Explore Lincoln City Director Kim Cooper Findling.

"There is national growing awareness that fireworks release plastic, gunpowder, heavy metals like lead, copper, cadmium, titanium, and aluminum, and toxic chemicals like

perchlorates wherever they are exploded, which in Lincoln City's case is into Siletz Bay, the Wildlife Refuge, the Taft District and the sensitive Salishan Spit," she said.

"Fireworks also impact air quality, wildlife, waterways, soil and human health; scare pets and those suffering from PTSD; and of course, increase fire risk."

Cooper Findling noted that Lincoln City is located where seven miles of sandy beach meet lush coastal forests with wild creatures inhabiting the natural spaces.

"Replacing fireworks with the Oregon coast's very first drone show enables us to preserve Lincoln City's natural beauty while supporting public safety and creating a celebration that's more inclusive of everyone," she said.

The Lincoln City City Council approved Explore Lincoln City's request to contract with Sky Elements for the July 4 drone show. The contract was for \$70,250.18

TOWN HALL PURPOSE

Lincoln City City Councilor Rick Mark said the town hall is a way to address community concerns.

"There was so much disagreement over the drone show and there has been a big showing from a lot of people in the community that they want to go back to the fireworks," he said.

"There is also a very strong feeling among a minority in the community that fireworks are no longer appropriate for a lot of reasons."

Mark said his is most concerned about the fireworks impact on the community's environment.

"There is hundreds of pounds of stuff that gets collected afterwords and my concern is what's not collected and what gets flushed into the ocean," he said.

"And there is the impact on veterans, the impact on pets, so I am in favor of not doing the fireworks. I as not real thrilled with the drone show. I don't know if it were to be possible to put on a more spectacular

conditions," a Tillamook County Sheriff's office post stated. "Motorists are advised to avoid the area and seek alternate routes."

Late Sunday evening, Jan. 4, the crews were able to open one lane of Highway 6 at the slide area.

"Crews have created a temporary lane," ODOT's Mindy McCart said. "That means that we will have a pilot car leading traffic through that area one way and then switching around and going the other way until we can get the split in the working lane repaired so traffic and get back onto the road. Also, we need to repair the area of that one lane taken out, so

that work, dependent on the weather, is estimated to take two to three more weeks to get that road fully opened."

McCart says ODOT manages and monitors over 4,000 known-slide areas adjacent to highways across Oregon. She urges travelers to be aware of the landslide danger and to check TripCheck.com before traveling.

"TripCheck is where we can put real-time construction, delays, crashes, detours, chain requirements all of that information can be found on TripCheck. We update it as soon as we know about things. We want people to be prepared and pay attention," she said.

drone show, if that's even available or what that would cost."

Mark said the city is still uncertain if it could receive a permit to conduct a fireworks demonstration from Salishan Spit as the city as done in the past.

"The situation has changed because of environmental reasons to protect wildlife. The area has become an estuary for snowy plovers, an endangered species, and then there is the disruption, the erosion on the beach, the harbor seals. There are many reasons why the state parks are reluctant to give us that permit again," Mark said.

"So, if we were to have fireworks, where could we have them? It is a real difficult problem."

Mark said the town hall gives the city council the opportunity to hear from the public.

"It gives people an opportunity to have their say. There really deserve that," he said.

Mark acknowledges that the council will likely hear that the fireworks are an

American tradition.

"It is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It's a big deal," he said. "We are all patriots. We all love our country and people love fireworks and it's what they expect. They are exciting. They are colorful. They are a lot of fun. I get that. I like them too. I understand that. But I'd like someone to tell me why it's ok to keep polluting the beaches, the ocean, so that folks can have 20 minutes of fun to watch the fireworks."

Newport conducts an annual fireworks display on Independence Day. The 2025 event was scheduled for the night of July 4 over Yaquina Bay. In early June 2025, The Newport City Council approved a resolution to ban the use of retail fireworks within the city, even though the sale of fireworks will still be allowed.

Join the conversation. Take the Lincoln County Leader's online poll: Do you favor a traditional July 4 fireworks display for your city?

HALL

From Page A1

putting notices of what happened, so the election slated for Jan. 14 will not happen," she said.

Hall lived a life defined by service to her community and the causes she was passionate about, according to the Friends of Claire Hall, a group formed to support Hall during the recall.

Hall was a long-time Newport resident. She was first elected as a Lincoln County Commissioner in 2004, and was re-elected five times, most recently in November 2024. She served as Commission

Chair and was recently appointed as acting County Administrator.

As Commissioner, Hall represented the county on several local, regional and state organizations. She was president of the Association of Oregon Counties in 2016-17. She was a member of that association's Human Services Steering Committee for over a decade and chaired that committee for four years. She also served on the National Association of Counties' Military and Veterans Committee, and NACO's Health Policy Committee.

Hall was appointed to the Oregon Housing

Stability Council in 2018 and became its chair in 2020. She previously served on the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Programs and was its final chair. She was co-chair of the Oregon Ending Homelessness Advisory Council. She was a member of the executive committee of the Community Services Consortium, the regional Community Action Agency and she was the county's representative on the board of the Cascades West Council of Governments.

"During her long tenure as Commissioner, she expanded healthcare services with the creation of federally qualified health clinics (FQHC), increased access and services for veterans, and was a tireless advocate for affordable housing. She took special pride in her role in helping to establish warming shelters for the county's unhoused population and, most recently, was deeply involved in resisting plans for an ICE detention center and in helping to restore the presence of the U.S. Coast Guard's rescue helicopter,

a release from Friends of Claire Hall states.

In 2008, Hall's local, state and national leadership on homeless issues was honored with the "Home for Every American Award" presented by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness at a conference in Washington. D.C. She was one of two county officials to receive the award. In 2009, she received the "Award for Excellence" from the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs for her advocacy for mental health, addictions and developmental disabilities programs in the state.

Also in 2009, she received the annual Certificate of Appreciation from the Coastal Progressives, a member group of the Rural Organizing Project, according to the release.

The Friends of Claire Hall also detailed a significant life change for Hall, stating that in spring of 2019, hall announced her gender transition with a statement that included an affirmation of her continuing service to the people of Lincoln County.

"My name, dress, and other forms of gender expression are changing, but my core self is not changing and has not changed," Hall said. "I will remain focused on social justice issues like the needs of children, families, seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. But now, the act of living my life itself becomes an act of social

justice." In the years that followed, she battled transphobia and attempts to mute the progressive voice she brought to the County Commission, the Friends of Clair Hall release states.

"Claire prioritized others before herself, led with kindness, and created countless services to improve the lives of community members. Her strength, grace, and compassion left an indelible mark on all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered for the kindness she gave so freely, and the legacy she leaves in Lincoln County," the Friends of Clair Hall release states.

Hall was Born in 1959 in Portland, Oregon and attended public schools there, graduating from John Adams High School in 1977. She completed her undergraduate work at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, earning a B.A. in Communications in 1981 and received her M.S. from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 1986.

Her professional experience prior to her election as a commissioner includes staff positions at KBPS public radio in Portland; the Newport News-Times; KZUS radio, Toledo; and Yaquina Bay Communications, Newport.

Hall is survived by her niece, Kelly Meininger, of Hillsboro. Plans for a memorial service for Hall were pending at press time.



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

Sudoku answers

It may be years before Highway 229 slide area repaired, ODOT says

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is still assessing how to clear up a massive landslide that took out a portion of Highway 229 between Kernville and Siletz.

New images from above show the magnitude of the landslide that occurred Dec.12 at milepost 14 on Highway 229.

Aloha real estate agent Eric Squires with his pilot friend Will Hobbs flew over the area Dec. 29

Squires said he was amazed by the massive sight.

Hobbs, a Depoe Bay resident, was concerned about access to the coast along Highway 229.

The landslide prompted a Level Three Go-Now evacuation order, according to the Lincoln County Sheriff's office (LCSO). Due to the dangerous nature of the situation and

unstable ground, community members are asked to stay out of the impacted area.

“Accessing these areas put yourself and first responders at risk. Heavy rains are expected to worsen conditions and carry additional risk,” the LCSO alert stated. “Debris from the landslide has entered the Siletz River and is washing up along the riverbanks, Siletz Bay, and ocean beaches. Community members should use caution if they choose to climb on, move, or disturb debris. It may be unstable or hazardous. With the loss of two homes, personal items may also begin to appear.”

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) issued a release following the massive slide urging public safety and stating repair at the site may take weeks, even months.

“Because the slide has taken out a portion of the



This birds-eye view shows the massive landslide that roared across Highway 229 near Siletz. (Courtesy photo from Eric Squires)

road, this will be a long-term closure,” ODOT states in a release. “The closure follows several days of heavy rain and high water in the area.”

ODOT's Mindy McCartt said the agency planners were to meet Jan. 6 to determine the next steps.

“This is going to be a really long-term closure,” she said. “We have to make sure the sliding has

stopped. There is still some settling. There is still a lot of water coming off of that hillside, especially with the recent rainstorms. It has not been safe enough for us to get crews actually out on the dirt slide. Even coming up

with a game plan, we still probably a month away.”

McCartt said the long-term fix will likely take years and could cost into the millions of dollars.

“It's not just the slide from above, it is the massive amount of weight that has been put on the area where the road was, even below and into the river” she said. “Even after we remove all of that dirt, making sure it's stable to rebuild the road. We also have to figure out where we are going to remove all that sediment and debris.”

McCartt said the process has already started to apply for federal funds to help pay for the slide repair.

ODOT is also urging people to stay clear of the slide area.

“We know there have been photos on social media of people going up on that slide,” McCartt said. “It's trespassing on property that is not state land. It is not forestry land. It is extremely unsafe. We are asking everyone to stay off of the slide and out of that area. The road is closed.”

The photos included in this report were taken by Eric Squires and the aircraft was piloted by Will Hobbs. <https://www.facebook.com/EricSquiresBroker/>

See more photos and previous coverage of the Highway 229 slide with this story at the Lincoln County Leader website and follow new developments in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

County requests December winter storm damage estimates

Lincoln County is requesting the public's help to assess damage in the county from the December Winter Storm.

We are looking for individual property owners and businesses who sustained storm damage from wind, flooding or slides this month.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management has set up a Survey 123 link to assist with

collecting damage data. This data will help determine the scale and scope of the impacts.

This information is critical in determining what resources the state has available to assist and/or determine if the state has met the criteria to request Individual Assistance (homes and businesses) and/or Public Assistance (public infrastructure).

Please note that sharing

this data is not a guarantee that public assistance will become available. Please email lcemergencymanagement@co.lincoln.or.us if you have any questions.

Public Individual Assistance Collection Survey: <https://arcgis.com/survey123>

Public Business Impacts Collection Survey: <https://share.dbfa37426a0e46cb-9f312823b85f90f2>

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We are saddened to learn of the death of Claire Hall.

For 21 years, nobody fought harder for the homeless and the less fortunate.

Hall was a tireless advocate for those without a voice.

Nobody worked harder than Hall on affordable housing.

Commissioner Claire Hall left a legacy behind and she will be missed.

This ad paid for by David Elton, a full-time resident of Lincoln County and the founder of “RECALL HALL” PAC. A political action committee registered with the IRS and the Oregon secretary of state (ORESTAR). Treasurer, Richard P. Burke.

CRIME

From Page A1

in critical condition at press time after sustaining numerous stab wounds. Investigators determined that Wonser and Knuckey were not known to one another and that the attack on Knuckey appeared to be random. During the investigation, identification

belonging to 58-year-old Newport resident Robert Peddycoart was found in Wonser’s possession. Investigators conducted a welfare check at a nearby motel where Peddycoart had been staying. After receiving no response, officers entered the room under the Community Caretaking Doctrine and located Peddycoart deceased. Following the issuance

of a search warrant, investigators determined that Peddycoart had also been the victim of multiple stab wounds. Wonser and Peddycoart were known acquaintances. At the time of the release late Sunday, Jan. 4, investigators said they did not believe there is any ongoing threat to the community related to the incident. “The events appear to

be isolated, and there are no outstanding suspects,” the release states. Newport Police said the investigation remains active and ongoing. Upon completion, the case will be forwarded to the Lincoln County District Attorney’s Office for review and determination of any potential charging decisions. No arrests had been made, and no charges

have been filed as of Jan. 4. The Lincoln County Major Crime Team is comprised of detectives from the Newport Police Department, Lincoln City Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon State Police, and the Lincoln County District Attorney’s office. The investigation has been further supported by

the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. Investigators request anyone with any information regarding the case, should contact Sgt. Mike Leake of the Newport Police Department at 541-574-3348. The Newport Police Tip Line is available at 541-574-5455, or Text-a-Tip at 541-270-1856 or tipline@newportpolice.net.

TAX

From Page A1

in February,” says one Democratic lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity. By now, many Oregonians know that one of the Legislature’s top priorities for 2025, bailing out the financially troubled Oregon Department of Transportation, turned into a slow-motion train wreck and fueled a populist rebellion. The original funding bill, the result of more than a year’s worth of meetings around the state, emerged relatively late in the regular session. Even after Democratic leaders offered slimmed-down versions of the bill, they could not find the support to pass it. That failure threatened layoffs at the agency and led Gov. Tina Kotek to call a special session in late summer to pass an even narrower package: a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase; a doubling of

some vehicle registration fees; and a doubling of a payroll tax to fund public transit—but only for two years. In passing the more modest bill, Democrats neutralized groups critical of more expensive versions of the bill that have paid to fund a referral. But critics of the bill, led by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), state Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Scio), and Jason Williams of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, mounted a guerrilla campaign to refer the gas tax increase. In late December, their group, No Tax Oregon, delivered the latest blow to Democrats’ plans for ODOT when they turned in just shy of 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office. The ability of the anti-tax opposition to House Bill 3991 to gather so many signatures so quickly—and with virtually no

funding—surprised many lawmakers as well as political insiders. “I was flabbergasted,” says political pollster John Horvick of DHM Research, who has no stake in the issue. The anti-tax group’s success has convinced many Democrats the referral would not only pass easily—killing the tax increase—but that it would also give Republicans a powerful tool to use against legislative Democrats in contested districts and against Gov. Kotek as she seeks reelection in 2026. Democrats told OJP that in view of the success in signature gathering, they see three options: • Take the loss earlier. That could mean moving the gas tax referral to the ballot in May rather than allowing it to go on the November ballot. • Take the loss on schedule. If Democrats do nothing, that allows Republicans to capitalize on the unpopular tax in campaign messaging for

the next 11 months. • Repeal all or parts of HB 3991 in the short session that begins Feb. 4. Several Democratic lawmakers and political consultants say the third option—repeal—makes sense both practically and politically. The practical consideration is that, by gathering signatures far in excess of the threshold required to qualify for the ballot (78,116 valid signatures), No Tax Oregon put the gas tax and other increases on hold until the matter is decided. (Otherwise, the increases would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 2026.) If Democrats are going to lose on that question in November, the thinking goes, why not start in February to figure out a solution for ODOT that Republicans will accept? The political question is more nuanced. Absent the gas tax issue, Democrats could capitalize in 2026 on widespread dislike of the GOP’s standard-bearer, President Donald Trump. History shows that midterm elections typically favor the party that lost the presidential election. The unpopularity of the gas tax increase threatens that Democratic advantage. Kotek waited to sign HB 3991 for nearly the maximum time allowed after lawmakers passed it. That tactic shortened the window for her opponents to gather signatures. It didn’t work. Now, Kotek says she wants to cooperate with critics to find a solution for ODOT. “The governor is

committed to working with lawmakers of both parties, ODOT leadership, stakeholders, and local leaders to find a path forward,” her spokeswoman Roxy Mayer says. “Her guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians.” Mayer declined to comment on which Democratic strategy—including a repeal of HB 3991—Kotek favors. Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) and House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene) were similarly noncommittal. “We are considering several options for moving forward—as always, any legislator who shares that goal and is willing to work in good faith has a seat at that table,” Fahey says, adding, “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don’t have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won’t fix themselves.” Wagner highlighted the challenges the signature-gathering poses for motorists. “Our focus right now is on ensuring the basic safety and maintenance of our roads now that emergency funding is on hold,” he says. “We are ready to work with the governor’s office, ODOT, and our local partners to manage this situation through the upcoming legislative session.” Pollster Horvick says the nearly 200,000 signatures gathered put Democrats in a tough spot.

“If you assume the referral is going to pass—and pass overwhelmingly—it makes more sense to take the pain sooner than later,” he says. “Still, it’s not a great look for Democrats, and it would look a little weird for the governor to sign a repeal after calling a special session.” Diehl, one of the leaders of the repeal campaign, says he’s heard secondhand that Democrats may seek to frustrate his group’s path to the November ballot. A repeal of the measure, of course, would be a victory of sorts. But Diehl says he’d need to see the details. For one thing, HB 3991 included a number of nontax items, including the resolution of a long-running dispute between truckers and the state over the apportionment of road-user charges. “There are some parts of the bill I like,” Diehl says. Extreme weather over the past week caused flooding and landslides in parts of the state. That led some Republicans to call for emergency funding for ODOT, even as the referral freezes new money; Democrats said the recent damage to state highways and roads points to the need for HB 3991 funding. Diehl says he hopes the disagreement will lead to a more thorough examination of how ODOT operates. He remains convinced the agency is poorly run and could prioritize its spending much more efficiently. “We’ve got to put maintenance and safety first,” he says. “This is our one chance to really hold an agency accountable.”

See previous coverage online at the Lincoln County Leader website and follow new developments in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

Bobby David Osborne

December 23, 1957 - December 23, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of an extraordinary man, Bobby David Osborne, who left us to be with his Heavenly Father on his 68th birthday on December 23, 2025. Bobby was born in Fort Worth, Texas on December 23, 1957 to Beverly Jean and David Dennis Osborne. He spent most of his life in Lincoln City, Or and the last 6 years of his life in Yakima, Wa.



construction trade over the years. He continued that until 2012 when he became disabled.

In 1999 he married the love of his life Tricia Boggess and gained a bonus stepson. He was a great stepfather to him and taught him about life, work ethic and integrity and took him hunting and fishing and went to his sporting events.

Bob was a man of many talents. He was an expert cabinet maker, a hobby he pursued with a passion that stemmed from his love for craftsmanship. His hands, always busy, were instrumental in building something beautiful, be it a cabinet or a remodel for his wife's salons. He could build and fix anything. He was also a talented cook, known for his adventurous culinary exploits. His dishes, just like his personality, were heartwarming and full of flavor. His generous heart and courageous spirit were evident in his interactions with everyone he met. Always ready with a kind word or a helping hand, Bob was a beacon of light in the lives of many.

In his younger years he was a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and is an Elks club member. He was an avid hunter. His adventurous spirit fueled his love for hunting and vacationing. He was named Oregon Bow Hunter of the year in 1980. Bob always found time for his family, cherishing the moments he spent with his grandchildren at their sports events and hobbies.

His faith, rooted in Christian values, was a quiet guiding force later in his life. Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Bob’s life was indeed a shining example of this verse, his good works and love for others being his lasting legacy.

Bob was a son, husband, brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother-in-law and friend. A man whose heart was often quiet but deeply caring, though life brought its share of challenges, he faced them with strength and dignity.

In commemoration of Bobby’s life, we invite you to share your memories of him and upload photos to the memorial page. His story is not only written in the lines of this obituary but also in the hearts of those he touched. Let us honor his memory by celebrating his life and the wonderful man he was.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 2:00pm at The Beach Club, 2020 NE 22nd St, Lincoln City, OR. Brookside Funeral Home is caring for the family. Memories and condolences can be shared at www.brooksidefuneral.com.



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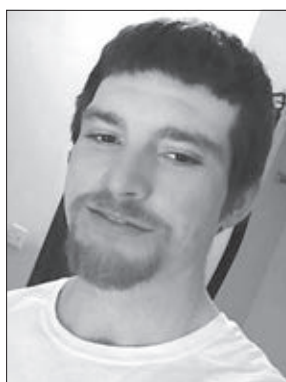
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Lincoln County Leader

Skyler Wayne Goodwin

November 10, 1996 - December 18, 2025

Skyler Wayne Goodwin, born November 10, 1996, passed away on December 18, 2025, as the result of a motor vehicle accident in McMinnville, Oregon. Skyler had a deep love for the outdoors and found his greatest peace on the water. He was passionate about fishing, both sport and commercial, and treasured the time he spent working and living close to nature. Above all else, Skyler was a devoted father. He leaves behind his two beloved children, Charles Wayne Goodwin, age 9, and Scarlet Mary Goodwin, age 3, who were the light of his life. Skyler is survived by his father, Greg



Goodwin, and stepmother, Yolanda Goodwin; his mother, Crystal Cook, and stepfather, Steve Cook. He is also survived by his siblings: brother Scott Goodwin; stepbrothers Travis Poe, Weylin Charland, Steven Cook, and Cory Cook; and stepsisters Dawn Backman and Brandi Charland. Skyler also leaves behind many cousins, nieces, and nephews who loved him dearly. Skyler will be remembered for his love of the outdoors, his hardworking spirit, and most of all, his love for his children. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time.

I’m thankful for telehealth; Oregon must protect access

ASHLEY CRAMBER
Leader Guest Column

My first holiday season in Oregon was not planned. I did not move here for a new job, family or a change of scenery. I came because I had to. I was fleeing a domestic violence situation with my two young children. I arrived in crisis, hoping the hardest part was behind me. It was not.

In those first weeks, even getting out of bed felt impossible. I was taking care of my two young kids while fighting an inner battle of hopelessness. I called clinic after clinic, desperate for help, and heard the same response: “I’m sorry, we don’t have anyone available.” Each rejection pushed me further down. At my lowest, I was about to give up and still could not access care.

Then one receptionist at a clinic offered something different. She told

me about a virtual intensive outpatient program called Charlie Health. For the first time, I had a real option. And that option saved my life.

More than 850 Oregon families will set a holiday table this year with one chair permanently empty because of suicide, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our state has the 13th highest suicide rate in the country, and nearly one in three Oregonians report struggling with mental health.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach that works for a million people. Telehealth was not just the right fit for me, but the only fit for me. And research shows I’m not alone: studies demonstrate that telehealth-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy can significantly reduce suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts, and that

patients receiving more telehealth services have better continuity of care.

When I started treatment, I couldn’t imagine leaving the house. Some days I couldn’t imagine even showering. With virtual care, I didn’t have to. I cooked dinner for my kids between groups. I didn’t need to find child care or get dressed. And I wasn’t alone: I was surrounded by other single mothers who were struggling.

The program and telehealth gave me my life back. One piece of the program that always resonated with me was a trauma-healing graph that showed recovery isn’t linear. Sometimes you slide back, but you keep going. The tools I gained didn’t just empower me, they empowered my children too. Now my 4-year-old daughter will say, “Mom, I need a breath that helps me,” and we do box breathing together, a technique I

learned during treatment.

Today my life looks completely different. I am in school to become a dental hygienist. I have a car in my name. I get up, I take care of myself, and I am building a future for my kids. Most importantly, I am here. And because of telehealth, I always will be.

Despite this, Oregon’s virtual mental health services operate in a legal gray area. Providers face complicated and inconsistent regulations, including shifting rules on licensing and approval of fully virtual programs that have not kept pace with how many Oregonians rely on them. These gaps create real uncertainty, leaving patients like me worried that the support we depend on could be taken away at any moment. Every year it feels as if access is at risk.

Oregon’s leaders, including Gov. Tina Kotek, have

acknowledged that mental health support must be accessible to every community in the state regardless of income or location. But acknowledgment alone is not enough. In a statewide crisis, Kotek, the Oregon Legislature, and the Oregon Health Authority can work with experts across the public and private sectors to create clear and supportive rules that protect access to virtual mental health resources now and for years to come. This means reducing red tape, safeguarding virtual programs like Charlie Health, and ensuring qualified clinicians can provide virtual care when Oregonians need it.

For some people, telehealth is a convenience. For others, like me, it is the difference between being at the table with your children during the holidays or being the empty seat.

This holiday season,

I am grateful for the virtual care that saved my life. Now it is time to make sure every Oregonian has the same chance.

This column originally appeared in the Oregon Capital Chronicle.

Ashley Cramber is a caregiver, student, single mother and mental health advocate who lives in Portland with her 2 children.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2025/12/23/this-holiday-season-im-thankful-for-telehealth-oregon-must-protect-access/>

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Murky public private partnership

ROLAND COUTURE
Leader Guest Column

EDITOR’s Note: The information provided in this guest column is solely the responsibility of the author and not of the Lincoln County Leader.

Jeremy Ruark’s article on automatic license-plate readers (ALPRs) in the 12/31 Leader reflects a rich and sympathetic understanding of the benefits of ALPRs to police, and a pretty spotty understanding of the legitimate concerns people in the community have about the technology generally, and about Flock as a provider of it specifically, and the documented effects on liberty and justice for all.

ALPRs in general:

1) ALPRs constitute “mass surveillance,” recording the movements of EVERY driver, not just the ones suspected of crimes. (And of course we’ve seen how the definition of what is a “crime” can shift unpredictably along with the political winds. You may already be a criminal!) Your location and travel patterns are sensitive

information that can reveal who your friends are, your religion, whether you’re pregnant, what times of day you’re likely to be away from home, and so on.

2) Massive databases of innocent people’s movements can be stored for long periods of time (long after a particular criminal investigation is over) and shared far and wide between agencies in different states. Even though most people and most police are “good,” ALPRs can be misused and abused for stalking, discrimination, and political targeting. Strict oversight is needed. But the only completely safe data are data that don’t exist and were never collected in the first place.

3) We know so-called Artificial Intelligence makes mistakes all the time, and a license-plate misread can lead to wrongful stops and arrests, and sadly for certain demographics, escalation into actual physical danger.

4) There is a lack of transparency and public oversight when communities adopt ALPRs without debate or without formulating policies on the issue in full public view.

Flock Safety in particular:

1) It should bother you that in your interactions with a government entity (the police in this case), you have to enter into some weird murky relationship with a private company that’s not subject to direct public oversight or public voting/elections. Other examples of this include social media, where you sadly might be able to reach a public official more quickly than through their own actual communication channels; and being forced to do business with Intuit (Turbo Tax, complete with all their shady & deceptive upselling tactics) if you want to file taxes electronically with the IRS. Just to pick a couple of examples.

2) Flock’s security practices are lax. Researchers found numerous Flock cameras just “out there” on the internet freely streaming live footage openly, accessible to anyone who knew where to look.

3) It has been alleged (yes only alleged) that Flock has been facilitating data-sharing with federal agencies such as ICE, in defiance of local sanctuary policies & laws. This appears to be the main reason

that convinced Redmond WA, Olympia WA and Eugene OR to discontinue their use of Flock cameras.

4) Your detailed location data are supposedly owned by the customer (local police), but Flock stores it on their servers. And they double-pinky-swear not to share it or sell it. Your data are governed by that promise, not by any law you voted for. Which would be fine, assuming they’re telling the truth, and assuming they’ll never change their terms & conditions, and assuming that the company will never fail or be bought out by another company or investor with different ideas (which happens to startups all the time), and assuming they never get hacked at any point. Any attempt to seek redress in court will settle the issue years later, long after your data have escaped. But there is no need to rely on Flock’s goodwill if you just simply decide not to trust them in the first place.

5) Flock’s corporate culture is stinky. Staunton, Virginia canceled its Flock contract after a paranoid email from the Flock CEO painted criticism

from the community as some kind of coordinated attack (apparently citizens are supposed to be apathetic & disorganized). City leaders found that troubling, and dismissive of legitimate community concerns.

6) Homeland Security Newswire reported that when confronted with evidence of misuse or privacy violations, Flock usually blames users rather than acknowledge systemic issues in its design or policies. This shows a lack of accountability and a willingness to expand surveillance even when harms are documented.

Without Flock Safety, police can still do what they’ve always done, and what they’ve been doing successfully since 1979, which is reduce the nationwide property crime rate by 61%, and the violent crime rate by 31%, since that year, according to the FBI. There’s no crime wave and no emergency. And no justification for throwing away civil liberties on a murky public/private “partnership.”

Roland Couture is a Lincoln County resident.



ONLINE POLL

Previous Poll

How are you feeling about the New Year ahead?

15.8%. Confident and positive

42.1% ..Optimistic but cautious

36.8%..... Pessimistic and not hopeful

5.3%.....I don't know how to feel

New Poll

Do you favor a traditional July 4 fireworks display for your city?

Yes

No

2026 laws passed by the Oregon Legislature will take effect

SHAANTH NANGUNERI
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Jan. 1, Thursday marked the first day of the 2026 new year, and with that, a new set of laws passed by the Oregon Legislature will take effect. They span from stronger accountability provisions for utility companies to criminal penalties for spreading AI-generated revenge porn. Oregon’s Democratic leaders said in a Dec. 17 statement that they made issues such as improving consumer rights and increasing public safety a top priority even as they continued to resist the policies of the Trump administration. “Oregon families are being squeezed by rising costs, and these new laws will help people afford everything from rent to concert tickets to medical care,” said House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, in a statement announcing the new statutes. “Oregonians shouldn’t get stuck paying hidden costs just to live their lives.” It’s a balance that state leaders will have to continue to strike as they await future economic forecasts and stare down potentially significant cuts to state agency services because the state automatically replicates changes to federal tax code. Some lawmakers have also told the Capital Chronicle the upcoming February 2026 short legislative session will see legislation responding to the federal government’s increasingly aggressive immigration policy. Last year’s legislative session saw a historic number of bills — more than 3,400 — introduced in at least two decades. Far fewer bills will appear in the next legislative session, which begins Feb. 2 and must conclude by March 8. In the meantime, here are some major new laws that will affect Oregonians statewide. Nearly all of them passed with little to no Republican support in the Democrat-controlled House and Senate.

CONSUMER RIGHTS FROM UTILITIES TO HEALTH CARE
Senate Bill 430 prohibits

online retailers from adding convenience charges and service fees to purchases without warning. Instead, business owners online must include such fees in the price they advertise or display on their website, though shipping costs do not have to be included in the up-front figure. Breaking the law would constitute an unlawful business and trade practice under state law and could subject the business to fines. Senate Bill 688 could more directly benefit consumers’ pocketbooks. The law allows the Oregon Public Utility Commission to “provide incentives and penalties” to utility companies based on key performance outcomes. That could include targets to reduce emissions or ensure cost reductions and access to utilities for low-income Oregonians. When it comes to renting, Oregonians seeking to get back a deposit for an apartment or dwelling they later discover has serious problems may have more luck. House Bill 3521 gives protections to prospective tenants should they find undisclosed issues such as a leaky roof or window, a lack of heat, unsafe drinking water or non-functional locks on a door. Landlords will have to return the deposit under the law should a tenant make such a discovery. Another new law also prevents landlords from relying upon mobile phone apps for safely locking and unlocking doors, mandating renters be offered alternatives such as an access code or key card. And in the health care sector, Oregon lawmakers took a key step to help residents protect their credit scores. Senate Bill 605 prevents medical debt from going on an individual’s credit report by prohibiting hospitals and clinics from notifying consumer reporting agencies about how much money an individual owes for receiving care. The ban also prevents these agencies from including what they know to be medical debt in a credit report.



Lawmakers listen as Gov. Tina Kotek delivers her State of the State address on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025. (Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle / Pool)

STRONGER WORKER PROTECTIONS

Perhaps the most controversial labor rights bill passed this past session was Senate Bill 916, which made Oregon the first state in the nation to guarantee unemployment benefits to striking public and private sector workers. Its legislative process pitted some school board and business leaders against labor rights advocates and unions who disagreed over whether it would incentivize longer strikes. The Oregon Employment Department told the Capital Chronicle it is planning to track claims from striking workers and will report the figures to the Legislature. And Senate Bill 906 will require annual updates starting at the beginning of every year from employers to newly-hired employees detailing their earnings and deductions on pay stubs. The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, under the law, is directed to create model guidance in English and Spanish and other languages upon request. Employers who fail to comply could face civil penalties. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CONSENT LAWS FOR CRIMINAL PENALTIES Until this year, 17-year-olds

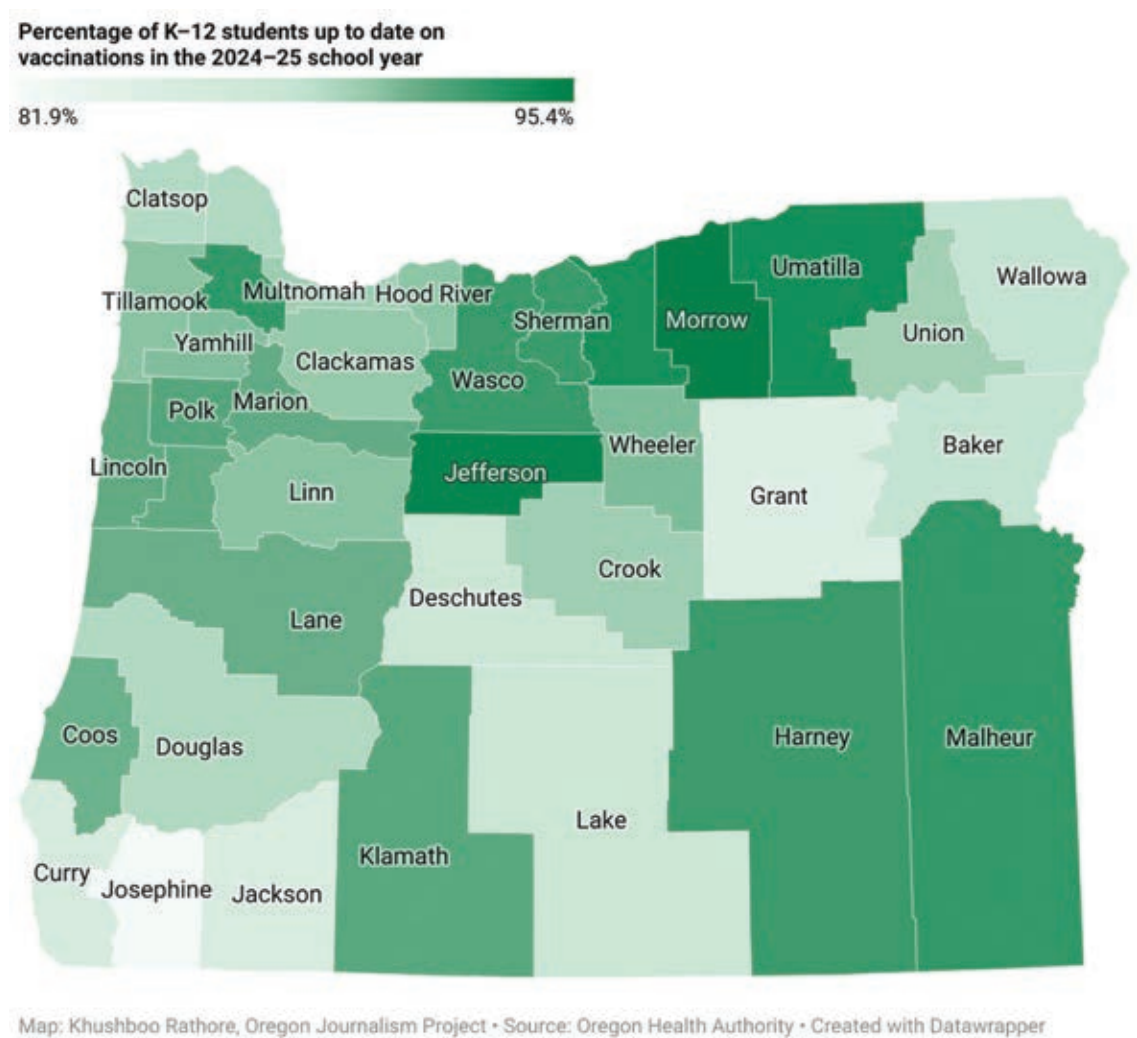
in Oregon could marry with parental or guardian permission and authorization from a court, even if they did not consent. Now, under Senate Bill 548, Oregonians must be 18 years of age and those exemptions no longer apply. Supporters of the nearly unanimously passed law pointed out that nearly 3,000 adult men received Oregon marriage licenses with teenage girls from 2000 to 2021, according to state data. Oregon lawmakers also addressed exploitation as it relates to the distribution of intimate images without the subject’s consent. House Bill 2299, which passed with no opposition, will now include AI-generated images in state law creating a first and second degree offense for intimate image abuse, with the goal of stemming repeated violations and protecting victims of abuse. Additionally, workplace violence drew the attention of state legislators, who voted to make assault in the fourth degree in certain circumstances an even more serious crime. Under Senate Bill 170, that heightened designation is for when the assault takes place during the performance of an employee’s duties, and when it implicates an

individual who has assaulted others because of their occupation or while they are at work. The penalty could be up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine. The law passed the Senate unanimously, while four progressive Portland-area lawmakers opposed it in the House. “The laws taking effect in 2026 show Oregon leaders stepping up for working families by protecting consumers, widening access to health care, and keeping people safe,” Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama, D-Portland, said in a statement, “even as the federal government prioritizes tax breaks for huge corporations and grows more hostile to everyday people.” <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/01/from-stronger-consumer-rights-to-harsher-criminal-penalties-these-oregon-laws-are-now-official/> 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.

Oregon parents disproportionately exempt school-age children from vaccines

KHUSHBOO RATHORE
Oregon Journalism Project

Oregon’s already low kindergarten vaccination rates may worsen after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this month stopped recommending the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Public health experts decried the controversial decision, which overturned 30 years of guidance that cut rates of liver disease and cirrhosis. Oregon is part of a new public health collaborative with Hawaii, California and Washington, the West Coast Health Alliance, that works to support evidence-based vaccination schedules and policy, and recommends the vaccine. Compared with those states, however, public health officials here may face a tougher task. By law, Oregon parents can claim both “medical” and “personal” exemptions to leave their children unvaccinated. At 9.7%, Oregon has the third-highest kindergarten vaccine opt-out rate in the country, nearly triple the nation’s 3.4%. Idaho ranks first (15.1%), followed by Utah (10%). Kindergartners in nearly all Oregon counties have been vaccinated at rates lower than the national average for measles, mumps, rubella,



At 9.7%, Oregon has the third-highest kindergarten vaccine opt-out rate in the country, nearly triple the nation's 3.4%. (Courtesy photo)

whooping cough and hepatitis B, diseases that can lead to lifelong consequences, even death. This leaves the state far from what experts call “herd immunity,” which requires

a 95% vaccination rate for a community in order to thwart highly contagious diseases such as measles. Morrow is the only Oregon county where over 95% of children in grades K–12 were

up to date on vaccinations for the past school year. “We try not to shame them, just provide them with information and education that they can make an informed decision,” Morrow County public

health director Robin Canaday says. Nearby Grant County, at the other end, had a vaccination rate for the 2024–25 school year of only 85%. “I think it’s kind of out of sight, out of mind for some of these major diseases that people don’t even have to interact with anymore,” says the county’s public health administrator, Trey Thompson. “Post-COVID, there’s still a lot of distrust in just general vaccinations, even ones that have been long standing,” he says. U.S. Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. of the Department of Health and Human Services has publicly said, without citing evidence, that vaccines cause far more harm than good. Earlier this year, he appointed members to the CDC immunization panel who largely share his views. Unvaccinated Oregon children have led to record cases this year of whooping cough, also known as pertussis. Through November, 1,453 cases have been reported in the state, a 43% increase over the same time last year, and the highest number since 1950. “It’s really, really hard to see a child that is so sick from pertussis,” Canaday says, “and to think that vaccines can protect against the severity of those diseases.”

Newport Symphony Orchestra Cellists, Newberg High String Ensemble Free Chamber Concert

SUBMITTED

The Oregon Coast Symphony Festival announces its first free Sunday afternoon Chamber Concert of the 2026 season featuring a trio of Newport Symphony Orchestra cellists and the Newberg High School String Ensemble at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 11. The concert will be conducted

See **CONCERT**, page B3

Newport Symphony Orchestra cellists
Adrienne Welsh,
Sherill Roberts and
Dr. Charmaine Leclair.
(Courtesy photo)



‘WorkSource Oregon at the Library’ Jan. 9

Interviewing and Soft Skills to be discussed at the “WorkSource Oregon at the Library” program on January 9, 2026 at Newport Public Library:
The next session of Newport Public Library’s monthly “WorkSource Oregon at the Library” program takes place starting at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 9, in the McEntee Meeting Room at Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye St in Newport.
WorkSource Oregon’s Business and Employment Specialist Lonnie Martinez will be presenting information about employer-preferred soft skills and interview skills

in an interactive session to assist attendees in getting a job offer. Once a person has been offered an interview, it’s important to know what to expect. Soft skills are different than hard skills – but what’s the difference? Both interviewing and soft skills are critical for being offered a job. Learn strategies, best practices, common questions and more at this program.
Newport Public Library is pleased to partner with WorkSource Oregon to provide the public information about programs and the necessary tools to prepare for
See **LIBRARY**, page B3

Dance to Your Own Beat: Silent Disco Dance Party

Newport Performing Arts Center (PAC) is set to transform into a high-energy, neon-lit dance floor at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, as the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) presents a revolutionary interactive social experience: the Silent Disco dance party.
A silent disco isn’t just a party; it’s the ultimate way to dance to your own beat—literally. Unlike a traditional concert where one sound fills the room, a silent disco puts the power of the playlist directly into the hands of the guests. Upon arrival, attendees will be handed a pair of high-fidelity wireless LED headphones. From there, the choice is theirs.
Three live DJs—Estivel Martinez, Tyler Spencer, and Andres Antonio Hernandez—will perform simultaneously, each vying for the crowd’s attention across three wireless channels.

The result is what organizers call a “party democracy.” As dancers switch between channels, their headphones change color—glowing red, blue, or green—to signal which DJ they are currently vibing with. Spectators will witness a dance floor of “silent energy,” where one group might be jumping to a heavy bass beat while their neighbors sway to a completely different rhythm.
One of the unique benefits of the silent disco format is its social flexibility. When guests want to take a break from the music or catch up with friends, they simply slip off their headphones. Without the roar of traditional loudspeakers, the room remains quiet enough for easy conversation, eliminating the need to yell over the music.
See **DANCE**, page B3



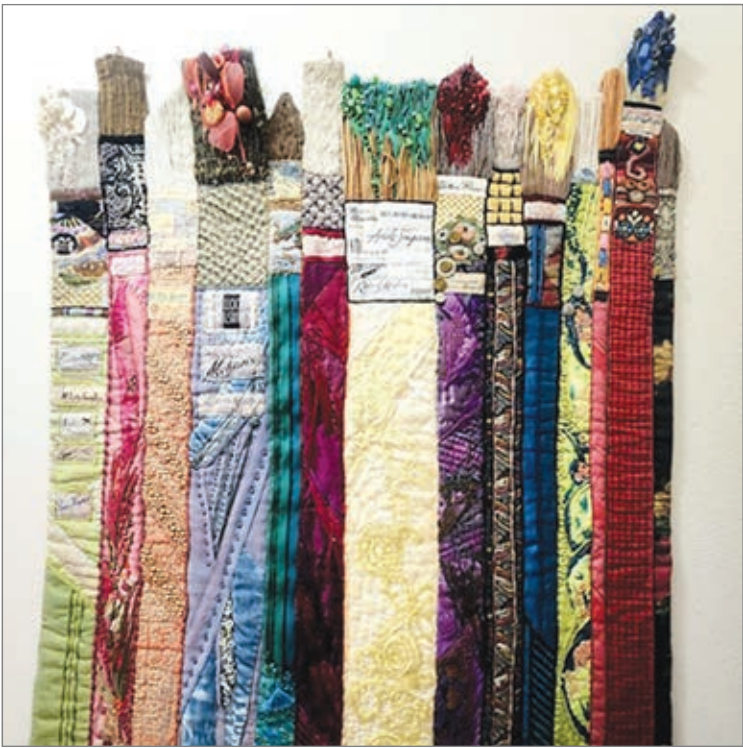
(Above) Unlike a traditional concert where one sound fills the room, a silent disco puts the power of the playlist directly into the hands of the guests. Upon arrival, attendees will be handed a pair of high-fidelity wireless LED headphones. From there, the choice is theirs. (Right) As dancers switch between channels, their headphones change color—glowing red, blue, or green—to signal which DJ they are currently vibing with.



Newport Visual Arts Center announces 2nd annual ‘Fiber Fest’



Courtesy photos



Newport Visual Arts Center (VAC) is proud to announce the return of Fiber Fest, a multi-gallery celebration running from January 10 through February 28, 2026.
This year’s festival encompasses three distinct exhibitions and five hands-on arts learning opportunities, inviting the community to explore fiber arts during the winter season.
“For our 2nd annual Fiber Fest, we are showcasing both local and regional talent,” Newport Visual Arts Center Director Chasse Davidson said. “From wearable art, to eco dyes, to felt, and profound thought-provoking narratives, there’s something
See **FIBER**, page B3

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



The Spats



TIGER



OLIVE & POPEYE



Just Like Cats & Dogs



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 X

HQGI JNEGAQSID JPKKGIVB
DNGJ GLASIYA WNX IN
ZOOZXGIA XGZJNI, HQZA
ESDQA BNP YZVV AQZA?
ONNW NW GLSJAGIYG.

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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.

QJTM UBNLFMZQ FZBLQCJZT

FXM QIL NLFJ B WMAAJR

QUJF, JFXMZQ FZBLQCJZT B

WMAAJR QUJF NLFJ FXM QIL.

— UBG AJ UNHBQQJ

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Trivia
test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the name of the festival of lights that's celebrated in some European countries as the start of the holiday season?
2. MOVIES: Which actor played folk singer Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"?
3. SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan "The Best a Man Can Get"?
4. HISTORY: What was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention about?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of Liz Lemon's show in the sitcom "30 Rock"?
6. SCIENCE: What kind of substance does Boyle's law govern?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Italian dish calamari?
8. LITERATURE: Which Shakespeare play introduces the characters Beatrice and Benedick?
9. MATH: What kind of number is pi (3.14)?
10. MUSIC: What is the name of the house band on "The Tonight Show"?

Answers

1. St. Lucia's Day.
2. Edward Norton.
3. Gillette.
4. The first women's rights convention in the United States.
5. "TGS with Tracy Jordan."
6. Gas.
7. Squid.
8. "Much Ado about Nothing."
9. Irrational.
10. The Roots.

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Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot, others transform yellow spot into the sun. — Pablo Picasso

Proof of existence.

When something suddenly goes extinct for no apparent reason, what might you call that?

CryptoQuip

WATCHING

Today's Word
3. Gambit; 4. Inched
1. Ambush; 2. Break;

SCRAMBLERS

SCRAMBLERS

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

Trap
S U M B A H
Crack
C H E R A B
Plan
B I G M A T
Plod
N I C H E D

TODAY'S WORD



"Looks to me like the birds will be doing most of the ...!"

Telephone Game, Energy Movement exhibits opening at the LCCC

SUBMITTED

The Telephone Game II- A group exhibit of artists playing the “Telephone Game” visually....

Do you remember the game where a message is whispered from one person to the next around a circle? When it gets to the end, the phrase is very different than it was when it began.

This is the premise behind the Chessman Gallery’s group exhibit, but instead of being auditory it is visual. Each artist renders their version of the one before them and displayed together, you will be able to see how the image changes depending on the style, process, materials and mood of each artist. Featuring the creative response art of twi dozen local artists!

First conceived in 2024, this exhibit is the 2nd generation of the Telephone Game and was co-curated

by Judith Schlicting of the Rowboat Gallery and Sam Jacobsen of the Pacific Artists Alliance.

An amazing line up of Oregon Coast artists have participated in the Telephone Game this year including photographers: Donna McCoy and Kirk Jonasson, mixed media artists: Jody Anderson and Diane Archer and Kevin Schluka, Painters: Diane Devens, Katia Kyte, Wayne Ruby, Sandra Fraser Dust, Shawn Fraser Ramirez, Jill Perry Townsend, Stephanie Reitmajer, Hannah Crag, Micheal Schlicting and Judith Schlicting, ceramic artists: Sam Jacobson, Julie Fiedler and Liisa Rahkonen, Fiber artists: Kathleen Marin and Kay Klose, assemblage artists Michele Lindsley and Judy Vogland, Mosaic artist: Joanne Daschel, encaustics: Sara Hemmer (not in that order).



Energy and Movement. (Courtesy photo)

At The Chessman Gallery, inside the Lincoln City Cultural Center www.lincolncity-culturalcenter.org

Also opening on Jan. 9- Energy and Movement by Patricia Caldwell in the Fiber Arts Studio/ Gallery

Have you ever stood on the ocean shores and felt the energy and movement of the water?

This is the feeling that the artist, Patricia Caldwell, harnesses and infuses into her original designs. She starts by

putting the design together, then the feeling of motion and energy decides the direction of the work. After quilting the design, she often accents the work with crystals, driftwood, or other added fibers. It is a process that she enjoys

- the movement of the fabric and the energy of incorporated items.

She hopes that as you look at each piece, you can feel the energy and movement for yourself.

MORE DETAILS

Exhibits runs from January 9 until March 8, 2026, inside the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

Opening Receptions- Friday, January 9, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wine appetizers and a chance to meet the artists.

Virtual Gallery Tour- on Facebook@lincolncityculture Jan. 10

The Lincoln City Cultural Center is at 540 NE Hwy. 101 in Lincoln City.- business hours: 10 to 5, Wednesday through Sunday).

For more information, call 541-994-9994, head to lincolncity-culturalcenter.org, or connect with us on Facebook or Instagram.

Safety tips for coastal beach visitors during rainy season

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

Although Oregon Health Authority’s Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) has completed monitoring for the 2025 season, health officials continue to encourage visitors to the state’s beaches to follow tips for protecting themselves from bacterial exposure.

Visitors to the Oregon Coast should consider the following

recommendations after the recent heavy rainfall:

- Wait 48 hours after heavy rain before swimming.
- Shower after swimming or playing at the beach.
- Wash your hands before eating or drinking.
- Don’t swallow ocean water.

Keep your head and face out of the water or wear earplugs and goggles.

The OBMP monitoring season runs from mid-May

to mid-Sept. Beach advisories are issued only for beaches actively monitored within this sampling window.

The Oregon Beach Monitoring Program (OBMP) is a joint effort between Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to monitor the waters along Oregon’s coastline for the presence of fecal bacteria and report elevated levels to the

public.

Through this program, DEQ regularly samples and tests marine water and freshwater at about 20 beaches along Oregon’s 360 miles of coastline between May and September. To protect public health, OHA issues advisories at beaches where bacteria levels are found to be unsafe. The OBMP follows this monitoring schedule through the beach use season unless actions by state and

local authorities restrict public beach access.

MONITORING BEACH WATER QUALITY

The OBMP monitors the waters along Oregon’s coastline for the presence of fecal bacteria, and reports elevated levels to the public.

Marine waters are tested for enterococcus, which is an indicator of the presence of other bacteria. Enterococcus is present in human and animal waste

and can enter marine waters from a variety of sources such as streams and creeks, storm water runoff, animal and seabird waste, failing septic systems, sewage treatment plant spills, or boating waste.

For more information and current beach monitoring conditions, visit www.healthoregon.org/beach, or contact OBMP at Beach.Health@oha.oregon.gov or 1-877-290-6767.

Arcadia Park Playground closure

The City of Toledo announces the closure of Arcadia Park playground for repairs and updates to the equipment.

The park, located at 840 NW A Street, will receive new equipment and undergo repairs to the existing playground

equipment. The playground closure is expected to last several weeks and, depending on weather, should re-open mid-January 2026.

The closure affects the playground area. The park restrooms and

tennis courts remain open and accessible to the public during the park rehabilitation project.

For more information on the park repairs, contact Toledo Public Works Department at 541-336-2247, extension 2070.

LIBRARY

From Page B1

an effective job search leading to employment. WorkSource Oregon is a statewide partnership with the Oregon Employment Department and state,

local, and nonprofit agencies, providing a variety of employment and training services to job seekers and employers in Oregon.

This program is free and open to the public.

For more information about this and other upcoming events, please

visit www.newportlibrary.org or contact the Newport Public Library at 541-265-2153. For additional information about the “WorkSource Oregon at the Library” program, contact Lonnie Martinez at 541-757-4122.

DANCE

From Page B1

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the PAC box office, 777 W. Olive

Street in Newport, by calling 541-265-ARTS, or online (additional fee applies). For more information, visit coastarts.org/events/silentdisco

Oregon Coast Council

for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization developing, promoting, and celebrating community arts on the Oregon Coast. Learn more at www.coastarts.org

CONCERT

From Page B1

at Atonement Lutheran Church, 2315 N Coast Highway in Newport.

The cello trio, who all perform with the Newport Symphony, are Dr. Charmaine Leclair, Sherill Roberts, and Adrienne Welsh. The cello trio will perform sonatas by Baroque contemporaries Bach and Handel including Bach’s Gamba Sonata No. 1 in G Major and Handel’s Sonata Opus 2 No. 8 for two Cellos and Continuo.

Sherill Roberts has been a member of the Newport Symphony for 13 years, and an Oregon resident for 43 years. In her previous professional life, she was principal cellist of both the Portland Opera Orchestra and the Oregon Ballet Theater Orchestra, as well as professor of cello at Linfield, Willamette and Pacific Universities.

Dr. Charmaine Leclair earned her Ph. D. in music history and cello

performance from the University of Oregon. She has been a member of many orchestras, including the Eugene Symphony, the Charleston, South Carolina Symphony, Hilton Head Orchestra, the Oregon Mozart Players, and the Savannah Philharmonic, among others. She joined the Newport Symphony in 2023 where she also works as their office manager.

An alumna of Trinity College of Music, Adrienne Welsh was a freelance cellist in London before moving to the USA and straying into a career in IT. She returned to professional playing almost twenty years ago, playing cello and bass with numerous PNW orchestras and chamber ensembles. In addition to being a member of the Newport Symphony, Adrienne is a cello and bass instructor with Newport Symphony’s Family Strings program, and regular participant in its community outreach events.

Opening the concert

will be the talented group of musicians from the Newberg High School String Ensemble. The Ensemble features junior, Cole Isaksen, first violin; senior, Peter Corbin, second violin; junior, Ella St. Cyr, on cello; junior, Augie Miele, bass; and their teacher Shae Skiles, viola. They will be performing Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 movement 1, Johann Strauss Emperor Waltz and Pirates of the Caribbean arranged by Larry Moore.

This Chamber Music Concert Series is a presentation of the Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival and is free with donations accepted at the door. .

The Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival’s annual 4-day festival is April 16-19, 2026 with high school orchestras from Astoria, Pendleton, Bend, North Medford, Brookings-Harbor and Salem-Keizer (McKay) participating along with a special performance by the University of Portland Orchestra.

FIBER

From Page B1

for everyone. Get cozy during this wintery weather to spend the day exploring the comfort of fiber creations throughout the VAC’s three galleries.”

Visitors to the VAC can explore fiber art across all three floors:

In the 1st floor Runyan Gallery: Stories Fibers Tell featuring the work of Shirley Cunningham, Kathe Todd-Hooker, and Irina Belova. This exhibit showcases how these artists employ fiber to create visual narratives,

using unique approaches to share personal and cultural stories.

In the 3rd floor Upstairs Gallery: Felt Fusion - solo exhibition by Tash Wesp, a master felter known for her captivating designs and mastery of process. This exhibit highlights a variety of techniques—including Nuno, wet, and needle felting, as well as ice dyes and eco prints—across hats, clothing, and wall hangings.

In the 2nd floor COVAS Showcase: Harvested Color: From Garden to Garment by Randi Stevens (owner of Tidewater Creations in

Waldport) explores botanical forms and natural dyes. This display follows her process-driven journey of transforming garden-grown plants into eco-printed textiles and garments.

An opening reception for all three exhibits will be held on Friday, January 16, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event will include live music and light refreshments. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Fiber Fest 2026 also offers five unique opportunities for community members to learn directly from exhibiting artists and regional experts:

Textile Origami with Kristine Berg (January 31): Explore fabric manipulation through hand-sewing techniques that mimic the geometry of origami. Learn more at coastarts.org/events/ff-textile-origami

Introduction to Eco Printing with Randi Stevens (Feb 12-13): A two-day workshop where students capture the vibrant colors of nature directly onto fabric using leaves and flowers. Learn more at coastarts.org/events/ff-class-eco-printing

Block Printing on Fabric with Cheryl Horton (February 21):

Learn the ancient craft of designing, carving, and printing repeating patterns onto textiles. Learn more at coastarts.org/events/ff-26-class-block-printing

Painting with Wool with Tash Wesp (February 24): An introductory class on “painting” with colored fibers to create unique, textured art. Learn more at coastarts.org/events/ff-class-paint-wool

Papermaking with Plants with Rhiannon Alpers (Feb 27-28): A two-day exploration of cooking, processing, and pulling sheets of handmade paper from locally

harvested plants. Learn more at coastarts.org/events/ff-class-papermaking-plants

Admission to the VAC’s galleries is free. Exhibits can be viewed most Wednesdays through Sundays, from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m, at 777 NW Beach Drive in Newport. Classes and workshops are subject to a registration fee (scholarships may be available).

Learn more at coastarts.org/fiber



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PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL26-005 NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION FOR WATER RIGHT TRANSFER T-14475.
T-14475 filed by City of Newport Attn: Spencer Nebel, 169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365, proposes a change in points of diversion under Certificates 21357, 48628, and 89101. Certificate 21357 allows the use of 200.0 acre-feet from a reservoir in Sec. 33, T10S, R11W, WM for municipal use in Secs. 29, 32, and 33, T10S, R11W, WM and Sects. 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, T11S, R11W, WM. Certificate 48628 allows the use of 345.0 acre-feet from a Reservoir in Sec. 33, T10S, R11W, WM for municipal use in Secs. 29, 32, and 33, T10S, R11W, WM and Sects. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 17, T11S, R11W, WM. Certificate 89101 allows the use of 625.0 acre-feet from a Reservoir in Sec. 33, T10S, R11W, WM for municipal use in Secs. 29, 32, and 33, T10S, R11W, WM and Sects. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, and 17, T11S, R11W, WM. The applicant proposes to move the points of diversion within Sec. 33, T10S, R11W, WM. The Water Resources Department proposes to approve the transfer, based on the requirements of ORS Chapter 540 and OAR 690-380-5000. Any person may file, jointly or severally, a protest or standing statement within 30 days after the last date of newspaper publication of this

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

notice, 1/14/2026. Call (503) 986-0935 to obtain additional information. If no protests are filed, the Department will issue a final order consistent with the preliminary determination. 1/7/26 1/14/26

LCL26-004 THE TOWERS, LLC PROPOSES to build an 80-foot-tall monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 550 Southeast Highway 101, Lincoln City, Lincoln County, Oregon, 97367 (Lat: 44-57-47.39, Long: -124-0-58.16). Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Taylor Sims t.sims@trileaf.com, 2121 West Chandler Boulevard, Chandler, Arizona, (480)850-0575. 1/7/26 CNS-3999242# LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER 1/7/26

LCL26-003 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF LINCOLN CITY.

Authorizing Easement Acquisition. Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Lincoln City will hold a public hearing to take oral and written comments on the City's granting a utility & access easement to Larry Morris and Jill Morris along the western portion of tax lot 07-11-11-CA-00200 St, 1800 NE Surf Ave. Public Hearing Information: Date: January 26, 2026, Time: City Council Meeting: 6:00 PM, Place: City Council Chambers, 801 SW Highway 101, 3rd Floor, Lincoln City, Oregon. (This is a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, and the public hearing will not be the first item on the agenda.) Comments must be submitted in writing by noon on January 21, 2026 to be included in the City Council packet. Written comments received after noon January 21, 2026 will be provided to City Council at the hearing. Any person may provide oral or written comments to the City Council at the January 26, 2026 hearing. Comments may be submitted via email to: publiccomment@lincolncity.org. Written comments should be addressed to: Stephanie Reid, Public Works Director, Public Works Department, P.O. Box 50, Lincoln City OR, 97367 1/7/26

LCL26-002 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE FILE NO. 25-008390R

Reference is made to that certain deed of trust made by Deborah Kelly Keeney and John Barton Keeney, as grantor, to First American Title Insurance Company, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designee, recorded in the

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

nated nominee for Bank of the West, a California state banking corp., beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as beneficiary, dated July 10, 2015, recorded July 13, 2015, in the records of Lincoln County, Oregon, under instrument No. 2015-06884, and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to BMO Bank N.A., covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, WILLAMETTE

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

MERIDIAN, IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON, THAT IS 293.5 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 11 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN; THENCE SOUTH 0° 20' EAST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 8, 209.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89° 51' EAST PARALLEL TO 11TH STREET IN THE CITY OF TOLEDO, 147.0 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING WHICH POINT IS ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE PARCEL CONVEYED TO

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

G.L. SANFORD, ET UX, BY DEED RECORDED MARCH 15, 1965 IN BOOK 253 29, DEED RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 2° 58' EAST 60 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. APN: R394413 Commonly known as: 1262 NW Meadow Ln., Toledo, OR 97391 The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is

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PUBLIC NOTICES

WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID WERDER PARCEL 96.43 FEET; THENCE NORTH 2° 58' EAST 60 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. APN: R394413 Commonly known as: 1262 NW Meadow Ln., Toledo, OR 97391 The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is

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Elise Jordan Broker
Chris Garrett Broker

Sweeping Ocean Views in fully furnished home. A wall of windows bring the coast's beauty inside, while hardwood floors, granite counters, & custom cabinetry create timeless elegance. Built in 2014 w/modern conveniences, including EV charger. LC-104574 / Yachats..... \$650,000

Charming MFD home with small greenhouse & shed in backyard. Wonderful property w/peek of ocean from backyard. A lot of potential for this property for weekend getaway or year-round living. LC-104053 / Seal Rock..... \$265,000

Oceanview 2005 Golden West MFD Home on secluded lot & over 100ft above sea level. Well maintained, updated flooring & Samsung Smart Kit. appliances. Front & back deck. Across from state park, 804 Trail & ocean. Seller is Lic. OR Broker. LC-104775 / Yachats..... \$417,500

This Agate Beach home offers easy access to community. 3BD/2BA, spacious kit, w/natural light. Living area upstairs & den in lower area. Features include newer roof, new windows & abundant outdoor space. LC-103774 / Newport..... \$459,000

Comfort & Privacy 2BD/2BA, primary suite opens to deck w/distant ocean views. Liv. room has nat. light from wraparound windows. Mano-Block plumbing syst., & outside hot water access. Separate laundry house. LC-104111 / Waldport..... \$549,000

MFD home in Holiday Hills Cul-De-Sac. Well-maintained, 2BD, generously sized deck w/private gazebo. Kit: updated appliances, primary: walk-in closet, extra parking, & a shed. Mo. space rent in 55+park is 1195 & park approval required. LC-104451 / Depoe Bay..... \$69,999

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Joan Davies Broker
Arjen Sundman Broker
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C A L O P E C A R A L A H A N I M
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Newport swimmers get sweet results in Sweet Home

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

The Cubs swam their first meet of 2026, and Newport brought in the new year by collecting hardware at the Peargin Plunger on Jan. 3.

Newport sent 23 swimmers to the meet, with athletes competing in both the boys and girls divisions. The competition was hosted by Sweet Home High School, and this year’s event was the second annual Peargin Plunge. Newport competed with more than 160 swimmers who represented Sweet Home, Marshfield, North Bend, Moalla, North Marion, Henley, Hidden Valley, Cove Charter, and La Grande.

When the final race was run and the pools emptied out, Newport finished Saturday with a first-place finish for the girls and a third-place finish for the boys.

TEAM TOTALS FROM THE MEET WERE:

Girls

1. Newport - 353
2. Marshfield - 303
3. La Grande - 237
4. Sweet Home - 198
5. Hidden Valley - 172
6. North Bend - 172
7. Cascade Christian - 148
8. Cove Charter - 127
9. Molalla - 114
10. Henley - 102

Boys

1. Marshfield - 343
2. Molalla - 283
3. Newport - 261
4. Sweet Home - 227
5. Henley - 218
6. North Bend - 212
7. Hidden Valley - 191
8. La Grande - 100
9. Cascade Christian - 52
10. North Marion - 30
11. Cove Charter - 5

Newport’s success in Sweet Home was as much a product of depth as it was about just a

few incredible individual performances. The Cub swimmers won 11 of the 22 total races, placed second in two other races, scored five third-place finishes, and had an additional 14 top-10 placings.

“Outstanding team effort, along with a number of time drops. Juniors Jahan Eibner & Clyde Bretz and Sophomore Ilona Weisz each won two events and contributed to the victories of four relays,” Head Coach John Wray said. “Junior Hana Parker won the 100 Butterfly. Junior Gwynn Postlewait took second in the 100 Breaststroke, just a second off her Newport H.S. School record.”

Weisz logged the highest point total for the Cubs, helping fuel the team’s victory. She amassed 40 of the 353 Newport points with first-place finishes in each of her four events, two of which were relays. The

other teammates in the winning relays were Hana Parker, Gwynn Postlewait, and Ruby Perucci. Parker contributed the second most team points, with 36. In addition to winning the 100 Butterfly and relays, she took third in the 200 Individual Medley.

Though the boys didn’t win the top spot on the podium as a team, Juniors Jahan Eibner and Clyde Bretz posted the best results of any individual competitors at the meet. Both took home four first-place finishes, two individual and two as members of the winning 200-Free Relay and 200 Medley Relay teams. Individually, Eibner won the 100 Fly and 200 Individual Medley. Bretz grabbed gold in the 100 and 200 Free. Senior Zane Carver was alongside both swimmers in the relays and also posted personal bests in 50 Free and 100 Breast, placing in both. Also grabbing gold medals in

the relays were Hudson Cline (200 Free Relay) and Samuel Smith (200-Medley Relay). Cline also swam his way to a third-place finish in the 50 Free and fourth-place in the 100 Free.

Seniors Brynn Hillebrand, Pacie Young, Juniors Alondra Balderas, and Freshmen Daphne Grant, Dylan Gibson, Rowan Pettett, Ashlyn Conrad, and Skyla Chen scored team points individually and in relays.

Chloe Postma, Giselle Sanchez, Kindal Bradenberger, Leo Granilio, Aage Carlson Kadan, and Tristan Speers posted time improvements in a number of events and Wray said they were very competitive with swimmers from the other teams.

Cubs will be back in action on Jan. 9 at the Newport Tri Meet at the Newport Recreation Center. They will face off with Philomath and West Salem in the pool.

Interested in learning tennis this winter

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Are you interested in picking up tennis in the new year? Or maybe you’re an experienced player looking for opportunities to get out and play.

Well, if that’s the case, you’re in luck!

The Central Coast Tennis Association (CCTA) offers monthly “Open Tennis” events for folks looking to get out on the court. This month’s session at the Salishan Coastal Lodge is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Salishan Tennis Center.

CCTA’s Mike Stone said the non-profit has been offering open tennis events for the past couple of months, and usually



At the clinics, people have the opportunity to play with and learn from an instructor. (Metro Creative Connection)

there are between 10-15 people participating between the two venues they play at.

“Outside we’ve had 10-15 at Dorechester courts in Lincoln City,” Stone said. “Our events

at Salishan Tennis Center have about the same.”

At the clinics, people have the opportunity to play with and learn from an instructor. Whether people are just dipping their toes in or folks want to hone their craft, the open tennis sessions offer something for both ends of the spectrum.

“This is an inexpensive way (\$10) to get an introduction to tennis, a lifetime sport, or to fine-tune those tennis strokes,” Stone said. “All ages are welcome.”

The events are facilitated by one certified tennis professional and several volunteers with years of tennis experience. Over the course of the two hours, players will have a chance to work with each of

the instructors, rotating between stations to keep things moving.

“On the three indoor courts, we usually have a ball machine set up for advanced beginners. The other two courts are designated for various tennis strokes, with instruction from volunteers,” Stone said. “Players move to different courts every 20 minutes or so. We usually have snacks following the event.”

Though the event began through Lincoln City Parks and Recreation last summer, the current event is sponsored by the Central Coast Tennis Association, a designated non-profit. More information available by contacting Elizabeth Smith, CCTA events coordinator at esmithnw@gmail.com.

New College of Forestry finalizes new management plan for OSU’s McDonald-Dunn Research Forestmanagement plan

STEVE LUNDEBERG
Leader Guest Article

The Oregon State University College of Forestry has finalized a management plan for the OSU-owned McDonald-Dunn Research Forest in the Coast Range foothills northwest of Corvallis.

Last revised in 2005, the updated plan provides an adaptive framework for sustainable management in a changing climate and sets the stage for the next century of stewardship, said Holly Ober, the college’s associate dean for science outreach and the leader of the planning process.

The plan goes into effect in January 2026, which also marks the 100th anniversary of OSU’s acquisition of the first parcel of the McDonald Forest. Through a series of additional donations and acquisitions since then, the combined McDonald-Dunn Research Forest now spans 11,500 acres. It is the largest of the university’s statewide network of research and demonstration forests.

“Since the first parcel was acquired as a mostly cutover expanse of land in 1926, the McDonald-Dunn Forest has been intentionally shaped by a century of active management, which in turn has informed how we think about sustainable forestry today,” Ober said. “If history has taught us anything, it’s that change is constant – and this plan’s adaptable design helps ensure that, even as conditions shift, the forest can continue advancing its mission.”

The 2025 McDonald-Dunn Forest Plan is the culmination of a three-year process that included collaboration among scientists and educators, community members, Tribal representatives and several organizational partners including the Oregon departments of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife, the Benton County parks department and the non-profit Greenbelt Land Trust.

The College of Forestry also offered multiple community listening and public input sessions and, following the June release of a draft of the plan, received 130 comments during a 30-day public comment period, representing a diversity of perspectives.

The college incorporated the feedback into additional modeling, using adjusted parameters to confirm the optimal harvest age for stands managed under the even-aged, short-rotation strategy and to validate other underlying assumptions in the draft plan. It also revised the plan to clarify the need for continued active management, refine technical elements, and establish a new advisory group to assess future revenue opportunities.

“The McDonald-Dunn has provided so much to so many over its long history, and we’re grateful to those who shared their time, expertise and perspectives throughout this process,” Ober said. “Their input helped us shape a plan that balances the forest’s many values and maintains the flexibility needed to steward it for long-term resilience and

ensure it fulfills its mission of creating opportunities for education, research and outreach; demonstrating how sustainable forestry fosters prosperity, biodiversity and resilience; and supporting the social and cultural values forests provide to communities in Oregon and beyond.”

By design, OSU’s research forests are financially self-supporting, demonstrating that multiple forest values can coexist through sustainable management. Under the new plan, the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest will continue to serve as an actively managed living laboratory funded by timber harvest revenue, with key management changes including:

Reducing the average annual timber harvest from 6 million board feet under the 2005 plan to about 4.3 million board feet.

More than tripling the acreage stewarded toward older forest conditions, from about 350 acres to more than 1,100.

Devoting portions of the forest to experimental restoration in partnership with Tribal nations that will explore a variety of approaches for restoring specific ecosystems of concern.

Increasing the acres managed under the even-aged, long-rotation strategy to support learning opportunities about forest management across longer time spans while providing important wildlife habitat.

Managing additional acreage toward structurally and compositionally complex

conditions, enabling research on multispecies, multi-aged stands and supporting climate resilience.

Improving governance through clearer monitoring and reporting expectations.

Adjusting land allocations among the five management strategies and expanding guidance for late-successional forests, riparian areas and ecosystems of concern.

Strengthening the focus on climate resilience, including wildfire preparedness, drought-resilient reforestation, and restoration of oak woodlands and meadows.

The acreage of forest managed according to even-aged short rotations will decrease but not disappear, Ober said. This management approach allows for experimentation with new species or new genetic sources for existing species on a short time scale in response to changing climatic conditions, she said. It also allows for scientific comparisons between conventional short-rotation forestry and alternative practices.

Among the current research priorities for the forest are evaluating carbon tradeoffs and long-term carbon storage potential; comparing wood production and environmental outcomes across harvest and retention systems; minimizing climate-driven impacts through fuels reduction and woodland and meadow restoration; and exploring ecocultural stewardship partnerships with Tribes.

Recreational access to the forest will remain in place for the more than 200,000 hikers,

birdwatchers, horseback riders, cyclists and hunters who visit the forest each year. As part of the new plan’s implementation, the College of Forestry will work with its Forest Recreation Advisory Committee beginning in the new year to evaluate if existing recreation policies require updates, a process that will include a series of surveys and focus groups to gather input from recreational users.

“Forestry is one of the only large-scale land management strategies compatible with recreation, and we welcome the community to the forest to experience what a sustainably managed forest landscape that supports both conservation and wood production can look like,” Ober said. “Our work with the advisory committee will help ensure that recreational access stays equitable and aligned with research forest goals.”

The College of Forestry will host a series of activities throughout 2026 to celebrate the centennial of the forest, starting with the 2026 Starker Lecture Series in January.

People interested in learning about the history of the forest and its changing conditions over time are invited to join Bill Robbins, OSU distinguished professor emeritus of history, for the first Starker Lecture on Jan. 21. Learn more at the lecture series webpage

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