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**Sports
PAGE B8**



**ECOLA STATE
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**Coast Life
PAGE B1**



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

www.newportnewstimes.com

\$2

Council reviewing options for Big Creek Dams

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Newport City Council is now reviewing multi-million-dollar options to deal with the safety of the city's water reservoir's two dams.

The city of Newport's main water supply comes from the Big Creek Reservoirs, but over the years concerns have heightened about the safety of the reservoir's two dams.

"The dams have

been deemed potentially unsafe by the state dam engineer," City of Newport Communications Officer John Fuller said in a published interview with The Lincoln County Leader April 1. "The most critical issue is seepage in the upper dam spillway, and we are working to address that in what may be a much longer-term fix."

In 2025, the Newport

See **DAM**, page A7



A Google Earth graphic shows the Big Creek Reservoir proportionate to north Newport and Highway 101. (Courtesy photo)



The Lincoln County Animal Shelter is located at 220 SW Dahl Avenue in Waldport. (Courtesy photos)

County animal shelter opens

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln County's new animal shelter, located at 220 SW Dahl Avenue in Waldport officially opened April 14.

The shelter hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

A ribbon cutting and public tours of the new shelter were conducted March 5.

In a published interview with the Lincoln County leader in March, Animal Shelter Manager Marie Gainer said the state-of-the-art facility will improve public safety through effective stray control and enhance animal shelter welfare by providing proper care to the

animals.

"Our new shelter will serve as a community hub for education, reducing the burden on local law enforcement while fostering community engagement through volunteerism and philanthropy," Gainer said. "The environments we create will be healthier, significantly reducing stress for animals thanks to proper ventilation and dedicated quarantine spaces that are essential for rehabilitation."

Gainer explained that a major advantage of the 5,195 square-foot shelter is the inclusion of a surgery suite.

"Which will enable us to increase our

See **ANIMAL**, page A6



The Lincoln County Animal Shelter team.



A minivan is stuck after flooding along Tualco Road near Monroe, Wash. on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. President Donald Trump approved disaster funding for Oregon and Washington following the historic winter storms. (Jake Goldstein-Street / Washington State Standard)

Trump approves Oregon disaster declaration over severe winter storms

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

President Donald Trump approved a

disaster declaration for Oregon following winter storms that brought record rainfall and caused flooding, landslides and mudslides in eight counties.

The decision announced in a news release from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Saturday will allow individuals,

nonprofits and state, tribal and local governments to tap federal financial assistance for recovery efforts, including low-cost loans and grants for temporary housing, home and building repairs.

The announcement did not include any

See **DISASTER**, page A6

School district moves to clear projected \$5M budget shortfall

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Lincoln County School District (LCSD) Board of Directors and the district's budget committee are preparing to deal with a projected \$5 million shortfall for the 2026-27 school year.

The financial gap has been caused by declining enrollment and rising expenses, according to LCSD Communications Representative Susan Schuytema, who said plans have been developed to clear the budget shortfall.

"The District plans to reduce discretionary funds by 15%, and reduce 10 teaching positions, 3 administrative positions and 6 central office positions," she said. "The goal is to repurpose open positions



The Lincoln County School District faces a project \$5 million shortfall. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

by reassigning staff to fill open positions and not filling vacated positions if possible."

When asked by the Lincoln County Leader what the overall impact to students would be with such budget adjustments, Schuytema replied:

"Our strategy is focused on shielding our

students from the brunt of these changes. We are doing that by prioritizing our students and staff in order to focus on teaching and learning. As we continue to right-size our budget now, and in the coming years, our commitment to providing

See **SCHOOL**, page A7



Weather

Wednesday: High-48/Low-38 Showers
Thursday: High-51/Low-38 Mostly Cloudy
Friday: High-56/Low-40 Cloudy
Saturday: High-58/Low-48 Cloudy
Sunday: High-54/Low-44 Showers
Monday: High-53/Low-44 Showers
Tuesday: High-54/Low-44 Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

Table with columns: Rain, Low, High. Rows for dates April 7 through April 13, showing rainfall and temperature ranges.

Tides Tables

Table with columns: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, FRIDAY, APRIL 17, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, SUNDAY, APRIL 19, MONDAY, APRIL 20, TUESDAY, APRIL 21. Rows for high and low tide times and temperatures.

Sunrise/Sunset

Table with columns: Date, Sunrise, Sunset. Rows for dates April 15 through April 23.

Lottery

Friday, April 10 Mega Millions 3 • 18 • 36 • 42 • 19 • PB-6
Saturday, April 11 Powerball 6 • 47 • 49 • 53 • 60 • PB-6 • x2
Saturday, April 11 Megabucks 13 • 19 • 22 • 28 • 30 • 46

Inside

Table with columns: Section, Page. Rows for News, Business, Obituaries, Opinion, Coast Life, Classifieds/Public Notices, Comics, Sports.

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Attempted arson arrest at Newport

A Eugene woman faces criminal charges following her arrest in an attempted arson investigation in Newport.

On Monday April 6, Newport Police Department officers were alerted to a woman who purchased gasoline at a nearby Circle K before pouring the gasoline on the Avery Building, located at 120 NE Avery Street.

The Avery Building houses several governmental businesses, such as Oregon Department of Human Services, Community Services Consortium and WorkSource Oregon. "When officers arrived on scene, they located 45-year-old Eugene

resident Bridgette Sherman within a few feet of a 2-gallon gas can, the contents of which had been thrown onto the building and adjacent sidewalk," Newport Police Department Sgt. Mike Leake said. "Next to the gas can was a cigarette that was completely saturated in spilled gasoline that had a burnt tip."

The cigarette did not ignite the gasoline and the building, which was unoccupied at the time, was not damaged.

After Sherman was taken into custody, officers learned she is an employee of the Oregon Department of Human Services. Sherman was lodged at the Lincoln County Jail for Attempted Arson in the first Degree.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Newport Fire Department assisted Newport Police in this case.

The incident remains under investigation.

If you have any information regarding this case, contact Officer Jack Grippin 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



The incident occurred in the area of NW 14th St and Highway 101, in Lincoln City. (Jeremy C, Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

Salem man arrested for menacing with replica firearm

STAFF REPORT Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln City Police Department (LCPD) officers have arrested and charged a Salem man following an incident with a replica firearm.

The LCPD received a report of a man pointing a firearm at workers remodeling a house in the area of NW 14th St and Highway 101 in Lincoln City April 8.

"The reporting party provided a description of the suspect and multiple police converged on the area in marked and unmarked police vehicles

within minutes, detaining 36-year-old Omar Cortes-Santiago, of Salem Oregon," LCPD Sgt. Erik Anderson said.

According to Anderson, the LCPD is familiar with Cortes-Santiago from a similar incident in the summer of 2025 for which he was arrested, but ultimately not charged as witnesses refused to cooperate during court proceedings.

During the investigation police interviewed multiple witnesses as well as Cortes-Santiago.

"Many of Cortes-Santiago's statements contradicted numerous victim

and witness statements," Anderson said. "A search of his backpack yielded a replica handgun and a used methamphetamine pipe."

Cortes-Santiago was ultimately lodged at the Lincoln County Jail on the following charges:

- Two felony counts of Unlawful use of a Weapon
Two counts of Menacing
Two counts of Reckless Endangering, Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree
Possession of Methamphetamines - Drug Enforcement Misdemeanor.

Oregon Telephone and High-Speed Internet Assistance Programs

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OREGON LIFELINE

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Proof of eligibility may be necessary for enrollment. Qualifying customers may be required to recertify every year to maintain their Oregon Lifeline discount. All information is treated as confidential.

QUESTIONS OR TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE: For questions or to apply for Oregon Lifeline or TDAP equipment, please visit rspf.oregon.gov, call 1-800-848-4442 (M-F, 9AM-4PM) or email: puc.rspf@puc.oregon.gov

Information and eligibility may change at any time. Visit the Oregon Public Utility Commission website for the most up-to-date information: rspf.oregon.gov



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Conservation groups hold public meetings on forest protections after feds won't

Federal officials announced in August they would terminate a 25-year-old rule protecting from development on nearly 60 million acres of forests, including 2 million in Oregon.

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Federal officials announced in August they would terminate a 25-year-old rule protecting from development on nearly 60 million acres of forests, including 2 million in Oregon.

Before issuing sweeping protections on more than 30% of U.S. Forest Service-managed lands in 2001, federal officials spent more than a year holding 600 meetings across Western states and received more than 1.6 million public comments.

But federal officials have not held a single public meeting since they announced in August an effort to terminate the 2001 Roadless Rule, which prohibits road construction, logging and mining on roughly 60 million acres of public land, including about 2 million acres of forests in Oregon. Forest Service officials did not respond to questions from the Capital Chronicle Thursday morning.

Instead, U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas — a Democrat representing Oregon's Willamette Valley and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee's forestry subcommittee — and several conservation groups led by the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club are taking up the mantle.

Salinas and the Sierra Club hosted a public meeting Wednesday at the Ecotrust building in Portland, where roughly 60 audience members could give verbal comments or submit written ones. It was one of three public meetings on the Roadless Rule they scheduled this month, including a Monday meeting in Bend with roughly 150 attendees, according to organizers, and another scheduled for April 14 in Eugene.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has so far opened a single three-week comment period since its leader, Brooke Rollins, proposed terminating the rule in August. Salinas told the audience a second comment period would open soon. The first public comment



The Still Creek area in the Mt. Hood National Forest is part of 2 million acres of Oregon land protected by the federal Roadless Rule. (Courtesy from the U.S. Forest Service)

period brought in more than 600,000 comments, most of which expressed opposition to any rollback of the Roadless Rule.

"Our next opportunity for public comment will open any day now, and I will again use this opportunity to demand this administration change course," Salinas said.

Last summer, she introduced the Roadless Area Conservation Act to enshrine the rule in federal law, but it does not yet have enough support to pass. In the House, 78 of her colleagues have signed on as co-sponsors, including Oregon Democratic Reps. Maxine Dexter and Suzanne Bonamici, as have 25 U.S. Senators. The state's three other representatives, Democrats Janelle Bynum and Val Hoyle and Republican Cliff Bentz, have not signed on as sponsors.

WHAT ROADLESSNESS PROTECTS

Roadless areas in Oregon include Iron Mountain in the Willamette National Forest, Joseph Canyon in Wallowa County, Tumalo Mountain in central Oregon and Lookout Mountain in the Ochoco National Forest.

Jared Kennedy, who works for the Greater Hells Canyon Council in Enterprise, said at Wednesday's meeting there are already 26,000 miles of roads across Forest Service lands in eastern Oregon,

southeast Washington and north-central Idaho.

"That's more than enough miles of road to circle the Earth and then still drive to Portland from Enterprise and back," he said.

Some attendees had worked on passing the Roadless Rule and spoke at public meetings the Forest Service held in 1999 and 2000. Among them was Kristin Faulkner, who said issues that spurred the rule in the first place have only gotten worse, as climate change, declining snowpacks and biodiversity loss accelerate drought, floods and wildfire.

"Here we are 26 years later, or six presidential terms later, or a generation later, to again defend why we desperately need the Roadless Rule to remain fully intact more than ever before," she said.

She and others argued that intact forests have far-reaching benefits, including keeping water clean for fish and humans. Nearly 90% of people in the West are served by public drinking water systems that rely on water from national forest and grasslands. Commenters also discussed the massive amounts of carbon forests take-in and store, and that would otherwise enter the atmosphere as gas, further increasing global temperatures and climate change.

The largest roadless area in the U.S., the Tongass National Forest

in Alaska, holds 44% of all the carbon stored by the United States' national forests and is home to some of the last old-growth stands in the country.

A firefighter at the meeting discussed his concerns with more roads in forests given 85% of wildland fires are caused by humans, and 90% of those start within a half mile of roads, according to Forest Service data. Others discussed the already low funding and growing backlog of maintenance needs on existing roads in national forests.

Jordan Latter, a manager at Bark, a conservation watchdog group dedicated to protecting the Mt. Hood National Forest, cited a recent Pew Charitable Trusts report showing a \$6.4

billion road maintenance backlog within the National Forest system. He added that the roads in Mt. Hood alone need \$72 million of investment to be brought up to standard.

"And what is in the president's fiscal year 2027 budget proposal? \$73 million for road maintenance — for the entire National Forest system," he said.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/04/09/>

conservation-groups-hold-public-meetings-on-forest-protections-after-feds-wont 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@oregoncapital-chronicle.com.

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April is Grange Month

In celebration the Siletz Valley Grange #558 will have an Open House April 18, 2026 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Grange members will be available to answer questions and photos and memorabilia will be available for viewing.

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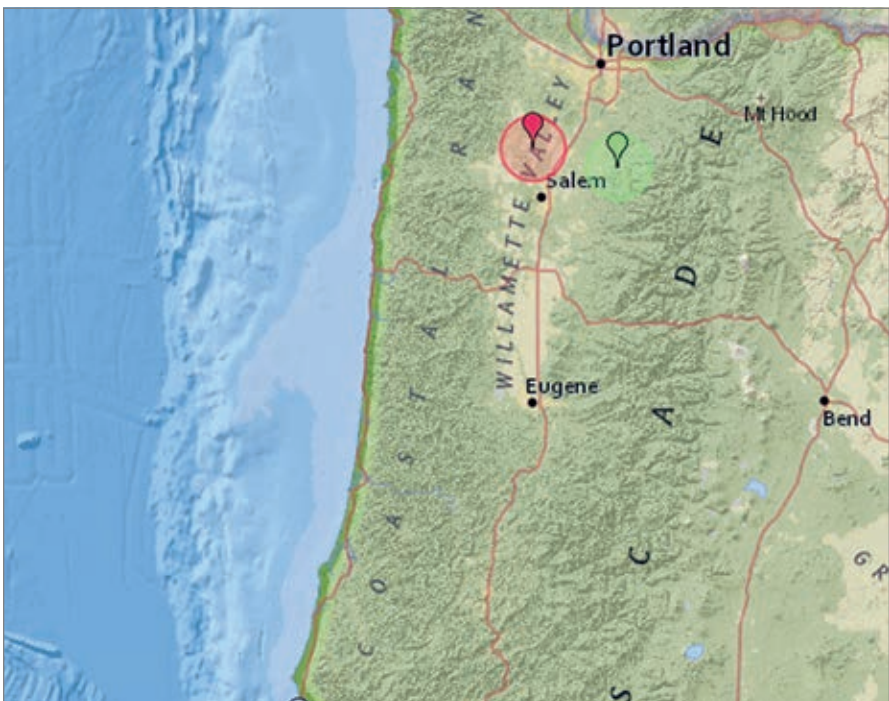
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Earthquake off Newport Coast



The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reports a 4.0 undersea earthquake about 250 miles west of Newport Tuesday afternoon, April 7. There have been no reports of injuries or damage, according to the USGS. Geologists at the Oregon Emergency Management Department report undersea quakes in this region are common. (Courtesy from the USGS)

Tsunami seminars draw crowds

WILL CHAPPELL
County Media, Inc.

As part of an ongoing tour of the coast, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management hosted Tsunami 101 presentations at the Pine Grove Community House in Manzanita on March 31, and the main branch of the Tillamook County Library on April 1.

At the presentations, experts from Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), the National Weather Service and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management discussed the tsunami situation in Oregon and how residents can be prepared and will be alerted if one occurs.

The presentation in Manzanita began with DOGAMI geologist Laura Gabel walking attendees through how to use the organization's new NVS app, which shows tsunami zones up and down the coast, as well as the quickest route to high ground in the event of a tsunami.

Gabel then discussed the scientific underpinnings of tsunamis, which are generated in areas called subduction zones where tectonic plates push against each other, a feature around the entire Pacific Basin.

Oregon's local subduction zone is known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone and runs for 600 miles parallel to the west coast of North America, from Northern California to Vancouver Island, at a distance between 60 and 70 miles offshore. The



Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay President Trish Johnson welcomes the crowd to the road show presentation at the Pine Grove Community House at the March 31 presentation. (Will Chappell / County Media, Inc)

zone is formed by the Juan de Fuca Plate slowly slipping underneath the North American Plate, pulling it down around one and a half inches per year. The pressure created by this subduction builds in a stuck or locked zone before eventually being released when the North American Plate springs up, causing an earthquake and tsunami.

Gabel explained that while tsunamis elsewhere in the Pacific could affect Oregon, those distant tsunamis, like one that occurred in 2025 off the coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, take hours to hit Oregon's shores, making them less impactful and easier to prepare for than one generated by the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

Fortunately for Oregon, the Cascadia Subduction Zone is by far the least active in the so-called ring of fire that rims the

Pacific Basin, and due to this relative lack of activity, was only discovered by scientists recently, with the first hypothesis of its existence coming in the 1980s. Researchers were able to confirm the zone's existence by looking at various clues, including ghost forests caused by trees being submerged in brackish water after land fell multiple feet during the last tsunami in 1700, which was also chronicled by Japanese historians.

In the 1990s, paleo seismologists determined that the zone is still active and created a record of the tsunamis it has generated over the past 10,000 years. In that time, the Cascadia Subduction Zone has experienced 19 full-margin ruptures that generated earthquakes of a magnitude 9.0 or greater. Gabel said that the timing of the quakes was unpredictable, occurring at intervals as short

as 100 years and as long as 1,100, with the average time between events averaging 510 to 540 years.

Given that 325 years have passed since the last rupture on January 26, 1700, Gabel said that one of her colleagues has calculated that there is a 16-22% chance of a full-margin rupture occurring in the next 50 years, with a 37-43% chance of a partial margin rupture somewhere in southern Oregon or northern California in the same period.

Gabel then discussed how coast residents would experience a temblor and resulting tsunami, saying that the ground would shake for up to five minutes in a full-margin rupture. During that period infrastructure will be damaged, landslides will occur and areas with saturated, sandy ground will see liquefaction occur, turning the earth into something like quicksand.

If a quake lasts longer than 30 seconds, Gabel said that it is safe to assume that a tsunami has been generated and that a wave will arrive within around 20 minutes on the

north coast. Gabel said that the first wave could be as high as 50 to 60 feet at the beach and inundate areas up to 100 feet above sea level depending on topography and that multiple waves could be generated by one seismic event and arrive at the beach at 30-to-60-minute intervals for up to a day.

Adam Batz from the NWS then spoke about his organization's alert efforts in the event of a tsunami, which are coordinated with the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska. The center, which monitors quakes around the Pacific, works with the United States Geological Survey to evaluate those quakes and determine the risk of tsunamis to warn impacted areas.

Batz said that in the event of local quakes, the NWS would immediately put out a warning before analysis is complete but that for distant quakes, analysis would precede communication. Analyzing data preliminarily takes around five minutes, according to Batz, after which the warning center and NWS decide whether to issue a tsunami watch,

advisory or warning. Watches are reserved for distant quakes, while advisories and warnings are used for local events, depending on the situation.

NWS's primary means of communication is through weather radios, but in the event of a tsunami, the warning center will send alerts to every phone in impacted counties on the coast.

After the initial evaluation and warnings, the center will monitor data transmitted by a network of deep ocean assessment and reporting of tsunamis buoys, which measure wave action, and update warnings or advisories hourly.

Once the potential for further wave activity has subsided, the warning center will send an all clear, at which point warnings will be canceled, though Batz cautioned that did not mean that danger was over, as dangerous currents would still be present in local waters.

Following Batz's presentation, Rizzo discussed the importance of emergency preparation in the face of disasters.

Rizzo discussed the need for go bags containing food, water, medicine and other supplies, which she said residents should have in their homes and cars. Rizzo said that these bags should contain supplies for three days, with people stocked up for two weeks at home.

Rizzo also said that residents should look into seismically retrofitting their houses, which she said was surprisingly affordable and could help a structure survive an earthquake.

Similar meetings were held in Newport and Lincoln City April 2.

Will Chappell is the editor of the Tillamook headlight Herald.

SET YOUR SIGHTS

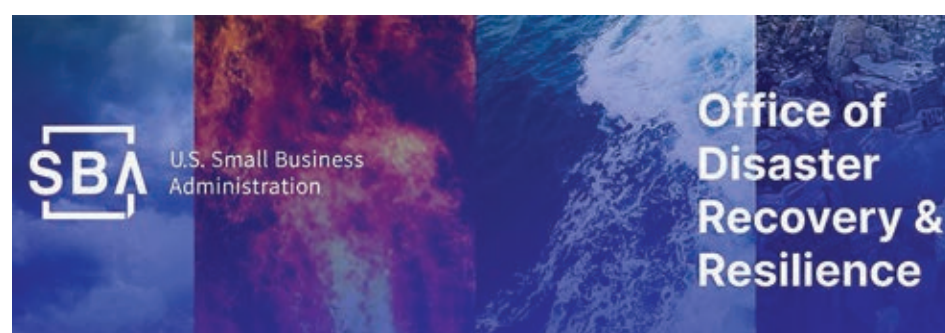
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Drought relief still available to small businesses, private nonprofits

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is reminding eligible small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Oregon of the May 8 deadline to apply for low interest federal disaster loans to offset economic losses caused by drought beginning July 15, 2025.

The disaster declaration covers the Oregon counties of Baker, Benton, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wasco and Wheeler as well as the Washington counties of Benton and Klickitat.

Under this declaration, SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs including faith-based organizations impacted by financial

losses directly related to the disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for small aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

"Through a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, SBA provides critical financial assistance to help communities recover," said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. "We're pleased to offer loans to small businesses and private nonprofits impacted by these disasters."

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with

interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.625% for PNPs with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to the SBA no later than May 8. However, after the deadline has passed, there is a 60-day grace period in which SBA will accept applications.

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Monthly auto transfer amount required from active checking account to avoid monthly service fee.

Calls growing to remove President Donald Trump

ROB OJUN

*Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column*

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall...

— Bob Dylan

A two-week truce. We've temporarily slipped from the hangman's noose. Still, there's a madman president on the loose.

We are living in an Upside Down moment, and the danger is no longer metaphorical. You don't need to have watched Stranger Things to recognize that the threat is real, not lurking in another dimension. It's prowling in the White House, and no blinking lights are spelling out SOS.

This is what an Upside Down world looks like: Donald Trump, an accidental president, openly threatening catastrophic violence against another

nation's civilian infrastructure, while those with the constitutional authority to stop him hesitate, equivocate, or remain silent.

No matter what happens next, history will remember: On Easter Sunday 2026, Donald Trump posted a message so reckless, so unhinged, that it would be disqualifying in any functioning democracy. Threatening the destruction of Iran's power plants and bridges, invoking apocalyptic language, and wrapping it all in bravado, he revealed not just poor judgment but a fundamental disregard for human life and the rule of law. Two days later, he added this warning: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will."

The response was immediate—but not where it matters most.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut spoke out about the Easter threat: if he were in Trump's

Cabinet, he said, he would be calling constitutional lawyers to discuss invoking the 25th Amendment. Others echoed the alarm. Even some of Trump's most reliable allies on the far right voiced scathing criticism.

For a brief moment, it seemed possible that outrage might translate into action. It has not...yet.

Unfortunately, there is little credible evidence that the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet are engaged in serious discussions to removing Trump under the 25th Amendment. Vice President JD Vance, a critic of the war, nevertheless has shown no sign of breaking ranks. How is it possible that loyalty—political, ideological, or personal—continues to outweigh constitutional responsibility?

And Congress? Missing in action. Despite clear authority under the War Powers Resolution, a Republican-controlled Congress has done

nothing to rein in Trump—and is showing no signs of changing direction.

So it is falling to the American people to do what elected officials are failing to do: unseat a president unfit to serve.

Activists in organizations like CODEPINK mobilized emergency protests in Washington and across the country, integrating opposition to the Iran war into the broader pro-democracy resistance. Protests against the war need to be as ubiquitous as daffodils in spring—visible, sustained, impossible to ignore. The anti-Vietnam War movement did not stop the war overnight, but it changed the political calculus until continuing it became untenable.

What about the military? Senior officers and military lawyers understand what's at stake. Orders to deliberately target civilian infrastructure—power grids, bridges, population centers are war crimes (an

absurd notion since war itself is a crime.)

There are laws limiting actions in armed conflict, and they are not optional. It applies to those who carry out orders, not just those who give them, creating a tension within the chain of command. Last fall, six members of Congress posted a video reminding service members, "you can refuse to carry out illegal orders."

Meanwhile, the judiciary, often imagined as a final safeguard, has—for now—remained largely silent. Courts do not move at the speed of crisis. They require time. And time is an enemy of this moment.

So where does that leave us? With a reality both sobering and clarifying. The formal mechanisms of restraint—Congress, the Cabinet, the courts—are stalled, reactive, or unwilling. The most immediate pressure is coming from two places: people in the streets, and professionals inside the system trying

to hold the line. Neither is sufficient on its own..

The millions at No Kings rallies have been doing their part. Now, perhaps, they'll take a new tack. Imagine citizens moving from street protests into the halls of Congress, confronting their representatives in their Washington offices and home districts. Asking, insisting, refusing to leave without an answer to a simple question: What are you doing—right now—to stop him? To stop the madness?

We know this Congress can't be counted on to act on its own. Apparently, it will only act when the cost of inaction becomes too high—politically, publicly, unmistakably.

The people have begun doing their part. Congress must now do theirs.

Rob Okun (robokun50@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of Voice Male, which has long chronicled the profeminist men's movement.

Lawmakers took a step to fix Oregon's looming budget crisis

Now we need a leap

DANIEL HAUSER

Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon recently wrapped up its short legislative session, and let's be honest about what happened: Lawmakers modestly trimmed tax breaks for rich investors and corporations to stave off cuts to services families depend on. That was the easy part.

Oregon is facing a genuine budget crisis over the next five years because of cuts to Medicaid and food assistance in H.R. 1, the federal budget package enacted by congressional Republicans last July. Oregon will need to spend billions more to keep families insured by the Oregon Health Plan and prevent them from going hungry. That's a structural problem that won't fix itself. The sooner lawmakers confront it, the better off Oregonians will be.

The just-concluded legislative session sent Senate Bill 1507 to the governor's desk for her signature, a good step in the right direction — but only a step. The bill helped to address the immediate budget

hole created by H.R. 1 by stopping Oregon from doubling down on a few wasteful federal tax breaks that mainly benefited the rich and corporations.

This will save Oregon more than \$300 million in the current budget period and hundreds of millions more in the years to come, helping to protect the services Oregonians depend on. The bill also expanded Oregon's strongest tax benefit for working families, the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Those are real accomplishments. As a result of SB 1507, Oregonians who would have lost health coverage or food assistance from the budget shortfall still receive benefits. And because of the EITC increase, about 230,000 Oregon families working hard but living on the brink will have more money in their pockets to afford rent or groceries.

And yet, we came into this session having identified more than \$700 million in tax changes Oregon lawmakers could have acted on, but didn't. Under pressure from business interests, the Legislature acted on less than half of that amount. The gap between what the Legislature did and



Lawmakers have more to do to address taxes, commentator Daniel Hauser argues. (Laura Tesler / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

what it could have done isn't hypothetical. It's families who may still lose access to the Oregon Health Plan, parents who may still lose child care support and families on the edge who needed the Legislature to do more to tackle the affordability crisis.

While some argue that the better approach is to woo businesses with direct subsidies and tax incentives and trust that the jobs and revenue will follow, experience shows otherwise. Research finds that 75% or more of these kinds of incentives subsidize projects that would

have happened anyway. This means that, more often than not, business tax subsidies hand corporations public money to make the same business decisions they would have made without it. In other words, they're usually a waste of public resources.

Here in Oregon, we've seen this approach play out. Not long ago, Oregon layered direct funding and tax credits to help Intel win billions in federal funding, and yet Intel announced layoffs of nearly 4,500 workers here anyway. Big corporations make decisions based on global forces that no state

tax break can overcome. Meanwhile, every dollar we give away is a dollar that can't keep a neighbor insured or fed.

What actually builds a strong economy is investing in people. Healthy, educated Oregonians who can afford housing and child care create a cycle of widespread prosperity. Children raised in a stable home with quality care and access to nutritious food will be more prosperous and productive as adults. The presence of a skilled workforce is a more crucial factor in attracting businesses than tax incentives. Oregon

should prioritize investing in our people.

The 2027 legislative session is the next opportunity to confront the structural problem created by H.R. 1, and lawmakers need to be more ambitious than they've been thus far. The budget hole caused by federal cuts will demand leadership and courage. Prioritizing the needs of Oregonians over the demands of big corporations is in Oregon's interest, both morally and economically.

SB 1507 was a meaningful step. Now, Oregon needs to leap.

Daniel Hauser is the deputy director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy and leads the center's tax policy work.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/25/lawmakers-took-a-step-to-fix-oregons-looming-budget-crisis-now-we-need-a-leap/>

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPPORTS CASEY MILLER

Casey Miller deserves reelection because he knows Lincoln County government better than almost anyone.

Before becoming commissioner, he spent 14 years working directly under the Board of Commissioners. He learned what made county government work—and what happened when process, accountability, and public trust began to break down.

Claire Hall saw that

in him. She encouraged him to run and supported his promise to bring more openness to county government.

Transparency is not an abstract slogan. It means exposing waste before it drains money from core services. It means asking why taxpayers are footing the bill for repeated outside legal costs, investigations, and internal conflict while offices like the DA's office and other frontline services need stable, dependable support. It means making sure county employees

can raise concerns without fear of retaliation or being drawn into a toxic workplace culture.

When Casey began pressing those questions publicly in September 2024, the response spoke volumes. Instead of welcoming scrutiny, county leadership shut him out—restricting his office access, limiting communication with staff, and treating oversight itself as the problem.

That should concern every voter in Lincoln County.

The attacks on Casey

are meant to distract from what he has actually been fighting for: lawful process, responsible spending, and a county workplace where transparency is valued instead of punished.

Lincoln County needs a commissioner who understands the system, is not afraid to challenge it, and will keep working every day to restore public trust.

Join me in reelecting Casey Miller. He fights for you.

*James Parrish
Newport*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou

CLARIFICATION

In the April 7 edition Letter to the Editor headline from Andrew Dembosky, the Leader mistakenly titled it Responds to Haeder Column, when it fact it should read Responds to Douglas Berg's Column. We are happy to set the record straight.

ONLINE POLL

PREVIOUS POLL

Are you concerned about losing your voting freedom under the Trump administrations executive order and proposed voting regulations?

Yes..... 63.4%
No..... 36.6%

NEW POLL

Are you limiting your daily travel plans because of the increasing high gasoline prices?

- Yes
- No

Forecasters predict, prepare for increased drought and wildfire risk after NOAA climate outlook issued

ROBIN LINARES
Oregon Capital Chronicle

While the Pacific Northwest west of the Cascades is known for its seemingly constant rain, much of Oregon is preparing for drought conditions and increased wildfire risk for the summer.

This comes after Oregon's uncharacteristically mild winter. Much of winter saw warmer temperatures, tied with 1934 as the warmest winter in record for the state. This created a record-low snowpack throughout the Pacific Northwest, with levels falling to one-third of normal, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"It's a very worrying trend," said Larry O'Neill, Oregon's state climatologist. "Because it was so warm, our snowpack just really failed to build. Snowpack functionally acts as a reservoir for water. Basically, our largest reservoir of water is nearly empty at this point in time."

O'Neill, an associate professor at Oregon State University, is also a member of the state's Drought Readiness Council and Water Supply Availability Committee. By early March, several counties had already requested support from the Readiness Council to receive additional funding and aid for the summer.

Under the recommendation and guidance of these two committees, Gov. Tina Kotek signed an executive order on March



A drought in 2015 nearly emptied Detroit Lake, a reservoir between Bend and Salem. State climatologist Larry O'Neill draws similarities between this year and 2015 after Oregon's warm and dry start to 2026. (David Reinert / Oregon State University)

31 declaring drought emergencies in three eastern Oregon counties and clearing the way for extra state support. Her order was months earlier than the first drought declarations in 2024 or 2025.

Prolonged drought can lower water levels and make waterways warmer, negatively affecting native cold-water fish including trout, salmon and steelhead, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Warmer waterways especially can make species more vulnerable to disease and decreased oxygen levels.

These impacts on fisheries can be long-lasting, O'Neill said, pointing to drought conditions in 2015. According to an Oregon State University article, it took the most resilient species nearly two years to return to pre-drought conditions.

"If you want a bad wildfire season, you start with a bad snowpack, and so right now, we can't

predict exactly what it'll be like in the summer. But if we have a dry spring, the bad snowpack then the dry spring will really kind of put the nail in that coffin," O'Neill said. "I'm increasingly concerned that this will end up rivaling 2015 as the warmest calendar year on record in Oregon."

These warm and dry conditions outlined in the NOAA spring outlook can make an extreme impact on wildfire risk, O'Neill added. While he noted that a rainy spring can help lower the risk of an extreme wildfire season, the current NOAA outlook continues the dry trend. This means that the wildfire season can start earlier and be more extreme, O'Neill warned.

"All the information we have at hand at this moment, that seems to be a more likely outcome is that the wildfire season could be more active and a lot of the fire agencies are starting to prepare for that right now," O'Neill

said. State agencies, industries prepare. The Oregon State Fire Marshal responds to wildfires year-round, though the agency also puts a special emphasis on preparedness and management for homeowners in advance of the fire season.

"It's kind of a two-pronged approach," said John Hendricks, the office's public affairs specialist. "We work on the suppression side when wildfires may impact the community or critical infrastructure, and then we work in the area of defensible space and getting communities and homeowners prepared to reduce that risk to their home and property."

While weather outlooks can be somewhat unpredictable several months in advance, Hendricks said that early spring is the time the agency looks to build defensible space — or a buffer zone between vegetation and buildings to help slow potential wildfire spread.

"Just the simple act of getting up on the roof and cleaning off any pine needles or cleaning up the gutters," Hendricks said. "Each one of those projects is going to help reduce your home's risk to damage or loss because of wildfire."

For local fire agencies, the office offers a grant program, made possible by a 2021 law creating policies to reduce wildfire risk. The grant gives local departments \$35,000 grants to build their

personnel and capacity heading into fire season.

"\$35,000 doesn't sound like a lot, but it does so much for these communities. One of the benefits of it is that it provides staff on duty to respond to wildfires, but they can also respond to other calls as well," Hendricks said.

Aid doesn't only come from the state government. The Oregon Cattleman's Association, a trade association that represents ranchers, offers a Wildfire Assistance fund to help members and non-members alike with wildfire recovery.

Association President Diana Wirth said many ranchers feel prepared to handle varying weather conditions because of their longtime work and understanding of the land they use.

"Ranchers here are pretty ready to deal with those issues, because we've dealt with them before," Wirth said. "When it comes to mitigating disasters, ranchers are fairly prepared to take care of themselves, because we're an independent demographic, and we're used to working on land. We're used to taking care of our resources and stewarding it in a manner that's responsible."

Some of these resilience strategies that Wirth outlined to reduce drought and wildfire risk include livestock grazing to reduce the fuel load.

For drought mitigation, the focus is on riparian zones, or vegetated areas alongside waterways.

"We're already making

plans on how to protect our riparian zones. That's something just common knowledge throughout our industry," Wirth said. "Protecting your riparian zones when water resources get down is really probably one of the singularly most important things a rancher can do."

Looking toward the summer, Hendricks shared an additional fire safety tip to prevent human-caused fires. Debris burning is the leading cause of wildfire, he said, emphasizing the importance of paying attention to fire regulations and conditions when spending time outside.

"It's going to take all of us, within the state, to do our part as we deal with more and more fires each summer," Hendricks concluded. "(We) often say that Mother Nature sometimes gives us enough for us to handle, and we don't need our fellow humans doing the same thing and contributing to that."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/06/forecasters-predict-prepare-for-increased-drought-and-wildfire-risk-after-noaa-climate-outlook/>

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ANIMAL

From Page A1

capacity for high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter services, thereby combating pet overpopulation and accelerating adoption rates," Gainer said. "By offering on-site veterinary care, we will act as a critical safety net, helping to keep pets in their homes and reducing overcrowding in shelters."

The new facility offers:

- Adorable adoptable pets ready to meet their forever families
- In person service for dog licensing
- Opportunities to sign up for volunteering and

fostering
• A warm, welcoming team excited to meet you

Public engagement is encouraged:

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- Monetary donations may be mailed or brought to:*

Lincoln County Animal Shelter

P.O. Box 1390
Waldport, OR 97394

Lincoln County Animal Shelter

220 SW Dahl Avenue
Waldport, OR 97394

Call 541-265-0720 to make a donation over the phone.

- Shop our wish list on Amazon.
- Become a

Looking for our forever homes...

Guinevere

- 9 years old
- Bossy Sweetheart
- \$125

King Tut

- 4 years old
- Talkative Bestie
- \$175

Chaos

- 1 year old
- Professional Cuddler
- \$175

All adoption candidates have been:

- Spayed/Neutered
- Vaccinated
- Microchipped
- Flea Treated
- Treated for worms

Scan for our adoptable pets.

volunteer and enrich shelter life for the animals in our care! Dog walkers, cat socializers, foster homes, and more are needed. Anyone interested in

scheduling a shelter tour or have other questions, should contact Shelter Manager Marie Gainer at mgainer@co.lincoln.or.us or 541-265-0725.

HISTORY

Following years of planning and preparing

for the construction of the new shelter, an official groundbreaking ceremony was held October 9, 2024. In May 2024, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to DSL Builders, of Salem, to construct the

facility. For many years, the animal shelter has been located on the east side of Northeast Harney Street next to the Lincoln County Commons (fairgrounds) in Newport. In 2019, the building housing the shelter was condemned after an inspection found it to be unfit for human and animal occupancy due to toxic levels of dangerous mold throughout the structure. It had to be demolished, and a modular building was put in its place to provide a temporary facility until a new shelter could be built.

For more information, call 541-265-0720, or email leanimalshelter@co.lincoln.or.us.

Robert Stricklan

1955 - 2026

We are heartbroken to share that Robert "Coach Bob" Stricklan passed away on March 10th, 2026. Bob passed away peacefully at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, after suffering from chronic heart failure.



anyone would be proud of. He is survived by son Christopher Stricklan, daughter Kimberly Stricklan, brother Sonny Stricklan, his girlfriend Teri Lucky and grandchildren; William Stricklan, Lola Hinrichs, Juliette Stricklan, Sophia Hinrichs, and Amelia Falcon. Bob is predeceased by his son Timothy Stricklan.

There will be a public memorial for Bob at the Lincoln City Parks and Recreational Facility located at 2150 NE Oar Pl, Lincoln City, OR 97367. The memorial will be on Saturday, May 16th starting at 10 AM with a celebration of life in the gym at 11AM until 3PM. Please bring your high-tops and Coach Bob stories. Please send pictures to pics@coachbob.net for display during memorial.

Bob was born in Portland in 1955 and spent his later years living in Lincoln City, OR where he served the City's youth as a recreational basketball coach. Coach Bob loved teaching kids the importance of sportsmanship and persistence through sport and would schedule his vacations and important personal events around the basketball season. In 2025 Bob was honored with a Lifetime Tiger Award for his continued dedication and support of Taft athletics and athletes.

When he wasn't coaching, Bob loved to explore. Whether it was the Oregon coastline, the mountains, or his vacation destinations, you could always find Bob out hiking or on a scenic drive taking in the sights.

As a dedicated coach, father, and grandfather, Bob leaves behind a legacy that

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Lincoln City Parks & Recreation scholarship fund: <https://givebutter.com/vRMcgx> or sent by check to: Lincoln City Parks & Recreation, 2150 NE Oar Pl, Lincoln City, OR 97367 Attn: Scholarship Fund Feel free to add "in memory of Coach Bob" to notes or envelopes for clarity.

DISASTER

From Page A1

information about how much money Oregon would receive. FEMA spokespersons did not immediately respond to questions from the Capital Chronicle Monday morning.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek asked for the declaration in February, saying there was more than \$15 million in losses and damages in Clackamas, Hood

River, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Tillamook, Union and Yamhill counties. Those counties will be eligible for the federal assistance.

At the peak of the storms, more than 300,000 Oregonians were without power, multiple highways and interstates were closed and one person in Yamhill County died, according to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

Trump on Saturday also approved a disaster declaration for Washington, which experienced historic flooding in December that forced the evacuation of over 100,000 residents and damaged nearly 4,000 homes. Almost 400 people were rescued and one person died.

Trump has rejected disaster aid for Democratic-run states at the highest rate of any president since FEMA was created nearly 50 years

ago, according to recent Politico reporting.

He approved 23 percent of disaster funding requests from states with a Democratic governor and two Democratic senators during the last 14 months. For states with a Republican governor and two Republican senators, Trump has approved 89 percent of requests, the Politico analysis found.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/trump-approves-oregon-disaster-declaration-over-severe-winter-storms/>

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

Sudoku answers

SCHOOL
From Page A1

your children with an exceptional education has not changed,” she said.

Community meetings were conducted in the district in March. The LCS D Budget Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on May 14, at the TLC, 1212 NE Fogarty, in Newport where the plan to clear the shortfall will be presented. Additional meetings are tentatively scheduled at the TLC for May 19 and May 21 if they are needed.

“After the Budget Committee process is complete, the budget will be presented to the LCS D Board of Directors for final approval,” Schuytema said. “We will continue to project out to plan for additional budgetary changes as enrollment continues to decline and costs continue to increase. Our focus continues to be providing a well-rounded and high-quality education and experience for all students in Lincoln County School District.”

SILETZ VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

The district has contracted with Oregon School Boards Association for a Siletz compliance evaluation that will be reviewed by LCS D Board of Directors and Siletz Board of Directors individually. After receiving the OSBA evaluation, LCS D school board members were expected to issue a decision at their April 14 meeting. If the charter agreement is revoked, the closure would take place

“Our strategy is focused on shielding our students from the brunt of these changes. We are doing that by prioritizing our students and staff in order to focus on teaching and learning.”

— Susan Schuytema,
LCS D Communications Representative

June 30, according to Schuytema. “Siletz Valley School can appeal any decision to the Oregon Department of Education,” she said.

BACKGROUND

Superintendent Tolan had sent a letter of concern to the school administrators in January outlining her concerns about the school’s ability to meet its charter agreement. Students, tribal leaders, and members of the community attend the late March school board meeting to press members to keep the charter school open.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, in a release, urged the Lincoln County School District to keep Siletz Valley School open.

“The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) has supported Siletz Valley Charter School financially and programmatically since the signing of the charter in 2003. Even prior to 2003, the Siletz Tribal community has advocated to the Lincoln County School District (LCS D) for the fair treatment and distribution of resources for Siletz schoolchildren. As early as 1983, when the school district closed Siletz High School, the Tribal Council has strongly opposed the closure of educational institutions in Siletz.

“Not only does a substantial proportion of the student population include Siletz Tribal Members, but having a K-12 program in Siletz itself fosters the overall social, economic, and cultural growth of the local community,” the Tribe states in the release. “Removing critical educational resources from the Siletz community and forcing students to access those resources elsewhere is not a viable path forward from the tribe’s perspective.

“Under LCS D control, the Siletz school never received the same level of attention as other institutions in the district. For example, the school buildings and grounds have been minimally updated since their construction in 1934, despite regular improvements to other district schools. Due to these and other barriers, the Siletz school was never truly given an opportunity to flourish.

“In an effort to balance these inequities, the Siletz Tribe has expended significant resources since the charter’s adoption in 2003. This is to ensure that Siletz schoolchildren have adequate institutions in which to learn and grow. These resources have included \$7.06 million from charitable donations and more from programming and cultural integration, in-kind and

staff volunteers, and support for proposals to improve the grounds and facilities for the school.

“Along with its financial woes, forcing Siletz schoolchildren to leave their local culture and community to attend school elsewhere sets them up for failure. Significant progress has been made in integrating local Siletz culture into the education and programming for these students, but that work is not yet complete. This progress should not be halted and instead the district should continue to invest in expanding quality opportunities for the Siletz community, like the efforts made in other district institutions. Bussing our schoolchildren out of the community is not the option.

“The Siletz community, in partnership with the tribe, has tried in earnest to run their own school for the children in and around Siletz. Despite their best efforts, successive school boards and administrators have been unsuccessful at maintaining charter compliance, educational benchmarks and financial stability for the Siletz Valley Charter School.

“With gratitude, the tribe acknowledges the work that has taken place to rebuild trust and build partnership between LCS D and CTSI over the last six years, under the leadership of both Dr. Karen Grey and Dr. Majalisse Tolan. While great strides have been made, there is still work to be done. The tribe also acknowledges the barriers Siletz Valley Charter School has faced and implores Lincoln County School District to take

responsibility over efforts to maintain and improve the Siletz Valley Charter School, up to and including reintegration into the district. The Siletz school needs to be a Lincoln County School District school again. Our students deserve educational stability.”

BUILDING LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The LCS D is making key leadership changes for the upcoming 2026-27 year aimed at improving organizational efficiency and strengthening district-wide support.

Superintendent Dr. Majalisse Tolan announced a strategic administrative realignment and reduction for the upcoming academic year. These changes reflect a commitment to fiscal responsibility and a focused effort to place leadership talent where it can most effectively drive student achievement, according to Tolan.

The reorganization involves a reduction in 4 administrative positions district-wide and the strategic relocation of several building-level administrators. These decisions were made following a comprehensive review of district operations, enrollment trends, and the specific needs of individual school communities.

“We understand that change can be difficult for our staff and our families,” Tolan said. “However, these moves were made with deep intentionality. Our goal was to thoughtfully place every administrator in a position that maximizes their unique strengths and addresses the areas where our students need them most.”

2026-2027 LCS D

- Building Administration**
Crestview Heights Elementary Sandi Battles, CVH Principal
Waldport High School OPEN, WHS Principal
 Nathan Green, WHS Assistant Principal/
 Athletic Director
Yaquina View Elementary Rebecca Bostwick, YV Principal
 Charlotte Galen, YV Assistant Principal
Sam Case Elementary Marcy Doyle, SC Principal
Newport Middle School Chloe Minch, NMS Principal
 Lindsay DeVries, NMS Assistant Principal
Newport High School Reyna Mattson, NHS Principal
 Peter Ellingsen, NHS Assistant Principal
 Shelley Moore, NHS Assistant Principal/
 Athletic Director
Toledo Elementary School Marty Pérez, ToES Principal
 Jillian Vanderbeck, ToES Assistant Principal
Toledo Jr/Sr High School Kathy Beyer, Toledo Jr/Sr High Principal
 Janna Limbert, Toledo Jr/Sr Assistant Principal/
 Athletic Director
Oceanlake Elementary School Starla Nelson, Oceanlake Principal
Taft Elementary School Leslie Roache, Taft Elementary Principal
 OPEN, Taft Assistant Principal
Taft 7-12 Nick Lupo, Taft 7-12 Principal
 Zach Lillebo, Taft 7-12 Assistant Principal/
 Athletic Director
 Ashley Freschi, Taft 7-12 Assistant Principal
Follow developments online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader,

Remediate Big Cr Dam No. 1 and Remediate Big Cr Dam No. 2
 Alternative 3A – \$77M (includes Fish Passage)

- Stabilization Berms and Ground Improvement address earthquake failure concerns
- Maintains capacity of reservoirs
- No change to Siletz Pump Station operations
- Fish Passage costs are a significant component

	Remediation Costs	Fish Passage Costs
Big Cr Dam No. 1	\$18.1M	\$15.4M
Big Cr Dam No. 2	\$13.5M	\$32.5M
Total	\$29.4M	\$47.9M
		\$77M

Remove Big Cr Dam No. 1 and Remediate Big Cr Dam No. 2
 Alternative 3B – \$64M (includes Fish Passage)

- Stabilization Berms and Ground Improvement address earthquake failure concerns
- Removal of Big Creek No. 1 lost storage, may require increased Siletz River Pump Station operations
- Restore around 1 mile of Big Creek for increased habitat, use pipeline to bypass water to WTP
- Fish Passage at Big Creek No. 2 component

	Remediation/Removal Costs	Fish Passage Costs
Big Cr Dam No. 1	\$18.1M	\$0M
Big Cr Dam No. 2	\$13.5M	\$32.5M
Total	\$31.6M	\$32.5M
		\$64M

DAM
From Page A1

City Council considered replacing the dams with a much stronger concrete dam.

“The roller-compacted concrete dam option was presented to our city council at 30% design. The estimated cost of completing that project and design was \$185 million,” Fuller said. “That is just not a feasible price for a city of our size.”

The city council held a presentation by Jacobs Engineering during a work session April 6 which outlined less expensive alternatives to deal with the safety of the two dams.

The options include option 3A, a \$77 million alternative that would strengthen both dams by stabilizing berms, adding ground improvements, and reconstructing fish ladders. Option 3B, at \$64 million, would involve removing the lower dam, strengthening the upper dam, and adding a pipeline to the water treatment facility. That option would require the city to rely more on water from the Siletz River.

The Jacob Engineering Report recommendations:

To comply with State’s Requirements, and be within the City’s available funding, Jacobs recommends proceeding with two alternatives:

- Alternative 3A - Remediate Both Dams
- Alternative 3B - Remediate Dam 2, Remove Dam 1 – Recommended Next Steps:

Confirm hazard rating for Big Creek Dam No. 1 – may allow for do-nothing option for Big Creek Dam No. 1

Studies and investigations to support concept design of Alt 3A and 3B

Advance Conceptual design in order to:

Discuss with ODFW and get clarification on Fish Passage requirements – required for cost certainty

Provide a refined cost estimate (reduced uncertainty range to have cost certainty for funding)

Develop permitting plan
 Refine schedule to confirm completion meets requirements

Select Alternative for final design and advance final design and construction

The city must present their plan to the state in May with a solution implemented by 2036.

If such a plan isn’t presented, The Oregon Water Resources Department could require the reservoir’s water to be drawn down.

Fuller said the costs

associated with the projects will have to be evaluated by the city council.

“We’ll have to certainly evaluate that,” he said. “Federal and state funding mechanisms, especially related to grants, have dried up over the last couple of years, so the city and those across

the county, have had to become more creative in how they are funding projects. That may change again in a year or two as the alternatives are explored at a deeper level. Right now, it is tough to say what is the financial method that could pay for the long-term dam

solution. Depending on the costs, and the number of options, we would certainly try not to pass that on to the community.”

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

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More business openings than closings in Oregon in last decade

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

In 2023, following the end of the COVID pandemic, Oregon experienced more new business registrations than any other state in the nation.

It was part of anomalous growth in new business ventures across the U.S. following the pandemic, but Oregon has for most of the last decade seen significantly more new businesses register in the state than exit, according to analysis from Richard Acquah-Sarpong, a Ph.D. candidate in applied economics at Oregon State University.

Acquah-Sarpong used data from the private-sector National Establishments Time Series Database and from the U.S. Census Bureau Business Formation Statistics.

Oregon's entry/exit ratio, though nuanced by industry and geography, shows the state doing well on at least one measure of economic health despite widespread reporting and warnings from business groups that the state, and particularly its largest city, are in an economic death spiral or doom loop.

The positive entry/exit ratio is "a measure of the overall activity and adaptability of an economy," Acquah-Sarpong said. A healthy number of new business registrations signals the state is a place ripe for innovation and job creation, whereas closures can signal economic stress or structural changes, he explained. And it's an improvement from the early aughts.

Between the 2008 recession and 2014, more businesses left Oregon than set up shop, according to the data. That's turned around since 2015, Acquah-Sarpong found, and new businesses have pretty consistently outpaced business closures in the state.

Damon Runberg, an economist at Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, has also written extensively about the state's generally positive environment for startups and new ventures. He said in the last two years the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem "seems to have dried up a little bit." In 2024, about 9,500 new businesses registered in Oregon, compared to about 7,900 in 2025.

"Still, the number of new business establishments that opened in 2025 was almost 1,800 higher than what it was in 2015. That's like 30% higher than what was happening in 2015, which was also a pretty stellar time as we were coming out of the Great Recession," he said. "Where we're at today is still in a really positive place relative to back then."

He credits the state's highly educated work force — Oregonians hold bachelor's degrees at rates higher than most states and above the national average — as contributing to the entrepreneurial



A ribbon cutting ceremony in 2023 at new Gresham business Blissful Lashes. In 2023, Oregon had the highest number of new business registrations of any state in the nation, according to federal data. (Courtesy from the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce)



(Data visualization courtesy of Richard Acquah-Sarpong/Oregon State University's Applied Economics Outreach Blog)

trends, as well as the state's low barriers to entry for people wanting to open a business. There's a solid support system from community groups, banks and universities that provide technical assistance for small businesses to grow and scale, he said.

Still, new businesses don't necessarily mean boons to employment, and a new cafe employs far fewer people than a large factory. Runberg notes that there's been considerable slowdown in job creation across the state, in part because more than 80% of new jobs in Oregon are created by the expansion of established businesses, not new ones. And though Oregon tends to be a good place to start a business, surveys show growing is harder, he said.

The state's unemployment rate has risen steadily since 2023 and reached 5.2% in January, above the nationwide jobless rate of 4.3%.

Which businesses entering and where?

Acquah-Sarpong's 2022 analysis shows that from 2012 to 2022, businesses offering services such as transportation, real estate, rentals, education, food and hospitality all opened at much higher rates than they

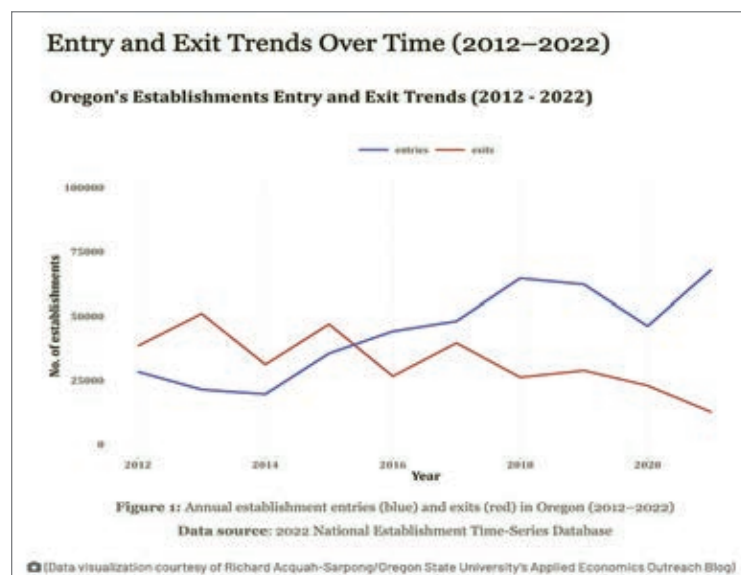
closed in Oregon during that period — about 50% more openings than closures.

This was probably driven in part by a population that grew by roughly 10% in the same period, he said. That also contributed to the sector with the single largest net gain in new establishments between 2010 and 2022: public administration. That includes new establishments that perform functions for federal, state, tribal, and local governments, such as libraries, fire stations, schools and shelters.

Roughly 2.8 new public-sector establishments opened for every one that closed during that 10-year period.

The only sector that saw more exits than entries in Oregon during the last decade were firms that manage other companies and enterprises. The manufacturing sectors for wood, paper, chemicals, metals, machinery and electronics all saw stagnation — roughly equal exit and entry numbers over the last decade.

"This is consistent with the long-run challenges for manufacturing: automation, globalization, and industry consolidation — which have led to fewer total factories and mills even as output in some areas rises,"



(Data visualization courtesy of Richard Acquah-Sarpong/Oregon State University's Applied Economics Outreach Blog)

Acquah-Sarpong wrote. Geographically, Acquah-Sarpong found Oregon's rural counties have seen the most entrepreneurial stagnation, while urban counties see the higher entry and exit numbers. Counties in the northern part of the state tend to have the highest numbers of exits and entries, which comports with population trends, he said.

Runberg cautioned that the data showing expansion in public sector establishments does not mean the state has come to rely more heavily on a public rather than private workforce, and there's been little growth in the state's public workforce in recent years.

Headwinds

Runberg said the biggest economic headwind facing Oregon in the years ahead has to do with the nexus of business growth and population growth.

"We are one of the oldest states in the U.S., and we are seeing dramatic reductions in the size of our youth population," he said. "It shifts who the consumers are, where they spend money."

He said Oregon's population looks more like Japan's or those in western European countries where an aging population is looking to be supported by a

smaller working population.

"This is not a doom and gloom statement, because if you go to those countries life is OK, but the nature of growth shifts differently," he explained.

Policy decisions that encourage young people to move to Oregon would help, he said, namely ensuring there is greater job creation in sectors that provide quality of life and wages that young people want and would move for.

"We know that people move to Oregon at a faster pace when economic opportunity is available. So if jobs are available, we see faster growth. Some of our slowing net migration is a reflection of less economic opportunity, and we can't sort of rest on our laurels," he said.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/04/07/more-business-openings-than-closings-in-oregon-in-last-decade-despite-dour-economic-stigma/>

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.

Local community projects to receive \$9M state tax dollars

Oregonians deserve local infrastructure they can count on, and new state investments will strengthen water systems, emergency response, and more, according to a release from the Oregon Senate majority Office.

In state spending bills passed last month, Senate Democrats voted to allocate about \$488 million to support community projects all across the state. More than \$9 million will go to the Oregon Coast.

"Success is about partnership," Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – E Portland, Boring & Damascus), said. "Funding local government facilities, community-based projects, and affordable housing leads to some of the most lasting, tangible

benefits we can create as a state government."

State funding is approved for the following projects on the Oregon Coast:

- Consejo Hispano (Astoria), cultural center: \$1.75 million
- Evergreen Community Partners (Depoe Bay), affordable housing: \$2.5 million
- Central Oregon Coast Fire and Rescue District, fire hall: \$1.1 million
- City of Warrenton, wastewater treatment plant: \$4 million

These investments were made by the legislature during the 2026 Session, which adjourns March 6.

View the projects on a map here: <https://bit.ly/invest-Oregon>



In state spending bills passed last month, Senate Democrats voted to allocate about \$488 million to support community projects all across the state. More than \$9 million will go to the Oregon Coast. (Metro Creative Connection)



Water sports are a popular pastime at the Ecola State Park ocean access. (Courtesy photos from the OPRD)

Ecola State Park reopens

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) announces that Ecola State Park has reopened following a landslide in December.

In a statement on social media, the OPRD announced the park reopening.

“We’re thrilled to welcome everyone back to Ecola State Park,” the OPRD said. “After its closure due to a landslide, the park has reopened and is ready for hikers, families, and anyone craving the beauty of the Oregon Coast. Thanks for your patience.”

Wrapping around Tillamook Head, between Seaside and Cannon Beach, Ecola State Park

See **PARK**, page B4



Indian Beach at Ecola State Park.

Willamette Writers presentation April 18

Please join us to discover more about the craft of our Local Authors: Rod Scher, with his publicist and illustrator: Molly Gorman Dumas, and author Cynthia Jacobi at the Central Coast Spotlighters presentation April 18.

This Willamette Writers Coastal Chapter (WWCC) meeting at the Newport Public Library from 2-4 p.m., will showcase each author in a dual presentation.

Rod Scher will present in the first hour with Molly Dumas contributing to his journey editing, magazine writing, and his current works and latest book ~ Ship of Lost Souls: The tragic Voyage of

See **WRITERS**, page B4

Newport Booster Club Spring Auction, Garage Sale

Get ready for one of our favorite events of the year! You’re invited to join us for the Newport Booster Club Spring Auction & Garage Sale Saturday, April 25 at the Newport Armory—and it’s shaping up to be a fantastic morning of fun, great deals, and community support.

(We’re also gladly accepting garage sale donations—feel free to drop off your items at the Newport Armory on Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’s a great way to clean out your garage while helping raise funds for Newport High School athletics and activities!)

Doors open at 9 a.m. for our large garage sale—come early to snag some amazing finds! Oral Auction begins at 10 a.m.,

See **BOOSTER**, page B4

The Oregon Coast Symphony Festival free Chamber Concert



The Milwaukie High School/Academy of the Arts Chamber Orchestra will be among the performers in a free Chamber Concert on Sunday April 26 at Atonement Lutheran. (Courtesy photo)

SUBMITTED

The Oregon Coast Symphony Festival announces its final free Sunday afternoon Chamber Concert of the 2026 season at 2 p.m. April 26, featuring Violinist Hal Grossman, Pianist Hung-Yun Chu and the Milwaukie High School/Academy of the Arts Chamber Orchestra in the Atonement Lutheran Church located at 2315 N Highway 101 in Newport.

Violinist Hal Grossman has been enthusiastically acclaimed by critics and audiences alike for his “vibrant tone” and “superb technique”. Grand Award Winner of the Lima Young Artist Competition and Silver Medalist of the International Stulberg String Competition, Mr. Grossman also received First Prize

See **FREE**, page B2

Scrubs, footwear fundraiser at local hospitals

Over two days this month, the hospital auxiliaries in Newport and Lincoln City are hosting fundraising scrubs sales in cooperation with Care Wear Uniforms.

The sales are open to the public, with staff from other health care, dental and veterinary offices welcome.

Newport: Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its sale on Monday, April 20, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Conference Rooms 1 and 2. This is in the hospital’s two-story building.

Lincoln City: Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its sale on Tuesday, April 21, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 8 on the hospital campus. This is east of Samaritan Health Clinic – West Devils Lake (the former Lincoln City Medical Center), 2870 NE West Devils Lake Road.

At both sites, there will be

See **HOSPITAL**, page B4

Benefit concert for Youth Arts Scholarships at Newport PAC

SUBMITTED

Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA) invites the community to an evening of live music as local pianist and composer Milo Graamans takes the stage at the Newport Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 30, for Joy Through Music.

Admission is by donation, with all proceeds supporting OCCA’s Summer Youth Camp scholarships.

The concert will feature a varied program of original compositions, classical works, and more, offering something for a wide range of musical tastes. Graamans, a staple

See **CONCERT**, page B2



Milo Graamans. (Courtesy photo)

BUILD BETTER BIRDHOUSES:

Simple steps that actually attract native birds

KYM PORKORNY
Lincoln County Leader
Guest Column

Now is a great time to get boxes up — nesting for many species runs from mid-April through the end of July.

Don't get discouraged if your nesting box doesn't draw birds the first year, said Dana Sanchez, wildlife specialist with the Oregon State University Extension Service.

"The entrance diameter is really crucial so that target species can get in, but also to diminish the opportunity for birds to be attacked by predators and competitors," Sanchez said.

Don't hang it and forget it. Check the box regularly to see if birds are being stalked by predators. If



You'll find step-by-step plans, placement advice and box dimensions for about 18 Oregon cavity-nesters in the OSU Extension guide The wildlife garden: Build nest boxes for wild birds. (Courtesy photo from Stephen Ward)

so, add a wooden block with the same-size hole to create a short tunnel that's harder for other birds, squirrels, rats and cats to reach through.

Other deterrents include a metal collar around the tree or post and various baffles you can buy

or build. As always, keep cats indoors.

Snags are superior habitat — when safe

In addition to the enjoyment of watching adults ferry food and nesting material — and then seeing fledglings appear

— birdhouses help mitigate habitat loss, said Nicole Strong, a former Extension forester and now a regional director in Central Oregon. Birds prefer dead or dying trees (snags), but many homeowners remove them for safety or aesthetics.

"If it's not a hazard, leaving up dead trees gives great habitat for wildlife," Strong said. "As they decay they provide cavities for birds. And once the trees crumble and become

If you keep a dead tree, reducing height and removing most branches can lower risk. Otherwise, well-placed birdhouses are a good alternative.

Build to spec with OSU's guide

You'll find step-by-step plans, placement advice and box dimensions for about 18 Oregon cavity-nesters — including house wrens, chickadees, woodpeckers, northern flickers, purple martins, barn owls, nuthatches and western bluebirds — in the OSU Extension guide The wildlife garden: Build nest boxes for wild birds.

Materials, cleaning and maintenance

If you make or buy a

box for one of Oregon's 45 cavity-nesting species, skip perches that can aid predators. Plain wood boxes tend to be favored over brightly painted ones. For longevity, use untreated cedar or redwood; metal can overheat.

It isn't necessary, but you can line the box with wood shavings or chips (not sawdust, which mats and holds water). Clean boxes in fall or winter with warm water. Choose designs assembled with screws so you can partially disassemble them for cleaning.

Habitat beyond the box

"Remember that a nesting box is just one piece of habitat," Strong said. "They need safe access and food and water nearby. Bird feeders can be a wonderful aid, but they must be maintained. Be consistent. Don't put them out and then take them away."

Adding bird-friendly plants and layered shrubs for shelter helps, too. A simple bird bath provides critical water.

Kim Pokorny writes for the Oregon State University Extension Service.

FREE From Page B1

Awards at the prestigious International Cleveland Quartet Competition and the National Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. His New York Debut at Carnegie Hall received exceptional reviews from the New York Times.

Philharmonic, the Lansing Symphony and the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra.

An outgrowth of Mr. Grossman's teaching is the development of The Grossman Method© and its course Creating the Healthy Musician: An Integrated Approach to Teaching Violin and Viola Mastery, a unique teaching system that addresses musicians' health and performance issues within the applied lesson structure.

at the Aria International Summer Music Academy and the ICT Young Artists Academy. He was formerly on the violin faculties at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Miami University and the University of Oklahoma.

Hung-Yun Chu A native of Taiwan, Hung-Yun holds a Doctoral degree in Piano Performance from the University of Oregon, and a Masters degree from the Peabody Conservatory, and obtained her Bachelors from Soochow University in Taipei.

Competition. In addition to being an active collaborator in Eugene, she teaches music at Lane Community College and accompanies for the Choral Department at the University of Oregon, the Eugene Symphony Chorus, and the Oregon Bach Festival. She frequently serves as the Accompanist for the American Choral Directors Association and the Oregon Music Education Association Honor Choirs, and as an Adjudicator for the Oregon Music Teachers Association.

d'Amour, op.12 by Edward Elgar. Opening the concert will be the Milwaukie High School/ Academy of the Arts Chamber Orchestra.

Located in the Portland area, this vibrant ensemble is dedicated to musical growth, collaboration, and artistic excellence. Under the new direction of Anna Trobaugh, the orchestra continues to build on a strong tradition of student musicianship and creativity.

performers who bring depth and expression to their music-making. The ensemble is known for its balance of focus and an inviting, supportive atmosphere—students approach rehearsals with a thoughtful, studious attitude while fostering a welcoming environment for one another.

This Chamber Music Concert Series is a presentation of the Oregon Coast Youth Symphony

Festival and is free with donations accepted at the door. Non perishable food items will also be collected for the Newport Food Pantry. The concert begins at 2:00 PM at Atonement Lutheran Church, located at 2315 N Hwy. 101 in Newport.

Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid! Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver. Your caregiver gets paid same day! FreedomCare

CONCERT From Page B1 Church, is a member of the Lincoln Pops Big Band, and regularly performs with numerous other ensembles throughout Lincoln County. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to enjoy a night of exceptional live music while making a meaningful difference for

local youth. Scholarships funded through this event help to open the doors of OCCA's summer programs to those who might not otherwise have the chance to participate. These camps provide immersive, hands-on performing and visual arts education—an experience that builds confidence, creativity, and connection. Newport Performing Arts Center is located at 777 W. Olive Street in Newport.

Lincoln County Leader Sudoku puzzle grid with difficulty level and instructions. Includes the text 'SUDOKU 数独' and 'DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦'.

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Donate Your Car Imagine the Difference You Can Make Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired. FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Safer choices, open conversations for alcohol awareness month

In recognition of Alcohol Awareness Month, Alcohol and Drug Prevention Education Programs (ADPEP) administrators in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties are encouraging residents to reflect on their relationship with alcohol and learn about the impact alcohol can have on individual health, families, and the community.

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance in Oregon and across the United States. While many people drink socially, excessive or underage alcohol use can increase the risk of injuries, chronic disease, mental health challenges, and substance use



Alcohol is the most commonly used substance in Oregon and across the United States. (Metro Creative Connection)

disorder. Alcohol use is also linked to increased

rates of motor vehicle crashes, violence, and

academic/workplace problems.

“Alcohol Awareness Month is an opportunity to pause and have honest, non-judgmental conversations about alcohol,” ADPEP Coordinator Stephanie Michael said. “We want people to have the information they need to make informed choices and to know that support is available if they or someone they care about needs help.”

Throughout April, Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties will share resources focused on:

- Understanding lower-risk drinking guidelines
- Preventing underage drinking
- Reducing alcohol-related harms

Supporting individuals and families affected by alcohol misuse. Parents and caregivers are also reminded that setting clear expectations and open communication can significantly reduce youth alcohol use.

If you or someone you know is concerned about alcohol use, confidential help is available. Call or text the 988 Hotline for mental health and substance use support, or visit www.findtreatment.gov to find local treatment resources.

For more information about Alcohol Awareness Month activities or available resources, visit www.rethinkthedrink.com or contact Clatsop County Public Health.

SWAFFORD ON WINE

Bring on Spring

Let new life begin to grow again. Raise a glass to bud break in the vineyard. May all of our new beginnings be fruitful and positive.

Wine, for all of its ties to glamour, festive occasions and moments mystique is still a product of farming which depends on the weather, the farmer’s touch and the enologist’s knowledge of chemistry. But we flawed humans manage to add to the challenges making things more difficult than necessary. I’ll not spend this column’s time railing against socio-political breakdowns that give us war, cost-of-living increases, unfair ethnic-based residence status which affects the labor pool used in the vineyards,

use of tariffs as weapons which has driven wine prices up and cost us important wine markets, such as Canada who stopped buying Oregon and U.S. product.



Joseph Swafford

Then there is climate change that, along with other science-based warnings, is being denied by those who would continue to profit by the continuation of burning fossil fuel. Man-made greenhouse gases are causing temperatures to rise, adversely affecting things like grape harvests: the quality of cool-climate grapes—Pinot noir is a prime example—is in jeopardy as it grows warmer.

One recent story, that would be amusing if it weren’t part of

the problem, comes from Southern France. Increasingly warmer temperatures have led to record-setting rainfall in France’s Corbieres region and

one owner of a hillside vineyard found that water running down to a stream below had nowhere to go because of a logjam also created by the weather. There was no time to wait for the water to subside and the lower vines had to be pruned, so he jumped into his kayak paddling and pruning the lower hundred-yard edge of his vineyard on the swollen creek as a new rain front prepared to move in. I can just see the marketing guys jumping on this and proclaiming on the

label something like “... premium wine from kayak-pruned vines...”

Our Annual Newport Seafood and Wine Festival, which ended in February of this year, gave me another chance to enjoy an Oregon Pinot noir made in a unique style. The 2023 Willamette Valley Vineyards Whole Cluster Fermented Pinot Noir is made from uncrushed grapes whose whole clusters of berries are gently dropped into stainless steel fermentation tanks. Then carbon dioxide (CO2) is pumped in which pushes out the oxygen and the tanks are sealed. This causes the berries to turn pink, swell and burst releasing very aromatic fermenting wine. Although WV Vineyards didn’t invent this technique, they have had good success over

the years. As far back as 1993, a 1992 Willamette Valley Vineyards Whole Berry Fermented Pinot Noir won Gold and was chosen Best-Of-Show Red Wine at that year’s Newport Seafood and Wine Festival.

I was asked again the other day, “How long can you save leftover wine before it goes bad and must be discarded?” This is of greater concern lately with alcohol consumption levels coming under scrutiny from those who say we need to cut back and therefore less wine is being poured from the bottle once opened. White wines last longer than reds. Sweeter wines, those with higher alcohol content and those that are protected from oxygen entering will last longer. Pour the wine remaining in a regular 750 milliliter

bottle into an empty half-bottle which cuts down on the headspace of air above the wine level, thus curtailing oxidation. Store all leftovers, including reds, in the refrigerator until ready to drink. Give the reds a little time to warm up at room temperature when you are ready for them. However, don’t let too much time elapse before finishing your leftover wine.

As the weather warms and we approach May, more and more good reasons present themselves to visit vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms here in Oregon wine country. Nothing better shows off the beauty of our state than the vista of a vineyard. I think we can all drink to that...

Cheers!
Joseph Swafford
jcswaff56@gmail.com

2026 Newport Community Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union, is proud to announce the 2026 Newport Community Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.

The celebration will take place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Newport National Guard Armory.

This year’s event is made possible through the generous support of our local business community,

led by presenting sponsor TLC, a Division of Fibre Federal Credit Union and partner sponsor Embarcadero Resort & Marina. Their commitment ensures that this cultural celebration remains a free, accessible, and high-quality experience for all Newport residents.

Designed as a vibrant celebration of Hispanic-American culture, the Fiesta will kick off immediately following the conclusion of the annual

Loyalty Days Parade. It serves as a central gathering point for families to connect through traditional music, authentic cuisine, and local artistry.

Event Highlights Include:

- Live Entertainment: Traditional music and dance performances celebrating heritage.
- Authentic Flavors: Local food vendors and a beverage garden sponsored by Embarcadero, featuring

regional selections for those 21+.

- Local Artistry: A showcase of handmade crafts and works by community artists.
- Family Activities: A dedicated “Kids Zone” with games and educational displays.

“The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is a cornerstone of our spring calendar, and we are thrilled to have TLC Federal Credit Union and the Embarcadero on board to help us bring this vision to life,” Greater Newport Chamber Event Director Maggie Conrad said. “Following the

tradition of the Loyalty Days Parade, we invite everyone to join us at the Armory to celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes Newport such a unique place to live and work.”

For more information regarding the event, to sign up as a volunteer, or for sponsorship inquiries, please contact Maggie Conrad at 541-265-8801 or visit www.newport-chamber.org.

About the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce
The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

is dedicated to promoting a strong local economy by supporting business growth, advocating for the interests of the business community, and fostering a vibrant quality of life in Newport and the surrounding areas.

Event Details:
What: 2026 Newport Community Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
When: Saturday, May 2, 2026, 2-6 p.m.
Where: Newport National Guard Armory, 541 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR
Cost: FREE Admission

Celebrating the Siletz Grange

April is Grange Month and in celebration the Siletz Valley Grange #558 will have an Open House from 1-3 p.m. April 18, at 224 Gaither Street in Siletz.

Refreshments will be served. Grange members will be available to answer questions and photos and memorabilia will be available for viewing. What is a Grange? The Grange is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1873 that advocates for rural America and agriculture. It emphasizes community service, family values, and grassroots activism, with a focus on education and leadership development. Members engage in various activities, including community events, educational programs, and volunteer work, fostering a sense of belonging and lifelong friendships among their members.

The Siletz Valley Grange #558 was established in 1917. The original building burned about 1948,

and the new/current building was finished in 1952 with improvements made in 2025.



OPEN POSITIONS

Fall 2026 Teaching Position
K8 Life Skills Special Education
K8 Physical Education (one year contract)
-\$50,051 - \$91,747 DOE -Generous benefits
-190 day contract -Starts 8/31/2026

Substitute Transportation Drivers
-\$20.21 per hour -Training available
-Flexible schedule - Bus or Van

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

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www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/hr/index.php

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Over 300 Combined Years of Experience

PARK

From Page B1

stretches along 9 miles of coastline and offers outstanding sightseeing and recreation opportunities combined with a storied past, according to the OPRD website.

“Though the scenic and hiking opportunities may be the main allure, the diversity of outdoor recreation including picnicking, tidepooling, surfing and wildlife observation make Ecola State park a

destination year round,” the OPRD website states. Ecola’s trails offer cliff-side viewpoints of secluded coves, forested promontories and even a long-abandoned lighthouse. The park’s network of trails include an 8-mile segment of the Oregon Coast Trail, and a 2 1/2 mile historical interpretive route called the Clatsop Loop Trail.

Part of the Clatsop Loop Trail and the trail over Tillamook Head follow in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery, according to the website.

“Captain William Clark and 12 members of the Corps of Discovery traveled through what is now the park in 1806 in search of a beached whale near present-day Cannon Beach,” the OPRD website states. After scaling the north slope of Tillamook Head and reaching one of its viewpoints, Clarke described the vista as “... the grandest and most pleasing prospects which my eyes ever surveyed.”

For more information, visit the OPRD Ecola State Park website.

WRITERS

From Page B1

the Steamship Valencia. Rod began his career teaching high school English and journalism in Oregon and California. After several years in the classroom, he left teaching to become an editor at Harcourt. Among his other pursuits that we will learn more about, he is now semi-retired and travels in his motorhome with his wife, Lesley. He currently resides in Depoe, Bay, OR <https://www.rodscher.com/>

Molly Dumas is a publicist and illustrator who lives on the Oregon Coast and recently retired from her work at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. She studied fine art under renowned Chicago artists that included John Weber and Sandra Jorgensen. She has refined her craft

in hand-pulled linocut block prints, painting and drawing. Molly is a commissioned illustrator for Rod Scher’s landscapes and ships, and is featured at Freed Gallery in Lincoln City, Oregon. www.mollydumasart.com

Cynthia Jacobi will share excerpts and readings from her book: I Know About These Things in our second hour. Cynthia’s life on the Oregon Coast has gained her several awards for her poems. She is a member of the Oregon Poetry Association, Willamette Writers, and is a visual artist who served on the Board of Directors for Writers on the Edge as well as the Northwest Poets’ Concorde. Cynthia’s poems have been in various publications including Verseweavers, Tuesday, Mortality Poems, The Grace

of Oregon Rain, and Just Imagine: Oregon Horizons. Cynthia will engage us in a visual poet’s presentation!

Both authors will have Q & A and book signing opportunities after both presentations at 3:55 p.m. Venmo, cash, or check welcome for most. Come join us with great expectations!

This program is co-hosted by the Newport Public Library.

The WW Coast Chapter (WWCC) hosts presentations from September through June. Programs are free and open to all writers 18 and older. There are Young Willamette Writer chapters for those under 18. Willamette Writers is the largest writer’s association in Oregon and one of the largest in the nation.

Join Willamette Writers at their website, <https://willamettewriters.org>

HOSPITAL

From Page B1

a large display of scrubs in popular styles and comfortable footwear brands. Other available items include compression socks, water flasks,

coolers and more.

Those who spend \$50 or more during the sale will be entered into a drawing for a \$75 gift certificate from Care Wear Uniforms.

The auxiliary will use proceeds to fund various initiatives, including

special requests by hospital departments for equipment and specialty supplies, special projects, employee grants and support for the Oregon Coast Community College nursing program.

Headlight Herald

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Tillamook Beekeepers Association Annual Bee Days

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of the United States of America

Vendors Wanted! April 2026

Cosponsored by Tillamook County Solid Waste

For more info call the Tillamook Headlight Herald office at 503-842-7535 or email headlightads@countrymedia.net

Sat. & Sun. April 25-26, 2026

Saturday 9 am to 4 pm • Sunday 11 am to 4 pm

at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds

FREE ADMISSION FREE PARKING

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

BOOSTER

From Page B1

featuring some incredible items you won’t want to miss.

Whether you’re hunting for bargains, bidding on unique experiences, or just enjoying time with fellow supporters, there’s something for everyone. Best of all, every dollar raised goes directly to support Newport High School athletics and activities—making a real difference for our student-athletes.

Bring a friend, spread the word, and come ready for a great time!

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At Oregon Coast Bank, saving isn’t just about numbers—it’s about neighbors. That’s why we created the Saver’s Club, a certificate of deposit designed to help our coastal community save for their big financial milestones.

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Custom Maturity

Options between 6 and 60 months available With a 4.00% annual percentage yield* and the ability to choose when you want to access the funds, the Saver’s Club gives you flexibility to grow while keeping your dollars invested right here at home. Open an account with a \$100 minimum deposit and continue to deposit into the account at any time. With no withdrawals before maturity (or a penalty of 90 days interest may be charged), you’ll have help staying true to your savings goals.

Ready to Save?

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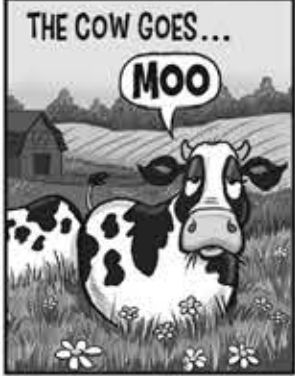
*The rate may change after the account is opened. The APY is accurate as of 03/31/2026.

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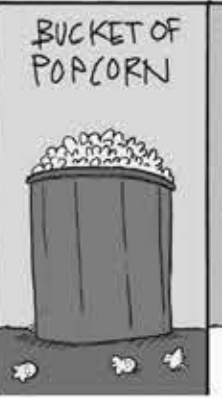
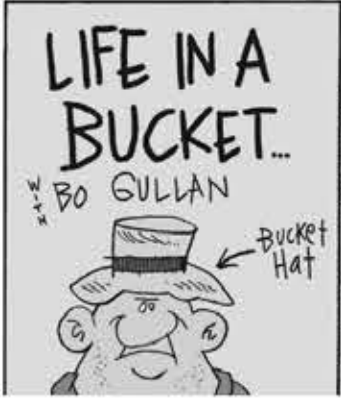
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



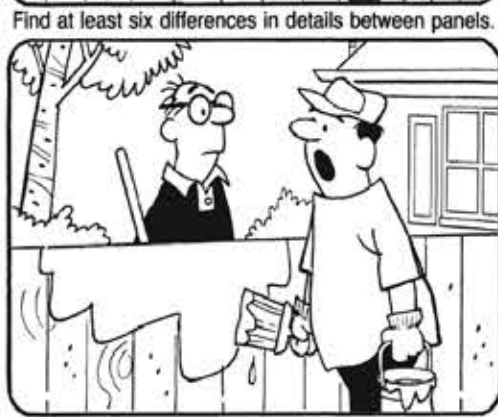
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Millholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Y equals S

MOX MT TVFX EMCVXY MT
JZH XI HGZH PZOR HRSXY
LMWDC GZFX DXZIOXC ZEMWH
ER JZHLGVON "YXYZPX YHIXXH":
DZSX XIOVX.

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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.

PMBEMG JK EMV YJIV LI

KTZHV LI EJGV UZQHVU

EMPLCRM. - HVHJY EZBYLP

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is also known to residents as Hellas?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state is the least populated?
3. ENTERTAINERS: Which show launched the career of comedian/actor Jim Carrey?
4. MOVIES: What museum is featured in the movie "Night at the Museum"?
5. HISTORY: When was Earth Day first celebrated?
6. MUSIC: Which song begins with the lines, "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy"?
7. TELEVISION: Who starred in the title role of the TV drama "Designated Survivor"?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the only sport that has been played on the moon?
9. LITERATURE: What is the name of the language used in the novel "1984"?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of giraffes called?

Answers

- 1. Greece.
2. Wyoming.
3. "In Living Color."
4. The American Museum of Natural History in New York City.
5. April 22, 1970.
6. "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen.
7. Kiefer Sutherland.
8. Golf.
9. Newspeak.
10. A tower.

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Mug CAPUTE
Flat NOPER
Grand REGAL
Bubble DEMO

TODAY'S WORD

through. - Cecil Taylor
space of time danced
Rhythm is the life of
answer
Cryptoquote

One of five bodies of water that many tykes could have learned about by watching "Sesame Street".

CryptoQuip

1. Teacup; 2. Prone; 3. Large; 4. Dome
Today's Word
GOLDEN

SCRAMBLERS

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

and other fees. Auction to be pursuant to Auction Rules and Procedures for Trux Holdings. Rules are available at the facility office. All bidding will take place ONLINE at bid13.com. Unit#LB21 Blanche Crawford, Unit#G74 Mark Hopkins 4/15/26 4/22/26

LCL26-166 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN Probate Department Case No. 26PB02153. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. In the Matter of the Estate of MARY PATRICIA KEENE, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that April Van Wagoner has been appointed as the personal representative of the above estate as of April 7, 2026. Lisa Bruns, the original personal representative, has resigned as of April 7, 2026. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the personal representative in care of the undersigned attorney at 17040 Pilkington Road, Suite 200, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, within four months after the date of publication

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and published on April 15, 2026. April Van Wagoner, Personal Representative. Jeremy Herring, OSB No. 063586, Bridgeport Law Group, Attorney for Personal Representative, 17040 Pilkington Road, Suite 200, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, Tel (503) 620-0114, Fax (503) 994-5193. Email: jeremy@herringlegal.com 4/15/26

LCL26-167 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING. A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting will take place on Monday April 20th at 6:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after Friday April 10th at City Hall, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, or may be viewed on the City's website at www.lincolncity.org. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. 4/15/26

LCL26-168 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING. A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Lincoln County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting will take place on Monday April 20th at 5:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after Friday April 10th at City

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

Hall, between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, or may be viewed on the City's website at www.lincolncity.org. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. 4/15/26

LCL26-169 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Budget Committee of the City of Lincoln County, Lincoln County, State of Oregon, will conduct a public hearing on Monday April 20th at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers, Third Floor, Lincoln Square, 801 SW Highway 101, for the purpose of receiving citizens comments on use of State Revenue Sharing funds for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. 4/15/26

LCL26-170 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RITA PAMILA SCHWARTZ, DECEASED, LINCOLN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 26PB03064, NOTICE TO INTERESTED

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONS. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claim to the Personal Representative, Michelle Bouvia-Emoitt, within four months after the first publication date of this notice, or they may be barred. The address for claims is: Michelle Bouvia-Emoitt, c/o Attorney Joel E. Kalberer of Weatherford Thompson, 130 W. First Ave., PO Box 667, Albany, OR 97321. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative or the attorney named above. Date of publication: April 15, 2026.

LCL26-171 THE PACIFIC COMMUNITIES HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS will hold a Virtual meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. by Microsoft Teams or in person at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, Conference room 1, 930 SW Abbey St., Newport, Oregon

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

97365. Persons interested in joining the Virtual meeting must have the Microsoft Teams downloaded on a personal computer or cell phone. To request a Teams Meeting invite please email Kooksum.samhealth.org or call NE Salem, OR 97303, 541-574-4674. To join by phone (audio only) option, directly call 1-971-254-1254, followed by Conference ID: 856 048 271#. Agenda: Call to Order, Additions or Change to Agenda, Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2026; Invitation for Citizen Comments, Hospital Update/ Foundation Update, Financial Reports, Admin Fees & Structure Review, Budget Timeline & Budget Director Nomination, Legal Counsel Report, Construction/Facilities/ Water Resiliency Update, Development of FF&E, Board Items, Potential Meeting Time Change, Adjourn. 4/15/26

LCL26-172 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON; FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN; PROBATE DEPARTMENT; In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN MICHAEL FRENCH, Deceased, Case No. 26PB02809; NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Patricia Ferrell-French has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at PO Box 781, Corvallis, Oregon 97339, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, John H. Myers, Evashevski Elliott PC, PO Box 781, Corvallis, OR 97339. Dated and first published on April 15, 2026. Patricia Ferrell-French, Personal Representative 4/15/26

LCL26-173 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of CORINNE LOUISE CITY, OREGON, Deceased, Case No. 26PB02409 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-captioned estate. The lawyer for the personal representative is Laura A. Laskey, OSB#202484, of LaLaLaw llc. All persons having a claim against this estate are required to present them to the undersigned personal representative at 2604 NE HWY 101, Ste B, Lincoln City, OR 97337, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative. DATED AND PUBLISHED ON: April 15, 2026. /s/ Kimberly Akamine, Personal Representative 4/15/26

LCL26-174 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of JANICE ANN KORN, Deceased, Case No. 26PB03170 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 7, 2026, Michelina J. Engel, was appointed as Personal Representative of the above-referenced estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative or to Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney, at the addresses listed below, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain

additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Personal Representative Michelle J. Engel, 1085 Swingingwood Drive NE, Salem, OR 97303, (503) 881-8547. Attorney for Personal Representative Stacey D. Mealer, Attorney OSB#023915, PO Box 81 ~ 1195 Main Street Suite 2, Sweet Home, OR 97386, (541) 270-2406 ~ Mealer@actionnet.net 4/15/26

LCL26-177 FORECLOSURE SALE AT THE STORAGE PLACES/SOUTH BEACH MINI STORAGE. 4822 S Coast Hwy South Beach OR 97366. Starting at 10:30am on 4/24/25 for #A28 rented by Duane Ryans, unit #A10 rented by Jerry Lund and unit #A03 rented by Jan Cunningham. 4/15/26 4/22/26

LCL26-147 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 98B Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 4/24/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COAST TOWING INC 110 NW 55TH ST NEWPORT, OR, 2023 WRA 4D VIN 1C4HJXFP5G0P59249. Amount due on lien \$8091.00 Reputed owner(s) > RACHEL NAOMI MARSHALL 4/8/26 4/15/26

LCL26-136 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE LOAN NO: 0682559778 T.S. NO.: 25-16661 Reference is made to that certain deed made by, Archie Klement, an unmarried man as Grantor to West-ern Title & Escrow, as trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS"), AS BENEFICIARY, AS NOMINEE FOR HOMEBOUND MORTGAGE, INC. ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 2/5/2003, recorded 2/6/2003, in official records of Lincoln County, Oregon as Instrument No. 200302034 (indicated which), covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: A/P: R313719 Lot 7, Block 10, BRAEMAR, in the City of Lincoln City, County of Oregon. Property Commonly known as: 2724 NW LEE AVE, LINCOLN CITY, OREGON 97337 Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.735(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes, and the trustee has elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed. A Trustee's Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Terms of Trust Deed has been recorded in the Official Records of Lincoln County, Oregon. 9. TIME OF SALE: Date: May 21, 2026. Time: 11:00 a.m. Place: Lincoln County Courthouse, Main Entrance (parking lot side) 225 W. Olive, Newport, Oregon 97365. 10. RIGHT TO REINSTATE. Any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time that is not later than five days before the Trustee conducts the sale, to have this foreclosure dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment of the entire amount then due, other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred, by curing any other default that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed and by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amount provided in ORS 86.778. NOTICE REGARDING POTENTIAL HAZARDS (This notice is required for notices of sale sent on or after January 1, 2015). Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamine, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. You may reach the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 503-684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-7636 or you may visit its website at: www.osbar.org. Legal assistance may be available if you have a low income and meet federal poverty guidelines. For more information and a directory of legal aid programs, go to http://www.oregonlawhelp.org. Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to Lisa Summers, Paralegal, (541) 686-0344 (TS #30057.31859), DATED: December 31, 2025. Nancy K. Cary, Successor Trustee, Hershner Hunter, LLP, P.O. Box 1475, Eugene, OR 97440, 3/18/26 3/25/26 4/1/26 4/8/26

Super Crossword

- ACROSS 51 - B. DeMille 99 Bread variety 7 Actress 47 What the number in brackets is for the people featured in this puzzle 83 Cram, e.g. 84 Novelist Morrison 86 "I've got it!" 87 Mother superior, e.g. 88 Five pairs 89 Sis or bro 90 Actor Hamm 91 Single-stranded cell stuff 93 Brontë's Jane 94 Feat of skill 98 "Come Back, Little —" (1952 film) 101 Supple 102 "Exile" New Age singer 104 "For sure!" 105 Jargon suffix 107 "Buffy the Vampire —" 108 Walk with a limp 110 "It's true!" 112 Aviator's guidepost 114 Connect 115 "Casablanca" heroine 116 Roman 1,551 117 Make anew 118 Cause of ruin 119 Mimicked 120 Chances 123 Ram's mate 124 Muhammad of the ring 125 Large 126 Money unit of Japan

Grid for Super Crossword with numbers 1-134 indicating starting positions for words.

Home & More Real Estate Services advertisement for Tilamook County Solid Waste, April 25-26, 2026. Includes contact info for Katherine at headlightads@countrymedia.net.

Lincoln County Leader advertisement with phone number 541-265-8571 and a scenic background image.

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A photo from Zack Hankins' Oregon signing event on Nov. 14. (Photo Courtesy photo from Taft High 7-12 Athletics Facebook page)

Zack Hankins has been outstanding at the plate, on the mound, and on base for the Tigers this season. (Courtesy photo from Lon French)

Taft's Zack Hankins savoring senior season

WILL LOHRE

Lincoln County Leader

"I think my mindset has changed because I understand this is my last year here, so I'm trying to enjoy every part of it while also staying focused. I've put more pressure on myself in a good way to lead by example and make sure I'm doing everything I can to help the team win. I also know every game matters, so I'm trying not to take anything for granted," Zack Hankins said.

Hankins is in his final season on the mound for Taft High School, and with his baseball journey for the Tigers coming to an end, he's trying to make the most of it.

So far, those efforts have been rewarded with results on the diamond; the Tigers have been one of the top 3A teams in the state. In their first 12 games of 2026, Taft had 12 consecutive wins and started 3-0 in Special District 3.

As the reigning 3A All-State Pitcher of the Year, Hankins has been one of the main

arms for Taft's pitching staff, though there are plenty of sure hands in the bullpen for the Tigers. Though receiving the 2025 All-State recognition was a proud moment, Hankins credited the people around him for helping him get to that spot. He also said he's hungry to achieve more.

"It meant a lot because it showed that the work I put in was paying off. At the same time, I know awards come from team success too, so I looked at it as something that reflected the people around me as well," Hankins said. "I was thankful for it, but it also motivated me because I know there's still more I want to accomplish."

Well, Hankins has been painting the corners this year and is showing the capability that made him one of Oregon's best last season.

In 25 innings on the mound for Taft, Hankins has already amassed 58 strikeouts against 91 batters. In a season of stellar play, his standout game came against Creswell on Apr. 4. Hankins pitched a no-hitter

in seven innings, striking out 16 of the 23 batters he faced, allowing Taft to win a 1-0 pitching masterclass.

A two-way player, Hankins has also been steadfast at the plate, putting up impressive numbers for the Tigers. In 12 games for Taft, Hankins has 18 hits (including five doubles and a triple) and 10 RBI.

With play at a high level on offense and defense, Hankins was named Athlete of the Week by OSAA for Mar. 30-Apr. 5. During that time, Hankins went 5-8, posting a .625 batting average and .777 on-base percentage. That week also saw him post two pitching wins, including the 16-strikeout no-hitter versus Creswell.

His track record for the Tigers has secured him a future opportunity to play college ball. In November of 2025, Hankins signed with the University of Oregon, marking that he would attend and play baseball for the Ducks next year.

It wasn't a decision made overnight, and Hankins wanted

to make sure the choice he made offered a chance to go further not only in baseball but in life.

"The process took a lot of thought because I wanted to make sure I picked a place that felt right both for baseball and for my future. What stood out about University of Oregon was the coaching staff, the environment, and how comfortable I felt when I was around the program," Hankins said. "It felt like a place where I could keep developing as a player and also be pushed to grow as a person."

Hankins' breakout season in 2025 earned him a chance to play beyond high school, and he couldn't have done it without his support system. Hankins said his development as a player has come down to his coaches, teammates, and family. In some cases, those things are the same, like the fact that his dad, Dustin, is also his head coach.

"My coaches have pushed me and helped me understand the game at a higher level, while my teammates have

made me better every day by competing and holding each other accountable. My family has probably had the biggest impact because they've always supported me and kept me grounded through everything," Hankins said.

Well, the University of Oregon will have to wait for now. Hankins and the Tigers still have plenty of work left to do to build off last season's state semifinal appearance. Though a 12-0 start has already seen them top the 3A rankings in the early season, no champion was crowned in April. With a little over a month remaining in his Tigers career, Zack Hankins will just be soaking it all in, savoring every second he has left.

"I'm most excited just to compete with this group one more time. Senior year makes everything mean a little more, and I want to make the most of every game, every practice, and every moment with the team," Hankins said. "We have goals we want to reach, and I'm excited to see what we can do together."

Boomers Coach Kyle Wolf receives OSAA recognition

WILL LOHRE

Lincoln County Leader

Each month, the Oregon School Activities Association recognizes four coaches for Coaching Excellence. The award is given to coaches who demonstrate outstanding leadership, help students reach their full potential, and show dedication to both their team and community.

Thanks to his hard work on the sidelines and off the court in service to his team and community, Toledo's boys basketball Head Coach Kyle Wolf was announced as the recipient of the March Coaching Excellence award.

The award came after the Boomers finished the season with a 14-13 record and qualified for the state tournament for the first time since 2022. It was a big achievement for a

Toledo team that has reached considerable heights in recent seasons.

Since taking on the head coaching gig, Wolf has transformed the program. His first full season as head coach, the Boomers finished 12-11, an 11-win improvement over the prior year's 1-23 outing. The 2025-26 campaign saw the Boomers finish 5-5, the best record for Toledo since they went 9-3, four years ago.

The crown jewel of the season was a 68-56 win over Crosshill Christian that assured a spot in the state playoff bracket. Having lost to Cross Hill twice earlier this year, the league playoff win showed how much the Boomers had grown throughout the campaign.

The announcement of Wolf's Coaching Excellence award read:



Head Coach Kyle Wolf has continued to improve the Boomers Basketball team. (Courtesy photo from OSAA)

"Kyle exemplifies coaching excellence through his commitment to student development, program growth, community dedication, and sportsmanship. A proud Toledo High School alumnus, Kyle returned to his alma mater two years ago with one goal: give back to the program and school that helped shape the man he is today. What he inherited was a once-proud basketball program that had slipped badly—just one win over two seasons. What he's built is a program on the rise and back in position to compete for a league championship. The program is better, the kids are better, and Toledo basketball is back where it belongs."

With Wolf at the helm, things have been improving for Toledo High School. Getting a statewide award is just the cherry on top.

Lincoln County Leader

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