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PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader



Three riders navigate the new Groundswell adaptive trail at Buzzard Butte. (Courtesy photo from Ben Moon)

New trails open at Buzzard Butte Trail Network near Pacific City

The development of one of Oregon’s newest mountain biking destinations has reached what organizers describe as a major milestone with the opening of three new trails at the Buzzard Butte Trail Network. Located east of Sand Lake between Cape Kiwanda and Cape Lookout in the USDA Siuslaw National Forest’s Hebo Ranger District, the Buzzard Butte Trail

See **TRAILS**, page A2

City replacing emergency sirens

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln City’s emergency sirens are being replaced and relocated. “The sirens are very outdated,” Lincoln City Emergency Coordinator Cassidy Boyle said. “Deterioration has been caused by erosion. Coastal air and salt water has taken a toll on them.” Following approval by the Lincoln City Council, the city has entered into a contract with ATI Systems, Inc. for a cost not to exceed \$230,858.78 for the removal of the old tsunami sirens and to replace them with five new tsunami sirens, according to a Lincoln City Public information Officer Kevin Mattais. “The new locations for the sirens are: Roads End, Oceanlake, D River,



This emergency siren at Roads End is one of the sirens to be replace. (Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

Taft and Cutler City,” Mattais said. “Most of the material is on hand and the contractor is working siting and preparing the sites for installation.” The specific date for when the new siren system would be operational was not immediately available. See **SIRENS**, page A2

\$11M Schooner Creek Discovery Park nearing competition

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Work to develop Lincoln City’s newest and most innovative city park is nearing completion. Lincoln City Parks Director Jeanne Sprague responds to the following questions from the Lincoln County Leader to explain the latest developments at Schooner Creek Discovery Park. **Lincoln County Leader:** We understand that the final phase of the park was to be completed this year. What is the status of that final phase and what does it include? **Jeanne Sprague:** Right now, the City is moving forward with construction of Phase/ Year 3 of the covered multi-sport court, the 3 permanent pickleball courts, the park walkway, and the public art project for Phase 3. We may need to delay construction of the multi-sport turfied fields – this has not been confirmed yet. We just completed and opened Phase 2, with an



Artist Jeremy Nichols (above) adds a design to the new public artwork at Schooner Creek Discovery Park. (Courtesy photos)

This large mural has been erected (above right) marking a new public art installation at Schooner Creek Discovery Park.

A drone flyover photo (right) of the Schooner Creek Discovery playground before the new artwork was installed.



Oregon parks survey released

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Oregonians deeply value their state parks, are increasingly noticing signs of wear across the

park system and support exploring additional ways to provide stable, long-term funding, according to a new statewide survey released by Environment Oregon. The findings were released along with a national Investing in Nature report, which examines maintenance backlog trends and how states are addressing those backlogs.

With more than 250 parks spanning 113,000 acres — including over 50 campgrounds — Oregon’s park system offers something for every kind of outdoor enthusiast, according to the report. In 2024 alone, the parks welcomed more than 53 million daytime visitors and 2.8 million overnight

See **SURVEY**, page A4



Environmental Oregon Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles, staff and volunteers releasing the results of the Oregon Parks survey. (Courtesy photo)



Weather

Wednesday: High-60/Low-51
AM Clouds/PM Sun

Thursday: High-59/Low-51
AM Showers

Friday: High-61/Low-52
AM Clouds/PM Sun

Saturday: High-63/Low-51
AM Clouds/PM Sun

Sunday: High-63/Low-51
Partly Cloudy

Monday: High-63/Low-52
AMFog/PM Clouds

Tuesday: High-62/Low-53
Partly Cloudy

Past Weather

On the Coast

	Rain	Low	High
30-Jun.....	0	54.44 °F	63.12 °F
01-Jul.....	0	54.08 °F	63.54 °F
02-Jul.....	0	51.36 °F	64.55 °F
03-Jul.....	0.01	55.75 °F	66.04 °F
04-Jul.....	0	55.87 °F	63.25 °F
05-Jul.....	0	49.78 °F	63.79 °F
06-Jul.....	0	50.12 °F	60.87 °F
Total rainfall from Jan. 1.....27.01"			

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

High.....	12:42 a.m.	10.0
Low.....	7:46 a.m.	-2.3
High.....	2:30 p.m.	7.4
Low.....	7:36 p.m.	2.7

THURSDAY, JULY 16

High.....	1:35 a.m.	9.6
Low.....	8:30 a.m.	-2.0
High.....	3:11 p.m.	7.7
Low.....	8:31 p.m.	2.3

FRIDAY, JULY 17

High.....	2:27 a.m.	9.0
Low.....	9:12 a.m.	-1.3
High.....	3:52 p.m.	7.9
Low.....	9:29 p.m.	2.1

SATURDAY, JULY 18

High.....	3:20 a.m.	8.2
Low.....	9:52 a.m.	-0.6
High.....	4:33 p.m.	8.1
Low.....	10:28 p.m.	1.9

SUNDAY, JULY 19

High.....	4:16 a.m.	7.2
Low.....	10:32 a.m.	0.4
High.....	5:14 p.m.	8.2
Low.....	11:31 p.m.	1.7

MONDAY, JULY 20

High.....	5:20 a.m.	6.2
Low.....	11:12 a.m.	1.4
High.....	5:55 p.m.	8.1

TUESDAY, JULY 21

Low.....	12:38 a.m.	1.4
High.....	6:36 a.m.	5.5
Low.....	11:54 a.m.	2.4
High.....	6:38 p.m.	8.1

Sunrise/Sunset

July 15.....	5:45 a.m.	8:59 p.m.
July 16.....	5:46 a.m.	8:59 p.m.
July 17.....	5:47 a.m.	8:58 p.m.
July 18.....	5:48 a.m.	8:57 p.m.
July 19.....	5:49 a.m.	8:56 p.m.
July 20.....	5:50 a.m.	8:56 p.m.
July 21.....	5:51 a.m.	8:55 p.m.
July 22.....	5:52 a.m.	8:54 p.m.
July 23.....	5:53 a.m.	8:53 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, July 10

Mega Millions

2 • 39 • 44 • 46 • 56 • PB-23

Saturday, July 11

Powerball

8 • 10 • 14 • 45 • 59 • PB-5 • x2

Saturday, July 11

Megabucks

4 • 5 • 10 • 18 • 25 • 37

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Lincoln County Leader

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Newport resident arrested in child luring case

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

A Newport resident has been arrested and charged following an online exploitation of a local minor investigation in Lane County.

In February 2026, detectives from the Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO), as part of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, began an investigation into the online exploitation of a local child involving the Snapchat application.

“On July 1, 2026, investigators identified the suspect as 19-year-old Diego Rojas-Hernandez of Newport, Oregon,” LCSO Sgt. Levi McKenny said.

Because Rojas-Hernandez resided outside Lane County, LCSO requested assistance from the Oregon State Police.

“Later that same day, Oregon State Police detectives arrested Rojas-Hernandez on charges of Luring a Minor and Online Sexual Corruption in the Second Degree,” McKenny said.

Rojas-Hernandez was lodged at the Lincoln

County Jail.

The Lane County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is committed to investigating internet-based crimes against children and working with local, state, and federal partners to identify offenders and protect vulnerable members of our community, according to McKenny.

Oregon State Police, the Lane County District Attorney’s Office, and the Lincoln County District Attorney’s Office, assisted the LCSO in the investigation.



SIRENS

From Page A1

Over the past couple of years, the Lincoln City city staff have been reviewing and revising plans for replacement of the City’s tsunami sirens. The selected contractor was sourced through a U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Collective Procurement Arrangement. The contractor will be utilizing local contractors as subs, according to the city staff report.

“Several plans were reviewed to determine

siren type and location to determine the best fit for our needs,” the report states. “Ultimately five sirens spread across Lincoln City were chosen. This will provide warnings and information at seventy-decibels (70db) along the entire coastline in the city.”

Boyle is encouraging residents and visitors to be aware of what to do if the city experiences a major emergency, such as an earthquake and tsunami, while the sirens are being replaced.

“First and foremost, look for the natural signs of a tsunami,” she said.

“That would be a rise and fall of the ocean. A loud roar from the ocean, or an earthquake. Those are things we like to teach, and we also tell people to sign up for Lincoln Alerts.”

The Lincoln Alerts notification system enables the agencies within Lincoln County to provide the public with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, including severe weather, distant tsunamis, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods due to a hazardous material event or a possible wildfire

situation.

Community members, visitors, and businesses can choose up to 3 ways to receive emergency notifications and community information from Public Safety, City, Tribal, and County Officials for Lincoln County. Community members should also be knowledgeable of our local radio, print, television, and online media sources who will provide additional information from local public safety officials as it becomes available, Lincoln County states in its social media post concerning Lincoln Alerts.

In addition to the installation of new emergency sirens and the systems to operate them, the city staff report said the plan includes a reasonable fee to remove the old sirens.

“Staff believe this would be more cost effective than removal at a later date. In addition, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has been contacted by a nonprofit that is interested in the old sirens. The non-profit works with the Autism and Asperger’s community, they provide sirens and like-items to children with these conditions to restore them” the staff report states.

TRAILS

From Page A1

Network now offers nearly seven miles of trail following the opening of Mossy Hogs, Wavelength and Skizafernia., according to the Tillamook Off-Road Trail Alliance (TORTA)/

The approximately \$2 million project will ultimately include nearly 30 miles of trails and a skills park designed to serve riders of all experience levels.

The trail system is also

being developed with accessibility in mind. Later this summer, riders will gain access to the Groundswell Adaptive Trail, a purpose-built trail designed to expand adaptive mountain biking opportunities on the Tillamook Coast.

“Opening Mossy Hogs, Wavelength and Skizafernia is a significant milestone for a project that has been years in the making,” Tillamook Off-Road Trail Alliance Board Vice President Ron Baker said. “Buzzard Butte has been built through

thousands of volunteer hours, strong partnerships and a shared vision for creating high-quality mountain biking opportunities on the Oregon Coast. We’re excited to welcome riders to the network and continue building toward a trail system that can be enjoyed by people of varying abilities and experience levels.”

The Buzzard Butte Trail Network has been developed through a collaborative effort involving TORTA, the U.S. Forest Service and numerous public and private

partners. Funding and support have come from Travel Oregon, Oregon State Parks Recreational Trails Program, Shimano’s Trail Born Fund, Kubota and Tillamook County transient lodging tax funds, along with the contributions of local volunteers, trail builders, adaptive riders and advocates.

“Travel Oregon is proud to support the Buzzard Butte Trail Network through grant funding,” Travel Oregon’s Director of Stewardship Investments Michelle Woodard said. “Our vision for Oregon is a welcoming destination for all, and that includes the state’s world-class outdoor recreation opportunities. The inclusive trails at Buzzard Butte ensure all riders can access this incredible resource, including those using adapted mountain bikes.”

To coincide with the trail openings, Visit Tillamook Coast has released a new short film highlighting the project and its commitment to accessible outdoor recreation. Buzzard Butte Trail Network | Accessible Adventure on the

Tillamook Coast follows adaptive riders Quinn and Joe as they experience the soon-to-open Groundswell Adaptive Trail alongside local trail builders and advocates. The film previews the adaptive riding experience at Buzzard Butte and highlights the partnerships helping make outdoor recreation more inclusive on the Tillamook Coast.

“Outdoor recreation should be something more people can experience and enjoy, regardless of ability,” said Dan Haag, interim executive director of Visit Tillamook Coast. “What makes Buzzard Butte special is that accessibility wasn’t treated as an afterthought. It was part of the conversation from the beginning. We’re proud to support this film because it showcases the partnerships and commitment that are helping create more inclusive outdoor experiences on the Tillamook Coast.”

Learn more about the Buzzard Butte Trail Network, watch the film and plan your ride at www.tillamookcoast.com/ mountain-biking.

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

Sudoku answers

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Emergency wastewater line repair completed at courthouse

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

The Lincoln County courthouse wastewater emergency has been resolved, and full service was restored by the end of the day Friday, according to a release from Commissioner Casey Miller.

The work follows the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners' emergency action on July 2.

According to Miller, the response involved a relatively uncommon use of the county's emergency declaration authority.

Faced with a failed wastewater line, the loss of water service to much of the courthouse, and the possibility that essential courthouse services could be disrupted, the Board used an emergency meeting and expedited

procurement process to allow repairs to begin immediately.

"I really appreciate everyone who jumped in to get this resolved so quickly," Miller said. "From our legal and facilities teams to PIO communications and our local contractors, people worked together and got the job done. Emergency declarations are not something we use very often, but in this case the process allowed us to respond to an immediate problem, protect essential public services, and empower the people closest to the problem to move quickly."

Miller said, the county's contractors Rau Plumbing and JSC Contractors rearranged their schedules over a major holiday weekend to address the emergency.

"Because of those quick efforts, we avoided what



Local service providers Rau Plumbing and JSC Contractors rearranged their schedules over the major holiday weekend to complete the emergency repair. By Monday morning, the excavation area had been filled and covered, required inspections had been approved by the City of Newport. (Courtesy photos)

could have been a courthouse closure Monday morning," Miller said. "I am grateful to everyone



The repairs were made in the Heather Hosey Memorial Garden, located immediately outside the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office windows.

involved for responding quickly, protecting public access, and completing the repair for under \$10,000."

Oregon lawmakers prioritize bipartisanship in transportation funding plan

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Bipartisanship and earlier deliberations over transportation funding are a priority in the 2027 legislative session, a mostly Democratic group of lawmakers told the business and transportation experts tasked with vetting and recommending ideas to solve the Oregon Department of Transportation's impending funding shortfall.

For a third year in a row, lawmakers in January will meet in Salem knowing the state's transportation agency can't afford to maintain its current services levels without new funding.

But this time, lawmakers hope they'll have a clearer, sustainable plan with guidance from Gov. Tina Kotek's 12-member "Rebuilding our Transportation Vision" workgroup. In its third meeting, the workgroup Tuesday, July 7, invited seven lawmakers for a roundtable to reflect on past legislative mistakes and the policy ideas they think could reach across party lines.

"I'm looking for something that can garner not just the majority, but something close to a consensus and to do so in a bipartisan way," said Rep. David Gomborg, D-Otis.

Sens. Anthony Broadman, D-Bend; Khahn Pham, D-Portland; Chris Gorsek, D-Gresham; and Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Reps. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove and Mark



Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, alongside a panel of lawmakers, addresses Gov. Tina Kotek's "Rebuilding Our Transportation Vision Workgroup" at the Association of Oregon Counties office in Salem on Tuesday, July 7, 2026. (Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

Gamba, D-Milwaukie, joined Gomborg.

Starr, the lone Republican lawmaker on the panel, said he was encouraged by his colleagues' bipartisan goals.

"I'm really hopeful that the work that you'll do will help to inform a bipartisan consensus-based package that comes forward potentially, but let's not kid ourselves about the challenges facing us," he told the workgroup.

After Democrats in a fall 2025 special session

passed a scaled-down, highly unpopular transportation plan to raise \$4.3 million over the next decade, Starr alongside Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams spearheaded a petition that successfully blocked hikes to the gas tax and other transportation fees after a referendum vote in May.

Oregonians overwhelmingly voted against those tax and fee hikes, and the state's massive transportation agency still doesn't have a permanent director, Starr reminded the group. The agency is on

its second interim director after former director Kris Strickler retired from the public sector last year.

Oregon lawmakers brainstorm ways to relieve gas tax reliance

Many lawmakers agreed that Oregon's transportation system overrelies on the gas tax.

Half of the money raised from the gas tax goes to the state, and the remaining is split between cities and counties. But as more Oregonians drive electric vehicles and the cost of transportation materials and labor increases, the state and localities have gradually collected less

revenue from the gas tax despite fuel-efficient vehicles contributing to the wear and tear of public roads.

Democrats suggested indexing the gas tax so it's proportional to inflation, taxing the sale of new vehicles or drivers who buy a new car worth more than \$75,000. Another suggestion was finding a way to tax tourists who contribute to wear and tear on state roads.

The workgroup and lawmakers also concluded that Oregon's transportation agency has too much

See **PLAN**, page A6



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PARK

From Page A1

event stage with capacity for 66 persons, an event lawn with capacity for 1800 persons, entry plaza with art mural/ donor wall/ donor pavers, a promenade with historical timeline, public restrooms with a universal changing table, 78 parking spaces, and many native plantings including a bioswale.

Our park is designed, per public input, as 50% planned recreation amenities (such as playgrounds and stage) and 50% natural recreation with trail, pathways, and over 27,000 plants, shrubs and trees installed.

Lincoln County Leader: Overall, what do you believe this new park offers the community and our visitors?

Sprague: This is a park where everybody finds their favorite spot, whether it’s playing ball, enjoying nature, or simply socializing with others. ‘Everybody’ includes all ages and abilities, residents and tourists alike. We are intentionally offering more recreation spaces to include everybody – as adults want to play just as much as kids!

This park is not just about physical and mental health and wellness, but also about socialization and community.

Kudos for this park

vision and design needs to be paid directly to our community, City Council, and our Advisory Board. They voiced that this new park must welcome all, and we’re doing what they asked.

Lincoln County Leader: What is it about the park that you believe is unique and intriguing?

Sprague: This park design focuses on inclusion and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We have worked with the public and many community partners to make everyone feel that they belong in our park.

To foster a sense of community and belonging, we offer opportunities at SCDP for all to recreate together, to find challenges at their own level, and to have choice. We know the minimum standards of accessibility – and we know to advance to be even more inclusive.

We constructed the 1st public inclusive and accessible playground on the Coast with much partner involvement. We will also offer the following inclusive amenities at SCDP: hearing loops, universal changing table, RightHear program for vision impaired, communication boards, and mobi mats when needed.

Lincoln County Leader: What was the price tag for this new park and how was it funded?

Sprague: We have been incredibly fortunate to

have had great success in forming partnerships with organizations that support our efforts and see our vision for this park. We have raised over \$3.6M in alternative funding towards our \$11M Schooner Creek Discovery Park project. The remaining balance is funded through the City.

Between grants, legislative dollars, endowments, foundations, our capital campaign, sponsorships, some wonderful partnerships, and Friends of Lincoln City Parks & Recreation, this fundraised money was a huge assist to park development. In addition to the financial support, we have received endless enthusiasm, encouragement and support in the development of SCDP!

Lincoln County Leader: Are there any other areas of Lincoln City that your department is focusing on that could be possible sites for other park development, why those areas, and where would those sites be?

Sprague: At this time, we are fully focusing on completion of SCDP Phase 3 before we aim for further park development. With the guidance of our LCP&R Advisory Board, we are following our 2016 20-year Parks System Plan. In this month of July, the Board is finalizing the 10-year amendment of the plan with me, to present to City Council on August 24.

We continue to complete

deferred parks maintenance as we’re able, which results in ongoing park improvements.

New Public Artwork

A new public art installation celebrating the Oregon Coast’s native wildlife and natural beauty has joined the Lincoln City Art Trail at Schooner Creek Discovery Park.

Titled “Nature’s Meeting Spot,” the mural was created by PangeaSeed, a non-profit creative studio that inspires ocean conservation through public art, and painted by artist Jeremy Nichols. As the newest stop along the city’s growing collection of murals, sculptures, and mosaics, the artwork invites visitors to experience the intersection of art, nature, and community while exploring one of Lincoln City’s newest public gathering spaces.

Inspired by the colorful sunsets of the Oregon Coast, “Nature’s Meeting Spot” features a bright, vibrant color palette and showcases several native species, including the great blue heron, osprey, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Dungeness crab, eulachon, silverspot butterfly, Roosevelt elk, and great egret.

The location itself also serves as an important source of inspiration. Flowing through the heart of Lincoln City before emptying into Siletz Bay, Schooner Creek is part of a 20-square-mile watershed

that serves as a vital source of the community’s drinking water and provides critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other native species. The new mural celebrates the diverse wildlife throughout the Siletz Bay and Schooner Creek estuary and the surrounding coastal forests, while highlighting the deep connection between the community and the natural environment that defines Lincoln City.

“This new mural beautifully captures the spirit of Lincoln City and the connection between our creative community and the extraordinary natural environment that surrounds us,” Explore Lincoln City Director Kim Cooper Findling said. “It showcases the power of collaboration while creating another welcoming space where residents and visitors alike can experience the wildlife, artistry, and sense of place that make Lincoln City so special. It’s a wonderful reminder that public art can inspire curiosity, spark connection, and deepen appreciation for the landscapes we call home.”

Visitors can experience “Nature’s Meeting Spot” as part of the Lincoln City Art Trail, a free digital passport that places visitors on a self-guided journey through more than 30 public art installations across the city, including sculptures, murals, mosaics, and other

creative works. The trail offers an interactive way to explore Lincoln City’s vibrant art scene while discovering the community’s distinctive coastal character.

Once completed, Cooper Findling said Schooner Creek Discovery Park will serve as a vibrant community destination where visitors can relax, connect, and experience the beauty of the surrounding environment. Thoughtfully designed landscapes will create inviting spaces to gather, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors, while commemorative pavers and a donor wall will recognize the community members whose support helped bring the park’s vision to life.

Funded through the Lincoln City Percent for Art program, “Nature’s Meeting Spot” was selected through a collaborative process involving Explore Lincoln City, Lincoln City Parks and Recreation, the Lincoln City Public Arts Committee, and the Lincoln City Parks and Recreation Board.

See a video and more photos at: <https://brandfolder.com/s/3nnwpm-fj986h7x639qswx>

Schooner Creek Discovery Park is located at 4815 SE 51st Street in the Taft District of Lincoln City.

Read previous coverage of this park project at the Lincoln County Leader’s website.

SURVEY

From Page A1

campers, consistently ranking among the top 10 most-visited state park systems in the nation. Oregonians’ enduring love for these special places is clear: Our parks aren’t

just popular — they are among the state’s most cherished public treasures.

“Oregonians love their state parks –that’s the message that came through loud and clear in our survey,” Environment Oregon Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles said.

“Whatever differences we

may have, our state parks provide common ground we can all stand on, together.”

Over the past two years, Environment Oregon traveled across the state hosting community events and talking with Oregonians, particularly in the rural communities closest to

many of Oregon’s state parks. Surveying more than 1,000 people in and around state parks and online throughout 2025 and early 2026, with nearly half of respondents coming from rural communities.

Oregon’s state parks currently face an estimated \$345 million deferred maintenance backlog while continuing to manage rising operating costs and record visitation, according to the Environmental Oregon report. The new national Investing in Nature report found a similar picture of aging infrastructure and growing maintenance backlogs at state parks across the country.

“The survey tells us Oregonians not only love these places, they also

want to ensure they’re protected for future generations,” Boyles said. “We hope this survey will encourage legislators to provide stable funding for our parks, long into the future.”

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is primarily funded through a combination of state lottery revenue, user fees and other income. According to OPRD’s 2025-27 biennial budget, those sources account for 91% of their revenue, while a combination of Oregonians’ tax dollars from the general fund (2%) and federal grants (7%), make up the remainder.

This is an agency tasked with “providing and protecting outstanding natural, scenic, cultural,

historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations” — operating on a budget of less than \$200 million annually, where less than \$4 million comes from Oregonians’ tax dollars, the Environment Oregon report states.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Oregon’s state parks are a defining part of what makes our state special. From the coast to the high desert, these places offer Oregonians a shared inheritance of natural beauty, recreation, and refuge. The findings of this survey confirm what many already know intuitively: Oregonians deeply value their state parks, visit them often, and overwhelmingly believe they are worth protecting. Across geography, background, and patterns of use, respondents consistently rated Oregon’s parks highly and identified natural preservation as the most important part of OPRD’s mission.

The survey results show strong, consistent support for a proven alternative: Offering residents the opportunity to support state parks through a voluntary, vehicle-registration-based program. Across urban, suburban and rural respondents, nearly half said they would be “very likely” to participate.

See the full report at: <https://environmentamerica.org/oregon/resources/oregon-state-parks-survey/>

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CD/
IRA CD

SPECIAL

3.90%

APY¹

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¹APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is effective 6/15/2026-7/31/26. Minimum opening deposit for the 15-month CD requires \$500, maximum CD amount is \$240,000. Fees may reduce earnings on your account. Early withdrawal penalty may apply.

²Relationship is defined as opening and using a consumer or business checking account with 1st Security Bank. At maturity, 15-month CD promotional certificate will auto renew into the bank’s 1 Year CD at the prevailing rate.

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H26239

John Lindsey Beal

09/15/1942 – 05/30/2026

Surrounded by his loving family, John passed away peacefully at home in Lacey, WA on May 30th.

The son of John and Josephine Beal, John was born and raised in Newport and graduated from Newport High School in 1960. He graduated in microbiology from OSU in 1965. John spent his military service with the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) under President Johnson. In 1969, John married Carolyn Fenander (NHS 1962). They lived in Woodinville, WA for close to 40 years



where they raised their two sons, their daughter and their niece, who he considered like a second daughter. He pursued his career in the food and drug industry in the Seattle area working as a scheduler and forecaster.

John was preceded in death by his daughter Lindsey and his sister Julie Rich. John is survived by Carolyn, his wife of almost 57 years, his two sons Jeffrey and Brian (Tiffany) and his niece Theresa Fenander Kash (Tigran). He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Jim Campbell.

TECHNOLOGY

How Oregon’s state agencies adopted drones over the last decade

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

When Oregon lawmakers in 2013 passed a law establishing some of the state’s earliest guidelines for public drone usage, not a single state or local agency was using drones. The law prohibited the use of armed drones and restricted their use in law enforcement surveillance to cases involving a search warrant or life-threatening emergencies, such as search and rescue situations. It also required the Oregon Department of Aviation in 2016 to establish a registry of every public agency’s drone. Since then, public use drones have become a part of everyday operations for public safety, wildfire mitigation and infrastructure repair. The aviation agency has registered a total of 1,172 public drones in its system, with 690 remaining active. Most registered drones come from cities and counties. State agencies make up about one-third of registered drones. State Police use most drones of any state agency. Oregon State Police has the most drones of any state agency, with 66 registered in the aviation department’s database as of late June. The most common

reason state police deploy drones is to document evidence from car crashes that can be used in court, said Sgt. William Bush, who in 2016 became the agency’s first drone pilot. “Every minute that we can save in documenting a scene and getting those roadways open, we save ourselves the probability that those secondary crashes occur,” Bush said in a phone interview. Drones also help state police during special operations, for instance by showing them if there’s a gap in the perimeter during pursuits. “In other scenarios, we’re able to get close to vehicles in vehicle stand-offs to see whether or not the suspect is armed or if they’re actively making threats with any form of weapon, which can kind of just help us adjust the temperature with which we’re dealing with it,” he said. The agency has deployed 660 flights this year as of early July. Lawmakers in 2025 tried to update the regulations so law enforcement could use drones without warrants for broader emergencies, but the bill died in the committee process, much to Bush’s disappointment. Despite local law enforcements supporting



Oregon Department of Aviation director Kenji Sugahara operates a drone at the Toketee State Airport. (Courtesy from the Oregon Department of Aviation)

the bill, it faced intense opposition from political advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and the farmworkers union Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, or PCUN, who cited concerns about potential surveillance abuse, particularly for marginalized communities. About 97% of the 1,100 letters sent to lawmakers of testimony were in opposition. “As a private citizen, I’m equally concerned about maintaining my privacy at all times,” Bush said. “However, when it

comes to law enforcement, we’re really only using these things to do the very best we can to keep ourselves, the general public and suspects safe.” Saving money and keeping crews safe Behind Oregon State Police, Oregon’s forestry, transportation and fish and wildlife departments make up the top drone users among state agencies. At the Oregon Department of Forestry, it’s hard to find a part of the agency that doesn’t use drones, said Cole Lindsay, the agency’s northwest area aviation coordinator. Since the agency began

its drone program in 2017, it has used drones to monitor wildfires and buildings, detect invasive species and conduct tree counts. Lindsay said drones don’t replace workers, but build efficiency. “People are valuable and people are expensive, and we don’t want anybody to be wasting any time or to get hurt,” he said. “And so there’s many times where you can arrive on the scene of a fire or to a job site out in the woods and be able to launch a drone and get an idea what is happening around you much better

than you would without it.” Dozens of survey, maintenance and geology staff also use drones at the Oregon Department of Transportation to monitor landslides and map difficult-to-reach areas. The agency deployed drones 770 times in 2025. Meanwhile, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife uses drones to focus on habitat and vegetation and wildlife counts, tracking everything from seals and sea lions to nesting birds and elk. The agency conducted 402 drone flights in 2025. “The drone aerial view provides better data than boat surveys that is cheaper, safer and easier to deploy than occupied aircraft,” said agency spokesperson Michelle Dennehy. <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/13/how-oregons-state-agencies-adopted-drones-over-the-last-decade/> 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LINCOLN CITY
BRUSH FIRE

I am the owner of one of the homes put in jeopardy by the recent fire along Coast Avenue. Thank you for your coverage of this unfortunate event. If at all possible, I hope you are able to report on the costs to both police and fire for their incredible efforts to prevent the fire from destroying homes. Tax payers should see these costs, as should our legal representatives. Forty years ago my husband began extra planting efforts to preserve that hillside in front of our home, and the homes on both sides of us. No neighbors wanted to go to this effort or expense, so he took it upon himself to get it done for our protection. We also participated

in the gorse removal program of some years ago. Now, it looks like more planting will need to be done to help prevent beach erosion. There is a \$500 fine for just climbing these hillsides, so I am hoping the court will see fit to find a fair way for these eight young men to make reparation. Personally, I hope it is via financial compensation across the board and in good old sweat equity. Again, thank you for your excellent coverage. Sharon Lawton
Lincoln City

THANK YOU, OREGON

Dear Oregonians, I want to thank you for doing your part in this year’s Primary Election—for casting your ballot and making your voice heard.

Thank you for participating in our democracy. Voting is safe and convenient here in Oregon thanks to our vote-by-mail system. We consistently have some of the highest voter turnout in the country because of it, and this election was no exception. More than 1.28 million eligible Oregonians voted in this year’s primary. That’s the highest turnout we’ve ever seen in a mid-term primary election. And with several important measures and candidate races on the ballot, Oregonians showed up to shape the future of their communities and our state. Together, you decided who we’ll see on the November ballot and helped chart the course Oregon will take in the years ahead. I cannot overstate how

meaningful that is. Voting is how we hold politicians accountable. It’s how we elect representatives to advocate for our communities. It’s how we shape the future of our state, and our country. Your vote is your power. That’s exactly why our most fundamental right has come under increasing attack in recent months. We’ve seen unconstitutional executive orders that threaten the integrity of our elections get issued. We’ve seen lawsuits aimed at undermining vote-by-mail get filed. We’ve seen repeated efforts aimed at making Americans question whether their vote truly matters. But our democracy holds strong. We’ve gotten a lot of

great news in the past few weeks, and I hope you’ll take a moment to read more on that below, but here’s the bottom line: your vote matters, and you can trust that it will be counted this November. Just remember to vote early, and use an official ballot drop box whenever possible. As we ring out our nation’s 250th anniversary, the semiquincentennial, we’re reminded that the work of building a more perfect union belongs to all of us. Every election provides us with another opportunity to do that work together, and I look forward to joining you in that effort this November. Sincerely, Tobias Read
Oregon Secretary of State

FROM MY OWN
EXPERIENCE

In the June 3, 2026, Leader, Paul S. Haeder says, “When you walk by a homeless citizen or smell the pot [marijuana] coming from a cluttered van with six people living inside, figure out which human you are – a giver or taker.” I’m sorry, the max I know of is only 2 people plus 4 dogs living in a small van. But when I smell the weed, I think, “Where’d you get the money for that weed? Is that the best use of money? What is that doing for your sanity, your ability to make any elementary plan to improve your life, get out of a dead-end rut?” You have a perfect right to ask what I’m doing with my life, and I reckon I have a right to ask what you’re doing with yours, especially if it’s awash in aimlessness and drug use. Yes, I do know from my own experience, possibly far better than Paul Haeder, what drug abuse is, and what a dead end. Perhaps when Haeder reaches heaven, he’ll find conditions more to his liking than here on still evolving Earth. Tyrannosuarus Rex has two years left to stomp and rend. I wish Haeder was also term – limited, but at least he helps fill up blank space in a small-town paper.

Hue Miller
Newport

QUOTE OF
THE WEEK

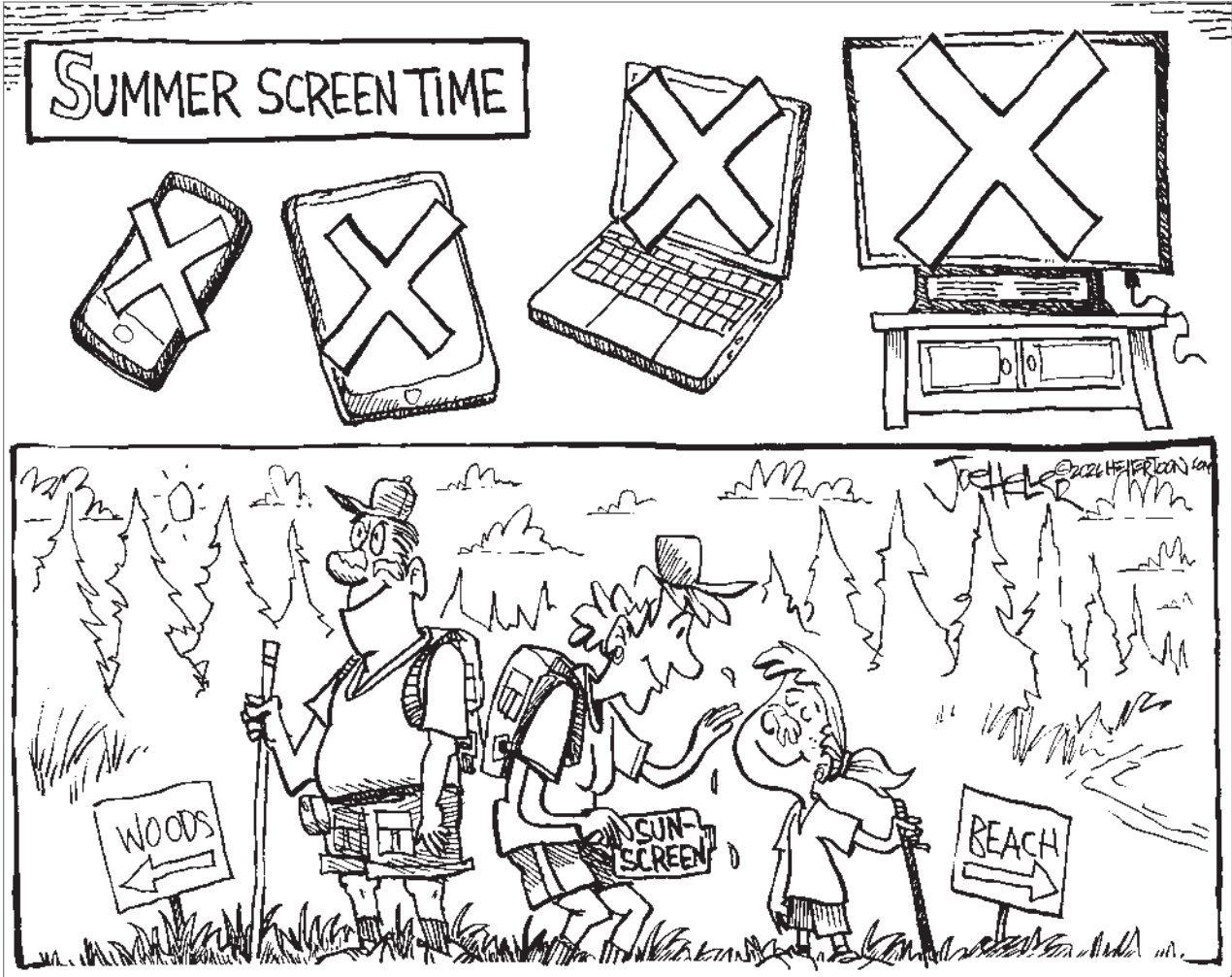
“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.” Steve Jobs

ONLINE POLL

PREVIOUS POLL
How important is coastal tourism to you and your family?

28.1%.....Very important. Our business/occupation is tourism-based.
40.6%.....It’s important because it affects our business community.
31.3%.....It’s not important. Our livelihood is sustainable without it.

NEW POLL
Since you are seeing this online, from where are you logging on?
• Lincoln County
• Somewhere in Oregon
• Out of State
• Out of the country



Oregon awards the largest round of federal rural healthcare grants

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The Oregon Health Authority has so far awarded \$175.3 million in grants from a new federal program meant to support rural healthcare.

The Rural Health Transformation Program, established by the massive tax and spending law Congressional Republicans passed in July 2025, dedicates funding until 2030 for projects aimed at improving the health of people living in rural communities.

On Tuesday, the agency announced it would distribute \$97 million worth of grants to support 136 rural healthcare projects across the state — marking the largest round of funding it has awarded since the program began.

Oregon received \$197.3 million from the federal government for 2026, and it could receive up to \$1 billion over the next four years of the program.

Gov. Tina Kotek in a statement said there was overwhelming interest in the program, and the state is working on distributing the funds as quickly as possible. First year grant recipients can begin using the federal funding for projects this month. They must use the

funding by September 2027.

More than \$80 million in the latest round will support 103 projects across 85 organizations that competitively applied for funding. That includes \$2.1 million for the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, a nonprofit offering education, physical and mental health services and substance abuse treatment to Native Americans. Another \$2.3 million will go to the Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital and Mercy Flights, a Medford-based medical nonprofit transportation organization, will receive \$300,000.

The remaining \$17 million in this round will fund 33 immediate projects, including ones that aim to expand mobile dental healthcare along Oregon’s North Coast, improve access to meals for older adults in Oregon’s remote communities and grow mobile prenatal and postpartum services across the Rogue Valley, Central Oregon and Eastern Oregon.

“These awards support practical, community-driven efforts to improve access to health in rural Oregon,” said Oregon Health Authority Director Dr. Sejal Hathi. “Rural communities know their needs best, and this funding is intended to help



With funding from the Rural Health Transformation Program, Oregon Health & Science University’s Casey Eye Institute will expand its mobile vision program to Seaside. The mobile program visits communities across the state to provide adults free screenings, exams, and eyeglasses. (Courtesy from Oregon Health & Sciences university)

them strengthen local services, expand workforce capacity, and address barriers that make it harder for people to get care close to home.”

State officials acknowledged that the program was packed in the same law that slashed an estimated \$15 billion in federal funding for Oregon programs that provide health insurance and food assistance.

“While the total funding Oregon is receiving through the

Rural Health Transformation Program is relatively small when you consider the full impact of recent federal Medicaid cuts, these awards can make a huge difference for individual organizations that are doing much-needed work in rural Oregon,” said Clare Pierce-Wrobel, the health authority’s policy and analytics director.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/>

oregon-awards-the-largest-round-of-federal-rural-health-care-grants/

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College tuition, fees waved for homeless young people

OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF HUMAN SERVICES

Young people in Oregon who have experienced homelessness and are pursuing higher education at eligible Oregon schools are eligible for the Oregon Department of Human Services, Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Tuition and Fee Waiver Program.

“College can feel out of reach for young people who have experienced homelessness, and this program tells them that Oregon knows their future is worth investing in,” ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Manager Matthew Rasmussen said.

Bell Cambridge, a recipient of the waiver and member of YEHP’s Youth Action Board, said the tuition and fee waiver

program means opportunity.

“It is an opportunity to pursue a meaningful future and a career that I never thought possible for myself or others like me,” Cambridge said. “For a long time, I believed I wasn’t able or worthy enough to get the chance to pursue higher education. This program changes that. It grants youth who have been disproportionately disadvantaged a genuine chance to break the cycle. By providing access to stability and opportunity, it represents an investment in my future and a validation that my abilities and potential are not limited by my circumstances.”

Who can apply

Young people under the age of 25 who experienced unaccompanied homelessness for at least six months between ages 14 and 24 and

received services when they were 16 or older from a Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program partner are eligible to apply.

There is no deadline to apply, but applicants must also have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). They must also be enrolled in at least one course credit towards their undergraduate degree at an Oregon public university or community college and be in good academic standing

How to apply
Visit the ODHS Resources for Youth Experiencing Homelessness webpage for more information about the waiver program and applications. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Young people can also request help with the application from the ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program.

How it works

The waiver covers tuition for academic credit courses, mandatory enrollment fees, one-time fees, and course fees for students pursuing a two-year or four-year undergraduate degree at an Oregon public university or community college. It is a waiver of last resort, meaning it waives any tuition and fees remaining after all other federal, state and institutional grants and scholarships have been applied.

Some financial aid sources such as loans, the Chaffee Education and Training Grant, and non-tuition scholarships from sources outside of the

college, will not reduce the amount of tuition and fees waived.

More information

More information can be found online at the ODHS Resources for Youth Experiencing Homeless webpage.

The ODHS Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Tuition and Fee Waiver Program is made possible by House Bill 4013 passed during the 2022 Session of the Oregon Legislature.

About the Oregon Department of Human Services

The mission of ODHS is to help Oregonians in their own communities achieve well-being and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice and preserve dignity.

BLM generated more than \$10.7 million in revenue from timber sales

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) generated more than \$10.7 million in revenue from timber sales during the second quarter of 2026.

The BLM said the sale supports American jobs and increasing domestic timber supply.

During the quarter, the BLM sold approximately 41 million board feet of

timber across 1,500 acres in Oregon and California.

That amount of lumber is enough to build nearly 2,600 homes and supports local economies and well-paying jobs in logging, milling, and construction, the BLM states in a release.

The quarterly results come as recently confirmed BLM Director Steve Pearce visited western Oregon to meet with BLM employees,

industry partners, and local mills about the BLM’s timber program and the work happening to support domestic timber production.

“This was such an important trip for me to take,” Pearce said. “It was great to see Americans doing real work on the ground. These folks are part of a crucial industry that is helping rebuild the economy from the ground

up.”

The BLM plans to hold six timber sales in July 2026 to offer 31 million board feet of timber across almost 835 acres.

More information about BLM’s timber plans and results can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/forests-and-woodlands/timber-sales>.

BACKGROUND

The BLM manages

58 million acres of forests—including 2.4 million acres in western Oregon—of some of the most productive forests in the world, and is committed to supplying a reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply of timber, according to the release.

BLM forestry supports economic security, reduces risks from wildfire, conserves fish and wildlife habitat, and

decreases costs of energy production. Local communities rely on jobs that come from BLM forests, and timber from public land feeds local industry.

More than 20% of BLM-managed lands are forest and woodland ecosystems. The BLM said it ensures the health and resilience of these public forest lands as well as the availability of traditional forest products, such as timber.

PLAN

From Page A3

responsibility on its hands and not enough money. Both Starr and Gomborg poked at the idea of splitting some of the department’s responsibilities into their own agencies.

“I think we need to reimagine the department of transportation,” Starr said. “Does it make sense to have DMV as part of the department of transportation? Does it make sense to have a rail division as

part of the transportation department? You can pull out rail and transit as a separate standalone agency. I think we need to think about those bigger questions.”

Many in the roundtable supported the idea of implementing road user charges, or charging drivers based on the number of miles they travel rather than the amount of fuel they purchase.

Some shared concerns about how the state would track people’s vehicle mileage and privacy

concerns without creating more bureaucracy. Those concerns, Starr said, can be addressed if the state were to contract with an outside vendor.

The state already offers electric vehicle drivers the option to pay per mile or pay higher fees at registration to account for not paying a gas tax.

Oregon lawmakers reflect on transportation funding mistakes

Lawmakers emphasized the need to introduce their transportation funding legislation much earlier in

the process than they did in 2025.

“The bill has to come out at the end of January, beginning of February,” Gamba said. “That’s how early so that we have the time to work it through it.”

Lawmakers and workgroup members also agreed that a new transportation funding package shouldn’t commit to projects before having an accurate cost estimate, pointing to the uncompleted Interstate 5 Rose Quarter and Interstate 205 Abernethy Bridge projects

met with staggering cost overruns surpassing initial legislative estimates.

“I’d like to see that to make sure that we can really make sure we’re preserving our existing road system first before we over commit our state and then our debt and bond capacity,” Phạm said.

Broadman said he sees 2027 as a clean slate for lawmakers to address the state’s transportation woes.

“I would love to leave the politics of 2025 behind,” he said. “I don’t want to leave the work

behind.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/07/oregon-lawmakers-say-theyll-prioritize-bipartisanship-in-2027-transportation-funding-plan/>
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.

Red Cross seeks blood donors

The American Red Cross is making an urgent call for blood and platelet donors to book an appointment to give now to ensure hospitals stay ready to help patients without delay.

As people get ready for summer adventures and big national festivities, the Red Cross and Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products are partnering to remind everyone of something important: the need for blood never goes on vacation.

Individuals can join our squad to honor the country's 250th anniversary and America's spirit of service by giving blood: All who come to give through July 12 will receive a classic Red Cross x Looney Tunes



T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/LooneyTunes for details.

Celebrate stars, stripes and saving lives. Book a time to donate blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Summer pressures rise
This Independence Day, along with the Looney Tunes characters, we're inspiring a new generation of heroes — with a cartoon twist — at a time when every donation is critical to keeping the blood supply strong amid growing hurdles. Aside

See **DONOR**, page B5



Cascade head and Marine Reserve. (Courtesy photo)

Cascade Head Biosphere Region celebrates 50 years

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Community members and visitors are invited to the 50th anniversary celebration for the Cascade Head Biosphere Region. The Cascade Head

Biosphere Collaborative, in partnership with the Explore Lincoln City Team, invites the public to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Cascade Head Biosphere Region from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 18,

at Knight Park on the Salmon River Estuary, just north of Lincoln City.

This free, family-friendly celebration honors five decades of

See **BIOSPHERE**, page B3

Standing proud and true



Frank Hadfield, center, places a rib bone in a display at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. (Brian Horne / Oregon State University)



Bones are placed in a display at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. (Brian Horne / Oregon State University)

Blue whale skeleton at Newport

JEREMY C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Oregon State University is now home to one of only five fully assembled blue whale skeletons on display in the United States.

The effort to assemble the skeleton took several months and was most recently completed at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Read more about the project with this story at the Lincoln County Leader website.

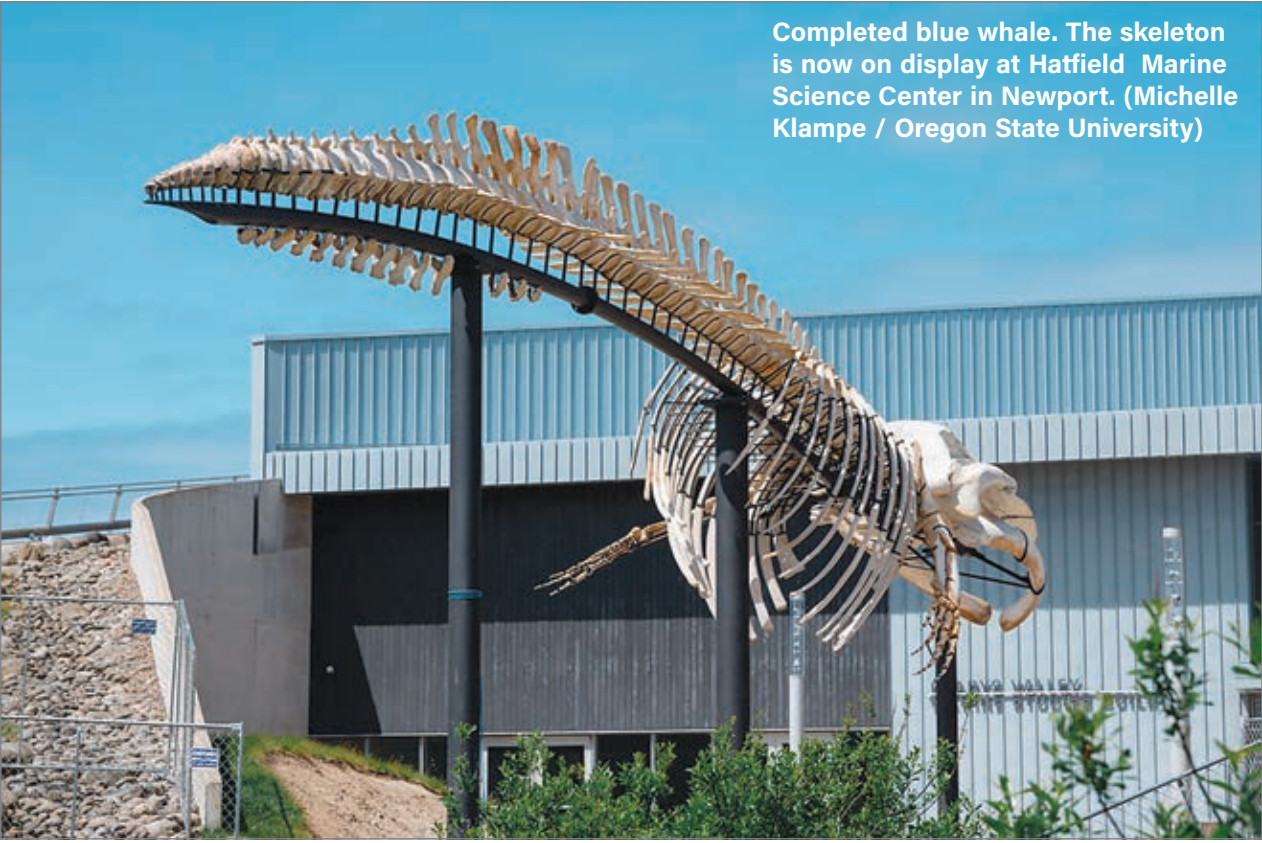
The Lincoln County Leader reached out to Lisa Ballance, the director of the Marine Mammal Institute, to

gain insight into this historic effort.

Lincoln County Leader: What were the most challenging parts of assembling the blue whale skeleton and how did those participating overcome those challenges?

Lisa Ballance: The project was filled with challenges at every step. From the beginning - with the discovery of this animal on the beach in southern Oregon, to the last bone being placed in its cradle completing the exhibit, and even today and into the future, we have faced challenges.

See **WHALE**, page B3



Completed blue whale. The skeleton is now on display at Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. (Michelle Klampe / Oregon State University)

The Stage Is Set July 18

July 18 is almost here, and Coastal Voices is getting ready to raise the curtain on our Broadway Magic! Gala: Do You Hear The People Sing?

Join us at the Newport Performing Arts Center for a black-tie-optional evening of appetizers, drinks, silent auction bidding, raffles, and Broadway favorites from Hamilton, 1776, West Side Story and Les Misérables.

The gala begins at 5 p.m. with the reception, raffles, and silent auction, to be followed by the performance at 6:30 p.m.

The musical selections feature some favorite local talent, including Jason Holland, McKenna Hoover, Gidget Manucci, Marc Montminy, and others with Jennifer



VanBruggen Hamilton as narrator and Marie Read at the piano.

You won't want to miss out on the fantastic raffle prizes and silent

auction items have been provided by many generous donors including an American flag quilt

See **GALA**, page B3

Realtors 5K Family Fun Run

The Lincoln County Board of REALTORS® is hosting a community event to raise funds for our scholarship program, a 5K Family Fun Run, at South Beach State Park from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, July 18.

This event is open to the public and welcomes participants of all ages and abilities, making it a great opportunity for community members to come together in support of local students while enjoying a fun and family-friendly activity.

All proceeds from the event will directly benefit our scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance to local graduating seniors as they pursue their educational goals.

Over the past nine



years, our scholarship program has awarded \$82,500 to students throughout our community, and we are committed to continuing and expanding that support in the years ahead.

This event is not only a fundraiser but also a chance to celebrate community involvement and invest in the future of our local students.

Any assistance in helping spread the word about the 5K Family Fun Run would be greatly appreciated and would help us reach even more people who may wish to participate or support this important cause.

For more information, call 541-994-4949 or head to www.lincoln-countyrealtors.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

ALRIGHT, EAT UP, BOYS. I'VE GOT A NEW RECIPE MIX FOR YOU.

IT'S A COMBINATION OF AGORNS, ROOTS, OLD FRUIT AND CORN.

I EVEN TOSSED IN SOME OLD STRING BEAN CASSEROLE.

GRANTED, OUR STANDARDS ARE LOW, BUT CAN WE AT LEAST AGREE THIS DESERVES A LOW YELP REVIEW?

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

WELL, LET'S SEE. I LOVE ANIMALS. I HAVE A CAT NAMED "ARGO."

THAT'S NICE...SHE SEEMS KIND. I LIKE THAT...

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

I FOUND AN APP THAT SHOWS YOU WHAT YOUR PET WOULD LOOK LIKE AS A PERSON. ISN'T ARGO HANDSOME? LOOK AT HIS FELLS AND DREAMY EYES!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

GULP

NOBODY IS PERFECT

BUT RIGHT NOW I FEEL LIKE A FACTORY REJECT!!

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

KEEP AWAY!

I'M GOING OUT NOW

-AND DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY MODEL WHILE I'M GONE

OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland

BUNZO STILL HAS CONTROL OF MY ROBOTS, POPEYE. WHILE I TRY TO FIX THAT, YOU TWO MUST FIND HIM BEFORE HE CAN CAUSE MORE TROUBLE!

I MUST ADMIT, OLD FRIEND, I FEEL MORE ALIVE THAN I HAVE IN YEARS... POSSIBLY EVEN SINCE I RETIRED!

AND ALL IT TOOK WAS A POWER-MAD DESPOT!

TH' ONE RESOURCE WE WONTSK RUN OUTTA.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider. 2. Apron is different. 3. Hair is different. 4. Arm is wider. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Broom is different.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK. IT'S MY FRIEND ELMA'S SPECIAL RECIPE. HER LATE HUSBAND ATE IT ALL THE TIME.

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: E equals T

VSE WVL OPUSDL REFWGDL

PRDM OH V MJWEJL XCDT CD

UVGDR CJPRD WVQQR:

"CDVQEC FR JT ECD XVH!"

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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!

Exempt
UNMIME

Bitter
CARDI

Accept
TOPAD

Grove
SOFTER

TODAY'S WORD

"It must be an exciting game — you just took a bite out of the _____!"

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.

TDKY VXKE VUWTXNW

WDMCOW UR D RTDAC, HNW

WDMCOW VUWTXNW TDKY

VXKE UR D WKDPCYJ.

— KXHCKW TDMZ

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?

2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?

3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?

4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?

5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?

6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?

7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?

8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?

9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?

10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

Answers

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."

2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

3. Africa.

4. "The Wonder Years."

5. Bloomington, Minnesota.

6. Gluteus maximus.

7. About 97%.

8. 6 ounces.

9. A gosling.

10. 2006.

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Cryptoquip

Hard work without talent is a shame, but talent without hard work is a tragedy.

— Robert Half

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Immune; 2. Acidic
3. Adopt; 4. Forest

REMOTE

BIOSPHERE

From Page B1

international recognition for one of the world’s most spectacular natural landscapes, according to organizers. In 1976, Cascade Head was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, recognizing its extraordinary ecological diversity and its role as a global model for balancing conservation, scientific research, education, and sustainable communities. Today, Cascade Head remains Oregon’s only UNESCO Biosphere Region, joining a worldwide network of more than 700 biosphere reserves across over 128 countries.

The anniversary celebration will feature presentations from internationally respected conservation leaders, including Dr. Jerry Franklin, one of the world’s foremost forest ecologists whose pioneering work has transformed modern forest management, and Jon Alan, Chairman of the U.S. Biosphere Network, who will share the importance of biosphere regions in addressing today’s environmental challenges.

Visitors of all ages are invited to experience

an afternoon filled with outdoor adventures, educational programs, and family activities celebrating the unique natural heritage of Cascade Head. Activities include:

- Live music
- Estuary boat tours
- Guided birding excursions
- Hikes on Cascade Head
- “Secrets of Salmon Revealed” educational experiences
- Nature activities for children and families
- Snacks and refreshments
- Interactive exhibits and opportunities to learn about the region’s remarkable ecology

Night Sky at Knight Park 8 p.m. –10 p.m.

As daylight fades, the celebration continues beneath the stars at Knight Park. Settle in for an evening of classical music under the night sky before exploring distant galaxies, star clusters, and other celestial wonders through a guided deep-space astronomy experience led by professional astronomer Sifan Kahale.

The evening’s musical performances feature Brandon Lucas of Singing Sasquatch Music Center and Dan Pack of the Siletz Bay Music Festival, providing a memorable

soundtrack to a night of music, discovery, and the wonders of the cosmos.

BACKGROUND

Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to old-growth forests and the Salmon River Estuary, the Cascade Head Biosphere Region is widely recognized as one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse landscapes in the world. Its stunning scenery, rich cultural history, and rare ecosystems continue to inspire visitors, scientists, educators, and conservationists from around the globe.

The Cascade Head Biosphere Region is a 102,110-acre site originally designated in 1976 on the Central Oregon Coast by the United Nations Man and Biosphere Programme and then reauthorized to the current footprint in 2017.

Supporters describe the region as a rare ecosystem that includes the Salmon River and its estuary, a sandy littoral spit, densely forested uplands, a two-mile basalt headland covered in native coastal prairie, and a marine reserve stretching west into the Pacific Ocean. Wildlife in the region is diverse and abundant, including endangered species. The unique region is

protected and managed by a community of agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and residents in the surrounding communities.

In August 2025, the Lincoln County Leader published a story about Northwest Travel & Life magazine featuring the Cascade Head Biosphere Collaborative in the article entitled ‘Protected Places Exploring Biosphere Reserves throughout the Northwest.’

“These places are stunning – not just for their natural beauty and biodiversity, but also for the communities and cultural traditions they support,” Northwest Travel & Life Chief Editorial Director Allan Cox writes in his Editor’s Note in the beginning of the magazine. “The idea behind a Biosphere Reserve is to find balance between people using the land and nature continuing to thrive.”

Reacting to the recognition, Cascade Head Biosphere Region Staff Scientist, Project and Communications Manager Paul Robertson said he and the Cascade Head Biosphere team are continually surprised by the interconnections.

“What continues to amaze us is how

interconnected everything is. The Cascade Head Biosphere Region isn’t just about protecting a landscape and/or seascape—it’s about nurturing relationships between people, place, and each other,” Robertson said.

“We’ve also been inspired by the creativity of our community, from local artists to youth who bring fresh perspectives to conservation and resilience.”

In an interview with the Lincoln County Leader highlighting the July 18 celebration, Robertson said the significance of the Cascade Head Biosphere Region to our community and beyond, is that it is a place where people and nature thrive together.

“It protects one of the most biologically diverse landscapes on the Oregon Coast while serving as a living laboratory for research, education, and conservation,” he said.

“Locally, it strengthens our economy, quality of life, and sense of place. Globally, it demonstrates how communities can balance environmental stewardship with sustainable living.”

Robertson said over the years, the Cascade Head Biosphere Region has effectively connected the

community

“For five decades, the Biosphere Region has brought together scientists, educators, Tribal partners, land managers, nonprofits, businesses, volunteers, artists, and residents around a shared purpose,” he said. “It has fostered collaboration across property boundaries and organizations, creating opportunities for learning, restoration, recreation, and community engagement that benefit both people and the landscape.”

Robertson also shared his vision for the Cascade Head Biosphere Region for the next 50 years.

“The vision is to inspire future generations to become stewards of this remarkable place,” he said. “That means expanding environmental education, strengthening partnerships, supporting climate resilience, advancing community-based research, honoring Indigenous knowledge, and ensuring that healthy forests, rivers, estuaries, and oceans continue to sustain both wildlife and the people who call this region home. The next 50 years are about building a community where conservation, science, culture, and opportunity continue to grow together.”

WHALE

From Page B1

Some that immediately come to mind:

--Salvaging the bones of such an immense animal (separating them from the flesh and ensuring that all bones were found and saved) - a task that involved over 45 volunteers through 9 days of hard work in challenging conditions;

--Transporting the bones to our Institute in Newport and arranging for them to be soaked in Yaquina Bay (first stage of cleaning) for 3 years without losing any.

--Finding a place to store and work on the bones after they were raised from Yaquina Bay.

--Realizing the magnitude and complexity of cleaning the bones effectively and without damage so that they could be put on display (we had a small army of volunteers ready to help and an expert who was ready to lead but safety considerations ultimately led to our partnering with Dinosaur Valley Studios for this work).

--Navigating the

complexities associated with three teams and critical project pieces which needed to come together with little to no margin for error (how to pose the animal in a dynamic way; how to provide structural support to make this vision for a pose a reality; how to engineer support structures that meet requirements and provide effective support for coastal Oregon weather).

--Permits (for construction and for working with and transporting bones of an endangered species).

--Raising funds for the project (we remain in need of funds to pay for completion of the project).

--Maintaining the exhibit and providing repairs when needed (Newport weather is hard on steel and bone; we intend to conduct regular inspections and stay ahead of maintenance; this will require additional funds).

Lincoln County Leader: How did the team overcome these challenges?

Ballance: Profound belief in our vision and hope that this exhibit would be impactful beyond our wildest dreams.

Lincoln County Leader: What have those participating taken away from this experience?

Ballance: Perseverance through great challenge - this is one of the most fulfilling of experiences for me. I vastly underestimated the impact of this exhibit on myself, and on others (including project partners as well as those viewing this exhibit for the first time). This “force-multiplier” effect has caused me to believe that completing this project may be one of the most significant accomplishments of my career.

Lincoln County Leader: What are the benefits of having this blue whale skeleton and placing it on display?

Ballance: Each time I stand beneath this whale, I am profoundly affected. He is powerful, humbling, inspiring. I feel awe and am keenly aware of the extraordinary and mysterious nature of life in our oceans. My mind expands and wonders. (I confess, my feelings come as a surprise to me because of my decades-long career working in all the world’s oceans around extraordinary animals, behavior,

and events, that include spectacular encounters with blue whales.) I hope those who stand beneath this whale will experience these same emotions and be taken in directions that change lives and our future through the paths these visitors take after this experience.

The public is invited to celebrate the completion of the skeleton project on Thursday, July 16, at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Drive, in Newport.

SCHEDULE

11 a.m. Exhibit Viewing, Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building

11:30 a.m. Celebration Program, Carmen Ford Phillips Auditorium

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

- Dr. Lisa T. Ballance, Director, Marine Mammal Institute
- Dr. Bruce Mate, Founder, Marine Mammal Institute
- Frank Hadfield, Dinosaur Valley Studios
- Jim Rice, Stranding Program Manager, Marine Mammal Institute
- Norm Faris, Valar Engineering
- Dr. Belinda A. Batten,

Interim Executive Director, Hatfield Marine Science Center

BLUE WHALE RESEARCH SEMINAR

3:30–4:30 p.m. Carmen Ford Phillips Auditorium

The afternoon seminar features presentations about Marine Mammal Institute blue whale research by Bruce Mate, Dawn Barlow and Kate Stafford. Remote attendance will be available via hmssc.oregonstate.edu/past-seminars.

For the public: To request accommodations or RSVP (appreciated but not required), please contact: Shannon Reed, 541-867-0212, shannon.reed@oregonstate.edu.

Bones were collected under authority of the NOAA Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Permit No. 18786 and transferred to OSU’s Permit No. 23092 for curation and education.

Support these
Local Nonprofit
Community
Organizations!





501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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

715 SW Bay St., Newport OR 97365
Phone: 541-574-8898
Sam House
samfamshelter.org



Please donate

GALA

From Page B1

from Kathleen Ritzman, a Gearhart Golf package, a coffee connoisseur basket from Elk City Coffee, a Salishan Resort getaway, a wheelbarrow of wine, whiskey and more. VIP tickets are \$75 and include admission to the gala performance, plus access to the pre-show reception with appetizers and beverages.

SuperStar tickets are \$100 and include the reception, bonus raffle tickets, and your name—or the name of a business or loved one—announced as a song sponsor.

A special thanks to our incredible sponsors for helping to make this possible: P.K. Edgewater, Mike & Lissa Davis, Beach Daisy Wine, Grocery Outlet Newport, Most Wanted Painters, Oceana Natural Food

Coop, and Pacific Coast Homes. Seating is limited

and ticket sales close July 16.

Visit coastal-voices.org for more information.

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Lincoln County Leader

Lincoln County Leader

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

SUDOKU

数独

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

Little League squad wins state!

WILL LOHRE*Lincoln County Leader*

Another state title is coming home to Lincoln City, thanks to the hard work of the LCYL Tigers Groth Gates Baseball squad.

The Lincoln County Youth League team competed at the 2026 JBO Minor National State Championship in Gaston July 10-12. The Tigers competed against teams from across Oregon in the season's final tournament at Brown Park in Gaston, and they took home the title with a win over Dayton in the championship game.

Toby Hunter, one of the coaches of the young Tigers squad, said that taking home the title was the perfect cap to the season.

"It was a sense of accomplishment with the amount of work that we put in, especially as the season wore on. When we got tired, we'd press harder," Hunter said. "So to reap the benefits of that by ending in a championship was gratifying."

The championship run wasn't without adversity, though; Hunter was thrilled with the way his team battled through the bracket to victory. The final was against Dayton, who the Tigers had to face twice to secure the win. The tournament's format included a double-elimination bracket, and though Dayton lost in the first round, they fought their way to the final. The Tigers won against West Linn, Banks, and Canby to punch their ticket to the title game, and the benefit of going through on the winners' side of the bracket was that Dayton needed to beat Lincoln City twice since they were coming through out of the back-door bracket.

"The last game we played against was Dayton; they actually had to beat us twice," Hunter said. "We were on the winners bracket side, so they'd already lost once in the tournament. We hadn't. So they had to beat us twice to prove it, so to speak."

In the first game, the Tigers ended up losing 12-5, which was a tough loss, but the Tigers rebounded in a big way in the winner-take-all match. In the second game, the Tigers beat Dayton 7-2 to take home the state championship.

"The boys got punched in the mouth severely with a 12-5 loss, so to respond with the 5-2 win shows you how tough they can be," Hunter said. It wasn't the only challenge they faced.

In the game to make the semifinals, the Tigers were down 0-6, having not had a hit the whole game. In the second-to-last inning, Lincoln City scored five runs to bring the game back into balance. In the top of the final inning, the Tigers buckled down on defense, and it all came together in the bottom of the frame.

With two outs, the Tigers clawed out the win.

"They put up the final two runs with two outs, barely beating the play at first base while the runner was coming home. It was pretty exciting. I try and be stoic and calm, but even I ran off the field on that one," Hunter said.

The walk-off win was an amazing way to advance through the bracket. In the 7-2 final against Dayton, Lincoln City was on defense to close out the game, and it was Hunter's son, Harlan, who pitched some of the biggest outs



The Tigers celebrate winning the 2026 JBO Minor National State Championship in Gaston. (Courtesy photo from Toby Hunter)

of the game.

"I felt pretty confident we were going to win the game when it was 5-1, and my son, Harlan, came in to finish it. I think he had four strikeouts of the six batters. He's a pretty good pitcher," Hunter said. "It was nerve-racking at first, but then those nerves turned into pride."

The game ended on a groundball to Thomas Jones.

When the game ended and the team had the victory in the bag, Hunter said that it was "magic."

"You could almost feel it in the air. The feeling you get from overcoming a situation is unlike any other. It can't be replicated outside of sports," Hunter said. "In that moment, being locked in with 10 players, three coaches, the stat keepers who might as well be coaches, and all the families who have been traveling. I think we've been to six tournaments this

year, but it was the one that mattered the most."

As they say, it takes a village, and the other coaches, Patrick O'Neill and Daniel Haehl, were crucial in getting the team to the final destination. O'Neill and Haehl's wives, Felicia and Ashley, were the stat and bookkeepers, ensuring all the logistics for the team went off without a hitch.

Hunter said that Patrick is a true equal as a coach, and he provided emotional and tactical support while knowing the game as "good or better than" Hunter does. Haehl was "the rock," always willing to be the "stone to lean on," providing unwavering support to Hunter and the entire team. The support of Groth Gates was also crucial to the team, and Hunter said the team wouldn't have been able to achieve these heights without their sponsorship.

While winning was a sweet way to end the

season, Hunter emphasized that there's more to coaching than just big wins or challenging losses.

"As a coach, you're not necessarily just teaching the game of baseball; you're trying to teach life to the children. That hard work pays off. How to be disciplined, how to be a sportsman, how to overcome situations in life," Hunter said. "There's so much that can be gained from sports outside just playing a game."

GETTING TO KNOW THE TEAM

To help bring the community closer to their newest batch of state champions, Hunter offered insight into each player's contributions to the team throughout the season and during the championship run.

Aspen Haehl - a first year player who had many timely hits throughout the year.

Jojo Pearson - a chatty

catcher who could grind out games in the heat.

Mason O'Neill - who had 2 clutch RBI's in the championship game.

Junior Fajardo - who wasn't able to make the championship game but had a .600 batting average and led the team with 13 RBI's in districts to get us to state.

Gauge Lee - a consistent pitcher who used up almost every pitch every tournament.

Dallas Freeman aka "The Tlash" - the fastest kid Hunter's ever seen. Freeman had two huge bunts in the tourney and locked down center field with confidence.

Liam Shorter - another first-year player who made his first appearance in the championship game, allowing no earned runs in 2 2/3 innings during the championship when the Tigers were struggling to hit well.

Liam Kesch - one of the most consistent bats, locked down first base, and pitched valuable innings on top of being the deciding run in the Tigers' biggest comeback in walk-off fashion.

Jamie "the Rocket Arm" Blair - Blair hits with thunder and throws like lightning, holding down the fort at third base while delivering the walk-off hit in the Tigers' biggest comeback

Thomas Jones - Mr Utility, Hunter could play him at any position without a drop-off, made the final out with ice water in his veins.

Harlan Hunter - Toby Hunter said he's "biased here," but Harlan was the kid he could lean on to be there more than any, and Harlan always pulled through in crunch time with the pressure on, delivered the final six outs from the mound, including four strikeouts, when it mattered most.

Lincoln City Parks and Rec offering summer fun

WILL LOHRE*Lincoln County Leader*

Summer is the perfect time to get outside and get moving. The Lincoln City Parks and Recreation department wants to keep the community active with a variety of programs and opportunities.

Lincoln City Parks and Recreation Manager Mike Davies said that even though we're in mid-July, there are still plenty of programs people won't want to miss!

One of the opportunities the department offers is the Discovery Camps. They are weekly themed camps that take place from 7:45-5:30 throughout the summer for children 5-12 years old. Some of the upcoming themes include "Ocean," "Legends," "Sports," "Forest Fun," and "Deep Space." Whether your kid is interested in the depths of the ocean, woodland wonders, the moon and the stars, or just getting out and running around, there's plenty of variety to keep them engaged.

"They're a full-day option for folks to spend time with us," Davies said. "There will be a lot of excursions throughout the community, going to the beach, special guests coming in, etc."

In addition to the themed camps, there are also a variety of specialty camps for specific sports or activities. The name of the game for the department has been to offer a solid array

of choices to make sure there's an option no matter what people's interests are.

Some are a product of partnerships the department has fostered within the community, including the high school.

"We've got our sports camps coming up. So, we have a volleyball camp that is partnered with the Taft High School volleyball team. Their coach and players will help run that for us. We have soccer camp coming up the week of the 20th that will be the same thing, partnered with the Taft High School boys soccer team. So a nice partnership there," Davies said. "We have a musical theater camp coming up where they'll do a performance of Annie. So they'll have two weeks of kind of prep camp to get ready for that, and then they'll do a show at the end of those two weeks. And that'll happen down at Schooner Creek Discovery Park at the new stage down there. So that'll be exciting, kind of the first performance on the stage as far as a youth performance goes."

Other camp offerings include rock climbing, basketball skills workshops for kids and teens, skateboarding, and a running camp. All of those are in addition to all-age drop-in activities like basketball, volleyball, climbing, pickleball, and others. There's also swimming lessons, yoga, Dungeons & Dragons sessions, and plenty more programming to keep

folks out and about, including sessions for seniors and adults. Prices, dates, and times can be found at lincolncityparksandrec.org.

It isn't an accident that there's so much variety. Davies said making sure they have an assortment of programs is one of the keys to meeting community demand.

"There's interest in a variety of activities, and then really trying to get more into our outdoor spaces has been a focus, I think for us right now, to share with the community and kind of bring in different experts to lead some of those activities in those open spaces," Davies said. "We knew that demand was there, but just getting the resources available to deliver has taken a little bit of time, I think."

Participation numbers have been pretty good so far, though Davies noted it was a bit of a "slower start" to the season, with an uptick coming with the turn of July. Davies attributed some of the lower numbers to the fact that they are presenting more options for people to choose from.

"We're also offering a lot more than we have in the past. So that's kind of played into a little bit as well. We have a lot more specialty camps than we've had historically," Davies said.

Davies said the department has been on a path to diversify its programs beyond the more traditional Discovery Camps.

That's been possible thanks to a strong core of returning staff, some new staff, and community partnerships.

New this year, thanks to one of those partnerships, are two stargazing workshops. Local astrophotographer Jeremy Likness will be using his expertise to lead a "Star Party Workshop" on Jul. 31, and a "Sturgeon Moon Party Workshop" on Aug. 28. Likness is a local astrophotographer whose work has been shown at the Chessman Gallery. If people are interested in learning more about the night sky with some of the experts, it's the place to be.

"Those are both evening, nighttime activities, so that'll be about 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., but the gentleman leading it is passionate about the night sky, and we'll kind of dig into that with another local astronomer who's going to help him with that one," Davies said. "[We'll] check out things that obviously you can't see with the naked eye or you don't know what you're looking at, but pretty much for anybody with kind of no idea what they're doing to the folks that kind of have some background."

An exciting community event coming up is the Oceans Edge 5k along with a new free kids 1K on Jul. 18.

"That'll happen right by the Chinook Winds Casino beach access. They'll head north. We're also going to do a fun 1K for the first time, so

primarily for kids, families, but anybody obviously can participate in that 1K too, so that will be pretty fun," Davies said.

One of the big events on the calendar is the free annual National Night Out and Touch-A-Truck on Aug. 4. The event is held in partnership with the Lincoln County Police Department and will be held at the Lincoln City Community Center parking lot.

"We'll fill the parking lot with resource tables, rigs, activities, games, Northwest Natural provides free hot dogs, and that's a pretty big kind of our summer August free community event that is coming up," Davies said.

While we're still in the thick of summer, registration for fall sports is now open and is filling up fast. Safe to say things aren't slowing down for the Lincoln City Parks and Rec department.

Something Davies wants the community to understand is that parks and rec is about a lot more than just youth sports.

"I think it takes time to get the word out sometimes, but once people discover that, I think they get pretty excited about those different offerings," Davies said. "We try to provide activities for pretty much every age range. We try to have something for everybody out there to participate in, and summertime is a great time on the coast to be outside, so we're really trying to promote those healthy outdoor activities."