

2023: A year in review

NEWS-TIMES STAFF

As the days (thankfully) begin to get longer, the season turns to winter, and those of us fortunate enough to gather with family and friends for the holidays revel in the magic of late December on the central Oregon coast, the News-Times took a look back at stories that ran in our paper throughout 2023, and highlighted a handful from each month we felt were significantly newsworthy.

From the loss of Lincoln County legend and former News-Times columnist Bobbi Lippman, and the Lincoln County School District's hiring of Majalise Tolan as superintendent, to the resignation of disgraced Newport Mayor Dean Sawyer following his bigoted social media posts, and the rebuilding of the Newport Bayfront's sea lion docks, Lincoln County kept News-Times staff on its toes throughout the last 12 months.

As we wish our readers joy, prosperity and good health in the coming new year, here's a look at what made headlines in 2023 within the pages of the News-Times.

JANUARY

Casey Miller sworn in as county commissioner

Casey Miller, the newest member of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, was sworn into office on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and hit the ground running.



Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Sheryl Bachart administers the oath of office on Jan. 3 to newly elected Lincoln County Commissioner Casey Miller.

Miller, elected to office in the November 2022 election, is no newcomer when it comes to the day-to-day operations of the county commission. He served as the commission's public information officer the previous 14 years, attending and recording all of the meetings.

Weather takes out sea lion docks

One of the central coast's most popular tourist attractions, the sea lion docks located on the Newport Bayfront, were torn from their pilings during stormy conditions during the holiday season. All six sections of dock broke free in the wild weather.

"The docks below Port Dock One are home to sea lions 11 months out of the year — July is the only breather locals get," said Janell Goplen, president of the Newport Sea Lion Docks Foundation, a nonprofit that was formed to improve the docks and maintain them as a tourist attraction.

Several of the dock's hinges broke off and caused the sections to take a ride in the storm. One set of docks was found three miles up Yaquina Bay, and two others came loose and lodged themselves underneath Clearwater Restaurant. The Newport Sea Lion Foundation is gathering donations to pay for repairs so it can get the docks back in place.

FCC says KYTE's license canceled

The Federal Communications Commission notified the owner of Yaquina Bay Communications in January the broadcast license for the company's flagship station, KYTE-FM, is canceled.

The issue that led to the FCC's notification dates back to changes made by the radio station several years ago. In January 2014, Yaquina Bay Communications filed an application with the FCC to a minor modification to the KYTE's license, seeking to change of station's community of license from Newport to Independence. As part of that change, the station's transmitter was moved from Otter Crest to Bald Mountain. This change in location allowed KYTE to pro-

which operates a low-power station in Washougal, Washington. It stated that because KYTE is no longer broadcasting from Bald Mountain, it cannot provide the requisite coverage to Independence, the community of license for the station.

Miller said that at the same time they were trying to resolve these issues with the transmission site, COVID hit. "And we have struggled to find advertising revenue as well as employees," he said. "The STA was granted, but later expired, and we did not — with the pandemic and business slowdowns — realize that."

Miller said he contacted an FCC attorney, "and we will wade through the legal process of keeping the license and with hope to continue operating and serving the Oregon coast. It may take some time, as the FCC is not known for moving quickly on any matter."

LCSO board outlines steps to new superintendent hire

Faced with three options in its search for a Lincoln County School District superintendent to replace Karen Gray, set to retire at the end of June, the LCSO Board of Directors, at its monthly meeting at Oceanlake Elementary School, voted 4-1 to enter into an initial agreement with an LCSO senior staff member.

Majalise Tolan, the district's director of secondary education, was offered the initial agreement. As part of the process, LCSO School Board chair Liz Martin said four community forums will be held in the next several weeks, during which community members are invited to share their hopes for the future and hear Tolan's vision for Lincoln County School District.

Martin outlined the options before the board Tuesday night for choosing a superintendent.

Those options were:

1) Accept internal applicants. In this option, current LCSO employees could apply with a resumé, cover letter and participation in community forums.

2) Conduct a nationwide search, likely requiring hiring an outside agency to facilitate the search.

3) Enter into an initial agreement with Tolan, who will submit a resumé, cover letter and participate in community forums.

Following a discussion in executive session, the board voted in open session to choose option No. 3, entered into an initial agreement, and scheduled community meetings with Tolan as the board's candidate to succeed Gray. As the final step of its hiring process, the board will finalize its decision to offer a contract to Tolan at February's regularly scheduled LCSO board business meeting.

Pay for Newport city councilors to be discussed

The Newport City Council will consider possible stipends for elected officials at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The issue first surfaced in March of 2021, when city councilor Ryan Parker argued that council pay in the form of money or benefits would encourage financially strapped residents to run for office. Councilors say their uncompensated volunteer jobs take about two days per week.

The council is poised to name a nine-member committee composed of citizens and former elected officials to study the matter. Questions to be answered include whether or not pay would attract "more economically diverse membership" on the city council, how much councilors and the mayor should be paid and how it should happen, by council action or vote of the people.

Oregon's new governor declares homeless emergency

Gov. Tina Kotek last week declared that much of Oregon is in a state of emergency because of homelessness, and she created a new state council with the aim of building thousands more homes each year.

Kotek signed three executive orders in a temporary ceremonial office in Salem on Jan. 10, just 24 hours after she was inaugurated. She described the orders, as well as a \$130 million funding request she'll make to the Legislature, as first steps in addressing the state's homelessness crisis.

Kotek's state of emergency applies to the Portland area, central Oregon and Lane, Jackson, Marion and Polk counties, home to Eugene, Medford and Salem. Homelessness in those areas increased by more than 50 percent between 2017 and 2022. It does not apply to Lincoln County.

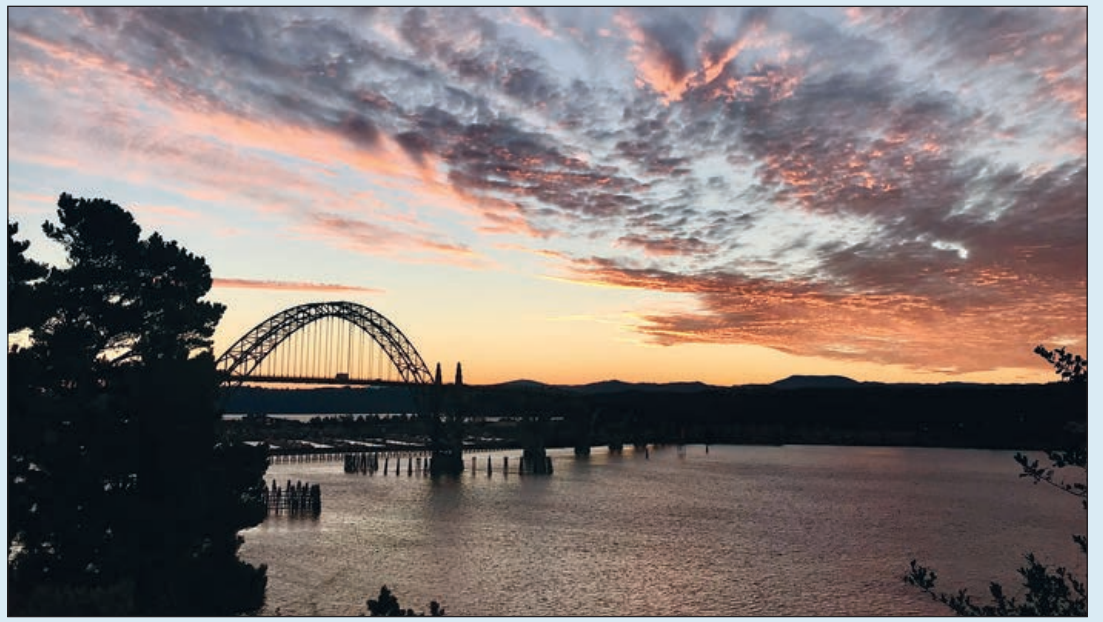
News-Times publication change

The News-Times announced a significant change to its publication schedule to start in February. The newspaper will be consolidated into one edition per week. The first paper printed after this change is Feb. 10, which means there will be no Wednesday, Feb. 8, edition.

News-Times administration said the newspaper was forced to make this change due to significant challenges it faced during the past few years, such as staff shortages and large increases in production costs. And like newspapers across the country, the News-Times saw a decline in advertising revenue.

REVIEW on Page A2

Best wishes for a happy new year



A recent paint-by-numbers morning sky glows above Yaquina Bay in Newport. As we close the book on 2023, News-Times staff looks forward to the dawn of a new year, and relishes privilege of providing our loyal readers with local news, community event and sports coverage. Best wishes to all, and cheers to a fabulous 2024! (Photo by Michael Heinbach)



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REVIEW

Continued from page 1

Coastal leaders blast homeless plan

Coastal leaders lambasted newly sworn Gov. Tina Kotek last week for a \$130 million plan to solve the homeless crisis that leaves out most of rural Oregon.

Kotek's Jan. 10 executive order declaring a state of emergency provides funding to just 11 of Oregon's 36 counties, complained the chorus of elected officials. Oregon has the fourth-highest rate of unsheltered homelessness in the U.S.; it is ranked highest for the rate of homeless families with children.

The Newport City Council decried the action in a Jan. 19 letter to Kotek, claiming the plan targets major cities but ignores 75 percent of the state and especially the Oregon coast, whose "moderate" year-round temperatures have led to "significant growth in our homeless population."

The Coastal Caucus, a conclave of legislators led by State Rep. David Gomberg (D-Otis), also sent Kotek a letter complaining, "Homelessness is not just an urban issue, but an Oregon issue." Gomberg said he later spoke to Kotek, who pledged to review the decision.

"I reiterated that the process used to count homeless people was misleading, and that homeless students should not have been excluded from the count," Gomberg said. "The governor and I had a productive conversation."

County to cap short-term rentals

The number of short-term rentals (STRs) in parts of Lincoln County outside of any established city limits will reduce by well over half under a new order discussed Wednesday, Jan. 25, by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners. However, current STRs will still be allowed to operate, and reductions would be accomplished through attrition, with no new licenses issued until the number falls below the cap.

Commissioners previously adopted Ordinance 523 to establish conditions for the operation of STRs and to implement a licensing program to ensure compliance. That ordinance requires establishing seven geographical boundaries in the unincorporated areas of the county and creates a cap for the number of STRs within each of these regions. At its meeting last week, the commission finalized those boundaries and determined the caps for each area.

The commissioners did not make any changes to the boundaries as originally proposed. Regions one and two, which are in north county, are divided by the Depoe Bay Bridge. The western and eastern regions are divided by Highway 101. Regions two and three are divided by the Yaquina Bay Bridge, regions three and four are divided by the Beaver Creek Bridge, regions four and five are divided by Alsea Bay Bridge and regions six and seven are divided by Highway 20.

FEBRUARY

Newport lands \$6 million for Yaquina Head

The award by the Federal Highway Administration was revealed to city officials last month, more than a year after the proposal was submitted. The project "to improve access to the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area" will make a number of improvements on U.S. Bureau of Land Management and city of Newport property, including a new, shared-use path on Highway 101, pedestrian improvements, ravine bridges, sidewalks, a transit stop and other features.

"This is good news and something that has been a wish for the community for a long, long time," said Newport City Manager Spenser Nebel, who credited Community Development Manager Derek Tokos for writing the request. "This is the fruit of those labors."

Tokos called the award "a big gift," noting the city applied for the grant unsuccessfully in the past. He said several agency changes coincided with a large federal infrastructure package, "aligning the stars."

Train derails at GP mill in Toledo

Early Friday morning, Feb. 10, a train derailed at the Georgia-Pacific Pulp & Paper Mill in Toledo. That derailment caused an estimated 2,000 gallons of diesel to spill. An unknown amount of the fuel entered a storm drain that flows into nearby Depot Slough. The slough feeds



Three locomotives owned and operated by Portland & Western Railroad derailed at the Georgia-Pacific Mill in Toledo on Friday, Feb. 10 and the fuel tank on one of the locomotives was punctured, releasing an estimated 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

into the Yaquina River.

The train is owned and operated by Portland & Western Railroad. Three locomotives derailed, and the fuel tank on a single locomotive was punctured, releasing the fuel. The derailed locomotives have since been removed.

Tom Ciuba, vice president of communications for the railroad company, said, "Since this particular incident occurred on Georgia-Pacific-owned track and property, they managed response and cleanup — with our cooperation and support."

Jonathan Farmer, public affairs manager for Georgia-Pacific in Toledo, said in an email on Tuesday, "The cause of the event is still under investigation, and all parties involved are working to best understand the event. Repairs and assessments at the site are still underway, and it would be premature to speculate on costs at this time."

Because of the diesel spill, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality responded to the derailment site in Toledo to monitor the situation.

Tolan named LCSD's next superintendent



Majalise Tolan, photographed at a community forum at Toledo High School, was tapped in February to succeed Karen Gray as superintendent of the Lincoln County School district following Gray's pending retirement at the end of June.

TOLEDO — The Lincoln County School District tapped a new superintendent to lead the district during the LCSD board's monthly meeting, held Feb. 14 at Toledo Jr./Sr. High School. Majalise Tolan, the district's director of secondary/alternative education and athletics, accepted the superintendent position after the LCSD board voted to 4-1 to officially offer her a three-year contract.

Zone 5 board member Senitila McKinley cast the lone dissenting vote, citing equity concerns. Tolan entered into an initial agreement for the district's superintendent position following the board's January meeting, and brings two decades of education experience to the position, which she takes over July 1 from five-year superintendent Karen Gary. Tolan is in her 15th year working in the Lincoln County School District. She described her vision for LCSD as continuing the trajectory of the board's strategic plan and finding opportunities for positive change.

Holzapfel, board president. "It's happening because our whole community pulled together, the city of Lincoln City supported us and our legislators championed the cause. Donors, foundations and fundraisers are making this dream a reality."

Mayor Susan Wahlke, State Rep. Dave Gomberg and State Sen. Dick Anderson turned the ceremonial sod, along with board members and project managers from the city of Lincoln City, Civil West Engineering Services and Shapiro Didway Landscape Architects. It will also be Lincoln City's introduction to the Plaza's General Contractor, Cascade Civil Corp., of Redmond.

This project will transform the outdoor space around the historic Delake School building, home to the Lincoln City Cultural Center since 2007. By the end of 2023, the 2.6 acres around the brick schoolhouse will be transformed into a pedestrian friendly outdoor space, filled with dedicated installments of public art, gathering spaces with seating, and sponsored spaces for education and performance, connected by a drivable, meandering pathway. The plaza site plan, which was formed with community input in 2018 and 2019, offers a redesigned parking area and traffic flow, along with islands, lighting and other upgrades required by city code.

Newport Bayfront losing landmark

A building overlooking the Newport Bayfront for more than 136 years will soon be no more. Often referred to as the "1886 Building," the three-story structure located at 618 SW Bay Blvd. fell into severe disrepair, to the point where building officials say it is no longer salvageable.

According to historical information on file at the city of Newport, the building was first known as The Grand. City records say it was used as a lodge by either the Oddfellows or Masons, and was originally located in the community of Olsonville, about a half a mile up the bay from its present location. The entire structure was floated down river on a barge and placed in its current location on Bay Boulevard (then known as Front Street), where it was established as a boarding house. It had a number of other uses over the years, often serving as a retail establishment on the lower level.

The building was once owned by Ralph St. Romain, of Newport, who ran a business called Circa 1886. While under St. Romain's ownership, he successfully petitioned to have the building added to Newport's list of historic structures.

But despite its historic significance, the building was not maintained, and now it has been deemed unsafe.

"The building is in poor condition," said Derrick Tokos, Newport community development director. "At one point we received a complaint, and our building official took a look at it and posted it as structurally unsound. At that point they were to have the structure repaired or demolished."

Cultural Plaza groundbreaking Feb. 25

Lincoln City Cultural Center friends, supporters, donors and community members were invited to the official groundbreaking for the Lincoln City Cultural Plaza on, Feb. 25.

"This is going to be a special moment — the launch of a beautiful new resource for Lincoln City and our nonprofit cultural center," said Dorcas

Snowstorm packs a punch

All of Lincoln County felt the effects of out-of-the-ordinary winter weather as heavy snowfall brought down hundreds of trees, causing multiple power outages and blocking a number of roads.

It is unusual to see snow on the beach, but it fell throughout the night Feb. 22, leaving the beaches with a fluffy white coating, which extended out to the headlands. Areas further inland are more used to getting snow, but the quantity that fell was a bit more than normally experienced for most areas.

Schools were shut down for the remainder of the week, as were a few businesses. The ice and snow along the coastal strip eventually turned to heavy slush and slowly melted away, all but disappearing by the end of the weekend. The snow hung around in areas further east, however, and on Tuesday this week, a second snowstorm hit some parts of the county, although not as severely as last week's event.

"We were back to plowing snow this morning," Lincoln County Public Works Director Roy Kinion told the News-Times. "Anything from Toledo east, we were plowing. We were plowing Yachats River Road, some roads in the Alsea (River) area."

He said the plan was to plow in the morning and then go back to clearing up debris left from last week's storm.

"Our biggest problem was downed trees," Kinion said of last week's storm. "The snow brought down a huge amount of trees. It was hard for us to plow the roads because of the trees, so our first response was to just try to

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Advertisement for Lincoln County Church Directory. Includes listings for Atonement Lutheran ELCA (Sunday Adult Forum - 9 a.m., Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.), Central Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Nye Beach Visual Arts Center, 2nd floor), and Newport Naz (In-house worship services at 10 a.m., Sundays at 10 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube).

REVIEW

Continued from page 2

get at least one lane open on all of the roads, and it actually took us a couple days just to do that.”

MARCH

Lincoln City city councilor abruptly resigns

LINCOLN CITY — Ward I Lincoln City City Councilor Elaine Starmer resigned her post at the March 13 meeting of the Lincoln City City Council, citing concerns raised by the council’s recent executive session meetings.

“Unfortunately, recent events have made it clear to me that I am no longer a good fit for this council. The last executive session we had was very troubling to me, in a lot of ways,” Starmer said, noting she could not discuss details regarding discussions held during an executive session. “But I want to be clear that I was stunned by the session, and it is not a situation I care to be part of going forward.”

Starmer’s announcement seemed to surprise council members, with Mayor Susan Wahlke expressing disappointment at Starmer’s decision to step down. Starmer read from a written statement during her regular time allotted for councilor comments at meeting’s end; her resignation was the second on her list of remarks. Immediately preceding her resignation, Starmer addressed a lack of protection for residential neighborhoods when property owners violate caps on accessory-use licenses.

“I’m going to make one more stab at trying to do something for residential neighborhoods that are impacted by over-tourism,” Starmer said. “We have talked about this in work sessions so this is not a new item to any of us on this dias, but we never did anything about it. So, I am asking that ... if you are a residential neighborhood and you are at your cap or over, there should not be a single accessory use license issued until you come down below that cap because what we’re doing with accessory use is inflating already existing, over-the-top caps.”

Starmer cited the Road’s End area as “a prime example” of an abuse of VRD (vacation rental dwelling) caps, which should limit the owners to no more than 30 rental nights per year. “They’re already at double their cap, and we’re continuing to issue accessory use licenses there. They are not controlled. Our planning department director has shared her same con-

cern: they cannot be controlled, and we continue doling them out when we’ve got a residential neighborhood at twice the VRD cap,” Starmer said.

Beverly Beach State Park closing for nine months

According to a press release issued by OPRD on Tuesday, Beverly Beach State Park will close from Sept. 5 through May 24, 2024, to upgrade the park and campground power and water lines.

Stefanie Knowlton, a state parks public information officer, said, “A lot of these repairs are things that have needed to be done, and we do them as we’re able with the funding available.” In terms of the temporary closure at Beverly Beach, “We planned it in the off season to have as little of an impact as possible,” she said.

The Beverly Beach project focuses on upgrading the park and campground utilities, including power and water lines. According to information on OPRD’s website, the work will be coordinated to minimize ground-disturbing activities and impact on park operations. The upgrades include replacing single-phase power to three-phase power so onsite equipment can operate safely; replacing the overhead power lines with underground power lines in conduit; and replacing portions of the water lines that are well beyond replacement age and are an ongoing maintenance issue.

Newport puts pedal to gas tax

The Newport City Council breathed new life into a gas tax increase voters defeated nearly two years previous.

“The gap between funding and the needs for regular replacement of city street surfaces continues to grow,” asserted City Manager Spenser Nebel, claiming the annual public works budget falls \$2 million short of fixing 52 miles of municipal roads — including 10 miles of gravel lanes.

During a March 6 brainstorming session, a city engineer delivered a bleak report to city councilors. Aaron Collet described “fairly systemic cracking, ‘alligatoring’ and deterioration” throughout the town’s road system, valued at \$173 million in 2018 dollars. On a scale of 100, city roads were rated at 69 five years ago.

“It’s much lower now,” Collett said of the rating, predicting that a \$40 million backlog of repairs and projects will grow to \$100 million in two decades.

The current city gas tax of \$0.01 per gallon in the winter and \$0.03 in the summer delivered \$220,000 to city coffers last year. In 2018, Measure 21-206 proposed raising the tax to a nickel per gallon, year-round. Voters rejected the issue 2,092 to 1,577.

APRIL

Lincoln County loses legend

Bobbie Lippman was a household name to many in Lincoln County, having written a weekly column — Bobbie’s Beat — for the News-Times for about 36 years. Bobbie passed away April 2, at Sea Aire Assisted Living in Yachats, where she was a resident for just about six weeks.

Born on Jan. 1, 1934, in Omaha, Nebraska, Bobbie spent her years growing up in the Midwest, considerable fodder for her weekly columns, which focused on a wide variety of topics — all with a very upbeat attitude.

When Bobbie reached adulthood, she stretched her wings by moving to California. Later, after marrying Burt, they lived in Hollywood, California, for many years. But they

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Former News-Times columnist Bobbie Lippman passed away April 2. She is pictured with her husband, Burt, in 2012, when the two were honored as “Community Legends” by the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

transitioned to a quieter lifestyle by relocating to the mid 1980s, after Bobbie was captivated by the area while on a bicycle

REVIEW on Page A6

Wednesday: Rain, then showers. High near 56. Windy, with a south southeast wind 20 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 32 mph. Wednesday night: Low around 49.

Thursday: Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. Southeast wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Thursday night: Low around 48.

Friday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Breezy. Friday night: Low around 46.

Past Weather

On the Coast	Rain	Low	High
December 20.....	0.00	22.0	64.5
December 21.....	0.00	16.7	49.4
December 22.....	0.55	27.4	48.5
December 23.....	0.01	21.1	55.8
December 24.....	0.06	39.8	50.5
December 25.....	0.52	48.5	57.4
December 26.....	0.01	47.9	53.5
Total rainfall from Jan. 1.....	60.45"		

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
High	Low
December 27	
1:04 a.m. 7.4	5:43 a.m. 4.1
11:34 a.m. 9.5	6:47 p.m. -1.1
December 28	
1:44 a.m. 7.4	6:27 a.m. 4.1
12:15 p.m. 9.3	7:25 p.m. -0.9
December 29	
2:23 a.m. 7.3	7:10 a.m. 4.1
12:54 p.m. 8.9	8:03 p.m. -0.6
December 30	
3:01 a.m. 7.3	7:55 a.m. 4.1
1:34 p.m. 8.4	8:39 p.m. -0.2
December 31	
3:39 a.m. 7.3	8:43 a.m. 4.0
2:16 p.m. 7.8	9:13 p.m. 0.4
January 1	
4:13 a.m. 7.3	9:38 a.m. 3.8
3:03 p.m. 7.0	9:47 p.m. 1.0
January 2	
4:49 a.m. 7.4	10:39 a.m. 3.6
3:57 p.m. 6.3	10:22 p.m. 1.7
January 3	
5:24 a.m. 7.6	11:46 a.m. 3.2
5:07 p.m. 5.7	10:59 p.m. 2.4
January 4	
6:00 a.m. 7.9	12:52 p.m. 2.6
6:34 p.m. 5.3	11:42 p.m. 3.1

Sunrise/Sunset

Dec. 27.....	7:52 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Dec. 28.....	7:52 a.m.	4:42 p.m.
Dec. 29.....	7:53 a.m.	4:43 p.m.
Dec. 30.....	7:53 a.m.	4:44 p.m.
Dec. 31.....	7:53 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Jan. 1.....	7:53 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Jan. 2.....	7:53 a.m.	4:46 p.m.
Jan. 3.....	7:53 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Jan. 4.....	7:53 a.m.	4:48 p.m.
Jan. 5.....	7:53 a.m.	4:49 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, December 22
Mega Millions
10 • 26 • 36 • 54 • 69 • PB-4 • x4

Monday, December 25
Powerball
5 • 12 • 20 • 24 • 29 • PB-4 • x2

Monday, December 25
Megabucks
8 • 13 • 20 • 23 • 29 • 43

Inside

Year in Review.....	A1-15
Opinion.....	A5
Public Notices.....	A11
Obituaries.....	A9
Sports.....	A16
Classifieds.....	A8-9

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- Candlesticks & Candelabras



Scrap Gold & Silver

- Gold, Silver & Platinum
- Dental Gold
- Old Mountings
- Class Rings & Fraternal Pins



Rarities

- Military Memorabilia (Uniforms, Daggers, Swords, etc.)
- Pre-1950 Advertising & Toys
- Old Photos & Autographs (Tintypes, etc.)



Coins & Currency

- Gold & Silver Coins
- Bullion & Bars
- Old Paper Money
- Coin Collections



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VIEWPOINT

There's still activity among the small political parties

BY RANDY STAPILUS
Oregon Capital Chronicle

In March, a new organization was added to the list of small political parties qualified to appear on the Oregon ballot: the No Labels Party. Oregon was the third state nationally to accept its application, after Colorado and Arizona.

Whether next year a No Labels' candidate will actually appear on the ballot — or make much difference — remains an open question. The group is aimed solely at presidential politics and doesn't need an in-state organization. As of November, the Oregon Secretary of State's office reported that it had about 1,500 registered voters in the state.

Other smaller parties have more. In Oregon, the Constitution, the Independent, the Libertarian, the Pacific Green (affiliated with the Green Party of the United States), the Progressive and Working Families parties all have thousands of registrants.

The Independent Party of Oregon is distinct from the others, not as a matter of law but simply size: It has far more registered members than all the other smaller parties put together, and has been legally classified as a major party. It's not really a "small" party.

America's politics, and Oregon's, is highly polarized. In the 2020 presidential election, more than 2,374,320 votes were cast in the state for president; all but 75,490 (3.2 percent) went to either Democrat Joe Biden or Republican Donald Trump.

In 2022, when Betsy Johnson's well-organized and strongly financed campaign emerged for governor, she wound up in a very distant third place.

In addition to these organized groups, there are also "other" registrants, which are not among the "nonaffiliated" — which is a separate category — but presumably members of other parties which don't have ballot status in Oregon. State records do not break down who these somewhat mysterious people are. Their numbers have declined a little in recent years but are substantial; at about 15,690, they account for more voters than any of the small parties but the Libertarians.

Still, by themselves Oregon's small parties do generate support, sometimes shifting levels of support, and they can matter in who among large-party candidates prevails and by how much.

Oregon is among the states allowing cross-party endorsement voting, in which more than one party can nominate a candidate — and the smaller parties often do. (The process is related to, but distinctive from the true "fusion" system used in New York state.)

The results show up in many places on Oregon voter guides where partisan offices appear. In 2022, for example, Ron Wyden was nominated for the Senate by not only his own Democratic Party, but also in the Independent Party of Oregon. The Republican nominee, Jo Rae Perkins, also was

nominated by the Constitution Party. The Pacific Green and Progressive parties, meantime, offered their own nominees.

There have been five consistent small parties in Oregon — aside from the Independent Party of Oregon which has grown larger over the years — which are the Constitution, Libertarian, Pacific Green, Progressive and Working Families parties.

It would be fair to group the latter three as left of the Democratic Party. In 2023, they accounted for 19,795 voters.

The Constitution Party has been situated to the right, or near the right flank, of the Republican Party; it's the only small party clearly on the right and has about 3,830 registered voters.

The Libertarian Party may help boost the small-party registration on the right. It takes some elements from both ideological sides — it famously calls for less government and disagrees with a number of policies of both major parties — but in recent decades has seemed to draw more from the right than from the left. Its party registration in October was 20,484.

Taken together, the right may be losing a few more voters to small parties than are the Democrats, though the gap isn't large.

Of the three left-leaning parties, the Pacific Green and the Working Families parties are the larger, with 8,000 or more registrants each in recent years, while the Progressive Party has been much smaller. But the trend lines have favored the Progressives. In 2019 it had about 2,380 registrants but four years later increased their number, by about half, to 3,635.

During that same time, both the Pacific Green's and the Working Families' numbers fell. The PGs declined from 8,700 in 2019 to 7,850 (in 2023), and the WFs from 9,720 in 2019 to 8,310 in 2023. That may reflect some movement from those parties to the Progressives, for reasons that are unclear.

Does all of this, taken together, much influence the outcome of partisan elections statewide? Probably not in most cases, unless the race becomes very close, coming down to a few thousand votes, and then decisions about cross-endorsing as opposed to running a separate candidacy could matter.

Don't say it doesn't matter, though, nor No Labels either even if it lacks registrants. In 2022, two congressional seats were decided by a couple of percentage points. At that level, what the small parties do can make a difference.

Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. Oregon Capital Chronicle (oregoncapitalchronicle.com) 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.



VIEWPOINT

Merkley Monthly: Fighting for safety, training and support for fishermen

Oregon's fishing industry is vital to our coastal communities and economy. In 2022, commercial fishing produced over \$230 million worth of salmon and other fish, shrimp, crab, and seafood products, and put more than 1,200 fishermen to work.

In my town hall conversations with coastal counties every year, I hear your stories about how fishing is difficult, demanding, and often dangerous work that's only getting harder because of diminishing fish stocks and growing climate chaos. And we all know that Oregon's waters are colder, wilder, and more unpredictable than other parts of the country, so our fishermen have to brave more risks and work that much harder to get the job done.

Fishing is one of the most physically dangerous jobs in America, and the work is mentally and emotionally draining. Fishermen spend long stretches of time away from home and family, working grueling hours of strenuous

labor exposed to extreme weather. The result is exhausted, isolated workers operating in hazardous conditions.

With these challenges and an aging workforce, we need to keep our fishing and maritime industries safe and healthy, so that you can grow your businesses and pass them on to Oregon's next generation.

Oregon State University is helping to lead these efforts, in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. One project focuses on safety training for vessel owners, captains, and deckhands so that crews are prepared to respond to injuries. Another project studies how different equipment configurations on crab vessels can help prevent falls overboard. These are just two examples of federal investments at work to make Oregon fishing communities safer.

You've also told me that fishermen want more safety training opportunities.

That is why I'm championing the Fishing Industry Safety, Health, and Wellness Improvement Act, known as the FISH Wellness Act.

This legislation would expand proven safety and training programs for physical and behavioral health run jointly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Coast Guard. These programs address some of the substance abuse and mental health challenges that accompany the high-stress jobs aboard fishing vessels, including drug overdoses, alcohol-related liver disease, and suicide.

This legislation also would eliminate the expense to commercial fishermen or their organizations to participate in safety training programs.

Effective safety training should be equally accessible to everyone, regardless of their income or economic status. That's the common sense, right move.

Oregon's commercial fishing industry faces many other challenges, which is why I helped secure \$52 million for the USDA to purchase Pacific Northwest seafood products during the pandemic, saved the Coast Guard rescue helicopter stationed at Newport from being removed, and ensured that the National Marine Fisheries Service forgave more than \$10 million in interest forced onto our trawlers.

We need to safeguard the financial health of the fishing industry as well as the physical and mental health of the people who power the industry. So, I'll continue to fight for more safety, training, and support for the fishing industry in Oregon and across the country.

Jeff Merkley represents Oregon in the U.S. Senate.



Jeff Merkley

LAW ENFORCEMENT TIP OF THE WEEK

SMART PHONE SECURITY

Technology is always changing and adapting, which means users need to stay updated on the latest information so they can make decisions about their accounts and device security.

iPhone users may have noticed the new NameDrop feature that came along with the Apple iOS 17 update. This feature was designed to help users easily share their contact information with new people directly from their iPhone or Apple Watch. The concern that many have brought up is the possibility of sharing their contact information on accident or with people that they do not know.

According to Apple's support website, users will be prompted before information is shared and they do have the option to decline the prompt, move their phone away from another's, or lock their phone to prevent the transfer.

If you would like to turn off the NameDrop feature go to: Settings > General > AirDrop > Bringing Devices Together, then switch "Bringing Devices Together" to off.

Below are some security tips to consider for your own or your family

member's smart phones:

- Use strong passwords.
- Consider disabling in-app purchases to prevent accidental purchases.
- Turn off bluetooth when not in use and only connect to trusted devices.
- Only connect to secure and trusted Wi-Fi networks.
- Use the "Parental Controls" feature under settings to set screen time limits, set app use restrictions, enable the Communication Safety feature to automatically detect nude photos, and more.

• Monitor app permissions including what apps can update automatically, when they can use your location, and what personal data they collect.

• Keep your devices updated. Software updates usually come with increased security features and more resilient programming.

• Use two-factor authentication whenever possible.

• Learn more about your smart phone's features and security options by visiting your carrier's website or store.

For more information and tips, visit www.lincolncountysheriff.net and "Like" us on Facebook at Lincoln County Sheriff's Office - Oregon.

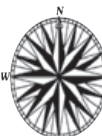


Curtis Landers

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NEWS  TIMES

REVIEW

Continued from page 3

trip down the West Coast with a friend. She said that as she rode over Cape Foulweather and into Newport, she experienced “a magical pull.”

After Bobbie and Burt moved to Lincoln County, they became involved with almost every volunteer opportunity in Newport. When they first arrived in the area, Bobbie’s leadership and past experience led to the formation of a local hospice organization, which has been serving families ever since. Burt served on numerous boards, including Hospice, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, Oregon Coast Community College, the Humane Society, and the Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation.

He was a port commissioner and served on several budget and finance committees in the county.

In 2012, both Bobbie and Burt were honored as “Community Legends” by the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts for their many volunteer contributions to the community.

BB gun reported at school bus stop

Students the morning of April 4 at Newport public schools were held inside buildings for about 45 minutes following the report of a student with a gun at a school bus stop. The episode ended without incident as the student in question was quickly located and reportedly found in possession of a BB gun.

According to Susan Schuytema, Lincoln

County School District communications specialist, at about 8:30 a.m. April 4, a “Newport student” reported witnessing another student at a bus stop at an undisclosed location, reportedly showing the weapon to other students.

The school district, in a Remind message sent to parents and guardians of Newport LCSD students after the “stay indoors” order was lifted, did not name a specific school within its release, though the relwease was titled “Newport Middle School.”

“We immediately called 911 and notified all our Newport schools to keep all students indoors while the police investigated,” the notice to parents and guardians read.

When pressed by the News-Times for more specifics, including to

whom the student reported seeing a gun, and who was the “we” who called 911, Schuytema related that Susan Van Liew, LCSD assistant superintendent, was under the impression the student initially reported the incident to “school personnel, who then followed procedures by notifying administrators who called 911.”

Four teens arrested in Otis home invasion

OTIS — Two adult teens were in Lincoln County Jail, one on \$750,000 bond, after an alleged home invasion in Otis. Two juveniles were also arrested, while a fifth suspect remained at large.

According to an affidavit of probable cause filed April 5 in Lincoln County Circuit Court 5, 18-year-old Xavier Garcia “conspired with four other persons to go to an occupied residence” in Otis, where he reportedly fired two rounds into the air from a .224 rifle before helping kick in the door. The affidavit says Garcia is a felon on parole from the Oregon Youth Authority.

An April 12 press release from the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office said Garcia was joined by 18-year-old Caleb Thomas of Toledo and three as-yet unnamed subjects. Two are juveniles who were taken into custody and another remains at large, though the sheriff’s office said it believed there was no risk to the public.

The press release said the five wore masks as they forced their way in, and at least two of them were armed with guns.

Once inside the home,

Garcia, Thomas and the others allegedly destroyed property worth more than \$1,000 while menacing occupants of the home in an attempt to get them to reveal where another occupant was.

“He then committed an assault by striking a minor female subject in the home with the butt of the rifle,” the affidavit reads.

Politicians hear pleas in Newport

The Oregon Legislature’s Joint Ways and Means Committee hosted one of its series of public hearings across the state in April 14 at the Newport Performing Arts Center, where a crowd of around 350 people attended.

Activists, mayors, schoolteachers, community leaders, a doctor, a sheriff and a judge were among scores of supplicants who sat before the high-powered legislative panel to plead for a share of the proposed \$32.1 billion state budget. The delegation, chaired by Sen. Elizabeth Steiner, included 22 senators and representatives, divided evenly and spread behind a table on the PAC stage.

Speakers testified to widespread, often desperate needs and their lack of money to rebuild failing infrastructure and plug dangerous gaps in education, public health and other vital services. But first, Newport Mayor Dean Sawyer cracked wise.

“I just want to say that Newport is the best city in the state of Oregon,” asserted Sawyer, breaking the tension and drawing relieved laughs from an otherwise somber audience, including 130 people who signed up to speak.

Funding awarded for coastal resilience

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded

REVIEW on Page A7

Ripley's Believe It or Not!
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SEE YOU THERE LINCOLN COUNTY!



A \$2.01 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will provide the funding necessary for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to acquire land on Cape Foulweather to be conserved for its ecological, cultural and visual benefits. (Photo by Steve Smith Photography)

Living 50 Plus

How the body changes with age

Aging is an inevitable component of life. Young children often cannot wait until they get older because of the freedoms that seemingly come with being more mature. On the flip side, adults often wish they were young again. Time waits for no person, and with aging comes many changes, many of which manifest physically.

The following are some components of healthy aging that go beyond graying hair and wrinkling skin.

BONES, JOINTS AND MUSCLES

According to the Mayo Clinic, with age bones may become thinner and more fragile. Joints will lose their flexibility, while muscles lose mass and strength, endurance and flexibility. These changes may be accompanied by a loss of stability that can result in balance issues or falls. It's common for the body frame to shrink, and a person may lose a few inches from his or her height.

A doctor may suggest a bone-density test or supplementation with calcium and

vitamin D to keep bones as strong as possible. Physical activity that includes strength training can help keep muscles strong and flexible.

BODY FAT

As muscle mass diminishes, body fat can increase. The Merck Manual indicates that, by age 75, the percentage of body fat typically doubles compared with what it was during young adulthood. The distribution of fat also changes, which can adjust the shape of the torso.

HEART

Organs in the body also age, and cells begin to die off, making those organs work less efficiently. The heart is one such organ that changes with age. It pumps more than 2.5 million beats during one's lifetime. As a person gets older, blood vessels lose their elasticity, and the heart has to work harder to circulate blood throughout the body, reports Johnson Memorial Health. Exercise can help keep the heart as strong as possible.

URINARY TRACT AND KIDNEYS



The kidneys become smaller as a person ages, which means they may not be able to filter urine as effectively. Urinary incontinence may occur due to hormonal changes or because of an enlarged prostate. Furthermore, the bladder may become less elastic, leading to an urge to urinate more frequently.

MEMORY AND THINKING

Older adults experience changes to the brain as they age. Minor effects on memory or thinking skills

are common and not usually cause for worry. Staying mentally active by reading, playing word games and engaging in hobbies can help. Following a routine and making lists (as multi-tasking may become challenging) are some additional ways to address memory issues.

These are just some of the changes that can come with aging. Generally speaking, exercising, using the brain and adhering to a balanced, healthy diet can help keep the body functioning well into one's golden years.

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541-574-1811 samhealth.org/Hospice



REVIEW

Continued from page 6

the Department of Land Conservation and Development's Oregon Coastal Management Program a \$2.01 million grant for the conservation of an iconic coastal headland through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for coastal zone management programs. This investment provides the funding necessary for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to acquire land on Cape Foulweather to be conserved for its ecological, cultural and visual benefits, bolstering the resilience of the tribe and coastal community.

Cape Foulweather will be the centerpiece of a regional tribal effort focused on invigorating cultural traditions. This area was an important hunting, fishing and gathering site and within the traditional lands of the people now recognized as the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. While the Siletz have steward3e Oregon's central coast for many generations, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians experienced a loss of more than 100 miles of coastal shoreline ownership nested within 1.1 million acres of original reservation land.

With this funding, the Siletz Tribe will regain ownership of this parcel and conserve this land as an anchor for cultural resilience and regional collaboration in near shore, upland forest and estuarine conservation and education. The Siletz will provide opportunities for education and outreach about the richness of the Oregon coast,

the central role of the tribes in its stewardship, and the value of conserving lands and waters.

"Alongside its inherent ecological, scenic and cultural value, this is land originally set aside in 1855 as a part of a permanent homeland for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. We are grateful to have the chance to steward it once again, and thankful to those who made it possible," said Peter Hatch, a history and archaeology specialist with the tribe's culture department.

MAY

Abundance of caution leads to Sam Case lockdown

For a little less than an hour the morning of May 2, Sam Case Elementary School in Newport went into a "Code Yellow Lockdown" after a student reportedly said they heard what sounded like gunshots close by.

According to a "Remind message" sent to Sam Case parents and guardians, attributed to Marty Perez, Sam Case principal, at 10:55 a.m. Tuesday, "a student at Sam Case Elementary School reported hearing a noise that sounded like a gunshot outside near the school and saw someone in the wooded area behind the school."

The message further stated the school immediately went into Code Yellow Lockdown, and staff called 911 to report the incident to law enforcement. A Code Yellow Lockdown, according to the Lincoln County School District's emergency plan, limits

movement at the school while an emergency situation is investigated, assessed and/or managed.

After a hasty response drew personnel from both the Newport Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's office, officers and deputies scoured the surrounding area while the student who made the report and staff members were interviewed.

"In a Code Yellow Lockdown, students are secured in their classrooms and instruction continues while school administration (and sometimes police) manage the emergency situation," the LCSD emergency plan states.

At 11:45 a.m., exactly 50 minutes after the incident was first reported, law enforcement cleared the school to resume regular school day activities, with no viable threat of violence.

New animal shelter will be in Waldport

It was announced May 3 that a new Lincoln County Ainal Shelter facility will be constructed in Waldport.

That announcement was made during a media briefing at the Lincoln County Courthouse. Sheriff Curtis Landers, whose department oversees the operation of the animal shelter, provided a bit of background on the project.

"In 2019, our previous animal shelter building was condemned, and our shelter moved into a temporary facility," Lincoln County Sheriff Curtis Landers said during a media briefing at the Lincoln County Courthouse. The site, located on the east side of North-

east Harney Street next to the Lincoln County Commons (fairgrounds) in Newport, was deemed an unsuitable location for rebuilding the shelter, and a search began for other property.

The animal shelter was located at the Harney Street site for years before a 2019 inspection found the building unfit for human and animal occupancy due to toxic levels of dangerous mold throughout the structure. It was demolished, and a modular building was erected its place to provide a temporary facility until a new, permanent location was found.

Eventually an Animal Shelter Development Team was formed, consisting of representatives from a variety of county offices, animal shelter volunteers, the Oregon Coast Humane Society, Friends of Lincoln County Animals (FOLCAS) and others. This team met on a regular basis in an effort to find a suitable location for the animal shelter.

County Commission Chair Kaety Jacobson said during last week's briefing, "Earlier today we finalized the process for purchasing property on Southwest Dahl Avenue in Waldport for \$175,000 for the new animal shelter facility. With this finalization, we will be withdrawing our application for the previously identified Newport location on airport property."

That Newport location was at the Newport Municipal Airport, a site that drew considerable opposition. FOLCAS and Central Oregon Coast Humane Society, along with many private citi-

zens, opposed the airport location on the grounds that aircraft noise would be disturbing and harmful to sheltered animals, as well as workers at the facility.

District attorney files lawsuit against county commissioners

Lincoln County District Attorney Lane Danforth filed legal action May 12 against the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners in an effort stop it from interfering with her ability to create a new position within the DA's office.



Lincoln County District Attorney Lane Danforth filed legal action on May 12 against the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners in an effort stop it from interfering with her ability to create a new position within the DA's office. (Courtesy photo)

In her lawsuit, filed in Lincoln County Circuit Court, Danforth states that on May 1, she exercised her authority as DA to reclassify one of the positions within her department, essentially creating a second chief deputy's position and moving current Deputy District Attorney Jenna Wallace into that role.

In the past, the DA's office had only one chief deputy.

According to the complaint filed by Danforth, the board of commissioners refused to acknowledge the reclassification. On May 12, Wallace received an email from Lincoln County Human Resources Director David Collier, advising her that she may not perform the functions of a chief deputy district attorney.

"There is only one chief deputy DA position with Lincoln County, and that position is currently occupied by Lynn Howard," Collier wrote in his email. "At this time, we don't have any documentation indicating that Ms. Howard will be vacating that position, so the position is currently not available. DA Danforth is a manager, but she is not your employer. Lincoln County, as your employer, has not created any additional positions in the district attorney's office. As such, you are not authorized to perform the duties of the chief DDA."

However, Danforth asserts the district attorney's office is a state entity, conducting state business and "the only matter of county concern and county business related to the district attorney's office is budgetary."

In her lawsuit, Danforth asks the court to make the finding that she "has the exclusive authority to make all decisions regarding the number, types, and structure of positions within the district attorney's office, without interference from the Lincoln County

REVIEW on Page A10

Calendar of EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

WINTER WHALE WATCH

Oregon State Parks hosts Winter Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

BRINGETTO JAZZ DUO at ZURITA'S

Classic jazz favorites from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Zurita's in Nye Beach, located at 711 NW Second Ct., Newport. For information, call 541-272-5078.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Enjoy Trivia Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Beachcrest Brewing, located in suite E5 at the Salishan Marketplace, 7755 Highway 101, Gleneden Beach. Free. Show off your knowledge for the chance to win prizes. Teams of up to six allowed.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

WINTER WHALE WATCH

Oregon State Parks hosts Winter Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE

Learn Argentine tango at Newport Tango's weekly Thursday practice. 6 to 8 p.m., South Beach Community Center, 3024 SE Ferry Slip Road, South Beach. Info: newportdancetango@gmail.com or www.newportdancetango.com

GAME NIGHT IN GLENEDEN BEACH

Enjoy a game night at the Gleneden Beach Community Club, 110 Azalea St. Bring a favorite game or play one available at the club. Bring a partner, or challenge someone attending. If you're hungry, bring snacks and/or your own beverage. Free mahjong lesson this month. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

WINTER WHALE WATCH

Oregon State Parks hosts Winter Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

TEEN NIGHT IN LINCOLN CITY

Teen night at the Lincoln City Community Center, 540 NE Highway 101. 4 to 6:30 p.m. Take part in games, activities, socializing, snacks, arts and crafts and homework help. To learn more, call 541-994-9994.

SEA OF LIGHTS AT OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

Visit the Sea of Lights at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Road, Newport, from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission: free for aquarium members, \$10 for non-members. This family-friendly event allows visitors to view aquarium galleries and exhibits in a new light, and includes Santa photo opportunities. Info: aquarium.org or 541-867-3474.

SATURDAY, DEC. 30

WINTER WHALE WATCH

Oregon State Parks hosts Winter Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

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SEA OF LIGHTS AT OREGON COAST AQUARIUM

Visit the Sea of Lights at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Road, Newport, from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission: free for aquarium members, \$10 for non-members. This family-friendly event allows visitors to view aquarium galleries and exhibits in a new light, and includes Santa photo opportunities. Info: aquarium.org or 541-867-3474.

FLATT STANLEY AT BEACHCREST

Flatt Stanley performs feel-good bluegrass and folk music from 6 to 8 p.m. at Beachcrest Brewing, located at the Salishan Marketplace, 7755 N Highway 101, Gleneden Beach.

LINCOLN POPS BIG BAND

Enjoy the eve of New Year's Eve with the Lincoln Pops Big Band, live at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets, \$45, include light appetizers and a champagne toast at "midnight" East Coast time. Info: oregoncoast.org/event

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

WINTER WHALE WATCH

Oregon State Parks hosts Winter Whale Watch Week with trained volunteers available to help people spot whales at 15 sites along the Oregon coast. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more at orwhalewatch.org

ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT BEACHCREST

Beachcrest Brewing, located in suite E5 at the Salishan Marketplace, 7755 Highway 101, Gleneden Beach, will celebrate its fifth anniversary with beer, music, food and fun. Noon to 9 p.m. Learn more at beachcrestbrewing.com/events

SONS OF BEACHES

Sons of Beaches perform rock with a coastal flavor. 6 to 8:30 p.m., The Drift Inn, 124 Hwy. 101 N, Yachats. 541-547-4477.

MONDAY, JAN. 1

SILETZ BAY SPLASH

Celebrate the New Year with a cold-water plunge at the annual Siletz Bay Splash, beginning at 10 a.m. at the beach near the Taft Dock at the end of 51st Street in Lincoln City. After the plunge, enjoy refreshments and a fire at the shelter. Info: https://bit.ly/LCPR_Events

NEW YEAR'S DAY LABYRINTH WALK

The Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101, is hosting a New Year's Day Labyrinth Walk from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations welcome but not required. Info: 541-994-9994.

MATT NEELY AT THE DRIFT INN

Matt Neely from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Drift Inn, located at 124 Highway 101 N in Yachats. For information, call 541-547-4477.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2

OREGON COAST LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Oregon Coast Learning Institute kicks off its winter series at 9:30 a.m. at Chapel by the Sea Presbyterian, 2125 SE Lee Ave., Lincoln City. For more information, go online at www.ocli.us or call 541-994-4810 or 541-265-8023.

'SLEEP IN THE DEEP'

"Sleep in the Deep" at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This sleepover program takes place in the aquarium's Passages of the Deep exhibit, giving guests the opportunity to "sleep with the fishes." Info: aquarium.org/sleepovers.

BROOKLYN EXPERIMENT PERFORMS

The Tex Brooklyn Experiment, featuring Robert Rubin, Bill Stiffler and Morgen Silverhorn, performs at The Drift Inn, 124 Highway 101, Yachats. 6 p.m. No cover charge. Info: 541-547-4477.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3

KARL SMILEY AT THE DRIFT INN

Award-winning songwriter Karl Smiley performs his own brand of guitar picking. 6 p.m. at The Drift Inn, located at 124 Highway 101 N in Yachats. For information, call 541-547-4477.

THURSDAY, JAN. 4

'SLEEP IN THE DEEP'

"Sleep in the Deep" at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This sleepover program takes place in the aquarium's Passages of the Deep exhibit, giving guests the opportunity to "sleep with the fishes." Info: aquarium.org/sleepovers.

YACHATS BIG BAND

Grab your dance shoes or come as you are and join the Yachats Big Band from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Yachats Commons, 441 N Coast Hwy 101. The band is back playing dances featuring big band classics on the first Thursday of every month. Admission is \$5 for adults, free for children under 12.

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- 103 Condos For Sale
- 104 Lots/Acreage For Sale
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- 106 Multiplexes For Sale
- 107 Real Estate Wanted

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501 Help Wanted



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NEWS TIMES

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501 Help Wanted

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For detailed information, please visit our website at: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofnewport. All applications for this position must be submitted via our online application system.

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Must be able to lift up to 50lbs, be customer service oriented. Floor care experience as well as having a vested interest into Lincoln County School District is a plus.

***\$1000 sign-on bonus**
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Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



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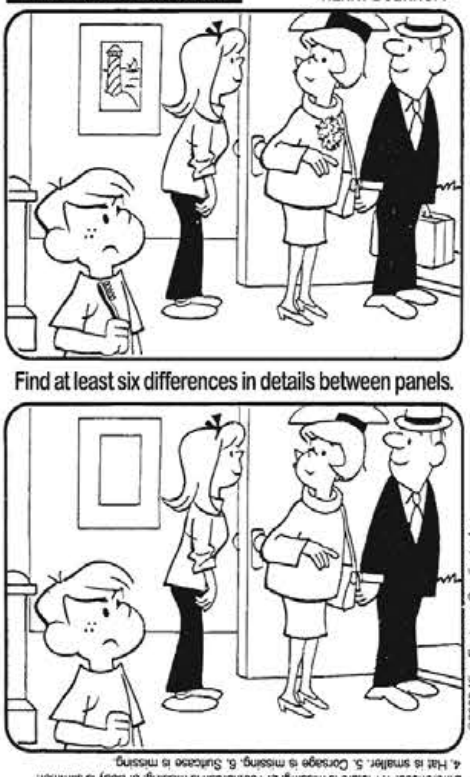
TIGER



OLIVE



HOCUS-FOCUS



Just Like Cats & Dogs



Super Crossword

Answers

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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!

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- RATED
- Path
- OUTER
- Brand
- BELLA
- Figure
- PHASE

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Super Crossword

FORGET THE WHOLE THING

- | | | | | | |
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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Warning about a racy web pic</p> <p>5 "West Side Story" knife</p> <p>9 Seasoned vet</p> <p>15 Bro</p> <p>19 French for "yours"</p> <p>20 Treat for feet, for short</p> <p>21 Pope after Marcellus II</p> <p>22 Scads</p> <p>23 RFORM</p> <p>26 Rapper Snoop —</p> <p>27 Variety show hosts, e.g.</p> <p>28 ACLU interests: Abbr.</p> <p>29 Farming unit</p> <p>31 Pasty luau food</p> <p>32 Flight takeoff abbr.</p> <p>33 NTR</p> <p>38 "Peek- —!"</p> <p>40 Classic comic Martha</p> <p>41 Uplifting poems</p> <p>42 Place full of video games</p> <p>43 UBL</p> <p>46 Chicken cordon —</p> <p>47 British chums</p> <p>48 Stars and Stripes' nation</p> | <p>49 —'wester (certain storm)</p> <p>50 "Oh, God!" actress Garr</p> <p>54 Cousins of aves.</p> <p>55 Name of some newspapers</p> <p>57 GHTE</p> <p>62 Actors Fiennes and Macchio</p> <p>65 Very top</p> <p>66 Flying</p> <p>67 TRONI</p> <p>72 Cast out of the country</p> <p>73 Official helper</p> <p>74 Pays out</p> <p>75 EAKI</p> <p>79 Diner check</p> <p>80 Start for existing</p> <p>83 Name of some newspapers</p> <p>84 Vetoer's vote</p> <p>85 U.S. tax org.</p> <p>88 Aromatic aftershave liquid</p> <p>90 QBs' blunders: Abbr.</p> <p>92 RKE</p> <p>96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.</p> <p>99 Outer limit</p> | <p>100 Chimney grime</p> <p>101 Great serves</p> <p>102 HEER</p> <p>105 2000-15 CBS series</p> <p>106 Writer Rand</p> <p>107 Blood type, in brief</p> <p>108 Total</p> <p>109 Wakes up</p> <p>112 Writer Uris</p> <p>114 NTEN</p> <p>119 Peel, as fruit</p> <p>120 Excited response to "Who wants ice cream?"</p> <p>121 Cozy corner</p> <p>122 Pierce player Alan</p> <p>123 Cast off hair</p> <p>124 Swan constellation</p> <p>125 Forest sight</p> <p>126 Saclike growth</p> | <p>8 Wine merchants</p> <p>9 Unlock, in poems</p> <p>10 Resting place for a napkin</p> <p>11 Drinker's hwy. offense</p> <p>12 Implodes</p> <p>13 Christina of "Bel Ami"</p> <p>14 Put too high a price on</p> <p>15 Papa</p> <p>16 Perfect world</p> <p>17 Be charitable</p> <p>18 Gas guzzler</p> <p>24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon</p> <p>25 Chicago winter hrs.</p> <p>30 Blarney Stone's land</p> <p>35 Hubbub</p> <p>36 Novelist Deighton</p> <p>37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps</p> <p>38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.</p> <p>39 Regatta entry</p> <p>40 Upshot</p> <p>44 Evan of figure skating</p> <p>45 Univ. helpers</p> <p>46 Web automaton</p> | <p>49 Brother of Moe and Curly</p> <p>51 Deep black, in poems</p> <p>52 Break in friendship</p> <p>53 Hairy TV cousin</p> <p>56 "Science Friday" airtel</p> <p>58 Person tying shoes</p> <p>59 Onetime transportation agcy.</p> <p>60 Foods created by biotech</p> <p>61 Flood-prevention sack</p> <p>62 One sharing your blood</p> <p>63 Songwriter Carmichael</p> <p>64 Salon noise</p> <p>67 Large-scale public show</p> <p>68 Untrue tales</p> <p>69 Neighbor of Mont.</p> <p>70 Caress</p> <p>71 How money may be lost</p> <p>72 Sci-fi gift</p> <p>76 Belonging naturally</p> <p>77 "One Mic" rapper</p> | <p>78 "— ToK" (#1 hit for Kesha)</p> <p>80 On the nose</p> <p>81 Viking letter</p> <p>82 Rescue crew VIPs</p> <p>86 Occupant</p> <p>87 Represented</p> <p>89 Peruvian singer with a wide range</p> <p>91 Notorious emperor</p> <p>92 OR workers</p> <p>93 Rust may be a sign of it</p> <p>94 DVR remote abbr.</p> <p>95 Cain, to Eve</p> <p>96 Hair-raising sites?</p> <p>97 "Is that so?"</p> <p>98 Poe's "radiant maiden"</p> <p>99 Yuletide quaff</p> <p>103 Destitute</p> <p>104 Tic- — -toe</p> <p>105 Gear tooth</p> <p>109 Yard tool</p> <p>110 Outer limits</p> <p>111 Sports datum</p> <p>113 TV neighbor of Homer</p> <p>115 Pewter, mostly</p> <p>116 Univ. website suffix</p> <p>117 Vetoer's votes</p> <p>118 Rival of Wade</p> |
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REVIEW

Continued from page 7

Board of Commissioners." She is also asking that Wallace's reclassification as a chief deputy DA be recognized by the county and that Wallace be compensated accordingly, with pay retroactive to May 1.

Grace Wins Haven closing, homeless issues remain

After years of helping those in need in and around Newport, Grace Wins Haven founder Traci Flowers announced she can no longer keep the facility's doors open, leaving local officials to determine how to fill those shoes.

Flowers posted on social media May 20 that the facility will permanently close on June 15 after an illness that left her unable to manage it any longer. The post was



In late May, Grace Wins Haven founder Traci Flowers announced she could no longer keep her doors open, leaving local officials to determine how to fill the shoes of the entity that provides used clothing, furniture, bedding and basic supplies, including a mailing address for those without a permanent residence.

followed by a flood of grateful and encouraging comments from community members.

Out of the facility on first street in Newport, homeless individuals were able to find used clothing, furniture, bedding and basic supplies, as well as a mailing address. Messages left on

the door reminded clients they will need to find another way to get their mail.

JUNE

Council bans retail fireworks in Newport

The Newport City Council voted to prohibit the personal use of retail fireworks until Oct. 15 in the city limits.

City Manager Spencer Nebel said the ordinance will only affect the use of retail fireworks, but not their sale. He said concerns about heavy winter rains followed by an extended dry period prompted the proposed action.

Newport Fire Chief Rob Murphy said that while the fire season generally starts later in mid-July, dry weather pushed the start date up to June 9. He said it's predicted that precipitation will remain low into August.

However, the city's annual display will go on as scheduled. Murphy explained that to put on a public display requires

intense regulatory requirements. He said that since the fireworks are shot over the water and fire personnel will be standing by in the area, it's far less likely that a fire will occur there.

"I'm less concerned about the show and we can put extra protections in place that we can't do for retail fireworks," he said, noting that it would take a major wind event to cancel the fireworks display.

Grace Wins Haven to remain open

Staff at Grace Wins Haven in Newport confirmed the center will remain open and hold a thank you ceremony for founder Traci Flowers on June 21. According to a June 1 social media post, the center found a new director and with much community support, the day-resource center and winter shelter will remain open.

At the June 5 meeting of the Newport City Council, Flowers introduced Janelle Villareal as the new director.

The news followed a May 20 announcement that the shelter would close June 15 due to Flowers' illness and would no longer accept donations.

Lincoln County proposes shelter

LINCOLN CITY — Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson presented to the Lincoln City City Council a proposal to run one or possibly two \$300,000 overnight shelters through the fall and winter months. Along with Lincoln County Health and Human Services Director Jayne Romero, Jacobson pitched a plan to organize and staff a permanent, six-month shelter to serve at least 100 people, but members of the city council pointed out what they saw as flaws in the plan that cooled their recep-

tion.

The county plans to hire a fulltime staffer to organize, equip, supply and raise operating funds for the shelter, perhaps even two shelters. The proposal presented at a June 12 meeting relied upon largely volunteer help and/or unbenefited, part-time help, prompting Councilor Sydney Kasner to question if Lincoln County HHS planners consulted with knowledgeable local volunteers, with "people who had done this before." Councilor Riley Hoagland questioned whether the published salary range for overnight workers (\$22 per hour) is enough to forestall burnout and staff turnover. Leading off the conversation, Councilor Judy Casper voiced skepticism about the plan's vagueness.

"So, we have a program outline," Casper said, "and we have no money, no facility and no coordinators. This is a major, major task — how close will it come to fruition?"

Jacobson and Romero told city councilors planning and conversations are ongoing. Bills in the Oregon Legislature could provide partial funding, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) also could provide partial funding, and much of the job of the future shelter coordinator would be to continuously seek grant funding from all sources to support the low-to-no-barrier shelter during the months of Oregon's inclement weather.

Lawsuit filed against district attorney

Kenneth Park, a former Lincoln County deputy district attorney, filed suit against District Attorney Lane Danforth and Deputy DA Robin Lynn Howard, alleging six instances of unlawful employment practices. The lengthy complaint listed them as whistleblowing retaliation by a public employer, whis-

tleblowing retaliation (a separate claim), unlawful employer discrimination, wrongful termination and a false light violation.

Park seeks a total of \$3 million in damages.

"At the time of Park's employment, he had completed over 25 years in law enforcement including 15 years as an undercover narcotics agent and five years as a criminal prosecutor," the complaint reads. "Prior to his appointment, Park had prosecuted over 750 jury trials and hundreds of non-jury trials involving felonies and misdemeanors."

In 2020, Park, Danforth and then-appointed District Attorney Jonathan Cable filed to run for the DA position in the next primary election, but Park withdrew his application in support of Cable.

According to the complaint, Park praised Cable but was critical of Danforth in statements to the media. However, Danforth won the primary and upon assuming office, removed Park from his position and hired Robin Howard, who supported her in the election, as a deputy district attorney, the complaint states.

JULY

Waldport breaks ground on Southworth Park

WALDPOR — About 100 residents, around 10 local and state officials and more than a dozen young ukulele players came out July 2 for the official groundbreaking of Louis Southworth Memorial Park in Waldport.

Waldport Mayor Greg Holland said it was an emotional day for most in attendance who have been working on the park for over 10 years, noting Southworth was a former slave who donated the land upon which the former high school in Waldport was built.

Holland thanked Oregon Coast Visitors Association for the funds used to build a memorial statue of Southworth. Waldport Chamber VP Jesse Dolan gave a round of thanks to supporters,

REVIEW on Page A11

Sudoku grid with numbers 8, 3, 9, 1, 7, 2, 6, 5, 4 in the first row.

Sudoku answers

Mark Anthony Simmons

June 3, 1987 - November 11, 2023

Mark Anthony Simmons passed away November 11, 2023. Born June 3rd, 1987 in Portland, OR,



Mark was a beloved son, brother, nephew, cousin and friend. Mark will be remembered for his smile and for always going out of his way to make someone smile. He loved music and movies, always quoting his favorite lines. He loved spending time with friends and family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Until we meet again... Mark is survived by his father

Greg Simmons, his mother Frieda Simmons and his brothers - Spencer, Brandon, Tyler and Keith. A Celebration of Life was held for family and friends on December 17, 2023 at Siletz Tribal Center, Siletz, OR.

John Ford Sollers Jr

April 29, 1942 - December 16, 2023

John Ford Sollers Jr was born in Moscow, Idaho on April 29, 1942 to his parents, John Ford Sollers Sr and Grace Newton Sollers. He died in Lincoln Beach, Oregon on December 16, 2023.



He was educated in Idaho. Upon his graduation from the University of Idaho, he began the first year of a more than fifty year career as a high school English teacher. His first classroom was at Troy High School in Troy, Idaho, where he taught for two years.

After leaving Troy, he moved to Caldwell, Idaho and taught at Vallivue High School from 1967 to 1985.

From Caldwell he moved to Oregon and taught at Taft High School and later Career Tech High School in Lincoln City. He taught in Lincoln City from 1985 until his retirement in January of 2022 — a career spanning more than fifty years of extraordinary teaching.

As one of his former students put it in a thank you letter celebrating John's career, "Because of the impact you have had on thousands of students, you will continue to live forever in the thoughts, words, and deeds of all of us, which I'm pretty sure makes you immortal."

John is survived by his wife, Lynn, his brother, Jim, his son, Phil, and his grandchildren, Warren, Dana, and Jaxon. He is also survived by the thousands of students he regarded and loved as his own 'kids.' They loved him back and they will celebrate John's life in a memorial being planned for later in the spring.

He was a good man with a tremendous talent for loving his students. The world is a better place because of his work.

John is in the care of Bateman Funeral Home in Newport, Oregon at BatemanPacificView.com.

Anna Irene Easley

February 1, 1927 - November 28th, 2023

Anna died peacefully at home with her daughter, Fern Mae Easley and granddaughter, Jill Easley Guzman, on November 28th, 2023.



Anna Irene Strome was born in a house on Fruitvale Road near Newport, Oregon on February 1, 1927. Her parents were Alvah and Rachel Strome - she was the middle of five children.

Anna's family moved to property near Medicine Rock, and later established a dairy farm on the Siletz River where Strome County Park now is.

Anna married Charles Richard Easley in 1945 in San Francisco. They were married for 59 years. They had a son Patrick Gordon Easley in 1953, and daughter Dixie Ann Easley in 1961.

Charles and Anna were blessed with 4 granddaughters and a great granddaughter, Dahlia. Patrick has two daughters Gina and Shannon Easley.

Fern (Dixie) has two daughters Jill and Rose Easley.

Anna and her siblings formed the

Stromestead Corporation, which provided for 5 acres of the land she grew up on to be held in perpetuity by their descendants.

Anna was involved in many groups, including Girl Scouts, the Newport Presbyterian Church, Toastmasters, the Newport Garden Club, 4H, and others.

She had a love of rock hounding, geology and traveling. We took several trips together as a family.

She was office manager at New England Fish Company in Newport for a few years.

Anna was known for having a great smile, sense of humor, and a willingness to help other people. She stayed positive to the very end. People would recognize her laugh! "I knew you were here, I recognized your laugh."

During many years of living together, Anna formed a special bond with granddaughter Jill, who left her home in Washington to be with her Nana the last few weeks of her life.

Services will be held at Newport Presbyterian Church on January 13, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

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Local and state officials dig into the very ground in July where former slave Louis Southworth donated land for a school, the future home of Louis Southworth Memorial Park in Waldport.

REVIEW

Continued from page 10

donors and organizers.

“This morning I woke up feeling so excited and just like you, Mr. Mayor, I had a bit of emotion, too,” he said. “This has been a long time coming and it’s for someone who should have been honored way before this, but here we are and we are honoring him now.” Dolan explained that Southworth was a slave who bought his freedom, even though his enslaver petitioned against it.



Newport Mayor Dean Sawyer resigned his position July 10 after public outcry, and public statements from the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners, the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office and Newport Police Department denounced Sawyer’s history of posting racist and homophobic memes to a private Facebook page for current and former law enforcement personnel.

Sawyer resigns as mayor

On July 10, amid a wave of incensed responses to his posts to social media, Dean Sawyer submitted his resignation as mayor of Newport.

A story published July 7 by Oregon Public Broadcasting asserted Sawyer, a former career police officer, shared inappropriate, racist and homophobic memes on a private Facebook page for retired law enforcement officers. According to the report, Sawyer shared memes mocking trans athletes, immigrants and others on a Facebook page called LEO (Law Enforcement Officers) Only. According to the report, some posts dated back to 2016.

Sawyer told OPB he developed a sense of humor that some officers share, and he got caught up in a site where such expressions are common.

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners filed a statement, signed by all three members, which began, “As elected officials representing a richly diverse community, we are disturbed and saddened by Friday’s news report that Mayor Dean Sawyer of Newport has for years posted hateful, racist, homophobic, transphobic and violent ‘jokes’ to a private Facebook page. We unequivocally condemn those posts, which belittled and dehumanized the most vulnerable of our friends and neighbors.”

The statement continued, “We also reject the notion that the difficult circumstances encountered in a career in law enforcement contribute

partment upholds diversity, equity and inclusion.

“As a department within the city of Newport, the Newport Police Department condemns racism, discrimination and other types of bias,” Malloy posted. “The Newport Police Department recognizes that a community is enhanced by its diversity, and city facilities and services exist to serve all members of the community. Racism and bigotry are never to be supported or tolerated, and instead are to be identified and condemned.”

AUGUST

Mombetsu students visit Newport

Ten students and four adults from Mombetsu, Japan, enjoyed a whirlwind tour of Newport and the surrounding area before heading out of town Aug. 5.

The group flew into Portland July 31 and came to Newport Aug. 2. Students were introduced to host families that night and were taken to the National Night Out in Newport.

The delegation toured Hatfield Marine Science Center, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Yaquina Head Lighthouse, the Maritime Museum, Ripley’s Believe it or Not and other local attractions. Youths and adults got to see glass-blowing demonstrations, search local tide pools and even did some walking and shopping on the Bayfront.

City Manager Spencer Nebel said this year has been out of the ordinary when it comes to delegations traveling between

the two cities.

“This is our fourth exchange this year,” he said. “We’re sort of playing catch-up from COVID.”

Governor signs fueling bill into law

SALEM — Gov. Tina Kotek signed House Bill 2426 into law after it passed the state House and Senate with bipartisan support during the recent legislative session. The new law took effect immediately.

House Bill 2426 aims to ease staffing shortages, ensures access for elderly and disabled customers, and for those who prefer for an attendant to pump their gas, and simplifies a complicated patchwork of rules that have long existed statewide.

The new law maintains differences between rural counties (where self-service was already allowed) and non-rural counties (where it was previously prohibited).

In rural counties, where self-service was already allowed, gas stations will be allowed to offer self-serve gas at all hours. Rural counties are defined in the law to include Baker, Clatsop, Crook, Curry, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Willamette, Wasco and Wheeler.

In non-rural counties, gas stations must offer attended service but may also offer self-serve gas at no more than half of their pumps during operating hours. If offering a self-serve option, gas stations must provide signage so customers can identify which pumps allow

self-service and which are attended. Non-rural counties include Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill.

Tragedy strikes NHS community

Yael Santiago “Santi” Felix-Trejo, who was to be a sophomore this upcoming school year at Newport High, died at a hospital following an

incident the evening of Aug. 14, during the first Newport boys soccer practice of the season at Gene Morrow Field. In a news release, the Lincoln County School District announced Felix-Trejo’s death, and briefly detailed the circumstances surrounding the tragedy.

“After Felix-Trejo fell ill at soccer practice, his parents and 911 were notified and arrived at the soccer field. Felix-Trejo was transported by ambulance to the hospital

REVIEW on Page A12



Newport High School students comfort each other during an NHS fall sports family information night at the school’s Spangler Court, less than 24 hours after sophomore-to-be Yael Santiago “Santi” Felix-Trejo’s tragic death following a medical emergency at Cubs boys soccer practice. After dedicating its season to Santi’s memory, the Newport boys soccer team won its first state championship since 2017 with a dramatic 2-1 overtime victory over Cottage Grove in November at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

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		9	1	2		4
	5			8		1
7				9	3	
		8	5			3
1				4		6 9
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

SUDOKU
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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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETING
AGENCY: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Lincoln County Local Work Group Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 Time: 10:00 -11:30 AM Location: OSU Extension Service Office, 1211 SE Bay Blvd., Newport, OR 97365 and Zoom Online Meeting
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1600350174?pwd=T3F5NUhRd1YtYjZFSVnVlR1hmUm1Zz09>
Meeting ID: 160 035 0174
Passcode: 028988 To join by phone dial (669) 254-5252
Purpose: Make your voice heard. NRCS is seeking input from farmers, ranchers, small woodland owners, tribes, agency staff, and agriculture and conservation organizations regarding natural resource conservation priorities and opportunities in Lincoln County. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made 48 hours before the meeting. For questions or concerns, please contact Annie Marion at 541-563-5627 or anna.marion@usda.gov. D27 25-27

CITY OF NEWPORT NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
The Newport City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to consider File No. 1-Z-23, amending Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Chapter 14.01, Purpose, Applicability, and Definitions; Chapter 14.03, Zoning Districts; Chapter 14.09, Temporary Uses; Chapter 14.15, Residential Uses in Nonresidential Zoning Districts; Chapter 14.44, Transportation Standards; 14.48, Land Divisions; and 14.52, Procedural Requirements, related to the implementation of 2022-2023 State of Oregon land use related statutory amendments. Pursuant to Newport Municipal Code (NMC) Section 14.36.010, the City Council must find that the change is required by public necessity and the general welfare of the community in order for the amendments to be adopted. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the request above or other criteria, including criteria within the Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances,

which the person believes to apply to the decision. Failure to raise an issue with sufficient specificity to afford the city and the parties an opportunity to respond to that issue precludes an appeal, including to the Land Use Board of Appeals, based on that issue. Testimony may be submitted in written or oral form. Oral testimony and written testimony will be taken during the course of the public hearing. The hearing may include a report by staff, testimony from the applicant and proponents, testimony from opponents, rebuttal by the applicant, and questions and deliberation by the City Council. Written testimony sent to the Community Development (Planning) Department, City Hall, 169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97365, must be received by 2:00 p.m. the day of the hearing to be included as part of the hearing or must be personally presented during testimony at the public hearing. The proposed code amendments, additional material for the amendments, and any other material in the file may be reviewed or a copy purchased at the Newport Community

Development Department (address above). Contact Derrick Tokos, Community Development Director, d.tokos@newportoregon.gov, (541) 574-0626 (address above). D27 23-27

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE #23-1135
On January 23rd, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 W Olive St, Room 203, in the City of Newport, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 4634 SE Lee Avenue, Lincoln City, OR 97367. The court case number is 23CV13263, PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, plaintiff(s) vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JAMES ALBERT DERHAM; JOSEPH DEWEESE; DONNA OLSON; PARTIES IN POSSESSION defendant(s). This is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand. For more details go to <http://www.oregon-sheriffssales.org/county/lincoln/> D13, D20, D27, J3 13-03

REVIEW

Continued from page 11

where he later died,” the release read. “Our school community is heartbroken for his family, friends, and our entire community.”

Newport High School provided a “care room” the following day at the school, where students gathered and shared their grief with each other with school councilors available for support. Later that early evening, at the school’s fall sports information night, Reyna Mattson, NHS principal, addressed attendees in the Spangler Court bleachers, a group of about 100 people that included members of Felix-Trejo’s family, one of whom clutched a framed photo portrait of Felix-Trejo.

“I wanted to take a minute to grieve the loss of one of our Cubs,” Mattson began, as her voice cracked while she fought back tears. Mattson continued by reading from the LCSD news release, and noted the presence of Felix-Trejo’s family in the audience.

“The staff at NHS will remember Yael as a sweet, responsible, and respectful student,” Mattson told the attendees before leading a moment of silence in the boy’s honor.

Man killed in Yaquina Bay Bridge shooting

According to a Newport Police Department release, officers were dispatched at about 12:45 p.m. Aug. 9 to reports of a possible shooting on the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport.

“Officers arrived on scene and immediately

detained a male subject,” the release stated. “Officers located a deceased male on the west walkway of the Yaquina Bay Bridge. Officers confirmed the deceased male suffered at least one gunshot wound.”

Law enforcement interviewed several witnesses and closed the bridge to traffic for about two hours. Several motorists attempted to circumvent the bridge by crossing the Yaquina River in Toledo, leading to a crash in the area of 7872 N Beaver Creek Road.

Police at the time said there was no further threat to the community and the incident remained under investigation. In late August, authorities released the name of man killed, 43-year-old Justin Joseph Salisbury of Newport.

Residents, officials can’t stop pesticide spraying

SEAL ROCK — Many Seal Rock residents were frustrated as they attempted to stop a property owner from spraying pesticides by helicopter in the South Beaver Creek area. Oregon Department of Forestry issued a permit to operate machinery, allowing landowner Sorn Nymark to use a helicopter to apply pesticides in an area near Graves Creek, east of the community of Seal Rock.

According to the ODF application, the project area is within 100 to 300 feet of several “site conditions,” including a stream, a seep or spring, a Bald Eagle, home or other dwelling and a domestic water supply. The

application states that spraying may only occur in the 90-day window between Sept. 2 and Nov. 30.

A special meeting was called the same day to bring area residents up to speed on what was happening.

That meeting was a veritable “who’s who” of local agencies, including State Rep. David Gomborg, County Commissioner Casey Miller, Matt Thomas, from Oregon Department of Forestry, Kai Huschke, executive director for Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, John Fujita, president of the Beaver Creek Community, Lincoln County Public Information Officer Kenneth Lipp, Mike Broily of the Midcoast Watersheds Council, Julie Harvey, a drinking water protection coordinator at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Caylin Barter of the Wild Salmon Center, attorney Jennie Bricker and many area residents.

Asked if ODF had authority to stop the spraying, Thomas said, “At this time, we do not. I think it’s a big misunderstanding for a lot of folks that we issue permits. We’re not a permitting agency.” He said the notifications show the property owner knows of certain resources near the site and must make a plan to mitigate damage to them.

When asked, Thomas said pesticide or herbicide spraying is a permissible practice, as long as proper forest practices are followed.

Newport appoints new mayor

City Councilor Jan Kaplan was sworn in as

Newport’s new mayor following an Aug. 14 special meeting to interview candidates. Kaplan was appointed by the council and will serve the remainder of the term left by disgraced former mayor Dean Sawyer.

The two other applicants were Mark Phillips, a retired attorney, judge and ethics instructor, and Sandra Roumagoux, an artist and faculty member of Oregon Coast Community College, who previously served as city councilor and then mayor of Newport.

Kaplan was city council president and has a long history in local government offices, including director of mental health and public health in Lincoln and Curry counties, as well as Tioga County, New York.

Newport City Manager Spencer Nebel said the council took a ballot vote and chose Kaplan 5 to 1, with the sole opposing vote to candidate Roumagoux.

“I believe it is very important for the city council to respect and encourage different perspectives on key issues. In my opinion, one of the greatest strengths of the Newport City Council is its ability to air and respect differing points of view in deliberating actions,” Kaplan’s application read. “This respect for differing opinions enables informed decision-making that is respectful to all parties. I will do my best to support this culture.”

Board suspends STR licensing another six months

On Aug. 23, Lincoln County commissioners directed staff to prepare an extension to a moratorium on new short-term rental licenses for six months, as the county readies for enforcement of an ordinance adopted last year temporarily overridden by an overlapping ballot measure. Commissioners still had to finalize several aspects and prepare staff and licensees for extensive new rules for STRs.

The decision earlier in August from the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals reversing amendments to Lincoln County Code enacted via Ballot Measure 21-203, which banned new short-term

rental licenses in most unincorporated residential zones and would phase out existing licenses during the next five years, cleared the way for the county to implement its own regulations adopted by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners through Ordinance 523 just a week before the ballot measure passed last November.

The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office, responsible for STR licensure and enforcement, never got around to enforcing the ballot measure’s provisions, as a circuit court judge granted an injunction against it while a lawsuit against the county over the measure was pending.

That injunction came before Ordinance 523, which the measure superseded, was set to take effect in January, briefly opening up the possibility for new license applications until commissioners revived a moratorium that was in place from March 2020 until mid-November of last year. The ordinance has similar provisions to the ballot measure without the phase out or banning of new licenses, though new licenses were unlikely to be immediately granted.

Commissioners originally extended the moratorium for 90 days and approved a six-month extension in February.

who also serves on the Newport Sea Lion Foundation. “It’s one attraction people don’t have to pay for that is really fun and educational. You just walk up any time and get some entertainment.”

SEPTEMBER

Country Media, Inc. acquires News-Times

On Sept. 1, News Media Corporation announced the sale of the Newport News-Times to Oregon-based media company, Country Media, Inc. Included in the sale was the Sentinel in Cottage Grove and the Siuslaw News in Florence, along with the weekly newspapers’ websites, digital products and specialty publications.

At the time of the sale Country Media owned eight community newspapers in Oregon and one in California. News Media purchased the Siuslaw News in 2000, and the News-Times and Cottage Grove Sentinel in 2006. Country Media, founded in 2000, also is a family-run company focusing on local journalism. Carol and husband Steve Hungerford oversee the business from the central office in Salem.

“Carol and I are longtime Oregon residents and know full well what Florence, Cottage Grove



Camille Fournier, a member of the Newport Sea Lion Foundation, cuts a ribbon Aug. 25 to celebrate the installation of new sea lion docks at Port Dock One on the Newport Bayfront.

New sea lion docks dedicated

On Aug. 25, the new sea lion docks on the Newport Bayfront were officially dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Newport Sea Lion Foundation and generous support from the city of Newport, Discover Newport, the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, and many community sponsors and enthusiasts, brand-new docks have emerged at Port Dock One. These were installed on July 19 and 20 by Oregon Marine Construction, and once again, visitors can safely watch to the sea lions’ animated antics from a public pier just above the new docks.

“This is a big draw for Newport,” said Janell Goplen, who owns Clearwater Restaurant with her husband, Hans and

and Newport mean to this state and its residents,” Steve Hungerford said. “Being involved with these newspapers is a very meaningful step for us and our colleagues.”

No injuries in Georgia-Pacific fire

TOLEDO — Georgia-Pacific officials say a fire in the paper dryer Aug. 11 caused no injuries and was contained to the paper building. The fire started about 7:30 a.m., and “the mill’s fire suppression systems worked as designed,” according to G-P Public Affairs Manager Andrea Formo.

A release from Toledo Police Department noted that G-P’s Emergency Response Team responded along with Toledo Fire Department.

“Upon arrival, TFD and the GP ERT found

REVIEW on Page A13



Mutual aid arrives from agencies throughout the county, responding to assist the Toledo Fire Department with a fire at the Georgia-Pacific Pulp and Paper Mill.

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REVIEW

Continued from page 12

smoke and fire showing from the roof vent of the building containing a wood chip dryer unit," the release said. "Firefighters worked diligently to locate the seat of the fire and were successful in extinguishment. There was no danger involving hazardous materials and no danger to the public."

Although two Pacific West Ambulances arrived at the scene, there were no injuries reported.

At 1:46 p.m., Toledo Fire Department was recalled to the scene for a possible restart. TFD Cpt. Greg Musil said G-P personnel found some smoldering material during cleanup and called the department as a precaution.

"We were on scene about 90 minutes the second time," he said.

Mutual aid was provided by Newport Fire Department, Siletz Valley Fire, Depoe Bay Fire, North Lincoln Fire, Seal Rock Fire, Central Coast Fire, and Pacific West Ambulance.

Property owner changes spraying plans

SEAL ROCK — Property owner Sorn Nymark in September announced his intentions to spray herbicides by hand, rather than by helicopter.

At the Sept. 6 meeting of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Casey Miller announced Nymark submitted a second application to do backpack spraying over the same acreage where helicopter spraying was previously announced. On Aug. 16, the Board wrote Nymark a letter asking he consider other methods besides aerial spraying.

A letter from Nymark dated Sept. 8 acknowledged the board's request, and the amount of community concern resulting from the proposed application. Nymark noted that as an Oregon landowner, he is required to reforest after harvesting trees.

"Herbicides have been validated through science as an important tool in ensuring that re-

forested trees will grow successfully," he wrote. "Without them, weeds including many invasive species can easily take over and choke out trees." He said his purpose is to control noxious and invasive plants in order to meet his reforestation requirements.

Nymark said his board of directors decided to continue applying herbicides directly.

"However, we can offer to do this via ground application, rather than by helicopter," he wrote. "This was in large part decided based on concerns over protesters: It will cost us an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 to switch to ground application."

County commissioners expressed gratitude to Nymark for the decision and flexibility, since he is not mandated by law to do so.

COCFR Board praises Chief Mason after investigation report

WALDPOR — The Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District Board of Directors announced an independent

investigation absolved Fire Chief Jaime Mason of any wrongdoing in a July 2 vehicle crash involving his wife and a local motorcyclist.

In late July, a Waldport couple, Tamara Rodriguez and her husband, Damon Derby, alleged COCFR Chief Jaime Mason responded to, and assumed command of a vehicle crash outside his district in Yachats, for which his wife was at fault. The couple alleged Mason went to his uninjured wife before tending to the injured motorcyclist and then accused the motorcyclist of causing the crash.

In his report, Seal Rock Fire Capt. Joseph Munger reported comments by the motorcyclist "seemed to infuriate Mason," and "it appeared to me as though a physical altercation between the men was imminent." It was also alleged that Mason called for a particular state police officer to investigate the crash. Mason's wife was cited for failing to drive within a lane, according to state police.

A statement signed by the board appeared on

the district's website, and said the allegations were taken seriously.

"On Aug. 3, 2023, an executive meeting was held to weigh the need to hire an outside investigator to look into the allegations against Chief Mason and, by extension, the district," the statement reads.

"When the board made the ethical and transparent choice to go with an outside investigation, it was our hope that citizens would await the outcome. Instead, we were disturbed to find a few community members felt the need to continue to attack the district and its employees and officers with unfounded and, as it turns out, verifiably false information even as the investigation was underway."

The board alleged that statements made to local media and on social were false.

Sam Case educator named regional Teacher of the Year

A Lincoln County School District fifth grade educator was named Regional Teacher

of the Year.

At a Sept. 20 assembly at Sam Case Elementary School in Newport, Oregon Lottery officials announced Adam Galen's win and presented him with a \$1,000 check.

"I am really excited," Galen said. "I love to be able to inspire people, and this is just one more way to hopefully inspire teachers here as well as kids and young adults to become teachers."

The Oregon Teacher of the Year Program is a partnership between the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Lottery, recognizing and honoring teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled licensed public school educators from preschool through 12th grade.

"I believe that relationships are the most important aspect of student success. Students that know you care about them and have high expectations for them will reach for the stars," Galen wrote in his award application.

REVIEW on Page A14

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REVIEW

Continued from page 13

When he received the award, Galen had just begun his 26th year teaching, and 10th year teaching at Sam Case.

Beached fishing boat recovered

The fishing vessel Judy is floating again after a

salvage attempt caused it to crash into the south Jetty and flip onto its side twice.

On Sept. 18, The Judy was reported aground in the sand south of the South Jetty, and since then, owners made several attempts to refloat the vessel at high tide but were unsuccessful.

On Sept. 30, onlookers gathered at the loca-

tion as a crew used heavy equipment to prepare.

State Parks personnel closed the park and cordoned off a large area and some onlookers had to hike through several hundred yards of beach grass to get around it.

At the salvage site, one could see two US Coast Guard motor lifeboats at the end of the bar, and the 102-foot tugboat Nolenani about 1/3 of a mile out with a long, buoyed line connecting it to the Judy. Onlookers cheered as the Judy began to inch forward, eventually floating upright as floated away from the shore.

OCTOBER

Newport begins city manager recruitment process

On Oct. 16, the Newport City Council took the first official steps in

a months-long process to recruit a new city manager.

Spencer Nebel, city manager the past 10 years, will retire next year, but has laid the groundwork for his successor, giving the city council plenty of time to prepare for the transition. Nebel plans to step down as city manager at the end of the current fiscal year.

In a report to the city council during the Oct. 16 meeting, Nebel said, "As you are aware, it is my intent to retire as city manager of the city of Newport in 2024, on or around July 1. As I have indicated previously, I plan to work through the budget process for 2024 so that my successor has a budget in place to facilitate their first year on the job. I will likely wish to continue to work until Oct. 1 in a secondary role to complete a number of

efforts that would help facilitate future efforts for the city and its new manager."

Having more than half a year to secure a replacement for Nebel should give the city council ample time to find the right fit. Often a position like this is left vacant by the abrupt departure or even termination of the person filling the spot. And if Nebel's replacement is on the job by July 1, that new city manager will still have Nebel around for a period of time to offer advice.

State Sen. Dick Anderson seeks another term

SALEM — Sen. Dick Anderson (R-Lincoln City) announced in October he will seek another term in the Oregon State Senate representing District 5, which stretches from Lincoln City to Coos Bay on the coast and inland portions of Lane and Benton counties.

"In the last three years, I have remained laser-focused on issues that matter most to the communities of Senate District 5," Anderson said. "As we ramp up my reelection campaign, I look forward to continuing conversations with voters about

Christ of Latter-day Saints, was conducted by the Northwest Scots Honor Guard, which held a number of such events in both public and private settings. Col. Daniel Gepford with the Northwest Scots Guard, who played the bagpipes during last week's event, spoke to those in attendance about the purpose of the presentation.

"We're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and currently we are working under a commission from the Department of Defense. A commission is technically a legal, binding contract," Gepford said. And under this contract, they are essentially filling the role of the president of the U.S. in presenting the Commemorative Bronze Eagle Medal medals to veterans. In addition, they presented a separate medal to surviving spouses and, in some cases, other family members.

"When we present the medals, that moment is very similar to when you see people on television come out on stage and the president presents the medal," Gepford said. "So that moment is a quick reenactment — it's not possible to fly people back (to Washington, D.C.) for that ceremony."



A crowd watches from the dunes as a crew Sept. 30 readies to tow the Fishing/Vessel Judy off the beach at high tide.



Justin Scharbrough, Newport Public Works superintendent, observes a sinkhole that opened up in October on Oceanview Drive.

how I can best represent them while making state government work more efficiently and effectively."

He said communities across Oregon lack affordable housing, child care, and mental health services and the streets are flooded with crime, drug addiction, and homelessness. "Meanwhile, costs have risen with no end in sight. I have dedicated my time in office to working on these issues and have made significant progress. I look forward to continuing this work during my next term," Anderson said.

Vietnam veterans honored

LINCOLN CITY — Vietnam War veterans, along with their spouses and other family members, gathered in Lincoln City the afternoon of Oct. 19, in a special remembrance of their wartime sacrifice and for the presentation of commemorative medals.

The ceremony, held at the Church of Jesus

Sinkhole blocks Oceanview Drive at Agate Beach

Oceanview Drive in Newport was partially closed Oct. 25 due to a sinkhole that opened up.

Chunks of pavement from the street fell into the hole, estimated to be about 25 feet deep. That sinkhole undercut about half to two-thirds of the southbound lane.

The city issued a press release the following day, notifying drivers that the road will be closed pending a site evaluation and the completion of needed repairs.

According to city personnel, the sinkhole was first discovered around 8 p.m. the evening of Oct. 25 when a southbound vehicle drove over it and popped a tire. That driver called the police, who responded to the scene and placed flares around the damaged portion of the road to alert other motorists. Police officers then notified Newport Public Works, and a crew

REVIEW on Page A15



Col. Daniel Gepford, center, of the Northwest Scots Honor Guard, talks with Vietnam veterans during a presentation of the Commemorative Bronze Eagle Medal on Oct. 19 in Lincoln City.

FIELD TEST CANDIDATES WANTED

URGENT NOTICE: You may be qualified to participate in a special Field Test of new hearing instrument technology being held at a local test site.

An industry leader in digital hearing devices is sponsoring a product field test in your area next week and they have asked us to select up to 15 qualified candidates to participate. They are interested in determining the benefits of GENIUS™ 5.0 Technology in eliminating the difficulty hearing aid users experience in difficult environments, such as those with background noise or multiple talkers. Candidates in other test areas have reported very positive feedback so far.

We are looking for additional candidates in Newport and the surrounding areas.

Product Test Sites:

Table with 3 columns: Newport, Lincoln City, Florence. Includes addresses and phone numbers for each location.

In an effort to accurately demonstrate the incredible performance of these devices, specially trained representatives will be conducting testing and demonstrations during this special event. In addition to an audiometric hearing evaluation, candidates will receive a fiber-optic otoscope exam, a painless procedure that could reveal common hearing problems such as excessive wax or damage to the eardrum, as well as other common causes of hearing deficiencies.

Qualified Field Test Candidates:

- Live in THE NEWPORT AREA or the surrounding area
• Are at least 55 years of age or older
• Have experienced some level of hearing difficulty, or currently wear hearing aids
• Don't currently work for a market research company

Must call before December 8th, 2023

Graphic with ear icon and text: FIELD TEST PARTICIPANTS Will be tested and selected same-day.

We have a limited supply of the GENIUS™ 5.0 test product currently on hand and ready for testing. We have also been authorized to offer significant discounts if you decide to take the hearing instruments home. If you choose not to keep them, there's no risk or obligation of any kind. †

TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1) You must be one of the first 15 people to call our office.
Mention Code: 23DecField
2) You will be required to have your hearing tested in our office, FREE OF CHARGE, to determine candidacy.
3) Report your results with the hearing instruments to the Hearing Care Specialist over a three week test period.

Qualified candidates will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis so please call us TODAY to secure your spot in the Product Field Test. Participants who qualify and complete the product test will receive a FREE \$100 Restaurant.com Gift Card* as a token of our thanks.

AVOID WAITING – CALL AND MENTION CODE: 23DecField

*One per household. Must be 55 or older and bring loved one for familiar voice test. Must complete a hearing test. Not valid with prior test/purchase in last 6 months. While supplies last. Free gift card may be used toward the purchase of food at participating restaurants where a minimum purchase may also be required. See restaurant.com for details. Not redeemable for cash. Promotional offer available during special event dates only. †Pursuant to terms of your purchase agreement, the aids may be returned for a full refund within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition. See store for details.

REVIEW

Continued from page 14

arrived to close the road and secure the area.

The city contracted with a geologist from Corvallis, who was scheduled to assess the damage and determine what will need to be done to fix it.

Complaint against LCSD superintendent under investigation

The Oregon Government Ethics Commission is investigating a complaint filed against Majalise Tolan, Lincoln County School District superintendent, after the commission voted unanimously to do so in early October following a preliminary review.

The commission met Oct. 6 and opted to further an investigation into a complaint filed in late July by Tamara Moore, the mother of a former LCSD student, less than four weeks after Tolan began her role succeeding Karen Gray as LCSD superintendent. The formal complaint alleges Tolan violated Oregon Government Ethics law by promoting a book she co-authored, published in early 2022, while on school district-funded travel.

After Tolan immediately referred an initial inquiry earlier this week into the matter to Susan Schuytema, LCSD communications specialist, the News-Times received the following statement from the school district on Tolan's behalf.

"In response to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission's decision to do a full investigation related to a book I co-authored, I want to assure the public that I take these concerns seriously and will continue to work cooperatively with the OGEAC," the statement reads. "The intent of the book was to support the growth of women educational leaders, just as I am dedicated in LCSD to supporting students, staff, and families.

"I am committed and focused on serving as the superintendent of Lincoln County School District. I see this allegation and investigation as an opportunity for other educational authors like myself to learn about the ethics process and investigation outcome."

The district's email added that Tolan notified all LCSD board members immediately upon receiving the complaint, and that, "Lincoln County School District will have no further comment due to the ongoing investigation."

NOVEMBER

Yaquina Bay Bridge restoration complete

The Oregon Department of Transportation reported it successfully completed the Yaquina Bay Bridge \$30 million restoration project — \$2 million under budget

and about six months ahead of schedule.

"The bridge, a vital route for travelers on Highway 101 through Newport, has undergone a remarkable transformation," ODOT states in a press release. "Beginning in the spring of 2020, we launched an extensive restoration effort to sustain the bridge's structural integrity and extend its lifespan."

"We completed the project six months ahead of time, significantly reducing project management and overhead costs," the ODOT press release states. "This achievement speaks volumes about the efficiency and dedication of the project team."

The restoration was crucial to keep the Yaquina Bay Bridge safe and in good working order, according to the release.

"These improvements make sure the bridge can better handle challenges from nature and earthquakes," the agency officials said.

Samaritan House celebrates 35 years

Samaritan House Family Shelter has offered temporary shelter in Newport for the past 35 years, beginning with a facility that could accommodate up to three families strictly on an overnight basis, to a complex now capable of housing up to 11 families full-time.

"The anniversary of our incorporation is October of 1988," said Lola Jones, executive director of the nonprofit organization. "The Samaritan House of today is very different from the Samaritan House of 1988."

The idea of sheltering the homeless came about in the winter of 1988, and space was first opened at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newport. Jones said members of that congregation saw people sleeping in cars, which is something that has persisted to this day. "It's very challenging from a visual standpoint to walk past a car full of sleeping children into your Sunday service to go and practice your faith, have your relationship with God, walk by that same family and never acknowledge them," Jones said.

"I think the inspiration and catalyst was that moment," she added. "Dr. Jim Ryan and his wife, Catherine, were kind of the organizers of this group. Maxine Demory was another early advocate. I think there were 10 or 12 people that represented different churches that were in on the original organizing."

The goal at that time was simply to provide a safe place to be at night, and they did that, strictly with volunteer help, for the next 10 years. But that program was only for 12 hours a night, and when people went out next morning, they were exactly where they had been 12 hours before.



The Yaquina Bay Bridge restoration is project is complete, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation. Restoration was crucial to keep the bridge safe and in good working order, ODOT officials said. (Photo courtesy of the Oregon Department of Transportation)

LCSD board's Martin named Board Member of the Year

PORTLAND — Liz Martin, a member of the Lincoln County School Board since 2010, on Nov. 11 was named the 2023 Oregon School Board Member of the Year at the Oregon School Boards Association's 77th-annual convention.

"Liz Martin is a great example of a school board member who has dedicated decades to improving her community and creating opportunities for young people," OSBA Executive Director Jim Green said.

Nominees for the statewide award were considered for their advocacy efforts, leadership and support for student achievement.

Martin has served on the Lincoln County School District Board of Directors for 13 years. She is currently vice chair after holding the chair position for three years. During her tenure on the board, Martin oversaw the hiring of three superintendents, was instrumental in the creation of the district strategic plan and equity policy, and has been a key player in acquiring beneficial partnerships and funding for Lincoln County School District.

In her acceptance speech, Martin said she was surprised and honored to receive the award.

"I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for recognizing my efforts to make our community a better place," Martin said. "To be acknowledged for doing something I love is a tremendous honor. The more I have given, the more I have gained, but my true measure of success lies in the impact on the people around me. That is the real accolade."

Rep. Gomberg seeks seventh term

SALEM — In a Nov. 9 news release, state Rep. David Gomberg (D-Otis) announced he recently filed for reelection for his seat in Oregon House District 10, which stretches from Lincoln City to Junction City, and from Philomath to Florence, encompassing the entirety of Lincoln County and parts of Lane and Benton counties.

"I'm deeply concerned about the state of politics today," Gomberg said in the release. "The extreme views of a few are getting in the way of cooperation, compromise and the commonsense solutions that our communities really need. I understand that people are hurting and the we face many challenges — rising prices, housing and childcare, climate and wildfires, healthcare, mental health and crime. If we want to solve those problems, we have to work together. Our enemy is not the other party, it is division and extremism."

Gomberg is vice chair of the House's Ways and Means Committee, which helps write the state's budget. In the release, Gomberg's office notes he steered more than \$100 million to his district for ports, water and sewer systems, parks, cultural plazas, welcome centers, the rebuilding of fire-damaged roads, rodeo grandstands, fishing fleets, other maritime industries and area community colleges.

Gomberg most recently focused on investments in infrastructure, wildfire recovery and emergency response, while reversing the governor's cuts to veteran programs and helping double the funding for the Small Business Development Network.

Commercial Dungeness crab season delayed

Pre-season testing revealed Dungeness crabs are too low in meat yield in some ocean areas, delaying Oregon's commercial season until at least Dec. 16.

Targeted to open Dec. 1, Oregon's ocean commercial Dungeness crab season can be delayed so consumers get a high-quality product, and crabs are not wasted.

The commercial bay crab fishery closed at 12:01 a.m. Dec. 1 in conjunction with the delayed ocean commercial season. It reopens when the ocean commercial season does so.

ODFW tests crabs out of Oregon's six major crabbing ports in partnership with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the commercial Dungeness crab industry.

Lincoln City celebrates new Cultural Center plaza

LINCOLN CITY — Drivers the previous eight months on Highway 101 in Lincoln City were the curious audience for a creative work in progress, a steadily progressing construction site that wrapped around the historic Delake School at 540 NE Highway 101.



Community members stroll along the new pebble-enhanced Poetry Path outside the Lincoln City Cultural Center.

The project is the long-awaited Lincoln City Cultural Plaza, an exterior improvement designed to provide accessibility and safety along with public art, lovely landscaping and inviting gathering spaces, according to Lincoln City Cultural Center Director Niki Price.

The nonprofit Lincoln City Cultural Center administrators and board members held a community celebration Nov. 18.

The Activation Party featured two ribbon cuttings, live music and dance, scavenger hunt, a community art project and a barbecue lunch, courtesy of event sponsor NW Natural.

Three of the plaza's new permanent installations were dedicated, the Lincoln City's Rotary Club of "Music in the Parks" instruments were played for the first time, and the sponsored pavers and Audubon "Bird Bricks" were dedicated.

Judge declares Measure 114 unconstitutional

BURNS — Oregon's voter-approved gun law that would require permits and a safety course

violates the state constitution, a Harney County Circuit Court judge ruled last week.

The ruling is a setback for gun safety advocates who backed Measure 114 in response to gun violence and mass shootings and convinced Oregon voters to pass it in 2022. Gun rights groups challenged the state law in federal court as well as Harney County Circuit Court.

The law has not gone into effect with the litigation pending. The ruling effectively means Measure 114 will not become a reality unless Judge Robert Raschio's decision is overturned in a higher court.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum promised to appeal the case.

"The Harney County judge's ruling is wrong," Rosenblum said in a statement. "Worse, it needlessly puts Oregonians' lives at risk. The state will file an appeal and we believe we will prevail."

The Gun Owners Foundation and Gun Owners of America, Inc., both based in Virginia, were plaintiffs in the original complaint filed in Harney County, but they voluntarily dropped out at the end of May. Harney County residents Joseph Arnold and Cliff Asmussen are plaintiffs in the case, allowing its filing in the eastern Oregon county.

DECEMBER

News-Times moving to Wednesday publication

In its Dec. 8 edition, Newport News-Times administration an-

Atmospheric rivers wreak havoc

A series of rain systems the first week of December moved from the Pacific Ocean into Oregon, triggering flooding, broken roads, rescues and increased the landslide dangers.

The storms, known as atmospheric rivers, brought significant amounts of rain to Lincoln County. A whopping 4.27 inches was recorded on Dec. 5, alone, according to the weather station at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

As of Dec. 11 morning, a total of 11.20 inches of rain was recorded so far this month, almost hitting the average rainfall (11.36 inches) for the entire month of December.

Also as of Dec. 11, total rainfall for the year measured in Newport was at 58.71 inches.

Newport City Hall offices pivoting to four-day work week

The Newport City Council this month gave the OK for some city offices to move to a four-day work week.

At its Dec. 4 meeting, the council unanimously passed a motion authorizing City Manager Spencer Nebel to establish a work week of four, 10-hour days in certain offices, with city hall offices open to the public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, effective the first of next year.

"At the Nov. 20 city council meeting, the council heard a report on the recommendations to strengthen workplace culture within the city of Newport," Nebel said. "One of these issues is considering shifting to a 4/10 work week for various offices and workplaces in the city currently working a 5/8 shift or other schedules."

This does not necessarily apply to operations that provide services six or seven days a week, such as the library, recreation center and airport, and there are a number of other departments that have been working a 4/10 schedule prior to this time, said Nebel.

"There's a number of exceptions and a number of issues that we're sorting through yet, but if council is comfortable with this, we're going to sort through those issues," he said. "If council isn't comfortable with it, we aren't going to spend the time sorting through those issues."

Nebel said the city can always revisit this new schedule down the road. "Our intent would be to take this action, implement it ... and if it's not working, we're certainly going to be reevaluating it. But it seems to have worked for other municipalities that have implemented it."



Heavy rainfall in early December caused flooding in many areas around Lincoln County. It cut off vehicle access from this home adjacent to Highway 20 just east of the east Toledo junction.

A moment of silence



No sports story in 2023 was a big as that of the Newport High School boys soccer team, photographed in late summer prior to its Gene Morrow Field season debut while holding a moment of silence for Yael Santiago "Santi" Felix-Trejo. After Felix-Trejo succumbed to a medical incident suffered during the Cubs' first official practice, the team regrouped and honored its fallen 15-year-old teammate in the best fashion imaginable — by winning the OSAA 4A boys state soccer championship in November in Hillsboro. (News-Times file photo)

PREP BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Irish boys rally past Oakridge

Boomer girls win league opener

BY MICHAEL HEINBACH
Of the News-Times

Momentum is a fickle dance partner, and the Waldport High School boys basketball team found that out the hard way last week in playing its first two 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference games of the season.

After the Irish played some of their finest ball of the season Dec. 19 at Irish Pavilion in Waldport, while rallying to a 65-58 victory over Oakridge, their momentum appeared to take a holiday break a few days early, as they struggled in a 64-22 loss Dec. 21 at eighth-ranked East Linn Christian Academy in Lebanon.

Waldport, which stood at 1-1 in league, 4-6 overall, had a chance to close out the calendar year on a positive note in playing a final nonconference regular season game of the season last Friday night with a home contest against 1A Alsea. However, due to early press deadlines caused by the holidays, results of that game will be published online and in the Jan. 3 print edition of the News-Times.

In Waldport's rock-solid victory a week ago Tuesday, junior guard Davin MacFarlane came off the bench to tally 10 of his team-best 16 points in the second half. However, it was the Gainer brothers, both senior forwards, who paced an Irish fourth quarter rally over Oakridge.



Waldport High School junior guard Davin MacFarlane skies high above the crowd for a rebound Dec. 19 during the Irish's 65-58 win over Oakridge in their 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference boys basketball opener at Irish Pavilion in Waldport. MacFarlane came off the bench to score a team-best 16 points in the come-from-behind victory. (Photo by Michael Heinbach)

The Warriors had no answer in the paint for either Justin Gainer, who scored all 11 of his points in the final eight minutes, and Jacob Gainer who scored 10 in the fourth and also finished with 11 points. Justin Gainer's 18-foot jumper with 2:40 to play gave Waldport the lead at 54-52, and the Irish finished on a 13-6 run.

Irish senior guard Johnny Miller's 12-point effort was highlighted by a perfect 6-for-6 night from the charity stripe. He was 4 of 4 in the fourth quarter, when Waldport outscored Oakridge 25-13.

Waldport is scheduled to return to 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference action with a 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, home game against Gold Beach. The Irish then travel Saturday, Jan. 6, to meet Reedsport before coming home at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9 to challenge No. 5 Oakland.

ELSEWHERE:

TOLEDO GIRLS SPLIT

After claiming a 46-31 win Dec. 19 at Reedsport in their 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference debut, the Boomer girls fell 34-30 Dec. 21 at home to league-foe Oakland, and sat at 1-1 in league, 2-4 overall heading into a holiday break.

Toledo plays games Wednesday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 29, at the Clemens Holiday Tournament hosted by Eddyville Charter and Alsea. The Boomers begin tournament play at 2:30 p.m. today in Eddyville in a matchup against 1A Powers. Results of that game help determine

where and when the Boomers play Thursday and Friday.

TAFT GIRLS 65, CATLIN GABEL 15

At Portland, with their one-sided non-league 3A victory Dec. 19, the Tigers are 3-5 entering the first of their three games in three days at the Newport Coast Classic tournament, hosted at Newport High and Yaquina View Elementary.

Taft starts tournament play with a 2 p.m. tipoff today at Yaquina View against Riverside/Riverdale/WLWV.

CATLIN GABEL BOYS 64, TAFT 55

At Portland, the Tiger boys slipped to 5-4 following their second straight loss, a Dec. 19 non-league 3A defeat.

Taft faces Corbett at 7:15 p.m. tonight (Wednesday, Dec. 27) at Yaquina View Elementary in the Tigers' first of three games in three days at the Newport Coast Classic.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY CHRISTIAN BOYS 62, EDDYVILLE CHARTER 34

At Salem, the Eagle boys fell Dec. 20 in the nonconference 1A battle, and dropped to 2-2 prior to cohosting this week's Clemens Holiday Tournament, running Wednesday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Dec. 29, along with Alsea.

Eddyville Charter begins tournament play at 7 p.m. tonight at home against Lost River from the 1A-5 Mountain Valley League.

TOLEDO BOYS OPEN LEAGUE PLAY

The Boomer boys lost their first two 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference game of the season. On Dec. 19 in Reedsport, The Brave edged Toledo 43-40, and fifth-ranked Oakland dealt the Boomers a 61-34 defeat Dec. 21 in Toledo.

Toledo (0-7) seeks to break into the win column at the Clemens Holiday Tournament. The Boomers begin three days of play at the tournament with a 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, game at Eddyville Charter against 1A Powers.

WALDPART GIRLS LOSE TWICE

With injuries plaguing the Irish girls, Waldport began 2A-3 Valley Coast Conference play on a sour note last week with a pair of league losses. On Dec. 19, Waldport lost 62-43 to No. 7 Oakridge, then fell 47-12 at East Linn Christian Academy.

After it hosted 1A Alsea on Dec. 22 at Irish Pavilion, Waldport returns to league action with a 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, conference home game against Gold Beach.

PREP SWIMMING

Newport swim team maintains momentum at Lebanon meet

NEWS-TIMES SPORTS

LEBANON — The competition might just enjoy its holiday break from having to face the Newport High School swim teams the rest of the calendar year.

Both the Cubs girls and boys teams continued their impressive runs this winter season on Dec. 16 at the 2023 Lebanon Invitational meet, where team scores weren't available as of Dec. 21, but Newport continued to shine. In the Cubs' final interscholastic competition prior to returning to the pool Jan. 6 at the Cheese relays in Tillamook, first-year head coach Shayna Swanson received two-win individual outings apiece from senior Layla Bretz and junior Ben Hurty.

Bretz, claimed wins in the girls 500-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke, while Hurty swam to victories in the boys 200-individual medley and 100 backstroke. The Cubs girls received a win from senior Pia Lihou in the girls 200-individual medley, and the Newport team of Claire Hurty, Lihou, Gwynn Postlewait, and Allison Pettett scored a victory in the 400-freestyle relay.

Also for the Newport girls, senior Claire Hurty posted matching second-place finishes in the 200 and 500 freestyle, Postlewait, a freshman, took second in the 200-individual medley and third in the 100 butterfly, freshman Ruby Perucci finished second in the 100 backstroke and third in the 100 breaststroke, and

freshman Hana Parker was second in the 50 freestyle.

Newport's boys team, paced by Ben Hurty's wins in the 200-individual medley and 100 backstroke, won two-of-three relay events, as Clyde Bretz, Jahan Eibner, Ben Hurty and Sam Postlewait claimed the 400-freestyle relay, and Eibner, Ben Hurty, Sam Postlewait, and Sam Smith took the 200-freestyle relay.

Sam Postlewait won the 200-individual medley for the Cubs boys and placed second in the 100 butterfly. Eibner was second in both the boys 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, William Postlewait finished second in both the 200 freestyle and 200-individual medley, Clyde Bretz took fourth in the 100 butterfly, and Ivan Farias was fifth in the 500.

2023 LEBANON INVITATIONAL

Dec. 16 at Lebanon Community Pool

Team scores unavailable

Newport girls event winners: Pia Lihou, 200-yard individual medley; Layla Bretz: 500 freestyle, 100 backstroke; 400-freestyle relay (Claire Hurty, Lihou, Gwynn Postlewait, Allison Pettett).

Newport boys event winners: Ben Hurty: 200-individual medley, 100 backstroke; Sam Postlewait: 200 freestyle; 400-freestyle relay (Clyde Bretz, Jahan Eibner, Ben Hurty, Sam Postlewait); 200-freestyle relay (Eibner, Ben Hurty, Sam Postlewait, Sam Smith).

PREP SPORTS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

High school girls basketball — Riverdale/Riverside/WLWV vs. Taft, NHS Holiday Classic, 2 p.m.; Colton at Newport, NHS Holiday Classic, 7:15 p.m.; Powers vs. Toledo at Eddyville Charter, 2:30 p.m.; Lost River at Eddyville Charter, 5:30 p.m.

High school boys basketball — Riverdale at Newport, NHS Holiday Classic, 5:30 p.m.; Corbett vs. Taft, NHS Holiday Classic, 7:15 p.m.; Powers vs. Toledo at Eddyville Charter, 4 p.m.; Lost River at Eddyville Charter, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28

High school girls basketball — TBD vs. Newport, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Taft, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Toledo, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Eddyville Charter, TBD; TBD at Eddyville Charter, Clemens Holiday Tournament, TBD.

High school boys basketball — TBD vs. Newport, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Taft, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Toledo, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Eddyville Charter, TBD; TBD at Eddyville Charter, Clemens Holiday Tournament, TBD.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

High school girls basketball — TBD vs. Newport, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Taft, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Toledo, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Alsea, TBD; TBD vs. Eddyville Charter, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Alsea, TBD.

High school boys basketball — TBD vs. Newport, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Taft, Newport Coast Classic, TBD; TBD vs. Toledo, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Alsea, TBD; TBD vs. Eddyville Charter, Clemens Holiday Tournament at Alsea, TBD.

High school wrestling — Waldport at Sheridan Hall of Fame Team Duals, 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 30 — MONDAY, JAN. 1

• No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2

High school girls basketball — Taft at Dayton, 6 p.m.

High school boys basketball — Taft at Dayton, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3

High school girls basketball — Eddyville Charter at Triangle Lake, 5:30 p.m.; Mapleton at Siletz Valley, 5:30 p.m.

High school boys basketball — Eddyville Charter at Triangle Lake, 7 p.m.; Mapleton at Siletz Valley, 7 p.m.

High school wrestling — Newport at Crescent Valley, 6 p.m.

• The above listings were current as of Friday morning, Dec. 22, according to schedules posted to www.OSAA.org and www.trackwrestling.com. Schedules are subject to change with little to no notice. Visit the Oregon School Activities Association or Trackwrestling online for the latest scheduling information.