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Sports
PAGE B10



FINDERS KEEPERS
RETURNS TO LOCAL
TRADITION

Coast Life
PAGE B1



Lincoln County Leader

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Lincoln County, Oregon

\$2

Young seal found wandering along Highway 101, rescued

STAFF REPORT

Lincoln County Leader

On December 20, 2025, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) deputies located a seal which had wandered up to Highway 101, near Milepost 146, and was moving on the shoulder of the roadway.

Out of concern for the

safety of the animal and the individuals on the highway, deputies swiftly took action and utilized a rope as a lead to prevent the seal from entering the highway, according to a release from the LCSO.

"With the assistance of community members, a staff member from the Oregon Coast Aquarium was promptly notified

and responded to the scene to secure our flip-pered friend," the release states. "The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Oregon State Police and the Oregon Coast Aquarium for their assistance in safely returning the seal to its home. We

See **SEAL**, page A6



This young seal was located on the roadway along Highway 101 in Lincoln County. (Courtesy photo from the LCSO)

Windstorms, atmospheric river rain pack a wallop



Powerful winds uprooted large trees tossing them across highways and roads during the windstorms.

JEREMY C. RUARK

Lincoln County Leader

Strong winds and an atmospheric river of rain stretching from the Oregon Coast inland slammed into the state over a three-day period, Dec. 17 through Dec. 19, downing trees, flooding roads, and forcing power outages.

The Lincoln County School District was closed Dec. 17-19 due to the storm impact. Lincoln County Emergency Management issued alerts concerning the storm and flooding advisories. Several businesses were forced to close early Thursday afternoon, Dec. 17, due to power outages and local

See **STORM**, page A7



Crews were spread out across the Oregon Coast and inland clearing highways and roads cluttered with fallen trees and debris from the windstorms. (Courtesy from ODOT)



Large equipment was used to clear debris from the Siletz River caused by the storms and landslide along Highway 229 near Siletz. (Courtesy photo from ODOT)

After devastating wildfires, watersheds surprisingly thick with fish and amphibians

STEVE LUNDEBERG

Leader Guest Article

In the aftermath of historically severe wildfires in 2020, a study of Cascade Range watersheds found that stream vertebrates are doing surprising well, highlighted by flourishing fish populations.

"Our work looked at the three years following megafires in western

See **FISH**, page A8



Rainbow trout. (Courtesy from Allison Swartz / OSU College of Forestry)

Lincoln County receives \$2.2M for coastal erosion work projects

Oregon's U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden have announced the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is awarding \$2,210,835 to the MidCoast Watersheds Council.

The federal support is designed to restore 125 acres of tidal wetlands

and 6.2 miles of stream channels across Oregon's Siletz and Yaquina estuaries in Lincoln County to enhance habitat for salmonids and buffer communities from storm surge, according to a release from Merkley and Wyden.

Tidal wetlands on Oregon's central coast

are increasingly threatened by coastal erosion, flooding, drought, and degraded water quality, the release states. The project will reduce flood risk and enhance sediment retention for local communities through floodplain reconnection,

See **EROSION**, page A8



RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

Weather

Wednesday: High-51/Low-45
AM Showers

Thursday: High-57/Low-47
Rain/Wind

Friday: High-50/Low-44
Rain

Saturday: High-49/Low-43
Showers

Sunday: High-53/Low-46
Showers

Monday: High-52/Low-45
Showers

Tuesday: High-51/Low-44
Showers

Past Weather

On the Coast

	Rain	Low	High
December 9.....	3.06	..50.3°F	..56.2°F
December 10.....	0.15	..55.2°F	..56.2°F
December 11.....	0.03	..52.2°F	..59.6°F
December 12.....	0.01	..47.4°F	..61.3°F
December 13.....	0.00	..46.7°F	..62.6°F
December 14.....	0.12	..48.7°F	..54.0°F
December 15.....	0.35	..53.0°F	..58.5°F
Total rainfall from Jan. 1	58.03		

Tides Tables

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Low	3:38 a.m.	.....	4.1
High.....	9:41 a.m.	.....	8.8
Low	4:59 p.m.	.....	0.1
High.....	11:56 p.m.	.....	6.6

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Low	4:20 a.m.	.....	4.3
High.....	10:17 a.m.	.....	8.9
Low	5:35 p.m.	.....	-0.3

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

High.....	12:34 a.m.	.....	6.8
Low	5:01 a.m.	.....	4.3
High.....	10:53 a.m.	.....	9.0
Low	6:11 p.m.	.....	-0.6

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

High.....	1:11 a.m.	.....	7.0
Low	5:40 a.m.	.....	4.3
High.....	11:29 a.m.	.....	9.0
Low	6:46 p.m.	.....	-0.7

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

High.....	1:47 a.m.	.....	7.0
Low	6:18 a.m.	.....	4.3
High.....	12:06 p.m.	.....	8.9
Low	7:22 p.m.	.....	-0.7

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

High.....	2:23 a.m.	.....	7.1
Low	6:59 a.m.	.....	4.2
High.....	12:44 p.m.	.....	8.8
Low	7:58 p.m.	.....	-0.6

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

High.....	3:00 a.m.	.....	7.1
Low	7:43 a.m.	.....	4.2
High.....	1:24 p.m.	.....	8.4
Low	8:34 p.m.	.....	-0.4

Sunrise/Sunset

December 17.....	7:47 a.m.	.....	4:37 p.m.
December 18.....	7:48 a.m.	.....	4:37 p.m.
December 19.....	7:49 a.m.	.....	4:38 p.m.
December 20.....	7:49 a.m.	.....	4:38 p.m.
December 21.....	7:50 a.m.	.....	4:38 p.m.
December 22.....	7:50 a.m.	.....	4:39 p.m.
December 23.....	7:51 a.m.	.....	4:40 p.m.
December 24.....	7:51 a.m.	.....	4:40 p.m.
December 25.....	7:52 a.m.	.....	4:41 p.m.
December 26.....	7:52 a.m.	.....	4:41 p.m.
December 27.....	7:52 a.m.	.....	4:42 p.m.

Lottery

Friday, December 12

Mega Millions

10 • 50 • 55 • 58 • 59 • PB-5

Saturday, December 13

Powerball

1 • 28 • 31 • 57 • 58 • PB-16 • x2

Saturday, December 13

Megabucks

4 • 7 • 14 • 22 • 26 • 36

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Petition against Oregon transportation law pauses gas tax and fee hikes

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

With a transportation funding referendum likely headed to Oregon voters in November 2026 and a short legislative session approaching, it’s unclear if and how Republicans and Democrats can compromise on a sustainable plan to fund road maintenance and operations.

House Bill 3991, which Gov. Tina Kotek signed into law on Nov. 7 after a special legislative session, was expected to raise \$4.8 billion for the transportation department over the next decade. But the agency’s new revenue streams under the law — scheduled to take effect at the beginning of 2026 — were paused when opponents submitted almost 200,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State with the goal to give voters the chance to overturn the law.

Without access to new revenue, the Oregon Department of Transportation once again faces a significant funding gap that could result in layoffs and reduced services — even as transportation crews respond to rain-caused landslides alongside Highway 229 near the Oregon Coast and as mountain passes across the state remain closed or congested because of downed trees and power lines.

“Oregonians have exercised their ability to challenge actions taken by the legislature, and the governor respects the outcome of that process,” Kotek press secretary Roxy Mayer told the Capital Chronicle.

Republicans must work with Democrats now to find a different solution, Mayer said.

“The governor’s guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians,” Mayer said.

What fees and taxes are on pause?

Increases to vehicle registration and title fees, a 6-cent gas tax hike and a temporary doubling of the payroll tax used for public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a worker’s paycheck were set to take

effect at the start of the year. Petitioners with No Tax Oregon paused those scheduled tax and fee hikes by turning in their signatures last week.

The fee and tax hikes will remain paused unless the state’s elections division finds there were not enough valid signatures. The office has until Jan. 29 to verify the signatures. Otherwise, the hikes will remain paused pending a statewide vote in November 2026.

The pause in the payroll transit tax hike means the average Oregonian making \$68,000 will remain paying \$5.60 a month in the tax instead of \$11.20 per month.

For now, Oregonians will continue paying a 40-cent gas tax per gallon instead of 46 cents.

Oregonians with a passenger vehicle will remain paying \$77 in title fees instead of \$216.

Registration base fees for a two year period for Oregonians driving a standard passenger car will remain at \$86 instead of \$170, \$88 instead of \$172 for motorcyclists and \$126 instead of \$210 for light and utility trailer drivers. Drivers will continue to pay a surcharge based on fuel efficiency, which means the total registration fee for most passenger cars is \$126 or \$136 every two years.

Collectively, the new fees and taxes were expected to raise \$791 million in the 2025-27 budget cycle, followed by \$1.1 billion for 2027-29 and \$1.2 billion for 2029-31.

No transportation service cuts yet

Transportation Department spokesperson Katherine Benenati said no service cuts or layoffs have been determined within the agency, and any layoffs would not take place until after the legislative session ends in March. Kotek has continued hiring winter seasonal staff using existing funding, savings from vacancies and recent voluntary departures to maintain these services in the short term, she said.

Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and one of the lead petitioners of the No Tax Oregon effort, said higher



Increases to vehicle registration and title fees, a 6-cent gas tax hike and a temporary doubling of the payroll tax used for public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a worker’s paycheck were set to take effect at the start of the year. Petitioners with No Tax Oregon paused those scheduled tax and fee hikes by turning in their signatures last week.

taxes aren’t the only way to fill the budget gap, arguing that Democrats need to reprioritize how they fund transportation.

“We’re paying for electric vehicle car chargers. We have a social equity office. We have climate justice initiatives. We have hundreds of millions of dollars in reserves on projects that will never transpire as currently designed,” he told the Capital Chronicle. “It’s a waste, but the Legislature is prioritizing those things over what the Oregon people want.”

Diehl and his Republican colleagues have pushed to rearrange transportation funding. However, most of the state transportation departments funding is legally designated for specific purposes, so reallocating funds would require a statutory or constitutional amendment to avoid legal challenges, according to department Finance and Budget Division Administrator Daniel Porter.

At least three Republicans on Wednesday — Reps. Mark Owens of Crane and Vikki Breese-Iverson of Prineville and Sen. Mike McLane of Powell Butte — urged the transportation department to seek emergency funding from the Legislature’s Joint Emergency Board in response to the historic flooding across the state this week. The 20-member board has the authority to allocate funding when the full Legislature isn’t in session.

Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, called

the Republicans’ request impractical.

“Are they going to ask for emergency funds for the rest of 2026 as well when they strip funding as part of their ballot measure to defund ODOT?” she said. “It is simply not realistic.”

McLain, co-chair of the Legislature’s Joint Transportation Committee, said House Bill 3991 is a quarter of what Democratic lawmakers proposed during the regular legislative session, and for three budget cycles she said lawmakers have made cuts to ODOT and worked on efficiency.

“We’ve done all of the compromise, the amending and the backup plan is that final bill that we passed in September, which is only a quarter of the original,” she said. “The short session is not going to help them.”

Democratic leaders shared similar concerns about the efforts to overturn the transportation funding law.

“Without those emergency funds, hundreds of hardworking Oregonians who plow highways,

fill potholes and repair bridges are in danger of losing their jobs,” said Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego. “The Senate President’s Office is ready to work with ODOT and the Governor’s Office to manage this situation in the upcoming legislative session.”

House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said the transportation funding law was a heavily negotiated policy that had support from nearly every key transportation stakeholder in Oregon and considered the cost of living for Oregonians.

“The referral of only pieces of that package — repealing funding while leaving spending obligations in place — destabilizes our transportation system and jeopardizes Oregonians’ safety,” Fahey said. “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don’t have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won’t fix themselves.”

Fahey said she will continue to work closely with her Senate colleagues and Kotek to keep Oregonians safe on their way to work and school.

[https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/12/18/petition-against-oregon-transportation-law-pauses-gas-tax-and-fee-hikes/Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-is-part-of-States-Newsroom,a-network-of-news-bureaus-supported-by-grants-and-a-coalition-of-donors-as-a-501c\(3\)-public-charity.Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-maintains-editorial-independence.Contact-Editor-Lynne-Terry-for-questions:info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com](https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/12/18/petition-against-oregon-transportation-law-pauses-gas-tax-and-fee-hikes/Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-is-part-of-States-Newsroom,a-network-of-news-bureaus-supported-by-grants-and-a-coalition-of-donors-as-a-501c(3)-public-charity.Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-maintains-editorial-independence.Contact-Editor-Lynne-Terry-for-questions:info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com)

Claire Hall schedules community Town Hall

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall will conduct a town hall at 11 a.m. Jan. 3, “allowing residents of the community to share concerns, ask questions, and hear updates on a broad range of issues impacting the county,” according to a release from Friends of Claire Hall.

The one-hour meeting will take place six days prior to the recall election.

“I’m pleased to have this opportunity to speak directly with the voters,” Hall stated in the release. “There is so much at stake in this election, and an enormous amount of disinformation has been maliciously spread by right-wing extremists in an effort to shift the values and priorities of our

community.”

Hall said she is inviting all Lincoln County residents to join her in the virtual town hall-style question and answer meeting.

Participants are asked to register at https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/wPT_6PT4TRS0wvAl-18RLZA. Questions may be sent prior to this meeting to dems@lincolncountydemocratsoregon.com

The Lincoln County Democratic Party has reiterated its opposition to the recall effort, branding the recall campaign as a “a groundless and blatant right-wing power grab that will weaken our county’s governance,” according to the release.

The January 3 Town Hall is sponsored by Friends of Claire Hall.

2 1 8 9 3 5 6 4 7

7 5 3 4 6 1 8 9 2

6 9 4 2 8 7 3 5 1

4 8 5 3 2 9 1 7 6

3 2 1 5 7 6 4 8 9

9 7 6 1 4 8 5 2 3

5 4 7 6 1 2 9 3 8

1 3 2 8 9 4 7 6 5

8 6 9 7 5 3 2 1 4

Sudoku answers

Get the facts!

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Citizens to Recall County
Commissioner Claire Hall
(22nd year/6 terms)

RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

RECALL HALL

**We must recall county commissioner
Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such
as ethics and non-performance.**



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics....Hall is currently under investigation by “OGE”, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, for “Open Meetings” violations of law.• Non communication with Judge Bachart, DA Jenna Wallace and Sherriff’s office (Curt Landers). See September 18, 2024 meeting video. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom of Speech violations of public comment section during commissioner meetings.• Non communication with general public and voters seeking “redress of Grievances”• Unethical removal and banishment of commissioner Miller. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illegal and inappropriate banishment from commissioner meetings by those Hall deemed as opposition. (Christine Hutchins)...later reversed after proved to be either Illegal or wrongful action.• It is time to end “Strong Arm” and bully tactics at the county commissioners office! |
|--|--|--|

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUALITY OF THE LOCAL PAPER

What’s with the huge ads for the Recall Hall campaign? Three in the last issue? Have you given up on the commitment balanced coverage for our local concerns? Maybe that never was your commitment?

My husband and I are long-time subscribers. I’ve been giving the Leader time to find its feet after the long-time former editor decided to move on. But I’m increasingly doubtful that’s ever going to happen.

The campaign against Claire Hall reeks of mean-spiritedness. As does the MAGA movement in general. I’m so sorry it’s brought down the quality of what I used to call “our local paper.”

Sincerely,
Donally Kennedy
Lincoln County

SUPPORTS CLAIRE HALL

As a retired county commissioner who worked respectfully and collaboratively with Commissioner Hall for 10 years, I fully support her and strongly oppose the misdirected recall effort.

Commissioner Hall was first elected to commissioner in 2004 and worked cooperatively and responsibly with 5 different county commissioners until 2023 when a new individual was elected. During the first 18 years of service to the residents of Lincoln County Commissioner Hall built a solid reputation and continues to be seen by peers throughout our state as an actively engaged, professional elected official.

Among her many achievements, Commissioner Hall has advocated for homeless shelters and housing, improved mental health services, bettered county roads and was instrumental in securing funding for recovery efforts after the devastating Echo Mountain wildfire. Hall’s record demonstrates a deep caring for the less

fortunate individual and others in need.

Commissioner Hall’s extensive experience, knowledge, and leadership are critical at this time. I urge voters who value experienced leadership and community progress to vote NO in the recall election and help ensure Lincoln County continues moving forward.

Doug Hunt
Toledo

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE RECALL

In September 2020, the Echo Mountain Complex Fire tore through Otis, Oregon during the historic wildfire season, burning roughly 2,500 acres and destroying about 300 homes and more than 339 structures.

In the aftermath, with debris still smoldering and cleanup expected to take months, many residents faced long delays before they could return home — if they could return at all.

Formal recovery efforts were limited by resources, regulations, and complex hazardous debris removal. Faced with this reality, local homeowners began a volunteer-led cleanup of their own properties and those of their neighbors. This effort was highly unusual and often discouraged by state and county leaders concerned about liability and compliance. The default response was “No.”

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall took a different approach. Rather than shutting the effort down, she went to Otis, asked how she could help, and became an advocate for residents navigating an unprecedented situation. When the volunteer cleanup risked stalling due to equipment costs, she secured county funding to keep it going — support that validated the community’s need to act for itself in a moment of deep loss.

I have known Claire Hall for twenty years. She listens first, then acts in partnership with those she represents. Her leadership

during the Echo Mountain recovery reflected that commitment and helped ensure a community-led response received the support it needed. Otis is still rebuilding, but the spirit of mutual aid she helped strengthen remains.

Please vote “No” on the recall.

Dr. Bethany Grace
Howe
Lincoln City

LET’S RIGHT THE SHIP - IT’S TIME

This recall isn’t about ideology or personalities. It’s about four duties Lincoln County residents expect from their government: public safety, accountability, transparency, and fairness.

Public safety: The DA’s Office has been hollowed out. Experienced staff were terminated or forced out, and for more than six months, repeated requests to hire replacements have gone unanswered. When a DA’s office can’t staff cases, victims wait, prosecutions slow, cases fail, and public safety suffers.

Watch four short videos at RecallHall.com/safety

Accountability: Lincoln County has now received four consecutive failed audits, citing material weaknesses and repeat deficiencies. That’s not a paperwork problem — it’s a warning sign. When the same issues appear year after year, leadership has a responsibility to fix them, not ignore them. Find the four failed audits at RecallHall.com/accountability

Transparency: Within hours of being appointed Acting County Administrator, Chair Claire Hall quietly appointed HR Director David Collier as Acting County Administrator in her place — without public notice, discussion, or even informing all the commissioners. That decision only became known after staff learned of it internally. That’s not transparent governance. See RecallHall.com/transparency

Fairness: Finally, the public record shows Commissioner Casey Miller repeatedly silenced — gavelled down, denied the ability to make motions, introduce agenda items, or even ask questions of County Counsel. Silencing an elected commissioner undermines representative government. Watch five short videos at RecallHall.com/fairness

Recalls exist for moments like this — when process, transparency, and fairness break down. Voters deserve the full record and the chance to decide for themselves.

Vet. Sec. James Parrish
Newport

OPEN LETTER TO SEN. DICK ANDERSON

I’ve been following your lack of support this year for ODOT and noticed recently a hard-to-understand sequence of events.

Earlier this month, three GOP legislators - who sit on the legislative Emergency Board that approves emergency spending (one of whom is a Senate colleague of yours) - urged ODOT to be prepared to seek emergency money this winter, and they did this shortly after making sure that new money would not flow to ODOT beginning in January, as scheduled! At the time, Rep. Travis Nelson, D-Portland, said, “The very lawmakers now urging ODOT to seek emergency funding were happy to support referring stable transportation funding to the ballot, putting road maintenance on ice for years.”

In an earlier letter to you, I mentioned how stunned I was to find out that, after Rep. Gomberg finally negotiated a workable compromise bill to fund ODOT (HB 3991) and it was approved by the House, YOU VOTED AGAINST IT IN THE SENATE! Thank goodness it passed and was signed by the Governor. My wife and I are grateful

to the ODOT and Central Lincoln PUD crews who heroically got our power back this past week in the midst of several major atmospheric river storms. Were you a part of the GOP effort to kill HB 3991 through a ballot measure?

On another disturbing subject, I note that you STILL have not taken a meaningful stance against DHS efforts to transform the Newport Municipal Airport into an ICE detention facility. Even when you wrote your belated 11/21 letter to DHS Secretary Kristi Noems requesting the return of the Coast Guard Helicopter, you didn’t mention anything about ICE and only requested that the Helicopter be returned for the current crab season. What about the rest of the year?

Now attorneys for the state of Oregon are asking a federal judge to block construction of an ICE detention center in Newport, arguing that the Trump administration has not gone through the proper channels to do so. Will you at least provide public support for our DOJ’s effort?

Sources:
https://lincolnchronicle.org/with-new-road-funding-suspended-oregon-lawmakers-now-fighting-over-winter-maintenance/
https://www.opb.org/article/2025/12/19/oregon-block-potential-ice-newport/?utm_medium=email

Jay Roelof
Lincoln City

GET THE FACTS

I am normally no fan of recalls; however, I feel there are ample reasons for removing Commissioner Hall from office at this time.

As a registered Democrat, I have voted and supported Commissioner Hall for many years and believe she has done a lot of good things for this county while serving.

There have been several disturbing things and decisions she has made recently that I believe warrant recall. These consist of bullying two consecutive Lincoln County DA’s which were both elected by wide

margins in their respective elections. One has since resigned to take another job after finding it impossible to work with the Board and our current DA, Jenna Wallace, seems unable to even be allowed to appear before the Board at regular meetings to speak about her concerns over inadequate staffing in her office.

The whole issue going on with Commissioner Miller looks like a power play to simply muffle him because he has different opinions on how some things should be handled by the Commissioners. This very point, I might add, has now been taken up in a unanimous vote by OGEC to look into violations by Commissioner Hall.

A decision by Hall to shut down public comments at regular Commission meetings is right out of the playbook or our current President. Elected officials should be more than willing to hear from their constituents in public. Make no mistake this recall is not a right-wing extremist (MAGA) effort to bring down Hall for their own selfish reasons. This is simply about abuse of power in public office. Lincoln County deserves better.

Get the facts and vote “Yes” to recall Commissioner Hall.

Ken Doerfler Jr
Newport

STAND STRONG FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

Ballots will be mailed soon for the unnecessary recall election against Commissioner Claire Hall, who has faithfully served Lincoln County for 21 years. Her many accomplishments include:

- Shelter beds for the homeless
- Mental health treatment facilities
- Better education and pre-school programs in Lincoln County

She served on the boards of Neighborhood Partnerships, which addresses poverty and housing issues; Proud Ground, a statewide land trust that serves Lincoln County; My Safe Place; Lincoln County Food Share; the Partnership Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse; and the Samaritan House Homeless Shelter.

Why recall an effective administrator? This is an attack on local government straight from the Project 25 playbook. MAGA wants to replace liberal defenders of

See **LETTERS**, page A5

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Reject the right-wing Sore Loser recall, Let the county get back to work

ELIOT SEKULER
Leader Guest Column

Does anyone really believe the phony justifications that have been advanced by the MAGA-aligned “recall Hall” advocates? Does anyone believe their Sore Loser campaign is a matter of “transparency?”

In the interest of “transparency,” and “learning the facts,” it should be noted that some of the extraordinary sums of money coming into the Sore Loser campaign have been donated by owners of multiple vacation rentals, hoping to get a pass on county zoning that might impede their business. Some of their other support comes from the ultra-right group, “Western Liberty Network,” which is committed

to seizing local government and enacting the MAGA agenda. And, no surprise, some of the recall’s supporters were also supporters of Rick Beasley’s failed campaign for the office that Claire Hall won in last year’s election.

It’s all part of a right-wing playbook we’re seeing in action throughout the country: if they can’t win during a regular election cycle, they gather some signatures, force a special election and hope the low turnout will favor a reversal of the voters’ choice. This is not wild speculation. That scheme is unfolding in many parts of our country. It’s unfolding here in Lincoln County. And it’s happening now.

In Northern California’s Shasta County, a recent MAGA-led recall assault paralyzed the

county Board of Supervisors, forced several expensive special elections and resulted in a hardening of the divide between local political factions. Back east, from New Hampshire to Georgia, school boards and county governments have been beleaguered by the very same tactics employed by right-wing activists here in Lincoln County.

It’s happening now. And it’s happening here.

To be certain, some of the sore losers behind the recall campaign have an economic interest in countering Claire Hall’s efforts to address the housing crisis. And some, like the recall’s earliest sponsor, have taken offense at her efforts at maintaining order at Board of Commissioners meetings. But the MAGA people know that the

County Commissioners are our last line of defense against such right-wing agenda items as ICE round-ups, the construction of an ICE detention center, the dismantling of diversity initiatives, and the general administrative upheaval we’ve seen play out at the Board of Commissioners since their campaign began. It’s no coincidence that while they were seeking signers for their recall petition, the Sore Losers were also distributing petitions seeking the abolition of mail-in voting and a recall of Governor Kotek. MAGA’s Project 2025 playbook calls for seizure of ALL levels of government, from the county clerk to the Oval Office.

It’s happening all over the country. And it’s happening here. It’s happening now.

There’s important work to be done in Lincoln County, and the distraction of the right-wing recall effort is not helping. Claire Hall has provided leadership in such crucial fields as public transportation, affordable housing and health services. The Sore Loser tactics are designed to disrupt those efforts and weaken county governance. Yes, it’s happening now, But we can stop it from happening here.

Your ballots will be mailed on December 22 for the January 9 election date.

Vote NO! on the MAGA-inspired Sore Loser recall. And tell your friends and neighbors. Don’t let it happen here. Don’t let it happen now.

Eliot Sekuler is a resident of Gleneden Beach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS

From Page **A4**

democracy with corporate minded hacks who believe the government should not provide healthcare, education or insurance for its citizens.

Do not be fooled when you read the wimpy non-excuses for this recall.

The winter holiday season is not a good time for an election, but it is vitally important that you vote No on the recall. Don’t let your ballot get lost among all the Christmas ads and sales offers. Vote and return your ballot by Jan 9!

Stand strong for Lincoln County, Commissioner Hall, and Democracy!

Lynetta Richardson
Lincoln City

MEAN-SPIRITED

To say I was disappointed to see the

full-page ads and multiple streamers in your paper attacking Claire Hall would be an understatement.

It was mean-spirited and downright cruel. Apparently, the feud concerns procedural protocol at Lincoln County Commissioners meetings. Really? Drop this petty foolishness and get back to governing!

John Harrington
Newport

SUPPORT OREGON CULTURAL TRUST

On the Oregon Coast, arts and culture show up in everyday places — on Newport’s working waterfront, at the Lincoln City Cultural Center and in small-town libraries from Toledo to Waldport. It’s what makes our community feel like home.

We know times are tight. When budgets shrink, arts and culture are often the first to be

cut. Yet when we work together, arts and culture grow stronger, creating flourishing communities.

When you give to an Oregon cultural nonprofit, you help sustain programs — exhibits, concerts, educational opportunities, author talks, cultural festivals and workshops. And when you match that gift with a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, your generosity stretches across all 36 counties in Oregon and strengthens culture statewide through grants.

Since 2001, Oregonians have turned local gifts into statewide impact — supporting more than 1,600 nonprofits with over 10,000 grant awards.

Please consider giving to the Trust this year. Here’s the simple path that makes the biggest difference:

Give local. Choose a cultural nonprofit you love.

Match to the Trust. Make a gift in the same amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust and receive a tax credit.*

Why it matters. Your match expands local impact statewide and brings support back to communities like ours.

Lincoln County by the numbers

- 38 cultural nonprofits call Lincoln County home
- \$784,340 invested in Lincoln County since 2001
- Recent grantees: Lincoln City Cultural Center, Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival Association

You can make your donation online at culturaltrust.org or by mail.

With gratitude,
Niki Price
Oregon Cultural Trust
Board Member

I AM VOTING NO

I am voting NO to

recall Claire Hall.

I attended Lincoln County Board of Commissioners meetings after reading comments in the local press by the Hilltop Patriot member who began the recall effort.

She claimed that Chair Hall unfairly restricted public comments. Having participated in many board meetings for nonprofit and governmental entities in Lincoln County, I know it’s important to adhere to agendas and not let comments from either the public or other board members derail meetings.

During the Commissioners meetings, I observed Commissioner Walter Chuck doing his best to keep the meetings on track. Example: A woman arrived late and loudly insisted she’d signed up online to make a public comment. (Published rules state

you must sign up before the meeting begins.) The staff person checked and didn’t find her name, so she couldn’t make a public comment. In response, audience members shouted “fascist” and “tyrant.” I didn’t observe fascism.

I observed a facilitator abiding by the rules and keeping a meeting from being derailed so the business of the county could continue. In 2024, Lincoln County voters re-elected Claire Hall to a four-year term. We did that based on her 20-year record of service. Perhaps more than ever, we need a stable presence in local government to help us weather difficult times.

Please don’t allow other people’s claims to influence your vote. Observe a meeting and decide for yourself.

Ursula Martinelli
Newport

They say:

“Follow the Money”

So where is all the Recall Campaign

\$\$ money \$\$ coming from?

Answer:

NOT from Lincoln County

The attack on Commissioner Hall is a well-funded right wing campaign pretending to be nonpartisan but actually part of the MAGA campaign aimed at taking control of local government.

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall has been targeted by the right wing solely because she is a progressive voice for the people in County government.

Vote NO on the Hall Recall

Paid for by Friends of Claire Hall, Orestar ID No. 20077

Coast Guard rescues two men after their fishing boat sinks west of Newport



Station Yaquina Bay motor lifeboat crews recover two mariners from the water near Newport, Oregon, Dec. 14, 2025, after their fishing vessel took on water. The mariners were wearing immersion suits and were safely brought aboard. (Courtesy from the U.S. Coast Guard)

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

Two men are safe following a rescue by the Coast Guard after their fishing boat sank off the Oregon Coast at Newport. At 9:41 a.m. Sunday Dec. 14, watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Columbia River received a call over VHF Ch. 16 from the 45-foot commercial fishing vessel Valor III stating that the boat was taking on water approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Newport, with 2 people on board. The Coast Guard launched crews from Station Yaquina Bay, Air Facility Newport, and issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB), according to a release from the Coast Guard. “A good samaritan responded to the UMIB, arriving at 10 a.m. and reporting that one person was in the water and the other was preparing to abandon ship,” the release states. “A pair of 47-foot Motor Lifeboat crews from Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay quickly arrived on scene at 10:03 a.m., recovered both individuals, transported them to shore and them transferred them to Lincoln County EMS.” Both individuals were wearing survival suits, and no major injuries were reported during the incident. Specific details about what caused the boat sinking were not immediately available. Reports of the incident appeared on social media, including this Facebook post from the Newport Fishermen’s Wives. “Sadly the F/V Valor III was lost earlier today. Thankfully all souls on board were rescued without injury.”



A deputy holds a line attached to the young seal to guide it safely off the highway. (Courtesy photo from the LCSO)

SEAL

From Page A1

wish our new pinniped all the best on his journey!” Traveling on the roads and highways of Lincoln County offer many wonderful sightseeing opportunities, the LCSO release states. “However, we must also be mindful that this area is the natural habitat of several species of wildlife. It’s important to be alert and aware of wildlife while commuting. You may come across deer, elk, birds and occasionally a seal. In the unfortunate event that someone is unable to avoid a collision with wildlife, the LCSO recommends the following steps: If you are on a state highway, in a State Park, on the beaches, or if the animal is protected under Oregon Revised Statute (such as anything hunted or fished in Lincoln County), please contact the Oregon State Police at 541-265-5353 or dial *677 from a mobile phone. If you’re in the cities of Lincoln City, Newport, or Toledo; Contact the city police department: • Lincoln City Police Department Dispatch (non-emergency) – 541-994-3636 • Newport Police Department Dispatch (non-emergency) – 541-574-5807 • Toledo Police Department Dispatch (non-emergency) – 541-336-5555 If you’re in any other part of Lincoln County or if the animal involved is a pet or livestock; Contact the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office at 541-265-0777.



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DEATH NOTICES

CAROL ANN DUNSWORTH-HAMLIN

Carol Ann Dunsworth-Hamlin of Lincoln City, Oregon, was born February 16, 1955, in Arcata, California and passed away on October 13, 2025, at the age of 70.

A Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 1 to 4 pm, at The Beach Club and Event Center located at 2020 NE 22nd Street, Lincoln City, OR.





“We want to stay local and be involved in our community— banking and investing here, too.”

For more than 60 years, Star of Hope has provided meaningful care and opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. What began in 1964 as a small, home-based alternative care program has grown into a lifeline for families across the South Coast. Today, Star of Hope operates twelve homes along with a vibrant day-activities center, creating places where individuals can learn skills, build friendships, and feel fully connected to their community. That growth has been steady and intentional. After decades of serving Coos County, Star of Hope expanded into Curry County in 2021, adding new homes and broadening access for community members who have long needed more support. Fundraisers like Dancing with the Bay Area Stars have played a key role by raising essential dollars while also bringing staff, residents, and the wider community together. “We want to grow thoughtfully,” said Jason Grabinger, Director of Development at Star of Hope. “Our goal is long-term success.” Part of that thoughtful growth included looking for better financial tools to support their expanding programs. When Oregon Coast Bank learned Star of Hope was exploring new banking options, the team stepped in to help. “Someone at the bank heard about our search for better rates and found an opportunity that would do just that for us,” Grabinger said. Choosing a local partner was top of mind for the organization, too. “We want to stay local and be involved in our community—banking and investing here, too.” Now, as Star of Hope plans for the future, including fundraising for a new building to expand their day program and administrative space, Oregon Coast Bank is proud to be a partner. Supporting the work of organizations like Star of Hope is one way we continue to invest in the well-being of the communities we call home.

STORM
From Page A1

flooding in Lincoln City. Lincoln City and Toledo officials issued sanitary sewer overflow releases following days of rain.

The Oregon Department of Transportation issued storm-related alerts advising travelers of the dangers.

“Strong winds that began overnight are causing widespread impacts on roads across Oregon, including downed trees, fallen limbs and downed power lines. Conditions are expected to continue and may change or worsen as high winds persist throughout the day,” an ODOT advisory stated Dec. 17.

ODOT crews worked through the night, responding statewide. They cleared debris and downed trees where conditions allowed and worked closely with utility companies where power lines were involved. In areas where high winds were continuing and trees were still falling, ODOT stated it was not safe to begin clearing until the conditions improve. ODOT urged travelers to delay non-essential trips if possible and to plan ahead for changing conditions.

Power outages affected traffic signals, highway message signs and

TripCheck cameras along the coast and inland. ODOT urged travelers to expect delays to continue as cleanup and repairs progressed.

During such adverse weather, ODOT urges travelers to check Tripcheck.com for the latest information before heading out.

LANDSLIDE ADVISORY

The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office issued an advisory Dec. 16, concerning the massive landslide along Highway 229 near Siletz stating that the landslide was still settling and has destabilized the terrain in the affected area, as of Dec. 16. The impacted area remained in a LEVEL THREE – GO NOW evacuation order.

“Due to the dangerous nature of the situation and unstable ground, community members are asked to stay out of the impacted area. Accessing these areas puts yourself and first responders at risk. Heavy rains are expected to worsen conditions and carry additional risk,” the advisory stated.

Local and state partners are monitoring the slide and are making plans for emergency response as the situation develops. Experts are not able to fully assess the full impact of this landslide until it has settled and is stable.

Debris from the

landslide has entered the Siletz River and is washing up along the riverbanks, Siletz Bay, and ocean beaches. The LCSO urged community members to use caution if they choose to climb on, move, or disturb debris. It may be unstable or hazardous. With the loss of two homes, personal items may also begin to appear.

As of press time, ODOT officials were not able to identify a specific date on when all of the slide debris would be cleared due the unsteadiness of the area.

The Lincoln County Leader reached out to Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Public Affairs Coordinator Alex Lopez for insight into the slide.

Lincoln County Leader: From what you know so far, what triggered this landslide?

Alex Lopez: There are commonly many factors at play when there is a landslide. DOGAMI is currently evaluating the area of this slide to

understand more about what may have contributed to this specific event. What we know at this point indicates that the weak nature of the geologic units in the area as well as the back-to-back atmospheric river storms that occurred on December 4-5 and Dec 7-9 likely contributed to the event. The rate of precipitation was too fast and did not allow soils in the area time to adequately drain. Additionally, lidar data suggest that this landslide may have occurred in an area of a previous ground movement. Areas of previous landslides are more prone to movement than areas that have never slid before.

Lincoln County Leader: What is the message to the public about the landslide danger along the Oregon Coast?

Lopez: The Oregon Coast Range is very prone to landslides. They most commonly occur

during or right after periods of heavy rainfall or during earthquakes. Areas of existing or previous landslides are more prone than other areas. See our Homeowners’ Guide to Landslides for additional information at https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/Landslide/Documents/ger_homeowners_guide_landslides.pdf. Also, see DOGAMI’s landslide publications and maps at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/slido/Pages/index.aspx>.

Affected residents have been safely accounted for and are being cared for by family and local services.

We ask the public to:

- Stay out of the area, it remains unstable and you can put yourself and first responders in danger
- Stay away from debris washing ashore, it can be unstable and a safety risk
- If you DO find debris of a personal nature,

call the nonemergency number for local law enforcement to begin the process of returning the item:

- Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office: 541-265-0777
- Lincoln City: 541-994-3636

Lopez also urges residents to sign up for emergency alerts and evacuation notices at ORAlert.gov, especially if you live near the slide and he encouraged property owners and those living in landslide danger zones review the agency’s Homeowners’ guide to landslides for additional information at https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/Landslide/Documents/ger_homeowners_guide_landslides.pdf.

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

Claudia Susan “Sue” Shakenis

September 3, 1948 - September 5, 2025

It is with sad hearts that our family announces the passing of Claudia Susan Shakenis (Susie McKinney), 77, recently of Waldport, Oregon. She passed away peacefully on September 5, 2025, at the home of her daughter in Boise, Idaho after a short illness.



and a desire to learn new things. She learned to windsurf in the 1980s and spent many weekends at Lucky Peak or Parkcenter Pond, even appearing in the Idaho Statesman for being brave enough to sailboard into October, when others had packed it in at the end of summer. She was an amazing seamstress, sewing everything from an authentic Chewbacca costume from an

Susie came into the world at the Mary Secor Hospital in Emmett, Idaho on September 3, 1948. She was the eighth, and last, child born to Abe and Mary McKinney of Ola, Idaho. She did not join her brothers and sisters right away, however. Her brother, Herbie, had been diagnosed with a brain tumor and had to go to the Portland Hospital for further treatment, accompanied by Susie’s mother. A dear friend and neighbor, Clairetta, took Susie into her home until her mother and brother could return. In a message to Susie on her last birthday, her sister Judie said: “I don’t remember the day you were born, but I remember the day they brought you home. We were still living in the old house and Mom laid you on her bed and let me crawl up to get a good look. How precious you were, a gift from God to help our parents through a trying time.”

old furry bedspread to a tailored sofa cover with matched variegated stripes. She did macrame, crochet, and painting. The homes she lived in all exhibited her special artistic talent for interior design.

Sue is remembered for her generous and giving heart. There was always a spot at her table or a place to stay for a friend in need. She knew just what unique gifts to give to warm the recipients’ hearts. She was a marvelous cook and delighted in preparing holiday meals and cooking favorite dishes for each family member to celebrate special occasions.

Sue loved being with her grandchildren. While always up for a cookie-decorating session, she could also be convinced to go outside the regular scope of grandma activities for unplanned adventures, like an afternoon spent riding the city bus around, testing out a new bus pass.

Sue was a great mom. Her personal sacrifice in service to the welfare of her family has no estimable calculation. She taught us how to love by example. She was smart, goofy, and funny. Her resilience, patience, and steadfast fortitude had no bounds. She was the best of us, and she gave her best to us.

Sue became ill in July of this year and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which was beyond treatment. She came home to Boise to live with Pyxis and receive hospice care. Triton left his place in Astoria, Oregon, to be by her side and care for her with Pyxis during her last weeks. She was glad to be with her family during this time, and we were grateful that she was able to share her love and stories with us.

Susie is survived by her daughter, Pyxis Rimkus (Jon Mullin) of Boise, ID; her son, Triton Rimkus of Astoria, OR; grandchildren, Jude Mullin of Boise, ID, Lucy Rimkus of Colorado Springs, CO, and Christian Rimkus of Boise, ID; two sisters, Judie McCaulou of Ola, ID and Mary Lee Blackford of Meridian, ID; two brothers, Larry McKinney (Shirley) of Meridian, ID, and Vern McKinney (Carol) of Sweet, ID, and numerous nieces and nephews. Her dog, Gus, has joined Pyxis’s family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley Shakenis; parents, Abe and Mary McKinney; brothers, Len McKinney, Guy McKinney, and Herbert McKinney.

Special thanks for the prayers from her friends at the Waldport Foursquare Church; the kind care of her nurse, Aly, from St. Luke’s Hospice; and the friendship of her Waldport neighbors, Lara, Allen, Jody, and Gerry.

A celebration of life service will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the Mint Barrel Barn Event Center in Nampa, ID.

Clarence Marsh Sherman

October 18, 1940 - December 1, 2025

Clarence Marsh Sherman, 85, of John Day, Oregon, passed away on December 1, 2025, at Blue Mountain Hospital.

Clarence was born on October 18, 1940, in Newport, Oregon, to Clarence and Mae Sherman. After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Army and served for four years, excelling as a sharpshooter. Afterward, he worked as a mill worker for many years until he retired. Clarence enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching, and raising his ten children.

Survivors include his brothers, Walt Sherman (Lexington, Oregon) and Frank Sherman (Lyons, Oregon). His daughters are Lisa Trout (Caldwell, Idaho), Deila

Elliott (Spokane, Washington), Lori Burton (Corvallis, Oregon), and Darla Loucks, and his sons are Mikel Burton (Parma, Idaho), Thomas Sherman (Canyon City, Oregon), and Andrew Sherman (Woodland, Washington). He also leaves 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Zack, Jim, Glen, and Vern; as well as three children, Johnny, Patrick, and Kristina.

Private family services for Clarence will be held at a later date.

To leave condolences for the family, please visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com

Get the facts!
RecallHall.com



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Paid for by
Citizens to Recall County
Commissioner Claire Hall
(22nd year/6 terms)

Patricia Reed

Born 3/29/1935 - Passed 11/15/2025

Patricia “Pat” Reed, 90, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2025, surrounded by love. As anyone who knew her will tell you, she didn’t just live 90 years — she filled them. Pat was born in Spokane, Washington, and spent her youth in Berkeley, California, where she met her lifelong love and high school sweetheart, Paul Reed. They married, built a family, and went on to spend close to 60 years together in Newport, Oregon — a community they adored and poured their hearts into. It is also where Paul passed in 2024.

Pat was the kindest of souls, a believer in the good in everyone, and someone who never forgot how to have fun. She loved her family fiercely, adored her friends, and cherished the simple joys that added sparkle to life. She was famous for organizing ladies’ lunches and neighborhood potlucks, both of which always included plenty of laughter. She also had a well-known weakness for Christmas decorations with a “Press Here” button — a temptation she simply could not resist. If it played music or lit up and made children giggle, Pat pressed it. Every time. And she giggled, too.

Pat loved her yard, her flowers, frogs that hopped by to say hello, and a good book she could lose herself in. She gave her heart not only to her family and friends but also to her



community. Over the years she worked as a teacher’s aide and later in medical records at the local hospital. She was a proud volunteer at the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Newport Food Pantry, and a longtime patron of the Newport Performing Arts Center — three places that reflected her love of learning, giving, and celebrating life.

Her last couple of years were spent in Washington at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Wayne Parker. It was a privilege and honor for them to care for her, and Pat often said herself that she was “spoiled rotten” — and she loved every minute of it.

Pat is survived by her children, Paul Reed Jr. and Laura Parker, along with Laura’s husband, Wayne, who was like a son to her. She also leaves behind many beloved friends who were family in every way that matters.

In keeping with her wishes, no service will be held. Pat preferred laughter over ceremony, and warm memories over flowers. If you would like to honor her, please consider a donation in her name to one of the places she held dear: the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Newport Performing Arts Center, or the Newport Food Pantry.

May her kindness, humor, and joyful spirit continue to ripple through all of us who were lucky enough to know her.



RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

EROSION

From Page A1

fish passage improvements, native plant and tidal channel restoration, large wood placement, and native Olympia oyster reef reestablishment.

“The health of Oregon’s estuaries is vital to our state’s ecosystems and communities,” said Merkley, who serves as the top Democrat on the spending subcommittee that oversees funding for NFWF. “This critical federal funding along with strong matching support will leverage MidCoast Watersheds Council’s work in restoring tidal wetlands and reducing risk to the community at the same time.”

“As extreme weather continues to disrupt



The federal support is designed to restore 125 acres of tidal wetlands and 6.2 miles of stream channels across Oregon’s Siletz and Yaquina estuaries in Lincoln County to enhance habitat for salmonids and buffer communities from storm surge. (Metro Creative Connection)

fragile coastal ecosystems, Oregon’s coastal communities suffer,”

Wyden said. “I applaud this federal award to the MidCoast Watersheds

Council that improves the resilience of Oregon’s Siletz and Yaquina

estuaries, and I will continue to support programs that protect communities from the worsening effects of the climate crisis.”

“The degradation of tidal wetlands has not only negatively affected our beloved and economically important fish and wildlife species, including our resident Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, but it has made coastal residents more vulnerable to storms, sea level rise, and coastal flooding. Restoring and protecting tidal wetlands not only helps all these critters, but everyone who lives, visits, or loves the Oregon coast,” MidCoast Watersheds Council (MCWC) Executive Director Evan Hayduk said.

“I would like to

congratulate Evan and Staff at MCWC for receiving this grant and look forward to seeing their restoration projects in the Siletz and Yaquina estuaries. I also want to acknowledge the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their funding of these projects in Lincoln County,” Lincoln County Commissioner Walter Chuck said.

The grant for MidCoast Watersheds Council comes from NFWF’s National Coastal Resilience Fund, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition to the \$2.2 million in federal funding, the project has secured \$1,803,423 in matching funds, bringing the total project funds to \$4,014,258.

FISH

From Page A1

Oregon and suggests that fishes are thriving and amphibians are persisting,” said Oregon State University postdoctoral researcher Allison Swartz, who led the study.

Swartz and collaborators at OSU, the National Council for Stream Improvement, Inc., the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest



Coastal cutthroat trout. (Courtesy photos from Allison Swartz / OSU College of Forestry)





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Research Station and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency examined 30 watersheds in moist conifer forests on the western slope of the Cascades.

Federal, state and private lands comprised the study area.

Unique aspects of the research were its focus on larger streams that host non-salmonid fishes like dace, sculpin and lamprey, as well as salamanders, frogs and crayfishes, omnivorous crustaceans important to understanding aquatic food webs; crayfish appear to be persisting too.

Previous ecological studies, the researchers note, have tended to mainly focus on economically and culturally important trout, salmon and steelhead.

The watersheds, among the nearly half-million acres burned by the Riverside, Beachie Creek and Holiday Farm fires around Labor Day in 2020, experienced varying levels of burn severity and post-fire salvage logging and replanting.

“Understanding the fire ecology of freshwater

ecosystems is critical to our learning to co-exist with fire in ways that are socially and ecologically just,” said co-author Meg Krawchuk, an associate professor in the OSU College of Forestry.

The scientists found that total vertebrate, total fish and trout densities were greater in streams draining more severely burned watersheds than those draining less burned or unburned watersheds. Channel reorganization events, such as landslides after wildfire, are known to affect fish and amphibian densities but had not occurred in the study area.

“Despite experiencing high-severity megafires, vertebrate assemblages and populations seem to be buffered from fire-induced changes if adequate physical habitat and food availability are maintained post-fire,” Swartz said.

“Sculpin, amphibian and crayfish densities did not appear to be influenced by burn severity. In areas with higher degrees of salvage harvesting and replanting, there were lower frog densities but greater densities of trout less than a year old.”

The researchers note that a combination of increased temperatures, shifts in precipitation, higher fuel aridity and prior forest management practices is resulting in longer fire seasons and greater frequency, size and intensity of fires in many parts of the world, including the Pacific Northwest.

Wildfire can change the structure and function of riparian and freshwater ecosystems in a number of ways that can affect stream vertebrate populations, the scientists say.

“More research exists on connections between burn severity and stream-flow, sediment and stream temperature,” Swartz said. “Less work has been done looking at how burn severity and post-fire salvage harvest influence populations of all of stream vertebrates present and the overall assemblage.”

The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, the Pacific Northwest Research Station, the Environmental Protection Agency and Weyerhaeuser provided funding for the study, which was published in Nature Communications Earth and Environment.

Brooke Penaluna and Becky Flitcroft of the Forest Service, Ashley Coble of the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement and Joe Ebersole of the EPA also contributed to the research.

Steve Lundeberg is a news and research writer at Oregon State University. He may be reached at Steve. Lundeberg@oregonstate.edu



RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

Oregon Jobs Projected to Increase 6% by 2034



The projected 6% increase in employment between 2024 and 2034 includes private-sector gains of 125,500 jobs, growth of 7,700 jobs in government, and an additional 7,400 self-employed Oregonians. (Metro Creative Connection)

The Oregon Employment Department projects Oregon’s total employment to grow by 141,000 jobs between 2024 and 2034.

These employment projections reflect modest job growth in the economy, although many additional job openings are expected due to the need to replace workers who leave their occupations.

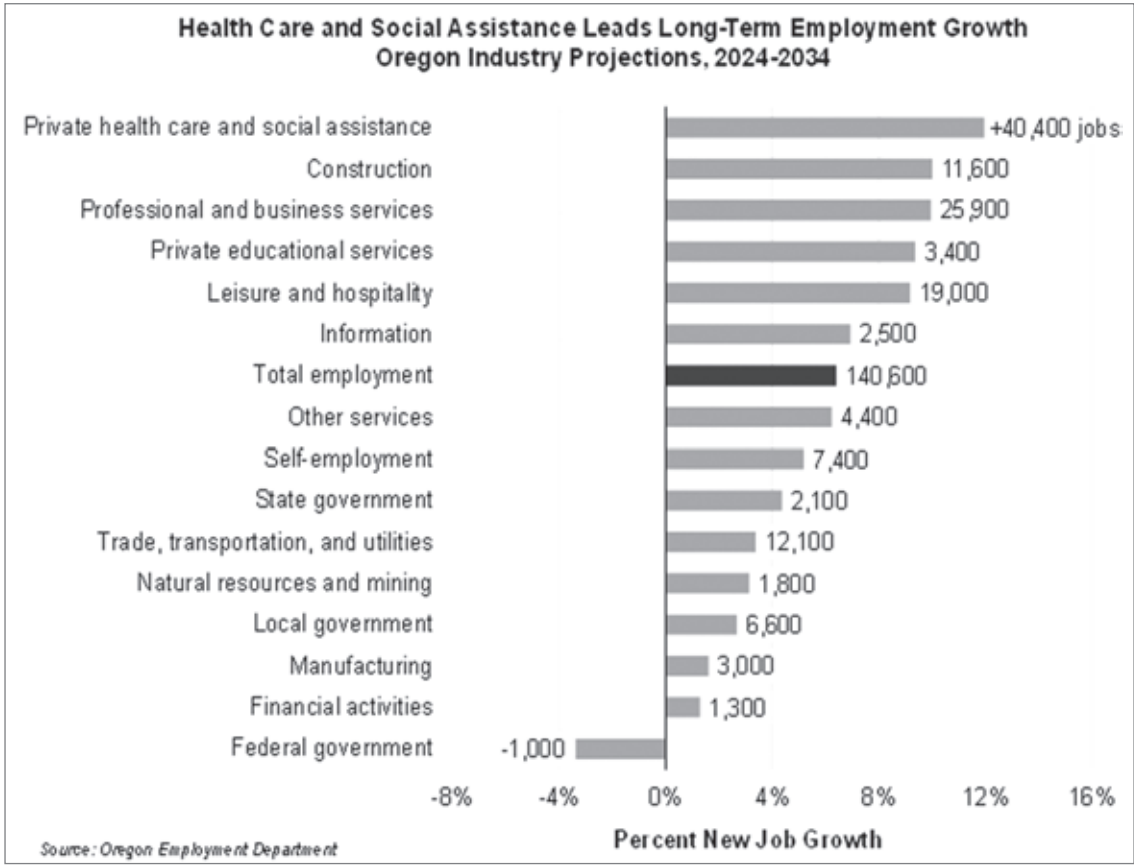
In 2024, there were 2.2 million jobs in Oregon. The projected 6% increase in employment between 2024 and 2034 includes private-sector gains of 125,500 jobs, growth of 7,700 jobs in government, and an additional 7,400 self-employed Oregonians.

Beyond gains associated with the anticipated economic growth, another 2.4 million job openings will be created by 2034 to replace workers who retire, leave the labor force for other reasons, or make a major occupational change. Together, the number of job openings due

to job growth and replacements will total nearly 2.6 million.

All broad sectors in Oregon are expected to add jobs by 2034, except for federal government, which is projected to decline by 3% (-1,000 jobs). The private health care and social assistance sector is projected to increase the fastest, growing by 13%. Private health care and social assistance is also projected to add the largest number of jobs over the next 10 years (+40,400 jobs). This growth is attributed to the aging of the state’s population, longer life expectancies, and an expected rebound in the state’s long-term population growth.

The construction and professional and business services sectors are projected to grow at the second-fastest rate, gaining 10% each. Growth in construction can be attributed to construction of buildings (+11%) and specialty trade contractors (+11%), which includes establishments that perform specific



construction-related activities such as site preparation, plumbing, painting, and electrical work.

Growth in professional and business services is expected to be primarily driven by professional and technical services (+15%), which includes architectural and engineering services (+23%), computer systems design and related services (+10%), and legal services (-3%).

Many of the fastest-growing occupations are associated with jobs in the health care industry. Nine of the top 15 fastest-growing occupations by 2034 are in health care. They include nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical and health services managers, and psychiatric technicians. Computer and mathematical occupations comprise three of the top 15 fastest-growing occupations, as demand increases for workers who can model, interpret, and analyze data in addition to demand

for the development of AI solutions and their integration into business practices. They include data scientists, information security analysts, and operations research analysts.

A broad variety of career opportunities will be available across all sectors, as well as all job types. Four out of 10 job openings will require education or training beyond high school, but applicants will require education beyond high school to be competitive in six out of 10 job openings.

Occupations with the most job openings that typically require a high school diploma or less include fast food workers, stockers and order fillers, retail salespersons, cashiers, and home health and personal care aides. Those requiring a postsecondary certification or associate’s degree include bookkeepers, truck drivers, nursing and medical assistants. Occupations with the most job openings requiring at least a bachelor’s degree vary

from general and operations managers to registered nurses, other educational instruction and library workers, project management specialists, and all other business operations specialists.

All areas of Oregon are expected to see job opportunities in the coming years due to economic growth and the replacement of workers leaving the labor force. The two areas projected to grow faster than Oregon’s rate of 6% are the Portland tri-county area (7%) and Central Oregon (7%). Slower growth is expected in the Columbia Gorge, Northwest, South Central, Southwestern Oregon, and the Eastern Six Oregon counties with 5% growth each.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about 2024-2034 industry and occupational projections for Oregon and sub-state areas can be found at www.qualityinfo.org/projections.

Jobs increasing, but unemployment also rising

STAFF REPORT
Lincoln County Leader

The Oregon Employment Department has released monthly employment and unemployment data for September 2025 in Lincoln County, after a significant delay due to the federal government shutdown.

Lincoln County’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0% in September, up from 5.8% in August. It was up from 5.2% the year before. The statewide unemployment rate was 5.2% in September, and the national rate was 4.4%. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment increased by 40 in September to 18,710 jobs.

Seasonally adjusted figures compare expected changes with actual changes. A loss of 240 jobs was expected for the month. The county’s total nonfarm employment actually decreased by 200, with a loss of 350 jobs in the private sector, while government employment increased by 150. Leisure and hospitality lost 290 jobs. Local education employment increased by 150.

September’s total nonfarm employment numbers were down 100 jobs over the year, a



The monthly reports are a key indicator of the county and state economies. The latest report shows 19,897 employed and 1,283 unemployed in Lincoln County. (Metro Creative Connection)

decrease of 0.5%. The largest gains occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing which rose by 140 jobs over the year in September. Professional and business services lost 230 jobs. Local government added 80 jobs.

Oregon’s unemployment rate was 5.2% in September and 5.0% in August, after increasing for much of the past two years from the recent low of 3.6% during spring 2023. The U.S.

unemployment rate was 4.3% in August and 4.4% in September.

In September, Oregon’s seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by 3,300 jobs, following a revised gain of 3,500 jobs in August. September’s gains were largest in health care and social assistance (+1,300 jobs); construction (+700); and professional and business services (+700). Losses were largest in financial activities (-700 jobs).

Health care and social assistance continued its rapid expansion of the past several years, adding 11,400 jobs, or 3.7%, between September 2024 and September 2025.

Construction employment was down slightly this summer compared with the two prior summers. September employment totaled 116,100 jobs, which was 1,600 jobs, or 1.4%, below its level in September 2024.

Professional and

business services added 700 in September but lost jobs since early 2023. Since its peak of 268,900 jobs in March 2023, it has declined to 253,700 jobs in September (-15,200 jobs, or 5.7%). Each of the three component industries trended downward since early 2023.

Over the last 12 months, cut-backs included: administrative and waste services (-4,900 jobs or -4.8%); professional and technical services (-2,300 jobs, or -2.1%); and management of companies and enterprises (-1,000 jobs, or -2.0%).

Manufacturing slipped by 200 jobs in September and is down 9,600 jobs, or 5.1%, since September 2024, with both durable goods manufacturing and nondurable goods manufacturing each down close to 5%.

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Citizens to Recall County
Commissioner Claire Hall
(22nd year/6 terms)

RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

RECALL HALL

**We must recall county commissioner
Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such
as ethics and non-performance.**



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics....Hall is currently under investigation by “OGE”, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, for “Open Meetings” violations of law.• Non communication with Judge Bachart, DA Jenna Wallace and Sherriff’s office (Curt Landers). See September 18, 2024 meeting video. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom of Speech violations of public comment section during commissioner meetings.• Non communication with general public and voters seeking “redress of Grievances”• Unethical removal and banishment of commissioner Miller. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illegal and inappropriate banishment from commissioner meetings by those Hall deemed as opposition. (Christine Hutchins)...later reversed after proved to be either Illegal or wrongful action.• It is time to end “Strong Arm” and bully tactics at the county commissioners office! |
|--|--|--|

First Day Paddle at Brian Booth State Park

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is hosting a free guided First Day Paddle at Brian Booth State Park on New Year’s Day, Thursday, Jan. 1.

It’s part of the annual First Day Hikes event at 25 Oregon State Parks held in partnership with America’s State Parks on New Year’s Day.

Information about the paddle at Brian Booth State Park (Beaver Creek):

This is a two-hour guided kayak paddle on the Beaver Creek Marsh, where paddlers will soak in the beautiful flora and fauna of the area.

Registration required

The 10 a.m. tour departs from the Beaver Creek boat launch, just east of Highway 101 on N Beaver Creek Rd., directly across the

See **PADDLE**, page B4



Kayaks, paddles, and personal floatation devices are provided; no personal equipment is allowed. (Courtesy from the OPRD)

Daniel Pack new Siletz Festival Director



Daniel Pack

SUBMITTED

The Siletz Bay Music Festival has appointed arts administrator Daniel Pack as its Executive Director, effective immediately, with responsibilities for the overall administration and funding of the prestigious annual festival, which will be celebrating its 15th year in 2026.

Pack will be based in Lincoln City and will be seeking sponsorships, working with Lincoln City government and community groups, pursuing new grant opportunities, overseeing marketing and working with Artistic Director Mei-Ting Sun and board president Jain Sekuler on the festival’s production. The Festival’s 2026 season will take place August 13 – 23 with a special event planned for May 29 and 30.

Pack, an accomplished cellist, comes to Siletz Bay Music Festival from Utah’s Ogden Shakespeare Festival, where he served as Technical Director, assisting in all aspects of the theater operations, including

See **DIRECTOR**, page B4

Finders Keepers returns to local tradition



Rather than centering on competition or planned hunts, the 2026 season re-emphasizes the tradition’s origins, which for a quarter century have been rooted in serendipity, local artistry, and the simple joy of exploration. (Photos by Jeremy C. Ruark / Lincoln County Leader)

As Finders Keepers enters its 26th year, Lincoln City is returning the beloved glass float program to what has always made it extraordinary: the wonder of stumbling upon something beautiful, unexpected, and handmade on the open coast.

Rather than centering on competition or planned hunts, the 2026 season re-emphasizes the tradition’s origins, which for a quarter century have been rooted in serendipity, local artistry,

See **FINDERS**, page B5

Finders Keepers began in 2000 as a way to resurrect the feeling of “just happening upon” a piece of coastal history akin to finding a beautiful shell to treasure.



Visitors line areas along the Oregon Coast to view the gray whale migrations. (Courtesy from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)

Don’t forget Whale Watching Week

The Oregon Coast is the place to be this week to view the annual migration of gray whales as well as other coastal wildlife including marine mammals and birds.

The annual gray whales’ journey is part of their annual migration south to the calving lagoons near Baja, Mexico, and the end of December is the peak time to see their migration south. An estimated 30 whales pass per hour.

Trained Oregon State Park volunteers will be stationed at 14 sites along the Oregon Coast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help visitors spot gray whales on their southward migration to the calving

See **WHALE**, page B7

Interact and Grow with Local Authors: Valerie Davisson and Dr. Ruth Ballard



Valerie Davisson
SUBMITTED

Please come join us for an enlightening time with our dual coastal spotlight speakers, Dr. Ruth Ballard and Valerie Davisson, for our January 17, Willamette Writers Coast Chapter meeting at the Newport Public Library from 2-4 p.m.

Both authors will have



Dr. Ruth Ballard at three ages. (Courtesy photo)

Q & A and book signing opportunities after both presentations at 3:55 p.m. Come join us with great expectations!

Science speaks to crime enthusiasts and writers in Dr. Ruth

(Ruthy) Ballard’s presentation from 2-3 p.m. on what forensic DNA can do these days and how this creates fertile ground for story ideas.

See **AUTHORS**, page B7



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Coffee grounds boost soil health — and help control slugs

KIM POKORNY
Leader Guest Column

The world’s most popular drink offers more than just a caffeine kick. Spent coffee grounds can enrich soil and compost, while brewed coffee itself can help manage slugs.

“The big message is that generally people are too enthusiastic. You really need to take the recommended dosages to heart. I’ve seen raised beds ruined by too much coffee.”

An estimated 400 billion to 1 trillion cups of coffee are consumed worldwide each year. That’s a lot of grounds that might otherwise end up in the waste stream. Using coffee grounds in the garden keeps them out of landfills and gives gardeners another option for improving soil and controlling pests.

Linda Brewer, a soil scientist with the Oregon State University Extension Service, said coffee grounds can be valuable for gardens and compost piles — if used in moderation.

“The big message is that generally people are too enthusiastic,” Brewer said. “You really need to take the recommended dosages to heart. I’ve seen raised beds ruined by too

much coffee. Like most kitchen waste, it’s a fine amendment, but coffee grounds can be overdone.”

Myths about acidity

It’s a common misconception that coffee grounds are acidic. After brewing, they’re close to neutral — around pH 6.5 to 6.8. Any pH change in the soil is temporary, Brewer said.

That means coffee grounds won’t lower soil pH enough to benefit acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, blueberries, gardenias and blue-flowering hydrangeas.

For more on soil acidity, visit [Acidifying soil in landscapes and gardens east of the Cascades](#) and [Acidifying soil for blueberries and ornamental plants in yard and garden: West of the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon and Washington](#).

Coffee grounds add structure, not major nutrients

Although coffee grounds contain 1% to 2% nitrogen and small amounts of micronutrients, they aren’t a major source of plant nutrition. As the grounds break down, soil microorganisms temporarily tie up nitrogen while they grow and reproduce. To balance this, add a nitrogen-rich



Spent coffee grounds improve soil structure and kill slugs. (Courtesy photo from Linda Renslow)

source such as composted manure, alfalfa meal or grass clippings when incorporating fresh coffee grounds.

Coffee grounds contribute small amounts of potassium, phosphorus, calcium and magnesium, and trace amounts of iron, copper, manganese and zinc. However, these aren’t sufficient to meet plant needs. The main benefit comes from improving soil structure and drainage. As soil microbes feed on the grounds, they release

compounds that bind soil particles into stable, well-draining aggregates.

How to use coffee grounds in soil and compost

When using coffee grounds as a soil amendment, Brewer recommends working in a half inch of grounds to a depth of 4 inches. If using as mulch, cover with leaves or bark mulch to prevent the surface from drying and repelling water.

In a compost pile, mix three parts leaves to one part fresh grass clippings

residues.

If you collect grounds from coffee shops, store them in a sealed container until use. Mold may develop, but it’s harmless in compost and contributes to decomposition.

Coffee as a natural slug control

Coffee can also deter or kill slugs and snails. Brewer said research shows that a 1% to 2% caffeine solution used as a soil drench caused all slugs to leave treated soil and die of caffeine poisoning. A 2% solution applied to orchid growing media killed 95% of snails — outperforming a common slug bait containing metaldehyde.

To make a 1% to 2% soil drench, mix one part water with two parts strong brewed coffee. For foliar sprays, dilute further — nine parts water to one part brewed coffee — to reduce slug feeding on leaves.

“A sensible approach would be to apply diluted coffee to a few sample leaves and wait a few hot, sunny days to check for leaf burn or other damage,” Brewer said. “If there’s no damage, go ahead with spraying.”

Kim Pokorny writes for the Oregon State University extension Service.

\$800,000 awarded to expand campus veteran resource centers

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) has awarded grants totaling \$800,000 to expand campus veteran resource centers and enhance services for student veterans at Oregon’s public universities and community colleges.

These centers play a key role in helping veterans make the transition from military service to college life and pursue their educational and career goals.

The purpose of the

Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program is to strengthen existing campus resources by funding innovative and impactful projects that improve the lives of student veterans and support their success.

A record 19 of Oregon’s 24 eligible public universities and community colleges applied for grants during this cycle, reflecting a broad commitment to serving student veterans across the state. All 19 institutions that applied



The purpose of the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program is to strengthen existing campus resources by funding innovative and impactful projects that improve the lives of student veterans and support their success. (Courtesy photo)

received a portion of the available funds.

This level of participation demonstrates the strong, continued partnership between ODVA and Oregon’s higher education community in ensuring that veterans have access to the tools and support they need to thrive.

Awardees include Blue Mountain Community College, Central Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Clackamas Community College, Columbia Gorge Community College, Eastern Oregon University, Klamath Community College, Lane Community College, Linn-Benton Community College,

Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Portland Community College, Portland State University, Rogue Community College, Southern Oregon University, Southwestern Oregon Community College, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University.

The proposed projects were evaluated by a committee composed of veterans service officers, current and former student veterans, education partners, and others who provide direct services to veterans.

“Student veterans enrich our campuses and our communities with their leadership, discipline, and life experience,” Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Nakeia Daniels said. “Yet we know that navigating higher education after military service can bring unique challenges. Veteran resource centers provide a place where student veterans can connect with one another, access benefits and support, and build the foundation for success—both in school and beyond the uniform.”

Highlights of funded projects include:

- Support for campus veteran coordinator and outreach positions to help ensure student veterans can access the benefits and services they have earned.
- Creation of peer mentor programs and other peer support services to strengthen connection and retention among student veterans.
- Purchase of technology and electronic equipment for student use.
- Programs to address student veteran food insecurity, mental health, transportation, and other urgent needs.
- Veteran-focused events, ceremonies, career fairs, and skill-building workshops.
- Marketing and outreach to engage historically underrepresented and underserved student veteran populations.

Lincoln County Leader

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

SUDOKU

数独

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

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Commissioner Claire Hall
(22nd year/6 terms)

More information about this grant program can be found on ODVA’s website at www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Campus-Grant.aspx.

Established in 1945, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs is dedicated to serving Oregon’s diverse veteran community that spans five eras of service members. ODVA administers programs and provides special advocacy and assistance in accessing earned veteran benefits across the state.

Learn about veteran benefits and services, or locate a local county or Tribal veteran services office online at oregon.gov/odva.

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Island receives Alliance grant for Northwest Sea Otter Survey

Pacific University Professor of Psychology Heide Island has been awarded a \$12,000 grant that will aid efforts to reintroduce sea otters to the Oregon Coast.

Island received the grant from The Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Katherine Bisbee II Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

The award funds Island’s research project, “Oregon’s Scientific Readiness for Sea Otter Reintroduction Through The 2026 Washington Sea Otter Census,” a collaborative effort between Pacific University, the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Seattle Aquarium, and will include research opportunities for three Pacific undergraduate students.

The study continues a long-standing survey of sea otters along the Washington coast, which was paused in 2025 due to federal budget cuts. The study provides critical data on the populations most likely to support the reintroduction of sea otters on the Oregon Coast. The species was hunted to extinction in the state thanks to the fur trade, with the last known Oregon sea otter shot in



The study continues a long-standing survey of sea otters along the Washington coast, which was paused in 2025 due to federal budget cuts. The study provides critical data on the populations most likely to support the reintroduction of sea otters on the Oregon Coast. (Courtesy photo)

1906.

“This project will help ensure the success of sea otter reintroduction, monitoring, and management, and reinforce the state’s position as a collaborative leader in science-based, community-centered ecological conservation,” Island said.

The project will further train Island and Brittany Blades, curator of marine mammals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, in field census methods to aid in the development of a standardized monitoring manual for

Oregon’s future sea otter reintroduction.

A member of the Pacific faculty since 2005, Island is an otter researcher (both river and sea otters) and an expert in otter behavior. She was named to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Otter Specialist Group in February 2025. She teaches classes in a variety of psychological topics, including introductory psychology, clinical and behavioral neuroscience, and animal behavior.

Island’s research into

otters included a five-year study on foraging behavior among North American river otters on Whidbey Island, Washington, which provided research opportunities for Pacific undergraduate students. Her book on what the world can learn through otters, *Romp! A Journey Through The Natural History Of Otters And Why They Matter*, will be published by Tarcher Publishing in 2026.

Island earned bachelor’s degrees from Washington State University and the

University of Alaska Southeast. She also holds a master’s degree in biological psychology and a doctorate in comparative animal behavior and experimental psychology from the University of Montana.

Oregon’s Opportunity University, Pacific University is Washington County, Oregon’s only comprehensive university, offering over 50 undergraduate majors and 28 graduate and professional

degrees. With over 175 years of helping students discover their purpose, Pacific inspires its 3,400 students to think, care, create, and pursue justice in the world. The No. 1 private research institution in the Northwest, Pacific serves its communities through campuses in Forest Grove and Hillsboro, healthcare clinics throughout the Portland area and through 34,000 alumni pursuing lives of purpose globally.

SHERIFF’S TIP OF THE WEEK

Sherioff’s Tip of the Week: Deer and Elk migration

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The Central Oregon Coast is experiencing its seasonal cold weather. Although the weather slows down our daily commute, we are not nearly as affected as wildlife, specifically elk and deer.

Natural food sources are lean in the upper elevations in the coast range during the winter as snow falls, covering the ground. This time of year with snow accumulation in the coast range and freezing temperatures periodically down to sea level, elk and



deer may move to even lower elevations to find adequate food.

These additional movements often mean that the animals are crossing major

roads both day and night which creates hazards to motorists. The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office would like motorists and spectators to be mindful

of the animal movements. If you see one deer cross in front of you, chances are there is another one behind.

Please take into account that the animals are often stressed due to additional migration in search of food. When spectating please keep a minimum distance of 100 yards from wildlife. If the animals begin to move from your presence, don’t follow them. Oregon Revised Statute 498.006 does protect the chasing or harassing of wildlife.

For more information and tips visit www.lincolncountysheriff.net



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Wine is the perfect ‘social lubricant’


A number of converging situations are having a negative effect on the wine industry at this time. A neo-prohibitionist movement is taking the position that drinking in moderation is not enough; that total abstinence is needed to protect against certain cancers and other disease. Our population is aging and the younger generation is showing less interest in wine. Wine prices are rising as sales lag; inflation and tariffs are taking their toll.

We who love wine need to come forward to turn these negatives around.

Support our local wineries by visiting them, purchasing and gifting bottles to friends and remember they are our local small businesses, too. I want to go on record—again—by saying that wine is a positive aspect of life. Wine is food; a good meal becomes better when a glass is part of it. Not only food, but wine enhances relationships, feelings of pleasure, well-being and those intangible positives that promote good health. The majority of medical experts still hold that wine in moderation will help you live longer and enjoy life longer.

At this holiday season,

Joseph Swafford



wineries—both big and small—have produced excellent bottles to share with family and friends. (That is my cue to trot out a favorite phrase: Wine is the perfect ‘social lubricant’.) It is a good time of year to visit Tasting Rooms to let your palate lead the way. Tasting before buying makes good sense and it is fun, too. Should you find yourself in Eugene—or make it your destination—I have two friendly downtown tasting rooms to recommend: J. Scott Cellars Bistro in the Fifth Street Public Market neighborhood and Capitello Winery on Charnelton Street.

Jonathon Scott Oberlander is the founder and winemaker of his eponymous winery. J. Scott Cellars shared a tasting room with Noble Estate Wines on our Bayfront for several years here in Newport. We got to know two of their excellent reds during that time: Malbec and Bradshaw Vineyards Pinot noir, Both are available at the Bistro on Fifth. Malbec is a sturdy, well-textured complement to red meat (ask the Argentines where it is the most widely-grown grape in a country where beef consumption per capita is the highest in the world).

At Capitello’s tasting room you can sit on wrought-iron bar stools that used to be in the Champagne Patio

in Newport. Owner-winemaker Ray Walsh purchased the bar stools and the artist-designed chandeliers from Christina and me when we closed our wine shop and restaurant fifteen years ago. Sauvignon blanc is New Zealand’s best wine and it is no surprise that it is also Capitello’s. Ray Walsh is a New Zealander who goes home to make this dry white wine in the reverse southern hemisphere season: Oregon’s springtime is New Zealand’s fall harvest time. You can compare the same vintage Sauvignon blanc from the two countries made by the same winemaker.

A characteristic of Sauvignon blanc, which is an excellent accompaniment to fresh Dungeness

crab that should be coming into port just about now, is its aroma of newly-mowed grass. I remember once reading of two New Zealand wine writers who smelled different aromas in this crisp white wine. One said he got the scent of gooseberry fruit in his glass. The other said that the smell he detected was cat pee. But before this difference of opinion became acrimonious, the two aroma-science-minded wine writers decided that they shared the olfactory image of the cat peeing on a gooseberry bush. I still hold to the newly-cut grass smell and I know the neighbor’s cat does not cross over from his yard.

Cheers!

Joseph Swafford

jcswoff56@gmail.com

DEAN’S LIST

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Alaina Sanders of Toledo, OR, was named to dean’s list at Olivet Nazarene University

Sanders of Toledo, OR, was named to the dean’s list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed fall 2025 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean’s list, a student must have

been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 200 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet’s

275-acre park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. Additionally, Olivet offers Graduate and Continuing Studies via online education. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

PADDLE

From Page B1

highway from Ona Beach.

The water will be calm with no tidal influence or rapids. Moderate physical exertion: a brief tutorial is provided. Using a kayak paddle will require upper body strength and the use of two hands to wield the paddle for two hours. Previous kayaking experience is recommended but not required.

This is a drug and alcohol-free event. No pets allowed.

Please bring water to drink, shoes that can get wet, and whatever else

will make you comfortable while paddling on the water for 2 hours in potentially inclement weather. We recommend a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and clothes that can be layered.

Kayaks, paddles, and personal floatation devices are provided; no personal equipment is allowed.

Single kayaks may be operated by anyone age 16 and up. Tandem kayaks may be operated by anyone aged 18 and up, accompanied by a passenger aged six and up. Kayak weight limit is 400 pounds.

This program is weather-dependent. If winds of

20 miles per hour or more are forecasted for the day of the event, it will be cancelled. If necessary, cancellation will occur 24 hours before the scheduled start time.

For more information, call 541-265-6949.

If you have questions about access or to request any reasonable accommodations needed for your participation, please contact Park Ranger Becca Givens, 541-272-7394. Requests must be submitted at least three days prior to January 1.

Share photos of First Day Hikes via social media by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes.



Kathleen Hutchinson
541-760-2529



John Reis
503-580-7811



Chris Watkins
541-270-6774



Gail Stonebreaker
541-992-4317



Deborah Allen
907-903-1536



Wendy Birchfield
541-272-9190



Julie Gamache
541-231-0753



Danielle Cutler
541-961-3868



Karla Kuhlbeck
541-270-2965



Windermere

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Commissioner Claire Hall
(22nd year/6 terms)

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Lincoln County Leader



RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

FINDERS

From Page B1

and the simple joy of exploration.

Inspired by the Japanese fishing floats that once washed ashore on Oregon beaches, Finders Keepers began in 2000 as a way to resurrect the feeling of “just happening upon” a piece of coastal history akin to finding a beautiful shell to treasure.

Since then, more than 75,000 handcrafted glass floats have been placed along Lincoln City’s seven miles of shoreline, each created by Oregon artists and meant to be discovered, kept, and cherished as a lasting memory. This unique coastal tradition has also established Lincoln City as one of the West’s top destinations for blown

glass art, with numerous artist studios and galleries.

“Finders Keepers has always been about connection, the moment when someone looks down and finds a piece of art made by local hands, waiting just for them,” Explore Lincoln City Director Kim Cooper Findling said. “As we enter the 2026 season, we’re bringing the program back to its quiet magic. Any walk can lead to a discovery. Any day can be special.”

Throughout 2026, more than 3,000 floats will be placed on the beach, carried out discreetly by the city’s “Float Fairies.” The goal isn’t to spark a race to the sand; it’s to invite visitors to slow down, wander, and experience the coastline with a sense of wonder. Less chasing. More meaning.

Though the heart of the

program remains rooted in magical serendipity, Explore Lincoln City will also host a limited number of themed float releases that honor local traditions and community partners. These six drops—representing 341 of the year’s floats—add moments of celebration while still supporting the broader return to year-round, serendipitous discovery.

The special drop dates for 2026:

- January 9-11, 2026: Opening Weekend: 100 floats will be dropped.
- February 6-16, 2026: Retro Expo: 100 Japanese antique-style floats.
- April 22-25, 2026: 50 Earth Day floats released.
- June 19-20, 2026: 31 special floats for the Chinook Winds Casino

Resort Anniversary.

- September TBD: 10 floats for Fall Kite Festival.
- October 30-November 1, 2026: 50 Halloween-themed floats placed. Please note that all dates are subject to change based on King Tides and weather conditions.

All floats are dropped between the high tide line and below the beach embankment, but it is advised to always be

aware of tide levels, weather conditions, and current advisories when visiting the beach.

For additional information, visit explorelincolncity.com or follow along @ [lincolncityor](https://twitter.com/lincolncityor)

Support these
Local Nonprofit
Community
Organizations!





501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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

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



Please donate



Christmas SERVICES

Atonement Lutheran

In-Person & on Zoom

Christmas Eve Candlelight at 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship at 10 a.m.

Zoom link <https://zoom.us/j/99421101904>

2315 N. Coast Hwy • Newport • 541-265-2554



CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service

12.24.2025 • 6 P.M.

 **NewportNaz**

227 NW 12 St., Newport

2025 HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEWPORT	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Children’s Mass	
Christmas Eve 8 p.m. Bilingual Mass	
Christmas Day 9 a.m. Mass	Christmas Day: 11 a.m. Mass
New Year’s Day 9 a.m. Mass	

Sacred Heart Catholic Church: 927 N Coast Hwy, Newport
WWW.SACREDHEARTNEWPORT.ORG
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission: 231 Logsdan Rd, Siletz • (541) 265-5101

St. Peter The Fisherman Lutheran Church

Invites you to Celebrate the birth of Jesus!



Come as you are and bring the entire family to a music-filled and inspiring Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service. Sing the beautiful Christmas Carols and hear the message of hope that comes with the birth of our Savior.

The service begins at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be serviced after the service.

We are located in Lincoln City on Highway 101 and SW 13th
(across from the Lincoln City Outlets)



301 SE 40TH ST.

SOUTH BEACH, OR 97633

Amber Waves

WHOA, BOYS, LAST FARM ON THE ROUTE. A FAMILY WITH A LITTLE FELLA NAMED GERALD LIVES HERE.

I RECALL THE ELVES HAVING SOME ISSUE AS TO WHERE TO PLACE HIM, ON THE NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST.

WOW, THERE'S ACTUALLY A DISCLAIMER AFTER HIS NAME.

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

I'M A SNOWFLAKE, A ONE-OF-A-KIND WONDER OF NATURE! I AM LIKE NO OTHER. UNIQUE... SPECIAL... I AM WINTER'S PRECIOUS PIXIE! I AM...

AAAAAAGH!

WHOOOSH WHOOOSH WHOOOSH

by Gary Kopervas

The Spats

LOOKS LIKE I'M HAVING "ALPO" FOR DINNER TONIGHT.

... SINCE I'M IN THE DOG HOUSE!!

by Jeff Pickering

TIGER

NO

NOPE

NOT DOWN HERE

NOTHING

NOT IN HERE

NO

WELL, THIS CHRISTMAS

...IF WE ARE GETTING ANYTHING, IT MUST BE AWFUL SMALL

by BUD BLAKE

OLIVE & POPEYE

POPEYE, MY DEAR FRIEND! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!

POPEYE, MY DEAR FRIEND! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!

WOT'S TH' GOOD WORD?

ADVENTURE, I HOPE.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SEARCHING OUT A LOST CIVILIZATION THOUGHT ONLY TO BE LEGEND?

I'D SAY IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M HERE 'T' KEEP YA FROM HAVIN' T' PAY FER HELP.

ONE ENTERS ACADEMIA FOR MANY REASONS.

TO PAY OTHERS IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

By Randy Milholland

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hat is taller. 2. Laces are missing. 3. Crute is different. 4. Cloud is lower. 5. Reel is moved. 6. Fishing line is different.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

MY WIFE WANTS TO INVITE YOU GUYS FOR DINNER. YOU STRIKE ME AS A GUY WHO LIKES MYSTERY AND A BIT OF DANGER, RIGHT?

by Dave T. Phipps

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: C equals M

T BYQ TCYPTQG EXCGOXS

BYMMTQP ZNYZ HJXATMG XA

YOJYNYC MTQBXMQ XQ Y

HGQQV Y BXHHGJ NGYS.

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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!

Sneak

ALWESE

Consume

BEADO

Respond

SEWNAR

Foreign

INLAE

TODAY'S WORD

"With this diet you can eat all you want — just don't _____ it!"

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

QNUNCCNX UNCRLRA, XMIR

QMI YSR YMLRIY QMCNSAM

WNSC XLRONX, GMNNYI QN

UJTI LQ J MJFFW OJW.

— PWROJ CIYRLGT

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: What city is considered the birthplace of democracy?

2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a pet raccoon named Rebecca?

3. MOVIES: What is the 2007 documentary "The 11th Hour" about?

4. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries lie along the equator?

5. ANATOMY: Which part of the eye controls how much light enters it?

6. TELEVISION: What is the name of the Tanners' cat on the sitcom "ALF"?

7. LITERATURE: What are the names of the two families in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"?

8. CHEMISTRY: What kind of reaction produces heat?

9. U.S. STATES: Which state was the first to join the Union?

10. ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side?

Answers

1. Athens, Greece.

2. Calvin Coolidge.

3. The critical state of the Earth's environment.

4. 13.

5. Iris.

6. Lucky.

7. Capulet and Montague.

8. Exothermic.

9. Delaware.

10. Uranus.

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CryptoQuote

answer

Tomorrow morning, when the sun shines through your window, choose to make it a happy day.

— Lynda Resnick

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Weasel; 2. Abode; 3. Answer; 4. Alien

Today's Word

SWALLOW

CryptoQuip

answer

I can imagine somebody calling that profile of Abraham Lincoln on a penny a copper head.

RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

Northwest just finished warmest fall on record, scientists report

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Across the Northwest, a record warm fall and lack of snowpack going into the winter is putting more drought pressure on Oregon, Idaho, Washington and western Montana.

Despite record rain in western Washington recently, and earlier this year in central and southern Oregon, the showers are filling up already overdrawn reservoirs in many areas, scientists said on Monday at an online drought and climate outlook meeting hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Snowpack in the region and in the Cascade Range, acting as a reservoir of its own for summer months when there’s little rain and many communities rely on snowmelt, is simply not piling up.

Snowpack in the Northwest is sitting at the lowest level for the region as a whole at this point in the winter since record keeping began in 2001, according to Jacob Genuise, a climatologist

at the Washington State Climate Office.

“We’re seeing just really warm storms with a lot of rain and not a lot of snow,” Genuise said. “Given all this warm rain, it actually melted some of our snowpack, and we saw a decline.”

The Northwest just experienced its sixth warmest August on record, the warmest September on record — about 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal on average — and the second warmest November on record, according to NOAA data.

Taken together, August through November of this year was the record warmest on average across the Northwest in more than 130 years of record keeping. NASA scientists, using NOAA [records](#) of global average temperatures dating back to 1880, found that this November was the third-warmest November on Earth, behind only November of 2023 and 2024.

But in 2023 and 2024, a planet-warming El Niño weather pattern helped fuel record temperatures, according to the data. There was no El Niño



A minivan is stuck after flooding along Tualco Road near Monroe, Wash. on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. The Northwest is seeing warm rains instead of snow in much of the region, concerning climate scientists. (Jake Goldstein-Street / Washington State Standard)

event to drive temperatures this year.

Temperatures in the Northwest have been most abnormal across all of Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, and in western Montana.

“It’s definitely not good,” Genuise said. “We’ve seen much more above normal years in the past few decades than we did in the past.”

Rain not snow

By the end of this summer, drought took hold of the Northwest, Genuise said, especially in parts of northern Idaho and southeast Washington.

Snow melted too quickly in spring, creating drought as the summer went on, and abnormal heat also increased surface water evaporation in lakes and streams, lowering water levels that contributed to drought in parts of the region.

In the last month, most of western Oregon was at 50% of its normal level of precipitation for this time of year, according to Brad Pugh, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center.

Only southern and central Oregon have been

spared major drought impacts this year, but reservoirs that filled from heavy spring rains are also being quickly depleted, he said.

Everywhere north of Oregon is experiencing above average rainfall, Pugh said.

This will potentially help pull the Northwest out of a region-wide drought in the coming weeks or month, according to Pugh, but much of that will also depend on whether or not it gets cold enough for rain to turn into snow and snowpack.

The only area in the

region getting roughly normal snowpack is western Montana, where temperatures have been just-cold-enough to turn rain to snow. All of Oregon and most of southern Washington are seeing “really, really deep snowpack deficits,” Genuise said.

If the snowpack is still bad in the spring, there could be ongoing drought issues in the year ahead, Genuise added.

“We could see this change, and this is likely to change as we see some wetter and cooler systems later in the month, but we’re definitely sitting well below normal as we talk here today,” he said.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/12/16/northwest-just-finished-warmest-fall-on-record-scientists-report/>

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

Calendar of EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS SHOW

5 p.m. at the Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Highway 101 in Lincoln City. Free Admission. Featuring the musical artists from Driftwood Fellowship and Lincoln City SDA churches. Guest artists Nora Sherwood and Gary Burman. Please join us for Christmas Music, Spiced Cider and Hot Cocoa.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

JOHNNY WHEELS AND THE SWAP DONKEYS

New Year’s Celebration At the Beach Club & Event Center, Doors open at 7 p.m., live music starts at 8 p.m. Come help the Beach Club celebrate the New Year a little early with live music from Johnny Wheels & the Swamp Donkeys. Visit [TheBeachClubLC.com](#)

WINTER WHALE WATCH 2025

Annual Winter Whale Watch event at Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A great spot to whale watch in Lincoln City is from Fathoms Restaurant inside Inn at Spanish Head. Visit [ORWhaleWatch.org](#).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

WINTER WHALE WATCH 2025

Annual Winter Whale Watch event at Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A great spot to whale watch in Lincoln City is from Fathoms Restaurant inside Inn at Spanish Head. Visit [ORWhaleWatch.org](#).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

WINTER WHALE WATCH 2025

Annual Winter Whale Watch event at Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A great spot to whale watch in Lincoln City is from Fathoms Restaurant inside Inn at Spanish Head. Visit [ORWhaleWatch.org](#).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

WINTER WHALE WATCH 2025

Annual Winter Whale Watch event at Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and The Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A great spot to whale watch in Lincoln City is from Fathoms Restaurant inside Inn at Spanish Head. Visit [ORWhaleWatch.org](#).

SWIM
From Page B10

newcomers.

“For the boys, we have Eli Fingerson, Max Serrato, Blaik Gray, Dylan Murphy, and for the girls, Daisy Cobos, Ellie Nightingale, Abby Halferty, Hadley Twigg, and Heidi Moreno are all returning swimmers with strong abilities in various events,” Parker said. “Additionally, we have Tristan Morgan, who excels in breaststroke, and

Miles Twigg and Ileyana Islas, who do our distance events. We did have several new swimmers come out this year that show a lot of promise and are getting up to speed quickly. Returning swimmers and LCSC age group swimmers, Frida Cruz, Reef Cabanag, Yireth Fuentes, and Matthew Rodriguez, continue to drop a lot of time. Freshman Clara Gray and Colton Leider are catching up quickly.”

In the coming weeks, Parker is looking forward to all the events that will

follow the holiday break.

“We always enjoy the small scrimmages as well as the Tillamook Cheese relays in mid-January,” Parker said. “And we all have to hope the weather settles down soon!”

For the Cubs, John Wray and his 26 athletes are hoping to contend for the District Championships in both the boys and girls divisions. Wray particularly noted that the girls’ team is in a strong position and has been performing very well despite not swimming at

full strength at some of the early meets.

“In districts, the boys will have their hands full with Tillamook and Taft due to their depth over the NHS smaller squad,” Wray said. “On the state level, the girls swim team is a candidate for a top 3 finish, with the potential of some individual and relay winners. For the boys, the Cubs at State will have quality competitors in 4 events and should place well in the relays. Team point-wise, it is a toss-up.”

AUTHORS
From Page B1

Dr. Ballard will relate how “getting the science right will inspire age-appropriate science fantasy novels.” Dr. Ruth E. Ballard, Ph.D., is a human molecular geneticist who specializes in forensic serology and DNA. As a professor at California State University, Sacramento from 1996-2023, she comes to us with extensive knowledge about legal discovery including her role as the DNA expert on the recent University of Idaho student murders case.

We will discover in her

session: The Devil’s in the DNA: Inside Info for Crime Writers and True Crime Aficionados in the Era of the University of Idaho Student Murders her vast assessment of evidence and how this relates to examining, solving, and writing about crime! Science matters! Check out her following resources before our meeting: Ruthy Ballard YouTube Channel, DrRuthBallard.com

Writers of every experience level know that coming up with a great idea for a book is the easy part. Turning that idea into a polished, published book is the challenge.

Join author Valerie Davisson from 3-4 p.m. as she walks you through each of the 15+ steps of this intricate journey using the production schedule she created and now shares with other authors. No matter where you are on your author’s path, From Lightbulb to Launch: Creating a Production Schedule That Works will leave you inspired and empowered, with a better understanding of your publishing options-Indie, Hybrid, or traditional- and a customizable template to map out your own path to publication.

Davisson is the author of the 11-title, character-driven Logan

McKenna Mystery Series, set primarily here on the Oregon coast! Check out her website before our meeting: [valeriedavisson.com](#)

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

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

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



This map provided by the Oregon Parks and recreation Department shows specific locations where trained volunteers help visitors spot the migrating gray whales. (Courtesy from the Oregon parks and Recreation Department)

WHALE
From Page B1

lagoons in Mexico.

The Whale Watching Week sites include:

- Fort Stevens State Park--Peter Iredale Shipwreck
- Neahkahnie Mountain Overlook
- Cape Meares Lighthouse
- Boiler Bay State Scenic Viewpoint
- The Whale Watching Center Depoe Bay
- Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint
- Cape Foulweather

- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
- Yachats State Recreation Area
- Cape Perpetua Turnout
- Heceta Head Lighthouse
- Umpqua Lighthouse
- Shore Acres State Park
- Face Rock Scenic Viewpoint
- Harris Beach State Park

For more information about coast parks and campgrounds, visit <https://stateparks.oregon.gov/>

Visitors are encouraged to share their photos and videos from Winter Whale Watch on social media using #ORWhaleWatch.

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!

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Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.

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Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of

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902
HOMES FOR SALE

weekends Equal Housing Opportunity

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LCL25-590 YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND LINCOLN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ANNUAL MEETING:
WHEN: January 8, 2024 (Thursday), 5:00PM - 6:00PM. PRESENTATION: 2024/2025 Annual Report. WHERE: OSU Extension Service (1211 SE Bay Blvd. Newport, OR) and teleconference. Please contact Tyler Clouse (info@lincolnsocd.org) or call the office 541-265-2631 for registration assistance and to RSVP. 12/17/25 12/24/25
LCL25-591 LINCOLN CITY STORAGE, 3796 SE HWY 101, LINCOLN CITY, OR 97367
541-996-3555. The following units will be sold at Public Auction, Starting 1/6/2026 at 9:00am, Ending 1/13/2026 at 9:00am for non-payment of rent and other fees. Auction to be pursuant to Auction Rules and Procedures for Truax Holdings. Rules are available at the facility office. All bidding will take place ONLINE at bid13.com. Unit# A165-Terry Roice; Unit# B262-Steve Allen; Unit# C447-Jonelle Szolomay-er 12/17/25 12/24/25
LCL25-592 TS NO: 128329-OR APN: R188859 // 07-11-14-BB-03500-00 NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE
WHEREAS, on 11/9/2012, a certain Mortgage Deed of Trust was executed by WALTER V. JOHNSON AND JACQUELINE R JUSTINCE, HUSBAND AND WIFE as trustor in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS BENEFICIARY, AS NOMINEE FOR URBAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS as beneficiary, and was recorded on 11/15/2012, as Instrument No. 2012-11121, in the Office of the Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon; and WHEREAS, the Mortgage Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family house; and WHEREAS, the beneficial interest in the Mortgage Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an assignment dated 5/23/2018, recorded on 8/15/2018,

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15 day increments for a fee of: \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within

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PUBLIC NOTICES

the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the Foreclosure Commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by the bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others

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PUBLIC NOTICES

subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is

MARTEK
Real Estate

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Broker, AHW, C2EX

Jessica Hawkes,
Broker

Levi Grove,
Broker

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Broker

Audra Powell
Broker, GRI, CRS, PSA, CHLMS

Tim Myrick
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Bonnie Saxton
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Super Crossword

Answers

A L O U D V I E J O B L A B A C E S
S E N S E E R A O F R U B E B O U T
K N E E J E R K R A F L E X E S U R G E
F O O A B M S L E E V E L E S S T E E
O R F F B I S R T E T H E E N D
R E F E R E N C E L E T T E R A D Z E S
M U D A M I D G O T H
G T C A R O N M E S I G M A M A S K
U R L E X T E N D E D S E N T E N C E
S I A M E S E A R E A H A I R Y
P R E S E N T P E R F E C T I O N
C L I O S V A P E A B E T T E D
B E T W E E N T H E S H E E T S O N O
S A Y S R O U S E E D N A M A N S E
H E R B B R I T S O I S
S H E B A D E E P S T R E S S E S
H A V A N A R A E E R Y O O N
E V E R G R E E N T R E E A E R M C I
R E N T T H E S E C R E T S W E K E E P
P A S O I L E T A G R E E B O R N E
A T O N S E W I S N O O N S A S S E S

RECALL HALL
We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.
This ad paid for by David Elton, a full-time resident of Lincoln County and the founder of "RECALL HALL" PAC. A political action committee registered with the IRS and the Oregon secretary of state (ORESTAR). Treasurer, Richard P. Burke.

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based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale, or all amounts due under the mortgage agreement are tendered to the Foreclosure Commissioner, in the form of a certified or cashier's check payable to the Secretary of HUD, before public auction of the property is completed. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage Deed of Trust is to be reinstated prior to the scheduled sale is based on the nature of the breach, this loan is not subject to reinstatement. A total payoff is required to cancel the foreclosure sale or the breach must be otherwise cured. A description of the default is as follows: FAILURE TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL BALANCE AND ANY OUTSTANDING FEES, COSTS, AND INTEREST WHICH BECAME ALL DUE AND PAYABLE BASED UPON THE DEATH OF ALL MORTGAGORS. Tender of payment by certified or cashier's check or application for cancellation of the foreclosure sale shall be submitted to the address of the Foreclosure Commissioner provided below. Date: December 9, 2025 CLEAR RECON CORP Foreclosure Commissioner By: Hamsa Uchi Title: Foreclosure Supervisor 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: (858) 750-7777 Fax No: (858) 412-2705 12/17/25

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PUBLIC NOTICES

12/24/25 12/31/25
LCL25-582 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 140006-OR LOAN NO.: *0607**
Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by MICHAEL M. MCREYNOLDS, TRUSTEE OF THE MICHAEL M. MCREYNOLDS LIVING TRUST DATED AUGUST 29, 2008, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERE-TO, as Grantor, to FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR FINANCE OF AMERICA REVERSE, LLC, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 12/23/2021, recorded 12/23/2021, as Instrument No. 2021-15153, in the Official Records of Lincoln County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Lincoln County, Oregon: LOT 5, BLOCK 32, BAYSHORE DIVISION NO. 6, IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON. APN: R378358 / 13-11-18-CB-08800-00 Commonly known as: 1906 NW MORSE WAY WALDPOR, OR 97394 The current beneficiary is: FINANCE OF AMERICA REVERSE LLC Both the beneficiary and the

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PUBLIC NOTICES

trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which foreclosure is made is caused by the death of the borrower. TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$361,202.12. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$272,126.48 together with interest thereon in the total amount of \$67,668.23, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP whose address is 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97006, will on 4/2/2026, at the hour of 10:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, AT THE OLIVE STREET ENTRANCE TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 225 W OLIVE STREET, NEWPORT, OR 97365, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-de-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

scribed real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers

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PUBLIC NOTICES

of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 11/19/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Jessica Lopez, Authorized Signatory of Trustee 12/10/25 12/17/25 12/24/25 12/31/25
LCL25-585 TS NO. LO-53711-OR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Notice Of Default And Foreclosure Sale Recorded in accordance with 12 USCA 3764 (c) Whereas, on 12/4/2008, a certain Deed of Trust was executed by Emil V. Gustafson, Jr and Shirley Gustafson, Husband and Wife as trustor in favor of Bank Of America, N.A, a National Banking Association as beneficiary, and Northwest Trustee Services, Inc. as trustee, and was

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PUBLIC NOTICES

recorded on 12/18/2008, as Instrument No. 2008-14236, in Book XX, Page XX, in the Office of the County Recorder of Lincoln County, Oregon; and Whereas, the Deed of Trust was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and Whereas, the beneficial interest in the Deed of Trust is now owned by the Secretary, pursuant to an Assignment of Deed of Trust dated 11/17/2021, recorded on 11/22/2021, as instrument number 2021-14740, book XX, page XX, in the Office of the County Recorder, Lincoln County, Oregon; and Whereas, a default has been made in the covenants and conditions of the Deed of Trust in that the payment due on 10/24/2025, was not made due to a borrower dies and the property is not the principal residence of at least one surviving borrower and remains wholly unpaid as of the date of this notice, and no payment has been made sufficient to restore the loan to currency; and Whereas, the entire amount delinquent as of 10/24/2025 is \$245,860.62; and Whereas, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust to be immediately due and payable; Now Therefore, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of Law Offices of Jason C. Tatman as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on 7/21/2021 as instrument number 2021-09362, book XX, page XX notice is hereby given that on 1/7/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: Lot 22, Block 4, Pacific Shores, County Of Lincoln, State Of Oregon. Together With That Certain 1977 Firca Manufactured Home, Vin Number 2214954 Which Is Premanently Affixed To The Property. Commonly known as: 8633 SW Abalone St, South Beach, OR 97366 The sale will be held at the front entrance to the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, Newport. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an estimate of \$251,425.52. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$25,142.55 [10% of the Secretary's bid] in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$25,142.55 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposits are nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All

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PUBLIC NOTICES

extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of \$500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due. If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD Field Office representative will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD field office representative, offer the Property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder. There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant. The amount that must be paid if the Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of Law Offices of Jason C. Tatman as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on 7/21/2021 as instrument number 2021-09362, book XX, page XX notice is hereby given that on 1/7/2026 at 10:00 AM local time, all real and personal property at or used in connection with the following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder: Legal Description: Lot 22, Block 4, Pacific Shores, County Of Lincoln, State Of Oregon. Together With That Certain 1977 Firca Manufactured Home, Vin Number 2214954 Which Is Premanently Affixed To The Property. Commonly known as: 8633 SW Abalone St, South Beach, OR 97366 The sale will be held at the front entrance to the Lincoln County Courthouse, 225 West Olive Street, Newport. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will bid an estimate of \$251,425.52. There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale. When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling \$25,142.55 [10% of the Secretary's bid] in the form of a certified check or cashier's check made out to the Secretary of HUD. Each oral bid need not be accompanied by a deposit. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of \$25,142.55 must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposits are nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the high bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveyancing fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them. The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All

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mining, LLC 968 N Deerland Loop Otis, OR 2005 Toyota Tacoma VIN: 5TELU42N95Z022054. Amount due on lien: \$7900.00 Reputed owner: Dawn Marie French Hartman, Cash 1, LLC 12/24/25 12/31/25
LCL25-597 PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87.
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 1/2/26. The sale will be held at 10:00am by Guero's Keys & Programming, LLC 968 N Deerland Loop Otis, OR 2018 Toyota Prius VIN: JTDKBFRF08J3082562. Amount due on lien: \$7650.00 Reputed owner: Banteamlak Mekuan Zlek, Boeing Employees CU 12/24/25 12/31/25
LCL25-596 WEATHERIZATION CONTRACTORS NEEDED IN LINN, BENTON, AND LINCOLN COUNTIES.
Request for proposals: CSC's Weatherization program is requesting bids for installation of Weatherization measures. Respond by 4:30 pm Monday, January 12, to Joe Collett, Weatherization Program Manager, jcollett@communityservices.us (541)758-2782 12/24/25 12/31/25
LCL25-594 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN
Department of Probate. In the Matter of the Estate of: NANCY LEE LUTHER, Deceased. No. 25PB09848. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KRISTINA M. OLSON has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned attorney for the personal representative at 7157 SW Beveland Rd., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97223, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Philip A. Hingson of The Hingson Law Firm, PC, Dated and published on December 24, 2025. Personal Representative: KRISTINA M. OLSON, c/o The Hingson Law Firm, PC, Philip A. Hingson, SB #923354 Attorney for Personal Representative, The Hingson Law Firm, PC, 7157 SW Beveland Rd., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97223, (503) 639-4800, Fax: (971) 239-1139, phil@oregontrattorney.com 12/24/25
LCL25-593 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN - PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Matter of the Estate of JOYCE PALMER, Deceased. CASE NO. 25PB10306 - NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. Notice is hereby given that Lavell R. Palmer has been appointed as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned personal representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 13100 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, Oregon 97015, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from records of the Court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Lavell R. Palmer, Personal Representative, 7157 James Shikany, PC, Attorney for Personal Representative, 13100 SE Sunnyside Road, Clackamas, Oregon 97015; Tel: (503) 698-9808; Fax: (503) 210-8344; Email: shikanylaw@hotmail.com 12/24/25

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Audibly

6 Mission —, California

11 Spill the beans

15 Golf coups

19 Perceive

20 — Good Feelings

21 Many a "Hee Haw" character

22 Boxing event

23 Involuntary leg reactions

26 Stimulate

27 — yung (Chinese dish)

28 Rocket downer, for short

29 Relative of a tank top

31 "O Fortuna" composer Carl

33 Some arm muscles, informally

35 No. on a road sign

36 "And that's that"

37 Note that recommends a job applicant, e.g.

43 Wood-dressing tools

44 Pigsty stuff

45 In the thick of dark, gloomy rock genre

48 Fast, sporty auto

51 "My treat"

52 Greek "S"

54 Face cover

58 WWW address

59 Longer-than-normal prison term

62 Cat breed

65 Region

66 Long-unshaven

67 What "have solved" is in, in terms of grammar

73 Ad awards

74 Utilize a Juul device, e.g.

75 Aided in evil

77 In bed

83 Yoko of the avant-garde

84 Utters

85 Stimulate

86 "Dame" Everage

87 Cleric's home

89 Oregano, e.g.

90 Telly watcher

91 "Help us!"

92 Cat food brand

96 Innermost parts

103 Cuba's largest city

105 "Norma —"

106 Get it wrong

107 Cel figure

108 Fir or spruce

113 — Lingus

115 Cato's 1,101

116 Monopoly expense

117 2020 drama thriller film

120 El —, Texas

121 "Why should — you?"

122 Concur

123 Carried, as a load

124 Loads

125 Stitches up

126 Lunchtimes, often

127 Pack-toting equines

DOWN

1 Solicit

2 "The Raven" maiden

3 Done just a single time

4 Purpose

5 "It's — vu all over again"

6 Pests like rats and roaches

7 Rile

8 Lobed body parts

9 "Piano Man" singer Billy

10 Proposed for consideration

11 Nominal military promotion

12 Poshness

13 Cain's victim

14 Plagued (by)

15 Treated badly

16 Congress' Alexandria Ocasio- —

17 University of Oregon's city

18 Spirited horses

24 Abated

25 Riga native, old-style

30 Old Iranian ruler

32 Disaster relief gp.

34 Insufficient

38 Futuristic sci-fi play of 1921

39 Single-named supermodel

40 Mortgage claim

41 Case for ova

42 Italy's capital

47 Beige

48 Gloomy —

49 Level just below

50 Lucidness

51 Plow beasts

52 Feudal peon

53 Concept, in Calais

54 Signified

55 Jennifer of "The Switch"

56 Lint catchers

57 Lock partner

59 Memphis-to-Atlanta dir.

60 Has the gumption

61 Fare- — -well

63 Feline cries

64 Cato's "to be"

68 Cathode-ray picture producer

69 Oom- — (tuba sounds)

70 Sword type

71 "Ciao!"

72 Samantha Bee's station

73 "NCIS" network

76 Stag's mate

78 Prior to, in odes

79 Opposite of south, in France

80 That girl's

81 Fix text

82 — nous (in confidence)

87 "The Simpsons" bartender

88 Admin. aide

89 With 118-Down, do a surfing stunt

90 Brewski container

91 Fastener fitting into a nut

92 Helper in the Himalayas

93 Lace into

94 "OK, but still ..."

95 Red Cross founder

97 Film director Lubitsch and physicist Mach

98 Liver spread

99 Wipes clean

100 Actress Suzanne

101 Epoch of the first whales

102 "Blade" star Wesley

104 "— a jealous mistress"

109 Jennifer of "Zero Dark Thirty"

110 "So nasty!"

111 Hence

112 Architect Saarinen

114 Singer McEntire

118 See 89-Down

119 Boxing wallops

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RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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

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Lincoln County Leader

Newport and Taft compete in early swim meets

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Taft and Newport’s swim teams haven’t been treading water this holiday season, as both teams dove headfirst into competition at the Newport Invitational on Dec. 14.

Hosted by Newport High School at the Newport Aquatic Center, the Cubs welcomed four other programs to town, competing in both the boys and girls divisions. Astoria, Seaside, Taft, and Salem Academy all made the trek to Newport, and it was the Tigers, the Cubs, and the Fishermen who walked away with the biggest wins of the weekend.

Looking at the combined scores from both the boys and girls divisions, Newport walked away the big winner, with 176.5 points, Taft finished second with 149, and Astoria finished third with 144.

Looking at the divisions separately, the standings were:

- Girls:
- 1. Newport - 100.5
 - 2. Taft - 57
 - 3. Salem Academy - 54
 - 4. Astoria - 53
 - 5. Seaside - 37.5

- Boys:
- 1. Taft - 92
 - 2. Astoria - 92
 - 3. Newport - 76
 - 4. Seaside - 34
- Newport was dominant in the girls division, powered by some phenomenal swimming. The Cubs had several outstanding swims, winning three out of the six relays, finishing first and second in the first three events, and winning four more, along with taking four 2nd places. Gigi Howard and Skyla Chen took first and second in the girls 200-yard Freestyle. Clyde Bretz and Zane Carver took first and second in the boys 200-yard Freestyle. Carver also grabbed a first place in the Boys 50 Yard Freestyle. The final first and second sweep was in the Girls 200 Yard IM, where Gwynn Postlewait and Hana Parker finished in the top two places, respectively. Postlewait also swam her way to first place in the Girls 100 Yard Freestyle, and Parker took top



Swimmers in the pool at the Newport Invitational on Dec. 14. (Photo Courtesy photo from the Newport High School Athletics Facebook page)

honors in the Girls 100 Yard Breaststroke.

Taft, on the other hand, had some great performances of their own. Max Serrato finished first in the Boys 200 Yard IM. Eli Fingerson showed his speed in the water as well, earning first place in the Boys 100 Yard Freestyle. Taft’s final individual winner was Miles Twigg in the Boys 500 Yard Freestyle. The Tigers also performed well in the relays, with first-place finishes in the Girls 400 Yard Freestyle Relay and the Boys 400 Yard Freestyle Relay.

Taft Head Coach Lissa Parker was happy with how the team swam in Newport. “I think they did a great job. We have some strong returning swimmers on both sides and a few more novices that are improving by leaps and bounds,” Parker said. “However, we need to keep an eye on some of our competitors, and I know the girls from

Newport are pretty strong, and teams like Astoria build up fast during the season.”

NEWPORT VS. TAFT DUAL MEET

After Newport hosted the invitational tournament, Taft repaid the favor, welcoming the Cubs for a dual meet on Dec. 17. Though the weather was stormy outside, competition was fierce in the Lincoln City Community Center.

When the water settled, and the Tigers and Cubs finished their races, the two programs split the winnings. On the boysside, Taft took the honors, while in the girls competition, Newport took the win.

Final team scores were:

Girls	Boys
Newport - 138	Taft - 124
Taft - 121	Newport - 117

Both coaches were happy with their team’s performances, and Newport Head Coach John Wray said the Cubs won 12 of the 16 individual events and

also beat out the Tigers in four of the six relays.

“The NHS Cub swimmers saw some outstanding performances, especially by Senior Sam Smith, Junior Jahan Eibner, Sophomore Gigi Howard, and Freshman Daphne Grant,” Wray said.

Eibner won multiple individual events, taking first in the 200 freestyle and breaststroke. Gwynn Postlewait also continued her fantastic season, winning two different individual races: the 200-meter Freestyle, the 400-meter Freestyle.

For the Tigers, Fingerson and Serrato were again exemplary. Fingerson took second place to Eibner in the 200-meter Freestyle, but also finished atop the podium in the 100 Free. Serrato took first in the 100-meter Butterfly and was second in the 200-meter IM.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Tigers have 25 swimmers in the group this season,

which is a slight decrease from last year’s team, which had 38.Despite the dip, Parker noted that 25 is more typical of Taft’s participation in other years.

This season, the Tigers have drawn swimmers from a diverse array of sports backgrounds. There are swimmers that cameto the Tigers from cross country (Taysha Worthington), soccer (Ava Graves, Christofer Rios, Rogelio Guzman), and a couple that are recovering from some basketball injuries (Levi Lillebo and Maddie Trevino), as well as a foreign exchange student dipping in the pool (Fredrico Guzman). Parker said that swimming has been coming naturally to them and that they have been improving their times constantly.

Leading the way for the Tigers are a bevy of veteran swimmers and promising

See **SWIM**, page B7

Toledo Boomers building experience and pushing forward

WILL LOHRE
Lincoln County Leader

Boomers basketball is back in action, and for Head Coach Bruce Marthaller and his group of girls, the focus this season is improvement and making a push for the state playoffs.

Toledo High School finished with a 9-13 record last year, but had a 1-9 record in the Valley Coast Conference. This year, the Boomers are off to a 4-3 start in non-league play, and at this stage, Marthaller and his team are doing everything they can to be firing when Valley Coast basketball tips off on Jan. 13.

“We want to get as many games as possible to help build experience and confidence going into league play,” Marthaller said.

There’s a robust collection of veterans on the Boomer

squad this season, as Toledo only graduated one senior in 2025. This year, Toledo boasts five seniors, three of whom are team captains: Sahaylee Mason, Kaylie Warfield, and Baylie McAlpine.

As much as the team is a force on the court, one of the aspects of the group Marthaller wanted to highlight is their chops in the classroom.

“We bring back a good portion of our team from last season, with four starters returning,” Marthaller said. “These are some of the best girls around with high character that always finishes in the Top 10 in the State in Team GPA.”

In addition to keeping their place in the top 10 academically, the Boomers are hoping that the veteran leaders and stalwart starters can also help them fight for one of the top places in the league.

Marthaller is hoping to bring the Boomers back to the playoffs for the first time since 2019, but it isn’t a goal that is the end-all be-all.

“We would like to make the state tournament by finishing in one of the top two spots in our league,” Marthaller said. “But overall, our goal is to improve as a team throughout the season to become the best team can we can become.”

To start the season, Toledo nabbed wins over Vernonia, Siuslaw, Chemawa, and Gervais. The losses came against Coquille, Santiam, and Nestucca. One of the keys to the Boomers’ play this season is playing with pace. Marthaller wants his team to up the intensity in games and get out in transition to get easy baskets. Athleticism is one of the team’s strengths, and Marthaller is hoping to leverage it as

effectively as he can.

Through the first five games of the season, Toledo had some key contributors. The team’s leading scorers in the opening games were Mason (averaging 10.3 points per game) and Teneya Cordova (6.4 ppg). Cordova has also been a pest on the glass for the Boomers, racking up 34 rebounds in the first five games.

Other statistical standouts are Gabby Worden and Baylie McAlpine. Worden is shooting the best percentage from the field this season for the Boomers, and through the first five games had hit half of her shots, going 6/12 from the field in that stretch. McAlpine has proven her defensive doggedness time and time again, pilfering opponents and stacking steals. McAlpine, along with Mason, leads the team in steals with 16 in the opening

salvo of games.

The girls now have some time off for the holidays before they are back in action in the new year. The next game for Toledo will be against Neah-Kah-Nie on Jan. 3, away from home. After that, the season is a sprint to the finish, with the Boomers scheduled to play 14 games in a little over a month.

Before facing off with Waldport in the opening league game on Jan. 13, Marthaller is excited to watch his team build confidence so they can make a run at a top spot in the Valley Coast Conference.

Follow game results at osaa.org and see Lincoln County high school sports features online at the Lincoln County Leader website and in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.



RECALL HALL

We must recall county commissioner Claire Hall for numerous reasons, such as ethics and non-performance.

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