



Civil Air Patrol cadets and other community members in character as injured survivors at the drill event. Photo by Deborah Maynard

## EVCNB hosts shelter drill and open house

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Around 75 volunteers from the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay assembled at the North County Recreation District in Nehalem on May 3, for an emergency drill and open house. Volunteers practiced responding to a major storm, with cadets from Tillamook’s Civil Air Patrol

playing injured civilians, while also offering members of the public a tour with stops highlighting the variety of programs undertaken by the group to be prepared for emergent events. The Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay (EVCNB) was founded in 2008, after a major storm in 2007 knocked out transportation and communication links between communities in the county, leading residents to realize they needed to be better prepared, according to Linda Kozlowski, a longtime member. Citizens started a help your neighborhood program, a ham radio group and volunteering with Red Cross, at which point they decided to form an umbrella organization to coordinate the various efforts, giving birth to EVCNB. “We realized that we were all doing the same thing and the more we integrated, the better, and

that was the start of EVCNB,” Kozlowski said. From those humble beginnings, the group has significantly expanded its efforts to respond to different needs during emergencies and has around 300 community members who participate, though there is no formal membership.

See **EVCNB**, Page A3

## Community members win at Home and Garden Show

Ten community members won prizes in raffles hosted at the Tillamook Headlight Herald’s annul Home and Garden Show on April 26 and 27. Melissa Kelly won a custom beehive from the Tillamook Beekeeper’s Association, while Joe Warren won a \$100 gift card to the Tillamook County Creamery Association Farm Store and Theresa Griffin won a \$50 gift car to Jandy Nurseries. **Judy Bodine** was a double winner. She won the Steeple Cedar Planter filled with annuals prize donated to the Tillamook Kiwanis Club’s Tillamook County High school scholarships fundraiser raffle by the Weber family. Judy also won a beautiful hanging basket from the Tillamook Head-

light Herald’s free drawing. **Paulette Rush**, another double winner, won the Tillamook Kiwanis Club prize Flower Planter with Coleus and Annuals-Top Handle donated by the Weber family. She also won a delightful quilt made by Kathy Favret for the Marie Mills Foundation, Inc. fundraiser raffle. She is pictured on the left with Kim Webb in the center and Desiree Brotherton on the left. **Bruce Widener** won the Lamiglas Classic Salmon Rod with Okuma Corvallis Reel that was donated to the Kiwanis raffle

See **HOME & GARDEN SHOW**, Page A2



One of the decorators of the Tillamook Beekeepers’ raffle prize hive selects the winning ticket on Sunday, April 27.

## Javadi’s TLT reform push still alive in Salem

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Following the death of his original bill seeking to amend the restrictions on the use of transient lodging tax revenues by cities and counties, Representative Cyrus Javadi’s quest to change the formula has been reborn in a new priority bill advanced by Representative Jules Walters. Javadi said that there is still work to be done deciding the bill’s final form but that he is bullish on its prospects given the level of engagement he has seen among fellow legislators this year. “I think there are a lot of stakeholders that are really hopeful that we get something across the finish line, I think there’s a lot of support for that still,” Javadi said. “I think people are trying to be careful here, they realize that this law has been in its current form for a long time and that if we’re going to change it, we want to make sure that we’re not too heavy-handed in how we do it. So, I think that’s a good sign for indicating that people are thinking about it seriously.” Passed in 2003, House Bill 2267 established the current regime for transient lodging tax (TLT) collection across the State of Oregon. The bill allowed city and county governments to institute a TLT in their jurisdiction and required that the revenues generated by the tax be split, with 70% dedicated to the construction of tourism-related facilities or tourism promotion, while the remaining 30% could be used for any purpose. Most jurisdictions across the state have availed themselves of the TLT, but as tourism has boomed in certain areas of

See **JAVADI**, Page A3

## Interim Wheeler manager discusses budget

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Wheeler’s city council promoted Madison Chestnut to the position of interim city manager at their March meeting, following the resignation of Wesley Wooten. Chestnut, a Nehalem native who has been with the city for two years, is beginning a master’s program at Southern Oregon University this fall but will help guide the city through the budgeting and city manager recruitment processes before departing. Chestnut included two new fees and an increase as part of her initial budget proposal and said her focus is maintaining stability to allow ongoing projects happening in the city’s water system, especially one at Gervais Creek, to progress. “My primary goal is to, at least in the interim city manager position, is to keep all these projects that the city has moving forward,” Chestnut said, “I don’t want to see any lapse in that just because we’re in kind of dire straits right now with the budget.” Chestnut grew up in Nehalem

See **WHEELER**, Page A2







Judy Bodine was a double winner at the show, taking home a planter filled with annuals from the Kiwanis Club and a hanging basket from the Headlight Herald.

## HOME & GARDEN

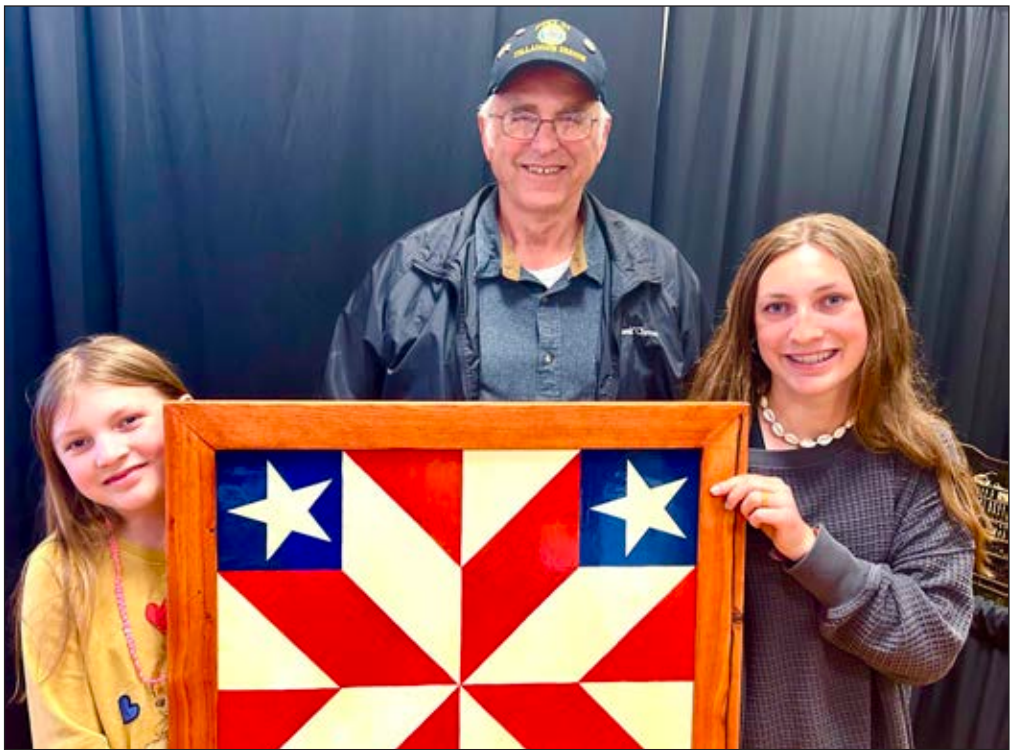
From Page A1

by Tillamook Anglers.  
Chole Stelzig won the Hand Made Unique

Patriotic Wood Quilt Block made and donated to Tillamook Kiwanis Club by her grandfather Rick Stelzig, pictured in the center with Anna Stelzig on the left and Chole to the right.  
Other prize winners include Genevieve Bridges and Katherine Mace who each won a handmade cedar planter constructed by James Billstine for the Tillamook County Democrats raffle. Mary Covington is the winner of the Trash Bash 2025 tickets offered by our event co-sponsor Tillamook County Solid Waste.



Paulette Rush, another double winner, won the Tillamook Kiwanis Club prize Flower Planter with Coleus and Annuals Top Handle donated by the Weber family. She also won a delightful quilt made by Kathy Favret for the Marie Mills Foundation, Inc. fundraiser raffle.



Chole Stelzig won a Hand Made Unique Patriotic Wood Quilt Block made and donated to Tillamook Kiwanis Club by her grandfather Rick Stelzig, pictured in the center with Anna Stelzig on the left and Chole to the right.

## WHEELER

Manager

From Page A1

before attending Oregon State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in public policy, after which she spent several years as a social worker. When a position opened in Wheeler in 2023, Chestnut applied and has since worked under three city managers before stepping into the interim role when Wootten left for

a position with the City of Rockaway Beach.  
Chestnut said that she plans to continue working in the public sector after completing her master's degree, but that she will most likely focus on financing rather than city management, which she said does not play to her strengths. "City management just really isn't my forte," Chestnut said. "But I do think that it's helpful to have the policy background in addition to the experience I've gained in this role, and also, you know, the financial pieces that are gained for my master's."  
The financial puzzle of piecing together a budget for a small city in Oregon has never been more complex, as costs continue to rise while revenue-generation opportunities are limited. This led Chestnut to propose a total cut to the budget for next fiscal year of \$60,000, mostly in staff training and emergency preparedness, to avoid a negative cash flow in the general fund's \$460-470,000 budget.  
As part of the budgeting process, Chestnut also proposed three potential changes to the city's fees to allow the city to prevent cuts to services that are important

to residents.  
The first proposal was for a monthly fee of \$5.69 per property to pay for the city's contracted law enforcement services with the Manzanita Police Department. Those services cost around \$23,000 annually for 15 hours of monthly patrol, up from \$14,000 last year, and Chestnut said that she knew they were important to residents.  
"The two things that have been identified as kind of focuses for citizens by counselors have been traffic calming and emergency services, they'd like to see more police presence," Chestnut said. "So, I think that cutting police services isn't something that citizens would like to see."  
To address the second citizen priority, transportation, Chestnut proposed a per property monthly fee \$4.83 to raise \$19,500 for street maintenance. Wheeler's street fund currently receives 50% of the utility franchise fees collected by the city as well as the city's portion of the state gas tax, amounting to about \$50,000.  
However, \$42,000 of that will be spent on staff time related to street work leaving just \$8,000 for maintenance work. While the budget was

higher this year and Chestnut said that the city will complete as many high-priority projects as possible before July, doing projects beyond vital repairs next year would be contingent on the fee being approved.  
The final revenue boosting proposal is an increase in the city's stormwater drainage management fee from \$5 to \$11 to help maintain the city's system. The fee was last adjusted in 2006.  
Chestnut stressed that the ideas were just proposals and that it would be up to council to weigh their value before deciding whether to adopt them. She said she appreciated the economic strain faced by community members and encouraged them to offer feedback on how the proposals would impact them at upcoming meetings.  
"It's hard out there right now to be paying all these additional fees," Chestnut said, "your water bill's high, your taxes are high, groceries are high, everything's high. And so, it's just difficult for the typical person to get by, so I want to hear as much input from the community as I can about your feelings on any increases that we have."

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Medical reserve corps members treat Civil Air Patrol cadets playing injured residents during the shelter drill.

# EVCNB

## Drill and Open House

From Page A1

Today, the group is divided into two main divisions: neighborhood preparedness and emergency response. The goal of the neighborhood preparedness division is to promote a culture of preparedness among community members, encouraging go bag usage and neighborhood interconnectivity. The program currently has 13 identified neighborhoods in the Nehalem Bay area where citizens have plans for their area’s specific needs and will share resources and experience during emergent events, while coordinating communications with emergency responders.

Residents interested in joining a neighborhood preparedness group can find more information at [evenb.org](http://evenb.org) and the organization is interested in starting new groups.

The emergency response division is tasked with responding to emergencies and has a wide variety of groups prepared to respond to different needs.

The most highly trained group in the emergency response division is the medical reserve corps, which consists of doctors, nurses and EMTs, who will respond to medical needs during an emergency.

Supplies for the medical reserve corps are stored in two emergency trailers that contain basic and advanced life support equipment, tents to serve as mobile operating rooms and dormitories, a stove capable of sterilizing medical tools, water purification equipment, generators, refrigeration for medication and a suite of communica-

tions equipment. The two trailers were paid for by \$160,000 in grant funding from FEMA and operate using solar power.

Community emergency response teams (CERT) are another critical part of EVCNB’s emergency response activities. CERTs are made up of citizens trained and certified in basic disaster response and partner with local agencies, in EVCNB’s case the Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue District, to assist during emergencies.

EVCNB’s CERT coordinator Joe Cooper said that during a fire in Wheeler, teams had deployed to set up rest stations and provide food and water to firefighters battling the blaze. “That’s our main thing, to be what I call force multipliers for our first responders, so we can do the grunt work that doesn’t take a lot of training,” Cooper said.

There are currently around 130 trained CERT members in the Nehalem Bay area and members recently helped to train a group of citizens in Bay City.

Other divisions on the emergency preparedness side of EVCNB include shelter, food, communications, and water sanitation and hygiene.

The shelter team works with the North County Recreation District to provide a warm, safe place to go during local emergencies and cold weather events, with the capability of hosting up to 140 people on cots in the district’s buildings in Nehalem. Food is stored and prepared at Nehalem Bay United Methodist and transported up the hill to the district.

Communications are an area of high involvement for the group, with around 300 community members trained to communicate on yellow radios and set to tune to a set frequency in the case

of emergency for further instruction.

The group also has trained ham radio operators to communicate with places farther afield than north county and the emergency trailers with medical supplies have Starlink terminals, as well as Windlink, a radio-based text messaging system used by first responders.

In the event of an emergency, EVCNB must be activated by Tillamook County Emergency Manager Randy Thorpe, who can declare an emergency, allowing the county to assume liability for the group’s shelters and qualifying the hours volunteered for reimbursement from FEMA. The county health department must declare an emergency to activate the medical reserve corps.

Once the activation comes in, leaders will use a custom app or radio communications, if cell phone coverage is unavailable, to activate the necessary groups to respond.

In May’s drill, volunteers practiced responding to a winter storm with high winds, like the one in 2007 that led to EVCNB’s founding. During the event, cadets from the Tillamook Civil Air Patrol and other volunteers played the part of 60 injured locals, donning ultra-realistic wounds applied by Command Deborah Maynard and acting out various medical issues at assigned times to give the medical reserve corps a chance to practice. A temporary shelter was set up, food was brought from the United Methodist Church and radio operators practiced their communications, even sending LifeFlight practice messages via Windlink.

More information about EVCNB’s various groups and ways to join can be found on their website at [evenb.org](http://evenb.org), as well as upcoming



A handful of the 140 cots that are available for EVCNB’s use were set up during the drill.

ing classes, including a water purification class scheduled for May 31.

Cooper, EVCNB’s CERT coordinator, said that the group will also be hosting an event for fifth graders at Nehalem Elementary school to educate them on emergency preparedness and help start a go bag in early June.

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# JAVADI

## TLT Reform

From Page A1

the state with small populations, particularly along the coast and in Hood River and Deschutes Counties, problems have arisen. With property taxes frozen and the assessed value of properties limited to 3% annual increases, jurisdictions in these areas have found their budgets crunched as they try to handle the emergency response and infrastructure needs generated by large numbers of visitors.

Javadi has been concerned with the split throughout his time in Salem but spent his first term getting acquainted with the legislature, before campaigning on the issue heavily last year and making it his legislative focus in this long session.

At the beginning of the session, Javadi brought two bills forward suggesting different amendments to the revenue allocation, with one establishing different rules for high tourism counties and the other changing the definitions for allowed uses of restricted funds to include law enforcement and tourist facility maintenance. However, both sputtered out, dying in the general government committee for a lack of votes to advance to the revenue committee.

But at that point, Walters approached Javadi and offered to take up the issue,

crafting legislation to change the definition of allowable uses of restricted funds and designating it one of her five priority bills. Walters is also a member of the revenue committee, which put the bill on the committee’s agenda for a public hearing last week.

“It died for a day and now it is alive again and it’s sitting in the revenue committee,” Javadi said.

Javadi said that the bill was still a work in progress and that it might be amended to include a sunset provision or apply only to counties with a high rate of tourism. “The hope is, and I think where we’re going to end up with this if you’re able to land it well, is that it will be limited to impacted districts like Tillamook County, Lincoln

County and a few others,” Javadi said.

The Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association has still not participated in discussions around the bill, Javadi said, but he is hopeful that they will participate in a work group that he expects to start meeting soon.

Other bills brought by Javadi are also winding their way through the legislative process, including a bill that would require the Oregon Department of Forestry to provide more accurate harvest forecasts for state forests to counties which receive revenues from the forests, which is awaiting a fiscal impact statement, and a bill to make reopening shuttered dialysis centers within two years easier.

## 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.

PRNQ MQRYYQYK RYQ RK MRA

RK PXQ PRNQ LRDQYK —

PJK RV UNA UMKQYGRPJUV

RVA R GQYZ PYEQ UVQ.

— YJSXRYA KXQYJARV

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Answer

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

Go Figure!

answers

2	+	1	+	5	=	8
+		+		+		
3	+	7	x	9	=	90
-		x		+		
4	+	6	+	8	=	18
=		=		=		
1		48		22		

CryptoQuote

answer

Tale bearers are as bad as the tale makers — tis an old observation and a very true one. — Richard Sheridan

Super Crossword

FULLY STATED

ACROSS

1 Despises

7 Tennis great Rafael

12 Loutish guy

15 Drop- (declines)

19 Corned beef sandwich

20 Kind of daisy

21 Bullring shout

22 Perfume bottle

23 Baseball's "Iron Man," fully stated?

26 Western U.S. gas brand

27 Hit sketch show since '75

28 Atop

29 Move, as a seedling

31 Stitch clothes

32 Statistic of a chemical element, fully stated?

39 Protein in egg white and milk

41 Panther

42 2010s dance move often done with the Whip

43 Tropical vines

44 —'s razor ("keep it simple" principle)

47 Fallon's network

49 Singer Ora

50 Irritability, fully stated?

53 — Lingus

55 Some racing autos

56 Evil "Get Smart" group

57 Tyro, in gaming lingo

58 Actor Cage, informally

60 Sneeze noise

62 Prefix with tourism

63 "Aladdin" monkey

65 Auto-cleaning site, fully stated?

69 "I knew it all —!"

71 Once surnamed

72 "Thank you, Yvette!"

73 Lode of unrefined metal, fully stated?

78 — -di-dah

79 .001 inch

82 Singer Cherry

83 Hoppy drink

84 UConn women's basketball coach

86 Radiohead title track of 2000

87 Prone (to)

88 British islet

90 Biblical boat, fully stated?

95 Architect

96 Ludwig Mies van der —

97 Fun, in brief

99 "The — Professor"

100 Tribe of the Southwest

101 Grads

103 Ear-busting

105 Mistaken

106 Annual beauty contest, fully stated?

111 Sorority letter

112 Motif

113 Solitary

114 Uproar

117 At the drop of —

119 "Mystic River" actor, fully stated?

125 Christ, in Italy

126 CPR expert

127 French ice cream

128 Focal point

129 Punta del —

130 Enzyme suffix

131 Useful thing

132 Believers in God, of sorts

DOWN

1 Circle bits

2 Coffee bit

3 Uproar

4 Kabuki sash

5 Sports official

6 — -Caps (candy brand)

7 Not for Windows

8 Truism

9 Country singer Carter

10 Scottish port

11 Luau gift

12 Certain cola container

13 Hebrew "A"

14 Rail against

15 Egg cells

16 Initial performance on Broadway, say

17 Inked cheek image, e.g.

18 Period when sales slump

24 Destroy

25 Baby buggy, in Britain

30 Airport agcy.

33 North African capital

34 Muscat's land

35 Soup with tofu

36 Junk email

37 Kind of wrestling

38 Always

39 Comparable

40 Pale purple

44 Bear, in Baja

45 Alternative to vanilla, informally

46 Native of Habana

48 Part of B.A.

51 Overwhelm

52 Stranded cellular stuff

54 Cattle locale

59 Dogma suffix

61 Some film FX

63 Hilo "Hello!"

64 —" voyage!"

66 Abode: Abbr.

67 Ounce, e.g.

68 Writer Levin

69 Birthday topic

70 Hair stiffener

73 Running riot

74 Buifs again

75 Devotee

76 Put in writing

77 Trial balloon

79 Criminals

80 Boise locale

81 Cutting beam

85 Anti's vote

86 Tree knots

89 Body of water west of Liverpool

91 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" song)

92 German auto

93 "Citizen —"

94 Impressionist

96 "Mom" has two

98 Weather conditions

102 Tiny criticism

104 Uncork, e.g.

105 Judith with two Tonys

107 Looks as if

108 Arm bones

109 For the — (temporarily)

110 Map blowup

115 Cut calories

116 Boaters' tools

118 Mon. follower

120 Links gp.

121 Letters before 96-Down

122 PC readout of a sort

123 Winning sign

124 Singer DiFranco

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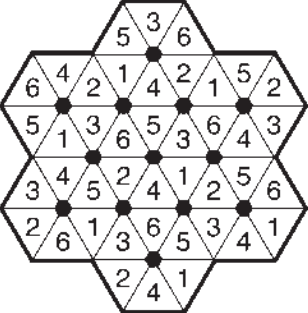
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		+		=	8		
+			+					
		+	7	x		=90		
-			x		+			
	+			+		=18		
=		=		=				
1			48		22			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

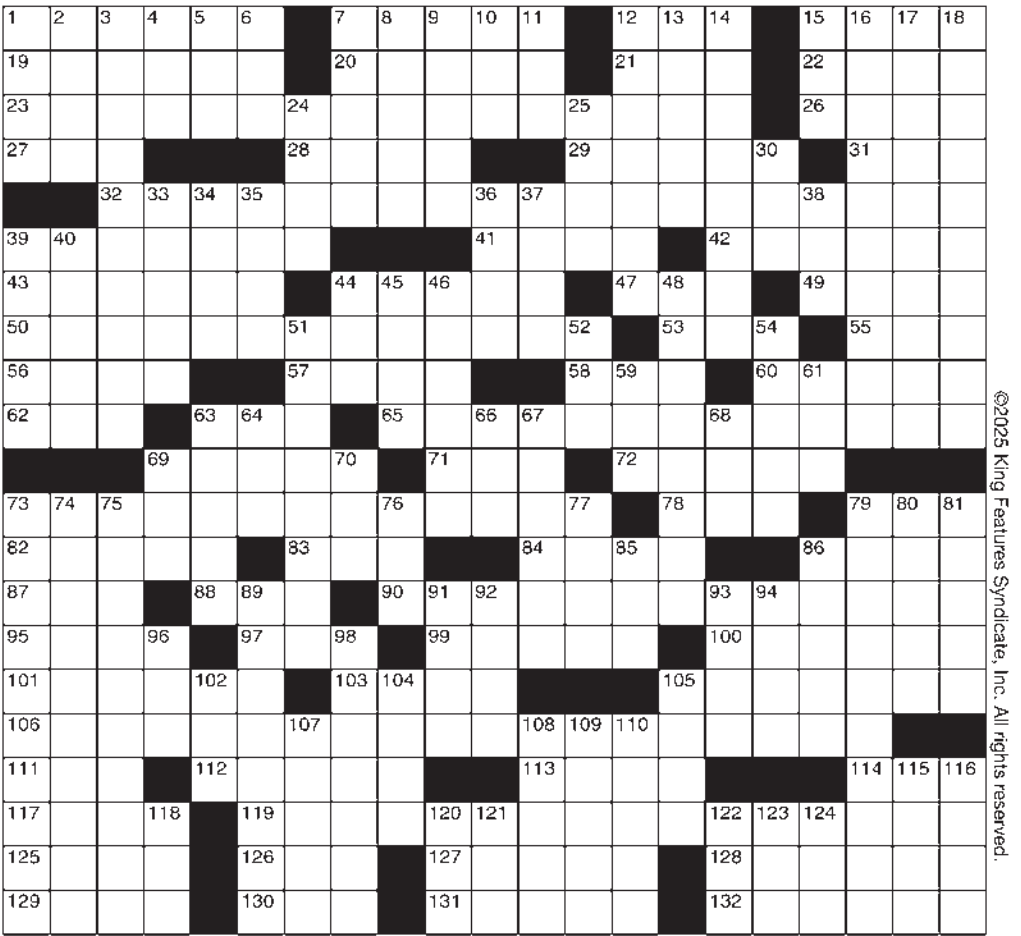
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SNOWFLAKES

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HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Plank is missing. 2. Pencil is missing. 3. Paper is added. 4. Screwdriver is longer. 5. Pan is smaller. 6. Box is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Super Crossword

Answers

A	B	H	O	R	S		N	A	D	A	L		C	A	D		O	F	F	S		
R	E	U	B	E	N		O	X	E	Y	E		O	L	E		V	I	A	L		
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	R	I	P	K	E	N		A	R	C	O		
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PHOTO COURTESY SITKA CENTER FOR ARTS AND ECOLOGY  
Summer workshop attendees work on paintings in one of the center's five studio spaces.



PHOTO COURTESY SITKA CENTER FOR ARTS AND ECOLOGY  
Student participants in Sitka's Youth Program show off fabric printed art they made following instruction from artist Qingin Liu.

# Sitka Center prepares for poet laureate residency

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

South Tillamook County's Sitka Center for Art and Ecology is getting ready for a visit from United States Poet Laureate Ada Limón this month, during which the poet will do a free, public reading at the Nestucca K8 school on May 20.

Sitka Center Executive Director Alison Dennis said that the center was thrilled to be able to offer the community an opportunity to appreciate world-class art without having to travel.

"The Sitka Center was thrilled when U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limon accepted our invitation to come and not only stay in residency, but deliver a free public reading out in the community," Dennis said, "really with the intention of putting a spotlight on the importance of rural arts access and access to high quality art that normally you'd have to have a way to get to one of our bigger cities to get to go and participate in."

The Sitka Center is located at the extreme southern end of Tillamook County, on the south side of Cascade Head, in the middle of the Cascade Ranch neighborhood.

Originally founded as Camp Sitka in 1970 to support local arts education, the

center found its permanent home in 1971 when developer Mike Lowell, inspired by the Sea Ranch in Sonoma County and other intentional living communities, dedicated a property at the center of the Cascade Ranch neighborhood to housing the center.

"The idea was to have an intentional living community in a beautiful place on the Oregon coast, with an art center in the middle instead of a golf course," Dennis said.

Sitka Center's first studio opened in 1972, and in the years since, the campus has expanded to encompass five studios and five apartments for visiting artists and scientists.

During the winter months, Sitka's campus is dedicated to residencies for visiting artists and scientists, who are selected by a jury from across the nation and around the world and stay for free at the center for periods ranging from several weeks to several months. Dennis said that grant programs also provide per diems to some of the artists and scientists who come to the center.

When the Headlight Herald visited the center, a group of musicians from around the pacific northwest was in residence, taking advantage of the center's studio space to compose and record music, while drawing inspiration



PHOTO COURTESY SITKA CENTER FOR ARTS AND ECOLOGY  
Sitka summer workshop attendees get up close and personal with marine life in an intertidal area.

from the bucolic surroundings.

Dennis said that many of the artists who visit the center focus in their work on the intersection between art and ecology and that the location helps them to explore that intersectionality and draw on nature for reenergization.

"I think we've all had experiences where getting up from our desk and going outside and taking a walk in nature or getting a breath of fresh air has us come back to our work feeling more creative and energized or maybe

with a breakthrough of some kind in our work," Dennis said. "So, that core idea is central to the kinds of experience that Sitka provides to both emerging and professional artists."

In addition to artists, Sitka Center also welcomes scientists, who take advantage of the area's extensive conservation protections, during the winter. The center is surrounded by the United States Forest Service's Cascade Head Scenic Research Area, which was established in 1974 to provide permanent ecological protection to the area, and is just uphill from the Salmon River Estuary, which was restored in the 2000s, drawing researchers studying everything from whales to native pollinators.

After a brief spring cleaning in May, the center pivots from hosting residencies to a summer packed with workshops, hosting around 100 between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The classes range from one to five days, are designed for varying skill levels and teach disciplines from woodblock printing to carving a spoon.

Teachers for the summer classes stay in the center's apartments and are paid for their time from student fees, which average around \$100 a day, per Denis.

Beyond the offerings at its main campus, the center has also started to expand its reach in the community in

recent years, focusing in on local youth and partnering with school districts from Tillamook, Clatsop and Lincoln Counties to offer monthly arts instruction to more than 5,000 students at 17 schools.

The initiative started in 2020, when the Tillamook-based Community Arts Project, in danger of closing, approached the center to ask for help, at which point the center's board agreed to take over the project's education program, which was operating at Nestucca K8 and Garibaldi Grade School. From there, Dennis said that the program expanded quickly, and now part-time employees from the center based in each of the counties provide instruction at their local schools.

Dennis said that the center looked to give kids opportunities to do projects they might not otherwise get to do at school as part of the program. Dennis explained the students' current project, inspired by Portland landscape photographer Mike Vos, which saw each student take three photos with a point-and-shoot camera in their community last month before receiving a photo from each of the program's three counties this month that they used to create an art piece and as inspiration for a poem.

The center also partners with Nestucca K8 each summer for an art enrich-

ment camp, featuring science activities in the morning and art in the afternoons, plus fieldtrips.

Dennis said that Oregon Department of Education statistics showed that 45% of rural Oregon schools had no standalone arts courses and that the center was trying to do its part to address the deficit.

"We're really looking to see how we can help turn that tide with the north central Oregon coast leading the way," Dennis said. "So, it's just really exciting to partner with so many schools from this part of the region to find a way to have there be art in each of these schools."

Limón's upcoming visit and public appearance are yet another way that the center is trying to increase arts access in its rural community. Limón was first named United States Poet Laureate in 2022 by the librarian of congress, with her term renewed in 2023 for two additional years.

Dennis reached out to Limón in 2023 and invited her to visit Sitka Center, and she accepted, scheduling the residency as one of the final activities for her term. After Limón accepted the invitation, Dennis asked if she would be open to doing a public reading during her visit, and she agreed.

The event is being hosted by Nestucca K8 School in Cloverdale on May 20, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m., and the reading beginning at 6 p.m. Forest Grove High School's Mariachi Tradición will perform before the reading and attendees will be treated to free Tillamook ice cream afterwards, while Limón signs books.

Admittance to the reading is free but tickets are required, with a link to sign up available at [sitkacenter.org/events](http://sitkacenter.org/events).

Dennis encouraged members of the public to attend the reading and consider signing up for a summer workshop or making a visit. The center is a nonprofit and relies on revenues from its summer workshops as well as donations and an annual art sale held each October, at which community members may volunteer, to sustain its operations.



PHOTO BY AYNA LORENZO  
U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón.

# Tillamook County criminal convictions

**STAFF REPORT**

On March 27, Angelina de la Cruz Garcia Harvey, 23, pled no contest to one count of assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic violence, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 11. Garcia Harvey was sentenced to ten days in jail and 18 months' supervised probation.

On March 27, Charmain Gayle Polizzi, 55, pled guilty to two counts of driving under the influence of intoxicants, class A misdemeanors, committed on or about October 16, 2024, and March 7. Polizzi was sentenced to 60 days in jail and three years' probation, her driver's license was suspended for three years and she was assessed \$2,255 in fines and fees.

On March 31, Jamie Povach Hermes Jr., 43, pled no contest to one count of failure to appear in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, commit-

ted on or about November 16, 2023. Hermes was sentenced to time served in jail.

On April 1, Richard Adam Alred Jenck admitted to being in contempt of court and was sentenced to five days in jail.

On April 3, Nicholas Lawrence Gefre, 36, pled no contest to one count of criminal trespass in the first degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about February 13. Gefre was sentenced to 25 days in jail and ordered to pay \$5.99 in restitution to Safeway.

On April 7, Eric Michael Kreps, 51, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about February 21. Kreps was sentenced to two years' probation; his driver's license was suspended for one year and he was ordered to pay \$2,255 in fees and fines.

On April 8, Frederick Charles Vermilyea, 45, pled no

contest to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 24. Vermilyea was sentenced to 14 days in jail.

On April 7, Tyler James Crabtree, 27, pled no contest to one count of harassment and one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, both class B misdemeanors committed on or about December 10, 2024. Crabtree was sentenced to three years' probation.

On April 10, Dezeree Renee Richardson, 21, pled no contest to one count of child neglect in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 16, 2023. Richardson was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 18 months' probation.

On April 11, Sukhdeep Singh, 25, pled no contest to one count of criminal driving with a suspended or revoked license, a class A misdemeanor,

committed on or about January 21. Singh was sentenced to two days in jail.

On April 11, Jamie Donaldson, 39, pled no contest to one count of attempt to commit the class B felony of assault in the second degree, a class C felony, committed on or about January 28. On April 16, Donaldson was sentenced to time served in jail and three years' probation.

On April 14, Bruce Wade Looney, 57, pled guilty to one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about September 20, 2024. Looney was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

On April 14, Martin Howell Utley, 75, pled guilty to one count of failure to report as a sex offender, a class A violation, committed on or about October 18, 2023. Utley was assessed a \$440 fine and ordered to pay \$153 in attorney

fees.

On April 17, Ona Kay Robertson, 26, pled guilty to one count of forgery in the first degree, a class C felony, committed on or about February 23. Robertson was sentenced to 30 months in prison and three years' post-prison supervision and ordered to pay \$1,650 in restitution to First Security Bank.

On April 17, Steven Randall Polley, 63, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 1, 2024. Polley was sentenced to three years' probation and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On April 21, Eric Charles Nash, 50, pled no contest to one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about March 16. Nash was sentenced to 18

months' probation and ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

On April 21, Austin James Huserik, 33, pled no contest to one count of violation of wildlife law with culpable mental state, taking, angling, hunting or trapping in violation of wildlife law or rule, unlawful taking of wildlife-decoy, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 23, 2024. Huserik was sentenced to three years' probation, his hunting license was suspended for three years and he was ordered to pay \$133 in attorney fees.

On April 21, Brandon Lee Prater, 38, pled no contest to one count of recklessly endangering another person, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about November 16, 2024. Prater was sentenced to one year on probation and ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

On April 21, Austin Daniel



# AAUW hosts candidate forum

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

The American Association of University Women cohosted a virtual forum for candidates running for the Tillamook and Nestucca Valley School District Boards, as well as candidates for the North County Recreation District with the Headlight Herald on May 1.

Moderator Lisa Phipps asked questions submitted by members of the community and themes of promoting safety in schools emerged among the candidates, though views on how to achieve this goal diverged.

The forum began with candidates for the Nestucca Valley School District answering questions.

Irene Barajas, incumbent in position one on the board since an appointment

in 2023, said that she had attended Nestucca schools from kindergarten through high school and currently has six kids in the district. Barajas runs a childcare program and, in addition to her current tenure on the board, previously served on the district's budget and health committees.

Barajas said that she had worked to improve the board's communications during her time in the position, and would continue that work, saying that she believed explaining the reasoning behind decisions to the public was critical. Barajas said that her top priority was making the school a safe and welcoming place for all. She said that she thought more needed to be done to reduce bullying of marginalized and minority students and pointed to the recent hire of a new

counselor and the forthcoming addition of a home health employee as steps that had been taken on that front.

Sherry Hartford is running against Barajas in the race for position one, and said she is a longtime resident of south county who has volunteered in the district for many years. Hartford is a stay-at-home mom to three, who also manages 14 properties, and has experience on the Hebo Health and Sanitary Board.

Hartford said that as a board member she would be committed to transparency, academic excellence and student safety, which she said could be achieved by letting parents be more active in school buildings. Hartford also raised concerns about sexual abuse allegations leveled against three district staffers in recent years and said that she did not believe

complaints from students were being adequately responded to. Hartford also said that the district needed to cut its budget while finding a way to bring in more staff to improve student success.

Seth Belsey is running for position two and has a background in somatic psychology and as an entrepreneur. Belsey, who has two children in the district, said that he felt experience in project and strategic management would help in the position and that he would prioritize better communications if elected.

Belsey said that he was also concerned about the district's response to allegations of sexual abuse and that responding to such allegations needed to be a focus. Belsey also said that he thought kids should be given more opportunity to do art to explore their feelings and improve their mental health. If elected, Belsey's top priorities would be testing and student success, the district budget and school safety.

Jason Hagan is running for position five and graduated from Nestucca High School, as did his two daughters, while a son is currently enrolled in the district. Hagan said that he was running for the board because he had lots of concerns with student safety, academics and board transparency, and because he wanted to stabilize the district's finances and give the district back to its students.

Hagan said that he feared community members were afraid to raise concerns to the board and that he would work to remedy that if elected. Hagan also said that he thought parents should be allowed to enter school buildings to check on their kids and shared Belsey and Hartford's concerns about reports of sexual abuse not being properly handled.

After concluding with the Nestucca candidates, the forum moved on to the candidates for the Tillamook School Board.

Amanda Ferrat is the incumbent in position one, after being appointed to the board in February of this year. Ferrat grew up in a small town in Montana and has lived in Tillamook for three years. Ferrat has experience as a preschool teacher and school-based mental health provider and currently heads the Tillamook County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Ferrat said that she had dedicated her time on the board so far to learning about its workings and that she would prioritize making the district's education accessible and equitable for all students. Other priorities would include addressing bullying with new policies and working to strengthen trust in the board through transparent and timely communication. In response to a question about recent incidents of hate speech in the district, Ferrat said that the district needed to establish an equity committee as mandated by state law

and implement social and emotional learning programs to teach students the impacts of bullying.

Misty Burris is running against Ferrat for position one and was born and raised in Tillamook, with two daughters currently in the district. Burris works for the Northwest Regional Education Service District helping families communicate with schools and coordinate services, which she said she believed would be valuable experience for a position on the board.

Burris said that her priorities, if elected, would be rebuilding respect of staff through improved communications, advocating for student needs and ensuring the district's financial stability. Burris said that hate speech was scary and definitely a problem.

Kenny Oleman is also running for position one and was born and raised in Tillamook, graduating from Tillamook High School in 1993. Oleman has five kids in the district and his mother, wife and sister work for the district, where he also helps coach baseball, football, basketball and wrestling.

Oleman said that in his current job he manages a budget of \$4 million and said that his top priorities would be board transparency and student safety. Oleman said that the district should respond to hate speech by promoting a kind-always policy but said that he was a big proponent of the first amendment and allegations needed to be thoroughly investigated before action was taken.

Natalie Rieger is running for position two and was also born and raised in Tillamook, graduating from Tillamook High in 1997, before earning a bachelor's from Portland State University in Human Resource Management. Rieger has worked for the county and started business, is currently a manager and buyer for Roby's and has experience on the board of the Tillamook Area Chamber of Commerce, Tillamook YMCA and Tillamook County Farmer's cooperative.

Rieger said that her priorities would be evaluating Superintendent Matt Ellis's performance, the success of the relocation of the Wilson River School to the high school and the district's budget. Rieger said that she didn't know why hate speech was suddenly a problem but that the district needed to have clear policies in place relating to it while also being careful about labeling kids.

Brandon Affolter is running against Rieger in the race for position two and was also born and raised in Tillamook, graduating from Tillamook High School in 1997. Affolter has three sons in the district and said that he has spent most of his adult life volunteering with youth, including at outdoor school and with the Tillamook Soccer Club. Affolter previously

worked for the district for five years at the Wilson River School and Tillamook Junior High, after spending 20 years at the Tillamook County Creamery Association, and is now the safety coordinator at Tillamook Bay Community College.

Affolter said that he thought his experience writing policies in his current job would serve him well on the board and that his priorities would be transparency, stability and productivity on the board, teacher retention and student safety. Affolter said that hate speech had no place in the district and that the board needed to institute a zero-tolerance policy around it and work to educate kids on its effects.

Jordan Wolfe is running for position three on the board and is a fifth-generation resident of Tillamook, who said he has been a huge advocate for youth for almost 20 years through volunteering at outdoor school. Wolfe has also recently worked as a substitute teacher in the district, which he said had given him an opportunity to work in every building in the district and meet most of the current staff, students and administrators.

Wolfe said that his top priorities would be retaining teachers, saying that he believed better communications were key to this effort, increasing opportunities for students and kids' wellbeing. Wolfe said that the district needed to have a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech and do training to create a respectful environment, adding that he felt the district had been too lenient.

Finally, two candidates for the North County Recreation District spoke.

Doug Sparks is running for position five on the board. Sparks has been a resident of north county for two years and is a homeowner for eight and is currently serving as an appointed member of the district's board. Sparks spent 20 years as an Air Force pilot before managing Nike's Beaverton campus. Sparks said that if elected ensuring a smooth onboarding of the district's new executive director and ensuring that the district was responsive to the community while operating efficiently would be his top priorities.

Christy Kay is also running for position five and has lived in the community for 20 years and said that she was running for the board because she is passionate about health and wellness. Kay said that she was excited for the district's new management and pool and wanted to build on its legacy of success, with a particular focus on serving youth. Kay said that it was important to accommodate different needs at the district, specifically mentioning the needs of neurodivergent youth as having been a prime motivator for her run.

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Tillamook County

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We want to remind women of all ages to schedule your routine medical and dental exams. Routine preventive care including staying up-to-date on recommended screenings and vaccines can help you stay well and catch problems early, helping you live a longer, healthier life.

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## CONVICTIONS

From Page A5

Camarillo, 24, pled guilty to one count of violation of wildlife law with culpable mental state, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 27, 2024. Camarillo was sentenced to three years' probation, his hunting license was suspended for three years and he was ordered to pay \$2,100 in fines.

On April 21, Zachary Daniel Wingate, 28, pled no contest to one count of menacing constituting domestic violence, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 1. Wingate was sentenced to 18 months' probation and order to pay \$468 in fines and fees.

On April 21, Yajahira Belen Garcia-Hernandez, 21, pled guilty to one count of attempt to commit the class A misdemeanor of assault in the fourth degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about March 7. Garcia-Hernandez was sentenced to one year on probation and fined \$100.

On April 22, Andrew Joseph Dawson, 34, pled no contest to one count of illegal possession of methamphetamine, an unclassified misdemeanor,

committed on or about February 5, and one count of failure to appear in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 31. Dawson was sentenced to 10 days in jail and 18 months' probation.

On April 25, Devin Kelly Hyde admitted to being in contempt of court and was sentenced to five days in jail.

On April 25, Nicole Marie Kremser, 44, pled guilty to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about October 30, 2023. Kramer's driver's license was suspended for 36 months, and she was sentenced to five days in jail and three years' probation and assessed \$235 in fees.

On April 25, Samuel Jacob Zuidema, 38, pled no contest to one count of discarding refuse within 100 yards of state waters, a class A violation, committed on or about January 26. Zuidema was fined \$500.

On April 28, Dustin-Bryce James Munsell, 25, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 26. Munsell was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation and ordered to pay \$1,684 in fines and fees.

On April 28, Gregory Lewis Blount, 43, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 15. Blount's license was suspended for one year and he was sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to pay \$2,255 in fines and fees.

On April 30, Shane Michael Close, 36, pled no contest to one count of failure to appear in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about December 11, 2024. Close was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On May 2, Bradley Dale Mattison Jr., 47, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class C felony, committed on or about February 15. Mattison Jr. was sentenced to one year in prison and two years' of post-prison supervision, and his driver's license was revoked for life.

On May 6, Brianna Jean Baney-Lacey, 32, pled no contest to one count of criminal driving with a suspended or revoked license, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 21, 2024. Baney-Lacey was sentenced to time served in jail.