



Congresswoman Bonamici visits with members of the Neah Kah Nie High School student government during her visit.

Bonamici tours Neah Kah Nie High School

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

United States Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici visited Tillamook County on October 9, making stops at Neah Kah Nie Middle and High School, Tillamook Bay Community College and Nestucca High School.

During her visit to Neah Kah Nie, Bonamici spoke with the high school's student government before touring the campus and visiting the school's health center, a carpentry class and the Future Natural Resource Leaders' forestry team's practice facility.

Bonamici kicked off her visit with a sit down with representatives from Neah Kah Nie's student government. She introduced herself to the students, telling them that she was looking forward to her visit because education was one of the most



(Left to right) Neah Kah Nie Superintendent Tyler Reed, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Tillamook Bay Community College President Paul Jarrell, Tillamook Bay Community College Foundation Executive Director Britta Lawrence, Nestucca Superintendent Misty Wharton, Tillamook Superintendent Matt Ellis and Neah Kah Nie High School Principal Christy Hartford take a group shot in front of the Future Natural Resource Leaders' forestry team practice complex.

See **BONAMICI**, Page A5

Soup Bowl event returns with kiln fired bowls

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

For five days last week, a group of 25 volunteers stoked an enormous kiln buried deep in a forested hillside in Clatsop County to fire hundreds of bowls for Tillamook's Tides of Change.

The bowls will be filled with all-you-can-eat soup for attendees of Tides of Change's Soup Bowl event, making a return after five years on October 26 at Pacific Restaurant in support of the organization's mission to serve survivors of sexual and domestic violence in the county. This year will mark the event's 14th edition and give the organization's supporters the chance to reconnect and catch up on its activities while showing their appreciation for its work.

"It's the idea of working together, collaboration, because if you get good people working together you can do anything," said Richard Rowland, the potter who coordinates the bowls' production on his property outside



The Anagama kiln in Clatsop County during the firing process.

Astoria.

Rowland has a long history in Clatsop County, having purchased the property from a timber company following a clearcut in the 1970s, when he was teaching pottery at Clatsop Community College.

Rowland built his first Anagama kiln on the property in the early 1980s, bringing the medieval Japanese pottery technique to Oregon for the

first time. Anagama kilns are wood fired and require constant stoking for five days to a week to give pieces a unique finish thanks to the variance in the fire's heat and intensity in different parts of the kiln.

The kiln, nicknamed the dragon kiln, became an asset for the local pottery community, with Rowland offering free use, as long as artists participated in the long and

physically intensive stoking process, which usually occurs twice or thrice annually.

Rowland's path towards working with Tides of Change began in the early 2000s with their sister agency in Clatsop County, The Harbor. Rowland said that the agency's director at the time approached him to ask if he could help with a

Sheriff, DA discuss drug recriminalization, deflection

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Following hard drugs' recriminalization on September 1, Tillamook County officials are working to stand up a deflection program for those caught in possession of hard drugs going forward.

While the program itself will be the purview of healthcare and mental health providers, both Tillamook County Sheriff Josh Brown and District Attorney Aubrey Olson will have to sign off on the program. Brown's deputies will also be in charge of determining whether individuals should be referred to the program or face charges, with Olson and her staff in charge of prosecuting those charged.

House Bill 4002 was passed by the Oregon legislature this spring and recriminalized the possession of hard drugs in the state after Measure 110 decriminalized it in 2020. The bill gave counties the opportunity and funding to set up drug deflection programs that would prioritize treatment over prosecution while also creating a new class of drug enforcement misdemeanors.

Tillamook County is working to establish its deflection program, with the Local Public Safety Coordinating Committee leading the development. Once the program is set up, those found in possession of drugs will be referred without being arrested or charged based on law enforcement officers' judgment.

Brown said that his deputies would have the option to refer those in possession of hard drugs to the program, but they would also have the option of taking them to jail or issuing a citation.

Making that determination will be left to individual deputies' judgment and Brown said that his staff will be well-informed of the program's specifics and use that knowledge and their training and experience to decide how to proceed in each situation. "We trust them to do their job, we train them to do their job, they have ethical guidelines that put them in this position where making a decision like that is going to be second nature to them," Brown said.

Brown clarified that a referral to the program would deflect a person away from the criminal justice system but that if they failed to begin or complete the program, charges could still be brought later.

While Brown said that he agreed with Measure 110's aim of addressing substance use disorders outside of the criminal justice system, he believed the lack of accountability it created had rendered law enforcement toothless. Consequently, Brown said that for the deflection program to receive his approval, it would need to require ongoing accountability through completion of the program.

"I want a program that has accountability so that those that do get entered into it have the greatest opportunity to be successful at kicking their addiction," Brown said. "That's the whole point of this so if we're not working towards that there's no point."

Tillamook County District Attorney Aubrey Olson will also be asked to sign off on the program, but her office will have no direct involvement once it launches, since participants will be deflected away from prosecution.

Nonetheless, Olson's office will once again have a role to play for individuals who law enforcement officers determine are not good candidates for deflection. House Bill 4002 instituted several penalties for drug possession, with the most basic being a new unclassified misdemeanor specifically geared at drug enforcement.

Olson said that people charged with this misdemeanor will be eligible for a diversion program, similar to the deflection program but with more stringent conditions, akin to those for probation, attached. The diversion program will offer treatment to participants, and they will face up to 180 days in jail and 18 months' probation should they fail to complete it, though Olson noted that in her experience, judges give participants considerable leeway if they experience setbacks or relapses in similar programs.

"The court system today is designed to give people as many chances as reasonably possible," Olson said.

So far, Olson said that she hasn't seen any drug enforcement misdemeanor cases come across her desk and that she expects many of the cases that she sees involving those charges will also involve other, more serious alleged crimes.

Initially, Olson said that she was doubt-



Davis focused on cost of living in state legislature run

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Astoria City Councilor and Democratic candidate for Oregon House District 32 Andy Davis stepped into the race late and is focusing his campaign on addressing the high cost of living in the district, with a special focus on housing costs.

Davis said that if elected he would look for legislative opportunities to streamline the state's land use appeals process to speed development, enact policies to encourage increased density in cities and reduce administrative costs in healthcare to increase funding for treatment.

"I think as someone who cares about policy and cares about governance, you know, that there's some attractiveness to the position because it makes a big difference,"

Davis said about his motivations for running.

Davis was born and raised in Guthrie, Indiana, a small town just outside of Bloomington. He and his wife moved to the Portland metro area in 2014, to be closer to a sister with young kids, but relocated to Astoria in 2015, after finding that the big city life wasn't for them.

Following the 2016 election, unhappy with Donald Trump's election to the presidency, Davis determined to get involved in local politics in whatever way he could and began volunteering on local boards and committees. He served on the budget committees for the City of Astoria and Clatsop County, participated in the county's comprehensive plan update process and volunteered on several nonprofit boards.

One of the nonprofits for which Davis was serving as a

board member was working on a project to redevelop a building in Astoria to affordable housing and going through that process inspired Davis to run for city council to further address the issue.

"I joined that nonprofit before I ran for city council and running for council was sort of an extension of that," Davis said. "I wanted the city to be actively doing things to try and create more housing in the community."

Since his election in 2022, the council has passed an ordinance preventing short term rentals in the downtown commercial district, updated codes and zoning to expedite permitting processes and updated the city's systems development charges.

The possibility of running for state representative was not on Davis's radar, but when Logan Laity, who was running for the position, moved out of the district earlier this summer, he reached out to Davis to discuss possible replacements.

While Davis was not immediately intrigued by the position, as the discussion continued, he realized that the list of possible candidates was short and with the constraints of both running and serving, many people would not be interested in jumping into the race so late.

Though being elected would force Davis to resign from his job at the Oregon Health Authority and Astoria's City Council, he was swayed to join when he saw a "Believe" sign that Astoria city staff had put next to his council chair in reference to the show "Ted Lasso," and its persistently optimistic protagonist.

"Seeing that sign and being reminded that there



Astoria City Councilor and Democratic candidate for Oregon House District 32 Andy Davis.

was some resonance with the people that worked in the city that we can do something bigger and better and make a positive difference just sort of clicked in my mind that, like, hey, I should give this a try," Davis said.

After announcing his candidacy, Davis was selected in a party meeting on July 18, to be the Democratic nominee.

Davis said that his top priority as state representative would continue to be combatting the high cost of living on the coast, with a specific focus on the cost of housing.

Davis said that the state's land use regime that limits development outside of urban growth boundaries and allows citizens to appeal

planning commission decisions to a statewide board constricts growth.

To address the first issue, Davis said that he favored enacting more policies like Governor Tina Kotek's move requiring cities to allow more dense housing development in single-family residential zones to promote more construction and lower barriers communities can throw up to development. "I think the state can play a role in saying, no, if you're building densely for housing, that's going to be allowed, and you're not going to be able to block it as easily," Davis said.

The second issue would be more complex, but Davis said that he believed finding a way to require appeals to

address all potential issues with a development in their first challenge and reducing the number of grounds for appeal were possible avenues to addressing it.

In addition to the cost of housing, Davis said that addressing ever-increasing costs for medical care are also a high priority for him.

Davis believes that cutting down on administrative overhead costs in state-administered programs and increasing housing and training options for medical professionals in the district can help address the problem, but that a more fundamental struggle is occurring over profiteering in the industry. Davis said that he would support policies that limited medical companies' ability to profit.

"I think the state has a role to play in saying, 'we want to focus on delivering good care, helping people in their lives and we're not we're not going to allow people to try and make egregious profits off the back of that,'" Davis said.

Davis also said that ensuring a stable funding source for the district's school districts in the face of falling timber revenues on which they rely with the new habitat conservation plan for western Oregon state forests would also be a priority. Davis said that he would favor replacing lost funding for school districts with funds from the state to stabilize their revenue streams.

"We really need to push the state hard to change that and put them on the regular state funding formula and treat those funds from the state forests as something, as a bonus, rather than part of their baseline," Davis said.



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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: **B** equals **H**

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UD VGAPERLKGGA SGSN SEAYJ
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County moves to central services model

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Tillamook County's board of commissioners voted to move forward with the creation of a central services department at their meeting on October 9. The new department will oversee human resources, information services, facilities and legal services for county departments going forward, as well as the

board of commissioners' office.

Commissioners also voted to name Rachel Hagerty, formerly the county's chief of staff, chief administrative officer, putting her in charge of organizing and running the department.

Consideration of forming a central services department came up during the county's strategic planning process, which moved into the implementation

phase with the plan's formal adoption on October 2.

During the plan's development, Mike Gleason, a Portland State University professor who consulted on the project, suggested that forming a central services department would be a smart step to increase efficiency and save money in the long-term.

Currently, the county's departments interact with each of the departments

that will be in central services on a direct basis, which leads to inefficiencies as the needs of various departments are not considered holistically. The current setup also leaves the county commissioners to consider more clerical and administrative matters that do not relate to policy.

Going forward, Hagerty will oversee the four departments and evaluate and implement improvements to their functioning to reduce overhead costs for the county.

Commissioner Mary Faith Bell addressed concerns that had been raised by county employees about the speed of the commissioners' actions on the plan at the board meeting. Bell said that with the information services and human resources director positions open, Gleason had suggested this would be a good time to move forward with the transition.

Bell said that she had not seen any good reason to delay the move, and that the county should have done it before, but apologized for the lack of communication with county employees and administrators about the matter.

Commissioner Erin Skaar clarified that the commissioners would be retaining their liaison responsibilities and that this move would free them up to dedicate more time to those and their policy-making role.

All three commissioners also said that they had taken the decision to move forward largely because of their confidence in Hagerty's abilities and knowledgeability about the county's government.

Hagerty said that she appreciated the commissioners' confidence and that with the recent completion of the Kiwanda corridor project and several other that have been on her plate, she believed it was a good time for her to move into a new role.

The order creating the new department and positions passed unanimously and gave Hagerty two months to develop a job description, salary and probationary period for approval by the commissioners. Bell also clarified that Hagerty's move was happening on a trial basis.

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More details shared on FEMA flood plain development requirements

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

With a December 1 deadline to announce a decision on updates to development ordinances in areas of special flood hazard to the Federal Emergency Management Agency looming, Tillamook County commissioners were briefed on the situation on October 2.

Tillamook County Director of Community Development Sarah Absher gave a presentation on further information she had gleaned from the agency since a July 15 letter put the county on notice about the need for ordinance updates and broached the possibility of opting out of the flood insurance plan to avoid the updates entirely.

Work on updating the requirements for participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood insurance program has been ongoing since a 2009 lawsuit by the Audubon Society, which claimed that the program was harming Coho salmon in Oregon in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FEMA commissioned the National Marine Fisheries Service to investigate the claim and in 2016, the fisheries service released a report

saying that the flood insurance plan was causing a take of Coho and other salmonids that would lead to their eventual extinction. This meant that FEMA needed to update the requirements of partner governments in the flood insurance plan to comply with federal statute.

But that work was delayed, first by a 2016 suit against FEMA by Oregonians for Floodplain Protection and then by a 2018 congressional delay of three years passed by former Congressman Peter Defazio.

When the implementation stay expired in 2021, progress resumed on updating the program, with a proposal for updates released in 2023. The biological opinion called for the program to update the ordinances for building in flood plains to achieve zero net loss in three areas of floodplain functionality that help preserve fish habitat: flood storage, water quality and riparian vegetation.

Under the new rules, any projects proposed in the 100-year floodplain would have to include mitigation efforts that would lead to no loss in any of the three fish habitat functions to receive building permits. Since FEMA is a federal agency and not allowed to make land use laws, it will be relying on the localities it partners with in

the flood insurance program to implement the new standards.

Initially, FEMA officials had said that they would not require governments to update their codes until the proposal had undergone full NEPA review, expected in either 2025 or 2027. But that changed with a July 15 letter that told local governments they need to select one of three options to update their ordinances by December 1 of this year.

Absher said that this deadline presented the first source of confusions for her and other officials around the state with whom she has spoken in recent months. While the letter required a decision from among the three options by December 1, it did not give a timeline for implementing that decision.

The three options FEMA gave to partnering governments are adopting a model ordinance provided by the agency, requiring habitat assessments for proposed projects in areas of special flood hazard or implementing a development moratorium in those zones.

Absher said that after discussions with other colleagues around the state and given the challenges raised by any of the options, she had also decided to put the possibility of opting out of

the program entirely on the table.

Each of the three FEMA provided options would provide a serious challenge to implement given Oregon's land use regime, according to Absher. She said that meeting requirements for providing the public an opportunity to give feedback on proposed changes, as required by state law, would take until after the deadline.

Given this, Absher said that if the commissioners decided to move forward with adopting either the model ordinance or requiring habitat assessment plans, an intermediate, temporary moratorium on development would be necessary to give the county time to meet state legal requirements for updating land use regulations.

Beyond timing challenges, adopting the model ordinance would present serious hurdles to any landowner wishing to develop, as it includes high offset ratios for loss of flood plain storage functionality, that would be hard for most projects to meet, according to Absher.

Requiring habitat assessments for projects would be a costly option, Absher said, estimating that each assessment would cost in the range of \$10,000, and it is not clear who would conduct those assessments. However,

Absher said that she would recommend requiring the assessments if she was asked to recommend one of the FEMA options.

Absher also said that she expected that if the county chose either the model ordinance option or required habitat assessments, the changes to land use ordinances would likely be challenged by a lawsuit or appeal to the state's Land Use Board of Appeals, triggering a costly and lengthy legal process. During that process, the updated ordinances would not be in effect, which Absher said she believed would force the county to pass another temporary moratorium on development to comply with FEMA's demands while legal challenges played out.

However, Absher said that she had been having discussions with several "heavy hitters" across the state as well as a lawyer representing the county in the matter about not selecting any of the options presented.

Absher said that the county was under no legal obligation to comply with FEMA's biological opinion but noted that the consequences of doing so could be severe.

Residents and other entities would be excluded from

participating in FEMA's flood insurance plan, which could pose issues for those with mortgages and would lead to the cancellation of around 1,000 policies across the county. Officials from FEMA have also said in the past that the organization might not respond to disasters in the county, should the county not comply, but Absher said it was unclear whether that would be the case.

The county could also find itself in violation of the Endangered Species Act and become the subject of lawsuits, which could end with the county being required to develop a habitat conservation plan for its own floodplain permitting process, according to Absher.

Absher recommended that the attorney with whom she had spoken be invited to a commissioners' meeting to more fully discuss the implications of choosing not to comply with FEMA.

Absher said she is working with staff from each of the county's seven cities to coordinate their responses with the county's. She said she is also strongly encouraging anybody with property in the special flood hazard zone to apply for work permits before December 1, noting that approvals were good for up to a year.

Tillamook childcare shortage persists

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Along with 34 other counties in Oregon, Tillamook is classified as a childcare desert, with spots available for less than one in three kids in licensed programs across the county.

Eva Manderson, Director of Northwest Regional Childcare Resource and Referral, said that the pandemic had put focus on the issue and that investments were starting to come into the industry but that the challenges for expanding access remained formidable.

"Covid kind of put the spotlight on things and people went, 'oh, my gosh, we need to do something about childcare,' but childcare been drowning for a long time," Manderson said. "What I do think Covid did for childcare is it brought these investments in, and it brought in a focus that we need to do something because our system is very broken."

The childcare resource and referral program is housed within the Northwest Regional Education Service District in Tillamook, with a staff completely focused on childcare resources in Tillamook, Columbia and Clatsop Counties. They give providers technical support and gather information for

findchildcareoregon.com and the state's 211 line, which help parents find available programs in their area.

The most recent data available for childcare availability in the county come from a 2022 Oregon State University study that showed childcare slots available for just 13% of children in the county under age five, with only 5% availability for those aged zero to two.

Manderson said that the biggest challenge facing parents and providers in the county was managing the costs of attending and running a program. For parents, affording childcare, which can cost up to \$1,000 a month at a registered program, is a challenge, while providers often struggle to keep wages high enough to retain staff.

"We don't want to see turnover like crazy and when we pay them (providers) what they're worth, then it's expensive," Manderson said. "And so, we need to have tuition rates that actually will cover that, but then there's more families that can't afford what that cost is."

Contending with this dynamic is an ongoing balancing act, according to Manderson, but she worries that the dearth of options and high-cost burdens have led families in the county to

seek out alternative solutions. Manderson mentioned seeing posts on Facebook from moms seeking childcare for their children for the next day, which she said, "is super scary to me."

Manderson said that while these ad hoc solutions may work out, employees at a licensed childcare center have all undergone background checks and have training to help foster kids' development. While the licensing system isn't perfect, Manderson said that young children couldn't alert their parents to potential issues, which made licensure invaluable.

A potential model to address childcare shortages exists in Clatsop County, which used \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding to establish a childcare fund that has gone on to raise over \$1 million. The program awards two rounds of grants annually, with \$225,000 awarded in its most recent cycle, and helps programs with the cost of professional development and to set up scholarship funds to defray the cost of attendance for qualifying families.

Thanks in part to the program, Clatsop County was the one county in Oregon that was not found to be a childcare desert in the 2022 study.

While there are federal and state programs, like Head

Start and Preschool Promise, that subsidize the cost of childcare, they impose income limits of between 135% and 200% of the federal poverty level. With the high cost of childcare, Manderson said that even those making 300% or 400% often struggled to pay, making supplemental assistance from outside sources without income caps invaluable.

A working group developed and delivered a report to Tillamook County leaders before the pandemic, but a lack of available funds at the county prevented the formation of a task force to address the issues identified, according to Manderson.

At this point, Manderson said that her office has been in touch with several local businesses that are looking

at solutions and looking at Clatsop County as a potential model.

Manderson also encouraged parents looking for childcare in the county to visit findchildcareoregon.org or call 211. She noted that at least one of the county's 22 programs had spots available and said that providers could help parents coordinate financial assistance options.



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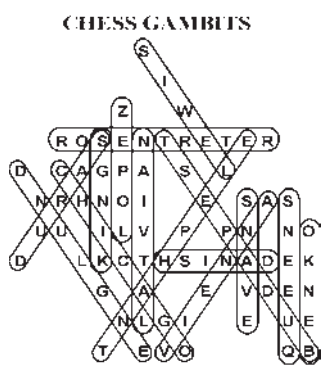
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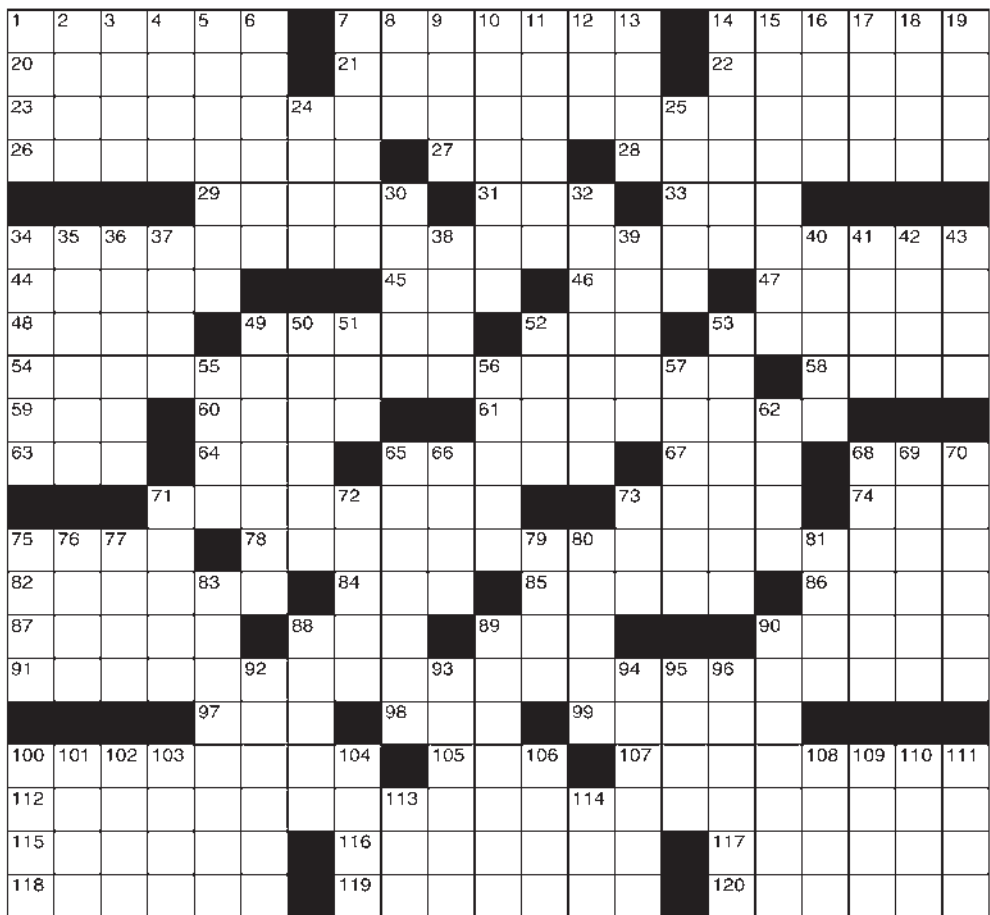
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star Megan
22 Chimney
flue, e.g.
23 Start of a
riddle
26 Woes
27 Ketchup's
color
28 "The Great
Gatsby" star
29 Running
the show,
for short
31 Illinois' tree
33 Twisty letter
34 Riddle, part 2
44 Made gentle
45 Source of
some milk
46 Source of
some milk
47 Earthy color
48 Dark deli
breads
49 Kind of
internal-
combustion
engine
52 Bygone jet,
for short
53 Just one sip
54 Riddle, part 3
58 Throw lightly
59 Shoe tip
60 Puzzle cube
creator Rubik
61 Cousins of
counties
63 Etchings, e.g.
64 Baseball
hitter's stat
65 Shows'
actors
67 With
83-Down,
Idaho's
nickname
68 TV drama of
2000-15
71 10K or
marathon
73 Con job
74 Fabled bird
75 Japanese
wrestling
78 Riddle, part 4
82 Ionize, e.g.
84 Pioneerred
85 Alternative to
Roy Rogers
86 Slightly
87 Protruding
belly button
88 Tax mo.
89 Tax pro
90 Ghana's
largest city
91 End of the
riddle
97 — -Cat
98 Raw metal
99 Rip up
100 It fixes off-key
singing
105 "I'd say," to
texters
107 Simple wind
instruments
112 Riddle's
answer
115 Enkindle
116 Peanut,
castor bean
or canola
117 Long pastry
118 Earned after
taxes
119 Cozies up
120 Taco
exteriors
DOWN
1 Quick
haircut
2 Old 45 player
3 Performs like
Cardi B
4 Title bee-
keeper of a
1997 film
5 Raged
violently
6 Subjects of
discussion
7 City in
central
California
8 "— -di-dah!"
9 On — with
(much like)
10 Distribute
11 At a future
point in time
12 Two before Q
13 Blood fluids
14 Simba's
father in "The
Lion King"
15 Unfilled part
of a schedule
16 PC key near
Shift
17 2009-10
"American
Idol" judge
DioGuardi
18 Scraped (out)
19 Funny Foxx
24 Viking
Ericson
25 Funeral poem
30 Assemblage
32 Mouths
or faces,
slangly
34 Tiers
35 Singer Swift
36 Eggy entree
37 Remainder
38 Seaport on
Italy's "heel"
39 "That's a lie!"
40 Future docs'
exams
41 Very, very
42 Match
divisions
43 Very, in Paris
49 Long-winded
50 Limited
51 Gold, in
Gijon
52 Edinburgh
inhabitant
53 Patterned
wool blan-
kets
55 Long deli
sandwich
56 "Barnaby
Jones" star
Buddy
57 Major protest
62 Kind of
internal-
combustion
engine
65 Mollycoddle
66 Battery liquid
68 Thing relied
on for support
69 Like a day in
June, per a
Lowell poem
70 Roofing
problem in
cold weather
71 In favor of the
idea
72 Activist Nader
73 Long deli
sandwich
75 Garbage boat
76 "Nothin'
doin' "
77 — Hari (spy)
79 Stare
stupidly
80 Unravels
81 Envoy's skill
83 See
67-Across
88 Woe
89 One who
may study
bonds
90 CIA spy
Ames
92 Accustomed
93 Test runs
94 Triads, e.g.
95 Western U.S.
gas brand
96 Things raked
in autumn
100 Neat as —
101 Compulsion
102 Color slightly
103 Fail to include
104 Inflation subj.
106 Pitcher
Hershiser
108 Inactive
109 Actress
Patricia
110 Edible bit of a
pomegranate
or litchi
111 Estonia and
Latvia, once:
Abbr.
113 Go fast,
quaintly
114 — Wee
Reese



GREAT PARKING
SPOTS

MAGIC MAZE • CHESS
GAMBITS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all
directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Unlisted clue hint: STAPLE ASIAN FOOD

Benko Budapest Chicago Danish	Duras Elephant Englund Evans	King's Latvian Lewis Lopez	Queen's Rosentreter Vienna
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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

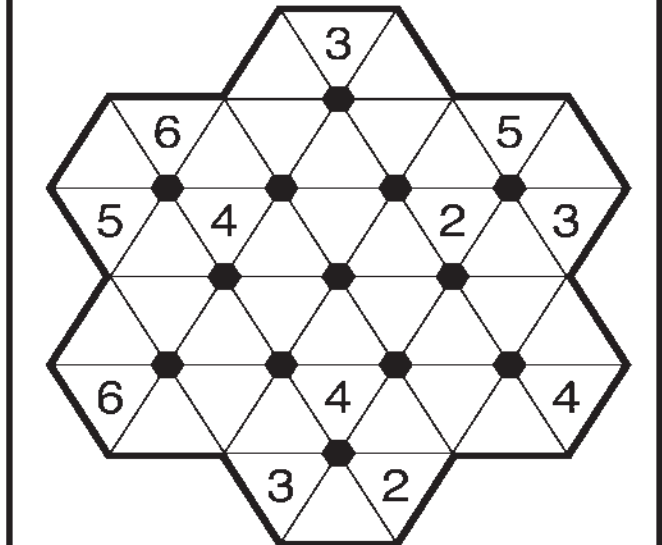
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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Church Services by the Sea
Cannon Beach to Nehalem

Nehalem
Nehalem Bay
United Methodist Church
36050 10th Street, Nehalem, OR
(503) 368-5612
Pastor Celeste Deveney +
Sunday service 11 a.m.
Food Pantry
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10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday
March - October 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
November - February noon to 4 p.m.
Nehalem Senior Lunches
Tuesday & Thursday served at noon
email: nbumcns12020@gmail.com
To feature your spiritual
organization on this panel:
Contact Katherine at
(503) 842-7535,
headlightads@countrymedia.net.

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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N	E	T	T	E	D		N	E	S	T	L	E	S		S	H	E	L	L	

BONAMICI

Tour

From Page A1

important issues to her as a congresswoman. “Education is really the reason I got involved as a policy maker,” Bonamici said.

The congresswoman then invited the students to ask her questions about her background and work in Washington, fielding inquiries about her educational background and preference between serving as a state and federal legislator. Bonamici said that she preferred working at the federal level as it gave her more of an opportunity to set policies, specifically mentioning her work replacing No Child Left Behind with the Every Student Succeeds Act as an example.

Bonamici also explained the federal government’s role in supplementing funding for under resourced schools, referencing a recent bill that helped districts purchase



Bonamici and Jarrell discuss career and technical education while observing a carpentry class.

electric school buses.

Neah Kah Nie High Principal Christy Hartford then led Bonamici and the superintendents from each of the county’s school districts and Tillamook Bay Com-

munity College President Paul Jarrell and Foundation Executive Director Britta Lawrence on a tour of the school.

The group stopped first at the Neah Kah Nie Health

and Wellness Center, which opened in 2021. Hartford said that the center offered both physical and mental healthcare, and that its location next to the middle and high school’s shared

cafeteria helped students to access it easily and discretely.

The health center is run in partnership with the Nehalem Bay Health District and in addition to serving students on the combined middle and high school campus, serves faculty and this year began offering appointments to students from the districts’ elementary schools.

Hartford said that the center was a great asset for the district, helping families cut down on the number of absences for medical visits and providing easy access to mental healthcare for students.

Next, the tour moved on to a carpentry class, where Bonamici observed students devising a solution to accommodate a door header with a pitched roof.

Neah Kah Nie Superintendent Tyler Reed and the other superintendents also discussed the districts’ efforts to integrate their career and technical education programs. Reed said that Neah Kah Nie and

Nestucca had begun offering a hybrid option for the carpentry class, allowing students at Nestucca High School to access lectures on zoom and travel to Neah Kah Nie for labs.

Reed explained that this allowed the districts to supplement their limited resources by sharing staff, who are often hard to recruit and retain in the small rural districts.

Reed also mentioned plans to create a facility dedicated to countywide career and technical education in the disused Beaver Elementary School that are in the early stages of development.

Finally, the group walked around the schoolgrounds and visited the forestry team facility. Hartford said that the forestry team program was another way that students could get practical experience and explained that surrounding landowners also let the students practice their skills in their forestlands by building paths, including one for tsunami evacuation.

Nehalem Bay State Park

master plan update approved

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Following a challenge from a neighboring resident, the proposed update to Nehalem Bay State Park’s master plan was approved by the board of county commissioners on September 30. The approval paved the way for \$11 million in infrastructure upgrades scheduled to begin at the park next month and finish by June 2025, to proceed.

The challenge to the application contended that upgrades envisioned in the plan but not included in scheduled upgrades would cause a dangerous increase in traffic on NeCarney City Road. Though government studies did not support that contention, leading to the plans’ approval, officials from the park and county agreed to form a working group to address the concerns.

Proposed updates to the master plan were developed as part of the state park upgrading its facilities after the passage of a general obligation bond in 2021 to support projects across the state.

While the first stage of planned upgrades, planned for completion this year and next, only includes updates to the park’s water and power infrastructure and the addition of a restroom, the plan also included aspirational projects for future developments, including the addition of around 90 new campsites.

These proposals drew concern from residents in the park’s environs, with Regina Dehen challenging the master plan update’s approval before the county’s planning commission and appealing their

approval to the board of county commissioners.

Addressing the county commissioners on September 30, Dehen argued that an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) study conducted on traffic at the intersection of NeCarney City Road and Highway 101 contained spurious data, not properly accounting for weekend visits to the park. Dehen argued that there was no evidence that there would not be a traffic impact from the plan’s envisioned upgrades, which were projected to increase park attendance between four and seven percent, and that a traffic study should be required as a condition of the plan’s approval.

Dehen also requested that a separate path for pedestrians and bikers be added alongside a portion of NeCarney City Road, that the speed limit on the road be lowered from 35 miles per hour to 25 and that additional signage be added to the rest of the road alerting drivers of pedestrian and bike traffic. Dehen also asked that a working group be established to monitor safety conditions on the road and make suggestions for improvements.

Tracy Johnson, a project manager with the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) managing the Nehalem Bay State Park project, responded to Dehen. Johnson stressed that the major changes envisioned in the plan update were not planned for the near future. She also said that the department was not responsible for NeCarney City Road and that ODOT and Tillamook County public works would need to take

charge of creating a safety plan for it.

Johnson said that OPRD was committed to upgrading the park’s road infrastructure if they increase its capacity and said that officials from the department would participate in a working group to address the road’s safety.

However, Johnson said that Dehen had not identified uses in the areas around the park that would be negatively impacted by the changes in the plan update, which would be required to overturn the approval.

Tillamook County Public Works Director Chris Laity said that the county had the right to require off-site requirements from a developer but that such a requirement was not supported by the evidence in this instance. Laity detailed the methodology behind the ODOT traffic study and reiterated that it had shown a minimal impact on traffic at NeCarney’s intersection with Highway 101. Laity also said that adding a bike and pedestrian path adjacent to the trail would be expensive given the topography of the area.

Tillamook County Director of Public Works Sarah Absher said that any condition that the board of county commissioners wanted to attach to the approval would need to meet a clear, objective and achievable standard.

County Counsel William Sargent said that in his opinion it would be difficult to craft a condition for approval that would withstand appeal.

Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar said that she heard and appreciated the concerns of the

neighbors challenging the plan update, but that in the absence of conditions that would be able to withstand appeal, she would be voting to approve the plan. Skaar also said that she would support the formation of the working group for addressing neighbors’ safety concerns. “We want to address the safety, but it just doesn’t fit the land use process,” Skaar said.

Commissioners Mary Faith Bell and Doug Olson agreed with Skaar about the lack of available alternatives, voting to approve the plan and voicing their support for the working group.

DEFLECTION

Program

From Page A1

ful that her office would be able to prosecute misdemeanor possession charges because of severe limitations staff time and the ongoing public defender shortage in the state. She said that she was wary of taking on too many drug possession cases and ending up in a situation where a more serious crime could not be prosecuted because of a lack of attorneys available to represent the state and defendant.

But after more consideration, Olson said that she plans to prosecute whatever cases are referred to her and reevaluate if there is a deluge of drug possession charges.

Much like Brown, Olson said that she felt Measure 110 had compromised her ability to address issues related to drug usage in the county. In her office’s case, the absence of charges to bring against those in possession prevented attorneys from working with defendants to investigate and prosecute those higher up the supply chain. “I felt like measure 110 took the table legs out from under law enforcement,” Olson said.

With penalties back on the table, Olson said that she hopes to be able to go after the sources of drugs entering the community to turn the tide on what she feels has been a rising tide of assaults and violent crimes since Measure 110 passed.

OBITUARY

Michael Thomas Maginnis

Michael Thomas Maginnis passed away peacefully 10-10-24 in his Neahkahnie home, surrounded by loved ones.

Michael’s surviving relatives include his wife Tela Skinner, his sons Jaya and Taurin Skinner-Maginnis, his daughters-in-love, Whitney Handrich and Susa Lynne, his sister-in-law Shirley Murray; nephews Bill Maginnis and family, Chris Murray and family; nieces Jennifer Hooley and family, MaryAnne Gates and family. Michael’s parents (Charles and Thelma Maginnis) and both brothers (James Murray and David Maginnis) preceded him in death. Michael’s extended family also included in-laws Rosemary and Roger Wolfin, and Carolyn and Mike Stevens.

Michael also wished



to acknowledge his many friends, who are too numerous to list. He and Tela were blessed by their inclusion in the community of Manzanita and surrounding area and by their many friends from the Portland area and beyond.

By nature introverted and introspective, he often reflected on how his conduct impacted others. He

always strove to improve and grow spiritually, to show kindness to all. He felt blessed with an abundance of love from family and community.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Pine Grove Community Center in Manzanita would make Michael happy. A celebration of his life will be announced later.

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County budget working group nears decisions

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

With a list of more than 50 revenue-boosting or cost-cutting measures reviewed and prioritized, the Tillamook County budget working group is approaching decisions about a path forward following their October 9 meeting.

County commissioners revealed at the meeting that they were planning to turn the list over to outside financial consultants for further review and hoped to begin acting on items as early as December.

The meeting began with unwelcome news shared by Tillamook County Commissioner Doug Olson, who has been leading the expanded budget review process since August. Olson shared projections from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) that were updated on October 1, revis-

ing the county’s previously projected \$4.6 million in timber revenue for this fiscal year downwards to a new estimate of \$4.1 million.

Olson said that the newest numbers were not entirely surprising, as ODF’s early projections have historically been high as compared to actual revenues, but that the downward departure created a larger gap to fill in this year’s budget.

Previously, County Treasurer Shawn Blanchard had projected a \$411,000 shortfall in maintaining a \$10 million beginning fund balance for the county’s general fund heading into 2025, but that number is now between \$800,000 and \$900,000. Olson added that the projections would be updated again in January.

On a positive note, Olson said that since the group’s previous meeting in October, department heads had identified \$253,000 in savings that

could be achieved by accounting for open positions in their departments. Realizing these savings would only require an amendment to the county’s budget, with Olson suggesting that a resolution might be brought to the budget committee as early as November.

The conversation then turned to ways to address the remaining \$550,000 shortfall.

Director of Veterans’ Services Nick Torres brought up the possibility of adding franchise fees to Tillamook Peoples’ Utility District (TPUD) bills in unincorporated Tillamook County, which had been mentioned at previous meetings.

Olson said that he had spoken with TPUD’s director since the last meeting and been informed that each 1% added to bills would generate \$250,000 annually for the county. Any fee would have to be approved by the

board of county commissioners and TPUD’s board. Olson noted that each of the county’s cities charged between 5% and 7% for TPUD’s use of their rights of way.

However, Olson said that if the county took such a step 40% of the revenue would be generated would come from dairy farms and the Tillamook County Creamery Association, and wondered if this might make the option politically unpalatable.

Sheriff Josh Brown said that he thought the idea was intriguing and deserved further exploration but that he wanted to see TPUD brought into the conversation going forward. Olson agreed and said that he would reach out to set up a meeting.

The conversation then moved on to the other revenue-generating or cost-cutting possibilities that smaller groups had been working to prioritize in recent months.

Instead of reviewing the list again, however, the conversation turned to next

steps for the list, with the commissioners saying that they were prepared to turn the list over to an outside financial consultant for further review.

Several meeting members said that they had not heard about plans to involve an outside consultant prior and voiced concerns that doing so would slow down the process, when they felt that urgent action was needed.

Tillamook County Chief Administrative Officer Rachel Hagerty explained that involving a financial consultant was envisioned as a way to expedite the process, not complicate it. Hagerty said that she saw addressing the county’s financial issues as calling for a three-pronged approach, consisting of long-term financial planning, short-term actions that the county could achieve on its own and medium-term changes that needed further review.

Mike Gleason, a Portland State University professor who is consulting with

the county on strategic and budget planning, elaborated further, saying that the county didn’t have the resources in-house to evaluate the financial impacts of the proposed solutions. Gleason said that if, for example, the county tried to move forward with the utility franchise fee without further financial review, they would almost certainly draw lawsuits from affected citizens.

Gleason said that asking busy staff to evaluate the list of ideas was the way to stall forward momentum and that he had already had conversations with consultants and believed that he could have a scope of work ready in the next month.

Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar said that she hoped this timeline would allow consultants to review the high priority options identified the group and make recommendations so the board of commissioners could start taking action as soon as December.

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The view of the kiln’s interior when opened for additional wood to be added to the fire.

Soup Bowl Returns

From Page A1

fundraiser involving bowls and he agreed on the condition that she and her staff collaborate in the production process.

“I said, ‘I don’t want to just hand over money, I want to collaborate with you’, and told her if you’ll collaborate with me, we can both improve our outlook on the vision,” Rowland said.

That first year, Rowland and a fellow potter each made 50 bowls, but that number has grown greatly in the years since, with a group of ten potters making about 500 bowls each year now. Rowland explained that some bowls are broken in the firing process and that he only likes to give exceptional bowls to his nonprofit partners, so Tides of Change will receive 150 bowls for the event.

About five years after the partnership with the Harbor began, Rowland said that Tides of Change’s then-director reached out and asked if he would collaborate on a similar fundraiser with their organization, and he agreed.

Each year, employees from both organizations visit Rowland’s property to help with the firing, which now occurs in a new kiln, inaugurated in 2018 after the original kiln deformed in the shape of a banana.

During the weeklong course of the firing process, Rowland said that some 25 volunteers will help to stoke the kiln’s fire and celebrate with a party once the process is complete. Rowland said that the communal aspect of the firing and fundraiser itself are incredibly important to him and that he feels getting involved with the community is something that artists should do more.

Tides of Change Executive Director Valerie Bundy said that she is excited for the event to return after a five-year hiatus caused by the pandemic and that she also appreciates the demonstration of community support for the organization.

Bundy said that owing to the long layoff, Tides of Change staff plans to update their supporters on the organization’s recent activities at the event. “We’re going to talk about all the different things that we’ve done and what’s been going on and just

give opportunity for people who are supporters of our work to kind of know what we’ve been doing,” Bundy said.

The event will take place from 5-7 p.m. on October 26, at Pacific Restaurant at 205 Main Avenue in Tillamook. So far, Pacific Restaurant has signed up to donate soup and Tides of Change are still looking for other restaurants to donate soups, bread or desserts. Tickets including a bowl to take home cost \$50, while a soup-only option is available for \$30, with a link to purchase tickets available on Tides of Change’s website.

All funds raised will go towards advancing Tides of Change’s mission of supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence and Bundy said that having funds that can be allocated to any purpose is very useful for the organization.

Bundy said that she loved the fundraiser and treasured the bowls from past events and was honored by the potters’ support.

“It’s pretty special when you think of the amount of time and dedication someone does to create these bowls for us,” Bundy said.



The Anagama kiln in Clatsop County during the firing process.





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