



# County commissioners award \$1.7 million to NCRD for pool project

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Tillamook’s Board of County Commissioners voted to award \$1.7 million of transient lodging tax funding to the North County Recreation District on December 4, to aid in the completion of the district’s new pool facility.

After multiple discussions with the district’s leadership in recent months, Commissioners Mary Faith Bell and Erin Skaar voted in favor of the grant, citing the project’s community support, large existing financial support and in-process status. Commissioner Doug Olson voted nay saying that while he would support a smaller award, the lack of decision-making process made him uncomfortable with the number approved.

North County Recreation District (NCRD) Board Chair Michael Howes and interim Executive Director Barbara McCann

first reached out to commissioners in October and attended several work sessions with the commissioners in October and November to discuss the possibility of county funding for the pool project.

The project, which will replace the North County Recreation District’s (NCRD) nearly century old pool in Nehalem, has received more than \$16 million in support from numerous donors in the community as well as through a bond approved by district voters in 2020. However, cost escalations due to inflation have driven the project’s budget well over its initial estimate, leaving the district facing a \$2.5 million gap to complete the pool facility with the installation of equipment, commission the new facility and decommission the old facility.

Construction crews are expected to complete the second phase of the project by January 15, at which point the facility’s interior

will be finished. The next phase of the project, which will see the installation of pool equipment, will cost an estimated \$1.7 million, is planned to begin in February and be complete by April, putting the facility on track for a June opening.

However, the district has exhausted its previously secured funding and faced the prospect of demobilizing construction, which would have led to further cost escalations, if they could not show proof of funds to pay for the next phase by mid-December.

With the county sitting on a \$3 million surplus in funds from the tourist-supported transient lodging tax (TLT), Howes and McCann reached out to the board to request the county’s support, kicking off a series of meetings.

In the last meeting between the board and NCRD leadership on November 6, Skaar and Olson both voiced concerns about the

award potentially being inequitable to other projects in the county, owing to the lack of process entailed by the district’s ad hoc request for a donation.

Olson suggested that the county award \$1 million to the project, in the form of a \$500,000 lump sum and five \$100,000 annual payments, while Skaar mentioned a \$1.5-million grant with the same format. Bell concurred with the formatting of the donation but said she would support funding the project’s balance, citing past instances of the county making large TLT awards without a formal process, such as the \$2.5-million purchase of the Jentzen property in Pacific City.

Commissioners asked Howes and McCann to get specifics about a loan to cover the project’s third phase and return with those for a final decision.

See **NCRD**, Page A3

# Election results certified Radio bond passes, Javadi reelected

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Tillamook County Clerk Christy Nyseth certified the county’s election results on December 2, confirming the success of the county’s emergency radio system bond question.

While Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade is not due to certify statewide results until December 12, Republican State Representative Cyrus Javadi also still appeared on track to win reelection against Democrat challenger Andy Davis.

Certified returns from Nyseth showed that 16,405 of Tillamook County’s 21,673 registered voters cast ballots in the November 5 election, representing a 75.7% turnout.

The bond question seeking \$24 million in taxpayer funding to support an upgrade to the county’s aging emergency radio system received 7,926 yes votes of 15,232 cast in the race, or 52.0%.

Javadi received 54.9% of the votes counted in Tillamook County in the race against Davis and 52.1% across the entire district.

United States Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici remained on pace for an easy win over Republican challenger Bob Todd, having received 68.6% of the almost 352,000 votes across the district. Bonamici also won Tillamook County, but received just 49.1% of votes tallied, with Todd accounting for 47.8% of the total, and Libertarian Joe Christman 3.0%.

At the top of the ticket, Tillamook County supported President-elect Donald Trump with 49.0% of voters casting their ballot for Trump and running mate J.D. Vance. Vice President Kamala Harris received 47.7% of the vote in the county, while Robert F. Kennedy Jr. garnered 1.5% and Jill Stein accounted for .7%.

In races for the Tillamook County Peoples’ Utility District Board of Directors, Tamra Periman received 55.3% of the vote against 43.7% for Maile Rosa Samek in the race for subdivision one, while Lonnie Jenck won the three-way race for subdivision three, with 49.5% of the vote against 25.5% for Harry Hewitt and 24.1% for Justin Aufdermauer.

Tillamook city council’s incumbents were all retained their seats, with Garrett Noffsinger,

See **ELECTION**, Page A3

# Tillamook Kidney Center prepares for opening in the coming weeks

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Since the February closure of the U.S. Renal Care Dialysis clinic in Tillamook, patients with end stage renal disease have been forced to travel more than an hour for thrice-weekly, life-sustaining care.

But that is all set to change in the coming weeks when the clinic reopens under the management of Dialysis Clinics Incorporated (DCI), a Nashville-based nonprofit, as the Tillamook Kidney Center. Dr. Doug Johnson, the Vice Chairman of DCI’s Board, said that he was enthusiastic about the opportunity to help bring dialysis back to Tillamook and stressed that it would not have been possible without the strong partnership of Adventist Health, and especially Adventist President Eric Swanson.

“Eric and the Adventist



(Left to right) Dialysis Clinic Inc. Nurse Manager Molly Lust, Tillamook Adventist President Eric Swanson and Tillamook Adventist Patient Care Executive Heather Thompson outside the once and future dialysis clinic.

team have been such incredible partners, and it was so inspiring to be able to visit the community, be able to spend time in the community,” Johnson said. “We’re so excited to be able to help provide this service.”

The situation began unfolding in late January of this year, when patients at the U.S. Renal Care (USRC) dialysis clinic in Tillamook received a letter from the company’s management informing them that the center would be closing as of February 23, due to economic factors. That forced the clinic’s 11 patients to either transition to in-home treatments or travel to Lincoln City, Astoria or Forest Grove three times weekly to dialyze.

“It’s been rough, there for a month or two I had to be on the road by 3:30 in the

morning to be there at 4:30, and for an old lady, that’s a long way,” said Sharon Gallino, a patient who was forced to seek care in Lincoln City. Fortunately, the early start time that forced the pre-dawn departures has since shifted, but Gallino is still spending a minimum of six hours on travel and treatment on

See **KIDNEY CENTER**, Page A5

# OPRD steps up Salmonberry Trail involvement

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Last month, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department took the first steps towards becoming the governmental home for the Salmonberry Project, announcing that they were exploring the establishment of a committee to govern it.

That process is being led by Mike Cafferata, Forest Grove District Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and the transition would see the committee replace the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency (STIA), which is set to cease operations at the end of this year.

Cafferata has committed to spending the next six months leading the exploratory phase of the move and said that staff at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) had decided to step in after seeing that the current organizational structure was not performing optimally.

The Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency was formed in 2014 and consists of the governments of Tillamook and Washington County, ODF, as much of the proposed trail’s 82 miles run through state forest lands, and OPRD. When it was founded, STIA was given a decade-long mandate, and as the end of that period drew near in recent months, members began contemplating the best way forward with OPRD staff deciding to offer their department as a potential home.

Cafferata said that STIA had always been constrained by a lack of staff as well as a lack of expertise in trail building among the partner agencies and that the transition of responsibilities to OPRD will help to address both of those concerns.

While planning is still ongoing, Cafferata said that OPRD does not plan to take an increased leadership role in the trail process, but rather to provide an appropriate home and technical assistance for

See **OPRD**, Page A3









# Councils decide on floodplain development updates in response to FEMA

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

With a December 1 Federal Emergency Management Agency deadline to update ordinances regulating developments in area of special flood hazard looming, cities across Tillamook County made changes to their zoning ordinances in November.

Rockaway Beach and Bay City signaled their intention to adopt a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) model ordinance. Nehalem selected a permit-by-permit approach, Wheeler’s council did not take action and will default to a permit-by-permit regime, Garibaldi opted to let staff decide based on neighboring cities’ decisions, Tillamook opted to pursue a fourth approach suggested by county leaders and Manzanita was unaffected.

Originally triggered by a 2009 Audubon Society lawsuit, updates to the

Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) flood insurance plan and its recommended flood plain development ordinances are expected to be finalized by 2026. The updates will follow recommendations laid out in a biological opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2016 that called for new development in floodplains to meet a no-net-loss standard to the floodplains’ functionality to preserve habitat for 16 endangered species, including coho salmon and orca whales.

After the biological opinion was issued in 2016, the process was paused by then-Congressman Peter DeFazio in 2018 for three years.

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. The new regulations would allow agricultural, forestry and fishing activities in the floodplain but would make obtaining permits to place fill, add water impervious surfaces or remove vegetation more difficult.

Earlier this year, spurred by further litigation filed by the Centers for Biological Diversity, FEMA officials determined that waiting until the flood insurance plan updates were complete for partner governments to update their ordinances would cause further harm to endangered species and decided to require those governments to

implement interim measures. Partnering governments received a letter in mid-July informing them of the change and laying out three options to comply, as well as a December 1 deadline to inform FEMA of which option they would pursue.

Those options were adopting a model ordinance from FEMA that includes a no-net-loss standard for new development, requiring developers to obtain habitat assessment and mitigation plans for their projects showing that they meet the no-net loss standard or prohibiting development in areas of special flood hazard entirely.

Tillamook County leadership has taken a hard line in response to the demand and at a mid-November meeting unveiled a plan to propose their own option to FEMA, requiring that projects in areas of special flood hazard submit assessments showing they will cause no take of endangered species. Lawyers

for the county argued that this language mirrors that in applicable federal statute and that it will allow for more development activity than the no-net-loss standard put forward in FEMA’s proposals.

County attorneys said that they did not expect a positive response from FEMA but that they believed the option was legally defensible while the county pursued legal challenges to the update requirements as part of Oregonians for Floodplain Protection, a coalition fighting the changes.

In city council meetings throughout November, most city leaders seemed more tepid at the prospect of taking on the federal agency, with only Tillamook’s council opting to follow the county’s course of action.

Councilors in Bay City approved temporary moratorium on floodplain development starting December 1, with plans to adopt the model ordinance going forward.

Rockaway Beach’s council asked staff to prepare a version of the model ordinance, tailored specifically to the city, while leaving the existing regulations in effect for the time being. Nehalem’s council voted to move forward towards implementing the permit-by-permit approach and Wheeler’s council declined to act, reasoning that doing so might run afoul of Oregon’s land use laws, which means the city will default to the permit-by-permit approach.

Garibaldi’s council directed staff to evaluate the responses of neighboring cities and make a decision that was in line with those. Manzanita does not have any areas of special flood hazard in its city limits.

Tillamook’s board of county commissioners is expected to make a formal decision this week and all local jurisdictions have until June of next year to implement their selected option.

## OPRD Salmonberry Trail

From Page A1

the project. Cafferata said that the counties that are members of STIA would still be asked to take the lead on the proj-

ect and to contribute funds to OPRD for any staff that might be hired.

Cafferata said that as he works to develop the agreements that will establish and govern the committee in the coming months, he will be looking at the Bear Creek Greenway in Jackson County and Lower De-

schutes River Management projects as guides. Both of those projects also involve several jurisdictions working together to manage recreational assets.

Construction of the trail will still be an effort achieved by the counties and cities along the trail’s pathway as a series of small

projects, Cafferata said, though OPRD will take over the lease and rail banking agreement that STIA currently holds with the Port of Tillamook Bay.

Cafferata said that the main role of OPRD will be to provide a more certain foundation for the project and technical support, mak-

ing it easier for localities to build and maintain the trail. “I think it will provide more support and clarity for the places that are going to build the trail,” Cafferata said.

Cafferata also clarified that the Salmonberry Trail Foundation, a non-profit that works to support development of the trail, will not be

impacted by the change.

Before the end of the year, Cafferata plans to work on the committee’s founding documentation, figure out the process to transfer the lease and rail banking agreements from STIA and either consummate the transition or extend STIA’s sunset date as necessary.

## Election Results

From Page A1

Nicholas Torres and Sylvia Schriber running unopposed and Brian Reynolds garnering 67.5% of the vote against 29.4% for challenger Richard Reidt.

Bay City Mayor Liane Welch was unopposed in her race and Colin Jones, Tim Josi and Justin Howard were elected to three open seats on the council.

Katie Findling was also unopposed in her bid to maintain the mayoralty of Garibaldi, while in a three-way contest for two open council seats, Cheryl Gierga and Sandra Tyrer received 268 and 248 votes, respectively, against 240 tallied for Terry Kandle.

Rockaway Beach’s hotly contested elections returned incumbents to their positions across the board. Mayor

Charles McNeilly received 65.3% of votes cast in his race, with Rodney Breazile garnering 24.1% and Dane Winchester 10.3%.

In city council races, Mary McGinnis was unopposed in the race for position one, Tom Martine defeated Kristine Hayes with 62.7% of the vote for position two, Kiley Konruff defeated Stephanie Winchester with 68.3% of votes in the race for position three, Alesia Franken beat Justin McMahan with 63.4% of the vote for position four and Penny Cheek bested Debra Reeves with 61.2% of position five votes tallied.

Wheeler’s mayoral race saw Denise Donohue notch the victory with 74.4% of the vote against William Goulardt. Heidi Stacks, Mary Leverette and Gordon Taylor secured three open council positions, with 193, 178 and 143 votes, respectively, while Garry Gitzen received 84.

Nehalem Mayor Phil Chick was unopposed in his bid for

reelection and Kristina Quintana won the race for position two on the council, with 70 votes against 39 for Angela Hanke and 38 for Lydia O’Connor. In the race for position three on the council, Dave Cram beat Vern Scovell receiving 60.7% of the vote.

Manzanita Mayor Kathryn Stock ran unopposed and Councilors Jerry Spegman and Thomas Campbell received 325 and 323 votes respectively in the race for two open seats on the city council. Manzanita voters also supported remaining on a monthly billing cycle for water billing, with 55.1% of votes in favor of that frequency over quarterly.

In statewide races, Democrats were on pace to sweep races for elected offices, while two of five proposed ballot measures, those regarding impeachment of statewide elected officials and unionization at cannabis businesses, were on pace to succeed.

Democrat Tobias Reed had received 54.5% of the votes

counted in the race for secretary of state, a 12.6% victory over Republican Dennis Linthicum who garnered 41.9% of the vote, while Progressive Nathalie Paravicini tallied 3.6%.

Democrat Elizabeth Steiner looked on track to win the contest for state treasurer by a smaller margin, with just 49.4% of the votes against 43.3% for Republican Brian Boquist and 7.3% for Mary King of the Working Families party.

In the race for attorney

general, Democrat Dan Rayfield was on pace for a victory, having received 54.4% of the vote against Republican Will Lathrop’s 45.5%.

Support for Ballot Measure 115, establishing a process for the legislature to impeach elected officials, had a commanding lead, garnering 64.2% of votes counted. Ballot Measure 119 was also on pace to pass with 56.8% of the vote and would require cannabis retailers and processors to remain neutral

regarding communications from labor unions.

Three other proposed ballot measures all looked set to fail, with Measure 116, proposing an independent commission to set salaries for some state officials, receiving 52.5% opposition, Measure 117, proposing ranked-choice voting, having 57.7% opposed, and Measure 118, proposing an increase to corporate taxes to fund an annual payment to all citizens, drawing 77.5% of votes counted against.

## NCRD Pool project

From Page A1

At the meeting on December 4, Howes reviewed the information that had been previously shared and told the commissioners that since the last meeting the district had received approval for a \$2 million loan from its bank at a 4.99% interest rate.

Howes presented three potential award possibilities to the commissioners, the \$1 million option advanced by Olson at the November meeting, the \$1.5 million option mentioned by Skaar and a package to fund the full \$1.7 million required to complete phase three. This third option would involve an initial award of \$550,000 followed by five annual awards of \$230,000.

Howes said that the district would appreciate any of the three awards but that selecting the third would obviously be their preferred option.

Olson kicked off the discussion, saying that he still favored the first option of awarding \$1 million, for the same reasons he had cited previously. He said that the thought of awarding more than \$1 million without a formal process made him uneasy and that he had some concerns about the project’s conformity to state law’s requirements that projects receiving TLT funding serve tourists.

Skaar then spoke and said that while she was still concerned about the lack of process, her opinion had shifted since the last meeting, largely based on Howes’s arguments in favor of a larger award.

Skaar said that while she had previously worried about disadvantaging other projects in an unfair way, these concerns had been alleviated by the NCRD project’s status and the fact that no other projects in the county were at the same phase. Skaar said that the project’s \$16 million in already-secured funding, including community support through the 2020 bond, and the fact that construction was already under way were a unique circumstance in the county and that she would encourage any other projects in a similar position to come to the board in the future.

Further, the \$1.7-million request would only represent 10-12% of the project’s total budget, which Skaar said made her more comfortable with the figure and the awards compliance with state TLT law, as that percentage of the new facility’s capacity is likely to be used by tourists.

Given those factors, Skaar said that she was comfortable with the \$1.5-million award and would be open to further discussion about the \$1.7-million figure.

Bell said that she was firm on the \$1.5-million figure and was open to the \$1.7-million award because she wanted to see the county help get the project done. She echoed Skaar’s points about the project’s unique backing and process and said that a statistic shared by Howes that 25% of the county’s assessed property value was in the district’s bounds had further convinced her.

Bell continued that while she was also sensitive to concerns about the process of awarding funding, the board explicitly had the executive powers to make decisions out-

side of those processes when they felt it was appropriate, as they had in past instances.

“I will feel good about doing this because it’s an opportunity to invest in our community and it’s timely,” Bell said before making a motion to award the \$1.7 million as proposed by Howes.

Olson said that he would vote no because of the lack of process but reiterated his support for the project before Bell and Skaar voted aye to approve the award and Olson voted nay.

Howes and McCann profusely thanked the commissioners for their support, with Howes saying that it felt like a weight had been lifted from their shoulders.

Tillamook County Chief Administrative Officer Rachel Hagerty said that she would begin working on an intergovernmental agreement to manage the grant and would aim to complete it by the commissioners’ December 18 meeting, but that it might be January 8, because of the holidays.

The award leaves the project with an \$800,000 gap to meet its entire original scope, although Howes clarified in his presentation that only \$400,000 of that was necessary to commission the pool and outfit essential items such as life-guards’ chairs. The remaining \$400,000 will allow the district to decommission the old pool and outfit the new pool facility more fully, with acoustic tiling and bleachers.

The district recently received a grant of \$500,000 contingent on funding the rest of the project, that Howes said he believed would be triggered by the county grant, a fact which he will confirm at an upcoming meeting with that grantor.

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41 Beats of life  
42 Klutzy sorts  
43 Naiad or dryad  
44 Plant swelling  
46 Ben of "Zoolander"  
49 Mint quality  
54 "13th" director  
55 Styne of song  
56 TV spots  
57 Vaper's item  
58 How-to unit

59 Catch sight of  
60 Ostrich's kin  
61 Big name in cosmetics  
64 Big bees  
66 Rainforests and such  
69 Round one of the corners in Monopoly  
72 Mets' div.  
73 Vast span  
74 Awful review  
77 First-aid plant  
78 Purplish berry  
79 Derby, e.g.  
80 Buffalo's county  
81 Aladdin's monkey pal  
82 Excellent etiquette  
88 Wasn't penned up  
90 Levi's, e.g.  
91 Start  
92 Singer Celine  
93 Green sushi condiment  
96 "M\*A\*S\*H" actor David Ogden —  
97 Famed Steelers play of 1972  
102 Cole Porter's "— Love"

103 "I got — in Kalamazoo"  
104 Toothpaste tube inits.  
105 — kwon do  
108 O.J. Simpson trial judge  
111 Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme?  
117 Hans Christian —  
118 JFK Library architect  
119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"  
120 People giving rubdowns  
121 Printer brand  
122 Motto

DOWN

1 Big cheeses  
2 Suited to —  
3 Goldfish and minnows are members of it  
4 Samuelsson who got the winning goal in the 1991 Stanley Cup  
5 Driver's 180  
6 Large parrots

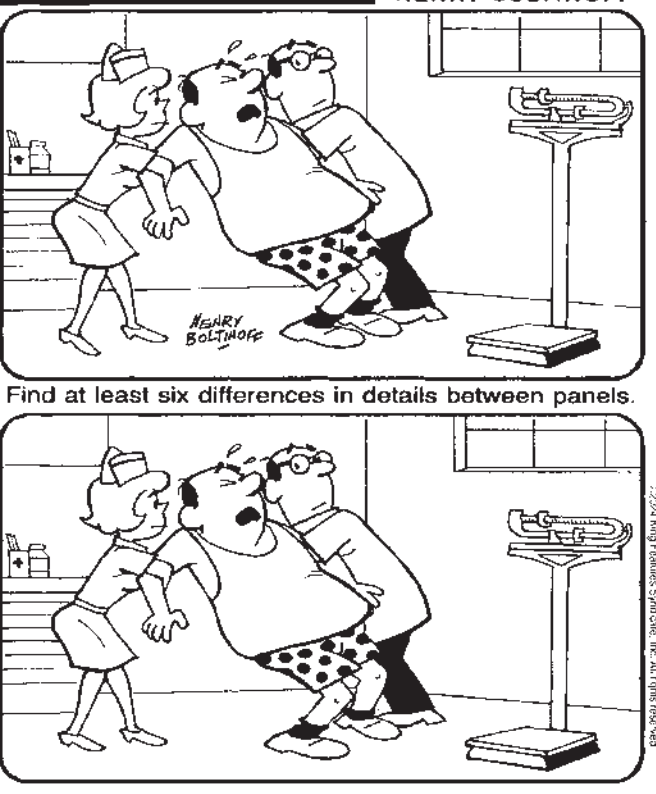
7 Cider fruit  
8 Chou En- —  
9 Picnic pest  
10 Emceeing aid  
11 Earthy hues, to Brits  
12 Satirizes  
13 Division of a long poem  
14 Tolkien brute  
15 Coll. in the Old Dominion State  
16 Home of the NFL's Bucs  
17 Symbol of a fresh start  
18 Gold-related  
19 "Royal," in 20-Across  
24 Up to, in brief  
29 Metal in rocks  
32 Small error  
33 German for "eight"  
34 Design detail  
35 — wrestling  
36 Strategy  
37 Quaint newspaper section  
38 Primary  
39 Dressed for nighty-night  
40 IHOP topping  
44 Result  
45 — Moines  
46 Autograph: Abbr.

47 All tied up  
48 Sharp knocks  
50 "You are not!" retort  
51 Noble acts  
52 "All booked up, sorry"  
53 Model Tequila  
58 Catch sight of  
60 Liverpool loc.  
61 Purple flower  
62 — acid (fat substance)  
63 Irish actor Stephen  
64 Allowance  
65 Sizable vase  
66 Put to work  
67 A single time  
68 Sports sides  
69 Early TV host Jack  
70 "Dark Angel" star Jessica  
71 Healthy intellects  
74 Introducing  
75 Broadcaster  
76 Aeries, e.g.  
78 Big primate  
79 Clutch sitter  
80 Film scorer  
81 Morricone  
82 — "Z (old Camaro)  
83 List of options

84 Partly open  
85 Neuwirth of "Cheers"  
86 Nonclerical  
87 "Me? Never!"  
89 Husbands-to-be  
93 Tots' haulers  
94 — discount  
95 Smartphone pic, often  
96 Railing sites  
97 Sunni's faith  
98 Animated 2016 Disney film  
99 After a time  
100 Sup at home  
101 Adobe Acrobat file  
106 Forever — day  
107 "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer  
109 Sooner than, poetically  
110 Sch. in Terre Haute  
112 Gig hookup  
113 FedEx rival  
114 Zodiac lion  
115 Dallas Stars' org.  
116 "Yabba dabba —!"

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Scale is shorter. 3. Nurse's foot is shorter. 4. Cabinet is moved. 5. Window is wider. 6. Sock is shorter.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

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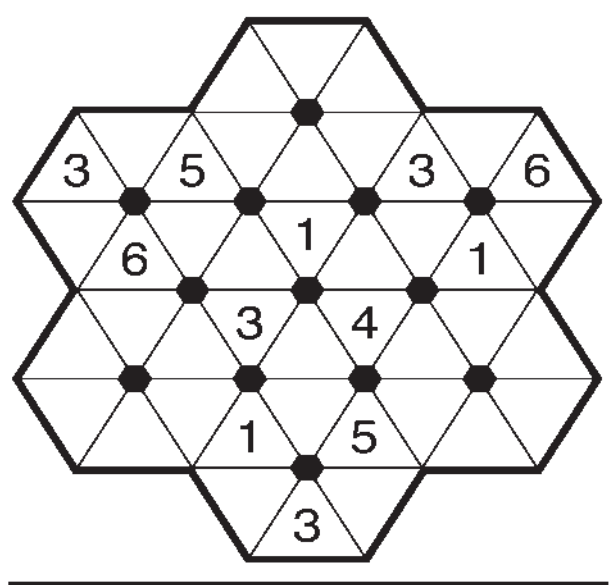
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SNOWFLAKES

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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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Super Crossword

Answers

VACUUM	ALAMO	SCOUTCAR
ITALIA	PANIC	PARVALUE
PERFECTPITCH	ONCAMERA	
SEP	AIL	ROOT
PAIL		
FLAWLESSPERFORMANCE		
ISAACS	PULSES	OAFS
NYPH	EDEMA	STILLER
PRISTINECONDITION	AVA	
JULE	ADS	ECIG
STEP		
SPY	EMU	LOREAL
QUEENS		
UNSPOILEDNATURE		
PASSGO	NLEAST	EON
PAN		
ALOE	ACAI	HATERIE
ABU	IMPECCABLEMANNERS	
RANFREE	JEANS	ONSET
DION	WASABI	STIERS
IMMACULATERECEPTION		
SOIN	AGAL	ADA
TAE		
LANCEITO	FAULTFINDING	
ANDERSEN	IMPEI	RHONDA
MASSEURS	EPSON	SLOGAN

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# KIDNEY CENTER

From Page A1

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and says that driving after treatments is grueling.

Knowing of these challenges and especially concerned about the difficulty of travel when winter weather returned, Swanson immediately swung into action following the closure announcement looking for a way to get the center reopened. “I was on the phone every single day talking with people about dialysis, trying to find a good option for Tillamook,” Swanson said.

Tillamook’s low number of dialysis patients, just 11 patients at the time of closure, created a hurdle, as any for-profit company, like USRC, would not be able to make money operating a center.

But after receiving a tip from a consultant, Swanson reached out to DCI, and a path towards reopening began to take shape.

Dialysis Clinics Incorporated was founded in 1971 by Johnson’s father, Dr. Keith Johnson, a nephrologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, who was concerned about the hurdles preventing non-veterans from accessing dialysis care. Johnson would treat patients during the day and then stay late in the evening to dialyze several patients who were waiting for transplants and had nowhere else to go for care.

After hearing about an outpatient dialysis program in Seattle, the elder Johnson solicited a \$100,000 charitable contribution from his father and opened the company’s first clinic in Nashville.

Although Medicare started reimbursing dialysis providers for treatments in 1972, helping to alleviate the issues that had initially drawn Johnson to open a clinic, he saw

that there was still a need for dialysis care in certain communities that wasn’t being met.

The younger Johnson said that the company always partners with local organizations in the communities that they serve and only open clinics in communities that reach out seeking help. Nowadays, the company operates 242 clinics in 29 states and serves more than 14,000 patients.

When Swanson reached out, Johnson said that the company had already heard about the potential need in Tillamook and would be happy to get the ball rolling on the process.

Tillamook Kidney Center, as the reopened facility will be known, will be DCI’s first center in Oregon, and the company has been working to obtain regulatory approvals since the summer, with Johnson saying that state officials have been very helpful in that process.

The new center will operate three days a week and offer a home dialysis program, allowing patients to train to dialyze themselves in their homes and do monthly check-in visits at the clinic, rather than having to travel out of the county for those appointments.

In addition to helping coordinate the management, Adventist will be allowing DCI to use the basement dialysis clinic space “basically rent free,” according to Swanson, and sharing a staff dietician and social worker to help staff the center. While USRC donated the machines that they had been using to provide care, DCI opted to purchase new machines.

Dr. Claire Kassakian of Northwest Renal Clinic, who previously worked with USRC, will be the center’s medical director and the dialysis nurse formerly employed by USRC will also be returning. Johnson said that he expects the center may end up serving a larger number of patients than before the

closure but said that financial plans had been made based on eleven patients.

With that number, Johnson said that the clinic is expected to run at a \$200,000 annual deficit, but that donations and revenues from profitable centers run elsewhere by the company will help to offset that. Two foundations associated with DCI, the Life Extension Foundation and Johnson Family Foundation have already pledged a combined \$100,000 annually to the center’s operations after it has been open for two years.

Johnson said that the team at DCI were working to get the center open as soon as possible and that he hoped they would be able to begin providing service in December, but that it might be a bit later.

Johnson repeatedly stressed that while DCI was the company running the clinic, they viewed the project as a community initiative. “We see this as a community clinic,” Johnson said, “we happen to be the company that’s providing the dialysis, but we see this as a community service.”

Swanson echoed that sentiment and said that the small, closely-knit nature of the community, had made the problem personal and urgent, keeping him and the team at Adventist motivated to find a solution. “At the end of the day what we’re really trying to do is take care of our friends and family in our community,” Swanson said. “That’s the advantage of rural healthcare, you’re taking care of your friends and family.”

Kassakian said that she and the physicians at Northwest Renal Clinic were honored to be able to return to Tillamook and begin offering their patients convenient care



PHOTO BY JOHN HAY  
(Left to Right) Thompson, Lust and Swanson next to one of the recently arrived machines that will treat patients when the Tillamook Kidney Center opens in the coming weeks.

again. “As a nephrologist, the prior closure of the dialysis unit was one of the saddest events of my career,” Kassakian said, “I am so grateful to all those who have joined hands to bring dialysis care back to

Tillamook.”

Gallino said that she was excited and relieved that the center was reopening and that it would make a big difference for her wellbeing.

“It was just awesome,”

Gallino said of learning the news of the center’s reopening. “It was a miracle that that happened, that everything got into place the way it did and thank God for that. I was very excited.”

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OBITUARY

John Gregory Foster  
July 1, 1966 - Nov. 28, 2024

John Gregory Foster was born in Evansville, IN on July 1, 1966 to John Gilbert and Lois Kay (Schroeder) Foster. He grew up in Princeton, IN with his older sister, Kim.

Greg studied chemical engineering at Purdue University, where he met his future wife, Kristi Sivak, during his sophomore year. Eight days after graduating, they were married on May 21, 1988 at St. Adalbert's Church in South Bend, IN. They moved to Beaumont, TX to begin working for different divisions of Mobil Chemical across town from each other.

Greg became an expert in polyethylene manufacturing and research. He co-invented a "zippering" catalyst that allowed the tabs on plastic coffee cup lids to pull cleanly along the perforations, rather than rip across the entire lid. His work resulted in three patents, which were granted to Mobil in 1993. He was transferred between Beaumont and New Jersey several times before he accepted a position with Lyondale (later Equistar) in Houston.

He semi-retired for the first time in 2000, after 13 years in the petrochemical industry. Greg and Kristi moved to Dania Beach, FL to study at the National Coral Reef Institute of Nova Southeastern University. He received a joint MS in Marine Biology and Coastal Zone Management and a PhD in Oceanography. His



field of study was acoustic mapping of coral reefs, sea-grass and oyster beds, and drift macro-algae throughout Florida, in Palau, and in the Philippines. His research resulted in a dozen peer-reviewed scientific publications.

His second semi-retirement began in 2014, when his wife accepted a position at a coral reef research facility in Little Cayman. He was not eligible for a work permit, so Greg volunteered as a "rogue scientist". He was a mentor for undergraduate students and collaborated with numerous international researchers.

Greg and Kristi moved to Nehalem, OR in 2016. Greg volunteered for Tillamook Estuaries Partnership's water quality monitoring program and children's outdoor education events. He was also on the Board of Directors for the Nehalem Bay Watershed Council.

Greg was a brilliant, adventurous, and fun-loving eccentric who loved to

cause mischief, playfully offend people's sensibilities, and make them think outside of the box. He enjoyed golf, roller-blading, bowling, visiting zoos and museums, live music, and owning chowchows that he treated as if they were his children. He was a scuba instructor, with over 1100 logged dives. He explored over 50 countries with his wife. Some of his photos were published in Dr. Sylvia Earle's book, Defying Ocean's End.

Greg passed away on November 28, 2024 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, OR after a long and hard-fought battle in their cardiac ICU. He is survived by his wife; mother; sister Kim (Grant) LaMar; niece Emily (Jason) Satterfield; nephew Cory (Hannah) Fougnes; several grandnieces and grandnephews; numerous cousins and other relatives; many, many friends from around the world; and his chowchow Tesla. He was preceded in death by his father. We will remember Greg with smiles and laughter forever.

Per his wishes, no funeral service will occur. Loved ones are invited to share their memories on greg-foster.forevermissed.com. A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring of 2025.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Greg Foster Memorial Fund through Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP). To donate, go to https://givebutter.com/XgchV6.

Tillamook County criminal convictions

Staff Report

On October 31, Jacob A Noel, 51, pled guilty to one count of animal neglect in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about July 15, 2023. Noel was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

On October 31, Bobby Allen Roberts, 49, pled no contest to one count of criminal mischief in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 10, 2023. Roberts was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

On November 1, Audra Rose Terrill, 33, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 1. Terrill was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation, and her driver's license was suspended for one year.

On November 1, Patrick Douglas Dietz, 30, pled no contest to one count of attempting to commit the class C felony of supplying contraband, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 13, 2023. Dietz was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

On November 1, Kyle William Curtis, 35, pled no contest to one count of assault in the second degree constituting domestic violence, a class B felony, committed on or about October 6. Curtis was sentenced to 70 months in prison and three years of post-prison supervision.

On November 4, Steven Bernard Curran, 60, pled guilty to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 12. Curran was assessed \$2,255 in fines and fees, sentenced to two years' probation and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On November 5, Wil-

liam J Houck, 34, pled no contest to one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle, a class C felony, committed on or about October 16. Houck was sentenced to 26 months in prison and two years' post-prison supervision, and his driver's license was revoked for one year.

On November 8, Aaron Eli Stacy, 35, pled no contest to one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about February 27. Stacy was sentenced to two days in jail and two years' probation, and his driver's license was suspended for one year.

On November 8, Richard Genesis Merlos, 38, pled no contest to one count of burglary in the second degree, a class C felony, one count of criminal trespass in the second degree, a class C misdemeanor, both committed on or about July 20, one count of criminal mischief in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about May 9, two counts of criminal trespass in the first degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about July 21 and 24, and one count of escape in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about July 24. Merlos was sentenced to 30 days in jail and five years' probation.

On November 12, Brittan y Marie Lanza, 34, pled guilty to one count of harassment, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about June 21. Lanza was sentenced to one year on probation.

On November 14, Kevin Matthew Bachtel, 40, pled guilty to one count of theft in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or between February 5 and 20, and one count of failure to appear on a criminal citation, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March

25. Bachtel was sentenced to 20 days in jail.

On November 14, Cody Alan Vulgaris, 32, pled no contest to one count of criminal mischief in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about March 9, 2021. Vulgaris was sentenced to 25 days in jail.

On November 15, Brock Gabriel Graff, 24, pled no contest to one count of assault in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about September 10. Graff was sentenced to three years' probation.

On November 18, Nelson Daniel Ramos-Rivas, 23, pled no contest to one count of disorderly conduct in the second degree, a class B misdemeanor, committed on or about October 9. Ramos-Rivas was sentenced to one year on probation.

On November 18, Maximio Menera-Aleman, 30, pled no contest to one count of harassment, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 11. Menera-Aleman was sentenced to 18 months' probation and ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

On November 21, Daniel Robert Essary, 38, pled no contest to one count of violating a court's stalking protective order, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 14. Essary was sentenced to six months in jail.

On November 25, James Codie Wasdin, pled no contest to one count of resisting arrest, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about August 7, 2023. Wasdin was sentenced to time served in jail.

On November 25, James Darrell Dotson, 31, pled no contest to one count of recklessly endangering another person, a class A misdemeanor, committed on or about June 29. Dotson was sentenced to one year on probation.

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