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Helping Hands President and Founder Alan Evans cuts the ribbon on the second floor of the group's Tillamook shelter with board members, staff and Tillamook Police Chief Nick Troxel looking on.

Helping Hands doubles shelter capacity at Port of Tillamook Bay

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Helping Hands staff, board members and community supporters gathered at the organization's Port of Tillamook Bay shelter on December 10, to cut the ribbon on the facility's second floor.

The expansion will add 40 new shelter beds when it opens in the coming weeks and Helping Hands President and Founder Alan Evans said that it will allow the group to expand the impact of the important work already being accomplished downstairs.

"The stories that we hear of the people that are already living in here are transformational for us," Evans said. "Why we come to work as staff mem-

bers every day is to learn from the people who come through our doors and that cannot be possible without the support of everybody here."

The 24,000 square foot building housing the shelter was originally constructed in 1942 in 45 days to serve as a naval command center to support the blimp operations at the two nearby hangars. After the war, the Navy donated the building and its land to the Port of Tillamook Bay, which struggled to find a purpose for the building, leading to the bottom floor being used for storage and the upper floor being largely abandoned.

Helping Hands came into the picture after a group of Tillamook locals reached out in the late 2010s to inquire about

the organization expanding their operations in the county.

Founded in 2002 by Evans, who had previously spent 27 years homeless, Helping Hands employs a recovery-based model and operates 11 centers in five Oregon counties, housing almost 600 people.

After looking at several locations in the city of Tillamook, real estate agent Val Schumann reached out to Evans about the disused building at the port, which was on the market for \$350,000. The building was in an advanced state of disrepair, but Evans said that did not concern him as he saw the opportunity to rehabilitate the structure as dovetailing with the organization's mission to help people rehabilitate their lives. "As

soon as I see the building, I said I love it," Evans recalled.

Helping Hands board visited the building and put its trust in Evans' vision, and in 2020 the organization purchased the property from the port.

More than 160 volunteers then chipped in to help renovate the downstairs, and in less than 60 days, the shelter was open, housing up to 37 people at a time.

However, the second story presented a more complex problem because of the presence of asbestos insulation, whose remediation would prove costly and time consuming, and the decision to add fire suppression measures to increase safety. Despite these

See **HELPING HANDS**, Page A3

Manzanita prepares to add new water main to facilitate housing development

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Manzanita city staff are developing the plans for a \$2.79-million water main addition between Dorcas Street and NeCarney City Boulevards along Classic Street that will pave the way for a new 60-unit affordable housing development to the city.

City Manager Leila Aman said that work on the project is expected to begin next spring and be completed by the fall and that in addition to adding needed water capacity, the project will represent a major upgrade to Classic Street, including the addition of a pedestrian path.

"It's going to be a much nicer facility that's a lot safer and more pleasant for people to use all modes of transportation," Aman said.

The project was selected for funding by the Oregon Legislature in March of this year as part of Governor Tina Kotek's push to expand housing in the state.

The project will include the addition of more than 2,000 feet of water line added between Dorcas Street and NeCarney City Boulevard along Classic Street, as well as new stormwater infrastructure to address flooding issues. Additionally, Classic Street will be paved for the first time and the city contributed additional funds to include traffic-calming elements along the road and a separated pedestrian path.

Once complete, the project will enable the construction of a new housing development by Home First on a 12-acre property that is in the process of being added to the city's urban growth boundary.

Home First's development is envisioned as a two-stage project, with the first stage consisting of 60 apartments affordable to residents earning 60% of the area's median income, while the second stage will feature 60 additional apartments targeted at renters making up to 120% of the area's median income. The first phase of the project received Local Innovation and Fast Track Rental grant funding and Aman said that the developers are working towards beginning construction in 2025.

In addition to enabling the housing development, the project will also create a second loop in the city's water system, which will increase its resiliency. The paving of Classic and the addition of the pedestrian path will also help the city move towards its goal of becoming more pedestrian and bike friendly, identified in its most recent transportation system plan.

Rockaway Council denies appeal against Nedonna Wave development

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Following a late November public hearing, Rockaway Beach's city council unanimously voted to deny an appeal from the Oregon Shore Conservation Coalition challenging the planned 28-unit Nedonna Wave subdivision.

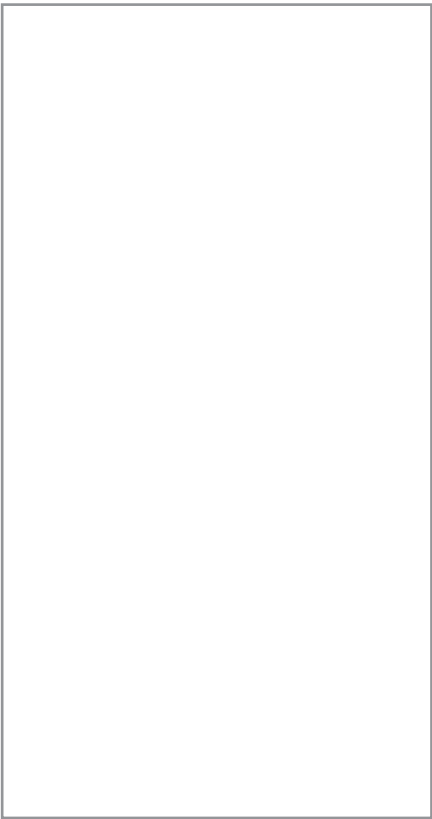
The challenge had sought to block the project on five different grounds, including that the project had waited too long after completing its first phase to move into the second phase, necessitating a new review and that the project violated the city's wetland development regulations. However, councilors, following a staff recommendation and the decision of the city's planning commission found that the project had met timeline requirements during initial development and that the challengers' interpretation of the wetland regulations was incorrect and denied the appeal.

The proposal for the 28-unit Nedonna Wave planned unit development was first brought to Rockaway Beach's planning commission and city council for approval in 2008. After securing initial approval from the city for the project, developers later applied to break the development into two phases and completed preparatory work for both phases and eight phase-one houses by 2009.

Plea reached in 2022 Trask River murder

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

On November 8, Alyssa Zippora Sturgill, 45, pled guilty to one count of manslaughter in the shooting death of Marcus Koops on December 1, 2022, in a campground near the Trask River.



Sturgill and her partner, Lisa Marie Peaslee, had been living in their vehicle in the woods, when their situation began to deteriorate, culminating in Sturgill shooting Koops, who was staying at a nearby campsite, before the pair stole his van and fled, eventually being apprehended in Nevada. Tillamook County District Attorney Aubrey Olson said that the case was a tragic story but that the plea represented a just resolution.

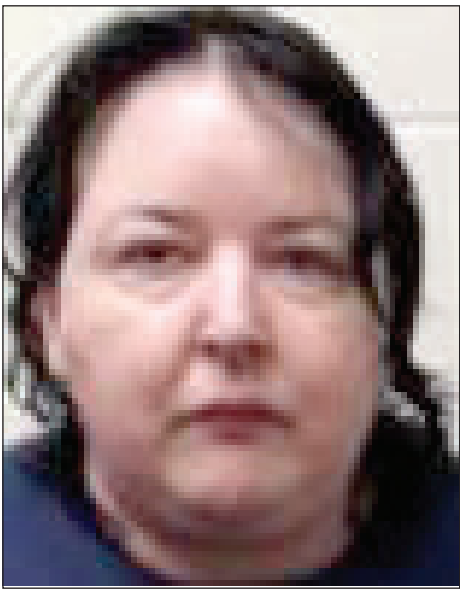
"Very sad story all around but I think we ended up with a positive outcome," Olson said. "We got a conviction, that person is in prison for quite some time but is also going to be eligible for resources so that hopefully this type of thing with never happen again with her."

Sturgill and Peaslee were a couple who lived in the Portland and Beaverton area for several years in what Olson described as a codependent relationship. Both partners suffered from physical or mental disabilities, with Sturgill having a confirmed case of autism and Peaslee relying on a walker to get around.

During the coronavirus pandemic, things began to go downhill for the couple, as they became paranoid about the virus before losing their jobs and eventually becoming homeless. Having visited the Tillamook State Forest previously, Sturgill and Peaslee decided to move there permanently and shelter in their Hyundai Santa Fe, arriving around Thanksgiving 2022, with a dog and two pet rodents.

The decision turned out to be ill-advised for the couple, as their car broke down quickly and they became stranded in the remote location as cold, wet winter weather set in. "They kind of got stuck," Olson said. "They were running out of money; they didn't have any way to get into town."

A Tillamook Sheriff's deputy patrol-



Alyssa Zippora Sturgill

ling the forest visited the couple's campsite sometime in the week after their arrival and offered the pair help, which was declined because it would require them to split up for the ride to town.

After this, the situation continued to worsen, with the couple entering what Sturgill characterized as a downward spiral, exacerbated by the couple's penchant for consuming murder mysteries, crime fiction and horror movies. "So, they just kind of were able to put themselves in this like what's the worst possible thing that could happen (mind-set)," Olson said.

Matters came to a head on December 1, when Olson said that Sturgill woke up cold and tired of the rain and felt that the couple would die if she did not act. "She wakes up that morning is like, 'we're

See **MURDER**, Page A3

See **NEDONNA WAVE**, Page A3



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Recovery house set to open in Tillamook



The exterior of the soon-to-open recovery house operated by Iron Tribe Network and owned by Tillamook Family Counseling Center on 2nd Street.

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Iron Tribe Network and Tillamook Family Counseling Center staff hosted an open house at a soon-to-open recovery house on 2nd Street in downtown Tillamook on December 18.

Purchased with funds made available by the state government, the house will provide five bedrooms to people in recovery as they work to build a stable foundation for a new future.

“This isn’t a program; this is just a safe place to live where they have the opportunity to do what they need to do to get on track and be successful and get back to self-sustainability and break the cycle,” said Iron Tribe Network Director of Operations Meli Rose.

The house is expected to welcome its first residents on January 1, with rent for single bedrooms between \$500 and \$650 monthly and an agreement to stay clean and sober, verified by weekly drug tests.

Residents of the house will be required to assign chores and host weekly house meetings to discuss any issues that might arise amongst them. Residents will interview perspective

tenants and vote on whom to welcome when rooms become available, and one will be designated the house manager and receive discounted rent.

The house will be open to individuals, couples and families with children, with utilities included in the rent. Tenants cannot be registered sex offenders or convicted arsonists.

Shawn Bower from Iron Tribe said that the group required residents to be engaged in a recovery program but allowed them flexibility on what form that took. “There’s a lot of forms of recovery,” Bower said. “Some people do it in health and fitness, lots of people do it faith based.”

Iron Tribe Network was founded in 2009 and operates 34 houses across eight Oregon counties using the same model.

Both Bower and Rose are in recovery and lived in recovery housing during their early days of sobriety and said the supportive and safe environment was an invaluable resource as they worked to rebuild their lives. “It’s not always alcohol and drugs and crime,” Bower said, “we’re trying to recover our humanness, and this being a platform that people can do that.”

For Rose, who moved to Tillamook in the eighth grade and began using drugs here, the opening of the new facility was especially emotional, as she has seen the havoc substance use disorders have wreaked in the community.

“I’ve seen so many people I know that was revolving door they go to prison they come out and they come back to their family that’s here same things going on they’re back in prison again and again and sometimes they don’t make it back to prison,” Rose said, “and so I’m just so overjoyed to bring this resource here.”

Tillamook Family Counseling Center (TFCC) purchased the house using money from Senate Bill 1530, which was passed this year and included funding for recovery housing across the state. TFCC Executive Director Frank Hanna-Williams said that the bill was a sign of the growing recognition among healthcare professionals that having stable housing was a key component of living a healthy life.

Residents will be able to stay in the house for as long as necessary, with Bower saying that the average stay is around a year.



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An upstairs common area in the new five-bedroom house, which also features a shared kitchen and laundry room.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: K equals F

RK SDF CMRVCSWP QGCHCQSWHL

CHW PHCDM FM SGW LCVW

QCHSFFM KHC VW, R'P QCUU

SGWV QWU VCSWL.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

IJGZTBZS VZO IAAM QAJS

EGGT YG LA. INY YVAM, W'QA

IAAM QAJS EGGT YG IJGZTBZS.

— AYVAP LAJLZM

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HELPING HANDS Shelter

From Page A1

challenges, Helping Hands staff and volunteers soldiered on and with the help of community donations and support from the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), were able to see the project through, with \$1.6 million invested in the building to date.

The addition will bring 40 new beds to the shelter at maximum capacity, with two sets of bunk beds in 10 bedrooms, in addition to a communal kitchen, laundry room, bathrooms and common areas. Evans said that the idea behind having four beds per room was to maximize the space's potential and maintain flexibility, but that the shelter would not often be at full capacity.



The exterior of the 1942 naval command center that now houses almost 80 Helping Hands' shelter beds.

Helping Hands' shelter serves a dual role, as a long-term shelter for residents participating in the organization's program and a temporary respite for those needing a place to go, but for whom the program is not appropriate. Long-

term residents are required to be clean and sober and can stay as long as necessary. Those staying on a temporary basis do not need to meet any conditions as Helping Hands staff help to find the appropriate community resources to support

them.

"Our goal is to make sure we navigate people from being shelterless to being sheltered, even if we're not a fit in our long-term program," Evans said.

At the ceremony celebrating the completion

of the renovation, Evans thanked the assembled supporters and told them that the second floor should be cleared for occupancy by Christmas, with only a few items remaining to be inspected.

Leslie Ford, Housing

Strategy and Development Advisor for Columbia Pacific CCO, then spoke, saying that the organization had decided to support Helping Hands out of a recognition of the importance of housing to health and that they had been pleased with the results.

"Helping Hands was added, and it was just a blessing that we were able to partner and support you all and what you do every day, because it's a critical foundation for moving our communities ahead, for getting people healthy, for using the Medicaid money productively," Ford said. "We couldn't do it without you guys."

Cheryl Hunter, Secretary of Helping Hands' Board, then spoke briefly, expressing hers and other board members' happiness to see the expansion open. "It is incredibly important and emotional, I think, for all of us on the board and for everyone here in the room to see this come together and be open," Hunter said.

MURDER Trask River

From Page A1

gonna die out here, just die," Olson said.

After an abortive attempt to hike out and find help, Sturgill decided to approach a nearby campsite occupied by Koops to ask for help.

Olson said that not much was known about Koops, but that he had been residing in a trailer at the location for some time and was well-loved by his family and described as always willing to help others.

When Sturgill approached his campsite that morning, Koops agreed to help and drove his Toyota Sienna minivan to the couple's campsite and began trying to help jumpstart their vehicle. After trying and failing to get the car

started for about half an hour, with Peaslee sitting in the driver's seat while Sturgill and Koops were outside the vehicles, a brief argument ensued before two gunshots rang out.

In initial conversations with investigators, Sturgill said that Koops had been aggressive and put his harm behind his back, at which point she shot him, but Koops was unarmed and as the investigation continued Sturgill admitted to killing Koops to gain access to his van.

"She didn't know if he was armed or not, they didn't trust him, and she said they really just wanted to get the van and get out of there," Olson said.

With Koops dead, Sturgill and Peaslee moved their dog, rodents and some of their belongings to his van and tied Koops's dog to a tree, before hightailing it south, using Koops's debit card to purchase gas and sticking to back roads.

The sheriff's deputy who had previously been in contact with Sturgill and Peaslee returned to their campsite on the morning of December 2 and discovered Koops's body and dog.

Olson said that examining trash littered around the campsites allowed investigators to quickly identify the suspects and put out an all-points bulletin to law enforcement agencies in Oregon and surround states.

Sturgill and Peaslee made it to northern Nevada by December 4, at which point the funds in Koops's bank account were depleted, leading Peaslee to pawn a ring that had belonged to Koops in Reno. Shortly later, just southeast of Reno, Mineral County Sheriff's deputies pulled the pair over and took them into custody.

Initially both women were charged with murder in the second degree, assault in the first degree,

unlawful use of a firearm and theft in the first degree, but after further investigation, the charges against Peaslee were reduced to two counts of theft. After spending more than a year in jail, Peaslee was released on bail, and in October pled guilty to two counts of theft and received two years' probation.

Sturgill quickly admitted her role in the murder to investigators and the murder weapon had both her fingerprints and DNA, but her defense attorney told Olson that they planned to use a defense of extreme emotional disturbance. In Oregon, this defense means that a defendant can only be found guilty of manslaughter and Olson said that with Sturgill's autism diagnosis she felt there was a good chance a jury would find the defense credible.

"When you look at the totality of the circumstances, coupled with her mental

health disorders, it was there," Olson said. "There was a significant risk that a factfinder would agree that she was acting under the influence of extreme emotional disturbance."

With that in mind, Olson began working with the lawyer defending Sturgill on possible plea deals, with a goal of seeing her incarcerated for more than the 10-year minimum sentence that would attach to a conviction on a manslaughter charge.

To achieve this, Sturgill agreed to plead guilty to one count of manslaughter, a class A felony, with a 150-month sentence, as well as one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle, a class C felony, with a 60-month sentence, and to have the sentences run consecutively.

This means that with all available sentence reductions, Sturgill will be incarcerated for at least 15 years from the point of her

first incarceration in 2022, with her maximum possible time behind bars 17 and a half years. Sturgill was also sentenced to 30 months' post-prison supervision and ordered to pay \$14,017 in restitution to Koops's estate, an heir and the Oregon Compensation for Victims of Crime fund.

Olson said that Sturgill would also be eligible for programs behind bars to help her prepare for her eventual release and that making sure Sturgill would be set up for success when that day came was important to her.

Olson also praised the sheriff's department for their work on the case, noting that investigators had traveled to Nevada twice during the investigation.

"The police did an amazing job on this investigation," Olson said, "the amount of involvement they had and the way the put this case together was just excellent."

NEDONNA WAVE Development

From Page A1

Following the real estate market crash in 2008, the second phase of the project was put on the shelf until earlier this year when the developer returned to the city asking that the phase-two plans be amended to allow for two additional units. Planning commission approved the request in July, while rejecting a request to divide the second phase into two sub-phases.

This decision triggered an appeal from the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition based on five arguments, which City Planner Mary Johnson detailed and provided responses to based on staff's research at the November public hearing.

First, Oregon Shores contended that the original approval for the application had expired based on a requirement in the original approval that the project be started within one year of the approval date. Johnson said that staff had determined that the time requirement only applied to the first phase of the project and had consequently been met by that phase's construction.

Second, the group argued that an Oregon statute requires projects resubmit their applications if ten years pass after their original approval. Johnson said that staff had originally agreed with this interpretation. But, after further review, staff had come to agree with the developer's lawyer that the cited statute applied to which land use ordinances would apply to a project, with the ten-year period mentioned setting a limit for the law's applicability, not an expiration date for approved applications.

Third, the coalition argued that Rockaway Beach's zoning ordinances prohibit development in special wetland zones and that the

proposed development fell within that zone. Johnson said that the zone was not formally delineated by the city's code and that it instead required projects near wetlands to complete surveys to determine the zone's boundary and develop a plan to mitigate any negative effects in coordination with the Department of State Lands.

Johnson said that such a plan had been developed as part of the development's first phase, with mitigation measures enacted for both phases at that time, and that the Department of State Lands had recently conducted a survey of the proposed second phase and given its approval.

Fourth, Oregon Shores contended that city requirements for tsunami evacuation route and signage improvements were not satisfied by the developer's application, but Johnson said that the applicant had submitted supplementary materials showing how they would meet those requirements.

Finally, the coalition said that the city's ordinances created a 15-foot setback from McMillan Creek, which runs through the proposed development, and that the plans violated the setback requirement. Johnson said that after reviewing the submitted plans, staff had found that there were no structures proposed in the setback.

Given these findings, Johnson said that staff were recommending a denial of the appeal on all grounds as evidence existed to uphold the planning commission's decision.

Alexandria Dolezal, the attorney representing Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, argued that the requirement for timely improvements cited in the appeal had applied to both phases of the project, as it was retained in the second phase's approval when the phasing of the project was approved and that the deadline had long since expired.

Dolezal also argued that the state law did apply to this case, that it had only been intended to shield developers

from changing ordinances for a decade and that the project needed to be reassessed under the city's new development standards.

Regarding the special area wetland zone, Dolezal argued that the zone was not an overlay but its own classification that prohibited almost all uses within it, and that the planning commission had erred in approving the project.

Dolezal also argued that the developer had not completed evacuation route improvements and that the application had been approved before a riparian vegetation plan was submitted and said that the request should have to go through the approval process again.

Councilors asked follow-up questions of staff and Dolezal, focusing in on the different legal interpretations of the timeline requirement, before eight public commenters spoke in favor of the appeal.

At the December 11 meeting, the issue was dealt with quickly by the council seated, with all four councilors present indicating their intention to deny the appeal based on the staff recommendation.

Councilor Mary McGinnis spoke prior to the vote, saying that the wetland zoning question had been easy for her to resolve because of other developments in the area that clearly indicated the city treated the zone as an overlay. McGinnis said that the timeline issue was more complicated, but that by her reading the developer had met the requirements set forth in the 2008 agreement with existing infrastructure improvements.

McGinnis said that it didn't make her feel good to be building in the area because of her personal convictions about wetlands protection, but that it was her job to apply the law in the case and that left her with no choice but to follow the staff recommendation.

The appeal was then unanimously denied by the four councilors present, with Councilor Kristine Hayes absent.





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Go Figure!

answers

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PEACE & KNIGHT

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Super Crossword

WAX SHOP

ACROSS

1 Cheer shouts

5 Specialty of Penn & Teller

10 Meddles, with "in"

15 Golfer Snead and politician

26 Across

19 On the ocean

20 Port in Japan

21 TV's Winfrey

22 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"

23 Start of a riddle

26 Four-term Georgia senator

27 Cal's meat

28 Make a dining surface of

29 Fastening bars with crosspieces

31 Hog hangout

33 Riddle, part 2

38 Korb of morning TV

40 In this place

41 Sun Yat- —

42 Travel bags

43 Nice scent

45 Government bigwig

47 Deer — (street sign)

48 Riddle, part 3

53 More tightly packed

58 In the habit of

59 Common origami birds

61 Pass on

62 Durance of "Smallville"

66 Astronaut Buzz

68 Own

69 Riddle, part 4

75 Shine

76 Alleviation

77 Worshiper of Jah, for short

78 Bits of Viking script

80 Decelerate

82 Ultimatum ender

87 Bonuses

89 Riddle, part 5

93 Robert of "The Sopranos"

95 Twin brother of Jacob

96 Clear mist from

97 Sci-fi writer L. — de Camp

101 Place to get a mud wrap

104 To be, in Toulon

106 Sahara-like

107 End of the riddle

111 Directed

112 In last place, say

113 Plastic wrap

114 Rock bassist

116 Stork's kin

117 Riddle's answer

124 Fork feature

125 Extracts juice from

126 Olympics award

127 Depraved emperor

128 Wise off to

129 Ballerina's field, in France

130 Affirmative answers

131 Gas brand in Canada

9 Military pupil

10 Infant's sock

11 Northern part of an urban area

12 Robbins of "underground comix"

13 Tic- — -toe

14 Kind of sheepdog

15 Maalox's company

16 Grown-ups

17 Crème de —

18 Feels

24 Furry "hand"

25 Slangy refusals

30 Ray who portrayed the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz"

31 Famed orca, once

32 Bagel shape

34 Faith faction

35 Rice-shaped pasta

36 On or about

37 56, to Caesar

39 In the hub of "Miss —"

44 One- — (brief drama)

46 Part of R&R, for short

47 Nissan model until 2015

49 More peeved

50 Amount of food carried in a cafeteria

51 50%

52 Slashed words of choice

54 Old soda brand

55 Czech, e.g.

56 Roof feature

57 Seedy loaves

60 Perches

63 3/15, e.g.

64 Stiff shirt part

65 It's negatively charged

67 Sleep aid brand

69 Hideous giant

70 Continuous change

71 It might be boldface

72 Fancy jug

73 Prurient

74 Capacitance unit

79 Broadway's "Miss —"

81 Edgar Allan —

83 Pair for vision

84 Rescue ropes

85 Sleep noisily

86 Goaded (on)

88 Habitually lazy sort

90 Tiny fraction of a min.

91 Cat, in Spain

92 Sound from a 91-Down

94 Always, to poets

97 Cracks

98 Extreme fear

99 Cello bow rub-ons

100 Liqueur flavorings

101 Cramps, e.g.

102 Sentence structure

103 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)

105 1950s Fords

108 C.S. Lewis lion

109 Foe

110 Chevy Tahoe, e.g.

115 Web mag

118 Grassy tract

119 Spot

120 Spots

121 Actress Issa

122 52-wk. spans

123 Lav, in Leeds

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTONOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cup is smaller. 2. Saucer is missing. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Ties are different. 5. Stool is missing. 6. Mouth is open.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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North Coast
CITIZEN

Serving North Tillamook County since 1996

Deadline: FRIDAYS at Noon for Advertising, News, Letters, Classifieds, Legals/Public Notices, Obituaries

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LETTER POLICY

The Citizen welcomes letters that express readers' opinions on current topics. Letters may be submitted by email only, no longer than 300 words, and must be signed and include the writer's full name, address (including city) and telephone number for verification of the writer's identity. We will print the writer's name and town of residence only. Letters without the requisite identifying information will not be published. Letters are published in the order received and may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, punctuation or clarity. We do not publish group emails, open letters, form letters, third-party letters, letters attacking private individuals or businesses, or letters containing advertising.

Deadline for letters is noon Fridays.

The date of publication will depend on space.

Obituaries

The North Coast Citizen has several options for submitting obituaries.

• Basic Obituary: Includes the person's name, age, town of residency, and information about any funeral services. No cost.

• Custom Obituary: You choose the length and wording of the announcement. The cost is \$100 for the first 200 words, \$75 for each additional 200 words. Includes a small photo at no additional cost.

• Premium Obituary: Often used by families who wish to include multiple photos with a longer announcement, or who wish to run a thank-you. Cost varies based on the length of the announcement.

All obituary announcements are placed on the North Coast Citizen website at no cost.

Church Services by the Sea

Cannon Beach to Nehalem

Nehalem
Nehalem Bay
United Methodist Church

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(503) 368-5612

Pastor Celeste Deveney +
Sunday service 11 a.m.

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Wednesday

March - October 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
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email: nbumcns12020@gmail.com

To feature your spiritual organization on this panel:

Contact Katherine at
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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

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

SNOWFLAKES

solution

Even Exchange

answers

1. Linger, Longer

2. Rumble, Rubble

3. Phony, Peony

4. Singe, Since

5. Master, Easter

6. Repeat, Reheat

7. Convoy, Convey

8. Plato, Pluto

9. Locket, Locker

10. Batter, Bitter

Super Crossword

Answers

RAHS	MAGIC	BUTTS	SAMS
ASEA	OSAKA	OPRAH	ADEE
WHAT	POSTED	NOTICE	NUNN
VEAL	EATON	TBOLTS	
STY	WASON	THEWALL	LOFTHE
HODA	HERE	SEN	VALISES
AROMA	CZAR	XING	
MUSIC	STORE	THAT	DENSER
USED	TO	CRANES	RELAY
ERICA	ALDRIN	HAVE	
OFFERED	ONLY	FORTY	FIVES
GLOW	RELIEF	RASTA	
RUNES	SLOWUP	ORELSE	
EXTRAS	AND	LONG	PLAYING
ILER	ESAU	DEFOG	
SPRAGUE	SPA	ETRE	SERE
PHONO	GRAPH	RECORDS	LED
LOSING	SARAN	SUZI	
IBIS	ALL	SALES	AREVINYL
TINE	REAMS	MEDAL	NERO
SASS	DANSE	YESSES	ESSO

Skaar moves up Association of Oregon Counties’ leadership

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

With her year as Second Vice President of the Board of the Association of Oregon Counties ending, Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar is preparing for the first vice presidency next year and presidency in 2026.

In those roles, Skaar will step up her involvement with the group’s lobbying efforts on behalf of Oregon’s 36 counties while helping to bring Tillamook County’s concerns to the forefront and enhance relationships with leaders across the state.

“It’s this opportunity for Tillamook County really to have our voice right up front with what’s important,” Skaar said.

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is a membership organization comprised of elected leaders from each of Oregon’s counties that represents counties’ interests at the state and federal level. The organization has a professional staff, including an executive director, and in addition to its legislative lobbying efforts, oversees the distribution of road maintenance funds to the counties.

Skaar joined the association when she became commissioner in 2021 and was selected to serve on the board of directors in the same year. In 2023, Skaar was elected to the board’s leadership, which meant serving this year as second vice president before becoming first vice president next year and president in 2026. As second vice president, Skaar has co-chaired the association’s membership committee and prepared for increased duties in the coming years.

As first vice president and then president, Skaar will assume significantly more responsibilities, including travel around the state on association business, attending the annual National Association of Counties meeting in Washington D.C., chairing



Erin Skaar

the association’s monthly meetings in her presidential year and bimonthly meetings with Governor Tina Kotek.

In those meetings, Skaar said that it will be her responsibility to update the governor on issues facing counties across the state as well as the association’s activities but that it will also give her a chance to enhance her relationship with Kotek.

“Now, obviously, the purpose is to speak with one voice for all counties, so, I don’t get to just show up there and say, ‘I want this, this is what my county needs,’” Skaar said. “But I do get the opportunity to be at that table with the governor and her staff on a regular basis, which means the governor actually knows who I am.”

Skaar said that the association had been through some struggles during the coronavirus pandemic, with members becoming more divided on issues as they were unable to meet face-to-face. The past several presidents have focused on rebuilding relationships among the association’s membership and identifying issues where the counties have common ground, while steering clear of those that will divide, according to Skaar.

In recent years, that has meant declining to take a position on Measure 114, which proposed gun-control regulations, while

working with legislators to craft House Bill 4002, which reformed Measure 110, recriminalizing possession of drugs, to ensure flexibility in the solution that recognized counties’ different situations.

Looking forward, Skaar said that the association and its leadership team have spent much of the past year working on developing their legislative priorities for the coming long session in 2026.

With transportation funding set to take center stage, Skaar said that AOC’s membership has decided to focus its efforts on maintaining the current distribution of road funding, which sees 50% allocated to the Oregon Department of Transportation, 30% to counties and 20% to cities. Skaar said that the association will support funding the Rose Quarter interstate improvement project and Interstate 5 Columbia River bridge replacement projects that were given the green light in a 2017 bill but remained unfunded, while also pushing for more funding to maintain existing roads.

“I think transportation will be huge and certainly our goal is to stay focused on maintaining our position in that 50/30/20, as well as helping to focus on the need for maintenance.”

Another focal point will be pushing for increased state funding for statutorily required services that the counties provide.

Skaar pointed to assessors’ offices across the state as an example. Assessors have stringent requirements from the state government regulating and dictating their duties, and when the bill initially establishing those duties was passed it included state funding to support offices.

However, in the intervening years, the state legislature has failed to increase the amount of state funding contributed, even as the cost for providing those services has steadily grown, leaving counties to make up the shortfall and straining budgets.

“We’re hoping that there will be a bill that comes forward this year that can really begin to right size that for us because it’s an important cost,” Skaar said.

Similarly, Skaar said that AOC will be pushing for a change in the funding mechanism used to support counties’ community corrections programs. While the state provides funding for the programs, it is based on service levels from past years and probation for certain offenders,

like those convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicants, for whom state law doesn’t require probation isn’t reimbursed.

Skaar said that counties would like to see the latter issue resolved as they believe in the efficacy of community corrections and that they believe funding should be smoothed, with a consistent level awarded annually, to provide certainty to the counties in budgeting.

“Corrections needs to be adequately funded,” Skaar

said. “If we’re going to stop people from coming in the front door again and again, we have to provide them support.”

On top of her other responsibilities as first vice president and president and supporting initiatives backed by the membership, Skaar will also have the opportunity to choose an initiative to support during her presidential year, though she said she has not yet selected one.



For more tips visit the Tillamook PUD website at www.tpud.org

PO Box 433
1115 Pacific Ave
Tillamook, OR 97141
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Generator Safety Tips

- When installing a permanent generator, be sure to obtain the required permits and have a certified professional complete the installation.
- Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.
- Remember maintenance between uses. Inspect fuel, oil filters, oil level and fuel quality. Be sure to start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency situation occurs.

Tillamook cheddar named best in world at World Cheese Awards

STAFF REPORT

The Tillamook County Creamery Association’s Maker’s Reserve 2014 Extra Sharp White Cheddar was named the best world’s best cheddar cheese at the 2024 World Cheese Awards in November.

The award marked the second consecutive year when a Tillamook cheddar received a gold medal in the event, with a 2012 extra sharp white cheddar matching the feat last year, and two of the company’s other products took home bronze awards at the 2024 event.

Hosted in Portugal on

November 15, the competition awarded 27 gold medals to different types of cheeses from around the world, as well as an exceptional contribution to cheese award. The Bayley Hazen Blue from Vermont’s Cellars at Jasper Hill was named the best American cheese, while the Queijo de Ovelha Aman-teigado, made by Portuguese produce Quinta do Pomar, was crowned world champion.

On its website, the Tillamook County Creamery Association touts the ten-year-aged 2014 cheddar as boasting a sweet flavor profile, including nutty fla-

vors of caramel and brown butter and base notes of sweet custard and mascarpone, as well as flavors of berries and grapefruit and hints of brioche. The company’s Maker’s Reserve product line features cheeses aged a minimum of three years, with the creamery releasing four consecutive vintages each year, in addition to one cheese aged for a decade.

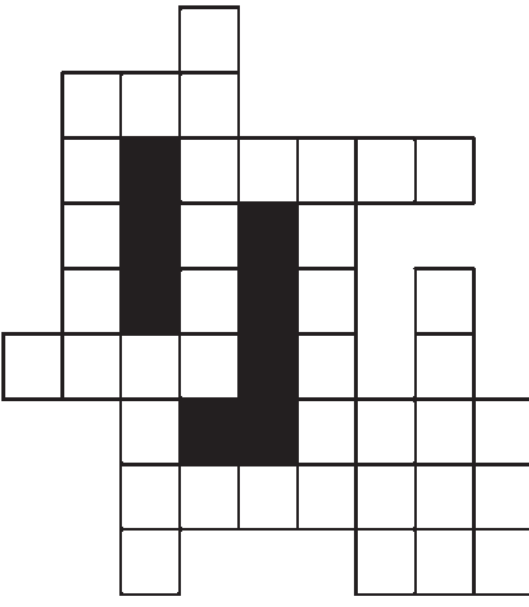
In addition to the gold for the maker’s reserve cheddar, the creamery’s hickory smoked extra sharp white cheddar and 2016 English-style sweet cheddar both took home bronze awards.

FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

YIC
NICAMA
CHOIM
♥YERL
POIYAM
♥IPH
♥ASRE
NENIA
♥PYA
OLDIUM
CAHPR
♥IERM



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Headlight Herald

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Local Business Spotlight

Short Story Marketing helps businesses get more traffic

To make a long story short, when web firm competitors Kim Green and Bill Sholar met it was a business match. Twenty years later, together they run Short Story Marketing.

Short Story Marketing is an all-encompassing marketing firm that creates effective websites, logos, and marketing materials for solopreneurs, small businesses and non-profits.

“We’ve done creative services for anything from food trucks to dog boarding facilities, from real estate to government offices, political campaigns, and a national charity for children who lost parents in war,” Green said. “That speaks to the breadth of how marketing can apply to just about everybody.”

Sholar started working with the internet long before it was called the internet. He has operated college computer centers, was a marketing and sales manager for Steve Jobs’ NeXT computer company, managed an IT team at a major oil company in the Middle East and owned a business intermediary firm.

Green graduated from the Art Institute of Dallas and later won the printing industry’s best of class award for her design work. She began her career working for the family business, which morphed into a graphic design business and then morphed into the design side of Short Story Marketing.

Green currently lives and works in Tillamook County, while Sholar resides in Virginia. Despite being on two separate coasts, the duo operates seamlessly as they began working virtually before that was even a “thing.”



Kim Green is the co-owner of Short Story Marketing: an all-encompassing marketing firm that creates effective websites, logos, and marketing materials for solopreneurs, small businesses, and non-profits.

After relocating to Oregon from Texas, Green became actively involved in the community.

“I joined the Tillamook Area Chamber of Commerce immediately, from previous experience local chambers work well for small businesses and networking to get familiar with other local entrepreneurs,” she said.

A nod to her marketing skills, she was brought on as an adviser for the Tillamook Bay Small Business Development Center.

“It’s great to help startups because you see their vision come to life and then actually help them suc-

ceed,” Green said. “It can be overwhelming for small businesses when it comes to digital/print marketing. People know their businesses, but they may not know or understand what is next to build upon it. In Short Story Marketing, we tend to advise people to start with branding or start with the website. The core foundation and main marketing, needs to be their website, as that’s the center of their marketing message. We always consult with the owners and suggest the main message of “send people from your Facebook, Instagram, QR codes back

to that core foundation.”

In addition to a strong online presence, Green also advises small businesses to keep an up-to-date Google business profile.

“Even if my neighbor tells me about you, I’m still going to dig a little. I am going check out your business website and Google reviews and get to know you,” Green said. “Reputation management is something that I am passionate about helping people with. It’s that repeat business that helps you thrive. So even though everyone knows you, give them a reason to visit.”

After almost 1,000 website projects, Short Story Marketing has dialed in on offering websites and marketing plans for a variety of budgets.

“We aim to learn where you want to go, the growth you envision, and what success looks like for you,” Green explained

Short Story Marketing has designed websites for a variety of local Tillamook businesses and organizations including the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County, Enjoy Oceanside, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS, OAP-Oceanside Action Partners, Jandy Oyster, Lucky Beach Boutique, Oregon Coast Handyman, WeBe Tacos food truck and Crazy A Horse Hotel.

Their branding expertise shines through in projects like Oceanside Water District and Yolk in Manzanita, as well as in the distinctive work for Downies Café and the gateway sign for the village of Oceanside, created as part of the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association’s “Wayfinding” program. Additionally, Green’s design



PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY SHORT STORY MARKETING
Tim Green and Bill Sholar own Short Story Marketing. Green operates a portion of the business from Tillamook County.

was selected as the primary advertising image for the 2024 Bay City Music Festival.

Short Story Marketing is currently accepting new clients. To book a consultation or contact Short Story Marketing, visit shortstorymarketing.com.

This series is provided by the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County to highlight thriving

businesses in Tillamook County. The EDCTC works to strengthen and grow the economy of Tillamook County by working together with public and private partners. The EDCTC works to attract new business, grow and retain existing businesses while supporting entrepreneurship and innovation. For more information, or to reach out to the EDCTC, visit edctc.com.

Grocery store merger blocked by judges

Albertsons
sues Kroger
after Oregon,
Washington
judges block \$24.6
billion merger

A lot is at stake, and there’s a long legislative session in 2025. We’re completely dependent on donor dollars, and they’re tax deductible. Please contribute to us if you can.

On Wednesday, the day after a federal judge in Oregon and a state judge in Washington blocked a merger between two supermarket giants, Albertsons canceled the \$24.6 billion merger agreement and sued Kroger.

The grocery chain, which owns 24 Albertsons locations and 97 Safeway stores in Oregon, sued Kroger in the

Delaware Court of Chancery, alleging the larger grocer didn’t do enough to secure regulatory approval for its 2022 agreement to buy Albertsons.

The Federal Trade Commission, joined by seven states including Oregon and the District of Columbia, sued to block the merger in U.S. District Court in Oregon earlier this year, and a federal judge in Portland temporarily halted the merger Tuesday. A state judge in Washington state also blocked the merger from proceeding there. Both

judges agreed with federal regulators and state attorneys general that the merger would lead to reduced competition and harm both customers and grocery workers — customers with higher prices and lower-quality goods and workers with lower pay.

The complaint Albertsons filed in the Delaware court isn’t yet public, but the company said in a press release that Kroger “willfully breached” the merger agreement by ignoring feedback from regulators, refusing to divest assets needed for antitrust approval or find stronger buyers for divested assets and failing to cooperate with Albertsons.

Kroger owns 51 Fred Meyer stores in Oregon, as well as four QFC locations in Portland. Before the merger fell apart, Kroger and Albertsons had agreed to sell 579 stores across the country, including dozens in Oregon, in an attempt to mollify regulators concerned about a monopoly.

Tom Moriarty, Albertsons’

general counsel and chief policy officer, said in a statement that the merger would have helped consumers, but that Kroger acted in its own financial self-interest instead.

“Kroger’s self-serving conduct, taken at the expense of Albertsons and the agreed transaction, has harmed Albertsons’ shareholders, associates and consumers,” Moriarty said. “We are disappointed that the opportunity to realize the significant benefits of the merger has been lost on account of Kroger’s willfully deficient approach to securing regulatory clearance.”

Albertsons is seeking an immediate \$600 million termination fee and billions more to reimburse the company for the loss of the money Kroger agreed to pay and decreases in shareholder value, the statement said.

Kroger called Albertsons’ claims “baseless” and said that Albertsons actually repeatedly breached their agreement and interfered through the merger process.

“This is clearly an at-

tempt to deflect responsibility following Kroger’s written notification of Albertsons’ multiple breaches of the agreement, and to seek payment of the merger’s break fee, to which they are not entitled,” the statement said. “Kroger looks forward to responding to these baseless claims in court. We went to extraordinary lengths to uphold the merger agreement throughout the entirety of the regulatory process and the facts will make that abundantly clear.”

Oregon leaders including Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden welcomed news of the merger’s failure Tuesday.

“This is great news for grocery shoppers in Oregon who would have faced higher prices at Kroger and Albertsons if this ill-conceived consolidation had gone through,” Wyden said. “I’m glad the court has shelved this monster deal because in addition to raising grocery prices for shoppers already tiptoeing on an economic tightrope, it would have made it that much harder for Oregonians to find a pharmacy and for workers at both supermarket chains to seek fairer wages and better working conditions.”

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/12/11/albertsons-sues-kroger-after-oregon-washington-judges-block-24-6-billion-merger/>

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CryptoQuote
answer

Broadway has been very good to me. But then, I’ve been very good to Broadway.
— Ethel Merman

CryptoQuip
answer

If two animated characters are drawn on the same cartoon frame, I’d call them cel mates.

GO FIGURE!

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+			+			= 12	
+			+			+		
	+			+			= 13	
×			×			+		
	+			×			= 99	
=			=			=		
28			35			22		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Delay leaving | __ I __ _ | More time-consuming | __ O __ _ |
| 2. Sound of thunder | __ M __ _ | Flintstone’s neighbor | __ B __ _ |
| 3. Fake | __ H __ _ | Large spring blossom | __ E __ _ |
| 4. Scorch | __ G __ | From the time of | __ C __ |
| 5. Chess pro | M __ _ | Spring holiday | E __ _ |
| 6. Echo | __ P __ _ | Warm up leftovers | __ H __ _ |
| 7. Line of vehicles | __ O __ _ | Communicate | __ E __ |
| 8. Early philosopher | __ A __ | Mickey’s canine friend | __ U __ |
| 9. Necklace ornament | __ T | Gym closet | __ R |
| 10. Pancake mix | A __ _ | Sour-tasting | __ I __ _ |

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MAGIC MAZE

COLORADO’S
TALLEST
MOUNTAINS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: PRESIDENT WOODROW —

Antero	Elbert	La Plata	Quandary
Blanca	Evans	Lincoln	Torreys
Castle	Grays	Longs	Uncompahgre
Crestone	Harvard	Massive	

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