



Vehicle fire closes Highway 6

A vehicle fire forced a temporary closure of around an hour Oregon Highway 6 on December 31, 2024, as the Tillamook Fire District responded and extinguished the blaze at milepost 31.



Fournier focused on boosting county revenues

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Since his victory in the May primary election, Tillamook County Commissioner-elect Paul Fournier has been preparing for the position and honing his vision for the county's future.

After running on a platform of boosting the county government's revenues to counteract perennial budget crunches, Fournier has a host of ideas he hopes to implement to achieve that goal by leveraging the large number of tourists already visiting Tillamook.

"It's not about bringing more down here; it's about capturing the money that we're not capturing, and we do that through better facilities we can charge for," Fournier said.

Fournier, a long-time sheriff's deputy, won election to the board in the May primary, defeating Darcy Jones with 71% of the vote.

See **FOURNIER**, Page A3



Paul Fournier

Skaar discusses administrative reorganization, TLT increase

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor



Erin Skaar

Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skaar sat down with the Headlight Herald in December to discuss accomplishments in 2024 and plans for 2025.

Skaar said that she thought the decision by commissioners to form a central services department and appoint Rachel Hagerty Chief Administrative Officer would be the most impactful changes of the year and laid out plans to ask voters to approve a 5% increase in the county's transient lodging tax (TLT) in May.

See **SKAAR**, Page A3



Mary Faith Bell

Bell talks parks, environmental policy, central services

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Following a busy year in which she served an extended stint as interim parks director, Commissioner Mary Faith Bell sat down with the Headlight Herald to discuss successes in that role and look forward to 2025.

Bell said that she was proud of the changes made to the entrance at Barview Jetty during her tenure and looks forward to more to come, extolled the creation of a central services department for the county and opined on the shortcomings of federal environmental policy.

"It was an unexpected, cool opportunity to come in with totally fresh eyes and no attachment to how things have always been done and that almost never happens," Bell said of her time as parks director.

Bell assumed the role of parks director in October 2023 and continued in the position until Dan Keyes was hired to fill the role this May. Bell's first order of business on taking over the position was to evaluate the department's staffing, which led her to decide to hire some of the seasonal employees who had worked for the county over the course of many years as full-time employees. "It became clear to me that if we're hiring those people repeatedly for years, they should just be our employees," Bell said.

After completing the employee evaluation,

See **BELL**, Page A3



Doug Olson

Olson reflects on commissionership

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Doug Olson capped his multidecade career of public service in Tillamook County with a one-year stint as interim Tillamook County Commissioner in 2024, during which he helped to promote the successful emergency system radio bond and lead budgetary discussions.

Olson sat down with the Headlight Herald in December to discuss his year with the county and said that he had enjoyed the experience and hoped his efforts had helped move the organization forward.

"My experience at the county, I think, was very, very positive," Olson said, "you know, I met a lot of good people, and we got a few things done and made some decisions or helped make

See **OLSON**, Page A2



FENCEPOSTS

Last December’s City Council meeting included an important resolution about the Jetty Creek Watershed.

Resolution 2024-49 referred to funding to set up a forest management plan and appraisal. The resolution authorizes City Manager Luke Shepard to execute a grant contract with Oregon Health Authority funds of \$70,000 to create the forest management plan and appraisal for Jetty Creek.

The resolution came on the heels of the November 21 coffee meeting with the Mayor and City Manager in which Shepard, with the help of Sustainable Northwest, had applied for an EPA grant of \$18 million, intended to fund the purchase of the lower 800 acres of the Jetty Creek Watershed. This grant would cover all costs, including the land appraisal, legal fees, the actual pur-



ROCKAWAY BEACH
SCOTT FISHER
sfisher71@yahoo.com

chase, etc.

At the coffee meeting, City Manager Shepard went on to mention a forest stewardship plan, which would include three years of restoration work to help assure water quality and quantity. He also mentioned that Public Works was looking into the construction of a 3-million-gallon raw water storage unit to help supplement water production in times of limited rainfall, such as we have experienced in the past two summers.

Shepard went on to say

that the Sourcewater Protection Plan Committee had identified risks, proposed ways of mitigating those risks, and will be developing the forest stewardship plan. He also mentioned an alternative if the EPA grant was not successful: a forest legacy grant of \$5 million, which would cover the purchase only.

“We’ve come a long way in a very short period of time,” Shepard added.

It was therefore good news when Resolution 2024-49 authorized Shepard and the city to proceed with developing the forest management plan, using \$70,000 from the Oregon Health Authority.

This presents an opportunity to influence the nature and content of the forest management plan. Of special concern is the assurance that assessment of the forest’s condition and suitable steps to protect it as a watershed are given

review by scientific authority, not just as a source of timber.

In April 2024, I joined about a dozen citizens and City Council members on a walk through the lower portion of the Jetty Creek forest. The last clearcuts here took place almost 25 years ago, but the scars remain.

In conversation and presentations with the North Coast Community for Watershed Protection (NC-CWP) throughout 2024, I spoke time and time again with NCCWP leader Nancy Webster about the challenges of making a former plantation into a sustainable and healthy watershed.

Key among the points Nancy made was the importance of “rewilding,” a thoughtful and long-term plan to return the deforested areas to a semblance of the richness and biodiversity that has been systematically lost through treating

the watershed as a resource to be stripped.

Four opportunities present themselves this month:

First is the city council meeting on January 15. This includes the workshop beginning at 4:30 p.m. upstairs, and the full meeting at 6 p.m. downstairs. In the past, I’ve observed that, as Mayor McNeilly put it, the workshop is where discussion occurs, and the meeting is where issues are decided.

Second, on January 18, NCCWP is hosting a presentation by Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) students from the University of Oregon. Their research, Coastal Futures, focuses on climate change adaptation strategies for coastal communities in Oregon and is led by Ignacio López Busón, a UO Assistant Professor of Climate Change Resilience. NCCWP’s press release includes this note:

“For the past three months, the students have visited and analyzed Rockaway Beach, meeting with local stakeholders to understand the values and challenges of our local community, including coastal erosion, sea level rise, deforestation, drinking water quality and urban development. This presentation will showcase their research on sustainable coastal practices and explore paths for long-term resilience.”

This presentation takes place Saturday, January 18 at noon (doors open at 11:30 a.m.) at St Mary by the Sea Catholic Church, 275 S Pacific St, Rockaway Beach.

Finally, the Sourcewater Protection Plan Development Advisory Committee meeting is set for January 21 from 9:30—11:30 a.m. These take place upstairs in City Hall. Take notes, speak up, and be heard.

Happy New Year to one and all. It sounds almost futuristic to say we are in the year 2025. I remember as a child (born in the 1950’s) that even the year 2000 seemed hard to grasp, but now here we are twenty-five years on, with so many items in our daily lives that we could not imagine, some good, some not so good. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year.

I just returned from a Christmas break with my oldest son and his girlfriend



BAY CITY
PENNY EBERLE
hrhpenny57@hotmail.com

who live about 20 miles from Ashland in southern Oregon, in a fairly remote

area. On their land they have sugar pines, and I brought home a lovely basket of the huge cones.

The new Welcome Garden is taking shape, the split rail fence is almost complete, and it looks really great. Thanks to Pat Vining, Tom Imhoff, Pat’s brother-in-law Rick and Bay City Public works crew for all their hard work. Trees and shrubs are next on the to do list. We are also looking for local artists to create some outdoor art that can be placed in the garden. If you are interested,

please contact me.

The Bay City library holds story time every Thursday at 10 a.m. which is a fun activity for the little ones in the community. They also host maker’s Saturday, on the third of each month at 2 p.m. so if you have a project, craft or model making, this is a fun time to join others in creativity.

The annual Bay City Pearl and Oyster Festival planning is underway, and the committee would love to have some new faces and ideas for this year’s event. The

first planning meeting will be held in the Bay City town hall, on Thursday, January 23rd from 6 to 7 p.m. This event is run by volunteers, and it’s been a great success the last few years, live music, food, vendors and fun activities for the whole family.

The Bay City Arts Center opens on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. for open art evenings. If you are creating any type of art or craft, you can gather with others for help, inspiration and comradery.

We sure have had our share of rain and wind recently, so let’s hope soon we get a few of those “false spring” days to bring us some sunshine. Even with all the wet weather there have been many birds visiting my garden this winter, it’s a joy to watch them. There have also been hundreds of geese flying around the area, honking to each other and to all of us. Take some time to get outside, to see and enjoy the winter wildlife we are privileged to enjoy.

OLSON

From Page A1

decisions that moved the county forward a little bit.”

Olson came to the commissionership by an unusual path, throwing his hat in the ring to serve for one year when Commissioner David Yamamoto announced his early retirement in August 2023, before

ultimately being selected in October and taking office in January. Previously, Olson had spent two decades on Tillamook County’s budget committee and volunteered with various organizations in south Tillamook County, including the Pacific City Chamber of Commerce, while running a motel in Oceanside for more than 20 years.

As commissioner, Olson’s signature achievement was

helping to promote a \$24-million bond to support the design and implementation of a new emergency radio system for the county, which voters approved in November.

Starting in the summer, Olson worked with a group of other leaders from across the county as part of a political action committee to support the project with a booth at the county fair and targeted advertisements in local and

social media. The committee comprised Olson, Adventist Health Tillamook President Eric Swanson, Adventist Health Tillamook Executive Assistant Katie Moncrief, retired Netarts-Oceanside Fire Chief Tim Carpenter, Tillamook County Sheriff Josh Brown, Tillamook County Commissioner-elect Paul Fournier, Manzanita Councilor Linda Kozlowski, Tillamook Peoples’ Utility District General Manager Todd Simmons, Joanna Stelzig, Brent Collier and Tillamook County Communications Administrator Rueben Descloux.

In addition to his participation on the committee, Olson also spent much of October traversing the county to attend city council and other public meetings to boost public awareness of the need for the new system.

Voters heeded Olson’s stories of dropped calls and dead spots that exist with the current system and the bond question passed with 52% support, which Olson said was consistent with his experience of asking voters for needed funds.

“I’ve learned over the years, sometimes the hard way, that if you’re truthful and timely and simply say, here’s what’s needed and here’s why, you know, people tend to support it,” Olson said.

The bond sale to support the project will happen sometime in January, and the entire construction process should take around a year and a half, though some parts of the system may come online sooner, according to Olson.

Another major focus of Olson’s tenure was Tillamook County’s tenuous financial position, which came to the fore after \$4.6 million in reserve funds were needed to balance the county’s budget for fiscal

year 2024. Projections show that revenue shortfalls are expected to continue over the next five years, ranging between \$2 and \$3.6 million annually.

Seeing the pressing nature of the issue, Olson convened monthly meetings from July through October with the county’s budget committee and leadership team to work on solutions.

By the end of the process, the group had generated a list of more than 60 ideas to boost the county’s revenues or cut expenses, which is now being reviewed by consultants from Tiberius Solutions. The consultants are expected to return early in 2025 with more information about the possibility of adding a utility franchise fee for Tillamook Peoples’ Utility District customers in unincorporated Tillamook County and periodically thereafter with analysis of the other ideas, which ranged from shortening employee work weeks to a prepared food tax.

The group also reduced this year’s budget shortfall by \$1.2 million in December by accounting for budgeted-but-unfilled positions in the first six months of the fiscal year and allocating American Rescue Plan Act funds to existing projects to backfill funding.

Olson said that he was pleased with the committee’s work and noted that the issues would be resolved one way or another because of the county’s statutory mandate to maintain a balanced budget. “It’ll get worked out because the county has a balanced budget every year,” Olson said. “So, then the question is, at what cost? What have you given up or what tradeoff will be made or what do you defer?”

Not every project went so smoothly for Olson, with the

biggest disappointment coming in the county’s aborted purchase of the building formerly occupied by the Bureau of Land Management on Third Street.

Commissioners approved a contract to purchase the building for \$3 million in early July, planning to renovate the facility to serve as a new courthouse for Tillamook County. Planning for a new courthouse has been in the offing since 2008, when a statewide study found that the current courthouse, built in 1932, was the fourth worst facility in the state and needed to be replaced.

However, after signing the purchase agreement, inspections of the property revealed that it would not be suited for the purpose.

“What happened is the architectural firm the county hired said, okay, if we put the district attorney here and we put the courts here and court administration here and then you’ve got certain safety things you need to do, and you’ve got to have a separate entrance for the bad guys and all of that. The architect says we can’t get it in here, building doesn’t work,” Olson said.

As he prepared to leave office, Olson said that the believed the commissionership would be the last public service he undertook as he looked forward to fully retiring. Olson said that he and his wife, Patty, were planning to go to the Rose Parade in Pasadena on New Years’ Day and hoped to also attend the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York in the future and travel, potentially to Europe and Alaska.

“We’re going to do what we can do while we can do it because there may come a time when you say, ‘man, I ain’t going anywhere, that’s too much work,’” Olson said.

As much as any of the accomplishments during his time in office, Olson repeatedly praised the county staff who he had gotten to work with as hardworking, dedicated and imminently capable, and said that they had reinforced his longtime belief in the virtues of public-sector work.

“Everybody needs some money because you’ve got to live and you’ve got to eat and all that, but at some point, it’s nice to feel good about what you do,” Olson said, “that you’ve done the right thing or you’ve helped advance something and, you know, you’ve provided a framework for this or that or the other thing. And so, counties and cities do that at the local level, and so I enjoy that part.”



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BELL
From Page A1

Bell undertook a review of the department’s facilities to identify areas of need, with one, the entrance to the Barview Jetty Campground, springing to the fore.

Under its then-configuration, the entrance was often overwhelmed by arriving visitors on busy summer days, leading to backups onto Highway 101 and consternation among visitors, who often became abusive towards staff, leading at least one to walk off the job.

To address these throughput issues, Bell had parks staff change the traffic at the entrance to one-way in and out, instead of intermingled, added a second lane at the fee booth for check in and contracted with a company to operate a kiosk selling firewood and other camper essentials inside the

park, removing the need for visitors to return to the entrance.

Bell said that these changes had paid dividends last summer and that work will soon occur to repave the entrance and move the fee booth deeper into the park.

Another area of focus for Bell in 2024 was environmental policies and their impacts on Tillamook County, with both the habitat conservation plan for western Oregon state forests and the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s floodplain development ordinance update demands taking center stage.

Bell said that in both instances she had become convinced that the science being used to force cuts in timber harvests on state lands and curtail flood plain development was flawed and needed to be reevaluated.

In the case of timber, Bell pointed to federal lands,

where logging has been severely limited since the 1980s to protect northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets without seeing any rise in either’s population. Bell said that in conjunction with the huge increase in wildfires in recent years, this was especially galling, and that it was time for counties to try to force a reevaluation by the United States Forest Service.

Similarly, Bell said that she had serious doubts about the scientific underpinnings of the National Marine Fisheries Services Biological Opinion that said development in areas of special flood hazard was causing a take of anadromous fish species, including Coho salmon.

Bell’s brother is a fisherman in Alaska, and she said that even in the essentially pristine conditions there where there are still far larger salmon runs than in Oregon, numbers of salmon are still decreasing. Bell

said that this had led her to the conclusion that the issues facing salmon must not all be related to human development and activity on the land but also to issues occurring in the ocean.

“They have declining king salmon runs, but where he is, there’s nothing and so it really isn’t what’s happening on the land at all, it has to be what’s happening in the ocean,” Bell said.

Bell also mentioned that she had been impressed by Tillamook County residents’ response to the proposed changes and encouraged by the support she and other commissioners received in choosing an off-the-board option and moving forward with a lawsuit against the agency.

“The community really stepped up to educate themselves on the subject, which is admirable, because it’s confusing, you know, it’s complicated and it’s heartening that the community is fully behind us in opposing

this,” Bell said.

Bell also said that she had been proud of the work county commissioners did to establish a central services department in the fall, with an eye towards increasing efficiency. “It became clear that our central services were not working as efficiently as we want them to and so we moved to this new model where Rachel (Hagerty) will be over the central services department,” Bell said. “The hope is that things will go much more smoothly and there will be fewer delays in departments getting services that they need.”

Bell also shouted out Commissioner Doug Olson and his efforts to win voter support for a new emergency radio system for the county and begin discussions around addressing the county’s budgetary shortfall. “It has been a pleasure to work with Doug Olson and I just want to mention that because it’s a

significant service of his, and it’s also the culmination of many years of service,” Bell said.

Looking forward, Bell said that in 2025, she hopes to establish a designated camping area for residents experiencing homelessness in the county and continue working to incentivize the development of affordable housing to further address the issue. “The problem isn’t going to take care of itself so we have to be able to offer something, so I think that there will at least be more consideration of that and hopefully more collaboration, we’ll continue collaborating with the City of Tillamook,” Bell said.

Also in 2025, Bell plans to support seeking a 5% increase to the county’s transient lodging tax rate in May’s election, saying that she was hopeful voters would support a tax on out-of-towners to help secure public safety funding.

FOURNIER
From Page A1

Since then, in addition to continuing as public information officer at the sheriff’s office, Fournier has been attending the board of commissioners’ meetings to get up to speed on the issues facing the county and attended the Association of Oregon Counties annual conference in the fall.

“The current board and all the staff have been great about onboarding and getting me in the meetings and executive sessions so I can get a kind of handle on all they’re working on,” Fournier said.

Now, as he is set to assume office on January 6, Fournier is champing at the bit to start championing some of the revenue-generating ideas on which he campaigned.

Fournier said that his biggest goal is to begin using funding from the county’s transient lodging tax (TLT) to build facilities that will generate revenue

for the county and provide benefit to residents.

The biggest project Fournier imagines is the construction of a hotel and conference center at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds. Fournier said that in talking with businesses in the county they had expressed their support for the idea and desire to host conferences locally and noted that the fairground’s master plan envisaged such a facility.

Fournier said that the county could build the facility using TLT funds and then turn the operations over to a concessionaire and that in addition to generating lease payments, the hotel would also increase TLT revenues. “The idea is we need this; it could be self-sufficient, it’ll build itself, it’s not coming out of the general fund and then it produces income one way or the other,” Fournier said.

Other potential revenue-generating ideas Fournier proposes include building a paid parking structure in Oceanside and beginning parking enforce-

ment to boost revenues across the county, adding more disc golf courses like the one at the Port of Tillamook Bay, offering partial amnesty for traffic violations to encourage payment and charging companies to land submarine cables on Tillamook County’s beaches.

“I want whatever we do to help us, you know, like if we’re building facilities with tourism money, I want to make sure that it benefits the locals,” Fournier said.

In addition to ideas for new revenue streams, Fournier also said that he believes there are some areas where the county can reduce costs, including by building a new courthouse to eliminate rent payments to outside organizations and reevaluating the county’s legal services.

However, Fournier said that he did not favor drastic actions regarding employees work week proposed by the budget working group, such as reducing the county to a four-day work week or six-hour workdays. Fournier

said that he doubted the feasibility of such moves given employees’ union status and said that he felt punishing workers for leaders’ inability to be fiscally responsible was inappropriate.

“I think that we are in in this position we are in because of the way county leadership has directed us,” Fournier said. “Waiting so long to accept that the visitor industry was going to be very important to us, I feel like that was a huge mistake, and I don’t feel like it’s now the responsibility of our employees, it’s not their fault that this happened.”

Instead, Fournier said that he would make it a top priority to have a recently commissioned wage study completed and to bring county workers’ compensation up to market rate.

Fournier also expressed reticence about asking voters to approve a TLT increase in May as has been proposed by the other commissioners, saying he was hesitant to go to voters for more money too frequently.

Fournier said that he had also been looking at possibilities to expand housing in the county and that he wanted to find a way to add infrastructure to the Rawe property the county purchased in the city of Tillamook’s urban growth boundary in 2023.

Another project Fournier plans to throw his support behind is a proposal to restrict Bay Road in Netarts to one-way use for traffic and turn the other lane into a pedestrian promenade, which has the support of local fire departments and Tillamook County Public Works Director Chris Laity.

Fournier also said that he plans to prioritize public outreach when he is elected, building on his background media production to help voters better access and understand the work the board of commissioners is doing. He mentioned making Facebook reels, hosting a coffee with a commissioner and the possibility of shadowing various workers around the county in his own version of the television show

Dirty Jobs.

“I’m looking forward to getting out with the people of this community in ways other than board meetings and committee meetings and special events,” Fournier said.

Finally, Fournier is planning to support continued efforts by the sheriff’s office and Tillamook Police Department to crack down on the homelessness issue around Hoquarton Slough. Fournier said that in his opinion calling the area a camp was inappropriate as, in reality, it was an illegal dumpsite and living in a tent did not force people to create conditions dangerous to public health and safety.

“When you’re living there and I don’t feel safe walking by you because your dog’s barking and lunging at me, and I can’t let my kids ride their bikes around, that’s a problem,” Fournier said, “and I think we have a responsibility as a government to keep that quality of life so that what happens in San Francisco and Portland doesn’t happen here.”

SKAAR
From Page A1

“This is a really significant shift that I think will allow the county to run more smoothly because there will be process and procedure created that doesn’t require a meeting of the three commissioners every time you want to talk about it,” Skaar said. “You can actually have that done by administrative professionals, you know, leaders who are actually running departments and Rachel, who’s got her finger on the pulse of all of that.”

The move to a central services department was precipitated by an internal strategic plan that the county undertook in the first half of 2024. After soliciting feedback from all the county’s employees, the team working on the plan found that

employees thought the county was headed in the right direction and suggested the move to the central services model.

The new department will oversee human resources, information services, facilities and legal services for county departments going forward, as well as the board of commissioners’ office and be overseen by Hagerty, previously the county’s chief of staff. In addition to increasing internal efficiency, Skaar said that this will allow Hagerty to come up with processes and procedures and bring them to the commissioners for approval, rather than leaving the commissioners to work out those policies and procedures on their own in public meetings.

The upshot, according to Skaar, is that the policies will be formulated by experts in the area rather than the commissioners who have wide

general knowledge but lack specific experience in many of the county’s functions. This will also leave the commissioners more time to interact with constituents and focus on policy making.

Skaar said that she expects the forward momentum on revamping the county’s management to continue into 2025, with a focus on policies regulating interdepartmental relationships and procedures. Skaar said she also hopes that the county’s budgeting process will be reevaluated once a new budget is adopted in June.

Skaar also mentioned the renewed vigor around the Salmonberry Trail project as one of her highlights from 2024, noting the hiring of Caroline Fitchett as executive director of the Salmonberry Trail Foundation and Rockaway Beach’s applications for grants to build a section of the

trail through the city.

A major focus in 2025 will be formalizing plans to ask Tillamook County voters to approve a 5% increase to the county’s TLT. Currently, the county charges visitors a 10% TLT for overnight stays in the county, with 70% of the revenue generated required by state law to go towards tourism-related projects or promotion and the other 30% dedicated to the county’s public works department for road maintenance.

Commissioners began discussing the possibility of raising the TLT rate, which will require voter approval, last year and are on track to ask for a 5% increase in May’s election. Skaar said that the increase would generate around \$3 million additional annually, given current visitor totals.

Skaar said that the plan is to dedicate the 30%, or

around \$1 million, in additional revenues which does not have to be spent on tourism to funding the sheriff’s office. The funds would be used to replace already existing money in the sheriff’s budget but would be secured and help to insulate the office from potential impacts caused by multimillion-dollar budget shortfalls forecast in the coming years.

“We’re working very hard to maintain public safety’s capacity, and with a \$3 million projected shortfall, \$1 million that has an earmark on it that says it must remain in the public safety department is a way to shore up public safety in the face of you know, revenue challenges,” Skaar said.

In addition to advancing the TLT increase question, Skaar said that she expects 2025 to see a review of the county’s short-term rental (STR) ordinance, which was

updated in 2023, and updates to the zoning code to allow more middle housing.

The STR ordinance update included a cap on new properties in each of the county’s unincorporated communities at 1% higher than the current number of STRs at the time the ordinance passed, with a review to come periodically. Skaar said that Tillamook County Community Development Director Sarah Absher has met with members of each of the communities since the update passed and will be discussing those meetings with the commissioners in early 2025.

Skaar also said that the county would continue work to prepare the Rawe property in the city of Tillamook’s urban growth boundary for housing development, with the next step being a wastewater feasibility analysis in the coming months.

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Even Exchange
answers

1. Patch, Parch

2. Lofty, Lefty

3. Scour, Scout

4. Walter, Haller

5. Mitten, Kitten

6. Blanch, Branch

7. Later, Lager

8. Thread, Threat

9. Carbon, Carton

10. Adapt, Adopt



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Super Crossword

BETWEEN WHITE
AND RED

ACROSS

1 U.K.
equivalent to
an Oscar

6 Trinidad
and —

12 Baggage
screeners' org.

15 Moose kin

19 American
poet —
Baraka

20 Basra natives

21 Balloon pilot

23 Upon initial
sight

25 Twilight time,
to poets

26 Diplomacy

27 Performs an
axel, e.g.

29 Arizona-to-
Kentucky dir.

30 Mauna —

31 Square-cut
building
stones

34 Glossy fabric
with an
elaborate
floral pattern

37 Rule, in brief

38 Atomic cores

42 Playpen toy

43 Baby's breath
and cowherb
are members
of it

47 "Gung Ho"
actress
Rogers

51 Sondheim's
"Everybody
Ought to
Have —"

52 Like a
laundromat
washer,
for short

53 Closer to now

55 Swam some
pool lengths

58 Florida city
near Miami

61 Bits of land
in eau

62 Material on a
Q-tip

65 Person
howling

66 — Lingus

67 Ancient
Palestine

68 Bamboo
eaters

69 Jackson 5 #1
hit of 1970

72 — and pestle

73 Wage
recipients

74 Leg midpoint

75 Alternative to
apple pie

79 Jewish
villages of old

81 Debonair

82 Greasier

85 French
cathedral city

86 Burger meat

87 Crispy-
skinned fish
dish

91 "Oz" co-star
Walker

94 Having a
saintly ring

95 "— minute!"

96 Noted
presidential
matriarch

101 Many KFC
pieces

103 Singer
DiFranco

104 Squeal (on)

105 Papal
crowns

109 Job honcho

110 Cubic —
(fake gem)

113 What seven
key words in
this puzzle
are

117 Native of Fiji
or Nauru

118 Well-
reasoned

119 Four-page
sheet

120 Lease topic

121 Green prefix

122 Auditory
stimuli

123 Lieu

DOWN

1 Nanny's cry

2 Qty.

3 10-year-old
student, often

4 Court hearing

5 Carrier with a
Toronto hub

6 — for tat

7 Round
bodies

8 Hesitate like
a mule

9 Blue-green

10 Main points

11 Actor Milo

12 — Bo

13 Fourteen
times five

14 Philosopher
Hannah

15 Sinus doc

16 Boxer Ali

17 "Congrats!"

18 Rib-eye, e.g.

22 Actor Ryan

24 Walk cockily

28 Peel off

31 Site of rural
peace

32 Mariner's
distance unit

33 — -fi flick

35 Suffix with
resident

36 Michelle
Obama's
"Becoming,"
e.g.

39 Site: Abbr.

40 Brian of rock

41 Promiser's
qualifier

44 Guitaist

45 Strong as —

46 Country of
NW Afr.

48 Tavern

49 Actress
Ryan

50 1040 org.

53 Showy debut,
perhaps

54 Tram rocks

56 "Memento"
star Guy

57 — Domingo

59 Narrow road

60 Agrees
(with)

63 Broccoli —

64 Native
American
feathered
headdress

67 Singer Marc

68 Shunned one

69 Destroying
Scuds, say

70 Triple Crown
venue

71 Some light
planes

72 VirusScan
company

73 Brazilian
soccer hero

74 Ship's spine

75 Tavern

76 Before

77 Prez Lincoln

78 Fleur-de- —

80 Results of
compromises

83 Notable time

84 Cath., e.g.

87 Fiero or GTO

88 Raggedy —

89 Feb. 29,
for leap day
babies

90 — Croatian

92 Goodyear's
home city

93 Malicious
sort

96 Schick item

97 In reserve

98 It'll stop
traffic

99 Frisbees, e.g.

100 Big internet
portal

102 In — (stuck)

106 Pasta sauce
brand

107 Yemen port

108 Mail in, e.g.

111 Meowing pet

112 "I'll take that
as —"

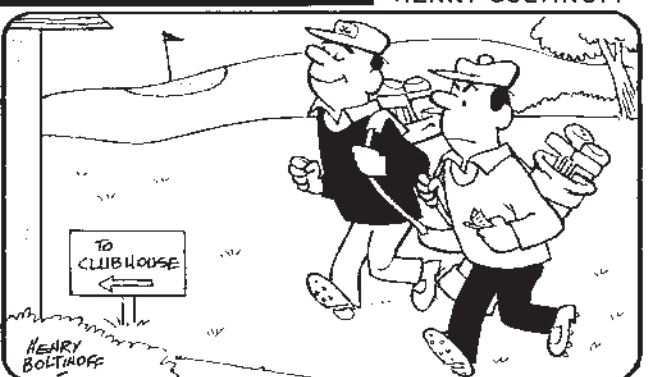
114 Aves.

115 Vardalos of
the screen

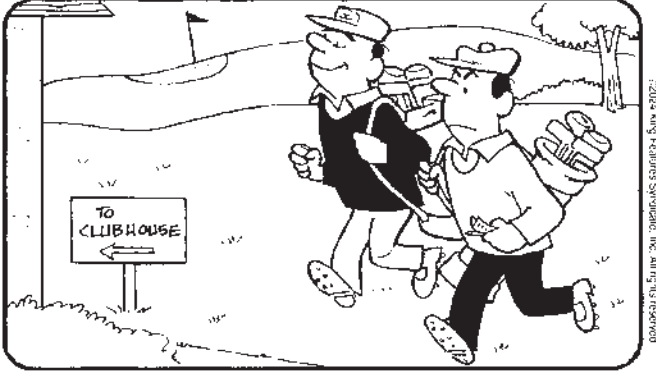
116 Walloped in a
boxing ring

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Pile of sticks is moved. 4. Tree is different. 5. Shoulder pad is missing. 6. Sign is taller.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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The Citizen welcomes letters that express readers' opinions on
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name, address (including city) and telephone number for verifi-
cation of the writer's identity. We will print the writer's name and
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order received and may be edited for length, grammar, spell-
ing, 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**
36050 10th Street, Nehalem, OR
(503) 368-5612
Pastor Celeste Deveney +
Sunday service 11 a.m.
Food Pantry
Open Friday, Saturday & Monday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday

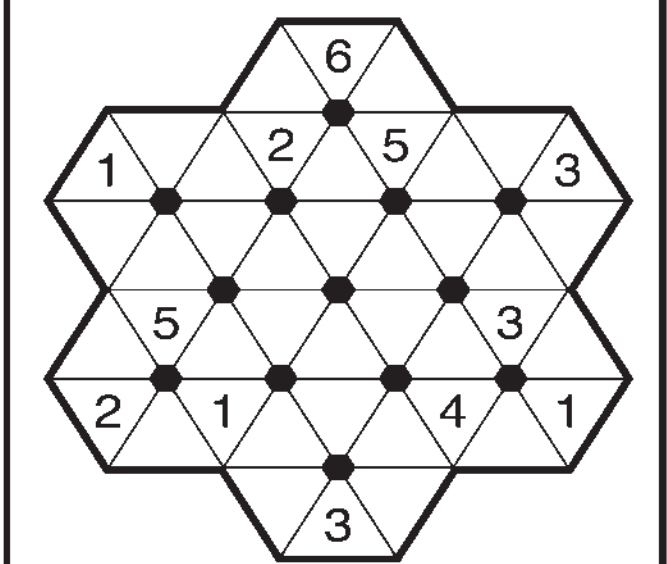
March - October 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
November - February noon to 4 p.m.
Nehalem Senior Lunches
Tuesday & Thursday served at noon
email: nbumcns12020@gmail.com

*To feature your spiritual
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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

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

SNOWFLAKES
solution



Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Above: Manzanita resident Hal McMahan submitted photos of numerous downed trees across the city.



Winds cause damage across county

A series of severe storms wreaked havoc across Tillamook County in the last week and a half of December and the first days of 2025. Power was knocked

out repeatedly, Highway 6 was closed for a downed line and trees blew over across the county as winds gusted above 50 miles



Right: A tree blown over by winds that gusted as high as 89 miles per hour in Cape Meares on Christmas Night knocked out power in the village for around 14 hours. Photo by Ellen Steen

COASTAL FUTURES:

Building Resilient Connections Between Ecology & Community in Rockaway Beach, Oregon

North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (NCCWP) invites you to St. Mary by the Sea for a presentation by Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) students from the University of Oregon (UO) on Saturday, January 18, at noon. Their research, Coastal Futures, focuses on climate change adaptation strategies for coastal communities in Oregon and is led by Ignacio López

Busón, a UO Assistant Professor of Climate Change Resilience. For the past three months, the students have visited and analyzed Rockaway Beach, meeting with local stakeholders to understand the values and challenges of our local community, including coastal erosion, sea level rise, deforestation, drinking water quality, and urban development. This

presentation will showcase their research on sustainable coastal practices and explore paths for long-term resilience. All community members are encouraged to attend to learn more about coastal sustainability issues and engage in a discussion about planning for a more environmentally and socially resilient future. Free to attend. Bread from WolfMoon Bakery

and soup from Manzanita Wild will be served. Saturday, January 18 at Noon (doors open at 11:30 AM) St Mary by the Sea Catholic Church 275 S Pacific St, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136 Join us online if you can't come! <https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/94779163801> This first-year UO MLA project is an ongoing teaching and research

effort led by Ignacio López Busón and his students: Inanna Hencke, Jessie Crown, Lucy Gonzalez, Leo Frampton and Justin Mouldous. It is supported by the 2024 Sustainability Fellows Program (SFP), an initiative coordinated by Sarah Stoeckl (UO Office of Sustainability) and funded as part of the Pacific Northwest Just Futures Institute, that supports faculty to do community-engaged

teaching and research. As a matter of necessity and regardless of land ownership, NCCWP demands no more logging and no more pesticide spraying within our drinking-watersheds. Safe drinking water and clean air are part of the public trust that we all are entitled to have. Please help North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection safeguard and restore our drinking watersheds.

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Covering the Oregon coast

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The City of Manzanita is looking for a full time **Operations Manager** to join our team!

The Operations Manager will organize, schedule, assign and supervise the operations and maintenance activities of Public Works Field operations. Such services include the areas of water, parks, transportation, storm water and vehicle and equipment and facility maintenance. Identifies work and reviews work of subordinates and contractors by inspecting for compliance with City/state standards for production and quality of City water.

Minimum requirements include a High School Diploma, or equivalent OR any satisfactory equivalent combination of education and experience which ensures the ability to perform the essential functions of the position. An Oregon Water Distribution 2 & Treatment 1 certification must be obtained within 24 months of hire. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license and an acceptable driving record.

Salary Range for the position is currently \$5,280 - \$6,418 monthly depending on experience, plus excellent benefits. For more information, please visit ci.manzanita.or.us Please send cover letter, resume, and completed application form to cityhall@ci.manzanita.or.us or mail to: **Manzanita Public Works** PO Box 129 Manzanita, OR 97130

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State regulators approve more electricity rate hikes for Oregonians in 2025

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Editor's note: The Capital Chronicle has launched a \$10,000 end-of-year fundraising campaign to help us continue our first-class coverage next year. A lot is at stake, and there's a long legislative session in 2025. We're completely dependent on donor dollars, which are tax deductible. Please contribute to us if you can.

Most Oregonians in 2025 will see residential electricity rates nearly 50% higher than they were just five years ago.

The state's Public Utilities Commission — a three-person governor-appointed group charged with regulating the rates of privately owned utilities in Oregon — approved Thursday a nearly 10% increase in residential electricity rates for customers of Pacific Power and, on Friday, a 5.5% increase for residential customers of Portland General Electric, or PGE. Both rate increases will take effect Jan. 1 and bring overall rates for residential customers of both utilities up about 50% since 2020, more than twice the rate of inflation during that same period.

The rates are lower than the companies requested: Pacific Power in September

petitioned to raise rates by nearly 11% in 2025 and PGE by 7.4%.

The two companies are investor owned and collectively serve more than 1.4 million customers in Oregon. Across every kind of customer, including small and medium-size businesses and industrial users, Pacific Power's electricity rates will rise on average by about 8.5% and PGE's rates will rise about 6% in 2025.

"We definitely understand the frustration customers feel, and I want to assure customers of how hard we have worked to scrutinize the issues and hold utilities accountable," commission chair Megan Decker said.

The commission reviewed 60 different issues that both companies raised to justify rate increases, according to Decker.

"We have severely reined in PGE expense growth, and we have cut something in the nature of 50% out of requests that they made," Decker said.

Bob Jenks, director of the Citizens' Utility Board, a watchdog group established by Oregon voters in 1984 to represent the interests of utility consumers, said the PUC is overdue for permanent changes to how and when rate increases are approved.

"Electricity is an essen-

Fast Fact

Most Oregonians will pay about 50% more for electricity than they did just 5 years ago following rate increases from the state's largest electric utilities

tial service and there is no reason why we should be pricing it like it is a luxury," Jenks said in a statement.

The Commission rejected a proposal by the citizens' board to cap annual residential rate increases at 10% and to move rate case hearings to April, rather than January, so utilities aren't raising prices in the dead of winter.

Rate increases in recent years, according to the companies, have been due to rising inflation, infrastructure build outs for more clean energy generation and storage, rising costs of buying power, higher insurance costs and meeting new customer demand. Demand for PGE's industrial customers, including new data centers and semiconductor manufacturers like Intel, is up more than 34% in the last five years, while residential demand is

up 5%.

Concerned that residential customers are subsidizing growing energy needs of data centers, Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden in November questioned PGE CEO Maria Pope over what was behind rising prices that are leading to record power disconnections for Oregonians struggling to keep up with bills.

Record shut offs

Both utilities set personal records in 2024 for disconnecting customers from power for nonpayment. From January to October, Pacific Power disconnected more than 20,000 households, up from 8,000 during the same period in 2023, according to the Citizens' Utility Board. PGE disconnected about 32,000 customers at some point in 2024 — 4,800 more than in 2023. These record shut-offs occurred during a year when residential Pacific Power customer rates went up 11% and PGE residential rates went up 21%.

In response, the Public Utilities Commission will prohibit the companies from disconnecting low-income customers who are enrolled in bill discount programs between Jan. 1 and April 1 so people are not left without power during the coldest months of the year.

People in the lowest income level — meaning individuals making \$36,800 or less annually and a four-person household with annual income of about \$71,000 or less — will be eligible for up to an 80% bill discount each month, an increase from a 60% discount previously required by the commission.

The commission will also require new large industrial customers of the utilities — such as data centers — to forecast their energy needs for the year with 95% accuracy and pay a penalty for miscalculation.

When it comes to wildfire costs, the commission will allow Pacific Power to raise rates to cover \$25 million worth of restoration work following the 2020 Labor Day fires. The company had originally sought rate increases that would cover twice that amount.

The company was found liable for several of the 2020 Labor Day megafires that burned thousands of structures and took nine lives. The company has spent nearly \$2.7 billion on lawsuits since, according to a recent report submitted to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. On Thursday, the federal government was added to the list of plaintiffs. The U.S. Attorney General's Office is

seeking reimbursement for costs and damages federal agencies incurred fighting the Archie Creek Fire near Roseburg in 2020. The company has used wildfire costs as a reason it's needed to raise rates in recent years.

Pacific Power is owned by PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, a multinational conglomerate. PacifiCorp is worth \$10.7 billion, according to its attorneys, while the Oregon Department of Revenue and Oregon Tax Court calculate its worth more than \$19 billion.

Prior to the 2020 labor day fires, PacifiCorp sent anywhere from \$600 million to \$875 million in dividends — or earnings — annually to Berkshire shareholders, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/12/20/state-regulators-approve-more-electricity-rate-hikes-for-oregonians-in-2025/>

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Cloverdale man convicted of negligent homicide in overdose death

TILLAMOOK SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Friday, December 13th, 2024, Shelby Vantassel, 51, of Cloverdale, was convicted after pleading no contest to the charges of

criminal negligent homicide and manufacturing/delivery of a controlled substance.

These charges are the culmination of a months-long investigation stemming from an overdose

in which a 47-year-old man from Pacific City died in January of 2024. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be "acute combined drug toxicity (fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine)."

Vantassel was arrested on May 22, 2024, during a search warrant service on his residence and property in Cloverdale, as first reported by TCSO in a May 30, 2024 Facebook post. Approximately 100 grams methamphetamine, 14 grams of fentanyl, crack cocaine, scales and packaging materials were seized at that time.

"This was a multi-agency effort. I want to thank our partnering agencies, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office and Lincoln City PD, for all their assistance in preventing the further spread of fentanyl," said lead investigator, TCSO Detective Kris Wood.

"Fentanyl is so danger-

ous and so addictive, if it's not removed from our small communities, it will destroy them. We will continue to focus our efforts on the dealers that are putting these deadly drugs on our streets, and we will continue to hold them accountable."

"I want to applaud the work of Detective Kris Wood in leading this investigation, and also Detective Martin Zepeda and all of the other law enforcement officers that assisted, along with District Attorney Aubrey Olson for taking on this important case," said TCSO Detective Sgt. Michelle Raymond in TCSO's original post in May.

Tillamook 911, Tilla-

mook Police, Oregon State Police, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln City Police and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office all assisted with this extensive investigation.

Some additional background information:

In the late 1980's, a federal law was passed providing severe penalties to drug dealers when someone that they provided drugs to, died from those drugs. It is commonly referred to as the Len Bias law, named after University of Maryland basketball player, Len Bias. Bias died two days after being selected by the Boston Celtics with the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA draft. Bias died from cardiac arrhythmia induced by a cocaine overdose.

In the past, Oregon leads the nation in prosecuting Len Bias-type cases, but that all but stopped in recent years, specifically after Measure 110 was enacted. Measure 110 decriminalized user amounts of deadly controlled substances.

Recently passed HB4002 A repeals/reforms Measure 110, and law enforcement agencies are now able to investigate and refer more controlled substance cases to their District Attorney for prosecutorial consideration.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: S equals Z

J LZDP Z NGZSSM GPR UVJSSFM-
NLZXPX ZVPZ VWU, CWH J
YPPX ZDIJKJGU JH. JH'N Z
CPZV HI RZFY IG.

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