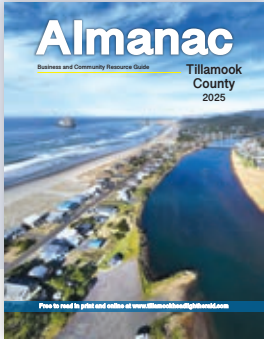




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The facility's interior is taking shape, with the installation of pool decking completed last week.

Equipment going in at NCRD pool

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Work on the new pool facility at the North Coast Recreation District in Nehalem is entering the home stretch, with pool decks installed last week and equipment installation around a quarter complete.

As the facility's completion in June approaches, the team at North Coast Recreation District (NCRD) are preparing to create safety plans for and train staff to use the new facility, while also working on decommissioning plans for the district's legacy pool.

The new facility's two pools, one six lanes wide, eight feet deep and competition ready, and the other a wheelchair-accessible therapy pool have been adorned with tile work and are waiting for



In addition to the natatorium, the project will also include the addition of a new parking lot with more than 20 spaces and the already-completed wheelchair ramp to make the new facility accessible from the rest of the district.

See **NCRD POOL**, Page A3

Manzanita city hall and police department work progresses

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

With a June 1 handover date quickly approaching, the team working on Manzanita's city hall and police station are on schedule, with siding being installed and painting taking place.

Jason Stegner, owner of Cove Built Construction, the company managing construc-

tion, recently gave the Headlight Herald a tour of the quickly progressing project.

Stegner said that the project was moving ahead smoothly, with siding already complete on the police department's building and underway on the city hall, and roofs in place on both buildings. The siding, like all wood being used in the project, was sourced from Oregon and Stegner said that he had heard positive feedback from community members on the appearance.

Inside the buildings, sheet rock has been hung, and painting is underway, with completion expected by mid-March, after which workers will be installing finishes, including floor tile and bathrooms, and cabinetry and the city council dais in the council chamber. Counter tops will then be

placed in early April, with flooring installed shortly thereafter.

Stegner also detailed the touches that will bring a sense of place, belonging and beauty to the public-facing areas of the city hall building.

In the council chamber, where most of the project's wood budget is being spent, the room's ceiling, built-in benches and windowsills will all be made from locally sourced Hemlock that is salvaged from fallen local trees and milled in Nehalem. The same wood cutter in Nehalem is also restoring wooden beams from the elementary school that used to occupy the site, which

See **MANZANITA**, Page A5



The exterior of Manzanita's new city hall as siding installation progressed in early March.

Housing commission makes housing grant recs

WILL CHAPPELL
Citizen Editor

Tillamook County's housing commission made recommendations for the allocation of \$400,000 in Housing Production Solution Fund grants to six projects across the county on March 6.

The recommendations followed January presentations by developers associated with eight affordable and workforce housing projects across the county, which were reviewed by the housing commission's finance committee. After reviewing the committee's recommendations, the commission made two slight tweaks to the proposed split, and their recommendations will now go to the board of county commissioners for final approval.

The meeting began with Tillamook County Housing Coordinator Parker Sammons reviewing the finance committee's recommendations. The committee recommended funding for six of the eight projects, with the B'Nai Brith proposal for 64 units in Rockaway Beach and the Alder Creek Commons project, which plans to renovate the Nehalem Bay House into 24 apartments for residents aged 55 and up, not being recommended.

Sammons explained that the B'Nai Brith project had not been recommended because it was still in extremely early stages, as well as the fact that the project team had expressed confidence in their ability to secure funds through other means. Sammons said that he was planning to offer the project team technical assistance and expected that they might reapply for funding in a future round of grant awards.

The Alder Creek Commons project was not selected because it recently received funding from the state government that is sufficient to complete the project, making a county grant unnecessary.

Of the six projects that received recommendations, the finance committee recommended awards of \$80,000 each for the National Bank Building and Tillamook Bay Commons projects in Tillamook, Spruce Point by Home First in Manzanita and the Anchor Street project in Rockaway Beach, and \$40,000 each to the Alder Ridge project in Bay City and Thompson Springs project in Nehalem.

Commission members were generally in support of these recommendations, except one recommended that the award for the 60-apartment Spruce Point project be reduced by \$40,000 because of Home First's strong financial position relative to other projects. They recommended that the \$40,000 be split evenly between the National Bank Building, which project contractor Chris Wilkes said was on pace for completion by the end of the year if it received an award, and the Tillamook Bay Commons projects.

The committee unanimously agreed to this recommendation and upped the recommended awards for the two projects to \$100,000 apiece.

Several of the projects also had contingencies attached to their awards. The Anchor Street Project that aims to add four apartments above a commercial kitchen is applying for an agricultural housing tax credit, which could in turn be sold to replace the \$80,000 recommended grant.

The Tillamook Bay Commons award was divided into two tranches, with \$50,000 to be awarded immediately to help Maker Development Studio complete its transition to a non-profit model. The second \$50,000 will be awarded when money has been put in escrow for the project's property, to help with predevelopment costs.

Committee members unanimously approved the amended recommendations which will now go to the board of county commissioners for final approval.



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Tourist industry leaders convene at Seaside summit

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Representatives from various groups serving tourists in Tillamook and Clatsop Counties gathered for an Oregon Coast Visitors Association hosted tourism management network summit in Seaside on March 12.

At the summit, attendees were updated on industry-wide and Oregon coast travel trends before spending the afternoon networking and working on ideas to leverage tourism to create better communities for residents and visitors alike.

Jeremy Strober of Heartfelt Hospitality in Pacific City welcomed the group to the summit and gave a brief overview of the plan for the day and the North Coast Tourism Management Network. Strober said that the summit was part of the network's ongoing work that started six years ago to engage the tourist industry in discussions about ways the industry can improve north coast communities.

The network covers the coast from Astoria to Neskowin and has focused on increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and accessibility and managing the impacts of tourism while trying to find ways to contribute to the communities.

Kristin Dahl, from Cross-current Collective, which facilitated the summit and helps communities from Wyoming



Jeremy Strober welcomes attendees to the summit in Seaside.

to Alaska with tourism management, then gave a presentation on industrywide trends.

Dahl shared data that showed that since the 1980s the worldwide pace of tourism has increased at an exponential rate, creating the phenomenon of overtourism, where visitors cause ecological, social or other issues for permanent residents of an area.

The frenetic pace of growth was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, which caused a 72% drop in tourism worldwide.

The pandemic's effects were mostly short-lived, Dahl said, with visitor numbers rebounding quickly but, in the Americas, tourism was still down 3% in 2024 compared to 2019, while in Oregon it was 6% lower.

After Dahl's presentation, Finn Johnson, North Coast Destination Stewardship Manager for the Oregon Coast Visitor's Association, delved into data for the north coast.

Johnson first shared data from an economic impact study by Travel Oregon from 2023, the most recent year

for which data is available, that showed that visitors to the north coast spent an average of \$788 per party on visits. There were two million overnight trips in 2023, accounting for close to six million nights in hotels, in the two counties whose combined population is just under 70,000.

In total, these trips generated \$862 million in direct travel spending in the area, where 22% of all jobs are tied directly to the tourist industry and 24% of the people on the street, on average, will be visitors.

Johnson then shared visitation data from 2023-2024, also collected by Travel Oregon, showing that almost a quarter of visitors to the coast are day trippers and that Seaside received the largest share of visitors on the north coast. The data also revealed that 60% of visitors to the coast come from the Portland area, with an additional 20% coming from Seattle.

Johnson said that these results illustrated that the coast was a well-known commodity among pacific northwestern urbanites, who would show up whether lo-

cal wanted them to or not.

To highlight that point, Johnson shared the results of Travel Oregon's resident sentiment survey conducted in 2024 that showed residents of the north coast are far less amenable to visitors than people elsewhere in the state.

In response to a variety of questions asking residents to rank the positive and negative impacts of tourists on their communities on a scale of one to five, coast residents rated the positive impacts of tourism at 3.1 and negative at 3.6, versus a 3.4 positive mark statewide and 3.1 negative. Johnson said that these numbers showed that overall support for tourism on the coast was dropping.

Finally, Johnson shared the results of a tourism industry partner survey, also conducted by Travel Oregon, which found that those in the industry found keeping businesses afloat during the winter and shoulder seasons was difficult, while there was overcrowding in the summer.

After a short break, two panels preceded lunch, with panelists discussing improving accessibility, improving and diversifying visitor transportation options, encouraging stewardship among visitors and developing outdoor recreation opportunities.

The rest of the day was dedicated to collaborative discussions on how to increase the industry's sustainability moving forward.

Manzanita council briefed on Classic Street project

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Team members working on the water upgrade and repaving of Classic Street presented to the city council on the project's design at their regular meeting on March 6.

Council also extended the city's dune grading moratorium for six months and short-term rental license freeze for a year.

The Classic Street project is being funded by \$2.79 million awarded by the state government last year to help facilitate housing production and will see more than 2,000 feet of water line added between Dorcas Street and NeCarney City Boulevard on Classic Street. The project will allow for the construction of a 60-unit complex by Home First Development on a 12-acre parcel and increase water flows

and pressures in the area. As part of the project, Classic Street will also have a retaining wall added, be repaved and have a pedestrian path installed on its eastern side.

Travis Tormanen, one of the engineers working on the project, told the council that the team's top priorities were pedestrian safety, creating usable public amenities, traffic safety and delivering water for the housing project.

David Tormanen, another

member of the project team, then gave more specific details on the design of the road and pedestrian path.

David said that the path would be six feet wide and separated from the road by a two-foot buffer with a barrier in most places, except where the path of the road was too narrow to accommodate that.

In addition to the separated path, the project will also see new crossings added at NeCarney City Boulevard and Laneda Avenue, three additional radar speed signs along Classic Street to complement the one that is already there

and speed humps to further regulate driving speed.

Driver safety will also be improved, with the roadway set to be widened from 20 feet to 22 while the intersections at Ridge Road and NeCarney City Boulevard will have their radii widened to increase visibility and make turning easier, according to David. Grass will be planted everywhere the earth is disturbed and David said that ornamental grass would be added to the upslope, eastern side of the road to prevent pedestrians walking on the sandy bank and caus-

ing erosion.

David said that the team expected to put out a request for bids for the project this month and complete construction over the remainder of the year.

The dune grading moratorium extension added six months to the moratorium and City Manager Leila Aman said that she anticipated holding a public meeting in April to discuss land planning goals 17 and 18 that regulate beach development activities. The short-term rental license freeze extension will last for a year.

Councilor Jerry Spelman also gave a brief update on the city's request to bar driving on its beach, which it submitted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department earlier this year. Spelman said that the parks commission had met on January 25, heard the council's resolution requesting the change and opened the rule-making process on beach driving in the city.

A public comment period for the proposed changes, which would remove the allowance for driving on the city's beaches between 7 a.m. and noon between October and April and at any point if launching a boat, is now open through early April. There will also be a town hall at 5:30 p.m. on March 24 to give citizens an opportunity to provide feedback.



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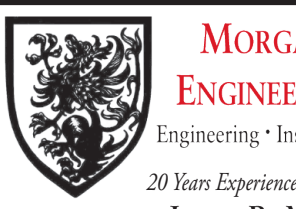
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NCRD Pool

From Page A1

equipment installation to be complete before a final plaster layer is added for waterproofing.

Once the pools are complete and the facility handed over, the hard work will begin for district staff who need to create safety plans for the pools and familiarize themselves with their operation.

NCRD interim Executive Director Barbara McCann said that she expects the two new pools will require five lifeguards on duty, with three in highchairs and two roaming around the pools. This configuration will not be confirmed until the pool is complete, however, when teams will test various chair placements to ensure that every inch of the pool's bottom is visible to one of the guards.

McCann said that this process will be the district's top priority once the pool is complete and that the installation of a water slide, which is planned and budgeted, will have to wait until it is finished. The water slide will also require a

dedicated lifeguard.

There is no firm opening date set for the new facility and the district will be offering its summer aquatic programming in the legacy pool in the main building's basement. McCann said that once the commissioning and training process is complete, district leadership is planning a grand opening celebration for the new facility, after which it will be open with the same hours of operation as the legacy pool, which will close.

McCann said that the plan for the new pool was to get programming like that in the legacy pool established and expand from there once staff felt comfortable that they were able to operate the facility well and safely.

The new pool project is on budget, McCann said, and the December award of \$1.7 million in transient lodging tax funds by the county commissioner rounded out the financing package, allowing the district to shift focus towards raising money to decommission the legacy pool. McCann said that this process is expected to cost around \$500,000 and that the district has begun submitting grant applications to support the decommissioning. People interested in supporting the decommissioning can also



The women's locker room in the new facility.

make donations, including the purchase of memorial bricks that will be installed in the new facility's portico, which are available for purchase until May 1.

NCRD will also be celebrating the legacy pool throughout the spring, with special Saturday swims

planned for April 12, May 10 and June 14. District staff are asking families with multiple generations who learned to swim at the

pool, which first opened in 1930, to come on those days to illustrate the pool's long-running benefit to the community.

Nehalem council briefed on forest plan

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

With the current plan governing the city owned 872-acre forest nearing its 25-year expiration, the Nehalem city council was updated on the history of the parcel and its status.

Brent Keller, a senior forester at Mason, Bruce and Girard who manages the city's forest, presented the information to council at its March 10 meeting.

Keller said that the city owned 872 acres of forest land in its water shed that was mostly home to Western Hemlock, which comprises around 80% of the trees, with the remainder consisting of Douglas Fir, Cedar and Spruce.

The city council first

created a forest management plan for the parcel in 1981, with a 20-year harvest level that saw 200 acres harvested between that year and 2000. In the plan, city leaders also established long-term timber management goals of prioritizing water quality, giving preference to clear cuts, converting hardwood trees in the forest to conifers and reforesting the area.

Once the plan expired in 2000, the then-council reevaluated, keeping most of the same goals while setting an 11-million board foot harvest goal for the next 25 years. Actual harvests over the period came in at 10.7 million board feet.

Keller said that in addition

to promoting the 1981 goals, pesticides had never been used in the forest and that currently there are around 450 trees per acre in the parcel.

As the city looks forward to its next management plan, Keller said that it would need to consider various factors when setting desired timber harvest levels, including the ongoing prioritization of water quality and production in the forest. Additionally, the council will need to weigh the sustainability of harvest levels and revenue goals against climate considerations like logging's effect on water production and fire risk.

The plan will also need to incorporate fire risk mitigation efforts including

slash and stand management, and a fire plan.

Keller said that the city could also investigate the potential of foregoing logging operations in favor of selling carbon credits against the forest's standing timber. However, doing so would be difficult as Keller said it is generally difficult and costly to establish the carbon potential of forests under 3,000 acres, although Nehalem could potentially partner with neighboring cities or landowners to form a larger carbon offset block.

When considering the future of forestry activity in the watershed,

Keller said that it was also important to consider that revenues from sales have helped to support city projects, including the new city hall and a park in the last twenty years, and to keep water rates steady. Keller said that there had been seven timber sales in the last 25 years and that the forest could support up to about half a million board feet of harvest annually.

Keller said that the council could choose to form a committee to offer community input on the plan or opt to hold a series of meetings for residents to comment.

After Keller's presentation,

half a dozen public commenters weighed in, sharing that they were concerned about the impacts of climate change in the forest, as well as the potential for wildfire. Commenters said that they favored abandoning clear cutting in the watershed as they felt the city could take a more environmentally friendly approach to forest management.

Following the comment, Keller said that he would work to create a scoping document for the plan that he will bring to the council at a future meeting to move the planning process ahead.

Pirate hoopers recognized

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

As the winter sports season winds down, several standout performers from Neah-Kah-Nie High School were recognized with all league honors.

Senior Ethan Hanson capped a successful career in his senior season, becoming the first Neah-Kah-Nie

player to surpass 1,000 career points and leading the team in points, rebounds and assists. In recognition of the strong performance, Hanson garnered a selection to the All-Coastal-Range-League first team.

Junior Clayton Dante and Freshman Dylan Sigman were both selected to the second team all-league, and Brady Douma received

honorable mention, for a Pirate squad that finished the season 15-10, culminating in a trip to the state tournament.

For the lady Pirates, Payton White was selected to the all-league second team and Jasmine Jones received an honorable mention, after a season in which the squad finished 12-12, before bowing out in the first round of the state tournament.





PHOTO COURTESY ANDREW HANSON

Ethan Hanson was selected to the Coastal Range First Team All-League after becoming the first Pirate to surpass 1,000 points in his career.

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 L, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.


1. Welcome	— — — E —	Fantastic	— — — A —
2. Coagulate	— — R — —	Snuggle	— — D — —
3. Rigid	— — N — —	Harass	— — A — —
4. Actress Shields	— — — — — E	Babbling streams	— — — — — S
5. Belt location	— A — — —	Watch location	— R — — —
6. Cowardly color	Y — — — —	Bull's roar	B — — — —
7. Idea	— O — — —	Country	— A — — —
8. Thirst quencher	— — T — —	Thin biscuit	— — F — —
9. Snow segment	— — K — —	Flash of fire	— — R — —
10. Summons	— — V — —	Provoke	— — C — —





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Super Crossword

**MONEY-
CHANGING**

ACROSS	43 Lima locale	86 — Leppard
1 Combination spear and battle-ax	44 "Rapa —" (1994 film)	87 Some PC readouts
8 Provo native	45 Like even scores	89 Kicked out of the game, for short
13 Dawn deity	46 Feel sore	90 Radio spots.
16 Some fast autos	48 Refusals	92 Bruins' sch
19 Virtual merchant	51 She sang "Constant Craving"	94 Major shock
20 Strong cordage fiber	56 Rocker Brian	96 Query after someone is told they look like Iranian money?
21 Performs a charade of	57 Facts, in brief	103 German auto
23 Thai money used to buy a Jacuzzi?	59 Gobble up Iraqi money?	104 Tampa Bay NFLer
25 Height when upright	62 Gal entering society	105 Over browned bread
26 Protest at which people lie on the ground	63 Jazz's Chick	106 Houston-to-Madison dir.
27 Bright red Indian money?	65 Chaise place	107 Whack some Mexican money?
29 "Madam" counterpart	66 Cognizant of	111 Rapper — Rhymes
32 "The Dance" painter Henri	67 School where students learn about Swedish money?	113 More intoxicating
35 Biceps locale	72 Norway's capital	114 Refuse to contribute South African money?
36 Powerful auto engine	74 — facias (certain writ)	120 Getty of TV
37 "You missed your chance for folding over that Korean money?"	75 Used skillfully	121 French river
42 Already-included tips, e.g.	76 "— favor, señor"	122 Asmara's nation
	79 Forms Ghanaian money into a cylinder shape?	123 Gobbled up
	83 Brain tests, for short	124 Airport agency.
	84 Suffix with meth-	125 Played (with)
	85 Venture out on one's own	126 Label on a bargain item

DOWN

- 1 Use an ax on
- 2 One "A" of
NCAA: Abbr.
- 3 Chou En —
- 4 Nest dweller
- 5 "If I Can't
Have You"
singer
Yvonne
- 6 Says again
- 7 Rise —
(Paris' Right
Bank)
- 8 E-address
- 9 Bistro bill
- 10 Unpaid player
- 11 Classic
cracker brand
- 12 Tennis-
playing guy
- 13 Kodak
founder
George
- 14 Prefix with
-genarian
- 15 Pentagram
- 16 Reach as
high as
- 17 Large, deep
serving dish
- 18 Painter Jan
- 22 R-X fillers
- 24 Attending to
the matter
- 28 Certain Wall
St. trader
- 29 Said
- 30 Antiseptic
element
- 31 Bucking
bovines

33 Jr., last year	82 "You Be —" (1986 hit for Run-D.M.C.)
34 Spirited horse	88 Jargon
38 Eye coverer	89 Women's patriotic gp.
39 Takeoff strip	91 Secondary field of study
40 Often-pickled veggie	93 George who played Danny Ocean
41 Pirate "Captain"	94 Mosaic tile
46 From scratch	95 Long rodent feature
47 Compelled	96 Most suitable
49 In the lead	97 Assess again
50 Squelched	98 Skip over in speech
52 Cat that roars	99 Chalice, e.g.
53 "The Piano" Oscar winner	100 Nailed the test
54 Cable TV's — Geo	101 Desert of Mongolia
55 Miracle —	102 Some purple shades
57 Here, in Lyon	103 Milo of films
58 Election mo.	108 Piper's wear
60 Elected (to)	109 Twisty fish
61 Virginia Tech team name	110 Average
64 Cold — (frigid)	112 Comic Johnson
68 Court plea, for short	115 Uno plus due
69 Very angry	116 H.S. proficiency test
70 Rule, in brief	117 Gallery work
71 More than loads up (on)	118 Teachers' gp.
72 Assoc.	119 Ham-marsiköld once of the U.N.
73 Great Lakes' — Canals	
77 Like a single-guy band	
78 Traditional Irish brew	
80 Make laugh uproariously	
81 Hoopla	

Answer

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

Go Figure!
answers

4	+	9	-	5	=	8
+		+		-		
7	-	1	÷	2	=	3
-		-		×		
6	-	3	+	8	=	11
=		=		=		
5		7		24		

A decorative banner for church services. It features a large white cross on the left, set against a background of a bright sun, clouds, and a blue sea. The text "Church Services by the Sea" is written in a large, blue, cursive font, and "Cannon Beach to Nehalem" is written below it in a smaller, white, cursive font. There are also two orange starfish and a blue swirl on the right side.

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Cannon Beach to Nehalem

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CITIZEN North Coast

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.

HOCUS - FOCUS **HENRY BOLTINOFF**

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Lampshade is wider. 2. Curtain is shorter. 3. Leaf is missing from plant. 4. Sleeve is longer. 5. Foot is smaller. 6. Arm of chair is different.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ **HOO BOY!**

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Super Crossword

Answers

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The new city council chamber in the city hall building.



Siding was first completed on the new police department building.

MANZANITA City Hall

From Page A1

will be placed behind the facility’s reception desk and in a conference room that will be used for committee meetings.

The old elementary school will also be represented in the city hall by a group of glass globes salvaged from the building that will be hung on metal poles to serve as a lighting fixture in the building’s entryway.

In addition to discussing the aesthetic touches that will enhance the facility,

Stegner also discussed the functionality of the building’s design.

An example of this can be found in the public restrooms in the city hall, which will be accessible via an exterior doorway and can be closed off from the rest of the building, allowing for their use during farmers markets and other

outside events held at the property.

Another example is the facility’s radio capabilities. Most of the equipment will be housed in the police department building that is designed to survive an earthquake. But several radios, connected by subterranean conduits to the police department, will be

in city hall in a room where members of the Emergency Volunteer Corp of Nehalem Bay can access and use them during less severe emergencies.

Stegner said that the project was on budget and predicted that the team will meet the guaranteed maximum price of \$4.6 million and handover date

of June 1.

Manzanita City Manager Leila Aman said that she anticipated it would take about a month for the staff to move in and familiarize themselves with the new facility, and that she was hoping for a ribbon cutting ceremony at some point in July.

Brown, Olson host charging town hall

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Tillamook County Sheriff Josh Brown and District Attorney Aubrey Olson hosted a community town hall on March 4, at the Tillamook County Library’s main branch.

Brown and Olson discussed arrest, charging and pretrial detention processes, with Brown focusing on recent changes to the state’s cash bail system and Olson detailing the challenges of addressing defendants who were incompetent to stand trial.

Tillamook City Councilor Garrett Noffsinger convened the town hall, welcoming participants and introducing Brown, Olson and Tillamook Police Chief Nick Troxel, who was also in attendance.

Brown then gave an overview of the arrest process, explaining that for officers to arrest a suspect they needed to determine that there was probable cause, meaning that it was more likely than not that a crime had been committed.

However, to initiate an investigation, officers only need to have a reasonable suspicion that a crime had occurred, at which point they look for witnesses or evidence to corroborate a reported crime and meet the probable cause standard for arrest.

After meeting that standard, Brown said that an officer needed to determine whether to take the suspect into custody or issue a citation with an attached court date. Brown said that in instances with altercations, officers would usually take a suspect into custody to defuse a tense situation and added that they could not take suspects to jail if they were injured.

If the officer decides that detaining a suspect is the proper course of action, the process moving forward becomes almost entirely automated owing to changes made to Oregon’s bail bond system in 2021 in Senate Bill 48.

Brown said that the bill had essentially ended the state’s bond program, requiring the Oregon Supreme Court’s chief justice to issue statewide guidelines to be adopted by each county’s presiding judge that classify crimes as qualifying suspects for detention or release.

While there is still latitude for judges to set bail for some violent and sexual crimes, Brown said that the guidelines for detention set forth in the presiding judge’s orders require release for many crimes, which was why the community is seeing more

suspects released immediately after they were booked into jail. Brown also said that the Tillamook Circuit Court had two release assistance officers who visit suspects who are detained and help them to meet the requirements for pretrial release.

Brown said that this change and a concern that there was a perception that the jail had a rotating-door atmosphere had spurred him to call the meeting. Brown stressed that he had not played a role in the change to state law and that his office could not detain suspects whom the new judge’s orders directed them to release without breaking the law themselves.

Following his presentation, Brown fielded questions from the audience.

In response to a question about participating in immigration enforcement operations Brown explained that Oregon law prevented him from participating in enforcement of federal immigration law and that he would follow that law.

In response to a question about programs at the jail, Brown said that the facility offered vocational and educational programs for inmates, as well as mental health and substance use disorder treatment in partnership with Tillamook Family Counseling Center and Adventist Health Tillamook, respectively.

Brown also explained that inmates in the jail had access to tablets to help facilitate educational and vocational programs, and cell phones with their capabilities restricted to talking and text messaging for communication.

Several meeting attendees took issue with these arrangements and questioned Brown on what further steps he and his staff could have taken to prevent an overdose death that occurred two days after release from the jail.

Brown said that his depart-

ment did not have the capacity to monitor all communications on the phones but that they did spot checks. He also said that while the situation was tragic, since the person in question had served their sentence, his office had no discretion to continue to hold them and that even if messages had existed expressing a desire to use drugs on release, they would not constitute a crime.

Brown continued that he had not budgeted time at the meeting or prepared for a detailed discussion of the issue but said that he would write a public release addressing electronics in the jail in the coming weeks. He pointed out that phone calls, visitation and written correspondence had been allowed for inmates for decades.

Following the questions, Olson began her presentation, saying that enforcing the constitutional rights of Tillamook County residents was her number one priority and assuring the audience that she would prosecute any crime that was brought to her.

Olson then picked up on the arrest and charging process where Brown had left off, saying that she received case files after release decisions had been made, at which point it was up to her to make a charging decision. For misdemeanors, Olson has sole charging discretion, while for felonies, she must seek an indictment from a grand jury.

When considering charges, there are several factors that Olson must consider, chief among them her office’s ability to prove the charge to the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt standard required for a conviction at trial. The cost of a trial weighed against her office’s limited resources is also taken into account.

Another factor, which Olson said was more complicated and that she believed

was contributing to quality-of-life and safety concerns for residents relating to the local homeless population, is competency to stand trial.

For a prosecution to proceed, a defendant must be capable of understanding the charges brought against them and assisting in their defense. If a person is found not competent by a psychiatrist, they can be sent to the Oregon State Hospital to undergo treatment to restore their competency to stand trial, but only if they are accused of certain crimes.

Olson said that the restrictions on sending defendants to the state hospital had been imposed by federal rulings in recent years and meant that for incompetent individuals who committed low-level crimes, like trespassing, prosecutions were not

feasible.

Olson explained that competency evaluations cost about \$4,000 each and that her office and law enforcement were generally familiar with the people who were committing crimes and incompetent. Olson said that she did not spend resources on evaluating those who would not qualify for a commitment to the state hospital. Instead, Olson said that her office saved the case files for uncharged offenses and if and when the individual committed a crime that would qualify for commitment, charged them with the previous infractions as well.


Olson said that the current situation frustrated her as well and that she was working with other district attorneys around the state




to highlight the issues it was causing in Tillamook and advocate for change.

Olson also pointed out that she had to consider ever-evolving civil rights case law and evidentiary standards when building her prosecutions, with an eye towards the possibility for appeal. As an example, Olson cited a recent change in Oregon that removed mobile vehicle exceptions to search warrant requirements for officers, which in turn rendered evidence in several cases inadmissible and forced her office to dismiss charges.


Olson said that the frequent changes in state statutes and procedures were some of the biggest challenges her office faced but that she did her best to stay abreast of them by training and studying with her fellow district attorneys.

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Tillamook PUD is accepting applications now for the 2025 Electrical Lineworker Program Scholarship. Two scholarship opportunities are available for Tillamook County students that will be graduating in 2025 or have graduated within the 2024 or 2023 academic year.

For more information and to apply, visit www.tpod.org/news-community/electrical-line-worker-program-scholarship/ or stop by the Tillamook PUD office. Applications are due on or before 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025.




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North Coast CITIZEN

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Even Exchange answers	
1. Greet, Great	6. Yellow, Bellow
2. Curdle, Cuddle	7. Notion, Nation
3. Tense, Tease	8. Water, Wafer
4. Brooke, Brooks	9. Flake, Flare
5. Waist, Wrist	10. Invite, Incite

Licensing requirements delay dialysis center opening

WILL CHAPPELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Tillamook County dialysis patients’ wait for a local center to provide life-sustaining care has stretched past a year, as Dialysis Clinics Incorporated works to meet Oregon Health Authority certification and licensure requirements.

Sharon Marti, Senior Operations Director at Dialysis Clinics Incorporated (DCI) said that the process was progressing smoothly, and she was hopeful that the center would open to patients at some point in April or May.

In the meantime, patients have been left to travel to Clatsop, Lincoln and Washington Counties thrice weekly for treatments, which Sharon Gallino, a Tillamook dialysis patient, said is taking a toll.

“During the winter it was touch and go,” Gallino said. “You had the ice and the snow and the animals running out in front of you and almost hitting them; it’s been a long year.”

Patients were thrown into uncertainty in January 2024 when the then-operator of Tillamook’s dialysis clinic, U.S. Renal Care (USRC), announced its intention to close the unit, citing low patient numbers making the operation economically untenable.

Following the announcement, Tillamook Adventist Health President Eric Swanson swung into action, seeking a new partner to operate the center and save its 11 patients the long commutes. On a tip from a consultant, Swanson reached



The dialysis clinic in the basement of Adventist Health has sat unused for over a year but will soon reopen as the Tillamook Kidney Center.

PHOTO BY JOHN HAY

out to DCI, a Nashville-based nonprofit that runs dialysis centers across the country, which immediately expressed an interest in helping to reopen the center.

In September, DCI staff reached out to the OHA to inquire about the possibility of transferring USRC’s license for the center to the new center, according to Erica Heartquist, a Public Health Communication Officer for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). However, USRC had returned its license to OHA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), making a transfer impossible and triggering a

new review for the proposed center.

The review process, which usually takes six months to a year, according to Heartquist, starts with a review of the physical environment by the OHA’s Facilities Planning and Safety Program and fire and life safety elements and mechanical by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

The Fire Marshal’s Office’s reviews were completed in late February, a timeline shared by Heartquist showed, and documentation has been submitted to the facilities program, which still needs to complete an onsite inspection before issuing a

notice of project approval.

Marti said that inspection will happen by the end of March and that she believes all needed work has been completed, or that waivers will be issued for items that cannot be retrofitted to meet current standards but are still safe.

Once the notice of project approval is issued, OHA’s Facility Licensure and Certification division will schedule an onsite inspection of their own within 7-14 days, which will require more documents be submitted by DCI. The company will need to address any issues identified in the inspection and may be subject

to a second inspection and will then be issued a license.

Marti said that this review will focus on the center’s operational plans and that with the same staff who were at the center before its closure returning and DCI’s experience in other states, she believes it will go smoothly.

At that point, the center will be able to begin operations and will undergo a final certification survey by OHA surveyors or contracted surveyors from an accreditation agency to gain final CMS certification.

Marti said that she had had a productive phone call with OHA personnel on March 14,

and that she was feeling more optimistic about the center’s prospects of opening in April or May than she had in weeks.

While DCI had originally hoped to have the center open in late 2024, Marti said that meeting safety standards and operating safely was the company’s top priority and they understood the importance of licensure requirements. Marti said that she has formed a good working relationship with OHA staff, describing it as a partnership that was committed to moving the center’s reopening forward as quickly as possible.

Patients and other members of the Tillamook community are anxiously awaiting the day that the center will reopen, with Swanson saying, “the extended recertification process for the dialysis unit has created challenges for patients who are now required to travel long distances multiple times a week for essential care.”

Swanson said that he had been in contact with State Senator Suzanne Weber, Representative Cyrus Javadi and Governor Tina Kotek’s office to try to speed the process along.

Gallino said that while she has adjusted to traveling to Lincoln City for treatment, she is eagerly anticipating the day the center reopens and knows that it will be even more impactful for other patients, with whom she remains in contact.

“They’re getting really tired,” Gallino said, “they have a lot more things wrong with them than I do. We’ve all just had it.”

Local Business Spotlight

Stay afloat thanks to Greg’s Marine Service

Spring is well underway, and Greg’s Marine Service is, well, keeping boats underway.

Since 1980, the Garibaldi business has been the area’s specialists in marine repair and outboard sales. Founded by Greg and Debbie Iseri, and now owned and operated by Bill Pitino, the business continues to keep customers out on the water nearly 50 years later.

“We care about our customers, so we want to make sure that we’re taking care of them as best as possible,” Pitino said. “We’ve got a nice fishing community here and we just want to be honest and fair with them. If they want something, we’ll help them as best we can.”

Greg’s Marine Service is a dealer for Yamaha Outboards, Honda Outboards, Boulton Powerboats, Marlon Boats and EZ Loader Boat Trailers.

“Along with being a Honda and Yamaha outboard dealer, we’re certified to work on them,” Pitino said. “Some of my guys, myself included, have gone to the Honda and Yamaha training facilities. There’s always new products coming out and it’s just important to see the new stuff. We’re trying to maintain standards here to help the community out.”

Pitino purchased Greg’s Marine Service seven years ago after finding it for sale online.

“I wanted to be a mechanic when I was younger,” he said. “This business came up and I looked at it. They’d been running it for a long time, and I thought it was a good business. I loved the area, and it was something I needed for [a life] change.”

Pitino said his biggest concern was if the owner’s daughter, Renee Pingel, and mechanics (including long-



PHOTOS BY CHELSEA YARNELL
Greg’s Marine Service has been a Garibaldi Business since 1980 as specialists in marine repair and outboard sales.

time shop manager Mark Widener) would leave if the business changed ownership. They didn’t.

“I told them: ‘I’m fortunate you guys are living my midlife crisis,’” Pitino chuckled.

Years after the sale of the business, Greg’s Marine Service continues to operate on the principles it’s always had, commitment to customer service and safety.

“Greg had a great reputation; he did a great job all these years and that’s why I didn’t change the name of the building because he had a strong clientele from over 40 years of running this business. So, I wanted to make sure that we maintained that. So far, we haven’t embarrassed him as far as I know. We’re going to take care of people first and make sure everybody’s safe.”

Each year Greg’s Marine Service does numerous motor repowers, sells over 100 Yamaha motors, and sells 30 to 40 Honda motors. At peak season, service turnaround time is about two weeks. The business attracts local clients as well as people from outside the area.

“We surprisingly get a lot

of people from Washington and the Portland area that will drive over here because they fish in Tillamook Bay,” Pitino said. “Just call us and we’ll schedule a drop-off time.”

Pitino has also kept the business heavily involved as a sponsor of community events. This past year, Greg’s Marine Service supported Garibaldi Days, Garibaldi Seafood and Spirits Festival, Kyler’s Big Heart Benefit Concert, Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad’s Candy Cane Express and donated life jackets to the Tillamook Early Learning Center’s “Diving into water fun and safety” event.

“We try and stay involved with everything. We are a member of the Garibaldi Business Association and we’re trying to strengthen up some of the programs here in the city. All us businesses have been trying to band together to take on some responsibility of those events because it’s a part of being in the community.”

Pitino’s commitment to the community, and his business, is undeniable. So much so that he sold his own boat because his focus is on helping others with theirs.



Greg’s Marine Service staff (left to right) Weston Goodwin, Tom Logan, Darin Webb, Will Pack, Brandon Roberts, Bill Pitino, (front) Renee Pingel.

“We’re here for them. We want to make sure that they’re safe and get them out and enjoying the bay here,” he said. “Even if they just want advice on something or have questions, we’ll be happy to help them.”

Greg’s Marine Service is located at 409 E Garibaldi Ave (Hwy 101 S), Garibaldi.

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit gregsmarineservice.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.

Headlight Herald

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