



Adventist Health Tillamook leadership and local elected officials ceremonially break ground on the hospital's surgical center expansion and modernization.

# Adventist breaks ground on surgery center expansion and modernization

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

Adventist Health staff, local elected officials and construction team members gathered on October 17, for a groundbreaking ceremony for an expansion and modernization of the hospital's surgery center.

The three-phase project has a projected budget of \$18 million and construction is expected to begin formally in the coming weeks and be completed in 2027.

Preparations for the project began when staff noticed that the foundation in the current surgical suite, which was constructed in 1995, was settling and causing cracking

in the floor. Addressing that issue will be the top priority of the renovation of the existing facilities, while the addition will facilitate an expansion from three to four operating rooms and the addition pre- and post-operative beds, expanding the unit's capacity.

First, the new structure will be constructed in the courtyard immediately adjacent to the current center at the hospital's rear. That will allow operations to transition there while renovations take place to the existing suite, which will become the pre- and post-operative waiting area, preventing a disruption



Adventist Health Tillamook President Eric Swanson addresses the crowd gathered for the groundbreaking.

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Cyrus Javadi

## Javadi prioritizes housing in reelection bid

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
Citizen Editor

After a first term in which he helped to secure funding for several infrastructure projects in district 32, State Representative Cyrus Javadi hopes to build on that momentum and take other steps to promote housing growth in a second term.

Javadi said that he would support legislation to make it easier for cities to expand their urban growth boundaries, increase allowed density in areas near cities and reduce or waive system development charges for housing development. The district 32 representative also said that he would promote solutions to address the high cost of living in the district including reducing utility bill fees charged by the state, lowering barriers to opening childcare centers in private homes and expanding the state's free school lunch program to all students.

"What type of fat can we cut, and can we run lean and mean for a little while to balance out inflation," Javadi said had been a guiding question as he looked ahead.

In his first term, Javadi said that he was proud of the work the legislature had done to pass Governor Tina Kotek's housing bill and pointed to his work to cut red tape slowing development in coastal

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# City of Rockaway Beach candidates

During the production of the *Tillamook Headlight Herald's Voters' Guide* three candidate responses submitted in advance of the deadline were mistakenly not included due to editorial oversight.

We apologize to the affected candidates as well as voters and are including the statements for Mayor Charles McNeilly, Mayoral Candidate Rodney Breazile and Councilor Alesia Franken here.



**Mayor Charles McNeilly**

I have lived in Rockaway Beach since 2018 with my wife Sue and our border collie/walking partner Abigail. I previously worked in banking,

**Mayor**

software development, and electric utilities for over twenty years managing projects, products, processes, and people before being elected Mayor in 2022. I work hard to deliver clear communication across diverse audiences.

I have had the honor of serving as Mayor for the last 21 months. Here are a few highlights from my first term:

- Spearheaded the increase in transparency and communication between city government and community members including Town Halls, Open Houses, annual State of the City messages, monthly Coffee with Manager and Mayor, and monthly updates on the city government activities and accomplishments.
- Took the lead in our City's efforts to acquire Jetty Creek Watershed and guarantee an abundant supply of clean water on into the future.
- On the forefront of establishing a balance between support for tourism and livable neighborhoods with a short-term rental cap.

- Provided easy access on smartphones for tourists to know where they can eat, shop, sleep and recreate while in Rockaway Beach.
- Fully engaged in assuring Strategic Planning Initiative gathered input from across all segments of our community.
- Productive, collaborative partnership with our City Leadership.

I believe our biggest challenge is the rift in our business community; it creates a headwind which negatively impacts our community and city government. I will look for ways to heal this rift in my second term.

I ask for your vote so I can continue the work I began in January 2023 with a continued focus on taking control of the Jetty Creek Watershed so we have a clean, abundant supply of water, short term rental management, community engagement and communication, continued fiscal responsibility and a productive collaborative partnership with our city leadership.



**Rodney Breazile**

My name is Rodney Breazile, and I have gratefully lived in Rockaway Beach for 38 years.

I'm a co-owner/operator of a local custom-home building business. However,

**Mayor**

my unwavering commitment to Rockaway Beach truly sets me apart. I have volunteered for over 20 years as a parent, neighbor, community member, Lion, and committee member. My 6-year tenure on the Rockaway Planning Commission and as a general contractor has given me a deep understanding of infrastructure and city development. This, coupled with my experiences as a previous local employee on a commercial fishing rig in Garibaldi, a parent who raised children in NKN, a business owner, and my commitment to volunteering and listening to people, equips me with the qualities needed to serve as mayor.

One issue that has caught my attention over the years is the unequal treatment

of citizens by the City. It's concerning to see some citizens being held to every requirement of a specific request while others are not. If elected as Mayor, I am committed to ensuring that our city treats all citizens equally and is held accountable for its actions.

As your Mayor, I will prioritize transparency in all City operations and decisions. I will also work tirelessly to promote the health and prosperity of our community and businesses, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to thrive. I also want to uplift our local workforce by implementing ways to increase housing opportunities, like through city-pre-approved accessory dwelling unit plans.

## Council Position 4



**Alesia Franken**

My name is Alesia Franken, and I have lived in Rockaway Beach for four years. I am a small business owner here on the North Coast and have been a Rockaway Beach City Councilor for the past year and a half. My prior career was in high-tech in the Pacific Northwest as a Chemical Engineer

with the last portion of my high-tech career in upper management, primarily as the Head of Quality.

Volunteer work I engage in:

- Served on the board of Tides of Change in Tillamook County
- Volunteered for the Lower Nehalem Community Trust at Alder Creek farms from 2021 through

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# ADVENTIST

## Groundbreaking

From Page A1

tion in services.

At the groundbreaking event, Patient Care Executive Heather Thompson welcomed the crowd and laid out the plans for the event, including speakers, a ceremonial groundbreaking and reception, and introduced Tillamook County Commissioner Mary Faith Bell.

Bell said that she was happy to be celebrating the new surgery suite because Adventist was an integral part of the community. She mentioned their partnership with Tillamook Bay Community College on their fledgling healthcare education program, their efforts to bring dialysis services back to the county after the departure of U.S. Renal earlier this year and their weekly hope dinners as examples of their multifaceted contributions.

Adventist Health Chief Medical Officer Paul Welch then spoke about the expansion's impacts on the surgical staff at the hospital. Welch said that the expansion would mean more space, a better flow and the ability to serve people more effectively but that it was also a symbol of Adventist's commitment to the community.

Welch said that he was proud to be part of an organization that had that commitment and that the project filled him with joy and thanked Adventist and the community for their support.

Adventist Health Tillamook President Eric Swanson then addressed the crowd and thanked all the people who are making the project possible. Swanson mentioned the hospital staff, design, architectural and construction teams, and the Tillamook County commissioners, who are the hospital's landlords.

Swanson also thanked former Congressman Kurt Shrader, who helped to secure a \$1 million allocation for the project from the federal government, helping to catalyze the project. The remainder of the project's funding is coming from Adventist Health's capital management fund and Swanson told the Headlight Herald that the final cost would depend on the price of new equipment purchased late in the process.

After Swanson's remarks, a group of staff kicked off the ceremonial groundbreaking by shoveling dirt, before a group of elected officials and Adventist Tillamook leaders got in on the action, with a final turn of the dirt from members of Adventist Tillamook's board.



Renderings of the new surgery facility's interior and exterior.



# JAVADI

## Relection bid

From Page A1

areas with flood, landslide or other concerns. He also said that he was proud of helping to allocate money for local infrastructure projects including a wastewater treatment facility in Manzanita, the Nehalem Bay Health District's new clinic in Wheeler and the county's Shiloh Levee Project north of the City of Tillamook.

Despite those successes,

Javadi acknowledged that on-the-ground progress has been slow to materialize. "We made some bold steps to get a lot of money moving in that direction and start cutting red tape, but we still haven't seen the results of any of that locally," Javadi said.

While waiting for those projects to be completed, Javadi said that he plans to continue pushing for new policies to further alleviate the housing crunch in the district. Javadi said that he wanted to make it easier for small cities to expand their urban growth boundaries (UGB) and increase housing density

near cities, allowing half-acre minimum lots within a mile of UGBs and acre-minimum lots in the zone two to five miles from city centers.

"I see it as a resource that's already there, but let's just reallocate it," Javadi said. "We don't have to chip into that, you know, 40-acre farm or whatever, but where we've got these little patches or spots where we could sell the land and then redevelop it."

Javadi also said that he would favor waiving system development charges for builders constructing new houses. He said that he hoped to use state funds to offset revenues

lost by those cuts and that he had been assured there would be more funding available for infrastructure projects in the coming session.

Another potential solution Javadi is proposing to address the housing shortage is a tax deduction for the first \$18,000 in rental income generated from long-term rentals. Javadi said that he believed such a deduction would encourage property owners to transition poorly performing short-term rental properties back to regular rental stock and increase availability, even if only at the margins.

Javadi said that homelessness was another top issue that he has heard mentioned by district voters and that he wanted to reduce state funding to jurisdictions to a level that would meet their needs without encouraging an excess of services. "We need remove the financial incentive that cities and the state have to have a homeless problem," Javadi said.

Legislators need to have

conversations with city and county leaders to assess their needs before making decisions about allocating funding to law enforcement, treatment or other responses, according to Javadi.

Another area of concern for Javadi is the allocation of transient lodging tax (TLT) funds generated by overnight tourists.

Currently, 70% of funds generated by the TLT must be dedicated to projects promoting or supporting tourism, while the remaining 30% can be allocated freely by jurisdictions. In high tourism areas, like Tillamook, Clatsop and Lincoln Counties, Javadi said that this requirement was out of touch with the reality of huge visitor numbers and services strained by them.

Javadi said that he was planning to bring forward legislation amending the statute governing state TLT to allow counties with 100 or more times as many overnight visitors as residents annually to invert that funding

split after the first 5% of tax gathered.

This would allow counties with high levels of tourism to boost their general fund revenues and buttress services without increasing the tax rate, as Tillamook County is planning to ask voters to approve next May. With the proposed 100-visitors-to-residents ratio, Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln and Hood River Counties would be the only current qualifiers for the amended split in the state.

"Instead of having to raise the tax and make it more expensive for the tourists, let's make it so it's still the same, but now we're just flipping it around," Javadi said.

Javadi said that he expected to meet strong resistance from the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association and planned to propose a five- or ten-year period to test the change. Javadi also said that he would propose a study of the issue should his proposed reform fail to advance.

Generally, Javadi said that he felt many of his proposed policies were aimed at increasing the amount of tax revenue that stayed in small communities like those in district 32, rather than being directed to Salem before returning. Javadi said that he felt many smaller communities were shortchanged in that process and believed that keeping the money local would help promote solutions.

"Why don't we just keep more of the money that would normally flow for income tax here and let's use it on projects that we need," Javadi said.



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Headlight Herald   

## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: 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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# Hoffman Center for the Arts Gallery will feature works and reception by three artists in November

Robert Gamblin will show his landscape paintings, which have been based on the Cascade Head since he moved to the area four years ago. His intention is to capture in color and share the sublime, some may say transcendent, landscape of the Biosphere Reserve. Gamblin will show two series: Vibration of Light and Sitka Portraits. Employing the “broken color” technique first used by impressionists, the Vibration of Light

series is about standing on the edge of a huge open space, seeing and feeling the light that falls on the landscape and illuminates the atmosphere. In contrast, the Sitka Portraits series is very figural. Just as people acquire character with age, each of these sitkas has a unique personality from a pose they grew into decades ago. For Gamblin, as the sitkas reach out for light and moisture, and dance in the wind, they symbolize our need as

humans to reach out to be in connection to everything and everyone in our lives. Peggy Biskar will show her quilted panels in Stitched Gardens. Using recycled Japanese silk scrap secured with embroidery thread, Stitched Gardens began with the vision of large simple shapes crowded into fields of thread-drawn flower-like marks. However, the work isn’t all about flowers; it’s about research and recycling and drawing and

stitching obsessively with thread. Biskar started the series with a concept and kept working at it as time progressed and stitches accumulated. This work has guided Biskar through two years of major surgeries—throughout it all, she stitched whenever she could. For Biskar, as she ages, she understands that making art is really all she ever wanted. She wants to see how far she can go before she can’t. Aimee Mattila is profes-

sionally trained as a jeweler and coppersmith and will show 3D works in the gallery in November. Mattila’s work is partly driven by the medium itself—coppersmithing is a slow, labor intensive process consisting of repeated rounds of annealing and hammering the metal into a pleasing form. Mattila grew up immersed in nature in the country outside the rural town of Woodland, Washington. Her love of nature’s renewal, combined with

a diverse spiritual quest, has always paralleled her creative vision. We invite you to visit the Hoffman Gallery October 31-November 30, Thursdays through Sundays, from 12-5 pm. An artists’ reception will be held 3-5 pm on Saturday, November 2, during which the artists will speak about their work and answer questions. The not-for-profit Hoffman Center for the Arts is located at 594 Laneda Avenue, Manzanita, Oregon.

# La Nina brings heightened chance of cool, wet winter

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

Leaders of county agencies were briefed on the winter weather outlook by a National Weather Service meteorologist at a meeting hosted by the Tillamook Bay Flood Improvement District on October 17. Rebecca Muessle, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Portland office, told the group that with ocean surface temperatures cooling in the south pacific, northwest Oregon could expect a transition to a La Nina cycle to bring

a higher chance of wetter and cooler than average weather. Muessle started by giving a brief recap of last winter’s weather, saying that east winds had caused the major ice storm in January of this year, as well as several other events, including blizzard conditions in the cascades in December of 2023. Muessle then pivoted to the forecast for this winter, saying that after being in an El Nino cycle for several years, the pacific was transitioning to a La Nina cycle. Muessle said

that there is a 60% chance that the transition will occur by November in the northern hemisphere and that La Nina is expected to last through at least March 2025. This means that the jet stream will be north of Oregon, putting the state in a cooler and wetter air mass, according to Muessle, though that doesn’t necessarily mean that conditions will be wetter and cooler. Muessle said there are a panoply of models that combine ocean temperatures, historical data and other factors to project the

probability of a range of outcomes. The model primarily used by the weather service projects that from November through January there is a 43% probability of higher-than-normal precipitation, a 32% of a normal level of precipitation and a 25% chance of below average rainfall. During that same time, the models show that there is roughly an even chance that temperatures will be above, below or near average, with a higher probability of below average temperatures in the January to March

timeframe. Muessle said that based on the models, this will be a weak La Nina year and that in a dozen comparable years, six have had below average temps, five above and one around average. Muessle also stressed that while looking at the models and larger trends was compelling, the most impactful winter weather came during individual events. Muessle then discussed updates that were made in March to the forecast zones for the Portland office, saying that they had been redivided to better reflect

terrain and local effects and climate. The low-lying areas of Tillamook County are now in Zone 102, which is reserved for beaches, coastal hills and headlands. The office has also made several updates to their systems of hazards, watches and warnings, Muessle said. Those changes consisted of eliminating wind chill warnings with an extreme cold watch and warning and the existing cold weather advisory and eliminating the hard freeze watch in favor of relying solely on freeze watches and warnings.

# Symphony presents concerts in November

The North Oregon Coast Symphony will begin its 2024-2025 season with two concerts in November. Titled “Grand Openings,” this series offers several classical pieces that were originally intended as preludes to larger works such as operas, including Dvorak’s Husite Overture, Rossini’s La Gazza Ladra (The Thieving Magpie) Overture, and Poet and Peasant Overture by Franz von Suppé. In another grand opening, Dylan Morrow, a senior at Astoria High School this year, will be the soloist for the first movement of Edward

Elgar’s Cello Concerto, Op. 85. The first concert will take place on Saturday, November 9, at St. Catherine Episcopal Church (36335 N. Hwy 101, Nehalem, OR) beginning at 3 p.m. The second concert will be on Sunday, November 10, at the Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts (588 16th St., Astoria, OR) beginning at 3 p.m. Admission for both concerts will be: \$10 Adults, ages 18 and under FREE (children 12 and under with adult supervision). Tickets will be avail-

able at the door only for the Nehalem concert. Tickets for the Astoria concert will be sold online at charlenelarsencenter.org or by phone at 503 338 9132. Cookies and refreshments will be available at both concerts during intermission. This non-profit orchestra, under the direction of conductor Cory Pederson, brings together musicians from the north Oregon and south Washington coast to perform classical music for local audiences. For more information, please visit the the NOCS website nocsymphony.org.

# Repair work continues on the Necarney Creek bridge

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Our crews have been making progress to repair the Necarney Creek bridge in Oswald State Park on U.S. 101. Safety is extremely important to us and we are doing everything we can to ensure

the rest of the bridge structure is safe to travel on. Our engineers inspected the bridge immediately after a portion of the sidewalk collapsed and they are continuing their inspections as repairs are made. While we still have a few more tasks to complete, we’re planning to complete all repairs by early November.

For the safety of travelers and workers, the bridge is still down to one lane with flaggers helping direct traffic, please use caution. We encourage all travelers to plan ahead for extra long delays and to visit TripCheck.com first to get real-time updates on traffic and impacts.

# CANDIDATES

Alesia Franken

From Page A1

2023

- Member of the North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection
- Co-president for the PNW Coast Paddling Club

I believe that the biggest issue facing Rockaway Beach is the security of our Jetty Creek Watershed. There are multiple variables that can influence this life sustaining and crucial resource. It is imperative that our city continue its efforts in seeking the best solutions for securing and shepherding improvements to our Jetty Creek Watershed to ensure clean and abundant water for generations to come. Tangential to this is the city’s infrastructure such that it robustly addresses impacts to the efficiency, availability, and transport of this valuable resource. I humbly ask you for your vote. I promise to continue to lead with my core values of honesty, transparency, and integrity, while approaching problem solving in a

pragmatic fashion. I will continue working collaboratively with my fellow city councilors, mayor, city manager, and excellent city staff to support community-based infrastructure improvement projects such as the state-of-the-art

Anchor Street Park, Lake Lytle improvements, Wayside access improvements, and more. These types of projects make Rockaway Beach more livable for our residents as well as those that love to visit here.



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Consider Republican opposition to Trump

If you had a friend who complained that everyone was against him, and the firm he and you worked at before you retired fired him for no good reason, you might ask around to find out why he got fired. Say that a good percentage of the people you talked to said he was just awful to work for, and that they couldn't recommend him, or ever hire him back. If most of them said he nearly ruined the company when he was the CEO, and would surely bring the company to its knees if he was hired back, then you might rethink any sympathy you had for his "poor-me" story.

And that is Donald J Trump. Half his cabinet and his former vice President are not endorsing him. His longest serving chief of staff, John Kelly, said that Trump praised Hitler and fit the definition of a fascist. As did his Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley, who also said he was "the most dangerous person to this country." Yeah, you say, that's just a couple of disgruntled losers who are out to get Trump. But they are all Republicans who worked for him, who he hired--as "the best people"--who had voted for him, and believed in him until they couldn't any more. The list is so long--hundreds and hundreds of Republican officials in the Trump administration and former Republican administrations---there's a Wikipedia page listing them all. Check it out. "List of Republicans who oppose the Donald Trump 2024 presidential campaign", *Michael Stevens Tillamook*

## Disappointed in Javadi's support for HB 4108

It was a revelation as well as a disappointment to learn that Dr Cyrus Javadi was a co-sponsor of House Bill 4108. Having worked for 40 years as a healthcare provider for women, I know firsthand that the decision for women (and their partners) to end a pregnancy is often extremely complex and emotionally painful. I also know that the option to end a pregnancy is part of high-quality health care. As we now know, women in states that have banned this option are becoming critically ill and dying because they cannot access timely care. I would never presume to tell Dr Javadi how to care for his dental patients. As a dentist and politician, he and others like him should not be involved in making health care decisions for women.

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I will be voting for Andy Davis, a candidate who trusts women to make their own healthcare decisions.

*Helen Welch Bay City*

## Impressed by Leverette

This is a post to Wheeler voters:

Even though I live in Nehalem in terms of where my house is and for whom I can vote, I went to the Wheeler Candidates Forum at NCRD because I consider that I live in the entire Nehalem Bay community, which includes all three towns of Wheeler, Nehalem and Manzanita. I listened carefully to what each candidate had to say.

Mary Leverette's work history includes an almost 30-year career in government service for the State of Oregon and the City of Portland. I believe she understands the mechanics of city government and will bring experience to the Wheeler City Council.

I find her to be a person who is a fair-minded voice of reason. I believe she is devoted to serving her community, wants to help find solutions that will serve Wheeler long term, and is committed to Wheeler's future.

She has been an organizer for the community of Wheeler, having worked in emergency preparedness and in coordinating the Wheeler Clean-Up Day for three years. She has attended nearly every Wheeler city council session for the past two years. This shows a keen interest in Wheeler's well-being.

She tells us she is organized, fair-minded and practical. I believe her.

While it is not a specific qualification for being a city councilor, it speaks to me that she was a hospice volunteer for over fourteen years. Clearly, she is a caring person.

If I lived in Wheeler, Mary Leverette would get my vote.

*Lucy Brook Nehalem*

## Issues with the emergency radio bond request

Nearly all citizens in our county agree that government should provide basic infrastructure: Roads, public safety, and equal access to necessary county services. This why when Commissioner Skaar proposed making large cuts to the county sheriff's budget in spring of 2023 there was immediate public response in opposition. As a participant in the opposition, I helped to publicize the issue and organize a Back the Blue rally with attendance of the budget meeting in support of the sheriff's office. However, I strongly oppose the proposed 29-180 Radio Bond as presented to the voters on the current election's ballot. Here is why:

1. Our local citizens cannot afford one more penny of expenses, period. The current economic inflation is driving up costs for every person at every level. Whether it is fuel, eggs, or our favorite cup of Joe, everything is more expensive.
2. The county is currently in a budget crisis. It is commendable that the commissioners have attempted to anticipate coming budget shortfalls through "roundtable" meetings, but they have also raised county employee salary tables (regardless of whether the current employee was above median pay), built taxpayer funded no barrier housing for the homeless with utilities, signed the county on as partners with Food for ALL Oregonians to feed illegal aliens with tax monies, and recently increased environmental health fees on businesses and charities, including new unusually high fees at the total discretion of the Environmental Health Director. But now they want

the citizens to agree to an average of \$100 more in property taxes a year?

3. The bond has an astronomically high price tag for unnecessary tools. Do we really need emergency workers to have the ability to send data from every wilderness outpost of this county? Why not break this down into county and special district individual bonds so that a variety of local budgetary committees oversee the expenditures?

I hope my fellow citizens will join me in voting no on this ballot measure at this time. Perhaps, the county can present a smaller proposal in the spring that still meets the needs of our community.

*April Bailey Neskowin*

## Leaving it to Leverette

After hearing her name numerous times over the past four years, I had the opportunity to spend some time with city Council candidate, Mary Leverette. I was already impressed with her work on emergency preparedness and the city clean up. Mary has taken on these initiatives with vigor. Acting in the role of everyday citizen, Mary helped to move these important projects forward and they are now staples in our community.

We chatted for a while and Mary proved to be very knowledgeable about numerous city issues. She understands the complexities, the challenges, and most importantly, the possibilities facing our community. Wheeler will be better with Mary's participation. I will be voting for Mary Leverette for Wheeler City Council this election, and I encourage all Wheeler voters to do the same.

With respect,  
*Former Wheeler Mayor Stevie Stephens Burden Wheeler*

## To the Editor

To the Editor of the Tillamook Headlight Herald,  
The free flow of information is at the core of our democracy. This principle is so important that it is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. In our modern age, social media has become a de facto town square, where folks read about local news and events, various announcements and politics. The United States Supreme Court has stated that social media platforms allow citizens to "petition their elected representatives and otherwise engage with them in a direct manner."

Public officials are entitled to a private life, including the right to engage on social media privately. However, courts have ruled when a public official uses social media as a campaign platform, to promote their official duties, and their positions on issues, they are acting as "State Agents" and they must act within the terms of the First Amendment.

In Rockaway Beach, City Counselor Kristine Hayes is the admin of several public Facebook Community groups, and her close associates admin other groups. Ms. Hayes uses those pages as personal campaign tools to promote her actions within city government, and promotes her positions on issues before the City. She also uses these pages to promote a slate of candidates that are her close allies, Justin McMahan, Rodney Breazile and Debra Reeves.

At the same time, she actively blocks content from other candidates and people who merely disagree with her. She regularly deletes comments, replies, and blocks users. City Councilor Alesia Franken is blocked from posting on Ms. Hayes page. It's noteworthy that Ms. Franken's opponent, Justin McMahan, a close associate of Ms. Hayes is allowed to post his campaign materials freely. Ms. Franken is not alone and in fact several other candidates not on Ms. Hayes' slate are also not allowed to post.

This is not new and is well known within the Rockaway Beach community. If Ms. Hayes and her associates want a page devoted only to their views, they are certainly allowed to do that. However, it is unethical to remove or block postings contrary to their views when the very name of the group implies it is a public forum, and the rules of the group do not explicitly state views that don't align with the admins' will not be accepted.

Reasonable people can and should disagree respectfully. Sadly, not everyone plays by those rules. Personal attacks are never acceptable. However, when someone enters politics, they open themselves up to a higher level of scrutiny and should expect there will be disagreements.

Disagreeing with a public official is not bullying. A candidate posting their campaign video, or their campaign platform is definitely not bullying. It is not "intolerance". It is part of the Democratic process. Public officials must be held to a higher standard, especially those who espouse values of transparency in public, but in private act otherwise. Citizens have every right, and indeed a responsibility to call attention to unethical behavior, including on social media.

*Robbie McClaran Rockaway Beach*

## No on 118

Vote no on Measure 118. There is no such thing as free money. You will pay more in higher prices than you will get back. The only ones to come out ahead is the State of Oregon. They will take 2 billion dollars to administer this fiasco. Vote no on Measure 118.

*Mike Stacey Tillamook*

## For the Media

Tillamook County has placed Measure 29-180 before the voters this November. The county is asking voters to consider authorizing the sale of General Obligation Bonds in an amount of \$24.4 million to finance the purchase of a public safety radio system across the county. If the measure passes, the funds will be used to upgrade a failing radio system currently used by all first responders including police, fire, medical, Tillamook PUD, Tillamook Public Works, the 911 Dispatch System and related microwave equipment plus one new tower (there are currently 12).

A number of questions have been raised in letters to the editor, social media and community meetings. There is some misinformation circulating so this is an effort to set the record straight and explain the ballot measure. Here are some of the comments and questions in our community.

- Why Now? The existing system is 25+ years old and is failing. Repair parts, if available at all, are often purchased on eBay or Craig's List. Public Safety is the highest priority of local government. A dependable, working communication system is essential to public safety. Electronic equipment has a relatively short life.
- It's too expensive. The cost to upgrade the entire system is estimated at \$26.4 million including a contingency. Tillamook County has received a \$2 million grant to help fund the project. The new system was designed by Federal Engineering, a specialty consulting firm that sells no products, only designs radio systems. That is the estimated cost based on our design, terrain and basic requirements of all

users and the two – way radio public safety market across our country. The estimated cost is \$.33 per \$1000 of Assessed Value of taxable real property in the county. This is a professional radio system for professional first responders.

- The proposed system seems like a Cadillac system. The new system will have more features than the old system, but is more like a Chevrolet with new tires, better fuel economy and a much better radio. Remember what you were driving 25 years ago.

- What about satellite and cellular service? Starlink is used in other countries. Starlink is a private firm owned by Elon Musk. It was designed primarily for internet service and TV. It basically requires a clear line of sight from the earth to a satellite, something which is uncommon in Tillamook County. Moreover, it is not in common use in America for public safety communications. Two-way radio on VHF and UHF radio bands is proven technology and used around the world. Even enhanced mobile devices currently do not meet the public safety requirements for form, function, ruggedness, resiliency battery exchanges and other features. Public safety agencies expect service reliability to be mission-critical, meaning it is available wherever and whenever it's needed. Land Mobile Radio currently meets this requirement whereas cellular and mobile broadband networks do not.

- Is our current system broken? It works but is failing and has limited service and range across the county. It's analog design, while nearly all electronic equipment today is digital.

- Why doesn't each agency take care of its own communication needs? All our agencies work together during accidents, storms, power outages, police or sheriff incidents, medical emergencies and more. A single system will allow more reliable communication not only within Tillamook County, but with neighboring cities and counties and the state police and Coast Guard. Also, a larger contract should provide lower per unit costs. Part of the problem with the current system is that certain agencies cannot communicate with other public agencies or must use a complicated channel switching system.

- What happens with the extra money if the bids are lower than the estimate? Any remaining funds will be used to help with maintenance costs in the future.
- What happens if the bids are more than the budget and bond? The county and public safety agencies will need to either add additional funds or reduce the scope of the project.

- What happens after the warranty period? Who owns and maintains the system? After the warranty period, each agency will own the equipment and be responsible for maintaining and replacing the equipment as necessary.

- I'm on a fixed income and can't afford higher taxes. A general obligation bond is the least expensive method for local government to pay for needed projects. While it will be a burden for some of our neighbors, the project is necessary to continue public services of police, fire, medical, 911 dispatch, public works, Tillamook PUD and related support. Remember that about 40 percent of the cost will be paid by those people who own property in Tillamook County but reside elsewhere.

- What if the bond fails? Then what? The county and other agencies will continue to do what we do now. The best we can with what we have.

- I heard the county is going to use some of the money to help close shortfalls in the county budget. That is incorrect.

Tillamook County's budget issues will be resolved by other means. The money for the radio project may only be used for the radio project by law. Tillamook County could not repurpose these funds even if it wanted to. Funds for this project are in a completely separate fund and accounted for separately.

- I heard the bonds are supposed to be repaid in 15 or 16 years. Why not longer and lower the cost to the people? The county does not want to continue paying for something which may be obsolete in 20 or 25 years. A longer repayment period would also cost more over time.

- Will this bond measure provide cell phones for residents so we can call 9-1-1? No. Cell phones remain the responsibility of individuals. The proposed radio system is for communication among first responders, 9-1-1 dispatch and related services.

*Doug Olson Tillamook County Commissioner*

## Passing the Torch

Dear Friends and Wheeler neighbors,

Some of you may know I will not be seeking reelection. But, my heart and mind will always be thinking about our fair city. I want to do what I can to ensure a bright future for Wheeler. To that end I am enthusiastically endorsing Mary Leverette for City Council. She is a dedicated volunteer for our city and has proven her devotion and value through thousands of hours of service.

Mary has attended almost every Council meeting over the past two years. She listens and asks critical questions. She asks for clarification of difficult issues. For three years she has coordinated the Wheeler Cleanup Day.

Mary is on the City's Emergency Preparedness Committee. She recently held a number of meetings to familiarize neighbors with our emergency supplies and to inspire us to begin setting up our own emergency plans. The meetings had a greater goal: to urge neighbors to get to know one another — always a good thing.

Mary is working hard to create community. She will be an advocate for Wheeler. She will work to understand the challenging issues. She will make her voice heard when questions need to be asked. I trust that she will work to make Wheeler a better, safer place to live, work and visit.

I'm voting for Mary for City Council, and I humbly ask you to join me. Let's make sure Wheeler is in good hands.

*Mayor Clif Kemp, City of Wheeler*

## Please vote

I would just like to take the time to thank candidates Justine, Kristine, Stephanie, Dane, Rodney, and biggest supporter Kim. I have learned so much more about city politics, Transparency, and what it takes to support one another. I have gained lifelong friendships with people who know me trust me, support me and care about me. Anyone of us would be more than proud to be on the city council or mayor of this town of Rockaway Beach. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve this community on a city council seat. Again, thank you all for your positive uplifting words of encouragement. Rockaway needs each of you to help this community with housing, urban growth, parks and rec, and beautification of our downtown area. We all want to listen to your voice (our community) and decide together what is best for Rockaway's future. Vote, vote, vote.

*Debra Reeves Rockaway Beach*

LETTERS, continued from page A5

Rockaway Beach candidates’ STR interests

It seems a curious coincidence that the group (Breazile, his wife Hayes, Reeves, Winchester and McMahan) speaking at the recent candidates’ forum for city council and mayor of Rockaway Beach were all opposed to the city cap on STRs (short term rentals) and most if not all seemed to have a financial interest in STRs. Meanwhile the people who are on the council that they are running against don’t have any financial interest in STRs.

*Jon Orloff  
Rockaway Beach*

Senators Merkley and Wyden: please step up and help end animal testing

Dear Editor,  
U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden have been outstanding champions for ending cruel and wasteful government animal testing, and Oregonians need their leadership once again.

In 2019, Sen. Merkley led a successful effort with our non-profit, the White Coat Waste Project, to end deadly kitten experiments at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sen. Wyden also took on outdated Department of Defense animal testing and won.

Unfortunately, earlier this year, WCW exposed how the DOD is still spending millions of tax dollars on unnecessary and inhumane tests in which dogs are poisoned with large doses of experimental drugs and cats are subjected to invasive constipation and erectile dysfunction experiments.

This continues even though the DOD restricts some experimentation on dogs and cats, and admits that, “animal models have limited relevance to humans and poorly predict effects in humans.”

This summer, following our investigations, the U.S. House unanimously included a bipartisan measure in the 2025 Defense bill cutting funding for all DOD dog and cat experiments. Now, the senate is considering the measure and Sens. Merkley and Wyden can help protect pets and cut government waste by supporting it.

Ending painful government testing on dogs and cats is a win-win for animals and taxpayers in Oregon and beyond.

Sincerely,  
*Jared Goodman  
General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer  
White Coat Waste Project*

Stop destroying Clear Lake beaver dam

My wife and I own a residence at 488 South Anchor St., Rockaway Beach, where we have been part time residents for over 20 years, improving the property, participating in the community and enjoying the setting.

Our yard backs onto Clear Lake, a beautiful pond of several acres, the center piece of a large wetland, that drains directly into the ocean. The pond is home to large large numbers of birds, small fish, mammals, including beavers. The latter have had dams for a number of years, which maintain the pond level.

Several times, the city has torn down the dams, leaving only slightly Mud-flats and destroying the habitat so central to this wetlands ecology. I have complained, only to be told that some people do not like mosquitoes. There are none, of course, because the swallows, bats and fish control the insects.

This year I called the city manager to compliment the city for allowing

the DAM to exist. It had meant some species of birds had appeared who had disappeared over the last few years, including Osprey and wood ducks. I returned yesterday to find the dam destroyed, the pond gone and only ugly mud flats and puddles left.

I am appalled. The beauty is gone. An invaluable community asset is destroyed. Moreover, my wife and I feel financially damaged, as we have just spent \$25,000 for a new roof, on a home now significantly devalued.

I invite you to come and see for yourself. I will send separately photos from last week and yesterday. Please feel free to call me to discuss this.

*Art Lafrance  
Rockaway Beach*

Stop removing political signs

As a Democratic Party volunteer, I post the election signs on the lot just south of Tillamook. I have replaced signs 5 times this election season. And I will replace them again when I summon the time and energy.

I have to wonder at the mindset of the perpetrators. I’m sure they must think they are justified in their acts of vandalism and theft.

I believe their actions are more like a petulant 3rd grader than those of a responsible adult. Maybe it has something to do with their political persuasion.

My question to them is simply, “Who raised you?” Sincerely,

*Jim Heffernan  
Tillamook, Oregon*

Support Davis in District 32

To my Clatsop and Tillamook County neighbors, Please support Andy Davis for House District 32. Andy truly cares about the issues that working families, seniors, and kids face every day: attainable (“affordable”) housing, affordable and accessible healthcare, support for education, and responsive and responsible government.

Cyrus Javadi gives lip service to some of these but has waged a very mean spirited and negative campaign largely funded by a PAC associated with Phil Knight and other rich out-of-district donors. He’s not running on his record! During the 2023 legislative session, Javadi did not vote on 22% of the bills coming before the house. At a AAUW candidates forum, he claimed that he was ill with COVID for many of these, but his voting record (see <https://gov.oregonlive.com/legislators/Cyrus-Javadi/>) does not support this excuse.

Andy has extensive experience in local government and knows well the issues that affect North Coast citizens. He serves on the Astoria City Council and served on the Clatsop County Budget committee and a Clatsop county citizen advisory committee reviewing the comprehensive plan. He’s a research analyst for the Oregon Health Authority and is acutely aware of the healthcare issues facing Oregonians.

Vote for Andy who will represent the interests of North Coast citizens and not those of rich donors from outside our community!

*Dave Shively  
Tillamook*  
**Support Davis**

Dear Editor,  
Andy Davis is the superior candidate for our Oregon House District 32 position. He supports women’s reproductive rights; believes in the reality of our climate crisis and the importance of finding solutions; as a union member, understands the power of collective bargaining in protecting workers’ rights; believes

in the value of public education; and wants to ensure economic security for small businesses and families. Simply stated, he cares about us and will put us first! Through my interactions with Andy, I have found him to be fair, honest, kind, compassionate, smart, articulate, hard-working, and experienced. His commitment is demonstrated by the fact that he is willing to leave his current position as Research Analyst for Oregon Health Authority (as would be required by law since it is a State job) in order to focus his time and energy on serving us in Salem. We need our representative to be there! I can’t imagine voting for anyone else. Join me in casting your vote for Andy Davis for Oregon State Representative, House District 32.

*Kim Cavatorta  
Hebo*

Support for Emergency Radio Bond

As part of the hospital-based EMS and ambulance team in Tillamook County, I am writing to express my support for the radio bond measure on the November ballot. This bond is essential for improving emergency communication in our county.

Clear, reliable communication is critical during emergencies. Right now, the radios we use to communicate with dispatch, fire, and police are outdated and sometimes unreliable. This makes it harder to respond effectively during life-threatening situations, such as car crashes or heart attacks. Having a trustworthy communication system is essential to keep our community safe.

Additionally, reliable communication is vital when EMS teams need to consult with physicians during emergency responses or interfacility transfers to hospitals in the Portland area. For critical patients, like those needing specialized care, being able to communicate with doctors in real-time allows us to make better decisions and provide the best possible care on the way to the hospital.

The bond will fund the necessary updates to our radio systems, helping all emergency services in the county work together more efficiently. This upgrade will strengthen our ability to provide life-saving care during emergencies and ensure a safer, healthier community.

Please join me in voting YES on the radio bond measure. It’s a crucial step in keeping Tillamook County safe.

*Eric Swanson  
Tillamook*

Tillamook school district needs to live up to past standard

Dear Editors,  
At my Book Group the other day, we were sharing many of the great accomplishments of the Tillamook School District. Several in the group are retired educators. They know good education practices when they see them. We commented on how nurturing the Tillamook School district is to students. New teachers and substitutes are welcomed and mentored. Strong academics are a priority. Athletic teams and specialty clubs are cultivated.

And we noted that the Tillamook School district has recently received national recognition. Unfortunately, this national recognition is for banning a book without following proper procedures! That is a disappointment and embarrassment to our community.

You can do better Tillamook School Board members!!!!

Regards,  
*Christi Clark*

Use vote411 for election information

These days it can be a challenge to find information about the local candidates and measures that appear on your ballot. Luckily, there’s Vote411.org—a one-stop resource for everything on your ballot.

Vote411 is a trusted public service project of the League of Women Voters. It is used by millions of voters each year who are looking for objective, nonpartisan information so they can decide how they want to vote. In addition to candidates’ answers to questions there are neutral analyses of ballot measures and info about registering, voting deadlines, and more. Voters simply enter their street address to get a personalized list of every race, candidate, and measure that will appear on their ballot, enriched with the kind of information that helps voters make their own choices.

Every candidate in the state is invited to post on Vote411, which is free to both candidates and users. Candidates can speak in their own words about what matters to them and the voters in their district. If a candidate in your area hasn’t posted there, contact them to ask why.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon never endorses or opposes any candidate or party. It is dedicated to promoting civic engagement and a well-informed citizenry.

I urge candidates and voters alike to make use of Vote411.org before the November 5, 2024, election.

*Lisa Bentson  
President  
League of Women Voters of Oregon*

Vote Alesia Franken for Rockaway Beach council

To the editor:  
When Alesia Franken was appointed to fill out the term of Cindy K. Gregory on the Rockaway Beach City Council, she came to the office with an open mind, with a commitment to listen and learn. Alesia didn’t come into office with the idea that she had all the answers. She took her time to learn about the process of governing. She listened to city staff, and city workers. She listened to Rockaway citizens. Alesia took the time to carefully study each issue before her and then seek the most pragmatic, responsible solution.

Her time in office has seen the most productive and positive period in Rockaway Beach’s history. This is the result of listening to the community, collaborating with her fellow city councilors and the excellent city manager and staff. And putting the good of all the community above all else.

Alesia is whip smart, but humble. She’s not a politician and she has no interest in self-promotion. She is a public servant. Alesia isn’t running for re-election for her own self-interest, but from a heartfelt desire to work for a better and brighter future for all of Rockaway Beach, visitors and residents alike. Safe and secure drinking water. Livability. Preserving our small-town character. And supporting a strong business community.

Alesia is guided by her core principles, honesty, integrity, and transparency.

After listening to the candidates in the recent forum, the choice for city council position 4 could not be any clearer.

I enthusiastically endorse Alesia Franken for Rockaway Beach city council.

*Lydia Hess  
Rockaway Beach, OR*

Vote Davis

I am writing to express my support for Andy Davis for district 32 state representative. I went to the candidates’ forum in Pacific City, and I read through the candidates’ answers to questions on various issues from the Oregon Capital Chronical. My take-away is that both candidates identified pressing issues for the county, enough issues and pressing enough that I want my representative to give them full time attention. That’s exactly what Andy Davis would do. If elected, he has committed to taking on representing me as his full-time job. Dr. Javadi would continue balancing his legislative duties with his medical practice. So, given the choice between two capable men, I’ll choose the one who will give all, not some portion, of his time representing me, and that man is Andy Davis.

*Gordon Whitehead  
Hebo*

Vote Democrat

We have our eyes focused on the big picture: the threat to democracy posed by Donald Trump, whose disregard for the rule of law, the electoral process, and the peaceful transfer of power, are well documented, and we aren’t forgetting that his economic policies favor the rich. These policies including the huge tax cut for the rich with itsy bitsy crumbs for the rest of us--this was the major accomplishment of his presidency. The rich want to keep that money spigot flowing their way, which is why Elon Musk and his ilk are supporting Trump. These wanna-be oligarchs haven’t learned the history lesson that if you put an autocrat in power leading your nation, you are then at the mercy of the whims of the autocrat. And we’ve seen over and over again that Trump’s demands for loyalty only go in one direction---toward him.

The Harris-Walz team and the Democrats want to challenge Trump’s “socialism for the rich” by continuing to provide more avenues for wealth building among the middle and low-income people such as creating living wage jobs, advancing manufacturing; childcare assistance; supporting small business startups; building housing for families and being able to afford these houses once they are built. Home ownership is a big step towards building generational wealth, a step that has been denied to many in our country. Vote Democrat up and down the ballot including Andy Davis for our Oregon State Representative.

*Mimi Maduro  
Tillamook*

Vote for Justin McMahan

I have known Pastor Justin McMahan for almost four years. Our Eldership Team at Living Water Fellowship was so privileged to find him. He is a strong leader, a good listener and a visionary. He is well organized and his follow through is excellent. Before going into full time ministry, Justin worked as a very successful regional business manager for Aeropostale, a clothing chain. His job was to raise up strong leadership teams, find the giftedness in each employee, and raise a high bar for expectations. His passion was to teach how to lead effectively and deliver consistently with improved sales. He understands building a strong infrastructure and he invests time to work with people. We have seen him activate these skills with the church. Since coming to Tillamook, Justin has been an out of the box thinker about ways we can support the community with excellence. Some of the programs he has spearheaded are: The Compassion Clinic at the YMCA, Helicopter Easter

Egg Drop, Annual Marriage Conferences, Working with and mentoring Young Families, and 20 Groups to help people develop close friendships and growth in God and/or outreach to the community. As a pastor, he steadily delivers strong, interesting, applicable sermons to help people find and grow in their relationship with God. Justin and his wife, Erin have raised up a strong, vibrant, growing church. Justin served as the President of the Habitat for Humanity Board. He is a family man with 5 great kids, and raising up healthy strong families is a passion for him. Justin is a humble, well adjusted, moral, principled man who does his homework. He thinks before he speaks. He is creative and skillful at addressing problems and he doesn’t ignore them. If Justin is elected to the Rockaway City Council, he will bring strength, unity and vision to the team and things will get done. Vote for Justin McMahan.

*Linda Hanratty  
Tillamook*

Why I support Justin McMahan for Rockaway Beach City Council

I worked for the City of Rockaway Beach and was able to see the lack of transparency of the City Council. When the city council decided to “save money” by defunding the police department without community input, I was very concerned. I saw firsthand how a few people made decisions that affected many, without any input from the citizens. Many citizens of Rockaway Beach were not aware of what a few people were doing, changing the quality of service for the citizens.

I have been concerned about this and other troubling behaviors displayed by certain members of the city council. Where is the transparency of the city budget and input from the community? Why is there an anti-short-term rental view by certain members of the council? This bias by certain members of the council during COVID was clear, and it appears to remain today. Why? This sentiment is the driving force for not choosing investment in the future but accepting stagnation for the city.

I have known Justin McMahan for 4 years and was one of the Living Water Fellowship leadership team members who looked into his background before hiring him. Before serving as pastor, Justin was a successful District Manager for Aeropostale for 12 years. Justin has brought his training and experience to expand our church’s outreach to our communities.

Justin has used his leadership skills to build unity among the local churches and our community. He believes in transparency and honesty in tackling problems. He believes in citizen involvement. I trust Justin to make the right decisions for the City of Rockaway Beach because he will listen to all points of view before making the final decision.

Please vote Justin McMahan Rockaway Beach City Council Position 4.

*Mike Hanratty  
Tillamook  
Retired Police Officer and Deputy Sheriff*

Yes for Javadi, no on 118

Dr. Cyrus Javadi has my vote for State Representative because he will go to bat for the needs and rights of small businesses and the timber and agricultural sectors which are all so vital to the citizens of District 32. Keeping Dr. Javadi as our Rep will help to create a better balance in the makeup of the House. And, finally, please don’t allow Measure 118 to crush our economy with a tax on tax. Vote no on Measure 118.

*Pam Zielinski  
Tillamook*

# Rockaway Beach candidates appear at forums

**WILL CHAPPELL**  
CITIZEN EDITOR

Candidates for Rockaway Beach’s city council and mayoralty appeared in forums on the 15th and 16th, presenting their plat- forms to voters.

On the 15th, four coun- cil candidates and two mayoral candidates partici- pated in a forum moder- ated by Headlight Herald Publisher Joe Warren, and on the 16th all nine council candidates took part in one moderated by Laura Swanson of the Tillamook County Pioneer.

Mayoral Candidate Dane Winchester said that he and his wife, Stephanie, who is running for coun- cil, had bought a house in Rockaway Beach a decade ago and moved to the com- munity full time four years ago. Winchester worked as a software engineer for Boeing before becoming a contractor.

Winchester said that if elected, increasing af- fordable housing stock in the city would be a top priority as would increas- ing community input on government decisions. He said that he was concerned about the data used to inform the 2023 cap on short-term rental (STR) properties in the city and would favor forming a citi- zen committee to review the issue further and make a recommendation to the council on the cap.

Winchester said that he would like to see the city add an accessible events center, cut systems devel- opment charges (SDC) for accessory dwelling units (ADU), would not sup- port increasing the city’s transient room tax (TRT), but would support the return of the city’s parks and recreation and police departments, and a move to at-large voting for council.

Mayoral Candidate Rodney Breazile, whose wife Kristine Hayes is running for reelection to council, said that he had lived in Rockaway Beach for almost 40 years and said he was running for office because he believed that the government could make positive changes in the community. Breazile, who has a background in construction, said that he would try to solve prob- lems that arose by hav- ing conversations with community members to guide his decision-making process.

Breazile said that he wanted to see more data on STR properties in the city and that while he sup- ported the idea of a cap, he also wanted the city to prioritize enforcing rules



(Left to right) Rockaway Beach mayoral candidates Rodney Breazile and Dane Winchester, and city council candidates Debra Reeves, Kristine Hayes, Stephanie Winchester and Justin McMahan at the forum on October 15.

on nuisance properties. He said that he would like to see more educational ac- tivities in the city for visi- tors and residents, would not favor an increase in the city’s TRT, would like to see the city’s parks and recreation department re- vived and would support a move to at-large voting.

Councilor Mary McGin- nis is running unopposed for position one on the city council and appeared at the forum on the 16th. McGinnis said that she had brought her experience as a teacher to the council and was learning what it took to make a business thrive in the city.

McGinnis said that she still supported the city’s STR cap after voting for it and that she was participat- ing in countywide attempts to expand affordable hous- ing availability as a mem- ber of the county housing commission’s legislative committee.

Councilor Kristine Hayes is running for posi- tion two on the council and participated in both for- ums. Hayes said that she was running for her third term on council because she believed that the city needed balance. Hayes said that she felt mom-and-pop businesses were being dis- advantaged at the expense of larger companies and that she wanted everybody in town to feel that they had a voice in the govern- ing process.

Hayes voiced skepticism about the data being used to inform the city’s STR cap and said that conse- quently she felt she could not make an informed de- cision on the issue. Hayes said that she would support the return of the parks and recreation department, the addition of a museum showcasing the town’s his- tory, would favor cutting SDCs for ADUs, a return

to at-large voting and would not support increas- ing the city’s TRT.

Councilor Tom Martine is squaring off against Hayes for position two and appeared at the forum on the 16th. Martine served in the National Guard before a long career in commercial and residential construction, during which he has also volunteered as a firefighter. Martine was fist on city council from 2008 until 2013, before returning in 2019.

Martine said that he had been the originator of an idea to build the city a new fire station outside of the tsunami inundation zone, which is currently in the early stages of planning. Martine voted for the cap on STRs and said that he still favored it, though he believed that it could be raised in the future if the properties were better managed.

Kiley Konruff is running for position three on the council and participated in the forum on the 16th. Konruff said that she has lived on the north coast since 1998, graduated from Neah Kah Nle High School and has lived in Rockaway Beach since 2006. Konruff said that she was running for city council because she wanted to increase community involvement in government, restore the parks and recreation department and bring more events to the community.

Konruff said that she supported acquiring the Jetty Creek watershed to secure the safety of the city’s drinking water, would favor a study of SDC fees to evaluate re- ducing them for ADUs and supported the cap on STRs. Konruff said that the city should be doing what it could to incentivize mixed income and workforce housing and that if elected

she would bring transpar- ency, integrity, compassion and honesty to the role.

Stephanie Winchester is running against Konruff for position three on the council, participated in both forums and has expe- rience on the city’s budget committee and planning commission. Winchester said that she was running because of an atmosphere of divisiveness in the town and that she would not take sides and work to represent the whole community if elected.

Winchester said that she favored a reevaluation of the STR cap, increasing educational tourist op- portunities and events in the winter, reducing SDCs for ADUs, bringing pack the parks and recreation and police departments, returning to at-large voting and opposed increasing the city’s TRT.

Councilor Alesia Fran- ken is running for position four on the council and participated in the forum on the 15th. Franken said that she felt that she had worked productively with other councilors, the mayor and city staff since her appointment in 2023 and

hoped to continue suc- cesses achieved during that period.

Franken said that she supported continuing rec- reational and accessibility projects in the town, was supportive of the city’s plans to purchase the Jetty Creek watershed, sup- ported the STR cap and did not favor the return of a local police department as she felt the sheriff’s office was doing a good job in a more fiscally responsible manner.

Justin McMahan is also running for position four on the council and partici- pated in both forums. McMahan said that he had moved to the city four years ago and started the Living Water Fellowship in Tillamook. McMahan touted his experience on nonprofits, including the board of Tillamook Habitat for Humanity, and said that he felt serving on the coun- cil was a natural extension of those efforts.

McMahan said that he favored a reevaluation of the STR cap with more citizen input, increasing family activities in the city, would not favor increas- ing the city’s TRT, would

support bringing back the parks and recreation department, and a return to at-large voting. McMahan also said that he felt his professional experiences would help him to bridge divides in the community and that he would try to promote open dialogue.

Councilor Penny Cheek is running for position five on the council and partici- pated in the forum on the 16th. Cheek has been on the council for five years and said that she has been active in efforts to purchase the Jetty Creek watershed, is a member of the business association and a board member of senior meals.

Cheek said that she hoped to continue work- ing collaboratively with councilors to consummate the Salmonberry Trail proj- ect through town and the purchase of the watershed. She said that she believed the city needed more recreation opportunities, mentioning adding trails at Lake Lytle, and that she was in favor of maintain- ing SDCs and the city’s cap on STRs.

Debra Reeves is running against Cheek for position five and participated in both forums. Reeves said that she had moved to the city two and a half years ago and purchased Joe’s Snack Shack and wanted to be a voice for businesses and the community on the council. Reeves said that she was passionate about food insecurity and hoped to beautify the downtown by addressing vacant prop- erties to increase tourism.

Reeves said that while she did not favor a cap on STRs she was open to a compromise, that she supported the return of the police and parks and recreation departments and a return to at-large council elections. Reeves said that listening to others would be her top priority and that she hoped to bridge gaps

# OBITUARY

## William L. Supak



love of his life and future wife Linda Kozlowski. Supak joined the As- sociation General Con- tractors in 1990 as Ex- ecutive Director. In1998, he decided to enjoy a well-deserved retirement in his long dreamed of and deeply loved home in Manzanita. There, he was able to devote full time to his favorite hobbies: reading, fly fishing, hiking and creating beauty with his elegant Frank Lloyd Wright style-stained glass works of art. Supak had a soft spot in his heart for all animals, but particularly unfor- tunate strays, and never turned away an animal

in need. For them he opened not only his heart but his home and spared no expense medically to nurse them back to health. He saved no less than 25 cats and dogs from dismal fates, providing them with love and want for nothing in their twilight years.

He was a voracious reader of everything from the New York Times and Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker magazine, to books on World War II (where his father served) and Vietnam, to fishing, architecture, environment, and political science

He was a loyal and treasured friend, where his parting cries were often ‘Semper Fi’ and ‘Go Bears!’

Services will be Private. In leu of cards or flowers, if you wish, please donate to Dove Lewis Animal Hospital or any charity that supports the wellbeing of animals on his behalf.

Go Bears! Semper fi! Private ceremony. Ser- vices will be Private. In leu of cards or flowers, if you wish, please donate to Dove Lewis Animal Hos- pital or any charity that supports the wellbeing of animals on his behalf.

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# NKN boys take second at Bigfoot Classic

BY CHELSEA YARNELL  
For the Headlight Herald  
Guest Contributor

Fast times and top places are what the Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates came away with from the Bigfoot Classic cross country race.

Hosted at the Alderbrook Golf Course on Oct. 23, the NKN boys team finished second as a team with 67 points behind Banks with 34 points.

R Weiss was first for the Pirates in fifth place in a time of 16:24. He was followed by teammates Gus Kirby (9th, 16:44), Liam Gibson (14th, 17:25), Clayton Dante (15th, 17:27) and Ansel Albrechtsen (26th, 18:01).

On the girls' side, the Pirates placed fifth out of seven teams with 109 points. Anna Roddy was the top finisher from NKN placing seventh place in a time of 19:53. London Martin (31st, 23:18), Payton White (36th, 23:38), Lilly Denning (42nd, 24:13), Sara Vega (53rd, 26:06) rounded out the scoring team.

The Nestucca Bobcats also competed at the Bigfoot Classic.

The boys team placed eighth out of 16 teams with Jonah Higdon as the first Bobcats in eighth place in



Micah Rigg of Nestucca and Anna Roddy race at the Bigfoot Classic hosted at the Alderbrook Golf Course on Oct. 23

a time of 16:32. He was followed by Emmett Clark (28th, 18:11), Tony Jaimes (60th, 19:26), Paul Bobak

(71st, 19:38), Roanin Duragan (98th, 20:55). On the girls' side, Micah Rigg was the only runner

to compete. She finished fifth overall, with a time of 19:44. Both NKN and Nes-



The NKN boys cross country team placed second at the Bigfoot Classic. Sophomore Gus Kirby was second on the team and placed ninth overall.

tucca will travel to Tigard High School on Oct. 30 to compete in the 3A/2A/1A District Championships.

Qualifiers will then advance to the OSAA State Championships at Lane Community College on Nov. 9.



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## Tillamook County Employees Union endorses Rockaway Beach Candidates for City Council and Mayor

Tillamook County American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union Local 2734 endorsed Rockaway Beach candidates Charles McNeilly for Mayor, Mary McGinnis for City Council Position # 1, Tom Martine for City Council Position # 2, and Alesia Franken for City Council Position # 4 in the November 2024 General Election. The Tillamook County AFSCME Local 2734 members felt that largely

the current City Council and Mayor are doing a great job

and have a plan for the City of Rockaway Beach that the City

employees could both follow and get behind.



Charles McNeilly



Mary McGinnis



Tom Martine



Alesia Franken



## “When anyone asks us who to bank with, we send them to Oregon Coast Bank.”

For over 20 years, Chris Wilks Construction has built facilities for farmers, contracted with residential and commercial customers, and met the needs of businesses all over Tillamook. Oregon Coast Bank is right there with them.

“I’ve never referred my bank to anyone before,” Wilks said. “Now, when anyone has a question about who to bank with, we’ll send them to Oregon Coast Bank.”

Wilks started his company in 2000 after growing up on a family farm, helping with his dad’s logging company, and serving in the military. “I liked building and enjoyed it, and decided I’d start my company,” he said.

Now the business is getting ready to open a new garage door division, run by Wilks’s son. Transition can be stressful, but Wilks isn’t worried: one of the things he appreciates about the bank is “just not having to worry about the financial side of things. It’s nice to be able to pick up the phone; you don’t get that with a lot of banks. The managers have always gone above and beyond.”

At Oregon Coast Bank, Wilks said, tellers know you by name, service is responsive, and business can get done on the spot. “They’re just better on the customer service side. They truly do make you feel that they want to involve you in everything.”

As a result, Wilks envisions a long future between the bank and his family business. “The business will continue with them through other generations,” he said.



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