



**Welcome to the
2026**

**Pacific NW News
Conference**



2026 Associate Newspaper Contest

Best News Photo

3rd Place

Bonner City Daily Bee

Local Baby Box blessed, second in state

Chloe Cochran



Best News Photo

2nd Place Smoke Signals

Photo from 5.1 Earth Day Jam

Michelle Alaimo

Willamette Valley Powwow set May 31

Several Tribal members will be participating in the Willamette Valley Powwow in Lebanon Saturday, May 31, at Boulder Falls Center, 505 Mullin Drive. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. The arena director is Tribal member Fabian Quenelle, and head dancers are Tribal members Nichole and Levi Lebel. The host drum is Bad Soul. The free event will feature grand entries at 1 and 6 p.m., and a special performance by the Aztec Dancers at 2 p.m. It is hosted by the Lebanon Valley Community School District Native American Education Program. Contact Laurie Regalado at 541-451-8524 or laurie.regalado@lebanon.k12.or.us for more information. ■

CTGR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

2025 Honor and Recognition Event Graduation Celebration

Are you a CTGR tribal member promoting from 8th grade, high school/GED graduate, or college graduate? We invite you and your family to celebrate with us on June 27th at 5:00pm at Spirit Mountain Casino for our Honor and Recognition event! Meal included.



JUNE 27, 2025 • 5:00 P.M.

8TH GRADE PROMOTERS &
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/rGhje2voZAvVS4cf9>



GED & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Please email Higher Education for the college graduate form.
highereducation@grandronde.org • 503-879-2275

Saturday May 10
10AM- 2PM
Chachalu
Cultural Center



Nourish Your Body

A celebration of local food, farmers, hunting, and gathering
Free and Open to all community members

Cooking Demonstrations
Educational Workshops
Informational booths
Free community Meal



Nourish Your Soul

Organized by Grand Ronde's Food Justice and Community Table
Sponsored by Makah-mak Food Share & The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Earth Day



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

One-year-old August Reibach sings and drums during the Earth Day Jam in the Tribal gym Friday, April 18. The Lush lamatsin event, sponsored by the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, also included a cake walk, environmentally-friendly activities and dinner.



Copper Chagualaf, 5, decorates a birdhouse during the Earth Day Jam in the Tribal gym Friday, April 18. Youth also had an opportunity to make a bird feeder out of Cheerios.

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



#smoksignalzCTGR #ctgrsmokedgals #smokeSignalCTGR

Best News Photo

1st Place

Smoke Signals

Photo from 2.15: Blue Heron Fire

Michelle Alaimo



Best News Writing

3rd Place
Eugene Weekly

E-Commerce Unknown

Christian Wihtol

Eugene Weekly

NEWSARTSCALENDAR SUPPORT

E-commerce Unknown

BUILDING WITH THE FOOTPRINT OF A ‘SORTATION CENTER’ SLATED FOR EUGENE FARMLAND

NEWS / BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL / POSTED ON 01/23/2025

Bricks \$ Mortar



ILLUSTRATION BY JADE WILKERSON

A massive e-commerce distribution center is in the works for farmland next to the Eugene Airport. But the identity of the occupant isn’t being made public.

The single-story center will total more than 323,000 square feet, according to the building permit application filed late last month. That’s the size of two average Costco stores. In other words, big by Eugene standards.

The building will have the footprint of a typical Amazon “sortation center,” a regional hub where up to 300 workers use conveyor systems and other machinery to sort packages, and a truck fleet to deliver them.

Seattle-based Amazon did not reply to inquiries from *Eugene Weekly*.

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Best News Writing

2nd Place

Eugene Weekly

Proof

Mirandah Davis-Powell, Catalyst Journalism Project

eugene
weekly

NEWSARTSCALENDAR SUPPORT



IMAGE BY MCKENZIE YOUNG-ROY

Back to Work

ELIZABETH CARROLL WON A MAJOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION CASE AGAINST FRANZ BAKERY. SEVEN MONTHS LATER, SHE

Best News Writing

1st Place

Eugene Weekly

Never Forget

Brianna Murschel, Catalyst Journalism Project

weekly

NEWS ARTS CALENDAR SUPPORT



BARBARA KENNY HOLDING A PHOTO OF HER CHILD, STACY, IN HER SPRINGFIELD BACKYARD IN OCTOBER 2020. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KENNY FAMILY.

Never Forget

FAMILIES DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACTION AFTER LOVED ONES DIE FROM POLICE VIOLENCE

Staff

PortlandTribune

Log In

News Sports Obituaries Opinion Lifestyle Events Contests Newsletters Classifieds eEdition Special Sections

In his Portland home, a cartoonist crafts jokes for The New Yorker

Published 4:59 am Thursday, August 21, 2025

By Hannah Seibold

"Yes, the planet got destroyed. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a lot of value for shareholders."

1/2

One of Tom Toro's most popular cartoons from The New Yorker. (Submitted by Tom Toro)

Behind a small window cutout in the front door of the Northeast Portland home sits a furry guard to this New Yorker cartoonist's upstairs studio.

Upon entry, a chair dons a curved sag in its plush cushion, suited for the fluffy multicolored feline, Pumpkin, who, too, makes art in the form of scratch posts.

Through the hallway, art lines the walls from colleagues Bruce Eric Kaplan and Frank Cotham.

Portland Highland Games

Westside Commons (Washingt...
Mon, May 11 @12:00am
Collage and Cut Paper Art Show
Providence Hospital Portland
Mon, May 11 @9:00am
Two new exhibitions in the Front & Center...
Multnomah Arts Center
Mon, May 11 @10:00am
Threading Together: AANHPI Traditional...
Lan Su Chinese Garden
Mon, May 11 @12:00pm
Lewis & Clark Summer Session Registration

See All Events Add Your Event

pearl)

A little while ago, we shared some exciting news about our own Tech Concierge, Adrian Amora, at The... ([Read more](#))

May 10 Scotties Autobody Repair, Inc. Follow

Spring showers mean slippery roads! ☁️ Make sure your steering and suspension are in top... ([Read more](#))

May 8 Patricia Reser Center for the Arts Follow

The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, in partnership with Beaverton Arts Market, is pleased to... ([Read more](#))

08:00AM The Watermark at the Pearl Follow

A little while ago, wa

Powered by Friends2Follow

OVERCHARGED BY YOUR POS????

RESTAURANTS

Best Feature Writing

2nd Place

Eugene Weekly

Thriving Under Fear

Seira Kitigawa, Catalyst Journalism Project



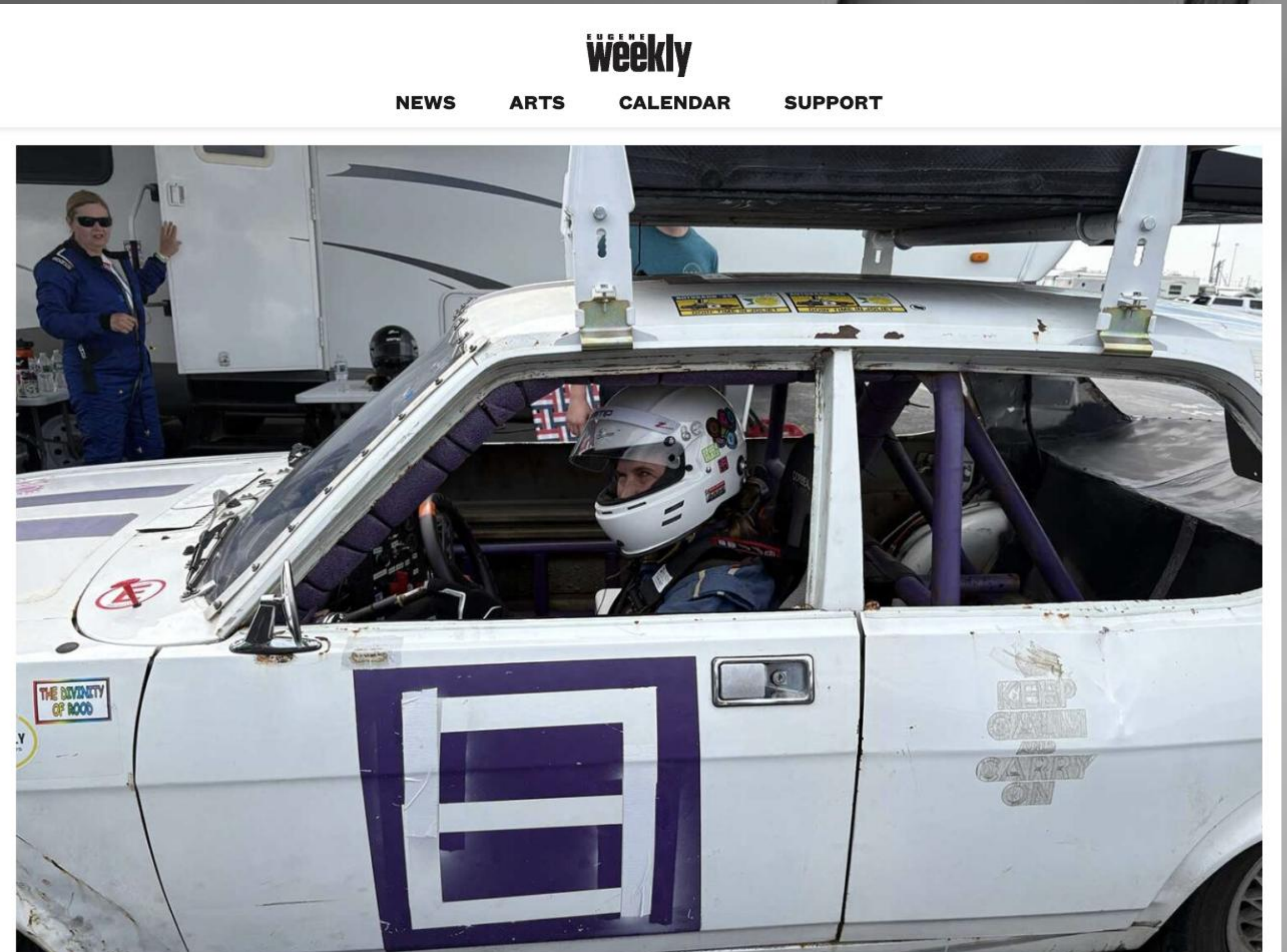
Best Feature Writing

1st Place

Eugene Weekly

When Life Gives You Lemons

Camilla Mortensen



CAMILLA MORTENSEN PULLS INTO THE PIT AFTER HER LAPS IN THE 24 HOURS OF LEMONS RACE. PHOTO BY LINDA FRAUNHOFER.

When Life Gives you Lemons

YOU SQUEEZE THOSE BEATER CARS INTO RACES AND RALLIES

CULTURE / BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN / POSTED ON 07/17/2025

Best Editorial Column

3rd Place

Capital Press

Capital Press editorials 1, 2 and 3

Joe Beach

OUR VIEW

It's time for Congress to fix the immigration laws

President Trump's promise to deport all illegal immigrants and his executive order starting that work puts producers and farmworkers in a difficult position.

It prompted us to dust off a reform proposal we made many times during the Obama administration and early in Trump's first term until COVID pushed most everything else out of the news.

It is unclear whether Trump actually intends to carry out the mass deportation that he promised of 11 million or more illegal immigrants. So far, officials have focused their attention on "criminal aliens" and gang members.

Most Americans have little interest in allowing foreign nationals who have committed violent or serious property crimes to stay in the United States.

On the other hand, polls show that Americans have far more sympathy for immigrants who have entered illegally to escape poverty and persecution, and who have tried to live quiet and useful lives.

Many illegal immigrants fill invaluable roles in our economy, particularly in agriculture.

Farmers who raise vegetables, fruit and nursery crops depend on immigrant labor, as do many processors and packers. It's generally agreed that most of these workers, as many as 85 percent in some areas, are in the country illegally and are providing employers with fake papers.

Immigrants working under fake papers



A boundary marker between the U.S. and Mexican border.

are violating several federal and state laws. Employers who hire, or continue to employ, workers who they know to be undocumented are liable for audit and prosecution for violating immigration law.

So, an informal "don't ask, don't tell"

arrangement exists between employers and employees.

Democratic and Republican presidential administrations for decades have tried to come up with effective and fair means of addressing illegal immigrants that ranged

from deportation to amnesty.

Trump is enforcing immigration laws that have been on the books for decades. Members of Congress who have howled loudly over recent deportation actions need to change the laws.

The Constitution (Article 1, Section 8) gives Congress sole power to "establish a uniform rule of naturalization."

We want a program that secures the border, revises the guestworker program, and grants illegals currently in the country a reasonable path to permanent residency.

Congress should offer illegal immigrants who are willing to register temporary legal status and a path to permanent residency after 10 years if they meet strict requirements — no prior felony convictions, no violations while awaiting residency, learning to speak English and pay any back taxes. Those not meeting the requirement should be deported.

As a penalty for entering illegally, those made permanent residents should not be eligible for citizenship.

We think the border must be secured. No one guilty of serious crimes here or abroad should be allowed to stay. A viable guestworker program must be established, and employers must verify the work status of their employees.

The choice is simple: Make them go, or let them stay.

Find a way to let those who have demonstrated the desire to be part of the fabric of America to stay.

Best Editorial Column

2nd Place

Our Town

A Grin at the End

Carl Sampson

A GRIN AT THE END

DIY?

Pros and cons of tackling home improvement and car repairs

The following is an unpaid ad for carpenters, electricians, plumbers, mechanics and others who know how to fix cars and do home improvement projects.

Faithful readers know of my ineptitude when it comes to home improvement projects and car repairs. It is easy for me to get too far out over my toolbox when trying to fix something. It always takes me three times as long as it takes a professional, and costs many times more to fix what I have messed up. Note the recent \$50 project to change the timing chain tensioner in our car that turned into a \$1,500 repair.

If I were smart, I would peruse the ads in *Our Town*, pick up the phone and call one of the pros who could fix up the house or car in a jiffy and for far less than it would cost to salvage my mistakes.

But I'm not. Smart, that is.

If I even think I have a glimmer of a chance of doing a project without



turning it into a dog's breakfast – sorry for the technical jargon – I'll try it. Only after I mess it up will I call someone to fix it.

You might say I do it to make our marriage better. I recently listened to a CD that a marriage expert produced. In it was a section on how guys think. It was short.

For example, a guy looks at a car and says to himself, "I have some wrenches and stuff, so I can fix it."

It might take a master mechanic with decades of experience to diagnose and fix a problem, but a guy – me – will watch a couple of YouTube videos, dive in and start turning wrenches.

On that same CD, the speaker advised wives to let their husbands give projects a try. One of two things will happen, he said.

First, the husband may actually fix the problem, in which case his ego will get a huge boost. I remember successfully doing a brake job on one of our cars, and you would have thought that I had cured cancer. I walked around the house pointing at future projects and announcing: "I can fix that."

Second, the husband – me – could turn the project into a disaster. This would accomplish nothing in a practical sense, but it would demonstrate to the husband that his wife had faith in him. A little bit of faith goes a long way. And if he made a hash of things it would provide a heaping helping of humility, which everyone needs.

Which brings me to our latest home improvement project: changing the light fixture over the dining room table.

For years, we had a light that looked like an eighth-grade shop class had made it. It was fine as long as you didn't look too closely. My wife and I went on a quest and found a new one in a store's bargain bin that would fit the bill.

The short version of the story: I (we) did it.

The long version: It took two trips to the hardware store, most of a Saturday afternoon and part of a Sunday afternoon and provided our Japanese exchange student with a colorful new vocabulary.

But when that last light bulb was screwed in, I hugged my wife – who actually did most of the work – and admonished our exchange student to forget the colorful new vocabulary he had just heard and made an announcement I often make: "It may not be perfect, but I like the doneness of it." *

Carl Sampson is a freelance writer and editor. He lives in Stayton.

Best Editorial Column

1st Place

Our Town

A Slice of the Pie

Staff

A SLICE THE PIE

Memory Lane

Life, time, happiness and grief

By Melissa Wagoner

This fall, when I visited my grandmother, she took me for a drive around the county where I grew up, showing me places she remembered from her own childhood and reacquainting me with places I remembered from my own. It was a beautiful day, and it was just the two of us, perfect for slow reminiscences without disruption.

The first place she took me was to see the house where she grew up. Not far off the beaten path, it was nevertheless new to me. A tiny structure, no longer inhabited, with farmland still surrounding it.

“That’s the porch we sat on for a picture,” she said, slowing the car. “And this is the way we walked to school.”

Her eyes traveled the fall’s golden



grass seeing her memories spread over what remained, four kids – three boys and one girl – making their way to school, meeting up with kids from the neighboring farm, planning the day ahead, never imagining that one day all of it, including the old school house, would be a distant memory.

Listening to my grandmother that day I felt a deep sense of understanding because I too have seen the past rise up before my eyes – new houses obscured by the image of an empty field, a little girl riding her bike down the back street between

home and school.

It’s a kind of nostalgia that sometimes takes my breath away, sometimes fills me with grief. The latter happened when we drove the newly paved streets of the development built not long after my great-grandmother’s death.

“I’m so glad they didn’t build this until she was gone,” my grandmother said quietly, looking toward the tiny yellow house where strangers now lived and where the view – no longer a field of grazing horses and the mountains beyond – is now a neighborhood of cookie cutter houses.

It hurts to see the past ripped apart that way, whether it’s sudden (a house rising out of the dirt, a tree crashing down, a barn burning to the ground) or slow (time passing so

quietly I don’t notice it’s happening).

But it’s something I think about often now that my oldest daughter is in her second year of high school, my middle daughter not far behind and my little one... not so little anymore. Because already there are images that only I can see (the crib that once stood in the corner, the toddler on a balance bike and the ghost of a young mother walking her daughters to school, a baby strapped to her back) they visit me at odd times, reminding me that time is fleeting, not something we can hold on to.

Instead, I try to live every day with my eyes wide open, enjoying my children as they grow into beautiful adults in this place we now call home. And who knows, perhaps one day I will be the grandmother steering the car down memory lane, happy to have someone sitting beside me. ✱

Design

3rd Place

Bonner City Daily Bee

Daily Bee Design

Staff



Terrific Tots dates set

There's a whole lot of cuteness ahead as the Daily Bee is set to host its annual Terrific Tot photo contest, which runs Feb. 20 through March 5.

Pictures will be taken:

- Thursday, Feb. 20, 1-5 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21, 1-5 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 22, 9 am-1 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 27, 1-5 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 28, 1-5 p.m.
- Saturday, March 1, 9 am-1 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome. There is a \$10 entry fee. Photos will be taken by Tina Johnson from The Valley Studio at the Daily Bee, 310 Church St., Sandpoint. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, dressed in their cutest outfits, to get their portraits taken. The photos will appear in a special section of the Daily Bee on March 29.

Prizes will be awarded in three age groups: birth to 12 months, 13 months to 31 months, and 32 months to 60 months.

Deadheads invited to take a long, strange trip to the Panida

SANDPOINT — Area Deadheads, unite. Local fans of the iconic band are invited to take in the music of the Grateful Dead and Jerry Garcia Band on Friday, Feb. 21, at the Panida Theater.

The concert features the Inland Northwest's most "dead-trader" tribute band, Spokane's Dead Doorn at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

This true-to-form six-piece band features well-known local musicians, including Jerry Lee Rimes and Lucas Brookbank Brown, members of the Night Mayors. Find Lady Aspen Rye Band, and more information: panida.org

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Potentially dangerous road conditions

By CHLOE COCHRAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — Bonner County Road and Bridge officials are warning Bonner County residents to be careful as a Severe, of constantly shifting weather could create danger-

Jason Topp, Bonner County Road and Bridge director, issued the warning in a letter of how the variety of temperatures throughout the coming week would create dangerous road conditions.

For the past week, temperatures have dipped down into the negatives, creating slick roads and issues for the department's sanders and workers.

"The sand freezes solid within 30 minutes of being loaded into our trucks. This causes our sanders chains to bind up, stop, and sometimes break," Topp said in the letter. "We try to put as much sand as possible down during this time. The operators must go back to the shop and thaw them out and head right back out. This makes for some very long days."

See **ROADS**, A6



SHORT FILM TO DEBUT

Filmmaker, land trust spotlight history, conservation

By ERIC WELCH
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — In August 2022, Sandpoint celebrated when Kootenai Land Trust officials took the stage at the SledHill fundraiser and announced they had received enough money to buy and protect a historic sled hill west of town.

In the months since, KLT finalized the purchase, developed trails on the property, and after waiting for snow to coat the 48-acre parcel, reopened the area to skidders in January 2024.

"The next step? To recognize and celebrate the cultural and historical significance of the property and conservation effort with 'The Sled Hill,' a short movie by local filmmaker Tanner French and KLT, debuting 6 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Panida Theater."

"No matter where you're from, everybody has a hometown," Marcy Timblin, KLT communications director, said. "Everybody has a community, and every community has a history. Even if this isn't yours, you can't help but fall in love with the story."

The film recaps KLT's grassroots effort to preserve the property after discovering it was slated to go on the market in 2021 after decades as publicly available space. Additionally, it spotlights the land's heritage as a community ski hill in the 1900s before Schweitzer's 1963 opening, and its subsequent transition to a sled hill beloved by locals.

KLT was inspired to develop the movie by a desire to capture the stories of that heritage. "We wanted this to have life and be something that people could watch, and it would be relevant forever," Timblin said.

Starring the story in film, she added, was critical for conveying residents' personal connections to the sled hill.

"There are some stories that just really lend themselves to a visual story," Timblin said. "We know that video reaches the heart so much more than words or even pictures."

KLT originally enlisted French as summer 2024 to edit and assemble footage shot by locals Scott Rulander and Jason Walker in the previous year. French saw an opportunity to expand the scope of the project, and with KLT's blessing, contacted and filmed a series of interviews that told the sled hill's story.

French, a longtime Sandpoint resident, bought a camera and first ventured into filmmaking 14 months ago. "The Sled Hill" is his second major project after a short film released in June 2024 spotlighting local 60-year-old marathon runner Candi Wright.

After decades as a film enthusiast, French was inspired to create movies of his own after watching the adventure documentaries "The Deepport Breath" and "The River Runner" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

French developed his skills by watching YouTube videos and reading the instruction manual of his editing software, focusing on attacking the many challenges of solo filmmaking one step at a time.

"I just slowly, each day, learned something," he said.

As the sled hill project wrapped up, French revealed feeling the sense of doubt that creative as they finalize their work.

"I watch certain parts of it as I edit, and I'm like, 'Is this good?'" he said. "It's so tough for me because I've seen it so many times."

The capstone was placed when French made one last visit to the property in early February to collect a final shot of locals using the sled hill.

"I felt relieved finally, and it was kind of bittersweet," he said.

French integrated the footage and watched the movie from start to finish for the first time. After seeing it all together, he determined it was something he could be proud of.

"I felt that was the first time that I had told myself that," he said.

When he set out to make movies, French said he intended "to tell stories that are worth telling."

For "The Sled Hill," French said he hoped the film would spread and preserve the memories of those who have enjoyed the area throughout its history and those who worked to protect it into the future.

"I'm looking forward to sharing their stories and just being a small part of such a massive moment for so many people, for so many years," he said.

Earthquakes reported near Sagle

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER
Staff Writer

SAGLE — If you felt something rattle or roll late Wednesday evening, you'd be correct if you guessed there was an earthquake in the area.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, a pair of earthquakes were recorded in the Sagle area. A 2.6 magnitude quake was recorded at 10:05 p.m. Wednesday about 0.04 miles from Sagle and 0.04 miles south-southwest of East Hope — the location listed on the USGS website — and at a depth of roughly 6 miles below the surface. A second temblor was recorded in roughly the same location 13 minutes later, also 2.6 magnitude but closer to the surface at 2.53 miles below the surface.

At least one Sagle area resident reported feeling both earthquakes, saying that the first quake shook his house to the point where he and his wife initially thought a tree had fallen on their home.

See **QUAKES**, A6

Medicaid bill advances

By LAURA GUIDO
Contributing Writer

BOISE — The House Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday narrowly approved a bill placing strict conditions on Medicaid expansion, under the threat of full repeal, after around two hours of overwhelmingly negative testimony.

Members voted 8-7 to send House Bill 128 to the floor with a recommendation that it pass, with several who opposed it saying they were concerned about the bill's "trigger" of a full repeal of the expansion program if the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare could not receive all 11 waivers required from the federal government.

See **MEDICAID**, A6

Photo courtesy WOODS BENTON/CROFT

A skidder descends the historic ski and sled hill west of Sandpoint during a reopening event in January 2024.

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Design

2nd Place

Smoke Signals

Smoke Signals Design

Justin Phillips



Youth Education
Community Night
photos — pg. 6

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FEBRUARY 1, 2025



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA • MOLALLA • ROGUE RIVER • KALAPUYA • CHASTA

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE • SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Army Corps is 'killing salmon to lose money'



The salmon situation

Part 3 of 3

Editor's note: Salmon, rain and cedar forests are symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In a three-part series, "The salmon situation," Smoke Signals examines how the region's signature fish is leading for extinction, with little time left to reverse course and save these ancient species, which are crucial to both the ecosystems and Tribal culture. In the end, the Tribe's best hope to prevail may lie in winning an epic battle with bureaucracy. This is the third and final installment of the series.

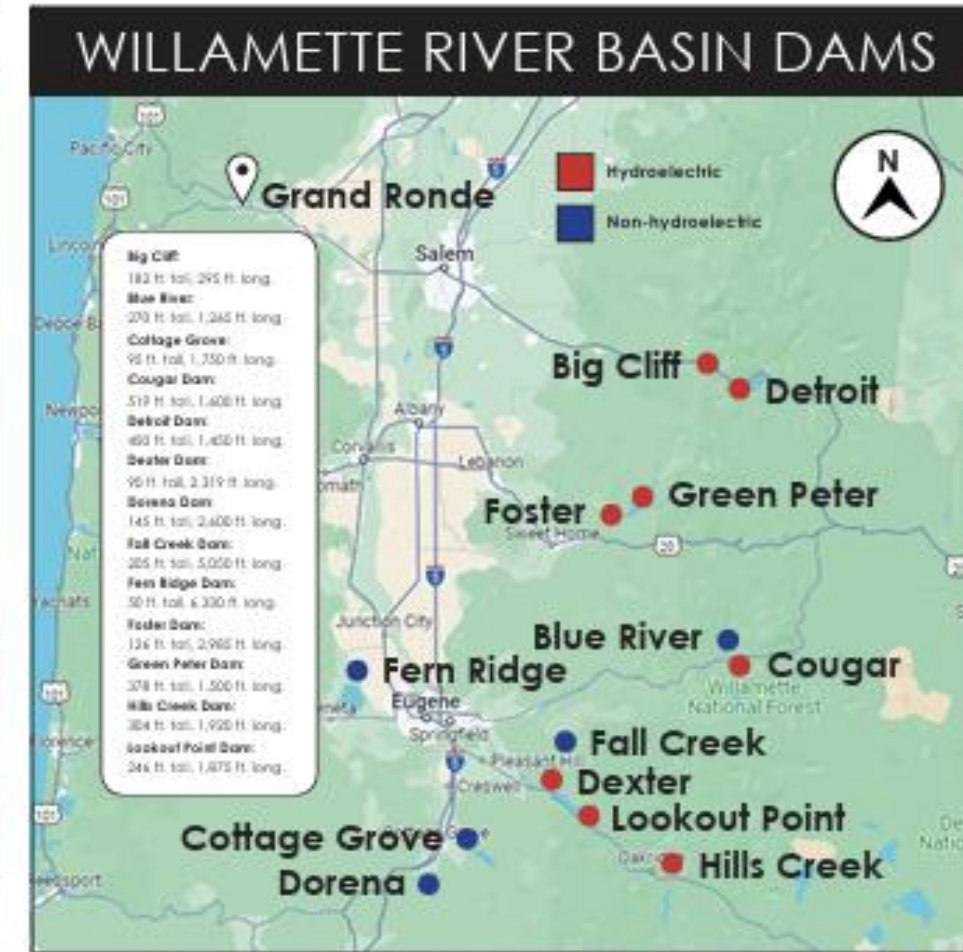
By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been urging the Army Corps of Engineers to revamp its operations in the Willamette River Basin.

By reducing reservoir levels temporarily during key times of the year, the Corps could enable juvenile fish to get past dams that are blocking their migratory path to the ocean. The tactic requires no construction and has been shown to work.

See SALMON
continued on page 7



Graphic created by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe says it remains confident despite funding freeze

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren

Smoke Signals staff writers

Confusion spread Tuesday, Jan. 28, after President Donald Trump announced a freeze on federal grant funding Monday, Jan. 27, in defiance of the Constitution and laws that place spending under the authority of Congress.

The funding freeze was to go into effect Tuesday at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Confusion and pushback were so widespread that on Tuesday morning, the White House attempted to clarify, saying that Trump was targeting funding for diversity, equity and inclusion programs and foreign aid.

Federal grants help pay for

numerous health and human services programs, drug abuse treatment programs, school programs, transportation programs, food assistance, housing assistance for low-income families, police and fire department funding, and other services that directly affect health and safety.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Washington Post announced that a federal judge had temporarily blocked the order until Monday, Feb. 3, as public health advocates and other organizations and businesses filed lawsuits against the Trump administration.

After the order was blocked Tuesday afternoon, Office of

See FREEZE
continued on page 6

Federal government approves Medford casino

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Despite the protests of several other Tribes, the Department of Interior has signed the record of decision to approve an off-reservation casino for the Coquille Indian Tribe in Medford, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians announced in a press release.

The press release was issued jointly with the Karuk Tribe and Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation on Friday, Jan. 10.

The three Tribes also immediately filed a request with the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon for a temporary restraining order on the project.

The request cites violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Reorganization Act and the



Cheryl A. Kennedy

Coquille Restoration Act, along with constitutional concerns related to the National Environmental Policy Act, according to the press release.

"Grand Ronde opposes an off-reservation casino in Medford or anywhere in Oregon," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy said. "We support the Cow Creek Tribe's litigation to prevent it. Like Oregon's governor and U.S. senators, among many others, we

See CASINO
continued on page 5

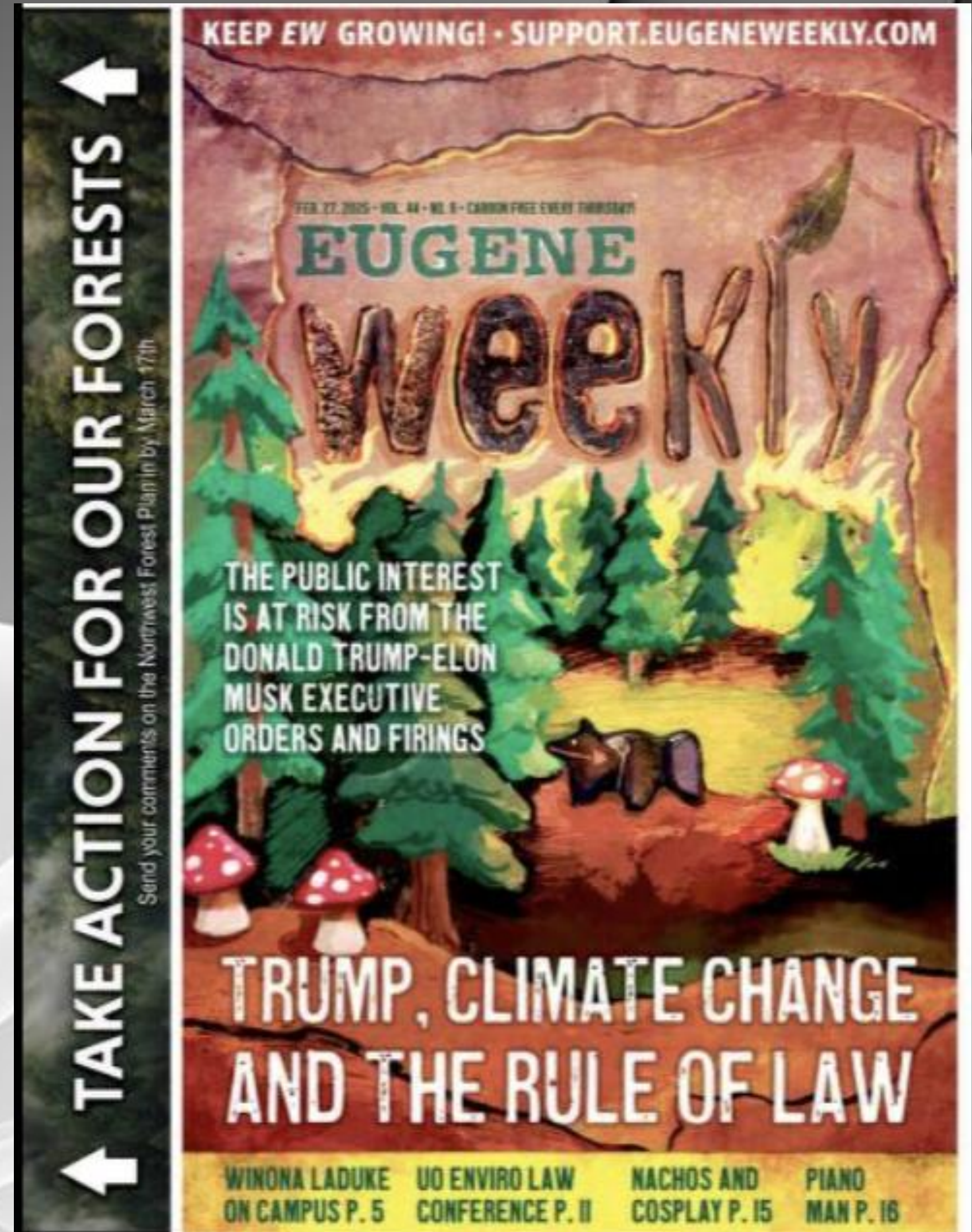
Design

1st Place

Eugene Weekly

Eugene Weekly

McKenzie Young-Roy



Graphics

3rd Place
Smoke Signals

2.1 Basin dams graphic

Samuel Briggs III



Youth Education
Community Night
photos — pg. 5

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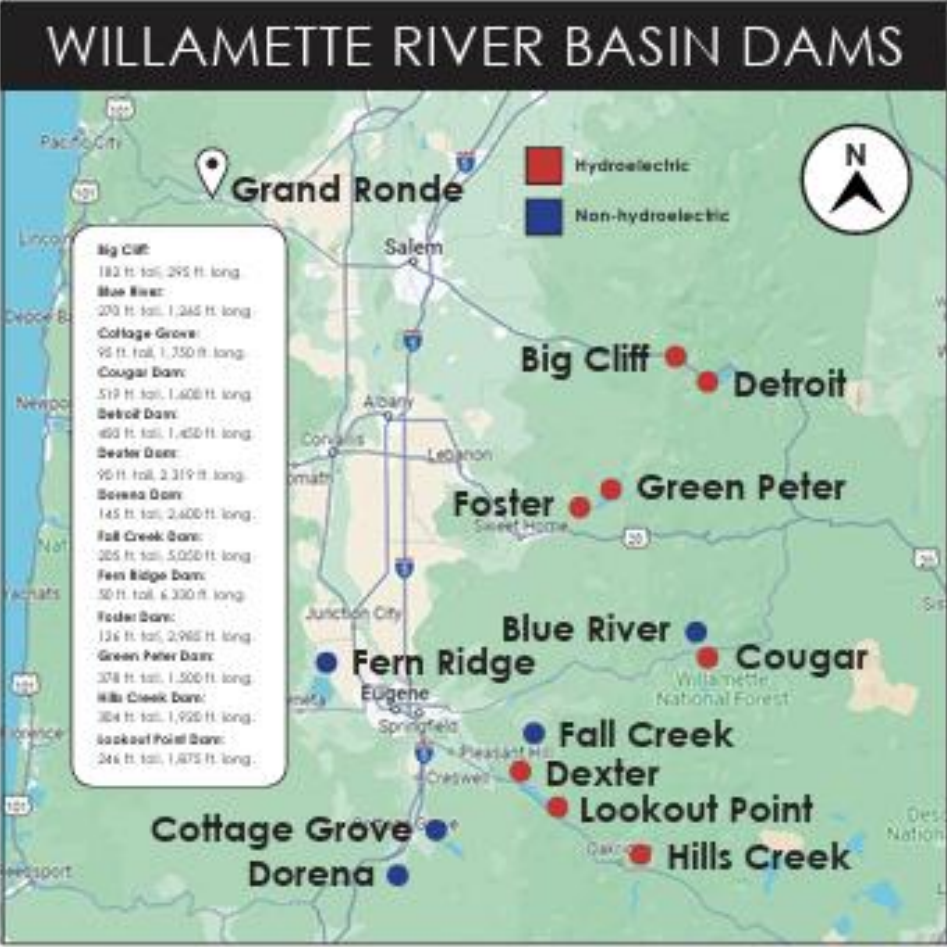
By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been urging the Army Corps of Engineers to revamp its operations in the Willamette River Basin.

By reducing reservoir levels temporarily during key times of the year, the Corps could enable juvenile fish to get past dams that are blocking their migratory path to the ocean. The tactic requires no construction and has been shown to work.

See SALMON
continued on page 7

WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN DAMS



Graphic created by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe says it remains confident despite funding freeze

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren
Smoke Signals staff writers

Confusion spread Tuesday, Jan. 25, after President Donald Trump announced a freeze on federal grant funding Monday, Jan. 27, in defiance of the Constitution and laws that place spending under the authority of Congress.

The funding freeze was to go into effect Tuesday at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Confusion and pushback were so widespread that on Tuesday morning, the White House attempted to clarify, saying that Trump was targeting funding for diversity, equity and inclusion programs and foreign aid.

Federal grants help pay for numerous health and human services programs, drug abuse treatment programs, school programs, transportation programs, food assistance, housing assistance for low-income families, police and fire department funding, and other services that directly affect health and safety.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Washington Post announced that a federal judge had temporarily blocked the order until Monday, Feb. 3, as public health advocates and other organizations and businesses filed lawsuits against the Trump administration.

After the order was blocked Tuesday afternoon, Office of

See FREEZE
continued on page 6

Federal government approves Medford casino

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Despite the protests of several other Tribes, the Department of Interior has signed the record of decision to approve an off-reservation casino for the Coquille Indian Tribe in Medford, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians announced in a press release.

The press release was issued jointly with the Karuk Tribe and Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation on Friday, Jan. 10.

The three Tribes also immediately filed a request with the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon for a temporary restraining order on the project.

The request cites violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Reorganization Act and the



Cheryl A. Kennedy

Coquille Restoration Act, along with constitutional concerns related to the National Environmental Policy Act, according to the press release.

"Grand Ronde opposes an off-reservation casino in Medford or anywhere in Oregon," Tribal Council Chairman Cheryl A. Kennedy said. "We support the Cow Creek Tribe's litigation to prevent it. Like Oregon's governor and U.S. senators, among many others, we

See CASINO
continued on page 5

Graphics

2nd Place

Eugene Weekly

Proof

McKenzie Young-Roy



Graphics

1st Place

Our Town

Teenage homelessness

Tavis Bettoli-Lotten

HELPING HANDS
The Hive sets out to offer free
childcare in Silverton — PAGE 13

BUSINESS
Piknik Vintage Teahouse... a twist on
English-style patience — PAGE 16

OUR TOWN

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SPORTS & RECREATION
SHS, JFK boys basketball preview
— PAGE 17

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McDonald

DOWNTOWN EUGENE JUST GOT A BIT BRIGHTER!

Check out our newly restored marquee and blade sign, blending history with modern craftsmanship! Shining once again, the sign is a blend of past and present inspired by its original 1938 design.

The project was made possible thanks to support from the City of Eugene's Facade Improvement Loan Program, the expertise of local historic preservation consultant George Koser, and experts at E&A Sign & Awning Co. Give 1938 photo courtesy of Lane County History Museum.



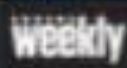
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CONNECTING THE AGRICULTURE
GET READY FOR THE SPOKANE AG SHOW
PAGES 8-10

Capital Press
EMPOWERING PRODUCERS OF FOOD & FIBER

Friday, January 21, 2025
CapitalPress.com
Volume 87, Number 145
\$2.50

Courtesy of Department of Homeland Security

Federal immigration agents are targeting illegal alien criminals and gang members. President Trump's broad deportation order has raised questions about risks at processing facilities and farms.

Trump's broad deportation order fuels fear, speculation

By GORDON L. GARDNER

President Trump has ordered federal agencies to promptly remove all illegal immigrants, sparking speculation and fear that what's now official U.S. policy will top estimates of thousands of farmworkers.

Even if farmworkers aren't deported, they may disappear from the workforce, said Kenneth A. Week, head of farm labor consultant Erik Nielsen, a former national vice president for the United Farm Workers.

"What we're hearing anecdotally is that workers are reluctant to go to work," he said. "If this were May or June, we would be having a catastrophe in the fields, in my opinion."

Trump signed two executive orders last Jan. 20 related to illegal immigration. The orders and subsequent press statements from federal agencies stressed securing the border and targeting criminals and gang members.

The order titled "Securing Our Borders," however, called for "removing promptly all aliens who are in violation of federal law."

"If you take it literally, we don't want a single illegal in the U.S.," Week and Farm Labor Association CEO Enrique Gutierrez said. "I can see why it's provoking a lot of fear."

The Week, Week-based association helps farm recruit foreign workers. Although growers and workers are right to be concerned about deportations, Gutierrez warned against social-media-driven "fear mongering."

If the Trump administration departs law-abiding workers, Republicans probably will pay a price within years, he said. "If they go too far, they run the risk of losing the House and Senate," he said.

'EVERYONE'S NERVOUS'

Despite optimism about Trump, some policies trouble Farm Bureau

By JANEY R. PETERSON | Special Post

Though the American Farm Bureau Federation is upbeat about agriculture's prospects under the Trump administration, President Zippy Duvall admits some policies are stirring up more anxiety than excitement.

Plans for the mass deportation of illegal immigrants have economic implications for the farm industry's workforce, for example, particularly since certain season workers, Duvall said.

"Everyone's nervous. What matters is their anxiety is not what they know what steps the full deportation plan has in it," he said Jan. 20 at AFBF's annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Beyond the question of criminal immigrants, it's still not clear what exactly the administration has planned for undocumented workers, Duvall said.

At this point, the Farm Bureau has heard from growers about employees who are afraid to show up for work, but it hasn't heard of any actual immigration raids on farms, he said.

The organization expects agriculture to have a seat at the table and advocate for immigration and labor reform that won't jeopardize U.S. food security, Duvall said.

"We're ready to work with Congress to make sure that happens," he said.

Photo Courtesy American Farm Bureau Federation

Attendees wait for the opening of the American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.

See Farm Bureau, Page 5

Foreign investors increase farmland holdings

By GORDON L. GARDNER

USDA's latest tally shows a 3.8% year-over-year increase in agricultural land held by foreign investors at the end of 2023 surpassed 3.8% of total privately held agricultural land at the end of 2023.

Reported holdings in 2023 amounted 156 million acres to a total of 45.85 million acres, according to an analysis by American Farm Bureau Federation.

The increase was primarily driven by investment in renewable energy projects, Energy Market Farm Bureau commented in the report.

The data is based on required reporting under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1996 (AFIDIA). Some countries include long-term land leases of at least 10 years.

Investment in land projects, USDA's numbers include, long-term land leases of at least 10 years.

Lowest land ownership was recorded when...

Italy with 2.7 million acres.

The United Kingdom with 2.6 million acres.

Germany with 2.5 million acres.

Together, these four countries account for about 25% of the foreign-held acres, including Canada, the top five countries represent 62% of the foreign-held land.

Other players

The remaining 38% of foreign-held U.S. agricultural land — about 17 million acres — was held by various other countries. That includes nations considered adversarial to the U.S., which held 558,727 acres or 0.49% of all U.S. agricultural land.

See Holdings, Page 5

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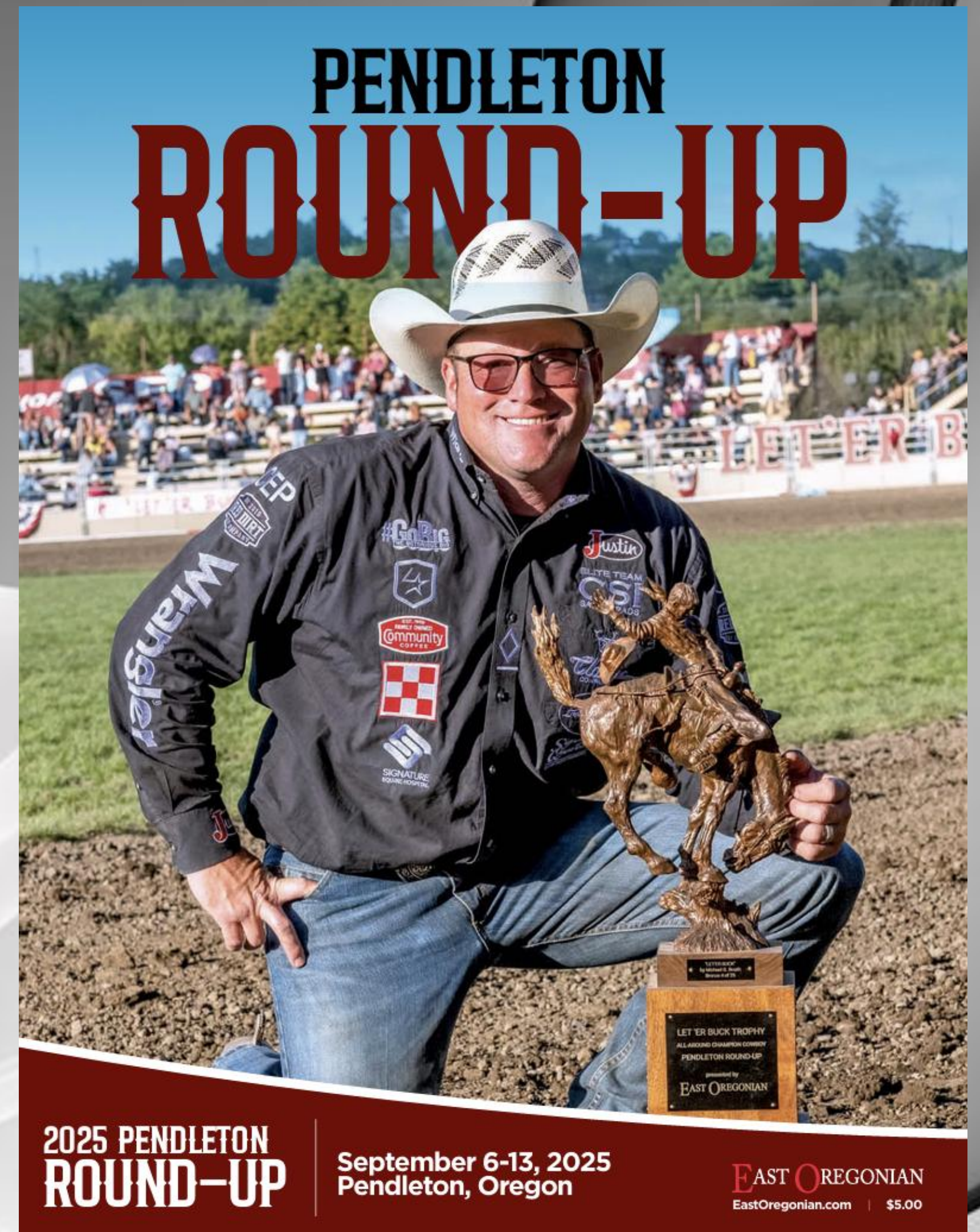
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Sunday

The Sunday Oregonian

NATIONAL PROTESTS

'No Kings' protest against Trump draws 40,000 in Portland



Thousands gather in downtown Portland for a No Kings protest on Saturday. *Utkar Gossar, staff*

THOUSANDS OF PROTESTS

drew millions to the streets across the country.

Tatum Todd, Carlos Fuentes and Zane Spaulding *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

Tens of thousands of people marched in downtown Portland's "No Kings" protests as part of a wave of demonstrations in Oregon and the rest of the country Saturday decrying President Donald Trump's aggressive exercise of executive power.

In Oregon, demonstrations were held in more than 50 cities, with the one converging on Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park attracting at least 40,000 people.

A smaller but rowdier crowd in the hundreds also gathered Saturday outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement complex in South Portland, about two miles from downtown. And in a break from the mild air atmosphere that has recently dominated the nightly protests there, federal agents fired pepper balls and deployed tear gas on protesters before the sun set.

The tension outside the ICE building stood in stark contrast to the joy and feeling of togetherness that permeated the "No Kings" march in Portland, which wound its way through downtown and across the Hawthorne and Morrison bridges, closing those bridges to car traffic.

SEE NATIONAL PROTESTS, A8

IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN:

The Trump administration's operations appear to have intensified recently in Oregon.

Yvesenia Amaro *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

For more than an hour Wednesday, several armed ICE officers repeatedly shouted the name of a man from the outside of a Greekum apartment.

Marcus Andrew, 24, and her 5-month-old baby were inside, along with her stepfather and brother. None of them recognized the name that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were yelling, she said.

The family didn't come out. But the officers finally came in, pushing through the apartment's locked door and then bursting into the bedroom where Andrea and the others had taken refuge.

The baby's wail could be heard in the background on a video that Andrea took as the officers arrested the two men, leading them out of the room with their hands on their heads.

The agents displayed no warrant, Andrew said. They had rifles drawn when they opened the room's door, the video showed.

Lawyers for immigrants, immigrant advocacy groups and volunteers who help people seek resources and legal assistance all said the Trump administration's

SEE IMMIGRATION, A9

CORRECTIONS

'It's not a humane place': Inside Oregon's oldest prison

State leaders have floated eventually replacing the Oregon State Penitentiary.

Noelle Cronin *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

On stifling days last summer, Reyes Miranda baked in his cell, the metal walls so hot to the touch that he worried he'd burn himself. At night, he slept on the cool concrete floor for relief.

Miranda lives on the fifth tier of one of the Oregon State Penitentiary's building cellblocks, where corrections officials this year say temperatures soared up to 114 degrees. Two industrial fans in a far corner of the cellblock hardly make a difference for the men who live here.

Leaders of the Oregon Department of Corrections this year floated for the first time the idea of eventually replacing the prison, Oregon's oldest and second largest, citing sweltering summer heat, an outdated design dating to the 1960s and the spiraling costs of maintaining the complex on State Street about two miles from the Capitol in Salem.

The storied prison — the site of dozens of executions, numerous escapes and a historic riot — houses about 1,900 prisoners, including the state's most severely mentally ill prisoners who bunk in windowless cells deep within the prison walls.

Officials rattle off environmental hazards found throughout the prison, including asbestos woven into ceilings and concrete, lead paint and buildings that are literally crumbling.

"It's not a humane place for us to house people or to have staff," Corrections Director Michael Hanes said.

Yet the proposal to replace the state penitentiary has spurred a broader discussion about whether Oregon should invest in a new prison or focus instead on reducing the number of people — now about 12,000 across a dozen facilities — that it incarcerates.

Robbin Singh, executive director of the Oregon Justice Resource Center, called the penitentiary "particularly dilapidated" but said the state should evaluate

SEE CORRECTIONS, A12

SPORTS

Ducks roll Rutgers

There was no road hangover for No. 5 Oregon following last week's loss. **B1**

LIFE

High desert escape

Burns and its Productions-themed hotel offer a perfect autumn getaway. **C1**

Advice C10 Business C10 Classifieds A12 Puzzles C11 Opinion D8 **Obituaries D11 Sports D1 Weather A12**

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The Government Camp-Cooper Spur land exchange series

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Why we run Kid Scoop, B1

Entertainment Update, B8



Tree Top Park reopens, A12

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Regional News for The Gorge

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GORGE NEWS

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 Volume 6, Issue 4 \$2.00



The Cooper Spur Mountain Resort, owned by Mt. Hood Meadows, sits at the intersection of Cooper Spur Road and Cloud Cap Road. Local conservation groups have long pushed Meadows to pursue development in Government Camp, instead of at the resort and Cooper Spur Ski Area.

Nathan Wilson photo

Cherry Hill approved by WS City Council

By Nathan Wilson
Columbia Gorge News

WHITE SALMON — A new housing complex is coming to the base of Strawberry Mountain. White Salmon's City Council approved the Cherry Hill Estates subdivision, a 31-unit neighborhood near the intersection of Spring Street and Main Avenue, during its Jan. 15 meeting.

As previously reported by Columbia Gorge News, the planning commission recommended city council deny the application put forth by Curtin Homes LLC and the Legacy Development Group LLC, primarily over concerns about tree risks, its ability to contribute to school and the ability of Spring Street to handle construction traffic.

"We've really worked hard at listening to what the planning commission said, what folks have said from community concerns and really adjusted our plans and addressed specific needs," said Catherine Curtis, who owns the two corporations.

Originally drafted for 35 single-family homes, Curtis and her team plan to add to a second road into the subdivision off Main Avenue, improving sightlines around, along with a bike trail and more. They will also build a sidewalk on the north side of Spring Street and, once they begin, halt all construction operations between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. when school traffic peaks.

As another condition of approval, Curtis, Homes and Legacy Development must discuss the condition of Spring Street prior to making ground and install any drainage they cannot solve for during the subdivision. With water and gas line replacements coming, Spring Street will also see significant reconstruction in that area.

Supported by Public Works Director Andrew Dicks, council approved the application in a 4-0 vote as Councilor Ben Grant was absent.

The Growth and Community Solutions Plan was a major topic last Wednesday evening as well. Authored by White Salmon's City-Link Board, the plan includes data on the natural gas and electricity consumption of residents, an inventory of emissions from city-owned facilities and priority recommendations. The plan and recommendations serve as a first step towards meeting the goals of White Salmon's Climate Crisis Resolution. Reducing greenhouse emissions by at least 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

Council debated addressing several parts of the plan, particularly the strategic focus areas, a section that undergirds the priority recommendations and offers several other climate solutions related to facilities and buildings, transportation, energy independence and resilience, water and governance.

"They're serious in a binding way," said City Attorney Sharon MacPherson of the strategic focus areas. "The council, as the electeds, are the ones that have to ensure that the vision is appropriate and that it's doable."

Some solutions posed in the section include getting a renewable energy and battery backup system and contributing to net-zero design standards for all new city-owned buildings.

"We didn't want to get into a laundry list of action items that likely will not be getting staff capacity or time to move forward," said Mayor Michael Smith. "If we were a city just starting at our highest level of efficiency and competency of processes that we have worked through and

The Government Camp-Cooper Spur land exchange

How the dispute began and a promising agreement

By Nathan Wilson
Columbia Gorge News

This is the first of a two-part series on the history, challenges, hopes and dysfunctionality of the Government Camp-Cooper Spur land exchange. Part II will run on next Wednesday's edition.

THE GOVERNMENT Camp-Cooper Spur land exchange is a complex issue that has been a source of contention for decades. The exchange involves the transfer of land from the Government Camp area to the Cooper Spur area, which is currently owned by the U.S. Forest Service.

The exchange is being pursued by the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the National System of Public Lands. The exchange is being pursued as a way to protect the Government Camp area from development and to preserve the Cooper Spur area for recreation and conservation.

The exchange is being pursued as a way to protect the Government Camp area from development and to preserve the Cooper Spur area for recreation and conservation.

How Gorge residents are helping victims affected by LA fires

By Nick Neuhaus
Columbia Gorge News

THE GORGE — Residents in Los Angeles County, California, have made international news the past two weeks and as of Friday, 10,000 residents remain under evacuation orders. Some residents had enough warning to gather their most prized possessions, but for former Hood River resident Isabella Brink and her fiancé, Quinn, the news was not the case.

On the same day Isabella was visiting her parents at work was being terminated, their Alaska, California, home burned to the ground and the couple were forced to cancel their wedding in Alaska.

"We haven't gotten back into the neighborhood yet, but from what I hear it is totally completely flattened. Lots of our favorite local businesses and restaurants were burned completely to the ground," Brink said.

"Alaska is such a diverse, wonderful community. I'm sure it will be rebuilt but it'll never be the same."

Brink said they will most likely get married at the north end.

"We hope to plan another big wedding in the future to celebrate and thank everyone who has helped us through this devastating loss," Brink said.

She graduated from the Hood River Valley High School in 2012. The parents of Isabella in Hood River and expressed a God-forsaken for the couple. As of Jan. 28, the public had raised more than \$20,000. The couple was one of thousands who will be forced to start over.

Some lucky residents whose homes are still standing — like former Hood River resident Cathy Brink — have chosen to volunteer their time and energy helping the recovery efforts. Rick Hill has connections to Hood River, and is working to help her Ph.D. in chemistry from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She lives in west Los Angeles and said when the evacuations were issued, she had time to gather some of her belongings, but called it an emotional

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Jonathan Grall's many contacts with hospitals and police

Updated: Jan. 31, 2026, 9:52 a.m. | Published: Dec. 29, 2025, 6:00 a.m.

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Too many apples? Overproduction worries cast cloud over WA harvest

QUESTEN INGHAMYakima Herald-RepublicOct 13, 202509 min to read

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A workers dumps Golden Delicious apples into a bin in an orchard owned by Hanrahan Orchards Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, in Yakima, Wash.

Evan Abell / Yakima Herald-Republic

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Oregon's bookstore boom sees "bookstore-and" model thrive



Hannarose McGuinness
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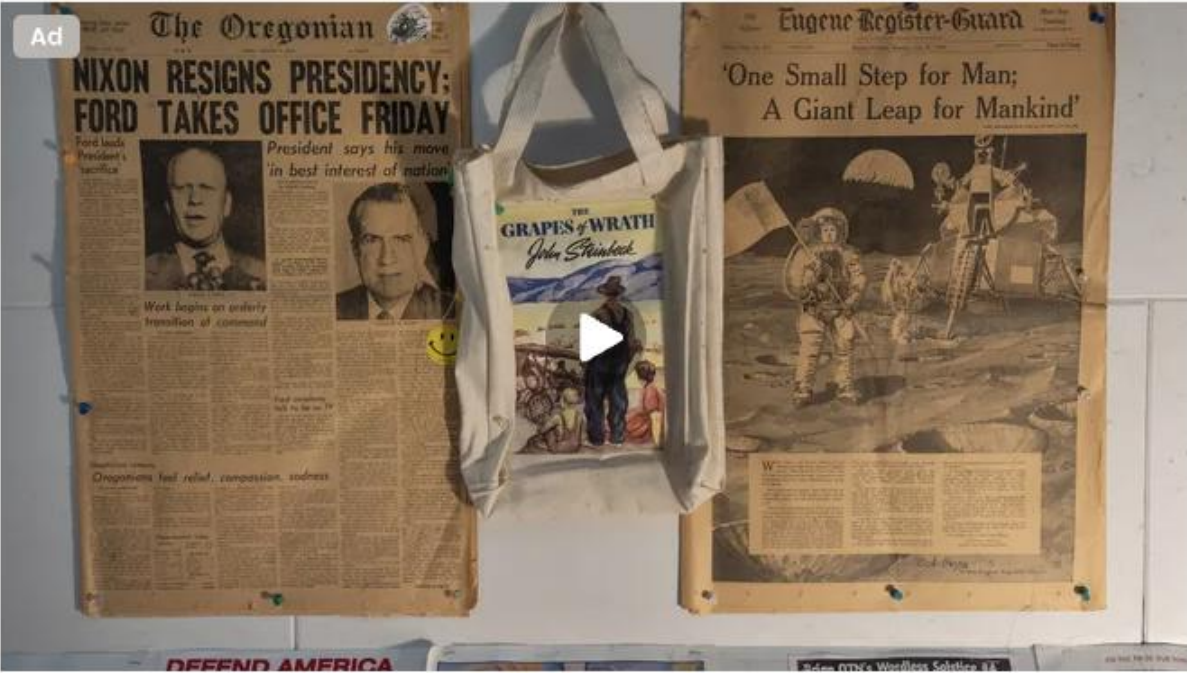


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Whitney Woodworth



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Nike told a judge it had turned over every 'Starfish' workplace complaint. Then it found 15 more

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VIEWPOINTS

"Democracy thrives when honest opinions provoke public debate."

EDITORIAL

Expecting the unexpected and solving the unsolvable

So much of what local government entities do for their constituents is so mundane and routine it seldom gets any attention until things go wrong.

Then a line and cry arises. Everyone wonders why someone didn't do something about it back when it might have been more manageable — that and what's going to be done about it now that it's come to the fore.

Local cases abound.

In Willamina, Huddleston Pond, a former tinng pond conveyed to the city as a gift by Hampton Lumber, is a popular haven for fishing and picnicking.

It was created back in the day by construction of an earthen dam at the confluence of the South Yamhill River and Willamina Creek. That required it to hold back water on three fronts, two of them fast-moving.

For decades, the dam performed its assigned mission flawlessly. Out of sight, out of mind, as they say.

Then erosion began to undercut the structure, threatening to destroy the pond.

The pond's demise would not only deprive the community of a key recreational asset, but also dump a massive volume of sediment into a river serving as a domestic water source. And the river is a water source not only for Willamina, but also Sheridan and Amity downstream, raising the stakes.

Meanwhile, the city discovered the invasive slender reed was beginning to smother the pond, threatening eventually turn it into a marsh, killing its fish population in the process. That led the state to warn it would have to cease stocking the pond if the problem weren't rectified.

These are the strange sort of hidden twists and turns requiring the kind of concerted community action only a city can bring to bear.

Willamina rose to the occasion. With an assist from Hampton, it immediately began marshalling forces to both shore up the dam and declare war on the weed.

The leading option on the latter front seems to be a mechanical harvester amounting basically to an underwater

mower. It sounds like something celebrated American cartoonist and inventor Rube Goldberg might have proposed, but it apparently works.

Here in McMinneville, our Tuesday edition broke news of a new city initiative to overhaul a hodge-podge of seven separate sprinkler systems designed to serve the West McMinneville Linear Park walking trail.

The trail runs along Coxine Creek through a lengthy section of south-west McMinneville. The sprinkler system is supposed to help keep the landscape green, but has not been in usable shape since 2013, some dozen years ago now.

Who knew?

McMinneville's sprinkler woes hardly rise to the level of the pond threat in Willamina, but then, neither does the projected cost. The city is anticipating a relatively manageable \$100,000 expenditure.

On a more serious note, questions recently arose in over who's responsible for maintaining the city's extensive fire hydrant system, McMinneville Water & Light or the newly created McMinneville Fire District.

This appears to be another case of out of sight, out of mind.

The city used to pay \$70,000 a year for maintenance of 1,153 hydrants, under an agreement signed in — hold on to your hats — 1961. However, that obscure little obligation never got officially handed off when the fire district took over local firefighting duties, so never found a home in the district's budget.

Having a working hydrant near doesn't really seem to matter too much until your house catches fire. Then it becomes a priority dwarfing virtually all others.

And what if it's not just your house? What if an uncontrolled wildfire engulfs whole neighborhoods, as happened recently, to tragic effect, in Los Angeles?

That may not be foremost in your mind. But it is in the mind of former firefighter John Gallup, who submitted a letter to the editor this week on his situation in McMinneville's West Hills.

Gallup said he's far more worried about

getting sufficient flow to westside hydrants than he is about who picks up the tab. He said Water & Light's current gravity flow system affords the hydrant access from his place less than 40 psi, well below the residential norm of 50 to 60, and that's not sufficient for multi-structure firefighting.

What's more, he warns, it's going to get progressively worse as hundreds more homes are added the complement currently sharing the westside water system. He's particularly concerned about those being built on uphill from him, where flows are even more tepid.

Water & Light has long planned to add a pump station on the city's hilly west side to provide gravity with the necessary assist. But so far, that project has failed to rise to the top of the utility's to-do list.

Local government entities have much to deal with these days.

The roster not only includes perennial municipal services like police and fire, street and sidewalk, and power, water and sewage. It has also come to include newcomers like sidewalk sealing, cellphone tower and EV station services — with the occasional recreational pond and trail sprinkler system oddball thrown in.

Carlton wants Highway 47 rerouted around its downtown core. Amity and Lafayette are facing the need to expand or replace sewage treatment facilities. Every community in Yamhill County is encountering loosening water supply challenges, even McMinneville.

It's the hope of every citizen that community leaders will worry about looming issues in a timely fashion, so he doesn't have to. And, for the most part, it really does work that way.

But some are just too obscure and others are just too unexpected. That's when competent leaders really earn their keep.

Our pledge is to continue our time-honored role as a safe haven for citizens sounding alarms, airing grievances and addressing issues.

Remember, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. If you don't speak up, who will?

READERS FORUM

Long tradition

Citizens of McMinneville helped pay for public facilities long before I moved here in 1978. In fact, since McMinneville's naming in 1886 and plating in 1876, its residents have most often supported municipal improvements as part of their responsibility as members of the community.

In that vein, I will be voting yes on Measure 36-237, because I want to help meet the public needs of current and future generations, including the need for recreational facilities, library services and senior citizen activities.

Please join me in voting yes. It's for McMinneville's future.

Cassie Solans
McMinneville

Lean on means

I'm at a crossroads. I've been to events at the pool and community center, and both need to be replaced.

But then how much do I keep pulling from savings to pay for continuing government increases? When do politicians and staff realize we can no longer provide everyone with everything?

Having just received my tax bill, Social Security COLA announcement, Medicare cost increase and forecast of new city charges — remaining 50 cents of \$1.50 fire set aside, new bond at 95 cents per thousand and \$15 stormwater runoff fee — I figure to net another \$4 a month to cover all other costs.

WORLD KINDNESS DAY CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Nov. 13 is World Kindness Day. It has been celebrated worldwide since 1998 in order to acknowledge and promote the many acts of kindness which occur often unnoticed, in our local communities.

Kindness makes headlines, but kindness makes the world a better place to live.

Do you know of an act of kindness that you would like to bring to the attention of our community? E-mail it to us at letters@newsregister.com.

We'll select a few of the best to include in our Viewpoints section of Friday, Nov. 14.

tourism brings families to town for tournaments, games and events, and those families eat, sleep and stay here.

This impact would be especially valuable during the slower winter months of January through March, when many local businesses see revenue dip. A facility that supports events year-round — basketball, volleyball, soccer, and more — would keep our community active and our economy vibrant in every season.

Recreation facilities are where community happens, on and off the field. They connect neighbors, support local businesses and build pride in our hometown.

Let's move beyond discussion and start building. McMinneville deserves this investment in its future.

Todd Severson
McMinneville

COMMENTARY

Trump serves to unify both political parties

By JONAH GOLDBERG

The only thing the parties can agree on is that Donald Trump is the central issue of our time.

Let's start with a recent headline: "It's 2025, and Democrats Are Still Running Against Trump."

After a year of soul-searching and introspection by Democrats about what they should stand for after losing the White House and Senate in 2024," Shane Goldmacher of The New York Times writes, "the party is largely coalescing behind the same message that has united it for the past decade: stopping Donald J. Trump."

Now, I confess to having missed a good deal of soul-searching and introspection among Democrats, but I am reminded of a very different search that happened two decades ago: the search for "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq.

While you might think I am going for some weird metaphor comparing President Trump to a WMD, that's not my point.

For those too young to remember, the George W. Bush administration focused on Saddam Hussein's WMD program as the major — some would say sole — justification for supplanting the Iraqi dictator.

This became more controversial after U.S. forces failed to find the WMDs the Bush administration, and others, said were there. For opponents of the war, this turned into the refrain that Bush had "led America into war."

This was always unfair. Then-Pentagon official Paul Wolfowitz, in a

See **TRUMP**, A18

About the writer: Conservative D.C.-based commentator Jonah Goldberg serves as editor-in-chief of The Dispatch, hosts The Remnant podcast, authors a weekly Los Angeles Times column, holds a chair with the American Enterprise Institute and serves as a commentator with NPR and CNN. Previously, he spent 21 years as an editor at The National Review and 10 as a commentator at Fox News. He's the author of three New York Times best sellers.

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Viewpoints is published each Friday as an open marketplace for ideas and opinions about issues of importance to our readers. Unsigned editorials are a joint effort of the newspaper's editorial staff. Other opinions expressed are those of the bylined writer or cartoonist, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of News-Register owners or employees.

1st Place

Oregonian

Mid-Valley Media

Penny Rosenberg, Steve Gress

News-Register

THERE'S A LOT TO LOVE AND LEARN IN THIS COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE TOWN. EXPLORE THE DALLAS IRON WORKS, VIEW THE 30 ORIGINAL PAINTINGS INSIDE THE BALDWIN SALOON, OR RAISE A GLASS AT THE SUNSHINE MILL WINERY. **CL**

The Sunday Oregonian

PORTLAND PROTESTS

A large crowd of people is marching across a bridge, likely the Manhattan Bridge, during a protest. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, and many are holding signs. One prominent sign in the foreground reads "CONVERT FROM THE OLD NEW YORK". The bridge's steel structure is visible, and the city skyline, including various skyscrapers, is in the background under a clear blue sky.

Thousands of people turned out on a sunny Saturday in Portland, shutting down the Morrison Bridge and other main thoroughfares, to protest the way President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk are running the country. Millions more across the country joined the so-called Hands Off demonstrations, which were organized in more than 1,200 locations in all 50 states. It was the biggest day of protest yet by an opposition movement trying to regain its momentum after the shock of the Republican's first weeks in office.

OREGON INSIGHT POLL

Love of the outdoors might contribute to increasingly rosy take on the city.

Jamie Hale *The Oregonian/OregonLive*

There's no shortage of negative headlines about Portland these days, whether it's the "doom loop" or the ongoing housing crisis, but they don't seem to deter the people choosing to live in and around the City of Roses.

In a survey of 600 voters commissioned by The Oregonian/OregonLive, Portland-area adults were asked a simple, open-ended question: "What two or three features of the Portland metro area do you find most appealing, that encourage you to stay?"

A total 31% of respondents named natural beauty as one of their favorite features, by far the most popular response. Another 12% listed proximity to the outdoors and 7% named access to recreation.

With dozens of local parks, including world-famous rose gardens and viewpoints

access to beautiful natural areas like Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge — not **MORE INSIDE**

"We were just kind of atonestruck by how beautiful it is here," he said. Now, when

"I feel like there's so much beauty here it's almost hard to just dwell on what's not beautiful," Staats said.

Andrzejman Thakur of Berwyn said he likes to hike at Cooper Mountain Nature Park every day. It's not just the physical

SEE NATURE, A6

Kristine de Loon
The Oregonian/OregonLive

Christopher Todd, receiving a primary care doctor's care would become a man

When his longtime physician retired last August, the 24-year-old Tusahin resident expected a straightforward transition. Instead, he found himself caught in an exhausting cycle of phone calls and waiting lists. He has yet to find a physician whom he can see regularly to manage a chronic medical condition that requires bi-monthly infusions.

"It's definitely concerning," Trout said. "I feel the only reason I was able to get diagnosed and get the treatment I needed is because of consistent care and having a doctor who knows my history."

Trout is not alone in his frustration. Increasingly, Portland-area residents say they can't find a primary care provider. In a poll of 600 Portland-area voters commissioned by The Oregonian/OregonLive, more than half said they found it harder to get an appointment with a primary care doctor than three years ago. Only 3% of those polled by Portland polling firm DEM Research reported it was easier.

SPORTS
Clutch v

After a disappointing loss Friday night, the Oregon State baseball team responded with a gutsy 4-2 odra-training win over No. 12 UC Irvine. **B1**

SEE DOCTORS, AS

Advice, C30 Business, D4 Classifieds, D7 Obituaries, A21 Opinion, O1 Puzzles, C11 Sports, O1 Weather, B6

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SCHOOL NEWS

SHHS tour highlights needs, risks

BY SCOTT SWANSON · DECEMBER 30, 2025

Aaron Huff stood in a breezeway at Sweet Home High School on the last day of school before Christmas break and watched students scurry hither and yon, most heading to classes.

The vice principal was one of several school and district officials taking a walk through the campus, noting some of the issues that have prompted the district to propose rebuilding parts of the campus.

The district had gotten news earlier that morning, Dec. 19, that it is in line to receive a \$12.2 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching grant aimed at improving student safety and security and upgrading classrooms and career and technical education facilities. The grant is contingent on voters approving a bond measure in May 2026, which would be structured to maintain the current tax rate, according to district Business Manager Kevin Strong.

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'We need better'

Emily Bonsant



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Yamhill County's

News-Register

Friday August 22, 2025 \$2

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 162th year, No. 98



Teacher Kellie Morris leads Grandhaven kindergartners in singing "Willoughby Walleye Woo" at Tuesday's Kindergarten Camp, sparking laughter as each child hears a rhyming version of their name.

A kinder start

Four-day 'camp' at Grandhaven helps ease youngest students into school life

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

Dece Upshaw, 5, hugged his mother many times Tuesday morning before reluctantly leaving her at the door of his Grandhaven Elementary School kindergarten classroom.

"You're safe and you're strong," Mom called to Dee before turning away. In her arms, 5-year-old Duane continued to wave at his big brother, a bit sad that he didn't get to start school, too.

And soon Dee was immersed in Kindergarten Camp. He spent the day building with Legos, listening to stories about Peter the adventurous cat, making friends and learning, learning about his new school and the ins-and-outs of being a kindergartner.

Kindergarten Camp, a four-day program that precedes the start of the school year, is a kinder way for 5-year-olds to start their formal education. It provides the opportunity to meet their teachers and other school employees, and become familiar with the building, without the commotion of first-through-fifth-graders in the halls.

"They get to know us and their

Right: New kindergartners Alanna Franks, left, and Emily Elias Vargas greet each other with a high-five as their groups pass in the hallway.

Critical condition

Fire chief: Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement tops list of ambulance funding issues

By SCOTT UNGER
Of the News-Register

McMinnville Fire District Chief Reed Godfrey is sounding the alarm over insufficient federal reimbursements for ambulance rides, which cost the district nearly half its income from property tax in 2024.

Last year, MFD billed approximately \$16 million and received approximately \$4 million, largely due to the discrepancy between the cost of transporting Medicare or Medicaid patients and the amount the district is reimbursed for the rides.

Medicare enrollment represented 61% of total claims billed, Medicaid enrollment 25%, commercial insurance 13%, and private or self-pay accounted for 3%, according to MFD billing specialist Jenny James.

The average charge for ambulance transport is \$2,500; however, the federal reimbursement for public insurance

See AMBULANCE, A3

COMMUNITY EVENTS

STOP THE BLEED Class by DHSU: Saturday, August 23rd, 10-11am at the Yamhill Methodist Church (100 SW Laurel St., Yamhill). \$25 due at sign-up. (Limit of 20 attendees). Sign up at: www.ynaclass.com. Gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS No diets, no weighing, no fees. Meets Sundays, 2-3pm, McMinnville Cooperative Ministries (544 NE 2nd St.) For more info, or details about Tuesday Virtual meetings, call: 971-267-0028.

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VINTAGE PHOTOS B6

8826702560

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Mid-Valley Media

Corvallis to close two schools

Hans Boyle

2nd Place

Mid-Valley Media

Federal impacts on Oregon State University

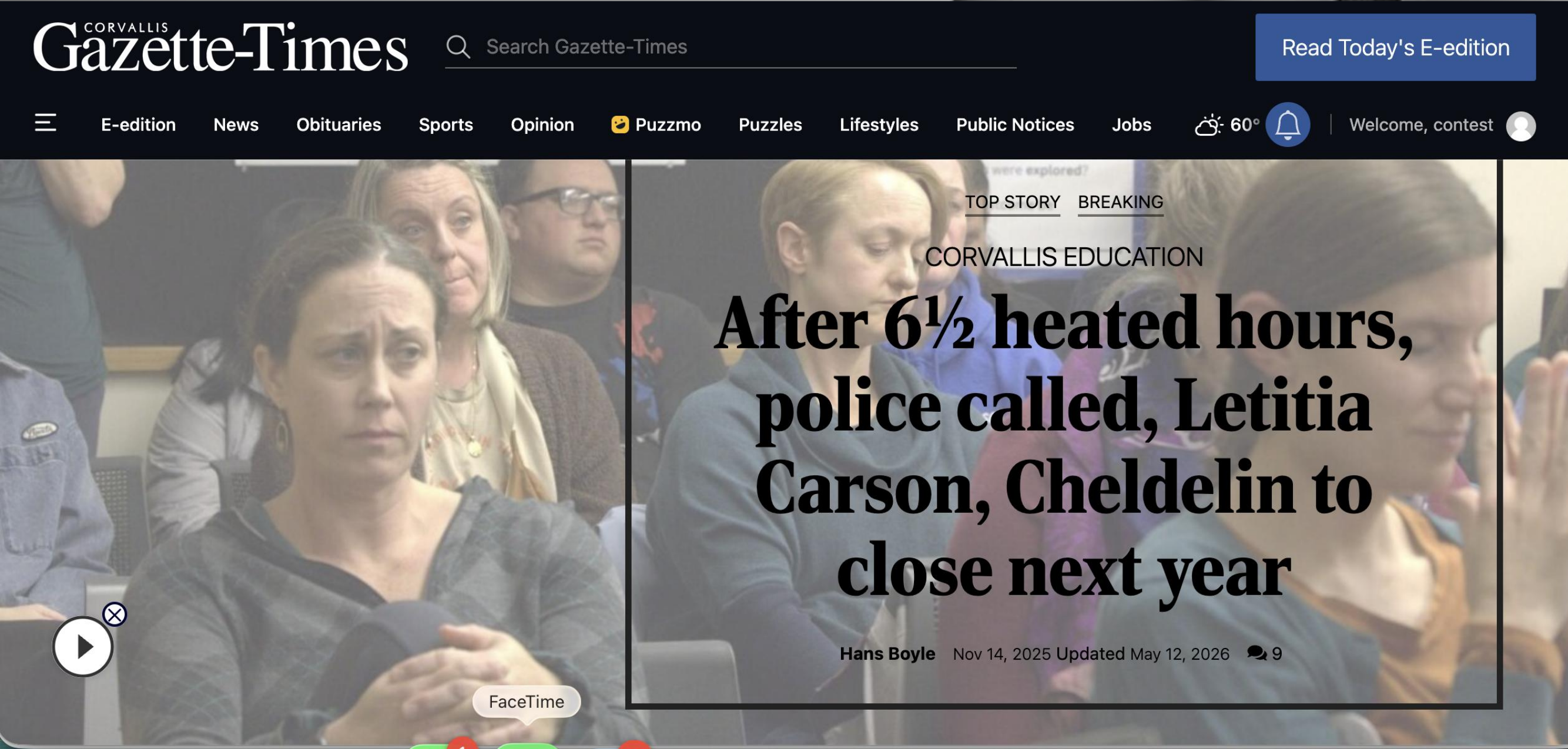
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Eric Rosane



Division D

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Prescott School District under tight deadline to find new funding

Loryn Kykendall

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Nearly a quarter of Washington Elementary students will be forced to leave after current school year

Published 4:13 pm Monday, May 19, 2025

By Buffy Pollock

1/3

Phoenix resident Crystal Walker drops three of her children — Laneah, 9, Lance, 7 and Lanette, 10 — off at Washington Elementary School on Monday. Buffy Pollock/Rogue Valley Times

ROD STEWART

The Spectro

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

- Thu, May 28 @7:00pm Sponsored Eliza Gilkyson and Nina Gerber Concert
- Fri, May 15 @1:00pm Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Children's Cooking Classes
- Cynthia's Home Sweet Home
- Fri, May 15 @4:00pm Third Friday Market
- Vogel Plaza
- Fri, May 15 @5:00pm Central Art Gallery May exhibit featuring artis... Central Art Gallery

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SPOTLIGHT ON
GARTH
May 21st - June 14th

Starring: **Mozart Pierson**
Music Director: **Karl Iverson**
Original Script: **Cathy Noah**

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Gloria Coleman

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BUSINESS

Oregon's bookstore boom sees "bookstore-and" model thrive



Hannarose McGuinness
Eugene Register-Guard

July 22, 2025, 4:00 a.m. PT

Bookstores are offering more than just a place to find your next nightstand read. Shops are becoming community gathering spaces, entertainment venues and celebrations of other physical media forms. From [Tsunami Books](#), an established hub of knowledge and community events in Eugene, to newer additions like [Vinyl and Pine](#) in Springfield and [Cottage Groove](#) in Cottage Grove, bookstores are booming in Lane County.

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Argus Observer

Board members resign after emergency meeting

Leslie Thompson

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The Graphic

Challenges to library items in Newberg take a nefarious route

Gary Allen

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Canyon Weekly

Canyon Recovery

James Day and Stephen Floyd

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EDITOR'S PICK

Nyssa Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture

Board members resign after emergency meeting

Want external audit, transparency for community

Leslie Thompson Argus Observer

Apr 21, 2025

Updated Mar 16, 2026

1

5 min to read

Linda Aman, who formerly served on the Nyssa Chamber Board, speaks during a meeting at Nyssa City Hall on April 17 in which past and present members of the chamber and board were invited to discuss "new beginnings." Recent past board members explained that they had recently frozen the bank account and resigned following an emergency meeting in February.

Leslie Thompson | Argus Observer

Listen to this article now

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Editor's Note

This story has been updated to reflect that the emergency meeting was held in February and that President Tawni Maxwell attended that meeting and voted in favor of

Best Enterprise Reporting

Division F

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News-Register

‘Deeping disappointing’

Scott Unger

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The Government Camp-Cooper Spur land exchange

Nate Wilson

3rd Place

Columbia Gorge News

Ivan Howtopat

Nathan Wilson



Hangry’s opens
in former Tommy’s ^{A7}

INSIDE
Ballots
are due
Tuesday ^{A9}

Yamhill County’s News-Register

Monday May 19, 2025 KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866 McMinnville, Oregon 162th year, No. 39

Crunching the numbers

Mac budget committee begins work on FY 25/26 budget

By SCOTT UNGER
Of the News-Register

The sky isn’t falling for the city of McMinnville, but tough financial decisions lie ahead as the city began its budget meetings last week.

“While the overall budget is a challenge, an extreme challenge, it’s not as dire as it may at first appear,” Council President Sal Peralta said during Thursday’s meeting.

In an effort to eliminate a \$3 million budget deficit, city staff proposed \$1.5 million in personnel reductions and another \$1.4 million in cuts to programs and services.

Factored into the budget is a staff recommendation to assess an additional \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed value in property taxes, bringing the city rate to \$4.52 per \$1,000 of assessed value and adding an estimated \$1.8 million to the general fund.

While residents may notice impacts from proposed service cuts, the staffing cuts largely come from currently vacant positions. Of the 11.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions proposed to be cut, nine are vacant. One employee was laid off, and the equivalent of 1.5 FTE were reductions in hours spread across several employees, according to city staff.

Additionally, Peralta noted, approximately \$2.2 million of the shortfall is due to

— Council President Sal Peralta

See NUMBERS, A2

Millions in debt, Fackler Construction files for bankruptcy

Among list of creditors are many local subcontractors

By SCOTT UNGER
Of the News-Register

McMinnville-based contractor Ben Fackler Construction, Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week, listing over \$5 million in total liabilities, including many unpaid debts to local subcontractors.

Fackler has been in operation for 31 years providing commercial and residential construction services locally and in the Portland metro area. The company cited rapid growth, cash flow issues, poor records maintenance, the economy and projects that went wrong as reasons for the filing, according to court records.

One of those projects was the Anydoor Place Navigation Center, which Fackler was hired by the city of McMinnville to construct for a maximum price of \$2.4 million. The project to renovate two buildings at 327 and 329 S.W. Adams

See FACKLER, A2



Above: Colorful crowds pack the corner of Cowie and Third streets in downtown McMinnville on Saturday on the UFO Festival parade rolls by. Below: Sneaking a glance from behind alien sunglasses, sixth grader Ryan Carstensen of Patton Middle School plays the trombone with a combined marching band from Patton and Dardway middle schools. For more, see Page A4 and A5.

UFO, YEAH

Parade draws visitors from near and far



Plea hearing delayed in murder trial as sides await DNA lab results

Victor Melcher-Villalba accused of killing girlfriend in 2016

By EMILY BOVSANT
Of the News-Register

A Friday, May 16, plea hearing in the murder case against Victor Melcher-Villalba, 46, changed to a status check as both sides are awaiting DNA lab results.

Public defender Ted Conan told the court that the state is trying to corroborate “a mountain of developing evidence of an alleged confession of my client,” and they want to review the pending evidence results before entering a plea.

On Oct. 2, 2016, Lilia Conco-Otero, 37, from Vancouver, Washington, was found dead in a blueberry field between Lafayette and Dayton.

A grand jury indicted Melcher-Villalba with a murder charge on Jan. 19, 2017, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Investigators later received information

See TRIAL, A6

N-R PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CHANGE

There will be no Monday, May 26, e-edition because of the Memorial Day holiday. The News-Register will return to its regular schedule with the Wednesday e-edition.

Best Enterprise Reporting

Division E

1st Place

Mid-Valley Media

Albany property manager Watson accused of holding onto rents

Penny Rosenberg

2nd Place

Longview Daily News

Cowlitz County gives mother wrong infant remains

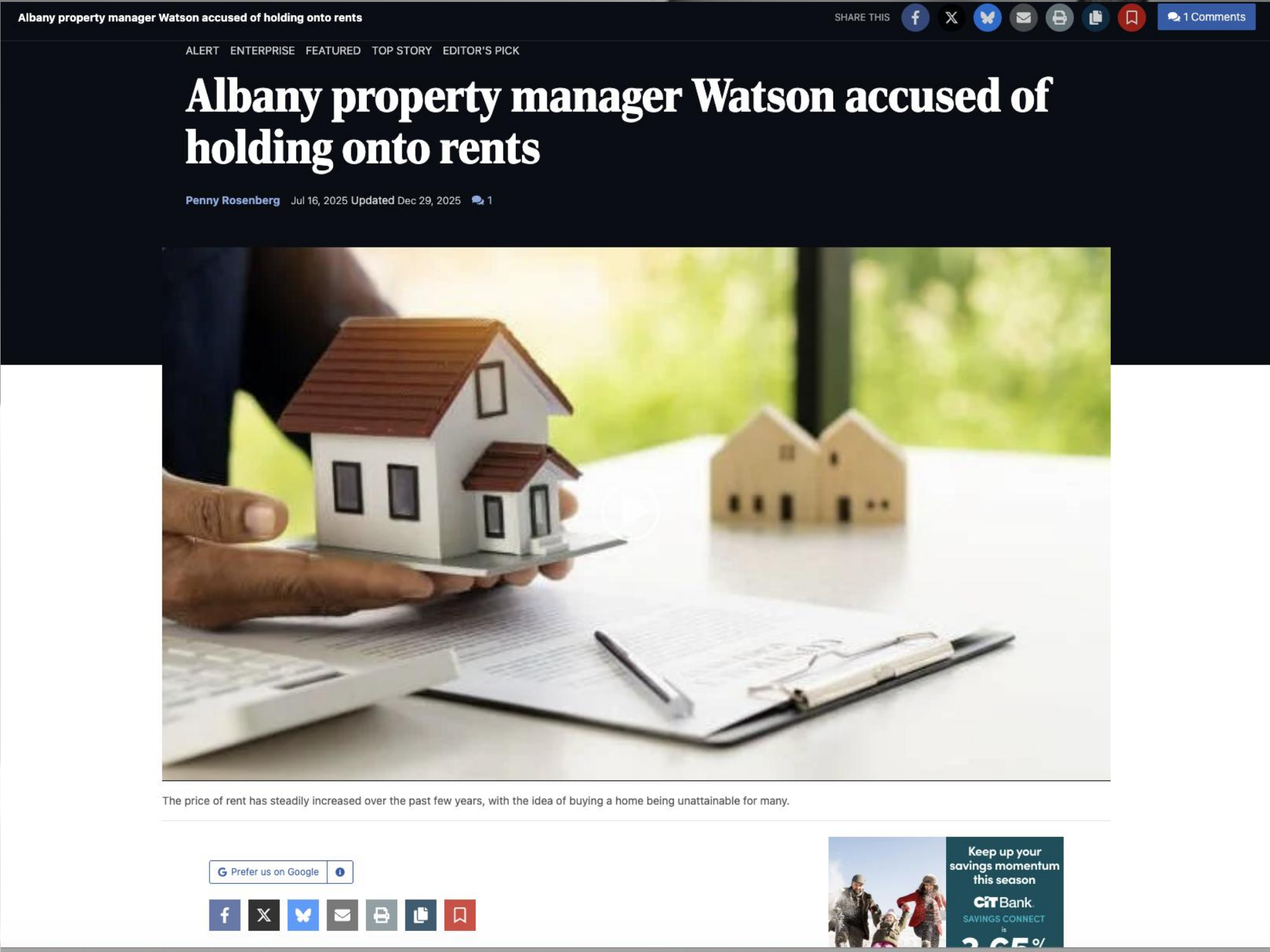
Matt Esnayra

3rd Place

Longview Daily News

Mount St. Helens sediment affects local rivers

Henry Brannan



Best Enterprise Reporting

Division A

1st Place

Spokesman-Review

Prosecutors had to buckle down and drown out public noise to put Mos-cow killer behind bars for life
Alexandra Duggan, Garrett Cabeza

2nd Place

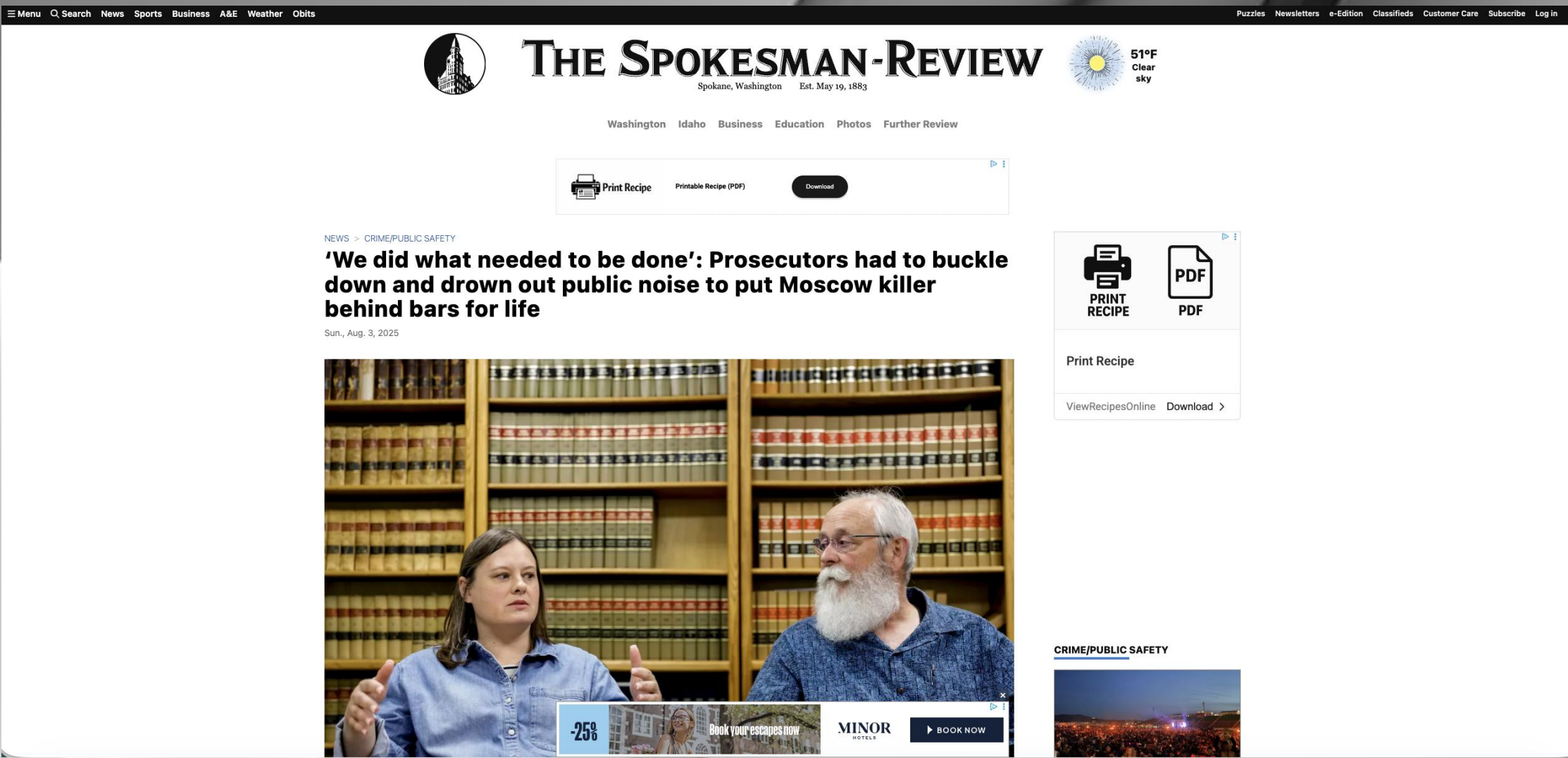
Oregonian

Hawaiian perks and dining out
Jamie Goldberg

3rd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Impact of Detroit Reservoir drawdown on Salem and Santiam Canyon
Zach Urness, Whitney Woodworth



Division H-J

1st Place

Wilsonville Spokesman

'This is a part of me'

2nd Place

The New Era

The New Era Best General Feature

Scott Swanson, Sarah Brtown

3rd Place

The Chronicle

Wilsonville Spokesman

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'This is a part of me': Religious ceremony at Wilsonville prison offers Indigenous women community, culture

Published 8:53 am Mnd ay April 25, 2023

By Krista Krotsch

Elizabeth Blackwater, left, a member of the Pimattika (or Akimel O'odham), Hannah Bouvard and Kayla Kidd, member of the Chehalis Nation of Okanogan, Bouvard is not a member but attended the ceremony to support a friend. (Staff photo: Krista Krotsch)

Under a shining morning sun and behind barbed wire fence, women from several Indigenous tribes who are incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility gathered on Saturday, April 25 for a ceremony honoring sacred foods.

The annual First Foods Blessing Ceremony allowed the women to sing and dance during what organizer Trish Jordan said is referred to as "One Round of Sevens," meaning seven songs are played. The ceremony traditionally includes seven drummers as well, although less than seven were present at the event. Women were offered shawls brought in by volunteers, allowing them to wrap the shawls in cultural clothing over the prison uniform of blue jeans and blue shirts.

The women provided testimony as well, speaking to the group on how the ceremony impacted their lives. In interviews before the ceremony, some incarcerated women in attendance said it marks the beginning of a new year and an opportunity to connect with their culture and community — which they said can help set women up for success after being released from prison.

Senior Prefab Homes

Search for new pre fab communities for seniors on Yahoo. View top results now.

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Wilsonville Area Events

Fri, Mar 27 @ 7:00pm
Craig Carothers - Night 2

Artistic Music

Fri, Mar 13
CVT Presents: The Wizard of Oz

Sherwood Center for the Arts

Fri, Mar 13 @ 10:00 am
Tiny Art Show & Competition

Wilsonville Library

Sat, Mar 14 @ 11:00 am
Spanish Storytime

Wilsonville Library

Sat, Mar 14 @ 1:00 pm
"The Cello Who Loved Me"

Author Talk

See All Events Add Your Event

Mar 5
Parick's New Center for the Arts

Catch Versa Style Street Dance Company's Tribute: Guardians of Street Dance at The River March...[\(Read more\)](#)

Mar 4
Planet Money Center for the Arts

Join the team behind the popular NPR podcast: PLANET MONEY is celebrating the publication of their new...[\(Read more\)](#)

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Trending

- Wilsonville girls basketball believes heading into 5A journey

Best Feature Story General

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News-Register

Training games

Emily Bonsant

2nd Place

News-Register

The hotter, the better

Scott Unger

3rd Place

Tigard Tualatin Times

Giving back

Ray Pitz



Music returns to Mattie's Room

A10

MAC RECREATION BOND

VOTE DEFICIT FALLS TO 30 IN LATEST COUNT

A7

Yamhill County's

News-Register

Friday November 14, 2025 \$2 KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866 McMinnville, Oregon 160th year, No. 133

"Canines are the only use-of-force option that can be recalled."

— Deputy Colton Walker



Yamhill County Sheriff's Office Deputy Colton Walker greets his K-9 partner, "Valk," Valkyrie, during a nighttime training session at the county's Public Works facility on Oct. 29. The two have worked together for five years and train weekly. *Staff at The Register/News-Register*

Training games

Law enforcement apprehension K-9s stay sharp with weekly decoy hunts

By EMILY BONSAANT
Of the News-Register

Five-year-old Valkyrie "Valk," a German Shepherd and Yamhill County Sheriff's Office apprehension K-9, sits in a parking lot whimpering with excitement.

Crouched behind Valk is her handler and partner, Deputy Colton Walker, who holds her collar with both hands.

"This is the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit, this is your final warning," Walker yells in a back parking lot of the Yamhill County Public Works facility. "If you surrender, force will not be used against you. Comply, come out. Dog finds you, will bite you."

There is a pause, one heartbeat, then two. No response comes.

Hidden in the truck bed this evening is Deputy Angel Arceus, playing a decoy.

Walker undraps Valk's leash and with a command she takes off. Her nose is trained

See TRAINING, A3

Commissioners walk back plan to give \$100k to food pantries

County agrees to \$1.5 million sale of public health building; King proposes lodging tax

By SCOTT UNGER
Of the News-Register

The Yamhill Board of Commissioners rescinded \$100,000 dedicated to local food banks Thursday after learning the organizations can't accept funding that includes covenants such as local residency or food stamp enrollment.

Last week, the board agreed to use \$100,000 in state lottery funds to provide additional food for local Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in the wake of the federal government shutdown — which ended Wednesday.

Following that, staff learned food banks cannot ask for identifying details due to a service agreement with Yamhill Community Action Partnership, Commissioner Mary Stewart said.

"It was not that easy to give away this money," Stewart said. "No one can comply with the grant as we have written it."

County Administrator Ken Butler said the board could rescind, pause or keep the order, now that the federal government has reopened.

Commissioner Babba King — who last week opposed the SNAP and residency restrictions — recommended removing them and proceeding with the distribution.

"Let them use the money at their discretion to buy what they want and do what they are in the business of doing, feeding people," he said.

Board Chair Kit Johnston favored a

See COMMISSIONERS, A16

On Saturdays, breakfast and community

Hearty morning meal served with camaraderie, conversation weekly at Cooperative Ministries

By STARLA POINTER
Of the News-Register

By 8:15 a.m. Nov. 8, a quarter hour after the Saturday Morning Breakfast program opened, 20 people were sitting with pancakes, bacon and eggs in front of them at the McMinnville Cooperative Ministries building. Another eight had ordered takeout.

By the time the free restaurant closed at 11, those numbers would have tripled.

"This helps a lot," said Jordan Bryant, accepting a container full of food.

She attends Saturday Morning Breakfast every week, and she liked it when all the

See BREAKFAST, A12



Left: Navy veteran Gary Sipp pours syrup on his pancakes, which were on the Saturday Morning Breakfast menu Nov. 8. Sipp said he likes the food and the camaraderie the program offers.

Photo: Stephanie News-Register

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS presents their premier concert at St. Barnabas Church on Sat. Nov. 22nd, 7pm. Admission \$10, \$10 for seniors, students free with ID. A portion of the proceeds benefit the St. Barnabas Soup Kitchen. For more info, visit www.northvalleycc.org.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR St. John's Church (445 N. Maple St., Yamhill) Fri, Dec. 19th, 8am-5pm & Sat. Dec. 6, 8am-4pm. Baked goods, jams & jellies, hand-crafted items, plants, poinsettias, white elephant items, and more! Fundraiser to build a weather-proof storage structure.

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Best Feature Story General

Division E

1st Place

Kennewick Tri-City Herald

Nagasaki and Tri-Cities forever linked

Annette Cary

2nd Place

Longview Daily News

Pulling forward: Kelso McDonald’s helps worker earn high school diploma

Nick Morgan

3rd Place

The Astorian

“Daughter launches letter-writing campaign to keep father’s killer in prison”

Aislin Tweedy

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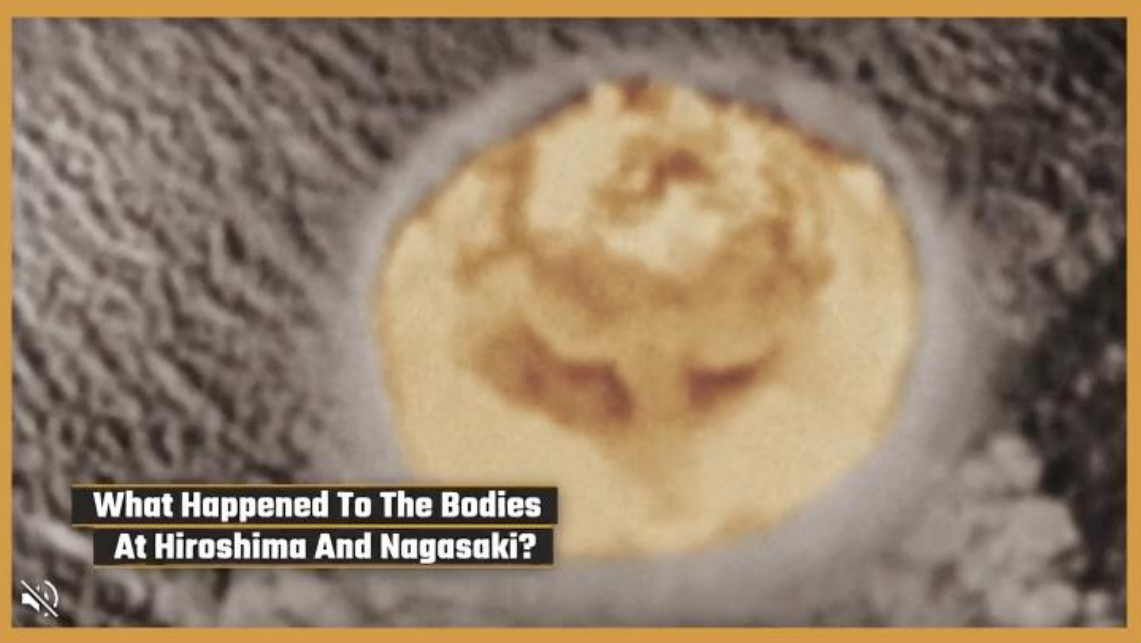
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LOCAL

80 years after atomic bombing. Nagasaki and Tri-Cities forever linked

By [Annette Cary](#)
Updated February 23, 2026 10:43 AM | [Gift Article](#)



What Happened To The Bodies At Hiroshima And Nagasaki?

You'd think that something like a nuclear bomb attack couldn't get any worse. But when you dig into the details, the story gets far more disturbing than you might be able to believe. By Grunge

✦ Key Takeaways

AI-generated summary reviewed by our newsroom.

▼

RICHLAND, WASH.

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Half a world apart, the Tri-Cities in Washington and Nagasaki in Japan are linked forever by the birth of the Atomic Age.

In the community that became the Tri-Cities, workers raced during World War II to create the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, just three days after an atomic bomb fueled with uranium was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

×

Best Feature Story General

Division D

1st Place

Idaho Statesman

Inside the search for Bryan Kohberger

Kevin Fixler, Alex Brizee

2nd Place

Rogue Valley Times

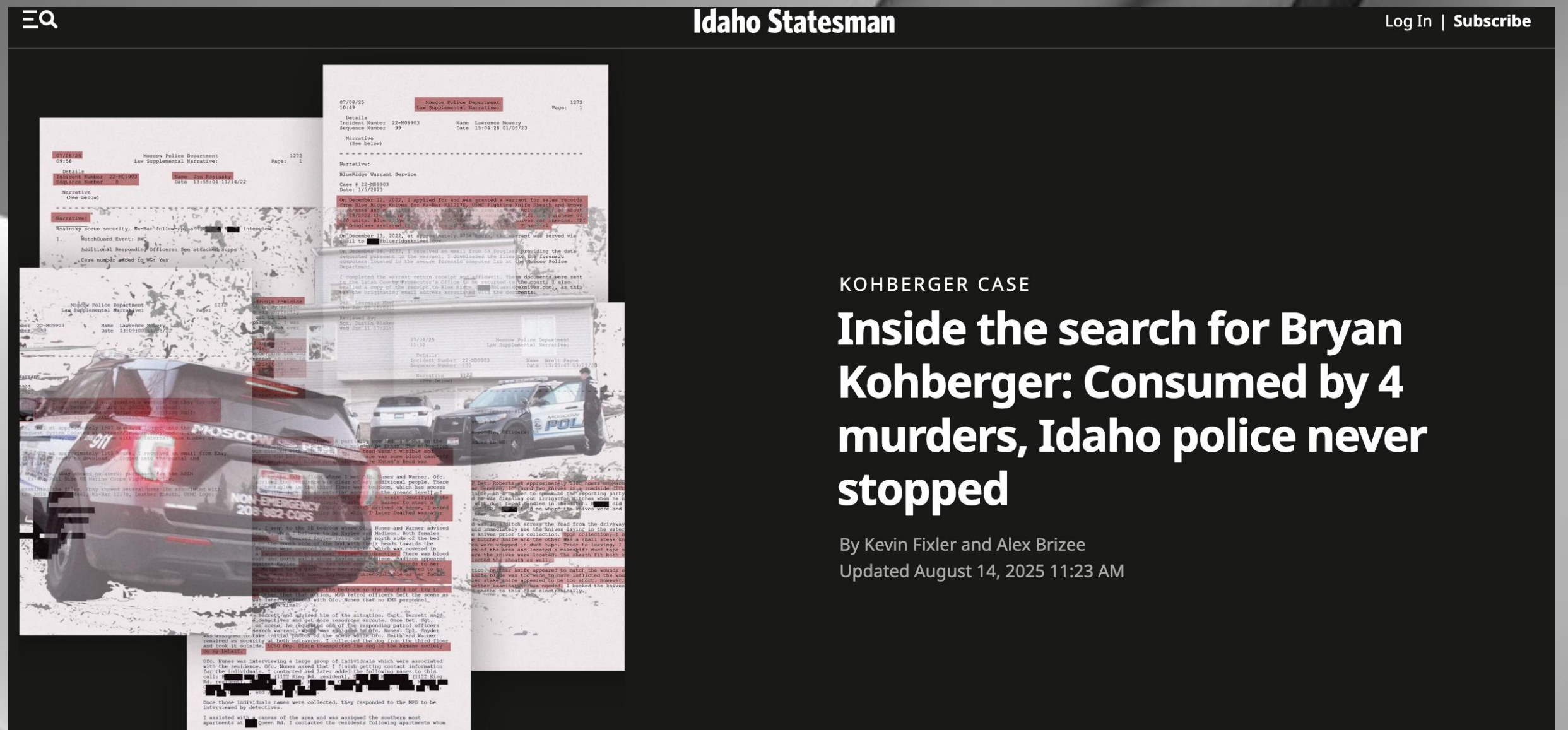
Buffy Pollock

3rd Place

Yakima Republic

Trout Lake caters to surging demand of Pacific Crest Trail thru-hikers

Michael Ambrose



Best Feature Story General

Division B-C

1st Place

Bend Bulletin

Michael Kohn

Staff

2nd Place

Eugene Register Guard

Michael Bryson

Haleigh Kochanski

3rd Place

Eugene Register Guard

What drives Oregon's Katie Fiso

Alec Dietz

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From flood to pivot, farmers embrace modern irrigation systems

Published 5:45 am Friday, September 12, 2025

By Michael Kohn

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eEdition

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

Abrupt daycare closure leaves parents in lurch



Kiln to open 43,000-square-foot coworking hub in Old Mill District

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Division A

1st Place

Oregonian

The intersection

Noelle Crombie

2nd Place

Spokesman-Review

Nick Gibson

3rd Place

Oregonian

Fedor Zarkhin

Salem Statesman Journal

Regenerative farming: Oregon farmers say ancient methods are key to a sustainable future'

Tracy Loew

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Portland Homicides Courts

The intersection

He tried to save himself. He killed an 11-year-old instead

Updated: Dec. 19, 2025, 11:01 a.m. | Published: Dec. 18, 2025, 5:00 a.m.

On July 8, 2023, Duprie Smith sped through the intersection of Southeast 102nd Avenue and Stark Street, slamming into a car carrying Ryan Ambrose, 11. Ryan died from his injuries. The family erected a memorial near the spot of the crash. (This photo was taken days after the wreck and shows a pedestrian walking into the scene.) Beth Nakamura

By Noelle Crombie | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Duprie Smith rocketed through the darkness, the roar of his Chevy Trailblazer's engine overwhelming the sound of other traffic.

Best Feature Personality

Division H-J

1st Place

West Linn Tidings

‘Harder than I thought’

Mac Larsen

2nd Place

Woodburn Independent

From Woodburn to the world stage

Sophia Cossette

3rd Place

Wilsonville Spokesman

‘Helping anyone, no matter where in life’

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Wednesday, September 3, 2025 • Vol 45, Issue 36 • \$1

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OPENING ROAR

Lions football rolls as season kicks off



The West Linn football team takes the field before its 49-21 win over Kamahouha in its 2025 season opener at West Linn High School on Friday, Aug. 29.

The Tidings

The West Linn football team – the 2024 Class 6A state champions – kicked off its 2025 season in fine fashion, rolling past Kamahouha Kapoleia 49-21 at West Linn High School on Friday, Aug. 29.

“They came out ready. They had two games preparation and we only had two weeks, but we came and showed them,” said West Linn junior cornerback/side receiver Josiah Molden, who made four catches for 55 yards and one touchdown. “Our offense did its job. Our defense did its job. We had some mistakes, but we came out on top.”

See more coverage on A13!



The West Linn crowd cheers for the Linn football team before its 49-21 win over Kamahouha in the 2025 season opener at West Linn High School on Friday, Aug. 29. (LEFT PHOTO: ADAM BAKER)

WL residents among 4-H winners at county fair

Eighteen students honored by judges

By MAC LARSEN

Staff Reporter

The Clackamas County Fair is over and the results are in.

Every year, kids from around the county compete for 4-H awards in categories ranging from livestock care to baking and musical performance.

Eighteen West Linn kids were recognized at this year's fair, which was held Aug. 12-16

at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby. There were close to 5,000 entries from nearly 700 youth participants.

4-H competitions are divided into different divisions and categories. Entrants can receive white, red, purple or blue ribbons depending on the judge's observations. Blue ribbons are given to contestants who exceed standards. After all ribbons are given out, the judges may choose a champion and reserve champion for the category.

4-H age groups are split into Cloverleaf Junior, Intermediate and Senior. In some divisions and categories,



See FARM / A2 Things were always lively in the livestock barns at this year's Clackamas County Fair. (LEFT PHOTO: JERRY BAKER)

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2nd Place

Lake Oswego Review

The 'godfather of indie animation'

Mac Larsen

3rd Place

Lake Oswego Review

In the bag

Corey Buchanan

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If we didn't tell these stories, who would?

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Friday, August 22, 2025 • \$1

NEWS IS CHANGING RAPIDLY | For breaking stories and the latest headlines, visit columbiacountyspotlight.com

Scappoose searches for a new board member

Former board member resigned following teen's death

By KAELYN CASSIDY
Staff Reporter

The Scappoose school board has opened applications for a new member following the resignation of former board member Miranda Jurasek.

Jurasek resigned from the board earlier this month following accusations from community members that she played a role in the death of 17-year-old Scappoose High School student Ava Crews.

At a party in May, Crews was riding as a passenger in an ATV driven by 18-year-old Ayden Heard and died when the vehicle crashed and flipped. Heard was allegedly under the influence of alcohol when he was driving the vehicle and is now facing criminal charges in the Multnomah County court.

Following Crews' death, an open letter with hundreds of signatures called for an investigation into Jurasek, alleging that the party was held at Jurasek's home and that there is a history of underage drinking occurring at the property.

In a letter penned to the board chair Aug. 7, Jurasek explained that her resignation from the board was prompted by a desire to prevent further division in the community.

The school district is now accepting applications to fill Jurasek's empty seat, which represents Zone 2 consisting of east Scappoose and Sawie Island.

Applicants must be registered voters who have resided within the Zone 2 boundaries for at least one year prior to the appointment. Applicants may not be employees of the Scappoose School District.

Application forms can be found online at the school district's website or collected in person at 33589 S.E. High School Way.

See SCHOOL BOARD / A2



Finn Haefker built a floating sauna on the Multnomah Channel out of salvaged materials. (FOR PRESS/COLUMBIA COUNTY SPOTLIGHT)

Floating sauna keeps family tradition afloat in Scappoose

By KAELYN CASSIDY
Staff Reporter

As the sun begins to set, summer and leaves leave their trees, Oregonians retreat from their outdoor adventures back into the warmth of their homes.

Or, at least, those without

floating saunas do.

Nestled near the shore of the Multnomah Channel in Scappoose is a complex of floating structures that have been lovingly built by generations of men from the Haefker family since the 1960s. The newest addition to the family retreat is a Scandinavian-inspired sauna,

which stands as 25-year-old Finn Haefker's mark on the site.

It's all in the details.

Haefker designed the structure and built it by hand. He started work on the sauna ahead of his senior year of college at the

University of Oregon — where he studied urban planning and architecture — and finished construction last summer.

The idea was to build something that was functional in the winter, since this is a really nice gathering spot for friends

See STEAM / A2

Kayak for a cause

Watershed council needs volunteers to pull invasive plants

By KAELYN CASSIDY
Staff Reporter

Love to kayak? The Scappoose Bay Watershed Council is looking for volunteers to join the team on a kayaking trip to remove invasive purple loosestrife from a local island.

The event is planned from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26. Volunteers will meet at the SBWC's office, located at the Scappoose Bay Marina at 57426 Old Portland Road, where they will learn about purple loosestrife and other aquatic plants.

From there, volunteers will kayak out to a small, muddy island, where they will exit their vessels and begin pulling the invasive species before paddling back to the marina.

No kayak? No problem — Next Adventure Scappoose Bay will provide kayaks and lifejackets to volunteers for the event.

Event organizers recommend wearing rainboots or shoes with ankle support, as the island is muddy and unstable. Volunteers should wear clothes they don't mind getting dirty.

To sign up for the event, visit arcg.is/Unlmen.



Volunteers will remove invasive purple loosestrife from islands under the direction of the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. (COURTESY OF WATERSHED COUNCIL)

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Don Anderson: 100 years and counting

Ray Pitz

2nd Place

News-Register

A position with purpose

Starla Pointer

3rd Place

Columbia Gorge News

Ashes to Art Lloyd DeKay

Sean Avery



Got seaweed?

Beaverton girl earns top 10 finalists spot in 3M Young Young Scientist Challenge

By RAY PITZ
Staff Reporter

It all started with fast fashion.

Isha Marla was inspired to find a sustainable alternative to conventional fiber textiles after noticing her sister would receive small packages of "cute" clothes — mostly she knew carried significant environmental impacts.

The recent eighth grade graduate of Beaverton's Tumwater Middle School soon discovered that 92 million tons of textile waste ends up in landfills annually.

Her solution? Creating a strong and flexible fabric made of seaweed and natural ingredients, something she dubbed AlginaFAB.

Fabric made of seaweed

Algina-based products use alginate acid or salts extracted from seaweed and became Marla's ticket to bring a finalist for the 3M Young Scientist Challenge.

As part of the contest, Marla submitted a short video explaining her scientific solution to textile waste as part of the annual challenge. The judges liked her proposal so much that the 14-year-old was named one of 10 finalists throughout the country competing for a \$25,000 grand prize this fall.

She also will be vying for the title of "America's Top Young Scientist" with other fifth through eighth-grade students when they travel to the 3M headquarters in Minnesota in October.

Before she was recently notified of her finalist position, 3M representatives informed her parents so they could film her reaction when told she was in the running.

"It was a really big surprise for me. I was excited," Marla said.

Marla said it is her love of the environment that propelled her search for sustainable textiles, discovering along the way that 500,000 tons of microfibers in inexpensive and stylish clothing end up in oceans annually.

See SCIENTIST / A3



World War II veteran Don Anderson, pictured June 12 at Tigard's Woodland Heights Assisted Living, has lived in Redmond, Tualatin, Sherwood and King City throughout his life. (JERRY HARRIS/VALLEY TIMES)

DON ANDERSON: 100 YEARS AND COUNTING

Longtime area resident, World War II vet wants to reunite with former singing group

By RAY PITZ
Staff Reporter

By most accounts, Don Anderson has lived an exceptional life. He's been a tailgunner aboard a B-47

bomber during an attack on Berlin during World War II, ran his own radio station in Redmond and served as a local fire district's first public education officer.

Now add centennarian to the:

Don Anderson, son of the former Tualatin, Sherwood and King City resident who turned 100 in March, and you have the recipe for a life well lived.

See ANDERSON / A2

Robin Hood Festival shoots into Sherwood July 18-19

Annual event will feature a parade, archery competition

By RAY PITZ
Staff Reporter

Sherwood's Old Town will once again resemble a medieval landscape as the 72nd annual Sherwood Robin Hood Festival kicks off on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19.

The two-day event will be chock full of modern and medieval entertainment ranging from a knighting ceremony to a popular parade to a variety of musical entertainment. The festival opens at 5 p.m.

See ROBIN HOOD / A3



The 72nd annual Sherwood Robin Hood Festival hits Old Town Sherwood July 18 and 19. (JERRY HARRIS/VALLEY TIMES)

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SCAN ME

Division D-E

1st Place

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Life after prison: Walla Walla resident shares his crime, punishment and guilt

Simmerdeep Kaur, Kezia Setyawan

2nd Place

The Outlook

Christopher Keizur

Staff

3rd Place

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Life after prison: Walla Walla resident shares his crime, punishment and guilt

[Simmerdeep Kaur Walla Walla Union-Bulletin](#)
Dec 12, 2025
0

Formerly incarcerated Walla Walla resident Beau Currier reflects on his deep remorse for his crime and how he forever altered the lives of his victim's family.

[Kezia Setyawan, Walla Walla Union-Bulletin](#)

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College Place uses interfund loan, emergency funds to keep city budget balanced

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Andrew Griffin

3rd Place

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Michael Kohn

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Outdoors

BUSTED: YELLOWSTONE VISITOR CROSSES LINE, GETS SOME JAIL TIME — PAGE 2C

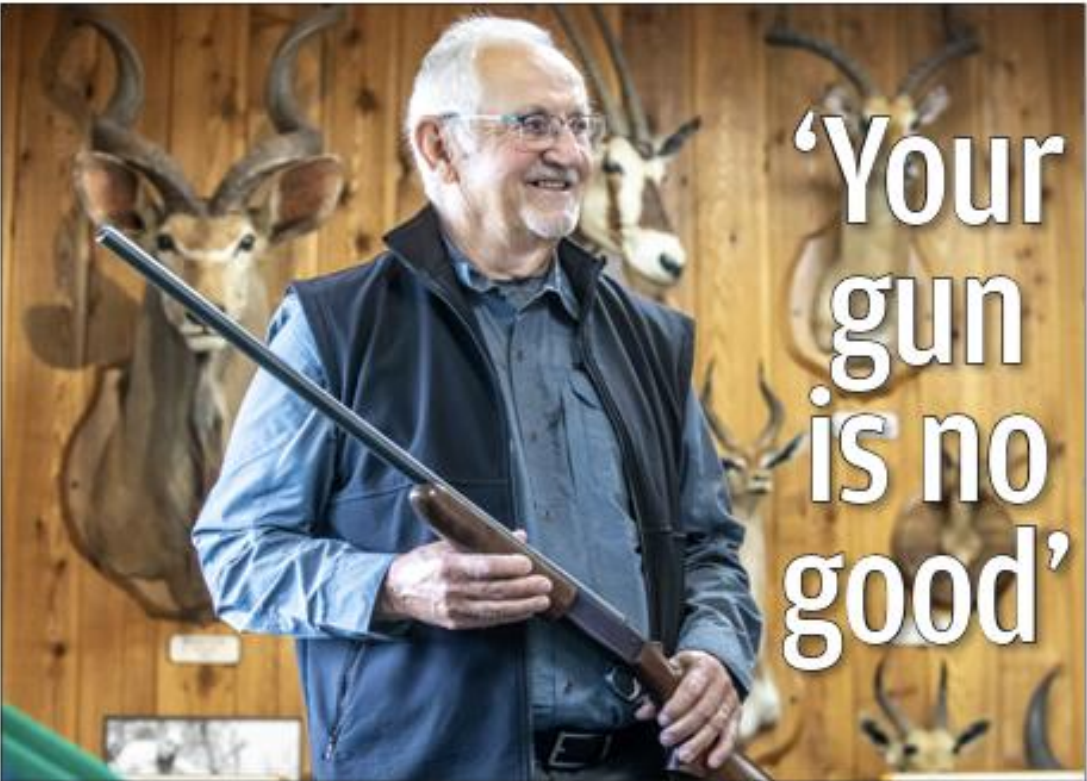
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LEWISTON TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

A PIECE OF HISTORY



‘Your gun is no good’

When he was 15, Keith Moser, of Clarkston, was given a shotgun by famous gun writer Jack O'Connor. The firearm is now on display at the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center in Lewiston.

Chance encounter with legendary writer ends in gift and friendship for Clarkston farm kid

By ERIC BARKER
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

With Moser looking across a field of wheat stubble off of Penla Road just a handful of miles from the Clarkston Heights. The not-so-distant horizon is peppered with new homes creeping their way into farm country. “Most all of these buildings never existed,” he says of his youth spent on the farm above McGuire Gulch. On a November day in 1958, Moser was walking the same stubble field with a single-shot .410 hoping to scare up a pheasant when an unmarked 1955 station wagon drove toward him. The car made him nervous.

“I’m this 15-year-old kid with no license,” he said. “It’s a 3,000-acre farm.” Moser was certain a game warden was behind the wheel. He changed directions, hoping to slip over the hill and out of sight. “That didn’t do any good because the vehicle followed me.” With no chance of escape, he prepared himself for a scolding and a probable citation. Instead, it was the beginning of an unlikely



The 20-gauge, single-shot Model 37 Winchester rests in a glass display case. A photo of the young Moser is seen below the gun.

friendship between a farm kid and a famous gun writer. “The vehicle pulled up and the driver says, ‘Son!’ — he called me son. He said, ‘Can you help me out?’ He said, ‘My dog Mike is on point somewhere. I have a bad hip and I can’t walk very far,’ or words to that effect. I’m sure

he is on point over that hill.” If the dog was on point, the man said he wouldn’t budge until the bird flushed. Moser agreed to help the stranger. He walked southeast and created a rise where the man said Mike would likely be. He saw the

Brittany spaniel almost immediately. Mike was on the run and shot past Moser on his way back to his owner. He didn’t do much, but the stranger was grateful. “He shook my hand and said, ‘Do you know who Jack O’Connor is?’”



O’Connor Moser didn’t. Next, he asked if he was familiar with Outdoor Life. Of course, Moser answered. “He said, ‘I’m Jack O’Connor, the gun editor of Outdoor Life,’ and then he went on to tell me Mike was his favorite dog, his best dog.” The talk soon turned to guns as it often did with O’Connor, who was famous for his adventurous hunting tales featured in the classic outdoor magazine. The gun editor was not impressed with Moser’s .410.

See GUN, Page 2C



Gregory Scruggs/Seattle Times

Orogenesis Collective Executive Director Gabriel Tiller has logged thousands of miles in his truck on mountain bike scouting missions to explore lost and abandoned trails that could potentially become part of Orogenesis, the world’s longest mountain bike trail.

Riding the Cascades

Nearly 200-mile trail is first segment in a planned Baja to B.C. bike route

By GREGORY SCRUGGS
SEATTLE TIMES

GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST, Wash. — Craving a novel Evergreen State adventure this summer? Saddle up your bike and ride the Luowit Trail, a 197-mile mountain bike route in the state’s

southern Cascades range that was unveiled to the public last month. When the snow melts, riders traveling between Packwood in Lewis County and the Columbia River Gorge will have their first chance to cruise through dark forests, push up grueling climbs, ride alpine ridges with stunning views, skirt the edges of a volcanic eruption and cool off in remote glacier-fed swimming holes on a stretch of trail that, until now,

would have been difficult to access via bicycle. The route follows single-track mountain bike trails, unpaved roads and four-wheel drive tracks through the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. It’s the first segment to launch as part of Orogenesis, a 5,000-mile bikepacking route conceived by avid long-distance mountain bikers that

See CASCADES, Page 2C

Best Feature Personality

Division A

1st Place

Oregonian

Booed for winning a state title, this Oregon teen now just wants a safe place to run

Bill Oram

2nd Place

Oregonian

'Real Ted Lasso vibes': Inside Portland Mayor Keith Wilson's first days at City Hall

Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

3rd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Homegrown actor Bentley Michaels is famous on stage and behind the mic

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SPORTS

Bill Oram: Booed for winning a state title, this Oregon teen now just wants a safe place to run

Updated: Jun. 02, 2025, 8:13 a.m. | Published: May. 30, 2025, 6:00 a.m.



After school, Ada rides the MAX train into downtown Portland, where she walked around and stopped by some go-to haunts, including Powell's City of Books. May 8, 2025 Beth Nakamura

By Bill Oram | The Oregonian/OregonLive

On the pages of the leatherbound notebook she carries, Ada Gallagher has started saying goodbye.

She is writing letters to her friends, to her McDaniel High School teammates and coaches. To her girlfriend, Quinn. That's the one that she frets over most and has been adding to for months. It is approaching seven pages.

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3x Incremental ROAS on Snapchat

Scale with Snapchat

Division H-J

1st Place

The Newberg Graphic

Federal cuts to food programs having dire impacts locally

2nd Place

The Chronicle

Erin Tierney-Heggenstaller

3rd Place

The Newberg Graphic

Good pavement proving to be a precious commodity in Newberg



Best Lifestyle Coverage

Division G

1st Place

Lake Oswego Review

Would LO consider adding food carts?

Corey Buchanan

2nd Place

Lake Oswego Review

First of their kind

Corey Buchanan

3rd Place

South County Spotlight

'We're scrounging the best we can'

Kaelyn Cassidy

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Lake Oswego comes together for the 2nd annual

2025 Lake Oswego Family Community Portrait



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Pendleton East Oregonian

Paraglider finishes epic flight across Eastern Oregon, ending at Farewell Bend State Park

Jayson Jacoby

2nd Place

News-Register

Carving Quartet

Starla Pointer

3rd Place

News-Register

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Breaking News: La Grande teen dies in crash on Highway 82

Paraglider finishes epic flight across Eastern Oregon, ending at Farewell Bend State Park

Published 8:40 am Wednesday, August 13, 2025

By Jayson Jacoby | Baker City Herald

GO!

EASTERN OREGON

- Thu, May 21 @5:00pm **Sponsored Fiber Art Friday**
- Mon, May 18 @5:30pm **ELEMENTS IN PRACTICE: ARTMAKERS FAMILY...**
Pendleton Center for the Arts
- Tue, May 19 @12:00pm **Lead & Succeed: Monthly Membership...**
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5 years later, Portland lags other cities as it nurses pandemic-era wounds
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Investing in medical detox
Olivia Palmer

3rd Place

Mid-Valley Media

Just call Corvallis a 'Nerdvana'
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BUSINESS

5 years later, Portland lags other cities as it nurses pandemic-era wounds

Updated: Oct. 24, 2025, 1:46 p.m. | Published: Mar. 23, 2025, 5:00 a.m.

The Thompson Elk Fountain, damaged in 2020, has been in storage in an undisclosed location ever since. It previously stood for more than a century on Southwest Main Street between 3rd and 4th avenues (pictured). The city says the elk will return sometime this year. Beth Nakamura

By Mike Rogoway | The Oregonian/OregonLive and Jonathan Bach | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Life sputtered to a standstill for Carrie Welch five years ago this week. A novel coronavirus had descended upon Oregon, and Gov. Kate Brown issued a “stay home” order that shuttered bars, restaurants, offices and gyms in a bid to contain the spread of the virus. That meant Welch’s two businesses, which promoted [Portland’s flourishing restaurant scene](#), suddenly had no clients and no prospects. No one knew how long the nascent pandemic would last, or what kind of city would emerge in its wake. “I spent a lot of time in my garage figuring out what I was going to do

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Pendleton East Oregonian

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Breaking News:

La Grande teen dies in crash on Highway 82

Prevent Insects From Entering The House

NATIONAL GUARD CENTER NEAR HERMISTON HOSTS MARKSMANSHIP EXERCISE

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Out and About: Feeling small in one of Oregon's biggest wilderness areas

Published 4:03 pm Tuesday, December 2, 2025

By Jayson Jacoby | Baker City Herald

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GO!

EASTERN OREGON

Sat, May 30 @6:00pm Sponsored Monthly Dance

Union County Senior Center

Mon, May 18 @5:30pm ELEMENTS IN PRACTICE: ARTMAKERS FAMILY... Pendleton Center for the Arts

Tue, May 19 @12:00pm Lead & Succeed: Monthly Membership... Mac's Bar & Grill

Tue, May 19 @5:15pm Skyview Bistro & Lounge Grand Openin... Skyview Bistro & Lounge

Wed, May 20 @5:30pm WEDNESDAY WARM UP Pendleton Center for the Arts

Wed, May 20 @5:30pm Youth Art Night: Digital

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X

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Division H-J

1st Place

The Chronicle

Grieving, growing

McKenzie Days

2nd Place

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The Super Man

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3rd Place

Wilsonville Spokesman

Wilsonville baseball streaks to 21 straight wins

Miles Vance

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Billies softball grieving, growing

MCKENZIE DAYS · MAY 8, 2025

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PLEASANT HILL Tuesday, April 29, was a typical spring day with crisp, blue skies and the

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The Chronicle:
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Best Sports Story

Division G

1st Place

South County Spotlight

Kate Kessi is up-and-coming

Wade Evanson

2nd Place

Lake Oswego Review

LO’s LaMarcus Bell Runs Wild

Miles Vance

3rd Place

Lake Oswego Review

Back on Top

Miles Vance

Sports

AB Friday, December 26, 2025 columbiacountypride.com

KATE KESSI IS UP-AND-COMING, BUT HAS ALSO ALREADY ARRIVED

Scappoose eighth grader excels on local, regional, national levels

By WADE EVANSON Staff Reporter

Scappoose Middle School runner Kate Kessi is making quite a name for herself.

The eighth-grader qualified and ran at the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships on Dec. 13 in Indiana and, despite less than ideal weather conditions, Kessi placed fourth.

Pretty darn good, despite Kessi herself downplaying it.

"I was definitely going for better," Kessi said. "I was going for first, but because of the weather and all, I'm happy with fourth."

Ultimately, she should be.

Kessi didn't start running competitively until two years ago and started running cross country in fall 2024 when she ramped for two weeks after the end of the volleyball season. But last summer she decided to dedicate herself to the sport, and the results have been undeniable.

Despite continuing to play soccer (that's her main fall sport), Kessi won nine of 10 of her races this fall (with the one outlier being a result of getting lost on the course) and won both the state and regional championships prior to her fourth place finish at nationals.

That's a solid initial campaign, and one in which Kessi exceeded even her expectations.

"My beginning goal was to try and win state," Kessi said. "I didn't even know I was going to make it to nationals, so I'm pretty happy with the season."

The middle-schooler picked up cross country as a sixth-grader, and Scappoose Middle School track and cross country coach Nick Jenkins said it didn't take long for her to open some eyes among he and his fellow coaches.

"When she was in sixth grade and at her first race she said, 'I want to run with those people,' and those people were our really fast eighth graders," Jenkins said. "I said, OK, but don't go out too fast. Well, she not only ran with those people, but she beat those people. I was like, oh my gosh."

Kessi went on to break the school record by nearly 30 seconds in the 3000 meter race that season, and additionally, showed Jenkins that she has a rare mix of both talent and fortitude.

"I've been coaching for 10 years now, cross country and track, and it's very rare that you have someone that is naturally talented and has a work ethic," Jenkins said. "Kate has both, and that's pretty cool."

And it's been pretty cool for Kessi as well.

While distance running is difficult — and to many it's more work than it is fun — the young standout said she enjoys the challenge of running distance while it is something she's warmed to over time.

"I've learned that I should try to have fun with it, otherwise it's just not as fun to try to go fast because it's kind of miserable sometimes," Kessi said. "You have to have fun with running, and I try to look forward to it."

At nationals, Kessi was going blind. While her times were competitive, the course, competition, and ultimately the weather was a bit of a mystery. But while she didn't know exactly what to expect, it didn't take anything from an experience that she thoroughly enjoyed.

"It was a really cool experience," Kessi said. "It was not what I was expecting, definitely with the weather and the snow and all that, but it was a really cool experience."

Did that weather affect her performance? If so, it'd be hard to argue by much; after all, she placed fourth among the 292 participants despite running a 4,000-meter course for just the third time this season, and even by her own account wasn't



Scappoose Middle School eighth grader Kate Kessi competes during a race this past season. (columbiacountypride.com)



Oregon Ducks receiver Jeremiah McClinton celebrates a touchdown during the Ducks' CFP game against James Madison on Dec. 20, at Auburn Stadium in Eugene. (JALISA EMMERTON/PORTLAND TRIBUNE)

Play time is over

Ducks dominate Dukes in playoffs' first round

Play time is over. Oregon did what it was supposed to do against James Madison in the opening round of the College Football Playoff on Saturday night, defeating the Dukes 51-34.

But don't let the final score fool you, it wasn't that close.

While the result seemed inevitable on paper, you have to prove it on the field, and the Ducks did that, sending the Sun Belt Dukes back to the minor leagues with big plays, dominance on both sides of the line of scrimmage, and the precision you'd expect to see from a "big boy" intent on putting the "little guy" down.

From the get-go it was apparent that the two teams were operating on different levels, and with Oregon scored on their first five drives, amassed 360 first-half yards, and averaged more than 17 yards per play in the game's first 30 minutes, despite possessing the ball for less than 10 of them.

Dante Moore looked like a first round draft

FROM THE SIDELINES



Wade Evanson

See KESSI / A3

See SIDELINES / A3

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Best Sports Story

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News-Register

Saving the crown

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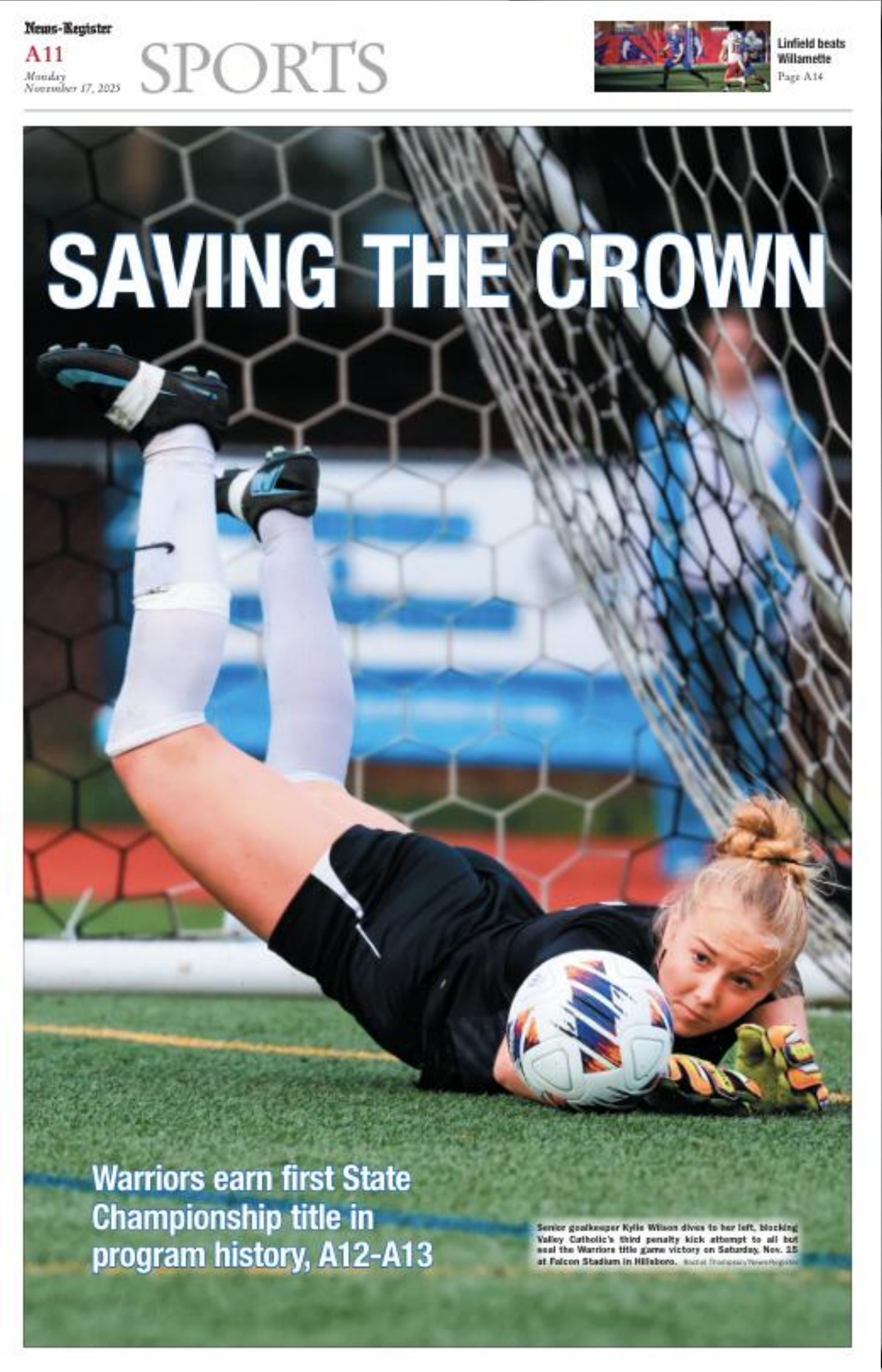
Nathan Ecker

3rd Place

Tigard Tualatin Times

Rallying for the title

Wade Evanson



Best Sports Story

Division E

1st Place

Longview Daily News

Kelso schools clear hurdles for track athletes

Andrew Lwowski

2nd Place

The Astorian

“Astoria native completes ride of a lifetime”

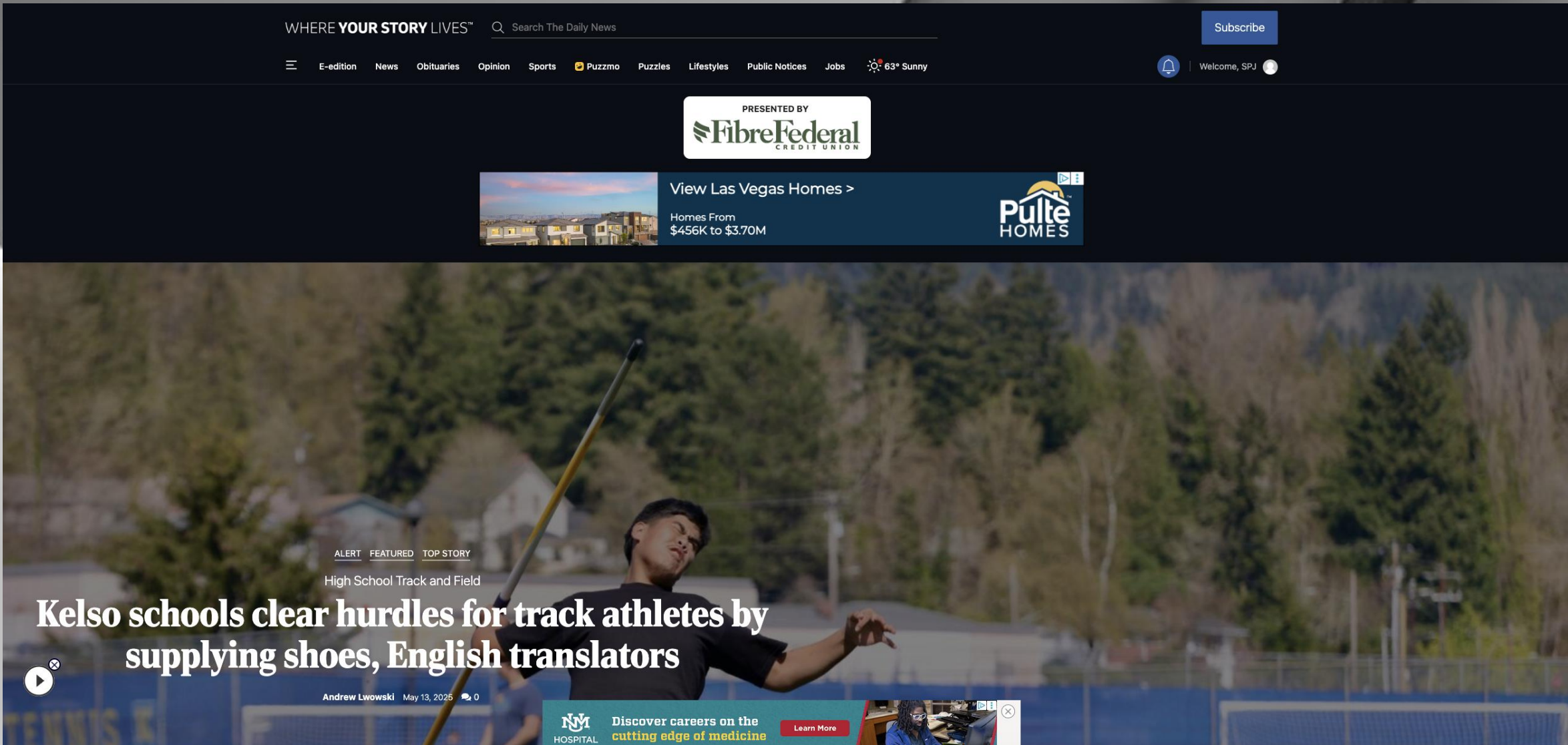
Paul Matli

3rd Place

Longview Daily News

Cowlitz County Rodeo

Dan Rosenfield



Best Sports Story

Division D

1st Place

Yakima Republic

Ike’s Phil English unlocked potential for high school runners over legend-ary 45-year career
Luke Thompson

2nd Place

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

‘Back with a vengeance’: Milton-Freewater’s Minutemen wrestle their way back to the top
Loryn Kykendall

3rd Place

Rogue Valley Times

Columbia Cup victory for South Medford HS
Kris Henry

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Ike's Phil English unlocked potential for high school runners over legendary 45-year career

LUKE THOMPSON Yakima Herald-Republic May 11, 2025 0 8 min to read

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Division A-C

1st Place

Oregonian

Rev's return

Bill Oram

2nd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Western Oregon women's basketball investigation contained errors, Statesman Journal finds

Bill Poehler

3rd Place

Oregonian

A 'wall of memories': OSU baseball reaches World Series, one Polaroid at a time

Joe Freeman

Set weather

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Rev's Return

A former Oregon college basketball player returns to prison, sharing a message of hope | Bill Oram

Updated: Sep. 16, 2025, 8:49 a.m. | Published: Sep. 16, 2025, 6:00 a.m.



Brett Hollins, 31, is trying to bring hope to Oregon prisons through basketball, the sport he played at Southern Oregon University after nearly four years inside the state's largest prison. Sean Meagher/The Oregonian

By Bill Oram | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Best Spot News Coverage

Division H-J

1st Place

The Chronicle

Juanita's Story

Erin Tierney-Heggenstaller

2nd Place

The New Era

The New Era Spot News

Scott Swanson

3rd Place

The Chronicle

Senior Center closes

Erin Tierney-Heggenstaller

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THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD COTTAGE GROVE CRESWELL PLEASANT HILL

Springfield approves plan for firefighters

BY ASHLIN SANDERSON THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield residents voted yes last week to approve an increase to the Eugene-Springfield Fire Department's local option fire levy.

Ballot Measure #20-371 proposes a five-year levy

of 53 cents per \$1,000 assessed value beginning in July 2026 – an increase of 15 cents. The increased rate reflects inflation and the rising cost of maintaining essential services.

Unofficial results of the ballot show that 6,297 people voted in favor of

See YES – 4

At a glance

ESF: An increased levy allows the department to maintain 24/7 fire-fighter-paramedic response citywide and helps keep overall emergency response times stable.

SLCFR: No levy increase means a reduction in firefighter and medic units to Creswell and Cottage Grove communities.

South Lane residents shoot down fire levy

BY ASHLIN SANDERSON THE CHRONICLE

LANE COUNTY – Election results are in. Last week, voters in Cottage Grove and Creswell had the opportunity to decide whether or not to increase funding for South Lane Fire and Rescue.

The measure on the ballot

for South Lane residents gave voters the chance to consider replacing the District's current levy of 47 cents with a new rate of 94 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value – an increase of 47 cents. For homeowners of median-priced homes in the district, valued at

See NO – 4

INSIDE

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Where to Go?

Find out in print & online

■ The Chronicle's calendar of events for Springfield and rural communities is sponsored in print and online by Springfield Utility Board.

chronicle1909.com/events

See Pages 10-11

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ZONE

Historic victories

Cottage Grove boys, girls

■ The Lions cross country teams both finished on the podium at the Class 4A state championships.

Pages 6

Colts football wins

Next up: Churchill

■ The Thurston Colts defeated Bend 34-17 and now face a rematch with Churchill.

Pages 7-8

Creswell soccer rolls

Boys, girls reach semis

■ The Bulldogs played Tuesday, Nov. 11. Check our website to see if they advanced to the state title game.

Page 8

VanGordon challenges Loveall for county commission

BY ASHLIN SANDERSON THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD – Sean VanGordon has been involved in Springfield government since 2011, and most recently as the City mayor. This election year, he is taking his role one step further and running for Lane County Commissioner.

On Monday, VanGordon and David Loveall, the incumbent, announced their campaigns for the Lane County Commissioner seat representing Springfield.

"Serving as Lane County Commissioner has never been about seeking the easy path – it's about standing up for the truth and what matters most to our communities here in Springfield," stated Loveall.

"Lane County faces significant

See COMMISSION – 3

Veterans Day

BOB WILLIAMS / PHOTO

■ Above: Local vets celebrated in Springfield on Tuesday.

■ Opinion: No veterans should go hungry. Page 5

JUANITA'S STORY

ICE raid rattles Cottage Grove community

PHOTOS BY BOB WILLIAMS / THE CHRONICLE

Juanita Avila, 47, and her daughter Emely, 19, at Juanita's Latina Store at 605 Main St. in Cottage Grove.

BY ERIN TIERNEY-HEGGENSTALLER ERIN@CHRONICLE1909.COM

COTTAGE GROVE – She was a Latina driving a minivan.

That's all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) needed to pull her over, throw her to the ground, dig their knees into her back, and handcuff her without explanation, according to Juanita Avila, 47, who recounted the incident the following afternoon.

Still raw from the encounter, Juanita hangs her head while choking back tears, a few of them forming crimson splotches on her firetruck-red shirt.

"We are traumatized," Juanita said. "We see a car without an Oregon license plate ... my heart starts pumping because of what they did, and they do that to everybody. Doesn't matter if they're citizens or have green cards."

Avila immigrated from

Watch the video CHRONICLE1909.COM



Malacatancito, Huehuetenango, Guatemala, to Los Angeles, Calif. when she was 14. She moved to Cottage Grove about 12 years ago, seeking a "safer" and "less stressful environment" for her family.

Upon settling in Cottage Grove, she opened Juanita's Latina Store at 605 E. Main St.

This grocery store became a hub for the local Hispanic community, offering specialty foods and familiar products from Central America. Her entrepreneurial spirit was influenced by her desire to keep her children close while working, especially when they were young. She is a mother to three children – ages 12, 19, and 26.

"It takes a certain personality profile of entrepreneurship, of courage to, frankly, even come here (to America) ... That's who we are, and that's what's made the United States great," said Len Blackstone, 73, Juanita's landlord.

"You have this person who sees this closed door and says, 'I'm going to go buy it and set up shop in this town' ... You have people like her come in, who are the future of our country."

"When people talk about 'criminals' being arrested – who's going to be against that? Yeah – this is not ... this is not a criminal," Blackstone said, gesturing toward Juanita.

See RAID – 9



Division G

1st Place

Lake Oswego Review

'A crisis point'

Corey Buchanan

2nd Place

South County Spotlight

Kaelyn Cassidy

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South County Spotlight

Kaelyn Cassidy



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Lake Oswego Review

Wednesday, July 10, 2025 • Vol 104, Issue 48 • \$1

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Lake Oswego Review:

Lake Oswego's summer concert season is here!

The city hosted Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle at Foothills Park Wednesday, July 9, for the first show of 2025. The series continues this week as Soul Vibration, a punk and soul band, will perform from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at Foothills Park.

Lake Oswego kicks off summer concerts

Lake Oswego's summer concert season began with Ben Rice & The PDX Hustle at Foothills Park July 9. (LARRY PHOTO / J. KIMMELMAN)

Councilor takes stand against humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza

Ali Afghan wearing hat in protest of violence

By COREY BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

If you happen to run into Lake Oswego City Councilor Ali Afghan in the community, you may see him donning a black hat with the word "Gaza" emblazoned in red.

Afghan continues to be appalled at reports coming out of Palestine — including the more than 57,000 people who have died, the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who are starving and suffering and the thousands of orphans who are alone and in need.

To raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis and get community members to no longer

How will ODOT cuts affect Lake Oswego?

Maintenance, incident response likely to slow

By COREY BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

With the Oregon Department of Transportation facing hundreds of layoffs and funding cuts due to the failure of the Legislature to pass a transportation funding package, the local fallout is yet to fully materialize.

However, ODOT expects people to notice impacts to key services immediately.

"We can say that travelers will begin to see noticeable impacts to road maintenance and safety services as early as this summer. These cuts will impact the quality, safety and reliability of Oregon's transportation system. We will continue to do the best we can, with the resources we have, to keep



Ali Afghan with his two daughters Raga and Sara, his brother Hamid and his son Amirah.

turn a blind eye, he has worn the hat every day for nearly a year and plans to continue to do so until the bombings stop and Palestinians are provided sustenance and reconnected with humanitarian organizations. He is doing so not as a city councilor but a citizen.

"I wear it as a personal expression of compassion and what is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian crisis, honestly. Civilians, especially children, are suffering on a massive scale and this is my way of not turning away. It's about empathy for human life," he said.

See GAZA / A2

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Best Spot News Coverage

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1st Place

Columbia Gorge News

Operational updates, resources and the team coordinating Burdoin Fire response

Nathan Wilson

2nd Place

Pendleton East Oregonian

Hundreds attend Pendleton meeting on the unhoused and public safety

Yasser Marte

3rd Place

News-Register

Johnson retrial ends in guilty verdict

Emily Bonsant



A sunflower blooms on the couple's rooftop garden, despite charred ground and trees mere feet away. Nathan Wilson photo

FIRE Flame resistant materials, cleared vegetation touted

Continued from page 7

on the region, vegetation type and historic fire behavior, wildfires are also more prone to cause severe ecosystem damage, particularly in the Southwest, based on research from Oregon State University.

Leading fire scientist Jack Cohen found, however, that property destruction during extreme wildfire conditions directly tied to the home ignition zone's characteristics of a home and flammability of its immediate surroundings within 100 feet. Essentially, it's possible to prevent the loss of a community without controlling the wildfire itself.

But incorporating fire-resistant materials into homes

comes with several barriers, one being regulatory. Both Rutherford and several residents impacted by the earlier Rowena Fire expressed that the Columbia River Gorge Commission, which sets building and other land use guidelines within the National Scenic Area, prevented them from installing metal roofs.

"I appreciate their mission. I think sometimes they put style ahead of function," said Rutherford. "Metal roofs are a perfect example."

The Gorge Commission was not immediately available to comment by press deadline.

Additionally, fire-resistant materials tend to be more expensive, which Rutherford acknowledged. She believes folks should replace what they can, when they can and emphasized there are still many fire-out strategies available, particularly when it comes to defensible space, like clearing out gutters and relocating

wood away from dwellings. In fact, DNR offers monetary assistance for eligible owners of fences and in Washington who wish to reduce overcrowding, run back ladder fuels and remove other flammable vegetation.

Ultimately, the end result is bittersweet for Rutherford and Backen. While their home survived, the Burdoin Fire took at least 14 homes along Courtney Road and others nestled on the dry slopes toward Lyle, according to an initial assessment. She knows those people need support throughout the recovery process.

"My heart goes out to them ... Nothing I can say is adequate, and the loss is incredible," said Rutherford. "And I have to thank these firefighters. I thank them and their families, because their families also paid that price of dad not being there."

CUTS HRCO budget shortfall means reduced services

Continued from page 7

Some of this funding loss is due to Oregon's designation as a sanctuary state — meaning "it is against Oregon law for state and local law enforcement or public agencies (state and local government offices) in the state of Oregon to participate directly or indirectly in immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant," according to the Oregon Department of Justice's website (<http://oj.sos.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice>).

President Donald Trump signed an executive order in April "to enforce federal law with respect to sanctuary jurisdictions to protect their citizens from dangerous illegal aliens" (whitehouse.gov), part of the order states sanctuary jurisdictions not complying with federal law may lose federal funding.

Oregon has been a sanctuary state since 1987.

Parole and probation

This division has lost two positions equivalent to 40% of their workforce after the Oregon legislature declined to allocate the requested level of funding that would have covered the true cost of services as defined by the mandated "actual cost study" completed every six years.

The staffing layoffs equate to one parole and probation deputy and the work crew supervisor, ending the 30-year program.

English explained that, in 1995, the legislature passed SB 1145, which eliminated parole and probation as a state function and turned it over to counties, with the commitment that the state would provide adequate funding to operate the programs. However, it did not require the legislature to incorporate any or all of the "actual cost study."

The sheriff's office division

has seen a staffing reduction of 50% since 2022, as well as a contracted peer mentor and drug and alcohol counseling. Several counties in the state supplement parole and probation programs with additional dollars, but they are under no statutory obligation to do so.

Historically, Hood River County has not provided additional funding to supplement the state's allocation.

Marine patrol, search and rescue

The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) announced to their law enforcement partners in May that there would be a 30% reduction in funding due to OSMB's inability to seek a federal grant through the United States Coast Guard as a result of Oregon's sanctuary state designation.

English said that to maintain the program, its assigned full-time deputy will have to split their time between it, the OR Highway Vehicle Enforcement program, and the United States Forest Service (USFS) program, reducing the marine division's capacity. Further, the loss of a half-time deputy sheriff position that covered the USFS program has been cut, reducing the office's overall capacity.

Also, Hood River County's Search and Rescue funding is reliant on monies funded through the USFS as part of Title III of the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS), which has yet to be reauthorized by Congress. "Outside of donations, SRS funding is the only source to support the county's heavy search and rescue call volume," he said.

Mental health

The sheriff's office has managed a federal grant through the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) since 2021, which has provided funding and coverage for a peer support program, in-house mental health counseling, and wellness activities for all law enforcement agencies in Hood River and Wasco counties, and the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office.

"The focus on supporting first responders' wellness has been at the forefront of priorities for the last several years, and the LEMHWA grant played a critical role in ensuring the trauma responders endure was addressed," English said.

"The grant brought more than \$300,000 to the region during the last two grant cycles. This year, the office was set to onboard Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties, but learned recently that they were ineligible to apply, due to Oregon's sanctuary state status."

Other cuts

English said that the office's overtime budget has been reduced by about a third. Overtime is "an unfortunate reality" of public safety work, particularly the sheriff's office, where it's utilized to cover shifts on regular basis.

"Nationally, Oregon has ranked at the bottom of the list for public safety staffing ratios, making overtime a necessity to ensure the public has first responders available to respond to calls," English said.

And lastly, Hood River County's Emergency Management is partially funded through the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG), which "provides state, local, tribal and territorial emergency management agencies with the resources required for implementation of the National Preparedness System and works towards the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation" — and is a program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has undergone staff reductions and program cuts under the current administration.

"Emergency Management coordinates mitigation, response and coordination to major incidents and disasters like wildfires," English said. "The role of the Emergency Manager (EM) in Hood River County has grown significantly over the last decade with local governments and stakeholders relying on the EM and much of the supportive grant funding that results from the work being done."

Pockets of the fire, mostly interior, are still burning, so don't be alarmed if you see smoke in the air. According to Northwest 13's daily report on Monday, crews continue to work on securing the northern perimeter in the Catherine, Mapai and Shiloh creek drainages, and suppression repair efforts are set



Overlooking Capote Wall from the top of Windy Bluff Road outside of Ringes last Wednesday, where a smoke column rises on the Klickitat River's east side. Nathan Wilson photo

Operational updates, resources and the team coordinating Burdoin Fire response

■ By Nathan Wilson
Columbia Gorge News

LYLE — Last week, crews made steady progress on the Burdoin Fire. Emergency management officials also held a meeting for affected residents, Gov. Bob Ferguson and Commissioner of Public Lands Dave Upthegrove made an appearance and Columbia Gorge News spoke to a public information officer with Northwest Complex Incident Management Team 13.

Northwest 13 assumed command last Monday, and the fire has grown just 529 acres since then, consuming a total of 11,289 acres between Bingen and Mardock, with 54% containment as of press deadline on July 29. Crews successfully contained the primary fuel breaks around the fire's perimeter, including a spot fire east of the Klickitat River, by Thursday, and the Klickitat County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) lifted all Level 3 "Go Now" evacuation orders on Saturday evening.

The Burdoin Fire has destroyed 14 primary structures and 30 minor structures while damaging at least 47 others, according to an initial assessment on July 19.

Now permitted to return, all previously closed roads are open exclusively to local residents, except for State Route 14 near milepost 69, between Bingen and Courtney Road, due to rockfall danger. Only State Route 142 is open to through traffic.

"We just ask that you be cautious traveling the road systems within the fire's perimeter and mindful that we still have firefighters out on these roads," said Operations Section Chief Jesse Stone during a video briefing on Sunday morning. "Team 13 is here for you, and we appreciate all of your support."

The previous Level 3 zone is now under Level 2 "Be Set" evacuation orders, and the Level 2 zone is now Level 1. Residents can access a map of evacuation levels by visiting the Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management's (KCDDEM's) website, www.klickitatcounty.gov/249/.

Emergency Manager present. To request a reentry kit, which are limited in supply and include N95 masks, Tyvek coveralls, air filters and other safety equipment, fill out the recovery survey on KCDDEM's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/KlickitadDEM911, or pick one up at the Lyle Trailhead.

Pockets of the fire, mostly interior, are still burning, so don't be alarmed if you see smoke in the air. According to Northwest 13's daily report on Monday, crews continue to work on securing the northern perimeter in the Catherine, Mapai and Shiloh creek drainages, and suppression repair efforts are set

to begin soon, such as the removal of cut vegetation, erosion control along firelines and supporting county resources at critical infrastructure sites. Unmanned aircraft with infrared capabilities are helping to identify still-burning hotspots, but fire can smolder from weeks to months, and Northwest 13 expects challenging weather conditions this week.

"As we head into Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, thunderstorm chances increase slightly each afternoon, with Thursday being the best bet to see some thunderstorms in the area," said Incident Meteorologist Matthew Dehn during a video briefing on Monday morning. He also noted that temperatures in the mid-to-upper 90s are expected through Wednesday.

Separately, the lightning-caused Snyder Canyon Fire, which sparked last Thursday northwest of Klickitat, is now fully contained after burning 53 acres. A total of 812 personnel were spread across both incidents as of press deadline.

Red Cross Emergency Shelters are located in White Salmon at Grace Baptist Church, 1280 W. Jewett Blvd., and The Dalles Middle School, 1300 E. 12th St.

For more specifics regarding last week's operations on the Burdoin and Snyder Canyon fires, read the daily updates at www.columbiagorgenews.com.

Community meeting

Prior to the reduction in evacuation levels, local officials held a meeting to update and provide resources for affected residents at The Dalles High School last Friday.

Commissioner Ron Brigg, Klickitat County Health Department (KCHD) Director Eileen Quinn, Emergency Management Director Jeff King and KCSO Undersheriff Carmen Knappes spoke, and several residents expressed frustration over being denied access to their properties.

"This is a disaster like I've never seen before. I've worked big wildfires — I worked the Big Horn Fire last year and I worked the Williams Mine Fire — but nothing like I've devasted," said Knappes. "I grew up in Lyle, if you don't know, so this does hit home. I planned myself down at the Lyle Trailhead so that I could be there for you, and I am there almost 20-some hours a day."

According to Knappes, KCSO is stretched thin, and many wildfires pose a danger to residents: downed power lines, falling trees and debris, compromised septic tanks and household hazardous waste. What KCSO hopes to avoid, as she explained, is setting residents' return only to

repeat the evacuation process if the fire swells up again or escapes containment.

"I do care about your safety, and I've been hard to some about getting into your properties, it's because I don't want you going up and getting hurt," said Knappes.

For questions about power restoration, King advised residents to call the Klickitat Public Utility District's Engineering Department at 800-548-8357. The Klickitat County Emergency Operations Center, staffed by volunteers and available at 509-773-4670, can help residents navigate damage assessments and find the right folks to answer other general questions.

Beyond receiving reentry kits, filling out the recovery survey also allows KCHD to identify people who need assistance with well inspections, bringing septic systems back online and other resources.

Quinn acknowledged the trauma caused by wildfire and urged anyone struggling with their mental health to call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline.

During the question period, many people asked why KCSO and the county hadn't let residents who could prove their address back in, and which entity has the jurisdiction to reopen roads. Of chief concern, apart from seeing what remains, were animals that need food and water, and crops that require tending.

David Curran and his wife Katie, for instance, watched the Burdoin Fire take their home from Rowena Crest. Curran described his interaction with someone from KCSO at the Lyle Trailhead, begging the officer to let him check whether their cats survived.

"It's a quarter mile up Old Highway 6 across the bridge — there are literally cars, trucks from the fire department parked on my property within view — and he just hands me a card and says, 'Get on the list,'" said Curran. The officer was referring the Emergency Operations Center, which was coordinating animal evacuations and didn't get back to Curran.

Knappes again emphasized the threats to residents, adding that the restrictions help run away livestock and ensure the safety of firefighters. Having never dealt with an event of this magnitude, she also asked residents to give the dispatchers, deputies and other emergency management officials grace, because they're doing whatever they can with limited manpower.

"I expect you to be angry — I would be too," said Knappes. "I want you guys back at your properties, but we also have to make sure we have the tools in place so that, when you get to your properties, that you

Best Spot News Coverage

Division E

1st Place

Longview Daily News

Planned attack at Kelso mall thwarted

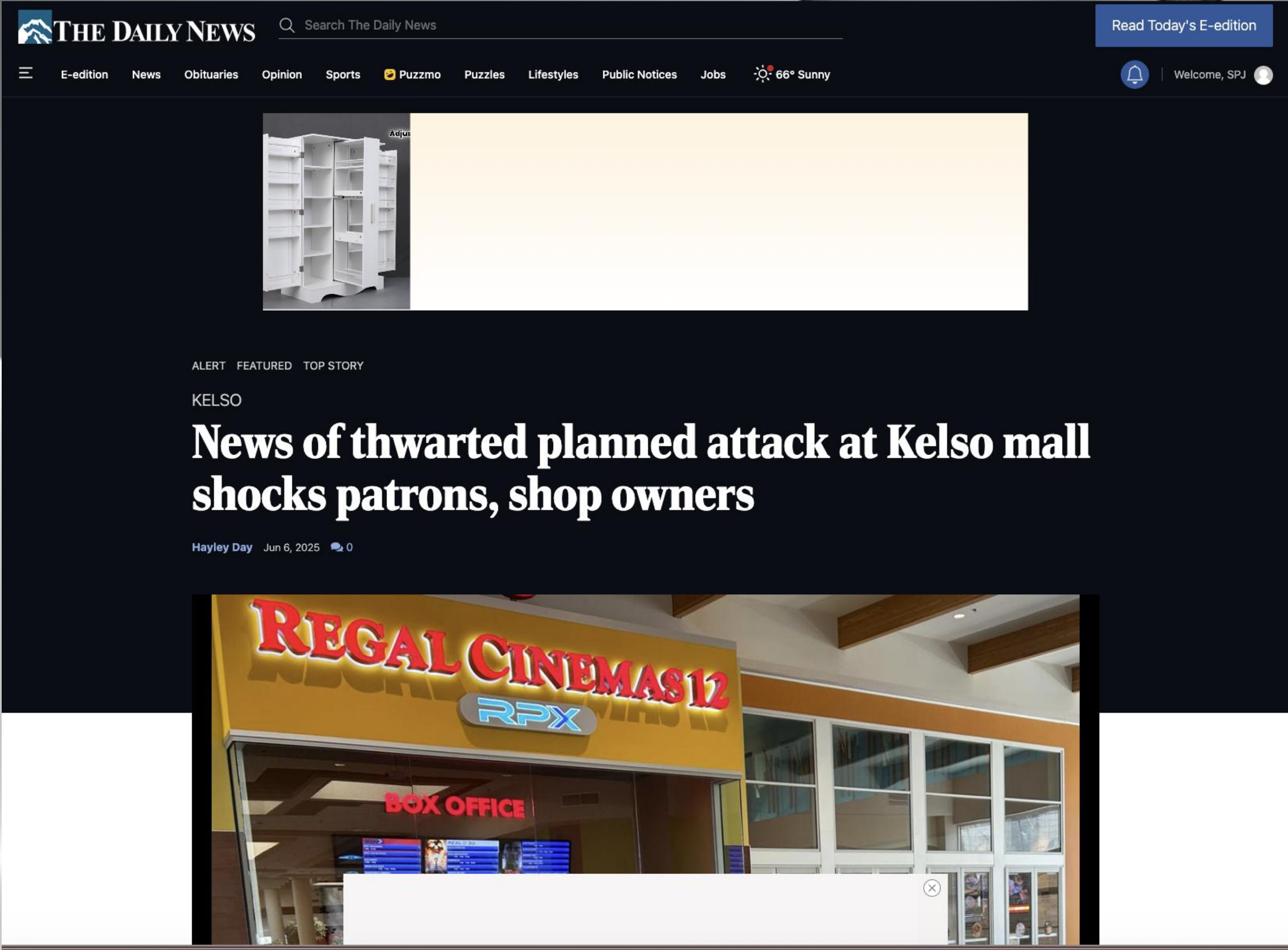
Staff

2nd Place

The Astorian

“Coast Guard Trains Air Force”

Jay Corella



Best Spot News Coverage

Division D

1st Place

Herald and News

All bogged down

Molly O'Brien

2nd Place

Rogue Valley Times

Justice for Hakiym

Buffy Pollock

3rd Place

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

UnCovered

Staff

HERALD&NEWS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

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ALL BOGGED DOWN



COURTESY OF SOUTHERN OREGON EMERGENCY AID

Jazz, a 19-year-old Tennessee mare, was rescued from the mud by a team of volunteer firefighters, large animal rescuers, a sheriff's deputy and her owner last Sunday near Bly.

Volunteers rescue horse from burn scar mud near Bly

MOLLY O'BRIEN

Herald and News

You can lead a horse to water, but can you pull her from the mud?

Maria Meister and Kris Oyler got the call Sunday afternoon. It was Lt. Steve Lewis from Klamath County Sheriff's Office.

Someone's horse was stuck in chest-deep mud off a trailhead near Bly.

"He said, 'I have a deputy going out to assess the situation

better, and I can let you know what's going on when he gets there,'" Oyler said.

But these horse women knew — time was of the essence.

This wasn't their first rodeo.

The two women grabbed their gear and got on the road, 75 miles from the horse's coordinates.

Meister and Oyler are volunteers with Southern Oregon Emergency Aid (SOEA), a nonprofit organization that

responds to emergency large animal rescues.

The heroic duo has been on the scene at multiple wildfires, both local and out of state, to assist in retrieving and transporting horses and livestock.

Jazz, a 19-year-old Tennessee mare, was stuck in a bog that formed in the burn scar of the Bootleg Fire of 2020.

Abnormally high snowfall last winter is flowing through some of the dry, loose dirt that remains after the fire

burned 14,400 acres.

At the end of an eight-mile ride just off Deming Creek Trailhead, with a friend of her owner, Tiffany Pugh, atop her back, Jazz had unwittingly stepped right into a bog.

"It didn't look any different than anything else," Pugh said.

Pugh said her friend, who is 70, had been "riding for 65 years and never had this happen." Neither has Pugh.

More VETERAN | A7

More HORSE | A6

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Sports.....A18

Classifieds.....B1

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny

PAGE A8

TO THE SISTER

GO THE SPOILS

SOU's Abi Stevens wins heptathlon, OIT's Eli Stevens hurt in CCC meet

PAGE A20

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Best Spot News Coverage

Division B-C

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Lewiston Tribune

Kohberger Sentenced

Anthony Kuipers

2nd Place

Bend Bulletin

Michael Kohn

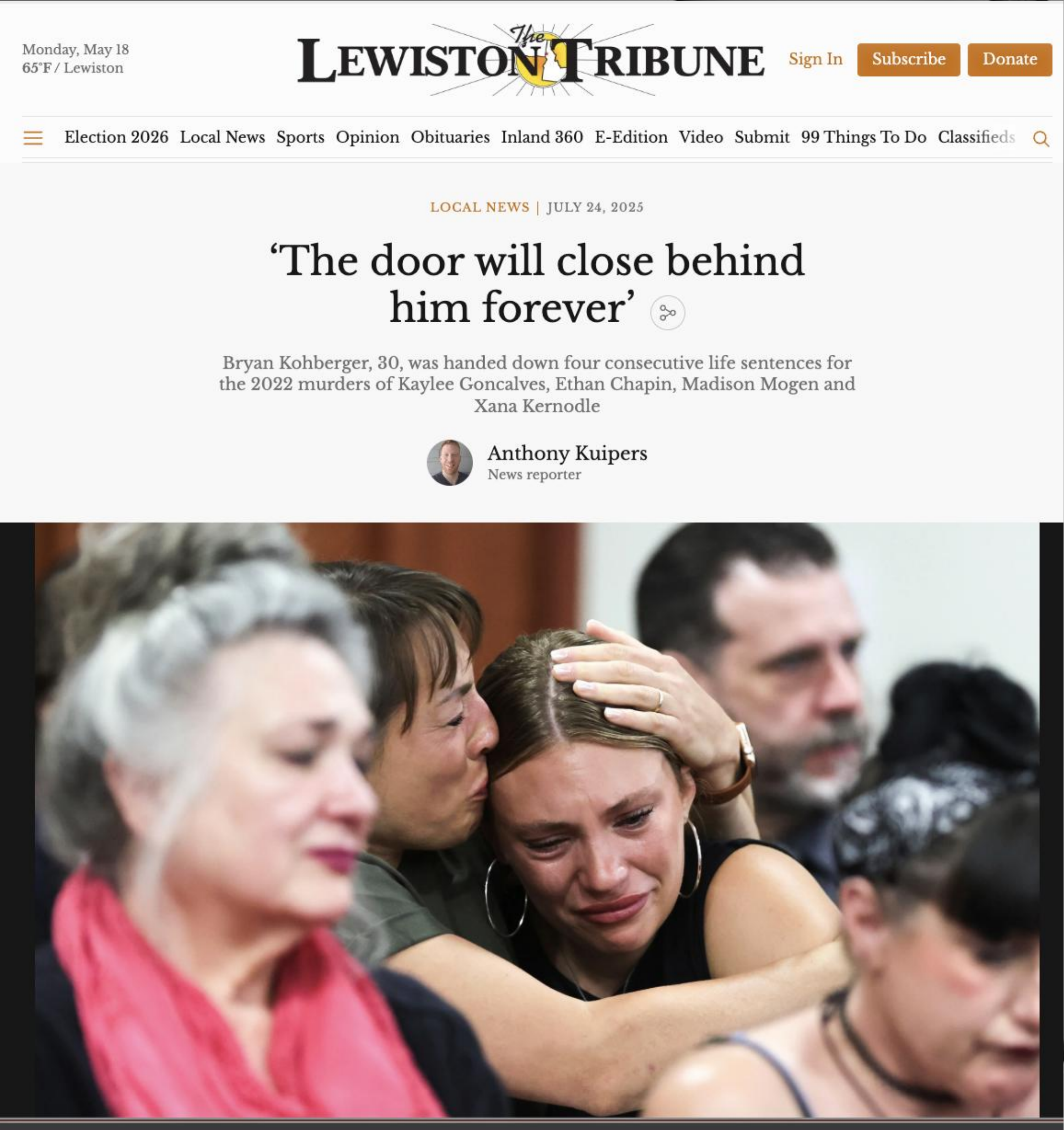
Staff

3rd Place

Lewiston Tribune

U-Haul Explosion Kills One

Matt Baney, August Frank, Elaine Williams



Division A

Oregonian

Trump says he'll send troops to Portland

Oregonian

Staff

Oregonian

Blazers coach Chauncey Billups arrested, accused by feds of participating in rigged poker games

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Sunday

The Sunday Oregonian

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Trump says he'll send troops to 'War ravaged' Portland

Is 'drop, cover and hold on' an outdated safety plan?

Some earthquake experts believe the best option in unstable buildings is evacuation.

Opinion: Portland must resist becoming Trump's political prop

INSIDE TODAY
2025 Top Workplaces

This year, 115 businesses with regional operations earned Top Workplaces honors based on feedback from the employees who know them best.

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Best Writing

Division H-J

1st Place

The Chronicle

ICE Raids, Mining Days, Eternal Optimism

Erin Tierney-Heggenstaller

2nd Place

Wilsonville Spokesman

Krista Kroiss Best Writing Submissions

Krista Kroiss

3rd Place

The Graphic

Rising from the remains, Good pavement, Will you help Rierson breathe easier?

Gary Allen

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THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD | CRESWELL | COTTAGE GROVE | PLEASANT HILL

Resch named interim SPD Chief

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

SPRINGFIELD – Jami Resch was named interim chief of the Springfield Police Department on March 17 after a swearing-in ceremony at the Springfield Justice Center.



Resch

According to the city's biography, Resch brings 26 years of public safety and leadership experience to her new role.

She has served in multiple leadership roles at the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), starting as a Patrol Officer in '99 and advancing through various roles, including Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain.

Resch was a member of the Police Bureau's Muslim Council, Slavic Advisory Council, and Refugee Integration Program.

Resch earned a bachelor's degree in Allied Health Sciences from the University of Portland, and is a graduate of both the FBI National Executive Institute and the PERF Senior Management Institute for Police.

Ex-Chief Andrew Shearer resigned on Feb. 12. Shearer was appointed police chief in 2021.

COTTAGE GROVE HISTORY

BACK TO BOHEMIA



Above: Hewlett jailed a family at a Bohemia Mining Days festival, in a photo from "The Chronicle" archives by Bob Williams. In a photo colorized by the family below, a young Casey Woodard (center) enjoys the festivities some 50 years ago. Today, the Woodard Family Foundation is helping to keep the celebration alive.

'Spirit' jumpstarts festival's heartbeat

BY ERIN TIERNEY-HEGGENSTALLER
ERIN@CHRONICLE1909.COM

COTTAGE GROVE – A town's identity is vital to its social, economic, and cultural well-being. Research shows it creates a sense of belonging among residents, fosters tourism and economic growth, and preserves local traditions and customs, contributing to the town's unique character.

If there's one thing Cottage Grove has in the bag, it is

See SPIRIT – 12

INSIDE

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GLENWOOD UPDATE

Springfield takes action

■ The Springfield City Council is preparing to move Glenwood properties inside its zip code.

Page 3

EDUCATION

Robotics champions

■ Team 27230 Artemis from Springfield finished first at the recent Oregon FIRST Tech Challenge Spark Invitational Tournament, where teams competed with robots they designed, built, and programmed.

Page 11

WATER HAZARD

'It's a desert under there'

■ Lane County's groundwater has a history of arsenic levels that aren't safe for residents. Learn more from hydrogeologist Ralph Christensen.

Page 17

MAILING LABEL BELOW



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BASKETBALL STATE OF AFFAIRS

Class 3A: Billies boys top public school, #2 overall

BY RON HARTMAN
THE CHRONICLE

COOS BAY – It was the stuff dreams are made of. Trailing by 13 points midway through the second quarter, Pleasant Hill stormed back to defeat Valley Catholic in a dramatic finish at the 3A Boys State Basketball Championship.

Unfortunately for the Billies, that game was on Friday night in the semifinals. They still had to play about 24 hours later in the title game, and their dreams of a state title turned into a nightmare. Top-seeded Westside Christian (24-3) took control early and won 65-47 over No. 2-seeded Pleasant Hill.

"I'm just proud of these kids. They gave it everything they had, but we just didn't play a fundamental game and we have to live with it," Pleasant Hill coach

See BILLIES – 6



JOSIE HEACOCK / PHOTO

Billies players (from left) Gavin Inglish, Jamon Heacock, and Isaiah Wilson with their silver medals at state.

5A: Millers girls, THS boys up next

INSIDE

■ Thurston's boys and Springfield's girls begin state tournament play this week.

– Page 8

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ZONE

■ Creswell's Tyler Whitson concludes his career by adding to his family's legacy with the Bulldogs athletics program.

– Page 7

■ Next week: Spring Sports Preview

Division G

Lake Oswego Review

Mac Larsen Best Writing submissions

Lake Oswego Review

Corey Buchanan

South County Spotlight

'Who knew what and when'; Hit the gas; Falsified records, staff feuds

Kaelyn Cassidy



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TOUCHING THE SKY

Lake Oswego veteran rides in World War II plane

Lake Oswego resident Frank Lawrence rides in the Boeing Stearman biplane. (COURTESY PHOTO: JAMES HARTMAN)

By CONNIE BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

Frank Lawrence is thankful he never stormed Normandy, landed off the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge or generally had to cope with the brutalities of war.

But, during the post World War II and pre-Korean War era, he did serve his country for two years before settling into his life in Lake Oswego that has spanned a half century.

When it came time to jet up

in a Boeing Stearman biplane along with 13 other veterans who live at one of The Springs facilities locally as part of the Dream Flights program, he felt a feeling of camaraderie and patriotism.

"As a human being, it meant so much to get in that plane," he said.

Lawrence, who is 97 and lives with his wife Donna at The Springs Lake Oswego, grew up in the Lents neighborhood of Portland. His parents didn't have a lot of money, so he and a few buddies enlisted in the Navy in

1946. Having the opportunity to take advantage of the GI Bill, which allowed veterans to attend college for free, was a valuable opportunity.

Lawrence attended boot camp in San Diego, California and then was transferred to the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. There, he performed office work like bookkeeping, assigning officers to their quarters and providing them information. Lawrence

See FLIGHT / A2 Frank Lawrence shakes hands with pilot Darrell Fisher.

'A steady, thoughtful and passionate advocate'

Liz Hartman bids farewell to school board

By MAC LARSEN
Staff Reporter

For the first time in 12 years, the Lake Oswego School Board met without one of the community's greatest advocates for education: Liz Hartman.

Hartman joined the Lake Oswego School Board ahead of the 2013-14 school year and helped guide the district through three superintendent searches,

campaigns for capital construction bonds and local option levies, and unprecedented upheavals in education wrought by the pandemic.

"This is one of the best-educated communities in the state, so you have high-powered moms and dads who are capable of doing anything," said Hartman. "It's hard to walk in and be an equal with all these people."

Hartman served her final board meeting on June 30, on Monday, Aug. 11. Katherine Lupton assumed her seat on the board. Hartman, who also serves as chief executive officer for the Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce, started her journey to the school board like many parents as an avid volunteer.

"I started as the neighborhood chair," she said. "Then I got involved with the parent clubs and I've raised money, I've worked on the foundation — I was kind of like a professional volunteer for the school district."

After she served as the Parent president at Lakeside High School — and had worked with the Lake Oswego Schools Foundation, parent clubs and the Long Range Planning Committee — Hartman was asked by the five current school board members if she'd consider running for an open seat.

Superintendent Jennifer Schiele remembers working with Hartman as a principal in the district.

"I first had the privilege of

working closely with Liz when she served as PTO president, first at Waluga and later at Lakeside High School during my time as principal," said Schiele, by email. "Her tireless efforts behind the scenes made an incredible difference in the lives of students, staff, and families across both schools. Liz spearheaded countless fundraising initiatives that expanded student enrichment opportunities, integrated new technologies into classrooms, and bolstered extracurricular programs. Her dedication also ensured that teachers had the resources they needed to deliver exceptional instruction, particularly in the sciences and the arts."

Hartman remembers being impressed with Schiele's ability

See HARTMAN / A2 Liz Hartman at the Monday, June 30 school board meeting in Lake Oswego. (MAC LARSEN PHOTO)

to remember every student at the school, and when it came time for the third superintendent search of her board tenure, she thought Schiele would push the district to continue to strive for excellence. "Lake Oswego has always been ahead of the curve," said

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Starla Pointer

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Forest Grove News Times, Hillsboro Tribune

Missing mascot resurfaces, A legacy of local sports, ‘My father doesn’t know me, I don’t know him’

Nick LaMora



Inside:
Clickitat, Skamania
county elections

COLUMBIA GORGE NEWS

REGIONAL NEWS FOR THE GORGE Wednesday, October 22, 2025 Volume 6, Issue 43 \$2.00

Federal changes affect emergency management

■ **By Riley McNamara**
For Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER — In his election bid, President Trump promised to rid the federal government of waste. Some of the resulting cuts, especially ones regarding emergency preparedness and response, may have negative impacts on disaster management efforts in Hood River.

Charles Young, Hood River County's emergency manager, said the most significant impacts of these are changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) organization and grant requirements, the cancellation of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant, and the removal of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. These changes put funding for urgent wildfire mitigation and earthquake preparation efforts at risk, and increase the complexity of decisions the county must make regarding disasters.

Grant uncertainty

Changes to FEMA policy, and uncertainty at the agency in general, are making Young's job more difficult, and also jeopardizing funding for his role. For instance, grant agreements have had immigration enforcement language added that conflicts with Oregon's Sanctuary State laws. Oregon is a party to a multi-state lawsuit that is challenging these new requirements.

One of these grants, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), is a reimbursement grant that the state applies for and disperses out to counties to be spent on emergency preparation efforts. Young said that his position in the county is partly funded by the EMPG. If a court rules that the FEMA immigration enforcement language is legal, the conflict with Oregon's sanctuary state laws means counties that take the grant funding risk "having to give back the grant money," he said.

These changes add complexity that "makes it difficult for counties to plan," Young said. "Grant cycles are long and complex," he added, and the increased uncertainty adds risk to emergency preparation and response efforts in Hood River.

In addition to increasing uncertainty, the cancellation of another FEMA grant, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant, has impacted Hood River County's disaster preparation efforts. Young said that while this grant is "not talked about often," it was a "key funding lifeline for large mitigation projects." The grant funds projects that build more resilient public infrastructure, ensuring that when disaster strikes, the harms are reduced.

Hood River County had "a couple of BRIC applications open," he said. "One was a seismic study for county buildings and another for the courthouse."

The need for this work has been determined in the last five years, after a Department of Geology and Mineral Industries study found that Hood River County is at risk of an earthquake from a fault line south of Cascade Locks. According to Young, Hood River has "emergency services and county services" along with "half of the county's cell service" located in "unreinforced buildings."

Since "we don't have much money as a county," the BRIC grant was the best option to pay for updating buildings that are not earthquake safe, Young said. Now, the county will have to start again and find different sources of money.

Young said it could take another two years to apply for another grant. Further, the primary alternative funding source would be Oregon's seismic grant.

However, that wouldn't pay for a new building, he said; the grant would only help reinforce current infrastructure. Beyond the impact of losing grant funding, Young said the time spent by emergency management, public works, and county administration over the past years to apply for these grants, which was "at the time, worthwhile, could've been spent in many other places."

With the removal of the BRIC grant, Hood River County remains short of a funding source to replace vulnerable infrastructure, despite years of work by county officials.

Wildfire prevention

Along with the changes in FEMA and its grants, the

See FEMA, page A12

No Kings in the Gorge



Throughout the Gorge and nationwide, people mobilized for the second "No Kings" protest this year on Oct. 18 to rebuke President Donald Trump, particularly his use of the National Guard in American cities and his induction into the parlance of immigrants. An estimated 2,000 people gathered in downtown Hood River last Saturday; The Dalles had an estimated 600, Bingen 200 and Stevenson more than 200. For additional photos, including those in The Dalles and Bingen, see B2. Nathan Wilson photo

Burning after Burdoin

Just outside the fire's footprint, homeowners tap nonprofit to light a prescribed burn



Vince Grube, a member of the Mt. Adams Resource Stewards Stewardship Crew, lights a test burn to gauge how the landscape responds, and whether fuel moisture levels are low enough before the larger prescribed fire operation begins on Oct. 18. Tests are done before, unlike those of a prescribed burn, intended to reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate future wildfire risk, rises northwest of Lyle. Nathan Wilson photo

■ **By Nathan Wilson**
Columbia Gorge News



LYLE — A few miles up Centerville Highway and, in some places, mere feet from where the Burdoin Fire spotted and burned east of the Klickitat River just months ago, restorative, healthy flames swept across about 13 acres of land last Wednesday.

For the better part of this year, Bill and Irene Weber, along with several neighbors near Oliver Point, have been trying to organize a prescribed burn. When the Burdoin Fire reached the east side of Alder Springs Road and threatened to creep up a valley north of their property, the Webers thought they were too late. Luckily, firefighters protected their log cabin, and a local nonprofit — Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS) — conducted the burn at no cost.

"I was just so incredibly surprised and pleased that there was this group that was out there doing prescribed burns," Bill Weber said. "This is what we need."

MARS started facilitating prescribed burns in 2022 and has incrementally conducted more every year since, waiting 272 acres this spring and fall alone. So defined as a regional leader in the practice, Washington's Department of Natural Resources confirmed, its program has two core goals: Put more fire on the ground, and recover a knowledge base lost through the longstanding paradigm of fire suppression.

"There's been such a deficit of intentional prescribed fire, beneficial fire in the last handful of decades that it's caused a deficit of this knowledge and information we're all collectively learning," said Lucas King, fire and fuels program manager for MARS. "We want to reduce hazardous fire risk as well as restore fire to these fire-dependent ecosystems. More specifically, we want to learn how things respond."

Prior to colonization, as King explained, landscapes

See MARS, page A12

Grant sustains nursing program

■ **By Maria Gibson**
Columbia Gorge News

THE GORGE — Oregon Center for Nursing's (OCN) RENEW project aims to address nursing staff shortages across the state by granting nursing schools money for projects that could help retain teaching faculty.

Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC) will use its \$60,500 RENEW grant to train faculty on its newly-remodeled simulation lab. Students will learn on sophisticated, newly-purchased mannequins.

But first, faculty will be released from some teaching duties to study the equipment, write new cases for students to use and attend specialized trainings — important, because CGCC's simulation expert of 18 years just retired.

"There's a big learning curve to it, because there's a lot of new all the computers and all the technology has changed over the years," said Jane Griffin, CGCC's director of nursing and health occupations.

Faculty must have a master's degree in nursing and two years' experience in the field. With a high demand for nurses at hospitals and care facilities, people so qualified can work wherever they want. Some of CGCC's faculty also work part-time or full-time elsewhere.

"It's hard to give up working directly with patients, but it's also wonderful working with students," Griffin said.

At CGCC, five full-time and three to four part-time staff can teach 30 students every year. Griffin said there's little chance of the program expanding because clinical sites, where students can get real-world experience, are few. But realistic simulation hours on the new mannequins will help.

OCN's job is "to try to underwrite the nursing workforce in the state of Oregon, so that all Oregonians can have a really well-trained, well-qualified, well-educated nurse whenever they need it, for as long as they need it," said Jane Bitton, the nonprofit's executive director. "That's because, right now, we don't."

"There's a real problem with shortages, not having the staff where we need them, especially in rural communities," Bitton said. "So, there's a limit on the number of people that we can accept and educate into our programs."

See OCN, page A12

Best Writing

Division A-C

1st Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Best writing – Capi Lynn

Capi Lynn

2nd Place

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Capi Lynn

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Argus Observer

Council OKs 3 firefighters in 25-26 budget

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The Graphic

Sheriff joins cohorts in seeking clarity on federal ICE enforcement

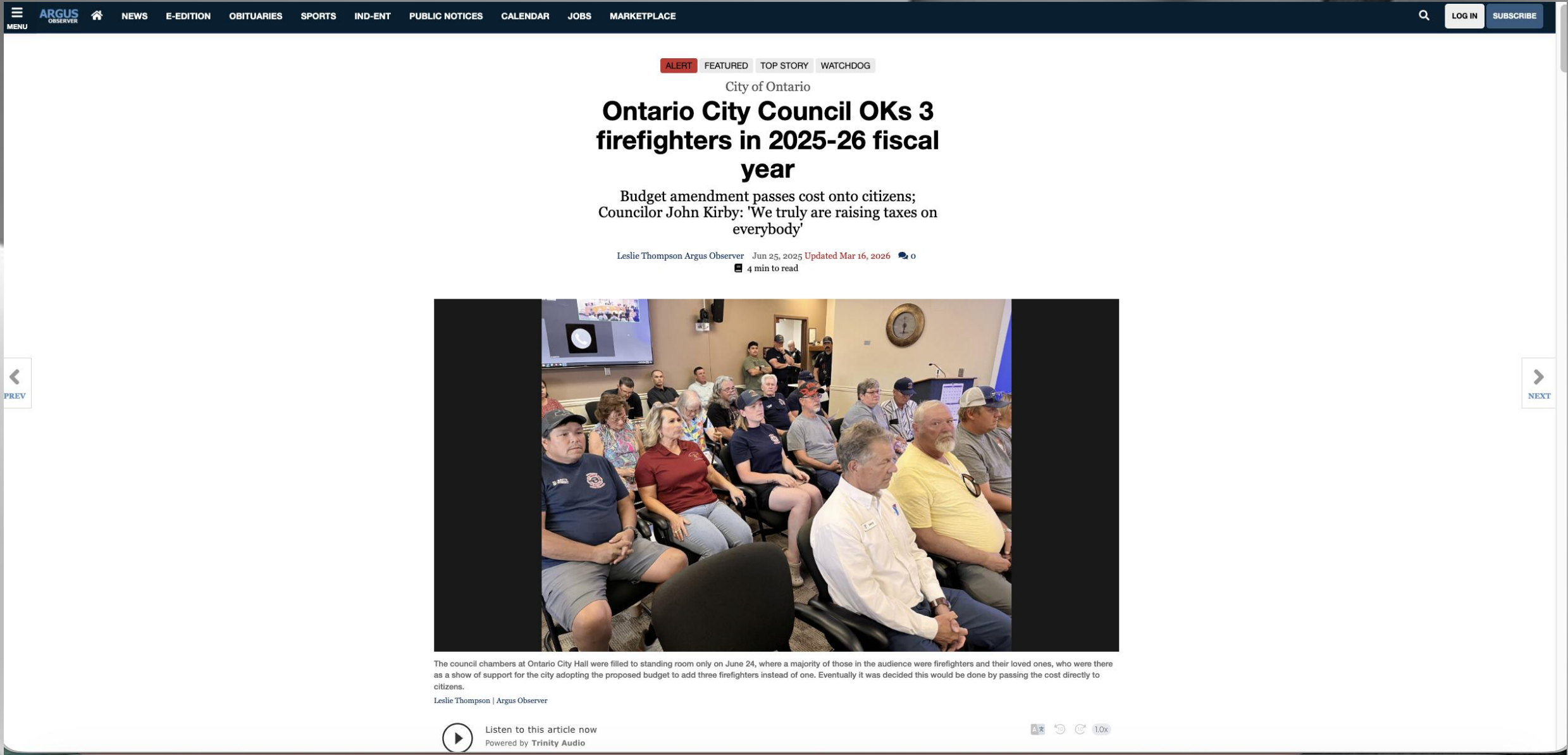
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Falsified records, staff feuds: How former St. Helens police chief left a department in turmoil

Published 3:30 pm Friday, February 7, 2025

By [Kaelyn Cassidy](https://columbiacountyspotlight.com/author/kaelyncassidy/) (https://columbiacountyspotlight.com/author/kaelyncassidy/)



A report brings to light the circumstances surrounding former St. Helens Police Chief Brian Greenway's abrupt departure from his position. (Courtesy of City of St. Helens)

Editor's note: This story contains profane language that may not be suitable for all readers, but is included in order to provide an accurate representation of the events described. A damning 108-page report chronicling interviews with St. Helens police officers and city officials has brought to light the circumstances surrounding former Chief Brian Greenway's sudden departure from his role and the demoralized department he left behind.

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LOCAL

Franklin Co. strips sheriff of jail control. ‘Your actions are negligent’

By Cory McCoy

Updated February 16, 2026 3:07 PM



04/23/25 09:21:35



Public Comment: (509) 546-5859

Franklin County Sheriff Jim Raymond makes a statement following the commissioners vote to take over control of the jail and courthouse security in Pasco. By Courtesy Franklin County

READ MORE

Franklin County Jail Conflict

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YAKIMA HERALD-REPUBLIC

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Yakima proactive police unit and community service officers saved from 2026 budget cuts

OLIVIA PALMER Yakima Herald-RepublicDec 23, 202507 min to read

1 of 8



Yakima Police Department's proactive policing unit members Sgt. Patrick Schad, left, Charles Hamlin, center, and Jon Charroin, right, look for people staying under the U.S. Highway 12 overpass on North First Street after spotting a campfire Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025, in Yakima, Wash.

Evan Abell / Yakima Herald-Republic

On a recent Tuesday morning, Charles Hamlin rolled down Naches Avenue, scanning the sidewalks and gr...

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Spokesman-Review

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OREGONIAN WATCHDOG

Audit confirms pricey meals, lax record-keeping at sewer agency

Updated: Jan. 13, 2026, 4:19 p.m. | Published: Jan. 13, 2026, 6:00 a.m.



The Clean Water Services board directed the agency to commission an independent audit of travel and food spending last April after an Oregonian/OregonLive investigation uncovered unusually high meal costs at the agency. Mark Graves/The Oregonian

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Lake Oswego Review

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 • Vol 104, Issue 47 • \$1

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STAR & STRIPES

Lake Oswego celebrates Fourth of July with parade

Youngsters wave the flag while hoping for some candy from those waving in the parade. (STAFF PHOTO: J. ANDY MEDINA)

By the Review

Scores of Lake Oswego residents lined A Avenue Friday, July 4 for one of the city's signature events: the Star Spangled Parade. After the parade, which involved dozens of local groups and organizations marching or driving down A Avenue to Millennium Plaza Park, the city also hosted a picnicking contest, face-painting, food trucks and more. Later in the day, community members headed to Foothills Park for a concert and laser light show.

The city estimated that between 8,000 and 9,000 people attended the parade.

Check out our photos from the festivities!



NAVAL PETTY OFFICER
A4

Naval Chief Petty Officer McDonald waves to the crowd while representing Lake Oswego's All-American Post. (STAFF PHOTO: J. ANDY MEDINA)

Would LO consider adding food carts?

Council may change city codes in coming years

by COREY BUCHANAN
Staff reporter

Food carts, a calling card of Portland and an increasingly popular amenity in metro area suburbs, are mostly absent in Lake Oswego.

While many comparable cities like West Linn and Oregon City have permanent food cart pods for residents to enjoy, the city of Lake Oswego does not allow pods or individual carts (except for use during special events and pick-up vendors in specific zones).

However, though a specific proposal is not yet on the table, the city's attitude toward food carts may be shifting.

Mayor Joe Buck told the Review that he now supports within the City Council for considering updates to code to either limit food cart pods, while a number of councilors also expressed support for looking into the idea — although they and community input would shape the vision and parameters would need to be put in place to make sure they operate effectively.

A change in tone?

The current council's positive refrain toward food carts may be a departure from previous councils. In 2016, the council rejected a proposal that was described as "an upscale" food cart pod with parking, seating and restrooms in what was referred to as the Southtown Employment Area (near Bonnes Ferry Road and I-5). Residents who spoke out against the idea were concerned about congestion and there were also worries about parking. The council rejected the pod concept and asked staff to look into allowing individual



Lake Oswego only allows food carts in specific areas on during special events, as seen here at Millennium Plaza Park July 4. (STAFF PHOTO: NICKOL HARRIS)

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Chris Soprych's Page 1 designs for 2025

Chris Soprych

2nd Place

Oregonian

The Oregonian/OregonLive front pages

Advance Local/The Oregonian/OregonLive

3rd Place

Roseburg News-Review

Trying to Survive

Nathan Miller



OPEN

Oregonian

How to navigate the Medicare Plan Finder

Advance Local/The Oregonian/OregonLive

Oregonian

Teacher absenteeism

Mark Friesen



Meanwhile, some Medicare Advantage enrollees may find out this fall that their plan has been discontinued. If they're not automatically enrolled in a new plan, they will qualify for a special enrollment period to choose another Advantage plan or switch back to original Medicare. Those who opt for original Medicare have guaranteed rights to buy a Medigap policy, meaning they can't be denied coverage or charged more for preexisting conditions. But that window only lasts about 60 days after their plan ends.

Obituaries D11-D2

Best Feature Photo

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1st Place

The Chronicle

Fireworks and baseball

Bob Williams

2nd Place

News-Register

Fun and Flight

Rusty Rae

3rd Place

News-Register

Lunar New Year

Rachel Thompson

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THE
CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD COTTAGE GROVE CRESWELL PLEASANT HILL

HOLIDAY HOME RUN



BOB WILLIAMS / THE CHRONICLE

Fireworks fill the sky following the Springfield Drifters' victory over Ridgefield Thursday night. A record 2,500-plus fans attended the game and fireworks program, sponsored by the Drifters and Team Springfield.

Drifters victory fuels fireworks; Creswell parade, rodeo a hit

BY ASHLIN SANDERSON
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL – If you thought Creswell couldn't possibly get any more patriotic on the Fourth of July with the Chamber's annual parade and other festivities, think again. The Creswell Post Acute Hell on Hooves Roughstock Rodeo Freedom Festival rolled into town last week, blasting country songs and sporting American flags in all shapes and sizes.

In a field next to Emerald Valley Dental, behind Dairy Queen, and across the street from Bi-Mart, a metal fence surrounded a freshly plowed plot of dirt. Inside the oval arena, cowboys and girls competed in their best attire. They were decked out from head to toe in cowboy hats, classic western long-sleeve, button-up shirts tucked into their blue jeans and chaps (with tassels), leather belts with big shiny buckles, and boots with spurs. Despite the 75-degree weather and the only shade coming from an occasional cloud, they were completely covered.

On the other side of the fence, in the audience, a sea of American flags waved through the bleachers, VIP area, and beer garden. Audience members dressed more comfortably for the heat in red, white, and



BOB WILLIAMS / THE CHRONICLE

A cowgirl and her steed take sharp turns around drums during the barrel racing portion Friday.

See HOLIDAY – 9



SPRINGFIELD – We might be 90 minutes from Florence, but the ocean is closer than you think.

Five-year-old mermaid wannabes and toddler pirates can now set sail on a new adventure close to home.

Lagoon Playcafe, which opened less than a month ago at 141-145 Pioneer Parkway E, is already making waves in downtown

Springfield as a cool way for kids to escape the summer heat in an interactive indoor play space.

The 5,000-square-foot building, which previously housed The Mercantile Antique Mall until March 2024, has since been transformed into an underwater-themed adventure space for children that also serves as a relaxing area for adult guardians

to "caff up" and snack.

D a y n a Brink, business owner and mom to three young children aged 1, 3, and 5, considers Lagoon her



Sarina Dorle
Owner & Head

See LAGOON – 2

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INSIDE

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Ukraine Festival
■ Circle the date for the Ukraine Festival this Saturday, and check out other events on Willamalane's Go2 calendar – in print and online.

Page 3

SUMMER
SPORTS ZONE

OFFSEASON MOVES

Prep athletes in action
■ Several area athletes have been busy this summer, appearing in state and national events.

Page 7

CONCERTS ARE HERE

Springfield, Cottage Grove
■ Check out upcoming concerts in the park!

Back cover

Best Feature Photo

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1st Place

Roseburg News-Review

Winston fireworks

Nathan Miller

2nd Place

Eugene Register Guard

A cause to dance for

Chris Pietsch

3rd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Record breaking heat

Abigail Dollins



Winston's Fourth of July: A day jam-packed with fun

WINSTON — The Winston Area Independence Day (WAID) celebrations were non-stop Friday.

The day was bookended by a parade in the morning in front of a “roaring” crowd, according to WAID committee member Jack Holland, and colorful fireworks at night.

The hours between housed a majority of the action, with a day of activities, vendors and a Riverbend Live! performance at Winston's Riverbend Park.

Multiple event organizers said attendance seemed to be up from last year, thanks in part to the lower temperatures compared to the heatwave present in 2024.

WAID President Onikka Driscoll said she was hoping for a fun-filled experience for families.

“We hope that they just leave with a smile, that they had an awesome day with their families at a free community event,” Driscoll said.

Best News Photo

Division G-J

1st Place

The New Era

The New Era News Photo

Scott Swanson, Satina Tolman

2nd Place

Lake Oswego Review

Stars and Stripes

J. Brian Monihan

3rd Place

The Graphic

The spectacle that is the St. Paul Rodeo

Gary Allen

PAGE 8 |



Photo by Satina Tolman

Clowns move in to distract a bull who looks to be in the mood to take it out on the would-be rider he has just thrown. The rider left the arena under his own power.

August 20, 2025 | The New Era

RODEO

From page 7

crowd, "That there is a future cowboy. He's sure tough."

Bareback and Bronc Riding

The evening program opened in front of a capacity crowd with bareback bronc riding. Competitors must last eight seconds on a horse using only a rigging, which is a padded leather handle, while judges split scores evenly between rider and animal performance.

White compared the event to "riding a jackhammer with one hand tied down," calling it one of the most punishing contests in rodeo.

Garret Blackwell of Sandy won the event with 80 points on the horse "Uptown Funk," continuing a strong season on the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association circuit.

Saddle bronc riding, considered the most technical event, followed. Riders must maintain rhythm and form while spurring in time with the horse.

Matt Shannon, of Prineville, won the competition with an overall high score, edging out Seth Hart of St. Helens. Shannon, a five-time Hell on Hooves champion, praised the Sweet Home crowd.

"This rodeo was great," Shannon said. "I'll definitely be back next year."

Pick-up men Cooper De-

Local Win in Barrel Racing

The arena shifted from brute strength to speed and grace as the barrel racers thundered in. Riders guided their horses around three barrels in cloverleaf patterns before charging back across the line.

Amanda Bane of Powell Butte won the Hell on Hooves Tour barrel racing on her horse, Skittles, with a time of 13.24 seconds. Once an English-style jumper, she turned to barrels more than a decade ago, drawn by adrenaline.

The crowd roared as much for the local girls as for the pros.

The invitational barrel racing brought a hometown victory. Sweet Home's Emry Vannice, the youngest competitor at 16, won her division on her horse, Sage, with a time of 13.79. Beaming after the run, Vannice credited her mother as her coach and mentor.

Energy Builds Toward Bulls

The Canyon Riders Drill Team kept the energy alive during intermission with a performance that combined pageantry and horsemanship.

See Rodeo, Page 9



Photo by Mack Knebel

A bareback rider and his steed match up in a battle of wills.

Best News Photo

Division D-F

1st Place

Kennewick Tri-City Herald

Yakima River flooding

Bob Brawdy



2nd Place

News-Register

Crunch time

Rachel Thompson

3rd Place

Kennewick Tri-City Herald

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Bob Brawdy

Best News Photo

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Oregonian

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Allison Barr

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Salem Statesman Journal

Student lead protest

Abigail Dollins

3rd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

Windstorm damage

Kevin Neri





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Oregonian

The Intersection

Beth Nakamura

2nd Place

Eugene Register Guard

Klamath River runs free

Chris Pietsch

3rd Place

Lewiston Tribune

Trial by Fire

August Frank

ALLSUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025THE OREGONIAN

FROM THE COVER

Mitzi Zarate, far right, waits on a bench before a hearing at the Justice Center downtown. Her mother, Amalia Alvarez, is seated next to her. Ryan's grandfather Mario Trujo and his wife, Karla Cuevas, are next to Alvarez. Photos by Beth Nakamura, staff

Continues From All

'THE FACTS ARE THE FACTS'

Two years later, in July, Smith walked into a Multnomah County courtroom. Smith, who had been free while awaiting trial, arrived each morning in suit and tie, one so now he overlooked the lacking stitches on the vent. His late brother's name and letters L.L. — "long live" — were sewn onto the breast pocket of a red blazer he bought for his brother's funeral.

"This case is not a whodunit," Deputy District Attorney Brandon Meadows told the jury. "It's not a 'what happened?' The facts see the facts."

On the night of the wreck, Smith was shot twice while attending a gathering in memory of his slain brother. He did not call 911. He did not pull over to ask for help. He sped across the city and struck the Nissan, killing Ryan.

A camera built into the rearview mirror of Smith's Trailblazer recorded his roughly five-and-a-half-mile route that ended with the crash, the quiet courtroom shattered by the sound of crunching metal.

Smith looked away as the video played on a large monitor.

Meadows alleged Smith was intoxicated that night and provided tests that showed alcohol and cannabis in his system, arguing that the mixture led to his impairment.

He urged the jury to find Smith guilty of first-degree manslaughter, a crime that comes with a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 10 years.

The prosecutor told jurors that Smith feared his gunshot wounds would kill him. But he had been treated at the hospital, released and booked into jail within hours.

Smith accepted responsibility for killing Ryan, defense lawyer Ted Occhialino said. Ryan's death can never be made right, the public defender said.

But he asked the jury to find Smith guilty of criminally negligent homicide — a crime that came with a significantly shorter prison sentence than what prosecutors sought. Smith had one prior criminal conviction: a shoplifting case dating back more than a decade.

The gunshot wounds triggered Smith's fight-or-flight response that night, the attorney said.

"This story doesn't have a clean ending to it," Occhialino told the jury. "If you're going to classify this story in any way, the story that you classify it as is a tragedy."

Jurors deliberated for about five hours over two days before delivering a verdict that acknowledged Smith's actions behind the wheel that night did not amount to recklessness.

The jury found him guilty of the lesser charge and acquitted him of impaired driving.

'I'M SO SORRY'

In October, at Smith's sentencing, Mitzi Zarate filed into a seat in the front row of the courtroom's gallery, cradling her new baby boy.

For two years, she imagined this moment, how she would tell the judge about the emptiness that followed Ryan's death, the silence that greets her when she walks into the house after work, the stillness that had settled over her home.

Dupree Smith, inside Columbia River Correctional Institution in Northeast Portland, was sentenced to the maximum allowed under the law: one year and eight months in prison. He will likely get out after a little more than a year.

Mitzi Zarate, Ryan Ambrose's mother, chose green for the urn to hold his ashes. It was Ryan's favorite color.

Ryan brought a lightness to their family. He was, she told the judge, such a lovely boy.

His room remained "just there, untouched," she said.

Smith kept his head down as she spoke.

Before the sentencing, Smith wrote out a message to Ryan's family on lined paper. Ryan's death tormented him. He wondered why he had not died instead.

Mitzi Zarate wanted to hear from him directly, but when it came time to read his statement aloud in court, he worried he would lose his composure. His lawyer read his message.

"I am completely and utterly broken by what happened," Smith wrote. "I know I am responsible for your loss and I will carry that burden forever. I am so sorry."

Before the judge read aloud the sentence, the prosecutor played a recording of a 911 call Smith placed a year earlier. That

time, Smith had accidentally shot himself and was driving, desperate for help.

"If I didn't tell you before that this was an earlier incident, it would be almost entirely indistinguishable from the facts of this case," the deputy district attorney told the judge. "This is not the first time Mr. Smith has engaged in this very conduct."

Smith deserved the maximum sentence the charges allowed, the prosecutor said.

Judge Bronson James knew no sentence would heal Ryan's family. The justice system could merely offer an imperfect response to such loss.

"It gives us something," he said in court, "but it never gives us everything. We have to bring that ourselves."

He turned to Smith.

"You weren't thinking about others that night," he said. "You were thinking only about yourself and what happened was

"You weren't thinking about others that night. You were thinking only about yourself and what happened was the tragic, incomprehensible loss of this 11-year-old boy."

You took everything away from Ryan Ambrose, every future happiness, every future laugh, every future joy."

Judge Bronson James at the sentencing for Dupree Smith

the tragic, incomprehensible loss of this 11-year-old boy."

You took everything away from Ryan Ambrose, every future happiness, every future laugh, every future joy," he said.

He questioned whether Smith could ever atone.

"I suggest to you," the judge said, "that the only thing that can happen at this point is to take your time that you will be incarcerated and to use that to transform yourself from this point forward into a life that is no longer geared about yourself."

He sentenced Smith to the maximum allowed under the law: one year and eight months in prison.

Smith will likely get out after a little more than a year.

SACRED GROUND

Mitzi Zarate walked out of the downtown courthouse and drove, one last time, to the intersection. She found the unmarked spot on the sidewalk where strangers tended to her son that night.

Until the trial, Zarate thought Ryan had stood a chance as medical loads him into the ambulance.

Now she understood that he died here, and that realization turned the corner, for her, into sacred ground.

Those shrubs sprouted around the cross Ryan's grandfather planted under the Chevron sign.

Zarate watched as her sister plucked one of the flowers and nestled it into the base of the cross.

The air turned cool as the autumn afternoon faded. Zarate lingered on the corner for a while, her baby in her arms, the late-day traffic paying her no mind.

Margaret Davidson contributed to this report. Margaret Davidson edited.

Best Sports Photo

Division H-J

1st Place

West Linn Tidings

West Linn seniors celebrate four years of excellence

Miles Vance



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The Chronicle

Tears of Joy

Craig Strobeck

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Columbia Gorge News

HRV Girls Soccer Celebration

Zach Thummel

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News-Register

Rachel Thompson

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Mac boys unable to slow North Salem offense in 75-59 test of endurance

See **ENDURANCE**, 152

Mac girls pressure Foxes but can't get shots to fall in 51-23 loss to Silverton

See **PRESSURE**, B2

Bulldogs off the schnide

See 3A/2A BOYS, B5

Tigers stay hot at home

Size 3A/2A GIRLS, BS

Best Sports Photo

Division A-D

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Eugene Register Guard

Winning dive

Ben Lonergan

2nd Place

Roseburg News-Review

Volleyball

Nathan Miller

3rd Place

Lewiston Tribune

Potato Bowl Celebration

August Frank

Track

Continued from Page 1B

"She actually hasn't trained a tremendous amount so that's a lot of raw talent that you're seeing right now."

The previous meet record was 32:41.65 and set by Michigan's Erin Finn in 2014.

Runner-up and defending conference champion Florence Caron of Penn State also ran under the previous record, and she was still more than a half-minute behind Cherotich.

Caron finished in 32:32.55. Her teammate, Sophia Toti, the 2024 Big Ten runner-up, was third in 32:58.91.

"I was not struggling, I was just going easy because I do my worst running when it's not competitive," Cherotich said.

Flanagan said the plan was for Cherotich to take a lead late in the race. Instead, she was out front by the third lap.

"She just told me running slower actually feels worse," Flanagan said. "... Because of shoe regulations, you have to where spikes, so as a result it actually feels better if she runs a little bit faster so she's able to open up her stride which is a healthier cadence for her."

Cherotich's 10 points were all the Ducks scored on Friday, though they were positioned to get more in the 10,000 before Juliet Cherubet dropped out after 6,000 meters.

Cherubet was in third place at the time and well ahead of the rest of the field.

"She has had a little bit of a hamstring, IT Band, quad thing and it's been a bit precarious moving around," Flanagan said. "It was a little bit dodgy as to whether we'd even run the 10K tonight but she was pretty adamant that she wanted to give it a try. So not completely surprised that she dropped out."

Cherotich and Cherubet are among the Ducks' entries in the 5,000 final on Sunday, though Flanagan was uncertain on Cherubet's status for the race.

Homestretch drama highlights men's 10,000 finale

Oregon's Aiden Smith and Washington's Evan Jenkins were shoulder to shoulder over the final 50 meters until both toppled across the finish line and onto the track with Jenkins winning in 29:24.48 to 29:24.65 for Smith.



Washington's Evan Jenkins, right, dives ahead of Oregon's Aiden Smith to win the men's 10,000 meters May 16 on the opening day of the Big Ten Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hayward Field. BEN LONERGAN/THE REGISTER-GUARD

"I'm scraped up all over the place here," said Smith as he showed off the bloodied reminders of a well-fought race that included both runners giving max effort until there was little left to give at the end.

"I was fully out of it, like blacked out," Smith said. "And then Evan Jenkins, who was next to me, felt like he was in the same boat as me, just trying to get to the line first and I came up a little short. ... I've never been that tired or lactic in a race before. Kind of felt like an 800."

Though the Ducks didn't get the victory, they did get five scorers as Evan Bishop was third in 29:25.13, Evan Burke was fourth in 29:26.10, Abdel Laadjel was sixth in 29:27.42 and Quincy Norman was eighth in 29:28.15.

Overall, Oregon scored 23 points in the 10,000.

"We're very proud of that for sure," Smith said. "We want to be champs again, especially here at Hayward, defend home field."

Smith vs. Jenkins wasn't the only

battle between the Ducks and Dawgs. All eight scorers came from Oregon or Washington as the Huskies also got points from fifth-place Acer Iverson and seventh-place Tyrone Gorze.

"We feel like we're the strongest 10K school, especially in the Big Ten," Smith said. "... Depthwise, we just put five guys all scoring. You don't really see that in a conference that much."

Pat Vialva scores first points for the Ducks

The Oregon men first got on the board thanks to a fifth-place finish from Pat Vialva in the javelin. Vialva threw a season-best 232 feet, 3 inches to score four points for the Ducks. The winner was Nebraska's Arthur Petersen with a throw of 258-10.

Other notable performance on Friday

- Illinois sophomore Cody Johnston

broke the meet record and set a PR in the men's pole vault with a clearance of 18-6 to get the win over returning champion Jak Urlacher of Minnesota, who also set a PR by clearing an 18-4 bar.

Oregon's Kyle Gibbs, a projected point-scorer for the Ducks, entered the competition at 17-¾ and missed on his three attempts.

- Minnesota's Anthonett Nabwe set a meet record and a PR in the women's hammer with a throw of 229-2.

- Kostas Zaltos beat his Minnesota teammate and returning Big Ten champion Angelos Mantzouranis for the men's hammer title. Zaltos won with a throw of 254-10 to 246-5 for Mantzouranis. Well behind in third place was UCLA's Kris Emig at 229-9.

Chris Hansen covers University of Oregon football, men's basketball, track and field, cross country and softball for The Register-Guard. You can reach him at chansen@registerguard.com and you can follow him on X @chansen_RG

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1st Place

The New Era

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Oregon's warm winter, spring have invasive tree-killing bugs hatching early, state says

2h

One of Stumptown Coffee's original locations will reopen with new cafe from company's founder

2h

Former Providence center Pinnis signs with Oregon State

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Declining Memory Has Been Linked to a Common Drink. Do...

Brain Health Report

POLITICS

Oregon voter turnout nears 20% as ballots continue to arrive at election offices

Many more ballots are expected to arrive at election offices today and tomorrow.

1h ago Jamie Goldberg

- Election 2026: Your guide to Oregon's May election
- Editorial endorsements May 2026: Our editorial board's voting recommendations

[View more coverage](#)

HEALTH

Man with rare food-hoarding syndrome dies after eating spoiled food in state's care, spurring \$5M lawsuit

POLITICS

Portland voters have nuanced views of homelessness, new poll finds

While opinions on homelessness vary, a significant majority of voters say that local governments are not spending their tax dollars well.

8h ago Lillian Mongeau Hughes

- Editorial: Moda Center discussions need city leaders' professionalism, not their hot takes
- Portlanders say they feel bad about everything but their own finances

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Your guide to Oregon's May election

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Set weather

Portland Homicides

Courts

The intersection

He tried to save himself. He killed an 11-year-old instead

Updated: Dec. 19, 2025, 11:01 a.m. | Published: Dec. 18, 2025, 5:00 a.m.



On July 8, 2023, Duprie Smith sped through the intersection of Southeast 102nd Avenue and Stark Street, slamming into a car carrying Ryan Ambrose, 11. Ryan died from his injuries. The family erected a memorial near the spot of the crash. (This photo was taken days after the wreck and shows a pedestrian walking into the scene.) Beth Nakamura

By Noelle Crombie | The Oregonian/OregonLive

Duprie Smith rocketed through the darkness, the roar of his Chevy Trailblazer’s engine overwhelming the sound of other traffic.

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Oregonian

Oregon mom self-deports after husband arrested and deported by ICE

Teresa Mahoney

2nd Place

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

Interview: Two fentanyl survivors from the Walla Walla area

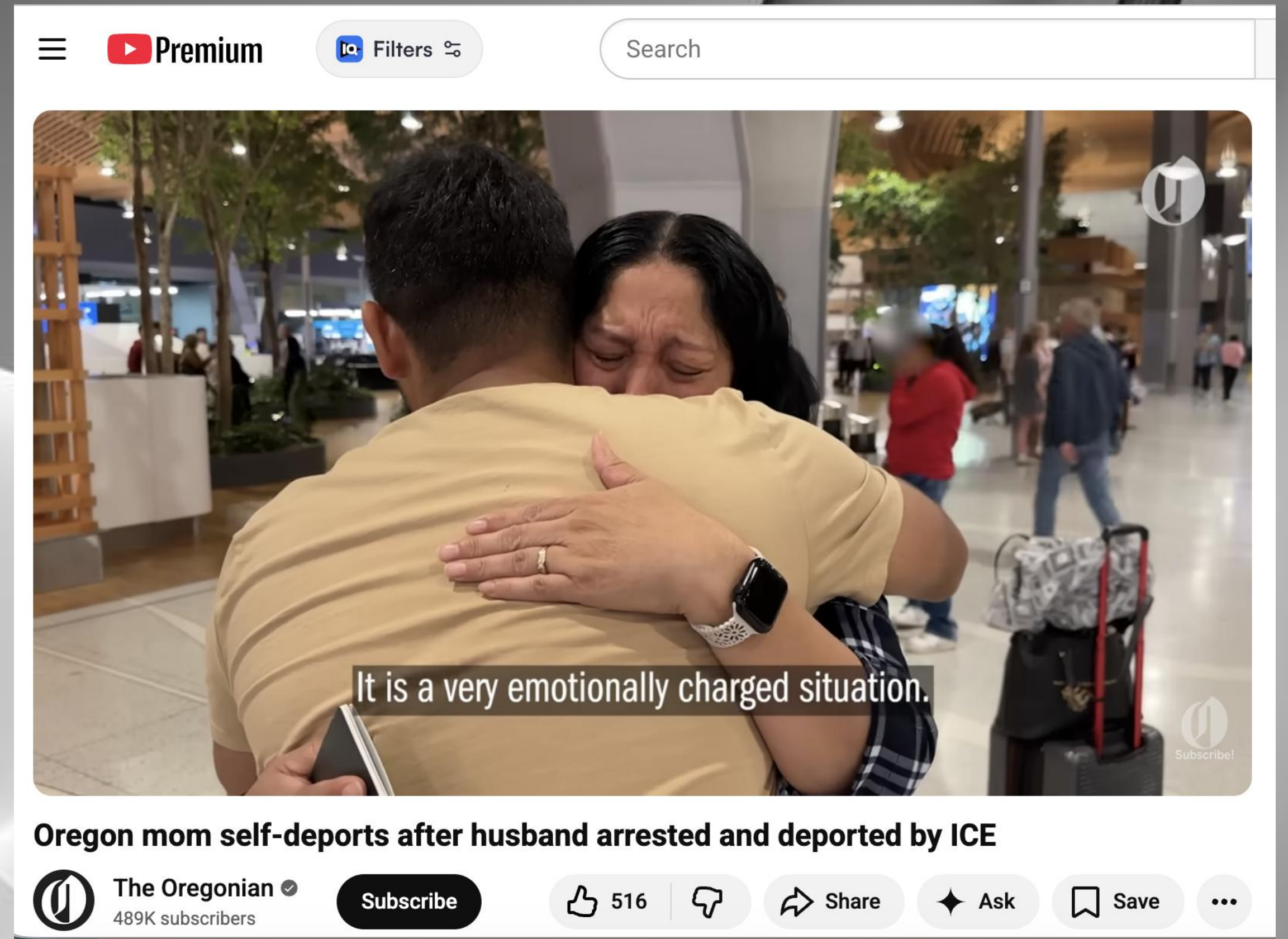
Loryn Kykendall, Greg Lehman, Jake Bertram

3rd Place

Salem Statesman Journal

6,000 robots help workers at new Amazon distribution center in Woodburn

Kevin Neri



Best Online Coverage of Breaking News

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Argus Observer

Historic flooding spurs emergency action across county

Antonio Sunseri, Leslie Thompson

2nd Place

Oregonian

Trump says he’ll send troops to Portland, authorizes ‘full force’

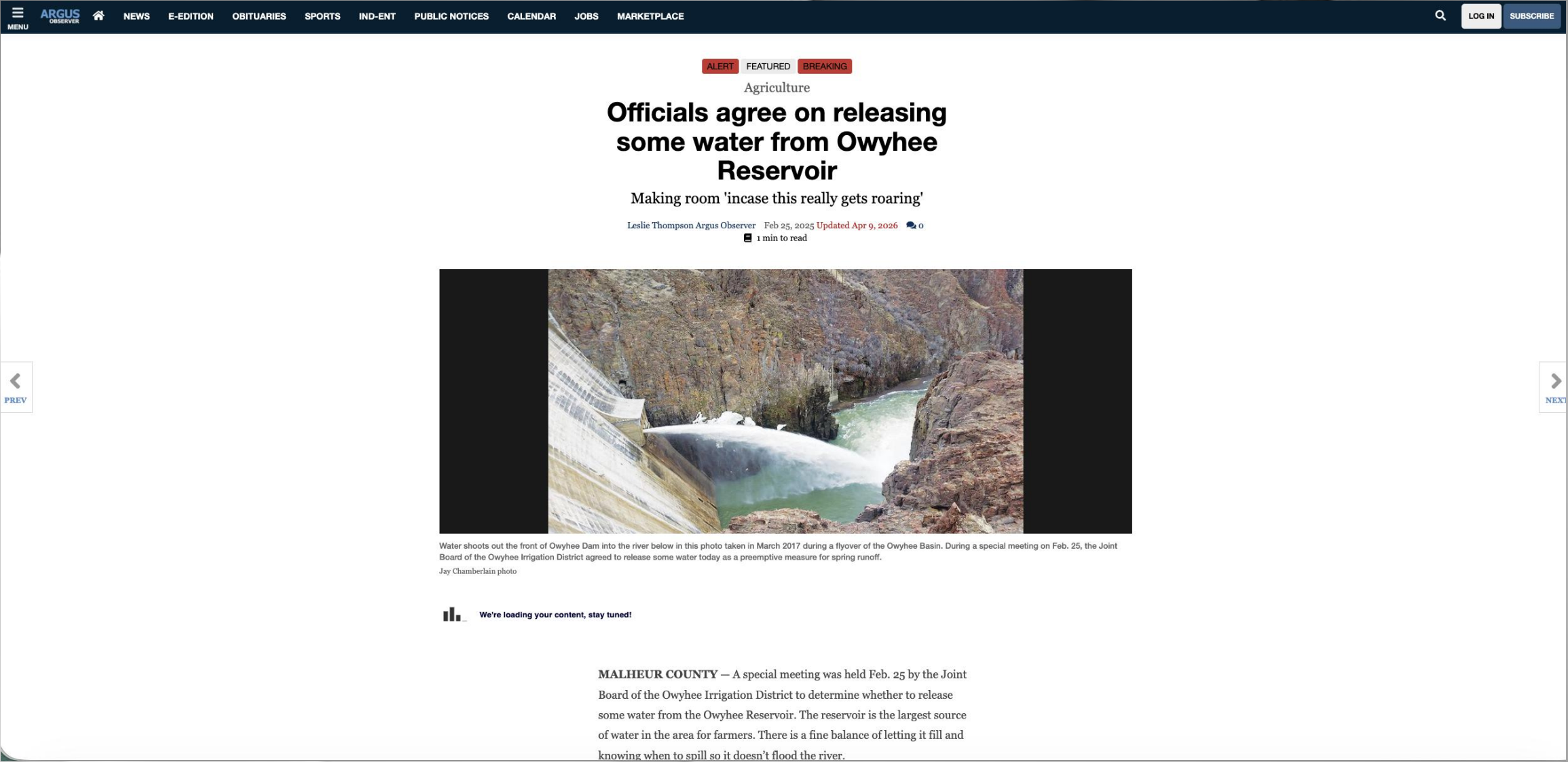
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The Chronicle

Juanita’s Story

Erin Tierney-Heggenstaller, Bob Williams



Best Story of the Year

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Rogue Valley Times

Oblivious to the word ‘can’t’

Buffy Pollock

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2026

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ODYSSEY

Oblivious to the word ‘can’t,’
former Wimer family plans to
set world sailing records

Published 4:34 pm Monday, June 23, 2025

By Buffy Pollock



1/3

Paul Osborne with

SPOTLIGHT ON

GARTH

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Music Director: Karl Iverson

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

Thu, May 21

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A Night at the Movies: Summer Block Busters

Mon, May 18 @1:00pm

Impractical) Guide to Shakespeare at OSF:...

Ashland Library

Mon, May 18 @4:00pm

Member Monday (still open to the public!)

RoxyAnn Winery

Mon, May 18 @7:00pm

3-Ball Tournament

American Legion Grants Pass P...

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Duprie Smith rocketed through the darkness, the roar of his Chevy Trailblazer’s engine overwhelming the sound of other traffic.

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McKenzie River Reflections

McKenzie River Reflections

Ken Engelman



McKenzie River Reflections

\$1.00

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

Volume 47, Issue 39



"Torso murder"

Bonnie Breuninger's blood was up, and she wanted the Other Woman out of her husband's life entirely.

PAGE 4

In Remembrance

Memorial Day is a somber occasion dedicated to remembering those making the ultimate sacrifice.

PAGE 15



Briefs...



The 2025 boating season is getting into full swing. National Safe Boating Week, May 17-23, leading up to the Memorial Day weekend, is recognized as the unofficial start for the boating season. A key part of the designation is a reminder that when you're wearing a life jacket, you're not just protecting yourself. You're wearing it to protect your loved ones, to assure them that you'll come home safe, and to set an example for them.

Officials say there were 3,844 incidents in 2023 involving 564 deaths, 2,126 injuries and \$63 million dollars of property damage due to recreational boating incidents. Those stats say 87% of boating fatalities were not

Safe boating - Page 2



Interested in Summer Camp? Big Lake's regular (REG) camps feature traditional camping programs for youth. There are plenty of opportunities to build confidence and try new things. The six-day, five-night camps check-in on Sunday and check-out on Friday. Campers rotate through four different activities daily to try all the fun Big Lake offers.

Activities include swimming, blob, climbing wall, creative arts, crafts, pony rides, sea wall, canoeing, sailing and sports. Evenings are filled with group games and end with a fantastic campfire program, including great music and engaging nightly

Summer Camp - Page 2



Open Climbs, presented by Tree Climbing Eugene, are an opportunity for folks to casually drop in and try out tree climbing for the first (or second, or 100th) time. The rope systems are already set up in the trees for you, and a facilitator will walk you through safely ascending into the canopy, then descending back to the ground when you are ready. We guide a maximum of

Tree climbing - Page 2

Discovery Center moving forward

Construction crews have started work on historic site

LEABURG: Plans to build a new interpretive center are now taking shape. Last week, construction workers began work at the 46-acre McKenzie River Discovery Center property to transform the historic site's buildings into a showcase for films, displays, interactive exhibits and activities designed to produce a museum experience like few others.

Working with with Portland's Museum of Science and Industry's (OMSI), the Discovery Center will feature films, augmented reality and interactive exhibits focusing on those themes that make the McKenzie River unique. They include the geology and hydrology, cultural history, as well as the area's fish and ecology.

Organizers say the overall design calls for elements that will be easy to reconfigure to incorporate new information and technology as it becomes available. In addition, the digital approach opens up the Discovery Center to a nation-wide collection of educational materials and the potential to provide content to virtual visitors anywhere in the world.

For more information on the project, go to: mckenzieidiscoverycenter.org



Work is now underway to convert three buildings and rebuild one that burned at the McKenzie River Discovery Center next to Leaburg Lake.

EWEB open house gives McKenzie Valley residents a chance to discuss water, energy, and wildfires

By Erik Paul

WALTERVILLE: At a May 15 customer appreciation dinner hosted by the Eugene Water & Electric Board, McKenzie Valley residents had the opportunity to speak directly with utility staff about water access, energy reliability, and wildfire resilience amid ongoing infrastructure changes and environmental risks.

Held at the Waltherville Community Center, the open house featured table discussions led by engineers, program managers, and communications staff, along with members of EWEB's board, who listened to concerns about local projects and issues.

EWEB open house - Page 14



Brian Booth, EWEB's chief energy resources officer, was at a table where discussions ranged from power outages to the possibility of installing solar panels along the Leaburg Canal.

County's building fees are going up

Study warned Land Management Division has \$1.2 million shortfall

EUGENE: Following a unanimous vote last Tuesday, Lane County residents can expect to see building fees increase 21% over the next three years. The county's board of commissioners' vote came after reviewing reports that indicated the land management division is facing a \$1.2 million shortfall.

Language in the County's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan called for investing "in the Land Management Division to ensure adequate and sustainable staffing levels and resources are available to be responsive and agile in meeting current and future housing needs and customer service expectations."

The new fees are scheduled to begin on July 1, will include a seven percent (7%) increase in base permit, electrical, plumbing, and other construction fees. The seven percent permit fee increases for emergency RV permits, ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) permits, and building permits for manufactured homes in manufactured home parks won't take effect until July 1, 2028.

On a positive note, the report also indicated the average number of days to review land use applications had declined from 75 in 2020 to 21 in 2025.

SELECTED OPTION

Option 1 - Two year (10.5%) phased increase			
Option 2 - Three year (7%) phased increase			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
CP	~CP 5.6%	TBD	TBD
Option 1	4.4% (10.5% Total)	10.5%	-
Option 2	1.4% (7% Total)	3%	2%

Targeted Fee Exemptions for emergency and low-income housing:

- Manufactured Dwelling in a Manufactured home park
- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)
- Emergency RV Placement

* Two year cumulative CP for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25

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After the Inferno

PacifiCorp blames climate change

By Jeff Manning
Oregon Journalism Project

PacifiCorp argued that climate change had wrought such profound and pervasive changes it would be unfair to hold one company responsible for [Labor Day 2020] fire damage. PacifiCorp also attributed much of the Santiam Canyon damage to the Beachie Creek Fire, a lightning-caused blaze that had been burning for nearly a month high in the Cascades between Mount Jefferson and Opal Creek. The intense winds pushed the fire westward toward the Santiam Canyon and Gates and sent red-hot embers flying over the area, some of which allegedly started other fires.

But plaintiffs [in the 2023 class action trial] called their own forestry expert, Oregon State University professor John Bailey, who argued just the opposite: The fires that did most of the real damage blew up thanks to hot power lines, with no help from the Beachie Creek Fire. "Beachie Creek was still miles away," Bailey said.

Some observers saw the urban-rural divide play out in the courtroom. Freres Engineered Wood, based in Lyons in Linn County, was among those suing PacifiCorp. The company said it lost 5,800 acres of timber in the fire, 687 acres directly attributable to PacifiCorp.

Company president Rob Freres Jr. says he found the trial eye-opening, particularly PacifiCorp's disdain for fire victims. He points to the utility's courtroom treatment of Rachelle McMaster, whose mobile home in the coastal ham-



A charred school bus sits amid the aftermath of the Beachie Creek Fire that ravaged the Santiam Canyon in 2020. Forestry expert John Bailey argued the fires blew up thanks to hot power lines. — BRIAN BURK

let of Otis was destroyed in another of the Labor Day fires.

"They belittled this woman and showed a picture of her mobile home with toys in the yard and a burn pile for their garbage," Freres says. "They just characterized her as white trash. They didn't use those words. But that's what the implication was. And they turned off the jury so badly."

Some of the most powerful testimony came not from victims but from a neutral party.

In 2020, Nik Blosser served as chief of staff for then-Gov. Kate Brown. On Sept. 7, 2020, Blosser convened an urgent conference call with the state's largest utilities about the risks of the Labor Day winds.

Blosser said in an interview with

Editor's note: This is Part II of *After the Inferno*, on the aftermath of the 2020 wildfires that devastated parts of the Santiam Canyon and other areas in Oregon. The story was produced by the Oregon Journalism Project, a nonprofit investigative newsroom for the state of Oregon. Part I was published in the Feb. 7 edition of *The Canyon Weekly* and is available online at canyonweekly.com

OJP that the call came about because Doug Grafe, the top wildfire expert at the Oregon Department of Forestry, insisted the state was in danger. Weather forecasts kept worsening, Grafe said. Forests were bone dry.

And now, the National Weather Service was predicting intense winds from the east that could turn a spark into a conflagration.

continued on page 2

Dodging death

To understand the damage in the Santiam Canyon, hear from those who narrowly escaped.

During more than five months of reporting, the Oregon Journalism Project spoke with many survivors of the Santiam Canyon fires of 2020, in addition to Kathleen Becherer [whose story was in Part I]. Here are two of their stories:

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Diane Turnbull heard what sounded like an explosion.

She rushed to the front door of her small home in Gates, on the Santiam River, and she couldn't quite process what she was seeing.

The glow came from a nearby chain-link fence at the Old Gates Schoolhouse, the town's community center. Powerful wind gusts had taken down a power line, which came to rest on the fence. The metal fence became so hot it burst into flames. In a matter of minutes, the fence ignited trees, shrubs and the schoolhouse itself.

Turnbull didn't wait long, particularly after getting a text from a co-worker who lived nearby: "Our building is on fire." Turnbull recalls: "I packed up my dog, couldn't find my cat, and drove out of there."

Turnbull stayed with family in Bend as the news unfolded: Gates, which to many travelers is simply a way station to Central Oregon, lost 670 buildings that night, most of them houses.

continued on page 3

One dead in fatal crash on Highway 22

One motorist has died after a head-on collision on Highway 22 east of Gates that impacted the road for more than two hours on Wednesday afternoon.

According to a report from the Oregon State Police, the OSP responded to the call at 12:39 p.m. Feb. 11.

A preliminary investigation indicates a blue Ford Ranger, driven by Phillip Craig Trumontana (72) of Idanha, was traveling westbound in the eastbound lane while attempting to pass several vehicles.

continued on page 7

STR sold to AE Collision & Towing

By James Day

A long-term Santiam Canyon business that has helped thousands of residents deal with roadside emergencies, has changed hands.

Santiam Towing & Recovery, the Lyons-based firm run by Mike and Cindy Wagner, has been sold to Anthony and Jackie Etchison.

"It is with a mix of gratitude and excitement that we share some important news regarding the future of Santiam Towing & Recovery," the Wagners said in a press release. "After nearly four decades of service, we are passing the torch to new owners who share the same dedication to quality service, community values, and family-oriented business that have defined STR for so many years. We are honored to introduce Anthony and Jackie Etchison as the new owners of Santiam Towing and Recovery."



Here is one of the familiar trucks operated by Santiam Towing & Recovery of Lyons. The business has been sold by Mike and Cindy Wagner to Anthony and Jackie Etchison. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The release noted that as the co-owners of AE Collision and Towing Incorporated, Anthony and Jackie "bring years of experience in the automotive industry and a deep commitment to service."

The couple are lifetime residents of the Eugene/Springfield area. They began their business journey in 2006,

with Anthony's 10 years of automotive expertise and Jackie's strong background in administration and business management.

"Their dedication to their employees, customers, and community aligns perfectly with the values STR was built upon," the Wagners' release said.

continued on page 7

General Excellence

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THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD | CRESWELL | COTTAGE GROVE | PLEASANT HILL



ADAM TAMARON / CHRONICLE PHOTO
Vonnie Mikkelsen, Springfield Chamber CEO and president – and emcee – leads a packed house through the annual awards ceremony at the Wildfish Theater last Thursday evening.

Chamber honors leaders

BY ERIN TIERNEY-HEGGENSTALLER
ERIN@CHRONICLE1989.COM

SPRINGFIELD — Community members across sectors of sectors on Feb. 20 gathered at the Wildfish Theater during the annual Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony to celebrate the businesses, the business champions, and the people behind it all that “Inspire Excellence” locally. The Chamber’s track record in 2024 reflects its

See LEADERS — 5



PHOTOS BY BOB WILLIAMS / THE CHRONICLE
The cheesy burger on grilled marble rye bread was a show-stopper.

Annual event supports FOOD for Lane County

BY RON HARTMAN
HARTMAN@CHRONICLE1989.COM

SPRINGFIELD — Who knew that grilled cheese could be such an amazing sandwich, with so many possibilities to tease the taste buds. Throughout the month of February, 48 local restaurants have slapped together their favorite concoctions during the 15th annual Grilled Cheese Experience. Every time a sandwich is sold, FOOD for Lane County receives \$2 of the proceeds.

Some of the creations make perfect sense. Like the bourbon bacon with smoked gouda, which has been the hottest seller at Squacha’s Bar & Grill in Springfield.

Then there are others that, well, make you think twice.

At the Axe and Fiddle in Cottage Grove, where they served up a mouthwatering cream cheese, cheddar, bacon and jalapeno on a pum-pri-pressed brioche bun last week, the previous week’s Hawaiian sandwich wasn’t as much of a big hit.

“People had mixed thoughts on that one,” cook Makai Golden said of combining peanut butter with ham, cheese and pineapple. “But it’s a pretty good sandwich.”

Golden was glad to be a part of such a worthy

See CHEESE — 20



Cheesy goodness inside a pita melt is served up at the Public House on a recent afternoon. The Great Grilled Cheese Experience brings plenty of creativity to the lunchtime staple.



CRAIG STROBECK / CHRONICLE PHOTO
Thurston’s **Kristal Zamora** celebrates her victory Saturday at the Class 5A/6A District 4 championships. Zamora is among 12 Colts heading to state this week.

Colts girls win district

BY RON HARTMAN
THE CHRONICLE

EUGENE — The Thurston girls have set themselves up, and now have a chance to win their sixth state wrestling championship this weekend at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Four Colts — senior Eily Asher (300 pounds), sophomore Teagan Merritt (115), senior Kristal Zamora (140), and junior Isabella Castleberry (190)

See WRESTLING — 8



INSIDE



Spring coloring contest
■ The Chronicle’s annual spring coloring contest is here! Be sure to get your entry in by the March 13 deadline.

Page 16



SPELLING BEE

New play brings the laughs
■ Don’t miss the chance to enjoy an off-kilter comedy full of local talent and laughs at the Pegasus Playhouse in downtown Springfield.

Page 20

MAILING LABEL BELOW



THE SERIES CONCLUDES: PAGES 10-11

■ The Chronicle has featured Springfield’s history through the eyes of three enthusiasts as they prepare for the “Historic Atlas of Springfield, Oregon,” a 200-page collection

detailed the city’s historical development. This week, the paper examines the history of the Glenwood neighborhood, featuring excerpts from the atlas.

A partially submerged Springfield arch during a 1927 flood, Willamette Heights, still relatively free of trees, is visible in the background.

SPRINGFIELD HISTORY MUSEUM ARCHIVE PHOTO



THIS ONE’S FOR YOU, COTTAGE GROVE

■ NEXT WEEK: The Chronicle kicks off its partnership with various historical societies to showcase the Grove’s fascinating past in a series throughout March. We’ll start with the Cottage Grove Genealogical Society archives.

Division H

3rd Place

Woodburn Independent

Staff



General Excellence

Division H

2nd Place

The New Era

The New Era General Excellence Entries

Staff



Christmas on Parade in Sweet Home



Photo by Scott Swanson
Santa waves to the crowd as his float rolls down Main Street during Sweet Home's lighted Christmas Parade Saturday night, Dec. 13. The parade drew some 50 floats and other entrants, who marched along Main and Long streets between 22nd and 10th avenues. See more photos on page 8 and online at sweethomenews.com.

Hometown
Newspaper of
**JAMES
GARRETT**



**JESUS' BIRTHDAY
EVENT DRAWS KIDS
OF ALL AGES
PAGE 9**



**BAKERS DELIVER
REAL GINGERBREAD
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PAGE 15**



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ANSWERS KIDS'
LETTERS TO SANTA
PAGE 2**

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MOMS Club provides playdates, connection

By Sarah Brown
Of The New Era
They say new mothers always talk about poop.

Well it's certainly one of the things this group of mothers talk about, but being a mom introduces a whole new level of what one might find exciting.

Who's going to be excited to learn someone's child will now eat cold cheese? Most likely a member of the MOMS Club.

"We talk about all the crazy things, but I think what's great is you feel open to talk about anything that's going on and you have somebody else that completely understands," said Larisa Neilson, a mother of three and founder of the Mid Valley MOMS Club.

While their children found entertainment with each other and various toys on the floor, the mothers - most of them bearing a baby in hand - were tasked with stuffing toiletries into small bags. These would be gifts for women who'd just given birth.

It was a project of personal understanding, "Just a little something to give them kind of a boost," said Jessica Fischer, mother of two and president of the club.

Last year, the club members helped with a toy drive at The River Center as part of a service project, but this year they wanted to do something specifically for mothers.

It's what MOMS Club is all about - moms providing moms the support they need.

As someone who moves a lot due to her



Photo by Sarah Brown
MOMS Club members pack care kits as a service project for new moms.

husband's job, Fischer, of Halsey, discovered the MOMS Club was an "easy enough" commitment and a good place to meet people.

"Bouncing around new places, you don't have a whole lot of friends," she said.

"I knew no one here when we first moved."

That was the same situation Neilson found herself in when she moved to Lebanon from Denver two years ago.

See Mom's Club, Page 7



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Antonio Sunseri, Leslie Thompson

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Vale is No. 1 in
EOL, Page 9

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www.argusobserver.com WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2023 VOL. 119, NO. 8 \$3.00

VALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Investigator: Complaint against superintendent for removing
‘Christmas Break’ from school calendar ‘unfounded’

Johnson's complaints have cost district about \$40K since 2022

BY LESLIE THOMPSON
Argus Observer

VALE — After looking into a complaint from a parent, an independent investigator has determined that Vale Superintendent Alisha McBride did not exceed her authority, did not violate district policy IC/ICA and did



ALISHA
MCBRIDE

not violate any other district policies. The complaint was filed by parent April Johnson in early December. At the heart of the issue was the change of wording on the district's annual calendar from "Christmas Break" to "Winter Break."

Johnson filed the complaint after reviewing hundreds of files the district had

provided her. Those

records request made last year for "all records about an agreement made between Mo- and Vale Edu- cation Association on the use of inclusive language."

Johnson alleged

to COMPLAIN, Sept.

EDUCATION



Pedro the Penguin and a team of students in the Red Cross club at Ontario High School, along with OHS adviser Katie Adams-Schaffold, head to their final class of the day at Aiken Elementary on Feb. 21. The team visited classrooms to give presentations on emergency preparedness.

Penguin pops by Aiken Elementary

OHS Red Cross club teaches youth about preparing for emergencies

BY LESLIE THOMPSON
Argus Observer

ONTARIO — Pedro the Penguin and a team of Ontario High School students visited with second- and third-graders at Aiken Elementary on Friday to teach them about safety and preparedness during emergencies. The high-schoolers were some of the members of the Red Cross club that started at the high school this year. They visited the classrooms with their club adviser Katie Adams-Schaffold. She is a member of the Public Health America, and works for the American Red Cross of Idaho, Montana and East Oregon region.

She said the club has about 25 members with five to 10 who show up for meetings every week, saying it was better than she expected for its first year. Adams-Schaffold explained to Aiken Principal Tobey Haddleton that the high-schoolers had just finished their



On the way to give a presentation to another class, Pedro the Penguin poses for a photo with Grace, a student at Aiken Elementary.



WEDNESDAY FORCAST
High 56

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Plans for downtown
bathrooms on hold

Ontario Saturday Market relocates

BY ANTONIO SUNSERI
Argus Observer

ONTARIO — The city of Ontario made plans in 2024 to apply for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department funding local government grants program to apply for up to \$1 million in lottery bonds for bathrooms at Moore Park. But now those plans are on hold.

The purchase of land towards the 40% match required for that funding. The city bought part of Moore Park in 2022 for \$172,160 and council group had reservations about putting bath-

rooms at Moore Park. But

the purchase of land towards the 40% match required for that funding. The city bought part of Moore Park in 2022 for \$172,160 and council group had reservations about putting bath-

rooms at Moore Park. But

PLANNING AND ZONING

Next public hearing
on short-term rental
ordinance is March 10

City prepares to send the draft ordinance to the council

BY ANTONIO SUNSERI
Argus Observer

ONTARIO — The Ontario Planning Commission will meet on March 10 to consider moving a draft ordinance regarding short-term rentals up to the Ontario City Council. The commission last met on Feb. 20. The board typically meets on the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. There are potential exceptions. The board re-elected Chairman John Boudier, and selected Rick Fortner as vice chair-

man. Commissioners Al Christians and two new commissioners, William Berry and Tyler Whitaker, were also present. Commissioners Lauren Gossert and Max Tinsley were absent. **Annexation hearing** The board considered an action to annex and rezone a property adjacent to Southeast Fifth Avenue, near Sierra Vista apartments. The applicant is Larry Kinn, representing Thistle & Stone Nonprofits. The

to COMPLAIN, Sept.

BARBERSHOP
OF THE DAY
Mike Hendrix, of Fayette, and Wendell Parks, of New Plymouth

General Excellence

Division G

3rd Place

Lake Oswego Review

General Excellence - Lake Oswego Review

Staff



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WHO WOULD?

LakeOswegoReview

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Council holds firm on speed limit reductions

Will lower to 20 mph in residential areas

By COREY BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

The Lake Oswego City Council is not reconsidering its decision to lower the speed limit to 20 mph across residential streets and neighborhood collectors.

Though councilors said they received many emails from residents about this concept, including some who opposed the idea, the council held firm on its previous decision during a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 2.

After a robust discussion during an August meeting, the approval of the speed limit reduction from 25 to 20 mph on residential streets and neighborhood collector was initially placed on the City Council consent agenda (which typically means the council approving it without discussion) but Councilor Aaron Rapi wanted to move it to a regular business item to allow for more deliberation. Ultimately, Mayor Joe Buck, Council President Tracy Corrigan and Councilors Ali Afghan, Rachel Verdick and Massimo Mboop voted for the resolution while Rapi and Councilor John Wendland voted against it.

The project would cost approximately \$150,000-\$175,000 and include the removal of existing 25 mph signs and the addition of new 20 mph signs.

Those in support described the idea as the most cost-effective avenue the city has to make local streets safer for pedestrians and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. They also noted that a single project to add sidewalks and other pedestrian infrastructure to a local street can cost around 10 times more than reducing speed limits across town. A

See SPEED / A2

Touring the lake

Preservation society shows lakeside homes by boat



The boat tour was held Sunday, Sept. 7. (COURTESY PHOTOS, LAKE CORPORATION)

By COREY BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

Community members had the chance to learn about the history of Oswego Lake, along with interesting anecdotes and intricacies about the many properties that line the body of water, during the annual Lake Oswego Preservation Society Boat Tour Sunday, Sept. 7.

At the event, tour guides whisked groups of attendees under bridges, through canals and across the perimeter of the lake. The event was put on in a partnership with the Lake Corporation, which represents the shareholders who live along the lake.

"Five years ago, when the opportunity

to buy my little 1937 cottage on West Bay presented itself, I just could not pass it up," said Jen Wilky, a real estate broker who sits on the city of Lake Oswego Historic Resources Advisory Board, in a press release from the Lake Corporation. "I count myself very lucky to now have had this opportunity to share my blended passion in Oswego Lake history and the historic homes on the lake. Interacting with our participants and experiencing their enthusiasm for the tour's education and history of our lake and homes was a pure pleasure."

The event is the preservation society's biggest fundraiser of the year. The organization works to ensure that the historical properties in Lake Oswego are protected.



Boat tour guide Jen Wilky and her daughter walk to the boats before the tour begins.



A tour guide points at an Oswego Lake landmark.



Attendees take in Oswego Lake during the tour.

Arts Council introduces new public art downtown

Check out new Gallery Without Walls pieces

By COREY BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

The Arts Council of Lake Oswego's ever-shifting public art program has rearranged once more.

This summer, the organization added 13 new sculptures in downtown Lake Oswego through the Gallery Without Walls program.

Eric Evans, the organization's communications and development manager, provided a tour of five notable art pieces within the new batch chosen by the arts council's Gallery Without Walls Committee.

'Teal Ingot Spiral'

Artist Henry Hillman created a spiraling sculpture made of cast glass and stainless steel that

can be moved and altered by the onlooker.

"The density of the cast glass creates shifting gradients of color, which change according to the ambient light and viewing angle, creating a unique viewing experience throughout the day," according to the artist statement.

It is located on A Avenue between 4th and 5th streets.

"It wants people to interact with it. Public art is made to be in elements, explored, touched and felt," Evans said.

'PUP'

Ben Dye's bronze sculpture depicts a dog arching his head upward. Dye wrote that the piece was meant to be "an emotional support sculpture" and Evans reported that he's heard of local community members using it as a memorial for their departed dogs and dropping off flowers.

"Community members have



See ART / A2



▲ Gallery Without Walls artist couple Angeline Madson-Heddel and Joel Heddel pose for a photo behind Saddle's new sculpture in downtown.

▲ This is Henry Hillman's piece 'Teal Ingot Spiral' (COURTESY PHOTOS, ARTS COUNCIL OF LAKE OSWEGO)

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CentralOregonian

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 • Vol 143, Issue 40 • \$1

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Local educators tackling
the AI frontier

As AI prevalence and power grows, Crook County School District looks to embrace it

By JASON CHANEY
Staff Reporter

Educators have long faced and embraced upgrades in technology. They have seen the emergence of handheld calculators providing students with quick answers to math problems. Computers later provided a gateway to the internet and a world of instant information that schools had to monitor and safeguard. Then came smartphones that condensed everything computers provide into something that fits in their pockets. Now comes artificial intelligence. AI, a powerful technological advance that can produce pages of writing from a simple prompt in a matter of seconds. Unlike a calculator, limited to math, it can find answers for questions on virtually any topic, and just as quickly. Eric Ryan, Crook County School District's technology director, has kept watch on AI since it started gaining traction in 2022. He has watched the sophistication grow and more people embrace and utilize the new technology. Then, last school year, he saw its presence truly escalate in the local schools. "Last year was the first time that we really noticed a trickle-down effect to that next layer after your early adopters," he recalls.

"One of the biggest things that's going to guide all of this is going to be policy framework on some guiding principles."

— Eric Ryan, Crook County School District

See A1 / A2

Prineville man arrested after shooting last Saturday morning

Francisco Nunez resisted arrest after firing shots into an occupied apartment building

By JASON CHANEY
Staff Reporter

A Prineville man was arrested on multiple criminal charges after an incident late last Saturday morning in which shots were reportedly fired in town. According to a Prineville Police Department report, on Sept. 20, at about 11:30 a.m., officers and deputies responded to reports of shots fired in the 500 block of Northwest Ninth Street. Callers reported that several rounds had been fired into an occupied apartment building. Upon arrival, officers found an adult man, later identified as 29-year-old Francisco Nunez, of Prineville, armed with both a large knife and a pistol, both of which were holstered. Officers repeatedly tried to diffuse the situation with verbal commands, but when Nunez refused to comply, officers deployed bean bag rounds and a Taser. Those tactics also failed.

See SHOOTING / A3

Oregon missed out on \$48 million in rural school, community funds since act expired, report finds

By ALEX BAUMHART
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon has lost out on more than \$48.6 million in federal money for rural roads, public services and schools since 2023 as Congress failed in the last year to renew a federal act that has sent billions to western states in the last 20 years. Most recently, Congressional Republicans failed to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act in the tax and spending out sagged all they passed in July. The money is meant to compensate counties with large swaths of federal land within their borders for the costs of providing critical services to people and industries using those lands for activities that generate revenue for the federal government — such as animal grazing and timber production. Oregon, where more than half of the state consists of federal land, has experienced the biggest loss of any state since the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act expired at the end of 2023, according to a new report from the D.C.-based Center for American Progress, a liberal public policy and think tank. During the 2023-24 fiscal year, Oregon counties and schools got more than \$55 million through the act. But in the most recent fiscal year, Oregon has received roughly \$8.4 million, an 85% decrease. Overall, states have lost out on more than \$207 million in the two years since the act expired, the Center for American Progress found.

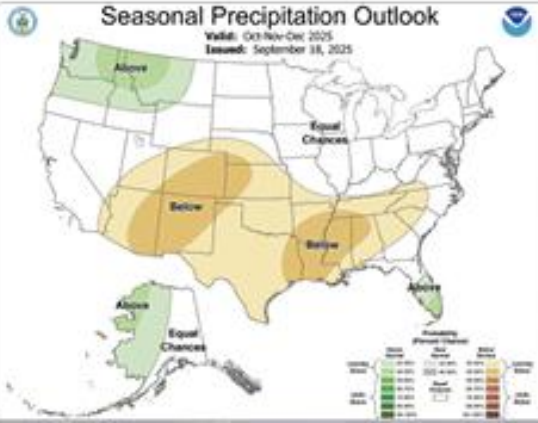
Oregon's senior Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden co-authored the original Secure Rural Schools Act in 2000 and has tried since November 2024 to reauthorize it with bipartisan Senate support. He said Republican inaction in the U.S. House of Representatives is "gutting rural Oregon counties."

"I've worked on a bipartisan basis to get this vital legislation passed twice in the Senate, and this new report shows just how deeply the House Republican inaction is hurting communities in our state," he said. The Senate passed reauthorization bill in November 2024 on a bipartisan vote, but House Republicans' failure to reach an agreement about

See FUND5 / A8

Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2025
Issued: September 18, 2025



Seasonal climate outlook promising for drought-hit Northwest

By DON JENKINS
Staff Reporter

Widening and parts of Oregon and Idaho should receive above-normal amounts of rain in October through December, bringing relief to drought-stricken areas, according to the National Weather Service's seasonal forecast. A La Nina is expected to move the Pacific jet stream northward, picking up moisture in the North Pacific before sliding south into the Northwest, the weather service's Climate Prediction Center said Sept. 18. The La Nina has yet to form, but the weather

See WEATHER / A8

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Home & Garden
starts page B11



COLUMBIA GORGE NEWS

REGIONAL NEWS FOR THE GORGE Wednesday, February 28, 2024 Volume 6, Issue 9 \$2.00



Marie Skamania Press addresses the audience during a press conference at Mt. Pleasant School in Warburg on Feb. 28. Skamania Press was joined by Skamania County Sheriff's Summer Schreyer, middle right, and Skamania County Commissioner Brian Nichols, far right. Image courtesy Marie Skamania Press

Skamania Co. schools, public safety facing major cuts without federal funding

By Sarah Vreeland
Columbia Gorge News

SKAMANIA CO. — Its President Donald Trump and the White House staff reportedly began drafting an executive order that would dismantle the United States Department of Education, Washington's 11th District Rep. Marie Skamania Press joined a bipartisan effort to resist the Service Rural Schools (SRS) program. Administered by the United States Forest Service, the SRS program provides funds for infrastructure and schools in rural areas abundant with timber but lack taxable land. Last year and this year (January, the House of Representatives did not vote on the measure), thus putting pressure on lawmakers to decide quickly. According to the Forest Service delays in program are expected. Skamania Press co-sponsored the bill that would rescind the SRS funds through Fiscal Year 2026. In Skamania County, only 1.8% of land can generate revenue for public services, and SRS funding accounts for 5.1% of the county's budget, she said. On Feb. 28, Skamania Press was joined by Skamania County Sheriff Summer Schreyer, Skamania County Commissioner Brian Nichols (District 1), Skamania County Commissioner Tom Cawley, Skamania County School District Superintendent David Colwell and other officials for a press conference at Mt. Pleasant School in Warburg. Photographs: Skamania Press

Skamania Press said, "I am here in Skamania County with my husband and my young sons — he would go to one of these schools if he were old enough to be in class."

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Farmers Irrigation District explains rate increases

By Nathan Wilson
Columbia Gorge News

THE FID RIVER — Increased 2,000 customers in the northwest part of Hood River County saw a sharp increase in this year's bill from Farmers Irrigation District (FID), a change the small, non-profit water provider largely couldn't control, but one with 15 years' worth of implications. The district, established in 1974, manages two hydroelectric plants, the Kingsley Reservoir, multiple diversions and requires 6,000 acres in the valley through 10 miles of pipes, all with seven employees. FID heavily depends on revenue from the hydroelectricity produced to maintain, deliver, but including Pacific Power, offered a much lower rate when the two parties negotiated a new Purchase Power Agreement (PPA), signed in December 2021. Beginning in 2024, FID will receive 48 cents per kilowatt hour of power generated instead of the previous 22 cents, almost an \$100,000 yearly loss through 2040. In November FID indicated patterns that their annual revenue would rise from \$10M to \$15M in 2023, along with the per acre operational maintenance from \$100 to \$150. "It was a very abrupt change," said District Manager Alexis Vande, who joined FID in April 2024. "I was trying to get my hands wrapped around the current budget cycle. In hindsight, I would have begun preparing the 2025 budget much earlier to give myself more time to communicate the upcoming changes to patrons." However, the district didn't have any other viable options, nor the leverage to demand better. Under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) of 1978, and the state's parallel legislation, companies such as Pacific Power must buy electricity from qualifying facilities like FID for a "broad and avoided cost rate." If essentially the lowest price a utility would have otherwise paid to generate the power itself or buy it from another source.

The generator at Farmers Irrigation District's Plant 2, one of two hydroelectric facilities that annually produce an average of 22,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. Nathan Wilson photo

City Council: Plaza, transit, new assistant manager

By Robert Ryan
Columbia Gorge News

THE DALLES — The Dalles City Council spent much of their regular meeting Feb. 26 discussing two design proposals for the Federal Street Plaza, a downtown revitalization project aiming to transform a section of Federal Street between Second and Third into a pedestrian-focused public space. The project also works to improve local traffic, support local businesses, and provide a new venue for community events. City Manager Matthew Kibbe said, "This project is about creating a space that truly serves the community."

The city staff hopes to complete the planning phase by mid-2024, with construction beginning in early 2025. Funding for the project will come from a mix of urban renewal funds, state grants, and private donations, Kibbe said. The "Silver City" concept features a shade structure, porch seating, a splash pad, and a bike hub designed to attract cyclists, marking the historic Columbia River Highway Trail. The "Visual" design offers canopy structures for shade, movable seating, and a public gathering space. "One of the key discussion points was making sure that whatever goes into the transportation building has an active use that contributes to the plaza," Kibbe noted. An optionally requested in Columbia Gorge News, an open house took place Feb. 22 at Freebridge Brewery to gather public feedback before a final design is

See **COUNCIL**, page 18

More inside, online

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- Election in the Gorge, Feb. 22
- HINSD 21 Future Chair, Feb. 22
- GorgeCares — In Business, Lightwell, and Gorge, Feb. 22
- District and rancher's guide, Feb. 22
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East county policing district proposed



MOLLY O'BRIEN/HERALD AND NEWS

Klamath County Sheriff Shane Mitchell speaks at a town hall on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, in Bly, to discuss the potential of forming an East Klamath County Public Safety Service District for law enforcement.

17-year-old Lakeview boy found dead; mother, boyfriend jailed

MOLLY O'BRIEN
Herald and News

A Lakeview mother and her boyfriend are in custody following law enforcement's discovery of a deceased 17-year-old boy.

Oregon State Police are investigating the teen's death as a suspected negligent homicide.

Amanda Edwards, 38, and her boyfriend Nathaniel Cullins, 31, were arrested by Oregon State Police on Tuesday.

OSP and Lake County Sheriff's Office deputies reported arriving at Edwards' residence on the 300 block of South G Street in Lakeview around 3:44 p.m. to serve a court-ordered protection order for the 17-year-old boy living at the residence.

Law enforcement searched the home and found the juvenile dead. He is suspected to have died on Feb. 1, according to court records.

Both Edwards and Cullins are being held on charges of criminally negligent homicide, first-degree criminal mistreatment, second degree abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence.

More TEEN | A5

Could add sergeant, four deputies to work in area

MOLLY O'BRIEN
Herald and News

In the midst of countywide financial crisis, law enforcement is offering a possible solution to policing the rural communities in east county.

Klamath County's proposal: a ballot measure that asks residents whether they want to establish a special law enforcement service district, referred to as the East Klamath County Public Safety Service District.

Leaders from Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) held a third town hall meeting in Bly Wednesday night to discuss the idea.

The service district would allow for the hiring four deputies and a sergeant who would likely reside in and patrol the eastern portion of Klamath County from Sprague River to Bly.

"When those deputies are hired, they can only patrol in your area," Sheriff Shane Mitchell explained. "They stay here."

The service district, if implemented, would also come with a substation in the region. Mitchell said Bonanza has offered to donate a building from their town.

FUNDING

If the ballot measure passes, the cost would be apportioned by tax lot rather than assessed property value, increasing the district residents' taxes by \$92 per tax lot per year.

Creating a service district would require a markedly lower cost when compared to the dollar amount necessary to increase law enforcement across the entire county.

More DISTRICT | A5

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Some clouds

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BLIND WRESTLER INSPIRES HORNETS

Teammates call Dame "backbone" of the squad

PAGE A20

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Eugene-area swimmers to watch at OSAA state meet

SPORTS, 1B

The Register-Guard

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 | REGISTERGUARD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

US has checkered immigration history



Carlos Garcia leads a rally in 2019 in front of a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Phoenix over Senate Bill 1070, the toughest immigration enforcement measure in the country at the time. ANGELA PLAZA/ARIZONA REPUBLIC FILE

Issue contentious long before Trump
David M. Zimmer
NORTHJEWEL.COM | USA TODAY NETWORK

In his first week in office, President Donald Trump signed 30 executive orders and issued several directives aimed at fulfilling his promises of mass deportations and stricter border security. Officials with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have reported a sharp rise in arrests as daily detentions outpace the highest figures seen during the Obama administration.

It's not the first time the U.S. has seen raids on immigrant communities to counter unrest and to appease calls to protect national security. Here are a few notable ones from the past 106 years:

The Palmer Raids

After World War I, America experienced its first Red Scare — a period of intense anti-immigrant sentiment driven by fears of anarchism and Bolshevism after World War I.

A nationwide crackdown followed a series of anarchist bombings, including one targeting U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer's Washington home. Ancestors of suspected radicals — many of whom were immigrants — began under new laws such as the Sedition Act. Near the end of 1919, the government deported a group of suspected radicals to Russia aboard a ship dubbed the "Soviet Ark," according to newspaper reports.

See IMMIGRATION, Page 4A



Delayed protection of salmon at center of lawsuit

ISABEL PUNK
SALMONJOURNAL.COM | USA TODAY NETWORK

Four national and local wildlife conservation nonprofits sued the National Marine Fisheries Service Tuesday for allegedly failing to make Endangered Species Act protection decisions when they were due for spring-run Chinook salmon.

In a federal lawsuit filed in the District of Oregon, the Center for Biological Diversity, Native Fish Society, Umpqua Watersheds and Pacific Rivers said the National Marine Fisheries Service failed to meet deadlines laid out by the Endangered Species Act, resulting in the delay of protections for the fish.

"These iconic fish are at risk of disappearing from our coastal rivers forever if the Service doesn't act quickly," Jeremiah Scanlon, a legal fellow at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a news release.

"Spring-run Chinook salmon badly need protections, but instead the agency has taken the lazy river approach and drifted past its own deadlines."

Chinook salmon are the largest of the Pacific salmon, according to NOAA. They are also the primary food for the Southern Resident orcas, which are also endangered.

Two species of Chinook salmon, the Sacramento River winter-run and the Upper Columbia River spring-run, are currently listed as endangered. An additional seven species are considered threatened.

See SALMON, Page 2A

Restaurant inspections find old egg rolls, unwashed hands

Samantha Pierotti
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

About restaurant inspections

This is a snapshot of the inspections conducted by the Lane County Health Department. Twice annually, licensed restaurants receive unannounced inspections that focus on food temperatures, food preparation practices, worker hygiene, dishwashing and sanitizing, and equipment and facility cleanliness.

Violations: Restaurant scores are based on a 100-point scale. Priority violations deduct 5 points, and priority foundation violations deduct 3 points. Violations recorded on consecutive inspections result in point deductions being doubled.

Scoring: Scores of 70 or higher are considered compliant with health department standards. Restaurants scoring below 70 must be re-inspected within 90 days or face closure or other administrative action. Restaurants display a placard by the entrance to indicate whether they have passed their last inspection.

The latest inspections are now available to view here.

Duc's Pond

Location: 285 E Oregon Avenue
Date: Jan. 28
Score: 97

Priority Violations: A test kit is not used to accurately determine the concentration of chemical sanitizer, specifically staff did not have the proper test

See INSPECTIONS, Page 7A

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Grants Pass Daily Courier

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ELECTION RESULTS

Updated through 7 a.m. today; results are incomplete and unofficial until all ballots have been counted.
ONLY CONTESTED RACES SHOWN

Grants Pass School Board

Position 3		
Gary Richardson	51.55%	2,429
Judy Christensen	47.96%	2,280
Position 4		
Quin Collins Peterson	65.53%	2,854
Marje Wilkie	34.13%	1,445
Position 5		
Cassie Wilkie	65.04%	3,057
Toni Sheedale	34.22%	1,582

Three Rivers School Board

Zone 1		
Carson Camp	61.98%	4,226
Nigel Von Huska	37.31%	2,544
Zone 2		
Marsh Power	54.58%	3,724
Bill Ebel	44.55%	3,048
Zone 5		
Rick Nelson	49.63%	3,421
Cathy Godfrey	49.46%	3,425

Josephine County Rural Fire District Board

Position 4		
Pty Nasser	72.17%	3,542
Cathy Rosenberg	27.38%	1,344
Position 5		
Paula Welling	58.85%	2,835
Michael Grant	40.59%	1,894

Williams Rural Fire District Board

Position 3		
Jim Kelsie	58.75%	171
Claudia H. Pratt	38.16%	112

Medford School Board

Position 1		
Angela Zikowski	64.61%	7,606
Curt Arnsberg	19.01%	2,332
Cheryl Reedman	16.20%	1,947
Position 2		
Sandra L. Miller McKinley	65.97%	8,049
Connie Connolly	17.58%	2,185
Logan Leventis Vaughan	15.81%	1,938

Position 3		
Ed Johnson	48.85%	5,735
Cynthia Wright	36.52%	3,736
Taryn Saunders	22.43%	2,746

Ashland School Board

Position 1		
Jordan Puckley	64.71%	4,150
Ani M. Galloway	35.07%	2,249
Position 2		
Debra Ferguson	56.68%	3,551
Nicole Christensen	24.07%	1,558
Suzanne McGee	19.14%	1,199
Position 4		
Rebecca Dwyer	58.88%	3,723
Grant J. Miller	31.20%	1,873
Ellen Hensley	7.29%	461
Alex Sol	2.48%	157

Central Point School Board

Position 2, Zone 1		
April D. Daigle	36.53%	1,594
Kellie Heston	29.10%	1,272
Jenny Foster	25.09%	732
Mich Hills	9.88%	290

Southern Oregon Education Service District Board

Zone 7		
Richard Owens	61.20%	2,685
Nail Porter	37.63%	1,723

Jackson County Library Board

Position 1		
Patty Jensen	58.75%	18,546
Karen Sparks	40.88%	13,525

Rogue Valley Transportation District Board

Position 5		
Kathleen Newman	61.38%	13,036
Sam Block	38.32%	8,119

Jackson County Rural Fire District 5 Board

Position 3		
Alfredo Estrada	68.44%	1,521
Chris Luz	31.40%	884

Rogue River Rural Fire District Board

Position 4		
John Foster	51.54%	488
Chuck Nagel	48.13%	437

Prospect Rural Fire District Board

Position 5		
Nicole Williams	62.50%	157
Clay Thomas	36.51%	92

Measure 15-206

Jackson County Fire District 4 levy		
Yes	65.05%	587
No	46.05%	578

Measure 15-207

Prospect Rural Fire District levy		
Yes	57.45%	158
No	42.55%	117

Source: Oregon secretary of state's office

Few voters make their picks for school, library, fire boards

By Chris Bristol

of the Daily Courier

Amid low turnout, there were clear winners and a couple of losses in school board races in Josephine and Jackson counties on Tuesday.

Josephine County and just over 19% in Jackson County. Besides school boards, there were a number of other races on the ballot, primarily for fire district boards and even a tax levy or two, depending on where you live.

In Grants Pass, school board chair Cassie Wilkie easily fended off a

challenge from newcomer Tom Sheedale, 63%, to 34%.

The other incumbent, Gary Richardson, was in a tight race with Judy Christensen, leading 53% to 48%.

Late-arriving votes in Josephine County tend to favor conservatives like Richardson, but it was too close

to definitively call the contest Tuesday night.

In the race to replace Debbie Brownell, who was the longest-tenured member of the board, Quin Collins Peterson was leading comfortably

Turn to VOTERS, Page 7A

Grants Pass and Keisei bands bridge borders through music and friendship



Grants Pass High School color guard students and Keisei High School marching band and color guard students bow as they greet each other for the first time before rehearsing together in preparation for upcoming performances with the Grants Pass High School band, including during the Boatnik Parade on Saturday.



Keisei High School student Meisa Sakurai rehearses with her band at Grants Pass High School's Mel Ingram Field on Tuesday. The Keisei band and Grants Pass High bands will perform in a Joint International Exchange Concert on Thursday.

Japanese band will march in Boatnik Parade

By Kathleen Alaska

of the Daily Courier

More than 5,000 miles separate the two high schools — one in the United States and one in Japan — yet they are also connected by something just as vast: the universal language of music.

Fostering that connection is the aim of a cultural exchange program that is bringing together young musicians from the two countries to explore their shared love of music.

On Monday, 40 students and four faculty members from Japan's Keisei High School were welcomed to Grants Pass High School in a rotating, raucous, music-filled pop rally, kicking off a two-week visit that will include a live performance Thursday night and an appearance in the Boatnik Parade on Saturday.

"This collaboration is a rare and exciting opportunity for our students

to connect across cultures, share their passion for music and create memories that will last a lifetime," said Lewis Norfield, the Grants Pass High School band director.

The public will have three opportunities to experience the Keisei High School Band.

"You're going to be blown away to hear this wonderful band," Norfield said at Monday morning's assembly at Heister-Neuman Memorial Gymnasium. "They are very good."

Tonight, in a Boatnik Parade preview concert, the band from Japan, along with bands from GHS and North and South middle schools, will give a standstill performance of their parade music at the high school's Mel Ingram Field. It starts at 7 p.m. and it's free.

On Thursday, the Japanese students will be joining the Grants Pass

Turn to BANDS, Page 8A

City of GP Budget Committee approves \$240 million budget

Fiscal plan headed to City Council for final approval

By Vickie Aldous

of the Daily Courier

A Grants Pass Budget Committee majority approved a \$240 million budget for the city government at its last scheduled meeting Tuesday night.

While also voicing frustration that the City Council will most likely to vote on mayor staff pay raises in June 26 to start considering higher fees and taxes for public safety without budget committee oversight.

The budget still needs final approval from the City Council before going into effect July 1, the start of the fiscal year.

The budget includes money for raises the council could approve for sanitation workers tonight, plus raises workers who will negotiate for raises in the coming fiscal year.

The city projects spending about \$2.4 million more for personnel in the coming fiscal year, according to budget documents.

Meanwhile, local signs of an economic recession and residents backing under financial strain are already emerging, according to data from the city finance department presented at the Tuesday night budget committee meeting.

The delinquency rate is rising on city utility bills, which include water

Ashland City Council OKs \$5 utility fee to help pay for parks

By Steven Mitchell

of the Daily Courier

ASHLAND — The Ashland City Council approved a \$5 monthly utility fee to help pay for parks and recreation services and avoid staffing cuts within the department.

Councilors voted 5-1 in favor of the fee at their Tuesday meeting. Ashland residents will begin seeing the fee on their July 1 utility bill.

"The fee will generate \$1.1 million in revenue within 18 months, according to Rocky Heston, the city's parks and recreation director.

While the fee comes with a two-year sunset provision, officials said that without a long-term dedicated funding source, the monthly bill will

likely be permanent due to escalating costs.

Meanwhile, the city faces a \$9 million revenue gap partly due to decades-old property tax measures constraining municipal funding. The shortfall, officials said, has led to cuts in the department.

Councilor Erik Hansen suggested the city needs to continue "redeveloping" ways to find an alternative funding source. Still, he said the parks require a reliable funding stream, and the utility fee is what is in front of them.

Turn to FEE, Page 7A



2 Sections, 16 Pages
Volume CXV
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Chance of showers early
OVERCAST
LOW
47°
72°
5-day forecast on Page 2A

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53 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025 ALWAYS ON OREGONLIVE.COM



INSTANT IMPACT

OREGON LINEBACKER JERRY MEKON JR.'S REPUTATION FOR MAKING BIG PLAYS STEMS FROM HIS COMMITMENT TO STUDYING THE GAME AT A HIGH LEVEL. **B1**

2 YEARS OF WAR

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CONVERGED ON SOUTHERN ISRAEL ON TUESDAY AS THE NATION MARKED TWO YEARS SINCE HAMAS' OCT. 7 ATTACK PLUNGED THE REGION INTO A DEVASTATING WAR. **A11-12**

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

DHS secretary visits calm ICE facility, spars with local officials



U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem surveys South Portland from the roof of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility on Tuesday. Photo by Sean Alexander, staff

Kotek said she asked Kristi Noem to instruct Homeland Security and ICE agents to obey Oregon laws while conducting federal operations.

Zane Sparling, Zaeem Shaikh, Yosefin Amaro and Kristine de Leon The Oregonian/OregonLive

State and local leaders — but only a few protesters — greeted U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Tuesday as she visited Portland and the ICE office that has been the site of recurring protests since June.

As Noem probed for increased security near the facility, where the Trump administration has sought to deploy National Guard troops to keep the peace, local officials repeated their arguments that the situation is well in hand and that federal intervention has only inflamed tensions.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek met with Noem at a private jet hangar for about 20 minutes shortly after the Trump Cabinet member departed around noon at Portland International Airport. In a statement, Kotek said she asked Noem to instruct Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to obey Oregon laws while conducting federal operations.

"I reiterated again that there is no military action in Oregon," Kotek said. "It was clear that I have confidence in local law enforcement to meet the moment."

On Tuesday, Kotek also told the U.S. Northern Command to send Oregon's National Guard members home after a federal judge ruled that President Donald Trump had no authority to call them up.

About 200 Oregon National Guard members have been stationed at Camp Rilea on the coast and another 200 California National Guard members have been at Camp Wilbycombe near Clackamas, according to the governor's office.

Kotek said both groups should be

SEE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, A6

Trail Blazers

Dundon says he has the money to buy Blazers

Legal filings suggest investment from deep-pocketed Panda Express founders isn't critical.

Matthew Kliah and Bill Oram The Oregonian/OregonLive

"Tim Dundon, who is leading a group that wants to purchase the Portland Trail Blazers, on Tuesday said in a court filing he expects to be able to purchase the NBA franchise without money from the deep-pocketed founders of Panda Express, though he didn't rule out the investment.

In mid-September, Paul Allen's estate said it had reached a deal to sell the Trail Blazers to a group led by Dundon that included investment from Andrew Chong and Peggy Yuang Chong, who founded Panda Express and have a net worth of \$7.5 billion, according to Forbes.

A lawsuit filed two weeks later challenged whether the Chongs could invest in Dundon's ownership group, alleging

SEE TRAIL BLAZERS, A2

Education

PPS celebrates test score gains, but who's left behind?

Recovery almost entirely owed to high achievement among the district's white students.

Julia Silverman The Oregonian/OregonLive

On the surface, Portland Public Schools earned the victory lap it took last week after the release of a new round of state test scores.

The data shows that the often-criticized district and its educators are virtually alone among metro-area school districts in getting their students largely back to pre-pandemic levels in reading and math. It's a noteworthy milestone after a chaotic half-decade of academic sluggishness in Oregon, though still far from the ultimate goal of having every student on track to graduate from high school fully prepared for college or a career.

But those gains are almost entirely owed to high achievement among the district's white students, data released last week by the Oregon Department of Education shows. Their cut-above-the-rest

SEE EDUCATION, A2

More Inside

The fight over National Guard could go before appeals court Thursday. **A8**

President Trump shares misleading tweet of Portland cop calming protesters. **A6**

Feds grant ICE building access to conservative media, influencers. **A6**

Online Newspaper

National Guard members from Texas were getting settled at an Army Reserve center in Illinois on Tuesday. Find subscriber-exclusive coverage of this story and more when you click through to the Extra section of your online newspaper.

Advice, C10 Classifieds, A4 Comics, C7 Life, C3 Obituaries, A9 Opinions, A12 Puzzles, C9 Sports, B2 Weather, A16 Copyright © 2025 The Oregonian Publishing Co., Vol. 175, No. 18,458, 31 oct 2025

A few showers: 62/50



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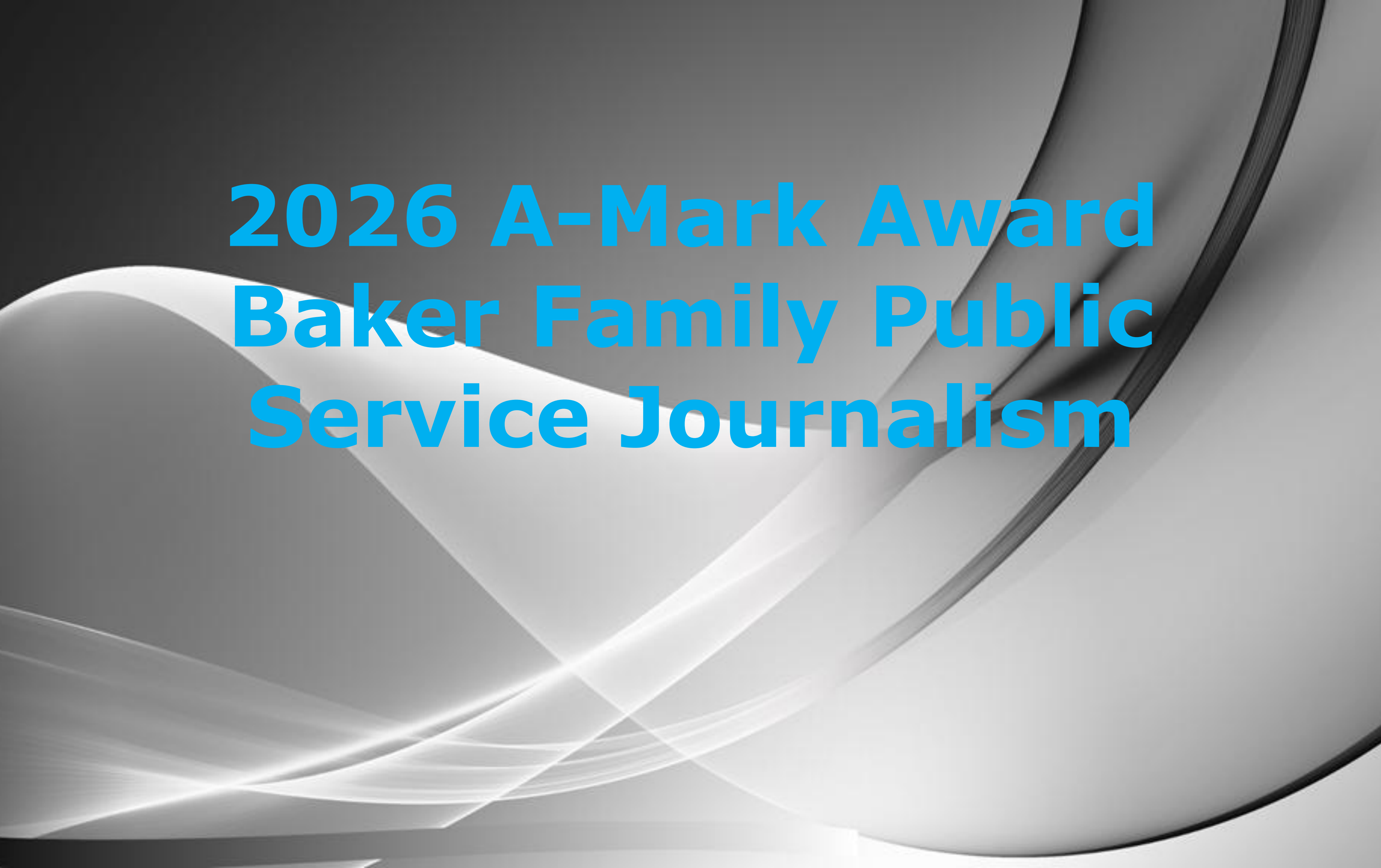
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3rd Place

Coeur d'Alene Press

UPDATE on town hall chaos

Kaye Thornbrugh

UPDATE on town hall chaos: Woman who was dragged out speaks, police chief condemns security, name of security firm confirmed

CD cdapress.com/news/2025/feb/24/update-on-town-hall-chaos-woman-who-was-dragged-out-speaks-police-chief-condemns-security-name-of-security-firm-confirmed

KAYE THORNBURGH

February 24, 2025



By
Staff Writer | February 24, 2025 12:08 PM

COEUR d'ALENE — A legislative town hall organized by the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee devolved into chaos Saturday when unidentified, plainclothes security personnel dragged a Post Falls woman from the Coeur d'Alene High School auditorium for heckling legislators.

Though the company that provided security for the event has been identified, town hall organizers and Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris have claimed no knowledge of the security personnel or who hired them.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White confirmed Sunday that the men who dragged Teresa Borrenpohl from the meeting worked for the private security firm LEAR Asset Management.

Reached by phone on Saturday and Sunday, the firm's owner, Hayden resident Paul Trouette, declined to comment.

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1st Place

Idaho Statesman

Idaho gold mine

Kevin Fixler, Ian Max
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ENVIRONMENT

\$13 billion in Idaho gold. A mineral critical to U.S. defense. And fresh fears for salmon

By Kevin Fixler and Ian Max Stevenson
Updated December 16, 2025 9:41 AM

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Jonathan Grall's many contacts with hospitals and police

Updated: Jan. 31, 2026, 9:52 a.m. | Published: Dec. 29, 2025, 6:00 a.m.



A Portland man killed a stranger. Only then did he get long-term help

A-Mark Award Baker Family Public Service Journalism

2nd Place

Grants Pass Daily Courier

Grants Pass pay raise proposal coverage

Vikie Aldous

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FRIDAY
APRIL 25, 2025



William Jackson (right), 6, and his father Joe Jackson are river enthusiasts. A unique rafting fundraiser for William, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, starts today on the Rogue River.

By Vickie Aldous
of the Daily Courier

The city of Grants Pass admitted this week it violated state law by holding a meeting about nonunion worker pay and excluding a Daily Courier reporter from attending — an admission that came after the newspaper did outside research, exposed a proposal for massive pay raises that caught the City Council by surprise, and filed a written grievance about closed-door meetings.

In response to a separate public records request, the city human resources department released a study about 53 nonunion workers, including managers.

The consultant did not recommend large raises, saying that can "be very costly — something most municipalities cannot afford," according to a compensation study executive report obtained by the Courier.

According to new data the

study about 53 nonunion workers, including managers.

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According to new data the

Turn to RAISES, Page 6A

City of Grants Pass admits to meeting illegally on raises

Study shows many city workers already earn average pay

Wolf Creek Fire celebrates rebuilt station

Rafters plying 157 miles of Rogue to raise money for Medford boy

By Chrissy Ewald
of the Daily Courier

A group from Medford is set to embark on a challenging rapatrio rafting expedition down the Rogue River today to raise money for a young boy with a rare genetic condition.

William Jackson is 6 years old and lives in Medford with father Joe Jackson, mother Kate Falger and younger brother Benji Jackson, 3.

At 19 months old, William was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a hereditary fatal neuromuscular disease that predominantly affects boys.

Caused by an absence of the functioning dystrophin gene, which is on the X chromosome transmitted to boys by their mothers, Duchenne usually becomes apparent during toddler years. Patients usually lose the ability to walk by age 12, and succumb in their 20s.

There is no cure.

Determined to help find a treatment, Joe and a group of friends from Medford are set to embark on the trip upstream from Shady Cove this morning.

Turn to RAFTERS, Page 5A

Oregon wildfire outlook is looking 'eerily similar' to 2024's record-breaking year, forecasters say

By Sami Edge
The Oregonian

By July, Eastern Oregon and almost all of Washington will likely be at "above average risk for large, costly fires," one of the Northwest's leading fire forecasters said Wednesday.

The summer is shaping up to be hot, said John Salzerberger, lead meteorologist at the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, which streamlines wildfire response in the region. The temperature and precipitation outlook for fire season is "eerily similar" to 2024, a year when a record 1.8 million acres across Oregon burned, racking up more than \$26 million in firefighting bills and damaged nearly 200 homes.

State and federal fire officials briefed Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and journalists about the wildfire outlook and their preparation for the coming season. They generally presented a pessimistic view, emphasizing their collaborative relationships.

Turn to OUTLOOK, Page 5A

Oregon's Republican lawmakers tread carefully when talking tariffs

By Carlos Fuentes
The Oregonian

SALEM — In the three weeks since President Donald Trump first announced retaliatory tariffs on American's trading partners, Republican lawmakers in Oregon have remained mostly silent on the trade regulations that experts say are likely to hurt consumers and businesses.

While Democrats in the Legislature have loudly condemned Trump's efforts to slash federal programs, fire federal workers and place still tariffs on other countries, their Republican counterparts have avoided taking a strong public stance on many of these actions.

Out of 33 Republican lawmakers interviewed by The Oregonian for this article, nearly all said they support various aspects or potential effects of Trump's trade policies. But almost none outright said whether they support the tariffs.

Turn to TARIFFS, Page 5A

Sen. Noah Robinson, R-Cave Junction, said, "I do generally support tariffs — [but] I don't know enough about it to say for sure that I know what all the effects will be."

LAURA TIGER
Oregon Capital
Coverage



Brian Carlton (left), a volunteer firefighter for Wolf Creek Rural Fire Protection District, and Fire Chief Bill Atchley stand inside the Wolf Creek fire station's newly reconfigured apparatus bay. The fire station underwent major reconstruction after a slew of structural problems were discovered. The station celebrated a reopening last weekend.

By Chrissy Ewald
of the Daily Courier

WOLF CREEK — Fire Chief Bill Atchley couldn't remember how long the crack in the floor of the Wolf Creek fire station had been there.

The red wooden building was constructed in the early 1950s, and its age was showing. The floor slanted, and the ceiling made the engine bay now slanted by decades of diesel fumes.

Last weekend, residents of Wolf Creek and staff from fire districts around the region came to celebrate the newly rebuilt station.

There were hot dogs on the grill, snacks and drinks, admiration of the new, modern facility and lots of memories of how the small, rural fire district got to where it is today.

The station was built on a former lumber mill site, and there were logs left in the soil over which the foundation for the station was poured. As the logs decomposed, the ground settled and sank under the station. Atchley and contractors removed tons of organic material from the soil under the station, and in the back of the station had in day 7 first deep to hit soil firm enough to start pouring a gravel base.

In December 2021, snow and old the roof of the station and severed the return line of an outdoor fuel tank, causing a 200-gallon fuel spill.

Turn to STATION, Page 6A

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OVERSIGHT SATURDAY
Volume CXV 120th
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Chance of Saturday showers
OVERSIGHT SATURDAY
LOW 46° 60°
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Flushing money: Hawaiian perks and dining out

Jamie Goldberg

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OREGONIAN WATCHDOG

Audit confirms pricey meals, lax record-keeping at sewer agency

Updated: Jan. 13, 2026, 4:19 p.m. | Published: Jan. 13, 2026, 6:00 a.m.



The Clean Water Services board directed the agency to commission an independent audit of travel and food spending last April after an Oregonian/OregonLive investigation uncovered unusually high meal costs at the agency. Mark Graves/The Oregonian



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