

The following symptoms may start gradually and worsen over time:

- Numbness
- Pain when you walk
- Sharp electrical-like pain
- Burning or tingling
- Difficulty sleeping from leg or foot discomfort
- Muscle weakness
- Sensitivity to touch
- Diabetic nerve pain

If you suffer from any of these symptoms, call us today!

NEUROPATHY

Millions of People Suffer from this Nerve Disorder

Free consultation for first 5 callers this month

OREGON MEDICAL CENTERS, LLC

503-751-3478 | OregonMedicalCenters.com | 2515 Liberty St. NE, Salem

Sunday

Statesman Journal

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | STATESMANJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

‘Surfing just switches something in the brain’



Elijah Reid, 27, lost his leg in a motorcycle accident in 2019. Now, he chases waves on the Oregon Coast.
RILEY ELLIS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Newport man finds joy in bodyboarding after amputation

Riley Ellis
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The hardest part for Elijah Reid is getting from his car to the ocean on one leg.

The 27-year-old amputee from Newport has to hobble down steep, muddy trails, deliberately placing his foot to avoid face-planting.

On the beach, he must find a good spot to stash his crutches – in a grove of shore pines or patch of beachgrass. Then, he hops toward the water, sometimes scooting across beds of razor-sharp marine mussels before slipping into the surf.

Once in the ocean, Reid kicks hard with his one flipper, diving under waves, dodging rocks, and fighting currents that can take him hundreds of yards down the beach.

Why go through the exhausting, bitter-cold trouble?

See REID, Page 2A



Reid bodyboards a wave near Lincoln City.
PROVIDED BY TOMMY ROCHE

“Bodyboarding is just the thing I can do that doesn’t hold me back. Even sometimes when it causes a little pain, but I still have fun, it still makes me happy, and it’s something I can do.”

Elijah Reid, 27-year-old surfer from Newport



Marion County and the union representing classified employees are about \$400,000 apart in negotiations to avert a Sept. 22 strike.
KEVIN NERI/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Marion County workers to strike Sept. 22 if final negotiations fail

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Marion County leadership and the union that represents about 1,000 employees were an estimated \$400,000 apart in contract negotiations and the sides have one last chance to avert a looming Sept. 22 strike.

After nine months of bargaining, Marion County announced on Sept. 1 it would implement its final offer, which included cost-of-living adjustments and increases in contributions for health care. The union announced on Sept. 8 that its members authorized a strike.

Union officials criticized the county for unilaterally implementing raises before a contract agreement had been reached as negotiations drag on.

“It’s very unusual,” SEIU 503 Executive Director Melissa Unger said. “It really means we’re done bargaining, we want to give you what we want to give you and there’s no other conversation to be had. And it’s not a signed contract, so we haven’t agreed to it.”

The Marion County Employees Association and the county failed to come to an agreement at their Sept. 15 bargaining session. The two sides have one more bargaining session scheduled, on Sept. 21. Union officials say they’re ready to strike if an agreement is not reached.

MCEA officials say they asked for a 2% cost of living increase to be retroactive to July 1, which is when managers were given that increase. They are also asking for Marion County to increase contributions to employees’ healthcare costs starting in 2028.

Marion County spokesperson Jon Heynen said the county proposed to backdate the 2% COLA to Aug. 30 and give each employee a \$150 payment instead of the cap increase on health insurance this year.

Marion County Commissioner Danielle Bethell said she doesn’t support the retroactive 2% increase during the Sept. 16 board session.

“I do not feel it’s fair to county employees as a whole for units to go outside their contract and force something they could have had on July 1, 2026,” Bethell said.

Union unhappy Marion County unilaterally implemented offer

Marion County currently pays \$1,846 per month for healthcare costs for each employee.

See STRIKE, Page 3A

Donofrio's Skyline

Ford

SKYLINE

2026 DEALER OF THE YEAR

★★★★★

Ford Oregon

SKYLINEFORD.COM

Salem 503.581.2411
Keizer 503.463.4853

YOUR #1 FORD DEALER 11 YEARS IN A ROW!

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to statesmanjournal.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 175 | No. 135
Subscribe 800-452-2511
©2026 \$4.00

