

Dallas

Singing
To The
Season
A8



Sports

Area
Hoops
Action
See B1



Outdoor food truck court introduces indoor dining

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

Chris and Jaiden Walls have introduced the next evolution to their outdoor food truck lot Gather Food Park – indoor dining.

The timing for a ribbon cutting and grand opening for the indoor facility couldn't have been better timed. Outdoor dining options were reduced by one last week when an awning in front one of the food trucks buckled under high winds and heavy rains.

Chris said creating an indoor space, three years in the works now, wasn't even a part of the original plans for the food park.

"We bought the lot next door to be home for food trucks. Then we realized we needed power to a building, to get the food trucks up and going, and we needed a bathroom," Chris explained.

So they asked their friends from Falls City who owned Dallas City Cleaners next door to the lot.

"Hey, can we tap into your building power? I'll install all the electrical and everything we need," Chris said.

She countered, "Why don't you just buy the building off of us?"

Chris and Jaiden were game for an opportunity to build upon.

"It created a more artistic aspect to it. We really want the inside to be a mecca of creativity," Chris said. "The main thing is get your food from a food truck and come inside and eat."

However, once he started developing the inside, they decided to do more.

"Why don't we actually put a stage in, audio and lights in here



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Chris Walls gets ready to cut the ribbon, held by his wife Jaiden and daughter Aliyah, 7 months, and friends at the grand opening of the Gather Food Park indoor dining facility.

for events. We want to do a lot of charity stuff. A lot of fund raisers. A lot of music," Chris explained. "We just want it to be a really big park mecca for the area. So people can express, have fun and enjoy outside the regular sports bar."

Their first big "get" for entertainment was their comedian friend Rodney Norman, who Chris says has a million followers on TikTok. Gather gets four days of Norman, from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 31 and 7-9 p.m. Jan. 1-3. Norman has also performed a couple times for his friends the Walls at their Synergize Auto Dealership.

"Luckily he's a friend of ours, because we couldn't afford him otherwise," Chris said.

Located at 144 SW Washington St., the building is about 2,000 square feet, with 1,200 in the main room that has an occupancy of 49. In addition to music and comedy, Chris plans to install a movie screen.

"I'm a nerd, I like to play video games, so maybe we'll do some video game stuff in here. Do movies on cold, rainy nights. Come get a movie and a hot chocolate," he said.

The Gather Food Park has had as many as four trucks and currently sits at three. Chris still has bigger plans for the lot.

"The food park has been good. That was the other thing, too, with having this building. They can't survive super well when people

don't have anywhere to sit and eat," he said.

"So, now that we have this open, I'm gearing to get two more trucks. I would love to get barbecue, Middle Eastern or fish, like fish and chips," he added.

Gather indoors will offer drinks to purchase, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Patrons can bring their own bottle of wine to drink inside, with a \$40 cork fee, Chris said. But no outside food other than what is purchased from the food trucks.

"Come see us. Come experience it," Chris said. "If you know anyone artistic that wants to come and play music, or comedy, just let us know."

For more information go to their Facebook page Gather Food Park.

Westlake Ace Hardware to take vacant Rite-Aid building

By WESTLAKE ACE HARDWARE

Westlake Ace Hardware announced Dec. 19 plans to open its first location in Oregon. The new store will be at 178 West Ellendale Ave. in Dallas, the former Rite Aid Pharmacy.

Westlake Ace recently purchased the 22,000 square-foot store and will remodel it to feature more than 18,000 square feet of retail space. Renovations are scheduled to begin in late 2025, with a soft opening anticipated for spring 2026.

"We are excited to introduce the Westlake Ace Hardware experience to our new customers in Oregon and look forward to becoming an active member of the Dallas community," said Joe Jeffries, president and CEO of Ace Retail Holdings, parent company of Westlake Ace Hardware. "Our team is committed to living out the Ace Helpful Promise every day by offering trusted advice, dependable service, and the top-quality products our customers need to complete their projects with confidence."

The Dallas store will feature a full range of lawn and garden supplies, tools, fasteners, plumbing, and electrical products to help customers with home improvement, repair, and maintenance projects. Services will include key fob replacement, propane tank exchange, and home delivery.

The Kitchen Connection at Westlake Ace Hardware — a popular store-within-a-store concept from Westlake Ace — will offer gourmet foods, cookware, kitchen tools and linens.

Customers can also expect to find trusted and popular brands, including:

- Weber, Big Green Egg, Blackstone, and Traeger grills and accessories
- Milwaukee, Craftsman, and Dewalt power tools
- Diablo saw blades and accessories
- Benjamin Moore and Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines paints
- EGO, Milwaukee, and Stihl outdoor power equipment
- Scotts and Miracle-Gro lawn and garden care products
- YETI coolers and accessories
- A Garden Center and outdoor living department

Dallas-area multi-family properties, businesses, schools and municipalities will have access to more than 800,000 products, including commercial lighting, appliances, and safety and cleaning supplies, through the new store's Westlake Commercial representatives.

The new store will begin accepting applications for employment in early 2026. Interested applicants are encouraged to email jobs@westlakehardware.com with "Westlake Ace – Dallas, OR" in the subject line.

Soul Remembered offers a respite from life's turmoils

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

While the grand opening was in November, the proprietors of Soul Remembered chose Dec. 18 to host an open house to further let the community know about their services. Mother Nature chose that night to let the community know she's still around this humid winter with blustery winds and heavy rain. But inside Soul Remembered was a welcoming calm that attracted hardy and intrigued visitors.

Ayden Callender and Kirsten Ardrey were looking to create a community for people who are going through anything that they don't have a safe space or someplace they could come to, to be heard, Callender said.

Ardrey, who was working as a fiber splicer, said she had a spiritual awakening about a year ago that led her on a path of healing first herself then knowing she could heal others. That's when she crossed paths with Callender, an accountant his entire life, who had also undergone his



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Ayden Callender and Kirsten Ardrey hosted an open house to their new Dallas business Soul Remembered Dec. 18, offering a calm respite to the evening's blustery weather.

own spiritual awakening, coming "into his gifts."

"I knew she was coming. I was 'alerted' I would have somebody come into my future. She came in, and we knew we were meant to open a business together," he said.

So, she quit her job, sold her car and opened their studio, Soul Remembered at 119 SW Court St., in Dallas.

Ardrey explained she doesn't correlate her "spiritual awakening" with anything religious; rather it's

a connection of "remembering of where we come from and who we are."

"We are all part of a vast universe of love. We all came from love," she said.

"Exactly," Callender added. "We're all trying to learn the lessons we never learned in life prior, and to remember who we are at the core, at the base. That is what we've done. We're remembering who we are and what we're here to do."

The two hope to guide new members to their own discoveries with guided meditations through reiki, with Ardrey, and quantum healing hypnotherapy with Callender.

"What we do might sound 'woo, woo,' but for the type of client I specifically call in is for everyday people because I come from a background of hardship," Ardrey said.

The everyday she's helped are people who have experienced hardships, living with stress and anxiety,

See SOUL PAGE 2

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Give blood or platelets now with Red Cross this holiday season

The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply as strong as possible in the final days of the year and into 2026. Types O, A negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now.

Record-setting travel is happening across the country. With more people headed away from home, blood and platelet donations can dip at a crucial time when patients count on care. Bad weather or shifting travel schedules could force donors to cancel or reschedule donation appointments and tighten the blood

supply. Make time to give before you go — it's a simple way to make a lifesaving impact.

Give hope during the holidays and schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767). Those who give through Jan. 4 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts for details.

As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time,

those who come to give Jan. 1-25 will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in the San Francisco Bay Area. See RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for details.

If you're unable to give blood or platelets, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at redcross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Polk County:

Independence - Dec. 31, 12-5 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.

Monmouth - Dec. 24, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Partnerships in Community Living, 480 E. Main St.

Independence Police conducting DUII traffic patrol

Through Jan. 1, 2026, the Independence Police Department is dedicating traffic patrol time to identify drivers who are speeding, using cell phones, not wearing safety belts, or driving under the influence.

These enforcement hours are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in partnership with Oregon Impact and coincide with a time of year when holiday travel and celebrations can increase risky driving behaviors.

This effort reflects ongoing national concerns

about traffic safety. Recent NHTSA estimates show 39,345 traffic fatalities nationwide, with speeding contributing to about 28% of those deaths and distracted driving causing more than 3,200 fatalities annually. Seat belt use remains high at around

91%, yet nearly half of all people killed in crashes are unrestrained, highlighting the continued need for enforcement and education.

During this enforcement period, Independence Police will maintain a focus on hands free violations, seat belt and

child restraint compliance, speeding and DUII enforcement. The department encourages families needing assistance with car seat fitting to reach out for connections to certified installers in the Polk County area.

Officers also urge the community to continue reporting erratic driving to 911, especially during the busy holiday season, as these calls frequently lead to impaired-driving arrests and help keep roads safer for everyone.

Soul

From Page A1

depression, sleeplessness and exhaustion, Ardrey said.

“This session with reiki, they’re hour-long sessions, can make them feel like a whole new person when they’re done,” she assured. “They will feel lighter and clearer.”

Callender also offers “dragon healing” where he assembles groups of dragons who are part of his spiritual team that he channels their spiritual energy to pull into the sessions.

“I work with your higher self to release emotional blocks, stored stress, limited beliefs, traumas, anything of that nature,” he said.

Ardrey said one hypnotherapy session at Soul Remembered is more beneficial than a client will get from a doctor’s office.

“I did a hypnotherapy session on a lady. The hypnotherapy method we use is a two-hour session – one

hour for talking and holding space for the client and an hour under the hypnosis. She said one session of the hypnosis was more than 10 years she received of talk therapy,” Ardrey said. “So it’s pretty profound the release and change that comes from these.”

Callendar explained society has been programmed to fix what ails it with pill. What Soul Remembers helps the

body heal outside traditional medicine.

“Our bodies are so magnificent. They were always built to heal themselves. We never needed medicine,” he said. “As long as you can come in with an open mind and open heart, the door is open for anything.”

They offer their spiritual services for all age groups. The large open space, which used to be home to several

small food service businesses and a pre-school over the years, has room to lay out personal mats for small groups of up to 10 at a time for spiritual release.

Their sessions are by appointment only. For more information, go to <https://soul-remembered.com> or their Soul Remembered Facebook page.

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Central Panthers to rejoin old league, Dallas remains in 5A-3 MWC

By CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central High School will move back to the Oregon West League in 4A for the 2026-30 four-year block. The Panthers were in the Oregon West League until 2014, when they moved to the 5A Mid-Willamette Conference.

The league determination is made on a calculation of enrollment, or Average Daily Membership for four-year blocks. Central's projected adjusted ADM for 2025-26 is 550.

Meanwhile, Dallas High School will remain in

the 5A-3 Mid-Willamette Conference with an ADM of 628.

For the 2026-30 block, the OSAA Classification and Districting Committee is recommending a six-classification model, which is the same as it has been.

"This classification change is really a shift back to a league similar to the old Valco league, and a return to many schools we played competitive games against for years when we were part of the Oregon West previously," CHS Athletic Director Brandis Piper said. "The league is smaller, which

will open opportunities for programs to schedule more non-conference games, and will create flexibility to provide the best experiences for our athletes."

The Oregon West League will pit the Panthers against the Cascade Cougars (577) Newport Cubs (420), the Philomath Warriors (363), the Stayton Eagles (488), and the Taft Tigers (291). Central (550) will be the second largest school in the league, which will have an adjusted ADM of 281-577.

Dallas will keep six of their rivals in the 5A-3 Mid-Willamette Conference

– Corvallis (836), Crescent Valley (610), Lebanon (685), Silverton (848), South Albany (877) and West Albany (889).

Schools moved out of the 5A-3 MWC were Woodburn to the 5A-2 Northwest Oregon Conference (989) and McKay (1245) moving to the 6A-6 Central Valley Conference.

Find the full classification and district structure online at <https://bit.ly/45awCyo>.

The classification change will not directly affect student-athletes at Talmadge Middle School, which feeds athletes to Central's

programs. Athletic Director Jay Glasmann said having robust middle school programs means students are ready to step up at the high school level.

"No matter what our classification is, that should be our goal, because it is what's best for kids," Glasmann said. "We know that kids engaged in sports and after-school activities tend to be more successful in school, and there are lots of life lessons that connect what you do in practice and sports to what you do in classes."

Piper agreed that a robust middle school athletic

program benefits the high school programs.

"It is best for our student-athletes, and will continue to set us up for success moving forward in academics and athletics," he noted.

Right now, Piper said, Central is excited about the opportunity to continue competing against high-caliber competition.

"We look forward to renewing old rivalries in sports," he added.

Polk County Itemizer-Observer editor David Hayes contributed to this story.

Dallas opens Building Improvement Grant Program applications

The Dallas Urban Renewal Agency has opened a third round of applications for the Building Improvement Grant Program.

The Urban Renewal Agency created the Building Improvement Grant program to carry out the goals and objectives outlined in the Dallas

Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. The Agency made significant changes to the program to help facilitate targeted investments in the downtown area. \$10,750 is available.

Applicants will have six weeks to submit an application. Each application will be scored based on a rubric

provided during the application process and be presented to the agency for approval. Projects in Downtown Dallas will receive \$64,250 this fiscal year.

For every \$1 of grant funding allocated, \$2.77 has been spent by private building owners improving

buildings downtown. All projects must have the permission of the building owner and must be located in the Downtown Urban Renewal District.

To view the full guidelines and application for this project, go to www.dallasor.gov/ecd/page/

urban-renewal-grants. The application window closes on Jan. 30, 2026.

For more information, contact Economic Development Specialist Tyler Ferrari at tyler.ferrari@dallasor.gov or (503) 831-3579.

Arson suspect arrested in West Salem apartment fire

A Salem man is in custody following a felony arson investigation connected to an October apartment fire that endangered multiple residents and resulted in the deaths of three pets.

On Oct. 3, Salem Fire personnel and Salem patrol officers responded to a large

structure fire at a four-plex in the 200 block of Stoneway Drive Northwest in West Salem. The fire began in the stairwell, blocking the primary exit for residents. Several individuals were forced to jump from a second-story balcony to escape the smoke and flames.

Due to the quick response and aggressive fire suppression by Salem Fire personnel, the fire was contained to the stairwell, minimizing damage to the overall structure.

Felony Crimes Unit arson investigators, working closely with Salem

Fire Deputy Fire Marshals, conducted an extensive investigation. Based on the investigation the fire was determined to be intentionally set.

Calvin Tucker, 54, was identified early in the investigation as a person of interest. Tucker provided

statements during an interview, and investigators were able to establish probable cause to believe he was responsible for setting the fire.

On Dec. 16 at approximately 4:50 a.m., with assistance from patrol officers,

Tucker was taken into custody without incident.

Tucker will be lodged at the Polk County Jail on charges including four counts of arson in the first degree, three counts of animal abuse in the first degree and reckless endangering. The investigation remains ongoing.

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OBITUARIES



Miriam Frieda Morris
Feb. 20, 1929 - Dec. 19, 2025
Miriam Frieda Morris passed away on Friday, Dec. 19, 2025, two

months shy of her 97th birthday. The eldest daughter of Gerhard and Della Rempel, she was born at home on Feb. 20, 1929. She graduated from Perrydale High School and lived her entire life in the Dallas/Polk County area.
Her Christian faith and church life were the center of her activities – even meeting her husband John at church camp. Married on Feb. 11, 1949, John died on Jan. 22, 2017, 21 days before their 68th anniversary. They had three children – Robert (Judy) and Chris (Jim) Rupp, from Dallas, Oregon, and Roger from Seattle, Washington.

John and Miriam had a special relationship with their three granddaughters (Amy Schoenrad, Sarah Buhler and Katie Rupp) taking them camping and fishing, building blanket forts in the living room, dyeing Easter eggs every year together well into her 90s, playing games, admiring butterflies, birds, and searching for daffodils. Each grandchild got a themed ornament every Christmas that she searched for all year.
Graced with seven great-grandchildren, Mim (as she preferred to be called) made an Afghan blanket for each one. She loved all things crafting - from leftover yarn she made thousands of baby caps that were

distributed worldwide, and she made homemade cards from fabric. She also played piano, and music filled our lives.
She worked for 20 years at the Ben Franklin Store and knew most folks shopping there, having been a Dallas native. After retirement they were able to travel several times to Alaska. The most memorable trip involved driving with other couples to go fishing; then canning all they caught to drive it home. They made many friends during their travels and while camping or fishing throughout the Northwest.
Volunteering and entertaining filled Mim’s life. It was not

uncommon for her to have guests over for a meal; visitors were always welcome. She wouldn’t say she was a good cook, but she made a mean pie, and her cinnamon rolls were the best.
In her life well-lived, the foundation was her strong faith. At the end, she was ready to go to meet her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
A Visitation will be held for Miriam at Bollman’s Tribute Center, 287 SW Washington St., Dallas, Oregon, on Friday, Dec. 26 from 1-5 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to Dallas Weekday School of the Bible (www.weekdaybible.com) in her honor.

November Restaurant Inspections

Editor’s Note: Polk County Health Department conducts a bi-annual, unannounced inspection of licensed restaurants. The establishments receive an overall grade on food temperatures, food preparation practices, worker hygiene, dish washing and sanitizing and equipment and facility cleanliness. The restaurants are scored on a 100-point scale. They receive a 5-point deduction for priority violation and a 3-point deduction for priority foundation violations. Deductions are doubled if recorded on consecutive inspections. Restaurants are compliant if they receive a score of 70 or higher. They must be reinspected within 30 days if they receive a score below 70 or face closure or other administrative action. Restaurants display a placard by the entrance that indicates passing or failing their most recent inspection.

- Chipotle Mexican Grill**
1060 Wallace Road NW, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 100
- Gyropoulos**
1233 Riverbend Road NW, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 100
- Get Some Aloha, LLC**
1233 Riverbend Road NW, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 100

- Eddy’s Phillys #1**
1233 Riverbend Road NW, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 87
- A handwashing sink is not accessible for employee use at all times, is used for purposes other than handwashing or is not operated properly, specifically the handwashing sink is blocked with vent hood grates.
- Potentially hazardous food is improperly reheated for hot holding, specifically queso that has been reheating in the warmer for more than two hours is 127F.
- Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically cooked onions are hot holding at 127F. An operator states they were prepared two hours prior.
- Tin Roof Bistro by Street Sweets**
1233 Riverbend Road NW, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 100
- Northwest Senior and Disability Services**
817 Church St., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 26
Score: 97 - Hand towels or a hand drying device is not provided at the handwashing sink, specifically paper towels not provided at handwashing sink.
- Momiji Sushi Bar & Restaurant**
1211 NW Edgewater St., West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 26

- Score: 87
- Food employees eat, drink or use tobacco in unapproved areas or use an inappropriate beverage container for drinking, specifically an operator is observed eating in the food prep area. An employee beverage in the food prep area is uncovered without a straw.
- Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically tempura batter sitting in ice next to the fryer is 58F. The operator states it has been out for 30 minutes.
- The use of time as a public health control is not properly applied, specifically rice time marked at 5 p.m. yesterday for time as a public health control has been held at room temperature overnight, and has been put into a rice dispenser for today’s service.
- Washington St. Catering Kitchen**
125 SW Washington St., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 25
Score: 95 - Raw or ready-to-eat food is not properly protected from cross contamination, specifically: raw beef over raw celery in the walk in fridge.
- Carnitas Delicias Michoacán**
955 Main St., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 25
Score: 95 - Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically cooked fajita veggies are hotholding at 109F stove. operator states these were made 10 minutes ago.

- Best Western Food Service**
250 Orchard Dr., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 25
Score: 95 - Incorrect methods are used to cool potentially hazardous foods, specifically a container of gravy 4-inches deep has been cooling for 1 ½ to 2 hours at room temperature. Gravy is 135F.
- El Pique Mobile 2**
289 E Ellendale 401, Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 18
Score: 100
- Love Love Teriyaki & Sushi**
433 Main St., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 18
Score: 95 - Raw or ready-to-eat food is not properly protected from cross contamination, specifically a box of raw eggs is sitting above sushi ginger in the walk-in fridge.
- Dallas Cinema**
166 SE Mill St., Dallas
Inspection Date: Nov. 13
Score: 100
- Rich & Thick Bakery**
154 S Main St., Independence
Inspection Date: Nov. 13
Score: 100
- First Call Meals, LLC**
154 S Main St., Independence
Inspection Date: Nov. 13
Score: 100
- Arthur’s Icebox**
154 S Main St., Independence
Inspection Date: Nov. 13
Score: 100

- Vianney’s Tamales**
662 S 13th St., Independence
Inspection Date: Nov. 12
Score: 100
- Brooks & Terry’s Espresso**
1407 Monmouth Independence
Inspection Date: Nov. 12
Score: 100
- Sing Fay**
198 W Main St., Monmouth
Inspection Date: Nov. 10
Score: 90
- Raw or ready-to-eat food is not properly protected from cross contamination, specifically raw animal foods (chicken and beef) are stored above kegs and sauce in the walk-in cooler.
- Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically containers of cut vegetables are out at 56F. A container of raw liquid egg is sitting out at 62F. The operator states both were out for 25 minutes.
- Ring of Fire Frozen Treats**
1124 Edgewater NW., West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 4
Score: 100
- Westside Taphouse And Growler Fill**
1594 Edgewater St. NW Ste 110, West Salem
Inspection Date: Nov. 3
Score: 100

Petition against Oregon transportation law pauses gas tax and fee hikes

MIA LALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle
With a transportation funding referendum likely headed to Oregon voters in November 2026 and a short legislative session approaching, it’s unclear if and how Republicans and Democrats can compromise on a sustainable

Death Notice
Johnnie Jack Gorman
Sept. 11, 1944 - Nov. 17, 2025
Johnnie Jack Gorman died Nov. 17, 2025, in Keizer, Oregon.

plan to fund road maintenance and operations.
House Bill 3991, which Gov. Tina Kotek signed into law on Nov. 7 after a special legislative session, was expected to raise \$4.8 billion for the transportation department over the next decade. But the agency’s new revenue streams under the law — scheduled to take effect at the beginning of 2026 — were paused when opponents submitted almost 200,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State with the goal to give voters the chance to overturn the law.

Without access to new revenue, the Oregon Department of Transportation once again faces a significant funding gap that could result in layoffs and reduced services — even as transportation crews respond to rain-caused landslides alongside Highway 229 near the Oregon Coast and as mountain passes across the state remain closed or congested because of downed trees and power lines.
“Oregonians have exercised their ability to challenge actions taken by the legislature, and the governor respects the outcome of that process,” Kotek press

secretary Roxy Mayer told the Capital Chronicle.
Republicans must work with Democrats now to find a different solution, Mayer said.
“The governor’s guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians,” Mayer said.
What fees and taxes are on pause?
Increases to vehicle registration and title fees, a 6-cent gas tax hike and a temporary doubling of the payroll tax used for public transit from 0.1% to 0.2% of a

worker’s paycheck were set to take effect at the start of the year. Petitioners with No Tax Oregon paused those scheduled tax and fee hikes by turning in their signatures last week.
The fee and tax hikes will remain paused unless the state’s elections division finds there were not enough valid signatures. The office has until Jan. 29 to verify the signatures. Otherwise, the hikes will remain paused pending a statewide vote in November 2026.

See **TAX**, page A8

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NEWS & VIEWS

LETTERS

Don't repeat the sins of the past

Some of our nation's leaders have over the past few years spoken very publicly and loudly, with derision and contempt, of vast swaths of humanity who have come to our shores mostly from places to the south of us, oftentimes south of the Equator. These various people tend to have darker skin, speak languages and eat foods that are foreign to many Americans of European descent.

Based on what I know about the principles and ideals upon which our nation was founded, principles which are rooted to a significant degree in Christianity and Judaism, there are no people who are "garbage," there are no places on this beautiful planet that are "hell-holes" or "sh*t-holes." There are no people who are all bad, just as there is no one, not individuals or groups, who are all good. We are all a mixed bag, all sinners: people, families, tribes, clans, and nations, who often miss the mark.

The United States of America is wise to refuse entry to those whose intent is to violate our laws or, worse yet, engage in acts of racist, including anti-Semitic, homicidal violence. Likewise, we would be wise to think long and hard before considering ourselves, even our nation, as superior to other countries or groups.

It is exactly this kind of thinking that gave rise to all of the world's genocides, including the ones visited upon the Jews.

Never again!
Alan Hershman
Dallas

Geonengineering story belonged on conspiracy page

The Dec. 3 article entitled "Cross-country authors team to tackle the dangers of geoengineering" treated conspiracy theories as news. The subject belonged only in a letter to the editor.

Miriam Forney
Monmouth

Remember sins and honor of Southern Confederates

I have heard renaming Kennedy Center to be trivial, juvenile, irrelevant, moronic, grotesque and illegal by those who often support initiatives of the current administration. No government building, highway, or ship should be named for a living person. In this case, the Congressional act could only be modified by Congress. A normal person would not consider beginning the process elsewhere.

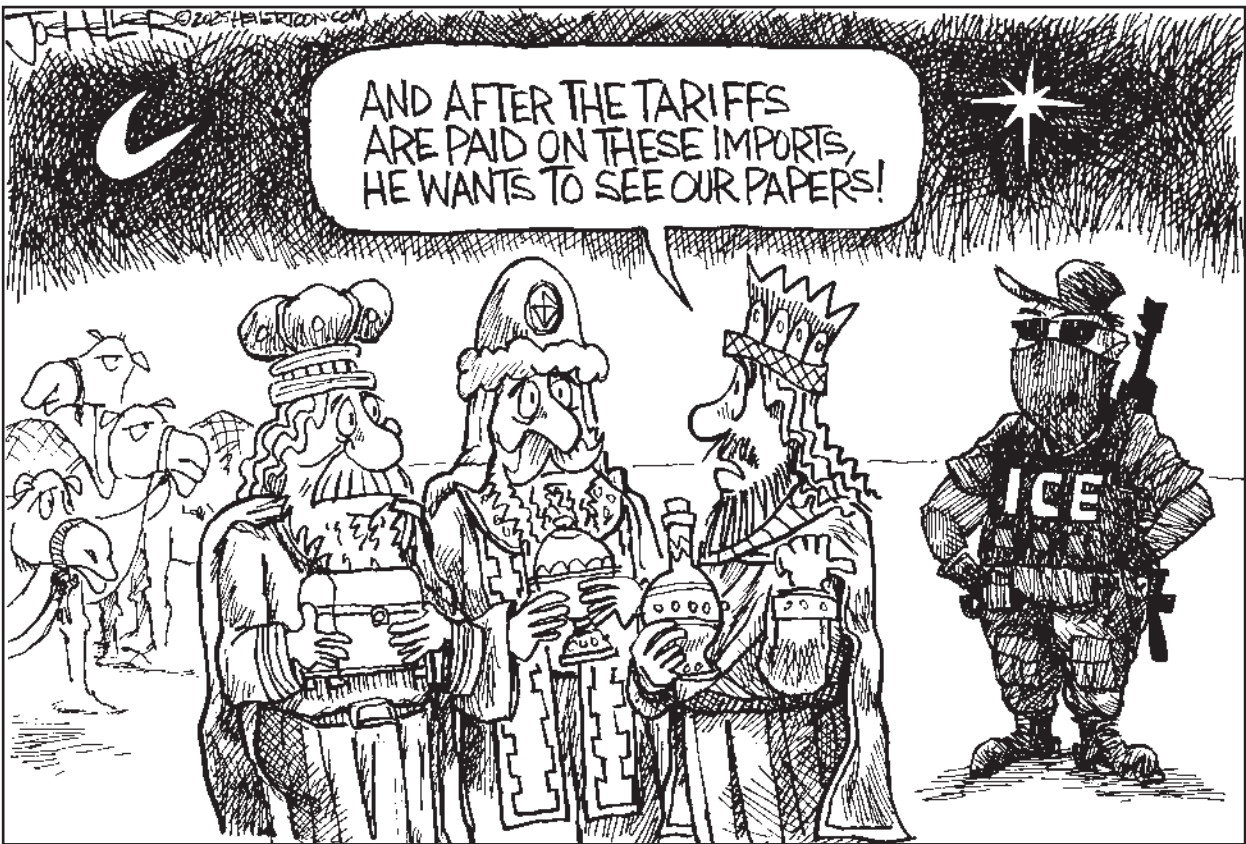
I heard one comment saying the decision was consistent with the penchant to rename anything associated with the Confederacy. I always considered such initiatives as eruptions of mental illness. Here in Redmond, Oregon, I wrote a letter to the city council describing the woman prompting their action to ban the Confederate flag carried by a reenactor in the Veteran's Day parade.

I said, "The decision was prompted by an anonymous intellectually, emotionally, and thereby morally disabled woman. The creature indicated its purity on this issue by gaining validation within a popular collective prestige formed by exhuming the rotting or desiccated carcasses of racist expressions from prior generations."

I would consider the board of the Kennedy Center to have pursued equally spurious attributes seasoned with groveling sycophancy.

Camaraderie and honor among our veterans form them into a Band of Brothers since founding of the country. John Kennedy was a hero in WW II and was assassinated while serving as President. During the Civil War only one in 15 Confederate soldiers were motivated by slavery, but all sincerely opposed invasion of the southern states. All should be distinctively revered.

Nolan Nelson
Redmond



Commentary

Special Memories: Christmas Santa Ornament

By **GARY DEROWITSCH**

Christmas was always my favorite holiday.

I was eight years old, and like each and every year at that time, I was very excited. It was always counting down from day one of December. It just couldn't come fast enough and I remember the phrase "I just can't wait" always harbored a place in my daily thinking.

One particular December evening I remember sitting on the couch snuggled up in my pajamas, (the kind with feet) against the arm of the couch next to the living room window. Of course the Christmas Tree was centered right in front of the window so all who passed by outside could see and enjoy it in all its glory.

That evening, I found the lights, ornaments and tinsel (we always used tinsel) almost magical. I was prone to getting migraine headaches and that evening I remember having a particularly bad one. Still, I found myself in a state of joy and wonderment staring at the tree and decorations, and one ornament in particular.

It was of Santa Claus with his bag of toys flung over his shoulder. He was made of tin and painted in very bright shiny colors – red clothing, a black belt and boots and a very white shining beard that seemed to actually glow. I stared, mesmerized by the Santa ornament and to this day I can still see him as if he were right in front of me.

Unfortunately, as hard as I've tried to locate him in all

the Christmas decorations handed down over the years, I have never been successful. Every year I visit Christmas stores and garage sales trying to find a replica of my Santa ornament. If I do see one, believe me I will know it.

Why the Santa ornament was so influential I'm really not sure; but it was and seeing it always created that warm magical feeling of Christmas.

One Christmas was extra special.

While on the subject of Christmas, one was very special. It started with begging to open gifts on Christmas Eve with no luck so we had to get through the night.

Of course we woke up around 4 a.m. and headed downstairs. Two gifts, one for myself and one for my brother, caught our attention.

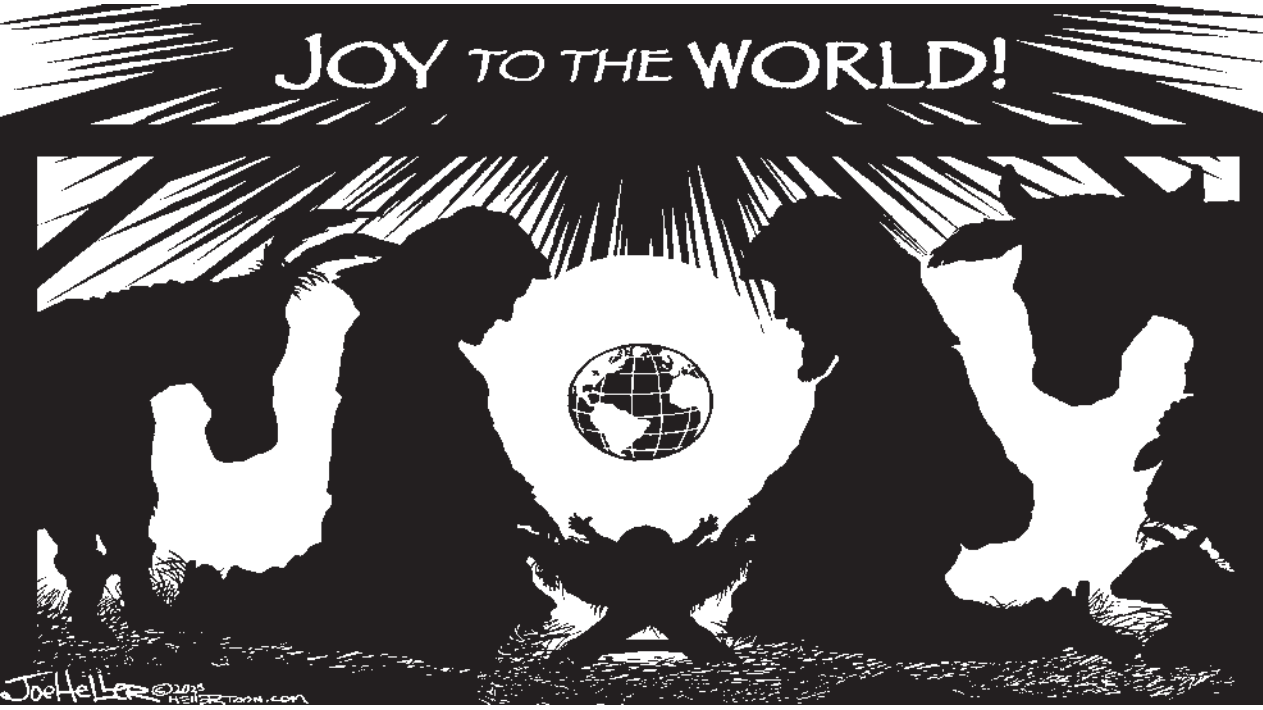
We unwrapped them and found flashlights.

Mine, as I recall, was bright red, and my brother's was bright gold. (Same type of bright color as the Santa ornament).

I couldn't tell you what other gifts we received that Christmas morning, but the flashlights were exceptionally special. It was the bright tin color of red and gold that sticks in my mind. It was amazing how two flashlights could be so much fun shining them all over the house.

Maybe that was Mom's way of keeping us from opening the other presents too soon.

Gary Derowitsch retired from the Post Office in Monmouth after 33 years. He still lives in Monmouth.



Weekly Online Poll

Are you signed up for emergency alerts from your local government?

☐ Yes - 46.7%

☐ No - 53.3%



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MAGIC MAZE • WAYS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: A Road for High-Speed Traffic

Airway

Any way

Way

Belt way

By way

Fly way

Gal way

Jet way

Leeway

Mid way

Nor way

Seg way

Sky way

Sub way

Sway

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: C equals M

T BYQ TCRYPTQG EXCGOXSV
BYMMTQP ZNYZ HJXATMG XA
YOJYNYC MTQBXMQ XQ Y
HGQQV Y BXHHGJ NGYS.

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+	5	+	= 20				
+		+	-					
	-		-	= 1				
-		+		÷				
	+		÷	= 7				
=		=	=					
14		15		5				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Super Crossword

SIX-ESOMETHINGS

ACROSS
1 Audibly
6 Mission —, California
11 Spill the beans
15 Golf coups
19 Perceive
26 — Good Feelings
21 Marry a “Hee Haw” character
22 Boxing event
23 Involuntary leg reactions
26 Stimulate
27 — yung (Chinese dish)
28 Rocket downer, for short
29 Relative of a tank top
31 “O Fortuna” composer
33 Some arm muscles, informally
35 No. on a road sign
36 “And that’s that”
37 Note that recommends a job applicant, e.g.
43 Wood-dressing tools
44 Pigsty stuff
45 In the thick of
46 Dark, gloomy rock genre
48 Fast, sporty auto
51 “My treat”
52 Greek “S”
54 Face cover
58 WWW address
59 Longer-than-normal prison term
62 Cat breed
65 Region
66 Long, unshaven
67 What “have solved” is in, in terms of grammar
73 Ad awards
74 Utilize a Juul device, e.g.
75 Aided in evil
77 In bed
83 Yoko of the avant-garde
84 Uffers
85 Stimulate
86 “Dams”
Everage
87 Cloric’s home
89 Oregon, e.g.
90 Telly watcher
91 “Help us!”
92 Cat food brand
96 Innermost parts
103 Cuba’s largest city
105 “Norma” —
106 Get it wrong
107 Cel figure
108 Fir or spruce
113 — Lingus
115 Cato’s 1,101
116 Monopoly expenso
117 2020 drama thriller film
120 El —, Texas
121 “Why should — you?”
122 Concur
123 Carried, as a load
124 Loads
125 Stitches up
126 Lunchlids, often
127 Pack-toing equines
10 Proposed for consideration
11 Nominal military promotion
12 Poshness
13 Cain’s victim
14 Plagued (by)
15 Treated badly
16 Congress’ Alexandria Ocasio-
17 University of Oregon’s city
18 Spirited horses
24 Abated
25 Riga native, old-style
30 Old Iranian ruler
32 Disaster relief gp.
34 Insufficient
36 Futuristic sci-fi play of 1921
39 Single-named supermodel
40 Mortgage claim
41 Case for ova
42 Italy’s capital
47 Beige
48 Gloomy —
49 Level just below
major league
50 Luckiness
51 Plow beasts
52 Feudal peon
53 Concept, in Caisis
54 Signified
55 Jennifer of “The Switch”
56 Linl catchers
57 Lock partner
58 Memphis-to-Atlanta dir.
60 Has the gumption
61 Fare, — well
63 Feline cries
64 Cato’s “to be”
68 Cathode-ray picture producer
69 Oom- — (luba sounds)
70 Sword type
71 “Ciao!”
72 Samantha Bee’s station
73 “NCIS” network
76 Stag’s mate
78 Prior to, in odes
79 Opposite of south, in France
80 That girl’s
81 Fix text
82 — nous (in confidence)
87 “The Simpsons” bartender
88 Admn, aide
89 With 118-Dow, do a surfing stunt
90 Brewski container
91 Fastener fitting into a nut
92 Helper in the Himalayas
93 Lace into
94 “OK, but still ...”
95 Red Cross founder Clara
97 Film director Lubitsch and physicist Mach
98 Liver spread
99 Wipes clean
100 Actress Suzanne
101 Epoch of the first whales
102 “Blade” star Wesley
104 — a jealous mistress
109 Jennifer of “Zero Dark Thirty”
110 “So nasty!”
111 Hence
112 Architect Saarinen
114 Singer McEntire
118 See 89-Down
119 Boating wallops

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Moments in time

- On Jan. 5, 1914, Henry Ford made the welcome announcement that he was doubling his assembly-line employees’ pay. However, there was a perhaps not-so-welcome catch — home inspections to check for alcohol consumption and untidy living quarters.
- On Jan. 6, 1996, snow began blanketing Washington, D.C., and the eastern seaboard in a blizzard that killed 154 people and ended up costing more than a billion dollars in damages before it ended.
- On Jan. 7, 1891, future novelist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston was born in Notasulga, Alabama. Though she would eventually publish more books than any other Black woman in America, by the time she died in 1960 she’d failed to gain a mainstream audience and was poor and alone in a welfare hotel. Today she is considered one of the most important Black writers in American history.
- On Jan. 8, 1963, Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, the Mona Lisa, was exhibited for the first time in the U.S. at Washington, D.C.’s National Gallery of Art. More than 2,000 dignitaries, including President John F. Kennedy, came out to view it. The exhibit opened to the public the following day.
- On Jan. 9, 1984, Angelo Buono, one of the Hillside Stranglers, was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the rape, torture and murder of 10 young women in Los Angeles. His cousin and partner in crime, Kenneth Bianchi, testified against Buono to escape the death penalty himself.
- On Jan. 10, 1863, the London Tube, the world’s first urban underground railway, opened. Since its first tunnel ran under the River Thames and had no ventilation, it was always filled with smoke.
- On Jan. 11, 1775, Francis Salvador, the first Jewish person to hold an elected office in the Americas, took his seat on the South Carolina Provincial Congress. In July he earned the nickname the “Southern Paul Revere” when he rode 30 miles to warn of a Cherokee attack on backcountry settlements, and just a month later he became the first recorded Jewish soldier to be killed in the Revolutionary War.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: What city is considered the birthplace of democracy?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a pet raccoon named Rebecca?
- MOVIES: What is the 2007 documentary “The 11th Hour” about?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many countries lie along the equator?
- ANATOMY: Which part of the eye controls how much light enters it?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the Tanners’ cat on the sitcom “ALF”?
- LITERATURE: What are the names of the two families in Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”?
- CHEMISTRY: What kind of reaction produces heat?
- U.S. STATES: Which state was the first to join the Union?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side?

Answers

- Athens, Greece.
- Calvin Coolidge.
- The critical state of the Earth’s environment.
- 13.
- Iris.
- Lucky.
- Capulet and Montague.
- Exothermic.
- Delaware.
- Uranus.

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Puzzle answers on page B2

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

I’M A SNOWFLAKE, A ONE-OF-A-KIND WONDER OF NATURE! I AM LIKE NO OTHER. UNIQUE... SPECIAL... I AM WINTER’S PRECIOUS PIXIE! I AM.

AAAAAAGH!

WHOOOSH

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE WANTS TO INVITE YOU GUYS FOR DINNER. YOU STRIKE ME AS A GUY WHO LIKES MYSTERY AND A BIT OF DANGER, RIGHT?

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Americanisms

“I try to believe like I believed when I was five ... When your heart tells you everything you need to know.”
— Lucy Liu

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WHOA, BOYS, LAST FARM ON THE ROUTE. A FAMILY WITH A LITTLE FELLA NAMED GERALD LIVES HERE.

I RECALL THE ELVES HAVING SOME ISSUE AS TO WHERE TO PLACE HIM, ON THE NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST.

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Cozy Christmas Caroling

Photos by David Hayes



The Dallas Christmas Carolers perform a rousing rendition of Jingle Bell Rock Dec. 19 at Marlene’s in downtown Dallas. The night of Christmas songs, presented by the Dallas Arts Association and Art in the Park, also featured performances by the Moonfall Theatre troupe in Marlene Cox’s new bar at the corner of Main and Court streets. Marlene herself took to the stage to perform a Christmas classic.



IT WILL BE A TREE-T LISTING WITH ME!

Merry Christmas!

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TAX

From Page A4

The pause in the payroll transit tax hike means the average Oregonian making \$68,000 will remain paying \$5.60 a month in the tax instead of \$11.20 per month. For now, Oregonians will continue paying a 40-cent gas tax per gallon instead of 46 cents. Oregonians with a passenger vehicle will remain paying \$77 in title fees instead of \$216. Registration base fees for a two year period for Oregonians driving a standard passenger car will remain at \$86 instead of \$170, \$88 instead of \$172 for motorcyclists and \$126 instead of \$210 for light and utility trailer drivers.

Drivers will continue to pay a surcharge based on fuel efficiency, which means the total registration fee for most passenger cars is \$126 or \$136 every two years. Collectively, the new fees and taxes were expected to raise \$791 million in the 2025-27 budget cycle, followed by \$1.1 billion for 2027-29 and \$1.2 billion for 2029-31. No transportation service cuts yet Transportation Department spokesperson Katherine Benenati said no service cuts or layoffs have been determined within the agency, and any layoffs would not take place until after the legislative session ends in March. Kotek has continued hiring winter seasonal staff using existing funding, savings from vacancies and recent voluntary departures to maintain these services in the short term, she said. Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and one of the lead petitioners of the No Tax Oregon effort, said higher taxes aren’t the only way to fill the budget gap, arguing that Democrats need to reprioritize how they fund transportation. “We’re paying for electric vehicle car chargers. We have a social equity office. We have climate justice initiatives. We have hundreds of millions of dollars in reserves on projects that will never transpire as currently designed,” he told the Capital Chronicle. “It’s a waste, but the Legislature is prioritizing those things over what the Oregon people want.” Diehl and his Republican colleagues have pushed to rearrange transportation funding. However, most of the state transportation departments funding is legally designated for

specific purposes, so reallocating funds would require a statutory or constitutional amendment to avoid legal challenges, according to department Finance and Budget Division Administrator Daniel Porter. At least three Republicans on Wednesday — Reps. Mark Owens of Crane and Vikki Brees-Iverson of Prineville and Sen. Mike McLane of Powell Butte — urged the transportation department to seek emergency funding from the Legislature’s Joint Emergency Board in response to the historic flooding across the state this week. The 20-member board has the authority to allocate funding when the full Legislature isn’t in session. Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, called the Republicans’ request impractical. “Are they going to ask for emergency funds for the rest of 2026 as well when they strip funding as part of their ballot measure to defund ODOT?” she said. “It is simply not realistic.” McLain, co-chair of the Legislature’s Joint Transportation Committee, said House Bill 3991 is a quarter of what Democratic lawmakers proposed during the regular legislative session, and for three budget cycles she said lawmakers have made cuts to ODOT and worked on efficiency. “We’ve done all of the compromise, the amending and the backup plan is that final bill that we passed in September, which is only a quarter of the original,” she said. “The short session is not going to help them.” Democratic leaders shared similar concerns about the efforts to overturn the transportation funding law.

“Without those emergency funds, hundreds of hard-working Oregonians who plow highways, fill potholes and repair bridges are in danger of losing their jobs,” said Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego. “The Senate President’s Office is ready to work with ODOT and the Governor’s Office to manage this situation in the upcoming legislative session.” House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, said the transportation funding law was a heavily negotiated policy that had support from nearly every key transportation stakeholder in Oregon and considered the cost of living for Oregonians. “The referral of only pieces of that package — repealing funding while leaving spending obligations in place — destabilizes our transportation system and jeopardizes Oregonians’ safety,” Fahey said. “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don’t have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won’t fix themselves.” Fahey said she will continue to work closely with her Senate colleagues and Kotek to keep Oregonians safe on their way to work and school. [https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/12/18/petition-against-oregon-transportation-law-pauses-gas-tax-and-fee-hikes/Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-is-part-of-States-Newsroom,a-network-of-news-bureaus-supported-by-grants-and-a-coalition-of-donors-as-a-501c\(3\)-public-charity.Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-maintains-editorial-independence.Contact-Editor-Lynne-Terry-for-questions:info@oregoncapital-chronicle.com](https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2025/12/18/petition-against-oregon-transportation-law-pauses-gas-tax-and-fee-hikes/Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-is-part-of-States-Newsroom,a-network-of-news-bureaus-supported-by-grants-and-a-coalition-of-donors-as-a-501c(3)-public-charity.Oregon-Capital-Chronicle-maintains-editorial-independence.Contact-Editor-Lynne-Terry-for-questions:info@oregoncapital-chronicle.com)

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Dragons edge Glencoe on last second free throws

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observ

Tristan Porter was ready when his moment arrived. With less than a second left in the game and his team down a point, Porter was fouled while in the act of shooting. He received two foul shots. Make them both and the Dragons squeeze out a 60-59 win against visiting Glencoe.

Turns out, he was ready for his center stage moment.

“I put a lot of practice into free throws. You work on it for moments like this,” Porter said. “The first one was definitely more pressure. If I miss that one, the second one is way harder.”

But Porter didn’t miss. And so the Dragons (0-0, 2-3 overall) escaped with the home win.

It was perseverance, however, that set the stage for Porter’s heroics.

He drew the foul on one of his team’s old reliables. The final possession featured a

pick-and-roll that had worked throughout the game. The play was executed calmly and exactly as ordered. It went through Porter because he is solid from behind the line.

“Tristan is one of our higher-percent-age-free-throw-shooters in practice,” Dallas coach Alex King said. “I trusted him, but I couldn’t even watch. They ran the play the way we talked about, and it worked.”

The Dragons were down by 11 points before mounting their fourth-quarter comeback.

“We never gave up,” Porter said. “We kept our heads high, our energy was up, and we just kept playing hard.”

Dallas came out strong in the opening quarter, building a double-digit lead, but saw it gradually disappear as Glencoe found its rhythm.

“We started playing too much ‘me ball’ in the second and third quarters,” King said. “We stopped driving and kicking out, and Glencoe gained momentum. In the

fourth, the kids believed in themselves again and stayed patient.”

The visitors pushed their advantage to 11 points in that final frame. But Dallas responded with a run of its own by chipping away one possession at a time. Rather than forcing quick shots, the team was patient, scored in small bursts and relied on defensive pressure.

“We just played hard and talked on defense,” Porter said. “That’s how we came back.”

For Dallas, the win provided a timely confidence boost heading into Mid-Willamette Conference play which starts next week.

“We’ve got a lot to work on. Hustle, conditioning, fundamentals. All the little things,” King said. “But this game showed what we’re capable of doing when we stay together.”

The Dragons return to action Friday when league play opens against Silverton



PHOTO BY SMY PHOTOGRAPHY

Dallas sophomore Tristan Porter shoots the winning free throw to give the Dragons a 60-59 win over Glencoe Dec. 19.

at home. Dallas travels to Corvallis on Tuesday. Both games are at 7 p.m.

For Glencoe, the loss dropped the Class 6A

Crimson Tide to 0-7 on the season.

With their dues paid, Panthers ready for league play

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observ

There’s experience, and then there’s experience Panthers-style.

Central returns nearly its entire production from last year’s basketball team, or some 98 percent of the team’s scoring and 90 percent of its minutes. No wonder expectations are high as the Mid-Willamette Conference opener is less than two weeks away.

“This is the most experienced team I’ve been a part of,” senior guard Jack Holstine said. “Of the past three years I’ve been here, this group just knows how to play together.”

Such familiarity allowed the team to hit the ground running, and there’s been no let up. Players arrive early for practice, lift together, and warm up as a unit.

“We picked up where we left off” from last season, he said. “But we’re taking it to another level.”

His leadership skills, and that of the seven other seniors on the team, have improved as well.

“I’ve learned how to put my teammates in positions to succeed,” the multi-year varsity starter said. “Getting guys involved actually makes my shots easier, and makes us better as a team.”

Senior guard Branden Ball sees a difference in how the Panthers are carrying themselves.

“Last year we were still figuring things out,” Ball said. “This year, we already know what we want to be. Practices are sharper. There’s more talking, more energy and more accountability.”

The Panthers missed the playoffs last year, but expectations have since risen. With most of last year’s roster back, and several key league rivals having graduated stand-out guards, Central is well-positioned for a run at the title.

“Our goal is winning league,” Ball said. “We’ve been together long enough now that there’s no excuses. We know the system, we know each other, and we know what it’s going to take.”

The roster is bigger and longer, and Central plans to take advantage of its athleticism – by pushing the pace,



Branden Ball takes aim during practice at the Panthers gym. Central returns to action Tuesday, Jan. 6, against McKay. The home game begins at 7 p.m.

taking more three-pointers, and going inside.

“We want to run teams,” Ball said. “If we can get stops and get out in transition, that’s when we’re at our best. When we’re moving the ball and

sharing it, we’re really hard to guard.”

The team’s confidence only grew during the offseason. Early morning workouts, long shooting sessions, and additional workouts at Western

Oregon University became routine.

The team was tested at the recent Capitol City Classic in Salem. Central returned to the national-level tournament after an absence of two years.

“When you look at the field, we’re definitely one of the smaller schools,” coach Tyler Allen said. “We’re giving up size, depth, and experience to a lot of these teams. But that’s exactly why we wanted to come.”

Central fell to Ruston (Louisiana) in the opener, 73-56, on Friday. The victors are a nationally-ranked program loaded with elite athletes and future college players. NBA Hall of Fame Karl Malone is grandfather to one of the players.

“They’re going to be a very difficult matchup,” Allen said pre-tournament. Ruston plays “fast, they’re physical, and they’ve got guys who can really go. But these are the kinds of games that show you who you are.”

Ball also welcomed the challenge.

“You don’t get opportunities like this very often,” he said. “We’re excited, not

scared. This is the kind of competition you play basketball for.”

The Panthers rose to the challenge in their second game, defeating Class 6A Sprague, 73-64, on Saturday. The tournament concluded with games on Monday and Tuesday. Results from the latter two games were not available at deadline.

Allen emphasized that success in Salem won’t be defined by wins and losses alone. Central entered the tournament having played just two preseason games.

“Our identity is still forming,” Allen said. “The goal over these four games is to establish how we want to play when league play starts.”

That message resonated with the Panthers.

“We know we’re going to get tested,” Ball said. “The key is staying together when things get tough. If we do that, we’ll be fine.”

Holstine agreed.

“No matter who we’re playing, we’re all high school kids on the same court,” he said. “We just have to play confident, play fast, and trust each other.”

Panthers wrestle hard before school break

Panthers Kids sent 13 wrestlers to the West Albany Kids Tournament on Dec. 20 for one last event before the Christmas break.

“Sometimes it can be hard to get kids out to tournaments during winter break,” said head coach Vidal Peña. “Vacations and other travel plans happen quite a bit during this time. We were proud of those that showed up.”

Peña said the Panther Kids had three wrestlers for the first time reach a tournament’s third round.

“That is some great experience in stamina and a result of Coach Aubrey’s intense conditioning during practice,” Peña said.

Coach Aubrey Pierce added that the team’s success “has everything to do with our conditioning when we can get kids to make it late into second and third rounds.”

Panther Kids have a break until Jan. 3 when they will return to action at Cascade for the Landyn Adams Memorial Tournament.

Placing first were Logan Caraballo and Vincent DiLorenzo

Second place finishers were Matthew Mesdag, Aiden McMullen, Brody Bauer, Tyson Turner and Hazel Granum.

Third places went to Asher Holstad, Coleman Brantner and Lincoln Dryden



PAGES OF THE PAST

50 years ago

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1975

County looks to new street numbering

The Polk County Commissioners directed Ralph Blanchard to proceed on a county-wide street numbering project Tuesday. The system would expand on that started by Dallas around two years ago.

In a memorandum to the board from Frank Wyckoff, County Planning Director, Blanchard and Jim Panter, emergency services director, recommended the system and timing for implementing a county-wide numbering system was explained.

The purpose of a consistent county-wide numbering system would be to aid emergency vehicles and provide the Post Office with a logical sequence.

Dallas trying to stop move

Dallas School District, represented by William Paulus, Salem attorney, presented a remonstrance Tuesday, Dec. 16, to state hearings officer Glen Middleton.


The district hopes to prevent Desert Seed Co., a corporate farm, from transferring about 150 acres from Dallas to Central School District. The majority of Desert Seed's land lies within Central district boundaries. Dallas is appealing an earlier I.E.D. ruling to grant the change.

Lancers down Dragons in non-counter

A fair number of Dallas fans drove through fog Saturday night to Eugene and saw Bill Schaefer's can 28 points to lead his Churchill Lancers to a 70-62 verdict over the Dallas Dragons.

The loss was the fourth for Dallas in five non-league contests. The Dragons one more "warm-up" (Sprague at Dallas

FLASHBACK



This week's Flashback is from Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1980: **RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR** - Polk County Sheriff's Department staff got a shipment of new western style Stetson hats this week, as the effort to present a new, more localized image continues. The officers volunteered to purchase the hats and badges at their own expense. Pictured here wearing new hats and disposing of the old are (from left) Sheriff Steele, Sergeant Paul Burke and Sergeant Jeff Fisher. (File I-O photo.)

Jan. 2) before the counters begin on Jan. 6 when Canby comes to town.

40 Years Ago

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1985

Fog, frost lead to Polk accidents

Morning fog and frost on roadways contributed to a number of accidents throughout the county this past week including one that left a Gaston man in critical condition.

Maurice Kenneth Cooper, 67, was listed in serious condition at Salem Memorial Hospital on Wednesday following an accident Saturday. The driver of the vehicle, Gary Norman Cooper, 24, Gaston, was treated for injuries at Valley Community Hospital in Dallas and released Tuesday.

City giving bicycle ordinances a second look

Children are learning one thing in school about bicycle safety and the Dallas City

Council is struggling to bring city regulations into line – maybe.

Youngsters are taught during classes on bicycle safety by the Dallas Police Department that using residential sidewalks is permissible, even safer than the streets. However, a 1944 city ordinance prohibits riding bicycles on sidewalks in any area.

Crosswalks to be safer

After a visit Monday afternoon to Lyle Elementary

School, Dallas City Council members voted Monday night to change crosswalks and parking, build an island and investigate warning lights to ensure the safety of school youngsters.

Lyle Principal Glen Sweet said he has been concerned for a long time over the buildup of traffic turning from West Ellendale Avenue onto Southwest Levens Street and past the school.

Community Achievement

PCSO's John Brown named state volunteer of the year

On Dec. 11, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association recognized John Brown as its Volunteer of the Year.

Brown has been part of the Polk County Sheriff's Office since 2014 as a SALT (Sheriff's Auxiliary Law Enforcement Team) member. During his time with SALT, Brown has been instrumental in ensuring that the SALT team runs smoothly, the Sheriff's Office booth gets staffed for the county fair each year, and updates were implemented to the SALT training academy.

Brown has provided the Sheriff's Office with 6,572 volunteer hours from 2014-24, an average of 54 hours per month for over a decade.

"He assists with routine volunteer duties, as well as special assignments, with a consistency that we have come to know and love from him," the PCSO wrote on their Facebook page. "John is solid and respected by not only members of our office, but also other agencies we work with and members of the public."

Ryann Slegers makes Union University Dean's List

Ryann Slegers, of West Salem, was one of 381



John Brown was named State Volunteer of the Year by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association.

students who were named to the Union University Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester.

The Dean's List includes full-time students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Asher Watson makes Belmont University's Dean's List

Asher Watson, of West Salem, was among over half of Belmont University's undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 semester Dean's List. Approximately 55% of the University's 6,934 undergraduate students qualified this semester.

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

PCSO's John Brown named state volunteer of the year

On Dec. 11, the Oregon State Sheriff's Association recognized John Brown as its Volunteer of the Year.

Brown has been part of the Polk County Sheriff's Office since 2014 as a SALT (Sheriff's Auxiliary Law Enforcement Team) member. During his time with SALT, Brown has been instrumental in ensuring that the SALT team runs smoothly, the Sheriff's Office booth gets staffed for the county fair each year, and updates were implemented to the SALT training academy.

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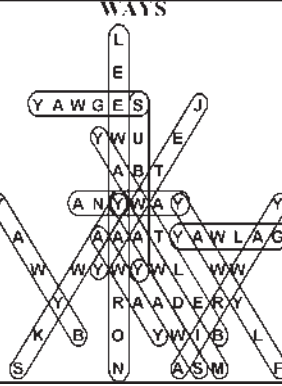
CryptoQuip answer

I can imagine somebody calling that profile of Abraham Lincoln on a penny a copper head.

Go Figure!

answers

8	+	5	+	7	= 20
+		+		-	
9	-	6	-	2	= 1
-		+		÷	
3	+	4	÷	1	= 7
=		=		=	
14		15		5	



Weekly SUDOKU												
Answer												
2	1	8	9	3	5	6	4	7				
7	5	3	4	6	1	8	9	2				
6	9	4	2	8	7	3	5	1				
4	8	5	3	2	9	1	7	6				
3	2	1	5	7	6	4	8	9				
9	7	6	1	4	8	5	2	3				
5	4	7	6	1	2	9	3	8				
1	3	2	8	9	4	7	6	5				
8	6	9	7	5	3	2	1	4				

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Announcements

Join a FREE after-school program for kids ages 4-12 years old at Calvary Chapel Church called Good News Club. Club meets after school every Tuesday from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Vist <https://tinyurl.com/264mh682> to register your child. Hope to see you there!



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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED HOMES



PRICE IMPROVED!! Take a look at this little piece of paradise! 55.75 acres where you can escape to the one room cabin at the top of the property! Spacious one level 4bd/1bath home. Big kitchen, formal dining room, vinyl windows, electric furnace and heat pump. **\$775,000.00** (#831620)



2022 Manufactured home in an all age park. Open floor plan with big windows for natural light. The kitchen has fantastic counter space and storage. 2bd/2 bath. Primary suite has a step in shower and fantastic storage. Electric furnace and heat pump. **\$195,000.00** (#833424)



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO25-1443 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK Probate Department Case No: 25PB10556 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the Estate of FRED ERNEST SELBY, Deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Charles “Chuck” Bythal Finn has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them with vouchers attached to the attorney for the Personal Representative at the following address: JBHW, ATTN: Andrew Bridge, PO Box 5, Dallas, Oregon 97338, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published on December 24, 2025. Attorney for the Personal Representative Andrew Bridge, OSB No. 194937 Jarvis, Bridge, Hattunen & Weyer, LLC PO Box 5, Dallas, OR 97338 Telephone: (503) 623-6676 Fax: (503) 714-8727 bridge@jbhwlaw.com

PCIO25-1442 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK No. 25PB10765 Probate In the Matter of the Kenneth N. Doughton Revocable Living Trust Agreement, Kenneth N. Doughton, Deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A. is serving as Trustee of the Kenneth N. Doughton Revocable Living Trust, dated October 11, 2011 (Trust), and as Trustee has filed a Petition to Determine the Claims of Creditors of the Trust and Trustor/Settlor Kenneth N. Doughton, who is now deceased, in the Circuit Court of Polk County, State of Oregon, Circuit Court No.25PB10765. The Trustor/Settlor of the Trust is Kenneth N. Doughton. All claims are required to be presented to Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee, P.O. Box 2305, Salem, Oregon 97308. Claims against the Trust estate may be barred unless presented to the Trustee at the address herein specified within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the Trustee, from the records of the Court, or from the attorney for the trustee Dated and first published December 24, 2025. Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee Sarah K. Rinehart, Attorney at Law OSB# 821142 117 Commercial Street NE, Suite 300 Salem, Oregon 97301

PCIO25-1441 CITY OF DALLAS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Public hearings will be held at 6:00 pm Thursday, January 8, 2025, on the following: Legislative Amendment #25-05 (Continuance) Amend Dallas Development Code Article 2 (Land Use Districts) to create a new “Mixed-Use” zoning district classification. Approval Criteria: DDC.4.7 Legislative Amendment #25-06 Amend Dallas Development Code to define a new land use classification for “Indoor Recreation” and specify allowed zones for this use. Approval Criteria: DDC.4.7 Conditional Use Permit #25-09 Construct 48 apartments in two new three-story multi-family residential buildings at Taxlots 7.5.29DD #7301 & #7302 in the General Commercial (CG) zone. Approval Criteria: DDC.4.4 This meeting is being held at Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St. You may also participate via phone by dialing 1 253 215 8782 and entering code: 213 855 0622. The City will consider testimony which addresses the applicable criteria. Testimony may be submitted orally at the public hearing or writing the Planning Department, 187 SE Court St, Dallas,

OR 97338. The staff report, the submitted application materials, and the approval criteria will be available online at least seven days prior to the hearing, at www.dallasor.gov/meetings. Copies will be provided at reasonable cost on request. Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide statements or evidence sufficient for the decision maker to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals. For further information call Chase Ballew, City Planner (503) 831-3570

PCIO25-1440 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS PROBATE NO. 25PB10409 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK In the Matter of the Estate of Edward Earl Gray, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that JORDAN LEE GRAY has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative at 9250 SW Tigard St, Tigard, OR 97223, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED and first published December 24, 2025. Zachary Austin Howe, Attorney for Personal Representative.

PCIO25-1439 NOTICE OF Public Hearings Proposed Change to Allow Barbed Wire Fences for Government Uses LA 2026-01 On Monday, January 5, 2025 (7:00 pm), the Independence Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider potential changes to the fence standards in the Independence Development Code. The standards would allow fences that are six feet tall with barbed wire for governmental uses. Details about the changes are available at www.ci.independence.or.us/ongoing-development-projects/. If the Planning Commission votes to recommend that the City Council approve of the document, the Independence City Council will consider the proposal during a public hearing on January 13, 2025. The Council hearing will start shortly after 6:30 pm. Hearing Locations: The public hearings will occur at the Independence Civic Center at 555 S. Main Street, Independence, OR 97351. The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations, should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to Myra Russell, City Recorder, 503-838-1212 / TTY: 800-735-2900. The City is an Equal Opportunity Provider. Information Available: Information about the proposed changes are available online. Paper copies of the materials are available for inspection at no cost at the Independence Civic Center. A staff report for the proposal will be available at least seven days prior to the hearings. Physical copies of the documents may be obtained from the City for a minimal cost. Submittal of Testimony: Anyone wishing to present written testimony may submit the testimony up to and at the public hearings. Oral testimony may be provided at the hearings. Appeal Process: Individuals that would like to reserve their right to appeal the proposal should comment or submit a letter, along with any concerns, by the close of the hearings. Failure to raise an issue in person or by letter, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision-maker the opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes the ability to raise the issue at a subsequent time on appeal (before the Independence City Council or the Land Use Board of Appeals). Staff

Contact: Individuals with questions about the changes should contact Fred Evander, Community Planner, at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main Street, Independence, OR 97351, (503) 837-1168, or fevander@ci.independence.or.us.

PCIO25-1438 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of: ODDIE DAVID JEROME JR., Deceased. Case No.: 25PB10555 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice: The Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Polk, has appointed Twila Mae Patrick as Personal Representative of the Estate of Oddie David Jerome Jr., deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers to the Personal Representative, c/o Stan Butterfield, P.C., Attorney at Law, 605 SW Church St., Dallas, OR 97338, within four months from the date of the publication of this notice as stated below, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by this proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative. Date published December 24, 2025. Twila Mae Patrick, Personal Representative c/o Stan Butterfield, P.C. Attorney at Law 605 SW Church St. Dallas, OR 97338 Telephone: (503) 623-2427 Email: stan@stanbutterfield.com

PCIO25-1444 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF CLARA BETH MAYS, deceased, Polk County Court Case No. 25PB10072. All persons having claims against said estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative at 1637 Colby Ct, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court or the Personal Representative. DATED and published: December 24, 2025. Karen G. Mays-Wolke Personal Representative 1637 Colby Ct Eugene, Oregon 97401

PCIO25-1437 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 25-72886 Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred as the Trust Deed) made by MICHAEL EVANS AND JULIE EVANS, HUSBAND AND WIFE as Grantor to FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as designated nominee for LEADERONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, dated 8/18/2023, recorded 8/18/2023, as Instrument No. 2023-006270, re-recorded on 7/21/2025 as instrument no. 2025-005463, re-recorded again on 9/22/2025 as instrument no. 2025-007247, in mortgage records of Polk County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: BEGINNING AT A POINT 31 FEET EAST AND 9 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, IN BLOCK 23 IN E.A. THORP’S TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE SOUTH 51.0 FEET IN A DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 1; THENCE WEST 31.0 FEET ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF LOT 1 TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOTS 1 AND 2 TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 2;

THENCE EAST 57.16 FEET ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LOT 2; THENCE SOUTH 40.5 FEET IN A LINE PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 2; THENCE SOUTHWEST APPROXIMATELY 38.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHICH IS 57.16 FEET EAST AND 40.5 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 2, BLOCK 23, E.A. THORP’S TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE, IN POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY APPROXIMATELY 38.5 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS 31.0 FEET EAST AND 9.0 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE LOT 1 IN SAID BLOCK 23; THENCE SOUTH 51.0 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE EAST 10.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 51.0 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY TO A POINT 10.0 FEET EAST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE WEST 10.0 FEET. The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is purported to be: 240 GRAND ST INDEPENDENCE, OREGON 97351 The Tax Assessor’s Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 375843 / 08421-CA-04901 Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee’s attorneys. The default for which the foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest which became due on 7/1/2024, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in payments to date is calculated as follows: From: 7/1/2024 Total of past due payments: \$37,820.50 Late Charges: \$874.80 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$2,107.25 Suspende: (\$862.85) Trustee’s Fees and Costs: \$1,338.50 Total necessary to cure: \$41,278.20 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a “reinstatement” and or “payoff” quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety to date is: \$342,464.58 Said

sale shall be held at the hour of 9:00 AM on 3/24/2026 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: At the front entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR 97338 Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust

Deed, together with the trustee’s and attorney’s fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP 5 Centerpointe Dr., Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558 Without limiting the trustee’s disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee’s sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee’s sale. Dated: 11/4/2025, ZBS Law, LLP, Amber L. Labrecque, Esq., OSB#094593 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 45763 Pub Dates 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 01/07/2026

PCIO25-1426 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Grand Storage located at 29005 Salmon River Hwy Grand Ronde OR 97347 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below list of Occupants whom are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 01/02/2026 at 12:00PM. Wricky Sheker Unit #23. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

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Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

PUBLIC RECORD

Information for the report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of arrests reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Independence Police Department

Friday, Dec. 5

The Department of Corrections issued a warrant for Samuel Myers to serve additional time as a clerical error revealed he'd been released early. Myers was taken back into custody peacefully in the 200 block of Gun Club Road.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Miguel Rodriguez Trujillo was arrested and charged with strangulation - felony, assault 4 and coercion following a domestic disturbance that had occurred a couple of hours earlier in the 100 block of 6th street. The victim reported that they had been hanging out and everything was amicable until Rodriguez Trujillo, after drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana, his mood changed. Rodriguez Trujillo physically detained the victim in his room and restricted the victim's breathing by grabbing their throat multiple times. He was transported to the Polk County Jail.

At 8:22 p.m., a missing juvenile was found on Monmouth Avenue. The juvenile was referred to juvenile detention for runaway and curfew violations.

At 10:10 p.m., a report of an audible alarm on Monmouth Street. Officers checked all the doors and found them locked. They didn't see any signs of intrusion.

At 10:28 p.m., an officer investigated a report of a barking dog on Williams Street, but heard nothing upon arrival.

Sunday, Dec. 7

After initiating a traffic stop for speeding in the 900 block of Main St., the officer noticed the driver's breath smelled of alcohol and was slow to respond to simple requests. Joseph Perez failed a field sobriety test and blew a .13% BAC at the police station. Perez was cited and released for driving under the influence of intoxicants - misdemeanor

At 11:29 p.m., a report of a German shepherd loose in a mobile park on 17th Street. Officers were unable to locate the dog.

At 11:44 p.m., a report of a motorist all over the roadway on Deann Drive. Officers arrived and found the vehicle parked legally outside the Riverplace Apartments.

At 12:48 p.m., officers received a report of an emotionally distressed/possibly intoxicated driver. Neither the Monmouth nor Independence Police were able to locate the subject.

Monday, Dec. 8

Two subjects were stealing packages off of porches in the 800 block of Stinson Street and surrounding streets. Witnesses provided good descriptions and a license plate of the vehicle the suspects used. The vehicle was last observed traveling southbound so Benton County Sheriff's Office was notified to be on the lookout. Francisco Nieves Martinez was contacted by the BCSO and stolen property was located. Nieves Martinez was arrested and charged with theft 3.

While assisting the Monmouth Police Department on a late burglary follow-up in the 300 block of Whitesell Street, they discovered that Susanna Hills had a probation violation warrant. Hills was arrested and transported to Polk County Jail.

At 6:02 p.m., officers covered Monmouth Police on Whitesell Street and subsequently arrested a female subject and charged her with parole violation. She was trespassed from the location.

Tuesday, Dec. 9

At 6:06 a.m., a report of a vehicle stolen on Main Street.

Upon responding to a physical disturbance in the 700 block of Morning Glory Drive, Marc Miller was taken into custody for causing multiple injuries to his spouse and forcing the victim from leaving their house. Miller was charged with assault 4 - felony and coercion, and was lodged at the Polk County Jail.

At 5:57 p.m., a resident on Gun Club Road reported their son was out of control. The subject was referred to juvenile detention for harassment.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

While on an unrelated call for service, Randi Tahnezani was contacted in the 200 block of Osprey Lane and found to have multiple outstanding failure to appear warrants and was arrested. Tahnezani was transported to the Polk County Jail. As per department policy, Tehnezani's personal belongings were searched and inventoried before being stored for safekeeping. Drugs and paraphernalia were located. One of the baggies tested positive for suspected fentanyl so a drug charge was added. Tahnezani was charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamines.

Thursday, Dec. 11

A sergeant noticed a truck driving east on Monmouth Street with improperly functioning taillights. Upon being pulled over on Main Street near Atwater Street in Monmouth, driver Gavin Luehring was criminally cited for driving while suspended - misdemeanor.

Friday, Dec. 12

On Dec. 1, Jonathan Debnam shoplifted a Milwaukee grinder from a local business. Officers recognized Debnam and his vehicle from the store's video footage. Upon contacting Debnam in the 1300 block of Monmouth Street, he stated that was frustrated with himself for having shoplifted. He was arrested, charged with theft 2 and transported to the Polk County Jail.

Saturday, Dec. 13

At 8:16 p.m., a resident on Gun Club Road reported her grandson ran away. The subject was located and referred to juvenile detention for runaway and theft 3.

Sunday, Dec. 14

At 4:19 a.m., officers investigated a late report of sex abuse on Main Street.

Monday, Dec. 15

At 12:20 a.m., a motorist on 16th Street was stopped for traffic violations. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and for no insurance. The vehicle was towed as a hazard.

At 8:41 a.m., a motorist on Monmouth Street was cited for speeding 15 mph over the speed limit in a school zone.

At 3:44 p.m., a motorist reported that another motorist on Main Street tried to hit his vehicle with his hands.

Monmouth Police Department

Thursday, Dec. 11

Noise Complaint: Officers responded to a loud car alarm. The vehicle owner was contacted and came out to disconnect the battery.

Arrest/Theft: A person reported their phone and wallet stolen by a visitor. The subject was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of another county. Later investigation and contact with a citizen revealed the items were accidentally left behind at a store, not stolen.

Attempt to Locate: Officers searched a park for the individual who found the reported "stolen" phone and wallet. An individual was uncooperative, and a parent arrived to collect the items. Store staff confirmed the property was left behind.

Suspicious Person: Officers investigated a report of a male acting suspiciously in a park under a blanket. Contact revealed the male was fully clothed and bouncing his leg to help himself stay warm.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: Staff reported a person attempting self-harm with a cord and multi-tool. The cord was removed, the person was unresponsive and required a sternum rub, and was later taken to a medical facility on a protective hold after admitting to the attempt.

Driving Complaint: Followed up on a report of a vehicle driving erratically and unable to maintain its lane. The person who reported the driving was advised to stop following, and a search of the area by external agencies was unsuccessful.

Attempt to Locate: Located a vehicle involved in a reported domestic argument. The driver admitted to the argument, and another police agency took over to determine no crime had occurred.

Suspicious Person: Located a male on a bicycle reported as suspicious for knocking on a caller's door. The male refused to identify himself.

Friday, Dec. 12

Assist Other Agency: Assisted another police agency with a verbal domestic incident caused by a young child yelling because they did not want to go to bed.

Assist Other Agency: Arrived at the scene of a vehicle crash where a driver had fallen asleep and driven into a ditch. The driver was helped out, and a county police agency took over; no signs of intoxication were present.

Found Property: A scooter was found near a bus stop. After checking the serial number and police databases, it was not entered as stolen.

Runaway: A parent reported their 12-year-old child as a runaway. The child was later located, referred for the runaway status, and returned to the parent.

Ordinance Violation/Information: Information was received about a possible ongoing ordinance violation regarding a home-based business operating at after-hours, and officers were asked to observe when in the area.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted another police agency in taking a person into custody for a property crime.

Suspicious Activity: A counselor reported a highly suspicious inquiry for a large-group session with an offer of a large payment, including a request for the counselor to pay a private driver for an amount that suggested a potential money laundering scheme. The counselor was advised to report the activity to the FBI.

Information: Notification was received that a large truck would be parking overnight in a public lot for a toy-loading event the following morning.

Follow-up Investigation: A person was cited and released for making a false statement related to a firearm denial from an earlier date.

Animal Complaint: A lost dog was found, and the owner was located using an embedded chip. The owner and finder were put in touch to reunite the dog.

Harassment: A person called to report telephonic harassment by an individual living in a different city and state and was advised to contact the police department in that location.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted another police agency and child protective services with the court-ordered removal of a juvenile from a home, which was accomplished peacefully despite some obstruction concerns from older family members.

Theft: A person reported their wallet was stolen from their backpack at work. Video footage confirmed another employee took the wallet. The juvenile employee admitted to the act and was referred for the property crime.

Attempt to Locate: Another city reported a driving complaint for a vehicle registered in this city. A search of the registered owner's address was unsuccessful.

Noise Complaint: Spoke with a resident about a noise complaint for a birthday party. The resident was asked to turn down the music and denied the presence of an individual on probation with a no-contact order.

Domestic Disturbance: Responded to a non-physical domestic argument at a public establishment. The male left the scene after being escorted out for yelling. Staff did not wish to pursue trespassing for either person.

Prowler: Responded to a report of a prowler. Video was obscured, and a search of the area, including a resident's backyard, was unsuccessful. The caller did not wish to pursue the complaint.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: Responded to a person found in their apartment who was determined to have passed away due to natural causes and had a Do Not Resuscitate order. No life-saving measures were initiated. Staff were instructed to contact a funeral home.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a Child Protective Services call for a 24-hour response regarding physical abuse. The reported address was incorrect, but a family member happened to be present while dropping off their child and was able to speak with Child Protective Services.

Animal Complaint: A person called to report a barking dog in a neighbor's apartment unit, a recurring issue. An officer stood by and briefly heard a dog bark near a window. A different

neighbor was contacted and reported no issues with the dog. An attempt to call the reporting party back was unsuccessful as the voice-mail was full.

Disturbance: A delivery driver reported hearing yelling and dogs barking from a residence. An officer arrived and spoke with the two people inside, who reported a verbal argument related to stress and one person not wanting to go to the hospital. Both individuals appeared cooperative and denied anything physical. A young child was present, reported to be happy and healthy. Resources were offered.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A person called with concerning information about a subject who had knocked on the caller's sibling's door. The subject sent texts suggesting they felt like a dead person and was going to a church facility to "find a dead body." An officer spoke with the subject, who sounded emotionally distressed but denied suicidal intent, stating they felt dead but were going to church to feel like a new person and were working on their mental health. The incident was documented in case behavior escalates.

Missing Person: A person from a group home, reported to have the mental capacity of a 14-year-old and a history of running away, was reported as having run away after their partner was made to go home. While staff were speaking with an officer, the person returned to the group home.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted another police department with locating a runaway juvenile, who was found staying with another individual.

Suspicious Person: Report of an unknown adult male knocking on a caller's door twice late at night. The description was similar to a previous, similar call. The subject was unable to be located.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Noise Complaint: A resident of an apartment connected to a neighborhood store complained that the music was too loud. The officer spoke with a store employee who said the resident had already talked to them. The employee turned the music down before the officer arrived.

Citizen Contact: A person called regarding Christmas tree lights along the road, one of which had fallen. A voicemail was left for public works to address the fallen light.

Harassment: A person called regarding custody issues with their former partner over their children. The former partner was supposed to drop the children off at a mutual location but threatened to come to the new residence if the person was not there earlier than agreed. The children were dropped off nearby. The former partner was trespassing from the new residence telephonically, and the person planned to look into a restraining order. The former partner was expected to call the County Sheriff's Office to have the person trespassing from their old residence.

Found Property: A person walking near a store found a debit card belonging to another person. The card was returned to the owner after they correctly identified it.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A person came to the police department to report possibly being followed by two vehicles. The

subject, while preaching several nights prior at a store, there were similarly described vehicles present. The people associated with the vehicles were reportedly angry about the preaching. The person claimed to be followed from a pizza store until turning into the police department parking lot. The officer advised that no crime had occurred and noted the person's uncertainty about the vehicles being the same. The person was understanding and left.

Suspicious Activity: A resident and roommate left their apartment, ensuring the front door and rear sliding door were locked. When the resident returned later, the front door was open and the screen to the rear slider was open, though no signs of forced entry were present and nothing was stolen. Doors to rooms and shower curtains were noted to be open. The incident was documented as suspicious activity.

Crime: A resident reported multiple events over the past two weeks, including a prior civil dispute. The resident reported that a person and another individual came to their new residence and dropped off garbage out front, claiming it was the resident's belongings. The resident wanted them charged with offensive littering and for both people to be trespassed from the apartment unit. The two individuals were trespassing, and the offensive littering case was closed due to a lack of probable cause.

Assist Other Agency: An individual was taken into custody on three outstanding county warrants.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: Friends reported a person had harmed themselves, had blood on their face, and was running around the house screaming. An officer arrived and found the person in their room, appearing very altered. Emergency medical personnel, who had responded earlier for a seizure, transported the individual to a medical facility for what was suspected to be another seizure. The case worker's information was documented.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted another police department with checking a residence for an adult who has a no-contact release agreement with a juvenile. The juvenile's mother was staying with the adult. Contact was made, and the adults stated the juvenile was with their biological father in a different city. The no-contact release agreement was placed on the briefing table for future reference.

Monday, Dec. 15

Harassment: A person reported being pushed twice by another person in an apartment stairwell. The incident began over a conversation about the second person's partner telling the first person's child to shut the door and calling the child a snitch while arguing with the second person in front of two children. Probable Cause was established for harassment. Child Protective Services was notified and closed the report at screening. The second person was later located, cited and released for harassment.

Theft: Two residents' vehicles were unlawfully entered overnight. Both were left unlocked. The only items reported missing were a crossbow and two small air guns from one of the vehicles. There was no

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video footage or suspect information available.

Arrest: An individual was cited and released at the police department lobby on an outstanding municipal warrant. Another person with the same last name had a warrant that was not serviceable. The family's new residence was documented.

Harassment: A person called to report that someone came into their place of employment and showed them a social media post from a neighbor saying that the person worked there. Comments on the post suggested ways to provoke the person into a fight to get them arrested. The person was concerned about being hurt at work. They were waiting on screenshots, and the officer advised the incident would be documented.

Assist Other Agency: An officer with another city's police department requested contact information for a potential witness who had an address in this city. The phone number was provided.

Theft: A person reported setting their phone down at a store and leaving, and when they returned, the phone was gone. Staff mentioned a male picked up a phone after the person left. The person was tracking the phone, which pinged out in the county. The officer was to follow up with the manager for camera footage.

Theft: The person who reported the theft of the phone called with an update. The owner tracked the phone to a gravel road/house location in the county but couldn't find it there. It had pinged a few times in the area, with an initial ping near an intersection in a creek. The owner attempted to freeze the phone via carrier service and requested an update on the camera footage. Update: An officer went out and found the phone at its pinged location and was able to return the phone to the person.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Assist Other Agency: The Independence Police Department had a domestic call that was reported to include a threat of a stabbing. A responding officer was close by. The threat was determined to be a male suggesting he wanted to stab himself, and the incident was not criminal.

Alarm: An alarm activation occurred at a business. Front desk staff indicated they thought they had shut the alarm off but might have hit the wrong button. Everything was fine and there were multiple people inside the business.

Citizen Contact: A female came to the police department to advise she believed she was being followed by a male she had encountered a few weeks prior. In the previous call, the male had followed her to the police department, stating he knew her from when she bartended at a local establishment a few years ago. She confirmed he was a regular but noted she had not seen him since. The male claimed he was just trying to say hello. Today, she reported he has been by her house several times since, including that morning. She was directed to the Independence Police Department for a potential stalking complaint.

Missing Person: A male called to report a female as missing, stating she had not been back to the location since Friday. He called back in a short time to report he had been in touch with her and she was no longer missing. He expressed concern

she may be experiencing some onset of dementia based on strange comments and actions, but she was scheduled for a meeting that day and they plan to look into getting her in touch with Northwest Senior and Disability Services. No Further Action.

Shots Fired: A single report of 7-8 rapid fire shots somewhere west of a location. The area was checked, but officers were unable to locate anything suspicious.

Missing Person: A couple callers reported that two juveniles were looking for their younger sibling, a 7-year-old. As officers began to get further information, the siblings reported he was home. The child's father was spoken with, who said the child had gone down the street with his other brother, and he and the other siblings did not know he had left. The child came home after 15 minutes and was never actually missing.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Assist Other Agency: A power line was pulled down by a falling branch on a highway. The road was closed until the fire department was on scene and the city Power and Light responded.

Missing Person: A male was reported missing by his staff member. He went out of the residence at midnight to smoke a cigarette and left without notifying any staff. He suffers from a mental health condition and developmental disorder. He has a substance abuse problem and frequents homeless groups for drugs and sexual activities. He was entered into the Law Enforcement Data System. He later returned home and was removed from the Law Enforcement Data System.

Assist Other Agency: Report of banging on a front door. Responded to cover another unit. Officers were unable to locate anyone in the area.

Citizen Contact: A female locked herself out of her vehicle while picking up her children. She was assisted with the lockout to regain access to the vehicle.

Suspicious Activity: A report was received about children fighting each other on a third-floor landing while their parent was briefly gone. A video of the incident was sent in and reviewed, showing two of the children play fighting with each other for about 6-7 minutes before their parent returned. It was determined to be nothing criminal or suspicious, and there was no need to cross-report.

Burglary: A male reported someone had broken into his apartment complex unit and attempted to break into an adjacent unit. He reported several batteries and an air compressor were taken from his unit (over \$500 worth), and several tools were stashed by the door. The back window was cracked and the locking mechanism moved, suggesting someone planned to come back for more items.

Driving Complaint: While an officer was on a traffic stop, a female reported a silver vehicle had been following her closely and passing in the center lane over a double-yellow line. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle due to the delay but sent the information to the Oregon State Police as the driver was out of a different city

Polk County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, Dec. 10

At 2 a.m., a deputy responded to a report of a vehicle on Maple Grove Road that damaged

its undercarriage while attempting to drive through a flooded section of 6-8 inches of water. The driver had a family member come assist and both vehicles left. The deputy placed signs on either side of the water hazard to warn drivers.

At 7:10 a.m., a deputy provided traffic control on Brown Road while a students were transferred from a Perrydale School District bus with a flat tire to another working bus.

At 9:45 a.m., a male subject came into the PCSO lobby to report about eight weeks ago his son witnessed a vehicle past the bridge on Gooseneck Road and fired off a couple rounds. The male subject recovered a spent 9mm cartridge and a damaged .223 round and turned them over to a deputy.

At 10:50 a.m., a resident on Oak Grove reported that someone broke into one of the double wides on his property and stole one of his wood splitters, welders, and misc tools while breaking several other windows. The resident estimated that more than \$1,000 in damages and over \$1,000 in stolen tools/equipment.

At 1:51 p.m., a deputy was contacted while at the fairgrounds by a male reporting that two small safes were in the ditch near the intersection of Smithfield Road and Highway 99. The deputy found the two small safes, both appeared to have been broken into and been there several weeks / months due to placement of them and rusting. They were taken as found property.

At 11:45 a.m., a resident on Mistletoe Road reported a family member guessed their security code, got into the house and stole a chain saw.

At 2:49 p.m., a business owner on Pioneer Road reported suspecting an employee stole a .300 black out AR-Rifle and a 30 magazines (full) and a box of ammunition, two snap-on impact drills and a black digital Matco vehicle system diagnostic tool valued at \$2,000.

At 10:22 p.m., a deputy contacted two people dumpster diving inside an enclosure on Taybin Road that was clearly marked "no trespassing." Amber Curtis was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant out of Linn County.

Thursday, Dec. 11

At 12:56 a.m., a motorist was stopped for speeding. The driver was cited for no insurance and warned for the speeding.

At 3:44 a.m., a deputy came upon a vehicle occupied by two on Highway 22. The man in the driver's seat was driving while suspended - violation and the female in the passenger seat was also driving while suspended. The deputy advised them to be picked up by a valid driver.

At 4:42 a.m., deputies responded to a report of an alarm going off on Belvedere Street. They drove through the area but did not hear an alarm going off.

At 7:59 a.m., residents on Finn Road reported her neighbor's horses were out in her field for the third time this week. The owner was not home, but answered a call by a deputy, who explained that if she didn't come get her citation, she would be arrested for livestock at large (criminal). The owner hung up on the deputy, who developed a probable cause statement.

At 9:58 a.m., a resident on Strong Road reported her neighbor's dogs got out again and charged her husband. A deputy gave the owner info on better fencing

for his dogs and educated him on the statute, dog as a public nuisance.

At 4:58 p.m., a report of a single vehicle crash into a ditch on Clow Corner Road. A motorist was traveling eastbound when she drifted off the road, hit the ditch and collided into a mail box.

At 4:56 p.m., an Amazon delivery driver in an unmarked vehicle reported hearing about eight gunshots while driving down a long driveway off Pioneer Road. Realizing there were several residences along the route and no further information to indicate it was an unsafe situation, there was no response.

At 7:50 p.m., a deputy contacted a female subject smoking marijuana in her vehicle in a park off Wallace Road. The deputy advised her she cannot live in the park. She was somewhat uncooperative but told the deputy she would find a different place to park in the future.

At 11:16 p.m., a deputy stopped a male subject and warned him for trespassing in the park off Glen Creek Road after hours.

At 11:47 p.m., a deputy came upon an abandoned vehicle, nose down in the ditch off Corvallis Road with the rear end still in the traffic lane. Towing removed the vehicle as a hazard.

Friday, Dec. 12

At 9:56 a.m., a resident on Harmony Road reported 12 loose German shepherds. A deputy called the complainant who advised dogs had already returned to their property.

At 10:05 a.m., a motorist on Wallace Road was stopped for expired tags. The driver was cited for failure to register a vehicle and for driving while suspended - violation. Her license was seized and returned to the DMV.

At 11 a.m., a motorist on Wallace Road with expired plates was stopped. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for driving uninsured.

At 11:25 a.m., a motorist with expired insurance was stopped on 7th Street for improperly making turning signals. The driver was cited for driving uninsured.

At 1:08 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of a theft at a storage facility on Salmon River Highway. Many RV batteries were stolen, plus there was lots of property damaged/tampered with.

At 6:35 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of a single vehicle crash that was non-blocking with airbags deployed on Bethel Road. The driver was cited for no valid operator's license and was issued a crash report. The owners of the vehicle will work on getting the vehicle towed.

At 9:05 p.m., while patrolling Wallace Park, a deputy located a male parked in his vehicle in the back parking lot. The male, Mario Ortiz, was cited and released on an outstanding warrant from Clackamas County.

Saturday, Dec. 13

At 1:03 a.m., a motorist pulled into the on Salt Creek Road told a deputy one of his tires is flat and has no tools, adding he had no money, family or friends that could help. The deputy told him it was OK for him to stay at the fire station if he had to until morning.

At 8:06 a.m., a resident on Finn Road reported her neighbor's horses were loose again. A deputy found the owner at the gate and cited her for livestock at large.

At 11:29 a.m., a resident's dogs on Strong Road got out again and were trespassing on a neighbor's property. The owner had already been

warned for having dogs as a public nuisance, so received a citation this time.

At 1:52 p.m., a deputy witnessed a motorist pass several cars in front of him in a no-passing lane, and forced other motorists to brake hard when he swerved back into the lane. The deputy stopped the motorist and cited him for careless driving.

At 7:29 p.m., a female subject on Kenard Street was arrested on an outstanding warrant out of Marion County. She was transported and lodged at Marion County Jail.

Sunday, Dec. 14

At 12:03 a.m., a deputy witnessed two speeding vehicles on Independence Highway. The deputy turned around and stopped one of the vehicles, citing the driver for speeding 107 mph in a 55-mph zone. The deputy was unable to stop the second vehicle.

At 12:30 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 82 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 5:15 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for speeding. The driver was cited for no operator's license and driving uninsured.

At 7:49 a.m., several reports that horses were loose again on Finn Road. However, this time, the owner, Summer Kindred, in a separate incident, was in jail after being arrested for felony elude and resisting arrest. A deputy called her father and tasked him with rounding up the horses.

At 10:04 a.m., a report of a loose horse on Oakdale Road. Apparently the horse got loose sometime overnight due to power outage knocking out electric fence power. A deputy called the house sitter and she advised they found the horse and were retrieving it.

At 10:24 a.m., a resident on Best Road reported he made a post on his Instagram about his new job at Turning Point USA and someone commented saying "someone's going to end up like Charlie Kirk soon." The account that made the comment is private with no identifying information. The deputy told the complainant he'd document this but that the comment did not constitute a crime.

At 11:12 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 11:23 a.m., a deputy was hanging out on Finn Road waiting for other deputies to arrive to plan how to go about taking Summer Kindred into custody for criminal livestock at large after continually being warned for her horses getting loose. Kindred drove by then attempted to elude the deputy. She stopped and ran down a driveway then jumped back into the driver's seat. Deputies had to fight her out of the car and onto the ground. Kindred was transported to West Valley Hospital due to a complaint of pain. While there, she threw and hit a deputy with a tissue box. Once cleared, she was lodged at Polk County Jail and charged with felony elude, resisting arrest, harassment, and from another case, trespass and criminal mischief.

At 11:58 a.m., a deputy spoke with many victims on Willow Springs Drive who all reported that their cars had been rummaged through but nothing stolen. The deputy found that no cars were broken into - all were left unlocked.

At 8:42 p.m., a motorist on Pacific Highway failed to stop at the stop sign on Clay Street and turned straight into the oncoming path of a deputy. The deputy had

to swerve out of the way and brake hard to avoid an accident with this vehicle. The driver said he did not see the deputy. He was cited for careless driving and was also cited and released on an outstanding failure to appear warrant out of Dallas.

At 10:30 p.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was stopped for speeding. The driver was cited for no operator's license and was warned for speeding.

At 11:27 p.m., Ila Nielsen was arrested in Falls City for assaulting her mother and was transported to Polk County Jail.

Monday, Dec. 15

At 2:44 a.m., a motorist on Taggart Road was cited for driving while suspended - violation and driving uninsured.

At 10:18 a.m., a report of dumping of trash, located near Fishback Road and Highway 194. The trash was old food and a small table. A deputy advised Polk County Public Works who was going to take care of it.

At 1:40 p.m., a deputy responded to a report of a house fire on Oak Grove Road. The caller stated no one was inside. The deputy didn't think anything was criminal in nature and fire was still on scene investigating.

At 2:02 p.m., a report of graffiti on a concrete structure on 4-H Road. A spray paint can was found and with dried finger prints. A capped wine carton was also found in the structure.

At 3:55 p.m., a deputy responded to a report of a crash on Airlie Road. The deputy helped get all involved occupants out of their vehicles. OSP arrived and took over the scene.

At 7:36 p.m., a report of a tree blocking traffic on Falls City Road. Deputies arrived and saw multiple civilians with chainsaws and leaf-blowers removing the tree and debris from the road.

At 7:52 p.m., Yamhill County Sheriff's Office was out with an elderly female that had gotten her car stuck in a ditch on Main Street and was unable to get home to Falls City. A PCSO deputy gave her a ride home.

At 9:35 p.m., a report of an explosion that was heard on Pioneer Road. A deputy drove through the area and did not see or hear anything.

At 10:06 p.m., while parked at the Falls City fire station, a deputy was contacted by a couple whose 7-year-old foster son had a seizure and was mostly unresponsive. Falls City Fire and medic responded and transported him to Salem Hospital.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

At 11:52 a.m., a camper trailer was towed from Mill Creek Road by TRS towing.

At 12:27 p.m., a resident on Salem Dallas Highway reported his pump box, about five feet from the roadway, was being tampered with. The insulation was removed and the top was off. Nothing looked to be taken.

At 4:46 p.m., an Oregon I.D card left up at the District Attorney's Office was turned in. A deputy attempted to contact the owner by phone, but was unsuccessful. The owner is listed as transient. The I.D taken as safekeeping.

At 6:50 p.m., on Perrydale Road, a deputy came upon a motorist having issues with the hood of his vehicle not staying down.

At 9:34 p.m., a subject on Jefferson Street was cited and released on an outstanding failure to appear warrant.

Northwest just finished warmest fall on record, scientists report

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Across the Northwest, a record warm fall and lack of snowpack going into the winter is putting more drought pressure on Oregon, Idaho, Washington and western Montana.

Despite record rain in western Washington

recently, and earlier this year in central and southern Oregon, the showers are filling up already overdrawn reservoirs in many areas, scientists said on Monday at an online drought and climate outlook meeting hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Snowpack in the region and in the Cascade Range, acting as a reservoir of its own for summer months when there's little rain and many communities rely on snowmelt, is simply not piling up.

Snowpack in the Northwest is sitting at the lowest level for the region

as a whole at this point in the winter since record keeping began in 2001, according to Jacob Genuise, a climatologist at the Washington State Climate Office.

"We're seeing just really warm storms with a lot of rain and not a lot of snow," Genuise said. "Given all this warm rain, it actually melted some of our snowpack, and we saw a decline."

The Northwest just experienced its sixth warmest August on record, the warmest September on record — about 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal on average — and the second warmest November on record, according to NOAA data.

Taken together, August through November of this year was the record warmest on average across the Northwest in more than 130 years of record keeping. NASA scientists, using NOAA records of global average temperatures dating back to 1880, found that this November was the third-warmest November on Earth, behind only November of 2023 and 2024.

But in 2023 and 2024, a planet-warming El Niño weather pattern helped fuel record temperatures,

according to the data. There was no El Niño event to drive temperatures this year.

Temperatures in the Northwest have been most abnormal across all of Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, and in western Montana.

"It's definitely not good," Genuise said. "We've seen much more above normal years in the past few decades than we did in the past."

Rain not snow

By the end of this summer, drought took hold of the Northwest, Genuise said, especially in parts of northern Idaho and southeast Washington. Snow melted too quickly in spring, creating drought as the summer went on, and abnormal heat also increased surface water evaporation in lakes and streams, lowering water levels that contributed to drought in parts of the region.

In the last month, most of western Oregon was at 50% of its normal level of precipitation for this time of year, according to Brad Pugh, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Only southern and central Oregon have been spared major drought impacts this

year, but reservoirs that filled from heavy spring rains are also being quickly depleted, he said.

Everywhere north of Oregon is experiencing above average rainfall, Pugh said.

This will potentially help pull the Northwest out of a region-wide drought in the coming weeks or month, according to Pugh, but much of that will also depend on whether or not it gets cold enough for rain to turn into snow and snowpack.

The only area in the region getting roughly normal snowpack is western Montana, where temperatures have been just-cold-enough to turn rain to snow. All of Oregon and most of southern Washington are seeing "really, really deep snowpack deficits," Genuise said.

If the snowpack is still bad in the spring, there could be ongoing drought issues in the year ahead, Genuise added.

"We could see this change, and this is likely to change as we see some wetter and cooler systems later in the month, but we're definitely sitting well below normal as we talk here today," he said.

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