

Monmouth

Prism Art receives tribal grant

See A2



Sports

Perrydale girls eye league title

See B1



Fair Board President Tim Ray addresses nearly 200 concerned citizens who attended a work study session Feb. 7 to learn about the dire future of the Polk County Fairgrounds if more funding is not made available.

PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

County fairgrounds faces closure in 2026

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

Nearly 200 county residents learned Saturday at a Fair Board work session that unless the community shows a commitment to the Polk County Fairgrounds, it faces a potential closure June 30. In addition, if that commitment does not translate to passing an operations levy in November, the fairgrounds could still shutter for good Dec. 31.

Board President Tim Ray outlined for the attendees within the fairground's main building the unfortunate truth that reduced funding can no longer keep pace to maintain

an aging and crumbling infrastructure.

"In essence, due to decreased federal funding and the state budget slowly squeezing the county budgets, our county budget continues to shrink to the point where now they are not comfortable allowing it to go now much lower," Ray said. "Unfortunately, fairground operations take about \$300,000 out of the general fund. The reality is the county may have to close without additional operation costs."

The additional funds would come from a four-year operations levy. For the purpose of discussion, at the work study session the fair board worked

on numbers generated from a 10 cent to 13 cents per year \$1,000 valuation. The most dire need, electrical replacement, would take place over the first two years being the most costly at about \$700,000. Ray said replacement would also take time for turnaround to get replacement equipment. Other issues the levy would address include asphalt replacement, a new maintenance shop, new HVAC and the development of an amphitheater by year four.

Ray said all those needs down the line mean nothing when the fair's current budget runs out June 30.

"Hopefully, the county will support us through August and

the 2026 fair," Ray said. "But I don't speak for the county. It's their decision. In theory, it's the end of our current budget. They have not done the 2026-27 budget yet. But I've been told we most likely won't be in it."

"I don't want to be chairman of a board that closes a fairgrounds," he added. "We'd be the only county in the state that doesn't have one."

When asked specifically what the county's expenditures are to keep the fairgrounds open, Ray turned the mic over to county administrator Greg Hansen.

He explained that the current

See **FAIRGROUNDS**, page A8

Dallas axes 3% waste fee increase

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

In a long-delayed decision, the Dallas City Council voted Feb. 2 to reject Republic Services' requested 3% increase to the solid waste management rates. Instead, the council agreed to no increase now and reevaluate the company's actual costs mid-year versus project costs and decide at that time whether a rate increase is merited.

Republic Services had originally brought forth their rate increase request in March of 2025, but the city council balked at making a decision at the time without more information on the company's operational costs.

The City Council requested information on several of the rate factors. Republic Services was able to finally provide a full slate of financials in November, which included:

- The refuse rate index (RRI) which shows the consumer price index, and disposal rates for Coffin Butte landfill and the Pacific Region Compost (PRC).
- Rate Comparison Chart for other Republic Service Client Cities
- Dallas Historical Rate Comparison Chart
- Explanation of Cause for Disposal Rate Increases
- Schedule of Direct Expenses
- Statement of Income
- Breakdown of residential cart sizes in Dallas

Republic spokesperson Julie

See **WASTE**, page A8

Local grad rates follow, stray from state

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

Dallas High School followed state trends in its graduation rate increasing last year, while Central experienced a slight decline.

According to state data released Jan. 29 by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the Class of 2025 achieved Oregon's highest high school graduation rate ever, with 83 percent of students earning a diploma on time. That represents 1,546 more graduates than last year and surpasses the previous record of 82.6%, set by the Class of 2020.

Dallas stayed ahead of statewide numbers, graduating 86.8 percent of its senior cohort, up from 85.8 the previous year. Meanwhile,

Central continues to lag behind the state graduation rate, dipping a percentage point last year to 77.3 percent from its previous year of 78.4 percent.

Dallas High School principal Tim Larson said his staff is very pleased with the graduation results and with the continued positive trend.

"Keeping pace with the statewide increase reflects the intentional work of our staff and students and our shared commitment to ensuring every student is supported through to graduation," Larson said.

He added his school's results don't happen by accident.

"They are the outcome of strong relationships between student and staff, early

See **GRAD**, page A8



Natasha Simms and Fionnguala Lynch graduate last year from Falls City High School.

FILE I-O PHOTO

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Man sentenced to prison in West Salem robbery

A Redmond man was sentenced Feb. 4 to nearly 6 years in prison stemming from a West Salem shoplifting incident in May of 2025. Christopher Castator, 33, has been sentenced to serve 70 months (5 years, 10 months) in prison for injuring a store employee as he was attempting to elude being apprehended for stealing from the Roth's Fresh Market. Castator, of Redmond, Oregon, was sentenced

by Polk County Circuit Judge Rafael A. Caso after pleading guilty to robbery in the second degree and unlawful use of a weapon. The May, 2025 incident arose after the victim attempted to prevent the defendant and an accomplice from stealing merchandise. As the pair were retreating in their vehicle, Castator shot and struck the victim with a seven-inch arrow propelled from a blowgun type device.

Castator will not be eligible for any form of early release or sentence reduction for the entire length of his incarceration. He will also be required to serve a 36-month term of Post-Prison Supervision upon his release. The case was investigated by the Salem Police Department. It was prosecuted by Polk County Deputy District Attorney Garrett Lewellen.



Prisms Art and Community Center receives grant from Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation

By ASHLEE PETRIME

Prisms Art and Community Center, a program of Partnerships in Community Living (PCL), received a \$2,750 grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation. This grant will help fund the purchase of a pottery wheel and essential materials, helping Prisms expand its inclusive art programs that welcome both people supported by

PCL and members of the broader community. As part of PCL, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding the horizons and enhancing the quality of life of people with disabilities through inclusion, equity, and self-determination, Prisms creates opportunities for connection and creativity that bring people together. The Siletz Tribal Charitable Foundation's ongoing commitment to

helping others continues to make a meaningful difference across Oregon. Their investment in Prisms reinforces a shared vision — building communities where everyone has access to creativity, inclusion, and opportunity. Partnerships in Community Living and Prisms are deeply grateful for this partnership and the Foundation's support in making art accessible to all.

Monmouth receives America 250 Oregon Commission grant

The city of Monmouth was one of 25 organizations to receive a part of \$75,000 in grants from the America 250 Oregon Commission, in partnership with Oregon Heritage and the Oregon Historical Society, for projects and programs that commemorate America's 250th anniversary in 2026. According to the

Oregon Historical Society, Monmouth's grant funds will support the purchase and installation of a permanent display case that will be placed in city hall. The display will be used for exhibitions acknowledging the indigenous peoples of this region that encourage visitors to consider diverse perspectives while reflecting on the

past. The Oregon 250 Grant Program was established to help organizations create inclusive, community-focused projects that highlight Oregon's diverse histories, traditions, and cultures. These grant awards of up to \$3,000 will support programs that align with the mission of America 250 Oregon.

Corporate profits, consumer spending reverse Oregon's deficit

ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon lawmakers meeting at the Capitol to balance the state's budget are staring down a much rosier economic forecast than expected. Lawmakers will have about \$106 million more revenue to work with in the state's general fund than expected and \$50 million more from other non-general fund revenues, a significant increase from the \$63 million budget deficit they were expected to be grappling with following the last economic forecast in November, and a near-full turnaround from the \$373 million deficit they were told to expect in August. Oregon's chief economist, Carl Riccadonna, and senior economist, Michael Kennedy, presented the surprising news and the state's latest quarterly economic forecast on Wednesday to House and Senate revenue committees and previewed some of their findings on a call with reporters Tuesday evening. Riccadonna said the gap between market forecasts and actual revenues has been a problem not just for state economists but national ones during the last year. Data showing strong economic output in the midst of market uncertainty from tariffs, an anemic labor market and rising unemployment has confounded economists nationwide. "This is the conundrum that forecasters are dealing with. Normally there's a tight relationship between growth and employment. At the moment, that has broken down," Riccadonna said. Whether that's due to a rebalancing in hiring that boomed after the COVID pandemic, or due to the proliferation of artificial intelligence in the workplace meant to replace human labor, or both, is too difficult to know for certain right now, Riccadonna said. "It's probably contributions from both factors, but understanding the weighting — is it a little AI or a lot AI? — has huge implications as we're trying to put together a personal income tax forecast. Time will tell and that's the only way to understand what's happening here. This is a conundrum my team's dealing with," he said. Lawmakers will also have

\$147 million in unspent revenue from the last budget cycle to apply to the state budget during the next 18 months. The roughly \$106 million general fund revenue boost in the latest forecast is from corporate income tax revenues and other revenues coming in higher than expected, though personal income taxes are down more than \$40 million from the previous quarter. Another \$50 million that lawmakers will have to work with comes from lottery and corporate activity taxes that came in higher than expected. Overall, the state is looking at more revenue than expected in the quarter ahead due to several factors, Riccadonna explained: — Spending stimulated by the Republican tax and spending cut megalaw and from the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates by about 2% over the last year. — Less uncertainty related to tariffs than at the start of 2025. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide in the next few months whether President Donald Trump can continue ordering them by executive fiat. — High corporate profits, business activity and stock market valuations driven by the "hyperscalers" such as AI processing and data centers selling cloud computing and data storage and management, and the semiconductors needed for the server farms. "The fact of the matter is that the corporate profits environment is strong. Financial market valuations are close to record high levels, and so this offsets a lot of the weakness that we would see in wages and salaries, especially in the lower tier households," Riccadonna said. Democratic lawmakers expressed relief that they'll have more money to work with to shore up nearly \$1 billion in federal revenue losses from the Republican tax and spending cuts, and frustration that the economic boosts seem to indicate healthy corporate, rather than household, budgets. "While modestly good news at the state level, most Oregonians won't be impacted by what we learned in the revenue forecast today. Many will wake up tomorrow and still struggle to pay skyrocketing healthcare costs, rising rent,



The Oregon Department of Revenue building in Salem on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025. Lawmakers will begin 2026 with \$300 million more than expected for the state's budget, state economists reported. Alan Cohen / Oregon Capital Chronicle

and growing grocery bills," House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, said in a statement. "Oregon's economy continues to show signs of resilience, even though President Trump's economic policies are exacerbating inflation pressures and cost of living challenges for Oregonians," Gov. Tina Kotek said in a statement. "My focus remains on driving solutions for people struggling to make ends meet and defending Oregon's values in the face of federally-driven cuts to essential services." Republican leaders used the forecast to poke holes in Democrats' plan to cut ties with three of the 115 provisions of the Republican tax and spending cut law to keep nearly \$300 million in tax revenue in the state. "Raising costs on businesses and middle-income Oregonians right now is indefensible, and voters have already rejected this approach in overwhelming fashion," Senate Republican Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, said in a statement. "With additional resources on the table, Democrats are deliberately choosing to suppress economic growth and shrink our tax base." **Economy continues to split** During the last revenue forecast, Riccadonna told lawmakers that Oregonians are experiencing the current economy differently based on

their income bracket, creating a K-shaped economy where upper income-earners see their money grow while low-income households see theirs fall. On Tuesday, Riccadonna said the split is becoming even more pronounced. Capital gains taxes are on the rise from the sale of stocks, but overall income taxes are down, indicating low wages and lost jobs or low job growth. The national unemployment rate decreased slightly in recent months, but Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has characterized this period as one of "low hiring, low firing," leaving many trapped outside of labor markets or stuck in jobs with little mobility. Oregon's unemployment rate seems to be plateauing after reaching the highest level — outside a recession or recovery period — in a decade, according to the Oregon Employment Department. Filings for unemployment insurance have slowed compared to the same time last year, signaling that maybe labor conditions will begin to meet growing economic output, Riccadonna said. There is strong growth in production and the national output of durable goods, Riccadonna said, but it's not being reflected in the labor market. Among the strangest relationships is growing output from the manufacturing sector, coupled with large

manufacturing job losses, especially in Oregon. "It's unusual," he said. "In normal economic conditions, if the economy grows faster, you have more job gains to go along with that." Economists at the Federal Reserve recently changed their assessment of economic activity from "modest" to "solid," and Riccadonna characterized it as "sturdy." Clarification: The article previously stated that lawmakers would have \$300 million more than expected to spend during the next 18-months of the budget cycle. This included \$147 million in unspent funds from the previous cycle, which state budget writers were aware of. The article has been updated to clarify that state budget writers are in fact looking at a combined \$156 million more than expected from general fund revenue and other non-general fund revenues that improved. <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/state-budget-goes-from-deficit-to-expected-300-million-increase-in-latest-economic-forecast/> 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@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

Whitworth teacher Brooke Cross named February Classroom of the Month

Brooke Cross, a fifth-grade teacher at Whitworth Elementary School, has been selected as the February Classroom of the Month, an honor presented by Farmers Insurance – Steele Insurance Agency to recognize outstanding educators making a meaningful impact in local classrooms.

Cross was nominated by Whitworth Principal Darrick Bruns in recognition of her exceptional work helping students build confidence through language development and leadership. Her classroom practices reflect a strong commitment to high-quality instruction, student growth, and continuous professional improvement.

A key part of Cross’s instructional approach is her use of the Constructing Meaning framework, which supports students in developing academic language and understanding across subjects. In addition to implementing this framework in her own classroom, Cross also serves as a district trainer, helping other educators strengthen instructional practices.

Each school day begins with a strong emphasis on Social Emotional Learning. Cross intentionally creates an environment where students feel supported, valued, and prepared to learn, guiding them to understand their own emotions and recognize how their actions affect others. This focus helps foster a respectful, positive classroom culture where students can thrive academically and socially.

Beyond her classroom, Cross serves as the fifth-grade Professional Learning Community leader at Whitworth, where she supports her colleagues through collaboration, shared leadership, and a unified focus on student success.

Cross’s professional growth has been particularly noteworthy. During the 2020–21 school year, she served as an online distance learning kindergarten teacher, navigating the challenges of pandemic-era instruction. In just five and a half years, she has grown into an accomplished fifth-grade educator and instructional leader, demonstrating adaptability, dedication, and a deep commitment to her students.

“Ms. Cross is a remarkable educator whose passion, leadership, and commitment to students make her highly deserving of this recognition,” Bruns said.

As the February Classroom of the Month recipient, Cross will receive a \$200 classroom supply award, provided by Steele Insurance Agency, to be used for items of her choosing to further enhance student learning.

The Classroom of the Month program is part of Steele Insurance Agency’s ongoing commitment to supporting education and recognizing the educators who make a lasting difference in the Dallas community.

WOU Earth Science Alumni Society affinity group plans fundraiser field trip

The Earth Science Alumni Society Affinity Group at Western Oregon University has planned a Camping and Rafting Weekend on the Deschutes River June 19-21. This event aims to support the Earth Science Academic Advancement Fund.

Participants will enjoy a weekend of adventure, camaraderie and education while contributing to a tax-deductible gift that will elevate the fund’s value beyond the minimum threshold necessary for providing annual scholarships to students majoring in Earth and Environmental Science at Western Oregon University.

The event is open to everyone in the campus community and beyond. Registration is open through May 15, with early bird discounts available until Feb. 28. Participants can choose between an all-inclusive camping and rafting package or a camping and day hike alternative. The registration fee includes camping accommodations, necessary gear, guide services, meals, and group transportation.

Join them in supporting the next generation of Earth and Environmental Science students while enjoying the beautiful landscapes of the Deschutes River.

Sign up and get additional information and details online at <https://bit.ly/4bC6yR4>, or contact Steve Taylor, Professor of Geology, Earth and Environmental Science Department, at taylor@s@mail.wou.edu.

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Three reasons why checkups help ensure healthy growth for your child

Making sure your child is healthy and growing comes down to prevention — and regular checkups are your secret weapon.

Here are three reasons why:

1. Staying on schedule. At each appointment, your pediatrician will measure growth and provide immunizations when needed. These appointments will also give you the space to ask questions and share concerns.

- 2. Building healthy habits.** During checkups, doctors offer guidance on nutrition, sleep, safety and emotional wellness. This can help lay the foundation for lifelong well-being.
- 3. Monitoring milestones.** The CDC says by using checklists for screening at specific ages (such as 9, 18 and 30 months), parents and providers can spot delays early. Early support can make all the difference.

Making time for regular checkups empowers you to be proactive. It’s not about worrying — it’s about celebrating your child’s milestones, catching potential issues early and staying in tune with their changing needs. Preventive care helps make sure kids grow up strong, confident and healthy.

PERS reform starts with removing conflicts of interest

DOUGLAS BERG
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The Oregon Public Employees Retirement System is set to take another massive bite out of public budgets starting in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Still reeling from an even bigger increase that took effect last summer for the current biennium, public agencies will feel unprecedented pressure as they struggle to absorb this new shock.

The two increases mean that by 2029, PERS contributions will have increased almost 80% over the 2023-2025 biennium, from \$5.26 billion to \$9.35 billion, over 25% of payroll.

Shocking as these increases are, they shouldn't be surprising. They are the inevitable result of years of failures by a succession of PERS Boards.

Such a big spike in contributions could have been prevented. Its main cause is the depletion of reserve accounts, known as "side accounts," established years ago to soften contribution hikes by tapping the accounts each biennium.

Responsible PERS

boards would have planned for the end of the side accounts by gradually raising contributions each biennium to blunt the future increase. Instead, PERS Boards showed a stubborn unwillingness to raise contributions enough, leaving the agencies exposed when the inevitable contribution increase arrived.

The 2008 financial crisis should have been a wakeup call. Overnight, PERS funding crashed to 80%. Suddenly the board was facing a large unfunded liability, which means too little money coming into the system to pay promised pensions under current assumptions.

One key assumption that the PERS Board controls is the assumed rate of return on PERS investments. A large unfunded liability means the assumed rate is set too high — PERS investments would not earn enough to meet pension promises. Lowering the assumed rate produces higher contributions from public agencies but improves system funding.

How did the PERS Board react after 2008?

For five years, the PERS Board did nothing to increase contributions,



The Public Employees Retirement System building in Tigard. Courtesy photo from the Oregon State Archives

leaving the assumed rate of return unchanged. Finally a new board chairman arrived in 2013 and lowered the assumed rate for three consecutive bienniums. In 2019, progress stalled again. Only one reduction has been made since then.

PERS Boards failed to understand that keeping agency contributions artificially low is like backing up water behind an unstable dam. Eventually the deluge will come, as it has now with these enormous contribution hikes. And there may be more to come. Despite the billions of new money coming into the system, its funding is even worse than it was 2008.

Why did PERS Boards behave this way, and what can be done?

For decades, conflict of interest has marred PERS decisions and their oversight. Lawmakers, governors, and judges are all PERS members in some form. PERS members held half of the PERS Board positions before 2003 reforms. Today two out of five board members can be PERS members.

Whatever the motivations, the results are unmistakable. For decades, PERS Boards had their priorities backward. First, they approved such generous pensions that by 2000 many retirees were collecting pensions equal to their

final salaries. Then, when the 2008 financial crisis exposed the cost of those decisions, they refused to ask for enough contributions to fund the pensions they created.

Reform is long overdue. Lawmakers can reform the system by mandating that all five PERS Board members and their spouses have no connection to the PERS system, either as a beneficiary or in any other capacity. We've seen how badly PERS was managed with PERS members having substantial influence on the decisions. Only by having a truly independent board is there hope for the PERS system.

Meanwhile, as public

agencies scramble to manage over \$4 billion in added PERS costs by 2029, we wait to see what PERS hands them next.

Douglas Berg moved to Oregon in 2008 after a long career in information technology. He soon became interested in Oregon issues such as ballot measures, taxation and the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System. His opinion pieces and letters have appeared in The Oregonian/OregonLive, the legacy Eugene Register-Guard, and Lookout Eugene-Springfield. He has testified before the PERS Board and the Oregon Investment Council.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/02/04/pers-reform-starts-with-removing-conflicts-of-interest/>

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Kotek, mayors call for pause on immigration enforcement

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Gov. Tina Kotek and mayors of 31 cities have a message for the federal government: Stop all immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated.

Kotek and the mayors sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and White House border czar Tom Homan on Thursday, Feb. 5, saying they represent communities that are afraid of and morally opposed to federal officers' tactics.

"The actions of your officers are not making our communities safer," they wrote. "Parents are afraid to take their children to school. Families are avoiding health care. People are scared to go to work or even go to the store for essentials, let alone support a range of small businesses. The actions of your officers, especially the use of lethal force, are damaging local economies and hurting the people we are responsible for protecting and



Gov. Tina Kotek discusses legislative priorities in the 2026 short session in a meeting with reporters at the Oregon State Capitol on Jan. 28, 2026. Mia Mldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

serving."

Most of the 31 mayors who signed onto the letter represent cities in the Portland region and Willamette Valley, but it also includes signers from the coast, Central Oregon and Rogue Valley.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, both of whom have navigated recent incidents of federal officers using tear gas on protesters outside federal buildings in the state's

largest and third-largest cities, signed the letter. Salem Mayor Julie Hoy, who voted in December against declaring a state of emergency over increased immigration enforcement in Oregon's second-largest city, did not.

While most of the mayors who signed come from liberal-leaning cities, the list of signers also includes the mayors of the deeply Republican city of Detroit, which President Donald Trump won by 45 points

in 2024, and Carlton and Dayton, two small Yamhill County cities he won by double digits.

The letter included a commitment to the state's decades-old sanctuary law that prohibits local governments from using their resources to enforce federal immigration law. Oregon voters upheld that law by a 2-to-1 margin in 2018.

"Our message to our immigrant and refugee communities is unequivocal: We stand with you. You belong here," it ended. "Our message to your administration is equally clear: Current practices must change immediately."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-gov-kotek-mayors-call-for-pause-on-immigration-enforcement/>
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Kenneth Eugene Martin

Oct. 21, 1973 - Jan. 23, 2026

Kenneth Martin of Salem or walked on January 23, 2026. He was born in Madras, Oregon on October 21, 1973 to Myron and Kathy Martin. His grandparents were Richard (Bob) and Vivian Martin, and Elanore Prichard.

He is survived by his daughter, Emily Linn

of Stayton, Oregon his mother, Kathy Martin of Sheridan Oregon, his Brother Myron Martin Jr. of Sheridan, Oregon and his brother Chris Martin of Independence, Oregon, as well as four grandbabies, nieces, nephews, and lots of other family.

Kenneth was a proud Grand Ronde Tribal member and worked for Spirit Mountain Casino as a dealer for several years until he couldn't work there anymore. He was a lover of heavy metal, and his favorite band was Megadeth.

Kenneth will be missed by all who loved him. May we see you again.

Bollman's Tribute Center is caring for the family.

Joseph W. Gagznos III

Born: Aug. 22, 1943

Died: Jan. 27, 2026

Joe was born in Morristown, New Jersey. He also lived in Millington, New Jersey and Plainfield, New Jersey. He joined the Air Force in 1961 and retired from military service in July 1985.

He was in air operations and command and control. After he retired from the service, he moved his family to Dallas. He married Carol Dockweiler in 1990.

He is survived by his wife and two children, Joseph Gagznos and Laura Gagznos. At Joe's request, there will be no service.

We're still with you.

If you are one of the family members we have served, we'd like you to know you are still in our thoughts.

Experiencing a loss can affect your own life in profound ways, and we'd like you to know that you can call on us for grief resources, recommended reading, or just to hear a voice that cares.

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NEWS & VIEWS

A strong woman keeps Kin Dee Thai Eatery running

By EMMA HOLMAN

Kin Dee Thai Eatery is one of our most visited restaurants. The food is amazing — but the real gem is the owner, Lek. Lek lost her husband of 17 years two years ago and returned to the workforce at 53. Over the last two years, she started working at multiple restaurants and slowly worked her way up, until recently purchasing it from the previous owner. She also supports her two daughters and her elderly parents back in Thailand, working 12-hour days, six days a

week. We became close with Lek because of her positively radiant personality and genuine hospitality. Last week, she called me to say one of her staff members suddenly quit and she needed help. The restaurant is run by just three people — two in the kitchen and Lek herself, constantly moving between the kitchen and the front of the house — so even losing one person is a huge setback. I immediately told her I'd come support her, and I've been working there this week. The work was incredibly difficult and physically taxing, even

though Lek only gave me the "simplest" things to do: taking care of dine-in customers, cleaning and turning tables, managing orders (in-house, walk-in, call-in and online), working the register, packing orders and making beverages. Juggling all of that while keeping track of every order and item was hard. I missed packing rice for stir-fry orders, mixed up orders and bags, and sometimes didn't notice dine-in customers ready to pay. It only made me realize how incredibly hardworking Lek and the chef truly are. Lek also faces challenges with English and technology. So,

during my time there I helped her sort through paperwork and set up a DoorDash business account. I was really glad I could help in that way — but there are still so many responsibilities and challenges she has to carry on her own. Immigrants like Lek and Chef are everywhere in this country, working tirelessly in every corner for their families, their futures, and their dreams. Too often, they're reduced to headlines or statistics — but they are the people who feed us, care for us, and quietly hold communities together. Their generosity, resilience, and humanity deserve

to be seen. I walked into this week thinking I was going to help, but I walked away realizing how much I learned — about endurance, kindness, and what it means to keep showing up even after life has taken so much. Lek and Chef are the reason places like Kin Dee exist. I don't think I'll ever fully find the words for this week, but I'm deeply grateful I got to witness it — and even more grateful to call them friends. If you are ever in Monmouth, you must visit Kin Dee Thai Eatery!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STRIKES AGAINST TRUMP KEEP ADDING UP

The following actions of our president are totally unbelievable and show how insecure and egotistical he is.

- He's imposing additional tariffs on countries opposing our "purchase" of Greenland.
- He is a racist and sexist. He cancelled free admission to National Parks on MLK Jr. Day and has removed the "African American History", "Hispanic American History" and "Women's History" categories from the Arlington Cemetery website. He also reportedly attacks women reporters with terms like "piggy", "terrible", "ugly" and "incompetent".
- He wants to close the Kennedy Center for two years for "construction revitalization and complete rebuilding." Seems to be like tearing down the East Wing of the White House, which is a national treasure, for a ballroom.
- He got mad at Norway for not presenting him with the Nobel Peace Prize, which is presented

by a committee, not the country.

- Recently claimed he got Miriam Ibrahim freed from a Sudanese prison, when it actually occurred

during the Obama administration.

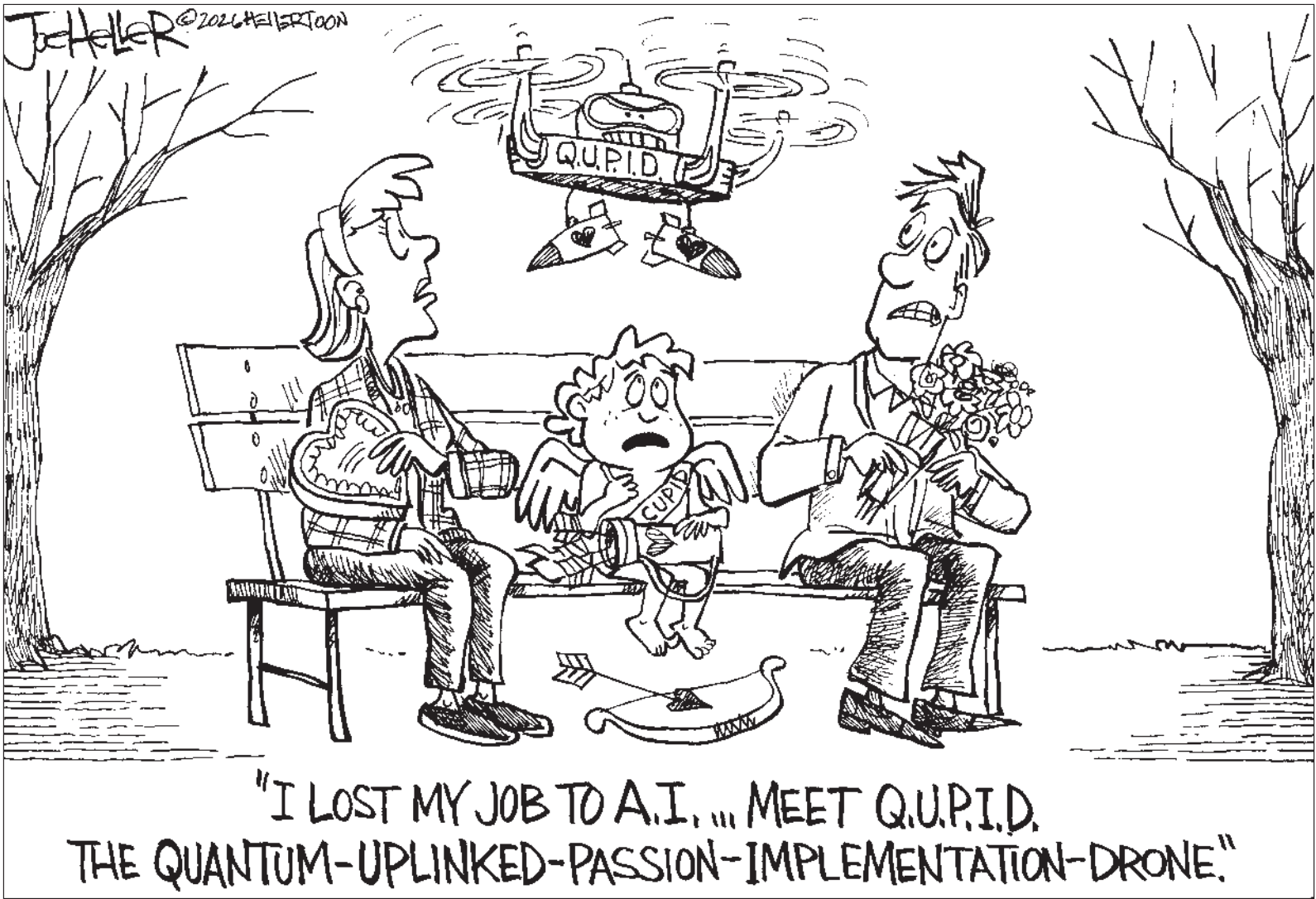
- Wants Penn Station and Dulles Airport renamed after him.
- Still claims the 2020

election was stolen from him. Isn't it time to just let it go? And one of the worst things he's done (to date) was to share a video clip

of Barack and Michelle Obama as apes. Does he have any morals, or any conscience? And why don't any Republican political people speak

out against this kind of garbage? Are they all that afraid of him? They need to man/woman up!

Clifford Brown
Dallas



Temp/Rainfall		
Feb. 2 -	59	38 0.00
Feb. 3 -	56	34 0.00
Feb. 4 -	61	37 0.00
Feb. 5 -	59	32 0.00
Feb. 6 -	59	30 0.00
Feb. 7 -	52	40 0.00
Feb. 8 -	53	45 0.00
Total Feb. 2-8		- 0.00
Total through Feb. 8 -		1.49

Weekly Online Poll

Who is going to win the Super Bowl?

Seattle Seahawks - 87.1%

New England Patriots - 6.5%

Ends in first ever tie - 6.5%



Polk County
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF POLK COUNTY.
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HOW TO REACH US
Joe Warren | Chief Executive/Operations
jwarren@countrymedia.net
940-372-1008

NEWSROOM
David Hayes | News Editor
dhayes@polkio.com

NEWS DEADLINES
Social News | 5p.m. Thursday (Weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones)
Community Events | Noon Friday (Community Notebook and Community Calendar)
Letters To The Editor | 1p.m. Friday
Obituaries | 1p.m. Friday

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940-372-1008

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING
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503-444-7924

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
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Classified Display Ads | 12p.m. Friday
Classified Line Ads | 12p.m. Friday
Public Notices | Noon Thursday
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TOWER

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CLEARED FOR —

Abeam

Cross runway

Hold short

Squawk

Abort

Descend

Landing

Taxi to gate

Affirmative

Expedite

Roger

Unable

Climb

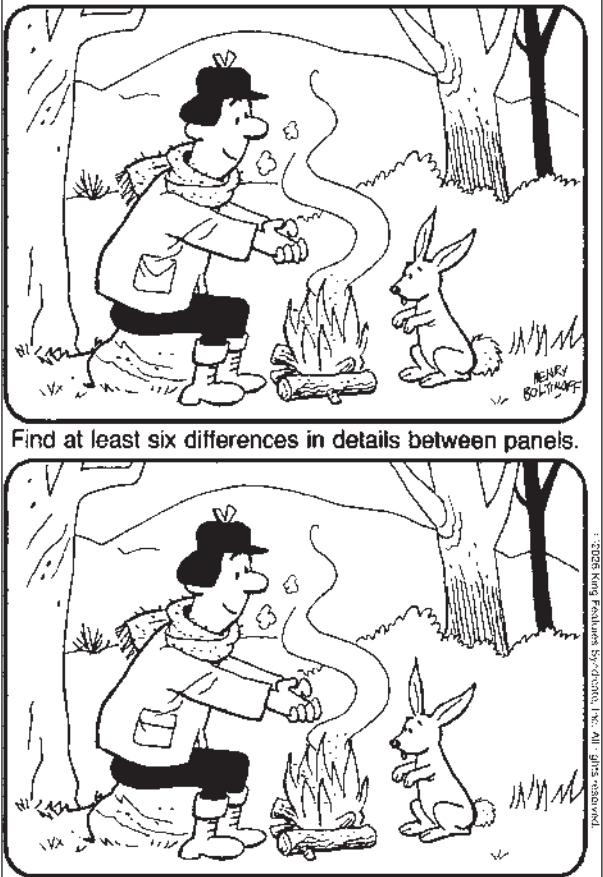
Go around

Say again

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF




Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. That is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Rabbit's ear is moved. 4. Log is different. 5. Earlap is longer. 6. Pocket is different.

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Americanisms



"We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves."
— Henry Ward Beecher

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Super Crossword

NBA PLAY

ACROSS

1 Relatives of pistachios

8 Mail-related

14 Baio and Turo

20 Wife of Nero

21 Fingers-in-cars syllables

22 Headwear for Mr. Peanut

23 Golden State hoopster

30 Basketballer of golf

33 Groom, e.g.

35 Exemplary Houston hoopster?

38 San Antonio hoopster scaling a mountain?

42 Suffix with lion

43 Guy in the farm

44 High peak

46 Heavenly Health club

48 Gyro bread

49 Semi kuel

51 Cowardly Denver hoopster?

55 "Mom" address Jaime

58 Org. against pollution

60 Redding of R&B

61 Event for stunt pilots

64 — Z (total)

65 Foot part

68 Brooklyn hoopster using a rod and reel?

71 Phoenix hoopster preparing a typeface for printing?

74 Frau's "Oh!"

75 Girl in the lam

76 Name originally proposed for Utah

78 Gas guzzler

79 Reindeer kin

80 Nolon, to Fifi

81 Damsels

84 Los Angeles hoopster originally from New England?

90 Train in the pool

92 All excited

93 Mtn. stat

94 Tested for fit

97 "— culpa!"

98 "Stillmatic" rapper

99 Footed vase

101 Sacramento hoopster holding power?

103 Eco-conscious Charlotte hoopster?

107 Livy's lang.

108 Words in an analogy

109 Some nobles' domains

110 Jamaican pop genre

112 Baby wolf

114 Justification

116 Chicago hoopster devoid of spontaneity and emotion?

122 Sock with diamond patterns

123 "Seinfeld" character

124 Shrunken Asian lake

125 Some vowel sounds

126 Phrase structure

127 Lower than

DOWN

1 Mooring beast

2 High card

3 Fr. holy woman

4 Olajuwon of the NBA

5 Daredevil

6 Power sources with spinning sails

7 Tantal

8 Strategize

9 Rowers' tools

10 35mm camera ints.

11 Alteration pro

12 Not silently

13 Huge

14 Directs

15 Buyable apartments

16 Vision-related

17 Have high aspirations

18 Bit of ink art

19 Pigeon

24 Flying needs

29 Collect bit by bit

30 Cousin of a jack mackerel

31 Oval-shaped

32 Spiteful

34 Even one

35 Capital of Bavaria

36 One-named Deco master

37 Exactly

39 Pollen eaters

40 "Get 'em, Spot!"

41 Syllable after "oom"

46 Broiling bar

47 Church seat

48 Club

50 Meeting period, informally

52 Picked

53 — pot (sinus-cleaning product)

54 "Once — a time ..."

56 Dillydallies

57 Dark half of a Chinese circle

60 Birds — feather

62 News aggregation website

63 Precipitous

64 "— girl!"

65 Giant waves

66 Paid more than

67 Musician Brian

69 Capri, e.g.

70 Adidas rival

72 Pro —

73 Celtic speaker

77 Piece for seven

79 Heart test, for short

80 Ailing

82 Apathetic response

83 Ding-

84 Light half of a Chinese circle

85 Lab gelatin

86 Horse feed holders

87 Body of rules

88 Verdis

89 Fix illegally

91 Pudding starch

95 China's Zhou

96 Day, in Peru

99 Open, as a new rug

100 Some French wines

101 Make a new digital image of

102 Dry dog food

104 Class that's a cinch

105 "Blue" singer LeAnn

106 Hockey great Cam

110 Capital of Yemen

111 Lego alternative

113 — Bator

114 Juggled, e.g.

115 History unit

117 Smack

118 Taxi

119 D.C.'s nation

120 Tennis call

121 "— di-dah!"

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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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: Q equals C

COEHOEMQK YVEY E TKOGRGK
QWGTEML NMYKMJKJ YW
QETYROK YVK FKOL EOWGE
WC TEOEJNBK: VKEFKM-BQKMY.

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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.

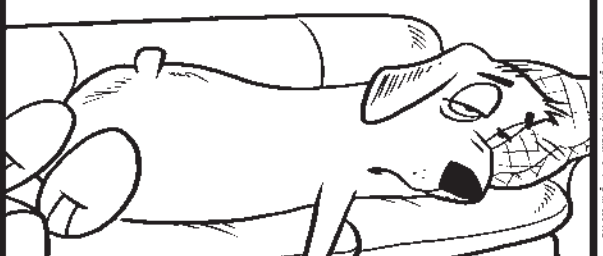
+	×	= 36						
-	+	+	= 17					
×	-	×	= 15					
+	+	=						
10	11	10						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

AT THIS POINT I THINK MY BODY SHOULD BE DONATED TO SCIENCE. ACTUALLY, IF I KEEP IT UP, MAYBE SCIENCE FICTION.



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Out on a Limb



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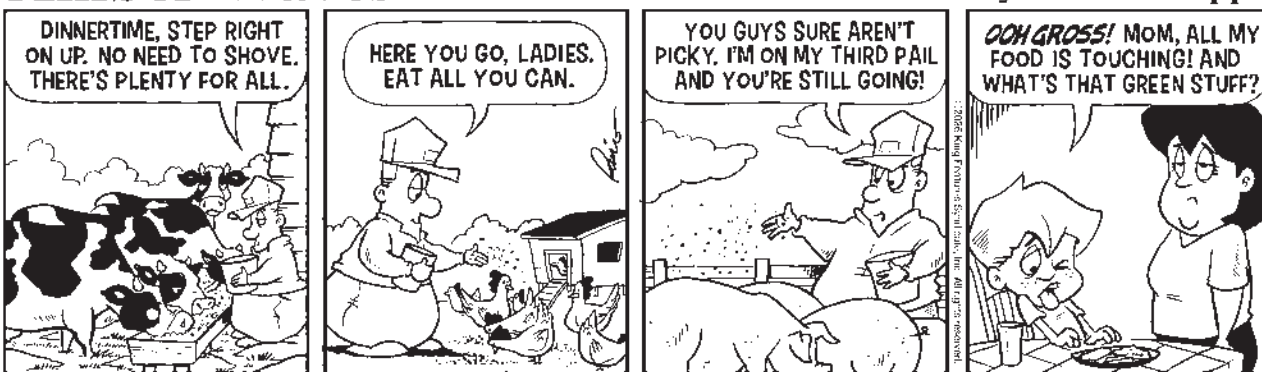
by Gary Kopervas



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Amber Waves


by Dave T. Phipps



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez



- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Honduras?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?
- TELEVISION: In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called arachibutyrophobia?
- MUSIC: Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?
- MOVIES: Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?
- LITERATURE: "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?
- HISTORY: Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?
- ANATOMY: Which element is a primary component of bones?

Answers

- Tegucigalpa.
- Poppin' Fresh.
- Illinois.
- Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth.
- "Creep."
- Dr. Rene Belloq.
- William Henry Harrison, 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- South Africa.
- International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Calcium.

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Lawmakers urged to support anti-hunger initiatives

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

After failing in recent years to convince the Oregon Legislature to extend food benefits to tens of thousands of immigrants, an anti-hunger coalition is narrowing its scope this year to addressing coming cuts to federal food aid.

Oregonians made more than 2.9 million visits to food pantries last year, a 50% increase from 2023, according to the Oregon Food Bank. The statewide food pantry network is already stretched to its limit, advocates said at a Thursday, Feb. 5, rally on the Capitol steps, and they're anticipating more demand because congressional Republicans' 2025 tax and spending megalaw limited eligibility for food aid and shifted costs to states.

The state Department of Human Services estimated more than 310,000 of the more than 750,000 Oregonians who receive food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could be at risk of losing them under new requirements that adults without young children prove they're working, and that at least 3,000 refugees, asylees and trafficking survivors previously eligible for SNAP will lose benefits.

Meanwhile, the department says it needs at least \$114 million in the current two-year budget that ends in June 2027 to implement the federal law's new requirements that states pay more administrative costs and reduce payment error rates.



Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams, center, and advocates gathered on the steps of the Oregon Capitol on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, to urge lawmakers to support anti-hunger initiatives. Julia Shumway / Oregon Capital Chronicle

Members of an anti-hunger coalition including the Oregon Food Bank visited the Capitol to urge lawmakers to support the department's budget request, and to consider allocating \$3.5 million to pay for benefits for the immigrants who lost SNAP eligibility and up to \$25 million for food pantries. They're also supporting Senate Bill 1581, which would require schools to offer free lunch and breakfast to all students, as most already do.

"This is not about charity," Oregon Food Bank President Andrea Williams said. "It's about responsibility. Food is not a privilege, it's not political leverage, it's a basic

human right, and Oregon is stronger when everyone eats."

In prior sessions, the coalition has sought unsuccessfully to extend food benefits to more than 60,000 Oregon residents who meet income thresholds but don't qualify for SNAP because they're not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Last year, they tried a scaled-down bill that would have extended benefits to people 25 and younger and 55 and older.

Matt Newell-Ching, senior public policy manager at the Oregon Food Bank, said advocates were "heartbroken" to give up on the goal of food aid for all, regardless of immigration status, during this

legislative session.

"Given all the circumstances, it was going to be too big of a hill to climb this session," he said. "It still remains our North Star that everyone deserves food."

Adrienne Sampson, a member of the Oregon Food Bank's policy leadership council and of the Bitter Water Clan of the Navajo Nation, described how she used local food banks, SNAP, the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program and occasionally cash assistance through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to care for herself and her children while escaping domestic violence.

Sampson, who now lives on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation with her children and spouse, a member of the Cayuse tribe, said she couldn't imagine life without the assistance she received when she needed it.

"In indigenous teachings, good food is medicine, water is medicine, laughter is medicine," she said. "In order for our communities to be happy and productive, we need access to nourishing food, clean water and less financial stress."

Changes to SNAP eligibility for refugees and asylum seekers are hitting African refugees in Oregon hard, said Yonas Kassie,

executive director of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center. Families he works with are losing an average of \$400 per month in food benefits and many are forced to choose between rent and groceries.

"These are families who escaped war, trauma and persecution, came to Oregon for safety and are now facing different kinds of crisis, hunger," Kassie said. "This crisis is not because they are not trying. It's because the system is failing them."

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/02/05/oregon-anti-hunger-advocates-push-for-food-bank-funding-school-meals/>
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@oregon-capitalchronicle.com.

FAST FACT

Given the state's challenging budget situation, the coalition backed off earlier efforts to extend food benefits to all income-eligible Oregonians regardless of immigration status.

HEALTH DIRECTORY

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GRAD

From Page A1

identification of student needs, and a focus on reconnecting students to school, refocusing on academic goals, and reengaging them in their learning. Our teachers, counselors, and support staff work closely with students and families to remove barriers and provide multiple pathways to success,” Larson said. While Central School District’s stated goal is for 90 percent of students to graduate in four years, Central Principal Rick Dormer said the real goal is 100 percent graduation.

“We’re really proud of our graduates, but it’s never good enough until we get to 100 percent,” Dormer explained. “We work every year. We know the staff is committed, and the administration is, as well.” He said that the 100 percent goal recognizes the value of each student. To get there, Dormer said high school staff and administration are putting heavy focus on connecting with the senior class. He noted that they also are focusing at the start of high school. “We are also focusing heavily on freshmen this year, so that really important year goes well for them, so they’ll have

a really solid start at CHS,” Dormer said. **By the Numbers:** Dallas - 86.8% up from 85.8% Central - 77.3%, down from 78.4% West Salem - 94.4%, up from 93% Falls City - 83.3% down from 85.7% Perrydale - 100% up from 95.8% Both Dallas and Central strive to ensure all their students reach their highest potential. Larson said his staff are proud of their students. “Their perseverance, resilience, and commitment to finishing strong is what truly drives these

outcomes,” Larson said. “While we are encouraged by the progress, we remain focused on continued growth and making sure every student feels known, supported, and capable of achieving their goals.” Meanwhile, Dormer said Central will never stop having a goal of 100 percent of students graduating. “As a building, as a staff, we want every kid to earn that diploma,” Dormer said. “With the challenges our students are facing these days, we have these more achievable goals (90 percent districtwide), but 100 percent is what we’re after, and we’re never

going to change that.” State officials for ODE are especially proud that the Class of 2025 is also the first graduating cohort since the pandemic positioned to complete all four years of high school in person, making this milestone an important signal of recovery, stability, and renewed momentum across Oregon’s schools. “Achieving proficiency in core skills and graduating from high school create future possibilities for every child to reach their full potential,” Gov. Tina Kotek said. “I’m grateful to our educators whose hard work is showing progress in these positive trends.”

Dr. Charlene Williams, Director of the Oregon Department of Education, added that this graduating class shows what’s possible when students are supported and expectations are clear. “Earning a diploma opens doors to college, careers, and opportunity, and today’s graduation rate reflects the hard work of Oregon’s students, families, educators, and communities. But it also reminds us that our work starts much earlier, with strong literacy, steady attendance, and the support students need to stay on track from their first day of school to their last,” Williams said.

FAIRGROUNDS

From Page A1

maintenance costs of the facility is between \$1.5 million. and \$2.5 million. Hansen also joked that the fair staff calls him Santa Claus for his ability to augment their expenses with contributions from the county’s general fund. “I can’t play Santa Claus anymore. I don’t have the money to do that,” Hanen bluntly stated. “Operationally costs continue to go up and the county continues to fall behind every year. The county continues to support the fairgrounds through the general fund. But our ability to support is dwindling almost to the level we can no longer continue to support it at the current level it is.” To prevent a closure, county leaders know they must ask voters to pass an operations levy to fund the maintenance of the facility. To judge whether to take this path, the fair board is drafting an advisory statement to officially ask county voters on the May ballot – Are you willing to support a future levy for the fairgrounds? The commissioners host a public hearing Feb. 11 to address the advisory question. Hansen said if the answer comes back yes from voters, the administration can continue to support operations through the election season. However, a no-vote

on supporting a levy means a potential closure of fairgrounds as soon as June 30. “My guess is if we get a positive result to the advisory question, the board would consider a levy on the November ballot. If that is the direction we go, we would probably keep the fair open for the remainder of the calendar year through Dec. 31,” Hansen explained. “If it passes, obviously we will continue to run, because we would know relief would be coming. If it failed, we’d probably close Dec. 31. That’s a board decision, not mine.” He added that if the advisory vote comes back 60-40, like the last levy defeat in May of 2025, the board would have further things to figure out closing the fair or not. “Would it be closed on June 30? That would be very difficult to do,” Hansen admitted. “I could defund the fair in my (budget) proposal. I doubt that would go. It is a reality. We cannot afford it anymore.” Throughout the meeting Saturday, audience members hopefully proposed additional funding solutions, from upping rental fees and extending campground rentals to applying for additional grants, either state or federal. Ray assured them the board has already implemented all the increases it can without driving away all users. The board has already raised an



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope addresses the loss of timber revenue over the years that have impacted the board’s ability to fund county fairground operations.

additional \$11,000 last year from higher storage fees. He added that the problem with increasing camping spaces, which is essentially the parking lot, is that it is taken up by trailers that show up for events throughout the year, crowding out potential campers. Ray said another problem is the county fair is supposed to get 1% of lottery funds. But after the state accidently divvied out more than 100% of the funds, they started capping counties. “So for the last, I don’t know how many years, we received \$53,000 from the state. Each county fair got \$53,000 and

we’re supposed to stretch that,” Ray said. “I don’t know what you do with \$53,000. I don’t mean to sound ungrateful, but it’s \$53,000 to operate an event center that has 700 events throughout the year.” County Commissioner Craig Pope, who said he has fought hard in his 16 years in the position to keep the fairgrounds funded, another key hit to the county’s budget was timber sales. When you have counties that relied so much on natural resource revenues like timber, and it’s been essentially all absolved, then we don’t have that as a revenue source. It used

to be what offset what we would be asking you to pay,” Craig said. “That’s the reality of where we are today. Now we’re forced to come and turn to our citizens and say, ‘If you want these services and you want these properties, we’re going to have to find a different way to do it.’ Because the resources that we can see out here in our backyard, we’re not allowed to use, and I don’t mean for that to be political, but that used to represent millions of dollars to this county.” Hansen pointed to other counties having a greater structure to generate more tax revenue that go toward their fairground

operations. He pointed toward Benton County as an example. “Benton County has 10,000 more people. We receive \$17 million in property taxes. They receive \$35 million. They have a lower property tax rate but have an additional \$3 levy, almost twice as Polk County’s,” Hansen explained. “We are losing from the general fund \$700,000 to \$800,000 a year over the last three years just to maintain required services – public safety, jail and personnel.” Hansen expects the board of commissioners to discuss approving the advisory question at their Feb. 25 meeting. Ray recruited the audience to spread the word within the community and their inner circles the need to support the fair, developing arguments to pursue three segments of the population – the fiscal conservative, the non ag resident and the local business owner. Answers have been compiled and will be posted on the board’s Friends of Polk County Fair Facebook page. Ray added the Fair foundation also has ways to contribute donations to operations. He invites the community to follow developments and learn more about the fairgrounds at the county website www.polkcountyor.gov and click on the Fairgrounds link to see schedules, history and current events.

WASTE

From Page A1

Jackson said revenue for Republic grew by 22 percent in 2025 over 2024. “But we didn’t touch on at the work session because expenses also grew. Operation costs grew by 11 percent and administrative costs grew by 26 percent. That blended rate is about a 13 percent increase year over year,” Jackson explained. She was unapologetic asking for more rate increases in the wake of the company’s financial gains. “The truth is there is an ordinance ... that allows franchise operators like us to make a reasonable rate of return. And we fall within that rate of return,” she said. Jackson explained the refuse rate index is similar to a CPI index, that features small, and much more predictable, more frequent increases, rather than what the company used to do prior to 2014, when they waited for when the margin was really low and then ask for a 9 or 11 percent



increase. “This 3% increase equates to a \$1.30 for largest cart size and another \$1 for the other cart sizes,” she said. “I don’t want to downplay that. It can be a hardship for some people. But I think it’s pretty reasonable given the state of the economy we’ve been through.” She added without a rate increase this year, that would likely compress their margin of profit by 3 percent next year. That was a gamble the council was willing to take.

“I understand the 3 percent is a buffer for now against what we might charge a year from now, but I’m looking at gas prices coming down, some of your operating expenses coming down,” said Councilor President Larry Briggs. “I really don’t feel comfortable raising fees today and I’m willing, personally, taking a risk to see what happens in a year and pay the price whether it’s six percent or two percent. But I think front loading it now is not the right time.” Councilor Carlos Barrientos wondered if

past 11 percent increases were an anomaly or if Dallas would be looking at a similar rate next year if rates were not incrementally increased this year. Jackson couldn’t provide a solid answer without the use of a crystal ball. She couldn’t foresee the economy’s highs and lows over the last four years. “I wouldn’t think it would be that high, but I have no way to know what would happen,” she said. City Manager Brian Latta clarified for the

discussion that without a 3 percent increase this year, Republic remains within the statutory profit requirements for the organization. Michael Holsapple said his vote came down to doing what’s right for his constituents. “With the economy and the company being within profit margins, my responsibility to the citizenry is to say we’re going to give to you the ability to do

your own budgeting and our part as a council is not to put extra burdens on you if we don’t have to,” he said. Briggs recommended a compromise that included a mid-year reevaluation to look at real numbers affecting the company rather than projections. The council voted unanimously to no increase this year and to reevaluate the Republic’s 2025 financials in July.

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League title within Perrydale’s grasp

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
For The Itemizer-Observer

A long drought is over for the Pirates varsity basketball team, and a league title is well within the girls’ reach.

First, the drought. It’s been 11 years since Perrydale last defeated St. Paul, according to coach Lindsay Gunther, and probably longer since they got a sweep. But that’s the new reality following Friday’s 42-33 win over the Broncos.

Perrydale defeated the Broncos, 55-38, on Jan. 16.

“We focused on the little things,” Gunther said in explaining her team’s key to success.

Those “little things” begin with defense and rebounding. On Friday, defensive pressure led to turnovers, which fueled the home team’s offense. In turn, rebounding put the kibosh on scoring bids

by the visitors.

Perrydale (8-0, 13-7 overall) remains perfect in league play. They have a two-game lead with two regular-season games remaining.

The Pirates control their own fate, and one would think they own any tie-breaker given the sweep, but Gunther won’t celebrate a league title until it’s a certainty.

“There’s still a chance we could lose the next two games and end up in a tie (with the Broncos),” she said. “I’m not counting anything before it’s there.”

Match-ups for the district play-ins, which begin next week, are undecided. But three teams from the league will advance to state.

Speaking of threes, Gunther is the Pirates’ third head coach in as many seasons. The team has grown stronger as



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Greta Fillible, with ball, looks for her shot against St. Paul on Friday. The Pirates achieved a rarity by sweeping the Broncos this season.

coaches and players became acclimated to each other.

Perrydale went 5-7 in preseason. But has eight straight wins in league play.

Much of the team’s rapid rise is due to buy-in.

“We teach fundamentals every single day,” Gunther said. “The players show up and do the work. They’ve bought into what we’re building.”

That discipline was present on Friday. Defensive pressure disrupted the Broncos’ rhythm; timely rebounding closed out their possessions

A key stretch came in the second quarter, when made free-throws allowed the home team to extend its advantage. The Pirates were 5-of-6 from the charity stripe, but made only one basket from the floor.

“We’ve added more

free throws into our practices because we struggled early in the season,” Gunther said. “When games get tight, free throws matter.”

Aggressive play continued in the second half, as Perrydale players attacked the basket and capitalized on backdoor cuts against overplaying and out-of-position defenders.

“I told them we’re not letting off the gas,” Gunther said. “We keep running our offense, setting screens, making cuts. That’s how we play.”

Madison Gunther and Harper McMullen played tough inside, adding six rebounds each.

Kaila Gibson netted a team-high 11 points and three steals while Isabelle Arthur and McMullen combined for 17 points.

Perrydale went on a tear mid-game, outscoring

See **TITLE**, page B8

Dallas girls positioned as favorites at wrestling regionals

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
For The Itemizer-Observer

Dallas High School’s girls wrestling team enters the postseason with something it’s never had before: A number one ranking and the expectations that come with it.

As the Dragons prepare for regionals and the state championships that follow, head coach Austin Markee says the top ranking, as recognized by OSAA and other statewide observers, reflects how far the program has come in a short while.

“I do not believe the girls’ team has ever been ranked number one before,” Markee said. “That’s pretty special.”

Dallas was quick to adopt girls wrestling once it became an official sport in Oregon in 2023. The growth since has been striking. A team that once featured one or two female wrestlers in a male-dominated room has evolved into a 23-athlete roster. One that ranks among the largest girls teams in the state.

“Girls wrestling is one of the fastest growing

sports in the nation right now,” Markee said. “It piggybacked off boys wrestling at first, but now it’s grown to the point where we have separate girls tournaments. That’s been

See **GIRLS**, page B8

PHOTO BY SMY PHOTOGRAPHY
Dallas senior Medina Tabibis (135 lbs.) wrestles at the Lady Dragon Tournament in January.



Young Dragons eye breakthrough at district finals

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
For The Itemizer-Observer

Coach Chris Ludwick has not strayed from directives he’s given his young swimmers all season: Get faster, get better and be ready to go when it matters most.

That message, along with a lot of hard work, has Dallas swimming in the right direction at the right time. The Dragons are at the district finals today and tomorrow (Feb. 11-12).

Expectations aren’t the only thing on the rise. Dallas had 10 swimmers two years ago, Luckwick’s first. This



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Amber Green (left) and Grayson Keene hope to help the rest of the Dragons swim team take on the best the Mid-Willamette district has to offer at District Finals Feb 11-12 at the Albany Aquatic Center.



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
The Central High swim team is at the district finals Feb. 11-12 at the Albany Aquatic Center.

Central swimmers striving to end on a high

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
For The Itemizer-Observer

The thrill is not gone for David Morelli of Central High. Morelli has coached

swimmers for more than 50 years. He still gets excited whenever district meets roll around.

“I love big meets and competition,” the head

Panther said. “All the teams are there. They’re fired up, and everyone wants to get to state ...

See **SWIM**, page B2

SPORTS

SCOREBOARD

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Feb. 3

Central 35, South Albany 31
Silverton 63, Dallas 27

Feb. 4

Perrydale 68, Falls City 18

Feb. 6

Central 58, McKay 24
Corvallis 51, Dallas 45
Perrydale 42, St Paul 23

BOYS BASKETBALL

Feb. 3

Central 47, South Albany 29
Silverton 67, Dallas 44

Feb. 4

Perrydale 69, Falls City 22

Feb. 5

Falls City 58, Livingstone Academy 54

Feb. 6

Central 66, McKay 35
Corvallis 65, Dallas 39
St. Paul 52, Perrydale 43

Feb. 7

Perrydale 55, C.S. Lewis 28

PREP CALENDAR

SWIMMING

Feb. 11-12

Central and Dallas at Mid Willamette District

Meet, 4 p.m.

Feb. 13-14

WRESTLING

Central and Dallas at Girls Mid-Willamette District Meet

BOYS BASKETBALL

Feb. 13

Dallas vs. Central, 5:30 p.m.
Falls City at Willamette Valley Christian, 7 p.m.

Feb. 14

Perrydale at Southwest

Christian, 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 17

Central at Silverton, 5:30 p.m.

Dallas at Crescent Valley, 5:30 p.m.

Perrydale at Chemawa, 7 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Feb. 11

Powers vs. Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 13

Dallas vs. Central, 7 p.m.
Perrydale at Chemawa, 5:30 p.m.

Falls City at Willamette Valley Christian, 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 14

Perrydale at Southwest Christian, 4 p.m.

Feb. 17

Central at Silverton, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Crescent Valley, 7p.m.

PAGES OF THE PAST

40 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1986

County balks at rising insurance rates

Rebelling against the skyrocketing cost of liability insurance, Polk County commissioners Friday chose to not pay high premiums and allowed the count to become self-insured.

Chairman Craig Hanneman said the county became self-insured Saturday, after the commissioners decided that property and liability coverage were too high. The county will now assume the risk of covering liability claims, Hanneman said.

Valsetz project dropped

A proposed \$6.5 million hydroelectric project at Valsetz set to get underway next month has been dropped with a Boise Cascade Corp. spokesman citing economic factors.

“We don’t see any turnaround and recovery for the timber industry anytime soon. Nothing but more of the same,” said Doug Bartels, communications director for Boise Cascade.

Wrestlers sweep final 6, tie Canby

A close match that could have gone either way didn’t during Dallas High’s dual wrestling match at Canby on Thursday.

The Cougars blew to a 35-4 lead against the Dragons, then saw Dallas win the final six matches before settling for a 35-all tie.

50 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 1976

City budget: Cut services or increase funds?

The city of Dallas must find new sources of revenue if it is to continue its present services during the 1976-77 fiscal year. That fact, along with a preliminary budget, was presented to the Dallas Budget Committee Monday night.

At the present time the budget committee is looking

FLASHBACK

This week’s Flashback is from Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1986: TOTEM POLE CREATION - Much thought and preparation went into the making of this totem pole constructed by fourth grade students at Lyle Elementary School. Supervising the work was student teacher Bruce Blakely of OCE who works with Mrs. Bev McCutcheon. The totem pole was used at an Indian Potlatch which concluded a study about Indians. Pictured are (from left) Phil Unger, Kenneth Graber, Mike Lungren, Terry Salchenberg, Michael Bollman and Paul Stamy. (File I-O photo.)

into either increasing the tax base, passing annual levies to the tax base, passing annual levies to exceed the six percent limitation, or cutting portions of the budget.

District attorney case now under deliberation

A three-member Oregon State Bar appointed tribunal is still deliberating a recommendation on the charges against Polk County District Attorney John Snyder.

The tribunal heard testimony over a two-day period last week regarding the legal and ethical matters revolving around an estate case Snyder handled.

No decision is expected for a week or two.

Two teams from the East drop Dallas

Three Eastern teams of the Coast-Valley League have been less than hospitable to Dallas’ Oregon and Black Dragon basketball team. Dallas won the first-half of the season in the West with a 7-1 record. The only blemish was a 2-point loss to the East’s Silverton Foxes.

Community Achievement

DEPUTY WESLEY MULLINS GRADUATES FROM DPSST

Deputy Wesley Mullins graduated from the DPSST Basic Police academy Jan. 30.

Mullins was hired in August to work in the Polk County Sheriff’s Office patrol division and has spent the past four months at the academy establishing a foundation of knowledge to get him started in his new role. Now that he has completed the academy, he will return and be paired with Field Training Officers to guide him through each phase of his Field Training and Evaluation Program before he achieves solo status where he can respond to calls



on his own.

A graduate of Dallas High School, Mullins is excited to work in a community he is familiar with.

TYCE CHANEY GRADUATES FROM ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Tyce Chaney, of West Salem, graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Abilene Christian University.

Chaney was among 646 students who received degrees at ACU’s December Commencement.

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SWIM

From Page B1

so much is on the line.”

Unlike regular-season duals, district finals bring every team together under one roof, creating a tense, playoff-like atmosphere that is boiling long before the first heat.

“You hear the cheers echo through the building,” Morelli said. “One team starts, then another tries to be louder. Then another. That happens before the meet even begins.”

District winners earn automatic berths to the state finals. Remaining spots are awarded based on fastest times across multiple districts. Districts – for most swimmers – also offer one last chance to set personal bests.

“It’s very competitive,” the coach said. “One athletic director told me this is the most competitive district in the state.”

This season presented additional challenges. Illness thinned the team’s

roster, with as many as seven swimmers sidelined at times from a squad of 20.

“It’s been tough, especially for relays. At our last meet, I only had two girls competing. I’m hoping we recover before districts,” the coach said.

Regardless of numbers, goals remain unchanged: personal bests, strong relay swims, and a few consolation-final appearances.

“For us, success is everyone swimming their best and having a good experience,” the coach added.

For senior Koko Le, districts represent pressure and perspective. The meet will be her fourth and final appearance.

“I like getting to spend the whole day there, hanging out and watching swimming,” she said. “It’s my final chance to swim at a meet as a high schooler.”

Le’s focus isn’t on seeding sheets or competitors’ times. No, she’s more centered on personal growth.

“I just want to do my best and improve. I’m glad I found a sport that I love,” she said. “Lots of older people swim because it keeps their bodies strong. It’s something you can do your whole life.”

For Helena Guarinieri Ferreira of Brazil, this is her first district final. A club swimmer for many years in her native country, Ferreira is nonetheless impressed with the local talent pool.

“I know it will be hard and the girls are fast,” she said of her expectations. “I’ve been training a lot, and I’m happy to spend time with my team and make new friends.”

A slight shoulder injury cost Ferreira valuable training time in recent weeks. But she’s regained her form, she said.

Highlights include winning in the 500 freestyle and a runner-up finish in the 200 medley in duals.

“Since coming here, my times have improved. I feel confident about my times,” Ferreira said.

To achieve success at a

district meet is simple in theory.

“Faster times,” she said.

Regardless of ability, district finals offer a measuring stick. They tell you how you stack up against other teams, other swimmers, and yourself, as in establishing personal bests.

“That’s what it’s about,” the coach said. “Big meets. Big efforts. And seeing what you can do when it counts.”

New faces join the team every year. Numbers remain solid for the Panthers. The team has no local club swimmers this season.

The Mid-Willamette district meet is Feb. 11-12 at the Albany Aquatic Center, and its six-lane pool. Joining Central are Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Dallas, Lebanon, McKay, Silverton, South Albany, West Albany and Woodburn.

The 2026 Swimming State Championships are Feb. 20-21 at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

CryptoQuip

answer

Fragrance that a perfume company intended to capture the very aroma of paradise: Heaven-Scent.

Go Figure!

answers

3	+	6	×	4	=	36
-		+		+		
1	+	7	+	9	=	17
×		-		×		
5	+	2	+	8	=	15
=		=		=		
10		11		10		

WORDS HEARD IN A CONTROL TOWER

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

C	A	S	H	E	W	S		P	O	S	T	A	L		S	C	O	T	T	S	
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Community Calendar Jan. 21-28

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

7 a.m. - Monmouth Library Board meeting, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
11:45 a.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
2:30 p.m. - Valentine Craft Class with Jenel, Monmouth Senior Community Center
4 p.m - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center
5:30 p.m. - Heritage Museum Advisory Board meeting, Heritage Museum, 281 S. 2nd St.
6:30 p.m. - Music Jam, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

THURSDAY, FEB. 12

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Chari Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Children’s Storytime, for ages 0-5, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
10:30 a.m. - Bounces and Rhymes: Winter Series, for ages 0-2, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
11:30 a.m. - Lunch Bunch, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center
12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center
6 p.m. - Early Black Women of the Willamette Valley, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St.
6:30 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas
7 p.m. - Climate Cafe, Monmouth Senior Community Center, , 180 S Warren St.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch exercise 1, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Art Workshop/CardsTable Games/ 6 Handed Pinochle, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise 2/Drawing for Fun/Writer’s Workshop, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Gardening Class, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Art Afternoon & Sunshine Club, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Medicare Plans,

Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Ice Cream & Bingo Social, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center
2 p.m. - Free English Second Language classes at the Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.
5 p.m. - Bingo Dinner, Dallas Area Senior Center
6 p.m. - Live Music: The Archives (80s tribute band), Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
6 p.m. - Bingo, Dallas Area Senior Center
6:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Friday Night Meeting, Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas
6:30 p.m. - Acoustic Music Jam, Guthrie Park, 4320 Kings Valley Highway S.
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Speaker Meeting, Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14

6 p.m. - Live Music: The Roadhouse Band, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

SUNDAY, FEB. 15

2 p.m. - Live Music: Timothy Patrick, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Monmouth Big Book Study, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

MONDAY, FEB. 16

City libraries and Senior

Centers closed due to Presidents’ Day holiday
7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity at 7, Life Center Foursquare Church, 437 D St., Independence
12 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Noon Step Study, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas
5:30 p.m. - Independence Historic Preservation Commission meeting, City Hall, 555 South Main St.
7:30 p.m.- Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center

TUESDAY, FEB. 17

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Chair Yoga/Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Children’s Storytime, for ages 5 and under, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Family Storytime Winter Series, for ages 3-5, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Bunko, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Free Computer Class: Gmail, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
5:30 p.m. - Dallas City Council & Planning Commission Joint Work Session, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
6:30 p.m. - Monmouth City Council Meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.

6:30 p.m. - Community Dance Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas
7 p.m. - Dallas City Council meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

7 a.m. - Monmouth Library Board meeting, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
11:45 a.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
4 p.m - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center
6 p.m. - Evening of Abundance: Celebrating Black History Month, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Monmouth Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

Community Briefs

MONMOUTH SEEKS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES HOSTS FOR THE PARK

The Monmouth Parks & Recreation Board is looking for people to offer recreational activities in the park. Money is available to assist you in helping others recreate!
Would you be willing to teach others how to: paint, sketch, take photos, cook, or garden? How about Yoga, Tai Chi, CrossFit or self defense? Recreation even includes gaming, birdwatching, or flying a kite. Find applications at www.tinyurl.com/MonmouthParksAndRec. Send completed applications to mpw@ci.monmouth.or.us.

MONMOUTH LIBRARY HOSTS EARLY BLACK WOMEN OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY FEB. 12

Celebrate Black History month by learning more about Early Black Women of the Willamette Valley at 6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. Funding is provided by Friends of the Monmouth Library.

POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATS MEET VIA ZOOM FEB. 12

The Polk County Democrats meet via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12. Sign in to welcome guest speaker, Polk County Clerk Kimberly Williams, for a presentation on election integrity. To receive the link to this meeting and be put on our email announcements list for future events, go to www.polkdems.org, scroll down to step 2, and click on the link to our Newsletter.

DAA HOSTS ART EXHIBIT OPEN HOUSE FEB. 12

The Dallas Arts Association hosts an open house for an art exhibit at 1 p.m. Feb. 12 at Willamette Valley fiber 988 Southeast Jefferson St. featuring residents from Dallas Retirement Village, including Ellie Kendall, Ann Rolfe, Jim Scott, Patt Taber, Janis Thiessen and Shirley Oakley. It includes watercolors, acrylics, photography and fiber art. Stop in to visit with the artists and enjoy homemade cookies.

SALT CREEK CIDER HOUSE HOSTS COUPLES CIDER & CREATIVITY FEB. 13

Paint with Magenta presents Couples Cider & Creativity from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 13 at Salt Creek Cider House, 14500 Salt Creek Road, Dallas. Your experience begins with a guided watercolor painting session, led by professional instructor Elisa Mack, who will walk you through each step to create your own unique piece of art. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/46odayN>.

ISN HOSTS PAL-ENTINES DANCE FEB. 13

Integrated Services Network hosts a Pal-entines Dance from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 13 at 238 Jackson St. E., in Monmouth. Members of the IDD (intellectual and developmental disability) community are invited to enjoy an afternoon of “speed friending”, making crafts and dancing. Snacks and treats will be offered.

GATHER FOOD PARK HOSTS ANTI-VALENTINE’S EVENT FEB. 13

Gather Food Park presents Lucky 13 - Anti Valentine’s event from 5-9 p.m. Feb. 13 at 995 S. Main St., Dallas. The \$13 entry at the door Includes crafts, treats, bingo, prizes and more. Organizers are also seeking interest for the tarot.

LORA MICHELE DANCE STUDIO HOSTS ALL AGES FAMILY DANCE FEB. 13

Lora Michele Dance Studio hosts a family social dance including fun, music by DJ Kdub, and games, from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 13 at 939 S. Main St., Dallas. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$25 for a family of five or more. Kids two and under, and support workers, get in free. Get tickets online at <https://bit.ly/46szDdZ>.

MOONFALL THEATRE HOSTS VALENTINE’S EVENT FEB. 14

Moonfall Theatre presents Moonfall and Roses, an evening of romantic song and comedy, at 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Dallas Event Center, 939 Main St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$25 per person and includes a no host bar and dessert at intermission. Tickets are available at bit.ly/moonfall97371. For more information, call (503) 917-9243.

4-H POLK COUNTY HOSTS CRITTER CAMPUS FEB. 14

Oregon 4-H Polk County’s annual Critter Campus is at 9 a.m. Feb. 14 at the Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S.

Pacific Highway, Rickreall. Learn about rabbits, cavies, poultry, and cats from a broad range of presenters from veterinarians, judges, 4-H leaders, local industry experts, and more. This event is geared towards youth ages 5-18 and has over 30 sessions to choose from. Register ahead of time or the day of. It is \$10 to participate, scholarships available. To register, go to <https://beav.es/wjy>.

GATHER FOOD PARK HOSTS MOM & ME VALENTINE’S DATE DAY FEB. 14

Gather Food Park presents Mom & Me Valentine’s Date from 12-4 p.m. at 995 S. Main St., Dallas. The \$14 per person entry includes mom-mosas, bouquet crafts and more for the parents. Kids get their own craft station, snacks, Bluey and more. There will be a kid and parent bingo event at 2 p.m. Work together with your kids to win some prizes.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA PRESENTS ‘PASTORAL TAPESTRIES’ CONCERTS FEB. 14-15

Salem Philharmonia Orchestra, featuring musicians from Polk and Marion Counties, presents “Pastoral Tapestries” themed concerts at 7 p.m. Feb. 14 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the East Salem Community Center, 1850 45th Ave. NE. Conducted by SPO Artistic Director Jonathan DeBruyn, programming includes Louise Farrenc’s “Overture No. 1”, Anatol Liadov’s “Eight Russian Folk Songs”, George Butterworth’s

“A Shropshire Lad”, and Antonín Dvořák’s “Symphony No. 7”. Admission is \$25 for ages 18-64, \$20 for students and seniors 65 and older, and free for youth 17 and under. Tickets may be purchased online at www.salemphil.org/buy-tickets/, or at the door on concert day. Contact information@salemphil.org with questions.

ARTISTIC CHAOS HOSTS GALENTINE’S PAINT PARTY FEB. 15

Debbie McBeth and Artistic Chaos present Galentine’s Paint Party from 1-4 p.m. Feb. 15 at Salt Creek Cider House, 14500 Salt Creek Road, Dallas. Choose between painting your very own beverage glasses or crafting a beautiful canvas. Tickets are available by phone – call or text Debbie McBeth at (503) 510-4767.

MARLENE’S HOSTS FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION FEB. 17

Also, on Tuesday, February 17th at Marlene’s Cocktail Lounge is hosting a Fat Tuesday celebration from 4-9 p.m. Feb. 17 at 904 Main St., Dallas. They will be serving up Louisiana gumbo and rice with live music from 6-8 p.m. Costumes are encouraged. No reservations.

TALK ABOUT IT TUESDAY HOSTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FEB. 17

Talk About It Tuesday, sponsored by the Polk County Democrats, meets in person from 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 17 for

PolkMarket

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<p>150 MISC SERVICES</p> <p>DIRECTV OVER INTERNET Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-602-2009.</p> <p>DIVORCE \$130. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com.</p> <p>Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-866-695-9265 today!</p> <p>Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-533-9173 today!</p> <p>Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-955-3417.</p> <p>Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600</p>	<p>150 MISC SERVICES</p> <p>In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-373-9175.</p> <p>Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-855-341-5268.</p> <p>No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-855-536-8838 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.</p> <p>Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-839-0752.</p> <p>Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-557-1912 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.</p> <p>The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional</p>	<p>150 MISC SERVICES</p> <p>installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-847-9778.</p> <p>We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-980-4382.</p> <p>We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-249-8679.</p> <p>606 CAMPER & TRAILERS</p> <p>2023 KEYSTONE ALPINE 5th WHEEL 42 ft. Lg front kitchen, King Bed, W/D, Lg Bath, \$69,500. 707-499-1923. Amity</p> <p>Classic 1983 Chevrolet Silverado. In great shape.</p>	<p>617 ANTIQUE AUTOS</p> <p>Engine and transmission have been rebuilt. Run really well. The interior has just</p>	<p>617 ANTIQUE AUTOS</p> <p>been replaced. It's a bargain at \$10,000. Have to see to believe. Call to make an</p>	<p>617 ANTIQUE AUTOS</p> <p>appointment. Phone number is 503-510-7360.</p>
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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED HOMES

This centrally located parcel in thriving Monmouth offers a variety of uses is available for redevelopment. The C0 zoning affords the development of offices for business providing personal and professional services or a number of other applicable uses. **\$170,000.00** (#834422)

This lovely 3bd/2 bath one owner home is spacious with open floor plan, nice room sizes and well cared for all around. Large kitchen is convenient with lots of counter space and storage. The well cared for lot offers privacy with mature hedges. **\$159,900.00** (#833655)

Lovely 2bd/2 bath manufactured home in a 55+ community. Primary suite has a garden tub and shower. Second bathroom has a step-in shower. Nicely landscaped with covered deck, perfect for peaceful relaxation. Efficient furnace and heat pump. Double carport and large shed. **\$159,500.00** (#832176)

Another fantastic buy in Greenway Mobile Park! This value-added home can sparkle once again with fresh interior paint and floor covering. The classic floor plan offers generous sized rooms and functionality in this 2bd/2bath home. **\$55,000.00** (#819751)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO26-142
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/ APPEAL OF THE PLANNING DIRECTOR'S DECISION APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A COMMERCIAL DOG KENNEL The Polk County Hearings Officer will hold a public hearing to consider an appeal of the Planning Director's decision to approve a conditional use permit for a commercial dog kennel. The subject property is approximately 1.1 acres in size and is located within the Eola Unincorporated Community (Eola UC-C) Zoning District. APPLICANT: Susan Ensign SUBJECT PROPERTY OWNER: William Ensign FILE NUMBER: CU 25-07 LOCATION: 4350 Salem Highway NW, Salem, OR (T7S, R4W, Section 25D, Tax Lot 4300) REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Polk County Zoning Ordinance (PCZO) Sections 153.060(C) (17), 153.020, 110.301, and 119.070 APPELLANTS: Susan Ensign and William Ensign; Lisa Solterbeck DBA Journeys... A Center for Your Soul HEARING DATE & TIME: March 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM HEARING LOCATION: Polk County Courthouse, First Floor Hearing/Conference Room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338 STAFF CONTACT: Hannah Brickner Phone: (503) 623-9237 Email: brickner.hannah@polkcountyor.gov The location of the hearing is handicapped accessible. Please advise the Community Development Department at (503) 623-9237, in as far advance of the meeting as possible, if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant, and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and will be provided at reasonable cost. In addition, a copy of the staff report and memorandum provided to the Hearings Officer will be available for inspection at no cost at least seven days prior to the hearing, and copies will be provided at a reasonable cost, at the Polk County Community Development Department, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338. Any person may submit written testimony, prior to the public hearing, to the Polk County Community Development Department. Oral and written testimony may be presented at the hearing. The hearing will be conducted in a manner which allows testimony in favor of the application, testimony in opposition to the application, general testimony, and rebuttal by the applicant. Failure of an issue to be raised in the hearing, in person or in writing, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the hearing body an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals on that issue. Please include file number CU 25-07 in all correspondences related to this application. Written comments received by February 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM will be included with the staff memorandum to the Hearings Officer. Comments received after that time, but prior to the hearing, will be provided to the Hearings Officer at the hearing.

PCIO26-141 - City of Dallas, Supplemental Budget Hearing 5 col. x 10.5 in 02-11-26

PCIO26-140
INVITATION TO BID City of Independence, Oregon WASTEWATER

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES (PACKAGED B, PN 2022-09, EDASEA0G0216) AND 9TH STREET PUMP STATION PHASES 2 & 3 (PACKAGE B, PN 2022-17) OREGON BUYS #: S-K12730-00015904 Notice is hereby given that the City of Independence will open sealed bids from qualified contractors for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (Package A, PN 2022-09, EDASEA0G0216) and 9th Street Pump Station Phases 2 & 3 (Package B, PN2022-17). Sealed, Electronic Bids will be received until 2:00 PM local time on March 24, 2026, by the City of Independence (Owner/ City) electronically via OregonBuys, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read via an online Bid Opening (MS Teams). No bids will be received or considered after the time of closing. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project generally consists of the construction of a new headworks, installation of aeration in two lagoons, chemical treatment improvements, yard piping, construction of a new wet well and parallel force main, electrical, SCADA (using the City's Integrator of Record), and Controls upgrades, and all labor, Equipment, Materials, and incidentals necessary to complete the Work as specified. This project is funded in whole or in part by local funds and the following funding Agency Partners ("Agency"): A grant/loan from the Special Public Works Fund from the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority-OR Business Development Department (OBDD); A grant from the Oregon Energy Trust; A loan from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and A grant from the US Economic Development Agency (EDA).

PCIO26-139 In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon For the County of Polk Probate Department Case. No. 26PB00413 NOTICE TO INTERSTED PERSONS In the Matter of the Estate of EDITH LOUISE SMITH, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mt. Tabor Fiduciary Services, LLC was appointed as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned attorney for the personal representative at P.O. Box 86012, Portland, Oregon 97286. Within four months after the date of 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 attorney for the personal representative. Dated and published on February 11, 2026. Mt. Tabor Fiduciary Services, LLC. Personal Representative Beate Weiss-Krull, OSB # 050972 Attorney for Personal Representative P.O. Box 86012 Portland, Oregon 97286 Phone: 503.234.0355 Email: bea@weisskrull-law.com

PCIO26-138 Agency: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Meeting: Polk County Local Work Group Meeting Date: 02/27/2026 Time: 9:00am-12:30pm Location: Monmouth City Hall, 151 Main St. W, Monmouth, OR 97361 For more information, contact: Trevor Crandall, (503) 376-2839 Purpose: NRCS is holding a Local Work Group Meeting to gather

input from farmers, ranchers, state and federal agencies, and agriculture and conservation organizations regarding natural resource conservation priorities and opportunities to invest collaboratively in Polk County. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made 48 hours before the meeting. Please contact Trevor Crandall, (503) 376-2839, for arrangements. The purpose of the meeting is to receive agency and public input in agricultural interests and natural resources issues to help guide the conservation efforts of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Polk County. Topics we will be focusing on are: Livestock, Soil Health, Forestry, Wildlife. For questions or concerns, please contact Trevor Crandall with the USDA NRCS at (503) 376-2839 or by email at trevor.crandall@usda.gov. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

PCIO26-134 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK In the Matter of the Marriage of: PHILIP JON PADILLA, Petitioner, and GLORIA JEAN PADILLA, Respondent. Case No. 25DR17538 NOTICE OF COURT PROCEEDING GLORIA JEAN PADILLA, you are hereby required to appear and defend Petitioner's PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE filed against you in the above-entitled case within thirty (30) days of the date of first publication, and in case of your failure to do so, Petitioner will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Petitioner's PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE. The PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE alleges dissolution of your marriage on the grounds of irreconcilable differences, property and debt division, and Petitioner's costs and attorney fees. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY THE RESPONDENT HEREIN SHOULD TAKE NOTICE THAT IF IT IS YOUR INTENT TO CONTEST THE MATTERS INVOLVED HEREIN, A WRITTEN RESPONSE SPECIFYING THE MATTERS TO BE CONTESTED MUST BE FILED BY YOU WITH THE OREGON POLK COUNTY TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR WITH PROOF OF SERVICE OF A COPY THEREOF ON PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY NOT LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION February 04, 2026, along with the required filing fee. The response must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Petitioner's attorney. ABSENT GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, NO CONTEST TO THE PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE SHALL BE PERMITTED UNLESS THE CONTESTANT HAS FILED A WRITTEN RESPONSE DOCUMENT. If you have questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503)684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800)452-7636. Anthony B. James, OSB #052924 Attorney for Petitioner 1206 Main Street East Monmouth, OR 97361 (503) 838-4996 / Fax (503) 837-0575 Email: anthony@pjattorneys.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO26-133 Polk Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting will be held on: Friday, February 27th, 2026 at 9:00 AM, at Monmouth City Hall 151 Main St W, Monmouth, OR 97361. The 2024-2025 Audit and Annual Report will be presented.

PCIO26-128 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE T.S. Number: 2024-00102-OR Reference is made to that certain trust deed made by Paula J. Selvidge, also known as Paula Jane Selvidge, an estate in fee simple as grantor, to First American Title

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Insurance Company of Oregon as trustee, in favor of Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation, as beneficiary, dated 03/09/2006 recorded on 03/20/2006, in the Records of Polk County, Oregon, in book --- at page --and/ or as fee/file/ instrument/microfilm/ reception No. 2006-004294, covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: ACCOUNT NO.: 361600 MAP NO.: 07319AC04700 Lot 16, Block 31, CHATNICKA

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HEIGHTS NO. 9, Polk County Oregon Commonly Known As: 3405 FRONTIER DRIVE NW, SALEM, OR 97304 Both the beneficiary Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Soundview Home Loan Trust 2006- OPT4, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-OPT4 and the trustee Premium Title Agency, Inc. DBA PTS Foreclosure Services have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and a Notice of Default has been recorded pursuant to ORS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

86.752(3). The default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE AS OF 11/21/2025: \$28,332.94 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF AS OF 11/21/2025: \$58,388.62 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement

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PUBLIC NOTICES

or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said trust deed immediately due and payable, said default being the following: Installment of Principal and Interest plus impounds and/or advances which became due on 11/01/2024 plus late charges, and all subsequent installments of principal, interest, balloon payments, plus impounds and/or

FORM OR-LB-SBH NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING PCIO26-141

• Use for supplemental budget proposing a change in any fund's expenditures by more than 10 percent.

A public hearing on a proposed supplemental budget for City of Dallas for the current fiscal year will be held at Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St, Dallas, OR 97338. The hearing will take place on February 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the supplemental budget with interested persons. A copy of the supplemental budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after February 11, 2026 at Dallas City Hall, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES AMOUNTS SHOWN ARE REVISED TOTALS IN THOSE FUNDS BEING MODIFIED

FUND: GRANT			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 OR Business Development Dept Grant	1,000,000	1 LaCreole Node Sewer Infrastructure Grant	1,000,000
Revised Total Fund Resources	2,988,990	Revised Total Fund Requirements	2,988,990
Explanation of change(s): Received grant for LaCreole Node Sewer Infrastructure upgrades.			

FUND: STORMWATER			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 Finance Proceeds	380,000	1 Contingency 2 Professional Services 3 Capital Outlay-Public Works Building 4 2025 PW Building Loan-Principal 5 2025 PW Building Loan-Interest	3,295,532 155,000 560,000 30,875 13,300
Revised Total Fund Resources	5,007,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	5,007,000
Explanation of change(s): Reallocation of funds from Fleet related to the new Public Works building and additional construction costs related to the new Public Works building. Change in Professional Service for TMDL study.			

FUND: STREET			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 Finance Proceeds	564,000	1 Contingency 2 Capital Outlay-Public Works Building 3 2025 PW Building Loan-Principal 4 2025 PW Building Loan-Interest	1,529,986 821,250 45,825 19,740
Revised Total Fund Resources	5,146,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	5,146,000
Explanation of change(s): Reallocation of funds from Fleet related to the new Public Works building and additional construction costs related to the new Public Works building.			

FUND: SEWER			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 Finance Proceeds	1,128,000	1 Contingency 2 Capital Outlay-Public Works Building 3 2025 PW Building Loan-Principal 4 2025 PW Building Loan-Interest	3,998,220 1,642,500 91,650 39,480
Revised Total Fund Resources	10,238,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	10,238,000
Explanation of change(s): Reallocation of funds from Fleet related to the new Public Works building and additional construction costs related to the new Public Works building.			

FUND: WATER			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 Finance Proceeds	4,230,000	1 Contingency 2 Capital Outlay-Public Works Building 3 2025 PW Building Loan-Principal 4 2025 PW Building Loan-Interest	1,527,712 1,642,500 91,650 39,480
Revised Total Fund Resources	16,083,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	16,083,000
Explanation of change(s): Reallocation of funds from Fleet related to the new Public Works building and additional construction costs related to the new Public Works building.			

FUND: FLEET			
Resource	Amount	Expenditure - indicate Org. Unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object Class.	Amount
1 Finance Proceeds	0	1 Contingency 2 Capital Outlay-Public Works Building 3 2025 PW Building Loan-Principal 4 2025 PW Building Loan-Interest	99,111 0 0 0
Revised Total Fund Resources	837,480	Revised Total Fund Requirements	837,480
Explanation of change(s): Reallocation of resources and expenditures related to the new Public Works building to Street, Stormwater, Sewer and Water Funds			

PUBLIC NOTICE PCIO26-135

MONMOUTH URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

As per ORS 457.460, the Monmouth Urban Renewal Agency published the FY 2024-25 annual report, which is on file and available to all interested persons at Monmouth City Hall, 151 Main St W., Monmouth, OR 97361, and the City's website at <https://www.ci.monmouth.or.us>. Please note, this is a notice only and not part of the official annual report.

In FY 2024-25, the Agency received \$912,669 in revenue from tax increments. Expenditures totaled \$461,241. The estimated tax revenues for FY 2025-26 are \$1,044,197. The FY 2025-26 adopted budget includes \$6,753,236 in resources and requirements. The estimated impact of carrying out the urban renewal plan on the tax collections for the preceding year for all taxing districts is shown in the table below:

Monmouth Urban Renewal Plan Area	2024-25 Tax Year
Taxing District	Impact
Polk County	\$127,295
Chemeketa Community College	46,400
Chemeketa Regional Library	6,055
Willamette Education Service District	21,976
City of Monmouth	267,925
Polk County Fire District #1	111,579
Fir Crest CD	3,470
Polk Soil/Water CD	3,674
Ash Creek WCD	2,232
Central School District 13J	362,427
4-H/M Garden/AG/Forest Ext District	5,511
Grand Total	\$958,543

Posted: 01/28/2026 (City website)
Public Date: 2/4/2026 & 2/11/2026 (Itemizer-Observer)
2 consecutive weeks within the filing year before March 1st

(Feb 4, and 11, 2026)

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

advances and late charges that become payable Therefore, notice hereby is given that Premium Title Agency, Inc. DBA PTS Foreclosure Services the undersigned trustee will on 03/24/2026 at the hour of 09:00 AM, Standard of Time, Front Entrance, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR 97338 as established by ORS187.110, in the County of Polk, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for the cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by grantor of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five (5) 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 or trust deed, and in addition to paying the 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 trustee's and attorney fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. In construing this notice the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale has been issued by the Trustee. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the Trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any

reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligation. Without limiting the Trustee's disclaimer of representation or warranties, Oregon law requires the Trustee to state in this notice that some residential properties 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 properties should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the Trustee's sale. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PROTECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Premium Title Agency, Inc. DBA PTS Foreclosure Services Delia Madrid, Trustee Sale Assistant Dated: October 24, 2025 Premium Title Agency, Inc. DBA PTS Foreclosure Services 7730 Market Center Ave Suite 100 El Paso, TX 79912 Trustee Phone number: (866) 960-8299 OR TRUSTEES SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (866) 960-8299 STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF EL PASO On October 24, 2025 before me, Yosemite Lopez Campos, Notary Public, Personally appeared Delia

Madrid, Trustee Sale Assistant, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. WITNESS my hand and official seal. Yosemite Lopez Campos Notary Name (Seal) FOR TRUSTEES SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (866) 960-8299 NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 03/24/2026. The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you in you own this property of if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THE PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: 160 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE: OR 1 AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-

TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: 1. Is the result of an arm's-length transaction; 2. Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and 3. Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT - YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that sale took place and giving you the new owner's name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if you would like to stay. If the new owner accepts rent from you, signs a new residential rental agreement with you or does not notify you in writing within 30 days

after the date of the foreclosure sale that you must move out, the new owner becomes your new landlord and must maintain the property. Otherwise: 1. You do not owe rent; 2. The new owner is not your landlord and is not responsible for maintaining the property on your behalf; and 3. You must move out by the date the new owner specifies in a notice to you. The new owner may offer to pay your moving expenses and any other costs or amounts you and the new owner agree on in exchange for your agreement to leave the premises in less than 30 or 60 days. You should speak to a lawyer to fully understand your rights before making any decisions regarding your tenancy. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO TRY TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND GOING TO COURT TO EVICT YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance is included with this notice. Oregon State Bar: (503) 684-3763; (800) 452-7636 Legal assistance: <http://oregonlawhelp.org/>

AS PLAT VOLUME 15, PAGE 41) The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is purported to be: 1369 S 10TH ST (AKA 1369 S TENTH ST) INDEPENDENCE, OREGON 97351-1550 The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 579726 / 08429-DC-03400 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 3/1/2024, 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: 3/1/2024 Total of past due payments: \$66,760.76 Late Charges: \$604.50 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$3,317.19 Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$953.50 Total necessary to cure: \$71,635.95 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: \$579,615.27 Said sale shall be held at the hour of 11:00 AM on 4/24/2026 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 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 expcessor(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 In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured

by said trust deed, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. 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: 12/11/2025 , ZBS Law, LLP, By: Amber L. Labrecque, Esq., OSB#094593 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 46130 Pub Dates 02/04, 02/11, 02/18, 02/25/2026

PCIO26-143 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of STEPHEN BLAKE TABACCHI, Deceased. Case No. 26PB01025 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that PIONEER TRUST BANK, N.A., through its agent, Jordan Alford, Esq., Trust Officer, has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-captioned Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative at the address shown below within four months after the date of publication of this Notice. All persons whose rights may be affected by the probate proceeding may obtain additional information from the court records, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the Personal Representative. DATED AND PUBLISHED this 11th day of February, 2026. Ryan E. Gibb, OSB #972693 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE PIONEER TRUST BANK, NA Attn: Jordan Alford, Esq., Trust Officer PO Box 2305 Salem, OR 97308 Direct: (503) 480-1880 Bank: (503) 363-3136(ext. 250) ATTORNEY Ryan E. Gibb, OSB #972693 DOUGLAS CONROYD, GIBB & PACHECO, P.C. 528 Cottage Street NE, Suite 400 PO Box 469 Salem, OR 97308-0469 Telephone: (503) 364-7000 Facsimile: (503)585-0699 Email: Ryan@dcm-law.com

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.

Dallas Police Department

THURSDAY, JAN. 29
At 1:24 a.m., officers investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle on Walnut Avenue. A male subject fell asleep watching YouTube videos on his phone.
At 8:03 a.m., officers investigated a report of male in a red hoodie trying door handles on Uglow Avenue. They were unable to locate a subject.

At 11:16 a.m., a wallet was found on Fairview Avenue and it was turned in to police.
At 4:02 p.m., Kyle Prock was arrested on Church Street on an outstanding warrant out of Multnomah County and lodged at Polk County Jail.
At 5:45 p.m., a female subject was cited and released on Clay Street for trespass 2.
At 7:45 p.m., a Subaru Outback was repossessed on Robert Street.
At 8:08 p.m., officers investigated a report of a road hazard at Fir Villa and Miller/Orrs Corner roads. They were unable to locate any hazard.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30
At 3:04 a.m., a subject flagged down an officer on Hankel Street to report a prowler who ran north-bound from Hankel and

Rowell streets, wearing a dark hoodie. The officer was unable to locate the suspect.
At 9:37 a.m., a resident on Fir Villa Road reported a loose German shepherd barking at people, but was unsure where the animal went.
At 10:49 a.m. Scott Delong was arrested on Lines Street on an outstanding warrant and a parole officer detainer.
At 10:58 a.m., staff on Ellendale Avenue reported the theft of football cards.
At 2:51 p.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited for driving while suspended - violation, and for failure to carry proof of financial responsibility. The driver also received a written warning for expired registration.
At 4:48 p.m., a motorist on Hankel Street was cited for failure to obey a traffic control device and

for failure to carry proof of financial responsibility.
At 6:56 p.m., a motorist on Jefferson Street reported her car had been covered in tortillas earlier this afternoon. There was no actual damage to her car. She suspected this was done by a juvenile from the neighborhood but had no evidence to support her conclusion.
At 7:54 p.m., a Audie Q5 was repossessed on Academy Street.
SATURDAY, JAN. 31
At 12:44 a.m., a resident on Dallas Drive reported several dogs barking in the area. An officer arrived and sat in front of the complainant's address but was unable to hear anything, including dogs barking.
At 4:31 a.m., a motorist on Fairview Avenue was cited for failure to carry a driver's license.

Independence police responded and arrested the driver, Ronald Weaver, on domestic violence related crimes.
At 7:23 a.m., a motorist on Clow Corner Road was cited for failure to carry a driver's license.
At 10:16 a.m., officers responded to a report of a loose, aggressive dog on Cascade Mountain Drive. The animal was collected into the house without issue.
At 1:20 p.m., a late report of theft from Walmart.
At 4:17 p.m., an officer witnessed two juveniles wearing a traffic cone as a hat walking down the street on Main Street. The juveniles were advised to return the cone back to where they removed it from. Both were compliant and agreed to walk it back to its designated location.

At 4:36 p.m., an officer investigated a report of an odd acting raccoon on Cortland Avenue. The animal appeared to be dying. The officer advised the complainant to leave it, thinking it would not harm anyone if it was left alone.
At 5:12 p.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited for driving while suspended - violation, driving uninsured, and for illegal alteration of plates - false registration sticker.
At 6:24 p.m., an officer investigated a report of two gunshots heard in the Levens Street area. They were unable to locate the cause of the noise.
At 6:50 p.m., a report of a late theft at Walmart.
At 7:35 p.m., a Salem motorist on Main Street was cited for failure to carry and present a

POLICE

From Page 6

driver’s license.

At 9:34 p.m., Jaqueline Totten was arrested on Davis Street and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant. She was lodged at Polk County Jail.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

At 12:11 a.m., Deon Wiehn, of Dallas, was arrested on Ellendale Avenue and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and reckless driving. He was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 6:57 a.m., a report of a loose cane corso (dog) chasing cats on Main Street. The complainant advised he thought it was a cane corso due to it being mean and ugly. Officers found no person was lunged at and it is unknown if a cat was attacked. They were also unable to locate the described dog.

At 11:32 a.m., an officer responded to a report of a vicious dog at large on Fowler Street. The officer located the dog standing in front of a garage door that was opened. Inside the garage was a bed for the dog with food sitting nearby. The officer told dog to go home and closed the garage door.

At 9:56 p.m., a motorist from Monmouth was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 25-mph zone on Monmouth Cutoff Road.

MONDAY, FEB. 2

At 5:41 a.m., a motorist on Miller Avenue was cited for speeding 38 mph in a 35-mph zone.

At 10:28 a.m., a female subject on Jefferson Street was cited and released for an outstanding warrant out of Linn County for trespass 2.

At 12:44 p.m., a subject was formally trespassed from a location on Court Street.

At 1:43 p.m., officers investigated a report of a male subject standing and stomping on a gray truck on Main Street. They found a subject who was angry that he locked himself out of his truck. They advised him to contain his anger and gave him possible solutions.

At 8:35 p.m., a subject reported he thought his vehicle was stolen from as he could not find it on Washington Street. An officer found the vehicle in an adjacent parking lot. The owner and car were reunited.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

At 9:46 a.m., a motorist on Godsey Road was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20-mph school zone.

At 10:08 a.m., a motorist on La Creole Drive was cited for driving uninsured, failing to register the vehicle, and operating without approved window material.

At 11:22 a.m., a report of a rabid raccoon on Godsey Road walking in circles. An officer found it not aggressive and advised the complainant to contact Fish and Game.

At 12:17 p.m., an officer investigated a report of an open door at a residence on Gleann Craig Drive. The officer cleared the residence per the owner’s request.

At 1:38 p.m., a report of a theft on Kings Valley Highway.

At 4:03 p.m., officers investigated a rear-end crash on Ellendale Avenue. One of the drivers was cited for using a mobile phone while driving (first offense).

At 10:36 p.m., a report of two young juveniles walking up the street on Levens Street. An officer contacted the two, who were ages 12 and 13, looking to spend their \$11 at Dairy Queen.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

At 1:13 p.m., a Dodge Challenger was repossessed on Stump Street.

At 1:48 p.m., a male subject on Mill Street was cited on an outstanding failure to appear warrant out of Salem Municipal Court.

Monmouth Police Department

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

Crash: Assistance requested for a multi-vehicle crash with injuries, including a semi-truck. Personnel arrived, held the scene, and provided traffic control for other agencies.

Missing Person: A client was reported missing after failing to check in for over 24 hours. The client is highly functional autistic. A search was conducted, a missing person report was taken, and the subject was entered into a law enforcement database. The subject was later found and removed from the database.

Animal: A male collie/shepherd mix dog was turned in after being found near a local intersection. No microchip was found, and the dog was held temporarily. The dog was claimed by an owner and follow-up was noted for licensing. No fee or penalty was issued due to the circumstances.

Arrest: A group of three people was contacted, and one female subject was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant and was also charged with disorderly conduct after becoming volatile upon learning about the warrant. Another person from the group, previously reported as missing, was also spoken to about their status.

Assist Other Agency: Responded to a report of trespass at an address. Three minors were located, identified, interviewed, and given written trespass notices.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

Noise: A report of two explosions was made, but personnel in the area did not hear or see anything.

Check Welfare: A welfare check was requested by a program that had not heard from a client in over 30 days. The client was located at their residence and was confirmed to be fine. Correct contact information was relayed to the program.

Suspicious Activity: A homeowner reported a male and female who asked for cans, then left on bikes wearing masks. The homeowner was concerned about possible casing. The area was searched but the subjects were not located.

Suspicious Activity: An unknown person came to a residence overnight and placed several dead aquatic animals and painted parts of a chicken on the lawn and vehicles. A note was left on one vehicle implying they hoped the owner wasn’t moving. The complainants declined to pursue charges.

Suspicious Person: An anonymous non-emergency call was received about an erratically acting male, yelling slurs at families from a street intersection. Personnel were unavailable at the time and no additional calls

were received.

Arrest: A vehicle was stopped because the registered owner had a felony warrant. The driver was not the registered owner but was arrested and lodged for his own municipal warrant for failure to appear.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

DUI: A driver was stopped for traffic violations and observed to show signs of impairment. The driver performed poorly on field sobriety tests and was arrested and charged with driving under the influence. A BAC of 0.10% was recorded, and the driver was lodged.

Arrest: A subject was contacted and arrested in a neighboring city based on probable cause. The subject was interviewed at the jail and a knife believed to be used in the incident was seized. The subject was lodged and charged with domestic violence related menacing and harassment.

Crash: A 16-year-old female driver was texting while driving, which caused her to drift off the road, hit an object, and flip her car. Her vehicle was towed, and she was cited for cell phone use while driving. She had no serious injuries and declined transport after medical evaluation.

Arrest: A male subject was arrested after assaulting a female in front of his 8-year-old son. He was lodged and charged with felony assault and harassment.

Noise: A complaint about loud party noise was received. Contact was made with the resident, who explained they were watching a sporting event and agreed to keep the noise down for the night.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A resident at a group home attempted suicide by tying a cord around her neck, resulting in dark red marks. This followed an earlier call about the same resident for self-harm. She was placed on an emergency hold and transported by medical personnel to a hospital.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A person called a suicide hotline with suicidal ideations and threatened to cut their throat. Contact was eventually made in person, and the subject explained suicidal thoughts, threatening to stab himself and provoke personnel to use their firearm. After calming down, the subject was willing to seek professional help and was transported to a hospital on an emergency hold. The subject’s demeanor fluctuated multiple times.

Harassment: A male reported another male was threatening to beat him up and kill him. The report was similar to a previous incident. The person making the threats did not have a weapon. The caller was advised to contact the courthouse regarding a no-contact or stalking order and was given case numbers from previous incidents.

Harassment: A male reported his ex-partner, the protected party in a restraining order, was contacting him despite the order. The contact was initiated when the male dropped off their children per a custody order, and then had to return to drop off a medical device. The female was calling repeatedly. The order was reviewed, and it was determined that based on the custody agreement, a

violation of the restraining order was not apparent.

Driving: A caller reported a black sedan speeding and running a stop sign. Personnel attempted to locate the vehicle but were unsuccessful.

DOA: Responded to a report of a male who fainted suddenly and was unconscious. He was found to have no pulse, CPR was started, and he was ultimately confirmed deceased. Medical staff responded, and the body was placed on hold.

MONDAY, FEB. 2

Bite: A person was bitten on the hand by their dog after it got into a fight with another family member’s dog. The person was not transported to the hospital but had a deep cut on a finger. Both dogs were confirmed to have current vaccinations.

DOA: Personnel and medical staff responded to an unconscious elderly person and performed life-saving measures, but the person was later pronounced deceased. The death was not suspicious, and the family was assisted with funeral home contact.

Disturbance: Multiple reports were received about a male acting erratically in the street, with initial anonymous reports of him blocking traffic, yelling, and making threats with a weapon. Other witnesses stated he was acting erratically but made no threats and was not blocking traffic. Personnel spoke to the male, who was uncooperative. He was observed leaving the area and staying out of traffic.

Domestic Disturbance: An intoxicated individual reported a verbal argument between his brother and a woman, and he was unsure if it was physical. He later claimed his brother threatened to shoot him (no weapon present) and refused to show claimed evidence to personnel. The brother and woman denied having an argument.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report of a woman screaming and being hurt was received. Personnel heard screaming but could not make contact with the resident, who is known to have a history of emotional episodes. A neighbor was spoken to, and phone contact attempts were unsuccessful.

Theft: A male reported his pistol was stolen and believed a female relative, who had recently taken a video with it, was responsible. The relative claimed to have put the weapon back, and it could not be located at her current residence. A report was taken.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

Assist Other Agency: Personnel attempted to locate a male on behalf of another county that had probable cause for felony domestic violence, strangulation, and coercion. The subject, who is an apartment complex employee, was not found at the complex.

Check Welfare: A call was received from a local service about a child who reported being scared of his father due to physical abuse, and they were concerned when the child did not show up at school. Personnel checked the home and found the child was fine, home with a fever, and had no visible injuries. The child said he felt safe. The father and the service were updated.

Driving: A vehicle sped through a crosswalk where a crossing

guard was stopping traffic, almost striking the guard while a family was crossing. Personnel were unable to locate the vehicle.

Found Property: A person reported finding money on a previous date. The cash was collected and placed into safekeeping, and the finder was given a case number in case they wished to claim it later.

Warrant: A subject was stopped for not having license plates. They were found to have two active warrants from different counties (failure to appear for assault and a probation violation). The subject was transported and lodged.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

Suspicious Activity: A caller reported a prowler on their property, with video footage of a person attempting to open car door handles and trespassing. The person had left before officers arrived. The subject was later found to have possibly entered a neighbor’s vehicle, which was found unlocked with the interior light on. The neighbor checked their car and found nothing was missing and was unsure if they wanted to press charges. Later, a vehicle was found with its trunk open, and personnel were unable to contact anyone at the residence.

Theft: A person reported their wallet, containing identification, a passport card, a debit card, a credit card, cash, and other cards, was stolen after being left in a building at the university. An unknown suspect attempted to use the debit and a digital payment card online, but the transactions were declined. Surveillance video did not cover the area of the theft. The victim locked their financial accounts and is replacing their identification.

Theft: A person reported their grey sport utility vehicle was illegally entered early in the morning. A jump box was stolen from the rear cargo area. Camera footage showed one male suspect accessing the rear hatch. A second male, possibly from another incident, was seen in the background but could not be confirmed as accessing the vehicle. The neighborhood was canvassed for additional footage.

Arrest: A person matching the description of the previous night’s prowler was stopped. When shown video footage of the attempts to open car doors, the person admitted it was them. They were arrested and taken to the county jail and charged with attempted unlawful entry of a motor vehicle (two counts), criminal trespass and a probation violation warrant.

Trespass: A manager at a store reported a male and female in a white car outside, alleging they were using illegal drugs. Officers made contact, and both parties denied drug use. The manager insisted on seeing the female holding a clear pipe to her lips and seeing vapor. Consent to search was denied. Both individuals were issued a formal notice banning them from the property. The complainant was updated.

Found Property: A bank debit card was turned in to the police. Personnel attempted to contact the card’s owner using a known phone number, but the call went to voicemail, and a message was

left requesting contact. The card was placed into safekeeping.

Theft: A male reported that another person stole almost \$10,000 from his home. He is working on getting a bank statement showing the withdrawal.

Polk County Sheriff's Office

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28

At 12:33 a.m., deputies assisted Dallas police in trying to locate a subject who fled from them on a trespass call on Ellendale Avenue. They were unable to locate the subject.

At 7:39 a.m., a motorist on Highway 99 was cited for speeding 85 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 12:14 p.m., deputies assisted Dallas police in searching for a vehicle involving a disorderly suspect. They were unable to locate the vehicle. Reportedly, an unknown male in black Jeep pulled over, asked the victim into his jeep and at one point threw a knife in her direction which hit the ground.

At 1:58 p.m., deputies covered Monmouth police as they took a subject into custody on Monmouth Street. They located and arrested Antonio Cruz on an outstanding warrant. He was also charged with possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine.

At 9:15 p.m., a motorist on Wallace Road was stopped for terminated insurance. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for driving uninsured.

At 10:09 p.m., a resident on Wallace Road reported that an unknown male was banging on his door with a story about being out of gas. A deputy contacted a male subject walking along the road carrying a gas can. He had run out of gas and parked his car in the complainant’s driveway. He said he was only trying to let the complainant know that his car was there. He planned on walking to a gas station and returning to pick up his car.

At 10:59 p.m., Salem police asked deputies to look for a vehicle that was being driving by a possible drunk driver. They were unable to locate the driver at a residence on Fairview Avenue.

THURSDAY, JAN. 29

At 12:36 a.m., a resident on Rickreall Road reported finding a dog in her backyard, and she suspected it was dumped. A deputy arrived and took the male rottweiler and secured him in the PCSO kennels.

At 1 a.m., a motorist was stopped on Airlie Road because a deputy could not see a license plate on the trailer. Although the plate was there, it had expired in 2007. The driver was cited for no insurance.

At 8:27 a.m., deputies and Monmouth police assisted with traffic control at the scene of a two-to three-vehicle blocking crash with injuries involving a semi on Pacific Highway. They remained on scene until Oregon State Police took over.

At 10:32 a.m., a resident on Ruben Boise Road reported someone shot at his barn on Jan. 25 or 27 after hearing about five shots both nights. He later found five 12-gauge shotgun shells from different spots near the road and bagged them up and gave them to a deputy. The deputy found what appeared to be 13 holes

POLICE

From Page B7

in the barn wall from the shots, and damage to a tree with what looked like a shotgun pellet embedded in it. A neighbor reported seeing what looked like a truck driving north away from the scene after the shots were fired.

At 11:03 a.m., a motorist on Fairview Avenue was stopped for not stopping at a stop sign. The driver was cited for no insurance.

At 12:08 p.m., a report of a theft in a cabin on Old Military Road where a shotgun, knives, magazines of ammo, and a handmade hatchet were stolen.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

At 12:19 a.m., a deputy investigated a report of a vehicle in a ditch on Corvallis Road. The driver said he missed a turn due to the fog. A tow truck was called that removed the vehicle from the ditch.

At 10:12 a.m., a motorist was stopped on Fairview Avenue for a license plate that did not turn up in a computer check. The driver, a transfer from Arizona, was cited for driving while suspended - violation and was warned for failure to

display plates.

At 6 p.m., a deputy assisted in moving a disabled vehicle on Uglow Avenue that was blocking the lane of travel.

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

At 3:32 a.m., a deputy cited a driver for speeding 83 mph in a 55-mph zone on Highway 99 near milepost 70.

At 3:35 a.m., a motorist was stopped for speeding. The driver, Rigoberto Hernandez was arrested and charged with violation of a protection order as the victim was in the passenger’s seat.

At 10:30 a.m., deputies responded and assisted with traffic control at a two-vehicle blocking crash on Kings Valley Highway. Oregon State Police and ODOT took over the scene.

At 12:17 p.m., a deputy, while stopped on Ellendale Avenue, observed an elderly female laying on the sidewalk on her side, seemingly distressed. A group of people said someone had “rolled coal” that resulted in the 83-year-old female patient having breathing issues and ultimately collapsing. Medics responded.

At 2:33 p.m., a motorist on Main Street in Dallas was stopped for an unsignalled turn. The driver

was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for driving uninsured.

At 3:01 p.m., a deputy responded to a report of a fully engulfed car fire on Simpson Road. The fire department had put the fire out prior to the deputy’s arrival and they called for BC Towing to come take the car.

At 3:49 p.m., deputies responded to a motorcycle crash with the rider ejected from the bike on Corvallis Road. The rider, Kerwin Taylor, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 4:23 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of an explosion on Lewis Street. The deputy spoke to a couple of adult males who used Tannerite to destroy a nutria den. They said they did not think it would be so loud and they were not planning on doing it again. They appeared to have been shooting in a safe direction and using the tannerite in a safe manner.

At 6:41 p.m., a deputy found a dog at Fairview and Clay Street at the end of his shift. Another deputy took the dog to the dog shelter at fairgrounds.

At 9:34 p.m., deputies responded to a physical altercation between an

adult and two juveniles on Davis Street in Dallas. Jaqueline Totten was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and was lodged at Polk County Jail where she blew a BAC of .19%.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

At 1:31 a.m., a motorist was stopped for speeding on Highway 22. The driver was cited for driving uninsured and driving while suspended - violation and was warned for the speeding.

At 5:05 p.m., deputies responded to an iPhone crash alert on Ellendale Road. They found a white pickup crashed into a tree off the road that had also damaged a Pacific Power Pole. Witnesses observed male leaving the scene on foot. Deputies located the driver, Johnathan Bennett, who appeared impaired. He failed a field sobriety test and lodged at Polk County Jail where he was charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and for hit and run.

At 6:42 p.m., a resident on Bethel Road, who was outside smoking in her carport, reported an unknown male subject approached, 80 yards off the highway. After acting suspiciously, she and her husband told the subject

to leave several times. Deputies located the male walking westbound. He eventually provided his ID and proved to be an out of compliance sex offender. He was lodged at Polk County Jail and charged with fail to report and trespass 2.

At 8:08 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a pickup doing burnouts in the Safeway parking lot. They located a large group of trucks, some of which scattered as deputies arrived. All available parties were verbally trespassed; due to the amount of individuals involved, vehicle plates were recorded for future encounters.

At 8:51 p.m., a resident on Riddell Road reported a person knocking on their bedroom window. Deputies cleared the outside area but were unable to locate anyone on the property.

MONDAY, FEB. 2

At 7:37 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 8:42 a.m., a motorist came into the PCSO who was parked in the parking lot needing a battery jump. A deputy got her car jumped and she left.

At 10:28 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was

cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55-mph zone.

TUESDAY, FEB. 3

At 7:23, a motorist on Perrydale Road was cited for speeding 35 mph in a 20-mph school zone.

At 10:24 a.m., deputies responded to a crash on Orrs Corner Road. Later OSP and medics arrived. Both drivers and one passenger in the crash were transported.

At 1:49 p.m., a motorist on Washington Street was stopped for failure to signal a turn. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and for no insurance. While inventorying the vehicle contents, three firearms were taken into safekeeping. The vehicle was towed.

At 2:34 p.m., a female subject on Church Street in Falls City was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

At 7:36 p.m., David Beasley was arrested on Bridgeport Road and charged with burglary 1, computer crime and stalking.

At 8:46 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Hebo Road. The registered owner was found leaving the casino. He was cited for possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine and for driving uninsured.

GIRLS

From Page B1

awesome to see.”

Keying the growth, he added, was simply giving girls the chance to wrestle other girls.

“Competition being available took it to a serious level,” the coach said. “It’s more appropriate, and it’s given them a real platform.”

Dallas’s efforts extend beyond the wrestling room. The Dragons host girls-only camps during the year, thereby creating a welcoming environment where novices can learn

about the sport and ask questions. Many campers bring a parent along, thereby helping families feel comfortable with the sport and the commitment it requires.

Recruiting also happens organically.

“Our girls do most of it,” Markee said. “They get their friends to come out.”

Senior Jenna Rogers – a former cross country runner and swimmer – is one who found wrestling via the friend route. Her fellow runners introduced her to the sport.

“There was a camp to see if girls like it

because they were trying to get more girls to do it,” she said. “I went, and the coach was like, ‘Yeah, you should wrestle. You’re a wrestler.’ But (the coach) had to convince my mom to let me wrestle, and once he did, I did it. It’s been awesome.”

Also awesome is the camaraderie.

“It feels like a family,” Rogers said of team spirit. “It’s so rewarding because team members build each other up through an entire tournament. It’s like, ‘Hey, we got this.’”

The program already

boasts historic success. Polly Olliff, who graduated last year, is not only the school’s first girl state champion, but she repeated that feat three times. Olliff is one of three wrestlers in school history, boys or girls, to achieve that trifecta.

Following in Olliff’s footsteps are several standouts. Marissa McGinnis and Rogers return as state finalists, while Gabby Dyer is a returning state placer. Strong senior leadership, the coach added, helps unify a young roster.

“We knew pretty early this group was going to

be tough,” Markee said. “Our senior captains keep everyone on the same mindset.”

Highlights include wins at the Northwest Duals and the Lady Dragon tournament, which the school hosts each January. This year’s invite drew 568 wrestlers, making it the largest girls tournament in Oregon.

Dallas practices boys and girls together, a choice the coach believes strengthens both groups.

“There’s mutual respect,” he said. “They all know what each other are going through because they share the same room

and the same grind.”

Goals are clearly defined moving forward.

“The plan is to win regionals, qualify as many girls as we can to state, then go to state and cause damage,” Markee said. “We want to win a state title.”

Time will tell if they achieve that goal.

The OSAA Class 6A/5A Mid-Willamette Conference tournament is Friday and Saturday at West Salem High School.

The 2026 Wrestling State Championships are Feb. 26-28 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

FINALS

From Page B1

year, the team has 27, with half being freshmen.

But these Dragons aren’t just getting younger – they’re getting faster.

“We’ve had swimmers getting PRs (personal records) every meet; almost 50 percent at every meet,” the coach said. “And they’re going to be their best at districts.”

Winners of each district event automatically qualify for state. Remaining berths are determined by comparing times across Oregon’s districts.

“It’s not easy at all to get to state,” Ludwick

said. “Districts are tough because we’re going against teams that are twice our size. ... But a top three finish would be great.”

Dallas’s biggest shift from years past is the overall quality and maturity of its roster.

“We’ve got quality swimmers this year,” he said. “We’ve also got swimmers that have now been on the team for three, four years. So their experience is there now.”

Numbers matter, too, as program depth aids in the team score. Increased visibility of the program helped boost numbers. As has outreach that attracts athletes from other sports

seeking to stay in shape during winter.

Junior Amber Green is a legitimate scoring threat at districts. She’s also a track star, who sees swimming as a training option in the wet, cold months. She and her older sister Tanya took up swimming three years ago.

“We wanted to try something new, and I decided I was done with basketball,” she said. “I knew running would translate over to swimming, at least the aerobic aspect of it.”

This year’s goal for the district finals is her most ambitious yet.

“Coming into the pool this year, I was really

excited and surprised to see all the progress and my faster times,” Green said. “My goal is to qualify for state ... in the 100 freestyle.”

Her progress is tied to coaching and program structure, a tandem that proves effective with novice and experienced swimmers alike.

Sophomore Grayson Keene is a longtime club swimmer. He enters the district with individual and relay ambitions.

“I want to perform as well as I can,” Keene said. “If I have a really good swim in me, I think I can place near the top.”

Keene said he was drawn to swimming as a

kid due to his competitive nature. But he couldn’t do school sports until middle school because of where he lived.

“My big sister got into swimming, and later on, I really wanted to do swimming because I wanted to be in a sport. I kind of got attached to it,” he said.

Keene competes as an individual and anchors the relay team. It’s a quartet that thinks it will make some noise.

“We’ve been working pretty hard,” Keene said, adding they’ve consistently cut their times over the season. He acknowledged relays offer a unique pressure.

“You’re relying on your teammates, not just yourself,” he added.

If Dallas delivers another wave of PRs, performing well enough to flip close races, the team will make the upper tier of the standings.

The Mid-Willamette district meet is at the Albany Aquatic Center, and its six-lane pool. Joining Dallas are Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, McKay, Silverton, South Albany, West Albany and Woodburn.

The 2026 Swimming State Championships are Feb. 20-21 at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton.

BRIEFS

From Page B3

a roundtable discussion on “The alarms are ringing! Practical things we can do NOW to protect Democracy!” They ask only that attendees bring their integrity and empathy. For more information and to sign up for email notifications, go to www.polkdems.org, scroll to Step 2, and click on the link to our newsletter.

MONMOUTH SENIOR CENTER HOSTS BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION FEB. 18

The Monmouth Senior Center hosts “Evening of

Abundance”, celebrating Black History Month, from 6-7:30 p.m., at 180 Warren St. S. Enjoy a warm bowl of free gumbo and cornbread as they honor the culinary legacy and the women who brought it to life. Create your own plate to take home courtesy local chef Sovereignty Bites.

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB MEETS FEB. 19

The Third Thursday Book Club meets to discuss the book “The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post” by Allison Patakat at 1 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.

BRANDON HEATH TO PERFORM BAMBINOS

BENEFIT CONCERT FEB. 20

Bambinos Oregon is hosting a benefit concert featuring Christian recording artist Brandon Heath, with opening guest John August, on Feb. 20 at Valley Life Center, located at 1795 SE Miller Ave., in Dallas. Proceeds from the event will support Bambinos Oregon’s mission of helping families with young children in rural Oregon communities by providing essential baby supplies and support. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for VIP guests and 6:30 p.m. for General Admission. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$45 for VIPs and are available for purchase online at www.

bambinosoregon.org.

LOCAL AUTHOR HOSTS BOOK SIGNING FEB. 21

Author S.N. St Clair hosts a book signing for her new thriller, “The Forgotten Girl” from 2-4 p.m. at the New Morning Bakery, 788 Main St., Dallas. Books for purchase at the event are limited, so it will be first come, first served.

WALK THE PATH COMMUNITY THEATRE HOSTS SPRING SHOW AUDITIONS FEB. 8

Walk the Path Community Theatre is hosting auditions for their spring show on Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Dallas Foursquare Church, 976 SW Hayter St., Dallas.

TITLE

From Page B1

the Broncos 24-to-7 over the second and third quarters.

Sienna Meza led St. Paul’s effort with 13 points and 11 boards. No other Bronco tallied more than three points.

With momentum and confidence at a season high, the girls enter the final week of the regular season with focus intact.

“One game at a time,” the coach said. “Defense and rebounding win championships.”

There’s no rest for the winners, as the Pirates’ final week of the regular season features four games: Feb. 9 versus C.S. Lewis, today (Wednesday) vs. Powers, Feb. 13 at Chemawa, and Feb. 14 at Southwest Christian.

Powers and Southwest Christian are non-league opponents.

The two home games begin at 5:30 p.m.