

County

SW Polk Fire
brush rig
vandalized
See A2



Indy

Damascus
Kitchen features
Syrian flavors
See B1



A large contingency of volunteers and dignitaries, both local and state, on July 7 dig the ceremonial first shovel of dirt at the Ella Curran Food Bank's new home at 750 Airport Road in Independence.

PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Ella Curran breaks ground at new, permanent home

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

A new era for the Ella Curran Food was celebrated July 7 with a ceremonial ground breaking for their new facility at 750 Airport Road in Independence.

In 48 years, the Ella Curran Food Bank has moved nine times. The current location at 870 N Main St. is just 2,760 square feet, including the side-walk and delivery entrance. Refrigeration space and storage space are limited. Even with a small waiting room, people must stand in lines

outside, regardless the heat or cold.

For the Ella Curran food bank, July 6 was just a typical Monday. Volunteers went out to grocery stores Walmart, Grocery Outlet and Ross to gather donations. Marion Polk Food Share delivered thousands of pounds of food to restock their shelves,. By the end of the day, 86 families came through in two hours and 15 minutes, serving a total of 423 people.

On July 7, the community celebrated the dedication of the food bank's new, permanent home.

Executive Director of Services, Patty Nevue spoke before an appreciative crowd of over 200, many involved in one way or other in keeping the food bank operational. Nevue said so far in the first six months of 2026 Ella Curran has already served 30,000 individuals.

"This last month we broke a record. Usually November is the biggest because we give out a lot of supplies for Thanksgiving. This last month was bigger than Thanksgiving month," Nevue said.

She said she was much less nervous when Ella Curran

unveiled the sign at for the food bank at the new location earlier in the year.

"I wasn't nervous when we unveiled our sign. Which was big tadoo. I don't know of any big organizations that step out and honor their sign when they put it on their property. But we did. There were torrential winds that day and we hung on for dear life," Nevue recalled.

"There were about 100 hundred people that day, all of our friends and people who worked hard for the food bank. It was heartwarming then."

See **HOME**, page A8

Central teacher arrested on child sex abuse charges



By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

Ian Ikaika Imamura

On July 2, the Independence Police Department arrested Central School District teacher Ian Ikaika Imamura, 28, following an extensive criminal investigation.

Imamura, choir director at Central High School, was lodged at the Polk County Jail on eight charges. He was then arraigned on July 6 on charges related to encouraging, recording and possessing sexually explicit material of at least one child. He was also charged with non-sexual crimes involving identity theft and a computer crime.

According to Polk County Circuit Court records, Imamura was charged with three counts of using a child in a display of sexually explicit conduct (a class A felony).

Court records also have him charged with encouraging child sexual abuse 1 and 2 (class B and C felonies), and luring a

See **CHARGES**, page A8

Motorcycle show finds new home in downtown Dallas

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

On July 18-19, the streets around the Polk County Courthouse will be rumbling with a new event sure to attract more than just the participants.

The annual PacWest Motorcycle Show makes its debut in downtown Dallas. For the past four years, organizer Brad Columbus and a couple thousand of his closest motorcycle enthusiasts got together annually. This year, however, the hammer of bad fortune came down hard on the event. Columbus learned in May that the host location Oak Knoll Golf Course had been sold to new owners.

"The group that bought it didn't want anything to do with motorcycle shows," said Columbus.

Usually, he has a year to organize and coordinate the event. For 2026, he had two

months.

A resident himself of Dallas, while he was scrambling to find a new location, Columbus said he was enamored with the Old Mill Site as a possible replacement. He called the phone number on the for lease sign. The voice at the other end of the line agreed it would be a cool location, but thought a more central location would be more appropriate.

"Let me call a buddy at the city," Columbus was told.

That buddy heard "motorcycle chow" and he said, "Say no more," Columbus recalled.

For years, Columbus, who works at the phone company in Dallas, also worked closely with others in the motorcycle industry. In his tour of the country, he took notes of details from shows that worked or needed improvements (Hello? No garbage cans?)

A buddy on the circuit got tired of Columbus picking his

brains about the national shows and finally suggested he start his own show back home.

Columbus thought, why not?

"I set out looking for a location, and the Oak Knoll golf course landed in my lap and turned out to be a hit," Columbus said.

The oddity of a golf course hosting a motorcycle show was the lure to attract enthusiasts from all over the region. It quickly grew into a family friendly event.

"It was great for dads to bring his kids to check out motorcycles," Columbus said.

The main sponsor of the show Metier Law Firm specializing in motorcycles knew some people in the industry. And soon, a premier stunt team added PacWest Motorcycle Show to their touring schedule – the Seattle Cossacks.

"These are like motorcycle

See **SHOW**, page A8



COURTESY PHOTOS

PacWest Motorcycle Show organizer Brad Columbus' 2025 Harley Davidson Road Glide CVO ST awaits at the County Courthouse more than 2,000 other motorcycles expected at the two-day event July 18-19.

IN THIS ISSUE

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A4
A4
A4
B1
B2
B2
B6
B4
A6

Weather

W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
86/56 Sunny	74/52 Partly Cloudy	81/53 Sunny	83/53 Sunny	84/55 Sunny	87/57 Mostly Sunny	85/58 Mostly Sunny

News Briefs

POLK COUNTY PLANS PAVEMENT PRESERVATION THROUGH JULY
Polk County Public Works crews will be applying a chip seal and fog seal to various roads in the Central Polk County/Rickreall area July 20-31. There will be delays intermittently during this time period. Work hours will generally be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. All work is dependent on weather. At this time Public Works plans to complete this project in the last two weeks of July.

The county will update the dates/times on the Public Works website when a more accurate timeline is determined. More information about these projects can be found online at co.polk.or.us/pw or by calling Polk County Public Works at (503) 623-9287. Chip Seal Project Roads:
• Farmer Road
• Greenwood Road North
• Greenwood Road South
• Oak Grove Road North
• Oak Grove Road South
• Morrow Road.
• Rickreall Road

• Nesmith Road
• Halls Ferry Road
• Rogers Road
• Hanna Road
• Clow Corner Road (East of Highway 99)
• Orchard Heights Road

FALLS CITY MAN DIES IN HIGHWAY 7 CRASH
A Falls City man died July 5 in a single-vehicle crash on Highway 7. According to Oregon State Police, at approximately 2:38 p.m., officers responded to a single-vehicle fatal crash near milepost 7 in Grant County.

The preliminary investigation indicated a gray Dodge van pulling a utility trailer, operated by Fred Doke, of Falls City, was traveling northbound on Highway 7 near Prairie City when he left the roadway for an unknown reason. The vehicle and trailer traveled down a rocky embankment where the van landed upside down with the trailer landing on top of the van. Doke, 76, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The highway was not impacted during the

on-scene investigation. OSP was assisted by the Grant County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

INDEPENDENCE POLICE INCREASE SPEED ENFORCEMENT IN JULY
Through the month of July, the Independence Police Department is joining agencies across the state in providing sustained speed enforcement. Independence officers participate in several grant-funded traffic safety enforcements throughout

the year focused on a range of concerns on the road, including seat-belt and car seat use, pedestrian safety, DUII, distracted driving, and speed. The goal is to educate drivers and change behavior, leading to safer roadways for all of us. This year alone, Independence police have written 88 speeding tickets and issued 94 warnings. Independence police would like to remind everyone about the dangers of speeding, which can result in crashes, injuries, and death.

SW Polk Fire District brush rig vandalized

The SW Polk Fire District is asking for the public's assistance following the vandalism of one of its wildland fire apparatuses. Recently, an unknown individual or group of individuals intentionally damaged a brush rig. The vandalism resulted in the destruction of several hundred feet of fire hose, causing significant damage to equipment used during wildland fires and other emergency incidents. In addition to the

damaged hose, someone tampered with the apparatus pump. District personnel were able to repair the pump and return the apparatus to service. However, the destroyed hose must be replaced, resulting in unnecessary costs to the SW Polk Fire District and the community it serves. The incident has been reported to the Polk County Sheriff's Office and is currently under investigation. Anyone who witnessed suspicious activity or has

information related to this incident is encouraged to contact the SW Polk Fire District or the Polk County Sheriff's Office and reference case number DAS26008802. Even seemingly minor details may assist investigators. "Our firefighters depend on this equipment to protect lives, property, and natural resources," said the SW Polk Fire District in a press release. "Acts of vandalism not only damage valuable emergency equipment but also place



FILE PHOTO

SW Polk Fire's brush rig's firehoses were recently vandalized.
an unnecessary financial burden on the community. We appreciate any information that may help identify those responsible."

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde receives historic preservation grant

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde was one of 20 organizations to receive grants totaling \$300,000 for historic properties and archaeology projects from the Oregon Heritage, a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The 13 grants in the Preserving Oregon category are for properties listed on the National Register of Historic

Places and for archaeology projects. The other seven grants were awarded in the Diamonds in the Rough category. This grant funds façade enhancements that restore the historic character of the property. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde received \$20,000 to undertake priority exterior rehabilitation of the Grand Ronde Rail Depot, addressing weather-related

deterioration to stabilize historic materials, protect the structure, and support long-term preservation. The other Preservation of 12 historic properties were:
• Historic Town Hall, Talent
• Santiam Pass Ski Lodge, Linn County
• Egbert Home at Philip Foster Farm, Clackamas County
• First Bank Building, Vale
• Administrative Lodge,

Maxville Townsite, Wallowa
• Celia's House, Medford
• Dr. Brentano House, St. Paul
• Petersen Rock Garden Museum Building, Deschutes County
• Barn and Storage Buildings, Springfield
• Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, Willamette Heritage Center, Salem
• EM&M Building, Enterprise
These grants are approved by

the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, a nine-member group that reviews nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The members are professionally recognized in the fields of history, architecture, archaeology and other related disciplines. For more information about the grant program, visit www.oregonheritage.org.

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Polk CDC founder Rita Grady retires

Polk Community Development Corporation (Polk CDC) announced the retirement of Executive Director Rita Grady, whose vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment helped shape the organization since its founding in 1989.

Over nearly four decades, Grady guided Polk CDC from a community vision into one of Oregon’s most respected community development organizations, creating opportunities through high-quality affordable housing, innovative self-help programs, and partnerships that have improved the lives of countless Polk County residents.

As one of Polk CDC’s founding leaders, Grady dedicated her career to ensuring that low- and



Rita Grady

moderate-income residents have access to opportunities that strengthen families, build financial stability, and enrich communities. Under her leadership, Polk CDC earned a reputation for developing thoughtfully designed affordable housing that serves veterans, families, seniors, and others facing housing challenges while enhancing the communities in which they are built.

Her commitment to



Kimberly Lyell

quality, innovation, and collaboration has resulted in numerous award-winning developments and programs, most recently Carson Commons in Dallas, recipient of a 2026 Daily Journal of Commerce Top Projects Award. Just as importantly, Rita built an organization known for its exceptional staff, trusted partnerships, sound stewardship, and unwavering commitment to serving Polk County with excellence and integrity.

“Rita has always led with humility, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the potential of every person and every community,” said Amy Houghtaling, President of the Polk CDC Board of Directors. “Her leadership has shaped not only Polk CDC, but the communities we serve. From the organization’s earliest days, she has led with vision, determination, and a steadfast commitment to creating opportunities for others. Her impact can be seen in the homes, neighborhoods, partnerships, and lives that have been strengthened through her work. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and our many community partners, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for her decades of service and wish her every happiness in retirement.”

To ensure a seamless transition, the Polk CDC Board of Directors appointed Kimberly Lyell as executive director, effective July 1.

Lyell has served Polk CDC for 18 years, most recently as deputy director, and has played an integral role in the organization’s programs, operations, and community partnerships. Having worked alongside Grady throughout her tenure, Lyell brings deep institutional knowledge, trusted relationships throughout the region, and a shared commitment to Polk CDC’s mission.

“The Board has complete confidence in Kimberly’s leadership,” Houghtaling said. “Her experience, dedication, and understanding of Polk CDC’s work make her exceptionally well

prepared to lead the organization during this transition while continuing the strong tradition of service and excellence that Rita helped establish.”

Lyell said she’s been privileged to work alongside Grady and learn from her extraordinary leadership.

“Polk CDC has an exceptional team, outstanding community partners, and a mission that remains as important today as it was when the organization was founded,” Lyell said. “I am honored to serve as Executive Director and look forward to working with our staff, Board, and partners to build on the remarkable foundation Rita created while continuing to expand opportunities for the people and communities of Polk County.”

Donors needed amid Red Cross blood supply shortage

The American Red Cross is declaring an emergency blood shortage as the blood supply fell nearly 25% in June. Blood donors are urgently needed to give now to help ensure patients receive lifesaving medical care without delay. The shortage is especially serious for platelets and types O positive and B negative blood.

A steep decline in blood donations since the end of May has created a growing gap between supply and patient need. Currently, Red Cross distributions to hospitals are nearly 3,500 units higher per week than expected at a time when hospitals often see higher demand for blood products during the height of trauma

season. On top of that, busy schedules and the seasonal loss of school blood drives are driving the decline which could put patient care at risk if not reversed.

The most important way to help end the blood shortage is to book an appointment to give blood now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting

RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give through July 31 will receive a Fandango Movie Ticket by email (up to \$15 ticket price and fees). Additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/July.

July Blood donation events in Polk County:

West Salem - July 16, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Northwest Human Services/ West Salem Clinic, 1233 Edgewater St. NW
Dallas - July 17, noon to 5 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road
Independence - July 31, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Polk County Fire District No. 1, 1800 Monmouth St.

Quick care for summer surprises

Summer is made for road trips and long days soaking up the sun with loved ones. When minor injuries or unexpected illnesses get in the way, Salem Health can help you get back to enjoying the season.

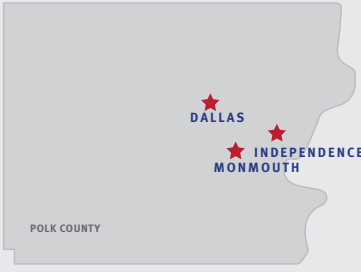
Our medical clinics treat all your everyday summer concerns: from sunburns to sprains to splinters and swimmer’s ear. Plus, with appointments often available in just a day or two, you can get all the help you need without missing the fun.

Make an appointment at your local clinic today!



Learn more about our clinics.

salemhealth.org/primary-care



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OBITUARIES



Gerald Dalke
Nov. 26, 1942 - May 29, 2026

Jerry was born during a blackout in a small community hospital at the beach in Waldport, Oregon during the war in 1942. Jerry joined the Air National Guard and served as a jet mechanic and was honorably discharged in 1967.

As a young man he and his cousin, Larry Ediger, worked side by side at Home Comfort, which still serves Dallas today.

At 39, he got his real estate license and worked diligently for the next 43 years alongside his wife, Julanne, renovating homes before there was a television craze making fixer uppers so popular.

Jerry served in several positions for the Polk County Board of Realtors as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. He was an active participant in the Iwana organization and was always in a teaching or leadership position local to his church.

He enjoyed many youthful activities with his eight beloved grandchildren, Uriah, Spinoza, Shelby, Palmer, Peyton, Lincoln, Jaxson and Stella and has two great grandchildren, Domino and Nora Grace. The children were always his pride and joy.

Jerry was a quiet man who modeled creativity, self-reliance and positivity. Through several lengthy illnesses he was noted for his courage, optimism, positivity, and inspiration.

Pedee Church
Celebration of Life
August 8, 2026, 1 p.m.
2995 Kings Valley Hwy
Monmouth Oregon,
97361

Linda Kezar-Randall
May 26, 1951 - July 2, 2026

Linda Jean Kezar-Randall, born May 26, 1951, in Florence, Oregon and passed away peacefully at her home on July 2, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Linda Jean Kezar-Randall, born May 26, 1951, in Florence, Oregon, to Eldon and Ethel Kezar, passed away peacefully at her home on July 2, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Linda was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend whose kindness, strength, and compassion touched the lives of many. She attended nursing

school and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), dedicating her career to caring for others with compassion and professionalism. As a born-again Christian, her faith in Jesus Christ was the foundation of her life. She loved reading God’s Word, studying Scripture, and growing in her relationship with the Lord. Her faith guided her actions and shaped the way she cared for others. Among Linda’s greatest joys was spending time with her granddaughter, Grace. She treasured every moment they shared and loved her family deeply. Linda is survived by her husband, Ted Randall; her children, Seth Kezar, Andrea Randall, and Keith Randall; her granddaughter, Grace; and her brother, Stan Kezar. She also leaves behind many extended family members and friends who will cherish her memory. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eldon and Ethel Kezar, and her beloved son, Eddie Randall. While her family mourns her passing, they find comfort in God’s promise of eternal life and in knowing that Linda is now in the presence of her Savior, Jesus Christ. Her faith, love, and devotion to her family will remain a lasting legacy in the hearts of all who knew her. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7

Funeral Arrangements
To be announced



Clifford Hoekstre
July 15, 1940 - July 1, 2026

Clifford Hoekstre, 86, passed away in Salem on July 1, 2026. He was born July 15, 1940, to Henry and Clara Autritt Hoekstre, and was the seventh of eight children. He grew up in the Dallas/ Salt Creek area on the family farm. His first eight years of education was at Salt Creek school, a one room schoolhouse and then Dallas High School Graduating in 1958.

On Oct. 20, 1967, he married Diana Sullens, of Stayton. They divorced in 2006 but remained best of friends. He worked

for the State of Oregon and retired in 1998 as the Info. Systems Manager for Senior and Disabled Services Division. He truly loved playing the organ throughout his life.

Real estate was his hobby. Buying, selling and flipping homes and apartment complexes and building homes. Also, developing and subdiving properties in Bend and Dallas. After retiring he volunteered at Chemeketa Community College and at West Salem High School accounting and computer classes.

In his Golden years he was cared for by many gracious, wonderful caregivers at The Springs at Willowcreek.

He is survived by his soulmate of 60 years Diana “Dee” Hoekstre, sister Esther Hoekstre, Salem and Delbert Hoekstre, Dallas. Also, many loving and precious nieces and nephews. Clifford was preceded in death by his sisters Gladys Hoekstre and Verna Hoekstre Meeker, brothers John, Donald and Franklin Hoekstre.

The family thanks Serenity Hospice and its many compassionate staff members that believe no one should pass/die alone, afraid or in pain. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Serving the family, North Santiam Funeral Service, Stayton.



Evelyn Smith Lorence
Jan. 14, 1934 - June 24, 2026

Evelyn Smith Lorence, 92, of Salem, Oregon, passed away in her sleep June 24, 2026.

Evelyn was born on January 14, 1934, to Hazel Cates and Helen Givens Cates in the small rural town of Nebo, Kentucky. Second of eight siblings, she grew up on a small family farm. She started school at the early age of 4 and was a good student, graduating as valedictorian from Nebo High School. Receiving a merit scholarship and DAR Citizenship Award, she studied home economics at Bethel Women’s College and then Western Kentucky State University, earning a bachelor’s degree with

honors. She married, had a daughter, and went on to teach home economics at Warren County High School in Bowling Green, Kentucky while working on her master’s degree in the summers. She obtained her master’s degree in education at the University of Kentucky. She was a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron for home economics, Chi Delta Phi for literary honor and Delta Psi Omega for drama. After a difficult divorce, she moved with her young daughter to Rock Hill, South Carolina where she taught home economics education at Winthrop College for three years. While teaching a summer term as assistant professor at the Oregon State University home economics department in 1966, she met Edgar H. Smith, chairman of the music department at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University).

Edgar was smitten and after Evelyn returned to her job at Winthrop that fall, they began a cross-country romance with daily phone calls, letters and visits to South Carolina. Evelyn married Edgar and moved to Oregon with her daughter the following year, Edgar adopting her daughter to include her in the family. She taught nutrition as an assistant professor at WOU for ten years. When Edgar died in 1979, Evelyn took over his Bandribbons business selling school awards to schools across the country and turning it into a successful venture. Astute with finances, she served on the board of directors at Great Western Bank, Dallas, Oregon. Eventually she was able to sell the business and retire comfortably.

Community service and involvement was important to Evelyn. She belonged to many organizations, frequently in an officer role, including branch president of the American Association of University Women, president of Monmouth Civic Club, and a member of many others including PEO, Oregon Symphony Auxiliary of Salem, Salem Symphony League, Salem Arts Association, Gallery Guides of Bush Barn, Portland Arts Association, Dallas Arts Association, Monmouth-Independence Community Arts Association, Santiam Girl Scout Council board member and the Polka Doters (Polk County Republican women’s club). She served on the

board of the Edgar H. Smith Fine Arts Series at WOU and was instrumental in getting that series off the ground. She and her husband have been honored with a plaque recently hung in the Rice Auditorium at WOU. Evelyn received a community service award from the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce for her longtime involvement in the community in 1985. In 2022, AAUW featured her as part of the Salem organization’s 100th anniversary, including an interview posted to their YouTube channel which is a delight to watch. See <https://youtu.be/YDbo3AsFRYQ?si=ncVW0KMsSHX1s8n9>.

Evelyn was known for her hospitality and Southern cooking and was featured in the Statesman Journal Living section in 1984, along with some of her favorite recipes. Celebrating her Kentucky roots, she hosted a Kentucky Derby party every year, preparing some of her Southern signature dishes and mint juleps for watching the horses, of course!

Evelyn loved to travel and has visited most of the U.S., Canada, Europe, Egypt, Japan, China, Russia, New Zealand, Fiji, sailed through the Panama Canal, and has gone on multiple Alaskan cruises, a favorite trip of hers.

Evelyn took an interest in flying, soloing in a small plane at the Independence Air Park. There she met her husband, John Lorence, of Independence, Oregon. They married and enjoyed the flying community in Independence. They traveled frequently and loved to fly in John’s Grumman Tiger. Trips in the small plane included the Reno Air Races, the Oregon Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail, and cross country. Evelyn and John volunteered at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon for 11 years. They were charter members and awarded lifetime memberships. They shared 23 years of love and adventures.

After John died in 2013, Evelyn moved to Capital Manor where she continued to be active, enjoying time with old and new friends, making a new BFF in her dear friend, John Schoon. She spent her remaining years at Capital Manor until age and dementia caught up with her. She now rests in peace, a life well lived.

Evelyn is survived by her daughter, Diane Davie Murphy (Dan),

stepsons Peter Smith (Mardelle) and Randy Lorence, stepdaughters Vicki Westerman and Jodi Heatherington (Doug), granddaughters Samantha Davie (Andrew) and Melanie Davie, great granddaughter, Annabelle Davie-Frantz, ten step grandchildren, sixteen step great grandchildren, siblings Jean Lloyd, Wanda Barnett, Shirley Adams, Barbara Roberts, Doris Grimsley, Edward Cates, and Glen Cates, and her dear friend, John Schoon.

Arrangements are by Virgil T. Golden Mortuary, Salem, Oregon. Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, July 18, at 1 p.m. at Capital Manor Auditorium, 1955 Salem Dallas Hwy., NW, Salem, Oregon. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers can be made to the Edgar H. Smith Fine Arts Series, WOU Foundation, 345 N Monmouth Avenue, Monmouth, OR 97361 or the Alzheimer’s Association, Oregon & SW Washington Chapter, 5285 Meadows Rd, Suite 451, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.



Picture: Evelyn weighing in on the official jockey scales at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

DEATH NOTICES

Fred Doe
Nov. 24, 1949 - July 5, 2026

Fred Lynn Doe, 76, of Falls City, Oregon, passed away on July 5, 2026, near Bates, Oregon. Driskill Memorial Chapel is assisting the family. To leave online condolences, please visit: www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

No services will be held.

Chester ‘Chet’ Gowen
July 13, 2026 - July /07, 2026

Death Notice
Funeral Arrangements
TBD

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NEWS & VIEWS

SPECIAL MEMORIES

That Rare Special Someone

By GARY DEROWITSCH

I was thinking the other day how blessed someone is who can honestly say they had a mentor — someone in their life that really made a difference. I’m sure there are thousands of testimonials from kids who, later in life, refer back to that special someone who made a true impact. Those who make a commitment to mentor a young person are, in my opinion, a Godsend.

However, it is extremely rare when there is someone who makes an impression so incredible, so special, that

it sticks with you forever. That special someone for me was Dave Costeajo.

Dave worked at the Boise Cascade Plywood Mill in Independence. I didn’t know him personally, but I knew he purchased a bright red 1966 Corvette coupe. It was equipped with an L72 big block engine — a 427 with 425 horsepower. For me, that was the ultimate car anyone could own. I admired it over and over as he drove it around town or when it was parked in his front yard on E Street in Independence.

On weekends, Dave used to park his car in

front of a gas station located on North Main Street, right at the end of the stretch of highway between Old Town and New Town (New Town being where the businesses are located). Today, there is a Brook’s and Terry’s coffee shop located there on a vacant lot. Dave would spend the better part of the day waxing his car, usually on a Sunday.

I remember being in the fifth grade and standing across the street, admiring it and dreaming of someday owning one for myself. One particular day, he noticed me looking at it and yelled

across the street, asking if I would like a ride. My heart jumped into my throat, and my excitement knew no bounds. I crossed the street and, standing next to his car, said yes, I would love to.

Dave said, “Get in.” Which I did. I put on my seatbelt, and when he started it up, the excitement I experienced words can’t describe. My heart was pounding!

As he pulled out onto the street and headed back toward town, I was a young boy in car heaven. He pulled into the IGA parking lot to turn around. Heading back toward the gas

station, he told me that on the count of three, to reach out and touch the dashboard.

I had no idea why he said that, until he counted, “One, two, three,” punched the gas pedal to the floor, and proceeded to — what we call — “getting on it” in all four gears. Needless to say, I was unable to touch the dashboard. But what I did experience — being slammed to the back of the seat — was the power and explosiveness of what was probably the hottest car on the road at the time, not to mention the most beautiful.

I was hooked, and I remember thinking to myself, “Someday, I will have one of my own.”

Dave was always smiling, a very happy person. I will never forget him and will always remember that day when his generosity to me, a young very impressionable boy, created a very special memory that I will never forget and treasure for the rest of my life.

God bless you Dave. R.I.P.

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

YOUR ENVIRONMENT

It’s costing you bucks — but don’t say ‘climate change’

The economy and inflation are far and away Americans’ greatest concerns, though climate change heavily affects those issues. Climate change is a pocketbook issue, but Americans struggle to make the connection.

— Andrew Mangan, Daily Kos online magazine

BY PHILIP S. WENZ

The results of a “split sample” survey taken by the polling organization Data for Progress were sobering for those of us who communicate about climate issues. When half the respondents to a February poll of 1,122 likely voters were asked how much climate change affected the cost of living, 61% said “somewhat” or

“greatly,” while 39% said it had little or no impact.

But when the other half of the sample was asked essentially the same question in a different way, namely if “natural disasters” such as heat waves and droughts affected the cost of living, 80% said they had an impact, while only 20% said they didn’t. Significantly, 34% of that group said natural disasters “greatly” affected the cost of living, almost twice as many as those in the “climate change” sample who said the same thing.

Some 55% of polled, likely voters have said that the economy and inflation are their main concerns. If the cost of health care is added in, 74% see affordability as their top issue, according to a May, 2026 poll by

the Pew Research Center. However, as we move into what could well be the hottest summer on record, the impact of climate change — one underlying cause of rising costs — apparently remains difficult to see.

I think that is true for many people because climate change remains a bit of an abstraction, and a somewhat unfamiliar one at that, whereas events such as floods and tornadoes are concrete and easily understood. Also, some have attacked the idea of climate change as a “hoax” and a debatable scientific hypothesis. Even the scientists who have indisputably established that climate change is a real, current threat to our well-being and our economy are accused, in some quarters, of making

it all up so they can get grant money by creating hysteria. So, of course, some people doubt the reality of global warming.

But the economic effects of extreme weather events such as severe droughts, floods, massive storms, and so on are clear and undeniable. The severe heat wave that struck the Pacific Northwest in the summer of 2021 killed over 1,000 people, but also killed over 650,000 farm and ranch animals, including 400,000 poultry. Such events, along with droughts that damage or wipe out crops, incrementally raise the cost of food. Even the cost of mitigating such effects by, for example, increased irrigation or air conditioning poultry barns raises grocery prices.

Wildfires cost money to fight. Heat-buckled roads are expensive to fix. Hurricanes and tornadoes destroy homes and lives, but also raise insurance costs. Scarcity makes water more expensive. Consistently warmer weather spreads pest and disease infestations.

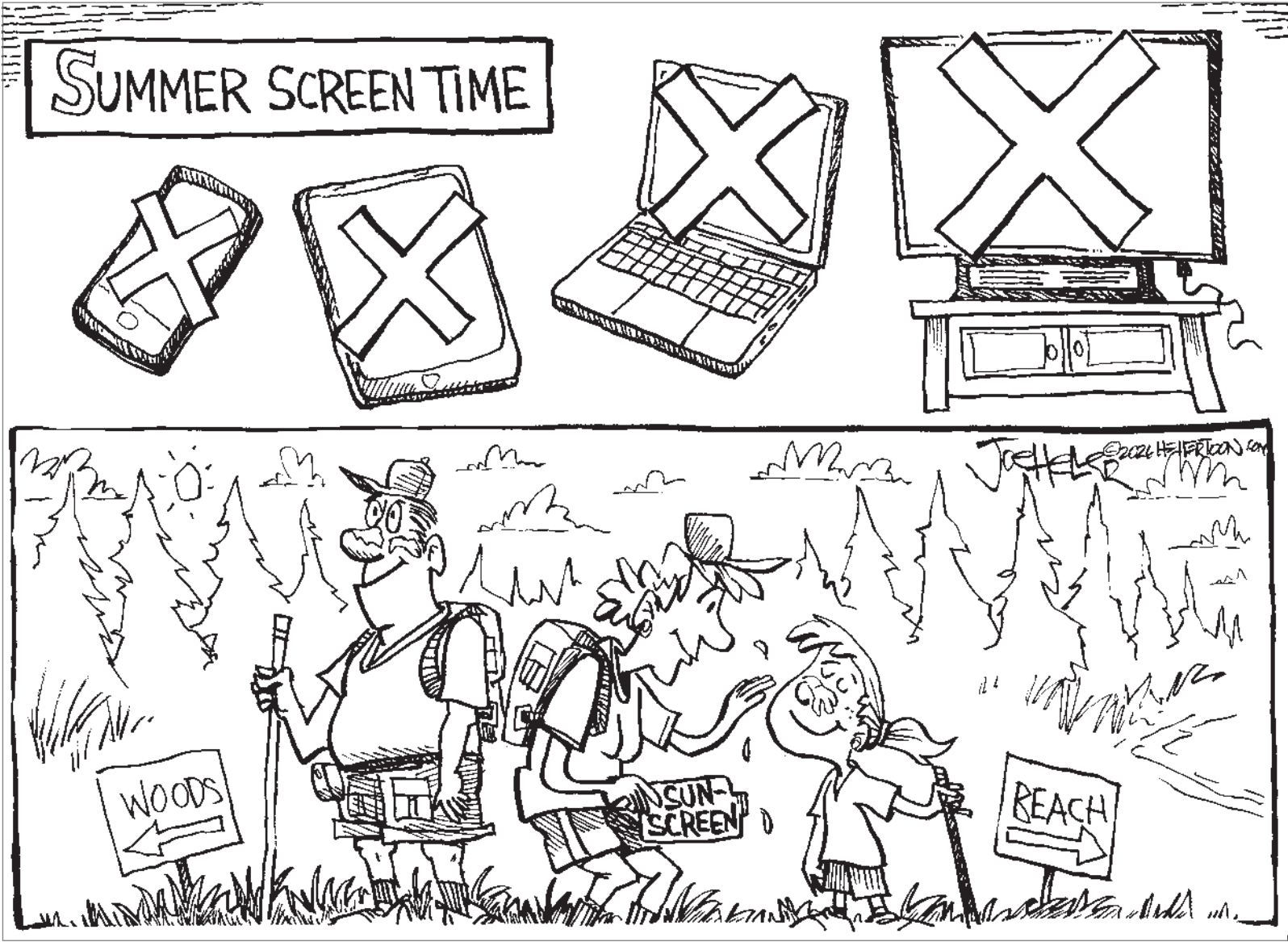
All of these things show up as rising costs or lower standards of living — or both. And all are occurring with rapidly increasing frequency around the country, and the world.

The pattern is apparent to anyone who follows the news. Not so long ago, climate-related or exacerbated events were fewer and farther between. Tornadoes used to occur mostly in the Midwest and mostly in the late summer. Now they occur across much of

the country and for much of the year. The Western wildfire season arrived in the late summer and early fall. Now it’s year-round. Heat waves were short-lived and seldom exceeded 100°F for more than a day or two. Now they can last weeks and exceed triple digits for days on end.

So there is an obvious pattern, and elements of that pattern affect our everyday lives and our pocketbooks. But let’s just call it a pattern, and never “climate change.”

Philip S. Wenz studies environmental trends and developments. Visit his blog at Firebird Journal (firebirdjournal.com).



TEMP/RAINFALL

JULY 6 - 88 54 0.00
JULY 7 - 84 53 0.00
JULY 8 - 84 55 0.00
JULY 9 - 84 51 0.00
JULY 10 - 84 51 0.00
JULY 11 - 79 55 0.00
JULY 12 - 80 49 0.00
TOTAL JULY 6-12 0.00
TOTAL THROUGH JULY 12 - 0.00

Online poll results

What outdoor activities from your childhood would be perfect to re-introduce to today’s youth?

Kick the Can - 13.8%
Capture the Flag - 41.4%
Ghost in the Graveyard - 10.3%
Four Square - 34.5%

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MAGIC MAZE ● A TREE IN THE MIDDLE

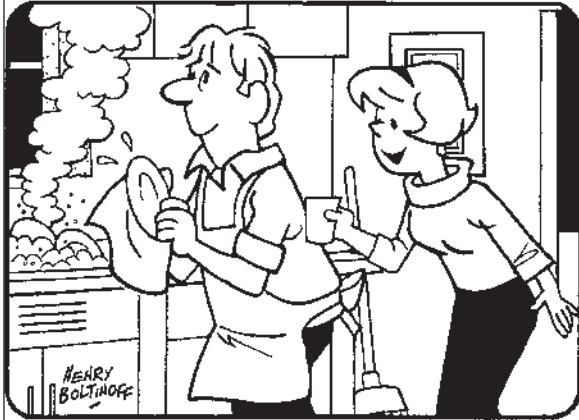
E H F C A Y S P E A R S W D U
R P N L J H F A P P E A R E D
D B B U L L F I G H T E R H E
Z X V T S R T N S Q H U O S K
M K I H F E I A D S G B Z A A
S Y W V N H L T E I I R Q R O
P O N I S C L M F K F I H T L
I F P A D C U N A R E D L A C
N S L A Z G O X W V R U S R Q
E P O N E C Y L E N I P U S M
S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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: SMALL UPRIGHT PIANO

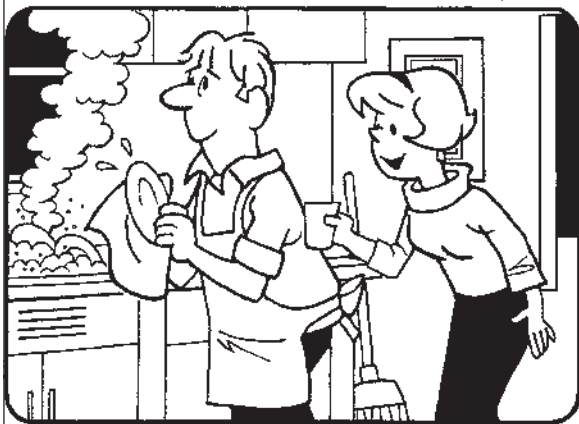
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Bullfighter
Caldera
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- Cloaked
Configure
Firefighter
Grapplers
- Legumes
Selma
Spears
Spines
- Splashing
Supinely
Trashed

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider. 2. Apron is different. 3. Hair is different. 4. Arm is wider. 5. Curtain is missing. 6. Broom is different.

Americanisms



"I don't have pet peeves like some people. I have whole kennels of irritation."
— Whoopi Goldberg

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Moments in time

• On July 27, 1981, 6-year-old Adam Walsh was abducted from a shopping mall in Hollywood, Florida, and later found murdered. Afterward, his father, John Walsh, became an impassioned victims' rights activist and host of the television show "America's Most Wanted." In 2008, the Hollywood police announced that the case against confessed killer Ottis Elwood Toole was strong enough to close the investigation into Adam's death. Toole had died 12 years earlier.

• On July 28, 1942, Soviet Union premier Josef Stalin issued Order No. 227, aka the "Not one step backward" order, following German advances into Russian territory. The order stipulated that "panic makers and cowards must be liquidated on the spot. Not one step backward without orders from higher headquarters! Commanders ... who abandon a position without an order from higher headquarters are traitors to the Motherland."

• On July 29, 1862, Marie Isabella "Belle" Boyd was arrested for the first time by Union troops and held at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. A skilled though teenage spy who provided vital information to the Confederate army during the Civil War, she eventually parlayed her experiences into a book and acting career.

• On July 30, 1956, two years after urging insertion of the phrase "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law officially declaring "In God We Trust" to be America's official motto.

• On July 31, 1964, the unmanned U.S. lunar probe Ranger 7 took 4,308 close-up images of the moon before impacting with its surface northwest of the Sea of Clouds. The pictures were 1,000 times as clear as anything previously viewed through telescopes on Earth.

• On Aug. 1, 1782, Caroline Herschel discovered a comet after viewing it through a telescope — the first such discovery credited to a woman. Her brother, astronomer William Herschel, had discovered Uranus the year before. The first professional female astronomer, she would go on to discover seven more comets in 11 years.

• On Aug. 2, 1992, Jackie Joyner-Kersey became the first woman ever to win two consecutive Olympic gold medals in the heptathlon.

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Super Crossword

CHARGING JOE

ACROSS

1 Reserves of stock

9 Person applying a mail stick-on

16 Understands

20 Actress Palkci of "Friday Night Lights"

21 Popcorn personage Redenbacher

22 Out of the wind, nautilically

23 Start of a riddle

25 Watson of "Little Women"

26 Was bested

27 Rug threads

28 Emo of zany comedy

30 Crafty plans

34 Amaz of "I Love Lucy"

35 Have in mind

36 King, in Paris

37 Riddle, part 2

41 Unhappy

44 Almonds, e.g.

45 See

63-Across

46 Jamaican music genre

47 Alpine climber's tool

49 Extra NFL periods

51 Actress Long of "Missing"

53 Nobelist Bohr

54 Riddle, part 3

60 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 film)

61 Check casher, e.g.

62 Pre-2001 space station

63 With 45-Across, informed on the latest

67 Lacking living organisms

69 Shampoo brand

71 Vidal — (shampoo brand)

73 Some bill tills

74 Helium, e.g.

76 Dot in the ocean

78 File sound

79 Riddle, part 4

82 Pong producer

86 Tart's cousin

87 Capote, to his pals

88 "The First 48" network

89 Ricky Martin's old boy band

91 "Sir," in colonial India

95 "Hey there, tiger!"

97 Wee child

98 End of the riddle

102 Yoga chants

103 Loosen up

104 Tolkien trilogy initials

105 To some degree

109 Popular rum brand

111 Swindling guy

113 Really ruin

114 Scraped (out)

115 Riddle's answer

120 Gave for a while

121 Determines the sum of

122 Thief's activity

123 Uno + dos

124 Some tax cheats

125 Lays out for proofing

DOWN

1 Cries loudly

2 Like a one-off committee

3 Fall suddenly

4 Purring baby

5 Precept

6 "Warzone" singer Yoko

7 Widebeest

8 Narcissist's love

9 People crying loudly

10 Maple fluid

11 Groed for wealth

12 Russian-built fighter jets

13 Ararat's gp., once

14 Formed a secret union?

15 Ginger's trait

16 Scottish Celt

17 Suburb of Phoenix

18 Pertaining to time

19 Ocean coasts

24 "White Flag" singer of 2003

29 Have in mind

31 Tailless feline breed

32 Aussie bird

33 New Jersey — Hall University

35 Smaller than large

38 Lens aperture setting

39 Russo of "The Intern"

40 Hi-tech movie effects

41 Hold to one's decision

42 Novelist Chinua

43 Buy and sell

48 Eldest of the Musketeers

50 Suddenly lose patience

52 Warts and all

55 Pal, in Peru

56 Song line

57 Kin of "Oyl"

58 Beautiful, in Bologna

59 Poetic Muse

63 Old Glory's land, informally

64 Really strong

65 City in Spain or Ohio

66 A short round of tennis

68 Al who drew the Yoklums

70 For fear that

72 To the extent that

75 Bern's land, to the French

77 Australia Zoo owner Irwin

79 Not as messy

80 Harvest

81 "The Flight Attendant" star Kaley

82 Bandoleer, informally

83 Drink intusing device

84 Cutoff cry from a film director

85 Long to undo

90 Out with one's sweetie

92 Hint-providing columnist

93 "My thoughts exactly"

94 Alternatives to GIFs or JPEGs

96 Hulk Hogan's 1980s org.

99 Isaac of sci-fi

100 Actress Drescher

101 Sings in the Alps, perhaps

106 Perch of film

107 Quaint reply of denial

108 Canoodles, in Cambridge

110 Determines the sum of

111 Street rep

112 Hawk's home

116 Plato's "H"

117 Hog's home

119 Vivacity

119 "Little" actress Issa

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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: E equals T

VSE WVL OPUSDL REFWDGL
PRDM OH V MJWEJL XCDT CD
UVGDR CJPRD WVQQR:
"CDVQEC FR JT ECD XVH!"

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Puzzle answers on page B2

GO FIGURE!

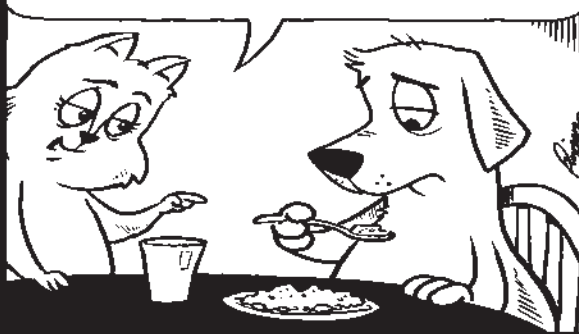
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each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

		+		-						= 7
+			+			+				
		+								= 42
-			÷			×				
		+								= 72
=			=			=				
3			13			45				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK. IT'S MY FRIEND ELMA'S SPECIAL RECIPE. HER LATE HUSBAND ATE IT ALL THE TIME.



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Out on a Limb



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ON SECOND THOUGHT...

by Gary Kopervas



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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which 1997 film features a villain named Dr. Evil?
2. HISTORY: When was the Declaration of Independence officially signed?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The country of Eritrea is located on which continent?
4. TELEVISION: Which 1980s-90s sitcom includes a neighbor named Winnie Cooper?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which city is home to the Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States?
6. ANATOMY: What is the largest muscle in the human body?
7. SCIENCE: How much of Earth's water is saltwater?
8. MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces is 3/4 of a cup?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goose called?
10. MUSIC: When was Taylor Swift's first album released?

Answers

1. "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."
2. Signed on Aug. 2, 1776. Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.
3. Africa.
4. "The Wonder Years."
5. Bloomington, Minnesota.
6. Gluteus maximus.
7. About 97%.
8. 6 ounces.
9. A gosling.
10. 2006.

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Oregon State Parks survey released

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Oregonians deeply value their state parks, are increasingly noticing signs of wear across the park system and support exploring additional ways to provide stable, long-term funding, according to a new statewide survey released by Environment Oregon.

The findings were released along with a national Investing in Nature report, which examines maintenance backlog trends and how states are addressing those backlogs.

With more than 250 parks spanning 113,000 acres — including over 50 campgrounds — Oregon’s park system offers something for every kind of outdoor enthusiast, according to the report. In 2024 alone, the parks welcomed more than 53 million daytime visitors and 2.8 million overnight campers, consistently ranking among the top 10 most-visited state park systems in the nation. Oregonians’ enduring love for these



COURTESY PHOTO

The proposed ordinance will be reviewed at the Toledo City Council regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. July 15, and through the Zoom video meeting platform. Meeting details are available at <https://toledoor.portal.civicclerk.com/>

special places is clear: Our parks aren’t just popular — they are among the state’s most cherished public treasures.

“Oregonians love their state parks—that’s the message that came through loud and clear in our survey,” Environment Oregon Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles said. “Whatever differences we may have, our state parks provide common ground we can all stand on, together.”

Over the past two years, Environment Oregon traveled across

the state hosting community events and talking with Oregonians, particularly in the rural communities closest to many of Oregon’s state parks. Surveying more than 1,000 people in and around state parks and online throughout 2025 and early 2026, with nearly half of respondents coming from rural communities.

Oregon’s state parks currently face an estimated \$345 million deferred maintenance backlog while continuing to manage rising

operating costs and record visitation, according to the Environmental Oregon report. The new national Investing in Nature report found a similar picture of aging infrastructure and growing maintenance backlogs at state parks across the country.

“The survey tells us Oregonians not only love these places, they also want to ensure they’re protected for future generations,” Boyles said. “We hope this survey will encourage legislators to provide stable funding for our parks, long into the

future.”

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is primarily funded through a combination of state lottery revenue, user fees and other income. According to OPRD’s 2025-27 biennial budget, those sources account for 91% of their revenue, while a combination of Oregonians’ tax dollars from the general fund (2%) and federal grants (7%), make up the remainder.

This is an agency tasked with “providing and protecting outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations” — operating on a budget of less than \$200 million annually, where less than \$4 million comes from Oregonians’ tax dollars, the Environment Oregon report states.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Oregon’s state parks are a defining part of what makes our state special. From the coast to the high desert, these places offer Oregonians a shared

inheritance of natural beauty, recreation, and refuge. The findings of this survey confirm what many already know intuitively: Oregonians deeply value their state parks, visit them often, and overwhelmingly believe they are worth protecting. Across geography, background, and patterns of use, respondents consistently rated Oregon’s parks highly and identified natural preservation as the most important part of OPRD’s mission.

The survey results show strong, consistent support for a proven alternative: Offering residents the opportunity to support state parks through a voluntary, vehicle-registration-based program. Across urban, suburban and rural respondents, nearly half said they would be “very likely” to participate.

*See the full report at: <https://environmentamerica.org/oregon/resources/oregon-state-parks-survey/>
Jeremy C. Ruark is the editor of the Lincoln County Leader and the Cottage Grove Sentinel.*

VA expands higher education, vocational training programs

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs has expanded its Oregon Veterans Educational Bridge Grant (VEBG) Program, increasing the amount of funding available per applicant and greatly expanding eligibility for veterans facing challenges in completing their educational or vocational goals. The VEBG was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2019 to provide financial assistance grants to eligible veterans to alleviate

financial stress during a gap period when required courses or training hours are unavailable, allowing them to remain enrolled in school or apprenticeship training. The original lifetime maximum grant award was capped at \$5,000; however, with the Oregon Legislature’s passage of House Bill 4132 earlier this year, that amount has been doubled to \$10,000 beginning July 1. The Legislature also expanded eligibility to include veterans experiencing

financial hardships that could endanger their ability to remain enrolled in a degree, apprenticeship or training program.

Eligibility was previously limited to veterans who could not complete their programs due to the unavailability of required courses or training hours, or because of outstanding student debt preventing continued enrollment.

The Veterans Educational Bridge Grant is available to Oregon resident veterans enrolled in eligible

education and training programs throughout the state, including degree programs approved for federal GI Bill® benefits, licensed private career schools, registered apprenticeships and qualifying public employer on-the-job training programs.

The program is also open to veterans who are not eligible for federal GI Bill® benefits, provided they meet Oregon’s definition of a veteran as outlined in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 407.087.

“We know education and career training are crucial to helping transitioning veterans build stable, purposeful lives, but even a temporary financial setback can put those goals on hold,” said ODVA Director Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels. “These expanded benefits reflect Oregon’s continued commitment to removing barriers that stand between veterans and the futures they are working to build. Whether someone needs help overcoming

an unexpected financial hardship, resolving a student account balance or bridging a gap in training, this program exists to help veterans stay on track and complete what they started.”

Veterans who believe they may qualify are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the Oregon Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program or to apply, go to <https://bit.ly/4guaQw9> or contact the program coordinator at ebg@odva.oregon.gov.

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HOME
From Page A1

On July 7, there wasn’t a cloud in the sky for the ceremonial first shovel of dirt to be scooped by dignitaries at the new location.

“Today we have equal or more so here,” Nevue said. An unofficial head count put attendance at over 200 at the groundbreaking ceremony. “I am honored to work with a group of people like this. We all stuck with it. The food bank ... 48 years all volunteer. Since all of us started, about 11 years ago, we never stopped. We kept going through COVID, and storms and smoke, ice. And we did it with volunteerism, dedicated donors, and our civic leaders. Everybody pulled together. At all times, it’s inspiring to see how all this works.”

Nevue shared that



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

A display at the groundbreaking ceremony gives a brief history of Ella Curran Food Bank’s namesake.

when she goes out to promote the project, she gets asked what it’s like.

“I explain the community’s commitment so people know where to

get food. And how dedicated people are stepping up saying how can we help? Because of that, we are here today. People hear the story, see the

community and how we work together. Within our communities now people know where to get food.”

Ella Curran Food Bank now partners

SHOW
From Page A1

acrobats,” Columbus explained. “In the motorcycle world, the hot thing is stunting, like wheelies. Well, these are the original stunt guys. They make human pyramids, while riding on each other’s shoulders.”

Columbus said he’s never officially counted heads, but he estimates about 1,000 attended each day for the annual two-day event. In addition to attendees, the PacWest Motorcycle Show attracts builders who show off their exclusive rides. Columbus said they give out trophies in 10 to 11 classes, with \$1,000 cash prize going to the big show winner. There’s also a people’s prize where

attendees get to award their favorite.

Lining up the west side of Court Street will be vendors and across Main Street to the East end of Court Street will be a beer garden and and DJ that Columbus recruited from California who spins the tunes for motorcycle shows across the U.S.

In addition, Indigenous Arts Tattoo shop will team up with a guest tattooer to provide flash tattoos.

“Plus I went door to door to all the local shore owners. They’ll all be open for business,” Columbus said. “They’re super excited.”

And the best part in his mind is that the event is free to attend.

“I’d rather have a ton a people attend and be



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE COSSACKS

The Seattle Cossacks travel south to Dallas to perform their motorcycle acrobatics at the PacWest Motorcycle Show July 18-19.

able to attract more vendors ... rather than if the

whole family has to pay \$100,” Columbus said. “It

makes the vendors happy and they tell their vendor friends.”

Columbus hopes the PacWest Motorcycle Show helps grow the motorcycle community that already exists in the Dallas area. He recalls a trip he took his wife on to the most renowned motorcycle rally in the nation – Sturgis, which attracts over 500,000 riders annually to its 10-day event.

His wife, a teacher at Oakdale Elementary, had never been on the road with him before. But her side gig in skin care was having a national conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that happened to be conveniently going on at the same time on the way after Sturgis, South Dakota. They took his 2025 Harley Davidson

Road Glide CVO ST.

“After that trip, we did 27 states in 20 days,” Columbus said. “We had an adventure of a lifetime.”

He hopes the local event PacWest Motorcycle Show helps locals get inspired to take their own adventures and changes some attitudes about who rides motorcycles.

“I don’t think it’s so scary,” Columbus said about the changing stereotypes of motorcyclists to becoming more family friendly affairs. “Our event brings more awareness to motorcycling.”

For more information about the the PacWest Motorcycle show, find them on Facebook or contact Columbus directly at pacwestshow@gmail.com.

CHARGES
From Page A1

minor, computer crime and identity theft (class C felonies).

The Independence Police Department is working closely with the Central School District, which had placed Imamura on administrative leave and is continuing its own investigation.

“Our priority is protecting children and seeking justice for victims,” said Chief Juventino “Tino” Banuelos in a press release. “I want to commend our detectives and School Resource Officers for their professionalism and dedication throughout this investigation. We recognize how difficult cases like this are for those affected, and we remain committed to handling them with compassion and care.”

The Central School District confirmed on its Facebook page that Imamura has been placed on administrative leave and that the district is continuing an independent investigation.

“The top priority of the district is the safety and welfare of our students,” district officials wrote. “The school district leadership is working closely with law enforcement.”

Anyone with information that may assist investigators is encouraged to contact the Independence Police Department at (503) 838-1214.

“The Independence Police Department recognizes that investigations involving children can be especially difficult for victims, families, and the community,” the Independence Police Department said in the press release. “The department encourages anyone affected by this case to seek support from

counselors or victim advocacy resources.”

According to media reports, the circuit judge sealed a probable cause order (which describes the police investigation) because it contains “personal identifiers of a potential victim and sexually explicit descriptions involving a minor.”

According to court records, an information document does allege Imamura, on or around three dates – May 10, June 17 and June 24 – compelled a child to engage in

sexually explicit conduct for a person to record.

Other allegations include Imamura unlawfully and knowingly “duplicated, published, disseminated or attempted to sell a visual recording of sexually explicit conduct involving a child” and he “for the purpose of arousing or satisfying the sexual desires of himself or another person, possessed or knowingly accessed a visual recording of sexually explicit conduct involving

a child.”

Imamura remains in Polk County Jail after a July 8 pre-trial release

hearing.

The court has tentatively set Aug. 25 for a 12-person jury trial.



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Damascus Kitchen brings Syrian flavors to Independence

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

Shawarma takes its name from the Turkish word çevirme, meaning “turning.”

The term refers to the traditional cooking method, in which marinated meat is stacked on a vertical spit and slowly roasted as it turns.

This popular Middle Eastern dish is made with chicken, beef or lamb, the more traditional option. Meat is seasoned with garlic, lemon juice and spices, then sliced thin and served in flat-bread with garlic sauce and pickles.

Shawarma and other regional favorites are now available in downtown Independence at the new Damascus Kitchen. The menu also features kabobs, wraps, sandwiches, salads and baklava.

Damascus Kitchen customer Simoneti Costa sampled several menu items on Saturday, including the steak shawarma.

“Perfect,” she said when asked to describe her meal. “Very simple, but it’s a basic Mediterranean style. It’s simple, not embellished. Just basic ingredients. Ingredients you will find

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227 S Main St., Independence

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in most countries from that region.”

Costa was also wowed when it came to dessert.

“Lots of pistachios,” she said of her baklava. “The phyllo pastry was perfect. The layering was perfect. And the syrup’s exceptional.”

Costa gave her meal five stars.

Damascus Kitchen opened its doors with three simple goals in mind: provide good food, friendly service and a place for families to gather.

For owner Mohammed Alawad, the restaurant may be new, but its recipes are not. They come from his mother, Abeer Aokhawab, who taught him to cook and continues to influence everything prepared in the kitchen.



COURTESY PHOTO

Damascus Kitchen owner Mohammed Alawad cuts the ribbon at the grand opening last month. The restaurant is at 227 S. Main St., in Independence.

“I also cook,” Alawad said. “I’m the one who preps everything here. It’s my mom’s recipes, and I just continue doing it.”

The restaurant opened last month, just in time for Indy Days and the Fourth of July week-end. The timing was intentional.

“We tried to do it before the Fourth of July,” he said. “This was our main goal, and we did it.”

The Independence restaurant is the family’s third. Alawad and Aokhawab opened their first location in Salem three years ago, followed by a food cart in Dallas

at Gather Food park on Washington Street seven months ago.

Alawad said customer demand prompted the expansion. The Salem restaurant attracted diners from throughout the area. New locations bring the food closer to a growing, and hungry, fan base. Inside, the

Independence restaurant features green, white and black, three colors found in the Syrian flag. The simple décor, while traditional, creates an inviting atmosphere.

“We want it to feel like a place where people can sit down, talk and enjoy

See **SYRIAN**, page A8

Dave’s Killer Band gives the classics new life

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

David Neumann first picked up a guitar when he turned 12 years old and never let up.

“I loved guitar, playing at a young age,” he recalled. “I grew up in the time of the Beatles. I played for years and years.”

Neumann is now the eldest member of the quartet of musicians, the “geezer” of sixty- some-things still doing what they love, performing their favorite songs from their youth. The group is simply named Dave’s Killer Band. The are the latest band to hit the stage for Dallas Days Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m. July 17.

Neumann is joined

by Thomas Bishop on keyboard, Scott Fowler on Base and Jim Colley on drums. Neumann said they came from all over, before fiding other like minds in Salem – Colley is from Los Angeles, Flower transplanted from Minneapolis and Bishop travelled south from Alaska.

Neumann, after visiting friends locally years ago, bought some land and built his own home where he still lives in Ilahea.

In 2023, he started looking for an outlet to continue to hone his guitar skills and sought out other musicians to jam with. He hooked up first with Colley through their church.

“We wanted to do some more challenging



COURTESY PHOTO

Salem based Dave's Killer Band performs from 6-8 p.m. July 17 at Dallas Rotary Performing Arts Stage as part of the latest installment of Dallas Nights free Summer Concert Series.

music to keep our chops up. To get together with a couple other guys and crazy stuff,” Neumann said. “I got done playing

with a funk horn band, hooked up with Thomas and Scott. The four of us thought we’d try to get some gigs from

there.”

They decided to concentrate their efforts on perfecting the more challenging songs from

DALLAS NIGHTS

Dave’s Killer Band
Dallas Rotary Performing Arts Stage
6-8 p.m., July 17

the 70s, from progressive rock and jazz fusion to funk and yacht rock.

As elder statesmen, they weren’t keen on hitting the road. So they chose their gigs to maximize local venues, including vineyards, festivals and private parties. Word soon spread about Dave’s Killer Band and they grew a following.

“They liked us, were impressed with our

See **DAVE’S**, page A8

Coming Up Threes returns earlier than usual

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

It’s a musical bad news-good news scenario.

The bad news is that Coming Up Threes, the popular Irish pub band from Portland, will not close this year’s Music in the Park series because of a scheduling conflict.

The good news is that the band will make a Monmouth appearance, only earlier than usual.

Coming Up Threes performs at 6:30 p.m. July 22, at the Main Street Park amphitheater. Admission is free.

The schedule change ends a tradition more



COURTESY PHOTO

Coming Up Threes, the high-energy Irish band performs at 6:30 p.m. July 22 at Main Street Park in Monmouth.

than a decade in the making.

“Coming Up Threes has closed out the series for the past 11 years,” said Suzanne Dufner, economic development director for the City of Monmouth. “While we would love to have them continue the tradition of closing out the series, we were able to secure the alternate date.”

Dufner sees another benefit.

“Hopefully, by having them play earlier in the season, it will encourage folks who enjoyed their experience to come back and visit us for another show later in the season,” she said.

Coming Up Threes consistently draws some of the series’ largest crowds, attracting music lovers from Salem, Corvallis and other neighboring communities.

The band blends traditional Irish pub music with rock and roll, Americana and country, giving familiar tunes a fresh sound. Its music and energetic stage presence appeal to concertgoers of all ages.

Coming Up Threes has performed at pubs and other venues throughout the Northwest. Places such as Kells Irish Pub

See **THREES**, page B8

PAGES OF THE PAST

40 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2 Principal picked at Dallas High

Dallas High School students and staff will see two more new faces this fall – those of the principal and dean of students.

Lynn A. Hurt of Bend was selected for the position of principal and Ruston D. Lynde of Salem for the position of dean of students June 24 following a nearly two-month search.

About 25 to 30 applications were received for each of the two positions, said district Superintendent Gary Burton. Those applications were reviewed by two separate screening committees, one for each position. The committees then made their recommendations, the finalists were interviewed by Burton and the school board, and Hurt and Lynde were selected.

The school board is expected to give its final approval at its July 14 meeting.

County OKs \$12 million budget

A \$12 million budget for 1986-87 and two budget related resolutions were approved at the Polk County Board of Commissioners meeting Monday night.

The 1986-87 budget falls within the allowable increase under state law and will not require voter approval, said Director of Budget and Finance Ralph Hanley. The tax levy

which has been approved for 1986-87 is \$1,716, 081.

The general fund budget for 1986-87 is nearly \$6.7 million with an operating contingency of \$417,376. The current fiscal year’s general budget is \$6.25 million.

“I think it’s going to materially improve operations,” said Commissioner Ben Magill of the budget.

Messer among top 24 at nationals

Peter Messer of Dallas High School Speech Team reached the semi-finals in Student Congress at the National Speech Tournament held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from June 16-21.

From more than 100 competitors, Messer was one of 24 chosen to compete in the final session of Congress from which the final seven were selected and the winners chosen. Though not quite making the final seven, Messer’s semi-final position was the highest-ever position was the highest ever achieved by a competitor from Dallas High School, said Glenn Knight, DHS speech team coach.

50 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1976

Council against LCDC repeal

Dallas Mayor Ken Woods took the city council’s recommendation against repeal of Senate Bill 100 to a three-day conference of Oregon

Mayors last week after the council voted 5-4 at its Tuesday meeting against repeal of the bill. Senate Bill 100 is the state legislation that formed the controversial Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC).

The vote was taken at the request of the Coos Bay mayor, who wanted Dallas’ stand on the matter.

Woods broke a tie vote at the meeting after the councilmen had lined up 4-4 on both sides of the request.

Dallas girl wins talent recognition

Though 19-year-old Debbie Wilson, Dallas’ representative to the 30th annual Miss Oregon Pageant, came back to Dallas without any top awards this week, she brought back plenty of exciting memories.

Debbie became the first representative Dallas has ever had in the Miss Oregon pageant when she travelled to Seaside July 8-10 for the competition. She competed under the title “Miss Dallas.”

“I really had a lot of fun,” she said. “I got to meet a lot of girls and to know a lot of interesting people.”

American Legion team splits two games

The Dallas American Legion baseball team wedged in a couple of away games between downpours last week and managed to break even. Friday, Dallas went to Stayton and came away

FLASHBACK

This week's Flashback is from Wednesday, July 14, 1976: **GRACE MEMBER** - Mrs. Cecil Woods, who holds the Lecturer office at the Rickreall Grange, cooks for a potluck crowd at a recent Grange meeting. She and other members of the Grange are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Grange No. 671. (File I-O photo.)

with a 4-3 decision. Sunday, hosting Sweet Home came out on top with a 6-2 verdict.

Coach Dave Brown termed the games “good team effort in each case. We committed seven errors in Sunday’s loss but the players never gave up.” Brown also commented about the excellent parental support the team had received during the season.

Dallas’season record is presently 5 and 16. In league play they are 3 and 6.

Go Figure!

answers

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CryptoQuip

answer

Apt car bumper sticker used by a doctor when he makes house calls: "Health is on the way!"

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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A TREE IN THE MIDDLE

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A P P E A R E D

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Super Crossword

Answers

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Community Achievement

LOCAL STUDENTS MAKE OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESIDENT’S LIST

The following students have been named to the 2025-26 Spring Term president’s list at Oregon Institute of Technology. Inclusion on the list requires a 3.70 grade-point average and above.

Dallas - Patrick Allen, Rachel Boyce, Calli Lent, Jordan Myers, Kaharra Wilcoxon and Kristin Wirtz

Independence - Grace Holstad

Monmouth - Kate Heisinger, Kennedy Kantola and Ashley Preston

West Salem - Avery Ford, Kellsie Green, Alexa Kerr, Aidan Long, Megan Marchwicz and Jacob Soleil

LOCAL STUDENTS MAKE OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DEAN'S LIST

The following students have been named to the 2025-26 Spring Term dean’s list at Oregon Institute of Technology. Inclusion on the list requires a 3.30 to 3.69 grade-point average.

Dallas - Savannah George and Kaylee May

Monmouth - Kaily Jackson

West Salem - Cierra Fowler, Margaret Nikitina, Giselle Rojas Rodriguez and Victoria Smith

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM LINFIELD UNIVERSITY

The following local students graduated from Linfield University in the spring 2026 semester, where more than 480 students earned an undergraduate degree, master’s degree or certificate from Linfield. The commencement ceremony and pinning ceremony for the School of Nursing were held on May 31.

Local students graduating include:

West Salem

• Jenna Brassfield, cum laude, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

• Isaiah Case, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

• Kirsten Cole, Bachelor of Arts in creative writing and psychology

• Rana Gerges, summa cum laude, Bachelor of Arts in law, rights, and justice and a Bachelor of Science in psychology

• Jadey Holcomb, summa cum laude, Bachelor of Arts in creative writing

Monmouth

• Ely Kennel, Bachelor of Science in finance

LINFIELD’S JADEY HOLCOMB PUBLISHES POEMS IN MULTIPLE LITERARY JOURNALS

Jadey Holcomb, of West Salem, has earned national recognition for her creative writing. Two literary journals recently published original poems by Holcomb including her first paid publication.

Her poem “A Love Poem Where we Attend a Party to Celebrate Everything and Nothing!” was published in the Spring 2026 issue of The Tributary, an undergraduate literary journal published by Lycoming College.

Her poem “Aubade with Midnight and Repression” was also published in Mosaic Art and Literary Journal, a publication of University of California, Riverside.

Holcomb graduated from Linfield in May 2026 with a bachelor’s degree in creative writing. In 2025, she received Linfield’s top undergraduate writing honor, the Lacroute Prize in Prose and had a poem published in Magpie Zine.

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh’s 152nd spring commencement celebrated the achievements of 1,100 students in two ceremonies May 16 inside Kolf Sports Center. Kimberly Bucher, of Dallas, and Greta C. Emang, of Grand Ronde, both graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing. They joined the ranks of more than 100,000 UW Oshkosh alumni.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 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. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10:30 a.m. - Little bitty story time, for babies and very young toddler, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St. 11 a.m. - Blood pressure check, Dallas Area Senior Center 11 a.m. - Paradise of Samoa, Main Street Park, 120 Main St. E. 11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center 11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center 11:30 a.m. - Dallas Dallas Public Library Summer Reading Program presents Red Yarn Music and Puppetry, Dallas City Park 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 1 p.m. - Wii bowling, Dallas Area Senior Center 4 p.m. Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center 281 S. 2nd St. 6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House 6 p.m. - Ukulele jam night, Monmouth Senior Community Center 281 S. 2nd St. 6:30 p.m. - Live Music: Music in the Park - Pachanga (Latin), Main Street Park, 120 Main St. E., Monmouth 7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas THURSDAY, JULY 16 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 a.m. - Age Cafe, Monmouth Senior Community 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: Spring 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. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center 12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center, City Hall, 555 South Main St. 12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center 3 p.m. - Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center Board meeting 3 p.m. - Teen Zine Making Workshop, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St. 5:30 p.m. - Women’s Bunko Night, \$5 to play, 1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas 6 p.m. - Sam’s Music Trivia: Celebrate Freedom, Embrace Liberty, West Valley Taphouse, 957 S Main St., Dallas 6 p.m. - Climate Future Film Festival, a mini festival of 10 short films exploring a range of responses to our many possible climate futures, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., Monmouth 6:30 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center 6:30 p.m. - Monmouth Arts & Culture Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W. 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas FRIDAY, JULY 17 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. - Writer’s Workshop, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10 a.m. - Gardening Class, Dallas Area Senior Center	10 a.m. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10:30 a.m. - Storytime, Independence Public Library 11 a.m. - Jewelry Making, Monmouth Senior Community Center 12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center 1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/ Munchies and Melodies, Monmouth Senior Community Center 1 p.m. - Dallas Public Library presents Free Movie and Craft: “Hoppers” and Felt Pinecone Animals, 950 Main St., Dallas 1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center 2 p.m. - Pollinator Pals, create a garden drinking station, for ages 5-18, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. 6 p.m. - Live Music: Rivers Edge Concert Series presents xxx, Independence Amphitheater at Riverview Park 6:30 p.m. - Live Music: Schown Slade Band, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence 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, JULY 18 9 a.m. - Independence Riverview Farmers Market, top of Riverview Park 9 a.m. - Yoga in the Park, Riverview Park, Independence, free 9 a.m. - Independence Farmers Market, Umpqua Bank parking lot, 302 S. Main St. 10 a.m. - Community Craft Day, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10 a.m. - PacWest Motorcycle Show, 147 SE Court St., Dallas 11 a.m. - Great White Wine Experience, showcasing Different White Wines from around the Willamette Valley, Left Coast Estate, 4225 N. Pacific Highway, Rickreall 1 p.m. - Bingo at the Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St. 1 p.m. - Live Music: BlackSmith Neighbors, Van Duzer Vineyards, 11975	Smithfield Road, Dallas 6 p.m. - Live Music: Myrtle Brown & The Executive Groove, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence 6 p.m. - Live Music: Cole Connelly, Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., Dallas 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth SUNDAY, JULY 19 1 p.m. - Live Music: Rick Biordi, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence 1 p.m. - Crushed Glass and Resin Mold Class, Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., Dallas 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Monmouth Big Book Study, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth MONDAY, JULY 20 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity at 7, Life Center Foursquare Church, 437 D St., Independence 8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center 9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10 a.m. - Rotating Pinochle/5-Crowns Game/Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center 10 a.m. - Hand & Foot/ Cribbage, Monmouth Senior Community Center 11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals On Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center 12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center 12 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Noon Step Study, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas 1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center 1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Cheryl/ Technology Help with Ian, Monmouth Senior Community Center 4 p.m. - Karaoke, Dallas Area Senior Center 6 p.m. - Trivia Nights, Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., Dallas 6 p.m. - Dallas City Council and Planning Commission Joint Work Session, City Hall, 187	SE Court St. 6:30 p.m. - Live Music: New Horizons Orchestra Concert, Monmouth Senior Community Center 7 p.m. - Dallas City Council meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St. 7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center TUESDAY, JULY 21 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 a.m. - Age Café, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center 10:30 a.m. - Children’s Story Time, for ages 5 and under, Dallas Public library at 950 Main St. 10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center 10:30 a.m. - Summer Stories and Play, 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 3:30 p.m. - Senior Advisory Board meeting, Monmouth Senior Community Center 6 p.m. - Trivia Night, West Valley Taphouse, 957 S Main St., Dallas 6:30 p.m. - Monmouth City Council Meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 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. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center 10:30 a.m. - Little bitty story See CALENDAR, page A7
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Community Briefs

WEST VALLEY TAPHOUSE HOSTS BUILD A MINI SHED CLASS JULY 15 West Valley Taphouse hosts Build a Mini Shed class with Nettie from 6-7:45 p.m. July 15 at 957 S Main St., in Dallas. All the materials are included, and you get to leave with your one-of-a-kind creation. For ages 13 and over. Tickets are \$35 per person, includes \$10 towards food/drinks. Monmouth presents Paradise of Samoa July 15 The Monmouth Public Library hosts Paradise of Samoa, at 11 a.m. at Main Street ParkAmphitheater, 120 Main St. E. Enjoy dance, live music and narration as the Polynesian Dance Troupe takes on a tour of the Pacific Islands. EOLA HILLS HOSTS A PARTY TO CHANGE THE WORLD JULY 18 Discover Oregon Real Estate and the Boys & Girls Club of Albany host “A Party to Change the World” at Eola Hills Legacy Estate from 3-7	p.m. for an evening of community, connection, supporting local artists, and giving back to non-profits across Oregon. Enjoy live music from local musicians, delicious food, drinks, plus a fun cornhole tournament — all while helping raise money for nonprofits. And for youth will be face painting, an art station and animal balloons. Tickets are available online at https://luma.com/18xeg8zt. DDA HOSTS DOWNTOWN CLEANUP PARTY JULY 18 The Dallas Downtown Association hosts a downtown beautification party at 8 a.m. July 18. Meet at 184 SE Oak St. to help get downtown ready for the Dallas Days Parade. Sign up online at https://bit.ly/4w0QDTx. DALLAS MAT CLUB HOSTS KNUCKLEHEAD WRESTLING 4 JULY 18 The Dallas Mat Club presents Knucklehead Wrestling 4, at 5:30 p.m. July 18 at Dallas High	School, 1250 SE Holman Ave. This is an adult wrestling league and will have several Dallas wrestling alumni participating. Tickets are \$15 as a fundraiser for the Dallas Wrestling program. Get tickets through messaging over Facebook or by texting (503) 580-4801. MUSEUM PRESENTS BLAZING THE SCOTT-APPLEGATE TRAIL JULY 18 The Polk County Museum hosts Blazing the Scott-Applegate Trail, with presenters Ruth Hargreaves and Marlene Cox, at 1 p.m. July 18 at 560 Pacific Highway, in Rickreall. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for children, 6 and younger and 100 and over are free. DALLAS CHRISTMAS CHEER'S ANNUAL BBQ FUNDRAISER IS JULY 18 Dallas Christmas Cheer is at 3 p.m. July 18 at Benedetto Vineyards, 14042 Orchard Knob	Road, in Dallas. There will be live music, a silent auction, ring toss and wine pulls and a delicious BBQ dinner. Tickets are \$45 each and include dinner, a first drink and a complimentary wine glass. To purchase a ticket, go to https://benedettovineyards.com. PACWEST MOTORCYCLE SHOW COMES TO DALLAS JULY 18-19 The Annual PacWest Motorcycle Show rumbles into downtown Dallas July 18-19. This free custom bike show invites participants with all types of motorcycles. There will be more than 30 vendors, performances by the Seattle Cossacks stunt riding team, food carts and drinks, tattoo artists, a live DJ, biker games and poker run with custom trophy prizes, giveaways, raffles and more. FOREST PASS BREWING PRESENTS SIP & CREATE JULY 19 Forest Pass Brewing presents Sip & Create: Crushed Glass and Resin	Suncatcher class, 1-3 p.m. July 19 at 735 SW Maple St., in Dallas. All supplies are provided including one complimentary drink. Sign up online at https://bit.ly/4vekxT7. INDEPENDENCE PRESENTS INVENT SUMMER CAMP JULY 20-24 The Oregon State University Precollege Programs present Invent Summer Camp July 20-24, for students 6th - 8th grade, Indy Commons, 154 S. Main St., Independence. Learn about STEM, related careers and college life. Register online at https://beav.es/x6c. TALK ABOUT IT TUESDAY RETURNS JULY 21 Talk About It Tuesday,” sponsored by the Polk County Democrats, meets in person from 6:30-8 p.m. July 21. Join them for roundtable discussions on topics from international to local. Just bring your integrity and empathy. For more information and to sign up for email	notifications, go to www.polkdems.org. Click on: “Get Involved” then “Join our email list,” then “Submit.” GHOST WALK TEAM MEETS JULY 24 The Independence Ghost Walk organizing team meets at 6 p.m. at Valkyrie Wine Tavern, 301 S. Main Street, Independence. These meetings’ main focus is to make sure all the sites on the Ghost Walk and Apparition Avenue are filled with volunteer speakers, and that sites where visitors will enter are ready to receive them. For more information, contact Marilyn Morton at (503) 580-8525 marilyn97351@gmail.com. ART IN THE PARK RETURNS JULY 26 The Dallas Arts Association presents Art in the Park, from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. July 26 at Dallas City Park. This year’s event features three bands, a wine garden, food trucks and more than 50 vendors.
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702 GARAGE SALES

PUBLIC SALE NOTICE at Dallas Secure Storage, LLC, 1497 SE Brookside Avenue, Dallas, OR (east off Godsey Road) 10 AM Saturday, July 18, 2026. All sales CASH, VISA, M/C ONLY. Units sold as a whole. Call (503) 623-3703 for details. Ben Bailey J257 Marcy Dodge C051 Travis Ferguson B031 Stephanie Gouveia L356, L436 Robert Lewis M459 Sandra Page I300, L440 Neal Read I205 Colton Sanford E111

PUBLIC SALE Public Sale at Godsey Secure Storage, LLC, 1360 SE Godsey Road, Dallas, OR 10:30AM Saturday, JULY 18, 2026. All sales CASH, VISA or MASTER CARD ONLY. Units will be sold as a whole. Call (503) 831-0234 for details. Boatman, Robert, C135 Blanton, Mike, B100

902 HOMES FOR SALE



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED HOMES



NEW LISTING! Beautiful ranch style home with QUALITY updates & finishes. Living room has open beams & built in storage. Kitchen was well planned with abundant storage & efficient appliances. 4bd/2 bath. Remodeled bath has handicap access shower. Gorgeous yard with covered paver patio. 12/16 shed/shop. **\$495,000.00** (#843073)



Clean move in ready home in Monmouth. 4bd/2 bath. New roof and exterior paint in 2025. New range 2026. Updated bathroom and flooring. Located blocks from Western Oregon University and downtown Monmouth. **\$350,000.00** (#841228)



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



Great location in a 55+ community. Great home, affordable price. Southern facing that provides nice light. 3bd/2 bath. Home has a nice flow with the primary suite separate from bedrooms 2 & 3. Laundry room off the kitchen. Electric furnace. **\$89,900.00** (#840156)


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PUBLIC RECORD

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

Independence Police Department

THURSDAY, JULY 2
Ian Imamura, Central High School choir director, was arrested at his residence in Portland following an investigation that led to the following charges: computer crime - deception/false pretenses, identity theft, possession of child pornography, encourage child abuse 2, encourage child abuse 1, using child in display of sexually explicit conduct, online sex corruption of child 2, tampering with witness, and luring a minor - porn/obscene material.
At 11:36 a.m., an officer noticed a motorist on Monmouth Street glancing at the cellular phone he was holding while driving. The officer tried to initiate a traffic stop but the driver appeared too distracted to notice until the officer repeatedly “chirped” his siren. It was found that it was driver Leonardo Tolento Jr’s third time being cited for driving a motor vehicle while using a mobile electronic device in the last 10 years so the citation rose to misdemeanor level.
At 12:21 p.m., officers responded to a report of a crash at an intersection on Main Street and later provided information exchange for the involved parties.
At 12:34 p.m., officers responded to a report of a rear-end crash between a truck and a school bus on Polk Street. The truck driver was cited for following too closely to a school bus when it stopped at railroad tracks. There were no injuries.

FRIDAY, JULY 3
At 9:48 a.m., video footage at a store in the 1300 block of Monmouth Street captured an unknown male suspect shoplifting a bottle of vodka on June 27. Parking lot cameras showed the male leaving in a vehicle that returned to the registered owner in Monmouth who has a domestic partner, Pedro Sanchez, who was a visual match to the suspect. He was found to have a failure to appear warrant out of Washington County. Sanchez was arrested and transported to the Polk County Jail where he was charged with theft 3 - shoplifting, and an outstanding warrant.
At 3:19 p.m., an officer stopped a motorist with no rear license plate in the 400 block of C Street. The driver, unable to provide any type of identification, was found to not have driving privileges. Chavez was given a criminal citation for failing to carry/present operator’s license, citations for no operator’s license and no insurance, and written warnings for failure to register vehicle and failure to display license plate.
At 9:41 p.m., a report that packages were stolen from a residence on River

Oak Road.

SATURDAY, JULY 4
At 1:25 a.m., officers conducted a high speed chase with a juvenile motorist that started on Main Street, traversed through WOU campus at speeds 50-60 mph. The driver continued down Riddell Road approaching speeds of 90 mph nearly hitting several vehicles. The driver finally stopped in the 3600 block of Riddell Road. The 13-year-old driver and his passenger were detained. The vehicle had been stolen from the driver’s grandmother, who did not want to press charges. The youth was cited for attempting to elude, reckless driving, and recklessly endangering another, and was turned over to the custody of his mother.
At 7:18 p.m., officers investigated a commercial burglar alarm on Monmouth Street. They performed a perimeter check and found no signs of forced entry.
At 8:33 p.m., a report of a vehicle parked legally on 10th Street was the victim of a hit and run.

SUNDAY, JULY 5
At 4:35 p.m., officers investigated a report of domestic disturbance on 12th Street. They found no crimes committed.
At 6:59 p.m., a report of a lost backpack with credit cards inside. One of the cards was used fraudulently at Monmouth Neighborhood Market.
At 7:28 p.m., a report of a missing 9mm handgun on Monmouth Street.
At 8:14 p.m., two juveniles were referred for reckless burning and criminal mischief 2 for starting a fire with fireworks on 9th Street.

MONDAY, JULY 6
At 8:07 a.m., officers investigated a report of a stolen bicycle on Polk Street. It turned out the owner’s roommate had borrowed the bike. No crimes were committed.
At 7:28 p.m., a report of a small grass fire on 5th Street that caused minimal damage to a fence and burnt a section of grass. It was likely caused by an old firework that got hot and caught fire.

TUESDAY, JULY 7
At 2:32 p.m., a motorist was cited for texting while driving in an active school zone on Main Street. Officers later learned it was his third violation rather than his second.
At 3:21 p.m., officers helped get eyes-on report of a stalled boat in the river along Deann Drive. A good samaritan towed the boat back to the dock where Polk County Fire helped them get back to shore.
At 3:46 p.m., officers responded to a report of siblings left home alone on 4th street, hitting each other with visible marks. No arrests were made. A report was forwarded to DHS.
At 7:37 p.m., a report of four cats trapped in a van in an unhealthy environment on E Street.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
At 8:56 a.m., officers investigated a report of a burglary on Main Street with the theft of cash that was caught on camera. They are working to identify the suspect.

Monmouth Police Department

THURSDAY, JULY 2
Drug-related: A caller reported finding a pill container on a sidewalk at an intersection. The items were collected and tested. The pills were identified as non-controlled substances and placed into safekeeping.
Animal-related: Two loose dogs were reported running in a park. The owner arrived and claimed the animals. However, the owner received two citations for allowing animals to run loose.
Sexual Offense: A report was made regarding a patient touching a staff member during a medical appointment in March. The reporting party requested that the information be documented.
Driving Complaint: A driving complaint was filed after a vehicle nearly sideswiped the caller in a turn lane. The caller stated the other driver followed them to their place of work and photographed their vehicle. Police documented the incident.
Suspicious Person: A report was made about a male sitting on a park bench, staring at a woman and her young child. No other reports regarding this individual were received.
Assault: A physical altercation occurred between an individual and a caregiver. The victim sustained a head injury but declined to pursue charges.
Domestic Dispute: A verbal dispute occurred between partners in a vehicle. The parties agreed to remain civil.
Traffic: During a traffic stop, an individual was detained while officers investigated their status regarding a prior felony case. Upon review, it was determined the individual had addressed the legal issues and was released.
Assist Other Agency: Officers assisted another agency with traffic control for a fatal accident.
Disturbance: Officers responded to a verbal disturbance between family members. The situation was resolved without incident.
Check Welfare: An individual requested a welfare check on an acquaintance due to concerns about the person being unable to leave their residence. Officers contacted the parties and determined they were safe.

FRIDAY, JULY 3
Lost Property: An individual reported losing their wallet while at a market. A case number was provided.
Check Welfare: A call was received regarding a person needing assistance with medical equipment. Help arrived before officers.
Suspicious Vehicle: A caller reported a vehicle shining lights at them while walking a dog. The caller was advised to provide information if the behavior continued.
Citizen Contact: A caller requested to clear their name regarding accusations of financial misconduct made by an acquaintance. No report was found, and the caller was advised accordingly.
Traffic Assist: A call was made regarding

chairs obstructing a sidewalk. Officers advised the caller that the items could be moved.
Fireworks: A caller reported loud fireworks in the neighborhood. Officers were requested to monitor the area.
Citizen Contact: A follow-up conversation regarding a previous welfare check occurred. The parties involved were determined to be safe.
Driving: A report was made regarding a person operating a motorized bike recklessly on a campus. Officers were unable to locate the individual.
Domestic Dispute: A verbal argument occurred between two individuals regarding personal matters. No physical contact occurred.
Domestic Dispute: An argument occurred between two individuals regarding the care of a pet. Officers advised the parties to stay separated.

SATURDAY, JULY 4
Noise: A caller reported screaming at a location. Officers arrived and found nothing excessive.
Elude: Officers attempted to stop a vehicle driving recklessly. The driver fled, leading to a pursuit. The juvenile driver was eventually detained, cited and released to a parent.
Disturbance: A report of yelling was investigated. It was determined to be a family playing video games.
Emotionally Disturbed Person: An individual reported self-harm and was transported to a medical facility.
Noise: A roommate dispute regarding loud behavior and an intoxicated person on a bicycle occurred. The situation was resolved.
Arrest: Following a dispute between roommates, an individual was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and harassment after evidence of physical contact was confirmed.
Harassment: A report was taken regarding threatening messages sent via social media over a period of time.
Driving: A report of a vehicle running stop signs. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
Found Property: An individual retrieved a cell phone lost during an event.
Found Person: A missing child was located and reunited with family.
Open: A residence was found with an open door. No signs of distress were observed, and the door was secured.
Shots: A report of shots fired was investigated. Nothing suspicious was found.
Animal: Birds were found stuck between window panes. The property owner was contacted to resolve the issue.
Driving: A report of a vehicle unable to maintain its lane. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
Arrest: An individual with an active warrant was contacted and released with a citation.

SUNDAY, JULY 5
Check Welfare: A caller requested a welfare check on a relative. Officers contacted the person, who was found to be safe.
Check Welfare: A neighbor reported a resident acting erratically and making noise. Officers

provided a warning for disorderly conduct.
Disturbance/Arrest: An individual was reported yelling and threatening others with a knife. Officers detained the person, who was then arrested on multiple charges including weapons violations and resisting arrest.
Theft: An individual called to report a theft but declined to speak with officers or provide further information.
Disturbance: A dispute between two individuals at a business continued at a residence. No physical violence was confirmed.
Assist Other Agency: Officers assisted with a domestic dispute at another location.
Missing Person: A report of a missing person was investigated. Police determined there was no cause for concern.
Driving: A report of a vehicle unable to maintain its lane. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
Suspicious Activity: A neighbor reported loud occupants at a residence. The homeowner could not be reached.
Arrest: A traffic stop resulted in an individual being cited and released for an active warrant.

MONDAY, JULY 6
Emotionally Disturbed Person: A person was reported screaming and acting out due to stress. Assistance and warnings were provided.
Emotionally Disturbed Person: An individual requested transport to a medical facility for mental health concerns, which was facilitated.
Missing Person: A report of a missing person was resolved when the individual returned.
Crime: An individual requested a check on a residence to ensure a prohibited person was not present. No contact was made.
Citizen Contact: An individual inquired about their rights regarding political expressions.
Domestic Dispute: A verbal dispute occurred between spouses. The situation was mediated.
Trespass: An individual was warned and formally trespassed from a business for inappropriate behavior.
Crime: An inquiry regarding a potential violation of a no-contact order was made.
Missing Person: A report of a missing person was resolved when the individual returned.
Suspicious Activity: An individual reported being followed. Officers were unable to locate the suspect vehicle.
Emotionally Disturbed Person: A caller rambling about nonsensical topics was directed to the appropriate jurisdiction.
Suspicious Activity: An employee reported unsettling behavior from an individual. The individual was known, and no crime had occurred.
Noise: Construction noise was reported. It was determined to be related to a pipe burst repair.

TUESDAY, JULY 7
Driving: A report of a vehicle swerving. The driver was contacted and explained the situation.
Crime: A report regarding a potential violation of a protection order was made.
Harassment: An individual reported property

damage and harassment by neighbors. The incident was documented.
Disturbance: Staff reported a threat made by a client. The situation was resolved without injury.
Suspicious Activity: A report of harassment via video call. The suspect was identified, and the investigation is ongoing.
Animal: Dogs in a parked car were checked. Officers determined the animals were safe.
Suspicious Activity: A neighbor dispute regarding noise and comments was documented as a civil disagreement.
Driving: A road rage incident occurred. Video evidence was provided.
Fraud: Unauthorized usage of a credit card was reported. The payment was refunded, and the issue resolved.
Harassment: Threats were reported against family members. A trespass warning was requested.
Animal: A mail carrier reported a dog bite. After finding no injury occurred, officers plan a follow-up investigation.
Trespass: An individual was reported causing a disturbance and was trespassing from a business.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
Alarms: A silent alarm was triggered. Police determined it was a false alarm.
Animal: A loose dog was found and returned to the owner.
Tow: A vehicle was repossessed.
Emotionally Disturbed Person: An individual refused medical transport and was advised to continue following their care plan.
Stolen Vehicle: A vehicle reported stolen was confirmed to have been towed.
Civil: A custody concern was reported and determined to be handled by the parent.
Information: A notification for a homicide suspect was received. The suspect was later neutralized by law enforcement.
Civil: A dispute regarding vehicle ownership was determined to be a civil matter.
Animal: A found cat was returned to its owner.
Drug: Staff reported potential drug use; the individual was in the process of being removed from the facility.
Animal: A dog was left at a public building; the owner was notified.
Check Welfare: A welfare check was requested for an acquaintance. The person was confirmed to be safe.

Polk County Sheriff's Office

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1
At 12:15 a.m., a deputy contacted a female subject who was burning plastic in the Chipotle parking lot on Wallace Road. The deputy tried to understand why she was doing what she was doing but she was talking about feces coming out of her feet so the deputy asked her to stop burning things and left.
At 12:38 a.m., deputies contacted two subjects trespassing at the Eagle Crest overlook. The driver, Genaro Gusman-Coria, was obviously intoxicated and told the deputy they had

POLICE
From Page B6

only been there for two minutes. They arrested Genaro for driving under the influence of an intoxicant - felony and driving while suspended - misdemeanor. An exigent blood draw was taken at West Valley Hospital. Genaro was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 1:28 a.m., a deputy responded to a report of an intoxicated male walking down Oak Villa Road. The male subject was found laying down against a fence. He was heavily intoxicated and said he was trying to walk home. The deputy gave him a courtesy ride the rest of the 8 miles home.

At 4:18 a.m., deputies responded to a report of a two vehicle crash on Bethell Road. Vehicle two failed to obey a stop sign and struck a vehicle going north on Highway 99.

At 8:50 a.m., a report of the theft of property on a foreclosed home on Red Prairie Road. A landscaping contractor provided a report of stolen items, which included copper.

At 12:34 p.m., a resident on Hawthorne Avenue reported an injured deer located near the back of her property. Deputies located the deer, which was in bad shape, and dispatched it.

At 1:45 p.m., a motorist on Bethel Heights Road was cited for speeding 77 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 7:34 p.m., a male subject approached a deputy and wanted to talk about a crash which occurred at Walmart. Dallas Police responded to assist the male.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

At 6:40 a.m., Oregon State Police requested the Sheriff's Office assistance with locating a goat that was in the roadway near Highway 51 at milepost 3. A responding deputy was unable to locate the goat.

At 9:12 a.m., a deputy investigated a suspicious senior citizen with a juvenile in a van at a park off Mill Creek Road. The van was gone upon the deputy's arrival.

At 10:17 a.m., a female subject reported every time she walked past a residence on Montgomery Street dogs bark aggressively at her.

At 10:49 a.m., a report of a pressure washer, valued at \$300, stolen from a church on Ellendale Avenue. A license plate taken from surveillance footage returned a known subject, Nathan Gilmer, who has a history of thefts that deputies recently stopped and confiscated fentanyl and methamphetamine out of his vehicle.

At 6:17 p.m., a report of a female subject

walking along Mistletoe Road who defecated in someone's yard and was trespassing on other properties. A deputy responded and while talking with a witness, he spotted the female subject, Gina Strong, who had recently been released from Polk County Jail. The deputy tried to offer her a ride or find someone to call for her but was unsuccessful. The deputy arrested Strong and charged her with disorderly conduct 2. She was booked and lodged in Polk County Jail.

At 6:39 p.m., deputies responded to a three-vehicle accident that involved a Polk County Fire District ambulance at Pacific Highway and Hoffman Avenue. Several people were injured and transported to the hospital. Oregon State Police conducted the investigation.

At 8:02 p.m., a report of young male suspects, likely intoxicated, parked in AG West's parking lot on Rickreall Road. After they rolled around the lot, the youths then shattered one of the large plate glass windows in the front of the store.

At 10:08 p.m., a resident on Salmon River Highway reported illegal fireworks were being lit above his property by known subjects and that they had been doing it all week. The resident requested extra patrols.

At 11:23 p.m., a deputy contacted Joel Weiss who was trespassing on a property on Highway 22. Weiss was cited and released on an outstanding Marion County failure to appear misdemeanor warrant for carrying a concealed weapon.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

At 4:49 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 77 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 11:48 a.m., a deputy investigated a report of a Chevy pickup driving recklessly nearly causing multiple crashes on Pacific Highway. A deputy in the vicinity checked the area for the vehicle but was unable to locate it.

At 4:09 p.m., a report of an office motion alarm at Faith Church on Ellendale Avenue. It turned out to be the cleaning crew.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

At 12:57 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 76 mph in a 55-mph zone and a verbal warning for speeding in a safety corridor.

At 1:01 a.m., a deputy observed a male subject walking Northbound on Highway 51. The deputy contacted the male who identified himself but did not know where he was or where he was going. Medics arrived on scene and transported him to West Valley Hospital.

At 2:02 a.m., Kristopher Bennett was arrested on Tilgner Lane and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and reckless driving, and was cited for failing to carry insurance and failure to carry valid vehicle registration.

At 2:12 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for driving while suspended - violation.

At 3:59 a.m., a deputy came across a motorist asleep in her vehicle on Corvallis Road. The driver, Cristina Mendez Guerra, said she was at a bar in Salem and while driving home did not feel good so she pulled over to sleep. However, her record came back as driving while suspended - misdemeanor. She was arrested and booked in Polk County Jail.

At 5:12 a.m., a male subject involved in a harassment incident on Powell Street, left the scene highly intoxicated on a bicycle. A deputy found the subject, Steven McKinney, riding south on Knox Street towards Main Street and stopped him. He was still quite intoxicated. He was arrested for driving under the influence of an intoxicant and harassment. A search warrant was executed at West Valley Hospital for his blood and he was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 1:22 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a crashed dirt bike near the Martin Road gate. They attempted but were unable to help get the rider;s bike back up to the road. The rider got a tow/ wench back up to the main road. Deputies provided the rider with water and transported him to a shaded area with cell service. He was warned about driving motorized vehicles past the gates during this season.

At 2:33 p.m., deputies responded to a motorcycle crash on Elkins Road. The driver, who was transported with injuries, said he was negotiating a curve at 30-40 mph and over-corrected, leading him into the ditch and totaling his bike.

At 2:27 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of a subject hearing shots from what sounded like a "mega gun" or possibly M80s going off to the north near Mill Creek Road. The deputy was unable to locate any target shooters or fireworks.

At 2:54 p.m., deputies responded to an alarm at the Oregon Department of Forestry on Oak Villa Road. They observed bays open with firefighters inside the building. The front doors were unlocked and the office was checked and no one was found.

At 6:47 p.m., a motorist was stopped for an expired temporary tag. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for no

insurance. The driver was then arrested on an outstanding parole board warrant and lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 7:53 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for expired insurance. The driver was cited and the car towed.

At 8:34 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of a male subject taking photos of people at a residence on Salmon River Highway. The subject stated he observed Illegal fireworks on the property and was taking photos of them. He was trespassed from the property.

At 9:03 p.m., deputies contacted several people on Eagle Crest Road for trespassing/illegal stopping/standing. Jackson Swain was cited and released on an outstanding warrant for DUII out of Marion County. Everyone else received warnings.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

At 12:17 a.m., a motorist on Hoffman Road flashed their lights at a deputy to get his attention. The driver had pulled over due to a dog being in the middle of the road. When they pulled over it jumped into their vehicle and would not get out. The deputy took the dog to the county kennel to check it for a chip, which it did not have. It was lodged at the kennel and the deputy sent an email to animal control.

At 12:41 a.m., a motorist on Wallace Road was stopped because a passenger was almost completely outside of the vehicle. A deputy noticed indicators of impairment on the driver, Benjamin Moretz and ultimately arrested and charged him with driving under the influence of an intoxicant. He was lodged at Polk County Jail where

he provided a BAC of .04% The passenger was cited for no seatbelt.

At 8:16 a.m., a resident on Strong Road reported possibly hearing a horse loose on her property at 3 a.m. The resident did not contain it or see it, only heard it. She is going to be looking around her property to see if it is still around and will call in again if it is found.

At 1:51 p.m., a resident on Zena Road reported four of her sheep got loose. She said these sheep are unique as they look more like goats than sheep and have hair rather than wool. She said she had been out looking for them and wanted to report them missing in case someone reported finding them. They were later found at 2:42 p.m. on Zena Road.

At 8:46 p.m., a resident on Pioneer Road reported his black and white blue heeler border collie mix had run away Friday night due to fireworks and had not returned. The owner reported the dog had neither a collar nor chip.

At 11:17 p.m., a resident on Kuhlmann Road reported 31 of her Barbados Sheep had been stolen. She said 10 were taken a week or so ago, and 21 were taken sometime this evening. She suspects her boyfriend's dad took them. An investigating deputy found the resident's fences were in disrepair and pushed over. The deputy's strong belief was these sheep got out and were not stolen. The fences were short and the area was wooded. There were no signs of sheep in the area

MONDAY, JULY 6

At 9:35 a.m., Southwest Polk Fire reported someone vandalized about six rolls of hose on their

brush rig in the last week. They discovered this yesterday fighting a brush fire. A deputy inspected the hoses and found the edges appeared clipped by a side cutter or something of the like. Additionally a belt on a water pump coincidentally broke in the process, which could be linked as it was readily accessible. No suspect information at this time.

At 2:22 p.m., deputies responded to a single vehicle rollover crash with injuries in the S Curves on Kings Valley Highway. OSP responded and took over the investigation.

At 3:25 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for driving too slowly and impeding traffic. The driver was eventually cited for driving while suspended - violation.

At 3:41 p.m., deputies investigated a single vehicle accident on Frost Road. A driver of a box truck not familiar with the area slid on gravel at a tight curve, causing a crash. The vehicle damage was under \$2,500, and there was no property damage.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

At 8:32 a.m., a resident on Allen Crowe Road reported a Generac Model 8125 was stolen off of the front steps of the property. There are no suspects.

At 1:20 p.m., a motorist on Salem Dallas Highway was cited for using a cell phone while driving.

At 4:45 p.m., two subjects were mountain biking off Martin Road and were locked behind the gate. A deputy unlocked the gate and let them out. Both were warned for trespassing.

CALENDAR
From Page B3

time, for babies and very young toddler, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.

11 a.m. - Andy Furgeson as Red Yarn, Main Street Park, 120 Main Street E., Monmouth

11 a.m. - Paradise of Samoa, Main Street Park, 120 Main St. E.

11 a.m. - Lunch w/ Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg,

Dallas Area Senior Center
11:30 a.m. - Dallas Dallas Public Library Summer Reading Program presents Zerbe the Zaniac Science Comedy Show, Dallas City Park

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
1 p.m. - Wii bowling, Dallas Area Senior Center

4 p.m. Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center

6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House

6 p.m. - Independence Parks Board meeting, City Hall, 555 South Main St.
6:30 p.m. - Live Music: Music in the Park - Coming Up Threes, Main Street Park, 120 Main St. E., Monmouth

7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

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Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Oregon lawmakers prioritize bipartisanship in transportation funding plan

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Bipartisanship and earlier deliberations over transportation funding are a priority in the 2027 legislative session, a mostly Democratic group of lawmakers told the business and transportation experts tasked with vetting and recommending ideas to solve the Oregon Department of Transportation’s impending funding shortfall.

For a third year in a row, lawmakers in January will meet in Salem knowing the state’s transportation agency can’t afford to maintain its current services levels without new funding.

But this time, lawmakers hope they’ll have a clearer, sustainable plan with guidance from Gov. Tina Kotek’s 12-member “Rebuilding our Transportation Vision” workgroup. In its third meeting, the workgroup Tuesday, July 7, invited seven lawmakers for a roundtable to reflect on past legislative mistakes and the policy ideas they think could reach across party lines.

“I’m looking for something that can garner not just the majority, but something close to a consensus and to do so in a bipartisan way,” said Rep. David Gomberg, D-Otis.

Sens. Anthony Broadman, D-Bend; Khahn Pham, D-Portland; Chris Gorsek, D-Gresham; and Bruce Starr, R-Dundee and Reps. Susan McLain,



Rep. Susan McLain, D-Forest Grove, alongside a panel of lawmakers, addresses Gov. Tina Kotek’s “Rebuilding Our Transportation Vision Workgroup” at the Association of Oregon Counties office in Salem on Tuesday, July 7, 2026. (Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle)

D-Forest Grove and Mark Gamba, D-Milwaukie, joined Gomberg.

Starr, the lone Republican lawmaker on the panel, said he was encouraged by his colleagues’ bipartisan goals.

“I’m really hopeful that the work that you’ll do will help to inform a bipartisan consensus-based package that comes forward potentially, but let’s not kid ourselves about the challenges facing us,” he told the workgroup.

After Democrats in a fall 2025 special session passed a scaled-down, highly unpopular transportation plan to raise \$4.3 million over the next decade, Starr alongside Rep. Ed Diehl, R-Scio and Taxpayer Association of Oregon founder Jason Williams spearheaded a petition that successfully blocked hikes to the gas

tax and other transportation fees after a referendum vote in May.

Oregonians overwhelmingly voted against those tax and fee hikes, and the state’s massive transportation agency still doesn’t have a permanent director, Starr reminded the group. The agency is on its second interim director after former director Kris Strickler retired from the public sector last year.

Oregon lawmakers brainstorm ways to relieve gas tax reliance. Many lawmakers agreed that Oregon’s transportation system overrelies on the gas tax.

Half of the money raised from the gas tax goes to the state, and the remaining is split between cities and counties. But as more Oregonians drive electric vehicles and the cost of transportation materials

and labor increases, the state and localities have gradually collected less revenue from the gas tax despite fuel-efficient vehicles contributing to the wear and tear of public roads.

Democrats suggested indexing the gas tax so it’s proportional to inflation, taxing the sale of new vehicles or drivers who buy a new car worth more than \$75,000. Another suggestion was finding a way to tax tourists who contribute to wear and tear on state roads.

The workgroup and lawmakers also concluded that Oregon’s transportation agency has too much responsibility on its hands and not enough money. Both Starr and Gomberg poked at the idea of splitting some of the department’s responsibilities into their own agencies.

“I think we need to reimagine the department of transportation,” Starr said. “Does it make sense to have DMV as part of the department of transportation? Does it make sense to have a rail division as part of the transportation department? You can pull out rail and transit as a separate standalone agency. I think we need to think about those bigger questions.”

Many in the roundtable supported the idea of implementing road user charges, or charging drivers based on the number of miles they travel rather than the amount of fuel they purchase.

Some shared concerns about how the state would track people’s vehicle mileage and privacy concerns without creating more bureaucracy. Those concerns, Starr said, can be addressed if the state were to contract with an outside vendor.

The state already offers electric vehicle drivers the option to pay per mile or pay higher fees at registration to account for not paying a gas tax.

Oregon lawmakers reflect on transportation funding mistakes

Lawmakers emphasized the need to introduce their transportation funding legislation much earlier in the process than they did in 2025.

“The bill has to come out at the end of January, beginning of February,” Gamba said. “That’s how early so that we have the time to work it through

it.”

Lawmakers and workgroup members also agreed that a new transportation funding package shouldn’t commit to projects before having an accurate cost estimate, pointing to the uncompleted Interstate 5 Rose Quarter and Interstate 205 Abernethy Bridge projects met with staggering cost overruns surpassing initial legislative estimates.

“I’d like to see that to make sure that we can really make sure we’re preserving our existing road system first before we over commit our state and then our debt and bond capacity,” Pham said.

Broadman said he sees 2027 as a clean slate for lawmakers to address the state’s transportation woes.

“I would love to leave the politics of 2025 behind,” he said. “I don’t want to leave the work behind.”

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/07/07/oregon-lawmakers-say-they-ll-prioritize-bipartisanship-in-2027-transportation-funding-plan/>

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DAVE’S

From Page B1

musicianship. Musically, you can tell everybody’s good in the band. We’re all accomplished. Musicians always like us. We’re doing some good

stuff,” Neumann said, adding they’re not really a bar band. They’re more akin to an easy listening experience.

Their eclectic set includes such hits as “Minute by Minute” by the Doobie Brothers, “Breezin’” by George Benson, and “Diamond

Girl” by Seals and Croft, to name a few. Neumann said they also sprinkle in some original tunes.

“Thomas writes some great stuff. We also do our own takes on some of the hits, like taking a vocal song and making it instrumental, our own arrangement. You’ll hear

other songs not exactly as they’re like on the record,” Neumann said.

In addition to performing good fun music, he added the band also makes sure the audience is having a good time, too, during and in between songs.

“People tell us they

have fun when we play. We develop a good rapport with the audience. We’re human, not stoic statues. We try to have fun, involve the crowd and talk a lot,” he said.

Although the band, which tours nonstop through the summer months, has performed

locally before at Salt Creek Cider House. This will be their debut in Dallas.

“Hopefully people will come out to hear some really great music,” he said. “I know we’ll provide that.”

SYRIAN

From Page B1

a meal without feeling rushed,” Alawad said. “We wanted the place to be cozy and comfortable for everyone. You can come, just chill, drink the drink and eat the food. Then have dessert.”

The menu features 37 items, many of which are prepared from scratch, including the sauces.

“Everything we make is homemade,” Alawad said. “It’s mom’s recipe, what we prepare here.”

Lamb shawarma has quickly become the restaurant’s signature dish.

“If you ask anyone their

favorite, they will say lamb shawarma,” he said. “That’s for sure.”

Chicken shawarma is also popular, but Alawad said the lamb introduces customers to authentic Syrian flavors. The rice and seasonings have also surprised diners unfamiliar with Syrian cuisine.

“When we opened here

in Independence, we had a lot of people tell us this was the first time they tried Syrian food,” he said. “They liked it.”

The restaurant purchases its spices from Middle Eastern grocery stores in Portland. Produce comes from CHEF’SSTORE. Milk and other dairy products are

sourced locally.

Alawad believes the restaurant fills a need in Independence.

“No one else here does Middle Eastern food,” he said. “We’re the only ones.”

The family is already considering two more locations, as yet undecided. For now, however,

the focus is on serving Independence and sharing Syrian food with a new community. Which means it’s business as usual at Damascus Kitchen.

“Just good food and good vibes,” Alawad said as reasons for his restaurant’s success. “This is how we’ve been doing it.”

THREES

From Page B1

in Portland, support Irish music while giving musicians regular opportunities to perform.

“So the combination of culture, history, universally known tunes and plentiful opportunities to play in public, while having a pint with friends,

make the Celtic genre a musician’s dream,” band member Jeremy Bauer said in an earlier interview.

Regardless of when the concert falls on the schedule, Main Street Park is one of the band’s favorite venues.

“We love the wonderful community in Monmouth,” Bauer said. “As a band, we have a great time just rehearsing

together. But when we get to play an outdoor, all-ages show, we get to play to families, often our own families, and to people who otherwise either can’t stay up late enough to see us in the pub or aren’t old enough to see us in a pub.”

Bauer also praised Monmouth for providing musicians with a quality facility that reflects the community’s commitment

to bringing people together.

“While some may dream of playing some huge stadium shows, we really enjoy the intimate connection provided by a smaller venue,” he said. Bauer had one request from the audience.

“If we can just get some of them to sit a little closer to the stage,” Bauer joked.

Joining Bauer on stage

will be Naoyuki Ochiai, Chad Marks-Fife, Charlie Norris and David Fender.

The evening also includes food, drinks and family activities.

Dry Town Tap Station operates a shaded beer garden where adults can relax and enjoy the music. Several food carts will be available, including Smitty’s Burgers.

“Concertgoers may also purchase takeout

from participating local restaurants, then bring their meals to the park,” Dufner said.

Daisy Dreams, a new face-painting vendor, joins the series this summer. Children can also participate in a free weekly art activity or cool off in the park’s splash fountain.

A raffle will be held during intermission.

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