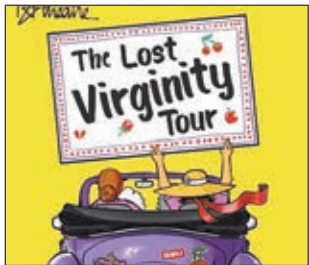


**Polk County**  
Pentacle Theatre  
Hosts Auditions  
Feb. 21  
■ See A2



**Sports**  
Missed opportunities  
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■ See B1



# Merkley town hall tackles growing authoritarian concerns



Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley takes questions from Polk County residents at a rescheduled town hall Jan. 22 at the Colonel Nesmith Readiness Center outside Dallas as Rep. Paul Evans, who acted as moderator, looks on.

By DAVID HAYES  
I/O Editor

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley had already pledged to vote against an impending government funding bill two days before another federal officer involved shooting of a protester in Minnesota renewed calls to defund the U.S. Immigration and Customer Enforcement (ICE) agency.

Merkley made his stance clear during his statewide tour of town halls returned to Polk County Jan. 22 at the Colonel Nesmith Readiness Center

outside Dallas.

Merkey had decided to postpone his scheduled stop in Polk County after wanting to learn more about two alleged Trend de Araga gang members who were shot in Portland while fleeing apprehension by Border Patrol agents in Portland Jan. 8.

“A number of us... in elected positions wanted to work to prevent there from being a Minneapolis style confrontation that would lead to more ICE and more agents and maybe the president getting the power from the courts to federalize the National

Guard,” Merkley said.

Upon his return, Merkey explained there are currently 12 spending bills being written in Washington D.C. to keep the federal government open, with six already having gone for President Trump’s signature. Of the six remaining, Merkley said legislators have separated out the Department of Homeland Security funding.

“I hope they keep it separated out. The reason why is there is a lot of concern about sending any more money to ICE. They got \$75 billion in what Trump called his ‘Big Beautiful Bill.’

I call it ‘Big Ugly Betrayal’ because it has massive tax breaks for most affluent members of society cutting, nutrition, money to ICE and cutting health care,” Merkley said. “I hope (it) stays an individual bill or it’s joined with other bills and we have a chance to amend it and take the money for ICE out.”

Merkley said every town hall he’s hosted this year, Polk County was the 16th of 2026 already, ICE and immigration is being enforced is the

See **MERKLEY**, page A8



Mark Adams

## Businessman Mark Adams enters county race

By DAVID HAYES  
I-O Editor

Mark Adams has a history of surveying the landscape and inserting his services to breach the gap where needed. In the last several decades, that’s included starting his own vinyl sign business, serving on the school board after getting fathers involved in their children’s education or jumping into a county commissioner’s race at the last minute.

The last time Adams, a resident of West Salem for about 24 years, was persuaded to run for a vacant seat on County Commissioner’s, he entered late into the process, making it a four-man race. He lost to Craig Pope by 211 votes, with no campaign, no war chest, just word of mouth.

“A pretty close race for a guy who didn’t have anything going, entered last minute and

See **ADAMS**, page A7

# Food truck returns full circle back home to Monmouth

Cindy Lou’s  
celebrates 10  
years offering  
Oregon barbecue

By DAVID HAYES  
I-O Editor

Heading south out of Monmouth on Pacific Highway is a former mechanic’s shop that has become the new hub for Cindy Lou’s BBQ. For co-owners Christopher Sarff and Johnny Roldan, it was a long and winding road for the duo as they celebrated 10 years offering up Oregon barbecue.

The two Central High grads had both gone north to pursue their culinary dreams. It was a path Sarff began in his first job, working as a dishwasher at the Original Pancake House where

his father, Ryan, was a chef.

“That’s how I fell in love doing this stuff, and obviously from my dad. He was a chef,” Sarff said.

In 2015, He was working in another high school friend’s food truck slingng sliders when he applied for a contest opportunity in Beaverton. Sarff entered a cookoff competition at the cost of \$100 per raffle ticket. Sarff was one of five finalists drawn out of hat and, lo and behold he won. The grand prize was a food cart, which he named in honor of his mother, Cindy Lou. He still features her recipes for mac and cheese and jalapeno rice on his menu today.

Sarff said the difference between a food cart and a full-sized food truck is that carts can be moved around but are more stationary, and are

See **TRUCK**, page A7



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Celebrating 10 years in business with Cindy Lou’s Barbecue on Sunday are co-owners Christopher Sarff (far left) and Johnny Roldan (far right) and their spouses Marina and Misty.

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# Pentacle Theatre hosts auditions for ‘The Lost Virginity Tour’

Pentacle Theatre is hosting auditions for their next production, “The Lost Virginity Tour” at 1 p.m. Feb. 21 at their downtown Salem office, 197 Liberty St. Directed by Karen McCarty, the story of “The Lost Virginity Tour” revolves around four women living in an Arizona retirement

community, Happy Trails Senior Resort Living, who meet weekly for their Happy Trails Baking Club swapping desserts and recipes. But when these friends start swapping stories about their “first times”, one of them bakes up the idea to take a cross country road trip, revisiting the location where they each lost

their virginities. Tears, laughter, memories and secrets are all revealed as each lady shares the details about their first time. Will revisiting their past reshape their future? Written by Cricket Daniels, “The Lost Virginity Tour” is about friendship, heartache, regrets and first loves.

Auditions for the four characters seek actors able to portray a 60+ year old woman, including: Viola, a mouthy hard-ass divorcee (several times over) from New Jersey who has a tough exterior but cares for her friends deeply. Even when she gives them a hard time, it comes from

a place of love. Kitty, a sweet Southern belle who is a bit of a drama queen, especially if she feels wronged (as she frequently does) is loyal to a fault. Rita, a married and earthy type, is the most grounded and practical of the group. She still has a sense of humor, even after 38 years of

marriage. Elaine, a widow and oldest of the group, is motherly and wise, and is often called upon to be the peacemaker when the ladies disagree. For more information, or if you have a conflict with the audition date, contact Karen McCarty at KarenMcCarty@comcast.net or (503) 851-6785.

# Oregon, IRS begin processing e-filed returns

First state refunds expected Feb. 17

By OREGON DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

As Oregon and the IRS begin processing electronically-filed tax year 2025 returns today, the Department of Revenue expects the first Oregon taxpayers to receive their refunds—including their share of the state’s \$1.41 billion kicker—as soon as February 17. The department announced earlier this month that taxpayers who choose to file paper returns face a significantly longer wait. For paper filed returns, refunds will not start being issued until early April. To help taxpayers avoid missteps that could further delay their refund, the department is opening 2026 tax season with a

series of best practices suggestions.

**FILE A RETURN TO CLAIM YOUR KICKER**  
The kicker is a refundable credit that will either increase a taxpayer’s Oregon state income tax refund or decrease the amount of state taxes they owe. It is not sent to taxpayers separately as a check. Only taxpayers who filed a tax year 2024 return and also file a tax year 2025 return can receive a kicker. The credit is a percentage of Oregon personal income tax liability for the 2024 tax year. Personal income taxpayers can determine the amount of their kicker using the “What’s My Kicker?” calculator available on Revenue Online.

To use the calculator, taxpayers will need to enter their name, Social Security Number, and filing status for 2024 and 2025.

**FILE ELECTRONICALLY, REQUEST DIRECT DEPOSIT**  
On average, taxpayers who e-file their returns and request their refund via direct deposit receive their refund within two weeks. Those who file paper returns will experience a significantly longer wait in 2026 due to processing delays. In the closing months of 2025, the IRS was late providing necessary tax forms and information to the Oregon Department of Revenue. As a result, the state’s processing of paper-filed Oregon personal income tax returns can’t begin until the end of March. Taxpayers should file just once unless they

need to make a change to their return. They should choose to either file electronically or by paper. Doing both will delay processing of their return.

**GATHER ALL TAX RECORDS BEFORE FILING**  
In a kicker year, taxpayers can be in a hurry to file their return so they can get their refund as soon as possible. The department warns taxpayers not to get in too much of a hurry. They should make sure they have all necessary records—including Form W-2s from their employers and Form 1099s reporting other income—needed to file a complete and accurate tax return to avoid errors. Getting in a hurry can cause taxpayers to file before they have all the information necessary to report all of their income. If income reported on

a return doesn’t match the income reported by employers, the return, and any corresponding refund, will be delayed. Revenue Online The state’s internet tax portal and is the best way to communicate with the department. Taxpayers with a Revenue Online account should make sure their information is current before they file. They should check their username, password, and address; and verify any estimated tax payments they’ve made. Those who don’t have a Revenue Online account can create one. They can simply go to Revenue Online, click “Sign Up” in the box at the top right and follow the prompts. **DOWNLOAD FORM 1099-G** The department

reminds taxpayers that it no longer mails Form 1099-G to taxpayers. The form reports the amount of refunds, credits, or other offsets of personal income, statewide transit individual tax, TriMet transit self-employment tax, or Lane transit self-employment tax paid during the previous year. Only those who itemized deductions on their tax year 2024 federal income tax return will need a Form 1099-G to file their tax year 2025 return. Those taxpayers can view and download their Form 1099-G through Revenue Online. Taxpayers who received unemployment insurance or Paid Leave Oregon benefits in 2025 will receive a separate 1099-G by January 31 from the Oregon Employment Department.

# Oregon Democratic leaders push to move transportation referendum to May

MIA MALDONADO  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Democratic leaders in the Oregon Legislature want to move a statewide vote on transportation taxes from November to May. After submitting enough signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office, petitioners with the Republican-led No Tx Oregon campaign blocked hikes to the gas tax, vehicle registration and title fees and payroll tax included in a 2025 transportation law from taking effect pending a statewide vote in the November general election — thus delaying \$791.2 million in revenue for the Oregon Department of Transportation in the 2025-27 budget cycle. However, House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene and Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego announced late Wednesday that they will introduce legislation to set the date of the referendum for the statewide primary election on May 19. “Voters were clear that they want to have a say on this bill, and legislators and our local partners need to know the transportation funding landscape so meaningful conversations can continue,” Wagner said in a statement. “Setting the election date for May achieves both these goals.” But Republicans vowed to fight the effort to reschedule a vote. Rep. Ed Diehl, a Scio Republican and one of the leaders behind the referendum campaign called Democrats’ efforts to move it to May “callous.” “(Gov. Tina Kotek)

doesn’t want to be on the same ballot as this referendum,” Diehl told the Capital Chronicle. “I’m going to fight it tooth and nail. They’re not going to get away with this.” Kotek and legislators will be on primary ballots in May, but only Democratic ballots. Oregon’s closed primary system means only registered Democrats receive Democratic ballots and registered Republicans get Republican ballots, while the more than one-third of voters who aren’t affiliated with either major party receive shorter primary ballots with only ballot measures and non-partisan races. Fahey said setting the referendum date for the May primary gives lawmakers and Oregonians the needed clarity on the next steps for Oregon’s transportation future. “In this time of uncertainty, we’re focused on governing, not politics,” Fahey said. “That means acting as quickly as possible to prevent disruption in our transportation system and to protect the roads and bridges that connect Oregonians to work, school and emergency services.” Transportation department short on funding The transportation department is behind \$242 million for the current two-year budget cycle. Starting next year, it will only be able to afford paving its interstates, meaning Oregon drivers can expect more potholes, rutted roads, faded pavement markings and higher vehicle repair costs, department chief engineer Tova Peltz previously told lawmakers. The efforts to move the referendum come weeks after Gov. Tina Kotek



Elizabeth Camara, a No Kings rally counterprotester holds a sign protesting against the transportation package Democratic lawmakers passed during a special session earlier this year in Salem, Oregon. Mia Maldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

called on lawmakers to repeal the transportation law she championed and Democratic lawmakers passed in a September special session to raise \$4.3 billion in transportation maintenance funding over the next 10 years. However, a 1935 Oregon Attorney General opinion states the Oregon Legislature can’t repeal a law once it has been referred to the ballot. Chief Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnson wrote a legal opinion to Diehl on Jan. 9 that if the legislature repeals the transportation law, then it ceases to be an act which means there is no longer a basis for a referendum. But Johnson since reversed his opinion, Diehl said, concluding that Oregonians have a right to the referendum process and the Legislature cannot repeal a measure that has been referred, though it can set a date for the election. Lawmakers have done this before. Transportation legislation passed in the

1999 session was referred by voters and went to the ballot in May 2000. Kotek told the Capital Chronicle that she’s focused on providing stability to the transportation department so it can provide essential services. “I’m focused on solving the problem, and that’s, to me, the easiest thing to do,” Kotek said. “The most direct approach is to start over, then solve the problem, and then get back to the table on what we need to do for transportation long term as we go into the next session in 2027.” Republicans criticize attempts to move referendum to May Diehl was a lead petitioner for the campaign alongside Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr, R-Dundee, and Jason Williams, director of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon. On Nov. 12, they received approval from the Oregon Secretary of State to begin collecting signatures to refer the law to the ballot, and

within a month the group submitted nearly 200,000 signatures. “When we did the referendum, we marked that box that says we want it on the November 2026 ballot,” he said. “We got all the signatures, all verified for November 2026. This ship has sailed. I know they have the legal right to move it, but November is the people’s day to vote. That’s when the people show up to vote in the general election.” Starr echoed Diehl’s concerns, noting that primaries usually have less voter turnout than general elections. In the state’s last gubernatorial election year in 2022, voter turnout reached 37% in the primary, compared to 67% in the general election. “Republicans have been clear from the beginning that we can balance ODOT’s budget without raising taxes, and that is exactly what we are working to do,” Starr said. “We are having real conversations about priorities

and accountability, and that is how governing is supposed to work. Manipulating the election calendar to avoid political consequences is not how Oregonians expect their government to operate.” Gubernatorial candidate Sen. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, also criticized the attempts to move the referendum. “This is what desperation looks like,” Drazan said in a statement. “Tina Kotek is afraid of being on the same ballot as her gas tax. At the end of the day she can’t avoid Oregonians; they will hold her accountable.” Oregonians rallied together in record time to advance the referendum, and for the first time Democrats are realizing the power of the political minority, House Republican Leader Lucetta Elmer, R-McMinnville, said in a statement. “If this policy is so good, it should stand on its own — on a full, general election ballot,” Elmer said. “Trying to tuck it away in an off-cycle election only confirms what the people already know: this gas tax is unpopular, and the public deserves a real say.” <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/22/oregon-democratic-leaders-push-to-move-transportation-referendum-to-may/> Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

# PCL appoints ChiAnn Morris as area director

Partnerships in Community Living (PCL) recently appointed ChiAnn Morris as the newest area director on its senior Life Services and Operations leadership team. In this role, Morris will oversee programs supporting individuals with complex needs, bringing her extensive experience and compassionate leadership to PCL’s mission.

A native of Wilsonville, Oregon, Morris attended Southern Oregon University and later completed her education at Arizona State University. Her career spans a range of roles supporting youth and individuals with complex needs, including:

- Coordinator at MacLaren
- Juvenile Program Director and Case Manager at SE Works
- Youth Engagement Specialist with Youth Progress

- Behavioral Specialist with Family Solutions
- Work with Trillium Lake Residential

Throughout her career, Morris has focused on helping youth overcome challenges such as gang involvement, supporting educational achievement, and fostering successful community participation. At MacLaren, she contributed to behavioral programs that resulted in low recidivism, high graduation rates, and strong college enrollment outcomes. She holds a degree in Criminology from Southern Oregon University and Arizona State University and certifications in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and Crisis Intervention.

Outside of her professional work, Morris enjoys fishing, hunting, coaching high school basketball, volunteering at a

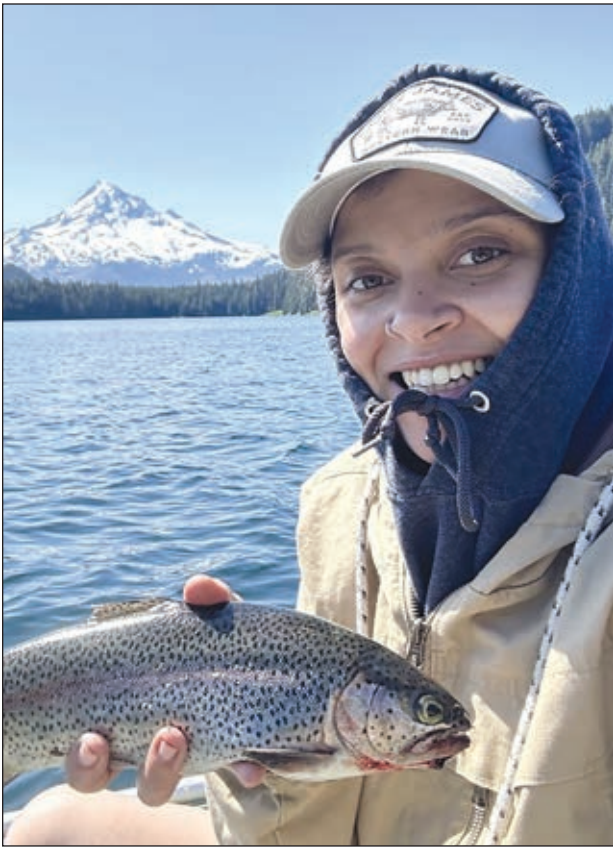


PHOTO COURTESY PCL

**ChiAnn Morris, who was recently as Partnerships in Community Living’s (PCL) the newest area director on its senior Life Services and Operations leadership team is also an avid fisher in her spare time.**

ranch, and working with her K9 police-trained dog, Jax. She is also an avid history enthusiast.

“ChiAnn brings a strong blend of structure, empathy, and practical problem-solving to our leadership team,” the senior leadership team at PCL said in a press release. “Her values of trust, honesty, and continuous learning align perfectly with PCL’s mission. We are excited for the leadership and guidance she will provide to our teams and the people we support.”

PCL invites the community to join in welcoming ChiAnn Morris to her new role.

**About Partnerships in Community Living**  
Partnerships in Community Living supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live meaningful, fulfilling lives in their communities

and homes. Founded in Independence, Oregon in 1987 as Polk County Summer Camp for the Handicapped, PCL initially provided integrated recreation for about 75 people in Polk, Marion, and Yamhill counties.

Today, PCL serves approximately 200 people across eight counties and employs roughly 650 team members. Services range from 24-hour in-home support to career-building programs, community inclusion initiatives, and individualized assistance tailored to each person’s goals and needs.

PCL has consistently been recognized for excellence, including being named one of Oregon’s Best Large Nonprofits to Work For and receiving the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Business of the Year award in 2021.

## Independence Police perform focused seat belt enforcement

Through Feb. 8, law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon will use federally funded enforcement hours to educate the public about safety belt and child seat laws including a law passed in 2017 increasing safety for children under

age two.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading nationwide cause of death for children ages 1-12. In 2023, 1,972 children under 12 were injured in Oregon traffic crashes, 11 percent were reported not using a child restraint system. It

is estimated that car seats may increase crash survival by 71% for infants under one year old and by up to 59% for toddlers aged one to four. Booster seats may reduce the chance of nonfatal injury among four- to eight-year-olds by 45% compared to

safety belts used alone.

This enforcement is made possible thanks to federal funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Impact.

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OBITUARIES



RONNA GAIL UNGER, OF DALLAS, OREGON, ENTERED HEAVEN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026.

Ronna was born on April 12, 1953, in Wichita, Kansas, to Earl and Lois (Schmidt) Balzer. She grew up in Gresham, Oregon, graduated from Centennial High School in 1971 and then attended Mt. Hood Community College for one year. Ronna married Dennis Unger

on October 13, 1973, at Peace Mennonite Church in Gresham. Ronna worked with her father-in-law at Bob Unger Appliance for some time, later working at Western Oregon University and retiring from Oregon State University. Ronna was a member of the Evangelical Bible Church for 53 years. During that time, she was an AWANA Leader, helped out at MOPS, and oversaw the church kitchen hospitality for a

number of years. Ronna enjoyed many hobbies including flower gardening, quilting, and cross stitch. She was an avid baker and was known for her Christmas cookies and coconut cream pies. Ronna was also an accomplished seamstress and did a lot of sewing for family and friends. Ronna enjoyed traveling, family gatherings and attending her children’s and granddaughter’s sports and

activities. She is survived by her husband, Dennis Unger; daughter, Maria (Keith) Moore; son, Brodie (Vannessa) Unger; grandchildren, Molly and Emma Moore, Reagan and Caroline Unger; brother, Thayne (Mary Anne) Balzer; sister, Jenelle (Steve) Ediger; along with numerous nieces and nephews. Bollman’s Tribute Center is caring for the family.



MARK JOHNSON 03/16/1958 - 01/02/2026

Mark Allen Johnson, 67 years old, passed away January 2nd, 2026. Born on March 16th, 1958, in Boring Oregon of Loral (Bud) L. Johnson and Mary E. Caywood. Retiree of Oregon Department of Transportation of 37 years. Mark’s spirit was rooted in community and a deep connection to the outdoors, reflected in his passion for hunting and unwavering patriotism. He was active in the Elks Lodge

1950. He was kindhearted, family oriented, loyal, and a great conversationalist. His terrible cooking and joyous laughter will be deeply missed. Survived by his wife Dinah L. Johnson, children Heather C. Herman, Erin V. Stephenson, Benjamin A. Johnson, his brother Michael A. Johnson, and 8 grandchildren. Proceeded by 1 child James R. Johnson. Memorial Service at Keizer Elks Lodge 01/31/2026 at 2 PM 4250 Cherry AVE, Keizer, Or 97303



DEAN CHESTER DODSON PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY AT HIS HOME ON DECEMBER 25, 2025.

Dean was born on November 25, 1951, in Dallas, Oregon to Ralph Chester and Doris Dodson, a farming family in Perrydale, Oregon. He grew up with a love of fishing, camping, hunting, and enjoying the outdoors. At age four, he was the ring bearer in the double wedding of his older sisters. He attended Perrydale School, where he was a member of the Future Farmers of America. After graduating, he began his own farm enterprise. He was an active member of the community, serving on the board of the Ag West cooperative, and the Perrydale Water Association, where he continued to serve for the rest of his life.

In 1983, he married Cindy Jones of Newport, Oregon. In the following year, they gave birth to Eric, followed by Devin and Kaitlyn. Dean involved his sons in tractor rides, toy boat races in drainage ditches, and overnight campouts. His sons worked for him during summer harvest while they were in

high school and college. As an infant, Katy showed symptoms of Retts Syndrome, a disabling genetic condition. Dean was a loving, gentle father, and showed special care and tenderness with Katy and her special needs. He went with his family on many vacations to the Northwest’s natural wonders. Dean loved farming. His easygoing nature belied a rock-solid sense of how he thought things should be. He also wouldn’t hesitate to park his pickup in the road to catch up with a neighbor, sometimes continuing to chat even after saying, “well, I should probably be heading on.” Even while battling cancer, he maintained his upbeat outlook and enjoyed one more family vacation at East Lake in 2025. Dean is survived by his wife, Cindy Dodson; son, Eric Dodson and his wife, Lindsay Braun; son, Devin Dodson and his fiancée, Kaylee Chavez; grandsons, Preston and Oliver Dodson; sister, Shirley Bird; brother-in-law, Bob Bartell; sister, Darlene Seeger and her husband, Virgil Seeger; nieces, Susan Loomis, Pam Bartell, Terri Bartell, and Debra Sears; and nephews, Gary Bird and Alan Bird. He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Chester Dodson; mother, Doris Dodson; sister, Janice Bartell; and daughter, Kaitlyn Marie Dodson. Memorial services and reception will be held on Saturday, January 24 at 1:00 pm at Bollman’s Tribute Center, 287 SW Washington St, Dallas, Oregon.



JOAN KUHNS 8/19/1941 - 1/8/2026 Joan Marie Kuhns was born August 19, 1941, in Salem,

Oregon, to Joseph and Marie (Anna Marie) Smiley. She grew up in Rickreall with her parents and sister, Sandra, until her father’s death when Joan was 11, after which the family moved to Monmouth to be near relatives. Family remained central throughout her life. After graduating from Central High School, Joan married Paul Williams in 1963. They raised three children—Lisa, Eric, and Cara—in Monmouth before divorcing in 1977. Joan built a remarkable 30+ year career at Western Oregon University, ultimately serving for two decades

as Assistant to the President. In 1986, Joan married Ty Kuhns. They lived in Salem and Dallas before settling in the Charbonneau community in Wilsonville, where they enjoyed retirement, gardening, travel to Hawaii, and time with family. Joan is lovingly remembered by her children, their spouses, six grandchildren, and the extended family she gained through Ty, including his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Cremated and at Joan’s request no memorial service.



CHARLES EDWARD “CHUCK” PERRY 2/20/1957 - 12/24/2025

Charles Edward “Chuck” Perry passed away on December 24, 2025, in Corvallis, Oregon. Born February 20, 1957, he was preceded in death by his parents, Horace E. Perry, Jr. and Patricia “Pat” Pattillo Perry. Chuck married Gail Merritt Perry on August 8, 1981, and they were blessed to raise three loving children: David Perry (Nina) of Portland, Lisa Perry and Jonathan Perry, both of

Monmouth. Chuck graduated from Spring Woods High School in Houston and from Baylor University in Waco, Texas where he then served as Director of the Baylor Religious Hour “BRH” Choir and as worship pastor in local churches for 10 years. He and Gail moved their family to Monmouth, Oregon in 1993 where he served as Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship and later as Director of bands, choirs and worship teams at Santiam Christian Schools for 20 years. Chuck leaves behind a legacy of faith, joy, worship, dedication to family, life-giving words he spoke to those in his realms of influence, and the artful leadership of groups in creating beautiful music. His legacy is carried forward by his children and by his many students and friends. He is survived by his wife and children, granddaughter, Rose, sisters Janet Pankratz

(Greg) of Katy, Texas and Summer Garnett (Alan) of Richmond, Virginia and brother Sam Perry (Kristi) of Granbury, Texas and many beloved nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: BRH Choir Endowment Fund, or Santiam Christian Schools High School Music Fund Please contact: remember-chuckperry@gmail.com for additional donation information and for links to the service livestream and replay. A Celebration of Life Service will be held January 31 at Life Church, 255 College Dr NW, Salem, Oregon. Schedule: 1:00 Visitation 2:00 Service Choir alumni are invited to join in singing “A Simple Prayer” to close the service and all guests are invited to stay for a dessert fellowship following the service.

JOYCE STEVENSON OBITUARY It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, Joyce E. Stevenson of Dallas, OR. Born July 4th, 1927, in San Bernardino, CA and passing on Jan. 10th, 2026, in Salem, OR. She spent the majority of her adult life in Dallas with her husband, Robert and four sons, Jeff, Mark Craig

(Nancy) and Alan. She started as a Home Ec. Teacher before her job as a homemaker. It was this thankless profession that she excelled at most. Interment will take place on Friday Jan. 30th at Restlawn Memorial Gardens. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31st at 1pm, at Bollman’s Tribute Center in Dallas, OR.

Find it in the Classifieds

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

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COMMENTARY

# Is Oregon turning a population corner? Maybe

**RANDY STAPILUS**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

If you’ve become accustomed to headlines about Oregon losing population as people flee the state, be prepared for something different.

Not massively different. Just another way of looking at the state’s trajectory.

Depending on the statistician judging it, Oregon’s population growth early in this decade was soft, at times nonexistent, maybe even falling off slightly; Conventional wisdom began to develop that, for example, the state may lose its newly-acquired 6th Congressional District after the 2030 census as a result of not keeping up with the national average.

We’re still some distance from that next census, so hard predictions are risky. But the most recent indicators are that Oregon’s growth patterns are kicking in again as they weren’t three and four years ago.

The most distinctive data point, especially for anyone in the Oregon-in-decline mindset, came days ago from United Van Lines. Its 2025 national movers study ranked Oregon highest in the nation among the 50 states for net inbound moves — 1,188 inbound (from other states) to 654 outbound. The next five ranked states were West Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware, Minnesota and Idaho, states that don’t fall on any easy ideological line. (New Jersey, New York and California brought up the end of the list.)

The company also tracked reasons for the moves, and while Oregon didn’t rank especially high for purposes of retirement, moving closer to family or better cost of living, it did rank high for “lifestyle change” and “new job or company transfer.” That suggests Oregon is looking better to people around the country. The company seems not to have tracked

political or cultural reasons, though those might be hard to reliably obtain.

In the most recent study from U-Haul, the other large industry evaluator, Oregon ranked lower. But it still did much better than in previous years; U-Haul noted, “Oregon enjoys the largest year-over-year climb on the index, ranking 11th as a net-gain state in 2025 after ranking 34th as a net-loss state in 2024 — a jump of 23 positions.”

These company reports are, of course, more in the area of anecdotal information than comprehensive statistics. So let’s take a little wider view.

State population growth comes in two ways, either natural growth (births exceeding deaths) or arrivals from other places exceeding departures. Oregon’s natural growth long has been soft, so much of the picture hinges

on moves to and from other states.

In the last decade, from 2010 to 2020, Oregon grew by about 11.9%, more than the overall national growth rate of 9.6%. The COVID-19 year of 2020 slowed that, as the state still grew but very slightly (about 0.7%), this time less than the nation overall.

In the next couple of years population growth hit the brakes even more, and seemed to stall almost completely in 2022.

Since then, clearer growth has returned, albeit modestly.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census and Portland State University are the main comprehensive analysts of population statistics. The Census said that Oregon lost population in 2022, but has since resumed growth. PSU has reported somewhat higher numbers.

In overview, the statistics site NCH Stats said “As of 2025, Oregon’s population is estimated at 4,227,340, reflecting a steady growth rate of 0.89%, which ranks it as the 22nd fastest-growing state in the country according to the World Population Review. This places Oregon among the states experiencing moderate population increases, aligning with its reputation as an attractive destination for residents.”

Of course, such growth as Oregon has seen hasn’t been evenly distributed.

The Portland metro area has seen growth light enough to drop it from 25 to 26 in size among the nation’s largest metro areas. Portland and to some degree Multnomah County have had mostly sluggish growth in this decade. But neighboring Washington and Clackamas Counties have had plenty of activity.

And the heaviest growth has turned up in the region around Bend, in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

The counties which have seen the highest proportional growth have been Crook and Sherman Counties, east of the Cascades — places where growth in data centers has been especially large.

Apart from psychological and economic considerations, the level of population in Oregon matters because the 6th congressional district seat, which the state added in 2022, could remain here or go somewhere else, to a faster-growing state.

If Oregon’s numbers held at the 2022 and 2023 levels, that seat might well vanish. But if some of the newer indicators hold up in the next few years, so might the state’s congressional representation.

Not to mention the state’s overall state of mind.

*Randy Stapilus has researched and written about Northwest politics and issues since 1976 for a long list of newspapers and other publications. A former newspaper reporter and editor, and more recently an author and book publisher, he lives in Carlton.*

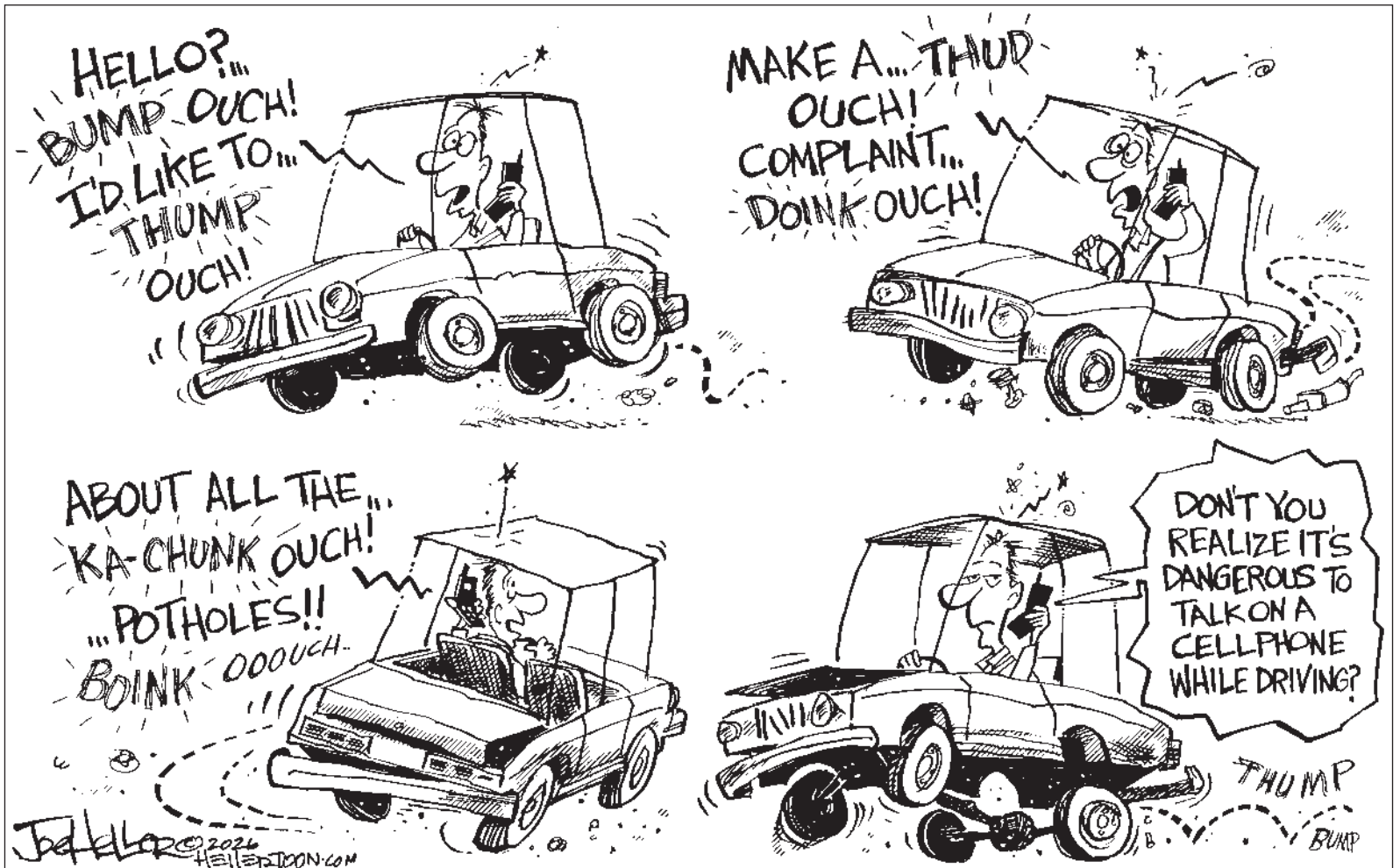
<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/01/15/is-oregon-turning-a-population-corner-maybe/>

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Temp/Rainfall		
Jan. 19 -	50 27	0.00
Jan. 20 -	49 23	0.00
Jan. 21 -	46 25	0.00
Jan. 22 -	41 23	0.00
Jan. 23 -	48 31	0.00
Jan. 24 -	45 24	0.00
Jan. 25 -	41 20	0.00
Total Jan. 19-25		- 0.00
Total through Jan. 25 -	1.95	

Weekly Online Poll
Are you changing your eating habits because of the increasing cost of food?
Yes.....62.2%
No.....37.8%



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# \$25M secured to protect maternity care

Gov. Tina Kotek has announced a coordinated effort with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Hospital Association of Oregon to stabilize and sustain labor and delivery services across the state.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to keeping care local, supporting new families, and ensuring hospitals are sustained through higher rates for maternity costs.

“Every Oregon family deserves access to safe, local maternity care,” Kotek said. “By bringing together public and private partners, we are aligning policy and funding to keep care close to home. This investment

is about more than dollars—it’s about taking steps forward to sustain the health and vitality of communities for generations to come.”

**Investing in Maternity Care**

Recognizing that maternity care is foundational to healthy communities, the governor requested funding from the legislature to stabilize hospital operations. The Governor has directed OHA to distribute \$25 million of General Funds in a targeted way following input from impacted hospitals:

- \$15 million will provide stabilization payments to smaller, rural hospitals that offer maternity services.

These hospitals have fewer than 50 beds and may or may not be within 30 miles of another hospital. OHA will be identifying options to match these funds federally for maximum, direct impact prior to distribution.

- \$10 million, multiplied by federal match for an even greater impact, will be invested in larger hospitals through Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) rates and is reflected in the 2026 coordinated care organization (CCO) rates.

“Hospitals are facing mounting challenges in keeping the

services available that Oregonians rely on,” Hospital Association of Oregon President and CEO Becky Hultberg said. “This boost in payments is a good first step toward stabilizing maternity services—especially in rural communities—and demonstrates what’s possible when state leaders and hospitals work together toward shared goals.”

**Why Stabilizing Maternity Care Matters**

Strong local maternity systems promote healthier starts for babies, which translates into better long-term health, educational, and economic outcomes for states and communities. Across Oregon and the nation,

smaller, rural hospitals face mounting challenges in sustaining maternity services. Workforce shortages and increasing healthcare costs have forced some hospitals to close labor and delivery units, leaving families to travel long distances for care. These closures can have lasting impacts on maternal and infant health outcomes, as well as the vitality of rural communities.

The governor’s investment aims to reverse that trend by providing targeted support where it is needed most. Stabilizing maternity care requires shared responsibility among state agencies, hospitals, policymakers, and insurers. This approach will maximize state resources for hospitals while navigating federal limitations under House Resolution 1, also referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill.”

“Maternity care is the cornerstone of healthy communities,” OHA Director Dr. Sejal Hathi said. “These investments will help stabilize hospitals that provide this critical service and ensure families can continue to rely on care in their own communities. We are proud to work with the governor and our partners to make this happen.”

*For a list of hospitals by type, please refer to OHA’s Oregon Hospital Types document.*

## ADAMS

From Page A1

almost pulled it off,” Adams recalled.

Last year, Adams found himself addressing a slate of local school board candidates, encouraging them to be good leaders for all students, not just those in need at one end or those excelling at the high end, what he called the “15 percenters.”

Adams had no wish to serve a second go-around on the school board himself after eight years on the Salem Keizer school board from 1996-2004.

Nevertheless, he was approached afterwards by three individuals who encouraged him to once again enter the breach and consider throwing his hat into the ring and come full circle to run to fill the seat of a now retiring Craig Pope. Adams said the first was his longtime friend, Lyle Mordhorst, Pope’s fellow commissioner. The second was Chip North, former president of the Polk County Republican party. And

finally, a member of the Marion Polk First PAC approached Adams, looking to add Adams to their slate of candidates to run for local offices.

After years of running local businesses, serving on boards, 20-plus years on the Salem Suburban Fire Protection District, and volunteering for everything from Young Life Club leader to pack leader for a Boy Scouts troop to a football coach, Adams said after his wife, he really needed to pray to a higher power to make sure entering a public race was the right move.

“It was a really simple prayer, ‘Lord, I’m going to move in this direction. If there is an open door, I’m going to go through it.’ If there’s a closed door, it’s a pretty clear signal I shouldn’t be doing this,” Adams recalled.

He drove around the county one Sunday last July.

“I experienced a peace about everything. That’s when I decided to run,” he said.

However, he developed



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

**West Salem businessman Mark Adams has entered the race for County Commissioner Seat 3 against incumbent Jeremy Gordon and Dallas City Councilor Carlos Barrientos.**

a different strategy. He’d run behind the scenes, gathering momentum before declaring himself a candidate. And, he’d run instead for Seat 3, against incumbent Jeremy Gordon and Dallas City Councilor Carlos Barrientos, who had already announced his candidacy.

He sees his business experience as the main attribute that sets him apart from his opponents.

“I respect both those

guys. A ton of public service experience. But neither one has business experience,” Adams said.

The other advantage he sees is this is where his roots are.

“Both are transplants to Polk County. There’s something about being local that resonates with people. There are folks in Polk County who have lived here two, three, four generations,” Adams said.

Another difference

to his campaign, he explained, is he’s not going to voters with any of the usual three or five top issues. Rather, he plans to win over voters with a winning philosophy.

“Issues come and go. You deal with an issue, succeed or fail, and move on to something else. I come in with more of a philosophy of a way of doing business,” Adams said.

He explained being a business owner, you realize there’s something different every day, from the fairgrounds at the county level to a new police station at the city level.

“You have to have the experience and knowledge on how to handle every issue, little to big, be able to think outside the box, and realize all the info you’re given as commissioner, which is usually from staff... then be able to look and say is that the only information or is there more information, another view maybe I’m not aware of?” Adams said.

He added his philosophy boils down to accountability, small government and livability/public safety.

“Polk County is actually a pretty good county compared to a lot of places. A really well run county. But we have to make sure to maintain that. And that’s a mindset,” he said.

Learn more about Adams’ campaign at [www.electmarkadams.com](http://www.electmarkadams.com).

## TRUCK

From Page A1

about 8-feet by 16-feet and occupy an open spot within a pod.

“When I won that food cart, I knew this was meant for me. I worked my butt off for 10 years,” Sarff said.

His solo career didn’t take off so easily. Sarff said the manager of a food pod in Happy Valley Station rejected his first menu concept featuring chicken and beef bowls, as it would conflict too much with the other food carts already at the pod.

So, Sarff went with plan B. Roldan had been smoking barbecue at a Boomer’s Barbecue in North Portland. They figured out there was no barbecue south of town in Happy Valley Station and his mom’s sides went well with barbecue.

Sarff said he slid the owner of the food pod the new menu and said, “We’re doing Cindy Lou’s Barbecue.”

The owner of the pod loved the idea. Thus began his 10-year journey paying tribute to his parents, both of whom Sarff lost too soon.

“My parents died way too young. My mom passed at 47 and father passed at 59,” he said.

Along the way, family had helped get Cindy Lou’s up and running, including Roldan’s brother

Jesse, Sarff’s father Ryan, and his sisters Sara and Sissy.

“I know that God was involved and mother was involved for sure,” he said, glancing above toward Heaven.

However, a pattern soon evolved that pursued the business over the next decade – getting priced out of renting at a favorable location. After being priced out of three locations in the Salem area, the two friends decided to go mobile with a food truck.

They sold the cart back to the owner of Happy Valley Station who gave it to them for \$100, saying “What am I doing buying this?”

“I know what you’re buying. You’re buying the story. Tell people you help Cindy Lou start,” Sarff said.

Now supplied with a truck, Sarff had the money and equipment, they just needed to try and make all that come together. His first estimate to outfit the truck into proper food service came from a guy out in South Salem who wanted \$60,000. Too steep, Sarff was walking away when a group of brothers working for the guy gave Sarff a better offer to build his trucks for \$25,000.

Their barbecue is similar to Texas style in an offset smoker, using mesquite charcoal with apple,

white oak, and hickory split logs added for flavor.

“We call it Oregon barbecue because we’re out here loading up the smoker in the rain,” Sarff said.

With everything in place, just as they were about to go mobile, COVID hit, forcing them to stay put. They survived the pandemic staying in a location behind Ink Daddy’s Tattoo on Commercial Street for 4 ½ years. Then, once again, got priced out and had to move.

Then, the opportunity to come full circle came their way. The owner of the mechanic’s shop wanted to open a food pod there in Monmouth and Cindy Lou’s would become his first tenant. Shortly after, however, Sarff said he changed directions and decided to rent out the shop for one sole food provider.

“It turned out to be a perfect situation for us. We can pull the truck in here for security,” he said. “We put the smoker out back, there’s plenty of parking, we’re right on the main drag, which is awesome.”

Now tenants of a full sitdown eatery featuring food prepared in their food truck, Sarff said they’re still figuring out how to promote the other side of their business from the location – catering. That’s where their second

food truck, decked out with warming boxes, comes into play. Roldan will man that truck at the Monmouth location while Sarff and his wife, Marina, will hit the road, offering up their barbecue at events, conventions, weddings and festivals.

He’s looking to get involved in the community more, too. Sarff has already signed up to do a partnership with The Gate Youth Association, get involved in the summer concert series, the Independence 4th of July and hopefully Dallas Days.

In the summer, he and his wife are really busy with catering weddings and events. Last year they catered an event for the city of Hillsboro, offering up 1,200 servings.

“So, Johnny and I can serve a lot of people, very fast,” he said. “We’ve hardly scratched the

surface. My goal is to be here in the Willamette Valley and expand out toward the coast. But for the moment, we plan on being here for a long time at this location. And we’re super happy to be back in our home town in Polk County.”

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MERKLEY  
From Page A1

dominant issue. The issue came up repeatedly from the attendees during the Q&A.

More than 200 people attended, many of them from the 60+ crowd. One stood up and asked when her raffle ticket was picked from a hat asked, “What do you think the democrats should be doing currently in the face of the call for Minnesota to abolish ICE?”

Merkley instead took the track of looking at it from a bi-partisan way to get it done. He asked if anyone was upset with the way ICE has been operating and received a rousing round of cheers.

“These things of unidentified folks throwing you unmarked vans and being denied due process, which is our Constitutional guarantee against an oppressive government, that’s fascism, and we have to stop it,” he said.

Merkley said solutions can come through bipartisan legislation. One is put back in law, rather than rule, the “sensitive place.” The second is a bill he’s introduced requiring officers to wear agency identifiers.

“And another bill requires, you must immediately, within a certain few hours, give access to a lawyer and family members and they can’t hide you and not tell people where you’re at. Those are basic things that are critical here,” he said.

Another attendee wanted Merkley’s advice for those interested in more than just protesting,

wanting to be engaged or even thinking of running for office.

“I’ve been hearing and seeing a lot of things that it doesn’t sound like it’s a very safe job these days,” she prompted.

Merkley said his career before the U.S. senate was working on some police campaigns in D.C. then with Habitat for Humanity when he returned to Oregon. While talking with politicians, he began to wonder if he’d be more successful from their side of the table opening floodgates to funding if he ran for office.

He attended a training on the potential for running for office in South Carolina.

“She said, look at all this archery target with all the rings. ‘The middle of the ring is the most effective thing you can do to run for office. And it’s knocking on doors. She paused and said, ‘And it’s free,’” Merkley recalled.

The next effective action that was recommended was going to any form of meeting, such as the school board, followed by calling people on the phone asking them what they want changed. Both, again, were free.

“Okay, what people can do is grass roots. I thought you had to have a lot of money and a lot of connections. And you don’t. All you have to do is care about your community and knock on doors,” Merkley said.

Another issue broached by an attendee in a motorized wheelchair was veterans’ toxic exposures during service that has led to the onset of Parkinson’s Disease.

“One of things we



Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley presents a flag that flew over the U.S. Capital to Stephanie Gilbert of the Polk Community Resource Center.

did pass related to toxic exposure was a bill that says diseases that stem attending to burning pits or other exposure,

particularly in Iraq, you could presume a higher incident of disease, the person can presume it is from their service and

you don’t have to prove it as terms of it being an obstacle,” Merkley said.

Finally, an attendee expressed her concern the

U.S. was going to lose its democracy.

“I think everyone, regardless of party, should be doing a peaceful protest, whatever way they’re able,” she said, adding if writing letters and making phone calls make any difference.

Merkley recommended another tact that residents could take.

“At other town halls, others have called for, and I hadn’t considered, ... is for a group or organizations to call for a general strike,” Merkley said to rousing applause.

“I’m talking about an organization saying here’s a day, let’s shut down the economy to show we have to do something different. Because the gravity of the situation and if we don’t find ways to really drive a point home, we’re going to end up in an entrenched, authoritarian strongman state with rigged elections and with little pathways to get out of it. We just cannot let that happen.”



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# Last-second heroics power Panthers to another victory, 54-53



FILE PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON  
Jack Holestine (23) drives to the basket in action against Woodburn Jan. 9.

By LANCE MASTERSON  
For The Itemizer-Observer

Lucas Haines was at the right place at the right time for the Panthers when the varsity boys basketball team edged Corvallis, 54-53, on Jan. 20.

Haines’s putback came with four-tenths of a second left on the clock, proving to be the game winner. What happened was by design. Following a timeout, the Panthers ran their set, got the

shot they wanted, and trusted someone would be there to finish if necessary. The first shot bounced off the rim. But Haines was where he was supposed to

See **BOYS**, page B8



FILE PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON  
Panthers Natalie Ball (left) and Molly Henderson turn up the defensive pressure against North Eugene on Dec. 5.

# Missed opportunities thwart Panthers’ chances

By LANCE MASTERSON  
For The Itemizer-Observer

Missed opportunities proved costly as the Panthers fell to visiting Corvallis, 36-30, in varsity girls basketball on Jan. 20.

Despite struggling offensively for much of the game, the Panthers kept competing,

especially on defense, while fighting back from an early deficit. “We’re still fighting. We didn’t give up,” Central coach Marc Burleson said. “We just have to make some shots. That’s really what it came down to tonight.” Down 10-4, Central and its defense

dominated the second quarter. The girls scored 10 points to the Spartans three. “Once we picked up our intensity on defense, that transitions into our offense,” Burleson said. “We got a couple of quick layups and some” See **GIRLS**, page B2



Emma Velasquez ties up her opponent. (Photos by Vidal Peña)



Eli Vidal thinks of how to get out before taking first place.

# Panthers fare well in tune up for State Championships

The Panther Kids sent 23 wrestlers to one more club tournament in preparation for the State Championships Jan. 30. The Panther Kids were sitting at third place after the younger kids session. However, with only seven afternoon wrestlers, other teams with many more wrestlers were able to overcome the lead and Panthers finished outside the top 10. Many Panthers did well. “Today we stepped onto the mat one last time before the state championships,” said

board president Jessica Vidal. “We wrestled with heart, grit and determination. Every match counted, I am very proud of our team today.” Placing first were Noah and Eli Vidal. Second places went to Issac Vidal, Matthew Mesdag, Spencer Raymond and Vincent DiLorenzo. Coming in third were Nolan Craiger, Lincoln Dryden, Nixon Munson, Tyson Turner, Jo Siah Evans, Tyler Fields, Ezekiel Bolt and Dominic Graham.



Salvador Velasquez works to turn his opponent.

SPORTS  
CALENDAR

JAN. 28  
WRESTLING  
Dallas at Woodburn, 6 p.m.

JAN. 29  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
Powers vs. Perrydale, 5 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL  
St. Stephens vs. Perrydale, 6:30 p.m.

JAN. 30  
WRESTLING  
Central at Tod Surmon Tournament,  
So. Albany High School

GIRLS BASKETBALL  
Crescent Valley vs. Central, 5:30 p.m.  
West Albany vs. Dallas, 5:30 p.m.  
Perrydale at Willamette Valley Christian, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL  
Crescent Valley vs. Central, 7 p.m.  
West Albany vs. Dallas, 7 p.m.  
Chemawa vs. Falls City, 7 p.m.

FEB. 2  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
C.S. Lewis vs. GBB, Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL  
C.S. Lewis vs. Perrydale, 7 p.m.

FEB. 3  
SWIMMING  
Central & Dallas at Albany Community Pool, 4 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL  
South Albany vs. Central, 5:30 p.m.  
Dallas at Silverton, 7 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL  
Dallas at Silverton, 5:30 p.m.  
South Albany vs. Central, 7 p.m.  
Perrydale at Willamette Valley Christian, 7 p.m.

# PAGES OF THE PAST

## 40 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22, 1986

### J.C. Penny ends Dallas history

Seventy-two years of Dallas retailing will come to a close April 5 as the local J.C. Penny outlet closes its doors.

Located at 939 Main St., the store was number 39 among Penny stores nationally and among the three oldest stores in the state when it opened in 1914 as “Golden Rule Stores,” the predecessor to the J.C. Penny name.

### FC negotiates sewer payment

Neal Quade, general contractor of Quade Construction in Lincoln City, and Jim Drayton met with the Falls City Sewer Board Jan. 15 to negotiate the amount of liquidated damages to be kept by Falls City and not paid to Quade Construction.

Because the \$550,400 sewer project was not completed by the Sept. 25 deadline, Falls City withheld \$400 a day on both schedule A (collectible system) and schedule B (the treatment plant) for 22 working days and a total withholding of \$17,600.

### Bucholz leads Perrydale

A pair of wins put Perrydale in the driver’s seat last week during Casco League boys basketball.

The Pirates are 4-0 in the Casco North and 9-2 overall, earning their lofty position by downing Jewell on Jan. 14, 46-31, and St. Paul on Friday, 58-47.

Brett Buchholz was the leader, scoring 19 points and hauling in 18 rebounds against Jewell.

# FLASHBACK



This week’s Flashback is from Wednesday, Jan. 28, 1976: WINNER – Towmotor safety employee of 1975 Joe Rettler (left) receives congratulations from Larry Weiss who is Rettler’s supervisor at the plant. Both men will receive a weekend for two at the Salishan Lodge on the Oregon Coast and a check for \$75. Rettler was the winner over 140 Towmotor employees who worked accident-free for 1975. (File I-O photo.)

## 50 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28, 1976

### Patrols will vote on kindergarten program

The proposed kindergarten matter will be put to a vote of the people and will be included on the April 20 ballot along with the regular school budget. The kindergarten issue and proposed budget will be a separate vote from the regular school budget.

The Budget Committee have just begun their work on the new school budget for next school year.

### Swanson lists years as ‘fascinating’

After 22 years with the Polk County Health Department, director Marie Swanson will retire at the

end of January. She has reached the mandatory retirement age of 65.

Mrs. Swanson has served as head of the department since 1959, and has watched it grow from a staff of two nurses into its present staff of 27 persons.

### Dragons squeak by in overtime

Dallas High’s basketball team was put into the pressure cooker Friday, Jan. 16, when Astoria came to town. The locals withstood the heat and emerged with a 49-46 decision. The burner was turned up a few degrees this past week but the fire eating Dragons showed plenty of character and came through with two more crucial league wins.

## Community Achievement

### TATUM HUTCHESON MAKES PACIFIC UNIVERSITY DEAN’S LIST

Tatum Hutcheson, of Dallas, has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean’s List at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. The Dean’s List recognizes undergraduate students in Pacific’s College of Undergraduate Studies who earn a grade-point average of at least 3.70 and complete 12 or more graded hours.

### LINFIELD UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES STUDENTS ON THE FALL 2025 DEAN’S LIST

Linfield University congratulates the 597 students, including several local students, who earned Dean’s List honors during the fall 2025

academic term.

The Linfield University Dean’s List identifies undergraduate students who earned a GPA at least equivalent to a cum laude (at least a 3.65 GPA) in a given semester or summer term. To be eligible, a student must have earned at least 12 credits in courses with differentiated grades (A-F) and have received no incomplete (I) or in progress (IP) designations. Eligibility is computed following the posting of grades at the end of each semester.

The following students from Polk County were honored:

#### WEST SALEM

Jennifer Ball, a recent graduate

#### MONMOUTH

Jayden Taylor, a senior majoring in mathematics and physics

## GIRLS

From Page B1

drives to the baskets. That’s what happened in the second quarter.”

The focus now turns to carrying that second-quarter intensity through an entire game while also trusting that their shots will start to drop.

“We missed some open, easy shots that we typically make,” the coach said after the game. “For some reason, they just weren’t falling tonight.”

Bella Names and Emery Lushenko tallied six points each while Alondra Garcia Saaverdra added five for the Panthers.

Names added seven rebounds, four steals and

three assists, all team highs.

Corvallis shot less than 25 percent from the field, but made nine more free throws and was better on the boards. They were led by Merrei Panzeri and Zoe Seaders, who combined for 24 points and 11 rebounds.

The Panthers held advantages in steals,

deflections and creating turnovers.

On Jan. 23, the Panthers weren’t much of a match against Lebanon in a 73 blowout.

With the two losses, the Panthers are 2-4 in conference, 3-10 overall.

Central hosts Crescent Valley Friday, 5:30 p.m., and South Albany Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.



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### Bob's BASEBALL Tours

**June 2-7, 2026**  
See MLB games in Minnesota, Milwaukee and both a day and night game at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Tour begins/ends at hotel near Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport  
\$1,700/person based on double hotel occupancy

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Travelers are responsible for getting to starting point of each tour

## CryptoQuip

answer

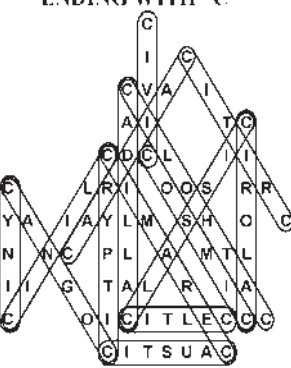
People should be very prudent when selecting beverage containers. Choose your bottles wisely!

### Go Figure!

answers

2	+	8	×	7	= 70
+		+		-	
4	-	3	×	6	= 6
÷		+		+	
1	+	5	+	9	= 15
=		=		=	
6		16		10	

#### BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH “C”



#### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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### Super Crossword

Answers

ENTITLED	PEERAT	PSALMS
LEASHES	ALTARS	STREET
MAJORAPPLIANCE	ARMADA	
AFARALDO	APSOS	
OREOS	NOWBLAIRWITCH	
HEATHFAMILY	ALMOST	
AMSTEL	TOED	OAK
RAY	DUST	BROWN
APAR	IAMS	NEE
ENIGMA	ENT	AWARDER
BRITISH	PRIMEMINISTERS	
EASTERS	TDS	ONTIME
NYTOL	AYE	UPTO
JOHNSON	GRASS	ONEG
INE	PEI	SUEZ
APIARY	EDEN	PRAIRIE
MAYBEETLES	EEER	NOELS
ADULT	EKES	TEED
RECOIL	CHURCH	HILL
ALCOTT	PALLOR	IMADEIT
TEAMED	OWL	LETS
		MODESTY

# Community Calendar Jan. 21-28

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28**

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11:45 a.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Birthday Celebration, Dallas Area Senior Center  
3 p.m. - Lego Party and Contest, for ages 5-18, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

**THURSDAY, JAN. 29**

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Chari Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Children's Storytime, for ages 0-5, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
10:30 a.m. - Bounces and

Rhymes: Winter Series, for ages 0-2, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11:30 a.m. - Lunch Bunch, Dallas Area Senior Center  
12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center  
5:30 p.m. - Monmouth/Independence Quarterly Town Hall, City Hall, 151 Main St W  
6:30 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas

**FRIDAY, JAN. 30**

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Stretch exercise 1, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Art Workshop/CardsTable Games/ 6 Handed Pinochle, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise 2/Drawing for Fun/Writer's Workshop, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Gardening Class, Dallas Area Senior Center  
12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Art Afternoon & Sunshine Club, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Medicare Plans, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/ Birthday party, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center  
2 p.m. - Free English Second Language classes at the Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
2 p.m. - Free Movie: "Freakier Friday," Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public

Library, 175 Monmouth St.  
6 p.m. - Live Comedy: Friday Night Funnies, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence  
6 p.m. - Live Music: Drey Tucker, Two Wolves Taproom, 171 SW Court St., Dallas  
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, JAN. 31**

6 p.m. - Live Music: Gotcha Covered (classic rock cover band), Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence  
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

**SUNDAY, FEB. 1**

9 a.m. - Polk Flea Market, Polk County Fairgrounds  
2 p.m. - Live Music: Mitch Lies, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence  
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Monmouth Big Book Study, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

**MONDAY, FEB. 2**

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. - Stretch Exercise/Hand & Foot/Cribbage/ASL

Class, 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 Chery/Technology Help with Ian, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.  
4 pm - Karaoke, Dallas Area Senior Center  
6 p.m. - Dallas City Council Work Session, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.  
6:30 p.m. - New Horizons Orchestra, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
6 p.m. - Dallas City Council meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.  
7 p.m. - Independence Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 555 South Main St.  
7:30 p.m.- Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center

**TUESDAY, FEB. 3**

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Chair Yoga/Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Children's Storytime, for ages 5 and under, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Family Storytime Winter Series, for ages 3-5, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center

12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Bunko, Dallas Area Senior Center  
6:30 p.m. - Monmouth City Council Meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St W  
6:30 p.m. - Community Dance Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4**

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11:45 a.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
3 p.m. - Tiny Painting, for ages 5-18 to design and create a tiny painting on a mini canvas, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
7 p.m. - Monmouth Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.  
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

# Community Briefs

**MONMOUTH LIBRARY HOSTS LEGO PARTY JAN. 28**

The Friends of the Monmouth Library present a Lego party and contest from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., in Monmouth. Celebrate Lego's birthday, build with our Legos, and create a spaceship to enter our Lego contest! For ages 5-18.

**SUNNYSLOPE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH HOSTS WOMEN'S RETREAT JAN. 30**

The Sunnyslope Christian Reformed Church presents Women's Retreat 2026, from 5 p.m. Jan. 30 to 1 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Fern Hill Lodge, 6000 Fern Hill Road, in Monmouth. Registration fees cover all lodging expenses and food. To sign up, go to <https://bit.ly/4q0wHMP>.

**SIGNUPS OPEN FOR ANNUAL BROCKWAY MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNEY**

The 23rd Annual Brockway Memorial (Open) Golf Tournament is Feb. 7 at Cross Creek Golf Course. The event will be a two-person scramble format over 18 holes with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$80 and includes green

fees, hole prizes, gross/net prizes and snacks. A player does not need a handicap in order to compete in this tournament and the field is open to both men and women and mixed teams.

The tournament is dedicated to the memory of Marius "Brock" Brockway who passed away in 2013. A portion of the entry fees and pay ball will be donated to an organization or foundation that is researching cures and cares for cancer patients.

The deadline for sign up is Jan. 30 and is limited to the first 120 paid players. For more information and/or an application visit or call the pro-shop at (503) 623-6666, go to the Cross Creek Facebook or website [www.crosscreekgc.com](http://www.crosscreekgc.com).

**COMMUNITY INVITED TO JANUARY NIGHT OF WORSHIP JAN 31**

Night of Worship, Zeb Udell and Kim-Tom Udell present January Night of Worship, from 7-9 p.m., Jan 31 at the Guthrie Park Community Center, 4320 Kings Valley Highway, Dallas. Join an evening of worship, prayer and prophetic encouragement. Everyone is welcome, there is no childcare, but children are

more than welcome.

**PENTACLE THEATRE HOSTS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OF FEB. 4**

Pentacle Theatre is hosting a benefit performance of "You Can't Take It With You," with proceeds supporting the work of Isaac's Room, on Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at 324 52nd Ave., West Salem. To purchase tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/45rKnJk>.

**DALLAS MOSAIC CHURCH HOSTS BUNKO NIGHT FEB. 5**

The Dallas Mosaic Ladies hosts a Ladies Bunko Night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Dallas Mosaic Church, 1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. It's \$5 to play, which goes toward prizes. For more information, text Jenny at (541) 300-8713.

**WILLAMETTE VALLEY SYMPHONY PERFORMS FEB. 7-8**

The Willamette Valley Symphony, featuring musicians from Polk and Marion Counties, presents Brahms' Double Concerto and a Reflection on Nature at 7 p.m., Feb. 7 at the Albany Performing Arts Center at West Albany High School and at 4 p.m. Feb. 8 at Ashbrook Private School in Corvallis. Tickets are

\$22 for adults ages 18-65, \$20 for seniors 65 and older and free for youth 17 and under. To purchase tickets, go to [www.ticketleap.events/events/wvsymphony](http://www.ticketleap.events/events/wvsymphony).

**DDA HOSTS BINGO FEB. 10**

The Dallas Downtown Association hosts a February Bingo event at 6 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Two Wolves Taproom, 171 SW Court St. Buy in for ages 21 and older is \$15; extra black out cards are available in exchange for non-perishable good donations.

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

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

**ISN HOSTS PAL-ENTINES DANCE FEB. 13**

Integrated Services Network hosts a Pal-entines Dance from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 13 at 238 Jackson St. E., in Monmouth. Members of the IDD (intellectual and developmental disability) community are invited

to enjoy an afternoon of "speed friending", making crafts and dancing. Snacks and treats will be offered.

**MOONFALL THEATER HOSTS VALENTINE'S EVENT**

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

**4-H POLK COUNTY HOSTS CRITTER CAMPUS FEB. 14**

Oregon 4-H Polk County's annual Critter Campus is at 9 a.m. Feb. 14 at the Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Highway, Rickreall. Learn about rabbits, cavies, poultry, and cats from a broad range of presenters from veterinarians, judges, 4-H leaders, local industry experts, and more. This event is geared towards youth ages 5-18 and has over 30 sessions to choose from. Register ahead of time or the day of. It is \$10 to participate, scholarships available. To

register, go to <https://beav.es/wjy>.

**BRANDON HEATH TO PERFORM BAMBINOS BENEFIT CONCERT FEB. 20**

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

**LOCAL AUTHOR HOSTS BOOK SIGNING FEB. 21**

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

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500  
EMPLOYMENT

Temp. Nurse Position 3- 4 months Duties trimming toe-nails at patients home. Able to travel. Flexible hours. 503-480-5963 Happy Feet Toenail Care

617  
ANTIQUE AUTOS

Classic 1983 Chevrolet Silverado. In great shape. Engine and transmission have been rebuilt. Run really well. The interior has just been replaced. It's a bargain at \$10,000. Have to see to believe. Call to make an appointment. Phone number is 503-510-7360.

800  
RENTALS

Nice commercial space, Independence, 769 N Main, Suite A, busy Main Street intersection. 1500 sq ft. 4 parking spaces. Available Jan. 1. \$3500/mo. 503-838-6420. Please do not disturb tenants next door.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO26-126 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ADVISORY QUESTION

Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be held before the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County, Oregon, on the following dates, locations and times: Date Location Time February 11, , 2026 , Polk County Courthouse Courthouse Conference Room 850 Main Street , 9:00 am , , Dallas, OR 97338 , February 11, , 2026 , Polk County Courthouse , 6:00 pm , , Courthouse Conference Room 850 Main Street Dallas, OR 97338, Regarding the submission of the following Advisory Question to the electors of the County at the election to be held May 19, 2026: CAPTION: ( 10 words) ADVISORY QUESTION CONCERNING FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS? QUESTION: (20 words) Are voters willing to support an Operating Levy to continue operation of the Polk County Fairgrounds PURPOSE: (175 words) The Polk County Board of Commissioners has placed this Advisory Question on the ballot to determine the support level of the voters on continuing the operation of the Polk County Fairgrounds/ Event Center through a local option tax (operating levy). A "yes" vote would mean you would be willing to support a local option tax (operating levy) on the November election. The

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PUBLIC NOTICES

local option tax would be in the range of \$0.13/\$1,000 to \$0.10/\$1,000 for a period of five (5) years. The local option tax would cover operations and necessary upgrades (electrical, parking, interior walkways and building improvement0 to existing facilities at the Polk County Fairgrounds/Event Center. A "no" vote would mean you do not support a local option tax (operating levy) on the November election. The result of which would result in discontinuing the Polk County Fair and the closing of the facility. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF POLK COUNTY, OREGON Lyle Mordhorst, Chair

PCIO26-125 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE POLK COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE AND THE POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The Polk County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider text amendments to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance (PCZO) and the Polk County Comprehensive Plan (PCCP) to: (1) Allow rural Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on certain lands outside of an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), as authorized by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 215.495; (2) Allow rental recreational vehicles (RVs) on certain lands outside of an UGB, as authorized by ORS 215.490; (3) Repeal PCZO 127.035(A), pertaining to development and design standards for manufactured dwellings on Suburban Residential (SR)-zoned properties within an UGB, to be consistent with ORS 197A.432(4). (4) Add new policies and goals to the PCCP related to the proposed rural ADUs and rental RVs. The changes proposed in (1) and (2) above pertain to lands zoned Suburban Residential (SR), Acreage Residential- Five Acre (AR-5), Acreage Residential- Ten Acre (AR-10), Agriculture and Forestry- Ten Acre (AF-10), and Grand Ronde Low Density Residential (GR/LDR). FILE NUMBER: LA 24-01 DATE AND TIME OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING: February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM LOCATION OF MEETING: First Floor Hearing/Conference Rm., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338 APPLICABLE REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Polk County Zoning Ordinance Sections 111.215 (C), 115.040 and 115.060. STAFF CONTACT: Eric Knudson: (503) 623-9237; Knudson.eric@polkcountyor.gov The location of the hearing

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is handicapped accessible. Please advise the Community Development Department at (503) 623-9237 if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting. The applicable criteria and file are available for inspection at no cost and copies may be obtained at a reasonable cost. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection seven days prior to the hearing. Any person desiring to speak for or against this proposal may do so either in person or by representative at the public hearing. The Planning Commission will receive testimony and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will hold a separate public hearing to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation, receive testimony, and make a final local decision on this matter. Written comments may be directed to the Planning Division of the Polk County Community Development Department, 850 Main Street, Polk County Courthouse, Dallas, Oregon 97338-1922. Written testimony may be submitted prior to the hearing at the Polk County Planning Division. Please include reference to file number LA 24-01 in all correspondence. Oral and or written testimony may be rendered at the public hearing. Written comments received by 5:00 PM on February 6, 2026 will be included in the staff report to the Planning Commission. Comments received after this time, but prior to the hearing, will be provided to the Planning Commission at the hearing. Failure of an issue to be raised in person or by letter, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision maker an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes an appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) based on that issue. A decision may be appealed to LUBA within 21 days after the mailing of the decision. Contact LUBA or the Polk County Planning Division for LUBA appeal procedures.

PCIO26-127 NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE IN SELF STORAGE

SALEM WEST LOCATED AT 2401 SALEM DALLAS HWY NW, SALEM, OR 97304 INTENDS TO HOLD A SALE TO SELL THE PROPERTY STORED AT THE FACILITY BY THE BELOW LIST OF OCCUPANTS WHOM ARE IN DEFAULT AT AN AUCTION. THE SALE WILL OCCUR AS AN ONLINE AUCTION VIA WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM ON 2/18/2026 AT 10:00AM. MORGAN WYCKOFF UNIT #007; JEAN BUTLER UNIT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

#062; DARRYL LARSON UNIT #116; JACOB C WARD UNIT #249. THIS SALE MAY BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE. CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

PCIO26-124 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK PROBATE DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of the Estate of: DARLINE C. MELENDY, Deceased. Case No. 25PB10955 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice is hereby given that the undersigned individual has been appointed personal representative of the above listed estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, to the personal representative in care of Penna & James, LLC, 1206 Main Street East, Monmouth, OR 97361; claims not so presented may be barred. The rights of the heirs and devisees may be affected by this proceeding. Additional information may be obtained from the Court records, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first publishes this 28 day of January, 2026 Ronald Crook Personal Representative

PCIO26-123 PUBLIC SALE RICKREALL MINI STORAGE

10255 Rickreall Rd Rickreall OR 97371 503-623-0900 ONLINE AUCTION Will Be Held On 3/14/2026 At www.storageauctions.com Units To Be Sold As A Whole ALL SALES CASH ONLY Rodney Biery B54

PCIO26-122 MONMOUTH MINI STORAGE (503) 838-0803

555 GWINN STREET E, MONMOUTH, OR 97361 UNITS TO BE AUCTIONED OFF VERBALLY ON FEB 21ST AT 10AM. ALL UNITS SOLD AS A WHOLE. TRINA PERAULT UNIT 330, 24, 36. DENNIS DIXON UNIT 148. ROBERT CARROLL UNIT 177. NORMA LECHUGA UNIT 329.

PCIO26-112 PUBLIC HEARING ANNEXATION AND REDESIGNATION/ REZONE OF 46.7 ACRES ALONG S. 13TH STREET

The Independence City Council will hold a public hearing on February 10, 2026 (6:30 pm) to consider the annexation and redesignation/ rezone of approximately 46.7 acres of land off S. 13th Street. The land would be brought into the City for future residential development and would be zoned Mixed-Density Residential. No specific development or subdivision of land would occur as part of the

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proposal - the annexation and redesignation/rezone would simply bring the land into Independence and zone the land for future development. For more information, please visit this website: https://www.ci.independence.or.us/ongoing-development-projects/ Location: 46.7-acre property on S. 13th Street (i.e. Taxlots 1100 and 2100 of Taxmap 8.4.29). The land includes the property 6120 S. 13th Street. Application Criteria: The application will be evaluated using the Oregon State Planning Goals, and the approval criteria in the Independence Comprehensive Plan and Independence Development Code (IDC) Subchapter 10 (General Provisions), 11 (Administrative Provisions), 12 (Zone Changes and Plan Amendments) and 14 (Annexation). The approval criteria are available for review at the Independence Civic Center or online at: https://www.ci.independence.or.us/codes-plans-maps/. Time and Place of Public Hearing: February 10, 2026 (6:30 pm) at the Independence Civic Center (555 S. Main Street, Independence). The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Any requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations, should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to Myra Russell, City Recorder, 503-838-1212 / TTY: 800-735-2900. The City is an Equal Opportunity Provider. Information Available: The above noted file is available for inspection at no cost at the Independence Civic Center. A staff report for the application will be available at least seven days prior to the hearing. Copies of the documents may be obtained from the city for a minimal cost. Submittal of Testimony: Anyone wishing to present written testimony may submit testimony prior to and at the public hearing. Oral testimony may be provided at the public hearing. Appeal Process: Individuals that would like to reserve their right to appeal the proposal should comment or submit a letter, along with any concerns related to the application, by the close of the public hearing. Failure to raise an issue, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the decision-maker the opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes the ability to raise the issue at a subsequent time on appeal before the Land Use Board of Appeals. Any appeal of the decision must be filed with the Land Use Board of Appeals within 21 days of the final decision date. Contact: For further information, please contact Fred Evander at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main Street,

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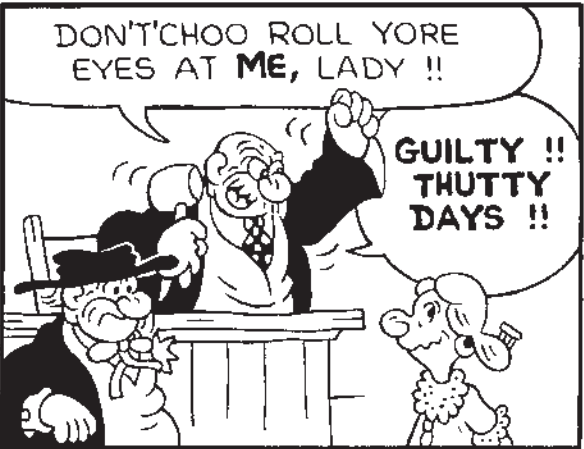
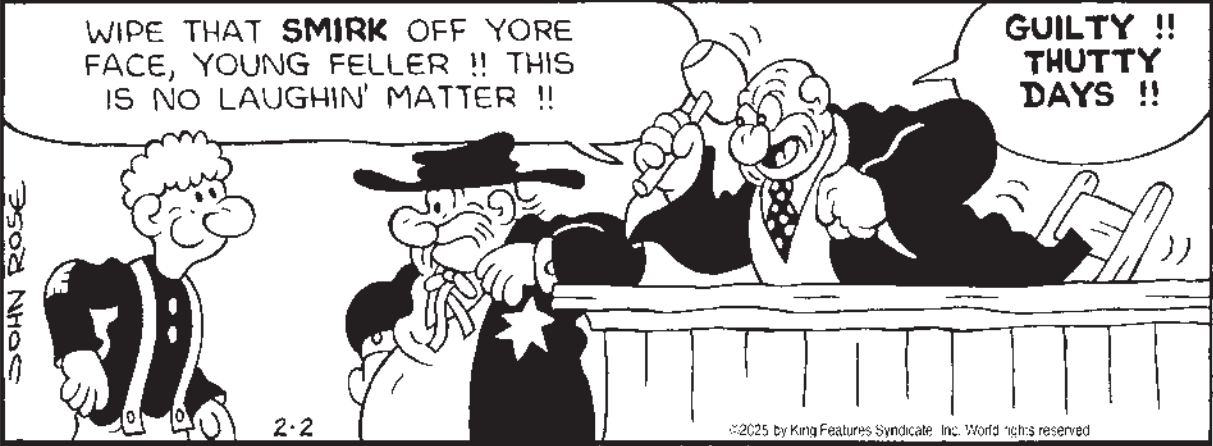
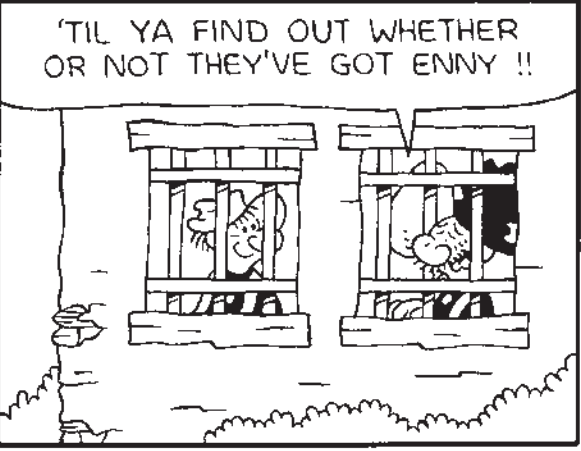
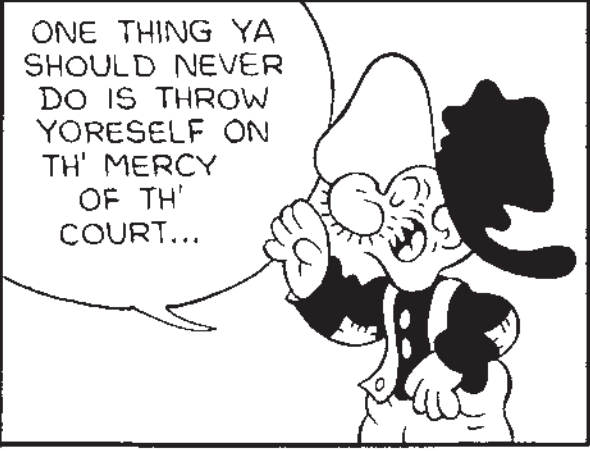
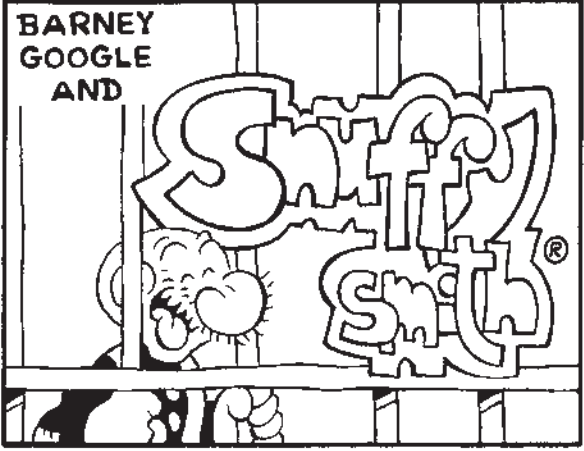
Independence, 503-837-1168, or fevander@ci.independence.or.us

PCIO26-111 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK, PROBATE DEPARTMENT,

CASE NO. 25PB10989, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JILL KATHLEEN JACKSON, DECEASED. NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Scott Kenyon has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at PO Box 781, Corvallis, Oregon 97339, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, Joel Howe, Evashevski Elliott PC, PO Box 781, Corvallis, Oregon 97339. Dated and first published on January 14, 2026. Scott Kenyon, Personal Representative.

PCIO26-103 IN THE MATTER OF: K.B. MINOR CHILD IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO: JU-2024-7.02 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO: CHRISTEL BARBER YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT A PETITION HAS BEEN FILED BY THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES REQUESTING THAT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS TO K.B., BORN JANUARY 4, 2024, TO CHRISTEL BARBER, AT DCH NORTHPORT MEDICAL CENTER, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA, BE TERMINATED. YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILE AN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT AND THE PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY, AMYE JEFFERSON, P. O. BOX 70100, TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35407, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE LAST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR A DEFAULT JUDGMENT WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU. A HEARING HAS BEEN SET IN THIS COURT FOR THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2026 AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE TUSCALOOSA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT, AT WHICH TIME YOU MAY APPEAR AND CONTEST THE SAME IF YOU SO CHOOSE. MAGARIA BOBO CLERK OF JUVENILE COURT



# PUBLIC RECORD

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

## Dallas Police Department

### THURSDAY, JAN. 15

At 9:04 a.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited for speeding 42 mph in a 25-mph zone west of Lyle Elementary School.

At 9:33 a.m., a resident on Wyatt Street reported hearing knocking on the window last night around 11:30 p.m. No one was spotted at the time.

At 10:08 a.m., a motorist on Godsey Road was cited for driving while suspended - violation.

At 2:15 p.m., deputies stood by while Salem Police took a subject into custody on Church Street.

At 3:44 p.m., Phillip Cureton, of Grand Ronde, was arrested on Academy Street and was charged with trespassing 2.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 16

At 2 a.m., Perry Freeman III, of Dallas, was arrested on Ellendale Avenue and was charged with harassment and criminal mischief 2.

At 10:58 a.m., a motorist reported a large truck was tailgating her from Highway 22 to Dallas. A deputy contacted the driver and issued him a warning for his driving behavior. The driver acknowledged his actions and was apologetic.

At 3:47 p.m., a report of two males starting a fire at Dallas City Park. A deputy located the two males who had a fire going in the fireplace located in the gazebo. The deputy advised them to keep it in the fireplace and make sure it was put out when they left. Both parties agreed to this.

At 8:47 p.m., a report of teens or juveniles riding electric scooters on school property after being asked to leave by the principal.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 17

At 6:59 a.m., a subject on Ellendale Avenue who was reported as being a prowler in the neighborhood was advised to not look through windows and doors that do not belong to him.

At 9:16 a.m., a subject brought his kids to the Dallas Police Department to look at their patrol cars and meet officers. Officers handed out stickers and coloring books.

At 10:08 a.m., a motorist involved in a minor accident on Lyle Street was cited for driving uninsured.

At 10:19 a.m., Kyle Prock was arrested on Ellendale Avenue and was lodged at Polk County Jail where he was charged with parole violation.

At 5:14 p.m., a report of a vehicle doing burnouts on the railroad tracks near Holman Avenue. No vehicles were located.

At 5:54 p.m., a report of a motorist who hit a parked car while driving home from Toledo. The driver left the scene of the crash and drove to a lit parking lot and reported the incident.

At 7:42 p.m., a report of four juveniles who moved a stop sign on Barberry Avenue. The juveniles were playing volleyball and used the sign as a “court marker.” The juveniles were educated on moving the sign.

At 10:17 p.m., a motorist on Godsey Road was cited for driving while suspended - violation and received a verbal warning for expired registration and failure to carry and present operator’s license.

At 10:46 p.m., Belle McDougal was arrested on Ellendale Avenue and was charged with assault 4.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 18

At 10:12 p.m., Michael Charpentier was cited and released on Bovard Avenue for criminal trespass 2.

At 5:33 a.m., a motorist on La Creole Drive was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25-mph zone and for failure to renew registration.

At 5:50 a.m., a motorist on Godsey Road was cited for failure to carry and present an operator’s license and was verbally warned for failure to carry proof of insurance.

At 12:28 p.m., an anonymous complaint regarding a small baggie with white substance found in a parking stall. A field test was presumptively positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

At 12:49 p.m., a subject found a Chime debit card near Gentle Dental on Jan. 17. The card was placed into safekeeping.

At 10:18 p.m., a motorist on Bowersville Road was cited for failure to carry and present an operator’s license.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 20

At 5:04 a.m., American Asset repossessed a Toyota Matrix on Hayter Street.

At 7:42 a.m., a motorist from Dallas on Miller Avenue was cited for speeding in 32 mph in a 20-mph school zone and for driving while suspended - violation. Their driver’s license was seized.

At 8:57 a.m., a resident on Levens Street wanted to press charges against a second grader for harassing her second grader. When an officer explained that children that age cannot not be charged, she then wanted the student’s parents charged. The officer tried explaining the law and she said she didn’t care and will call an officer in a higher department.

At 10:08 a.m., Jasper Duncan was cited and released on an outstanding Marion County warrant.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

At 8:07 a.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited and released for failure to carry an operator’s license.

At 8:38 a.m., a Dallas motorist was cited for failure to carry proof of insurance and received a verbal warning for failing to register the vehicle.

At 10:41 a.m., a motorist reported her vehicle was slightly swiped on the front corner bumper while at Safeway.

At 1:53 p.m., a motorist on Fairview Avenue was cited for driving while suspended - violation, and for failing to register the vehicle; the driver was also verbally warned for failing to return a suspended license.

At 4:05 p.m., a report of a water leak on Crater Lake Drive. The city of Dallas shut it off.

At 6:11 p.m., Ryan Reaves was arrested on Kings Valley Highway and charged with criminal mischief 2. He was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 9:33 p.m., a motorist on Levens Street was cited for failure to obey a stop sign and received written warnings for failure to carry insurance and failure to register a vehicle.

## Independence Police Department

### THURSDAY, JAN. 15

At 4:37 a.m., officers responded to an alarm at Dutch Bros. on Pacific Highway. A manager had put in the alarm code wrongly a couple of times.

At 10:13 p.m., officers investigated a domestic disturbance on Gun Club Road. There were no arrests. A male subject was given a courtesy ride to a nearby town for a hotel stay to separate the parties for a night.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 16

At 8:18 a.m., a motorist on

Pacific Highway reported a pickup truck driver had flipped her off, honked at her, passed her in a no-passing zone then brake checked her. While there was probable cause for a reckless endangering crime, she did not wish to press charges. Officers checked the area anyway, but were unable to locate the suspect vehicle.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 17

At 6:27 a.m., a report of a physical domestic disturbance on White Oak Circle. There were no charges filed and both parties separated after officers left.

At 10:48 p.m., Keizer Police put out an area alert for a motorist wanted for menacing someone with a handgun and unauthorized use of a weapon. Independence officers drove by the suspect’s residence on Ecols Street but he was not there.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 18

During a traffic stop on South Main Street at River Road, it was discovered that the driver, Jeremy Kumm, had two failure to appear bench warrants out of Clackamas County. He was arrested and lodged at the Polk County Jail.

### MONDAY, JAN. 19

At 10:39 a.m., a motorist on Monmouth Street was warned for cell phone use while driving.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 20

At 6:53 a.m., a report of criminal mischief and theft on Monmouth Street.

Officers responded to a hit and run crash in the 900 block of North Main Street where the victim was following her ex-significant other after he’d hit her car in a parking lot. Joseph Perez was arrested and charged with driving while suspended - misdemeanor and failure to perform duties of a driver in an accident with property damages. He was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 11:03 a.m., a report of a possible late burglary on E Street.

At 1:08 p.m., a youth was arrested on 16th Street and was charged with parole violation and disorderly conduct. He was lodged at the juvenile facility in Yamhill County.

At 8:26 p.m., a report of a subject stealing cans from a front porch on Grand Street. There is a video of the theft.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

At 8:45 a.m., a report of a stolen catalytic converter on 3rd Street. There is no suspect information.

At 9:25 a.m., a male subject on E Street reported a possible fraud by a family member.

At 6:17 p.m., a report of a possible release agreement violation on Morning Glory Drive.

## Monmouth Police Department

### THURSDAY, JAN. 15

Crash: Non-injury, non-blocking crash at Main Street and Highway 99. A purple pickup truck struck the left rear wheel of a late-model electric truck while turning. The drivers exchanged information, agreeing to settle the matter civilly. The pickup driver admitted distraction from a nearby traffic stop by the county sheriff’s office.

Traffic Violation: A driver was stopped for driving with a suspended license. The driver was also criminally cited for failing to carry and present a license due to an extensive history of driving while suspended convictions.

Welfare Check: The local senior center called for medics for a man yelling about dying, but he left before they arrived. The center then requested a welfare check. An officer who had seen the man earlier noted he appeared fine and planned further follow-up.

Animal: A caller was advised

regarding a follow-up on a previous event concerning a dog (a large breed) that was possibly mistreated. A previous officer had checked and found the dog to be okay.

Fraud: A person reported potential fraud involving their teenage grandson who shared his mobile payment account and potential private identity information of his grandfather with a scammer in exchange for money that was never received. The reporting party was advised to freeze accounts, change logins, and monitor for fraud.

Suspicious Activity: A resident reported ongoing issues with a neighbor operating a commercial business illegally from their home. An employee was contacted who was working on loud machinery. Officers observed commercial equipment and a strong odor. Information is being documented for city staff.

Theft: A person reported a subject stole a bag of cans from their driveway but dropped the bag and fled after the resident yelled. The suspect was described as wearing a slightly puffy quilted jacket. No camera footage was available.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 16

Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants: University Public Safety reported five intoxicated young people on campus. Their vehicle, with two flat tires, had crashed elsewhere before parking at the university. The juvenile driver was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and reckless endangering after failing sobriety tests and having a BAC 0.13%. The driver was released to a parent. Other occupants received minor in possession citations and were trespassing from the campus.

Driving Complaint: A driving complaint was received about motorist in a pickup truck driving aggressively, including passing in a no-passing zone and brake checking another vehicle. The complainant did not wish to press charges. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

Criminal Mischief: An anonymous complainant reported vandalism at the park, with a fence and a city picnic table tagged in pink hairspray, which was left at the scene. The tagging included a word and a derogatory racial term. Public Works will be notified. No suspect information was available.

Missing Property: A person called asking if a missing blue denim purse belonging to their teenage daughter had been turned in. The person was advised no such item had been recovered and was instructed to report any fraudulent transactions made with the debit card inside.

Welfare Check: A childcare center requested a welfare check for a four-year-old student who had missed school for two weeks, due to no contact with the parent and concerns over past domestic issues. The parent was contacted via a video camera and confirmed they and the children were safe, having been at a medical facility with one of the older children.

Found Property: A complainant reported a discarded needle near a driveway, expressing concern for children’s safety. An officer located the needle and safely disposed of it in a sharps container.

Disturbance: A verbal argument occurred between two individuals at a residence because one person was frustrated with the other interrupting them. One of the individuals left the location, and the other denied any physical altercation or need for assistance.

Welfare Check: A report of a male lying on the sidewalk at an intersection. The male was contacted, was fine, and declined medical attention.

Animal: A found dog (a blue heeler/collie mix) was

recovered by an officer and a citizen. The dog had a microchip but was not registered. The owner was later contacted, identified the dog, and arranged for its return. The owner has a history of citations for the dog being at large, and the information was forwarded to relevant staff.

Alarm: An alarm activation occurred at a business. Officers found a door was open but cleared the building and found nothing suspicious. The reporting party was notified.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Suspicious Activity: A resident reported seeing a neighbor bring in a large quantity of items in trash cans. This information supplements a previous report regarding an alleged illegal commercial business and will be forwarded to city staff.

Disturbance: Two disabled citizens at a bus stop reported a younger person on a bicycle nearly struck them and appeared confrontational before leaving the area. The complainants could not provide a detailed description. They also voiced concerns about people bicycling on sidewalks and vehicles blocking sidewalks, and officers advised they would attempt to enforce ordinances as time allows.

Shots: A report of 4-5 gunshots was received. An area check found no suspicious activity, and a resident was confident the sound was a vehicle backfire.

Noise: A complaint was received about a dog barking continuously for several weeks. Officers heard the barking and informed the owner of the noise ordinance, and the owner agreed to bring the dog inside.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 18

Found Property: A black case containing an auto diagnostic tool was found in the middle of the road and will be entered into evidence.

Arrest: During a traffic stop, a passenger with an outstanding warrant was identified and arrested. The passenger was lodged at the county correctional facility. A small weapon was placed in safekeeping, and drug paraphernalia was submitted for destruction.

Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants: A driver was arrested and charged with driving under the influence after showing signs of impairment on field sobriety tests after admitting to drinking earlier.

Assist Other Agency: A police department requested a welfare check for a subject with probable cause for theft. An officer spoke with a resident who confirmed the subject lived there but was not present. A phone number for the subject was relayed to the requesting agency.

### MONDAY, JAN. 19

Assist Other Agency: An assist was requested for a police department seeking a subject with probable cause for menacing and unlawful use of a weapon. The subject was reportedly in a specific vehicle, which was not located at their residence. The officer was advised to coordinate with a supervisor before detaining the subject later to ensure a timely pickup by the requesting agency.

Animal: A person called after seeing a dog in a vehicle with a cracked window, concerned about the temperature. The owner was with a friend and asked if the dog could be brought inside. The dog was found to be fine, and the weather was sunny with the dog having a comfortable place to rest.

Harassment: A juvenile reported being threatened over social media by three other juveniles with comments about weapons and fighting. Officers located some of the involved parties. One of the alleged

POLICE

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offenders and their parent were contacted and made aware of the threats. The officer is attempting to locate the third subject. The complainant was advised to exit the chat and call law enforcement if the subjects approached them in person.

**Domestic Dispute:** An argument occurred between two people who were socializing at an apartment, and the guest refused to leave. The guest claimed they were relying on the host for a ride and did not know their location. The legal definition of trespassing was explained to the guest, and they were advised they would face arrest if they continued to refuse to leave. The guest then agreed to depart and waited down the street for a ride from another city.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20, 2026

**Assist Other Agency:** A traffic stop was conducted on a pickup truck involved in a hit-and-run in another city. The driver was arrested on a misdemeanor traffic offense. The complainant, who was the driver’s ex-partner, declined to press charges for the hit-and-run.

**Citizen Contact:** A parent called regarding their minor son’s involvement with another person, citing messages on a social media platform discussing the purchase of illicit substances for young people. The parent intended to bring a device to the department later that day to preserve the messages before they were automatically deleted.

**Ordinance Violation/Information:** A three-day notice to tow was placed on a recreational vehicle for violating the three-day parking ordinance. The new owner was contacted, informed of the violation, and given a deadline to move the vehicle.

**Information:** A business owner from a neighboring town reported a break-in and vandalism at their laundromat and was concerned the local laundromat

might be targeted next. The incident was already reported to the other city’s police.

**Suspicious Vehicle:** A resident reported a van was briefly blocking their driveway. The van belongs to a person experiencing homelessness who moves the vehicle around the area. The local parking rules were explained, and the caller noted the person was not causing any trouble.

**Driving:** An anonymous caller reported a former partner speeding and potentially driving while under the influence of an illicit substance. The case was misrouted to the wrong police jurisdiction initially. Local officers were informed and planned to increase patrols, and a speed monitoring trailer was requested for the area.

**Fraud:** A person reported a small, unrecognized charge on their account at a local retail store. The store manager was contacted for surveillance footage. An officer was asked to follow up the next day to get transaction details and more footage.

**Attempt to Locate:** An attempt to locate a person near the highway was unsuccessful following an anonymous report that the person was driving toward the city and making concerning comments, potentially speeding or driving while impaired. Officers checked the area and the subject’s probable address.

**Attempt to Locate:** Officers were asked to search for a white SUV driving erratically and off the road. The caller later reported the vehicle had pulled off the highway. The search of the area was unsuccessful.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 2026

**Harassment:** A resident reported three individuals repeatedly driving by their home over six months and screaming from a truck. One subject was contacted and said they were no longer involved; they were advised of the potential consequences. Attempts to contact the other two were unsuccessful. No further action was taken.

**Suspicious Person:** Elementary school staff called about a male in his underwear and without shoes wandering the parking lot. The subject, a non-verbal person with a developmental disability, was located by officers and secured until his sister/caretaker arrived. The school was briefly secured. The sister explained the person likely left because the door was not fully closed when she stepped out briefly.

**Ordinance Violation/Information:** City staff, with an officer present, issued a citation to a resident for operating a commercial business in a residential area. The resident was highly agitated and aggressive. The court date and the ordinance details were explained, and a supplemental report was filed noting the resident’s mental state and potential for retaliatory action against neighbors.

**Citizen Contact:** A person whose concealed carry permit application is pending asked about the legality of open carrying and temporarily borrowing a firearm from a relative. The person was advised not to conceal carry until the permit is received and was given general information on borrowing a firearm for a brief period.

Polk County Sheriff’s Office

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

At 4:29 a.m., a resident on Parry Road in Falls City reported her dog barking and apparently chasing an intruder on her property, but she did not visually see anyone. The resident had experienced a recent break in on the property where items were taken from sheds. A responding deputy did not see or hear anyone.

At 8:51 a.m., a deputy investigated a driving complaint, checking Wallace Road to Edgewater Street, but was unable to find anyone.

At 9:36 a.m., a deputy investigated a report of a Ford Bronco in the ditch on Ellendale Avenue. The driver reported making a turn and hit a patch of black ice, hitting a

gate in the 16700 block. The deputy was unable to contact the property owner.

At 9:30 a.m., a report of a crash between a parked vehicle and an unoccupied patrol vehicle. A deputy had responded to a call in the 1100 block of Jefferson Street and parked his vehicle. The vehicle was apparently in reverse, causing it to slowly roll backwards without a driver, for approximately one block, striking a parked vehicle in the 200 block of Washington Street. There were no injuries. The deputy took photos and sent them to an investigator.

At 7:35 p.m., a report of a disturbance on the highway. The caller was a caregiver driving a developmentally disabled patient home from the hospital when the patient tried to jump out of the car. The patient was calm when the deputy arrived but was mostly noncommunicative, saying only he wanted to go back to the hospital. The deputy called for medics and they ultimately transported him to Salem Hospital.

At 8:38 p.m., a report of a crash on Red Prairie Road. Yamhill County Sheriff’s Deputies had arrived first and learned the driver, Yunkai You, had gone off the road while negotiating a curve, hit a ditch, ran into a treestump, ran into a road sign, then ran into a fence, finally coming to rest after hitting the side of a barn. The PCSO deputy conducted a field sobriety test, which You failed. He was arrested, charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant and transported to Polk County Jail, where he blew a BAC of .07%.

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

At 12:18 a.m., a report of a single vehicle crash. A driver on Zena Road swerved to avoid a deer, left the roadway and struck a power pole. This knocked the pole down and left lines across the roadway. The next car struck the line which caused cosmetic damage to the second car. The driver was transported for a likely broken ankle.

At 1:13 a.m., a motorist on Pacific Highway was cited for

speeding 82 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 8:16 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55-mph safety corridor zone.

At 2 p.m., a deputy saw a motorcycle on the side of the road on Zena Road who was having problems with the bike. The motorcyclist had a tow enroute. While they waited, the deputy got pulled to a high priority call and left the motorcyclist with flares.

At 5:24 p.m., a deputy dispatched a road-struck deer on Spring Valley Road.

At 9:12 p.m., neighbors on Oak Grove Road reported a break in at the old Oak Grove School. They saw approximately five male suspects leaving in a silver Charger but did not get a license plate or detailed description. The suspects spray painted gang tags in every room of the building and then pulled the fire alarm. There are no suspects at this time but the deputy will research the tags they left and try to develop suspect information.

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

At 8:15 a.m., a Department of Health Services report of an alleged sex offense on Alder Street. A deputy took an initial report and after a follow up will possibly forward it to detectives.

At 9:20 a.m., a report of a head on crash on Salem Dallas Highway. Deputies responded and provided traffic control until ODOT arrived and took over.

At 11:07 a.m., a report of an unconscious couple in a car on Eagle Crest Road. The male in the driver seat was on probation and was driving while suspended. The female did not have a driver’s license. The deputy observed unused marijuana on the dash of the vehicle and contacted the male’s parole officer and they took no action. His parents showed up to take the vehicle and them home.

At 12:12 p.m., a motorist on Riddell Road was cited for

See **POLICE**, page B8

HEALTH DIRECTORY

CHIROPRACTIC

• **JOYNT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC - Dr. Brian Joynt, DC - 629 Clay Street East, Monmouth, OR 97361** Family-oriented chiropractic clinic, dedicated to creating an unparalleled experience of service, quality and care by teaching the true principles of chiropractic. We look forward to empowering each of you to help your family participate more fully in life. New patients welcome. Accept most insurance. Auto/personal injury and work comp. Massage therapist on site. Complimentary consultations. Call us today to make your appointment (503) 837-0550.

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-We Care, God Cures-  
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•**CROSS AND CROWN COUNSELING** offers counseling services to individuals, couples, and families. We also offer workshops and seminars. Areas we support but are not limited to include children, adolescent, premarital, marriage, family, trauma, crisis, grief, anxiety, depression, anger, and divorce. We help our clients find healing and healthy responses to individual and family needs. We provide a safe and caring environment to face life situations, address interpersonal and intrapersonal conflict and help

individuals realize their full potential. Our counselors are trained NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselors, Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselors and Certified Temperament Counselors. We also have Domestic Violence and Trauma Resilience Protocol trained counselors. Our office is located at 177 SW Oak St. Dallas, OR 97338. For more information please visit our website at [www.crossandcrowncounseling.com](http://www.crossandcrowncounseling.com) or call (503) 917-1625.

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• **SALEM HEALTH** provides lab services at three convenient locations in Dallas, Monmouth and Independence. Both fully accredited labs accept health care provider referrals for collections and testing. The labs also offer employment and self-referral drug testing. Appointments are not required at either location. Learn more at [salemhealth.org/lab](http://salemhealth.org/lab). **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** outpatient lab available weekdays 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., weekends 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-814-5227 **SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC - MONMOUTH** is open Monday,Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-814-5227. **SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC - INDEPENDENCE** is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., 1430 Monmouth St., 503-917-2255.

PRIMARY CARE

• **SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINICS** are accepting new patients in Dallas, Monmouth and Independence. With a proactive health care approach, the clinics provide care for all ages. Services include annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling. Learn more at [salemhealth.org/primary-care](http://salemhealth.org/primary-care).

**Dallas — 1000 SE Uglow Ave., 503-623-8376**  
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**Independence — Central Health and Wellness Center — 1601 Monmouth St., Suite 100, 503-838-0045**  
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**Phone: 971-900-4984**

# Committee formed to advise on massive data center growth

ALEX BAUMHARDT  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon’s governor is organizing a new committee of advisers to weigh in on issues rising from the rapid growth of data centers in the state.

Gov. Tina Kotek announced the new Data Center Advisory Committee on Tuesday and named seven members, who will provide policy recommendations to her and the Legislature no later than October 2026.

Kotek and state lawmakers will use those to create regulations, most likely aimed at where data centers can be built, according to a news release from Kotek’s office. The regulations would aim to protect energy infrastructure and water supplies from being overburdened by the privately run data and AI processing centers, which require massive amounts of energy to run and water for cooling.

“Oregonians have made their concerns about rising utility bills clear. As our state faces rapid growth of data facilities, we must have frank conversations about the challenges and opportunities ahead,” Kotek said in a statement. “I expect the Data Center Advisory Committee to help ensure economic growth while protecting affordable power and Oregon’s critical water resources.”

Oregon’s data center market is among the largest in the nation, according to Chicago-based commercial real estate group Cushman & Wakefield. Access to relatively clean, cheap hydroelectricity in the region and a lack of sales tax, along with billions of dollars



**QTS Data Centers in Hillsboro on Oct. 11, 2024. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek created a new advisory committee to help establish rules and regulations to protect energy access and affordability and water supplies from being overburdened by the rapidly growing data centers in the state. (Rian Dundon / Oregon Capital Chronicle)**

in property tax incentives, helped lure the companies.

But the decision to offer those property tax incentives and site a data center is largely a local one, made at the city and county level. The Data Center Advisory Committee is the state’s first big foray into setting data center policy, following several laws that passed in 2025 meant to curb rising electricity rates driven by data centers.

As the giant data complexes expanded across the state during the last several years, energy rates rose on all customer classes served by the state’s private, investor-owned utilities. For residential customers, rates have gone up an average of 50% in the last five

years.

Between 2013 and 2023, Oregon’s overall electricity consumption rose by more than 20%, according to a Sightline Institute analysis of U.S. Energy Information Administration data.

“Data centers undoubtedly drove a major share, if not almost all, of this growth,” analysts wrote.

In the next two decades, demand for electricity in the Northwest could double, and demand from data centers is expected to outpace demand from the growing use of electric vehicles until 2046, according to regional energy experts.

Kotek appointed as committee chairs Margaret

Hoffmann and Michael Jung. Hoffman is also a member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, former energy policy adviser to Oregon governors John Kitzhaber and Kate Brown and former rural development director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Oregon. Jung is an environmental policy executive and director of the ICF Climate Center, an international tech and energy consultancy.

Other commission members are:

- Dan Dorran, chair of the Umatilla County Commission. Umatilla has sited a large number of Amazon data centers in the last decade that have caused

- 554% demand growth at the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, according to Sightline’s analysis.
- Greg Dotson, an energy and environmental law expert at the University of Oregon.
- Bill Edmunds, a former private utility executive who teaches energy and business courses at Portland State University and the University of Portland.
- Tim Miller, director of the nonprofit industry group Oregon Business For Climate.
- Jean Wilson, a renewable energy executive and former president of the nonprofit Oregon Environmental Council.

The group will meet publicly at least once a month and focus on studying data center citing decisions, according to Kotek’s news release. They’ll look at regulations to support how and where data centers could be built to spur “responsible economic development” and job creation, without overburdening local energy and water supplies in the rural communities they tend to be built in.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/01/20/oregon-governor-forms-new-committee-to-advise-on-massive-data-center-growth/>

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## Boys

From Page B1

be, under the basket, in pounce position.

“I mean, we drilled the play. Jack (Holestine) took a great shot. That was the look we were looking for,” the sophomore post said. “I was there to clean it up. I boxed out my dude, went straight up, and it was executed perfectly.”

Anticipation fueled the rebound.

“It was a good bounce,” he added. “I was definitely waiting for it, hoping it would go right there. The trajectory of the shot helped.”

This was one of

the biggest baskets of Haines’s career.

“I’ve had similar makes, but that one probably feels the best,” he said.

Head coach Tyler Allen praised another fast start by his team. Ryan Burgett took control early for the Panthers, scoring eight of his team-high 20 points in the opening frame. Central led 21-12 after eight minutes.

“Very happy with how we came out, another fast start for us, which is always our emphasis,” Allen said. “But then we saw another example of a stagnant second quarter and a stagnant third quarter.”

Central scored 22 points over that span, and just 11 in the final frame. Corvallis fought back to take a lead late in the game. But the home team wasn’t finished.

“We led almost the whole game, and then to go down by three, we showed a lot of character and resilience,” Allen said. “We stayed with it and trusted the process.”

Allen was pleased with the final possession, and even more pleased with the finish.

“I’m happy with the shot we got in the end,” he said. “I’m even happier with the putback we got to win it.”

Holestine had 13

points, and Haines 11, to bolster Central’s cause.

Simeon Arthur netted 17 points to lead the Spartans (4-2 in league, 8-5 overall).

Haines credited the Panthers’ chemistry for getting them through tight moments.

“We’ve bonded. We’ve been a brotherhood this whole time,” he said. “Not turning on each other when things get rough, going through adversity and just playing together.”

Corvallis was held to 53 points, though Allen noted there’s room for improvement.

“I know we only gave up 53 points, and I shouldn’t be too difficult

on these guys,” he said. “But we gave up too many easy drives and easy looks. We’re going to be perfectionists on the defensive side.”

Corvallis scored 16 points in the final frame, with the first eight coming from the free-throw line. Conversely, the Panthers had 10 freebies the entire game.

Allen believes hard-fought games like this one will pay dividends later, especially with tougher matchups looming.

“Our league’s pretty mixed,” he said. “You get some games where you go deep into your bench, and then you get games like this. This is

something you put in your toolbox. Lebanon’s coming up, West Albany, Crescent Valley. You lean back on these experiences.”

Central also secured a 70-62 win at Lebanon on Jan. 23 to remain at 7-0 and unbeaten in the Mid-Willamette Conference and 10-3 overall. They are tied for first place with West Albany.

The boys, ranked ninth by the OSAA among Class 5A schools, are home Friday against Crescent Valley, at 7 p.m., and Feb. 3 against South Albany, at 5:30 p.m.

The Raiders (5-1, 10-3) are seventh in the OSAA rankings.

## Police

From Page B7

speeding 82 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 12:32 p.m., a resident on Corvallis Road reported a suspicious vehicle that was driving slow and had passed by approximately a dozen times. A deputy contacted the resident who provided a picture of the vehicle – it proved to be a Polk Fire Chevy Pick-up.

At 1:14 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 2:39 p.m., a motorist on Gooseneck Road was stopped for no front or rear license plates. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and was warned for no insurance, expired registration, and improper display of license plates.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 17

At 3:50 a.m., deputies investigated an Alarm at Jack’s Pub on Main Street in Monmouth. A western door was open and unable to shut all the way. They

searched the building and found nothing suspicious.

At 6:47 a.m., deputies responded to a shots fired call off Salem Dallas Highway. The complainant said the 7-9 shots seemed to come from Highway 22. Deputies checked the area and walked a portion of Highway 22 but were unable to locate anything.

At 8:05 p.m., deputies conducting an area check on Salem Dallas Highway contacted two subjects. One, Robert Anderson, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a parole violation. While being searched, deputies found a bag of methamphetamine. Anderson was additionally charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine.

At 8:50 p.m., a report of a vehicle vs deer on Falls City Road. A deputy found no injuries or property damage and the roadway was clear.

At 10:19 p.m., a deputy witnessed a motorist on Kings Valley Highway speeding and hit a stop

sign. The deputy stopped the driver and gave him a field sobriety test. After failing the driver was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant. At Polk County Jail, the driver blew a BAC of .15%.

At 11:05 p.m., a resident off Gooseneck Road reported hearing 100 gunshots, possibly from some kind of gun range. A deputy checked the area but was unable to find anything.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 18

At 12:49 a.m., a deputy stopped for driving the wrong way on a one way street on Main Street in Dallas. The driver was from out of the area and was looking for Safeway. The driver was warned for that as well as failing to carry proof of insurance.

At 9:28 a.m., a report of a suspicious vehicle on Doaks Ferry Road. The vehicle hadn’t been registered for years. Inside was Nathen Cooper sleeping. Cooper told deputies

he found it unlocked last night and was cold and hopped in to get warm and fell asleep. Deputies learned he had nine cite and release warrants out of Salem. Cooper was cited and released on the warrants and warned for trespassing.

At 10:57 a.m., a resident reported a theft of a coil of wire from a property on Perrydale Road that he is helping clean up as it is currently in probate. He will email to deputies video footage of two suspects captured potentially stealing the wire.

At 12:31 p.m., a subject found a US passport just off of Salmon River Highway near his residence. Deputies were unable to locate on scans the owner of the passport.

At 9:10 p.m., a resident on Pioneer Road reported seeing a small SUV parked in his driveway and said it was not normal or usual. He also said it kept parking in front of other people’s homes. A deputy was unable to locate the vehicle nor see

anything suspicious in the area.

At 9:43 p.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was stopped for no headlights or tail lights. The driver was cited for driving uninsured and warned for operating without required lighting. The vehicle was impounded by OK Towing.

### MONDAY, JAN. 19

At 6:54 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for expired tags and no insurance. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation, driving uninsured and was warned for the sticker issue. Dallas Towing impounded the car.

At 12:25 p.m., a report of a car in the ditch a few miles up Maxfield Creek Road. The accident had crossed into Benton County. The driver said she hit some ice going around the corner and slid into the ditch. Her parents showed up and are in the process of getting the car towed.

At 3:48 p.m., a deputy

responded to a residential burglar alarm on Eola Drive. The deputy spoke to the homeowner via the gate keypad who advised he had a bad sensor and did not need the deputy to check.

At 5:56 p.m., deputies responded to the area for a report of a distressed male running down Gooseneck Road with a rifle. They checked both Goosneck and Finn roads but were unable to locate any persons.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 20

At 7:38 a.m., a deputy came upon bags of trash and miscellaneous items in the westbound lanes of a highway. The deputy kicked larger items to the shoulder, but required ODOT to dispatch the remaining trash.

At 11:21 a.m., a deputy assisted Salem Police with a crash on Wallace Road. The deputy held the scene until SPD arrived.

At 9:40 p.m., a motorist on Highway 99 was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone.