

Oregon  
Fuel  
State of  
Emergency  
A5



Sports  
Local  
Standout to  
Run for PU  
See B1



# Paint party scores a strike for DHS bowling team

By DAVID HAYES  
I-O Editor

It wasn't paint by numbers. But instructor Dana Lynn confidently shouted out instructions, over the din of the North Dallas restaurant, to help her nearly 30 students reach the intended template canvas of a gnome atop a mushroom.

But this wasn't just any typical Sunday night class by Serendipities by Dena. The funds generated were going back this time to help the Dallas High School Bowling Teams. The FUNdraising painters were mostly family and friends of the bowlers, with some complete strangers.

Lisa Cushway, fundraiser coordinator for the teams, said this is the second time they've incorporated Serendipities by Dena into their fundraising plans. She said the funds help send DHS bowlers to state and national tournaments. This year features two girl teams and three boys teams, with about 28 total bowlers. One of the girls teams went to nationals last year, with a boys team just missing out on joining them.

Cushway said after three tournaments so far this season, all of the teams are doing well. "They've shown a lot of growth and improvement from last year," she said.

The season runs from October through February, with all stars in March and the ultimate goal of nationals in June. Cushway said getting there is not cheap.

"Last year, for the one team, it was \$10,000 - \$12,000, and that includes airfare and Airbnb for everyone to stay in," she said. "The



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Michelle Bryan traveled from Salem to join in on the FUNdraiser at North Dallas restaurant Nov. 30, helping the Dallas High School Bowling team generate the funds needed for a return to state and nationals this year.

nationals are usually somewhere in the Midwest. So it's kinda far."

In addition to the paint party, Cushway schedules other fundraisers to add to the travel coffers, including bingo every third Tuesday of the month at Galaxy Won (located at 780 Main St.) from 6-8 p.m. Their biggest fundraiser of the year is a raffle in February at Starlite Lanes.

Junior Camille Stacey was on last year's team that competed at nationals. She was touching up her own painting that deviated

somewhat from the target image of a gnome atop a mushroom, looking suspiciously a lot like Snoopy on top of his doghouse, napping. She really appreciates the paint party fundraisers.

"I think it's really cool. I think we're starting to get the same amount of support the other sports get. I like that we do fundraisers that involve the community like the bingo nights and the paint nights," Stacy said. "It's not just us asking for money, it's us participating with

the community and building a connection with them, giving them a reason to support us."

Stacey started bowling competitively when she picked up a bowling ball for the first time her freshman year. She's improved her game so much, she is actually looking to go to compete at the next level in college. The team overall has improved over last year, she added.

See PARTY PAGE A3



Samantha Woods Starkey and Leslie Brandt Olsen recently combined their areas of expertise to publish a book detailing their concerns' "Growing Under a Poisoned Sky."

## Cross-country authors team to tackle the dangers of geoengineering

By DAVID HAYES  
I-O Editor

Samantha Woods Starkey and Leslie Brandt Olsen shared a concern for the side effects of the methods to create more rain are causing without oversight from the U.S. government.

They recently combined their areas of expertise to publish a book detailing their concerns, "Growing Under a Poisoned Sky." So far, they've had to promote their project remotely, as they live more than 1,000 miles apart and are yet to meet in person.

Researcher Olson is a longtime Polk County resident who now resides outside Keizer. Starkey is a farmer from Greensburg, Louisiana with a dedicated following on YouTube. Their collaboration began when they crossed paths virtually when they were both researching the aftermath of the Maui, Hawaii, fires in 2023.

"I was pursuing research on the Maui fires a couple years ago (August of 2023). Because I have been heavily investigating what's going on with the geoengineering of our skies globally," said Olsen in an interview both authors gave via Zoom from their perspective kitchens. "There have been suspicious fires that have been happening over the past 10-12 years that I'm aware of. There have been tell-tale symptoms and Maui fit those symptoms."

Olsen found a like minded concerned citizen in Starkey who was researching the Maui fires as well. Starkey had been delving into the topic on her YouTube channel and was asking the same questions Olsen was.

Starkey had traveled to Maui three times to pursue her suspicions, from a potential cover up that pointed toward a land grab for a future development project by globalists looking to build "smart cities." Maui appeared to

See AUTHORS, page A3

# Dallas FFA gets in holiday spirit with Christmas tree sales

By DAVID HAYES  
I-O Editor

For many families, the day after Thanksgiving is more than Black Friday. It's also the time to break out the ornaments and set up the Christmas tree for the next holiday season.

To help the earlybirds, the Dallas High School FFA program also sets up their annual Chrstmas tree lot the day after Thanksgiving, a tradition that goes back decades as far as current advisors Ryan Rowley and Danielle Bull can recall.

"I've had parents of students tell me when they were in high school, they were doing this. So easily, 45 years," Rowley said. "Back then, they would grow and harvest and sell the trees as part of the educational process."

That was not happening any more when Rowley started 12 years ago.

"We tried to find local growers where students could



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Adult volunteer Andrew Wavra saws off the bottom of a tree after it was sold at the FFA Christmas tree lot on Sunday.

go out and tag the trees in September and October, so the kids know what they are buying. We go out and harvest them, they pack them out of the field. They're involved in

marketing. We try to have the kids involved in the sales."

The Dallas FFA program targets as many local growers while keeping the trees as fresh cut as they can, including

three growers within three miles of town. Sometimes, when they don't have the numbers needed, Rowley said they go to others just East of Salem to meet their needs. All of the 300 trees are grown within 30 miles of their lot in downtown Dallas.

They stock up on four species of evergreens - nobles, nordmans, grants, and Douglas firs, with nobles and nordmans being the most purchased.

"They tend to be a little more expensive, but they are the ones with stronger branches and open frame for ornaments," Rowley said. "And they smell better than some of the other varieties."

The Christmas tree sales is FFA's main fundraiser for the year. Rowley said they try to keep the cost of participating in events as low as possible, including the state convention every year, which can run

See FFA, page A2

## IN THIS ISSUE

Send us a news tip at [www.polkio.com/site/forms/news tip/](http://www.polkio.com/site/forms/news%20tip/) | Your message could be the first thing our readers see!



Voices  
Corrections  
Obituaries  
Puzzle Solutions  
Social  
Public Records  
Classifieds  
Puzzles

A4  
A4  
A4  
B2  
B2  
B6  
B4  
A6

## Weather

W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
46	47	54	55	54	55	56
36	44	48	47	46	48	49



Local organizations receive WHC Community Impact Grants for 2026 projects

The Willamette Health Council (WHC) has awarded \$2.4 million in Community Impact Grants to 27 organizations across Marion and Polk counties. These grants, supporting projects that begin in 2026, were selected from a pool of over 100 applicants.

Funded projects address one or more of the impact areas in alignment with the 2026-2030 Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan:

- Access to Healthcare
- Mental Health & Substance Use
- Housing Stability

The community-driven grantmaking process is guided by WHC community committees made up of Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members as well as other community members with a range of expertise and lived experience. These committees identified the priority criteria, shaped evaluation measures, reviewed applications, and made funding recommendations.

“It’s exciting to see such a wide range of thoughtful, community-rooted projects selected for this grant cycle,” said Josie Silverman-Méndez, Deputy Director at the WHC. “This funding reflects the values of our community committees and the trust we place in local organizations to make meaningful change where it’s needed most.”

Notable trends from this year’s grant cycle:

- Roughly one-third of the grantees are first-time recipients of a Community Impact Grant
- Several projects are based in or serve rural communities in Marion and Polk counties
- A majority address multiple impact areas, reflecting the interconnectedness of health, housing, and mental well-being

Awarded organizations will participate in a mid-2026 All Grantee Convening, where they’ll share progress and explore collaborative opportunities.

To view full project details, including award amounts, project descriptions, and impact areas, go to [www.willamettehealthcouncil.org/funding-opportunities/past-grant-awards](http://www.willamettehealthcouncil.org/funding-opportunities/past-grant-awards).

Polk County organizations receiving a grant were:

- Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk counties - \$100,000 for empowering staff with empathy and inclusive SEL to improve youth mental health.
- Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties - \$96,324 for the Anchor Project: Equipping Staff to Support Youth Mental Health.
- Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley - \$100,000 for Home repairs for low-income homeowners in Marion and Polk counties.
- Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy - \$100,000 for a Therapeutic Riding Scholarship.
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon - \$100,000 for Legal Services to Improve Health and Housing Outcomes in Marion and Polk counties.
- Marion Polk Food Share - \$100,000 for Bridging the Meal Gap: Strengthening Food Distribution Amid Rising Demand and Funding Cuts.
- Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties - \$226,017.84 for Project Bridge: Bridging gaps in essential care and opportunity for underserved families.

FFA

From Page A1

between \$3,000 to \$5,000 to attend as a chapter.

“The kids’ cost is fifty bucks, mainly to cover food. We do a chapter dinner. But we buy food, cover their meals while they’re there and pays for housing and registration fees,” he said.

The costs go up every other year when the Dallas FFA chapter goes to the national convention in Indianapolis - roughly \$1,000 a student. But between the chapter fundraisers and their alumni group’s fundraiser Hearts and Minds in February, the students’ costs were just \$200 each for the week.

Last year, between selling trees and hand-made wreaths, the lot netted around \$7,000 in profits as the FFA program had to spend \$11,000 in search of growers who could keep the price point down for their needs. Unfortunately, Rowley said in his 12 years, sales have declined.

“We used to sell between 500 to 700 trees. Now we’re down to about 300 to 400 trees. Most of that, I think, is due to artificial trees,” he said.

Dallas has bounced its lot around in the last few years after many at the Rite Aid parking lot. This is their third in the lot at the corner of Southeast Jefferson and Oak Street, owned by Cultivate Pediatrics.

Rowley said the program, with today’s growing market, has targeted selling 300 trees to reach their target of raising \$7,000. When the trees sell out, they’re done.

“A couple years ago, we over bought. And we had to burn 80 trees. That hurt,” he said. “That year was probably one of the lowest return years that we’ve had, profit wise. We still made money, but when you have to burn 20 percent of your tree stock, whoops.”

Over the next three weeks, Rowley expects to see 25 to 30 FFA participants rotate manning the lot.

Senior Evan Turner, chapter president, has been doing tree lot sales since he was a sophomore.

FFA is a really great organization that gives a lot of opportunities for kids. Ms. Bull gave me a stat – when you join FFA, your graduation rate raises to 95 percent,” Turner said. “I think it’s just a great way for kids to get involved and learn more real world skills they’ll use in life.”

So far, sophomore Mylie Weld was leading the others in early sales at 18. Her secret is simply being a people person.

“I ask how they’re doing. I list all the prices right off the bat, and I also list how they can pay. Then I just let them walk around and kinda of keep my eye on them,” Weld said, adding she’ll spin a tree around to get then a full 360-view before making a purchase.

She admitted to enlisting the aid of one the guys in the FFA program if the tree is too hefty for her to get it to a customer’s car.

“It’s pretty awesome. It’s a good fundraiser for us. We spend time, use our hand and get a little dirty,” Weld added while helping assemble hand-crafted wreaths. The task is keeping the team busy as their first batch sold out their first day they opened.

Track the program on their Facebook page at Dallas FFA and @Dalllas\_FFA on Instagram.

### Furniture Upholstery

All types: for homes, offices, equipment. Also, repairs, RV cushions, slipcovers, High Quality since 1966



### Winters Sewing

503-838-4999 or 503-375-9266  
440 E. St • Independence, OR 97351  
[www.winterssewing.com](http://www.winterssewing.com)

Serving Polk County 16 yrs

# Who cares about public notices?

# YOU SHOULD

**You have the right to know what's happening in your community.**

Public notices – information local governments are obligated to provide citizens – are required to be published in local newspapers to provide a public record that’s accessible to everyone.

**Public notices keep you informed about your government.**

But, Oregon legislators are trying to keep public notices from appearing in local newspapers. This severely impacts government transparency and, in turn, limits the public’s right to hold them accountable for their actions.

Let your state legislators know that you value being able to access notices in your newspaper and that they are worth the investment.

Protect public notices in newspapers and protect **your** right to know.

Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**



## JOIN OUR TEAM

### Advertising Representatives

Country Media has immediate openings for advertising representatives. Sales experience is preferred, but not required for the right person. You do need to enjoy meeting people and learning about their business needs, and you must be able to ask for the sale! You must be dependable, with reliable transportation. You should have the drive to succeed in a goal-oriented, highly accountable fun environment.

We offer a competitive wage plus unlimited commission potential. This is a full-time job, Monday through Friday! Benefits include paid holidays, health insurance, paid vacation, sick leave, and more!

Submit your resume and cover letter today to  
Director of Sales, [fperea@countrymedia.net](mailto:fperea@countrymedia.net).  
Chief Executive Joe Warren at [jwarren@countrymedia.net](mailto:jwarren@countrymedia.net)





**AUTHORS**  
From Page **A1**

be a target home for one of those smart cities.

“In Samantha, I found a very intelligent woman who was willing to put boots on the ground and brought receipts, not just opinions,” Olsen said.

Starkey had started a YouTube channel to document her own journey learning about soil heath and organic growing, taking care of the integrity of the soil over time, learning how to grow, store and sell food. Maui happened about a year into that process.

“What caught my attention was the toxins that were showing up in soil tests done by state, federal and local soil samplers,” she said.

After Zooming with those experts, Starkey began to believe there was a real problem on the island of Maui that could lead to generational problems.

In their pursuit of the truth, their findings became uncomfortable for the overseers at YouTube and before they could de-mo-nitize her channel for potential “mis-truths”, the duo created a newsletter for Starkey’s followers to keep them updated with her findings should her channel be struck (pulled from YouTube). Which it eventually was.

At that time, Starkey decided the next step was to publish a book with her findings with Olsen editing the contents into easy to digest content.

“She basically dictated it, and I realized she needed a little more than an editor,” Olsen said after analyzing the myriad data.

So she came in as a co-author, helping with the structure of the non-fiction tome.

Their collaboration got into high gear in the fall of 2024. As they shared notes, they got more familiar with each other, building trust,

not just as co-authors, but also as friends.

“I don’t think either one of us is the type to just jump into somebody’s boat without knowing a little more about each other,” Olsen said. “We weren’t looking for each other. We didn’t know we needed each other. God did. That timing came about perfectly.”

Starkey explained that their thesis actually developed without the need to mention the Maui fire. Rather, they describe “Growing Under A Poisoned Sky” as a beginner’s manual, basically.

“We simply show you proof through patents, through government admittance, taking you through their sites, showing you their information, handing it back to you, going, ‘Look. They tell us they do it.’ This is the type of geoengineering going on,” Starkey said.

They point to projects, called Solar Radiation Management, that reflect the sun, putting aluminum or salt into the sky to cause it to rain.

“Whatever they call it, it is a manipulation by man of a natural process. How can you tell us it’s global warming ... if you’re going to put flammable metals

into the sky by jet and then those flammable metals make their way down to Earth and are absorbed by the vegetation,” Starkey said. “Well, when a natural fire happens it’s going to burn 10-times hotter than what God intended it to burn, because the tree is toxic. That’s what we want people to understand. It is not conspiracy. It’s is actual fact.”

They also include the facts to alleviate concerns and take steps to clean and restore soil, “using everything God has intended us to use.”

Olsen knew the first step in their collaboration was determining their audience, as it dictates the way an author writes. They settled upon targeting anyone concerned with what’s going on with the geoengineering of the Earth’s skies while making this information helpful for gardeners, regardless of experience level.

“I approached it with, here’s the problems, that’s my part of the book, and Samantha’s is here are the solutions,” Olsen said.

Their research led to the central question of why is the government allowed to spray heavily regulated chemicals into the sky with

no oversight by the same government? Unfortunately, their research uncovered no answers.

“Common sense would say somebody is able to pull strings. There’s probably a money trail, but it is not regulated. And that’s concerning,” Olsen said. “The cure to global warming should not be worse than the problem itself.”

The writing process was very quick once they got started. They jotted their first ideas down in July of 2024 and by November, they were ready for publication.

“We were accepted immediately,” Starkey said. “As soon as I told (the publicist) the concept of the book, we’re going to prove this is happening, going to show you the chemicals that are most often used, these are the side affects of the chemicals, show you how find out if it’s happening, then show you how you can remediate that, remove that.”

Starkey calls “Growing Under A Poisoned Sky” a beautiful book.”

“In 88 pages, you can sit down in one afternoon, read this book, set it down and you are prepared for a

conversation with a scientist or the local farmer,” she said.

The book hit store shelves in July in 2025, hitting No. 1 best selling on Amazon’s science and religion category. Since, they have consistently trended in their category in the top 30 to 80.

“It was absolutely amazing. Because honestly, you don’t know how it will do,” Olsen said. “You don’t know what the interest will be. Albeit with Samantha’s YouTube subscribers gave us a wonderful outlet to advertise and talk about it. I was on cloud 9. It’s hard to believe and it’s very exciting.”

“It’s like having your first child graduate cuma sum laude from Harvard and you say, I did it!” Starkey added.

The duo are already working on a more in depth follow up with the rest of their research that did not fit in the small confines of their first collaboration. They plan to actually meet in person sometime during their second collaboration.

“Growing Under A Poisoned Sky” is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

**PARTY**  
From Page **A1**

“Our team is super good. I’m hoping we get to go to nationals again while placing somewhat high in the state,” she said. “But you have to make the shots first to get there.”

A Dallas team has been district champion the past four years. Qualifying for state also gets the team an automatic bid to the nationals, this year to be held in Ohio.

Stacey said the team’s strength is the variety of athletes it attracts to their sport.

“It’s a really group of kids. It’s definitely connected me with a lot of different people .There’s kids with completely different interests, people

who like art, people who like basketball and football. Kids who do theater,” Stacey said. “There’s somebody from every type of group from high school. Participating is something that everybody can do and it’s a lot of fun.

Junior Caleb Cushway, who has also been bowling since his freshman year, said the guy’s team is looking pretty good to him, too.

“We’re improving a lot. We’ve gotten more members this year. More people from last year are getting better. So I think we have a pretty good chance of winning a lot of tournaments this year,” Cushway said.

Follow the team’s progress and announcements for more events on their Facebook page Dallas High School Bowling Club.



The Polk Flea Market At  
The Polk County Fairgrounds

**Sunday  
December 7**

All 3 Buildings Now Open! | 503-428-8224

**HUGE FLEA  
MARKET**

**General Admission \$1**  
**Hours 9am - 3pm**  
Sun. Early Bird 6am - 9am - \$5.00

520 S Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall, OR 97371  
503-428-8224

**SALEM HEALTH ORTHOPEDICS**



**Supporting local athletes, one play at a time**

Basketball season is here — and Salem Health Orthopedics in Dallas wants to keep you in the game.

- Welcoming athletes of all ages
- Treatments with or without surgery
- Local specialists in hand, wrist, foot and ankle issues

Whether it’s a new injury or a recurring issue, let’s get you off the sidelines and back on the court.

Proud to support the Willamette Valley’s teams and all-star athletes!

**Wednesdays | 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. | 503-540-6300**



Learn more:  
[salemhealth.org/ortho](https://salemhealth.org/ortho)



641 SE Miller Ave.  
Dallas, OR 97338





OBITUARIES



**Tony William DeDecker**  
Dec. 28, 1969 - March 28, 2024

Tony William DeDecker, aged 54, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2024. A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Tony dedicated much of his life to the pursuit of knowledge and applying it for good.

Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1969, Tony had an early fascination with science and math. His elusive love of the sea came later and that passion led him to join the U.S. Navy, where he proudly served in the U.S. Navy’s elite Nuclear Propulsion Program. He was trained as a nuclear technician, later becoming an instructor in that program.

After leaving active duty, Tony continued to share his talents in civilian life, working in the IT industry for startups and large tech companies, always carrying with him the courage and camaraderie instilled by his years of service.

Those who knew Tony will remember his dry wit, deep intelligence, and quiet acts of generosity. He was a loving husband, brother, uncle and friend, always ready with a listening ear or a helping hand. He loved camping and hiking through the US National Parks, crafting LEGO, his dogs and the sea which really took hold of him while deep sea commercial fishing in Alaska.

In an ironic twist, he spent the entirety of his naval career on dry land. Fittingly, Tony was honored with a burial at sea by the United States Navy in July 2025, his ashes committed to the deep (33°N 120°W) from the USS Alabama (SSBN-731) submarine. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Michael DeDecker, and his mother, Marsha Joan DeDecker (née Oatman), whose love and example instilled in him the values of integrity, hard work, and compassion.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sarah Shipley; his sister, Julianna (Cepollina), and her husband, Pierre Geis III of Hillsboro, Virginia; and their children Pierre IV (Hanna), Nicole (Patrick), and Daniel (Kate). He is also survived by his brother, Todd DeDecker, and his wife, Sheila, and their children, Paige and Corduroy.

His memory will be held dearly by his family, friends, and all those he touched with quiet strength and kindness. Fair winds and following seas, Petty Officer Second Class Tony DeDecker.

**Marietta Eileen (Davison) Pegg**  
Sept. 17, 1941 - Nov. 21, 2025

Marietta Eileen (Davison) Pegg was born Sept. 17, 1941, near Westphalia, Kansas, the second child and first daughter of Alpha and Mary (Garber) Davison.

She peacefully departed this life on Nov. 21, 2025, at the age of 84.



Her father was elected to the ministry when she was very young, so she never remembered life before her parents traveled a lot to various areas to preach the Word. She gave her life to the Lord and was baptized in the Old German Baptist Brethren Church in the spring of 1957. At the time of her passing she was a member of the Dallas District, New Conference.

She married Donald Edward Pegg on April 9, 1960, and they made their first home in Topeka, Kansas. There, Don did his C.O. work in a hospital while Marietta stayed busy working in a sewing factory, making shirts by the hundreds. Then, they moved back to Cedar Creek district, where she enjoyed homemaking and helping Don with his farming duties. Their union was blessed with a son and two daughters, in whom she delighted.

Marietta enjoyed the beauty of nature, exploring, and camping, which they did several times along the way to visit her parents, who had settled in Oregon. She and Don moved their family to Dallas, Oregon, in 1971, and she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes later that year. She bore her affliction gracefully with no complaining, and eventually her doctor mentioned that she was the longest-lived diabetic patient whom he had ever heard of.

Marietta was full of enthusiasm for life, which led to her having many varied interests, including gourmet cooking, baking for the farmers’ market, sewing, quilting, letter writing, watercolor painting, gardening, hunting and hiking. More than anything, she loved people, making sure to reach out to strangers and visitors, and showing compassion and hospitality to all. She had a special heart for babies and children and was always thrilled to babysit or spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Even as her memory failed during her later years, a child would always light up her day. She was so pleased to have the bi-weekly visit and help of great granddaughter Kyra (King) Flory in her last several months.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her parents-in-law; her brothers, Dale and Harley; and younger sister, Gloria.

She leaves behind her devoted husband; her sister, Sherda Garber; sisters-in-law, Deanna Davison, Mildred Davison and Virginia Wankum; her children Wyatt Pegg (Gail), Sheila Narayan (Ryan) and Natalie Callaway (Phillip); 11 married grandchildren, Krystal King (Clyde), Laurel Kimmel (Rodney), Landon Pegg (Samanatha), Charis Peters (Alex), Winston Pegg (Marcy), Marin Fullmer (Kamron), Celine Dumont (Jordan), Kendall Callaway (Katherine), Stanton Callaway (Carissa), Austin Callaway (Amanda), and Macey Rumble (Matthew); 38 great-grandchildren; one great grandson in-law; and many loving cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

As the old familiar hymn says, “We wait in hope on the promise given, we shall meet up there in our home in heaven.”

So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory...But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:54, 57

Bollman’s Tribute Center is caring for the family.



**Francisca Amaya Duran**  
Dec. 17, 1946 - Nov. 20, 2025

Francisa (Kika) Duran beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend passed away on Nov. 20, 2025, at the age of 78 years old.

She was born in Edinburg, Texas, to Santiago and Cresencia Amaya on Dec. 17, 1946. She then moved to Oregon in 1961 where she met her beloved husband Anastacio Duran, while they were migrant workers at Green Villa Farm. They married in 1962 and started their family of four children.

She is survived by her husband Anastacio Duran; her daughters Alicia Ramirez and son in-law Roland Ramirez, and Bianca Duran. She is preceded by her sons Santiago Jimmy Duran and Anastacio Tony Duran Jr. Francisca had 14 grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren.

She was a very hard worker and devoted to her job in service for 30 years at the Salem Housing Authority where she retired in 1992. Her favorite place was going to the Oregon Coast and stopping by the casino from time and time. Family was the most important thing to Francisca. She also loved hearing her home full of her children and grandchildren.

Francisca will be remembered for being a strong, generous loving person and deep loyalty to those she loved. Her legacy lives on in the generations she helped shape and the memories she leaves behind. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral Mass will be at St. Patrick’s Church, in Independence, Oregon, with committal service to follow at Hilltop, at 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 2025.

**Judith Lynnette McAlpine**  
Jan. 29, 1944 - Nov. 18, 2025

Judith Lynnette McAlpine passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, in Portland, Oregon.

She was born on Jan. 29, 1944, in Portland to Mildred “Mickey” Rickards and James Earl Rickards, who was serving as a U.S. Marine in Japan during World War II. He would not meet his first child, Judy, until she was four years old.

Judith attended Sunset High School and later graduated with honors from Hillsboro High School after her family moved before her senior year. She won the Oregon State High School Public Speaking Championship after taking first place at District; her speech on the nation’s first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, was considered highly controversial at the time.



In addition to her academic accomplishments, Judy was an exceptionally gifted artist. She earned multiple awards and scholarships for her artwork, including an art scholarship to Pacific University in Forest Grove for animation. Although she dreamed of pursuing that path, her father encouraged her toward what he felt was a more practical profession, and she enrolled in nursing school. Due to her own health challenges, she was unable to complete the program.

Judith was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Bruce McAlpine, who passed away in 2015 due to complications from Alzheimer’s. They were married for 45 years. Judith built a successful career in executive recruiting, ultimately retiring as the executive vice president of a local agency.

In 1999, she and Bob moved to Dallas, Oregon, to fulfill their dream of owning a country home on acreage. She returned to Portland in 2023 to live with her daughter.

Judy and Bob raised their two children, Geoffrey and Lyssa, who gave them three cherished grandchildren — Jacob, Alexandria and Emma — all deeply adored. In June of this year, Judith traveled to Houston, Texas, for a family reunion and was overjoyed to meet all six of her great-grandchildren.

A devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Judith’s life will be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1175 NW West Union Road, Hillsboro, Oregon. Following the service, she will be laid to rest beside her eternal companion, Robert, at the Dallas Cemetery in Dallas, Oregon, following a graveside service at 1:30 p.m.

Judith will be remembered for her warmth, generosity of spirit, steadfast testimony of Jesus Christ, and incredible strength. She endured much in her life, always following the sacred counsel to “endure to the end.”

Bollman’s Tribute Center is caring for the family.



**Toni Saint Francis Place**  
Dec. 9, 1961 - Nov. 11, 2025

Toni St. Francis (Carrillo) Place, a Mental Health Technician II and lifelong resident of the Willamette Valley, passed away on Nov. 11, 2025, at the age of 63 while at Salem Hospital.

Toni is survived by her mother, Nellie Carrillo; her husband, Roger

Dale Place; her three sons, Daniel Jacob Coffman, Lawrence James Coffman and Frank “Ponch” Berne Coffman; stepchildren Michael Place, April Place, Angelique Mitchell and Crystal Mitchell; sisters Sharon Gonzales, Tami Siegfried and Marcillena Carrillo; and brother Andrew Speten.

Toni was preceded in death by her father, Frank Carrillo; brothers Richard and Wayne Speten; and niece Cristina Speten.

Toni was born in Salem on Dec. 9, 1961, to Frank and Nellie Carrillo. She worked primarily as a Mental Health Tech at both the Oregon State Hospital as well as Good Samaritan in Corvallis for many years. She grew up in the Monmouth/Independence area working as early as 16 years old at Cedarwood better known today as Independence Rehabilitation Center.

Toni was joined in holy matrimony on Oct. 24, 1998, to Roger Dale Place. This union merged Toni’s three sons with Roger’s son and daughter, April and Michael Place. Toni’s first marriage was to David Lee Coffman when she turned 18. This union produced all three of her boys. Toni’s second marriage in 1987 was to Randy Lee Mitchell and his two daughters, Angelique and Crystal Mitchell.

Toni was the epitome of what motherhood represents. The personification of unconditional love, sacrifice and strength. Toni always put her children’s needs above her own, no matter what their age. She was no stranger to being called “mom” by countless others that weren’t her own, a true badge of honor from the perspectives of fictive kin.

A common phrase she used “A hand up is better than a hand out” while she encouraged self-sufficiency, she was often found guilty of the latter. The battle between kindness and tough love was a battle easily won. Her hugs were as warm as toast and her smile as sweet as sugar. You could often find her three chapters deep in a Stephen King novel or perusing the most recent sci-fi fantasy. Her love of nature was never in question, often immersed in the melody of songbirds occupying the backyard, her peach and pair tree served as perfect complement to her perceived sanctuary.

Born a fraternal twin to her sister Tami, the two had an undeniable connection that stretched beyond their appearance. A non-verbal bond that couldn’t be summarized in any amount of words, an affection so deep only the two of them could ever truly know. Toni admired all of her siblings from top to bottom; there wasn’t a person she couldn’t find the good in or didn’t respect.

Toni’s marriage to Roger represented a devotion and joy the two brought into each other’s lives that could not be contested or overstated. Having watched my mother grow with her life partner, I’ve never admired a marriage and companionship as strong as theirs, a true testament to love persevering. Not every mother earns her title, some leave sombering whispers that outlast their presence, mine left a deafening echo of maternal reverence, a crescendo second to none.

Toni’s interests included coastal drives, heavy reading, bird watching, sci-fi shows, family time, date nights, love of pear and peach trees and deep one on one conversations.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Dec. 5, 2025, at Fir Crest Cemetery, 7925 Helmick Road, in Monmouth, Oregon. Memorial graveside service follows at Fir Crest Cemetery.

See OBITS, page A7

*We're still with you.*

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

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

**BOLLMAN'S**  
— TRIBUTE CENTER —

287 SW WASHINGTON ST. DALLAS, OR 97338  
WWW.BOLLMANSTRIBUTECENTER.COM  
503-623-2325

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS IS A MOST PRECIOUS GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES

**CALL TODAY!**

**RESTLAWN MEMORY GARDENS & RESTLAWN FUNERAL HOME**  
Salem, OR 97304  
503-585 1373  
www.restlawnfh.com

**FARNSTROM MORTUARY**  
Independence, OR 97351  
503-838-1414  
www.farnstrommortuary.com

**KEIZER FUNERAL CHAPEL**  
Keizer, OR 97303  
503-393-7037  
www.keizerchapel.com

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES ARE

**Turquoise, Zircon, And Tanzanite**

The winter blues have nothing on December's birthstones: turquoise, zircon, and tanzanite—all three are best known for their beautiful shades of blue.

**20% Off**  
This month

**- IN STOCK - BIRTHSTONE JEWELRY**

503-623-3117  
837 Main St. • Dallas  
Tues-Fri 9:30-5:30  
Sat 9:30-4



NEWS & VIEWS

LETTERS

Family thanks community in time of mourning

Our family recently suffered a devastating loss. Jeff Earhart was a beloved husband, father, son, uncle and friend to many in this community. In the midst of our grief we found comfort in a beautiful outpouring of love and support. We want to thank everyone who showered us with cards filled with messages of love and sympathy, phone calls and texts, visits to our home, gifts of food, flowers and mementos, and most importantly, prayers. We asked a lot of you for help on the day of Jeff’s celebration of life. Thank you for loving us with the gift of your time. It has been humbling and comforting to have so many come alongside us. This is why we love to call Dallas our hometown; it is our village and you are our people. We are deeply grateful for every gesture and kind word said in Jeff’s honor, and the stories that have been shared with our family. Special thanks to Dallas High School, our entire wrestling family, Bollman’s Mortuary and Valley Life Center. If Jeff’s untimely passing has made you hold your loved ones closer, reconcile a broken relationship, be a little less judgmental or a little more kind, we count this as God’s goodness. Our sincerest hope is that you will find and follow Jesus, so that you, too, can look forward to an eternity in Heaven. With all our love and deepest gratitude,  
*The Earhart Family*

Fuel leak in BP pipeline drives Oregon to declare state of emergency

**ALEX BAUMHARDT**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

A BP pipeline carrying 90% of Oregon’s transportation fuel has been shut down since Nov. 17 following a discovered leak. The disruption to the state’s fuel supply, and the potential for impacts at the pump and at airports during a busy holiday travel season, prompted Gov. Tina Kotek to declare a state of emergency Tuesday that will last through Dec. 24, unless conditions change. BP officials on Wednesday said they had partially restarted the pipeline. Oregon’s emergency order will allow fuel suppliers and state agencies to bring more fuel into the state via truck and train and temporarily waive some reporting and fee-based regulations related to transporting fuel into the state. Oregon is not experiencing supply constraints, according to a news release from Kotek’s office. She does not expect flights at Portland International Airport or other Oregon airports will be impacted, but she is working with the Port of Portland to ensure supplies reach the airport. Some airlines operating flights out of Washington have had to adjust due to fuel supply issues, according to local news reports, and some long-haul flights have rerouted to out-of-state airports to refuel, causing some delays. Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson declared a state of emergency over the pipeline



on Nov. 19, two days after BP shut down the pipeline and more than a week after employees discovered the leak in Snohomish County east of Everett on Nov. 11. It is the second disruption the pipeline has had in the last three months and the second leak in two years. During the last Olympic Pipeline outage in September, gas prices in Oregon jumped 16 cents in a single week, according to AAA. Average gas prices jumped 8 cents in Washington and 9 cents in Oregon during the last Olympic Pipeline leak in late June 2023. Any evidence of price gouging during the current emergency should be reported to the Oregon Department of Justice Consumer Protection Services, Kotek’s office said. BP’s Olympic Pipeline runs transport gas, diesel and jet fuel across about 400 miles from Blaine, Washington to Portland, where it’s distributed to much of the rest of the state.

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/11/25/fuel-leak-in-bp-pipeline-drives-oregon-to-state-of-emergency-over-fuel-supply/>  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregon-capitalchronicle.com.*



Commentary

New ballot measure operation targets the Democratic coalition in Salem

**TIM NESBETT**  
*Oregon Capital Chronicle*

It looks like we’re about to enter another cycle of ballot measure warfare in Oregon. From the mid-1990s through the early 2000s, Oregon voters confronted dozens of initiatives on every general election ballot, most of them devised to advance a limited-government, low-tax and anti-union agenda championed by Republican Bill Sizemore and a handful of big donors. Now another Sizemore-like effort is being launched by a new crop of big donors, combining tax-cutting targets with proposals to loosen government regulations, promote government accountability and, in a populist twist, ban both union and business contributions to candidates. Their agenda is now on full display in 11 different ballot initiatives filed last week for the November 2026 election. You can find these initiatives on the Secretary of State’s website, listed as Initiative Petition 57 through 67. All are sponsored by John von Schlegell, managing director of Endeavour Capital, a Portland-based investment firm. If there is one throughline in the array of these initiatives, it’s that they all challenge the record of Salem’s governing coalition — taxing business and the wealthy to raise more funding for education while failing to boost student achievement or make progress on worsening problems like homelessness and drug addiction. Like Sizemore, von Schlegell and his team want to limit taxes. But their approach to government looks more like a course correction than a frontal assault — accelerating timelines for issuing permits, posting school accountability reports, requiring judges to appoint public defenders rather than dismissing charges and adding land within urban growth boundaries. These are proposals to clear the cluttered political pathways that have stymied problem solving on many fronts. As with Sizemore decades ago, this appears to be part of a plan to set agendas and challenge a governing consensus on a range of cherry-picked issues over multiple election cycles. Progressives should recognize that this will not likely be a one-and-done threat to their political standing. The question now is how Democrats and their labor allies in Salem will respond. Will they tack to the center on any of the policies on von Schlegell’s target list and perhaps refer compromise alternatives to the ballot? Or will they double down in defense of their policies? In what is expected to be a blue wave election in 2026, the Democratic leadership and their union allies may relish another “fight back” campaign. After all, when Sizemore’s operation collapsed and he ended up in jail, public sector unions in Oregon inherited a fundraising operation that, on a per capita basis, generated more member donations for politics than their counterparts in any other state in the nation. And that financial advantage gave them the seat at the head of a broadening coalition table that shaped Oregon’s progressive agenda for almost two decades. Why retreat now? Well, that was then. It’s hard to see how progressives can tap any new sources of political capital now, beyond what they’ve already brought to the table. And, there are lessons to be remembered from the decade of “ballot measures gone wild” that Sizemore inaugurated. For one, Sizemore pioneered the technique of working the system to gain winsome ballot titles for his proposals, giving him the pole position in the campaigns that followed and forcing his opponents to spend heavily to overcome that advantage. Also, Sizemore had some wins, most notably when he won voter approval in 1996 for a limit on property taxes that remains in effect today. Finally, even when he lost, Sizemore would brag about putting his opponents on the defensive, and it took years for public sector unions and their allies to turn the tables on him. For their part, Von Schlegell and his team may feel confident that now is the time to force a reckoning with what they see as the failures of the tax-and-spending policies of the Democratic coalition. They may think that whatever they take to the ballot will tap into voters’ frustration with a high-cost governing strategy that has delivered poor results. But timing is another matter when it comes to the economy. Sizemore’s anti-tax crusade took place during an economic growth spurt in Oregon, when it was easier to backfill revenue losses to minimize cuts in services. Not so today, when the state and local governments are facing budget shortfalls that

See NESBETT, page A7

Weekly Online Poll

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

- ☐ Tasty food -42.3%
- ☐ Time with family - 38.5%
- ☐ Watching football - 3.8%
- ☐ Something else - 15.4%

Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF POLK COUNTY.  
Serving Polk County families since 1875.

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com), is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. Itemizer-Observer also is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.  
(USPS) - 437-380  
Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Annually.....\$90  
6 months.....\$65  
Monthly.....\$10  
**DIGITAL ONLY**  
Electronic edition annually.....\$75  
Electronic edition monthly.....\$9

**POSTMASTER**  
Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-Observer, 388 State St #800, Salem, OR 97301

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if Itemizer-Observer is at fault.

**HOW TO REACH US**  
Joe Warren | Chief Executive/Operations  
[jwarren@countrymedia.net](mailto:jwarren@countrymedia.net)  
940-372-1008

**NEWSROOM**  
David Hayes | News Editor  
[dhayes@polkio.com](mailto:dhayes@polkio.com)

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

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**  
Joe Warren  
[jwarren@countrymedia.net](mailto:jwarren@countrymedia.net)  
940-372-1008

**CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING**

[adavis@polkio.com](mailto:adavis@polkio.com)  
503-444-7924

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

**Retail Display Ads** | 3p.m. Wednesday  
**Classified Display Ads** | 12p.m. Friday  
**Classified Line Ads** | 12p.m. Friday  
**Public Notices** | Noon Thursday

Classified ads are updated daily at [polkio.com](http://polkio.com).



MAGIC MAZE

PIANO BRANDS

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

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

Baldwin  
Bechstein  
Bluthner  
Boston

Chavanne  
Dresden  
Eastman  
Essex

Estey  
Fazioli  
Hausmann  
Kawai

Quandt  
Sauter  
Yamaha

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: I equals S

AVYJ AFND EFN ZYDD LBDXBM  
XS Y KYQXZYD YLXDXJE JF  
OBJBGKXSB JVB FGXQXSI FM  
JVXSQI? IFNGZBGE.

©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

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

	+		÷		=	9		
+		+		+				
	+	5	+		=	17		
+		+		×				
	+		÷		=	2		
=		=		=				
20		10		54				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Super Crossword

ONE AND THE SAME

ACROSS

1 Enchilada alternative  
8 Threaten like a mad dog  
15 Recurring design  
20 Proved to be beneficial to  
21 Audrey of "Sabrina"  
22 "Magic Bites" author Andrews  
23 [Span] [Span]  
25 Some spongy balls  
26 Morning times, in brief  
27 Astrologer Sydney  
28 Films based on reportage, for short  
30 Heavy drinker  
31 Musical scale starters  
33 [Cogitates] [Cogitates]  
36 Severe shock  
39 Fear or lime  
41 Somber  
42 [Criminal] [Criminal]  
46 Surrealist painter Max  
47 Swiss peaks  
48 Ukraine city  
49 Having some benefit

52 Pick-up-sticks logic game  
53 Lad from London, say  
54 Old-time TV announcer Johnny  
56 Spike of corn  
59 "I — reason why ..."  
61 [Star] [Star]  
67 Portage on American events  
69 Gas station brand  
70 Golf great Sorenstam  
71 [Residence] [Residence]  
76 Old Icelandic poetry books  
77 Coast Guard officer: Abbr.  
78 Strong winds  
79 — and aahs  
81 Raised trains  
82 Not asleep  
84 Obstruct  
87 Parisian gal pal  
88 Settling  
91 [Brotherly] [Brotherly]  
95 Bach choral composition  
98 Poets' Muse  
99 Pie portions  
100 [Dictated] [Dictated]

102 Accessories for cue sticks and blackboards  
105 Follower of "http://"  
106 Greek epic about Troy  
107 Mario's video game brother  
108 Real devotee  
111 Jazz singer Cleo  
113 [Character] [Character]  
118 Snaky curves  
119 Attack the integrity of  
120 Go in circles  
121 Butler played by Gable  
122 Foyer solas  
123 For the purpose of diagnosing

DOWN

1 "And there it is!"  
2 Egg, formally  
3 Drains energy from  
4 Up to, in ads  
5 Longtime foe of Pizarro  
6 Interior designer, e.g.  
7 "There Is Nothin' Like —"  
8 County officers  
9 State east of Wyo.  
10 Mo. before May  
11 Slugging stat  
12 Avoider of high-tech stuff  
13 Element #18  
14 High, light sweater  
15 Singer of lyric poetry  
16 Chicano choir  
17 Process of being twisted  
18 Not blurry, as an image  
19 Most rapid  
24 Scottish cap  
29 Purpose  
31 Club leas  
32 German for "grandma"  
33 Sushi fish  
34 Concealed  
35 Metallic string  
36 Ooze through pores  
37 Trusts in  
38 Option lists for e-device downloads  
40 Hi — screen  
43 Like poems of praise  
44 Lavish party  
45 Oxidation formation  
50 Mattel product  
51 Old Cuzco native  
53 Play tennis  
54 Bicolor whale  
55 Roarer in Oz  
56 Uncontrolled outbreak  
57 Having a pH over 7  
58 Appraise again  
60 Bird's beak  
62 Wedding veil material  
63 Very big birds  
64 Conk  
65 Low bills  
66 Linking word in German  
68 Former rival of Nintendo  
72 Sturdy wood  
73 Symbol on a musical staff  
74 Either director of "Fargo"  
75 Jedi master  
80 They're called to get assistance  
82 For payment  
83 Most fatigued  
84 Russia's — Tass  
85 Came upon  
86 Obtains  
87 Leaves speechless  
88 Giver of an angry look  
89 Place to take a dirty vehicle  
90 How sausage links are connected  
92 Adjust to a situation again  
93 Bush press secretary  
94 "— Tok" (Kesha hit)  
96 Phone no.  
97 Nike rival  
101 Intermision  
103 That fellow's  
104 Ancient Greek market  
107 — majesty (high treason)  
108 Manicure tool  
109 Off-road trucks, briefly  
110 No. in Russia  
112 Insect trapper  
114 Allow to  
115 Start for teen or adolescent  
116 Film director DuVernay  
117 Large number

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate

♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Moments in time

On Dec. 15, 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in his capacity as Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in the Pacific, ended the role of Shintoism as Japan's established religion. Shintoism included the belief that the emperor was divine.

On Dec. 16, 1998, President Bill Clinton announced his order of air strikes against Iraq, due to the country's refusal to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors. Key members of Congress did not support the decision, accusing Clinton of using the strikes to direct attention away from his impeachment proceedings.

On Dec. 17, 2003, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final film in the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved fantasy novels, debuted in theaters. A tremendous hit, it won 11 Academy Awards, and the trilogy became one of the highest-grossing franchises in cinema history.

On Dec. 18, 1961, the Tokens' version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" became not just a No. 1 song, but a classic — one of the most covered and most successful pop songs ever recorded. Sadly, a sequence of business arrangements that made millions of dollars for a handful of prominent U.S. music publishers yielded just a \$1,000 personal check from folksinger Pete Seeger to Solomon Linda, a South African performer who composed the tune.

On Dec. 19, 1986, Michael Sergio, an actor and Mets fan who parachuted into Game Six of the 1986 World Series at New York's Shea Stadium, was fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service for touching down on the infield with a "Let's Go Mets" banner to the cheering support of more than 55,000 spectators.

On Dec. 20, 1880, a section of Broadway between Union Square and Madison Square was illuminated by Brush arc lamps, becoming one of the first electrically lighted streets in America and earning the nickname "The Great White Way."

On Dec. 21, 1913, the first modern crossword puzzle was published in the New York World, part of a set of what the paper called "mental exercises." Clues included "sunk in mud," "the fibre of the gomuti palm," and "such and nothing more."

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features a French bulldog named Stella?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Algeria?

3. MUSIC: Which famous song starts with the line, "I read the news today, oh boy ...?"

4. MOVIES: Who wrote "Hedwig's Theme," the main music in the Harry Potter movies?

5. FOOD & DRINK: What is the origin of popcorn?

6. HISTORY: Where was Napoleon Bonaparte exiled to after his defeat in 1815?

7. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Sound and the Fury"?

8. ANATOMY: What are the smallest blood vessels called?

9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In what year did the international version of TikTok launch?

10. SCIENCE: What substance makes plants green?

Answers

1. "Modern Family."

2. Algiers.

3. "A Day in the Life," The Beatles.

4. Composer John Williams.

5. Indigenous people in the Americas mastered the art of popping corn.

6. The remote island of St. Helena.

7. William Faulkner.

8. Capillaries.

9. 2017.

10. The pigment chlorophyll.

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Out on a Limb


by Gary Kopervas



BUSTER ASKS SANTA CLAUS FOR THE SAME THING EVERY CHRISTMAS

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



OH, SORRY, WAS I SNORING?

Americanisms

"The wilderness holds answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask."  
— Nancy Wynne Newhall

© 2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



GUYS, WE AGREE THERE'S TOO MUCH FUSS OVER POLITICS, SO I CLAIM THIS FARM DEMOCRAT.

HOLD ON MISTER, SOME COWS AND US CHICKENS LEAN MORE REPUBLICAN!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOUR POLICIES ARE SO OUTDATED AND SILLY.

PHLOP!

AHH GEEZ, THE LIVESTOCK MUST BE DEBATING POLITICS AGAIN. THE MUDSLINGING HAS BEGUN.

Puzzle answers on page B2



OBITUARIES/NEWS



**Ione Marie Strughold**  
Feb. 13, 1929 - Nov. 8, 2025  
Ione Marie Strughold (Wilfong,

Muller), 96, passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2025, at Brookdale Senior Living in Keizer, Oregon. She was born on Feb. 13, 1929, in Hoxie, Kansas, to Earl and Winnie Fairchild.  
In 1948, Ione and Kenneth Wilfong were married and moved to Dallas, Oregon, from Colorado with their parents. There, they had two children, Kenda and Denny.  
Following a divorce, Ione married Robert (Bob) Muller from Perrydale, who had three children, Kathy, Abra and Robbie.  
She enjoyed farm life and being a bookkeeper at Elliott Feed and Seed Co., meeting many farmers from

the surrounding area. Ione loved watching her children participate in athletic events and school plays. She and Bob hosted breakfasts and parties for family and the community. Ione was a quiet but social person who was involved in her community by being in the Perrydale GoodWill Club later in life.  
Six years after a tragic farming accident that took Bob’s life, Ione married Harold Strughold, a previous high school friend. She remained on the farm after Harold’s death in 2005, until her move to Brookdale in 2024.  
Throughout her life, Ione enjoyed sewing, needlework, ironing for

others, writing poetry, music and cooking for the family. She often hosted Sunday dinners for all sides of the family. Her biggest gift was her compassion and quiet support for others. She often talked about the adventures when taking the “old folks” on a drive or trip. She gave tirelessly to each of those dear relatives and friends, through the end of their lives. Having a great sense of humor helped her maintain a positive upbeat attitude. She will truly be missed by relatives, “adopted kids” and all friends near and far.  
Ione is survived by Kenda (Matt) Sprague; Denny (Jeannette) Wilfong; Abra Lusk and Robbie Muller;

grandchildren Dustin (Andrea) Wilfong, Jenny (Grant) Cribbs, Eric (Rachel) Sprague, Karlee (Josh) Wyckoff and Amanda (Phil) Lang; and 15 great-grandchildren.  
Ione’s children are deeply grateful for the love, care and kindness from Brookdale staff, Hospice, family and friends.  
The family is planning a graveside gathering at Salt Creek Cemetery in the spring.  
Rest In Peace Mother!  
Bollman’s Tribute Center is caring for the family.

NESBETT  
From Page A5

will magnify the impact of any tax cuts on services that voters care about – from schools to health care.

Sizemore’s modus operandi was to file multiple measures and proceed to the ballot with the few that polled the best. Von Schlegell and his team are likely to follow suit. But I’d bet that when they do their polling, they’ll find that their tax-cutting initiatives won’t

easily pass muster with the voters, while their results-oriented reforms of government will be better received.  
So, perhaps they’ll ditch their attempt to roll back taxes and promote the policies that will force state government to do a better job with the

resources it has. Even I, who was part of the effort to defeat Sizemore those many years ago, would be fine to see that effort go forward in the years ahead.  
See all 11 of John von Schlegell’s petitions with this

column online at ggsentinel.com.  
https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2025/11/14/new-bal-lot-measure-operation-targets-the-democratic-coalition-in-salem/  
Oregon Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a

network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Oregon Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Lynne Terry for questions: info@oregoncapitalchronicle.com.

October restaurant inspections

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

*by the entrance that indicates passing or failing their most recent inspection.*

**Dandy Burgers**  
888 SE Monmouth Cutoff Road, Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 30  
Score: 100

**Chen’s Family Dish**  
165 Orchard Dr., Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 30  
Score: 90  
- Food employees are not washing their hands as often as necessary, specifically the operator was observed eating in the dining room with gloves on, using a disposable tissue to wipe mouth and nose, then entering the kitchen and beginning to handle food without removing gloves and washing hands.  
- Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot

or cold holding temperatures, specifically a metal container of chopped garlic in oil was sitting out on the stove at 76F. The operator states it has been out for 2.5 hours. A container of bean sprouts in ice water is sitting out at 45F. Ice has melted in some parts allowing the product to warm.

**Courthouse Club Fitness Coffeebar**  
300 Glen Creek Road NW, West Salem  
Inspection Date: Oct. 28  
Score: 100

**Rinconcito Sabroso**  
173 Pacific Highway W., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 24  
Score: 97 - Unauthorized personnel are on the premises or employees are not properly trained in food safety or food allergy awareness, specifically

an operator is bringing a pot of tamales and a pot of corn which was heated at a residential kitchen.

**Dry Town Food Truck**  
180 Main St. E., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 24  
Score: 100

**Dry Town Tap Station**  
180 Main St. E., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 24  
Score: 97 - Ready-to-eat food is not properly date-marked, specifically a container of whipped cream is not date marked. An operator states it was opened on Monday - five days prior.

**Dorm Food - WOU**  
345 N Monmouth Ave., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 23  
Score: 100

**Coffee Shop - WOU**  
400 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 23  
Score: 100

**The Summit**  
400 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth,  
Inspection Date: Oct. 23  
Score: 100

**James2 Community Kitchen**  
565 SE La Creole Drive, Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 23  
Score: 100

**Dutch Bros Coffee**  
820 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 22  
Score: 95 - Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding

temperatures, specifically: can of whipped cream and carton of chocolate milk are sitting out at 65F. An operator states these were brought out 10 minutes prior.

**Taqueria Sofi**  
283 S 2nd St., Independence  
Inspection Date: Oct. 21  
Score: 90  
- Raw or ready-to-eat food is not properly protected from cross contamination, specifically three containers of raw meat (chicken, beef and tripe) and a carton of raw eggs are above hot dogs, tomatoes and limes in the reach-in fridge.  
- Potentially hazardous food is not maintained at proper hot or cold holding temperatures, specifically a cut onion is sitting out at 60F. operator states

See **INSPECTIONS PAGE A8**

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.
- **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC - Dr. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon & Wed 8am-12pm & 2pm-6pm, Tues & Thursday 8:30am-12pm & 2pm-6pm, Fri 8am-noon.** Serving Polk county for 27 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

COUNSELING

- **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.

IMAGING SERVICES

- **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** offers state-of-the-art, all-digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician’s referral, we provide bone density tests, CT scans, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our comfortable and spacious mammography suite. Our imaging services are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7302. Learn more at [salemhealth.org/westvalley](http://salemhealth.org/westvalley).

LABORATORY SERVICES

- **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**  
**Independence — 1430 Monmouth St., 503-917-2255**  
**Independence — Central Health and Wellness Center — 1601 Monmouth St., Suite 100, 503-838-0045**  
**Monmouth — 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1182**

URGENT CARE

- **BESTMED URGENT CARE** provides treatments and services for time-sensitive injuries and illnesses — and now offers Primary Care services too. We have caring and knowledgeable providers to treat a wide range of needs, including: Fever & flu, Sprains & strains, Allergies & asthma, UTIs, Dehydration, Ongoing primary care needs like wellness exams, chronic condition management, and preventive care. Additional services include: Sports physicals, On-site lab & x-ray, and Sutures & stitches. Urgent Care Walk-ins are welcome, call to schedule a Primary Care appointment. Learn more online at [BestMedClinics.com](http://BestMedClinics.com).  
BestMed Urgent & Primary Care is located at:  
**186 West Ellendale Avenue, Dallas**  
**Phone: 971-900-4984**



INSPECTIONS  
From Page A7

it was brought out 10 minutes ago.

- The Boondocks**  
318 N Main St., Falls City,  
Inspection Date: Oct. 17  
Score: 100
- B's Buzz**  
11065 W Perrydale Road  
Loop, Amity  
Inspection Date: Oct. 16  
Score: 100
- Galaxy Won**  
780 Main St., Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 16  
Score: 100

- Sonny's Coffee and Plants**  
1282 Main St. E.,  
Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 15  
Score: 100
- Taco Bell**  
1537 Monmouth-  
Independence Highway,  
Independence  
Inspection Date: Oct. 15  
Score: 100
- North Dallas Grill & Sports Bar**  
170 E. Ellendale Ave.,  
Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 14  
Score: 95 - Potentially haz-  
ardous food is not maintained  
at proper hot or cold holding  
temperatures, specifically  
several items in the grill area  
are sitting out at room temp,

- including liquid egg (53F),  
hollandaise sauce (60F),  
cooked potatoes (61F) and  
cheese (62F). An operator  
states none of these items  
have been out for over 20  
minutes.
- Lunitas Mexican Food**  
365 E. Ellendale Ave.,  
Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 14  
Score: 100
- West Valley Hospital**  
525 SE Washington St.,  
Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 14  
Score: 100
- Rey Coliman Mexican Food**  
87 S Main St.,  
Independence

- Inspection Date: Oct. 10  
Score: 100
- Carl's Jr.**  
131 N Pacific Highway,  
Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 10  
Score: 100
- Jack's Pub and Lotto**  
423 Main St. E., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 10  
Score: 100
- Pizza & Spuds**  
1233 Riverbend Rd NW  
Salem  
Inspection Date: Oct. 9  
Score: 95 - Potentially haz-  
ardous food is not maintained  
at proper hot or cold holding  
temperatures, specifically a  
bottle of mayo marked "refrig-  
erate after opening" is sitting

- out at room temp (70F). An  
operator states it has been out  
over four hours.
- Burger King**  
1120 Wallace Road NW,  
West Salem  
Inspection Date: Oct. 9  
Score: 100
- Domino's - Monmouth**  
310 E Main St., Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 9  
Score: 100
- Dallas Aquatic Center Canteen**  
1005 S E. La Creole Dr.,  
Dallas  
Inspection Date: Oct. 3  
Score: 100
- New York Squares**

- 240 Monmouth St  
Independence  
Inspection Date: Oct. 3  
Score: 95 - Refrigerated,  
ready-to-eat, potentially  
hazardous food has not been  
consumed within the required  
time period or is not properly  
date-marked, specifically  
opened package of spreadable  
salami is date marked Sept.  
21. The opened package of  
potentially hazardous pro-  
sciutto is date marked Sept.  
25.
- Prismatic Coffee**  
6301 Edwards Rd S  
Monmouth  
Inspection Date: Oct. 1  
Score: 100

New AARP report reveals 23% of Oregonians are caregivers

New AARP caregiving data, Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: Caring Across States, finds that more than 23% of adults in Oregon — approx- imately 790,000 people — are family caregivers, providing largely unpaid and unsupported care to older family members and friends, and children with disabilities or complex medical needs.

BY THE NUMBERS

Most family caregivers in Oregon care for an adult (93%) —most often a parent (47%). Thirteen percent care for a child with complex medical needs. The Oregon data can be found here: Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: Oregon.

“When a loved one needs help, family members, friends, and neighbors step up, that’s what we do,” AARP Oregon State Director Bandana Shrestha said. “But too often, caregivers carry this responsibility alone, often putting their finances, health and jobs at risk. As our state population ages, the

demand for care will only grow. With the release of this new data, AARP Oregon is urging policymakers at every level to act now to help fam- ily caregivers save money, time and get the support they need.”

Family caregivers provide \$8.7 billion in unpaid care each year in Oregon, helping family members live inde- pendently at home and in their communities—where they want to be. Their care- giving responsibilities range from bathing and meal prep to managing medications, arranging transportation and handling medical tasks, with little or no training.

But the toll on our fam- ily caregivers is great— financially, physically, and emotionally.

- 80% of caregivers pay out of their own pockets to help meet their loved ones’ needs, averaging \$7,200 each year, or 25% of their income.
- In Oregon, 43% of fam- ily caregivers report financial setbacks— taking on debt,



Courtesy from AARP

**The toll on our family caregivers is great— financially, physically, and emotionally, according to the AARP report.**

draining savings, or strug- gling to afford basics like food and medicine.

- One in three Oregon caregivers (33%) experience high emotional stress while caregiving. Three in ten (31%) have difficulty tak- ing care of their own health while they focus on their care recipient’s needs.
- 62% of our state’s care- givers are also juggling full- or part-time jobs. Many must reduce work hours or leave the workforce entirely due to caregiving responsibilities, jeopardizing their own long- term financial security.

And at the federal level, AARP is working to save caregivers money through the Credit for Caring Act, a proposed federal tax credit of up to \$5,000 for working caregivers, and the Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act, which would expand flexible spending and health savings account uses.

This National Family Caregivers Month, AARP

Oregon encourages everyone to show support for caregiv- ers and to join the growing movement of Americans raising their voices for change. Join AARP’s I Am A Caregiver movement and tell lawmakers it’s time to sup- port those who care.

**RESOURCES**

To access free caregiver tools and local resource guides, visit:

- AARP’s state-by-state Family Caregiver Resource Guides to help family care- givers access key programs, services, and agencies right in their community.
- AARP’s online Caregiving Hub with tools and information available in English and Spanish.
- AARP and United Way Worldwide’ s 211 program connects family caregivers to essential local services for themselves and their loved ones via the 211 helpline.
- AARP’s official care- giving Facebook group serves as a place for family caregivers nationwide to connect, share practical tips, offer support, and discuss their shared experiences

**Holiday Bazaar**  
**Coming in December**

*Handmade Crafts available from Local Crafters.*  
*Homemade Cookies & Baked Goods will be sold to benefit the Center*

Friday, Dec. 12 from 10 am–6 pm  
and Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 am–4 pm

**Interested in being a Vendor?**  
**Contact Angie - 602-819-1208 or**  
**angieb919@gmail.com**

**FRIENDS OF THE MONMOUTH SENIOR CENTER**

**YETI TO SELL?**  
**LIST WITH ME!**

**SPECIALIZING IN:**

- HOMES ON ACREAGE
- CUSTOM HOMES
- UNIQUE & UNUSUAL HOMES

**STEPHEN G. TANDY, PC**  
Broker | Sr. Vice President  
Licensed Oregon Real Estate Broker  
**SteveTandy.com**  
**503-580-1483**

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
MOUNTAIN WEST REAL ESTATE, INC.

# VOLUNTEER WITH A PURPOSE!

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY THAT DELIVERS NUTRITIOUS MEALS AND JOYFUL SMILES TO SENIORS RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

**MONMOUTH SENIOR CENTER**  
**180 WARREN ST S.**  
**MONMOUTH OR 97361**  
**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS**

Volunteers enjoy flexible scheduling and receive mileage reimbursement for their deliveries.

503-967-1849

**MEALS on WHEELS**  
NORTHWEST

volunteer@nwsds.org





Prep Calendar

Boys Basketball

Dec. 3  
Central at Thurston,  
7 p.m.  
Springfield vs. Dallas,  
7 p.m.  
Nestucca vs.  
Perrydale, 7 p.m.  
Central at Gresham  
Jamboree, TBD

Dec. 4  
Crow/Northwest  
Christian vs. Falls City,  
7 p.m.

Dec. 5  
Cornerstone Christian  
(WA) vs. Falls City, 7  
p.m.

Dec. 6  
Dallas at Willamette,  
5:30 p.m.

Dec. 8  
North Bend vs.  
Central, 5 p.m.  
North Bend vs.  
Dallas, 7 p.m.

Dec. 9  
Central at North  
Albany, 7:15 p.m.  
East Linn Christian  
vs. Perrydale, 7:30 p.m.  
Falls City at Mohawk,  
7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Dec. 3  
Nestucca vs.  
Perrydale, 5 p.m.

Dec. 4  
Falls City at Crow, 4  
p.m.

Dec. 5  
North Eugene vs.  
GBB, 7 p.m.  
Franklin vs. Central,  
7 p.m.  
Cornerstone Christian  
(WA) vs. Falls City,  
5:30 p.m.

Dec. 6  
Central at Parkrose,  
7 p.m.

Dec. 9  
East Linn Christian  
vs. Perrydale, 6 p.m.  
Falls City at Mohawk,  
5:30 p.m.

Swimming

Dec. 9

See **PREP**, page B8

Panther runner Aidan Wendring looks to develop with UP Pilots

By LANCE MASTERSON  
For The Itemizer-Observer

Aidan Wendring’s decision to commit to the University of Portland was driven by more than its proximity. The school’s reputation is what tipped the scales in its favor.

“I wanted to go to a program that develops guys into national-caliber athletes,” he said. “A lot of programs bring in international runners who are already at their peak. Portland has a history of making their athletes better.”

In return, Portland gets someone who is among the best-ever to run cross country and track for the Panthers, and is a Nike national champion in the 2K steeplechase.

“I think we saw last spring, when Aidan won the steeplechase at the Nike Nationals, what he is capable of doing,” Panthers coach Eli Cirino said. “I truly believe that his best is ahead of him.”

Wendring’s goal is to be just as competitive at the next level.

“I know that if I invest in what they give me, I’ll succeed,” Wendring said. “University of Portland is the program that will help me



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Central’s Aidan Wendring has committed to the University of Portland, where he will run cross country and track for the Pilots. The senior is also a national champion in the 2K steeplechase.**

become the best runner I can be.”

Portland has no sprint squad in track and no football program, he added, thus distance running is given a higher priority than at other campuses.

Wendring will redshirt his freshman year.

“The advantage of red-shirting is that (he) will have time to adjust mentally and physically to the change of environment while not using up (his) eligibility,” Cirino

said, adding that Wendring “will be able to adapt without as much competitive pressure and still have four more years to compete.”

College cross country runners compete at distances of 8K and 10K.

“I’ve never raced more than 5K,” Wendring said. “It’s going to be a huge adjustment. But once you build the habit and the routine, it becomes part of your day.”

Staying healthy could be the biggest challenge facing him.

“As soon as I get in a few good weeks of training, I seem to get hurt,” he said. “Consistency and staying healthy, that’s what matters in this sport.”

A fully healthy Wendring competes at an elite level.

“Aidan’s greatest strength as a runner is his determination. He is extremely smart, focused, and goal oriented,” Cirino said. “But his will-power is off the charts. I have learned not to doubt his ability to reach his goals and to never count him out of a race.”

Wendring’s senior year was marked by several injuries and missed practices.

Yet he placed third at the Mid-Willamette Conference Championships, and earned honorable mention at state, courtesy of his 26th-place finish.

The Pilots are in the competitive West Coast Conference, as are Gonzaga, St. Mary’s, Pepperdine and five other full-time members.

Washington State, Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo and Central Washington University were also under consideration.

“Cal Poly was my number two choice, but it’s far away and they don’t have the same financial aid opportunities,” he said. “Being closer to home will make transportation easier, too.”

His plan is to major in engineering.

Later this year Wendring will compete at the U20 national meet in steeplechase, where a top-three finish could place him on the U20 U.S. World Team.

“That would be incredible,” he said of qualifying. “Wearing the Team USA gear and racing against the World U20 team.”

New-look Dragons hosts Springfield in hoops opener

By LANCE MASTERSON  
For The Itemizer-Observer

With a new head coach, a young roster, and a few weeks of practices, the Dragons’ varsity basketball team is entering the 2025-26 season with optimism.

Alex King is the team’s third coach in a year. His roster lists three seniors, three juniors, and six sophomores. He welcomes the youth parade.

“Being young is a good thing when you’re trying to build something,” King said of the challenges that await.

Senior Xander Hammill feels this year’s squad has improved over last year’s.

“We’ve got a lot of young kids, and we’re hoping for a better season than last season,” Hammill said. “Once we put the little pieces together, and figure out where to put players and how to use their skills, we’ll get it.”

Instilling confidence in self and others is high on the team’s to-do list.

“I think it begins with cheering guys up after practice,” Hammill added. “High fives. Telling players what they did good. Getting excited. Clapping it up loud. That kind of stuff gets their confidence up.”

Hammill is rehabbing an injury and is sidelined. Though he is a familiar presence at practices.

“I tore my UCL in football and had to get surgery to repair it,” Hammill said. “I’ll

probably be back in January, if not sooner.”

Other key returnees include senior Nick Walker, junior Nate Cunningham and sophomores Tristan Porter and Lukas Lawless.

Dallas will lean heavily on Porter (6-feet, 5-inches) and Walker (6-3).

Porter, his coach said, has “a big presence in the paint, and is a player who made major strides after an active summer.”

As for Walker: “He’s a heck of an athlete and we’re excited to have him.”

Point guards Lawless and Tony Solis, also a sophomore, have also impressed.

“We’re guard heavy, and we’re very physical,” King said.

Players will swing between the junior varsity and varsity squads throughout the season. Because, for King, hard work and improvement is recognized and rewarded.

“It will be fluid every week,” he said of his roster. “If you’re not a senior, you’re free to go up or down. We want the players motivated; we want them completing for minutes all year.”

Last year’s Dragons were led by seniors Diego Miranda, Sean Ward and Derrick Johnson. The trio filled up the stats sheets. Others will now need to step up and take their place.

“Our players can’t rely on someone who’s not there anymore,” King said. “If they



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON

**Coach Alex King runs his Dragons’ players through practice drills in anticipation of tonight’s home opener against Springfield at 7 p.m.**

want to score, they’ve got to go score. It’s up to them.”

To say last season didn’t go as planned is an understatement. The Dragons won their opener, but then lost 23 straight games to close out the season. Also, former coach Ray Williams resigned with a few weeks left in the season. Assistant coach Cameron Rowland took over for Williams. King was hired in the spring.

He didn’t hesitate when asked if a rebuild is ongoing.

“That’s a fair assessment,” he said. “But I think we’re going to be a better team than last year. I think we can win more games, that we’ll steal a couple of wins. We’re young, but we have talent. We just

have to get these guys to believe they can compete with the older teams in the league.”

This will be a team that measures its success one day at a time, not on wins alone.

“Every day our emphasis is on the now. Don’t worry about yesterday or tomorrow,” King said.

Non-league play kicks off tonight (Dec. 3) with Springfield at home. Tipoff is 7 p.m. The Dragons defeated tonight’s visitors in the season opener last year for its only win.

“I don’t want that weighing on them,” King said of last year’s record. “We’re not the same team, and (Springfield) is not the same team. First

games are fun: no scouting, no film. Just go out and play basketball.”

The preseason includes a second game with Springfield, plus matchups with Willamette, North Bend and Glencoe before Christmas.

Silverton is here Jan. 2, for the Mid-Willamette Conference opener for both teams. King knows what he wants to see from his players by then.

“I want the players to be confident in what we’re running. Confident that they can defend one-on-one, and be confident in each other,” King said. “We’re athletic. We’re guard-heavy, and we want defense to be our strength.”

What’s YOUR neighbor up to?

Find out in the Itemizer-Observer. You may find your neighbor, your boss, your friend or yourself in the pages of the Itemizer Observer. Local stories on local people—that’s our specialty.

Itemizer-Observer



# PAGES OF THE PAST

## 50 years ago

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1975

### Dallas to offer reward for report on vandals

Damage at the Dallas City Park has prompted the City Council to take a new look at ways to cut down and hopefully eliminate the costly repairs required after vandals have caused damage to public property and facilities in the parks.

In a report to the City Council, City Manager Howard Brandvold explained recent types of vandalism that have been reported to his office. Damage and destruction of these public facilities is costing the city in excess of \$5,000 per year to make the necessary repairs or replace the destroyed property and the present city budget cannot continue to support these costs.

### County land use plan nearing completion

Polk County's comprehensive land use plan is like a house with its frame complete, but its interior still unfinished. At least that's county counsel Dwight Ferris' analogy.

Ferris made the analogy Monday, Dec. 1 at a public hearing in Dallas on the county's comprehensive land use plan, which the county commissioners hope to adopt by Jan. 1, is general in nature — like the frame of a house. But the specific details of the plan still need to be formed, through zoning laws, like the finishings of a house.

### Foxes win jamboree, Dallas High second

Monday evening Dallas and McMinnville, from the West side of the Coast Valley League, got together with Estacada and Silverton from the East and the four quintets played a round robin jamboree in Silverton.

Dallas took the opener with a 10-9 decision over

FLASHBACK

This week's Flashback is from Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1975: CANDY CANES FOR ALL— The arrival of Santa Claus culminated the annual tree lighting ceremony Friday at the courthouse lawn. Carolers from area elementary schools and Band-Aid the clown helped kick off the opening event of the Home for the Holidays program. (File I-O photo.)

the McMinnville Grizzlies. Coach Dennis Newton, who platooned his men, started the first eight-minute game with Phil Aime and Terry Kunkle at the guards, Jeff Brunner at center and Gary Bird and Russ Henry at the forwards.

## 40 Years Ago

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1985

### County recovers from snowfall

Dallas suffered along with everyone else in the valley

from the recent cold spell and snow, but city officials say the weather posed few serious problems. A concern Tuesday was the possibility of flooding caused by rapid snow melt. Bob Bunch of the Dallas Public Works Department said the threat was real, but the melt Tuesday was gradual and steady and therefore not a problem. Crews were out Monday and Tuesday making sure drains were clear and cleaning up, he said.

### Valsetz Lake power project gets green light

A hydroelectric project using Valsetz Lake water received the final green light from the Water Resources Commission on Monday. The Valsetz Power Company, a subsidiary of Boise Cascade Corp., plans to build a 6-foot diameter pipeline running about 8,500 feet on the west bank of the South Fork of Siletz River from the 40-foot wood and rock dam to a powerhouse.

### Dallas girls seek potential

Plenty of potential and a great attitude. Those are a couple of points that Dallas girls basketball coach Jim Fairchild is pleased about going into the start of the season this week. The Dragons opened their campaign Tuesday against Sprague (results were unavailable at press time). They hose McNary on Thursday and McKay on Saturday.

Community Achievement

IPD welcomes new officer Bella Federico



Independence Police Chief Juventino Banuelos swears in his department's newest officer, Bella Federico on Nov. 25. From a young age, Federico knew that she wanted a career helping people and giving back to her community. After earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Western Oregon University, Federico began her law enforcement career on patrol with Marion County, where she discovered her passion for serving the community on the front lines. In her free time, Federico enjoys camping, riding quads, and spending time with family and friends. Federico said she feels blessed to join IPD and looks forward to building friendships with everyone in our community.

We Buy Houses For Cash!

Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide! No Repairs. No Fuss.

Liz Buys

- Fair Cash Offer
- Quick Closing
- No Realtor Fees
- No House Repairs
- Simple Home Sale
- Convenient Closing Date

Call (866) 249-8679

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 877-557-1912 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply. GENERAC

Donate Your Vehicle

Call (866) 695-9265 to donate your car, truck, boat, RV, and more today!

- Support Veteran Nonprofits.
- Free Pickup & Towing.
- Top Tax Deduction.

Donate Your Vehicle Today

866-695-9265

www.veterancardonations.org/dnt20

While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (866) 695-9265.

Donate Your Car

Imagine the Difference You Can Make

Vehicle donations are fully tax-deductible and the proceeds help provide services to help the blind and visually impaired.

FREE TOWING & TAX DEDUCTIBLE

When you donate your car, you'll receive:

- a \$200 restaurant voucher
- a 2-night, 3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations

Call 1-844-533-9173

Help Prevent Blindness

Get A Vision Screening Annually

CryptoQuip

answer

What would you call belief in a magical ability to determine the origins of things? Sourcery.

Go Figure!

answers

7	+	2	÷	1	=	9
+		+		+		
4	+	5	+	8	=	17
+		+		×		
9	+	3	÷	6	=	2
=		=		=		
20		10		54		

PIANO BRANDS

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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



# Community Calendar Dec. 3 - Dec. 10

**Wednesday, Dec. 3**  
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
8:30 a.m. - Mayor of Independence Office Hours, stop by and share your thoughts, ideas, and questions, City Hall, 555 South Main St.  
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Resource Navigation, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
10:30 a.m. - Story Time with Miss Jo, Independence Library, 175 Monmouth St.  
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11 a.m. - Lunch with Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12:15 p.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Birthday Celebration, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Polk County Local Alcohol and Drug Policy Committee meeting, County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas  
4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
5:30 p.m. - Municipal Court Arraignments, City Hall, 555 South Main St., Independence

**Thursday, Dec. 4**  
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center

9 a.m. - Intermediate Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9:30 a.m. - Walking Club, meet at Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Cards/table games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Calvary Chapel Dallas Sewing and Craft group meeting, 628 SE Jefferson St.  
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Bounces & Rhymes, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
10:30 a.m. - Medicare Class with Bethany, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11:30 a.m. - Lunch Bunch, Dallas Area Senior Center  
12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center  
12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
2 p.m. - Medicare 101, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
5 p.m. - Artist Reception - Pam Serra-Wenz, Monmouth City Hall, 151 Main St. W.  
6 p.m. - Trivia & Vino at Elysium, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence  
6 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Stretch exercise 1, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Brunk Farmstead Tours, 5705 Salem Dallas Hwy NW  
10 a.m. – Art Workshop/ Cards/Table 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 Cheryl/Birthday Party, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Medicare Plans, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1:30 p.m. - Jewelry making, 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 Library, 950 Main St.  
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  
6:30 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, Dec. 6**  
8:30 a.m. - Friends of the Senior Center Pancake Breakfast, Monmouth Senior Community Center, \$10 all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, juice, and coffee  
9:30 a.m. - Model Railroad Show & Sale, Main Building, Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Hwy. West  
10 a.m. - Brunk Farmstead Tours, 5705 Salem Dallas Highway NW  
6 p.m. - Live Music: Caught Dead Handed, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence, \$10 cover charge

7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth  
7:30 p.m. - Live Music: Shara Nova, Smith Fine Arts Series, Rice Auditorium, 148 Powell St E, Monmouth, buy tickets at <https://bit.ly/4acaerf>

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
8 a.m. - Yoga in the Park, Main Street Park, 120 Main St. E., Monmouth  
9 a.m. - Polk Productions Flea Market, Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Hwy. West  
2 p.m. - Live Music: Orvil Ivie, 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, Dec. 8**  
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. - Alzheimer’s Support Group, Dallas Public Library  
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 Cheryl/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  
6:30 p.m. - New Horizons Orchestra, Monmouth Senior Community Center

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9 a.m. - Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
9:30 a.m. - Walking Club, 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. - Sesame Street’s Raising Kids in a Digital World, ages 3-5, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center  
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  
5:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas  
6:30 p.m. - Community Dance Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
6:30 p.m. - Independence City Council meeting, City Hall, 555 S Main St.  
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center, 4320 Kings Valley Highway, Dallas

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
7 a.m. - Monmouth Library Board Meeting, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.  
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
8:30 a.m. - Mayor of Independence Office Hours, stop by and share your thoughts, ideas, and questions, City Hall, 555 South Main St.  
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - Resource Navigation, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center  
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.  
10:30 a.m. - Story Time with Miss Jo, Independence Library, 175 Monmouth St.  
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center  
11 a.m. - Lunch with Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
12:15 p.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Birthday Celebration, Dallas Area Senior Center  
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center  
4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center  
5:30 p.m. - Municipal Court Arraignments, City Hall, 555 South Main St., Independence  
5:30 p.m. - Independence Heritage Museum Advisory Board meeting

# Community Briefs

**Focal Point hosts Holiday Expo Dec. 3**  
Join in celebrating the Focal Point Photo Club’s Best of 2025 at 6 p.m., Dec. 3 at 161 W Ellendale Ave., in Dallas. This special year-end event brings together photographers of all levels for a night of inspiration, innovation, and community. Meet and learn directly from industry leaders, with representatives from Sigma, Sony, Mac Group, and Tamron on hand to showcase the latest gear, share expert insights, and highlight cutting-edge technology shaping the future of photography.

**Foursquare Church presents A Kind of Christmas Carol Dec. 4**  
The Dallas Foursquare Church hosts “A Kind of Christmas Carol”, a spin off of the original Christmas Carol presented by Walk the Path Community Theatre, at 7 p.m. Dec. 4-6 at 976 SW Hayter St.

**Decorated Wall hosts Christmas shopping event Dec. 5**  
The Decorated Wall hosts a Holiday Pop-up Christmas Shopping Event from 3-6:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at 186 SE Mill St., in Dallas. The Decorated Wall gift shop will be fully stocked with a wide selection of gift, holiday, and home decor items. Also discover

unique gifts from local guest vendors Lolo & Co, Brianna’s Bakery, and Be Kind Arts and Crafts.

**Santa comes to Citizens Bank Dec. 5**  
Santa will be at the Dallas Citizens Bank from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 5 at 583 SE Jefferson St. Santa will be on hand with his holiday background for photos. Donations are encouraged, but not required. All funds go to support Santa’s Giving Project. Citizens Bank will provide a matching donation up to \$200. Santa will also be handing out books by the

Reading Nest to the first 50 kiddos who stop by. For more information, go to [www.santastgivingproject.org](http://www.santastgivingproject.org).

**Dallas hosts Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony Dec. 6**  
Christmas Town, Oregon and the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce present the Christmas Light Parade, beginning at 5 p.m. on Dec. 6. The Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration follows at 6 p.m. on the County Courthouse Plaza, 850 Main St.

**Falls City hosts Community Christmas Tree Lighting Dec. 6**

The city of Falls City hosts a Community Christmas Tree Lighting celebration on Dec. 6 at Mountain Gospel Fellowship, 257 N. Main St. Festivities kick off at 5:30 p.m. with a live nativity, refreshments and music. At 6:45 will be a reading of “The Christmas Story” and caroling. At 7 p.m. the Operation Christmas Tree will be lit by Fall City volunteer firefighters. The tree is the donation point for toys and gifts for

children and families in the community. Don’t forget to look for commemorative tree ornaments hidden throughout the city to discover and bring to the ceremony for a free Christmas Memory Land gift.

**Dallas School District holiday market returns Dec. 6**

The 13th annual Dallas School District Holiday Market returns Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1250 SE Holman Ave. Come shop and support local artisans this holiday season. The DHS Theater Department will be

performing a children’s show at 2 p.m.

**New Morning Bakery hosts Pop Up Holiday Market Dec. 6**

The 4th Annual Pop-up Holiday Market hosted by New Morning Bakery is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 6 at 788 S Main St. in Dallas. Check out local artisans offering hand-made goods, art, and gifts. There will be free cookie decorating, seasonal holiday goodies, gingerbread house

See BRIEFS B8

**BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY CHAPEL**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Fresh cinnamon rolls!!!

Complimentary gift wrapping!!!

**DECEMBER 13**

**9AM TO 3PM**

Locally crafted gifts, baked treats, artwork, soup lunch, and more!

**16930 BRIDGEPORT ROAD**

The women's team will provide complimentary gift wrapping for any gift that you purchase at the Bizarre, or that you bring with you.

We will also have a table for children to choose a gift to give to a member of their family, at no charge to them.

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to announce that Representative Paul Evans, Monmouth born and bred, is the Chamber Member of the Week.

At just age 18 Paul was elected to the Monmouth City Council, and in doing so became one of the youngest elected officials in the country. 10 years later Paul became Mayor of Monmouth and served for 4 years.



His tenure would have been longer but his country needed him in another capacity. Specifically, as a member of the Oregon Air National Guard, the military called him into service. He was part of combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Paul's good work for our cities, for Polk County and for the State of Oregon continues. In 2014 he was elected and serves as District 20's Oregon State Representative. Paul's legislative efforts have brought many benefits to Monmouth and Independence, most recently in helping the M-I Trolley become a reality.

Paul has and does serve his country, his state, his county, and his cities, and all of these entities are proud of him. He works diligently in our community. Just a few weeks ago you may have seen Paul hosting a site at the Independence Ghost Walk.

Communicate with Representative Paul Evans by phone at 503-986-1420, by email at [Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov), or make a date to visit him in his state office at 900 Court St. NE, H-471, Salem.

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce is so pleased to name Paul Evans their Member of the Week.









PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO25-1424 Public Meeting Notice West Valley Housing Authority will be holding its monthly Board Meeting for December on Monday December 22nd, 2025 beginning at 12:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the regular meeting, if required. If there is any alteration to the regularly scheduled meeting, an updated notice will be posted, and it will be on our website as well. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at [www.wvpha.org](http://www.wvpha.org). The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodation to attend the meeting or wish to attend via zoom. For information, please call Rachael Wolf at 503-623-8387 ext 313 , VRS (877) 326-3877.

PCIO25-1423 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Beryl M. Green, deceased, Polk County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB10133. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the undersigned personal representative at PO Box 791, Salem, OR 97308, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative. Dated and published: December 03, 2025. Beryl Dwayne Green Personal Representative Willamette Legacy Law Stephanie M. Palmblad, OSB No. 124125 Willamette Legacy Law PO Box 791 Salem, OR 97308 Phone: (971) 345-6986 Fax: (971) 345-6913

PCIO25-1421 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Downtown Storage and Warehouse located at 889 Liberty St NE Salem OR 97301 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.bld13.com](http://www.bld13.com) on 12/22/2025 at 10:00AM. Alisia Schrader Unit #A1085; Sampakita Saiter Unit #A2104; Kyle Pippin Unit #A3054; Pamela Milligan Unit #A3086; Amy Hand Unit #A3156; Teresa M Coleman Unit #A4206; Matthew Oglevie Unit #A4272. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1416 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Downtown Storage and Warehouse located at 889 Liberty St NE Salem OR 97301 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.bld13.com](http://www.bld13.com) on 12/18/2025 at 10:00AM. Tarah M Martin Unit #A1003; Teisa McElheran Unit #A4202. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1420 UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING ANNEXATION AND REZONE OF PROPERTY The Independence City Council will hold a public hearing on December 9, 2025 (6:30 pm) to consider the annexation and rezone of approximately 12.4 acres off Corvallis Road, which will accommodate a future regional surface water treatment plant. If the annexation is approved, the property will be designated Public and zoned Public Service. The annexation would also include the portion of the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way adjacent to the property to create a more coherent City boundary in the area. For more information, please visit this website: <https://www.ci.independence.or.us/ongoing-development-projects/> Project Location: 12.4-acre portion of 6675 Corvallis Road (i.e. Taxlot 200 of Taxmap 8.4.33), along with the adjacent Southern Pacific Railroad Right-of-Way. Application Criteria: The decision on the application will be based on the approval criteria in the Independence Comprehensive Plan and Independence Development Code (IDC) Subchapters 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/>. Public Hearing Details: December 9, 2025 (6:30 pm) at the Independence Civic Center (555 S. Main Street, Independence). The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. 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 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 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. Staff Contact: For further information, please contact Fred Evander, Community Planner, at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main Street, Independence, 503-837-1168, or [fevander@ci.independence.or.us](mailto:fevander@ci.independence.or.us).

PCIO25-1415 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.storage treasures.com](http://www.storage treasures.com) on 12/17/2025 at 10:00AM. Vicki Ensley unit #170; Kenya Pettigrew unit #197; Sandra Rodriguez unit #276. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1414 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice IN Self Storage - Salem Wallace located at 300 Musgrave Ave., 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.storage treasures.com](http://www.storage treasures.com) on 12/17/2025 at 10:00AM. Adam Wilson unit #5022. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1413 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE File No. 25-00699OR Reference is made to that certain deed of trust made by Breanna Christine Lundberg and Jason Michael Lundberg, as grantor, to Fidelity National Title Company of Oregon, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for Bay Equity LLC, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as beneficiary, dated October 13, 2023, recorded October 24, 2023, in the records of Polk County, Oregon, under instrument No. 2023-007995, and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: LOT 5, BLOCK 1, ISAAC LEVENS LACREOLE HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF DALLAS, IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, COUNTY OF POLK AND STATE OF OREGON. ALSO: THE SOUTH 10 FEET OF LOT 4, BLOCK 1, ISAAC LEVENS LACREOLE HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF DALLAS, IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, COUNTY OF POLK AND STATE OF OREGON. SAVE AND EXCEPT: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 5, BLOCK 1, ISAAC LEVENS LACREOLE HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF DALLAS, IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, COUNTY OF POLK AND STATE OF OREGON; RUNNING

THENCE NORTH 70 FEET; THENCE WEST 54 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 70 FEET; THENCE EAST 54 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. APN: 140339 Commonly known as: 1088 SW Hayter St., Dallas, OR 97338 The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the trust deed, or, if such action has been instituted, such action has been dismissed except as permitted by ORS 86.752(7). Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. There is a default by grantor or other person owing an obligation, performance of which is secured by the trust deed, or by the successor in interest, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of such provision. The default for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sum: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE: \$32,513.70 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$366,778.10 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, those sums being the following, to-wit: 1. The installments of principal and interest which became due on November 1, 2024, and all subsequent installments of principal and interest through the date of this Notice, plus amounts that are due for late charges, delinquent property taxes, insurance premiums, advances made on senior liens, taxes and/or insurance, trustee's fees, and any attorney fees and court costs arising from or associated with the beneficiaries efforts to protect and preserve its security, all of which must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, including all sums that shall accrue through reinstatement or pay-off. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust pursuant to the terms of the loan documents. Whereof, notice hereby is given that Affinia Default Services, LLC, the undersigned trustee will on February 25, 2026 at the hour of 01:00 PM (PST), as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, Inside the new lobby at the Jefferson Street entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St, Dallas, OR 97338 D, County of Polk, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. For Sale Information, contact Xome at (800) 758-8052 or [www.xome.com](http://www.xome.com). In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as

well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Affinia Default Services, LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS THAT SETS FORTH SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO A TENANT OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PROTECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Affinia Default Services, LLC may be deemed to be a debt collector and any information obtained may be used for that purpose. File No.: 25-00699OR Dated: 10/15/2025 Affinia Default Services, LLC By: /s/ Rhys Ran Name: Rhys Ran Title: Foreclosure Processor Trustee's Mailing Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 16000 Christensen Rd., Suite 310 Tukwila, WA 98188 Phone Number: (503) 836-3799 Trustee's Physical Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 10151 SE Sunnyside Road, Suite 490 Clackamas, OR 97015 Email: [inquiries@affiniadefault.com](mailto:inquiries@affiniadefault.com) NPP0479858 To: POLK COUNTY ITEMIZER-OBSERVER 11/26/2025, 12/03/2025, 12/10/2025, 12/17/2025

PCIO25-1410 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK No. 25PB09917 Probate In the Matter of the Richard N. Gardiner Living Trust Agreement, Richard N. Gardiner, Deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Robert J. Gardiner is serving as Trustee of the Richard N. Gardiner Living Trust, dated November 1, 2001 (Trust), and as Trustee has filed a Petition to Determine the Claims of Creditors of the Trust and Trustor/Settlor Richard N. Gardiner, who is now deceased, in the Circuit Court of Polk County, State of Oregon, Circuit Court No.25PB09917. The Trustor/Settlor of the Trust is Richard N. Gardiner. All claims are required to be presented to Robert J. Gardiner, Trustee, c/o Sarah K. Rinehart, 117 Commercial St. NE, #300Salem, Oregon 97301. Claims against the Trust estate may be barred unless presented to the Trustee at the address herein specified within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the Trustee, from the records

of the Court, or from the attorney for the trustee Dated and first published November 19, 2025. /s/ Robert J. Gardiner, Trustee Sarah K. Rinehart, Attorney at Law OSB# 821142 117 Commercial Street NE, Suite 300 Salem, Oregon 97301 Attorney for Trustee

PCIO25-1407 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK In the Matter of the Estate of: DANA WOOD SHEPHERD, Deceased. Case No.: 24PB05558 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ethan Shepherd has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them with vouchers attached to the personal representative at 477 Eaglet St. NW, Salem, OR 97304 or his attorney, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative, Gunn & Gunn, P.C., Attention Jana R. Gunn, PO Box 4057, Salem, OR 97302. Dated and first published: November 19, 2025. Respectfully submitted, /s/ Jana R. Gunn, OSB#012690 Of Attorneys for Personal Representative

PCIO25-1404 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE File No. 23-00322OR Reference is made to that certain deed of trust made by Cesar Lemus Torres, Pedro Lemus Lopez, and Josefina Torres, as grantor, to First American Title, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as designated nominee for American Pacific Mortgage Corporation, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as beneficiary, dated September 18, 2020, recorded September 22, 2020, in the records of Polk County, Oregon, under instrument No. 2020-013771, and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to Freedom Mortgage Corporation, covering the following described real property situated in the above-mentioned county and state: Parcel I: A portion of Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Kingswood Acres, West Salem, Polk County, Oregon (Plat Volume 132, Page 33) more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Lot 4; thence Northerly along the Easterly line thereof, 126 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence Westerly parallel with the Southerly line of said Lots, 85 feet; thence Northerly parallel with the Easterly line of said Lots, 85 feet; thence Easterly parallel with the Southerly line of said Lots, 85 feet; thence Easterly parallel with the Southerly line of said Lots, 85 feet to a point on the Easterly line of said Lot 4; thence Southerly along the Easterly line of said Lot 4, 85 feet to the Point of Beginning. TOGETHER WITH an easement for ingress and egress over the Westerly 15 feet of the Following described property: A portion of Lots 3 and 4, Block 1, Kingwood Acres, West Salem, Polk County, Oregon, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Lot 4; thence Northerly along the Easterly line thereof, 126 feet; thence Westerly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Lots, 85 feet; thence Southerly parallel with the Easterly line of said Lots, 126 feet; thence Easterly along the Southerly line of Lots 3 and 4, 85 feet to the Place of Beginning. Parcel II: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Lot 4; thence Northerly along the Easterly line thereof, 126 feet; thence Westerly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Lots, 85 feet; thence Southerly parallel with the Easterly line of said Lots, 126 feet; thence Easterly along the Southerly line of Lots 3 and 4, 85 feet to the Place of Beginning. APN: 312925 Commonly known as: 1343 6th St. NW, Salem, OR 97304 The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary and no appointments of a successor trustee have been made, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the trust deed, or, if such action has been instituted,

such action has been dismissed except as permitted by ORS 86.752(7). Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. There is a default by grantor or other person owing an obligation, performance of which is secured by the trust deed, or by the successor in interest, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of such provision. The default for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sum: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE: \$24,615.76 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$326,146.80 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, those sums being the following, to-wit: 1. The installments of principal and interest which became due on February 1, 2025, and all subsequent installments of principal and interest through the date of this Notice, plus amounts that are due for late charges, delinquent property taxes, insurance premiums, advances made on senior liens, taxes and/or insurance, trustee's fees, and any attorney fees and court costs arising from or associated with the beneficiaries efforts to protect and preserve its security, all of which must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, including all sums that shall accrue through reinstatement or pay-off. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust pursuant to the terms of the loan documents. Whereof, notice hereby is given that Affinia Default Services, LLC, the undersigned trustee will on February 25, 2026 at the hour of 01:00 PM (PST), as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, Inside the new lobby at the Jefferson Street entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St, Dallas, OR 97338, County of Polk, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. For Sale Information, contact Xome at (800) 758-8052 or [www.xome.com](http://www.xome.com). In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by Affinia Default Services, LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's



PUBLIC NOTICES

sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS THAT SETS FORTH SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO A TENANT OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PROTECTION. AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Affinia Default Services, LLC may be deemed to be a debt collector and any information obtained may be used for that purpose. File No.: 23-00322OR Dated: 10/09/2025 Affinia Default Services, LLC By: /s/ Rhys Ran Name: Rhys Ran Title: Foreclosure Processor Trustee's Mailing Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 16000 Christensen Rd., Suite 310 Tukwila, WA 98188 Phone Number: (503) 836-3799 Trustee's Physical Address: Affinia Default Services, LLC 10151 SE Sunnyside Road, Suite 490 Clackamas, OR 97015 Email: inquiries@affiniasdefault.com NPP0478660 To: POLK COUNTY ITEMIZER-OBSERVER 11/19/2025, 11/26/2025, 12/03/2025, 12/10/202

PCIO25-1403 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 139713-OR Loan No.: \*\*\*\*\*9733 Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by JUSTIN LINDORFER, as Grantor, to AMERITITLE, LLC, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR CMG MORTGAGE, INC. DBA CMG FINANCIAL, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT,

ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 8/6/2021, recorded 8/20/2021, as Instrument No. 2021-013376, in the Official Records of Polk County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Polk County, Oregon: LOT 9, BLOCK 14, CHATNICKA HEIGHTS NO. 4, POLK COUNTY, OREGON. APN: 315210 / 07319-AB-05100 Commonly known as: 3446 CHAMPLAIN CT NW SALEM, OR 97304 The current beneficiary is: CMG Mortgage, Inc. Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums: Delinquent Payments: Dates: 4/1/2025 - 10/1/2025 Total: \$13,646.78 Late Charges: \$511.35 Beneficiary Advances: \$2,869.98 Total Required to Reinstate: \$17,028.11 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$421,819.40 By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$406,533.30 together with interest thereon at the rate of 2.99 % per annum, from 3/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97006, will on 3/10/2026, at the hour of 9:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE, POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 850 MAIN STREET, DALLAS, OR 97338, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to

state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 10/27/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Jessica Lopez, Authorized Signatory of Trustee

PCIO25-1372 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 25-74583 Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred as the Trust Deed) made by BENNY PULLER and CRYSTAL DOLLAR as Grantor to SANTIAM ESCROW, INC., an Oregon corporation, as trustee, in favor of DONALD ALLEN JONES, as Beneficiary, dated 10/3/2013, recorded 10/18/2013, as Instrument No. 2013-011112, in mortgage records of Polk County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: Beginning at the point of intersection of the South line of Sheldon Avenue and the East line of the John Sheldon Donation Land Claim No. 41, in Township 8 South, Range 6 West of the Willamette Meridian, Polk County, Oregon; and running thence South 4.75 chains; thence South 50° East 3.88 chains; thence North 25°46' East 3.63 chains; thence North 49°12' West 5.95 chains to the place of beginning. The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is purported to be: 233 SHELDON AVE FALLS CITY, OREGON 97344 The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 296227 / 08621-CA-02200 Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee's attorneys. The default for which the

foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest which became due on 4/1/2024, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in payments to date is calculated as follows: From: 4/1/2024 Total of past due payments: \$10,836.00 Late Charges: \$511.70 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$252.00 Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$3,019.50 Total necessary to cure: \$14,619.20 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a "reinstatement" and or "payoff" quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety to date is: \$68,573.27 Said sale shall be held at the hour of 11:00 AM on 1/30/2026 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: At the main entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs

and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP 5 Centerpointe Dr., Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558 In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. Dated: 9/18/2025, ZBS Law, LLP By: Dirk Schouten, OSB#115153 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 45230 Pub Dates 11/19, 11/26, 12/03, 12/10/2025

PCIO25-1393 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 138545-OR Loan No.: \*\*\*\*\*3713 Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by JAMES E. JOHNSON AND LOIS F. JOHNSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Grantor, to FIRST AMERICAN TITLE, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC., BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 8/7/2017, recorded 8/24/2017, as Instrument No. 2017-010195, in the Official Records of Polk County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Polk County, Oregon: LOT NUMBERED THIRTY-ONE (31), MARTIS MEADOW, IN THE CITY OF DALLAS, POLK COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON. APN: 524199 / 07528-CB-05600 Commonly known as: 227 NW BONANZA AVE DALLAS, OR 97338-1286 The current beneficiary is: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums: Delinquent Payments: Dates: 2/1/2025 - 10/1/2025 Total: \$11,269.39 Late Charges: \$140.36 Beneficiary Advances: \$1,241.48 Total Required to Reinstate: \$12,651.23 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$158,785.92 By reason of the default, the

beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$151,692.50 together with interest thereon at the rate of 3.99 % per annum, from 1/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400, Hillsboro, OR 97006, will on 3/10/2026, at the hour of 9:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE, POLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 850 MAIN STREET, DALLAS, OR 97338, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 10/20/2025 CLEAR RECON CORP 1915 NE Stucki Avenue, Suite 400 Hillsboro, OR 97006 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Jessica Lopez, Authorized Signatory of Trustee

PUBLIC RECORD

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

Independence Police Department

Thursday, Nov. 20 At 2:55 a.m., an officer on Highway 51 came upon a rollover crash with the vehicle on its top. The officer learned it was an apparent fatal crash. Fire/medics arrived on scene and Oregon State Police were notified. The sheriff's office and Independence Police assisted with traffic control. Darrin Brown violated a no-contact order by returning to the residence of his victim following a domestic violence arrest. Deputies discovered this when they were stationed in front of the victim's house in the 400 block

of Stryker road directing traffic and she approached them. Brown was found in the house and taken to the Polk County Jail where he was charged with contempt of court.

Friday, Nov. 21 At 3:21 a.m., a report of a duplex fire in the 600 block of Broad Street. Polk County firefighters contained the fire and everyone was evacuated before officers arrived. At 6:40 a.m., a report of a possible burglary in progress with a female subject inside at the Gentle House on Monmouth Avenue. Monmouth Police arrived first and were unable to locate anyone. An officer patrolling for speeding motorists noticed a truck pulling a trailer going 52 mph in a 35-mph zone in the 100 block of Main Street. The driver, Alexis Ortiz, showed the officer a picture of his license which was found to be suspended. Ortiz admitted that he knew the license was suspended and

was cited for failure to carry/present an operator's license.

Saturday, Nov. 22 After observing a motorist roll through a stop sign in the 900 block of Main Street, an officer initiated a traffic stop and the driver admitted that he was not carrying his license. Turon Walker Jr. proceeded to give the officer a fake name. An officer from a neighboring agency assisted with learning the true identity. Walker was cited for failure to obey a traffic control device, driving while suspended and giving false information to a police officer. At 7:28 p.m., a report of a vehicle stolen from a business on Monmouth Street. Sunday, Nov. 23 At 11:10 a.m., an officer assisted Monmouth Police with a subject from a disturbance on Gwinn Street while investigation and interviews were conducted. At 5:21 p.m., officers responded to a house fire on

Corvallis Road. The residents had extinguished the fire by the time officers arrived. There were no injuries and minimal damage.

Monday, Nov. 24 An officer recognized Stephanie Rhoades driving through town in the 800 block of Main Street and knew she had a warrant for failing to register as a sex offender. Rhoades was taken into custody on the outstanding warrant and transported to jail. At 7:34 p.m., officers responded to a report of a dog bite on Gun Club Road. They located the owner of the dogs who is working on vaccination information.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 At 9:34 p.m., a report of six to seven juveniles doing "ding dong ditches" on F Street. Officers were unable to locate the subjects.

Monmouth Police Department

Thursday, Nov. 20

Citizen Contact: A citizen reported receiving a phone call where a male threatened to kill him, which the citizen believed was connected to a juvenile that officers had taken to the hospital. An officer called the number and left a voicemail, advising the citizen to call back for any future contact. Citizen Contact: A female called with questions about how to test vehicles for drugs before purchasing them, specifically noting issues with some new sport utility vehicles she was viewing online. She was advised to purchase swabbing kits online, check with the seller, and utilize safe parking spots at the police department for transactions. Arrest: A person was cited and released for theft. Check Welfare: Officers responded to a report of a potentially disabled person pushing someone and running after a car. They found the client and her two caretakers walking back to their house for a breathing

treatment, and the caretakers advised everything was fine. Check Welfare: An officer checked for a person with a dog lying on the side of a highway but was unable to locate them. Assist Other Agency: An officer assisted another police department with a non-criminal domestic issue involving Spanish-speaking parties. Driving: An officer contacted a driver reported to be swerving and erratically driving, whose vehicle was found parked in the middle of the road. The driver was found to have fallen asleep, was determined not to be intoxicated, and was advised to be careful when driving while tired. Friday, Nov. 21 House Fire: Officers responded to a garage fire and evacuated the residence, an attached dwelling and nearby homes. The fire was extinguished by the fire



BLOTTER  
From Page B6

department, and residents were provided resources.  
Citizen Contact: A citizen called to report a ring was lost in a restaurant sink a couple of months prior and was advised to contact the owners.

Follow Up: An officer followed up with a person about an earlier threat call, and the person denied making the threat, stating an intoxicated person called him, and the citizen became angry, so the person blocked the citizen's number.

Burglary: Officers cleared a vacant building after an employee heard someone upstairs during a report of a burglary in progress. No one was found inside, and there were no signs of a break-in.

Suspicious Activity: A female reported that a male passenger was touching himself and making flirtatious comments toward her and her juvenile daughter during a shared medical rideshare. The van driver confirmed the male's actions, and the male's contact person was reached to arrange an interview.

Citizen Contact: A citizen reported a civil issue with a cleaning service and was advised to call the police department in the city where he lives if further issues arose.

Check Welfare: An organization requested a welfare check on two unsupervised juveniles near a school who were observed waving their arms at vehicles as if hitchhiking. An officer checked the area but was unable to locate the children.

Harassment: A person reported exchanging insults with another person over a social media app. He thought the person and a third party were outside his home, but he never saw them. He clarified that the other party had carried a knife in the past, but not on that day.

Citizen Contact: A female requested assistance with contacting her rental owner after locking her phone and keys inside, and was advised to wait outside since the owner lived next door.

Medical Emergency/ Disturbance: Officers responded to a group home for a client who was found on the ground in cardiac arrest. Medics successfully revived and transported the client. While on scene, another client at the location had an emotional episode, and officers prevented the client from harming staff with an item before helping them calm down.

Saturday, Nov. 22  
Arrest: A person was arrested for public indecency and endangering the welfare of a minor and was cited and released due to mental health considerations.

Arrest: A person was arrested on a county warrant and for possession of a controlled substance, then transported and lodged at the county jail.

Arrest: An officer encountered a person who was a wanted subject out of another city for contempt of court. The person was cited and released.

Alarm: A silent residence alarm was reported, but officers were canceled after the caller was contacted.

Disturbance: Two people argued over a phone, which escalated to shoving. During the investigation, one of the individuals reported that the other person posted a photo with a third person who has a court-issued protection order against the second person.

Citizen Contact: A person called to report another person was harassing her over the phone after she had invited him over and then asked him to leave. The officer advised her that she needs to remain consistent about not wanting contact, and spoke with the male who agreed to stop calling and texting her.

Sunday, Nov. 23  
Noise: A complaint of loud music and singing was reported from the street. An officer spoke with the residents, advised them of the complaint and noise ordinance, and asked them to stop, which they seemed receptive to.

Burglary: A person reported that someone had broken into his vacant house on a Friday, leaving a bag inside, with the back garage door open and kitchen window broken. The bag was gone when he returned on Sunday, and the rear garage door was open again. Officers checked with neighbors, but no suspect information or camera footage was available. The person was advised to contact the police if anything else came up and that extra patrols would be conducted.

Disturbance/Emotionally Disturbed Person: There was a report of a disturbance involving a female attacking people in the street and attempting to enter a vehicle. The female was spitting at a person in their car and trying to break the mirror. While being stopped, she struck an officer, resisted while on the ground, and had also hit a staff member multiple times and pulled their hair. The female was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, harassment, criminal mischief, unlawful entry and resisting. She was transported to Polk County Jail.

Animal: A report of an aggressive German shepherd running around an area. Due to a delay in response for priority calls, the dog was no longer in the area and was unable to be located.

Citizen Contact: A person called regarding her neighbors leaving their cat outside in the cold. She was advised to talk to her neighbors about the issue, and also wanted to speak to another officer about a previous case, who was advised to be in the following day.

Suspicious Activity: A person reported that another person was outside a business, referred to a juvenile as his son, and allegedly asked for a pipe so they could use drugs. The person also claimed to have been shown an item believed to be drugs. The person told the juvenile not to interact with the suspect and called the police while following the suspect. The suspect denied the allegations, claimed the reporting party hit him, and allowed officers to check his pockets, but no drugs were found. Witnesses confirmed the reporting party followed the suspect, but saw no physical contact. The juvenile and his parent stated the interaction was very brief and the

suspect did not offer anything or talk about drugs.

Animal: A person reported her gray and white cat missing since the previous night. An attempt to call the person back was unsuccessful. The person's phone number was added to the record for potential contact if a cat is found or turned in.

Assist Other Agency: An officer assisted another agency regarding a house fire. Upon arrival, the fire had already been extinguished, and no further assistance was required.

Suspicious Activity: A person reported a bag of needles left by the cardboard bins at a recycle center and made a threat toward officers if they showed up. Contact was avoided, and an officer located the box, which contained syringes and a spoon, and transported it to the police department for disposal at a later time when the person was not in the area.

Monday, Nov. 24  
Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP): A person called to report his relative had left the house and not returned. The relative had been acting differently, not engaging with family or mental health services, was recently ill, and had not been taking his medication. He was not reported to be suicidal or armed but seemed drowsy due to lack of sleep. The reporting party was advised an officer would keep an eye out, as there was no indication of a crash or police involvement. The relative's phone was off, and he was not reported as missing at that time.

Assist Other Agency: A runaway juvenile was located near a main street and Heffley Street after jumping out a window following an argument with his guardian.

Hit and Run: A late hit-and-run involving a person's parked vehicle occurred on the north side of a street near another street. The suspect is unknown, and the person only wanted a report for insurance purposes, with damage estimated over a certain dollar amount. A crash report was generated.

Theft: The theft of two bags of cans from a back porch was reported. The main suspect and another involved party were identified. An officer recovered one of the bags nearby. The victim is deciding whether to pursue charges but, at minimum, wants the main suspect trespassed from his residence.

Suspicious Activity: A caller reported a set of postal service mailboxes had been hit by a vehicle. An officer found the mailboxes knocked over and damaged, with mail scattered. Evidence at the scene, including a marker light, tire tracks, an oil leak, and insulation pieces, suggested the striking vehicle was a recreational or commercial vehicle with dually tires. An officer later located a damaged recreational vehicle matching the description and evidence. The collected mail was transported to the evidence room to be returned to the Postal Service the next day.

Assist Other Agency: An officer assisted another agency in searching for three individuals who attempted to kick in a residence door. A search of a local park was conducted, but the individuals were unable to be located.

Tuesday, Nov. 25  
Assist Other Agency: A male was located who was prowling in the county. After contact was attempted, the male hid in bushes. An assisting agency requested the individual be officially trespassed from a property, and the search was discontinued.

Found Property: A resident found a brand e-bike with the battery removed in their backyard. As the item had not been reported stolen, it was placed in safekeeping. It was valued at approximately \$1,100 with the battery.

Traffic Crash: A citizen requested a police report for a late crash that occurred on private property. Their parked and unoccupied vehicle was struck by another driver. The citizen reported that the insurance information provided by the other driver was inactive. The citizen was informed that a formal crash report would not be generated due to the location of the incident, but a police report would still be completed.

Citizen Contact: A caller contacted an officer to report a sexual assault but advised they would only speak to a female officer. The caller was informed that a female officer would be on duty the following day and agreed to call back then to make the report. The location of the incident was not disclosed.

Assist Other Agency: An electrical fire in the engine compartment of a sport utility vehicle occurred at an intersection. The fire was extinguished, and a tow service was dispatched.

Theft: An individual was located, cited, and released for a theft and a criminal trespass offense. The subject was also served with a trespass notice for a specific address. Documentation was completed for the incident.

Theft: A resident reported the theft of a child-sized electric scooter, valued at \$250. The scooter was all black with rainbow lights.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: An individual called an emergency distress line stating a desire for officers to shoot him. Phone contact was attempted with no answer, and a voicemail was left. Officers chose not to respond in person due to the individual's history and stated wishes.

Assist Other Agency: A welfare check was conducted in response to a caller reporting a person yelling a threat; the individual making the threat was not located.

Arrest: A vehicle associated with a person known to have a warrant was stopped. The driver was cited for a driving violation, and the passenger, the person with the warrant, was arrested on two failure-to-appear traffic offense warrants and was subsequently lodged at a detention center.

Trespass: A resident reported a male playing loud music from a device on their porch. Other citizens also called about the loud music. The intoxicated male was officially trespassed from the property at the request of the resident and was instructed to stop the noise.

Suspicious Activity: A citizen called to document that a former partner, who had recently been released from a detention center on an unrelated arrest, arrived at their residence. The former partner left when asked, and

the citizen requested the incident be documented due to concerns about the person's mental state.

Polk County  
Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, Nov. 19  
At 12:04 a.m., Walgreens called and reported a male subject who had been trespassed and was refusing to leave. Deputies arrived and arrested Philip Dearing and charged him with trespass 2.  
At 12:25 a.m., deputies responded to a dead on arrival report involving a 66-year-old female who tripped and fell in the shower on Bonnie Court. The medical examiner responded to the scene and found nothing suspicious. The ME and district attorney released the body. Virgil T. Golden funeral home recovered the deceased.

At 2:45 a.m., medics came upon a vehicle stopped with its left turn signal on in the slow lane of westbound travel on Highway 22 just west of Oak Grove Road. The driver was initially slumped over in the driver seat, but eventually became more alert. A deputy arrived on scene and the driver said he wasn't safe to drive. An Oregon State Police officer arrived and conducted a DUII investigation. The driver had to be coaxied out of the vehicle then forcibly transferred to the OSP vehicle after being taken into custody for DUII.

At 6:49 a.m., a report that a roadstruck deer needed dispatching on Sawtell Road. It was a monster buck. A deputy helped the wife of the driver who struck it get a roadkill tag and load it in her car.

At 2:42 p.m., during a Retail Theft Operation in West Salem, a deputy received a call from Circle K shift lead and then a call from an assistant manager at Walgreens regarding a female who was actively taking merchandise. The subject was later identified as Danielle Meyer who also had multiple warrants. When Meyer was searched, deputies revealed not only the merchandise taken from Walgreens and Circle K, but a cupcake from the Carls Jr. on Wallace Road as well as burnt tin foils, which had a pea sized meth rock. Meyer was taken to Polk County Jail for the crimes committed and the warrants.

Thursday, Nov. 20  
At 2:55 a.m., a deputy was traveling southbound on Highway 51 near milepost 4 and came upon a rollover crash with the vehicle on its top. The deputy then discovered that it was an apparent fatal crash. Fire/medics arrived on scene and OSP was notified. Deputies and Independence Police assisted with traffic control until OSP and ODOT no longer needed them.

At 9:28 a.m., a deputy responded to a report of a large, healthy buck that was hit by a box truck on Clow Corner Road. The deputy found it and dispatched it then arranged to have the meat harvested so it wasn't wasted.

At 1:47 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a single vehicle in a ditch on Highway 22. The accident required the highway to be shut down for driver extraction. Deputies blocked the west end of Salt Creek

Road at Highway 22 until ODOT took over.

At 2:39 p.m., a report of two huskies trying to take down cows, chasing and nipping at them. With a neighbor's help, deputies got the dogs wrangled up and in a patrol car. The owner was contacted and admitted the dogs were unlicensed. The owner was cited and released.

At 5:25 p.m., Krystal May was arrested on Edgewater Street for stealing \$76.19 worth of items from Safeway. She was charged with theft 3 and transported to Polk County Jail.

At 4:54 p.m., a report of four to five dogs at large on Highway 51 near Rogers Road. The complainant also said it looked like baby cows. The information was forwarded to OSP.

At 7:18 p.m., Marvin Caldera was arrested on Edgewater Street on an outstanding warrant for failure to register as a sex offender and was also charged with theft 3 after stealing a case of beer from Safeway.

At 7:26 p.m., Michael Carter turned himself in at the sheriff's office on an outstanding warrant for physical harassment.

At 7:15 p.m., deputies assisted medics and Dallas Police with securing a female juvenile suspect. The suspect was referred to juvenile detention for theft 3 and minor in possession of alcohol. She was then transported to Salem Hospital by medics.

At 10:17 p.m., Harley Grant was stopped on Edgewater Street after reports he stole items from Safeway. Deputies found the stolen item on him. He was arrested on an outstanding parole violation warrant and also charged with theft 3 and possession of a controlled substance - meth.

At 10:50 p.m., two subjects in a vehicle at Wallace Marine Park received a verbal warning for trespassing as it was closed after hours.

Friday, Nov. 21  
At 3:21 a.m., deputies responded to a house fire in the 600 block of Broad Street South, with multiple callers reporting large flames spreading fast in a two story duplex. Just prior, deputies learned everyone had been evacuated and by the time they arrived, the fire was contained to the single structure with Polk Fire working the fire.

At 7:22, a resident on Alvord Alley Road reported finding a few cell phones and other miscellaneous items in the gravel roadway in front of his rural residence. A deputy collected the cell phones all of which appeared to be dead or damaged and would not turn on.

At 8:44 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 81 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 2:33 p.m., Shawn Moll, who was suspected in a theft at K&D Gravel, was arrested on Salem Dallas Highway on eight outstanding warrants. Deputies had probable cause for the theft charge and for possession of a controlled substance.

At 10:38 p.m., Oregon State Police requested PCSO respond to a report of three males fighting on Highway 22 at 50th Avenue. No people were around upon arrival.

See **BLOTTERPAGE B8**

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted  
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY



**CALL NOW (844) 847-9778**

**\$1000 OFF\***

OR

**\$1500 OFF** when financing with remodelingloans.com **OR** **0% Interest** For 18 Months\*\*

**OFFER EXPIRES 12/30/2025**

\*Includes labor and product; bathtubs, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 12/30/25. Each dealership is independently owned and operated.  
\*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2025 Bath Concepts Industries.

**ATTO SPORT**  
Folding Mobility Scooter

Call now and receive a free **XL battery** with your ATTO SPORT purchase.



**CALL NOW: 1-833-519-1915**

**Bob's BASEBALL Tours**

**June 2-7, 2026**  
See MLB games in **Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Boston** 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

**August 1-10, 2026**  
See games in **Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston & New York (Yankees and Mets)**. Free time at **Niagara Falls and Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY**. Sightseeing in **Manhattan, Philadelphia & Baltimore**.  
Tour begins at hotel near Newark Liberty International Airport and ends near hotel by Pittsburgh International Airport  
\$3,200/person based on double hotel occupancy

Travel by deluxe motor coach • Each night in a quality hotel • Good game tickets!

**For free brochure, please call or text 507.217.1326**  
**Bob's Baseball Tours, LLC (24 years in business)**

Travelers are responsible for getting to starting point of each tour



BLOTTER  
From Page B7

At 10:53 p.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 82 mph in a 55-mph zone.

**Saturday, Nov. 22**  
At 12:02 a.m., Salem Police requested cover on an active domestic disturbance Lake Vanessa Creek Drive. They had several units on scene when a deputy arrived and they advised the deputy could clear.

At 11:53 a.m., a deputy found a deer that appeared to be hit by a vehicle in a ditch and stiff on Andrea Drive.

At 7:34 p.m., a report of a black Cane Corso dog that keeps coming onto a resident's property on Red Prairie Road. The dog is aggressive and attacked three

workers a few weeks ago and it's unknown who the dog belongs to. The dog was gone when a deputy arrived in the area.

**Sunday, Nov. 23**  
At 11:47 a.m., a deputy assisted with a verbal domestic dispute at the skate park on Hogan Road. An officer and a deputy spoke with a male who said nothing was physical and that it was only a verbal argument and he was getting cold and wanted to go home.

At 3:29 p.m., a report of several dogs loose on Independence Highway that entered the highway at one point and ran onto neighboring properties. Deputies located a co-owner who helped corral the dogs. The owner advised one of the dogs, not sure which one, had bit her 5 minutes prior to the deputy's arrival. The

deputy observed physical injury to her left leg/calf area and hand. The co-owner's husband was cited.

At 7:30 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 76 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 11 p.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 91 mph in a 55-mph zone.

**Monday, Nov. 24**  
At 1:24 a.m., a report of loose dogs in the area of Butler Hill Road. A responding deputy was unable to locate them.

At 6:31 a.m., deputies stopped to check on a car in the pull off. A male subject had car troubles on his way to work. They gave him a ride to Meduri farms.

At 8:26 a.m., Yamhill County Sheriff's Office called and advised someone just posted \$5,000 for Ruben Blakeslee and was bailing

him out. Deputies went and took him into custody at his release on probable cause for a Polk County case and transported him to Polk County Jail.

At 9:24 a.m., a report of a hit and run of garbage cans on Perrydale Road. One trash can appeared to be heavily damaged.

At 10:05 a.m., a report of a goat with a bucket stuck on its head for a few days at a vacant property on Mistletoe Road. A deputy found the goat; it had a feed bag on its head and was walking in circles. The property owner's been deceased, with no trespassing signs at the house and barn. The deputy walked out into the field and took the bag off the goat's head.

At 11:31 a.m., a motorist on Helmick Road was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 3:55 p.m., a female resident on Pioneer Road reported being assaulted by a male subject and she was afraid for her life. The male subject was located, arrested and charged with assault 4 and was transported to Polk County Jail.

At 6:08 p.m., Daniel Tolosa was reported running from a deputy on Wallace Road after stealing \$100 of items from Safeway.

Deputies found him running on Cornucopia Street where he refused to stop running and ended up fighting them. During the scuffle, Tolosa kicked a deputy in the chest.

After being checked out at the hospital, Tolosa was lodged at Polk County Jail and charged with theft 2, interfering, resisting arrest, attempted assault on a public safety officer, and possession of a controlled substance - meth.

**Tuesday, Nov. 25**  
At 9:10 a.m., Matthew Pico came into the courthouse for a hearing but had a secret indictment warrant. Polk County Jail detained him and a deputy took him into custody without issue.

At 2:34 p.m., a report of a female subject stealing items from a store on Wallace Road. A deputy was unable to locate the subject.

At 7:46 p.m., a resident on 35th Avenue reported a male subject on a bicycle was searching through trashcans. A deputy drove through the area but was unable to locate any subjects on a bicycle.

At 10:09 p.m., a male subject reported his vehicle was stolen and crashed about a block away from Rogers Road.

BRIEFS  
From Page B3

kits, sweet breads, cookies and more.

Rotarians to Collect food for Christmas Cheer Dec. 13

Dallas Rotary Club will be collecting food for Dallas Christmas Cheer from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 13, at Grocery Outlet, Safeway, Walmart and the Dallas Les Schwab Tire Center. Most needed non-perishable foods include canned tuna and chicken, soup, chili, canned fruits and vegetables, tomato sauce and peanut butter. Dallas Christmas Cheer is expecting to deliver holiday food boxes to more than 500 local families on Christmas Eve Day. Folks who want to help deliver food boxes to neighbors in need should

come to the Polk County Fairgrounds at 6 a.m. on Dec. 24.

Rickreall Winter Gun Show returns Dec. 13-14

The Polk County Fairgrounds hosts the annual Rickreall Winter Gun Show on Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, free for kids 12 and under. Parking is free. Food will be available onsite. There will be lots of collectables, guns, knives and ammo. The Polk County Fairgrounds are located at 520 S. Pacific Highway West.

Forest Pass Brewing hosts beginning sourdough class Dec. 14

Pointer Farms Bakery presents their first ever Beginning Sourdough Class at

2 p.m. Dec. 14 at Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., in Dallas. For more information, text questions to (541) 974-1486.

Fire chief to give emergency preparedness talk Dec. 18

Polk County District No. 1 Fire Chief Ben Stange will speak on Community Emergency Preparedness in the Era of Climate Change at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Monmouth Community Senior Center at 180 Warren St. S. in Monmouth. The event is sponsored by the Monmouth-Independence Climate Group.

PREP  
From Page B1

Dec. 5  
Central @ Werner Beef & Brew Meet  
Tillamook High School, 12 p.m.

Dec. 6  
Central @ Rick Herrin Holiday Classic  
McKay High School, 9 a.m.

Dec. 8  
Dallas, Central @ McKay Novice Meet (boys and girls)

**Boys Wrestling**

Dec. 3  
Dallas @ Weisbrodt Invitational  
Lebanon High School, 2 p.m.

Dec. 5  
Central @ Werner Beef & Brew Meet  
Tillamook High School, 12 p.m.

Dec. 6  
Central @ Rick Herrin Holiday Classic  
McKay High School, 9 a.m.

Dec. 8  
Dallas, Central @ McKay Novice Meet (boys and girls)

McKay High School, 5:30 p.m.

**Girls Wrestling**

Dec. 3  
Dallas, Central at Spartan Invitational  
Corvallis High School, 11 a.m.

Dec. 5  
Central @ Battle for the Capital Meet  
McKay High School, 9 a.m.



Change lives.  
Start an adult foster home business.



Oregon.gov/AdultFosterHome



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
Human Services



OREGON  
HEALTH  
AUTHORITY

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

THE

Christmas Story

MULTI-CHURCH EVENT  
ADMISSION FREE

DECEMBER 18TH AT 7:00 PM  
DECEMBER 19TH AT 7:00 PM  
DECEMBER 20TH AT 2:00 PM

This heart-stirring dramatic presentation of "The Christmas Story," will engage your senses and imagination, through music, drama, dance, lighting and special effects. This powerful story presents the omnipotent Creator of the universe choosing to enter the world in the most humble and vulnerable of forms: as a baby! The Christmas story will remind you of the power of faith, the importance of family, and the possibility of lasting peace.

Valley Life - 1795 SE Miller Ave - (503)623-4116 - Valleylife.love

Pencil  
us in

www.polkio.com

Polk County  
Itemizer-Observer