

Polk County Steamizer-Observer

Dairy Princess Ambassador

See A2



Sports

Walt Markee's lifetime of service lands him wrestling Hall of Fame
See B1



Wednesday March 18, 2026 | Volume 151, Issue 6 www.polkio.com

\$2.00

Fire District plans layoffs, second levy attempt

By DAVID HAYES
I/O Editor

Following a failed operations levy in November that fell short by just over 300 votes, the SW Polk Fire District Board of Directors announced March 13 the district has issued layoff notices for six positions, effective June 30.

However, not wanting to accept reduced services due to reduced staffing, the board also

announced they are trying again in May to pass another operations levy to keep the current staffing levels. They are proposing a \$1.37 per \$1,000 assessed valuation over five years that would maintain current service levels. Without the additional funds, they say cutback in personnel is a "financial reality."

"These positions represent frontline emergency responders who answer calls for help

when members of our community experience some of the most difficult moments of their lives," the board said in a statement. "These individuals respond to structure fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, hazardous materials incidents, and rescue calls across our service area."

They added that issuing these layoff notices was not a decision made lightly, nor was it one

they wanted to make.

"The Board understands the personal impact these decisions have on the firefighters and their families, as well as the operational impact they will have on emergency response within our District," they said.

The Board's decision to place a levy replacement on the May 19 ballot they said is not about disregarding the will of the voters.

"Rather, it reflects our

responsibility to ensure that the community has a clear understanding of the consequences of the levy's failure and an opportunity to reconsider the issue with that information in mind," their statement read.

The Board of Directors pointed to critical improvements SW Polk Fire District made under the previous voter-approved levy. Those improvements included:

- Significantly reducing

emergency response times across the District

- Providing consistent, guaranteed staffing to ensure rapid response when emergencies occur

- Improving firefighter and responder safety through adequate staffing levels

- Strengthening support for volunteers and regional mutual aid partners

"These improvements

See FIRE DISTRICT, page A4

Nerds Converge



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Licensed Lucas Film artist Jason W. Christman's booth draws a lot of attention, with an assist from R2D2 and Groug, at the annual NerdCon March 13 hosted by the Dallas Public Library. The event drew authors, vendors, collectors, and cosplayers of all ages to an expanded three locations in downtown Dallas. For more photos from the event, see page A7.

Foundation grants help Dallas based nonprofits

By DAVID HAYES
I/O Editor

The Dallas Community Foundation Community hosted its annual Awards Grant Presentation March 10 in City Hall's Civic Center.

Bob Brannigan, President of the Dallas Community Foundation, told the honorees what they're going to hear are a lot of neat things going on here in the city of Dallas that really help support the community.

"Because as I always say about this, you're where the rubber hits the road," Brannigan told those accepting the DCF's grants. "You're making a difference in lives in our community. You're changing the livability of our community. And making it accessible for more people in a lot of

See FOUNDATION, page A5

Michelle Ashley puts her heart in every cake

By DAVID HAYES
I/O Editor

Michelle Ashley likes to brag she has owned the rights to a website with her name since the birth of the internet she received as a gift graduating from college.

After a successful stretch in other industries, she now utilizes her namesake website www.michelleashley.com to offer up her custom cakes.

Ashley is also not shy to share the detour she took through addiction that sidelined her successful career that recovery eventually landed her in

her newfound love of baking.

"Before I got into bakery, I was a base project manager for base startups over in Afghanistan. It supported the British army. So it was essentially getting everything out there in the middle of nowhere and building a base," she said.

But in 2014, Ashley said she was hit with a harsh reality.

"I knew that I needed help and I was somehow a functioning drug addict, alcoholic," she said.

The lasting treatment she received at the Hazelden Betty Ford

influenced her so much that Ashley continues to assist other women through their own recoveries.

"I'm getting ready to go back to the treatment center and give a talk to the women about what life after treatment can look like," Ashley said.

For her, the baking became a key component for Ashley's recovery process.

"After I got into recovery, I didn't want to go and do anything stressful. I just knew I needed a big change, but I didn't know what

See CAKES, page A6



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

Michelle Ashley holds a sample mockup children's cake on display at the counter featuring her creations at Brew Coffee & Taphouse in Independence.

IN THIS ISSUE

Send us a news tip at www.polkio.com/site/forms/news_tip/ | Your message could be the first thing our readers see!

Obituaries	A4
Voices	A5
Puzzle Solutions	B2
Social	B2
Public Records	B6-8
Classifieds	B4-5
Puzzles	A6

Weather

W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
66/46 Cloudy	71/50 Cloudy	68/45 Showers	56/40 Cloudy	58/38 Partly Cloudy	57/39 Partly Cloudy	53/34 Showers



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Polk County rep wins Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador Crown

Grace Faber, representing Polk County, was crowned the Oregon Dairy Women's 2026-27 Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador. Meanwhile, Chloe Bingman, representing Yamhill County, was crowned Alternate Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador during a ceremony March 10 at the Oregon Dairy Farmers Convention.

Faber, 18, is the daughter of Mike and Trisha Faber. A 2025 graduate of Santiam Christian High School, Faber was born into the dairy industry and spent many days of her childhood visiting the animals on her grandparents' dairy farm. In the seventh grade, Faber received her first cow, Blossom, from her grandpa to show at the Polk County Fair. Since then her herd, and passion for the industry, has only grown. Faber is currently a student at Linn-Benton Community College, where she is studying Animal Sciences with an emphasis in Dairy

Science.

Bingman, 20, is from Amity and is the daughter of Lee and Danielle Bingman. A 2024 graduate of Amity High School, she is currently dual enrolled at both Chemeketa Community College and Oregon State University. During her time as an Amity FFA member, she competed in the Milk Quality and Products Career Development Event (CDE) and Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE. She also showed dairy heifers at the Yamhill County and State Fair during her senior year of high school.

Both young women will spend the next year traveling throughout Oregon, attending fairs, town meetings, and public events as representatives of Oregon's dairy farmers. They will also visit schools across the state, educating students about life on a dairy farm and the nutritional benefits of dairy products.



PHOTO BY HANNAH PRESTON/MOMENTS BY HANNAH PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrating the Oregon Dairy Women's honors are Grace Faber (left), as Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador, and Chloe Bingman (right), as Alternate Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador.

Upon being crowned, both Faber and Bingman received scholarships to support their educational pursuits. Outgoing Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador Cydney Stables and Alternate

Anna Wismer received \$21,350 and \$11,500 respectively for their year of dedicated service, during which they educated over 13,000 students about the dairy industry at schools and community

events.

The other state finalists included outstanding young women from across Oregon: PaytonLynn Baldwin, Marion County; Isabel Wedam, Morrow County;

Simone Ferguson, Tillamook County; and Tayler Lovelady, Washington County. Ferguson was awarded Miss Congeniality by the other state finalists.

Oregon Dairy Women (ODW) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with the main objective to promote the dairy industry. The ODW mission is to promote greater use of all dairy products through outreach and educational programs.

Since 1959, the Oregon Dairy Women's Dairy Princess Ambassador Program has served as the premier advocate for the Oregon Dairy Industry in collaboration with the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association and the Oregon Dairy Council. The ODW awards scholarships and provides financial support to 4-H and FFA programs, Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, Oregon Ag Fest, Summer Ag Institute, Adopt-a-Farmer and judging teams.

Council of Governments celebrates local leaders involved in regional collaboration

By **MCRAE CARMICHAEL, MWVCOG**

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments welcomed 165 regional leaders, partners, and community members to its Annual Business Meeting and Awards Dinner on March 5, celebrating a year of regional collaboration, recognizing outstanding service, and looking ahead to continued partnership across the Mid-Willamette Valley.

The annual gathering celebrated regional collaboration among MWVCOG's 46 member governments, highlighted accomplishments from the past year, and recognized individuals

and partnerships that strengthen cooperation across the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Councilor Roxanne Beltz, representing the City of Monmouth and serving as the organization's 2025 Board Chair, opened the evening and reflected on the importance of steady leadership and collaboration among local governments.

"MWVCOG exists to convene, collaborate, and support our cities, counties, and special districts," Beltz said. "The progress we make in this region happens because people continue to show up, work together, and find solutions."

The event also recognized the following

individuals and partnerships whose work exemplifies the spirit of regional cooperation:

- Gwen VanDenBosch Regional Leadership Award Awarded to Polk County Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst in recognition of his tireless advocacy for transportation safety, youth opportunity, and cooperative problem-solving across jurisdictions.

- Regional Cooperative Project Award Presented to the collaborators who brought "The Wall That Heals" Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica, to Independence, in September 2025. The project involved 17 local governments and state agencies and welcomed more than 8,600 visitors

during its four-day stay.

- Chair's Choice Award 2025 Board Chair Beltz presented her Chair's Choice Award to Monmouth Mayor Cec Koontz, recognizing her leadership, mentorship of new elected officials, and dedication to collaborative governance.

- Wes Kvarsten Professional Service Award Presented to Woodburn City Manager Scott Derickson for nearly three decades of leadership in local government administration and his sustained commitment to regional collaboration.

- Lifetime Achievement Award Awarded to Allan Pollock, CEO and General Manager of

Cherriots, in recognition of his work to maintain transit services during the Great Recession and the challenges presented by the Courthouse Square reconstruction project; and his instrumental work to pass House Bill 2017, bringing investment to transit in the mid-valley and ultimately restoring late-night and weekend transit services back to Salem and Keizer.

The evening concluded with the ceremonial transition of leadership as Beltz passed the gavel to Betsy Earls of Chemeketa Community College, who will serve as MWVCOG's 2026 Board Chair. Earls thanked Beltz for her leadership and reaffirmed

the organization's commitment to strengthening services for member governments and fostering regional partnerships.

"As we look ahead, we remain focused on collaboration, responsible stewardship of member resources, and supporting the communities that make up our region," Earls said.

The Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governments serving Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties in Oregon. The organization provides planning, coordination, and shared services to help communities address regional challenges and opportunities.

Lyle Elementary's Loni McArthur gets March Classroom of the Month

Steele Insurance Agency, a local Farmers Insurance agency in Dallas, recognized Loni McArthur as the March Classroom of the Month at Lyle Elementary School.

McArthur has been part of the Lyle Elementary community for two years after transferring from Oakdale Elementary. During her first year at Lyle, she taught kindergarten before moving to second grade this school

year, where she continues to make a strong impact on students.

Lyle Elementary Principal Reed Langdon praised McArthur for the positive influence she brings to the school each day.

"Loni is kind, patient, collaborative and the kind of teacher any school would be lucky to have on their staff," Langdon said. "She builds strong relationships with students and

colleagues and consistently goes above and beyond for kids."

The Classroom of the Month program is sponsored by Steele Insurance Agency – Farmers Insurance, and highlights exceptional educators across the Dallas School District who demonstrate outstanding dedication to their students and school community.

Each month, a teacher is nominated by school

administrators for their leadership, commitment to learning, and the positive difference they make in the lives of students. As part of the recognition, the selected teacher receives classroom supplies and a special visit from Steele Insurance Agency.

"Teachers like Ms. McArthur play a critical role in shaping the future of our community," said Zachary Steele, owner of Steele Insurance Agency

and a Farmers Insurance agent in Dallas. "Through our Classroom of the Month program, we're proud to partner with Farmers Insurance to recognize the incredible work happening in our local schools and the educators who make it possible."

Steele Insurance Agency created the Classroom of the Month program to celebrate the dedication and impact of teachers throughout the district while

supporting classrooms with additional resources.

A classroom visit and recognition presentation with McArthur and her students will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

Steele Insurance Agency, a Farmers Insurance agency serving Dallas and the surrounding communities, is committed to supporting local schools, educators, and community programs that help students succeed.

WOU enhances student success with Gardner Institute's strategic support

Western Oregon University has been selected to participate in the Sensemaking & Strategic Prioritization process with the Gardner Institute. This program, made possible through the generous support of the Gates Foundation, focuses on enhancing student success at institutions like Western that demonstrate a commitment to accessibility, particularly for undergraduate students with a Pell recipient population

of 25 percent or more.

As a proud member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), Western actively pursues best practices in higher education. This unique initiative, titled "Advancing Student Success: Strategic Prioritization for Student Success," is a membership benefit to selected COPLAC members.

"We are thrilled to be selected for this initiative. WOU's application

focused on our General Education program because it has incredible momentum right now to work across divisions and departments and fully realize this curriculum as a primary driver of student retention and equity," said Melanie Landon-Hays, Director, General Education and Student Transitions. "This partnership will give us the essential tools and framework to build consensus across campus with structured

insights that help us ensure that our academic pathways are intentionally designed to support the success of every student."

Participants in the program will benefit from a comprehensive set of resources, including:

- A facilitated Sensemaking Conversation on campus with Gardner Institute staff to interpret results and set priorities.
- Customized reports and dashboards

summarizing Institutional Transformation Assessment and Readiness for Transformation Assessment findings.

- A focused Strategic Prioritization plan outlining both near-term and long-term actions for enhancing student success.

- A Transformation Roadmap aligned to the Gardner Institute's Six Transformation Principles to guide implementation.

- A fully funded two-day on-campus Sensemaking session.

- A \$1,000 stipend for Western's Institutional Research office upon completion of the Gardner Institute data upload.

"We look forward to engaging in this process, and what we learn will enhance strategies that support our student achievement and success," said Western President Jesse Peters. "Opportunities like this align with our strategic plan and underscore our commitment to placing students at the center."

Monmouth welcomes new finance director

The city of Monmouth has hired Shawn Waite as its new finance director.

Waite comes to the city of Monmouth with more than two decades of leadership experience in municipal and state government finance,

capital planning and organizational management. She served as city administrator for the city of Hubbard, Oregon, from 2023-26, where she oversaw municipal operations including police, public works, finance

and administrative services while leading long-term financial planning and capital investment strategies. Her previous leadership roles include senior positions with Lane County and the Oregon Department of

Revenue.

City Manager Rochelle Anderson said she is thrilled to welcome Waite to the team.

"Great Finance leaders understand more than budgets; they understand the operations

those budgets support. Shawn brings that rare combination of citywide operational leadership and financial expertise," Anderson said.

Waite will begin her role as finance director on April 13.



Shawn Waite

Pentacle Theater’s Acting Workshop with Jo Dodge returns March 28

Pentacle Theatre’s beloved Acting Workshop with Jo Dodge, a transformative experience led by one of the region’s most respected theater artists, returns March 28. Since founding the class in 1981, Dodge has trained and inspired over 2,000 students.

For over four decades, Dodge has helped students discover their voices, develop their craft, and most importantly, understand the power of human connection. Her unique approach focuses on truth over technique, collaboration over competition, and vulnerability over

performance.

“Jo’s most important gift lies in the intangibles,” said a Pentacle Theatre spokesperson. “She helps us expand our sense of our collective humanity and the variety of the human condition. Her direction is insightful and deeply human, guiding students to find truth in every line, every scene, and ultimately within themselves.”

Students will learn to:

- Interpret scripts with precision — word for word, with no paraphrasing
- Find emotional truth in performance

• Collaborate in a safe, supportive, and non-competitive environment

• Develop a deeper understanding of character, sub-text, and story

Whether you’re an experienced actor or a curious beginner, this class offers an opportunity to grow as an artist and as a person. Many of Dodge’s former students have gone on to perform and direct at Pentacle Theatre and beyond — but all have left with a greater sense of confidence and connection.

To register or learn more, go to www.PentacleTheatre.org.



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OBITUARIES



Arlene Margaret Trowbridge
April 21, 1932 - February 25, 2026

Arlene Trowbridge, a longtime resident of Dallas, Oregon, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Salem, Oregon February 25, 2026. Arlene was 93 years old. She was born April 21, 1932, in Woden Iowa. Arlene moved to Scio Oregon in 1945, where her family lived and worked on their mint farm.

In 1949, Arlene met Jimmy Walter Trowbridge on a blind date. They were wed on May 7, 1950, beginning a wonderful journey that included raising their five children; Sterling, Doug, Delinda, Tina and David.

Arlene was a strong, resilient woman. She was very proud of her family, her strong work ethic and quiet ambitions. From 1952 through 1971, while raising her own family she also worked cleaning homes and ironing clothes for family friends. Arlene and her children enjoyed picking a variety of produce each summer near Dallas. Lots of acquaintances and residents of Dallas remember mom fondly serving as a clerk at Greenwood stationery store from 1971-1976

and nearly two decades as a bank teller For Family Federal Savings and Loan and at The Great Western Bank in Dallas. Arlene's customer skills were exemplary; she always had a warm smile for everyone and genuinely enjoyed helping others.

In 1994, Arlene returned to school at the age of 62, earning a certificate in Office Administration from Chemeketa Community College. She finished her career working for Oregon DMV, Arlene was employee of the month several times and enjoyed training new hires. In 2007 at the age of 75, Arlene retired.

Arlene found immense joy spending time with her family and friends. She enjoyed cooking and baking, especially during the holidays. Mom crocheted blankets for her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed quilting with friends at the Rickreall Grange, supporting St. Phillips Catholic church, country line dancing and country drives. She enjoyed spending time at the Oregon coast or at camp Sherman on the Metolius river. Arlene's greatest legacy remains her family; including 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Mom was a nightingale and you felt you had been touched by an angel. Arlene always had a way of showing up for family or friends in a time of need and gracing us with her tender love and care. Arlene's boundless strength, enduring love, flower gardens, delicious

homemade meals and endless devotion to her family will be deeply missed. We will honor you forever, our beautiful mother and grandmother, May you rest in peace and know how much you were loved.

Arlene is preceded in death by her Husband; Jim Trowbridge, Eldest Son; Sterling Trowbridge, Youngest Son; David Trowbridge. Arlene is survived by her Son; Douglas Trowbridge (Denise) and her daughters; Delinda Woods & Tina Anderson (Harold)



Gary Liddle Huxford
March 28th, 1931 - March 7th, 2026



Gary Liddle Huxford, 94, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2026, at his Monmouth, Oregon, home.

Gary was born March 28, 1931, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Ila Lucille Liddle and Peter Huxford. When he was eight, his parents moved briefly to Chico, California, then to Astoria, Oregon. They were living in Astoria in 1941 when WWII began. His Dad's new job working in the shipyards

took the family to Portland, Oregon, where Gary attended junior high and high school. He graduated from Franklin High School in 1949 and attended one school year at Brigham Young University before being called to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Mission. Most of his two years of mission service was in Ireland, eventually serving as District President.

Gary was drafted into the U. S. Army in 1953 and served for two years as Communications Chief at a base in Detroit, Michigan. After being honorably discharged, he returned to BYU where he met his future wife, Catherine Davis. They were married December 14, 1956, in Logan, Utah. After Gary's graduation from BYU with a degree in history, the couple moved to Seattle, Washington, where Gary enrolled for graduate study at the University of Washington, receiving Masters and Doctorate degrees in history. By this time Gary and Catherine had the first two of their eight children, daughters Leslie and Lynne, born in Seattle.

In 1961, Gary accepted his first college teaching job and began teaching at Oregon College of Education (now Western Oregon University) in Monmouth, Oregon. From 1962 to 1966 Gary served as Branch President of the new little Monmouth Branch of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. Carol and Shaun were born while the family lived in Monmouth.

In 1966, Gary accepted an offer to teach history at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, where he taught for three years. Two daughters were added to the family while in Utah, Janice and Alison. In 1969 Oregon College of Education lured Gary back to Monmouth, and the family moved to property on a hilltop west of town, finishing the partly-built house and planting Douglas fir trees. The final two Huxford children were born in 1971 and 1974, sons Tom and Dale.

Gary taught at OCE/Western Oregon University until his retirement in 1994. He took several opportunities to travel and do further study, and several of these trips took him back to Ireland and England. In 1975 Gary swapped jobs with a history professor at Springfield College in Massachusetts so the Huxford family could experience the bi-centennial year in New England, surrounded by history. In 1994-95 Gary was commissioned to write a history of the college, Since 1856... Historical Views of the College at Monmouth, and began service as bishop of a Latter-day Saint Ward.

Gary's activity in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints continued throughout his life. He served as a missionary locally

several times, but in 1997 he and Catherine volunteered to serve a fulltime mission and were called to the Kenya Nairobi Mission. They served nine months in Kenya and nine months in neighboring Ethiopia. In 2000 they volunteered again, this time going to Haiti for another eighteen months where Gary was assistant to the mission president. Gary's teaching and leadership skills, kindness and generosity were always in demand. For ten years he also served as Stake Patriarch.

In recent years, Gary cherished his time at home on the hill surrounded by music he loved, visiting with dear friends, rejoicing in Spring blooms, Summer vegetables, and the colors of leaves in Fall.

Gary is survived by his brother John, his sister Eileen Erickson, his wife Catherine, seven of his eight children, 21 of his 22 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for Friday, March 27, at 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel, 783 W. Church Street in Monmouth with an open house to follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Gary's name to the WOU Foundation or the Oregon Symphony.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 783 W. Church Street, Monmouth, Oregon

Friday, March 27th 11 a.m. to noon. Open house to follow service.

FIRE DISTRICT

From Page A1

were not theoretical — they produced measurable results," the board said. "In 2020, emergency response times in some areas of the District, including Bridgeport, averaged approximately 25 minutes for 90% of calls. With the addition of stations, equipment, and staffing supported by the levy, average response times were reduced to less than 10 minutes in 2024."

At the same time, they said the volume of calls to SW Polk Fire District increased, to increase

responses to fires, medical emergencies, traffic crashes and wildfire response. They said without the staffing funded through that levy, the District will be forced to reduce service levels when demand continues to increase.

They explained that if the levy is not renewed, the resulting June 30 layoffs will result in reduced staffing, longer response times, and fewer resources available when multiple emergencies occur at the same time. It will also increase reliance on mutual aid from neighboring agencies that are facing many of the same staffing and resource

challenges.

According to the proposed levy estimates, a home having a \$200,000 assessed value would have an annual cost of \$274. The estimated annual revenue generated by the levy per year are:

- 2026-27 - \$1,152,103
- 2027-28 - \$1,186,666
- 2028-29 - \$1,222,266
- 2029-30 - \$1,258,934
- 2030-31 - \$1,296,702

More information will be available through upcoming community meetings, on the SW Polk's website and social media, and by visiting any SW Polk fire station. Community members are also invited to attend the District's Annual

Pancake Breakfast on May 3 to learn more and speak directly with firefighters and District leadership.

"If you value the response time improvements that have been achieved, the firefighters and volunteers who serve your community, and the safety of your family, neighbors, and property, we respectfully ask you to support the levy replacement on May 19," the board concluded. "This vote represents the community's final opportunity to prevent these layoffs and preserve the emergency service capabilities that protect SW Polk residents every day."

DEATH NOTICES

Jeanne Marie Twenge

10/27/1931 - 03/07/2026

Celebration of Life at Monmouth Senior Center 04-11-2026 1-4PM

Quentin Hill

10/29/1981 - 08/19/2025

Family and friends are holding private memorials.

Polk IO is in print and online 24/7 polkio.com

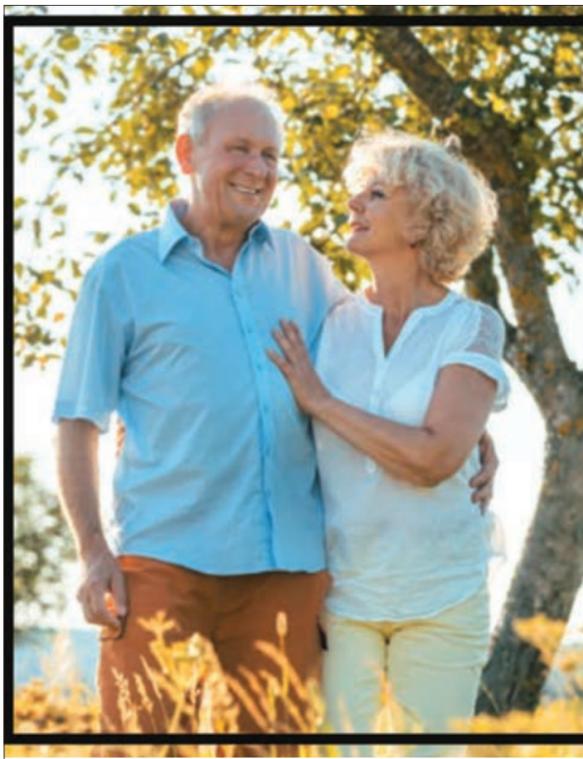
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CryptoQuip answer

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Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lively, Lovely | 6. Court, Count |
| 2. Bland, Blond | 7. Accept, Accent |
| 3. Twain, Train | 8. Sweep, Sleep |
| 4. Justin, Austin | 9. Daily, Dairy |
| 5. Grape, Grace | 10. Cattle, Castle |



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FOUNDATION

From Page A1

different ways.”

Brannigan said the Dallas Community Foundation since it was established in 1985 has given out about \$2 million in grants and student scholarships. This year, the organization gave out another \$46,000 in grants to 19 organizations.

Brannigan said he's found over the years after awarding the checks to organization representatives is hearing from them about the great work they do for the community.

“Because at the end of this, what I always feel really great about, wow, there's a lot going on in Dallas and I'm only seeing a little piece of it,” he said, “And it's really nice for everyone else here to also hear about that. Because sometimes you run into somebody who might benefit from an organization you might not even know exists in Dallas. So this is a way for you to network your organization and what you're doing.”

Not every organization that was honored had a recipient present to speak about how the grant funds would be used.

Diana and Jody McGowan accepted the grant for Titus 3 House, which will go toward constructing a serenity garden in back of the home for mothers and children.

“We thought it would be great for the mothers and their children to go and garden together and connect together. Because a lot of them are just getting their children back,” Diana said of the faith-based Dallas house for women whose lives were shattered by addiction at one point.

“So they're learning to rebuild, restructure back into the community with the community's help. With all of your help. So thank you very much for that,” she said.

McGowan said since 2021, Titus House has served 33 women and she broke down how they recovered from there – 12 obtained their own place, two purchased homes, 13 women gained employment, one woman started her own business, 12 children reunified with their mothers and five women married.

“And many of those former residents are now working in our community,” McGowan added. “So I just wanted to share that.”

Another home receiving grant funds was Sable House, which assists victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Rochelle Juarez said Sable House provides a wide variety of services including a hotline, legal advocacy, a housing assistance program, support groups, case management with families and sexual assault response for the hospital.

“We are in the courts with



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES

The recipients of the Dallas Community Foundation grants gather for a photo after the presentation ceremony March 10.

families going through both criminal and civil cases, walking them through different processes throughout their cases, whatever that might be.” Juarez said. “We do a lot of helping with child protection orders and walking through that whole process with families as well.”

She added Sable House generally has about 150 individuals who go through the facility every year. The \$5,000 grant will help with emergency shelter services, paying for families' prescriptions, because many of the families they support are relocating outside of the county after leaving with nothing, including the access to financial means.

“So this is going to allow us to be able to get those prescriptions for them right away so they can maintain their health and well-being in that capacity, as well as for the children. Also, to help with just getting over-the-counter medications so that we have those in the house,” Juarez said.

Dallas librarian Mark Greenhalgh-Johnson said the Friends of the Dallas Public Library will use its \$2,500 grant to purchase large print and audio books for their outbound program at the Dallas Retirement Village and other houses in town assisting people who cannot come into the library.

“Every Thursday we have a volunteer who runs the route. We have an employee who keeps track of the genres that the people like. He keeps track of what they've read, what they haven't read yet,” Greenhalgh-Johnson said. “They send notes if they like something, if they don't like something. He keeps track of that so that we always know the things that people want to read. It's a really great program.”

The Dallas Youth Garden received a grant for the 11th of 14 years the program has been around. Director Dean Anderson said the funds will be used to provide supplies for the garden season. This year they plan to hire 11

interns.

“Interns will learn basic job skills, learn about sustainable gardening, and the needs of fresh food in our community. Each intern plans, maintains, and harvests their own 25- by 50-foot garden. Produce raised will be donated to the Polk County Family and Community Outreach folks,” Anderson said.

He added that over its 14 years, the Dallas Youth Garden has hired over 120 young adults and has donated over 40,000 piles of fresh produce to local food programs.

Jason Macpherson, Director of Development for the Cascade Pacific Council Boys Scouts of America, explained that three years ago, scouting died in Dallas. That's when they approached DCF. The grants have helped provide scholarships for membership registration and summer camp fees for Dallas Pack 7024 Scouts.

“We've had our fits and starts, but we strive to do

quite a bit more. You know, the success stories of the Titans House are pretty powerful. We have those similar types of successes where kids get into scouting from a diverse situation,” Macpherson said.

“So we want to do much more of that. And my request to you all, if there's a way that you can partner with scouting. If there are families you serve who could benefit from a scholarship, this funding will go to that. If there's a service project we could do,” he added.

Linda Dunaway of Bambinos said the grant will help to supplement the needs addressing an explosion of growth. They have served 650 individuals since last year, with about 40% of those being families, going toward the expensive purchases of diapers and formula for babies. They gave over 2,500 packs of bulkers and about 2,000 pieces of baby equipment.

“And the grant last year was supposed to be for that, but we had such an explosion of need last year that mid-year, the foundation was gracious enough to help us pivot and actually divert some of those funds just to those basic needs and help with like 21 pull-ups. So we are just so incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of the foundation,” Dunaway said.

To see the full list of grant winners, go to www.polkio.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep Jeremy Gordon as an effective communicator

I would like to encourage my fellow Polk County citizens to vote for Jeremy Gordon to continue his good work as a Polk County Commissioner.

Jeremy has a real heart for the people of Polk County. He is involved in many projects across the county working for the good of all. He was at the recent legislative short session to lobby for financial support for our county in the budget battles ongoing.

Jeremy is a great collaborator. His involvement in addressing the growing homeless problems developing in Dallas, Independence, Falls City and Monmouth attracted various stakeholders, churches and private citizens to work together to establish helping programs for those who are struggling to stay housed. The cooperative, bipartisan ways people worked together to address homelessness were effective, winning Jeremy notice from the Governor's office along with an increase in funding for Polk County homelessness needs.

Jeremy listens to constituents respectfully and communicates with citizens in a timely manner. His door is always open. Jeremy is fearless in life, anyone who can play guitar and sing, posting his singing on Facebook, has the courage of his convictions. (He sounds pretty

good!)

Please join me in voting for Jeremy Gordon for County Commissioner.

*Diane McBurnett
Monmouth*

Trump's list of dishonors continues to grow

Through the years, I have watched many State of the Union speeches, and the one recently delivered by Trump was the worst I've ever seen. He spent the whole-time either degrading people or presenting an award to make him look good. It's the first time the majority of the Supreme Court judges chose not to attend, and he called those not attending a “disgrace to our nation”.

Later, in a meeting with governors, he threw a

foul-mouthed rant about the Supreme Court. While honoring Charlie Kirk he made the statement to “end political violence”. Does he know violence can be physical or verbal?

He wanted to raise the tariffs on Switzerland by 9 percent because he didn't approve of the way the former country's president talked to him. Can you say childish? It is reported Trump's name is mentioned in the Epstein files more than one million times.

While campaigning, he stated he'd end wars, not start one. Looks to me like he forgot about that statement. He has authorized attacks on eight nations and kidnapped the president of Venezuela. And it's estimated the war

with Iran took the lives of 160 to 184 children when the school was hit. He now says he needs to approve the next ruler of Iran.

I doubt he'd be in office if other countries made the decision who our next leader would be.

*Clifford Brown
Dallas*

The more you learn, the more Gordon should be re-elected

I am a resident of Dallas writing to encourage voters to support the re-election of Jeremy Gordon for Polk County Commissioner.

While national politics demands so much attention lately, I believe that a healthy democracy starts locally. I encourage

all voters to research candidates and vote intelligently.

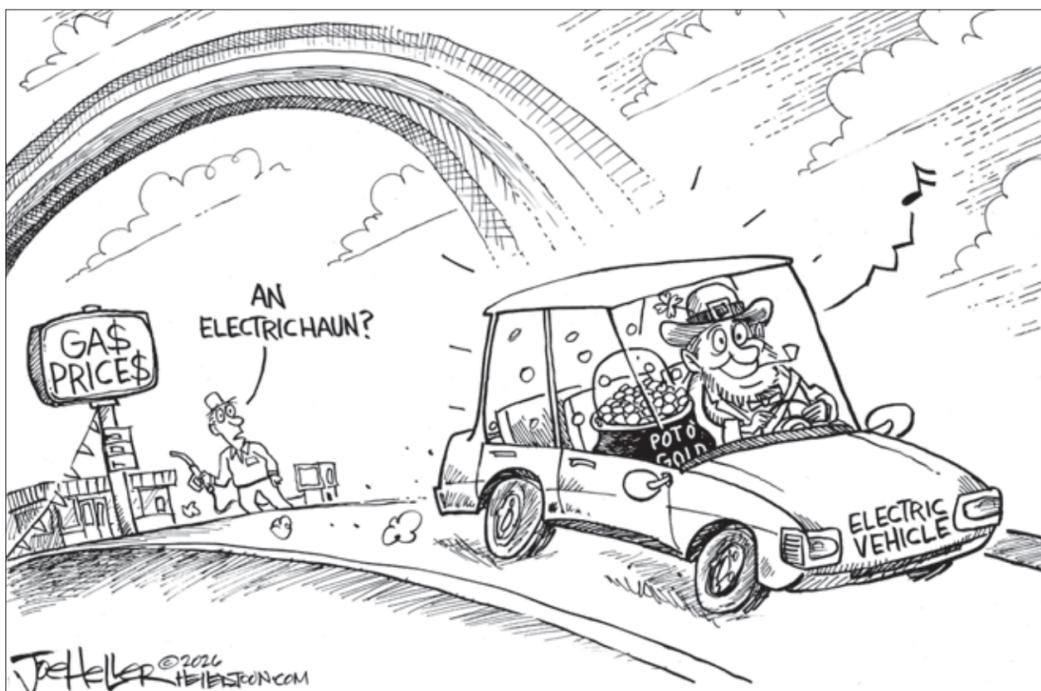
I spoke with Commissioner Gordon at a meet the candidate event at a local coffee shop. I was impressed by his obvious dedication and professionalism, and by his candor in response to my questions.

Like many of you, I have concerns about the homeless situation and the related need for mental health services. I learned that Mr. Gordon formed PATHS in partnership with Polk County cities, the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, and other community organizations to address homelessness prevention and housing affordability. I encourage you to read about

the accomplishments of PATHS. Mr. Gordon also led support for the Polk CARES Center, a crisis response and mental health facility here in Dallas, to make mental health services more accessible to everyone.

I hope you will read more extensively about Jeremy Gordon's contributions, and vote to allow him to continue his valuable work.

*Anne Sniff
Dallas*



Temp/Rainfall	
March 9 - 50 33	0.04
March 10 - 46 35	0.08
March 11 - 53 44	0.44
March 12 - 54 46	1.13
March 13 - 58 51	0.37
March 14 - 53 38	0.33
March 15 - 49 37	0.00
Total March 9-15	- 2.39
Total through March 8 -	2.75

Weekly Online Poll	
Who is going to win the World Baseball Classic?	
USA -	66.7%
Japan -	25.0%
Dominican Republic -	8.3%

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CAKES

From Page A1

that was. And so I took some classes at Joanne's cake decorating classes," Ashley said.

At first, the classes were a fun way to get out of the class and out of her protective bubble. Then as she progressed through the levels of competence, Ashley had a realization. "At some point I just noticed that I really had a gift for it," she said. "So I started doing cake on the side. And then I went and rented a commercial kitchen."

At first, Ashley said it took four hours to complete a "clunky little cake." And at \$25 a cake, customers were not covering what it

cost her to bake her creations from a rented commercial kitchen.

After state laws changed, Ashley moved operations to her apartment kitchen.

"I had a dedicated bedroom with baker's racks and all the things. My house was full of refrigerators and freezers and it just overtook everything," she said.

Her big break was finding a space to expand as one of 45th Parallel's first tenants. But after everything fell together to quickly open in her new space, everything almost fell apart when the COVID pandemic hit. After having to lay off her two employees, Ashley had an epiphany.

"My husband took me to Home Depot and got some cones and canopy

tents. And I ordered these rolling racks online. I got volunteers to come in and help me bake. I called my two employees back and we made all the things we make in cake," she said. "We made cupcakes and brownies and cheese-cake and cake pops and everything. We possibly could drug it all outside and made a drive-thru. I made \$10,000 in three hours."

The windfall allowed her to move operations to a bigger section up front at 45th Parallel.

"And so now I am up on the boardwalk on Hyacinth," she said.

Not done moving, she and her husband found a home in Independence and in the process of joining the Chamber of Commerce, Ashley had a chance encounter with

Mitch and Cathy Teal. The owners of Brew Coffee & Taphouse in Independence were looking to offer fresh baked confections along with the fresh-brewed coffees. It proved to be a perfect collaboration.

The brewhouse provided a decorated case in front of the barista bar stocked with her fresh concoctions and samples of her custom creations that can be ordered to specifics on her website at her commercial kitchen.

"With Mitch and Cathy as my partners, I couldn't ask for a better collaboration," Ashley said. "They're amazing humans."

Her exploration grew ever more options for eye catching creations personalized to customer needs, be it birthday

parties or business functions.

"So we're really expanding. But what I would really like to grow is the cake side. So we have a full line of desserts. We have an entire dietary pastry case at my shop in Salem," she said. "I'm able to pick and choose, and bring the best of our stuff over here ... we really want to fill this space over here, this need. Because aside from Roths, there's no place to go and run in and get a birthday cake, right?"

The community noticed her drive to expand her services to them and they responded by voting Michelle Ashley Custom Cake the Chamber of Commerce's New Business of the Year. An event, by the

way, she and her team baked more than 30 creations for their cake dash fundraiser.

"And so, yeah, it was a great event. We were certainly very honored and humbled to not only be able to sponsor that, but to have been a nominee and receive new business of the year award. I can't even tell you, I can't even tell you," Ashley said. "I'm over the moon. I'm over the moon. I can't believe it."

She's believing these days and wants others to believe in her growing custom cake "empire" that started from the smallest of seeds.

"It was just born from a passion. I never really saw that this was going to be my next career, but here we are," Ashley said.

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Part of DJ
5 Let leave
12 E-device download
15 Lobs' paths
19 Western U.S. gas chain
20 Radar on an old sitcom
21 Bargain offered by a prosecutor
23 Male horse that's the subject of a novel?
25 Deli meat often on NYC
26 Visiting a website, e.g.
27 Sunshine St.
28 Contributed one's share
29 Pulitzer-winning biographer
30 Setting a weekly limit on Mastercard purchases?
33 401 to Metro
34 Water, in Paris
35 Nickel, e.g.
36 Hands, in Havana

DOWN

1 "The Living Daylights" actress
2 Resolved, as difficulties
3 Angry rebukas
4 Newsman Roberts
5 Fawn over
6 401(k) kin
7 Government of a nation by its own people
8 Dancer
9 Homer epic
10 -mo
11 Wd. in a thesaurus
12 -Way (old Roman road)
13 Actor Oliver
14 Actor Joe
15 Gland near the kidneys
16 Scan, as data
17 El - Roal (road in California)
18 Hurts
22 In-house
23 75 TV debut
28 Smug type
30 Half - latte
31 Roll call response, in Paris

ACROSS

37 James Bond's creator, if he had lived on the island of Ithaca?
42 German car company
44 Pulls on
45 Theta lead-in
46 Egyptian (cat breed)
47 Current unit
50 "This requires a lot of effort"
52 "You're the Top" composer
58 "You betcha"
60 Persia, now
61 As a whole
62 At the post one formerly held?
70 "Fighting" Big Ten team
71 Cyber-trash
72 Pro trained in trauma
73 Statement after a female jungle cat gains a lot of weight?
77 Include as a bonus
83 Bug planter
84 Busy bug
85 Weird

DOWN

32 Heap
33 The Mets' Field
34 Border crossing documents
38 "Sorta" suffix
39 Towing gp.
40 & so forth
41 Chinese chairman
42 Boat paddle with "on"
43 "Let's shake hands!"
46 - Carlo
47 In a little bit
48 Parcel (out)
49 Egg on
51 Hwy. felony
53 R&B singer with the hit "4Ever"
54 Suffix with a trick or mock
55 Faux -
56 Suffix of pasta names
57 Siouan tribe
59 Lay down as fact
62 Feels fousy
63 With
67-Down, mistakes
64 Stratagem
65 - Tin Tin
66 Ethyl ending
67 Sae
63-Down
68 Singer
69 Cooke
69 City.

ACROSS

74 - cone
75 Seoul soldier
76 Pub. staffers
78 Blvd., e.g.
79 Meal scrap
80 Attending to
81 Empathic affirmation
82 Hawaiian goose
86 Humiliates
88 Cousins of anises
89 Iris ring
90 British actress
91 British beer
92 Abode: Abbr.
93 Third letter
94 Tarzan, e.g.
95 Loud insect
96 Began, as a hobby
97 Zooms
101 Ham it up
102 Amazon, e.g.
103 Its capital is Khartoum
104 'I'd like to help'
105 "Eureka!"
106 Singer
107 Eydie
109 Fomer
New York stadium
110 In re
112 Simile middle
113 Faint
114 2000-15 CBS drama

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hat is higher. 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing. 3. Hat is different. 4. Book cover is different. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Ribbon is moved.

MAGIC MAZE • RAIN OR SHINE

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

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

Bahrain
Drain
Drivetrain
Ingrain
Monkeyshine
Moonshine
Outshine
Refrain
Restrain
Rise and shine
Shoeshine
Spoil-shine
Sprain
Sunshine
Terrain

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: S equals O

H ZQ RSSCNE SU JVPEWHUK
VRN RHJVSJLW ST STHBHZD
CHUKDW ENBLNNJ. H KPNJJ
H'Q ZU NEHBV ZEEHBV.

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GO FIGURE!

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

-	x	=	24
-	+	+	
+	-	=	2
+	+	x	
+	÷	=	7
=	=	=	
6	16	30	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

ALL I'M SAYING IS THE LADY SAID THEY WERE "FREE SAMPLES," PLURAL. WHY NOT SKIP DINNER AND EAT THERE?

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Out on a Limb

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN, RED, YELLOW, WHITE, BROWN, PURPLE, ORANGE ...

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KERMIT THE COBB SALAD

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

HERE YOU GO, GERALD HONEY. GRANDMA MADE HER SPECIAL GINGER DOODLE COOKIES.

NO SUGAR, JUST DRIED FIGS, OATMEAL, PRUNES, WALNUTS AND PLENTY OF FLOUR.

IT'S GRANDMA'S SECRET RECIPE!

I THINK IT BEST GRANDMA KEEPS THIS A SECRET.

MMPH!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Magic Flute"?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which sport uses a shuttlecock?
- MATH: What is the next prime number after 11?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is Pearl Harbor located?
- INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the World Wide Web?
- SCIENCE: What is the name for plants that live for two years?
- MOVIES: What is Jack-Jack's real name in "The Incredibles"?
- ACRONYMS: What does VPN stand for?
- ASTRONOMY: Which moon is the largest in our solar system?

Answers

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
- Emily Bronte.
- Badminton.
- 13.
- Oahu, Hawaii.
- Tim Berners-Lee.
- Biennials.
- John Jackson Parr.
- Virtual Private Network.
- Ganymede of Jupiter.

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NerdCon draws a quirky crowd

Photos by David Hayes, continued on page A8



Yumi Saeki, comic artist and illustrator, talks with a fan.



A family sits down at one of the Dungeons and Dragons tables set up in the Majestic Showroom.



Dark wizard Ryder McDowell (left) is opposed by good wizard Carter Manley.



Mark Fearing, author and illustrator, draws new postcards to hand out to fans.

Benji Gorze, dressed as her favorite KPop Demon Hunter Rumi, and her friend Emma Boler strike a pose next to the Mars Attacks Alien usually seen outside Everything Blain Likes in Dallas.



A lot of fans flocked to take selfies with Stitch.

Worship Directory

DALLAS

Bahá'í Faith — Building a Better World: "Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship." — Bahá'u'lláh. All are warmly invited to an interfaith gathering on the last Sunday of each month at 2:00. You are encouraged to share any quotations, prayers, poems, and songs related to the theme for the month. For details call 971-804-5943 or 503-269-3333. (Please leave a message for call back.) More about the Bahá'í Faith: www.bahai.org or www.bahaisofsalem.org

Dallas Church — PO Box 462, Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2711. Worship Gatherings: Sundays 9am & 10:30am. Meeting at 450 SE Washington St., Dallas OR 97338. Atmosphere is relaxed, families and children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Pastor: Ben Bauman. www.dallaschurch.org

Dallas Church of Christ — 691 NE Kings Valley Hwy, Dallas, 503-623-8791. Sundays: 9:30am Bible Classes for all, 10:30am Worship, 2:00pm Group Bible Talk, Wednesdays: 6:30pm Bible Study. Come to any, come to them all! Individual Bible studies gladly made by appointment. Web:dallaschurchofchrist.com

Dallas Evangelical Church — A Place of Hope and Healing: 783 SW Church Street, Dallas Oregon, across from the Post Office. Find us on Facebook: on page DallasEC, MyDallasEC Friends and www.dallasec.org. Join us on Sundays in person or on Zoom for weekly Bible Study and Worship Service. We worship in a contemporary, casual format. Sunday Services: Bible Study 9:00 AM; Worship Service 10:00 AM, zoom room 228-034-850. Celebrate Recovery (a Christ Based 12 Step Program) is also on Sundays and starts with Dinner 5:00 PM; Large Group (Worship) 6:00 PM, and small groups at 7PM. We have a Community Clothing Closet: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, & Sat 9 AM - Noon; Thurs Nights 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Step Studies are often starting or ending all year and meeting at various times. Message phone 503-623-3778. Find us on Facebook: DallasEC or join MyDallasEC Friends. You can email pastor Dave at pastor.dave@dallasec.org

Dallas Foursquare Church — Located at 976 SW Hayter St., on the corner of Washington and Hayter. Senior Pastor: Darrin Hausler. Worship Gatherings: Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Youth Home Groups: Sunday evenings from 6-8:00 p.m. Please call for locations. We are a multi-generational church with a heart for our community. Our mission is to Love God and Love People to Extend His Kingdom. For more info call us at 503-623-8277 or visit us online at dallasfour.com.

Evangelical Bible Church — 1175 S.E. Howe St., Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Troy Bassham, Youth Pastor Andrew Wheeler, Sunday services 9:00am & 10:30am. Awana 6:30pm Wednesday. Weekly Prayer meeting 6:30pm Wednesday. Women's Bible Study Thursday 9:30 am & 6:30 pm. Men's Bible Study Thursday 6:30pm. Compass Middle School Youth Group Thursday 6:30pm. Forged High School Youth Group Tuesday 6:30pm. Live Streamed services via facebook and youtube @EBCDallas.

Grace Community Church — 598 E. Ellendale Ave. Dallas, 503-623-4961. Lead Pastor- Dave Bertolini, Sunday Worship Gatherings 9:00am, with Nursery-5th Grade programs, Youth Life Groups, and scheduled Sunday School Classes running concurrently & 10:45am, with Nursery-5th Grade programs, and scheduled Sunday School Classes, running concurrently.

Live Stream our 10:45am service at www.graceindallas.online.church

Visit our Website at www.graceindallas.org for office hours, sermon downloads, event information, and more!

House of His Presence — House of His Presence, located at 177 SW Oak St. in Dallas, welcomes all who are seeking to know God intimately and live life abundantly. We believe God transforms us into the image of Jesus Christ as we encounter His Holiness, Righteousness and Truth through His manifested presence, worship and the Word of God. Sunday morning service at 10:30 am, visit the website for ongoing ministries during the week. For more information call 503-420-4612 Website www.houseofhispresence.net

Living Word Faith Fellowship — 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Ray Huff. Sunday Prayer 9:30am, Worship 10:00am, Children's Church (during service, nursery provided). Wednesday Prayer 6:30pm, Worship 7:00pm. Men's fellowship second Saturday, Pastor Ray Huff is in charge of men's fellowship. Call for info 503-623-9062.

Salt Creek Baptist Church — 15075 Salt Creek Rd, Dallas, 503-623-2976. Interim Pastor John Dotson, Family Pastor Josiah Buhler. Sunday School 9:30am. Sunday morning Worship Gathering 10:50am. Nursery provided for worship services. Classes for all ages. Wednesday Middle and High School youth at 6:30pm. Please call for information about other meetings or visit our website at www.saltcreekchurch.org.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church — 589 SW Birch St PO Box 450 Dallas, Or 97338 503-623-5872 Pastor Ted Perry, Services on Saturday: Sabbath School 10:00 am, Worship Service 11 am Study and Prayer Wednesday 7pm Office hours: Wed, Thurs & Friday 9-12. Community Services for food and clothing Wednesday 10am to 1pm.

St. Philip Catholic Church — Fr. Michael P. Johnston, Pastor Pastor Email: mpjinpdx@yahoo.com | 825 S.W. Mill Street, Dallas, OR 97338 Phone: (503) 623.2440 - www.stphil.org.

Liturgical Schedule

Monday- Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. Mass

Thursday - 8:00 a.m. (No Mass on Friday)

Saturday Vigil Mass - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts will be served after Sunday services

St. Thomas Episcopal Church — Welcome! Our church is located at 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. Our phone number is 503-623-5822. Everyone is welcome to come and be a part of our congregation on Sundays for the 10 a.m. service or find us live on Facebook and updates. Join us for coffee after our service. Our services are as follows: 1st and 3rd Sundays are Morning Prayer. 2nd and 4th Sundays are Holy Eucharist. Blessings!

Trinity Lutheran Church — 320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas. All are welcome! Pastor Jody Becker and Pastor Johathan Thompson, Adult Sunday Bible Study 8:45, Sunday Worship Service 10 am coffee hour with treats after service. Wednesday Worship Service noon. Nursery available for parents to use. Play area for small children in sanctuary during worship service. Youth Group HS/MS 11:30 am Sundays. Weekly Bible Studies. Contact us at 503-623-2233 or at questionsdallatlcc@gmail.com.

Online at dallatlcc.org. Check it out! Office open Mon.-Thur. 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Fri. 9:00 am to Noon. Because God first loved us, we celebrate the gifts of Christ through worship, service, and community.

United Methodist Church — a church with Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors, 565 SE LaCreole Dr, Dallas, 503-623-2481. Pastor Rev. Ruth Marsh. In-person Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. Go to the website at: dallasoregonumc.org for additional information.

Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God) — 1795 SE Miller Ave., Dallas. Lead Pastor: Chris Barker; Youth: Jeff Anderson; Children: Crystal Barker; Worship/Media: Jesse Ceballos. Sunday Service is at 10:00 am and online streaming at 10:00 am (www.valleylife.love.) On Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, there is Men's Bible Study, Ladies Bible Study, Ignite Youth, Rangers Boys Club, Mpaact Girls Club, Rainbows, and nursery care. For more information, contact us at www.valleylife.love, info@valleylifecenter.com or 503-623-4116.

FALLS CITY

Seventh-Day Adventist Church — 205 N. Main, Falls City 97344, 503-787-3907. Services on Saturday: Sabbath School 10:00am; Worship Service 11:10am. Community Service Center Food Bank: Second Wednesday, 11am-3pm, Fourth Sunday, 11am-3pm.

INDEPENDENCE

Christ The King Church — Service on Sundays 10 am, 580 S 9 St., (Corner of S 9 St. and F street) Independence OR 97351. 503-551-9516 or visit us at www.ctkindependence.com.

Cornerstone Church of God — 4395 Independence Hwy, Independence, 503-838-5119. Sunday Service and Children's Church 9:30am Nursery available. Wednesday Kids Klubs 6:30pm. Thursday Adult Bible Study 6:30pm

First Baptist Church — A warm friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Monmouth St, Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks. Sundays: Worship Service 11 am, Wednesdays: AWANA 5:30 pm dinner, 6:00 pm clubs; Youth Group 7:30 pm. Join us for small groups for Men, Women, and Couples throughout the week. Check us out at www.independencfirstbaptist.com

MONMOUTH

Monmouth Christian Church — 969 Church St W, Monmouth 97361. Office hours M-T 9a-4p. Phone: 503-838-1145. Join us for services on Sundays, 9am & 11am. Live ONLINE Service 11am. Please visit our website for more info or on how to join our online service. WWW.MYMCC.CCSt. Hilda's Episcopal Church — 245 Main St. West, Monmouth. Contact Information: sthildaschurch1@gmail.com. Sunday Worship (Eucharist) 10:00 AM followed by fellowship. Our church services are reverent and relaxed. Our purpose is God's worship. 7:00 PM Wednesday, Evening Prayer online, contact us thru the email address above for access codes. Walk our labyrinth — behind the parking lot, it's still in development, but it works. Follow us on our Facebook page; St Hilda's Episcopal Church, Monmouth Or.

St. Hilda's Episcopal Church — 245 Main St. West, Monmouth. Contact Information: sthildaschurch1@gmail.com. Sunday Worship (Eucharist) 10:00 AM followed by fellowship. Our church services are reverent and relaxed. Our purpose is God's worship. 7:00 PM Wednesday, Evening Prayer online, contact us thru the email address above for access codes. Walk our labyrinth — behind the parking lot, it's still in development, but it works. Follow us on our Facebook page; St Hilda's Episcopal Church, Monmouth OR.

Continued from Page A7



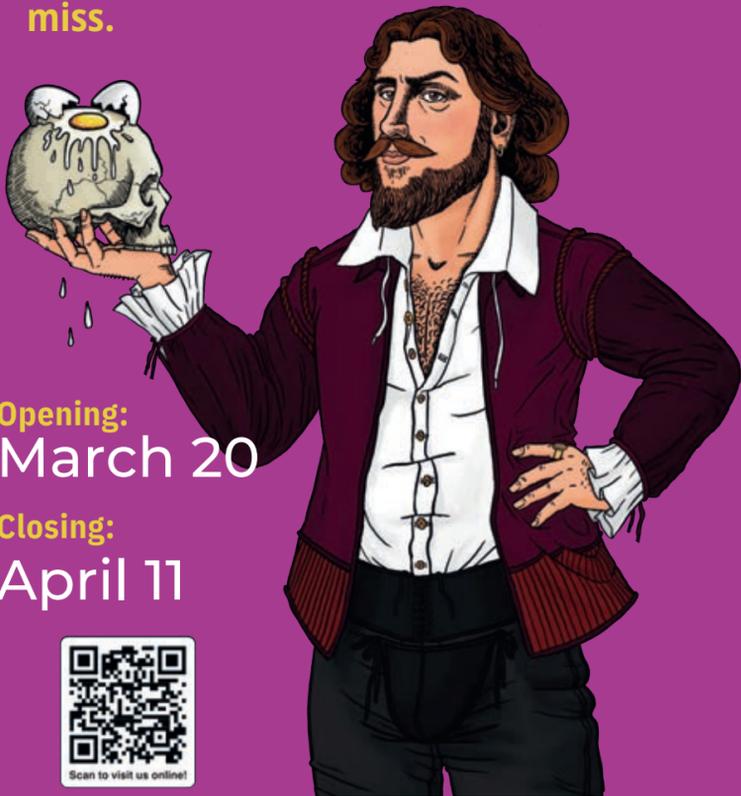
Floydman Sumner (center), illustrator of The Garbage Pale Kids and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, draws a crowd to his table.

Pentacle Theatre

Something Rotten!

The Hit Broadway Musical Comedy

Welcome to the Renaissance and the outrageous, crowd-pleasing musical farce you don't want to miss.



Opening: March 20

Closing: April 11



www.pentacletheatre.org

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Savor delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing drinks, an unlimited free photo booth, exciting Silent Auction, and engaging games as we come together for an evening filled with fun and unity. Join us in raising awareness and funds to support the most vulnerable children in Polk County foster care.

Saturday, April 4, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Werner University Center

Doors Open at 5:30 (WOU Campus)
400 Monmouth Avenue N., Monmouth, OR 97361

Tickets available on our website at: www.casaofpolk.com or stop by CASA of Polk County, Inc., 580 Main Street, Suite D, Dallas Oregon (503) 623-8473

Gaming by The Party Team
Catering by Capricorn Catering

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO DIRECTLY TO CASA OF POLK COUNTY, INC.

TICKETS \$75 per person

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Be part of a community that delivers nutritious meals and joyful smiles to seniors right in your neighborhood.

DALLAS SENIOR CENTER

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Dallas, OR 97338

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

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Where: Dallas Senior Center

When: MWF at noon

Available for individuals 60 years of age or older

Call 503-623-6232 for more information

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer
Sports
 www.polkio.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Walt Markee stands next to senior Jenna Rogers, a wrestler at Dallas High School, who is wearing a poncho she designed herself.

Walt Markee's lifetime of service lands him wrestling Hall of Fame

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
 For THE ITEMIZER-OBSERVER

Dallas wrestling has produced champions, team titles and a reputation well known statewide. But few honors carry the prestige like the one Walt Markee will soon receive.

The longtime coach, mentor and community shaker is a few months shy of being inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, due to a lifetime of service to the

sport. The Hall is in Oklahoma City.

"I've never been there, but what I've been told is that you go there and there's a big screen. All the states are listed," Markee said. "You pick the state you want. If you pick Oregon, all the people who've been inducted into the Hall from here are listed. They have their picture and a blurb about them."

A local panel decides

See **WALT**, page B8



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Friends and supporters of Panther Kids Wrestling came together after the club was named Nonprofit of the Year by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber honors PKW for years of service

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
 For THE ITEMIZER-OBSERVER

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce recently named Panther Kids Wrestling its Nonprofit of the Year, an honor that shines a light on the club's nearly two decades of commitment to local youth.

"This recognition means a great deal to our club," president

Jessica Vidal said. "It highlights the impact Panther Kids Wrestling is having in our community, and brings greater awareness to our program."

Following the announcement, PKW coaches and board members were joined up front by Van Holstad's wife, mother and children.

Holstad, a former Central High wrestling coach, started PKW in

2007. He "left behind an incredible legacy in our community," according to an online post. He passed away in 2021.

Competition for this award was tough, as other nominees were the Ella Curran Food Bank, Monmouth-Independence Family YMCA and The Reading Nest. "We're very grateful to be

See **CHAMBER**, page B8

A few words with Austin Markee

By **LANCE MASTERSON**
 For THE ITEMIZER-OBSERVER

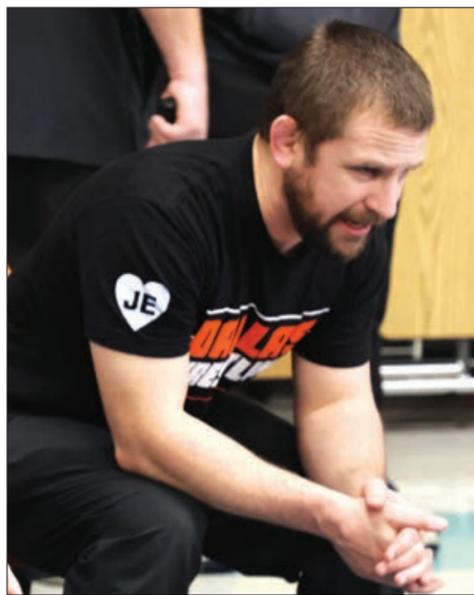


PHOTO BY SMY PHOTOGRAPHY

It was quite the run for the Dallas High School wrestling program.

The girls team, which had been ranked number one most of the season, fell to a buzzsaw from Crook County. But still took second place at state.

Crook County edged the Dragons by just 10 points, 140 to 130 points, in the Class 6A/5A girls division. Rounding out the top five teams were McNary in third (86 points), North Salem in fourth (85 points), Crater in fifth (68.5 points).

It was a restocking

year for the boys team, which finished outside the top five. State champion Thurston won its first team title in 24 years, with Crater runner-up.

Each team produced a state champion, however – Khadijah Tabib for the girls, Carson Langford for the boys. Both are sophomores, and this is Langford's second championship in as many years.

Dallas head coach Austin Markee sat down to answer a few questions about the program, including an early look at next year.

Lance Masterson: The

See **AUSTIN**, page B8

Local athletes make All-Conference honors

The following athletes earned 2026 Winter Sports All-Conference Honors:

CENTRAL
All-State Wrestling - Girls
 Third Team: Mica Tonnsen
All-Conference Honors
Boys Basketball
 First Team: Jack

Holestine, senior, guard; Ryan Burgett, senior, post

Honorable Mention: Lucas Haines, sophomore, post

Girls Basketball
 Second Team: Bella Names, junior, guard
 Honorable Mention: Alondra Garcia-Saavedra,

senior, guard; Natalie Ball, freshman, wing

Seniors
Boys Basketball: Ty Cirino, Hudson Heise, Branden Ball, Ezra Wells, Burgett, Holestine, Kao Phantern, Moses Garcia
Girls Basketball: Alondra Garcia-Saavedra, Bella Garcia-Beccera

Cheer Squad: Cyrus Ainsworth, Kaiden Collman, Bri Meyer, Ash Smith, Marlene Thomas, Jazmine Toledo, and Ariannah Williams
Pep Band: Belphegor Draven Howard, bass, sax; Leif Visuano, percussion

DALLAS
All-State Wrestling - Boys
 First Team: Carson Langford
 Honorable Mention: Lorenzo Romero-Hill, Johnny Talmadge, Cory Kittleson
Wrestling - Girls
 First Team: Khadijah Tabib
 Second Team: Marissa McGinnis
 Third Team: Lindsey Faulkner, Jenna Rogers
 Honorable Mention: Yoselin Nunez, Cassidy Guy

All-Conference Honors
Boys Basketball
 Honorable Mention: Lukas Lawless, sophomore, guard

Girls Basketball
 Second Team: Harlow Nelson, sophomore, point guard
 Honorable Mention: Ruby Halligan, senior, guard/forward; Alexis Ward, junior, guard/forward
Seniors
Boys Basketball: Trey Wallace, Nicholas Walker, Xander Hammill, Quinton Cummings, Chase Eriksen, Georg Hartwig-Schmidt

Girls Basketball: Devyn Garcia, Liz Walker, Riley Rozar, Kaedyn Pires, Camille Lefevre, Aspen Jay and Ruby Halligan
Cheer Squad: Carlina Wade
Wrestling (Boys):

Carsen Atterbury, Owen Hight, Kameron Hill, Nathaniel "Nate" Hughes, Petelo Fakava Talakai, Evan Turner
Wrestling (Girls): Lindsey Faulkner, Jenna Rogers, Medinah Tabib, Madelyn "Maddy" Vogel.

PERRYDALE
Casco All-District Boys Basketball
 Second Team: Brayden Leslie, guard
Girls Basketball
 First Team: Harper McMullin, junior; Kaila Gibson, sophomore; Madison Gunther, freshman

Second Team: Reese Cornthwaite, sophomore; Mallory Gunther, junior
 Honorable Mention:

Isabelle Arthur, seniors; Greta Fillible, senior
Casco All-District Tournament
 Gibson, Madison Gunther
Seniors
Boys Basketball: Malakai Stephens, Sam Stalnaker
Girls Basketball: Arthur, Fillible

FALLS CITY
Casco All-League Boys Basketball
 Honorable Mention: Tanner Stilligan, senior; Trent Waterman, freshman, guard
Seniors
Boys Basketball: Stilligan
Girls Basketball: Lynnzee Boone



March 18-24

March 18
 CHS Girls Tennis at Putnam, 4:30 p.m.
 Roseburg vs. CHS Softball, 4 p.m.
 Summit vs. DHS Baseball, 4:30 p.m.
 PDHS Softball at Clatskanie
 Double Header, 3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

March 19
 DHS Boys Tennis at Philomath, 4 p.m.
 Philomath vs. DHS Tennis, 4 p.m.
 PDHS Track
 Jim Barks Grizzly Bear Open
 McMinnville, 1:30 p.m.

March 20
 Beaverton vs. CHS Softball, 5 p.m.
 DHS Softball at Grant,

4:30 p.m.
 Franklin vs. DHS Baseball, 5 p.m.

March 21
 Invitational in Arizona
 CHS Baseball at Apollo (AZ), 6 p.m.

March 23
 DHS Baseball at Newport, 2 p.m.
 North Medford tournament

Scappoose vs. CHS Softball, 10 a.m.
 CHS Softball at Cascade, 12 p.m.
 DHS Softball at Hood River Valley, 2 p.m.
 Eagle Point vs. DHS Softball, 6 p.m.

Invitational in Arizona
 CHS Baseball at Paradise Honors (AZ), 12 p.m.

March 24
 DHS Baseball at Newport, 12 p.m.
 North Medford Softball tournament
 North Bend vs. CHS, 8 a.m.
 CHS at Henley, 12 p.m.
 Century vs. DHS, 2 p.m.
 DHS at Barlow, 4 p.m.

Invitational in Arizona
 Green Mountain (CO) vs. CHS Baseball, 9 a.m.

Community Calendar March 18-25

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Seniors trip to Salem Cherry Blossoms, meet at Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
 11:45 a.m. - Better Together, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
 1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 281 S. 2nd St.
 5:30 p.m. - Dallas Parks Advisory Board meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
 6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House
 7 p.m. - Monmouth Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
 7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
 8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Chari Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10 a.m. - Age Cafe, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10:30 a.m. - Children's

Storytime, for ages 0-5, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 10:30 a.m. - Bounces and Rhymes: Winter Series, for ages 0-2, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
 11 a.m. - Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center Soup & Pie Sale
 11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
 11:30 a.m. - Lunch Bunch, Dallas Area Senior Center
 12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center, City Hall, 555 South Main St.
 12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center
 6 p.m. - Independence Parks Board meeting
 6 p.m. - Historical Presentation by the Oregon Black Pioneers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 6:30 p.m. - Monmouth Tree Advisory Board meeting, Monmouth Power & Light, 780 Ecols St. S.
 6:30 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 6:30 p.m. - Monmouth Arts & Culture Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Stretch exercise 1, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - Art Workshop/Cards/Table Games/ 6 Handed Pinochle, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10 a.m. - Pottery Class with Elinor, Monmouth Senior Community 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
 10:30 a.m. - Storytime, Independence Public Library
 12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center
 1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Art Afternoon & Sunshine Club, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 1 p.m. - Medicare Plans, Dallas Area Senior Center

1 p.m. - Munchies & Melodies, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center
 4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.
 6 p.m. - Live Music: Nathan Olsen, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
 6 p.m. - Live Music: Tuesday String Band, Two Wolves Taproom, 171 SW Court St., Dallas
 6:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Friday Night Meeting, Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas
 6:30 p.m. - Acoustic Music Jam, Guthrie Park, 4320 Kings Valley Highway S.
 7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Speaker Meeting, Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

10 a.m. - Community Craft Day, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 6 p.m. - Live Music: The Strange Tones, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

2 p.m. - Live Music: Nathan Myers, 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, MARCH 23

7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity at 7, Life Center Foursquare Church, 437 D St., Independence
 8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - Rotating Pinochle/5-Crowns Game/Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center

10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise/Hand & Foot/Cribbage/ASL Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - Accessibility Workshop, Monmouth City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
 11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center
 12 p.m. - Bunco Game, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 12 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Noon Step Study, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas
 1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
 1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Technology Help with Ian, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 3 p.m. - Hummingbird STEM Craft, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 4 p.m. - Dallas Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
 4 p.m. - Dallas Public Administration Committee Meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
 5 p.m. - Independence Public Library Board meeting, Independence Library, 175 Monmouth St.
 6 p.m. - Trivia Nights, Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., Dallas
 6:30 p.m. - New Horizons Orchestra, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Chair Yoga/Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10 a.m. - Age Cafe, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10:30 a.m. - Talk About Trees Special Storytime, with a special guest reader and special crafts, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends,

Dallas Area Senior Center
 10:30 a.m. - Family Storytime Winter Series, for ages 3-5, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
 11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
 12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 1 p.m. - Bunko, Dallas Area Senior Center
 3:30 p.m. - Senior Advisory Board meeting, Monmouth Senior Community Center, 180 S Warren St.
 6 p.m. - Monmouth Historic Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
 6 p.m. - Independence City Council meeting, 555 S Main St.
 7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Storytime, for babies and toddlers, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
 12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
 1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
 3 p.m. - Spring Break Special Craft Paper Luminaries, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
 4 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center, 281 S. 2nd St.
 6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House
 7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

Community Briefs

SENIOR CENTER HOSTS SOUP AND PIE FUNDRAISER MARCH 19

The Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center hosts a soup and pie sale fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 19 at the Monmouth Senior Community Center, 180 Warren St. S., in Monmouth. Whole pies, pie slices, and fresh soups will be available to-go or in person.

SCHOOL HOSTS LACREOLE LINK-UP MARCH 19

LaCreole Middle School presents LaCreole Link-Up 5-8 p.m. March 19. LaCreole Link-Up is designed to strengthen the partnership between families, students, the school, and community by building shared understanding and practical skills that support student success. The event focuses on helping parents and caregivers reinforce healthy family

roles, clear boundaries, and positive communication at home. Guest speakers and activities connect topics such as social media use, peer relationships, and responding to mean or bullying behavior to real-life family support strategies.

LIBRARY HOSTS GARDEN CHAT: BONSAI BASICS MARCH 21

The Monmouth Public Library presents Garden Chat: Bonsai Basics at 10:30 a.m. at 168 S Ecols St. S. Polk County Master Gardener Bill Leedy shares his bonsai expertise. Learn about the history, techniques and materials of bonsai, then enjoy a live demonstration.

FAIRGROUNDS HOSTS SPRING GUN & SPORTSMAN SHOW MARCH 21-22

The Polk County Fairgrounds Event Center hosts a Spring Gun & Sportsman Show, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March

21 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 22 at 520 S. Pacific Highway in Rickreall. There will be a variety of new and used, modern and antique firearms, hunting/fishing equipment and accessories. Admission is \$10 for adults, youth 10 and under are free. Parking is also free. For more information, contact the Event Center at (503) 623-3048 or fairgrounds@polk-countyor.gov.

POLK COUNTY MUSEUM HOSTS SPECIAL FREE ADMISSION DAY MARCH 21

The Polk County Museum hosts a special free admission event March 21 from 1-3 p.m. at 560 S. Pacific Highway W., in Rickreall. There will be free refreshments, crafts, face painting and demonstrations, such as blacksmithing and Civil War reenactors.

CIDER HOUSE HOSTS EASTER COOKIE CLASS MARCH 22

The Salt Creek Cider House hosts a Simply Joyful Easter Cookie Class 3-5:30 p.m. March 22 at 14500 Salt Creek Road, in Dallas. Tiffany Unverdruss, from Simply Joyful Cookies, will guide participants through a fun, hands-on sugar cookie decorating experience, including a

bunny, chick, egg, carrot, flower, and basket.

WVO FEATURES TWO-NIGHT CONCERT JOURNEY MARCH 21-22

Willamette Valley Orchestra, featuring musicians from Polk and Marion counties, presents A Musical Journey to Triumph, at 7 p.m. March 21 at the Albany Performing Arts Center and at 4 p.m. March 22 at the Ashbrook Independent School.

The concerts explore themes of resilience and victory through a captivating selection of musical pieces. The songs feature percussionist Colton Kohler performing Golovko's Marimba Concerto, and cellist Andrea Sullivan performing Bruch's Kol Nidrei. The orchestra will also be performing Boulanger's D'un Matin de printemps and Dvořák's Symphony No. 7. Come 45 minutes early to enjoy a pre-concert talk with artistic director Lance Inouye. Tickets are \$22 for adults 18 and older, \$20 for seniors 65 and up, and free for youth 17 and under. For more information or to purchase a ticket, go to <https://events.ticketleap.com/events/wvsymphony>.

4-H HOSTS RESIN SUNCATCHER WORKSHOP MARCH 23

Polk County 4-H hosts a Resin Suncatcher Workshop from 1-3 p.m. March 23 at 289 E Ellendale, Suite 301, in Dallas. Youth ages 7 and older are invited to learn how to create and decorate your own unique suncatchers. Cost is \$15 for enrolled Polk County 4-H Youth, \$20 for non 4-H youth and adults. Register online at www.beav.es/springresin.

MONMOUTH LIBRARY HOSTS HATCHING AXOLOTL HUNT MARCH 24

The Monmouth Public Library hosts a Hatching Axolotl Hunt at 10 a.m. March 24 at 168 S Ecols Street S. Youth ages 4-18 are invited to come search for a plastic egg and meet a new axolotl friend.

CHAMBERS HOST WOMEN IN BUSINESS BREAKFAST MARCH 24

Women in Business Breakfast, presented by the chambers of commerce from Monmouth-Independence and Dallas, is from 8:30-11 a.m. March 24 at the Independence Hotel. A panel of entrepreneurs and business leaders will share their experiences, insights and honest conversations about what it really takes to lead, grow, and succeed. This year's panel will feature Laurel Bice,

Mary Stade and Karissa Cabrera. This event is free to attend, but registration is encouraged online at www.micc-or.org/events/eventcalendar.

FOREST PASS BREWING HOSTS BINGO FUNDRAISER MARCH 25

Forest Pass Brewing hosts a bingo fundraiser for Sable House from 6-8 p.m. March 25 at 735 SW Maple St., in Dallas. Buy in is \$15 for 10 cards in 10 rounds including a black out round.

INDEPENDENCE MAYOR PRESENTS PUB TALKS MARCH 26

Independence Mayor Kate Schwarzler presents Pub Talks: Understanding City Expenses, 6-7 p.m. March 26 at Parallel 45 Brewing, 240 Monmouth St. In advance of this year's budget process, this session will explain major spending categories, clarify fixed versus discretionary costs, break down what's mandated by law, and explore thoughtful ideas for efficiency and cost savings.

COSMOS TABLETOP GAMES HOSTS SPRING VENDORS MARKET MARCH 29

Cosmos Tabletop Games hosts a Spring Vendors Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 at 135 SW Mill St. in Dallas. Craft Vendors will be in the back of the store, showing their wares.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

FHT ZFK ACSF DA'L PHHK
 AH IZWL S DF HWG IWGLWDA
 HU CZIIDFSL L ZFK OWLA XS
 CZI IJ.
 - PWDRRZVVS ZIHRDFZDGS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO26-177 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM ARTHUR FITZPATRICK, Deceased. No. 26PB02218 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David W. Fitzpatrick has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of the above Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative in care of Lawrence W. Andrews PC, Lawyer, 494 State Street, Suite #230, Salem, Oregon 97301-3654, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this Estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the lawyer for the Personal Representative. DATED AND PUBLISHED: March 18, 2026. LAWRENCE W. ANDREWS PC, OSB #871520 Lawyer for Personal Representative

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PUBLIC NOTICES

attend or participate in the meeting virtually. Dated: March 12, 2026

PCIO26-175 Notice of Proposed Final Order for Water Right Transfer T-14478 T-14478 filed by Princess Properties LLC, Attn: Lee Bischoff, 4038 Tennyson Street, Houston, TX 77005, proposes a change in the character of use under Certificate 41895. The right allows the storage of 1.2 Acre-Feet from an unnamed drainage for irrigation and domestic use in Sec. 14, T6S, R6W, WM. The applicant proposes to change the character of use to irrigation, agricultural, nursery, livestock, and fire protection. The Water Resources Department proposes to approve the transfer, based on the requirements of ORS Chapter 540 and OAR 690-380-5000. Any person may file, jointly or severally, a protest or a request for party status. Protests must be received by the Department on or before 4/16/2026. Call (503) 986-0935 to obtain additional information. If no protests are filed, the proposed final order will become a final order 33 days after the protest period ends, without any further action by the Department.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

at 6:00 PM HEARING LOCATION: Hearing / Conference Room, First Floor, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338 STAFF CONTACT: Eric Knudson - Phone: (503) 623-9237; Email: knudson.eric@polkcountyor.gov Please include File Number VAR 25-07 in all correspondences related to this application. The location of the hearing is handicapped accessible. Please advise the Community Development Department at (503) 623-9237, in as far in advance of the meeting as possible, if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting. Any person may submit written testimony prior to the public hearing, to the Polk County Community Development Department. Oral and written testimony may be presented at the hearing. The hearing will be conducted in a manner, which allows testimony in favor of the application, general testimony, and rebuttal by the applicant. Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or in writing, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the hearings body an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals on that issue. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant, and applicable criteria, are available for inspection at no cost and will be provided at reasonable cost. In addition, a copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost at least seven days prior to the hearing, and will be provided at a reasonable cost, at the Polk County Community Development Department, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338; (503) 623-9237. PLEASE RETURN TO: Polk County Community Development, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338. Written comments received by the Polk County Community Development Department by 5:00 PM on March 27, 2026, will be included in the staff report and recommendation to the Hearings Officer. Comments received after that time, but prior to the hearing, will be provided to the Hearings Officer at the hearing.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PCIO26-173 In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Polk Probate Department Case no. 26PB01806 Notice to Interested Persons In the Matter of the Estate of Virginia Lee Nelke, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that Velvet Fuller has been appointed as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned personal representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: P.O. Box 14280, Portland, OR 97293, within 4 months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Dated and first published March 18, 2026. Velvet Fuller, Personal Representative Riley Gombart, OSB# 163873 The Commons Law Center Attorney for Personal Representative P.O. Box 14280, Portland, OR 97293

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CASE, Unmarried & Unregistered. Petitioner: Michaela Louise Ruark and Respondent: Matthew Dale Bunn. To: Matthew Dale Bunn, Home Address: Unknown. Work Address: Unknown. Your spouse, partner, or child's parent has filed a Petition asking for: Child Support, custody, or parenting time. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: READ THESE P A P E R S CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case, or the other side will win automatically. To "appear," you must file a legal paper called a "Response" or a motion. Response forms are available through the court above or online at www.courts.oregon.gov. Talk to a lawyer for information about appearing by motion. Your Response must be filed with the court clerk at the court named above within 30 days of the day you received this Summons, along with the required filing fee (go to www.courts.oregon.gov for fee information). It must be in proper form, and you must show that the Petitioner's lawyer (or Petitioner if he or she does not have a lawyer) was formally served with a copy of the Response according to the service rules. Service rules are included in Instructions for Respondents, available at www.courts.oregon.gov. If you have questions, see a lawyer immediately. If you need help finding a lawyer, you can call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 503.684.3763 or toll free in Oregon at 800.452.7636 or go to www.oregonstatebar.org. Date: 03/03/2026, Petitioner Signature: Michaela Ruark, Name (printed) Michaela L. Ruark, contact address: 542 NE Fern Ave. City State, ZIP: Dallas, Oregon 97338. Contact Phone: 503-400-0486. Appendix D - Statutory Restraining Order. \ { Attach to Summons per ORS 109.103(5)} . NOTICE OF STATUTORY RESTRAINING ORDER PREVENTING THE DISSIPATION OF ASSETS IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTIONS BETWEEN UNMARRIED PARTIES. REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. BOTH PARTIES MUST OBEY EACH PROVISION OF THIS ORDER TO AVOID VIOLATING THE LAW. SEE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING BELOW. TO THE PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT: Under ORS 109.103(5) and

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PUBLIC NOTICES

UTCR 8.080, neither Petitioner nor Respondent may: Insurance Policies (1) Cancel, modify, terminate, or allow to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any policy of health insurance that one party maintains to provide coverage for the other party or a minor child of the parties, or any life insurance policy that names either of the parties or a minor child of the parties as a beneficiary. Insurance Beneficiaries (2) Change beneficiaries or covered parties under any policy of health insurance that one party maintains to provide coverage for a minor child of the parties, or any life insurance policy. EFFECTIVE DATE: The above provisions are in effect immediately upon service of the Petition and Summons on the respondent. They remain in effect until a final judgment is issued, until the petition is dismissed, or until further order of the court. RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING Either Petitioner or Respondent may request a hearing to modify or revoke one of more terms of this restraining order by filing with the court the Request for Hearing re: Statutory Restraining Order form specified in Form 8.080.3 in the UTCR Appendix of Forms.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF J.S. TURNEY DONATION LAND CLAIM IN SECTION 21 OF TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE WILLIAMETTE MERIDIAN IN POLK COUNTY, OREGON, WHICH BEGINNING POINT IS ALSO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LAND DEEDED TO DONALD W WATSON AND AUDREY E WATSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BY DEED RECORDED IN VOLUME 118, PAGE 55, DEED RECORDS OF POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE NORTH 225.00 FEET TO A POINT WHICH THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID WATSON TRACT; THENCE WEST 72.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 19 DEG. 45' WEST 239.00 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF GLEN CREEK ROAD; THENCE EAST ALONG THE CENTER OF GLEN CREEK ROAD 152.8 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. APN: 247133 / 07321-AB-00700 Commonly known as: 1245 GLEN CREEK RD NW SALEM, OR 97304 The current beneficiary is: Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC 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: 8/1/2025 - 2/1/2026 Total: \$5,428.43 Late Charges: \$124.08 Beneficiary Advances: \$6,122.85 Total Required to Reinstated: \$11,675.36 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAY OFF: \$182,616.82 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 \$175,745.34 together with interest thereon at the rate of 2.5 % per annum, from 7/1/2025 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 7/2/2026, at the hour of 11:00 AM, standard time, as established by

ORS 187.110, At the front entrance of the 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: 2/18/2026 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

PCIO26-176 FIRST NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING A public meeting of the Budget Committee for Polk County will be held in the Main Conference Room, Polk County Courthouse, 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and to receive the budget message and document. The public meeting will continue on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Additional time is reserved for public comment at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2026. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 1, 2026 at the Board of Commissioners' Office, Polk County Courthouse, during regular business hours. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed budget with the Budget Committee. Please advise the Board of Commissioners (503-623-9237) at least 24 hours in advance if you need special accommodations to

PCIO26-174 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A LAND USE ACTION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT The Polk County Hearings Officer will conduct a public hearing to receive public testimony on the following application: APPLICATION FOR: The applicant is requesting a full variance to reduce the required setback from the right-of-way associated with Salmon River Highway (OR 18) from 30 feet to approximately 16 feet for an existing garage that is currently located on the subject property. The subject property contains approximately 3.3 acres and is located within the Suburban Residential (SR) Zoning District and the Fort Hill Interchange Area Management Overlay Zone. APPLICANT/ OWNER: Robert Botta FILE NUMBER: VAR 25-07 LOCATION: 25285 Salmon River Highway (Assessor's Map T6S, R7W, Section 16A, Tax Lot 400) REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Polk County Zoning Ordinance Sections 122.010, 122.020, and 122.030 HEARING DATE & TIME: April 7, 2026

PCIO26-172 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Jose Jesus Maciel Ochoa, Polk County Circuit Court Case No. 26PB01716. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the undersigned personal representative at P.O. Box 350, Sublimity, OR 97385, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative. Dated and first published: March 18, 2026. Kiara Garcia Personal Representative Milan E. Castillo Attorney for Personal Representative P.O. Box 350, Sublimity, OR 97385 Phone: (503) 769-8089

PCIO26-168 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK. Case no: 25DR19086. SUMMONS FOR FAMILY LAW

Headlight Herald

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PUBLIC RECORD

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

Dallas Police Department

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

At 8:20 a.m., a motorist was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 20-mh zone in the Whitworth Elementary School Zone.

At 8:34 a.m., a motorist on Fir Villa Road was cited for failing to carry and present an operator's license.

At 8:40 a.m., an officer played football with a student on Levens Street who was having behavioral issues.

At 11:30 a.m., officers arrested and lodged Kyle Prock on a detainer for weapons possession (ice pick) and possession of a controlled substance - meth.

At 3:14 p.m., Bruce Marshall was arrested on Court Street and charged with possession of a controlled substance - cocaine.

At 7:07 p.m., a resident on Sequoia Lane reported hearing a female yell for help. Officers drove the area but were unable to locate anyone.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

At 9:58 a.m., a report of a bike stolen on Lange Street.

At 11:10 a.m., Christopher Stewart was arrested on Main Street on a Clackamas County Warrant and was lodged at Polk County where he was also charged with criminal trespass 2.

At 4:31 p.m., an officer investigated a report of someone possibly having a medical emergency in a vehicle on Kings Valley Highway. The vehicle was gone upon arrival.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

At 3:50 p.m., three juveniles were all trespassed from a location on Washington Street after throwing "pop-it" fireworks in the location. Their parents were notified.

At 11:50 p.m., a subject was formally trespassed from a location on Main Street by the manager.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

At 2:59 a.m., a Dallas motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited and released on three counts of failure to perform duties of a driver, reckless driving and driving under the influence of an intoxicant - alcohol after hitting four parked cars in two separate locations.

At 2:15 p.m., an officer issued a parking ticket due to partially blocking a driveway on A Street.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

At 6:01 a.m., a motorist from Falls City was cited for speeding 40 mph in a 25-mph zone on Miller Avenue.

At 9:06 a.m., a male subject was arrested on La Creole Drive and lodged on charges of felon in possession of a weapon and possession of a controlled substance - meth.

At 2:26 p.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was pulling out of the 76 gas station, but only looked to his left and hit a pedestrian crossing in front of

him from the right. He was cited for driving uninsured and no operator's license.

At 3:09 p.m., a subject was formally trespassed from a location on Bovard Avenue.

At 7:43 p.m., a Dallas motorist on Main Street was cited for no operator's license, received a written warning for illegal display of a license plate and a verbal warning for no lights.

At 8:07 p.m., Derek Ostrom of Monmouth was cited and released on Washington Street for driving under the influence of an intoxicant.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

At 6:19 a.m., a report of an unknown subject in the backyard at Ediger Hall. The subject ran off apparently to the south when the tenant yelled at them.

At 6:41 a.m., a motorist on Main Street was cited for driving while suspended - violation and driving uninsured, received a written warning speeding and a verbal warning for failing to return a suspended license.

At 11:03 a.m., a motorist on Ellendale Avenue was cited for failing to carry and present a license.

At 8 p.m., a resident on Lyle Street reported a fraud via phone scam from a caller claiming to work for the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

At 10:03 p.m., officers arrested Scott Best on Ellendale Avenue on charges of theft 1 and possession of a controlled substance - cocaine.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

At 11:30 a.m., a motorist on Orchard Drive was cited for driving while suspended - violation and received a written warning for speeding 38 mph in a 25-mph zone. Their driver's license was seized.

At 4:01 p.m., a report of the possible theft of a wallet on Court Street.

Independence Police Department

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

On Feb. 17, a burglary from a local business was reported. Surveillance footage captured a male entering a building and stealing a cash box. The door had been pried open. Another officer recognized Miguel Trujillo, as he'd contacted him earlier the previous night. On March 4, Trujillo was acting suspicious at Taco Bell, in the 1500 block of Monmouth Independence Highway, and was taken into custody. While being searched, officers found drugs, a scale and paraphernalia in Trujillo's pockets. Multiple burglar tools were in his backpack. Trujillo was arrested and charged with burglary 1, theft 1, criminal mischief 2, possession of burglary tools, unlawful possession of controlled substances and unlawful delivery of methamphetamine.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

At 10:21 a.m., a report of a slashed/punctured tire on 4th Street.

At 4:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Osprey Lane. They found it was a dispute between parents and a youth who was angry about receiving consequences for poor behavior.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

At 3:27 a.m., a motorist on Independence Highway was stopped for failure to display license plates. The driver, Santos Becerra Guzman, was found to have a suspended license at the misdemeanor level. He was arrested and transported to jail.

At 5:08 p.m., Britt Rodgers was arrested in the 600 block of South 5th Street and charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

At 10:38 a.m., a report of a possible theft on 8th Street.

At 7:41 p.m., driver Jared Gutierrez was stopped on Main Street at Atwater Street in Monmouth. He then violated a restraining order with his wife during the traffic stop by texting her asking for proof of insurance on her car that he was driving. Gutierrez was arrested and lodged at the Polk County Jail where he was charged with violating a restraining order.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

At 1:12 a.m., a complaint about loud music on Pine Court. The resident agreed to turn it down.

At 6:53 p.m., a report of two juveniles riding ATVs around a neighborhood on Sassafras Street and going very fast. Officers were unable to locate them.

A motorist was stopped in the 1300 block of Monmouth Street for operating a cell phone while driving. The officer conducting a traffic stop found that the driver, Andres Zarmarripa Cruz, had a warrant out of Polk County for harassing communication. He was arrested and transported to the Polk County Jail.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

At 5:18 p.m., a report of a loose dog on Washington Street. It was reunited with its owner shortly after time of call.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

At 8:44 a.m., a late report of an unknown suspect entering a vehicle on Monmouth Street and stealing items.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

At 10:57 a.m., a Talmadge Middle School student was referred for menacing other students with a knife.

At 1:36 p.m., officers provided traffic control after a t-bone crash involving three vehicles on Gun Club Road. One subject was transported to the hospital.

A marijuana dispensary on Independence Highway at Deann Drive reported a customer was verbally aggressive after being confronted about the fictitious identification card he presented on March 7. It was also reported that while exiting the store the customer reached into the tip box, possibly took an unknown amount of money, then kicked the store's cat before driving away. The suspect was identified as Christopher Lekoff and was located on March 11. He was arrested and charged with misrepresentation of age by a minor, disorderly conduct 2 and criminal trespass 2.

Monmouth Police Department

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Suspicious Activity: A person reported receiving

a phone call from an individual claiming to be a federal agent who stated someone was attempting to illegally purchase medical supplies using the caller's identity. The caller suspected a scam. The individual on the phone provided a name, badge number and a case number, but called from an out-of-state number that was disconnected upon immediate callback. The reporting person did not lose any money or provide any personal information. Contacting the non-local security office yielded no answer.

Fraud: A property manager was nearly a victim of an online scam. Payment was due to a service company, and the manager received a fraudulent email with a spoofed address requesting the check be sent to a new bookkeeper. The manager sent the check but was alerted to the scam by a subsequent call from the actual company. A stop payment was successfully placed on the check, and no money was lost. The manager was given a website for reporting internet crime and confirmed the actual company was notified of the security breach.

Fraud: A person reported almost falling victim to a phone scam. A male, impersonating an officer from a county agency, contacted the person about an incarcerated relative, stating that if a large sum of money was paid using pre-paid cards, the relative could attend rehabilitation classes and be reimbursed. The person purchased the cards and went to a police department in another city for help. They were advised to end the call immediately, which they did, without exchanging any card numbers. The person was advised this was a very common scam and encouraged to report it to an internet crime website.

Check Welfare: School staff reported being shown text messages from a student indicating self-harm. Contact was made with the student and a parent. The parent was aware of the student's distress over friends, and the student stated the message about self-harm was a joke and denied any current intention to hurt themselves. The student was aware of a crisis hotline and was open to speaking with a school counselor. The parent was provided with behavioral health resources.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: Staff reported a person attempting an overdose on an essential oil. Emergency medical services were on the scene, and the person ultimately agreed to be transported to a medical facility, with staff following.

MARCH 6

Check Welfare: A person requested assistance for a relative who was locked out of their apartment building. Upon arrival, the relative stated a friend of another tenant was already arranging to open the door for her. The relative said they would call back if they needed a ride to a hotel or other assistance.

Suspicious Activity: A person reported receiving an introductory letter from an incarcerated individual who wanted to correspond. The recipient did not know the inmate but suspected an employee at a local medical facility

had provided their name and work address, as the inmate's relative shared a name with the employee. The department could not confirm the employee's identity due to privacy regulations.

Suspicious Vehicle: A local resident complained about a vehicle parked in front of a nearby address. The vehicle was involved in a crash in another city a week earlier. The caller said the vehicle appeared abandoned but had been moved slightly once or twice in the past week. The caller was informed the department would monitor the vehicle for potential enforcement of a parking ordinance. A note was added to start a case on the vehicle if it was not moved by a specific later date.

Hangup: The emergency line received an open call with yelling, followed by a report from a transit dispatcher about a disturbance on a trolley. The driver reported a group of young people being threatening and refusing to get off the bus. Officers arrived and found the issue was a young male who was reported to be vaping on the bus and refused to exit when told to. He exited upon law enforcement's arrival and claimed a phone was smoking, which he threw out the window. The transit company barred him from the trolley for the rest of the day but did not press criminal charges.

Animal: A person reported a dog barking for several hours. Due to higher priority calls, the officer was delayed. Upon arrival, the officer waited over 10 minutes near the location and heard the dog bark only twice. The officer left a message for the caller, apologizing for the delay.

Arrest: A person came to the police department to update a required registration, for which they were out of compliance due to a new address and missing an annual window. The person was in a supported home environment with a full-time caretaker. The person was cited and released for failing to report as a registered offender after completing the registration process.

Assist Other Agency: An assist was provided to the state patrol regarding a report of a deceased animal on the highway. Officers responded and confirmed the lanes were clear; the animal was not found.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A person reported their young relative was being aggressive. An officer arrived and was able to calm the young relative down, who then agreed to go to bed.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Noise: A caller reported dogs barking and howling, but was unsure of the unit. Officers heard and saw two to three dogs barking in a specific unit but received no answer at the door. A notice was left for the resident regarding the noise violation, and the caller was advised to notify property management.

Driving: A dark sedan was reported swerving and not maintaining speed on the highway. An officer located and stopped the vehicle on suspicion of impaired driving. The driver denied using any substances and showed no signs of impairment. The

driver stated they were driving erratically because they were nervous, and their phone was in their lap.

Arrest: A person came to the police department to report a domestic disturbance with their spouse that occurred shortly before. The person reported the spouse had physically assaulted them and broken their phone and eyeglasses. The spouse corroborated the statements and was arrested and lodged where they were charged with property damage, assault and harassment.

Found Property: A caller reported a long, black gun in a bush, unsure if it was real or a toy. An officer determined it was a replica BB rifle. An occupant of the house advised it belonged to their son and was asked to ensure he did not leave realistic-looking guns outside.

Trespass: A store manager requested that an individual be trespassed from the property. The individual was notified and became irate, stating they would return and walked off recording the officer. It was made clear that a return to the property could result in arrest. Management was updated.

Found Property: A person found a distinctive wallet at an intersection and it was placed into safekeeping.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report was received of a physical domestic disturbance at a group home. An employee explained that a client with a developmental disorder became angry after an item was taken away. The client claimed staff injured them. The employee explained that force was used to stop the client from hitting and slamming things. Officers did not believe the staff's use of control techniques was unnecessary. The client's family and management arrived, and police assistance was no longer needed.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Citizen Contact: A person called the non-emergency line several times to report being harassed and falsely accused of stealing recycling. The caller was slurring their words and was told the issue could not be resolved immediately, and to only call back for a legitimate police emergency to keep lines available.

Suspicious Activity: A caller reported a large group gathering at a location, expressing concern about squatting. An officer had observed several people near the front of the property earlier, appearing to be working in the yard. Contact was made with the person responsible for the property, who stated no one should be on the premises without permission. The people were gone on arrival, but the back door was open, and a check of the residence found no one inside. The person responsible for the property was updated.

Domestic Disturbance: A domestic incident was reported between a couple. One subject reported the other was calling them names and was asked to leave. The subject said they felt threatened and attempted to call emergency services, but the other subject took their phone. The complainant also reported being

POLICE

From Page 6

grabbed and pulled back into the apartment and retrieved a knife because they felt threatened. The other subject reported similar events but described the first subject as being emotionally disturbed. The first subject did not want to press charges but wanted their phone returned. The phone was returned, but the person was then arrested and lodged on an outstanding warrant.

Suspicious Activity: A person called after finding a blood-soaked rag and broken eyeglasses on the side of the street near a field, wanting to report it in case it was involved in a crime. Call notes from the previous night indicated that emergency medical services had responded to that location for a person who fell and had uncontrolled bleeding, with a rag being used to apply pressure. An officer attempted to contact the person involved in the medical call regarding the glasses but received no answer.

Citizen Contact: A person wanted to report an assault that happened in another city at a large venue. The incident involved another client from the same group home who they have a history of issues with. The caller was provided with the contact number for the appropriate precinct in the other city to make a report. A staff member at the group home confirmed the two clients were separated, safe, and did not need to interact.

Suspicious Activity: A person reported someone kicked their front door in. They heard a loud bang and found the door partially opened with wind blowing inside. The door frame was split and damaged. The person was unsure about pressing charges. The officer explained they would provide extra patrol in the area and would follow up with neighbors for camera footage.

Alarm: Reports of an audible fire alarm came from a specific apartment. An officer spoke with a resident across the hall, who explained the apartment had been vacant for a while. Attempts to contact the leasing department's emergency number failed to connect with a person.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Fraud: A person called to report that their father had opened another credit account in their name. The caller also had questions about a previous fraud case. An officer spoke with the person, verified the identity theft file, and arranged a time for them to sign documentation. The person was expected to call back later to file a new report regarding the new accounts.

Citizen Contact: A person called to report that every morning when their family leaves for work, a neighbor goes outside and records them on their phone. That morning, the caller's spouse confronted the neighbor, leading to a brief verbal argument. The officer explained that recording others in public is not a crime, and the neighbor might be using their phone as a noise meter to gather evidence for a noise complaint about the family's vehicles. The caller was upset and wanted to live in peace. The officer advised that time permitting,

units could monitor the neighbor's behavior in the morning.

Welfare Check: A person requested a welfare check on their 10-year-old child. They learned from the school that the child had left school about 20 minutes prior due to a headache after being accidentally hit in the head with a bat by another child a couple of days ago. An officer went to the home of the adult currently with the children, explained the reason for the visit, and the adult brought the children downstairs. The child appeared fine, denied having a serious headache, and did not seem sensitive to light. The adult was advised it was their discretion whether the child needed to see a doctor but to take them if symptoms worsened. The reporting person was called back and informed of the findings.

Referral: A 15-year-old was referred for second-degree trespass. The juvenile and their friends went to the listed address at night, kicked the door a couple of times, and ran off. The juvenile admitted to doing the same thing to another nearby home but did not know which one.

Driving: A red sport utility vehicle was reported near a supply store for almost causing a head-on crash and possibly having an impaired driver. The vehicle was located in the parking lot, and the driver was contacted. The driver was not impaired and explained they had missed their turn and then entered the wrong lane.

Assist Other Agency: The police department from another city developed probable cause for harassment against an individual. The individual, who was in a wheelchair and described as having the mental capacity of a young child, hit a staff member after being denied seating at a large event in the other city. The hit caused no injury, and they were quickly separated by staff. The officer spoke with the staff member, who initially wanted the individual arrested, but after speaking with a supervisor, decided to forward the case to the district attorney's office in the other city for them to decide whether to pursue charges.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Welfare Check: The city called to request a welfare check on an elderly person, who was 96 years old and had not paid their power bill in two months, with the disconnect day being today. Contact was made with a representative who said the elderly person was in a memory care facility. The representative believed the billing had not been switched over to them when the person moved. The city was updated with the representative's contact information.

Graffiti: The parks department reported graffiti on a fence at a residential address. Contact was made with the property owner, who said it happened sometime over the weekend, and there were no suspects.

Ordinance Violation: An officer responded to complaints of debris on a property, as well as a recreational vehicle being lived in on the property. The property owner was unaware of the vehicle on the property and stated no one should be living there. The property owner was encouraged to make this

clear to the resident and to follow up with the police department if they ignored the request to vacate the property.

Assault: One person reported that a resident of a recreational vehicle had accused them of stealing and then punched them multiple times in the face, causing a bloody lip and swelling on the nose. The person initially did not want to press charges but later changed their mind. The resident of the vehicle reported that once the other person was accused of theft, they tried to push the person out of the trailer, and the other person attacked them. A witness claimed the person who was punched started the altercation.

Stolen Vehicle: A person reported their vehicle was stolen from the street overnight. The vehicle had a full tank of gas and contained a personal tablet, a wallet with identification and a social security card. Broken glass was found on the ground, suggesting a broken window. The owner had a key but also an unaccounted-for spare key. The vehicle had no license plate reader hits that day. The owner planned to sign the complaint form later.

Citizen Contact: A relative of an incarcerated person called with questions about the person's belongings being kept at the police department. It was confirmed that the belongings, a backpack and wallet, were in safekeeping, and a property receipt had been issued.

Animal: A person reported a lost dog and provided their contact information in case the animal was found and turned in. The dog was described as a medium-sized white cattle dog with dark spots and was completely blind.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Prowler: A resident reported a male on a bicycle near their front door, who appeared to be attempting to get in and had been taking items off the porch. The resident had old security footage of another person attempting to open the door with tools. The resident pursued the male until they reached a recreational vehicle. The male explained he had only taken a carpet from the dumpsters. The male was advised not to ride his bike through the apartment buildings and to stay out of the area, which he stated he understood.

Citizen Contact: A person called regarding their missing vehicle. The vehicle was listed in the system as repossessed. The person was provided with the contact information for the tow company and advised that they would need to resolve the ownership claim directly with the company, which they stated they understood.

Civil: A parent reported that their 15-year-old child, who had run away the previous month, had taken the social security cards of the parent and siblings. The parent learned about the theft when the child's relative, with whom the child was staying, returned the cards. The child claimed they only meant to take their own card and returned the others to the relative. The parent was informed that this would not be considered a criminal matter but was documented.

Stolen Vehicle: The owner of the stolen vehicle from the previous

day came in and signed the stolen vehicle form. Records staff were in the process of entering the vehicle information as stolen into the law enforcement database.

Assist Other Agency: An officer responded to a location and found a runaway juvenile from a youth services agency. The juvenile was confirmed safe and uninjured and was released to family members on the scene. The agency was updated, and the juvenile was to be removed from the law enforcement database.

Domestic Disturbance: A pregnant woman reported her boyfriend had pushed and choked her with his hands about an hour prior, after which he left the scene. The person had visible marks on her neck and agreed to have a forensic exam done at a medical facility. The officer established probable cause for the arrest of the boyfriend for assault and strangulation.

Crime: A person reported that the ex-partner of their adult son had shown up at their house despite being named in a protective order. The ex-partner's parents brought her by after she was released from a county jail. The ex-partner remained in the car, but the adult son later reported that the ex-partner had violated the order by calling and texting him shortly after. The adult son provided screenshots and agreed to come to the police department to show the texts and calls directly from his phone.

Illegal Parking: A complaint was received about a van being parked in a no-parking zone. The driver was asked to move the vehicle as a no-parking sign was located nearby.

Polk County Sheriff's Office

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

At 7:03 a.m., a motorist was stopped for speeding 75 mph in a 55-mph zone on Perrydale Road. The driver stated he did not have a driver's license. He was cited for no operator's license and was warned for his speeding.

At 7:30 a.m., a deputy investigated a report of a van parked, facing the wrong way on Fir Grove Road. Operations told the deputy there was no work being done or contractors that should be parked there. Due to this being the fourth day the vehicle was unoccupied, the deputy tagged the van for 24-hour tow.

At 8:44 a.m., Retha Cervantes was cited and released at the county courthouse on an outstanding warrant.

At 10:52 a.m., deputies investigated a report of a truck with males at the BLM park on Mill Creek Road cutting wood. The two were BLM OHV Rangers who were removing a dead rotten log from the park.

At 12:50 p.m., deputies responded to a report of a hit and run to a parked vehicle that had just occurred. The victim was parked on Main Street when the suspect vehicle driven by Rene Rivera, backed into her and left eastbound. The victim confronted Rivera at the Highway 99 intersection, where he said "I'm sorry" and drove off northbound on Highway 99. The victim got a plate and followed for a short time before turning around. Deputies located and stopped Rivera just

outside of Dallas. His account of events was the same. He was arrested and lodged at Polk County Jail where he was charged with hit and run.

At 2:37 p.m., deputies contacted a male described as a suspicious person at the Taco Bell on Monmouth Independence Highway. The subject was not the one wanted for the suspicious activity. However, Independence Police did have probable cause to arrest the subject. Deputies detained the subject until police arrived. They arrested Miguel Trujillo, charging him with burglary 1, theft 1 and criminal mischief 2.

At 4:23 p.m., tribal police arrested Karl King. Deputies took King into custody at the jail, where he was charged with theft 1.

At 6:06 p.m., Glen Garbutt was arrested on Grand Ronde Road and charged with trespassing 2.

At 8:33 p.m., a suicidal male subject called 911 to advise where deputies could find his body. A nearby deputy quickly arrived at the vehicle on Greenwood Road but the caller had already shot himself in his car. The deputy could see he was still breathing and forced entry into the car, securing the firearm. Medics arrived and transferred him into the ambulance; however, he stopped breathing there and was declared deceased.

At 9:29 p.m., due to a high-priority call, deputies responded late to a report of a single vehicle, non-blocking, non-injury crash on Zena Road. The driver, suffering from abdominal pain, had her partner transport her to Salem Hospital. A deputy called a non preference tow.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

At 8:12 a.m., a deputy responded to a report of residents on Butler Hill Road threatening to shoot a dog chasing wild turkeys. They spoke with the dog's owner first, learning the dog is in training to not chase the turkeys, but sometimes still gets out and does so. The deputy warned the dog owner for wildlife harassment along with not having the dog license through the county. Next, the deputy talked with the neighbors. They had been feeding the wild turkeys, but denied threatening to shoot the dog. The deputy warned them that if this was to go any further, the only people allowed by law to shoot the dog are authorized persons and law enforcement.

At 9:01 a.m., Ronald Radish came into the PCSO lobby to renew his sex offender registration. Since he was four months out of compliance, he was cited and released for failure to renew his registration.

At 9:30 a.m., a deputy located a motorist blocking part of the on ramp heading onto Highway 22 near Edgewater Street. The driver was out of gas. The deputy put down a flare and gave him a ride to Circle K on Wallace to get gas so he could get his vehicle moving. His passenger remained with the vehicle.

At 9:43 a.m., a resident on Liberty Road reported gunshots in the area fired around midnight. The complainant found about five street signs that were damaged with bullet holes and what appeared to be damage from a blow torch. A deputy will contact Public Works and

advise them of the damaged signs. No suspects at this time.

At 3:52 p.m., a resident on Yampo Road reported loud ATVs were going up and down on nearby Oak Grove Road. Deputies responded and contacted two juveniles. They explained to the girls that they needed an ATV permit and a license to drive on the public road. They also contacted their mother and informed her of it as well.

At 6:47 p.m., a vehicle parked blocking half the road on Mill Creek Road was towed by Mishler Towing as a traffic hazard.

At 10:33 p.m., a motorist on Highway 51 was cited for speeding 85 mph in a 55-mph zone and was warned for failing to renew his registration.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

At 2:15 a.m., deputies responded to a report of what sounded like speed racers on Orchard Knob Road, but found no vehicles on the road.

At 4:57 a.m., deputies investigated a report of a two vehicle non-injury crash on Hanna Road. A motorist tried to pass a slow truck but lost control, crashing into the left rear drive wheel of the truck, causing major damage to the car and minor damage to the truck. The truck was driven from the scene and the car driver is arranging a tow through insurance.

At 10:34 a.m., a resident on Wallace Road reported a male subject came onto his property, started pushing him and making threats, including "to take his eyes out" if he was there tomorrow. The resident did not want to press charges, only to have the subject trespass. As a deputy was about the leave, the suspect drove up in a vehicle. The suspect has had previous calls with EDP behavior and when the deputy spoke with him, he made nonsensical statements. The suspect was issued a warning for trespassing. The resident was advised to file for protection orders if he wished.

At 1:50 p.m., deputies assisted Oregon State Police with traffic control on a crash that occurred on Highway 22 at the Perrydale Road intersection. Both vehicles were disabled from the crash. A member of Rescue Mafia showed up and was able to get the vehicles out of the roadway with a wench. Deputies provided traffic control and gave the OSP Trooper the information collected.

At 5:24 p.m., a deputy responded to a single vehicle, non-injury crash on Airlie Road near Berry Creek Road. A motorist had been traveling too fast for the corner and the wet road conditions. When she started skidding she applied the brakes and ended up in a ditch. Her brother was coming later to get the vehicle with his truck.

At 8:14 p.m., deputies responded to a hit and run crash on Perrydale Road at Webb Lane. The complainant was driving southbound in the 1600 block of Perrydale Road when a black Chevy Silverado towing a flatbed trailer tried to pass them. While the truck was trying to pass them it side swiped their company's box truck, damaging the driver side mirror and cracking the windshield. They tried to follow the truck, but lost sight of it at Reed Lane.

POLICE

From Page B7

At 11:45 p.m., a deputy observed a motorist driving very poorly, jerking from side to side and eventually crossed over the yellow line into oncoming traffic. The driver said she did not drink anything and said she was just tired. The deputy observed slow speech and gave her a field sobriety test. The driver failed and was transported to the Polk County Jail where she was charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant. She blew a BAC of .19%.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

At 11:09 a.m., a motorist on Main Street in Falls City was cited for driving uninsured and failing to register the vehicle.

At 12:17 p.m., a

deputy made contact with a motorist who did not properly stop at a stop sign on 7th Street near Patterson. The driver was cited for no operator's license and was warned for failure to obey a traffic control device and for failing to carry/present.

At 1:18 p.m., a deputy contacted two occupants of a car on Glen Creek Road. The 20-year-old driver was holding a bong in her hands and had droopy eyelids. She admitted she had more marijuana in a grinder in her car. She gave the deputy her grinder, but got mad when asked for her bong, so she shattered it on the ground. The deputy gave her the option of picking up her broken glass or going to jail for littering. She picked up her broken glass and was cited for minor in possession. The deputy advised her not to drive

until she sobered up or she would go to jail for DUII.

At 1:39 p.m., a motorist on Pacific Highway was stopped for speeding 75 mph in a 55-mph zone. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and received a warning for speeding.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

At 2:59 a.m., Jaylan Cerda of Dallas was cited and released on Ellendale Avenue after being charged with three counts of failure to perform duties of a driver - property, reckless driving, and driving under the influence of an intoxicant (with a BAC of .18 percent) after hitting four parked cars in two separate locations.

At 8:52 a.m., a motorist on Kings Valley Highway was cited for speeding 11-20 mph over the speed limit in a 55-mph zone.

At 1:04 p.m., a deputy

responded to a report of a vehicle weaving in and out of traffic headed into West Salem from Zena/Wallace roads, but was unable to locate the vehicle.

At 1:11 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on Ecols Street. While no crimes were committed, a female subject involved was arrested on an outstanding warrant for parole violation - burglary 2, out of Polk County.

At 9:30 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for speeding. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

At 12:30 a.m., a motorist on Monmouth Street was stopped for running a red light. The driver was cited for driving uninsured and was warned for failing to obey a traffic

control device.

At 7:27 a.m., deputies responded to a report of a crash on Kings Valley Highway. By the time they arrived, the driver was already in an ambulance and being transported to Salem Hospital.

At 9:37 p.m., a motorist on Kingwood Drive was cited for no insurance and expired registration.

At 10:12 p.m., a deputy responded to a request to cover medics trying to deal with an unconscious male subject who was being aggressive/out of sorts with the medics. Upon arrival, the patient was calmed down. The deputy stood by until the patient was transported to the hospital.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

At 9:15 a.m., a motorist on Riddell Road was cited for speeding 71 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 9:56 a.m., a motorist on Hoffman Road was cited for driving uninsured and was warned for illegal tint.

At 10:35 a.m., a motorist on Wallace Road was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for speeding.

At 11:52 a.m., a motorist on Salmon River Highway was cited for speeding and for no operator's license.

At 1:57 p.m., a motorist was stopped for failure to maintain its lane on Jefferson Street. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation.

At 3:10 p.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for expired tags. The driver was cited for no operator's license and was warned for no insurance and expired tags. The vehicle was towed for no insurance.

WALT

From Page B1

which candidates are worthy of enshrinement, and this year Markee made the cut.

Markee is "very worthy" of such recognition, close friend and long-time observer Tony Olliff said.

Olliff, also well known in wrestling circles, is a former head coach for McNary and Dallas High School (where he is currently an assistant).

Markee was a "blue chip" recruit upon graduation from Tillamook High School, and wrestled at Oregon State University when it boasted one of the best programs in the country. Markee's coach was the legendary Dale Thomas.

"To make that lineup you had to be pretty solid," Olliff said, adding Markee finished his collegiate career as a two-time Pac 10 champion, one-time runner-up.

As a youngster, Olliff watched Markee wrestle at Corvallis. He described his style this way: "Not a lot of shock and awe. Walt was relentless. Just six solid minutes."

Also relentless was the coach.

"There wasn't much

positive reinforcement (from Thomas). But it made me more self-reflective and analytical. I don't regret it," Markee said of life under Thomas.

Thomas's methods were, to be charitable, unconventional. For example, to trim program costs, wrestlers were often left to fend for themselves.

"One night in Iowa, we were there for a tournament, two of us wrestlers were dropped off at a random farm house," Markee said. "We knocked on the front door, explained who we were, they let us in, gave us cookies and milk, let us sleep on couches, and drove us to school in the morning. That kind of thing happened all the time."

Lessons learned carried forward when Markee became a coach himself. His approach was different from Thomas's, as it reflected his own personality and experience gained working for Oregon State Police.

"My skill set is recognizing kids that need help," Markee said. "Not just wrestling help, but life help. Problems at home, divorce, bullying. Being a trooper for 30 years helped me see that." His mentoring is



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Walt Markee placed third at the state finals as a freshman wrestler for Tillamook High School. He capped his prep career with three-straight state titles.

comprehensive. He spends time with athletes away from the wrestling room. For example, he takes them fishing on his boat and/or hires them as help in his commercial kitchen. "Very few of our kids go on to college wrestling," Markee said. So, "it's about making them better citizens."

Income generated through his business is donated to Dallas Wrestling and other youth programs.

Markee's journey to Oklahoma City began in childhood.

"I've wrestled my

whole life, since I was in fifth grade," he said. "I wrestled in high school. In college. And I started coaching right after I graduated."

Markee is drawn to the sport because it tests both brawn and brain.

"Wrestling always comes down to mental. Smart wrestlers make better wrestlers. You gotta have drive. You can't be a quitter," he said. "You gotta figure out a way to win, at all costs."

Success on the mat came quickly, and

consistently. As a high school freshman, he was third at the state finals. With this finish came a prediction that proved prophetic.

"My PE teacher told me I'd never lose again and win three state titles, and I did," he said.

Love for wrestling is often familial. This was certainly the case with the Markees.

"My dad was a state champion in high school wrestling at 136 pounds. I was a state champion at 136 pounds, and my younger brother was a state champion at 136 pounds," Markee said. "Same weight. Same high school. All of us state champions."

As Markee reflects on his upcoming induction, his perspective is shifting.

"All this time I thought I was giving back to the sport that did something for me," he said. "But when I got nominated it made me stop and reflect. I realized I'm still receiving from the sport. My time with these kids is good for me, too."

Markee's career as a state trooper has taken him and his family to Grants Pass, The Dalles and Dallas. At each stop, coaching provided him access to the community. In 1993, not long after moving here,

he started the Dallas Mat Club. He also completed the paperwork that clinched nonprofit status, along with serving seven years as the club's head coach.

Some 30 years later, he's still a fixture in local wrestling rooms. Health challenges have limited what he can do, but they haven't dimmed his enthusiasm for the sport. Open-heart surgery came with a pacemaker, so Markee no longer wrestles.

"Oh, I hate it. I want to wrestle the kids; I love wrestling. But I can't rip wires out of my heart," he said.

Instead, Markee coaches up wrestlers, helping them to develop mental toughness and improved technique.

"I love watching wrestlers get better," he said. "I teach them how to recover mentally after a loss. You can't wallow. You've got to reset quickly."

Among his favorite memories is sharing a state championship with his son, Austin Markee. In 2023, Austin led the Dallas boys team to the state title in his first year as head coach. Markee and Olliff were assistants on the younger Markee's staff. "Winning state with my son ... that was special," Walt said. "That is my favorite memory."

CHAMBER

From Page B1

included among these organizations," head coach Pena Vidal said.

Funding comes from registration fees, sponsorships, donations, fundraisers and grants. Funds raised help pay for equipment, mats, singlets, tournament fees, camp registration, facility costs, fees, and scholarships for athletes in need.

"No wrestler is turned away due to finances," Pena said.

The club emphasizes discipline, teamwork, personal growth and athletic development. Along with greater self-confidence and resilience.

"This program has always been about the kids," Pena said. "Wrestling is the vehicle."

Younger wrestlers are taught basic stances, balance and movement. Older wrestlers develop strategy while gaining competitive experience.

Life lessons are also learned.

"Athletes are encouraged to push through adversity, stay disciplined and support each other," Pena said. "Parents often describe the wrestling room as demanding and welcoming, as a place where expectations are high but encouragement is constant."

Parents volunteer at tournaments, fundraising events, and wherever else needed. Businesses provide sponsorships that help the club stay afloat financially.

PKW had more than 50 wrestlers on its roster last season.

As the organization approaches two decades of service, its mission remains constant - provide opportunity for athletes to grow, families to connect, and for community members to rally around. All for a program teaching lessons that extend far beyond the mat.

Go to pantherkids-wrestling.com for more information. The club is also on Facebook.

AUSTIN

From Page B1

girls finished second at state while the boys were top 10. What's your thoughts on their results?

Austin Markee: Maybe there's a little disappointment because (the girls were) close, but overall the boys and girls had a really good tournament. I wouldn't look at either team and say we didn't wrestle well. We had a lot of people step up and perform, and I think they were ready for the state tournament.

LM: Your thoughts on the state of the program moving forward?

AM: We only have eight seniors total between the teams - three boys (Nathaniel "Nate" Hughes, Petelo Fakava Talakai and Evan Turner) and four girls. It hits the girls' program a little harder with who they're losing, but we're bringing back a lot of our firepower next year. It's exciting, especially because our teams are young overall.

LM: How much motivation is there now to chase the top spot next year?

AM: A lot. I'm excited for our boys because I think we'll hugely outperform where we finished this year, and I think our girls are going to be right back in the mix again, too. We're losing a couple of really tough seniors, but a lot of our talent is young, and we're adding to it.

LM: Any performances that surprised you at state?

AM: I don't know if I'd say anybody surprised us. Other teams might have been surprised, but our coaching staff wasn't surprised by what our kids did. We see them every day in practice. We know what they're capable of doing.

LM: So Khadijah winning a state title wasn't a shock? Khadijah was seeded 13th.

AM: No, not at all. We were excited, but not surprised. We see how she practices every day, and we know what she can do.

LM: Same with Carson?

AM: Yeah, same thing. Expectations were similar with him.

LM: Their final matches were exciting in very different ways?

AM: Definitely. Khadijah's match was

exciting because it kind of turned into a runaway and you could feel the title coming. Carson's was different because he got scored on early, but then he settled in and started hand-fighting, attacking, and really taking control. Even when he fell behind on points, there was a lot of wrestling left. We tell our kids, a wrestling match is 6 minutes, it's not 2.

LM: In what ways is the program adding talent?

AM: We've got kids coming up from LaCreole who are going to compliment both the boys and girls in weight classes where we need them. For example, the boys didn't have a 106-pounder this year, and next year we know we're getting at least two.

LM: What does it mean for the program to have two returning state champions?

AM: It's awesome. It gives you leadership and experience. They set the tone. Mentally, that's such a huge thing for our team. It's really hard to be somebody who is confident and knows they're going to win. Having kids like that come back

rubs off on the rest of the team.

LM: Describe the breadth of the program, please.

AM: We've got around 70 wrestlers, and we have one of the biggest coaching staffs in the state. People kind of joke about it because we'll bring 15 coaches to districts. But it's one of the things that make our program special and helps it work.

LM: Where is the Dallas program heading?

AM: I'm really proud to be part of Dallas wrestling. I'm proud of the kids and the work they've put in. I'm excited for the offseason, for Freestyle and Greco, and I think we're moving in the right direction. I think we're going to have a really good year next year.

LM: So you're already preparing for next season?

AM: We're already talking about next year's schedule. That's one thing I think we do pretty well - tailoring the schedule to fit our team and help our kids get the most out of the season. Kids are allowed 50 matches, and we want to make the most of those opportunities.