

Sports

Quantity, quality present in improving Dallas swim team

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Amity

man drowns in Yamhill River

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2025’s most read stories

STAFF REPORT

As we welcome in the new year of 2026, there are several ways to look back at the most memorable moments of 2025. For this year’s annual retrospective, the Itemizer-Observer staff dove into the analytics of our website to discover which stories our readers found most compelling. Here then are the top 10 stories which garnered the most views at www.polkio.com.

1- Dallas man dies in Perrydale Road car accident (4,982 views)

A Dallas man was killed Jan. 16 as a result of a head-on collision on Perrydale Road.

According to the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, at approximately 7 a.m., deputies responded to a report of a four-vehicle crash in the 3300 hundred block of Perrydale Road, north of Highway 22. The initial report indicated at least one vehicle had rolled and was upside down in the middle of the roadway and the driver of that vehicle appeared to be unconscious.

After arriving on scene, deputies confirmed the driver of a 1998 Toyota Tacoma, Noah Torres, of Dallas, was deceased as a result of injuries sustained during the crash. The driver of a 2015 GMC Sierra, Timothy Janesofsky, was transported to Salem Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. All other involved persons were evaluated on scene and did not receive further medical attention at that time.

During the investigation, deputies determined Torres was traveling north on Perrydale Road following behind a minivan when he attempted to pass the slower moving vehicle. Janesofsky was traveling south in the opposite direction on Perrydale Road. The two nearly collided head-on during the attempted passing maneuver. Due to the speed of the impact, the vehicles collided with the



Jeff Claire and Bill Cresswell stand before their recently opened pub, Forest Pass Brewery, located at 735 SW Maple St. in Dallas.

minivan, which received collateral damage. A fourth vehicle was also damaged as it passed through the debris field that was left behind on the roadway after the initial crash.

The Polk County Sheriff’s Office noted that at the time of the crash, it was dark, the temperature was below freezing, and there was limited visibility due to dense fog. It is believed that fog was a major contributing factor to this incident.

2 - Oregon State Parks to charge fees at 21 more state parks to address budget shortfall (2,099 views)

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is implementing new fees at some of its day-use parks and raising fees for some of its busiest overnight camping parks.

The state waives day-use parking fees at more than 225 of its state

parks, with only 25 parks charging the \$10 fee for in-state visitors and \$12 for people visiting from out of state. But on Oct. 1, the department will begin requiring the parking fee at an additional 21 of its day-use parks. The fees won’t apply to visitors who walk, bike, use public transportation or have a valid 12- to 24-month parking permit from Oregon State Parks.

These parks are some of the busiest parks in the system, according to a news release from the department. For example, Harris Beach State Park experienced an estimated 2 million day-use visits in 2024.

The changes are meant to supplement a 14% budget shortfall because of increasing costs, record visitation and a reduction in lottery funds for operations. The fee adjustments, along with internal efforts to reduce costs, will help maintain current service levels and ensure the system remains accessible in the future, the department said in the release.

The park system raised day-use fees from \$5 to \$10 at the start of 2025, its first increase in 15 years.

Lottery funds cover a little less than half of Oregon State Parks’ budget, followed by 15% from recreational vehicle license plate fees and 35% from park fees from visitors.

The department is also increasing overnight rates at 29 of its busiest parks starting May 2026 to \$29 a night for tents and \$52 for full RV hook-ups. The rate change will apply from May 1 to Sept. 30 and apply year-round on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

3 - Shared passion for beer leads to new Dallas brewery (2,057 views)

Longtime Dallas residents Jeff Claire and Bill Cresswell met about

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City mulls over cheaper police station designs

By DAVID HAYES I-O Editor

After Dallas residents voted against the city’s proposed \$17.2 million bond to construct a new police station in May, the administration and City Council decided to put together another plan that would be more palatable in a second go-around.

“We started to reevaluate all the options we considered (for the original bond),” said city manager Brian Latta at a work study session Dec. 15. “We decided on the new building concept, let’s do value engineering on that concept to help bring the price down given that we’re building it in 2027, given it would pass in a new election.”

The city hired contractor Swinerton Construction to work with the architect firm Mackenzie to provide new options for a police station, cutting as many superfluous features as possible, while still meeting the needs of a modern Dallas Police Department.

The two firms came back with three options that came in under the previous total cost, including two three-story plans and one two-story plan.

Principal architect Jeff Humphries, architect principal for Mackenzie said they looked at the two-story rotated option, with the second floor rotated over the first while looking at options to reduce the amount of foundations and roofing for the building. They then examined a three-story Court Street option with parking in the rear.

“One of the strategies we tried to do was to not have a negative impact on the existing structure,” Humphries said. “The new design has about 20-feet of separation between the building and city hall on one side and a similar distance from Oddfellow Building.”

Humphries laid out the three-story design. The first floor featured the public entrance, support rooms and all the evidence storage and processing. The second floor would have space for the detectives, patrol, admin area of the chief and lieutenant, and locker and shower areas. The third floor would contain a training and briefing room, a few support rooms and a break room.

Andy Dykeman, of Swinerton Construction, walked the councilors through the three options.

A full build out of all three floors had an estimated cost of \$13.3 million, he said. A second option was \$12.4 million to build out the first and second floors and just the framework of the third floor, leaving out construction of any walls, carpet, light fixtures etc.

“So it’s ready to be built out as funding becomes available,” Dykeman said.

A final option is just a two-story option with no third floor that came in at \$11 million.

When adding in the consultant’s costs and the owner’s (city’s) costs to the total budget, the bottom line became \$17 million for the three story option, \$16 million for the two story with the third floor shell and \$14.2 million for the two-story only option.

When asked, Dykeman confirmed the cost estimates for each option includes an assumed escalation of 4.5 percent inflation rate annually if construction started in 2027.

“Those are going to be on par with the original estimated costs because

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DA’s year end report focuses on public safety

By DAVID HAYES I-O Editor

During his end of the year presentation, Polk County District Attorney Aaron Felton’s theme to the County Commissioners was public safety.

First Felton said he resists letting policy be driven or fueled by what is reported in the news or coming out of the state capital in Salem. Rather, he said, it’s important in public safety that there’s a baseline of how his office prosecutes crime, in particular, retail and property theft.

“You often ask the question, Commissioner Pope, talk about what makes people feel safe,” Felton said. “I think what makes people feel safe in terms of prosecution is that there is as a baseline, we use the Polk County Jail, that is as a component in terms of prosecution shoplifting, theft 2 and 3, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct.”

As an example, Felton pointed toward the recent quick action taken

after a burglary at the West Salem Ace Hardware store.

“A suspect who broke into the Ace Hardware store ... didn’t get away with it because law enforcement was right on top of it. Thanks to a very engaged business owner there, the person (Tristan Sillman) ultimately was caught, prosecuted within a month and is in prison now. (Sillman was sentenced to four years). That was a positive result,” Felton said.

In total for 2025, Felson said his office received 1,997 referrals, which is essentially any type of law enforcement incident report of a potential crime and an arrest report of someone who has already been brought to the jail. The referrals averaged about 166 per month, but spiked to 176 the last quarter of 2025.

After looking at the historic numbers, Felton said his office has consistently sought and received some kind of jail sanction as a result of people stealing from out business owners in Polk County.

“That is a baseline of consequences which involve incarceration in our jail because the people in our county have chosen to spend their money in the public safety levy to make that an option in the range of options of consequences,” Felton said. “All of this is possible because we have a public safety levy that funds these options for us. As we go forward, if that was not available to us, that would create a different range of options for us.”

The last five-year levy was approved by voters in 2023, approving an increase to 49.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value (up from 42.5 cents) to fund 24-hour patrols, jail staffing and the District Attorney’s office.

Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst thanked Felton for taking the time to prosecute those misdemeanor crimes.

“Allowing those misdemeanors to go with just a hand slap, as some of our neighboring counties have done, allows other things to grow,” Mordhorst said. “Interrupting their

lives for a while helps them make better decisions down the road. I’m a firm believer in that.”

Commissioner Jeremy Gordon wanted to make sure funding for important programs remained a part of the county’s discussions moving forward, starting with the reinstitution of the Federal Victims of Crime Act funds that were withheld briefly and are back.

“Having a victim’s assistance person in your office is a critical piece of the safety system. That is maybe underappreciated,” Gordon told Felton. “We have our partners in Liberty House and Sable House, for domestic violence and juvenile crimes against young folks. Ff that’s something we can keep in the conversion as well as we’re looking at funding risks and risks to those services. That’s an undercelebrated, perhaps, part of the safety system.”

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PROVIDED BY CITY OF DALLAS

City of Dallas plans show the design of basketball and pickleball courts swapping locations within City Park.



PHOTO BY JULIA SHUMWAY / OREGON CAPITAL CHRONICLE

The Trail of Ten Falls at Silver Falls State Park allows hikers to view 10 waterfalls, including South Falls, on a 7-mile loop.

2025

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a decade ago over a shared love of beer at the West Valley Taphouse. That passion for locally brewed suds eventually germinated into an idea that came to fruition last week. The two combined their prospective business acumen to open their own joint in Dallas July 30, the Forest Pass Brewery.

Claire said he’s lived in Dallas 20 years, Cresswell 18. With their extensive travels, they wondered when their community was going to wake up a little bit. Finally, the time felt right.

In a county of 90,000 people and growing fast, they felt it was a shame there was only one other brewery in the county, Parallel 45.

One of their biggest challenges was finding the right location. They literally stumbled across a home for their brewery. Their real estate agent didn’t even have the location on Maple Street on his list of possibilities.

The building used to be overflow storage for the Rusty Gate (now the Shabby Barn) across the street on Fairview Avenue. After looking at a few places downtown, they kept coming back to the Maple Street location.

“We wanted to tie it into the community,” Cresswell added. “On the coast, there’s a lot of things targeted to Portland areas. We thought the eastern slope of the Coastal Range was a cool tie-in, particularly this community, all the history, recreational and economic history.”

Their logo was designed by Jeff’s niece who took his photo he took of the coastal mountains as viewed when coming into town and converted into graphic art. The duo took the best ideas from their travels to other brew pubs to create their own unique vibe.

“We have the best outdoor seating area in the city,” Claire bragged. “That was part of it. Low key, relaxing vibe. It was what we were after.”

Forrest Pass Brewing’s space was big enough to install a seven-barrel brew-house that produces a couple hundred gallons per batch. They can ferment three beers at a time. And around back is cold storage for seven-barrel circuit tanks. They plan to have their brewery online by September and concentrate on their favorite, IPAs.

In addition, they’ve reached out to offer wines from local wineries, including Benedetto’s, Scythian’s, Dante, and ciders from Salt Creek Cider House. And there will be nonalcoholic drinks for kids.

To give their customer something to dine on while they sample the home crafted brews, the duo researched offering the best in craft pizza options.

“Some people say this is the next Napa Valley. Which, why couldn’t it be? Great

downtown, we’ve got the vineyards, we needed the brewery,” Cresswell said. “Why can’t this be the next great wine tasting and beer brewing area?”

4 - Suspect arrested, being investigated for hate crime after crashing truck into Dallas Market (1,736 views)

A motorist was arrested Sunday after driving his pickup truck into the interior of Center Market on Fairview Avenue in Dallas and is being investigated as a potential hate crime.

At approximately 9:30 p.m. Jan. 4, officers responded to a reported vehicle collision into the market. An officer, who was in the vicinity, arrived on the scene within moments to find a Ford truck inside the building, actively driving back and forth and causing extensive damage to the market’s interior.

The truck had crashed through the front doors of the market at an estimated speed of 15-20 mph. The officer strategically positioned his patrol vehicle to block the truck’s exit. In response, the suspect backed into the patrol car multiple times.

Additional officers and Polk County Sheriff’s Office deputies arrived shortly thereafter. The driver, who was later identified as John Marlas, continued to drive recklessly, destroying merchandise and infrastructure within the market. Marlas reportedly stole merchandise from the market during this incident.

After Marlas exited the vehicle, he voluntarily got on the ground of the market floor. He was taken into custody without further incident. Medics cleared Marlas at the scene before he was transported to Willamette Valley Hospital, where a driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) investigation was conducted.

Afterwards, Marlas was arrested and charged with nine counts of recklessly endangering, two counts of criminal mischief 1, reckless driving, robbery 1, driving under the influence of an intoxicant, theft 3, unlawful use of weapon, menacing and improper use of 911.

Amrit Singh, director of operations for his family’s chain of 49 stores across the state, including three in Dallas, estimated more than \$200,000 in damage was done, both to the physical store and to inventory.

However, even with the extensive damage, the Singh’s reopened the store to grand fanfare Jan. 13 with a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony.

“We’re very fortunate to have such a strong support group behind us with community members, neighbors, city officials that all turned out for that event,” Singh said. “It shows the support Dallas has given us. Not just over the last 19 years. We’re very grateful to all the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Surrounded by local dignitaries, Gov. Tina Kotek cuts the ribbon officially opening Church @ the Park’s transitional housing facility in Dallas on Feb. 3.



I-O FILE PHOTO

Just nine days after a motorist drove his truck into the Center Market on Fairview Avenue, the community turned out for a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 13 to celebrate its reopening.

friendly faces that showed up and offered encouragement and support.”

5 - Armed kidnapping suspect transported to Polk County jail (1,579 views)

A Salem man, arrested after a kidnapping incident in Salem, was transported to Polk County Jail on unrelated outstanding warrants.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 1, a woman and her young child were reported as being abducted from her apartment in south-east Salem by her estranged boyfriend.

According to the Salem Police Department, officers learned the suspect, Javier B. Munoz, Jr., entered the apartment at gunpoint at approximately 3 a.m. that morning, keeping the victim and child inside. About 12 hours later, Munoz made threats to the victim, compelling her to leave with him and the child.

While actively searching for Munoz and the victim, a caller reported a man and woman struggling over a child in the 400 block of Hawthorne Avenue Northeast. Officers arrived and learned the incident involved Munoz and the

victim. Munoz, who was reported to have a handgun, fled with the child on foot toward Geer Community Park.

Patrol officers flooded the area in search of the pair. The Salem Police SWAT Team and officers from multiple regional agencies provided assistance in an extensive two-and-a-half-hour search using canines and unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones.

Munoz and the child were ultimately located concealed beneath a trailer in the area of Oregon Avenue and Bell Road Northeast. The young child was uninjured and safely returned to their mother.

Munoz, 45, of Salem, was arrested on multiple related charges including first-degree kidnapping, menacing, unlawful use of a weapon and burglary. According to the Salem Police, Munoz was lodged at the Polk County Jail related to multiple outstanding warrants from other cases in Polk County.

6 - Dallas changes pickleball, basketball court plans (1,506 views)

The city of Dallas has pivoted in its plans to construct new pickleball courts at City Park and instead transform the existing basketball courts at a substantial savings.

Public Works Director Jennifer Ward presented the option to the city council Oct. 20.

She said beginning in 2021, the Parks Advisory Board and city staff had been looking into options to add additional pickleball courts within the city parks system. After considerable engagement with the Parks Advisory Board, Building and Grounds Committee and City Council, in 2024 the City Council approved a plan to build 10 new pickleball courts in Dallas City Park on the northwest corner of Levens Street and Brandvold Drive. The project would include the excavation and appropriate fill of the old city swimming pool which is buried at the site.

“Staff sought grant funding to offset a project that was coming in at \$1.7 million,” Ward explained.

The city applied for but failed to receive a Large Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and

Recreation Department, that would have been matched by System Development Charges funds.

“However, one of the capital improvement projects was to resurface the basketball courts at the entry to City Park,” Ward said. “As we were preparing to do that, a light bulb went off. This space could accommodate those 10 pickleball courts.”

Instead of building 10 courts on the north side Brandvold Street, they’d build two new basketball courts there.

The total estimated cost to build 10 new pickleball courts on the south side of Brandvold Drive and two new basketball courts on the north side of Brandvold Drive at City Park is \$501,400. The Dallas Pickleball Club has committed to donating \$10,000 towards the project. The remainder of the project costs (\$491,400) will be paid from Parks SDCs. The city could get a \$700,000 savings from not needing to dig up an old swimming pool at the old location and repave over the construction.

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Ward confirmed the new configuration for two basketball courts would not overlap the old pool location. The total savings would be \$1.2 million.

While one councilor considered installing more facilities and less courts, another estimated that building new facilities for the 10 new pickleball courts would add an additional \$150,000 to the cost and displace at least three or four courts.

The council gave Ward the guidance she needed to pursue the alternate plan without needing to take a vote.

7 - Dallas resident killed in Highway 194 accident
(1,470 views)

A Dallas resident was killed in a two-vehicle accident on Highway 194 June 17.

According to the Oregon State Police, at 6:38 a.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle crash in Polk County near Monmouth.

The preliminary investigation indicated a farming swather, operated by Dylan Branch, 34, of Monmouth, was traveling westbound on Highway 194 near milepost 5 when an eastbound Toyota 4Runner, operated by Erika Smith, 59, of Dallas, struck the swather's boom. Her 4Runner left the roadway and came to rest in the trees on the north shoulder.

Smith was pronounced deceased at the scene. Branch was not injured.

The highway was impacted for approximately four hours during the on-scene investigation.

OSP was assisted by the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Monmouth Police Department, Polk Fire District 1, and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

8 - Polk County accident leads to discovery of deceased Salem woman
(1,431 views)

Salem Police Violent Crimes Unit detectives are investigating the death of a Salem resident after Polk County Sheriff's Office deputies discovered a body in the wreckage of a crash in Polk County.

At approximately 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 27, PCSO deputies responded to a single-vehicle rollover collision in the 10000 block of Corvallis Road in Independence. The driver, Tyler Andrew Holman, 39, of Salem, was located with injuries and transported for medical care.

Deputies also discovered the body of a deceased woman. Investigators determined evidence at the scene suggested that she was not killed in the car accident; rather, her body was being transported at the time of the crash.

An autopsy performed by the Oregon State Medical Examiner determined that the woman's cause of death was from a gunshot wound and manner of death to be homicide. The victim was identified as Ashley Jean Gandolfi, age 35, of Salem.

The investigation into Gandolfi's death led detectives to a residence in the 1600 block of Acacia Drive South where Holman resides. Gandolfi and Holman were previously in a romantic relationship, according to the Salem police.

Holman was arrested after being released from Salem Health Jan. 30, and charged with second-degree murder, tampering with evidence and second-degree abuse of a corpse.

The investigation is ongoing by the Marion County District Attorney's Office.

9 - Long delayed transitional house opens in Dallas
(1,416 views)

Nearly two years to the day after she declared a homelessness state of emergency in Oregon, Gov. Tina Kotek cut the ribbon Feb. 3 to welcome a new transition housing facility in Dallas.

Salem based Church @ the Park spearheaded the project after securing \$2.58 million to open a managed shelter site in rural Polk County in the wake of the governor's declaration. After failing to secure a location for a micro shelter facility in Monmouth and Independence, the church purchased property at 1873 SE Holeman St. in Dallas in 2023.

However, after vocal opposition to the micro shelter plans, Church @ the Park pivoted to convert the home at the Dallas location into transitional housing for families.

DJ Vincent, Church at the Park founder and chief executive officer, said the Dallas Family Shelter project has come to completion through the support of PATHS (Partners Aligned Toward Housing Solution), the city of Dallas and the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, in addition to the governor's emergency order.

Vincent said after working with the city of Dallas on land use and permitting, major renovations started in July of 2024. Vincent explained that the permit required that renovation result in the same square footage as the original buildings on the property (pre-renovation). So now, two households and up to 12 beds are available in what was the original house.

Vincent said the church requires potential families who will live in the house must have ties to rural Polk County. For example, the

first two families with single mothers, expected to move into the house two days after the ceremony on Feb. 5, have children who attend schools in Dallas. Applicants, he added, must also pass a background check to ensure they are not on a registered sex offender list.

Looking ahead, Vincent said an Accessory Dwelling Unit will be added on the property, providing space for two more households and eight additional beds. He added a garage will also be built to be used as office space. The ADU is still in the permitting process, which he expects to complete in 2025.

He also expects 12 more families to utilize the house by the end of 2025.

10 - Oak Harbor man dies in Highway 22 accident
(1,294 views)

An Oak Harbor man was killed in a crash on Highway 22 Thursday.

Oregon State Police responded at 4:12 p.m. to a two-vehicle crash on Westbound Highway 22 at the intersection with Highway 223.

The preliminary investigation indicated a northbound Kawasaki EJ650 motorcycle, operated by David Peter Jorgensen, 88, of Oak Harbor, Washington, was stopped on Northbound Highway 223 at the intersection with Highway 22W. Jorgensen attempted to cross Highway 22W and struck the side of a westbound Kenworth log truck, operated by Timothy Lawrence May, 60, of Sheridan.

Jorgensen was declared deceased at the scene. May was reportedly not injured.

The highway was impacted for approximately five hours during the on-scene investigation.

STATION

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they were estimated to be 2025 dollars. Those costs have gone up," Dykeman said "So what we've been trying to do is to rightsize the scope, to one, bring down the cost to account for the escalation we've lost in the delay, and also see if we can get it under the bond ask you had last time, which was \$17.2 million."

City Council President Larry Briggs said he's heard the city has to reinforce the building and build it to certain seismic codes because it's a public safety building.

"I've also heard if the building next door tips over on it, we've got to build it accordingly. Are any of those factors driving the cost up?" he asked.

Dykeman said there are cost elements with every location.

"It's a pretty standard infill condition. It's a fairly light building (constructed with mass

timber) which is good for the foundations. We'll have a little bit of a demo for the existing building. All of the other elements are going to be pretty traditional," Dykeman said.

The planners were also asked what the difference would be in a very hypothetical one-story build.

Dykeman said it would require a much larger footprint and come with a larger roof surface area that would probably equate to a couple to few percentage points cheaper.

"It's all really dependent on the site. Your structure can be a little lighter. It also depends on how much you're trying to get done," he said.

Latta clarified the maintenance costs would increase due to the larger roof surface area.

As the presentation was during a work study session, no action was taken by the city council.

For a complete look at the presentation, go to www.dallasor.gov/media/22066.

SAFETY

From Page **A1**

"Allowing those misdemeanors to go with just a hand slap, as some of our neighboring counties have done, allows other things to grow," Mordhorst said. "Interrupting their lives for a while helps them make better decisions down the road. I'm a firm believer in that."

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House and Sable House, for domestic violence and juvenile crimes against young folks. If that's something we can keep in the conversion as well as we're looking at funding risks and risks to those services. That's an undercelebrated, perhaps, part of the safety system."

Felton agreed. "That for a period of time, those dollars were at risk in our office and throughout the state, for a variety of reasons, that would hurt us greatly in terms of our ability to provide services," Felton explained. "We had to make some adjustments. There was a period of uncertainty to provide services to vulnerable people and victims. Fortunately local and state leaders realized that was a real detriment to our

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SALEM HEALTH

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Confronted by a Grassroots Backlash, Democrats Consider Repealing Unpopular Gas Tax Hike

Repealing the controversial bill could deprive Republicans of a powerful campaign issue in an election year.

NIGEL JAQUISS
Oregon Journalism Project

At politically oriented holiday parties all over the state, the hot topic is what Democrats will do in the face of a remarkably successful Republican effort to refer a gas tax increase to the November 2026 ballot that lawmakers passed in September.

The option that’s getting the most serious consideration, according to numerous Democrats speaking on background: repealing all or parts of House Bill 3991 in next year’s legislative session.

“My recommendation has been to just take the pain early and repeal it in February,” says one Democratic lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

By now, many Oregonians know that one of the Legislature’s top priorities for 2025, bailing out the financially troubled Oregon Department of Transportation, turned into a slow-motion train wreck and fueled a populist rebellion.

The original funding bill, the result of more than a year’s worth of meetings around the state, emerged relatively late in the regular session. Even after Democratic leaders offered slimmed-down versions of the bill, they could not find the support to pass it.

That failure threatened layoffs at the agency and led Gov. Tina Kotek to call a special session in late summer to pass an even narrower package: a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase; a doubling of some vehicle registration fees; and a doubling of a payroll tax to fund public transit—but only for two years.

In passing the more modest bill, Democrats neutralized groups critical of more expensive versions of the bill that have paid to fund a referral. But critics of the bill, led by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), state Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Scio), and Jason Williams of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, mounted a guerrilla campaign to refer the gas tax increase.

Last week, their group, No Tax Oregon, delivered the latest blow to Democrats’ plans for ODOT when they turned in just shy of 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office.

The ability of the anti-tax opposition to House Bill 3991 to gather so many signatures so quickly—and with virtually no funding—surprised many lawmakers as well as political insiders.

“I was flabbergasted,” says political pollster John Horvick of DHM Research, who has no stake in the issue.

The anti-tax group’s success has convinced many Democrats the referral would not only pass easily—killing the tax increase—but that it would also give Republicans a powerful tool to use against legislative Democrats in contested districts and against Gov. Kotek as she seeks reelection in 2026.

Democrats told OJP that in view of the success in signature gathering, they see three options:

- Take the loss earlier. That could mean moving the gas tax referral to the ballot in May rather than allowing it to go on the November ballot.
- Take the loss on schedule. If Democrats do nothing, that allows Republicans to capitalize on the unpopular tax in campaign messaging for the next 11 months.
- Repeal all or parts of HB 3991 in the short session that begins Feb. 4.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REP. ED DIEHL

No Tax Oregon delivered nearly 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office.

Several Democratic lawmakers and political consultants say the third option—repeal—makes sense both practically and politically.

The practical consideration is that, by gathering signatures far in excess of the threshold required to qualify for the ballot (78,116 valid signatures), No Tax Oregon put the gas tax and other increases on hold until the matter is decided. (Otherwise, the increases would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 2026.)

If Democrats are going to lose on that question in November, the thinking goes, why not start in February to figure out a solution for ODOT that Republicans will accept?

The political question is more nuanced. Absent the gas tax issue, Democrats could capitalize in 2026 on widespread dislike of the GOP’s standard-bearer, President Donald Trump. History shows that midterm elections typically favor the party that lost the presidential election. The unpopularity of the gas tax increase threatens that Democratic advantage.

Kotek waited to sign HB 3991 for nearly the maximum time allowed after lawmakers passed it. That tactic shortened the window for her opponents to gather signatures. It didn’t work.

Now, Kotek says she wants to cooperate with critics to find a solution for ODOT.

“The governor is committed to working with lawmakers of both parties, ODOT leadership, stakeholders, and local leaders to find a path forward,” her spokeswoman Roxy Mayer says. “Her guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians.”

Mayer declined to comment on which Democratic strategy—including a repeal of HB 3991—Kotek favors.

Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) and House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene) were similarly noncommittal.

“We are considering several options for moving forward—as always, any legislator who shares that goal and is willing to work in good faith has a seat at that table,” Fahey says, adding, “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort

don’t have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won’t fix themselves.”

Wagner highlighted the challenges the signature-gathering poses for motorists. “Our focus right now is on ensuring the basic safety and maintenance of our roads now that emergency funding is on hold,” he says. “We are ready to work with the governor’s office, ODOT, and our local partners to manage this situation through the upcoming legislative session.”

Pollster Horvick says the nearly 200,000 signatures gathered put Democrats in a tough spot.

“If you assume the referral is going to pass—and pass overwhelmingly—it makes more sense to take the pain sooner than later,” he says. “Still, it’s not a great look for Democrats, and it would look a little weird for the governor to sign a repeal after calling a special session.”

Diehl, one of the leaders of the repeal campaign, says he’s heard secondhand that Democrats may seek to frustrate his group’s path to the November ballot. A repeal

of the measure, of course, would be a victory of sorts. But Diehl says he’d need to see the details.

For one thing, HB 3991 included a number of non-tax items, including the resolution of a long-running dispute between truckers and the state over the apportionment of road-user charges. “There are some parts of the bill I like,” Diehl says.

Extreme weather over the past week caused flooding and landslides in parts of the state. That led some Republicans to call for emergency funding for ODOT, even as the referral freezes new money; Democrats said the recent damage to state highways and roads points to the need for HB 3991 funding.

Diehl says he hopes the disagreement will lead to a more thorough examination of how ODOT operates. He remains convinced the agency is poorly run and could prioritize its spending much more efficiently.

“We’ve got to put maintenance and safety first,” he says. “This is our one chance to really hold an agency accountable.”

OBITUARIES



Doris H. Dyer
Jan. 14, 1936 - Dec. 20, 2025

We honor the life of Doris Anne (Henderson) Dyer, 89, who passed away on Dec. 20, 2025. Born in Plentywood, Montana, on Jan. 14, 1936, to Leonard and Helen Henderson. Doris was raised

in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, where she graduated from Myrtle Creek High School.

Her love of learning led her to become a proud alumna of Oregon State University (then Oregon State College) and then a professional educator where she dedicated herself to guiding young minds. She began her teaching career at South Salem High School and eventually retired from the counseling office at Central High School in Independence. She was known for her kind and gracious demeanor, balancing a practical organizational style with a witty, irreverent sense of humor.

Doris was married to Roland Dyer for 38 years

until his passing in 2000. Together, they raised two daughters, Amy and Donna. Her kindness extended beyond her family into her community, where she was a devoted supporter of Marion-Polk Food Share and Oregon Public Broadcasting. In her quieter moments, she found joy in gardening, quilting, reading, and music.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Doris’ name to Oregon Public Broadcasting or Marion Polk Food Share.

Deceased’s Funeral Arrangements, Memorial Service on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at Bonaventure in Salem (3411 Boone Road SE, Salem) 1-3 p.m.



Mary Ann Oziah (nee Wolf)
July 9, 1932 - Dec. 16, 2025

Mary Ann Oziah, 93, of Dallas, Oregon, passed away on Dec. 16, 2025, from heart failure.

Mary was born July 9, 1932, to Jacob and Philomena Wolf in Sioux County, North Dakota. She was one of 11 children. The entire family moved to Silverton, Oregon, in 1944 after a tornado destroyed the family farm.

Mary graduated high school in 1950 from Sacred Heart Academy in Salem, Oregon. On Dec. 26, 1958, she married Arvil Oziah and they moved to Dallas, Oregon.

Mary is survived by Deborah Scott (Billy), Valerie Pascal (Robert), Marcia Neudauer (Allen), Brian Oziah, Kevin Oziah.

Mary was happiest surrounded by her family. She enjoyed baking, gardening, crossword puzzles, game

shows and being a mother. She was active in her faith at St. Philip Catholic Church, in Dallas, and was a member of the Women’s Altar Society. After the children were raised she worked for Oregon Fruit and Willamette Hazelnut for 20 years.

Mary is survived by her children, seven grandchildren, one great grandchild, brother Leon Wolf, and sister Irene Steinke.

The family would like to thank Serenity Hospice for their kind and loving care. Mary lived and passed peacefully without complaint.

No service, she will be laid to rest with her husband Arvil at Willamette National Cemetery.



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PUBLIC RECORDS

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

Independence Police Department

Thursday, Dec. 18

At 5:05 p.m., a report of a vehicle versus pedestrian accident on Marigold Drive. The driver stopped and checked on the pedestrian who had minor injuries to her leg. She went to West Valley Hospital. She and the driver swapped information.

Friday, Dec. 19

Officers responding to a report of an open front door to a house in the 200 block of C Street were met by a person that resides there who reported recent instances of domestic violence. The victim had been struck in the face by Michale Steifer and reported two instances where their phone had been taken away by Steifer when calls to 911 were attempted. Steifer was located and placed into custody for assault 4 - misdemeanor and two counts of interference with making a report.

Saturday, Dec. 20

At 1 a.m., an officer observed a vehicle traveling westbound on Monmouth Street at 94 mph in a 30-mph zone. The officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the driver continued on at a high rate of speed. The vehicle crashed into a light pole in the 1300 block of Main Street. The driver Chandler Cross, who was uninjured, was taken into custody for reckless driving. After resisting, she was placed in the back of the patrol car where the officer realized she was intoxicated. She refused a field sobriety test and a blood draw was taken at West Valley Hospital via a granted warrant. Cross was charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant, reckless driving and resisting arrest. An officer on traffic patrol noticed a vehicle going 51 mph in a 35-mph zone on Hoffman Road. After the officer initiated the traffic stop at Gun Club Road, the driver stepped out of the vehicle and started yelling. Due to slurred speech, watery eyes, angry demeanor and trouble following instructions the officer suspected the driver, Robin Gehrts, was under the influence of intoxicants. Standard Field Sobriety Tests were initiated but quickly abandoned due to concerns for Gehrts' safety as Gehrt was unsteady on her feet and then couldn't stay awake to provide a breath sample so a blood draw was completed at the hospital. Gehrts' passenger was slumped over in the passenger seat and was transported home. Gehrts was charged with reckless endangering and driving under the influence of an intoxicant. At 10:03 p.m., an officer took custody of a bike found on Third Street.

Sunday, Dec. 21

At 4:19 p.m., officers responded to a report of suspicious activity on Adams Street. A group of peddlers without a license were warned and educated on a peddler's license. At 7:05 p.m., officers investigated a report of screaming heard on Deann Drive. Nothing was found.

Monday, Dec. 22

At 3:48 a.m., a 911 call was placed to report a physical domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Arbor Court.

The victim and Ricardo Mexica were arguing about relationship issues when Mexica began destroying items around the house and bit the victim during the struggle. He was taken into custody without incident and charged with assault 4.

At 12:33 p.m., officers investigated a report of an intoxicated motorist on Main Street. They found no signs of impairment upon contact with the driver, other than his poor health.

At 2:20 p.m., a report of the theft of 80 oxycodone and 11 lorazepam stolen from a location on Monmouth Street. This is no viable suspect information at this time.

At 4:26 p.m., Independence Police received a fraud report that had already been reported to another agency.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

At 10:09 a.m., an RV reported missing was found on Polk Street. DNA swabs were taken and the owner's brother cleared out some personal property.

At 11:47 a.m., police investigated a driving complaint. The driver's vehicle was found at his house on Monmouth Street. The driver was fine.

Polk County Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, Dec. 17

At 1:27 a.m., deputies assisted with a downed tree on Highway 51. A motorist hit some low-hanging branches prior to deputies' arrival. The vehicle was not driveable and the driver was in the process of arranging his own tow. The windshield had heavy damage, and there were still branches in the grill of the vehicle. Deputies assisted polk fire with tree cleanup.

At 1:46 a.m., a deputy found the bottom bolt of a stop sign on Highway 22 was gone causing it to blow in the wind. There was still a secondary stop sign in place as well as a flashing red light that is still working.

At 4:12 a.m., deputies responded to a report of work trucks vandalized on Salen Dallas Highway. The reporting party explained that a disgruntled ex-employee, who was upset over a possible fee, was the suspect. Two windshields were damaged, and two of the trucks were missing their ignition keys. The deputies developed possible charges of criminal mischief 1 and theft 2.

At 5:27 a.m., a motorist reported being hit by a tree on Perrydale Road. A responding deputy found the motorist's vehicle had a smashed window, broken head lights, and light damage to the front hood. The driver was told to fill out a DMV crash form within 72 hours.

At 7:08 a.m., a subject flagged down a deputy to report finding an open door at the Dallas Cinema on Mill Street. The deputy, with help from Dallas Police, cleared and secured the building.

At 7:11 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 72 mph in a 55-mph zone and was warned for no driver's license and no proof of vehicle registration.

At 7:41 a.m., a deputy came upon wires down in the WB lane of Rickreall Road. The deputy set up cones blocking it off, also set some flares down to slow traffic then notified Pacific Power.

At 8:05 a.m., a report of a late crash on Suver Road. The vehicle was in a ditch with no occupants. There was a sticky note saying the vehicle will be towed. The deputy called the registered owner and confirmed she will be towing it on her own.

At 8:55 a.m., a deputy attempted to move the tree branch out of Helmick Road then called Polk County Public Works and advised them.

At 8:54 a.m., deputies helped the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office investigate a report of a crash onto a property on Hebo Road. The home owner reported he heard what sounded like gunshots. A deputy helped clear the vehicle then helped clear a property to the east.

At 9:31 a.m., a report of a tree in the power lines blocking motorists in the road and power out on Mitchell Street. Deputies met with a Weyerhaeuser forester and they are clearing Berry Creek Road to create a detour for residents stuck behind the gate.

At 11:25 a.m., a resident on Belvedere Street reported a vehicle parked in front of their house for the past two days. A deputy learned the owner was suspended at the felony level. Although she lived in Salem, she didn't know how the car got to its current location and didn't want to file a report.

At 1:03 p.m., a report of a male subject yelling on Falls City Road. The subject was yelling at his dogs that had gotten out to get back into a gated area.

At 3:27 p.m., a motorist on Pacific Highway was stopped after a driving complaint. While talking with the driver a deputy was able to gain probable cause to arrest the driver for DUII. The driver was transported to the jail where he blew a 0.26 BAC. He was charged with DUII and cited for driving while suspended and failure to install an ignition interlock device. He was lodged at Polk County Jail.

At 3:41 p.m., a report of a male attempting to get into a fiber optics building on Corvallis Road. A responding deputy found the subject had already left and no other signs of damage or entry into the building.

At 4:27 p.m., deputies responded to a three-vehicle, head-on crash on Elkins Road. After talking with the drivers and another witness, the suspect vehicle involved had two occupants leave the scene. It was determined there was a slow line of cars due to elk being in a field. The suspect vehicle passed a car on a double yellow and hit another vehicle head on. The deputy developed probable cause for Felony hit and run.

At 3:54 p.m., a resident on Ruben Boise Road reported a possible burglary to a shed on her property. Upon closer inspection, the wall was made of a very old, rotten particle board that appeared to have succumbed to the stormy weather. No entry was made into the shed, no pry marks, no signs of force.

At 4:39 p.m., a subject turned in a wallet he found at Ritner Creek Bridge on Dec. 14.

At 7:14 p.m., two 13-year old youths reported they were verbally and physically harassed by a stranger as they were walking along Perry Road.

Thursday, Dec. 18

At 6:31 a.m., a motorist was stopped on Main Street in Dallas for no lights. The driver was cited driving while suspended - violation and driving uninsured.

At 1:06 p.m., an anonymous report of a vehicle parked on Burbank Road that could be a hazard. A responding deputy was unable to locate the vehicle.

At 1:51 p.m., a motorist decided to attempt to traverse Palmer Road despite being warned by a Public Works employee that the water level on the road was much too

high. Her car ended up half submerged and filled with water. A neighbor helped rescue the occupants. Falls City Road was shut down for a long period of time waiting for a tow truck capable of reaching the submerged car.

At 6:23 p.m., a report of a tree down across Oakdale Road and blocking both lanes of travel. Public Works was called and cleared the scene.

At 7:01 p.m., a report of a single vehicle crash into a ditch on Barnhart Road. The driver said at the time of the crash he was traveling 50 mph. A deputy cautioned him about driving at that speed on gravel in poor weather.

At 7:53 p.m., Gabriel McCrae was arrested on Ellendale Avenue and charged with violating a restraining order, concealment of a weapon (brass knuckles), trespass 2 and interference with making a report.

Friday, Dec. 19

At 5:14 a.m., a resident on Rickreall Road reported he did not need fire/police response and was reporting information only that his house was flooded.

At 7:16 a.m., while checking flood waters, deputies encountered a house on Airlie Road surrounded by rushing floodwater. They contacted the homeowner who was inside and said he wasn't worried about it as it was his opinion the water was dropping.

At 7:25 a.m., a deputy removed flooding debris from the roadway on Fishback Road.

At 7:45 a.m., deputies responded to the report of water rescue north of Balston Road. A motorist had driven past road closure signs and went through high water caused by the Yamhill River flooding into and through adjacent fields. His vehicle was swept off the road and out into the floodwaters. The driver exited the vehicle and got on top, but then jumped into the water to try and swim out. He was promptly swept downstream about 50 yards where he was found by a drone, face down and deceased in the water.

At 10:06 a.m., a resident on Wallace Road reported his daughter's headphones, valued at \$150, were stolen while at a game at school. The headphones were pinged to an address in Polk County.

At 12:36 p.m., a resident on McTimmonds Road reported someone broke into her van on the back end of the property, vandalized it and stole items from a shed, including five trail cameras.

At 1:38 p.m., deputies investigated a residential burglary alarm on Eagle Crest Road with the back glass door shattered. The house is currently listed for sale and had nothing in it to steal. A deputy got photos of two suspects from a Ring Camera.

At 6:16 p.m., a driving complaint of a vehicle driving erratically westbound on Highway 18 at milepost 24. A PCSO lieutenant stopped the vehicle due to poor driving. The driver said he lacked sleep and was headed to a medical appointment.

At 6:07 p.m., a motorist reported another vehicle on Highway 99 driving erratically and then slammed on the brakes so hard the complainant had to swerve. The other driver then threw something at the complainant's vehicle, causing a dent. The incident was referred to Oregon State Police.

Saturday, Dec. 20

At 12:24 a.m., a report of a cow on the road on Falls City Road. A responding deputy was unable to find the cow.

At 12:41 a.m., while conducting an area check at Fir Crest Cemetery, a deputy

observed two leather couches that had been dumped along the northbound shoulder in the 7900 block of Fir Crest Road.

At 8:28 a.m., a report of a loose calf near an intersection on Falls City Road. The deputy did locate the probable owner out looking for the calf.

At 10:54 a.m., a report of a loose dog found on Church Road. Photos were taken and the dog was lodged at the PCSO shelter.

At 11:36 a.m., a report of a 1969 Chevy Camaro stolen on Gooseneck Road.

At 11:54 a.m., a resident on Salt Creek Road requested PCSO help her with getting some water, saying some trees had uprooted during the wind storm / atmospheric river and damaged her water lines. PCSO provided her with 10 gallons of water and she was very thankful.

At 12:23 p.m., a report of a loose brown poodle in the area of Fernwood Court. A deputy drove through all the side streets and up/down the Fernwood and was unable to locate the dog.

At 3:56 p.m., a report of a wrong-way driver (black truck) heading eastbound on Highway 22 from milepost 16. Deputies were unable to locate the vehicle.

At 11:49 p.m., deputies responded to a late domestic disturbance on Andy Riggs Road. A female subject was arrested and charged with unlawful use of a weapon, assault 4, menacing and harassment.

Sunday, Dec. 21

At 11:10 a.m., a caller reported a deer had been struck by a vehicle and its back legs were broken, so he drug it off the road on Orchard Knob Road. A deputy arrived and found the deer to be unable to walk due to the apparent broken legs. The deer was dispatched.

At 2:55 p.m., a dealer at the Coin and Stamp show reported that a male subject stole one ounce of gold from him the previous day. The dealer provided the approximate time that the theft happened as well as suspect description. The deputy checked video and local pawn shops for any gold transactions.

At 3:42 p.m., a report of a tow truck stuck in the mud near the 1400 block of Perrydale Road.

At 7:05 p.m., a report that screaming was heard on Deann Drive. Deputies were unable to find anything.

At 7:37 p.m., a deputy stopped a motorist for speeding 73 mph in a 55-mph zone. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation, and was warned for the speeding and failure to maintain lane.

Monday, Dec. 22

At 2:07 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 3:48 a.m., a male subject on Arbor Court was arrested and charged with assault 4.

At 4:20 a.m., Polk County Fire called for law enforcement because they needed to force entry into a house on Edwards Road on a medical alarm. They had already gotten inside when a deputy arrived and did not need any help.

At 10:49 a.m., a motorist on Highway 99 near milepost 52 was cited for speeding 82 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 11:12 a.m., a deputy in Falls City witnessed a vehicle pull out of the gas station without first making a full stop. After stopping the vehicle, the deputy learned the driver, Robert Mason, did not have a license but was arrested on two outstanding

warrants out of Polk and Marion counties. He was transported to Polk County Jail.

At 12:30 p.m., a female subject reported that a male subject transferred \$4,900 to her deceased father's account and stole a laptop and VR headset.

At 5:01 p.m., a deputy came up on a rollover commercial truck crash just after it happened on Liberty Street. It was a non-injury accident that blocked one lane. The deputy held the scene until Salem Police arrived.

At 5:21 p.m., a deputy helped sit on an inmate at Salem Hospital Emergency Department until two jail deputies could arrive on scene.

At 7:33 p.m., a report that someone heard 40-80 shots fired near Anderson Road. Deputies were unable to locate anyone firing weapons.

At 8:50 p.m., a report of an armed robbery on Main Street in Dallas. Unknown suspect at this time.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

At 2:33 a.m., deputies, performing an area check on Glen Creek Road, helped de-escalate a verbal dispute. A third subject was found sleeping in his van. The deputies verbally warned all for trespassing.

At 9:57 a.m., a gun rights activist, who was supposed to have a meeting with the sheriff at his office in Dallas, came into the lobby with a pistol on his hip, disregarding the sign. He made it clear he intentionally disregarded the sign/law. He and the sheriff had a conversation about possession of firearms in public buildings or court facilities being a clear violation. The case was forwarded to the district attorney's office.

At 11:05 a.m., a report of a male subject with ongoing mental health crisis was on a directors hold on mistletoe road. Deputies spoke to the subject, who was insistent on calling himself Lucifer and was speaking "for God". They took him into custody on the director's hold and transported him to Salem Hospital Emergency Department.

At 2:38 p.m., a male subject came into PCSO to collect his wallet and was on the phone with non-emergency services when he arrived. The male collected his wallet and left.

At 2:38 p.m., a report of a block of wood in the road near Highway 22 and Butler Hill Road in the eastbound lane. A deputy searched the area and saw just east of the intersection a 4x4 piece of wood in the ditch near the east bound lane.

At 5 p.m., a report of a utility trailer dumped on Gardner Road. A deputy found no plate or identifying info on the trailer or the tow hitch and tagged the trailer for 24 abandoned tow.

At 6:16 p.m., deputies responded to a possible armed robbery on Wallace Road. The victim was contacted at Salem Hospital with a laceration from a knife to the right hand. It was determined that the assault/attempted kidnapping occurred on Wallace Road. A deputy took an initial statement from the victim and notified Oregon State Police. At the time of the report, no suspect information had been obtained.

At 6:51 p.m., a male subject called about a group of other teens threatening him and grabbing him on Prospect Street in Falls City. A deputy identified the main aggressor in the other group as David Fournier, who was cited for harassment.

At 10:04 p.m., a report of a silent alarm on Fort Hill Road. While a deputy was enroute, there was an authorized cancellation.

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PCIO25-1450 DALLAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NOTICE OF CHARITABLE FUND DISTRIBUTION ANTHONY AND PEARL PROAL FUND AND GENERAL CHARITABLE GRANTS Dallas Community Foundation, an Oregon non-profit corporation (Foundation), intends to make a distribution from the Anthony and Pearl Proal Fund (Proal Fund), together with an additional distribution of unrestricted funds. The total amount available to be distributed from the Proal Fund is \$30,000.00, with additional funds to be distributed from other unrestricted charitable funds of the Foundation of \$16,000.00, for a total distribution of \$46,000, in amounts up to a maximum of \$5000, each. Pursuant to the terms of the Proal Fund, the net income of the Proal Fund is to be used for general charitable purposes, at the discretion of the Foundation, with preference

given to eligible services benefiting senior citizens. The Foundation supports services and programs that primarily benefit residents within the Dallas School District boundaries. Notice is hereby given that charitable organizations that provide services to senior citizens may apply for a distribution from the Proal Fund. Other charitable organizations may also apply for grants from both the Proal Fund and the unrestricted charitable fund. Further information and a grant application may be obtained at www.dallascommunityfoundation.com. Applications will be accepted until January 30, 2026. Awards will be announced March, 2026. Dallas Community Foundation PO Box 1001 Dallas, OR 97338 This notice is published for three successive weeks on December 31, 2025, January 7, and 14, 2026.

PCIO25-1449 Notice of Regular Meeting Board of Directors Wednesday, January 7, 2026 2:00 - 4:00 pm The Willamette Health Council is the community governance body for? PacificSource Community Solutions, Marion County and Polk County Coordinated Care Organization (Marion-Polk CCO). The Health Council's Board of Directors serves as the Marion-Polk CCO's governing board. The board is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public and will be held online via Zoom video/conference call. For additional meeting information, visit <https://willamettehealthcouncil.org/notice-of-regular-meeting-board-of-directors/> If you



would like to sign-up for the Public Comment portion of this meeting, please email: info@willamettehealthcouncil.org The public comment portion will not exceed 20 minutes, and each person will be allowed roughly 3 minutes depending on the number of participants. A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities, or for interpreter services, should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to? ohouck@willamettehealthcouncil.org.

PCIO25-1448 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice IN Self Storage - Salem West located at 2401 Salem Dallas Hwy NW, Salem, OR 97304 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below list of Occupants whom are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 01/21/2026 at 10:00AM. Tonya Dusa Unit #081. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1447 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice IN Self Storage - Salem Wallace located at 300 Musgrave Ave., NW Salem OR 97304 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below list of Occupants whom are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 01/21/2026 at 10:00AM. Traci Holm Unit #121; John Hoffman Unit #181; Allissa Terrill Unit #3018; Nicole Smotherman Unit #5006; Adam Wilson Unit #5025. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

PCIO25-1451 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Diana K. Schweitzer has been appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF DEBORAH K. GABRIEL, deceased, by judgment of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Polk County, Probate Case No. 25PB10277. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned Personal Representative, c/o Susan P. Cook, Attorney at Law, 790 State Street, PO Box 5943, Salem, OR 97304, within four (4) months after the date of first publication of this notice as stated below, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of this court, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published: December 31, 2025. Diana K. Schweitzer Personal Representative Susan P. Cook, OSB #962492 Attorney for Personal Representative PO Box 5943 Salem, OR 97304 (503)910-0900 e-mail: spcook@willamette.edu

PCIO25-1452 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of LAURETTA BELL ANDERSON, Deceased No. 25PB10794 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mark A. Swanson 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: December 31, 2025. LAWRENCE W. ANDREWS PC, OSB #871520 Lawyer for Personal Representative

PCIO25-1453 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE - On 01-30-26, at 10:00 am at the Polk County Sheriff's Office, located at 850 Main St. Dallas, OR. 97338, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property located at 915 N. MAIN ST. INDEPENDENCE, OR. 97351. The court case number is 25CV17027, where PIONEER TRUST BANK, N.A. is plaintiff, and DIVINE HOLDINGS LLC, an inactive Oregon limited liability company; DIVINE DISTILLERS INC., an Oregon corporation; INDEPENDENCE BEVERAGES LLC, an Oregon limited liability company; JASON A. GREENWOOD AND JENNELL C. IVES, individually and as trustees of the IVES-GREENWOOD JOINT REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, JANNEY MONTGOMERY SCOTT LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, DONALD G. EDIGER AND PATRICIA K. EDIGER, doing business as D.E.B. ENTERPRISE, an inactive Oregon assumed business name; CBS OUTDOOR GROUP INC., a Delaware corporation, formerly known as VIACOM OUTDOOR, INC. is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand or cashier's check made out to Polk County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: <http://oregonsheriffssales.org/>

PCIO25-1454 PUBLIC SALE Public Sale at Godsey Secure Storage, LLC, 1360 SE Godsey Road, Dallas, OR 10:30AM Saturday, JANUARY 17, 2026. All sales CASH, VISA or MASTER CARD ONLY. Units will be sold as a whole. Call (503) 831-0234 for details. Tenant Unit(s) Benzley, Chris F354 Blanchard, Jacob F334 Blanton, Mike B100 Daniel, Mailei C111 Davis, Mitch B062 Dixon, John F335 Halverson, Matt F370 Fowler, Josh E255 Miller, William C153,C161 Pointer, Natasha A020 Sickles, Sherie D176 Vallez, Cynthia F380 Villarreal, Rusty C166

PCIO25-1455 PUBLIC SALE NOTICE at Dallas Secure Storage, LLC, 1497 SE Brookside Avenue, Dallas, OR (east off Godsey Road) 10 AM Saturday, January 17, 2026 All sales CASH, VISA, M/C ONLY. Units sold as a whole. Call (503) 623-3703 for details. William Bolinger L355 Mike Desirey B033 Sherri Holley L417

Shawna Lagow L391 Richard Maxfield I288 Alan Murphy I310 Sandra Page I300, L440 Shannon Patterson M485 Cassidy Plueard E108 Robert Poole J227 Neal Read I205 Russell Whittlinger I278, I307, L358, L434, L411 Bruce Yoder H196

PCIO25-1442 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF POLK No. 25PB10765 Probate In the Matter of the Kenneth N. Doughton Revocable Living Trust Agreement, Kenneth N. Doughton, Deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A. is serving as Trustee of the Kenneth N. Doughton Revocable Living Trust, dated October 11, 2011 (Trust), and as Trustee has filed a Petition to Determine the Claims of Creditors of the Trust and Trustor/Settlor Kenneth N. Doughton, who is now deceased, in the Circuit Court of Polk County, State of Oregon, Circuit Court No.25PB10765. The Trustor/Settlor of the Trust is Kenneth N. Doughton. All claims are required to be presented to Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee, P.O. Box 2305, Salem, Oregon 97308. Claims against the Trust estate may be barred unless presented to the Trustee at the address herein specified within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the Trustee, from the records of the Court, or from the attorney for the trustee Dated and first published December 24, 2025. Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee Sarah K. Rinehart, Attorney at Law OSB# 821142 117 Commercial Street NE, Suite 300 Salem, Oregon 97301

PCIO25-1437 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS NO.: 25-72886 Reference is made to that certain Deed of Trust (hereinafter referred as the Trust Deed) made by MICHAEL EVANS AND JULIE EVANS, HUSBAND AND WIFE as Grantor to FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION, as trustee, in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as designated nominee for LEADERONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary, dated 8/18/2023, recorded 8/18/2023, as Instrument No. 2023-006270, re-recorded on 7/21/2025 as instrument no. 2025-005463, re-recorded again on 9/22/2025 as instrument no. 2025-007247, in mortgage records of Polk County, Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: BEGINNING AT A POINT 31 FEET EAST AND 9 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, IN BLOCK 23 IN E.A. THORP'S TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE, POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE SOUTH 51.0 FEET IN A DIRECTION PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 1; THENCE WEST 31.0 FEET ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF LOT 1 TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOTS 1 AND 2 TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 2; THENCE EAST 57.16 FEET

ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LOT 2; THENCE SOUTH 40.5 FEET IN A LINE PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 2; THENCE SOUTHWEST APPROXIMATELY 38.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHICH IS 57.16 FEET EAST AND 40.5 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 2, BLOCK 23, E.A. THORP'S TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE, IN POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY APPROXIMATELY 38.5 FEET TO A POINT WHICH IS 31.0 FEET EAST AND 9.0 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE LOT 1 IN SAID BLOCK 23; THENCE SOUTH 51.0 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE EAST 10.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 51.0 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY TO A POINT 10.0 FEET EAST OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE WEST 10.0 FEET. The street address or other common designation, if any for the real property described above is purported to be: 240 GRAND ST INDEPENDENCE, OREGON 97351 The Tax Assessor's Account ID for the Real Property is purported to be: 375843 / 08421-CA-04901 Both the beneficiary and the trustee, ZBS Law, LLP have elected to foreclose the above referenced Trust Deed and sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and a Notice of Default and Election to Sell has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). All right, title, and interest in the said described property which the grantors had, or had power to convey, at the time of execution of the Trust Deed, together with any interest the grantors or their successors in interest acquired after execution of the Trust Deed shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed and the expenses of sale, including the compensation of the trustee as provided by law, and the reasonable fees of trustee's attorneys. The default for which the foreclosure is made is: The monthly installment of principal and interest which became due on 7/1/2024, late charges, and all subsequent monthly installments of principal and interest. You are responsible to pay all payments and charges due under the terms and conditions of the loan documents which come due subsequent to the date of this notice, including, but not limited to, foreclosure trustee fees and costs, advances and late charges. Furthermore, as a condition to bring your account in good standing, you must provide the undersigned with written proof that you are not in default on any senior encumbrance and provide proof of insurance. Nothing in this notice should be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the beneficiary under the deed of trust, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the loan documents. The amount required to cure the default in payments to date is calculated as follows: From: 7/1/2024 Total of past due

payments: \$37,820.50 Late Charges: \$874.80 Additional charges (Taxes, Insurance, Corporate Advances, Other Fees): \$2,107.25 Suspense: (\$862.85) Trustee's Fees and Costs: \$1,338.50 Total necessary to cure: \$41,278.20 Please note the amounts stated herein are subject to confirmation and review and are likely to change during the next 30 days. Please contact the successor trustee ZBS Law, LLP, to obtain a "reinstatement" and or "payoff" quote prior to remitting funds. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the Trust Deed due and payable. The amount required to discharge this lien in its entirety to date is: \$342,464.58 Said sale shall be held at the hour of 9:00 AM on 3/24/2026 in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, and pursuant to ORS 86.771(7) shall occur at the following designated place: At the front entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR 97338 Other than as shown of record, neither the said beneficiary nor the said trustee have any actual notice of any person having or claiming to have any lien upon or interest in the real property hereinabove described subsequent to the interest of the trustee in the Trust Deed, or of any successor(s) in interest to the grantors or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: NONE Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation(s) of the Trust Deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by ORS 86.778. The mailing address of the trustee is: ZBS Law, LLP 5 Centerpointe Dr., Suite 400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 946-6558 Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. Dated: 11/4/2025, ZBS Law, LLP, Amber L. Labrecque, Esq., OSB#094593 ZBS Law, LLP Authorized to sign on behalf of the trustee EPP 45763 Pub Dates 12/17, 12/24, 12/31, 01/07/2026

NWSDS Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for 2026

NorthWest Senior & Disability Services (NWSDS) has a five-member Board of Directors (BOD) consisting of a County Commissioner from each of the counties they serve (Clatsop, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties). The function of the BOD is to advise NWSDS management on all important matters affecting the operations of the agency.

The public may attend any of the BOD meetings unless it is an Executive Session. The agenda includes regular board business, public comment, legislative updates, updates on NWSDS programs, and various board and agency reports.

Below are the BOD meetings that will be held in 2026:

January 5, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
February 2, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
March 2, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
April 6, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
May 4, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
June 1, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
July 2026 – no meeting
August 3, 2026 – in person meeting at NWSDS - 3410 Cherry Ave NE, Keizer, OR
September 2026 – no meeting
October 5, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
November 2, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
December 7, 2026 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
The public may attend any of the virtual meetings via zoom:
<https://nwdsd.zoom.us/j/84621225310?pwd=Cepwv2o2jpuHnEaU3Dncd9KtjLIDSz.1>
or by phone: 877-853-5247 US Toll-free, Meeting ID: 846 2122 5310

For questions about accessibility or to request an accommodation, please contact Gloria Kincade at 503-304-3482 or gloria.kincade@nwdsd.org. Requests should be made at least 48 hours prior to the event.

To learn more visit: [Board of Directors – NorthWest Senior and Disability Services](https://nwdsd.org/about-us/nwdsd-board-of-directors/)



NorthWest Senior & Disability Services
SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) AND DISABILITY SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL (DSAC) 2026 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

The function of the Senior Advisory Council (SAC) and Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) is to advise the Board of Directors and the Executive Director on the general welfare of older adults and people with disabilities in the areas served by NWSDS (Clatsop, Marion, Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties). It is to also advise the Board of Directors on the services to older adults and people with disabilities served by the Agency, and on all important matters affecting the operations of the agency, except for matters of personnel administration, staff pay, and benefits.

The agenda includes regular council business, public comment, legislative updates, updates on NWSDS programs, recommendations to the board of directors, and various council member and agency reports.

Meeting Dates {SAC 10:30 am, Joint 11:00 am, and DSAC 1:00 pm}:
Thursday, January 15, 2026
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Thursday, March 19, 2026
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Thursday, July 16, 2026
Thursday, September 17, 2026
Thursday, November 19, 2026

The public can attend this meeting via zoom:
<https://nwdsd.zoom.us/j/353358393>
Or by phone: 877 853 5247 Meeting ID: 353 358 393#

A meeting passcode is required to join the zoom meeting. To request a passcode, accommodations/accessibility, or interpreter, or for questions, contact Kim Hunt at 503-967-1848 or kim.hunt@nwdsd.org. Requests should be made at least 48 hours before the event.

To learn more, visit: <https://nwdsd.org/about-us/advisory-councils/>

NEWS & VIEWS

Weekly SUDOKU

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

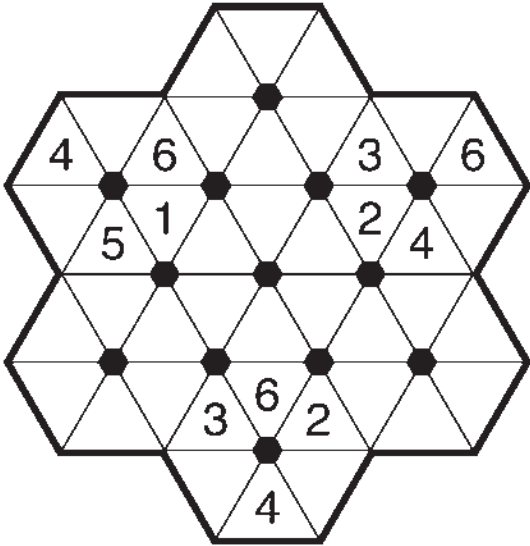
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

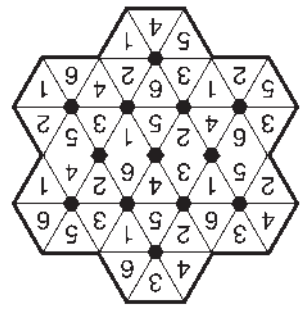
There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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SNOWFLAKES
solution

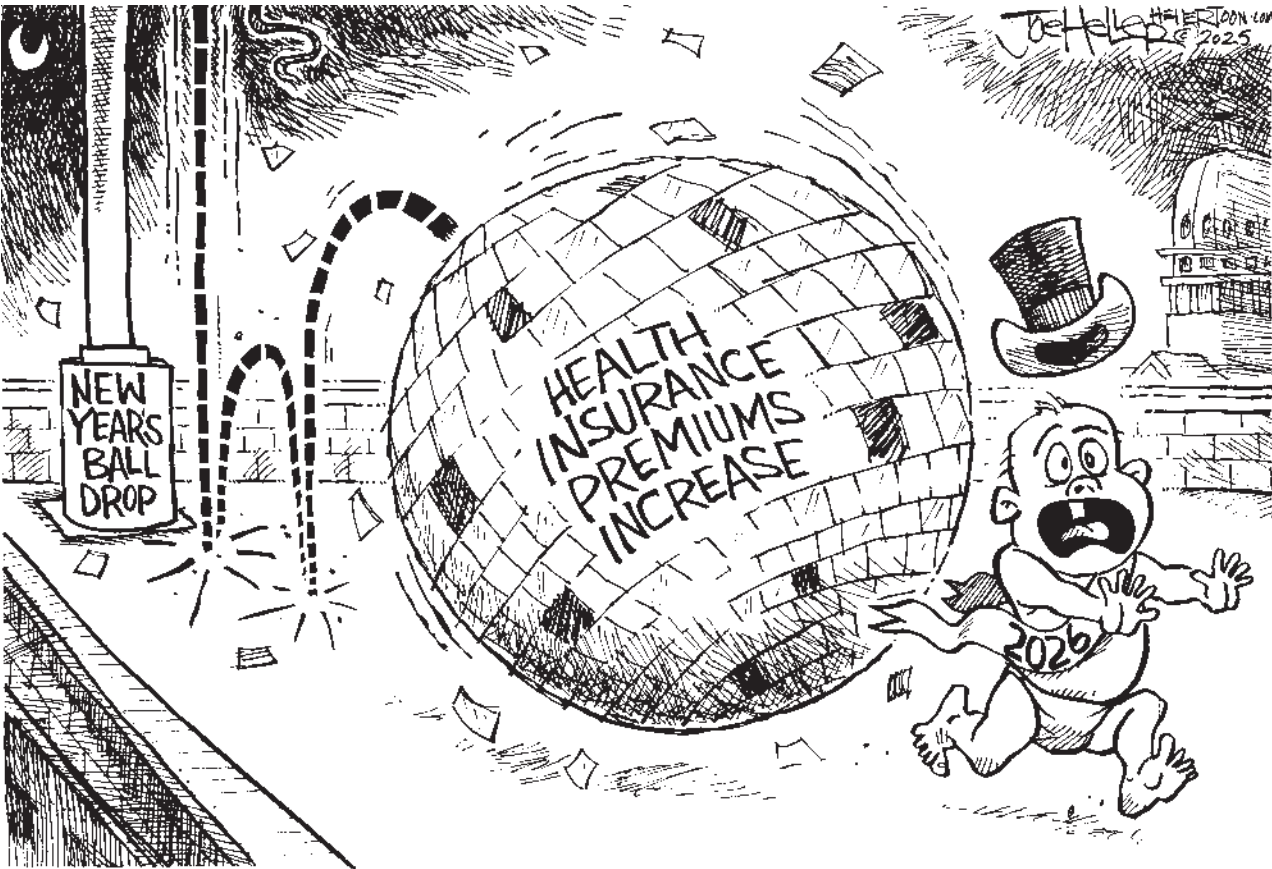
9	8	2	1	6	5	3	7	4
6	3	1	4	7	9	2	5	8
5	7	4	2	8	3	6	9	1
8	6	9	5	7	1	4	2	3
7	1	9	3	4	2	5	6	8
2	4	5	6	9	1	8	3	7
4	5	7	1	6	9	5	3	2
1	9	8	7	2	3	4	6	5
3	2	6	5	8	4	7	1	9

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

Weekly Online Poll

How are you feeling about the upcoming year?

- ☐ Confident and positive - 14.8%
- ☐ Optimistic but cautious - 37.0%
- ☐ Pessimistic and not hopeful - 44.4%
- ☐ I don't know how to feel - 3.7%



Commentary

Special Moments:
When You're Gone

By GARY DEROWITSCH

Loss is something each and every person experiences at some point in their life. As a very young boy I had a fear of my mom dying. There were times I would sob and cry uncontrollably. My mom would comfort me as I begged her to never die. Of course she reassured me that she wasn't going to die, at least not in the near future.

She did however share with me the truth that everyone must die some day. Being able to push my fear out into the future helped at least for the moment but there would be many more days I would find myself visiting that horrible monster again.

We all have found a friend, companion, loved one that we wish would never leave. The thought of them no longer being in our life causes a feeling of loss that is unbearable. I'm sure you can think about who that might be for you and how difficult it would be if they moved away, or even worse, passed on.

The pain we feel from such loss is gut wrenching. You cry and cry and cry and the pain just does not go away. There is really no way to describe it but it is an emotional feeling deep inside your stomach that won't leave. The loss of someone we love is so severe that we even consider straying away from future relationships to avoid the pain all over again.

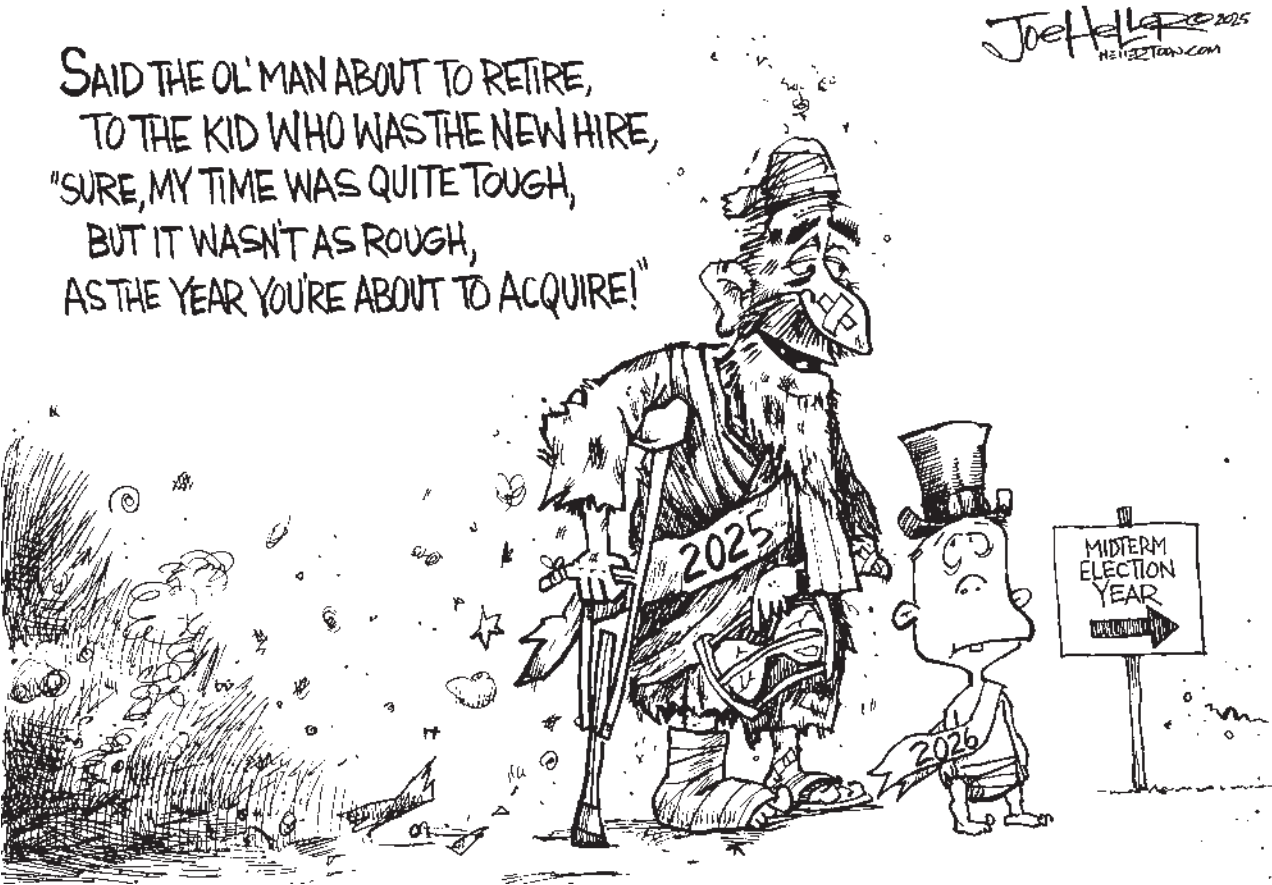
As I get older I often think of how I could have been a better person to those I love the most. I have succeeded at times and failed at times. Yes, I would have done a lot of things differently if I could go back in time. Unfortunately that isn't possible. The older and maybe wiser I get I've come to one very important conclusion. The only thing that really matters is how much we love others, especially those closest to us. Love covers a multitude of mistakes. In fact the Bible tells us... Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins."

I do have someone in mind at the time of this writing. No longer having them in my life would be unbearable. My heart would break and leave me paralyzed with pain, a condition I'm not sure I would ever heal from. There are no guarantees, nothing for sure except that we can all call on Jesus to save us and someday be united with him and our loved ones in Heaven

I pray my daughter and son will remember how much I love them. I hope they like me will take time to think back about all the times we shared together, and know beyond any doubt that I their dad love them eternally and unconditionally, that I've prayed for them night and day, that God would send his Angels to surround and protect them and bring them joy and happiness.

Someday the loss will come for each and every one of us. Do your best to love one another now before they are gone. That is the only remedy I know of that will heal a broken heart.

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



Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF POLK COUNTY.

Serving Polk County families since 1875.

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(USPS) - 437-380)

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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6 months.....	\$65
Monthly.....	\$10

DIGITAL ONLY

Electronic edition annually.....	\$75
Electronic edition monthly.....	\$9

POSTMASTER

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

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

HOW TO REACH US

Joe Warren | Chief Executive/Operations
jwarren@countrymedia.net

940-372-1008

NEWSROOM

David Hayes | News Editor
dhayes@polkio.com

NEWS DEADLINES

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

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Joe Warren

jwarren@countrymedia.net

940-372-1008

CLASSIFIED LINE
ADVERTISING

adavis@polkio.com
503-444-7924

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

Classified ads are updated daily at polkio.com.

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer
Sports
www.polkio.com

Quantity, quality present in improving Dallas swim team

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

Head coach Chris Ludwick has seen the Dallas swim team nearly tripled in size in just three seasons.

The program opened the 2025-26 campaign with 27 swimmers, up from just 10 swimmers two years ago, in what was Ludwick's first season at the helm. Prior to his arrival, roster sizes had dipped to as low as four to six swimmers.

"This was about rebuilding numbers so we could actually compete," Ludwick said of his initial steps. "I wanted to rebuild a program."

Growth is translating into results. Dallas is 4-1 in dual meets this season. With one win coming against Class 6A McNary.

"It's pretty impressive for a 5A team to beat a 6A team. But we did," Ludwick said.

Of the 27 swimmers on the roster, four are experienced club swimmers, six have prior high school experience, and the remaining athletes are novices, many of whom are freshmen.

Recruiting efforts targeted incoming students directly during school registration events, where the coach said he actively encouraged students to try swimming. Several students who sparkle in other sports, such as state champion runner Amber Green, joined the team as a way to keep in shape during winter.

Swimming rewards depth as much as top-end finishes. Roster size, for example, has helped Silverton remain one of the conference's elite for years. The Foxes are so deep



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON

Senior Gabe Decker, one of the leaders of the Dallas swim team, is also among the league's best in his specialties of freestyle and breaststroke.

they routinely enter two to three teams per relay event, while Dallas would struggle to field one relay squad.

"Even if you win an event, a team with more swimmers can score more points by placing third, fourth and fifth," the coach said.

Not so this season. Dallas has been able to enter multiple swimmers and, at times, relays per event. It's been years since the Dragons had this luxury.

An expanded roster has also created postseason opportunities. Ludwick said the boys relay team has a

legitimate chance to qualify for the state meet. Several individual swimmers are trending toward state qualifying as well.

"In past years, we didn't have any one ready for state," he added. "This year, it's looking really good for us."

Gabe Decker, a four-year varsity swimmer and team captain, specializes in the breaststroke and freestyle. He has been a competitive swimmer for some 11 years, and competes year-round at the club level. He has also qualified for club state champion meets.



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON

Chris Ludwick, now in his third season as coach of the Dallas swim team, has seen the roster nearly triple in his tenure.

For the Dragons, Decker swims the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 100 breaststroke. His primary focus is on relays, however.

The Dallas boys are in contention to qualify for state in the 200 freestyle relay, with an outside chance at the 200 medley relay, Decker said.

"If we make it, it would be my first state relay," he added.

The boys relay is also approaching a school record in the 200 freestyle relay, a mark Decker said is within reach with continued training.

"I think we'll beat it," he added.

Dallas swimmers as a whole are showing measurable improvements. Decker noted performance gains were evident between the opener and second meet, and have continued throughout the season.

"We won quite a few" of these events, Decker said. "Not all of them, but definitely more than we did in the past."

Early success has placed Dallas in what Ludwick described as the upper half of the Mid-Willamette Conference. The goal is for

a finish as high as third at districts

Ludwick believes even more success is on the horizon.

"As long as we keep getting the numbers we need. Dallas is going to be a real competitive team for years to come," he added.

Previously, Ludwick coached club and high school swimmers in McMinnville. He also trained with a national group of Olympic-level coaches through PEAK camps, which brought together top talent from the United States and abroad, including Mexico, Europe and Japan.

Dragons named to All State



OSAA 5A Football All-State

Dallas High School

First Team

Landon Holbrook, running back, senior; Israel Mabry, offensive lineman, senior; Hunter Rivers, linebacker, senior.

Second Team

Aidan Galusha, defensive line, junior; Chase Eriksen, defensive back, senior; Nicklas Schneider, kicker.
Third Team

Chase Eriksen, receiver/tight end, senior; Asher Olliff, offensive lineman, junior.

Honorable Mention
Aidan Galusha, running back, junior; Landon Holbrook, kick returner, senior.

Prep Scoreboard (basketball)

Central High School
Dec. 21: Girls 44, Sprague 48
Dec. 22: Boys 58, Thurston 55
Dec. 22: Girls 36, Newberg 50

Dec. 23: Boys 33, Nelson 61

Perrydale High School

Dec. 22: Dufur 53, Girls 41
Dec. 22: Dufur 53, Boys 41

Falls City High School

Dec. 22: Boys 22, Triangle Lake 56
Dec. 22: Girls 22, Triangle Lake 62

Sports Calendar

Wrestling
Jan. 7 - Central at McKay Dual Meet, 6 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Jan. 8 - WVC at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 8 - Falls City at Chemawa, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 - Central at Woodburn, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 - Dallas at Lebanon, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10 - Perrydale at Crane, 4 p.m.
Jan. 12 - Perrydale at CS Lewis Academy, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 - Central at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball

Jan. 8 - WVC at Perrydale, 7 p.m.
Jan. 8 - Falls City at Chemawa, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 - Central at Woodburn, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 - Dallas at Lebanon, 7 p.m.
Jan. 10 - Perrydale at Crane, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 12 - Perrydale at CS Lewis Academy, 7 p.m.
Jan. 13 - Central at Dallas

Swimming

Jan. 13 - Central at Dallas Dallas Aquatic Center, 4 p.m.



The Polk Flea Market At
The Polk County Fairgrounds

JANUARY 3 & 4

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SAFETY
From Page A3

system, and they found a way to have those dollars restored.”

He assured the commissioners Polk County has a very highly functioning victims advocate office, touting they have on staff bilingual employees that allows them to serve the community at an even higher level.

Felton added more officers are needed throughout safety enforcement agencies. In his own office,

they don’t have an investigator and he could make the pitch to the budget committee that would be an overall savings. He’d also like the county to have a more robust medical examiner program.

“We’re a growing county with growing law enforcement and public safety needs. I’m sure I’m not the only department coming to you with such issues,” Felton said.

Commissioner Craig Pope wanted to dive deeper into the stats Felton presented. Starting with the 167 average referrals. He wanted to know if the trendline

was, going up, down or remaining flat. While Felton didn’t have immediate access to a long-range trend, he felt they were “consistent.”

Pope explained he asked because he felt generally, people love to live in Polk County because they feel safer, and perceive their quality of life is better than surrounding counties.

“But, we have to convert that feeling into a willingness to pay for it,” he said.

He wanted Felton to get ahead of the conversation about the need to renew the county’s public safety

levy, while realizing there is a limit to that generosity. He also expressed the need for Felton to tout his success rate in court convictions while he’s out stumping for levy dollars.

“I’d say to the public, what we’re doing is working. We think based on all these results, we should continue to practice what we’re doing,” Pope said, adding losing dollars would backslide the county into a less successful rate at deterring crimes.

Felton concluded by saying there are some fundamental values in what his office is doing with

public safety in Polk County. They have been in place since he took his job and they have been continued to be bolstered by having the public safety levy.

“They’ve spent the approved funds on people who prosecute crimes, people who assist those people who prosecute crime, sheriff’s deputies who enforce those crimes ... while intentionally not having a ‘do not prosecute list,’” Felton said. “We have done everything we can to prosecute all of the crimes that have been brought to us in an ethical and responsible, and I believe, a thorough manner.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR JANUARY 1-7, 2026

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

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

9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center

11 a.m. - Kid’s Noon Year’s Eve Party, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.

11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community 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. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center

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

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

8 p.m. - Back to the 80s New Year’s Eve Party, Court Street Pub & Grub, 186 SW Court St, Dallas

THURSDAY, JAN. 1

Public libraries and senior centers closed for New Year’s Holiday

7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas

FRIDAY, JAN. 2

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

9 a.m. - Stretch exercise 1, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. – Art Workshop/CardsTable Games/ 6 Handed Pinochle, Dallas Area Senior Center

10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise 2/Drawing for Fun/Writer’s Workshop, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Gardening Class, Dallas Area Senior Center

12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center

1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Art Afternoon & Sunshine Club, Monmouth Senior Community Center

1 p.m. - Medicare Plans, Dallas Area Senior Center

1:30 p.m. - Jewelry making, Monmouth Senior Community Center

1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center

2 p.m. - Free English Second Language classes at the Dallas Library, 950 Main St.

2 p.m. - Family Bingo! Monmouth Public Library

4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.

6 p.m. - Live Music: Johnny Wheels and the Swamp Donkeys, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence

6:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Friday Night Meeting, Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas

6:30 p.m. - Acoustic Music Jam, Guthrie Park, 4320 Kings Valley Highway S.

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Speaker Meeting, Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St.

SATURDAY, JAN. 3

8:30 a.m. - Friends of the Senior Center Pancake Breakfast, Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St.

6 p.m. - Live Music: The Roundhouse Band, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence, \$10 cover charge

7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

SUNDAY, JAN. 4

9 a.m. - Polk Flea Market, Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Highway, Rickreall

1 p.m. - Live Music: Feel Good YaYas, 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, JAN. 5

7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity at 7, Life Center Foursquare Church, 437 D St., Independence

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

9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Rotating Pinochle/5-Crowns Game/Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center

10 a.m. - Alzheimer’s Support Group, Dallas Public Library

10 a.m. - Stretch Exercise/Hand & Foot/ Cribbage/ASL Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center

11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals On Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center

12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center

12 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Noon Step Study, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas

1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center

1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Cheryl/Technology Help with Ian, Monmouth Senior Community Center

4 p.m. - Youth Coding League, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.

4 pm - Karaoke, Dallas Area Senior Center

6 p.m. - Dallas City Council Work Session, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.

6:30 p.m. - New Horizons Orchestra, Monmouth Senior Community Center

7 p.m. - Independence Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 555 S Main St.

7 p.m. - Dallas City Council meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.

7:30 p.m.- Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center

TUESDAY, JAN. 6

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

9 a.m. - Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center

10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center

10:30 a.m. - Children’s Storytime, for ages 5 and under, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.

10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center

10:30 a.m. - Family Storytime Reading Rainbow Party, for ages 3-5, Monmouth Public Library

11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center

12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center

1 p.m. - Bunko, Dallas Area Senior Center

6:30 p.m. - Community Dance Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center

6:30 p.m. - Monmouth City Council meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.

7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesday Grace, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E Ellendale Ave., Dallas

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7

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

9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Tai Chi with John/Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center

11 a.m. - Lunch w/Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community 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. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center

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

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Eola Hills hosts Yoga + Wine Jan. 1

Eola Hills Wine Cellars presents New Years Yoga + Wine, from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 1 at 501 Highway 99 in Rickreall. Begin with a 60 minute, all-levels yoga class in the barrel room led by Mikki Trowbridge, and then stay for a glass of wine to cheers to 2026. Suggested donation of \$5-\$10 per yogi for practice. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/4pd3XQB>.

Signups open for annual Brockway Memorial Golf Tourney

The 23rd Annual Brockway Memorial (Open) Golf Tournament is Feb. 7 at Cross Creek Golf Course. The event will be a two-person scramble format over 18 holes with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$80 and includes green fees, hole prizes, gross/net prizes and snacks. A player does NOT need a handicap in order to compete in this tournament and the field is open to both men and women and mixed teams.

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

The deadline for sign up is Jan. 30 and is limited to the first 120 paid players. For more information and/or an application visit

or call the pro-shop at (503) 623-6666, go to the Cross Creek Facebook or website www.crosscreekgc.com.

Polk County Democrats resume meetings in January

A reminder from the Polk County Democrats: In honor of the winter holidays, there will be no meetings during December. Join them when they return to our regular meeting schedule by Zoom on Jan. 8 and in-person for Talk About it Tuesday on Jan. 20.

4-H hosts Arts & Sciences Discovery Day Jan. 10

Oregon 4-H Polk County presents Arts & Sciences Discovery Day from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Polk County Fairgrounds. Youth can explore workshops in needle felting, LEGO builds, succulent gardens, glassworking, squishy circuits, foam sword combat, soldering, crocheting, painting ceramics, watercolor, calligraphy, song-writing, and more. Admission is \$20 per participant and \$10 for enrolled Polk County 4-H youth. To sign up, go to <https://bit.ly/3XMXzhpq>.

DDA hosts Winter Bingo Jan. 13

The Dallas Downtown Association presents Winter Bingo, from 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at Two Wolves Taproom at 171 SW Court St., Dallas. Registration is \$15. Bring

a pair of socks to support the Community Clothing Closet and The Kindness Club and get an extra blackout bingo card. Must be 21 or older to purchase bingo cards and claim prizes.

Monmouth Library hosts free computer class Jan. 13

Goodwill presents a free computer class “Computer Basics” from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Monmouth Public Library at 168 Ecols St. S. Learn how to Log in, personalize computer settings, navigate applications, and manage files & folders. Includes hands-on practice. Build a strong foundation by learning the basics of computer use.

Book Club meets Jan. 14

The Get Lit! Book Club meets at 6 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., to discuss the book “The Invisible Life of Addie Larue” by V.E. Schwab.

Dance studio hosts All Ages Family Dance Jan. 16

The Lora Michele Dance Studio hosts an All Ages Family Dance, with Music by DJ Kdub, from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 16 at 939 S Main St., in Dallas. Admission is \$5 per person or \$25 for a family of five or more. Kids ages two and under, and support workers, get in free. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/48VZ1t1>.

Dallas Event Center hosts Big Band Jazz Party Jan. 24

The Dallas Event Center and Lora Michele Dance Studio present a Big Band Party with Big Band Jazz Party, from 7-10 p.m. Jan. 24 at 939 Main St., Dallas. Enjoy a fun evening of dancing, live jazz music, delicious food, and 1920s-inspired costumes. To purchase tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/48wFfpb>.

Pajama Party Fundraiser returns Jan. 24

Benedetto Vineyards, Sable House and New Morning Bakery Dallas host a Pajama Party Fundraiser from 4-7 p.m. Jan. 24 at 14020 Orchard Knob Road, Dallas. Grab your slippers and head to Benedetto Vineyards in support of this local, vital resource for domestic and sexual violence victims. Bring donations of new pajamas and personal hygiene items to be entered into the raffle. Fun games and activities await at this Slumber Party-themed event.

Monmouth Library hosts Lego party Jan. 28

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

PAGES OF THE PAST

40 Years Ago

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1985

Police halt check scam

Dallas police apparently have broken up a scam that may have bilked at least seven local businesses over the past two months.

Patrick R. Boggs, 29, was arrested by Dallas police Friday on two counts of theft 1, eight counts of theft 2, and an outstanding warrant from Lincoln County for failure to appear on a driving under the influence charge under the name of Patrick Deon Whittaker. The arrest follows a series of incidents that began in November and continued through this month, as well as one charge of theft from the Hong Kong Restaurant.

Valsetz project still scheduled

Plans for a Valsetz hydro-electric project still call for an early spring start although engineering plans won't meet the Tuesday, Dec. 31 state deadline to qualify for tax credits.

The company is still looking at a late March start on building the power house and 8,500 foot pipeline on the South Fork Silitz River. A February start is also possible.

County Settles holiday issue; King Presidents Day dates set

A debate over the manner in which employees will observe the newly created Martin Luther Day Jr. holiday has sprung up throughout Oregon, and Polk County is no exception.

The Polk County Board of Commissioners decided Dec.18 to follow a precedent established by the state

Legislature which combines the Washington and Lincoln holidays into a single Presidents Day and observes the King holiday.

50 Years Ago

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1975

County is looking for committee participants

The Polk County Commissioners appointed Claudia Burton of West Salem to the Polk County Budget Committee Tuesday. Burton, a professor at Willamette University, was nominated by Commissioner Alan Miller.

The board also reappointed Dean Allen of Greenwood Road to the Polk County Fair Board for another term.

Hildebrand not to run again

Polk County Commissioner Henry Hildebrand announced Tuesday that he would not seek re-election in 1976 to the Board of Commissioners.

There had been speculation that Hildebrand would not seek a fourth term as county commissioner in the Republican primary in May, 1976.

Many involved in production of school program

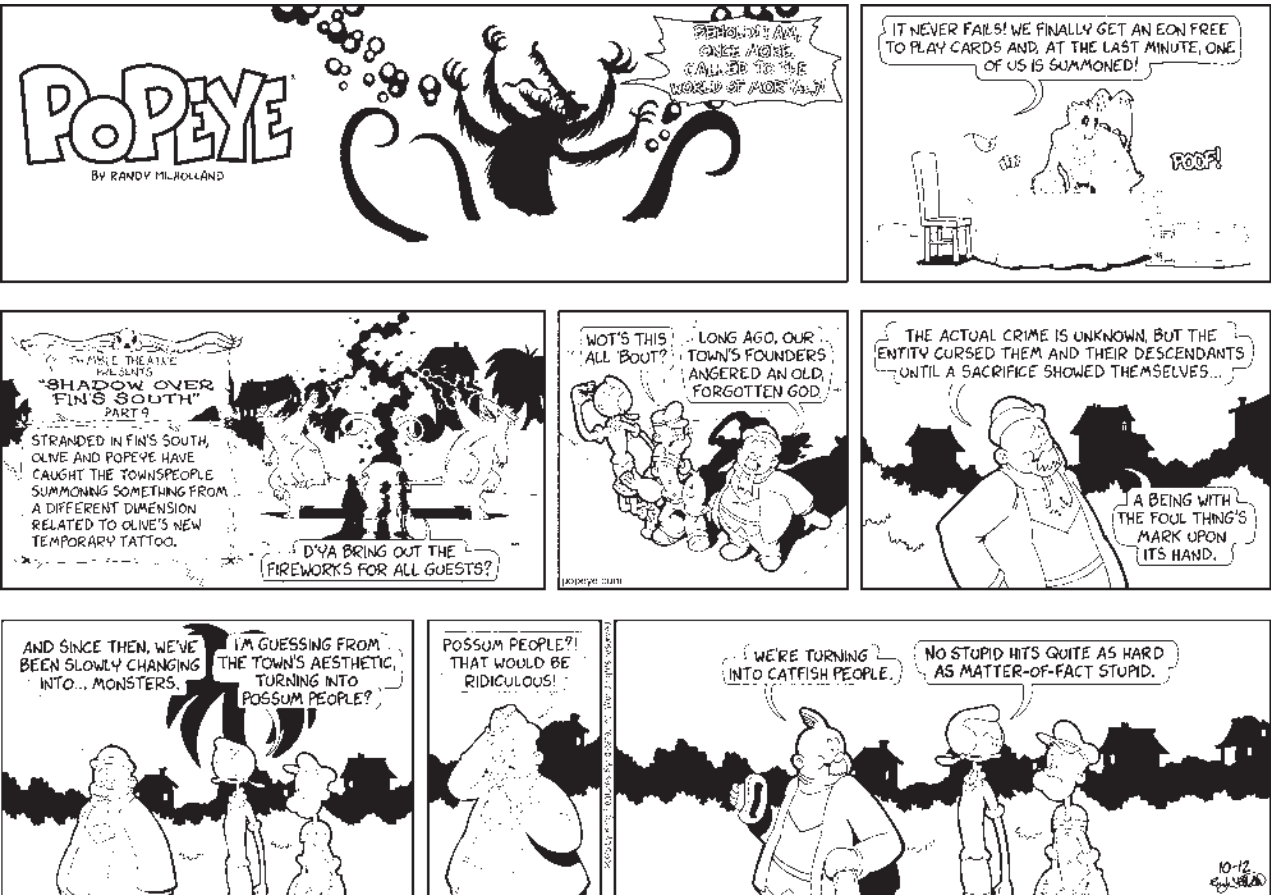
An excellent performance was given in the Falls City gym Monday night when the grade school held their annual Christmas program. The theme for the program was the Twelve Days of Christmas, and all did a fine job. All classes gave their own renditions of each day while the song was being sung. It was slightly different from the original but very unique and entertaining.

FLASHBACK



FILE I-O PHOTO

This week's Flashback is from Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1975: SCOUTS - These six Cub Scouts of Dallas Pack 39, Den 2, got ready on Monday of this week to distribute food they collected for the Independence "mean on wheels" program. The Scouts distributed the food as a goodwill project for December and collected the canned and packaged goods by going door-to-door in Dallas. The food was delivered to the Senior Center in Independence. The Scouts are (from left) Troy Overstreet, Jeffrey Rood, Mike Daulton, Richard Androes, Scott Busselle and Arjay Flaherty. The program was organized by Sally Sheffield, Dee Spinna, Fran Flaherty and others.



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Monmouth — 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1182

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186 West Ellendale Avenue, Dallas
Phone: 971-900-4984

Amity man drowns in Yamhill River

An Amity man was found drowned in the Yamhill River Dec. 19 after ignoring road-closed signs due to flooding.

According to the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, at about 7:40 a.m. they received a 911 call regarding a vehicle

which had driven past road closure signage into high water covering the roadway on Southwest Dejong Road between Ballston Road and Christensen Road.

The caller observed the vehicle get swept off the roadway by the water with

the current carrying the vehicle east from the road into a large, flooded area on the south side of the South Yamhill River. A witness observed a single occupant getting out of the vehicle into the water.

Deputies from the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office and Polk County Sheriff's Office Oregon responded with mutual aid support from Dallas Police Department and Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department. Sheridan Rural Fire Protection

District responded and requested assistance from Salem Fire Department with a water rescue team.

Using a drone deployed by Dallas police to search the area, a body was located in the water. Salem Fire Department water rescue

team and a Yamhill County resident with extensive water training and experience deployed with an inflatable boat and were able to recover the victim.

The victim is identified as a 52-year-old man from Amity, Oregon.

Q E L T V H
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Answers

Super Crossword

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

YES, IT'S SO MUCH NICER THAN SEEING YOUR FRONT.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

Super Crossword THE NIGHT BEFORE

ACROSS

1 For the stock issue price

6 Low voices

12 Test version

16 Aykroyd of "Coneheads"

19 Small wine or oil container

20 "Fighting" NCAA team

21 Epochs

22 Logging tool

23 * Fourth-day gifts in a Yuletide song

25 * Warming Yuletide drink

27 Earthen cooking pot

28 Bedazzled

29 Suffix with art

31 President Reagan

32 * Flying Yuletide team

34 * Leafy Yuletide door decoration

37 Tooth: Prefix

38 Fashion flair

40 Shared by us

41 Soften

45 Fed, e.g.

47 High trains

48 Ill, neighbor

49 Religious branches

50 Figure skater Dorothy

54 Some toy batteries

55 * Much-anticipated Yuletide visitor

57 * Yuletide tinsel, ornaments and lights

59 Wray of "King Kong"

60 Circular square dance maneuver

61 Actress Reid

62 Keeps pelting

64 Eat away (at)

66 Backup strategy

68 * Plant hung up for Yuletide

70 Jessica of "King Kong"

75 Roaring cat

77 Bombardier's attack

79 Paper pack

80 Quality evoking pity

84 In time past

85 * Phrase from the Yuletide carol "Silent Night"

87 * What "it's lovely weather for" in a Yuletide tune

90 NFL scores

91 To a huge degree

92 Church cries

93 Nav. leader

94 Be litigious

95 Buddy

96 Zesty taste

97 Intl. 1940s conflict

98 Misstep

100 Edge along

105 * Yuletide tree, e.g.

108 * Time off for Yuletide, say

110 "Scram!"

113 Office tel. add-on

114 — fire under (stirred up)

115 Make — for it (try fleeing)

116 * Scrooge in a Yuletide classic

119 Apt phrase spelled out by the first letters of the answers to the starred clues

122 Spock's pointy part

123 Toon frames

124 Tough trial

125 Capital of Ghana

126 Seeded loaf

127 Jenner of reality TV

128 Subtle distinction

129 Detested

DOWN

1 Honda model

2 Seat of Ireland's County Kerry

3 Arrive at a stop, as a bus

4 Tilted

5 Camping gear retailer

6 Conference for UC Davis

7 Einstein or Camus

8 Lost traction

9 Knightly title

10 Alternatives to escaroles

11 Spacek of "Carrie"

12 Scrooge's cry

13 Vanity

14 "Neon" fishes

15 Chichi scarf

16 Father, to a wee tot

17 Skating jump

18 "Adorkable" sort, perhaps

24 Scot's denial

26 Wearing stilettos, say

30 Involving give-and-take

33 — for "Murder" (Hitchcock film)

34 Troubles

35 Totally spoil

36 Word before while

39 Brewing fungi

42 Brazilian juice berry

43 Kind of poker

44 Canadian gas station name

46 Smooth but unconvincing

49 Meanie's look

50 URL opener

51 Asia's — Sea

52 Actress Sorvino

53 One-named supermodel

54 Once more

55 More reasonable

56 Oral health org.

58 Pixar title fish

59 Book leaf

63 Rocket part

64 Targets

65 Astrophysicist — deGrasse Tyson

67 Online journals

69 Wall Street worker

71 Circle parts

72 In tidy order

73 Chutzpah

74 TV trophy

76 "Sorta" Opera queen

80 Jr.'s exam

81 — mater

82 Adolescent

83 Be determined by

84 Be a fan of

86 Chip topper

88 Texters' playful growl

89 "Yeah, dude"

90 Rotate

94 Transparent, informally

95 Empty talk

97 "Buddy Holly" rock band

99 Egg-holding capsule

101 Lake that feeds the Mississippi

102 Fortright

103 Paris art museum

104 Group of nine

106 Sweater type

107 Parolee, e.g.

109 Vid recorder

110 Bar brew

111 Auction site

112 Richard of "First Knight"

114 Legal claim

117 Roth of horror films

118 Web feed format inits.

120 Dietary std.

121 Sigh of relief