

Independence

City honors Marilyn Morton's passing

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Panthers footballers lean into entering new era

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THE DALLAS COWBOY'S LIFE

99West singer Joe Shinkle takes whirlwind tour of rodeos, movie sets

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

Joe Shinkle has a confession. He admits to living a double life.

The longtime lead singer of 99West, Shinkle recently returned from the road, after announcing over the last six months at least 100 hours worth of rodeos in Idaho, Arizona, Oregon, and Wyoming.

On top of that, he found time to “dip his toe” into the world of filmmaking and win an award for an original song along the way.

Now back in Dallas, he’s reunited with his bandmates, who he said kept practicing while he was on the road so they wouldn’t miss a step when they take the stage Sept. 18 for their debut at Dallas Nights.

But that is all the public side of his persona. There’s still that issue of his private life.

“I live a double life. I honestly do. I go from being out in the middle of a rodeo crowd, and hearing this roar. And, having the best seat in the house. That’s the coolest thing about rodeo,” Shinkle said. “And, then the other side of me is, okay. I want to go home.

“And, I don’t want to hear anything more than that for a while. Even when we’re doing the music. I love when we’re doing it. And, I love meeting everybody. And, catching up with people at the end of the show. But, when it’s over and the equipment is put away, I want to go home. I want to go plant my butt on the couch.

And, fire up the remote.”

Renowned for his decades heading the country rock group Joe Shinkle and 99West, he has found his way into other endeavors due to his music connections.

His foray into announcing rodeos was simply because he was there.

“Somebody no-showed, for whatever reason. And, somebody else was like, ‘Well, Joe does music and stuff.’ So, I did it. Here I am. It’s so much fun,” he said.

With a multi-state tour of family and friends, Shinkle ended up at the rodeo, lending his voice to the action. He most recently returned from four straight nights in Cody, Wyoming and several more at Kaycee, Wyoming, home of country singer Chris LeDoux.

The trick, he said, to doing it well and keep being asked to return, was his experience in the music industry.

“It’s the exact same thing as music. Crowd engagement. You have to make them happy that they’re there, feel like a part of it. And, I go out into the crowd with a wireless mic. It’s a little nerve-wracking the first time you do that. Because you don’t know how they’re going to take it. I’m sitting down next to people, talking to people,” Shinkle said. “And, being prepared. If you’re not ready, if you don’t know the rules to rodeo, you’re going to get eaten alive. But, it’s awesome.”

His next career move was as an extra on a cowboy movie set.

“My wife’s cousin sent me a



FILE I-O PHOTO
Joe Shinke performs with 99West on the headliners stage at the last Krazy Dayz festival in Dallas.

deal that said, hey, they’re taking auditions for this movie,” Shinkle recalled. “And, I’ve never been in a movie. So, I showed up. And, I sat there for eight hours.”

After sitting there the whole day, outside Tombstone, Arizona, one could say Shinkle bribed his way on to the cast.

“I went up to the director after the audition. The budget was so low, they didn’t have any horses,” Shinkle said. “You know, you don’t have any horses. Well, we can’t afford them,” the director told him. “And, I was like, well, yes you

See 99WEST, page A8

Drivers urged to ‘Watch for Wildlife’ this fall season

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

As deer, elk, and other wildlife begin their fall migration, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation reminds drivers to stay alert, helping prevent collisions.

Each year, an estimated 5,000 large animals are struck and killed on Oregon roads, with accidents peaking in October and November as deer and elk migrate to their lower elevation habitat. Collisions not only threaten wildlife but also endanger the safety of motorists.

“Fall is a wonderful time of year in Oregon and a great excuse to slow down, take in the scenery, and look around for wildlife”, said Tim Greseth, Executive Director of Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Drivers can reduce the risk of a collision by slowing down at dawn and dusk, particularly in areas with wildlife crossing signs, and by avoiding sudden swerves. When an animal is seen trying to cross a road, chances are high that others will follow.

Proceeds from the sale and renewal of the Watch for Wildlife specialty license plate support projects that help animals move between habitat patches, including across Oregon’s highways and roads. Wildlife passage projects have included dedicated undercrossings and overcrossings, as well

See WILDLIFE, page A8

Senior center mural pays tribute to best of Monmouth

By DAVID HAYES
I-O Editor

One of the Monmouth Senior Community Center’s meeting rooms had a long, white wall in need of some art, anything, to break up the monotony.

Rather than purchasing generic art purchased from a hobby store, the center instead unveiled a massive mural project Sept. 2 that was years in the making, created with the help of the members of the senior community.

Barbara Cronin, Senior Community Center Director welcomed a couple dozen community members to the unveiling and the genesis of the colorful project. She explained that in 2023, both Monmouth and Independence joined the AARP network of age-friendly cities and communities.

“What that means is that our community’s elected leaders made a commitment to serving

our older adults in our community as well as all ages. What that looks like is that we look at things through a more age-friendly lens and we look at the eight domains of livability,” Cronin said.

Those domains included housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, student participation and employment, communication, respect and social inclusion, social participation and health services and community support.

“Here at the Monmouth Senior Community Center, we look at all eight of those things on a pretty regular basis and how we can provide resources to older adults in our community and point them in the right direction and help them in all of those regards,” Cronin said.

After joining the network, AARP Oregon gifted the senior center \$2,000 in seed money

See MURAL, page A8



PHOTO BY DAVID HAYES
Artist Allison Hmura (right) and Melody Barrett, Monmouth Arts & Culture Chair, unveil Sept. 2 the massive mural created to hang inside the Monmouth Senior Community Center.

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News Briefs



JOSEPH WIRKKALA GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR 2025 WALLACE MARINE PARK MURDER
Polk County Circuit Judge Norman R. Hill sentenced Joseph Wirkkala on Sept 1 to life in prison for the 2025 murder in Salem’s Wallace Marine Park of Jacob Collazo, 62. Under the terms of the sentence,

Wirkkala, 38, will be required to serve a minimum of 32 1/2 years in prison before he is eligible for parole.
In addition to the charge of second-degree murder, a Polk County jury found Wirkkala, of Salem, guilty of assault 1, unlawful use of a weapon, menacing and reckless endangering involving Collazo.
The jury also found Wirkkala guilty of second-degree attempted murder, attempted first degree-assault, menacing, unlawful use of a weapon, attempted fourth-degree assault and reckless endangering, involving a second victim, Nichelle Issak, 36. The jury also found Wirkkala guilty of recklessly endangering

a third victim, Edward Baker, 50.
After the sentencing, Polk County Chief Deputy District Attorney Matthew T. Wilson extended the DA office’s “deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Collazo on their tragic and senseless loss.”
“It is our hope that the court’s sentence today leaves them feeling that some measure of justice has been served,” Wilson said. “We also extend our gratitude to the dedicated officers of the Salem Police Department for their investigation and commitment to seeing Mr. Wirkkala brought to justice.”
The case was prosecuted by Wilson and Deputy District Attorney Connor Amundson. The

case was investigated by the Salem Police Department and Oregon State Police.
MICC SEEKS QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATE FORUMS
The Monmouth-Independence Area Chamber of Commerce hosts their 2026 M-I Town Candidate Forums at The Gate Youth Association, 1501 Monmouth St., in Independence from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 7 and from 68 p.m. Oct. 8. The community is not only invited to attend but also submit their own questions for the candidates running for mayor and city council in Monmouth and Independence. To send in questions through

Sept. 21, go to <https://forms.gle/gHag9n2db-7zDTm8r9>. Submitting a question does not guarantee it will be asked, and the name of the person submitting the question will not be shared publicly.
SALEM POLICE ARREST TEEN IN WEST SALEM SHOOTING
The Salem Police Department has made an arrest in connection with a West Salem shooting that occurred near Taggart and Wallace Roads NW on Aug. 30.
On Sept. 1, at approximately 11:32 a.m., SWAT personnel served a search warrant in the 1300 block of Wallace Road Northwest. The suspect, a 16-year-old male

from Salem, surrendered without incident and was taken into custody.
Violent Crimes Unit detectives recovered a handgun during the search. The suspect will be transported to the Yamhill County Juvenile Detention Center after processing and lodged on charges including Murder in the Second Degree, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm.
The victim and the suspect were known to each other, and the shooting appeared to be an isolated incident.
This is the second homicide investigated this year by the Criminal Investigations Section and the only one involving gun violence.

Indy honors Marilyn Morton’s passing, legacy

The city of Independence on Aug. 11 honored the life, service and legacy of Councilor Marilyn Morton, who died suddenly on July 27. Mayor Katie Schwarzler read into the record a proclamation detailing Morton’s long contributions to the city and community of Independence.
We reprint it here in full:
“WHEREAS, the City of Independence mourns the passing of Councilor Marilyn Morton, whose remarkable dedication to public service and unwavering commitment to the people of Independence enriched the community for decades; and
WHEREAS, Councilor Morton faithfully served the citizens of Independence as a



Marilyn Morton

member of the City Council beginning in 2002, including serving as Council President, providing thoughtful leadership, steady guidance, and a deep commitment to responsible local government; and
WHEREAS, Councilor Morton believed that strong communities are built through service and generously devoted countless hours to civic,

educational, historical, cultural, and business organizations, including serving as Treasurer and Board Member of the Independence Downtown Association; President of the Heritage Museum Society; board member of the Friends of the Independence Library; former Treasurer and member of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce; former President of the Central High School Band Booster Club; former Guardian, parent volunteer, and pianist for Job’s Daughters; and participating in organizations such as the Youth Business Academy, the Ash Creek Arts Center, the Ash Creek Water Control District; and the PTA; and
WHEREAS, Councilor

Morton worked tirelessly to preserve and celebrate the unique history and character of Independence, founding and coordinating the annual Ghost Walk, co-founding and serving as Vendor Coordinator for the Hop & Heritage Festival, authoring Haunted Independence, Oregon, preparing the 2 Cities, 1 Community (2C1C) newsletter, co-founding the community Read-a thon, teaching piano to generations of community members, and volunteering her time to countless community events, leaving a lasting legacy of civic pride, education, and community engagement; and
WHEREAS, through every role she accepted, Councilor Morton demonstrated generosity,

integrity, leadership, and an enduring belief that every act of service—large or small—could strengthen the community and improve the lives of others; and
WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to express its profound gratitude for Councilor Morton’s extraordinary contributions to the City of Independence and extends its heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and all whose lives were touched by her compassion, leadership, and friendship
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Independence hereby honors the life and legacy of Councilor Marilyn Morton, recognizes her decades of

dedicated public service and volunteerism, and expresses the community’s sincere appreciation for her immeasurable contributions to the City of Independence.
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this proclamation be entered into the official records of the City of Independence as a lasting tribute to Councilor Marilyn Morton, whose legacy of service, leadership, and love for her community will continue to inspire future generations.
DATED this 11th day of August 2026.”
(Editor’s Note: Due to a typo that misspelled Marilyn Morton’s name in the headline when the story originally ran Sept. 19, we reprint it in full here.)

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PLC names McKenzie Bakke to Senior Leadership Team

By **PCL DIGITAL MEDIA**

Partnerships in Community Living (PCL) is pleased to announce that McKenzie Bakke has joined the organization’s Senior Leadership Team as an Area Director serving Southern Oregon.

Bakke has been part of PCL for 15 years, beginning her career on PCL’s Yard Crew before moving into residential services. She has gained extensive experience supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and spent several years in leadership



McKenzie Bakke

and coordination roles. Throughout her career, Bakke has demonstrated a strong commitment to PCL’s mission and a

belief that everyone has a place.

Her dedication has been recognized with several honors, including the PCL Playbook All-Star for Tenacity in 2018, the Abundance Mentality Leadership All-Star Award in 2022, and the prestigious Al Rutherford Award earlier this year. In her new role, Bakke will help lead PCL’s Southern Oregon services as part of the Southern Oregon Operations Team.

Bakke says she “grew up at PCL,” having spent time at her mother’s workplace as a child and

even learning to sit up in a recycling box near her mother’s desk. Fifteen years after receiving her first official PCL paycheck, she now brings that longstanding connection and experience to her new leadership role.

Outside of work, Bakke enjoys traveling and is working toward visiting all 63 U.S. National Parks, with 18 already checked off her list. She is also working on her fourth McMenamins Passport and enjoys escape rooms, musicals, and giant troll sculptures. She and her significant

other share a lively household of seven cats.

About PCL

PCL supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live meaningful, fulfilling lives in their communities and homes. Founded in Independence, Oregon in 1987 as Polk County Summer Camp for the Handicapped, PCL initially provided integrated recreation for about 75 people in Polk, Marion, and Yamhill counties.

Today, PCL serves approximately 200 people across eight counties

and employs roughly 650 team members. Services range from 24-hour in-home support to career-building programs, community inclusion initiatives, and individualized assistance tailored to each person’s goals and needs.

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

Monmouth student joins dental care crusade to Jamaica

Kennedy Kantola, of Monmouth, was one of 11 students to join faculty and support staff from Oregon Tech’s Dental Hygiene program to travel to Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Aug. 14-25. The Klamath Falls school’s International Externship Program (IEP) provides dental care to underserved populations with limited access to services.

Kantola joined student team members Bria Brownie, Bailey Dillon, Paulina Gamboa., Clarissa Leyva, Michelle Mendoza Ruiz, Emily Peterson, Jessica Smith, Miah Turner, Sitlaly Valdez, and

Carson Weaver. Assistant Professor Jeannie Bopp and Adjunct Instructor Kelsey League accompanied the students, along with alumnus James Grow and Oregon Tech Dental Clinic Administrative Program Assistant Daniel Ede.

The IEP includes coursework during spring, summer, and fall terms. During spring term, students learned about Jamaican culture, the country’s health care system, social determinants of health that can prevent access to dental care, and oral health disparities in Jamaica and the United

States. Summer coursework focused on intercultural communication, cultural norms and sensitivities, teamwork, conflict management, and ethical dilemmas students could face. During fall term, students will reflect on their cultural learning and how the externship shaped their lives and future work in the profession.

During the trip, the students provided 382 cleanings, 374 fluoride treatments, many sealants, and assisted as needed with fillings, root canals, and extractions. Together, the clinics delivered dental treatment services to 637

patients.

The patients served were members of underserved populations who lacked access to care due to social determinants of health, including financial constraints, limited availability of dental professionals in public health settings, limited dental health knowledge, and transportation barriers.

“Clinics operated on a first-come, first-served basis, and many patients began arriving at 3 a.m. and waited throughout the day, and some returned over multiple days for an opportunity to receive care,” Bopp said.

Jamaican dentists also participated in the clinics and expressed appreciation for the services.

“They said some patients could otherwise remain on waiting lists for a year or longer, including those seeking emergency care,” Bopp said. “The clinics helped relieve part of the backlog local dentists face in providing care to vulnerable populations. Our IEP team wants to thank the Oregon Tech Foundation, community donors, dental supply companies, and dentists who donated supplies and provided financial support to our students.”

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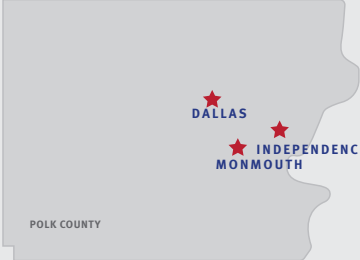
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SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC

DPSST invites Oregonians to reflect 9/11 at memorial

As the nation marks the 25th anniversary of 9/11, the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) welcomes the public to view the September 11 Memorial at the Oregon Public Safety Academy on Friday, Sept. 11. Visitors are invited to reflect on the lives lost, the extraordinary acts of courage shown that day, and the enduring impact the attacks continue to have on our country.

The academy hosts a permanent display of artifacts from the attacks that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people, including 343 firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers and 55 military

personnel. In addition to the lives lost in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, thousands of first responders have succumbed to illness resulting from their heroic rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero.

The memorial serves as a testament to the courage, service, and selflessness demonstrated on 9/11. It honors those who rushed toward danger without hesitation, those who supported months-long recovery efforts, and the families and communities who have carried the weight of loss for 25 years. It also provides a meaningful connection for younger generations, helping them understand

the significance of the day and the humanity shown in the face of unimaginable tragedy.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the memorial on Friday, Sept. 11, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The academy is located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy. SE in Salem. Upon entering academy grounds, signage will direct visitors to the main entry. The memorial display is located in the lobby.

Artifacts on display at the 9/11 Memorial include:

- A floor beam from either 5 or 6 World Trade Center
- A structural beam from the base of the North Tower (1 World Trade

- Center)
- A support strap from the towers' mechanical systems
- A smaller floor beam from above the 50th floor of one of the Twin Towers
- A piece of exterior aluminum "skin" from one of the towers
- A limestone façade section from the Pentagon, recovered near the point of impact

The artifacts are accompanied by a video tribute, a painting by artist Ricardo Salazar depicting the attacks, and the flags of New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, displayed in honor of the lives lost in each of those states.

The Oregon Public

Safety Academy campus also houses memorials dedicated to Oregon's fallen law enforcement officers and fire service professionals. The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial commemorates 199 officers who have died in the line of duty since the 1860s, and the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial honors 185 fire service members lost since 1881. DPSST holds annual ceremonies to remember these individuals and their service to Oregon communities.

About DPSST

The mission of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is to pursue excellence in

training and accountability for public safety professionals.

DPSST certifies and licenses police, corrections, and parole and probation officers, as well as regulatory specialists, emergency telecommunicators and medical dispatchers, criminal justice instructors, private security providers, private investigators, fire service professionals, and polygraph examiners in the state of Oregon.

DPSST works with public and private safety agencies around the state to provide basic, leadership and specialized training at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem and regionally throughout the state.

Lawmaker to propose financial support for small cities left in financial limbo

MIA MALDONADO
Oregon Capital Chronicle

After a city in his district temporarily shut down several of its parks because it couldn't pay for their maintenance, a Democratic state lawmaker is proposing the Legislature create a fund that would provide small Oregon cities with emergency financial assistance to keep community spaces open.

Rep. Paul Evans, D-Monmouth, announced last week a plan to introduce during the 2027 Legislative session a proposed \$1 million fund housed at the state's economic development agency Business Oregon,



Riverview Park in Independence, Ore., pictured here, was nearly closed in August due the city's lack of maintenance funding. It was reopened after the nonprofit Friends of Community Parks provided an emergency grant. (Courtesy photo from the City of Independence)

which would allow cities with fewer than 20,000 residents to apply for a grant or low interest loan to maintain parks,

libraries, museums and other essential community spaces when they face budget crises. The grants and loans would be available up to \$50,000, Evans said.

The proposal was inspired by the city of Independence earlier this month closing five of its parks, citing insufficient funding to maintain them, he said. Two have since reopened after receiving a \$30,000 grant from the nonprofit, Friends of Community Parks,

the Statesman Journal reported.

The financial assistance, likely funded by the Oregon Lottery, would provide a temporary solution to a greater problem that needs solving, Evans told the Capital Chronicle.

"The current property tax system is failing Oregon cities and counties," he said, citing ballot measures voters passed in the 1990s that set limits on property taxes and how they're assessed.

Before 1990, local

governments had more flexibility to raise property taxes to address future funding needs. But between 1990 and 1997, voters passed three ballot measures limiting the property taxes local governments could collect.

The first decade and a half of these laws cost the state \$41 billion in local revenues, Mark Henkels, a professor of public policy and administration at Western Oregon University, wrote in the Oregon Encyclopedia.

The property tax limits are pushing local governments to add new fees or taxes in order to supplement much needed revenue, Evans said.

For example, the Independence City Council in June voted to impose new fees that will cost city residents about \$19 per month to pay for operations at the city's library, parks and a local museum. A referendum to repeal those fees has temporarily stalled the city from collecting the extra revenue until voters decide in the November election, resulting in the city to close some of those spaces.

"The underlying need for comprehensive, thoughtful revenue reform is long past due, and we're living with the consequences," Evans said, "and right now, I'm trying to put a Band-aid on a bleeding chest wound."

He added that he

understands a proposal to divert revenue from the Oregon Lottery to a new emergency fund for small communities could be a difficult task to pull off during the 2027 legislative session because lawmakers "have so much work to do."

One of the most pressing issues Oregon lawmakers will face come January is passing a transportation package that will generate new revenue to fund the Oregon Department of Transportation as it faces an impending \$200 million shortfall in the 2027-29 budget cycle.

Evans proposes calling his plan the "Burns-Horton Protection Fund," naming it after his mother, grandmother and his chief of staff's grandmother. All three depended on access to libraries and parks, he said.

<https://oregon-capitalchronicle.com/2026/09/02/oregon-lawmaker-to-propose-financial-support-for-small-cities-left-in-financial-limbo/>

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

Elaine Cook

1938 - 2026

Born August 28, 1938 in Lewiston, Idaho to Harold and Ella Robinson. She was married to Jack E. Cook on June 29, 1956 and spent 54 years together until Jack's passing in 2010. Together they had four children. She was a stay at home mom and helped Jack with his raising and breeding horses and cleaning stalls. She loved her time spent hunting, camping, fishing and traveling, checking out the many Ghost towns in the states.

After a hip injury in November 2025 and rehab she came to live with her Daughter and Son-in-law in Netarts for more rehab. Her health steadily declined and on August 3, 2026 she passed away in Netarts with family by her side. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jack



and a sister Barbara. She is survived by one brother Roger of Tempe, AZ., son Paul of Monmouth, daughter Pearl and husband Ken of Netarts, son Sandy and companion Nancy of Spokane, WA and son Clay and companion Julie of Canyon City, OR, several Nieces, Nephews, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Great Great Grandchildren.

Per Elaine's wishes there will be no service.

DEATH NOTICE



Marilyn Morton
Oct. 24, 1952 - Nov. 27, 2026

Marilyn Sue Morton lost a short battle with pancreatic cancer and passed away July 27th, 2026. She will be remembered by so many, for so much. In her memory, please keep these ideas close: Patience, Trust and Gratitude, that Giving and Receiving are two ends of the same experience and that if it isn't fun; you shouldn't do it. We miss you, Marilyn.

Cremated and ashes spread in the ocean

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NEWS & VIEWS

Special Memories: My Secret Kingdom

By GARY DEROWITSCH

There was a time in my life when, though I did everything a normal man would do, I found the pressures of life mounting one after another. I began struggling with depression.

The problems were too many, coming too fast, and they carried serious consequences. Try as I might, I was unable to keep my head above water; I was drowning a slow and painful death. Out of desperation, I needed to find an outlet—something that would give me space, time alone, and a place to rest, collect my thoughts, and reevaluate my life.

That place revealed itself to me one day when I walked away from everything. I made my way beyond the river, along some train tracks, and found a trail leading

into hills covered in trees and ferns. My first step on that trail was a turning point, even though I was unaware of it at the time. Disappearing into the trees, I found a place I could call my own—a place that only I inhabited, a place of refuge, a place to hide.

For the next several years, I spent many hours exploring my new kingdom, locating every hiding place and every trail that led to secret places. I always wore camouflage to help me blend in with the landscape. At the top of the main trail, I found a meadow with an old orchard of apple trees long beyond their prime.

Beyond the meadow, I discovered an entry point to what I called the “great cathedral.” There, two lines of fir trees formed a hallway about ten feet wide. This hallway continued for

about 40 feet and led to a small opening surrounded by trees, where a thick growth of ferns thrived.

I had never seen such a dense display of ferns. What I quickly discovered was that they provided a shelter—a hiding place where it would be next to impossible for anyone to find me—and I could crawl beneath their fronds quickly from one location to another. Trying to walk upright through them would be difficult and noisy. This was my first place of refuge.

Over several months, I discovered several places that would be difficult to find. Each place had one thing in common: it was shaded from sunlight by a thick canopy of tree limbs above. I also created trails that led down various tree-covered hills with limited brush. These were what I called

“emergency runways”—easy to locate yet offering a quick descent down the hillside. If someone happened to spot me, I could quickly disappear down the hill to a safe location.

This was my secret kingdom, a place where I could escape. Here, I was able to find solace and seclusion. I would often spend hours sitting against a tree, letting my mind rest. I vividly remember one autumn afternoon, in November, I found a small clearing hemmed in by trees. The fallen leaves created a warm, colorful bed to lie back on. It was around 11 a.m., and though the air was chilly, the sun provided enough warmth to keep me comfortable.

I lay back and soon drifted off. I had no idea how long I had been asleep, but when I opened my eyes, four or five deer

were standing right next to me, nibbling on leaves. One was close enough that I could have reached out and touched it.

Unfortunately, my sudden movement startled them, and they quickly sprinted away. I wish I had been able to wake up without moving so I could have just enjoyed their presence. Either way, it was a truly magical moment.

I found myself visiting my secret place often, sometimes going every day after work for weeks in a row. I had a lot of friends, but in all the time I visited my sanctuary, none of my friends or acquaintances ever knew. Maybe this speaks to how close our friends really are to us. With no one ever knowing about my behavior—and that lasting over several years — I have to wonder: Did I really have a close

friend? It would seem to me that if so, he or she would have caught on to my daily retreats.

Without this escape — a refuge where I could be alone — I might never have recovered from the intense and serious conditions that were influencing my life. I eventually outgrew the need to go there, but during those years, I was able to recover and get through all the situations that were pulling me down.

Today, as far as I know, no one knows. Maybe telling my story is part of the therapy and the healing process. Why it took me so long to share, I’m not sure. What I am sure about is that my secret kingdom provided a refuge where I could heal.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VOTE YES ON FAIRGROUNDS LEVY IN NOVEMBER

The awards ceremony at the County Fair, the 4-H exhibits, the quilt displays, the canned and baked goods – they all tell you why the fair is worth supporting.

Children and adults alike, often in family groups, celebrate some fundamentals of Polk County history and the traditional activities that are who we have been and are becoming. It’s not a big high-dollar fair, but it’s here and it’s us. It just fits.

So please, when the vote comes to support the Polk County Fair, find it in you to support it. We aren’t talking about another huge government program, or some subversive attempt to influence public thinking or policy. We are celebrating our history, our communities, our neighbors, family and friends, and come right down to it – ourselves. That’s just plain good – and important.

Please vote Yes on the

County Fair Operational Levy in November.

Don Homuth, Salem

VOTE NO ON INDY PARK LEVY TO RESTORE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

What a sad commentary for a city to fence off its parks because they can’t manage funds that come from their own constituents. It’s time to stop this downward spiral in fiscal irresponsibility.

Step one, vote, “No” on the park fee in November.

Step two, “Stop voting

for council and mayoral candidates whose main agendas are political and what feels good.”

There is no room for a political agenda in a small town. When I was Mayor of Monmouth, I

was the only Republican on the council, yet we accomplished many things because we focused on what was best fiscally for the city in the long term. There should be no difference in the management

of personal funds and a city’s budget. For some reason when it is other people’s funds, fiscal responsibility leaves the room.

Larry Dalton, Dallas

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should contain at most 350 words. The Polk Itemizer-Observer reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any letter to the editor. Letters published in The Itemizer-Observer will also be published online. Letters to the editor and guest columns must include your first and last name, city or town or residence, and phone number for verification purposes. Letters endorsing candidates or campaign issues must be received no later than ten days before an election. Letters written by candidates will not be accepted. Letters to the editor should be the author’s work. We strongly discourage and will attempt to weed out form letters, letters mailed to other news outlets, or letters written and edited by a third party, including but not limited to political parties. We try to restrict the printing of one submission per author per month. We do not publish anonymous letters, personal attacks, personal complaints, poetry, consumer complaints, or letters written in bad taste. To send a letter: Mail: Editor, Polk County Itemizer-Observer, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338. Email: ionews@polkio.com. Office: 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

TEMP/RAINFALL

AUG. 31 - 85 53 0.00

SEPT. 1 - 69 57 0.00

SEPT. 2 - 63 56 0.45

SEPT. 3 - 60 54 0.55

SEPT. 4 - N/A

SEPT. 5 - N/A

SEPT. 6 - N/A

TOTAL SEPT. 3 - 0 0.99

TOTAL THROUGH AUG. 31 - 0.01

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Was the city of Independence justified in closing its city parks until learning the results of the November vote on approving/disapproving the fee to pay to maintain the library, museum and parks?

Yes - 38.7%

No - 59.1%

No opinion - 2.2%



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Polk County

Itemizer-Observer

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(USPS) - 437-380)

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Monthly.....\$10

DIGITAL ONLY

Electronic edition annually.....\$75

Electronic edition monthly.....\$9

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

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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 | 1 p.m. Friday

Obituaries | 1 p.m. Friday

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Joe Warren

jwarren@countrymedia.net

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officemgr@polkio.com

503-444-7924

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Retail Display Ads | 3 p.m. Wednesday

Classified Display Ads | Thursday 5 p.m.

Classified Line Ads | Thursday 5 p.m.

Public Notices | Thursday 5 p.m.

Classified ads are updated daily at polkio.com.

MAGIC MAZE ● — IN A —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: ONCE IN A — MOON

Be hurry Fill form Gone flash Peas pod
Bird cage Fish pond Once while Pig poke
Bug rug Get bind One million Rat trap
Do pinch Get rut Pearl shell

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Paper on desk is missing. 3. Desk is not as wide. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. The is different. 6. Blinds are higher.

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Americanisms

“The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.”
— Dorothy Parker

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Super Crossword TWO-BY-FOURS

ACROSS
1 Device causing a machine to operate
9 Hindu religious retreat
15 Mini-plateaus
20 Regatta event
21 Cry before “No hands!”
22 Best of the lot
23 Long-running showbiz news program
25 New Jersey’s — Hall University
26 Evening galas
27 Tiny bit
28 Some med.
30 Stay home for a meal
31 Single-session legislative group
34 The Old West’s Wyatt
37 Slimy gunk
38 Injury vestige
39 French gal pal
43 — cake (ring-shaped dessert)
46 Olive in comics
48 Break out of an egg
52 A Streetcar Named Desire
57 Hair hider
58 Milkshake alternatives
59 Was wearing
60 Certain fitness ctr.
61 Coconut tree, e.g.
62 Hurricanes. e.g.
64 “3022” co-star Omar
66 Diner lave
67 “ — cost ya!”
68 Pleasant feeling after winning
73 Wizard, in fantasy fiction
74 “Presence” co-star Lucy
75 Where the Clintons met
76 Windbag’s output
78 Litigates
79 Plus-size supermodel
81 Teepee-shaped
84 Ship
85 Wastewater
85 Color TV pioneer
DOWN
1 Humiliate
2 Fireside drink
3 Implied but not stated
4 Prenatal chambers
5 Gentleman thief
6 Subtle with a stun gun
7 Phil of folk
8 1910s-20s auto
9 God of Islam
10 Certain vegan frank
11 With 113-Across, DIYers’ guides
12 “Gunga Din” studio
13 BP’s merger partner
14 Sirs’ counter-parts
15 Awaited saviors
16 “Mourning Becomes —”
17 Occupy, as a table
18 Make up (for)
19 Have a hunch
24 Kin of “Inc.”
29 Cable inits. for film buffs
31 Sleep clinic diagnosis
32 “Neat!”
33 In a demure way
35 Tummy muscles
36 Hurry along
39 After-hours \$\$\$ sources
40 Ragù product
41 Like many vehicles on steep hills
42 Main dishes
44 Pieaffer of “Cybill”
45 Like some thickish paper towels
47 An arm and a leg
49 “Not true!”
50 Radio or TV station identifiers
51 Code for WWW pages
53 Squator of Lemony Snicket books
54 Situated
55 Psychedelic
56 Tennis event
61 Old Lutheran movement
63 Fifth-oen. pope
65 Sang alone
69 Be overly doing, in slang
70 Childhood malady
71 Prada rival
72 Corn cores
73 Fig. on a new car sticker
77 Rules, in brief
80 Give a visual once-over to
82 “Beast” star Elba
83 Street rop
86 Performed for
87 Yemen’s capital
88 Prior to
90 Salt for wintry roads
95 Decay
96 Twisting force
98 Star-related
100 Opening opera section
101 Audibly stunned
102 “I wanna try!”
103 Runs easily
104 Scale unit
105 Psychedelic
106 Seder’s “gilt”
108 Typical
109 Shul official
110 Products of 39-Down
111 Hard rain
114 Highway rig
115 Perfect spot
118 Skill, in Latin
119 Interior grade
120 Statute

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

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

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CryptoQuip

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

PWAZGQH PTAAL WELQLEAP LXQL,
TXAB ZEBPKCAV, ZQKPA SEHMP
LE PWAQM CEFA SFQBMHJ:
ZQBVGV JQCP.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

L DBBX ELVA OLU XUF PJUK
XBV’W VJJX KJLW QJNWK LK
EHOS LK WSJA VJJX
KWULFDSW RLOGJWK.
— KBHUOJ HVGVBVCV

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

THEY SAY, “IT’S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.” AT LEAST THAT’S WHAT TRAVIS AT THE TRUCKSTOP GIFT COUNTER SAID.

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Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

TONIGHT’S THE NIGHT, FELLAS. WE HAVE BRIGHT CLEAR SKIES AND REALLY GOOD VISIBILITY!

WE’RE BOUND TO SEE AN ALIEN. HECK, WE COULD BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME HIM TO EARTH.

UH... IF WE DO, WHAT WOULD WE DO WITH HIM?

I’M SORRY, WHOEVER THIS IS CAN’T SPEND THE NIGHT UNLESS I CAN SPEAK WITH HIS MOTHER.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LITERATURE: Which author published his only novel in 1890, “The Picture of Dorian Gray”?

2. GEOGRAPHY: What well-known scenic destination includes Horseshoe Falls and Goat Island?

3. MOVIES: Which animated movie features 10,297 balloons?

4. TELEVISION: What is Eleven’s favorite food in “Stranger Things”?

5. LANGUAGE: What is a stannary?

6. ANATOMY: What is a pyrogen?

7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the fastest flying insect?

8. FOOD & DRINK: What is carpaccio?

9. SCIENCE: What is the warmest ocean in the world?

10. CHEMISTRY: What is a common name for sodium bicarbonate?

Trivia answers

1. Oscar Wilde.
2. Niagara Falls, New York.
3. “Up.”
4. Eggo waffles.
5. Tin mining district.
6. A fever-inducing agent.
7. Horsefly.
8. Seasoned slices of raw beef or fish.
9. Indian Ocean.
10. Baking soda.

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Investigating the Bible: Ben Franklin and the Bible

By DAVID CARLSON PASTOR

Benjamin Franklin’s likeness graces \$100 bills. As a founding father of our country, he helped draft and then signed our Declaration of Independence. Before that, he became famous publishing from 1733-1758 Poor Richard’s Almanack, which he wrote under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders.

There is no record that he used the Bible in his writing; he only acknowledged that he used “the wisdom of many ages and nations.” He transformed truths into pithy, memorable, and humorous sayings. “A penny saved, is a penny earned,” is attributed to him. However, an internet search reveals he wrote,

“A penny saved is a penny got” and it was published previously by another.

Today, we pass by a penny on the sidewalk. In 1776, a penny purchased \$38 worth of goods; the advice was not about pocket change. Franklin’s wit is undisputed and his wise sayings are often supported by the Bible. Here’s some comparisons.

On speech, Franklin wrote, “Better slip with the foot than tongue,” “Tongue double, brings trouble,” and “He that speaks much, is much mistaken.”

The Bible says: “One who conceals an offense seeks love, but one who repeats a matter separates friends.” (Proverbs 17:9, New American Standard Version used throughout). “For lack of wood the

fire goes out, and where there is no gossip, quarreling quiets down.” (Proverbs 26:20).

“Let no unwholesome word come out from your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29).

On work, Franklin wrote: “Would you live with ease, Do what you ought, and not what you please.” “Diligence is the mother of Good-Luck.” “None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.”

The Bible states: “The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy hand will be put to forced labor.” (Proverbs 12:24).

“Go to the ant, you lazy one, observe its ways and be wise.” (Proverbs 6:6). “In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.” (Proverbs 14:23).

On enemies, Franklin wrote: “Do good to thy Friend to keep him, to thy enemy to gain him.”

In the Bible is found, “When a person’s ways are pleasing to the Lord, he causes even his enemies to make peace with him.” (Proverbs 16:7).

Franklin loved humor. “God heals, and the Doctor takes the Fees.” “A countryman between two Lawyers, is like a fish between two cats.” “Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.” The Bible had a similar verse: “Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor’s

house, or he will become weary of you and hate you.” (Proverbs 25:17).

Jesus used humor. “Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. “...Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and look, the log is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7: 1,3-4).

Franklin’s gravestone has his and his wife’s name. However, at age 22, he composed an epitaph revealing his hope: “The Body of B. Franklin, Printer; Like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out, and stript of its lettering and gilding, lies here, food for worms.

But the work shall not be wholly lost: For it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more perfect edition, corrected and amended by the Author.”

The apostle Paul looked forward to a new body: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21).

[Brief bio: Mr. Pastor (his last name, not his profession) is a Polk County, Oregon resident and graduate of Bethel Theological Seminary in Minnesota.)]

Oregon universities brace for international enrollment drop following visa delays, policies

ALEX BAUMHARDT Oregon Capital Chronicle

Ahead of the fall semester at Oregon’s largest public universities, staff are helping students from around the world navigate challenging visa delays and uncertainty over President Donald Trump and his administration’s immigration policies that are expected to drive down international enrollment.

Oregon’s senior U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, on Aug. 13 joined two dozen colleagues calling on Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a letter to explain why the senators had been hearing reports that student visa appointments at many embassies and consulates abroad were unavailable during peak application season, and why processing was taking far longer than in the past.

“We urge the State Department to ensure timely processing of ... student and exchange visitor nonimmigrant visas, consistent with the approach taken by administrations of both parties in the past, and to implement

other measures to avoid diminishing U.S. competitiveness,” they wrote.

Trump travel bans, recent changes to the length of student exchange visas, and the administration’s aggressive approach to immigration enforcement — including arrests of international students at American universities for participating in protests — have led to an estimated 20% decline in foreign student enrollment at U.S. universities this spring as compared to 2025, according to the nonprofit Association of International Educators.

A lawsuit filed two weeks ago is attempting to stop the visa-length changes from going into effect on Sept. 15, which would limit international students to four years of study in the U.S. with the option to seek an extension.

Angela Seydel, a spokesperson for the University of Oregon, said international students hoping to be on campus by the end of September to start classes have reported difficulty getting paperwork processed in time,

and have shared concerns about “ever changing federal rules.”

At Portland State University, more than 130 international students that were in the pipeline to study at the school since June 2025 have been unable to do so because of Trump travel bans on several countries in Africa and the Middle East, including 35 Iranian students and 86 Nigerian students, according to university spokesperson Katy Swordfisk. She said anecdotally enrollment staff are hearing from some Serbian and South Korean students who are currently having trouble obtaining visas.

The number of international students enrolling in U.S. universities had been rising for nearly a decade until Trump first took office in 2017. Those numbers declined every year of his first term as he enacted travel bans on several majority-Muslim countries, visa changes and as the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

In Oregon, the number of international students has been declining steadily every year for the last decade, and the

number enrolled at one of the state’s seven public universities in the fall of 2025 — just over 4,000 — was half of what it was in 2015, according to data from Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Some of that is attributable to rising tuition costs, school officials have said, because international students at most Oregon universities pay non-resident tuition that is often two or three times the cost of resident tuition. During the 2023-24 school year, as U.S. higher education institutions enrolled more international students than ever before, Oregon’s public universities continued to see declines.

“Since 2015, international enrollment declines have cost the UO substantially in annual revenue. We also see a major loss of global cultural, linguistic, and perspective difference in our classrooms, clubs, labs and community,” Seydel, of the University of Oregon, said.

Many of the declines have been among students seeking degrees

in business, computer science, and other STEM fields, according to Seydel.

International students from more than 100 countries make up nearly 6% of students at Oregon State University’s Corvallis and Cascades campuses and in online degree programs, according to spokesperson Rob Odum.

The university won’t be able to report full fall enrollment numbers until October, he said, but it’s currently home to about 1,900 international students and their families, down from 2,400 in recent years.

He said the declines don’t threaten the future of any degree programs at the university, but the loss of these students runs deeper than the tuition dollars they bring.

“For OSU, as for most U.S. universities, international students bring a wealth of talent and a connection to the world that we would not otherwise have,” he said.

More than 7,300 international students at Oregon’s public and private universities and colleges contribute nearly \$264 million

to Oregon’s economy annually, and support more than 1,900 jobs, according to the most recent analysis from the Association of International Educators.

The association estimates there are 111,000 fewer international students heading to U.S. universities during this academic year than there were at the start of the 2024-25 school year, before Trump began his second term. Analysts project the number of international students enrolled in the 2026-27 school year could drop by 130,000 to just over 1 million.

<https://oregoncapital-chronicle.com/2026/09/01/oregon-universities-brace-for-international-enrollment-drop-following-visa-delays-trump-policies/>

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HEALTH DIRECTORY

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SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC — MONMOUTH is open Monday,Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m., 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-814-5227.

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Independence — 1430 Monmouth St., 503-917-2255

Independence — Central Health and Wellness Center — 1601 Monmouth St., Suite 100, 503-838-0045

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

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listed in this directory.

99West

From Page A1

can. He’s like, really? And, I said, yeah. I said, ‘Okay, I’ll be here tomorrow with my horses, but I need a speaking line.’ He said, ‘You got it.’”

So, he showed up with his horses. And, stood around for another six or seven hours before it was go time.

“I don’t know, I go to threaten the sheriff or something like that. I can’t even remember what it was,” Shinkle said.

However, what little experience he had was made up by having “the look.”

“There was a lady standing there watching me. And, she was like, what are you doing here? And, I was like, I don’t really know. She’s like, well, you look the part,

you’re a thing. So, she physically grabbed me by the arm and dragged me into a scene into the background. And, that’s kind of how it started,” Shinkle admitted.

Then he got bit parts in more and movie low budget, cowboy movies. Then for one of the projects, “Twenty Years for \$20” he contributed an original song to the movie’s soundtrack. The opportunity actually made him nervous.

“All I had to do, because I’m not a musician. I’m not. I can play the guitar a little bit. And, I can sing a little bit. And, I can entertain someone. I am not a musician,” Shinkle said. “But, I was able to go in that studio. And, take these melodies and ideas and stuff that I just made up. And, surround myself with musicians that could play



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joe Shinkle has been performing with 99West since the early 2000s.

them.”

The result was a win for best song “Dark Skies” at the The Tucson Wild Bunch Film Festival. The overall project was so fun, Shinkle is proud to point

willing to share it with people,” he said.

Now, he’s reuniting with 99West to bring their upbeat country music to his hometown crowd.

“We are chomping at the bit for that. We haven’t played in a while. So, we are really looking forward to getting on that stage,” Shinkle said.

Joining him on the stage are a group of guys he said have a real life away from the band.

“Matt Graber is a Southwest airline pilot. Nolan Crow, lead guitarist, is a recently retired Winco grocery store manager. Bill (Stapleton) is a full-time farmer out in Perrydale. We just got a brand new drummer named Woody. I’m not sure what he does for a living,” Shinkle admitted.

But the camaraderie of making music creates something unique when

they get back together to make music, he added.

“Everybody, at some point, imagines themselves as being a cowboy on air guitars and imagines themselves being a rock singer or whatever. At some point in their life. I am the luckiest man alive because I get to do that,” Shinkle said.

“There are times when I’m up on stage playing and I’m looking around at the guys and I’m like, ‘We actually get to do this.’ This is just something. We actually get to plug in our instruments and sing in the microphones.”

Joe Shinkle and 99West take the Dallas Rotary Arts Stage at 6 p.m. Sept. 18, the penultimate band for the inaugural Dallas Nights Sounds of Summer Concert Series. The Rewind Band wraps up the season on Oct. 2.

MURAL

From Page A1

to create an age-friendly community mural.

“They said, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could put this all in a beautiful piece of art that highlights all the things we love about our community and all the things that are really age-friendly about our community?’” Cronin recalled.

From there, leadership hosted a listening session with a group of seniors to determine the favorite aspects and top age-friendly attractions in the community. That information was passed on to the Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission to find a local artist to bring the vision to canvas.

Enter Salem artist Allison Hmura who answered the commissions

call for artists and proved to be the perfect fit.

“I have a lot of background in Monmouth. I grew up in Salem. And Monmouth was like our little adventure town that we’d drive to every once in a while,” Hmura said. “And kind of talked about my background in McMinnville funny enough. And that this is such a cool town to grow up in.”

She met with senior center representatives and whittled down their top 50 brainstormed ideas of what made the community great.

The mural highlights downtown, both members walking down and its popular shops (including a nod to AARP as thanks for the seed money). It pays tribute to Monmouth’s status as a Tree City USA and, of course, the latest

addition to the streets of Monmouth, the M-I Trolley.

“And I always remember the ice cream truck, you know, when I was little,” Hmura said. “So I made sure that’s included. And then we wanted a flower included. And I chose camas as a native flower.”

Cronin added that she hears all the time that people love living in this community because of all that it has to offer.

“And because of that, we also added the tagline to our senior center logo, which is ‘A place for all seasons rooted in community.’ So that is our wonderful mural,” she said.

Hmura said after months of planning, the execution took just three weeks, with some extra hands helping at the end.

“The day before it was

completely done, I had a couple of (seniors) come in. And they helped me finish the tree portion and the cloud. And yeah. We used a little teamwork at the end,” Hmura said.

The timing of the unveiling was perfect,

as Hmura headed to France on Friday for an art residency through Oct. 3. Then on Nov. 5, the Portland art studio Blackfish Gallery hosts an exhibit of original art by Hmura.

“I’m very pleased with

the final result,” Hmura added. “Of course an artist is always super nit-picky about their work. Me included. But I feel like there was a large amount of representation of all different people. So yeah. I was very happy.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Each year, an estimated 5,000 large animals are struck and killed on Oregon roads, with accidents peaking in October and November as deer and elk migrate to their lower elevation habitat.

WILDLIFE

From Page A1

as modifications to existing bridges and culverts.

“There are almost 80,000 miles of public roads and highways in Oregon. That, coupled with the basic needs all animals have, puts them and us in harm’s way. That’s doubly true during migration season as deer, elk, and other species are moving in greater numbers from their higher elevation summer habitat to lower elevations where they’ll spend the winter,” said Greseth.

Oregonians can order the Watch for Wildlife plate through the DMV or visit www.myowf.org/watchforwildlife to learn more about how plate sales fund habitat connectivity projects, including

wildlife passage efforts across Oregon.

Happy with your current plate but still want to support habitat connectivity and wildlife passage projects? Consider a donation to Oregon Wildlife Foundation’s Wildlife Migration and Movement Fund (formerly known as the Watch for Wildlife Fund) via Donate Now – Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Oregon Wildlife Foundation

Oregon Wildlife Foundation is an apolitical operating charitable foundation dedicated to increasing private and public funding support for wildlife conservation projects in Oregon. Since 1981, the Foundation has directed tens of millions of dollars in private and public support to a broad

range of projects throughout Oregon.

For more information, visit www.myowf.org.

For more information about wildlife movement in Oregon, visit www.myowf.org/wildlifemoves.

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PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Dragons (from left) Reagan Leslie, Lexa Lawless, Melina Condon and Sophia Devine celebrate the last of four goals they scored in the first half against Central.



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Panthers (from left) Jaelyn Arreguin, Laisha Rodriguez Galvan, and Mia Estrella Galvan converge on the ball during action in last week's 5-0 loss to Dallas in the season opener for both teams.

Young Panthers show promise despite opening loss to Dallas

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

Central's girls soccer team showed flashes of its developing an identity despite opening the season with a 5-0 setback to Dallas.

The young Panthers remained committed to a

possession-based attack throughout the match. They connected passes and looked to build scoring opportunities rather than simply clearing the ball under pressure, coach Arturo Alfaro said.

Central also competed through the final whistle. "While the result

wasn't what we wanted, there were a lot of positives to take away from our opener," Alfaro said. "What I liked most was the team's effort, attitude and willingness to compete for each other."

Junior defender Emalee Davis helped keep Central organized

against a strong Dallas attack. Her communication and work rate steadied the Panthers' back line, Alfaro said.

Davis has emerged as one of the team's leaders.

Alfaro provided his assessments regarding other players and the

team as a whole. His assessments include Freshman Kiara Rosales who made an immediate impact in her varsity debut. She played with composure, helped Central maintain possession and created opportunities in the attacking third.

Rosales was one of three freshmen to gain varsity experience in the opener. Jaelyn Arreguin and Saide Garcia Perez also contributed.

Olivia Manzo provided another bright spot in the midfield. She helped

See **SOCCER**, page B8

Panthers lean on experience, unity in pursuit of state goals



PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Cammy Baker coaches up her Central varsity volleyball team during Thursday's non-league match against Corvallis. After dropping the first set, the Panthers won three straight for the win, remaining undefeated on the young season.

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

Central's volleyball players know reaching the playoffs is no longer enough.

The Panthers ended an eight-year postseason drought last fall, taking an important step forward during their final season in Class 5A. Now they want to better their first-round exit from a

year ago.

Central has set its sights on advancing through the Class 4A playoffs and finishing among the top five teams in the state.

"We all want it really bad," senior Anna Cole said. "We want to finish the season well."

The Panthers appear well-equipped to pursue those goals.

Central opened the

season with consecutive wins against North Salem, Grants Pass and Lebanon. More importantly, the Panthers displayed the chemistry and mental toughness needed to survive difficult moments.

Senior Brynn Taufa'asau believes it's these qualities that distinguish this team from last

See **PANTHERS**, page B8



FILE PHOTO BY LANCE MASTERSON
Central opened its varsity football season with a 42-7 rout of Tillamook on Aug. 28. The Panthers began a streak of four straight home games when they hosted Dallas Sept. 4.

Panthers lean on connection, consistency entering new era

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

Central's football program is navigating change while remaining committed to the culture established by head coach Joel Everett.

Assistant head coach

and defensive coordinator Jeff Centoni is helping to guide that effort as Everett and his family face a difficult personal situation.

"Joel is our head coach," Centoni said. "Our staff's mission is to be faithful stewards of

the culture and program he's established since he took over as head coach for the 2020 season."

This mission extends beyond wins and losses. Central's coaches want to use football to teach

See **FOOTBALL**, page B8

Central rolls past Tillamook in opener, 42-7

By LANCE MASTERSON
For The Itemizer-Observer

Central opened its season in dominant fashion. The Panthers scored 20 points in the second quarter en route to a 42-7

non-league victory over Tillamook on Aug. 28.

Visiting Central led 27-7 at halftime and continued to pull away after the break.

Quarterback Tyler Olafson completed 19 of

29 passes for 267 yards and two touchdowns.

Both scoring passes went to Ryan Perkins.

Perkins and Jacob Bancroft combined for

See **OPENER**, page B8

SPORT

CALENDAR

SEPT. 9 Volleyball Willamette Valley vs. Perrydale, 6 p.m.	Football Falls City at Days Creek, 4 p.m. Newberg vs. Dallas, 7 p.m. Banks vs. Central, 7 p.m. Chiloquin vs. Perrydale, 7 p.m.	9:45 a.m. (Junior Varsity girls) Volleyball Central at Sprague Tournament, 8 a.m.
SEPT. 10 Girls Soccer Dallas at Estacada, 6 p.m. Central at Astoria (CMH Field), 6:15 p.m.	Cross Country Perrydale at Gervais Invitational, 4:30 p.m.	SEPT. 15 Girls Soccer Woodburn vs. Dallas, 5 p.m. Boys Soccer Central at Lebanon, 7 p.m.
Volleyball Dallas at Lebanon, 6:30 p.m. Falls City vs. Perrydale 6, p.m.	Volleyball Chiloquin vs. Perrydale, 6 p.m.	Volleyball South Albany vs. Dallas, 6:30 p.m. Perrydale at McKenzie (Alesa HS), 3 p.m. Jewell vs. Falls City, 6 p.m.
SEPT. 11	SEPT. 12 Cross Country Dallas, Central at Ash Creek Festival	

PAGES OF THE PAST

40 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 1986

Trees, slash burn near Buell

Four acres of timber land were burned Sept. 4 on Gooseneck Road near Buell. Firefighters from numerous stations assisted in dousing the blaze which began about 3 p.m. and was not fully controlled until 2:30 a.m., according to Judy Berends of the State Forestry Office in Dallas.

Berends said inspectors believe the fire was caused by an overheated compressor that ignited a propane tank and spread through the shed in which it was located. The shed was owned by Leon Hayes of Gooseneck Road. Most of the property which burned was owned by Hayes, land on the Hampton Tree Farm was also charred.

Dallas picked for TV film locations

Oregon has become a favored state for Hollywood film locations in the past few years, and this month Dallas will be illuminated by footlights and movie star smiles. "The Promise," a made-for-television film starring James Garner, James Woods and Piper Laurie, will be filmed in Dallas on Sept. 19-20 and possibly Sept. 22. The courthouse square and adjacent Main Street businesses and their

storefronts will portray the town in which Garner lives. The Blue Garden Restaurant and Willamette Valley Title Co. offices will likely be used, according to Pat Matzdorff, films specialist with the State of Oregon Film and Video Division.

The "promise" of the title refers to Garner's vow to his mother on her deathbed that he would care for his schizophrenic brother, played by Woods.

Dragons unveil well-tuned grid machine

The Dallas Dragons grid machine started off the season at full stream as it rolled over the Columbia Charges 42-8 Thursday night at Mt. Hood Community College.

The Dragon defense got the machine rolling early in the first quarter when linebacker Jeff Richmond recovered a fumble on the Charger 16-yard line and dashed into the end zone. Doug Harms kicked the extra point and the Dragons went ahead 7-0.

After that the Dragon offense shifted the scoring buggy into high gear – and away it went.

50 YEARS AGO

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 1976

Luckiamute project poses area problem

The Little Luckiamute Water Shed Project has been a topic for much discussion since its conception in 1969 and continues

FLASHBACK



This week's Flashback is from Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1986: ALL WASHED UP – Dallas Foursquare Church held a car wash Saturday to raise funds for a mime production Sept. 24 and 27 at Dallas High School. Les Fay (left) and Renee Weather scrubbed cars and cooled themselves, too, under the hoses. (File I-O photo.)

to be a controversial subject especially to those who are directly affected by its outcome.

Kaye Richardson, co-owner and operator of the Richardson Company located in Falls City, is one of these people who is concerned about the consequences of the proposed demand reservoir.

"We own property by the reservoir and our house would be completely wiped out by it. This would also affect our neighbors in the area," Richardson said. "We are not the ones who are unhappy with the project, we are only the loudest. There are many people throughout Falls City who would like to see the plan done away with."

Police sponsor Explorers
The "Youth Look" is a current trend and

the Dallas City Police Department is making sure that youth isn't forgotten by sponsoring a law enforcement program or Explorer Troop 61 of Dallas.

The program, under the direction of Officer Doug Finegan of the police department, is an effort to familiarize the participating explorers with the functions of a career in police work. The Dallas program is just one of the many such programs sponsored around the country.

There are currently 11 members of Post 61 working with Officer Finegan on the program and he says the another will be added shortly.

Cross country team shapes up
The lot of a cross country runner is one of

long days in the scorching summer sun, running on blistered, hot feet and equally long days in the cold rains of winter, feet soaked to the bone. Practice involves hours of burning lungs and aching legs and competition pulls the runner to the brink of exhaustion, to that point of white pain that only the runner can ever know.

Dallas High School

Cross Country Coach Barry Jahn has been there before and probably will be there again, but still says with conviction, "I've been running for 13 years and I love it."

It's that enthusiasm for the sport that Jahn hopes to instill into his runners, enthusiasm that he hopes can lead his squad to conference crown in 1976.

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CryptoQuip

answer

Special sweet potatoes that, when consumed, cause folks to speak more frankly: candid yams.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

7 a.m. - Monmouth Library Board meeting, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
8:30 a.m. - Independence Heritage Museum Advisory Board meeting, museum meeting room, 281 S. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Lunch w/ Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Wii bowling, Dallas Area Senior Center
2 p.m. - Wrap Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center
4 p.m. Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center
6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House
6:30 p.m. - Music Jam, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Monmouth Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Seniors trip to OMSI, meet at the Monmouth Senior Community Center

10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Children’s Storytime, for ages 0-5, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
10:30 a.m. - Bounces and Rhymes: Spring Series, for ages 0-2, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
11:30 a.m. - Lunch Bunch, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Pinochle/ Watch repair & knife sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
12 p.m. - Bridge, Dallas Area Senior Center
6 p.m. - Name That Tune Music Trivia with Sam, West Valley Taphouse, 957 Main St., Dallas
6 p.m. - Dallas Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
6:30 p.m. - Connecting Loose Threads, Monmouth Senior Community Center
6:30 p.m. - Live Music: Long Time Gone (classic rock), Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
7 p.m. - Climate Speaker Series: Climate Basics with Bill Henley, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Back to Basics, Grace Baptist Church, 1855 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Art Workshop/ CardsTable Games/6 Handed Pinochle, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Writer’s Workshop, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Gardening Class, Dallas Area Senior

Center
10 a.m. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10:30 a.m. - Storytime, Independence Public Library
11 a.m. - Jewelry Making, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Summer Reading Wrap Party, Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S.
12 p.m. - Watch repair clinic, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Tai Chi with Chery/Munchies and Melodies, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Ice Cream & Bingo Social, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1:30 p.m. - 10-Minute Writing, Dallas Area Senior Center
6 p.m. - Live Music: Fort Vine, Two Wolves Taproom, 171 SW Court St, Dallas
6:30 p.m. - Live Music: Lucky Pluckers (classic country & rock plus some originals), 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, SEPT. 12

9 a.m. - Independence Riverview Farmers Market, top of Riverview Park
9 a.m. - Yoga in the Park, Riverview Park, Independence, free
9 a.m. - Independence Farmers Market, Umpqua Bank parking lot, 302 S. Main St.
9 a.m. - Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center Craft Supply Sale & Flea Market
1 p.m. - Bingo at the Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St.
5 p.m. - Live Music: Nathan Myers & Co.,

Benedetto Vineyards, 14020 Orchard Knob Road, Dallas
5 p.m. - Live Music: Double Header - Fire & Ice (Pat Benatar tribute) and Niki Jones Band (blues & rock), tickets \$12, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Saturday Night Live, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

1 p.m. - Live Music: Nathan Myers, Elysium Botanicals Wines and Vineyard, 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence
7 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Monmouth Big Book Study, Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway, Monmouth

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity at 7, Life Center Foursquare Church, 437 D St., Independence
8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Rotating Pinochle/5-Crowns Game/ Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Hand & Foot/ Cribbage, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Grief Support Group, Dallas Area Senior 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
12:30 p.m. - Cornhole, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Bunko/Tai Chi with Cheryl/Technology Help with Ian, Monmouth Senior Community Center
4 p.m. - Karaoke, Dallas

Area Senior Center
5:30 p.m. - Independence Historic Preservation Commission meeting, City Hall, 555 S. Main St.
6 p.m. - Trivia Nights, Forest Pass Brewing, 735 SW Maple St., Dallas
6:30 p.m. - Live Music: New Horizons Orchestra Concert, Monmouth Senior Community Center
7 p.m. - Independence Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 555 S. Main St.
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Old Guthrie Park, Guthrie Park Community Center

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Chair Yoga/ Wii Bowling, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - Cards/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Age Café, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10:15 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Circle of Friends, Dallas Area Senior Center
10:30 a.m. - Children’s Storytime, ages 5 and under, Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St.
11 a.m. - Scrabble - Dallas Area Senior Center
11:10 a.m. - Low Impact Exercise, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Pinochle, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Darts, Dallas Area Senior Center
4 p.m. - Dallas Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
4 p.m. - Mystery Book Club meeting, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.
6 p.m. - Trivia Night, West Valley Taphouse, 957 S Main St., Dallas
6:30 p.m. - Monmouth City Council Meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16

8 a.m. - Yoga, Monmouth Senior Community Center
9 a.m. - Stretch Exercise, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10 a.m. - 4-Handed Pinochle/Card/Table Games, Dallas Area Senior Center
10 a.m. - Strong People, Monmouth Senior Community Center
10:30 a.m. - Little Bitty Story Time, Dallas Public Library
10:30 a.m. - Storytime, for ages 2-6, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.
11 a.m. - Lunch w/ Meals on Wheels, Monmouth Senior Community Center
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Winnie, Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.
11 a.m. - Mah-Jongg, Dallas Area Senior Center
12 p.m. - Watch Repair & Knife Sharpening, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Walking Group, Dallas Area Senior Center
1 p.m. - Ten Minute Writing, Monmouth Senior Community Center
1 p.m. - Wii bowling, Dallas Area Senior Center
2 p.m. - Wrap Class, Monmouth Senior Community Center
4 p.m. Connecting Loose Threads for Charity, Monmouth Senior Community Center
5:30 p.m. - Dallas Parks Advisory Board Meeting, City Hall, 187 SE Court St.
6 p.m. - Open Mic Night, Brew Coffee & Tap House
7 p.m. - Monmouth Planning Commission meeting, City Hall, 151 Main St. W.
7:10 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous Newcomers Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas

Community Briefs

MONMOUTH SENIOR CENTER HOSTS FLEA MARKET SEPT. 9

The Monmouth Senior Community Center hosts a flea market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 9 in the center parking lot, 180 S. Warren St. If you have stuff you want to get rid of or craft supplies to sell, sign up for \$15. Be sure to bring your own table. Applications are available at the center or by contacting Angie at Angie919@gmail.com.

DALLAS LIBRARY WELCOMES AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR RENE DENFELD SEPT. 10

The Dallas Library welcomes award-winning, bestselling author Rene Denfeld for an evening featuring her newest literary thriller “The Talking Bone” at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 10.
Denfeld is the author of five novels, including “The Enchanted” and “The Child Finder,” and her work has earned wide-spread critical acclaim. This free event is made possible through funding

from the Friends of the Dallas Library and the Polk County Cultural Coalition. For more information, contact the Dallas Public Library at (503) 623-2633.

STOMP BY CROFT VINEYARDS PRESENTS TRIVIA NIGHT SEPT. 10

Stomp hosts Trivia Night from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 10 by Croft Vineyards, located at 5475 River Road S. Hosted by John Croft – third generation of Croft Vineyards & Trivia Wizard, trivia kicks off at 6 p.m. (please come early to order food/drinks and get settled in). There is a six person group maximum per table. The winning team will receive a \$50 Stomp Gift Card. To purchase tickets, go to www.croftvineyards.com/event/trivia-night-11.

ARBORETUM FRIENDS HOST PARK MAINTENANCE PARTY SEPT. 12

Friends of the Delbert Hunter Arboretum encourage anyone interested in helping maintain and improve the arboretum

grounds to join them Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. until noon, with a break at 10:30 a.m. Come see what a small group of people can accomplish. Come when you can, and join in a variety of tasks to help keep this jewel welcoming to all. Stay for as long as you want. Meet at the arboretum center on Park Street. It’s a great way to give back to your community. All are welcome.

PENTACLE THEATRE ACTING WORKSHOP BEGINS SEPT. 12

Pentacle Theatre hosts the return of Acting Workshop with Jo Dodge from 9 a.m. to noon at the Pentacle Theatre Rehearsal Space at 197 Liberty St. SE, in Salem. Join skilled director and actress Jo Dodge in a fun, hands-on 11-week theater workshop exploring the human spirit. Students participate in improvisation and scene work in a safe, supportive and non-competitive environment. The focus is on individual self-development. This workshop is for all skill levels, from

beginners to the most experienced. You must be 18 yrs. of age to attend these classes. To sign up, go to <https://purchase.pentacletheatre.org/ChooseSeats/12401>.

MONMOUTH SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER HOSTS CRAFT DAY SEPT. 19

Join the Monmouth Senior Community Center for an opportunity to craft in the company of other creative folks. The third Saturday of each month (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 19), bring your hobby and meet new people. All ages and crafting styles are welcome at 180 Warren St. S.

RICE AUDITORIUM WELCOMES GRAMMY WINNER GABY MORENO SEPT. 24

Western Oregon University hosts Grammy and Latin Grammy-winning artist Gaby Moreno at 7:30 p.m. Sept 24 at ‘s Rice Auditorium, located at 344 Knox St., in Monmouth. Moreno is a singer-songwriter and producer whose warm, soulful sound bridges

English and Spanish. Since moving to Los Angeles from her native Guatemala, she has released nine albums and earned major honors, including a Grammy win for X Mí (Vol. 1) (Best Latin Pop Album, 2024). For tickets, go to <https://smithfinearts.vivenushop.com>.

BIGFOOTSTOCK COMES TO DALLAS SEPT. 26

Come to the Dallas City Park for BigfootStock Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for a day of legendary community, fun and flavor. It features vendors, food and live entertainment from. Stay tuned for more details.

IDA HOSTS 25TH ANNUAL HOP & HERITAGE FESTIVAL SEPT. 26

The Independence Downtown Association hosts the Hop & Heritage Festival and 25th Annual Harvest Celebration at noon, Sept. 26. The day features the Fresh Hop Fiesta at Parallel 45 Brewing - the only week-end in Oregon where fresh

hop beers are poured all in one place, in the town that grew them - alongside the Downtown Passport, a Vendor Marketplace, buskers, and a cornhole tournament. Tickets are available at <https://hopandheritage.com>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help keep Hunter Arboretum on Park Street in Dallas looking good for visitors on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Choose the work you want to do and take a break with us at 10:30. All are welcome.
NorthWest Senior and Disability Service needs volunteers at their Dallas and Monmouth meal sites for their Meals on Wheels program. Volunteers help prepare and package meals, assist at the meal site, and deliver meals to older adults in Dallas and Monmouth and the surrounding community. Their service provides more than nutritious meals. For more information, contact Elijah Friday at elijah.friday@nwsds.org.

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certain deed made by, JOYCE LYNN SMITH, A SINGLE WOMAN as Grantor to TICOR TITLE, as trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR AMERICAN PACIFIC MORTGAGE CORPORATION, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 11/2/2017, recorded 11/13/2017, in official records of POLK County, Oregon in book/reel/volume No. and/or as fee/file/instrument/microfilm/reception number 2017-013513 and subsequently assigned or transferred by operation of law to PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC covering the following described real property situated in said County, and State. APN: 312561 07321-AD-02600 BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE WHICH IS NORTH 89°41' EAST 618.80 FEET AND NORTH 175.50 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE JESSE HARRITT DONATION LAND CLAIM NO. 67 IN SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN IN POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE NORTH 89°41' EAST, 66.45 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 89°41' EAST 618.80 FEET AND NORTH 175.50 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE JESSE HARRITT DONATION LAND CLAIM NO. 67 IN SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN IN POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE NORTH 89°41' EAST, 66.45 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 95 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 89°41' EAST, 66.45 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE SOUTH 95 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as: 1166 Belaire Dr Nw, Salem, OR 97304 The undersigned hereby certifies that based upon business records there are no known written assignments of the trust deed by the trustee or by the beneficiary, except as recorded in the records of the county or counties in which the above described real property is situated. Further, no action has been instituted to recover the debt, or any part thereof, now remaining secured by the trust deed, or, if such action has been instituted, such action has been dismissed except as permitted by ORS 86.752(7). Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.752(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes. There is a default by grantor or other person owing an obligation, performance of which is secured by the trust deed, or by the successor in interest, with respect to provisions therein which authorize sale in the event of such provision. The default for which foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sum: TOTAL REQUIRED TO REINSTATE: \$17,709.14 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$153,582.93 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day-to-day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. It will be necessary for you to contact the Trustee before the time you tender reinstatement or the payoff amount so that you may be advised of the exact amount you will be required to pay. By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by the trust deed immediately due and payable, those sums being the following, to- wit: The installments of principal and interest which became due on 1/1/2026, and all subsequent installments of principal and interest through the date of this Notice, plus amounts that are due for late charges, delinquent property taxes, insurance premiums, advances made on senior

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liens, taxes and/or insurance, trustee's fees, and any attorney fees and court costs arising from or associated with the beneficiaries efforts to protect and preserve its security, all of which must be paid as a condition of reinstatement, including all sums that shall accrue through reinstatement or pay-off. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as a waiver of any fees owing to the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust pursuant to the terms of the loan documents. Whereof, notice hereby is given that QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION, the undersigned trustee will on 12/29/2026 at the hour of 9:00am, Standard of Time, as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, At the Front Entrance to the Polk County Courthouse, located at 850 Main Street, Dallas, OR 97338 County of POLK, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. Other than as shown of record, neither the beneficiary nor the trustee has 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 in interest to grantor or of any lessee or other person in possession of or occupying the property, except: Name and Last Known Address and Nature of Right, Lien or Interest Joyce Smith 1166 Belaire Dr Nw Salem, OR 97304 Original Borrower For Sale Information Call: 800-280-2832 or Login to: www.auction.com In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to this grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the trust deed, and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's

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Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO TENANTS: TENANTS OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY HAVE CERTAIN PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO THEM UNDER ORS 86.782 AND POSSIBLY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. ATTACHED TO THIS NOTICE OF SALE, AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, IS A NOTICE TO TENANTS THAT SETS FORTH SOME OF THE PROTECTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO A TENANT OF THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY AND WHICH SETS FORTH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BY ANY TENANT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE AFFORDED PROTECTION, AS REQUIRED UNDER ORS 86.771. TS No: OR-26-1055681-BF Dated: 8/4/2026 Quality Loan Service Corporation, as Trustee Signature By: Daniel Lazos, Assistant Secretary Trustee's Mailing Address: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 108 1st Ave South, Suite 450, Seattle, WA 98104 Toll Free: (866) 925-0241 Trustee's Physical Address: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free: (866) 925-0241 IDSPub #0316456 9/9/2026 9/16/2026 9/23/2026 9/30/2026

PCIO26-382 Notice of Self Storage Sale Please take notice Grand Storage located at 29005 Salmon River Hwy, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347 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 9/24/2026 at 12:00PM. Jacob Lacroix Unit #16. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. 09/09/26, 09/16/26

PCIO26-388 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A LAND USE ACTION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT The Polk County Hearings Officer will conduct a public hearing to receive public testimony on the following applications: TYPE OF APPLICATIONS: 1. Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment to change the designation of an approximately 0.2 acre (10,200 square foot) property and the adjacent right-of-way from Unincorporated Community Residential to Unincorporated Community Commercial. 2. Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning of the subject property and the adjacent right-of-way from Suburban Residential (SR) to Rickreall Unincorporated Community Commercial (Rickreall UC-C). APPLICANT/OWNER: Rebecca

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Fettters APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE: Matthew Sturzen; Sherman, Sherman, Johnnie, and Hoyt, LLP. PROPERTY LOCATION: 275 Main Street, Rickreall, Oregon 97371 (Tax Assessment Map T7S, R4W, Section 30CA, Tax Lot 1200) FILE NUMBERS: PA 26-01 & ZC 26-01 REVIEW AND DECISION CRITERIA: Polk County Zoning Ordinance (PCZO) Sections 111.275 and 115.050 HEARING DATE AND TIME: September 29, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. HEARING LOCATION: Hearing/Conference Room, First Floor, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon POLK COUNTY STAFF CONTACT: Eric Knudson; Phone: (503) 623-9237, Email: knudson.eric@polkcountyor.gov The location of the hearing is handicapped accessible. Please advise the Community Development Department at (503) 623-9237, in as far in advance of the meeting as possible, if you will need any special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting. The applicable criteria and files are available for inspection at no cost, and copies may be obtained at a reasonable cost. Any person desiring to speak for or against this proposal may do so either in person or by representative at the public hearing. The Hearings Officer will receive testimony and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will hold a separate public hearing to consider the Hearings Officer's recommendation, receive testimony, and make a final local decision on this matter. Written testimony may be directed to the Planning Division of the Polk County Community Development Department, 850 Main Street, Polk County Courthouse, Dallas, Oregon 97338-1922. Written testimony may be submitted to the Polk County Planning Division prior to the public hearing by hand-delivery to the Polk County Community Development Office. Mailed or emailed testimony is not guaranteed to be included in the record, and the cost of copy fees may apply for printing electronic submissions. Please include File Numbers PA 26-01 & ZC 26-01 in all correspondences related to these applications. Written comments received by the Polk County Planning Division prior to the public hearing will be provided to the Hearings Officer. Oral and written testimony may be presented at the hearing. The hearing will be conducted in a manner, which allows testimony in favor of the application, testimony in opposition to the application, general testimony, and rebuttal by the applicant. Failure of an issue to be raised in a hearing, in person or in writing, or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the hearings body an opportunity to respond to the issue, precludes appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals on that issue. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence relied upon by the applicant, and applicable criteria, are available for inspection at no cost and will be provided at reasonable cost. In addition, a copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost at least seven days prior to the hearing, and will be provided at a reasonable cost, at the Polk County Community Development Department, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338; (503) 623-9237. NOTICE TO MORTGAGEE, LIENHOLDER, VENDOR OR SELLER: ORS Chapter 215 requires that if you

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receive this Notice, it must promptly be forwarded to the purchaser. 09/09/26

PCIO26-381 Notice of Self Storage Auction Monmouth Mini Storage (503)838-0803, 555 Gwinn Street E, Monmouth, OR 97361 Units to be auctioned off verbally on September 19th at 10am. All units sold as a whole. Gabby Walton Unit 167, Mike Silver unit 288, Belinda Cook unit 156, Dinnis Dixon unit 148, Derick Turner unit 173, Ryan Taylor unit A022, Jonathan Mellen unit A019, Robert Carroll unit 177 09/02/26, 09/09/26

PCIO26-359 TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE TS No.: 147340-OR Loan No.: ***2923** Reference is made to that certain trust deed (the "Deed of Trust") executed by CHRISTOPHER E. WARD AND MYRNA E. WARD, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Grantor, to FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, as Trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS DESIGNATED NOMINEE FOR ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, BENEFICIARY OF THE SECURITY INSTRUMENT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 3/3/2023, recorded 3/8/2023, as Instrument No. 2023-001540, in the Official Records of Polk County, Oregon, which covers the following described real property situated in Polk County, Oregon: BEGINNING AT AN IRON ROD WITH CAP THAT IS SOUTH 00°08'00" EAST 485.40 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 6, WESTWOOD HEIGHTS ADDITION NO. 2, SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, CITY OF SALEM, POLK COUNTY, OREGON; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID WESTWOOD HEIGHTS SOUTH 00°08'00" EAST 262.96 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 736 (EOLA DRIVE) AND AN IRON PIPE; THENCE ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY NORTH 57°30'09" WEST 135.84 FEET TO THE BEGINNING OF A CURVE AND AN IRON ROD WITH CAP; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY THROUGH A 348.31 FOOT RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT (DELTA = 02° 26'09", L = 14.81 FEET, LC = 14.81 FEET AND BEARS NORTH 58°43'15" WEST), TO AN IRON ROD WITH CAP; THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY NORTH 03°16'07" EAST 183.80 FEET PARALLEL AND 25' EQUIDISTANT FROM THE WEST LINE OF THAT PARTICULAR PARCEL DESCRIBED IN POLK COUNTY BOOK OF RECORDS REEL 244, PAGE 29, TO AN IRON ROD WITH CAP; THENCE NORTH 86°39'54" EAST 62.90 FEET TO AN IRON ROD WITH CAP; THENCE SOUTH 84°47'22" EAST 53.56 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND CONTAINING 27,592 SQUARE FEET. APN: 263234 / 07329-AA-10200 Commonly known as: 2091 EOLA DR NW SALEM, OR 97304-4442 The current beneficiary is: ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and notice has been recorded pursuant to ORS 86.752(3). The default

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for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor's failure to pay when due, the following sums: Delinquent Payments: Dates: 11/1/2025 - 7/1/2026 Total: \$21,734.64 Late Charges: \$386.40 Beneficiary Advances: \$9,688.38 Total Required to Reinstale: \$31,809.42 TOTAL REQUIRED TO PAYOFF: \$451,901.38 By reason of the default, the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by the Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, including: the principal sum of \$426,898.56 together with interest thereon at the rate of 5.125 % per annum, from 10/1/2025 until paid, plus all accrued late charges, and all trustee's fees, foreclosure costs, and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Deed of Trust Whereof, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee, CLEAR RECON CORP, whose address is 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225, San Diego, CA 92108, will on 12/9/2026, at the hour of 11:00 AM, standard time, as established by ORS 187.110, In the new lobby of the Jefferson Street entrance of the Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon 97338, sell at public auction to the highest bidder in the form of cash equivalent (certified funds or cashier's check) the interest in the above-described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time it executed the Deed of Trust, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of the Deed of Trust, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.778 has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the Deed of Trust reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than the portion of principal that would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorneys' fees, and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the Deed of Trust at any time not later than five days before the date last set for sale. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by the Deed of Trust, the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Dated: 7/27/2026 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, CA 92108 Phone: 858-750-7777 866-931-0036 Hamsa Uchi, Authorized Signatory of Trustee 08/19/26, 08/26/26, 09/02/26, 09/09/26



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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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26

Officers responded to a report of domestic violence in the 600 block of White Oak Circle and arrived to find the parties separated. The victim said they’d been arguing throughout the day and at one point the argument became physical and the victim had a phone thrown at her. The suspect produced a firearm which he left in the apartment and drove off before police arrived. The victim spoke of multiple past altercations. Officers developed probable cause to arrest Nathanael Hudspeth on charges of harassment - physical, assault 4 - felony and interference with making a report. Hudspeth met with an officer at the police department and was transported to jail.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

Neighbors reported finding a car a motorist crashed into a tree on Chestnut Street, then left the scene but left a trail of liquid and car debris. The driver was located and passed out in the driver’s seat. The driver, Jaime Pedraza Juarez, stated that he’d consumed alcohol after the crash and due to the time delay, the officer could not go forward with a DUI investigation. Pedraza Juarez was taken into custody and charged with criminal mischief 2, failure to perform duties of a driver - accident with property damage, and reckless driving.

An officer on traffic patrol recognized Herminio Olague Ramirez in the 800 block of North Main Street and knew his license was criminally suspended. Olague Ramirez was arrested and charged with driving while suspended - misdemeanor.

An officer observed a vehicle fail to stop before it entered the roadway in the 400 block of South 2nd Street. During the traffic stop the driver did not have any official identification and his driving privileges were found to be suspended at the violation level. The driver was cited and released for failure to carry/present an operator’s license.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

A non-emergency call was placed regarding a male walking on porches at an apartment complex in the 200 block of North Gun Club Road. Alex Coronado Jr. was contacted and it was found that he had outstanding failure to appear warrant. While officers searched Coronado, they found a pipe with residue on him that field tested positive for methamphetamine. Coronado was transported to jail.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

An officer was made aware that Ricky Miller Jr. had an outstanding

parole violation warrant out of Umatilla County. Miller was taken into custody in the 200 block of Deann Drive without incident.

Monmouth Police Department

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

Follow-Up: Interviewed a subject regarding a bicycle theft; the bicycle was returned, and the victim declined to pursue charges. The subject was trespassed from the property.

Hang-Up: A call was received with a request for help; medical personnel responded to provide lift assistance.

Missing Person: A report was made regarding a brother missing after an argument; investigation initiated.

Information: A report was filed regarding online threats to call in a fake emergency.

Scam: A report was made regarding an attempted financial scam involving requests for bank account information.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: An individual was screaming and threatening self-harm; children were removed from the home by Child Protective Services.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a physical domestic disturbance involving a minor.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report regarding alleged inappropriate filming; follow-up calls were unsuccessful.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a subject in a vehicle acting in an erratic and threatening manner.

Animal: Complaint regarding barking dogs; a warning was issued to the owner.

Vehicle Accident: A vehicle was found abandoned in a ditch.

Noise: A complaint regarding loud music and banging; the resident was warned.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

Field Interview Report: A subject with an outstanding warrant was contacted and identified.

Follow-Up: Interviewed a subject regarding a theft report; the subject denied involvement.

Suspicious Activity: Report regarding individuals on scooters hitting a vehicle mirror; the area was searched with no results.

Theft: A report of a box of napkins stolen from a delivery vehicle; the suspect was identified via footage.

Domestic Disturbance: A verbal argument between a couple; no physical altercation occurred.

Missing Person: The missing brother was located and found to be safe.

Animal: Complaint regarding barking dogs and living conditions. An investigation is pending.

Welfare Check: A concern regarding a partner who was not answering their phone. The individual was found to be safe.

Animal: A request to surrender an aggressive dog was denied.

Information: A report of a lost wallet in a park.

Suspicious Activity: A report of a driver acting suspiciously toward pedestrians. The driver was contacted, but did not match the description provided.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report regarding alleged recording devices in a private area. The complainant was advised to report any findings to police.

Citizen Contact: Follow-up conversation with a parent regarding a previous investigation. The parent was informed that no criminal investigation was occurring.

Assist Other Agency: Attempted traffic stop on a vehicle that fled; the area was searched.

Suspicious Activity: A report of an individual hanging around an apartment building. The area was searched with no results.

Follow-Up: The suspect identified in the theft case was issued a criminal citation for theft and littering.

SATURDAY AUG. 29

Hit and Run: Report of a vehicle driving into a ditch and hitting a sign. The suspected vehicle was located but found to be unrelated to the incident.

Welfare Check: Request to check on a resident with medical issues. The resident was found to be healthy and safe.

Welfare Check: Request to check on a mother watching a child. The individual was found to be safe.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

Domestic Disturbance: Report of an argument, however, the caller was uncooperative and refused to provide details.

Suspicious Activity: Report of a subject yelling near a dumpster. The subject was located collecting items.

Vehicle Accident: A driver fell asleep and crashed into a power supply box. The driver was assessed and released.

Arrest: An individual with an outstanding municipal warrant was contacted and arrested.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a report of a subject discharging a firearm. The subject was uncooperative and the scene was cleared.

Disturbance: Complaint regarding an ex-boyfriend causing a disturbance. The suspect was later located and issued a trespass notice.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a hit and run crash.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted medical personnel in locating a patient needing transport.

Trespass: Inquiry regarding a homeless camp. Property ownership status is being investigated.

Citizen Contact: Inquiry regarding the proper disposal of a deceased pet.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted Child Protective Services with an investigation involving child abuse. Safety plans were established.

Assault: An investigation was initiated on a report of a physical attack involving apples being thrown.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report of a subject threatening self-harm. The subject was taken into protective custody for medical assessment.

Attempt to Locate: Attempt to locate a suspect involved in a shooting.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

Driving Under the Influence: A driver was

stopped for erratic driving and signs of impairment. The driver was arrested and lodged and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicant.

Domestic Disturbance: A domestic dispute involving physical violence; the suspect was arrested for harassment, menacing, and violating a no-contact agreement.

Citizen Contact: Inquiry regarding a suspended driver’s license and reinstatement.

Vehicle Accident: A minor, non-injury collision in a parking lot.

Animal: A loose dog was returned to its residence.

Suspicious Activity: A report of someone entering an apartment and attempting to open a locked door. A search of the area yielded no results.

Arrest: An individual with two outstanding warrants was located and arrested.

Suspicious Activity: An audible alarm was reported; a prank noise-making device was located and disabled.

Assist Other Agency: An individual with an outstanding warrant was located and arrested.

Assist Other Agency: A report of an individual threatening self-harm via social media. The individual was found to be safe with a plan in place.

Alarms: A silent alarm was triggered at a business. Officers found the property was secure.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a domestic dispute. The suspect was not located.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted in contacting an individual involved in a separate incident.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

Arrest: A driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license and possession of a controlled substance.

Harassment: Report of telephonic harassment by an ex-spouse. Guidance was provided for contacting the district attorney.

Criminal Mischief: Report of graffiti on a fence.

Theft: Report of items stolen from an unlocked vehicle.

Crime: Inquiry regarding local ordinances for cannabis plants and chickens. An investigation was initiated based on the information.

Harassment: A report of a neighbor yelling at an individual was documented for future reference.

Citizen Contact: Inquiry regarding the recovery of stolen property.

Drug: A currency note containing a powdered substance was found and seized. Testing confirmed the presence of a controlled substance.

Assist Other Agency: Assisted with a single-vehicle accident. The driver was cooperative.

Suspicious Activity: Complaint regarding loud engines. The individuals involved were advised of the rules.

Armed Person: Report of a person with a knife. Officers searched the area but the subject was not deemed a threat.

Assist Other Agency: Attempted to locate a subject with outstanding warrants. The subject was not found.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

Arrest: An intoxicated

individual causing a disturbance was trespassed and arrested for an outstanding warrant.

Suspicious Activity: Report of an individual in a vehicle watching children at a park. A report was filed for information.

Suspicious Person: Report of a person acting aggressively toward a driver. The individual was contacted and deemed to be acting normally.

Alarm: A residential burglary alarm was triggered but no signs of forced entry were found.

Found Property: Items belonging to a previously transported patient were placed in safekeeping.

Emotionally Disturbed Person: A report regarding an individual sending threatening letters to public buildings.

Suspicious Activity: Library staff reported receiving additional threatening letters.

Driving Under the Influence: A driver showed signs of impairment and was arrested for driving under the influence.

Drug: Report of a subject smoking a substance. Officers searched the area with no results.

Suspicious Activity: A resident reported a screen had been sliced open. A report was filed, and extra patrol was requested.

Suspicious Activity: Report of individuals camping and yelling. The individuals were warned regarding public consumption of substances.

Animal: After a report of a loose dog, the owner regained control without assistance.

Polk County Sheriff’s Office

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26

At 5:11 a.m., a deputy stopped a motorist on Highway 18 for anchoring his brakes and slowing to 30 mph. The driver said the deputy’s headlights were too bright so he slowed down to make the deputy pass him. The deputy had a stern conversation with him about that driving behavior and the potential danger. The driver apologized and received a verbal warning for poor driving and decision making.

At 10:01 a.m., a resident on River Drive reported her trash bin had been stolen. A deputy checked with a neighbor who admitted to taking it by mistake.

At 2:20 p.m., a resident on 34th Avenue reported an unknown suspect got ahold of her bank information and used it for various transactions. The complainant said she had called her bank and is in the process of getting her money back however is still out of \$2,000.

At 3:23 p.m., a resident on Fishback Road reported her 70-year-old father was missing. He was scheduled to fly back to Georgia and had a history of medical issues. The father’s car was found at Roth’s in Monmouth and he was being attended to by medics. Medics transported him to Salem Hospital. Family planned to meet him there.

At 11:28 p.m., a vehicle pulled up to a deputy on Highway 22 and told the deputy their taillights were out. They could not get a fix at the time and all stores were closed. The driver was advised

he can drive with his hazard lights on for the safety of his family.

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

At 12:53 a.m., a subject reported being actively chased by his friend who had a knife on Uglow Avenue. There was no answer at the door where “the friend” lived. It was likely a swatting call, possibly from the original subject.

At 2:07 a.m., a juvenile motorist reported another juvenile hit him in the side of the head while he was driving. Deputies were unable to locate the second juvenile, who faces potential charges of harassment.

At 8:08 a.m., deputies investigated a late report of a crash into a field at the intersection of Suver and Corvallis roads. A van appeared to have been going east on Suver Road and did not stop at the intersection of Suver and Corvallis. Deputies were unable to get ahold of the registered owner. They took photos and had the van towed. Based on the amount of empty alcoholic beverage containers that were found inside the vehicle, it appeared they may have been driving under the influence of an intoxicant.

At 10:21 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance with a possible restraining order violation on Main Street in Falls City. When a neighbor’s daughter went to get the mail, the two residents began yelling profanities at her. The incident was captured on security video. The subject with the restraining order investigated the yelling, but remained on the sidewalk, away from the property. One of the residents, Thomas Sawicki, admitted to deputies he threw an egg at the other subject. When he turned to walk back to the house, a deputy grabbed him and said he was under arrest. Sawicki continued to fight and get away and was taken into custody with the aid of three other deputies. He was taken to Polk County Jail and charged with harassment, resisting arrest, criminal mischief 2 and attempted escape 2.

At 11:30 a.m., deputies investigated a suspicious field fire on Elkins Road that ended up spreading and burning down the property owner’s house. The resident, who had reported suspiciously started fires on his property in the past that were to his benefit, said this one started after his from his bulldozer throwing a spark while they were clearing the ground. Deputies found it possible, but not very plausible, but also not enough to get to potential crime for reckless burning. A fire inspector explained to the land owner he actually can legally do an agriculture field burn and how to go about it, just in case that is his goal in the future and to prevent further suspiciousness.

At 12:15 p.m., a resident on Eola Drive reported the overnight vandalism of her vehicle. The likely suspects have been identified and it’s due to ongoing “boy drama.” There was no concrete evidence as of now, but the deputy plans to do some follow up interviews.

At 6:28 p.m., a vehicle was reported repossessed on Jahn Road.

POLICE

From Page B6

At 8:50 p.m., deputies investigated a report of a T-bone blocking crash on Highway 99 at Bethel Road. There were only minor injuries. Deputies assisted with traffic control until Oregon State Police arrived on scene and investigated the crash.

At 9:12 p.m., a male on a bicycle that was going down Monmouth Avenue did not stop at the Jackson Street intersection and did not have a bike light nor rear reflector. A deputy warned the bicyclist and explained the safety situation of not having lights.

At 10:01 p.m., deputies investigated an old crash scene on Hoffman Road. The driver returned to the scene while deputies were there. He explained his rear differential locked up on him and caused him to go into the ditch. There were no signs of intoxication. The driver’s daughter lives at the property where the ditch is and is going to call a tow truck.

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

At 12:42 a.m., a deputy investigated a report of a cow in the road just west of Falls City Road. The deputy found a pile of cow feces, and cows on both sides of the road behind fences, but no cow in the road nor out of a fenced area. The deputy assumed the cow “mooved” back to its property.

At 11:09 a.m., a resident on Lewis Street in Falls City reported his neighbor’s same pack of dogs running around the neighborhood. Another neighbor was able to wrangle the dogs up and get them inside. A deputy left the owner a voicemail and will document that they got out again.

At 2:38 p.m., a report of juvenile boys reported that a male parked his car in front of them as they were walking down the sidewalk on Madrona Street. They said the male got out and started running towards and reached one of his hands towards them at one point but did not say anything. They both ran and reported the male never got closer than about 30 yards to them. Officers returned to the scene and found the vehicle but the driver did not match the youths’ description. He said he arrived home around the time of the call but did not see any kids and did not chase anyone. There were no cameras at the location so the officers were unable to develop any potential charges.

At 3:30 p.m., a deputy spoke with a male subject who was walking on the side of Kings Valley Highway near milepost 14.5. He said that he was headed to his aunt’s house, but would not say where. The deputy provided him with some water for his journey south.

At 4:44 p.m., deputies responded to a report of an automated crash alert from an iPhone on Doaks Ferry Road, but were unable to locate a crash.

At 9:37 p.m., deputies investigated a report of an overdose attempt on Ellendale Avenue. They spoke with the resident, whose son reported she had intentionally taken too many pills in a suicide attempt. She admitted to taking one extra pill to calm down a little more, but denied any suicidal ideations and

said her son was being a drama queen. Medics evaluated her and determined she was medically fine.

At 10:09 p.m., a report of two male subjects trespassing on the farm property on Airlie Road. The complainant said he smelled marijuana and when he found the subjects they ran from him and he was unable to locate them again. The complainant requested extra patrols due to the amount of farm equipment in the fields, and mentioned nothing was tampered with thus far.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

At 7:44 a.m., a deputy located what appears to be some sort of encampment hidden in a dilapidated field off Farmer Road. Nobody was around.

At 9:50 a.m., an anonymous report of the theft of chain link fencing on Steel Bridge Road. A deputy met with the resident and looked at bundles of chain-link fencing inside truck beds. There were no obvious signs that the tall grass had been pushed down recently.

At 9:50 a.m., a motorist was westbound on Zena Road when a deer jumped out in front of him and he struck it. A deputy arrived and dispatched the deer and provided the driver with a crash report. The driver arranged his own tow.

At 12 p.m., a report of a motorist failed to negotiate a curve on Falls City Road and drove into the gravel ditch area. The motorist attempted to drive out of it, but failed and ended up overturning the vehicle once. Due to insurance issues, the driver asked the property owner if he could keep the vehicle there until a delayed tow arrived. Permission was granted. However, a deputy gave the driver a citation and his crash report.

At 1 p.m., a report of a two-vehicle accident on Kings Valley Highway where one rear ended the other attempting to turn left across traffic onto Falls City Road. A deputy’s photos were sent to Oregon State Police.

At 3:04 p.m., a male subject left a pile of trash in front of the side door of his vehicle on Main Street in Dallas with his speakers blasting. A deputy waited for him to come back and when he did, the deputy told him he had five minutes to get his mess cleaned up or he’d be taken to jail. The subject cleaned it up and told the deputy “if I ever talked to him like that he would stomp my cowboy hat flat and take my truck from me.” The deputy told him for his sake that wouldn’t be a good idea.

At 5:44 p.m., a deputy accompanied two subjects to a location on Fire Hall Road to stand by while they recovered a stolen vehicle in a civil matter. However, the deputy learned another subject was at the residence with an outstanding warrant out of Baker County. The subject James Beeks was arrested and taken to Polk County Jail. However, due to medical issues, he was allowed to return home, where he was cited and released on the warrant.

At 7:11 p.m., a motorist on Highway 99 near milepost 55 was cited for speeding 86 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 9:09 p.m., deputies assisted the Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office with the apprehension

of a stabbing/shooting suspect at Sheridan City Park. Deputies took a subject into custody and placed him in a patrol car. However, the subject began hitting his head against the car. They took him out of the car and held him secure on the ground until a “wrap” arrived and the subject was secured in it. He was transported to the hospital.

At 10:02 p.m., a resident on Zena Road reported hearing a noise from an old school house next door and spotting a flashlight moving around inside the building. The resident’s boyfriend arrived before deputies and found nothing inside the building. Neither did deputies when they checked. There are no suspects at this time.

At 10:57 p.m., a deputy was traveling Southbound on Kings Valley Highway near Polk Station Road when a racoon ran across the road. The deputy subsequently hit the racoon with the patrol vehicle. The deputy stopped to ensure the racoon was not suffering and removed it from the road. The patrol vehicle was undamaged.

At 11:36 p.m., black 2004 Honda Civic four-door parked nearly in the middle of Parker Road. The front end had a jack underneath along with rocks that appeared to be propping the front end up. The vehicle’s steering column was damaged and the ignition was punched, so it could be stolen. The registered owner was not home in Independence. The vehicle was towed.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

At 2:20 a.m., a resident on Andrea Drive reported hearing 5-6 shots, possibly from a pistol. The complainant advised he didn’t hear any vehicles or distress. A deputy checked the area twice but did not locate anything suspicious or hear anything that sounded like gunshots.

At 8:51 a.m., a motorist on Highway 99 near Rickreall was stopped for failing to register a vehicle. The driver had no operator’s license and presented an ID card. The driver was cited for no license and was warned for failing to register.

At 9:17 a.m., a motorist on Highway 99 near Rickreall road was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for failure to install an ignition interlock device.

At 11:40 a.m., a motorist on Maple Grove Road was cited for speeding 90 mph in a 55-mph zone.

At 11:45 a.m., deputies investigated an accident on Morrow Road involving a black Honda Civic on its roof and a Maroon SUV that left the scene. The owner of the vehicle was the passenger and the driver was cited for no operator’s license and careless driving. It was unknown if the other vehicle was damaged or not. The deputy will follow up with Independence Police to check traffic cams.

At 4:27 p.m., a motorist on Fairview Avenue was stopped for expired registration and terminated insurance. The driver initially could not provide any ID but eventually provided a Mexican passport confirming the name he gave. However, he had no record in any database that the deputy could find. The driver was cited for no operator’s license and driving uninsured.

At 9:26 p.m., a deputy a vehicle on Hoffman

Road parked off the road with hazards on. No one was inside but a note was left on the dash with a phone number. The deputy called and the owner said the vehicle broke down and tow was enroute.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

At 1:18 a.m., a resident on Pioneer Road reported a vehicle hit a county sign out front of her home and drove through the ditch before driving off.

At 9:19 a.m., a motorist was stopped for expired tags. The driver was cited for driving uninsured and was warned for the expired tags.

At 10:13 a.m., a resident on Bryant Court reported finding a dog and then trapped it in a neighbor’s yard. The dog had no tags or chips. It was lodged at the county dog kennel.

At 2:09 p.m., an Oregon State Police officer was on a traffic stop on Pacific Highway when he observed a dog causing a traffic hazard. A deputy lodged the dog at the county dog kennels.

At 2:49 p.m., a citizen brought a male German shepherd and a female black lab to the PCSO. He located them near Jiffy Lube in Dallas. He said the German Shepard had run out into traffic. Neither dog had a collar or chip. It was unknown who the owner was. The dogs were logged into the county dog kennels.

At 3:33 p.m., a motorist was stopped for terminated insurance. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and for driving uninsured.

At 5:35 p.m., a deputy that was on the way

back to Dallas observed a three vehicle accident on Highway 22. The deputy contacted the three involved and two advised they had injuries. The rear vehicle had an aggressive dog and was one of the injured person’s. The deputy got the dog on a leash and walked him while medics cared for the owner. Two were transported to Salem Hospital and Oregon State Police later arrived and took over the investigation.

At 5:25 p.m., a deputy investigated a report of a single-vehicle accident on Falls City Road at Oakdale Road. The vehicle was gone by the time the deputy arrived. The owner was contracted and she said she was fine. There was not enough damage to report to the DMV.

At 7:47 p.m., a male subject was arrested on Gun Club Road for an outstanding failure to appear warrant and for unauthorized possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

At 1:53 a.m., a motorist on Highway 22 was stopped for failure to maintain a lane. The driver admitted to not having a license but the passenger, who did have a license, was too tired to drive. The driver admitted to smoking marijuana in the car 2-3 hours ago. He passed a field sobriety test. The driver was cited for driving while suspended - violation and was issued a written warning for failing to drive within lane.

At 2:14 a.m., deputies arrested and lodged a juvenile subject at Yamhill Juvenile

Detention Center where he was charged with elude, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, reckless driving, four counts of reckless endangering and theft 2.

At 5:16 a.m., a deputy responded to a report of a road struck deer on Ferns Corner Road. The deputy found the deer bleeding from all over and had a broken leg. The deputy dispatched the deer and moved it to the road for Public Works to pick up.

At 10:41 a.m., a motorist reported a young fawn on James Howe Road appeared to be badly injured, possibly hit by a vehicle and would need to be dispatched. A deputy located the deer badly injured and dispatched it.

At 10:22 a.m., a resident on Ellendale Avenue reported hearing gunshots around 2:51 a.m. and that his Ring camera showed an unknown vehicle drive past his residence and shoot several rounds. A deputy arrived in the area and located approximately eight 9mm Luger casings. Other neighbors heard the shots, but did not have security footage capturing the incident. Unknown suspects at this time.

At 8:58 p.m., a report of a single-vehicle crash on Talmadge Road where the driver veered out of the way for an animal that crossed the road. The driver ended up driving on the gravel shoulder damaging some cable covers belonging to the company Lumen. It was unknown the extent of property damage that resulted from the crash. The driver was provided a crash report and she called for her own tow. Lumen was contacted.

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Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Football
From Page B1

life lessons and help players become people of integrity, character and discipline.

These priorities also reflect Centoni’s history with the program.

He first served as a Central assistant in 1999, Shane Hedricks’ first season as head coach. Centoni later spent 17 years as an assistant at David Douglas High School before returning to Central as head coach in 2019.

He remained with the Panthers as an assistant during the 2020 and 2021 seasons. Centoni became defensive coordinator in 2022 and now adds assistant head coach to his responsibilities.

While Central’s leadership structure has changed, its daily expectations have not.

“Our goal is to take each day at a time and work through the process to become the best version of ourselves individually and collectively,” Centoni

said.

That means competing to win while showing respect for opponents, officials, spectators and teammates.

The Panthers also are adjusting to a new classification and a new league after moving from Class 5A to 4A. They will compete in the Old West Conference, but Centoni said this transition has not dominated the team’s conversations.

“We honestly don’t talk about the move down to 4A much at all,” he said. “Our focus since the end of last season has been on how we can keep getting better each day.”

Centoni has limited experience with the conference. His only previous season in it came during his first stint with Central in 1999.

The Panthers enter the season with several experienced players leading the way.

Senior Ryan Perkins gives Central a proven playmaker at wide receiver. He earned honorable mention recognition at receiver and kick and

punt returner last season. His speed and ball skills make him a scoring threat whenever he has possession.

Perkins will contribute at boundary cornerback as well.

Junior Braden O’Sullivan takes over as Central’s lead running back after serving as a varsity reserve last season.

The 6-foot-1, 205-pound two-sport athlete has emerged as one of the program’s most consistent participants in strength training and athletic development. This work has helped him add size while preparing for a larger role.

O’Sullivan will also contribute on special teams.

Junior Tyler Olafson provides versatility at quarterback and tight end. The 6-foot-2, 238-pound three-sport athlete has worked to improve his power, speed and quickness.

Centoni also considers Olafson a spiritual leader for the Panthers. In addition to his offensive responsibilities, Olafson will see time at defensive

end.

Central’s defense will lean heavily on seniors Asher Baker, Josiah Vela and Easton Herbert.

Baker is a four-year varsity player who earned honorable mention at safety last season. He has played several positions throughout his career, often moving around to address injuries or other needs. He returns at field safety and will have an important role on special teams coverage units.

Vela moves into the Panthers’ Bandit (middle safety) position after earning honorable mention at linebacker. He recorded 9.5 tackles for loss and finished as Central’s second-leading tackler last season.

The three-year defensive starter spent the offseason improving his speed and developing a greater understanding of Central’s defense. He also serves as the team’s No. 2 running back.

“He’s got a ‘suddenness’ to him that will show up on both sides of the ball,” Centoni said of Vela.

Herbert returns at linebacker after earning honorable mention despite playing only half the season at the position. The 6-foot-3, 196-pound senior is a consistent presence in the weight room and has earned the respect of his teammates.

“Easton’s a young man of few words, but he shows up and just gets the job done,” Centoni said.

Junior defensive end Brody Beach and junior nose tackle Alex Hill are stepping into starting roles. Both will be counted on to strengthen the Panthers along the line of scrimmage.

Central’s season-opening win over Tillamook offered an early glimpse of the team’s potential. The Panthers received contributions from throughout the roster, with eight players catching passes and the defense producing several quick stops.

Still, Central’s coaches are more interested in what happens next.

They have emphasized connection throughout the spring and summer. That

bond will be tested as the Panthers encounter the inevitable highs and lows of a season.

Success, Centoni said, is determined by how a team responds.

“Our coaches have preached ‘connection,’” he said. “How we are able to respond collectively to the ups and downs of the season will be a great challenge and opportunity.”

For the Panthers, the focus remains simple: stay together, improve each day and honor the foundation already in place.

Notes:

Shane Hedricks and his defending state champion Cougars visit Central on Friday, Sept. 18. The Cougars went undefeated last season at 13-0 to win the 4A title. This the Old West Conference opener for both teams.

Friday’s game against Dallas was the first of four straight home games for the Panthers. (Results were unavailable before the I-O’s early deadline due to the Labor Day Holiday). These games, in order, are against Banks, Cascade and Philomath.

Panthers
From Page B1

year’s playoff squad.

“We had a lot of great players last year, but we weren’t all the way a team necessarily,” Taufa’asau said. “This year, we have a really solid group of girls with a lot of skill. We are really bonded as a team.”

That connection did not develop overnight. Many of Central’s players have competed together since they were young. Their friendships extend beyond practices, matches and the high school season.

They have also committed more time to volleyball.

Many of the Panthers’ starters played club volleyball during the offseason. While club experience is not required to succeed, Central’s third-year coach Cammy

Baker sees such participation as evidence of the players’ commitment to improvement.

Combining this experience with their close relationships has created a promising mix.

“They genuinely enjoy being together,” Baker said of her players. “They hang out in their off time. It’s not just that they’re friends during the season. They have a connection and friendship that goes so much beyond the season.”

These bonds become particularly important when things aren’t going well on the court. Central has shown an ability to identify problems and make adjustments before a match gets away from them. Players trust one another enough to stay composed rather than allowing one mistake to become several.

“If we’re down five,

that doesn’t mean anything to us because we know we can still come back and win the game,” Cole said. “I think it’s awesome that we all have that mindset.”

The Panthers have shown glimpses of their potential this season. They have also endured stretches that exposed how much work still remains.

Their coach accepts both experiences early in the season.

“We have barely scratched the surface,” Baker said. “We have seen glimpses of how awesome we can be and how low we can be. One of the strengths of this team is they are able to assess really quickly what we are doing wrong, and then they have the mental capacity to change it.”

The next step is becoming more consistent. Specifically, Central

wants to earn more of its points while limiting the number it gives away through unforced errors.

The Panthers also need to make opponents work harder by serving aggressively, attacking with purpose and keeping the other team off-balanced. Simply returning the ball over the net is not good enough against the state’s best teams.

“We have to be smart,” the coach added. “When it’s chaotic, we still have to be mindful and thoughtful about where we put the ball. We have to be intentional in the chaos and recover really well.”

Central’s move from Class 5A to 4A does not reduce expectations. Nor will the Panthers’ underestimate the teams and challenges ahead.

The Panthers join an Oregon West Conference that includes established

programs such as Cascade and Stayton.

“I was talking to a coach and telling her the different teams in our new conference,” Baker said. “She said, ‘So you’ve gone from one tough conference to another tough conference.’ I said, ‘I’m pretty sure that’s what’s happening. They just relabeled it from 5A to 4A.’”

Taufa’asau echoed a similar sentiment.

“Just because we went down a class doesn’t mean we need to let up or not work as hard,” she said. “We went into one of the hardest leagues in 4A. It doesn’t change how hard we work.”

These interviews took place before last week’s match against Corvallis, a former Mid-Willamette Conference rival. The Panthers lost both matches to the Spartans last season. Taufa’asau

expected the contest to be Central’s toughest to date, and not just physically.

“A lot of the game will be mental,” she added. “We played them a lot, and we were pretty close last year.”

Still, the results of one match – win or lose – will not determine Central’s season. For the Panthers’ larger goals require sustained effort. The team must bring intensity to every drill and to treat each practice as another opportunity that cannot be wasted.

“We’re not good enough just to show up,” Baker said. “We have to put in additional work and extra care in everything we do.”

The girls host Gladstone tonight (Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. They are at the Sprague Tournament on Saturday, with matches beginning at 8 a.m.

Soccer
From Page B1

control the pace of play and figures to have an important role as Central continues developing its attack.

The Panthers return seniors Avrie Alaniz and Bridget Humphreys.

Alaniz missed the opener with an injury but is expected to return soon. She gives Central an experienced attacking option that is capable of creating and finishing

scoring chances.

Humphreys brings leadership and consistency. She and Alaniz will be counted on to help guide a roster featuring several young players.

Central’s next step is becoming more consistent with the ball while improving its execution near the goal. The Panthers must remain organized defensively against experienced opponents.

Such improvements will come as the players gain confidence and become

more comfortable with each other.

“Our success will depend on continuing to commit to our style of play and building the habits we’ve emphasized since the summer,” the coach said. “We want to be a team that keeps possession with purpose, works hard defensively and plays simple, effective soccer.”

Central believes its commitment and character provide a solid foundation.

“If we stay committed

to our principles, continue growing our confidence on the ball and develop chemistry as a group, I believe we’ll see positive results as the season moves forward,” the coach said.

The Panthers hit the road, as they travel to Astoria on Thursday. They’re at South Albany on Sept. 17, followed by the Old West Conference opener at Cascade on Sept. 24.

Central returns home Tuesday, Sept. 29, to host Stayton.

Opener
From Page B1

nine receptions and 176 yards. Each receiver had a catch of more than 50 yards.

Braden O’Sullivan did his work on the ground. He rushed for 124 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries.

Central finished with 415 yards of total offense while holding Tillamook

to 238.

The Panthers also received several strong defensive performances.

Josiah Vela led the way with 10 tackles, one assist and one tackle for loss. Brody Beach and Easton Herbert combined for 12 tackles and eight assists.

Tillamook quarterback Kevin Hurliman completed 19 passes for 178 yards. Isaiah Haggard scored the Cheesemakers’ lone touchdown.

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