

Appeal Tribune

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021 | SILVERTONAPPEAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

How much have homes gone up?

Home values up 18.9% in Marion and 24.4% Polk counties

Sean Lahman
USA TODAY NETWORK

The median sales price for a single-family home in Marion County during July was \$390,000. That's an increase of 18.9% compared with July 2020, according to data from Realtor.com.

The number of houses sold fell by 1.2% from a year earlier. A total of 505 houses were sold county-wide during the month of July. During the same pe-

riod a year earlier, 511 single-family homes were sold.

The median sales price for a single-family home in Polk County during July was \$420,375. That's an increase of 24.4% compared with July 2020, according to Realtor.com.

The number of houses sold fell by 1.4% from a year earlier. A total of 142 houses were sold county-wide during the month of July. During the same period a year earlier, 144 single-family

homes were sold.

Real estate sales can take weeks or months to be recorded and collected. This is the latest data made available through the National Association of Realtors to the USA TODAY Network.

Also in Marion County, condominiums and townhomes sold in July had a median sales price of \$160,000. That figure represents a 15.3% decrease

See **HOME VALUES, Page 4A**



Several sold and for sale signs line the streets of a new housing development on in Salem.

ABIGAIL DOLLINS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

FEEDING THE FARMWORKERS



Volunteers Art Mendez, left, and Rick Paradis sort produce at Aware Food Bank in Woodburn. The food bank developed a farmworker outreach program in 2019. BRIAN HAYES/STATESMAN JOURNAL

They keep Oregonians fed, but struggle to put food on own tables

Dora Totoian Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The first time the workers from Mano a Mano Family Center ventured to a Polk County labor camp to deliver food boxes to farmworkers, one man declined and wanted nothing to do with the organization. • However, a few visits later, he shared with them how his negative experience applying for federal food benefits dissuaded him from accepting help, and how

the nonprofit's food distribution program to farmworkers changed his outlook.

Mano a Mano, a Mid-Valley organization that supports Latino families, is one of several nonprofits in the area addressing food insecurity among agricultural workers.

While their work puts food on tables across the nation, farmworkers' low wages, long work hours without overtime pay and often rural locations can make it challenging for them to feed their own families.

And some workers' exclusion from or hesitation to access most federal government benefits can compound that food insecurity.

"Even though people are cultivating the food we all eat, they can't afford the same foods themselves," Ana Peña, a community health worker at

Mano a Mano, said.

Struggles to access food

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines "food security" as access to enough food at all times for an active, healthy life. In 2020, 10.5% of all U.S. households were food insecure, according to the USDA.

Regional studies in California, North Carolina and other states have found that about 45% of farmworkers interviewed are food insecure at various points of the year.

Stephanie Grutzmacher, an Oregon State University professor who studies food insecurity, said the USDA's definition and scale for measuring food

See **FOOD, Page 4A**

Events to be held for World AIDS Day

Natalie Pate
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since the first cases were reported more than 35 years ago, 78 million people have become infected with HIV and 35 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses, according to the United Nations program UNAIDS.

Statewide, there are about 8,000 people with HIV or AIDS, including about 450 in Marion County and 75 in Polk County, according to available Oregon Health Authority data.

For 33 years, World AIDS Day has served to bring greater awareness to HIV, as well as commemorate those affected by the disease. It's now regarded as the longest-running disease awareness initiative of its kind in the history of public health.

The Monmouth/Independence Pride Planning Committee will hold a commemoration event for World AIDS Day at 7 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Pacific Room at the Werner University Center at Western Oregon University.

Besides acknowledging the tragic loss of loved ones and friends, one of the reasons for the event is to educate community members about AIDS and how it impacts everyone in local communities, organizers said in a news release.

The hour-long commemoration will include a welcome from representatives from Monmouth and Western Oregon University, as well as musical performances and a keynote address by Jason Dorsette, associate director for strategic communication at Oregon State University.

The Pride Planning Committee is also sponsoring an essay contest for local Central School District students with a cash prize for the top two entries, according to the release. Central School District Superintendent Jennifer Kubista will introduce the winners of the essay contest and they will read their essays at the commemoration.

In addition to the commemoration event, Western is hosting several panels of the National AIDS Memorial Quilt. Western is one of three sites in the Pacific Northwest to display the quilt and the only site in Oregon.

The quilt will be on display at the Werner University Center in the Willamette Room at these times:

• **Dec. 1:** 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• **Dec. 2:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Werner University Center is located on campus at 400 Monmouth Ave. N in Monmouth.

To request disability-related accommodations to participate, notify Western's disability services department at 503-838-8250 or ods@wou.edu at least three business days in advance.

Contact reporter **Natalie Pate** at npate@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6745, Twitter @NataliePateGwin, or Facebook at www.Facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist.



Serenity Rico, left, and Jalayah Francisco, right, 5th graders from the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, use chalk to write the names of those who have died from AIDS on the sidewalk of Castro Street on Dec. 1, 2015, in San Francisco. The event was called Inscribe on World AIDS Day. ERIC RISBERG/AP

The best thing about 2021

There's no question 2021 was rough. We've had a historic ice storm, record-breaking summer temperatures and another 12 months of COVID-19.

But we know some pretty great things happened, too, and we'd like to end the year by sharing some of those joyful stories. To do that, we need your help.

Tell us about the best thing that happened to you this year. Email a few paragraphs, a photo and your full name to senior news editor Alia Beard Rau at arau@gannett.com by Wednesday, Dec. 15. We'll share the stories online and in the paper Sunday, Jan. 2.

Online at SilvertonAppeal.com

News updates: • Breaking news • Get updates from the Silverton area

Photos: • Photo galleries

Vol. 140, No. 50

Serving the Silverton Area Since 1880
A Unique Edition of the Statesman Journal

