

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High taxes make selling home tough

Home and business owners in Polk County will be in for a big shock in the next few months if we don't stop all this madness when it comes to taxes and fees.

If the public safety levy passes, this could make Polk County the second highest overall taxed county in the state. I want to sell my home one day and not chase out buyers due to over-taxation. Remember, our taxes already pay Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and West

Salem for police protection. Let's send a message: Stay within your budget. Vote "no" on the levy.

Brandie Mangum
Dallas

County's tax base was misrepresented

In the letter by Ken Mayer of Feb. 4, he infers that Polk County will have the second highest tax rate in the state when the levy passes. This is incorrect.

Currently, the two highest base rates are for Sherman

County, \$8.71, and Wheeler County, \$8.52. We won't be anywhere near that. Polk County's base is \$1.71 plus 54 cents (road bond) plus 45 cents (new levy) for \$2.70.

This leaves 17 counties ahead of Polk with a base rate higher than \$2.70 (rates per \$1,000 of assessed value; tax rate information gathered from an Oregonian article dated March 4, 2012, at http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/03/oregon_timber_counties_scrambl.html).

Steve Milligan
Monmouth



Hermens Torres-Lopez Dean Perry Laster

Corrections posts 'most wanted'

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — Polk County Community Corrections lists these individuals as "most wanted" for February. Citizens with information on the whereabouts of any of these individuals should call Community Corrections at 503-623-5226.

• Michael Albert Hermens, born April 25, 1974, 5-8, 220

pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charges: Burglary II, theft I.

• Abraham Torres-Lopez, born Oct. 27, 1996, 5-5, 150 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charges: Burglary I (two counts).

• Michael John Harley Dean, born Feb. 14, 1994, 6-3, 140 pounds, blond hair, blue eyes. Charges: Unau-

thorized use of a vehicle.

• Zachary Bryant Perry, born Feb. 5, 1988, 5-7, 230 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charges: Failure to register as a sex offender, rape III.

• Kenith Dell Laster, born Oct. 8, 1993, 5-9, 160 pounds, blond hair, hazel eyes. Charges: Possession of methamphetamine, rape I.

POLICE REPORT

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

DALLAS

Arrests/Citations

• Rawlyn Chenoweth, 18, and Ryan Chenoweth, 18, of Dallas in the 400 block of Southeast Hankel Street on the Feb. 3, both on a charge of reckless driving.

• Richard L. McKenzie, 53, of Portland on the 300 block of Main Street on Friday on charges of second-degree burglary, possession of burglars' tools, and second-degree crim-

inal mischief.

INDEPENDENCE

Arrests/Citations

• Adrian James Ulery, 37, a transient in the 200 block of Williams Street on Feb. 2 for disorderly conduct.

• James Edward Young, 21, of Independence in the 100 block of South 17th Street on Thursday for second-degree rape, second-degree sodomy and tampering with a witness.

MONMOUTH

Arrests/Citations

• Samuel Christopher Spiro, 22, of Monmouth at the corner of Monmouth Avenue South and Main Street West on Jan. 30 for prohibited exposure.

• Brandon Chase Cabrai Rezentes, 22, of Monmouth at the corner of Monmouth Avenue North and Stadium Drive

North on Jan. 30 for unlawful possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

• Kameron Janelle Ford, 24, of Portland in the 100 block of Warren Street South on Jan. 31 for physical harassment.

• Lituania Corral, 20, of Independence at the corner of Monmouth-Independence Highway and Boyd Lane on Jan. 31 for misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Amber May Miletta, 21, of Monmouth at the corner of Riddell Road and Hoffman Road on Feb. 2 for misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Steven Joseph Markel, 20, of Monmouth in the 300 block of Clay Street West on Thursday for minor in possession of alcohol.

Woman killed in Hwy. 22 crash

Itemizer-Observer staff report
SHERIDAN — A head-on crash on Highway 22 near Red Prairie Road in rural Polk County on Sunday claimed the life of a Salem woman.

Carrol L. Davis, 70, died in the collision at about 4:30 p.m. on Highway 22W near milepost 6.5.

The collision happened when a green 1995 Plymouth Neon, driven by Joshua Deeds, 19, of Otis, was heading westbound and tried

overtaking a vehicle in the oncoming lane. The Neon collided head-on with an eastbound gray 2004 Chevrolet Venture, driven by Orsene L. Davis, 73, of Salem.

Carrol Davis was the passenger in the Venture and was pronounced dead at the scene. Orsene Davis was transported via air ambulance to Salem Hospital with serious injuries. Deeds was transported to Salem Hospital with serious injuries.

The highway was closed for about three hours.

Oregon State Police is investigating the crash with assistance from the Polk County District Attorney's Office.

OSP was assisted at the scene by the Polk County Sheriff's Department, Dallas Fire Department, Polk County Fire District No. 1, Southwest Polk Fire District, Sheridan Fire District and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Dallas beginning detailed study of condition of city's sewer lines

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas Public Works crew is getting up close and personal with every foot of sewer line in the city — even more so than before.

In a project that began slowly about a year ago, but more recently has been given higher priority, the crew is taking video of the entire system. That's about 50 miles of pipe, ranging in age from brand new to 100 years old.

Fred Braun, the city's engineering and environmental services director, said the painstaking process is a crucial part of completing the city's "inventory management plan" for the sewer system.

"The first thing you need to know for an inventory management plan is what condition your assets are in," he said Monday.

The city's sewer treatment plant was built in 2000, so it's fairly new, and the asset plan has already been completed.



However, the collection system review will take more time. Crews will use a camera specifically designed for being threaded through sewer pipe, looking at the condition of each segment. Braun said the city is assessing condition of the biggest lines first because large pipe failure will cause the most damage.

The detailed assessment will show where water is leaking into the system — called inflow and infiltration, or I & I — putting more pressure than necessary on the treatment plant, especially in the rainy months.

Additionally, a completed inventory management plan, with a detailed condi-

tion assessment, will give the city a leg up on grant applications and when seeking loans for collection system upgrades.

"It certainly helps," Braun said. "The more information you have, the stronger the application."

Braun said the project will likely be ongoing for a number of months to a year, putting Dallas on track to be one of just a handful of smaller cities with the condition review on hand.

"Most of the larger cities already completed this," he said, adding smaller cities are conducting the assessments as they acquire the technology. "We are ahead of the curve on most small cities."

GOT NEWS?

Have an idea for a story? Submit your tip to ionews@polkio.com.

Itemizer-Observer

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