

**DEADLINES**

**NEWS DEADLINES**  
For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the Itemizer-Observer:  
**Social news** (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.  
**Community events** — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.  
**Letters to the editor** — 10 a.m. on Monday.  
**Obituaries** — 4 p.m. on Monday.  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINES**  
**Retail display ads** — 3 p.m. Friday.  
**Classified display ads** — 11 a.m. on Monday.  
**Classified line ads** — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).  
**Public notices** — Noon on Friday.

**CORRECTIONS**

The wrong date was given for Dallas High School's Inkblot poetry slam in "School Notes" on page 18A of the April 8 edition of the Itemizer-Observer. It should have read Thursday (April 16). The I-O regrets the error.  
The Polk County Itemizer-Observer is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an e-mail to [nadams@polkio.com](mailto:nadams@polkio.com).

**WEBSITE**

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com), is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations.  
The Itemizer-Observer is also on Facebook and Twitter. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

**WEATHER**

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
April 7	60	42	.24
April 8	59	43	.00
April 9	66	38	.00
April 10	61	39	.01
April 11	55	40	.26
April 12	61	38	.00
April 13	55	39	.35

Rainfall during April — 1.56 in.  
Rain through April 13 — 13.34 in.

**Sudoku solution**

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

Visit our website  
[www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com)



**Alex Hernandez files letters at the Independence Post Office, where he got his start as a postal clerk at 19. He will start work as postmaster in Sheridan next week.**

**From clerk to postmaster**

*Hernandez to start at Sheridan office next week*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — When Alex Hernandez was 19, he never dreamed he would make a lifelong career at the Independence Post Office, but, 21 years later, that's what he's done.

"It wasn't something I aspired to," he said.

Hernandez, 40, took the job as a postal clerk straight out of high school with the intent to earn money for college.

"I don't think I had a definite plan," he said. "That's one reason I ended up staying at the post office."

Not that he has any regrets.

"One very big thing that happened is I met my wife while I was working at the post office," he said. "I started a family and just kept working."

Now, Hernandez will take a job at the Sheridan Post Office as postmaster.

"It's been very rewarding," he said of his career. "I've gotten to know a very large portion of this town on a personal level."

The 1992 Central graduate has always loved Independence.

"I've come to know most of the people here," he said. "It's a really great place with a lot of fun people."

Hernandez has worked every job available at the Independence Post Office, including carrying mail on every route in town at least once.

Being a mail carrier comes with its challenges, but dogs aren't usually one of them, he said.

"Usually if a carrier has a problem with a specific dog, you can talk it over with the customer," Hernandez noted.

He has seen a lot of changes in both the post office and in the town he loves. The post office has become more streamlined.

"We're actually moving forward, catching up with the rest of the business world," Hernandez said. "There's fewer letters, more parcels. So we're not going away, it's just that the business is changing."

In town, he has seen quite a growth.

"What they've done with the downtown area has been something the town should be proud of," Hernandez said.

His move to Sheridan doesn't mean he'll be moving out of Independence. His last day working at the Independence Post Office is Friday.

**Check fraud totals \$13,500**

*Dallas couple sought for writing multiple bad checks*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The infamous "Military Mistress" is at it again, police say. This time with her new husband — a Dallas resident — as her alleged accomplice.

Bobbi Ann Finley, aka Bobbi Ann House, 39, along with husband Zackerie House, 27, have been implicated in a check fraud spree totaling \$13,500 in Oregon, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Marion County sheriff's deputies are asking for help locating the couple, who are believed to be hiding in a remote area based on their purchases of camping supplies, said sheriff's office spokesman Sgt. Chris Baldridge.

Marion County deputies discovered the fraud after being called to Universal Auto Sales, 399 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem.

The couple used a check to make a \$1,500 down payment on a vehicle, which police believe they are still driving. It has been listed as stolen.

Bobbi House was coined the "Military Mistress" after she married at least 14 United States service members and proceeded to steal their money, according to the Oregonian. She was convicted in 2011 and sentenced to three years in prison.

Now free and remarried, House is accused of opening a Wells Fargo bank account at the Dallas branch and writing bad checks on it.

The Houses started their spree in Western Oregon, moving through coastal towns, then heading out of state. Spanning March 11 to March 30, the couple wrote \$13,500 in insufficiently funded checks at locations including Cabellas, Safeway and Bi-Mart.

They are driving a 2005 Cadillac Escalade, Oregon license plate 535 BWP. They last made a purchase on March 30 at Atwoods in Chocotah, Okla.

Police are not aware of the couple's whereabouts, even though House called the Marion County Sheriff's Office Tuesday, after the agency issued a press release regarding the search for the couple.

Baldridge said in interviews with Portland television news channel KPTV and Marion County detectives that House said they were looking for work and would come back to Oregon the straighten everything out. Subsequent attempts to reach the couple have failed, and police have no new leads in the case.

Police asks anyone who has been a victim of the Houses or has information on the case to contact local police or the Oregon State Police.



**Bobbi Ann Finley (House) and Zackerie House**

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Monmouth to be named Tree City**

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth Tree Advisory Board will hold the annual Arbor Day Celebration at Madrona Park at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The event will feature the new arboretum in Madrona Park, 1521 Madrona St. E. This year's planting will add 24 trees to the 90 trees planted in the arboretum last fall.

The city of Monmouth will be recognized for 13 years as a Tree City USA and will receive a Tree City Growth Award for the first time. The growth award highlights activities, such as the new arboretum planting, that have expanded Monmouth's tree program.

**IPD hiring cadet, reserve officers**

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Department is accepting applications for reserve and cadet officers.

Applications may be picked up at the Independence Civic Center or downloaded online at [www.ci.independence.or.us](http://www.ci.independence.or.us).

Applications may be dropped off at the Independence Police Department or mailed to: Independence Police Department, 555 S. Main St., Independence, OR 97351.

For more information: Sgt. Lyle Gilbert, 503-838-1214.

**Committee to review Dallas budget**

DALLAS — The city of Dallas and Dallas Urban Renewal Agency will begin the process of approving their 2015-16 budgets Monday during a meeting of their budget committees.

The 2015-16 proposed budget will be introduced and the budget messages delivered for both agencies. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St.

A copy of the proposed budgets will be available for review beginning Tuesday at City Manager Ron Foggin's office at city hall. A public hearing on the both budgets is scheduled for May 18 at 7 p.m. at city hall. For more information: city manager's office, 503-831-3502.

**VOLUNTEER CALENDAR**

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email [IONews@polkio.com](mailto:IONews@polkio.com).

- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County — 503-949-5552
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 503-581-2451
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Polk County Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) — 503-623-9268, ext. 1301
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Reading for All — 503-623-9664
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600

**Dallas Alteration** will be changing hours effective immediately.  
See hours below:  
**Mon-Fri by appointment only**  
**8:00 a.m. - Noon (no walk-ins)**  
Mon-Fri • Noon - 5 p.m.  
Open for regular business. Walk-ins etc.  
**131 SW Mill St. • 503-623-2283**

**60TH ANNUAL River of Gems**  
Presented by: **Willamette Agate & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
A Non-Profit Educational Organization

**FRIDAY APRIL 17** 9 am - 6 pm  
**SATURDAY APRIL 18** 10 am - 6 pm  
**SUNDAY APRIL 19** 10 am - 4:30 pm

Rocks, Gems, Jewelry, Fossils and Minerals from Around the World  
Dealers, Exhibits, Creative Craft Demonstrations, Fluorescent Show, Silent Auction, Grab Bags, Door Prizes & Much More

**KID'S CORNER** Games - Educational - Fun  
**Treasure Hunt** Saturday 1:00 pm (Kids under 12)  
**ORAL AUCTION** Sunday 2:00 pm

Tours for School Children on Friday  
[www.wamsi.org](http://www.wamsi.org)

**POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
Rickreall, Oregon • HWY 99 • 10 miles west of Salem

**You're Invited**

**Second Annual Survivor Dinner & Celebration**  
hosted by Eola Hills Winery  
sponsored by Relay For Life of Polk County & Team Perrydale

**Saturday, May 2 at Eola Hills Wine Cellars**  
501 S. Pacific Highway 99W, Rickreall

**5:30 ~ Doors open, Meet & Mingle**  
**6:15 to 8:00 ~ Dinner & Entertainment**

Every survivor and guest will be guests of honor. Please join us for an evening of food, fun and festivities. To RSVP your name and the name of one guest, contact Vicki Bailey at 503-623-5241 or [vickibaile@aol.com](mailto:vickibaile@aol.com). For planning purposes, RSVPs are encouraged by April 23, but are not required.

**There for bikers, too.**

**Ask about motorcycle coverage.**  
The only thing better than feeling the wind in your face is finding extra money in your wallet. So ride over and let's see how much you can save.

**Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.**  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.

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