

Polk County  
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POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/for the Itemizer-Observer  
Quick thinking on the part of Dallas officers and a sheriff's deputy saved Deputy Shon Latty from a burning car.

## Deputy pulled from burning car

*Shon Latty OK after Saturday accident on Monmouth Cutoff*

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Police senior officers Colby Hamilton and Jim Rodriguez were just about to have lunch on Saturday when the call came in.

Polk County Deputy Shon Latty had been in a vehicle accident. His patrol car had rolled over. Send medics. Get Life Flight on standby.

"We got there and I took off running toward his vehicle," Hamilton recalled. "When I made contact with him, he was conscious and alert and able to talk to me. I told him he was doing OK and we were waiting for medics to come."

Neighbors brought a hose to Polk County Deputy

Casey Gibson, who was right behind Latty, to try and keep the steaming hot car cool.

On the 99-degree day, it wasn't successful.

"There was a noise when the fire started," Hamilton said. "It looked like it was in the engine compartment in the center by the dash. Now it was a different story of, 'we have to do something right now.'"

He pulled the car door as hard as he could and got it ajar far enough that he could squeeze his body into the opening while Rodriguez and Gibson bathed the fire with extinguishers.

"I took my knife out and cut his seatbelt and yanked him out of the car, drug him down the ditch about 30 feet away," Hamilton said.

Latty was taken to the Salem Hospital Emergency Room where he was treated for a broken arm and shoulder during the crash, along with minor injuries.

"He's doing good for the condition that he's in," said Polk County Sgt. Mark Garton. "He's in good spirits."

Latty had his lights and sirens on, heading down Monmouth Cutoff Road to aid an Independence Police officer who had called for help. The officer, who was assisting a Marion County deputy with a domestic call across the River Road bridge, was involved in a physical fight.

"A farmer on a tractor in the field called dispatch to say, 'They aren't losing, but they aren't really winning, ei-

ther,'" said Independence Police Chief Bob Mason. "It took a while for the cavalry to get there."

The Independence officer was "banged up a bit," but otherwise OK, Mason said.

While Latty and Gibson were passing vehicles on their way to the scene, a pickup truck turned left onto Godsey Road. Latty's vehicle and the pickup collided, sending the patrol car into the ditch and an embankment.

The fire started under the car, Sheriff Bob Wolfe said.

"Hot exhaust pipes, motor, ignited the fire under the car due to the dry grass," he said.

Hamilton recalled a colleague who died in a car fire and said he refused to see that happen to Latty.

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## IN YOUR TOWN

### DALLAS NEWS

Think you know all of what Dallas and the surrounding area has to offer? You should take a closer look.

That's what the city of Dallas' new marketing and branding campaign will ask outsiders — and even residents — to do. The product of about six months of work, the campaign's official unveiling will be at Summerfest 2015.

City Manager Ron Foggin said when trying to come up with a slogan that describes Dallas, the members of the Economic Development Commission steering committee struggled to point to one idea.

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### INDEPENDENCE NEWS

Rebecca Menke woke up on July 15 to hear smoke alarms going off.

At first, she thought it might be a mistake — sometimes boiling water on the stove will set the alarm off — and then she heard the word, "fire," come from her children's mouths.

"I went to get some water (from the kitchen sink), and it was spreading like pine needles," Menke said. "I have a newborn baby. I went and got her and we got out."

Menke and her five children stood outside their apartment, 1390 Monmouth St., with their neighbors while 31 firefighters battled the blaze.

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### MONMOUTH NEWS

For one weekend only, Western Oregon University's outdoor stage will be transformed into a Shakespeare festival, or at least kind of like that.

"One weekend doing the same show does not a festival make," said David Janoviak, director of "As You Like it." "But we want to create a festival environment."

"As You Like it" will be produced by WOU's Valley Shakespeare Company, a new endeavor headed by Janoviak.

"We've been talking about doing summer Shakespeare in the outdoor theater for years."

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### POLK COUNTY NEWS

Michael Henich has lived on gravel Highland Road for 16 years, but in the last two years, he's had a total 20 flat tires and blowouts.

He doesn't think that is normal, and he believes it is something about the gravel or the maintenance on the road that is causing the flurry of flats.

"The last two years have been really bad," Henich said. "It seems like the wrong-sized rock. It's an inch too big. Something is wrong."

Henich has lodged a number of complaints, even taking his tire remnants to the Polk County Commissioners for them to see.

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### RICKREALL NEWS

In a year of changes for the Polk County Fair, organizers have added yet another for 2015: beer and wine.

Striving to appeal to a broader audience, the fair will have a beer and wine garden in the 4-H building and patio hosted by Rogue Ales and Eola Wine Cellars.

This isn't the first time the fair has featured wine — a number of years ago the fair had a wine and cheese tasting booth — but it is the first year it will be featured in this manner.

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
Truman, the beloved dog of late Sgt. Randy Whittaker, will lead the Summerfest Grand Parade on Saturday.

## Truman to lead 'Krazy' parade

*Sgt. Whittaker's dog chosen as grand marshal for Summerfest grand parade*

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When Jody Germond picked up a call from the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce, she didn't know what to expect.

She was told it was regarding "an offer."

What she heard next brought her to tears.

This Saturday, during the Summerfest parade, Polk County Jail Sgt. Randy Whittaker's dog, Truman, will be the grand marshal. Whittaker died in a car accident last summer.

"It's very exciting," said Germond, a friend of Whittaker's who worked with him in the jail. "That's the most awesome thing I've heard."









Truman, a bull mastiff who is as friendly as he is big, got a sneak preview of the attention he will be getting this Saturday at a barbecue in Whittaker's honor Friday at the jail. Truman served as a canine greeter for people waiting in line for burgers and hot dogs.

"Randy would be excited," Germond said, watching as Truman interacted with people.

Chelsea Metcalfe, the executive director of the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber wanted to honor Whittaker and thought choosing his beloved dog was fitting.

"He was a big man with a big heart," she said.

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THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
	Chill to some jazz and blues with the Carried Away Trio at Monmouth's Music in the Park at Main Street Park. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Polk County Bounty Market opens this year's Summerfest celebrations at the Academy Building lawn. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.	Don't miss the Leanne McClellan Band at Redgate Winery in Independence, which hosts music each Friday. 6-9 p.m. Free.	For two hours, you can buy a bag full of books from the Friends of the Dallas Library's annual sale. 2-4 p.m. \$3-\$5.	Head to Independence to meet artists from the River Gallery during the "Last Sunday" art reception. 2-4 p.m. Free.	Celebrate National Take Your Pants for a Walk day by hitting some local trails and breathing some fresh air. The day is all about exercise.	James2 Community Kitchen offers free meals at United Methodist Church to all who are hungry. 4:30-6 p.m. Free.
							
	Cloudy Hi: 76 Lo: 54	Sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 53	Mostly sunny Hi: 84 Lo: 56	Partly sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 55	Mostly sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 55	Sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 55	Sunny Hi: 89 Lo: 56