

**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 *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
Aug. 18.....	97	56	0
Aug. 19.....	98	61	0
Aug. 20.....	82	59	0
Aug. 21.....	80	53	0
Aug. 22.....	88	53	0
Aug. 23.....	88	55	0
Aug. 24.....	84	53	0

Rainfall during August — 0 in.  
Rain through Aug. 24 — 15.28 in.



**RECYCLE**



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
Cheryl Spicer, left, Eunice Bennett and Ron Spicer will be closing Foster's Furniture on Monday. The business has been open in downtown Dallas for 26 years.

**RELUCTANT FAREWELL**

*Foster's closes its doors Monday after 26 years in business*

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Ron and Cheryl Spicer don't want shut the doors for a final time at their store, Foster's Furniture, on Monday.

But it's time to step away. The couple has owned the store for six years — original owner and the couple's friend, Gary Foster, opened it 20 years before then — and has searched for a buyer without much luck.

"I'm going to be 80 on Dec. 3," Ron Spicer said, explaining the timing of the closure on Monday. "We are hoping someone still will come forward."

Foster's Furniture sells antiques and items purchased from estates. From now until Monday, the entire inventory is on sale at 50 percent off.

"We buy estates, clean them out and bring the best stuff here," Ron said. "Everything else goes to Goodwill or H2O. That helps the community a little better."

He said even with Monday being the last day, he's still getting calls about estate sales.

Now the couple is trying

**Foster's Furniture final sale**

**What:** Foster's Furniture is closing.  
**When:** Monday will be the last day of the sale.

**Where:** 145 SW Mill St., Dallas.  
**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and Monday.

**Of note:** The inventory is 50 percent off between now and Monday. Owners Ron and Cheryl Spicer still are looking for a buyer for the business.  
**For more information:** 503-623-7065.

*"It's a landmark in Dallas."*

— Ron Spicer

to sell as much as it can, not take in more. The thought of closing is sad for both of them and their collection of repeat customers.

"I hate to see it close ... 26 years in business," Ron said.

"It's a landmark in Dallas." Eunice Bennett, a longtime employee of the store, may be almost as well-known as the store itself. She's worked there nearly since its opening.

"She's our backbone," Cheryl Spicer said. "She's our decorator and our organizer."

Cheryl said one of the most frequent comments from customers throughout the years was how clean and organized the store is.

"We owe a lot to her," she added. Bennett said, now, she's ready to retire, as well.

"Eunice has worked and worked and worked, and she deserves it," Cheryl Spicer said.

Between now and Monday, the couple and Bennett will spend their time packing up the store and saying goodbye to customers.

That will be the hardest part for the couple. Cheryl said they couldn't have asked for better support from the community, customers, and their landlord, Dan Dreiszus, over the years.

"We've made some really nice friends," she said.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Second closed for railroad repairs**

INDEPENDENCE — Second Street, from C to D Street, will be closed Wednesday (today) through Sept. 2 in Independence. The closure is due to railroad track repairs.

This includes the Monmouth Street/Second Street intersection.

If you are headed to or from downtown Independence headed east or west, you will be detoured. Monmouth Street eastbound will be detoured at Third Street. If you are traveling on North Main Street, you will be detoured at B Street. Those on Corvallis Road will be detoured at D Street.

Willamette & Pacific Railroad and the city of Independence are working together on the project, which consists of two blocks of track repairs and road repairs.

**Polk Fire board hires new chief**

INDEPENDENCE — The Polk County Fire District No. 1 board of directors hired a new fire chief, Albert Alcalde, who will start on the job on Sept. 8.

He was one of 18 candidates who applied in the second round of the search for a new fire chief.

Alcalde is coming from being the fire chief in Oakridge and has a background in training. He has worked for Clark County, Nevada, and for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

His salary will be \$96,000.

He replaces interim Fire Chief John Stein, who has worked for the district for two years.

**Jobs, unemployment rate up slightly**

POLK COUNTY — Oregon's unemployment rate was up to 5.9 percent in July from 5.5 percent in June. The rate, which is based on data from the current population survey, can be volatile at times.

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped dramatically in the early months of 2015 and has bumped back up in recent months.

Despite the increase, Oregon's unemployment rate was significantly below its figure of 7.0 percent in July 2014. Oregon's rate remained close to the U.S. rate of 5.5 percent in July.

Payroll employment in Oregon added 4,600 jobs in July, following a revised gain of 2,600 jobs in June.

In July, five major industries added 1,000 jobs or more, with construction (plus 2,300 jobs) and professional and business services (plus 1,700 jobs) adding the most. Only two major industries — government (3,200 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (1,900 jobs) declined substantially.

For more information: Oregon Employment Department, [www.WorkSourceOregon.org](http://www.WorkSourceOregon.org).

**Bomb squad responds to Grand Ronde**

GRAND RONDE — A suspicious package was neutralized at 10 a.m. Friday after it was discovered in the Grand Ronde Tribal mailroom at about 7.

The discovery of the package prompted the closure of Grand Ronde Road. The Salem Police Department bomb squad assisted at the scene.

The black PVC package was left on the front deck of the mailroom with a Post-it note underneath it.

It was immediately reported to the Grand Ronde Police Department, who cordoned off the area and contacted Salem PD.

The tribe's emergency operations team, which was meeting to deal with the Willamina Creek Fire, expanded the exclusion area to more than 1,000 feet and evacuated the Grand Ronde Food Bank, which was within the exclusion area and was scheduled to have a food distribution that morning.

Access to the tribe's main campus entrance also was closed.

Two robots from the bomb squad were sent in to X-ray the device. Minor damage occurred to the mailroom's wooden deck when the package was neutralized.

The incident is under investigation.

**Extreme fire danger not letting up**

POLK COUNTY — Northwest Oregon is experiencing fire danger not seen in recent memory, and weather forecasts don't provide any relief, according to Shirl Fredenburg with the Oregon Department of Forestry West District.

ODF is engaged in fighting the Willamina Creek Fire, about 9 miles north of Willamina. Four cabins were evacuated as a result of the fire, and forest resources have been lost, Fredenburg stated in a press release.

The fire is under investigation, but believed to have been caused by human activity, possibly recreational activities. Firefighters from the West Oregon District of ODF also are responding to reports of smoke and fire throughout the district, stretching available resources very thin, Fredenburg said.

For more information on fire restrictions: Polk and southwest Yamhill counties ODF Dallas office: 503-934-8146.

Check out HOT JOBS [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com)

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SERVING POLK COUNTY



**Land Management Problems?**

Do you own or manage a small farm, woodland, or wildlife acreage in Benton, Polk, or Yamhill county that needs improved land management practices? An OWEB Small Grant might just be what you're looking for.

OWEB small grants award up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground projects that work to improve the productivity and efficiency of grazing systems, animal waste management, erosion control, forest management practices, irrigation, streamside vegetation, rainwater collection, instream fish & wildlife habitat, culvert replacement, plant or animal pest management, noxious weed control and more...

Offered quarterly beginning:

• 08/30/15

• 11/01/15

• 01/31/2016

Small Grant Team  
Contact: Marc Bell  
[marc.bell@polkswcd.com](mailto:marc.bell@polkswcd.com)  
Tel: 503-623-9680 x5

Urban living solutions also available:  
Storm water runoff collection systems, flood storage, improved surface drainage & pest management

Sponsored by: The Polk Soil & Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, Benton SWCD, Yamhill SWCD, Luckiamute Watershed Council, Greater Yamhill WC, and the Glen-Gibson and Rickreall WC's.

On the web at: OWEB Small Grants

**TWO & PACKED Full o' Fun!!**  
**LOCATIONS!!**

**POLK COUNTY BOUNTY MARKET DALLAS**  
Thursdays  
May - September  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Academy Lawn  
182 SW Academy St, Dallas, OR

**Sponsors**  
Brixius Jewelers  
Citizens Bank  
Dallas Retirement Village  
Fowler Affiliates  
Home Comfort  
Itemizer Observer  
Liberty Concrete  
Old Mill Feed & Garden  
Oregon State CU  
Polk County  
Squirrel's Taxi  
The Car Doctor  
Wall Insurance  
West Valley Hospital  
White's Collision Service

Sep 10 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities  
Sep 3 & 17  
Cash & Company  
11:30 - 1:00pm

**POLK COUNTY BOUNTY MARKET MONMOUTH**  
Tuesdays  
May - October  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Main Street Park  
120 Main St E, Monmouth, OR

Sep 1 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities  
Live music every week  
WOU Jazz Students  
Noon - 1:30pm

**Sponsors**  
City of Monmouth  
Petals & Vines  
PCL (Partnership in Community Living)  
Veal Bikes Plus

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