



# Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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## School bullying's new face

*In the age of social media, it's impossible for kids to escape harassment*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — These days a bully may not be after your lunch money. In fact, he or she may not be saying or doing anything in the halls at school.

"It's almost faceless," said Jamie Richardson, principal of LaCreole Middle School in Dallas. "It's not the Scut Farkus who is going to be in your face all day long and smash your face into the snow, it's something that happens at 10 o'clock at night, and is now not only viewed by one person, it's viewed by however many friends you have or however many likes you have. It's probably our No. 1 thing."

Unlike the yellow-eyed, yellow-toothed bully from "A

Christmas Story," bullying in schools today has taken on a more silent, passive-aggressive form via social media.

"I think kids are more empowered to say things because you're not face-to-face with somebody," said Doug Gouge, supervisor of Polk County's school-based mental health program.

"You can say some things that are pretty hurtful, and a lot of kids can gang up on them and do that. It's a worry."

On social media, hurtful messages get out quicker and to more people, Gouge

added.

"If you wrote in the bathroom, the only people who saw it were people who went into the bathroom," he said. "Maybe they'd come out and say, 'hey, guess what was written in the bathroom about Doug.'"

Richardson said the adult equivalent of kids using social media to bully others is writing a scathing email — saying something you wouldn't say if you were sitting right next to them. For kids, it's the same kind of thing.

"They can say things they wouldn't typically say to

someone's face," Richardson said. "Unfortunately, if it was done at 10 p.m., it draws into the next day and becomes a school issue, and it just impacts kids' learning, and that's when we need to step in."

One of the tough parts about combating bullying is defining the term.

"It means something different to each person," said Steve Tillery, former principal at Independence Elementary School. "Your perception is your reality, so what you're perceiving may or may not be truth, but it is truth to you."

When a child reports being bullied, it is the principal's job to find out what really happened and help correct the behavior, Tillery said.

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Richardson



Tillery

## IN YOUR TOWN

### DALLAS NEWS

Is your lawn a little on the yellow and crispy side? You aren't alone.

Voluntary water conservation appears to be working in Dallas, Monmouth and Independence.

Dallas residents have cut daily usage by a whopping 300,000 gallons per day since the city issued a request to cut water usage. City leaders are more than pleased with that.

"We were actually pleasantly surprised with how the community responded," said Fred Braun, Dallas public works director.

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### FALLS CITY NEWS

Students in Falls City are back to the books a week earlier than usual.

Monday marked back to school for the Mountaineers.

The early start is due to a quirk in the calendar and the district four-day school week system. With Labor Day falling so late in September this year, beginning classes after the holiday would push the end of the year to June 16.

"Everybody on the staff felt that was way too late in June to be ending school," Superintendent Jack Thompson said.

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### INDEPENDENCE NEWS

In her career as a salon owner, Hermelinda Garcia can count 42 years, three locations, and countless friends.

Garcia, who goes by "Linda," recently surpassed another milestone, age 70.

"It was time to retire," she said Monday, a week after her last day at Hermelinda's Beauty Salon. "I've been doing it all my life."

Garcia began cutting hair for family and friends at an early age, but when it came time to select a career, she took a different path — for a while.

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### MONMOUTH NEWS

Monmouth Independence Networks employees have been busy getting updates made and security improvements done.

"We're doing work on basically all the systems, all the guts of the system," said Scott McClure, MINET board vice president and Monmouth city manager. "The idea is to get a handle on the core technology — the computers, the servers, the networks — and get it all buttoned down as tight as possible."

The work started after an in-depth system audit was completed.

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### POLK COUNTY NEWS

Two men who were arrested for posing as police officers after allegedly pulling over a woman on Highway 22 will appear in Polk County Circuit Court Thursday for a preliminary hearing.

Kurt F Von Allmen, 55, and his son, Seth Von Allmen, 18, are both facing one charge of impersonation of a peace officer following the Aug. 21 incident.

The victim, Diana Ledbetter, reported the incident to police at about 6:45 a.m., saying two men in wearing black uniforms and driving a black Ford Crown Victoria used the vehicle's lights to pull her over, according to court documents.

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Ryan Kelley, front, and Brad Ford, back, launch their journey to Portland from Independence on Saturday. The cargo in their canoe includes Project 1899 pinot noir, a special vintage made without electricity or modern technology.

## Wine 'shipped' the old-time way

*Made without electricity, Illahe's 1899 is delivered with only muscle power*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Leave it to Brad Ford and the crew at Illahe Vineyards to do something that likely hasn't been done commercially in decades: delivering wine via boat on the Willamette River.

Specifically, by canoe, from Independence to the riverfront in Portland.

Ford and fellow river paddler, Ryan Kelley, loaded a canoe with Illahe's Project 1899 pinot noir — four cases encased in bubble wrap and dry bags for safe keeping — and camping supplies for three days on Saturday morning.

"I hope this thing floats," Kelley said looking over the loaded canoe just before they launched at about 9:30 a.m.

Soon they would find out,



Ryan Kelley loads bubble-wrapped and dry bag-protected Project 1899 wine into a canoe on Saturday.

pushing the boat into the stream, which due to stormy weather and wind, had a pretty swift current.

It floats, and the current whisked them north, nearly out of sight in just a few minutes.

With the wind at their

back, it's a good start to a long journey for the pair — and their precious cargo due in Portland by Tuesday.

The delivery excursion isn't just an excuse for Ford and Kelley, both experienced canoeists, to spend some time on the river. It's in keeping with how '1899' is made — without electricity, modern equipment, or techniques common to current wine-making practices.

Ford thought, why not finish the job by delivering it to the distributor the old-fashioned way, too?

Making it easy is the fact that Illahe's distributor, Casa Bruno, is located right on the Willamette in Portland and was willing to take the wine from the river to its warehouse by bike.

1899's trek began on Friday, when Illahe's resident team of Percheron draft horses, Doc and Bea, carried the wine three miles by wagon from the vineyard located outside Dallas to Riddell Road. From there, a bike messenger pedaled the wine to The Three-legged Dog in Independence, where it stayed overnight.

**See WINE, Page 6A**

<p><b>THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>wed</b></p> <p>Want to test your Scrabble skills? Come down to the Independence Public Library for "Scrabble with Betty" 1 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Partly cloudy Hi: 71 Lo: 48</p>	<p><b>thu</b></p> <p>Fall may be in the air, but there still are plenty of fresh fruits and veggies at the Polk Bounty Market in Dallas. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Partly cloudy Hi: 70 Lo: 47</p>	<p><b>fri</b></p> <p>Like to play or listen to live acoustic music? Guthrie Park is once again hosting its Friday jam sessions. 7 to 10 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Mostly cloudy Hi: 70 Lo: 47</p>	<p><b>sat</b></p> <p>Polk Community Free Clinic will provide medical and mental health care at Dallas' Trinity Lutheran Church. 7 to 11 a.m. Free.</p> <p>Mostly sunny Hi: 74 Lo: 49</p>	<p><b>sun</b></p> <p>TJ Farm is hosting special guest Light-house Quartet at its Ramming Steer Gospel Music Roundup. 5 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 79 Lo: 50</p>	<p><b>mon</b></p> <p>Happy Labor Day Polk County! Have a safe and happy holiday. The I-O's office is closed today in honor of the occasion.</p> <p>Mostly cloudy Hi: 79 Lo: 53</p>	<p><b>tue</b></p> <p>James2 Community Kitchen offers a free meal to those in need at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Mostly cloudy Hi: 79 Lo: 51</p>
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