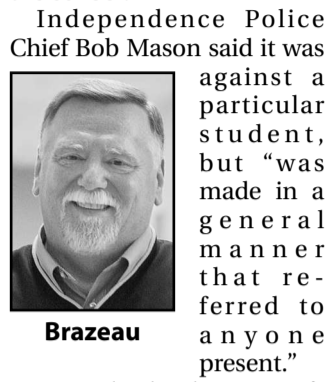


# Student may be charged in threat against Central High

Post about threat 'went viral' on Oct. 6, prompting warning

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
INDEPENDENCE — A Central High student has been referred on a charge of disorderly conduct after making a threat of violence against another student at the school.



Brazeau

Independence Police Chief Bob Mason said it was against a particular student, but "was made in a general manner that referred to anyone present."

Central School District officials and Independence police learned of the threat on the evening of Oct. 6 and sent a message to parents that night informing them of the threat.

The threat, posted to Facebook and Twitter by someone other than the suspect, went viral on Oct. 6. Within minutes, several calls were made to police and to district officials, spurring an immediate police investigation.

"Through that investigation, we were able to determine, with a reasonable level of certainty, the source of the rumor. A plan was developed to address the perceived threat while opening school as usual on Wednesday," Superintendent Buzz Brazeau said in a statement posted on Central's website following the incident.

While Wednesday was business as usual at Central, there was an increased police presence on campus.

Independence Police Chief Bob Mason said the suspect originally made the threat to another student more than a week before it was posted.

Rumors spread about the threat throughout the school in the subsequent days before it was posted, Mason said.

On Oct. 6, the text of a Facebook group chat about the threat was posted to Twitter and spread throughout the community, he added.

"The student that made the original threat had nothing to do with the message going viral," Mason said. "There was no direct threat posted in any form, but rather, a message from unrelated people talking about the threat."

Mason declined to comment further on the suspect, fearing revealing details would identify the student.

No arrest was made following the incident, but the suspect has been referred to Polk County Juvenile Department on first-degree disorderly conduct, he said.

# 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.

tion, second-degree criminal mischief, harassment, and reckless endangering.

### MONMOUTH Arrests/Citations

• Zachery Ryan Cochrane, 35, of Corvallis, at the corner of Pacific Highway South and Main Street East on Sept. 26, for driving while suspended and felony driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Pedro Nava Trujillo, 33, of Monmouth, at the corner of Monmouth-Independence Highway and Boyd Lane on Sept. 29 for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, two counts of reckless endangering, and giving false information.

### INDEPENDENCE Arrests/Citations

• Juan Sullivan Martin, 40, of Keizer, in the 1400 block of South Seventh Street on Sept. 28 for first-degree theft. Martin also was charged with first-degree burglary in the 200 block of C Street on Sept. 27.

• Vega David Loeza, 27, of Newberg, in the 500 block of Main Street on Sept. 28 for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless endangering.

### DALLAS Arrests/Citations

• Christopher G. Wilson, 23, of Portland, in the 400 block of East Ellendale on Thursday on charges of felony fourth-degree assault, felony strangula-

# Police defuse two incidents

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

DALLAS — Dallas police responded to a pair of calls on Thursday evening. At 8:16 p.m., Dallas officers responded to a report of an intoxicated and suicidal male in the 300 block of Southeast LaCreole Drive.

The male reportedly fired one round from a Taurus Judge pistol into the air in an attempt to have officers kill him before police arrived.

Officers talked to the man, who surrendered. No physical force was needed.

Police seized the pistol and the male was cited for unlawful use of a weapon before he was released to an appropriate medical care facility.

While officers were working on the LaCreole call, authorities received an unrelated call of a potentially armed person reportedly making threats to kill family members in the Dallas area.

Authorities found the individual, determined his threats were not credible, and did not rise to the level of a criminal act. The individual was not armed.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police assisted Dallas Police with handling the calls.

"We are very thankful for the Polk County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police response to these calls," Lt. Jerry Mott said. "We had exhausted our quickly available resources with these calls including both the chief and I responding from home and another officer who happened to be at the station who responded to the call."

# Vet group begins meetings

Polk County Battle Buddies will have monthly gatherings

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Veterans helping veterans.

That's what the organizers of the new Polk County Battle Buddies veterans' support group hope will happen after it begins meeting this month.

Battle Buddies will hold its first monthly gathering Monday at 6 p.m. at West Valley Hospital, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas.

A partnership between the local chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, the group will be modeled after one of the same name in Salem.

Co-organizer Wayne Crowder said he's heard that there could be as many as 8,000 veterans living in Polk County. Many could benefit from a

### A helping hand

**What:** Polk County Battle Buddies

**Where:** West Valley Hospital's conference room, 525 SE Washington St.

**When:** Third Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m.

**For more information:** Beth Lillibridge, 503-480-6254 or Mary Smith, 503-580-8001.

group like this, he said.

Crowder, formerly with Serving Our Veterans At Home (SOVAH), said the idea is to give veterans a safe place to talk about their lives and struggles with others who understand their situation.

A meal will be provided

during the first hour to allow veterans to get to know each other.

"We want to have a meal that they can share," Crowder said. "There's nothing easier for a conversation to start than a plate of food."

The second hour is dedicated to group discussion.

"They can just talk about their daily lives," Crowder said.

He added co-organizers Beth Lillibridge and Mary Smith are doing the behind-the-scenes work to get the group off the ground.

Crowder said after the first few months organizers may decide to meet more often than once a month. It depends on what those who attend would like to see.

"The need is definitely there," Crowder said.



Westling Ost Payne Trujillo Anderson

# Corrections posts 'most wanted'

DALLAS — Polk County Community Corrections lists these individuals as "most wanted" for October. Citizens with information on the whereabouts of any of them can call Community Corrections at 503-623-5226.

• Kerry A. Westling, born Oct. 23, 1982, 5-2, 135 pounds, blonde hair, brown eyes. Charges: Possession

of methamphetamines, second-degree theft.

• Ryan Patrick Ost, born March 12, 1994, 5-4, 140 pounds, black hair, green eyes. Charges: Possession of heroin.

• Rebecca Payne, born May 6, 1991, 5-4, 200 pounds; brown hair, hazel eyes. Charges: Identity theft, hindering prosecution.

• Guadalupe Trujillo, born Dec. 11, 1987, 5-10, 200 pounds, black hair, brown eyes. Charges: Third-degree assault.

• Robert James Anderson, born Nov. 6, 1994, 5-11, 185 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes.

Charges: Possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of a firearm and first-degree failure to appear.

## Planning a Holiday Bazaar?

*We can help!*

The Itemizer-Observer will be publishing a comprehensive list of all the holiday bazaars and art & crafts sales in Polk County on Wednesday, **October 28th**. This feature will be designed for our readers to keep throughout the holiday season. We will publish the information for your event at no charge.

If you wish to have your bazaar published any other time during the holiday season you must purchase an advertisement. **Deadline** to submit your event information is **Friday, October 16th**. So hurry and get your bazaar information to our office today!

Event organizers who want more exposure than will be provided in the **October 28th** issue are encouraged to call one of our advertising representatives at 503-623-2373.

**Contact: Dawn Ohren**  
503-623-2373  
or e-mail:  
dohren@polkio.com

**Itemizer-Observer**  
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