

## Taxes: Bills in the mail this week

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Because RMV as of Jan. 1, grew an average of 8.2 percent, a lot of these owners could see increases greater than 3 percent in their taxes.

That uptick in RMV increases the countywide total to \$7.58 billion.

There are urban renewal districts operating within the cities of Salem, Dallas, Independence and Monmouth.

"From these combined urban renewal districts, \$2,688,079 (\$1,846,715, Salem; \$144,171, Dallas; \$448,370, Independence; \$248,823, Monmouth) in taxes will be collected from the Division of Tax and Levies that goes toward urban renewal projects," Schmidt said.

Treasurer Linda Fox said statements were mailed this week and taxes are due by Nov. 16.

Schmidt encourages property owners to review their tax statement for accuracy of information, such as the correct ownership, mailing and location address. If there are any questions or changes needed, contact the Assessor's Office at 503-623-8391.

There are options for paying your property taxes. You can mail in your tax payment, bring it to the Tax Collectors Office in the courthouse or use the on-line payment program. If you have questions about where to pay your taxes or how to pay your taxes, call the Tax Office at 503-623-9264.

If you disagree with the RMV placed on your property, you can have your property reassessed for free by calling the assessor's office at 503-623-8391. If you still don't agree after the review, you can find instructions on the back of the tax statement on how to appeal to the local Board of Property Tax Appeals.

### Did you know?

• Measure 5, a Constitutional amendment approved by Oregon voters in 1990, is still in effect. It created a permanent limitation on property taxes of \$10 per \$1,000 of real market value for general government services and \$5 per \$1,000 of real market value for education services. Measure 5 reductions amounted to a \$606,386 loss in property tax revenues for the tax districts this year, primarily for education services.

• Property taxes can grow by more than 3 percent per year if the real market value (RMV) on a property is higher than what is called the property's maximum assessed value (MAV). Enacted after Oregon voters passed Measure 50, the MAV on a property was initially calculated in 1997 using the 1995 RMV (the amount the county assessor's office believes a property would sell for if put on the market on Jan. 1). That value is limited by statute to grow at no more than 3 percent annually. But the assessed value, what property taxes are based on, can be MAV or RMV, whichever is lower. In many cases, RMV can fall below MAV especially during a recession. In that case, taxes are based on RMV, which can grow — or fall — by more than 3 percent in a year.

### Sudoku solution

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

## 'Splash' a spooky good time

Dallas Aquatic Center puts on Halloween show for youngsters on Saturday

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — "Thar be pirates" in the Dallas Aquatic Center on Saturday — and mercreatures and head hunters and other ghouls and goblins.

Witches surround the "cauldron" while children dive for coins used later to pay the boatman.

The event is good, scary fun, and completely safe, said Tom Snyder, organizer of the annual Halloween event at the aquatic center.

With lifeguards as monsters and a complete staff of lifeguards on duty observing, the scariest thing is how much fun everyone will have.

"Have you ever been to the Pirates of the Caribbean (at Disneyland)? Have you ever wanted to get out and run around with the pirates and stuff? So did I," Snyder said.

The event is geared toward children in elementary school and those in sixth grade. The goal is to find Capt. Jack Lantern's treasure chest.

But before that, children are taken on a kayak with a pirate guide through a tunnel filled with water creatures before negotiating a balance beam plank.

"We have creatures in the water that come out, passages that you have to be pulled through or swim



DALLAS AQUATIC CENTER/for Itemizer-Observer  
Scary aquatic creatures await unsuspecting visitors during the Dallas Aquatic Center's annual 'Monster Splash.' The Halloween-themed event takes place on Saturday.

through," Snyder said. "It's very safe."

Volunteers and lifeguards make up the monsters, who tone it down a bit for the first half hour of the show for those in preschool before the real frights come out.

"All my characters and cast come in and put on their fangs," Snyder said. "That's the real PG version."

At the end, children meet Capt. Jack Lantern, who is

"like Santa Claus turned pirate," Snyder said.

"The kids go through all the scary stuff, so it's nice to end with a nice person," he said. "My captain will ask them a question — it's a real easy question — and the kid gets to take a coin out of his treasure chest. They can use that coin to exchange for candy at the front desk."

In the aquatic center's party room, the swim club

will have a café set up in the style of the Blue Bayou restaurant at Disneyland.

"Parents can sit down and eat and watch what their kids are doing at the same time," Snyder said.

Games and food will be available in the party room. Participants may buy tickets to play the games and eat scary treats such as mummy wraps or spaghetti and eyeballs.

## Former Tyco site has sold

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The long-vacant former Tyco building in Dallas has a new owner.

Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin announced the closing of the sale to American Gas & Technology at the Dallas City Council meeting Monday night.

He said the sale was final on Oct. 2, but the company isn't in production at the facility off Monmouth Cutoff Road yet.

He said the business specializes in compressed natural gas and has patents in the technology.

"They will start sooner rather than later and they will be employing people," Foggin said.

The former Tyco site will be the company's first production facility. Foggin said the business wanted to set up shop in Oregon.

"They are pretty serious," Foggin said. "They looked at several sites in Oregon."

The company's website says it is developing technology that could create liquefied natural gas fueling stations.

"Natural gas not only saves money, but also reduces greenhouse gases and U.S. dependence on foreign oil," it said.

### Search for treasure

**What:** Dallas Aquatic Center's annual Halloween swim event.  
**When:** Saturday, 6:30 to 7 p.m. for the rated G, "not so scary" performance; 7:30 to 9 p.m. for the rated PG, "soo scary" performance.  
**Where:** Dallas Aquatic Center, 1005 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas.  
**Admission:** \$5 for the first run through, with additional cost if kids want to go again.  
**Of note:** Wear swim gear as children will be expected to swim, paddle, swing and slide past creatures and obstacles in search of Capt. Jack Lantern and his treasure.  
**For more information:** 503-623-9715.

**Oregon State University Extension Service**  
**The 2015 POLK COUNTY Holiday Fair**  
Fri/Sat Nov 6th & 7th  
9am to 5pm  
@ FAIRGROUNDS, RICHFALL  
NO ADMISSION FEE • SILVER OFFERING • PROCEEDS BENEFIT 4-H  
SHORT ORDER FOODS AVAILABLE • HOLIDAY DEMOS • 130 VENDORS  
SPONSORED BY: OSU EXTENSION POLK COUNTY  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
Accommodation requests can be made to Polk County Extension at 973-623-8395.

MAGIC • LAUGHTER • INSPIRATION  
**DANNY RAY**  
ILLUSIONIST  
Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015  
7:00 to 9:00 pm  
Free for high school students and their parents  
**EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH**  
1175 SE Howe St., Dallas • 503-623-2331

**DISCOVER MI TOWN**  
SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED  
12-5  
Saturday  
October  
24th  
\*GET A PASSPORT  
\*VISIT BUSINESSES  
\*ENJOY GIVEAWAYS & DISCOUNTS  
Tickets:  
\$20 online, \$25 at the door  
WOU students:  
\$10 online, \$15 at the door  
For tickets and information visit  
www.micc-or.org

Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce Presents:  
**SPOOKTAGULAR BINGO**  
October 30th  
4PM - 7PM  
Volunteer Hall as part of the  
Monmouth Halloween Spectacular Event  
Open Sessions: \$1 per bingo card, \$10 for 12 cards  
Family Fun with Great Prizes! Go to micc-or.org for more info.