

# Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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## Carey OK after car accident

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Jon Carey, of Monmouth, was running errands Wednesday morning as usual.

He went to a dentist appointment in Dallas and was heading home to prepare for



Central High School's girls basketball team's playoff game on Friday — Carey is

the team's assistant coach — when he decided to stop off at Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar for a cup of joe and a scone.

Carey said he thought he might drive by a place in Dallas that rents lawn equipment. But he never made it there.

"The next thing I remember, I have a vague recollection of being in the ditch, with broken glass, that sort of thing around me," he said. "The next thing I know is when I was in the emergency room. I have no real recollection from the time I left Pressed to the time we got to the hospital."

Carey was driving on Highway 223 when his car left the roadway near McTimmonds Creek Road and struck some trees.

Lincoln County Deputy Eric Larson was on his way to a public safety career fair at Western Oregon University and caught the whole thing on his dash cam. He called it in.

Polk County Reserve Deputy Eric Berry happened to be about two or three miles away when he heard the call.

"I overheard the call on the radio," he said. "I thought since I was just a few miles away, I would lend a hand to Deputy Larson, whatever assistance he needed."

The two deputies took care of traffic, waiting for medics.

"We didn't want to remove him," Berry said. "Medics had the backboards to stabilize him. We were waiting for them, but then we heard a little 'woof' under the car and the flames started shooting out, so that first plan went out the window."

After some effort, so did Carey.

"We had to do something," Berry said. "It probably only took a minute or two for that fire to get into the cabin of that vehicle. It was a very good thing for him that we were standing right there."

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Pat Jaffer is delighted at the efforts of a Talmadge Middle School class when students deliver more than 2,000 pounds of food that was collected during a service-learning project in November 2015.

## FEEDING THE BODY, SOUL

Pat Jaffer 'retires' from 23 years at Ella Curran Food Bank

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Pat Jaffer spent most of January hibernating after stepping down from 23 years of coordinating the Ella Curran Food Bank.

"I was tired," she said. "I didn't realize how tired until I stopped."

Because of her tireless efforts and dedication to the food bank, Jaffer was named First Citizen at the 51st annual Monmouth Independence Community Awards banquet on Friday night.

"I'm really honored to receive this, but also very humbled because there's so many people who do so much in our community," Jaffer said on Friday. "Monmouth and Independence are communities where most of us have enough to live off of and



Jean Love awards Pat Jaffer with First Citizen at the Monmouth Independence Community Awards banquet.

be happy. It's our responsibility and our pleasure to reach out a hand to others. Thank you, and let's keep up the good work in our communities."

Jaffer was part of the board of directors that established the food pantry in 1978, but didn't begin volunteering there full time until 1993, after retiring from the

insurance business.

At the time, the Monmouth-Independence area didn't have a food bank, Jaffer said.

"Ella Curran was a woman in Independence who started giving out boxes of food in 1977 when there was a lot of need," she said. "She died in '78 or '79. A group of us got together and decided we really needed a food bank."

At first, donations were strictly local, as the Marion Polk Food Share was not yet established.

The pantry was relocated a couple different times, from the old Presbyterian Church annex on C Street to the Community Action building and finally to the mall, where it remains, though in a different location than when it first was moved to that spot.

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Dallas firefighters examine the damage on Thursday.

## Fire at Forest River caused by cigarette

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Fire officials say Thursday's fire at Forest River's Dallas plant was likely caused by a cigarette.

That determination was made after an Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office investigation.

Dallas firefighters know another thing for certain: the RV trailer manufacturing plant's interior sprinklers saved the day.

"The sprinkler system, it worked perfectly," said Fred Hertel, Dallas fire chief. "It's just a little fire. The sprinkler system prevented this from getting beyond our capabilities."

Firefighters were called to the plant at 1429 SE Uglow Ave. at about 11:55 a.m. By the time fire crews arrived, Forest River's workers had been evacuated.

The fire appears to have started on the outside of the building and traveled up the wall. The blaze triggered the sprinkler system, which knocked down the fire that had spread to the inside of the building.

Hertel said given the size of the building, without the sprinkler system, the fire could have easily gotten out of control. Thankfully, the blaze was contained to one section of the wall on the backside at the plant.

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## IN YOUR TOWN

### DALLAS

City council discusses moving Bounty Market from current location.

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### EDUCATION

LaCreole students are taking their robotic designs to world competitions.

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### FALLS CITY

Rates may increase for water and sewer fees.

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### INDEPENDENCE

A new fitness course will come to the Riverfront trail system.

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### MONMOUTH

Western Oregon will host the NCAA Division II men's basketball West Regional this weekend.

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### SPORTS

Central boys, girls basketball teams see rallies fall short in the state playoffs.

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### Owner of pigs still at large

DALLAS — Dallas Police Department is still searching for the owner of two pigs.

The pigs were found in January in the area of Oakdale and Hayter streets.

They had been at a foster home, but became mischievous and had to be moved, said Lt. Jerry Mott in a post on Dallas PD's Facebook page.

"These look like they were possibly someone's pet 'mini-pigs' that grew too big to be house pets," Mott said.

Police officers are not looking to take action against the owners, Mott said, but would like to return the pigs or get a release to re-home the animals, which are in temporary care at a different home.

Any information about the owners of the pigs may be reported to Mott at: 503-831-3516.

**THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK**

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
The Western Oregon University symphony will perform its winter concert at Rice Auditorium, open to the public. 7:30 p.m. \$1-\$3.	Young professionals: meet like-minded people at a monthly networking meeting at White's Collision Service. 5:30 p.m. Free.	Grab an acoustic instrument and head to Guthrie Park for a music jam session, or just come and listen for a spell. 7 p.m. Free.	Bring cash or food to this month's donation yoga at Dallas Yoga and Balance studio, benefiting MS Society. 4:30 p.m. Free.	Daylight saving time begins. Don't forget to set your clocks forward by one hour. The time officially changes at 2 a.m. on Sunday.	Curves in Independence kicks off its annual food drive for the Marion Polk Food Share. The drive runs through March 25.	Have a pocket full of change? Come to the Polk County Coin Club and see if you have anything special in there. 7 p.m. Free.
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