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Park to be dedicated Saturday

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The dedication for the newly named Ian Tawney Memorial Park will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

The American Legion, U.S. Marine Corps, the Patriot Riders and Dallas Fire & EMS will take part in the ceremony honoring park namesake Tawney, who died in combat in Afghanistan in 2010.

Community members selected the park name through a poll conducted by the city of Dallas to rename what was known as "Main Street Park" next to the former Arctic Circle near the corner of Walnut and Main streets in Dallas.

When asked to vote on the top names submitted, the results left little doubt as to what the city's newest park would be called.

"There was no contest," said Chelsea Metcalfe, the executive director of the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce, which is coordinating Saturday's event. "Our community chose to name that park after Ian Tawney."

Metcalfe said parking at the old Arctic Circle and across the street at Dallas Fuel & Food Mart will be designated for military and other organizations taking part in the ceremony.

Parking for the public will be available at the Academy Building at the corner of Academy and Main streets.

For more information: 503-623-2564.

Bus driver not at fault in ped crash

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A young girl was injured on April 26 in an accident involving a school bus.

According to Dallas Police, just before 4 p.m., officers responded to a crash in which a pedestrian was reportedly hit by a bus in the 400 block of East Ellendale Avenue in Dallas.

Officers investigated and learned that a Santiam Christian School bus was headed west when the girl entered the roadway from the north side of the street and was struck by the bus.

"The bus was being operated appropriately at the time and there were no bus driver factors that contributed to this crash," said Lt. Jerry Mott.

Police did not comment on the reason the girl was in the road or provide her name or age. She was initially taken to Salem Hospital for treatment and will survive her injuries, Mott said.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Fred Maurice shares his love for learning with undergrads through an endowment, funded by selling his estate.

THE ALFRED MAURICE PRIZE

Undergrads may win \$5,000 for trying to solve a problem

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Sitting across the table from Fred Maurice, an hour flies by filled with tales of growing up a French Canadian in New Hampshire, serving in World War II, and life at various universities both as a student and professor.

"I was born in 1921, and this was the beginning of Prohibition," Maurice, 95, said. "The state of New Hampshire had a lot of immigrants from Canada, and they had a source of liquor. There was a chain coming down through New Hampshire and being split to Hartford, New York and Boston. I think every damn French Canadian was in the business."

Maurice remembers his father being caught bootleg-



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer file

Fred Maurice, right, greets WOU President Rex Fuller.

ging liquor from Canada through New Hampshire. Maurice accompanied his dad at court — he was 3.

"We spent the morning in the state library boning up on law, then went to plead

his case with me beside him looking very forlorn," Maurice recalled. "The judge gave him a fine, confiscated our car, and he got away without going to jail."

As two-thirds French

Canadian, no one expected him to go to college, in spite of high marks in high school. "Here, we do the same thing with Latinos," Maurice said.

With help from a persistent boss, Mac, and an encounter with a state legislator, Maurice got a scholarship to the University of New Hampshire.

He served in the Air Force, a branch of the Army at the time, during World War II. He learned Italian, preparing for occupation there, was stationed in New Guinea, and remembers feeling relieved when he found out he would not have to be part of a Japanese invasion after all.

"When we heard this bomb had fallen, there was a sigh of relief heard everywhere," Maurice said.

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Jones, Nearman face off for District 23

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — House District 23 drew a crowd of candidates in 2014.

May's primary is following suit, with a contested Republican primary and an Independent Party of Oregon candidate on the ballot in November.

Republicans Mike Nearman, the incumbent, and challenger Beth Jones are seeking their party's nomination in the May 17 primary.

On April 24, the two faced off on issues at a debate hosted by the Polk County Republicans.

They hold similar views on the importance of small government and fewer regulations, supporting Second Amendment rights, and how to deal with increased cost of the state's Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

On other issues, the two candidates show marked differences in philosophy.

On PERS, Jones and Nearman both

said in the absence of reform — courts have repeatedly rejected attempts at scaling back benefits — the only answer is smaller government.

"When people retire, resign or go away, don't fill that position again," Jones said. "We've got to shrink the size of our government."

The pair disagreed on how they should work with their fellow lawmakers — those "across the aisle."

"For 30 years we've been trying to work with them and work across the aisle and this is what we've got, the state that we have right now," Nearman said. "I don't think that's been working so much."

He said Republicans can accept their minority role in the legislature and try to work with Democrats on the issues — or take a hard opposition stance. He prefers the latter.

"I'm in favor of trying that for a few years and see how that works because the reaching-across-the-aisle thing hasn't worked so well for us," he said.

Jones said she doesn't believe in working with a philosophy of opposition simply based on party.

"That's not how I've been successful at getting things done," she said. "I think that was foolish, especially since they are generally in the majority."

She said even though Republicans may not have the votes to block bills, committee work on issues could be productive, especially with her experience in working with low-income families through her non-profit Bambinos.

Both candidates said economic development and the well-being of farms and small businesses will be hampered by new laws requiring sick leave and minimum wage increases. If elected, they both hope to soften the blow.

Jones said small businesses need advocates, someone to help them navigate regulations and other issues.

"Having businesses know that I'm available to them and what they need is my priority," she said.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Polk County Bounty Market returns to the Academy Building lawn on Thursday.

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FALLS CITY

Boys Falls City High School track and field finishes second at Waldport.

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INDEPENDENCE

Monmouth Independence Networks board of directors will need to work on policy issues if it hopes to decrease the company's debt.

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MONMOUTH

Western Oregon University's 40th annual Spring Dance Concert opens Thursday and has some surprising acts involving hover boards.

»Page 3A

SPORTS

Western Oregon senior Trevor Podratz trades game controller for baseball bat.

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EDUCATION

Whitworth Elementary hosts first science, technology, engineering and math night for parents and students.

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Drunk driver rolls into orchard field

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Tiffany Garcia, 24, of Rickreall, had a blood alcohol level twice the legal limit when she lost control of her vehicle and rolled it into an orchard in the 5300 block of Wigrich Road on Sunday evening, Sheriff Mark Garton said in a press release.

A male passenger was transported by ambulance to the Salem Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Garcia blew a 0.16 blood-alcohol during a test, Garton said.

She was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and third-degree assault.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed
Grab your spelling hat and get ready for some fun at Scrabble with Betty at the Independence library. 1 p.m. Free.



Showers
Hi: 63
Lo: 48

thu
Get help with math for your middle-schooler at hotdogs, hoops and homework at the Dallas LDS church. 5:30-8 p.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 65
Lo: 45

fri
The Master Gardeners annual Mother's Day plant sale kicks off today at the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 75
Lo: 50

sat
Head to Independence for two farmers markets with plants, baked goods, massages and vegetables are ready. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 51

sun
Happy Mother's Day to all our readers. How will you celebrate? Post on the I-O's Facebook and let us know how you honored the day.



Sunny
Hi: 71
Lo: 44

mon
It's never too late to start learning an instrument with the New Horizons Orchestra, which meets at CHS. 6:30 p.m. \$25/mo.



Sunny
Hi: 70
Lo: 43

tue
Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Find support at the monthly group that meets at the West Valley Hospital. 2-3:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 78
Lo: 48

