

## Honoring a fallen son



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

U.S. Marine Sgt. Ian Tawney's mother, Theda Tawney, center holding flag, looks over the unveiled sign at the newly dedicated park named after her son on Saturday. A large crowd gathered at the park near Main Street and Walnut Avenue in Dallas for the ceremony, which included the Marines, the Patriot Riders and Dallas Fire & EMS. The park was named after the city of Dallas held a poll for citizens to vote on suggested names.

## Falls City welcomes in style

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — People driving into Falls City will be greeted with a new "welcome" sign.

It's replica of the old uniquely Falls City design — two axes crossed in the center with the city's date of incorporation, 1891 — carved into a log.

Those who took a close look at the old sign knew a replacement has been necessary for quite some time, as the old log was rapidly falling apart.

Falls City Mayor Terry Ungricht said according to his research, the old sign was installed at some point in the 1970s.

He said the city's parks committee had a discussion

about the past-its-prime sign recently and that set in motion a volunteer-led effort to give the city's welcome an improved look.

Only work required by the city was installation, which the public works department did on April 22. Ungricht said Weyerhaeuser donated a log and Dallas Sign donated a template copying the old sign.

Falls City residents Warren Gookin and Cliff Lauder provided the finishing touches. Gookin removed the bark and carved the sign, and Lauder volunteered to build a mechanism to secure it in place.

"It was truly a volunteer inspired and completed project and will be seen for many years or decades to come," Ungricht said.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Visitors and residents are greeted by a new sign.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Third property tax payments due

POLK COUNTY — The Polk County Tax Office reminds taxpayers who pay their property taxes in trimester payments that the third installment is due by Monday. The 15th falls on Sunday allowing an extra day to pay. For more information: 1-888-643-8041, or visit [www.co.polk.or.us](http://www.co.polk.or.us).  
Payments that are mailed must bear the May 16 postmark to avoid interest.

### Monmouth PD on alert for seat belts

MONMOUTH — From Monday through May 29, the Monmouth Police Department will join other law enforcement agencies throughout the state by conducting specialized traffic safety enforcement operations. Oregon State Police, sheriffs and local police will be working day and night to increase proper safety belt and child car seat use during a statewide traffic enforcement "blitz."

Officers will also be on the alert for persons exceeding the posted speed limit or violating the "hands-free" cellphone law. This enhanced enforcement is funded through USDOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Officers from the Monmouth Police Department will work extra hours dedicating time to traffic enforcement and education.

### Celebrate history at Gentle House

MONMOUTH — May is National Historic Preservation Month. To celebrate, Monmouth's Historic Commission is sponsoring a Historic Preservation Celebration on Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Historic Gentle House, 855 Monmouth Ave. N.

The celebration will feature a presentation by Tom Branigar, archivist at the Polk County Museum, about historic development of Monmouth near Main Street Park. Terri Gregory will talk about the Howell House, which is included on the National Register of Historic Places and is now the home of MaMere's B&B.

The event features other guest speakers and includes a tour of the Gentle House Museum. Refreshments and desserts will also be served.

For more information: Mark Fancey, Community Development Director: 503-751-0147.

### Eola raises money, donations for troops

RICKREALL — Eola Hills Wine Cellars announced Eola Cares, a campaign to donate \$1 per bottle of sales of its newly released Patriot Red wine toward care packages for American troops stationed overseas.

The public can join the effort in May, bringing items needed for care packages to any Eola Hills tasting room. A free wine tasting will be offered to those bringing in care package items (ages 21 and older).

Care packages will be assembled at the end of May with the help of volunteers, and then shipped to troops with an Oregon connection. Each care package will be filled with \$15 to \$20 worth of toiletries and food items. A list of sought-after items can be found in the tasting rooms and online at [eolahillswinery.com/RED](http://eolahillswinery.com/RED).

The Eola Cares donation campaign ties into the existing grassroots campaign called RED: Remember Everyone Deployed, where people wear a red shirt on Fridays to recognize military personnel stationed overseas. Eola is taking RED one step further by generating the money to send care packages to those same troops.

For more information: [eolahillswinery.com](http://eolahillswinery.com).

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**In Person**  
**Tuesday, June 21**

- Know How to Work a Room
- Pitch Your Business Efficiently
- Engage Others Effectively

Presented by:  
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