

ELECTION RESULTS

Wheeler, Nearman keep seats

Incumbents re-elected to commissioner, House District 23

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Polk County Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler and Rep. Mike Nearman, both incumbents, won their respective races on May 17.

Wheeler, of Independence, won re-election for a second time, defeating opponent Terrence Taylor, of West Salem, by a 76.97 percent to 22.48 percent margin. She received 13,476 votes in the race for Polk County Commissioner, position No. 1.

She was back to work on May 18, reviewing budgets for Polk County OSU Extension and Grand Ronde Sanitary District before taking Thursday and Friday



Wheeler

Incumbents take the day

Polk County Commissioner, position No. 1
Jennifer Wheeler: 13,476 (77 percent)
Terrence Taylor: 3,935 (22 percent)
House District 23, Republican nomination
Mike Nearman: 5,169 (57 percent)
Beth Jones: 3,776 (41 percent)

off to recoup from the campaign.

"I've got a lot of good things that I'm working on," Wheeler said. "It's good to be able to refocus on that."

On the horizon is giving final approval to the Polk County budget, overseeing the process of hiring a veterans service officer, and opening an office for the new program set to launch in January.

"I'm hoping to get a little more active on the veteran's subcommittee of the homeless initiative," she said, referring to the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative task force working on

strategies to reduce homelessness in Polk and Marion counties.



Nearman

Nearman, of Independence, survived his primary challenge, defeating Dallas resident Beth Jones for a chance to battle a familiar opponent for House District 23 in the general election.

House District 23 includes portions of four counties: Polk, Marion,

Benton and Yamhill. Nearman won three of the four races, in Benton, Marion and Yamhill counties, by significant margins on his way to a 5,169 (57.41 percent) to 3,776 (41.94 percent) victory.

In Polk, Jones won 2,328 (51.33 percent) to 2,160 (47.63 percent).

Nearman's victory sets up a race in November against Jim Thompson, who ran unopposed for the Independence nomination.

The two have met in an election before.

In the 2014 primary, Nearman upset Thompson, then the Republican incumbent, and proceeded to win the general election.

Nearman did not return a call requesting comment by press time.

Voter turnout for the May 17 primary was nearly 49 percent in Polk County, with almost half the ballots turned in the last two days before election night.

Falls City voters reject gym bond

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Work on building a new multipurpose gym facility at Falls City Elementary doesn't appear like it will happen this year.

Falls City Schools Superintendent Jack Thompson is still holding out hope, however slim.

He's clinging to the chance that there are enough ballots left to be counted in the May 17 primary to change the outcome of Measure 27-118.

The measure would have provided a \$2 million property tax bond in addition to a \$2 million state grant to build a new gymnasium and cafeteria at the elementary school.

Final unofficial results have the measure failing 188-177, a mere 11 votes. The grant depended on voters approving the ballot measure, so the district will not receive that money either.

"It was disappointing, but there's still hope," Thompson said. "There are still votes out there to count."

Ballots continue to come in from other counties — meaning they were dropped in a box in another county and not delivered to the Polk County Clerk's Office on election night.

Those ballots will be rounded up and counted before the election has to be

certified on June 6.

In the meantime, Thompson is seeking feedback from the community and waiting to take direction from the school board on the district's next steps.

The district has a survey on its website asking for information from people about why they voted "yes" or "no" on the issue.

Thompson's asking if the cost of the bond — \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties — was too high or if the proposed building was too big.

Also, the survey asked if other factors played a role, such as the need to upgrade the city's sewer facilities in the near future.

Falls City School Board will meet next on June 21, so Thompson will ask then if he should look into putting another proposal on the ballot and, if so, when.

He said he's also gathering the information the district will need to apply for the same state grant for facilities construction it was awarded this year.

"The need has not gone away," Thompson said.

He said at this point, he isn't deterred from asking for voter support again depending on the survey responses and the board decision.

"Losing by 11 votes, that doesn't make you weary; it makes you determined," he said. "Are you kidding, 11 votes? We can do this."

Prevent campfires from going wild

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Sitting around a campfire is one of the special times we all enjoy, but campfires are also a major cause of wildfires. May is Wildfire Awareness Month, and Keep Oregon Green, the Oregon State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon Department of Forestry urge Oregonians to follow these basic outdoor safety tips:

Call your local forestry or fire district to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions at your recreation destination. Portable camp stoves are a safer option to campfires at any time of year.

Where campfires are allowed, avoid building the fire near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs or trees, and be aware of low-hanging branches overhead. A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small.

A campfire left unattended for only a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. Never use gasoline or other accelerants (flammable or combustible liquids) to start or increase your campfire.

Have a shovel and a bucket of water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers.

For more, polkio.com.

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450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 • Senior \$7.00 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings. Passes not allowed on starred items.

Friday - Monday May 27 - May 30

JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:35 2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:25
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(11:30 2:45)	6:00	9:15
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (Digital) (PG13)	(11:25 12:45 2:00 3:25 4:40)	7:20	10:00
MONEY MONSTER (Digital) (R)		6:05	
XMEN: APOCALYPSE (Digital) (PG13)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25	8:10
ANGRY BIRDS (Digital) (PG)	(12:10 2:30 4:50)	7:15	9:20
THE NICE GUYS (Digital) (R)	(11:30 2:00 4:35)	7:10	9:50
NEIGHBORS 2 (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:00 5:15)	7:30	9:45

Tuesday - Wednesday May 31 - June 1

JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:25
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(11:30 2:45)	6:00	9:15
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (Digital) (PG13)	(12:45 2:00 3:25 4:40)	7:20	10:00
MONEY MONSTER (Digital) (R)		6:05	
XMEN: APOCALYPSE (Digital) (PG13)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25	8:10
ANGRY BIRDS (Digital) (PG)	(12:10 2:30 4:50)	7:15	9:20
THE NICE GUYS (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:35)	7:10	9:50
NEIGHBORS 2 (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:00 5:15)	7:30	9:45

Thursday June 2

JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:05 4:35)	7:05	9:25
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(11:30 2:45)	6:00	9:15
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (Digital) (PG13)	(12:45 2:00 3:25 4:40)	7:20	10:00
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(5:00)	7:25	9:50
XMEN: APOCALYPSE (Digital) (PG13)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25	9:30
ANGRY BIRDS (Digital) (PG)	(12:10 2:30 4:50)	7:15	9:20
THE NICE GUYS (Digital) (R)	(2:00 4:35)	7:10	9:50
NEIGHBORS 2 (Digital) (R)	(12:45 3:00 5:15)	7:30	9:45

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Wagner Library's future uncertain

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Now that the May 17 primary election has passed, the Falls City School District and city will turn their attention to another issue: the future of the Wagner Community Library.

The council and the school board are slated to meet to discuss the library situation, possibly in June.

The library is operating on money from the Wagner Trust, which was released to the city in 2014 for the purpose keeping

it open until long-term funding sources could be found. The trust was originally created to pay for library materials.

The city has been managing that budget, and Mayor Terry Ungricht is concerned about the money running low after this fiscal year. He said a discussion between the city and the school district, which owns the library property and employs librarian Cynthia Hovind part-time, would be welcome.

To see an expanded version of this story, visit polkio.com.

2015 Relay for Life of Polk County
From Fruit Flies To Elephants

You've heard the term "think outside the box." Cancer researchers are doing just that in finding strategies that will personalize a patient's treatment. One strategy used by Dr. Ross Cagan, from Mount Sinai Hospital, uses the fruit fly! The fly's DNA is changed to match the patient's, and when it develops the matching tumor, drug testing begins. This enables Dr. Cagan to find the best drug combination to destroy the tumor, and he passes his findings onto the patient and oncologist. Funded by the American Cancer Society, Dr. Cagan's research has helped real patients at Mount Sinai.

A second "out of the box" strategy is the study of elephants which have a much lower rate of cancer than people do. Humans only have two "p53" genes that help isolate and fight cancer cells. Elephants have 40 of these genes which lowers their cancer rate to only 5%! Utah oncologist and researcher Joshua Schiffman says "After 55 million years, elephants have figured out how to become cancer resistant. Now it's our turn to learn from elephants to try to see if there's a way to apply this to people." Thanks to the generosity of Relay sponsors, "out of the box" research is proving to be a game changer in the fight against cancer!

Please join me in thanking our eight most recent sponsors of Relay For Life of Polk County:

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- West Valley Physicians & Surgeons Clinic/ Dr. John Hadley
- West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic/Dr. Alison Smith
- Monmouth Medical Center/ Dr. Charles Essex
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- Les Schwab Tire Centers of Dallas, Independence, West Salem
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- Dallas Fire & EMS Services
- Polk County Association of Realtors
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- First Community Credit Union
- Western Days
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Relay For Life of Polk County will take place at Riverview Park in Independence June 4~5.

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Itemizer-Observer

Sudoku
Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

Solution on Page 6A

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

Row →
Three-by-three square → Column

How to do Sudoku
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy
The Christian Science Monitor

It's not like him.

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