

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer
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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

All six schools in Dallas School District will be tested for lead.
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FALLS CITY

See more photos from Falls City High School's graduation ceremony online at www.polkio.com.
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INDEPENDENCE

Central senior Hannah Boyack looks forward to next step after high school.
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MONMOUTH

Monmouth Main Street Amphitheater is over budget by about \$20,000.
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PERRYDALE

Senior Hannah Hallock prepares for a new experience at Western Oregon.
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SPORTS

Triathlon field games proves a more difficult challenge than it first appeared.
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EDUCATION

Senior Alicia Scherer ready to take on the film industry.
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Retire tired American flags at Elks

Itemizer-Observer staff report
INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Elks Lodge Post 1950 will team up with the Boy Scouts to retire old flags on Tuesday, Flag Day.
The Scouts will receive the keys to the old flag drop box, located in front of the Elks Lodge, at 5:45 p.m. The ceremony will follow at 6.
Flags will be properly and respectfully disposed of behind the lodge, at 289 S. Main St., Independence.
The public is welcome to attend the ceremony. Bring old, tattered flags to be retired with you.
For more information on how to respect the American flag: www.military.com/benefits/resources/us-flag-code.

Sheriff schools program needs help

PCSO is asking businesses to contribute to fund for drug, online safety education materials

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Sheriff Mark Garton wants his deputies to have a bigger role in Polk County's schools and he's launched a fundraising campaign to help that happen.

Now that the Polk County Sheriff's Office is approaching full staff and 24-hour patrol coverage, he would like

to have deputies teaching children about drug prevention and online safety.

While police officers have plenty of experience with both topics, they might not know how to convey those messages to children in a classroom setting.

That's why Garton is appealing to businesses to help purchase educational materials sheriff's office employees can use in schools.

In the past, Garton has designed his own presenta-

tions, but the process is time consuming and frequent updates are needed as drug-use and social media trends shift.

To solve that problem, the sheriff's office is in a partnership with the National Child Safety Council, which provides materials and updates appropriate for teaching any age group, including adults.

"It's an all-inclusive package," Garton said. "Any police officer can grab it and go teach that topic."

Materials are costly, about \$1.90 per child, and grants are virtually non-existent for this purpose, with the exception of gun safety programs, "Eddie Eagle" and "Project

Child Safe," Garton said.

Businesses in Polk County were sent letters requesting assistance in late May, but Garton stressed donations are voluntary.

"This is not a tax," he said. "This is something we want to provide that we can't provide now."

He said the office has already received about a dozen donations, a few of them substantial.

Garton would like to have enough funding available by early July to have materials in hand before school begins in September.

Sheriff's office officials are meeting with school districts to see what programs

may be the most helpful for the issues students face. The National Child Safety Program offers a wide variety of programs, so Garton can order materials based on what is needed.

"We don't have to do the same thing in all schools," he said. "We can tailor it."

Garton said all schools would like drug prevention presentations.

Other common requests include online and social media safety for children and parents.

"That is something that we feel is important if they (schools) want it, and they do," he said.

See EDUCATION, Page 5A



Garton

May the cure be with you



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

The Polk County Relay for Life hit Riverview Park in Independence on Saturday and Sunday. The event raised money for cancer research, celebrated cancer survivors and remembered those who have been lost. For more on Relay for Life, see Page 7A.

Monmouth blaze caused by electrical wires

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — A fire destroyed the home of Sandy Newland, 137 College St. N., in Monmouth on the evening of June 1.

The call came in at 8:25 p.m. Firefighters from Polk No. 1 and Dallas Fire were on scene in about five or six minutes, Polk No. 1 Assistant Chief Neal Olson said.

Crews from Dallas Fire knocked out a chain link fence to access the roof, where they cut a hole to fight the fire. The blaze was battled from both outside and inside the home.

Olson said a couple of things made the fire difficult, including access.

"I'm worried about the structural integrity," Olson said. "We already had the roof collapse in the garage.

We don't want to send anyone in there if the roof's going to collapse."

One reason for the quick response was the fire departments were in training. About 35 firefighters responded and had the fire contained and under control in about 30 minutes, Olson said.

Olson said the residents were not home at the time of the fire, but witnesses reported seeing a dog run away.

The family dog, Bear, was found the next day and returned to Newland and her grandson, who she raises.

A car parked in the driveway also caught fire, but was extinguished before the car was engulfed in flames.

The heat caused a power line that had been connected to the house to drop onto a car port.

See FIRE, Page 5A



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Firefighters work to contain a blaze at 137 College St. N. in Monmouth on June 1.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed
The Polk County Master Gardeners will discuss landscaping at its meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church. 7 p.m. Free.

thu
Polk County's Young Professionals will meet at Country Financial in Dallas for a social networking event. 5:30 p.m. Free.

fri
Rock out with or enjoy the music at the Guthrie Park Acoustic Music Jam Session 6:30 p.m. Free (donations accepted).

sat
Ash Creek Arts Center will host its free Second Saturday Family Art Program where kids will make windsocks. 2 p.m. Free.

sun
Enjoy a hearty meal at the Buell Grange Breakfast, including pancakes, hash browns, French toast and sausage. 8 a.m. \$6.

mon
It's never too late to learn a instrument with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.

tue
Take a moment to celebrate the American Flag. All day.



Cloudy
Hi: 71
Lo: 50

Showers
Hi: 67
Lo: 48

Mostly cloudy
Hi: 64
Lo: 47

Mostly cloudy
Hi: 66
Lo: 48

Partly sunny
Hi: 70
Lo: 51

Mostly cloudy
Hi: 69
Lo: 49

Partly sunny
Hi: 64
Lo: 47