

Polk County
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Myrold to face three charges

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Kirk David Myrold, the Dallas High School teacher accused of having a relationship with a student, pleaded not guilty to three charges in Polk County Circuit Court Tuesday morning.



Myrold
 Court Tuesday morning.

Myrold was arraigned on one count of luring a minor and two counts of second-degree sex abuse in the case that involves a 17-year-old female student. All three counts are Class-C felonies.

Polk County Circuit Court Judge Monte Campbell set the case for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 14 a 9 a.m. Myrold is ordered to have no contact with the alleged victim in the case and minors not related to him.

Dallas police arrested Myrold, a Spanish teacher, on Sept. 12 on one count each of luring a minor and second-degree sex abuse.

The arrest followed a report from the Dallas School District made that same day that a male teacher employed by the district was alleged to have been involved in an inappropriate relationship with a 17-year-old female student.

Dallas Detective Darren Buchholz found evidence supporting those allegations and arrested Myrold. He was taken to Polk County Jail and released on Sept. 12



OREGON
Elegance

Crews will continue to pick grapes at Cherry Hill Winery for the next few weeks after the vineyard's earliest harvest.

Harvest indicators point to return to traditional pinots for 2016

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Following two hot growing seasons, local winemakers are seeing more of what made Oregon pinot noirs famous coming out for the vineyards.

While the beginning of harvest this year is even earlier than last year — by a full two weeks in some places — a milder mid-summer has produced hints that has been missing from the last two vintages.

"It's been great, ideal actually," said Ken Cook, the winemaker and vineyard manager at Cherry Hill Winery in Rickreall.

The hot spring made for an early bud break, which explains the early harvest, but Cook said the wines will have characteristics of cooler years with longer growing seasons.

"This year will have more complexity and more interesting flavors," he said.

He said the 2014 and 2015 vintages were pleasing, but atypical for Oregon wines.

"They are bigger, bolder



Volunteer picker Amanda Kelly dumps a bucket of grapes at Emerson Vineyards on Sunday.

and rich with higher alcohol content," he said of the previous two vintages. "They are nice wines by any measure."

But in Cook's opinion, and that of other local winemakers he's talked to, those vintages have too much in common with those produced in the state to our south.

Elliott Johns, winemaker and field manager at Emerson Vineyards in Monmouth, said he hopes for a strong contrast this year, too.

harvest Wednesday (today).

"They are very close," Johns said Sunday of the wine flavors. "I did a sample a few days ago. It tasted really nice and I was waiting another couple of days to look at the forecast. I'm happy if I have to pick on Wednesday, but I wouldn't mind a little more hang time to get our traditional Oregon flavors."

Cooks took an opposite approach, choosing to harvest early to avoid the fruit being overripe like it was the last two years. He said those two hot seasons had winemakers and vineyard managers talking about techniques that they could use during hot years to maintain pinot traits that set Oregon apart from other winemaking regions.

Early harvest and late irrigation — on those vineyards that are irrigated — are two options being looked at, he said. Later irrigation slows the ripening process, which allows flavors to develop. The hope is creating wines with lower alcohol content and subtle taste.

See **HARVEST, Page 16A**

Fire to bring regeneration to arboretum

Dallas firefighters help Delbert Hunter Arboretum volunteers try an ancient practice of using fire

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dale Derouin is hoping fire brings renewal.

A volunteer for the Delbert Hunter Arboretum, Derouin decided to experiment in the arboretum's meadow section. Planted there are a number of native bunch grasses that in former centuries would have covered the Willamette Valley.

Derouin's idea is to burn it to see if it comes back stronger in the spring.

His suggestion has a basis in history. Native Americans used to burn meadows in the valley for the same purpose, he said.

"I expect the grasses will regenerate," Derouin said.

"I'm assuming most of them will come back because they developed under this regime."

According to his research, Native Americans noticed that plants flourished in areas of the valley that had burned in natural fires. The result was better hunting and a healthier ecosystem.

"They thought, we don't have to wait for nature to set the fire," he said.

Part of the mission of the arboretum is telling the history of the area through plant displays and volunteers thought adding a traditional practice would further that mission.

To make sure it was safely done, the arboretum needed assistance from the Dallas

Fire Department.

Derouin said he didn't know if the city would be interested in such an experiment, but he was pleasantly surprised.

April Welsh, Dallas fire spokeswoman, said the burn helps both volunteer organizations — the arboretum with testing the theory and the department with training.

"Anytime we get to work with another organization, especially another volunteer organization, we will always make that happen," Welsh said.

The controlled burn took place on Thursday, with arboretum volunteers and on-lookers there to watch.

Both fire department offi-



A firefighter uses a drip torch to light grasses ablaze.

cials and arboretum volunteers are curious about how the experiment will turn out. "We want to try that and

see what happens," Derouin said. For more photos of the process, www.polkio.com.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas City Council race draws seven candidates.

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FALLS CITY

Schools city talk future funding for Wagner Library.

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INDEPENDENCE

Taylor's Building restoration is moving very carefully.

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MONMOUTH

Suicide prevention is the focus of meeting, initiatives.

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ELECTION

Measure 97 is topic of local forum.

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SPORTS

Quarterback, receiver make connections for Central.

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SEDCOR honors Polk County

Itemizer-Observer staff report
 POLK COUNTY — Polk County was among a group of partners recognized with the Outstanding Public/Private Partnership award at the Strategic Economic Development Corporation Annual Honors Luncheon earlier this month.

The award honors "outstanding cooperation on a project or initiative with public benefit in mind" and was given to the "Make It in the Mid-Willamette Valley" project.

The group includes Polk County, Marion County, Yamhill County, Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Incite.

The project was started in 2013 with a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

These funds have helped keep businesses and jobs at home and to help train local workers.

The three-year project has helped to support an innovative and collaborative culture for businesses in the region.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

<p>wed</p> <p>Want to learn to paint? Head up to The Boondocks in Falls City for Painting, Canvas and Cocktails. 7 p.m. \$30.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 75 Lo: 44</p>	<p>thu</p> <p>Last chance to shop at the Polk County Bounty Market for the season. At the Academy Lawn on Main Street. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Partly sunny Hi: 70 Lo: 43</p>	<p>fri</p> <p>Listen to or play great live music at the Guthrie Park Community Center during the acoustic jam session. 6:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 63 Lo: 46</p>	<p>sat</p> <p>Polk Community Free Clinic at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dallas offers free medical care to those who need it 7 a.m. Free.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 59 Lo: 46</p>	<p>sun</p> <p>Two flea markets are better than one. You can visit two in Rickreall at the fair-ground and the grange hall. 9 a.m. Free or \$5.</p> <p>Rain Hi: 60 Lo: 46</p>	<p>mon</p> <p>New Horizons orchestra invites beginning to intermediate players to join for a monthly fee in Monmouth. 6:30p.m. \$25.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 61 Lo: 43</p>	<p>tue</p> <p>James2 Community Kitchen offers free meals to those in need at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas. 4:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 61 Lo: 44</p>
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