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**Familiar Dallas sight soon to be no more**



Crew began tearing down the grain elevator on property owned by Valley Life Center last week. The building has fallen into disrepair and considered a safety hazard.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

*Now a liability, the decades-old building is being dismantled*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Jack Posey watches with interest as a 5,000-pound wrecking ball strikes what is left of the grain elevator behind Valley Life Center on Miller Street in Dallas.

The impact makes the whole building shudder and a cloud of dust bellows out.

“There it goes,” he said, focusing on the next swing of the wrecking ball.

Within minutes, a big chunk of the wood structure collapses with a crash and even bigger cloud of dust.

“We are looking at 40-year-old dirt,” Posey said. “It’s been in there for years.”

Decades, likely.

The grain silo was built in the 1940s or 1950s, say dismantling onlookers and the property’s owner, Valley Life Center.

Those who live near Miller Street in Dallas know the sight well.

But within a few weeks, it will be no more.

Last week crews began tearing it down. Unfortunately, what some in town consider a local icon had become an attractive nuisance for the owner. It’s no longer part of a farming operation,

so it sits vacant all year.

“It’s been a liability. We couldn’t keep people out of there,” said Chris Barker, the pastor of Valley Life Center.

He said people have gone in the grain elevator and lit candles or engaged in other potentially dangerous activities.

It’s poor structural condition has become a safety hazard, especially during wind storms.

“Metal (siding) kept flying off,” Barker said, adding the church’s neighbors weren’t thrilled about that.

Barker said the contractor taking the building down will recycle some of the material. Clean up will probably be the most time-consuming part of the project.

Those who wish to take a last look or photo of the old grain silo should do so soon. The dismantling has been a slow, careful process thus far, but that will change.

“We didn’t give them a time limit,” Barker said, but added: “The last part will go faster.”

He said the crew has done a number of similar projects in the Willamette Valley in recent years, perhaps a sign of the changing agricultural practices.

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**IN YOUR TOWN**

**DALLAS**

Sheriff’s office undergoes special training.

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**FALLS CITY**

City council to discuss installing barricades at Michael Harding Park.

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**INDEPENDENCE**

Central football defeats Sandy in the first round of the state playoffs.

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**MONMOUTH**

Western Oregon to perform stylized, insightful play.

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**SCHOOLS**

Dallas theater program to perform “Much Ado About Nothing.”

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**SPORTS**

Dallas sophomore Trevor Cross places 37th at state.

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**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — When Dallas’ football team celebrated its 50-14 win over Eagle Point on Friday, the team turned toward their home fans.

But it wasn’t the familiar confines of Gillespie Stadium that they saw — it was Panther Stadium at Central High School.

The Dragons’ home play-off game was moved because of field conditions at Dallas.

“It was too muddy,” athletic director Tim Larson said. “Unless it was a pro field, I don’t think any grass field would have been in good condition with all the rain we had. There would be no traction for either team.”

Larson said the decision

to move the game was the school’s choice — they were not forced to by the OSAA.

Dallas did host Lebanon on Oct. 28 — a game that decided the Mid-Willamette Conference league champion.

“It didn’t seem like it was in that bad of shape, but once the players got on it, it was pretty clear,” Larson said.

Dallas football coach Tracy Jackson said he understood the decision.

“I would say that I felt like the mud took away some things that make us a little more special,” Jackson said. “The mud can turn players like Tanner (Earhart) or Aaron (White) and make them regular. I felt being on turf gave us the best chance of being successful.”

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Muddy conditions on Ron August Field led Dallas athletics officials to move the Dragons first-round playoff football game to rival Central High School’s facility.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

**Life during wartime illustrated in ‘Home Front’**

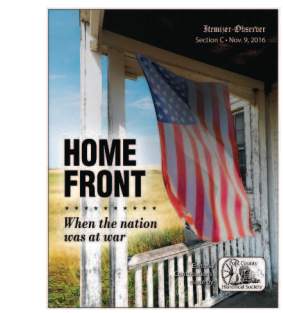
**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Imagine a country at war. Our country, in fact. As youths and men sign up to join the fight overseas, they leave behind women, children and the elderly to hold down the fort.

In Polk County, that meant harvesting crops, selling land to Camp Adair at rock-bottom prices —

and later buying it back at inflated ones — letters to and from loved ones overseas, rationing and trying to keep spirits bright in the toughest of times.

Take a walk down memory lane with the *Itemizer-Observer’s* newest endeavor with the Polk County Historical Society in this week’s special edition of Home Front: When a nation was at war.



The stories and photos are taken from oral histories and newspaper clippings

from both the *I-O* and the *Monmouth Herald*, provided by the historical society, about how the residents of Polk County experienced World War II.

It’s an interesting look at life during an epic war, and begs the question, could we do it again?

While the entire world is not at war, many are still left behind today as loved ones go overseas. Polk County is

no longer near any military facilities, but with an active National Guard and young people joining the military, families continue to worry, send care packages, and look for words from their service members — though usually it’s more instant than the U.S. Postal Service.

We don’t have to use ration stamps to buy groceries.

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**Man killed trying to cross Highway 22**

Itemizer-Observer staff report  
WEST SALEM — A pedestrian was killed Thursday night while trying to cross Highway 22 just west of West Salem.

Oregon State Police troops responded to a report of a pedestrian versus vehicle crash at about 7:55 p.m. on the highway near Frontage Road.

OSP said the preliminary investigation revealed a 50-year-old man, who has not been identified pending notification of his family, was attempting to cross the highway south. He was struck by a 2016 Chevrolet Cruz sedan traveling westbound and then hit by a second vehicle, a 2007 Toyota Corolla.

The area of the highway is not lit by street lights and there is no designated crosswalk, police said.

OSP was assisted by the Polk County Sheriff’s Office and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

This is an active investigation and more information will be released as it becomes available, police said.

**THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK**

<b>wed</b> Veterans will be honored this morning during a Mass and breakfast at Mid-Valley Christian Academy. 8:15-11 a.m. Free. Rain/sun Hi: 62 Lo: 47	<b>thu</b> Network with other Young Professionals at an after-hours gathering at Old Mill Feed and Seed in Dallas. 5:30 p.m. Free. Partly sunny Hi: 62 Lo: 50	<b>fri</b> Happy Veterans Day! The Independence Elks Lodge hosts a dinner, free for veterans and their spouses. 6 p.m. Guests: \$5. Rain Hi: 59 Lo: 48	<b>sat</b> Take a stroll through downtown Willamina and enjoy the annual Coastal Hills Art Tour, with a chance to win art. 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Free. Showers Hi: 59 Lo: 46	<b>sun</b> Grab breakfast at the Buell Grange and take a break from cooking this morning. 8-11 a.m. \$6. Rain Hi: 57 Lo: 50	<b>mon</b> Save a life; donate blood with the American Red Cross blood drive at Western Oregon’s Werner center. 10:30 a.m. -4 p.m. Rain Hi: 58 Lo: 47	<b>tue</b> Looking for something to do with your young one? Indoor Play Park in Dallas is open Tues. through Fri. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Partly cloudy Hi: 57 Lo: 45
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