

Looking back at what headlines mattered most to you in 2016

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — The past year has been an eventful one.

From elections to sports teams, there has been no shortage of news that affected Polk County.

Here are the 10 most read stories online:

1. Dallas teacher and coach arrested on sex abuse charge — Sept. 13, 2016

Police found evidence to support allegations that Kirk David Myrold — a Spanish teacher and girls' soccer coach for Dallas High School — had been involved in an inappropriate relationship with a 17-year-old female student of the high school.

Myrold was arrested and charged with one count each of luring a minor, a felony, and second-degree sexual abuse, also a felony.

He pleaded not guilty to three charges in Polk County Circuit Court on Sept. 27.

Myrold was arraigned on one count of luring a minor and two counts of second-degree sex abuse. All three counts are Class-C felonies.

UPDATE: Myrold had a pretrial conference on Thursday. His next court date is had not been scheduled as of Tuesday morning.

2. Local youth dies in swimming accident — June

27, 2016

Cody Watson, 16, of Monmouth, died while swimming on June 26, according to the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies from the sheriff's office were called to the John Day River about eight miles west of Spray at noon on reports that a 16-year-old male had disappeared beneath the surface of the river while swimming with friends.

A celebration of the teen's life was held at Panther Stadium.

3. One killed in early morning crash in Dallas — Nov. 16, 2016

Louis Hildago, 39, of Dallas, was killed after a head-on collision with a Toyota Tacoma, driven by Tad Young, 34, of Silverton.

The crash occurred on Nov. 16 at about 3:15 a.m. on Highway 223 near milepost 1, just north of Dallas.

A Kenworth tractor pulling a loaded log trailer swerved to avoid the collision, left the roadway and came to rest in the ditch.

Fatigue may have been a contributing factor in the crash.

Young suffered minor injuries and refused medical transport.

Steven Follett, 65, of Philomath, the driver of the

Kenworth, was uninjured.

4. Dallas Police seeks help with identifying person of interest — Feb. 22, 2016

The Dallas Police Department asked for help identifying a person of interest in connection with a theft of about \$3,000 in jewelry from a business in the 800 block of Main Street. The theft occurred at about 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 8.

UPDATE: Dallas police have still not identified this person, though officers have followed up on several leads, Lt. Jerry Mott said.

If you have information about this incident, contact Senior Officer Colby Hamilton at 503-831-3516.

5. Man dies after officer-involved shooting in West Salem — July 6, 2016

A Polk County deputy shot a man on Tuesday night during an attempt to take him into custody on Highway 22. The man, Joshua A. Bolster, 29, of Salem, was transported to the Salem Hospital where he died from his injuries.

A grand jury later found Deputy Casey Gibson was justified in shooting Bolster.

6. Dallas Police Officer injured, suspect dead after shooting — Dec. 16, 2016

Jeremiah N. Anderson was shot and killed during an officer-involved shooting

in the Dallas Walmart parking lot on the evening of Dec. 16, according to Oregon State Police.

A preliminary investigation by the OSP and its partners revealed that at 5:26 p.m., three Dallas police officers responded to a complaint of an adult male who appeared intoxicated in the parking lot at Walmart.

Officers attempted to take the male, identified as Anderson, 36, of Dallas, into custody for driving under the influence of intoxicants. According to the report from OSP, Anderson resisted arrest and fired as many as two rounds, striking Sgt. Rob Hatchell in the leg. Hatchell and officer Mike Fleming returned fire, striking Anderson, reports state. Anderson was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hatchell was treated and released.

7. Polk County burglary suspect arrested — March 11, 2016

A Polk County Sheriff's deputy and Dallas police officer stopped a burglary in progress on the morning of March 11, arresting the suspect without incident.

A report of a burglary in the 8500 block of Red Prairie Road was called in at about 6:40 a.m. The 911 caller said a male subject had broken

into the house and was still inside. The owner of the residence was not home at the time.

Bradley Bond, 38, of Monmouth, was arrested on charges of first-degree burglary, first-degree trespassing, second-degree theft, second-degree criminal mischief and possession of methamphetamine.

8. Fire at Forest River contained — March 3, 2016

The investigation into the cause of a fire at Forest River in Dallas is ongoing, but fire officials know one thing for sure: the RV manufacturing plant's interior sprinklers saved the day.

Firefighters were called to the plant, at 1429 SE Uglow Ave., at about 11:55 a.m. By the time fire crews arrived, Forest River's workers had been evacuated.

According to firefighters on scene, the fire appears to have started on the outside of the building and traveled up the wall. The blaze triggered the sprinkler system, which knocked down the fire that had spread to the inside of the building.

9. American Gas, Tech to bring 900 jobs to Dallas — Feb. 24, 2016

American Gas & Technology (AG&T) founder Ray Tate Jr. said the company is developing the "21st century

gas station" and its vision is as big as the facility it's remodeling to build its dream.

AG&T, which specializes in the development of liquefied natural gas fueling stations, bought the long-vacant Tyco building in Dallas.

Tim Tight projects AG&T will bring back the jobs lost when the plant went dark nearly 10 years ago.

He said there are other plans for investing in the community, including developing a welding school that will offer local students internships to learn the skill.

10. Dallas PD investigating Thursday night crash on W. Ellendale — May 6, 2016

The Dallas Police Department is looking for witnesses to a crash that occurred at about 9:38 p.m. on May 5 in the 800 block of West Ellendale Avenue in Dallas.

According to police, an adult male had crashed a 1996 Mitsubishi Eclipse into several mailboxes before hitting a tree. The driver was transported to a hospital. There were no passengers.

UPDATE: Kyle Bradford, 23, Polk County resident, was cited and released for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal mischief, Lt. Jerry Mott said.

HEALTH DIRECTORY

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• **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC** - Drs. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 8-noon & 2-6 pm; Wed 2-4 pm. & Thurs 2-6 pm. Proudly serving Polk County for over 17 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

COUNSELING

• **CROSS AND CROWN COUNSELING** ~ KATE KOENS, NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor and Certified Temperament Therapist is accepting new clients at her Dallas and Falls City offices. She works with individuals in a safe environment to help individuals find healing and fulfillment by teaching good communication skills, appreciation for self and others, appropriate responses to individual and family needs, how to build relationships of trust, appropriate crisis responses, and how to obtain overall family wellness emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Some specific areas of counsel offered are marriage and family, adolescent issues, depression, past and present trauma, grief, identity crisis, divorce, childhood losses, and feelings of hopelessness. Our goal is to help individuals realize their full potential and to live decisively with truth, relevance, perspective and purpose. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 503-917-1625 or visit our website: www.crossandcrowncounseling.com

GENERAL DENTISTRY

• **RANDALL C. JONES, DMD** - 1004 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 503-838-0434. Offering a broad range of dental services in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. New patients and emergencies welcome.

• **WESTON K. MORRILL, DMD** - 289 E. Ellendale Suite #201, Dallas. 503-623-6616. Family, preventive, and cosmetic dentistry. Complete dentistry for the entire family. Se habla español.

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GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the Salem Health West Valley Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD**, specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the Salem Health West Valley surgical suites. New patients are welcome! Salem Health West Valley Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit salemhealth.org/westvalley.

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• **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices, Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

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• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** offers state-of-the-art all-digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician's referral, we provide bone densitometry, CT scan, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our comfortable and spacious mammography suite. We are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7302.

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• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** provides lab services at two convenient locations in Dallas and Monmouth. Both labs are fully accredited, providing collections and testing with healthcare provider referral. Employment and self-referral drug testing is offered. The West Valley Hospital lab in Dallas is open 24 hours, seven days a week, at 525 SE Washington St., 503-623-7303. The Monmouth lab is located in the Monmouth Medical Center, 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1388. It is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., closed between noon and 1 p.m. Appointments are not required.

MASSAGE

• **OUT OF GRAVITY MASSAGE** - Julianne Klingberg DeForest, LMT - 503.510.2256 - NOW IN INDEPENDENCE Enter Stressed, Leave Blessed - Out of Gravity Massage offers massage sessions to suit a variety of needs and health concerns. Intuitive and holistic bodywork are blended with extensive and varied edu-

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• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** offers a wide range of rehabilitation services. Our hospital in Dallas, located at 525 SE Washington St. in Dallas, offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and aquatic therapy (at Dallas Aquatic Center). 503-623-7305. Our clinic in Monmouth offers physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Located at 512 Main St. 503-838-1388. Visit www.salemhealth.org/westvalley.

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

• **DR. CHARLES ESSEX**, family medicine, is accepting new patients at Salem Health West Valley Medical Clinic, located at 512 Main St., Suite 300, Monmouth, 503-838-1182. With a proactive healthcare approach, Dr. Essex provides care for the entire family and will work with you to build a healthy lifestyle with annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, sports physicals, skin care, cancer screenings and more. New patients are welcome.

• **DR. JOHN HADLEY**, family medicine, is accepting new patients at the Salem Health West Valley Medical Clinic at 555 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7301. With a proactive healthcare approach, Dr. Hadley provides of-fers family medicine for your entire family from newborns to adults with annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, sports physicals, skin care, cancer screenings and more. New patients are welcome.

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• **MARIAN SIMON, MA** Shamanic healer and counselor specializing in spiritual healing and development since 1994. If you are ready to open your heart, expand your mind, understand your soul's purpose in life and solve problems from a spiritual perspective, I can provide you with shamanic tools to empower your life. 503-831-0158. simonart@teleport.com <http://marian-simon.com>