

Assault: Suspects return three times

Duck faces charge of manslaughter

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 A witness asked Escalera to lower the firearm as there were children waiting at a bus stop nearby, police reports state. Escalera put away the gun, but the assault continued until just before police arrived, according to the affidavit. As police responded, a caller reported that two males, including the one



Escalera

with the gun, got into a black Audi and provided a plate number. The first Dallas officer who arrived encountered the Audi still in the 200 block of Southwest Walnut Avenue. Polk County Sheriff's deputies and other Dallas officers arrived on scene and initiated a "high-risk stop," according to the report. The two suspects in the



Lopez

vehicle were taken into custody without incident, according to police reports. One was armed with a holstered pistol when taken into custody, police said. Police found another pistol, a rifle and a ballistic vest in the vehicle. One suspect works as a security guard and the vest, as well as a uniform he was wearing, had security company markings, police reports state. Escalera faces charges of felony third-degree assault, felony unlawful use of a weapon, and misdemeanor counts of menacing and sec-

ond-degree disorderly conduct. Lopez has been charged with felony third-degree assault and second-degree disorderly conduct. The pair was arraigned on the charges Friday and are due back in court Thursday at 1:14 p.m. Police said investigators do not believe the suspects intended to harm anyone else. The Dallas Police Department thanked the Polk County Sheriff's Office for assisting with this investigation and community members who reported the assault.

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The man arrested last week in connection with a fatal motorcycle crash on Highway 22 will face manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide, along with five other felonies.

Brandon James Duck, 19, of McMinnville, is due back in court for a preliminary hearing on Thursday at 1:14 p.m.



Duck

The Polk County District Attorney's Office filed seven charges against him on April 18: Second-degree manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, failure to perform the duties of a driver to injured persons, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, first-degree criminal mischief, second-degree arson, and possession of methamphetamine.

Police originally arrested Duck on five charges, not including manslaughter

and arson. He remains in custody at the Polk County Jail on \$200,000 bail.

Oregon State Police began investigating the case on April 14 at about 6:30 a.m. as a motorcycle crash.

The victim of the accident, James Rudolph Osredkar, 43, of Sheridan, was the driver of the motorcycle. He died of his injuries.

Shortly after arriving on the scene of the motorcycle crash, OSP was notified of a vehicle fire on Ford Street in Rickreall.

OSP determined that the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Lincoln County several days earlier. Evidence at the scene of the motorcycle crash links the stolen vehicle to the fatality, OSP reports said.

Police interviewed Michala A. Brown, 22, also of McMinnville, about the case, and arrested her on a probation violation.

Committee approves FC budget

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The Falls City Budget Committee approved the city's 2017-18 budget Thursday, on the same night it was presented. That budget included money to hire a city manager, restart the city's municipal court, and documents the rapid decline of money supporting Wagner Community Library operations. The 2017-18 general fund amounts to \$469,800 and covers expenses for the city council, court, fire, administration, and parks departments. Property taxes account for \$104,000 of the revenue.

The bulk of general fund resources, \$287,000, will go to the administration fund, \$52,600 more than the current budget.

The plan to hire a full-time city manager or city clerk accounts for the increase, Mayor Terry Ungricht said, who serves as the budget officer for the city.

Falls City 2017-18 budget:

- General fund — \$469,000
- Streets — \$456,000
- Water — \$515,800
- Sewer — \$247,520
- Utility reserve — \$306,151
- Wagner Trust — \$89,228
- Community development revolving loan — \$145,936

"I budgeted for two clerks and a manager. That will be tight, but I left money in contingency," he said. "We budgeted heavy for this last year, in case we hired a manager. I do think that is a good thing to do when you have a volunteer working for you, because he might want to go fishing."

The joke was welcomed with laughter and nods from around the table. Ungricht has been that "volunteer" the last two years. Recently, he brought the proposal to the Falls City City Council to hire a manager.

Ungricht designated \$21,000 to begin the city's new municipal court after years of not having a code

enforcement program. The city established an agreement with the city of Independence to hold court sessions.

"We need to have a code enforcer. I was hoping to be able to contract that," Ungricht said. "I threw in the very barebones minimum to hopefully get code enforcement up and running this year."

At the beginning of the 2017-18, the Wagner Fund will have \$89,228.

"City costs are now between \$46,000 and \$47,000," Ungricht said.

With only about 1.5 years of money left, the response to a survey asking citizens if they would support paying

more taxes for library operation is critical, Ungricht said.

He said if the answer is "no," there may not be many options left but to close Wagner.

Ungricht stressed the council has the final say on that, but closing the library by Jan. 1, 2018, would be his recommendation if the voter survey shows little support.

Budget committee member and City Councilor Dennis Sickles said the city needs to contact the Falls City School District to share its concern.

For more information on this story, go to polkio.com, or to see the budget, go to: www.fallscityoregon.gov.


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The City of Monmouth is seeking bids from interested buyers for the city's property at **238 Jackson St. E.** Bid Deadline: May 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Inquiries should be directed to **Phyllis Bolman, 503-751-0145** or **pbolman@ci.monmouth.or.us**


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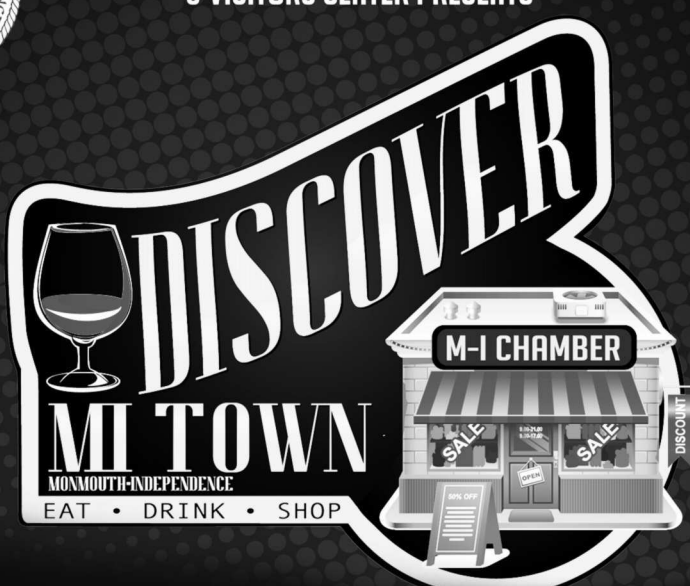
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2017 Relay For Life Of Polk County — June 3-4 is back at the Dallas High School Track



...and with it comes the opportunity to be a part of the largest worldwide fight against cancer! It's no coincidence that since the first Relay For Life over 30 years ago, the survivor rate has risen from 45% to nearly 70%. In Oregon alone, millions of dollars are being invested in prevention and especially treatments that are more personalized and thus more effective. Sitting on the sidelines in Polk County is no longer an option. We can hope ~ or we can help through our support of Relay For Life as a sponsor, a team member, or simply as a guest of the event. The following sponsors are already on board for 2017. Now it's your turn!


Please join me in thanking our **15 most recent sponsors** of Relay For Life of Polk County:

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- ♥ Dallas Rotary Club ♥ Mitch Ratzlaff State Farm ♥ Squirrel's Taxi Service ♥ OrePac Manufacturing
- ♥ Elkay Wood Products ♥ Rolling Prairie Farms ♥ Woolsey Family Dental ♥ Anytime Fitness
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Relay For Life of Polk County will take place at the Dallas High School Track June 3-4. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship, contact Amy Bickleman at 541-272-9240 or online at amy.bickleman@cancer.org or visit our website at www.relayforlife.org/polkcountyor



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