

Polk County  
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EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Police and emergency workers are planning for a sharp increase in visitors for the weekend of the Aug. 21 eclipse.

**First responders prepare for eclipse**

*First responders are ready for increase in visitors*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — First responders and emergency workers are preparing for the influx of people expected for the Great American Eclipse on Aug. 21 and for the days around it, but they need our help.

Police and fire agencies are urging people to prepare, be patient, and be aware of their surroundings.

“We want people to be safe and have fun and enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event,” said April Welsh, the Dallas Fire & EMS spokeswoman.

Police agencies, fire departments, local hospitals and Community Emergency Response Teams have had Aug. 21 circled on their calendars for awhile and it will be all-hands-on-deck during the weekend before and day of the eclipse.

“We going to have extra people working, obviously,” said Sheriff Mark Garton. “Our plan that we have, we

started a couple months ago, but it’s kind a living document right now because things pop up and we learn of an event.”

The sheriff’s office will be patrolling the whole county, and deputies will be strategically placed to be close to eclipse-related events and to make sure people are following traffic laws. Garton said he and Dean Bender, the office’s emergency manager, are attending meetings for local events and statewide planning sessions to get an idea where officers should be placed and what to expect.

Garton said at the top of his list of concerns is traffic.

“What happens if Depoe Bay and Lincoln City are fogged in? People are going to try to go really, really fast coming this way, and will they stop here or go to Salem?” he said. “There’s going to be crashes. There’s going to be traffic. People need to understand that so they don’t get upset.”

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*Salem Health West Valley prepared for the eclipse*

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

DALLAS — Jennifer Broadus, the director of clinical operations at Salem Health West Valley in Dallas, said the hospital is gearing up for the Great American Eclipse.

“During major events and when larger influxes of sick and injured people are expected, Salem Health West Valley is prepared,” she said.

**Emergency Department**  
A tent will be set up at the hospital on Thursday, ready to treat patients in the tent Friday through Monday, if needed.

This tent will be staffed Friday through Monday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Extra staff will be on call to respond to increased need.

**Medical/Surgical Unit**  
The Medical/Surgical Inpatient unit is always staffed and ready with six hospital beds.

West Valley will have additional staff on-call and available to expand admis-

sion capabilities, using beds in other departments if needed.

**Surgery**  
No elective surgeries will be scheduled Friday through Monday.

**Pharmacy**  
The pharmacy, for hospital operations only — not the public, will be staffed with a technician and pharmacist Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

On weekdays the pharmacy will maintain normal business hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the ability to increase staff or extend hours if needed.

**Infusion and Wound Clinic and Anticoagulation Clinic**

On Friday, the department will operate as normal with the ability to ramp up staffing. Saturday to Monday, additional staff will be on call and are only scheduling urgent patients to create flexibility.

See HEALTH, Page 9A

**Get ready for a space adventure**

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
DALLAS — Four, three, two, one.

Summerfest 2017 is about to blast off for “A Space Adventure” on Thursday and, you should be along for the ride.

This year has a few new events, including live-action role play lessons and battles, and the return of something from Summerfest past, the three-on-three basketball tournament.

Believe it or not, the space adventure theme coinciding with the solar eclipse happening just a few weeks after the festival ends is a coincidence.

“We put a vote out last year after Summerfest and asked, ‘What would you like the theme to Summerfest 2017 to be?’” said Bonnie Dreier, the Dallas Area Visitors Center programs and events manager. “People just started throwing ideas out. A Space Adventure and 1950s Sock Hop were pretty close, but Space Adventure took it.”

That vote took place before the Great American Eclipse fever outbreak.

“It was perfect,” Dreier said.

Summerfest opens at 11 a.m. Thursday and will spend three days occupying downtown Dallas, bringing food and merchandise vendors, entertainment and a National Guard demonstration tent that is, yes, air-conditioned.

Local “larping” group Amtgard is offering three days of live-action role play lessons Thursday through Saturday, ending with an epic battle on Saturday afternoon.

Returning to the schedule is the three-on-three tournament. An alumni game will kick off the fun on Friday night, with the tournament beginning in earnest on Saturday morning.

The Dallas Fire Department is not to be left out, with it always entertaining, and possibly drenching, waterball contest Friday night at 6 p.m.

Saturday evening boasts yet another new event, the SummerQuest Scavenger Hunt, hosted by the Dallas Booster Club. The quest, which replaces the fun run, begins at 5 p.m., so bring your team (up to six people) and your smartphone to get clues on the course.

West Valley Taphouse will provide a brew for each participant — beer for adults and root beer for those not yet 21 — at the end and just in time for the downtown close-out party featuring Prince tribute band Erotic City.

“It should be an awesome ending to a crazy Summerfest,” Dreier said.

See SPACE, Page 9A

**IN YOUR TOWN**

**DALLAS**

Dallas contemplates options for public safety facilities.

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**FALLS CITY**

Falls City fire hosts National Night Out block party.

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**INDEPENDENCE**

Indy receives \$1 million grant from State Legislature.

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**MONMOUTH**

Shakespeare takes center stage in “Much Ado About Nothing.”

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**SPORTS**

The Demarini Dirtbags are headed to the American Legion state tournament.

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**POLK COUNTY**

Open class entries are due soon for the Polk County Fair.

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**King arrested after citizen tips**

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
GRAND RONDE — Carl Wayne King was arrested on July 18 after citizens called in tips to the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

On July 8, sheriff’s office asked for the public’s help through Facebook to identify a suspect in a theft in the Grand Ronde area. Within a short amount of time the public began to provide tips on the sheriff’s Facebook page and by calling into the sheriff’s office to identify the suspect as King.

King was arrested and lodged in Polk County Jail on the following charges: two counts of second-degree criminal trespass, two counts of first-degree theft, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle.

The Polk County Sheriff’s Office posted on Facebook that it would like to thank many members of the public who assisted in this case. The investigation is continuing with the purpose of trying to recover the victim’s property. Contact Deputy Jeff Williams at 503-623-9251 with information.

**Putting out the embers**



**Firefighters with Polk No. 1, Southwest Polk, Dallas Fire, Adair Fire, and Salem Fire saved a home on Buena Vista Road Monday night after a detached garage and two sheds caught fire. Three people were home when it started. One person, the adult son of the homeowners, was taken to the hospital with symptoms of heat exhaustion from fighting the fire and helping evacuating his parents. (The garage and sheds) were fully involved when we got here, so basically our goal was to protect the home,” said Polk No. 1 Fire Chief Ben Stange. For more on the fire, see polkio.com.**

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

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



**wed**

Jenny Don’t and the Spurs bring an evening of country music to the Monmouth Main Street Park amphitheater. 6:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny  
Hi: 84  
Lo: 56

**thu**

Kids can make a bookmark from reused materials at Polk County Bount Market, sponsored by Republic Service. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.



Sunny  
Hi: 81  
Lo: 52

**fri**

Head to Indy’s Riverview Park to hear 5 Guys Named Moe, a horn-driven show band with classic rock ‘n’ roll. 7:30 p.m. Donation.



Sunny  
Hi: 83  
Lo: 54

**sat**

While out enjoying Dallas Summerfest Saturday, swing into the Dallas Senior Center for some shortcake. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



Sunny  
Hi: 86  
Lo: 56

**sun**

Salem Health Medical Clinic in Monmouth is open on weekends through the end of August. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free.



Sunny  
Hi: 87  
Lo: 55

**mon**

Engage in conversations about the New Testament at St. Thomas Episcopal Church’s Brew and BS. 4:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny  
Hi: 86  
Lo: 55

**tue**

It’s National Night Out, time for neighbors to gather with local law enforcement to take a stand against crime. Times vary. Free.



Sunny  
Hi: 87  
Lo: 56