

Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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Police look for missing Dallas woman

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Dallas Police are asking for help in finding a Dallas woman who was reported missing on Saturday who could be in the Florence area.

According to police, a family member reported Heather Mounce, 37, missing on Saturday at 2:13 p.m. She was last seen at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. Her red 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt, Oregon plates 724 EFB, was found parked next to Highway 101 north of Florence near Cox Rock.

The last communication

from her phone to a family member was around 2 p.m. Evidence gathered so far suggests she was not abducted and traveled to her car's location of her own free will, police said.

Local Florence authorities searched the area where Mounce's vehicle was found and did not find her.

Mounce is 5-foot-4 and weighs between 140 and 170 pounds. She has straight black hair and brown eyes.

As of Tuesday morning, Dallas Lt. Jerry Mott said he couldn't comment further at

this time about circumstances surrounding her disappearance. He said the department is actively following up on tips.

If you see a person matching her description, call local police.

Dallas Police say she is not wanted for a crime and is not believed to be dangerous in any way, but would like to have a police officer verify she is OK.

If you had any contact with her after 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, contact Sgt. Josh Calef of the Dallas Police De-



COURTESY OF HARLIE MOUNCE/Itemizer-Observer

Heather Mounce was reported missing on Saturday.

partment at 503-831-3516.

The Oregon State Police, Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, U.S.

Coast Guard and Lane County fire services have assisted with the search for Mounce.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

City to receive \$300,000 per year for next decade to help with street maintenance.

»Page 14A

FALLS CITY

City located stolen utility vehicle on Friday.

»Page 5A

INDEPENDENCE

Council to consider marijuana business license changes.

»Page 5A

MONMOUTH

Western Oregon soccer team hopes youth movement leads to success.

»Page 13A

SPORTS

The Rough Stock Rodeo returned on Thursday.

»Page 12A

Police to look for proper safety belt use

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH— Monday through Sept. 3, Monmouth Police Department officers will conduct specialized traffic safety enforcement operations, emphasizing the importance of proper safety belt and child seats use.

The enhanced enforcement is possible through a grant from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Share your photos

Capture a stunning image of the eclipse? Did you find that perfect moment? Share your photos with the *Itemizer-Observer* using the hashtags #PathofTotality and #OREclipse2017. You can like the *I-O* on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @PolkIONews and follow us on Instagram.

Newsletter

Want to keep even more up-to-date? Head to www.polkio.com to get signed up for the *I-O's* newsletter, which goes out every Friday. Also, check the website for more stories and photos.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Polk County Fire District No. 1 Deputy Chief Neal Olson helps determine the cause of the home fire on Aug. 9.

Infant dies during house fire

By Emily Mentzer

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — An 11-month-old boy died in a Monmouth house fire on Aug. 9.

Two adults, including his mother Natacia Abbe, along with two other children were able to evacuate.

The home in the 700 block

of North Catron Street was heavily involved in fire when firefighters arrived, said Polk County Fire District No. 1 Deputy Chief Neal Olson.

The fire was electrical and started on or under the patio, Olson said.

"The most difficult part of this fire is that we believe it had been burning for quite some time prior to our noti-

fication," Olson said. "We believe it started on the patio, and then moved into the attic space through the vents and burned undetected for an unknown period of time. Once the occupant was alerted by the smoke alarm, the attic and patio were heavily involved."

Polk No. 1 was dispatched to the fire at 1:57 a.m. on

Aug. 9. Thirty-two firefighters and support personnel responded, as well as several members of law enforcement from multiple agencies, Olson said.

The house had working smoke alarms, Olson said. The mother was awakened by the alarms and able to evacuate the other two children, which were not named

by law enforcement.

"Unfortunately, the conditions inside the building changed drastically during the evacuation," Olson said.

Attempts to locate and rescue Sebastian Spencer, the 11-month-old boy, were unsuccessful. His body was found once the fire was extinguished, Olson said.

See FIRE, Page 5A

Weather for eclipse remains a question mark

By Lukas Eggen

The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Months of planning has gone into making the Great American Eclipse a major event for Polk County.

There's one thing that no one can control that could wreak havoc on eclipse chasers and planners — the weather.

Matthew Cullen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the NWS only predicts a seven-day forecast — and even that can be stretching it.

"Specifics are tough to discern," Cullen said. "At

about three to five days out, we get a pretty good idea of what the weather will be like. Beyond that, we start to see a lot of possibilities."

For Aug. 21, Cullen said all types of weather are still in play — both good and bad for viewing the eclipse.

"At this point, looking ahead, rain is a possibility," Cullen said. "It could be on the clear side or the cloudier side. We'll have some days (around the eclipse) that have morning clouds that stick around longer, other days where clouds will clear quickly. Some may not have clouds at all."

In other words, Cullen

said this far out, the NWS doesn't have a good idea on what the weather will be Monday morning.

"We have more uncertainty beyond that three-to-five-day period," he said.

According to the NWS's website, the most common clouds west of the Cascades during summer mornings are marine stratus, which tend to fill the Willamette Valley, but clear by late morning.

The solar eclipse will reach totality from 10:15 to 10:25 a.m. across the state.

The first forecast from the NWS has it mostly sunny, but meteorologist technician Gerald Macke said to keep checking predictions.

"It can be very difficult to be real precise days and days out," Macke said. "But right now, there's a decent chance the area will be

able to see something."

Macke said there is a chance for clouds on Monday evening.

As of press time, it doesn't appear that clouds will affect the area Monday morning.

If there's one piece of advice Cullen has for locals and visitors making their way to the Willamette Valley: Wait and see — for now.


"Certainly, as we get closer, we'll be able to predict," Cullen said. "Right now (Monday), we're in a wait-and-see period. It's not possible to forecast with any certainty at this point."



THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed
Want to relax before the busy weekend? Come jam out at Music in the Park at Main Street Park in Monmouth. 6:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 82
Lo: 54

thu
Come find your latest treasure or enjoy a treat at the Polk County Bounty Market on the Academy Building lawn. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.




Sunny
Hi: 82
Lo: 53

fri
Dallas will have live music on the square (downtown) to help kick off the Great American Eclipse weekend. 7 p.m. Free.




Sunny
Hi: 83
Lo: 54

sat
Indy Goes Dark continues the eclipse weekend fun with live music, beer garden and a host of activities. All day. Free.




Sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 51

sun
For those planning an eclipse weekend, Falls City still has spaces for campers. Cost is \$50 per night. See page 10A.



Mostly sunny
Hi: 81
Lo: 53

mon
According to the NWS, the forecast calls for a high near 80 with mostly sunny conditions. Meteorologist Technician Gerald Macke said there is a chance for clouds Monday evening, but as of Tuesday's press time, is not expected to affect the morning. Check www.polkio.com for updates.



Mostly sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 54

tue
The Independence Riverview Market offers a chance for shoppers to find new items and tasty food. 2 to 7 p.m.



Mostly sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 54