

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

Volume 142, Issue 37

www.Polkio.com

September 13, 2017 \$1.00

Bank robber arrested

Officers found suspect running down the street

By **Jolene Guzman**
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A Dallas man is in Polk County Jail after being arrested Thursday on bank robbery charges.

Caleb McKean, 36, is facing one count each of third-degree robbery, a felony,



McKean

and second-degree theft, a misdemeanor. He was scheduled to be in Polk

County Circuit Court on Tuesday after press time. he is being held on \$50,000.

Officers responded to a report of a bank robbery in progress at the Dallas Bank of America, 791 Main St., at 9:48 a.m., according to Dallas Police. Polk County Sheriff's deputies also responded.

According to the probable cause affidavit of the incident, McKean went to the bank on Sept. 6, the day before the robbery, to take money out of his account.

The teller told him his Bank of America card wouldn't allow access to his account, and he refused to provide identification.

McKean said he would return.

When he returned, he still couldn't access his account.

"(The teller) said he was angry and demanding money," the report said. "He was not armed and did not have any weapons. ... She felt threatened because he was angry, aggressive and demanding."

McKean demanded money out of the teller drawer and, believing employees were in danger, the assistant manager began to take money out of the drawer, according to the report.

"The man reached over the counter and grabbed the money from her hands," the report said.

He left the bank and officers found McKean three blocks from the bank, running on the street where he lives.

He threw \$714 in cash on the ground before officers apprehended him, the probable cause report said.

The incident is under investigation by the Dallas Police Department in cooperation with the Salem Office of the FBI.



Local fire crews have helped battle the Eagle Creek Fire.



MIKE KISSELL/for the Itemizer-Observer

Polk, Dallas assist at wildfires

By **Emily Mentzer and Jolene Guzman**

The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Polk Fire Capt. Mike Kissell and members of Dallas Fire & EMS, Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District, Sheridan Fire and McMinnville Fire worked all night battling the blaze at the Eagle Creek Fire on Monday, Sept. 4.

"We worked from 8 p.m. until Tuesday (Sept. 5)," Kissell said from the scene on Friday. "Monday night when we arrived, we had active fire pushing some structures in a small community outside of Cascade Locks, and we did point protection and fire attack to stop the fire's growth into that community."

The Polk-Yamhill task force has since been assigned to structural triage,

Kissell said. The firefighters have been spending time assessing properties' strengths and weaknesses in a fire sustainability situation.

"We develop a plan to prepare that house better to survive a fire front well in advance," Kissell said.

That entails anything from removing vegetation from around the house to blowing leaves and rubbish off the rooftops to cleaning out gutters to trimming overhanging tree branches.

"If they leave the houses unlocked, we'll make sure the windows are closed, vents are closed, and prepare that building to withstand a fast-moving fire coming through," Kissell said. "We can't completely protect from a hot, slow-moving fire, but we prepare ... as best we can."

Kissell has spent more time in the past few weeks

away fighting fires elsewhere in the state than he has in Polk County, said Polk County Fire District No. 1 Chief Ben Stange. He started his deployment to the Chetco Bar Fire just before the Great American Eclipse weekend at the end of August.

Dallas Fire and Southwestern Polk also sent crews, Fire Chief Fred Hertel and equipment to fight the fires.

Dallas Fire spokeswoman April Welsh said Dallas and Southwestern responded when the state put out the call for help with the Chetco Bar Fire.

Dallas and Polk firefighters, and volunteers from Southwestern and Polk took that trip. The state requires all firefighters working a forest fire to have their wildland fire certification.

"We sent a Southwestern engine and Southwestern

tender to the Chetco Bar fire during the week of the eclipse," Welsh said.

Stange said the crew worked on a lot of structure protection, including helping people make defensible space around their homes.

The equipment and the firefighters returned from Brookings, but then Hertel was requested to be part of an incident management team directing the fire attack.

"While he was gone, the fire in the gorge at Eagle Creek erupted," Welsh said.

That fire also needed statewide resources.

On Sept. 3, Southwest Polk sent a brush rig and tender to the gorge, along with three firefighters. A Polk No. 1 firefighter went with Dallas and Southwest and joined with a team from Yamhill County.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

U.S. Navy veteran checks off an item on his bucket list.

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FALLS CITY

Falls City's volleyball team makes progress.

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INDEPENDENCE

Hop & Heritage Festival on hiatus.

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MONMOUTH

Pete Kalogeras offers a taste of Greece.

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SPORTS

Ysabella Rincon emerging as leader for Central's girls soccer squad.

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Beware of scammers

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — When crisis strikes, many want to reach into their pockets to help with relief. Unfortunately, scammers know how to take advantage of that charity.

"Disasters that attract national attention are often used by scammers to create fake charities and crowdfunding campaigns to rip off people who want to support a worthy cause," said Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum in a press release.

Red flags to look for to know you're being duped by a bogus charity:

- Do not give out personal information such as credit card or bank account numbers over the phone.
- Checks should always be made payable to the organization, not the person collecting the donation.
- Beware of callers who want money fast. No legitimate organization will insist you donate immediately.
- Do not donate cash. Don't send contributions with a "runner," by wire, or overnight parcel pick-up service.
- Be cautious before giving to individuals raising money through crowdfunding websites. You cannot be sure that your gift will be used as intended, plus donations to individuals are not tax deductible.
- Be sure you are contributing to a legitimate organization registered with the Oregon Department of Justice by searching the department's online database: www.doj.state.or.us/charitable-activities, or call 971-673-1880.

Purple Heart finds way to family

Quest to reunite medal to hero's descendants takes 12 years

By **Jolene Guzman**

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — After a 12-year search, Kevin Coady finally found the family of fallen U.S. Marine Pfc. Jack Carl Kightlinger.

Kightlinger was killed in the Korean War in 1951 at the age of 23. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifice. The medal is engraved with the phrase "for military merit" and recognizes those wounded or killed while serving in the military.

At some point, the award was lost.

Coady, of Monmouth, has had Kightlinger's Purple Heart since 2005. A local couple had found it at a garage sale in Berkeley, Calif., in the 1970s. They weren't sure how to get it back where it belonged, so they gave it to Coady to find the owner. They told him that they bought it for a quarter.

A medic in the U.S. Army at the time, Coady followed a family tradition of serving in the military. His parents met in the Army, and he and his two brothers enlisted.



KEVIN COADY/for the Itemizer-Observer

Kevin Coady reunited a Purple Heart with Jack Kightlinger's family.

He felt a duty to return the medal.

His search led him to conversations with people who served with Kightlinger, including one, Floyd Swift, who sent him photos of Kightlinger

when he was in the Army. "His mother died in 1983. I ran out of leads. This is in 2005," Coady said.

An answer to prayer

The trail went cold until Easter 2017.

It's that day Coady discovered an organization that reconnects veterans or their families with lost Purple Hearts, Purple Hearts Reunited. He sent a message saying he had a medal, but was at a loss for where to look next.

"Then I go to my mom's for the free Easter dinner, and I get a call," Coady said.

It's Zachariah Fike, the director of Purple Hearts Reunited.

"We found the family," Coady said, quoting Fike. "I'm like, you're kidding me. It took me 12 years. Then I get a call from his great-niece."

Coady and Kightlinger's great-niece, Bernadine "Bernie" Ridgeway, connected in an emotional conversation.

Coady said the calls were an answer to prayer, truly, as his brother Dan often prayed for the medal's return to Kightlinger's family.

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THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
All the bad news getting to you? Stop into Salem Health West Valley to get your blood pressure checked for free. 2-3 p.m. Free.	Young Professionals will meet at Focal Point in Dallas for an evening of networking and social activities. 5:30 p.m. Free.	The Gate Youth program will host a tailgating party before Central High's football game at Panther Stadium. 6 p.m. \$2.	The 15th annual Fall Fling — a gardening festival and vendor fair — returns to the Col. Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$40.	The Polk Community for Human Equality will host a forum at WOU about health care as a human right. 4:30 p.m. Free.	Get ready for the annual scarecrow contest or a jump start on Halloween at a workshop at the Indy Public Library. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Are you a veteran looking for support? Check out the monthly Battle Buddies at the Veterans Service Office. 6-8 p.m. Free.
Mostly sunny Hi: 74 Lo: 49	Mostly sunny Hi: 72 Lo: 47	Mostly sunny Hi: 75 Lo: 50	Partly cloudy Hi: 74 Lo: 49	PM Rain Hi: 70 Lo: 50	Showers Hi: 66 Lo: 46	Showers Hi: 64 Lo: 46