

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

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Investigation ongoing for shooting

Itemizer-Observer staff report

GRAND RONDE — Three Polk County Sheriff's Department officers are on leave and one suspect is dead after an officer-involved shooting in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Oregon State Police is investigating the incident, which occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23 in Grand Ronde, with help from the Polk County Major Crimes Team.

Baltazar Escaloma-Berez,

17, of Silverton, was killed after an alleged carjacking and leading deputies on a pursuit that started in Salem.

According to OSP, the Polk County Sheriff's Office was notified of an armed carjacking and robbery that happened at about 4 a.m. on Saturday in the Safeway parking lot at the corner of Silverton Road and Lancaster Drive Northeast.

A black 2015 Toyota Corolla was reported "carjacked" at that location, and

the suspect, Escaloma-Berez, was reported to have possessed a weapon, according to reports from OSP.

Polk County Sgt. Kevin Haynes, Deputy Kelly Lorence, and Deputy Mike Stevenson located the vehicle and a pursuit ensued, ending on Highway 18 near milepost 23.

As deputies attempted to take Escaloma-Berez into custody, shots were fired. He died at the scene, according to OSP.

Investigators recovered a weapon from the shooting scene, according to OSP.

District Attorney Aaron Felton declined to comment on the type of weapon because of the ongoing investigation.

The highway was closed for six to seven hours Saturday morning, reopening at about 12:45 p.m.

The three officers are on administrative leave while the case is investigated by OSP. The case will be re-

viewed by a grand jury when the investigation is done, Felton said, which should be in three to four weeks.

OSP was assisted by the Polk County District Attorney's Office, Polk County Medical Examiner, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, Independence Police Department, Keizer Police Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

This is the third officer-involved shooting Polk County has had since July 2016.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas Downtown Association puts on murder mystery.

»Page 9A

FALLS CITY

City water bills will increase by \$1.75 monthly.

»Page 13A

INDEPENDENCE

Timeless Antiques and More offers cool treasures at affordable prices.

»Page 2A

MONMOUTH

Western Oregon's women's soccer team earns a 2-1 victory over Simon Fraser.

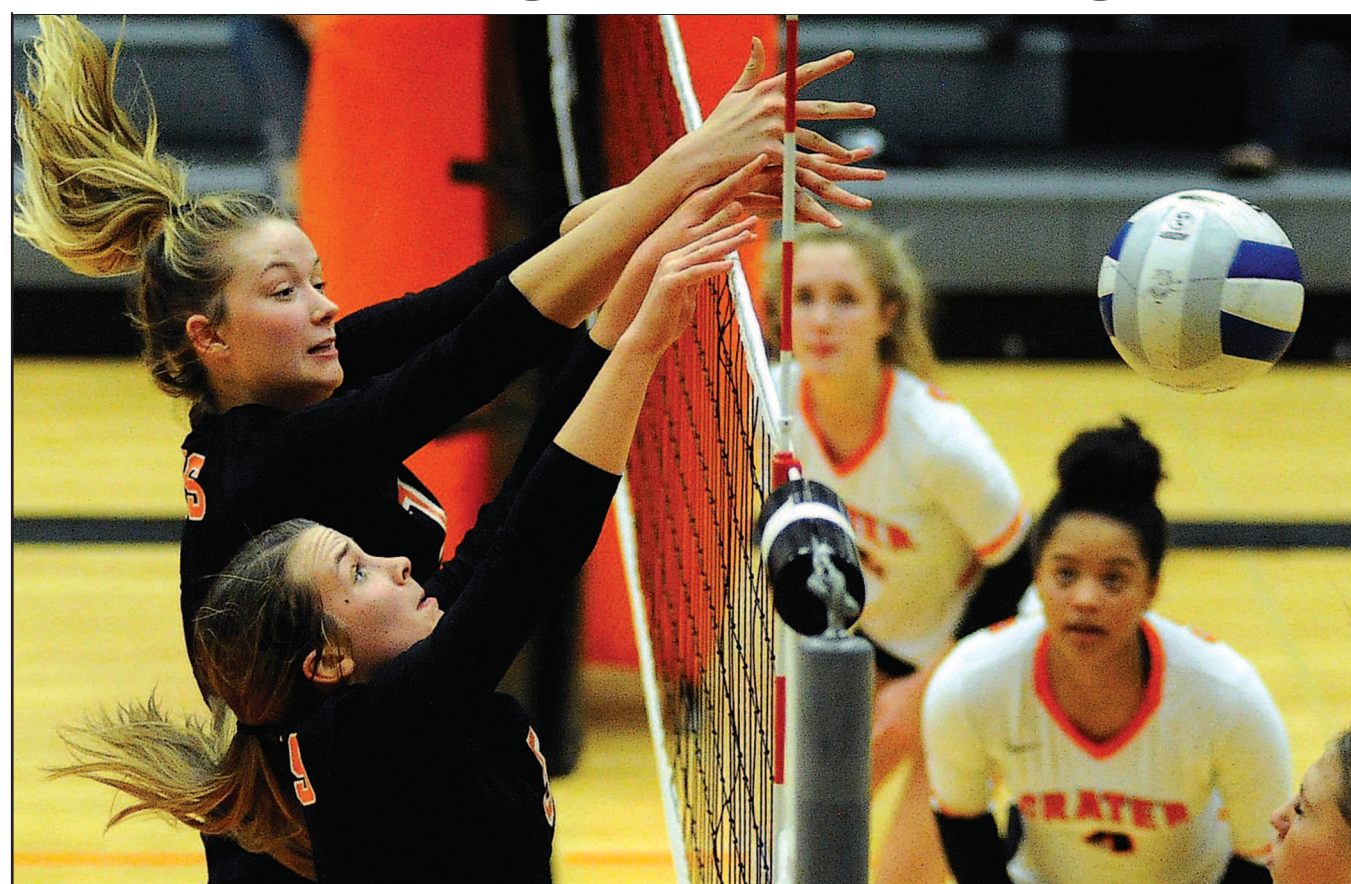
»Page 15A

SPORTS

Falls City's football team hosts Echo in the first round of the 1A state playoffs.

»Page 14A

Dallas Dragons make final eight



A pair of Dallas players go up for a block against Crater on Oct. 24. Dallas' volleyball team defeated Crater 25-20, 25-17, 21-25, 25-22 in the state play-in round.

Maggie Blair recorded 12 kills. Tristin Savage added 11 kills and eight blocks and Emma Classen recorded 31 assists for the Dragons.

Dallas defeated Marist Catholic in the first round of the 5A state playoffs to advance to the quarterfinals for the first time since 1990, according to coach Shana Lavier.

The Dragons play Bend Friday at 3:15 p.m. at Liberty High School in Hillsboro.

For more information, see page 14A.

ANDY ATKINSON/Mail Tribune

Online NW to host Dallas Makeathon

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Transformative.

That's the word AJ Foscoli used to describe his experience at one of Innovate Oregon's all-day make-a-thon sessions.

Foscoli, the city of Dallas' economic development director, attended one of the events held in Yamhill County when he worked for Strategic Economic Development Corporation, a regional organization serving throughout the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Innovate Oregon teams with McMinnville-based internet service provider OnlineNW, Colorado-based technology "electronics literacy" company SparkFun, and a local community to design a day of computer coding and problem-solving.

Instructors teach participants how to code in the morning.

Then, in the afternoon, instructors ask them to form groups of all ages, from children to retirees, to use their new technical skill to build something that solves a real-

world problem.

No weeks of courses — just a matter of hours — to go from learning to solving.

Foscoli was on one of those teams in previous Innovate event working with students.

"It's hard to describe unless you live it," he said. "You think from the outside, you think that there's no way that can happen, and yet it did. I've seen it multiple times. It wasn't just the one time. It wasn't a lightning strike. It was replicable."

This Saturday, Dallas is getting in on the educational fun with the Dallas Make-a-thon, at LaCreole Middle School.

LaCreole Principal Jamie Richardson said he knew of the work Innovate Oregon has done in other communities.

"We knew we wanted it, but didn't know how to ask for it," he said.

Innovate Oregon's co-founder Thompson Morrison, also a representative of OnlineNW, said the organization began five years ago, an initiative of Technology Association of Oregon.

See **INNOVATE**, Page 7A

Fire displaces two

House suffers heavy damage, cause unknown

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and Polk County Sheriff's Office are still investigating the cause of a house fire on Rueben

Boise Road on Oct. 24.

The fire left two people displaced and the home with heavy smoke and fire damage.

April Welsh, Dallas Fire & EMS community service officer, said Monday that the two

agencies were still in search of a cause. She said it's standard procedure to turn the investigation over to the fire marshal and local police agency if a cause isn't apparent to firefighters on the scene.

See **FIRE**, Page 5A



A house fire on Rueben Boise Road on Oct. 24 left the home with heavy smoke and fire damage, and two residents displaced.

APRIL WELSH/for the Itemizer-Observer

Dallas wrestlers sell poinsettias

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Dallas High School wrestling program is taking orders for its annual poinsettia fundraiser.

Poinsettias come in sizes 6.5-inch for \$15 and 8.5-inch for \$20. Small sizes come in red, white, pink and jingle (variegated colors).

Large poinsettias come in red, white, pink and burgundy.

Orders are taken until Nov. 19, and will be delivered starting on Dec. 5.

Call Kerri to place your order, 503-779-8485.

Extension Service to hire director

POLK COUNTY — Oregon State University Extension Service posted the job announcement for the West Central Regional Director.

The West Central Region includes Polk, Benton, Lane, Linn Marion and Yamhill counties.

The job announcement closes on Nov. 17.

For more information: <http://jobs.oregonstate.edu/postings/51076>.

The posting number is: P0168UF.

THE NEXT
7
 DAYS
PLANNING
 FOR YOUR
 WEEK



wed

Sit in on discussions about the New Testament, the first of a new series of lectures at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. 7-8 p.m. Free.



Showers
 Hi: 58
 Lo: 45

thu

"Democracy from the Inside Out" will be at Dallas library, by the Oregon Humanities Conservation Project. 7 p.m. Free.



Showers
 Hi: 53
 Lo: 40

fri

Pick up your instrument or get ready to listen to fun music at Guthrie Park's acoustic music jam session. 6:30-10 p.m. Free.



Rain
 Hi: 50
 Lo: 36

sat

The Rickreall Grange Flea Market has many vendors, fresh-baked goods, and the kitchen serves breakfast and lunch. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.



Showers
 Hi: 48
 Lo: 37

sun

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Don't forget to turn those clocks back by one hour, or you may be early to church or brunch.



Showers
 Hi: 48
 Lo: 33

mon

Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra gives musicians of all levels a chance to play together. 6:30 p.m. \$25/mo.



Partly sunny
 Hi: 50
 Lo: 36

tue

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3203 meets the first Tuesday of each month. Come find out what this group does. 7:30 p.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
 Hi: 52
 Lo: 38