

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 1A
Dallas School District has used five snow days, but has up to nine it could use.

State law requires 900 hours of instructional time during a school year for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

For grades nine through 11, the requirement is 990 hours. Seniors are required to attend 966 hours.

Dallas officers cleared by grand jury: A Polk County grand jury found that two Dallas police officers were justified in using deadly force during the Dec. 16, 2016, shooting incident that killed Jeremiah N. Anderson.

The grand jury's finding was unanimous, said a press release from the Polk County District Attorney's Office.

Clow Corner, Highway 99 to get roundabout: Roundabout. That's the solution for the intersection at Clow Corner and Highway 99W that Polk County and Oregon Department of Transportation officials agreed to pursue.

County officials say it's not a perfect solution and more expensive than the traffic signal they have been wanting for a decade, but it's at least doing something at an intersection that has a history of serious crashes.

As of September, the intersection of has been the spot for 32 crashes in the last 10 years, according to ODOT. Of those, five were very serious crashes, with two fatalities.

Monmouth shows off senior center expansion: Hundreds gathered at the Monmouth Senior Center for its open house and ribbon cutting, celebrating the 2,133-square-foot expansion project.

The \$520,000 addition was paid for through fundraising from the Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center, coupled with contributions from the city of Monmouth as well as grants from Ford Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Fund and the Collins Fund.

February
Court security to limit access: County commissioners consider limiting access to the courthouse through the historic doors in an effort to increase courtroom safety.

Final credits for Motor Vu Drive-In: Motor Vu owner Jeff Mexico took down signage at the snack bar at the drive-in on a Friday afternoon in mid-February.

Great American Eclipse comes in August: A special section with information about the eclipse, as well as memories of the last eclipse to hit Oregon, ran in mid-February.

Building in Dallas to American Gas & Technology will have part of the facility named after him. All future employees will train at the Harvey S. Fink Welding School at the facility, now primed to begin production of natural gas liquefiers.

June
Mill landmark comes down: Crews remove the Weyerhaeuser mill building known as Noah's Ark.

Another piece of Dallas' timber town legacy disappeared with the dismantling of the old drying shed affectionately known as "Noah's Ark," on the former Weyerhaeuser mill property.

The property owner, Northwest Demolition & Dismantling, has been getting the site ready for redevelopment. Most of the wood from the structure was salvaged, while other materials were recycled.

July
Reach for the sky: This story about local amateur astronomers Jon and Susan Brewster, marked the first of many stories gearing up for the Great American Eclipse. In it, we meet the Brewsters, who have an observatory built at their Monmouth home, situated for perfect stargazing.

Events center awaits decision: Owners of a proposed event center on Polk Station Road just outside of Dallas are awaiting a Polk County Hearings Officer decision on an appeal of its conditional use permit.

Taking matters into his own hands: Dallas resident Alex Lofton, family and friends restore and renew Tawney memorial sign.

When Alex Lofton found out Sgt. Ian Tawney's memorial park sign was vandalized, he wasn't going to let it sit overnight without trying to fix it.

The search for the grail: Caceu owns one of two olive farms in Polk County. Bogdan Caceu is searching for the "holy grail" of olive trees.

He's among about a dozen growers who are pioneering Oregon's budding olive and olive oil industry.

August
Eclipse: Why all the fuss? The moon will cast its shadow over Polk County the morning of Aug. 21 during the Great American Eclipse, but what's the big deal? When it comes to eclipses, timing is everything.

Local cold case featured on show: Detective John Williams thought the Polk County Sheriff's Office had the Glenn Pennie disappearance case solved in 2013.

This Polk County missing person's case sparked the interest of producers of Oxygen's "Cold Justice."

Infant dies during house fire: 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.

Two firefighters were injured in the attempts to rescue the 11-month-old boy, Sebastian, and to put out the fire. Both firefighters were treated for their injuries, Olson said.

Lifelong dream realized at Illahe Vineyards: At about 9:25 a.m., Lisa Hoople looked up at the sun shortly after the Great American Eclipse began at Illahe Vineyards in Dallas.

"It's starting to really shape up as the moon now," she said. Hoople, from Portland, watched the eclipse with her husband, James Hoople, and Carrie De Graaf, who visited them from Michigan just for this occasion.

They even made a dry run of their drive from Portland on all back roads to get to the vineyard in case of bad traffic. It took two hours, so they stayed for a wine tasting after route testing and made a connection with Illahe's tasting room manager Kathy Grey-smith.

Traffic sparks concerns: Monmouth resident wants changes at intersection of MES. Paul Sieber, a resident of Monmouth for longer than four decades, is looking for a change in his neighborhood.

September
Basket Slough battles water primrose: Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge is looking a little drier than normal for this time of year, and it isn't because of the warm summer.

Refuge employees are trying to eradicate it early, which requires draining the wetlands, including those beloved by local birders and hikers.

Purple Heart finds way to family: Quest to reunite medal to hero's descendants takes 12 years. After a 12-year search, Kevin Coady finally found the family of fallen U.S. Marine Pfc. Jack Carl Kightlinger.

City councilors vote to close Wagner: The city of Falls City voted to close Wagner Community Library effective June 30, 2018 if a solution to long-term funding is not found.

The council agreed in November to keep the library open until Aug. 31, 2018, for the summer reading program. City staff is now scheduling

public hearings required before a public library can be closed.

October

Fire contract set to expire
A contract between Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District and Falls City Fire Department regarding services in that area of the district is on the verge of expiring without a new agreement.

A three-month extension of the contract ended, and the two sides did not see eye-to-eye on the details.

Thursday, Dec. 21, Fire Chief Bob Young announced the end of the 70-year agreement.

City to gauge support: The city of Dallas has hired a consultant to help gauge support for solutions to improve its police and fire stations — including building a facility to house both departments.

In December we learn that focus groups organized to gauge support of a combined police/fire/ems building didn't offer much insight into how Dallas citizens would vote if funding for the facility were placed on a ballot.

Teens to teens: Never alone: Students in Central High School's Power Peers leadership class decided to help raise awareness of suicide. With the assistance of the Mid-Valley Suicide Prevention Coalition and Central staff, the class kicked off a year-long suicide awareness and prevention campaign.

November

Make-a-thon inspires: Imagine building a high-tech greenhouse or chicken coop in one day — with no programming experience going in. The 50 or so students and adults who gathered at LaCreole Middle School for Saturday's Dallas Make-a-thon don't have to imagine.

They did it. The event was organized by SparkFun and

Online NW, and Innovate Oregon.

URD may extend duration 10 years: The Dallas Urban Renewal District may extend the duration of its district, possibly another 10 or more years. On Nov. 6, the Dallas Urban Renewal agency board and advisory council met with consultant Elaine Howard to review options.

Grand jury clears sheriff's office in shooting: A Polk County grand jury cleared Polk County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Kevin Haynes and Deputy Kelly Lorence in the shooting death of Baltazar Escalona-Baez, 17, of Silverton. On Nov. 21, the grand jury unanimously found the officers were justified in using deadly force during the incident, which happened on Oct. 28 near Fort Hill in Polk County.

December

City council votes to terminate Foggin: The Dallas City Council voted to part ways with City Manager Ron Foggin in a 5-to-4 vote on Dec. 4. The termination followed Foggin's annual performance evaluation and was effective immediately.

He will receive a severance package of \$15,425.20 monthly for a maximum of nine months or until he is hired somewhere else. Council President Micky Garus, who voted in favor of the termination, said it was enacted under section 10 of Foggin's contract with the city and is a "no cause" termination. Along with Garus, councilors Terry Crawford, Bill Hahn, Jackie Lawson and Paul Trahan voted for the termination.

Greg Ellis accepted the job as interim manager in Dallas a few days later. For photos from 2017, see online at polkio.com. We know we missed a lot of important news — what were some of the headlines you remember from 2017? Let us know at ionews@polkio.com.

DEADLINES

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the Itemizer-Observer: Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Friday. Community events — Noon on Thursday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar. Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Friday. Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Friday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Monday. Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Friday. Classified line ads — Noon on Friday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com. Public notices — Noon on Thursday.

CORRECTIONS

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to ementzer@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items.

The Itemizer-Observer is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

Table with weather data: RECORDED, HIGH, LOW, RAIN. Dec 19-25 data points.

February

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A blessed ministry: Jinett Yeager named First Citizen by Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce.

Other winners at the banquet were Business of the Year: Heartstrings Floral & Artisans; Young Pros of the Year: Devin Colby Jones and MacLarin Jones; Organization of the Year: CASA of Polk County; and Excellence in Arts: Abe Huff.

March

Lights of the Community: Awards showcase Monmouth, Indy businesses, people. Steve Milligan, Monmouth's mayor, was honored as First Citizen at the March banquet. Other winners were: Retail services — Independence Cinema; Nonprofit or organization — Partnerships in Community Living Inc.; Food and Beverage Service — Arena Sports Bar & Grill; Personal Service Provider — Monmouth Fitness Club; Professional Service Provider — Monmouth-Independence Networks; Financial Service Provider — Oregon State Credit Union; Distinguished Service — Josh Cronin; Junior Citizen — Andrew Love; Educator of the Year — Marcella Stepp-Rodarte; Education Support Staff of the Year — Becky McMillian.

Central SD names top three: English, Kubista, Tucker make final cut for superintendent. A meet and greet was held in late March to meet the three finalists for Central's new superintendent. Jennifer Kubista got the job.

An in-depth interview was printed in early April to get to know Kubista better.

April

American Gas & Tech to name school after Fink: The man who sold the former Tyco

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LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING Monday 7:00 p.m. January 8th 503-838-2075. Location: Business Office 8585 Suver Rd. • Monmouth

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INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8. 450 S. 2nd St., Independence Showtimes 503-606-3000 www.IndependenceCinema8.com. Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

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Sudoku Solution on Page 8A. Grid with numbers 2, 1, 8, 7, 4, 6, 9, 2, 7, 3, 2, 9, 7, 6, 2, 1, 3, 5, 8, 5, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9.

Sudoku Difficulty: ★☆☆☆☆. How to do Sudoku. Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.