

# Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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## Two Dallas men also charged with burglary, mischief Arson suspects arrested

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — After allegedly setting a house on fire, the two suspects in a December arson in Dallas reportedly made cellphone videos claiming responsibility as the house burned and fire crews arrived.

Joshua Max Alexander Delano, 21, and Stanley Wade Mock, 20, are accused of break-



Delano

ing in at 373 SE Arizona St., vandalizing it, and setting the newly remodeled house on fire. They're also the suspects in connection to several other incidents of vandal-



Mock

ism involving broken windows, according to Dallas Police. Charges are pending in those cases. They're both charged with one count each of first-degree arson, first-de-

gree burglary and first-degree criminal mischief in regards to the fire. Dallas police arrested Delano on Jan. 14 and Mock on Jan. 15.

Thursday, Polk County Circuit Judge Rafael Caso denied them release from jail until their next appearance in court.

Delano's attorney Steven Walls explained that his client's bail was set too high for his charges.

"I want to inform the court that I think there was some confusion regarding Mr. Delano's charge at the initial arraignment. The court and the parties set bail as though this was a Measure 11 offense and it is not," Walls said. "I would request at least the bail be reduced to the standard bail for an A felony."

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### Police investigate possible jumper

Itemizer-Observer staff report  
INDEPENDENCE — On Jan. 22 at 11:25 p.m., officers from the Independence Police Department responded to a report of a vehicle left unattended on the Independence Bridge that crosses the Willamette River.

Responding officers determined the driver, a 66-year-old man from Independence, likely jumped from the bridge into the Willamette River.

Officers from Independence, Monmouth, Polk County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police searched the riverbanks using both night vision and thermal technology, with no success.

A boat from the Jefferson Fire Department launched from Independence and searched the river, also with no success.

Search efforts were suspended around 3 a.m. due to darkness and the extreme flow of the river.

Independence Police, assisted by the Marion County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol, planned to resume searching during daylight hours on Tuesday.

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## For the love of song Dallas woman teaches choir through injury

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

SHERIDAN — Not long ago, Laura Dotson, the volunteer music director at Sheridan Japanese School, had to go to rehearsals with sunglasses and ear plugs.

The Dallas resident, whose children attend the small charter school, was in a car accident in March 2015 that caused a traumatic brain injury.

"My son was driving, he had his permit and ... neither he nor I saw the SUV coming and we were blindsided. I was struck to the side of my head and had a traumatic brain injury," Dotson said. "I kept thinking I would get better and I didn't. I wasn't able to drive for three months, wasn't able to read for six months.

The aftereffects of the injury left her with debilitating headaches, and sensitivity to light and sound. Reading was difficult because looking at the written word, or even a piece of paper, made her sick. She had to spend time in the dark for relief of the sensory overload.

"I've been through so many bottles of ibuprofen. Headaches, every day, massive headaches," Dotson said. "It was like being an invalid."

For the time she wasn't able to get to the school, the choir's pianist, Kathy Morse-Webb, took over teaching, said senior choir student Emily Monroe.

"I know she was constantly communicating with Laura," Monroe said. "She never didn't know what was going on, even though she wasn't here."

When she was able to teach again, it had to be from memory because she still couldn't read without getting sick.

Dotson said she kept the program alive out a desire to give her children and other students at the school an opportunity to participate in a music program. Sheridan Japanese School has 88 students in fourth through 12th grade.

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Laura Dotson leads the Sheridan Japanese School choir through warm-ups at the beginning of class on Jan. 11. She volunteers for the program.

## County, church team up to help

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — There's no place to shelter homeless veterans — or anyone who is homeless for that matter — in Polk County.

Polk County Family & Community Outreach and Dallas United Methodist Church have a plan to build a temporary shelter for homeless veterans on the church's property, but need the community's feedback before making the plan reality.

Family & Community Outreach Director Brent DeMoe and Dallas United Methodist Church Rev. Quinton Kimbrow have been piecing the plan together for a few months, and hosted an informational meeting Thursday at the church to

gauge support and listen to concerns.

"This is the first time we would have a shelter at all in our county, but we are passionate about serving our veterans first," DeMoe said. "The reason we are doing it at this church is because Quinton and his congregation have a heart for serving."

A modular building with eight private rooms, a kitchenette, laundry facility and a common area would be moved onto the property at 469 SE LaCreole Drive, if the plan comes to fruition.

DeMoe said vets selected to live in the shelter would undergo a background check to ensure they don't have a criminal history.

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Stephanie Gilbert writes a comment about the proposed veterans' shelter Thursday.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK	wed	thur	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
	Head to Papa Murphy's in Dallas and have pizza tonight while supporting the Dallas Booster Club's Turf Project.	Suspense novelist Chris Patchell will present her new book, "Vowel of Silence," at the Dallas Public Library. 7 p.m. Free.	Central girls and boys basketball teams will host Silvertown. 5:30 and 7 p.m. \$6.	Ash Creek Arts Center and Indy Commons have teamed up for a special art exhibit and reception. 6 to 9 p.m. Free.	Rainbow Dance Theater will perform at Central High School, the Garden of Earthly Delights. 3 p.m.	If there's a break in the weather, try your hand at pickleball at the new courts across from Roger Jordan Park. 9 a.m. to noon.	Practice your speaking skills and meet new friends through Toastmasters, which meets at Pressed in Dallas. 6 p.m.
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