

# Polk County Itemizer-Observer

April 08, 2020  
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## Olsons committed to community journalism

New owners of  
the I-O want to  
keep local focus

By **JOLENE GUZMAN**  
Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The new owners of the Polk County Itemizer-Observer, Scott and Jeanne Olson, have a long history in community newspapers.

Last week the couple, who live in Creswell, finalized the purchase of the I-O from Eagle Newspapers, completing the first change of ownership for the newspaper in more than five decades.

Scott began his career in community newspapers in 1989 as a sportswriter for The Dalles Weekly Reminder.

A native of Salem, Scott said he was in part inspired by his grandmother, who had been a community correspondent for the Statesman in the 1940s and 1950s.

"I guess I kind of inherited her desire to report on events relevant to the community where she lived," Scott said. "It wasn't until I began my first job as a sports reporter for The Dalles Weekly Reminder that I knew that I would like to pursue newspapers as my career, and possibly manage or own my own newspaper someday."

It didn't take him long to branch out into management. The next year after starting his career with the Dalles Weekly Reminder, he and Jeanne married and moved to Yakima, Wash. There, he took the post as the managing editor of the Selah Optimist.

In 1996, Olson became editor and publisher of The Montesano Vidette, and purchased the weekly newspaper in 1999. Three years later, the Olsons sold the paper.

Scott and Jeanne purchased the Burns Times-Herald in 2003, and sold it in 2006 after years of splitting time between Burns and their family home in Creswell.

The next year, Scott took the role of advertising director at the Canby Herald and Wilsonville Spokesman newspapers. He was later promoted to general manager of the Spokesman.

In 2008, the Olsons launched a new paper in Springfield, the Springfield Times, after the closure of the Springfield News in 2007 and Springfield Beacon in 2008. The couple started the paper in November of 2008 and owned it until 2016.

Following the opening of the Springfield Times, the Olsons began publishing the Fern Ridge Review out of Veneta in early 2010, and later that year launched the Lane County Shopper.

In 2011, the couple brought their hometown paper, The Creswell Chronicle. They sold the paper in 2019.

Scott said he and his family are dedicated to small newspapers because of the role they play for the citizens of the communities the publications serve.

"Community newspapers definitely provide news and information that you cannot get anywhere else. Hyper-local journalism is our niche and I love the aspect of reporting and documenting what is happening in the local communities my newspapers have served," Scott said. "Over the course of my career, I've received many letters from subscribers and

See **OLSON**, page A5



Jodie Jones and her husband Bob Herndon were quarantined for two weeks on a cruise ship after several members were infected with COVID-19.

## Dallas couple were confined to their cabin for two weeks

By **JENNIFER BIBERSTON**  
Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — IMAGINE BEING confined to a small room for two weeks, and only allowed out once every three days for one hour.

No, this wasn't a prison sentence — it was the experience of Jodie Jones and her husband, Bob Herndon, two Dallas residents who were on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship when it was ordered to be put under quarantine in Yokohama city on Feb. 3 by the Japanese government after several passengers began displaying symptoms of what is now known as COVID-19.

"We pulled into port a day early, we were supposed to pull in on the fourth of February, and we ended up getting instructions from the Japanese

government, because apparently there were suspicions that we might have some folks on our ship that had become ill," said Jones. "There was a gentleman who got on the ship in Hong Kong, got off again in Hong Kong about five days later and ended up coming down with the COVID-19, so that meant those on the ship could have potentially been exposed, which was true."

The 29-day cruise around Asia had ended on Feb. 3, but instead of starting to make the journey home, the 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members on board the Diamond Princess, including Jones and Herndon, were ordered to stay in their rooms after the government confirmed several passengers were infected.

"So then on the 17 (of February), we were evacuated from the ship by the US government and flown to Travis Air Force Base, in Fairfield, Calif., where we were quarantined for an additional two weeks," Jones said. "Then we were released from Travis on March 2, and we returned home on the second."

At first, Jones said no one really understood the full seriousness of COVID-19.

"There were a couple of points where it was scariest," she said. "One was, as our numbers (of infected passengers) started ticking up, and trying to figure out 'were we exposed?' And every morning the captain announced the number of passengers who tested positive, that made it that much more evident that it was spreading throughout the ship."

"The second was, when it started, everyone was expecting to disembark and go home on the fourth, so people did not have medications to last for two more weeks."

Herndon was on medication, and didn't have enough to last for the two weeks of quarantine.

"The Japanese government was still struggling to try and figure out how to get medication to everyone on the boat," Jones said. "The average age of everyone on the ship was 70-years-old, so as you can imagine most people needed some sort of medication."

Herndon received his medication one week into the two-week quarantine, but Jones said some passengers weren't as lucky.

"There was one gentleman above us, who was on heart medication,

and when the quarantine started, he started cutting medication in half, and by the end of the week he still didn't have his heart medication and he was just going without," Jones said. "At that point I contacted someone I knew who worked on the ship, explained the situation to see if there was anything they could do, and the next day he got his medication. I have no idea if it had anything to do with my phone call or timing."

Over the 14 days of staying on the ship, Jones said no one went without food — but figuring out how to distribute food to 1,500 cabins, instead of serving it in buffet-or sit-down-style like normal, was another obstacle the crew members had to figure out.

At first, the food consisted of carbohydrates and meat.

"That was the easiest thing to distribute," she said, "and they were trying to keep everyone's strength up and everyone full. It was later on that they started giving us more fruits and vegetables — though we were still lacking on vegetables. They brought us the

See **CRUISE**, page A7

# Home-schooling experts give advice for teaching at home

By **JOLENE GUZMAN**  
Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Need help home-schooling your child? Dallas Community School wants to offer its expertise in the area.

Families enrolled in DCS, a home-school charter, teach their children at home the entire school year. Now that parents in the rest of the state find that is their reality too, perhaps for the rest of the year, DCS staff and parents are offering families advice, online resources, and fun classes children can take from home.

"We want to not only take care of our DCS families, but we want to reach out to the community and support families that are struggling and give them some direction," said Bill Conlon, the school's executive director. "We know how to do this, and other people don't. We heard a lot of families really frightened by the notion they were going to have to home-school their kids and where do we even start?"

Conlon said the school immediately

started working on the original guidance from the state of offering supplemental education to students with the order to have schools closed until April 28. He said those will transfer to "distance learning for all" classes now that districts have been asked to create a remote learning platform for students for the rest of the year.

"There will be a number of classes available for the community, kids in the community, as well as DCS families. We have been offering those classes this past week, but it was kind of under the supplemental where it was one-time shots," Conlon said. "Now we've been shifting, after this next week, to more of a long-term focus."

DCS families, who are in charge of creating lesson plans for their children, volunteered to offer remote classes or make videos. Teachers who work with the school to offer art and music classes have also volunteered to make online lessons or teach remotely. The collection of videos and remote classes

covers all core topics.

DCS teachers and families have made videos with guidance for "new" home-school parents.

"Some of our skilled home-school parents have volunteered to mentor the parents in the community who this might be new and strange to," said Dawn Adams, an education guide at the school. "We have some parents who are just exemplary at knowing how to schedule, how to find resources, how to make learning more fun and still very effective."

Those videos and a collection of online resources are available on the school's website, dallascommunity-school.org.

"I think we were, early on, recognizing that there was going to be a need. Our original plan was just through the end of April, so we're feeling fortunate enough that we started early," Conlon said. "We are ready to roll with some of the services that we think our families, and some in the community, are going to need."

## Tips from home-school experts

- Online classes conducted over apps like Zoom are important for more than a child's education. DCS Director of Programs and Communications Monica McQueen said in a time of social distancing, those can provide key connections. "We call them lessons, but really quite a bit of it is just hanging out with the kids, getting them to chat with us and with each other," McQueen said.

- A home school day is not eight hours of sitting with paper and pencil. Incorporating hands-on learning projects in addition to reading and writing about topic makes for effective learning. "It can be very interactive. Learning takes place through experience. We encourage parents to get very hands on, do some gardening, do some building,"

See **DCS**, page A5

## IN THIS ISSUE

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**Comics** A7  
**Corrections** A2  
**Obituaries** A6  
**Health Directory** A5  
**Public Notices** B3-4  
**Sports** A8  
**Sudoku** A7  
**Voices** A4

## Sports

WOU's Athletic Director  
Curtis Campbell resignation  
set for May. | **A8**

## Independence

Indy's downtown manager  
organizes Fantastic Fridays  
to help lift up spirits. | **A3**

## Weather

W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
68	72	64	60	63	63	60
41	41	41	39	38	39	40



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# Senior center opening delayed by COVID-19

Virus may be last obstacle to new facility

By **JOLENE GUZMAN**  
Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The opening of long-awaited new Dallas Senior Center has suffered its latest setback in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's the latest in a lengthy stretch of delays and changes the project has experienced since the Dallas Area Seniors (DAS) began working on moving out its current facility, a room in the back of the Dallas Public Library building. The library, at 950 Main St., has been the center's home since 1992.

The DAS began searching for a place to build a new center around 2001, and had to

change locations twice in that process — once after design plans and mandatory site reviews were complete. The seniors had to await approval of a Community Development Block Grant application to begin work at the current site, at the corner of Church and Mill streets, and the Dallas Urban Renewal District had to pitch in money to cover expenses beyond the original cost estimate.

As grants come with time limits for project completion, the city and Polk Community Development Corporation, which administers the grant, had to ask for two extensions on the funding to finish the building.

At long-last, the building is nearly finished, said Brian Latta, Dallas City Manager, last week.

A final grant extension was approved last month on the project, which broke ground in April 2019. It was scheduled for

completion in late 2019 or early 2020, but missed that deadline. However, Latta said it should be ready to open once restrictions on public gatherings are lifted. He said that crews are completing wrap-up work on the facility.

"There's some landscaping and parking lot painting that still needs to be done," Latta said.

While that is happening, Latta and DAS will negotiate an agreement for operation of the center.

"I'm working with Dallas Area Seniors and Northwest Senior & Disability Services to get operation and use agreements put in place," he said.

Once the building and contracts are finished, all that will be left to do is wait for the COVID-19 pandemic to end.

"The virus has postponed the move in and opening," Latta said. "Those activities are TBD."



JOLENE GUZMAN | Itemizer-Observer

Jason Robinson, of Empire Painting, works at the Dallas Senior Center on Tuesday.

# Dallas City Council increase ambulance, fire service fees

The new charges help cover the cost of responding to incidents

By **JOLENE GUZMAN**  
Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas City Council, meeting via digital means, approved resolutions increasing fees for city fire response and ambulance

services.

Practicing recommended social distancing measures, the council "met" on Monday night using an app that let councilors participate from home. The council considered a resolution that would increase the EMS non-transport fee and create a structure fire response fee.

Non-transport fee applies when an ambulance responds to an incident but does not take a patient to the hospital. The current fee is \$150 and the

increase would bring it to \$200. According to a memo provided to the council, the fee has been unchanged for more than 10 years.

"In addition, we currently have daytime staffing for our engine response and they will often handle the public assist to keep our ambulance in service," wrote Emily Gagner, the assistant city manager. "We have no billing mechanism through the city resolution that allows the fire department to bill for a

service delivery fee."

The resolution would contain wording that allows for the fee to apply to ambulances, or "other emergency service vehicles," to cover times when a fire vehicle responds when no transport or medical service is required.

The same resolution creates a new fee, a structure fire response fee of \$500. The money would cover disposable equipment such as salvage tarps, spent fire extinguishers

or materials to cover up holes in the structure.

According to the staff report, some of the time, insurance companies offer coverage for a structure fire response fee.

The fees were approved in a unanimous vote.

In other business, the council:   
• Adopted the city's housing needs analysis, a document that assesses and offers recommendations on meeting housing needs in the city for the next 20 years. It passed on a 7-2 vote.

## CORRECTIONS

The caption for the Dutch Bros. photograph on A1 of the April 1, 2020 issue listed an incorrect location. The correct location of that Dutch Bros. is on N. Pacific Avenue in Monmouth.

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](mailto:ementzer@polkio.com).

## WEATHER

RECORDED	High	Low	Rain
March 31.....	52.....	39.....	0.23
April 1.....	47.....	38.....	0.24
April 2.....	50.....	32.....	0.01
April 3.....	51.....	31.....	0.05
April 4.....	49.....	37.....	0.11
April 5.....	64.....	42.....	0.05
April 6.....	62.....	43.....	0.00

Rainfall during April — 0.46 in.  
Rain through April 6 — 13.11 in.

## Itemizer-Observer

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# Cherriots provides temporary reduced service

Itemizer-Observer Report

SALEM — Cherriots will provide limited service for essential trips, they said in a news release Sunday.

Salem Area Mass Transit District will provide a temporary reduced level of service for essential trips beginning Tuesday. All route schedules are now available at [Cherriots.org/temporaryservice](http://Cherriots.org/temporaryservice).

The level of service the district can provide this week will be reduced significantly and seating on the buses will be limited to allow for social distancing. Cherriots is asking people to please stay home and stay off the bus except for essential trips:

- Medical appointments

- Picking up prescriptions
- Getting to and from work
- Critical grocery shopping

"Essential workers — in the community and here at Cherriots — keep the community going right now," said Ian Davidson, president of the Cherriots board of directors. "Please save them a seat so that they can get to work."

With limited seating, the buses may fill quickly. Cherriots advises riders to plan ahead, allow extra time for their trip, and frequently check for service alerts at [Cherriots.org/alerts](http://Cherriots.org/alerts).

The rear door boarding and exiting policy on Cherriots Local buses will continue, as will fare-free rides for all services.

In addition, the district is marking in six-foot increments where riders can stand while waiting for their bus at the transit centers. Signage on the buses and at the transit centers will remind riders to practice social distancing.

The district's buildings and buses were deep cleaned over the weekend and on Monday, according to the news release.

"As a public service provider, I want to assure the community that Cherriots is doing everything it can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," said Allan Pollock, general manager. "Please help us protect the health of our drivers and those who must travel during this time by only accessing our buses for essential trips."

# WOU eliminates 18 positions

By **AUDREY CARO**  
Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University eliminated 18 positions — 11 layoffs/non-renewals and seven positions not being filled or will not continue after June 30, 2020.

"(WOU) has had to make difficult decisions in order to address a significant budget deficit," Rex Fuller, president, said in a statement. "The primary drivers of the deficit are shortfalls in state funding, higher salaries, increased PERS expenses and depressed tuition and fee income due to unexpected enrollment declines."

Other measures they have taken this year to address the shortfall include reducing department services and supplies budgets by 5 percent to upwards of 10 percent, he

said.

Services and supplies only account for about 15 percent of WOU's budget, the remaining being personnel, he said.

In addition to the 18 eliminated positions, salaries for all unclassified positions will be frozen for fiscal year 2020-21.

"Unclassified employees in senior-level administrative positions will have reduced FTE, contributing a work week of total compensation," Fuller said. "This is an effort to meet WOU's Board of Trustees directive to narrow the current deficit and prepare a budget for fiscal year 2020-21."

Additional cuts are not planned at this time, he said.

"As we move forward, just as the rest of the country, we will continue to evaluate the situation and its impact on our financial position," Fuller said.

## Local Stories on Local People. • Itemizer-Observer

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# Independence brings fun to Fridays

By **AUDREY CARO**  
Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Elsa and Olaf visited Independence on Friday for what was possibly the world's smallest parade.

"Mayor McArdle called us," Elsa said. "He was concerned about the community and wanted to make sure they were staying healthy."

Independence Police Officer Bob Barlow escorted Elsa and Olaf through a portion of Independence off Gun Club Road.

Elsa, who first visited Independence in December for the Winter Family Fest. She is glad to be back.

"It's really warm out," Elsa said. "In Arendelle it's very cold."

Olaf was happy to get out too.

"I'm so happy to be back," Olaf said.

"Seeing all the kids — they make me happy."

With most businesses closed and all gatherings restricted because of the current "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, Courtney Williams' duties as downtown manager have changed.

Williams, who organized the

event, is working remotely, with her dining room table as a temporary office.

Her new focus is positive programming, she said.

April 3 was the first "Funtastic Friday" — a sort of mini parade through different neighborhoods each Friday in April.

Each week's neighborhood and production will be a surprise, but it will always be scheduled to happen from 2 to 3 p.m.

Williams said people should enjoy the event from their porch, front lawn or look out their windows.

## Funtastic Fridays

The city of Independence will host Funtastic Fridays throughout the month of April from 2 to 3 p.m.

## The Osprey Watch Party

The Osprey Watch Party is a live Q & A event that happens every Thursday in April from 11 a.m. to noon through live commenting on the city's YouTube stream of the Osprey nest.



AUDREY CARO | Itemizer-Observer

The city of Independence is holding Funtastic Friday events in different neighborhoods in April for community members to enjoy from their homes.



SCREEN SHOT OF POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 VIDEO

Polk County Fire District No. 1 is livestreaming Wednesdays to connect with the community.

## Polk Fire does distance outreach

By **AUDREY CARO**  
Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — In a time of social distancing and orders to stay home, Polk County Fire District No. 1 is looking for ways to connect with community members.

On April 1 they recorded the first in a series of educational videos aimed at kids.

"My wife told me a bunch of her friends were going to be watching a class that fire district was putting on in Snohomish County," said Ben Stange, PCFD chief.

The fact that people in Monmouth knew about it and were planning to watch it, made him think there would be some interest in a local effort.

It's us trying to look for things to engage, keep spirits up, and keep people involved and positive, Stange said.

"This week we're talking about water supply maps," Stange said. "It's a good opportunity to reinforce some of

these fundamental lessons like mathematics."

Stange and his crew are doing these videos to encourage people during this time of isolation, but it's been challenging for them too.

First responders are people who want to engage with people and truly enjoy interaction, he said.

"It's been very hard as an agency," Stange said of executive order to stay home and social distance. "Our people enjoy doing things like inspections, going out and chatting with people sitting at restaurants. Just like you, we're all stuck at home and confined to essential and immediate emergency tasks."

The personal protective equipment they need to wear now can interfere with communicating with the people they're helping.

"It's more stressful to communicate with patients and loved ones when you can't show sympathy with your

face," Stange said.

That's proven to be a somewhat unexpected stress of the situation, he said.

Still, they want people to stay home and stay safe.

"There are so many people dealing with work issues," Stange said. "Other people are far more in need than ours."

Thinking about life after the stay-at-home order is one way he thinks can help get through it.

"The thing I've encouraged our people to do is set goals for when we're all through with this," Stange said. "Set some goals. How you want to look and how you want to feel?"

For mental and emotional health, Stange said there are many resources available through the county and through private health insurance.

"It's increasingly an issue through this entire thing," Stange said. "People need to not be ashamed to reach out."

## Farmers market



AUDREY CARO | Itemizer-Observer

Top: Marti Sohn sells lettuce, jams, plants and face masks at the Original Independence Farmers Market on April 4.  
Bottom: Bob Rosen, left, picks up a bag of items he ordered and paid for in advance from Brandon Wagner, of Quail Flats Farm, in Independence.

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and community events.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### Jaffer is dedicated to service

Please vote for Danny Jaffer for Polk County Commissioner next month.

Danny is a retired Navy pilot and a natural-born leader. I have watched him in many complex situations calmly take charge of people and resources to find the correct outcomes. As President of Central Lions Club or the Luckiamute Domestic Water District, Danny leads with intelligence and enthusiasm. Born and raised in Polk County, Danny brings a skill set to the Board of Commissioners not seen in many years. Dedication to public service, smarts, compassion, and leadership. Please vote for Danny Jaffer.

*Michael Cairns  
Independence*

### Recycling center should be open

I just saw the sign on the closed gate of the recycle center. "Closed" until further notice due to "social distancing." This is total rubbish. It's never busy enough to worry about social distancing and the person who works there has a choice as to how far he stands from patrons, has a hand-wash station, and wears gloves.

It seems to me like a recycle center would be a necessary service for those of us who live in the county and do NOT receive pick-up service. For the last 19 years it's been our responsibility to cart our recycle to the center for no other reason than to preserve profit (because we do it for free) to the company and presumably the county ... and now it's closed?

So, now what are we supposed to do? Throw away everything so it is taken from our home and doesn't create a health hazard? Drive it to another city and expose ourselves and others in the place we transport it to when the order, by state direction is to stay home?

It's always been inconceivable that we folks who live in the county outside of Dallas city limits have to transport our recycle to town when recycling is SO important.

So, when are we going to receive our recycle bins, free of charge, and

have it retrieved from our home since we can't drop it off, free of charge? Consider your contract.

*April Degele  
Dallas*

### Trump dislikes disagreement

Trump continues to hurl insults and rude comments to everyone who doesn't agree with him. He's taunting Mitt Romney for self quarantining after being exposed; says he inherited a 'broken system' from Obama, even though he's been in office 3-plus years; he wants governors to be 'appreciative' for everything his administration has done during the pandemic; calls Washington's governor a 'presidential candidate loser' and the governor of Michigan 'that woman.' The man has some definite ego issue. His 'social media' advisors don't seem to be able to get the point across to him — although most people don't need an advisor for social media. And it appears to be a Republican trait. North Dakota Sen. Kevin Cramer tweets that Nancy Pelosi is 'retarded'.

It's interesting Florida is getting everything governor DeSantis requests from the government stockpile, whereas other states get 170 broken respirators or thousands of moldy masks. That's right — Trump's hotel is in Florida.

Nine states, with Republican governors, have not called for a 'shelter in place.' Don't they realize it's a proven fact social distancing is the best defense against the virus? Then there is Fox news reporter Ainsley Earhardt who says her friends are concerned because they can't get their hair or nails done during the lockdown. Let me see — nice hair and nails or dead. It's not that hard for me to decide.

*Clifford Brown  
Dallas*

### Happy to see the I-O open

We just wanted you to know how happy we were that a buyer came through for the Itemizer-Observer. We really appreciate all you do for

the library and the community. Community newspapers are really important. No one else reports on or cares about the things that matter in small cities and rural areas.

Thank you for your help in the past, and best wishes for many years of I/O reporting in the future.  
*Staff at the Dallas Public Library*

### Reader hopes the paper quality stays

We just read about the change in the paper. Our hope is the staff and quality of our local paper stays the same.

We have been faithful readers the past 45 years and our hope is even though a change has been made, let's keep the same quality of the paper alive and well.

*Gregg Darr  
Falls City*

### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited. Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted. Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period. Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed. Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed. Itemizer-Observer does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author. Letters that quote facts or use quotes from third-party sources must include the original source in the letter. These original sources might not be printed, so might not count against the overall word count (100 for election related letters, 300 for other letters), but will be required so the news room may double check claims made in letters. Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content. Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the I-O's website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only. Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the I-O, not copies of letters sent to other media. Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names. The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline. — Reach us at: Mail: Editor, Polk County Itemizer-Observer, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338. Fax: 503-623-2395. Email: ionews@polkio.com. Office: 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

## PUBLIC AGENDA

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to Itemizer-Observer via email (ionews@polkio.com).

### Thursday, April 9

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.

### Monday, April 13

- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.
- **Falls City City Council** — 6 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

### Tuesday, April 14

- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — Noon, Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth.

### Wednesday, April 15

- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

## CONTACT YOUR OFFICIALS

### Governor

- **Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)** — Office of the Governor, 900 Court St. NE, Ste. 254, Salem, OR 97301, 503-378-4582, E-mail: via website, [www.governor.oregon.gov/](http://www.governor.oregon.gov/)

### State Legislators

- **Sen. Arnie Roblan** — (District 5, Democrat), State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, S-417, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1705, [sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us](mailto:sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us), [www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan)
- **Sen. Brian Boquist** — (District 12, Republican), State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, S-311, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1712, [sen.brianboquist@state.or.us](mailto:sen.brianboquist@state.or.us), [www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist)
- **Rep. David Gombert** — (District 10, Democrat), State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, H-281, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1410, [rep.davidgombert@state.or.us](mailto:rep.davidgombert@state.or.us), [www.oregonlegislature.gov/gombert](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gombert)
- **Rep. Paul Evans** — (District 20, Democrat), State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, H-378, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1420, [rep.paulevans@state.or.us](mailto:rep.paulevans@state.or.us), [www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans)
- **Rep. Mike Nearman** — (District 23, Republican), State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, H-378, Salem, OR 97301, 503-986-1423, [rep.mikenearman@state.or.us](mailto:rep.mikenearman@state.or.us), [www.oregonlegislature.gov/hearman](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/hearman)

### U.S. Congress

- **Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)** — 221 Dirksen SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-5244, Fax: 202-228-2717, Salem office: 707 13th St. SE, Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301, Phone: 503-589-4555, Email: via website, [www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)
- **Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)** — 313 Hart SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-3753, Fax: 202-228-3997, Salem office: 161 High St. SE, Ste. 250, Salem, OR 97301, Phone: 503-362-8102, Email: via website, [www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)
- **Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)** — 2431 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, Phone: 202-225-5711, Fax: 202-225-5699, Salem office: 530 Center St. NE, Ste. 415, Salem, OR 97301, Phone: 503-588-9100, Fax: 503-588-5517, Email: via website, [www.schrader.house.gov](http://www.schrader.house.gov)

### Polk County

- **Board of Commissioners** — 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-8173, [www.co.polk.or.us](http://www.co.polk.or.us)
- **Sheriff Mark Garton** — Polk County Sheriff's Office, 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-9251 x1377

### Cities

- **Dallas** — 187 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2338, [www.ci.dallas.or.us](http://www.ci.dallas.or.us)
- **Falls City** — 299 Mill St., Falls City, OR 97344, 503-787-3631, [www.falls-city-oregon.gov](http://www.falls-city-oregon.gov)
- **Independence** — 555 S. Main St., Independence, OR 97351, 503-838-1212, [www.ci.independence.or.us](http://www.ci.independence.or.us)
- **Monmouth** — 151 W. Main St., Monmouth, OR 97361, 503-838-0722, [www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)



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# CSD working through changes

By **AUDREY CARO**  
Itemizer-Observer

**INDEPENDENCE**— Schools are closed but administrators, teachers and school staff have been working to keep with up with changes in direction from the state while trying to serve students and families.

The Central School District Board of Directors met Monday, with some members calling in to comply with Gov. Kate Brown's recommendation that Oregonians avoid gatherings of 10 or more people to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The meeting was livestreamed from Western Oregon University, with Superintendent Jennifer Kubista, Business Manager Cec Koontz, board chair Steve Love and board member Jannice Link-Jobe at WOU.

The public was invited to submit comments and questions in advance.

These are unprecedented times, Kubista said.

"We are asking for a major shift in how we do education for students," she said.

Official word from the state is that schools will be closed until April 28.

"Beyond that decisions have not been made," Kubista said. She asks that people be patient.

"(We're) building distance learning to get to the end of the school year," she said.

While the governor has not directed that, Kubista said they are watching what is happening in different states that saw cases of COVID-19 before Oregon.

"The virus is still moving in an upward trajectory," she said.

A committee comprised of administrators, staff and union leaders has been working on addressing the challenges presented by school closures and the executive order for people to stay home.

"We are going to run into some barriers and we are going to work through those," Kubista said.

Internet and WiFi access is a barrier for some that the district is trying to address.

Some teachers also need

to get training to do online teaching.

Distance learning will be a multimedia approach, a combination of work packets mailed to students an online education.

Kubista said as the district plans, they are keeping in mind the variety of situations students and families are in — parents who are essential employees and then must support a student through learning at home, parents who were laid off with concerns of providing, parents who are trying to teach to children of different ages, and families who are sheltered in place and fear that immigration might show up at any time.

The district is still working with the Oregon Department of Education and waiting on guidance for students who have disabilities, are on individual learning plans need other supports.

At press time, there still was not clear direction from the state regarding high school seniors.

"We are still waiting for

guidance on high school," Kubista said. "Hoping it's going to come this week. We thought it would come last week. Staff is starting to reach out (to students) this week."

Once the district gets guidance from ODE, they probably will need 24 hours to dive into it and start build plans, she said.

Chromebooks are set to be distributed to students who need them, with preference given to high school students starting Friday.

When proms and graduation may be planned is still unknown.

Kubista said the district staff is growing and learning through these unprecedented challenges.

She compared working through this process like riding a bicycle that's really wobbly.

Sometimes they're going to fall off.

"We're going to have to bandage ourselves and get back on the bike," she said.



JENNIFER BIBERSTON | Itemizer-Observer

**Scott and Jeanne Olson purchased the I-O last week.**

## OLSON Couple honored to purchase the I-O

From Page A1

readers thanking me for the product my employees helped to produce on a weekly basis. They love our product and it serves a purpose in their lives."

The Olsons took a one-year hiatus from newspapers when the opportunity arose to purchase the I-O, which has been published for 145 years. Scott said it's the sense of a small-town newspaper's purpose that made him want to take ownership.

Scott briefly lived in Polk County, in West Salem, when his father worked at the Polk County Farmer's Coop, so it feels like something of a homecoming, as well.

"I also love the history, and the I-O definitely has a long, rich history in providing news and information to the people of Polk County," Scott said.

He said he is honored to take over the paper that was previously owned by a former Oregon governor, Elmo Smith,

and his son Denny Smith, who served in Congress.

"The Smith family, under Eagle Newspapers, owned the I-O for over 50 years," Scott said. "I feel honored to be able to own a newspaper that has been respected by members of the news media, while also being able to carry on a news product that has been supported by generations of readers."

Former publisher Emily Mentzer, advertising account manager Jeff Mentzer, account manager Eric Flierl and office manager Dawn Ohren left the I-O during the transition of ownership. News staff Jolene Guzman (Dallas, Falls City, Polk County reporter), Audrey Caro (Monmouth, Independence and WOU reporter) and Jennifer Biberston (sports reporter) remain. Account manager Cameron Rowland has stayed with the advertising crew.

The I-O office is now open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice. Contact Olson at scottjolson64@gmail.com. To see a listing of the I-O's news and advertising staff and contact information, see the staff directory on page A2.

## DCS Homeschool offers help

From Page A1

Adams said. "Get creative. Make it come to life a little bit."

- Put children on a routine: It doesn't have to be and regular school time — yes, students and parents can sleep in — but it does need to be consistent. Include brain breaks.
- Have children do some math and reading every day. Math doesn't have to be

worksheets of math problems. It can come in the guise of life lessons, such as cooking, planting a garden and online shopping.

- Give children choices about what they want to learn. "They don't have to follow the state standards for what they would be learning in regular school anymore, so ask them what they would like to learn about," Adams said. "Student-led learning gets them interested from the get-go.
- Take advantage of our forced togetherness to have fun with learning by creating lessons that the whole family can engage in.

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# HEALTH DIRECTORY

### CHIROPRACTIC

- **JOYNT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC - Dr. Brian Joynt, DC - 629 Clay Street East, Monmouth, OR 97361** Family-oriented chiropractic clinic, dedicated to creating an unparalleled experience of service, quality and care by teaching the true principles of chiropractic. We look forward to empowering each of you to help your family participate more fully in life. New patients welcome. Accept most insurance. Auto/personal injury and work comp. Massage therapist on site. Complimentary consultations. Call us today to make your appointment (503) 837-0550.
- **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC - Drs. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 8am-12pm & 2-6pm; Wed 8am-12pm & 2-4pm; Thurs 2-6pm.** Proudly serving Polk County for over 21 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

### COUNSELING

- **CROSS AND CROWN COUNSELING** offers counseling services to individuals, couples and families as well as seminars and grief recovery workshops. Areas we support but are not limited to are adolescent, premarital, marriage, family, trauma, crisis, grief, depression, anxiety, anger, divorce, and identity crisis. We help our clients find healing, learn communication skills, and appropriate responses to individual and family needs and how to obtain overall health, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We provide a safe and caring environment to face life situations, address interpersonal and intrapersonal conflict and help individuals realize their full potential in order to live decisively with truth, relevance, perspective, and purpose. Our counselors are NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselors, Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselors and Certified Temperament Counselors. Our office is located at 689 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338. For more information or to schedule an appointment visit our website [www.crossandcrowncounseling.com](http://www.crossandcrowncounseling.com) or call (503) 917-1625.

### GENERAL DENTISTRY

- **RANDALL C. JONES, DMD - 1004 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 503-838-0434.** Offering a broad range of dental services in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. New patients and emergencies welcome.
- **WESTON K. MORRILL, DMD - 289 E. Ellendale Suite #201, Dallas. 503-623-6616.** Family, preventive, and cosmetic dentistry. Complete dentistry for the entire family. Se habla español.
- **KENNETH WINOKUR, DMD - 329 South Main Street Independence, OR 97351. 503-838-1633.** High quality service with your comfort in mind. Nitrous oxide gas sedation available. [www.independencedental.org](http://www.independencedental.org)

### HEARING HEALTH

- **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices, Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

### IMAGING SERVICES

- **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** offers state-of-the-art, all-digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician's referral, we provide bone density tests, CT scans, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our comfortable and spacious mammography suite. We are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-561-5293.

### LABORATORY SERVICES

- **SALEM HEALTH HOSPITALS & CLINICS** provides lab services at two convenient locations in Dallas and Monmouth. Both fully accredited labs accept health care provider referrals for collections and testing. The labs also offer employment and self-referral drug testing. Appointments are not required at either location.
- **SALEM HEALTH LABORATORY - DALLAS** outpatient lab available from 6am - 8pm, seven days a week, at 525 SE Washington St., 503-623-7303.
- **SALEM HEALTH LABORATORY - MONMOUTH** is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Monmouth Medical Center, 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-814-8345.

### MASSAGE

- **OUT OF GRAVITY MASSAGE - Julianne Klingberg DeForest, LMT - 503.510.2256 - Enter Stressed, Leave Blessed - Out of Gravity Massage** offers massage sessions to suit a variety of needs and health concerns. Intuitive and holistic bodywork are blended with extensive and varied education, creating a caring and knowledgeable environment of healing. Relaxation, well care, geriatric and pediatric massage is available, as well as motor vehicle accident rehabilitation. Call today for an appointment. 503-510-2256 OR # 7627/ National #295187-00

### ORTHODONTICS

- **YENNE & SCHOFIELD - SPECIALISTS IN ORTHODONTICS - 580 Main Street, Suite E, Dallas, 503- 623-5002.** Providing Polk County with orthodontic care for children and adults for functions and cosmetics. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays.

### PHYSICAL THERAPY/ REHABILITATION SERVICES

- **PINNACLE PHYSICAL THERAPY** is an orthopedic physical therapy facility committed to getting great results for each patient. We focus on advanced spine care, women's health issues, sport rehab, vehicle accidents, and workinjuries. We offer highly specialized care including manual therapy, aquatic therapy, specific deep tissue mobilization techniques, Postural Restoration Institute (PRI) techniques and therapeutic exercise. We have a warm, caring and friendly staff and accept most private health insurance, auto insurance, and workers' compensation insurance. We offer both male and female physical therapists. Often no physician referral is needed to start care. Call us today and ask how to get therapy for your condition or talk to your physician to see if physical therapy is right for you. Call us: 503-623-2433. We are conveniently located at 210 W. Ellendale Avenue Dallas, Oregon 97338; (next to Taco Bell) Check us out on the web: [www.pinnacle-physicaltherapy.com](http://www.pinnacle-physicaltherapy.com)
- **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** offers a wide range of rehabilitation services. The hospital, located at 525 SE Washington St. in Dallas, offers physical, occupational and speech therapy. Aquatic therapy at Dallas Aquatic Center is also offered. 503-623-7305.
- **SALEM HEALTH MEDICAL CLINIC - MONMOUTH** offers physical, occupational and speech therapy. Located at 512 Main St., 503-838-1388. Visit [salemhealth.org/westvalley](http://salemhealth.org/westvalley).

### PRIMARY CARE

- **BEN COULAM, FNP,** family medicine, is accepting new patients at Salem Health Medical Clinics in Dallas and Monmouth. He is at each clinic two days per week. Ben will work with you to build a healthy lifestyle with annual exams for adults and children, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, cancer screenings, chronic disease management and more.  
**Dallas — 555 SE Washington St., 503-623-7301. Monmouth — 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1182.**

Call the Itemizer-Observer at 503-623-2373 to have your business listed in this directory.



# CRUISE

## Dallas couple quarantined in ship

From Page A1

food three times a day, and it was pretty consistent once they got the routine down, which took about three days to get the routine down."

Other routines were eventually established, such as allowing passengers whose rooms faced the ocean or had a balcony to come out one of the decks and move around for one hour every three days. Those who were staying in inside decks were allotted outside time once a day, for an hour. Everyone had to wear masks and stay six feet apart from one another during their time on the deck.

"We were very fortunate, we had a room with a balcony, so we had fresh air," Jones said. "I don't know if you've ever watched any of the old prison movies — and you see all these old cell blocks and layers of cells on top of each other, and sometimes they talk up and down amongst themselves? That's kind of what it felt like

on the balcony, and you could talk to the other passengers that were down along the way."

To help the passengers avoid going stir-crazy, the ship had movies available to download, as well as exercise programs like Tai Chi and Yoga, and distributed playing cards and games like crossword puzzles and sudoku.

Jones established a routine for herself while on the ship.

"Each morning, I'd get up, do some kind of exercises, either on the TV or go outside on my balcony and do sit ups, that kind of thing," she said. "We updated everyone back home on what was going on, researched what was going on in the rest of the world, watched movies — I watched more movies in that 14 days than I have probably watched in 10 years. I had cross-stitch with me — it's probably the fastest I've ever cross-stitched anything. And we read a lot, my husband downloaded a lot of books onto his tablet. It was boring, but we were able to keep ourselves occupied. We are both Christians, so a lot of prayer, Bible reading."

The situation aboard the Diamond Princess was less than ideal, but Jones was pleased



Bob Herndon (left) and his wife Jodie Jones on a trip.

JODIE JONES | for the Itemizer-Observer

with how the ship handled the constantly-changing situation.

"I have nothing but good things to say about Princess Cruise lines," she said. "They did everything they possibly could to make us comfortable, to keep morale up, make sure we were well-fed, but they again had to rely on the

Japanese government. The ship belonged to the Japanese government at that point, and they were not allowed to do anything unless the Japanese government approved it."

There were times, during that two-week period, where the Japanese locals did what they could to entertain the bored

passengers. One specific memory had Jones laughing as she recalled it.

"One of the highlights, one Saturday, a bunch of the locals got on their skidoos, and ... they ramped their music up and were running back and forth on the side of the ship, doing whatever that they could so they could entertain us," Jones said. "And so everyone on the ship is out on the deck, dancing to the music, clapping, having a good time, until the Japanese coast guard chased them all off."

Other memories weren't as light-hearted, including watching all of the ambulances coming in every day.

"Of course they had everything under cover so you couldn't see if people were disembarking, but it was just ambulance after ambulance," Jones said. "By the time we had left the ship I think it was close to 600 that had been removed with the virus."

In total, 712 passengers and crew members had contracted the virus, with 10 deaths.

When Jones and Herndon were evacuated to Travis Air Force Base, they were ordered to quarantine for another two weeks.

"At Travis, we were very fortunate," Jones said.

The passengers were dispersed throughout a collection of six buildings on the base, and each living space consisted of a living room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchenette.

"Then they put a fence around the compound, in essence, so we were able to go out anytime we wanted within that compound," Jones said, "and walk around, get fresh air, do whatever exercise you could do with your mask on. They had US Marshals at each corner of the compound to make sure, one, no one bothered us and second, I guess they were afraid all of us old people might scale the fence."

Being able to finally leave the base and make their journey home was, in Jones' word, "odd."

"On our way back, we rented a car, and a few hours into it, we said, 'oh, I guess we should eat,'" Jones said. "We went to a restaurant, we sat down and they handed us a menu, and we both kind of sat there and stared at the menu and it was

like, 'you mean we actually get to choose?' It was very different after four weeks of just eating whatever was placed in front of you — it was kind of bringing you back to when you were a kid and you ate whatever your mom gave you. We actually had to make a decision, and we hadn't made one for four weeks."

When Jones and Herndon arrived home, they immediately began disinfecting everything. She said they are still taking their temperatures twice a day.

"I went back to work on the fourth (of March), and the first thing people wanted to do was come up and hug me, and I wouldn't let anybody, because we had been trained for four weeks, you stayed six feet apart, you have no physical contact. So my husband and I maintained that even before it became the thing to do."

Since being home, Jones said she is surprised at how many people still aren't taking the virus seriously.

"I was more scared when I got back to Oregon than the entire time I was in quarantine," she said. "While we were in quarantine, we knew it was real. We watched our fellow passengers get taken off the ship. Twenty-two of the people who were in Travis Air Force Base with us were removed and taken to the hospital. So, it was very, very real to us, and nobody else was believing it."

She was relieved when Gov. Kate Brown began making orders to shut down non-essential businesses and schools.

"I will say, I am not a Kate (Brown) fan at all but I was very proud that she started closing Oregon down when she did," Jones said, "because that is the only way you're going to stop this thing, is to get people to abide by the protocol that is being put in place to slow this thing down enough that we can keep up and keep people alive. We all obeyed the rules in quarantine, we knew what had to be done to stay safe, and here, people, a lot of them, still aren't taking it seriously and that's scary."

Jones said she is helping a friend make masks. She hopes people start wearing masks when they go out.

"If everyone will continue to do that, that is another way we can keep it from spreading," she said.

**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Picture is different. 2. Window has curtains. 3. Skirt is missing. 4. Tree is different. 5. Ottoman has no skirt. 6. Lampshade is different.

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**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

AHH GEEZ, YOU KNOW YOUR TEAM IS HAVING AN AWFUL SEASON WHEN YOU ACTUALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE COMMERCIALS.

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**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

LOOSE CANNON POWDER KEG A REAL FIRECRACKER

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**R.F.D.** by Mike Marland

THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN LIFE, JUNE, THAT IF IGNORED, WILL GO AWAY!

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Ballet skirt  
5 "A pox upon thee!"  
8 Sore  
12 Microwave, for one  
13 Praise in verse  
14 Comrade of Mao  
15 Clothing store section  
16 Attendance check  
18 Wolf in the henhouse?  
20 "Yes" or "no" follower  
21 Settled down  
23 — generis  
24 Com-mand to Fido  
28 Being, to Brutus  
31 Historic time  
32 Elaine's surname on "Seinfeld"  
34 Wire measure  
35 Air outlet  
37 Price reduction  
39 Baseball hat  
41 Actor Julia  
42 Antarctic volcano  
45 Now

**DOWN**

1 Grant's —  
2 Eye layer  
3 Be inclined (to)  
4 Open  
5 Let-bygones-  
19 Amorphous  
22 Male voice  
24 Churchly title (Abbr.)  
25 Raw rock  
26 Trusted knight  
27 Got sick again  
29 Bracketed notation  
30 Wapiti  
33 Insult  
36 Restaurant furniture  
38 Enlarge a photo  
40 Saloon  
42 Love god  
43 Pajama cover-up  
44 Poet  
46 Zilch  
47 Carry  
48 Smell  
50 Scepter

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**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

THE ANIMAL, IN HIS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WILL HIBERNATE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

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**Birding BITS** BY Cindy Brook

**Unexpected Guests**

Even though the bird life is a bit slow right now, I never know when a migrating visitor might drop in, so I make a special seed blend that will appeal to any bird. It has sunflower heart chips, peanuts and safflower seed. I used a tube feeder with a tray. Everyone's happy!

E-mail: [birdingbits@cfl.rr.com](mailto:birdingbits@cfl.rr.com)  
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**Go Figure!** answers

2	x	9	-	7	11
+		-		+	
8	x	4	-	9	23
x		x		-	
1	+	5	÷	3	2
10		25		13	

**King Crossword** Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

## Campbell resigns as WOU's director of athletics

By JENNIFER BIBERSTON  
Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — JUST WHEN Curtis Campbell was getting used to the rain, he's saying goodbye to Oregon and heading back to the east coast, back to where his roots are.

After a three-year stint at Western Oregon University, Campbell announced his resignation as the Director of Athletics, effective in May.

"I really enjoyed my time here," he said. "That's the thing about it: I was very content and happy, and I still am today. I was getting used to the weather — the rain, and the gray skies for eight months. It's different, and it's a little chilly. I can't count the number of people who told me when I moved here I need to take vitamin D, and that there's not going to be any sun in the winter."

The decision to leave WOU, and Oregon, was based largely on wanting to make the journey back to where his family is.

"I got an offer from Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Georgia," Campbell said. "My family and everybody is from the east coast," he said. "I was born and raised in Virginia, my wife was born and raised in Virginia, we're from the same hometown; and honestly, I'm getting a little older now, and I didn't know, if I turned down this opportunity, how many other opportunities I would get two years from now to get back geographically to my family."

It wasn't an easy decision to make. "I would have loved to stay at WOU another year or two, but again, now I have to start thinking, as I said, I'm

getting a little older, so there were a number of things that played into that decision," Campbell said. "I really enjoyed it here, and I wasn't looking at the time. This opportunity sort of came to me."

In the three years Campbell has been the AD, he worked with WOU President Dr. Rex Fuller to set the precedent for what the athletics department should look like, including increasing scholarships by \$200,000 across all sports, giving the student-athletes priority registration, and signing an exclusive contract with Corvallis Clinic to be the sole medical provider for WOU athletes.

Additionally, he hired head soccer coach Kacey Bingham, who led the Wolves women's soccer team to a successful 2019 season, and also hired head volleyball coach Stacy Metro and head men's basketball coach Wes Pifer, both of whom came from Division I coaching backgrounds.

Campbell also instituted upgrades to the facilities, helping to install new drainage systems at the soccer field, and in the outfields of the softball and baseball fields, which allowed the Wolves to host several Great Northwest Athletic Conference games last season.

None of these accomplishments, Campbell said, would have been possible without the support of the school and the community.

"When you talk about an AD, I am primarily an advocate for athletics, but in order to get things accomplished, you have to have the support of the president," he said. "And I was fortunate that Rex (Fuller) was very supportive and believed in athletics. It's teamwork, it's a team approach: Student-athletes did their part — we

now have a 3.2 grade average for over 320 student-athletes — The coaches did a great job. So it's just a team effort."

"Me by myself, I can't do anything, I can have the vision, but it takes us all working together to accomplish goals."

That's what he'll miss the most — the people he worked alongside and got to know over the last three years.

"I'm going to genuinely miss Rex. I'm going to miss my staff, Randi (Lydum), my No. 2 person, who has been great the whole time," he said. "The alum. The students. Even our physical plant workers, the guys who took care of our field, who cut and painted the football fields, soccer, baseball fields. So just everybody. I'm gonna miss the people."

Campbell's interaction with Rex during his interview was what solidified Campbell's decision to work at WOU.

"When I came for the interview, I met Rex (Fuller) and, the time that we spent together, and his vision for athletics and where he felt athletics ranked and the goals he had for athletics, sold me. So I came primarily based on my interaction in the interview with him. He's a great president, and he has a tough job as far as running the university and keeping everybody happy."

As highly as Campbell speaks of Fuller, Fuller in turn has a lot of good things to say about Campbell.

"I want to thank Curtis for his tireless efforts to stress athletic and academic excellence during his tenure as athletic director at WOU," Fuller said. "In my experience, he provided consistent leadership and supported



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Curtis Campbell announced his resignation from WOU last week.

Western's student athletes and coaches in full measure. I wish him well in his new position at Morehouse College."

As he wraps up his time in Monmouth, Campbell said he is going to look back fondly at his time spent here.

"I can't say enough about the people, everyone was very helpful and welcoming to me the whole time I was

here," he said. "And the alum support that I received while I was here was just amazing. So again, I'm going to very much miss the folk."

Lydum, who has been the associate athletic director for internal affairs and the senior woman's administrator since 2012, is now taking over as interim director of athletics.

## Haugen takes family portraits for Family Promise

By AUDREY CARO  
Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Photographer Miriam Haugen is capturing family portraits at a time of home isolation to help families at risk of homelessness.

Families in Monmouth and Independence can set an appointment for Haugen to photograph them on their front porch — she sets up her camera at a safe distance.

A few days after the mini photo session, Haugen sends a link to download the portraits and make a donation to Family Promise of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Family Promise strives to help families that are homeless or in need of rental assistance.

"I came up with the idea when a photographer friend in Texas shared a post about another photographer in Boston who was doing this as a fundraiser for a local charity," Haugen said. "A number of photographers across the country were picking up on the idea, some were supporting charities but others had their own twist. I loved the idea of getting out and photographing people while still honoring the quarantine."

Haugen started her project, Front Porch Portraits, on March 26. As of Monday, she'd photographed 25 families.

"I had no idea what the response would be and was very pleased when my phone started lighting up," Haugen said. "I am asking for a minimum donation to do this for people that live outside of town. I am willing to go to neighboring towns if several families in a neighborhood are willing to make a donation."

She doesn't have a monetary goal in mind for the fundraiser. She said it would be fantastic to raise \$10,000 for Family Promise, but wouldn't be disappointed to raise \$1,000.

"I am very passionate about the work of (Family Promise of the Mid-Willamette Valley)," Haugen said. "It helps families who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless with rental assistance. The Interfaith Hospitality Network is where it all started. Homeless families are housed and fed in churches in Marion and Polk counties and get help and support to get back on their feet that includes financial counseling and parenting classes."

A major illness, accident or job loss, can destabilize families who live paycheck-to-paycheck, she said.

"The cost of a one-time intervention to keep them in their home is far less than rehousing them and prevents a whole ripple effect of negative impacts to that family," Haugen said. "The need right now is greater than ever."

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order on March 23 directing people to stay home to help stem the spread of COVID-19.

"This is an extraordinary time," Haugen said. "Families have never spent this much time together and it is definitely a time that needs to be commemorated. 'Where were you during the pandemic of 2020?' is a question that we will be asking for the rest of our lives."

What families do in their photos is up to them.

"For most people, this is a chance to have a family portrait showing where they are and what their family is like at this moment in time," Haugen said. "Some people have included props like a teddy bear or a basketball — mourning the fact that the 'Final Four' was canceled. (Some have) face masks and hand sanitizer. It is nice to have a bit of levity right now."

While many businesses have temporarily shut down or altered availability, Haugen said the executive order has not affected her business too much at this point.

Usually at this time of year, she is preparing for high school senior photos and fall sessions for the Santa Experience at Haugen's Galleri Portrait Studio.

She's also launching a service called Personal Brand Photography, "geared toward business owners and online entrepreneurs who need quality, on-brand images of themselves for social media," she said.

"I am passionate about helping small business owners and entrepreneurs be successful and I know how important good photographs are to successful marketing," Haugen said. "This is not a time for entrepreneurs to be sitting and waiting for everything to get back to normal. It is the time for putting things in place for their next launch and I can help with that. We can be planning the photo shoot now, even in quarantine."

Text 503-910-1517 to schedule a porch portrait.



PHOTO BY MIRIAM HAUGEN  
Natascha Cronin and her daughter pose in their front yard for a photo.



AUDREY CARO | Itemizer-Observer  
Miriam Haugen, right, is taking porch portraits to raise money for Family Promise.

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