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# No easy answers for Dallas pool

*Higher rates, foundation may provide additional revenue, easing funding dilemma*



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer file

The Dallas Aquatic Center hosts events, including the Kids Triathlon..

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A staff review of Dallas Aquatic Center operations found no magic bullet to eliminate the city's subsidy of the facility that didn't require more money from taxpayers through an operating levy.

It did find ways to close the gap by adjusting rates and establishing a foundation to raise money for the center.

Jason Locke, the city community development director, presented his report to the city's administrative committee, made up of five Dallas city councilors, on Sept. 26. During the 2016-17 budget process, the

council voted to have city staff look into ways to reduce or eliminate the city's support of the facility.

Last year, the center covered 56 percent of its expenses and required \$388,000 in general fund support from the city.

The task was given to the committee to make a recommendation based on the report before the creation of the next fiscal year budget.

The report briefly touched on adding amenities, such as a weight or workout area; establishing more community partnerships; advertising and sponsorships; and establishing a contract with an outside organization to operate the center.

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## IN YOUR TOWN

### DALLAS

Dallas water and sewer rates set to increase.

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### FALLS CITY

Falls City volleyball defeats C.S. Lewis.

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### INDEPENDENCE

Running helps Zachary Meyer find peace with himself.

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### MONMOUTH

Western Oregon's volleyball team offers glimpse of potential against Vikings.

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### SPORTS

Dallas boys soccer team looks to turn corner during league play.

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### ELECTIONS

Monmouth council, mayor candidates; meet sheriff candidates.

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## Dallas earns award from LOC

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
SALEM — The League of Oregon Cities presented the city of Dallas with the "Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance Award" during its 91st Annual Conference last weekend at the Salem Convention Center.

The award recognized the city for its Citizen Engagement Initiative.

Created in 1998, the Good Governance award honors city programs that connect citizens within a community.

The city of Dallas citizen initiative includes several programs designed to engage community members, including the City Department Expo, where community members visit representatives from each city department and the city's new "Tuesdays on the Square" events.

The award also recognized the city's "Take a Closer Look" marketing campaign and the Citizens' Academy, a free training in which elected officials and city staff showcase the functions of city government.

# Time flies when you're having fun

*Liane Moser celebrates three decades at the Independence library, rolling with changes*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Thirty years have gone by fast for Liane Moser, technical services and outreach at Independence Public Library.

"There's a lot of ways it's changed, and lots of ways it's stayed the same," she said. "Basically, libraries are about getting people the information and the materials they want, and that's what we still are doing. It's the tools and how we do that — and the scale (that has changed)."

Moser said she has to keep on top of ever-changing technology, but looks on the bright side.

"You used to have someone want a book, and you had no way to look and see what other libraries had it," she said.

Rather than an online search, a note would go with a courier to the Monmouth Public Library, where staff would see if they had it.

See **MOSER**, Page 5A



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Liane Moser, center, works with daughters Kristie and Sandy, who volunteer at the Independence Public Library.

# Mental health joins deputies on duty

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Polk County Deputy Jacob LaCombe and crisis counselor Jennifer Leonard were off and running on their first day working as partners.

The pair make up one of two mobile crisis response teams working in the county, joining law enforcement with mental health professionals to answer calls involving people in crisis.

During their first shift, on Sept. 6, they responded to two calls regarding people in mental crisis, LaCombe said.

The calls haven't stopped since, something LaCombe said he expected based on his experience working with the sheriff's office since 2015.

He said there are a lot of people deputies encounter who are dealing with or have experienced mental illness.

"Having this team out there to work with those people, I think, is a huge need," he said.

Leonard and LaCombe and their counterparts — Salem Officer Omar DeMarco and crisis counselor Darrell Burton based out of West Salem — work with all Polk County police agencies to provide for the needs of people through a mental crisis.

Paid for through an 18-month state grant, the teams are equipped to provide immediate assistance and may keep people out of jail who would be better served through mental health services.

See **TEAM**, Page 6A



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Omar DeMarco, left, Darrell Burton, Jennifer Leonard and Jacob LaCombe are Polk County's two new mobile crisis teams. They have been on patrol since September.

**THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK**

**wed**  
Test your Scrabble skills against other spelling enthusiasts at the Independence Public Library's Scrabble with Betty. 1 p.m. Free.  
  
Showers  
Hi: 61  
Lo: 46

**thu**  
Meet candidates from HD 20, as well as for council and mayor from Monmouth and Indy, at a forum at WOU. 7-9 p.m. Free.  
  
Showers  
Hi: 63  
Lo: 48

**fri**  
Friends of the Dallas Library will host its second book sale of the year today and tomorrow at the civic center. 3-7 p.m. Free.  
  
Cloudy  
Hi: 65  
Lo: 49

**sat**  
Got hazardous waste? Dispose of it free at the hazardous waste collection event at Riverview Park. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free.  
  
Cloudy  
Hi: 69  
Lo: 50

**sun**  
Take the morning off from cooking and support the Buell Grange at breakfast, located just off Highway 22. 8-11 a.m. \$6.  
  
Mostly cloudy  
Hi: 68  
Lo: 49

**mon**  
Lions meet Monday at the Indy Elks Lodge or the first and third Thursdays at Hong Kong Restaurant in Dallas. Noon. Free.  
  
Showers  
Hi: 66  
Lo: 50

**tue**  
The first 100 dogs at Dallas Dog Days will receive a free microchip when their owners purchase city dog licenses. 4-7 p.m. Free.  
  
Partly cloudy  
Hi: 68  
Lo: 51

