

Dallas EMS restructures rates

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Emergency Medical Services charges for responses will be going up effective in January. Rate structures will change to incorporate separate resident and non-resident charges into one flat fee. The current charges are: Resident — \$1,113; non-resident — \$1,336; mileage — \$20 per mile; and treatment without transport — \$471. New rates in January will be: Transport service (resident and non-resident) — \$1,500; mileage — \$22 per mile; treatment with no transport — \$471; and service delivery (call but no treatment or transport) — \$250. The Dallas City Council voted 8-1 to approve the new rates on Oct. 3. Rates were last increased in May 2015, which included



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Dallas Emergency Medical Services charges for responses will increase in January. an annual adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index. Todd Brumfield, EMS supervisor, said that hasn't been sufficient. "Although the anticipated revenue from the CPI adjustments offers support, it will not meet pace with

New rates

- Starting in January: Transport service (resident and non-resident): \$1,500; mileage, \$22 per mile.

these rising costs," Brumfield wrote in a memo about the rate proposal. "We will most likely need to evaluate our ambulance charges every two to three years and make base adjustments as necessary." He said the department is on track for an 8 percent increase in ambulance transports this year. The new rate structure will increase revenue by more than \$100,000. Brumfield noted that enrolling in the department's FireMed program for \$65 per year (resident) and \$75 (non-resident) would prevent patients from having to pay ambulance bills.

IN
YOUR
TOWN

DALLAS

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Indy Latino liaison reaches out

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — For three years, the city of Independence has had a community liaison focused on improving connections between government and Latino residents. Community liaisons were filled by interns, until now. The outreach was so successful, the city hired a full-time community liaison, Erubiel Valladares. "My job is to figure out how the community interacts with the city, civic engagement or civic actions," he said. "The liaison is part of the department heads meeting, and is able to help out with what is out there in the community, to help those department heads figure out how we can serve better." Efforts to include the entire Independence community have been very grassroots, and will continue that way, Valladares said. "Essentially, I'll be in the front talking to people and hearing their concerns, but also their opinions," he said. "If you can tell me things that need to be addressed ... if it is something that needs to be brought up to the community as a whole, or brought up to the city council or the respective department heads, they should be aware of it." See LIAISON, Page 10A

A soggy Homecoming



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas players wait on the sidelines for the next snap during the team's Homecoming game against Corvallis on Thursday. The Dragons defeated the Spartans 2-0. Dallas scored on a blocked punt that went out the back of the end zone. For the full story, see page 12A.

Shinn to take reins of Dallas chamber

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center's new chief executive officer is a hometown boy. JD Shinn, who the chamber announced Friday would be its leader, grew up in Dallas and graduated from Dallas High School in 1998. Shinn and his wife of 13 years, Raelyn, have four children and live in West Salem. His official first day is Wednesday (today) and he said he's excited get to work on behalf of Dallas. "I'm quite thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the town I grew up in," Shinn said in a statement from the chamber. "It'll be incredible to be a part of helping Dallas continue growing and build on its successful foundations." Shinn spent nearly two years with

the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce under a contract with Incite Inc., where he participated in a workforce development project called the Career Achievement Network. That project focused on helping young adult get first-time work experience. He said working with the Salem chamber helped him realize the positive impact the organizations can have on a community. He wants to bring that to Dallas. "I want to take a leadership position and push Dallas to the next level as far as commerce and community involvement," he said in an interview Friday. Shinn has a Bachelor of Arts degree in management and organizational



Shinn

leadership from George Fox University. He will lead the chamber and visitor center, taking over for former executive director Chelsea Metcalfe. She is stepping down to focus on event planning and other programs for the visitors center. One of his first tasks is evaluating both the chamber and visitor center operations, and making recommendations for changes and improvements. Shinn said he will be asking for the community's feedback during that process. "My goal for the first 90 days is to have conversations with people," he said. He wants to talk about what is lacking in chamber services and what has been successful. "One the highest priorities for me is to hear from the community," he said. See CHAMBER, Page 7A

Bowling fundraiser set for Sunday

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — Polk County Special Olympics will host the Bowling Tournament Tip-A-Cop fundraiser Sunday at 1 p.m. at Starlite Lanes, 394 Main St., Dallas. Cost is \$20 for three games. A silent auction and drawings will also be held. For more information: Shirley Wimer, 503-428-0384.

Dalton to serve on mayoral board

SALEM — Dallas Mayor Brian Dalton will serve on the Oregon Mayors Association's Board of Directors for 2017. Dalton joins Bob Andrews, of Newberg, A.J. Mattila, of Depoe Bay, Lou Ogden, of Tualatin, Betty Roppe, of Prineville, and Sandra Roumagoux, of Newport, on the board. George Endicott, of Redmond, serves as president of OMA, while John Cook, of Tigard, is president-elect. The OMA aims to increase the knowledge and skills of Oregon mayors and makes an effort to influence state programs and legislation.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed

Have a nervous reader? No need when it's reading to a dog at Dallas Library's Paws to Read program. 4 p.m. Free.

Showers
Hi: 58
Lo: 51

thu

Meet the candidates for Dallas City Council at a forum hosted by the Dallas Chamber of Commerce at the civic center. 7-8 p.m. Free.

Showers
Hi: 60
Lo: 48

fri

Get your bluegrass on at Faith Evangelical Church where musicians of all levels can jam together. 7-10 p.m. Free.

Partly cloudy
Hi: 60
Lo: 47

sat

Take a chance at winning some great prizes and support the Montessori school at a dinner and auction. 6-9 p.m. \$20.

Partly cloudy
Hi: 60
Lo: 49

sun

Polk County Special Olympics will hold a bowling fundraiser at Starlite Lanes. For more info: 503-428-0384. 1 p.m. \$20

Showers
Hi: 59
Lo: 47

mon

Enjoy a bite of your favorite meal to help celebrate National Food Day.

Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 44

tue

Looking for something fun for your young ones? Enjoy the Indoor Play Park at First Presbyterian Church. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free.

Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 43