Teens carve out library niche

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Contrary to popular belief, libraries aren't just for older people.

In fact, the Dallas Public Library has a seven-member Teen Advisory Board (TAB) dedicated solely to making the library a fun place for teenagers to be.

"I heard other libraries have success with it, and I wanted to try to see if that would work for Dallas," said Betty Simpson, the librarian in charge of children's and teen activities at the library.

With the help of TAB, the library has created an expanded "young adult" section and is revamping its teen-centric activities.

"In the past, our young adult program has been pretty poorly attended, so we are trying to fix that," said Emily Demarest, an assistant librarian working with the young adult program.

TAB member Hannah Morelli, an eighth-grader at LaCreole Middle School and library volunteer, said she wanted to join the group, which began meeting three months ago, to change that by trying "to improve the young adult section of the library and all the activities that go on."

So far, so good.

At the most recent movie night, more than 20 teens showed up, among the best turnouts in recent years. At the board's advice, the library is scheduling movies that correspond to other events, such as premiers of films based on books by the same author.

fundraiser to support that mission — duct taping Library Manager Mark Greenhalgh-Johnson to the wall collecting money for movie licensing fees. The event raised more than \$200 toward the fees for movies.

Ultimately, the board members would simply like to see more kids their age



Members of Dallas Public Library's Teen Advisory Board and assistant librarian Emily Demarest, center, discuss activities and plans at a recent board meeting at the library.

Check It Out

What: Dallas Public Library Teen Book Club and Teen Advisory Board. When: Every second Wednesday of the month at 3:45 p.m.

Where: Dallas Public Library, 950 Main St., Dallas. For more information: 503-623-2633.

has to offer. They might be surprised, said TAB member Sascha Hull. She wants other teens to discover "the joy of other worlds that you can find in reading. There is something almost magical about opening a new book for the first time."

Simpson said TAB members already have made a difference with their suggestions of what materials to On Monday, TAB held a add to the library's collection, including some hardto-find, older or brand-new titles.

> "They are not necessarily on the award-winning list, but they are the books that kids like," she said. "They do get checked out."

With the growing collection, and kids their age making recommendations, check out what the library Morelli encourages even



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observe Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin puts a duct tape tie on Library Manager Mark Greenhalgh-Johnson Monday, part of a "Tape Mark to the Wall" fundraiser.

"A lot of kids don't like to like," she said.

those teens who don't like read and if they could come books to give the library a to the library, maybe they would find something they

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FEBRUARY

- 7 PSWCD Plant Sale 7 — Rickreall Roundup
- 7 Fair Board work session 7 — Wagon Wheelers
- 8 Square Dance Lessons 12 — Polk County Saddle-
- ites meeting 14 — Ham Radio Show
- 14 Wagon Wheelers 15 — Square Dance Lessons
- 18 Fair Foundation meet-
- 19 Fair Board meeting 20-22 — Polk County Home and Garden Show
- 21 Oregon Poultry Swap 22 — Square Dance Lessons 28 — Beef weigh-in
- MARCH
- 1 Polk Flea Market 7 — Polk County Folk Festival 12 — Polk County Saddle-
- ites meeting 14-15 — Spring Gun Show

19 — Fair Board meeting 19-22 — Good Sam RV Rally 28 — Doll Show and Sale

- **APRIL** 4 — Swine Sale
- 4 Wagon Wheelers 5 — Flea Market

9-11 — Oregon Old Time **Fiddlers Convention**

- 10-12 Oregon Meat Goat Producers Show and Sale 11 — Wagon Wheelers
- 16 Fair Board meeting
- 17-19 Gem and Mineral

2 — Swine, sheep, goat weigh-in

23-25 — Quilt Show

Schedule Subject to Change

Solution on Page 17A

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The Christian Science Monitor

Cannabis advocate has eyes on Dallas

Medical marijuana business might lobby for change in city ordinance

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Medical marijuana in Dallas?

No, but it is a conversation local medical marijuana advocates say they would like to start with city officials.

Margo Lucas, a Polk County resident and member of the Salem Cannabis Industry Association, recently spoke before the Dallas City Council, suggesting the city reconsider its position on medical marijuana dispensaries.

Currently, the city's development code has a prohibition on business that don't comply with federal law, in this case federal law doesn't recognize the medical use of marijuana. In order to permit a dispensary, the city would have to change its code.

While it has passed ordinances to tax both medical and recreational marijuana businesses, the city to this point has expressed no interest in changing the code to accommodate dispensaries.

This case is no exception, Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said on Monday.

'We could not move forward with any business (in-

volving marijuana)," Foggin

Lucas and the Salem group want to see if that position could be changed.

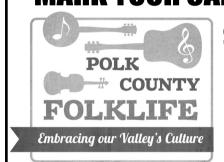
"It's obviously up to them, but we would like to work and help them however we can," Lucas said Fri-

Lucas, who lives in rural Polk County, said her objective was to open a dispensary in Dallas to help serve the need in the area. As of Jan. 1, there were 1,061 medical marijuana card holders in Polk County, according to the Oregon Health Authority. There are only two dispensaries in Polk County, both in Independence.

Lucas said she's in talks with city officials, but "no plans have been made at this time."

Foggin said so far that discussion has just consisted of Lucas asking what the city's policy is on dispensaries and her comments before the council on Jan. 20, not a formal request for a review of an application.

However, that hasn't stopped Lucas from checking out possible locations. She said she has been speaking with landlords in Dallas about the possibility of a dispensary if the city's code were to change.



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