

Corridor: Officials worried without higher fines, speeds will increase

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Pope said the county is pleased with the reduction in the number of crashes on the former corridor, but now fears a reversal in that trend. With the designation pulled, the signs alerting drivers of the safety corridor — and the increased fines for speeding — will be removed.

"We're frustrated that we didn't have the opportunity to sit down as partners," Pope said. "We don't have anything in place now to sustain the success we've had. We all know the (driving) speeds are going to go back up."

While the Highway 18 safety corridor has been taken off line, consideration for one on Highway 22 is ongoing.

The county, ODOT and the city of Salem are still working on re-establishing a corridor that would stretch approximately five miles from Oak Grove Road to the bridges across the Willamette River. A longer safety corridor running from Salem to Rickreall was decommissioned in 2010 after crash rates fell.

However, several serious and fatal crashes on the east end of the former corridor have spurred discussions of

establishing a shorter corridor. The first step in the process is creating a commission of local stakeholders to investigate the need for one.

"We need to establish a safety commission which would focus on that corridor," Potter said. "We are trying to identify the right people."

Pope, who also is a member of Mid-Willamette Area Commission on Transportation, said the process to establish that group doesn't have to be complicated.

"We have those people already lined up," he said. "It doesn't have to be a big, ex-

pansive group to make the recommendation."

Potter said another concern is enforcement, especially given the Polk County Sheriff's Office's limited patrol hours.

He said a commitment to enhanced patrol on the corridor is a requirement before a designation is made.

"That is a hurdle that we are hoping to resolve," Potter said.

Pope said patrol of the area doesn't have to be limited to Polk County deputies.

"(Oregon) State Police and city police are also involved in enforcement," he said.

Dallas schools food program is growing

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas School District's new food service program didn't exactly hit the ground running, but now appears to be hitting its stride.

Meal sales were weak to begin the year, but in December monthly sales began to outpace last year's, and the trend appears to be holding.

"We started a little bit slow, but the staff has really ramped it up and really have done an outstanding job," said Tami Montague, Dallas' business manager.

In May 2014, the district approved a contract with Central School District to share a food services director and create a program similar to what Central had established. The goal behind the switch was to improve the quality of food served to students and increase participation in the program.

Montague and Mike Vetter, food service director, provided the Dallas School Board with an update on the program Monday. It appears those initial goals are being met, but not without first-year hiccups.

Breakfast sales have grown by nearly 6.5 percent and lunch sales have increased about 3 percent. Overall, revenue increased 1.4 percent.

On the flipside, expenditures increased nearly 6 percent from last year.

One of the biggest cost increases happened early in the school year. From July through September, the district paid \$78,000 in increased costs. Of that, \$51,000 was in purchasing food to begin the year. Under the former contract, the food service company would not charge the district for food until it was served to students, so the large upfront costs didn't exist.

"We have to buy the food because the vendors don't want to store the food here without us paying for it," Montague explained.

Still, she said the next challenge is to bring expenditures down.

"We know where the issues are, and they are being addressed," Montague said. "After looking at the last few months, I have a lot more confidence."

Vetter said when the program was introduced in Central, it experienced the same issue, but revenue eventually matched or surpassed costs.

"I do see Dallas becoming a very strong food service program," Vetter said. "Just seeing the growth we've had so far and talking to all parents and the children, all I'm hearing is 'Mike, it's so much better.'"

County: Hansen may request pay increase for county officials in May

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Since the 2011-12 fiscal year, elected officials have received a cost-of-living increase once, in 2012-13. That year they were given a 1.5 percent increase, except for the sheriff, who received a 2 percent boost.

"The recommendation for the salary adjustments is based upon the county's ability to pay," Hansen wrote in his report in May 2014, in which he recommended no increase.

Hansen is preparing that survey and recommendation again for May.

"We will be even further behind," he said, noting that some offices are as much as 18 percent behind now.

However, this year, the county's "ability to pay," has improved, thanks to anticipated growth in the county's general fund.

In hopes of making up ground, Hansen will mostly likely ask the compensation board to increase elected official salaries when it meets May 20.

Hansen said with non-elected employees, the county tries to keep salaries within 4 percent of the average to remain competitive.

He acknowledges the contradiction of asking voters to approve public safety levy while increasing elected official salaries, but at the same time, believes it is time to level the playing field.

"It more of an equity issue, a fairness issue with me," Hansen said. "I think individuals should be treated with both."

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS Arrests/Citations

• Sarah Rose Anna Zellner, 31, of Salem in the 1300 block of Southeast Holman Avenue on April 7 on a failure to appear warrant out of Marion County.

• Mark W. Borck, 55, of Willamina on Southwest Levens Street on Thursday on charges of driving while suspended and failure to carry or present an operator's license.

• Loren T. Carlsen, 37, of Dallas in the 800 block of Southeast Monmouth Cutoff Road on Friday on charges of driving while suspended and failure to carry or present an operator's license.

• Misty G. Walker, 52, of Springfield in the 200 block of Southeast Dimick Street on Friday on two counts of misdemeanor driving while suspended.

INDEPENDENCE Arrests/Citations

• Adam William Harper, 27, of Salem and Ernest Arthur Harper Jr., 28, a transient, were arrested on March 27 in connection with a reported burglary at Mendi's Pizza, 1695 Monmouth St. Adam Harper was charged with first-degree theft from a building, second-degree criminal mischief-criminal damage and second-degree burglary of a business. Ernest Harper was charged with second-degree burglary-criminal conspiracy and theft-criminal conspiracy.

• Kathy Diane Dienhart, 53, of Monmouth at the corner of Monmouth Street and South 11th Street on April 6 for misdemeanor driving while suspended or revoked.

MONMOUTH Arrests/Citations

• Daniel Dwight Davidson Jr., 48, of Monmouth in the 100 block of Knox Street South on March 30 for second-degree theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories.

• Dylan Michael John Rardin, 20, of Independence in the

1400 block of North 16th Street on April 2 for contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor.

• Amanda Lee Taylor, 39, of Corvallis at the corner of Main Street East and Cartron Street South on April 3 for misdemeanor driving while suspended or revoked.

• David Calvin Howard Jr., 49, of Dallas at the corner of Falls City Highway and Whitman Street South on April 4 for misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants, misdemeanor driving while suspended or revoked and reckless endangering.

• Yanel Yanel Avila-Castro, 25, of Independence at the corner of Monmouth Avenue North and Church Street West on April 4 for misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants and failure to perform the duties of a driver when property is damaged.

• Grant Emanuel Carmichael, 24, of Monmouth at the corner of Warren Street South and Clay Street East on April 4 for misdemeanor driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Brandon Ray Juan Barroga, 20, of Monmouth in the 100 block of Main Street West on April 4 for prohibited exposure and minor in possession of alcohol.

• Christopher Paul Loehr, 29, of Dallas at Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., on April 4 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

• Dallas Lee Roles, 25, a transient, at Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., on April 4 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

• Abdulqdoos Albokhamsin, 23, of Monmouth at Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., on April 4 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

• Patrick Kern Duffie, 23, of Monmouth in the 500 block of Catron Street North on April 5 for unlawful possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

• Antonio Ranjel Gujosa, 21, of Salem in the 100 block of Edwards Road South on April 6 for first-degree aggravated assault and violating a release agreement.

• Wayne Douglas Davis, 39, of Salem at Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., on April 8 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

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