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Norm Silvey and Jim Schmaltz are displeased in the way a neighbor's tall, dry weeds are being handled.

FIRE HAZARD

Neighbors fret over dry weeds growing adjacent to property

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

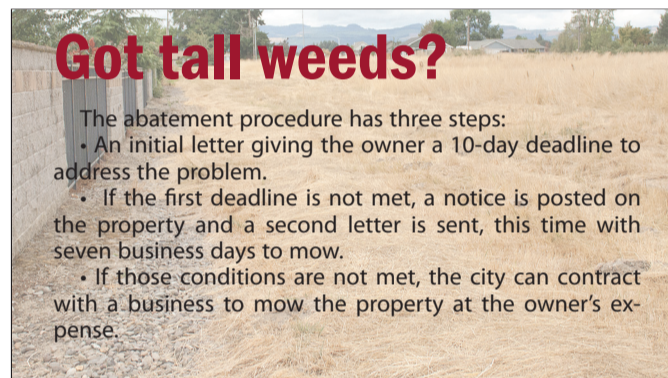
DALLAS — Looking over a hay field bordering his neighbors' property, Norm Silvey knows one thing for certain:

"I think it meets the definition of dry," he said with a chuckle.

The problem for Silvey and other residents of the Ceres Gleann area of Dallas is that they don't view the unharvested field as a laughing matter, but a potential fire hazard.

Silvey said his neighbors have raised the issue with the city of Dallas, Dallas Fire & EMS, as well as field owner Fowler Homes on a number of occasions this summer, and not enough has been done to settle their concerns.

A strip of the field bordering the homes was mowed in late June; however, with the extremely dry conditions this summer, people living



Got tall weeds?

The abatement procedure has three steps:

- An initial letter giving the owner a 10-day deadline to address the problem.
- If the first deadline is not met, a notice is posted on the property and a second letter is sent, this time with seven business days to mow.
- If those conditions are not met, the city can contract with a business to mow the property at the owner's expense.

next to the field believe the fire danger persists.

"They know, but nothing is happening," said Jim Schmaltz, another resident of the neighborhood.

Mike Schilling with Fowler Homes said the farmer renting the field was unable to harvest this year, but the company is looking at other options.

"We are working with other farmers to get it done," Schilling said.

That may take some time, though. Schilling said with condi-

tions this dry, mowing the field may become a fire hazard in itself.

If the machine hits a rock or had a bad bearing, that could ignite a fire. He said the plan at this point is to wait for rain in significant enough quantity to lower the fire risk.

Schilling added it may be into fall before the field could be safely mowed.

The city of Dallas responded to the concerns in June, issuing letters and posting a "weed abatement" notice on the property. The

city's weed abatement program addresses "nuisances caused by weeds, grass and other debris."

City administrators added another condition to address agricultural fields within city limits, which would apply to the property in question. Fields are required to have a 50-foot buffer zone mowed around the perimeter adjacent to homes, sidewalks or roadways.

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See HAZARD, Page 6A

Expansion at DRV to cost \$27 million

Project to break ground Thursday; will offer more dining, entertainment

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A project three years in the making will officially break ground on Thursday when Dallas Retirement Village (DRV) begins its expansion.

"After nearly three years of research and planning, to see new construction begin to bring the total vision to life is tremendously exciting," said David Parrett, DRV's executive director. "We are fortunate that our forward-thinking board of directors and strong financial standing are making it possible to enhance the lifestyle for current and future residents of Dallas Retirement Village."

DRV will be marking the

occasion with a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday at 10 a.m. at 377 NW Jasper St.

New construction will include apartments and an activity lodge, providing more entertainment and dining options for DRV residents.

Inspired by classic resort lodges of the Northwest, the new "lodge residences" will offer 40 apartment-style floor plans.

The adjacent "lodge clubhouse" will be a 15,000-square-foot activities center, providing restaurant-style bistro and buffet dining, gathering and socializing spaces, library, arts studio, business center, game room and more. A second phase of construction includes a fitness/wellness center, indoor



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The expansion will provide more dining options.

pool, salon and spa. Life Care Services of Des Moines, Iowa, is the developer of the project. Design is

by LRS Architects. R&H Construction is the general contractor on the project. See DRV, Page 5A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS NEWS

Throughout her life, Dallas resident Sarah Hausman has always watched sports from the sidelines. Since discovering roller derby five and a half years ago, Hausman is no longer just a spectator. She's become what she thought would never get the chance to be — an athlete.

"I had never done a sport in my life," Hausman said. "To start a sport at the age of 32 and to be considered an athlete, it still blows my mind. It seemed out of the realm of possibility."

Hausman's determination and new found love helped her to achieve the seemingly impossible.

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FALLS CITY NEWS

Lincoln King's face lit up when he looked in the mirror Thursday night.

An incoming Falls City second-grader just had his hair cut and was liking his new look, grinning at his reflection.

Lincoln, and more than 180 fellow school children, took part in "Tools for School" Thursday at Falls City's Upper Park. Tools for School is a back-to-school event sponsored by the Salvation Army Salem Kroc Corps.

The event provided more than just backpacks filled with grade-required school supplies.

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INDEPENDENCE NEWS

Some of the last remaining buildable land along the Willamette River is for sale, but not to just anyone.

The city of Independence bought the 20-acre parcel of riverfront land in December 2014 for \$800,000 from Valley Concrete with the goal to sell it to a developer who would make good use of the property and allow public access to the nearly 2 and ½ miles along the river itself.

To help find the right person for the job, the city hired Leland Consultants to help market the property.

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MONMOUTH NEWS

Imagine Monmouth being known far and wide as the most bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly town in Oregon.

"Bike trails, better sidewalks, safer crossings," said Libby Barg, with Barney and Worth, the consultants for Monmouth's visioning process. "The idea is that Monmouth is relatively flat; it's a college town, great for biking. What can we do to stand out as a bike friendly, pedestrian friendly city?"

That's one of the four main focus points of the Monmouth Engaged project, the city's visioning process that is wrapping up.

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POLK COUNTY NEWS

Anna Scharf, chairwoman of the Polk County Fair Board, could tell something was different — in a good way — at the annual fair within hours of opening.

By 11 a.m. on Aug. 6, the first day of fair — typically not a gate-buster — she noticed more people, including quite a few families, were coming in. Soon, overflow parking was being used, again not a normal occurrence that early in the fair's run.

"I instantly knew Thursday morning that something was working," Scharf said at fair board's monthly meeting Thursday.

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THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

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| <p>wed</p> <p>Head out to Rogue Hop Farm for the monthly bingo at the farm. The event is family and dog friendly. 6:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 93 Lo: 56</p> | <p>thu</p> <p>Enjoy music and light refreshments while you mingle with other business people at MI Chamber's after hours. 5:30-7 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 79 Lo: 53</p> | <p>fri</p> <p>Pick up a new pair of kicks at the scrub and shoe sale at West Valley Hospital. Proceeds benefit high school seniors. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 78 Lo: 53</p> | <p>sat</p> <p>Don't miss the farmers markets in downtown Independence for fresh berries, fruits and vegetables. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 90 Lo: 56</p> | <p>sun</p> <p>Learn about flying remote control airplanes at the Wingdingers RC Flying Club at Whitworth Elementary. 1-3 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 83 Lo: 52</p> | <p>mon</p> <p>Donate blood to the American Red Cross at the Academy Building in Dallas and help save a life today. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 83 Lo: 52</p> | <p>tue</p> <p>Check out the youth Chess Club at the Independence Public Library, where kids learn chess and compete. 4:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 53</p> |
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