

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

Volume 140, Issue 41

www.Polkio.com

October 14, 2015

75¢



From left, Dean Burwash, Rebecca O'Dell, and Haddie Rogers take a break to play with Phoebe, the "school dog" at Dallas Community School on Thursday. The new charter school opened in Dallas with 125 students in September.

A new look at home-school

Dallas Community School, a charter school, offers families unique option

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — As the students at Thursday's morning session as Dallas Community School (DCS) returned from recess, "educational guide" Cheri Reinky pointed out something amiss.

"Did you guys forget somebody today?" Reinky asked the students.

That somebody immediately picked up her stuffed soccer ball and brought it over to the first students pouring through the door. Phoebe, the Australian labradoodle and DCS "school dog," gave puppy eyes to the children.

"Sorry Phoebe," a number of students said in unison.

All was forgiven by Phoebe, who has her Canine Good Citizen certification, as she found a number of playmates to toss her soccer ball and pat her on the head.

Having a school dog is just the first difference you will find at DCS, which opened to students in September.



Julie Rain assists students working on projects Thursday.

While a public charter school, DCS caters to home-school families and therefore the program isn't set up like a traditional school at all. It has been described as "home schooling for busy working parents," by Wendy Sparks, a board member and parent of students "attending" the school.

At Dallas Community School there are no full days in a classroom, and no teacher fully responsible for instruction. Instead, stu-

denoons students can participate in enrichments, elective-like classes ranging from art and music to advanced writing to French.

"It's a very different model," said Dennis Schultz, the school's director. "There are three schools like it in the state, so we have been able to talk to them and to learn some things that they've learned in the four to six years they have been in existence."

Schultz, who is the former superintendent-principal of Eddyville Charter School, and his staff — four educational guides and an administrative analyst — took the board's concept and made it reality this summer. DCS secured a site at 788 SW Birch St. in Dallas and began scheduling class sessions, enrichments and several field trips for the year. Most classes and enrichments take place at the school's site, which with easily movable desks, overstuffed chairs and couches, looks nothing other schools.

See **SCHOOL**, page 14A

Officers, citizen honored for bravery

Foursome pulled injured Polk County deputy from burning patrol car in July

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The four men who saved the life of Polk County Sheriff's deputy Shon Latty after his patrol car crashed and burst into flames in July were honored for their heroism Oct. 7.

Polk County Sheriff Bob Wolfe presented Polk deputy Casey Gibson, Dallas Police officers Colby Hamilton and Jim Rodriguez, and private citizen Jeremiah Halleman awards and letters of commendation during the Polk County Board of Commissioners.

Latty, who attended the

meeting Wednesday, said seeing the foursome recognized for their actions was "awesome."

"They deserve it," he said. "Words don't explain it. I love these guys."

The four men scrambled to remove Latty from his burning police car following a crash, which happened on July 8.

Latty had been responding as backup on a domestic violence incident in Marion County after the Marion County Sheriff's Office deputy and Independence police officer on scene called for assistance. Latty, followed by Gibson, was



Shon Latty's patrol car was badly damaged in the crash.

driving down Monmouth Cutoff Road in Dallas passing cars when his vehicle and a truck turning onto Godsey Road collided.

See **AWARD**, page 14A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS NEWS

Veterans helping veterans. That's what the organizers of the new Polk County Battle Buddies veterans' support group hope will happen after it begins meeting this month.

Battle Buddies will hold its first monthly gathering Monday starting at 6 p.m. at West Valley Hospital, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas.

A partnership between the local chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, the group will be modeled after one of the same name in Salem.

»Page 15A

FALLS CITY NEWS

The city of Falls City will consider changing its code to allow marijuana dispensaries to open, but there's a catch.

If the Falls City City Council approves restrictions it appears to support, there would be no place for one to open.

The city code requires business to comply with federal law, which does not recognize marijuana as legal. Mayor Terry Ungricht suggested changing the code to technically allow a dispensary to open in the city, but using its discretion to restrict locations to make it nearly impossible to find a place to operate one.

»Page 2A

INDEPENDENCE NEWS

A Central High student will be referred on a charge of disorderly conduct after making a threat of violence at the school.

Central School District officials and Independence police learned of the threat on the evening Oct. 6 and sent a message to parents that night informing them of the threat.

The threat, posted to Facebook and Twitter by someone other than the suspect, went viral on Oct. 6.

Several calls were made to police and to district officials, spurring an immediate investigation.

»Page 15A

MONMOUTH NEWS

Taylor McClure carefully guides the teal T-shirt and wooden block under the massive roller on a press at Western Oregon University.

The roller has to be completely level or the print won't turn out right. He pauses, picking up a massive wrench fabricated especially for this homemade press, adjusting the roller before turning the giant crank to complete the process. On the other side, McClure carefully lifts the wooden block to reveal an embossed black print of a lizard.

"It's pretty cool," said Megan Leach, third-year student at WOU.

»Page 16A

POLK COUNTY NEWS

Two candidates are seeking appointment as interim Polk County sheriff and interviewed for the job Tuesday.

Polk Detective Sgt. Mark Garton, of Dallas, and Yamhill County Patrol Sgt. Todd Whitlow, of Sheridan, both applied for the temporary post and went through interviews with the Polk County commissioners Tuesday.

Both have filed to be elected sheriff in the May 2016 primary, as well. The candidate the board picks will take over the job on Dec. 1.

»Page 15A

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed Want to talk science and religion? "Brew and BS" at St. Thomas Episcopal in Dallas fits the bill, but it's BYOB. 7 p.m. Free.	thu Soup and pie is on sale for a good cause at the Monmouth Senior Center. Clam chowder or chicken noodle? 11 a.m. Free.	fri Guthrie Park's Acoustic Music Jam should fill a fall Friday night with tunes the whole family will enjoy. 7 p.m. Free.	sat If you have shopping on your to-do list stop by Independence for the Riverview and Original farmer's markets. 9 a.m. Free.	sun Dallas Wingdingers Remote Control Flying Club is hosting a demonstration at Whitworth Elementary School in Dallas. 1-3 p.m. Free.	mon The American Red Cross is always in need of blood donations. You can help at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. 12:30 p.m. Free.	tue James2 Community Kitchen offers a free meal to all who are hungry at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas. 4:30-6 p.m. Free.
Mostly sunny Hi: 74 Lo: 49	Sunny Hi: 77 Lo: 50	Mostly sunny Hi: 76 Lo: 52	Showers Hi: 65 Lo: 49	Showers Hi: 67 Lo: 49	Showers Hi: 67 Lo: 48	Partly cloudy Hi: 68 Lo: 49

0 94922 61652 4