

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

Volume 140, Issue 46

www.Polkio.com

November 18, 2015

75¢

Gas and tech co. to make new fuel options

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — In a matter of months, the former Tyco building in Dallas could be known around town by a new name: the American Gas & Technology building.

The company purchased the building on Monmouth Cutoff Road in Dallas in October, and the facility has been buzzing with activity in the last few weeks.

The company will produce liquid natural gas (LNG) as an alternative fuel for the transportation industry, John Temple, the company's director of capital markets, said in an email.

The company's patented technology could develop LNG fueling stations.

Temple said the Dallas location will have "the only nano-scale, on-site production of LNG in the world."

"Although we've been around a while, we're essentially a new start-up technology," Temple said. "Our Dallas facility will not only be our corporate headquarters, but it will be where we'll be our manufacturing and fabrication of the actual liquefiers."

He said the company is busy with preparing the facility. It will take a few months before it's ready to open its doors.

Dallas city officials said they are looking forward to working with the company and are excited about the potential for its future.

"We continue to try to be helpful to them," said Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin. "What they are doing, I'm super excited



that they bought the building and are moving forward. I think the sky's the limit for what they can do for this community.

Foggin said, given the amount of natural gas available in the United States, the technology could prove groundbreaking.

"This easily could be an international company with what they developed," Foggin said. "Having them start here in Dallas, Ore., it's awesome. We are excited to have them here."



Becca Hazel folds a box after unpacking boxes of macaroni and cheese on Monday at Western's food pantry. EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLF

WOU pantry food drive aims to help at least 50 families

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — More than half of the students at Western Oregon University don't know where their next meal is coming from. One in four classified staff members need help getting food.

"We're not talking about students who are eating ramen," said Jackson Stalley, chairman of Friends of the Food Pantry. "We are talking about students who aren't eating."

WOU's food pantry was established in 2011 to help both struggling staff members and students. To help organize the efforts, Christie Colasurdo was hired this year to be the student director of the pantry.

How you can help

What: Western Oregon University's Food Pantry Thanksgiving food drive.

When: Now through Friday.

Where: Donation boxes are outside the ASWOU's office in the Werner University Center, or at the food pantry itself, located in the Academic Programs and Services building on the bottom floor.

Of note: The food pantry needs donations throughout the week and year, but for this occasion, it is looking for things specifically for a traditional Thanksgiving meal: stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, turkey or ham, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. Cookbooks and cooking supplies also are accepted. Thanksgiving dinners will be distributed on Monday while supplies last at Werner Center.

For more information: 360-704-9315.

Along with the task of getting the word out about the pantry's mission, Colasurdo wanted to make sure every student has a good meal for Thanksgiving. A special food

drive to help accomplish that is underway this week, ending on Friday.

"We always have the food pantry open five days a week, so they can always

come in, but I really wanted to get people a nice Thanksgiving meal," she said.

Colasurdo comes from a large Italian family and has fond memories of very traditional holiday celebrations.

"It's something I look forward to, not just because I get to eat — I mean, obviously the food is a great bonus — but it's just the community and having something to look forward to and having a meal to bring people together, and that's what the importance of it is," she said. "Imagine if you didn't have a turkey; that would be awkward."

This isn't the first time the food pantry has aimed to collect donations for something specific.

See FOOD, Page 5A

Dallas reacts to city councilor's posts

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — After a week of media scrutiny, public debate, protest and calls for council action, testimony at Monday's Dallas City Council meeting displayed more support than disagreement with Councilor Micky Garus' remarks about Muslims posted last week.

"That is the beauty about this country, we can say what we want," Garus said. "... I raised awareness about things that are important to a lot of Americans and, because I said what I said, and we are having a conversation."

Many who spoke Monday thanked Garus for bringing attention to the topic.

"He brings up things that people think about, but don't say in the open," said Dallas resident Lynnette Henshaw. "He says them and we all start talking, like we are now, and bringing it up and I



Dallas City Councilor Micky Garus listens to testimony. LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

think it's a good thing."

Not all people at the meeting agreed with what he said or that he posted his views on a Facebook page entitled "Micky Garus Dallas City Councilman." One resident called for him to resign and another called his opinions "hate speech."

"When these views are prefaced by your position as a councilman, they are seen as a reflection of values of the entire city," said Dallas

resident Deborah Kelley. "Mr. Garus' statements were made in a public forum as a councilman. These words do not reflect my values as a citizen of Dallas."

On Nov. 7, Garus wrote, and then deleted, a Facebook post in response to a city in Michigan electing a majority of Muslims to its city council. Garus wrote he believed that was the "beginning of a new era in our country" and feared the im-

plementation of Sharia Law. Quoting passages from the Quran, he asserted Muslims wish to harm those who do not practice the religion.

"The simple truth is Islam does not allow you to pick and choose, it does not allow for other interpretations..." he wrote. "If you support Islam, you believe in Jihad and wish to kill all nonbelievers."

On Nov. 10, in response to criticism, Garus issued a statement, saying his posts do not represent the position of the city of Dallas, or the opinions of his fellow councilors.

But he did not back down from what he said. Ken Kirby, an adjunct assistant professor who teaches all religion classes at Western Oregon University, said Garus' comments are a mischaracterization of Islam and its followers. He said the passages Garus refers to in his remarks have been taken out of context.

See POSTS, Page 5A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas School District Board of Directors makes clarification to its weapons policy.

»Page 16A

FALLS CITY

Falls City City Council defines "meeting"; hits dead end in marijuana regulations.

»Page 2A

INDEPENDENCE

The Independence Elks join forces with local businesses to help retire old flags.

»Page 3A

MONMOUTH

Western Oregon University sophomore races to the NCAA Championship.

»Page 10A

SPORTS

See who made the 2015 all-region volleyball team.

»Page 12A

EDUCATION

After more than 10 years in the making, the first steps come true for the Bridgeport Community Center dream.

»Pages 16A

CRIME

Officers have been diligent in arresting people driving under the influence of intoxicants.

»Pages 14A

WVH volunteers to hold fundraiser

DALLAS — West Valley Hospital Volunteer Services will hold a jewelry fundraiser Monday and Tuesday.

The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the main conference room at the hospital, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas.

All pieces will be on sale for \$5.99, including fashion accessories, jewelry, educational, gifts, toys, books, games and more.

Proceeds from the sale will provide scholarships to Polk County high school students pursuing a medical-related field.

For more information: 503-623-7311.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

<p>wed</p> <p>"Book of Days" continues tonight through Saturday at Western Oregon University's Rice Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. \$7-\$12.</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 51 Lo: 44</p>	<p>thu</p> <p>Come down to the Three Legged Dog for "Suds and Science," a talk about salmonids and fishing in the Luckiamute. 7-8:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Rain Hi: 53 Lo: 42</p>	<p>fri</p> <p>Feeling blue? Head to the bluegrass music jam at Faith Evangelical Free Church and listen or play along. 7-10 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Partly cloudy Hi: 51 Lo: 41</p>	<p>sat</p> <p>Falls City will host its annual Thanksgiving dinner, free for those who want to join, at the Falls City Community Center. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Partly cloudy Hi: 52 Lo: 38</p>	<p>sun</p> <p>Today is National Take a Ride Day. What better time to destress on a bike, horse, motorcycle, car, bus or train before Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Partly cloudy Hi: 53 Lo: 38</p>	<p>mon</p> <p>Take a break from the day and explore your emotions in "Inside Out," during family movie time at the Indy library. 3 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 52 Lo: 38</p>	<p>tue</p> <p>Bring your creativity with you to the Monmouth library for a "crafternoon" with a Thanksgiving theme. 2 p.m. Free.</p> <p>Showers Hi: 47 Lo: 33</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---	--

0 94922 61652 4