

Polk County
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New DHS offices going up in North Dallas

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Construction is humming off West Ellendale near Rite-Aid in Dallas, even with the recent inhospitable weather.

One of the construction projects is a Department of Human Services (DHS) building that will combine programs offered at two facilities the agency leases in Dallas. The agency operates child welfare and self-sufficiency programs for Polk County clients at its offices in downtown Dallas and another location off East Ellendale Avenue.

Linda Riddell, the administrator for the Office of Facilities Management for DHS, said the new office building will house both programs in one place, offering better efficiency in

terms of cost and time. "It will combine those two facilities and it will be a little bigger," Riddell said.

More room means clients of the agency's Jobs Program be will able to use expanded classrooms, computer and resource spaces, for example. Services include helping people apply for jobs and write resumes.

"For one thing, we will have adequate space to provide services to clients and meet mandates from the federal government for us to do that," Riddell said.

Once finished, the new building will be 32,470-square feet. White Oak Construction is the contractor on the project and started work in mid-November. The company has worked on a number of DHS projects, including a remodel of the fourth and fifth floors of the DHS lo-



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Oregon Department of Human Services is building a new office off West Ellendale Avenue in Dallas. The 32,470-square foot building is slated to be done in spring.

cation in downtown Salem. The building, to be called the Multi-Service Center, is

located at 190 W. Ellendale Ave. It is slated to be finished in late spring 2016.

Riddell said the agency is scheduled to move into the new facility in June 2016.

**IN
YOUR
TOWN**

DALLAS

Dallas High School senior Marcos Molina has surprised everyone on the wrestling mat — even himself.

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FALLS CITY

Falls City looks for an organization to take over July 3 festivities, including the parade.

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INDEPENDENCE

Nutria can cause havoc on wetlands, native muskrats. Find out how to control the animals in Independence.

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MONMOUTH

Monmouth Independence Networks board of directors seeks new revenue sources for the company.

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POLK COUNTY

Local organizations offer a variety of activities for children and adults during winter break.

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SPORTS

Central's wrestling team won its home invitational on Friday.

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Food For All 260,000 pounds strong



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Perrydale students repack potatoes into family-sized portions at the school on Thursday. Each family receives about 40 pounds of fresh produce.

Volunteer 'trucks' on for a good cause

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Food For All, Perrydale FFA's annual holiday food collection, only works because of coordination of many moving parts.

A few of those parts have 18 wheels and a trailer.

John Cruickshank has, for more than 10 years, volunteered his time and semi-truck to help the critical and growing program with moving donated food from farmer or processor to where it is packaged to given to those in need.

Cruickshank, also a Perrydale School Board member and graduate of the school, said he doesn't have the time to volunteer in classrooms, so this is his way of helping out a program that teaches so many important lessons.

"My goal is to try to give back to the school as much as I can," he said.

When the final tally is made, Food For All will have collected and distributed about 260,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to families and food banks from Polk County to Coos Bay to Union.

Food For All does more than provide nourishment for the needy.

"I think it's outstanding," said Perrydale agricultural teacher and FFA advisor Christina Lorenz. "It teaches students so much about giving back to their community."

Former Perrydale teacher and longtime program coordinator Kirk Hutchinson agrees.

"When kids go to the delivery places, they get their eyes opened," he said. "Those people are so incredibly grateful to receive this bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables that not everyone gets this time of year."

That is the reason Cruick-



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

John Cruickshank has volunteered his truck for Food For All for more than 10 years.

shank believes it is so important to support it.

He's proud to watch his son, Devin Cruickshank, an officer in Perrydale FFA, juggle his schedule to give every-

thing he can to the effort.

Over the years, he's watched Food For All have the same impact on other students.

"It shows them where it

(the food) goes," he said. "It's fun to see the kids interact with me as the truck driver and all the different farmers and processors."

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Central serving lunch to those 17 and younger during break

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Central School District will offer free lunch to anyone 17 and younger during Winter break, Monday through Thursday, noon to 12:30 p.m. at Henry Hill Education Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.

This is the fourth year Central has offered a winter lunch program.

Last year, 40 to 50 children were served per day.

The district hosts some simple activities during lunch, also.

For more information:central.k12.or.us.

**THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK**



wed
Need a last-minute Christmas gift or to unwind before the holiday hits? Head to the Boondocks for painting and drinks. 7 p.m. \$30.
Rain and wind
Hi: 44
Lo: 34

thu
Wake up at the crack of dawn to help make Christmas wishes come true by volunteering at Christmas Cheer. 6 a.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 40
Lo: 33

fri
Enjoy a free meal, served by volunteers and members of St. Philips Church, open to anyone in the community. Noon-2 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 42
Lo: 32

sat
Dallas Aquatic Center will host an adults-only swim tonight, perfect to unwind after the busy holiday. 9-10 p.m. \$2.50.
Showers
Hi: 43
Lo: 34

sun
Sing old-time hymns and bluegrass at the Jubilee Service at Calvary Chapel. Hand-clapping is encouraged. 6:30 p.m. Free.
Rain
Hi: 45
Lo: 37

mon
Develop a new talent with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra, which meets each Monday. 6:30 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 44
Lo: 36

tue
Get an early start to weight-loss goals at the weekly TOPS meeting in Dallas. The group also meets in Monmouth. 6 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 46
Lo: 36