

## Deputy dies after cancer battle

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
POLK COUNTY — Curtis Alexander, a Polk County Jail deputy, died Friday after a battle with a rare blood cancer.

Polk County Sheriff's Office announced Monday that Alexander died while being treated at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle.

Alexander was diagnosed in February of 2015 with

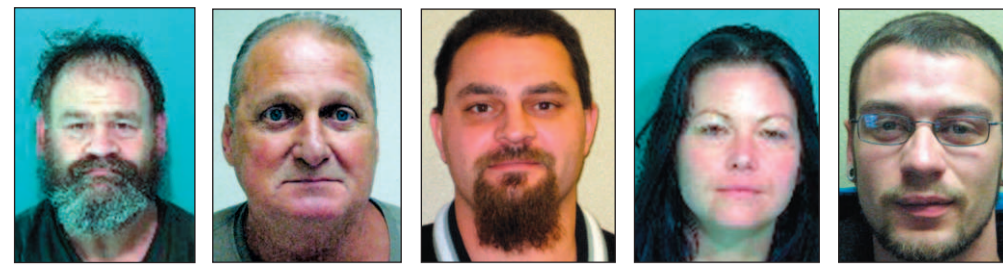
Burkitt lymphoma, a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The diagnosis came just six days after his wife, Shauna, gave birth to their first child, Colton.

Alexander was hired to work in the jail on Aug. 1, 2012. Prior to being hired by Polk County he worked for the Oregon Department of Corrections. Alexander was also a reserve deputy for the Benton County Sheriff's Of-

fice in their patrol division. A gofundme account has been set up to help support Shauna and Colton: <https://www.gofundme.com/6hwcbwdw>.

A service will be held for Alexander in Washington on Jan. 30.

A small gathering will be held by the Polk County Sheriff's Office later this month, with a date to be determined.



Garbutt      Hostetter      Edmondson      Adler      Breese

## Corrections posts 'most wanted'

DALLAS — Polk County Community Corrections lists these individuals as "most wanted" for January. Citizens with information on the whereabouts of any of them can call Community Corrections at 503-623-5226.

- Glenn Alan Garbutt, born March 14, 1959, 5-8,

- 240 pounds, blonde hair, brown eyes. Charges: Sex with an animal.

- Richard Hostetter, born April 1, 1953, 5-11, 200 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes. Charges: Murder.
- Robert Arthur Edmondson III, born Jan. 1, 1984, 5-11, 195 pounds; brown hair,

- brown eyes. Charges: Burglary.

- Melissa Fern Adler, born Nov. 12, 1979, 5-6, 145 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes. Charges: Assault.

- Andrew Nicholas Breese, born Feb. 24, 1986, 5-8, 160 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes. Charges: Burglary.

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## Ready to hit the trail



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Dave and Jacque Dodson get ready to head out on the Polk County Saddle-ites New Year's Ride in Pedee on Saturday. Recent rain and last week's snow made for muddy trails, but light attendance meant no one slipped too badly. It was perfect weather for a trail ride, cloudy and cool, but not so cold that riders had frozen hands.

## Shooting nutria best way

ODFW says animals threat to environment, people, pets

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The best way to euthanize a nutria is, in fact, with a well-placed shot by a pellet gun or a .22-caliber bullet, said Derek Broman, carnivore-furbearer coordinator with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A story printed in the *Itemizer-Observer* on Dec. 23

regarding the dispatching of nutria, an invasive nonnative species in Oregon, had incorrect or outdated information about the most humane way to euthanize the creatures, Broman said.

"Nutria ... cause significant damage to ecosystems and properties," he said. "As such, the removal of nutria is a high priority to protect Oregon natural resources, property and human safety."

Outside city limits, kill traps may be set to eliminate nutria with very little risk to humans or pets, Broman said. But inside city limits, city regulations require using live traps.

"If the animal is captured with a live trap, dispatching the animal with a pellet gun is the most efficient and acceptable practice, approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association," Bro-

man said.

He noted that firearm safety should take top priority and that extreme caution should be taken.

"You are not allowed to move wildlife," Broman said. "You're not allowed to relocate that animal."

Once a nutria is caught in a live trap, the only option is to kill it, Broman said.

"Otherwise, you're just putting trouble back on the landscape, and that is inappropriate," he said.

All wildlife needs to be respected and treated humanely, Broman said.

"We need to keep our distance from them," he said. "Just because it's in a trap doesn't mean you're not at risk. Especially if you're talking about handling a firearm. A lot of bad things can happen."

For more information about nutria: [dfw.state.or.us](http://dfw.state.or.us).

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**And to all the private cash donations both small and large along with families and individuals who sponsored food items -- huge thank you!**

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**WWW.DALLASCC.ORG**

## Learn about native plants

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

RICKREALL — The Luckiamute Watershed Council is partnering with the USDA Corvallis Plant Materials Center to host a workshop about native plant propagation.

The workshop is from 6 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 21 at Rickreall Grange Hall, 105 Nesmith Road, Rickreall. RSVP to this free event is requested by Tuesday.

Participants will learn about propagation of native riparian trees and shrubs, from cuttings to seed; winter twig identification; seed collection techniques, how and when to collect seed; what plants are best to buy as bare-root plants; and plant collection and permit information.

Plant selection will focus on riparian plants and will include willows, dogwood, elderberry, mock orange, spirea, oceanspray, cottonwood, Oregon ash, Oregon Grape and vine maple.

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

To RSVP or for more information: 503-391-9927 or email [office@marionswdc.net](mailto:office@marionswdc.net).

## Dallas renters find cheaper insurance

DALLAS — Rent a home or apartment in Dallas? Your renter's insurance is most likely to be on the cheaper side compared to other communities in the state.

That is according to a study of rental insurance costs performed by consumer and financial research firm ValuePenguin.

The study took a sample property with 1,000-square feet of living space and \$100,000 in liability coverage and compared rates in 58 cities in Oregon. Dallas ranked 16th with an average cost of \$221 per year. Tigard was the cheapest at \$207 and Portland was the most expensive at \$273.

The state average cost was \$232. For more information or to see the study, go to [www.valuepenguin.com/best-cheap-renters-insurance-oregon](http://www.valuepenguin.com/best-cheap-renters-insurance-oregon).