

Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**  
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# GRADUATION GAINS

**Perrydale teacher and administrator Dan Dugan speaks to the school's Class of 2015 in June. Perrydale was one of three school districts that saw significant increases in on-time grad rates for the 2014-15 school year. Perrydale had a 100 percent rate, and Dallas and Central numbers improved.**

*State's annual report mistakenly lists Central's four-year rates as significantly lower*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Dallas, Perrydale and Central made big gains in their on-time graduation rates for the 2014-15 school year, though Central's may not read that way on the state report.

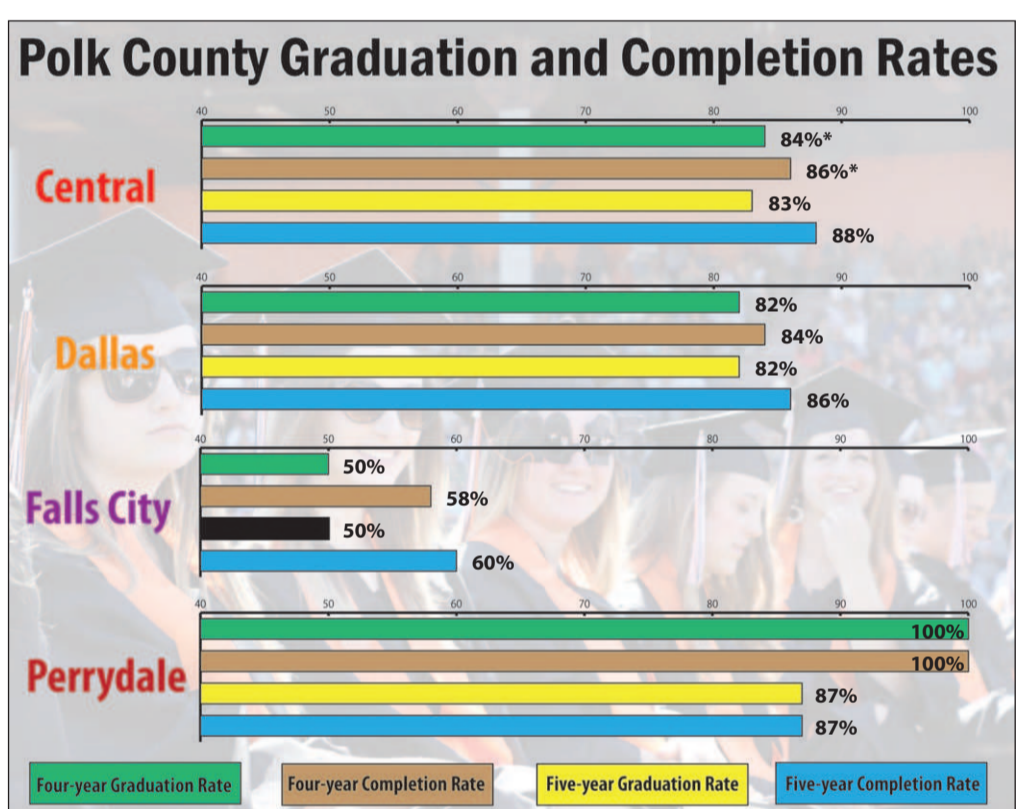
The four-year graduation rate tracks the number of students who enrolled in ninth grade in 2011-12 and earned diplomas within four years.

Perrydale notched a perfect 100 percent graduation rate, up from 87 percent in 2013-14.

Dallas improved to 82 percent from 66 percent in the previous year, according to a report from the Oregon Department of Education released Thursday.

Central's officially reported rate fell just slightly to 72 percent from 73 percent, but that excludes 26 kids who were part of the district's fifth-year program.

Those students completed all work needed to earn a regular diploma and should



\* A reporting mistake has Central's rates at 72 percent and 74 percent for its four-year grad and completion rates on ODE's report. Source: Oregon Dept. of Education and Central School District

have been included in the four-year rate, said Superintendent Buzz Brazeau. Students in the fifth-year program are awarded an "advanced diploma" after finishing a year of classes at Chemeketa Community College.

Brazeau said in the state's report only two students were listed in the "diploma earned but not awarded" category when it should have included 28.

He said the mistake was caught too late to change before the data was released, but it will be reported accurately in next year's report.

If those students had been included, Central's rate would have been 84 percent. "It would make it significantly different, but it did not get reported or categorized correctly so we are stuck with the number they show," Brazeau said.

In recent years, Dallas has put its focus on helping students meet "essential skills" requirements in math and language arts, said Dallas High School Principal Steve Spencer.

Essential skills are achievement benchmarks in the subjects of reading, writing and math that students must meet in order to graduate.

See GRAD, Page 15A

## IN YOUR TOWN

**DALLAS**  
The Dallas City Council considers a street bond and utility fee to help with upkeep and repair for the city's roads.  
»Page 2A

**FALLS CITY**  
A Kickstarter campaign is underway to help finish the sequel to "Manos: The Hands of Fate."  
»Page 5A

**INDEPENDENCE**  
Monmouth-Independence Networks Board of Directors approved an 11 percent increase in cable rates.  
»Page 2A

**MONMOUTH**  
Western Oregon officials and teachers are at an impasse at negotiations over salaries.  
»Page 16A

**SPORTS**  
Central swimmer AnneMarie Hasbrook has become the Panthers' quiet leader.  
»Page 10A

**POLK COUNTY**  
Central and Dallas high schools will co-host the Oregon Thespians Southern Regional Acting Competition on Saturday at CHS.  
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**Dallas woman dies in accident**

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
DALLAS — A Dallas woman died Friday following an accident in which she accidentally set her clothing on fire while trying to warm herself next to her fireplace.  
Dallas Fire & EMS responded to the call in the 300 block of Southeast Mill Street, which came in at 4:21 p.m. Thursday. Crews took her to Dallas High School's football field, where they were met by Life Flight air ambulance. The woman was flown to the burn center at Emanuel Hospital in Portland.  
She died of her injuries on Friday.  
Dallas Fire & EMS did not release more information about victim, including her name, by press time.

## Fatal crash on Washington Street Friday

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A young girl was killed Friday night in Dallas in a collision between a car and pedestrian.

Officers responded to a report that a person had been hit by a car near the intersection of Washington and Shelton streets at about 6 p.m. Friday.

Dallas Police Lt. Jerry Mott said the girl was crossing Washington Street from north to south at the unmarked crosswalk at Shelton and was about two-thirds across when an eastbound sedan struck her.

The girl, Arianna Mattson, 12, was taken to the hospital but did not survive her in-

juries, according to police.

Dallas Police did not release the girl's name due to her young age or the driver's name. A death notice was submitted to the *Itemizer-Observer* (see Obituaries, Page 6A). LaCreole Middle School included her name with her family's permission in a post on its Facebook page about counseling available for students on Monday.

Mattson was a sixth-grader at LaCreole.

Mott said there was no indication speed or impairment from drugs or alcohol. He added the driver was not distracted, sleepy or having medical issues that could have contributed to the crash.

Visibility on the dark and

rainy night could have been a significant factor in the accident Mott said. He said the street light on the south side of the road was working, but the light on the north side was out at the time of the accident.

"I believe the driver just didn't see her," Mott said. "There's nothing to suggest the driver has done anything criminal."

As the crash resulted in a fatality, the Polk County District Attorney's Office will make final decisions on the investigation.

A celebration of life for Mattson will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Sundial Mobile Home Park Community Center, 2300 Lancaster Drive SE, Salem.



**A memorial has been set up for Arianna Mattson on Washington Street in Dallas where the accident occurred.**

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

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
Grab your yarn and knitting needles or crochet hook and start "Yarning for Others" at St. Thomas Church. 3-5 p.m. Free.	Enjoy coloring with other adults at Monmouth Public Library. Supplies are provided for this relaxing pastime. 5:30 p.m. Free.	Guthrie Park Community Center on Kings Valley Highway will be alive with music at its acoustic jam session. 7-10 p.m. Free.	Head down to the Rickreall Grange Hall for its monthly flea market and enjoy breakfast or lunch, and baked goods. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.	"KP and the Kings," a quartet from Polk County, will perform gospel music a cappella at Grace Baptist Church. 11 a.m. Free.	Meet more people who share your gardening passion at the new Dallas Garden Club at Evangelical Bible Church. 7 p.m. Free.	Eat pancakes and get ready for Lent with Shrove Tuesday at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. All are welcome. 5-6:30 p.m. Free.
Rain Hi: 47 Lo: 42	Showers Hi: 51 Lo: 39	Rain Hi: 53 Lo: 40	Cloudy Hi: 50 Lo: 37	Cloudy Hi: 60 Lo: 40	Sunny Hi: 59 Lo: 41	Partly Sunny Hi: 62 Lo: 43