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Sheriff forming citizens' advisory group

By **Jolene Guzman**
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Sheriff Mark Garton is looking for Polk County residents to serve on his office's soon-to-be formed volunteer Sheriff's Advisory Team.

"The advisory team is in place to provide advice and guidance as it pertains to the relationship between the office of the sheriff and the citizens of the county," Garton wrote in a description of the team's mission.

The team will consist of nine members, five of which have already been selected by the sheriff. The remaining four at-large spots will be selected by the existing members.

The five members already appointed are: Grand Ronde Tribal Councilor Denise Harvey; Dallas City Councilor Bill Hahn; West Salem Neighborhood Association Co-chairman Evan Sorce; West Salem resident Angie Hedrick; and Falls City resident and Dallas business owner Amy Houghtaling.

Applications are available for the other four spots.

Candidates have until March 9 to apply.

Once up and running, Garton said the team will be reviewing issues relating to law enforcement, quality of life in each part of the county and the office's programs, such as its reserve program.

He's hoping to have each region of the county well-represented and will rely on the team's insight to improve the service the office provides to county residents.

"I will be going to all of those meetings, so there will be a direct connection," Garton said.

Team members will be expected to attend regular meetings, monthly or quarterly, and will be appointed to a two-year term. Ongoing training will be provided.

Those selected to serve will receive a minimum of 10 hours of training in the first six months and will need to undergo a background check. Ongoing training will be required.

For more information about the team or to apply, contact Sheriff Mark Garton at Garton.Mark@co.polk.or.us, or 503-623-9251. Applications also can be found at <http://www.co.polk.or.us/ms/volunteer-application>.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Ron Lines honored posthumously for lifelong work in Dallas, parks

By **Jolene Guzman**
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Enjoyed a visit to a park in Dallas lately?

Much of the credit for that belongs to the late Ron Lines, Dallas' parks supervisor for many years.

Lines, 50, died suddenly last month, but in a life that was far too short, Dallas City Council President Jim Fairchild said Lines had a positive impact on many.

"Here's a guy, he has done a good job in everything that he's tried," Fairchild said.

Fairchild was Dallas' mayor when the city hired Lines in its parks department, but had known him since he was in elementary school. Lines and Fairchild's daughter were in the same tight-knit class. Later, Fairchild would teach Lines at Dallas High School.

He describes Lines as fun-loving but "a well-rounded student" who might have been known to cause some trouble from time to time.

Fairchild remembers him more for another trait: community mindedness.

"If he could help you, he stopped whatever he was doing and he would help you," he said.

That showed in what Lines chose to do in his free time. He was a Scout leader and Kids Inc. softball coach.

Lines spent most of his life in Dallas, graduating from DHS in 1983. He left Dallas after graduation but quickly returned, working for a number of local businesses, including Praegitzer Indus-

tries and Dallas Planing Mill. Soon he started his own business, Ron's Lawns, and eventually took a job with the Dallas School District on grounds maintenance.

Fairchild said with every role he took on, Lines steadily worked his way to the top. When Lines joined the city parks crew, he did the same.

"It wasn't very long before he was the head of the park system," Fairchild said. "He did it well and was more than willing to put in the extra time."

Friday, Dallas will honor that legacy by posthumously presenting Lines with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 59th annual Community Awards Banquet hosted by the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce.

See **AWARDS**, Page 6A



COURTESY OF DALLAS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/Itemizer-Observer
Ron Lines moves some dirt at a Dallas park.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file
Ron Lines, left, helps plant trees in Dallas, boosting the city's "Tree City USA" designation.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

New bill will allow Dallas High School's Extended Campus to continue.

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FALLS CITY

Falls City may get help from FEMA to rebuild Dutch Creek Crossing.

»Page 5A

INDEPENDENCE

Independence continues to work with technology companies to bring innovation to town.

»Page 3A

MONMOUTH

Burgerville will host its first monthly Family Literacy Night, complete with stories, coloring and free kids cones.

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SPORTS

Dallas junior Jolie-Rae Ford and senior Elizabeth Dressel are headed to the OSAA Class 5A Swim State Championships.

»Page 12A

Elementary students raise money for balls

Itemizer-Observer staff report
MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — A pair of classes at Monmouth and Independence Elementary Schools are holding a special fundraiser.

Ms. Ward's fourth-grade class at MES and Mrs. Olsen's fifth-grade class at IES recently completed a unit on energy.

Both classes are holding fundraisers to purchase soccer balls that convert kinetic energy into light.

Mrs. Olsen's class is holding an "Energy Store" to purchase balls, which can be used as a light source in third world countries.

Ms. Ward's class is holding a penny drive through the end of February.

The class set a goal of 10,000 pennies to purchase balls.

For each soccer ball purchased, a soccer ball is sent to a country in need.

For more information: aolsen@central.k12.or.us; or kward@central.k12.or.us.

More information will be available in next week's issue of the Itemizer-Observer.

Going back in time



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
A crowd gathered in downtown Dallas Thursday to see the relighting of the Blue Garden sign. More on Page 7A.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
Come to Western Oregon University and hear author Maren Anderson read from her new book, "Fuzzy Logic." 3 p.m. Free.	The Independence Elks Lodge hosts a monthly veterans night, complete with dinner and speakers. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Thought about quilting but the idea of squares is too much? Join Arlene Kovash for classes at the senior center. 1 to 4 p.m. Free.	Indulge in a little historic mystery at the museum as Tom Branigar shares the story of Polk County's first murder. 1:30 p.m. Free.	Learn to fly without the risk at Dallas Wingdiggers RC Flying Club at Whitworth Elementary School gym. 1 to 3 p.m. Free.	Donate blood and help save a life at the American Red Cross blood drive at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. 12:30-6:30 p.m. Free.	Take your old bananas and make some bread to celebrate National Banana Bread Day, celebrated every Feb. 23.	
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