

Gophers create hazard at fair

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

RICKREAL — Gophers, building maintenance and an official move to a three-day fair.

Those were the topics on the Polk County Fair Board's annual meeting on Saturday. Fair Board Chairwoman Anna Scharf said the fairgrounds lost its maintenance manager a few months ago and hasn't been able to replace him. For that reason, projects slated for completion this year are in limbo.

In the long term, facilities issues at the Polk County Fairgrounds & Events Center go beyond finding a new maintenance manager.

Greg Hansen, Polk County administrator, said for the last two years, the county has had to send the fairgrounds about \$50,000 for projects from its economic development fund. In 2015-16, the fairgrounds will need that and a \$50,000 to \$75,000 infusion from the county's general fund.

Hansen said it doesn't appear that will be a one-time thing.

"It is something that is probably going to be necessary to keep this facility operational and safe for the people who use it," Hansen said. "That is where this organization is going. It cannot pay for itself."

For that reason, he's likely to make a proposal for going out for a county maintenance



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Gopher holes, like this one, make for dangerous walking on the Polk County Fairground & Event Center lawn.

nance bond. Polk's road bond will expire in fiscal year 2016-17, giving the county an opportunity to ask voters to support other infrastructure needs throughout the county, including the fairgrounds.

If it moves forward, the proposal would be for \$8 million to \$9 million and cost less than the 52 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value paid for the road bond.

"It would not go to build new buildings, but to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure," Hansen said.

He added Polk County Budget Committee or the Board of Commissioners hasn't had a formal discussion or made a decision yet, something Commissioner Craig Pope made clear.

"It's just exploration, consideration, trying to plan for what would happen," he said.

For the immediate future,

it was suggested the fair hold volunteer work days to address some basic maintenance issues. Fair Board member Tammy Dennee volunteered to organize those days if enough people would agree to help.

"Everyone has some sort of knowledge base, so if we all pull together, we could get it done," she said.

As for the gophers, if you've ever taken a stroll on the pasture-playground area at the fairground, you know to watch your step. It's a gopher haven and the critters have made their presence known with fresh mounds and holes generously dotting the landscape pretty much year-round.

It's a problem of Cadyshack proportions that has plagued the fairgrounds for decades. Fair Manager Tina Andersen said she contacted experts for help, but hasn't been able to find a solution.

Pope suggested the fair board and the commissioners all work on trying to find a business, organization or individual who would be willing to create a gopher-free zone.

"It really does change the entire face of the fair when we have a really nice yard that people want to come hang out at," Pope said. "This is not a yard people want to spend any time on."

Annoying burrowing animals aside, there was plenty of positive reports from the 2015 fair.

Last year's experiment with holding a three-day fair was a success, so the board decided to do it again. The 2016 schedule will be Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 11-13, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The beer and wine garden is returning with a more visible location and an independent operator. Feedback from last year's new food vendors was overwhelmingly positive, and Andersen is working to add more variety.

Scharf said the opening night rodeo caused what could be considered a positive problem: It was so popular that there wasn't enough seating. She said the board and Andersen are brainstorming ways to make more seats available for the rodeo in 2016.

"That rodeo brought in so many folks that we are going to figure out how to make it happen," Scharf said.

FEMA may foot the bill for FC bridge

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City may receive money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to rebuild Dutch Creek Crossing, which washed out during December's heavy rains.

The Falls City bridge was among a number of bridges and roads that were damaged in the storm that were included in a bid for federal funding Polk County submitted following Gov. Kate Brown's emergency declaration.

"We did get a declaration, it's not official, of emergency from FEMA," said Mayor Terry Ungricht at Thursday's city council meeting. "I'm thinking the president is going to sign it."

If that happens, the city will be able to repair the aging bridge with grant resources already secured from the Bureau of Land Management.

"We are hoping with the \$95,000 (from BLM) and FEMA money, we can resolve Dutch Creek," Ungricht said.

Ungricht said the city also is attempting to move forward with a plan for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and securing funding to complete it.

He said for Falls City to apply for a Community Development Block Grant, the city would have to prove that 51 percent of residents fall below the "low income" threshold. The last census had low income levels at 48.5 percent. Ungricht said he will be getting bids from Portland State University and Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments for the cost of performing that survey.

"We are still in the development stages of what exactly we have to do, but we're still moving forward on that," Ungricht said.

In other business, the council:

- Heard an update from business owner Kirby Frink about the status of the former gas station in town. He owns the property on North Main Street where the tanks and pumps are located and said the expiration date of the "temporary closure" on the tanks is approaching.

Frink said he's at the point of deciding whether to put the station back into use or seek an extension of the temporary closure and wanted to find out where the council stood on the issue.

All councilors and Ungricht said they would be supportive of efforts to bring a gas station back to town.

POLK COUNTY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DALLAS

Calvary Chapel Dallas Currently meeting for worship and verse by verse Bible teaching at 628 SE Jefferson St. www.calvarydallas.com Worship service begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday school is available from youth ministry and below to nursery. Wednesday evening cafe-style Old Testament study starting at 6:30 pm. Come join us for a relaxed study around a cup of coffee or drink. Mens prayer is Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Womens Bible studies are scheduled also, call for times. Last Sunday of the month Jubilee Service, old time hymns and bluegrass music, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Community invited. The Pastor/Teacher is Larry King. Come join us and be a part of God's family here in Dallas. For more information call 503-831-1074.

Church of God of Prophecy New Beginnings - 575 SW Ash St., (corner of Ash & Stump St.) Pastor Travis Clemons, 541-671-0375. Bible Study Sunday 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. We welcome all to come and get acquainted with our Pastor and his wife Christina. Home Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Associate Pastor Jim Dickason 503-302-9816.

Church of Christ - 691 N.E. Kings Valley Hwy. Sunday Class 9:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Sunday Afternoon Service 2:00 P.M. Thursday evening Bible Study 7:00 P.M. We follow the New Testament Plan of Salvation in becoming a Christian and the Pattern of the N. T. Church. We would be glad to study the Bible with you and answer any of your questions. We would like to present a very helpful one hour overview of the Bible. Call 503-831-4886.

Dallas Alliance Church - 775 E. Ellendale, Dallas, 503-623-2265, Email office@dallasalliance.org, Lead Pastor Jim Jamieson; and Youth/Children's Pastor Lance Baker; Every Sunday: classes for all ages at 9:15 a.m., Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m., (Nursery provided for a.m. services); Tuesdays: Youth Night 7:00 p.m. in Ediger Hall; Wednesdays: Adult Prayer Meeting 1:00 p.m., Choir practice 6:45 p.m. Call for info on current Bible Studies. Web: dallasalliance.org.

Dallas Church - PO Box 462, Dallas, OR 97338, 503-623-2711. Worship Gatherings: Sundays 10am. Meeting at 450 SE Washington St., Dallas OR 97338. Atmosphere is relaxed, families & children welcome, come as you are, current music & relevant teaching about Jesus. Pastor: Ben Bauman. www.dallaschurch.org.

Dallas Foursquare Church—Located at 976 SW Hayter St. on the corner of Washington and Hayter. Worship Service: Sundays at 10am. Youth Group: Sundays 6pm to 8pm. Pastor: Darrin Hausler. We are a multi-generational church with a heart for our community. Our mission is to Love God and Love People to Extend His Kingdom. For more info call us at 503-623-8277 or visit us online at dallasfour.com.

Dallas Presbyterian Church invites you: Warm, spirit-filled fellowship with traditional Sunday worship 10:30 am, engaging discussion study groups, prayer "chain" and a loving spirit.—Adult Sunday School 9 am, men's breakfasts Tuesdays at 7 am, women's groups, needle crafts group and Indoor Play Park (for children with accompanying parent). Sensitivity to older adult accessibility and needs. 789 SW Levens, Dallas. 623-3397 dalpreschurch@gmail.com.

Evangelical Bible Church - 1175 S.E. Howe, Dallas 503-623-2331. Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe, Youth Pastor Nathan Ensz. Sunday: Worship *8:00 a.m.; *10:45 a.m.; *6:00 p.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; High School Youth Group 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Tuesday: MOPS *9:00 a.m.; Wednesday: AWANA - 6:30 p.m.; Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.; Thursday: Bible Studies *9:00 a.m. & *7:00 p.m. (women); Thursday Group Bible Study 2:00 p.m. *Nursery care provided.

Faith Evangelical Free Church - 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas, 503-623-8034; Interim Pastor Dennis Beatty, Associate Pastor Ed Suter, Worship Pastor Ted Kitzmiller, Youth Pastor Aaron Swank, Ministry of Children & Family Debbie Davies. Sunday School 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday High School Youth Group 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Please call or visit our website for information about other meetings. www.faithfreechurch.org

First Baptist Church - 245 S.W. Church St., Dallas, 503-623-5189; www.gofbc.org; Church Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 am - 2:30 pm; Pastor Rick Bratton 503-551-9561; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 6-7 p.m.; Everyone Welcome!

First Christian Church - Joyfully Worshipping & Serving 1079 S.E. Jefferson Street, Dallas, 503-623-2569. Pastor Darren Anderson. "Live Wire Worship" with Praise Team - 8:30 a.m., Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School - 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. (Nursery provided), Men's Bible Study - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Christian Women's Fellowship - 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 pm (Sept through June). Please call church office for information about other meetings.

Grace Community Church - 598 E. Ellendale Ave. PO Box 69, Dallas, 503-623-4961. Senior Pastor-Dave Bertolini, Pastor of Worship & Discipleship-Ryan Bucher, Pastor of Student Ministries-Ben Pottloff. Sunday Worship: 1st Service-9:00 a.m. with Kids, Youth, & Adult Sunday School running concurrently. 2nd Worship Service-10:45 a.m. with Kids Worship running concurrently. Nursery provided for 0 - 2 year olds during both services. Office open Tuesday-Friday for office hours visit our website at www.graceindallas.org. All are welcome!

Living Hope City Church - 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. Family Worship 10:30 am. www.livinghopecitychurch.org Equipping Center & Offices 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. For more information call 503-623-6890.

Living Word Faith Fellowship - 830 SE Shelton Street, Dallas, 503-623-9062. Pastor Joan Siewert. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday service 10:00 a.m., nursery provided. Men's fellowship second Saturday of month breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Murphy's Restaurant, Dallas. Pastor Michael Van Dyke in charge of men's fellowship. Call for additional information. Website: www.proclaimhim.org

Salt Creek Baptist Church - 15075 Salt Creek Road, Dallas, 503-623-2976. Senior pastor David Curtis. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship 10:50 a.m. Nursery provided for worship services. Classes for all ages. Wednesday Senior High and Middle School Youth at 6:30 p.m. Please call for information about other meetings or visit our website at www.saltcreekchurch.org.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 589 SW Birch, P.O. Box 450, Dallas 97338-0450, 503-623-5872. Services on Saturday: 9:30 A.M. Sabbath School Bible Study for all age groups. 10:50 A.M. Worship Service. Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 to Noon. Pastor: Lary Brown

St. Thomas Episcopal Church - 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas (at the corner of Levens & Cherry) 503-623-8522. Email: stthomasdallasor@gmail.com www.stthomasdallasor.org 10 AM worship with Holy Eucharist. Father Fred Heard. Sunday School and Nursery Care available during worship. The church has formally adopted a policy of welcoming and fully affirming individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The new policy formalizes and expands on the church's longstanding tradition of radical hospitality towards all people regardless of race or ethnicity, marital status, disability or socio-economic status. St. Thomas Welcomes you—please join us.

Trinity Lutheran Church - 320 SE Fir Villa Rd, Dallas, 503-623-2233. Pastor - David Pederson. Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m.; Kids Church during 10:00 a.m. Worship. Youth Group HS/MS 11:30 a.m. Sundays. Free Medical Clinic 1st & 4th Saturday of each month. www.dallastlc.org. Catch us on Facebook.

United Methodist Church - A church with Open Hearts, Open Minds & Open Doors. 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas, 503-623-2481. Rev. J. Quinton Kimbrow, Minister. Worship Service 11 a.m. Sunday School for Adults & Youth, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children during worship service. Child-care available. Handicap access. All are welcome! Email: dallasumc@questoffice.net Website: www.sites.umcdallas.com

Valley Life Center (Assemblies of God) - 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., Dallas, 503-623-4116. Lead Pastor: Chris Barker; Associate Pastor: Ted Gibson; Children's Director: Crystal Barker; Youth Director: Kirk Bathke. Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Family Night 6:30 p.m. Please call for more information or visit our website at www.valleylifecenter.com

FALLS CITY

Falls City Christian Church 233 S. Main Street, Falls City, Oregon 97344, 503-787-3104 Sunday Service: 10 am; www.fallsccycc.com

Falls City United Methodist Church - 242 N. Main Street, Falls City, 503-851-3213. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Morning worship Sunday 9:20 am. All denominations are welcome. www.fallsccycc.org

Mountain Gospel Fellowship - 303 N. Main, Falls City, 503-787-8037. Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship Service 11:00 a.m., Wed. Dinner 6:15 p.m. Everyone welcome just as you are. Join Us!

Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 205 N. Main, Falls City 97344, 503-787-3907. Pastor Lary Brown. Sabbath School Sat. 9:30 am-10:40 am; Worship Service 11 am. Community Service Center (Food Bank) third Wed. of each month, noon-3pm.

INDEPENDENCE

Buena Vista Community Church - 11355 Church St., Buena Vista, Independence. Pastor Larry Lyon. Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Cornerstone Church of God - 4395 Independence Hwy, Independence, 503-838-5119. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Nursery available.

First Baptist Church - A warm, friendly church that cares about you! Located at 1505 Monmouth St., Independence (across from Central High School); 503-838-1001. Senior Pastor Michael Parks. **Sundays:** Worship Service 11 am **Wednesdays:** AWANA 7 pm (during the school year). **Thursdays:** Youth Group 6:15pm. Join us for small groups and life groups throughout the week. *First Baptist Church has ministries for children, youth, adults, families and seniors, throughout the week. Check us out at www.independencelfirstbaptist.com*

St. Patrick Parish, Catholic - 1275 E St., Independence. 503-838-5801. Father Henry Guillen Vega Masses Sat., vigil 5 p.m.; Sunday 9:30 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs. 9am, Saturday 7 p.m. (Spanish). Evergreen Nursing Home; Holy Days 9 a.m. (Eng) & 7 p.m. (Eng/Span). Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Religious Education: RCIA Mon 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Mid-High & High School Grades Mon 7:00-8:30p.m.; Grades 1-4 Tues. 7:00-8:30 p.m. WOU Campus Ministry; Mass Sun. 5:00 p.m. at 315 N. Knox St., Monmouth followed by a social hour.

MONMOUTH

Christ The King Christian Church - Meets at 959 Church St. W., Monmouth 7:00 pm Saturday Night. Christ The King Christian Church is a conservative, contemporary, charismatic Biblical Church. At Christ the King we learn: the truths of the Bible, how to live Biblical truths, how to please God, and how to be a blessing to all people. Come and join us as we learn and grow together. Everyone is welcome. Wally Wildman, senior pastor. For more information call 503-623-2262. www.ctkmonmouth.org

Christ's Church Methodist & Presbyterian United - Come care and share with us. 412 Clay Street West, Monmouth, 503-838-1724. Pastor Rebecca Strader. Worship Service 11 a.m. Call for information on small groups.

Church of Christ - 127 N. Heffley St., Monmouth, 503-838-2360. Minister - Dan Brewer, Youth Minister - Jon Siegrist. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m., Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church - 200 Monmouth-Independence Hwy., Monmouth (the church with the lighted cross on the "S" curve). Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 am; Divine Service of Holy Communion 10:30 am. Wednesday Soup Suppers 6:00 pm followed by Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm beginning Feb. 10 (Ash Wednesday), 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16. Everyone is welcomed! 503-838-3459. www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org;

Monmouth Christian Church - 959 Church Street W, Monmouth, OR 97361; Office: (503) 838-1145; Fax: (503) 838-1162; Email: mcc@mymcc.cc; Website: mymcc.cc; Lead Pastor: Sean Bitzer; Pastors: Ulysses Vela, Mary Weinbender, & Seth Halligan; Sunday Worship Service: 10 am, English & Spanish; children's programming for birth to 6th grades also available. Momentum (7th & 8th Grades) meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm MCC; Join us this Sunday in person or live online at www.mymcc.tv.

New LIFE Ministries - we're growing in Polk County! CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE! We are a God-loving, Bible-believing, non-denominational church body. This church is a little different, in that it's not just a church service, but is all about being a "service church". We strive to seek out and serve the needs of the community. It is our hope that God will use us to make a difference. Come join us! We meet at Henry Hill School 750 S. 5th St. in Independence every Sunday morning at 10:00-11:00 am. Our minister is Marion Seick. Feel free to call us at (503) 871-5207. Please come visit and worship with us this Sunday!

Praise Assembly 189 Monmouth Ave S., Monmouth (locations in McMinnville and Willamina as well). Our English worship gathering is 11 am on Sundays, followed by a Spanish service at 2 pm. Kid's church available for 12 and under. Youth group meets at 9:30 Sunday morning. Other ministries include: Celebrate Recovery (Tues, 7 pm), College Bible study (Wed, 7 pm), and Spanish Bible study (Thurs, 7 pm). Please check our website for the most up-to-date information, www.praiseonline.net, or call us at 503-837-0300.

St. Hilda's Episcopal Church 245 Main St. W., Monmouth, 503-838-6087, sthildas.church.org Sunday Eucharist - 10:00 am followed by Fellowship. Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 am. Wednesday Worship at 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. Nursery care provided. Call for periodic small groups and celebrations. All are welcome!

Call 503-623-2373 to be added to this directory.