

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer
Volume 141, Issue 17 www.Polkio.com April 27, 2016 75¢



APRIL WELSH/for the Itemizer-Observer
Dallas firefighters were on scene for about an hour to extinguish a fire on Fairview Avenue on Thursday.

Fire destroys Dallas home

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — At 5:27 a.m. Thursday, Dallas Fire and EMS responded to the 1900 block of Southwest Fairview Avenue on a reported house fire.
Dallas Police also responded. Senior Officer Colby Hamilton and Officer David King arrived before the fire department and tried to locate a person dispatch had lost connection with.
King went through a back door of the burning house and found an unresponsive woman on the floor. He began pulling her out, and she regained consciousness. They were able to get out and she survived.
The woman was trans-

ported by Dallas Fire & EMS to Salem Hospital, where she was treated and released with non-life threatening injuries.
About 20 firefighters were on scene for about an hour working to extinguish the fire.
The residence and contents appear to be a total loss due to fire and smoke damage, said April Welsh, spokeswoman for Dallas Fire & EMS.
Dallas Fire was assisted by Southwest Polk Rural Fire District, Falls City Fire, Polk County Fire District No. 1 and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.
No firefighters were injured. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

What to do about STREETS?

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Proponents of the proposed residential street repair bond for the city of Dallas say the time is now to fix the streets before the problem becomes worse.
Among the arguments of those opposing the bond is city should have dealt with the problem long ago when the maintenance backlog wasn't so lengthy or expensive.
Pete Christiansen, who served on the citizens' committee that recommended the 10-year, \$10-million bond as a first step toward addressing Dallas street situation, acknowledges that concern.
He said his preference would have been for a plan put in place years ago, but he added pointing out oversights of the past doesn't change the issue before the city now.
"Here we are and we need to repair it now," Christiansen said. "We need to get our streets fixed."
As of now, repair would cost \$15 million to have every street rated as "good" or higher. That price tag has gotten larger.
"Back in 2002, it was just over \$2 million to fix the problem, and every time we look at it, it has gone up by a lot," City Manager Ron Foggin said. "We are now to the point of \$15 million."
How did the city get to this point?
Foggin said resources to pay for street upkeep haven't kept pace with cost increases. In the current budget, the city received \$1.1 million from federal gas tax and state highway appropriations to care for streets.
He said the federal gas tax rate hasn't changed since 1992, and has no way of accounting for fuel efficient vehicles or those that run on alternate fuels.
In addition, the money doesn't all go to street repair, but it is the funding source for the entire street department, Expenses include paying for employees, materials and services, sidewalk repair, maintaining and operating street lights, and street repairs.
In 2015-16, \$270,000 went to actual

Measure 27-119
Amount: \$10 million.
Cost: \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties.
Interest: 2.4 percent, bringing the total cost to \$12.3 million.
What it would do: Repair 22 miles of streets to good or better condition.
Learn more: Open House, Wednesday (tonight) at 7 p.m. in the Polk County Commissioner's conference room, Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St.

street maintenance. Foggin said an engineering study completed in 2014 by IMS Infrastructure Management estimated simply keeping up with maintenance would require \$660,000 annually.
With limited resources, the city chose to prioritize those streets with the highest traffic and those that serve businesses, Foggin said. Residential streets have been left off the list. Dallas is presenting voters with a possible solution on the May 17 ballot in Measure 27-119, which would cost \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties. It would fix 22 miles of streets.
That would put a major dent in the backlog, but it doesn't solve the whole problem and doesn't include future maintenance costs, two steps that the city will address later, Foggin said. That could include implementing a "street fee" or local gas tax for upkeep and a second bond to repair the approximately 11 miles of streets that funding from this measure wouldn't cover.
"In this three-step process (we) end up with good or better roads throughout the community, and we end up with maintenance money to take care of them over time, which make sense," Foggin said. "Investing in infrastructure and not having money to take care of it didn't make sense to any of the committees that looked at this."
See STREETS, Page 5A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS
Paul Mannen left a strong legacy with Dallas athletics.
»Page 2A

FALLS CITY
A bond measure that would result in a new multipurpose gymnasium and cafeteria at the elementary school is ready to hit the ballots.
»Page 5A

INDEPENDENCE
Two Central High seniors had their school designs immortalized on water bottles.
»Page 16A

MONMOUTH
The Monmouth Senior Center expansion project is back on track.
»Page 3A

SPORTS
Western Oregon's softball team clinched its berth in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Softball Championships.
»Page 12A

EDUCATION
Central School District's budget is in good shape.
»Page 15A

Dallas memorial inspired by tradition

Nursery owner Daryll Combs donates plants to honor the late Ron Lines at Dallas City Park

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer
DALLAS — On a recent visit to Daryll's Nursery, Ann Hurd noticed something she thought was curious: a tree with a collection of beer bottles surrounding it.
Interested, she asked the owner, Daryll Combs, what was going on with the bottles.
Combs said that he was continuing a tradition with his "brother," the late Ron Lines.
Lines was the parks supervisor for the city of Dallas and the pair were close friends. They had a hobby in common.
"Ron and I liked to test new beers together," Combs said, noting that he kept trying beers following Lines death in January.
In response to Hurd's question, Combs explained their shared love of a good brew and said of the collection underneath the tree: "Those are Ron's bottles."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Daryll Combs pours a drink for the late Ron Lines, who was the Dallas City Parks supervisor. A memorial was planted in honor of Lines at Dallas City Park on April 20.

Hurd, who lives near Dallas City Park, often worked with Lines through the Hayter Street Neighborhood Watch. She had the perfect place in mind.

A large two-level concrete planter marks the entrance to Dallas City Park at Academy Street, and it was in desperate need of an upgrade. Hurd said the planter had a

dilapidated city park sign and a collection of unkempt rhododendrons.
"They had lived their life," Hurd said.
She talked to Combs

about her idea, and to her neighborhood watch group, which agreed to raise money to purchase new plants.
The group donated \$350 and appealed to the city to transform the planter into a memorial more appropriate to honor a dedicated parks supervisor. Combs donated the rest of the plants and, naturally, volunteered be the master planner on the memorial.
Later, a plaque dedicating the entrance to Lines will be installed.
"It was a joint effort, and the parks and the city were all for it," Hurd said.
The centerpiece of the memorial is the weeping cedar, minus the beer bottles.
On April 20, a group of volunteers and city staff, including Eric Totten, Dallas' new parks supervisor, and Combs planted the memorial. They put in fresh soil, new plants, decorative rocks and the tree that started it all.
Combs added a final touch. He toasted his friend by opening a bottle of beer and pouring it at the base of the tree.

Funnel cloud forms Friday
Itemizer-Observer staff report
MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — The National Weather Service received a report of a funnel cloud appearing in the Monmouth/Independence area around 11 a.m. on Friday.
The funnel cloud did not touch ground.
Funnel clouds generally form on stormy days when high winds and water form rotating columns of air.
Funnel clouds are not dangerous until they touch ground, according to the National Weather Service, but it recommends finding safe shelter if you see a funnel cloud.
If it touches down, it becomes a tornado and can cause flying debris. If a tornado forms, find safe shelter immediately or stay as low to the ground as possible and cover your head.
To report a funnel cloud sighting: 503-261-9246.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed Grab a brew of your choice and head to St. Thomas Episcopal Church to learn about and discuss the Old Testament. 7 p.m. Free. Showers Hi: 61 Lo: 43	thu Jane Kirkpatrick will discuss her new book, "The Power of Stories in Our Lives" at the Dallas Public Library. 6 p.m. Free. Partly cloudy Hi: 64 Lo: 41	fri Celebrate Arbor Day today by planting a tree or taking a walk in one of our beautiful city parks to admire the work of volunteers. Cloudy Hi: 63 Lo: 42	sat Model train enthusiasts unite at the Model Train Swap Meet at the Rickreall Grange Hall today and Sunday. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5. Partly cloudy Hi: 68 Lo: 43	sun Rickreall Fire Department will host its annual pancake breakfast at the station at the corner of 99W and Church St. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. \$6. Sunny Hi: 76 Lo: 47	mon It's never too late to pick up an instrument with the New Horizons Orchestra, which meets at Central High School. 6:30 p.m. \$25/mo. Sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 49	tue Independence Public Library's spring fun club will have a Mother's Day program for children of all ages. 4 p.m. Free. Partly cloudy Hi: 73 Lo: 46
--	---	--	---	---	---	--

0 94922 61652 4