

# More settlements, trials with full DA staff

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Measuring success in a district attorney's office isn't as easy as documenting the performance of a sports team.

It isn't all about winning or losing at trial.

In Polk County, the majority of cases don't make it that far, and that, in itself, could be considered a "win," said Polk County District Attorney Aaron Felton.

"Most cases settle, and there is a reason for that," Felton said. "We file cases that are good, solid cases."

That is in part a credit to police agencies doing a professional job getting cases ready for prosecution before forwarding them to the DA's office, Felton said. "Declines," or cases refused or sent back to local

police agencies for further investigation, have decreased by more than half since the 2013-14 fiscal year.

"We are taking cases and working them through disposition," Felton said.

The other part of that equation is having what Felton considers a full staff.

Nearly one year after voters approved the public safety levy giving his office three more prosecutors and two additional support staff positions, Felton said his office is recovering.

Felton had a full complement of prosecutors by July of 2015 and, with that in place, his office is on track to match or exceed the number of trials and settlements in 2014-15, which was about 600.

The office also was able to add a part-time victims' assistance coor-

dinators thanks to a grant.

Felton took the opportunity of bringing on more employees to restructure the office, creating a position to handle the intake and distribution of "discovery," or evidence. That was part of a change Felton believes will make his office more efficient — and devoid of paper files.

"Everything is going digital," Felton said. "We're going paperless. The goal would be paperless by July 1."

He said the new system will make the obligation of turning over evidence to defense attorneys easier, and good for organization in general.

"It's a prudent investment in cost savings and efficiency that has made us work sharper and better," he said. "In the long run, it will make us more efficient."

Case numbers for 2016-17 should grow significantly as the Polk County Sheriff's Office fills its patrol and drug team vacancies, and as other local police agencies add officers.

Felton said his office is preparing for that by assigning prosecutors to certain types of cases. He's designated attorneys to misdemeanors, domestic violence, sex abuse and child abuse. Most attorneys are carrying a lighter caseload.

"Before the levy, our caseloads were much higher per attorney than other offices our size," Felton said. "That was inefficient and wasn't giving people the proper amount of time for each case."

The number of sex abuse cases, however, are a concern. Those are assigned to Chief Deputy Jayme Kimberly, and she's balancing 140 sex abuse cases, in addition to

child abuse cases and administrative duties in the office. Felton and Kimberly are looking for the best way to reduce her caseload.

"She is one of our most experienced prosecutors and her caseload is extremely complex and sensitive, so what I'm also looking at is training," Felton said.

He said Polk County is unique in that it has a jail with a large capacity, a strong parole and probation department with the capability to supervise felony and misdemeanor offenders, and effective resources for drug treatment programs for those who need them.

"A lot of counties cannot put those three together because of resources," he said, adding that with levy resources, his office is now in a position to use all of them. "I know my people are better in court as a result."

## OBITUARIES

### Paul Thomas Mannen Jr.

Aug. 22, 1933 – April 12, 2016

Paul Thomas Mannen Jr., 82, of Dallas, died April 12.

He was born in San Diego to Paul Mannen Sr. and Bertha Klicka Mannen.

He graduated from San Dieguito High in 1951, and spent a year at Pomona College.

Paul served in the Army for two years, spending part of that time in Korea. Upon his return, he enrolled at Oregon State College (OSU) where he majored in pre-med and met his wife of nearly 60 years, Carol Blatchford, of Milwaukie. They were married on Sept. 20, 1956.

Paul graduated from OSC in 1958, and entered the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. He then attended Portland State University to earn his teaching credentials.

He taught in Boring and Sandy, and coached football and baseball.

Paul returned to OSC on a full scholarship to earn his

master's degree.

His career took him to Orlando, Calif., and Hilo, Hawaii, before he and his family moved back to Oregon.

Upon his return to Oregon, Paul taught and coached in Milwaukie, Rainier and Dallas.

Retirement had allowed him to become involved in many volunteer efforts.

He was recognized by the community of Dallas as the Good Samaritan and by the Oregon Athletic Directors Association as the outstanding athletic director for the state of Oregon.

The Presbyterian Church became a very important part of his life, as well as the Delbert Hunter Arboretum.

Sister Laurel Judith died before he did.

Survivors include wife, Carol; children, Katherine Ann, Douglas Paul, Mary Eleanor, Laura Jean; 10 grandchildren; and extended family.

Memorial service is May 7 at 11 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

Contributions are suggested to Dallas Education Foundation, Delbert Hunter Arboretum, or Dallas First Presbyterian Church in care of the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, which handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.dallastrIBUTE.com](http://www.dallastrIBUTE.com).

### David E. Hamm

Dec. 10, 1920 – April 9, 2016

David E. Hamm, 95, of Dallas, died April 9 in Dallas.

He was born in Chicago to Henry D. Hamm and Susan Fast Hamm.

David graduated from Dallas High School and went on to graduate from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (now BIOLA University).

He married Evelyn D. Russell in Corvallis on June 27, 1943. Together they were missionaries for 26 years in Chile.

He was the founder and pastor for three years of the Keizer Community Church. David retired as a pastor with the Evangelical Free Church.

He was a member of the Evangelical Bible Church in Dallas. He enjoyed woodworking and cooking, especially waffles.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn on Feb. 2, 2013.

Survivors include his son, Leroy Hamm, of Carmichael, Calif.; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial service is May 7 at 10:30 a.m. at the Evangelical Bible Church in Dallas. Private interment was at Dallas Cemetery.

Contributions are suggested to the Gospel Mission of South America in care of the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, which handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.dallastrIBUTE.com](http://www.dallastrIBUTE.com).

### Arnold Dale Teal

Feb. 13, 1951 – April 18, 2016

Arnold Dale Teal, 65, of Falls City, died April 18.

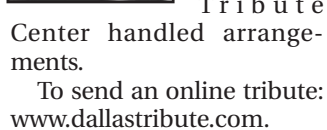
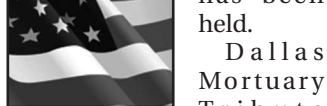
He loved spending time with his grandkids and family.

His was preceded in death by his twin brother Ronald in 2014.

Survivors include his wife, Jeraldine "Dennie" Horner Teal; son, Brian Youtz; sisters, Robbin Gaskill and Kim Griffith; four grandchildren; and extended family.

Service has been held. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.dallastrIBUTE.com](http://www.dallastrIBUTE.com).



### Bill Hale Sr.

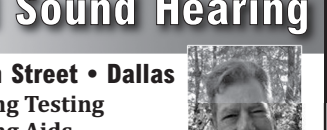
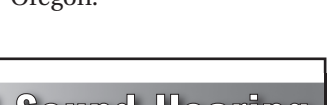
April 16, 1932 – April 17, 2016

Bill Hale Sr., 84, of Dallas, died April 17.

He was born to Leslie and Olive (Cull) Hale in Westhope, N.D.

He served in the U.S. Navy and had a long career in law enforcement.

Bill served as chief of police in many areas within Oregon.



He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and tending to his garden.

Survivors include his daughters, Jeanne, of Parker, S.D., Debbie, of Dallas, and Brenda, of Stayton; sons, Billie Jr., of McMinnville, and Steve, of Salem; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Private Service will be held. Contributions are suggested to hospice.

### Kathleen Robertson Hoch

Sept. 18, 1931 – April 23, 2016

Kathleen Robertson Hoch, 84, of Dallas, died on Saturday.

She was born in Bisbee, Ariz., to William and Kathleen Steven.

Kathleen graduated from Bisbee High School, attended Mills College in Oakland, Calif., for two years, and then enrolled at the University of Arizona where she studied elementary education.

She joined the Delta Gamma Sorority at the U of A. Kathleen taught fifth- and sixth-grade students in the Palo Alto School District.

She married Andrew Hoch on Oct. 8, 1955, in Bisbee. They lived all over California.

After Andrew died in 2003, Kathleen moved to Dallas. She enjoyed being closer to her family.

She enjoyed gardening, shopping, boogie boarding, and movies.

She was especially interested in politics. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and loved the California and Oregon coast highways. Kathleen attended the Evangelical Bible Church in Dallas. She was involved in Bible Study Fellowship.

She is survived by son, Andrew (Barbara) Hoch, of



Vacaville, Calif.; daughter, Alison (Tony) Thiessen, of Dallas; and two grandchildren. Husband, Andrew Hoch, died on Nov. 21, 2003.

A celebration of Kathleen's life will be on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. Private interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Bisbee.

Memorials may be made to Bible Study Fellowship in care of Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, who handled arrangements.

To leave an online tribute: [www.dallastrIBUTE.com](http://www.dallastrIBUTE.com).

### Robert Homer Ross

March 18, 1920 – April 19, 2016

Robert Homer Ross, 96, of Monmouth, died April 19.

He was born in Monett, Mo., to Otto and Alta Ross.

Robert's life will be celebrated privately.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence handled arrangements.

To send an online tribute: [www.FarnstromMortuary.com](http://www.FarnstromMortuary.com).

### Ronald Lee Anderson

July 20, 1957 – April 18, 2016

Ronald Lee Anderson, 58, of Monmouth, died April 18 in Monmouth.

Survivors include his son, Jason Weisensee, of Monmouth; daughter, Monesia Kern, of Grants Pass; and four grandchildren.

### Sterling James Trowbridge

Dec. 29, 1952 – April 24, 2016

Service for Sterling James Trowbridge, 63, of Dallas, is Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Philip Catholic Church in Dallas.

Howell, Edwards, Doerkson in Salem handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: [www.hedfh.com](http://www.hedfh.com).

### Jeffrey Randall Holly

Aug. 13, 1970 – April 15, 2016

Jeffrey Randall Holly, 45, of Monmouth, died April 15. A gathering will be held Saturday at the Holly Farm.

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