

# Dallas Fire lights up the sky with show

Department volunteer leads team of newly certified pyrotechnics to put on fireworks display

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas volunteer firefighter Kent Rasmussen was feeling a little bit of pressure Monday evening.

Rasmussen was leading Dallas Fire & EMS' newly minted pyrotechnic crew through its first Fourth of July fireworks display.

This is the third year that Dallas has had a display, but until Monday, Falls City Fire Department had been in charge of putting on the show. That fact was cause for more pressure.

"Falls City didn't do theirs (firework display), so people from Falls City are going to come out expecting a good show," he said. "And we are trying to compete with Independence."

When he is not fighting fires with Dallas Fire, Rasmussen works with Western Display Fireworks and has been putting on fireworks shows for 13 years.

He joined the Dallas de-

partment last year, making for perfect timing because Dallas was thinking of certifying its own pyrotechnics team for 2016.

For his rookie crew, the idea of blowing stuff up was exciting.

Renee Wilson, a captain on the volunteer support crew for the department, wasn't able to get certified for the team, but she still had a job: timer.

Her role was to make sure the crew was kept pace with putting on a 20- to 25-minute display. There's an art to timing an entertaining show, and Wilson was happy to help, even if she couldn't light anything.

"We like to put out fires, but we also like to play with fire — in a good way," Wilson said.

Rasmussen smiled at the enthusiasm of the new pyrotechnicians.

"For me it's just another day," Rasmussen said. "But I like to bring new people in because it's fun to watch."

He may not admit it, but

he was eager, too. Dallas started at 7:30 p.m. on Monday what will now be a new tradition in Dallas.

The crew was going to light a shell every 30 minutes leading up to the show.

Rasmussen volunteered himself to light the first fuse.

Dressed in protective gear, he walked out to the first rack of fireworks shells and knelt down to light the fuse. As soon as he did, he quickly walked away pointing his finger in the air as the shell blasted off in a cloud of smoke as if to call the neighbors.

The explosion echoed all around LaCreole Middle School, dwarfing the noise of any other fireworks being set off.

It worked like a charm. Minutes later, more people were gathering in the field around the school waiting for the show to begin.

"Every year this show goes, it gets bigger," Rasmussen said. "We want everybody to have a good time and enjoy the Fourth of July."



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Turnouts and safety gear is ready for Dallas' fireworks display crew on Monday.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Kent Rasmussen points to the sky after lighting a firework shell Monday in Dallas.



## Corrections posts 'most wanted'

DALLAS — Polk County Community Corrections lists these individuals as "most wanted" for July. Citizens with information on the whereabouts of any of them can call Community Corrections at 503-623-5226.

- Guillermo Raya Leon, born May 29, 1995, 5-8, 170 pounds, black hair, brown

eyes. Charge: Possession of methamphetamine.

- Andrew James Lecher, born Dec. 6, 1988, 6-1, 150 pounds, brown hair, green eyes. Charge: First-degree mistreatment.

- Lisa Ann Dunigan, born June 26, 1977, 5-4, 160 pounds, brown hair, green eyes. Charge: Possession of a controlled substance, fail-

ure to appear.

- Elizabeth Lee Gentry, born April 1, 1965, 5-4, 145 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes. Charge: Possession of methamphetamine.

- Frank Joseph Guida IV, born April 26, 1994, 5-5, 150 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes. Charge: Failure to appear, unauthorized use of a vehicle.

# OBITUARIES

## Bernard 'Roy' Friesen

Aug. 3, 1937 – June 14, 2016

Bernard "Roy" Friesen, 78, of Dallas, died June 14. He was born in Independence to Bernhart and S u z y Friesen. He married Velma Stout in 1958.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents and his brother

John.

He is survived by wife, Velma, of Dallas; sister, Marianne Fahey, of Dallas; sons, Rick and Keith, both of Dallas, Richard, of Terrebonne; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

After retiring from the city of Dallas, Roy enjoyed repairing and selling used bicycles. He was always willing to negotiate the price so anyone could afford a bicycle for their child. He also cut wood with the help of his three sons, and kept

many families warm during the winter months.

Although Roy never hunted or fished as a child, he made sure all three of his sons and his grandchildren learned how to catch a fish and bag a deer or elk.

Services were held at Dallas Cemetery, followed by a memorial held at Dallas City Park.

## Donald Cox Sr.

May 11, 1952 – July 1, 2016

Donald Cox Sr., 64, of Dallas, died Friday at Salem Hospital.

He was born in Portland.

He is survived by wife, Nancy, of Dallas; daughter, Terisha Mott, of Beaverton; son, Don Cox Jr., of Sheridan; two grandsons; sister,

Janice Blanchfield, of Winston; and brothers, Marvin Cox Jr., of Canyonville, and Jerry Cox, of Portland.

Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on July 23 in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

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

## Keith LeRoy Culley

1934 – July 1, 2016

Keith LeRoy Culley, 81, died on Friday after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Keith was born to Lizella and Glen Culley in 1934.

Keith enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after graduation, and then married Verna May Abshier (Culley) in 1955.

He was busy with his ca-

reers which included the Air Force, Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Mayor of Williams, Calif., and owner of Yolo and

Colusa County Ambulance Services.

He then moved to the Southern Oregon Coast where he worked for the Oregon State Parks.

He then

became an owner/operator truck driver. He and Verna then returned to Woodland to look after an ailing aunt while he finished out his career with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office.

Keith was lifetime member of the NRA and the Oregon Sheriff's Association.

He and Verna enjoyed retirement, being camp hosts at fish hatcheries in Oregon before permanently retiring.

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He and Verna enjoyed retirement, being camp hosts at fish hatcheries in Oregon before permanently retiring.

They spent many days up on the ranch out of Sweet Home enjoying the beauty, family, and the domestic/wildlife critters. They also enjoyed going to grandkids' sports functions.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Verna Culley; children, Richard (Teresa) Culley, Susan (Scott) Wenger, and Nancy (Dean) Rech; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Gary (Ina) Culley; sister Glenna (Les) Davis. He is preceded in death by brother, Larry Culley.

A memorial service will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

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

## Obituary Information

Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.

Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. However, information can also be submitted directly from family members.

Color and black-and-white photos can be submitted, but photos will only be published in black and white. The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.

Obituaries — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).

### Sudoku solution

6	1	4	7	3	2	9	5	8
9	3	7	8	5	1	6	2	4
8	2	5	9	6	4	1	3	7
2	6	1	5	7	8	3	4	9
5	9	3	4	1	6	8	7	2
4	7	8	2	9	3	5	6	1
3	4	9	6	8	7	2	1	5
7	5	6	1	2	9	4	8	3
1	8	2	3	4	5	7	9	6

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