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Deputy involved in shooting

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

WEST SALEM — Polk County Deputy Casey Gibson shot a man on July 5 during an attempt to take him into custody on Highway 22.

The man, Joshua A. Bolster, 29, of Salem, was transported to the Salem Hospital where he died from his injuries.

According to reports from the Oregon State Police, Bolster had earlier been seen trespassing at his ex-girlfriend's apartment in Monmouth, harassing her.

He left the scene before Monmouth officers arrived, but had a confrontation with another tenant of the apartment complex, during which he reportedly pulled a knife, according to OSP reports.

Monmouth officers provided a description of the suspect and his vehicle to other local police agencies in an attempt to locate him, including that he may have been armed with a knife, according to OSP. Police had probable cause to arrest the man on charges of trespassing and menacing, according to OSP.

At about 9:45 p.m., Polk County deputies located the vehicle on Highway 22 near Doaks Ferry Road and stopped the car, OSP said. Deputies attempted to arrest the man.

During the confrontation, Gibson fired shots and hit Bolster, according to OSP.

An OSP trooper arrived on scene in response to requests for assistance by Polk County deputies after shots had been fired.

The arriving trooper took part in attempts to take Bolster, who was not complying with officers' commands, into custody and employed less lethal means to do so, according to OSP reports.

"Less than lethal means" can define many different methods, said Sgt. Kyle Hovee, public information officer for OSP, including anything from a Taser to an impact weapon.

The exact details of the confrontation are under investigation, District Attorney Aaron Felton said.

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Austin Champ, left, and Jesse Friedow are Dallas' first paid firefighters. The two will provide seasonal help to the Dallas Fire Department during the peak fire season.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas fire gets help

Seasonal firefighters to assist with fire season in Dallas

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas Fire Department has been all-volunteer since 1878. That changed on July 5.

Since the department's first days, only fire administrators have received a regular paycheck for their services. All other firefighters have been volunteers.

That means Austin Champ and Jesse Friedow are making history in Dallas, being the first paid firefighters in the department, even if that status is temporary.

The pair will serve as seasonal firefighters and EMTs responding to daytime calls for the fire department and Emergency Medical Service's third ambulance. Both have served the department as volunteers — eight years for Friedow, 26, and 5.5 years for Champ, 24.

"I've been here eight years on the volunteer side, and just seeing the new direction of the organization, it's cool in a way because we are setting a precedent," Friedow said. "We are making history. At the same time, we are still here for the community just in a different capacity than we were before."

The two positions are budgeted for four months, through what should be the end of fire season, said department spokeswoman April Welsh.

She said master plans written for Dallas Fire & EMS and South West Polk Rural Fire Protection District clearly illustrated the need for better daytime responses in Dallas, and hiring seasonal firefighters for this year was a direct result of that.

"There will be a decrease in response times, which

will be a benefit to our community," she said. "Our goal is to get the best service for our citizens."

Welsh said the department will keep close track of response times while Champ and Friedow are on shift.

"During that time, we will be doing a lot of data collection," Welsh said. "We are really going to be focused on the data."

The master plan revealed that Dallas Fire responded to fires within about 18 minutes 90 percent of the time, far from the department's goal of seven minutes for priority fires and special operations incidents within the city limits.

"The master plan was an eye-opening document," Welsh said.

Friedow said even since he began volunteering in 2008, he's seen the changes causing the longer re-

sponse times.

"Since then, losing businesses in town, especially the mill, we've lost quite a few people," he said.

When not on calls, the pair will be maintaining fire engines and the fire station, including long-deferred tasks the department's administrative staff have not had time to complete.

"There is a list that Chief (Fred) Hertel has provided us," Champ said. "I think he's been building on this list since he became the chief here."

Friedow and Champ will be at the station during business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, so the equipment bay doors will be open and the public is invited to check out the station and ask questions about the department.

"We really encourage the community to stop by," Welsh said.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

New irrigation system installed at LaCreole Middle School.

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EDUCATION

Perrydale works on installing new parking lot.

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FALLS CITY

Falls City's budget focuses on infrastructure improvements.

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INDEPENDENCE

New owners mix the old and the new at Brew Coffee and Tap House.

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MONMOUTH

Western Oregon breaks ground on new health and counseling center.

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SPORTS

Devon Alexander heads to Las Vegas and Germany to chase pro basketball dream.

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WOU water levels safe

Itemizer-Observer staff report
MONMOUTH — Initial testing of drinking water at Western Oregon University showed results below or well below levels considered dangerous by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Samples were collected by Physical Plant personnel under the direction of a certified DEQ third-party lab and sent to outside labs for analysis. Additional locations will be tested in the coming weeks.

Charter outage puts businesses in tough spot

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Damage to a fiber-optic line serving the Dallas area caused Charter customers to lose service for much of the day on July 6.

Bret Picciolo, director of regional communications-northwest said the damage occurred in a remote wooded area that was difficult for crews to access, leading to the extended duration of the outage.

The damaged line is operated by a third party.

"We worked closely with them to restore service as quickly as possible," Picciolo said.

Service was restored around 9 p.m., Picciolo said.

The location and cause of the damage was not made available.

"This was an unusual instance of damage to the network in a remote area that was not caused by Charter," Picciolo said. "It does not reflect a typical customer experience."

Losing service throughout the day left several area businesses in a difficult spot.

Barbara Powers, of Wall Insurance, said her office effectively was closed for the day.

"The outage shuts us down completely," Powers said. "Our entire book of business, all client files and data, are on a secure server which we access via the internet. To top it off, we have an internet phone system, so that is shut down also. We lost a day of business/production and gained a day of ex-

treme frustration, not just for us, but for our customers who called our number and did not get an answer."

Marshall Sowell works at a local auto repair shop.

"I wasn't able to receive or place any phone calls," he said. "I wasn't able to order parts. I wasn't able to check my customer database or repair information. My business basically stopped for the whole day."

Sowell switched to Charter in January and had little to no issues

throughout the summer.

"My service has been off and on pretty much since the beginning of June," Sowell said. "I have intermittent connection. The telephone doesn't work for hours at a time. I actually have the numbers of the three local technicians in my phone."

According to Charter, there are a large range of issues that could cause intermittent issues.

Charter recommends making sure up-to-date equipment is being used.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed
Western Oregon hosts the latest edition of its Summer Heatwave concert series featuring JT Tourist.
Noon. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 79
Lo: 51

thu
Looking to network? Check out the Young Professionals Networking at Wells Fargo in Dallas for those aged 21-45.
5:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 82
Lo: 52

fri
The River's Edge Summer Music Series in Independence is ready to rock with blues artist Ty Curtis.
7:30 p.m.



Sunny
Hi: 77
Lo: 53

sat
If you're on the hunt for fresh and unique products, check out the Independence Farmers and Riverview markets.
9 a.m.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 74
Lo: 52

sun
The 84th Monmouth High School reunion will be held at the Historic Gentle House in Monmouth.
11:30 a.m. Free.



Cloudy
Hi: 74
Lo: 54

mon
Kids looking to stay active? Check out the week-long jump rope camp at Whitworth Elementary School.
9 a.m. \$20-30.



Cloudy
Hi: 72
Lo: 51

tue
Do you have a passion for coins? Check out the Polk County Coin Club at Monmouth Senior Center.
7 p.m. Free.



Partly cloudy
Hi: 73
Lo: 52

