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Holland named to Dallas City Council

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Michael Holland was appointed by the Dallas City Council Monday night to fill the vacancy left by councilor Murray Stewart's resignation.

Holland will complete the term, which concludes at the end of December. He said he will not seek election to the seat in November.

He earned the votes of six of the eight councilors: Kevin Marshall, LaVonne Wilson, Jim Fairchild, Ken

Woods Jr., and Kelly Gabliks. Holland was one of eight Dallas residents interviewed by council members on Monday afternoon.

The others were: Debra Nord, Donald Ellingson, Jennie Rummell, Marsha Heeter, Nancy Adams, Paul Trahan, and Richard Hoefler. Two others, Andrew Woolsey and Marv Bennett, applied but later withdrew.

When asked why he wanted to serve on the council, Holland said he likes to be involved in the communities he lives in. Dallas has been

no exception. He has served on the city's budget committee and with the Dallas School District on its superintendent search and finance committees.

"I enjoy this type of service. I enjoy what I have seen of Dallas so far," he said during the interview session, which was open to the public. "I would like to continue to serve."

Holland said he would like to see improvements made on Ellendale Avenue in Dallas to alleviate potential traffic problems and is

concerned about the short-staffed fire department.

"That could be a problem long-term," he said.

In the economic development realm, he said the city of Dallas could encourage businesses that take advantage of the popularity of the wine tourism, especially in the downtown area.

"I think there is room for a community of Dallas' size to try to find an identity that no other community has grabbed yet and build on it over a 10, 20, 30-year period of time," Holland said.

He also emphasized the need for thinking decades ahead when planning for a city's future and balancing limited resources to maintain services and a livable city.

"I think that's the challenge," he said. "This is a hard business and we have limited resources. How do you make a complicated community work for the citizens when you have limited resources and lots of needs?"

Stewart resigned from the council because he moved out of town for a job.

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'Pokemon Go' craze hits Polk County

Do you want to be a master?

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — In the early part of July, the Independence Police Department saw an increase in reports of suspicious persons.

Was the city suffering from a crime spree?

The culprit was "Pokemon Go," a free-to-play mobile game released in the United States on July 6.

Since its release, it has become a worldwide craze — and Polk County has caught Pokemon fever.

When "Pokemon Go" was released, Dallas resident Andrew Minton, 22, was ready to give it a go.

"I've been a huge fan of Pokemon since childhood," Minton said. "When I heard about Pokemon Go, it dragged me into it."

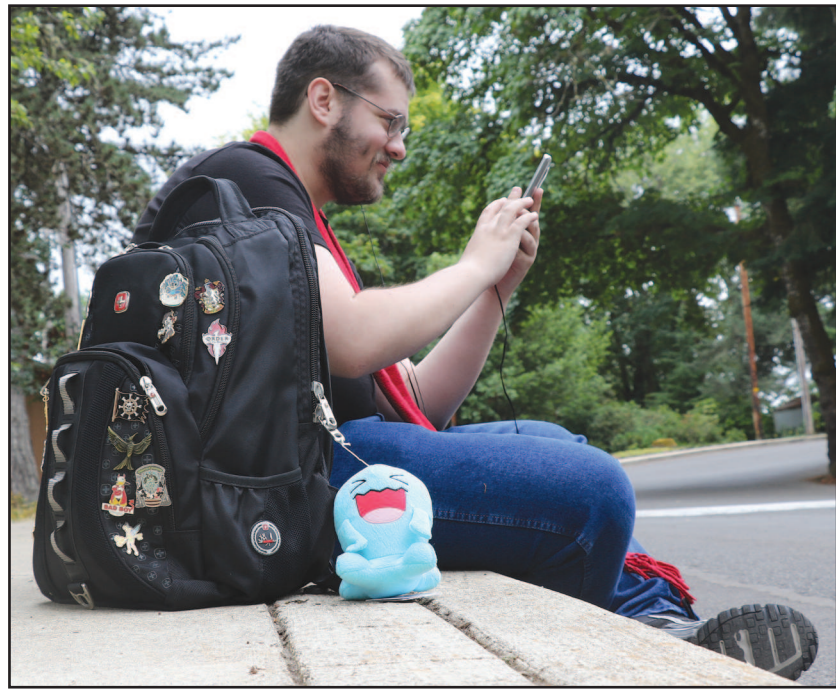
Pokemon was originally released on the GameBoy in 1996. Players take control of a trainer who catches wild Pokemon and battles other gym leaders. "Pokemon Go" features a modified version of that formula. The app uses your phone's GPS and augmented reality to have Pokemon appear in spots around the world.

For lifelong fans, like Dallas resident Gage Burr, "Pokemon Go" is a way to live their Pokemon dreams.

Burr recently visited the Oregon Coast — and spent much of it catching Pokemon.

"I was instantly hooked," Burr said. "The thrill of the catch and getting out of the house instantly sold me on it."

Anita Roberts spent part of Sun-



Andrew Minton attempts to catch 'em all on Sunday at Dallas City Park.

day walking around Dallas City Park with her grandchild.

For her, the true magic of the game didn't revolve around catching that rare imaginary creature.

"It's fun for everyone," Roberts said. "I've noticed parents and their kids doing it together. It gets the whole family out."

It seems "Pokemon Go" has struck a rare balance between the old and the new.

"It brings the older fans of the game back and the younger kids like it because it's right there on your phone, and it's something new,"

Kayla Ferris said.

The game also features a health benefit. As would-be trainers search high and low for new Pokemon, hatch an egg — which requires traveling a certain distance — or to find the next Pokestop or gym, people are getting exercise.

"It's hard to put down," Ferris said. "Every time I'm out and walking things just pop up. You think, let's walk this way and before you know it, you've walked all over town."

"Pokemon Go" does bring certain risks, mainly becoming too focused on what's happening on screen.

Poke-phenom

- "Pokemon Go" players spend 43 minutes per day playing — more than Whatsapp, Instagram or Snapchat, according to SimilarWeb.
- By July 8, more Android phones installed "Pokemon Go" than Tinder.

"Around here, the biggest concerns would be trespassing and people not being aware of their surroundings, especially traffic," Independence Sgt. Juventino Banuelos said. "I would be alert to signage prohibiting access and, of course, always be respectful of private property. In regards to traffic, as a pedestrian, keep your eyes up when you're moving and absolutely no playing while driving."

Those are sentiments echoed by Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton and the Monmouth and Dallas police departments, but so far, "Pokemon Go" has been far more positive than not in Polk County.

"People really seem to enjoy the game, and we have witnessed a lot of positive interaction between players," Monmouth Police Chief Darrell Tallan said.

"Pokemon Go" has become a cultural phenomenon, even seeing users spend more time per day than on Facebook, and players around the world have the same goal.

"You've got to be the best, like no one ever was," Burr said with a smile.

City buys RadioShack building

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas city council approved purchasing the old RadioShack building at the corner of Washington and Jefferson streets in downtown Dallas Monday night.

The city will pay \$286,421, including interest, over 10 years to buy the building from owners Richard and Sharon Solheim.

With the purchase, the city will own the majority of the block, which also contains Dallas' Fire & EMS stations. Polk County owns a

parking lot on the block.

City Manager Ron Foggin said the city doesn't have specific plans for the property yet, but is considering future facility needs with the purchase.

Possibilities include expansion of the fire or ambulance stations or building a "public safety building" he said.

"The goal is to give the city control of that block, so as we need to expand, we have the property," Foggin said.

Foggin said while those plans develop, the city wants to lease the building. He said

the structure needs minor electrical work and an upgrade to the restroom to make it accessible to those with disabilities before it will be available.

He expects that work to be completed soon and the building listed for lease in the fall.

Foggin said the owners offered Dallas the building for \$275,000 and the city negotiated a selling price of \$262,000. The Polk County Assessor's Office's had the value at \$258,000.

"They've owned the building for quite a long time and they've always

seen the city owning it in the future," he said.

The purchase was approved unanimously by the council.

In other business: The council, acting as the Dallas Urban Renewal District Board, declined to purchase the former Dallas armory property at 817 SE Church St., from current owner Oregon Military Department.

The district had considered purchasing the property with redevelopment through a public-private partnership in mind after the armory was demolished

in 2012.

The discovery and removal of underground oil storage tanks delayed the sale.

Department of Environmental Quality Department-required monitoring of the site prevents the district from taking possession of the property until spring 2017 at the earliest, if it decided to buy it.

That leaves little time to recoup the investment before the district expires in 2024.

For more information on that decision, see the July 27 edition of the *I-O*.

Buena Vista ferry to close Thursday

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SALEM — The Buena Vista Ferry will close on Thursday.

The ferry will be removed from the river for its required five-year hull inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The ferry will also be cleaned and painted, maintenance duties will be performed and the Willamette River will be dredged to maintain a clear operating path for the ferry.

Buena Vista Road South will be closed at the intersection with Talbot Road South during the same time period to ensure the safe operation of heavy equipment required for the ferry haul out and dredging operations.

The exact reopening date is not known, but it is expected to be closed for three to four weeks.

The public is asked to travel on alternate routes and are discouraged from venturing beyond the closure to view the ferry.

For more information: Mike Shepard, Bridges and Ferries Supervisor, 503-588-5036 or email to MRShepard@co.marion.or.us.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed If you're in the mood for some New Orleans jazz, check out Music in the Park at Main Street Park in Monmouth. 6:30 p.m. Free.	thu Looking for a tasty treat or a special treasure? Check out Polk County Bounty Market on the Academy Building lawn. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	fri If you're in the mood to listen to some stellar tunes, check out the River's Edge Summer Music Series. 8:30 p.m. Free.	sat The Polk County Fairgrounds Beautification Day gives you a chance to help complete needed projects. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.	sun Did you know? Machu Picchu was re-discovered on this date 1911.	mon Show off your musical talents with the Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee	tue Check out artwork created by Joshua Simonson, which is on display at Dallas Public Library through the end of July.
Cloudy Hi: 81 Lo: 54	Partly cloudy Hi: 75 Lo: 53	Partly sunny Hi: 78 Lo: 53	Sunny Hi: 80 Lo: 54	Sunny Hi: 82 Lo: 55	Sunny Hi: 82 Lo: 55	Sunny Hi: 82 Lo: 57

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