

Next gen leaders mingle at Young Pros

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — More than 20 professionals gathered at Wells Fargo Bank on Thursday evening with the goal of inspiring Polk County's next generation of leaders.

Jeremy Santee-Malloy began working in Dallas two years ago. He quickly became involved with the Dallas Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, but noticed a trend.

"I didn't see a lot of leadership in the younger millennials or even anyone in their mid-40s," he said. "I thought about what we could do to bring that generation, my generation, together."

Santee-Malloy met with Monica Johnson, Operations Manager at Citizens Bank in Dallas, when the idea of creating the Young Professionals was born. The idea was simple — gather together a collection of the county's young business people with varied backgrounds and give them a forum to network.

"I hope they get to know someone they've never met before," Santee-Malloy said. "I hope that when they leave, that's someone they can do business with, whether it's today, tomorrow or a week from now. I know we've received business from individuals here and given business to many individuals."

The group, which is sponsored by the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, held an initial meeting in November of 2014. The next several months were



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

The Polk County Young Professionals gives people a chance to network and identify those who may be interested in becoming community leaders.

Young Professionals

- The Polk County Young Professionals meets the second Thursday of each month. There is no cost to attend meetings.
- For more information: Jeremy Santee-Malloy, jsantee@citizensbank.com

spent working out the details.

"It took a little time because we thought how are we going to fund this?" Santee-Malloy said. "How do we convince people to host? Do we charge people?"

They settled on sponsorships.

The group, which meets the second Tuesday of each month, got off to a successful start, averaging about 12 people during the first year in 2015, Santee-Malloy said.

Then, a hurdle came.

"We had an event that six people came to, the majority

of which were committee members," Santee-Malloy said. "I instantly said we can't sustain this. People aren't going to want to host if they have five people they are entertaining. We reached out to people we already met, and asked them if they're going to come, and in November of last year, we had the most people we've ever had, about 35."

Young Professionals meets at a different business each month with different activities planned.

"If you get the same peo-

ple at the same event enough times, they're going to get tired of coming," Santee-Malloy said.

Thursday's meeting featured snacks and drinks, a tour of Wells Fargo bank, a game of "Would you rather," drawings for prizes and a chance to mingle and meet.

Santee-Malloy hopes to see the meetings offer more going forward.

"In the next couple of years, I'd like to start taking on an educational piece for professionals in order for them to build their career and become more marketable, whether that's learning to budget better, use Quickbooks more efficiently or how to market yourself," Santee-Malloy said. "We want to adapt to what everyone desires."

Station 40 to get cleaned up

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Polk County Fire District No. 1 has temporarily closed Buena Vista Station 40 for lack of volunteers from that area.

Two residents of Buena Vista attended Thursday's fire board meeting to discuss issues with the station's appearance and attempts to keep the doors to Station 40 open.

Resident Charles Prouty said the weeds have gotten out of control around the building.

"Summertime's here," he said. "You've got a burn ban. If you have someone drive by and flick a cigarette out, that place would be in smoke."

Prouty said that the district should keep it cleaned up.

"Make it look like a viable station to volunteer," he said.

Resident Pamela Venegas said that three young firefighter volunteers were up late making noise and listening to loud music on July 6.

"I was one who pushed for sleepers at Station 40," she said. "... but if this is the judgement they're

going to use, I agree: Station 40 shouldn't have sleepers."

Interim fire chief Neal Olson said putting residents out at Station 40 was one of the ideas discussed to help increase interest and recruit volunteers.

"We want the doors open and to draw attention, unfortunately we started drawing attention too early in the morning," Olson said of the July 6 incident.

He said upon further investigation, Station 40 was never meant for firefighters to reside in, and so he was scrapping the idea of putting people in the station overnight.

As for the weeds, board chair Tom Snair asked how other rural stations were cared for, namely Airlie and Pedee stations.

Olson said that neighbors come and mow as a service to the community, or clean up weeds that may sprout around the property.

He said he would take care of the weeds at Station 40, and that one of the paid firefighters would be in Buena Vista more often to keep the doors open, engage the community and hopefully get some people interested in volunteering.

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- Dallas Glass
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All proceeds for service projects.

Tickets sold at Courtyard Coffee, Postal Connections and from any Lions Club member. Also sold at Wal-Mart on Saturdays in July.

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their Work Session Meeting on Thursday July 28, 2016 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday July 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting, if required.

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at www.wvpha.org. The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodations to attend the meeting. For information, please call 503-623-8387, TDD 1-800-735-2900.

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Sudoku
Difficulty: ★★★★★

Solution on Page 5A

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

By Ben Arnoldy

How to do Sudoku
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

The Christian Science Monitor

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Contact the Itemizer-Observer
503-623-2373
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