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Stange named as Polk Fire District's fire chief



Capt. Ben Stange was named Polk County Fire District No. 1 fire chief on Friday.

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Polk County Fire District No. 1 has a new fire chief. Capt. Ben Stange, 35, was named to the post by the board of directors at a meeting Friday.

The day he will start is yet to be determined, pending contract negotiations.

Stange was emotional about the decision, which came after three hours of candidate interviews in ex-

ecutive session. The board was unanimous in its choice to promote Stange, board chair Tom Snair said.

"It's a role I've always wanted to serve, and I never expected for this opportunity to come this soon," Stange said. "I've had a lot of admiration for Chief (Neal) Olson and Chief (Mike) Mayfield."

Deputy chiefs Mayfield and Olson were the other two candidates forwarded to the board of directors for final interviews.

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IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Dallas Schools put lead testing on hold.

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FALLS CITY

Sheriff's Office responds to apparent arson case.

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INDEPENDENCE

Firefighters contain field fire.

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MONMOUTH

Western Oregon hosts Bike MS ride.

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POLK COUNTY

There's still time to help "Paws for a Cause."

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SPORTS

County aims to become cycling haven.

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Dallas Old Timer picnic returns

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — A Dallas tradition since 1962, the reunion will once again gather "old-timers" in Dallas City Park Gazebo on Aug. 7.

Event hosts Dallas Area Visitor's Center (DAVC) and Dallas Retirement Village are adding events and hope to see it grow.

"We want people to know that there is no age limit for attendance," said Bonnie Dreier, with the DAVC. "Our goal is to get the younger generation of 'Old Timers' involved."

New activities are scheduled, including old-fashioned board games and a book signing by author Sue Hunter-Rohde, Dallas historian and co-author of the book "Images of America Dallas."

The picnic runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is open to the public and provides free live music with the Old Time Fiddlers and Cash & Company, spaghetti lunch, memorabilia to look through, special guests and a chance to mix and mingle with others.

Guests are invited to bring yearbooks, Dallas memorabilia or photos. For more information, www.facebook.com/DallasOldTimersReunionPicnic/ or www.exploredallasoregon.org/old-timers-picnic.html.

STAGECOACH DELIVERY

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Friday was a first for Hank, Gus, Jesse and Ywa.

The four mules have pulled in competitive plowing, wagon trains and have even delivered the mail, said driver Lynda Claypool.

"This is the first time we've delivered wine," said Claypool, with C & O Stagecoach Co.

The special delivery was for Illahe Vineyards 1899 pinot noir. The wine was made without electricity or fuel — just horse and human power.

Friday it began its journey to Illahe's distributor in Portland using mule power.

The foursome pulled cases of wine via stagecoach from the vineyard just outside Dallas to Independence, where it was packed into five canoes for the trip along the Willamette River to Portland.

The first leg of the journey took about an hour and a half. The mule team and stagecoach made for a curious sight for those driving automobiles.



Gus, left, and Hank wait to leave Illahe Vineyards in Dallas on Friday morning. They are headed for Independence.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

The mules trotted along the roads as if they weren't unusual at all.

"They are not afraid of cars," Claypool said. "They assume that cars are going to stop for them. The fact that they (the cars) are going 45 mph doesn't seem to register."

Hank and company did notice a few things on the paved roads: manholes and storm drains.

They don't like them — not at all.

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Delivering 1899 requires three days travel on the river.

Wine the old-fashioned way

- Harvest of Illahe Vineyard's 1899 pinot noir is done by hand, and the grapes hauled to the winery by the power of the vineyard's two horses Doc and Bea.
- Pressing, racking, bottling and labeling are all done by hand.
- Finally, the vineyard delivers the wine to its distributor in Portland without the use of fuel or modern vehicles.

Aloha and E Komo Mai to Summerfest

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Summerfest 2016 is bringing "Hawaii cool" to Dallas as the four-day celebration kicks off on Thursday.

This year's theme, "Hawaiian Luau," sets a laid-back mood for the downtown activities, highlighted by Thursday evening's Sounds of Summer concert with Hawaiian band Koral Jam. In an attempt to keep the focus on downtown, the show won't

be in its usual spot on the Academy Rotary Performing Arts Stage, but instead on the main Summerfest Stage on the Polk County Courthouse lawn.

No celebration with that particular theme would be complete without an actual luau, and Washington St. Steakhouse & Pub has that covered for Saturday's downtown close-out party.

Each year, the restaurant celebrates its anniversary with a luau, so Chelsea Metcalfe, the executive di-



rector of event host Dallas Area Visitor's Center, said the event is in good hands.

Inside ... See Section C

For a complete schedule of Summerfest and information about some of the festival's highlights, check out the Summerfest section.

All the fun begins Thursday as Dallas will experience a taste of Hawaii and some fun in the sun.

"I knew I wanted to talk to them because they do it so well," she said. "They

are very excited about hosting it."

The party begins at 5 p.m. in the restaurant's parking lot. Live music will provide entertainment and of course, there will be all the barbecue you can eat and a beer garden for those 21 and older.

Koral Jam and Washington St.'s luau may bring the island spirit, but Saturday morning's parade is the heart of Summerfest, drawing thousands to downtown Dallas.

See HAWAII, Page 10A

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK

wed

Charlie Horse rocks out at the Western Oregon Summer Heatwave concert. The show is the final one of the season.
Noon. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 87
Lo: 56

thu

Needing your Superhero fix? Riverview Park hosts a showing of "Avengers: Age of Ultron," rated PG-13.
10 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 91
Lo: 58

fri

The annual kids triathlon at the Dallas Aquatics Center gives children a chance to swim, bike and run.
9:45 a.m. \$25



Sunny
Hi: 90
Lo: 56

sat

A tradition returns. The Summerfest teen dance is back for 2016 at the Bank of America parking lot, ages 13-19.
8-9:30 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 83
Lo: 53

sun

Dallas City Park is the place to be with art vendors, a car show and breakfast in the park.
7 a.m. Breakfast \$7.



Partly sunny
Hi: 79
Lo: 53

mon

The Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra offers a chance for everyone to make music.
6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.



Sunny
Hi: 80
Lo: 54

tue

Enjoy a tasty, cold treat to battle the summer heat. National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, celebrated each year on Aug. 2.



Sunny
Hi: 81
Lo: 54

