

Polk County
Itemizer-Observer
Volume 141, Issue 37 www.Polkio.com September 14, 2016 \$1.00

Dallas Senior Center plans underway

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas hopes to put the new Dallas Senior Center project out to bid this fall, if the schedule goes to plan.

So far, that hasn't been the case.

In December, it will be two years since Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority approved a \$1.9 million Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG) to build a new senior center on the vacant lot next to the old Carnegie Library on Church Street in Dallas. The city signed a contract with the state in January 2015 to use the funding.

The delay in the project has been concerning for some users of the current senior center located adjacent to the Dallas Public Library, as illustrated by recent letters to the editor pub-

lished in the *Itemizer-Observer*, but Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said the timeline to this point has been mostly out of the city's hands.

An environmental review that began in June 2015 — a federal requirement when using CDBG funding — will have taken nearly a year and half by the time its signed off by the state, according to Foggin.

"There is nothing the city

could have done to speed this process up, and we are certainly not working to slow or stop the construction of the center," Foggin said.

Foggin said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration finished its review on Aug. 15, and the city is due to receive public comments from that review on Friday.

That will not allow for the city to begin the project in

September, as was the plan previously.

The city still has to submit public comments to the state, which should happen in early October. If they are accepted, the project should go out to bid in November, Foggin said.

"We were hopeful that the project would start in September, but the federal requirements will not be wrapped up in time," he said.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS
Blue Garden postponed.
»Page 3A

FALLS CITY
Falls City survey shows true poverty level.
»Page 5A

INDEPENDENCE
Central's volleyball team earns a five-set win over South Albany.
»Page 10A

MONMOUTH
A presentation on Information Overload will be held at the library on Thursday.
»Page 3A

SPORTS
Dallas senior Tanner Earhart rushes for more than 400 yards and seven touchdowns.
»Page 11A

ELECTIONS
Morett, Evans vie for House District 20 seat.
»Page 2A

Aquatic Center closed for maintenance

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — The Dallas Aquatic Center is closed this week for maintenance.

The facility will be closed through Friday for annual maintenance that will include the resurfacing of the therapy pool.

Regular hours will resume on Saturday.

For more information: <http://www.ci.dallas.or.us/83/Dallas-Aquatic-Center>.

Consortium to serve county

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — The Community Services Consortium will serve Polk County at the Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.

The CSC will provide youth workforce development services, as well as help attaining a general education development (GED) acquisition, academic improvement, work readiness skills, paid work experience and job specific skill development — all services previously provided through HALO.

For more information: Mona K-Hinds, 541-704-7820.

Polk County 11th grade state test scores

	2015-16	2014-15
Central		
Language Arts	59 percent	68 percent
Math	18 percent	22 percent
Dallas		
Language arts	77 percent	72 percent
Math	45 percent	31 percent
Falls City		
Language Arts	50 percent	65 percent
Math	30 percent	25 percent
Perrydale		
Language Arts	71 percent	54 percent
Math	38.5 percent	13 percent
State Average		
Language Arts	68.5 percent	67 percent
Math	33 percent	30.5 percent

All percentages are of scores at level 3 or level 4, considered college- and career- ready.
Source: Oregon Department of Education

Making the grade?

Smarter Balanced scores show improvement in Dallas, Perrydale

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Scores from last year's second round of Smarter Balanced tests in Polk County

schools saw improvement — and some fall off — compared to the first year.

School officials note that the test is still new and changing, making analysis of the data difficult.

"I'm not shocked that (the scores) are going up and down, and I expect that for the next couple of years," said Central Superintendent Buzz Brazeau.

Still, he said the data is

important, and the district is sharing it with it teachers with an eye toward improvement.

"I think it's important to take this seriously," Brazeau said.

Test scores fell into four

categories, with level 4 being the highest and level 1 the lowest. Students earning levels 3 and 4 on the test are considered "college and career ready" for their grade level.

See TESTS, Page 5A

Celebrate present, past at Hop fest

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — If you like what is happening in Oregon's craft beer industry now, you might want to thank a homebrewer.

Brewing beer at home was illegal in this state until 1978, long after Prohibition was lifted, said Gail Oberst, who is helping organize a contest during the Hop & Heritage Festival that recognizes the work of local brewers, the Homebrew Competition.

She believes it's not a coincidence that the craft beer industry in Oregon was born shortly after the law changed to allow people to brew beer at home.

"Homebrewers are the source of educated drinkers and brewers in training," she said. "Nearly every brewer you will meet in this state began as a homebrewer. And homebrewers loudly, and sometimes annoyingly, spread the gospel of good beer."

The Hop & Heritage Festival will be in that business, too, when it kicks off this weekend.

Friday is the unofficial opening to the celebration of Independence's hop-filled history with two "supernatural" events: the annual Ghost Walk and new Zombie Shuffle.

Equal parts history tour and ghost hunt, the Ghost Walk has "ghost hosts," who

Inside ...

Hop & Heritage Festival special section, with features and full schedule. See Section C

tell our takers stories of otherworldly happenings in Independence.

Not scary enough?

This year is the debut of the Zombie Shuffle at 8:45 p.m., where people can dress up like zombies — or ghosts if you like — and compete for prizes.

On Saturday, Hop & Heritage get serious about hop history and the well-loved beverage made from it: beer.

Festival goers can begin the day at Independence Airport at 7 a.m. to watch the colorful hot air balloons lift off, then file into the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 292's hanger and have a delicious breakfast of old-fashioned flapjacks, sausage and eggs.

Hop & Heritage officially opens at 11 a.m. in Independence Riverview Park.

Contests, including the Homebrew Competition

and Cooking with Beer highlight the activities, but there's plenty more going on.

Classic, and messy, competitions such as pie eating and scarecrow building provide entertaining old-fashioned festival experiences.

And you can't have a festival named Hop & Heritage without beer. If you're looking for a good Northwest brew, head to the Hopyard Tent, featuring beers from Gilgamesh, Santiam Brewing Company and Mazama.

Live music kicks off at 11 a.m. with four acts taking the stage before the festival comes to a close with a fireworks display at 8:30 p.m.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
Find hope in the midst of losses, being well when ill and spiritual practices in a weekly series, Positive Aging. 10 a.m. Free.	Veterans and their families are welcome to Veterans Night at the Elks, with dinner and conversation. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Come early for tickets to the annual Ghost Walk in downtown Independence, the start of Hop & Heritage. 5 p.m. Free.	Explore the late-season bounty at Independence's two farmers markets in downtown, through October. 4:30 p.m. Free.	Learn about the hobby of remote control airplanes at Dallas Wingdingers RC Flying Club, at Whitworth. 1-3 p.m. Free.	Network with other business people and listen to a featured speaker at the Dallas Chamber luncheon at the civic center. 11:30 a.m. \$12-\$15.	Dig into your pockets and coin purse — you never know what you may find at the Polk County Coin Club. 7 p.m. Free.
Sunny Hi: 79 Lo: 46	Sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 48	Sunny Hi: 85 Lo: 51	Partly cloudy Hi: 77 Lo: 51	Partly cloudy Hi: 76 Lo: 52	Partly cloudy Hi: 73 Lo: 48	Sunny Hi: 74 Lo: 49

0 94922 61652 4