

# Falls City to block cars

## Council to seek costs preventing parking at park

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Installing barricades blocking vehicle access to Michael Harding Park — and how to pay for them — will be a topic of discussion at Thursday's Falls City City Council meeting.

Previously, the council decided to pursue blocking nonemergency vehicles from the park adjacent to the falls on the Little Luckiamute River.

On Thursday, Mayor Terry Ungricht will present cost estimates for purchase and installation of the barricades.

Based on bids from Advantage Precast, the four barricades needed to close off the parking lot would

## Learn more

The Falls City City Council meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St. For more information: 503-787-3631.

cost \$250 apiece.

Weyerhaeuser donated large boulders to line the street next to the park to keep cars out. Placing the barriers and boulders is projected to cost \$1,333.

Ungricht said filling the barricades with cement and gravel and installing a gate for emergency response would cost at most \$1,000, but he believes with

volunteer labor, that cost could be reduced.

The parks budget would be challenged to pay for the work, Ungricht said.

"Looking over the parks budget, I can come up with \$2,800, but this will leave us struggling to finish the year if there are any problems, such as vandalism," he wrote in a memo to the council.

He added that the council will need to decide how much in general fund resources should be used for park projects.

Also on the agenda for Thursday is a code enforcement update, results of the 2015-16 financial audit, and a resolution to approve use of grant funds to repair the Dutch Creek crossing on Mitchell Street.

# OBITUARIES

## Lynda Carrol Johnson

March 14, 1946 – Oct. 21, 2016

Lynda Carrol Johnson, formerly Hedrick and originally Werline, died Oct. 21, 2016. Lynda disliked veal, needlessly complex ques-

tions, and obituaries that omitted the cause of death. She loved nature, her dog, and obituaries that were funny.

Having expected to die tight-rope walking, she would be disappointed to learn that she instead died of complications from a recent stroke.

Her family is grateful that she is with her Lord and savior, Jesus, but shall miss her dearly.

A lifelong resident of Independence, Lynda was born March 14, 1946, to John Werline and Marjorie Locke Werline.

As the eldest child of three siblings, Lynda was a natural leader, quite dictatorial in disposition, and paradoxically loved for her sense of humor.

Her youth was spent lov-

ingly tormenting her sister and serving as a fill-in parent for her younger brother. Her first marriage produced three children and one divorce, which was followed by a second marriage and two more children.

Lynda always loved her two stepdaughters, Angie and Holly.

The beauty of Lynda's blonde hair and green eyes was matched only by her hard work ethic.

She was a very dedicated and diligent house cleaner for several families in the Independence area, and took pride in her ability to obliterate filth from every nook and cranny as if she were Mr. Clean with better hair and a more fetching figure.

She cleaned until her fingers were sore, and vacuumed out of a house backward so that a home's only footprints would belong to its owners.

She loved her job and her clients. Her career ended shortly after being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Joining Curves helped restore her strength. She loved the ladies there, and worked out nearly every day in order to earn prizes — except Sundays, when she would al-

ways remind her family that they were closed.

Lynda was very proud of most of her children. Having her eldest child when she was only 17 resulted in her learning to be a better parent as she aged.

She loved watching her eldest son and daughter grow into hardworking and confident adults.

Lynda's pride and joy was always her youngest daughter, Kasey. The love and attachment between these two was very strong, and oh so loving. They knew each other's hearts and have a bond that no distance can break.

Better late than never, Lynda became a follower of Jesus and attended Calvary Chapel in Independence. In 2012, she was thrilled to be baptized, surrounded by friends and family.

Her faith grew stronger in the following years, and her presence there will be missed.

Lynda had a sharp tongue and always had to tell the "truth," even when this was unnecessary or flat out wrong. She was a stubborn woman and a loving mother.

She is survived by her first husband, Dale Hedrick; her children Shane, Dawn, Eric, and Kasey; by 14 grandchildren; and by her siblings, Janis and Johnny. She was preceded in death by her parents; her second husband, Doug Johnson; and their infant son, DJ.

# FEMA grant keeps firefighters

## Dallas Fire & EMS hires two for daytime emergencies

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Two seasonal firefighters hired by the city of Dallas for the summer and early fall months will be stay longer.

That is thanks to a two-year grant from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response program.

The program provided Dallas Fire & EMS enough funding to hire two full-time firefighters for two years.

Fire Chief Fred Hertel said the department did a statewide search for candidates, but it didn't have to look far.

"We found the best candidates in-house," Hertel said.

Hertel introduced Austin Champ, a paramedic, and Jesse Friedow, an EMT, at

Monday's Dallas City Council meeting. They began working on Tuesday.

"What started out, as the chief mentioned, as seasonal employees, basically summer and early fall daytime response, turned into two years," said City Manager Ron Foggin. "We are excited to see how they can help us because we need all the help we can get during the day, those peak hours."

Foggin noted many of the department's volunteers are not available during the daytime hours due to working out of town.

Friedow and Champ, who were both volunteers previously, were hired to help through fire season and improve response times.

In other business, the council:

- Heard an update on planning for the August 2017 solar eclipse. City staff is working on a proposal to allow tent camping in Roger Jordan Community Park, near the Dallas Aquatic Center.

Campers would be able to use the showers and bathrooms at the center.

The council would have to approve using the park for that purpose.

Foggin said there are plans for selling viewing glasses and T-shirts for the event.

"We are going to have a downtown party like we've never had before and never going to need to have again," Foggin said. "This is probably the biggest tourist event we will see in a long, long time."

Cemetery. Farnstrom Mortuary handled arrangements. Online memories and condolences at FarnstromMortuary.com.

## Jeanne Shelton

Nov. 25, 1929 – Aug. 19, 2016

Jeanne Shelton, 86, of Dallas, died on Aug. 19, 2016.

She was born in Pedee to Katherine (Lacey) and James Siddall.

The family will hold a celebration of her life on Nov. 20 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Polk County Historical Museum, 560 S. Pacific Highway W., Rickreall, at the south end of the Polk County Fairgrounds parking lot. Remembrances at 2 p.m.; buffet luncheon follows.

## Arturo 'Jimmy' James Franco

June 29, 1980 – Sept. 18, 2016

Arturo "Jimmy" James Franco, 36, of Dallas, died because of cancer in Bellingham, Wash., on Sept. 18.

Military service with full honors to be held on Friday, Nov. 11, at 9 a.m. at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Celebration of life to follow at Shilo Inn, 9900 Canyon Road, Beaverton.

## Obituary Information

Obituary information must be submitted by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication to be included in the newspaper.

Most funeral homes handle obituary information and provide it to the newspaper. However, information can also be submitted directly from family members.

Obituaries cost \$8 per 25 words (column inch) and include a photo and — for veterans — a flag. Obituaries placed by family members must be prepaid.

Color and black-and-white photos can be submitted, but photos will only be published in black and white.

The *Itemizer-Observer* uses a flag logo in the obituaries of people who served in the armed forces.

Obituaries — like all information submitted to the news department — are subject to editing for style, content and length.

Information can be brought or mailed to the *Itemizer-Observer*, 147 SE Court St., Dallas, OR 97338, or emailed to [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).

For more information: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373.



In Lynda's honor, there will be a celebration of life on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. at Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St., in Monmouth.

Please come prepared to laugh and shares stories of Lynda. She was a hoot! While flowers are welcome, the family invites mourners to consider a donation to the Marion County Dog Shelter, where Lynda adopted her companion dog, Sophie. Lynda would love that!

## Karen Kay Bitikofer

Nov. 4, 1945 – Nov. 1, 2016

Karen Kay Bitikofer, a resident of Dallas, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Nov. 1, in Salem Hospital.

Karen was born on Nov. 4, 1945, in McMinnville, the daughter of Harold and Fay Weigel Jordan.



Brahman cattle.

Karen graduated from Redmond High School. She married Merle Bitikofer on May 5, 1965, in Salem.

They lived in Salem and Portland before settling in Dallas in 1970. Karen worked for Polk County and the state of Oregon as a

The family moved to a Ranch at Powell Butte where her family raised

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