

Fatigue factor in fatal accident

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Police say fatigue may have been a factor in an early morning crash that claimed the life of a Dallas man in Dallas on Nov. 16.

At about 3:15 a.m., Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded to the report of a multiple-vehicle crash on Highway 223 (Kings Valley Highway) near milepost 1, just north of Dallas.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 1999 Toyota Tacoma was traveling southbound on Kings Valley Highway when it crossed into the northbound lanes where it struck a northbound 2000 Toyota Corolla head on.

After the collision, the Corolla left the roadway and rolled down an embankment.

The Tacoma came to rest in the highway.

A 2006 Kenworth tractor pulling a loaded log trailer had been following the Corolla northbound and swerved to avoid the collision.

The truck left the roadway where it came to rest in the ditch.



OREGON STATE POLICE /for Itemizer-Observer
Investigators work to clear the scene of a fatal accident on Kings Valley Highway in Dallas on Nov. 16. A Dallas man was killed in the crash.

The Corolla driver, Louis A. Hildago, 39, of Dallas, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Tacoma, Tad T. Young, 34, of Silverton, received minor injuries and refused medical transport.

The driver of the Kenworth, Steven E. Follett, 65, of Philomath was not injured.

Young is cooperating with the investigation.

The highway was closed for about seven hours while the investigation

was conducted.

OSP was assisted by the Dallas Police Department, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Oregon Department of Transportation and the Kansas State Highway Patrol, who notified the next of kin.

Dallas utility costs may rise

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Rates for sewer and water utilities in Dallas are likely to increase early next year.

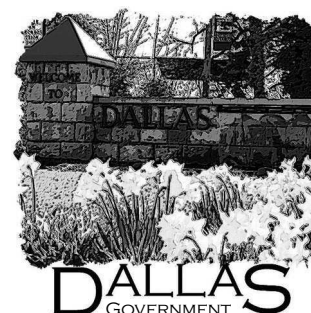
The Dallas City Council approved drafting a resolution accepting the city's Utility Rate Advisory Committee recommendation increase rates for water and sewer charges.

The adjustment would start Feb. 1, 2017, following a customer "education campaign" to explain why the rate hikes are necessary.

The committee recommended increasing water rates by 4.31 percent and sewer by 2.75 percent each year until 2019, when they would be reviewed again.

The rates were last adjusted following a 2012 study that recommended the city adopt the Portland-area Consumer Price Index as a method of figuring an annual increase to rates to keep up with costs.

Fred Braun, the engineering and environmental services director for the city, said the CPI didn't keep pace with expenses.



"The difference the 2012 study and where we are today, basically operation and construction costs don't track well with the Portland-Salem CPI," Braun said.

The new rate structure is needed to pay for operational costs and needed upgrades and projects.

Councilor Jackie Lawson suggested holding informational meetings where city officials could explain the reasons the increases are needed. She said part of those discussions should be that the city will be using reserves and systems development charges as much as possible to keep the rates lower.

"Those are important, key pieces that people need to understand that we are not just creating slush funds," she said.

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