

Polk County
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Dallas residents to pay more for water, sewer

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas City Council approved rate increases for water and sewer utilities on Dec. 5.

The votes will be followed by a campaign explaining why the increases are needed.

Resolutions passed include a 4.31 percent increase to water rates starting in February. Rates will increase by the same amount in January of 2018 and 2019.

Likewise, sewer rates will go up 2.75 percent in February and for the next two years.

The city's Utility Rate Advisory Committee recommended the adjustments as necessary to keep up with operational costs and future upgrades to systems.

Dallas City Manager Ron Foggin said the city will provide customers information about the increases on the city's website, in utility bills, the city newsletter and an open house scheduled for Jan. 9.

At the open house, people can learn about what the rising rates will pay for and calculate what their bill will be after the increases take effect.

Foggin said the location is to be determined.

"We've got a good format for that, where it will be educational," he said. "We will try to hold that in a place that is easily accessible to the community."

In other business, the city council:

- Learned that it may be able to check off one of its top priorities: purchasing land surrounding Mercer Reservoir and in the Rickreall Creek watershed.
- Foggin said the city's offer for about 400 acres was accepted by owner Hancock Timber Company, but details of the purchase are still being determined.
- "We are expecting a contract for purchase in the next couple weeks," Foggin said. "They would like to — and I'm hoping that we can — close on that property in early 2017."
- Presented an \$8,000 check to Dallas Christmas Cheer, proceeds from the first Dallas Glow Run held in October.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Nancy Lodge finds happiness in helping others through a wide variety of volunteer organizations.

A JOY TO SERVE

Nancy Lodge volunteers to help the community — and have fun

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Chances are, if something good is happening in Independence, Nancy Lodge is involved somehow.

"Nancy Lodge is a wonderful person," Mayor John McArdle said. "She's been involved with the downtown association. She's been involved in the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) program. She's a driving force at our library."

Lodge and her husband, Mike, found themselves in Independence about 20 years ago after living life on the



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Nancy Lodge (left) and Marilyn Morton serve cider at the Parade of Lights open house Dec. 3.

road in a recreational vehicle. It looked like a good place to settle down for a while.

"We decided to buy a little house here and sit a spell," Nancy said. "In the spring and summer, we'd go back on the road. Mike used to

like to build things — shelves, tables — you can only build so many shelves in an RV."

It wasn't long before John Paff discovered the Lodge's passion for community. He approached Nancy with a signed petition for her to run for city council. She is wrapping up her 16th — and final — year on the Independence City Council at the end of December.

"She is certainly no slacker on council," Marilyn Morton said. "She is very quick to address a situation that doesn't seem like it should be."

See LODGE, Page 3A

More wintry weather on the way

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Thursday dropped snow on Dallas and higher elevations in Polk County, and the ice and cold has lingered longer than anyone suspected it would.

As late as Monday morning, ice patches caused accidents and slippery driving conditions.

"We got surprised by a little cold pocket in the Dallas area," said Todd Whitaker, Polk County director of public works. "You can go from good stopping distance to horrible stopping conditions in 100 feet, and be in and out of it in 100 feet."

While the snow has mostly melted in the valley, above 1,000 feet in the Coastal Range and through the passes, expect to see lots of snow, said Gerald Macke, meteorological technician with the National Weather Service.

The snow will return Wednesday afternoon, though meteorologists are



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Snow started falling in Polk County Thursday morning. Ice and sleet continued to cause problems through Monday morning. More wintry weather is coming this week.

unsure how much accumulation there will be — or how the winter weather will take form: sleet, freezing rain, or snow.

"It doesn't have much of a warm up this coming week," Macke said. "We're going to stay pretty cool. We have possible snow showers every day next week."

The lows will dive into the 20s, Macke said.

"Anything that's on the ground will stick around, and any water will freeze for sure," he said.

Whitaker said Polk County crews have been busy plowing and sanding main roads.

"Drive with caution," he said. "Pay attention to the weather forecast and the

temperature forecast. Don't follow too closely, and don't get angry at the person driving slow in front of you because they are just being cautious."

With 57 inches at Government Camp, it's a good sign Oregon may be out of the drought, but meteorologists are staying watchful.

See SNOW, Page 7A

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

New owners use Courtyard Coffee as a way to grow closer as a family.

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FALLS CITY

City officials consider library district.

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INDEPENDENCE

YMCA raises more than \$23,000 during its Christmas Party and Auction.

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MONMOUTH

Western Oregon athletic director Barbara Dearing announces she will retire in 2017.

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EDUCATION

Perrydale Elementary School to perform holiday musical.

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Fighter jet causes rumble

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Everyone felt it at about 9:40 p.m. Monday. Did you?

The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing conducted routine F-15 night training missions for Citizen-Airmen. Training missions began on Monday and are scheduled through Thursday evening.

Training flights will be completed before 10:30 p.m. each night.

Leaf collection this weekend

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The second leaf collection in Dallas will be Saturday and Sunday.

This year, Republic Services will be collecting leaves from city streets. These are the only times leaves that are placed in the street will be collected. Have them on the street, 1 foot from the curb the night before as the team starts early.

Leaves can be dropped off at the following locations: Lyle Ball Field parking lot (gravel area), the end of Hankel Street (off LaCreole Drive), and the end of Allgood Street (by City Park old side).

For more information: 503-831-3562.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
No need to be nervous when you're reading to a dog at the Dallas Public Library. Dogs are very engaged listeners. 4 p.m. Free.	The final Business After Hours for 2016 for the MI Chamber will be at Petals and Vines, complete with refreshments. 5:30-7 p.m. Free.	Relax or rock out at the Guthrie Park Acoustic Music Jam Session at Guthrie Park Community Center. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Looking for a stocking stuffer? Meet the author Maren Anderson and pick up a copy of her book at Calmlees. 11 a.m. Free to attend.	Spread some holiday cheer by taking part in "Answer the Phone like Buddy the Elf" day.	Save a life by giving blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. 12:30-6 p.m.	Celebrate the Christmas spirit at the Monmouth Senior Center's Winter Wonderland, and see the expansion. 1-3 p.m. \$3.
Wintery mix Hi: 33 Lo: 28	Snow showers Hi: 36 Lo: 25	Cloudy Hi: 35 Lo: 21	Cloudy Hi: 36 Lo: 27	Showers Hi: 38 Lo: 32	Cloudy Hi: 40 Lo: 35	Rain Hi: 42 Lo: 35