

Woman OK after heating pad fire

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Dallas Fire & EMS responded to a house fire in the 500 block of Southwest Levens Street at about 6 a.m. on Feb. 1. Dallas Police Department was the first to arrive. Officers helped the female occupant out of her house.

The fire was contained to a bedroom in the residence. Fire crews were able to extinguish the fire within 20 minutes of arrival.

The female reported that she woke up coughing and found her heating pad had caught fire. EMS personnel evaluated her for possible smoke inhalation, but she was not transported.

It was discovered the house did not have working smoke alarms. Dallas Fire & EMS spokeswoman April Welsh stresses the importance of working smoke alarms in every home.

"Most house fire deaths happen between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when people are asleep," she said in a press release. "Keep your family safe by installing smoke alarms and testing them monthly to make sure they work."

For more information: 503-831-3533.

McCandless takes over as Polk VSO

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Marie McCandless, the former assistant to Polk County's new Veterans Service Officer, has taken over the post as a VSO-in-training.

McCandless takes over for former VSO Erin Osgood, who was hired to start the program at the beginning of this year.

"That was her goal in life to be a VSO," said Polk County Administrator Greg Hansen said of McCandless.

McCandless, a U.S. Army veteran, will work in coordination with the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs Office in Salem until she completes training. She's already begun to take classes, Hansen said.

"She can do everything a VSO can do except sign official forms," Hansen said.

That will be handled with the Salem office temporarily.

Polk County VSO office opened in January and will be holding an open house on Feb. 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. at 240 SW Washington St. in Dallas.

For more information, 503-623-9188 or torres.stephanie@co.polk.or.us.

Central helps kids connect

'Be GLAD' program focuses on providing access to students in classrooms

By Emily Mentzer

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — All elementary school classroom teachers in the Central School District have been trained and certified in a national program, Be GLAD.

That makes a difference for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, said Dorie Vickery, director of curriculum.

"It's all about language," Vickery said. "So what the teachers do when they meet in the training, they take their science standards, their social studies standards, their English language arts standards, look for commonalities and start to look for their themes, what we call integrated units."

The end result is teachers making more connections for kids, Vickery said.

One class just finished up an integrated unit on communities and traditions, she said.

"They tied in the Hop Festival, so they included things that would be unique to the Monmouth-Independence community, making it real for students," Vickery said.

GLAD, which stands for Guided Language Acquisition Design, is a model that has been around for decades, designed by the U.S. Department of Education in the early 1990s.

"Basically, it's about providing access to students," Vickery said. "So if you have a second-language learner in your classroom, what are you doing instructionally as



Be GLAD Training/for the Itemizer-Observer

Anisa Arain, a national trainer for the Be GLAD program, teaches in a classroom

you deliver core content? What are those strategies that are going to help that student understand?"

Elementary school teachers were the focus of the GLAD training, in part because they have a more complex job: Teaching students all subjects, meeting all the required standards, Vickery said.

High school and middle school teachers tend to focus on one or two topics, such as social studies or math.

"They (elementary school teachers) have a ton of standards that they have to address," Vickery said. "They could have a wide range of

reading levels. A fourth-grade classroom with 32 students could have students reading at kindergarten-first grade level to seventh-grade level, so how do you address that and meet the needs of all kids?"

By improving the connections, the Be GLAD program helps the whole classroom, not only those who are English language learners, Vickery said. But the additional help to EL students is timely. Central School District was recently named a "transformation district" by the Oregon Department of Education.

"We're being asked to make more gains for our EL

students," Vickery said. "We haven't in a long time. We did this time, although they don't count because we're moving from No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds Act."

The district has seen a decrease in the number of second-language students. Vickery said she thinks that reflects a change in student demographics.

"I think we have more truly bilingual children coming in," she said. "So you have a child who speaks two languages who's 6 years old."

For more information about the Be GLAD program: www.BeGLADtraining.com.



Valentine's Day is Feb. 14th!

Get Home Safe. Call Your D.D.

Squirrels

24 Hour Service
Pick up & Drop off

TAXI SERVICE INC.
971-240-1208

Where it comes from the heart.

Order now. We deliver!

Flowers ~ Plants ~ Balloons
Plush ~ Cards ~ Candy ~ Gifts

503-831-1410

Heartstrings Florist & Artisans

137 SW Court St, Dallas • www.heartstringsonline.net

Make His Valentine's Day One To Remember!

We have Gift Certificates!

Mowers ~ Weedeaters ~ Chainsaws
Rototillers ~ Oil Changes
Blade Sharpening ~ & More!

503-623-5116
1145 SW Oakdale Rd, Dallas
Mon - Fri 8-5:30, Sat 8-2

Find that something different for that someone special!

Custom Arrangements
Beautiful Cards
Gorgeous Flowers
Blooming Plants
Chocolates & Balloons
Fun & Unique Gifts

Order Early For Valentine's Day!
503.838.1773

Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
410 E. Main St. • Monmouth
petalsandvinesflorist.com

Ixtapa

Come and play the traditional Valentine's Day Game!

Each table receives one balloon with a prize discount or free dessert!

Every table wins!

Don't miss this great annual event!

503-623-0678
1320 SW Fairview Ave, Dallas

All day Sunday Feb. 14th (3 pm to close)



Now Open Daily at 7 am!

Valentine's Dinner Special

New York Steak and Shrimp
2 for \$30

with champagne and cheesecake or chocolate covered strawberries

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Cocktails • Karaoke • Live Music • Pool • Darts

SASSY'S
KEGS & EGGS

THE PERFECT HEN

186 SW Court St, Dallas
503-831-1168