

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dallas Earth Day cleaning is Saturday

DALLAS — Dallas Downtown Association will hold a “Downtown Clean-up Day” on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

DDA is looking for more volunteers to help on various downtown clean-up projects. The event is rain or shine, so dress appropriately.

Volunteers are asked to meet in the back room at Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar, 788 Main St., Dallas for coffee and project assignments.

For more information, Emma Guida, DDA program manager at emmagdda@gmail.com.

Wagner asks community to take survey

FALLS CITY — The Wagner Community Library is asking for people to take a survey on possible support of a ballot measure to fund library operations.

Falls City residents should receive a copy of the survey in their next water bill, and paper and electronic versions will be available at the library, 111 N. Main St., Falls City.

Operations are currently paid for with the remainder of the Wagner Trust Fund, which was dissolved and released to keep the library open while a funding solution is found. If the survey shows there isn't enough support for a ballot measure, there aren't many options left, officials said.

Falls City Mayor Terry Ungricht said the issue also will be discussed at the city's budget committee meeting on Thursday.

Falls City approves court agreement

FALLS CITY — The Falls City City Council now has a municipal court after adopting a contract with the city of Independence to try cases in its court.

This is the first step in process of re-establishing a code enforcement program. The city still needs to hire a code officer – a process that has already begun — and give authority to the Polk County Sheriff's Office to enforce other city ordinances, such drinking in the parks and other issues.

“This would set it up to where I could meet the Sheriff (Mark) Garton on an IGA (intergovernmental agreement) with them because they would have a court to cite to,” Mayor Terry Ungricht said.

He said the code enforcement officer in Albany is willing to post the city's request for a contract code enforcer.

The contract was approved unanimously.

Brooks graduates from safety training

SALEM — Polk County Sheriff's Office's Joshua Brooks was part of the Basic Police Class' 365th graduating class on Friday.

The class, put on by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, is a 16-week course centered on survival skills, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, ethics, cultural diversity, problem solving, community policing, elder abuse, drug recognition and more.

The class graduated on Friday.

Indy corn grower earns national honors

INDEPENDENCE — Independence corn grower Scott Setniker was honored during the 2016 National Corn Yield Contest.

Setniker placed second in Oregon in the I: Irrigated Class with a yield of 296.465 bushels per acre.

Setniker was one of 400 state winners nationwide. In total, there were 7,979 entries from 46 states.

Setniker used Mycogen Seeds 2V357.

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer
Your community news source.



Braylin Brooks, 3, (left front) adds a plastic Easter egg to her basket on Saturday. Naethan Flores, 2, (right) takes in the scene at Gentle Woods Park, home of the annual Monmouth-Independence YMCA's Easter egg hunt. The Boy Scouts and members of Central Lions Club helped fill each egg, which contained prizes such as balloons, pencil sharpeners, or tickets that could be redeemed for free books. The Easter Bunny visited with youngsters all morning. Two golden eggs, one in each age group, represented special Easter basket giveaways. For more photos from the event: polkio.com.

Green Haven, Falls City agree on rates

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City and Green Haven RV Park have reached an agreement on how the park should be charged for water until the city completes a water rate study.

The city council approved the contract Thursday. RV Park owner Richard Bowman had signed the agreement before Thursday's meeting.

The agreement changes the base rate for the park from \$108.86 per month to \$326.58, increases its utility reserve fee from \$10 to \$30 and adds a base of \$15 for each of five semi-permanent RV spots. Overage charges of \$3.12 for each 1,000-gallon unit will be charged after usage surpasses 15,000 gallons.

The estimated bill based on the new agreement would be \$433.83.

The city and park have

negotiated for months after the city deemed the park's bill was too low for its usage.

At first, the city wanted to charge the park the residential rate of approximately \$42 for each of the 30 RV spots, and the residence, shower and office on site.

The park owners and residents objected to an increase of that size — it would have more than doubled the rate — and hired an attorney.

The city's attorney sug-

gested any rate increase wait until after the city conducts a water rate study, but said if both parties reached an agreement, he didn't have a problem with it.

“I think it's a fair agreement until we get certified rates down, which I'm sure we will have to do when we seek financing for upgrades on the (water) distribution system,” Mayor Terry Ungricht said.

The agreement was approved unanimously.

CARTS service changes coming May 8; to be replaced with Cherriots express routes

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Polk County will be largely unaffected by changes coming to CARTS.

Beginning May 8, most CARTS routes will be replaced with new Cherriots Re-


gional express routes.

Final schedules and maps can be found at www.cherriots.org/regional. Fares will remain the same.


Buses will only stop at designated stops. Passengers may no longer request the bus

to come closer to their home.

CARTS 45, which serves Dallas, Monmouth and Independence, will operate as it does now with passengers contacting the call center to request service, but the name will change to Polk County Flex.



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