

Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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Committee approves 2017-18 city budget

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas Budget Committee approved the city's 2017-18 budget, but not without a debate over the \$30,000 added to pay for a recreation coordinator.

In a previous meeting, the committee approved moving \$30,000 from contingency

funds to pay for the position, and added \$10,000 in revenue and a matching amount in expenditures as a result of creating the position.

Councilor and budget committee member Jackie Lawson pointed out the position was slated to bring in \$25,000 in revenue.

She asked what programs would not be offered in

2017-18 to explain the discrepancy.

"If we had \$25,000 last year, that's a \$15,000 disparity," she said. "We have to know what kind of programs we are not going to be offering."

City Manager Ron Foggin said the figure was a starting point and a lot of that would depend on what the person hired decides to pursue.

See BUDGET, Page 5A

Dallas 2017-18 budget

How much? \$41 million overall; \$12.2 million general fund.

What positions does it add? Economic development director, fire department administrative assistant, two seasonal firefighters, three paramedics, part-time recreation coordinator, and moving a part-time finance and court clerk to full-time.

What major projects will it pay for? Senior Center (by federal grant); water reclaiming project (recycling treated waste water for other uses, such as watering grass in parks); continue installing automatic water meters; adding a second "aquifer storage and recovery" well; and beginning work on improvements to Godsey Road.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

Teachers from Oakdale ask school district to reconsider cuts to the school's teaching staff.

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FALLS CITY

Wagner Community Library seeks feedback about the future of the library.

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INDEPENDENCE

Crash totals car, but occupants are OK.

»Page 6A

MONMOUTH

Western Oregon's baseball team wins the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title.

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EDUCATION

Books for Bikes helps kickstart a love of reading and riding.

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POLK COUNTY

Get ready to discover MI Town on Saturday.

»Page 3A

SPORTS


Dallas baseball and Central baseball and softball prepare for the state play-in round.

»Pages 11-12A

Election results online

Itemizer-Observer staff report
POLK COUNTY — See the Itemizer-Observer's website, polkio.com, for the results of Tuesday's election.

Results were posted on Facebook and Twitter, but came in after the I-O's deadline.



Visit our website
www.polkio.com

Man charged with assault

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Police officers arrested a Dallas man Thursday on attempted assault and menacing charges after he allegedly tried to run over a man and

threw an ax at a woman following an argument.

Tyler N. Oldham, 23, is charged with two counts of

first-degree attempted assault, two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, three counts of menacing, second-degree disorderly conduct, reckless driving and reckless endangering in the incident, which occurred on May 9.

Oldham is next due in court on Thursday at 1:14 p.m.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in Polk County Court, the incident began with the male victim going to his ex-roommate's house in the 900 block of East Ellendale Avenue to ask for money he lent to him. Oldham was at the ex-roommate's house and began arguing with the man when he persisted in asking for the money, according to police.

See AX, Page 5A



Mark Hallett works on a restoration of archaeotherium.

Photo courtesy of MARK HALLETT/for the Itemizer-Observer

Bringing dinos to life

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Watched "Jurassic Park" lately — the original? Remember how chillingly real the dinosaurs appeared?

Dallas resident and artist Mark Hallett consulted with the film's creators make those movie monsters look like they were living and breathing.

"I was really thrilled by that," said Hallett, a "paleoartist" who has made a career of helping bring dinosaurs and other extinct creatures to life through illustration and modeling. "I met Steven Spielberg and Michael Crichton, the author. I got to be a fly on the

wall in meetings where they were hashing out the plot."

The author of the book "The Sauropod Dinosaurs: Life in the Age of Giants," Hallett continues to study, illustrate and write about Earth's prehistoric life.

He will read from the book at Dallas Public Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Hallett will display models, fossils and the art he uses to create his depictions.

In his 44-year career, Hallett found a way to stitch together his interests in art and science, earning a degree in art

and using it to illustrate ancient life. In 1973, his first commission was with the San Diego Natural History Museum painting murals, and later as an exhibit specialist.

Four years after that first gig, Fossils Magazine hired Hallett to create depictions of prehistoric animals and environments.

Not a traditional career, Hallett said he had to do a lot of work on freelance basis — even for free to show what he could do. H

e worked for the San Diego Zoo as a freelancer, as well as the publication designer and art director on the Zoo-books children's series.

See HALLETT, Page 7A



Hallett

Dallas' Jacob Deming, left, clears a hurdle during the boys 300-meter hurdles race at the Mid-Willamette Conference District Track and Field Championships on Saturday in Lebanon. Deming won the 300 hurdles, long jump and triple jump. The Dragons saw 10 athletes qualify for state during the two-day event. Central athletes also competed and will go to state. For more, see Page 10A.

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer



Hurdling past the competition

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed

Tonight kicks off the final run of Central High School's production, "Aladdin Jr." centralperformingarts.org 7 p.m. \$5-\$8.



Cloudy
Hi: 55
Lo: 43

thu

Is clutter taking over your life? Attend a free workshop at Monmouth Public Library on getting rid of that clutter. 6-7 p.m. Free.



Partly sunny
Hi: 69
Lo: 46

fri

Faith Evangelical Free Church hosts a bluegrass music jam, open to all bluegrass musicians and music lovers. 7-10 p.m. Free.



Sunny
Hi: 73
Lo: 45

sat

Last chance to help Fill the Bus at Roth's — a food and personal item drive by Central's transportation dept. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Mostly sunny
Hi: 73
Lo: 45

sun

Tour downtown businesses and enjoy local artists and wine at Wine Down Downtown Dallas. 2-6 p.m. \$15-\$23.



Sunny
Hi: 76
Lo: 51

mon

You're never too old to try something new with New Horizons Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. \$25 monthly fee.



Sunny
Hi: 83
Lo: 56

tue

On this day in 1999, Gerry Bloch, 81, became the oldest climber to scale El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, breaking his own record.



Mostly sunny
Hi: 88
Lo: 55