

# LaCreole principal given digital award

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Photos of LaCreole Middle School Principal Jamie Richardson were plastered all over the Dallas School District boardroom last week.

The display, placed for all board meeting attendees to see, was in response to a

special recognition Richardson earned this month: Digital Principal of the Year. It was a little embarrassing for him.

“It was kind of an honor, so I will give them that one time,” said a camera-shy Richardson, smiling.

He and five other principals were awarded the honor by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The award recognizes principals “for integrating digital media in their efforts to improve instruction, student achievement, and their own leadership.”

Richardson said when he received the call from the director of the NASSP notifying him he has won the award, he wanted to ask, “Are you sure?”

“Not knowing how many applicants and looking at the people who gone before and won the award, it was just great to be in the running,” Richardson said. “I didn’t really expect it. There are so many other people in the country are doing great things.”

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

The old drying shed on the Weyerhaeuser property will be carefully dismantled in an effort to salvage timber.

# Mill landmark comes down

Crews remove the Weyerhaeuser mill building known as Noah’s Ark

By Jolene Guzman  
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DALLAS — Another piece of Dallas’ timber town legacy will be gone soon as the dismantling of old drying shed, affectionately known as “Noah’s Ark,” on the former Weyerhaeuser mill property began last week.

“It’s the end of an era,” said Commissioner Mike Ainsworth, who worked at the mill for nearly two decades. “I saw the big crane when I was driving into to town. It made me sad. I have fond memories of that facility.”

Ainsworth said the enormous building was used to store lumber when the site was a working mill. It earned its nickname because workers at the mill calculated its dimensions as similar to those used to describe Noah’s Ark in the Bible.

“It’s huge,” Ainsworth said. “You don’t know how big it is until you go in it.”

The property owner, Northwest Demolition & Dismantling, has been getting the site ready for redevelopment.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Workers inspect the roof Monday during the dismantling process at the former Weyerhaeuser mill site.

“Part of the plan is that it would have to come down at some point,” said David McClure, the controller for site owner Northwest Demolition and Dismantling. “It’s probably not usable for any industrial purpose, besides being a drying shed for a lumber mill.”

He said the project started June 11 and may continue for up to three months.

“We have a company that is salvaging the wood from the building,” McClure said Monday.

Other materials from the building, including metal siding, could be recycled as well, depending on their condition, he said.

Ainsworth said the closure of the mill in 2009 was a big blow to the local economy and he had hoped during the first few years afterward that it would be reopened.

“I know we all have to change, but it was a good living,” he said.

But now that so much

time has passed, he thinks tearing down some of the buildings might be the best option for the property.

“It would be wonderful to see something come in here,” he said. “It would give people some hope.”

City Manager Ron Foggin said the removal of the building could open the property to more uses.

“I think the city was always in the hope that someone would find use for that building,” he said. “Long story short, it just never really came to fruition. The property owners have determined that the site would be more marketable without that.”

Northwest Demolition & Dismantling purchased the site in an auction in 2012 and began tearing down some of the structures with the objective of selling the property for industrial use.

No matter what happens with the property, the entrance to the city is forever changed with Noah’s Ark being torn down piece-by-piece, Ainsworth said.

“It’s the first thing you really saw when you came into town on that side,” he said.

# IN YOUR TOWN

## DALLAS

Morrison graduate finds herself.

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## INDEPENDENCE

Santa Train leaving town.

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## MONMOUTH

City passes 2017-18 budget after lengthy process.

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## POLK COUNTY

Valsetz residents camp out for reunion.

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## SPORTS

Registration continues for Monmouth-Independence Fourth of July tennis tournament.

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# ROAD to hold field day

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — The Radio Operators Association of Dallas will hold a field day at Dallas City Park from 9 a.m. Saturday to noon on Sunday.

The exercise is aimed at giving practice of responding in case of a natural disaster when HAM operators may have to operate purely on standby power.

The event is open to the public and information about the association will be available and what amateur radio operators’ role may be during and after a natural disaster.

For more information: 503-881-5836.

# Fourth of July section

Be sure to pick up next week’s issue of the *Itemizer-Observer* to read all about the Fourth of July events happening in Polk County.

# Newsletter

Want to be more connected? Sign-up to receive the *I-O* newsletter. Head to [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com) and input your email address and you’re good to go!

# Follow the I-O

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# City to review council social media use

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas’ Administration Committee will examine possible rules for council members regarding social media use.

Committee members are slated to review guidelines and may make a recommendation at the committee’s July 24 meeting.

At the committee’s May meeting — the committee meets every two months — it recommended the city council adopt the policy governing non-city employee use of city-owned social media, and personal pages when employees identify their association with the city.

Committee Chairwoman Kelly Gabliks reported at the June 5 Dallas City Council meeting that since then, the recommendation had been withdrawn to make sure the policy doesn’t violate councilors’ First Amendment rights. She said that the policy could inform further debate on the topic.








“We wanted to see the council adopt a social media policy,” she said during her report to the council. “We had a copy of what the city employees are required to adhere to. We really liked it and we voted to send that forward to make that a recommendation to the full council.”

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KARYN PRESSEL/Itemizer-Observer

Dallas’ Administration Committee will review and may suggest a social media policy.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
	Curious about 3D printing? Dallas Library will host a Makerspace Workshop at Dallas Civic Center. 5 p.m. Free.	See what kind of bounty you can come away with at the weekly Polk County Bounty Market. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Come take part or just sit back and listen to some great music at the Guthrie Park Acoustic Jam Session. 6:30 p.m. Free.	Help get the Polk County Fairgrounds ready for the County Fair by taking part in the Fair Beautification Day. 9 a.m. to noon.	Enjoy some great art from a variety of artists at the Last Sunday at River Gallery in Independence. 4 p.m.	If you’re looking to show off your musical talents or want to improve, check out New Horizons Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. \$25.	The James2 Community Kitchen will offer meals for anyone in need in Falls City at 242 N. Main St., Falls City. 4:30 to 6 p.m.
							
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