

# Solar Saturdays at Indy library



STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

Every Saturday leading up to the weekend of the Great American Eclipse on Aug. 21, the Independence Public Library will hold a Solar Saturday event. Each week participants will use a different artist medium to make space-themed creations with the guidance of a community member leading the session. "It sounded like too much fun around the eclipse not to do something," said Library Director Robin Puccetti. Puccetti added that, in planning, the library tried to incorporate all different art forms into the schedule. With events spanning from poetry writing and drawing, to tie-dye and clay working, the variety offers artistic outlets for all ages. To volunteer with the library, for Solar Saturdays or other events, contact the library by calling 503-838-1811 or visit the library in person.

# Hansen addresses future with county

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — County Administrator Greg Hansen will officially retire this summer, but he won't leave right away.

Hansen said expected changes in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System that could affect him financially are driving his decision to retire. He met with a PERS representative Tuesday afternoon to discuss his options and will retire in August or September. He will work full-time under a contract for the rest of the year.

Hansen presented the Polk County Board of Com-

missioners three options for what could happen in 2018.

One choice had him leaving at the end of 2017. Another pushed his end date to around June 30, 2018. No one on the board liked those options.

His second option was to work on a potentially long-term contract, but limited to an average of 24 hours per week to stay under the PERS-mandated 1,039-hour limitation for retirees. He suggested a three- to five-year contract. "I would not be proposing this option if I were not confident with the current expertise/talent of our existing department heads," he

said.

Hansen said the county has ballot measures to renew the public safety levy, to bring in money for Polk County Courthouse maintenance and to create a Polk County Fair district on tap in the coming years. Also, he expects retirements in leadership posts around the county in two to four years.

Hansen said he would like to stay on to help the county through those transitions.

The contract option would save the county \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year. Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler said the only viable option in her opinion is a

part-time contract.

"I highly respect that he put the county first in this situation because he certainly didn't have to," she said. "I would like him to be here as long as he possibly can."

Commissioners Mike Ainsworth and Craig Pope agreed. The board asked Hansen to draft agreements for the rest of this year and the longer-term contract.

After working for the county for more than 30 years, Hansen said planning for retirement felt strange.

"It was a weird memo to write and even weirder to talk about this morning," Hansen said Tuesday.

# REUNIONS

## DHS Class of 1997

Dallas High School Class of 1997 will celebrate its 20th reunion at Rogue Farms from 6 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 5. On Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., classmates will meet at Dallas City Park for a family picnic. For more information and tickets: [www.eventbrite.com/e/dallas-or-class-of-97-reunion-tickets-35530112523](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/dallas-or-class-of-97-reunion-tickets-35530112523), or on the DHS class of 1997 reunion group on Facebook.

## CHS Class of 1972

Central Class of 1972 will celebrate its 45th class reunion on July 22 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Independence Riverview Park. No host; just come and visit. Hope to see you there.

## DHS Class of 1962

Dallas High School Class of 1962 will celebrate its 55th reunion on Aug. 11-13. For more information: Case Chaney, 503-881-5810.

## Reunion for Falls City schools

Open to anyone who has attended Falls City schools. The event will be held on Aug. 26 starting at noon at The Breadboard in Falls City. The event moves to The Boondocks at 4 when The Breadboard closes. There is a special Facebook group page: [www.facebook.com/groups/434784380189748/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/434784380189748/). For more information: Tracy Quiring, [dguttf@outlook.com](mailto:dguttf@outlook.com) or 541-903-1434.

## CHS Class of 1977 40th

Requesting all classmates to attend Central High School's Class of 1977 40th reunion for a no-host dinner and drinks at Kolby's RB&B at 3838 River Road NE, Keizer, on Aug. 12 from 6 to 11:30 p.m. RSVP on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/events/631545067040419/?ti=icl](http://www.facebook.com/events/631545067040419/?ti=icl) or text Molly Derry at 503-917-9251, via email, [mderry@aol.com](mailto:mderry@aol.com). Those who register before Aug. 1 will receive a free drink coupon at the door for themselves and a guest.

## DHS Class of 1987 30th

Dallas High School Class of 1987 will host a 30-year reunion on Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at Rogue Farms, 3590 Wigrich Road, Independence. The reunion will continue on Aug. 6 with a family potluck from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Siebert/Fredrickson Memorial Shelter in the Dallas City Park. For more information: Facebook Dallas Dragons Class of 87.

## Remembering the Praegitzer fire of '87

A "fire reunion" will be held on Aug. 12 and 13 for all the employees and businesses affected by the massive industrial fire that destroyed Praegitzer Industries in 1987.

The reunion will include a bring-your-own picnic from noon until 4 p.m. at the new side of Dallas City Park on Aug. 12. A golf outing is scheduled for Aug. 12 at 10 a.m. at Cross Creek Golf Course. A brunch will be on Aug. 13 at 11 a.m. at Eola Hills Wine Cellars, Rickreall. RSVP for brunch: 503-623-2405.

For more information: [eric.rogers1947@gmail.com](mailto:eric.rogers1947@gmail.com).

# ACADEMIC HONORS

## Costa receives Presidential Award

FRONT ROYAL, Va. — Lucas Costa, of Monmouth, a senior at Randolph-Macon Academy, was awarded the Presidential Academic Education Award for Academic Excellence.

Senior students selected for this award must demonstrate high motivation, initiative, integrity, intellectual depth, leadership qualities and exceptional judgment.

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