

Fatal accident claims life of Dallas man

Itemizer-Observer staff report
LINCOLN CITY — A Dallas man died when his car struck a tree on Highway 101 on Saturday.

At about 1:30 a.m., Oregon State Police and emergency workers responded to a single-vehicle fatal traffic crash on Highway 101 near milepost 111.

Preliminary investigation indicates a 2005 Dodge Ram pickup towing an empty

boat trailer driven by Timothy Alexander Elizondo, 32, of Dallas, was northbound on Highway 101.

The vehicle was negotiating a curve on wet asphalt when it crossed the opposing lane of travel and struck a tree just beyond the southbound shoulder, according to a press release from OSP.

Elizondo was pronounced deceased at the scene. His passenger, identified as Jeffrey Dale Hendrickson, 36, of Dallas, was not injured in the crash.

Alcohol is believed to be a contributing factor in the crash, according to the release.

OSP was assisted by Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, the Lincoln City Police Department, North Lincoln Fire and Rescue and the Oregon Department of Transportation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSP/Itemizer-Observer
A Dallas man died on Saturday after his car struck a tree.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS

New owner at Starlite Lanes brings hobby to a new level.

»Page 3A

FALLS CITY

Falls City football defeats Horizon Christian.

»Page 9A

INDEPENDENCE

Central boys soccer remains undefeated.

»Page 10A

MONMOUTH

Monmouth council puts off discussions.

»Page 2A

Deputy cleared in shooting

Itemizer-Observer staff report
SALEM — A Marion County grand jury unanimously found on Monday that Polk County Deputy Sheriff Martin Watson was justified in using deadly force in the early morning of Sept. 30.

The incident began in Polk County when Watson tried to stop a 1993 Honda for a traffic violation on Michigan City Lane near Wallace Road. A pursuit followed that went through West Salem, into downtown Salem, and eventually ended in a residential neighborhood near Walker Middle School in Northeast Salem. There, a confrontation occurred and Watson shot at the vehicle, striking it twice, according to a press release from Marion County District Attorney's Office.

Neither Jeremy Johnson nor Timothy George, the two men arrested in connection with this case, were injured. Watson was also uninjured.

The same grand jury that found Watson's actions to be justified also returned indictments for both Johnson and George.

Johnson, 18, was indicted for first-degree attempted assault, attempted assault on a public safety officer and unlawful use of a weapon. Timothy George, 31, was indicted for two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession of a methamphetamine.

Both men are currently lodged in the Marion County Jail and are scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday (today) at 8:30 a.m. at 4000 Aumsville Highway.

Due to the ongoing nature of these criminal cases the District Attorney's Office will not release any further details of the shooting or the crimes at this time.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Dallas police vehicles are parked outside in a lot near the Dallas Fire Station. The department doesn't have secure parking for patrol cars.

City to gauge support

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The city of Dallas has hired a consultant to help gauge support for solutions to improve its police and fire stations — including building a facility to house both departments.

Campbell DeLong Resources Inc., the firm Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District hired to help with its recent bond campaign, will run focus groups on the topic. Depending on the outcome of the focus groups, the firm will conduct a telephone poll.

The city has considered consolidating the departments into one building, adding on to the current fire station on Southeast Shelton Street. The fire station would go

through a significant remodel, and the police station would be new. Secure parking for police vehicles is included in that plan. The cost is estimated at about \$14 million, according to a preliminary evaluation by architectural firm Makenzie.

Another option considered is remodeling the fire station and moving the police station to another building downtown, which would also be remodeled. The cost of that option is \$14.7 million.

Police Chief Tom Simpson reported to the council that his department is stretched out over two floors of city hall and at the city shops. Locker rooms and interview rooms are inadequate, and officers don't have secure parking for their personal vehicles or patrol cars, he said.

"We've had officers over the years have their personal vehicles vandalized," he said. "We've had gas stolen from our patrol cars."

Dallas Fire & EMS Chief Fred Hertel said in his department, neither the fire station nor the EMS station has adequate sleeping facilities for 24-hour staff. The fire station lacks sleeping rooms entirely. He said 24-hour paid staff is the direction the fire service industry is moving.

"As we know, the volunteer service of today is a dwindling fact of life. That's across the nation," Hertel said. "We are in that transition time, I think, with our coverage."

Two full-time firefighters are working day shifts, thanks to a grant expiring in November 2019 and the city hired seasonal firefighters during the past two

fire seasons.

"Those are reducing our response time and giving us better coverage in the daytime, when most of our volunteers are at work," he said.

The cost estimates for facility improvements are higher than city staff anticipated, and left members of the Dallas City Council questioning whether voters would support a bond at that price tag.

Martha DeLong, the director of market research at the Portland firm, said focus groups are designed to provide clarity on that and other questions. She said people in focus groups are presented with the problem and proposed solutions to get their reactions — and suggestions for changing those solutions.

See RESEARCH, Page 11A

Toastmasters Club begins Tuesday

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas resident Ed Dressel knows many people dread public speaking.

It's something people have to do, not something they look forward to. Dressel used to be one of those people.

"I remember I got nauseated and physically sick in college when I had to give a speech," he said.

But Dressel has also seen

the power that public speaking can bring.

That's why he, along with four others, are opening a local Toastmasters Club, beginning Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St., Dallas.

—

Toastmasters is more than 100 years old. Its club mission is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leader-

Share a toast

What: Toastmasters Club.
Where: Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St., Dallas.
When: Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.
Cost: Club dues are \$50 for six months/\$100 for 12 months. Visitors are welcome to attend meetings for free to decide if the club is right for them.
For more information: Ed Dressel, 503-269-0032 or Dressel@gmail.com; or Brent Smith, 503-586-8971 or Running-Brent@gmail.com.

ship skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

What people can accomplish with those new skills never ceases to amaze, Dressel said.

"There was one lady who moved to Seattle," Dressel said. "She went up, did a quick speech, and cried after she was done. She's since become a top salesperson for a military company. Toastmasters helped her develop that confidence."

Meetings will generally include a table topic, when individuals will speak on a subject for two minutes, and an evaluation period.

See CLUB, Page 11A

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK

<div>wed</div> <div>Monmouth Public Library will host an after-school showing of the movie, "Boss Baby," rated PG. 3 p.m. Free.</div> <div></div> <div>Showers Hi: 57 Lo: 42</div>	<div>thu</div> <div>Dallas chamber's Young Professionals will meet at Dallas Retirement Village for an evening of networking. 5:30 p.m. Free.</div> <div></div> <div>Showers Hi: 55 Lo: 43</div>	<div>fri</div> <div>Unwind after a hard week at Indy Public Library's monthly adult coloring program. Pencils and patterns provided. 4 p.m. Free.</div> <div></div> <div>Cloudy Hi: 58 Lo: 39</div>	<div>sat</div> <div>Don your brightest, most light-reflective gear and take a walk or run to benefit Christmas Cheer at the Dallas Glow Run. 6:30 p.m. \$20-\$30.</div> <div></div> <div>Partly cloudy Hi: 60 Lo: 41</div>	<div>sun</div> <div>John Doan will delight listeners with the magic of his 20-string harp guitar at Trinity Lutheran Church. 6:30 p.m. \$10-\$12.</div> <div></div> <div>Mostly sunny Hi: 65 Lo: 43</div>	<div>mon</div> <div>See what's new at Dallas Chamber and network with others at the monthly luncheon. 11:30 a.m. \$12-\$15.</div> <div></div> <div>Sunny Hi: 65 Lo: 44</div>	<div>tue</div> <div>Dig out those coins in your pocket or hidden in your purse and see if any are keepers at Polk County Coin Club. 7 p.m. Free.</div> <div></div> <div>Showers Hi: 61 Lo: 43</div>
--	--	---	--	---	--	---