

Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**  
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# City council votes to terminate Foggin

**Jolene Guzman**  
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas City Council voted to part ways with City Manager Ron Foggin in a 5-to-4 vote Monday night. The termination followed Foggin's annual performance evaluation and was effective immediately.

Per Foggin's contract, he will receive a severance package of \$15,425.20 monthly for a maximum of nine months or until he is hired somewhere else.

Council President Micky Garus, who voted in favor of the termination, said it was enacted under section 10 of Foggin's contract with the

city and is a "no cause" termination.

Along with Garus, councilors Terry Crawford, Bill Hahn, Jackie Lawson and Paul Trahan voted for the termination. Councilors Jim Fairchild, Kelly Gabliks, Jennie Rummell and Ken Woods Jr. voted no.

When asked the reason behind letting Foggin go, Garus said the city is "moving forward and is hopeful for future opportunities."

He said the majority of the council wants to move in a different direction with the city manager role.

"This was just a really difficult decision for all of us," Garus said. "It wasn't made lighthearted, (but) under a

lot of thoughtful deliberation. But we're confident in the future of Dallas and looking forward to the opportunities that are yet to come."

The vote took place in open session following more than three hours of discussion in executive session.

Following the vote to end Foggin's employment with the city, the council turned to appointing an acting city manager to fill duties until an interim city manager could be put in place.

Lawson recommended Ted Cuno, the city's building official, to serve in the role until an interim city manager is appointed.

**See FOGGIN, Page 6A**



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer  
**The Dallas City Council voted to terminate Ron Foggin.**

## IN YOUR TOWN

**DALLAS**  
 Christina Smith receives a new-to-her vehicle.  
**»Page 11A**

**INDEPENDENCE**  
 The YMCA auction will bring people back to the Roaring '20s.  
**»Page 2A**

**MONMOUTH**  
 Brendon Gallant is living his dream at the Bicycle Shop.  
**»Page 10A**

**SPORTS**  
 Western Oregon athletics is raising money to help coach's daughter.  
**»Page 13A**

## Contract talks reach impasse

**Jolene Guzman**  
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Negotiations between Falls City and Southwestern Polk Rural Fire Protection District seem to be at square one after a meeting Thursday between officials of both entities.



**Ungricht**

The contract establishing a partnership between Falls City and Southwest regarding fire services expired in September and had been extended until the end of November.

The Southwest board extended it again until the first of the year after no progress was made at Thursday's meeting.

Board members said matters were complicated by Falls City seeking a third-party, instead of Southwest, to offer training to the city's firefighters.

Falls City Acting City Manager Terry Ungricht said the city has a contract with Target Solutions to provide training and ensure that the fire department complies with regulations. The city will pay \$3,065 for the contract.

"From what I understood, the board was concerned about us being a liability," Ungricht said. "We've taken care or that. We've gotten training. We've got outside assessment of the station."

He added that if Southwest Polk has additional procedures for response to incidents in its district, it would need to provide additional training.

Southwest Chief Fred Hertel said while Target Solutions provides training, it doesn't solve other concerns the district has.

**See CONTRACT, Page 5A**

# A helping hand

**Jolene Guzman**  
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Mike McConnell's philosophy on giving his time is "if somebody doesn't do it, it doesn't get done."

McConnell gets a lot done. He can be found teaching classes for Falls City's after-school program, assisting sports programs and the athletics booster club, serving on city committees and being there to help fellow residents in need.

"Some of it is in the early days, I found myself complaining," McConnell said.

He decided instead of pointing fingers, he would try to help find solutions.

He joined the city's public works committee, and later the historic landmarks commission.

"Now, I'm not a hypocrite," he said, laughing, "I'm part of the problem."

McConnell said he found the work fascinating once he jumped into it — even the details about the city's water and sewer systems and the laws that govern how they are maintained.

"It didn't sound that interesting, but it was something that really gained my interest," McConnell said.

Guy Mack has served with McConnell on the public works and historic landmarks commissions for about 18 years.

"I've known Mike since he started coming up here from California as a teenager," Mack said. "He's just volunteered a huge amount of time to the schools, to the city. We could use quite a few more Mikes around."

Ten years ago, when the Family Academic Community and Enrichment for Success (FACES) after-school program began, McConnell started teaching classes. He hasn't stopped.

McConnell's business, Luckiamute Auto Body, is a partner with FACES. He is paid a small amount to



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
**Mike McConnell leads the restoration old Falls City jail building.**

teach classes, and in exchange, has been one of the program's avid supporters.

He strongly believes that high schools should be offering more industrial arts classes, and that is what he focuses on when teaching for FACES.

"Since the 1970s it's been going downhill in industrial arts," McConnell said. "It's going to come back and bite us in the butt. ... Kids don't know how to change a tire or find the dipstick."



He said his classes provide students with practical knowledge and skills. Instead

of working on projects like building a tool box or birdhouse, he's teaching how to repair small engines or building maintenance work.

"I wanted to do something a little bit different, to do what was needed around the schools," he said.

FACES Director Amy Houghtaling said he's been a reliable contributor to the program, and a fun teacher for the students.  
**See MIKE, Page 3A**

## Items sought for packages

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**  
 DALLAS — Jackson's Boxes will collect items for holiday-themed care packages for children at Doernbecher Children's Hospital and their families. This is the 15th year of the collection, which ends on Dec. 15.

Each box will have a small artificial Christmas tree, decorations, room décor, light set, Christmas head bands (reindeer antlers, Santa hats), prepackaged treats, craft kits, coloring books, toiletry items, Starbucks gift cards and notes of encouragement.

For a complete list of needed items, to make a financial donation or sponsor a box, call 503-871-5929 or 503-551-9194.

Collection locations are World Gym in Dallas, Monmouth Fitness Club and Independence Public Library.

## Huizar to graduate

SALEM — Monmouth Police Officer Jose Orozco Huizar will graduate from the Basic Police Class at Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training at 11 a.m. on Friday.

The Basic Police Class is 16 weeks long and includes dozens of training areas including survival skills, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, ethics, cultural diversity, problem solving, community policing, elder abuse and drug recognition. Chief Kathy McAlpine, of the Tigard Police Department, will be the guest speaker.

A reception will follow the graduation ceremony.

<b>THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK</b> 	<b>wed</b> Show off your vocabulary skills and play Scrabble with Betty at the Independence Public Library. <b>1 p.m. Free.</b>  <b>Mostly sunny</b> Hi: 48 Lo: 30	<b>thu</b> Dallas Public Library will host "Beyond Fake News: How We Find Accurate Information in the World." <b>6:30 p.m. Free.</b>  <b>Sunny</b> Hi: 46 Lo: 28	<b>fri</b> Dallas High School's boys basketball team will entertain fans during a non-league matchup against Churchill. <b>7 p.m. \$6.</b>  <b>Partly sunny</b> Hi: 45 Lo: 30	<b>sat</b> Children and parents can create holiday ornaments at the Ash Creek Arts Center's Second Saturday Art Class. <b>2 p.m. Free.</b>  <b>Partly sunny</b> Hi: 46 Lo: 31	<b>sun</b> The Salem Community Chorus will perform a Christmas Concert at Christ's Church, 412 Clay St., Monmouth. <b>2:30 p.m. Free.</b>  <b>Mostly sunny</b> Hi: 47 Lo: 34	<b>mon</b> Want to learn more about the Central Lions Club? Check out the club's meeting at the Independence Elks Lodge. <b>Noon. Free</b>  <b>Sunny</b> Hi: 46 Lo: 35	<b>tue</b> If you're looking to improve your public speaking skills, check out the Toastmasters Club at Dallas Church. <b>6 to 7 p.m.</b>  <b>Sunny</b> Hi: 49 Lo: 36
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