

Dallas community creates calendar

Photo contest run through Facebook inspires project, fundraiser

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Jan Ahrendt simply wanted a new cover photo for the Dallas Oregon Community Bulletin Board Facebook page.

Ahrendt, an administrator for the page launched by her daughter, Cheryl Cisneros, thought it was time to give the growing board a new look.

"In December, my mom said that we need to have a refreshed photo for the cover, and partly because it was a new year, and we had that one for a while, and partly because there was another board that was using our original version," Cisneros said.

Cisneros is the executive director of Creating Opportunities, an organization that supports people with developmental disabilities. She launched the Facebook page to survey the community ahead of her son, Steven, who has autism, opening a business in 2015.

From there, the board morphed into a place local people could connect with others or seek information.

Since then, the page has grown. Ahrendt, now retired, monitors the board with the help of two other administrators. She said it has more than 7,000 members.

"I wanted a place where community members could connect with businesses, and businesses could connect with community members," Cisneros said. "It really was important to me that it be positive in tone and to really enhance the community, to bring the community together."

With that mission in mind, Ahrendt said that the new cover photo needed to be a representation of Dallas. She asked Cisneros to help her find photos of the area, but it didn't take them long to realize the resource they needed was at their fingertips.



Julie Jones, left, who helps hand out the calendars, Cheryl Cisneros and Jan Ahrendt display photos from the Dallas Community Bulletin Board's 2018 calendar.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Cisneros suggested a photo contest with members of the board as the contestants. Ahrendt loved the idea and quickly posted a request for photos, telling members the winning photo would become the new cover photo.

They said the response was immediate and overwhelming.

"We started getting snow-balled with all these gorgeous photos," Cisneros said.

Soon, they knew they had to expand the contest parameters.

"But since there were so many good ones, we thought we can't just select one," Ahrendt said.

They decided to choose one for every month, and from that the Dallas Community Bulletin Board Calendar was born. Cisneros and Ahrendt found that printing a calendar was cost-effective and could easily be used to raise money for worthy cause.

"We wanted it to be community-serving, so my mom asked if I had any ideas about who it should benefit, and I immediately thought of the service integration team," Cisneros said.

The Dallas Service Integration Team will receive about \$1,000 in proceeds from the calendar sale.

Not so easy was the daunting task of selecting 12 winning photos. They enlisted their family to narrow down photo submissions to 36 and let board members vote for their favorites.

Ahrendt said the number of people who submitted photos wasn't the only surprise during the contest. An anonymous donor, who she identified as a Dallas resident and business owner, offered prize money for the top three winners.

"He said that he was so impressed with what was going on, with what had opened up in the community and that it had united the community ... that he wanted to make a monetary gift," she said.

The winners are:
First place: Haley Snider.
Second place: Delton Maddox.
Third place: Ross Cadigan.
For more information: On Facebook, Dallas Oregon Community Bulletin Board.

ed to make a monetary gift," she said.

If you missed the calendar, the pair are in the process of ordering a 100-page tabletop book to feature more of the photos submitted for the 2018 contest.

And, yes, there will be a 2019 calendar. Ahrendt said she begins the contest sooner, so this year people can have their calendars in time to give as Christmas presents.

"It's been an amazing experience, and they are already taking photos for 2019," Ahrendt said. "We can't just do this once. It's too rewarding."

Complaint leads to meth bust

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — A citizen complaint led to the discovery of a large quantity of methamphetamine on Sunday afternoon.

Authorities received a call from at 12:23 p.m. about a reckless driver traveling west on Highway 22 near milepost 15.

The caller advised that the male driver was also smoking what he or she believed was methamphetamine from a glass pipe.

A Polk County Sheriff Office deputy requested assistance from the Grand Ronde Tribal Police in locating the vehicle. An Oregon State Police trooper from McMinnville was also in the area.

Grand Ronde Tribal Police located and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle.

The OSP trooper and Polk County deputy arrived shortly thereafter.

The driver, David Edie, 38, of Portland, was arrested for DUII. Further investigation and a drug detection K-9 from the Newberg Police Department was conducted.

The K-9 alerted authorities to bags in the vehicle and a search revealed about a quarter of a pound of methamphetamine. A stolen handgun was also found with the drugs and \$500 was seized from Edie.

Edie was arrested for DUII (controlled substance), possession of methamphetamine (substantial quantity), distribution of methamphetamine (substantial quantity), felon in possession of a firearm and first-degree theft by receiving.

A female passenger, Alicia Schier, 28, of Portland, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine.

Both Edie and Schier were lodged at Polk County jail. Additional charges are likely, according to a press release.

Citizen helps restrain suspect

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — A citizen helped Sgt. Tyrone Jenkins restrain Hunter Merkel until further assistance arrived on Friday.

Sgt. Jenkins contacted a male pedestrian, later identified as Merkel (aka Jason Feyko) on Highway 22 just east of Greenwood Road at 3:46 p.m.

The man removed his hands from his pocket, which caused a small Ziplock bag to fall from his pocket onto the ground. The bag contained methamphetamine. Sgt. Jenkins informed Merkel he was being detained when Merkel pulled away and began to fight with Sgt. Jenkins.

Both individuals ended up on the ground in a muddy field just off the highway. Sgt. Jenkins was able to call for assistance on his radio.

Due to slippery conditions, Merkel was close to breaking free when a passing motorist, Malcom Mespelt, of Salem, provided assistance.

Deputies responded along with multiple other surrounding agencies. Deputies arrived on scene about three minutes after the fight began. A Taser was used and deputies gained control of Merkel and placed him in restraints.

One deputy was treated for minor injuries sustained during the fight. Merkel was lodged at Polk County Jail on charges of interfering with a peace officer, tampering with physical evidence and possession of methamphetamine.



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