

Help: Budget cuts mean no backup from deputies

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City police and Oregon State Police will and have taken calls, but often, especially in the case of traffic accidents, response time takes more than 30 minutes and the first responders have already finished their work.

The lack of 24-hour sheriff's department patrols have forced policy changes at fire and ambulance departments, requiring crews to "stage" off-scene in questionably dangerous situations — such as domestic abuse calls — until they are sure it is safe for them to work.

"We have to be much more careful about getting good information," Olson said.

Those policy changes were made in the hopes that what they are experiencing now doesn't become the new reality.

"If the levy doesn't pass, we will have to change things on a permanent basis," Olson said.

Hoxie added that if full

patrol hours were restored, it would take the additional stress and responsibility off the volunteers responding to calls.

"It would not only be smoother, but we would have more hands on the scene doing their traditional jobs," Hoxie said. "Someone could start investigations and doing those things that we don't have the ability or training to do."

Polk County Sheriff Bob Wolfe has noted on a number of occasions that patrol cuts have reduced his ability to provide backup to cities on critical calls.

Also, the county's drug team, POINT, has not been active since March 2014 due to staff reductions.

"We are seeing the impact of that," Wolfe said.

"Some of the cities are starting to deal with more drug issues in the cities now."

For local police, that means a major piece of the law enforcement "team" in Polk County is simply missing.

Dallas Police Chief Tom Simpson said that isn't going to change how his officers do their job. But it does concern him that quick assistance at night has been severely reduced.

"Polk County deputies have worked in concert with Dallas officers for as long as I can remember—at least for the past 28 years that I've been here," Simpson said. "Dallas officers have learned to rely on PCSO deputies to provide assistance when needed — and likewise we've always tried to be there when the deputies on duty at night have needed our officer to assist."

"A long-established partnership has been directly and significantly impacted by the absence of key participants," Simpson said.



Wolfe

Boss: Has several goals for West Valley Hospital

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There, he worked for seven years managing imaging operations at five hospitals and 20 clinics for Multi-Care Health Systems.

While still getting familiar with his new role, Sapienza already has goals in mind for West Valley Hospital. First and foremost, he is excited about West Valley's involvement with the Central Health and Wellness Center opening this summer in Central School District. West Valley is working as part of a four-way partnership with Polk County, the school district and Capitol Dental.

"I think it will be a huge asset to health and wellness in Monmouth and Independence," he said.

The second objective in Sapienza's short-term plan is to update hospital signs. He said it sounds simple, but it is the first step in a larger plan to provide better service to Polk County residents.

"It's one element to how we serve patients in the community by increasing awareness, letting folks know you can get great care in Dallas and don't have to go to Portland or Salem for your basic care," Sapienza said.

Salem Health, West Valley's parent company, also recently established an affiliation with Oregon Health & Science University.

"There is almost like this

Meet Jim Sapienza

Favorite hobby: Running.

Favorite book: "Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner.

Favorite sports team: Green Bay Packers. "Both my parents were raised in Wisconsin, so I was born with green and gold in my veins."

Family: Wife, Kathryn; sons Hunter, a sophomore at University of Washington, and Jenner, a sophomore at Issaquah High School in Issaquah, Wash.

What do people not know about you? Before two professors talked him out of it, he was going to be a college professor of American epic poetry.

chain: get your basic care here; if you need more, we can offer it in Salem; and if you need even more, we can get you to Portland," he said.

Continuing to improve care at West Valley is his final goal.

West Valley recently remodeled its operating rooms with the goal of serving more patients on-site. Sapienza said that has happened, but he would like to see more growth.

He would also like to improve wait times for X-ray and CT procedures, as well as streamline care in the emergency department. That won't be easy, given the unpredictable nature of patient visits to the emergency room.

"When it gets really busy, it gets uncomfortable for you as a patient," he said. "You may wait longer than you need to wait. But it's very hard to know when those times are going to occur to make sure we have enough people to get

you care right away." But Sapienza believes it can be done. He and his staff will take a close look at patient data from 2014 to see when the ER was the busiest and make changes accordingly.

Looking at the health of the community in a different sense, Sapienza also is hoping to be involved in economic development discussions in the Dallas area. He sees plenty of room for growth in established industries — such as farming — but also opportunities for more manufacturing or even technology development.

He wants to find a way West Valley Hospital can help create those strategies.

"I'm very fond of collaborating with all the different kinds of governmental (and) business entities to come up with ... the focus to get to the right few solutions that could make a difference," he said.

Test: State contest set Friday

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"I've always had an interest in Scandinavia," he said. "I know I have some heritage there. Also, the Vikings and that whole area just seems amazing with the features and history of it."

Whoever wins the state

competition on Friday will get \$100, the "National Geographic Atlas of the World, 10th Edition," a medal and a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent Oregon in the National Geographic Bee Championship, to be held May 11-13.

The national champion — which neither Meador nor Fairchild expect to win, but both are hopeful — wins a \$50,000 college scholarship, lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society and an expense-paid trip to the Galapagos Islands.

District reaches deal with new superintendent

Itemizer-Observer staff report
DALLAS — The Dallas School Board made it official, approving a three-year contract with new Superintendent Michelle Johnstone

on Monday. Johnstone will begin her new job July 1. She will be paid \$125,000 for the 2015-16 school year. Her salary in the remaining two years of

the contract will depend upon annual negotiations with the board. Johnstone also will undergo an annual evaluation conducted by the board by April 30.



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Walk Safely. The Way to Go.
Transportation Safety — ODOT

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Easter Services
April 5

Sunrise Service6:30 a.m.
Free Breakfast7:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Kids Egg Hunt.....9:00 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.

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Sun., March 29, 2015 • 10:30am
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Pastor Dallas C.R. Dubke
www.FaithLutheranMonmouth.org

Tenebrae: 7:15 pm
Service of Darkness

Easter: 7:30 am - Sunrise Eucharist
9 - 10 am - Easter Breakfast
10:30 am - Festival Eucharist

Good Friday Prayer Vigil:
8am - 7 pm and
8pm - Midnight

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