

# Budget hearings begin Monday

Public comment will be accepted April 1 as part of county process

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Looking at the numbers in the 2015-16 Polk County budget that will be proposed Monday, it seems like the budget is growing at a healthy rate.

In some places — namely behavioral health, which receives most of its money from the state — it is growing, and fast.

But in the general fund, the figures proposed may or may not be real, depending on the outcome of the county's public safety levy on the May 19 ballot.

County Administrator Greg Hansen said in order to avoid reconvening the budget committee after the election, he wrote the 2015-16 budget including revenue from the levy.

"I've created a ghost department named 'operating levy' in the general fund, but that skews everything in the general fund," Hansen said.

If the levy passes, Hansen will move the funding to the appropriate departments after May 19. The county's budget committee is scheduled to formally approve the budget on May 20.

"If it fails, then we will just delete that and all the other budgets that were previously approved will move forward as approved," Hansen said.

With the levy, the county's general fund would increase \$2.89 million and add 23.75 positions, mostly going to various public safety departments. The levy, which won't be voted on until May 19, accounts for \$2.25 million and 22 of those positions. Without the levy, the general fund increases by \$640,000, to about \$17.1 million, and adds 1.75 positions.

Hansen said the revenue increase in the general fund

2015-16 POLK COUNTY BUDGET		
	General Fund Increase	Total Budget Increase
<b>2015-16 Polk County Budget (With levy)</b>	\$2.89 million 23.75 positions	\$7.5 million 46 positions
<b>2015-16 Polk County Budget (Without levy)</b>	\$640,000 1.75 positions	\$5.25 million 24 positions*

\*Approximately \$3 million and 20 positions are in the Behavioral Health budget.

Source: Polk County

The county had to create the 2015-16 budget with the yet-to-be voted on public safety levy included. That skews the general fund budget by \$2.25 million and 22 positions.

## Learn More

Polk County budget hearings are scheduled next week, beginning Monday, at the Polk County Courthouse main conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. The schedule is:

- Monday, March 30: 1 to 5 p.m.
  - Tuesday, March 31: 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
  - Wednesday, April 1: 10 a.m. to noon. Public comment accepted at 11 a.m.
  - Thursday, April 2: 10 a.m. to noon. Tentative approval of budget and adjourn until May 20 for final approval.
- For more information, to see the hearing agenda or find out when a specific department will be discussed, go to [www.co.polk.or.us/boc/budget-committee-hearing](http://www.co.polk.or.us/boc/budget-committee-hearing).

outside still-uncertain levy funding — about \$640,000 — comes from a roughly \$250,000 bump in property tax revenue, \$150,000 increase in state funding to Community Corrections, and a larger beginning fund balance (carryover from last year).

Hansen noted the esti-

mated increase in Community Corrections still is up in the air.

"They're subject to the legislature, which is currently in session," Hansen said. "Those monies could change, could go down, or potentially could go up."

The total county budget is increasing by \$7.5 million,

including the levy if approved, to \$56.5 million. That includes a more than \$3 million increase in behavioral health — formerly mental health. A total of 20 new positions are included in behavioral health's budget, which is not part of the county's general fund.

"The good news is the general fund is beginning to grow a little, but whether it is sustainable or not, I don't know," Hansen said. "That all depends on growth and building."

For those who want to take a closer look at the budget, or a specific department's budget, the county's budget hearings begin Monday at the Polk County Courthouse conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. Public comment is scheduled at 11 a.m. on April 1.

# Animal neglect charges levied against woman

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Monica Foster, the former owner of more than 90 malnourished animals seized last month off a Dallas farm, has been indicted on 61 animal neglect charges.

Foster, 41, a Dallas resident, appeared in Polk County Circuit Court Thursday morning for arraignment on 10 counts of first-degree animal neglect and 51 counts of second-degree animal neglect, both felony charges.

Foster pleaded not guilty to all charges Thursday. She was not in custody at the time of the arraignment and Polk County Circuit Court Judge Monte Campbell ordered Foster not to possess animals as a condition of her release.

She was originally cited for animal neglect on Feb. 18, five days after the animals were taken into custody. Foster is due back in court April 9 for a pretrial conference.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has provided a \$10,000 grant to the Polk County Sheriff's Office to help cover the cost of rescue and care for the animals, which included 38 horses, 22 goats and more than 36 geese, ducks and chickens.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office took the animals into custody on Feb. 13 from the property in the 300 block of Pioneer Road in Dallas. Many of the animals were emaciated and in poor health. One horse also was found dead.

"Performing an animal seizure of this size requires significant funding and resources," Matt Stern, director of ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group Operations, said in a statement. "We commend the Polk County Sheriff's Office for their dedication to investigating crimes against animals, and are proud to supply funds to assist these efforts."

Deputies from the sheriff's office and members of the Polk County Sheriff's Posse provided care and shelter for the animals, which have now all been placed in permanent homes with the help of All Horses Outreach of Seattle and Cross Creek Alpaca Rescue of Tenino, Wash.

Cross Creek also assisted the sheriff's office in finding homes for 180 alpacas seized off a farm last year near Falls City. ASPCA provided a grant to help with covering the cost of care in that case as well.

Polk County Lt. Jeff Isham recognized all those who helped with the rescue effort, including members of the public who adopted the animals.

"This case really came together as a result of many, many people working together for the good of the animals," Isham said. "Without everyone working together, this operation wouldn't have been such a success."



Foster

# HEALTH DIRECTORY

## AUDIOLOGY

Trust your hearing to those that specialize in hearing and hearing related disorders. Evan L. Evans, Ph. D, and Julie B. Evans, AuD are both doctoral level Audiologists who have the knowledge, experience and compassion to provide you with the best care for your hearing health. We offer free hearing screenings; by our hearing aid specialist. We offer full & complete diagnostic evaluations, counseling and recommendations by our clinical Audiologists. Other Audiological services include testing, management and treatment options for Tinnitus. We have the knowledge and experience to assist your physician with the diagnosis of diseases and disorders pertaining to hearing and the hearing mechanism. We offer wax removal or cerumen management, Tinnitus testing and Tinnitus management techniques. An Audiologist, having the Audiology credentials of the American Academy of Audiology (F-AAA) and the The American Speech Hearing and Language Association's Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC-A) is the professional of choice for anything related to hearing and or hearing related issues. Serving our hearing impaired since 1980, with two locations to serve you.

**Audiology Associates**  
1343-A Monmouth St., Independence • 503-838-3001  
2296 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis • 541-757-2500

## CHIROPRACTIC

• **JOYNT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC** - Dr. Brian Joynt, DC - 629 Clay Street East, Monmouth, OR 97361 Family-oriented chiropractic clinic, dedicated to creating an unparalleled experience of service, quality and care by teaching the true principles of chiropractic. We look forward to empowering each of you to help your family participate more fully in life. New patients welcome. Accept most insurance. Auto/personal injury and work comp. Massage therapist on site. Complimentary consultations. Call us today to make your appointment (503) 837-0550.

• **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC** - Drs. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon-Fri 8-noon & 2-6 pm. Thurs 2-6pm. Proudly serving Polk County for over 17 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

## COUNSELING

• **CROSS AND CROWN COUNSELING** - KATE KOENS, NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor and Certified Temperament Therapist is accepting new clients

at her Dallas and Falls City offices. She works with individuals in a safe environment to help individuals find healing and fulfillment by teaching good communication skills, appreciation for self and others, appropriate responses to individual and family needs, how to build relationships of trust, appropriate crisis responses, and how to obtain overall family wellness emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Some specific areas of counsel offered are marriage and family, adolescent issues, depression, past and present trauma, grief, identity crisis, divorce, childhood losses, and feelings of hopelessness. Our goal is to help individuals realize their full potential and to live decisively with truth, relevance, perspective and purpose. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call 503-917-1625 or visit our website: [www.crossandcrowncounseling.com](http://www.crossandcrowncounseling.com)

## GENERAL DENTISTRY

• **RANDALL C. JONES, DMD** - 1004 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 503-838-0434. Offering a broad range of dental services in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. New patients and emergencies welcome.

• **DR. JOHN D. SHURTZ DDS** - 196 Catron Street N., Monmouth, OR 503-838-1800. We are welcoming new patients and we accept most insurance plans!

• **WESTON K. MORRILL, DMD** - 289 E. Ellendale Suite #201, Dallas. 503-623-6616. Family, preventive, and cosmetic dentistry. Complete dentistry for the entire family. Se habla español.

• **DR. MICHELLE HASBROOK, DMD** - 120 N. Atwater, Monmouth, OR 503-838-2998. Providing all phases of dental care for children and adults. We welcome new patients!

• **KENNETH WINOKUR, DMD** - 329 South Main Street Independence, OR 97351. 503-838-1633. High quality service with your comfort in mind. Nitrous oxide gas sedation available. [www.independencedental.org](http://www.independencedental.org)

## GENERAL SURGERY SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** surgeon, Dr. Alison Smith, provides general surgery services for a wide range of needs including breast cancer, gallbladder, biopsies, abdominal surgery, hernia repair, appendectomy, as well as colonoscopy. General surgery appointments are scheduled at the clinic on Mondays and Thursdays. Dr. Smith does her surgeries at West Valley Hospital's spacious, state-of-the-art new surgical suite. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 or fax 503-623-2612. Visit [salemhealth.org/specialty](http://salemhealth.org/specialty).

## GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is now available in Dallas at the West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic. Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD, specializes in gynecology exams and

procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the West Valley Hospital surgical suites. New patients are welcome! West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit [westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic](http://westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic). (UPDATE W/ONLINE APPT URL WHEN AVAILABLE.)

## HEARING HEALTH

• **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices. Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

## HEART SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides heart diagnostic services including electrocardiograms (EKG), pulmonary function tests, cardiac stress tests and echocardiograms with a physician referral. Cardiologists Dr. Raghuram Kamineni, Dr. William Stiles and Dr. Kevin Thompson see patients for office visits at West Valley Hospital at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. For more heart health information, call 503-623-7304.

## IMAGING SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** offers state-of-the-art digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician's referral, we provide your bone densitometry, CT scan, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our new comfortable and spacious mammography suite. We are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7302.

## LABORATORY SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides lab services at two convenient locations in Dallas and Monmouth. Both labs are fully accredited, providing collections and testing with healthcare provider referral. Employment and self-referral drug testing is offered. The West Valley Hospital lab in Dallas is open 24 hours, seven days a week, at 525 SE Washington St., 503-623-7303. The Monmouth lab is located in the Monmouth Medical Center, 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1388. It is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., closed between noon and 1 p.m. Appointments are not required.