

# County fair begins search for new theme



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer file

The Polk County Fair had the theme "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams" in 2015. The idea was submitted via a contest.

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

**RICKREALL** — The Polk County Fair had fun with the 2015 theme "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams," an idea submitted through a contest.

The fair is looking for another gem for the 2016 fair, scheduled for Aug. 11-13.

Theme ideas can focus on any part of the fair (agriculture, food, commercial, etc.) and should be "creative and fun" in eight words or less.

If you have what you think is a good idea, you have through 4 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2016, to enter your idea for the next fair theme.

Rhyming isn't necessary, but those that come with easy decoration ideas are certainly welcome.

Polk County Fair Board members will select the winning theme at its Feb. 18, 2016, meeting.

The winner will receive a "family fair package" of two adult season passes, two junior season passes, four burgers, four fries, and four medium drinks.

Idea submission forms can be found on the fair's website at [www.co.polk.or.us/fair/annual/polk-county-annual-fair](http://www.co.polk.or.us/fair/annual/polk-county-annual-fair).

Entries can be emailed to [andersen.tina@co.polk.or.us](mailto:andersen.tina@co.polk.or.us); mailed to the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center, P.O. Box 29 Rickreall, OR 97371; faxed to 503-623-6157; or hand delivered to 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall.

For more information: 503-623-3048.

# Gomberg to research police officer funding

*If successful, legislation could provide full-time law enforcement, code enforcement to Falls City in a long time*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

**FALLS CITY** — A police officer for every town?

It may have been just the product of spur-of-the-moment brainstorming, but the Falls City City Council and Mayor Terry Ungricht are taking it seriously.

During a recent town hall meeting in the city, State Rep. David Gomberg polled the audience about its top concerns in the city's government.

The response? Code enforcement and law enforcement.

That those two should be mentioned first isn't a surprise. Falls City hasn't been able to afford a police officer, either its own or through a contract with the Polk County Sheriff's Office,



for 15 years.

More recently, the city revived its code enforcement program, only to see its officer move on to a different job. Falls City has not been able to fill the part-time position and hasn't found a suitable interim solution until it can get a professional to take the role.

At the town hall, Gomberg offered a solution: introducing legislation that would provide \$100,000 for every city to hire a police officer.

"One of the thoughts that come up is, 'Mayberry had two police officers. Why can't Falls City have one?'" said Kyle Linhares, Gomberg's chief of staff.

Voters in Falls City have rejected tax levies to pay for police in the past, but the defeats certainly don't speak for everyone's attitude in town, as the response to Gomberg's question illustrates.

"As the discussion highlighted, small cities are having a hard time in providing the basic governmental services that are expected by our citizens," Ungricht wrote in an email encouraging Gomberg to follow up on the idea.

"The idea of legislation to add one police officer to each city in Oregon would greatly help small cities that are struggling to control enforcement issues."

The potential bill is just a concept and Gomberg still is researching the idea. Linhares said Gomberg has heard similar concerns in other areas he represents.

"It comes up in quality of life conversations," Linhares said.

He added questions such as whether funding should be limited to cities under a certain population or include unincorporated,

plenty of time to answer those questions before the 2017 session.

"We are definitely going to pursue this," Linhares said. "Obviously,

we should try to get legs under," Ungricht said.

**Falls City has voted on several levies for police. Here are the votes:**

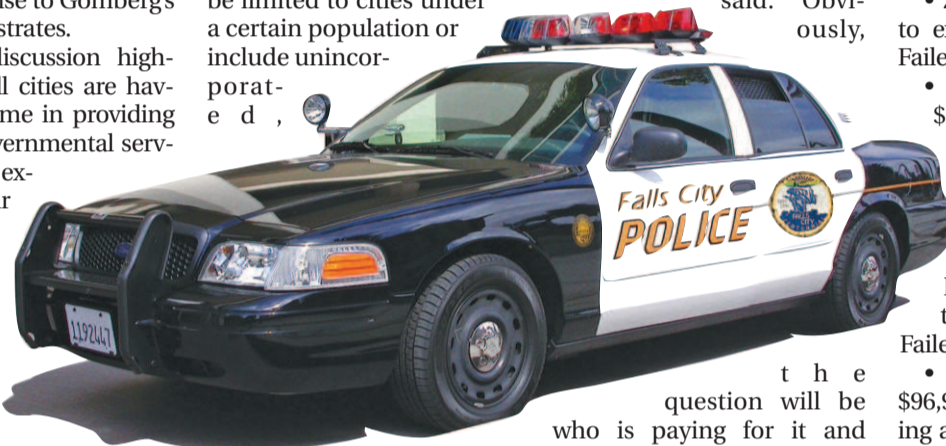
- 2000: Four-year levy not to exceed \$88,000 annually. Failed 165 to 159.

- 2001: Four-year levy for \$84,229 per year to contract with sheriff's office for 56 hours of patrol each week. Failed 169 to 106.

- 2002: Five-year levy for \$72,000 per year to hire police officer. Failed 216 to 102.

- 2007: Five-year levy for \$96,974 per year representing a 3 percent hike in property tax rates. Failed 157-89.

Levies for a contract with the Polk County Sheriff's Office were approved for 1995-96, 1996-97, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. The contract with the ended in June 2001.



## Curbside Recycling Guide

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# 2016

Your recycling cart will be picked up on the non-shaded weeks below. Yard debris carts, where available, are collected on the shaded weeks.

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	

MARCH						
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27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL						
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JULY						
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AUGUST						
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28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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DECEMBER						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Accepted at the curb:**

- Paper, including junk mail
- Newspaper & Magazines
- Cardboard
- Paperboard (like cereal boxes)
- Plastic jugs, tubs, bottles & jars (remove lids/pumps)
- Tin & aluminum cans

**Tips to prepare recycling:**

- Rinse all containers before recycling
- Remove plastic bottle caps
- Fold or cut cardboard so it fits in the cart with lid closed
- Do not place glass in cart
- Do not place plastic bags in cart

**Accepted at the Recycle Depot: (1030 W Ellendale)**

- Mixed recycling (listed above)
- Cardboard
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### Solution on Page 2A

			4	6	2		
2				7			
4	6			3	8		
			8	5	2	3	
8			3	4			
	6	9	5				
	2		9	6			
		1		9	3		
				8	4		

By Ben Arnoldy

### Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	5	7	4	3	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

How to do Sudoku  
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

The Christian Science Monitor

## Land Management Problems?

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