

Sheriff: Patrol hours up to 20

Continued from 1A
 “We must be diligent and thorough so that we can provide the best law enforcement services possible,” Garton said.
 Agencies have one year to certify new recruits, meaning they can participate in field training before or after attending the police academy.
 Garton said he likes to schedule training such that deputies have no or minimal time in between.

The challenge there is having enough training officers to work with new hires. That is another factor in the gradual rebuild.

“Training, the philosophy behind it, is if you get six months of training in a row, you are better in the end,” he said.

Last week, Friday’s patrol shift consisted of three training officers, three recruits and one solo deputy.

The briefing before the team took to the road consisted of a review of a difficult call the night before, a heads up on a potentially complicated warrant arrest, and a short training session led by one of the department’s recruits, Mike Stevenson.

Before being hired full-time, Stevenson had been a reserve deputy with the department.

Coincidentally, the topic of Stevenson’s presentation was legal guidelines around “police officer holds” or taking someone into custody who is suffering from mental illness that may lead them to be a danger to themselves or others. Deputies faced a situation that could have fallen into that category the night before.

Discussion of that and similar calls often interrupted Stevenson’s session.

Sgt. Kevin Haynes said hashing out difficult situations is a good exercise for recruits. But he couldn’t help teasing Stevenson about allowing frequent distractions.

“A good instructor is able to field those questions and move on,” he said through a smile.

He left the deputies, ex-

perienced and new, with advice that could apply to any challenging situation facing officers in the field: “Taking control of something and making it safe is never an issue.”

Thomas Hutchinson, 26, was on his third day on the job Friday. He had been a reserve in the program in the past and recently completed his service with the U.S. Army.

He and his training officer responded to the dangerous call the night before. Even with that eye-opening experience, Hutchinson seemed happy about chance to be a Polk County deputy.

“It was good to see that whole aspect,” he said of the call. “It was like a refresher.”

“I’ve always enjoyed it. I’ve been here since I was 17, and it seems like a good fit.”

With several recruits in field training and headed to the police academy later this year, the office is on track to restore full patrol hours and the Polk County Interagency Narcotics Team by June or July.

On the jail side, the county needed to hire 10 jail deputies to fill vacant positions and those restored by the levy. So far, six of those posts have been filled.

“The hiring and training have been going really well, and we have positive momentum, which is placing us ahead of what we originally planned prior to the levy,” Garton said.

FC council to discuss utility reserve fee

Public hearing scheduled on Thursday to take comments on proposal

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — The Falls City City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed capital improvement fee increase at its meeting Thursday night.

The public hearing will give citizens a chance to comment on the proposal. The meeting will take place at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., at 7 p.m.

At its December meeting, the council voted to have a



resolution prepared to raise the monthly fee from \$7 to \$10. The increase would raise \$14,400 annually and would be used for upgrading

water and sewer systems or to pay for emergency repairs.

The vote was 4-1 for the proposal, with Councilor Jenn Drill voting “no” out of concern for rising costs to citizens.

Prior to the council’s approval, the city’s public works committee reviewed the utility reserve account and decided a rate increase was needed.

Thursday night’s agenda also includes:

- An update on the city’s code enforcement program and municipal court, both of which have been inactive since the former code enforcement officer left the city in 2014.

- A discussion about possibly using video surveillance to deter littering and other illegal activity in city parks and the cemetery.

For more information or to see the meeting agenda, go to: www.fallscityoregon.gov.

Work: PCL places 45 in community

Continued from 1A

“There are people we’ve been able to find employment for who, a year ago, their parents and providers would have said, ‘no, it’s dangerous; no one will employ them,’” Brown said. “But if you find the right match, really, employment is possible.”

PCL, which has been an advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, put its new job program, Job Launch, into action in October 2015, said Gwen Whelton, public relations for PCL.

“We reorganized our employment department,” she said. “We work with people who want to work, evaluate their talents, gifts and what might hold them back.”

The old assumption that someone with disabilities would live forever on Social Security in a group home is

no longer the case, Brown said.

“A kid in high school (was) not being asked, ‘What are you going to do after high school?’” Brown said. Since the Employment First initiative, school counselors will start asking people with disabilities the same questions as those without.

“The script is changing,” she said.

The trick is finding employers who need the skills of the individuals, Brown said.

“It’s not an act of charity,” Brown said. “The goal is to find something they’d have to pay someone else to do anyway.”

Sometimes, it feels like a typical internship, where the

individual may interview someone about his or her business, or job shadow that person, Brown said.

When it works, it works for both the person and the business.

“We have a guy working in a mechanic shop,” Brown said. “He’s always wanted to be a mechanic.”

While his disabilities may prevent him from the hands-on work of fixing cars, plenty needs to be done around the shop, Brown said this individual frees up time for the full-time mechanics to focus on their work.

“He’s worked parts, cleaned parts, recycled parts, organized tools,” Brown said.

Having a real job that pays a real wage is part of the human experience, Brown said.

“It plugs them into the world,” she said. “They have friends; they’re relied upon. They have the same human experience that you and I have. They have work friends. They become part of our society.”

Right now, PCL is focused on finding employment for its clients, but hopes to open the gates to anyone in the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information or to learn how to hire individuals with disabilities: Gwen Whelton, 503-838-2403, ext. 342.

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Wyden to host Dallas town hall at Nesmith

DALLAS — Sen. Ron Wyden will hold a town hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Nesmith Readiness Center, 12830 Westview Drive, Dallas.

The event is part of four town halls the senator will hold this weekend.

Wyden holds annual town halls in each of Oregon’s 36 counties each year. After this weekend’s events, Wyden will have held 763 town halls since he was elected.

To reach Wyden: www.wyden.senate.gov.

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Solution on Page 15A

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

Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★★★★

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

By Ben Arnoldy The Christian Science Monitor