

# Fifth-year, tax exemptions approved by state

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature adjourned its short February session on Thursday.

In the waning days, lawmakers approved a number of bills, including Senate bills 1537 and 1565, which

could have a significant impact in Polk County.

Approved on March 2, SB 1537 allows high schools — including Dallas, Central and Falls City — to continue their fifth-year programs for students who don't qualify for Oregon Promise.

Students in that program have the majority of the

costs to attend community college paid if they have a cumulative grade-point average of 2.5 in high school, have accepted all federal grants or scholarships to pay for tuition and pay \$50 per term as a co-payment.

School officials noted that due to the GPA requirement, some students are left out of

the opportunity. With the passage of SB 1537, those students will be allowed to participate through the schools' current fifth-year programs, now called "post-graduate programs."

The bill also requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to report to legislative commit-

tees on education in 2018. That report will include the cost of the program.

SB 1565 allows local governments to exempt new capital improvements valued between \$1 million to \$25 million from property taxes for industrial business expansion. The exemption is good for three out of five

years. The bill was approved on March 2.

The exemption is limited to "rural areas" defined as outside the urban growth area of cities with a population of 40,000 or more. The hope is the bill would encourage business expansion.

Both bills now await Gov. Kate Brown's signature.

## HEALTH DIRECTORY

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### GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is 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 Friday afternoons from 12:30 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).

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• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides heart diagnostic services including electrocardiograms (EKG), pulmonary function tests, cardiac stress tests and echocardiograms with a physician referral. Cardiologists **Dr. Raghu 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.

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### ORTHOPEDIC SERVICES

• **DR. STEVE YAO** specializes in sports medicine and knee-replacement procedures. Dr. Yao sees patients at the Hope Orthopedics of Oregon satellite office in Dallas, and schedules surgeries nearby at West Valley Hospital in the new state-of-the-art surgery suites. West Valley Hospital is located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-8301. Visit [www.salemhealth.org/wvh](http://www.salemhealth.org/wvh).

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• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides a wide range of rehabilitation services in Dallas, offering physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and aquatic therapy (at Dallas Aquatic Center). Let us help you get moving again! We are conveniently located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7305.

• **MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER** serves Monmouth and Independence locally with a wide range of rehabilitation services including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and aquatic therapy (at Dallas Aquatic Center). Let us help you get moving again! We are conveniently located at 512 Main St., Monmouth, 503-838-1388. Se habla español.

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### PODIATRY SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** podiatrists **Dr. Ruben Pollak** and **Dr. Scott Berg** see patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic and provide procedures and surgeries for feet, ankle, bunions and plantar fasciitis at nearby West Valley Hospital's state-of-the-art surgery suites. Request one of these podiatrists and get your surgical care done locally. Dr. Berg sees patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic on Wednesdays, 8 a.m.- noon. Dr. Pollak sees patients on Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Visit [salemhealth.org/specialty](http://salemhealth.org/specialty).

### PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

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• **DR. JOHN HADLEY**, family medicine, is accepting new patients at the West Valley Physicians & Surgeons Clinic at 555 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7301. With a proactive healthcare approach, Dr. Hadley provides offers family medicine for your entire family from newborns to adults with annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, sports physicals, skin care, cancer screenings and more. New patients are welcome.

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