

Polk County receives decreased timber payment

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — The Bureau of Land Management issued nearly \$19 million in timber payments to 18 counties last week, including Polk County.

Polk received \$406,132, about 2.16 percent of the total payments. That compares to \$845,495 issued last year.

The lower amount is due to the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, which was not renewed by Congress following last year's payment.

That decrease in payments may result in the

county increasing the amount property owners will pay on the public safety levy. A final decision on that will come from the Polk County Budget Committee when it reviews the budget this spring.

Last year, the county charge 31.96 cents per \$1,000, less than the 45 cents authorized by voters. During the levy campaign, county officials said the amount charged taxpayers for the levy would be offset by any timber revenue received.

Greg Hansen, county administrator, said he will recommend to the budget committee that the county charge up to 39 or 40 cents per \$1,000 on the levy to

make up for less revenue.

The payments follow the formula in the 1937 Oregon & California Land Act, which provides for a percentage of timber cut revenues on federal land to be paid to counties. With the expiration of the SRS program, the 1937 act takes effect.

Per the law, 50 percent of timber receipts are to go to counties. In fiscal year 2016, more than \$40 million in timber receipts were paid.

About \$18.8 million was distributed to counties after a 6.9 percent sequester.

Douglas County received the largest payment of \$4.7 million.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

Polk County received a decreased timber payment.

NASA: Library and NASA to continue to work together

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“We want to see where we could make the most differences, make connections between NASA, public libraries and state libraries to enhance the learning opportunities available,” LaConte said.

Both Obrist and LaConte expressed optimism about the tone and details from the discussion and hope that with community members helping to follow up with some of the ideas stated that the library will attract new patrons.

“I thought it was a really good meeting,” Obrist said. “We had representation from a variety of different organizations and great connections were made. I think we’re really excited about the possibility of what kind of programs we might come up with during this project period and beyond.”

Obrist said the library sent

invites to a number of people within the community to take part in the discussion to get a wide range of views and possible resources as possible.

With the solar eclipse on the horizon and the NASA @ My Library program primed to help the library continue to build momen-

tum into the future, Obrist said the library is in a unique position to become an even more integral part of the community that everyone can use.

“It’s an opportunity to learn and grow,” Obrist said. “One thing about public libraries is we’re life-long learning institutions.”

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting, if required.

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at www.wvpha.org. The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodations to attend the meeting. For information, please call 503-623-8387, TDD 1-800-735-2900.

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