

Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Volume 142, Issue 15

www.Polkio.com

April 12, 2017

\$1.00

CASA receives more money

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — On Thursday, Polk County Budget Committee approved giving Polk County CASA \$10,000 more than was proposed in the 2017-18 budget.

The extra funding is to



“keep our doors open,” said CASA board member Mike Barnett in a presentation to the committee on Thursday. “But we don’t just sit back and ask for hand-outs,” he added.

Starting in 2015-16, Polk County began offering the program financial support, enabling the organization to open an office in Dallas.

CASA volunteers are advocates for children in the foster care system while their cases are in the courts.

Barnett said CASA has been active on the fundraising front, holding an annual golf tournament and Christmas tree sale, among other events, but still struggles to cover all of its expenses.

While still in need of financial assistance, the program has improved upon its mission of representing children, Barnett said.

The mostly volunteer program has placed 85 percent of children in the court system with advocates.

More CASA volunteers will graduate from the training program in about six weeks.

“The kids coming in are getting CASAs right away,” Barnett said. “Basically, we are backfilling the cases that have been around for a while.”

Polk County Administrator Greg Hansen said the plan in fiscal year 2015-16 was to provide \$25,000 to CASA and reduce that amount each year until the program was self-sufficient.

In 2017-18, CASA was supposed to receive \$5,000, but it was clear earlier this year that plan wasn’t going to happen, Hansen said.

“Was that optimistic? Very much so, but it was the hope and the goal,” Hansen said.

“Obviously, that hasn’t become a reality. I think (it) probably won’t get there, at least in the short-term.”

See CASA, Page 13A



Photo courtesy of MARSHALL GUTHRIE/for the Itemizer-Observer
Mayor Steve Milligan stands with several supporters of an inclusivity resolution after the April 4 council meeting.

Monmouth officially ‘inclusive’

After hearing from dozens of WOU students, residents, council says yes

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth City Council received a standing ovation from Western Oregon University students and Monmouth residents who filled Volunteer Hall at the council’s April 4 meeting.

The reaction came after the council unanimously approved an inclusivity resolution, addressing immigrant concerns while also addressing all members of the community.

“It would be a good statement of how we stand on the issue,” City Manager Scott McClure said. “It

wouldn’t change any of our practices, but it would make a good statement.”

Councilor Jon Carey thanked everyone who participated in bringing the inclusivity resolution to council. The council had heard from dozens of students and residents since late January before passing the inclusivity resolution.

“We’re capitalizing on your expertise, your interest, and coupling that with Oregon law and other things,” he said. “Hats off to you all who got this ball rolling. It’s a good spot to be, as far as I’m concerned, and it allows the council to sort of get out in front of some of these

things and provide leadership for our community.”

Councilor Laurel Sharmer also thanked the audience and those who have participated and testified on behalf of an inclusivity resolution.

“Thank you to all you white and brown and men and women and retired and children and adults who would not go away without letting us make Monmouth an inclusive city,” she said.

Mayor Steve Milligan said that in the 12 years he has served as a city official, he had not received as many emails as he had on April 4 before the council meeting.

“I’m really glad that people are participating,” he said. “My only regret is that we can’t do more. There’s so much that still needs to be done beyond being an inclusive city for solving problems for those who are dreamers for more hope for the future, so you can get a green card or citizenship.”

Milligan encouraged the audience to continue the movement to the state and federal level.

“We’ll all work together to make a better place to live,” he said.

To read the inclusivity resolution, go online to polkio.com.

Dallas men sentenced in poaching case

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Two Dallas men were sentenced on elk poaching and wasting charges in Benton County Court.

According to Oregon State Police, David Bruce Maxfield Jr., 26, of Dallas, pleaded guilty to one count of taking, angling, hunting, or trapping in violation of wildlife law or rule, a misdemeanor. Allen Craige Boal, 26, of Dallas, pleaded no contest to

one count of taking, angling, hunting, or trapping in violation of wildlife law or rule.

Additional wildlife offenses were dismissed as part of the plea bargain, according to OSP.

Maxfield was sentenced to: 12 months of bench probation; perform 40 hours of community service; forfeit all wildlife seized during investigation; forfeit weapon seized during investigation; pay \$7,600 in fines, fees, and

restitution; and hunting privileges suspended for three years.

Boal was sentenced to: 12 months of bench probation; perform 40 hours of community service; pay \$7,600 in fines, fees, and restitution; and hunting privileges suspended for three years.

The charges stemmed from an investigation by the OSP Fish and Wildlife Division Mid-Valley Team, which concluded both subjects en-

gaged in the unlawful take of a trophy 6x6 bull elk in the Kings Valley area of Benton County.

The bull elk was killed by Maxfield, and neither subject possessed the proper tag.

The subjects left the bull elk to waste, only recovering its head/antlers.

Maxfield’s bow was seized. Boal had a previous wildlife offense conviction, according to OSP.

Three men arrested during drug bust

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SALEM — Police arrested three men and seized heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine following a Polk Inter-agency Narcotics Team and Salem Police Street Crimes Unit investigation into a heroin distribution ring in Polk and Marion counties.

In the early morning hours Wednesday, the Salem Police Department SWAT Team searched a residence at 2245 Maple Ave. NE in

Salem after investigators secured a search warrant, according to a Polk County Sheriff’s Office press release.

During the month-long investigation, detectives identified Jeffrey Bledsoe and Adrienne Santrizos as distributors of heroin in both counties, according to the sheriff’s office report.

Officers arrested Bledsoe and Santrizos on identical charges: manufacture of heroin within 1,000 feet of a

school; manufacture of heroin; two counts of delivery of heroin within 1,000 feet of a school; two counts of delivery of a substantial quantity of heroin; three counts of delivery of heroin; two counts of possession of a substantial quantity of heroin; possession of methamphetamine; possession of a substantial quantity of cocaine; possession of cocaine; delivery of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school;

and delivery of cocaine.

The third suspect, Brian Bledsoe, was charged with possession of heroin.

All three men were taken to the Polk County Jail.

Residue amounts of methamphetamine, 10.8 grams of cocaine, and 404.2 grams of heroin — in black tar and brown powder form — were found in the search of the residence, according to the sheriff’s office report.

IN YOUR TOWN

DALLAS
Dallas Cinema set to reopen on Friday.
»Page 6A

FALLS CITY
City Council to discuss search for a city manager.
»Page 10A

INDEPENDENCE
City gives the green light to Organic Investments.
»Page 2A

MONMOUTH
The community takes part in Craft with a Cop.
»Page 14A

EDUCATION
Work on Whitworth’s seismic upgrade will begin this summer.
»Page 14A

SPORTS
Group looks to keep adult recreation alive in Dallas.
»Page 11A

West Salem woman sentenced to 54 months

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Charla Ki Vaughn was sentenced in Polk County Circuit Court on March 31 to serve 54 months in prison after being convicted of delivering heroin and methamphetamine in two separate cases.

One of the cases involved Vaughn selling methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Central High School in Independence. Vaughn, 28, of West Salem, was the subject of an investigation led by the Polk Inter-Agency Narcotics Team.

The case was prosecuted by the Polk County District Attorney’s Office.

Newsletter

Want to be more connected? Sign-up to receive the Itemizer-Observer newsletter at www.polkio.com.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates and more.

THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK



wed
Learn about the Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation at the MI Chamber lunch.
Noon. Free.
Showers
Hi: 54
Lo: 42

thu
Author Deborah Hopkinson will read from her new book, “A Letter to my Teacher,” at Dallas Public Library.
4 p.m. Free.
Showers
Hi: 52
Lo: 38

fri
The River of Gems returns to the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center today through Sunday.
9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$2.
Rain
Hi: 54
Lo: 35

sat
Meet the Easter Bunny and search for eggs at Gentle Woods Park at the MI YMCA’s annual Easter egg hunt.
10-11:30 a.m. Free.
Partly cloudy
Hi: 58
Lo: 41

sun
Head to Pedee’s Womer Cemetery for a sunrise service this Easter morning. Breakfast will follow at the church.
6:30 a.m. Free.
Partly cloudy
Hi: 58
Lo: 41

mon
Network while enjoying lunch at the Dallas Chamber lunch forum at the civic center.
11:30 a.m. \$12-\$15.
Showers
Hi: 57
Lo: 43

tue
Today’s the day! If you waited until the last minute, taxes are due today.
Showers
Hi: 55
Lo: 41