



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer file

The Polk County Board of Commissioners will consider adding a taxing district to pay for facilities at the fairgrounds.

County seeks other options

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — In May, voters narrowly rejected a \$10 million bond for county facilities maintenance.

On June 20, County Administrator Greg Hansen proposed a plan to address repairs and maintenance in lieu of the bond.

It included asking Public Works and Behavioral Health to cover costs at their respective buildings.

Behavioral Health is the largest occupant of the Academy Building, which was recently remodeled.

The Polk County Jail needs a new roof soon, and the money for that project would come from the county's general fund, Hansen said.

He said finding solutions for the historic courthouse

and annex complex and the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center is tougher.

The courthouse complex needs an estimated \$7.5 million to \$8.5 million in repairs, according to a facilities analysis commissioned by the county.

Hansen said the fairgrounds has aging facilities and can't cover operations costs without help.

"When considering these facilities, the primary source of funding for any of these improvements will fall upon the general fund, which does not have adequate resources to address the necessary repairs without a serious disruption to the services we currently provide," Hansen wrote in a memo to the Board of Commissioners.

His proposal provided separate options for the courthouse complex and fairgrounds.

He recommended scaling back the \$10 million bond to \$8.5 million to address needs at the courthouses.

That would cost an estimated 16.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties in the first year, and average less than 15 cents over the 10-year life of the bond.

Hansen said the board didn't want to pursue that option in November this year, but would wait until 2018, if it decides to place a bond before voters.

For the fairgrounds, Hansen recommended exploring a permanent solution: A taxing district, similar to what voters approved for Polk County's Oregon State University Extension program.

Now, the fairgrounds facility needs help from the county to balance its budget.

"The (general fund) trans-

fer to the fairgrounds is \$75,000," Hansen said. "That could easily go to \$250,000 before you know it and you're still not addressing things."

A taxing district charging a permanent rate of 10 cents per \$1,000 would generate about \$550,000, of which \$250,000 could pay for operations.

The remaining \$300,000 could be leveraged to finance repairing existing buildings or new construction.

County leaders will have time to weigh the pros and cons of the fairgrounds proposal, as it probably won't see a ballot until after a renewal of the public safety levy goes before voters in November 2019.

"This idea will require some research," Hansen said.

Man charged with sex abuse of child

Salem Police suspect Johnson may have additional victims

Itemizer-Observer staff report

WEST SALEM — Salem Police Detectives arrested a suspect on numerous sexual charges against a female minor, according to a press release from the Salem Police Department.

Officers were performing a routine check of Orchard Heights Park at about 12:50 a.m. on Monday when they encountered a vehicle, according to the release. Upon making contact with the adult male occupant of the vehicle, they also found a 16-year-old female in the vehicle. Further investigation led officers to believe there was illegal activity, and an investigation ensued.

After interviews by detectives, Kyle Johnson, 26, of Salem, was arrested on charges of compelling prostitution, delivery of a controlled substance to a minor, second-degree sexual abuse, and first-degree online sexual corruption of a child.

The investigation showed that Johnson first made contact with the victim on a social media platform and continued to communicate with her, eventually setting up meetings with her and offering controlled substances and alcohol, according to the police report.

Due to the nature of the allegations against Johnson, investigators are concerned that there may be additional victims.

Anyone who has had

similar approaches, propositions or communications are asked to contact the Salem Police Department Tip Line at 503-588-8477.

The Salem Police Department would like to remind parents to be aware of the online activities of their children. Computers should be kept in a common area where activity can be readily viewed by others. Set limits on social media accounts and have rules in place to be able to view children's activities online, the press release stated.

Salem police encouraged parents to have conversations with children about online safety to include not becoming friends with people who are unknown to them, verifying the identities of those requesting connections, and immediately reporting any approaches by strangers to connect in person, the release states. Any requests for photos of sexual nature or the receipt of such photos should be reported immediately to a responsible adult, and immediately discontinue contact with anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable.

Parents should also be aware of and have consistent access to their children's smartphones, online gaming systems and the online activities they are engaging in when with their friends, the press release states.

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BABY DRIVER (Digital) (R)	(11:30 2:10 4:50)	7:30 10:10
DESPICABLE ME 3 (Digital) (PG)	(11:45 12:15 2:00 2:30 4:15 4:45)	7:00 9:15
47 METERS DOWN (Digital) (PG13)		6:30 8:45
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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES (Digital) (PG13)	(1:15 4:10)	7:05
ROUGH NIGHT (Digital) (R)		10:00
CARS 3 (Digital) (G)	(11:30 2:05 4:40)	7:15 9:50

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WONDER WOMAN (Digital) (PG13)	(12:40 3:45)	6:50 9:55
THE HOUSE (Digital) (R)	(12:35 2:50 5:05)	7:20 9:35
BABY DRIVER (Digital) (R)	(11:30 2:10 4:50)	7:30 10:10
DESPICABLE ME 3 (Digital) (PG)	(11:45 12:15 2:00 2:30 4:15 4:45)	7:00 9:15
SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING (Digital) (PG13)		7:00 10:00
TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT (Digital) (PG13)	(12:15 3:30)	6:45 10:00
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