

# Caso appointed as judge in Polk County Circuit

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A new judge is presiding over cases in Polk County Circuit.

Gov. Kate Brown appointed Judge Rafael Caso to fill the seat on Dec. 8, following former Judge Sally Avera's retirement on Nov. 30. She had more than a year left before her term expired.

Caso will run to fill the seat permanently in November 2018, according to a governor's office spokeswoman.

Avera submitted her letter of resignation this summer.

"I've had the pleasure of serving the citizens of this state for more than 35 years

and have enjoyed nearly every minute of it," Avera wrote in her July 6 resignation letter to Brown and Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer. "Still, at age 67, I'm ready to spend more time with family, travel, and get in as much hiking and riding as possible while my legs can still support me."

Avera stated she's had a rewarding career, but a busy one since taking the bench in Polk County in January 2013. As one of three circuit court judges in the county, she presided over one third of the criminal, family court, civil and juvenile cases. She issued most of the

search warrants and heard all the adult traffic cases. Among her other duties was presiding over Polk County's Drug Court.

Drug Court is a treatment program that works with the court and its partners to offer those who commit drug-related crimes treatment and a chance to rebuild their lives. If successful, participants' charges are dismissed.

Avera said she mentioned her work schedule to encourage a swift appointment of a temporary replacement who is willing to take on the responsibility of Drug Court, and the hectic work week.

"My schedule precludes long lunches and prevents three-day weekends," she said. "With the exception of out-of-town vacations and a head injury last March, I can't remember a single week in the last 54 months when my sleep hasn't been interrupted at least twice for a warrant."

Referring to colleagues Judge Monte Campbell and Judge Norm Hill, she said: "These duties cannot simply be absorbed by my two bench brothers."

Avera initially cited Dec. 31 as her last day, but changed it to Nov. 30 because of an update to her Public Employee Retirement

System retirement benefits, according to a second letter sent to Brown and Balmer on Aug. 2.

Caso is a hearings referee and judge pro tempore in Marion County Circuit Court.

He's worked as a trial attorney for the Oregon Department of Justice from 2013 to 2016. From 2007 to 2013, he worked as prosecutor at the Josephine County District Attorney's Office.

He coaches the mock trial team at West Salem High School and mentors law students at Willamette University Law School. Caso completed law school at Florida Coastal School of Law.

## DEADLINES

### HOLIDAY DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:

**Social news** (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

**Community events** — Noon on Thursday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.

**Letters to the editor** — 10 a.m. on Friday.

**Obituaries** — 4 p.m. on Friday.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

**Retail display ads** — 2 p.m. Thursday.

**Classified display ads** — 11 a.m. on Friday.

**Classified line ads** — Noon on Friday. Classified ads are updated daily on [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

**Public notices** — Noon on Thursday.

## CORRECTIONS

Monmouth City Councilor Laurel Sharmer voted no on Dec. 4 to adding fees to utility services (franchise fees) because, "Telecommunications customers in Monmouth will see their bills increase by 10 percent now. If the city of Monmouth needs to raise money there are better ways to do it."

## WEBSITE

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* website, [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com), is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations. The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

## WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Dec. 12.....	43	23	.00
Dec. 13.....	48	27	.00
Dec. 14.....	46	28	.00
Dec. 15.....	42	28	.01
Dec. 16.....	47	30	T
Dec. 17.....	50	39	T
Dec. 18.....	54	41	.00

Rainfall during Dec. — 0.67 in.  
Rain through Dec. 18— 48.5 in.

# Protheroe announces retirement from Falls City

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Domenica Protheroe, the soon-to-be retired Falls City city clerk, left some parting advice for city leaders.

Protheroe's last day is Thursday. She's worked for the city for nearly seven years and received a standing ovation for her service at the council meeting.

"The one message I would give — and it's not a new message by any stretch — is that we need to increase existing revenue and find new revenue because costs go up exponentially," she said during Thursday's council meeting.

"Without doing that, we will lose more services, and a good example of that, unfortunately, is the library."

She said encouraging development could be one way of bringing in more revenue.

"What we do know about Falls City, is that we are the most beautiful city in Polk County. We have a river. We have natural beauty. We have a really welcoming community. They're strong and they're supportive," she said. "I think over time, the word's going to get out and we are going to see more (growth)."

She added helping the federal government get a better count of the city's population for the 2020 Census

could increase resources sent to the city.

Protheroe believes the official population number of 950 is low, by as much as 100.

"If it were 1,050, over five years, we would get \$30,000 more in the gas tax," she said, citing one example of state or federal revenue sources that are distributed based on population.

Cody DeCamp, the city's new city clerk, will assist census workers with their surveys, she said.

Ungricht and Protheroe appealed to council members to encourage people to participate in the count.

"My only suggestion is the coun-

cil create a PR plan to make it important for citizens to respond to that census worker, because if there's not an open door when that census worker gets there, they are not going to be counted," Protheroe said.

Protheroe said she's been grateful to work for Falls City and with the council for the final stop in her working life.

"You love know I love you. I just can't thank you enough for my seven years here. It's just been an incredible experience," she said. "I'm glad this is my last job. It's a perfect job to exit from because I really don't want to go, and that is a good way to leave."

# Oregon State Police warn drivers about using GPS

Itemizer-Observer staff report  
SALEM — Oregon State Police warns people to take care

when using GPS units when traveling this winter. During a closure of Highway

22 between Central Oregon and the Willamette Valley over the weekend, OSP dispatch received several calls of motorists being redirected by their GPS units to Forest Service roads near Detroit.

One motorist became stuck in snow and another ran out of gas.

Instead of taking Forest Service roads that are often not maintained in the winter, drivers should stick to maintained roads and state highways while navigating mountain passes, OSP said.

Motorists are also urged to carry with them an emergency

kit while traveling.

The Oregon Department of Transportation website lists winter driving tips and what to carry in an emergency kit under "Winter Driving Guide" found online: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Pages/winter-driving.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Pages/winter-driving.aspx).

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

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon via conference call with regular attendees. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting.

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at [www.wvpha.org](http://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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Our office will be closed January 1 in observance of New Years Day.  
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**Friday - Sunday • December 22 - 24**  
FATHER FIGURES (Digital) R (1:55 4:35) 7:25 10:05+  
FERDINAND (Digital) PG (11:40 2:15 4:50) 7:20 9:55+  
\*JUMANJI (Digital) PG13 (1:40 4:25) 7:10 9:55+  
\*STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (Digital) PG13 (12:00 12:30 3:15 3:45) 6:30 7:00 9:45+ 10:15+  
PITCH PERFECT 3 (Digital) PG13 (12:15 2:35 4:55) 7:20  
DOWNSIZING (Digital) R (12:40 3:40) 6:45 9:50+  
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (Digital) PG (12:00 2:30 5:00) 7:30 10:00+  
(+) NOT SHOWING 12/24, SUNDAY  
**Monday • December 25**  
FATHER FIGURES (Digital) R (1:55 4:35) 7:25 10:05  
FERDINAND (Digital) PG (2:15 4:50) 7:20 9:55  
\*JUMANJI (Digital) PG13 (1:40 4:25) 7:10 9:55  
\*STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (Digital) PG13 (12:30 3:15 3:45) 6:30 7:00 9:45 10:15  
PITCH PERFECT 3 (Digital) PG13 (2:35 4:55) 7:20 9:40  
DOWNSIZING (Digital) R (12:40 3:40) 6:45 9:50  
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (Digital) PG (2:30 5:00) 7:30 10:00  
**Tuesday - Thursday • December 26 - 28**  
FATHER FIGURES (Digital) R (1:55 4:35) 7:25 10:05+  
FERDINAND (Digital) PG (11:40 2:15 4:50) 7:20 9:55  
\*JUMANJI (Digital) PG13 (1:40 4:25) 7:10 9:55  
\*STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (Digital) PG13 (12:30 3:15 3:45) 6:30 7:00 9:45 10:15  
PITCH PERFECT 3 (Digital) PG13 (12:15 2:35 4:55) 7:20 9:40  
DOWNSIZING (Digital) R (12:40 3:40) 6:45 9:50  
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