

# Love story coming to WOU stage

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

MONMOUTH — The road to love can be fast and simple, or it can be long and rocky.

For Jane Bennet and Mr. Bingley, love clicks in place as easily as puzzle pieces. But for Jane's sister, Elizabeth, and Mr. Bingley's friend, Mr. Darcy, things of the heart are more complicated.

Jane, Elizabeth and their three other sisters experience the journey of love, courtship and manners in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," presented by Western Oregon University's Department of Theatre and Dance, starting Thursday. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m.

For Jeff Presler, a WOU junior and Monmouth native, relating to Mr. Darcy's bluntly honest character is not too difficult.

"He's a lot like me, in a way," Presler said, "except he has all the filters I normally don't."

As for Darcy's romantic interest, Elizabeth, it isn't his fault she often misunderstands him, Presler said.

"She takes things the wrong way," he said, but that's not something he's unfamiliar with in his life either. "It's easy for people to misunderstand you. It happens a lot in my life."

Janelle Davis fell in love with "Pride and Prejudice" when she was 13 years old. Davis said she is not a ro-

## Showtime!

**What:** Western Oregon University Department of Theatre and Dance's production of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."

**When:** Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. matinee performance; and March 4-7, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** WOU's Rice Auditorium, 345 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth.

**Admission:** \$12 general admission; \$10 for seniors; \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased from the box office between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or starting at 6 p.m. on performance nights.

**Of note:** Performances on March 5 and March 6 will be interpreted in American Sign Language.

**For more information:** 503-838-8462 (box office); 503-838-8461 (theater and dance department).



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-ObsERVER

The Bennet sisters, played by Sarah Cotter, Samantha Dunaway, Emily Scott, Janelle Davis and Shannen Brouner, consult with their mother, played by Belladina Starr.

by Belladina Starr. When Starr enters the stage, other characters roll their eyes because they know Mrs. Bennet is a busy-body.

"She is very loud and obnoxious and gossipy and really out of control," said Starr. "That was very different for me. I'm a lot more soft-spoken and I think before I speak."

Mrs. Bennet is "crazy all the time and 'accidentally' speaks too loudly," Starr added. "She's always talking.

Sometimes she talks for no reason, it's just to keep someone there longer. She's manipulative."

Mr. Bingley's sister tries to warn him about marrying the beautiful Jane, played by Shannen Brouner — a marriage to a Bennet girl means Mrs. Bennet as a mother-in-law.

Mr. Bingley, played by Declan Hertel, isn't fazed.

"Mr. Bingley ends up with the prettiest girl in the room, the most handsome girl in the room," Hertel said.

The character was not difficult for Hertel to relate to. "He's charming, and up," he said, referring to Bingley's and his own gregarious nature.

The cast of 29 includes two Polk County natives. Presler, from Monmouth, is joined by Andrew Thornton of Dallas, who plays Mr. Denny.

"Pride and Prejudice" was adapted for the stage by Joseph Hanreddy and J.R. Sullivan. The play is directed by Western theater professor David Janoviak.

# Huckestein appointed Chemeketa president

**Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report**  
SALEM — Chemeketa Community College's Board of Education voted unanimously Feb. 18 to appoint Julie Huckestein president of the college district.

Huckestein has served as interim president since June 2014.

"I would do this job with or without interim in the title," Huckestein said.

"I care so much about the college, but I can only do part of the work here. Our staff does so much

more than I do. I'm looking forward to us accomplishing exciting things together."

Huckestein has worked at Chemeketa since 2001. She served as vice president and chief financial officer before being appointed interim president. She holds a master's degree in education policy and administration from Portland State, a bachelor's degree in management and organizational leadership from George Fox and an associate degree in business administration from Linn-Benton Community College.

Chemeketa concluded a nationwide search for a new president Feb. 10, when the board voted in a special public meeting to accept the recommendation of its Presidential Search Advisory Committee that none of the 21 applicants for the job move forward for further consideration.

The 15-member search committee included Dallas resident and former Dallas School District Superintendent Christy Perry, now superintendent of the Salem-Keizer School District.



Huckestein

# MES principal leaving for post with Central office

**Itemizer-ObsERVER staff report**  
MONMOUTH — Dorie Vickery always tries to call children by their names.

"It's a big deal to know a child by their name," said Vickery, principal at Monmouth Elementary School for the past five years.

Vickery, 49, has accepted a job at the Central School District office, which means at



Vickery

the end of June, she will step away from working with students on a personal level and into helping them on a grander scale.

Her new job, director of curriculum and instruction, was a position the district eliminated in 2008 during budget cuts. Factors including Common Core State Standards, proficiency grading and new assessments — such as Smarter Balanced Assessments — created the need to reinstate the position. Curriculum needs to be

aligned, such as the transition in learning math between fifth and sixth grades, she said.

Vickery said she also will work with principals to help establish a possible alternative education program for high school and help communicate with teachers, students and parents about proficiency grading. While she said she will

miss the professional staff and teachers at MES — and the students — she is looking forward to the slower pace at the district office.

"This is a very tough job with some very long hours to it," Vickery said of being principal at MES. "I'm looking forward to a different pace and ability for a range of influence."

## Community Events Calendar brought to you by these Monmouth Business Association participants.

We Care About Our Community! Building Unity in Our Community! Please clip out this calendar & post it on your fridge!

<p><b>MINET</b> 405 Hogan Rd Monmouth 503-837-0700 www.minetfiber.com Your Local Service Provider</p>	<p><b>Oregon State Credit Union</b> 800-732-0173 464 S Pacific Hwy Monmouth osufederal.com</p>	<p><b>Carpet Hero</b> Saving Carpets Daily 503-838-0869 Monmouth</p>	<p><b>LOOKING FOR RENTALS?</b> 297 1/2 N. Pacific Hwy 503-838-1278 Western View Properties Property Management, LLC</p>	<p><b>MONMOUTH FITNESS CLUB</b> 503-838-2951 165 E. Main St. Monmouth</p>	<p><b>RETALS</b> 503-838-1773 410 E. Main St. Monmouth</p>	<p><b>Windermere REAL ESTATE</b> www.windermere.com 503-838-1141 297 N Pacific Monmouth</p>
<p><b>PCL</b> Partnerships in Community Living 503-838-2403 480 E. Main St. Monmouth</p>	<p align="center"><b>2015 MARCH</b> Monmouth Area Community Events Calendar</p>			<p><b>Every Tuesday</b> 10:15 AM, <b>Toddler Story Time</b> for ages 18 mos. to 3 yrs. <b>Monmouth Public Library</b>, 168 S. Ecels St. <b>Every Tuesday 7:30 PM</b> - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another's use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you will be contacted. <b>Second and Fourth Tuesdays</b> - 9:15 to 11 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MoPS) meets at Monmouth Christian Church, 959 W. Church St., Monmouth. <b>Every Wednesday</b> 10:15 AM, <b>Preschool Story Time</b> for ages 3-6 years. <b>Monmouth Library</b>, 168 S. Ecels St. <b>Every Wednesday</b> 5-6 p.m. <b>Rally For Peace</b>, in front of the Main St. Park <b>Every Wednesday Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank</b>, 10am to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517. <b>Every Wednesday 6:30 PM</b> - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at Trinity Lutheran Church at 320 Fir Villa Rd. in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another's use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you will be contacted. <b>Every 2nd Wednesday</b> Monmouth-Independence Chamber lunch forum. 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Location changes. Please call Jean Love or visit our Calendar of Events at micc-or.org for more information. 503-838-4268 <b>Every 3rd Wednesday</b> each month. BINGO at the Farm, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Come play BINGO in the Chatoe out at Rogue Farms. Join us every third Wednesday of the month through 2014! So bring your family and friends and get ready to win! Boards, daubers, and prizes provided! Rogue Farms Chatoe Tasting Room, 3590 Wigrich Road Independence, OR <b>Every Thursday</b> 7 p.m. 314 Cottonwood Way, Monmouth. Polk and Marion County Women meet to discuss and research alternative/safer approaches to conventional treatments of hormonal imbalance. <b>Every 2nd Thursday</b> 7:00 PM <b>Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC)</b> open meeting. <b>Monmouth Volunteer Hall</b>. Info: 503-838-8804 <b>Every 3rd Thursday After Hour Mixers</b> with Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members and friends are invited to join us for our FREE monthly after-hours mixers. Mixers are held the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at member locations. Registration is requested to help the host site properly prepare. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small giveaway (less than \$10) to promote your business or organization. For location and or more information, contact Jean Love 503-838-4268 or visit our Calendar of Events at micc-or.org for more information. <b>Every Friday TOPS-Weight Loss Group</b> meets at the Monmouth Church of Christ, 127 Heffley St. N., Monmouth, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information please feel free to contact Marilyn at 503-930-7936. <b>Every 1st Saturday</b> 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM <b>Monmouth Senior Center</b> host breakfast. All you can eat, Adults \$6 Donation, Children 12 &amp; under \$3 Donation. <b>For more info: 503 838-5678</b> <b>First Saturday</b> 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-3 p.m. - <b>Crafter's Cottage</b> at the <b>Monmouth Senior Center</b>, 180 S. Warren St. Handmade items, watercolors, needlepoint, towels, bead jewelry, dolls, blankets, sweaters, jellies, etc... <b>New items always arriving!</b></p>		
<p><b>March 1</b> <b>Polk Flea Market.</b> Polk County's oldest and largest market with 183 tables selling antiques, collectibles, tools, etc. 9 am to 3 pm, Polk County Fairgrounds &amp; Event Center 520 S. Pacific Hwy W Rickreall. Website: www.polkfleamarket.com <b>March 6</b> <b>NO SCHOOL!</b> Grading Day grades k-12 Central School District. <b>March 7</b> <b>Polk County FolkLife Festival.</b> Mark your calendars and join us for the launch of Polk County's FIRST annual FolkLife Festival on Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM! Our mission is to preserve and promote the cultural and ethnic traditions of the people in the Mid-Willamette Valley through folk music, dance, exhibits, arts, crafts, and food. Visit our facebook page for all the details! www.facebook.com/polkcountyfolklife. This will be an ethnically diverse festival including bands, performing arts, children's craft area, craft vendors, food, beer and wine garden and yes, a jam area! \$10 per person OR \$5 per person + 5 cans of food. Children 12 &amp; under FREE Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Hwy, Rickreall. <b>March 13</b> <b>MICC 50th Annual Community Awards Banquet.</b> (see below for more info) <b>March 14 &amp; 15</b> <b>Rickreall Gun Show.</b> Buy ♦ Sell ♦ Trade ♦ Gun ♦ Knife ♦ Ammunition and more... Food available on site. Adults \$6.00, Kids under 12 free, Free parking. Sat. hours - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Sunday hours - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. <b>March 16</b> <b>Meet the Authors: Oregon's Main Street US Highway 99</b> - Join us on a virtual trip down Oregon's Main Street: U.S. Highway 99 with the authors, <b>Jo-Brew and Pat Edwards</b>, in the meeting room at the Independence Event Center, 555 S. Main St. from 7 to 9 p.m.. Admission is free but books will be available for purchase and the authors will be delighted to sign them as well! <b>March 17</b> <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone!</b> From the MBA <b>March 21</b> <b>Polk County Museum Family Day!</b> 1:30 - 4 p.m. Every year we throw open our doors and invite our neighbors to come join us celebrate our pioneer heritage. We like to focus on events that children will enjoy—but folks of all ages will have a good time. This year we will again have Civil War re-enactors sharing their passion with demonstrations, along with various folks sharing pioneer skills, such as butter-making, weaving, spinning, making lace, among others. We will also have a photograph opportunity that provides a personal souvenir for each child. Location: Polk County Museum, 560 Pacific Highway W., Rickreall. Admission is free. <b>March 23 - 27</b> <b>SPRING BREAK!</b> Grades k-12 Central School District.</p>						
<p align="center"><b>2015 Annual Community Awards Banquet</b> Join us as we celebrate businesses, organizations, and individuals for their contributions and support of our community during our <b>50th Annual Community Awards Banquet!</b> Date: Friday, March 13 Location: Eola Hills Wine Cellars Time: Social hour begins at 5:30 PM; Programming begins at 6:30 PM Tickets: <b>\$40 per person</b> Register at micc.or.org</p>						