

## Phase two of survey begins in Monmouth

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The first phase of Monmouth Engaged — Monmouth's visioning process — is complete, and City Manager Scott McClure said the findings have been good.

"When you put it all together, you go to the things that weren't there, and people are pretty happy living in Monmouth," he said. "Are there some areas that we could do better, sure. We could have better cooperation with Western (Oregon University), more amenities, more bike-pedestrian safety. There's always things you could do better."

But it's those things Barney and Worth, the consultants in charge of the visioning process, didn't find that McClure noted.

Typically cities going through this kind of citizen survey will find crime issues, dissatisfaction with city government or complaints about jobs and economic development.

"It wasn't there much," McClure said.

Also noteworthy was the

lack of complaints around social issues, he said, even when it came to students.

"That's classic town-gown stuff that can be typical, but that just wasn't there," McClure said.

McClure said Western students tend to be disciplined, hard-working students, in his opinion.

With the first phase of the survey completed — 800 surveys were turned in, which is more than twice what consultants expected from a town the size of Monmouth, McClure said — the second phase has started.

At the Fourth of July festival in Main Street Park, the city will have a vendor booth where citizens may fill out a survey. Barney and Worth Associates also will be at the July 15 Music in the Park to encourage participation. The goal of the second survey is to prioritize what's important. McClure said the findings should be ready to present at the Aug. 4 city council meeting.

To take the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MonmouthEngaged2>.

## Fourth of July safety

Some friendly tips about fireworks and staying hydrated

By Emily Mentzer  
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POLK COUNTY — This Fourth of July promises to be hotter than usual, and drier, with temperatures in the mid to high 90s.

It means a few extra precautions should be taken in addition to regular safety when it comes to staying hydrated and lighting fireworks.

During the festivities, it's important to remember the "safe and sane" rules of fireworks, and only use fireworks purchased from an authorized vendor, said Neal Olson, Polk County Fire District No. 1 division chief.

"It's really important that we follow those rules and guidelines," Olson said about the regulations put out by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. "Especially this year with as dry as it is. It is much worse this year than it has been in the past."

Keep a fire hose or bucket of water handy in case shrubs or grass catches on fire, Olson said.

Even sparklers can cause damage if handled improperly. "No sword fighting with them," Olson said. "Those

### A Safe Fourth is a Fun Fourth

Fireworks, even legal ones, can be dangerous, especially in this unusually dry and warm year.

Some tips from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office:

- Store fireworks out of children's reach. An adult should always light fireworks.
- Always read and follow directions on the label.
- Place pets indoors; they are easily frightened by fireworks.
- Always have water handy. Soak used fireworks thoroughly in a bucket of water.
- Never re-light "dud" fireworks.

Some tips from Salem Health: If you experience these symptoms, drink more water, find shade or call 911:

- Heat illness goes through three stages: heat cramps — like muscle cramps — exhaustion and then heat stroke.
- If you have heat cramps, find shade, use a cold compress and take fluids.
- With heat exhaustion, you will sweat excessively and look pale. Get in shade, use a cold compress, and drink fluids. Intravenous fluids may be required.
- If you are having heat stroke, you will be very pale and have a fever. You will not be able to sweat and you will be mentally confused. Call 911.

Overall, use common sense. Drink plenty of fluids and have a safe and happy Fourth of July.

sparklers burn at 2,000 degrees — that is hot. Even just the little sparks that fly off, they'll burn your skin. It's burning metal."

With the amazing fireworks displays throughout the county, Olson said it may not be worth the risk to light off additional fireworks this year.

Polk County Fire District No. 1 has increased staffing for the holiday weekend.

"We expect to be really busy," Olson said. "With a long run of heat leading up to the holiday, we expect an increase in our medical call volume as well. People are forgetting to hydrate and eat properly, and that causes the medical (calls) to go up, which also affects our availability for fire response."

When the temperatures climb, it is important to take care of yourself and your family, also.

The first thing to remem-

ber is to stay hydrated, said Don Rodenfels, a nurse at the emergency department at West Valley Hospital.

"Be sure they are drinking plenty of water," he said. "The best way to rehydrate is just plain water and sports drinks."

In fact, it doesn't hurt to start hydrating the day before you know you'll be in the heat, Rodenfels said.

Soda does not hydrate well, and alcohol dehydrates, making the heat worse.

While extreme heat should be avoided where possible, on the Fourth of July, people will pack the sidewalks and parks during the hottest part of the day to participate in and watch the barbecue competition in Dallas and the Fourth of July/Western Days celebrations in Monmouth and Independence.

Bring an umbrella with you or wear a wide-brimmed hat, Rodenfels said, to provide your own shade to protect you from the sun. Sunscreen also is important.

"The other thing people can do is use battery-operated fans," Rodenfels said. "Some of them are misters. Those actually work quite well."

The West Valley ER has seen a slight increase in heat-related patients, mostly infants, children and the elderly, he said.

"Check on the elderly," Rodenfels noted. "Elderly in general, whether it's hot or not, they need proper fluid intake. Generally older people, you have to get them to drink, because they just won't. It becomes more important during the hot weather."

If alcohol is in your party plans, make sure to make arrangements to get home safely.

### DEADLINES

#### NEWS DEADLINES

The Itemizer-Observer office will be closed Friday in observance of the Fourth of July. Some deadlines have been changed this week to accommodate this.

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

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

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

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

**Obituaries** — 4 p.m. on Monday.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES**

**Retail display ads** — 3 p.m. Thursday.

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

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

**Public notices** — Noon on Friday.

### CORRECTIONS

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an e-mail to [nadams@polkio.com](mailto:nadams@polkio.com).

### 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 and Twitter. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

### WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
June 23	85	52	.00
June 24	87	57	.00
June 25	93	57	.00
June 26	100	65	.00
June 27	95	71	.00
June 28	85	65	.00
June 29	91	60	.00

Rainfall during June — 0.67 in.  
Rain through June 29 — 15.27 in.

Independence Police will have extra patrol shifts looking for people driving under the influence of intoxicants Friday through Monday.

"The ultimate goal in participating in these operations is to get impaired drivers off of our roadways, creating a safer environment for anyone and everyone using our roadways," said Officer David Oliveros.

### Community Survey

Monmouth Engaged is a community-wide visioning process sponsored by the City of Monmouth. The goal is to set a road map for the future with input from those who live, work and play in our community.

Hundreds of Monmouth residents, students, and visitors have shared their ideas for what makes Monmouth special:

*With a state university at its center, Monmouth is a smart college town. Welcoming, safe, well maintained, tree lined, relaxed, with historic roots—a great place to start a business or raise a family. It's close to places you want to go and also connected to the world. Who wouldn't want to live here?*

They also said what can make Monmouth even greater. Several possible visions emerged. Which of these possibilities most appeal to you?

**1. Improve connections between university and community. Closer ties lead to increased community-wide college pride and spirit, sharing resources and facilities, and more mutual support.**

- Love this vision!
- Not my vision, but would support it
- Not a priority

Comments or specific ideas to support this vision:

I would be willing to: (select all that apply)

- Volunteer to make this vision happen
- Pay something more

**2. Become more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Monmouth has become one of Oregon's most walkable and bicycle-friendly communities, with extensive trail systems, and safe sidewalks and crossings.**

- Love this vision!
- Not my vision, but would support it
- Not a priority

Comments or specific ideas to support this vision:

I would be willing to: (select all that apply)

- Volunteer to make this vision happen
- Pay something more

**3. Build and improve community gathering places/amenities. A new community center and updated City Hall accommodate sports, events, celebrations and more activities for children and families.**

- Love this vision!
- Not my vision, but would support it
- Not a priority

Comments or specific ideas to support this vision:

I would be willing to: (select all that apply)

- Volunteer to make this vision happen
- Pay something more

**4. Attract more retail and restaurants. An increased variety of restaurants and shops in the downtown with extended hours adds to the vibrant city center. A local grocery is walkable from campus.**

- Love this vision!
- Not my vision, but would support it
- Not a priority

Comments or specific ideas to support this vision:

I would be willing to: (select all that apply)

- Volunteer to make this vision happen
- Pay something more

**5. What best describes you? (Check all that apply)**

- Monmouth resident
- Monmouth business owner / operator
- Live / work outside Monmouth
- WOU student

**6. Want to help turn your vision into action? Please provide your name and email:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### More information contact:

Scott McClure, Monmouth City Manager  
[smcclure@ci.monmouth.or.us](mailto:smcclure@ci.monmouth.or.us) / 503-751-0146  
[www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)



Take the survey online:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/MonmouthEngaged2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MonmouthEngaged2)— or complete the survey and return to: City Hall, 151 Main St W, Monmouth, OR, 97361  
Attention: Monmouth Engaged



**Ruby is the birthstone for July.**

In history, it was believed that the Ruby evoked images of riches, royalty and passion.

**20% Off** this Month

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Sat 9-4

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**LOCATIONS!!**

**POLK COUNTY BOUNTY MARKET DALLAS**

Thursdays  
May - September  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Academy Lawn

**Sponsors**

Brixius Jewelers	Old Mill Feed & Garden
Citizens Bank	Oregon State CU
Dallas Retirement Village	Polk County
Fowler Affiliates	Squirrel's Taxi
Home Comfort	The Car Doctor
Itemizer Observer	Wall Insurance
Liberty Concrete	West Valley Hospital
	White's Collision Service

July 9 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities

July 2 & 16  
Cash & Company  
11:30 - 1:00pm

**POLK COUNTY BOUNTY MARKET MONMOUTH**

Tuesdays  
May - October  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Main Street Park

**Sponsors**

City of Monmouth
Petals & Vines
PCL (Partnership in Community Living)
Veal Bikes Plus

July 7 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities

Live music every week  
WOU Jazz Students  
Noon - 1:30pm

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