

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Thanksgiving Dinner offered

The First Baptist Church is offering a free Thanksgiving dinner for all community members. A full meal will be held on Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church located at 301 S. 6th St. Local meal delivery orders may be placed prior to Thanksgiving Day by calling the church at 541-942-8242 or Mercy Johnson at 541-942-5229. Those who cannot place delivery orders before Thanksgiving Day can call First Baptist Church on that day at 541-942-8242.

Housing rehab program

St. Vincent de Paul's Regional Housing Reha-

bilitation Program RHRP currently has \$150,000 spoken for to rehabilitate Cottage Grove homes. In December they will be receiving additional funds for 15 more homes to be serviced by the program. A \$25,000 typical loan enables qualified homeowners to improve the livability, health and safety of their homes. Cottage Grove home repair RHRP projects have included new roofs, foundation work, plumbing, electrical, upgrading doors and windows, paint and more.

Qualifying household incomes range from \$31,000 for one person to \$58,450 for a family of eight. There are no payments added to the monthly budget. The loans are due and payable upon the sale or transfer of the property. Homes accepted into the program are assessed and repairs made under the supervision of St. Vincent de Paul, utilizing licensed and bonded contractors of the homeowner's choice.

Umpqua National Forest announces summer hiring

Application period runs Nov. 30-Dec. 7

The Umpqua National Forest is looking to fill up to 90 temporary job openings in firefighting and another 20 positions in recreation and natural resources for the 2016 field season. This year's timeline to submit applications is much earlier than in years past.

Applications for summer temporary employment will need to be submitted online at www.usajobs.gov during an eight-day period that begins Nov. 30 and extends through Dec. 7, 2015. Interested applicants are encour-

aged to create their USAjobs profile now to begin developing their application and compiling the required documents.

Temporary positions are available in Roseburg and in Glide, Cottage Grove, Tiller and Toketee. Specialties include fire, trails, botany, recreation, wildlife and fisheries.

Position descriptions, duty locations, grade levels and hiring manager contact information for the 2016 temporary positions are posted on the Umpqua National Forest's website at: www.fs.usda.gov/main/umpqua/about-forest/jobs.

Additional information and resources for potential Forest

Service job applicants, including reference links on how to apply, application and outreach sites, and benefits are available at: www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs.

For more information about temporary hiring, please contact any Umpqua National Forest Office:

Umpqua National Forest Supervisor's Office, (541) 957-3200

North Umpqua Ranger District, (541) 496-3532

Diamond Lake Ranger District, (541) 498-2531

Cottage Grove Ranger District, (541) 767-5000

Tiller Ranger District, (541) 825-3100

OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

restored the funding. As the 1960s ripened into the 1970s, Monmouth's motivation for its Prohibition policy started changing. Toward the end, fewer voters were motivated by a desire for temperance per se, and more were simply voting to keep Monmouth unique.

"The most prevalent feeling of those who don't really have anything against alcohol," the Polk Sun wrote in Sept. 8, 1976 edition, "is that Monmouth will be just like any other small town if they go wet. Being 'dry' to them is like being the only folks on the block to own an Edsel."

As late as 1994, the town was celebrating its dry heritage at a festival called the Purely Victorian Tea Festival, featuring The Temperance Singers in gorgeous Belle Epoque-era dresses and hats belting out grand old 1870s Prohibition Crusade songs in the city park.

But by the end of the 1990s, the moral case for Prohibition had faded to almost nothing, and support for the law was all about owning that metaphorical Edsel. And even the proudest Edsel owner can be turned into a bitter ex-Edsel fan by getting stranded by the side of the road one too many times. Essentially, that's what happened in Monmouth.

In 2002, the town's last full-size grocery market closed its doors. Its proprietor — the fifth since 1967 — was quite frank about why no one could make a go of selling groceries in Monmouth: It was Prohibition. Most of Monmouth did drink, and it was more convenient to do their shopping a mile away in Independence, where Roth's Friendly Foodliner and Winco Foods awaited and offered prices the local market couldn't touch — prices that were only possible because of liquor sales.

That's a big part of why Monmouth voted, in 2002, to open its doors to beer and wine sales — holding out, for the time being, against distilled spirits;

whiskey drinkers would have to wait for the 2010 election.

And with the results of that election, Monmouth officially joined the rest of the state. Exactly 1.5 centuries after the last flask of Ladd, Reed & Co. rotgut legally changed hands in Monmouth, the liquor trade had finally come back to the thirsty little town.

But even the most ardent opponents of the city's prohibition ordinance were a little sad to see it go.

(Sources: Jansson, Kyle R. "The Changing Climate of Oregon's Driest Town," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Fall 2001; Polk County Itemizer-Observer archives, 5 June 2002, 14 Jan. 2003 and 25 May 2010)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.



The main street of Monmouth as it appeared in 1915. This location is still readily recognizable today.

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Holiday Gift Guide