

# Wine-Down back for encore

*Event expands to Monmouth for Saturday's tour of towns*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Stroll through two Main Streets and take a wine tour simultaneously Saturday at the Wine-Down Downtown event, sponsored by the Oregon State University Enactus club.

Last year's event through Independence went so well, club members decided to bring it back to the area, this time including Monmouth in the tour.

Usually, the club, which focuses on making positive societal change, moves the Wine-Down event from town to town.

"We really like Independence," said club member and event coordinator Cody Stover. "We like how it looks, the historic buildings and the shops are tucked away. That was the look we wanted for Wine-Down."

Both participants and businesses were very receptive to club members pouring wine at various stops in town, Stover added.

"It's cozy," said Kiersten Kreusser, club member and event coordinator. "All the participants were really nice, and that makes a big difference."

This year, the event kicks off Saturday at 3 p.m. at 2EZ Café in Independence. A trolley will cart people from Independence to Monmouth. Each city has five businesses participating, ranging from bars and restaurants to a bookstore and flower shop.

Wine-Down is more than a chance to sample Oregon wines, Stover said.

"It's to promote shopping local, supporting mom-and-pop stores, and creating awareness of the different stores around here," he said.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer  
**Cody Stover and Kiersten Kreusser will toast the towns of Independence and Monmouth during Saturday's Wine-Down Downtown wine walk, sponsored by OSU Enactus.**



## Wine and a Walk

**What:** Wine-Down Downtown Monmouth-Independence, presented by Oregon State University Enactus club.

**When:** Saturday, 3 to 7 p.m.

**Where:** The wine walk starts at 2EZ Café in Independence, 211 S. Main St.

**Admission:** \$19 in advance; \$26 at the door; \$15 for students; free for youth under 21. Purchase at participating businesses or online.

**Who's participating:** 2EZ Café, Second Chance Books, Artisan Treasures, Lionshare Coffeehouse and Bakery, Mangiare Restaurant, Rick's Place Coffeehouse, Yeasty Beasty, Petals & Vines, Main St. Pub and Eatery, and Crush Wine Bar.

**Of note:** A portion of tickets sold will benefit the Willamette Valley Assistance Program.

**For more information:** Find the event on Facebook.

chapter is filled with business students, entrepreneurs who want to make tangible positive changes for small businesses.

"At (last year's) event, we definitely heard a lot of people say, 'Wow, I never knew this was here,'" Stover said. "It opened people's eyes to businesses."

"It boosts word of mouth," Kreusser added. "It kind of makes you realize what you have in your town and never checked it out before."

The ultimate goal would be to save some Monmouth and Independence residents a trip to a box store in Salem — getting them to think about supporting their neighbors' businesses instead.

"This group is focused on making community, real-world change," Stover said. "Going into small-town business sectors that could always use a little amp-up in sales."

This year's event is open to minors — those younger than 21 — when accompanied by someone older than 21. They may tour the businesses and enjoy the appetizers, just not the wine.

"Sometimes when you drive by, you don't really know exactly what's here unless you actually walk around and

take the time."

Enactus clubs are international social change organizations, Stover said. OSU's

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Falls City attorney search continues

FALLS CITY — The committee assigned to review candidates wanting to become Falls City's next city attorney has begun work this week.

Candidate proposals were due Friday and four firms applied for the post, vacant since former city attorney Lane Shetterly resigned in December.

The committee, comprised of two city councilors, Mayor Terry Ungricht and Interim City Manager Jon Hanken, was appointed Feb. 12. It hopes to have a recommendation to the full city council at its meeting on March 12.

The goal is to have a new attorney on the job in April.

### Legislator plans Thursday town hall

INDEPENDENCE — State Rep. Paul Evans will host his "Welcome to Session" Town Hall on Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St.

As the legislative session has just commenced, this will be an opportunity for Evans to meet with the citizens of Polk County and to introduce the recent accomplishments in Salem. Specifically, Evans will discuss the progress made concerning policies surrounding both class action lawsuits and equal pay. Additionally, he will address future priority issues.

This forum is an opportunity to learn, listen and for Evans to hear any questions or concerns you may have. Refreshments will be served.

For more information: 503-986-1420.



Evans

### Job hunting workshop slated Friday

MONMOUTH — Are you or someone you know job hunting and in need of a little help?

The Monmouth Public Library is hosting Goodwill Job Connections, which will offer a free job hunting assistance class, Friday at 4 p.m. at the library, 168 Ecols St. S.

Need help filling out an application? Want assistance creating a resume? Not sure who to use for job references? You can get help with these and other questions.

Admission is free and the class is open to anyone.

For more information: Monmouth Public Library, 503-838-1932.

### Dallas nonprofit recipient of grant

DALLAS — A Gift of Time of Oregon, a Dallas-based respite care organization, has received a \$2,500 donation from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund.

The mission of A Gift of Time of Oregon, a local nonprofit, is to provide a break offering education, self-renewal, supportive friendships and relaxation for non-professional family caregivers and relatives-as-parents.

The Siletz Tribe donated more than \$118,000 to 45 nonprofit organizations during a Feb. 6 quarterly fund distribution. The next deadline to submit applications for grants is March 18. Information on applications and requirements is available online at [ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund](http://ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund), or by calling Rose Williams at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1227.

### New bar and grill open in Monmouth

MONMOUTH — A ribbon cutting to welcome the newest business to Monmouth, The Gym Bar & Grill, will be held Thursday at 5 p.m. at 423 Main St. E. in downtown Monmouth.

The event is hosted by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, the city of Monmouth and the Monmouth Business Association.

Food and beverage specials will be available, and the public is welcome.

For more information: Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce, 503-838-4268.

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