

Amphitheater one step closer

City of Monmouth looks at funding options to finish project

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — By Fourth of July 2016, Monmouth's Main Street Park could have its amphitheater ready for summer concerts, if the council can find a way to pay for it soon.

Parks system development charges (SDCs) can be used for this project, as well as money from the urban renewal district (URD), said Mark Fancey, city community development director.

Fancey said during the April 7 city council work session that if the council decided to pursue grant funding for the project, it could take until 2017 or longer to complete.

The amphitheater project entails several structures including new bathrooms. Storage would allow the city to stop using the old fire station as a storage facility.

The project also would include landscaping and a large storage tank underneath the restroom where water from the park's splash fountain would be stored to irrigate the park.

In total, the amphitheater project's estimated cost is \$1.22 million, the final of three large parks projects listed on the Monmouth



DAO ARCHITECTURE/for the Itemizer-Observer
The amphitheater in Main Street Park could be ready for concerts as early as summer 2016, depending on how the Monmouth City Council decides to pay for it.

parks master plan. The other two projects now completed are Madrona Park and the splash fountain in Main Street Park.

The council decided to use \$422,000 from the parks SDC fund, as well as some money from the urban renewal district's capital reserve fund, and explore op-

tions for financing from the URD.

Councilors debated the value of a five-year loan from the URD vs. a 10-year one.

A 10-year loan would have lower annual payments, but with just 10 years left on the urban renewal district, some councilors thought it would tie their hands when it came

to offering incentives to downtown businesses or future developers.

Fancey and City Manager Scott McClure said they would bring back more information on both a five-year loan and a 10-year loan before councilors made a final decision on funding the amphitheater project.

Falls City manager leaves post Friday

Mayor to serve as interim leader

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City began its search for a permanent city manager just in time to see its temporary manager leave.

Interim City Manager Jon Hanken submitted his 15-day notice on April 2. His last day will be Friday.

"As you are aware, I have been actively pursuing full-time positions and have tentatively accepted another position," Hanken wrote in his resignation letter. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Falls City. I wish you success in your recruitment efforts."

Hanken, who was hired in October 2014, had been scheduled to fill the post until June, unless he found another job. He did in Lone, Calif.

"That's exciting for him; sad for us," said Mayor Terry Ungricht Thursday at the Falls City City Council meeting.

Ungricht will serve as "city manager pro tem" until a permanent city manager is hired. He said the city's 2015-16 budget



proposal is nearly complete and should be finished before Hanken leaves.

The city began its official search process on April 2 when it began to advertise the now part-time post. Falls City is looking for someone to work 20 to 24 hours per week at a salary range of \$22 to \$25 per hour. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting or a related field, with prior local government management experience recommended.

Applications are due April 29 and will be reviewed by May 14. If qualified candidates apply, interviews are slated to be finished by the end of May, and a new city manager could be on the job by July 1.

Western Oregon's presidential announcement expected Thursday

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — The search for Western Oregon University's new president is nearly wrapped up.

An announcement was expected Tuesday, but has been delayed until Thursday.

The presidential search committee received 45 applications to review for the post, which will be open once President Mark Weiss retires on June 30.

Out of those 45 applicants, four were selected for on-campus inter-

views, tours, student and open forums.

The finalists visited the campus in Monmouth from April 1 through April 8 and spoke of their vision for a mid-sized, public, comprehensive university.

Fernando Delgado, 48, of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, said WOU needs to focus on survival through recruiting students.

"It's taking students from different walks of life, bringing them

into this space and developing them as professionals, scholars, or employees," Delgado said.

Christopher Ames, 58, of Shepherd University in West Virginia, said an undergraduate degree is more than just an accumulation of enough credits, it's a holistic experience of emotional, intellectual and personal growth.

Margaret Madden, 62, of State University New York Potsdam, said higher education isn't just about getting someone a job — not that

finding employment isn't important, but a "lot of things happen at this institution that are in some ways more profound and longer lasting."

Rex Fuller, 62, of Eastern Washington University, said higher education is vital to a thriving economy and a citizenry capable of thoughtfully communicating with each other, but it needs to be accessible — and affordable.

Surveys were available on Western Oregon's website until mid-

night on April 8.

Marshall Guthrie, member of the presidential search committee and on WOU's board of trustees, said the surveys would not go into a "circular file," but rather input would be carefully weighed when making the final decision.

See the *Itemizer-Observer* online at www.polkio.com for stories about each finalist, as well as for breaking news about who will be selected to fill the role as Western Oregon's new president.

Dallas Retirement Village Plans Summer Groundbreaking of New Lodge Residences and Clubhouse

DALLAS RETIREMENT VILLAGE PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Architect's rendering of The Lodge Clubhouse

Inspired by Classic Northwest Lodges

Dallas Retirement Village is planning an expansion to its 30-acre campus that will add a variety of residence styles with the expansive living spaces, details and finishes people want for independent retirement living today. These homes, called The Lodge Residences, will also be connected to the new Lodge Clubhouse. Taking inspiration from classic northwest resort lodges, the clubhouse is designed to become the main entry to independent living residences and the welcoming center of a vibrant lifestyle for residents and guests. Planned amenities include restaurants, lounges, auditorium, theater, game room, meeting rooms, conveniences —and in a second phase, a wellness center, indoor pool and spa.

Lodge Residences Available for Reservation

Future residents are putting plans in place for their retirement future by

reserving a favorite floor plan and location. Floor plans for these apartment-style homes offer one or two bedrooms and baths, with den and gas fireplace options, open living and dining space, kitchen with breakfast bar, patio or balcony, washer and dryer, and more.

According to the marketing director, Lindsey Horton, "We are more than 75 percent to our reservation goal to proceed with financing, and meeting with more interested people every day. Our selection of residence styles, personalizing options, and pre-construction savings make reserving a new Lodge Residence a smart decision."

Community Embraces Opportunities

Dallas Retirement Village a faith-based community that is open to all. Throughout its 67 years, the community has strived to anticipate the changing needs and desires of current and future residents.

The campus has grown to offer a variety of garden home and apartment-style homes, a lifestyle that reflects residents' dynamic interests, and a full range of health services—assisted living, memory care, rehabilitation and skilled nursing.

"Dallas Retirement Village is committed to serving the people of the Willamette Valley. This is why we are changing, because resident preferences and desires for this stage of their lives are changing," says executive director, Dave Parrett.

For more information,
call (503) 623-9211 or visit
DallasRetirementVillage.com

Managed by Life Care Services™

A Non-Profit Community Founded in
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