

# Indy Police earns accreditation from OAA

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Department has been doing things right for a number of years, and now it is an accredited agency through Oregon Accreditation Alliance (OAA).  
“One of the things we learned right away is we were doing really well,” Lt. Rick Igou said about the process of accreditation. “We were already performing at the national standards. Some things we were really close, but we weren't quite there. In that regard, it made us be better in cer-



Igou

tain areas.”  
To qualify for accreditation, law enforcement agencies must prove that they meet national standards based on best practices in 102 categories, for everything from oaths of office to job descriptions, high-speed chases to use of force.  
Igou, who retires in June, was assigned the job by Chief Bob Mason to get the department accredited before he retired. With a deadline in place, the longtime goal of accreditation has come to fruition.  
While the department met national standards in many categories, some things needed to be improved to reach accreditation standards.  
For example, the temporary holding facility was not up to par.  
“That one has a huge list of things that needed to happen to



make us compliant,” Igou said.  
The holding facility is located in the middle of the building and is used as a walkway for officers coming on and off duty. But to be approved by the Department of Corrections, a holding facility must be a weapons-free zone when a suspect or prisoner is within the area.

“But if officer A brings in a prisoner, how does officer B — just coming on duty, hasn't been here, hasn't been listening to the radio, so he's just walking through — how does he know it's a weapons-free zone?” Igou said.  
After inspections from both the fire marshal and the Department of Corrections, Igou proposed a red light system. If an officer brings a prisoner into the temporary holding facility, he or she turns on a red light, which alerts any officer entering the area that it is weapons-free.  
“That's one (example) of what's the piece we're missing, and how do you achieve it,” Igou said. “If we do this, does that meet standard?”  
Igou noted that most of the policies — and how closely aligned they were to national standards al-

ready — was the result of the high expectations held by retired chief Vern Wells.  
“He had us performing at a high level,” Igou said. “We weren't accredited. We didn't even know what the individual standards were, but he had us performing at a high level.”  
Independence Police joins the 61 agencies in Oregon involved in the OAA, said Ed Boyd, executive director of the OAA and retired police chief.  
IPD and the Polk County Sheriff's Office are the only accredited agencies, Boyd said, noting that Monmouth PD is working toward accreditation, and Dallas PD was accredited until a few months ago.  
“They left temporarily but will be coming back as soon as they are able,” Boyd said.

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## 'Military Mistress' stopped, but not arrested in Alabama

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

SALEM — “Military Mistress” Bobbi Ann House and her latest husband Zackerie House were stopped in Alabama last week, but not arrested, despite being wanted for check fraud in three states.  
Officials with the Mobile County Sheriff's Office in Alabama notified the Marion County Sheriff's Office that officers had stopped the couple on near Interstate 10. They were driving a stolen vehicle that they were believed to be living out of.  
Mobile County officers seized the vehicle, but released the couple, unable to determine local charges, according to police.  
Marion County is seeking

help from state and federal agencies due to jurisdictional issues on the case. If the couple does return to Oregon, the sheriff's office has probable cause to arrest them on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and theft by deception, both felonies.  
The Houses have been implicated in a check fraud spree totaling \$13,500 in Oregon, Colorado and Oklahoma.  
Marion County deputies discovered the fraud after being called to Universal Auto Sales, 399 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem.  
The couple used a check to make a \$1,500 down payment on a 2005 Cadillac Escalade which was seized in Alabama. The check was

written on an account opened at the Dallas Wells Fargo branch. They started their spree in Western Oregon, moving through coastal towns, then heading out of state. Spanning March 11 to March 30, the couple wrote \$13,500 in bad checks at locations including Cabellas, Safeway and Bi-Mart.  
Bobbi House was coined the “Military Mistress” after she married at least 14 United States service members and proceeded to steal their money. She was convicted in 2011 and sentenced to three years in prison.  
Police asks anyone who has been a victim of the Houses or has information on the case to contact local police or the Oregon State Police.

## Recognizing crime victims



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer  
The flags on the Polk County Courthouse lawn Monday recognize victims of crime assisted by the county's Victim Assistance Program. Each color represents a type of crime: property crime, domestic violence, violent crimes, DUIs, sexual assault and child abuse.

## What price would you put on being secure in your home and community?

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\$150,000 →	\$5.63 (\$67.50 / year)
\$200,000 →	\$7.50 (\$90 / year)
\$250,000 →	\$9.38 (\$112.50 / year)
\$300,000 →	\$11.25 (\$135 / year)
\$350,000 →	\$13.13 (\$157.50 / year)
\$400,000 →	\$15 (\$180 / year)

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Sheriff's Office (Jail - 5)  
Sheriff's Office (Patrol - 12)

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Timely trials and increase in cases that can be handled as well as victim's assistance services.

**SHERIFF'S SERVICES RESTORED:**

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- POINT (Polk County Interagency Narcotics Team)
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- Support for City Police, Fire & EMS
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This advertisement paid for by the generous donations made to Friends & Neighbors for a Safe & Prosperous Community PAC

### Sudoku solution

5	3	1	6	9	2	7	8	4
6	8	7	4	1	5	2	9	3
2	9	4	3	8	7	5	1	6
7	4	9	2	5	1	6	3	8
3	1	5	8	6	4	9	7	2
8	6	2	9	7	3	4	5	1
9	7	8	1	2	6	3	4	5
1	2	3	5	4	9	8	6	7
4	5	6	7	3	8	1	2	9

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Regular Meeting

The MINET Board of Directors will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 30, 2015. The board will meet at the Independence Civic Center, 555 South Main Street, Independence, OR 97351, in the Event Center.  
The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired, or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to Marilyn Morton, Office Administrator, 503 837-0700.  
The agenda is accessible by visiting our website at: [www.minetfiber.com](http://www.minetfiber.com)

(Apr. 22, 2015)

This is the MAXIMUM increase! This amount will be reduced by any federal funding received for forest receipts. \*Please check your Polk County Tax Statement for your taxable assessed value. This is generally less than your home is currently worth if you were to sell your home. \*\*In your taxes to be paid to Polk County.