Falls City budget mostly status quo

By Jolene Guzman The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY - Falls City's \$1.85 million 2015-16 budget passed budget committee review and will now move before the Falls City City Council, likely in June. The city's budget com-



mittee approved the proposed budget on April 23. The budget includes a general fund of \$538,355, which includes administration, parks, fire, cemeteries, planning, municipal court and some Wagner Commu-

nity Library costs. Mayor Terry Ungricht,

who is serving temporarily as city manager, said with the exception of a few large projects, the proposal is status quo.

"It's pretty much a copy of (this) year's budget," he said. Included in the 2015-16

proposal is funding to purchase the property surrounding the falls on the Little Luckiamute River owned

by the Falls City Alliance. The city has applied for a grant to buy the land and develop it as a park. Also, the city has budgeted for an update of its water master plan.

Ungricht said the city increased resources are going to staffing throughout the budget, but there are a number of unknowns surrounding how that money will be spent. The city is without a code enforcement officer and is searching for a part-

time city manager. "What I did was set up a budget so that when a manager comes, (he or she) will have some leeway," Ungricht said.



Medium Amy Allan sees much activity during her walk through a reportedly haunted home in Independence.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY The Dead Files duo investigate Indy property

By Emily Mentzer The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — When investigator Steve DiSchiavi heard about the paranormal activities at a farmhouse in Independence, it was so bizarre, he had a hard time believing it.

"The stuff these guys were telling me that was going on, I thought I was being punk'd because I'd never heard anything like it," DiSchiavi said.

He and Amy Allan from the Travel Channel's Dead Files came out to investigate in fall 2014. The episode airs on May 9.

In the Dead Files, DiSchiavi and Allan, a physical medium, investigate paranormal activity.

They keep their investigations separate from one another, never speaking until they come together to reveal their findings for their client. The May 9 Independence episode is titled, "House of



TRAVEL CHANNEL/for the Itemizer-Observer Searching for evidence and records, Steve DiSchiavi digs through the archives at a local library. DiSchiavi and medium Amy Allan investigated an Independence home.

the Travel Channel. scribed.

DiSchiavi, a former New "That really took me to York Police Department the point of, ... listen close homicide detective, said he and listen intently, because you never know if this stuff has seen and heard a lot of disturbing things in both his is really what's going on," he career in New York and dur-

Illinois

The paranormal investigative duo chooses clients who are "middle of the road" - people who really need their help.

"We just try to get the regular, everyday person that couldn't be afforded the help that we can give them," DiSchiavi said. "People that we go to, really, have nobody to turn to. They don't know what to do."

Independence isn't the only place the pair have encountered strange happenings — in fact, they have had some very intense findings in this season.

Last season, Allan said 15 dead people latched onto her and followed her home. "Unfortunately, in my need to help, sometimes I go a little too far," Allan said. "I was, not in a conscious way, ... leaving myself open, and I had about 15 dead people attach to me."

She said she became very said. "It all turned out to be ill and was in denial for a

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During DiSchiavi's investigation, he discovers the disturbing history of the home and property, including the original owner's possible suicide and a violent feud between neighbors.

Mirrors."

Allan faces off against dangerously mischievous entities capable of ruining the lives of the living, ac-

ing seven seasons of the Dead Files. But what he heard in In-

there." dependence was "absolutely

"This is even over the top for me, and I've heard it all," he said.

DiSchiavi said he was surprised to hear that Allan was able to see exactly what the cording to the synopsis by Independence clients de-

pretty much on point, which is kind of scary if you live

"Yes," Allan agreed. "Very, very (scary)."

During this, their seventh season, Allan and DiSchiavi travel from Jamaica — the first time the show has filmed outside of the United pendence, Pennsylvania and check yourself," Allan said.

while before she dealt with it. Now she sets the proper boundaries before and after

she does a walkthrough of the haunted properties. "Even somebody who has

been a medium my entire life and doing this professionally for over 20 years, States — to New York, Inde- sometimes you need to

NEWS IN BRIEF

bizarre."

Indy PD enforces crosswalk safety

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Department participated in a pedestrian safety enforcement operation between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on April 20 at two locations within the

During the operation, 19 warnings were given to motorists who failed to stop for a pedestrian while in a crosswalk. Five other warnings were issued as well as four citations for non-crosswalk driving offenses.

The operation was one of the busiest the police has had, said Officer David Oliveros.

"Educating our citizens in traffic safety is our only goal when conducting these types of operations," he said. "Please don't be distracted, pay attention to what is going on around you, and always drive safe.

Auction: Big hopes for development

Continued from A1

• Parcel B: about 26 acres; minimum bid, \$960,000. This piece has frontage on Monmouth Cutoff Road and is adjacent to the former Tyco building and Parcel E.

• Parcel D: about six acres; minimum bid, \$225,000. This parcel is irregularly shaped and has a 6,500 square-foot shop building on the property.

• Parcel E: 13.75 acres; minimum bid \$515,000. The property has frontage on Southeast Holman Avenue and a rail line on its north boundary.

• Minimum bid to purchase for all properties: \$2.35 million.



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