

Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**  
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**HELP WANTED**

**Employers seek good workers**

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Looking for a job? Or perhaps a change of career?

More than a dozen employers from throughout the county, from Western Oregon University to MAK Metals, will be in one place looking to hire.

The first Polk County Job Fair will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on July 15 at Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence.

"The idea was to get a wide variety of employers here with a wide variety of positions," said Shawn Irvine, Independence economic development manager.

Employers are signing up every day, said Suzie Gibson, with Incite, Innovative Workforce Solutions.

"People can come meet face to face with employers who have openings," she said. "They can come interview on the spot and be hired on the spot."

The idea hatched when FCR, Independence's new call center, began looking for roughly 50 new employees, Gibson said. Irvine approached Incite to see about having a job fair.

"We found out other companies were struggling to hire people as well, so we made a countywide job fair," she said.

"They're always looking for good employees, especially with the economy recovering," Irvine said of local large-scale employers, from Elkay to Rogue Farms, Marquis Spa to WOU. "It's getting harder to find them."

The fair is open to anyone legally able to work full time looking for a permanent position, Irvine noted.

"They're looking for good people, that's what it boils down to," he said. "The skills they're looking for are show up every day, work hard, be able to solve problems, and additional requirements depending on the job."

Incite has organized job fairs in the past for individual companies, but not on a multi-employer scale such as this, Irvine said.

"It's been a learning curve for us," Gibson said. "We have gotten a lot of positive feedback (from employers). It's been really exciting."

The fair is a collaboration of the city of Independence, Incite, Sedcor and WorkSource Oregon.

Participants will be able to get help with writing a resume and tips on interviewing.

"If someone has a resume and wants us to review it and get feedback, we can do that," Gibson said.

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Lots of sunshine and heat means harvests are taking place early, about two weeks ahead of time on average, but a lack of rain may mean lower yields for some farmers.

**THE HEAT IS ON**

June shatters records for hottest in 90 years

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Hot enough for you?

For most of the Willamette Valley, June 2015 was one for the record books.

Andy Bryant, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service Office in Portland, said for the Salem area June 2015 was the hottest on record by a large margin.

"It wasn't even close," he said. "We shattered that record."

Bryant said the average temperature for June was 69.3, beating out the old record set in 1926 by more than two degrees. With nine days where temperatures reached 90 degrees or hotter, June missed tying the record by one day. It did break a record for the highest low recorded in the

month, 71 degrees on June 27.

Rainfall for the month, .67 inches, is well below normal, though not close to the driest. That rain came in the first days of June while the balance of the month, 28 days, was dry.

The heat wave has continued into early July, and Bryant said not to expect cooling until this weekend when temperatures look to drop into the mid to low 80s. There's no sign of rain until July 15, but Bryant warned "it's nothing we can hang our hat on."

In recent days, temperatures have mostly been in the 90s, uncharacteristic of this time of year. Bryant said that typically doesn't occur until late July or early August.

And if you think the welcome drop into the low 80s this week is the end of the heat, you better hold on to

your fans.

Bryant said the long-term forecast has above average temperatures sticking around for the next several months as a strong El Nino pattern looks to be developing. The jury still is out on what that means for rainfall, he added.

The abundant sunshine has resulted in early harvests for farmers, but the lack of moisture may translate to lower yields, especially for farmers who depend on Mother Nature for irrigation.

Ron Quiring, who raises several crops on a farm in Rickreall, said this year has been "a little bit depressing."

"The yields are down on what we have harvested so far," he said.

He's harvested meadow foam, which fared well, but it bloomed early.

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**IN YOUR TOWN**

**DALLAS NEWS**

The Dallas School District continues to gather information about possibly implementing a construction excise tax to help pay for capital improvements.

Similar to systems development fees used to expand infrastructure — streets, water and sewer systems — and parks, the fee could only be used to acquire land or help pay for improvements or new school construction.

In 2007, the Oregon State Legislature passed a law allowing school boards the discretion to charge the tax.

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**FALLS CITY NEWS**

Kirby Frink spent a lot of time greeting customers at Frink's General Store — formerly A&N Hometown Grocery — on Friday.

That's the day Falls City celebrates Independence Day, so it's typically busy at the market, but this year's celebration also marked the store's first week under new ownership. The new Frink's General Store opened July 1 combining its two locations — grocery, deli and hardware stores — into the bigger store at 319 N. Main St.

"We closed (the other store) at noon on June 30 and opened here at 6 a.m. July 1," Frink said.

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**GRAND RONDE NEWS**

The 2015 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow will be Friday through Sunday at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9390 Highway 22, near Fort Yamhill State Park.

The powwow will be held under the new arbor, providing shelter from inclement weather or intense sunlight.

Grand entries will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday; 1 and 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

The master of ceremonies will be Nick Sixkiller. Arena director will be Carlos Calica. Red Hoop, of Reno, Nev., will be the host drum.

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**MONMOUTH NEWS**

As the sun dips below the tree line at Western Oregon University, shade creeps across the lawn at the outdoor amphitheater.

It's still warm, but cooler there near the stage. Are you dreaming, or are fairies playing pranks on Athenians on stage?

No, it's not a heat-induced vision, but Apple Box Theater's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," by William Shakespeare, adapted for the young actors by Maren Anderson.

Fairies and mischief go hand in hand during this walk in the woods gone wrong.

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**POLK COUNTY NEWS**

If you have a hidden talent, you should show it off at the 2015 Polk County Fair.

"We have a lot of very talented people in Polk County," said Anna Scharf, fair board chairwoman. "Bring us your talent in our open class exhibits. It's more than canning, it's more than quilts. Showcase your personal talent at our fair."

And you still have plenty of time to sign up for the fair's open class exhibits. Fair Manager Tina Andersen said people have been calling about the deadline for open class exhibits, thinking they have missed it.

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**Happy Fourth of July**



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

The Shriners drive their cars in the Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club Grand Parade on Saturday, decked out in American flags. Hundreds lined the streets of Monmouth and Independence to watch the parade go by. See more on Page 7A.

**THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK**

<p><b>wed</b></p> <p>Join the MI Chamber at Oak Knoll Golf Course to learn more about United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Noon. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Sunny Hi: 90 Lo: 56</p>	<p><b>thu</b></p> <p>Head to the Rotary Performing Arts Stage for Roundhouse Band kicking off Sounds of Summer. 6:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 85 Lo: 56</p>	<p><b>fri</b></p> <p>Get your vision, hearing, blood pressure and glaucoma checked at the Lions Health Screening Van at Bi-Mart. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 79 Lo: 54</p>	<p><b>sat</b></p> <p>Apple Box Theater closes its production of "Midsummer Night's Dream" at WOU's outdoor amphitheater. 7 p.m. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Sunny Hi: 81 Lo: 55</p>	<p><b>sun</b></p> <p>Rogue Farms Hopyard hosts a weekly summer concert series throughout the summer at its farm on Wigrich Road. 3 p.m. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Sunny Hi: 79 Lo: 56</p>	<p><b>mon</b></p> <p>Have you signed your kids up for summer camp or VBS? Many organizations and churches host week-long events.</p> <p></p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 79 Lo: 55</p>	<p><b>tue</b></p> <p>Pick up all your fresh veggies and fruits at the Bounty Market in Monmouth at Main Street Park. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free.</p> <p></p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 81 Lo: 54</p>
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