



Polk Pride attendees gathered at The Boondocks in Falls City after spending the early part of Saturday in the city's Lower Park. About 50 people attended the event, the first LGBT pride celebration to be held in Polk County.

Polk's first pride day a success

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Lori Jean Sickles and Laura Britton thought it was about time Polk County had its own LGBT pride festival.

Portland does it, Salem does it, Eugene does, too — so why not Polk County?

Sickles and Britton, owners of The Boondocks in Falls City, paired up with The Bread Board owners John Volkman and Keith Zinn to put on Saturday's event, the first pride event in Falls City.

"We talked about it last year, but we were still overwhelmed with The Boondocks," Sickles said. "This year, we made it a priority."

Planning for the event seriously began in June — coincidentally, LGBT pride month — and resulted in Saturday's event. About 50 people turned out.

Not too bad for a scorching August Saturday, Sickles said.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Saturday's Polk Pride event included a picnic in the park.

"I think we would have had more participation if it hadn't been so hot," Sickles said, noting that the Valssetz reunion also met in Falls City on the same day. "I think it was successful. Everybody was enjoying themselves."

The day began at noon in Falls City Lower Park with a family-friendly picnic-like atmosphere. The Boondocks provided hamburgers

and people were able to relax by the Little Luckiamute River. In the evening, the party moved to The Bread Board for a pizza fundraiser for next year's event.

The night closed at The Boondocks, with open mic and karaoke.

Mary Jo Edwards, of Corvallis, attended the event with her partner, Gina Gonzales. She said when she

first heard about a pride celebration in Falls City, she was skeptical about how it would be received in such a small town.

That opinion changed the more she visited the town after hearing about The Boondocks at Salem's pride celebration last year. Saturday she was happy with the turnout — and even more impressed with the amount of support the celebration received from people who are not gay.

"That's what I loved about this, it was truly a community event," she said. "It really changed my mind about small towns. Falls City is great."

Sickles and Britton said they will plan another pride day for 2016 with proceeds from the pizza fundraiser and sale of pride T-shirts.

"We will figure out what worked and what didn't," Sickles said. "We'll get feedback from people and have a better one next year."

POLICE REPORT

Information for the police report comes from law enforcement agencies. Not all calls for service are included. The status of incidents reported may change after further investigation. Individuals arrested or suspected of crimes are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DALLAS Arrests/Citations

- Jeff A. Deaton, 52, of Dallas in the 1200 block of Southeast Monmouth Cutoff on July 28 on a charge of failure to carry or present an operators license

- Chelan E. Kaufman, 23, of Monmouth on Southeast Uglow Avenue on Thursday on a Monmouth Municipal Court warrant for failure to appear.

- Adam J. Ballard, 25, of Dallas in the 1600 block of Southeast Jonathan Avenue on Friday on a Polk County probation violation warrant.

- Lucy M. Slater, 81, of Dallas in the 1100 block of Southwest Maple Street on Friday on a charge of reckless driving.

INDEPENDENCE Arrests/Citations

- Serlynn S. Albert, 39, of Independence in the block of 1000 block of South Sixth Street on July 22 for physical harassment.

- Earl Edward Jones, 54, of Independence in the 500 block of South Main Street on July 27 on a bench warrant for failure to appear.

- Matthew David Woodward, 29, of Independence in the 300 block of North Log Cabin Street on July 27 for driving while suspended or revoked.

MONMOUTH Arrests/Citations

- Amanda Shay Choate, 26, of Independence at the corner of Jackson Street East and Atwater Street North on July 24 for probation violation.

- Carlos Leos Jr., 34, of Monmouth in the 600 block of Clay Street East on July 24 for unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful controlled substance — prohibited acts.

- Jeremy Dean Dover, 39, of Independence in the 600 block of Main Street East on July 25 for failure to carry or present an operator's license.

- Ivan Carmona, 28, of Monmouth in the 700 block of Clay Street East on July 29 for two counts of physical harassment and one count each of resisting arrest, second-degree criminal mischief and coercion.

- Cody Lee Moschetti, 19, of Monmouth in the 500 block of Warren Street South on July 29 for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle — motor vehicle theft.

- Joseph Andrew Orgovan, 63, of Monmouth at the corner of Main Street East and Pacific Highway North on July 29 for failure to perform the duties of a driver when property is damaged.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Transmission line break causes outage

POLK COUNTY — If you were in the dark for about 45 minutes Monday afternoon, you weren't alone.

Pacific Power had a wide-spread power outage originally affecting more than 15,200 customers in Dallas, Independence, Falls City, Rickreall and West Salem.

The outage began shortly before 4 p.m. and was caused by an insulator break taking out a major transmission line, according to a Pacific Power spokesman. The break wasn't caused by a car accident, he added.

Crews were able to repair the break quickly, restoring power to nearly 10,000 customers within 30 minutes. The remaining customers were back on line before 5 p.m.



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