

Festival: City to honor hop, heritage, history

Continued from 1A

The Independence Public Library will host a scarecrow making workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 4 to 5 p.m.

In the children's pavilion, many favorite games from last year will return with some new additions, Trucco said.

"Everything they do in there are kind of heritage games that came from the '50s and '60s," she said. "Things that children don't maybe do today, but it was really well received last year."

Some of the games are much older than mid-century, including croquet. Others are more modern, such as go fish and Extreme pin the tail on the donkey.

"There's little booths where you can go from booth to booth and make things," Trucco said. "All of the events and all of the demonstrations are meant



to celebrate the heritage of the community and the importance of hops in the community."

From 1856 to 1956, Independence was known as the Hop Capital of the World. The Hops & Heritage Festival is meant to celebrate the time when the city grew more hops than anyone else in the nation. Entertainment, vendors and activities reflect that time period in one way or another.

Vendors will carry a variety of wares, including blown glass art pieces and handmade jewelry, Kistler said.

"We ask that either the vendor's product is histori-

cally relevant, or that they have something informational about the history or dress up their booth with hops," Kistler said. "We want to try and maintain the whole heritage aspect of the festival."

The festival opens Friday night with the annual Ghost Walk and Elks community barbecue. Saturday, early birds can start the day off watching hot air balloons launch at the Independence State Airport and have breakfast with the pilots of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 292 before heading to Riverview Park for the day's festivities.

Music fills the air beginning at noon and continues into the evening with a break at 8 for the fireworks show.

"Everyone from Independence loves fireworks," Kistler said, especially in the fall, Trucco noted.

Hops: Warm, dry season yields bumper hop crop

Continued from 1A

In total, the process takes more than 24 hours to complete for each batch of hops. With more than 40 acres, this year's harvest is scheduled to last a little over a month through the middle of next week.

Rogue Farms' other crops — including corn, marionberries, jalapenos and pumpkins — have also faced accelerated ripening periods. The pumpkins in particular were ready to be harvested a month sooner than normal — in mid-August.

"That really surprised us," Gilson said.

The hop harvest may be nearing its conclusion, but the work on the farm won't stop then. During the winter months, barley is planted to help cover and protect the hop yards.

Yearly flooding covers the hop yards in water — a necessary event that helps the soil stay rich with nutrients — an important factor when dealing with dry summers like in 2015, Gilson said.

The path from hop to beer is one that can surprise visitors once they see the process first-hand.

"The responses I hear from people is they are shocked with how much work goes into it before it becomes beer," Gilson said. "They think of breweries and steel tanks and fermenters. When they see it all begins in the dirt and the work it takes, it's special."

Gilson said everyone will be ready for whatever the weather throws at them next. "We're always ready to respond to whatever Mother Nature gives us," Gilson said.

Insufficient funds: Falls City sewer

Residents may see increase in wastewater services next year

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — A sewer rate increase may be coming for Falls City residents, but that won't be enough to resolve all the issues with the city's aging system.

In the 2014-15 fiscal year, wastewater revenue was \$100,819, while expenses amounted to \$98,635, according to a report Falls City Mayor Terry Ungricht presented to the Falls City City Council at its meeting Thursday.

Falls City's wastewater system is an enterprise fund, meaning it is supposed to be self-sustaining on user fees. While the fund had a positive balance, last year's expenses didn't include replacement of a circulation pump at \$8,489. That was paid for out of the city's capital reserve fund.

Ungricht added the city has not been pumping out its tanks — required to prevent buildup of debris — often enough, which is causing damage to equipment. Using the recommended schedule would cost another \$8,000.

Estimated revenue and expenses for 2015-16 would

leave a balance of \$6,200 in the account, but that doesn't include unforeseen repairs or needed improvements to the system, Ungricht said.

His report recommended a \$3 rate increase, but included options for exploring other solutions. The increase, if approved, would raise rates to \$49 per month and bring in \$6,400 annually. "This is something that we are going to have to move forward on because an enterprise fund really should be able to be self-sufficient," Ungricht said. "This is getting too close to not being self-sufficient."

Instead of increasing the rates, the council asked its public works staff to conduct a rate study and make a recommendation.

"I think it should be addressed again next month. I don't think it's something we want to sweep under the table," said Councilor Dennis Sickles.

Problems with the system don't end with possibly insufficient rates.

Ungricht noted that the city's recently completed wastewater master plan — which he called a "facility plan" — left much to be desired and didn't sit well with

the agencies that gave the city grant money to update it.

Shortcomings included not offering recommendations to put more of the city's residents on the system (there are only 177 hookups now) and only providing one option for a new treatment plant: a lagoon system. Also, the plan doesn't recommend placing a new treatment plant at the lowest point in town, therefore not taking advantage of gravity to reduce the amount of pumps needed.

"We don't have a master plan for sewer," Ungricht said.

He said the city approved the plan, and notably, so did the Oregon Department of Environment Quality, but the latter reluctantly. Approval doesn't mean agencies will offer the city grants or loans to complete its recommendations if they don't consider the plan adequate, he added.

The city can revise the plan before applying for funding for an update to the system. Having an engineer rework the plan will come at a cost, though.

"You need a plan to be able to get money," Ungricht said. "It will cost us money to tweak that plan."

Talk about death, dying

By Emily Mentzer

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth Public Library will host a conversation about death and dying at 6 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the library, 168 Ecols St. S.

"I think this will be a great opportunity for our community to be able to come together and talk about a subject that is not often discussed publicly," said Krist Obrist, Monmouth library director.

"We all experience death on different levels throughout our life, yet it can be such a difficult and personal experience to open up about."

The conversation is part of a statewide initiative by Oregon Humanities, created in partnership with Cambia Health Foundation. It is meant to give participants an opportunity to reflect on the stories and influences that shape their thinking about death and dying, and to hear different perspectives

and ideas from fellow community members.

The program aims to help participants consider how to shape a meaningful approach to death and dying.

Facilitators of "Talking about Death" programs are trained professionals working in the fields of chaplaincy, counseling, gerontology, facilitation and hospice care.

For more information or to register: Krist Obrist, 503-751-0193 or kobrist@ci.monmouth.or.us.

OBITUARIES

Ina Mae Penney

Sept. 20, 1926 – Sept. 13, 2015

Ina Mae Penney, 88, died Sunday in Dallas.

Service is Saturday at 11 a.m. at Dallas First Christian Church.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

William 'Bill' Irvin Slack

July 18, 1940 – Sept. 7, 2015

William "Bill" Irvin Slack, 75, of Dallas, died Sept. 7.

He was born in Waverly, Iowa, to Wilbur Herman and Ruby Arlene Stafford Slack.

At age 2, he moved with his family to Dallas, where he attended school. For more than 25 years he

worked at Towmotor/Caterpillar as a parts supervisor.

Bill married Donna Jean Bernier in Reno, Nev., on April 7, 1989.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association and a past member of the Elks Lodge.

He enjoyed mining for gold and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Survivors include his wife, Donna, of Dallas; sons, Troy (Jennifer) Slack, of Yelm, Wash., and Bill Slack, of Hudson, Fla.; stepdaughter, Julie Collins; stepson, John Collins; sisters, Mary Ann Clifton, of Pendleton, and Kathryn Ludeman, of Salem; brothers, Harry Slack, of Albany, and Richard Slack, of Salem; half-sisters, Marlene Hood, of Dallas, Virginia Fuller, of Texas, and Alyssa Thomas, of Dallas; three grandchildren; and two

great-grandchildren.

A private family service was held.

Contributions are suggested to a charity of the donor's choice.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

Floyd 'Bud' Low

June 22, 1933 – Aug. 31, 2015

Floyd "Bud" Low, 82, of Grand Ronde, died Aug. 31.

He was born in Corvallis to Floyd and Rose Tyler Low. Growing up, Bud and his family worked hard together

in the timber industry. Bud was a logger and ran many pieces of machinery with his father.

Bud loved the many family pets, taking care of them and riding horses. His favorite thing was his mother's homemade apple pie with raisins.

He enjoyed going to the coast, where they would clam and crab.

He loved to tell jokes and make his friends and family laugh. Bud loved country music and was an avid hunter and fisherman.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Irene Ihmof, Genevieve Ihmof, Petrova

King, Elizabeth Sinnen, June Allen, Coleen Garcia and Lottie Child; brother, Albert Low; and two daughters.

Survivors include his sister, Eloise Kisor, of Albany; brother, Leonard (Linda) Low, of Dallas; son, Andrew Low; and a large extended family.

Service is Friday at noon at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Ronde. Interment will follow at the

Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements. To send an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

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ERNEST "ERNIE" JOHN COGSWELL
Dec. 18, 1929 - Sept. 13, 2015

ERNEST "ERNIE" JOHN COGSWELL, 85, a resident of Dallas died Sunday, September 13, 2015 at the Dallas Retirement Village surrounded by his family. He was born on December 18, 1929 in Crawfordsville, Oregon the son of Roscoe and Alice Fox Cogswell. As a very young man, he joined the Navy and served from November of 1944 to November of 1954. On October 30, 1954, he married Marilyn Joyce Cook in Stevenson, Washington. They lived in Dallas and for a time Coos Bay and then returned to Dallas. For many years he worked for the Mt. Fir Lumber Company operating their heavy equipment. Ernie enjoyed life to the fullest with simple pleasures of Friday nights at home with a cold brew. He was a great mechanic and could fix absolutely everything. He loved to fish, do wood-working, tell a good story and of course his beloved dog and animals. He was a member of the Dallas Alliance Church and was an Elder there too. For many years he volunteered with the Dallas Christmas Cheer program and enjoyed helping people.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn of Dallas, daughter Becky (Norm) Parks of Salem, son Doug (Bobbie) Cogswell of Dallas, daughters Susan (Warren) Lamb of Dallas and Sunetta (Mark) Forsberg of Dallas along with 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Also surviving is a sister Millie (Dan) Friesen of Monmouth and a brother Dan (Carolyn) Cogswell of Athena, Oregon. He was preceded in death by a daughter Collette in 1981.

Viewing will be from 2 to 7pm today, Wednesday, Sept. 16th in the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center. A memorial service will begin at 2:00pm Thursday, Sept. 17th in the Dallas Alliance Church. Private interment will be in the Dallas Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Christmas Cheer, DRV Foundation or the Humane Society. To leave a message or memory please go to www.dallastrIBUTE.com.



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