

NEWS IN BRIEF

Monmouth PD to host coffee talk

MONMOUTH — Monmouth Police Department officers will gather with community members from 8 to 10 a.m. on Friday at Rick's Place, 123 Main St. E., in Monmouth, for "Coffee with a Cop."

The event's goal is to help break down barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by removing agendas and allowing opportunities to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers in the neighborhood.

The coffee is free for those participating. For more information about the program: www.coffewithacop.com.

OSU Extension launches fitness program

POLK COUNTY — The Oregon State University Extension Service is starting a new program, "Walk with Ease," a new healthy living program.

Participants meet from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays at the Dallas office, 289 E. Ellendale, suite 301. Get a free water bottle and pedometer for signing up. Participants can share tips and encourage others to walk and eat healthy. A log book will be provided to keep track of your walking, plus ideas and interesting things to encourage a healthy adventure.

To register or for more information: Judi, 503-633-8395.

Women for Ag announces winners

POLK COUNTY — Polk County Women for Agriculture (PCWA) is happy to announce the winners of their fifth annual Constitutional essay contest for Polk County high school students.

Jacob North, of Dallas, won first prize and \$300 with his essay explaining what he had learned by reading the Constitution. PCWA was impressed with the research he did and that he included a bibliography.

Sam Kenyon was second and won \$200 with his clear writing and good insights. He noted that "it revealed to me... the wisdom that was behind the key beliefs of our country's strongest leaders."

Third-place Kirk Fairchild was impressed that, "Men who had limited to no experience with government came up with the document that still governs our nation... It is a necessary document for the survival of our nation." He will receive \$100.

PCWA sponsors this contest annually to encourage high school students to read and understand the U.S. Constitution. In addition to monetary prizes, each student will receive a set of books about the Constitution and the Federalist Papers, donated by WINREP.

Contact Arlene Kovash, kovasha@gmail.com, for information about next year's contest.

Falls City looks ahead to 2017 eclipse

FALLS CITY — The city of Falls City has formed an Economic Development Committee and its first task will be to design an event around the August 2017 solar eclipse.

Viewing of the eclipse is predicted to be the best in Oregon and Falls City is in prime position to host people looking for a place to take it all in, city officials said.

City councilors Tony Meier, Gerald Melin and residents Patti Sample and Rose Bajorins applied to serve on the committee, giving it a quorum. The Falls City City Council approved the appointments Thursday, but there still are three open seats to be filled.

The council also appointed Sample to serve on the city's budget committee, filling the last vacancy.

For more information or to apply serve on the Falls City Economic Development Committee, go to <http://www.fallscityoregon.gov/>.

New garden club meets in Dallas Monday

DALLAS — The newly formed Dallas Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Builders Room at the Evangelical Bible Church, 1175 SE Howe St.

Attendees should enter through the breezeway on the Miller Street side of the church.

The club's guest speaker will be Karen Beber from the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm in Woodburn. Club membership is open to both men and women and visitors are always welcome.

For more information: Gaye Stewart, 503-510-4370.

Monmouth old PD station now ready for sale or lease

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The old police station in Monmouth is up for sale or lease.

"It's an open process," City Manager Scott McClure said. "Submit your best offer, your best plan."

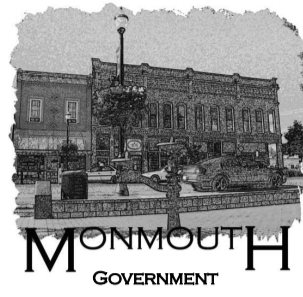
He said the city will accept purchase proposals at the same time as considering lease options, which is unusual.

"If they have a good idea for a lease, the council wants to entertain that," McClure said. The ultimate goal is some money back to the city and the best use of the building.

An appraisal lists the property at \$250,000, and needs a new roof, McClure said.

"I would anticipate we would want something in that ballpark," he said.

The need for a new roof would be a discussion point, he noted.



MONMOUTH GOVERNMENT

"If we were going to have to pay for a new roof, we'd have to factor that into the cost" of a lease, McClure said.

The appraisal also noted potential uses for the building, including apartments and office space.

The land is zoned high-density residential, which would allow apartments to go in rather easily, McClure said.

If the building is used for office space, a rezoning may be required.

The deadline to submit proposals is March 10, at which time McClure said

he would take the ideas to the city council to determine the future of the building.

"If it's a purchase, that's fairly straightforward," he said. "If it's a lease, we'd have to move toward a more comprehensive rental agreement."

Although cities are not generally in the habit of managing property, there are occasions when it benefits the city and its residents, McClure said.

For example, some cities house business incubators to give entrepreneurs space to create and start an idea. Independence leases its old library building to Ash Creek Arts Center.

"Periodically, you have a surplus building and you try and find something to do with it," McClure said.

The building previously housed the Monmouth Police Department and the Monmouth Public Library before that.

Taking shape



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Progress on the Monmouth Main Street Park Amphitheater is taking shape.

DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:

Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Community events — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.

Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Monday.

Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Monday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Friday.

Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Monday.

Classified line ads — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com.

Public notices — Noon on Friday.

CORRECTIONS

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an e-mail to nadams@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos, that do not appear in print due to space limitations.

The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Feb. 9	61	34	.00
Feb. 10	62	39	.00
Feb. 11	59	49	.10
Feb. 12	57	43	.16
Feb. 13	50	42	.22
Feb. 14	57	49	.24
Feb. 15	62	49	.00

Rainfall during Feb. — 1.16 in.
Rain through Feb. 15 — 8.98 in.

FREE Parking!

9th Annual Polk Home & Garden Show 2016



Feb 27 & 28
Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 10am-5pm

FREE Admission
Come Support Local Businesses

Located at the
Polk County Fairgrounds
520 S. Pacific Hwy, Rickreall, Oregon

Mid-Valley Winter AgFest 2016



Feb 27 & 28
Sat 9am-4pm
Sun 10am-4pm

Admission: \$5 Adults, 18 & Under Free



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Look for Money Talks 2016 inside this edition!

Solution on Page 6A

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

Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★★★★

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

How to do Sudoku
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy The Christian Science Monitor