

AgFest: Promotes education, commerce

Continued from Page 1A
 “I’m running out of room,” she said. “I’ve never been full.”

The trains in the garden show has been moved to its own building, and is included as features at both the home show and the ag fest, according to the respective websites.

Also at the ag fest will be nurseries, Master Preservers, Saturday markets from Independence and the Polk County Bounty Market, as well as demonstrations and information about the latest in ag tech, including a drone display.

Each day will feature speakers and seminars on a variety of topics. Thomas said perhaps the speaker she is looking forward to the most is a seminar on protecting family farms.

“It is ‘planning for productive family farm transplant,’” Thomas said. “What it is, a lot of families now lose their farms to taxes if they don’t have the right safeguards in place. They end up having their tax burden so high, and they have to pay cash for the taxes, so they have to sell the farm



to pay the taxes when mom or dad dies.”

Thomas has two main goals for the ag fest, which will benefit local FFA chapters and 4-H clubs.

“One of the main components is to promote commerce and ag commerce in Polk County,” she said. “The second focus is education of families and children — and this is very cliché — but the relationship of farm or soil to table, where their food comes from, the whole thing, it’s very important.”

Thomas was raised in Salem and worked the berry and bean fields as a child. She participated in the FFA and has always known where her food comes from.

But now, especially for those from urban areas, that knowledge has been lost along the way.

“They have no idea what sort of issues the farmers face on a day-to-day basis and the lengths they go to get our food to us, to feed us,” Thomas said.

The ag fest will have plenty of family friendly activities, from a petting zoo run by the 4-H Achievers to face painting to animal balloons. The Yamhill Historical Society will bring a historical covered wagon to climb on and explore, and antique farm equipment will be on display.

Vendors will have a plethora of shopping activities from farmers markets to artisan booths, pottery, plants and local honey.

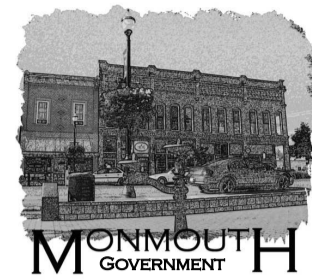
For those who wish to participate, a passport will be available. Once it has been stamped from all six buildings, it may be entered to win a portable Traeger Grill and other prizes.

Antique Powerland will provide a shuttle service to get from the Polk County Museum to the other buildings, helping people get to seminars and presentations in a timely fashion.

WELL TROUBLE

Monmouth needs to install \$700,000 filtration system

By Emily Mentzer
 The Itemizer-Observer



MONMOUTH — In 2012, an untreated water sample from a Monmouth well came back positive for E.coli.

The Marion County well has been used as a primary source of water for Monmouth since it was built in 1980 and has a long history of clean water samples, said Russ Cooper, public works director.

But in November of 2012, the Willamette River was near flood stage, allowing river water to mix with the aquifer around the city’s well.

In May 2014, as a result of additional testing, it was determined by the state that the well is under the influence of surface water and further steps are needed to bring the well in compliance with surface water treatment requirements, Cooper said. An agreement between the Oregon Health Authority and the city of Monmouth outlines steps the city must take to be in compliance with the rules. That agreement was approved at the Feb. 16 Monmouth council meeting.

Citizens should not worry, Cooper said.

“Is Monmouth’s drinking water safe? Yes,” he said. “Do I drink Monmouth’s water? Yes. Does my family drink Monmouth’s water? Yes. We test 132 times a year. That 2012 E.coli sample was a raw water sample, not a treated water sample.”

Still, regulations from the health authority require more safeguards to prevent raw water from getting into the system.

A couple of different options presented themselves, but did not work as planned. Digging up a new well was impractical, Cooper said. Using an ultra violet disinfection was not feasible.

The city was left with installing a filtration system on the well. It would cost about \$700,000, which would near-

ly drain the water fund’s reserve of \$900,000.

The city would consider taking out a loan to cover the costs of the filtration system, City Manager Scott McClure said, but it would be something the council could discuss at a later meeting. The system would take a couple years to get installed.

Just using the water fund’s reserve would leave it too low — \$200,000 — to fix any emergencies in the water system that may come up, McClure said.

The city has been looking at other sources of water, such as the Willamette well field, a joint project with the city of Independence, Cooper said, but that is still undeveloped.

Whatever road the council takes, Monmouth residents likely will see increases in their water fees to help pay for the filtration system, as well as possible increases in franchise fees to help cover a forecasted deficit in the budget relating to increased retirement costs for public employees.

“Another cost on the horizon is public works,” McClure said. “We think it is very understaffed right now. There are potentially new positions in the works, which also will mean a cost impact — and a rate impact.”

The question remains how the council will proceed with any rate adjustments, McClure said.

“Do you start building toward that, moving rates up slowly?” he said. “Or the other option is wait until we know what that cost is and possibly do a more significant jump.”

Streets: Bond would be first step

Continued from Page 1A

That option would fix fewer streets, but potentially wouldn’t involve a tax increase depending on if the county decided to pursue another bond.

Three people gave testimony at the public hearing, all in favor of the 10-year bond. Citizens’ Advisory Committee for Residential Street Funding Chairman Pete Christensen also presented information to the council.

He said the condition of Dallas streets is steadily declining and will drop to a

“pavement condition index” rating of 60 — on the lower end of “fair” — by next year.

“The main thing you need to do, and what I would encourage you to do, is think about a bond issue to get a lot of repair done on the streets right away,” he said.

That is exactly what the council did, but not before a debate over considering a fee and revenue bond to pay for all or part of repair needs.

Councilor Jackie Lawson proposed the city delay putting the issue on the ballot to research a combination

of a general obligation bond (property tax) and a utility fee. She said that had the benefit of taking care of the problem at one time instead of in three steps.

A majority of the council was in favor of proceeding with the \$10 million bond, however.

“I personally believe that we have listened to the committee. They worked for three years and they’ve done a due diligent job,” said Councilor Bill Hahn.

Councilor LaVonne Wilson, agreed, saying the options have been weighed

long enough and the city knows exactly what it is getting with a bond.

“We’ve had this on our plate for a number of years,” she said. “This has got to be taken care of.”

The council approved putting the bond on the ballot May ballot in a 7-2 vote, with Council President Jim Fairchild and councilors Kelly Gabliks, Hahn, Kevin Marshall, Murray Stewart, Wilson and Ken Woods, Jr. voting in favor.

For more information: <http://www.dallasor.gov/739/Street-Condition-Map>.

FC schools place gym bond on May ballot

By Jolene Guzman
 The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The Falls City School Board approved a resolution placing a \$2 million bond on the May ballot to build a Falls City Elementary School gym. The vote was taken Feb. 16 following months of discussions about

priorities for the project. If passed, the bond amount would be doubled with a matching grant through the Oregon School Capital Improvement Match program.

The bond will cost approximately \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties.

“We are looking at build-

ing a new multipurpose gym and cafeteria with restrooms and storage space,” Superintendent Jack Thompson said.

The project will provide gym space allowing students a place to have physical education classes and recess when the weather is less than hospitable. It will also upgrade to the school’s

small kitchen and cafeteria.

“That is sorely needed,” Thompson said. “It’s pretty amazing what they are able to do in such a confined space.”

The new building will be on property adjacent to the elementary site and is designed to have the gym on the ground floor and the cafeteria in the basement.

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8
 450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.independencecinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 • Senior \$7.00
 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Saturday Feb 26 - Feb 27

RACE (Digital) (PG13)	(12:50 3:50)	6:50	9:35
KUNG FU PANDA 3 (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:25 1:30)		
HAIL! CAESAR (Digital) (PG13)	(3:35)	8:00	
ZOOLANDER 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(5:50)		10:15
EDDIE THE EAGLE (Digital) (PG13)	(11:50 2:20 4:50)	7:10	9:25
GODS OF EGYPT (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(1:25 4:15)	7:05	9:45
DEADPOOL (Digital) (R)	(11:30 2:00 4:30)	7:00	9:30
RISEN (Digital) (PG13)	(11:45 2:15 4:45)	7:20	9:40
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(1:10)	6:55	
HOW TO BE SINGLE (Digital) (R)	(4:25)		10:00
THE WITCH (Digital) (R)	(1:00 3:10 5:20)	7:30	9:35

Sunday February 28

RACE (Digital) (PG13)	(12:50 3:50)	6:50	
KUNG FU PANDA 3 (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:25 1:30)		
HAIL! CAESAR (Digital) (PG13)	(3:35)	8:00	
ZOOLANDER 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(5:50)		10:15
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HOW TO BE SINGLE (Digital) (R)	(4:25)		10:00
THE WITCH (Digital) (R)	(1:00 3:10 5:20)	7:30	9:35

Monday - Thursday Feb 29 - March 3

RACE (Digital) (PG13)	(3:50)	6:50	
KUNG FU PANDA 3 (Digital 2D) (PG)	(1:30)		
HAIL! CAESAR (Digital) (PG13)	(3:35)	8:00	
ZOOLANDER 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(5:50)		10:15
EDDIE THE EAGLE (Digital) (PG13)	(2:20 4:50)	7:10	9:25
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The Total Woman

A Relay for Life Event
 The Majestic in Dallas, Oregon
February 26th, 2016
 12:00 noon until 8:00pm
 Vendors, crafters and on-site massages
 Light meal or snacks available to purchase during event.
6:00pm to 8:00pm

Game Night: Bingo and Quarter Auction
 \$2.00 buy in with 25 cent bids.
February 27th, 2016
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

- Vendors, crafters and on-site massages
- Fashion Show • Dance Group • Vocalists
- Honorary Survivors of Polk County Ceremony (3 women)
- Informative Presentations and Booths:
 Cancer awareness and prevention, Confidence/Empowerment, Sisterhood, Regaining Inner and Outer Beauty, Care Giving, Pain Management and Self-Defense

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Pencil us in!

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Sudoku solution

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

See Pages 8-9 For Full Details!

9th Annual Polk Home & Garden Show 2016
Feb 27 & 28
Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 10am-5pm
FREE Admission
 Come Support Local Businesses

FREE Parking!
 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
 Cash Only. Proceeds benefit local 4H and FFA.

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