



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Workers continue to make progress on the Monmouth Main Street Amphitheater despite recent rainy weather.

Amphitheater project on track

Monmouth venue scheduled to open on time, on budget

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Progress on the Monmouth Main Street Park Amphitheater is logging along, said Russ Cooper, public works director.

“That word is a nice mix of slow and soggy,” he said. “The contractor is doing a great job.”

The project is on schedule to be done in April or mid-May, Cooper said.

“We are at that point in the project where all the trades are trying to work at the same time,” he said. “It takes quite a bit of coordination.”

Cooper said winter builds are a challenge.

“We were fortunate to have a couple weeks of dry

weather at the beginning of the project,” he said. “It gave us the opportunity to get the building sites dug out, all the underground utilities in and the area graded.”

The project also is on track to stay on budget, Cooper said.

“There have been some changes in project costs, but all are within the project contingency,” he said. “One component of the water harvesting system — that will reuse the splash fountain water to irrigate the park — was the most significant change. It added \$15,000 to the project.”

Cooper said he is looking forward to watching all the Fourth of July shows at the new venue.

“The amphitheater is a great addition to the Main



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The Monmouth Main Street Amphitheater project is slated to be completed in April or mid-May.

Street Park,” he said.

The project cost about \$1.222 million.

The city council approved a \$500,000 loan from Monmouth Power and Light to the Urban Renewal District. The loan will be paid back over 10 years with 2.54 percent interest. About

\$422,000 of the project will come from the parks system development charges.

The remaining balance will come from the Urban Renewal District.

Ron Dalen, project manager with Essex General Construction Inc., did not return calls by press time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indy goes into overtime to stop DUII

INDEPENDENCE — For the rest of March and throughout April, Independence Police Department officers will have an opportunity to work overtime to look for and arrest impaired drivers.

Patrol members will also be given the opportunity to work overtime in search of people driving distracted by either talking or texting on cellphones.

During February, IPD issued seven citations for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Kicker must be claimed on 2015 taxes

SALEM — There will be a “kicker” issued for this year, but there won’t be any kicker checks issued as there have been in the past.

A more than \$402 million tax surplus was confirmed by the Office of Economic Analysis during the first week of October.

The surplus triggered a tax surplus credit, or “kicker,” for the 2015 tax year.

To claim the kicker, you must file a 2015 tax return. To calculate the amount of credit, multiply your 2014 tax liability before any credits, except credits for taxes paid to other states, by 5.6 percent.

Detailed information on how to claim your credit will be in the 2015 Oregon personal income tax return instructions.

For more information: www.oregon.gov/dor.

Monmouth Police honors officers

MONMOUTH — Monmouth’s Officer of the Year award was presented to two officers in a tie vote: Detective Kevin Renfro and Officer Justin Reynolds, both for their outstanding work in 2015.

Monmouth Police Department held its 14th annual awards banquet to honor Renfro, Reynolds and other officers on March 11.

The 2015 Reserve Officer of the Year was presented to Reserve Officer David Ritchey. Renfro also received the Survival Skills Award.

The Lifesaving Award went to Sgt. Matt Olafson for his actions in saving a child who was choking.

Officer Ben Simpson was the recipient of the Special Chief’s Award for his DUII enforcement. Reserve Officer Samuel Mears was honored with a Special Chief’s Award for meeting personal fitness goals.

Polk No. 1 honors firefighters, board

INDEPENDENCE — Polk County Fire District No. 1 personnel were recognized and honored for their efforts in 2015 on Feb. 27.

Years of Service awards went to: 5 years — firefighters Pedro Avila, JJ Oliveros and Caleb Taylor, engineers Jim Burke and Stuart Edgar, Chaplain Ted Gibson and Paramedic Jessica Griffin; 10 years — firefighters Michael Hasson and Chris Paulsen and Support Services Catherine Schneiderman; 15 years — Capt. Ben Stange and firefighter Chad Paoli; 20 years — Engineer Carlo Calabrese; 25 years — Lt. Brian Yost.

Instructor of the Year went to Stange, who also took the Officer of the Year.

Rookie of the Year went to firefighter Mollie Owen. Support Member of the Year went to Jacqueline Shellito.

Gibson was given the IAFF Local 4196 Award.

Firefighter/Paramedic Jennifer Wagner was named EMT of the Year and Employee of the Year.

The Chiefs Award was given to Engineer Al Lindskog. The Resident Volunteer of the Year went to Firefighter/EMT Eric Hines.

Firefighter of the Year went to Firefighter Brenden Shellito.

HEALTH DIRECTORY

AUDIOLOGY

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Audiology Associates
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• **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC** - Drs. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon-Fri 8-noon & 2-6 pm. Thurs 2-6pm. Proudly serving Polk County for over 17 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

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• **RANDALL C. JONES, DMD** - 1004 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 503-838-0434. Offering a broad range of dental services in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. New patients and emergencies welcome.

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GENERAL SURGERY SERVICES

• **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** surgeon, Dr. Alison Smith, provides general surgery services for a wide range of needs including breast cancer, gallbladder, biopsies, abdominal surgery, hernia repair, appendectomy, as well as colonoscopy. General surgery appointments are scheduled at the clinic on Mondays and Thursdays. Dr. Smith does her surgeries at West Valley Hospital’s spacious, state-of-the-art new surgical suite. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 or fax 503-623-2612. Visit salemhealth.org/specialty.

GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD**, specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the West Valley Hospital surgical suites. New patients are welcome! West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic.

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• **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices. Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

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• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** provides heart diagnostic services including electrocardiograms (EKG), pulmonary function tests, cardiac stress tests and echocardiograms with a physician referral. Cardiologists **Dr. Raghu Kamineni, Dr. William Stiles and Dr. Kevin Thompson** see patients for office visits at West Valley Hospital at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. For more heart health information, call 503-623-7304.

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• **WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL** offers state-of-the-art all-digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician’s referral, we provide your bone densitometry, CT scan, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our new comfortable and spacious mammography suite. We are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7302.

Call the Itemizer-Observer at 503-623-2373 for more information or to have your business listed in this directory.