



OREGON LOTTERY

A Dallas couple wins the grand \$1 million prize in the Oregon Lottery's St. Patrick's Day Raffle on March 17.

# DALLAS COUPLE WINS BIG

Locals win top prize in St. Patrick's Day Raffle with Oregon Lottery

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A Dallas couple had the luck of the Irish in Oregon Lottery's St. Patrick's Day Raffle, but it took some time to realize it. Usually the top raffle prize winners show up the day the winning numbers are announced. Lottery spokesman Chuck Baumann said.

Not this time. The lottery office had to resort to issuing a press release a week after the numbers were announced in an attempt to find the winner.

Baumann said he sent out

the release at 8:30 Thursday morning. It didn't take long to find the winner after Oregonlive posted a story.

"I was literally reading that story when I was getting a call that the winner (was at the office)," Baumann said.

That lucky person is Dallas resident Pam Hoefling. She told lottery officials it didn't occur to her for a while to check the two tickets she purchased. When she took them to Safeway, she was in for a pleasant surprise.

"They scanned the ticket and told me it said I needed to go to Salem. I thought, 'Oh, OK,' but didn't know

how much I'd won," Hoefling said. "So they printed the winning raffle numbers and then checked those with my ticket."

"They were a match. 'Then we all freaked out,'" she said.

Hoefling and her husband, Rick, buy two tickets with each raffle. Whether it's Rick or Pam who buys the tickets, they let the other half pick one of the tickets for their own.

"Left or right," Rick Hoefling explained as their selection method. "I had a 50 percent chance of winning this." But alas, it was Pam's ticket that won.

Rick said he found out she had won when she announced Thursday that she was going to Salem.

"She said, 'I'm going to the lottery office,'" he recalled. "And she showed me the ticket."

Rick said the couple had planned to take a few trips in the coming years.

"We can speed that up now," he said.

After taxes, the Hoeflings will receive \$670,000 from the \$1 million raffle. Safeway will share in the luck, receiving a 1-percent selling bonus for being the location where the winning ticket was purchased.

# Council to label Minnet debt 'bad'

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — In an effort to preserve the city's cash flow and bond rating, the city of Monmouth will consider labeling receivables from Monmouth Independence Networks as non-collectible.

The discussion came during a presentation of the city's audit during the March 15 city council meeting.

"They've been able to pay essentially all the principal, not the interest," said Mark Dunmire, Monmouth finance director. "They're paying what they owe, just not the interest."

The debt totals \$13,749,646.

"That principal is sitting on our balance sheet," Dunmire said. "We thought it was a way to record — not a forgiveness of debt, but the likelihood of their ability to pay."

The debt was taken out by the cities of Monmouth and Independence to pay for the infrastructure to build Minnet. The cities make payments to the banks, loans and bonds and wait for Minnet to repay the cities.

"Whatever Minnet doesn't pay, we will transfer from Power and Light," Dunmire said.

In Independence, that money comes from the

water utility fund. Dunmire said the debt is "definitely a negative against the city."

In terms of reporting, considering the debt not collectible is a safe move, Dunmire said.

"I know Minnet is looking at a number of options to increase revenues," he said. "They're stable from an operational standpoint, but they're not able to cover the whole debt. We're grateful for what they do cover and wish they could cover more."

Historically, Minnet has not been able to pay its debt, Dunmire said.

"We wouldn't consider them collectible unless something changed," he said.

A representative from Grove, Mueller and Swank, the accountants who performed the audit, said the debt would go to zero and be considered a bad debt if Minnet could not pay it.

The city of Independence also considered a similar course of action for debt owed to it from Minnet.

In other business, the council, acting as the Urban Renewal Agency, approved a \$300 grant for the Monmouth Montessori School to reconstruct a walkway.

The money is half the cost of the new sidewalk, making the school wheelchair accessible.

## WOU to host geographic bee Friday

Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University will host 103 contestants vying to win the 2016 National Geographic State Bee on Friday.

The state champion will represent Oregon in the National Geographic Bee Championship May 22-25 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C. The winner also will receive \$100, the National Geographic book "The National Parks: An Illustrated History" and a medal.

The bee will take place in the Pacific Room at WOU's Werner University Center, 345 Monmouth Ave. N. Preliminary rounds begin at 10 a.m. and the final round is slated for noon.

The national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society.

The National Geographic Bee is a program of the National Geographic Society. For more information, www.natgeobee.org.

## Falls City School District to host bond meeting

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — The Falls City School District will host an informational meeting Tuesday regarding the bond to build a gym at Falls City Elementary School. Voters will decide the issue in the May 17 election.

The meeting is open to the public and will be at 6 p.m. at the elementary school, 177 Prospect St., in Falls City. The project man-

ager and architect will be at the meeting to answer questions and lead a discussion about the bond.

The \$2 million bond will cost \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value and, if passed, will build a multipurpose gym and cafeteria at the school.

For more information: 503-787-3521.

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**Sudoku**  
Difficulty: ★★★★★

**Solution on Page 3A**

		3		1		2		
	8		6					
5	7		3					
			1	7			4	
7		6				5		9
					9	7		6
	1		9	2				8
8			5			2		
2				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 Itemizer-Observer Your community news source

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**Explore Polk County**  
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Publish date: May 25