

Education: Sheriff wants more presence in schools

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He would also like to offer a program called "Friendly Sheriff," geared toward providing young children with positive experiences with officers.

Garton said he remembers having officers give presentations when he was in elementary school, and children were excited about it. Now, that isn't often the case.

"Kids have a different reaction," he said. "They have a different view on law enforcement and sometimes

it's negative."

Along with providing safety education to children, he would like to change that attitude by having deputies in classrooms more often.

"Hopefully it will pay dividends in the future, that there is not so much animosity between law enforcement and the public," he said.

For more information or to make a donation: 503-623-9251 or: <http://www.co.polk.or.us/sheriff>.

Amphitheater project over budget

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth Main Street Park Amphitheater is over budget by about \$20,000, but it isn't a surprise, City Manager Scott McClure said.

"We went into the project — everybody's eyes wide open — that we didn't have enough in the contingency," McClure said. "We knew it was highly likely that we'd have to do more than we budgeted."

The project started with a 4 percent contingency. McClure said the recommended buffer for a project is 10 percent.

"Now we're in the 6 to 7 percent range," McClure said. "It

came in lower than it typically would have. If we had a proper contingency (in the first place), we would have come in under budget."

The amphitheater is ready to serve as the venue for the Fourth of July festivities, but a few details will need to be completed throughout the summer, McClure said.

"They'll come in when it's not in use and finish off a couple of items," he said.

A dedication of the Main Street Park Amphitheater is planned at 6 p.m. on June 27, including the first concert. Kazoos will be handed out to those participating for a kazoo concert in Main Street Park.

Fire: Crews battled blaze for more than an hour

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Monmouth Power and Light responded to disconnect the live wire.

Olson said the cause of the fire was determined to be electrical, starting in the garage that was being used as a living space. While no civilians were injured, two firefighters were.

One was transported to the hospital for exertion/heat exhaustion, and another remained on scene with an ankle sprain.

Western Oregon University Public Safety, Monmouth Police Department and Independence Police Department, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and the Oregon State Police assisted.

Five engines, the ladder truck, an ambulance and four chief officers responded. Personnel were on scene for more than an hour extinguishing hot spots.

The structure and its contents are a complete loss, Olson said.

The American Red Cross provided resources to help Newland and her grandson, including basic needs such as temporary housing, food, clothing, comfort kits and information about recovery services, and health and mental health.

But the Western commu-



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Firefighters battled through the roof and also through the front door. After about half an hour, the blaze was under control, but the house could not be saved.

nity is doing more.

Newland has worked for WOU since 1992, at the Advancement and Foundation Office. She has been actively involved in fundraising efforts in support of students and university programs.

Public relations specialist Lisa Catto said the WOU

Foundation is sponsoring a special donation account for Newland at US Bank.

"She often reminds us that, 'We are all here for the students,'" a press release stated. "Her love of our university is contagious and contributes to a strong

sense of community, not

only of students and faculty, but of all of those interested in life at the university — volunteers, retirees, community business leaders, alumni and other staff."

To help: drop off donations at US Bank for Sandy Newland, or deliver donations to WOU's Cottage.

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