

MARK FANCEY/for the Itemizer-Observer

Monmouth's Main Street Amphitheater will host Oregon's largest kazoo concert on Monday.

# New facilities ready to open

Dedication of amphitheater to include Oregon's largest kazoo concert

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The city of Monmouth is preparing to host Oregon's largest kazoo concert on Monday at 6 p.m., part of the dedication of the new Main Street Park Amphitheater.

"We're going to attempt a record for the largest group to play the Star-spangled Banner on kazoos," said Mark Fancey, community development director.

The current record holder for the state is 40 people — Fancey said he has 480 kazoos to pass out at the dedi-

cation and tour of the new facilities.

"We'll have the storage rooms open, so everybody can see inside," he said.

The new facility has the ability to store tables and chairs for the beer garden and other events, Fancey said.

"We don't have to load them up in the pickup truck and jump the curb to set them up anymore," he said.

The stage will be open year-round.

"I like how the amphitheater is laid out and how it's wired," Fancey said. "There's electricity on the stage. You

can come and plug in and play, or do a theater production, or act. It's an opportunity to engage creativity."

He noted that with the portable stage that used to grace the park, he frequently saw children use it.

"Their friends would sit out on the lawn and they'd do some things," he said. "Now you can walk off Jackson Street and you're on the stage, if you wanted to be on stage."

The amphitheater still has some final touches until it is truly finished, but will be ready for use by Monday's dedication, Fancey said.

One of those finishing touches is better lighting, which the Monmouth Business Association has stepped up to pay for.

The amphitheater 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.

# PCL to host 20th annual art auction

By Emily Mentzer  
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RICKREALL — Partnerships in Community Living Inc. will host its 20th annual Summer Solstice Benefit Auction on Saturday at 5 p.m. at Eola Hills Wine Cellars, 501 S. Pacific Highway, Rickreall.

"It's so exciting," said Gwen Whelton, public relations and fund development for PCL. "This year's auction is really special, because we've been doing this for 20 years and raising money for those we support."

PCL supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing services for whatever the individual needs to get the most out of life.

This year's auction will raise money for a new fund, the "My Home, My Life," program.

"We help people live the way they want to live," Whelton said. "They have found that people live better, have more productive lives, are happier when they get to choose who they live with and where they live."

Funding sources from the state are not enough to offer people the chance to live how and with whom they want, Whelton said.

"We have set up a fund that helps us help people get on their feet, pay utilities or make up that rent," she said.

If people live with whom they want and the way they want, they feel better and have a better sense of wellbeing, Whelton added.

The program will work similarly to a scholarship, Whelton said.

"If you need it, if that's what you want, then we're going to work hard to do that," she said. "We're a state contractor. They give us a certain amount of money for housing, but it doesn't cover it. We just want to help them live the dreams they want."

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are just like people without them, Whelton said.

"They may just need a little help to get them there," she said.

The event will include both a silent and oral auction, with a variety of things to bid on, from paintings to sculpture to baskets of goodies. Whelton said they have a great selection of baskets this year.

"We have Oregon State (University) baskets," she said. "We have really fun ones like a flying basket, which includes a simulated skydiving experience and a beautiful balloon launch trip."

Other trips up for grabs include one to Las Vegas, Nev., and to Washington, D.C.

Live music will play during the silent auction, with appetizers served. Tickets are \$30, available online at auction.pclpartnership.org, and include dinner, drinks and a commemorative glass.

Whelton said the event sells out each year, so recommends buying tickets early.

# Dog killed by impact, not bullet

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — A dog that was found dead on the side of the road on Zena Drive in Polk County on June 13 did not die of a gun-

shot wound, Willamette Humane Society veterinarian Dr. Jacqueline Harter said.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office met with the Willamette Humane Society,

which took custody of the body on June 14, and found that the dog had a superficial wound on its head that neither penetrated the skin or skull and was not from a

bullet, Harter, who performed a necropsy on the dog, said. Harter found the dog had extensive bruising on its abdomen and lacerations on its hind legs consistent with blunt force trauma from impact with a vehicle. The dog also suffered a spleen laceration and massive internal bleeding.

# Patrols: Two deputies to be court security

Continued from Page 1A

Two deputies have been assigned to court room security and overseeing inmate transports.

Garton said the office will still be training its new officers for the foreseeable

future, but he's pleased to provide what was promised in the levy campaign.

"To do it all in a year, to get back from where we were to here, I'm grateful that we were able to do that," he said.

## Look What's Coming Up!



4th of July Celebrations  
Publishes June 29th



Summerfest  
Reserve by July 11th  
Publishes July 27th



Polk County Fair  
Reserve by July 25th  
Publishes August 10th



Back to School  
Reserve by August 1st  
Publishes August 17th



Hop & Heritage Festival  
Reserve by August 29th  
Publishes September 14th

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