

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indy police to take part in DUII visibility enforcement period

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Department will participate in a DUII High Visibility Enforcement period from Friday through Monday.

During these dates, officers will be given the chance to work overtime shifts in search of impaired drivers. The goal is to find impaired motorists and get them off the roadways.

During the Fourth of July weekend, as well as during the rest of the month of July, officers will be able to work traffic enforcement overtime shifts that will focus on speed, seatbelt use and cellphone use.

"If you plan to consume alcohol over the Fourth of July weekend, think ahead," said Officer David Oliveros. "Get a ride home or make arrangements to get picked up. Designate a driver. Do whatever you have to do, but never drive intoxicated."

Independence receives honor

INDEPENDENCE — The city of Independence was honored with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents an accomplishment by a government and its management.

The association is a nonprofit professional association serving about 17,500 government finance professionals.

Fire district finalizes timeline to select new district fire chief

INDEPENDENCE — The Polk County Fire District No. 1 board of directors finalized the time line to select the next fire chief at a special board meeting on June 22.

The search for the next chief started with internal recruitment on Thursday and will continue until July 11.

The board will decide at that time if it wants to open the search to outside candidates.

The new chief should be in place by Aug. 1.

Oppliger named as new Rotary Club President through July 2017

MONMOUTH — Al Oppliger was installed as president of the Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club at the organization's annual banquet held in the Gentle House Friday. He succeeds Chuck Thurman and will serve until July, 2017.

Joining them on the Board of Directors are President-Elect Paul Doellinger, Secretary Kati Weyer and Treasurer Scott McClure. The following key committee chairmanships were announced: membership, Molly McDermond; Rotary International Foundation, Don Duncan; youth exchange, Bob Archer; CHS Interact Club Liaison, Patty Nevue; and newsletter, Sandy Newland.

Oppliger, a retired Realtor, had served as president in 2005-06 which was Rotary International's Centennial Year. "Rotary Plaza," with paver stones, new drinking fountain and two marble benches was developed that year in Monmouth's Main Street Park.

Rotary Club meets weekly on Thursdays at noon in the conference room of the First Baptist Church. Visiting Rotarians, guests and prospective members are welcome. For more information: Al, 503-838-1353.

HALO loses funding from act

INDEPENDENCE — HALO, Helping Achieve Lifelong Objectives, will not have access to the Workforce Investment Act dollars it has previously operated, director Justin Glaze said.

HALO will continue to act as a 501 c 3 nonprofit dedicated to the mission of serving youths aged 16 to 24, he said.

Glaze said the organization will continue to look for grants in the coming years and appreciates the support given to HALO from the communities it serves.

HALO offices at Henry Hill Education Support Center and at the Academy Building will no longer be used as of Friday.

For more information: info@oregonhalo.com.

Falls City to discuss library

FALLS CITY — The Falls City School District and Falls City City Council will meet Wednesday (today) at 6 p.m. to discuss the future of the Wagner Community Library.

The meeting will be held at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St.

Facing potential closure of the library, the Wagner Trust was released to cover operating expenses in 2014. The fund could potentially have as much as \$111,000 after the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The school and city are meeting to discuss the library's future and possible long-term funding options.

For more information: 503-787-3631.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce started its ambassador program last week.

MI Chamber kicks off ambassador program

Organizers hope new initiative builds relationships with businesses

Emily Mentzer

The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Leaders of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce hope a new program will reinvigorate both the chamber and the communities.

The Chamber Ambassador program gives people an opportunity to get more involved.

"It's a way to be involved on a lower level, and fun," said Miriam Haugen, chamber board first vice president and organizer of the ambassador program.

Ambassadors will be called upon to network with chamber members, find out what's working for them and what isn't, and tout the benefits of chamber membership.

"If you've ever wanted to

get more engaged in the community, get to know people more, network more," the ambassador program provides that chance without having to make a three-year commitment to the chamber board of directors, Haugen said.

"Many hands make light work," she said.

Chamber Executive Director Jean Love said she is the

only paid employee of the chamber, which is largely dependent on the work of volunteers to put on events such as the annual Community Awards Banquet, Discover MI Town, and Spooktacular Bingo.

"Ambassadors will build relationships with businesses aside from just asking for sponsorships," Love said. "It's very grassroots."

Because the program is in its beginning stages, the Ambassadors themselves will decide a lot about how the group will work, Haugen said.

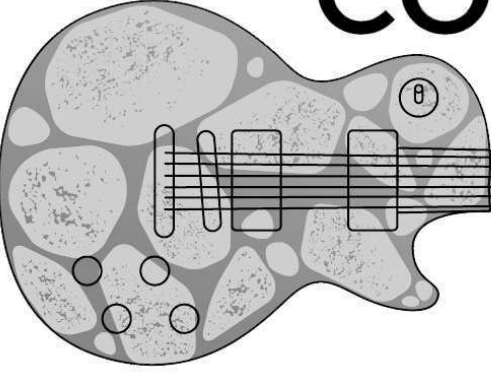
"Be there, be part of the community, and make it better in the process," Haugen said. "You get to build your own brand."

Chamber Ambassadors will meet monthly. Details have not yet been decided.

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August 6th


PATRICK LAMB
August 13th

BEN RICE
August 20th

THE SLICKER BAND
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