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**Love to resign from chamber**

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Jean Love announced her resignation as the executive director of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce on Friday. She will remain in the position until Dec. 30.

Love has served as director for four and a half years. One thing she helped with was the switch to a tiered system of membership rather than basing dues on the number of employees.

“I liked the transition to tiers,” Love said. “It was definitely an endeavor ... but it was one that I thought was very important. I think we have better membership benefits.”

During her tenure, Love has helped design the chamber's professional workshops, Pep Talks, as well as managing the website and Facebook content, brought members of the Canadian Consulate Office to the region to expand opportunities for trade, and expanded programs and services, such as the after-hours mixers, lunch forums, Discover MI Town, and Chamber Chat, chamber board president Josh Brandt said in an email.  
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TOKOLA PROPERTIES INDEPENDENCE LANDING City of Independence, Oregon November 08, 2016 EMBARCADERO HOSPITALITY TOKOLA PROPERTIES/Itemizer-Observer

Plans for Independence Landing include a hotel, 110 apartments, a clubhouse and 14 townhomes.

**INDY LANDS HOTEL**

Council approves development deal at Nov. 8 meeting

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — For Independence, a 20-year dream is on the cusp of realization.

Doing something at the old Valley Concrete site on the Willamette River that would enhance the downtown area has been on master plans for Independence since 1996.

When Valley Concrete moved, it was the city's chance to take action.

The city bought the property for \$800,000, and spent about two years and \$3.2 million fixing the land up —

leveling, surveying, laying infrastructure — to attract a developer who would build a hotel and housing, increasing foot traffic in downtown and supporting the Polk County wine industry.

Now, the city council has approved a deal with Tokola Properties on four of the nine lots available on what is now called Independence Landing, 11 acres of riverfront property. Tokola will build a 75-bed, four-story boutique hotel first, and then 110 apartments, a clubhouse and 14 townhomes. The hotel will be managed by Embarcadero Hospitality, of San Francisco.

Tokola Properties paid the city \$162,000 for the land and plans to invest \$42.2 million in the project.

The city will end up giving \$2.9 million in incentives for Tokola to continue with the development agreement. Those incentives will be on things such as building permits, system development charges, and other non-cash items, City Manager David Clyne said.

He said an economist from PNW Economics estimates the city will recover \$5.3 million invested in the property in 11 years.

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**IN YOUR TOWN**

**DALLAS**

Voters elect three new councilors, two incumbents.

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**FALLS CITY**

Two new faces join city council, while Sickles wins re-election.

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**INDEPENDENCE**

City council will see three new faces.

»Page 2A

**MONMOUTH**

Incumbent, three new council members, elected to city council. Steve Milligan runs unopposed for Mayor.

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**SPORTS**

Western Oregon's women's basketball team ready for new start.

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**Thanksgiving dinner planned in Falls City**

Itemizer-Observer staff report

FALLS CITY — The annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Falls City is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St. All are welcome for a traditional thanksgiving dinner with a variety of desserts.

Volunteers and food donations are needed. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kristy Major at 503-881-3993.

**Fire District No. 1 receives grant worth \$5,000**

Itemizer-Observer staff report

POLK COUNTY — Polk County Fire District No. 1 received a \$5,000 grant from Georgia-Pacific's Bucket brigade program to help pay for equipment.

Polk No. 1 is one of 33 grant recipients and will spend the money on replacing full-body protective gear that no longer meets standards set by the National Fire Protection Agency. Each set costs more than \$2,000.

This year, Georgia-Pacific awarded \$170,000 in grants to fire departments for equipment for firefighters' safety. This is the 10th year of the Bucket Brigade program.

**Coping with the fallout, WOU students, staff unite**

Students question future with president-elect Donald Trump, possible repeal of DACA

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Leaders at Western Oregon University didn't have many concrete answers to questions following the Nov. 8 election, but still tried quell fears in a quickly organized forum Friday.

Called “WOU is Alive,” the forum was put together by WOU Student Body President Alma Pacheco and featured a panel including WOU President Rex Fuller and representatives from public safety, general counsel, student health and counseling, and student affairs.

Pacheco said many students had a fearful reaction to the results of the presidential election — she was one of them — and she wanted to help restore calm.

“It created a very negative environment,” she said. “It's important for folks to be reminded that we need to work together in order to achieve some progress.”

Students at the forum asked about the status of the school's international stu-



Western Oregon University held a forum on Friday that included university president Rex Fuller, second from right, to quell fears after the election on Nov. 8.

dents and those who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. The program, instituted in an executive order by President Barack Obama,

allows undocumented children who arrived in the country at age 16 and younger to apply to stay in the U.S. to work or attend school temporarily.

It's a program that President-elect Donald Trump may revoke or change after he takes office in January, Fuller said.

He said Western and other

universities across the country will lobby to be part of the debate about the future of that program and immigration reform in general.

“I think you can expect to see more conversation around that, and that conversation will take its form in why our current position on DACA students is the right position to hold with regard to a moral, but also educational, position,” Fuller said.

Fuller said he believes WOU will carry on its tradition of being a diverse and inclusive institution.

“Five years from now, we will have even greater participation of underrepresented groups than we do today,” he said. “That trend is here to stay.”

Fallout from another issue on the ballot, Oregon's Measure 97, will have more defined financial impact on WOU. The measure would have imposed a gross sales tax on corporations with \$25 million or more in sales annually. It failed by a large margin, which could spell state budget deficits.

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**THE NEXT 7 DAYS PLANNING FOR YOUR WEEK**

**wed**  
Grab your favorite “brew” and join others in a discussion on the New Testament at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. 7 p.m. Free.  
Showers  
Hi: 50  
Lo: 39

**thu**  
Are you a senior who loves to write? Share your passion with the Dallas Senior Writing Group at the senior center. 10 a.m. Free.  
Partly sunny  
Hi: 49  
Lo: 37

**fri**  
Mickey Mouse was first introduced to the world in “Steamboat Willie” in 1928.  
Cloudy  
Hi: 49  
Lo: 43

**sat**  
Bring your pet to Old Mill Feed and Seed to get pictures taken with Santa, take a ride on a cart, and enter a drawing. 10 a.m.-2p.m. \$6.  
Rain  
Hi: 53  
Lo: 46

**sun**  
If you're looking for a creative gift, check out the Empty Bowl same at Oregon State Fairgrounds. Noon-4 p.m.  
Rain  
Hi: 54  
Lo: 45

**mon**  
Meet the new director of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and network with others at the monthly luncheon. 11:30 a.m. \$15.  
Rain  
Hi: 52  
Lo: 46

**tue**  
Bring your little ones to the Indoor Play Park at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Tues through Fri. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Showers  
Hi: 52  
Lo: 45

