

YMCA Christmas party, auction sold out

Friday's annual event biggest fundraiser for the Y in the Marion-Polk area

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The 17th annual YMCA Christmas Party and Auction will be a festive event, full of food, music, dance performances, and chances to support the Monmouth-Independence Y while scoring Christmas gifts.

And if you waited to get your ticket, you're out of luck. For the first time, the auction has sold out.

"So, my first year, we had 65 people" attend the auction, said Natascha Cronin, executive director. "Last year, we had 162. This year, we're sold out."

She said she may have a few tickets left up her sleeve, but if you want in on the fun, act now.

The evening includes dinner and a no-host bar, live and silent auctions, as well as performances by the Central High School jazz band and the YMCA Inspiration Dance Company.

Instead of a "wine pull," where participants purchase a ticket and win the corresponding bottle of wine, this year people can "Fling the Ring."

"We'll have 20 bottles set up, 15 of which will be filled with wine," Cronin explained. "Five of which will be extra special — like a wine tasting for 10."

For \$20, people will get five chances to toss a ring onto the desired bottle — carnival-style.

Another game is a bit more active: Superhero Ka-Pow.

"They'll put on their superhero cape, because



NATASCHA CRONIN/for the Itemizer-Observer

The 17th Annual Christmas Party and Auction will be Friday at the Green Villa Barn in Independence.

they're saving the world, and punch through and there will be a prize on the other side worth at least \$20," Cronin said.

The auction includes toys and gifts, baskets of goodies for the wine lover or car enthusiast, as well as more unusual items.

"One of our live auction items is a private, home, taco Tuesday dinner," Cronin said. "Don Poncho donated organic tortillas and chips, so I asked somebody locally if they would step in and go to someone's house and cook up a meal. And we all love tacos."

There's something for everyone at a wide range of price points, Cronin said.

"We have a bigger variety and price, so we might have a \$5 item, and we might have a \$300 item, but they're not all \$300. Just like at the Y, everyone gets to play — and win."

All money raised stays to support Monmouth and Independence families.

The annual auction has turned into the biggest fundraiser for the Y in the Marion-Polk area — raising more money for local families and kids than Salem's Buckaroo Ball, Cronin said.

"This community raises more money than Salem does," Cronin said.

Last year, the auction brought in more than \$20,000, more than double the year before.

"When the numbers started rolling in at the end of the night — I still get tearyeyed about it — oh my god, we just went from nine grand (in 2014) to 20 (in 2015). That's just amazing. That the community would do that, and see the value in what we do and what we provide. It's not just the kids. It's the people who come here to work out to reduce their risk of di-

abetes. It's our after-school program. And it's just really cool."

That money really helped, Cronin said.

"We were able to help more people," she said. "People come in and say, 'I can't afford this.' Instead of maybe a 35 percent discount, we could give them a 50 percent discount because we had that money."

And it all fits with the Y's mission: To make sure that everyone who wants to can participate in the Y's programs regardless of their ability to pay.

DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday edition of the Itemizer-Observer:

Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Community events — Noon on Friday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.

Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Monday.

Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Monday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Friday.

Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Monday.

Classified line ads — Noon on Monday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com.

Public notices — Noon on Friday.

CORRECTIONS

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer is committed to publishing accurate news, feature and sports reports. If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to ementzer@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, www.polkio.com, is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon. The Itemizer-Observer is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Nov. 29.....	53	37	.06
Nov. 30.....	51	39	.09
Dec. 1.....	47	39	.02
Dec. 2.....	48	38	.04
Dec. 3.....	52	43	.01
Dec. 4.....	47	36	.56
Dec. 5.....	41	35	.28

Rainfall during Nov. — 6.90 in.
Rain through Dec. 5 — 42.76 in.

www.polkio.com

Monmouth Senior Center nearly complete

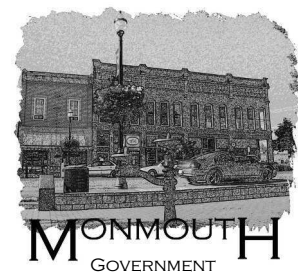
By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth Senior Center expansion project is nearly finished.

"I think probably by the end of the week, it will be done," said Sue Teal, director of the facility. "It just keeps progressing, right under our nose."

The project broke ground in June and was expected to be finished in October, Teal said.

The 2,133-square-foot ad-



dition was paid for through grants from the Ford Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, and Collins Foundation, along with fundraising efforts from the

Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center and contributions from the city of Monmouth.

The official open house for the center won't be until Jan. 19, 2017, but a big Christmas celebration will unofficially kick things off on Dec. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.

"Winter Wonderland is a time to celebrate Christmas with each other," Teal said.

Tickets are \$3. The event is open to all and includes Christmas music and sing-

alongs, food, gifts and "just a lot of fun," she said.

Monthly community breakfasts — which had been used to help raise money for the expansion — will continue, Teal said.

"Now we're trying to buy furnishings and fund some other projects that they (seniors) want to get done," she said. "It didn't fund everything. They'd like to redo the kitchen, get a new floor. You know how it is; you always need something."

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All volunteers are encouraged to bring canned goods when coming to help sort, shop & deliver food boxes on Christmas Eve at 6 am, Saturday, Dec. 24th at LaCreole Middle School

More information: 503-623-3585
Coordinators: Warren & Sue Lamb
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Itemizer-Observer

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Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Friday - Sunday • December 9 - 11

DOCTOR STRANGE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10	9:55
ALLIED (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:55	9:45
OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)	(11:55 2:25 4:55)	7:25	9:55
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)			
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30
HACKSAW RIDGE (Digital) (R)	(11:30 1:15 2:05 4:40)	7:20	9:55
TROLLS (Digital) (PG)	(3:50)	6:45	9:40
BAD SANTA 2 (Digital) (R)	(12:10 2:25 4:35)		
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	9:50

Monday - Wednesday • December 12 - 14

DOCTOR STRANGE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10	
ALLIED (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:55	
OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:55)	7:25	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)			
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	
HACKSAW RIDGE (Digital) (R)	(1:15 2:05 4:40)	7:20	
TROLLS (Digital) (PG)	(3:50)	6:45	
BAD SANTA 2 (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:35)		
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	

Thursday • December 15

ALLIED (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:55	9:45
OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:55)	7:25	9:55
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(1:15 2:05 4:40)	7:20	9:55
HACKSAW RIDGE (Digital) (R)	(3:50)	6:45	
ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	7:00 8:00 10:00		
DOCTOR STRANGE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:40 4:25)		
TROLLS (Digital) (PG)	(2:25 4:35)		
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	9:50

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

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Solution on Page 7A

4			3	1		8
			4	9		2
	8			7		
				4	6	
5		8	9		2	
		3	1			9
9	7			5		
6						
	3	5		8	1	6

By Ben Arnoldy

Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8

Row → Three-by-three square → Column ↓

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.

The Christian Science Monitor