

# Pinwheels: Symbol of Child Abuse Prevention month

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 “This is going to be a tradition that we’ll just keep going,” DeMoe said.  
 Collective Change jar labels are available in English and Spanish. To receive a jar, contact DeMoe at [Demoe.brent@co.polk.or.us](mailto:Demoe.brent@co.polk.or.us).  
 There’s plenty more you can do throughout the month of April to support the cause.

flag display showing the types and frequency of crimes in Polk County in conjunction with Crime Victims’ Rights week are on the Polk County Courthouse lawn now.

The top crime in the county is property crime, but next are domestic and violent crimes, DeMoe said.

“Because of input from the victim’s assistance program, we know that a lot of the folks who are crime victims are women,” DeMoe said.

Two free classes will show women and girls how to fight back — or avoid being a victim.

Polk County Sheriff’s deputies are holding a self-

defense and situational awareness classes for women and girls on Saturday and April 15.

The classes are at the Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on both days. For more information or to sign up, contact DeMoe at [Demoe.brent@co.polk.or.us](mailto:Demoe.brent@co.polk.or.us).

More events are in the works, including a fun run and walk in Grand Ronde on April 15, an evening walk in Dallas, and a walk for Monmouth and Independence residents.

Check the Mid-Valley Parenting website, [www.midvalleyparenting.org](http://www.midvalleyparenting.org), for updates.



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

**Kate Schwarzler operates Indy Commons, a co-working space in the old Opera House in downtown Independence. The business will host its first workshop on April 19 at 5:30 p.m., “How social does my business need to be?” It is free and open to the public.**

# Foscoli: Ready to rally

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 That actually helps me do my job better,” he said of his time in Japan. “I’ve adapted to different cultures. I’m at ease in new situations.”

of life,” he said.

Three years after taking the Sedcor job, Foscoli said he’s seeing emerging trends that may favor Dallas.

In 2014, businesses wanting to expand or relocate were looking for properties within five miles of Interstate 5.

As properties were filled, that expanded to 10 miles, and now to 15 or even 20 miles.

That puts Dallas within the target region — and there’s developed and undeveloped industrial land

waiting, he said.

“It’s now close enough when before it wasn’t,” Foscoli said. “If Dallas is able to recruit one or two of those businesses, that helps the entire region.”

Foscoli will begin on April 17 and Foggin believes he will help turn the potential he sees into economic success.

“I am excited AJ is joining our team,” Foggin said. “I know he will be able to help us move our economic development efforts forward in a positive way.”

# Ready-to-use office space

*Indy Commons offers ‘plug and play’ for entrepreneurs*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
 The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The old Independence Opera House is in use, but instead of dances or performances, it will be packed with entrepreneurs and business people.

Indy Commons opened in the downtown spot and is a co-working space.

“It’s great for people who work from home occasionally, or don’t want to commute some days, but still want an office environment to work in,” said Kate Schwarzler, owner.

The idea came to her when she was working in Denver. Co-working spaces were becoming more popular.

“When I was in Denver, I was managing an office, and we were trying to find a new office space,” Schwarzler said. “Just dealing with the lease negotiations, and then you have to line up the utilities, and you have to do this and that, and it takes you away from your core busi-

ness. It takes a lot of time to have to deal with that. So with a small office, this is a fantastic idea to be able to come in and you have your own desk space. It’s so easy.”

Schwarzler has a background in start-ups. When she moved back to Oregon last June, she tried working from home.

“I hated it,” she said. “So I thought about starting up a co-working space.”

Turns out, the owner of the Opera House agreed with Schwarzler that the building was a good fit for such a use.

Inside, large, L-shaped desks are available for monthly rent, as well as smaller desk spaces. All desks are “plug and play,” Schwarzler said.

“You have your own dedicated desk,” she said. “You can leave things behind; you can meet with clients here. So you just pay a flat rate and it’s monthly.”

Everyone who leases space gets access to the conference room, which is a

quaint schoolhouse situated in the back of the building and can accommodate eight to 10 people, Schwarzler said.

Another classroom upstairs can accommodate 15 to 20, Schwarzler said, including future seminars and workshops.

“There’s space for people who need an occasional space,” Schwarzler said. “They can bring in their laptop, connect with the internet, print, meet somebody, but they don’t need a dedicated desk. They can come in and sit in any available spot.”

All spaces can be leased with a day pass, too, she said.

Indy Commons has all the amenities of an office without the hassle, and it keeps overhead low.

For more information: 503-930-4840 or email Schwarzler at [kate@indy-commons.com](mailto:kate@indy-commons.com).

A ribbon cutting and open house will be held at 4:30 p.m. on April 21.

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