

4th OF JULY

GUIDE 2018

Your official guide to celebrations in
Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and Falls City



A special section of the Polk County Itemizer-Observer

4th OF JULY

GUIDE 2018

No one does Fourth of July celebrations like we do in Polk County. Come see all we have to offer! Each town does something unique, from lawn games and watermelon-eating contests to grand parades and car shows.

- Emily Mentzer, Editor

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Celebration Events

Independence Days

Sunday, July 1st

- 10 - 11:30 am Church Services in the park. Hosted by The Grove
- 11 am - 4 pm Northwest Rods & Classics Car Show
- 1 pm Carnival Opens (\$1 Rides)
- 2 - 8:45 pm Talent Quest Talent Show on Center Stage
- 6 - 8 pm Pitchfork BBQ. Hosted by State Representative Paul Evans and Friends of Ella Curran Foodbank. \$20 a plate or \$37.50 for two plates. Profits go to the Food Bank
- 8 pm Team Rubicon USA: Flag Retiring Ceremony Honoring a Local Veteran
- 9:45ish Movie in the Park - Top Gun
- 10 pm Lower Riverview Park & Carnival Closes

Monday, July 2nd

- Noon - Vendors Open
- Carnival Open: \$30 for 10 rides, Jumbo Cotton Candy and 2 snowcones
- Noon - 6 pm Kids Activity Tent (FREE)
- 5 pm - 6:00pm Games in the Amphitheater
- 6 pm - 8:00 pm Talent Quest Finals on Center Stage
- 8 pm Team Rubicon USA: Flag Retiring Ceremony Honoring a Local Veteran
- 8:30 - 10 pm Jye Ant Performs on Center Stage
- 10 pm - Riverview Park and Carnival Closes

Tuesday, July 3rd

- Noon - Gates Open with \$2 admission for ages 6 & up
- Carnival Opens: Wristband Day - \$25 for unlimited rides
- Noon - 6 pm Kids Activity Tent (FREE)
- 2 - 3:30 pm Watermelon Eating Contest in the Amphitheater (FREE)
- 4 pm Rubber Duck Derby Begins! Head to the river to see who wins!
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm - Corn-Hole Tournament in the Amphitheater (FREE)
- 6 - 7:30 pm Idol Poets Perform on Center Stage
- 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm Crowd Games and Free Prizes on Center Stage
- 8 pm - Team Rubicon USA: Flag Retiring Ceremony Honoring a Local Veteran
- 8:30 - 9:45 pm - Five Guys Named Moe Perform on Center Stage
- 9:55 pm - National Anthem performed by Terry Berry
- Dusk (about 10 pm) - Hometown Pride Fireworks Show!
- 10:45 - 11:30 pm - Five Guys Named Moe Perform on Center Stage
- Midnight Riverview Park Closes

Wednesday, July 4th

- Noon - Gates Open with \$2 admission for ages 6 and up.
- Carnival Opens
- Noon - 6 pm - Kid's Tent Open (FREE)
- 3 - 4:30 pm - Minute to Win it at Center Stage with Paul Thompson. Free Prizes!
- 3 - 6 pm - Free Family Games in the Grass Field
- 5 - 5:30 pm - Extreme Dance Co at Center Stage
- 6 - 7:30 pm - Beth Willis performs on Center Stage
- 7:30 - 8 pm - Crown Games in the Amphitheater
- 8 pm - Team Rubicon USA: Flag Retiring Ceremony Honoring a

Local Veteran

- 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm Kurt Van Meter performs on Center Stage
- 9:55 - National Anthem Terry Berry
- Dusk (about 10 pm) - Independence Days Fireworks Show!
- 10:45 pm - Kurt Van Meter performs on Center Stage
- Midnight Riverview Park Closes As of 6/15/18

Monmouth Schedule

July 3rd - Tuesday's Schedule

- 10 am - Festival Opens
- 10 am to 5 pm - Community Art Show
- 10 am to 5 pm - Bounce Houses Open
- 10 am to 5 pm - Vendors Open
- Noon to 2:30 pm - Ted Vaughn Blue Band
- Noon to 2 pm - Children's Arts & Crafts (Bird Houses)
- 2 to 4 pm - Children's Arts & Crafts (Spinners)
- 3:15 to 4 pm - New Horizons Willamette Valley Orchestra
- 4:30 to 6 pm - Albany Swing Band
- 6:30 to 8:30 pm - Willamette Valley Concert Band
- 9 pm - Festival closes

July 4 - Wednesday's Schedule

- 9 am - Festival Opens
- 9 am to 5 pm - Community Art Show
- 9 am to 5 pm - Vendors Open
- 1 pm to 5 pm - Bounce Houses Open
- 10 am to 2 pm - Classic Car Show
- 11:30 am - Mini Marathon
- 11:35 am - Children's Parade
- Noon - July 4th Parade
- 1:30 to 3 pm - Children's Arts & Cra(s) (All Seeing Eye)
- 1:30 to 4:30 pm - Shinkle Band
- 3 to 4:30 pm - Children's Arts & Cra(s) (Clay Project)
- 5 pm - Festival Closes

Freedomfest (Dallas)

All events at Roger Jordan Park on July 4

- 8 a.m. - Pickleball tournament (Round-robin style)
- 2 pm - BBQ competition
- 2 to 9 pm - Bingo
- 2 to 9 pm - Music
- 2 to 11:00pm - Food trucks
- 2 to 9 pm - Retail vendors
- 2 to 9 pm - Beer garden
- Fireworks: Begin at dusk

Falls City (July 7)

- Noon - Parade on North Main Street from Falls City High School to old mill lot. Community cookout in Lower Park follows the parade.



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Art comes to town

If you have an eye or admiration for art, head down to the Monmouth Fourth of July festival, located at Main Street Park, July 3 and 4, where local art vendors gather to sell and showcase their work.

The festival begins July 3 at 10 a.m. and includes a bouncy house and the splash play fountain for kids. The art vendors will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will showcase everything from paintings, ceramics, sculptures, jewelry and photography. Local authors, and a few from the Vancouver area, will be there to sell and sign their books.

There will also be a community art show for community artists to showcase their art during

both days of the festival. All work submitted will be chosen Monday, July 2 between 5 and 8 p.m. at the Volunteer Hall in Monmouth. There will be contests and prizes given out for the six categories July 12 between 5 and 7 p.m. in the Monmouth Library for each age group. The deadline for submitting art has already passed but show up to support your community and vote for the winners.

While the art shows are going on, arts and crafts groups are available throughout the day for kids, and local bands will perform, starting at 3:15 through 8:30 p.m. The bands scheduled to perform are New Horizons Willamette Valley Orchestra, from 3:15 to 4 p.m., Albany Swing

Band from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and Willamette Valley Concert Band to close out the night, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The festival closes at 9 p.m.

July Fourth, the festival opens at 9 a.m., with the community art show and art vendors open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the bouncy house from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be more arts and crafts for the kids and the Shinkle Band will take the stage from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

There also is a car show during July Fourth that goes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Monmouth City Park.

The festival closes its second day at 5 p.m.

The festivities that happen in Monmouth and Independence during this time of year are



long-standing traditions that Vendor Coordinator Phyllis Bolman wants to make sure stick around and remain what she enjoyed when the festival used to be Western Days.

"I've been the vendor coordinator since the city took it over in 2010," Bolman said. "I get to do it all. My main thing when I first said I wanted to be involved was I wanted to be involved as a citizen because I wanted the festival to go back to what I remember it as."

Not that the current festival was bad, she said. "I just wanted to improve on it. There are always things we can do better."

Being the coordinator is a lot of work, she said, because there aren't a lot of people to go around helping out with all that putting together the festival entails.

Regardless, "I do enjoy it — it's a lot of work," she said, "but it's creating something for the community to enjoy."

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Bingo

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Vendors

2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Food Trucks

2:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Fireworks!

Begin at dusk - Approx. 10:00 pm

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Annual parade comes to town

Fourth of July is just around the corner and so are the holiday festivities that go along with it, including the Grand Parade, a long-standing tradition for the communities of Monmouth and Independence.

About 10,000 people show up to enjoy the numerous floats, animals, classic cars, and more that the parade has to offer.

The Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club sponsors the parade and structures it in a way that allows anyone to be involved.

"We encourage anyone who's at all interested (in participating) to show up; everybody's welcome," parade chair Jim Birken said.

Birken has been with the Rotary Club for 30

years and said he enjoys being a part of the planning. He also participates in the parade.

"I've done this before and it's a fun thing to do," he said. "This is one of my passions; I drive in the parade every year with a convertible that I've owned for 20 years. I find the parade fun."

The unique thing about this parade is that it is entirely unstructured.

"Everybody's welcome. We don't structure the parade based on order," Birken said.

If an individual or a group of people show up the morning of the parade wanting to join, Birken said you just come up and join. It's that easy, he said.

Early bird registration is also available, at \$20 per entry, through June 26. Day-of registration is



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\$25 per entry.

The parade begins at noon on July Fourth, starting at Western Oregon University in Monmouth and ending at Riverview Park in Independence, spanning about 3 miles and lasting at least an hour and a half.

Prior to the Grand Parade is the Children's Parade, where dozens of kids on bikes, tricycles, and scooters get a chance to walk about half the parade length with a balloon in hand. There

is no registration required so anyone can show up and be a part of the Children's Parade.

While the parade is a tradition, there is one other tradition that precedes it: saving your spot on the parade route.

"Many people put out lawn chairs on the parade route the day before, and it's an honored tradition," Birken said.

Two — or even four! — days before the parade, it's likely you'll see chairs and blankets

and roped off sections of sidewalk from one end of town to the other as the community anticipates another year of fun.

Birken said each year the parade is different, so it can be hard to dictate what the viewers should expect to see this year.

"We're always surprised by who shows up, so I'm not sure," he said. He added that there is a possibility of a military jet flyover, "but I can't guarantee anything."

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Freedomfest offers small town family fun

What says July Fourth more than barbecue, games in the park and fireworks at dusk? Freedomfest has it all.

In a change from years past, Dallas' Freedomfest will be held in Roger Jordan Community Park. Previously, it had been divided between Dallas City Park for day activities and Roger Jordan for evening music and fireworks. Dallas Area Visitors Center, the event host, decided one location would result in less confusion.

Festival organizers are aiming for some good family fun.

"We are just wanting a hometown feel," said Bonnie Dreier, the DAVC events coordinator. "We have a lot of new things this year."

The event opens at 2 p.m., with a barbecue competition, bingo, live music, food trucks, vendors and a beer garden.

If your barbecue talents wow your friends and family, you might want to test your skills in the increasingly popular and competitive barbecue contest. It's a non-sanctioned event, but cash prizes — and bragging rights — will be awarded to winners.

As of Friday, seven teams had registered for the contest, and you can still sign up.

"We will take them right up until the day of," Dreier said.

Barbecue not your thing? Try your hand at pickleball, a sport that falls somewhere between tennis and table tennis.

Registration for the first Freedomfest Pickleball Tournament is closed, but you can give the growing sport a try between the tournament and championship matches.

All-day activities include a kids' tent, where the little ones can make slime, do crafts, play volleyball and other games. If you want a

friendly challenge, there are kickball games scheduled throughout the day.

"Come down and challenge another family," Dreier said. "There's just all kinds of fun stuff."

Look for the games and activities schedule on DAVC's Facebook page in the coming days.

The day's finale fireworks show blasts off, courtesy of Dallas Fire & EMS, at about 10 p.m. Food trucks will stay open until 11 p.m., in case you need a late-night snack.

Freedomfest schedule:

- Pickleball tournament (Round-robin style): 8 a.m.
- Barbecue competition: 2 p.m.
- Bingo: 2 to 9 p.m.
- Music: 2 to 9 p.m.
- Food trucks: 2 to 11 p.m.
- Retail vendors: 2 to 9 p.m.
- Beer garden: 2 to 9 p.m.
- Fireworks: Begin at dusk (about 10 p.m.)

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Patriotic Pops Concert

The Willamette Valley Concert Band will present a Patriotic Pops Concert Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Monmouth Main Street Park Amphitheater. The concert is sponsored by the city of Monmouth as part of the annual Fourth of July Festival celebrations.

The concert will feature a variety of music, including Broadway show tunes, big band swing favorites, patriotic music, trumpet and clarinet soloists, songs record by Frank Sinatra and traditional marches.

Featured soloists are trumpeter Mark Rasumssen, one of the owners of Windsmith Music Store in Philomath, and clarinetist Charlie Eads, owner of radio station KSHO and KGAL in Lebanon. They will have solos in the traditional Spanish bull fighting song, "La Virgen de la Macarena."

Featured will be "Big Bands in Concert," a melody of swing music by big bands led by Glenn Miller, Stan Kenton, Duke Ellington and

Tommy Dorsey. Pieces include "String of Pearls," "Satin Doll," "Intermission Riff," "Sophisticated Lady," and "Opus One."

The program will also include "Alkali Ike Rag, A North Dakota Misunderstanding," a ragtime piece written for the 1911 popular silent movie, "Alkali Ike's Auto," by Swedish American composer Albert Perfect, who served as director of bands at the University of Oregon, and also has the distinction of starting up the Eugene Municipal Band and composing the U of O fight song.

Patriotic selections will include "Land of Liberty," a medley of well-known American patriotic songs, arranged by Wasson, that includes "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," "Chester," "Yankee Doodle," "America the Beautiful," and "America."

The "Armed Forces Salute" features the official songs of the five U.S. Military branches, plus the Merchant Marines. Veterans and friends will be encouraged to stand during the playing of their military group's song.

More popular music will be "Recorded by Sinatra," that includes the songs "High Hopes," "Young at Heart," "Love is the Tender Trap," "Love and Marriage," and "My Kind of Town."

In honor of graduates from high school, colleges and universities, the band will play Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance No. 1," the traditional processional for such events.

The Willamette Valley Concert Band, based in Albany, has played concerts in the Willamette Valley since 1970. The 50-member band includes adult musicians from Benton, Linn, Marion and Polk counties.

It has been directed since 1972 by Richard Sorenson, emeritus director of bands at Western Oregon University, with the assistance of Mike Rogers, a retired high school and university band director from North Carolina who moved to Albany and has played clarinet and keyboard in the Willamette Valley Concert Band for several years.



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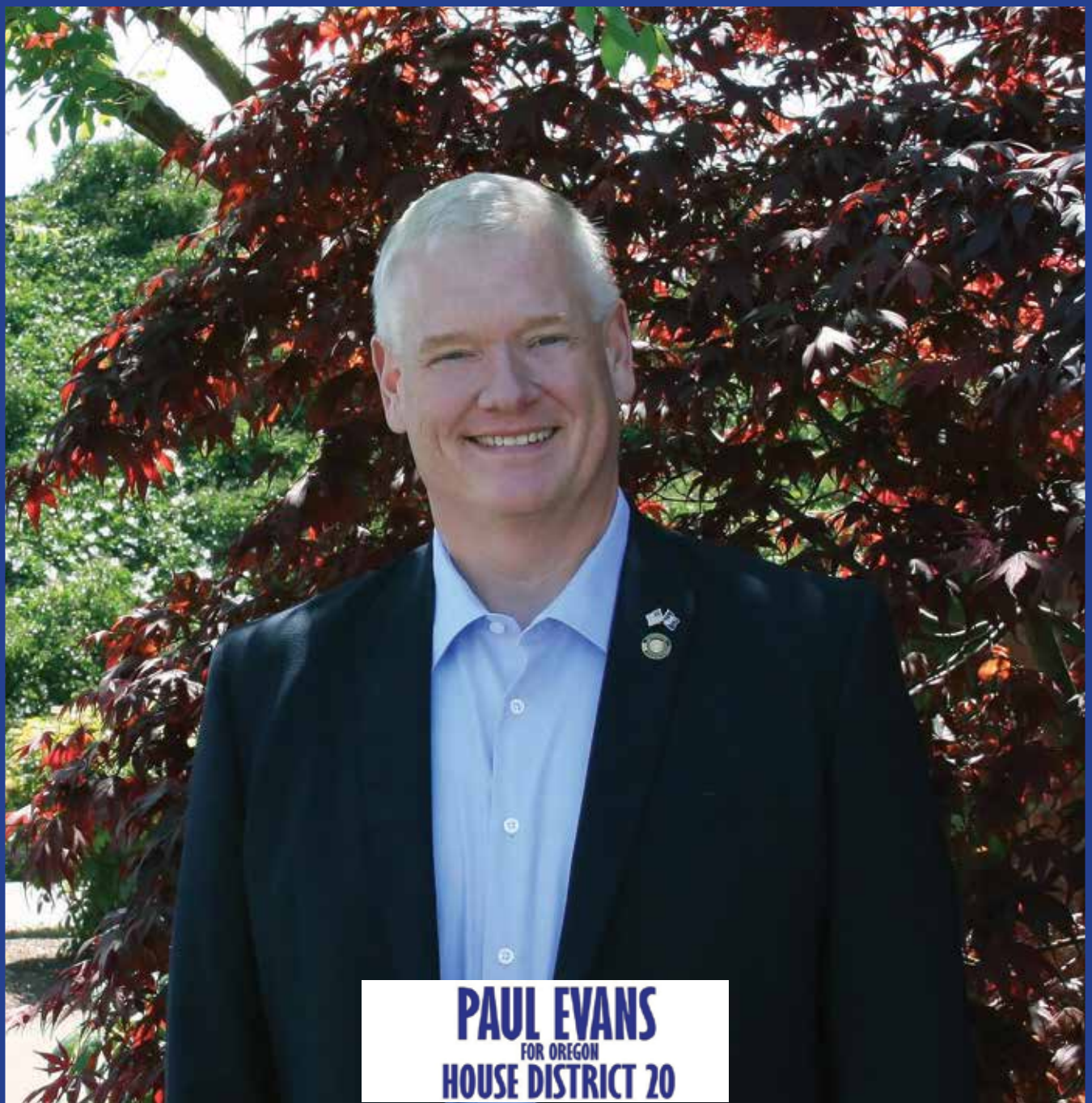
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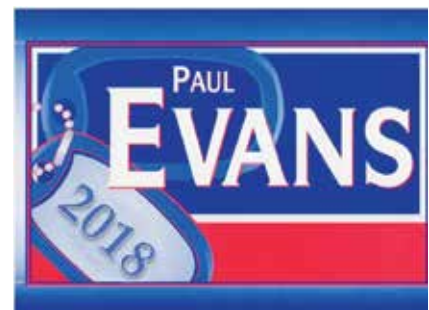
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Tennis tournament kicks off July Fourth

Come watch teams show off their volleying skills at the 45th annual Fourth of July tennis tournament, June 30-July 1, held at the Central High School and Western Oregon University tennis courts.

The tournament is open to all ages and skill levels. All proceeds go toward promoting community tennis and the CHS tennis program. Donations are also accepted.

A player must bring one can of balls per event, and can only enter in two events. There will be awards for first and second place.

Playing times and locations will be available after 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 28.

"Last year we had 58 participants who played in one and sometimes two matches," coordinator Patty Youngren said. "It was fun because of the many people who came out from Dallas and Monmouth areas who reacquainted themselves with each other; players who come and competed against friends for many years, and meeting new folks from other places. We had

travelers from Florida and Heppner, Oregon, last year too."

The tennis tournament has gone through multiple coordinators but through it all, it's stayed the same: a tournament that brings the community together to have fun and engage in a little healthy competition.

"It was started by Phil Schroeder," former coordinator Ron Warkentin said. "Back in the day, he gave tennis lessons to high school kids."

Schroeder also played tennis at Oregon College of Education, which is now Western Oregon University.

Warkentin said Schroeder decided to start a tennis club because he thought it would be fun to coexist beside the other Polk County Fourth of July events.

"Monmouth has this tradition with the parade and he thought, 'well let's just bring another event to Monmouth,'" Warkentin said. "(So) it just got started there and we just carried it on ever since."

Warkentin used to coach boys tennis at Cen-

tral High School, and he said he will have former students from back in his coaching days come up to him at the tournament.

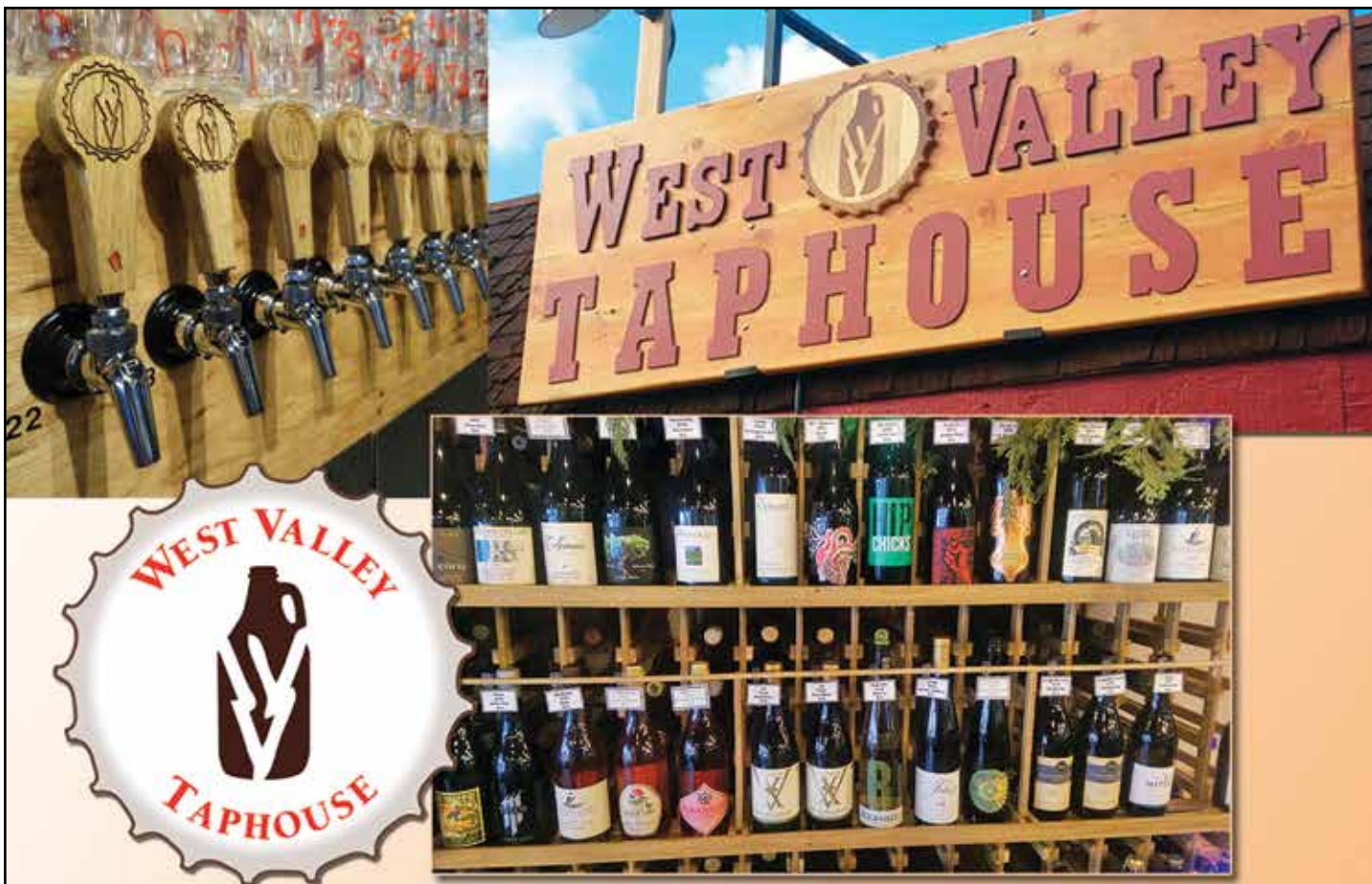
Youngren has also reinvented friendships over the years because of this tournament.

"This very tournament introduced me to some ladies in Dallas whom I played against in 1999, that continue to be my friends to this day," she said.

She is hoping for a similar turnout this year, and said former Woodburn students are signed up to play, as well as a girl from South Africa who is visiting McMinnville this summer.

"I just think it's a great local tradition," Warkentin said. "Back when Phil (Schroeder) was running it and I was more involved, it was more popular to play, but it's been a tradition and I just love it. It's cool."

For more information, contact Patti Youngren, CHS boys tennis coach: 503-507-5760.



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Marathon brings tradition to community

Runners, lace up – it's time to start thinking about registering for the Fourth of July Monmouth-Independence mini marathon, a 2.6 mile running and walking event that is part of the annual holiday festivities and brings together both communities.

The race begins at 11:30 a.m. at City Hall in Monmouth and finishes at the Independence Library. It is a family-oriented event and welcomes all ages.

It is sponsored by Willamette Valley Road Runners Club, Anytime Fitness in Independence and Monmouth Fitness Club, in Monmouth, to which mini-marathon director Terry Cable extends his gratitude.

Without the club and businesses helping out at the start and finish lines, this race would be much harder to organize, Cable said. It also gives him a chance to promote and support local businesses.

While this is an event meant to be fun, there will be some healthy competition. Winners for each age bracket will be posted at the finish line and also announced online and in the *Itemizer-Observer*.

Ribbons will be given out to the top three finishers of each age group, and a gift basket and T-shirt will be handed out to the top male and female finisher.

Everyone participating will receive a finisher

medal when they cross the line.

There will be water provided at the start line and at the halfway mark, but it is still a good idea to hydrate beforehand and/or bring water with you for the duration of the race. Make sure to eat a healthy breakfast or snack beforehand, bring sunscreen and wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Last year, 400 participants signed up and 388 finished the race, Cable said. This year, he's hoping for more.

"Five hundred would not be beyond a possibility," he said. "I think the interest in activities like this is growing in population, and our run is such fun and not intimidating at all; it's all downhill, an easy course with lots of supporters lined up for the parade, and they make it really fun."

The mini-marathon is in its 48th year, a sure sign that it's one the community greatly enjoys and wants to be a part of, just one of the reasons why Cable enjoys being the director so much.

"It's such an enduring tradition and it's really a target goal for a lot of people," he said. "They observe the event one year and I think a lot of people think, 'hey I'm gonna do that next year.' It's a real doable goal, and I see less experienced people willing to participate as the years go on. This race not only allows experienced athletes to participate and have a good time

as part of their Fourth of July celebrations, but it also challenges the less experienced. It's a good wholesome family activity that helps people celebrate the Fourth of July holiday."

Registration is ongoing until the day of, but there are options for pre-registering.

To pre-register, either mail in your registration form and race entry fee at 833 N. High St., Monmouth, or drop it off in person at Anytime Fitness, Brooks and Terry's Espresso Stands, or Monmouth Fitness Club. Pre-registration ends June 30.

Race entry fees are \$5 for ages 9 and younger and \$15 for 10 and older through June 30. For those who are pre-registered, you can pick up your race bib on July 3 at Anytime Fitness from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or on July 4 from 7-11:15 a.m. at Monmouth Fitness Club.

To register the day of the race, arrive at City Hall anytime between 8-10:30 a.m. Day-of registration cost is \$10 for ages 9 and younger and \$20 for 10 and older.

All proceeds from the race go toward Central Lions Club, Central High School Athletics, Ella Curran Community Food Bank and Kelsy Oldham Memorial Scholarship.



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Ducks, pitchforks and watermelons

Independence has some new ways to celebrate the Fourth of July this year.

"We've been looking for new events to change things up," said Janice Thompson, chair of the Western Days commission.

"We're bringing back the duck derby."

Thompson, who has been part of Western Days for about eight years, doesn't remember when the last duck race was, but the next one starts at 4 p.m. on July 3.

Only 100 rubber ducks will be available, she said. The race will be held at River Park in Independence.

"We did a dry run with ducks that are three inches tall," Thompson said.

Those didn't fare too well in the river so they switched to 10-inch rubber ducks, she said.

Ducks may be purchased at the Monmouth Curves for \$5.

The first three finishers will win a monetary prize. Finishers four through six will receive a gift certificate, Thompson said.

Also new to the festivities is a July 1 pitchfork barbecue by hosted Paul Evans and Friends of Ella Curran food bank.

The cost is \$20 a plate or \$37.50 for two plates, with the proceeds going to Ella Curran.

"(Another) new thing we have going on this year is we have picked up a sponsorship with Pepsi," Thompson said.

That means more games, she said.

On July 3, which is hometown day, there will be family game time from 3 to 6 p.m.

Those games include everything from gunny-sack races to giant Jenga.

Traditional events such as the carnival, two nights of fireworks, entertainment and watermelon-eating contest will still be part of the celebration.

The watermelon-eating contest is one of Thompson's favorites.

"The adults are so timid to get involved," she said. "But once it is in full swing, they come down (and sign up)."

She enjoys watching "the little kids that try to

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get in there and eat their little hearts out.”

Those who wish to show off talents that extend beyond eating watermelon can sign up for the Talent Quest Talent Show.

That competition starts on July 1, with finalists performing on July 2.

“The winner performs as the opening act on the Fourth of July,” Thompson said.

This year’s scheduled acts include Kurt Van Meter, 5 Guys Named Moe and Idol Poets.

Of course, all this wouldn’t be possible without the volunteers who put it all together.

Thompson said they still can use some help.

“We would never turn anyone away,” she said.

To sign up, visit independencedays.org and click on “contact us.”

Want to get jump start. Thompson and crew will have a tent set up in the Roth’s parking lot at 10 a.m. on June 23 to sell wristbands, rubber ducks and tickets to the pitchfork barbecue.



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JULY 20TH - Escape (Journey Tribute)
w/ Unchained (Van Halen Tribute)

JULY 27TH - Kurt Van Meter Band
w/ Steele Horse (Bon Jovi Tribute)

AUGUST 3RD - Beth Willis Rock
w/ Infamous Soul

AUGUST 10TH - Appetite For Deception
(Guns N Roses Tribute)

AUGUST 17TH - Renee Hill Band
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Falls City hosts weekend parade and cookout

While all other communities will end their July Fourth celebrations on Wednesday — Falls City will hold on to the patriotic spirit until July 7.

In a twist to tradition, the town is hosting a parade followed by community cookout in Faye Wilson Memorial Park, also known as Lower Park.

Laura Britton, co-owner of the Boondocks, is coordinating the “summer celebration,” which

kicks off at noon.

Beginning the festivities is the parade, which draw viewers down early to pick a spot on the parade route from Falls City High School to the old mill lot. There isn't a bad viewing spot, but you might want to head down early to enjoy the festive pre-parade atmosphere on North Main Street.

The short, but always inventive, parade lineup provides the best in patriotic pride — with a dose of good fun.

Following the North Main Street procession, community members can head over to Faye Wilson Park for a community picnic cookout, featuring live music, face painting and cotton candy.

Falls City Fun

When: Parade on North Main Street starts at noon, followed by a community cookout in Lower Park.

Burn Ban

The Polk County Fire Defense Board, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry West Oregon District, enacted a county-wide burn ban on June 21, just in time for July Fourth celebrations.

Residents of Polk County are reminded that no burning of any type is allowed during the county-wide burn ban.

The burn ban will remain in effect until significant rains return in the fall.

For burn complaints and information: visit www.wvcc911.org or call the burn line at 503-838-2020.



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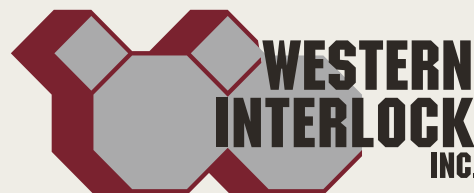
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