

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. There, you will find nearly every story that appears in the print version of the newspaper, as well as some items, including additional photos.

The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Aug. 30.....	75	54	.00
Aug. 31.....	70	54	.17
Sept. 1.....	69	55	.03
Sept. 2.....	73	57	.21
Sept. 3.....	71	47	.T
Sept. 4.....	73	48	.00
Sept. 5.....	75	49	.00

Rainfall during Aug. — 0.41 in.
Rain through Sept. 5 — 22.40 in.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Andy Rommel wants the Wagner Community Library in Falls City to be a place of community pride and inspiration.

WORKING FOR WAGNER

New library director strives to make it a magical place

By Jolene Guzman
The *Itemizer-Observer*

FALLS CITY — Andy Rommel, the new director at Wagner Community Library in Falls City, wants the library to be a place of community pride and inspiration.

With an educational background in graphic design and fine art, Rommel has the creative gifts to help make that happen.

“I really want this, not to sound cheesy, but to be kind of magical place,” Rommel said. “A place where people can come to fuel their creative powers. That’s one thing we look for in books, is inspiration.”

On the job since July 18, Rommel is making his mark on the library with a display in the children’s books area and hopes Wagner is awarded a “Ready to Read” grant for the 2017 summer reading program.

“That will really be an opportunity to do some fun stuff and get creative,” Rommel said. “This year it was fairly successful, but I really hope to build on that success and get more kids in-

involved.”

Rommel, who lives in Pedee, said working in a library is a first for him. He sums up his library experience as, “I’ve just used quite a few of them.”

That means his first weeks on the job have been about getting familiar with his new responsibilities.

“There’s been a lot to learn, and I will continue to be learning for the foreseeable future,” he said. “I’ve had so much help. Everybody has been willing to help in any way possible, and that had been such a blessing.”

Technically an employee of the Falls City School District, Rommel also is the elementary school librarian, a role he’s excited to take on. He will be teaching students how to check out books, use the library and, for the younger students, lead story time.

“Really, something I’ve felt from day one: the community here really cares about the children and the children’s education,” Rommel said. “It is definitely a priority, and that’s one reason having the

library here is so important.”

Helping with the effort to keep the library open is another of his responsibilities.

Wagner has only about two years of operating funds remaining in the Wagner Trust. City and school district officials earlier this year decided the only way to pay for the library long-term is to ask voters to approve an operating levy.

Rommel said he will be researching placing a levy on the ballot before a meeting between the city and district this month.

While Rommel is still learning on the job, he has a clear objective with his time at Wagner, whether that be two years or longer.

“I want this library to be a source of community pride. The last two librarians have worked extremely hard to make it that. They did an excellent job,” he said. “I’m just filling their shoes and continuing on with the goal. These books are really important to quite a few people in the community, and I’m going to work my hardest to make this library a source of pride.”

Shrewsbury returns

By Jolene Guzman
The *Itemizer-Observer*

KINGS VALLEY — Costumes are optional, but a healthy sense of humor is must.

A little familiarity with 1500s European history would help, too, but it’s not mandatory to have a good time at the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire Saturday and Sunday.

“We have a good deal of fun with our patrons, so if you don’t want to talk to anybody, this might not be the place to go,” said festival organizer Adrian Hughes.

If you like interactive experiences, Shrewsbury fits the bill.

“You are going to see people come up and speak to you directly,” Hughes said. “This is not a show where there is a distinction between the audience and the players.”

Street performers, vendors, stage and Epona Equestrian Team’s jousting act play the part to the fullest.

They expect audience participation. But don’t be intimidated, the “customs” aren’t difficult to pick up and costumes aren’t required.

The annual event — which celebrates a time and place centuries and continents removed — takes place Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days in Kings Valley in a field straddling the Polk-Benton county line.

Shrewsbury added a few features this year, including a “children’s kingdom” in the forested part of the village that includes a small storyteller’s stage and a replica pirate ship.

Organizers created a “VIP” area at the tournament ring costing \$10 for the “small” package and \$50 for the “big,” that offers prime viewing of the show. VIP privileges, including rubbing elbows with “the nobles” and meeting the knights, are only for the noon shows each day.

“You get a bunch of swag ... and you get to watch the tournament while quaffing your beverage of choice,” Adrian Hughes said.

In addition to regular vendors, a few more food selections are in the lineup. Kings Valley Charter School will be selling snow cones and gelato as a fundraiser for its foreign language club.

While the joust is the main attraction, festivalgoers have plenty of other entertaining options in watching historical re-enactment clubs. One will re-create legendary rivalries between the Picts and the Romans. They will be hunting each other around the village. Another will offer “squire training” and a “wooing contest.”

You can even be jailed at Hangman’s Alley — or have someone else put behind bars for a fee. On Saturday at 2 p.m., you can test your archery skills, with a chance to claim a cash prize.

“We are very full,” said Jackie Hughes, the festival’s executive assistant. “We have a lot of new things going on.”

Living history

What: Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire.

When: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jousting tournament shows are at noon and 4 p.m. each day.

Where: Kings Valley, near the Polk-Benton county line.

Admission: \$11 for adults; \$5 for seniors and children ages 6 to 12; Free for children 5 and younger.

Of note: For VIP tickets email shrew@shrewfaire.com with the subject line “I want to be a VIP.”

For more information, driving directions and a \$1-off admission coupon, go to www.shrewfaire.com.



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All different, and every one unique. Sunset Lane, Monmouth, Oregon. See yours today.

★ Join us for our community wide open house Thursday September 15th from 5:30 – 7pm. Music, BBQ & back-to-school giveaways. Free barbecue or washer & dryer available to those who purchase a home in addition to attending the open house.

Windermere
REAL ESTATE

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