

NEWS IN BRIEF

Monmouth updates sewer charges

MONMOUTH — The Monmouth City Council approved at its April 18 meeting changing the way the city calculates sewer charges. Residents will now be charged based on their water usage in the months of December, January, February and March. The change will increase the overall revenue for the city by an estimated \$37,277 a year. Some residents — roughly 571 — will see an increase in their monthly bill by \$9.24, while some (estimated 230) will see a decrease in charges by \$9.42, according to the city's analysis. The change accommodates the city's new software, and will save time for city employees, according to the report.

Indy police takes back unwanted drugs

INDEPENDENCE — Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Independence Police Department and Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 13th opportunity in seven years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bringing the pills for disposal to the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St. The service is free and anonymous — no questions asked.

Washington Fed celebrates 100 years

DALLAS/MONMOUTH — The Washington Federal branches in Monmouth and Dallas will celebrate the credit union's 100th anniversary with celebrations throughout the week. The branches are inviting businesses and residents to join the party from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at their branches, 611 Main St., Dallas, and 523 Main St., Monmouth. Refreshments will be provided. The celebration will feature a drawing to be held Friday afternoon. All residents are invited to participate in the event.

Indy PD cracks down on ped safety

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence Police Department will conduct a four-hour long pedestrian safety enforcement operation at heavily used crosswalks on Hoffman Road and Polk Street, as well as on Monmouth Street, focusing on motorists who fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. The efforts are part of the department's ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian safety. The operation will be on Thursday. Officers dressed in plain clothes will cross the street while uniformed officers monitor the crosswalk for motorists and pedestrians who fail to yield the right-of-way, or who take unsafe and illegal actions. Drivers and pedestrians stopped during this safety operation will be issued warnings or citations.

Mr. & Ms. Dallas event exceeds goal

DALLAS — The Mr. & Ms. Dallas Pageant, held last Saturday, well exceeded its goal of raising \$10,000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The event, which had 10 pairs competing for the crown through fundraising and Saturday's performance at Bollman Auditorium in Dallas, raised nearly \$16,000. "It was an incredible night," said Dallas School Board member and pageant judge Mike Bollman. "The place was packed." Contestants and Dallas High School leadership students also participated in a "beautification day" on April 17. Forty-five students worked in the downtown area and around Dallas City Hall, weeding, cleaning and putting down bark dust.

RECYCLE.

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Theater creates drama

Applebox organizers seek resolution to reservation dilemma

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Monmouth city officials and councilors butted heads with organizers of the Applebox Childrens Theater at the April 18 city council meeting. The council chambers were filled with ABC Theater supporters wanting to plead the case for allowing the children's theater company access to the new Monmouth Main Street Park Amphitheater.

After a heated back-and-forth between Mayor Steve Milligan and ABC Theater volunteers, the council adjourned the council meeting to move into the work session, where the discussion was on the agenda. The organization requested use of the facility for its rehearsals and performances, in total, about 45 days in June and July.

"That's half the summer," Councilor Royal Johnson said. "To me, that's 45 days you've asked to use the amphitheater, according to your form." Rob Harriman, of ABC Theater, said that some rehearsals could be performed on the outdoor stage at Western Oregon University,

but they submitted their entire rehearsal schedule so that the city could understand the scope of the production. Other requests of the theater included opening the wings of the amphitheater, using the built-in storage, using the city's sound system, and hanging sets, which would mean putting holes in the structure.

Community Development Director Mark Fancey said the parks and recreation board spent "considerable time" developing the rules of the new amphitheater and wanted to see how the facility would be used over time before altering those rules. "One particular group should not be able to break the rules," he said. Harriman said the stage was built beautifully for music, but not for accommodating theater troupes. He said the group could drape sets on the walls without installing eyehooks or drilling holes, but someone would need to unlock the wings so they could be opened.

The wings of the amphitheater present a safety hazard, City Manager Scott McClure said after the meeting. "The panels/doors can get caught in the wind and cause a 'sail' effect," he said in a follow-up email. "This is why we only want authorized staff to open and close these." After about an hour of discussion, Harriman said representatives from the theater group will speak with the parks and rec board at its May 10 meeting to determine what its members can do to accommodate the troupe's requests. Councilors and Milligan agreed that the council wanted to respect the work of the parks and rec board in creating the policies and rules of reserving the new facility. "If they can't solve the problem, they can come back, but we're not here to make that decision," Johnson said. "You guys built an amphitheater for music," Harriman said. "So now we're stuck in a facility that wasn't designed to do plays, and we're trying to work with that."

To view the council meeting and this portion of the work session: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bI3GS5752so&feature=youtu.be

Bill targets dam safety

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

SALEM — A bill is working its way through the Oregon House of Representatives requires operators of "high hazard" dams — which includes Dallas' Mercer Dam — to develop an emergency action plan. The city of Dallas has an emergency action plan for Mercer Dam. Its last inspection was completed in March, and the city is awaiting the inspection report, said Public Works Director Frank Anderson.

He said the city is working on updating its plan. Emergency action plans mandated in House Bill 3427 mean "a plan that assists a dam owner or operator and the local emergency manager to perform actions to ensure human safety in the event of a potential or actual failure of a dam or sudden release of water."

Such a plan would include emergency communication and notification, actions to

prevent dam failure or reduce the effects of dam failure, and maps of dam failure inundation zones. Those plans are to be filed with the state and local emergency services agency in the county.

The bill defines high hazard as those the Oregon Water Resources Department expect loss of human life to occur if they fail. HB 3427 was passed out of the House Committee on Veteran and Emergency Preparedness on and was referred to the Ways and Means Committee on April 18.

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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, that do not appear in print due to space limitations. The *Itemizer-Observer* is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
April 18.....	64	48	.12
April 19.....	59	47	.38
April 20.....	61	41	.08
April 21.....	69	36	.00
April 22.....	64	47	.11
April 23.....	56	47	.41
April 24.....	58	45	.38

Rainfall during April — 3.40 in.
Rain through April 24 — 29.90 in.

See something interesting happening in Polk County? Call us at 503-623-2373. We check out your news tips!

Solution on Page 6

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

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

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

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Honoring Yesterday. Celebrating Tomorrow.

Grand Reopening Celebration
Wednesday, May 3
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served.

As a proud member of the Dallas community, Jefferson Lodge Memory Care Community continues to grow to serve the area's seniors at an even higher level than before. Recently renovated throughout, our apartments and community spaces are ready to be revealed. We invite you to explore the exciting changes we've made during our Grand Reopening.

Join us for community tours, delicious food and drinks, and gift basket raffles. Winners will be drawn from our donation ducks, available for purchase and placed in our community fountain at the event. All proceeds will support the Alzheimer's Association®.

Please RSVP to our concierge by Friday, April 28.
503-623-8104
www.JeffersonLodgeMemoryCare.com

664 SE Jefferson Street • Dallas, OR 97338