

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 e-mail to kholland@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.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
March 24	58	43	.03
March 25	64	48	.07
March 26	72	45	.00
March 27	68	45	.09
March 28	61	46	trc.
March 29	69	39	.00
March 30	68	40	.03

Rainfall during March — 4.06 in.
Rain through March 30 — 11.60 in.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

An Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant would allow the city of Falls City to expand Michael Harding Park to include both sides of the falls and build a pavillion.

Falls City seeking state grant to purchase site

Improvements to falls park property also planned

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Falls City has submitted a grant application to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to purchase and improve the property at the city's namesake falls.

Currently, the Falls City Alliance owns the property on the north side of the falls, purchased with money borrowed from the city's revolving loan fund, about \$133,000.

The grant, through the department's Local Government Grant Program, would allow for the city to buy the property. Funding also would be available to improve access to that side of the falls, build a viewing platform, pavilion and restrooms.

The improvements will be made over three phases and

will essentially be an expansion of the city's Michael Harding Park, located on the other side of the falls.

"It would be one park with the falls in the middle," said Janelle Anzalone, a spokeswoman for the Falls City Alliance.

Anzalone submitted the grant Monday, applying for \$121,392. According to the grant processing schedule, the applications were due Wednesday (today) and the grant advisory committee will be reviewing and ranking applications in June. The ORPD commission will hear those recommendations in September.

On March 12, the city council approved a resolution supporting the application, a mandatory part of the process.

Councilor Lori Jean Sickles

called the application "a necessity," saying it would not only give the city possession of the property, but pay back the revolving loan fund, designated for low-interest loans to residents for home repairs.

"As long as we can pull it together, we should make every effort," she said.

If approved, the alliance will be able to connect the new features at the park with the trails it is planning to build this summer. The trail work also was provided for through an OPRD trail grant program. The group was awarded nearly \$41,000 in "tools for trails" funding for the alliance to pay for equipment and concrete to clear and build a trail that will follow the Little Luckiamute River through town and beyond the falls.

Farmers markets opening Saturday

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — With the exceptionally warm winter this year, it's felt like spring for weeks.

The opening of two farmers markets in Independence on Saturday makes it official.

Martha Walton, manager of the 22nd annual Original Independence Farmers Market, said the warm weather has been making things grow too fast.

"We'll see what Mother Nature presents us with in April," she said. "In years past, she's not been very nice to us in April."

Regardless of weather, the Original Independence Farmers Market will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, back at the parking lot of Umpqua Bank at 302 S. Main St.

Fresh cinnamon rolls and coffee from Ovenbird Bakery will be served free while supplies last, Walton said.

"We'll have lots of plants, crafts, and our lady that cooks tacos and all kinds of neat stuff right there on the spot," she said. "She usually has a hot dog wrapped in bacon (for sale)."

Farther downtown, Independence Riverview Market will also be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

In its fourth year, it has grown to include a new pork vendor as well as wine tasting, market manager Sue Barker said.

"We'll have a little bit of everything," she said. "If people have been working on their garden beds, we're

Check It Out

What: Original Independence Farmers Market and Independence Riverview Market.

When: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., through November.

Where: Umpqua Bank parking lot (Original Independence Farmers Market) and Riverview Park (Independence Riverview Market).

For more information: Both markets have Facebook pages, where they post photos and pictures of what's available. Or call Martha Walton (Original Independence Farmers Market) at 503-881-9950 or Malinda Bermudez (Riverview Market) at 503-910-8193.

going to have the plants for them."

Generally speaking, people are looking for good strong plants that have been grown locally to transplant into their own gardens, Barker said, and those plants may be found at the market.

Broiler chickens, bacon and pork chops may be found alongside honey, goat soap, eggs, cheese and wine — all locally grown and made, Barker added.

New this year, a community table will allow farmers to sell their goods on consignment if they are too busy to man a booth at the market each week.

The only thing really missing is yeast bread and baked goods, Barker said, but the gluten-free table will return.

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