

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](http://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 [nadams@polkio.com](mailto:nadams@polkio.com).

WEBSITE

The Polk County Itemizer-Observer website, [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com), is updated each week by Wednesday afternoon.

The Itemizer-Observer is also on Facebook and Twitter. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
May 5.....	63	46	.01
May 6.....	65	44	.07
May 7.....	73	38	.00
May 8.....	80	42	.00
May 9.....	84	46	.00
May 10.....	73	48	.00
May 11.....	58	50	.15

Rainfall during May — 0.31 in.  
Rain through May 11 — 14.19 in.

# Lanes brings leagues, kids to forefront

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Before taking over Starlite Lanes in Dallas, Mike Reed had done every job there is to do in a bowling alley — except own one. Now he can cross that off his list.

"I've always wanted my own place," Reed said.

Reed got his start working in or for bowling alleys, coincidentally, at Starlite Lanes.

"I started out as a pin chaser in high school," he said.

After Starlite Lanes, he's worked in bowling alleys in Silverton, Wilsonville and Alaska.

"I worked in (an) eight-lane bowling center in Alaska," Reed said, smiling. "I couldn't get away from it."

Including jobs in which he installed lanes and equipment in bowling alleys, Reed counts about 30 years of experience in the industry. There's not much he hasn't encountered when it comes to running a bowling alley.

"And I'm not afraid to pull it (machines) apart if I don't know it," he said. "That's the way I've always been."

It seems natural that eventually, he would own one, and it turns out, his return to Starlite was timed perfectly.

"I know Loren (Faxon) and Loren knows me," Reed said, referring to the former owner. "It was a little negotiation and it worked out."

Since officially taking the reins late last year, Reed has hired more employees and made some repairs to machines. He's made a few changes to the hours and schedule as well — including adding "cosmic" karaoke to the lineup.

Now Reed is focusing on building the customer base and expanding the alley's leagues. Starlite is also participating in the Kids Bowl Free program this summer, which offers two free games per day in an effort to encourage children to be more active.

"I would like to see our junior league grow," Reed said. "They are our future."

Success with last year's Dallas High School bowling team bodes well for that future.

The team placed at the state competition, and Reed is hoping to have team members return for next season.

"Loren came in and helped them," Reed said. "Pretty good, talented group of kids."

Reed said there will be more changes over time, including launching a website



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Mike Reed went from pin chaser to owner of Starlite Lanes in Dallas.

for Starlite.

In the meantime, though, he's hoping to make a few more converts to the game he's grown to love.

"It's just the fact that you're always participating, you're not sitting on the bench or waiting to play," Reed said. "It's something that you get to do from (the age of 6) until you die."

## Bowl a game

**What:** Starlite Lanes.  
**Where:** 394 Main St., Dallas.  
**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.  
**Contact:** 503-623-4267, or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/starlitelanes](http://www.facebook.com/starlitelanes).  
**Of note:** For more information or to register for the Kid Bowl Free program, go to [kidsbowlfree.com](http://kidsbowlfree.com).

# Indy looks to add positions with 2015-16 budget

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Things are looking up for the city of Independence as far as the budget is concerned, Budget Officer and Finance Director Gloria Butsch said at the April 29 budget meeting.

"With this budget, we continue the climb back to fiscal health," she said. "In this budget, we can see the positive impacts of our improving economy."

Butsch noted an increase in building in both residential and in-

dustrial areas as one reason for the improving economy, but noted that the city will proceed with some caution as it rebuilds its workforce.

The city will continue its collaboration with the Central School District in providing a school resource officer position, with hopes that Monmouth will get on board to help pay for the officer, Butsch said.

New this year, the city will replace the contracted event center coordinator, add a half time officer and two quarter-time officers, increase the police maintenance position to full time, add two hours to a part-

time library assistant and increase a part-time accounts payable clerk to full time.

Cost-of-living increases also are budgeted for all employees.

A capital improvement plan will be jump-started with \$2 million worth of projects to be implemented in 2015-16.

The capital improvement projects are a compilation of needs from each department.

The 2015-16 budget remains conservative, Butsch said.

"It will take careful consideration and due diligence in the coming

years to get ahead of the deferred maintenance curve," she said. "This budget attempts to begin that process."

The Independence Budget Committee will meet Wednesday (today) at 6 p.m. at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. All meetings are open to the public.

The committee will receive answers to questions about the numbers in the budget and will either approve it and move the document to the council for adoption, or request further meetings.



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