

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

If you see anything that requires a correction or clarification, call the newsroom at 503-623-2373 or send an email to nadams@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The Itemizer-Observer is online at www.polkio.com, on Facebook and Twitter. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

Table with weather data: RECORDED, HIGH, LOW, RAIN for dates May 26 to June 1. Includes rainfall during May (0.72 in) and rain through June 1 (15.24 in).

Citywide Internet for all?

Officials suggest exchanging access for debt forgiveness

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer



MONMOUTH-INDEPENDENCE — Monmouth-Independence Networks (MINET) must find new avenues to increase revenues if it is to be self-sustaining, Director Don Patten said to the board at its Thursday meeting.
'As a result in the change in demand and fewer addresses to serve, MINET cannot save for the future, cover debt and cover operating costs using the traditional business model,' he said.
Patten has previously suggested a purchase service model, where the company would lease out excess data infrastructure.

offer more online courses. One hurdle to that is getting technological hardware — computers and tablets, for example — into the hands of students.

Another hurdle, Patten said, is getting those devices connected to the Internet, particularly because 70 percent of Central's students are on free or reduced lunches, meaning they are below the federal poverty level.

Patten noted that free WiFi or Internet, even a low-level bandwidth, would help solve that problem.

While city managers and board leaders Scott McClure and David Clyne liked the idea of citywide Internet service in one capacity or another, neither liked the idea of paying for it, or of forgiving MINET some of its debt service shortfalls.

Clyne said that the service would provide value to taxpayers, who have paid millions of dollars of subsidy payments from water or power bills — depending on which city they are from — for about 10 years.

'I like the notion that there's be some kind of return value for the money we're putting in anyway,' Clyne said. 'We're a long ways from seeing it returned, why not return some kind of service.'

MINET board member Jerry Hoffman said a move into Internet for all would boost customer loyalty to MINET.

'People who are paying for the system already will be seeing a tangible result,' Hoffman said. 'I think that bodes well for the future of MINET loyalty.'

David Ritchey, MINET board member, noted that such an undertaking was bound to be wrought with challenges, and would be expensive.

Patten agreed, adding that grants may be available to expand services.

McClure said paying for it would be an issue.

'I think it can be developed,' he said, 'but it's (the idea) so vague, it's hard to react too much.'

With the concept of forgiving MINET's debt shortfalls, McClure said the cities would have to find a way to pay for the Internet for all services, which could mean raised rates in some areas and cut services in others.

When Patten asked the board when they wanted a business plan outlining possibilities for Internet for all, the response was undefined.

'I'd rather it was thoughtful than fast,' Clyne said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polk No. 1 tries again to find new chief

INDEPENDENCE — The board of directors for Polk County Fire District No. 1 is going for round two in looking for a new fire chief.

'We were unsuccessful on our first go-around, so we reopened it again,' said Joost Vanderhave, board chair.

The same company, Emergency Services Consulting International, that ran the first search will conduct the second one, at no additional charge, Vanderhave said. The consultant will cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. The first recruitment started in January. The second recruitment will be open for the next three weeks.

During the first search, the top candidate and board of directors were not able to negotiate a contract because they were too far apart on salary, Vanderhave said. Other top candidates had accepted other employment.

Interim Chief John Stein will work on an extended contract during the second search.

Vanderhave said he is hopeful to have a new chief in place by the end of August.

Photo contest to highlight Indy history

INDEPENDENCE — The City of Independence Historic Preservation Commission seeks submissions for its historic photo contest. Entries must be of a historic structure that has been restored with a note that reads 'This Place Matters.'

Entries must be of one of Independence's historic buildings or houses that have had restorations done that improve the structure's appearance and bring it back to its original architectural beauty.

Contest judges will choose three winners. Winning photos will be displayed in the central lobby of the Independence City Hall and on the city of Independence website.

Finalists will be exhibited throughout August.

Entry deadline is June 26. Photos may be mailed to: Historic Photo Contest, City of Independence, P.O. Box 7, Independence, OR, 97351, emailed to Irvine.shawn@ci.independence.or.us or delivered in person.

For more information: 503-838-1212.

New prop to help train firefighters

PERRYDALE — Amity Fire District has built a new ventilation prop for volunteer firefighters to train on. The prop was constructed with help from 1-800-BoardUp and McGee Salvage.

Ventilation is done on structure fires in both residential and commercial buildings to remove the super-heated gas and smoke, which allows firefighters to quickly search for and rescue potential fire victims.

It also helps firefighters locate and confine the fire within the building for safer and more effective fire suppression.

With this prop, Amity firefighters can practice their skills needed for safe firefighting efforts, and train neighboring fire departments and new volunteer firefighters.

The prop is located at Amity Fire District's substation in Perrydale.

Visit us online at www.polkio.com

Join us every Thursday in June from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for our Cancer Survivorship Education Series. To register call: 503-814-2432

June 4: Move for good health
June 11: Sexual health and renewal
June 18: Eating well after cancer
June 25: Regaining emotional wellness

Surviving cancer Matters to me

'Anyone can get cancer, at any age, for any reason. If you have a suspicion at all, insist on getting checked.'

—Kris P., cancer survivor

This is the face of someone surviving lung cancer—the leading cause of death, next to heart disease. Surprised?

Kris is a non-smoker who was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in November 2013. Read her story at www.welcometothefamilycancer.com.

Surviving cancer represents a journey for many people. Celebrate National Cancer Survivors Day with us on Monday, June 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Salem Hospital, Building C. For information, call 503-562-4321.

