



SERA ARCHITECTS/for the Itemizer-Observer

Development of the 2-1/2 miles along the Willamette River was the biggest topic of interest to residents.

## Trails big focus of Indy parks plan

Residents want more connecting paths for bicycling, walking, running

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The city of Independence wrapped up a new parks master plan, which was presented to the city council on July 14. “The big shiny piece is the riverfront,” said Shawn Irvine, economic development director. “Part of the reason we (the city) purchased the Valley Concrete site was to maintain control of the riverfront.” The city owns 2-1/2 miles of land along the Willamette River, and whoever buys the Valley Concrete site will have to allow public access, Irvine said.

“The key thing is, we’ve got the trail that runs north that is being well used, we want to extend that to the south, ideally out to the island,” he said. A new trail along the waterfront would likely be a soft-surface path, Irvine said, and would be just one part of a trail system. “Trials were a big component,” Irvine added. “That’s what we heard from the public: more trails, better connected trails, more trails to different places in town.” About 500 people responded to surveys as part of the public outreach in building the new master plan, Irvine said.

Open houses were well-attended. “That’s a much more in-depth level of engagement,” he said. Neighborhood parks were not neglected in the new plan, Irvine said. “We don’t want to lose focus on the neighborhood parks, that park next door, that’s what folks use,” Irvine noted. “We don’t want to lose focus on keeping those well maintained.” In addition to the strong desire for more trails for bicycle and pedestrian traffic, people wanted places to hold large gatherings, Irvine said. “People wanted a place

where they could get the whole extended family together,” he said. “A place to go and hang out the entire afternoon with picnic shelters, barbecues, a playground, soccer field, walking trails.” While some of those amenities are already found at Riverview Park, Henry Hill seems like a potential place for more, Irvine said. “They have the fields, basketball courts, tennis,” he said. The area around Henry Hill belongs to Central School District. With the district office at Henry Hill, they would be a key partner in creating a larger recreation area for the community, Irvine said.

## Lawsuit filed against MINET

Former employee claims hostile work environment, harassment

By Emily Mentzer  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — A lawsuit was filed on June 25 against the cities of Independence and Monmouth and against Monmouth Independence Networks (MINET) claiming discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

Laura Rodriguez, of Marion County, was an employee of MINET in July 2011, according to court documents. She was hired again by MINET in December 2013.

According to court documents, Rodriguez is a member of several protected classes, including her gender (female), her race (Hispanic) and her sexual orientation (homosexual).

The documents claim that MINET general manager Don Patten, manager of customer service relations Jason Saunders and administrator Marilyn Morton made Rodriguez feel uncomfortable with sexual comments. Rodriguez also claims her supervisors passed her over for promotion based on her race and because she had asked about MINET’s maternity leave policy.

The accusations were investigated by Citycounty Insurance Services (CIS), the insurance company for all three entities named in the lawsuit — MINET, Monmouth and Independence — and found no evidence supporting Rodriguez’s claims.

“CIS, our insurance company, interviewed myself and virtually everyone on staff,” Patten said. “CIS informed us that there is zero credibility to it.”

Neither the cities nor MINET have been served with paperwork regarding the lawsuit, said Larry Linder, attorney for Rodriguez.

Because of that, there isn’t much to do at this point, said Independence City Manager and the chair of the MINET board of directors David Clyne.

“Not much of anything is being done,” Clyne said. “We’re aware of the complaint, but it was never actually served on any of us. That’s how you have to start a lawsuit, by serving the other party.”

No disciplinary action is planned for anyone named in the lawsuit, Clyne said.

Linder did not get back to the *Itemizer-Observer* with comment from Rodriguez by press time.

Court documents say Rodriguez is asking for at least \$30,000 including back pay, benefits and front pay, in addition to \$150,000 compensatory damages plus attorney’s fees. She also is requesting a trial by jury.

**Music in the Park**  
Main St. Park - Monmouth  
Every Wednesday through August 26 - 6:30pm  
MUSIC, FOOD, BEER & WINE GARDEN

Look for Music in the Park Series on Facebook for more information about this year's artists.

**Performing Tonight**  
July 29  
**World's Finest**  
(Reggae & Bluegrass)

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

For More Information Contact:  
Mark Fancey 503-751-0147

Bring your chairs and blankets and we'll see you in the park!

**INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8**  
450 S. 2nd St., Independence  
Showtimes 503-606-3000  
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 - Senior \$7.00 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

**Friday - Wednesday July 31 - August 5**

SOUTHPAW (Digital) (R)	(1:45 4:30)	7:20	9:55
ANT MAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(11:35 2:10 4:45)	7:25	10:05
PIXELS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(11:50 4:55)	7:30	
PIXELS (NEC DOLBY 3D) (PG13)	(2:25)	9:55	
VACATION (Digital) (R)	(12:25 2:50 5:15)	7:40	10:00
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION (Digital) (PG13)	(1:20 4:10)	7:00	9:50
MINIONS (Digital 2D) (PG)	(12:15 2:35 4:50)	7:10	9:25
PAPER TOWNS (Digital) (PG13)	(11:45 2:20 5:05)	7:35	10:05
TRAINWRECK (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:50	9:35

**Thursday August 6**

SOUTHPAW (Digital) (R)	(1:45 4:30)	9:55	
THE GIFT (Digital) (R)		7:05	
ANT MAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(11:35 2:10 4:45)	7:25	10:05
PIXELS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(11:50 4:55)	7:30	
PIXELS (NEC DOLBY 3D) (PG13)	(2:25)	9:55	
PAPER TOWNS (Digital) (PG13)	(11:45 2:20 5:05)		
FANTASTIC FOUR (Digital) (PG13)		8:00	10:30
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION (Digital) (PG13)	(1:20 4:10)	7:00	9:50
MINIONS (Digital 2D) (PG)	(12:15 2:35 4:50)	7:10	9:25
VACATION (Digital) (R)	(12:25 2:50 5:15)	7:40	10:00
TRAINWRECK (Digital) (R)	(1:15 4:05)	6:50	9:35

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**Dallas Sounds Summer**  
July 9 - August 27, 2015  
6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Rotary Performing Arts Stage  
Corner of Main & Academy Streets  
Hosted by the Dallas Area Visitors Center  
503-623-2564, www.dallasaregion.org/livemusic

This week:  
**Bloozy Rock**  
**Gil Reynolds**  
**& Deep Blue**

Next week:  
Country  
Joe Shinkle & 99W

Professional and Local Food Trucks will be on site each week serving by 5:45pm

PREMIERE SPONSORS  
James W. Fowler  
James W. Fowler Affiliates  
West Valley Hospital

**RIVERS EDGE SUMMER SERIES**  
10 Year Anniversary!  
presented by  
capitol SUBARU  
RU MOBILITY SERVICE

Performing July 31st  
Show begins at 7:30  
**JUKE BOX HEROES**  
Foreigner Tribute Band

Lawn Seating — Bring blankets & chairs

**This Week's FREE MOVIE:**  
Showing July 30 • 9:30  
**UP!** (Animation, Adventure, Comedy)

NEXT WEEK Concert: DANCEHALL DAYS - 7:30 PM  
Movie: THE HUNGER GAMES  
Mockingjay Part 1 - 9:30 PM

• VENDORS • BEER & WINE GARDEN  
Riverview Amphitheater, Independence, OR  
Visit our website: independenceamphitheater.com

**TWO & PACKED Full o' Fun!!**  
LOCATIONS!!

**Polk County Bounty MARKET DALLAS**  
Thursdays  
May - September  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Academy Lawn  
182 SW Academy St, Dallas, OR

Aug 13 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities

Aug 6 & 20  
Cash & Company  
11:30 - 1:00pm

Sponsors  
Brixius Jewelers  
Citizens Bank  
Dallas Retirement Village  
Fowler Affiliates  
Home Comfort  
Itemizer Observer  
Liberty Concrete  
Old Mill Feed & Garden  
Oregon State CU  
Polk County  
Squirrel's Taxi  
The Car Doctor  
Wall Insurance  
West Valley Hospital  
White's Collision Service

**Polk County Bounty MARKET MONMOUTH**  
Tuesdays  
May - October  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
at Main Street Park  
120 Main St E, Monmouth, OR

Aug 4 Family Building Blocks  
FREE Kids' Activities

Live music every week  
WOU Jazz Students  
Noon - 1:30pm

Sponsors  
City of Monmouth  
Petals & Vines  
PCL (Partnership in Community Living)  
Veal Bikes Plus

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