



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
Hermelinda Garcia closed the doors on her salon on Aug. 24. Garcia spent 42 years as a salon owner. She opened her first shop in 1973 in Independence.

Garcia retires after 42 years of hairstyling

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — In her career as a salon owner, Hermelinda Garcia can count 42 years, three locations, and countless friends.

Garcia, who goes by "Linda," recently surpassed another milestone, age 70.

"It was time to retire," she said Monday, a week after her last day at Hermelinda's Beauty Salon. "I've been doing it all my life."

Garcia began cutting hair for family and friends at an early age, but when it came time to select a career, she took a different path — for a while.

"When I got out of high school, I was a nurse's aide," she explained. "Then I decided I liked doing hair better."

Originally from St. Paul, Garcia moved to Independence after marrying her husband, Julio. Opening her first

shop in 1973 and becoming involved in the community, she quickly made a name for herself — and for him — in Independence.

"I've lived here a lot longer than she has, but I'm still known as Linda's husband," he said, chuckling.

Linda Garcia served on a cultural awareness commission in Independence, on the PTA when her children were in school and on the Independence Public Library board.

She recalls fondly teaching hair care classes to girls at the library when her daughter was young.

"A lot of them are grown ladies now and they remember learning about hair from Linda," Julio Garcia said. "They all remember Linda."

The same is true of her customers at the salon. She's had generations of the same families come to her throughout her career.

"I made a lot of friends," she said. "They become your friends."

And if you are wondering, yes, the relationship between hairdresser and customer is much the same as between bartender and patron. Garcia has heard many good stories in her 42 years behind the chair.

Some, she said with a knowing smile, are not fit to print.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "It was."

She said her former salon at 1331 Monmouth St. in Independence is ready to reopen with a new owner, something she's pleased to see.

Just like how she began, Garcia still will cut hair for family members at her home with a special license from the state. It isn't quite the same as arriving at the shop at 8:30 each morning to greet customers, though.

"I (will) miss it," she said.

MINET receives security update after system audit

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Monmouth Independence Networks employees have been busy getting updates made and security improvements done.

"We're doing work on basically all the systems, all the guts of the system," said Scott McClure, MINET board vice president and Monmouth city manager. "The idea is to get a handle on the core technology — the computers, the servers, the networks — and get it all buttoned down as tight as possible."

The work started after an in-depth system audit was completed. The audit, which looks at MINET's security, is confidential, McClure said, and not available to the public.

MINET Manager Don Patten said he would see if a summary of the report could be made available, but did not have it by press time. The cost of the audit also was unavailable by press time.

The audit was performed at Patten's request because of recent transitions, including changes in employees in both the tech services and information technology departments, McClure said.

Patten said MINET workers have begun the process to correct "numerous deficiencies found in the report, including ordering new fire-wall hardware, which will help prevent attacks and serve as a disaster recovery program."

"The unit replaced an outdated system that was no longer supported," Patten said.

The firewall was not the

only thing that needed updated.

MINET has been in operation since its original 2004 intergovernmental agreement between the two cities of Monmouth and Independence, and was still using original equipment, McClure said.

"It comes as no surprise to anyone in this room that we've been experiencing some serious technical issues as a result of failed maintenance over a number of years," Patten said at Thursday's MINET board meeting. "MINET has managed to stabilize most of the blade servers that offer services. Several servers have been taken down."

The idea behind the system audit was to find out what needed to be done to meet industry standards, McClure said.

"Basically it's getting the system really cleaned up and in good operating order," McClure said. "We're being more proactive to get it in the best order that we can."

One benefit to the cleanup is when something goes wrong, it will be much easier to fix quickly, he said.

In other business:

- The board approved the board of director's code of conduct. Bylaws continue to be evaluated by the board's subcommittee of McClure and Jerry Hoffman, board member and Independence city councilor. McClure said bylaws may be discussed at the Sept. 17 meeting, but added that the board has the overall governance of the IGA.

"We just did the code of conduct, do we need something else about how the board operates and does business?" he said. "You

have to be careful if you have parallel documents. If something gets altered in the first one, it gets altered in the second one."

- Board member Mike Lodge made a motion to hire Gail Fischer, private investigator and independent insurance adjuster from Eugene, as an outside consultant to interview board president and Independence City Manager David Clyne "based on comments he made at previous board meetings on continued misconduct at MINET," Lodge said.

Fischer will be hired at \$90 per hour. Clyne said he would invite her to come speak at an executive session with just board members in the future to discuss how to structure an investigation.

- The board decided it did not want to publish video tape of its meetings anymore.

"Certainly meetings are open, but there was concern (at the Aug. 17 board retreat) about information that might be contextualized, strategies that might be developed, so we declined to (provide video)," said Jon Carey, board member and Monmouth city councilor.

Lodge said the board already provides audio of the meetings, so adding video doesn't impact public access one way or another.

Rod Killen, MINET marketing contractor and Willamette Riverside Studios owner, said he volunteered his time to video tape MINET board meetings. He noted that barring him from taking video would be equal to denying a private citizen access to taping a public meeting.



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