

**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. 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. 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
Dec. 29	45	37	.01
Dec. 30	43	27	.00
Dec. 31	43	25	.00
Jan. 1	45	28	.00
Jan. 2	39	24	.00
Jan. 3	32	24	.29
Jan. 4	36	31	.06

Rainfall during Dec. — 23.55 in.  
Rain through Dec. 31 — 40.67 in.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES HOFFMAN/for the *Itemizer-Observer*  
Former Dallas resident James Hoffman is ready to release his sophomore album.

**Dallas singer releases album**

*Hoffman's 'Fault Lines' has 'something for everyone'*

**By Jolene Guzman**  
The *Itemizer-Observer*

DALLAS — James Hoffman, a former Dallas resident and graduate of DHS, has turned life's "interruptions" — good and bad — into a second indie-folk album.

Hoffman's debut effort "The Union" similarly reflected his life at the time, specifically his new marriage. A resident of Ontario, Canada, "The Union" earned him nominations in Canada's Hamilton Music Awards for "Male Artist of the Year," "New Artist of the Year" and "Songwriter of the Year," while the album was nominated for "Folk Recording of the Year."

Four years later, his thoughts and experiences of losing an aunt and grandmother — and becoming a father — developed into his sophomore album "Fault Lines."

"As I was nearing completion of the album, I started to notice how so many songs were about loss, parting ways or losing a loved one," Hoffman said. "Others though, were about growth, or how we react to those losses."

"Fault Lines" is arranged in a way that allows people to follow his journey, starting with those "interruptions" and ending with how he responds to them.

The album begins with his favorite song, "What it's worth," which ironically was the last to be written.

"After completion (it) felt like the missing piece to the puzzle," Hoffman said. "I'm also a nature lover, and that's pretty evident in the lyrics. I think it does a nice job setting the stage for the feel and content of the album." Hoffman said he didn't experiment much with his indie-folk sound, though he leans a bit more toward indie with "Fault Lines." He added that some songs delve into pop, country and even alternative styles.

"There's something for everyone," Hoffman said. "There is a lot more sound in this album than my first, more layers and production. I was able to work with some very talented musicians to help make this thing happen."

The release of his second album has given Hoffman yet another new experience: "It's also been nice with this album to hear some of those songs played on the radio, which is a first."

A 2004 graduate of DHS, Hoffman said he has no official plans to play any local shows for "Fault Lines," at

least not yet. "My West Coast agent (my dad) has some promising leads though," Hoffman said.

**Changes at the Y**

*Dues shift to reflect household income*

**By Emily Mentzer**  
The *Itemizer-Observer*

INDEPENDENCE — The Monmouth-Independence YMCA began the year with changes to its membership program.

"We were talking about the needs of our community, and the amount of scholarships we give out," said Natascha Cronin, executive director. "Our scholarship process is really tedious. They have to bring in all this financial information, fill out all these forms; it would take up to three weeks to process."

After a meeting with the Y's CEO Sam Carroll and Cronin, along with executive directors from Salem, Silverton and Stayton, Cronin said they decided to streamline the membership dues, creating different rates depending on household income.

People must bring a copy of their federal tax forms when applying for membership, and the price will be the same at all four locations, Cronin said.

"Membership dues were different for all the branches, so that didn't make any sense," she said.

Now that the dues are the same at each location, membership is good at each place, too.

"A lot of people live here

**Y membership**

Membership for a family earning \$19,999 or less per year may join the YMCA for \$20 a month. For those in the \$20,000 to \$39,000 bracket, the cost is \$36 per month. For anyone making \$40,000 a year or more, the cost is \$52 per month for a family. For more information: [theyonline.org](http://theyonline.org).

and work in Salem," Cronin said. "Salem offers a lot more than what we offer."

With a year-round pool, the Salem Y offers year-round swim lessons, something Cronin said she plans to take advantage of with her infant daughter.

The Y still offers scholarships. People do not have to be members to participate in programs, including in youth sports, which also was changed to reflect income.

"If you fall in the lowest income bracket, you get 50 percent off youth sports fees," Cronin said.

Also, the Y has waived its \$40 joining fee for the month of January.

"Membership for us in Monmouth and Independence is still relatively new," Cronin said. "Ultimately, this will streamline the process for people. Hopefully, they'll take advantage of it."

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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 & Saturday Jan 8 - Jan 9**

DADDY'S HOME (Digital) (PG13)	(12:20 2:40 5:00)	7:20 9:45
BIG SHORT (Digital) (R)	(1:20 4:10)	7:00 9:40
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:50 6:50)	9:50
JOY (Digital) (PG13)	(1:05)	9:50
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:10 3:15)	6:20 9:25
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(1:25 4:40)	8:00
THE FOREST (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:05)	7:25 9:45
SISTERS (Digital) (R)	(1:15 3:55)	6:40 9:20
THE HATEFUL EIGHT (Digital) (R)	(12:25 4:00)	7:30

**Sunday January 10**

DADDY'S HOME (Digital) (PG13)	(12:20 2:40 5:00)	7:20
BIG SHORT (Digital) (R)	(1:20 4:10)	7:00
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:50 6:50)	9:50
JOY (Digital) (PG13)	(1:05)	9:50
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:10 3:15)	6:20
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(1:25 4:40)	8:00
THE FOREST (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:05)	7:25
SISTERS (Digital) (R)	(1:15 3:55)	6:40
THE HATEFUL EIGHT (Digital) (R)	(12:25 4:00)	7:30

**Monday - Thursday Jan 11 - Jan 14**

DADDY'S HOME (Digital) (PG13)	(2:40 5:00)	7:20
BIG SHORT (Digital) (R)	(4:10)	7:00
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:50 6:50)	9:50
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:15)	6:20
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THE FOREST (Digital) (PG13)	(2:45 5:05)	7:25
SISTERS (Digital) (R)	(1:15 3:55)	6:40
THE HATEFUL EIGHT (Digital) (R)	(4:00)	7:30

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