

**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
Jan. 19	48	44	.92
Jan. 20	49	38	.11
Jan. 21	54	46	.22
Jan. 22	60	47	.38
Jan. 23	53	44	.25
Jan. 24	49	42	.T
Jan. 25	58	42	.00

Rainfall during Jan. — 6.16 in.  
Rain through Jan. 25 — 6.16 in.



**Soon hiring finance manager**

*Polk County to separate treasurer into two positions*

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

DALLAS — The Polk County Board of Commissioners has directed its legal staff to draft a resolution changing the duties of its elected treasurer.

In Polk County, which is required by law to have a treasurer, the job includes being the county's financial manager in addition to the responsibilities required by Oregon statute.

Current Treasurer Linda Fox, also a certified public accountant, has been performing all of those duties for three terms. She will not be seeking a fourth term.

County leaders are nervous leaving the "financial manager" piece part of the office and allowing the next election to find the next person to fill that role. County

Administrator Greg Hansen said Fox's qualifications would be hard to match, but also required, as accounting rules are more complicated. "I would be shocked if that occurred through that process," Hansen said.

Hansen recommends reducing the position to the duties mandated by state law, which would make the position part time. The treasurer's salary would be reduced accordingly to \$1,000 a month, accounting for about 20 percent of Fox's time.

Hansen said he wanted to have a decision made before the March filing deadline for the May primary to alert potential candidates about the changes.

The other 80 percent of Fox's job is dedicated to running the finances of the county, managing about \$60 million each year.

The move creates a new position of finance manager that comes with a monthly stipend of \$5,850. The Polk County Compensation Board, the three nonelected members of the budget committee, approved Hansen's recommendation, but the final say is with the commissioners.

The board didn't take a vote on the recommendation at its meeting Tuesday, but it was leaning toward approving it.

"To me this just makes good business sense," said Jennifer Wheeler, the board's chairwoman. "We've gotten really, really lucky."

Polk County's attorney Morgan Smith said he would draft a resolution outlining the reorganization the change will require and the treasurer's new duties for the board's approval on Feb. 3.

**Indy approves agreement with Tokola**

*Contract gives redevelopment terms for Valley Concrete site*

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

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence City Council approved an exclusive negotiating agreement on Tuesday with Tokola Properties Inc. for the redevelopment of the former Valley Concrete site.

The agreement means the city will not seek to put the 20-acre property back on the market for 180 days.

"The end goal is to get us to the point where we have a disposition and development agreement, where we spell out the terms, have planning and zoning in place, cost share, and price we will be paid for the property," City Manager David

Clyne said. He laughingly compared it to a prenuptial agreement, Clyne said.

"It's not far from that," he said. "We're partners and will be throughout. We want to have our vision fulfilled."

Councilor Nancy Lodge requested that the agreement include provisions for sustainable building and operations, to which the developers from Tokola Properties — who were present at Tuesday's meeting — agreed. "I feel what we're doing today is going to impact the city and our citizens for way beyond me," Lodge said. "So I want to make sure we have something in there that pushes it."

The next steps will be a

memorandum of understanding, followed by the disposition and development agreement.

The city purchased the property in December 2014 from Valley Concrete when the company moved its gravel site from the riverfront.

It has invested roughly \$1.2 million in the land, including the purchase price of \$800,000, to make it "shovel-ready," or ready to build on for potential developers.

Tokola Properties was selected from three developers who showed an interest in the land. Preliminary plans could include mixed housing and retail, as well as a hotel.

**Deadline changed on business filings**

**Itemizer-Observer staff report**

SALEM — If you own a business, even a home-based business, Oregon law requires you to file a yearly personal property tax return with your county assessor. In 2016, that deadline has changed.

You must complete and return it to the assessor, file it online, or postmark it on or before March 15. No extensions are available.

Completed returns must include a detailed list of all business-related personal

property, along with equipment purchases or lease dates, and original costs.

Personal property includes: office furniture, personal computers, and easily moved machinery; off-road vehicles; display cases if they are used in the business; leased equipment including copiers and power washers.

The county assessor calculates the tax due each year based on the personal property return. The assessor will not impose a tax if the property value is under the can-

cellation threshold.

Business owners must file a return each year. If a business owner doesn't file, penalties vary from 5 percent to 50 percent of the taxes due, depending on when the return is filed.

Assessors will calculate tax, penalty, and interest for up to the previous five years if a business hasn't reported personal property in the prior years. For forms and a complete list of taxable personal property, visit [www.oregon.gov/dor](http://www.oregon.gov/dor).

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Voting, nominations open for MI awards**

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — The voting is open for the 51st annual Community Awards Banquet, hosted by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce.

Voting is online, and will be just one round this year, compared to two rounds last year. Online ballots will close at midnight on Feb. 12.

All chamber members are included in the business award categories, as well as nomination forms for First Citizen, First Junior Citizen, Distinguished Service, Educator of the Year, and Educator Support Staff of the Year.

The banquet will be at 6:30 p.m., with social hour starting at 5:30, on March 4 at Eola Hills Wine Cellars. Tickets are \$40.

For more information, to register, vote or nominate someone: [www.micc-or.org](http://www.micc-or.org).

**Dallas awarded money for mural**

DALLAS — The Dallas Downtown Association was awarded \$5,100 from the 2016 Arts Build Communities grant from the Oregon Arts Commission on Friday.

The money will be used to support the creation of a 15-by-60 foot mural in the historic area of Dallas. The mural will be based on an 1800's photo, depicting a logging train pulling into Dallas Station. The project will integrate art and history to celebrate Dallas history.

Grant money will support artist fees and supplies.

**Polk wines, vineyards commended**

POLK COUNTY — Vineyards and wineries from Polk County were well-represented in Wine Spectator's February issue, which was on newsstands Tuesday.

Bethel Heights, Bjornson, Cherry Hill, Cubanismo, Eola Hills, Expression, Left Coast Cellars, Van Duzer, and Zenith were among those listed in Wine Spectator's editor-at-large Harvey Steinman's compilation of 650 of his favorite wines from Oregon. Steinman is the magazine's lead taster of Oregon wines.

To see the entire list, go to [www.winespectator.com](http://www.winespectator.com).

**Sheriff's office recruits for SALT**

POLK COUNTY — The Polk County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for volunteers in the SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) program.

Although the name implies that it is a seniors program, it is open to all qualified individuals who are 21 years of age or older. The minimum requirement for volunteer hours for unit members is eight hours per month.

Activities include transporting evidence to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab in Springfield, fingerprinting, office and computer work, court entrance scanning, county road patrol and civil document service.

Anyone interested may attend a SALT open meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Polk County Courthouse Conference Room.

If you have questions about the unit or plan to attend the information meeting: Kathleen Noll, 503-851-9097.

**Clyne receives merit increase**

INDEPENDENCE — The Independence City Council approved a 3.5 percent merit increase for City Manager David Clyne at Tuesday morning's council meeting.

It is the third time the city manager has received a merit increase, Mayor John McArdle said. The raise comes in addition to a cost-of-living increase, to be determined at a later date.

The raise is retroactive to July 1, 2015, the start of the city's fiscal year.

The increase brings Clyne's annual salary to just about \$113,000, compared to \$140,000 for the city manager in Dallas and \$126,000 in Monmouth.

Clyne has worked as Independence's city manager for five and a half years.

**Central presents 'Bang, Bang' encore**

INDEPENDENCE — Central High School will present an encore performance of the play, "Bang, Bang, You're Dead," at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Admission is a suggested \$2 donation, which will help pay for students to attend regional and state thespian competitions.

The show sold out, even after adding an additional 80 seats to the stage, director Jeff Witt said.

Because of the content, this show is recommended for those middle-school aged and older. The first part of the show, students will practice for the regional acting festival, to be co-hosted by CHS on Feb. 6.

The play will be performed after an intermission.

Show up early to grab a seat. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information: [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

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