

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

David Ritchey, on the Monmouth-Independence Networks board of directors, did not work for the Monmouth Police Department. He was a reserve officer, which is a volunteer position. As of Tuesday, Ritchey is filling in as a part-time, temporary officer. The I-O regrets the confusion.
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 ionews@polkio.com.

WEBSITE

The *Polk County Itemizer-Observer* website, 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
Feb. 23	60	31	.00
Feb. 24	63	37	.T
Feb. 25	64	37	.00
Feb. 26	57	40	.28
Feb. 27	60	45	.05
Feb. 28	55	41	.16
Feb. 29	55	39	.11

Rainfall during Feb. — 2.91 in.
Rain through Feb. 29 — 10.73 in.

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a great place to spend some time.

LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
Monday 7:00 p.m.
March 14th
503-838-2075
Location: Business Office
8585 Saver Rd. • Monmouth



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer
Independence City Council President Nancy Lodge reads a fuji apple tree, one of three that will be planted in a hole she dug, with Rick Schack in Inspiration Garden.

No space too small to garden

Gardeners demonstrate 'small space, easy harvest' orchard

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — In the fruit orchard at the Inspiration Garden at Mount Fir Park, three fruit trees share one hole. They were placed in their new home on Friday.
It isn't a mistake, but a new way to make more out of small spaces, said Darrell Ward, Polk County Master Gardener.
"There is a new technique that has come out for the urban gardener that requires absolutely no space," he said.

By planting three trees, each a different variety and blooming cycle, urban gardeners can enjoy fruit for a longer season, Ward said.
"There will be one that blooms early, one mid-bloom and one late bloom," he said. "So an urban gardener that just had room for one box could essentially have three varieties of apples, and they would be harvestable from early August to September-October."

Each cluster was planted in a 4-by-4 foot box to help control growth, weeds and to raise the plants up in a particularly wet part of the garden, Ward said.
The trees will be kept small through pruning.
Because they are starting out in one hole, they will have to compete for nutrients, which will also slow growth, Ward said.
"We will keep those down to a max of 8 feet high and 8 feet across," he said. "We'll treat the whole thing as one tree."

Now is the time to be planting any new trees, fruiting or otherwise, Ward said.
"You could have gone a little earlier, but with the weather we've had, this is almost ideal," he said. "You at least have enough good weather that it's halfway dry."

The trees were bought through a \$500 grant from Tree City USA to help pay for the "small space, easy harvest" fruit tree demonstration.

About a dozen people from the city of Independence joined Master Gardeners Friday morning to learn how to plant the fruit trees.
City Council President Nancy Lodge picked up a shovel and started digging.

The fruit orchard features apple, peach, persimmon, quince, plum and crabapple trees.
A total of 46 fruit trees will be planted in 2016 and 2017.
The orchard includes a more traditional layout, with single fruit trees, as well as the small space, easy harvest demonstration.
The Inspiration Garden has a variety of display gardens, from winter, children's, a memorial rose garden,

vegetable, medicinal and a Japanese garden.
It is on F Street in Independence.

Plant fruit

- Darrell Ward, Polk County Master Gardener, recommends using raised boxes to plant wherever possible to help control growth and weeds. It also helps if the ground doesn't drain well.
- Use three fruit trees of varying blooming times to extend harvesting.
- Find trees of similar age. If one tree is older, it may be more successful in getting nutrients and outgrow the others.
- The first cut is the hardest, Ward said. On Friday, he struggled to cut the 2- and 3-year-old trees down to just 18 inches from the ground. It seems counterintuitive to slash that much of the tree off so early, but Ward said it is necessary to control the growth and keep them small.
- Plant the three trees in one hole about 18 inches wide and trim them together as one tree.
- For more information about gardening: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/mg>.

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Grant to outfit FC's athletes

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — High school and middle school sports teams in Falls City will soon be donning new uniforms thanks to a grant through the Portland Trail Blazers.
Falls City will receive \$2,000 to buy new uniforms through the grant. The district is working to determine which teams will benefit.
"A needs assessment will be completed in order to see where the funds will go," said Falls City High

School physical education teacher Emily Kenagy, who applied for the grant.
On Monday, Kenagy and a group of five students will be heading to the Moda Center, the Blazers home court, to accept the grant.
The grant is through Trail Blazers Foundation's Take it to the Court for Education program, sponsored by Wells Fargo.
This year \$100,000 in grants went to 20 schools in Oregon.
For more information about the grant, go to <http://www.nba.com/blazers/community/foundation>.

Casa orientation to begin this Friday

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — Casa (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) is holding its volunteer orientation on Friday at the Polk County Courthouse conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas, from 5 to 6 p.m.
Orientation introduces potential volunteers to what the program does before the required 10-week training class begins March 18. Casa officials are hoping to graduate a class of 12 from its spring training.
Polk County's program needs help to reach its goal of "a casa for every child" by 2018.
To foster that growth, Casa will host new fundraisers this year: the Casa Superhero Race, in partnership with Casa of Marion County, on April 9, and a golf tournament later in the year. The run will take

place at Salem's Waterfront Park and feature 5K, 10K and 1 mile races. To sign up, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/OR/Salem/CASARUN>.
Also, Polk County Casa has teamed up with the Willamette Valley Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse, or Baca. Similar to Casa, the group advocates for foster children, using their motorcycles and "tough guy" personas to make foster children feel secure and supported.

Join the team
What: Casa volunteer training orientation.
When: Friday at 5 p.m.
Where: Polk County Courthouse conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas.
For more information: 503-623-8473.

Retirement may be far off, but the April 18 deadline for IRA contributions isn't.

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Sudoku
Difficulty: ★★★★★

Row →

Three-by-three square →

Column ↓

9	1		2					
			6				5	
				4	3			
3			6	2				
	5		7	2			8	
		2	5	7	3			
7								2
5								3
	3	1	2				4	6

How to do Sudoku
Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy
The Christian Science Monitor