

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

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 email to emnter@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, Twitter and Instagram. Watch for breaking news, links to stories, sports scores updates and more.

WEATHER

RECORDED	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
April 26.....	60	35	.01
April 27.....	61	47	.05
April 28.....	64	45	.00
April 29.....	59	46	.03
April 30.....	67	39	.00
May 1.....	83	47	.00
May 2.....	86	50	.00

Rainfall during April — 2.04 in.
Rain through May 2 — 19.13 in.



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Sat 9-4



CHRIS COLE/for the *Itemizer-Observer*

The Spring Dance Concert returns to Western Oregon starting on Thursday.

Moto-warriors to take stage

40th annual Spring Dance Concert to open Thursday

By Emily Mentzer

The *Itemizer-Observer*

MONMOUTH — The language of dance is not set in stone, especially when it comes to modern dance.

A group of male dancers will take the stage Thursday during the 40th annual Spring Dance Concert at Western Oregon University — on hover boards.

“They’ll be running around doing things on (hover boards), moving in different ways,” said Darryl Thomas, dance department faculty. “We’ve experimented a lot of ways to find vocabulary, meaning things they can do on the boards that we can then set and teach other people how to do that movement.”

Dance vocabulary is similar to words, but in modern dance, choreographers are able to make up new words, Thomas said.

“You can experiment in modern dance with things like hover boards,” Thomas said. “Whereas with traditional dance, like ballet, there’s a set vocabulary already. There’s moves that you do that everybody knows the name.”

Like with spoken words, dance moves can mean different things depending on

Check it out:

What: Western Oregon University’s dance department’s 40th annual Spring Dance Concert.

When: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Rice Auditorium.

Admission: General, \$12; seniors, \$10; students, \$7.

For more information: wou.edu.

context, he said. “It’s really more poetic,” Thomas said. “With modern dance, we’re always trying to balance how to create an image, how to tell a story, how to give meaning to movement and how to create something that connects with people.”

Choreographers use the title of their dance to help clue people in, he said.

The hover boards are just one performance in the concert. The evening also will feature a ballet number, hula and more forms of modern dance, Thomas said.

The dancers themselves come from a variety of backgrounds, from those who have been out of the dance world for years to those who live and breathe dance daily.

Maia Jones is a non-traditional student at WOU who is taking classes to continue her education. This year, she

got a part in the concert. It has been a long time since Jones has performed on stage, though she does come from a dance background.

“It’s challenging to get back into (dance),” she said.

Jones was selected to perform in Kristie Martinez’s piece, and said it’s been fun working with her.

“We mesh well,” Jones said. “She’s been really professional in rehearsals. That’s what I’ve really appreciated about this experience, is this dance department takes their performances very seriously.”

The concert includes student and faculty choreographers, and guest choreographer Mark Santillano.

Minet better, but not good

By Emily Mentzer

The *Itemizer-Observer*

INDEPENDENCE — Monmouth Independence Networks (Minet) has made strides when it comes to taking care of its expenses and debt, but still has work to do, according to Doug Dawson, president of CCG Consulting out of Florida.

Dawson evaluated the company two years ago, and was asked to look again to see how Minet could improve its bottom line.

“Most of the items I recommended in (the old) report has been done,” Dawson said at Thursday’s Minet board meeting. “From what I can tell, the company is operationally sound right now, but you still have a loss.”

In the last year, the cities of Monmouth and Independence have been asked to cover debt payments on behalf of Minet to the tune of roughly \$800,000. Both cities have written off the debt, which was taken out by the cities jointly to get the cable, data and telephone company off the ground.

Dawson said many of the reasons Minet struggles are out of its control, such as climbing programming costs from networks — some of which have gone up 360 percent in the last year — and changing regulations regarding access charges, which the Federal Communications Commission will phase out entirely.

To focus on what Minet can do, Dawson said the

board will need to re-evaluate its policies surrounding discounts, the way the company charges for data and increase rates to keep up with programming costs.

Discounts given by Minet to customers have doubled since Dawson did his first report, he said.

Dawson said the board could adopt a policy of zero discounts, noting it would likely cost the company some customers, but said it would probably make the company better off in the long run.

Another thing Minet could do is increase the data charges for those who only subscribe to the internet and to businesses.

He said if costs were increased to those customers who receive just one service — as well as to businesses who subscribe to data — the company could gain roughly \$250,000 a year in revenue.

While making all the suggested changes would not get Minet in a position to pay all of its debt each year — something that is roughly \$1 million — it may get them down to under \$500,000, Dawson said.

“There’s still one dark cloud on the horizon,” Dawson said. “You’re still looking at the fact that your equipment is massively obsolete. It could crap out on you and you wouldn’t be able to replace it, and you’d go dark.”

That means at some point, Minet will have to look into replacing 10-year old technology, he said.

OPENS Tomorrow! **POLK COUNTY Bounty MARKET** **7th Season!**
May 5 - Sept. 29
 General Vendors 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Food Vendors 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

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Confirmed opening day vendors: Akha Farm (6th season); Bermudez Family Farm (7th Season); Black Rock BBQ (New vendor); City of Dallas - Dallas Fire & EMS (2nd season); Critelli Sweets (New vendor); Cryptic Cuisine (New vendor); Edie’s Designs (3rd season); El Pique (6th season); Geovalue Organics (New vendor); Hound Boy Bakery LLC. (New vendor); Howling Wolves Farm (New vendor); Massage by Ty (New vendor); Mrs. Sew & Sew (New vendor); Rosie’s Scottish Goodies (7th season); Sisters Treasures ReImagined (New vendor); The Soap Store (3rd season); Xiong Garden - Fresh cut flowers (New vendor)

Seeking: Vendors, Non-Profit Organizations and Sponsors
182 Academy St., Dallas (Corner of Main & Academy)

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