

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

In the June 1 edition, the *Itemizer-Observer* put that the Polk County Republican Women will meet Wednesday (today). The group will not meet in June, July or August. The *I-O* regrets the error.

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 emntzer@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
May 31.....	88	50	.00
June 1.....	83	53	.00
June 2.....	70	57	.19
June 3.....	88	53	.00
June 4.....	99	61	.00
June 5.....	95	65	.00
June 6.....	94	61	.00

Rainfall during June — .19 in.
Rain through June 6 — 20.49 in.

RECYCLE

A little effort.

A big difference.

Dallas schools test for lead in water, radon in air to increase safety of kids

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



DALLAS — Drinking fountains and kitchen taps in all six Dallas School District schools will be tested for lead contamination this week.

Each facility will have 20 drinking fountains, taps and classroom fountains tested based on the amount of use and suspected condition of the pipes at some locations.

Facilities Director Kevin Montague said the tests are in response to concerns about the handling of positive lead tests in Portland Public Schools.

Like many school districts across the state, Dallas has not tested fountains and taps at its schools regularly. There hasn't been a requirement for schools to do so, Montague said.

In 2013, the district tested

a few classrooms at Lyle Elementary School, mostly checking the condition of the pipes at the school, built in 1950.

One classroom faucet tested positive for lead near the end of winter break. It hadn't been used in two weeks. A second test on the same tap was taken after the

water had been running for 30 seconds and no lead was detected.

A follow-up test conducted in March of 2013 also found no contamination. Tests at Whitworth, Morrison and another classroom at Lyle were added as a precaution, and no other taps tested positive.

This week's testing is likely to be the new normal for the district as Montague anticipates regular testing will become a requirement soon.

"Really it makes sense. We test our fire systems every year, so we should," he said. "We should be doing our due diligence on that."

The tests will cost the district more than \$2,000, and that is with a discount labs are giving schools to conduct tests in the wake of findings in Portland.

Test results should be available within a couple

weeks, though they may be delayed due to the number of screenings being conducted now, Montague said.

Montague didn't speculate on what the tests would find, but did say that with buildings 60 or more years old, it is possible to have positive tests.

If that happens, the district will conduct additional tests and complete any necessary upgrades to eliminate the problem.

"We will follow up on any positive we get," Montague said.

The district will be conducting tests of a different type early next fall. Testing for radon, a radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer, is now a requirement for districts in Oregon.

Montague said "short-term testing" over two to seven days will take place in October at all schools. If any

of those test show results exceeding federal thresholds, long-term testing — up to nine months — will be conducted.

Dallas schools were tested in 2001 and the only "hot spots" were found in LaCreole Middle School. Subsequent tests revealed levels lower than the threshold.

Based on those tests and upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that circulate more outside air within the buildings, Montague doesn't believe radon will be an issue. If not, flushing radon out of the environment may require adjustments to air flow patterns.

"Most of it can be taken care of with HVAC tweaks," he said.

Results from initial radon testing should return in December.

Reporter prepares self, cat for disaster

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

My cat, Boo, is better prepared for an emergency than I am.

Not that he knows it. Boo was lazily lounging on the floor in the heat while I sorted through his stock of supplies Sunday. I told him about it, but I don't think it registered. He just lifted his head, blinked and went back to resting.

He has more than 14 days of food because the thought of him being hungry and having nothing to offer breaks my heart.

While purchasing extra food for him in past weeks, it occurred to me that I should get started on my kit, too. Can't take care of him if I don't take care of myself, right?

I finally did, starting with

the Week 1 list that appeared in the June 1 edition of the *I-O*.

Two gallons of water, peanut butter, three cans of meat (tuna fish in my case because unlike my cat, I don't eat "land meat") and a Sharpie to mark expiration dates. Check!

I plan to stick with the 24-week calendar and have a full kit by November.

But remember, you can do this at your own pace. The important thing is to get started and keeping working on it.

And don't forget your pets.

The American Red Cross has designed a 24-week calendar to build a two-week home disaster kit. The following is the second week. The *I-O* will occasionally supplement the checklist with tips from local experts. To see other weeks, go to www.polkio.com.

Build your kit: Week 2

- Heavy cotton or hemp rope
 - Duct tape
 - Two flashlights with batteries
 - Matches in waterproof container for outside use only with appropriate camp stove or barbecue.
- Actions steps: Sign up for First Aid/ CPR class.
Optional items: leash or carrier for your pet, extra set of I.D. tags.
Source: American Red Cross.

Itemizer-Observer Your local news source

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Summer Celebration Programs 2016

RESERVE BY JUNE 10TH!

4th of July Celebrations
Publishes June 29th

Summerfest
Publishes July 27th

Polk County Fair
Publishes August 10th

Hop & Heritage Festival
Publishes September 14th

Contact Heidi, Rachel or Karen by June 10th to be a part of this special!

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