

Minet plans to expand

Company in talks with city of Jefferson for services

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Monmouth-Independence Networks may start providing services to the city of Jefferson, said Don Patten, general manager of Minet.

“We’re going to put our beta test over in Jefferson as early as next week,” he said at Thursday’s board meeting. “I want that revenue coming in, and Jefferson is just pummeling me to get this thing moving.”

Patten said the Jefferson city council has come to consensus to move ahead with business planning, engineering, an intergovernmental agreement and setting up a beta test.

He said the city has 1,200 potential customers, and has guaranteed Minet would have 600 new customers for internet along with telephone hookups. Patten estimated the annual revenue at \$265,000 to \$295,000 from the venture.

Patten noted that Minet would have to consider increasing staffing to accommodate the agreement with Jefferson, as well as any other expansion opportunities.

According to the current intergovernmental agreement between the cities of Monmouth and Independence, dated 2009 — which is the governing document for Minet — all new service agreements must be approved by the Minet board of directors with a two-thirds vote.

The proposal with Jefferson was not voted on by the board at its Thursday meeting.

Board member Scott McClure said the board needs to have a full discussion on whether or not to move forward with the arrangement with Jefferson — and any future expansions.

“We want to know what projected revenues are; what expenses are; what staffing needs are,” McClure said. “And also just cash flow issues. Are we now front-loading some costs, and then that plays into when the revenue starts kicking in.”

McClure said the board will be getting questions and needs to have the information to answer those questions.

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COURTNEY MAY/Itemizer-Observer
Chris Lillegard, right, and legal assistant Linda Baker will retire from the law firm at the same time.

DEFENSE RESTS

Longtime Dallas attorney Lillegard retires after 40 years

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Friends have been telling Chris Lillegard that retirement will grow on him.

The longtime Dallas attorney isn’t buying it yet.

“Everybody says I’m not going to miss getting up and going to work, but it just sounds a little bit weird to me right now,” he said.

On Sept. 25, Lillegard will have been working for 40 years. He retires at the end of this month, except for a few projects he’s working to finish around the end of the year.

That may take some adjustment, so it’s a good thing

Lillegard plans to stay busy.

His primary home is in Bend, where there’s a bevy of outdoor activities to keep him occupied. Also, he and his wife, Marji, retired from a career at Microsoft, have eight grandchildren to spoil.

“That’s plenty to keep you busy,” Lillegard said with a smile and chuckle.

Lillegard spent his entire career in Dallas, saying he never had the desire to leave “to go to the big city.”

“It’s a great place for children to grow up,” he said, referring to his four children, Nathan, Sarah, Susie and Carissa. “I like that independence I’ve had running my own practice. I like the

friendships I’ve built with the people at the (Polk County) Courthouse and people I work with.”

For all his love of being a small-town lawyer, Lillegard hadn’t planned on going to law school until after taking a friend’s advice.

“I didn’t have a clue in college, and a friend suggested I take the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test). I did that and did real well on it,” he said. “I didn’t have anything else in mind. I was working in the woods logging in the summertime. I knew I didn’t want to do that full time.”

Lillegard began his career in 1975 as a law clerk in the in the firm Hayter, Shetterly,

Noble & Weiser before earning his law degree in 1976 from Willamette University, according a 1996 *Itemizer-Observer* story marking his 20th anniversary.

Coincidentally, he met a person who would become a key staff member, Linda Baker — his “work wife” — while at the Shetterly firm.

The pair will make their career exit together, Baker retiring after more than 29 years of working as a law clerk for Lillegard.

“I always figured when Linda wanted to retire, I would retire,” Lillegard said. “I don’t know what I would do without her.”

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JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer
First grade teacher Stephanie Hofferber helps Dehvin Brumley-Allison with putting crayons in a container at Orientation Day at Lyle Elementary School on Tuesday morning. First through third graders were introduced to their teachers and dropped off supplies during Orientation Day. Regular classes begin on Wednesday (today).

IN
YOUR
TOWN

DALLAS

New principal at Oakdale eager to shape lives.

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FALLS CITY

Meet Andy Rommel, Wagner’s new director.

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INDEPENDENCE

Buzz Brazeau works double as Central’s principal.

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MONMOUTH

New BG’s Bar-B-Que brings the smoke.

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SPORTS

Central’s girls soccer team finds its stride against North Salem.

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ELECTIONS

Central and Falls City school bonds.

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Firefighters respond to blaze at Chase Grill

Itemizer-Observer staff report

INDEPENDENCE — Polk County Fire District No. 1 responded to a commercial structure fire at Chase Bar and Grill on Thursday morning.

Fire crews responded at 4:09 a.m. to 1083 Monmouth St., Independence.

Smoke was visible from Monmouth Street as personnel arrived on scene and fire was present on the back side exterior of the building.

Firefighters remained on scene for approximately two hours while searching for fire hot spots and conducting an investigation.

Independence and Monmouth Police Departments, the Polk County Sheriff’s Office and Southwest Polk Fire assisted on the call.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, though the fire appears to have started on the outside of the building and extended into the walls and onto roofing materials, according to a release.

Property loss is yet to be determined.

No civilians or firefighters were injured.

THE NEXT
7
DAYS
PLANNING
FOR YOUR
WEEK

wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	mon	tue
Grab your dictionary and put your spelling to the test in Scrabble with Betty, Independence Public Library. 1 p.m. Free.	Get involved in the business community through the Independence Downtown Association. 8 a.m. Free.	Show your boss some appreciation by celebrating National Hug Your Boss Day!	Independence pilots in EAA Chapter 292 will give Young Eagle flights in planes to youths aged 8 to 17. 9-11:30 a.m. Free.	Happy Grandparent’s Day! Celebrate by giving them a call, or take a trip through memory lane if they are no longer with us.	Hear about retracing the steps of the Oregon Trail at a presentation at the Independence Heritage Museum. 7 p.m. Free.	Dallas’ Tuesday on the Square in downtown will have art and wine, and celebrate 100 years of Rotary. 4-7 p.m. Free.
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