

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 ementzer@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
Oct. 25.....	65	51	.03
Oct. 26.....	65	53	.94
Oct. 27.....	58	49	.38
Oct. 28.....	66	46	.TT
Oct. 29.....	65	46	.01
Oct. 30.....	56	45	.14
Oct. 31.....	61	51	.40

Rainfall during Oct. — 11.25 in.
Rain through Oct. 31 — 34.95 in.



Minet seeks to improve

Company needs upgrades to system as it seeks to expand

By Emily Mentzer
The *Itemizer-Observer*

INDEPENDENCE — Monmouth Independence Networks has seen increased demand on its bandwidth with the frequent use of more devices and streaming of data, said PJ Armstrong, Minet's technology manager, at the Minet board of directors meeting on Thursday.

"Last calendar year, we were probably hitting six gigabits of traffic, something like that," Armstrong said. "What we've found, as students have returned and we've bumped those data rates, we're hitting our six-gig cap, so what we've found is a possible issue with our core router. We've been working with LS Networks, our upstream provider."

The issue isn't in the service itself, said executive director Don Patten, but rather with equipment.

"We purchase the ability to provide up to 10 gigs," he said. "We're pulling all of six gigs, but we can't seem to pull anymore, even though we have the ability to pull the full 10. We have some limitation that had not been previously identified in our systems. Now that we're aware of it, we're trying to correct it."

Board member Mike Lodge asked if Minet cus-

tomers were receiving throttled service — meaning that the more people are online, the slower the internet service is.

"Essentially, we are throttling ourselves," Patten said. "We're not intending to do that. It's our equipment."

The issue impacts both speed and capacity, Armstrong said, and upgrades to routers should improve the situation.

The passive optical network also needs upgrading, Armstrong said.

"We have engaged an outside consultant to guide us in the process of an upgrade," he said. "We're having discussions with multiple vendors. It's expensive, but we have discovered it may be 20 to 30 percent less cost than we thought it would be."

Patten said as Minet looks to expand services to customers outside the boundaries of Monmouth and Independence, the company needs to look at upgrading through used equipment.

The talk of expanding Minet's boundaries came up again during a review of the intergovernmental agreement that governs the company, signed by councils from both Monmouth and Independence to create Minet in 2004.

Some of the language in the IGA was outdated, board

chair Scott McClure said, and needed to be updated.

Mark Theones, Minet's finance officer, said he wanted more definition in the IGA — the sole governing document of Minet — about what the term "surplus" means.

McClure said that surplus is defined by revenue after the initial startup debt is recovered and operational expenses were covered.

"That would be fine if you weren't working with a company with growth, but with Minet, moving forward into the city of Jefferson, there's going to have to be upfront capital required, and it's not a small amount," Theones said. "Minet's not going to be able to go into these business ventures without upfront capital."

Board member David Ritchey pointed out that the board of directors was the one who would declare what was surplus, according to the language of the IGA.

Ungricht seeks code solutions

By Jolene Guzman
The *Itemizer-Observer*

FALLS CITY — Terry Ungricht, the mayor of Falls City, said the biggest challenge of his first term was figuring out a solution to the lack of code enforcement in his city.

His second term is approaching — he's running unopposed — and that struggle continues, but Ungricht is hoping the city is closer to a fix.

In October, the city had its attorney review its nuisance code, and Ungricht found that the Falls City City Council is authorized to review cases under the current regulations. The council is not authorized to levy fines, Ungricht noted, but that can be changed.

Ungricht said the city attorney suggested a qualified code enforcement officer should review the nuisance codes to streamline the process. He added he would

prefer that the city contract with a code officer for the purposes of identifying violations, issuing citations, and presenting cases.

Ungricht said Friday he hasn't had any luck finding an officer to help so far, and still is trying to locate the city's former code enforcer, Bob Crowson.

"Then there's still the argument about who will hear the cases," Ungricht said.

He said the council seemed supportive of the idea that the council could hear the cases, but was debating how that should be structured. One suggestion was to have two councilors hear and vote on a case initially. If they disagree, the case could be taken to the full council.

Ungricht said restoring enforcement isn't to collect fines, but to help residents understand the code and assist them in staying in compliance.



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