

DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES

For inclusion in the Wednesday holiday edition of the *Itemizer-Observer*:

Social news (weddings, engagements, anniversaries, births, milestones) — 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Community events — Noon on Thursday for both the Community Notebook and Community Calendar.

Letters to the editor — 10 a.m. on Friday.

Obituaries — 4 p.m. on Friday.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Retail display ads — 3 p.m. Thursday.

Classified display ads — 11 a.m. on Friday.

Classified line ads — Noon on Friday. Classified ads are updated daily on www.polkio.com.

Public notices — Noon on Thursday.

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 emtentzer@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
Dec. 20.....	52	32	.43
Dec. 21.....	33	28	.00
Dec. 22.....	41	30	.07
Dec. 23.....	46	34	.14
Dec. 24.....	44	29	.00
Dec. 25.....	45	27	.00
Dec. 26.....	41	24	.31

Rainfall during Dec. — 4.84 in.
Rain through Dec. 26 — 46.69 in.

Monmouth mayor reflects on decade

Steve Milligan to take the seat from John Oberst on Tuesday

By Emily Mentzer
The *Itemizer-Observer*

MONMOUTH — The city of Monmouth has completed more projects in the last decade with Mayor John Oberst at the head of the dais than it has in the 30 years prior to him taking office.

Projects completed ranged in scope from replaced sewer pipes to building a dog park, the splash fountain and amphitheater at Main Street Park, to the expansion of the Monmouth Senior Center.

On Tuesday, city councilor Steve Milligan will take the mayoral seat, having won the November election. A reception for Oberst and outgoing councilors will be held at the Tuesday council meeting at 7 p.m., along with the swearing in of Milligan as mayor and three new councilors.

Oberst didn't run for another term, partly because of his leadership philosophy.

"This is very much a personal opinion, but I believe it's important to have turnover in leadership, and opportunities for new leaders to come along and make changes in communities," Oberst said. "The only way a community stays vital is for that turnover — for younger people to serve, new people to serve. I just had this feeling that it was time to give somebody else a run at it."

Admittedly, serving as mayor for 10 years can wear on a person, Oberst said.

"It takes exactly as much time as you allow it," he said. "I thought, I want to put my energy into other things."



Photo courtesy of JOHN OBERST

Mayor John Oberst has served in the seat for 10 years. His final term will end Tuesday, when newly elected Steve Milligan will move from his seat as city councilor to take the seat of Monmouth's mayor.

Oberst has been key in many benchmarks in Monmouth. He is the one who started the ball rolling to turn the city from the last dry town in Oregon to allowing beer and wine sales.

"I was the one who asked the question," Oberst said. "When Marketplace (Monmouth grocery store) shut down, someone had to ask the question. The s-curve would have been filled long ago with Waresmart, but when they found out we had a dry law, they moved right across the (city) line so they could sell beer and wine."

Oberst and others collected enough signatures to put it on the ballot. The measure passed by 57 percent.

He saw it as economic development.

"We were shipping money out of town — literally millions of dollars a year just on food purchases at places that also happened to sell beer and wine," he said.

Once he took the mayoral seat, Oberst joined committees with the Oregon Department of Transportation, which created contacts that came in handy for the city of Monmouth.

"We have two state highways in town, and someone needed to know how to work with ODOT, and that was me," Oberst said.

Not all of Oberst's plans for streets and infrastructure have come to pass — plans to build out the rest of the s-

curves on Highway 51 were pushed back. But his connections with ODOT's Mark Garrett have paid off.

The work ODOT had planned on Highway 99 through town went from a simple repaving project to include an entire streetscape and redesign of intersections.

"That's stuff that's been a direct result of stuff I've done," Oberst said.

Oberst said he is proud of everything the city — employees and councilors alike — has accomplished for the betterment of Monmouth in the last decade.

"I give huge credit to councils and staff for all the projects, and the citizenry

for getting the citizen engagement off so beautifully," he said.

He is particularly proud of Monmouth Engaged, just completed this year.

"Monmouth Engaged, to me, is a huge thing, because we reached out to the citizenry and said, 'what do you want,' in a way that we had never done," Oberst said.

It's not the end of public engagement for Oberst, who may apply to be on the restaurant and retail committee through Monmouth Engaged.

"I might have something to offer to that group," he said. "I'm sure I'll be around: You can't keep a good loudmouth down."

LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
Monday 7:00 p.m.
January 9th
503-838-2075
Location: Business Office
8585 Suver Rd. • Monmouth

POLK FLEA MARKET
est. 1970
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Sunday, Jan. 1 • 9-3
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Regular Admission \$1 ★ Free Parking

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Sudoku solution

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

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8
450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Friday - Monday • Dec. 30 - Jan. 2

WHY HIM? (Digital) (R)	(1:40 4:15)	7:05	9:40
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(11:15 1:50 4:25)	7:05	
OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)			9:40
PASSENGERS (Digital) (PG13)	(11:10 1:50 4:30)	7:15	9:55
SING (Digital) (PG)	(1:25 2:00 4:00 4:35)	7:10	9:45
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(10:00 12:30 1:00 3:30 4:00)	6:30 7:00 9:30 10:00	
ASSASSINS CREED (Digital) (PG13)	(12:35 3:40)	6:45	9:50
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)	(10:20)	6:35	
COLLATERAL BEAUTY (Digital) (PG13)			9:25

Tuesday - Thursday • Jan. 3 - 5

WHY HIM? (Digital) (R)	(1:40 4:15)	7:05	
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(1:50 4:25)	7:05	
PASSENGERS (Digital) (PG13)	(1:50 4:30)	7:15	
SING (Digital) (PG)	(1:25 2:00 4:35)	7:10	
ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:00 3:30 4:00)	6:30	7:00
ASSASSINS CREED (Digital) (PG13)	(3:40)	6:45	
COLLATERAL BEAUTY (Digital) (PG13)	(4:15)		
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)			6:35

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

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Succession Planning Workshop Series
January 17th, 2017
February 28th, 2017

By creating a succession plan, a family's vision and intentions for their land can be addressed and implemented purposefully. Join us for this workshop series to learn more about succession planning and leaving a legacy for your family.

Orientation to Succession Planning
* Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 9am-Noon
* Western Oregon University, Werner University Center, 345 N Monmouth Ave, Monmouth

Succession Planning
* Tuesday, February 28th, 2017
* Chemekata Eola Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd, Salem
* First Session: 9am-Noon
* Lunch Provided with Registration
* Second Session: 1-4pm

Sponsored by: Polk SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Marion SWCD & Luckiamute Watershed Council

To Register go to:
www.polkswcd.com

Cost for full Series:
* \$50 per family (up to 5 people)
* Register before Dec. 24 to guarantee an orientation workbook is available for you

For more info contact:
Karin Stutzman
District Manager
Polk SWCD
manager@polkswcd.com
503-623-9680 x110

EARLY DEADLINES Our office will be **CLOSED Jan. 2**

News Department:
Social News Wedding, Engagements, Births, etc.Wednesday, Dec. 28, 4pm
Community Events Business, School, Community News ...Thursday, Dec. 29, Noon
General NewsThursday, Dec.29, Noon
Letters to the Editor/Obituaries..... Friday, Dec. 30, 10am

Advertising Department:
LegalsThursday, Dec. 29, Noon
Display Main news advertisements/insertsThursday, Dec. 29, Noon
Classified Display Friday, Dec. 30, 11am
Classified Line Ads Friday, Dec. 30, Noon

Itemizer-Observer 147 SE Court St., Dallas • 503-623-2373

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