

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

Hailey Marie Haas' name was misspelled in a photo caption on page 1A of the March 22 edition. The *I-O* regrets the error.

If you spot an error, please contact the newsroom at ionews@polkio.com, or call 503-623-2373.

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
March 21.....	64	45	.12
March 22.....	55	39	.01
March 23.....	57	35	.33
March 24.....	55	43	.69
March 25.....	54	43	.02
March 26.....	53	43	.49
March 27.....	56	44	.11

Rainfall during March — 7.41 in.
Rain through March 27 — 26.22 in.

Recycle this newspaper.

Monmouth council considers inclusivity

Resolution to be discussed at April 4 city council meeting

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Monmouth City Council took a step toward declaring the city an “inclusive” one at its March 21 meeting.

The decision came in a work session after hearing from citizens and Western Oregon University students in support of an inclusivity resolution.

Comments came during the regular meeting until Mayor Steve Milligan asked the public to refrain from commenting so that the regular meeting could move forward.

“Unless you have something to contribute to this conversation, we will take comments in the work session,” Milligan said. Generally, the council does not take public comments during a work session. “We’ll have some discussion. If you feel we’re going off track, we’ll let you help us stay on track.”

Councilor Jon Carey thanked the mayor for moving the meeting along, adding that it is important for citizens to speak their mind.

“While some of it is redundant, it is an important comment for that person to make,” he said. “I’m happy to sit here as long as it takes for all of those who wish. I understand we have an agenda to get through, but participatory democracy is a slow deal.”

The council had heard twice before from students and residents about becoming a sanctuary city, but a motion to move forward with that failed twice for a lack of second.

Councilor Byron Shinkle said he likes the spirit of the inclusivity model.

“Part of the reason I like it is, one issue I have had with this is the word ‘sanctuary’ has become a political statement,” he said. “I’m not sure that my role is to make political statements for people who live in Monmouth.”

Shinkle said that the statement is for people who don’t

feel security right now.

“It’s tough for me to walk in their shoes, admittedly, but if it provides that extra level of calm and comfort that they’re not going to get harassed for immigration status, gender identity or whatever it might be, than perhaps it should stay,” he said.

Councilor Tom Steinke said a sanctuary statement would be insulting to the city’s police officers, who already uphold the state laws.

“I think it would be insulting to the employees of Monmouth, especially our police officers who have sworn oaths to uphold the laws, to say, ‘Hey fellas and gals, we need you to not violate people’s rights. We need you to uphold the state law,’” he said. “... It’s insulting to have to say it because we’re such a nice town as it is.”

Steinke suggested the city put an inclusivity resolution or statement on the ballot in May and let the residents of Monmouth decide.

Carey said he doesn’t care if anyone gets mad over the council approving an inclusivity resolution.

“Having read it again, I don’t care what they think,” he said. “I’m happy to argue against anybody on this. Anybody who wants to argue about this, let’s go. There’s nothing here that I think any of us have to apologize for.”

During the discussion, an audience member raised his hand to contribute, but was not allowed to speak.

Milligan said he didn’t take audience comments because the council was able to deliberate and come to a decision on its own.

“When you came and told your stories, you changed the minds of some councilors,” he said. “Everything you’ve input so far has been valuable.”

Councilor Laurel Shamer invited the audience to attend the April 4 council meeting at 7 p.m. to see whether or not the council will approve an inclusivity resolution.

Courtcare gets closer

Legislature to consider paying for child care for those using Polk County Courthouse services

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — A mom who had to attend a no-contact waiver hearing brought her 3-year-old and 7-year-old kids with her to the Polk County Courthouse.

“She brought them all prepared,” said Lisa DeMoe, Polk County Victim Assistance coordinator. “They had these games and headsets. They were going to be prepared to sit still for anywhere up to 45 minutes or an hour.”

Court started late that day. No-contact waivers are always last on the docket, DeMoe said.

“We were there easily an hour and a half before she was called,” she said. “The kids started getting restless, going under the seats. They’d already been there an hour and a half sitting still.”

When it was the mom’s turn to speak to the judge, the 7-year-old stopped in his tracks, watching his mom as she cried, explaining why she wanted the no-contact lifted, DeMoe recalled.

“All I could think was there was no reason why these kids should be standing there watching this,” DeMoe said. “This is the type of thing that happens on a regular basis in our courtroom. It was heartbreaking to know that that 7-year-old was taking in everything his mom was saying.”

It’s not unusual, said District Attorney Aaron Felton.

“Everyone I work with has seen situations like Lisa describes,” he said. “Kids perceive everything. Courtrooms are not a place for children.”

To help parents who need child care while they are in court or taking care of court business, efforts are underway to establish Mid-Valley Courtcare, a service run three days a week by Family Building Blocks — licensed, trained child care providers.

The program is already in Multnomah County. House Bill 3067 will go to a legislative hearing on April 6, which would pay for a two-year pilot program in Marion and Polk counties. Marion County’s child care will be provided by the Salem YMCA.

Child care and transportation are the two things that can create barriers to success when it comes to probation, Felton said.

Find out more

Mid-Valley Courtcare efforts are underway. To write a letter of support, or to attend the hearing in front of the Legislature, midvalleycourtcare.org.

If you go to the hearing, wear navy blue as a sign of support. The color blue is also used to symbolize National Child Abuse Prevention month, which is April.

“Since I started this work, people had to bring their children to court, and they had no choice,” Felton said. “Child care is expensive. If you don’t have a friend or family member, if you’re the only one — but you have to be there for a court appearance, an arraignment, meet with your probation officer, any number of things. You have to choose your child or your court obligation.”

It’s something people who have means often take for granted, Felton said.

“If we had a resource we could tell mom or dad, we have a place for you to leave your kid that’s safe, that’s licensed and trained — it would solve so many problems with just making it easier for them to make their grand jury appearance,” Felton said.

Mid-Valley Courtcare, if funding is approved by the Legislature, would allow witnesses, victims, jurors, defendants, or anyone required to be at court access to free child care for as long as they needed it, whether that turns out to be an hour or many hours.

“Once people have been brought to justice, we put them on probation and require them to do A, B and C,” Felton said. “I want to make sure they succeed. I don’t want lack of child care to stop them from going to treatment, going to classes, whatever their PO requires of them. I don’t want this to be a barrier.”

Felton said Mid-Valley Courtcare will benefit all who work in the courthouse, from judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, witnesses, court clerks and staff.

If it’s successful, the service will be expanded to include all who use county services, such as someone who needs to meet with his or her therapist or councilor.

To get involved, go online to midvalley-courtcare.org and write a letter of support to the Legislature. Attend the hearing at 1 p.m. on April 6 at the Capitol — and wear navy blue to show your support.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPECTRUM CHANNEL LINEUP

Communities Served: Independence & Monmouth, OR

Effective on or after May 2, 2017, the following changes will be made to your channel lineup:
HSN on Basic channel 7 will relocate to channel 121.
QVC on Basic channel 3 will relocate to channel 113.
Jewelry TV on Expanded Service/Spectrum Select channel 74 will relocate to channel 174.
Evine LIVE on Basic channel 77 will relocate to channel 117.

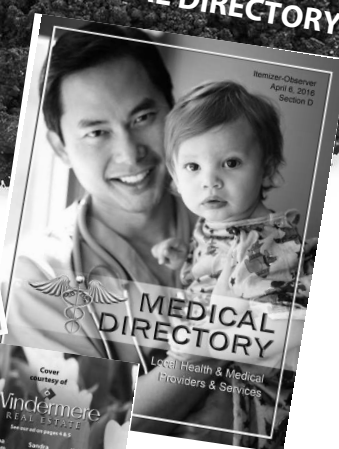
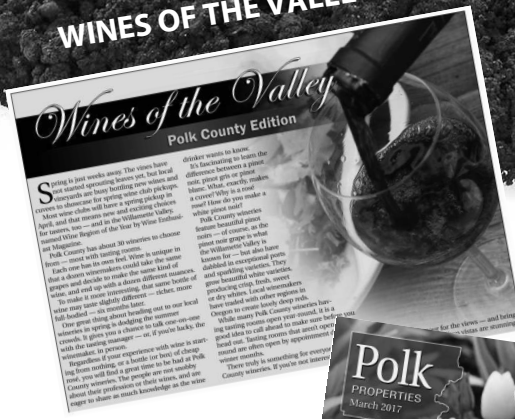
For a complete channel lineup, visit spectrum.com/channels.
 To view this notice online, visit Spectrum.net/ProgrammingNotices.

(Mar. 29, 2017)

Look What's Coming Up in the Itemizer-Observer!

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