

New 15-year bond would replace station

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer



got some major issues.” Southwestern Polk became a district in 1947, so Hertel is assuming the station was moved in the 1940s. “The military could have used it for umpteen years before that,” he said. “We don’t know.” The station is showing its age, whatever that might be,

with mold problems, roof leaks, old electrical, plumbing and heating and cooling systems, and limited training areas. Replacing the station is on a long list of items that a 15-year, \$5 million bond would pay for, if voters in the district vote in favor of it on May 16. The bond would cost taxpayers in the district 69.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties. That amounts to \$69.50 for every \$100,000 of assessed value. In addition to replacing the station, the bond would include purchasing self-con-

Learn more

- Informational forums on the bonds are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday at Bridgeport Community Church, 16930 Bridgeport Road, Dallas, and at 6 p.m. on May 2 at the Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City.
- For more information: swpolkfire.org/ or 503-831-3533.

tained breathing apparatus units. If breathing units — which cost about \$7,000 each, aren’t replaced before April 2019, firefighters won’t be able to enter burning buildings, Hertel said. “We will become an exterior-only firefighting service,” Hertel said. “That’s bad for you and bad for us, be-

cause we have to make that safety decision to stay out, and we can’t go in and effectively do a rescue.” Modern communications equipment, fire engines and other vehicles, and building a station on Salt Creek Road to improve responses to incidents on Highway 22 also would be

covered by the bond. “It adds coverage to a lot of the roads and community out in Salt Creek that currently doesn’t have 10-minute coverage,” Hertel said of the Salt Creek station. “If we get that 10-minute coverage, it has the potential to reduce their insurance.” Southwestern Polk covers 123-square miles surrounding the city limits of Dallas, including the Rickreall area. The estimated population in the district is 6,100. The district’s permanent tax rate is 86 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

American Gas & Tech to name school after Fink

By Jolene Guzman
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DALLAS — The man who sold the former Tyco Building in Dallas to American Gas & Technology will have part of the facility named after him. All future employees will train at the Harvey S. Fink Welding School at the facility, now primed to begin production of natural gas liquefiers. AG&T Chief Executive Officer Ray Tate announced the school and presented an award to Fink at the business’ open house on Thursday. Richard Ballew accepted the award on behalf of Fink, who was too ill to attend the event. Ballew is the real estate agent who helped broker the deal. “The frail man who owned this property had an offer on this building that was more than we were willing to pay,” Tate explained to the open house crowd. “He said, ‘But I want to sell it to you guys, because I want the jobs for the community of Dallas. They need the jobs so badly.’” The building needed a buyer who intended to repair it, Ballew said. He said Fink had to reclaim the

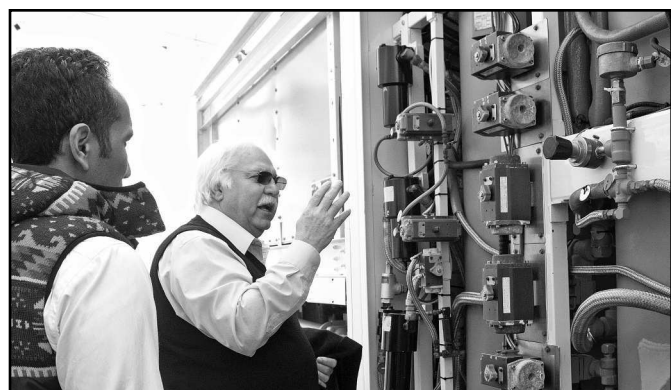


Youbert Alkhato, vice president of business development, talks about liquefiers.

building from the previous owner, and it was in poor shape. “There were 225 five-gallon buckets catching leaks, plus 55-gallon barrels catching leaks,” he said. “It was raining in here, even when it wasn’t raining when Harvey and I first (had to take the building back).” Now under the care of AG&T, the facility is leak free

and the production floor clean once again. “I spent most of the summer on the roof,” said Chris Smith, who oversaw restoring the facility. “We took down a lot of walls.” Thursday’s open house included a tour of the building and demonstration of a natural gas liquefier proto-

type. The machine takes natural gas straight from the utility, filters and chills it, and converts it to liquid for use as fuel in vehicles converted to run on liquified natural gas. Tate said the technology could be applied to landfill gas and gas produced in oil fields.



AG&T CEO Ray Tate explains how the liquefiers work during a tour on Thursday.

“We could take any of those three, or biomass, and put the gas into this machine,” Tate explained to people on the tour, which included representatives of interested investors. AG&T can build the stations in three sizes, depending on the needs of the client, at 300 gallons, 1,800 gallons and 5,000 gallons. Tate said the company is working on financing through investors and through a public offering, and could be gearing up for some production as soon as mid-summer. “We are in the middle of our production financing

and that is why they (investors) flew out, to see the building, to see the liquefier, to see our team,” Tate said. “We think we are going to get the production financing put to bed in the next 60 days.” Tate said the company has filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for a public offering. “We’ve already gotten back a comment letter from them and our attorneys, and accountants are answering the comment letter, so if we run into problems, we will then be selling stock,” Tate said. “We can sell it to anybody because we will be a public company.”

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- Keep products in original containers if possible.
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- Keep away from passengers while transporting.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Explosives
- Radioactive Waste
- Motor oil

DATE: Saturday, May 6th, 2017
TIME: From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Polk County Works (820 SW Ash St., Dallas)
SPONSORED BY: Polk County, The Cities of Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and Salem

MAY 2017 Monmouth Area Community Events Calendar

PCL
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May 2 Polk Flea Market 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Polk County's oldest and largest market with 183 tables selling antiques, collectibles, tools, etc. 520 S Pacific Hwy W. Rickreall

May 6 May is National Historic Preservation Month. To celebrate, Monmouth's Historic Commission is sponsoring this year's Historic Preservation Celebration on Saturday, May 6th from 9:30 to 11:00 am. The event will be held as part of the monthly breakfast at the Monmouth Senior Center at 180 Warren Street S. The event will feature photo displays and several presentations. Kyle Janssen, formerly of the Oregon Heritage Commission, will talk about conducting on-line research using archived copies of historic Monmouth newspapers. The Polk Cemetery Savers will present their most recent work restoring local private cemeteries in the area. Come and enjoy breakfast and hear about some local history.

May 20 Women and World War I "Sacrifice" was the word of the day for women during World War I. In addition to being asked to give up their loved ones, women were expected to maintain the family morale, bring home a paycheck, sacrifice certain items of food and clothing and to labor for social causes. The choices these women made during this stunning period of change continue to impact our own lives today. Quilt Historian Rachel Greco will discuss women's roles during this "War to End All Wars" with a special Show-and-Tell of quilts that were made during that era. Join Polk County Historical Society for their May 20th program; 1:30 in the Stafirin Room at the Polk County Museum, 560 S. Pacific Hwy, located on the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall. Light refreshments will be served. Free to the Public.

May 29 Happy Memorial Day from the Monmouth Business Association. **NO SCHOOL** grades K-12.

Discover MI Town — May 20
Presented by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, Discover MI Town is an opportunity for visitors and locals alike to explore the beautiful downtown areas of our community and showcase our wonderful local restaurants, stores, and organizations. **Saturday, May 20. 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.** Eat, Drink, Shop! Downtown Independence & Downtown Monmouth Shuttle service provided (Locations TBD)

May Forum — May 10
Wednesday, May 10. 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Eola Hills Wine Cellars (501 S Pacific Hwy, Rickreall) Topic: Tour of Eola Hills Wine Cellars
Lunch not available for purchase. Attendees may bring a sack lunch if preferred. How is wine made? Join us in May for a tour of Eola Hills Wine Cellars and learn about the wine making process from growing the grapes to bottling the wine!

Thirsty Thursday — May 18
Thirsty Thursdays are held the **third Thursday** of each month from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at member locations. Registration is requested to help the host site properly prepare. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small giveaway (less than \$10) to promote your business or organization. This month May — Pfaff-Karren Insurance, 1327 Monmouth Street, Independence

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