

County

Continued from Page 1A

CCG Consulting and its partner Finley Engineering submitted a proposal to Independence in November 2017. The proposal said a study would look in to the possibility of building a network with one provider — such as the county — and the feasibility of leasing existing fiber to connect to wireless towers throughout the county to provide service via a hybrid fiber and wireless network.

CCG said, if it completed the work, it would include research of existing networks, pre-engineering to determine cost of building a broadband network, a business plan and possible funding sources.

While CCG submitted the scope of work proposal, if the application is successful, a bid process would be used to select which firm would perform the study, Irvine said.

He said conversations with Commissioner Craig Pope about opportunities to expand, including the use of existing resources, led to the proposal of including Polk County in the application.

Pope said, if the county participates and is awarded the grant, he would like to use the results of the feasibility study to request changes during the state's 2019 legislative session. He said he expects

the study will identify hurdles to expanding broadband service that lawmakers could help sort out.

"My intent is to take this information and go to the legislature in 2019 and say here's why we are not expanding. Here's where you can help us," he said. "I don't know what that bill will look like yet. I don't know how it will be done, but we need facts and data to put into language in a bill that says here's how we can use the tools we already have, if you help us unlock the tool box."

The Polk County Board of Commissioners discussed the application at its Dec. 19 meeting, but wanted more information on the proposed study before joining Independence. The application period opens later this month and is due on Feb. 21.

County Administrator Greg Hansen said he had questions he would like answered before further consideration.

"There's going to be a lot of competition for that money, and how confident are we with this proposal that \$50,000 will answer the questions that we need answered?" Hansen asked. "When the analysis scope is figured out, how much money will that cost?"

Fire: Issues raised over certifications

Continued from Page 1A

Southwest's board and Chief Fred Hertel have said liability, firefighter certification and department accreditation have been issues during contract negotiations.

Records with Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, the organization that oversees firefighter certification and department accreditation, say Falls City hasn't been accredited in years.

"The department is not accredited to teach to statewide standards and hasn't been accredited since May of 2011," Hertel said. "They can train internally because DPSST is a voluntary state standard, but it is a best practice and a standard that was written into the 2014 contract between Southwest and Falls City. They had never honored that part of the contract."

Julie Olsen-Fink DPSST's fire program manager said accreditation establishes a voluntary "handshake" agreement that the department will follow all rules and regulations suggested for fire agencies.

It also allows a department to offer its own training without having to bring in an outside certified trainer.

"It means that they are

self-contained," Olsen-Fink said.

She said the state doesn't require agencies to be accredited, but noted that most fire agencies in Oregon are accredited.

Olsen-Fink confirmed that Falls City Fire hasn't been accredited since 2011, but is in the process of updating its status.

"They've made contact with our agency for re-accreditation," Olsen-Fink said.

The process includes a review of current rules and regulations, assurance that the department has the proper equipment (a pumper engine), and provides training directed by a National Fire Protection Association certified fire instructor.

Accredited agencies also must provide proof of necessary re-certifications and maintain records of that training for at least five years.

Olsen-Fink said if an agency can't check all those boxes, departments work with the agency to set up a plan to achieve accreditation.

Olsen-Fink said Thursday that the active roster of Falls City firefighters her agency has on file says that all are up to date on their certifications. She noted that the

paperwork on file at DPSST is only as current as the agency in question keeps it, and the DPSST doesn't keep track of records that are out of date.

Falls City representatives have said there has been some certification accounting inconsistencies at DPSST. They are working on getting that straightened out. Hertel said some, but not all, of Falls City's volunteers are certified.

Also noted after the contract dispute began is the existence of two open investigations into sexual harassment allegations involving Falls City's volunteers.

Sheriff Mark Garton said his office investigated the cases in the spring and summer of 2017. That followed Falls City Fire's own investigation that found the allegations couldn't be proven, Young said.

Garton said one of the cases reportedly happened at the Falls City Fire station and another occurred when the volunteers weren't working on behalf of the fire department or at the station.

"We did investigate them and compiled the reports," Garton said.

But Garton said the cases weren't clear-cut, so the agency made no arrests and

referred the investigation to the Polk County District Attorney.

"We sent them up there for review in August and haven't heard anything back," Garton said.

District Attorney Aaron Felton said the cases are open and are being actively reviewed. He said he couldn't comment further because investigations are ongoing.

Monday night, Falls City resident Kathy Flanigan asked if the board had considered a third-party mediator to help with negotiations.

Hertel said that was under consideration before Falls City declared an impasse in negotiations late last year, and still is a possibility. He said the two sides would have to find a qualified person to mediate.

"You have to have someone who understands fire and EMS issues," Hertel said. "There are several entities that are statewide that could come up with a third party, and we were looking into that."

Monday night, Watson said the board wasn't prepared to answer all concerns, but would keep listening to feedback from the community before deciding the next steps.

HEALTH DIRECTORY

AUDIOLOGY

Trust your hearing to those that specialize in hearing and hearing related disorders. **Evan L. Evans, Ph. D, and Julie B. Evans, AuD** are both doctoral level Audiologists who have the knowledge, experience and compassion to provide you with the best care for your hearing health. We offer free hearing screenings; by our hearing aid specialist. We offer full & complete diagnostic evaluations, counseling and recommendations by our clinical Audiologists. Other Audiological services include testing, management and treatment options for Tinnitus. We have the knowledge and experience to assist your physician with the diagnosis of diseases and disorders pertaining to hearing and the hearing mechanism. We offer wax removal or cerumen management, Tinnitus testing and Tinnitus management techniques. An Audiologist, having the Audiology credentials of the American Academy of Audiology (F-AAA) and the The American Speech Hearing and Language Association's Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC-A) is the professional of choice for anything related to hearing and or hearing related issues. Serving our hearing impaired since 1980, with two locations to serve you.

Audiology Associates

1343-A Monmouth St., Independence • 503-838-3001
2296 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis • 541-757-2500

CHIROPRACTIC

• **JOYNT FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC - Dr. Brian Joynt, DC - 629 Clay Street East, Monmouth, OR 97361** Family-oriented chiropractic clinic, dedicated to creating an unparalleled experience of service, quality and care by teaching the true principles of chiropractic. We look forward to empowering each of you to help your family participate more fully in life. New patients welcome. Accept most insurance. Auto/personal injury and work comp. Massage therapist on site. Complimentary consultations. Call us today to make your appointment (503) 837-0550.

• **THORNTON CHIROPRACTIC - Drs. Sharon and Marty Thornton - Palmer Graduates - We care, God cures. 1650 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 • 503-838-3346. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Fri 8-noon & 2-6 pm; Wed 8-noon & 2-4 pm; Thurs 2-6 pm.** Proudly serving Polk County for over 17 years. Offering Thompson Drop and other hands-on techniques, as well as Advanced Activator Methods and Functional Neurology. We provide gentle and effective full-spine and extremity adjusting for all ages in a loving and caring environment. We are accepting new patients for Family Wellness Care, Medicare, Auto or personal injury & Workers Comp. Licensed Massage Therapy available on site.

COUNSELING

• **CROSS AND CROWN COUNSELING ~ KATE KOENS, NCCA Licensed Clinical Christian Counselor and Certified Temperament Therapist.** Cross and Crown Counseling offers counseling services to individuals, couples and families as well as identity seminars and grief recovery workshops. Our office is located at 1156 SE Holman Ave. Dallas. Some specific areas of counsel are adolescent, premarital, marriage, trauma, crisis, grief, depression, anxiety, anger, divorce, and identity crisis. We help our clients find healing, learn communication skills, and appropriate responses to individual and family needs and how to obtain overall health, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We provide a safe and caring environment to face life situations, address interpersonal and intrapersonal conflict and help individuals realize their full potential in order to live decisively with truth, relevance, perspective, and purpose. For more information or to schedule an appointment please call (503) 917-1625 or visit our website at www.crossandcrowncounseling.com

GENERAL DENTISTRY

• **DALLAS FAMILY DENTAL - Benjamin James DDS, Tom Davis DMD, Les Wheeler DDS. 289 E Ellendale Ave Ste. 204, Dallas.** Dallas Family Dental provides general and cosmetic dentistry for children and adults. We are happy to serve as your dental providers, and are accepting new patients. www.dallasfamilydentaloregon.com

• **RANDALL C. JONES, DMD - 1004 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 503-838-0434.** Offering a broad range of dental services in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. New patients and emergencies welcome.

• **WESTON K. MORRILL, DMD - 289 E. Ellendale Suite #201, Dallas. 503-623-6616.** Family, preventive, and cosmetic dentistry. Complete dentistry for the entire family. Se habla español.

• **DR. MICHELLE HASBROOK, DMD - 120 N. Atwater, Monmouth, OR 503-838-2998.** Providing all phases of dental care for children and adults. We welcome new patients!

• **KENNETH WINOKUR, DMD - 329 South Main Street Independence, OR 97351. 503-838-1633.** High quality service with your comfort in mind. Nitrous oxide gas sedation available. www.independencedental.org

GYNECOLOGY SERVICES

Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the Salem Health West Valley Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD,** specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the Salem Health West Valley surgical suites. New patients are welcome! Salem Health West Valley Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit salemhealth.org/westvalley.

HEARING HEALTH

• **JOYFUL SOUND HEARING SERVICES, INC.** Mark Sturtevant, 312 Main Street, Dallas OR, 503-623-0290. Providing Polk County with hearing solutions for 30 years. Services include: Hearing evaluations, Diagnosing hearing loss; Impedance; Fitting all types of hearing devices, Servicing all makes and models of hearing aids; Ear inspections; Wax removal; Hearing protection. Hours: Monday - Thursday 9-4pm. (Fridays by appointment only)

IMAGING SERVICES

• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** offers state-of-the-art all-digital diagnostic imaging services. With your physician's referral, we provide bone densitometry, CT scan, fluoroscopy, mammography, ultrasound, X-ray and MRI services. Check out our comfortable and spacious mammography suite. We are located at 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7302.

LABORATORY SERVICES

• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** provides lab services at two convenient locations in Dallas and Monmouth. Both labs are fully accredited, providing collections and testing with healthcare provider referral. Employment and self-referral drug testing is offered. The West Valley Hospital lab in Dallas is open 24 hours, seven days a week, at 525 SE Washington St., 503-623-7303. The Monmouth lab is located in the Monmouth Medical Center, 512 Main St., Suite 300, 503-838-1388. It is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., closed between noon and 1 p.m. Appointments are not required.

MASSAGE

• **OUT OF GRAVITY MASSAGE - Julianne Klingberg DeForest, LMT - 503.510.2256 - NOW IN INDEPENDENCE** Enter Stressed, Leave Blessed - Out of Gravity Massage offers massage sessions to suit a variety of needs and health concerns. Intuitive and holistic bodywork are blended with extensive and varied education, creating a caring and knowledgeable environment of healing. Also, with a prescription and a claim number, up to a year's therapeutic massage sessions will help in your rehabilitation from a motor vehicle accident. Relaxation, well care, geriatric and pediatric massage is available, as well as motor vehicle accident rehabilitation. Infant massage instructional sessions available. Call today for an appointment. 503-510-2256 OR # 7627/ National #295187-00

ORTHODONTICS

• **YENNE & SCHOFIELD - SPECIALISTS IN ORTHODONTICS - 580 Main Street, Suite E, Dallas, 503-623-5002.** Providing Polk County with orthodontic care for children and adults for functions and cosmetics. Open Tuesdays & Thursdays.

PHYSICAL THERAPY/ REHABILITATION SERVICES

• **PINNACLE PHYSICAL THERAPY** is an orthopedic physical therapy facility committed to getting great results for each patient. We focus on advanced spine care, women's health issues, sport rehab, vehicle accidents, and work injuries. We offer highly specialized care including manual therapy, aquatic therapy, specific deep tissue mobilization techniques, Postural Restoration Institute (PRI) techniques and therapeutic exercise. We have a warm, caring and friendly staff and accept most private health insurance, auto insurance, and workers' compensation insurance. We offer both male and female physical therapists. Often no physician referral is needed to start care. Call us today and ask how to get therapy for your condition or talk to your physician to see if physical therapy is right for you. **Call us: 503-623-2433. We are conveniently located at 210 W. Ellendale Avenue Dallas, Oregon 97338;** (next to Taco Bell) Check us out on the web: www.pinnacle-physicaltherapy.com

• **SALEM HEALTH WEST VALLEY** offers a wide range of rehabilitation services. Our hospital in Dallas, located at 525 SE Washington St. in Dallas, offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and aquatic therapy (at Dallas Aquatic Center). 503-623-7305. Our clinic in Monmouth offers physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. Located at 512 Main St. 503-838-1388. Visit www.salemhealth.org/westvalley.

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

• **DR. CHARLES ESSEX,** family medicine, is accepting new patients at Salem Health West Valley Medical Clinic, located at 512 Main St., Suite 300, Monmouth, 503-838-1182. With a proactive healthcare approach, Dr. Essex provides care for the entire family and will work with you to build a healthy lifestyle with annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, sports physicals, skin care, cancer screenings and more. New patients are welcome.

• **DR. JOHN HADLEY,** family medicine, is accepting new patients at the Salem Health West Valley Medical Clinic at 555 SE Washington St., Dallas, 503-623-7301. With a proactive healthcare approach, Dr. Hadley provides offers family medicine for your entire family from newborns to adults with annual exams, immunizations, lifestyle counseling, sports physicals, skin care, cancer screenings and more. New patients are welcome.

Call the Itemizer-Observer at 503-623-2373 to have your business listed in this directory.