

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Money never enough for county

I do not support the public safety levy in Polk County and feel it should be defeated.

I support law enforcement, but taxing the taxpayer is not the answer. Government needs to live within its means. I live within my means, and so should the county.

I am tired of tax increases and being asked to fund basic services because there is never enough money. When you ask how much is enough, and the answer is always "just a little bit more."

Individuals on fixed incomes don't have any more to give. Please think about the elderly and vote "no."

Wendy Snodgrass
Dallas

Creative look at funding

There must be some way to resolve the problem we have with underfunded law and safety services in Polk County.

Could the folks who are opposing the upcoming Public Safety Levy pledge to never call 911 or Polk County Sheriff with requests for assistance?

Or could we have a variable tax rate that allowed

residents who were willing to fund those services receive those services and residents who chose to not fund them not receive them?

Dan Van Otten
Amity

Nite Court, YMCA thank IBEW 280

The Monmouth-Independence Nite Court program would like to extend a gracious thank you to IBEW Local 280 for their generous contribution to our program.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 280 has a long history of support of the Nite Court program.

Their recent \$3,000 contribution will go a long way in supporting activities for our youth each Saturday night.

Community support is essential to the continuation of Nite Court, and volunteers are always needed. For more information on Nite Court, please contact the M-I YMCA at 503-838-4042.

Kathy Martin-Willis
Independence

Whole county needs safety levy

I was a chief in the fire service for over 20 years. I

know government budgets. In my opinion, safety services in Polk County are inadequate.

They can't get better without more funding. Federal timber funding needs to be replaced.

Some city residents feel they don't need county legal services.

Nearly all legal issues, city or not, are handled by the county public safety system. Fourteen hours a day with no police protection cannot continue.

Please join me in voting yes on the Polk County Public Safety Levy.

Rick Hopkins
Independence

More laws don't equal less crime

Regarding a recent article in the *Itemizer* regarding SB 941, "more background checks for private gun sales," I applaud Sheriff Bob Wolfe for standing up for common sense.

History shows that laws of this nature only take freedoms away from law abiding citizens and have no positive effect on lowering crime.

Criminals have no regard or respect for the law and as such are operating outside the law, e.g., the black market. Any ideology that suggests the next law, social program, new educational approach, gun law, etc. will be the magic formula that ends all violence is misguided.

If I go to my doctor and she misdiagnoses my ailment, then the prescription

not only does not solve the problem but may be dangerous.

Gov. Kulongoski's law to prohibit over-the-counter sales of Sudafed has done little to nothing to curb our meth problem. Men's hearts is where the problem lies.

If the gunphobes want to do something productive, they can tackle this fascination and love affair this present culture has with violence.

Maybe a good place to start is Hollywood.

But please don't pass another law that both aggravates and exercises law abiding citizens, and that will be completely ignored by people that already have no respect for the law.

Leif Anderson
Monmouth

Ban backyard burning in Dallas

I support a ban on backyard burning in the city of Dallas.

Backyard burning can be very unsafe and has the potential to cause significant property damage. Backyard burning creates smoke which is full of toxins and pollutants — especially when inappropriate materials are burned.

Dallas has many residents with respiratory issues. Filling your neighborhood with noxious smoke is not very polite. Responding to burning complaints ties up already limited city resources.

Dallas currently has yard debris collection as part of its franchise agreement with Republic Services.

If that service needs to be expanded or a debris drop-off site added in conjunction with a ban on backyard burning, then let's explore those options.

Most other communities in the Mid-Valley banned backyard burning long ago. The time has come to finally ban backyard burning in Dallas.

One of the things I cherish most about Oregon is clean air. It's time to clear the air and breathe a little easier in Dallas.

Please get involved and contact your city council members if you love clean air!

Thank you.

Joe Koubek
Dallas

Show you care with yes on levy

I spoke with a gentleman who was opposed to the Public Safety Levy. His reasoning — "I don't care." I have a different perspective. I believe in safety, justice, the protection of innocence, fighting against intimidation and protecting the livability of a community.

You will find that the men and women involved in the public safety system in Polk County share a similar belief system, which is why they have chosen to serve the community the way they are.

They need the support of the community now. If you care, please vote yes for public safety in Polk County.

Michael Holsapple
Dallas

How to Contact Officials

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PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via fax (503-623-2395) or email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

- **Polk County Fair Board** — 8 a.m., Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Main Building, Meeting Room No. 2, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall. 503-623-3048.
- **Dallas Economic Development Committee** — Noon, City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

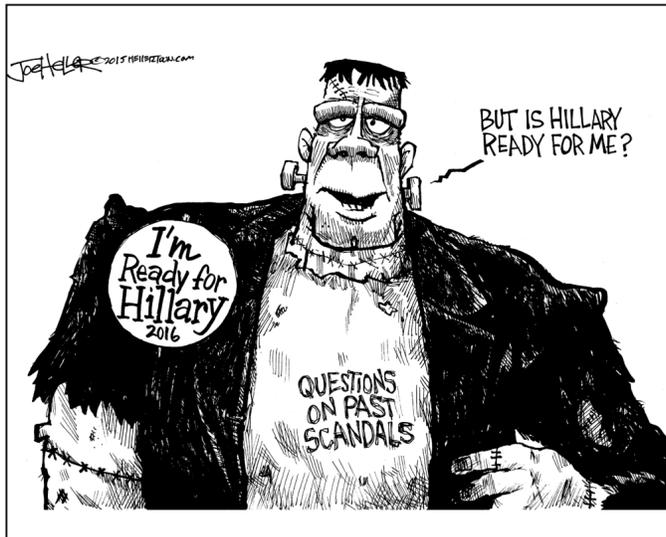
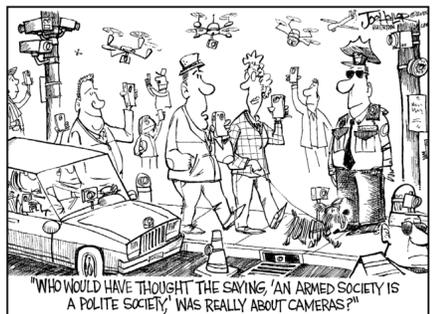
- **Dallas City Budget Committee** — 6 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Perrydale School Board** — 7 p.m., Perrydale School, 7445 Perrydale Road, Amity. 503-623-2040.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Independence Historic Preservation Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Falls City School Board** — 5:30 p.m., Falls City High School resource room, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.
- **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

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