

EDITORIALS

All welcome at Relay for Life

Cancer. That six-letter word can strike fear and worry into even the stoutest of hearts. Nearly everyone knows someone who has the disease, or who has died from it.

This weekend, roughly 500 people will gather at LaCreole Middle School during the 2015 American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Polk County.

The 24-hour event will include someone from each of the 40 teams walking the track throughout the day — which is forecast to be in the high 70s to mid-80s — through the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, and past sunrise.

Everyone in the community is welcome to join the Relayers at the event and help "Give Cancer the Boot." Plenty of activities throughout the day and well into the evening are scheduled, so even if you're not on a team, you can find something that may interest you.

The day will start with a Survivor's Lap, where purple shirts will pack the track. Those who have cancer or who have beaten the disease will walk together in solidarity.

Each lap has a theme, from country to Mr. Relay, when male Relayers will dress as women and compete for the title of Mr. Relay. It's entertaining to see, and whoever raises the most money wins the title.

As evening dawns, luminarias — paper lanterns representing anyone, living or dead, who has heard the terrible three words, "You have cancer" — will be lit. These lanterns line the track as Relayers honor those who are fighting and remember those who have been lost.

This year, a Relay Marketplace will be filled with goodies, all proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Two silent auctions will contribute to the efforts to combat cancer.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's biggest fundraiser, with teams participating all over the world. It started with one man, Dr. Gordy Klatt, in 1985. Klatt walked and ran the 24-hour event on his own. He died on Aug. 3, 2014, of heart failure after battling stomach cancer.

Money raised through the event goes to help find a cure by funding research and spreading education and awareness about how to avoid cancer in the first place.

Come on down to LaCreole this weekend and check it out for yourself. Bring a little cash to donate at the marketplace, silent auction or Relay store. Honor someone you know who has cancer or who has died from it, and learn more about how to avoid it.

Don't be afraid to come on down and check it out. Relayers will be there all night long.

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, MAY 27

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

THURSDAY, MAY 28

• **MINET Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503 837-0700.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

• **Central School District Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. 503-838-0030.

• **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

• **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

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

• **Dallas Urban Renewal District Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

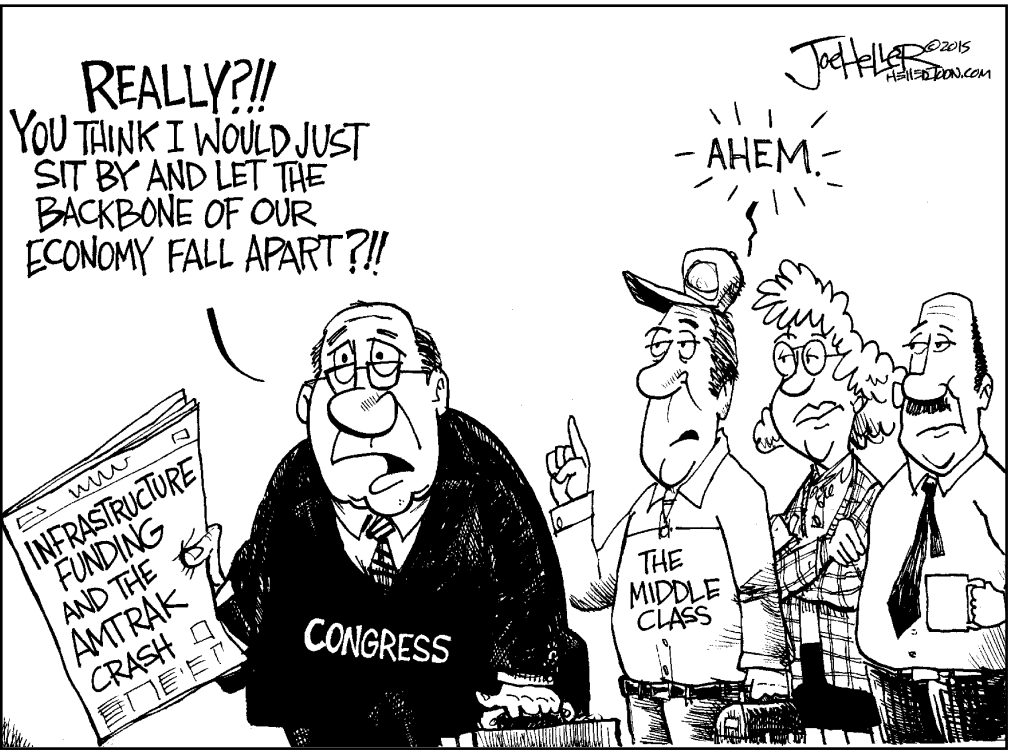
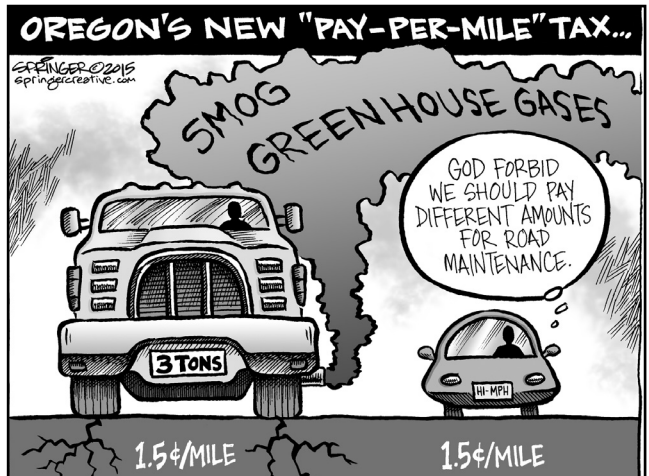
• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

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

• **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

• **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for yes vote for safety levy

Thank you for voting yes for public safety.

I would like to personally thank Gene and Lynnette Henshaw along with Rod Buchanan for their hard work and organizational skills they dedicated to getting the Public Safety Levy passed! What amazing people!

Our community is extremely fortunate to have

such selfless individuals fighting for the greater good of our county!

I would also like to send my sincere appreciation to everyone who spent time and money working hard to get the message out as to why this safety levy was so important to the wellbeing of our community!

And most importantly, thank you to everyone who voted yes for public safety! You made my husband's job and the wonderful people

he works with, a lot safer!

In a world where the law enforcement community gets torn apart by the media and uninformed individuals on a daily basis, it's nice to know someone believes in you and supports you in the job you perform each time you put on the badge and a gun to protect your community.

Your yes vote means so much more than you know!

Sue Dunham
Dallas

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.

poses 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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Reach us at:
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Say something nice on Monday

Monday, June 1 is "National Say Something Nice Day," an "unofficial" national holiday, that originated in Charleston, S.C.

Based on the book, "Say Something Nice: Be a Lifter at Work," the Mayors of Charleston and North Charleston came together with members of the South Carolina Baptist Conven-

tion and the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery to create a day to be kind to the special people in our lives.

It is a day to remember and celebrate people who provide us with a variety of services, such as bus drivers, healthcare workers and teachers and a day to remember our children.

It's a great opportunity to

apologize to people that we might have wronged or hurt through our behavior.

The aim of this special day is to fight against unkindness, bullying and the lack of politeness that dominates society today. The creators hope this one day of pleasantness will grow, until people are nice to each other every day.

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