

EDITORIALS

**Class of 2015
blazes ahead**

Congratulations, high school graduates. As you go into the "real world" and into "life after high school," remember that tests are more high stakes than the Smarter Balanced Assessments, but if you fail, keep trying. Life gets better from here, honest, but the choice is yours — what will you do with it? Here's some advice — the more you put into life, the more you get out of it. The first 13 years of your education was paid for with tax dollars — you're more than welcome! — totalling about \$120,000. We think it's worth it, do you? To paraphrase a 2015 Falls City graduate, the only way we can make the world better is to have an educated populace. If you attended public school, taxpayers gave you a foundation, now the rest of your education is on you, whether you choose to get it on the job, by traveling, having a family, getting married or going to a university or community college. Whatever your choice, keep learning. It's a big world out there, and it's yours for the taking if you work hard and keep at it. And know this: mistakes are just lessons. Learn from them. In this day of selfies, Instagram and Twitter, unplug now and then. See the world with your own eyes, not someone else's. Anyway, it's hard to remember to smell the roses or watch the birds and be inspired to fly when you're looking at your cellphone. And be safe. As you go make mistakes — which you undoubtedly will (we all have) — try your hardest not to make a mistake that will cost a life, yours or someone else's. That means don't drink and drive or drive distracted (yes, that means texting while driving). As the song "Everybody's Free" goes, "wear sunscreen. Be kind to yourself, and don't tolerate those who aren't. Travel. Respect your elders. Stretch. Floss. Don't expect anyone else to support you." Learn to dance in the rain. When you fall down, get back up and do it better. We're counting on you to do it better. That's part of how this thing called life works. It's going to be your world soon, and we are cheering for you to go out there and make waves.

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, JUNE 10**
- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library meeting room, 168 S. Ecols St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
 - **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
 - **Monmouth Park and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

- THURSDAY, JUNE 11**
- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
 - **Luckiamute Watershed Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-837-0237.
 - **Falls City City Council** — 7:30 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

- MONDAY, JUNE 15**
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

- TUESDAY, JUNE 16**
- **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, JUNE 17**
- **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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Graffiti at park not appreciated

I'd like to give a big shout out to the person who tagged our back fence. Our family is so excited to have your "art" to share with the rest of the neighborhood. Why you picked our home when you had a lot of fence to choose from will forever be a mystery, but rest assured we have removed it. Our taste in art and yours just isn't the same. To my neighbors and friends in the Madrona Park area, our home borders the park.

The tag was on our back fence facing the park. Please keep your eyes open for taggers. Hopefully this is just kids having "fun" and not something more.

*Diane McBurnett
Monmouth*

Remember vets with poppies

The small red paper poppies that you see being distributed at Walmart here in Dallas several times a year have more of a history than you might think.

The red poppies date back to 1921, to commemorate soldiers who had died in war. As returning soldiers from the First World War came home they brought back with them the memory of the battlefield poppies that lined the devastated battlefields of Flanders and France.

They brought back with them the memory of the fallen soldiers. As time went on, the poppies were used to remember the fallen of other wars.

In 1921, the American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and distributes them for donations around Memorial and Veterans Day. The proceeds go to Veteran based programs such as the

Wounded Warrior Project and the Portland Transplant Center.

Each of the poppies that is distributed by members of the American Legion Auxiliary is handmade. We have three Veterans in the State of Oregon who make all the poppies for our state, as well as for several other states.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20 will be at the Dallas Walmart on Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and we would very much appreciate your support.

*Peggy Ortmann
Dallas*

Businesses help students 'Achieve'

I'd like to thank the following businesses for providing work experience opportunities to my students in Project ACHIEVE, Dallas High School's post-high program, during the 2014-15 school year.

Students received on-the-job training while doing a variety of tasks for these businesses.

This training is invaluable in preparing my students for paid work once they finish school. Many thanks go to: Dallas City Library, Dallas Retirement Village, Dallas School District Office and Print Shop, Dragonfly Preschool, Future Images, Jefferson Manor, Lyle Elementary and Oakdale Heights Elementary.

*Betsy Seth
Dallas*

Rally helps hospitalized vets

On behalf of the American Legion and American Legion Riders Post 20 of Dallas, I would like to express special thanks to Sweeney's Pub and Todd Keys for hosting a motorcycle rally there on May 23 for the benefit of Veterans in

hospitals. They raised a very nice donation for "Operation Comfort Warrior." Also thanks to the Dallas Police Department for their cooperation.

*David Christian
Dallas*

Welcome home warmed hearts

I wanted to say thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, the students at Lyle school and the residents of Dallas for the Welcome home parade on the 22nd of May.

We were surprised at how many people were there and all the signs the students made. It was heartwarming. I am proud to be a resident of Dallas and wanted to say thank you to the community for the parade.

*SFC Richard Merrill
Dallas*

Thanks to all who support recital

I, as owner and instructor of the Polk County France School of Dance located at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall, would like to thank Jacque Jacobs and family, Kermit Martin, Dena Lund, Scott Wagner, Erica Rodriguez and family, and the music teacher at Talmadge Middle School, Diane Nelson for all their help with the May 19 performance/food drive.

More than 500 pounds of food was collected for Joan Schmitt's Children's Fund and \$274 for the Dallas Emergency Food Bank.

Thank you to all the students and families for your ongoing support. The studios have collected over 52,000 pounds of food and thousands of dollars for Marion Polk counties.

*Linda France Martin
Polk County France School of Dance*

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited. Letters may be edited for grammar and style.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period. Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed.

Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Addresses and phone numbers will not be printed. This includes letters submitted via the I-O's website.

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 busi-

nesses, 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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