

EDITORIALS

I-O awards reflect well on community

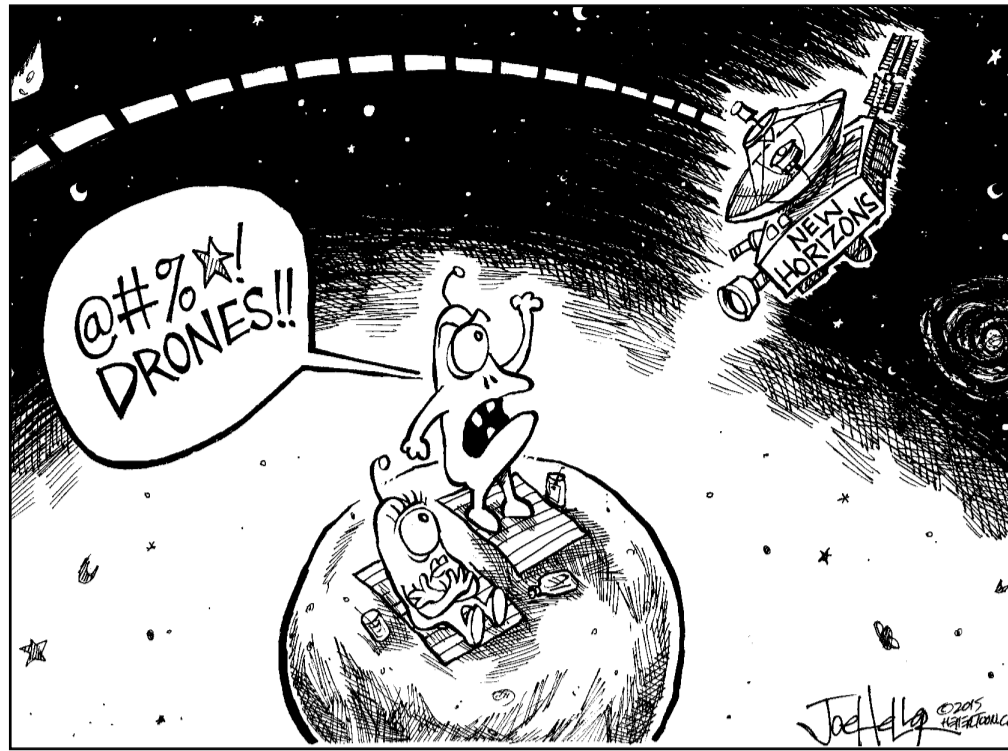
It's award season at the Polk County *Itemizer-ObsERVER*. As an organization, the paper took home 14 awards from the Oregon Newspapers Publishers Association's Better Newspaper Contest. Five of those were first-place nods. Perhaps the best of the 14 is the Elmo Smith Award of General Excellence, which the paper took second place. That means that out of all the newspapers with similar circulation, the *I-O* is the second best in the state of Oregon. That gives us a chance to toot our own horn, but it also gives us a chance to toot yours.

We couldn't have done any of it without you. It is because you let us into your lives to share your stories that we can do what we do. Because of you, 2014 was an amazing year for news in Polk County, and the judges in the state of Virginia thought so too. We cried with you and cheered with you. As your local newspaper, we get to focus on the news and stories that really matter to you. Thank you for reading, advertising and for calling us out when we make a mistake. Thank you for realizing that we are human and will, no matter how careful we are, make mistakes now and then. While other newspapers throughout the state and country have struggled, you have helped keep us vibrant. We want to tell you stories you cannot find on Yahoo or Fox News. We want to tell you stories that matter to your lives and to your pocketbook. Our staff members, from those in advertising to those in the newsroom, live in Polk County. We are at community events — and not just to put a story in the paper, but because we love our communities. We love Polk County, and we hope you will brag about us as much as we enjoy bragging about you. Because we're proud to be the second best in the state — though don't take that to mean we won't strive for better.

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, JULY 22**
 - Polk County Board of Commissioners — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- FRIDAY, JULY 24**
 - Polk County Public Health Advisory Board — noon, Academy Building, room 212, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-623-8175 ext. 2307.
- MONDAY, JULY 27**
 - Independence Library Board — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1811.
- TUESDAY, JULY 28**
 - Polk County Board of Commissioners — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
 - Independence City Council — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 29**
 - Polk County Board of Commissioners — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nice to see 'little gem' featured

A big thank you to *Itemizer-ObsERVER* publisher, Nancy Adams, and staff writer, Jolene Guzman, for the wonderful, full-page write-up on Daryll's Nursery in the June 17 edition of the *I-O*.

Daryll Combs has operated this little gem of a nursery out on West Ellendale for several years. Sometimes, however, these "little gems" in and around Dallas go unnoticed, and we need to be reminded.

This coverage in our local paper was a very positive reinforcement of one of our dedicated, local businesses. I would like to suggest that perhaps we could see more of this sort of thing.

How about a special fea-

ture each week, acknowledging some of our long-time local businesses?

We all need to be reminded of the hard-working establishments who have contributed so much to making Dallas the city we love.

Carol Mannen
Dallas

Mini-Marathon a great success

Monmouth Fitness Club, Brook & Terry's Espresso and Anytime Fitness, sponsors of this year's Fourth of July Mini-Marathon are pleased to announce the enormous success of the 43rd annual event.

Proceeds were distributed to: Monmouth-Independence Lions Club, Ella Curran Food Bank in Independence, Central High School

track and cross-country and the Kelsey Oldham Scholarship.

A special thanks to Race Director Terry Cable, of Brook & Terry's Espresso, Monmouth and Independence police departments and all the volunteers that made this annual event a great success.

Also, thanks to Willamette Valley Road Runners, the city of Monmouth, Monmouth Parks Board, Independence Public Library and Central Lions Club, that helped sponsor and support the 43rd Annual Mini-Marathon.

Come join the fun next year at the 44th annual Fourth of July Mini-Marathon.

Terry Cable
Mini-Marathon Committee
Monmouth-Independence



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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Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

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The Polk County *Itemizer-ObsERVER* assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* is at fault.

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