

**EDITORIALS**

**Community shines through rainy weather**

Often it is when things go exactly opposite as planned that true character is revealed.

Summerfest Crazy Dayz certainly lived up to its theme, throwing curve balls every which way, from a 250-plus acre fire on Friday to rain on the parade.

Did Dallas complain? Heck no. Dallas danced. Friday's fire was handled quickly, with poise and professionalism. Roughly 70 percent of those fighting the fire were volunteer firefighters from more than 15 different agencies, as far away as Lincoln and Linn counties. Wayne and Steve Roberts from McMinnville battled the blaze from above in a helicopter.

As the chopper refueled at Western Oregon University's football field, the American Red Cross set up shelters at Central High School. Those shelters weren't needed after all — thank goodness — but being prepared is always better than reacting to a potentially bad situation.

While firefighters from Dallas, Southwest Polk and Polk Fire District No. 1 were occupied, volunteers in Dallas kept Summerfest running smoothly.

Reluctantly, Friday evening activities organized by Dallas Fire were canceled. April Welsh, who coordinated the firefighting efforts as well as juggling media inquiries from at least four agencies, waited until after 5 p.m. before finally conceding that the highly anticipated return of hydro-carts would not go on as planned.

Saturday, the fire department was ready to go with excavation contests and leading the parade — in a pouring rainstorm, the first considerable rain the Willamette Valley has seen in weeks, if not months.

It takes everyone to have a party — volunteers, first responders and, perhaps most important, participants and spectators. What had been set out to shade people from sunshine doubled up as protection from the rain. This is Oregon, after all. If we canceled events because of the rain, we'd never have any events.

Parade goers and participants danced together in the downpour, welcoming the wetter, cooler weather.

Ready or not, volunteers stood their posts to help keep things moving smoothly.

Dallas' mid-summer party continued without a hitch. Because when it rains, it pours. Except in Dallas, where when it rains, we shine.

**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 29**

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 30**

• **Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network Executive Committee** — 10:30 a.m., MVBCN office, 2965 Ryan Drive SE, in Salem. 503-585-4935.

**MONDAY, AUG. 3**

• **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, AUG. 4**

• **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.

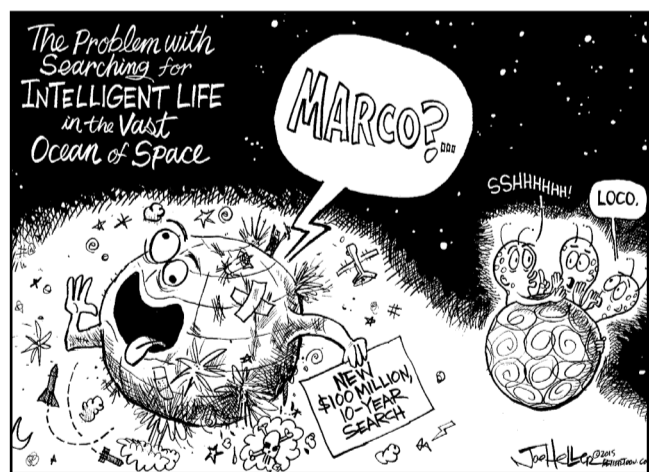
• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5**

• **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.



**Filler please!**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Consider paying for half to pave**

Regarding the complaint concerning Highland Road (July 17), we live on the south side of Parker Road, first place east off (Highway) 99.

We went to John Graham, the former public works director, to inquire about paving, as opposed to dust abatement. He went to the commissioners, who adjusted the budget to allow our quarter mile frontage to be paved. We paid half.

Together with Linden Lane and Fruit Farm Road, there are enough residents involved to cover the distance, it would appear. If Mr. Henich would pave a stretch, others might do likewise. The price of oil is low right now.

The O&C trees, which once upon a time paid for paving and schools, are now waiting to rot and burn. The large log mill that could saw them has been torn down.

Mark Vimont  
*Independence*

**Thanks from Dallas Fire & EMS**

Many of you who had hoped to see Summerfest Hydrocart races at the Dallas Fire Station on Friday night were disappointed when you arrived only to find out the event was canceled. A major wildfire south of town required our full attention. The fire, fueled by dry weather and steady winds, would grow to cover more than 250 acres before it was brought under control.

Thankfully no structures were lost and no one was injured. For almost 10 hours, crews from Dallas, Falls City, Southwest Polk, Oregon Department of Forestry, and more than 15 other fire agencies from Benton, Marion, Yamhill, and Lincoln counties assisted Polk County Fire District No. 1 in fire suppression efforts. The Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Public Works, and Willamette Valley 911 also played major roles during this emergency.

Events such as this show the value of each family having an emergency plan so that everyone in your home knows what to do should something happen.

Equally important for those who live in rural areas, the importance of having defensible space around your residence that creates a buffer that is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire.

We appreciate the support we received from the community during this event. A special thanks to Dallas Safeway and Ugo's Pizza who helped prepare meals on short notice to feed more than 250 emergency services personnel who were engaged in firefighting efforts. We also extend our thanks to the families of Dallas Fire and EMS members who helped support emergency efforts throughout the afternoon and evening.

Eriks Gabliks, Deputy Chief  
Dallas Fire & EMS -  
Summerfest Chairman



**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.

Reach us at:  
**Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338.  
**Fax:** 503-623-2395.  
**Email:** ionews@polkio.com.  
**Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

**How to Contact Officials**

**GOVERNOR**  
**Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)**  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-4582  
Email: via website,  
<http://governor.oregon.gov/>

**STATE LEGISLATORS**  
**Sen. Arnie Roblan**  
(District 5, Democrat)  
5-417 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1705  
sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan)

**Sen. Jackie Winters**  
(District 10, Republican)  
5-301 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1710  
sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters)

**Sen. Brian Boquist**  
(District 12, Republican)  
5-305 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1712  
sen.brianboquist@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist)

**Rep. David Gomberg**  
(District 10, Democrat)  
H-471 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1410  
rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg)

**Rep. Paul Evans**  
(District 20, Democrat)  
H-281 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1420  
rep.paul.evans@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans)

**Rep. Mike Nearman**  
(District 23, Republican)  
H-378 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1423  
rep.mikenearman@state.or.us  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman)

**U.S. CONGRESS**  
**Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)**  
221 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
Fax: 202-228-2717  
Salem office: 707 13th St. SE,  
Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-589-4555  
Email: via website,  
[www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)

**Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)**  
313 Hart SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3753  
Fax: 202-228-3997  
Salem office: 495 State St. SE,  
Suite 330, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-362-8102  
Email: via website,  
[www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)

**Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)**  
108 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-5711  
Fax: 202-225-5699  
Salem office: 544 Ferry St. SE,  
Suite 2, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-588-9100  
Fax: 503-588-5517  
Email: via website,  
[www.schrader.house.gov](http://www.schrader.house.gov)

**POLK COUNTY**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
850 Main St.  
Dallas, OR 97338  
Phone: 503-623-8173  
[www.co.polk.or.us](http://www.co.polk.or.us)

**CITIES**  
**Dallas**  
187 SE Court St.  
Dallas, OR 97338  
503-623-2338  
[www.ci.dallas.or.us](http://www.ci.dallas.or.us)  
**Falls City**  
299 Mill St.  
Falls City, OR 97344  
503-787-3631  
[www.fallsctyoregon.gov](http://www.fallsctyoregon.gov)  
**Independence**  
555 S. Main St.  
Independence, OR 97351  
503-838-1212  
[www.ci.independence.or.us](http://www.ci.independence.or.us)  
**Monmouth**  
151 W. Main St.  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
503-838-0722  
[www.ci.monmouth.or.us](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us)

Polk County  
**Itemizer-ObsERVER**

Vol. 140, No. 30 (USPS) - 437-380

The official newspaper of Polk County • Serving Polk County families since 1875

Winner of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 General Excellence Awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR. Published weekly at 147 SE Court Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 Phone: 503-623-2373 Fax: 503-623-2395

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
Polk County — One Year \$27  
Other Oregon Counties — One Year \$33  
Outside of Oregon — One Year \$38

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

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.

**HOW TO REACH US**

**NEWSROOM**

Nancy Adams .....Publisher/Editor .....nadams@polkio.com  
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....leggen@polkio.com  
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporter .....jguzman@polkio.com  
Emily Mentzer .....Monmouth/Independence Reporter .....ementzer@polkio.com

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**

Heidi Leppin .....Display Advertising Manager .....hleppin@polkio.com  
Rachel Best .....Display Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com  
Karen Sanks .....Client Services .....ksanks@polkio.com

**CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING**

Dawn Ohren .....ioads@polkio.com

**PRODUCTION**

Kathy Huggins .....iosales@polkio.com  
Karyn Pressel .....iosales@polkio.com

**BOOKKEEPING**

Pat Letsch .....pletsch@polkio.com

**Web:** [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com) **Phone:** 503-623-2373 **Fax:** 503-623-2395