

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support to DHS athletics greatly appreciated

On behalf of the coaches here at Dallas High School, we just want to thank the boosters for a great auction. Also, we hope to encourage the parents of younger (seventh, eighth, ninth graders) youth to come up and fill that vital void.

We use those funds to upgrade facilities, purchase uniforms, equipment, hire additional coaches, you name it. Some of our boosters have held offices now for close to a decade. They've been loyal and supportive, but they are due for a reprieve.

Thanks once again you guys!

Tony Olliff
Dallas

Friends, family supportive in a time of need

Awesome people you should know about and their giving. After Larry Wildman's passing Sept. 24, Jim and Annastasia Brown with their hired man, and my family came on Sept. 26 and totally prepared the orchard for winter. Larry had been concerned he could not do it for two or three months and now it's done. I am blessed and looking forward to next year's crop.

Pat Wildman
Dallas

Rep. takes pride in 'staying local'

I'm a firm believer in



staying local. So when State Rep. Paul Evans made good on his promise to promote local businesses by hosting a fundraiser at the Independence Grill on Main Street, I was thrilled. My family eats there all the time and we really enjoy proprietor Greg Peterson's food and the grill's atmosphere. To be able to go there last Monday night and talk with Rep. Evans, who understands just how important "Main Street" is, makes me feel good about the future of District 20.

Shannon Cockayne
Independence

Loud cars are a noisy nuisance

What's the deal with people and their overly loud trucks and cars? Some trucks are loud just by

being diesels, but others are just made to be loud and rude intentionally. You may like the sound of your "Fast and Furious" wanna-be hopped up street drifter (FYI you're not Paul Walker). Not his fault but, look what speed did to him. I doubt your neighbors enjoy having that thing start up and drive down your street at 6 a.m. in second gear with your window-shaking music thumping. As for the older diesel trucks that you "used" to use to pull your fifth wheel with, you don't use it for that anymore, so do your neighborhood a favor and get a quieter vehicle that doesn't sound like 100 marbles in a clothes dryer. I'm sure people who like their neighborhoods quiet would really appreciate it.

Ali Rion
Dallas

Report not high on use of legal pot

Oregon has legalized marijuana we find out things aren't so good in Colorado. A study in Colorado by the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking (180 pages long) proved what the proponents of legalization claimed was absolutely false. They stated that traffic fatalities would reduce as people switched from alcohol to marijuana and the marijuana doesn't impair driving to the same degree. It was stated by the proponents with the implementation of tight regulations would prevent increase of use especially among the youth. Oregon needs to take notice.

In Colorado marijuana related traffic deaths doubled from 47 to 94 per year between 2009 and 2014. Colorado's marijuana-related Emergency Room calls have increased since 2009 by more than 10,000 per year and Emergency Room visits have doubled from about 8,000 to more than 18,000. Moreover, Colorado's marijuana-related hospitalizations have nearly tripled since 2009. The annual cost of that increase in hospitals from about 4,400 to nearly 11,500 per year would exceed \$50 million.

Pro-marijuana folks promised with the new taxes on sales, significant new state and local revenue would be generated. Actually it has only generated a disappointing seven-tenths of one percent of state revenue.

Self-reporting use of marijuana among Colorado children between 12 and 17 of age is now more than 50 percent higher than the national average. Last year over 5000 Colorado school children were expelled for the use or distribution of marijuana. Oregon schools graduation rate is already bad without adding this. All this has been reported in Colorado in a state where three-fourths of local jurisdictions have enacted outright bans on marijuana for recreational use (228 of 371).

I think the people of Oregon need to take a long look at what they voted into law. Oregon can't afford what Colorado is going through.

Bill Kluting
Monmouth

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, OCT. 14

- **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, OCT. 15

- **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, OCT. 19

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

TUESDAY, OCT. 13

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

GUEST COLUMN

School year off to great start

The school year is off to a great start, and we already have quite a bit to celebrate.



Johnstone

First, thank you to those who attended the Dallas High School Booster Club annual auction. It was an impressive show of support and commitment to our kids! Secondly, Craig Button, PE teacher at Whitworth Elementary, was named Distinguished Educator for September. From the voice of students, "Mr. Button is there to always help us and never gives up on us." Thirdly, our district is receiving a CLASS Grant for \$323,451. These dollars will be used to support instruction. It is not a coincidence that all three

of these celebrations involve our staff, parents, and community, and I appreciate each partner for their shared investment in our kids.

As we focus on our board goal to increase student achievement, we have a new best practice starting called "instructional rounds." The concept is taken from the medical rounds model used in teaching hospitals. One day each month, all of our district administrators gather in one school to observe the teaching and learning that's going on in classrooms in that particular building. The observations are used to help support the building principal's efforts to elevate student learning. The goal is to view what is happening in the classroom through the eyes of the student. Our first instructional round was at Dallas High School, and we look forward to continuing

this valuable learning experience.

As we work and learn to adjust our practices to meet the needs of our students, listening and gathering the viewpoint of our community is important.

If you have questions or ideas to share there are three approaching opportunities to do just that: Dallas Retirement Village on Oct. 22 beginning at 9:30 a.m., McDonald's on Oct. 23 beginning at 8 a.m., and Pressed Coffee & Wine on Nov. 3 beginning at 7:30 a.m. These are informal coffee conversations and I look forward to meeting with you and hearing your ideas.

Thank you for your interest and support of our district.

Michelle Johnstone, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Dallas School District No. 2

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited. Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period. Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-Observer* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers. Letters must include the author's name, address and tele-

phone 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*.

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.

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