

**EDITORIALS**  
**Working together for a better community**

Want to find a place that knows how to respond to a need?

Look no further than Falls City. The weekly Friday produce giveaway at Mountain Gospel Fellowship Church in Falls City is just one example how citizens of Polk County's smallest city rally to help their neighbors — with caring and without judgement.

The program serves up 120 families — as many as 450 people out of a town of less than 1,000 — each week, providing them with a wide selection with fresh produce they may not have access to on a regular basis.

It started small, like many efforts in Falls City, simply using available resources. But when organizers saw a larger need than was being met, they answered the call once again. The program expanded.

When original organizers Angie Varney had to step away and Wayne Kester died suddenly, the program could have ended.

That didn't happen. Someone was there to take the reins, and a call for volunteers to keep the now-vital giveaway going was answered.

Go to Mountain Gospel Fellowship on Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and you will see not only people receiving nutritious food, but emotional support.

You see friends helping friends and hear laughter — "A party atmosphere," as one person described it.

You see community. The giveaway is trying to expand further by applying for grant money to start cooking classes to teach people to use the food they receive weekly. Organizers have been resourceful, appealing to a culinary school to have students teach basic cooking classes.

We hope to see the grant awarded and that effort get off the ground in this next year.

But here's betting the people leading this program will find a way to accomplish that goal even if the funding doesn't come through on the first attempt.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Do your research on U.S. Constitution**

It blows my mind that people have lived in these United States for maybe as long as 100 years and still don't know what the "separation of church and state" is.

No, I am not going to tell them. It would do no good as there are too many milk drinkers and meat eaters (1 Corinthians 3:2). I can see a lot of head scratchers.

Anyway the reason I am writing this is because of the news ad on TV about these kids singing songs at the Grotto. They won't let them anymore because the milk drinkers don't understand the "separation of church and state."

Just gave you head scratchers something to think about.

Dan Marlon  
Dallas

**Author needs help with local history**

I am writing a book and I wondered if anyone remembered Mrs. Kate Buss Willis.

She died in the area on July 1972, when she moved to join her daughter, Sybil.

Her daughter married the pastor of the St. Hilda's Episcopal Church, Monmouth. I would also be grateful for her daughter's married name.

Kate Willis was a survivor of the Titanic sinking and came from my home county here in England. Please help if you can. Thank you.

I am just trying to get my facts correct before publication.

Anyone with information can email mikedunnill@mac.com.

Mike Gunnill  
Upchurch, Kent UK

**DAS music jams off to good start**

Many thanks to the many performers and music lovers who helped kick off the ninth season of Dallas Area Seniors Music Jam in September.

For the last nine years, we've invited all ages of singers, musicians and music lovers to come and have one of the longest-run-

ning, all-volunteer, free secular music showcases in Dallas.

The level of musicianship and comradery continues to improve with age.

This Thursday at 6:30 p.m., we are hosting our ninth annual Halloween Jam.

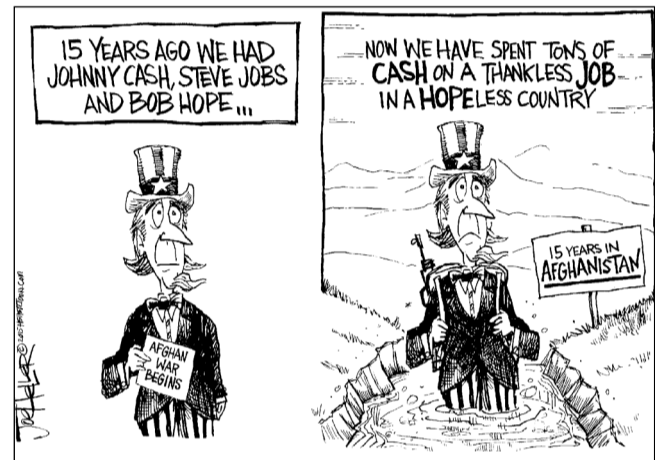
I would expect nothing but the most imaginative costumes and epic performances of nostalgic to contemporary harvest-themed novelty songs.

This is a splendid opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate this special time of year with music on an inter-generational level.

I am grateful to the Dallas Area Seniors for allowing me the honor of hosting this great program for all these years.

While I know we had all hoped to be celebrating in the new Dallas Senior Center by now, we are still rocking in the current location, in back of the Dallas City Library building.

Michele Griffin-Campione  
Dallas Senior Music Jam host  
Dallas



**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. 21**

- 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.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 23**

- Rickreall Watershed Council — 1 to 3 p.m., Delbert Hunter Arboretum House, Dallas City Park. 503-623-9680.

**MONDAY, OCT. 26**

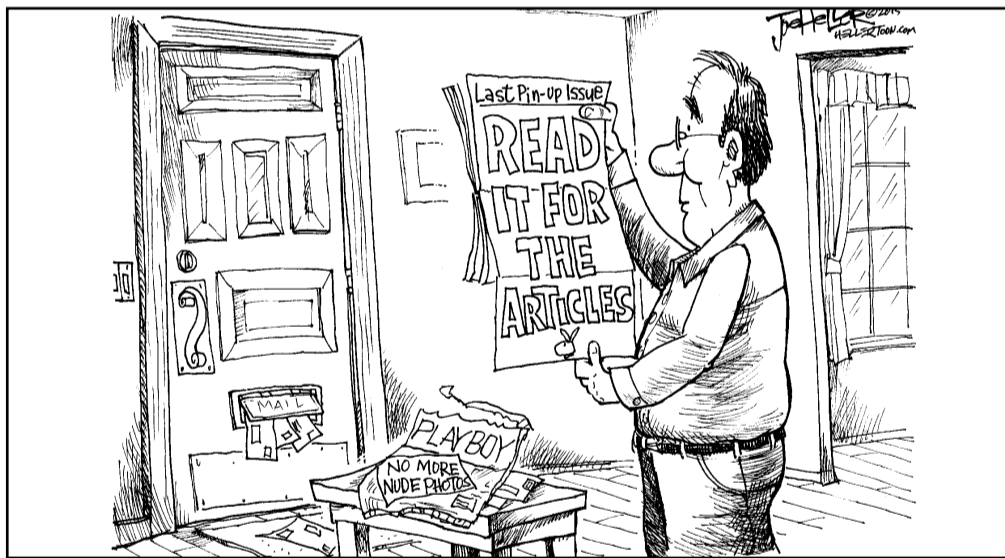
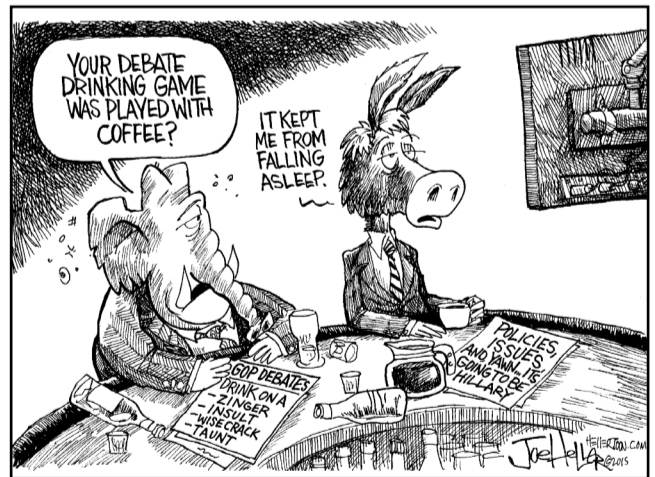
- Independence Library Board — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1811.
- Dallas School Board — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 27**

- 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, OCT. 28**

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



**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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