

EDITORIALS

We need your help to deck the halls

It's just a little more than a week before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature will be stirring, not even a mouse — or so the poem goes.

In our newsroom, we're bustling, not just working to write stories and editorials, but to make our own homes and office smell and look festive. To that order, the newsroom reporters have decided to try their hand at some baking themselves.

This could wind up being a disaster, as not all of our reporters have much experience in the kitchen. For one of them, this will be a first.

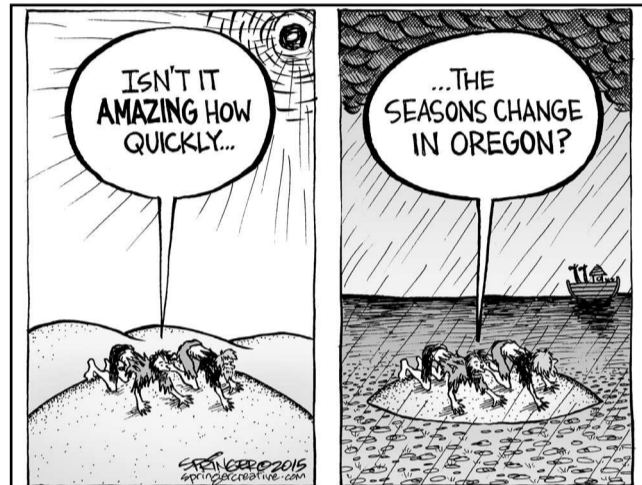
But what to make?

This is where you come in! We'd love to give your favorite holiday recipes a try this year. Even the ones we aren't brave enough to try — or don't have the right ingredients for — we'd love to include on our recipe page next week.

We will do the baking this week, just on time to try out the results on other unsuspecting coworkers and report the findings — what the recipe is, what went wrong or right, and photos of what it was supposed to look like versus what it turns out to be.

Who knows? Maybe we have some natural bakers in the newsroom. We look forward to hearing some of your favorite recipes, and maybe send us a picture of your successes or failures — along with the story that goes with it, of course.

Send submissions to ionews@polkio.com, with the subject "Holiday recipes," or just bring it into our newsroom at 147 SE Court St., 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, DEC. 16

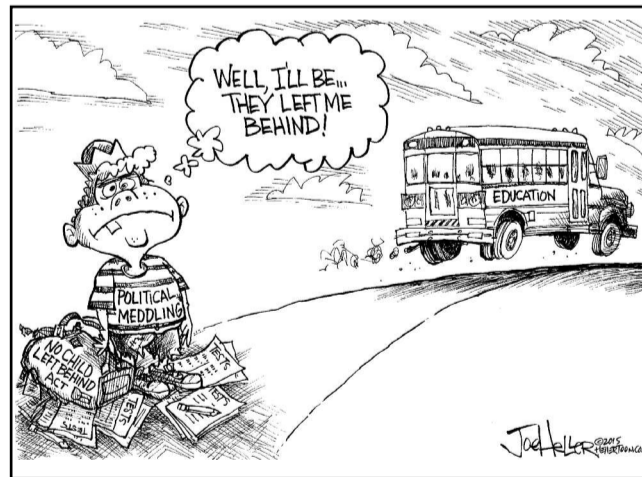
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
- **Chemeketa Community College Board of Education** — 5 p.m., Chemeketa Community College, 4000 Lancaster Drive NE, Salem. An executive session will be at 4:40 p.m. according to ORS 192.600 (2)(a).

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

- **Monmouth Independence Network** — 7:30 a.m. Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warrant St., Monmouth. 503-837-0700.
- **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.

TUESDAY, DEC. 22

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polk County craft fair a huge success

The Polk County Fair Craft Festival again proved to be a fantastic shopping experience. I want to congratulate the staff at the Polk County Fairgrounds for putting on a craft festival that offered an amazing array of talent from a variety of vendors.

There truly was something for everyone. Every year there is something new and exciting to see, but not at the cost of losing out on longtime favorites.

I would also like to thank the Polk County Fair Board members as well as Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope and Polk County Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler for volunteering their personal time to assist with the event. There is no admission charged for the event, but this group of volunteers to greet shoppers, collect donations and answer questions. Your continued support and dedication to the Polk County Fairgrounds is greatly appreciated.

This event is a great way to kick off the holiday season. If you missed it this year, make sure to get it on your calendar for next year, the Friday and Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

Anna Scharf
Perrydale

Local postal staff show great service

I want to express my appreciation for the local post office staff. I recently had a package misaddressed, due to a typo I made. The vendor kept right on top of the matter with me, as did the postal service. Not only did they deliver the package to

the right address and on time, but they did it on Sunday. I didn't even know they delivered on Sunday.

I don't have reason to visit the post office very often, but when I do they are always cheerful, helpful and efficient. This is a challenging time of year for them with all of the extra Christmas mail and packages, and they do a great job. Thank you for the outstanding service!

Teckla Buller
Dallas

Reader does not appreciate cartoon

In regards to your cartoon "Axis of Evil," the Quran approves (but does not require) of Muslims using violence and lying to promote and export Shariah law to every land. Therefore radicalized Muslims aren't doing anything wrong according to their faith. There is no diversity in Islam, only Shariah law. Most Muslims don't approve of the use of violence. In regards to "Easy Access to Guns," if "easy" access is a contributing factor, then how do you explain the use of guns and bombs in Paris, sense neither is "easy" in France. Are bombs "easy" in San Bernardino? If guns are "evil," should the police have them?

Gary Weis
Dallas

Dallas community embraces family

Our family would like to express a very heartfelt thank you to our community and our wonderful town. As many of you know, our son Josh became very ill

while at George Fox.

Before we knew it, a very long and difficult journey had begun.

We spent a week at Salem Hospital and five weeks at Oregon Health & Science University, watching our son's health decline. Witnessing his battle was truly one of the hardest things we have been through.

Our town truly lifted our family up; everyone was amazing.

Words of encouragement, cards, gifts delivered and, most amazing, were all the thoughts and prayers; they were priceless to us. The doctors, nurses and — honestly everyone — up at OHSU was absolutely astonished at our hometown of Dallas. They all stated they have never seen anything like this.

Josh is now home beginning his recovery and getting ready for two more surgeries.

To say we appreciate your support, love and prayers is an understatement; it was an absolute comfort to not only our family of three up at the hospital but also our family who were here in Dallas. We are so proud to have our hometown be Dallas, and to feel the love and support of our community. We are forever grateful.

Mike, Colleen and
Josh Kibbey
Michael Kibbey Family
Dallas

Birthday party is pleasant surprise

I would like to thank everyone that attended the surprise birthday party for me at the Oak Grove Grange Hall.

Leota Lane
Dallas

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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