

EDITORIALS

County offers plenty to brighten your days

Don't let the gloomy weather get you down. There are plenty of things to be bright about in Polk County. Friday, Monmouth and Independence celebrated residents and businesses that make the town great by giving back to the community.

This Friday, Western Oregon University will host the NCAA Division II West Regional, with eight teams — including WOU — competing for a spot in the Elite Eight.

Students from LaCreole Middle School are working to save money to attend the world championships of robotics. The team, Shift, will head to Kentucky in April to represent Dallas among the best of the best.

Then there's the "news that could have been worse." Thanks to the sprinkler system at Forest River and the quick response from Dallas Fire & EMS, a fire on Thursday did not get out of control. The fire, started by a cigarette, could have been much worse, affecting not only Forest River and its employees, but all of Dallas.

Thanks to the perfect timing — and perhaps a little chance — Monmouth City Councilor and Central High girls basketball assistant coach Jon Carey was saved from a car accident-turned-fire on March 2. Polk County Reserve Deputy Eric Bery and Lincoln County Deputy Eric Larson were in the right place at the right time to pull Carey from his car before it ignited and went up in flames.

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, MARCH 9

- **Independence Heritage Museum Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Monmouth Parks and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Board** — 6 p.m., USDA Service Center, 580 Main St., suite A, Dallas. 503-623-9680, ext. 5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
- **Western Days Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Falls City City Council** — 6 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.
- **Polk County Fair Board** — 8 a.m., Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W).
- **Luckiamute Watershed Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-837-0237.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

- **Monmouth Tree Advisory Board** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

- **Hops and Heritage Festival Commission** — 6 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — 7 p.m., 150 N. Knox St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.
- **Southwest Polk Fire Protection District Board** — 7:30 p.m., Rickreall Fire Station, 275 Main St., Rickreall. 503-831-3530. (location moves each month)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- **Independence Historic Preservation Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas Parks Advisory Board** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Falls City School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Falls City High School, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support bond to fix community streets

Our Dallas streets have been falling into disrepair for 20-plus years.

Street damage begins with water finding cracks in the asphalt, degrading the road base. As more cracks occur, they become "spider webs." The streets then deteriorate faster becoming more expensive to repair. Let the damage continue without repair, and the streets will need complete reconstruction.

We now have many streets in poor condition, and so I support the 10-year bond to repair them.

I want to be a part of keeping Dallas a great place

for all of us to work and live.
*Debra Nord
Dallas*

Gas, tech company may keep kids here

Very exciting news appeared in the *IO* regarding the proposed new job opportunities in Dallas to be provided by American Gas & Technology.

This has the potential to propel tremendous economic growth in Dallas and bring (hopefully) family wage jobs to our town.

It would be helpful to get a little more information regarding timelines (when might hiring begin), wages (just an approximation of

the entry level salary range) and benefits.

My husband and I relocated to Dallas seven years ago after retirement, but our son and his family have been here close to 20 years.

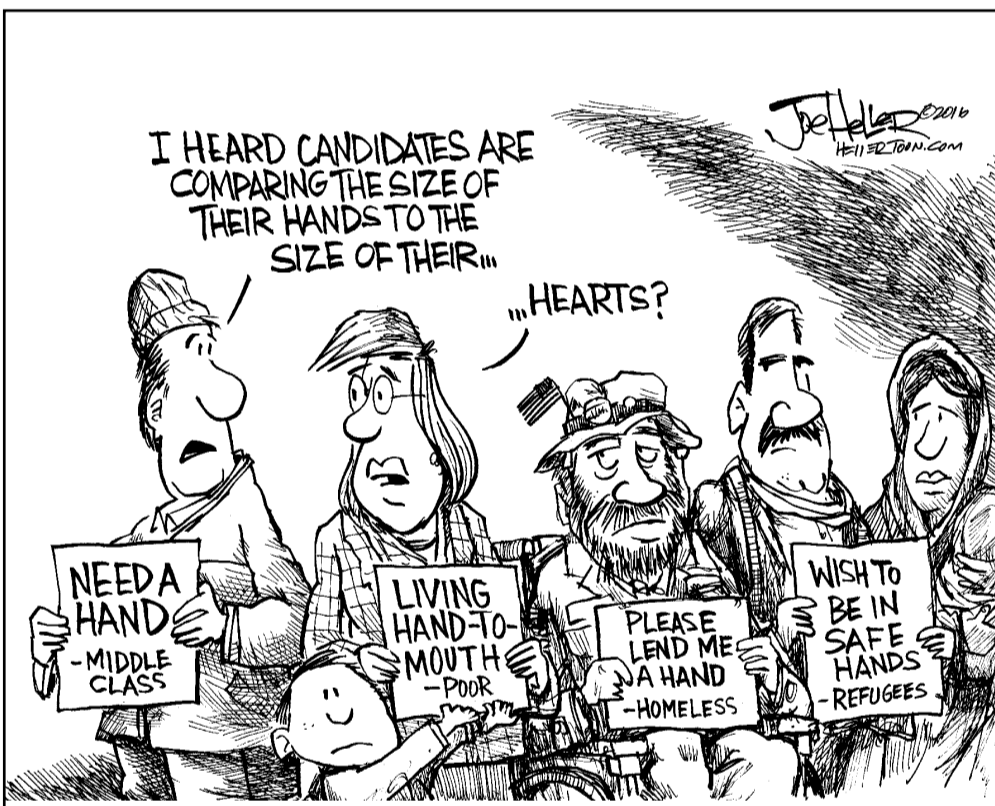
It would be wonderful to see good jobs for our grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren, keeping them close.

*Lynne Bowen
Dallas*

Resident disagrees with raise for Minet

Dear Editor: A raise for Minet's manager. Really? For what?

*Carl Nightengale
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 *IO*'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 *IO*, 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.

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

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

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

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

Rep. Paul Evans
(District 20, Democrat)
H-281 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1420
rep.paulevans@state.or.us
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

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

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

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

POLK COUNTY Board of Commissioners
850 Main St.
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503-623-8173
www.co.polk.or.us

CITIES
Dallas
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-2338
www.ci.dallas.or.us

Falls City
299 Mill St.
Falls City, OR 97344
503-787-3631
www.falls-city-oregon.gov

Independence
555 S. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1212
www.ci.independence.or.us

Monmouth
151 W. Main St.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-0722
www.ci.monmouth.or.us

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

- Nancy AdamsPublisher/Editornadams@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 LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
- Rachel Best.....Display Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
- Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

- Dawn Ohrenloads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

- Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
- Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com **Phone:** 503-623-2373 **Fax:** 503-623-2395

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