

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix streets before it gets too late

Everything on this planet only lasts so long and so it is with the streets of Dallas. The time to pay the piper is now.

I get the part about there never being enough money to go around because I am one of those folks, but the proverb "For Want of a Nail" seems apropos here — for want of a nail the shoe was lost, then the horse, rider, battle, and ultimately the kingdom followed.

Let's "shoe the horse" before the "kingdom" is lost by voting "yes" on the bond measure for street repair.

Tom Augustyn
Dallas

County shines in volunteer efforts

I appreciated Joe Koubek's letter about the Ford Program benefiting the community. I had spotted the interpretive way finding signs to the Rickreall Trail System in driving by two sites. Being physically challenged, I hadn't stopped to walk to the signs to read them.

I want to inform community members of the jewel we have in Polk County: Services Integrated Teams. Polk County, and the school districts in the county, each contribute funds and have a group of governmental, nonprofit, religious groups, and interested community members that help decide how to coordinate services and provide for needs in the community.

Salem Health (the "parent" corporation over Salem Hospital and West Valley Hospital) also contributes money, and they "earmark" their funds for health needs.

I'm sure I first read about this program at least 10 years ago, when I was still a Kiwanis member.

I started participating to facilitate the club assisting the community, and the community learning about the club.

Later, the club "folded,"

THE HIDEOUT OF OREGON'S BIGGEST DRUG DEALER...



and I have participated as a Dallas Lion and interested community member. When a need is brought before the committee, we often "brainstorm" solutions, and individual groups often volunteer to assist.

It is my understanding that no other county in Oregon has this commitment to collaborate to meet needs.

Barb Chrisman
Dallas

Retain Wheeler as commissioner

I will be voting to retain Jennifer Wheeler as our Polk County Commissioner. Her years of governmental experience and as our commissioner earn her the right to be re-elected. She will continue her efforts to support public safety; to maintain our local infrastructure; to protect property rights; and to judiciously manage our tax dollars.

Jennifer represents Polk County citizens with honesty and integrity, using common sense and good judgment in her decision making.

She is a strong advocate for community involvement; victims of domestic violence; promoting local

businesses and preserving our rural farm communities.

Wallace W. Lien
West Salem

Outlet would provide low-cost groceries

As we know, there are no Grocery Outlet Bargain Markets in the whole of Polk County at this time. The citizens of Polk County, for years, have had to drive a long way to Salem, McMinnville and Corvallis to shop for groceries.

It is a hardship for people who cannot afford to or are unable to drive to other towns.

Local Safeway and Walmart stores' prices are too high, and people with low incomes cannot afford to shop or buy all they need at these stores. So, we are badly in need of a Grocery Outlet right here in Dallas.

The Dallas Mini Market, located between Oak and Mill streets, was opened last year, but lasted only a few months before going out of business.

It had limited options, the prices were too high and the market has been vacant for some time.

It is my suggestion for

that vacant market to be converted to the Dallas Outlet Bargain Market. It would create a much better business. Also, the location in downtown Dallas is a great advantage for many nearby neighborhoods. Customers can walk to do their shopping rather than go to Safeway and Walmart, thus avoiding heavy traffic.

The Grocery Outlet can provide affordable dry foods, dairy, fruits, vegetables, meats, medicines, tools, organic foods, Cart bus tickets, etc.

It's time for a Grocery Outlet to be established in Dallas and I hope it will be soon.

M.L. Hamstreet
Dallas

Sanders to empower people

Concerning Emily Mentzer's excellent article on the minimum wage, I am writing to comment on Rep. (Paul) Evans' assertion that "profit ... and value therein has not been equally distributed ...". Sounds too much like "to each according to their ability and each according to their need." In six years, federal mandated inflation will erode at least

18 percent of this wage.

This is why I support Bernie Sanders, who, through his education policy, will empower people rather than making them dependent on handouts to secure their future votes, as the current party in power is doing.

Gary Weis
Dallas

Invest in streets now, save later

Homeowners know a roof leak, if not quickly repaired, will involve interior ceilings, walls and furnishings. The same holds true for our streets.

If defects are not quickly repaired, the cost to repair Dallas street sub-structures will rapidly mushroom from about a dollar to \$4 or \$5 per square foot.

Economically, we should no longer postpone repairing Dallas' residential streets.

Our willingness to invest a few tax dollars now will save thousands of dollars in the future.

Let's keep Dallas a great place to live.

Vote yes to fix our streets.

Jim Fairchild
Dallas

Dallas bond small effect on taxes

A third-party evaluation indicates that greater than 50 percent of our streets are rated less than good. Of those, two-thirds are rated poor. Let's not be like other cities that wait too long to fund street repairs, or it will become a debt no one will fund.

The City Street Bond in May's election will ensure we don't incur a lifelong debt for street repair. The County Road Bond will be paid off January 2017. This new bond will take effect as the county bond expires; our taxes will only go up slightly. Let's keep our streets up to date.

Ken Kentch
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, MARCH 30

- Polk County Board of Commissioners — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- Rickreall Watershed Council — 2 p.m., Delbert Hunter Arboretum House, Dallas City Park. 503-623-9680, ext. 104.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- Central School District Board of Directors — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.
- Independence Planning Commission — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- Dallas City Council work session — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502. The council meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- Monmouth City Council — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- Dallas Urban Renewal Advisory Committee — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565.
- Polk County Board of Commission work session — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- Monmouth Historic Commission — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- 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.



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. Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for

a business, products or services will not be printed.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline. For the complete letters policy, see our website at polkio.com.

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