

**EDITORIALS**

**Make the world a better place**

We're filled with raw emotions as we take in the fact that 49 victims were killed and 53 injured in Orlando, Fla., on Sunday morning.

People are quick to lash out in hatred and disbelief. They want to blame everything from guns to politicians to religion, refugees to mental health to "the system," which didn't catch red flags in background checks and investigations.

While all of those contribute to the problem, the core is simpler in concept, but perhaps easier said than done.

A group of people gathered in Monmouth's Main Street Park Sunday evening to hold a candlelight vigil, standing in support with Orlando and the victims and their families from across the country.

They sang songs of faith and love. They spoke of stepping up for those who need help. They said it is up to all of us to stand for what is right, speak out against those who twist ideas into hate, and uphold a worldwide community of love, regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

In the same weekend, we saw thousands graduate from our high schools and Western Oregon University.

In their faces and futures, we see hope for humanity.

We have learned about their amazing service to their communities; we have seen their talents and heard their voices throughout the years. We know they have the power to change this world through acts of kindness and love.

It will take courage to speak up for those who have no voice, to step forward in the face of adversity and peer pressure, which has taken on a new meaning with the rapid spread of opinions through social media.

In this mis-information age, it takes courage to have an opinion contrary to the group mentality, and to listen to each other when others have a different viewpoint. But we must. To stop the hate, we must.

**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, JUNE 15**

• **Independence Traffic Safety Commission** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

• **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.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16**

• **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

• **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

• **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.

• **Glen-Gibson Watershed Council** — 5:30 p.m., Salemtowne Breezeway Room, West Salem. 503-623-9680.

**MONDAY, JUNE 20**

• **Independence Tourism and Events Commission** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21**

• **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.

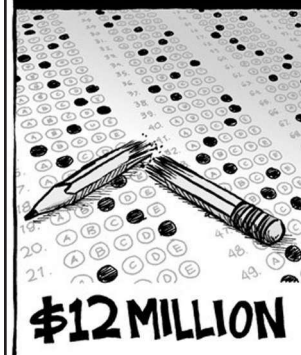
• **Falls City School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Falls City High School, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.

• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

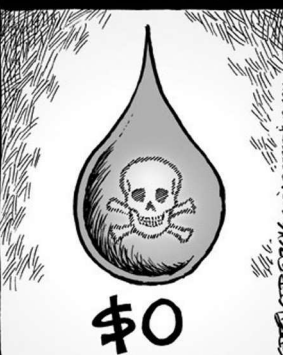
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

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

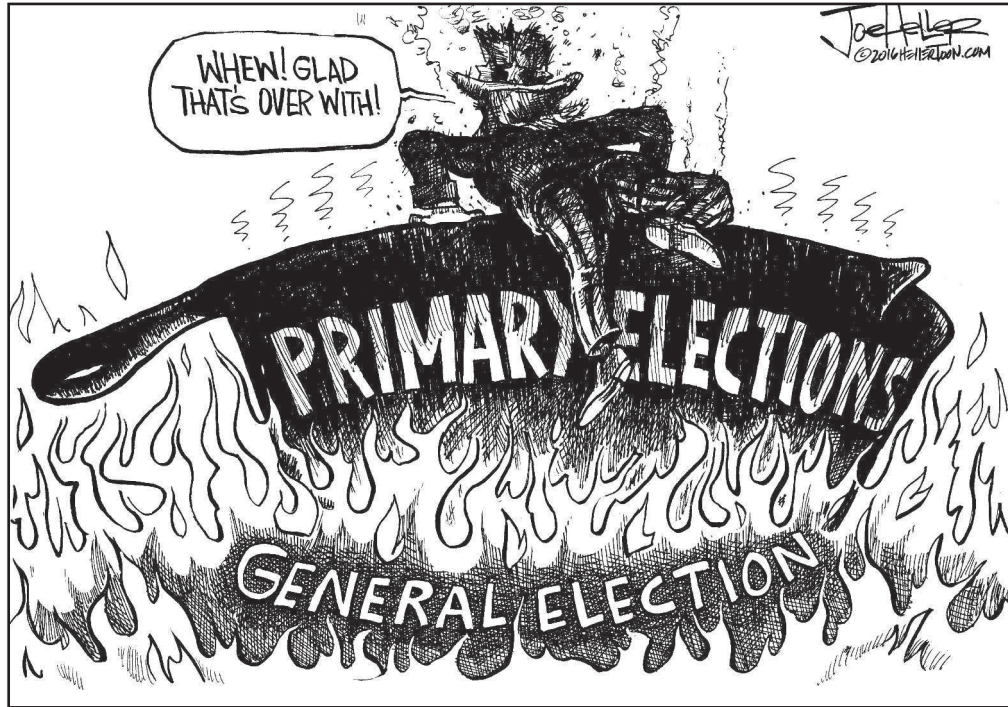
**MONEY DEDICATED TO STANDARDIZED TESTING OF STUDENTS IN OREGON SCHOOLS IN 2015:**



**MONEY DEDICATED TO STANDARDIZED TESTING OF WATER IN OREGON SCHOOLS IN 2015:**



**OPINION**



**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.

Reach us at:  
**Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338.  
**Fax:** 503-623-2395.  
**Email:** ionews@polkio.com.  
**Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

**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)  
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)  
S-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)  
S-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**

Emily Mentzer .....Editor/Monmouth/Independence Reporter .....ementzer@polkio.com  
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....leggen@polkio.com  
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporter.....jguzman@polkio.com

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**

Heidi Leppin .....Display Advertising Manager .....hleppin@polkio.com  
Rachel Best .....Display Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com  
Karen Sanks.....Client Services .....ksanks@polkio.com

**CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING**

Dawn Ohren .....ioads@polkio.com

**PRODUCTION**

Kathy Huggins .....iosales@polkio.com  
Karyn Pressel .....iosales@polkio.com

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

Polk County  
**Itemizer-ObsERVER**

Vol. 141, No. 24 (USPS) - 437-380

The official newspaper of Polk County • Serving Polk County families since 1875

Winner of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 General Excellence Awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR. Published weekly at 147 SE Court Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 Phone: 503-623-2373

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
Polk County — One Year \$35  
Other Oregon Counties — One Year \$40  
Outside of Oregon — One Year \$45

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the Itemizer-ObsERVER is at fault.