

EDITORIALS

Be safe while you enjoy summer

With summer officially here, it is time to remember to be safe while you recreate and celebrate.

Climbing temperatures make rivers and streams look enticing, but remember water may be colder than you expect, and hidden dangers such as logs may lurk just beneath the surface.

Always wear a life preserver when recreating on or near the water. Even proficient swimmers sometimes struggle with the cold and current.

Our law enforcement agencies are stepping up patrols through the Fourth of July weekend, searching for those driving under the influence of intoxicants. Nowadays, that includes marijuana. While enjoying an alcoholic beverage or recreational marijuana may be part of your summertime celebrations, remember to plan ahead and designate a driver — or find another way home. Don't drink and drive.

Being behind the wheel and using your cellphone by texting or talking can led to a serious accident in just seconds. There are enough distractions on the road — don't add your cellphone to the list.

Pull over if you need to answer a call or text — or better yet, give the phone a rest while you drive from point A to point B.

It isn't worth the ticket — and most of all, it isn't worth losing your life or killing someone else. Don't forget to buckle up, too.

With the long days and early mornings, many are out and about walking, running and bicycling.

Though it's not illegal to take a walk, run or ride in dark clothing, consider a wearing reflective vest or other highly visible gear, especially during the hours of dawn and dusk. It really helps drivers see you.

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-Observor* via fax (503-623-2395) or email (ionews@polkio.com).

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.

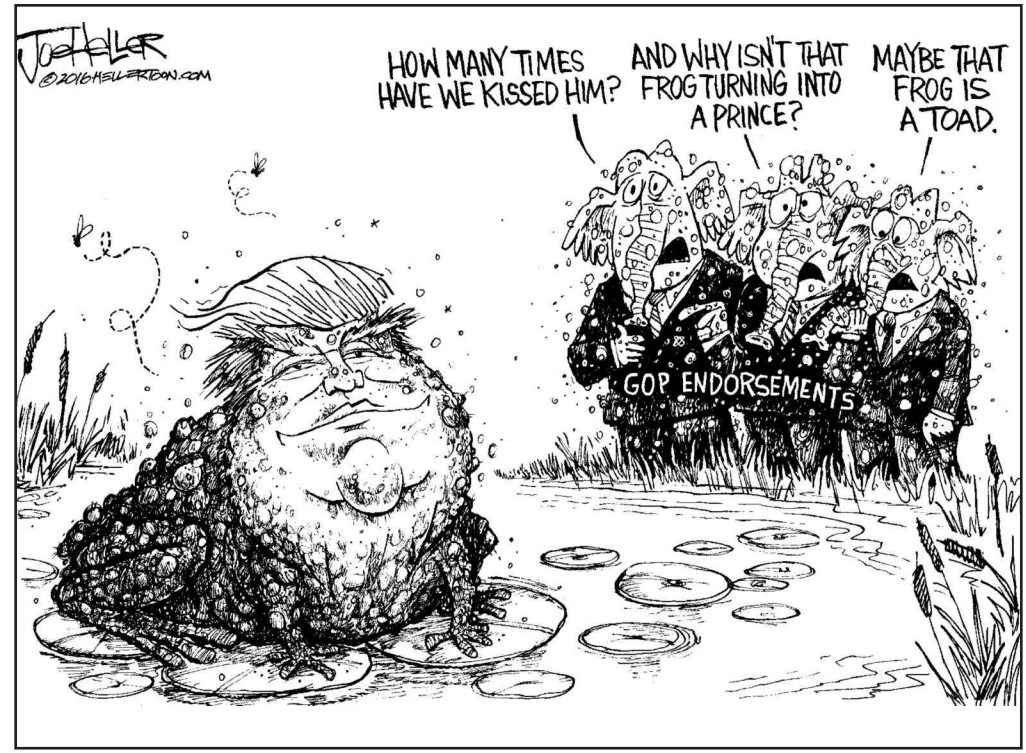
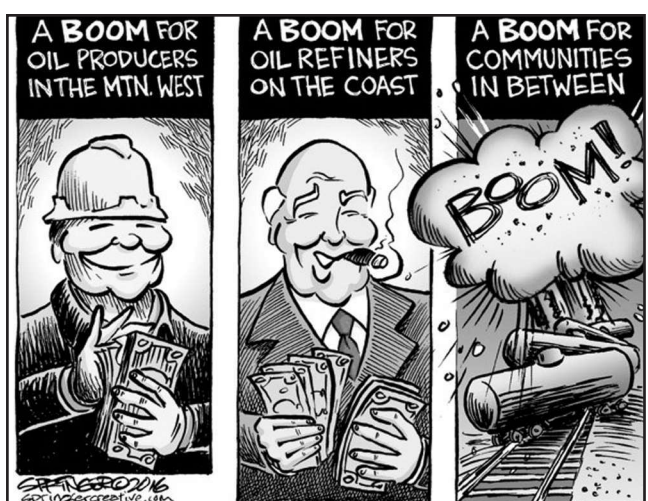
THURSDAY, JUNE 23
• **Monmouth-Independence Networks Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. 503-837-0700.
• **Rickreall Watershed Council** — 2 p.m., Delbert Hunter Arboretum House, Dallas City Park. 503-623-9680.

MONDAY, JUNE 27
• **Independence Library Board** — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
• **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594

TUESDAY, JUNE 28
• **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
• **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29
• **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

Dallas Fire, EMS thanks supporters

On behalf of the men and women of Dallas Fire & EMS, we extend our thanks to more than 500 residents who joined us for breakfast at the fire station on Father's Day.

The proceeds of this annual event will help support the Harpy Bovard Scholarship, which recognizes a longtime volunteer firefighter and provides assistance to a Dallas High School sen-

ior attending college. Our organization has proudly served Dallas and Southwestern Polk County since 1878, and we appreciate the support and continued assistance we receive from our community.

We extend a special thanks to our Dallas Starbucks Coffee and Dallas Boy Scout Troop 288, who both helped make our event a success.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Freedom-fest fireworks show being

held at dusk on July Fourth as Dallas celebrates our nation's birthday and independence.

Later in July, we invite you all to stop by the fire station during Summerfest and meet your emergency services team and ask about becoming a member of our great volunteer organization.

Eriks Gablics
President
Dallas Volunteer Firefighters Association
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-Observor* 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-Observor*, 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)
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)
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)
305 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1712
sen.brianboquist@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist

Rep. David Gomborg (District 10, Democrat)
471 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1410
rep.davidgomborg@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomborg

Rep. Paul Evans (District 20, Democrat)
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)
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.fallscityoregon.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

Polk County **Itemizer-Observor**

Vol. 141, No. 25

(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-Observor*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

The Polk County Itemizer-Observor 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-Observor* is at fault.

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

Emily MentzerEditor/Monmouth/Independence Reporterementzer@polkio.com
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....leggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporterjguzman@polkio.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
Rachel BestDisplay Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohrenioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

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

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