

EDITORIALS

It takes a village to throw a great party

Another great Fourth of July celebration is in the history books. Tens of thousands of people gathered in Monmouth and Independence for the Western Days and Hometown Stars and Stripes celebrations over the weekend, while hundreds gathered in Dallas Monday night for music, food and fireworks.

Saturday, a last-minute parade and potluck drew a crowd in Falls City.

As we enjoyed — and covered — events around Polk County, we noticed all the volunteer effort that went into making a seamless event.

From the Community Art Show and Art in the Park in Monmouth, to the Hometown Celebration in Independence, it is thanks to people putting in the hours year-round to organize those events — from recruiting the vendors to lining up the live music to planning and executing the pyrotechnic displays — that make it possible.

Dallas and Falls City were not to be left out of the Independence Day fun. Though Dallas' organizers took a step back from an all-day event, the evening was packed with a good time for all.

Falls City nearly missed out on the weekend celebrations, but thanks to community-minded business owners, a successful and patriotic parade was followed by a potluck where the mayor flipped hamburgers and cooked hotdogs for all.

Another thing we noticed was the enormous support from law enforcement throughout Polk County. Walking through Independence Riverview Park were officers from Dallas Police Department and deputies from the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Monmouth and Independence police officers worked in both towns as if there were no city limit signs.

We appreciate living in a community that comes together at all levels — from citizen volunteers to first responders to law enforcement — during times of celebration.

Thank you all for another great weekend packed with fun Fourth of July events.

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 email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 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.

MONDAY, JULY 11

- **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.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Tree Advisory Board** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas Planning Commission** — 7 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, JULY 13

- **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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plan to move peafowl is afoot

Your June 1 article about peacocks in Monmouth brought up a good point: large birds shouldn't wander onto highways.

These birds reside near Gentle Woods Park but population growth in the last couple years has encouraged them to look afield.

The local neighbors plan to capture and move several birds (including the adolescents pictured in your article) when the adult males lose their tales and become transportable, about the beginning of July.

The remaining birds will be less likely to roam onto nearby properties and roads.

These are beautiful birds and often on display on the neighborhood streets. They also seem to realize they are photogenic.

Just a warning though: they are wild birds. They're not aggressive but they are not chummy either. So watch with care.

*Dan Farnworth
Monmouth*

Ella Curran thanks food-drive donors

On behalf of the Ella Curran Food Bank Board of Directors and volunteers, I

want to thank the very generous members of our community who have donated to the Food Bank. In recent months the food bank has greatly benefited from food drives and individual donations:

Western Oregon University Food Drive, the Postal Workers Drive, the Mon-Indy Green Bag project, the Central School "Fill the Bus" drive, local businesses, clubs, churches, libraries and so many individuals.

During the last two months, more than 1,200 people have received food through the Ella Curran Food Bank; 450 of them are children under 18.

Each day we see the impact of your donations and the appreciation that the food bank customers express.

So once again, we would like to say "Thank you" for making such a difference.

*Robin Puccetti
President, Ella Curran Board of Directors
Independence*

Noise caused by soldier celebrations

I recently received an anonymous letter from a neighbor. I hope you will print my rebuttal.

Dear Anonymous:
It is said that the pen is

mightier than the sword. In your case, your sword is as mighty as a boiled noodle.

Next time save yourself a lot of trouble and shorten your essay to one simple sentence: "Hey, it was kind of loud last night."

Some young men were home on leave from the military, and it was close to the Fourth of July.

They decided to exercise the rights they are defending with some target practice.

Even my mother joined in, she is 85.

Mid-week, yes, perhaps loud. However, I will not apologize to mail with no return address. I will welcome constructive comments from neighbors.

We are a free people, and I believe these rights should be exercised.

Flex freedom's muscles for those who bought it. Feel free to call the police. They are welcome here, we have nothing to hide.

We will remain a family who adds character and cares for our community.

And since you mentioned our old neighbor, we miss him too.

He knew how to do something you will never know: Mind your own business!

*James B. Reams
Independence*



Visit our website, www.polkio.com for local news, sports and community events.

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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