

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evans represents district in parade

The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate our nation's independence with our families and friends. In Monmouth and Independence, the parade reminds us of what community really means. I was so glad to see our state representative, Paul Evans, in the parade.

He is an asset to our area and has accomplished much in Salem to benefit those of us who live outside major cities. Paul is a friend to local farmers, small business, and families. I am proud of the work he has done in our community and in Salem.

*Paula Baldwin
Monmouth*

Americans must regain freedoms

Apparently, certain members of the political class can be accused of a lack of judgement when found to be not complying with the laws of the country, while the rest of us have to make bail or routinely pay exorbitant fines for our indiscretions.

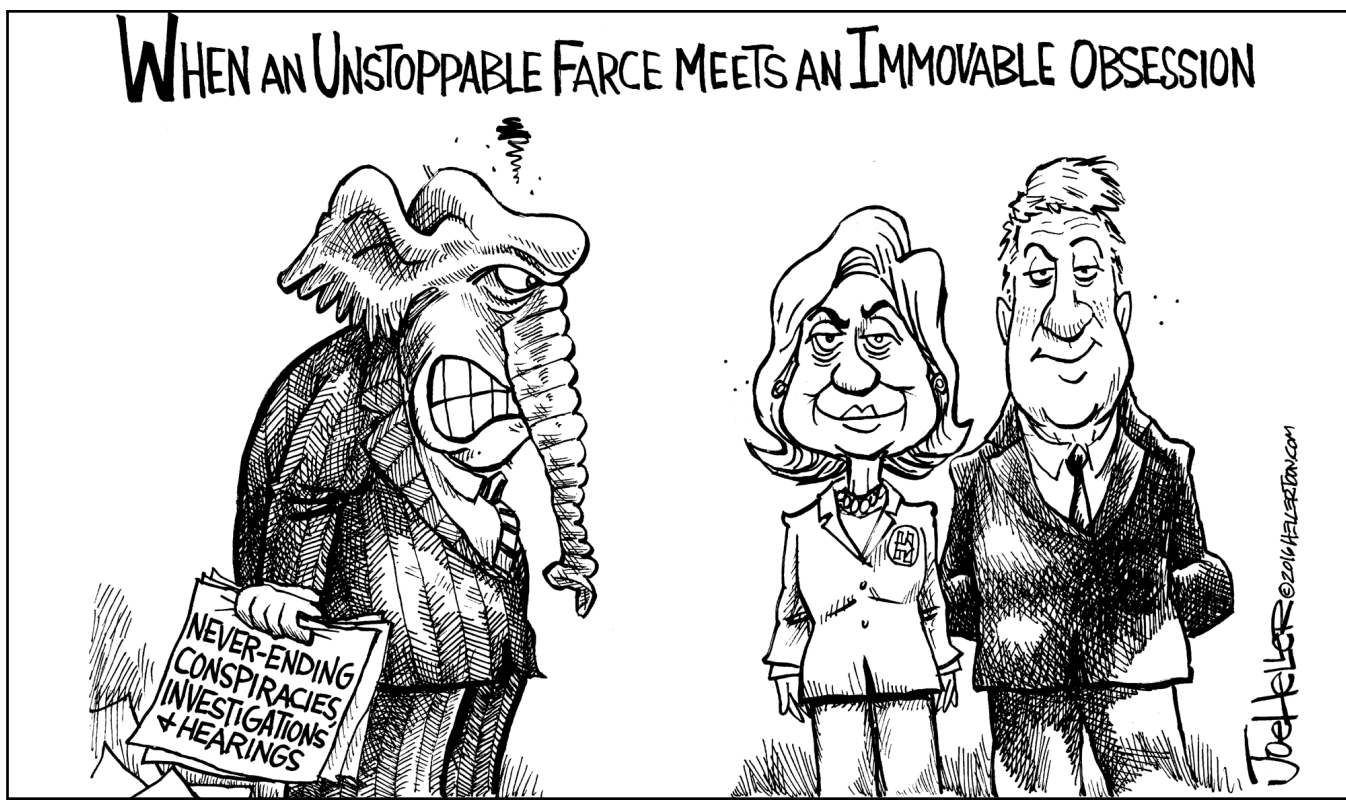
We have allowed a privileged political class to assume a dictatorship position and declare that our free speech rights are subject to various degrees of political correctness that they determine and enforce.

This political class has refused to follow the rules that this country was established with, and routinely ignores the will of the people. The liberties established in our Constitution and Bill of Rights are being rationalized and whittled away on a daily basis, and people who protest these actions are deemed to be dangerous to the established society and in violation of one rule or another so that they can be either ridiculed or penalized.

The laws of the country should be worded so that the citizens can understand them and know what the penalties are for not obeying them, or be allowed to petition their representatives to rewrite them so that there is no question about when a law is not being followed.

And each law should apply to all residents in the United States of America. There should be no privileged ruling class, nor exceptions of any kind. All residents of the country should be made aware of the laws and enforcement penalties for not abiding by them.

It is time for Americans to



throw off the yoke of political correctness and regain their freedoms.

*Richard C. Evans
Monmouth*

Rodriguez sets example to all

Courage permits one to face extreme dangers and difficulties without fear, without a second thought, and without question. Those who possess courage also possess selflessness, heroism. They are great hearted, and full of virtue. It is rare to find a person who displays all of these traits every day. So we feel much honor to know such a person.

Our dad, Jim Rodriguez. He diligently and faithfully served this community for 27 years as a police officer. However, he has been much more to so many. Whether he was handling a serious crime or a simple disagreement, he knew that everyone goes through hardships and makes mistakes.

He offered them understanding and often times an open ear to listen or even a shoulder to cry on. Most importantly, he withheld judgment and gave everyone the respect they deserved. He's taken on many roles as a police officer; working as a school resource officer, acting as problem solver and liaison to the youth of this community.

He was also a member of the SWAT team for many years, putting his life on the line to ensure the safety of this community. Never once expecting a thank you but just satisfied inside knowing he did his part. Being a bilingual officer, he has had the ability to build trust and

rapport with all members of our community.

He has given countless hours wearing the badge, patrolling the streets and keeping the citizens of this community safe. Whether on or off duty, he would go above and beyond the call to serve people from all walks of life, often times leaving a lasting impression on their lives. There aren't enough words to say about how we feel. He's our biggest hero and we are so proud of you dad!

Love, your kids.

*Robert, Shane and Nikki
Rodriguez
Dallas*

Fourth of July celebrations were special

Here in Polk County, we live in small towns, and we like it like that.

On Independence Day, there were a number of special events. The annual July Fourth parade in Monmouth and Independence was, as usual, noteworthy. The Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club has been sponsoring this parade for a number of years, and they had a very successful event again this year.

Then in the evening in Dallas, we were fortunate to have a spectacular fireworks show. Both events were well attended by people from not only Polk County, but outlying areas as well.

Thanks to the M-I Rotary and to the city of Dallas and the Dallas Fire Department for making Independence Day a special occasion for all of us who enjoyed these commemorations to a special day. We all look forward to more of the same, or even better, in 2017.

*Jerry Wennstrom
Dallas*

Food bank thanks community

The Dallas Food Bank would like to thank the community of Dallas for your continuing generosity and support. You enable us to feed approximately 960 hungry individuals each month.

The widespread support ranges from Safeway, Walmart, the Dollar Tree, Dallas Community Foundation, Dutch Brothers, the post office, *The Itemizer-Observer*, local churches and local businesses, to many private citizens from our area.

With summer here and the children home from school, our food needs are growing and challenging. We are still unable to purchase basics, such as body soap, laundry soap, toilet paper and dish detergent.

If you can help, please call the Food Bank at 503-623-3578, or bring donations to 322 Main St., Suite 180, Dallas.

*Mona Ordonez
Food Bank volunteer
Dallas*

Solution for peacock problem

I read the recent letter to the editor about relocating excess peacocks from Monmouth to some other location outside the city. This has been done in the past and I am the recipient of these varmints. Monmouth has removed an irritant from there and moved the irritant to here, which is Cooper Hollow. They began to show up a while back and soon outlived their welcome (sound familiar Mon-

mouth?). As Monmouth is aware, these varmints are loud, roost on cars (scratching paint), eat anything they find such as gardens and food for outside cats/dogs/wild birds/chickens. Then they do the natural thing: poop. Great piles of the stuff lying around waiting to be stepped in by anyone that is not looking at the ground at all times.

I am offering another solution to this problem. Turn it into an opportunity. My uncle had a ranch outside Reno many years ago and had a lot of peacocks running around the place. He often ate them — said they tasted a lot like turkey. So, how about offering the excess peacocks to, say James2 for their meals? This would solve the problem and provide three pluses: free meat for meals and removal of the pest from Monmouth and prevention of further varmint invasion of Cooper Hollow. Sounds like a winner to me.

*David Moellenberndt
Monmouth*

Thank you for a great Fourth

We want to thank all of you that were a part of organizing and presenting the fireworks display in Dallas on July 4. It was terrific and gets better each year.

We appreciate your time and effort.

*Al and Vi Mohr
Dallas*

Leave peacock population alone

In response to the fear and danger of the peacocks causing traffic jams, accidents and disturbing the peace of our neighborhood. I have lived here for 13

years and the most enjoyable and happy times I have had has been watching the habits and behaviors of the peacocks.

The mommies bring their babies to my back door like they are saying, look what I have brought for you to enjoy. My kids, grandkids and now great-grandkids have watched them and taken pictures and clapped their hands at the antics of the young ones. People from other areas come to take pictures. The peacocks are probably the most photographed item in Polk County.

If you don't like them in your yard, spray them with the hose. They don't like water. Granny 2 Toes was the leader, and she kept the kids in line.

After she had her last chick and he was able to fend for himself, she disappeared.

As far as I know, there are two mating males and one female in the adult range, two young males and one young female.

I would ask that you leave them alone.

*Della Katon
Monmouth*

Random act of kindness

We would like to thank the anonymous people who paid for our lunch at Washington Street Steakhouse on Sunday. This happened because we simply exchanged tables with some other guests that needed more room. Thank you for being so kind. We were blessed.

*Sandy and Kevin Smith
Dallas*

Sheriff grateful for support

I would like to offer my thanks to the citizens of Polk County that have dropped by or called the Sheriff's Office to show their support for the men and women of the Polk County Sheriff's Office after the recent events in Dallas, Texas. Your kind words and thoughtfulness are important to those in the Sheriff's Office and are very much appreciated. The members of the Sheriff's Office were enlightened and energized by the support from the community. Thank you for letting the staff of the Sheriff's Office know how much they are appreciated and cared for. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with the Dallas (Texas) police officers and their families.

*Mark Garton
Polk County Sheriff
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 meeting date via email (ionews@polkio.com).

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.

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 newspa-

per, 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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Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Vol. 141, No. 28

(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

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