

EDITORIALS

Election letters begin next week

Starting Sept. 7, our next issue of the *Itemizer-Observer*, we will begin printing election-related letters. We know the election season has been going all year, but with the final applications for local offices turned in, and final decisions on who is going out for what bonds made, we declare this the official opening of our local election season.

We have already received endorsement letters and other election-related letters in our office, and we wanted to take a moment to remind our readers about our letters to the editor policy on election letters.

Letter writers are allowed one election-related letter per election season. All election letters are limited to 100 words or less.

For the sake of open discussion, we define "election letter" strictly. A letter making general observations about the nation would not be labeled as an election letter.

Any mention of the election, candidates, measures or bonds will be considered an election letter.

Election letters are not accepted from anyone living outside of Polk County, so please, be specific about where you live. As always, addresses and phone numbers are required when submitting letters to the editor, as is the name of the letter writer. If you live in West Salem, please clarify that rather than saying you live in Salem.

We do not accept guest columns. All opinions submitted must fall into the guidelines outlined in the letters policy.

We maintain our policy to allow as many people a voice on our opinion page as possible.

As writers, we understand how difficult it can be to narrow down your thoughts into the allowed word count — in fact, we've seen many of you are talented writers, and have had trouble narrowing down your word counts on occasion, too.

But we feel that the long-standing policies of the *Itemizer* benefit everyone in the long run. We want to help the conversation, and we're proud to be partners in this community.

We look forward to as clean an election as possible — at least locally.

For more information or if you have any questions: Emily Mentzer, 503-623-2373 ext. 117 or ementzer@polkio.com.

In last week's editorial thanking our volunteer firefighters for keeping us safe, we failed to mention a part of that team: Falls City Fire Department.

Falls City has a volunteer force 35 members strong and they deserve as much credit as any other department.

As is the case for other fire crews in Polk County, call volumes are up in Falls City and training requirements continue to increase. So far this summer, the department responded to two major house fires, an unusual occurrence in a city so small.

To you volunteers who respond to calls in Falls City, we apologize for the oversight and thank you for your service.

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, AUG. 31

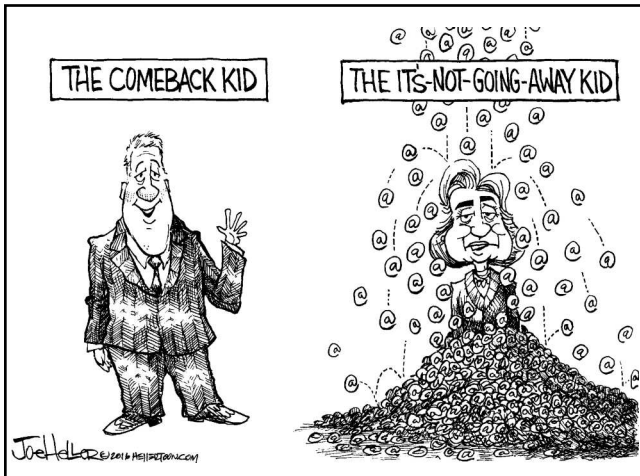
• **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 6

• **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, SEPT. 7

• **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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indy Landing noise will hinder building

The Independence Landing redevelopment site has a noise pollution problem from unmuffled motor boats on the Willamette River.

No, this is not your grandpa's fishing boat or even modern manufactured ski boats.

Think a dragster motor on the back of a racing boat, and they are just as loud at 120+ decibels.

What tourist would stay at a hotel, feet from the equivalent of a drag strip?

What homebuyer would purchase a condo in a location where their children are subject to permanent hearing loss when they go outside to play?

What developer would invest in such a risky site?

The Polk County Marine Patrol has admirably tried to control the worst offenders, but current law ties their hands.

The laws to control noise from these craft are old and inadequate.

For example, in the narrow case when violators are cited, only Oregon boaters can be penalized by the courts and the Oregon State Marine Board.

For out-of-state boaters, there are neither consequences nor penalties.

In a spring 2016 survey of unmuffled boats on the Willamette River at Independence, one of every three unmuffled boats were registered in California.

The solutions are too complex for this short note, but require legislative action to solve the many inadequacies of the unmuffled boating laws in Oregon.

Unless and until the noise pollution problem from unmuffled boats on the Willamette River is solved, development partners for Independence Landing may be hard to find.

Mike Lippsmeyer
Independence

What is that awful smell in Rickreall

Why does our small town of Rickreall smell like rotten, dying, fermented stench?

I know the dairy smells, but this is different and the

smell doesn't go away. It makes me wonder if the air is even safe to breath.

This has been happening the past few years, and each year it seems to last longer.

Please bring this to attention and get whatever is causing it to stop.

My family can't even enjoy summer outdoor activities because the smell keeps us indoors.

If it were only a couple days, it wouldn't be so bad, but it's weeks.

Why doesn't someone do something to stop the smell? It has to be a violation to our environment.

Sherry Garcia
Rickreall

What is the holdup with senior center

I am writing in regards to a letter a couple of weeks ago by June Krause about the hold up of our senior center.

Many people have voiced the same opinion as to why the hold up.

I feel that the citizens of Dallas that have lived and worked here, and raised their children here, and now retired here are being set aside and being ignored when it comes to getting a decent senior center for them to use and have functions in.

It really is a shame that it has taken so long to move things along.

Dallas has so many seniors that live here and more all the time. Just look at the growth of new apartments at the village.

Other towns close by have such nice places for the seniors to gather and hold their functions.

So what is the problem with Dallas? Why the long hold up? Our seniors are as important as anyone else and deserve to have a nice meeting place like other towns.

They have worked long and hard for it.

So come on, the people holding this up should stop and think that they, someday, will be senior citizens and would like a new place with a decent location to go to and visit, play cards and have functions.

I have been hearing for

two or three years about the plans for a new senior center, so what is the hold up?

Someone is not doing their part to make this happen and I say shame on whoever is responsible for treating this with such little importance.

We would like to see some action on this and get it done.

Carol Chaney
Dallas

Dallas Rotary Club thanks community

Members of the Dallas Rotary Club would like to thank the community of Dallas and Polk County who supported our recent Breakfast in the Park and Tom Newton Memorial Car Show. Because of your support, the club will be able to continue its tradition of serving Dallas.

Money raised by these club events is used to sponsor various Dallas activities such as putting interpretive signs on the Rickreall Creek Trail and building Rotary Park, the Rotary Stage and tennis courts at Roger Jordan Community Park. We also provide scholarships to students at Dallas High School and Morrison Campus and to participants in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

On July 31, Dallas Rotarians served more than 1,400 meals at the breakfast and had 172 car show entrants. We presented 50 beautiful fused glass trophies to car show winners. This was made possible through the efforts of club members and more than 50 local businesses and individual sponsors. The trophies were custom made by Lynda Barrett Art Glass. Roger Pope provided poster design and car show photography services. Focal Point Photography printed car show winner photos for us.

Thank you to all who helped with Summerfest activities, the Rotary Breakfast in the Park and the Tom Newton Memorial Car Show. Most of all, thanks to the members of our community who attended these events and support Rotary Club services in Dallas.

Russ Dimberg,
Dallas Rotary President
Dallas

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Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

Vol. 141, No. 35 (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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