

EDITORIALS

Voting deadline looms Tuesday

We are ready for Nov. 9. We are experiencing voter exhaustion. Each day, we are bombarded with new information about why this candidate is better, or why this candidate is worse. Why vote yes on this measure, or vote no on that one.

We're tired. We know you are, too. But don't mentally check yourself out of this election until you've filled out that ballot and put it in the mail — just one first-class stamp needed — or in a drop box.

Through all the talk of poll results, landslide victories, electoral colleges and swing states, it can be tough to keep believing your vote matters.

We're here to tell you it does. It may not carry as much weight nationally, but locally — where elected leaders have more immediate impacts on your daily life — it matters a lot.

Remember two years ago when Danny Jaffer lost to County Commissioner Craig Pope by 11 votes?

More recently in May, the Falls City Schools facilities bond lost by just 11 votes.

This election year, residents of each Polk County city will have choices in who will represent them on the city council, with unopposed offices the exception rather than the rule.

Several measures this general election will have an impact in our state, county and cities — will certain corporations face a new sales tax? Will schools be asked to spend more money on high school students? What about paying for outdoor school for each district? Should money from the Oregon Lottery pay for veterans services?

These are just some statewide financial impacts of this election. Locally, both Falls City and Central School District are asking for voter approval on facilities bonds.

City council candidates have different ideas on how to spend taxpayer dollars, also.

Read up on what the candidates think on the *Itemizer-Observer* website, polkio.com, and be sure to turn in your ballot before 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

When you wake up on Nov. 9, at least you can breathe a sigh of relief knowing you made your voice heard.

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, NOV. 2

- **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, NOV. 7

- **Central School District Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.
- **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas City Council work session** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502. The regular council meeting will follow at 7.

TUESDAY, NOV. 8

- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **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.
- **Independence Heritage Museum Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9

- **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

Garton has what it takes to lead

I have known Mark Garton for many years and I believe he has what it takes to be elected as our Polk County sheriff. He has worked from the ground up in the Polk County Sheriff's Office, earning his way to his current position.

Mark has followed through with promises made during the levy campaign (24-hour patrols and POINT). Mark has also created the Mobile Crisis team to address mental illness in our community, which is needed.

Mark's strong family values and sense of community makes him the right person to be our sheriff.

*Judy Whitlow
Amity*

Help feed the hungry this holiday

Thanksgiving is fast approaching.

Last year the Dallas Food Bank provided more than 100 Thanksgiving food boxes for hungry families in our community. This was made possible with the help of generous and caring individuals, churches, and businesses of Dallas.

These boxes allowed hungry families to partake in a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

This year our goal is to provide at least 100 families with holiday boxes.

We are asking for donations of green beans, packaged stuffing, cranberry sauce, and store-bought pies to fill the boxes.

Donations to help purchase food items would also be helpful.

Food items can be bought to the food bank at 322 Main St., No. 180, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., or dropped off at the Dallas library.

If you have any questions, please call us at 503-623-3578.

Thank you for your help.

*Mona Ordonez
Dallas*

Thompson finds ways to help

I worked with Jim Thompson over 30 years. There are huge differences between Jim and his opponent.

Jim seeks people to help him develop projects and ideas, plus accepts input from any source.

His opponent sees his role as blocking everything. Jim spent considerable time helping constituents.

His opponent doesn't, so constituents go to Sen. Boquist, overloading his workload. Most members of the Oregon Legislature appreciate Jim's wide range of expertise and seek out his help.

His opponent has only one answer, "No." I know Jim's work. You should vote Jim Thompson and get results for Oregon.

*Jane Brown
Dallas*

Thompson would be asset to HD 23

I met Jim Thompson 10 years ago when I was the guest speaker at a meeting. I found him engaging and well-informed.

We talked about many issues and agreed on the need for more civic education, and for people to be-

come more active in their communities.

I am glad that Jim is running for another term in the Oregon House.

He is a dedicated public servant, concerned about the greater good, and a tremendous asset for Polk County.

I intend to vote for him and encourage others to do the same.

*Ed Dover
Professor
Political Science
Western Oregon University*

Jazz Fest success thanks to partners

St. Thomas Episcopal Church wishes to express appreciation to the many sponsors of the Jazz Festival. \$6,000 was raised and will be equally distributed to three local nonprofit organizations: CASA of Polk County, Sable House and the Polk Community Medical Clinic.

The Wells Fargo Foundation donated \$1,000 to help us reach our goal.

Other community partners who sponsored the event were Home Comfort, Citizens Bank, Capitol West Valley, St. Urbans Cellars, Brissenden and Reynolds Attorneys at Law, the *Itemizer-Observer* and KathKen Vineyard who provided the venue for the event.

We also thank the numerous businesses who were donors to our silent auction.

Thanks to all who attended making the Jazz Festival successful.

Save Sept. 10, 2017, for the next St. Thomas Jazz Fest.

*Janice Wolcott
Dallas*

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WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

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 re-

spond. 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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