

## EDITORIALS

### Brush it off, let's move on together

Your candidate won, or didn't. You feel a sigh of relief, or are considering a move to Canada.

It's easy to get tied into the presidential election, especially this year with such widespread information and misinformation, but don't pack your bags yet.

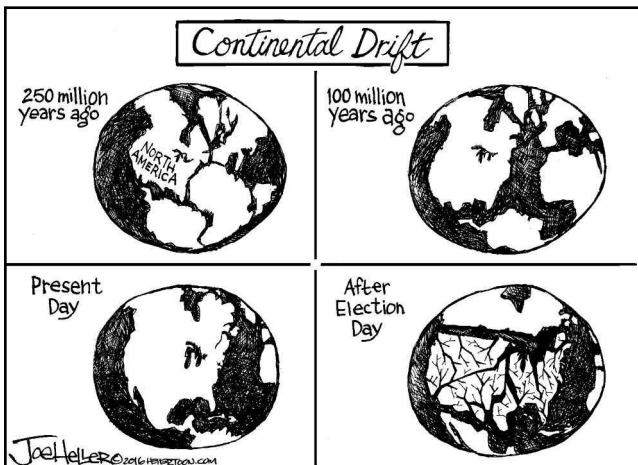
Don't forget that we are a community — friends, family, businessowners, neighbors — and we've been through worse; and better.

It's all about perspective.

Remember that you aren't the only one with a perspective, and try and see others points of view. The only hope we have of not pushing the repeat button on this year is by changing the way we communicate with one another during the next year.

Election results were too late to print in this week's edition — this isn't about who won.

This is about how they won, and how we handled it as Americans. Most of all, it's how we handle it from here.



## 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. 9

- **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.

### THURSDAY, NOV. 10

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
- **Western Days Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Falls City City Council** — 7 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

### MONDAY, NOV. 14

- **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. (location moves each month).

### TUESDAY, NOV. 15

- **Independence Historic Preservation Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas Parks Advisory Board** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Falls City School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Falls City High School, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

- **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

### Glow Run first year huge success

We can't thank enough the committee that initiated and helped make the Glow Run happen.

City of Dallas members Suzanne Dufner and Dave Brautigam headed the committee that included community members Patti Senger, Geoff Guiger, Judy Boustead, Betsy Miller and Mike and Kelly Davis, and city personnel Jeremy Teal, and Dallas Parks Department.

All spent countless hours getting this run organized only to have it postponed due to weather concerns that kept the team in the planning and orchestrating mode for two additional challenging weeks.

This amazing event and fundraiser had over 500 participants. These runners and walkers lit up the night as they moved down streets, through the park and arboretum, finally completing their route at the Academy Building.

It was wonderful to see a variety of folks enjoying the run and supporting Christmas Cheer. Serious runners sped through, while families — strollers in tow — along with walking club members and a few spontaneous bystanders completed

ed the course in their own time. At the finish line they were all welcomed with live music, food and drink.

Over 100 volunteers spent hours preparing the course, stuffing goody bags and working the registration tables. A big thank you goes out to the many sponsors who stepped up to make this inaugural event one of Dallas' best yet. The proceeds from the Dallas Glow Run allow Christmas Cheer to continue doing what we do best — putting together amazing holiday food boxes for local families in need.

Thank you for believing in our program and in our community. We are humbled by the love and support.

*Sue Lamb  
Dallas Christmas Cheer  
Board of Directors  
Dallas*

### Turn on headlights driving in rain, fog

This maybe a trivial topic, but since we are in the season, I wanted to voice my frustration with those that don't use their headlights when driving in the rain and fog.

The opportunity for a collision increases as the weather becomes more difficult to drive in and visibility decreases.

Don't invite trouble; do us all a favor and turn your headlights on.

It won't cost you a dime, and you may save someone injury.

So, talk it up at home with friends, neighbors and co-workers; you'll never know when it helped.

*Mike Berkes  
Dallas*

### Christmas pageant remembered fondly

Dear Rickreall Christmas Pageant attendees and participants:

I want to thank you for your years of support to the "Pageant" while I was the director from 2005 through 2015. It is because of you that we finished strong at our 75th annual "final" performance on Dec. 5, 2015.

With the retirement of myself and several others on the pageant's board of directors, we made the decision to discontinue the pageant.

I hope you will join our Rickreall Christmas Pageant Facebook Group to share what the pageant meant to all of us, whether it be community involvement, new friendships, or faith inspiration.

*Mary McCarron  
Retired pageant director  
Rickreall*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

It's hard to believe we are quickly approaching Thanksgiving. I am thankful for all of you — our community, parents, staff, and students — for your support and engagement in our district.

I want to take a moment to provide you with an update on school safety protocols and the evacuation drill process.

This year we are implementing the protocols from the I Love U Guys Foundation, which began in 2009 by Ellen and John Michael Keys.

Each school in our district began training staff and students at the beginning of the year.

Additional information can be found at [iloveu guys.org](http://iloveu guys.org).

We are beginning to test our systems and refine safety practices by running evacuation drills at three schools this year.

Our district safety committee, in conjunction with local emergency responders, will plan and debrief each evacuation drill.

Once a drill has begun, parents will receive a phone message stating: "This is a drill. The school has been evacuated. Please pick up your student at the designated evacuation site."

At the same time, drill information will be available on the district Facebook page and district website. Details before the drill are purposely limited to fully test our plans.

We began testing our process with a drill at Lyle Elementary School on Oct. 21.

The staff did an excellent job of preparing every detail from evacuation to reunification.

We greatly appreciate all the parents who were able to pick up their students during the drill.

The pickup process is called "reunification," and it is an important step in the process to ensure we have the best practices in place.

We will use the feedback from observers, staff, and parents involved in the Lyle drill to refine our practices for the next drill.

Many have heard the phrase, "practice makes perfect," but I support the modified version of this phrase: "perfect practice makes perfect."

When it comes to safety, we want to ensure we have a perfect process in place to keep kids safe. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Have wonderful Thanksgiving.

*Michelle Johnstone  
Superintendent  
Dallas School District No. 2*

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