

EDITORIALS

Give thanks for community service

Happy Thanksgiving. Today, we at the *Itemizer-Observer* are grateful for you, our readers and advertisers.

As the holidays are upon us, you give us the opportunity to shine a light on the wonderful ways you help each other.

This week kicks off our Community Champions series, highlighting those volunteers who quietly serve others without thought of self — you know who you are, or perhaps you know one.

The Community Champion series is in its second year, and we're up and running with an unsung hero in Falls City.

Mayor Terry Ungricht does far more than cut ribbons and break tie votes. He works the full-time job of city manager — but not for pay.

Ungricht makes sure all the wheels are turning to help the city move forward because he loves Falls City and wants to see it succeed.

It's the hoard of volunteers in Polk County who keep the engine oiled and working — often our local governments rely on those folks to get anything done. Many of their efforts can be seen daily.

For example, the Christmas lights hanging in downtown are carefully checked each year by volunteers replacing lights that have burned out and making sure they are in tip-top condition for all to enjoy.

This year, 50 people helped in the job of replacing bulbs on the snowflakes in downtown Dallas — a huge increase from previous years.

As our country continues to heal from the drama of the 2016 election season, let us put our money where our mouths are and donate our time — the most valuable resource of all — to someone or an organization who needs it.

Join us in the following weeks to read more about getting involved. There's no better time than the holiday season to allow yourself to get carried away in service — and who knows? Maybe it will stick all year long, because volunteerism is not just trendy for the holiday season. It's evergreen.



PUBLIC AGENDA

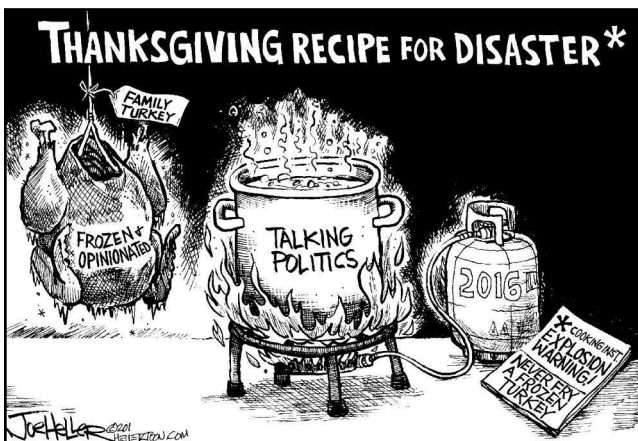
Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-Observer* via email (inews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23
 • **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

MONDAY, NOV. 28
 • **Independence Library Board** — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
 • **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29
 • **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence.
 • **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30
 • **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

More turkeys to be donated to needy

Three years ago, I organized the "Downtown Merchants Turkey Drawing," where each participating merchant gives away a turkey before Thanksgiving. The participating merchants share the cost of advertising for this promotion and the cost of the turkeys.

This year because the *Itemizer-Observer* newspaper has given us free advertising, we are able to use our advertising budget to purchase 27 turkeys to donate to the Dallas Food Bank in addition to the 30 turkey winners from the merchants.

On behalf of the participating merchants and myself, I want to thank the *Itemizer-Observer* for their generosity which enabled us to help the Dallas Food Bank.

And we would also like to thank Safeway and Brandon in the meat department for handling the turkeys and taking care of our turkey winners.

*Linda Taylor
Heartstrings Florist
and Artisans
Dallas*

Stand up for all county residents

I've been a resident of Polk County for 28 years. During this time, I have come to appreciate the many cultural and economic contributions of the Hispanic people to our communities.

Where would our agricultural economy be without them?

Our children's school experience was much richer by being in a bicultural environment.

I sincerely hope people in Polk County will not remain silent against the cruel policies of ending the DACA Executive Order that has provided opportunities for Hispanic young people who have been here most of their lives, and the even more inhumane policy of deporting Hispanic people, thus breaking up families and ruining lives.

There is room and work for all of us here. Oregon's economy is doing well. Hispanic workers contribute to and support our economy. I urge you to speak up for our Hispanic community members.

*Patricia E. Dixon
Monmouth*

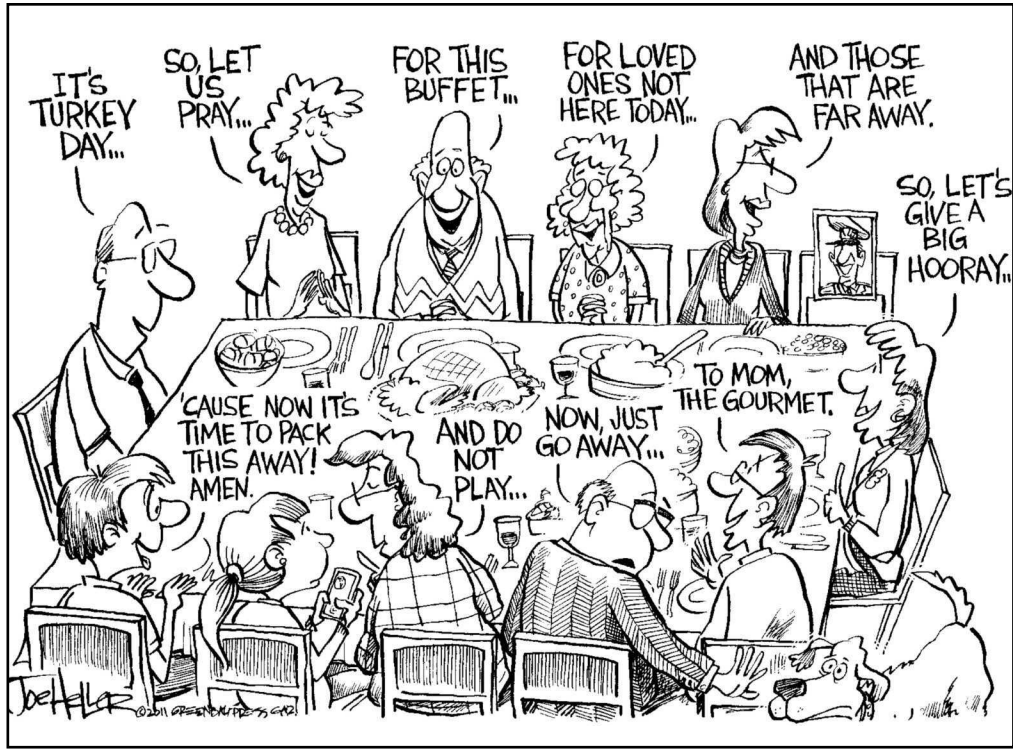
Many voters ignorant of reality

I considered the question, what good came of this election? So far, it is that nearly half of American voters are seriously ignorant of basic reality.

A candidate can say anything, no matter how idiotic, and they will nod and say "Yes, yes."

Bring back all those jobs? Deport 11 million migrants? Stop Muslims from coming to America? Sure.

The majority of his proposals are impossible or unconstitutional. He may try to do these and other idiotic things, but people and cor-



porations will stand in his way. Viewing the election at its basic level we see that the "Family Values" party elected a con man.

Hardly Christian values; although the Christian value of piety on Sunday and anything goes the rest of the week easily settles on Donald Trump.

Watch this space for more perversions of the future of America.

I conclude that persons of the Trump persuasion such as the Koch brothers (big in coal & oil), etc., sincerely do not care about their children or future heirs.

They have no concern about what kind of air they might breathe, water they might drink or soil they might live or grow crops on.

They are singly interested in making as much money as is possible.

And we have now elected one of them president.

*Fred Brown
Dallas*

Public must hold Trump accountable

Against all odds, Donald J. Trump prevailed in the Electoral College, barring some cataclysmic event.

History will record whether he just succeeded in the greatest con of his career. Our task now is to hold him to what he said in his acceptance speech.

He wants us all to come together as one nation.

I will judge by his actions whether he really meant what he said.

So far, he is talking about nominees for positions in his government who are racist, xenophobic and misogynistic.

I fear for our constitutional rights with the team he seems to be assembling.

This is not how you become president of all Americans. Already he is backing away from many of his campaign promises.

It will be interesting to see what happens when he joins the real world and can't replace it with his own facts. Who will he blame when he can't meet expectations? I'll be watching. Will you?

*Dale Derouin
Dallas*

Congratulations Western Oregon

Congratulations to all who made Western Oregon University the top-ranked public university in the state, according to U.S. News & World's 2017 higher education rankings.

That is a wonderful achievement, and could only be possible through the effort of the entire population of the school: students, staff, instructors, administrators, alumni, and everyone else involved.

We are proud of you. Keep up the good work.

*John Schoon
Rickreall*

Wear colors while walking at night

Please, all people wear light colors at night when walking on the road or crossing the streets.

If it had not been for my passenger, I could have ran into some children that were crossing in the middle of a block on LaCreole Drive this last Oct. 31. I did not see the children at all.

I just saw some white shoes of an adult that was with the children.

They were all wearing dark clothing.

If the very least people could do is tie or pin some-

thing white to clothing, it would help when they are going to be in the dark walking. This also goes for bikers that ride at night.

I don't understand what happened to the light law when riding at night? Don't parents care?

*Jean Blunier
Dallas*

Trump faces many challenges

First, on a lighter note: Albert Einstein once said that two things might be infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and he was not sure about the universe.

Mr. Trump will be our president.

He faces many international challenges, including the reality of global warming and the constant possibility of nuclear warfare. Both could extinguish all viable life, including us, of course.

Fortunately, Mr. Trump and Vladimir Putin share mutual respect.

The world community probably cannot and will not solve the global warming problem.

We hope that Mr. Trump's secretary of state will understand the department's complex email system.

Mr. Trump's many domestic challenges should keep him busy for four years.

Oregon's citizens lost badly on Election Day.

The wealthy corporations spent millions of dollars spreading lies about Measure 97 throughout the media.

So now our budget lacks \$1.4 billion, and funds for education, medical and social services are lacking for all age groups.

*Walden Joura
Dallas*

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

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

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.

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. **Email:** inews@polkio.com. **Phone:** 503-623-2373 ext. 117

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