

## EDITORIALS

### Community comes out for MI YMCA

Friday marks the 17th annual Monmouth-Independence YMCA Christmas Party and Auction. For the first time, the dinner and auction event is sold out.

Each year for the last three years, since Natascha Cronin took over as executive director, proceeds from the auction have increased from \$4,000 in 2013 to more than \$20,000 last year.

Although Cronin has since taken on a larger responsibility with the Y, working with both Marion and Polk counties, her heart continues to lie in the Monmouth and Independence communities. She was visibly touched by the response she has received by the community — seen by the sheer increase in participation and in donations.

The community has rallied together for the Y, and, by so doing, each other.

The Y offers a variety of programs, from youth sports to adult fitness, the Independence Pool and Nite Court, after-school programs, summer and winter camps.

Money raised at the annual auction ensures that all who want to can participate, regardless of ability to pay, and that's what the Y is about.

Cronin and her wonderful crew at the Y have made the community a priority. We're glad to see the community has returned the favor.

Even though the event is sold out, there are many ways you can help the Y: Either through time or money — or both.

It's a great place to volunteer. With so many programs, the opportunities to help are endless.

Also, the Y will always be happy to take donations to help pay for scholarships for youths. Just \$25 helps provide services to a young person in our communities.

During the Christmas season, people are often moved to donate financially or get involved as a volunteer. Don't forget our local YMCA when you pull out your checkbook or fill in your calendar.

## 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](mailto:ionews@polkio.com)).**

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 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.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 8

- **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** — 6 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

### MONDAY, DEC. 12

- **Monmouth Tree Advisory Board** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **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, DEC. 13

- **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.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

- **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.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Flag burning is symbol of failure

I pledge allegiance to the Republic of the United States of America, one nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All. The flag is burned at times to demonstrate the evidence of failure to maintain the principles of our country's pledge; for which it stands.

*Charles Krogman  
Dallas*

### PAC hopes to make a difference

We are working on forming a Polk County Principled Action Movement. The recent presidential election brought to light some serious issues in our society and culture. We are starting a movement to do something about one or more of the exposed issues. This movement will strive to include as much diversity as possible.

Group members will identify issues of common concern, will strive to educate themselves about these issues, discuss them, come to a consensus for action, and develop a strategy for specific action. A prime example of this is the Electoral College process.

We are looking for interested people in or near Polk County. One of the few requirements of this movement is the ability and willingness to meet face to face to discuss the ideas and develop a course of action.

We can be smarter as a group than we ever can be acting alone. We are going to provide a safe, trust-filled environment for interactive discussion of diverse and conflicting viewpoints. Trust will be the key to the success of this endeavor, hence the name "principled action."

What will our output be? One suggestion is a well-reasoned white paper on a particular issue, factually as true as possible within the constraints and abilities of the group members, with a suggested course of action. Distribution of this paper, if

this is what happens, will be decided by the group.

Locating and inviting participants is underway. As soon as we have a group of sufficient numbers, we will establish a meeting time and place.

Please contact Bob Murphy, [murf92279@gmail.com](mailto:murf92279@gmail.com), if you are interested in possibly taking part in this campaign or drive.

*Bob Murphy  
Dallas*

### Hundreds fed thanks to efforts

On Nov. 22, the Ella Curran Food Bank provided 200 families with the groceries and a turkey needed to make their Thanksgiving dinner. More than 20 volunteers helped hand out the supplies. Schools, churches, Western Oregon University, businesses, Mon-Indy Green Bag project and individual donors made the project happen. This event fed more than 650 people.

*Patty Nevue  
Independence*

### Dallas Goodwill confusing prices

I frequently browse Goodwill stores from Tillamook to Albany. I feel I must speak up about the high prices at our local Goodwill. Why are the prices here so much higher than any other area Goodwill store?

The items that people donate to Goodwill are sold not only to help finance Goodwill's mission. They also provide a low-cost resource where people can buy used items they might otherwise not be able to afford.

However, browsing at the Dallas Goodwill, I often hear grumbling: "Who prices this stuff?" "I can buy this for less at Walmart — new!" Holding a paint brush priced at \$2.99, another man said, "I can get the same one at the Dollar store!"

The store manager, Christie, has only been at the Dallas store for three weeks. She didn't deserve

my drilling her on the pricing structure. She explained that guidelines are supplied by the corporate office, which still didn't explain why prices at the Dallas store are so much higher.

This is not fair to our community. Dallas has its share of people struggling to make ends meet: people on welfare, people without transportation, dependent on food banks, etc. — not to mention heating bills and Christmas.

Has the Dallas Goodwill lost its perspective?

I believe that Goodwill and other second-hand stores play an important role in society. Putting pride aside, we all want to stretch the dollar and provide for our families the best we can. There's no shame in that.

To me, "good will" is a collective community mind set to help others less fortunate, for balance and quality of life for all. I write this in an attempt to gain fairness, and in hope that this letter will fall before the eyes of whoever "can" or "will" make things right.

Besides, it's Christmas!

*Dwain Roberts  
Dallas*

### Dallas wrestling grateful for support

On behalf of the Dallas High School wrestling team, I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Dallas wrestling program. We recently completed our annual poinsettia fundraiser, and we felt the support of many individuals and businesses in the Dallas community. Dallas has always supported wrestling at all levels, including youth, middle school and high school.

On Jan. 7, we are hosting the Janet Brunner Invitational wrestling tournament at Dallas High School. We invite you all to come out and watch your wrestlers. Thank you again.

*Tanner Earhart  
Dallas HS Wrestling Team  
Dallas*

## 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.

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 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.

For the complete letters policy: [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

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