

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## How to Contact Officials

**GOVERNOR**  
**Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)**  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-4582  
Email: via website,  
<http://governor.oregon.gov/>

**STATE LEGISLATORS**  
**Sen. Arnie Roblan**  
(District 5, Democrat)  
S-417 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1705  
[sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us](mailto:sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan)

**Sen. Jackie Winters**  
(District 10, Republican)  
S-301 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1710  
[sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us](mailto:sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters)

**Sen. Brian Boquist**  
(District 12, Republican)  
S-305 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1712  
[sen.brianboquist@state.or.us](mailto:sen.brianboquist@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist)

**Rep. David Gomberg**  
(District 10, Democrat)  
H-471 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1410  
[rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us](mailto:rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg)

**Rep. Paul Evans**  
(District 20, Democrat)  
H-281 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1420  
[rep.paulevans@state.or.us](mailto:rep.paulevans@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans)

**Rep. Mike Nearman**  
(District 23, Republican)  
H-378 State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1423  
[rep.mikenearman@state.or.us](mailto:rep.mikenearman@state.or.us)  
[www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman)

**U.S. CONGRESS**  
**Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)**  
221 Dirksen SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
Fax: 202-228-2717  
Salem office: 707 13th St. SE,  
Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-589-4555  
Email: via website,  
[www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)

**Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)**  
313 Hart SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3753  
Fax: 202-228-3997  
Salem office: 495 State St. SE,  
Suite 330, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-362-8102  
Email: via website,  
[www.merkley.senate.gov](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)

**Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)**  
108 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-5711  
Fax: 202-225-5699  
Salem office: 544 Ferry St. SE,  
Suite 2, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: 503-588-9100  
Fax: 503-588-5517  
Email: via website,  
[www.schrader.house.gov](http://www.schrader.house.gov)

**POLK COUNTY**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
850 Main St.  
Dallas, OR 97338  
Phone: 503-623-8173  
[www.co.polk.or.us](http://www.co.polk.or.us)

**CITIES**  
**Dallas**  
187 SE Court St.  
Dallas, OR 97338  
503-623-2338  
[www.ci.dallas.or.us](http://www.ci.dallas.or.us)

**Falls City**  
299 Mill St.  
Falls City, OR 97344  
503-787-3631  
[www.falls-city-oregon.gov](http://www.falls-city-oregon.gov)

**Independence**  
555 S. Main St.  
Independence, OR 97351  
503-838-1212  
[www.ci.independence.or.us](http://www.ci.independence.or.us)

**Monmouth**  
151 W. Main St.  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
503-838-0722

### Thanks Dallas Fire for saving lives

I would like to extend a thank you to all the members of the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Fire Department, Dallas Ambulance Service, and to the clergy, for your work to try to save my girlfriend last week in a medical emergency. Within seconds of my call for help, the first officer arrived and took over CPR for me as I was completely in shock, and that permitted me to regroup. I am proud to live in the city of Dallas and again, very proud of those emergency responders, some of whom I have been honored to meet at our neighborhood functions.

Bless you for your care of our city.

Randy Wisnia  
Dallas

### Roundabout best, safest option

The skid marks on 99W at Hoffman Road show why traffic signals at rural highway intersections are dangerous: Inattentive drivers can be surprised by the presence of a signal on an open highway.

Signalized rural intersections often trade the high-speed T-bone wrecks they are built to prevent for high-speed rear-end crashes.

ODOT considered three obvious redesigns for the dangerous 99W/Clow Corner intersection; a signal, a flyover interchange, or a modern roundabout.

A signal would be unsafe. An interchange would be prohibitively expensive. A roundabout is the safe and cost-effective alternative.

People are understandably opposed when roundabouts are mentioned. In one study, 67 percent had negative or very negative impressions of roundabouts before construction.

Surprisingly, acceptance skyrockets once the roundabout is in operation. In the study mentioned above, negative and very negative reactions dropped to 0 percent post-construction.

Support rises when people learn by experience that modern roundabouts aren't like old-fashioned traffic circles; that they are safe and simple to use; and that accidents are fewer and less serious compared to those at intersections controlled by stop signs or signals.

Over 120 modern round-



abouts have been built statewide in Washington since 1997. Where those roundabouts replaced standard intersections, accidents decreased 37 percent, while injury accidents dropped 75 percent. Most importantly, fatal accidents decreased 90 percent.

These safety improve-

ments come directly from modern roundabout design. Signs and lane design help approaching drivers know how to use the roundabout. Fewer vehicle path crossings mean fewer accidents. When accidents do occur, lower speeds and flatter angles of collision mean they are much less violent. Cy-

clists and pedestrians make safer crossings of roadways at roundabouts.

I anticipate much safer travel on 99W north of Monmouth once the current 99W/Clow Corner intersection has been replaced with a safe and simple modern roundabout.

John Oberst  
Monmouth

### Couple bids Dallas fond farewell

My husband and I love Dallas. We both came to Dallas when we were young. We have seen a lot of changes. The hospital is one of the biggest changes. Such a wonderful hospital. Salem Hospital is our lifesaver.

We appreciate the Dallas Senior Center. So many good people giving hours of their time, making a great

senior center.

Good churches, parks and restaurants. Debbie and Mel are so special — great food and nice and clean at Murphy's Restaurant.

The Four Seasons Beauty Shop, Sharon and Carol helping us all have pretty hair. Postal Connections where Jamie and Mark and Sunny make our day bright. Dr. Tom Flaming and his group have gone beyond caring for us. We are moving to Texas to be close to our daughter and son-in-law. We appreciate their invitation to help us in our senior years. Good friends and neighbors — it will be hard to say good-bye. Love you all.

Betty and Les Day  
Dallas

### Single-payer best health care fix

The plan, Obamacare, was weakened by the powerful lobbying of the very profitable multibillion dollar health care industry, whose investors know that a civilized, single-payer plan would be cheaper.

Medicare E (covering everyone who is a legal citizen) would be the single-payer. Under E, employers and employees would not have to purchase expensive employee health insurance.

But, as President Obama has said, this is not a free lunch, and E would need to get a monthly fee from employees.

We are living with Social Security income, and some of it is collected by Medicare. Single-payer health care is most efficient and used by some progressive nations.

Walden Joura  
Dallas

### Samaritans fix roof in nick of time

I wanted to give a big shout out to Kimber Carraher Townsend and her Good Samaritans that she got together for me on Saturday, Feb. 5, in the rain, to tarp a leak that sprouted through my roof into my kitchen.

I hadn't thought to worry so soon about my roof — having installed a new 30-year roof only eight years ago.

Many sincere thanks to Matt, Stephen, Brendan and Rick. It was so nice to have you help me do something I could not do on my own.

Beth Blote  
Monmouth

## PUBLIC AGENDA

**Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for 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, FEB. 8

• **Monmouth Parks and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 9

• **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.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 14

• **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.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

• **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

## WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

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

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

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 respond. 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 pur-

poses 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.

Reach us at:  
**Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338.  
**Phone:** 503-623-2373.  
**Email:** [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).  
**Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

# Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 6

(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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## HOW TO REACH US

### NEWSROOM

Emily Mentzer .....Editor/Monmouth/Independence Reporter .....[ementzer@polkio.com](mailto:ementzer@polkio.com)  
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....[leggen@polkio.com](mailto:leggen@polkio.com)  
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporter.....[jguzman@polkio.com](mailto:jguzman@polkio.com)

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi Leppin .....Display Advertising Manager .....[hleppin@polkio.com](mailto:hleppin@polkio.com)  
Rachel Best .....Display Advertising.....[rbest@polkio.com](mailto:rbest@polkio.com)  
Karen Sanks.....Client Services .....[ksanks@polkio.com](mailto:ksanks@polkio.com)

### CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohren.....[ioads@polkio.com](mailto:ioads@polkio.com)

### PRODUCTION

Kathy Huggins .....[iosales@polkio.com](mailto:iosales@polkio.com)  
Karyn Pressel .....[iosales@polkio.com](mailto:iosales@polkio.com)

Web: [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com)

Phone: 503-623-2373

Fax: 503-623-2395