

EDITORIALS

Wind storm Friday reminds us: prepare

Power and internet service was intermittent on Friday morning as winds gusted through the valley. Nearly 100,000 Pacific Power customers were without power for at least half of the day as powerlines fell left and right.

While it wasn't as severe locally, with a few felled trees and powerlines, it was a good reminder to be prepared.

Saturday, reporter Jolene Guzman attended the Prepare Fair, where she was reminded that the Cascadia Zone earthquake is overdue — with a 33 percent chance that it will happen in the next 50 years.

That seems like a long ways off. Some of us don't expect to be on the planet in 50 years, but our children and children's children will be. But it's not that the quake will happen in 50 years. It's not like the Great American Eclipse, when we know the exact date and time the event will take place.

The earthquake could happen right now, as you're reading this editorial.

It is more important than ever to start the 24-weeks to preparedness. While it may feel daunting, with baby steps, you can feel the peace that comes with preparedness for you, your family, your furry friends and livestock.

We urge our government leaders in the State Capitol to make preparedness at all levels a priority.

We've been told time and again that the government will not be coming to help us in a large-scale disaster. That means depending on ourselves and each other. Consider signing up for the Polk County Community Emergency Response Team, and learn how you can help your family better prepare, and how you can help the community in times of crisis.

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, APRIL 12

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

• **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 Warren St. S., 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.

• **Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors** — 6 p.m., 580 Main St., Suite A, Dallas. 503-623-9680.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

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

MONDAY, APRIL 17

• **Independence Tourism and Events Commission** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

• **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

• **Dallas Budget Committee** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St. 503-831-3502.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

• **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 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

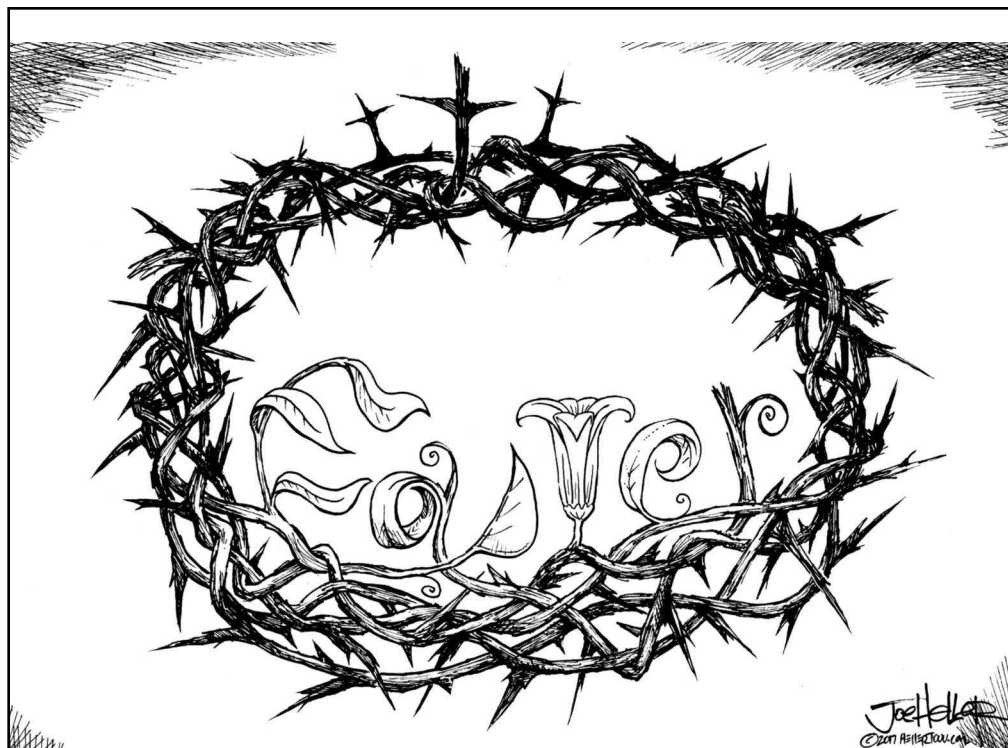
• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

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

• **Falls City School District Budget Committee** — 5:30 p.m., 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indy Station should be finished first

On a daily basis as I enjoy Independence City Park, I watch the progress of the new construction project as it takes shape.

There was another construction project that was started and never finished. It's an eye sore on the city, and one that is forgotten about. I'm talking about the site at 203 Monmouth St.

As I sit there and think about that site and building, one thing comes to mind: Will this project be completed or will a skeleton of a building never completed be sitting there as the property on South Second and Monmouth streets.

We, as citizens, should stand up and hold the mayor accountable for this project that was never completed. The city should not allow new construction projects to start until the one on South Second and Monmouth streets is either completed or torn down.

*Jimmy Christensen
Independence*

Indy detective's column appreciated

Thank you for the column written by Detective Sarah Scharf of the Independence Police Department regarding Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The column was very clear, concise and easy to understand. It also gave valuable information for family members, friends and members of the community who suspect abuse is happening to children.

Let's hope that this information can keep our most vulnerable children safe from harm.

*Patty Taylor Dutcher
Monmouth*

City did disservice to community

Ding dong the trail is dead. On April 3, the Dallas City Council did their part to effectively kill the possibility of making the Rickreall Creek Trail System a regional trail by approving a change to the urban growth boundary to include the Dallas Golf Course property on Orrs Corner Road while removing conditions that the trail be extended through the property.

The property owner, who admitted that the usage as a golf course should never have been permitted in the first place, testified that inclusion in the UGB was essential to the survival of the business because of plans to build a restaurant, a 20-space RV park, and an expanded pro shop that could not be built under the current provisional permit.

I find it interesting that the property owner said there is no room for a 10-foot wide trail on an edge of the property, but has plenty of room for all the proposed new amenities.

The council gave the property owner everything they wanted while getting nothing in return.

The, "Not in my backyard" argument presented by Ceres Gleann residents seems weak.

The trail, if routed on the north edge of the golf course, would pass a total of 10 Ceres Gleann lots.

The city had several options, the most obvious being to send the matter back to the planning commission for further consideration, since the property owner decided to no longer honor the decision of that body.

The city could have collaborated with the property owner to find ways to create a trail segment at no cost to

the property owner.

The timeline for completing a trail extension could have been reconsidered.

None of these were considered. What about the goals of the Dallas 2030 Vision? Ignored. Shame on you, City Council.

*Joe Koubek
Dallas*

Reps need to support students

About 644,000 Oregonians are facing food insecurity, about 33 percent of those people are youth, and about 10 percent are seniors. The Dec. 27 *Itemizer-ObsERVER* article regarding food insecurity on Western Oregon University's campus, covered a lot of students' daily struggles on campus, referencing a study from 2014, about 60 percent of students on my campus struggle to eat.

It is appalling that we know more than half of students at Western Oregon University are struggling to afford food and yet we are looking at a 12 percent tuition increase. Things are not looking bright for me; the average Oregon student graduates with \$30,000 in debt. We are drowning in debt and many are unable to afford basic necessities. Students need our local decision makers to prioritize investment in higher education.

Sen. Jackie Winters and Rep. Paul Evans need to be champions for their constituents attending Western Oregon University by supporting the Oregon Student Association's Budget Asks, \$765 million for universities, \$636 million for community colleges, and \$155 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

It is important that we are giving all folks a fair shot at an affordable higher education.

*Ceph Poklemba
Corvallis*

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)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us
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
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
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
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
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
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

Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)
313 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Fax: 202-228-3997
Salem office: 161 High St. SE,
Suite 250, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-362-8102
Email: via website,
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

POLK COUNTY Board of Commissioners
850 Main St.
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503-623-8173
www.co.polk.or.us

CITIES
Dallas
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-2338
www.ci.dallas.or.us
Falls City
299 Mill St.
Falls City, OR 97344
503-787-3631
www.fallscityoregon.gov
Independence
555 S. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1212
www.ci.independence.or.us
Monmouth
151 W. Main St.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-0722
www.ci.monmouth.or.us

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.

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.

For the full letters policy: polkio.com.

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?



Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 15

(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

The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the Itemizer-ObsERVER is at fault.

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

Emily MentzerEditor/Monmouth/Independence Reporterementzer@polkio.com
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editorleggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporterjguzman@polkio.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
Rachel BestDisplay Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohren.....ioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com

Phone: 503-623-2373

Fax: 503-623-2395