

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Let's not go back to dark ages

In response to Harold Pippin's letter about Monmouth being an inclusive city. Here's another one wishing for the good old days. So, he wants an administration that will run things as the founders intended. So, let's bring back slavery. No voting or rights for women. Decisions made by white merchants and property owners only. What about all men (people) created equal. Life, liberty pursuit of happiness. Sometimes I am amazed humans have made it this far. Why can't we share our freedoms?

Louis Stuckey  
Monmouth

## Help fill the bus with food for needy

For several years the Central School District Transportation Department has conducted a food drive to provide assistance for the community. This event is called "Fill the Bus," and its purpose is to provide daily living necessities for local families in time of need.

Not only will boxes be placed in all of Central schools, but they will be at the Central School District office and the Transportation Department office, 520 Hoffman Road, Independence. We want to allow students and employees the opportunity of participating in this amazing drive. We would also like to encourage all residents of Monmouth and Independence to help us with this just cause.

The "Fill the Bus" drive will be taking place at two different locations. The first day will be May 6 in the Bi-Mart parking lot in Monmouth and the second on May 20 in the Roth's parking lot in Independence from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our goal is to completely fill the bus with personal and non-perishable food items. Working with children and parents on a daily basis, the Transportation Department understands the need to assist our community when times get tough. All proceeds will go to Ella Curan Food Bank, and we would love for you to join us in supporting this worthy organization.

Teri Barry  
Independence



## Immigrants are vital to community

In response to Mr. Pippin's letter which appeared in the April 26 *Itemizer-Observer*: Myself and many other Monmouth residents worked with our Hispanic friends and neighbors to encourage our Monmouth City Council to pass the Inclusivity Resolution, which supports the Oregon State Statute 181.850. Under this law, state and local police are not allowed to enforce federal immigration law if a person is not involved in criminal activity. It does not provide a safe haven for anyone who is suspected of or who has committed a crime.

This allows local law enforcement's time and money to be spent on activities which our tax dollars were meant for (protecting our communities from actual threats and keeping the peace, not interrupting the families and work of peaceful, hardworking individuals because of their skin color).

Mr. Pippin refers to undocumented people as "criminals." I know many of these so-called criminals. People who left Mexico many years ago to protect their families from the threat of gangs and violence in their communities. People who came here to fill the demand for difficult manual labor jobs that U.S. citizens don't want to do. People who risked their lives to find a better life for their children. Children who were brought here at a very young age and know no other life. Mr. Pippin, what

would you risk for your family?

These so-called criminals are paying rent, supporting local businesses, and paying taxes to support your Social Security, and will never reap the benefits. I support fair immigration reform and a path to citizenship. I reject the oversimplification of viewing undocumented human beings, real people I know, as criminals.

Patricia Dixon  
Monmouth

## Teachers endorse Mann for board

The CEA interviewed candidates running for the Central 13J School Board. Both of the candidates in contested Zone 2 are excellent.

In contested Zone 5, the CEA officially endorses Kristina Mann. Mann is the mother of two Central students, and has worked as a bus driver for the district, in the criminal justice system, and as a small business owner. The CEA feels that her experience, her willingness to serve the students, and her commitment to making the board responsive to the public makes her the stronger candidate. Please vote for Kristina Mann for 13J School Board, Zone 5.

Laura Waight  
Monmouth  
President, Central Education Association

## Salt Creek says yes to fire bond

Our Salt Creek Neighborhood Association executive committee and "neighbor-

hood watch" road captains voted unanimously to support the Southwest Polk Fire District bond measure 27-125.

This would provide funds to rebuild the Rickreall station and construct a new sub-station at Salt Creek. It provides modern communication equipment and replaces outdated SCBA, not approved for rescue entry into a burning house after 2018.

It provides OSHA approved protective gear for our volunteer firefighters who risk their lives to fight our fires.

This bond will help protect lives of your family and community in fire and medical emergencies.

We urge a "yes" vote.

Bruce Sigloh  
Salt Creek Neighborhood Association, president

## Laws, meanings change over time

Letter to editor in response to Mr. Harold E. Pippin's letter of April 26.

Mr. Pippin: Our laws are not commandments. They are forever and always interpreted one way, then another, then amended, altered, or repealed. Some are more unchangeable than others. We use language to describe our reality. As the meaning and nuance of words change, then so does our description of reality.

Most people leave their own land because of cruelty. They are suffering too much; there's no relief; and they have to get out. If they wait in line, they die.

As humans, we have the capacity to cause suffering

in one another. Or we don't have to.

Perhaps for as long as we have beating hearts of our own, we can choose to let others live with a little less suffering. Eh?

J. F. McDonald  
Monmouth

## Elect Milligan for school board

I have had the opportunity to watch the positive changes over the last several years, as a budget committee member and now as school board member of Central 13J. These changes have led to improved graduation rates and improved literacy.

I have tremendous respect for the teachers, staff, and administration of Central 13J. We are becoming a model district for other districts in the state and nation.

As your school board member, I want to keep this momentum going.

Vote Steve Milligan for Central 13J Zone 5.

Steve Milligan  
Monmouth

## Dave Hunt for Dallas schools

If you are looking for someone who knows how important our schools are, Dave Hunt is the person you should vote for to serve on our Dallas School Board. All five of Hunt's children have enjoyed the great education programs our schools provide. Dave has helped support them in almost every activity they have been involved in, from dance team, soccer, senior party, you name it. Dave is a caring person with a solid work ethic who will work with our educators, school administrators and community to make sure we are leading by example.

Gary Richards  
Monmouth

longer paying property taxes, they will vote for anything that they think someone else will have to pay for. And then they cry about their landlords raising rent, "Freeze rents," they say.

What they are not understanding is that every time they vote for another "feel good" bond measure, they themselves are raising their own rent. When the landlords' costs of owning that property increase, they must raise the rent to cover those expenses.

Eventually I see many of the private landlords trying to sell their properties to get out of the hassle. Then either the properties get torn down for construction of apartments, or taken over by corporations that manage properties. Another possibility would be government housing.

I'm not sure about this, but I would assume that government housing would not pay property taxes. If that is so, then you have even less local tax income, so up go the tax rates again. It sounds like a vicious spiral to me.

I could see an Orwellian future where everyone would have to live in government controlled apartments and have their income taxes spiraling out of sight to support those apartments because there was no more private property to tax. There really is no such thing as a free lunch.

## Vote yes on county facilities bond

Please support the Polk County Facilities Bond. The \$10 million bond would take affect after the current road bond expires, and the costs are estimated to be less than the road bond.

The needed funds would go to many projects, including the Polk County Fairgrounds.

As the current fair board chair, I can speak firsthand to the needs at the fairgrounds. The bond will allow for repair on the main building and the arts and crafts building; roof replacement, restroom upgrades along with many other projects will improve safety and access.

I urge you; vote yes for our county facilities.

Anna Scharf  
Perrydale  
Polk County Fair Board Chair

## 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 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.

Reach us at:  
**Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-Observer*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338.  
**Fax:** 503-623-2395.  
**Email:** [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com).  
**Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

## 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, MAY 3

- **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **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.

### MONDAY, MAY 8

- **Hops and Heritage Festival Commission** — 6 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge, 289

S. Main 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, MAY 9

- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Monmouth Budget Committee** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — Noon, Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- **Independence Heritage Museum Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

# Polk County **Itemizer-Observer**

Vol. 142, No. 18

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

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi Leppin .....Display Advertising Manager .....hleppin@polkio.com  
Rachel Best .....Display Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com  
Karen Sanks.....Client Services .....ksanks@polkio.com

### CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

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

### PRODUCTION

Kathy Huggins .....iosales@polkio.com  
Karyn Pressel .....iosales@polkio.com

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

Phone: 503-623-2373

Fax: 503-623-2395