

EDITORIALS

Events all weekend highlight community

Saturday and Sunday, so many events will highlight our communities in Dallas, Independence and Monmouth that it may be tough to choose just one.

So why not pack in as much as you can? Saturday hosts a slew of events in Monmouth and Independence, starting with the cleanup and beautification day based in Riverview Park. After volunteering to help clean up the riverbank or a park in Monmouth or Independence, stop by one of the farmers markets and pick up some fresh vegetables, fruits, or treat yourself to a baked good or massage.

At the Riverview Farmers Market, the Independence Downtown Association will be selling make-your-own flower baskets. IDA members will have everything you need to create your own basket — except the garden gloves. It's a fundraiser for IDA, which sponsors monthly summer Art in the Park activities, the annual Ghost Walk, the Christmas Light Parade and afterparty, as well as some new events coming up this fall, such as a murder-mystery dinner.

After grabbing a bite to eat for lunch at one of the downtown merchants, head to the Monmouth-Independence YMCA or Volunteer Hall and tour 24 businesses participating in the third annual Discover MI Town, sponsored and organized by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce.

The weekend doesn't stop there. On Sunday afternoon, head to downtown Dallas, where business students from Oregon State University have teamed up with the Dallas Downtown Association to put on a Wine Down event.

Participants may check in at Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar or at a booth in front of the courthouse lawn. Those 21 and older will receive a keepsake wine glass to take to participating businesses, some of which will have wine tastings.

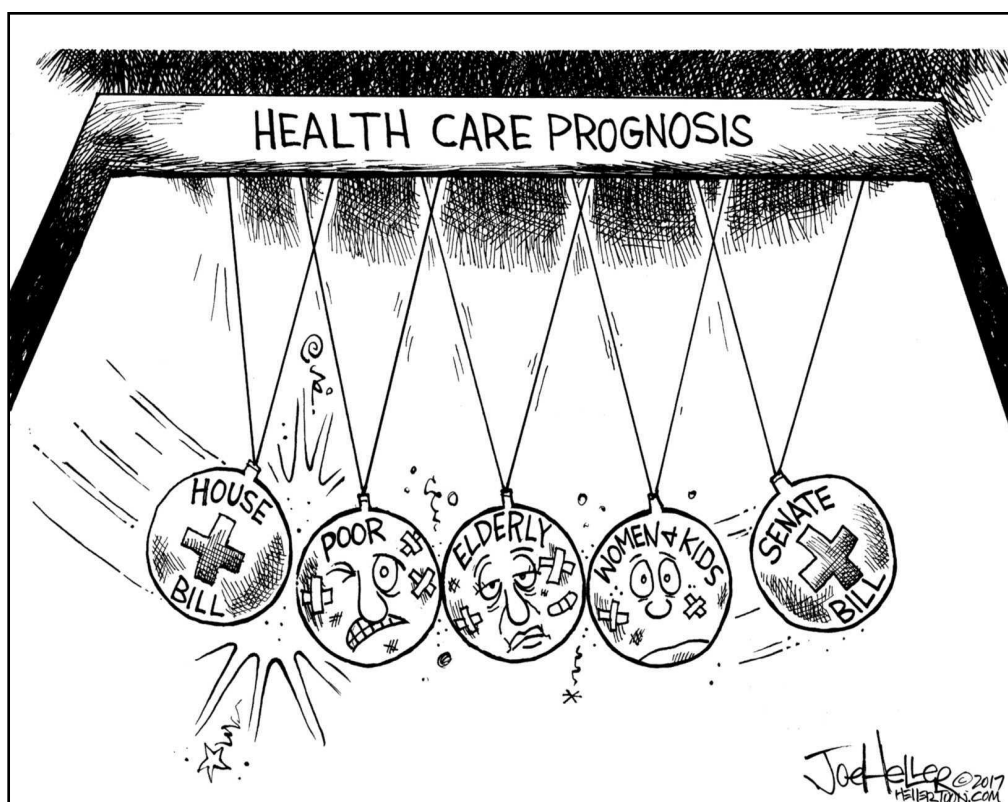
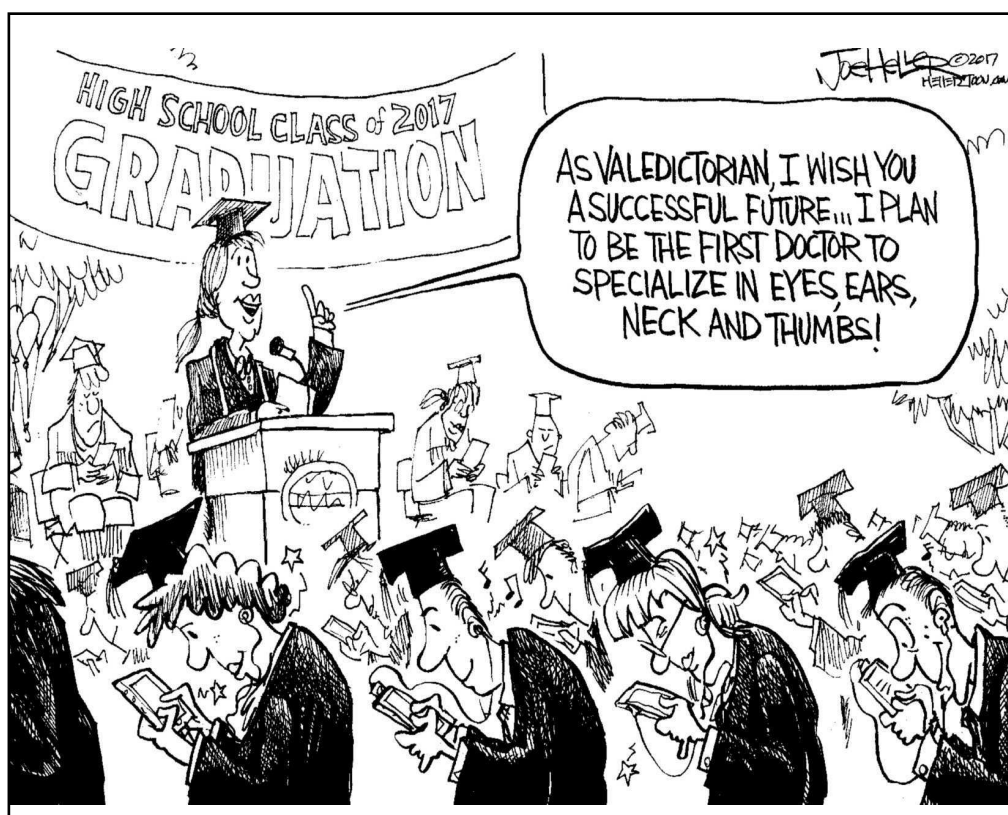
OSU students have brought Wine Down to Polk County before, but this will be the first time it is in Dallas. We are excited to see it come.

When it was in Monmouth and Independence, people discovered businesses — ones that had been there forever, but they just hadn't stopped in before — and met new people — outside of their regular group of friends.

The DDA has taken things a step beyond business tours and added local artists on display at some stops, too.

The afternoon promises to be an enjoyable one, with friends, neighbors, businesses, wine and art.

See stories throughout the paper for times and prices and more information about these events.



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, MAY 17
 • **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.

THURSDAY, MAY 18
 • **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
 • **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

MONDAY, MAY 22
 • **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, MAY 23
 • **Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
 • **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 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, MAY 24
 • **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



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.
Office: 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

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
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/hearman

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.falls-city-oregon.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

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 Advertisingrbest@polkio.com
 Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohrenioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

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

Web: www.polkio.com **Phone:** 503-623-2373 **Fax:** 503-623-2395

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