

EDITORIALS

Cancer never sleeps; neither do Relays

The annual Polk County Relay For Life 24-hour event is Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 a.m., at the Dallas High School track.

The event raises cancer awareness, as well as raising money to fight the disease through funding research and providing support to those battling cancer.

Relay does more than that. It brings together survivors and caregivers. It lets them know they're not alone in their suffering and in their trials.

Cancer does not discriminate. It does not care how old you are or how healthy you've lived your life. Sure, some life choices make cancer more likely to strike you, but sometimes you haven't done anything to deserve it. But cancer does not care.

In fact, we all know someone — if not now, you likely will — who has been affected by cancer in some way. They may not talk about it. They may not think it's a big deal.

Some survivors don't feel like cancer survivors because they didn't go through excruciating chemotherapy or lose their hair.

But the fact is: If you had cancer and live today, you are a survivor, and it's efforts such as Relay For Life that helped get you there by supporting getting tested and being aware of the signs of cancer.

Relay is open to everyone. Because it's a 24-hour event, you can literally stop by anytime and check it out. Visit with survivors. Listen to the stories about why people are crazy enough to set up in an open field for 24 hours in spite of heat or rain or wind and walk — and walk.

Polk County's event is one of the few remaining 24-hour events in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and has been named a heritage event because of it. We are proud to remain as a traditional Relay, because, cancer doesn't sleep, so neither do we. That means someone from each team is walking the track throughout the day and night. It is symbolic of how a cancer patient must battle even when no one else is around.

It's not all doom and gloom — quite the opposite. It's a celebration of those who have been affected by cancer and a remembrance of those we've lost. Most of the day, Relay for Life feels like a big party.

Come on down to DHS and walk a few laps with friends — you may be surprised by how many friends you have participating — bring a team some lunch or snacks, laugh, remember, celebrate.

We are grateful for the efforts of Tami Bookey-Kuhlmann, and are sad to see her step down as Relay chairwoman. We are eager to see who will pick up the baton and continue the 24-hour Relay for Life in Polk County.

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 31

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

MONDAY, JUNE 5

- **Central School District Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.
- **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 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.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

- **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, JUNE 7

- **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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hunt grateful for vote of community

It is an honor to have been selected to fill Position No. 1 on the Dallas School Board. I wanted to thank those of you who voted for me, as well as those who didn't. Your votes help keep this community vital and your elected officials responsive to its needs.

A special thank you goes to board member LuAnn Meyer for her years of service to our schools and community. Her retirement has given me this opportunity to serve the families of Dallas. I am very grateful, and look forward to hearing from you.

Dave Hunt
Dallas

Disrespectful drivers run amok

Bam. My walking stick re-

bounds off the car's grill. Tires screech. The car slows to a stop. The driver yells, "Use a crosswalk." I shake my head. Really? Had I not stepped back, he'd have hit me, not my stick, and this is an intersection, ergo a legal crosswalk. How'd this fool get a license to drive?

Another day, behind me, a horn blares. I'm in front of my house backing into my drive, but can't. I get out, ask her to back up. There's room. The driver behind her isn't quite such a ninny. She's not going to do it though. No way. Traffic is backing up. An SUV stops in the opposite lane. Driver asks, "What's the problem." I explain. She adds her 2 cents, plus, "I'm going to call the cops." SUV driver says, "I am a cop. Back up and let him park. Even stopped in traffic, if you're not a safe distance from the car in front, you're still illegally following too closely.

Another day, same problem. The guy says, "This is a through street. You're being disrespectful." So I guess tailgating, laying on your horn and preventing someone from parking is a sign of respect.

It happens every day. The speeders, the tailgaters, the ignoring of pedestrians in crosswalks. Is this endemic of Oregon drivers, or just those passing through Dallas?

It's time we take back our street. Every Levens intersection, delineated crosswalks. Stop signs to slow down the led-footers. Radar ticket cameras would quickly pay for themselves. Ultimately, though, for the sake of our lives if not our property values, let's rethink the value of a route for trucks blazing down the residential middle of our town.

Michael Welsh
Dallas



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.

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