

EDITORIALS

Friday Court provides hope

Polk County's Mental Health Court's first graduation had only two graduates, but it was one of the most hopeful of a season full of such events.

Not just for the two men who completed the program, Kelly Fields and Anthony Brown, or the eight others enrolled, but for all people who could get caught in a cycle of mental illness and the criminal justice system.

As Friday's keynote speaker Sen. Brian Boquist said, this is path forward. For Polk County, and other counties in the state that have similar programs, its new path — one that is overdue.

With a comprehensive solution to mental health care still being drafted or debated at the legislative level, local communities have to take matters into their own hands.

What Polk County has started is commendable. Mental Health Court, or Friday Court — named after the day it's held each week — isn't easy, nor should it be.

It requires a strong commitment on behalf of the participants. They pay consequences for breaking rules, which can include spending time in jail.

In turn for making those strides to better their lives, participants work with a dedicated team that wants to see them succeed. That may not be something participants experienced not in the court system before — people who care deeply about them and their future.

Before this program started in 2016, the Polk County Jail ended up being a treatment center for those suffering with mental illness who also committed crimes. It wasn't equipped to serve that purpose.

With this program — and others in the county — jail workers are no longer asked to handle something they are not trained for.

And for participants, Friday Court represents hope.

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, 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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

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

MONDAY, JUNE 12

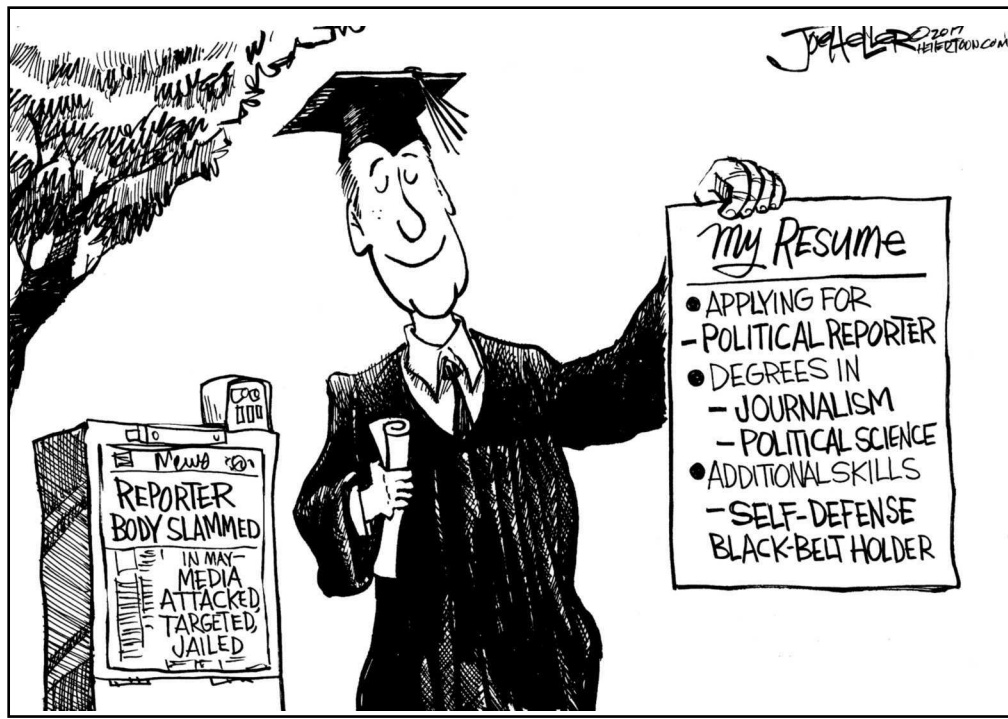
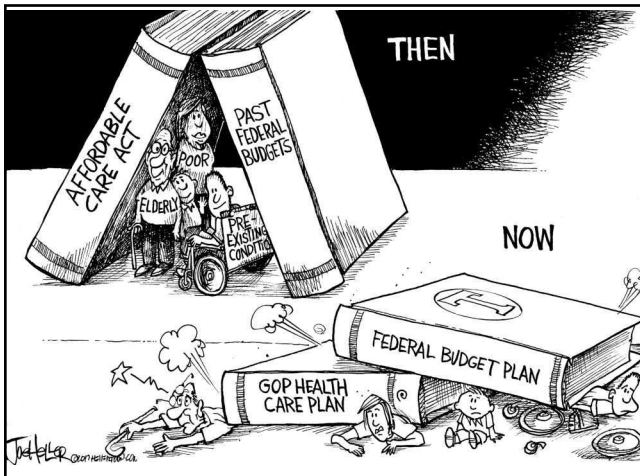
- **Hops and Heritage Festival Commission** — 6 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Tree Advisory Board** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

- **Independence City Council** — 7:30 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.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — Noon., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

- **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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor sportsmanship sets bad example

On May 30, my husband and I arrived at the Dallas Softball Field to watch our great-granddaughter play.

Upon arrival, we noticed a woman (the opposing coach) mid field flinging her arms around and shouting at one of our team's coach-

es — all in view of both teams of young players.

She then, along with a man who appeared to be her assistant coach, came to the front of our team's dugout and continued shouting directly in front of our girls.

Subsequently, a demand was made by the opposing team that one of our coaches leave the premises, and

the coach refused to field her team until he did leave. Subsequently, the game was cancelled.

We are appalled that these children were subjected to such behavior from the adults assigned to lead and teach them.

These adults should be ashamed.

Lynne Bowen
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.

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

Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 23 (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.