

EDITORIALS

Be safe this holiday

No one does Fourth of July as well as Polk County. With celebrations kicking off in Falls City and Independence on Saturday, it's a four-day affair as the community dons its best red, white, and blue, and gathers for carnivals, parades, barbecues and fireworks.

The heat is not forecast to be as high as it was last weekend, but if you're thinking about going for a swim in one of our rivers, take care. Polk County Fire District No. 1 responded to two water rescues in the Willamette River last week — one of them turned out to be fatal.

The river is colder than you might expect. Even if it looks calm on the surface, it's what's underneath that could create a dangerous situation, and quickly.

Life jackets are provided at Riverview Park and at the Independence Boat Landing for people who want to venture into the water, but they don't do any good if they remain hanging on a hook. Wear them and watch your surroundings. Have a designated adult to supervise children at all times.

When on the river, avoid using alcohol. It's illegal to drive under the influence, and that goes for boats and bicycles as well as cars.

If you choose to consume, designate a driver or have a taxi's number on hand. Nothing is worth risking the lives of others, your family and friends or yourself.

With the Fourth comes fireworks. Three opportunities present themselves for professional displays — Monday at Riverview Park, and Tuesday at both Riverview Park and in Dallas at Roger Jordan Park.

Of course, you can also purchase your own fireworks for a private showing, but consider your neighbors, pets and, most of all, safety.

We've seen a legal burn pile get out of control and threaten to destroy a home this year. The same thing can happen with fireworks. Follow the instructions on the package and have a hose and bucket of water handy.

We hope everyone gets out and enjoys each other and our nation's birthday. Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and use common sense to stay safe and help others enjoy the weekend, too.

Because the Fourth of July falls on a Tuesday this year — our usual day to print the paper — we will not have many photos of this year's festivities in next week's paper. Check online on July 5 for photo albums, and the July 12 issue of the *Itemizer* for photos in print.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The planet has survived worse

I read the letter from Waldron Joura and wondered where he got this ridiculous theory about global warming. If you look back at the history of the world, you will find that we go through many changes of warming and cooling, and yet life has flourished in all this.

We are still warming up from the last Ice Age and will continue to do this until we go through another Ice Age.

Ever wonder what life was like when we were so warm that the earth was covered in foliage that created all that oil and coal beneath us?

We did not pull out of the global warming pact to stop our way of treating the problem, we did it because it would cost us trillions of dollars and many lost jobs that we cannot afford.

One volcano eruption

gives out thousands more carbon dioxide than people do in one year. Maybe we need to plug them up.

Also as anyone knows, we take in oxygen and let out carbon dioxide. Maybe we should all stop breathing.

Now we only theorize that a large comet or asteroid was the cause of the loss of the dinosaurs — remember this all took place 64 million years ago. Ever think that maybe they just evolved into other animals in the next one or two million years. We now think that they are the forerunners of the birds.

I doubt very much that what we do will wipe out all life on earth.

All plants will survive in a world of warmth and carbon dioxide as it did billions of years ago.

Mr. Joura is probably one of those who thinks the world is only a few thousand years old as the Bible says. Funny I have seen that

in the Bible.

Walt Davies
Monmouth

Let officials know your concerns

Parents train children so eventually they can function as adults. With the resounding defeat of Measure 97, parents/voters clearly communicated to state officials the fiscal parameters within which they must function, and revenues are higher than ever.

Reminiscent of the emergency clause that was used to raise the minimum wage, our children/leaders retooled the small business tax, worsened it, and are pressing to impose it without a general election. Investigate immediately, convey thoughts to officials now due to July 10 budget deadline.

Kris Dalton
Monmouth



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 28

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

• **Monmouth-Independence Networks** — 11 a.m., Minet board office, 405 Hogan Road N., Monmouth. 503-837-0700.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

• **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.



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. Friday. 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/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.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 Editor.....leggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporter.....jguzman@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

Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 26

(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.