

**EDITORIALS**

**Be inspired to take action**

Something happened over the Fourth of July in Dallas, and it was more than fireworks and a barbecue competition.

It was another viral Facebook post that ended up showing the true spirit of this community.

A woman vandalized signs and places throughout town, but was stopped in her tracks after defacing the Sgt. Ian Tawney Memorial Park sign. A witness took her picture and called police before she could spray-paint anymore signs in town.

What happened next started in a similar manner to what we often see on Facebook. Someone posted a picture of the vandalism and complained. Public shaming of the woman — unknown to many at the time of posting. How could anyone do this? What a terrible thing!

Then, a sort of vigilante stepped in. Alex Lofton and his family and friends took matters into their own hands. Lofton noticed the Facebook post because it was getting so much attention, and, at 11 p.m. on July 4, drove over to the Ian Tawney Memorial Park with a bucket of soapy water and scrub brushes in hand. He used the light from his headlights to begin the work of trying to clean the pink spray-paint from the veteran's sign.

When the paint would not wash off, Lofton and his crew got some acrylic paints and began trying to paint over the graffiti.

That wasn't good enough. The pink kept coming through. So, Lofton and his friends worked in the heat of the day repainting it a darker, "Marine Corps Green." They didn't stop until the work was done.

Of course, the town took note. On the evening of July 4, people began posting pictures of Alex and his family working in the dark of the night by headlights, and the comments changed from complaints to praise and love.

We're not suggesting people paint city property on a regular basis, but we hope the community will remember what Lofton, his family and friends accomplished last week.

We hope that, before you post a picture of trash in Dallas City Park and complain about how rude your fellow residents are for littering, you will pick up the trash. If you must post, post about how lovely the park looks because you've helped keep it clean.

You don't have to be a part of a commission or council to take responsibility for the beauty of your town.

As for Lofton and his crew, our hats are off to you.

**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, JULY 12**

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
- **Falls City City Council** — 6 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

**MONDAY, JULY 17**

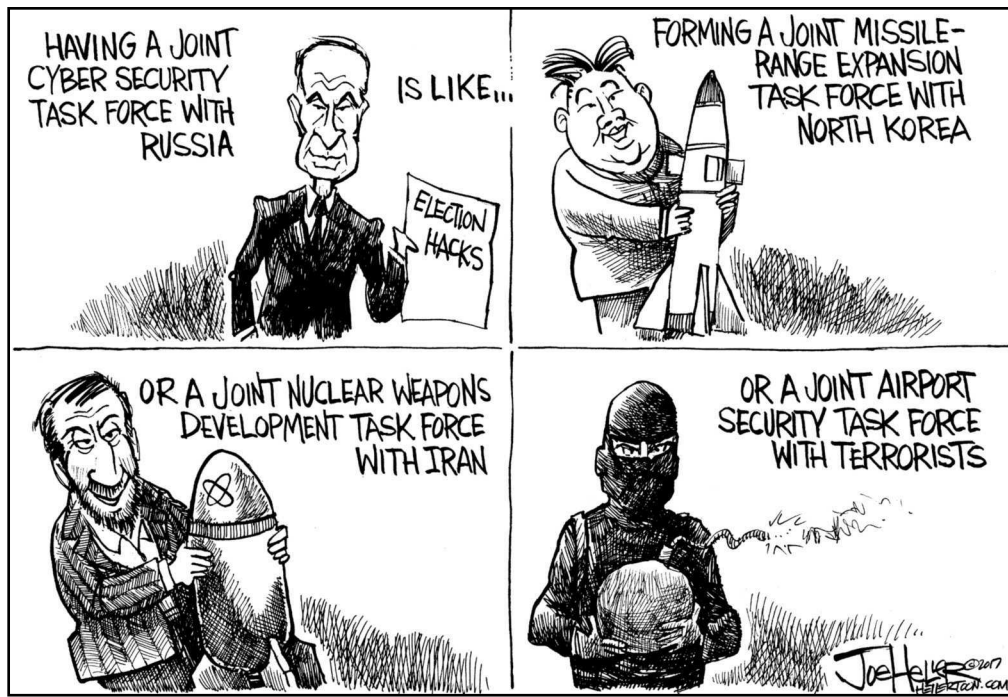
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

**TUESDAY, JULY 18**

- **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, JULY 19**

- **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**

**Science doesn't judge, it observes**

Oh dear, Mr. Davies, I am quite confused after reading your opinion on global warming in the June 28 paper.

It seems that the argument about the planet's warming and cooling periods and the cyclical nature of these phases on the earth, brought to you by recent centuries of scientific research, observation, experiments, publishing findings, peer review, more experiments, etc., until gradually over time the entire warming and cooling periods and the effect these periods have on our planet, humanity, animals, plants, all are valid in the discussion.

Yet the very same scientific processes that have been discovering, documenting, experimenting, publishing, reviewing, and explaining the effects of global warming on our planet, humanity, animals, plants, are not valid.

I don't know that one could use scientific findings of a previous time to disclaim the scientific findings during this time.

If indeed science has truly discovered the warming and cooling cycles of the earth, does it not also make sense that science would discover when the earth is in distress in those cycles from manmade influences?

Science does not judge. Science observes and measures and shares its conclusions. What we do with those newly found facts belongs to us. Not to science. Science has and is continuing to do its job in documenting and telling the news of global warming that is here.

Our Creator gave us the gifts of science and faith. With the two together, we can move forward to keep our planet healthy and in a good working order for humanity's future.

*Diane McBurnett  
Monmouth*

**Cellphone sting could bring revenue**

So, I'm pretty sure it is no secret that it is illegal to talk or to text on a hand-held cellphone while driving. Why is it then that when I'm out and about I observe far too many drivers ignoring this law? Come on folks, hang up and drive.

**WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?**

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

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.

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.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. For the complete policy: [polkio.com](http://polkio.com).

Here's an idea, have a plain clothes police officer on a random day in a random place photo ticketing once a week. I'm guessing it wouldn't take long to be so flush with cash that no program or department would be wanting for anything. There would never again be the need to ask the taxpayers for a bond measure. We could build that jail, put the new roof on the current one, hire those extra officers, do the courthouse annex, fund all of the public safety departments, take care of the fairgrounds facilities and probably have funds left over.

*Julianna Burke  
Independence*

**Mini-Marathon smashing success**

On behalf of the 47th annual Fourth of July Mini-Marathon planning committee, we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this a fun event.

Specifically, the Central Lions Club, the staff at the Independence library, the Folck Family, Jacob Welch, Carol Rose, Kelly Rockwell, Cody Black, Bill and Linda Lindh, the Kelly family, the Cable family and other volunteers for assisting with day of race registration, water station, and the finish line.

We would also like to thank all the businesses that donated water and prizes for our finish line raffle. We had over 400 people register this year. All proceeds from this event go to support local nonprofits and scholarships.

We hope you'll consider participating next year.

*Jennifer O'Sullivan  
Independence*

**Veteran recounts Honor Flight**

On June 23, I was a very

happy World War II veteran. My doctor, Dr. Edwardson, recommended me to the Honor Flight TLC program. This is a nonprofit program which honors veterans from WWII, Korean and Vietnam wars by giving them a free trip to Washington, D.C., to see all of the national war monuments.

First stop was the WWII Monument, built in 2004, a beautiful fountain in the middle surrounded by pillars representing each state.

They didn't rush us back to the bus. We got to sit and view the monument. While sitting there under the shade trees, many people would come to us and shake our hands to thank us for our service. Young children would come to us as well as older people.

People knew we were veterans because Honor Flight gave all the veterans a T-shirt labeled, "Veteran." On the back of the shirt there were two quotes which read, "If you can read this, thank a teacher," and "If you can read this in English, thank a veteran."

We traveled to the Lincoln, Vietnam and Korean memorials. The Navy Monument was next. Then they took us to the Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard. We saw the Iwo Jima statue, then the Air Force Monument, where we all got out of the bus and had a group picture taken to remember the trip. There were 20 veterans and 20 guardians on this trip.

Thanks to Honor Flight's Diane and Jane, plus 20 volunteers who helped us at the airport, pushed us in our wheelchairs, and helped us in and out of the bus.

Thank you Dr. Edwardson for suggesting this, and the Honor Flight program that gives veterans this chance in a lifetime.

*Melvin Olfert  
Dallas*

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