

EDITORIALS

Educate visitors on fire danger

Even with a forecast of showers for early next week, it's still hot and dry out there.

We've seen fires started by cars driving on fields — and this week, a car that broke down on the side of the road started a five-acre field fire. It wasn't even on the grass — that shows you how high the fire danger really is.

Residents of Polk County are familiar with fire danger — hot and dry conditions mean running field equipment and home lawn mowers in the morning when possible, being responsible with barbecues and cigarettes (does anyone smoke anymore?).

But in less than two weeks, we will see a surge of out-of-towners, some from around the world, who will not understand why they can't have a barbecue in the camping spot they've paid \$500 a night for in the middle of a farmer's field. They may think they're not doing any harm by driving around the grass looking for the perfect viewing spot or making s'mores around a campfire.

It will be up to us to help educate them and spread the message of safety when it comes to fire danger during the Great American Eclipse.

We hope people will be responsible next week, for themselves and their visitors. Let's make this eclipse a good memory, rather than a fiery one.



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, AUG. 9

- **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.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

- **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, AUG. 14

- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, AUG. 15

- **Independence Historic Preservation Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **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, AUG. 16

- **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

Careless drivers needlessly kill deer

As I write this, there is a small fawn (still in spots) struggling for life after being run down by an inconsiderate driver who has no compassion for the wildlife in the area.

I have a question for the people who reside on and traverse on Brown Road (off Highway 22).

What is your hurry? There have been many deer hit and killed on this road in the past few years.

Why? Do you not realize this is a deer-populated area, and they do dash across the road.

These are unwarranted killings. This street is not the Indy 500.

Save lives; slow down; leave five minutes earlier.

The body left dying in the roadway could just as easily be a child or a beloved pet.

Pat Utter
Dallas

Staff brings Dallas library to life

I want to acknowledge the terrific job and extend a big thank you to the staff at our Dallas library.

The folks running the library are always pleasant, knowledgeable, and helpful with accessing library materials.

They have activities for children and teenagers, present local art and artists, as well as authors and speakers.

Our local library is a great place in our community because the staff makes it great.

Thank you.
Karen Messer
Dallas

Evans used fear to push green agenda

This is in regards to Paul Evans' letter to the editor: Your letter was long-winded with no solution to the problem.

Your letter was very technical and hard to follow.

As you know, the only way we will have a solution as you suggest is to have our government impose safer transport requirements of hazardous materials on our roadways.

You act very concerned that this is an everyday occurrence that is causing harm to our environment, when in fact these occurrences are rare.

I believe that you're causing panic within your party so that at some point you can justify the removal of fossil fuels from use and go to greener fuel alternatives.

I have driven through that area at least six to eight times a week and have seen the damage firsthand.

While we need safer vehicles that carry hazardous materials, we also need better patrols of our roads, including Highway 99W.

As a state representative, you should be asking how Benton and Polk county sheriffs could increase patrol so these types of situations don't occur.

Also as a representative, maybe you should be concerned on how the Oregon State DEQ and the fire agency in Philomath has repaired that section of road.

As I write this, this section of road does not adequately replace what was

previously damaged and removed by these agencies.

David Christensen
Independence

Commissioners not enforcing codes

Part of the Polk County Commissioners' job is to see to the enforcement of the county zoning and land use codes.

The commissioners say they work with law violators to get them to conform. However, in some instances that can never be accomplished.

It does not matter what zone you are in, if it is residential in a subdivision or exclusive farm use, the abuse continues and in both cases have been going on for over a year.

We live close in West Salem in a nice residential subdivision.

The non-enforcement of the land use zoning and land use codes and state regulations by Polk County could affect many of the surrounding property owners financially and could have possible health consequences.

The county counsel told us to hire an attorney.

This is an admission that the county does not intend to enforce the law. Most senior citizens do not have money to hire an attorney.

Call your state representative, whether you are a Democrat or Republican, if you are being harmed by this non-enforcement.

This lack of zone enforcement could affect any Polk County landowner at any time.

Lanny Robson
West Salem

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 Editor.....leggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporterjguzman@polkio.com
Stephanie Blair.....General Assignment Reporter.....sblair@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 Ohreniloads@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. 32

(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.