

EDITORIALS

The eclipse — and eclipse visitors — arrive this week

Whether you're looking forward to the Great American Eclipse Monday and all that goes with it, or dreading the predictions of tens of thousands of tourists flooding Polk County, it's here.

Parties in Dallas and Independence kick off this week, with celebrations extending throughout the county from Falls City to the outskirts of Monmouth and into the countryside.

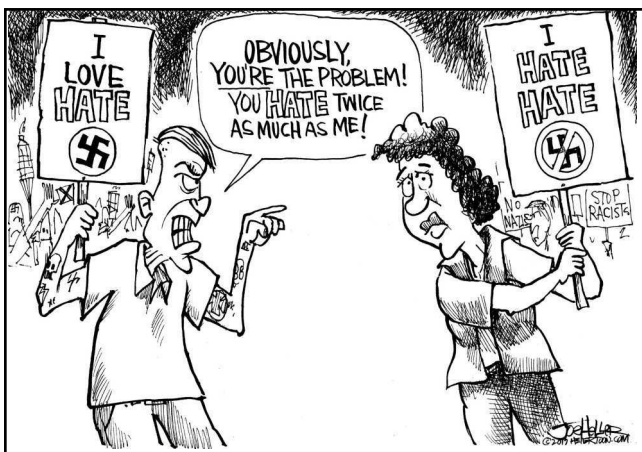
As the big event nears, stories of doom and gloom continue to saturate every news source, from warnings that credit cards may not work, power may go down, internet may be overwhelmed — as may cell towers — fire danger is high, grocery stores may run out of food, gas stations out of fuel.

Hopefully by now you've taken steps to be prepared for the worst so you can sit back and enjoy it, hoping for the best.

Then there's the new wrinkle with possible counterfeit eclipse viewing glasses. We've published many articles and a guest piece by Salem Health West Valley Dr. Steve Stice about the importance of eye safety during the eclipse, and hope you've taken heed and done your homework on the viewing glasses and filters you've purchased. If you have any doubt, we suggest using the pinhole projection method to enjoy the eclipse, saving your eyes altogether.

No one wants to see anyone permanently damage their eyes for this event.

We have a best guess from the National Weather Service about what the skies will show on Monday, but good meteorologists know that models aren't exact. Keep an eye on the weather this weekend — and stay tuned to our website, polkio.com, where we will update that story as we know more on Saturday.



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. 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.

THURSDAY, AUG. 17

- **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

TUESDAY, AUG. 22

- **Independence City Council** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., 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. 23

- **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

Support club's efforts to install turf at DHS field

The Dallas Booster Club has launched a major fundraising effort to install artificial turf on the surface of the Dallas High School football field.

Our goal is to raise \$850,000 in cash and in-kind donations by April 2018, with installation slated for August of that year.

Several individuals and businesses in the community, as well as the Dallas School District, have already stepped up to support our efforts.

In addition, there is a team of people who has worked almost daily since the spring to help with publicity, mailings, event planning, Summerfest booth, and so much more.

Thank you all for getting behind this project.

There is a way for every person or business in Dallas and surrounding areas to contribute. We are organizing a communitywide drive to collect cans and bottles for Bottle Drop.

We also have a Turf Project Kickoff event coming up Sept. 29.

Please visit our website at www.dhsboosterclub.org for more information.

Thank you for helping us to provide a much-needed facility that our entire community can use and be proud of.

Stephanie Earhart
Dallas Booster Club
President
Dallas

Speeder rethinks going so fast

I was speed racing on the highway, thinking how thrilling it was to be ahead. It felt great until I was stopped by a deputy.

As soon as I saw those flashing lights I knew I was in trouble. I was scared what was about to happen for the consequences of my driving.

I thought about what could have happened to myself or other drivers if I were to lose control.

Not only would I have gotten hurt, but families, friends, and loved ones are all at stake and could have been in danger all because us showing off.

I asked myself, "Was it really worth it?"

The answer is no, it wasn't worth putting other people at risk due to a little



thrill seeking.

As the deputy walked back my stomach sank. I knew I couldn't afford a ticket.

Luckily his printer wasn't working, so he invited me to the station the next day to discuss the citation.

Once I arrived he wanted to use this as an example of what can happen from speeding and what consequences could happen.

Did you know that the court can suspend your license for too many tickets?

If the DMV suspends it you have to pay \$75 to get it reinstated.

The court may order you to take a safety drivers class. Each offense has a minimum and maximum fine.

I had a good experience and am glad I was stopped. My experience was a wakeup call because I need to be more aware of the dangers.

Statistics say that on an average day 112,000 people are cited for speeding, and 41 million people are cited annually, costing \$6.2 billion.

Come on people, wake up, save your money and don't break the law.

Let's bring these number down.

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:
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