

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep 'Polk' in Polk County

Regarding the county name change. Mike Nearman needs to keep his eye on the prize. Wait. In a few years go for Trump County. He can change his own name to Mike Reaganman. This whole thing is trickle down foolishness.

Mike E. Neufeldt
Dallas

Can't legislate bike, ped safety

Everyone is expected to jump right in and vote for everything that protects anyone from anything that could possibly happen. News flash: it can't be done. Back in the "good old days," parents taught their kids to "stop, look both ways, then if everything was clear, cross the street."

Nowadays kids and bicyclists defy traffic and walk straight out without looking. I guess it would not be "cool" to let someone see you look for traffic.

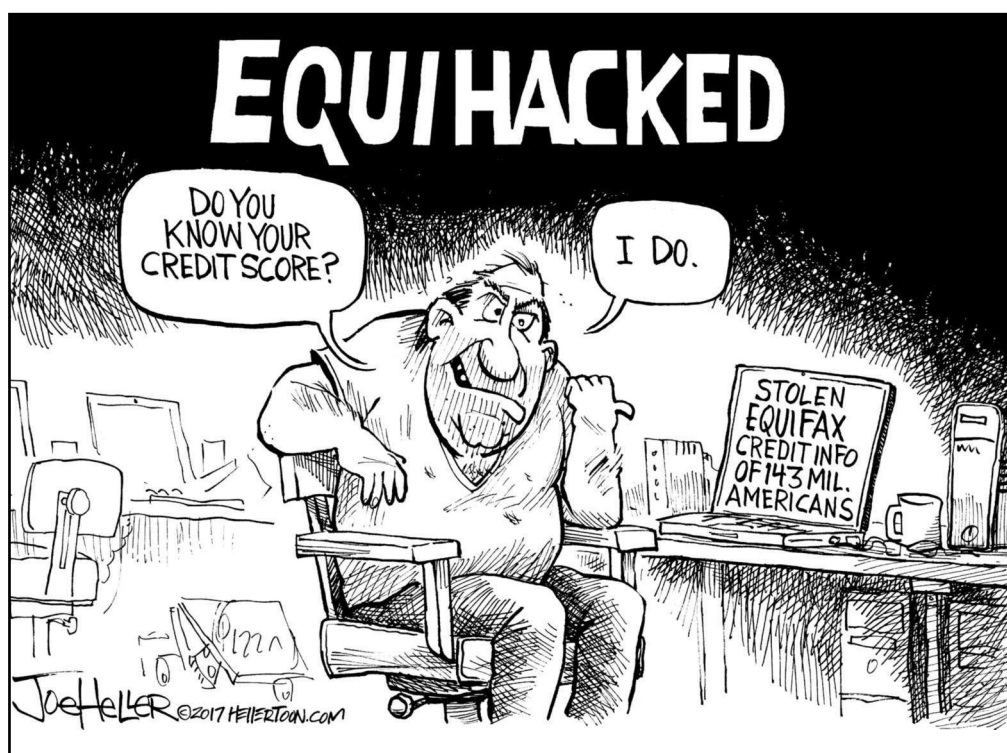
Ask football players and anyone who has studied physics, if two objects try to occupy the same place, the bigger, faster and heavier one always wins.

If you can't watch out for yourself, you had better hope that the "state" will always be there to protect you. You will not survive in the real world.

Gary Richards
Monmouth

Rotary Club well deserving of press

Outstanding article on Dallas's Rotary Club. These "unsung heroes" have accomplished great projects throughout this community for decades. Their pride and joy is fixing up the cooking facilities in the newer section of Dallas City Park. They also maintain the gazebos and shelters. One great asset of our Rotary Club — the long-standing support of maintaining very successful American Filled Service Student Program over numerous decades. My good friend Brian



Shetterly was selected for such an honor — representing Dallas Rotary Club as an overseas exchange student in Norway; 1968-1969. His two older brothers were also AFS students. Dallas High School always gets at least one AFS student each year. They are supported by the Rotary Club and hosted by a family who dedicate their lives to the mission and goodwill of AFS. The article stated Rotary Club honors high school students by hosting them for their meetings. I was selected Student Rotarian from Dallas High School during May 1969. It was a great experience speaking to the members

giving the latest reports from the high school. Ironically, Robert Cowman was Student Rotarian in 1967. We were both members of that "other club." Dallas High had a Kiwanis Key Club, which Robert and I were members. The late Curt Lamb led the club. Sad to see Kiwanis go today. Very noteworthy were members of the Rotary — especially Bob Ottaway going to Thailand to aid in purification of water supplies and ensuring Thai's No. 1 staple — rice — remains disease-free. That is the biography of a great club. Thank you so much for highlighting the

Dallas Rotary Club. It's outstanding recognition long overdue.

James Allgood
Independence

Keep it simple for health care

During my work in science, I learned that difficult problems can best be solved by keeping the solution simple. (Keep It Simple Stupid.) Hopefully, the problem of affordable health care for all U.S. citizens can be solved with a single-payer plan (Medicare E for Everyone). We will be insured by Medicare, however, as President Barack Obama had

said: "This is not a free lunch." All workers will be paying some reasonable amount into Medicare. We senior citizens on Social Security pay some of it to Medicare. There will be many advantages: in a democratic society, health care should be nonprofit. Employers and employees will not have to buy expensive insurance.

Walden Joura
Dallas

Good news uplifts readers on Sept. 6

My husband and I wish to thank all those who work in putting the news in the paper. The Sept. 6 edition was so uplifting. We both committed that there were only positive stories about our communities. We sincerely hope you continue and make this a trend in showing how wonderful our community is.

— Mr. and Mrs. Mills

Michelle Mills
Dallas

Consider those who live here first

An open plea to all who are moving or thinking of moving here. Please respect the existing environment and communities the way they are, not the way you want to change them or what you can buy. (Human failing — doing something just because you can.) As someone who lost their home to speculators and developers to gentrification the long-term outcome does not justify the short-term gain for the few. Please think about clean water and air over convenience and contrived necessities. And where does all our waste really go? So welcome, if you appreciate what we have, not necessarily what might be.

Louis Stuckey
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, SEPT. 13

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

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14

• **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, SEPT. 18

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19

• **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, SEPT. 20

• **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. 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)
5-471 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)
5-301 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 10, Republican)
5-305 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.fallscityoregon.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

Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 142, No. 37

(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.

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 Best.....Display Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
Karen Sanks.....Client Services.....ksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohren.....loads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com

Phone: 503-623-2373

Fax: 503-623-2395