

EDITORIALS

It's better to ask

We're in the business of asking questions. Sometimes, those questions are hard ones, and, honestly, we often know the answer before we ask. But we still have to ask.

Last week, the Falls City City Council decided unanimously not to ask voters about whether or not to close the Wagner Community Library. Instead, they decided themselves to begin the proceedings required to close it.

They had discussed putting a levy on the November ballot, asking voters to financially support the struggling facility.

Falls City voters have recently turned down two opportunities to support the school district in its attempts to build gyms and better buildings.

Thinking of those votes, the council was perhaps discouraged in thinking that the library request would be similarly denied. Also on the council's mind are other needs — street repairs and firefighting equipment. What are the chances that voters would approve not one, but two requests for money?

Sometimes it's good to remember what it was like to be young. You know your mom is probably going to tell you that you can't have another cookie, but you ask for it anyway.

That's exactly what Falls City City Council should have done in this case — ask for the cookie.

The worst the community could do is say "no." But residents have the right to decide what issues matter to them most.

The community of Falls City may have a string of "no" votes behind them, but they also have an impressive spirit of cooperation and support of things that matter to them.

If the library matters to them, they will support it.

The council's vote is final, but the closure process can be reversed.

If the community wants to keep the library open, it needs to act now and come together — as it so frequently does. The people of Falls City need to volunteer at the library and decide how to pay for the library manager, as well as the building and programs.

If not, the nearest public library will be in Dallas.

Nonresidents can obtain a free library card, but it has more limits on how many items can be checked out.

Nonresidents can pay a fee (\$60 per year for a household) to have the same check-out privileges as a Dallas resident.

We understand the city council has to balance a number of issues, but the people deserve a chance to show which of those issues are most important to them, not have others assume they know what's important to the community.

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. 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.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

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

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

- **Independence Library Board** — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.
- **Independence City Council** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

- **Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 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. 27

- **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

Eclipse watchers prove thoughtful

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the local community and those who visited the Buena Vista and Hilltop cemeteries over the eclipse.

We appreciate your thoughtful care of the grounds and your respectfulness for others and their loved ones who are buried here.

Thank you for caring.

*Marjorie A. Meador
The Hilltop Cemetery District
Board of Directors*

Robbery could provide lessons

What saddens me about the Sept. 13 article about the bank robbery is that Mr. McKean was in need of money and ended up running away with \$714 in cash.

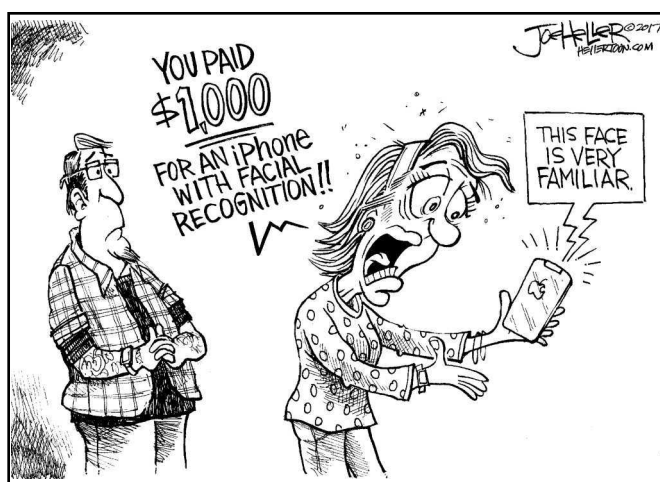
Dallas is not known as an affluent community and, Bank of America, being a very large bank-corporation, could perhaps take this opportunity to locally instill some help or alternatives for those in dire need of money, so that humbling experiences like this do not need to take place.

*Anya Thaker
Monmouth*

AFS program differs from Rotary

I would like to clarify some information presented by James Algood in his letter published Sept. 13.

He conflated two different exchange programs which have operated in Dallas for many years.



He was speaking about Rotary International sponsoring students from Dallas to go to other countries, and students from other countries to come to Dallas for school.

He described the program as American Field Service, which is a separate exchange student program. Dallas Rotary has indeed sponsored student exchange for many years.

At the same time, American Field Service, now called AFS Intercultural Programs, has been providing a similar service to our community for more than 60 years.

AFS was begun by former

ambulance drivers in the American Field Service after World War II, with the mission of promoting world peace.

The first exchanges were between the U.S. and Germany in 1947.

We continue to provide opportunities for intercultural exchange for both American students and students from over 70 countries in most parts of the world.

We recommend the experience as the best way to increase understanding of our increasingly interconnected world.

*Dale Derouin
Dallas*

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.

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