

**EDITORIALS**

**Online news will no longer be free**

For more than a decade, we have published our news free online. Beginning Monday, we will offer online subscriptions.

That means to access all of our news stories, features and editorials online, you will need to subscribe to the website. Those who receive our print edition each week will be given complimentary access to our website.

To subscribe, give us a call so we can set you up. It will cost \$4 for a month, or \$20 for the year. Our print subscription is \$35 a year for in-county readers — just 67 cents a week.

We have taken a long time to begin asking our readers to pay for online content, but that does not mean it's cost us any less to produce. Our reporters are paid to go to meetings, take photos at events, interview people and share their stories. Our sales representatives are paid to find out how they can help other businesses with marketing. We have a production department which designs ads, covers, graphics and special sections.

Nothing about news is free. We can no longer afford to give it away online. We hope that you will enjoy free access and bear with us if you are already a subscriber. If not, we hope you will consider subscribing to our weekly print edition. If you are already one of our valued readers who has chosen to go paperless, we look forward to your online subscription.

Now that we're charging for online content, expect to see more of it — more breaking news, more stories posted as they develop, more photos from events. Also, we will put our weekly police report back online — something we've kept as a print exclusive since January.

Obituaries will be available online without a subscription. Also, breaking news that may affect the health and safety of our readers will be available for free. Some other items that don't require the work of a reporter may also be posted in front of the paywall, such as some news in briefs.

We will have a story online soon with more information about accessing the website.

**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, SEPT. 27**

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

**MONDAY, OCT. 2**

• **Central School District Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.  
• **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.  
• **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 3**

• **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, OCT. 4**

• **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.  
• **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.

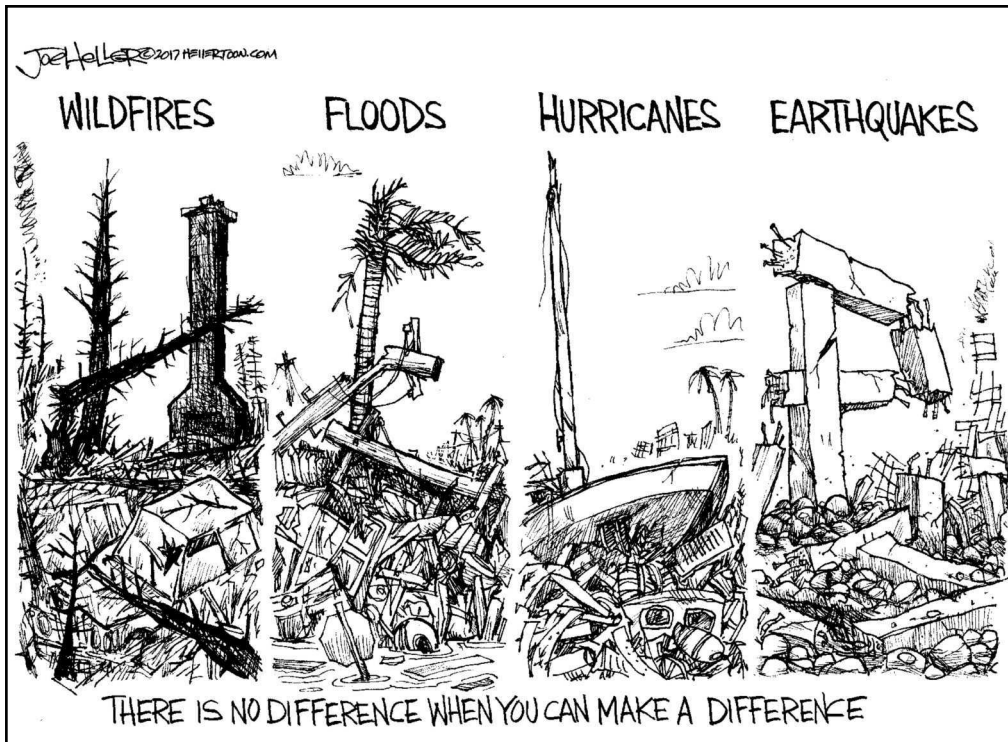


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**Itemizer-Observer**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Take responsibility for self, family**

On the Sept. 13 *I-O* editorial page, Anya Thaker seems to feel that bank robbery is OK if the robber needs money. Perhaps what he needed was a job.

The entire county has businesses posting help wanted signs. This man decided to break the law instead.

The writer also called for more help for persons in need. It seems people do not want to take responsibility for their own lives anymore. Assistance for the needy is abundant, yet we are constantly bombarded by the media to donate to all manner of causes.

People, if you can't take care of yourselves, I beg you to stop having children until you can. Or if you do have the wherewithal to pay your way, do it instead of spending on wants instead of needs and then asking the public to support your children.

Perhaps instead of spending on the newest tech device or cigarettes or alcohol or junk food or tattoos or fancy fingernails etc. you can support yourself and your family. Just sayin'.

Lynne I Bowen  
Dallas

**Bank not to blame for being robbed**

What happened to personal responsibility?

In response to "Robbery could provide lessons."

The only thing "sad" about the bank robbery Sept. 13, perpetrated by Caleb McKean, was how frightened the employees of Bank of America must have felt.

Telling BOA that because this felon robbed their Dallas location they need to "take this opportunity to ... help those in dire need of money" is uncalled for. Within a two-block radius of this crime, there are four community help centers that would have been more than willing to help Mr. McKean with any need from food, clothing, housing, mental health and employment.

Mr. McKean had many other options to obtain anything he needed, including money, the legal way. To tell the victims of a crime that they need to "take this opportunity" is an insult.

It should also be mentioned BOA gives around \$200 million a year to charities.

Please place responsibility to where responsibility is due. In this instance, it should be on Mr. McKean.

Kayla Robertson  
Dallas

**Turf field is a need for the community**

In October of 1965, our fathers, Howard Brandvold and Buck Buchanan, along with other Dallas community-minded volunteers saw a need for a covered stadium. This vision became a community effort and in September of 1966, Dragon fans sat with pride in their new stadium.

We see a new need. We need community involvement to repeat history and support the "Field of Dreams" Dallas High School turf/track project.

The multipurpose turf would allow for year-round access to the community for sports, events such as Relay for Life, graduation and joga-thons.

How can you help? There are several ways you can help, please take the time to find out more about this project at [www.DHSBoosterClub.org](http://www.DHSBoosterClub.org) or call 971-208-5855.

All donations, large or small, will help our "Field of Dreams" come true.

Thank you.

Barbara Chaney, Claudia Drill, and Rod Buchanan  
Dallas

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER**

**New courses for Dallas students**

Welcome back to school.

As we get the year rolling, it's time for an update on our Career and Technical Education (CTE) progress. As you know Measure 98 (although not fully funded) is used to support our efforts to increase learning opportunities for our students.

This fall, Dallas High School launched three new CTE programs: Culinary Arts, Business, and Health Sciences.

The engineering program, and information and communication technology programs were also expanded by adding new courses. These new and expanded of-

ferings add to our already well-developed agricultural sciences program. We are able to increase opportunities through our partnership with Chemeketa Community College.

We currently have more than 550 Dallas students enrolled in one of the six program areas. We are working to provide students with local internships.

The programs in partnership with Chemeketa are unique in that Chemeketa instructors are teaching the courses for Dallas students at Dallas High School.

Students are not only receiving high school credit,

but also college credit. Students are able to take advantage of introductory college-level coursework while in high school in a career area that interests them.

Students gain necessary knowledge and skills to either join the workforce or continue their education earning between eight to 11 credits during the year, depending on the program. The cost to students is the College Credit Now fee of \$25.

We look forward to a great year, and there's much more to come.

Michelle Johnstone  
Dallas School District  
Superintendent

**WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?**

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

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Let-

ters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

Reach us at:  
Mail: Editor, Polk County

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