

**EDITORIALS**

**Crowdsourcing is  
'buyer beware'**

It's sad, but true. When tragedy strikes, someone is ready to take your money in the guise of a good cause. This is true for large events — recent mass shootings and hurricanes — and for ones that hit closer to home.

In the last three weeks, Polk County has lost many to car crashes. A GoFundMe account was set up for one in late September to pay for "funeral expenses." A week later, the father of the deceased told us he had already covered the costs of the funeral and posed the question: Who is raising this money, and what is it really for?

A more recent tragedy has two GoFundMe accounts claiming to raise money for the same thing.

The market is ripe for scammers in the world of crowdsourcing.

Ellen Klem, director of consumer outreach and education for the Office of the Attorney General, says that when it comes to crowdsourcing, it really is buyer beware.

"My best piece of advice is do your research — as much research as possible," she said.

Remember that any promises made on one of these sites are not contracts. What the person does with the money is up to them, with no requirements to report to donors.

Read the terms and conditions of the site you donate to before you pledge money.

For GoFundMe, users can withdraw money at any time without affecting the appearance of reaching the goal. If you wouldn't hand over that much cash to someone, reconsider using crowdsourcing.

If practical, consider donating to an established, registered organization or nonprofit. If it's funeral expenses that are being requested, call the funeral home and donate directly to it.

Klem says that, while crowdsourcing is not well regulated, there are laws in place for outright fraud. If you suspect a fraud, report it to the Attorney General's office at [oregonconsumer.gov](http://oregonconsumer.gov).

**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, OCT. 11**

• **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, OCT. 12**

• **Monmouth Tree Advisory Board** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

• **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, OCT. 16**

• **Independence Tourism and Events Commission** — 6:30 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. 17**

• **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, OCT. 18**

• **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.



**Postal carrier thanks community**

Thank you, Dallas. I have had the pleasure of being part of the community for the last 35 years. On Oct. 1, I had to retire from the Dallas Post Office. I wasn't quite ready to retire, but after knee surgery I decided it was time to leave. From delivering the downtown in my early years to my driving route on the east side of town, I have gotten to know many good people whom I will never forget. A big "thank you" for letting me be a part of your lives as you were all a part of mine.

*Dale R. Campbell  
Independence*

**Reader fed up with franchise fees**

It seems the city of Dallas is trying to run people out of Dallas with increasing fees, licenses, water, etc. Except for the three council members who should be praised for voting no.

*Ferrell True  
Dallas*

**Historical society grateful for grant**

Polk County Historical Society extends its gratitude to the Dallas Community Foundation for awarding a grant to us this past year. PCHS is continually acquiring documents that chronicle events of the local area. To properly store and organize these materials for the use of researchers and posterity, the PCHS archivist needs to periodically purchase additional acid-free storage sleeves and containers. This DCF grant allowed for the purchase of additional, and much needed, archival storage materials. The Polk County Historical Society does not receive

financial support from any government agency, and we depend on our member dues, donations and grants to continue our operations, which include the museum at Rickreall and the Historical Brunk House.

Once again, Polk County Historical Society would like to thank the Dallas Community Foundation in helping us preserve the past for future generations.

*David Moellenberndt  
Dallas  
President, Polk County  
Historical Society*



**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. Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

For the full letters to the editor policy, see [polkio.com](http://polkio.com).

have a concern that I would like to share. I went down to the Dallas City Hall and talked to the director of public works. I asked a simple question: What's the percentage our waste water treatment plant is running at. Several years ago, I heard we were running at 80 to 85 percent capacity. He stated he did not have this information, and he would have to contact C2HM Hill, the company that runs the treatment plant, for the numbers. I asked, does the city not have a yearly report on how the plant was operating? He stated he did not know.

I did not hear back within the period of time that the di-

*Larry Indra  
Dallas*

**Dallas resident demands answers**

Fellow Dallas citizens, I

**THE DOCTOR IS IN**

**About the authors**



Pam Short and Diana Hostetler are mammographers at West Valley Hospital with more than 35 years of collective experience.

They look forward to serving you.

Mammography is the standard imaging examination for breast cancer detection, reducing breast cancer mortality by approximately 49 percent in women who are screened.

A yearly mammogram improves your chances of survival.

Though you may have no outward signs of breast cancer, mammography can find tumors that are so small, it would be unlikely they would be found during a self-examination.

Finding breast cancer early reduces its chance to become invasive or get into the lymph system.

Did you know that 75 percent of women who receive a breast cancer diagnosis have no factors that place them at risk of breast cancer?

Additionally, less than 15 percent of women who get

breast cancer have a family member diagnosed with it, but the risk nearly doubles if she has a first-degree relative (parent, sibling or child) who has had the diagnosis.

West Valley Hospital follows the suggested screening guidelines of both the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology. These recommendations are:

• All women ages 40 to 74 should have an annual mammogram.

• Women age 75 or older should continue screening with mammography for as long as they are in good health and expected to live an additional 10 years or longer.

• Women at higher than average risk should have annual screening of mammography by age 30, but not before age 25.

rector stated he would call me.

I called back many times and even left my email address asking for the information.

The city has approved construction of up to 400 homes on the property at the corner of James Howe and Ellendale roads. The city has also approved the construction of up to 400 homes in the area where the Dallas drive-in used to be.

First the city reminds us to be careful with our clean water because the reservoir that we get our clean water from cannot be enlarged.

So the city turns around and allows up to 800 new homes that will use that much more clean water.

We all know that every house in the city has to flush wastewater to the system, why will the city not supply a citizen the public information when requested? Just how close are we to capacity at the treatment plant? I would like to know, and so should you.

*Larry Indra  
Dallas*

With your care and comfort in mind, West Valley Hospital's Breast Health Center sets 30-minute appointments for yearly mammograms.

Some patients might find the exam a little embarrassing or uncomfortable, but having 30 minutes gives us time for the individual attention you deserve.

We know that you will be back each year for your annual screening, and we want to get to know you on a personal level.

West Valley Hospital imaging also offers bone density dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry, X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography (CT) scans and ultrasounds.

In closing, we hope that you'll be back each year for your screening.

Remember not to count yearly mammograms out just because you're over a certain age.

Two ladies at age 97 walked to their appointment because they gave up driving — it's that important.

Increased awareness and information is your key in determining what your best breast care choice should be.

Here's to your health.

Polk County  
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