

**EDITORIALS**

**Spread the joy this holiday season**

Today officially starts our run to the holidays and the end of 2017, with Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's.

A letter-writer reminds us today that Dallas Adopt A Family has started seeking donations and volunteers. Other organizations also are gearing up to brighten the holidays for families in need, including Toys for Tots, Dallas Christmas Cheer, and the Independence Santa Train — which is back this year thanks to the efforts of Traci Cathcart, of Famous Footwear, and the Portland & Western Railroad.

At the same time, teams in Monmouth and Independence have formed up to have a friendly competition to see who can get the most food donated for the Ella Curran Food Bank.

The winner will be announced at a MI Chamber event on Nov. 16, but the true winners are those who find themselves in need of the food bank's services.

It feels good to help, and this time of year there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved in the community.

No time? That's OK, too. With fundraisers and dinner auctions to benefit our Dallas Dragons, Central Panthers, and Monmouth-Independence YMCA coming up in the next few months, open your pocketbook to ensure these nonprofits can reach as many community members as possible. Every penny counts.

Remember the Dallas Booster Club is hard at work raising money for a new turf field for the high school, and will accept your cans for recycling — double bonus: giving to a great cause and clearing clutter before holiday guests arrive.

Speaking of volunteers, each year at the Itemizer we celebrate community champions. This year, we invite you, our readers, to nominate someone from your community who gives much without thought of return or reward. Help us celebrate our local heroes and volunteers.

The holiday season can bring lots of stress as we hustle to buy gifts, make travel plans, and wonder where the year went. Let us not forget to take moments to help and recognize those groups who make the season a little more festive for those less fortunate than us.

**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, NOV. 1**

- **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.

**MONDAY, NOV. 6**

- **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, NOV. 7**

- **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, NOV. 8**

- **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.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Adopt A Family prepares for holiday**

Many of us feel rushed when we see the Christmas decorations in the malls and stores in mid-October.

One indicator of the season for us is beginning our Dallas Adopt A Family project.

We don't want to rush you into the holiday season, but we do hope you will feel the meaning of Christmas, starting with a spirit of generous giving extending all the way to gratitude.

For many years, the Dallas Adopt A Family project, participating with The Salvation Army, has brightened Christmas with a box of food and supplies for many families, as well as

gifts for children in those homes.

It has warmed our hearts to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

We would love to have many others in our community join us and be blessed by giving as well.

To adopt a family or to discover how you may give, please call Dallas Adopt A Family at 503-559-5373, or email [dallasadopt1@gmail.com](mailto:dallasadopt1@gmail.com) by Nov. 15, or you may follow us on Facebook.

Gift boxes from adopters will be dropped off at the Dallas Evangelical Bible Church on Dec. 19 and will be picked up by the adoptees on Dec. 20.

Merry Christmas. Thank you for giving.

*James and Candace Fowler  
Dallas*

**Condolences much appreciated**

The family of Dorothea Ames wish to thank all who sent condolences upon her passing Oct. 19, 2017.

As a Dallas resident for 67 years, Dot touched the lives of many with her quilting, attendance at Trinity Lutheran Church and cooking at the Blue Gardens in Dallas and in Monmouth, up to the day it closed.

The outpouring of support for her family is greatly appreciated. Again, thank you.

*Keith Ames  
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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Polk County  
**Itemizer-Observer**

Vol. 142, No. 44

(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:**

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