

## EDITORIALS

# Prepare for a cold winter

It's technically still fall, and while it's not snowy or icy yet, the temperatures continue to drop into the 30s and 40s.

It's good to be prepared ahead of time for a cold snap. If you don't know your neighbors, get out and meet them soon so that you can check on them if needed when the nights get colder, especially senior citizens.

With Christmas and Hanukkah around the corner, make room in your closet for new clothes. Go through old winter coats, hats and gloves, and see what is still wearable.

Clothes closets and donation centers can always use warm items for those who can't afford much — and if the act of giving itself doesn't make you warm and fuzzy, a last-minute tax writeoff that comes with it might.

Don't forget about your pets.

Pets that live outdoors should be fed a little more during the winter because they need the extra calories to stay warm.

They should have fresh water put out a couple times a day, or consider a special bowl that prevents water from freezing.

Pets can get frostbite easily on the ears, tail and paws. When walking your dog in freezing conditions, check the paws to make sure ice — when present — is not building up between the toes, and that salt or gravel from the roads is not irritating skin.

Before you start your car, make sure no animals have decided to nap in a warm spot under the hood of the vehicle.

If decorating for the holidays, keep ornaments out of reach of your pets.

Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and other plants can be toxic if ingested. Antifreeze also is toxic to pets. It has a sweet taste, and even a tiny amount can cause severe kidney damage, and even death. If you spill antifreeze, soak it up immediately.

If you don't have pets, consider donating to an animal shelter. They can always use cash donations, or used towels or pet food.

Or give an animal an forever home this holiday season and warm its life and yours.

For more tips, consult your local veterinarian.

## 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. 30

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

### MONDAY, DEC. 5

• **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 work session** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502. Dallas City Council regular meeting follows at 7.

### TUESDAY, DEC. 6

• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

• **Dallas Urban Renewal Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565.

• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

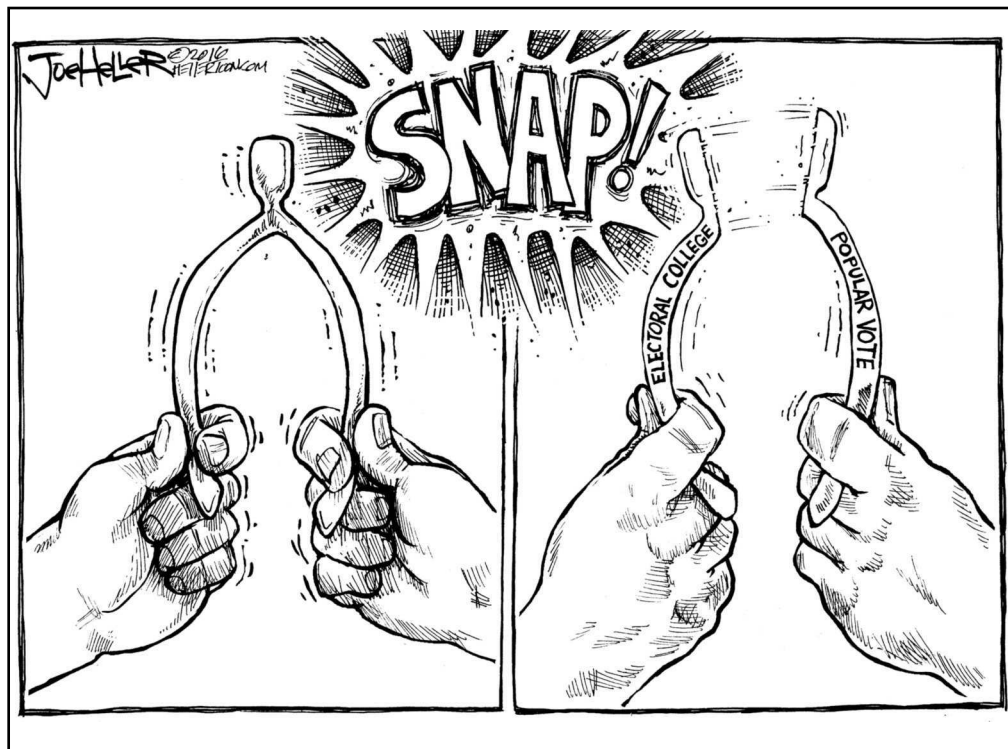
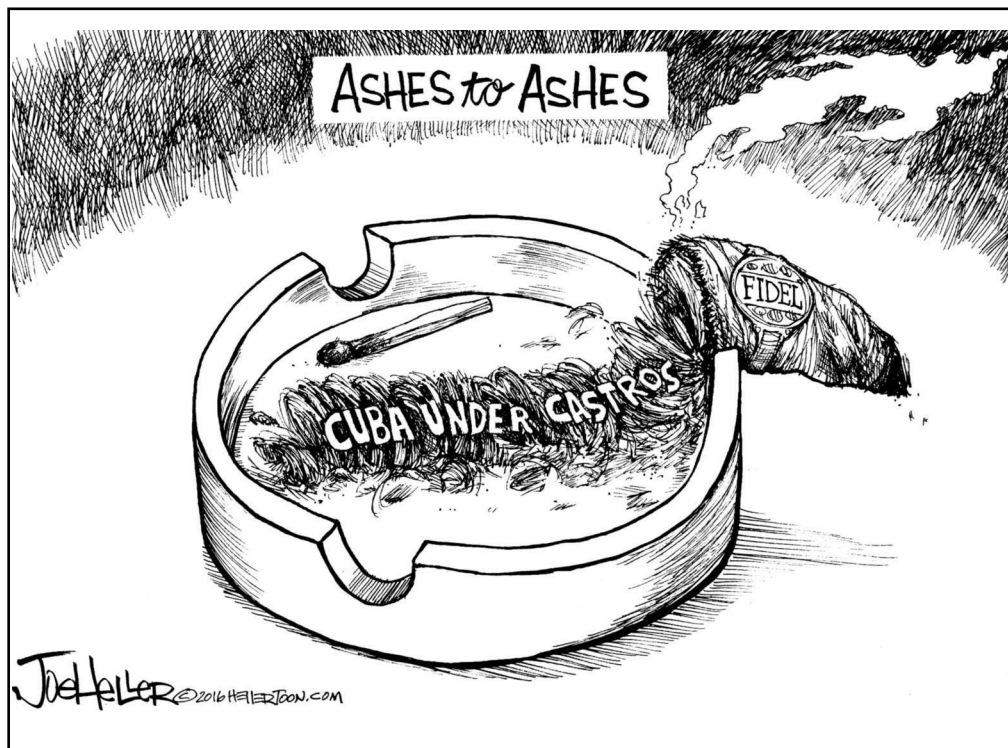
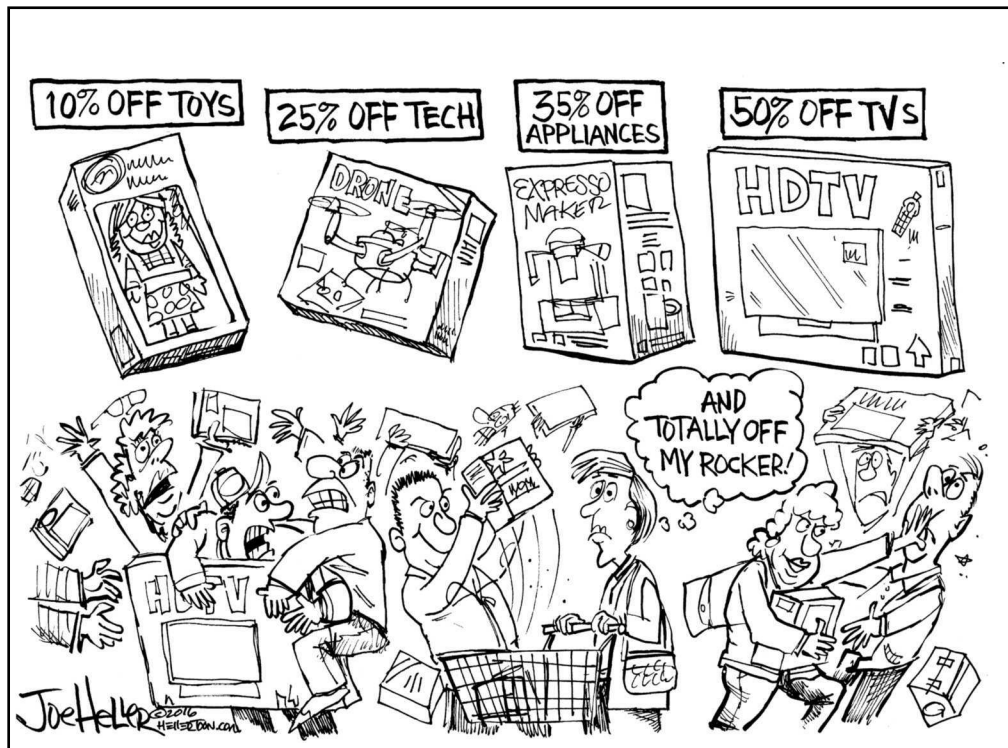
• **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

• **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., 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.



## POLITICAL CARTOONS



## 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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