

EDITORIALS

To the candidates for DSD superintendent

The Dallas School District is hosting three candidates for superintendent Thursday and Friday. The public will have a chance to visit with them for an hour and a half on both days.

Take the time to drop in to the Dallas High library and say "hello." Find out what the potential leader of Dallas schools thinks about education, Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced assessments and school lunches.

The superintendent is an important job in the community and can help shape the future of education.

We hope the district's new boss will be supportive of the great efforts of Dallas principals and teachers when it comes to engaging students in educational activities.

We enjoy the transparency of the district, and the superintendent sets the tone for releasing information to the public. We hope the new leader will continue that tradition.

Communication goes beyond press releases. Dallas school's new leader will hopefully listen to the public and get to know the community. All three candidates are from outside of the Willamette Valley, so it may take some time to discover what it is that concerns Dallas residents.

Know that we are passionate about our schools. We love our Dragons, and we want you to love them, too.

The Dallas School District feels like a well-oiled machine, so whoever is chosen can take a little time to settle in and get to know us.

The business of education is an ever-changing profession, a world where assessments and scores and curriculum and standards change regularly. We want a captain at the helm who understands that and helps the community understand it.

We hope the new leader will continue delegating in ways that makes sense and be a good, positive face for the district.

A tip from the newsroom: Sometimes provisions are needed for school board meetings.

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 fax (503-623-2395) or email (kholland@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- **Dallas Park Advisory Board** — 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

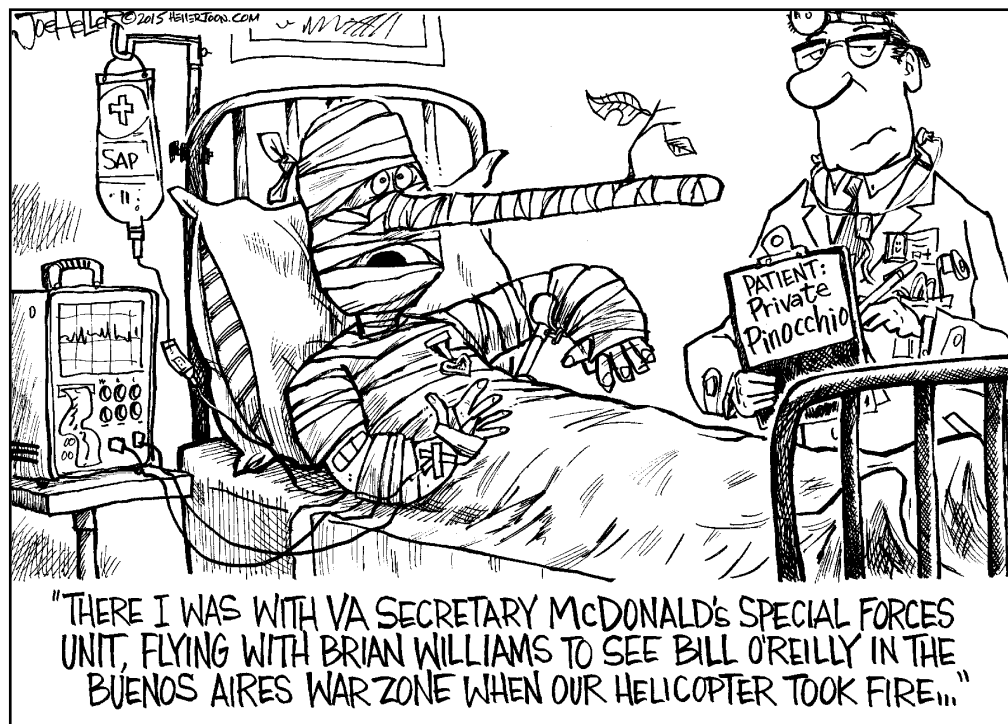
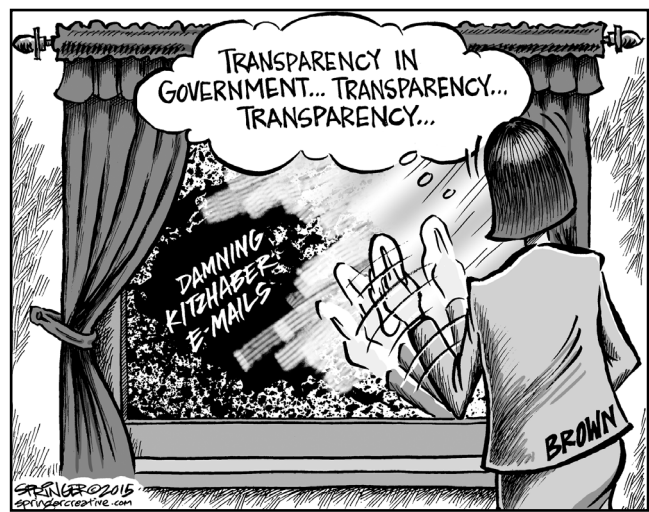
- **Dallas School Board** — 3 p.m., Morrison Campus Alternative School, 1251 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-9664, ext. 2334.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Falls City School Board** — 5:30 p.m., Falls City High School resource room, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.
- **Dallas Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Kings Valley Charter School Board** — 7 p.m., Kings Valley Charter School, 38840 Kings Valley Highway, Kings Valley. 541-929-2134.
- **Independence City Council** — 7:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library meeting room, 168 S. Ecols St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Board** — 6 p.m., USDA Service Center, 580 Main St., Suite A, Dallas. 503-623-9680.
- **Monmouth Park and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.



"THERE I WAS WITH VA SECRETARY McDONALD'S SPECIAL FORCES UNIT, FLYING WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS TO SEE BILL O'REILLY IN THE BUENOS AIRES WAR ZONE WHEN OUR HELICOPTER TOOK FIRE..."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Officials listen up: Stop raising taxes

Stop it. Stop raising our taxes.

Listen government officials: We the people, whom you serve, not us serve you, are tired of being told to open our wallets when you will not tighten yours. Don't let the government and wealthy elites do it over and over again.

Simple answer: lower taxes and in the relatively peaceful and pristine environment of Polk County businesses will flock in, and there will be bounty for all who care to work for it.

Rose Bajorins
Falls City

Without legitimate ideas, levy needed

There is a lot of emotion surrounding the Polk County public safety levy.

I don't like paying taxes, but I see the value in education, roads and public safety.

Those who have ideas on how to address our current funding issues need to face one reality: Does your idea violate laws that the agencies we are funding are responsible for upholding — federal, state and labor laws, as well as contracts? Most ideas don't seem to be able to pass this simple test.

What we are left with is unacceptable. I don't think anyone would disagree with that. We need the levy.

Noreen Holsapple
Dallas

BOC resolution ignored key point

In the Feb. 18 *Itemizer-ObsERVER* article "Gun rights resolution receives BOC support," the I-O reported that the Polk County Board of Commissioners, at the behest of American Outdoors owner Micky Garus, had passed "a resolution supporting the Second Amendment and opposing restrictions on gun rights."

The BOC in passing the resolution by, as Chairman Ainsworth said, supporting the Second Amendment, leaves out an important part of the Second Amendment, the beginning passage that states that arms ownership is there to secure a "well-regulated militia."

The whole issue of the "right to bear arms" has become a non-issue as a result of recent Supreme Court decisions and no public offi-

cial — up to and including President Obama — is challenging that right. So the questions that each political entity in the U.S. needs to answer are about an appropriate level of regulation — about the size of gun (hand gun, rifle, semi-automatic, automatic, bazooka, cannon, atom bomb, etc.); the quantity of magazine; concealed or not; and location (home, car, on the person at all times, government offices, schools, churches, etc.). The Supreme Court has also affirmed the right to regulation.

By always shifting the debate to "the right to bear arms," supporters of unregulated and, apparently, unlimited arms are able to prevent a meaningful discussion on well-regulated weaponry. By allowing Mr. Garus to essentially write its resolution for it, the BOC abdicates its responsibility to the public to create a level of regulation that best serves and safeguards the people of Polk County.

John Krenkel
Dallas

County, not cities, pay for services

I wish to point out a very important fact concerning the need for the Polk County public safety levy: Cities in Polk County do not reimburse the county for costs of persons arrested by city police and sent to the only county jail.

All jail costs, plus sheriff patrol deputies, district attorney's office, juvenile court, parole and probation, serving civil papers, and search and rescue, are paid out of the county general fund. The current fund tax rate of \$1.71 per \$1,000 assessment could soon allow lawbreakers to go free without prosecution.

Please vote "yes" for this small insurance policy.

Wayne Simmons
West Salem

Issue is more than just 'gun rights'

I live on a farm and own a couple of rifles, a shot gun and pistols. I've been sitting patiently waiting for some government official to come around and confiscate them. No one has and I wonder what the Polk County Commissioners know that I don't that makes them think that firearm confiscations are just around the corner and that a county resolution supporting the right to possess firearms

is needed ("Gun rights resolution receives BOC support," Feb. 18 *Itemizer-ObsERVER*).

Maybe it's a Second Amendment issue. As we all know, the Second Amendment begins by stating "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State" The text of the Amendment clearly and literally focuses on the connection between our armed forces and firearms. So if the commissioners want to focus on Second Amendment issues, they should pass a resolution encouraging supporters of the Second Amendment to enlist in the National Guard or regular armed forces and bear those arms, while in the military, to support our country.

A number of folks that I know who seem to be interested in gun rights haven't taken that opportunity. Maybe encouragement from our commissioners would point them in the right direction.

Dan Van Otten
Amity (Perrydale)

GOP is unfairly attacking unions

So Scott Walker, the current Republican presidential frontrunner, says that since my fellow union members and I regularly exercise our Constitutional right to free speech and assembly, we are no different than the ISIS terrorists. Really? There is a reason why the Republican Party is constantly attacking the largest cohesive group of politically active citizens who are standing together to preserve the rights of working Americans. This appears to be the only way these politicians can hope to win — turn Americans against Americans, get them fighting, and hope they pay no attention to the little man behind the curtain.

What's next? Requiring union members to wear gold stars so you can identify us, round us up into cattle cars and take us to the gas chambers and ovens?

You may be surprised to learn that union members are proud America-loving, gun-toting folks who believe that democracy is not a spectator sport, and that the "tree of freedom" doesn't grow without occasional nourishment.

When you come for our union cards, you better hope we actually live by the First Commandment.

Greg Creal
Dallas

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