

EDITORIALS

Public safety system requires resources

People inside the city limits of Dallas, Monmouth, Independence and West Salem may feel the May 19 county public safety levy doesn't affect them. They may feel as though, as long as the cities maintain and operate effective police departments, it doesn't really matter what happens on the county level — which is a level of government, not a geographic reference. This week, as we continue our coverage of the public safety levy, we take a journey with three criminals, who we label as Smash, Grab and Middleman.

On the journey, we see that county resources are used from the start, with jail space, parole and probation, and the district attorney's office. The fact is, county law enforcement workers finish what city police officers start. Without the county jail, criminals would walk free to commit more crimes. Without attorneys at the DA's office, paperwork is not filed on time or prosecution is delayed, hurting both the victim and the suspect. The people in Polk County — city police officers included — deserve better. Deputies with the Polk County Sheriff's Office do more than just patrol county roads. They serve restraining orders, court custody orders, eviction notices, property seizures and foreclosures. They back up our fire districts and city police when emergency responders may be in danger of violent people. If something bad has happened to a member of your family who lives in another county, it's the face of a Polk County deputy you will probably see at your door delivering the news. The people in Polk County deserve prompt justice for criminals and victims, and quick response from a sheriff's deputy. The system doesn't work if all the needed parts aren't there working together. Both the DA's and sheriff's offices are running on bare bones staffing. If a household was surviving on such little income and needed more money, it would be time to get a second job. But neither the DA's office nor the sheriff's department can moonlight at another job.

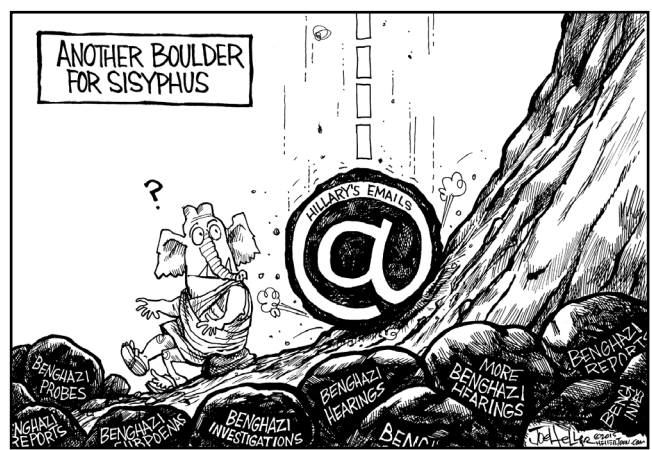
PUBLIC AGENDA

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 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.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 12**
- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
 - **Luckiamute Watershed Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-837-0237.
 - **Falls City City Council** — 7:30 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

- MONDAY, MARCH 16**
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
 - **Perrydale School Board** — 7 p.m., Perrydale School, 7445 Perrydale Road, Amity. 503-623-2040.

- TUESDAY, MARCH 17**
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
 - **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 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
 - **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help make Polk County safer place

The entire Polk County Sheriff's Department — patrol deputies, sergeants, lieutenant and the sheriff himself — work hard to keep our county as safe as possible. Staff shortages caused by severe budget cuts have been answered with increased effort and dedication. We receive much from these brave and devoted public servants, but their dedication is stretched to the limit. It can't go on this way. Support the public safety levy and give these folks the resources needed to restore 24-hour patrol service. Return Polk County to the safer and more secure community that it once was.

Lynnette Henshaw
Dallas

Republican antics are embarrassing

After the GOP election victory, I wondered how long it would take to renew their push toward establishing a plutocracy in America. In the first legislation passed, they attached two riders. The first increases substantially the amounts of money the very wealthy may donate to political causes. The other item is legislation making the taxpayers rather than banks the guarantors for Wall Street bankers who gamble with fake financial instruments. Of course the tried and true GOP attack campaigns roll on. There has been a fresh outbreak of hatred of President Obama. Rather than argue issues, they insult the president with such idiocy as doubting that Mr. Obama loves America. There is never any substantive debate; it is always pejorative and innuendo, hatred and insult. Jon Stewart is a leftist political commentator on TV.

He recently showed several clips of Fox News commentators fawning over decisive, strong and action-orientated foreign leaders. Their examples were Vladimir Putin of Russia, who just ripped Crimea from the Ukraine; Abdel Al-Sisi, the dictator of Egypt who is killing protesters against his rule; and King Abdallah of Jordan, who is an absolute ruler with an excellent repression of dissent program. Their point was "Why can't Obama be like that?" Then Stewart showed a series of clips where Fox News folks are calling Mr. Obama a tyrant, a dictator and traitor. The segment was a perfect example of how the GOP will say anything to make their point no matter how illogical or untrue it might be. How long will moderate Republicans continue to accept this trashing of everything disagreeable to the GOP?

Any Republican readers who think you are moderates need to take a closer look at the rhetoric spewing forth from your party. Then you should be embarrassed.

Fred Brown
Dallas

Levy's tax increase would hurt us all

Increased property taxes hurt homeowners, businesses and renters. Homeowners on fixed incomes are negatively impacted by increased property taxes. Businesses are hit hard and need to increase charges to consumers in order to compensate for increased taxes. Landlords need to increase rent to cover their costs from increased property taxes. The proposed property tax levy will have a dramatic financial impact on all. Every year, additional taxes are collected, yet it's never

enough. It's time to be creative in allocating tax monies and make things leaner and more efficient. Vote "no" on 27-117 and defeat the property tax levy.

Terri Parsons
Dallas

Festival's food drive effort appreciated

Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program would like to thank the Polk County Folklife Festival folks for the canned food drive they held during the festival on Saturday at the Polk County Fairgrounds.

They gathered more than 1,000 pounds of food for our food assistance program in Dallas. Their mission is to preserve and promote the cultural and ethnic traditions of the people in the Mid-Willamette Valley. A good time was had by all. Thanks again.

Kathy Chiles
Willamette Valley
Food Assistance Program
Dallas

Know the law prior to complaining

To the "gentleman" in the sports vehicle on Uglov and Miller in Dallas on Sunday at about 12:30 p.m. who shouted epithets at me while I obeyed Oregon traffic laws: Please re-introduce yourself to the laws of Oregon. It is illegal to turn on a solid red traffic arrow. Regardless of how important you believe you are and how it is your "right" to curse at another driver you disagree with, the law remains. ORS 811.260 clearly states there is no turn allowed on a solid red arrow.

Liz Thiessen
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, 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. Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER*,

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 Monday at 10 a.m. Reach us at: **Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338. **Fax:** 503-623-2395. **Email:** ionews@polkio.com. **Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

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