

EDITORIALS

Come together for both towns

The joint work session between the cities of Independence and Monmouth councils is about four weeks away, and we are excited to see what they can accomplish by putting their heads together.

It is great to see the city governments reaching across the S-curves and working toward common goals.

The sister cities share more than just a border. In fact, they have many common goals, activities, and some areas where they could be better aligned when it comes to city ordinances.

The agenda for this monumental meeting has not yet been announced, but we have heard the mayors and councils are working on compiling things they'd like to have on the table when the two groups meet on Sept. 28 at Polk Fire District No. 1 Station 90.

We have seen building more trails come up as a hot topic in both cities, and think this would be a great opportunity to build a trail system unmatched by other towns. In fact, Independence and Monmouth could take advantage of twice the geographical area, twice the resources and twice the brainpower by building 25 miles of trails between the river, fields and campus of Western Oregon University.

The councils could facilitate a joint trail committee filled with members of the public from both cities and from the university. If two heads are better than one, surely three are better than two. Students, staff and faculty at WOU could add valuable input into what makes a good trail system, and help host events to show off the two cities.

The joint council work session is a great opportunity to make both towns even better and stronger than they already are. We are happy to see the cities put down their score cards — Independence pays for the student-resource officer at the high school; Monmouth pays for the senior center — and build a better future for all.

These city councils have a rare chance to make a historical difference and change between the two cities, where once residents said they should "build a wall" between the two.

Trails is just one thing we think they should discuss. What do you think should be on the agenda for this meeting? Send us a letter to the editor at ionews@polkio.com and let us know.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beloved neighbor cat pepper-sprayed

I have lived in a manufactured home park for 11 years.

If you have a cat, you have to have a leash and halter to let it outside.

We have for six years done this — the only one in the park. My husband walks him on his leash all over the park the people love him.

Sunday at about 5:30 a.m., we were up. He was tied outside, and we heard a big thump.

Went to check on him, and he was not seeing and foaming at the mouth. We got him in the house he was sprayed with pepper spray. We don't know who did it but we are not very happy. He didn't deserve this and we didn't either.

He was tied up so how could he have done anything? Everyone loves this cat. Why are people so cruel to animals? He is like one of our kids.

Sharon Martin
Dallas

Episcopal Church welcomes LGBT

St. Thomas Episcopal Church hosted a Believe Out Loud Provincial Workshop on Aug. 15, presented by Matt Hains (president of Integrity USA), Charlene McCreight (Diocesan organizer) and Dennis Small J. Parker (chaplain for Integrity USA Portland chapter).

"Believe Out Loud" is a trans-denominational brand and logo that are being adopted in different ways by LGBT-affirming movements within major Protestant denominations. "Integrity" is leading the way in the Episcopal Church by establishing "Believe Out Loud" Episcopal congregations as a designation for welcoming parishes in the Episcopal church.

John Krenkle
Dallas

Eagle Scout makes difference at H2O

A big "Thank You" to San-

ford Bassett, son of Porter and Mary Bassett of Dallas, for a job well done.

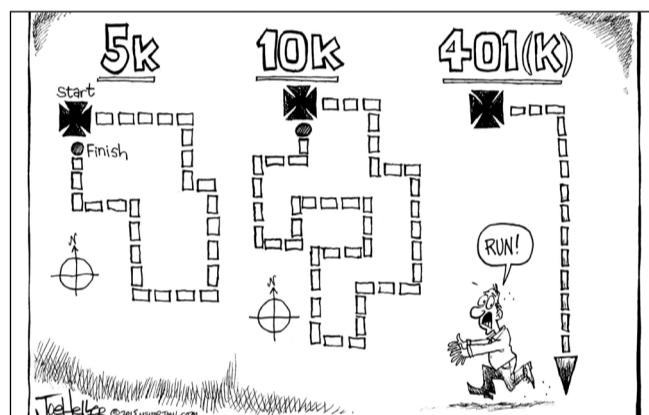
Sanford chose H2O as his community project while striving for an Eagle Scout achievement.

From scratch he made his presentation to the board of directors of H2O, which included his desire to pretty us up with new paint. He calculated measurements, got estimates for paint and supplies from VanWells and enlisted his army of parents and friends to accomplish a huge undertaking.

We at H2O believe he is well qualified for and surpassed his community project requirement for Eagle Scout. We would like to take this opportunity to publically thank Sanford, his family, and friends for all the grunt work that resulted in a pride-filled presentation of H2O. Our hats off to you, Sanford.

You're well on your way.

Joetta Chrissakis
H2O staff and board of directors, Dallas



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 (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26

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

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

• **MINET Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-837-0700.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

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

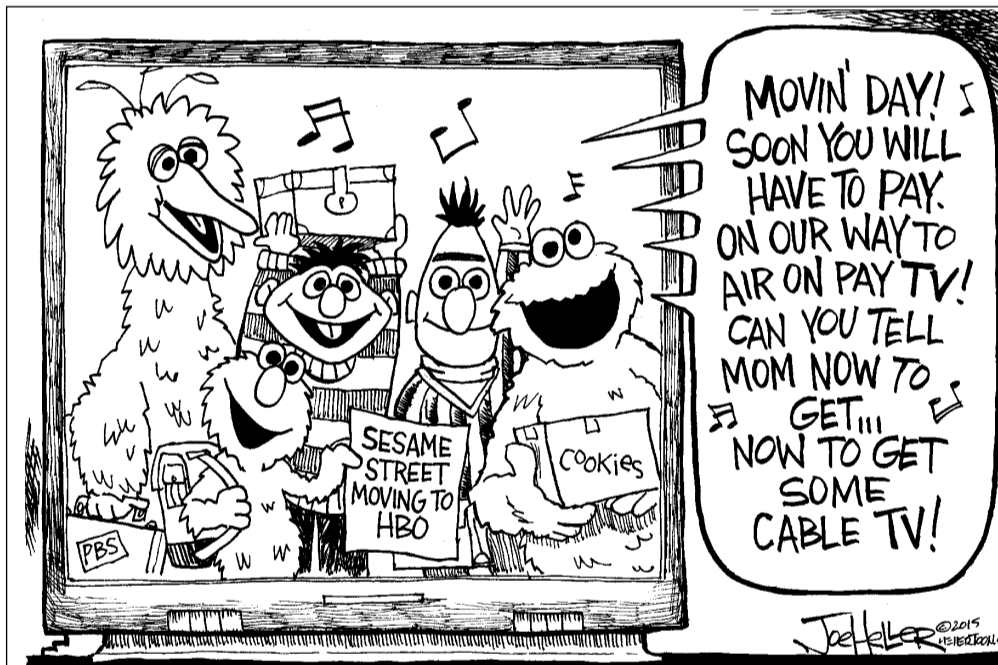
• **Dallas Urban Renewal District Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

• **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.



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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