

## **Gun policy still needs clarity**

By Jolene Guzman

The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Looking for a way to clarify its policy on staff possessing firearms at school, the Dallas School District has run into more confusion, not less.

The district has interpreted its policy to mean that staff with concealed weapons permits could carry at school, a practice the board doesn't want to change. That's a reading that

**ADRC** 

Association agrees with, but the district's attorney, Paul Dakopolos, doesn't.

That only added more wrinkles to a complicated

"It's more troubling to me that we have our counsel and the state school boards association telling us two different things. That is a huge red flag for me," said board member Jon Woods.

Dallas' "public conduct on school property" policy

It's not like her.

Mom has always been so patient, but now

when I ask her questions she gets angry.

We can help.

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the Oregon School Boards states: "No person on district property will bring, possess, conceal or use a weapon as prohibited by board policy "Weapons in the Schools and State and Federal Law."

That policy applies to students, not employees or

members of the public. Federal law through the "Guns Free School Zone Act" prohibits the possession of a gun on school property or within 1,000 feet of school grounds. Another federal law, "Guns Free School Act" requires schools to adopt a "zero tolerance policy" and expel students who possess firearms at school.

But Oregon law overrides federal law on the issue, allowing guns on school property if the owner has a concealed weapons permit. However, boards have the authority to prohibit staff and volunteers from possessing firearms on school grounds.

State law, like federal law, prohibits students from possessing firearms at school.

Dakopolos said the reference to "no person" in the conduct policy could be interpreted to mean staff, too.

OSBA's reading is the opposite: "That is state law. The only way you can deny them that right is if you have a policy prohibiting," wrote Peggy Holstedt, OSBA's policy services director in an email to district staff

For Woods and other board members that difference underscored the need for clarity.

"It should be clear on one reading by most everyone, I think," Woods with. "That's really what I'm looking at."

Board member Mike Blanchard suggested a minor change in wording. "Rather that referencing that student policy, maybe it just makes sense to reference (the state law)," he said.

Assistant Superintendent Dennis Engle said staff would revise the policy and bring it back to the board for review and approval at a future meeting.

Windermere

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Monmouth





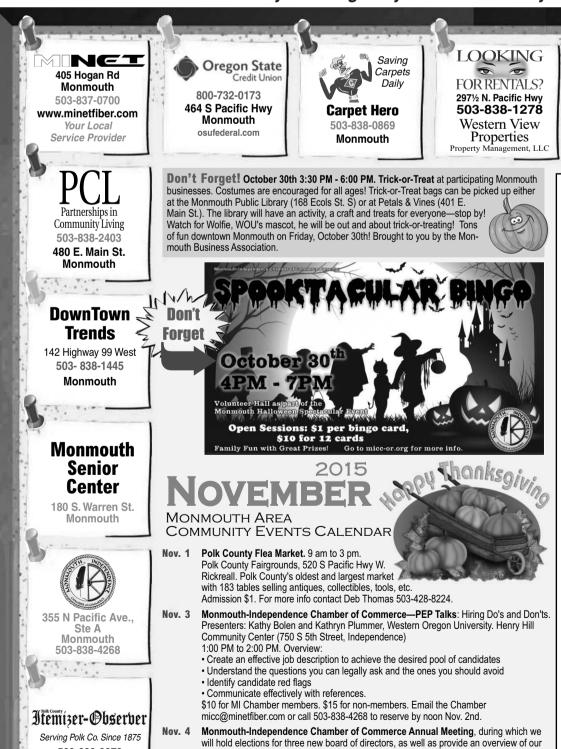
MONMOUTH FITNESS CLUB

503-838-2951

165 E. Main St.

Monmouth

We Care About Our Community! Building Unity in Our Community! Please clip out this calendar & post it on your fridge!



2015 programs and services and look ahead to 2016! 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Monmouth

Public Library (168 Ecols Street S, Monmouth). \$11.00 boxed lunch from Main Street Pub

& Eatery. Fee incurred unless cancelation received via email to micc@minetfiber.com by noon 11/2/15. Please note, our monthly forum will held on the first Wednesday of

November (11/4/15) rather than the regularly scheduled second Wednesday in lieu of

Nov. 11 Veterans Day! Help us in honoring people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Nov. 27 & 28 Polk County Craft Festival. 9 AM to 5 PM. Two Buildings full! 150 craft spaces

& Event Center 520 S Pacific Hwy W. Rickreall.

filled with a variety of handmade crafts, wreaths, ornaments, ceramics, gift baskets,

cowboy art and all kinds of baking. Food Available on site. Admission is Free. Donations accepted. Donations help 4H & FFA projects at the fairgrounds. Polk County Fairgrounds

Thank you! **Nov. 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** 

503-623-2373

503-838-3467

Every Tuesday 10:15 AM, Toddler Story Time for ages 18 mos. to 3 yrs. Monmouth Public Library, 168 S. Ecols St.

503-838-1773

410 E. Main St.

Monmouth

Every Tuesday 7:30 PM - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another's use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you

Second and Fourth Tuesdays - 9:15 to 11 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MoPS) meets at Monmouth Christian Church, 959 W. Church St., Monmouth.

Every Wednesday 10:15 AM, Preschool Story Time for ages 3-6 years. Monmouth Library,

Every Wednesday Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank, 10am to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday, 541-404-6517.

Every Wednesday 6:30 PM - Al-Anon Family Groups, which includes Alateen for younger members, meets at Trinity Lutheran Church at 320 Fir Villa Rd. in Dallas. Al-Anon is an established community resource for people affected by another's use of alcohol. The resource can aid the recovery process for the entire family through hope, comfort and loving interchange among members having a common problem. For more information call 503-370-7363, leave a message - you will be contacted.

Every 2nd Wednesday Monmouth-Independence Chamber lunch forum. 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Location changes. Please call Jean Love or visit our Calendar of Events at micc-or.org for more

Every 3rd Wednesday each month. BINGO at the Farm, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Come play BINGO in the Chatoe out at Roque Farms. Join us every third Wednesday of the month through 2014! So bring your family and friends and get ready to win! Boards, daubers, and prizes provided! Rogue Farms Chatoe Tasting Room, 3590 Wigrich Road Independence, OR

Every Thursday 7 p.m. 314 Cottonwood Way, Monmouth. Polk and Marion County Women meet to discuss and research alternative/safer approaches to conventional treatments of hor-

Every 2nd Thursday 7:00 PM Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) open meeting. Monmouth Volunteer Hall. Info: 503-838-8804

Every 3rd Thursday After Hour Mixers with Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members and friends are invited to join us for our FREE monthly after-hours mixers. Mixers are held the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at member locations. Registration is requested to help the host site properly prepare. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small giveaway (less than \$10) to promote your business or organization. For location and or more information, contact Jean Love 503-838-4268 or visit our Calendar of Events at micc-or.org for more information.

Every Friday TOPS-Weight Loss Group meets at the Monmouth Church of Christ, 127 Heffley St. N., Monmouth. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information please feel free to contact Marilyn

Every 1st Saturday 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Monmouth Senior Center host breakfast. All you can eat, Adults \$6 Donation, Children 12 & under \$3 Donation. For more info: 503 838-5678

First Saturday 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-3 p.m.-Crafter's Cottage at the Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St. Handmade items, watercolors, needlepoint, towels, bead jewelry, dolls, blankets, sweaters, jellies, etc....New items always arriving!