

**EDITORIALS**

**Time to step into the 21st century**

Here we go again. Polk County has joined with other O&C counties to sue the government for more money, alleging mismanagement of timber plans.

Polk County has joined with 16 other counties to sue the federal government because the plans, drafted in 1937, aren't working as promised. The counties have been riding this timber-harvest, government subsidy horse for too long. It's gotten old.

The answer has been to continue to lobby Congress and others in Washington, D.C., for extensions on those timber subsidies. It is past time for commissioners to show us the money — what good have trips to D.C. done for Polk County and its residents? If they can't tell us what they've been doing on our behalf and how it has been working, it's time for them to stop spending time on the East Coast and start putting their boots on the ground here in the county. It's time to find another horse.

Our commissioners need to show us their drive to increase economic development. Citing poor location away from major highways is an excuse, and a condition that isn't changing anytime soon.

We hear these objections, but we see our cities overcoming those. We see cities attracting businesses who are providing jobs. We see them creating opportunities for developers — and we see developers snatching those opportunities.

The Polk County commissioners would do well to work more closely with the leaders of Dallas, Independence, Monmouth and Falls City to find a way to help market the county as a whole, rather than sit upon the laurels of the old ways of timber subsidies.

Polk County has much to offer to both residents and tourists. Efforts last year to increase rural tourism — sponsored by Travel Oregon's Rural Tourism Studio — put the spotlight on the area's appeal to a variety of tourists, from agriculture and wineries to cultural experiences and bicycling.

The commissioners should be the county's biggest champions on these fronts. Instead of arguing for hand-outs from the government for uncut timber, let's get easements through BLM lands for tours — maybe a moonlight trip to listen to the endangered spotted owl.

Until the environmentalists, loggers and politicians can sit at the same table and see that managing a forest is important to everyone, the county won't see an increase in timber dollars. And the likelihood of that happening anytime soon is about the same as a snowstorm in July.

**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, APRIL 20**

**Independence Traffic Safety Commission** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

**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.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**

**Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

**Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

**Polk County Fair Board** — 8 a.m., Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Main Building, Meeting Room No. 2, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall. 503-623-3048.

**MONDAY, APRIL 25**

**Independence Library Board** — 4 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

**Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**

**Independence City Council** — 7:30 a.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

**Monmouth Senior Advisory Board** — 1 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

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

**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, like all editorial material submitted to the newspa-

per, 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. The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

For more information, including the complete letters policy: [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Proposed bond won't fix all streets**

The proposed 10-year, \$10-million street bond is going to be voted on by Dallas residents in the upcoming election. The bond, according to the city of Dallas, is \$5 million short of what is supposedly needed for street repairs. Consequently, a vote in favor of the bond does not guarantee a homeowner's street will be repaired over the next 10 years. A home worth \$200,000 will pay approximately \$2,200 over the life of the bond with no guarantee this outlay will result in any benefit. Vote no.

*Stephen Mannenbach  
Dallas*

**Jones honest, God-loving Christian**

Why I support Beth Jones for Oregon House District 23: she is an honest, God-loving, strong, Christian woman who will fight for what is truly best for our state and our people. She exemplifies what our government should be.

*Brooke Stuller  
Dallas*

**Jones has values, integrity for HD 23**

I support Beth Jones for Oregon House District 23. She is a woman with integrity, values and someone I would strongly support in her decisions for the people. She genuinely cares and has a heart for all people and for where they are at. I love that she supports pro-life, the Constitution and family values. Beth Jones is someone I would want on my side.

*Lynnette Anderson  
Dallas*

**Re-elect Wheeler for commissioner**

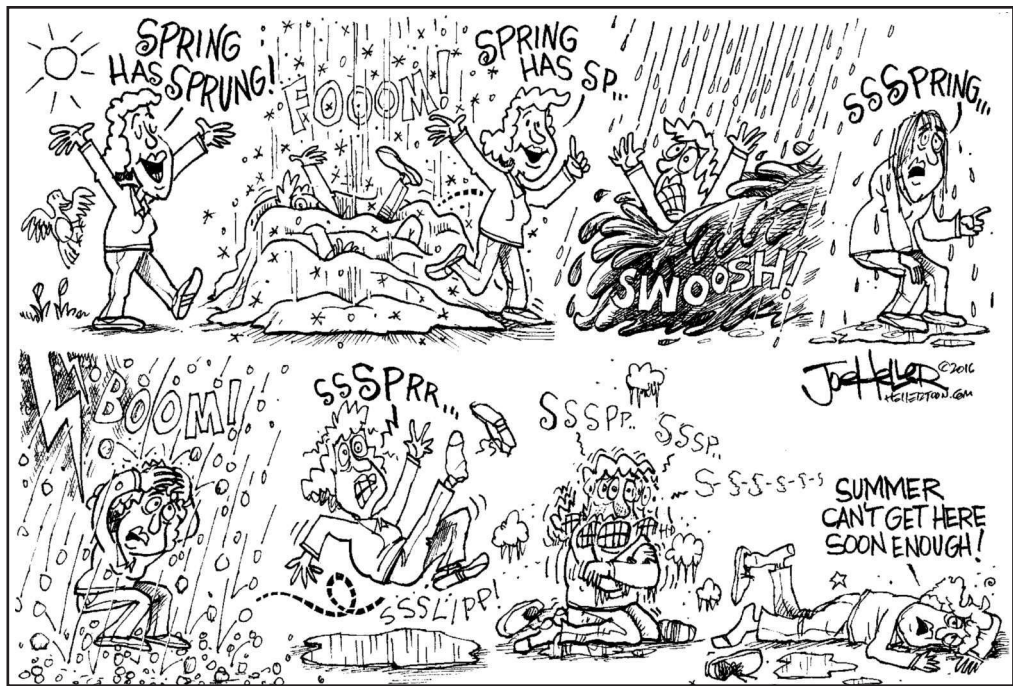
Jennifer Wheeler is a passionate supporter of the county she grew up in. She believes in the collaborative work being accomplished between agencies serving the residents of Polk County. Even more importantly, she listens to concerns, works with people and volunteers alongside citizens to make our county better. She is a committed and active participant in several Polk County nonprofit organizations. In her first term of service as a commissioner, she has grown into a knowledgeable and capable advocate for Polk County. I encourage you to support her for re-election as Polk County Commissioner.

*Ken Braun  
Dallas*

**Fixing streets our responsibility**

Dedicated faith, deep personal convictions, and a willingness to support the Dallas of tomorrow makes our city a great place to live.

Faced with a decade of declining state gas tax receipts and fewer street repair dollars, Dallas citizens must choose. Do we acknowledge our individual responsibility as citizens of Dallas to protect and preserve the Dallas street infra-



structure or do we put off for future generations to rebuild the decaying local street system?

The responsible decision is to rebuild the Dallas street system by passing the May street bond.

*Wanda Davis  
Dallas*

**Dallas community shows support**

It is reassuring to know that the Dallas people look out for each other from children's sports to the senior citizens. On top of that, volunteer organizations abound for about every need. One thing I never suspected was the personal compassion and interest that is there when tragedy occurs. At the untimely death of my granddaughter, Makenzie Lyman, people "came out of the woodwork" to comfort and console — and above expectation contributed financially to her final expenses. Grace Community Church did so much and generously provided hospitality for the hundreds of those who graciously attended her memorial service. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center staff is to be commended for the caring and being most helpful. Thank you Dallas community from being there for us.

*Stann Lyman  
Dallas*

**Voters should learn more about Jones**

Today I invite voters to investigate a candidate running for state representative District 23: Beth Jones. A vote for her would bring someone to Salem that would work for the things that made this country great: the Constitution, for families, for our military. I know her to be a woman of substance; ethical, morally strong, with lots of local involvement. She has more governmental experience than the incumbent and investigates concerns fully and carefully. She listens to both sides of a problem and works diligently to solve the issues brought before her. She's the best candidate.

*Dede Perkins  
Dallas*

**Streets will only get more costly**

I urge you to support the Dallas street repair bond.

We are at a critical point regarding the condition of our streets. Two-thirds of Dallas' streets are rated poor to very poor. The cost of repairs will increase the property owner's taxes between \$88.50 to \$147.50, depending upon the value of the home. The street repair bond is a viable answer. The longer it's delayed, the more it will cost.

Please join me in supporting the street bond measure. Let's create a positive impression for our established businesses and new businesses exploring the Dallas area.

*Nancie Rogers  
Dallas*

**Repairs needed for Dallas streets**

If your roof springs a leak and you fix it right away, the cost is minimal. If you wait until there are buckets everywhere and the only answer is a whole new roof, the expense is huge.

Infrastructure is similar. Maintaining the streets in good condition adds years to their life. But let them deteriorate enough and the cost of repair becomes exorbitant, up to and including the need for total replacement.

Many Dallas streets are approaching that critical point. We can pay the present cost, or saddle our kids with a horrendously worse one. The choice is ours.

*David Shein  
Dallas*

**Don't take more money from citizens**

Well, folks here we go again. Somebody wants to take our hard-earned money and spend it on street improvements. That's going to take some big bucks. \$50 million in \$10 million increments. It is public knowledge, and the city has admitted they have "deferred" street maintenance for 20 years. Wouldn't you like to know where the money that was collected from the Dallas citizens for 20 years went to, and what it was used for? Vote no on the street tax bond.

*Ali Rion  
Dallas*

**Road repairs to help neighbors**

As I view the dozens of street photos sent to me by friends, I asked myself what kind of a neighbor would I be if I opposed the street

bond? The collection included missing pavement on Southwest Brown and Southwest Clay Street. There are photos of alligator pavement patches on Southwest Elmwood Drive, Southwest Robb Street and Northwest Sunny Drive. Potholes on Southeast Lyle Street and Southeast Lewis Street.

And standing water on Southwest Hayter Street, Southeast Godsey and Southwest Allgood. Please join me and your neighbors in voting yes to improve Dallas's livability by repairing our residential streets.

*Rich Rohde  
Dallas*

**Re-surface now to avoid re-building**

It was 37 years ago that we built a house on a one-block cul-de-sac in Dallas. Since then, there has been no major activity and new pavement at all on that street.

In fact, according to the engineering study done for Dallas streets, it is going to be one of the more expensive blocks to re-surface — and it needs it.

In short, support for the Dallas street levy has become critical because many of our streets are nearing the point where they don't need re-paving. Instead, they will need re-building.

Support the levy when you vote in May.

*Dave Weston  
Dallas*

**Street bond serves greater good**

All streets need repair — now or in the future. Early repairs save money, and well-maintained streets are a preferred alternative to expensive street reconstruction.

Dallas citizens contribute tax dollars to public education even by those who have no children in school. We support the Dallas police even though we may never (thankfully) need their services. We support these services for the good of the Dallas community.

The Dallas street bond is another community service we should support because it will fix 22 miles of residential streets, making Dallas a more attractive and more business friendly community. Support improved Dallas streets.

*Pete Christensen  
Dallas*

**HOW TO REACH US**

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