

## EDITORIALS

### Time is needed to get lead response right

Kudos to the Dallas School District for not panicking when it comes to testing for lead in the water at its schools. We think the strategy of waiting until school is in session and following the recommendations of Environmental Protection Agency for testing will provide better results for the district and its students in the long run. The rush to test is understandable, as the health and safety of children and employees could be at stake. However, doing so using incorrect processes — which may be the case for other districts that have completed or are currently testing — means at best they will have to retest. At worst, they could provide false readings. It's clear from Dallas' facilities manager's recount of Monday's meeting with the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority and other school district representatives that many questions remain about how the state should respond to the issue. Requiring districts to have comprehensive plans in place to mitigate risks by October, as was suggested at that meeting, would make it difficult for schools to meet deadlines. More critical, the short timeline makes it less likely those plans will be effective. Questions of how often tests should be conducted, what taps should be tested, how much lead is acceptable in water and whether the state should help pay for obligations it places on districts need to be thoughtfully answered. State and school leaders should take the time to do that, for the benefit of all involved. We are glad this important issue is being addressed — and that the Dallas School District's response was to take the time to get the best outcome possible.

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### Welcome, Summerfest

Summerfest 2016 kicks off Thursday and we couldn't be more excited. Not only is it four days packed with serious fun, but it's the time of year when everyone comes out to support the community. It takes an army of volunteers — including soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard — to organize the festival and then to pull it off as seamlessly as they do. So while you enjoy the celebration, remember to thank those who made it possible. Also, while thousands flock to the festivities, remember to keep a close lookout for those on foot and bicycle, and have patience with the traffic.

## 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 email ([ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com)).

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

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

#### THURSDAY, JULY 28

- **Monmouth-Independence Networks (Minet) Board of Directors** — 7:30 a.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. 503-837-0700.

#### MONDAY, AUG. 1

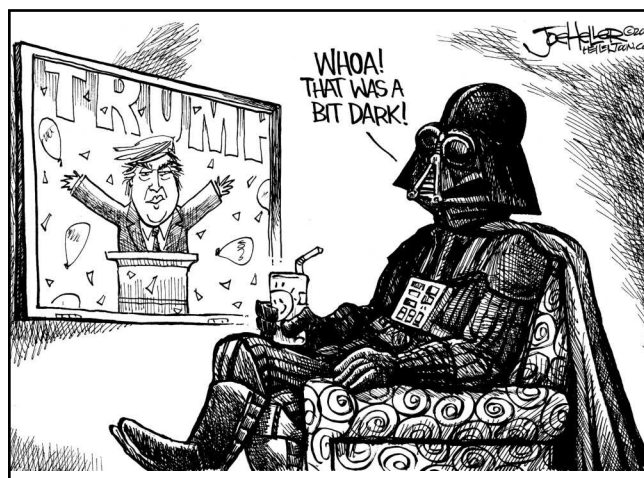
- **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas City Council work session** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Dallas City Council** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.

#### TUESDAY, AUG. 2

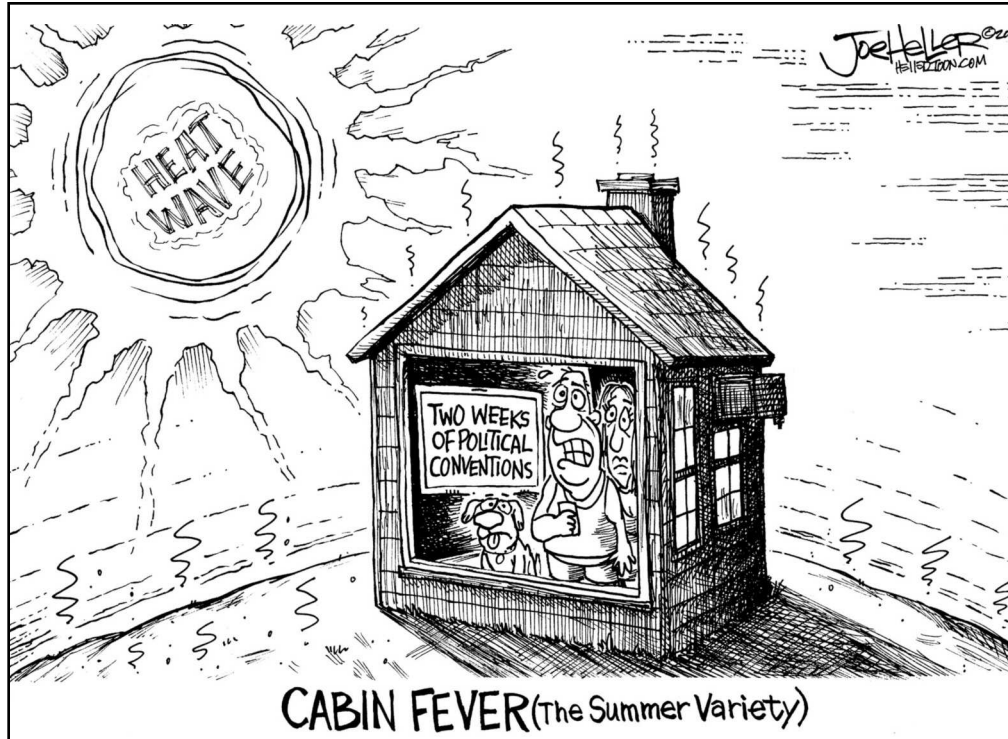
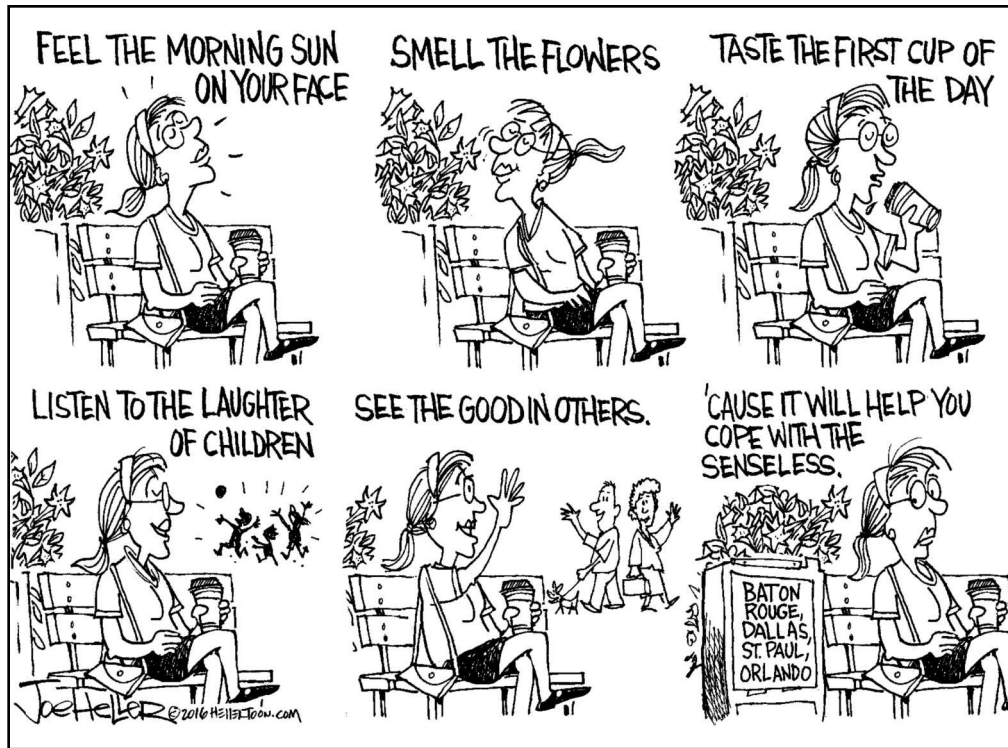
- **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas Urban Renewal Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

#### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

- **Monmouth Historic Commission** — 6 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **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.



## EDITORIAL CARTOONS



### 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. Reach us at: **Mail:** Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-Observer*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338. **Fax:** 503-623-2395. **Email:** [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com). **Office:** 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

See something interesting happening in Polk County? Call us at 503-623-2373. We check out your news tips!

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# Polk County Itemizer-Observer

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