

EDITORIALS

Offer chamber fixes, not just problems

Don't talk behind our back. Just tell us. Help us get better.

That is JD Shinn's request of the Dallas community. The new chief executive officer of the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce isn't afraid to hear compliments or complaints.

He's heard plenty of the latter: Communication is bad. Follow through is lacking.

Don't join the chamber; they don't do anything worthwhile.

"That one hurts, but it's a real perception," Shinn said during his "state of the chamber" address on Monday. "There is nothing applicable to business going on there." If that is true, this thing needs to blow up and go away. I don't think it's true, but it's a real perception.

Shinn wants to find the truth behind those perceptions and address it.

In the spirit of collaboration — something Dallas is good at when it gives it an honest effort — Shinn also asks a favor of those who lodge complaints: provide solutions.

If something is off, tell him or a chamber board member how, in your opinion, it can be fixed.

Rebuilding — and the chamber does need to be rebuilt — is intricate business and more ideas, not fewer, make the work easier.

Shinn appears to want to piece together solutions one conversation at a time; keep what is working and change what is not.

We think that is wise — more so than tearing the whole thing down and starting over.

Shinn used a timely analogy about losing control while driving on ice; you over correct, you will crash your car.

He appears to have a steady hand on the wheel. Let's help him steer the car through this icy patch because he can't do it by himself.

If you have concerns and suggestions, seek Shinn out, if he hasn't found you already.

Dallas, and its chamber of commerce, will be better for it.

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).

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

- **Independence Heritage Museum Commission** — 4 p.m., Independence Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols St. S., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Monmouth Parks and Recreation Board** — 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, DEC. 15

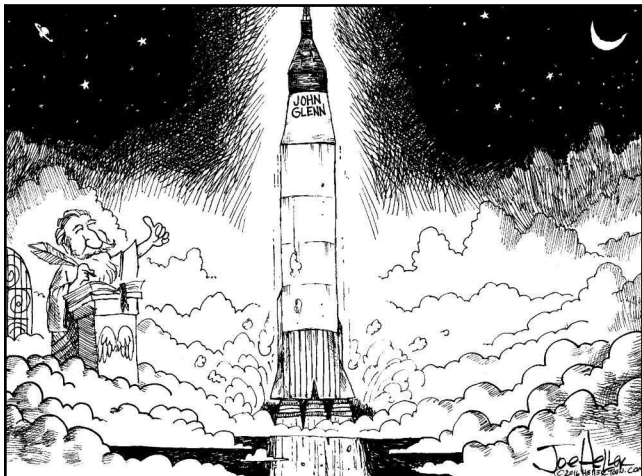
- **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.
- **Independence Parks and Recreation Board** — 6 p.m., Independence Civic Center, third floor, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Polk County Fair Board** — 8 a.m., Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Main Building, Meeting Room No. 2, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall. 503-623-3048.
- **Rickreall Watershed Council** — Noon, Hancock Forest Management office, Independence. 503-623-9680.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 20

- **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. 503-838-0725.
- **Dallas Parks Advisory Board** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Falls City School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Falls City High School, 111 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3521.
- **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Polk public works

Just wanted to let you guys know how hard working the road department is in this county. I've been listening to these guys working all hours of the day and night, making sure they have plowed and sanded the roads for us. Thank you, road department.

Tina Smith
Dallas

Deptula shows integrity, decency

The final, final results are in, and I was elected to the Monmouth city council by a mere five-vote margin over Stephen Deptula.

I got to know Stephen during the election. You won't meet a nicer man, nor one with a more distinguished background. He and I were among nine candidates competing for four spots on the Monmouth council, but were the only candidates who put up signs, and that's where Stephen showed real decency and integrity. Stephen and I had placed signs along the S-curves leading to/from Independence. One

day, someone came along and pulled out all the campaign signs there and tossed them into brush and into the street. Stephen gathered his signs and put them back up. He saw my signs in the street had been run over by cars. He collected them, took them home, washed them off, and then replaced them where they would continue to compete with his own signs.

So it was that when the election-night results came in and I saw that Steve had beaten me out for the fourth spot on the Monmouth council by nine votes that I happily congratulated him. It was great to see such a terrific guy elected. But, by the following morning the vote tally had changed.

Through it all, Stephen has been tremendously encouraging and supportive, and is going to bring me up to speed on the city's budget (he serves on the Budget Committee).

Surely it has occurred to Stephen as it has to me, that washing and replacing my signs on one of the most traveled sections of road could have made that five-vote difference.

The decency and integrity

it showed to put my signs back and, having lost, to extend offers of help as I take office, impress me to no end.

Thom Steinke
Monmouth

Oh Joy to the World

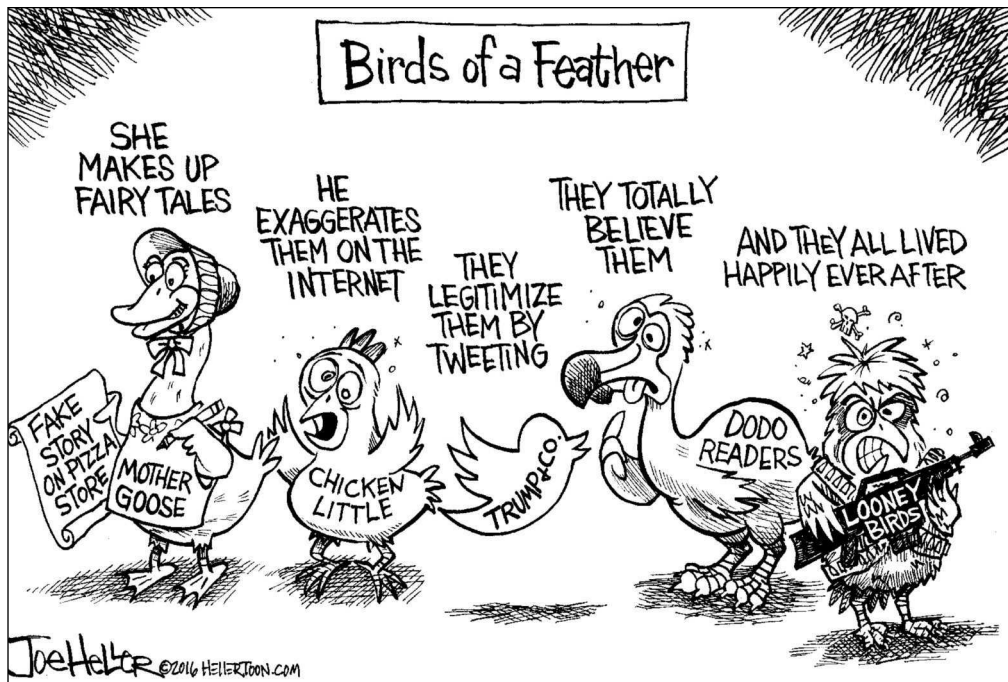
Many years ago, when we used to get comics in the paper, I came across this (B.C. comic by Johnny Hart) and it so profoundly affected me, I clipped it and have had it on my fridge for nearly two decades now.

Although the paper and ink are faded and frayed, the truth of the words are immutable:

B.C. by Johnny Hart:
It seems to me that since the "fall" Without even thinking it odd —

That man has had no trouble at all Believing he can be god. How he would do this, I cannot conceive, Tho he certainly thinks that he can — and yet, he cannot bring himself to believe the God became ... a man. Merry Christmas.

Carolyn Huff
Dallas



WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services 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. 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 sub-

missions 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. For the full letters policy: polkio.com. Questions? 503-623-2373 ext. 117.

How to Contact Officials

GOVERNOR
Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)
160 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-4582
Email: via website,
http://governor.oregon.gov/

STATE LEGISLATORS
Sen. Arnie Roblan (District 5, Democrat)
S-417 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan

Sen. Jackie Winters (District 10, Republican)
S-301 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1710
sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters

Sen. Brian Boquist (District 12, Republican)
S-305 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1712
sen.brianboquist@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist

Rep. David Gomberg (District 10, Democrat)
H-471 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1410
rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/gomberg

Rep. Paul Evans (District 20, Democrat)
H-281 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1420
rep.paul.evans@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans

Rep. Mike Nearman (District 23, Republican)
H-378 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1423
rep.mikenearman@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman

U.S. CONGRESS
Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)
221 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244
Fax: 202-228-2717
Salem office: 707 13th St. SE,
Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-589-4555
Email: via website,
www.wyden.senate.gov

Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)
313 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Fax: 202-228-3997
Salem office: 495 State St. SE,
Suite 330, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-362-8102
Email: via website,
www.merkley.senate.gov

Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)
108 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5711
Fax: 202-225-5699
Salem office: 544 Ferry St. SE,
Suite 2, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-588-9100
Fax: 503-588-5517
Email: via website,
www.schrader.house.gov

POLK COUNTY
Board of Commissioners
850 Main St.
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503-623-8173
www.co.polk.or.us

CITIES
Dallas
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-2338
www.ci.dallas.or.us

Falls City
299 Mill St.
Falls City, OR 97344
503-787-3631
www.falls-city.oregon.gov

Independence
555 S. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1212
www.ci.independence.or.us

Monmouth
151 W. Main St.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-0722
www.ci.monmouth.or.us

Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 141, No. 50 (USPS) - 437-380
The official newspaper of Polk County • Serving Polk County families since 1875

Winner of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 General Excellence Awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR. Published weekly at 147 SE Court Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 Phone: 503-623-2373

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Polk County — One Year \$35
Other Oregon Counties — One Year \$40
Outside of Oregon — One Year \$45

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the Itemizer-ObsERVER is at fault.

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

Emily MentzerEditor/Monmouth/Independence Reporterementzer@polkio.com
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editorleggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporterjguzman@polkio.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
Rachel BestDisplay Advertisingrbest@polkio.com
Karen Sanks.....Client Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohrenioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com Phone: 503-623-2373 Fax: 503-623-2395