

EDITORIALS

Some counsel for our new councils

This month, Dallas, Falls City, Independence and Monmouth will get new councilors — and a new mayor in Monmouth.

The changes in city councils is significant, and could change the entire feel of the city governmental bodies in Polk County.

It's exciting to see so many people willing to serve their communities through sitting on the council, making policies and decisions that affect each citizen within their cities' boundaries.

Welcome to politics!

Please remember that you are one of a group of councilors — one voice among six, or nine, depending on the city.

While you are eager to help your city be the best it can be, please leave your agendas at the door. Remember decisions you make will affect all equally.

Be considerate of city employees, but remember you do not work for them. They do valuable work and will try to achieve the goals you set — as an entire council, not as an individual — for your city, but ask questions.

That goes for other councilors and the mayor, too. A good, spirited discussion is always good for democracy, but that does not mean you have to agree — or disagree — with everyone.

In fact, it's perfectly fine to have split votes. Don't feel obligated to "go along" for the sake of looking united all the time. The council is more than one person. You are one voice: use it.

Not everyone will like what you do all the time — believe us, we know about this one — but you must make the tough decisions and stand for what you believe is best for all.

You may encounter people who are vocal about something, perhaps disagreeing with a choice, or perhaps in support of it.

Don't let the voice of a few affect your decisions for the entire town.

Many of you spoke to residents of your town at length before getting elected to the office. Don't stop talking to them now. Stay connected with the community and find out what's working well and what needs to be changed.

Being new to the job doesn't mean you have to hold back, but it might be wise to do your homework before you start plotting massive changes to systems or budgets.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chamber director reflects on job

As I look back at the past four and a half years, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities and community connections gained while serving as your executive director of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

Through this role, I have had the pleasure to work with business owners and their staff, as well as organizational leaders and their members.

From creating, designing, and implementing programs and services to enhancing membership benefits and strengthening foundational components of the

organization, my time with the chamber has been exciting, stimulating, and educational.

Learning about our community from the business owner's perspective, seeing our cities and county from the tourist point of view, and hearing about this special place from new residents and visitors, have made my love and appreciation of living here grow stronger.

Although I understood the importance of a chamber of commerce for a community when I accepted the position in April 2012, I underestimated the impact this job would have on me.

Yes, like with any position there are challenges, but the

overall joy and fulfillment of being a part of something greater for the good of our community has made it more than worthwhile.

Thank you to all of you who welcomed me to this role, who have supported my efforts, and who embraced my ideas.

Nothing great is accomplished alone, and for all who collaborated, partnered, volunteered, and assisted me, you have my sincerest appreciation.

It has truly been my pleasure and privilege to serve our community.

Wishing you all a very safe, healthy, and prosperous 2017.

Jean Love
Monmouth

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, JAN. 4

- **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.

MONDAY, JAN. 9

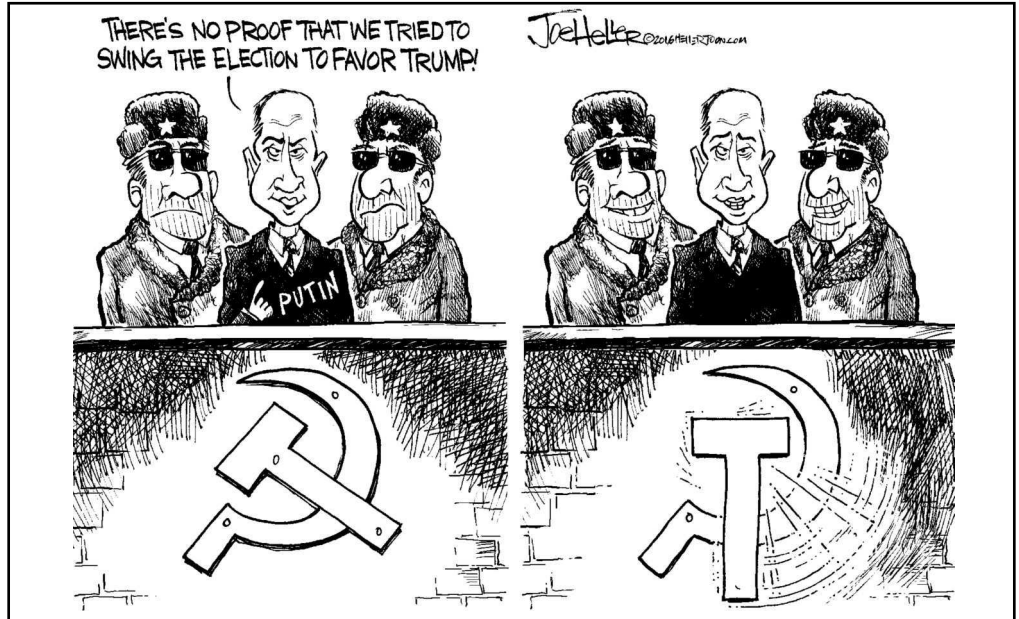
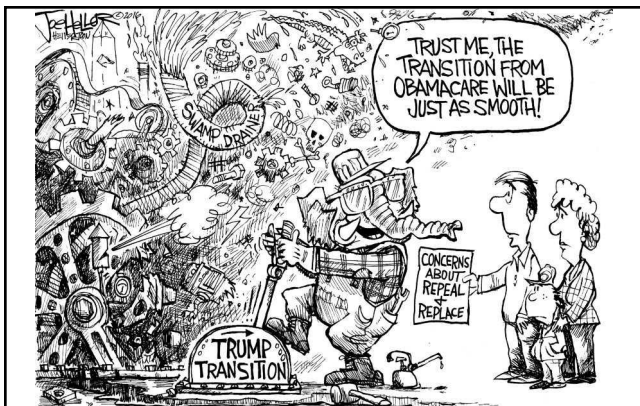
- **Dallas School Board of Directors** — 3:15 p.m., LaCreole Middle School, 701 SE LaCreole Dr., Dallas.
- **Hops and Heritage Festival Commission** — 6 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Central School Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.
- **WIMPEG Board of Directors** — 7 p.m., 150 N. Knox St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Independence City Council** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.
- **Dallas Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

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



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, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper,

are edited for length, grammar and content.

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

For full letters policy:

polkio.com.

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