

EDITORIALS

It's spring, time to get to that to-do list

As the weather warms and the days get longer, thoughts turn to spring cleaning, gardening and getting ready for summer road trips.

The *Itemizer-Observer* Home and Garden and Car Care special section found inside this week's paper can help.

In it you will find tips on everything from indoor gardening to three easy projects to spruce up your backyard, to tackling those house cleaning projects in a smarter way. Let's face it — we could all use help with those things, right?

The Oregon State University Extension Service offers a list of things to do to get your outdoor space ready to garden, too.

There are even tips on how to keep backyard birds safe during this migratory season.

Lists and reminders about keeping your car in tip-top shape, tips on how to survive a family road trip with everyone still liking each other, and even information on buying a home can all be found inside the special section.

Gardening and home maintenance doesn't have to be hard — or take all day — and with the tips and stories found in our Home and Garden and Car Care section, you may find some great ideas on how to achieve the backyard or home of your dreams.

Next month, we'll print a medical directory, with tips on how to keep yourself in prime condition.

Of course, with spring also comes spring break, which starts for our K-12 schools on Monday.

If you're not going out of town, find time to head to one of our local libraries for some fun crafts and movies, or try a 4-H class and learn about fiber arts, jam and biscuits, nature, ceramics and photography.

Pick up a DIY book and continue to plan your garden or backyard barbecues.

At Monmouth Public Library, anyone can choose up to five free seed packets each day. Browse the selection of seeds and get ready to enjoy fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers all summer and fall.

Between rain showers, be sure to enjoy our city parks and trails. They are great places to meet with friends for picnics or playtime.

Take time to look around and notice the migratory birds in our area. Stop and smell the flowers that are finally waking up after a long, cold winter.

Whatever you do, be safe. Don't drink and drive. Remember to look for pedestrians and cyclists — with kids out of school, foot and bike traffic will increase.

If you're the one on foot or bike, do your part and look for cars. Wear bright clothing and protective gear whenever possible.

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, MARCH 22

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

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

MONDAY, MARCH 27

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

• **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 Warren St. S., 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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral college is obsolete today

Our nation's government is run as a democratic republic. If we had a real demo-

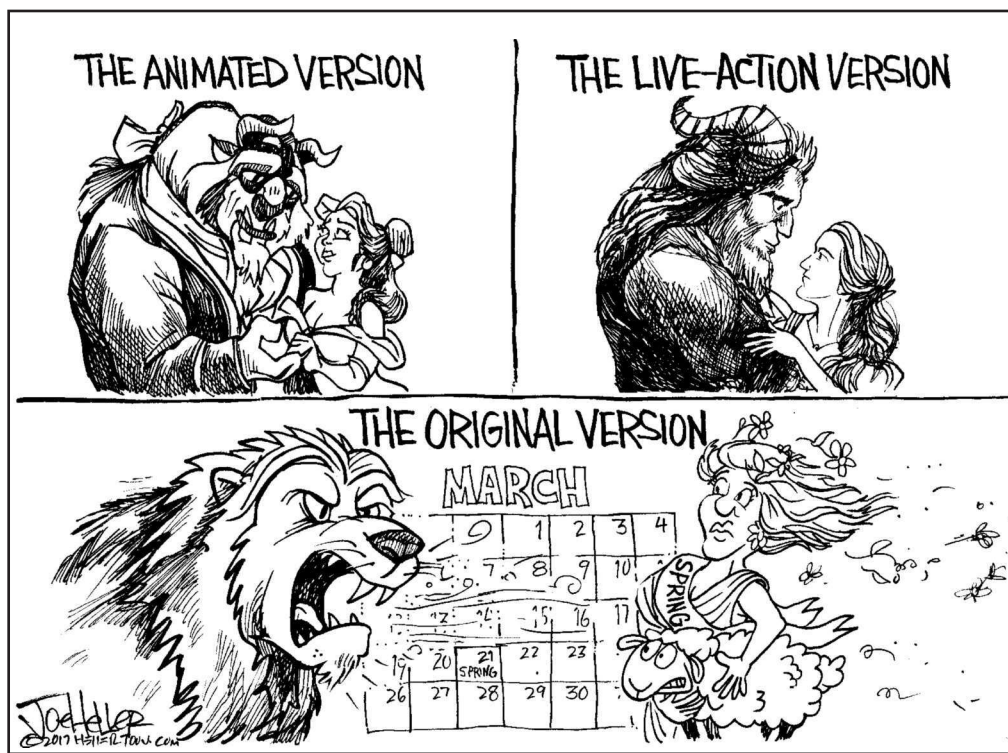
cratic government of, by and for the people, we might not have Donald Trump as president today.

I do not believe that Russia did elect Mr. Trump. More likely, too many "deplorable," qualified

American voters chose him.

Also, the obsolete electoral college is not as suitable as a popular vote count would be.

Walden Joura
Dallas



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.

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