

EDITORIALS

Let's clean up the streets of Dallas

The planter boxes of Court Street have been spruced up, thanks to efforts from Dallas public works employees pulling weeds and laying fresh bark.

At the same time, chicken bones lay in the parking lot at the *Itemizer-ObsERVER*, stacked like some kind of ancient ritual.

We'll get those swept up, but it is a reminder of the trash throughout downtown. Often on walks around town, we notice paper or plastic cups, napkins, and other rubbish cluttering the streetscape of downtown. Weeds grow in the planter boxes with spring flowers.

The Dallas Downtown Association has organized a communitywide cleanup day on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

This is the first time in a long time that an effort has been made to rally the community to take responsibility for cleaning its downtown area, and we're excited to see it happen.

Dallas is a beautiful place. This summer, downtown will be the site of Summerfest in July, and the Great American Eclipse events in August. Thousands of guests will walk the streets of downtown.

Saturday is Earth Day, and what better way to spend the day than to clean up our city.

Whether you're a business owner or resident of Dallas — or if you just want to feel good about the way you spend your Saturday morning — come down to Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar at 9 a.m. and be ready to put in some elbow grease.

Many hands make light work, and the more who show up to help, the more projects will get done quickly.

If you can't make it, do your part by picking up the garbage you see on the streets. Trash cans are placed on each block in downtown, so you won't have to carry it very far before putting it in a rubbish bin.

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, APRIL 19

• **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., 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 20

• **Monmouth Arts and Culture Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 Warren St. S., 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.

• **Falls City Budget Committee** — 7 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St. 503-787-3631.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

• **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.

• **Dallas Budget Committee** — 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St. 503-431-3502.

• **Dallas School District Budget Committee** — 6 p.m., District Office, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-5594.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

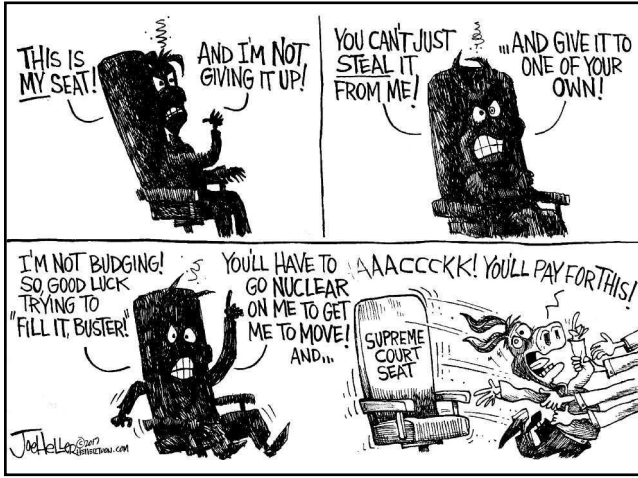
• **Independence City Council** — 8:30 a.m., Central High School auditorium, 1830 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

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

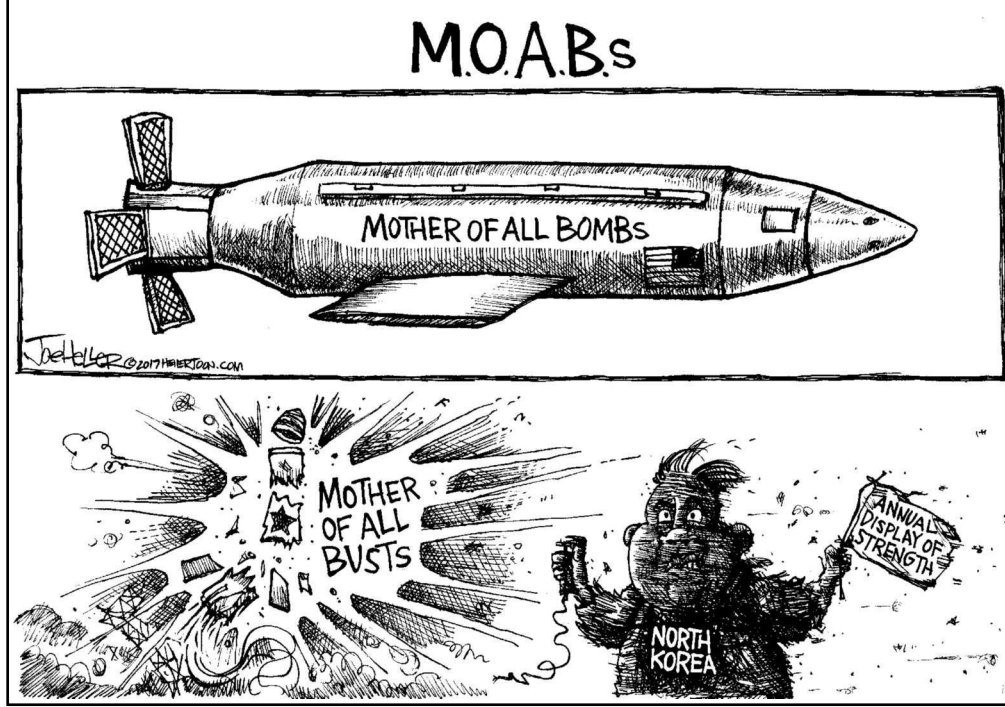
• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

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



The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER
Your community news source.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deputies' work makes difference

I wanted to give a big thank you the Polk County Sheriff's Department.

For the last week, the Oregon Department of Transportation has had traffic diverted from Highway 99W through Perrydale due

to a construction project.

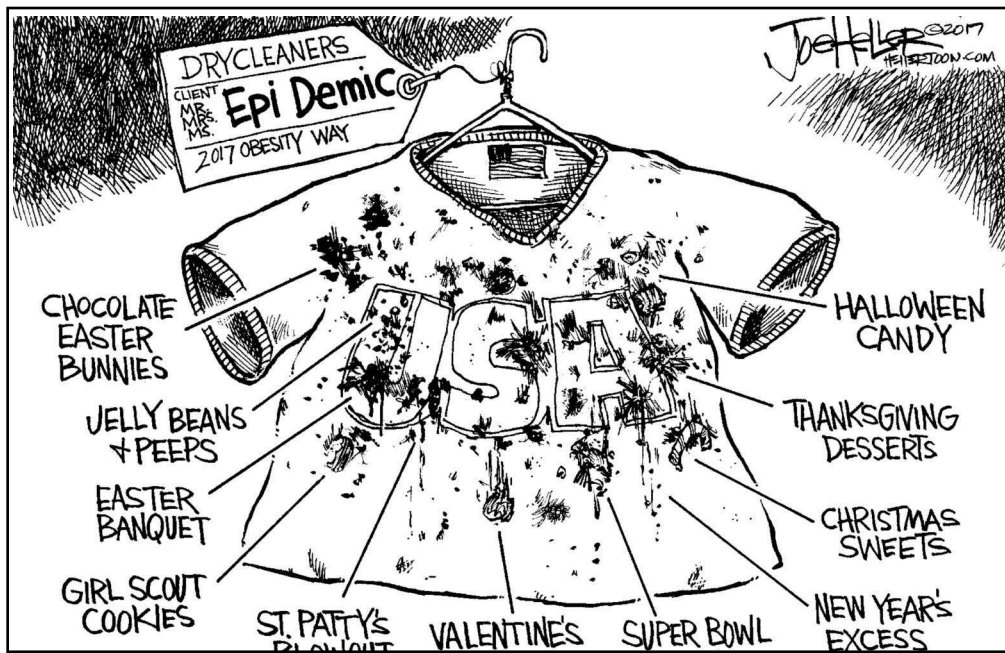
Our small community is not set up for the volume of traffic that flows on Highway 99 on a daily basis. We have a school zone, narrow shoulders and farm equipment. The Polk County deputies did a fantastic job of "reminding" people that the detour route was not a

freeway.

Their presence in the area was a big help.

Thank you for all that you do every day to protect our county, and especially for caring about our small area of the county during the detour.

Anna Scharf
Perrydale



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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