

EDITORIALS

Dallas needs to weigh options

Monday, City Manager Ron Foggin discussed with the Public Safety Committee the various options to improve the facilities for Dallas Fire & EMS and for the Dallas Police Department.

One option renovates an existing building — the old Department of Human Services building at the corner of Oak and Church streets. Another uses city-owned property and builds new police facilities from the ground up.

The cost difference between the two options — as presented by the city's consultant, Makenzie — is less than \$1 million.

Now is a good chance to look around Dallas to see the differences in costs and results of our neighbors who have recently built police stations.

Independence's station — while larger than needed today — planned for the future of the department and is large enough to accommodate growth of the city. It's layout and design helped Independence's department earn accreditation from the Oregon Accreditation Alliance. It was built from scratch when the Independence Civic Center and city hall was built, designed specifically for use by a police department.

Monmouth's station — while miles better than what they had — was a renovated building. It is no longer in the center of town, and has to compete with traffic on Highway 99W in and out of the station. It does not have all the amenities that it should have for a police department such as covered parking and adequate storage. Those things had to be cut because construction during the renovations unveiled bigger issues than first anticipated, raising costs to nearly match what the estimates were to build it from scratch.

Police departments that are designed to be police departments from the start are much better at serving the needs of both officers and the public. It would be worth the investment to build something new rather than renovate something standing.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Destruction of Obamacare not imminent

Even if you are a slavish Trump fan you should be able to understand that the destruction of Obamacare isn't going to happen soon.

Primarily because many Republicans think the replacement is not cruel enough.

Hence, in an effort to craft some form of legislation that might pass, in spite of its extreme right wing origin, the Republicans in Congress are moving to tax reform.

If you understood the GOP health care "reform" effort, you would see that it was actually a massive tax cut for the extra wealthy in America.

Well, if they do that to health care, imagine what their tax reform will look like.

It will be a huge acceleration of the transfer of all wealth in America from the average citizen to the super wealthy.

If we consider prior GOP legislative efforts as dumpster fires, then tax reform will be a fire at the whole landfill.

Over 90 percent of average Americans will pay a heavy price to shift wealth over to the super rich.

That includes progressives, conservatives, the poor, Trump followers, small business owners and the retired.

Unless you just fell off the turnip truck, you should be able to see by now that no one in the GOP, not even the ineffective President, gives one single whit for av-

erage Americans.

If you are in that group and do not wish to see yourself further disadvantaged financially then you better get ready to do some good.

Turn off the TV and figure out who is your representation in Congress and start holding them accountable for the damage they are doing to our lives.

Otherwise, you are the big loser here.

*Fred Brown
Dallas*

Women's Club thanks Burkhalters

Pedee Women's Club wishes to thank Art and Pam Burkhalter, of Monmouth, for all the hours they donated to create our quilt raffle booth at Western Days.

Without them, we wouldn't have been able to have the booth.

Pedee Women's Club is a nonprofit that sends gift boxes to deployed military each month.

Postage alone is over \$100 each month.

Anyone wishing to donate or purchase raffle tickets may contact LaVerne Bennett at 12950 Kings Valley Highway, Monmouth OR 97361, or phone 503-835-0751.

Thank you Art and Pam Burkhalter.

*Judy Dixon
Dallas*

PLC closing

Monmouth store

Partnerships in Community Inc., a nonprofit organi-

zation based in Monmouth that has served people living with an intellectual or developmental disability for the last 30 years across Oregon, is sad to announce the closure of its consignment store in downtown Monmouth.

PCL's Downtown Trends and Treasures, 142 Pacific Ave. N., Monmouth, is closing its doors for good on July 29.

Due to economic pressures caused by state funding and rule changes, PCL is no longer able to operate the store in a manner that matches its mission focus.

DownTown Trends and Treasures has served the Polk County community for the last 16 years, providing real-time job training for people, and quality resale clothing and accessories for its consignors and shoppers.

Our consignors were notified by mail on July 1 of this impending change, but we wanted to make sure the public at large had an opportunity to visit the store one last time before the curtain comes down.

The property owner has also sold the building, and we will be selling all of the business's remaining assets throughout the month of August.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact: Gary Zenzen, Executive Manager, PCL, 503-339-4947, gzenzen@pclpartnership.org.

It has been a tremendous pleasure and honor being part our local business community.

Best wishes to all.

*Gary Zenzen
Monmouth*

How to Contact Officials

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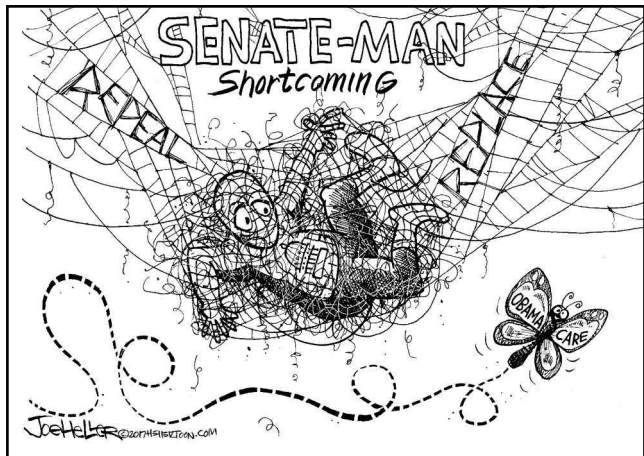
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PUBLIC AGENDA

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, JULY 26

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

THURSDAY, JULY 27

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

TUESDAY, AUG. 1

• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 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, AUG. 2

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

• **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.



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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