

PEDEE NEWS

Alvin Jones, a former neighbor and father of Pam Burbank, died at his home in Prineville on Feb. 23. His service will be at Prineville Community Church on Saturday at 1 p.m. He will be missed.



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Nine members and friends of the Pedee community's "Thursday Morning Bible Study" that met on Wednesdays — yep, this is correct — in the 1970s and '80s gathered at Deanne Maddux's Monmouth home on Feb. 23 for a long overdue reunion and potluck.

In addition to catching up on what all are doing, Audrey Cameron read a hilarious history of the Bible study from start to finish, including how we each joined. In addition to Audrey and Deanne, Donna Baldwin, Pat Nance, Joan Kaiser, Alberta Jones, Diane Telfer, Deanne's sister-in-law Mildred Birchel and I were there. It was noted that many of our members had passed away at this point, including Virginia Burbank, May Bornholdt, Carla and Shelly Burbank, and Vi Wendler.

We agreed to meet again on May 3 at Joan Kaiser's in Monmouth.

Deanne Maddux is still doing well. Her great-granddaughter, Crystal Balzar, lives with her. She

had taught at Pedee School in the early 1960s, then taught mostly first- and second-graders for 20 years at Kings Valley School before retiring in 1988.

Mel and Marguerite Nice recently spent two weeks in sunny Sun City West near Phoenix, Ariz., to visit former Vernonia neighbors. They drove through Nevada to get there and back, and were delighted to see herds of antelope on the way home.

I taught beginning quilting at the Pedee Women's Club last Wednesday, which worked out well, even though there were only three of us, including June Clark of Pedee and Pat Ohlson of Monmouth. On March 18, I'll probably repeat much of what was said, if needed, and continue on with more information. We are planning to have our classes on the third Wednesdays as the club's community potluck is on the last Wednesday of each month, so watch for what's next.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Continued from Page 8A)

• **Orquestra Brasil** — 7:30 p.m., Western Oregon University, Rice Auditorium, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth. Classic Choro and Samba. Free. 503-838-8275.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

• **Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank** — 10 a.m. to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517.

• **Polk County Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Oak Knoll Golf Course, 6335 Highway 22, Independence. No-host lunch available; everyone welcome. 503-623-5759.

• **Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program Food Bank** — 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., 888 Monmouth Cutoff Road, Building E, Dallas. Weekly distribution for eligible community members. 503-831-5634.

• **Free Blood Pressure Check Clinic** — 2 to 3 p.m., West Valley Hospital (surgery admitting area), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.

• **Monmouth Senior Center Music Jam** — 6:30 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Open to the public; musicians of all types welcome. 503-838-5678.

• **Dallas American Legion Post No. 20** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, Room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-831-3971.

2015 Relay for Life of Polk County

Polk County Relay Sponsors

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a civic group meeting to talk about Relay For Life, along with progress in the fight against cancer. As prepared as I was to speak to this group, I found that its members wanted to share their own knowledge and experiences about cancer with me and with each other. I left that meeting realizing how important it is for people to have the chance to talk about cancer, whether it be their own personal battles or someone they know.

Our sponsors are also a kind of group who don't shy away from talking about cancer, but have made the decision to face this horrible disease head-on. Hopefully, their determination will encourage you to start a discussion about cancer with your co-workers, friends, and neighbors, and join us at Relay to finish the fight.

Please join us in thanking our seven most recent *sponsors, along with the following businesses, organizations, and health care professionals for their commitment to Relay For Life and its mission to win the fight against cancer:

- Mitch Ratzlaff State Farm
- Michelle Hasbrook, DDS
- First Community Credit Union
- Monmouth-Independence Rotary
- OREPAC Building Products
- Washington Street Steakhouse & Pub
- Elkay Manufacturing

- West Valley Hospital
- West Valley Physicians & Surgeons Clinic/Dr. John Hadley
- West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic/Dr. Alison Smith
- Monmouth Medical Center/Dr. Charles Essex
- James W. Fowler Co.
- Polk County Association of Realtors
- Limeberry
- Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center
- Van Well Building Supply
- Dallas Aquatic Center
- The Majestic
- Republic Services
- Les Schwab Tire Centers of Dallas, West Salem, & Independence
- Central Lions Club
- Royal Flush
- Dallas School District
- Hancock Forest Management
- Eola Hills Wine Cellars
- Polk County Itemizer-Observer

Relay For Life 2015 will take place May 30-31, at LaCreole Middle School in Dallas

The deadline for submitting a sponsorship is April 15. Make this the year your company or organization signs on to finish the fight! If you or someone you know is interested in sponsorship, contact Lyla Bruce at 503-508-9277 or visit our website at www.relayforlife.org/polkcounty

Got questions? Ask OSU's experts

If you want to know when to prune roses or if a bloated can of tomatoes will make you sick, the Oregon State University Extension Service can help.

Through its "Ask an Expert" online question-and-answer tool, OSU experts reply to queries about health and food safety, finances, family, forestry, small-scale farming and horticulture. To ask a question, simply go to the OSU Extension website, type in a question and the county where you live. You'll get an answer within 48 hours, usually less.

"Ask an Expert" has fielded about 11,300 questions since its debut in March 2011, with more than 70 percent related to gardening. Last year, nearly 3,200 people got help, a 9 percent increase over 2013. Those numbers rank OSU as the fourth busiest "Ask an Expert"



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

site among the 74 participating universities that run their own "Ask an Expert" sites.

"We average around 36 hours for our replies, making Oregon among the fastest in the country to respond," said OSU's Jeff Hino, Extension's learning technology leader and coordinator of the program.

Queries come in from around the state — some from farther away — and are funneled to 159 experts, including OSU faculty and Extension-trained volunteers like Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers.

When asking a question, photos for visual problems like insects or diseases are encouraged, but not necessary.

"In this age of 'Google it,' people are getting all kinds of often misleading information," Hino said. "Extension gives people information that's real science and real research. People trust us."

Especially interesting or meaningful questions and answers are posted as Questions of the Week and archived.

What do people ask about? Anything and everything. Here are some examples:

- What can we do about noisy frogs?
- Is it OK to eat left-over leftovers?
- Can ladybugs kill plants?
- Should I mix sand into my soil?
- What is wrong with my red potatoes?
- Is there a guide of poi-

sonous plants?

Some of the answers — including those on bursting tomato cans, killing fruit flies and dogs eating nutria scat — are illustrated with 1-minute videos.

According to Hino, a survey of participants between January 2013 and February 2015 shows that 78 percent of Oregonians who requested advice from "Ask an Expert" considered their questions to be "very important" or "critical" and 76 percent said the answers "very much" or "completely" answered their questions. Of those, 94 percent said they got answers within the time they expected.

The survey also showed that those who asked questions said the advice saved them an average of \$70. Using that figure, Hino estimated "Ask an Expert" saved people about \$355,000 in 2014.

MI TOWN



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Since the deadline for publication in this week's *Itemizer-Observer* is prior to March 1, and I don't happen to own a crystal ball, I'm unable to say whether March came in like a lamb or a lion.

I'm always wishing for the lion to arrive and be long gone by the end of the month, so we can welcome April with the scampering, happy lambs.

We've had such a mild winter without any weather-related problems, so let's keep our fingers crossed that springtime will be gentle and pleasant, and we can get those garden beds ready.

March days and evenings usually bring cold rain and wind, which means that most of us will try to decide whether to go to the nearest lumber yard for ark building supplies or just put another log on the fire and snuggle

down in a comfy chair with a good book. Those brave little daffodils and tiny purple violets appearing all over MI Town gives us some hope that springtime has come early this year.

There used to be a saying years ago that you could tell when it was spring in Oregon because the rain was warmer. I'll tip my hot chocolate cup to that statement, and add that I'm thankful we've gotten through most of another winter without any real weather difficulties that have plagued the northeastern

and southern states.

as a CASA, if possible.

Last week's *Itemizer-Observer* had a front page feature article about Court-Appointed Special Advocate volunteers in Polk County.

As a member of the Polk County Citizen Review Board, several of us volunteers review cases of children in foster care to be sure that they are getting all necessary services provided by the Department of Human Services. Our CASA volunteers provide a true lifeline to children whose families need extra services in order to be better parents, so families can be reunited and kept out of crisis situations.

Children are our most valuable resources and we must provide them with everything possible so they can grow up to be healthy and responsible people. Please consider volunteering

Bring your family and everybody's appetites to the Monmouth Senior Center this Saturday for the monthly community breakfast. Prices are reasonable — \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids under 12. Lions and lambs of all ages and appetites are welcome between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday at noon, Dr. Rob Willingham from Western Oregon University will be speaking about "Training Your Brain: How we can maintain and even improve our memory ability," at Volunteer Hall in Monmouth. Dr. Willingham's GERO 407 students will work with class participants with exercises to help stimulate brain activity. Call 503-838-5678 to reserve a spot, as space is limited.



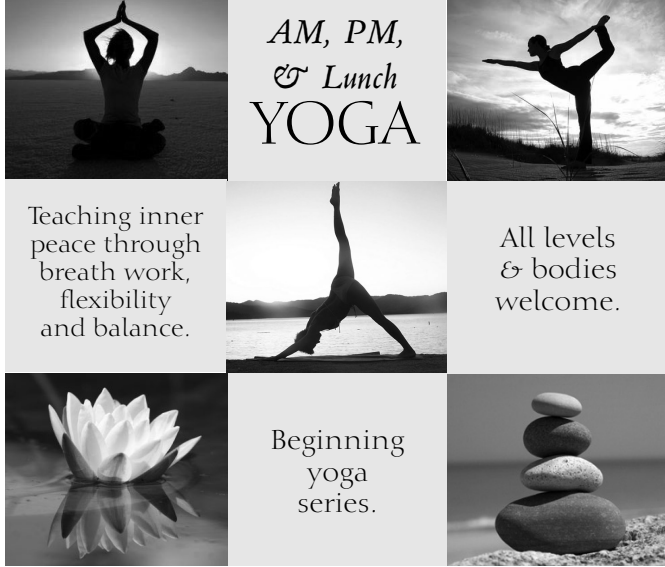
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