MI TOWN

Tomorrow is the first day of December, and as we say goodbye to the month of November and all the good – and not so wonderful things that happened over the past 30 days, let's try to put the angst and craziness of the recent election season in the garbage can along with the turkey carcass from Thanksgiving. It's time to focus on the upcoming holiday season and take a moment to think about brightening our dark winter days and evenings with Christmas caroling and tree lightings and con-

Mother Nature is perhaps a bit confused about the season, with camellia buds bursting forth and gazanias still blooming in our flower beds. There's been a lot of snow in the mountains and



the passes, which made for some more than interesting travel experiences for all who traveled over the river and through the woods for family gatherings this past weekend.

Thank you to Western Oregon University students, faculty and staff members who collected and donated food that filled 74 large grocery bags for the Ella Curran Food Bank. Because of these efforts, 200 local families were provided with food boxes for Thanksgiving dinners. MI Town's very

own university is truly appreciated by all of us who are fortunate enough to be friends and neighbors.

We can all relate to having experienced close calls while driving, especially this time of year, when daylight hours are few and there are many of us hurrying to work or school or on various errands. Whether driving, biking or walking here and there, the odds of safely arriving at our destinations are increased when we can see — and be seen by others. Bikers and pedestrians can affix reflective tape to jackets or backpacks and use flashlights or blinkers to be seen. Please put your phone out of reach when driving so the temptation to text or talk is diminished. Nothing is as important as your life, or the

lives of others that your decision can impact. Let's all do what we can to watch out for each other.

Before we bid adieu to our Thanksgiving season, I'd like to thank the staff and students of MI Town's Central High School for the wonderful luncheon last Wednesday for seniors in the community. The weather outside was rainy and dreary, but darkness was banished when we were welcomed to the school by smiling students who served us a tasty meal, and we were entertained by a Central's chorus of enthusiastic and talented young students. MI Town's merchants donated a variety of great gifts for the drawing that followed our meal, and we all enjoyed every

Christmas lights are coming up in Pedee. Mick and Debbie Cochrane's were first, and really beautify the neighborhood. They are adding more, too. Daughter Paige spent Thanksgiving with her grandparents, Joe and Terri Cochrane, in Lincoln City, and son Cole came this way. Debbie's parents, Ted and Ethelene Osgood had the family for turkey at their house with Cole and their son Stephen and his three kids, Bailee, Bridget, and Nolan, all from Dallas, and Debbie and Mick had their own turkey later. Nolan, 2, spent his time playing with his grandfather Osgood and grandfather's trains.

On Thanksgiving Judy Guida reported seeing 25



ARLENE Kovash Columnist

turkeys in the pasture across the road from her place. Guess they figured they were safe at this point. One cougar barely escaped with his life that day, though. Dave and Suzanne Burbank were enjoying Thanksgiving at their house with most of the family, when several deer appeared in the pasture outside their window. A few hours later Dave looked out and noticed a huge cougar sitting at the edge of the field, choosing which one he

wanted for dinner. Dave grabbed a gun, unfortunately not his own, and ran out to get him, but just missed and the cougar took

Another cougar story. A friend of my husband Paul's was hunting with friends in central Oregon a few weeks ago. He was stationed on a rocky outcrop when he heard what sounded like a cone falling. He turned to look and nothing there. A few minutes later he heard another sound and turned again, but nothing. He then turned to the other side again and a cougar was in mid-flight, coming straight at him. He rolled off the rock as the cougar landed right where he was. He shot his gun in the roll, and the

cougar took off. That was a close call!

Elk hunting is over and several guys came home with one. On the last hunt I heard about, Morgan Mc-Beth shot a 6-by-6 bull elk, he said on "Secret Ridge," and Steve Burbank got a forked horn, I think in "Somewhere Valley." They were reluctant to tell me just where those "famous landmarks" are, though.

Jennifer Vandenberg, who now lives in Chehalis, Wash., was recently featured in an article in their local newspaper about one of the writing events of National Novel Writing Month. Note her name as she will be a famous writer some-

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IOnews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide 503-930-7636
- After DARC 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County 541-223-3261 • Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas 503-831-3502 • City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. 503-623-6419 Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village 503-623-5581 • Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon
- 503-581-2451
- Ella Curran Food Bank 503-838-1276 Falls City Arts Center 503-559-6291 • Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- H-2-O 503-831-4736 HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy)
- 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley 503-363-1651
 Heron Pointe Assisted Living 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation
- **—** 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library 503-838-1811
 Kings Valley Charter School 541-929-2134

- Luckiamute Watershed Council 503-837-0237 • Luckiamute Valley Charter School - 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce - 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service Polk County 503-623-8395 • Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Polk Community Development Corporation
- 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team
- 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health 503-623-8175 • Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom 503-566-2132
- Rickreall Watershed Council 503-623-9680
- SABLE House 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital 503-623-8301 Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's
- Office 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice 503-588-3600

ENGAGEMENTS

Hoekstre-Villa



Martin Hoekstre, of Dallas, and Jennifer Villa, of Hebo, became engaged Nov. 18, on Jennifer's birthday.

They currently reside in Grande Ronde, and plan to have a long engagement, giving the bride plenty of time to plan her dream wedding.

They enjoy each other's company and visits to Hebo together to visit her

BIRTHS

Caswell

Aidan Edward Caswell was born at 8:14 a.m. on Nov. 11 to Thomas and Kimberly Caswell, of Beaverton, at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland.

He weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 22.25 inches

He joins Jackson.

Grandparents are Toni Christensen, of Dallas; Tom Caswell, of Nelson, Calif.; Ed and Jane Gagznos, of Texico,

Great-grandparents are Robert Ross, of Paradise, Calif.; Harry and Shirley Torrey of Chico, Calif.; and Thomas Caswell of Durham, Calif.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

TUESDAY, DEC. 6 • Overeaters Anonymous — Noon to 1 p.m., Salem Health

West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Support group meets in the quiet room/chapel immediately inside the emergency entrance on Clay Street. Dee Ann White, 971-718-6444. **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7**

- Monmouth Business Association 7:30 a.m., Polk County Fire District No. 1, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. A meeting of business people, the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce director, and city officials. 503-751-• Indoor Play Park — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday
- through Friday, First Presbyterian Church, 879 SW Levens St., Dallas. Drop-ins welcome. For ages infant through pre-K with parent. Free, but donations accepted. 503-623-3397. 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. Senior meals, Dallas — 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday,
- LaCreole Manor, 204 SW Walnut St., Dallas. Free, but \$3 donation suggested. Reservations required. 503-623-6232.
- **Senior meals, Monmouth** 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Free, but \$3 donation suggested. Reservations required. 503-
- **Scrabble with Betty** 1 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. Scrabble games first Wednesday of every month. Free; refreshments and prizes available. 503-551-7687 or 503-838-1811.
- 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. Yarning for Others — 3 to 5 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. Knitters and crocheters
- gather to make clothing and accessories for those in need on the first Wednesday of every month. 503-689-7222. • Brew and BS: The New Testament — 7 p.m., St. Thomas
- Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. A lecture series on New Testament figures. Bring brew of choice — coffee, tea, chai, beer, wine, cider, 435-503-4304.
- Central High School Presents "White Christmas" 7:00 p.m., CHS Auditorium, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Student night. \$8 general; \$3 students. Centralperformingarts.org.

NEED HELP? IS HERE FOR YOU.

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WWW.DALLASCC.ORG



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

COME VOLUNTEER AT 6AM CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING @ LACREOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

> ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE VISIT WWW.DALLASCC.ORG OR E-MAIL US AT INFO@DALLASCC.ORG

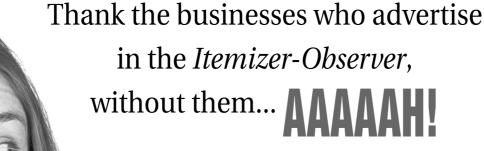
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...for local news, sports and community events.









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