

# COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

## Native plant sale slated in Rickreall

Polk Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a native plant sale this weekend in Building C at the Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center in Rickreall.

Those individuals who preordered plants online may pick up their orders Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All remaining plants will be made available to the public Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Plants are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information: PSWCD, 503-623-9680, ext. 5; www.polkswcd.org.

## Monthly breakfast fundraiser on tap

Monmouth Senior Center will host its monthly all-you-can-eat community breakfast fundraiser on Saturday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Cost is a suggested donation of \$6 per person, \$3 for children under 12. The meal includes scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, and orange juice and coffee.

Proceeds benefit the Monmouth Senior Center building expansion fund. The center is located at 180 S. Warren St.

For more information: 503-838-5678.

## Sunday breakfast planned at grange

Buell Grange will host its monthly Second Sunday Community Breakfast on Feb. 8 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Cost is \$6 per person, and the menu is scheduled to include your choice of pancakes, sausage and eggs; hash browns, sausage and eggs; or French toast and sausage. Meals include juice and coffee or tea.

The event is a fundraiser. Proceeds go toward the maintenance of the Buell Grange Hall, located at 5970 Mill Creek Road, just off Highway 22 northwest of Dallas.

For more information: 503-623-8462 or 503-843-4703.

## Orchestra recital scheduled Monday

The Willamette Valley New Horizon's Orchestra will perform at a recital Monday at 7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 200 Monmouth-Independence Highway.

The orchestra, which was organized last fall, is conducted by Cascade High School of Turner band teacher Allie Greenwell. The orchestra is made up primarily of older adults who are new to their instrument or who have returned to an instrument they played many years ago.

All are welcome to attend the recital.

The orchestra meets every Monday at Central High School at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

For more information about the recital or about the orchestra: Paul Doellinger, 503-838-4884.



SANDLIN GAITHER/for the Itemizer-Observer

Cody Walters, April Verch and Hayes Griffin (from left) bring their high-energy show to the intimate confines of WOU's Smith Music Hall Thursday and Friday.

## Award-winning fiddler brings high-energy show to Western

### Itemizer-Observer staff report

MONMOUTH — Who says you can't be a fiddle player, step dancer and singer-songwriter all at the same time?

April Verch does a pretty darn good job at all three. This week, she and bandmates Cody Walters and Hayes Griffin will perform a unique blend of roots entertainment in Monmouth as part of Western Oregon University's Smith Fine Arts Series.

Performances are scheduled Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the intimate confines of Smith Music Hall on the WOU campus.

Verch blends the traditions of roots music and step-dancing with her own artistic voice and vision in a high-energy show that puts her award-winning fiddling and songwriting talents out front. Musician Ryan Dawes of Rock Paper Scissors describes it this way: "Imagine Canada's Ottawa Valley meets Old-Time Ap-

### If You Go ...

**Who:** April Verch Band.

**What:** Part of the 2014-15 Western Oregon University Smith Fine Arts Series.

**When:** Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Smith Music Hall, Western Oregon University, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth.

**Admission:** Adults, \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door; students, \$11.

**For more information:** Call 503-838-8333; www.wou.edu/sfa; send an email to fin-eart@wou.edu.

palachia with crack fiddling, electric step dancing, sweet singing."

The April Verch Band — rounded out by Walters on bass and clawhammer banjo and Griffin on guitar — is touring in part to support Verch's 2013 release "Bright Like Gold." The

band is described as "an energetic, virtuosic, tradition-celebrating outfit that is long remembered once they depart the stage." Of course, it doesn't hurt that the thrilling grand finale each night involves Verch fiddling and step dancing — often executing two entirely different intricate rhythmic patterns — all at once.

Now in the second decade of her career, Verch has toured throughout the world, even performing during the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, to represent Canada's fiddling tradition.

"The accolades are important and noteworthy and special to me," Verch said, "but what I think is most impressive to me is that I've been doing this full time since 2000. We make a living playing music that we love and it touches other people. I feel like we're extremely lucky to do that...."

of Garden Days at Gentle House, the next one being Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon for a demonstration of spring rose maintenance.

For more information: Lois, 503-838-2131.

## New pastor joins Salt Creek church

Salt Creek Baptist Church held an installation service for Pastor David Curtis as its new senior pastor on Sunday.

Curtis, his wife and their children join the church from Ocean Park, Wash., where he was a pastor for almost six years.

Curtis is a graduate of Western Seminary in Portland and Western Oregon University in Monmouth. This Sunday will be his first official Sunday as pastor of Salt Creek Baptist Church.

## Parenting seminar scheduled in Dallas

Registration is being accepted for a parenting workshop for parents, grandparents, foster parents and others being offered Feb. 12 at Grace Community Church in Dallas.

Ron Marrs, assistant professor of youth and pastoral ministries at Western Seminary in Portland, will lead the event titled "22:6 Parent Workshop."

Topics will include identity formation, sexuality and technology.

Cost is a suggested donation of \$10 per couple/family. The workshop will be held in Grace Community Church's Fellowship Hall, 598 E. Ellendale Ave.

To register or for more information: www.Gracein-Dallas.org.

## Demonstration of grape pruning set

The Friends of Gentle House is sponsoring a grape pruning demonstration and practicum on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Historic Gentle House, 855 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth.

The 100-year-old grape vines will be pruned to insure their continued health and a sumptuous fall harvest. Polk County Master Gardeners will lead a demonstration of proper techniques and provide hands-on practice for all those interested.

Participants should bring work gloves, hand pruners and any questions. Trimmings will be available for wreaths or other purposes. Refreshments will be served. This is the first in a series



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To submit your items to the Community Calendar, email the Itemizer-Observer newsroom at [ionews@polkio.com](mailto:ionews@polkio.com), send via fax to 503-623-2395, or deliver them in person to 147 SE Court St., Dallas. All events should be submitted two weeks in advance of the date of the event.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4

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

• **American Red Cross Blood Drive** — 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Western Oregon University, Werner University Center, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth. Donation appointments recommended. 1-800-733-2767.

• **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.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 5

• **Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club** — Noon, First Baptist Church, 1505 Monmouth St., Independence. Weekly program and luncheon; visitors welcome. 503-838-4884.

• **"Mom and Me" Breastfeeding Support Group** — 1 to 2:30 p.m., West Valley Hospital (Quiet Room, entrance through Emergency Department on Clay Street), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Free. 503-623-7323.

• **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:30 to 6 p.m., Dallas United Methodist Church, 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas. Free; everyone welcome. 503-623-8429.

• **"Oklahoma!"** — 6:30 p.m., Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Central High School winter play production. Admission: adults, \$8; students, \$5. 503-838-0480.

• **April Verch Band — Smith Fine Arts Series** — 7:30 p.m., Smith Recital Hall, Western Oregon University, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth. Internationally touring Canadian fiddler, step dancer and singer-songwriter performs. Tickets: Adults, \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door; students, \$11. 503-838-8333.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 6

• **Altered Attitudes Alcoholics Anonymous** — Noon, Dallas United Methodist Church, 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas. 503-399-0599.

• **"Oklahoma!"** — 6:30 p.m., Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Central High School winter play production. Admission: adults, \$8; students, \$5. 503-838-0480.

• **Guthrie Park Acoustic Music Jam Session** — 7 to 10 p.m., Guthrie Park Community Center, 4320 Kings Valley Highway, Dallas. Free (donations accepted). 503-623-0809.

• **April Verch Band — Smith Fine Arts Series** — 7:30 p.m., Smith Recital Hall, Western Oregon University, 345 N. Monmouth Ave., Monmouth. Internationally touring Canadian fiddler, step dancer and singer-songwriter performs. Tickets: Adults, \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door; students, \$11. 503-838-8333.

• **Ashley Raines & The New West Review** — 8 p.m., Pressed Coffee and Wine Bar, 788 Main St., Dallas. Americana/blues/roots country act performs. 503-751-1666.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 7

• **Monmouth Senior Center All-You-Can-Eat Community Breakfast** — 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Cost: \$6, adults; \$3, children under 12. 503-838-5678.

• **Polk Community Free Clinic** — 7 to 11 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 320 SE Fir Villa Road, Dallas. Free medical and mental health care for uninsured and underinsured. Held on the first and fourth Saturday of the month. 503-990-8772.

• **"Oklahoma!"** — 6:30 p.m., Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Central High School winter play production. Admission: adults, \$8; students, \$5. 503-838-0480.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 8

• **From the Heart Community Sing** — 1:30 to 3 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. Free singing lessons; all ages are welcome. 503-559-5205.

### MONDAY, FEB. 9

• **Central Lions Club** — Noon, Independence Elks Lodge 1950 Dining Room, 289 S. Main St., Independence. 503-606-2150.

• **Willamette Valley New Horizons Orchestra** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Central High School (music room), 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Local orchestra for beginning through intermediate musicians. Meets every Monday. Players of all levels welcome. \$25 monthly fee to cover expenses. 503-838-4884.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 10

• **Caregivers Support Group** — 2 to 3:30 p.m., West Valley Hospital (Quiet Room, entrance through Emergency Department on Clay Street), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Free. 503-831-5593.

• **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:30 to 6 p.m., St. Philip Catholic Church, 825 SW Mill St., Dallas. Free; everyone welcome. 503-623-8429.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 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.

• **Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce Lunch Forum** — Noon, Independence Cinema, 450 Second St., Independence. Annual "State of the Cities Address" with Independence Mayor John McArdle and Monmouth Mayor John Oberst. Lunch cost is \$11. 503-838-4268.

• **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.

• **"Oklahoma!"** — 6:30 p.m., Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St., Independence. Central High School winter play production. Admission: adults, \$8; students, \$5. 503-838-0480.

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

## LIBRARY CALENDAR

### DALLAS 950 Main St. 503-623-2633

www.ci.dallas.or.us/library  
• Thursday, Feb. 5, 11:15 a.m. — Storytime  
• Saturday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. — e-Reader Workshop  
• Tuesday, Feb. 10, 11:15 a.m. — Storytime  
• Tuesday, Feb. 10, 3:30 p.m. — Storytime

### INDEPENDENCE 175 Monmouth St. 503-838-1811

www.ci.independence.or.us/library  
• Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m. — Family

Storytime  
• Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1 p.m. — Scrabble with Betty  
• Thursday, Feb. 5, 4:30 p.m. — Chess Club for Kids (grades 1 and above)  
• Tuesday, Feb. 10, 4 p.m. — Winter Fun Club  
• Wednesday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m. — Family Storytime

### MONMOUTH 168 S. Ecols St. 503-751-0182

www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library  
• Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m. — Builders Club (children program)  
• Thursday, Feb. 5, 10:15 a.m. — Little

Builders Club (babies to preschoolers)  
• Friday, Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. — Babytown Concert with Jory Aronson (for children ages 2-6)  
• Tuesday, Feb. 10, 10:15 a.m. — Family Storytime  
• Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 a.m. — Monmouth Library Advisory Board  
• Wednesday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m. — Valentine's Storytime and Craft-making Event

### WAGNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY 111 N. Main St., Falls City 503-787-3521, ext. 319 www.wagner.plinkit.org

• Contact library for upcoming special events and programs

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