

Remember loved ones long gone

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — The Day of the Dead, Día de los Muertos, is not the same thing as Halloween, even though the dates are very close.

In fact, Halloween, or All Hollow's Eve, is the night before Day of the Dead, which is on Sunday.

This year, the community is invited to participate in the festivities on Sunday and Monday at the Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.

The events are similar in that images of death abound, but Día de los Muertos is about honoring loved ones who have died rather than scaring off evil spirits.

"It's also known as All Soul's Day, when we can commemorate our loved ones, remembering all the good they did, and the good examples they were to us,"



ICLIPART/for the Itemizer-Observer
People paint their faces on Day of the Dead.

said Elena Pena, co-organizer of the event. "In turn, we want to change what we can do for our own good."

The day has a long history, and is connected to the Catholic Church, but all are welcome to put up a display honoring a loved one, enjoy each other's company and

Honor loved ones

What: Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, or All Soul's Day.
When: Sunday, 12:30 to 4 p.m. and Monday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St.
Admission: Free.
Of note: Community members may set up a display honoring their loved ones from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday's events will include displays, art work, face painting and refreshments. Monday, the center will be open for people to view displays.
For more information: Juan Navarro, 503-838-1212.

the festivities.

"It's kind of like when someone in the community dies and people come together and bring teddy bears," Pena said. "It's whatever comes from the heart, be it flowers or whatever they're willing to do."

Juan Navarro, Independence community liaison and co-organizer of the Día de los Muertos event, said families often cook a departed's favorite food, tell stories about them and generally honor and remember them. "The spirit feeds them-

selves with the aroma of the food," Navarro explained. "The next day, they go and eat those foods to honor (those who have died)."

In his house, his grandmother recently died.

"She loved tamales," Navarro said. "So I would cook tamales."

The family would put up some candles and pictures of her, tell stories of her and stay up all night with the display. The next day, his family would feast on those tamales in honor of his grandmother.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Law enforcement takes part in sweep

POLK COUNTY — Polk County law enforcement agencies took part in the 13th National Family Violence Apprehension detail on Oct. 21.

The sweep focused on locating people who have outstanding warrants for domestic violence related crimes. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office, assisted by Dallas, Independence and Monmouth police departments and the Oregon State Police, arrested seven people.

Nominate for 2016 'Military Child'

POLK COUNTY — Operation Homefront is asking for nominations for the 2016 Military Child of the Year, a national award.

This award is presented to an outstanding child from each branch of service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the National Guard. The recipients each receive \$10,000 and a laptop, and are flown with a parent or guardian to Washington, D.C., for a special gala on April 16. Anyone can nominate a child. Nominations are due Dec. 11.

For more information on how to nominate a child or to see photos from past events, go to MilitaryChildOfTheYear.org.

Christmas Cheer looking for families

DALLAS — Dallas Christmas Cheer is gearing up for the holiday season and looking for families in need and donations.

Christmas Cheer is a local nonprofit providing a holiday food box to families in need during the holidays. Boxes are delivered on Christmas Eve.

To sign up, contact your school counselor or pick up an application at the Polk County Resource Center, Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Suite 220, Dallas.

To help the program, go to www.dallasc.org to find opportunities to donate or volunteer.

New economic development strategy more focused

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — After the city of Dallas redefined its goals with its Dallas 2030 vision in

2014, the city and Economic Development Commission reviewed its economic development strategy.

What it found didn't exactly align with the city's new objectives.

"It would periodically get updated and things seemed to get added, but things never

seem to be taken off of it," said Jason Locke, Dallas' community development director.

The strategy had become unwieldy, unfocused and some objectives didn't designate a responsible party to make sure it was completed.

"There were no real defined roles, and therefore,

not necessarily a whole lot of accountability," Locke said. "Stuff just wouldn't get done because the various parties didn't think it was their responsibility."

The commission scrapped the old plan

On Oct. 19, the Dallas City Council approved a new nine-point strategy, along with \$12,000 to distribute the city's new branding and marketing materials.

The strategies cover expected items, such as downtown revitalization, providing a guide for opening businesses; ensuring that commercial and industrial properties are available; focusing on tourism; and making sure the city's infrastructure and utilities are available and in good condition.

Others were more specific. The city's third strategy is to attract craft brewing and wine industry businesses.

"And a tourism strategy cannot be underestimated because a lot of people who open businesses or bring companies to a town come to that town first as tourists," Locke said.

Dallas would like to improve its first impression by launching a new, more user-friendly website and distributing its newly created marketing materials entitled "Take a Closer Look."

Locke said possibly the most important strategy is "workforce development," or ensuring businesses have an adequately educated and trained pool of workers in the area. The chamber of commerce will be in charge of leading that, working with the Dallas School District and Chemeketa Community College.

"You can't make products or serve customers if you don't have a trained workforce or at least a workforce that has basic knowledge of how to be a worker," Locke said.

Unlike the previous plan, each strategy has an assigned party to oversee it and more partners will emerge.

"They will be identified as we go through the process of getting the tactics and implementation measures together," Locke said.

NAME THAT ROOSTER!

As previously published in the Itemizer-Observer, our unnamed but popular downtown rooster needed a name, so we appealed to our customers for suggestions. Below are the final choices.

Choose your favorite name!

Submit vote by Nov. 10th

Brewster
 Chester
 Rusty

Drop ballot off at Some Things or email vote to SomeThings@Qwestoffice.net

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Downtown Merchant TURKEY GIVEAWAY

31 Turkeys!

Enter the Drawings for your chance to win one of 31 Turkeys!

Drawing at each store listed below:

Look for Posters & Drawing Boxes starting Nov. 2nd!

- A-Team Locksmith 689 Main St.
- Brixius Jewelers 837 Main St.
- Capitol Auto West Valley Chevrolet 812 SE Jefferson
- Country Insurance 141 SW Court St.
- Courtyard Coffee House 156 SE Mill St.
- Court Street Hair 155 SW Court St.
- Dallas Alteration Center 131 SW Mill St.
- Dallas City Cleaners 144 SW Washington St.
- Dallas City Vapors 143 SW Court St.
- Dallas Yoga & Balance Studio 115 SE Court St.
- Domino's Pizza 772 Main St.
- First American Title Co. of Oregon 807 Main St.
- Four Season's Styling Center 861 Main St.
- Grandma's Attic Sewing Emporium 167 SW Court St.
- Harvest CrossFit 172 SW Court St.
- Heartstrings Florist & Artisans 137 SW Court St.
- Home Comfort 1827 S. Main St.
- House of Floors 680 Main St.
- Jake's Garage 161 SW Washington St.
- Just Stuff 947 Main St.
- Old Mill Feed & Garden 313 Main St.
- Polk County Itemizer-Observer Newspaper 147 SE Court St.
- Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar 788 Main St.
- Shear Perfection 1042 Main St.
- Some Things 857 Main St.
- The Dallas Forty 962 Main St.
- The Decorated Wall 186 SE Mill St.
- The Fox Theater 166 SE Mill St.
- Tim's Automotive Specialties 172 SW Washington St.
- West Valley Taphouse 957 Main St.
- World Gym 887 Main St.

Drawing will be held Nov. 20th.

Turkey winners will be contacted on Nov. 21st.

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