

MI TOWN

The main streets of MI Town are all aglow with bright and festive decorations, and the lights from the beautiful Sequoia tree on the Western Oregon University campus can be seen from Highway 99W as travelers from near and far arrive to celebrate the Christmas season. Sharing the tree lighting ceremony and the musical programs last week with university, elementary, middle and high school students — as well as with people of all ages and backgrounds — gives us all the opportunity to connect with our communities and have a wonderful time. This is such a wonderful tradition that we have grown to love more and more each year.

There is often so much



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

negativity, mean-spirited political and social commentary and utterly depressing commentary coming over the airwaves these days, and it's nice to just unplug for an afternoon or evening, and curl up in a comfy corner with a good book. The Friends of the Monmouth Library's ongoing book sale continues at the library through most of the month, and there are many good books available at bargain prices. (Full disclosure: Over the years, it's been a great opportunity

for me to find Christmas gifts, as many of the books are nearly new).

These days, everyone is so busy with work and school and other activities, and what fun it is to share a gift certificate with a friend for a special lunch or dinner. Our restaurants provide us all with international foods and our old family favorites — and you can enjoy a relaxed and special time together. Chances are you'll have the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. Our coffee shops have all kinds of goodies, and who wouldn't enjoy the opportunity to share a warm cup of coffee or tea with a friend on a cold and rainy day?

We stopped by Central

Veterinary Clinic to pick up flea medicine for our dogs last week, and met a young mom and her two children picking up a cat that had been cared for by Dr. Ken Lindsay. They'd found the injured cat lying by the road and took it in for care, which included a checkup, immunizations and treatment for hurt paws and claws. What a joy to share a few moments with this sweet family who went out of their way to care for a little injured animal. They took the cat home to heal, with plans to find it a new home. As individuals, we can't solve the big problems in the world, like war or violence or find a cure for cancer — but we can do other things to make our community a better place to live for all of us.

PEDEE NEWS

The Pedee Campus of the Luckiamute Valley Charter School had three students on the honor roll this term. Eighth-grader Enrique Beruman, and seventh-graders Krista Cook and Lindsey Harris all got straight As. The kids will be selling canned goods at the school on Dec. 15 and 16 from noon to 3 p.m. They still have pickled green beans, pear and apple sauce, and pear butter.

Steve and Audrey Cameron, son, Clayton, and his son, Noah, and daughter, Stephanie, and her daughter, Ana all went to Clackamas to watch son James' production of "Once on an Island" at Clackamas High School where he teaches drama. Everyone enjoyed the musical and



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

the little kids got lots of autographs from the actors.

On Thanksgiving, Steve and Audrey travelled to Milwaukee to celebrate Thanksgiving with son, James, and Jenny and Eliana and Jenny's family members. It was a beautiful sunshiny day, and they arrived home before the icy roads appeared. They spent Friday at Stephen, Stephanie and Ana's farm watching the Civil War game between the OSU Beavers and the U of O Ducks. They enjoyed eating

Thanksgiving leftovers and Stephanie's first attempt at turkey soup, using an old family recipe passed on from her mom.

Dave and Suzanne Burbank also had their family over for the game, and were pleased at how well OSU did against a team that was expected to trample them. Derek was there, as well as his fiancée, Ashley Gruzca, and her parents, Scotty and Tina Gruzca, from Turner. Derek and Ashley had come over some dicy roads to get there from Redmond.

Saturday, Nov. 28, was the grand opening of King's Crossing Coffee Shop at the old Kings Valley church building a few miles down Highway 223, run by the students at Kings Valley Charter

School, and it was quite a hit. The room was inviting, the coffee, tea, cocoa and goodies exceptional, and the crowd happy. There were also Christmas trees for sale at the front door and several vendors inside. The shop will be open from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Saturday at least until the end of school. KV students working last week were senior Levi Bault and juniors Glenn Mott and Brady Tarvin, of Pedee, senior Ryan MacNab, of Dallas, and seniors Becca Barnhart and Tanner Simmons, of Kings Valley.

Acoustic guitarist Ron Diller will be in concert at Pedee Church on Sunday Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., so gather your loved ones and friends for a special evening of Christmas music.

BIRTHS

Figal

Elijah Cole Figal was born to Donald Rogers and Meghan Figal of Salem at 3:58 p.m. on Nov. 30 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Elijah joins Zoey, 5. Grandparents are Dan and Ronda Figal of Dallas; Ellen Rogers of Redding, Calif.; and Jason Merrill of Fallon, Nev. Great-grandparents are Tony and Elaine Greene of Victorville, Calif.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 13A

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

• **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.

• **Dallas Wingdingers RC Flying Club** — 7 p.m., Whitworth Elementary School library, 1151 SE Miller Ave., Dallas. 503-623-7288.

• **Polk County Coin Club** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-362-9123.

• **Family Building Blocks Dallas play group** — 10 a.m., Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. Suite 216. Play group for children and families. Activities and snacks provided. Free. RSVP, 503-877-8473.

• **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club** — 6 to 7 p.m. weigh-in, 7 to 8 p.m. meeting, First Christian Church basement, 1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. Meetings offer programs and activities aimed at losing weight. Open to anyone. First meeting is free.

• **France School of Dance recital** — 6 p.m., Talmadge Middle School, 51 16th St., Independence. Students will perform a variety of dance styles. Admission is three cans of food or \$3. 503-390-3481.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

• **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.

• **Day-2-Day Diabetes Support Group** — 3 to 4 p.m., West Valley Hospital (main conference room inside main entrance), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.

• **Bingo at the Farm** — 6:30 p.m., Rogue Farms Hopyard, 3590 Wigrich Road, Independence. All ages welcome. Free; food and beverages available for purchase. 503-838-9813.

• **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.

• **Brew and BS** — 7 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. Free. Bring your own brew — beer, coffee, tea, cider, wine. Moderated discussions on topics of religion and science. 435-503-4304.

• **Wednesday Painting workshop** — 7 p.m., The Boondocks, 318 N. Main St., Falls City. \$30 includes instruction, cocktail or soda and snack. No experience necessary. 503-787-2700.


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Windermere's 2015 "Share the Warmth" Coat & Blanket Drive is coming up soon and this year we would like to get an early start on it! This year's donation drive will start on Monday, November 2 and go until Friday, December 11. **Five Locations:** Windermere-Monmouth, Windermere-Dallas, YMCA Independence, Monmouth Fitness Club, Independence Library.

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The Itemizer-Observer

Your community news source

Republic Services Leaf Collection in Dallas

City of Dallas
2015 Leaf Collection Guide
Saturday Dec 19 / Sunday Dec 20

The City of Dallas recognizes the need for fall leaf pick-up. We are excited that Republic Services is continuing to provide this service to the citizens of Dallas.

It is important **not** to rake leaves into city streets until just before the collection events. Leaves raked into the street can cause drainage and flooding problems by clogging gutters and storm sewers, and can blow onto neighboring properties. Residents will be asked to remove leaves if they are raked into the street outside of scheduled pick-up times.

Leaf Disposal

The City of Dallas recommends that residents dispose of leaves in the following ways:

- Use them as mulch in your landscaping
- Place them in your yard debris bin
- Use any of the leaf only drop-off locations from October 15 thru December 31 (no other yard debris). The locations are as follows:
1) The parking lot adjacent to Lyle Softball Fields
2) SW Allgood near the gate to the Parks Office
3) The east end of Hankel Street
- Place leaves in the streets just before collection dates

Keep in Mind:

- ✓ Leaves should be raked into the street in long rows, parallel to the curb, and at least 12 inches away from the curb.
- ✓ Avoid blocking the roadway, driveways, and bike lanes.
- ✓ Keep piles away from and clear any blocked storm drains.
- ✓ Place only leaves and no other trimmings, brush, grass, or other debris in the street.

Questions? Call Republic Services @ 541.754.0444

 www.dallasor.gov/leaves 

THE HOLIDAY TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

The holiday season can be an especially hard time for families dealing with the loss of a loved one. During the month of December we invite you to remember someone special by placing a *Memorial Ornament* on our "Tree of Remembrance" located at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center.

During the holidays we would also like to remember those less fortunate. We encourage you to make a donation to the *Dallas Food Bank* when you come in. We will match your donations so a few more local families may have a joyous holiday season.

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You are invited to remember someone special.

*Now through December 23rd at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center
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