

# MI TOWN

Life in MI Town isn't all sunshine and light and singing "Kumbaya" around the campfire, no matter how much I wish it was. These dark and cold winter days remind us that there are so many people truly in need of assistance. News stories — whether on TV, in print or on social media — continue to reinforce and underscore the serious problems of homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, physical and mental health, and unemployment for people of all ages. Many of us would welcome assistance with the answers in order to help friends and/or family members who are facing some of these issues, but don't have the financial ability or professional skills to do so. Even though the economy is getting better and medical and dental care is available to most of us, there are those



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

who haven't been able to access these benefits.

Thanks to a grant from the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, Polk Community Connect has gathered an amazing amount of resources and services for all who are homeless or at risk for homelessness, including job assistance, services for children, educational information, housing programs, veterans' services, behavioral health and benefits information. Mark your calendar for Jan. 27 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., where you can participate in this valuable

program at no cost. This program is being held at the Valley Life Center, 1795 S.E. Miller Ave., in Dallas. The telephone number is 503-623-4116.

Services offered (first-come, first-served) include dental care, backpacks and camping items. Services available all day will be basic health screenings, pet care, bike repair, haircuts and clothing. There is no charge for any of the resource information or the services. The entire day also includes a free meal and free transportation to and from the event.

If you would be able to serve as a services provider, please contact Michelle Bornfleth, Service Integration at 503-623-9664, ext. 2457. Volunteers are always welcome, and if you would

be able to give some of your time and energy to this valuable program, please call 971-599-3845 or via the Internet, polkconnectvolunteers@gmail.com. If you have any questions or would like more information about Polk Community Connect, please call Heather Wright at 503-507-4579. For information on making a donation, please contact Living Hope City Church at 503-623-6890.

Both of MI Town's excellent libraries continue to bring all of us so many fun and interesting programs for readers (and listeners) of all ages. Check the Independence and Monmouth public libraries websites to discover those events that appeal to you and your family members. Come in out of the rain and see what new offerings are available, too.

# PEDEE NEWS

Polk County Fire District No. 1 will be starting a new Volunteer Fire Academy this spring. Men and women interested in joining the team of firefighters at Pedee (or within the district's boundaries), please contact the district's main office at 503-838-1510. The Fire District recently purchased new apparatus; including new engines, a water tender (water truck to the rest of us) and breathing apparatus. Pedee firefighters are training with



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

new equipment that will soon be in service at Station 70.

Pedee Church has been blessed to have Chip and Linda North's exchange stu-

dent from Germany join us. Anna Tiefert is from the more than 2,000-year-old city of Koblenz, on the Rhine River south of Cologne. She is a sophomore at home in Koblenz, but in the senior class at Dallas High, as all exchange students are, and is active in the international clubs at school, as well as many other clubs. She says the landscape here is not much different than at home, but the rest of life here sure is different, in-

cluding church. The Norths are loving having a daughter, since their other kids are boys — well, young men at this point. They also loved getting to know her family through Skype.

Nola Womer's place on Pedee Creek Road was sold this fall to a Eugene company, which is now logging on the land across the road from Nola's house. They are taking some seriously big logs off the place.

# WEDDINGS

## Cason-Hattan



Cara Cason and Landon Hattan, both of Turner, were married Dec. 13, 2015, at Canby Grove Christian Conference Center in Canby.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Laura Langston, of Portland, and Robert and Barbara Cason, of Portland. The groom is the son of Troy and Shelli Hattan, of Dallas.

Cara is a 2012 graduate; she was home-schooled. She is pursuing a master's in psychology at Corban University in Salem. She is employed at Aldersgate Camps and Retreat Center in Guest Services in Turner.

Landon is a 2012 graduate of Dallas High School. He is pursuing a bachelor's in business from Corban University in Salem. He is employed at Ameriprise Financial Services in Salem under Mikeal Davis as an intern.

The couple honeymooned in Maui, Hawaii. They make their home in Turner.

# BIRTHS

## O'Connor

Noelle Gwendolyn Mary O'Connor was born to Kevin and Athena O'Connor, of Corvallis, at 7:59 a.m. on Dec. 23 at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Corvallis.

She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Noelle is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are George and Mary Samerotte, of Dallas, and Joe and Jan O'Connor of Brunswick, Maine.

Great-grandparents are Martha Wnek, of Brunswick, and Jean Gaudio, of Dallas.

## Galicia

Isabella Galicia was born to Junior Galicia and Esmeralda Rangel, of Monmouth, at 7:23 p.m. on Jan. 8 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 18.33 inches long.

Isabella is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are Elizabeth Rangel, of Independence, and Lorenza Ramirez, of Salem.

## Autry

Sam Aaron Autry was born to Scott Autry and Jessica Runions, of Dallas, at 8:12 a.m. on Jan. 9 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19.25 inches long.

Sam joins Kaleb, 3.

Grandparents are Sidney Runions Jr., of Dallas; Janice Peterson, of Salem; Scott Martin, of Dallas; and April Autry of Dallas.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

## FRIDAY, JAN. 22

• **Arc of Polk County Dance and Karaoke Night** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Admission: \$3 (staffers and providers admitted free). Snacks available for purchase. 503-949-5552.

• **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.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 23

• **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.

## MONDAY, JAN. 25

• **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 band 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, JAN. 26

• **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.

• **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.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

• **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.

• **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.

• **Yoga in the Hopyard** — 6 p.m., Rogue Farms Micro Hopyard, 3590 Wigrich Road, Independence. Offered on the last Wednesday of every month. Free; bring your own yoga mat. 503-838-9813.

• **Painting, Canvas and Cocktails** — 7 p.m., The Boondocks, 318 N. Main St. Fall City. All supplies, paint, canvas and instruction provided. No experience necessary. \$30, snack and cocktail included. 503-787-2700.

• **Brew and BS: The Old Testament** — 7 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. A lecture series on the Old Testament. Bring brew of choice — coffee, tea, chai, beer, wine, cider. 435-503-4304.

**INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8**  
450 S. 2nd St., Independence  
Showtimes 503-606-3000  
www.independencecinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 • Senior \$7.00 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Saturday Jan 22 - Jan 23		
RIDE ALONG (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:20 4:45)	7:15 9:35
THE 5TH WAVE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05 9:35
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(12:00 3:05)	6:10 9:15
STAR WARS:		
THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:30 9:30
DIRTY GRANDPA (Digital) (R)	(12:15 2:40 5:05)	7:30 9:55
THE BOY (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:00)	7:20 9:25
NORM OF THE NORTH (Digital) (PG)	(12:15 2:35 4:50)	7:00
DADDY'S HOME (Digital) (PG13)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25 9:25
13 HOURS (Digital) (R)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25 9:25
Sunday January 24		
RIDE ALONG (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00 2:20 4:45)	7:15
THE 5TH WAVE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(12:00 3:05)	6:10
STAR WARS:		
THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:30
DIRTY GRANDPA (Digital) (R)	(12:15 2:40 5:05)	7:30
THE BOY (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:00)	7:20
NORM OF THE NORTH (Digital) (PG)	(12:15 2:35 4:50)	7:00
13 HOURS (Digital) (R)	(12:05 3:15)	6:25
Monday - Thursday Jan 25 - Jan 28		
RIDE ALONG (Digital) (PG13)	(2:20 4:45)	7:15
THE 5TH WAVE (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05
THE REVENANT (Digital) (R)	(3:05)	6:10
STAR WARS:		
THE FORCE AWAKENS (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20 3:25)	6:30
DIRTY GRANDPA (Digital) (R)	(2:40 5:05)	7:30
THE BOY (Digital) (PG13)	(2:45 5:00)	7:20
NORM OF THE NORTH (Digital) (PG)	(2:35 4:50)	7:00
13 HOURS (Digital) (R)	(3:15)	6:25

Find us on Facebook Like Follow us on Twitter @IndyCinema

*Ignite Your Passion*

**Polk County 2016 Relay For Life Kick-Off**  
**Saturday, Jan. 30, 2 to 5 pm**  
**Independence Elks Lodge**

- Live Entertainment by Ed Desmarreau at 4 pm
- FREE performance donations benefit American Cancer Society
- Register to be part of the June 4-5, 2016 Relay
  - Prize drawings, light snacks, beverages
  - Information on the event
  - Education on Cancer Services & Cancer Prevention
  - Luminaria Ceremony
- Participants encouraged to bring 1 or 2 (2-4 oz) cans of food for Relay Luminaria bags. Contributions go to the Salem Cancer Institute and pet food going to local animal shelter

**Relay For Life of Polk County**  
**June 4-5, 2016**  
**Riverview Park, Independence**

For information contact: 2015relayforlifepc@gmail.com

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**AAAGH!**

**Interested in advertising? Call 503-623-2373**

*Common Sense Tip* FOR PEDESTRIANS

**MAKE EYE CONTACT.**

Sometimes, drivers may not notice you, so look to their eyes — they can say a lot about a person's intentions. And walk on!

**Walk Safely. The Way to Go.** Transportation Safety — ODOT