# **MI TOWN**

With the positive and encouraging voices of former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama still echoing in my ears, I believe that it's up to all of us to face the issues that divide our beloved country. There's no quick-fix or magic bandage that will make everybody happy. As individuals, we need to learn to take care of ourselves and each other. We've asked far too much of our police officers and teachers, figuring they can do it all. We all need to step up and take personal responsibility for ourselves, our family members and to do whatever we can to make our communities better places to

We all need to take the time to learn about people

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from other backgrounds, races and religions, and to listen to whatever they have to say. When we learn more about people, while keeping an open and inquiring mind, things that we were fearful about disappear with the new knowledge that is gained. Many of us are firmly rooted in our political beliefs, but we can still learn about other alternatives, as long as the conversations are civil and informative. All kinds of myth and folklore abound on the Internet and

radio programs, and it's up to us as individuals to decide for ourselves on whether to follow a particular candidate or support various issues.

We can't all step in to save the world — but there are so many little things we can do. Not everybody can write a generous check to support their favorite charities, but volunteering at the library or a food bank or your nearby school is always appreciated. Can you spend an hour reading to someone in a nursing home or at the hospital? Our cities need volunteers to serve on committees and to help with various programs. Encouraging our new neighbors from other countries to get involved in literacy programs is always a good

idea. Can you share homemade jams and jellies and baked items with a local church or community group? Can you volunteer at the senior center or with a church group?

What we can all do even if we don't have any extra time or money — is to brighten somebody's day with a smile or a few kind words of encouragement. We've all had moments when everything is going utterly and completely wrong, and it feels like nothing will ever be right again, but a warm and friendly smile from someone else has made the day much better. Sometimes that is enough to help us pick up our burdens and face the day with more courage and hope than we had before.

## on various television and programs is always a good

The expected rain did not show up on July 9 when Derek Burbank married Ashley Grucza in a country wedding in the pasture of his parents Dave and Suzanne Burbank's home on Airlie Road. In probably one of the most interesting weddings I've been to, the guests sat on bales of hay as the bride was driven up the mown grass aisle by her father, Scotty Grucza, in the '72 pickup she and her father had restored when she was 14. The ceremony was performed by JD West, the ag teacher Derek did his student teaching under in Embler and related his talk to country values in



marriage. After the ceremony, Derek and Ashley jumped into the pickup, circled the 270 guests, and sped over the hill.

The reception dinner was held in the barn (empty of hay) and included a great DJ, who played for the dancers until after midnight. Afterward Derek and Ashley flew to the Bahamas for a week of sunshine and

fun. Derek is an ag teacher in Culver and Ashley works for Farm Credit in Redmond, so they will be living in Redmond.

Wedding guests came from as far away as Poland. Former exchange student Jacek Szalkowski came with Mia Lewanczyk for the wedding and is staying with Paul and me for the month of July to enjoy beautiful Oregon. They are medical students in Bialystok, near the eastern border, and are off for the summer.

Nic Heller's father, Scott Heller, who lives in Klamath Falls, visited Nic and Cassandra from June 28 to July 5. He helped build a chicken coop for their four new chickens, one of which is an escape artist. Nic has had to chase the thing every day for the last several days.

Pedee Church started an adult Bible study at 9 a.m., before the 10 a.m. church service, and welcome all who are interested in learning about a short but interesting book in the Bible, I Peter. The class will be led by Eric Schwanke and will last as long as it takes to study the book, maybe two months. They may or may not study another book afterward.

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

#### **Scott-Lunsford**



Terry R. Scott, of Dallas, and Jennica Lunsford, of Vancouver, Wash., announced their engagement.

Terry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Scott, of Rickreall. He works as a 911 call taker at Willamette Valley Communication Center.

Jennica is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lunsford. She works as a high school history teacher for Insight School of Washington.

The couple will be married on Sept. 17 in Vancouver at Brush Prairie Baptist Church. They will make their home in Dallas.

## **BIRTHS**

#### Gould

Tanner Lawrence Gould was born at 9:42 p.m. on June 30 to Emily and Paul Gould, of Dallas, at the Silverton Family Birth Center.

He weighed 10 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 22 inches long.

Tanner joins Caroline, 1.

Grandparents are Nancy Mandeville, of Bridgewater, Va., Paul Morris, of Salt Lake City, and Randy and Kathleen Gould, of Glide.

Great-grandparents are Alice Joe Morris, of Charlottesville, Va., Louise DeGeorge, of Winchester, Ma., Edward McDavilt, of Winthrop, Ma., Rick and Patti Sciapiti, of Roseburg, and Dorothy Gould, of Grants Pass.

#### **Enriquez-Buehler**

Anders James Enriquez-Buehler was born on July 7 to Allison Enriquez-Buehler and Gabriel Enriquez, of Salem, at Salem Family Birth Center.

Anders weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

Grandparents are Larry and Nancy Buehler, of Monmouth, and Federico Enriquez Castillejos and Maria Leticia Perez Sanchez, both of Mexico City, Mexico.

#### Cruikshank

Zoniah Zeus Cruikshank was born on July 13 to Monica and Leuiatyn Cruikshank, of Salem, at Salem Family Birth Center.

He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces.

## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Continued from page 8A

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 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.

• WOU Summer Heatwave Concert Series — Noon, WUC Plaza, 345 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth. Charlie Horse, rock. Free, 503-838-8514.

• 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.

• **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

• Music in the Park — 6:30 p.m., Main Street Park, Monmouth. Charlie Horse, rock. Free. www.ci.monmouth.or.us.



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